



Outdoor Recreation Facility Study

February 2019



Monteith • Brown
planning consultants



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February 19, 2019



Executive Summary

Project Purpose

The Outdoor Recreation Facility Study (ORFS) identifies needs and priorities for the City of Barrie to consider as it grows to an expected population of 210,000 by the year 2031, and to 251,000 people by the year 2041. During these periods of future growth, Barrie's age profile is expected to experience many changes. The population across all age groups are anticipated to increase, with the most growth expected to occur among adults between the ages of 35 and 54, as well as seniors 70 years of age and over. Combining this with the fact that recreational interests are evolving, this ORFS was undertaken to ensure that Barrie's portfolio of outdoor recreation facilities are aligned with current and future needs.

The ORFS updates previous recreation facility assessments in light of Barrie's evolving demographics, recreation trends, and changes to facility inventories that have occurred since the City's Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan was prepared in 2010 and subsequent Parks and Recreation Growth Strategy projects undertaken in 2013 and 2017 to guide the Hewitt's and Salem Secondary Plan areas.

This Study focuses exclusively on outdoor recreation facility needs. As per a refined Terms of Reference developed specifically for this project, the following recreation facilities were analyzed:

- Rectangular sports fields
- Ball diamonds
- Cricket pitches
- Outdoor tennis and pickleball courts
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Splash pads
- Playgrounds
- Outdoor skating rinks
- Skateboard parks
- Outdoor sand volleyball courts

The Study's methodology consists of research, consultation, and assessment efforts. Outdoor recreation facility users and City Staff were invited to participate in the ORFS to understand the strengths, gaps, and opportunities associated with Barrie's outdoor recreation facility infrastructure. These inputs, together with supporting data, were carefully considered to develop a strategy to guide the City in addressing outdoor recreation facility needs.

Addressing Outdoor Recreation Facility Needs in Existing Areas of Barrie

Strategies to resolve service gaps and outdoor recreation facility needs within the established areas of Barrie are identified through constructing new recreation facilities within existing parks. As Barrie's population continues to grow, particularly in areas of intensification, there will be a greater need to maximize the use of Barrie's park system, while ensuring that appropriate greenspaces are available to facilitate unstructured activities. The limitation of this approach is

greatest in regard to the introduction of major sports fields, due to existing park size, shape, and topography.

Addressing Outdoor Recreation Facility Needs in the Hewitt's and Salem Secondary Plan

Population projections estimate that the City of Barrie will be home to 210,000 residents by 2031. With the majority of population growth expected to occur within the Hewitt's and Salem Secondary Plans, many of the recommendations that are identified in this Study are focused towards these areas to ensure that future residents in each Secondary Plan have reasonable access to outdoor recreation facilities, while also ensuring that they are distributed appropriately throughout the City.

The current proposed park block dedications in the Secondary Plan areas are such that it is expected that there will be a shortfall of parkland capable of accommodating projected outdoor recreation facility needs. Based on the total number of recommended outdoor recreation facilities required to serve the Secondary Plan (and at the City-wide level), it was revealed that a number of the park blocks that the City is expected to receive are of a size and/or proportion that will prove to be challenging to include all of the recommended facilities, particularly for major sports fields.

Land Securement beyond the City's Boundary

In order to meet the projected outdoor recreation facility needs recognizing that that all new major sports fields cannot be accommodated at existing and planned parks, it is recommended that the City initiate a process to secure a site to develop an outdoor sports facility. The future outdoor sports facility should be large enough to accommodate projected outdoor recreation facilities that cannot be located within the City's existing or planned parks. Based on projections, lands sufficient to accommodate the following outdoor facilities should be planned for at a future outdoor sports facility:

- 4 unlit equivalent major rectangular sports fields (e.g., 2 lit artificial turf fields or other combination)
- 22.5 unlit equivalent major ball diamonds (e.g., 15 lit major ball diamonds or other combination)
- 1 cricket pitch
- Other potential recreation facilities, including, but not limited to, playgrounds and tennis, pickleball, basketball, and volleyball courts that would otherwise not be able to be accommodated at planned parks within Hewitt's and Salem
- Supporting amenities including, but not limited to, parking, washrooms/changerooms, storage, spectator seating, unstructured greenspaces, and other spaces identified by staff.

Based on the outstanding number of outdoor recreation facilities, the City should seek to secure site in excess of 21 hectares (52 acres). This minimum area excludes setbacks from sports fields, space for other outdoor recreation facilities that would otherwise not be accommodated at planned parks in Hewitt's and Salem (e.g., tennis, basketball, volleyball courts and playgrounds), as well as support spaces such as parking, circulation areas, storage, and washrooms/changerooms.

The preferred approach is to secure lands in the southern portion of Barrie, likely in an adjacent municipality (similar the Barrie Community Sports Complex in Midhurst) given that the recommended outdoor sports facility will primarily serve residents in Hewitt's and Salem. Other lands within the City's existing boundary may also be considered (e.g., Sandy Hollow Buffer). Development of these future lands should occur after the City completes a five-year review of the needs assessments contained in the Outdoor Recreation Facility Study to ensure that facilities are built to match future community needs.

Implementing the Outdoor Recreation Facility Study

Full implementation of the recommended outdoor recreation facility development strategy is estimated to be approximately \$26.4 Million (subject to design, scale, topography, and other factors). This estimates includes \$12.2 Million to \$13.3 Million in capital costs to implement the outdoor recreation facilities recommended at existing and planned parks, as well as \$13.1 Million in capital costs to implement the outstanding balance of sports facilities at a future outdoor sports facility. The noted capital costs is over and above the cost required to secure lands for the future outdoor sports facility. Also excluded are costs related to staff time, site works (e.g., hydro, water, grading, etc.), inflation, and associated amenities (e.g., seating, pathways, shade structures, support structures, etc.) are excluded.

A full summary of the outdoor recreation facility development strategy is identified below.

Rectangular Sports Fields

1. A total of five unlit equivalent rectangular fields should be constructed to redistribute underperforming/low quality fields in existing areas to improve access within Hewitt's and Salem (and surrounding area), potentially implemented in the following manner. Should it be determined that they cannot be located at the recommended location, they should be located at the future outdoor sports facility or elsewhere determined by staff.
 - a. One lit major rectangular sports field at Hewitt's District Park (+1.5 unlit equivalents);
 - b. One lit major rectangular sports field at Salem District park (+1.5 unlit equivalents);

- c. One lit artificial turf field at the Barrie Community Sports Complex, subject to confirmation of sufficient space after factoring the recommendation to add two lit major ball diamonds (Recommendation #5a) (+2.0 unlit equivalents);
 - d. Offset new field additions with reducing the level of maintenance of fields that are not currently being used by sports organizations.
2. Initiate a site selection and land banking process through which to develop a future outdoor sports facility required to provide the balance of four unlit equivalent rectangular fields to meet growth-related needs. Development of these future lands should occur after the City completes a five-year review of the needs assessments contained in the Outdoor Recreation Facility Study to ensure facilities are built to match future community needs.
3. Future rectangular fields should be designed to Ontario Soccer's Long Term Player Development standards using an 11v11 field template with consideration given to other supporting amenities such as on-site parking. Opportunities to enhance existing sports fields to 11v11 design specifications should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis at the time of park redevelopment.
4. At the City's discretion, the provision of 3v3, 5v5 or 7v7 field templates may be provided within Neighbourhood Parks on the basis of facilitating unstructured neighbourhood use and enhancing geographic distribution.

Ball Diamonds

5. A total of 9.0 unlit equivalent ball diamonds are recommended, potentially implemented in the following manner. Should it be determined that they cannot be located at the recommended location, they should be located at the future outdoor sports facility or elsewhere determined by staff.
 - a. Two lit major diamonds at Barrie Community Sports Complex subject to sufficient space after factoring the recommendation to add an artificial turf field (Recommendation #1c) (+3.0 unlit equivalents);
 - b. Two lit major diamonds at Painswick Park (+3.0 unlit equivalents);
 - c. Two lit major diamonds at the future Salem Satellite Operations Yard (+3.0 unlit equivalents)
6. Re-evaluate ball diamond needs (in tandem with a review of rectangular sports fields) in five years to confirm the need for the balance of 24 unlit equivalent ball diamonds. Future ball diamonds should be co-located with other sports fields at a location(s), potentially at a future outdoor sports facility, or other locations to be determined by City staff.

Cricket Pitches

7. Upon confirmation of demand, construct a full size cricket pitch (dedicated or multi-use field), potentially to be located at the future outdoor sports facility (see Recommendation #2), the Sandy Hollow Buffer, or alternative location deemed appropriate by City staff.

Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Courts

8. Construct six courts for tennis and/or pickleball in the Hewitt's Secondary Plan in the following manner:
 - a. Subject to available space, construct a dedicated lit two-pod tennis court at the District Park. Alternatively, construct a dedicated lit two-pod tennis court at the future outdoor sports facility or an unlit two-pod multi-use court at a Neighbourhood Park for tennis and pickleball; and
 - b. Construct an unlit two-pod multi-use court (for tennis and pickleball) at two Neighbourhood Parks.
9. Construct four courts for tennis and/or pickleball in the Salem Secondary Plan in the following manner:
 - a. Subject to available space, construct a dedicated lit two-pod tennis court at the District Park. Alternatively, construct a dedicated lit two-pod tennis court at the future outdoor sports facility or an unlit two-pod multi-use court at a Neighbourhood Park for tennis and pickleball; and
 - b. Construct a two-pod multi-use court (for tennis and pickleball) at a Neighbourhood Park.
10. Subject to confirmation of sufficient demand, construct up to seven tennis courts (some or all of which may be multi-use courts) within established areas of Barrie to resolve gap areas, particularly in the areas of central Barrie, north of Mapleview Drive and south of Ardagh Road on the west side of Highway 400 (e.g., Holly or Ardagh area), in the northeast area of Big Bay Point Road and Huronia Road (e.g., Painswick North, Bayshore, or South Shore), and the east area of Bayfield Street north of Blake Street (e.g., Wellington or Codrington).
11. Consistent with existing practices, a higher quality design standard should be applied to tennis courts constructed at Community and District Parks, such as (but not necessarily limited to) court lighting, fencing and painted acrylic surfaces. Multi-use courts at Neighbourhood Parks should have asphalt surfaces.

12. Construct a minimum of four dedicated pickleball courts at Assikinack Park by re-purposing the lacrosse box (unless through further consultation with the lacrosse user group it is determined that the lacrosse box should be maintained). Alternatively, dedicated pickleball courts may be constructed at another site selected by City staff. City staff should monitor the demand for pickleball and evaluate future opportunities to enhance the distribution of pickleball courts at locations such as Pringle Park, Shoreview Park, Holly Community Park, or other locations identified by City staff.

Outdoor Basketball Courts

13. Provide basketball courts in the Hewitt's Secondary Plan in the following manner:
 - a. Subject to available space, construct one full basketball court at the District Park. Alternatively, the full court may be located at a Neighbourhood Park or at the future outdoor sports facility.
 - b. Full or half courts at a Neighbourhood Parks or Village Squares may be considered where required to strengthen geographic distribution, subject to available space.
14. Provide basketball courts in the Salem Secondary Plan in the following manner:
 - a. Subject to available space, construct one full basketball court at the District Park. Alternatively, the full court may be located at a Neighbourhood Park or at the future outdoor sports facility.
 - b. Full or half courts at a Neighbourhood Parks or Village Squares may be considered, subject to available space, in an effort to strengthen distribution.
15. Where opportunities exist, develop basketball courts in underserved areas of Barrie such as at Hickling Park, College Heights Park, or other locations determined by City staff. Opportunities to enlarge existing free-throw pads should also be considered when undertaking park improvements to allow for drop-in games.
16. Consistent with existing practices, basketball courts should be designed with asphalt surfaces in order to accommodate outdoor skating during the winter. Multi-use court lining should also be considered at Neighbourhood Parks/Village Squares to further enhance the range of activities that can be accommodated.

Splash Pads

17. Construct two new splash pads, one to be located at the Hewitt's District Park and the second at the Salem District Park.

18. Construct two new splash pad in between Tiffin Street and Maplevue Drive corridors, each located on either side of the Highway 400 corridor, at locations to be determined pending site and feasibility assessments conducted by City staff. Potential neighbourhoods that should be evaluated include Holly, Ardagh, Painswick North, South Shore, and Allandale Heights.
19. As a part of the park master plan for Heritage Park, incorporate the development of a destination-style splash pad as a replacement to the existing water play feature, which has reached the end of its lifespan.

Playgrounds and Outdoor Fitness Equipment

20. Continue to implement the City's playground replacement program to renew aging playground equipment, as necessary. Where possible, consideration should be given to incorporating inclusive playground features, as well as natural/adventure elements, for new and replacement playgrounds. Opportunities to enlarge/enhance the size of playground structures should also be considered at a time of replacement, particularly in areas within or near the Urban Growth Centre such as at Lions Park, Sam Cancilla Park, and other locations to be determined by City staff.
21. Construct a playground at each park within Hewitt's and Salem to ensure that residents have access to a playground. Combination junior and senior play structures are recommended at each park, although the population of toddlers (under the age of five) and children (age 5-9) should be considered as only one type of play structure (junior or senior) may be accommodated at smaller parks (e.g., Village Squares). New playgrounds should incorporate inclusive play features with a unique design.
22. On a case-by-case basis, City staff should install outdoor fitness equipment in areas with high concentrations of older adults or high priority areas, including along major trail routes or at Community, Regional or District Parks. Potential locations include, but are not limited to, Sunnidale Park, Lampman Lane Park, Kempenfelt Park, the future District Parks in Hewitt's and Salem, or other options identified by the City.

Outdoor Skating Rinks

23. Identify outdoor skating rink opportunities at Neighbourhood Parks in Hewitt's and Salem that have proposed tennis and basketball courts that have asphalt surfaces. These outdoor skating rinks should be maintained and operated by City staff, although solicitation of volunteers that are interested in initiating a community-run ice rink program may also be encouraged. Due to the impact of climate change, the use of artificial ice rinks in strategic locations should be considered.

Skateboard Parks

24. Construct one major skateboard park at the Hewitt's District Park and a second skateboard park at the Salem District Park. The skateboard park should be similar in scale to the one at Queens Park.
25. Two major skateboard parks should be constructed at an existing park in the west and east side of Barrie, north of Maplevue Drive and South of Tiffin Street. Potential sites should be determined by City staff based on a site and feasibility assessment. Candidate sites may include, but not be limited to, Holly Community Park, Painswick Park, Lennox Park, or another site identified by City staff.
26. Future skateboard parks should be designed to be permanent concrete facilities with a variety of features including, but not limited to, bowls and ramps, railings, stairs, elevation changes, and other components. To engage local users, consultation with the skateboarding (and wheeled action sports) community is recommended.
27. Explore the potential to construct small-scale permanent or temporary "skate spots" or "skate zones" within a designated space in Neighbourhood Park to provide an enhanced level of with geographically accessible recreation opportunities for youth. Skate spots/zones may be constructed as temporary facilities, which may allow the City to remove and relocate skating opportunities to other parks from time to time, further enhancing distribution and allowing the City to test skateboarding demand across Barrie.

Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts

28. In consultation with volleyball organizations, explore opportunities to construct additional volleyball courts at an existing park or at the future outdoor sports park facility. A minimum of four volleyball courts should be developed at a site in order to facilitate tournaments.

Summary of Existing and Recommended Outdoor Recreation Facilities

	Existing Supply	Recommended Outdoor Recreation Facilities at Existing or Planned Parks	Estimated Capital Costs	Recommended Outdoor Recreation Facilities at a Future Outdoor Sports Facility*	Estimated Capital Cost
Rectangular Sports Fields					
Former City Boundary	63	1 artificial turf field	\$3,200,000	4 unlit equivalents (e.g., 2 artificial turf fields)	\$4,400,000
Hewitt's	0	1 lit major field			
Salem	0	1 lit major field			
Ball Diamonds					
Former City Boundary	33	4 lit major diamonds	\$3,000,000	24 unlit equivalents (e.g., 16 lit major ball diamonds)	\$8,000,000
Hewitt's	0	0			
Salem	0	2 lit major diamonds			
Cricket Pitches					
Former City Boundary	1	n/a	n/a	1 cricket pitch	\$700,000
Hewitt's	0				
Salem	0				
Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Courts				Other outdoor recreation facilities may be located at the future outdoor sports facility should it be determined that there is insufficient space for them to be accommodated at existing or planned parks within Barrie.	
Former City Boundary	33 tennis / 3 pickleball	7 unlit tennis/multi-use courts, 4 pickleball courts	\$1,090,000		
Hewitt's		2 lit tennis courts, 4 unlit multi-use courts			
Salem		2 lit tennis courts, 2 unlit multi-use courts			
Outdoor Basketball Courts					
Former City Boundary	27	Develop at City staff discretion	\$100,000		
Hewitt's	0	1 full court			
Salem	0	1 full court			
Splash Pads					
Former City Boundary	2	2	\$1,000,000 - \$1,600,000		
Hewitt's	0	1			
Salem	0	1			
Playgrounds					
Former City Boundary	105 (14 accessible)	Develop at City staff discretion	\$2,650,000		
Hewitt	0	1 enhanced, 18 standard			
Salem	0	1 enhanced, 7 standard			

	Existing Supply	Recommended Outdoor Recreation Facilities at Existing or Planned Parks	Estimated Capital Costs	Recommended Outdoor Recreation Facilities at a Future Outdoor Sports Facility*	Estimated Capital Cost
Outdoor Fitness Equipment Former City Boundary Hewitt's Salem	6 0 0	Develop at City staff discretion in high traffic areas or areas with older adults and seniors	No capital cost if outdoor fitness equipment is donor driven	Other outdoor recreation facilities may be located at the future outdoor sports facility should it be determined that there is insufficient space for them to be accommodated at existing or planned parks within Barrie.	
Outdoor Skating Rinks Former City Boundary Hewitt's Salem	6 staff maintained / 37 volunteer maintained	Develop at City staff discretion at Neighbourhood Parks	No capital cost if outdoor tennis or basketball courts are used		
Skateboard Parks Former City Boundary Hewitt's Salem	2 0 0	2 Major 1 Major 1 Major	\$1,100,000 – \$1,600,000		
Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts Former City Boundary Hewitt's Salem	10 0 0	4 (Staff to identify locations)	\$40,000		
Total capital cost required to construct outdoor recreation facilities at existing or planned parks			\$12,180,000 – 13,280,000		
Total capital cost required to construct outstanding recreation facilities at a future outdoor sports facility				\$13,100,000	

Note: Capital costs are based on industry costs with consideration given to the City of Barrie context. Capital costs should be interpreted for information only and vary based on design and scale. Costs for staff time, site works, inflation, and associated amenities are excluded.

* For the purposes of estimating high level capital costs, assumptions were made on the types of sports fields that would be used to meet the required number of unlit field equivalents.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
1.0 Introduction	2
1.1 Study Purpose & Scope of Work	2
1.2 Methodology	3
1.3 Population Characteristics	4
2.0 Broad Trends Influencing the Provision of Outdoor Recreation Facilities	9
2.1 Multi-Use Parks and Sports Complexes	9
2.2 Outdoor Sports Facility Renewal and Repurposing	10
2.3 Providing Extended Playing Opportunities	11
2.4 Barrier-Free Facilities.....	12
2.5 Co-location/Shared Use of Sports Fields with Schools.....	13
2.6 The Importance of Areas for Unstructured Recreation.....	13
3.0 Stakeholder and City Staff Consultation	15
3.1 Stakeholder Survey	15
3.2 Stakeholder Focus Groups.....	16
3.3 City Staff Workshop & Park Tours.....	19
4.0 Outdoor Recreation Facility Assessments	20
4.1 Summary of Outdoor Recreation Facilities.....	20
4.2 Rectangular Sports Fields.....	21
4.3 Ball Diamonds.....	37
4.4 Cricket Pitches	46
4.5 Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Courts.....	49
4.6 Outdoor Basketball Courts	58
4.7 Splash Pads.....	63
4.8 Playgrounds and Outdoor Fitness Equipment.....	67
4.9 Outdoor Skating Rinks	73
4.10 Skateboard Parks.....	77
4.11 Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts.....	81
5.0 Outdoor Recreation Facility Development Strategy	85
Appendix A – Background Document References	94
Appendix B – Stakeholder Survey Summary	95
Appendix C – Hewitt’s and Salem Secondary Plan – Parkland Plans	99

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Study Purpose & Scope of Work

The City of Barrie provides outdoor recreation facilities to encourage healthy lifestyles, athletic development, and social interaction among its residents. Since 2010, long-range planning for the outdoor recreation facility system has been guided by the City's Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan along with subsequent Parks and Recreation Growth Strategy projects undertaken in 2013 and 2017 in support of the development of Secondary Plans for the Hewitt's and Salem communities.

