City of Barrie

2017 Update to the Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy
Informing Community Centre Needs in the Hewitt and Salem Secondary Plan Areas

FINAL REPORT

June 29, 2017

Prepared by:

Monteith & Brown planning consultants
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1. Study Context

Project Background

In 2010, the City of Barrie Parks & Recreation Strategic Master Plan was approved by City Council as the overarching framework to guide decision-making relating to parks and recreation facilities and services in Barrie. In 2013, an updated parks and recreation needs assessment was carried out through a Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy\(^1\) to consider the annexed lands and future populations brought into the City by the Barrie-Innisfil Boundary Adjustment Act (Bill 196) given these lands were not formally part of the City of Barrie at the time the Strategic Master Plan was being prepared. The Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy was also carried out to reflect changes in population articulated through the City’s revised Growth Management Strategy and to inform the development of the Salem and Hewitt’s Secondary Plans that were ongoing at the time.

With both of these Secondary Plans having been completed in December 2016, the City has now turned its attention to implementation. In April 2017, the City issued two separate Requests For Proposal for a Conceptualization Study for future mixed use community centres in the Salem and Hewitt’s Secondary Plan areas.\(^2\) Independent of these RFPs, the City has commissioned this Update to the Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy to confirm recreational needs in Barrie’s south end based upon current market conditions including updated population forecasts and recently released 2016 Census population and age structure data, facility utilization rates, trends and preferences in recreational activities, etc.

Project Purpose

This report is presented as a high level review and update of the Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy in order to inform community centre development concepts being prepared for the Salem and Hewitt’s Secondary Plan areas. The scope of work focuses upon the following major recreational components:

- Arenas
- Indoor Aquatic Centres
- Gymnasiums
- Fitness Space
- Dedicated Space for Youth and Older Adults
- Sports Fields

Based on the land use schedules for each Secondary Plan area, future recreation centres are identified as being southwest of McKay Road West and 5 Sideroad in Salem, and southwest of Maplevie Drive and Yonge Street in Hewitt’s. Previous studies have recommended the Hewitt’s community centre being constructed between the years 2017 and 2021, and the Salem community centre between 2021 and 2031.

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\(^2\) City of Barrie RFP Nos. 2017-412P and 2017-413P Mixed Use Recreation & Library Conceptualization Studies
Broad Trends in the Recreation & Community Centre Designs

There are a number of prevailing trends in the recreation sector. While the following is not intended to be a comprehensive report of such trends, it provides a high level summary of factors that may guide decision-making as it relates to the provision of new community centres in Barrie.

- There are increasing rates of physical inactivity and obesity largely due to busy lifestyles and competition from sedentary pursuits such as online activities, TV, gaming, etc.

- Growing demands for spontaneous, unstructured opportunities for play which is related to the ability of time-pressed individuals to participate.

- Municipalities are placing a greater emphasis on serving a more robust spectrum of the population to encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyles among all residents, regardless of age, income, ability or disability, cultural background or lifestyle choice. The result is the creation of inclusive and safe spaces that promote physical activity and social interaction.

- Aging population trends are leading to municipalities exploring new services to meet growing populations of older adults and seniors. Current generations of seniors, however, are seeking more active recreational pursuits compared to past generations—albeit at a gentler pace—as well as continuing to participate in multi-use community centres more so than dedicated spaces branded specifically for “seniors.”

- Participation in sport largely remains popular among males, however, there has been an increase in female participation for many activities (hockey and soccer are notable sport-related examples).

- Municipalities are promoting the strengths of their communities through community development models and partnerships to provide well-coordinated and cost-effective facilities and services. Partnerships range in scale and substance such as empowering a local sport provider to deliver programs over the long term to working with other agencies such as school boards or the YMCA to develop joint-use facilities.

- Recreation facilities, while continuing to serve grassroots sport development models, are increasingly being viewed as economic generators. Having quality facilities attracts new residents to communities, while larger investments in sport tourism infrastructure can generate economic spin-offs to the broader community.

- Community recreation centres are increasingly being designed with public library branches to maximize operational efficiencies and resource sharing within the municipal corporate structure, leverage shared spaces such as washrooms, circulation areas and multi-purpose rooms for programs, as well as benefit from the foot traffic that is generated by both recreation and library space users. By co-locating these synergistic recreation and library services, municipalities are able to establish strong community hubs of activity for their residents.

In addition to the above noted trends, individual facility assessments contained in this report articulate certain trends and best practices in their respective areas of focus.
Study Limitations & Exclusions

Notable exclusions from this scoped update are arts and cultural facilities, parkland, and outdoor recreation facilities (apart from sports fields) and libraries. With respect to the latter, it is understood that the Barrie Public Library is in the midst of preparing a Facilities Master Plan which would presumably articulate space requirements; it is further understood that the Library has expressed interest in greater integration of library space within the City’s community centres.

This Report focuses solely on facility space requirements and has thus will not delve into service or program delivery assessments, nor does it involve staffing or organizational reviews. Capital costs associated with any recommendations are understood to be provided through the previously noted RFPs while operating costs would arise after the conceptualization studies have been completed. All population, facility inventory and utilization data contained herein has been supplied by the City of Barrie and as such, this report is based on information provided to MBPC that has not been independently verified. Community consultations have not been held to specifically inform assessments contained in this report but are understood to form part of ongoing planning processes relating to the Salem and Hewitt’s Secondary Plans and their associated community centre development projects, as well as potentially through a future update to the City’s Parks & Recreation Strategic Master Plan.

The disclosure of any information contained in this report is the sole responsibility of the City of Barrie. The material in this Update to the Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy, and all information relating to this activity, reflect MBPC’s judgment in light of the information available to us at the time of preparation of this report. It is solely attributable to work conducted to inform RFPS 2017-412P and 2017-413P and thus any findings contained herein should not constitute final recommendations since subsequent works will be undertaken by the City. Any use which a third party makes of this Update to the Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy, or any reliance on or decisions to be made based on it, are the responsibility of such third parties. MBPC accepts no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by a third party as a result of decisions made or actions based on this report.