This Outdoor Recreation Facility Study (ORFS) updates previous assessments in light of changes to community demographics, recreation trends, and changes to the outdoor recreation facility supply that has occurred over the past decade. By revisiting the needs for outdoor recreation facilities, the ORFS provides the City with a plan to provide quality outdoor recreation experiences until the year 2031, with a high-level outlook towards 2041.

In September 2017, the City issued a Request for Proposal for an Update to the 2010 Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan. In a staff memorandum prepared for Council (A09-LE), the scope of work was refined due to slower than expected population growth since the 2010 Strategic Master Plan and 2013 Parks and Recreation Growth Strategy was adopted, the 2017 Parks and Recreation Growth Strategy recommendations continue to remain valid. The City has also formed a Sports Events/Facilities Advisory Committee to consider proposals for new and re-purposing facilities, events and to develop partnerships with community stakeholders. These considerations resulted in the ORFS which focuses exclusively on outdoor recreation facility needs.

The ORFS is responsible for analyzing outdoor recreation facility needs and providing high level capital costs of construction for recommended facilities in order to inform future planning processes (e.g., development charges, capital budgets). Per a refined Terms of Reference developed specifically for the ORFS, the following recreation facilities were analyzed:

- Rectangular sports fields
- Ball diamonds
- Cricket pitches
- Outdoor tennis and pickleball courts
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Splash pads
- Playgrounds
- Outdoor skating rinks
- Skateboard parks
- Outdoor sand volleyball courts

Study Exclusions

The ORFS excludes analyses pertaining to topics relating to the broader parks system (e.g., those beyond outdoor recreation facilities needs identified above), indoor recreation facilities and other facilities not listed above, organizational reviews, service delivery assessments, policy development, analysis of

operations and maintenance, or staffing reviews. Operating cost implications associated with recreation facilities also fall outside the scope of work for the ORFS. Other outdoor recreation facility provision strategies, such as third-party operated, public-private partnerships, or other agreements, were beyond the scope of this Study.

1.2 Methodology

The ORFS is guided by the Revised Scope of Work prepared by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants Ltd., which was developed following discussions with the City of Barrie. The ORFS involved:

- Reviewing relevant background documents including, but not limited to, strategic plans, parks and recreation plans, facility inventories and usage data, etc.
- Creating a community profile to understand historical and projected population growth by way of Statistics Canada Census and City of Barrie Long-Term Growth Scenarios Review (2018).
- Examining relevant local, regional and provincial trends related to outdoor recreation facilities.
- Understanding the City’s outdoor facility inventory, as well as assessing how many hours Barrie’s facilities are used.
- Engaging key stakeholders and City staff to identify strengths, opportunities, and gaps associated with Barrie’s outdoor recreation facility infrastructure.
- Assessing the need for outdoor sports facilities required by the year 2031.

Figure 1: Study Methodology

Phase 1	Phase 2
Deliverable - Research and Consultation Report	Deliverable - Final Outdoor Recreation Facility Study
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Background Review 2. Community Profile Review 3. Outdoor Recreation Trends 4. Facility Inventory and Mapping 5. Stakeholder Focus Groups (4) and Survey 6. City Staff Engagement 7. Project Team Meeting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Facility Needs Assessment 9. Draft Outdoor Recreation Facility Study 10. Project Team Meeting 11. Finalize Study

Key Background Documents

The ORFS is informed by a number of key background documents including the Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan, the Parks and Recreation Growth Strategy and its subsequent Update. In addition to these documents, several other documents were reviewed to inform the development of this Study. A summary of documents is listed in **Appendix A**.

1.3 Population Characteristics

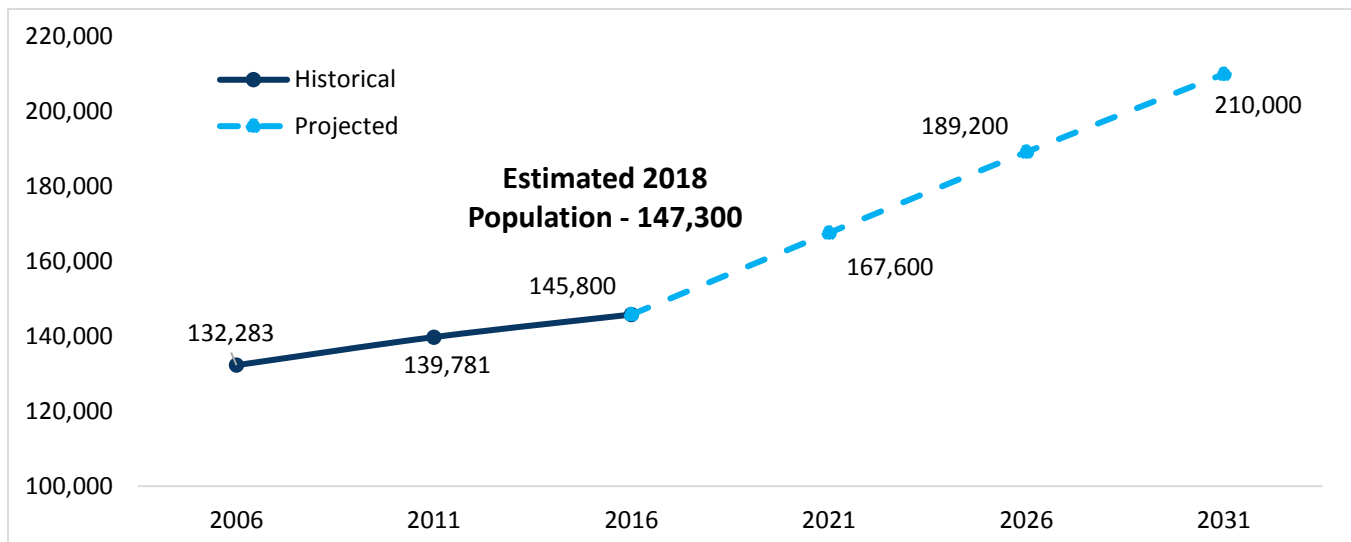
Historical and Projected Population

Barrie’s demographic makeup and projected population growth influences the need for outdoor recreation facilities. Barrie has grown modestly between the 2006 and 2016 Census years at a rate of 1% annually or 1,300 persons per year on average; the 2016 Census reported a total population of 141,430 residents for the City (or 145,800 with a 3% Census undercount).¹

The City of Barrie completed a Long-Term Growth Scenarios Review in October 2018 that contains three scenarios of population and employment forecasts to guide future planning processes. As directed by the City, the ORFS aligns with the population projections in Scenario 3 (“Made in Barrie”) of the Long-Term Growth Scenarios Review.² Under this Scenario, Barrie’s year 2031 population is forecasted to reach 210,000 persons (44% growth or 3% per annum on average), consistent with the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Population projections prepared by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. for the City of Barrie estimated a 2018 population of 143,018 persons, exclusive of Census undercount. Applying an undercoverage rate of 3% as directed by the City, **the ORFS utilizes a baseline population of 147,300 persons for the year 2018**. A growth summary of historical and projected population growth (consistent with the Scenario 3 of the Long-Term Growth Scenarios Review) is illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Historical and Projected Population Growth, 2006 - 2031



Note: all figures include a 3% net Census undercoverage rate as per the City of Barrie Long-Term Growth Scenarios Review

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006, 2011 and 2016 Census (including Census undercount of 3%); City of Barrie Long-Term Growth Scenarios Review, October 2018.

¹ Statistics Canada 2006 and 2016 Census.

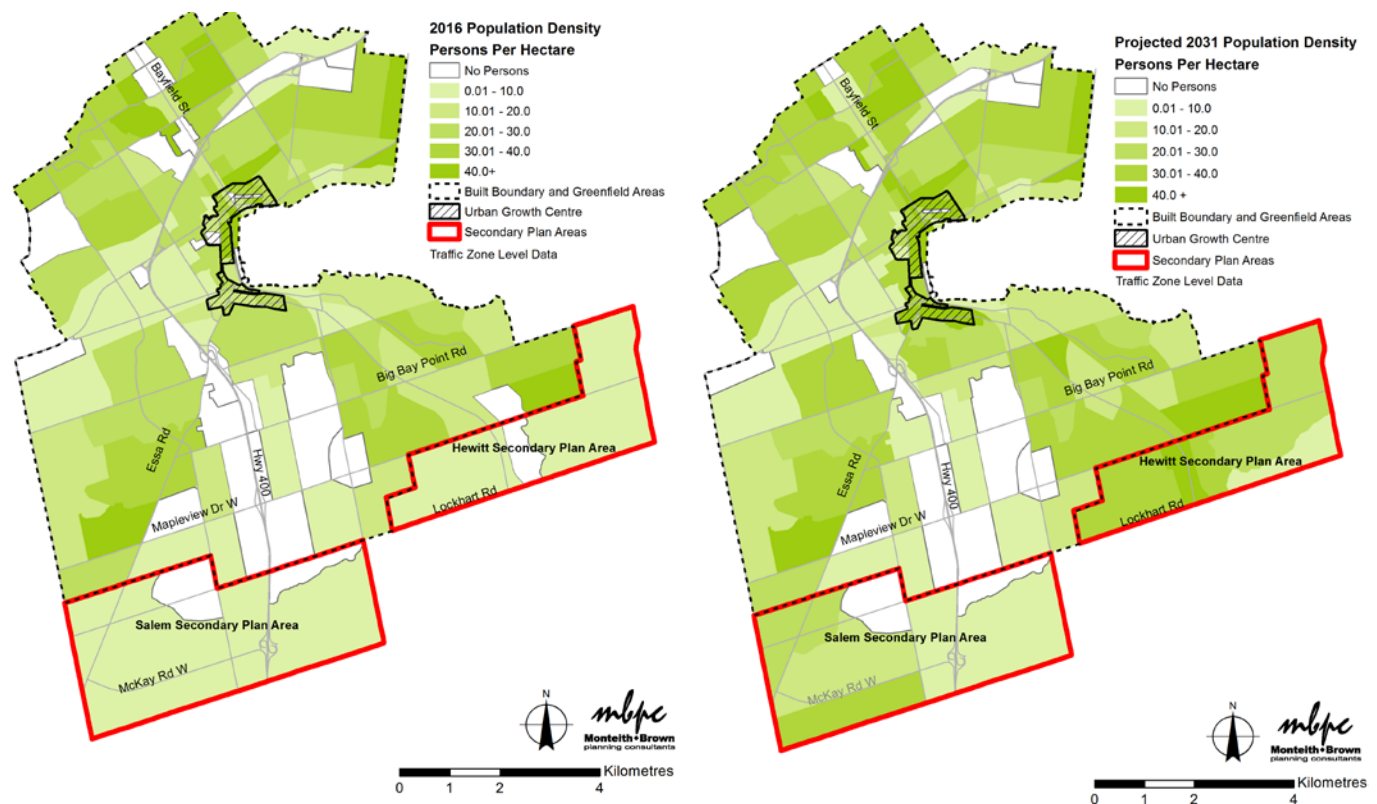
² City of Barrie Long-Term Growth Scenarios Review. Prepared by Watson & Associates. October 26, 2018.

Population Density & Distribution

Understanding where population growth is taking place offers insights into where outdoor recreation facilities might be required in different areas of the City. The Hewitt’s and Salem Secondary Plans, located in the annexed lands to the south, are the primary growth areas in Barrie. Based on traffic zone-level population estimates contained in the City’s Long-Term Growth Scenarios Review, Hewitt’s and Salem are expected to have a combined population of 40,600 residents by 2031 (25,700 in Hewitt’s and 14,900 in Salem). These Secondary Plans are forecasted add an additional 10,000 residents by 2041, resulting in a total population of 51,000 residents. The ORFS provides a high level outlook at outdoor recreation facility needs in the Hewitt’s and Salem Secondary Plans so that the City can position itself to respond to the outdoor recreational needs of these growing areas of Barrie.

During this same time period, the remainder of Barrie – including built boundary, greenfield areas, and the Urban Growth Centre – is anticipated to grow by 15%, adding nearly 22,000 new residents. Table 1 summarizes the growth in population by Census year from 2016 to 2031. A comparison of population densities in 2016 and 2031 is illustrated in Figure 3. In addition to population growth in Hewitt’s and Salem, the City is expected to experience residential intensification in the Urban Growth Centre, which will in turn, place pressures on existing outdoor recreation facilities. Recognizing that growth is expected to occur across the City, there is a need to ensure that the City offers a balanced supply of outdoor recreation facilities to serve residents, regardless of where they live.

Figure 3: Population Density, 2016 and 2031



Data Source: City of Barrie Long-Term Growth Scenarios Review, October 2018.

Table 1: Distribution of the Population, 2016 - 2031

	2016	2021	2026	2031	Δ 2016-2031
Urban Growth Centre & Intensification Nodes/Corridors	11,000	13,300	17,400	25,400	14,400 (130%)
Built Boundary <i>excluding U.G.C. & Intensification Nodes/Corridors</i>	125,300	126,000	126,700	129,100	3,800 (3%)
Designated Greenfield Areas	9,200	11,100	14,300	15,000	5,800 (63%)
Hewitt's Secondary Plan	200	11,300	20,600	25,700	25,500 (12,750%)
Salem Secondary Plan	100	5,900	10,200	14,900	14,800 (14,700%)
Total Population	145,800	167,600	189,200	210,000	64,200 (44%)

Notes: Reflects Scenario 3 (Made in Barrie) from the Long-Term Growth Scenarios Review; populations for the Hewitt's and Salem Secondary Plans are calculated based on Traffic Zone projections (rounded to the nearest 100 persons)

Source: City of Barrie Long-Term Growth Scenarios Review, October 2018.

Residential Intensification

Population growth in Barrie is guided by the City's Official Plan (and other supporting strategic documents), which must be consistent with the *Places to Grow Act*. Increased densities in established urban areas can place significant pressure on existing facilities, many of which may be aging and were not originally built in anticipation of such higher levels of use (nor are they built to modern standards). Land is often at a premium in built-up and/or intensifying areas which can make it difficult to acquire new lands capable of holding outdoor recreation facilities to serve a growing population.

The City of Barrie may face challenges in securing parklands to accommodate certain types of outdoor recreation facilities within areas of intensification. By the year 2031, populations in Barrie's provincially designated Urban Growth Centre as well as other intensification nodes and corridors are projected to more than double; in these areas, however, there are limited supplies of vacant/developable parcels for new park development. The City will need to find creative ways to deliver outdoor recreation facilities in areas of infill and intensification, including re-adapting existing parkland to withstand greater capacity/usage pressures and different park preferences; in doing so, the City may need to:

- redevelop existing parks to contain multiple sports fields;
- utilize multi-purpose facility templates and designs;
- potentially repurpose underutilized recreation facilities to address activities with greater needs;
- light outdoor facilities at Community, Regional, or District Parks to allow for more usage potential during the evenings and shoulder seasons (e.g., Spring and Fall);
- make greater use of school fields; and
- purchase new lands for outdoor recreation, where possible.

The Hewitt's and Salem Secondary Plans provide an opportunity to address certain outdoor recreation facilities, though securement of parklands over and above *Planning Act* dedications has proven difficult

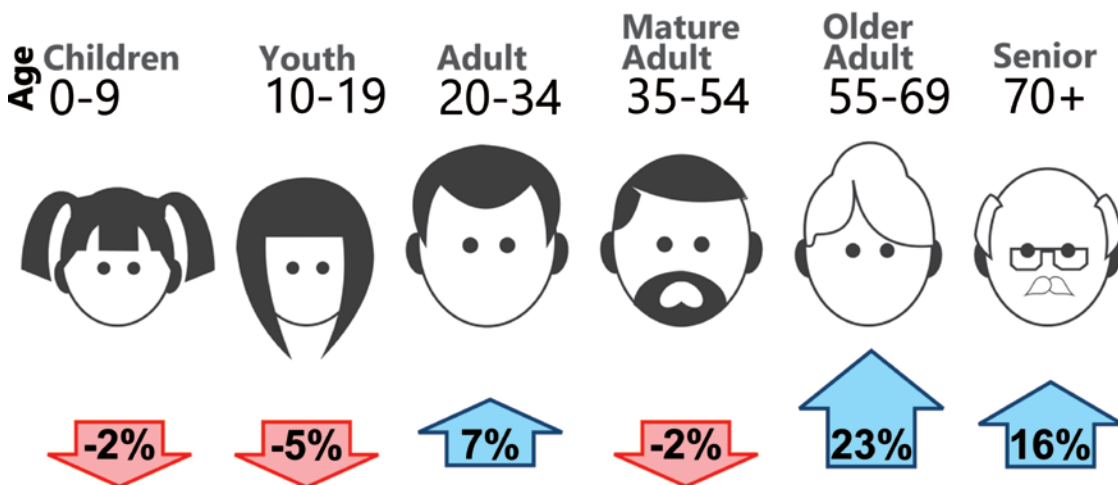
as well as acquisition of sufficiently sized park parcels. As a result, it is challenging to find space within the Secondary Plans to meet the full range of sports fields required to meet their respective populations while other outdoor facilities that require buffers to adjacent residential properties could also be challenged due to noise, lighting or other potential impacts (e.g. skateboard/bike parks, hard surface courts, etc.).

Current and Forecasted Age Structure

Research reveals that preferences for recreation activities are linked to age. For example, children and youth generally have a preference for higher-energy active pursuits such as soccer and baseball, while many older adults and seniors desire outdoor activities that focus on health, wellness, and socialization with others. Understanding the age composition of Barrie’s population is thus necessary to inform the broad range of recreation facilities in the community. A trend toward more casual, drop-in activities also places pressures in spaces such as playgrounds, splash pads and skateboard parks.

Between the 2011 and 2016 Census (Figure 4), the population of older adults between age 55 and 69 experienced the most growth, increasing by 4,330 persons or 23%. The population of seniors over the age of 70 also experienced a growth of 1,870 persons (16%), while adults increased by 1,965 (7%). By contrast, the population of children declined by 2%, while youth and mature adults declined by 5% and 2%, respectively. Additionally, the 2016 Census reported a median age of 38.5 years for Barrie, which is an increase from 37.2 years reported in the 2011 Census. These findings suggest that Barrie’s population is aging, which is consistent with broader aging trends due to the aging baby boomer population as they move through the age cohorts.

Figure 4: Proportional Growth by Age Group between the 2011 and 2016 Census Periods



Source: Statistics Canada 2011 and 2016 Census.

Population projections by age cohort prepared by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. for the City reveal that Barrie will continue to age towards 2041 (Table 2), although the total number of people in each age cohort is forecasted to grow. The number of mature adult and senior cohorts are expected to grow the most, suggesting that the City can expect pressures for outdoor recreation facilities for older residents. However, with growth anticipated to occur at all age levels, there will be demand for a wide variety of outdoor recreation facilities requiring that the City provides a balanced portfolio of outdoor recreation facilities to respond to all age groups.

Table 2: Projected Population by Age Cohort

Cohort	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	Δ 2016-2041
Children (Age 0-9)	17,010	18,010	20,430	22,644	24,024	24,554	7,580
Youth (Age 10-19)	19,173	20,732	22,381	23,802	26,385	29,284	9,855
Adults (Age 20-34)	29,947	35,659	39,257	41,416	44,114	47,849	15,022
Mature Adults (Age 35-54)	41,983	45,851	51,439	58,997	65,983	72,775	28,755
Older Adults (Age 55-69)	23,505	30,421	34,442	36,157	37,224	40,884	14,539
Seniors (Age 70+)	14,039	16,926	21,248	26,982	33,271	37,656	22,784
Total	145,800	167,600	189,200	210,000	231,000	253,000	98,535

Cohort	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	Δ 2016-2041
Children (Age 0-9)	11%	11%	11%	11%	10%	10%	-1%
Youth (Age 10-19)	13%	12%	12%	11%	11%	12%	-1%
Adults (Age 20-34)	21%	21%	21%	20%	19%	19%	-2%
Mature Adults (Age 35-54)	28%	27%	27%	28%	29%	29%	1%
Older Adults (Age 55-69)	17%	18%	18%	17%	16%	16%	-1%
Seniors (Age 70+)	10%	10%	11%	13%	14%	15%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	

Note: All figures include a 3% net Census undercoverage rate.

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2018.

2.0 Broad Trends Influencing the Provision of Outdoor Recreation Facilities

This section explores major trends that could affect the provision of outdoor recreation facilities in Barrie based on research throughout the Province and nationally, and identifies their implications in the local context.

2.1 Multi-Use Parks and Sports Complexes

Like Barrie, many municipalities are developing Community, Regional or District Parks as large, multi-functional parks that contain something for everyone, rather than parks designed solely for singular uses. There are a number of benefits associated with co-locating several sports facilities and outdoor recreation components at a single site. For example, large multi-use parks achieve efficiencies through having common infrastructure such as parking, washrooms, shade shelters, fencing and other desirable amenities, as well as centralizing staff operations such as maintenance. Multi-field sports complexes (at a Community, Regional or District Park) also provide justification for higher quality design and amenities such as irrigation and drainage systems, and lighting, as these sites are better suited for tournaments. Tournament events typically require the use of two or more sports fields/diamonds to support simultaneous games.



Barrie Community Sports Complex

Given that tournament ready facilities are also used by teams coming from other communities, multi-field parks establish a first impression of local facilities. There are a number of large parks provided by the City that can support tournaments such as the Barrie Community Sports Complex, Lennox Park, and Huronia Park, among others. These sport-oriented venues provide sport tourism benefits that offers potential economic spin-offs for restaurants, hotels, and other commercial proprietors, which are important considerations for visiting teams and municipal hosts.

One of the challenges to creating Community, Regional, or District Parks that have multiple uses and sports fields is that large tracts of land are typically required. As municipalities – such as Barrie – continue to undergo residential intensification and greenfield development, opportunities to acquire large pieces of land for new sports facilities will become a challenge. Where possible, enhancing the use of existing parks to create multi-field sites will need to be considered. Establishing multi-field parks will also need to be considered in developing greenfield areas (including the Hewitt’s and Salem SPAs). The City is in the early stages of planning the development of a multi-diamond site at the City’s south-end operations centre, with development targeting to occur between 2026 and 2028. In some communities experiencing

significant population growth in greenfield developments, alternative land acquisition strategies have been considered.

Other outdoor recreation facilities such as playgrounds and sport courts - such as tennis, pickleball, and basketball - are less land intensive and are more likely to be used as walk-to or bike-to facilities, although they can also be compatible with multi-use facilities at larger Community, Regional, or District Park. As such, these outdoor recreation facilities could be accommodated in smaller, neighbourhood-oriented parks and village squares, which are more likely to be achievable in intensifying residential areas as well as future parks in Barrie's SPAs.

Looking beyond sports facilities, parks play a big role in everyday life as they are increasingly being viewed as community hubs. The concept of community hubs has been gaining traction across the Province as it offers tremendous social benefits, strengthens community cohesion, and fosters quality of life by providing a central location to deliver and access services. Parks are considered to be "outdoor living rooms" as they are used for variety of recreational, social, and cultural purposes, as well as active and passive uses in a programmed or non-programmed setting. Heritage Park is one of many local examples in Barrie that combines active and passive park uses with natural heritage and local history. As the ORFS focuses on sports facilities and other active park uses, opportunities to bolster Barrie's parks system with a community hub lens could be further explored through future parkland studies or strategies.

2.2 Outdoor Sports Facility Renewal and Repurposing

The 2016 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card, which surveyed members of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, found that municipal sports fields are generally in good condition. While investment in recreation facilities has generally been under-funded, pressures have been reduced through provincial and federal stimulus programs such as Recreation Infrastructure Canada funding in 2011. Most recently, the City is in the process of working with the Barrie Soccer Club to undertake soccer field improvements at Huronia Park.³

Shifting trends in participation often leads to changes in usage and demands, resulting in underutilized and surplus facilities. In many cases sports fields and sport courts that are deemed to be underused or surplus continued to be maintained to support casual neighbourhood-level needs or are repurposed to another use, should demand exist for other recreation facilities that are not currently available. For example, municipalities in Ontario have been repurposing aging and underutilized tennis courts to multi-purpose tennis and pickleball courts. While this approach maximizes the use of existing park space, some municipalities have heard that multiple sport line markings on multi-use courts can be confusing for some people or are less desirable for some advanced/competitive players; a selected few Ontario municipalities have opted to provide dedicated pickleball courts to keep tennis relegated to its own courts. Locally, the City of Barrie repurposed underutilized and aging tennis courts at Redpath Park to a basketball court and pickleball court. Maximizing the use of existing parkland through development and redevelopment

³ Glover, B. 2018. City, Soccer Club Score Some New Goal Posts. Barrie 360. Retrieved from <https://barrie360.com>

projects as well as providing an appropriate distribution of outdoor recreation facilities will be important to serve residents.

2.3 Providing Extended Playing Opportunities

The City has enhanced its supply of outdoor sports facilities and the number of playing opportunities through the provision of outdoor lighting. Generally speaking, lit outdoor recreation facilities are located at major parks such as at Community, Regional, or District Parks. As peak hours are finite and facilities are most in demand during the evenings and weekends, lighting outdoor recreation facilities is a common approach that may be employed to extend playing times, programming, and improved maintenance efficiencies. As a result, municipalities generally consider lit sports facilities to be equivalent to 1.5 or more unlit facilities. In some communities, the provision of lit sports facilities can also be more cost effective compared to acquiring new lands to provide additional unlit facilities. Recognizing that some outdoor sports facilities are not programmed such as tennis and basketball courts, lighting also provides users with greater flexibility in playing times during the shoulder season (e.g., spring and fall), although they must be provided in locations that are compatible with adjacent land uses or where there are appropriate buffers.

Extended playing opportunities can also be achieved through the provision of artificial turf fields (at a Regional or District Park). Artificial turf fields can provide enhanced playing experiences and respond to increasing demands for year-round play. Given that artificial turf fields are not susceptible to damage during the early spring and late fall, they can extend field sport playing seasons into the spring and fall months. Artificial turf fields can also accommodate multiple field activities including soccer, football, lacrosse, and Ultimate Frisbee. However, artificial turf fields may not be appropriate for all sport types as participants may be subject to higher rates of injury or turf-rash. Higher rental costs associated with artificial turf fields may also limit how well these facilities are used. The City of Barrie does not directly provide outdoor artificial turf fields, although one is located at Georgian College, which is primarily used for varsity and high school sports. An artificial turf field is also planned to be developed at a future high school in the Hewitt's Secondary Plan. The Barrie Sports Dome at East Bayfield Park contains a year-round indoor artificial turf field, although this is operated by a third-party organization with no municipal programming.

2.4 Barrier-Free Facilities

Municipalities are required to incorporate principles of inclusivity through facility design, which is guided by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the Ontario Building Code. Local accessibility is guided by the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee (ACC) and Barrie's multi-year planning process, which includes community consultation. Current and future multi-year accessibility plans speak to removing barriers from outdoor public spaces such as recreational trails, beach access routes, outdoor eating areas, play spaces, exterior pathways, parking, and more, which is consistent with the Design of Open Public Spaces Standards. The current Accessibility Plan does not speak to removing barriers related to specific outdoor recreation facilities; however, the Plan refers to removing barriers generally from the public realm wherever possible. The 2019-2024 multi-year Accessibility Plan will speak more specifically to the accessible design of recreation facilities, citing existing design standards.

A number of municipalities in Ontario have explored opportunities to provide accessible outdoor sports facilities. Canada's first accessible ball diamond was constructed in 2010 at the Libro Credit Union Centre in Amherstburg for the Miracle League of Amherstburg, a league that provides the opportunity for persons with a disability to play baseball. Accessible ball diamonds feature a synthetic turf that can accommodate wheelchairs and walkers, and the rules of the game are changed to ensure that everyone can hit and score. A new accessible ball diamond is also currently being constructed in Windsor as part of a broader park redevelopment that will have an accessible washroom, playground, swimming pool, and outdoor fitness equipment. The City of Pickering has also constructed paved pathways at select parks to ensure that its sports fields can be accessed by those that require mobility devices.

Locally, the City of Barrie has been actively removing barriers from parks and outdoor recreation facilities. The AODA requires that all new and redeveloped playgrounds must include accessibility features. In response to this legislation, City has been replacing its aging playgrounds with new structures containing inclusive features including at Lampman Lane Park, Sunnidale Park, Ferndale Park, Holly Park, Shear Park, Centennial Park, Barrie Community Sports Complex and Queens Park. There are also future plans to install accessible playgrounds and surfacing at several other new and existing community parks as their existing equipment approaches the end of its lifecycle (25 years). The City continues to construct paved pathways throughout many of its parks to minimize physical barriers to access the outdoor recreation facilities within parks, with older parks being the least accessible. Additionally, accessible washroom facilities have also been installed at select locations.

2.5 Co-location/Shared Use of Sports Fields with Schools

Many urban municipalities have had various co-development parks and facilities with school boards. There are numerous examples across Ontario of shared use of sports fields between school boards and municipalities. Agreements range from shared use of existing fields (and parking) on both school board and park properties, as well as purpose-built facilities for which costs are shared. The latter approach tends to occur most frequently in association with secondary schools since the size and quality of fields are more closely aligned with municipal standards. There are some shared sports fields between the City of Barrie and local school boards (such as at H.G. Robertson Park), although maintenance typically falls to the City with limited financial support from the school board.

The trend in co-shared, co-developed facilities has been towards the development of multi-purpose, artificial turf fields with a running track around the perimeter. The City previously engaged the school board to enter into a joint project to construct an artificial turf field at a secondary school site in the Hewitt's Secondary Plan, although it is understood that this project is being solely undertaken by the school board.

2.6 The Importance of Areas for Unstructured Recreation

Non-programmed areas and open spaces within parks are important to the overall park experience. The provision of non-programmed spaces within municipal parkland has become an essential element in park design to meet the needs of residents who are not typically involved in organized sports. While it is important to provide facilities for organized sports and activities (e.g. sports fields), it is equally critical to balance allocation of spaces for the majority of the population that is seeking opportunities for drop-in activities and gatherings. Parks should be accessible to all people and not be perceived as being available only for special interest groups, while being exclusionary to others.

The City's parks system contains a number of open greenspaces that can accommodate unstructured activities; however, there are currently pressures for programmable space for organized sports facilities, which is further highlighted by the limited parkland available within the Hewitt's and Salem Secondary Plans. The approach to providing programmable space (e.g., sports fields) is further discussed in Section 4.0 of this ORFS. The provision of unstructured greenspaces within Barrie's parks system should be guided by future parkland studies or strategies.

With a time-pressed and increasingly diverse range of individuals seeking areas where they can enjoy park uses at their own convenience, the availability of non-programmed spaces is critical to meeting this need and increasing the quality of life for all, respecting the fact that drop-in activities represent the vast majority of uses in the spectrum of participation. Non-programmed open spaces have been observed to be popular, particularly at the neighbourhood-level for activities such as pickup field sports, frisbee, playing musical instruments, card playing, kite flying, playgrounds, splash pads, basketball and tennis courts, etc. Experience in other municipalities revealed that unstructured outdoor pursuits (e.g., cycling, walking, personal fitness, jogging, etc.) is often identified as the most popular activities as residents can

participate in them during times that are convenient to them. Local examples of popular destinations that draw residents and visitors to engage in a variety of unstructured active and passive activities include, but are not limited to, Sunnidale Park, Heritage Park, Ardagh Bluffs, Centennial Park and other waterfront parks, and others.

The City continues to include passive opportunities within the design of its parks to respond to the broad needs of residents. This is particularly important given the health and social benefits that result from physical activity and community interaction. With a growing older adult population, utilization of parks for passive activities (e.g. unstructured active living activities in parks such as tai chi, walking circuits, etc.) will increase demand for spaces beyond the traditional spectrum of sports fields, hard surface courts and playgrounds. Additionally, open greenspaces are important from an inclusivity and accessibility perspective by providing spaces residents with disabilities or special needs who may not be able to participate in the average spectrum of organized recreational activity.

As Barrie's population continues to grow through residential intensification, there will be greater demand for informal open spaces in parks due to fewer residents having back yards sufficient for a range of active and passive recreational purposes. With more multi-unit buildings, a greater reliance on public parks – both existing and new – can be expected for a wide range of uses. Parks within established areas of Barrie, such as within the Urban Growth Centre, are expected to be more intensely used and reflect their surrounding urban area, with a focus on providing a local gathering space for unstructured activities, including informal play and socialization. With this in mind, the provision of parkland in intensifying areas will become increasingly important for urban residents.

3.0 Stakeholder and City Staff Consultation

This section provides a high level summary of the consultation sessions that were undertaken as a part of the ORFS.

3.1 Stakeholder Survey

A self-administered survey specific to Barrie's sports groups was distributed to collect information regarding group participation trends, facility usage, future needs, and other details to inform the Study. A total of 13 surveys were completed from the users of Barrie's ball diamonds, rectangular sports fields, tennis courts, and volleyball courts. The following is a summary of key findings with additional information about each stakeholder group contained in **Appendix B**. Submissions were received from the following groups:

Ball Diamond Users

- Barrie Men's Slo-pitch League
- Barrie Minor Baseball Association
- Barrie Rec Slo-Pitch
- Barrie Recreational Evening Co-ed Slo-pitch
- Barrie Slo-Pitch Association
- Barrie Red Sox Senior Baseball Team
- Sunday Night Coed Slo-Pitch league

Rectangular Sports Field Users

- Barrie Rugby
- Little Kickers Simcoe County

Other Sports Groups

- Barrie Community Tennis Club
- Barrie Spikes Volleyball
- Georgian Cubs Volleyball Club
- Simcoe Tennis

The following key themes emerged from the stakeholder survey. It should be noted that some of these themes are consistent with what was heard through the focus groups (discussed further in the next section), which reinforces the importance of these key points.

- The Barrie Community Sports Complex is a popular facility that is used by many sports organizations, although some groups identified that rental costs prohibits the group from using this location more.
- There is a desire for four to eight new ball diamonds in Barrie in order to allow groups to grow the size of their organization. Several ball groups indicated that they have potential participants on waitlist, although they cannot be accommodated due to the lack of available ball diamond time. The desire for more rugby fields was also heard.
- Requests were made for a sports facility complex in the south end of Barrie, similar to the Barrie Community Sports Complex to improve distribution and to accommodate residents living in this area.

- Generally speaking, groups expressed the desire for high quality sports facilities, as well as the desire for supporting amenities including, but not limited to, sports field/court lighting, permanent washrooms, shelters (e.g., gazebo), power source, and parking.
- The use of Barrie’s outdoor sports facilities is augmented by the use of non-municipal facilities such as at schools and in adjacent municipalities.

3.2 Stakeholder Focus Groups

Stakeholders and user groups of Barrie’s outdoor recreation facilities were invited to participate in focus groups with the Consultant and City staff in June 2018. The sessions were organized by 1) rectangular field users; 2) ball diamond users; and 3) outdoor court and other sports and activity groups.

Despite repeated efforts of City staff to reach out to stakeholders, attendance at the focus groups was limited. That being said, limited participation in the Stakeholder Focus Groups may be due to the fact that many of the same organizations that were invited to attend provided detailed input through the Stakeholder Survey. Organizations that participated offered candid and constructive thoughts with respect to a variety of topics relating to their registration trends, current facility usage patterns, pressure points, opportunities for improvement. The following is a summary of themes from each Stakeholder Focus Group.

Rectangular Field User Focus Group

The Barrie Rugby Football Club (RFC) was the only organization represented at the rectangular field users’ focus group, held on June 21, 2018. Accordingly, the discussion pertained largely to that sport and the needs of the local club. Barrie RFC is the second largest club of its kind in Ontario, with its registration and number of teams having rapidly increased in recent years. Its growth is believed to be a result of an organizational restructuring of the club freeing up resources that have been devoted to marketing itself, and the response from the public has been strong with interest and participation rates peaking shortly thereafter. The Club has also been working with elementary schools to introduce a “touch” version of the sport which has proved successful and has also contributed to their growth.

The RFC presently has 13 teams and its player base spans males and females along with a wide range of ages (from U7 to senior teams, the latter of whom have players between 20 and 60+ years of age). Approximately half of its registration base consists of Barrie residents while the other half is drawn from around the region including players from Innisfil, Orillia, Collingwood and Alliston to name a few.

Barrie RFC makes use of seven fields throughout Barrie but logistically they feel that access to more fields are required. They acknowledge that it is difficult for them to provide the City with an accurate picture of field time required given that the club has their schedule set by the provincial rugby union which is released well after the club must inform the City of their needs; as a result, the club may have to turn field time back to the City and sometimes finds it challenging to get the fields back during playoffs, while other

times RFC may require a field for a scheduled home game but find that the field is already booked by another user.

They appreciate that the City's allocation process is simple although note that its cancellation policies hurt them because the club cannot know in advance when its games will be due to the provincial union scheduling (but acknowledge the efforts of City staff to work with them in this regard). School boards have been less receptive to renting their fields to community-based rugby clubs due to concerns about field wear and liability which further limits the club's options. Another logistical challenge noted by the rugby club was the fact that their rental rate applies for a full evening booking (i.e. 5pm to 10pm) but they can only make use of two of those hours given they have access only to unlit rectangular fields.

Additional fields would assist the group, however, their programming requirements and storage of equipment are such that they prefer to play/practice at sport field complexes or concentrate on a particular park (or parks in close proximity to each other). The RFC suggests that Victoria Woods Park could be used for more rugby games if its surface quality can be improved and if it could be lined, but stated that constructing another field beside the Jim Hamilton field (Barrie Community Sports Complex) would be most ideal. They state a willingness to play on artificial turf although noted that the rental rate for the field at Georgian College is cost prohibitive for them to regularly use. While the Barrie RFC is not yet in a position to purchase land and buildings for their own private use (as certain other rugby clubs in the province have been able to do), it is a supporter of multi-use field templates and sees the sharing of fields between sports as an effective use of land; it also supports partnerships with others as has been accomplished with the Jim Hamilton field at the Barrie Community Sports Complex.

Ball Diamond User Focus Group

A focus group held with ball diamond users was attended by three representatives from Barrie Men's Slo-Pitch and Barrie Minor Baseball Association on June 21, 2018. Both organizations reported that their player registrations have been increasing steadily over the past decade and attribute this to renewed interest in the sport among youth and adults, potentially due to recent success of the Toronto Blue Jays and more adults looking for recreation in a social setting.

Men's Slo-Pitch reports having a waiting list due to not being able to access more diamonds. They note that their allotment time was the same for many years and the organization adjusted its number of teams accordingly; in recent years, however, their organization has been negatively impacted by the loss of some of their historical diamond times which have been redistributed to other leagues that have formed.

Both minor and men's leagues typically play during weekday evenings as there is little appetite among their membership to play on weekends unless it is for tournaments (particularly for minor house league divisions). Both organizations are supportive of the City's current allocation policies and place emphasis on the need to develop additional diamonds, particularly in the south end to respond to growth in the sport; they estimate somewhere in the range of between four and eight new diamonds are needed to match demand to the supply. It is their opinion that there are too many undersized ball diamonds in the supply that are not playable for quality programming and thus stressed the importance of providing mid

to large-size diamonds. Consolidating multiple diamonds into sports field complexes and supporting them with hydro and appropriate amenities was also discussed.

Other Outdoor Sports and Activity Focus Group

A focus group with other users of the outdoor recreation system (i.e. non-field sport activities) was held on June 27, 2018. The session was attended by the Barrie Community Tennis Club. A follow-up interview was held with Georgian Cubs Volleyball.

The Barrie Community Tennis Club (BCTC) has been in existence for 30 years and indicated that they have approximately 130 members and another 10 on a waiting list. Membership has remained fairly steady over the last few years. The majority of players are adults (mostly 60+ years of age) although the organization would like to attract more youth to the club.

The BCTC utilizes four of the five tennis courts located at Queen's Park. The club plays weekday evenings from 6pm to 11pm and Sundays from 8pm to 12pm. Saturdays are primarily used for special events. Summer camps are offered to attempt to boost participation and interest in the sport. The club focuses on their own programs but does not have a tennis pro. They draw members from across the City and from adjacent communities.

The tennis courts utilized (at Queen's Park) are of good quality with the BCTC praising its surfacing and court lighting. The Club hopes to switch to LED lighting in the near-term. The facility also offers a clubhouse with washrooms, office, kitchenette and storage. The majority of members play twice a week. The club indicated that growing tennis participation is growing across Canada driven, in part by immigration as well as Canadian success at the professional tennis level. The club feels that quality tennis courts should be provided across the City to provide introductory tennis opportunities that could act as feeders to the BCTC and other future forming clubs. This could be accomplished through improvements to existing tennis courts (such as Lennox Park) and development of new courts in future growth areas (south Barrie) and in areas that lack tennis courts.