Service Level Targets

The 2010 PRSMP was developed with park and facility service level targets that were built upon local demographics, trends and consultations with the community and municipal representatives. These service level targets were carried over to the 2013 Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy. As a comprehensive consultation program and utilization trend assessment is not in the purview of this Update to the Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy, the PRSMP’s service level targets are once again applied unless otherwise noted. Service level targets would be revisited more extensively at the time when the City undertakes a comprehensive review of its PRSMP.
Population Forecasts

The 2016 Census records the City of Barrie’s population at 141,434 persons, unadjusted for net census undercoverage. The City, in conjunction with Watson & Associates, is in the midst of updating its Growth Management Strategy through which the following forecasts have been established and will be used as the baseline growth figures for assessments contained in this report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>City of Barrie - Total Population</th>
<th>Former City Boundary Population</th>
<th>Salem Secondary Plan Population</th>
<th>Hewitt’s Secondary Plan Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>144,500</td>
<td>144,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>166,600</td>
<td>150,700</td>
<td>6,730</td>
<td>9,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>189,800</td>
<td>158,700</td>
<td>11,860</td>
<td>19,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2031</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>169,180</td>
<td>14,880</td>
<td>25,920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: all forecasts – including 2016 estimate – are adjusted to reflect net census undercount at approximately 4%. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Based on the above forecasts, Barrie’s population is estimated to add over 5,000 persons per year between now and the year 2031, amounting to 65,500 new people in total or a 45% increase. By that time, the populations in Salem and Hewitt’s Secondary Plans are projected to be nearly 15,000 and 26,000 persons, respectively. Of note, the City of Barrie as a whole is forecasted to grow to 253,000 persons by the year 2041 in accordance with Amendment No. 2 to the Growth Plan for the Greater Horseshoe.

The 2016 Census release to date has included the community age structure. Barrie’s average age of 39 years is younger than that of Simcoe County (42 years) and Ontario (41 years). The distribution of Barrie’s age is as follows. Comparing 2016 to 2011 data, there is evidence of an overall aging trend with declines in the number of children, youth and mature adults while strong percentage increases in the number of older adults and seniors. Growth in the number of adults in prime child-bearing age (20-34) may reverse some of the declines in the 0 to 19 age groups in the years to come.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children (0-9)</td>
<td>16,515</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>16,910</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>-395 (-2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth / Teens (10-19)</td>
<td>18,615</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>19,675</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>-1,060 (-5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger Adults (20-34)</td>
<td>29,075</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>27,110</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>1,965 (+7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mature Adults (35-54)</td>
<td>40,760</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>41,765</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>-1,005 (-2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Adults (55-69)</td>
<td>22,820</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>18,490</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>4,330 (+23%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors (70+)</td>
<td>13,635</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>11,760</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>1,875 (+16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>141,430</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>135,710</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>5,720 (+4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: figures exclude net census undercount

While the table above illustrates a five-year decline in the under 19 and 35-54 year old cohorts, there is a possibility of these trends reversing as the annexed lands begin to develop. Our understanding of the housing mix is such that lower and medium density forms of housing (e.g. single and semi-detached units) will be accommodated in the annexed lands which tend to be attractive to younger and mature adults whose households often include children and teens.
The following chart illustrates the change in age groups over time. As shown, the under 20 population is expected to rebound in future years while the 55+ population will also see substantial growth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2031</th>
<th>2041</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-19</td>
<td>30,286</td>
<td>37,370</td>
<td>38,742</td>
<td>46,445</td>
<td>53,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-34</td>
<td>21,706</td>
<td>28,734</td>
<td>35,659</td>
<td>41,416</td>
<td>47,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>20,143</td>
<td>20,752</td>
<td>23,419</td>
<td>31,939</td>
<td>36,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>12,611</td>
<td>22,187</td>
<td>22,432</td>
<td>27,058</td>
<td>35,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-74</td>
<td>13,350</td>
<td>22,544</td>
<td>36,601</td>
<td>46,263</td>
<td>52,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>4,772</td>
<td>8,332</td>
<td>10,746</td>
<td>16,876</td>
<td>26,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>102,870</td>
<td>139,920</td>
<td>167,600</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>253,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2031</th>
<th>2041</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-19</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-34</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-74</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Updated Needs Assessments

Arenas / Ice Pads

The City operates 6 arenas that collectively provide 8 ice rinks but are counted as 7.25 equivalents available for community use given the Molson Centre’s operating mandate as a special event venue:

- Allandale Recreation Centre (2 ice pads)
- Barrie Molson Centre (1 ice pad counted as the equivalent of a quarter pad)
- East Bayfield Community Centre (2 ice pads)
- Eastview Arena (1 ice pad)
- Holly Community Centre (2 ice pads)

The service level target of one ice pad per 750 registered arena users, as advanced in the Strategic Master Plan, remains within the target range employed in most communities across the province (typically 1 ice pad per 700 to 800 registered players). Certain communities also provide ice pads based upon the number of minor system users (typically in the range of 1 per 400 to 550 minor players). Some continue to target rinks based on the size of the total population (e.g. 1 ice pad per 15,000 to 20,000 persons) which may still work in communities with a younger age profile but is becoming less appropriate in the context of aging populations and general participation trends.

As arena group registration information is unavailable at time of writing, we revert to the alternative standard based on total population. While less optimal than a registration-based standard given it captures non-users of the arena system, based on the 2016 population estimate of 144,500 the City’s current service level of 1 indoor ice rink per 19,931 falls just outside of the PRSMP’s alternative range of 1 ice rink per 15,000 to 19,000.

In evaluating future ice requirements, the following observations are noted:

- Barrie’s market of children ages 5 to 19 – traditionally the primary users of prime time hours – has decreased by nearly 1,000 persons\(^3\) over the past five years (-3%).

- Geographic distribution across most areas of the City is fairly strong though the two Secondary Plan areas in the south-end are noted gaps particularly considering the Molson Centre affords less community access relative to the rest of the arena system. The geographic gap in the Hewitt’s Secondary Plan area is noted in particular, as shown in the map extracted from the PRSMP (pages that follow).

- During the “winter core” season (mid-September to mid-March) in the 5pm to 10pm weekday timeslots, utilization remains strong at 94% of available hours being used. Weekend 8am to 10pm timeslots are also well used at 88%.

- During the “winter core” season, however, weekday shoulder hour time slots between 4pm and 5pm and 10pm to 12am are only utilized 50% of the time. Similarly, weekend shoulder hours of 6am to 8am and 10pm to 12am less than 30% demonstrating softness in times that were historically booked in years past.

\[^3\] Statistics Canada Census, 2011 and 2016
This is consistent with arena usage trends observed in other communities where there appears to be less
tolerance to utilize hours perceived to be inconvenient.

- During the “shoulder” season (early fall and early spring), prime time utilization rates are 70% during
  weekdays and 60% on weekends when including the most desirable time slots and shoulder hour periods.

- During the 2014/15 ice season, a total of 22,900 hours were used across the arena system. This level of
  usage has generally remained stable with 22,700 hours used this past 2016/17 season.

Broad Trends in the Sector

Winter ice sports such as hockey and figure skating have been definitive Canadian pastimes for decades. Nationally
and provincially, participation in ice sports has been deterred by factors such as escalating costs of equipment and
travel, competition from emerging winter sports and tendencies for single sport play year-round (i.e. year-round
training/play for soccer, baseball and other traditional summer sports), perceptions around safety, etc. Data from
Hockey Canada indicates that participation in minor hockey is steadily declining across Canada and Ontario. In
some municipalities, declining participation figures has resulted in surplus arena capacity with communities
undertaking a number of strategies to cope with shifting arena needs and underutilized ice pads. Such strategies
include, but are not limited to, amendments to ice allocation policies, enhancing programming to promote learn-
to-skate, learn-to-hockey, sport safety, subsidies to reduce the cost to participate, and decommissioning and/or
repurposing ice pads. Given the demonstrated aging of the City’s population that has occurred since 2011 and
shoulder period softness, it is plausible that Barrie’s arena system is not facing the same degree of pressure as it
did when the 2010 PRSMP was being prepared.

Source: Hockey Canada Annual General Meeting Reports

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4 Hockey Canada. Annual General Meeting Reports.
Needs Assessment

Given that there is capacity in Barrie’s shoulder hour timeslots for both weekdays and weekends, and in the absence of understanding how local registrations compare to provincial and national declining participation trends, a conservative approach is undertaken whereby future needs are calculated close to the existing level of service. That is, a service level target of 1 ice pad per 19,000 population is applied.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2026</th>
<th>2031</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>144,500</td>
<td>166,600</td>
<td>189,800</td>
<td>210,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Pads Required @ 1:19,000 Population</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Pads Provided</td>
<td>7.25</td>
<td>7.25</td>
<td>7.25</td>
<td>7.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit</td>
<td>(0.35)</td>
<td>(1.55)</td>
<td>(2.75)</td>
<td>(3.75)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the basis of facilities per total population, an additional ice pad would be required within the next four years and a total of three new ice pads would be necessitated shortly after the year 2026. By the year 2031, the 1:19,000 service ratio would require 4 new ice pads to serve Barrie’s growing population.

A measured approach, however, must be undertaken in interpreting these needs given that the provision of 4 new ice pads is likely at least $40 million dollar investment in today’s dollars. This level of investment must be weighed against the fact that arena demand appears to be softening if shoulder period usage is any indication, declining participation trends elsewhere in Canada, and the fact that there is an established private sector presence in Barrie which is attractive to the adult market and those seeking specialized training. Continued aging within established neighbourhoods in Barrie may further contribute to decreased utilization profiles at arenas such as Eastview and Allandale. At the time the PRSMP is updated, it is presumed that a more in-depth examination of local market conditions – especially registration levels – will be undertaken in tandem with arena user consultations.

Factors supporting arena development within the next ten years are continued strength in bookings for the most desirable prime time hours as well as the fact that Salem and Hewitt’s Secondary Plan areas are forecasted to have a collective population of over 30,000 persons. The new housing stock in these areas will presumably be attractive to younger adults and young families whose recreational preferences usually gravitate towards active sports including hockey and figure skating. Two options are advanced for meeting arena needs assuming four ice pads in total are required.
Preferred Strategy

The preferred strategy would be to construct twin pad arenas at both future community centres in Hewitt’s and Salem given that core hour utilization rates remain strong and population growth in the south end will presumably accommodate a younger median age that tends to engage in arena sports. Providing four ice pads through future two arenas is expected to reconcile most forecasted ten year demands for ice pads assuming current participation and utilization trends remain stable. The construction of one twin pad arena within the short-term is consistent with recommendations of the 2010 PRSMP and 2013 Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy.

Previous studies recommend that the Hewitt’s community centre be the first south-end facility to be constructed, something that is confirmed through this Update. The Hewitt’s Secondary Plan area’s forecasted development schedule is projected to accommodate a total population of over 19,000 persons compared to less than 12,000 in Salem. The Hewitt’s site is also located in closer proximity to built-out and underserviced areas within the City – including the Painswick area that has been without a major community centre despite historical plans to do so – meaning the number of persons in the total catchment area of a south-east community centre is likely to be greater over the next ten year period.

The twin pad arena recommended for the Salem community centre will be viewed either as a net addition to the supply or as replacement of an existing arena(s) where a strong reason to decommission an existing ice pad can be demonstrated. For example, rationale to decommission and relocate ice pads may relate to lifecycle state, poor operating performance, or a need to reclaim space/add new types of space within a repurposed pad (e.g. multi-purpose or gymnasium programming, creating a dedicated venue for a sport such as ball hockey or box lacrosse, adding space for youth or older adult/seniors’ programming, etc.). Should an arena consolidation strategy be pursued, the preference would be to remove and relocate the Eastview Arena ice pad to Salem, and if necessary to relocate the hockey rink from Allandale Recreation Centre (it is recommended that the figure skating rink be retained at Allandale).