The Georgian Cubs have 150 players though this is representative of their indoor and outdoor programs, drawing from as far away as Bradford and Orillia. They are a youth-serving organization running U12 to U18 programs though have had to cap registrations at times if they are unable to secure qualified coaching. They report challenges in competing with City programs for use of the outdoor courts and with grooming throughout the week as the courts can become uneven/bumpy without more frequent maintenance; the club has stated a willingness to groom the courts but indicates this would require a storage box which the City has deemed to be not possible at the two parks with sand courts.

The Georgian Cubs would like to see additional courts be constructed at Tyndale Park, potentially on the west side (although the City reported that land/geotechnical constraints restrict expansion opportunities). The Clubs indicate that a minimum of four sand courts at one location are needed for running a tournament, and acknowledge that the sand courts at the Barrie Community Sports Complex may offer this but its pricing is cost-prohibitive to the economically-centric model that the club employs.

3.3 City Staff Workshop & Park Tours

A workshop was held in June 2018 with City staff representing parks planning, engineering, asset management, development approvals and site plan approvals, and facility operations. The workshop leveraged the knowledge of City staff as it pertains to outdoor recreation facility designs, operations, scheduling and local participation trends. City staff also attended a park tour with the Consultants to identify opportunities to develop new outdoor recreation facilities or to enhance the use of underutilized locations.

The staff group noted a number of achievements including new facility developments and facility upgrades that have been undertaken since the 2010 Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan was prepared. Staff noted that there continues to be challenges in maintaining infrastructure to a state of good repair given competing funding priorities as well as in finding lands for, and funding new facility developments. With respect to the latter, staff noted that the City has fallen 12 hectares short of projected parkland acquisitions in the south end so it will be difficult to fit the full range of facilities that are required in these parks (which is further compounded by having to provide vehicular parking areas). While the City's continued practice of placing parkland adjacent to schools represents a good use of space, staff noted logistical challenges of the arrangement given that schools must also maximize their building footprints on their smaller sites and therefore have a greater reliance on the park than in the past, which is leading to deterioration of the City's outdoor facilities more quickly.

Staff are of the opinion that there is surplus capacity in its rectangular field system though it has implemented a Sports Field Allocation Policy which is hoped will improve efficiency of use; the City is also undertaking a process of classifying its sports fields, while existing sports fields may have capacity to accommodate more use, staff recognize that geographic distribution is such that it is not reasonable for new populations in Barrie's south end to rely exclusively on fields in the established areas.

With the new residential areas not providing enough parks of sufficient size or configuration, sports field needs will likely have to be met through the development of a sports field complex and/or larger parks. The Sandy Hollow Buffer is still a viable opportunity in the opinion of staff although landfill and environmental protection policies will need to be considered before any fields can be added.

Other comments received through the staff workshop and park tours have been considered in the development of the ORFS.

4.0 Outdoor Recreation Facility Assessments

This section provides the City with direction on outdoor recreation facility needs over the planning period. The City’s outdoor recreation facility inventory is summarized, together with design considerations, relevant trends, utilization data, and assessment of facility needs. Key recommendations are identified, as well as a strategy that identifies locations for new outdoor recreation facility development to resolve gap areas or within future parks in the Hewitt’s and Salem Secondary Plans. The location of future parks in the Hewitt’s and Salem communities can be found in **Appendix C**. A comparison of Barrie’s per capita service levels was also undertaken with six comparable municipalities – Oshawa, Oakville, Whitby, St. Catharines, Vaughan, and Windsor.

4.1 Summary of Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Facility Type	Supply	Locations
Rectangular Sports Fields Major Minor Mini	63 (3 are lit, 24 are irrigated) 21 (3 are lit, 13 are irrigated) 14 (2 are irrigated) 28 (9 are irrigated)	See Figure 5
Ball Diamonds Major Minor	33 (15 are lit, 17 are irrigated) 15 (13 are lit, 13 are irrigated) 18 (2 are lit, 4 are irrigated)	See Figure 13
Cricket Pitches	1 (undersized)	See Figure 17
Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Courts	Tennis Courts: 33 (27 are lit) (pods of two or more) Pickleball Courts: 3 (includes two future courts)	See Figure 19
Outdoor Basketball Courts	27 (8 are lit) courts (some parks have two) Excludes six free throw pads	See Figure 20
Splash Pads	2	See Figure 21
Playgrounds	105 locations (14 locations are accessible)	See Figure 22
Outdoor Skating Rinks	6 Staff maintained (2 artificial and 4 natural surfaces) 37 Volunteer maintained	See Figure 23
Skateboard Parks	2	See Figure 24
Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts	10	See Figure 25

4.2 Rectangular Sports Fields

Supply

The City has a total of 63 rectangular sports fields consisting of 21 major, 14 minor, and 28 mini fields. The rectangular sports fields are primarily used for soccer, although they are also used for other fields sports such as rugby, football, and Ultimate Frisbee.

Table 3: City of Barrie Rectangular Sports Field Inventory

Major Rectangular Sports Fields	1. Barrie Community Sports Complex #1	12. Ferndale Park **
	2. Barrie Community Sports Complex #2	13. H. G. Robertson Park **
	3. Barrie Community Sports Complex #3 *	14. Holly Community Park **
	4. Barrie Community Sports Complex #4	15. Loughheed Park **
	5. Barrie Community Sports Complex #5	16. Painswick Park
	6. Barrie Community Sports Complex #6	17. Riverwood Park **
	7. Barrie Community Sports Complex #17	18. Sandringham Park A **
	8. Batteaux Park **	19. Steele Street Park **
	9. Coronation Park **	20. Summerset Park **
	10. Eastview Park A *, **	21. Victoria Woods Park **
	11. Eastview Park B *, **	
Minor Rectangular Sports Fields	1. Assikinack Park A	8. Hickling Park B
	2. Barrie Community Sports Complex	9. Holly Community Park B
	3. Bearcreek Park	10. Mapleton Park **
	4. Dunsmore Park	11. Osprey Ridge Park
	5. Golden Meadow Park	12. Sandringham Park B
	6. Harvie Park **	13. Stollar Park
	7. Hickling Park A	
Mini Rectangular Sports Fields	1. Assikinack Park B	15. Huronia North Park D **
	2. Cartwright Park	16. Huronia North Park E **
	3. Catherine Park	17. Huronia North Park F **
	4. College Heights Park A	18. Huronia North Park G **
	5. College Heights Park B	19. Huronia North Park H **
	6. East Bayfield Park	20. Huronia North Park I **
	7. Elizabeth Park A	21. Kozlov Park
	8. Elizabeth Park B	22. Livingstone Park A
	9. Hanmer Park (half on school property)	23. Livingstone Park B
	10. Hickling Park A	24. Loyalist Park
	11. Hickling Park B	25. Marsellus Park
	12. Huronia North Park A **	26. Pringle Park
	13. Huronia North Park B **	27. Sandringham Park C
	14. Huronia North Park C **	28. Veterans Park

* Lit Field ** Irrigated Field

Note: Table excludes three lit fields owned by the Barrie Soccer Club, as well as the field at Lampman Lane Park which is scheduled to be replaced with a ball diamond.

The supply includes three lit fields that can accommodate extended playing periods, thus an equivalency factor is applied whereby each lit field is assumed to provide the equivalent capacity of 1.5 unlit fields. The permitted supply of 3 lit fields and 60 unlit fields results in an effective supply of 64.5 unlit equivalent rectangular fields with field distribution shown in Figure 5. However, the City will be removing the minor rectangular field at Lampman Lane Park and replace it with a ball diamond (relocated from MacMorrison Park). In addition to rectangular fields in City parks, there are three lit fields (i.e. 4.5 unlit equivalents) that are owned by the Barrie Soccer Club.

Factoring lit field equivalencies, planned removals, and inclusion of the Barrie Soccer Club fields, **the City of Barrie has an adjusted supply of 68 unlit equivalent rectangular sports fields.** The resulting service level of one rectangular field per 2,166 residents is the highest among benchmarked municipalities.

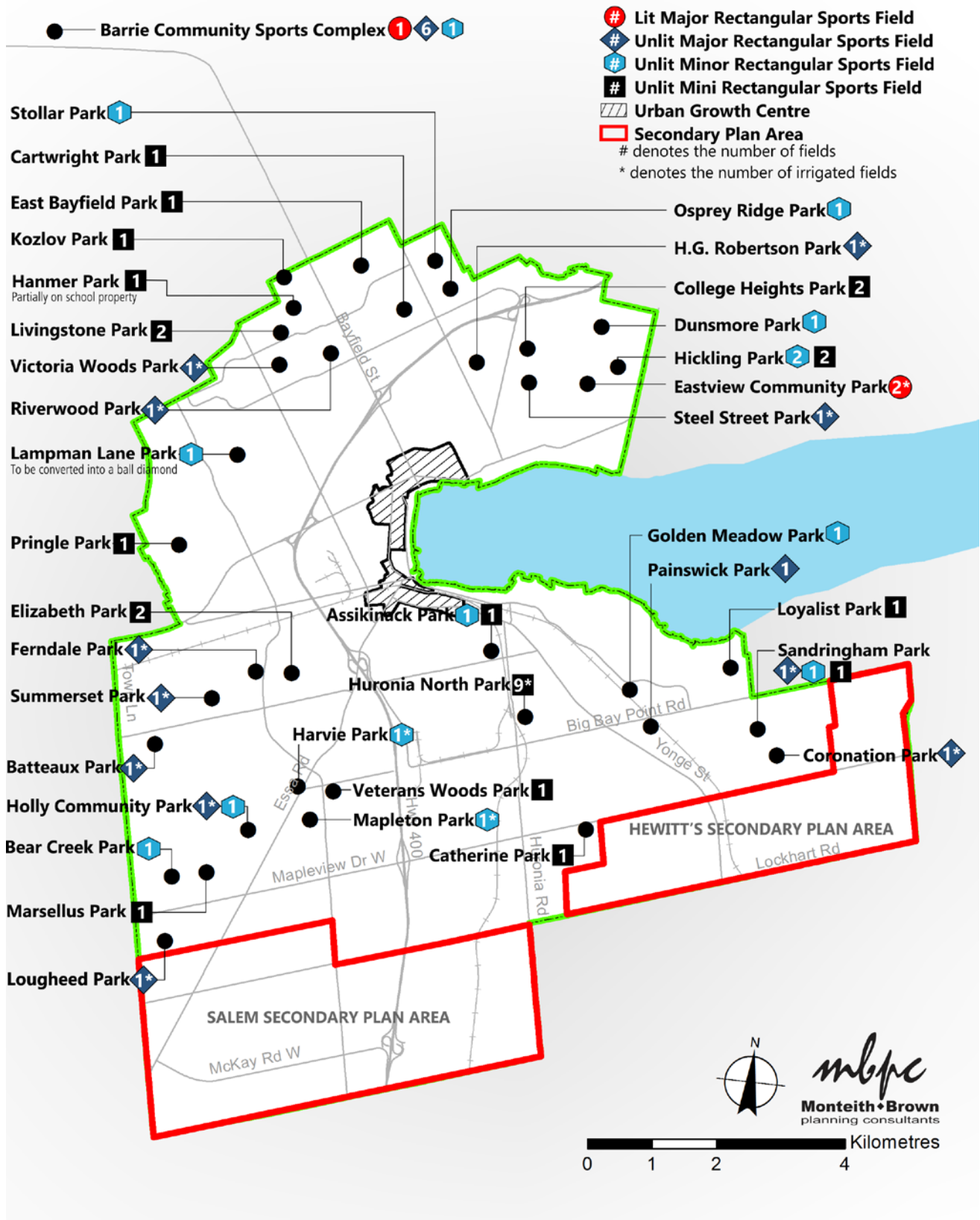
In addition to the permitted municipal supply, but excluded from the count, are the outdoor artificial turf fields at Georgian College and one planned at a future high school in the Hewitt’s Secondary Plan, as well as the Barrie Sports Dome indoor turf field (operated by a third-party organization). Also excluded from the supply are natural grass sports fields located at elementary and secondary schools.

Table 4: Service Level Comparison, Rectangular Sports Fields

Rectangular Sports Fields	2018 Population Estimate	Supply	Service Level
Barrie	147,300	68	1 : 2,166
Oakville	210,000	93	1 : 2,258
Vaughan	334,700	146	1 : 2,292
Oshawa	171,200	59.5	1 : 2,877
Whitby	139,800	48.5	1 : 2,882
St. Catharines	140,000	37	1 : 3,784
Windsor	219,000	49.5	1 : 4,424
Average	194,600	72	1 : 2,955

2018 population estimates are based on a straight-line extrapolation using the most recent population data available in each municipality (e.g., Development Charges Background Studies, Planning Department, Master Plans, policy documents, etc.). Unlit equivalent rectangular sports fields shown.

Figure 5: Distribution of Existing Rectangular Sports Fields



Rectangular Sports Field Rental Rates

As a part of the ORFS, City staff were interested in how City of Barrie sports field fees compare with neighbouring communities as well as similarly-sized municipalities. Table 5 summarizes the rectangular sports field rates that were collected by City staff, complemented by information gleaned from rental fee by-laws reviewed from other municipalities. In order to offer a fair comparison, rental rates have been summarized on a per hour basis. Barrie's sports field rental rates are generally competitive with communities that were reviewed.

Table 5: Comparison of Rectangular Sports Field Rates (Per Hour), 2018

	Innisfil	Oro-Medonte	Oakville	Richmond Hill	Vaughan	Barrie
Adult Major	\$20.48	No Charge	\$9.85 - \$20.02	\$13.30 - \$15.18	\$29.79	\$19.10
Youth Major	\$15.75		\$3.55 - \$9.45	\$6.65 - \$7.59	\$10.54	\$15.28
Adult Minor	\$16.80		\$9.85 - \$20.02	n/a	\$21.48	\$8.80
Youth Minor	\$13.13		\$3.55 - \$9.45	n/a	\$4.04	\$7.04
Mini	n/a		n/a	\$4.74	n/a	\$3.38

Rates shown are based on per hour time slots. HST is excluded.

Design Considerations

Ontario Soccer's Long Term Player Development (LTPD) model aims to bolster grassroots soccer programming by focusing on improving coaching, ball time, and skill development. This focus has resulted in fewer games and a reduced emphasis on scoring and winning. The LTPD model tailors field dimensions specifically to the age and ability of players, recognizing the various stages of physical and cognitive development. According to the LTPD model, there are five field sizes oriented to 11 versus 11 (referred to as 11v11), 9v9, 7v7, 5v5, and 3v3, whose respective dimensions age and divisions are articulated in Table 6.

Table 6: Long Term Player Development Field Dimensions for Soccer

Age Group	Game Format	Squad Size	Field Width	Field Length	City of Barrie Field Class
U6 – U9	3v3	Up to 6	18 – 22 metres	25 – 30 metres	Mini Rectangular Sports Fields
	5v5	Up to 10	25 – 30 metres	30 – 36 metres	
U8 – U12	7v7	9 – 12	30 – 36 metres	40 – 55 metres	
U11 – U16	9v9	12 – 16	42 – 55 metres	60 – 75 metres	Minor Rectangular Sports Fields
13+	11v11	16 – 18	64 – 73 metres	100 – 110 metres	Major Rectangular Sports Fields

Source: Ontario Soccer Association

Given that most rectangular sports fields in existence were designed and constructed prior to the LTPD model coming into effect, not all fields meet LTPD specifications. Historically, most municipalities developed their fields as 'full/regulation' size, 'intermediate/junior' size, and 'mini/micro' size. The full field – if designed per FIFA regulation standards – is similar to the 11v11 dimensions and this type of field

can generally accommodate all the sizes of fields required under the LTPD model. Using existing line markings with cones and portable nets, one 11v11 field can accommodate eight 3v3 fields, five 5v5 fields (additionally, two 5v5 fields can also be placed across the width of a 7v7 field), two 7v7 fields, and one 9v9 field. Typical arrangements on an 11v11 field is illustrated in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Typical Rectangular Sports Field Layouts for Soccer

Typical 3v3 layout arranged on a 11v11 field.

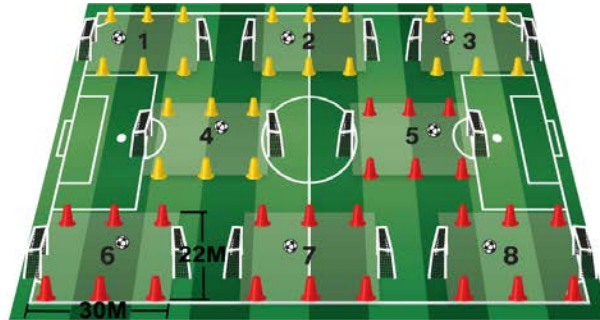


Image source: OSA LTPD Field Organization Guide Dimensions

Typical 5v5 layout arranged on a 11v11 field.

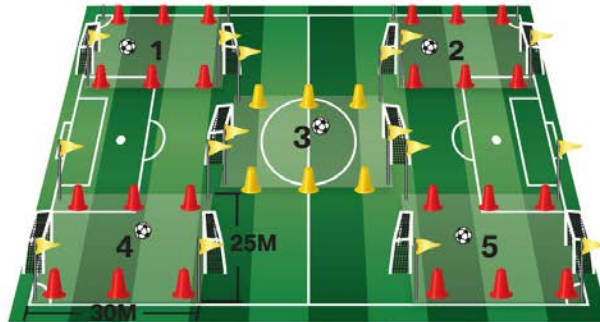


Image source: OSA LTPD Field Organization Guide Dimensions

Typical 7v7 and 9v9 layout arranged on a 11v11 field.

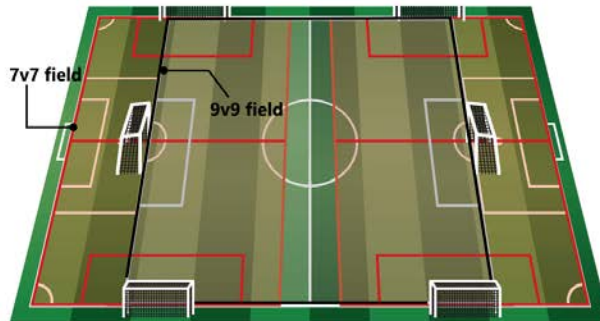


Image source: OSA LTPD Field Organization Guide Dimensions

Typical 9v9 layout arranged on a 11v11 field.

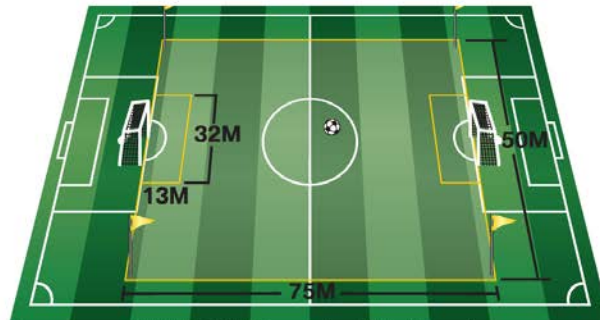
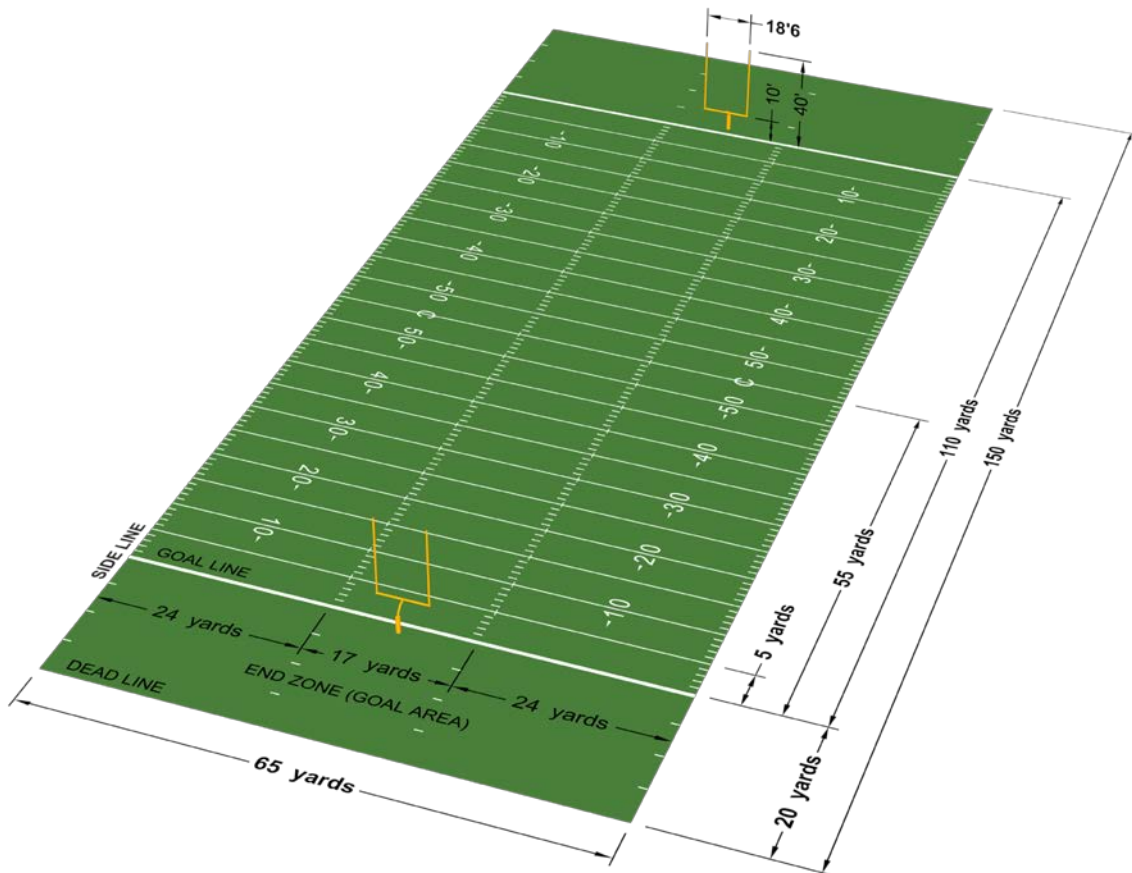


Image source: OSA LTPD Field Organization Guide Dimensions

Other rectangular field sports such as football, rugby, Ultimate Frisbee, and lacrosse have varying field sizes. In Barrie, each of these activities can be accommodated at field #17 at the Barrie Community Sports Complex, which measures approximately 130 metres by 70 metres. Notable sports field dimensions include:

- Canadian football fields measure 137 metres by 59 metres (150 yards by 65 yards), including the end zones (Figure 7). Smaller field sizes may be used for younger age groups and smaller squad sizes. For example, Football Canada recommends a field size of 73 metres by 27 metres (80 yards by 30 yards) for 5v5 flag football.
- Rugby can be played on a regulation size football field (Figure 7), although larger fields may also be used up to 144 metres by 70 metres (157 yards by 77 yards).
- Ultimate Frisbee fields are generally measure 110 metres by 37 metres (120 yards by 40 yards), including the end zones (Figure 8).
- The Canadian Lacrosse Association indicates that lacrosse fields shall be 110 metres by 60 metres (120 yards by 65 yards) for men’s and women’s lacrosse. A shorter field may be used for youth lacrosse activities (e.g., 100 metres or 110 yards) (Figure 9).