The City should also be cognisant of any actions taken by the Town of Innisfil as it is contemplating the long-term future of its arena system. Innisfil’s recent Parks & Recreation Master Plan articulates the possibility of reducing its arena supply and identifies the Stroud Arena which is presently used by many Barrie residents. In the event that the City of Barrie can quantify the need for only one ice pad in the medium to long-term (i.e. after 2021), rather than building a twin pad on its own in Salem, the City could approach the Town of Innisfil to explore a partnership approach through which to construct and/or operate twin pad arena. This would consist of one net new ice pad added to Barrie’s supply and a second ice pad constructed to replace the Stroud or other Innisfil-based arena.

Recommendations

1. **Hewitt’s Community Centre**: Construct a twin pad arena at the mixed community centre in Hewitt’s, with ice pads designed to NHL size regulations.

2. **Salem Community Centre**: Construct a twin pad arena at the mixed community centre in Salem after the year 2026, with ice pads designed to NHL size regulations. However, the provision of ice pad(s) at this location should be subject to confirmation of need at that time including the potential of the City decommissioning and relocating at least one existing ice pad to the Salem community centre and/or exploring an alternative service provision approach (e.g. partnering with the Town of Innisfil).
Indoor Aquatic Centres

The City operates 3 indoor aquatic centres:

- Allandale Recreation Centre (25m pool with teaching tank)
- East Bayfield Community Centre (25m pool with teaching tank)
- Holly Community Centre (25m pool, with teaching tank and splash area)

The City of Barrie’s indoor aquatics centres are well positioned to serve residents of all ages and varied interests, something that is important because swimming is one of the few activities that can be pursued from early childhood through to older adulthood, either in structured or drop-in formats. Barrie places considerable focus on learn-to-swim and drowning prevention through its aquatic facilities, which align well with the considerable demand pressures that the forecasted growth in younger age groups will generate for lessons. The City’s indoor aquatic centres are also ideal to respond to growing demands for the aquatic fitness (‘aquafit’) market that is well suited to adults and older adults as it is a low impact, social activity that promotes physical health.

Broad Trends in the Sector

Provincially, participation in swimming has been continuously gaining popularity over the past decade due to a number of factors as previously discussed. In terms of competitive swimming, Swim Ontario reported nearly 18,000 members in 2013, more than doubling its 2002 membership levels. Swim teams tend to prefer traditional rectangular pool configurations with lanes, while the aquafit and early childhood learn-to-swim markets are increasingly shifting their preferences to warmer water leisure/teaching pools and therapeutic pools. A therapeutic pool, for example, aligns very well with aging population trends as well as a focus in some municipalities towards ‘therapeutic’ lines of business that may involve aquatic and fitness programs geared to disease and injury prevention, rehabilitation and management.

Many municipalities in the province are being requested to provide 50 metre pools, however, only a select few are willing or able to rationalize the capital and operating cost expenditures of these high calibre, athlete-centred facilities. Barrie would be no exception given the pressures a 50 metre long-course pool could extoll on its tax base.

Needs Assessment

The PRSMP service level of 1 indoor aquatic centre per 45,000 population, excluding private and quasi-public facilities such as the YMCA. The City is servicing its population at a rate of 1:48,000, slightly below this target but still within the range of targeted by regional and provincial comparators (usually 1:35,000 to 50,000 population).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2026</th>
<th>2031</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>144,500</td>
<td>166,600</td>
<td>189,800</td>
<td>210,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Aquatic Centres Required @ 1:45,000 Population</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Aquatic Centres Provided</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit</td>
<td>(0.2)</td>
<td>(0.7)</td>
<td>(1.2)</td>
<td>(1.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Under the PRSMP standard, the City is deficient by the equivalent of one-fifth (20%) of an aquatic centre at present time. This suggests that the three existing pools are under a degree of pressure but is something that the City can quantify through further examination of its program fill rates, waiting lists, recreational swim visits, etc. By 2021, the deficit will grow to the equivalent of 0.7 indoor aquatic centres and exacerbate pressures placed on the pools, most likely at the Holly Community Centre and Allandale Recreation Centre given these two are the closest to the south-end growth areas where much of the future population growth is expected (including for families who generate substantial demands of learn-to-swim programming).

Although the 1:45,000 standard would suggest constructing the fourth aquatic centre when the population reaches 180,000 (likely around the year 2024), there is merit in advancing the construction timeframe given the pressures that will be placed on the existing system. The south-end Secondary Plan area populations would account for 0.4 of the 0.7 deficit pool needs in 2021 suggesting the case could be made for providing an indoor aquatic centre at that time and allowing the City to “grow” into this pool. As discussed in the arena section of this report and previous planning studies, the Hewitt’s community centre is ideally the candidate for the aquatic centre given its timing is recommended prior to the construction of the Salem community centre, as well as its ability to reconcile an outstanding gap in the Painswick area. The likely younger age profile of Hewitt’s and certain areas of southeast Barrie will also place greater pressure or demand on aquatics programming, particularly swimming lessons.

While the new indoor aquatic – which would be the fourth in the City’s aquatic system – would address a portion of future needs until the year 2024, a fifth pool would be justifiable sometime between 2026 and 2031. There is projected to be outstanding need equivalent to 0.6 of an aquatic centre by the year 2031 after adding a pool in Hewitt’s. Although previous planning documents have suggested that an indoor aquatic centre in Salem should be designed to be a smaller aquatic facility relative to its counterparts, the scarcity of land as the City approaches build-out along with the fact that Barrie’s population is projected to exceed 250,000 persons by the year 2041 lends support to designing a 25 metre rectangular pool (plus a separate leisure, teaching and/or therapy pool tank).

**Recommendations**

3. **Hewitt’s Community Centre**: Construct an indoor aquatic centre that at a minimum contains a 25 metre rectangular pool as well as a separate leisure, teaching and/or therapy pools.

4. **Salem Community Centre**: Construct an indoor aquatic centre that at a minimum contains a 25 metre rectangular pool as well as a separate leisure, teaching and/or therapy pools.

**Gymnasiums**

The City operates 3 gymnasiums that are counted as 2.5 equivalents as the undersized gym at Lampman Lane Community Centre is counted as a half gym equivalent. It is understood that a small gymnasium at Maple Avenue Youth Centre previously counted in the Strategy has been closed and is no longer available for municipal programming.