Figure 7: Typical Canadian Football Field (also supports rugby)



Source: Wikipedia

Figure 8: Typical Ultimate Frisbee Field Layout

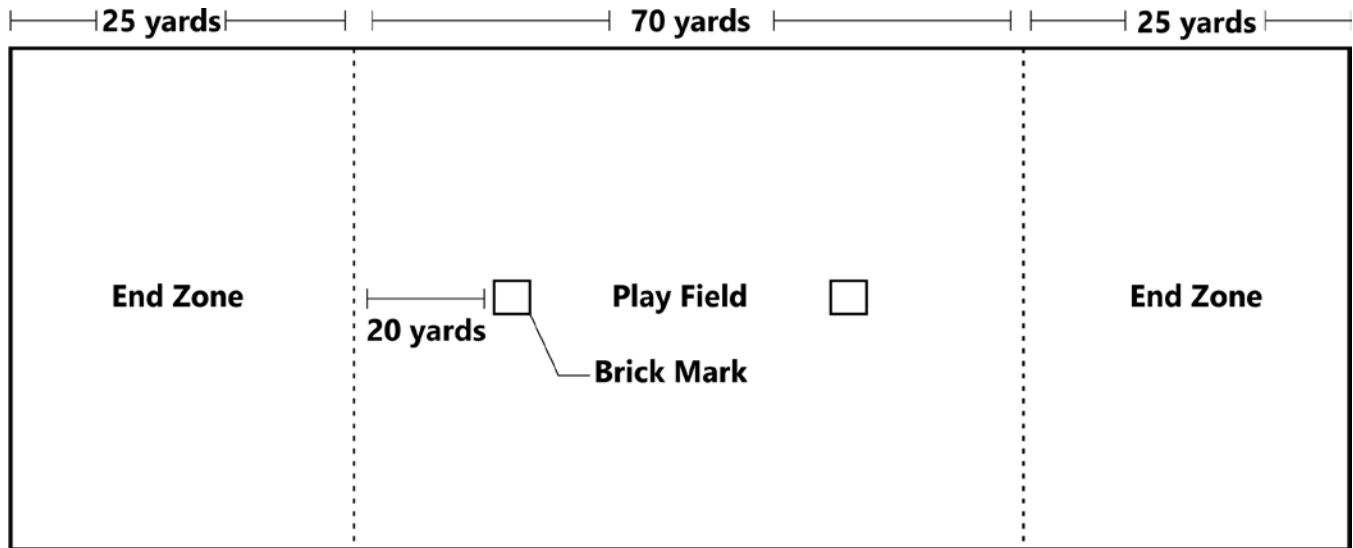
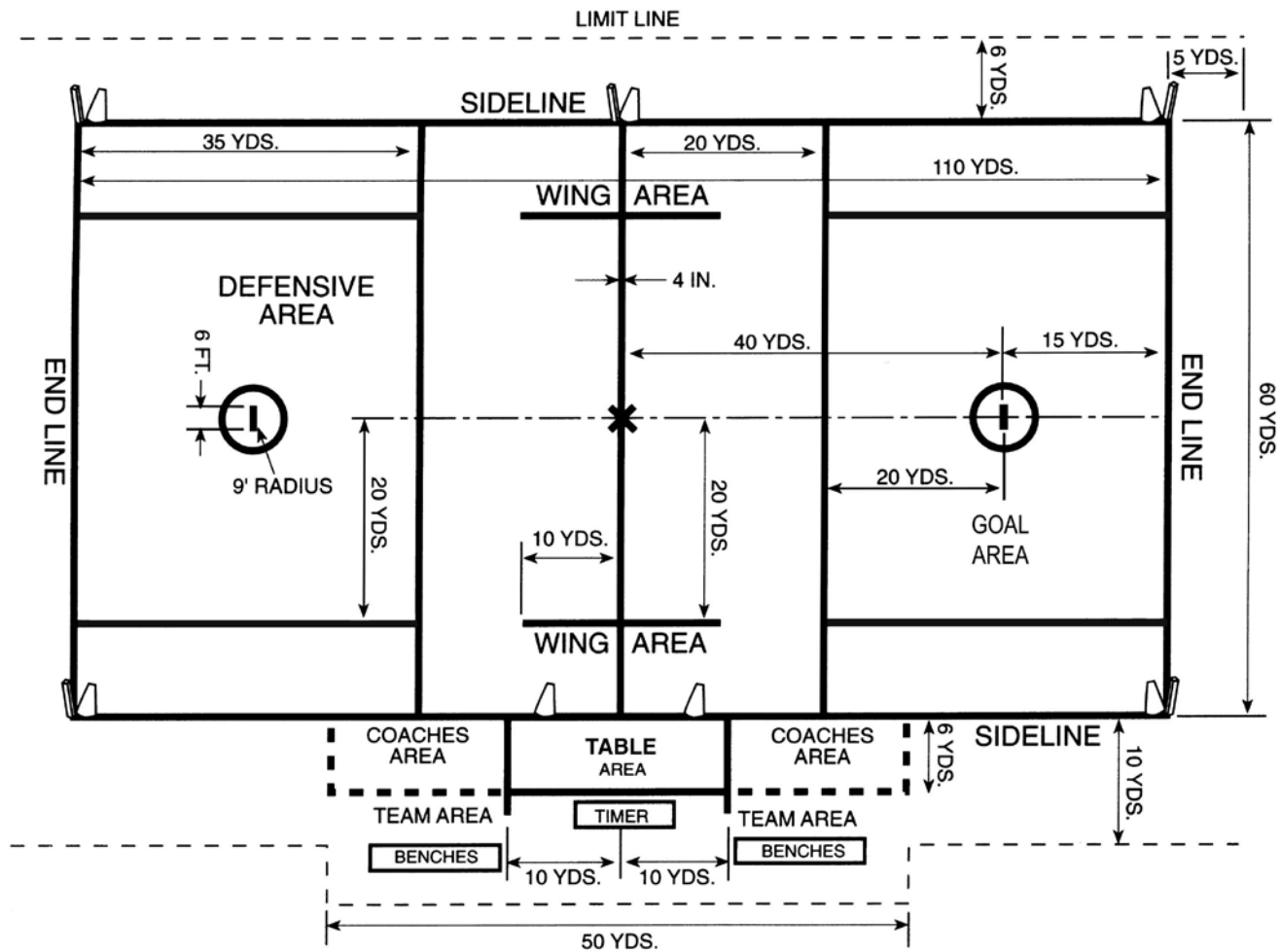


Figure 9: Typical Lacrosse Field Layout



Source: USSCproducts.com

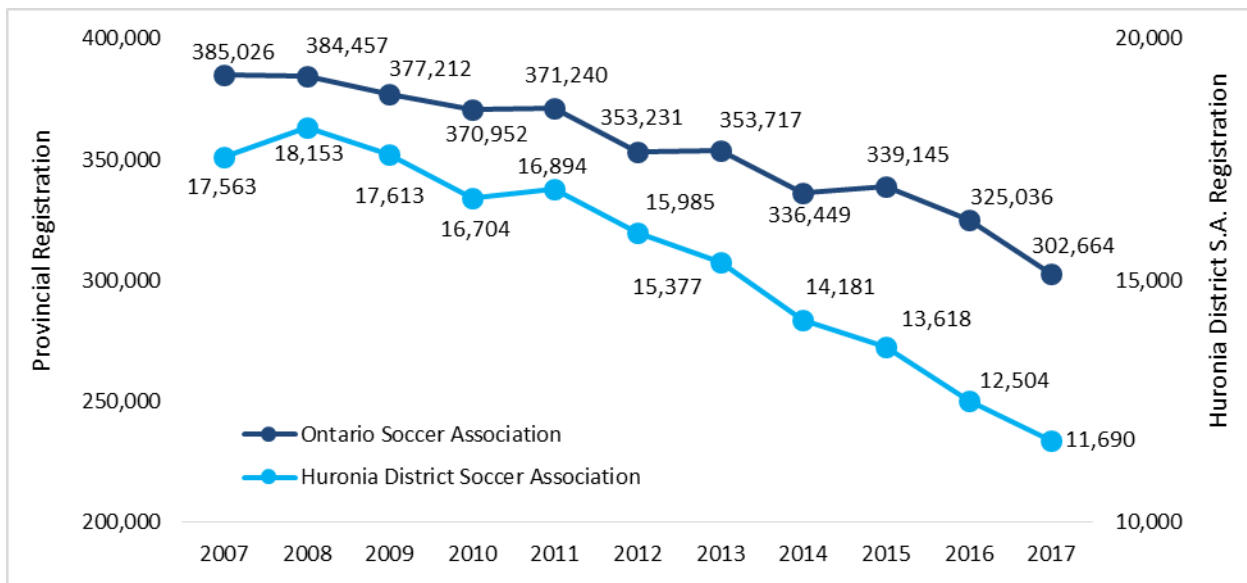
Market Trends

Soccer Trends

Participation in soccer organizations that are affiliated with Ontario Soccer has been declining since 2007; player registrations peaked at 385,026 youth and adult participants and has slowly declined each year since with 302,664 participants reported in 2017 (representing a ten-year decline of 21%).⁴ Regionally, participation in youth and adult soccer waned at a greater rate compared to the Province. The 11,690 participants registered in the Huronia District Soccer Association for 2017 is 33% lower than the 17,563 players that were reported in 2007 (Figure 10).

The Barrie Soccer Club is the largest rectangular field user of City fields with approximately 2,000 participants according to information supplied the City; however, the Club's registration is less than half (-59%) of what was reported through the 2010 Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan, marking a substantial decline. Little Kickers Simcoe County also uses various fields in Barrie and has 360 participants (they did not report registration figures in the 2010 Strategic Master Plan).

Figure 10: Provincial and Regional Participation in Organizations Affiliated with Ontario Soccer



Source: Ontario Soccer Annual General Meeting Reports.

The overall decline in participation may be driven by a number of factors such as preferences in sport participation, the shift towards the LTPD model, and the emergence of elite soccer clubs and academies that are not affiliated with the Ontario Soccer Association, as well as recreational sport clubs and sport groups. Despite declining participation trends, soccer continues to be one of the most popular organized sports due to its worldwide appeal, high fitness quotient, and relatively low cost to participate. The popularity of the sport drives high demand for rectangular sports fields in most municipalities.

⁴ Ontario Soccer Association. Annual General Meeting Reports.

Football Trends

Football has had cyclical popularity within the Province and is generally played at the minor level under the age of 20 (although football is a popular sport to follow among adults). Anecdotally, participation in the sport is steady or has grown marginally across different communities. The sport is often challenged by having limited access to well-lit artificial turf fields (or dedicated football fields), as football is an autumn sport and night falls earlier during this time of year. Due to the lack of artificial turf fields in some communities, football games are played on natural grass can result in field damage, thus limiting field use by other sports. Greater concerns over head injuries due to the nature of the sport has also been a limiting growth factor. Huronia Stallions Football is the regional club in Barrie, which has 310 participants.



Barrie Community Sports Complex

In order to grow participation in the sport and reduce physical injuries, Football Canada has explored a number of strategies such as adopting a Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model. Rather than focusing on playing games, winning, and scoring, the LTAD model divides athlete development into nine stages of age-appropriate activities. Other strategies include banning two simultaneous football seasons in the same year, scheduling tackle football games at least four days apart, introducing flag football, and establishing a football league for persons with disabilities, as well as promoting and encouraging participation in girls' football.

Rugby Trends

Rugby has been steadily growing in many parts of the Province as well as across Canada. Rugby Canada attributes membership growth to the introduction of grassroots programming (known as Rookie Rugby), as well as international exposure of the national Canadian team. The national body believes that rugby will experience an upswing in participation in the coming years, particularly before and after the upcoming 2020 Olympic Games.

Rugby Canada reports approximately 30,000 youth and adult rugby players registered with their affiliated clubs, 38% of whom reside in Ontario.⁵ Similar to national trending, Rugby Ontario reports consistent growth at the introductory level (under age 11) over the past few years, though Junior programming (age 12-19) has been stable and participation has historically waned as players get older due to the physical nature of the sport. Locally, the Barrie Rugby Football Club has 485 members spanning all age groups and genders.

⁵ Rugby Canada. 2016. Annual Report. Retrieved from <https://rugby.ca>

Ultimate Frisbee Trends

Ultimate Frisbee is a non-contact sport that emerged in the 1990s. While it continues to be a niche sport, it has experienced surging popularity, particularly among young adults (including social clubs). As a result, the sport has been recognized by international sporting organizations including the International World Games Association and the International Olympic Committee. Ultimate Frisbee is currently being considered by the Olympic Committee to be added to future Olympics Games.⁶ The popularity of the sport is partly driven by the low cost to participate as well as the sport attracting players from other field sports who bring transferable skills to the game.⁷ The Barrie Ultimate Frisbee League offers outdoor league play at the Barrie Community Sports Complex during spring and summer. Based on the organization's 2016 Annual General Meeting report, it is estimated that the group has approximately 100 members. The organization also uses school fields to run a junior league with 30 participants.

Field Lacrosse Trends

According to the Canadian Lacrosse Association, the most common types of lacrosse are: box lacrosse (played indoors or outdoors on a hard surface), field lacrosse, and inter-lacrosse (an introductory-level non-contact form of lacrosse that uses modified equipment). Lacrosse is considered to be one of North America's oldest sports and is primarily played by youth and young adults. A stakeholder survey from the Barrie Minor Lacrosse Association, who play at Sunnidale and Painswick Park among other non-municipal locations, suggest that the organization has been growing rapidly with 453 members reported for 2017. The organization also indicated that they play indoor box lacrosse at various locations in Barrie and in other municipalities. It is noted that the assessment of indoor recreation facilities is beyond the scope of the ORFS.

Stakeholder Input

Rectangular sports field users were invited to attend a Stakeholder Workshop and to complete a Stakeholder Survey. The Stakeholder Workshop was attended by the Barrie Rugby Football Club and completed Stakeholder Surveys were received by the Rugby Club and Little Kickers Simcoe County. These groups identified the Barrie Community Sports Complex as the primary location for their programs, although certain fields at other parks in the City are also used such as Victoria Woods Park and Eastview Park.

The Barrie Rugby Football Club expressed the desire to light sports fields at the Barrie Community Sports Complex, as well as an artificial turf field there or elsewhere in the city (although high rental costs could be an issue based on their observations elsewhere); the rugby club also suggested the need for another indoor field to support winter programs and training. Other suggestions were expressed including enhancing the quality of existing rectangular sports fields in order to improve the number of "game

⁶ Ultiworld. Ultimate's Olympic Hopes A Bit Brighter After Recent Announcements. 2017. Retrieved from <https://ultiworld.com>

⁷ Blasiak, Nick. Ultimate Frisbee teams find early success. The Brock Press. 2016. Retrieved from <http://www.brockpress.com>

quality” fields as well as a desire for supporting sports field amenities such as washrooms, storage, and parking.

The Barrie Minor Lacrosse Association reported the desire for a tournament-appropriate facility that would meet the requirements of the Ontario Minor Field Lacrosse League, which requires access to an artificial turf field with associated amenities such as parking and lighting. The group also expressed the desire to revitalize the outdoor lacrosse box located at Assikinack Park.

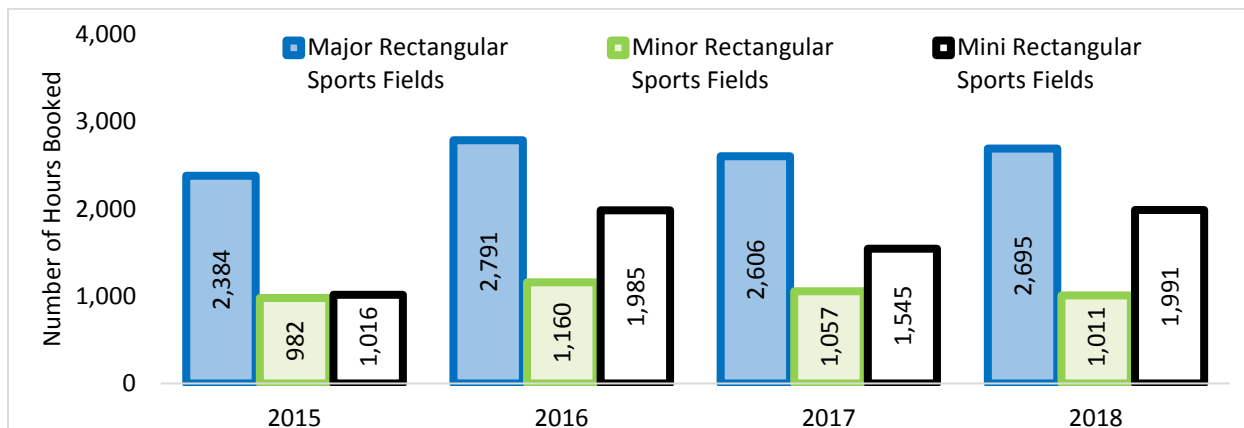
Utilization Profile

Utilization rates between 2015 and 2018 were analyzed to understand how the City’s rectangular sports fields are used. The data provided by the City captures all activities that took place on municipally permitted rectangular sports fields including soccer, football, rugby, Ultimate Frisbee, or other special events. To provide a fair assessment of usage, there are 22 sports fields that have been excluded because they are generally not required for use by sports organizations as they prefer to use the City’s higher quality fields. Other factors may contribute to the fact that these fields are not used such as being undersized, overlapping fields, or because they are not permitted with the intent of supporting neighbourhood-level play.

This analysis focuses on peak hour bookings that occur between May and early-October. The City considers peak hours to be during the evenings between Sunday to Thursday (Friday and Saturday are not considered as Peak Hours). Specifically, peak hours are defined by the City as:

- Major Rectangular Sports Fields: Sunday to Thursday from 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm
- Minor Rectangular Sports Fields: Sunday to Thursday from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm
- Mini Rectangular Sports Fields: Sunday to Thursday from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Figure 11: Annual Hours Used and Utilization Rate of Rectangular Sports Fields, 2015 to 2018



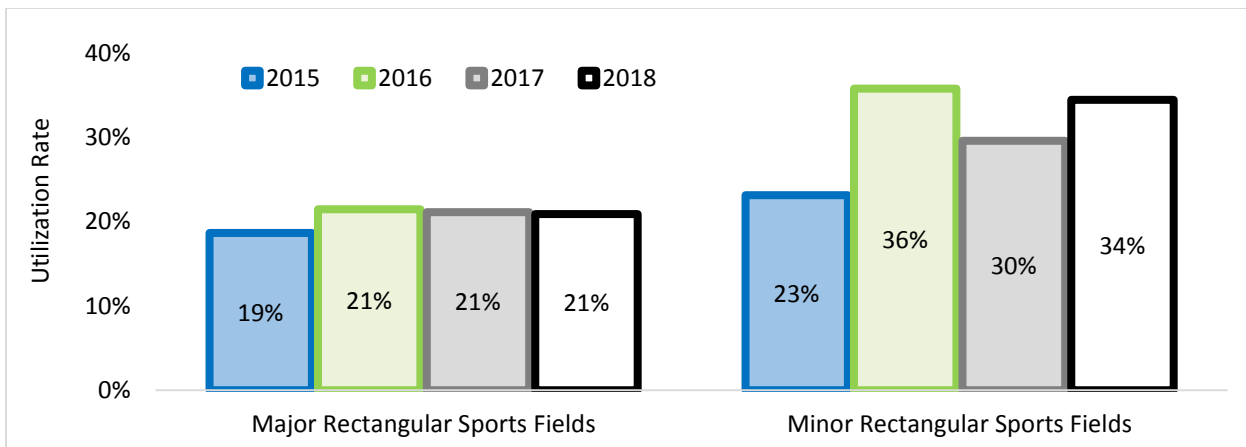
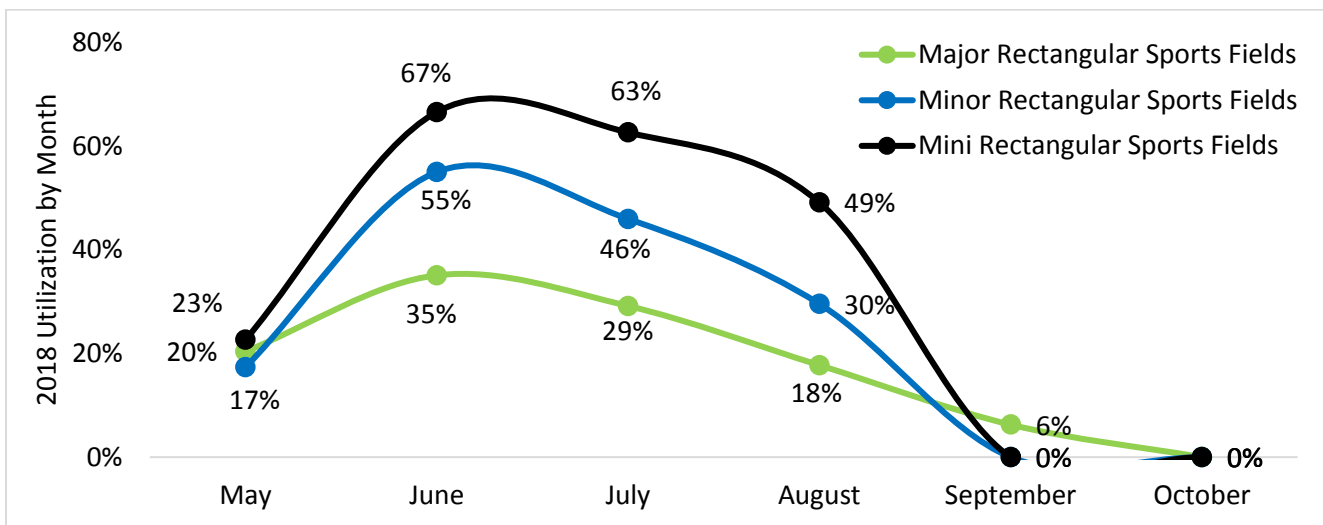


Figure 12: Utilization Rate of Rectangular Sports by Month, 2018



Note: Excludes fields owned by the Barrie Soccer Club
 Data Source: City of Barrie Field Utilization Spreadsheet, 2018

Between 2015 and 2018, City-wide major rectangular sports fields were used modestly as utilization increased from 19% to 21%. Minor rectangular sports fields had higher levels of use as utilization increased from 23% to 34% in the last three years (Figure 11). These lower than optimal utilization rates are likely a result of the Barrie Soccer Club directing a considerable amount of its programming to its own fields in Midhurst, which are not reflected through municipal permitting data.

A closer look at 2018 utilization data by field type was undertaken to understand which locations were most used and where pressure points may exist (Figure 12). As will be discussed, the number of hours booked at Barrie’s rectangular sports field have increased over the past three years.

Major Rectangular Sports Fields Peak Usage Profile

- Major rectangular sports fields accounted for 47% of total sports field bookings, providing 2,695 hours of rentals in 2018 which was a 13% increase from 2015.

- June and July 2018 were the peak usage months when major fields had usage rates of 35% and 29%, respectively (800 hours in June and 765 hours in July).
- 96% of total field bookings (2,600 hours) occurred between Mondays and Thursdays, with a utilization rate of 25% on these days. Limited use of major fields took place on Sunday (95 hours).
- The Barrie Community Sports Complex major fields were used the most in 2018, including Field #17 (330 hours), Field #5 (303 hours), and Field #6 (290 hours).
- Major fields used the least were located at Eastview Park A (70 hours), Sandringham Park (60 hours) and Victoria Woods Park (40 hours). Although these fields exhibited low usage during peak hours, the Sandringham and Eastview Park fields are commonly used during non-peak hours, totalling (960 hours).

Minor Rectangular Sports Fields Peak Usage Profile

- Minor rectangular sports fields made up 18% of total sports field bookings, accounting for 1,011 hours in 2018, which was a 3% increase from 2015 (30 hours).
- June and July 2018 were the peak months of field usage when minor fields had usage rates of 55% and 46%, respectively (347 hours in June and 333 hours in July).
- 93% of booked hours (2,792 hours) took place between Mondays and Thursdays, with a utilization rate of 35% on these days. Limited use of minor fields occurred on Sunday (155 hours).
- Minor fields used the most in 2018 were Harvie Park (255 hours) and Golden Meadow Park (245 hours).
- The minor field at Lampman Lane Park had the fewest bookings (15 hours) and Assikinack Park (70 hours).

Mini Rectangular Sports Fields Peak Usage

- Mini rectangular sports fields were booked for 1,991 hours in 2018, which made up more than one-third (35%) of all bookings for the year and was nearly double the number of bookings from 2015 (1,016 hours).
- June and July 2018 were the peak months of field usage when mini fields had usage rates of 67% and 63%, respectively (606 hours in June and 656 hours in July).
- 97% of booked hours (1,936 hours) took place between Mondays and Thursdays within a utilization rate of 47% on these days. Limited use of mini fields occurred on Sunday (55 hours).
- Mini fields that were used the most in 2018 were fields E and F at Huronia North Park (booking 265 hours and 320 hours respectively).
- The least used mini fields are located at Cartwright Park, Huronia North Park D, and Marsellus Park. Each location booked 60 hours in 2018.

Needs Assessment

Soccer constitutes the primary user of rectangular fields in Barrie. Based on the approximately 2,400 players registered with the Barrie Soccer Club (who are by far the largest user of fields) and the Little Kickers Simcoe, **the City of Barrie is servicing rectangular fields at a rate of one per 35 registered soccer players** noting this excludes other organized soccer associations regularly using municipal fields. In 2010, the City service level was 1 field per 90 registered players and the current service ratio reflects the drastic decline in Barrie Soccer Club registrations.

Combining the per player rate of provision with utilization data demonstrates that substantial capacity exists within the rectangular field supply, and that the City of Barrie appears to have a surplus of fields. Calculating needs on the basis of providing 1 rectangular field per 80 registered players, as was applied in the 2010 Strategic Master Plan and continues to be used by municipalities across Ontario, the surplus would be in excess of 35 fields. Assuming that the 2018 capture rate for soccer registrations prevails in 2031, the City could expect to have a market of approximately 3,000 players which would remain well below historical registrations and result in a continued double-digit surplus of 30 fields. This surplus will decrease to 23 fields by 2041.

Despite a surplus of field city-wide, geographic distribution needs to be factored into account so that populations residing in Hewitt's and Salem have reasonable access to fields. At present, there are only two rectangular fields located south of Maplevue Drive, one of which is a mini field, meaning that programming opportunities in south Barrie will be constrained in the absence of new field developments. If 2018 capture rates are applied to the Secondary Plans' year 2041 population forecast, their collective requirements would generate a need for nine unlit rectangular field equivalents.

Given that most of the future growth-related needs to the year 2031 are related to the Secondary Plans, the City should strive to add the equivalent of these nine unlit rectangular fields to its inventory over the next ten years. Due to the limited number and size of parks within Hewitt's and Salem communities, it is not possible to provide all nine unlit equivalent fields within the Secondary Plans. The following implementation strategy is advanced as a result:

1. Construct **one major rectangular sports field** at the Hewitt's District Park (+1.5 unlit equivalents).
2. Construct **one major rectangular sports field** at the Salem District Park (+1.5 unlit equivalents).
3. Construct **one lit artificial turf field** at the Barrie Community Sports Complex, subject to confirmation of sufficient space after factoring the recommendation to add two lit major ball diamonds (+2.0 unlit equivalents).

The above noted strategy would leave **four unlit equivalents fields outstanding** for the planning period. Site tours revealed little to no opportunities available in existing City parks in which new full size rectangular fields could be added without substantially altering park functions while other parks presently identified in draft for the Secondary Plans do not appear to be large enough or are otherwise required to implement ball diamond provision strategies. The City will need to reconcile the balance of rectangular

field needs once new parks are identified/conveyed through future land development plans and applications.

Given the substantial capacity that is available throughout the rest of the rectangular field system, it is recommended that new field additions be offset by reducing the level of maintenance of fields that are not currently being used by sports organizations. This approach allows the City to reduce maintenance levels of surplus sports fields within Barrie's inventory in the event that participation in the sport rebounds. It is recognized that certain fields that are unused/undersized may be re-positioned to accommodate play for 3v3, 5v5, and 7v7 programming, if required. Growth-related pressures can be temporarily mitigated by having players travel longer than desirable distances if need be. However, the City should initiate a few key actions to prepare a longer term response in anticipation of south-end growth needs for fields:

1. Review and reconfirm rectangular field needs in five years based upon the noted additions to the supply, an updated inventory of future parks based upon draft or approved development plans at that time, and an understanding of population and participation trends.
2. Initiate a process within the next two years to identify a site(s) located within or external to the Secondary Plans' boundaries that is capable of accommodating outstanding sports fields needs over the long term. The City should consider using a model similar to the Barrie Community Sports Park whereby fields are co-located in order to reduce costs associated with purchasing, operations, maintenance, and construction, while creating sport tourism opportunities.
3. Based upon the site selection process, secure a site(s). This could take the form of a land banking approach whereby the land is obtained prior to fields being required in order to ensure that a sufficiently sized parcel(s) can be acquired and at a price that is likely to be more affordable compared to future market realty rates. Doing so will provide the City with flexibility to construct any new growth-related sports fields, or re-designate/sell the land in the event that sports fields are deemed to not be required.

Preference should be given to potential site opportunities to the south and/or west of the City in order to balance distribution with the Barrie Community Sports Complex in Midhurst. Proximity to the Hewitt's and Salem Secondary Plans will be important given the degree of population growth expected there. Although the City has previously explored options to secure land for the purposes of developing a sports park within its municipal boundaries (the Sandy Hollow Buffer has been one such example), the absence of finding suitable land within Barrie may necessitate that the City once again look outside of its borders. Accordingly, potential partnerships with community organizations and/or adjacent municipalities may need to be considered as an alternative to outright purchase/development of parkland.

Future fields should be designed to 11v11 standards where possible to maximize programming flexibility for the various divisions. Opportunities to enhance existing sports fields to 11v11 design specifications should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis at the time of park redevelopment. At the City's discretion, the provision of 5v5 or 7v7 templates may be provided within Neighbourhood Parks on the basis of

facilitating unstructured neighbourhood use and enhancing geographic distribution. Eventually, however, younger age groups will need to transition play to larger fields.

The recommended strategy would generally meet the needs of all sports field users. **Additionally, the City should engage Barrie Minor Lacrosse Association to investigate the demand for, and feasibility of, rejuvenating the outdoor lacrosse box located at Assikinack Park. This discussion must take place in order to determine the future of this facility given that it also offers the potential to be re-purposed for pickleball use (Recommendation #12).**

Recommendations for Rectangular Sports Fields

1. A total of five unlit equivalent rectangular fields should be constructed to redistribute underperforming/low quality fields in existing areas to improve access within Hewitt's and Salem (and surrounding area), potentially implemented in the following manner. Should it be determined that they cannot be located at the recommended location, they should be located at the future outdoor sports facility or elsewhere determined by staff.
 - a. One lit major rectangular sports field at Hewitt's District Park (+1.5 unlit equivalents);
 - b. One lit major rectangular sports field at Salem District park (+1.5 unlit equivalents);
 - c. One lit artificial turf field at the Barrie Community Sports Complex, subject to confirmation of sufficient space after factoring the recommendation to add two lit major ball diamonds (Recommendation #5a) (+2.0 unlit equivalents);
 - d. Offset new field additions with reducing the level of maintenance of fields that are not currently being used by sports organizations.
2. Initiate a site selection and land banking process through which to develop a future outdoor sports facility required to provide the balance of four unlit equivalent rectangular fields to meet growth-related needs. Development of these future lands should occur after the City completes a five-year review of the needs assessments contained in the Outdoor Recreation Facility Study to ensure facilities are built to match future community needs. Alternative land opportunities may also be considered (e.g., Sandy Hollow Buffer).
3. Future rectangular fields should be designed to Ontario Soccer's Long Term Player Development standards using an 11v11 field template with consideration given to other supporting amenities such as on-site parking. Opportunities to enhance existing sports fields to 11v11 design specifications should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis at the time of park redevelopment.
4. At the City's discretion, the provision of 3v3, 5v5 or 7v7 field templates may be provided within Neighbourhood Parks on the basis of facilitating unstructured neighbourhood use and enhancing geographic distribution.

4.3 Ball Diamonds

Supply

The City permits 33 ball diamonds within its parks for organized use and rentals. Included within this supply are 15 major and 18 minor ball diamonds. Experience across Ontario demonstrates that lit ball diamonds typically provide the equivalent capacity to 1.5 unlit ball diamonds given that their ability to be used later into the evening. With 15 lit major ball diamonds and 18 unlit diamonds, **the City has 40.5 unlit equivalent ball diamonds**. This supply results in a service level of one per 3,637 residents, which is slightly lower compared to the benchmark average. Table 7 and Figure 13 document the inventory and distribution of Barrie’s permitted ball diamonds.

Of note, a stormwater management facility to be constructed at MacMorrison Park which will result in loss of the ball diamond; a replacement diamond is planned at Lampman Lane Park thereby resulting in no net change to the ball diamond supply. The supply excludes ball diamonds located at schools.

Table 7: City of Barrie Permitted Ball Diamond Inventory

Major Ball Diamonds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barrie Community Sports Complex #7 *, ** 2. Barrie Community Sports Complex #8 *, ** 3. Barrie Community Sports Complex #9 *, ** 4. Barrie Community Sports Complex #10 *, ** 5. Barrie Community Sports Complex #11 (Stadium) *, ** 6. Barrie Community Sports Complex #12 *, ** 7. Barrie Community Sports Complex #13 *, ** 8. Barrie Community Sports Complex #14 *, ** 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Barrie Community Sports Complex #15 *, ** 10. Barrie Community Sports Complex #16 (Dana Field) ** 11. Lampman Lane Park *, ** 12. Lennox Park A *, ** 13. Lennox Park B *, ** 14. MacMorrison Park *, *** 15. Sandringham Park (Irregular Size) ** 	
Minor Ball Diamonds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bayshore Park 2. Bear Creek Park 3. Cheltenham Park 4. Cloughley Park 5. Cundles West Park 6. East Bayfield Park ** 7. Ferndale Park 8. Greenfield Park 9. Hyde Park (undersized) 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Kearsy Park 11. Lennox Park C ** 12. Livingston Park 13. Madelaine Park 14. Maitland Park 15. Marsellus Park 16. Painswick Park 17. Queens Park (Irregular Size) *, ** 18. Shear Park *, ** 	

* Lit Diamond ** Irrigated Diamond *** Ball Diamond at MacMorrison Park to be relocated to Lampman Lane Park

Figure 13: Distribution of Existing Ball Diamonds

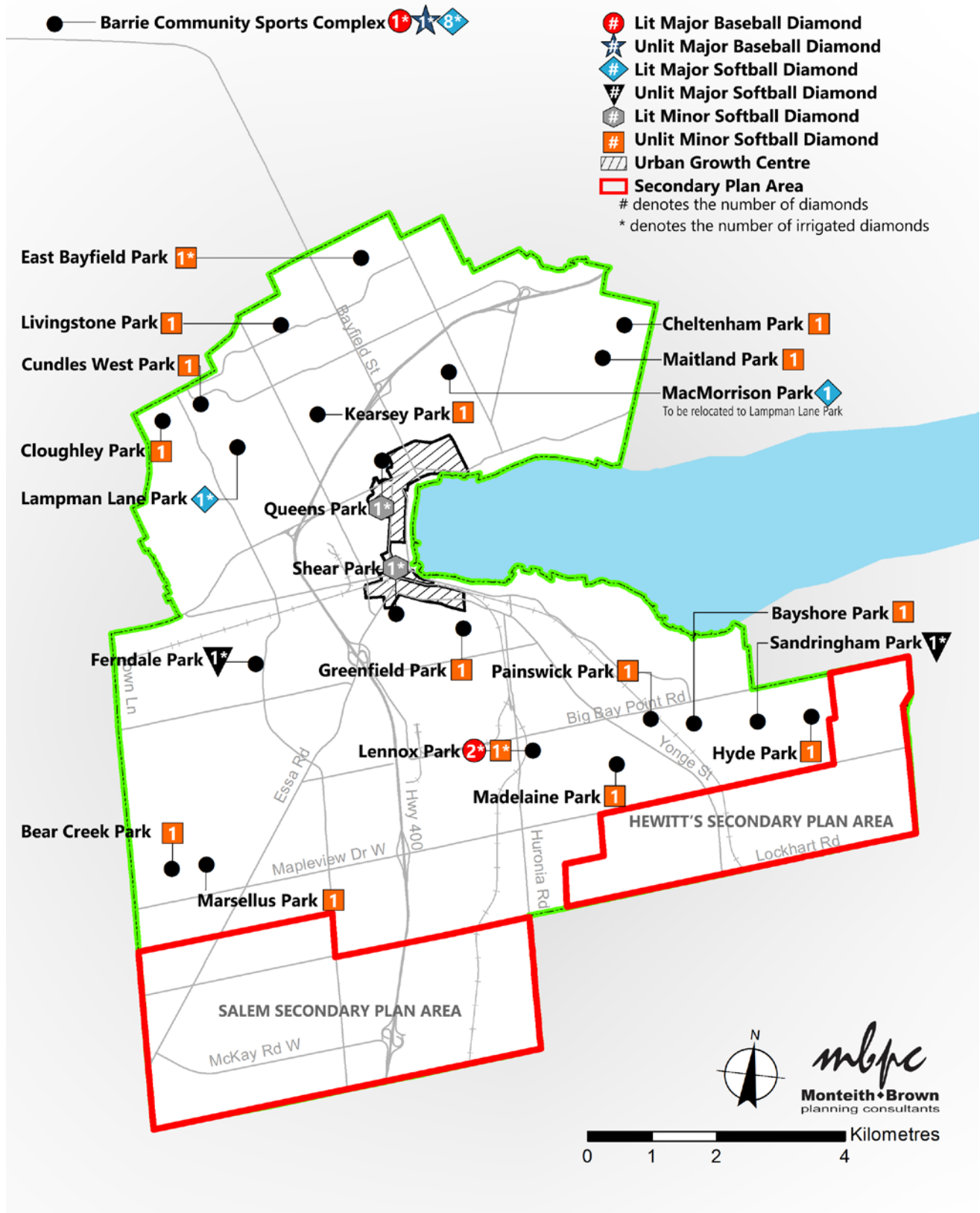


Table 8: Service Level Comparison, Ball Diamonds

Ball Diamonds	2018 Population Estimate	Supply	Service Level
Oshawa	171,200	60	1 : 2,850
Windsor	219,000	69.5	1 : 3,151
Oakville	210,000	66	1 : 3,182
Whitby	139,800	42	1 : 3,333
Barrie	147,300	40.5	1 : 3,637
Vaughan	334,700	76.5	1 : 4,379
St. Catharines	140,000	27.5	1 : 5,091
Average	194,600	55	1 : 3,660

2018 population estimates are based on a straight-line extrapolation using the most recent population data available in each municipality (e.g., Development Charges Background Studies, Planning Department, Master Plans, policy documents, etc.). Unlit equivalent ball diamonds shown.