- East Bayfield Community Centre
- Holly Community Centre
- Lampman Lane Community Centre
Barrie’s gymnasiums – consistent with municipal program delivery trends across the country – host numerous programs throughout the year ranging from sports (e.g. badminton, basketball, pickleball, indoor soccer, floor hockey, and volleyball) and active living/floor-based fitness activities to dance and general interest programs. Gymnasiums are also made available for drop-in activities and sports which represent a growing segment of usage provincially due to time-pressed lifestyles. There is a growing recognition that gymnasiums need to be designed to be of sufficient size to allow ‘run-out’ beyond sidelines in order to be conducive to safe, high quality play (and be able to host sanctioned events).

**Needs Assessment**

The PRSMP service level of 1 gymnasium per 45,000 population results in the City being underserviced in gymnasiums with a current service ratio of 1:58,000. The pressure placed on the City’s gyms is apparent at Lampman Lane Community Centre (+451 hours used since 2014, or 60% growth) and East Bayfield Community Centre (+400 hours used since 2014, equal to 11% growth). At the time of writing, data was being compiled for the Holly Community Centre gymnasium though it is noted that it is arguably the City’s premier gymnasium.

Under the PRSMP standard, the City would be deficient by the equivalent of 0.7 gymnasiums at present time and would be deficient by 2 gymnasiums by 2031. The two community centres in Hewitt’s and Salem present an opportunity to reconcile this deficit as well as to provide a strong complement to the arena(s), indoor aquatic centres, and age-specific spaces recommended there. Given the anticipated child and youth populations in the Secondary Plan areas, full-size regulation gymnasiums constructed to permit sanctioned events would allow the City to flexibly deliver a maximum number of structured and drop-in programs out of these facilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2026</th>
<th>2031</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasiums Required @ 1:45,000 Population</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasiums Provided</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit</td>
<td>(0.7)</td>
<td>(1.2)</td>
<td>(1.7)</td>
<td>(2.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recommendations**

5. **Hewitt’s Community Centre**: Construct a full-sized regulation gymnasium, capable of holding sanctioned events, as part of the community centre development in Hewitt’s.

6. **Salem Community Centre**: Construct a full-sized regulation gymnasium, capable of holding sanctioned events, as part of the community centre development in Salem.
Fitness Space

The City operates 3 equipment-based fitness centres.

- Allandale Recreation Centre
- East Bayfield Community Centre
- Holly Community Centre

The emphasis being placed on personal health is resulting in growing participation across Ontario for physical fitness activities. This is translating into increasing use of private and public sector fitness services including active living programming centred on general health and wellness, cardiovascular training and stretching activities (e.g., aerobics, yoga, pilates, etc.). Group fitness programming is one of the fastest growing segments of the sector, more so than traditional weight-training, given that these programs are designed to be fun, social activities (‘Zumba’ is a notable example).

Needs Assessment

Barrie has long-established itself as a player in the fitness market having delivered quality fitness spaces within its multi-use recreation facilities for a number of years. Despite growing competition from private sector chains and the emergence of the discount fitness model (e.g. Goodlife’s Fit4Less) that competes more directly with a municipal fitness system, it is understood that Barrie’s fitness centres continue to be a strong draw for those using its community centres and allows the City to maximize cross-programming and dryland training opportunities. They also facilitate the City’s objectives of encouraging physical activity and healthy living among its residents of diverse ages and abilities.

This Update continues to support the PRSMP’s recommendation that any new community centre containing an indoor aquatic centre and gymnasium should also include an equipment-based fitness centre so as to be consistent with the City’s existing operating model. While an in-depth market assessment of fitness services has not be undertaken under the scope of this exercise, it is presumed that such an analysis would eventually be prepared to provide additional guidance to the City. At a high level, this Update encourages the City to target 1 equipment-based fitness centre for every 45,000 population to remain consistent with standards established for indoor aquatic centres and gymnasiums, and the fact that these three indoor recreation facility components collectively offer tremendous synergies as evidenced by the City’s existing community centre design templates.

On the basis of the 1:45,000 service standard, the City would require 5 equipment-based fitness centres in total. This supports the provision of fitness centres in the Hewitt’s and Salem community centres as a continuance of the model the City has employed in other facilities and the cross-programming benefits that can be attained. The market assessment previously mentioned would assist the City in determining the square footage requirement of each of the spaces. It is worth noting that the City’s experience with its more recent fitness centres at the Holly and East Bayfield Community Centres is such that these facilities are now at capacity and thus it is plausible that square footages greater than employed at those locations should be considered in the design of the Hewitt’s and Salem community centres.

Complementing the fitness centres should be group fitness / active living studios given such programs are in high popularity and driving considerable business in the fitness market. In addition, the community centres should each integrate an indoor walking track given experience around the province suggests these tracks are highly valued, well used and are readily integrated into community centre designs.
Space for Youth & Older Adults

The City operates 1 integrated youth centre, located at the Holly Community Centre, along with 2 older adult/seniors’ centres at the Parkview 55+ Centre and the Allandale 55+ Centre integrated within the Allandale Recreation Centre. The provision of dedicated community space for specific age groups offers a number of benefits.

Broad Trends in the Sector

For youth - who are often considered as under-represented segments of the population – effective youth spaces reflect the diverse needs and desires of the age group including areas for recreation, socialization, youth health services (typically delivered by a community partner) and study space. Research has revealed that youth between the ages of 10 and 19 years prefer unorganized and self-structured activities, prompting the emergence of drop-in youth spaces that allow users to engage in their desired activities on their own schedule. These spaces also function as a safe environment to facilitate positive reinforcement to combat concerns surrounding mental and physical health among youth.

For older adults, the provision of space is an important consideration when designing and/or improving recreation facilities as it provides a location for a growing segment of the population to gather and share common interests. Considering that 10% of Ontario’s older adult population makes use of older adult centres, this represents an opportunity for improvement particularly since seniors centres produce many physical and social benefits and are thus important community assets that are generally regarded as an important part of the health care and recreation sectors. Members of older adult centres are also very healthy and have strong activity patterns that help them remain physically well (55% of members described their level of physical activity as fair/moderate, and 33% as good or excellent).6

As older adults and seniors become more sophisticated, municipalities are faced with increasing pressures to provide a range of recreation pursuits that respond to broad interests. Users continue to seek traditional activities such as cards, carpet bowling, reading and guest speakers, while others desire more active recreation programs and activities centred on socialization. While communities have responded to the rise of the ‘active’ older adult and seniors through the provision of low impact fitness activities, municipalities frequently receive requests for new or expanded recreation activities (e.g. pickleball is a popular sport among older adults and has become one of the fastest growing sports in Canada). With considerable population growth expected to occur among the older

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6 Older Adult Centres’ Association of Ontario. 2010. Building Bridges to Tomorrow: User Profile of Older Adults Centres in Ontario.
adult and senior population, it is essential to ensure that the needs of this age group are addressed, while ensuring that the City offers a balanced spectrum of recreation and leisure opportunities that appeal to all age groups.

**Needs Assessment**

Consistent with directions from the PRSMP and the 2013 Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy, spaces for older adults and youth should be included in the design of the Hewitt’s and Salem community centres on the basis that:

- The anticipated housing mix will be attractive to households containing children and youth, thereby establishing a market for youth space in the south end.

- The overall aging of Barrie’s population as well as the fact that the City has attracted a number of retirement-age individuals over the past few years – both in the established areas but also in greenfield subdivisions – bodes well for older adult-specific space in the south end.

- An indoor aquatic centre, fitness centre, gymnasium and multi-purpose program space have been recommended at both south end community centres which would form strong complements to youth and older adult space (and potentially increase foot traffic in the facilities). For example, the gymnasium would allow for youth-focused programs such as basketball as well as older adult-focused programs such as pickleball.

- The City has operational experience and a well-established model of delivering age-specific space within community centres. In 2016, the Allandale 55+ had nearly 13,000 member visits (based on card scans) while the Parkview 55+ Centre had nearly 17,000 visits. Youth centre scan data was not available for the full year.

- Inclusion of youth space in the two community centres reinforces the City’s recent designation as a Youth-Friendly Community under Playworks.

Other considerations for the provision of future age-specific space include the fact that the arena assessment contained in previous pages identifies a potential relocation of an ice pad(s) from existing arenas at either Eastview Arena or the Allandale Recreation Centre to a south-end community centre(s). In the event existing ice pads are relocated, opportunity to repurpose them to accommodate age-specific programming should be contemplated. This could mean adding dedicated space for youth at Allandale Recreation Centre, expanding the existing Allandale 55+ Centre, and/or adding additional multi-purpose rooms or gymnasium space to deliver age-specific services. Also of note is the fact that the Barrie Public Library is about to embark on a Library Facilities Master Plan, which if it is determined that the current Painswick Branch should be relocated to the Hewitt community centre, would then present an opportunity to repurpose all or part of a vacated Painswick branch into a dedicated seniors centre.

**Recommendations**

9. **Hewitt’s Community Centre**: Integrate spaces for youth/teens and older adults as part of the community centre development in Hewitt’s.

10. **Salem Community Centre**: Integrate spaces for youth/teens and older adults as part of the community centre development in Salem.
Soccer Fields

The 2013 Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy articulated a soccer field supply of 64.5 unlit equivalent fields (counting lit soccer fields as 1.5 unlit fields), which is assumed to reflect the current inventory for the purposes of this Update. That report and the 2010 PRSMP targeted future service levels based upon the number of soccer players registered with local organizations. Current registration data is not available for this assessment, therefore, an alternative methodology to calculating future needs is applied which considers the following factors:

- Based on the 2016 population estimate, Barrie is providing 1 soccer field per 2,250 persons which is generally in line with provision comparators (usually in the range of 1:2,000 to 1:3,000 population).

- The number of hours used at many soccer fields has been decreasing since 2014. Major unlit soccer fields usage declined from 8,800 hours in 2014 to 4,800 hours in 2016, Junior field use fell from 5,500 hours to 2,100 hours, and mini field usage has declined from 2,900 hours to 2,300 hours over the same time.

- With a service level on the upper end of the range and fewer hours being booked locally on fields, there appears to be capacity to accommodate greater use within the soccer field system. This statement applies to the system as a whole and not necessarily to fields of specific quality, as demand for certain fields may be greater than others or in terms of geographic distribution.

- It is understood from City Staff that the Barrie Soccer Club has experienced declining registration levels, but hopes to reverse that trend now that it has undergone a restructuring initiative and has improved its financial position. Forecasted population growth in the age 5 to 19 cohorts may also support minor soccer registrations over time.

- Consideration will need to be provided to designing future fields in accordance with the Ontario Soccer Association’s Long Term Player Development specifications, the details of which would need to be confirmed through consultations with local soccer clubs and may form part of a future Master Plan update.

Broad Trends in the Sector

Soccer underwent enormous growth in the 1990s when it replaced baseball and hockey as the most popular organized sport among Canada’s youth. Over the past decade, the Huronia District Soccer Association - which encompasses Barrie-based clubs sanctioned by the OSA - reached peak registration in 2008 after which participation tapered albeit not to the extent as Ontario as a whole. As of 2015, there were approximately 13,600 players registered in Huronia. What is most notable about the declining regional participation numbers is the fact that the capture rate is decreasing. There are about 4,500 fewer outdoor soccer players in Huronia (affiliated with the OSA) since its peak, yet population in most urbanized areas of Simcoe County has been growing, therefore, the percentage of the population playing outdoor soccer is in decline. This may suggest that interest in soccer in the regional area may be levelling off among residents, soccer participation may be impacted by competing sporting interests, and/or could also be a result of aging populations in certain communities. That being said, continued demand for soccer fields is possible with the OSA’s implementation of the LTPD standards.

It is possible, however, that declining OSA registrations may be offset by observed growth in private academies and religious/cultural groups forming their own unaffiliated leagues, though the number of players falling under
non-OSA affiliates is difficult to quantify. Therefore, soccer remains one of the most popular sports across the province that continues to exhibit growth potential both locally and throughout Ontario.