Ball Diamond Rental Rates

As a part of the ORFS, the City staff were interested in how City of Barrie ball diamond fees compare with neighbouring communities as well as similarly-sized municipalities. Table 9 summarizes the ball diamond rates that were collected by City staff, complemented by information gleaned from rental fee by-laws reviewed from other municipalities. In order to offer a fair comparison, rental rates have been summarized on a per hour basis. Generally speaking, Barrie’s ball diamond rental rates are fairly competitive compared to the benchmarked communities.

Table 9: Comparison of Rectangular Sports Field Rates (Per Hour)

	Innisfil	Oro-Medonte	Oakville	Richmond Hill	Vaughan	Barrie
Major Lit Diamond- Adult	63.23	\$55.50	\$54.85 – \$65.02	\$14.24	\$43.79	\$30.53 – \$34.79
Major Unlit Diamond- Adult	\$20.48	n/a	\$9.85 - \$20.02	\$10.45	\$26.27	\$17.17 – \$38.89
Major Lit Diamond - Youth	\$58.50	n/a	\$48.55 – \$54.45	\$7.15	\$43.79	\$24.43 – \$27.83
Major Unlit Diamond - Youth	\$15.75	n/a	\$3.55 - \$9.45	\$5.22	\$26.27	\$4.12 – \$9.33
Minor Diamond - Adult	\$16.80	\$46.50	\$9.85 - \$20.02	n/a	\$18.31	\$8.89
Minor Diamond - Youth	\$13.13	\$24.00	\$3.55 - \$9.45	n/a	\$18.31	\$7.11

Rates shown are based on per hour time slots. HST is excluded.

Design Considerations

The design of ball diamonds varies considerably based on site conditions (including setbacks to other areas of the park and adjacent land uses), infield surface materials, and other specifications. Since Baseball Canada adopted the Long Term Athletic Development (LTAD) model, the organization has focused on developing and honing skills and coaching styles, as well as fostering leadership and organization. Suitable competition formats and facility types are also core components of LTAD and influence diamond types and sizes. LTAD identifies nine stages of play that are geared towards specific age groups to hone

various skill sets; seven of these playing stages utilize a specific ball diamond template, which is summarized in Table 10.

Ball diamonds can feature a broad range of supporting amenities to enhance the player experience. The level of amenity at each diamond typically depends upon its intended function. Tournament or game-quality diamonds tend to have higher-quality infields with outfield fencing, player and spectator seating, batting cages, washrooms, parking, lighting and more. Lower-order diamonds such as those found at neighbourhood parks tend to have limited or no amenities aside from backstop fencing as they typically facilitate informal community play.

Table 10: Long Term Athlete Development Model for Ball Diamonds

Stage	Age Group	Distance to Foul Line	Distance to Centre Field	Distance to First Base	Distance to Pitcher
Active Start	0 – 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fundamentals	5 – 9	N/A	N/A	18 m / 60 ft.	12 m / 40 ft.
Learn to Train	8 – 12	55 m / 180 ft.	61 m / 200 ft.	18 m / 60 ft.	13 m / 44 ft.
Train to Train	11 – 16	66 m / 215 ft.	80 m / 260 ft.	24 m / 80 ft.	16 m / 54 ft.
Learn to Compete	15 – 18	100 m / 325 ft.	122 m / 400 ft.	27 m / 90 ft.	18 m / 60 ft.
Train to Compete	Under 23	100 m / 325 ft.	122 m / 400 ft.	27 m / 90 ft.	18 m / 60 ft.
Learn to Win	18+	100 m / 325 ft.	122 m / 400 ft.	27 m / 90 ft.	18 m / 60 ft.
Train to Win	18+	100 m / 325 ft.	122 m / 400 ft.	27 m / 90 ft.	18 m / 60 ft.
Active for Life	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies

Source: Baseball Canada Long Term Athlete Development, 2007.

Market Trends

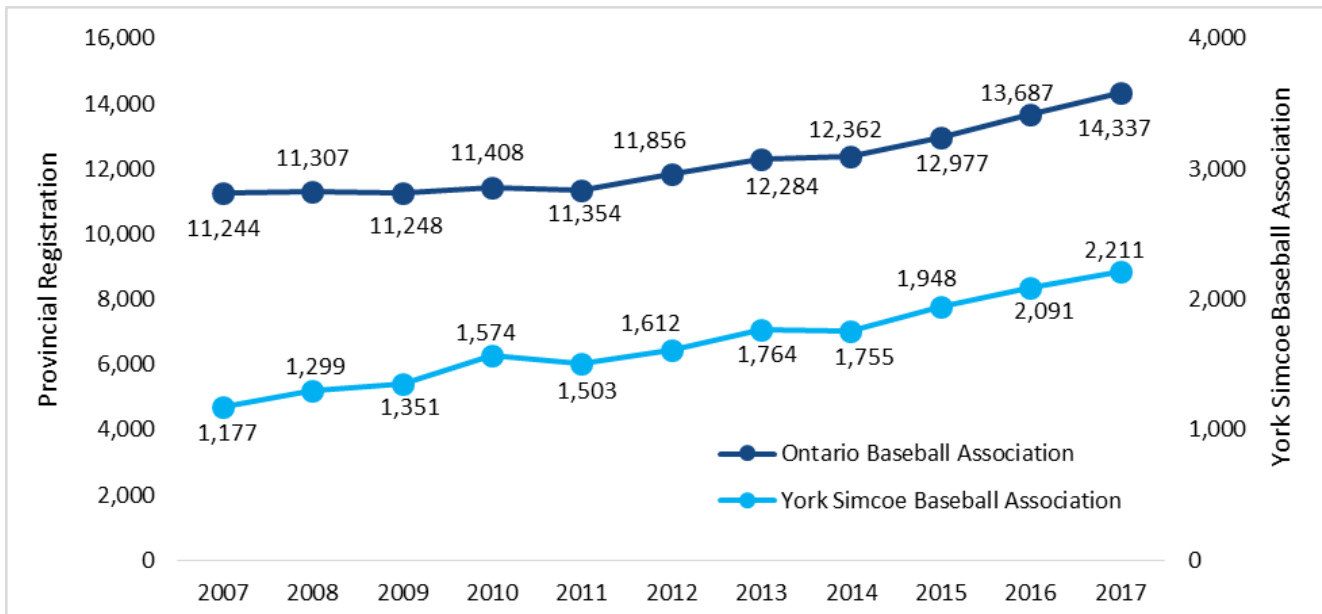
After being a sport in decline for the better part of the past two decades, baseball and its variations (including softball, fastball, etc.) are experiencing a resurgence. At the provincial level, Baseball Ontario reported that there were over 14,000 competitive participants in 2017, which was a growth of 28% compared to 2007.⁸ During this time, regional registration in the York Simcoe Baseball Association experienced a surge in participation, increasing by 88% to 2,211 members (Figure 14). Registration reported by Baseball Ontario does not include recreational/house leagues and non-affiliated ball groups and as a result, actual participation figures are greater. Barrie Minor Baseball Association and Barrie & District Girls Softball Association are the two minor ball organizations in the City; minor baseball's reported registration of nearly 1,300 players is nearly double what the association had reported in 2010. However, Barrie's adult ball registrations are unique in their strength relative to other municipalities with over 4,500 adult players registered in softball and hardball leagues. City data shows a combined membership of 6,100 youth and adult players in Barrie for the year 2018.

The renewed interest in ball diamond sports is driven by a number of factors such as a greater focus on skill development and grassroots programs to engage children and youth at a young age to participate

⁸ Baseball Ontario. Annual General Meeting Reports.

in the sport. The popularity of the Toronto Blue Jays is also a contributing factor based on the team's success in recent years.

Figure 14: Provincial and Regional Participation in Organizations Affiliated with Baseball Ontario



Source: Baseball Ontario Annual General Reports.

Stakeholder Input

Ball groups participated in the ORFS consultation process included Barrie Minor Baseball Association and several adult recreation ball groups. The groups use the ball diamonds at the Barrie Community Sports Complex as well as a number of ball diamonds located throughout the City including Lennox Park, Bear Creek Park, Sandringham Park, East Bayfield Park, and others. Groups mentioned that participation has increased year-over-year, although they are now capping registration due to the limited availability of ball diamonds. As a result, many groups expressed the desire for additional ball diamonds in order to accommodate new members and to grow their organizations. Particular emphasis was placed on the desire for additional adult diamonds, with a preference for multi-diamond parks.

Discussions with ball groups suggests that there is a desire for four to eight new ball diamonds. Recognizing that the Barrie Community Sports Complex is located north of the City, ball users identified that future ball diamonds should be located in the south end to improve the distribution of ball diamonds and to serve residents living in that area.

Utilization Profile

Utilization rates from 2015 to 2018 were analyzed to understand the how City's ball diamonds are being used. The City's data captures all activities taking place on its diamonds (including special events) between the months of May and early-October. Within these months, the analysis is centred on diamond usage during peak hours that are considered to be during the evenings between Sunday to Thursday (Friday and Saturday are not considered as Peak Hours). Specifically, peak hours are defined by the City as:

- Major Ball Diamonds: 5:00 pm – 11:00 pm
- Minor Ball Diamonds: 5:00 pm – 8:30 pm

The City's major ball diamonds had a collective utilization rate of 59% in 2018, increasing from 46% in 2015. Minor ball diamonds had a higher usage level at 76% for 2018 compared to 40% in 2015 (Figure 15). A closer look at 2018 utilization data by ball diamond type was undertaken to understand which locations were most used and where pressure points may exist (Figure 16).

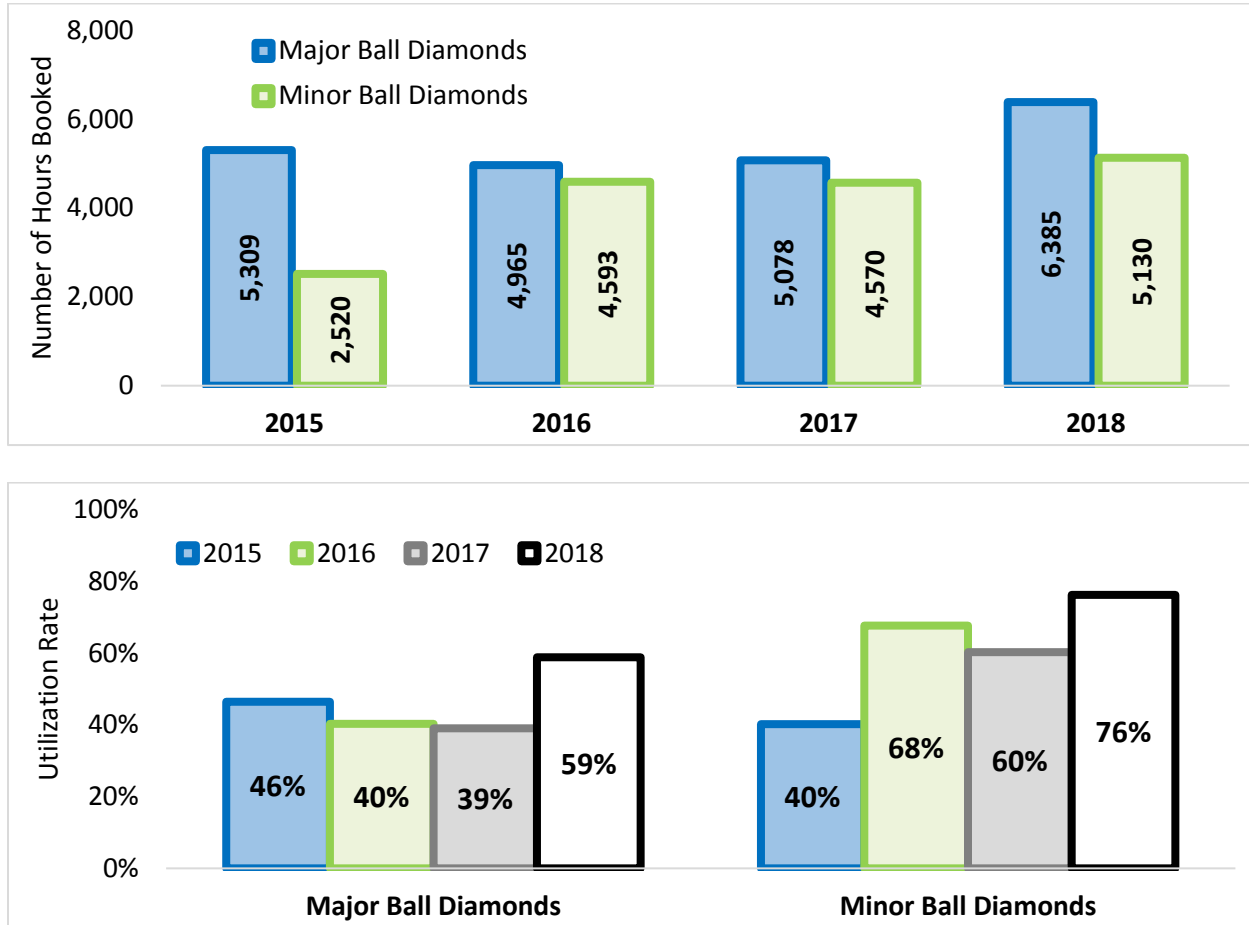
Major Ball Diamond Usage Profile

- Major diamond bookings made up 55% of total diamond bookings in 2018, and had 6,385 hours of use which was 20% more compared to 2015.
- June and July 2018 are the peak months of ball diamond usage, where major ball diamonds had usage rates of 73% and 68%, respectively (1,407 hours in June and 1,496 hours in July).
- Usage during peak hours was generally consistent on a daily basis. Peak usage during the week ranged between 1,200 and 1,400 hours, while peak usage on Sundays was slightly lower at approximately 1,000 hours.
- The most heavily used major ball diamonds were at the Barrie Community Sports Complex, specifically Diamonds 13 and 16 that were booked 489 hours and 518 hours, respectively. Lennox Park Diamond B was also frequently used with 516 hours booked.
- The least used ball diamonds were located at MacMorrison Park (179 hours), Shear Park (211 hours), and Queens Park (246 hours). The ball diamonds at MacMorrison Park and Shear Park are commonly used during non-peak hours, totalling 830 booked hours.

Minor Ball Diamond Usage Profile

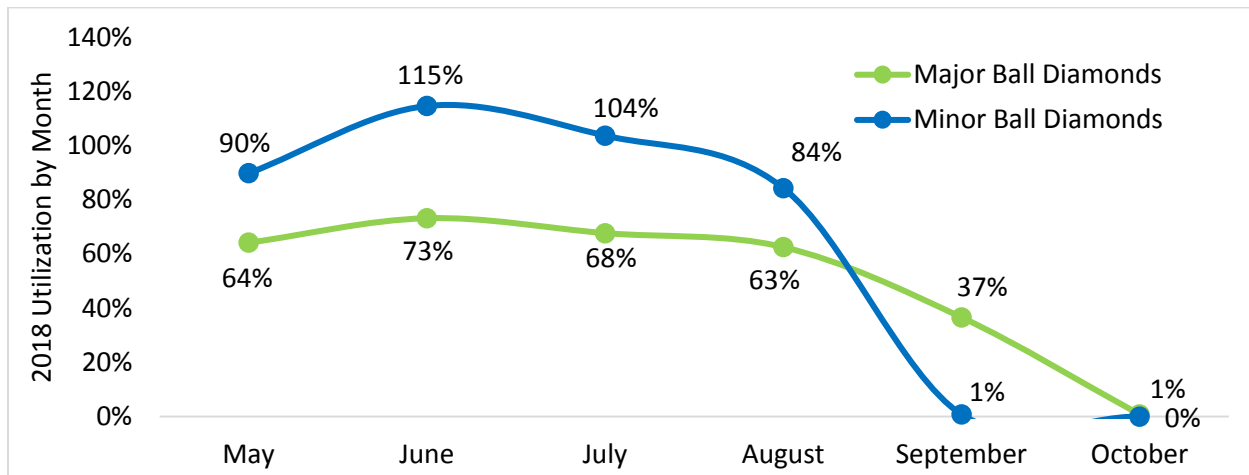
- Minor ball diamond bookings made up 45% of all diamond bookings for 2018, and were used 5,130 hours in total which was twice as many bookings compared to 2015 (2,520).
- June and July 2018 were the peak months of ball diamond usage. Minor ball diamonds were reported to have utilization rates of 115% for June and 104% in July, suggesting that the ball diamonds were used beyond the City's designated peak periods in order to accommodate the rental needs of sports groups. A total of 2,785 hours were booked in June and July alone, accounting for over half (54%) of diamond usage for the entire playing season.
- 96% of booked hours (4,915 hours) occurred during the week between Monday and Thursday. Limited use (215 hours) were observed on Sundays.
- The most used minor ball diamonds were located at East Bayfield Park (420 hours) and Ferndale Park (390 hours).
- The least used minor ball diamond was located at Lennox Park (60 hours). It is also not used during non-peak hours.

Figure 15: Hours Used and Utilization Rate of Ball Diamonds, 2015 to 2018



Data Source: City of Barrie Field Utilization Spreadsheet, 2018

Figure 16: Utilization Rate of Ball Diamonds by Month, 2018



Data Source: City of Barrie Field Utilization Spreadsheet, 2018

Needs Assessment

The 2010 Strategic Master Plan utilized a service target of one ball diamond per 100 minor and adult participants. With a strong adult softball market generating needs for diamonds that have distinct standards of play compared to minor and hardball diamonds, minor and adult ball diamond needs should be examined separately. A standard of one ball diamond per 60 to 80 minor participants is typically applied in many municipalities. A service target of one diamond per 80 minor participants) is recommended for the City as there is currently capacity to accommodate additional usage within the existing supply (based on low bookings on Fridays and Saturdays). A service target of one ball diamond per 175 adult players is recommended, as most adult groups require fewer time slots based on a weekly playing schedule (and no practices) while certain adult groups are able to accommodate their games in one hour timeslots throughout five days of the week.

At the City-wide level, the registrations are such that the City would presently be in a deficit situation of five diamonds (generally consistent with input from participating groups that indicate a shortfall between four and eight diamonds). With an assumption that current registration capture rates will remain constant to determine the market size of youth (ages 5 to 19) and adult players (ages 20 to 44), the City's deficit would be nearly 22 ball diamonds by the year 2031 (increasing to 33 ball diamonds by 2041); applying similar assumptions to Hewitt's and Salem's 2041 population results in the Secondary Plans accounting for 14 unlit equivalents of the total future diamonds that would be needed.

Unfortunately there are limited opportunities to develop new ball diamonds within the existing built boundary. Ball diamonds are land intensive facilities and existing parks are largely built out, with many of their undeveloped greenspaces serving as valuable community assets that facilitate a broad range of unstructured activities. Barrie has been successful in alleviating sports field pressures with the Barrie Community Sports Complex, which will continue to be a valuable asset over the long term.

The following implementation strategy is advanced to address needs for ball diamonds in Barrie:

- Construct **two lit major ball diamonds** at the Barrie Community Sports Complex, subject to sufficient space after factoring the recommendation to add an artificial turf rectangular field there as well (+3.0 unlit equivalents).
- Construct **two lit major ball diamonds** at Painswick Park through expansion of the park to the southeast, thereby complementing the existing minor diamond and providing a ball diamond complex suitable for centralized programs/tournaments (+3.0 unlit equivalents).
- Construct **two lit major ball diamond** at the Salem Satellite Operations Yard, subject to confirmation of sufficient space and supporting amenities such as parking (+3.0 unlit equivalents).

The above noted implementation strategy, if successful, would contribute 10.5 unlit diamond equivalents to the existing supply, with **24 unlit equivalent ball diamonds outstanding**. A five-year review of ball diamond needs and site selection study should be conducted in tandem with the same recommended for rectangular fields in order to confirm assessments contained in the ORFS. Given that there are limited opportunities to accommodate additional ball diamonds at existing parks in Barrie, future ball diamonds

over and above the nine unlit equivalent diamonds recommended in the ORFS should be co-located at a future sports field complex, as previously identified in the preceding rectangular sports field assessment.