![Provincial Registration Trends in Outdoor Soccer](image)

Note: data not available for Huronia District Soccer Association registrations for 2005 and 2009
Source: Ontario Soccer Association

**Needs Assessment**

Given the existing surplus capacity apparent in the soccer field supply (based on reduced usage), it is recommended that the City adjust the provision target to a level of service at 1 field per 2,500 population versus the 1:2,250. Based upon this adjustment, the City is currently supplying a surplus of 6.7 soccer fields (in-line with the utilization data). Based upon this target, the addition of 2 fields by 2021 and 11.5 equivalent fields by 2026. Assuming the populations of Hewitt’s and Salem are respectively 19,000 and 12,000 by that time, Hewitt’s would account for 7.5 unlit equivalents and Salem would account for 5 unlit equivalents of fields needed by the year 2026.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2026</th>
<th>2031</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>144,500</td>
<td>166,600</td>
<td>189,800</td>
<td>210,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Fields Required @ 1:2,500 Population</td>
<td>57.8</td>
<td>66.6</td>
<td>75.9</td>
<td>84.0</td>
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<td>Soccer Fields Provided</td>
<td>64.5</td>
<td>64.5</td>
<td>64.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surplus (Deficit)</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>(2.1)</td>
<td>(11.4)</td>
<td>(19.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accordingly, the Community Park sites in both Hewitt’s and Salem would optimally provide rectangular fields in addition to the community centres. Depending upon land area available once the community centre and its associated parking/servicing areas are accounted for, it is understood that there is room for at least one rectangular field at each site. The City would ideally light each of these fields meaning it would reconcile
approximately 3.5 unlit equivalent fields of the noted deficit. Given that the population-based standard shows a double-digit deficit after 10 years, the City will need to consider alternative strategies to reconciling a future field deficit including through securedment of a sports field (potentially in the south-end given anticipated growth in younger age groups there).

Additionally, the City should consider greater integration of artificial turf fields within the sports field supply as artificial turf can accommodate at least twice the use of a natural grass field, and it can reduce pressures generated by field sports other than soccer (such as football, lacrosse, rugby, etc.). In recent years, the City of Barrie and a number of other municipalities have been able to secure partnerships with school boards or post-secondary institutions for the joint development of artificial turf fields.

Given the number of rectangular fields originating out of a 1:2,500 population standard, it is strongly recommended that sports field needs be re-evaluated using a registration-based standard. Ideally, this would take place at the time of the City’s update to the PRSMP in order to account for market conditions as part of the demand equation and confirm the directions advanced herein. Geographic distribution and general field conditions, supporting amenities, etc. should also be considered at that time.

**Recommendations**

11. **Hewitt’s Community Centre**: Integrate space for a minimum of one soccer field at the Community Park development in Hewitt’s, provided space exists to do so in tandem with the recommended community centre.

12. **Salem Community Centre**: Integrate space for a minimum of one soccer field at the Community Park development in Salem, provided space exists to do so in tandem with the recommended community centre.

13. **Re-evaluate rectangular sports field needs in conjunction with user group registration data and a land acquisition strategy, the latter of which should consider the feasibility of constructing a new sports field complex in south Barrie.**

**Ball Diamonds**

The 2013 Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy articulated a ball diamond supply of 47 unlit equivalent fields (counting each lit diamonds as 2.0 unlit diamonds). Since that time, the City has removed a major diamond at Lampman Lane and has lost access to two lit diamonds at Georgian Fields. As such, the ball diamond inventory now stands at 42 unlit equivalents which will be further reduced once the City removes the diamond at MacMorrison Park in the coming months. The 2013 report and the 2010 PRSMP targeted future service levels based upon the number of ball players registered with local organizations. Current registration data is not available for this assessment, therefore, an alternative methodology to calculating future needs is applied which considers the following factors:

- Based on the 2016 population estimate, Barrie is providing 1 ball diamond per 3,400 persons which is generally in line with provision comparators (usually in the range of 1:3,000 to 4,000 population).
• The number of hours used at minor ball diamonds increased from 4,300 hours in 2014 to 7,100 hours in 2016. These gains, however, have been offset by usage of major diamonds that decreased from 10,400 hours to 7,700 hours over the same time period.

• With a service level on the upper end of the range and stable utilization trend for the diamond inventory as a whole, there is likely some capacity to accommodate additional use within the diamond system, particularly for major diamonds. This statement applies to the system as a whole and not necessarily to fields of specific quality, as demand for certain diamonds may be greater than others; for example, some communities are experiencing a resurgence in hardball participation which is creating substantial pressures given that most municipal diamonds are constructed to softball specifications.

• Forecasted population growth in the age 5 to 19 cohorts may support minor ball registrations over time.

Broad Trends in the Sector

In Ontario, baseball has been making a resurgence in the past three years after a substantial period of decline in the early 2000s. For 2016, Baseball Ontario identified that 13,700 rep-level participants and 987 teams were registered with affiliated organizations which amounts to 22% and 27% growth, respectively, compared to 2004 levels.7 Further, the York-Simcoe Baseball Association (which includes OBA sanctioned clubs in Barrie) reports steadily growing registrations since 2008. At the provincial and regional level, there are a number of reasons attributable to the recent resurgence including a greater focus of the provincial body in skill development and grassroots programs, along with renewed interest in the past few years in the Toronto Blue Jays (which may also be attracting interest from the GTA’s immigrant populations who were not previously as familiar with the sport).

Note: York Simcoe registrations are unavailable prior to 2008 while provincial registrations unavailable for 2005 and 2006.

Source: Baseball Ontario Annual General Meetings

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**Needs Assessment**

Assuming that demand for diamonds remains in line with current utilization data and the City maintains its current level of service at 1 diamond per 3,400 population, it would require 8 unlit diamond equivalents by 2021 and 15 unlit diamond equivalents by 2026. Assuming the populations of Hewitt’s and Salem are 19,000 and 12,000 by that time, respectively, Hewitt’s would account for 5.5 unlit equivalents and Salem would account for 3.5 unlit equivalents of fields needed by the year 2026.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2016</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2026</th>
<th>2031</th>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>144,500</td>
<td>166,600</td>
<td>189,800</td>
<td>210,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ball Diamonds Required @ 1:3,400 Population</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ball Diamonds Provided*</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>41</td>
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<td>41</td>
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<td>Surplus (Deficit)</td>
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<td>(8)</td>
<td>(15)</td>
<td>(21)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* reflects the loss of the MacMorrison diamond in 2017

Given that there is unlikely to be sufficient room at the Community Park sites in both Hewitt’s and Salem after factoring the community centres and the rectangular fields, the City would have to look elsewhere to construct ball diamonds. Assuming that the number of diamonds required through the 1:3,400 standard in fact generate a double-digit need for new facilities, the City should look to the creation of ball diamond complexes where possible. These venues would ideally group three to four lit diamonds (4.5 to 6 unlit equivalents) in a pinwheel configuration, and may be co-located with rectangular fields as part of a broader sports field complex.

It is strongly recommended that sports field needs be re-evaluated using a registration-based standard, possibly at the time of the City’s update to the PRSMP along with consultation with stakeholder/user groups, to account for market conditions as part of the demand equation and confirm the directions advanced herein. For example, using the registration-based standard resulted in nominal number of new diamonds being needed when applied through the 2010 PRSMP and the 2013 Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy whereas the population-based standard would necessitate double-digit additions to the supply regardless of local participation rates in baseball/softball.

**Recommendations**

14. **Hewitt’s Community Centre**: Space limitations will not likely provide opportunity to integrate space for ball diamonds at the Community Park development in Hewitt’s. An alternative site(s) will need to be explored for ball diamond provision.

15. **Salem Community Centre**: Space limitations will not likely provide opportunity to integrate space for ball diamonds at the Community Park development in Salem. An alternative site(s) will need to be explored for ball diamond provision.

16. **Re-evaluate ball diamond needs in conjunction with user group registration data and a land acquisition strategy, the latter of which should consider the feasibility of constructing a new sports field complex in south Barrie.**
3. **Summary of Assessments**

The following service level targets were advanced through the 2010 PRSMP and 2013 Parks & Recreation Growth Strategy as they pertain to facilities under the scope of this Update, as well as the standards that have been used as the basis for this 2017 Update.

Generally speaking, the major drivers of new community centre construction are arenas and indoor aquatic centres (though there are exceptions). In Barrie, addressing future aquatic centre and arena needs is driving new community centre construction; this would generally imply that new community centres would be required for every 40,000 to 45,000 new residents added to the City’s population, based on indoor aquatic centre provision at 1:45,000 and twin pad arenas at 1:38,000 (where each ice pad is provided at 1:19,000).

However, community centre provision is based on a number of factors including utilization rates of existing recreation facilities and programs, sport participant/player registration levels, availability of funding. Further, it should be recognized that service level ratios tend to be lowered when municipalities reach a certain population threshold given a collective critical mass of recreational infrastructure is then established (i.e. instead of 1:45,000 persons, a more populous community may target provision at a rate of 1:60,000, all of which would be established through future master planning exercises).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Type</th>
<th>2010 PRSMP Service Level Target*</th>
<th>2017 Update Service Level Target</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ice Rinks</td>
<td>1 : 750 Participants or 1 : 15,000-19,000 Population</td>
<td>1 : 19,000 Population**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor Aquatic Centres</td>
<td>1 : 45,000 Population</td>
<td>1 : 45,000 Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasiums</td>
<td>1 : 45,000 Population</td>
<td>1 : 45,000 Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness Space</td>
<td>No Standard Applied – Contingent on Business Planning</td>
<td>1 : 45,000 Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dedicated Space for Youth &amp; Older Adults</td>
<td>No Standard Applied – Contingent on Business Planning</td>
<td>No Standard Applied – Contingent on Business Planning and Community Centre Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Fields</td>
<td>1 : 80 Participants</td>
<td>1 : 2,500 Population**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball Diamonds</td>
<td>1 : 100 Participants</td>
<td>1 : 3,400 Population**</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*As expressed through the City of Barrie Parks & Recreation Strategic Master Plan, 2010

** Participation-based standard is preferred, however, registration data was unavailable at time of writing
Based upon the consideration of demographics, broad trends in recreation participation and facility design, and the assessments contained in preceding pages, it is recommended that the City proceed with two new community centres as follows:

- Hewitt’s Community Centre – target opening by the year 2020
- Salem Community Centre – target opening between the years 2026 and 2031 depending upon uptake of development activity in the annexed lands.

The Hewitt’s community centre would contain:

- A twin pad arena with ice pads designed to NHL size specifications (200’ by 85’);
- An indoor aquatic centre containing a 25 metre rectangular pool as well as a separate leisure, teaching and/or therapy pools;
- A gymnasium designed to full size specifications (at minimum) so that sanctioned events can be held;
- An equipment-based fitness centre containing weight-training and cardiovascular equipment, and supported by a group fitness/active living studio(s) and an indoor walking track;
- Spaces for youth and older adult programming;
- Public library branch subject to findings from the Barrie Public Library Master Plan;
- One lit rectangular field (at minimum); and
- Other outdoor areas such as seating areas, hard surface sport courts, splash pads, etc. that are rationalized through existing or future studies.

The Salem community centre would contain

- A twin pad arena with ice pads designed to NHL size specifications (200’ by 85’);
- An indoor aquatic centre containing a 25 metre rectangular pool as well as a separate leisure, teaching and/or therapy pools;
- A gymnasium designed to full size specifications (at minimum) so that sanctioned events can be held;
- An equipment-based fitness centre containing weight-training and cardiovascular equipment, and supported by a group fitness/active living studio(s) and an indoor walking track;
- Spaces for youth and older adult programming;
- Public library branch subject to findings from the Barrie Public Library Master Plan;
- One lit rectangular field (at minimum); and
- Other outdoor areas such as seating areas, hard surface courts, splash pads, etc. that are rationalized through existing or future studies.