Recommendations for Ball Diamonds

5. A total of 9.0 unlit equivalent ball diamonds are recommended, potentially implemented in the following manner. Should it be determined that they cannot be located at the recommended location, they should be located at the future outdoor sports facility or elsewhere determined by staff.
 - a) Two lit major diamonds at Barrie Community Sports Complex subject to sufficient space after factoring the recommendation to add an artificial turf field (Recommendation #1c) (+3.0 unlit equivalents);
 - b) Two lit major diamonds at Painswick Park (+3.0 unlit equivalents); and
 - c) Two lit major diamonds at the future Salem Satellite Operations Yard (+3.0 unlit equivalents)
6. Re-evaluate ball diamond needs (in tandem with a review of rectangular sports fields) in five years to confirm the need for the balance of 24 unlit equivalent ball diamonds. Future ball diamonds should be co-located with other sports fields at a location(s), potentially at a future outdoor sports facility, or other locations to be determined by City staff.

4.4 Cricket Pitches

Supply

The City provides one undersized cricket pitch at Maitland Park, which overlaps with a ball diamond. This supply results in a service level of one per 147,300 residents, which is slightly higher compared to the benchmark average (Table 11).

Design Considerations

Cricket play requires a large circular field, resulting in unique design specifications that can sometimes be challenging to accommodate. Some municipalities have developed cricket pitches across multiple sports fields or in sub-optimal remnant spaces, while others have provided dedicated cricket pitches.

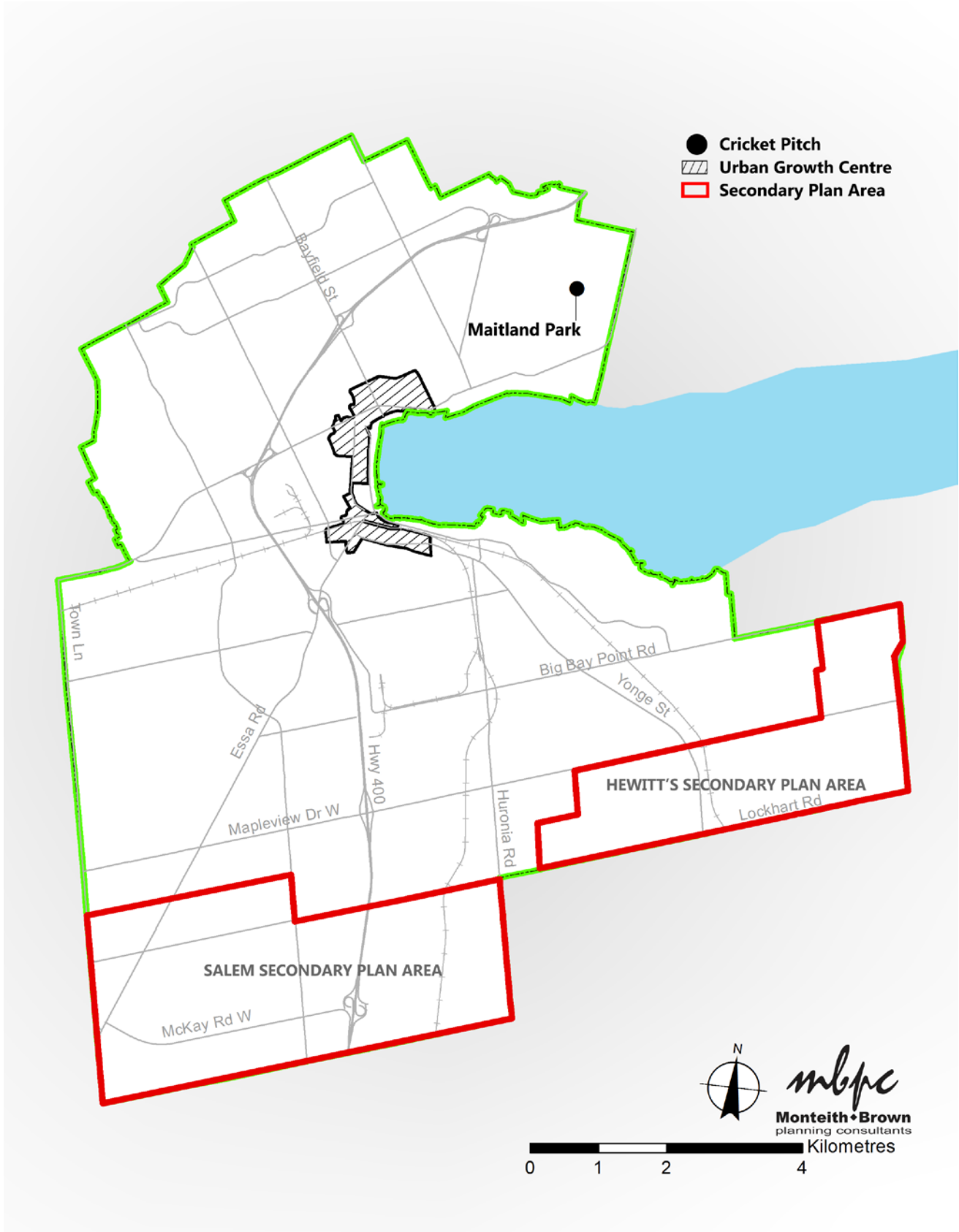
There are two main components to a cricket pitch. The size of the outer field ranges in diameter from 130 metres to 150 metres (425 feet to 492 feet). A rectangular strip is located in the middle, which is known as the pitch. The most traditional cricket pitch measures approximately 23 metres by 3 metres (75 feet by 10 feet), although dimensions can be modified for youth play. Land requirements range from 2.0 hectares to 2.5 hectares (5 to 6 acres).

Table 11: Service Level Comparison, Cricket Pitches

Cricket Pitches	2018 Population Estimate	Supply	Service Level
Windsor	219,000	2	1 : 219,000
Barrie	147,300	1	1 : 147,300
Oakville	210,000	1	1 : 210,000
Oshawa	171,200	0	n/a
St. Catharines	140,000	0	n/a
Vaughan	334,700	0	n/a
Whitby	139,800	0	n/a
Average	194,600	2	1 : 155,600

2018 population estimates are based on a straight-line extrapolation using the most recent population data available in each municipality (e.g., Development Charges Background Studies, Planning Department, Master Plans, policy documents, etc.).

Figure 17: Distribution of Existing Cricket Pitches



Market Trends

Cricket is experiencing a surge in popularity in Canada due to the nation's diverse cultural demographic and growing immigrant population from countries where the sport is extremely popular such as South Asia, the Caribbean, and certain parts of Europe. Nationally, Cricket Canada estimates that there are approximately 130,000 cricket players across the country.⁹ The sport has the potential for gaining increased traction in Barrie as the City's cultural mix has diversified substantially over the past decade (particularly in the south end) along with anecdotal interest being generated from Georgian College's international student base (many of whom may reside in the area throughout the year).

Cricket games can be played over a six hour period each day, over a period of three to five days. In order to be playable at the community level, the sport was modified to a short-format to allow the game to be played within a one to three hour period. This method is the fastest growing format in Canada. The game can also be adapted to be played with a tennis ball wrapped with tape (also known as tape ball), which is softer than a traditional cricket ball. As a result, safety equipment is generally not required.

Needs Assessment

Certain municipalities – primarily larger, culturally-diverse, GTA-based communities – have adopted a target of one cricket pitch per 100,000 residents. With one undersized pitch at present, Barrie falls below that threshold and would be offering a service level half of that towards the end of the ORFS planning period when City's population exceeds 200,000.

Although the City will remain below a 1 per 100,000 service standard, its demographic composition must also be considered given cultural background appears to be a major influencer in the sport's participation rate. According to the 2016 Census, the segment of the population who are most likely to play cricket (South Asian, Caribbean, Oceania, African) make up approximately 7% of Barrie's population. As a result, the level of interest in cricket may still be relatively low compared to other sports, particularly when considering an organized cricket group/league does not yet exist in the City (though City staff have received some requests for cricket pitches).

In recognition of continued population growth and cultural diversification of residents and post-secondary student base, along with the limitations of the existing Maitland Park pitch (small size and scheduling limitations due to the overlay with the ball diamond), the City should allocate land for one full size cricket pitch. A new pitch would optimally be provided in south Barrie though alternatives can be considered if presented and are deemed feasible. At a minimum, the future outdoor sports facility being recommended through the ORFS should be evaluated as a potential option or another location (e.g., Sandy Hollow Buffer) to be identified by City staff.

⁹ Cricket Canada. Retrieved from <https://cricketcanada.org>

Recommendations for Cricket Pitches

- Upon confirmation of demand, construct a full size cricket pitch (dedicated or multi-use field), potentially to be located at the future outdoor sports facility (see Recommendation #2), the Sandy Hollow Buffer, or alternative location deemed appropriate by City staff.

4.5 Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Courts

Supply

There are 33 tennis courts in City of Barrie parks, consisting of 27 lit and six unlit courts at 13 locations. Table 12 contains a summary of Barrie's outdoor tennis courts and the distribution of courts is illustrated in Figure 19. In addition, the City will have three dedicated pickleball courts – one at Redpath Park and two are planned for Painswick Park.

For the purposes of providing comparable service levels to inform the ORFS, Barrie's outdoor racquet sport courts were benchmarked against six municipalities. Table 13 illustrates an above-average service level in Barrie (one tennis court per 4,464 residents) compared to benchmarked municipalities.

Service levels for outdoor pickleball courts are summarized in Table 14. Benchmark municipalities provide pickleball courts through a mixture of dedicated and multi-use courts, with the exception of Vaughan and St. Catharines that do not currently provide pickleball courts. Three of the four benchmarked municipalities that have pickleball courts do so using a multi-use court template (one benchmarked municipality provides a dedicated pickleball court). Barrie's pickleball courts result in a service level of one per 12,677 residents over the age of 55, which is higher compared to the benchmarked average.

Table 12: City of Barrie Racquet Court Inventory

Lit Tennis Courts	Supply
East Bayfield Park	3
Eastview Park	4
Greenfield Park	2
Lampman Lane Park	2
Lennox Park	3
Lougheed Park	2
Painswick Park	2
Queens Park	5
Riverwood Park	2
Shear Park	2
Sub-Total	27
Unlit Tennis Courts	
Ferndale Park	2
Sandringham Park	2
Strabane Park	2
Sub-Total	6
Total - Tennis	33
Unlit Pickleball Courts	Supply
Redpath Park	1
Painswick Park (planned in 2019)	2

Table 13: Service Level Comparison, Outdoor Tennis Courts

Outdoor Tennis Courts	2018 Population Estimate	Supply	Service Level
Vaughan	334,700	130	1 : 2,577
Oakville	210,000	78	1 : 2,692
Barrie	147,300	33	1 :4,464
St. Catharines	140,000	28	1 : 5,000
Whitby	139,800	28	1 : 5,000
Windsor	219,000	34	1 : 6,441
Oshawa	171,200	18	1 : 9,500
Average	194,600	50	1 : 5,097

2018 population estimates are based on a straight-line extrapolation using the most recent population data available in each municipality (e.g., Development Charges Background Studies, Planning Department, Master Plans, policy documents, etc.).

Table 14: Service Level Comparison, Outdoor Pickleball Courts

Outdoor Pickleball Courts	2018 Population Estimate (Age 55+)	Supply	Service Level
Oshawa	49,700	8	6,213
Barrie	38,000	3	12,667
Whitby	33,600	2	16,800
Oakville	54,800	1	54,800
Windsor	84,400	1	84,400
Vaughan	83,200	0	-
St. Catharines	48,300	0	-
Average	56,000	3	1 : 34,976

Population estimate in each municipality is based on applying the capture rate of residents age 55+ from the 2016 Census to the 2018 population estimate.

*Includes two pickleball courts that are planned for construction at Painswick Park in 2019.

Design Considerations

Best practices in design suggests that tennis courts are best co-located in multiples of two or more to optimize community-level play. Pods of four or more courts are better suited for tennis club programming in order to accommodate a greater number of participants through round-robins, clinics and league play. Tennis courts generally feature a range of amenities including, but not limited to, fencing, lighting, and shade, while club courts may also have a clubhouse with meeting space and washrooms. Regulation tennis courts measure 24 metres by 11 metres (78 feet by 36 feet).

Asphalt is generally the standard surface treatment for neighbourhood tennis courts given its cost-effectiveness to build and maintain. Many of Barrie’s neighbourhood tennis courts are used for outdoor skating during the winter season. A coloured acrylic surface is commonly used at Community, Regional or District Parks, where organized clubs desiring higher quality playing experiences tend to concentrate their programs; acrylic textured courts have improved impact attenuation, although this comes at a higher cost to install and maintain. Acrylic textured courts in Barrie are not permitted for outdoor skating.

Pickleball courts are frequently overlaid with outdoor tennis courts as municipalities test interest in the sport among casual and organized players. Co-sharing courts may serve as neighbourhood level solutions, however, dedicated courts may be warranted over the long-term if there is sustained demand for outdoor pickleball. Dedicated pickleball courts may also be suitable at larger, destination-style parks that have a broad community or city-wide catchment area, particularly users looking for club play.

Few municipalities – such as London – have constructed dedicated pickleball courts as a part of new park design, while other municipalities such as Hamilton, Kingston, St. Thomas, and Newmarket (and Barrie) have provided dedicated pickleball courts through the conversion of underutilized tennis courts. As previously mentioned, the City will have three pickleball courts – two new courts and one court conversion from tennis. A pickleball court is approximately one-third of the size of a tennis court, measuring 13 metres by 6 metres (20 feet by 43 feet). Generally speaking, a typical tennis court footprint can accommodate up to four pickleball courts if using portable nets.

Market Trends

Tennis has been experiencing a resurgence over the past several years; Tennis Canada found that over 6.5 million Canadians played tennis at least once in 2016, which was a growth of more than 32% since 2012. Tennis Canada reported that in 2016, nearly 161,000 children under the age of 12 was considered a frequent tennis player, which was an increase of 10% compared to 2015. That study also quantified the growing popularity of tennis with 51% of Canadians indicating that they are somewhat or very interested in the sport, which was an increase from 38% in 2012.¹⁰

Locally, input provided by Barrie's tennis clubs suggests that there are approximately 218 members in the City. The Barrie Community Tennis Club's 118 members has been in a trend of decline, down from 150 members in 2008 while the Simcoe Tennis Club's membership has been stable at 100 players for the past three years (historical data before 2015 was not available).

The popularity of tennis at the national and provincial levels can be partly attributed to the growing segment of baby boomers that seek social, and to some degree, lower impact activities. Governing bodies and community tennis clubs are also promoting the sport at the grassroots level. Part of this growth can also be linked to the success of Canadian tennis professionals such as Dennis Shapalov, Eugenie Bouchard, and Milos Raonic.

Additionally, the tennis-playing community has been working diligently to generate interest in the sport. In 2017, Tennis Canada hosted Tennis Day across the country that had activities such as clinics, lessons, exhibitions, and 'bring a friend' events. The purpose of Tennis Day was to introduce the sport to people that have never played before and to show them how easy it is to learn the game. Following the event, Tennis Canada indicated that 80% of tennis clubs reported an increase in participation.

¹⁰ Tennis Canada. 2014 and 2016 Tennis Canada Annual Reports.

Many municipalities offer pickleball within gymnasiums which have proven to be strong testing grounds for the sport. Demands for outdoor pickleball courts are emerging as a result of players wanting to play outdoors in the warmer months but also as a result of many children's and youth day camps/summer programs making use of municipal gymnasiums.

Older adults and seniors that are not interested in the fast-paced movement of tennis are still able to hit the courts to play pickleball, which is a lower-intensity sport that can be played on a modified tennis court. There is evidence that baby boomers are creating a boost pickleball as participation trends suggests that older adults have a greater desire to remain physically active in their retirement years. This segment has driven pickleball to become one of the fastest growing sports in Canada and its popularity continues to spread across the Province. The prominence of pickleball is further bolstered for being played at the Ontario Senior Games.

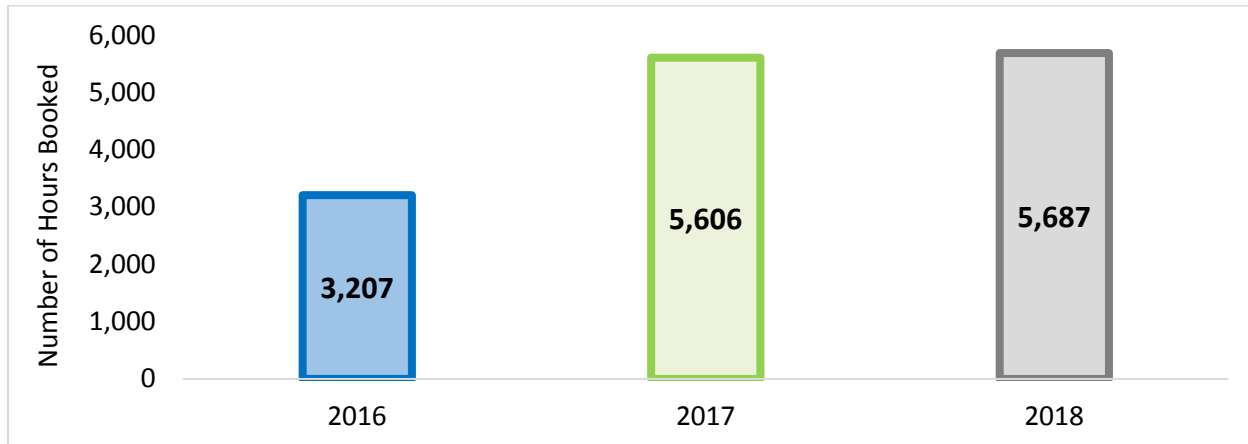
Stakeholder Input

Stakeholder surveys submitted by the Barrie Community Tennis Club (BCTC) and the Simcoe Tennis Club indicate that they provide training and programs for all skill levels. BCTC uses the at Queens Park tennis courts and has requested LED lighting while the Simcoe Tennis Club makes use of the Eastview Park courts and have requested a gazebo and permanent washrooms at that location.

Utilization Profile

While Barrie's outdoor tennis courts are predominantly available for public use at no-cost, there are 11 parks where the tennis courts are permitted to user groups or used for City programs. The tennis courts at these parks were booked for nearly 5,700 hours in 2018, which is an increase of 77% since 2016 (Figure 18), suggesting that there has been increasing levels of interest in line with provincial trends. Tennis courts at Queen's Park, Eastview Park and East Bayfield Park accounted for 92% of all bookings (Queen's Park accounted for 70% of all tennis court bookings while Eastview Park and East Bayfield Park collectively accounted for another 22%). Furthermore, the Barrie Tennis Club reserved 2,500 hours in total (or 44% of total bookings) largely out of Queen's Park while Barrie North Collegiate Institute and Simcoe Tennis Club collectively accounted for 35% of organized usage.

Figure 18: Hours Booked, Outdoor Tennis Courts, 2016 to 2018



Tennis Court Needs Assessment

Municipalities typically use a service level target of one per 4,000 to 5,000 residents to determine tennis court needs. The 2010 Strategic Master Plan and the subsequent Growth Strategies applied a target of one tennis court per 5,000 residents. This standard is carried forward for the ORFS on the basis of stable club registrations that are usually indicative of broader interest levels in the sport. Based on a projected population of 210,000 residents by 2031, there will be a need for 42 tennis courts, nine more than what is currently provided. By 2041, the deficit will increase to 17 tennis courts.

The 51,000 persons collectively projected to live in the Hewitt’s and Salem Secondary Plans by the year 2041 account for virtually all future tennis court needs under the provision standard. There are a number of parks in Hewitt’s that have the potential to accommodate the six tennis courts that are required to serve its projected 2041 population of approximately 32,000 persons. As a result, the following tennis court provision options have been considered for the Hewitt’s Secondary Plan:

1. **Option #1:** Develop a six-court pod at Hewitt’s District Park
2. **Option #2:** Develop a four-court pod at Hewitt’s District Park and a two-court at a Neighbourhood Park determined by City staff.
3. **Option #3:** Develop a two-court pod at the Hewitt’s District Park and a two-court pod at two Neighbourhood Parks determined by City staff.

The first option concentrates all six tennis courts at Hewitt’s District Park. While this approach achieves the social benefits of the sport and maximizes efficiencies in construction, maintenance and use of space, it limits the geographic distribution of courts to one location in the Hewitt’s Secondary Plan, resulting in a service gap in its east. Concentrating all six courts at this location may also over-program the District Park as there are a number of sports facilities recommended at this site.

The second option achieves similar benefits by locating four courts at the District Park, with a two-court pod located at a Neighbourhood Park, which enhances the level of geographic distribution; however,

four-court pods are generally provided to support organized club-play and there is currently no demand for club-oriented tennis courts.

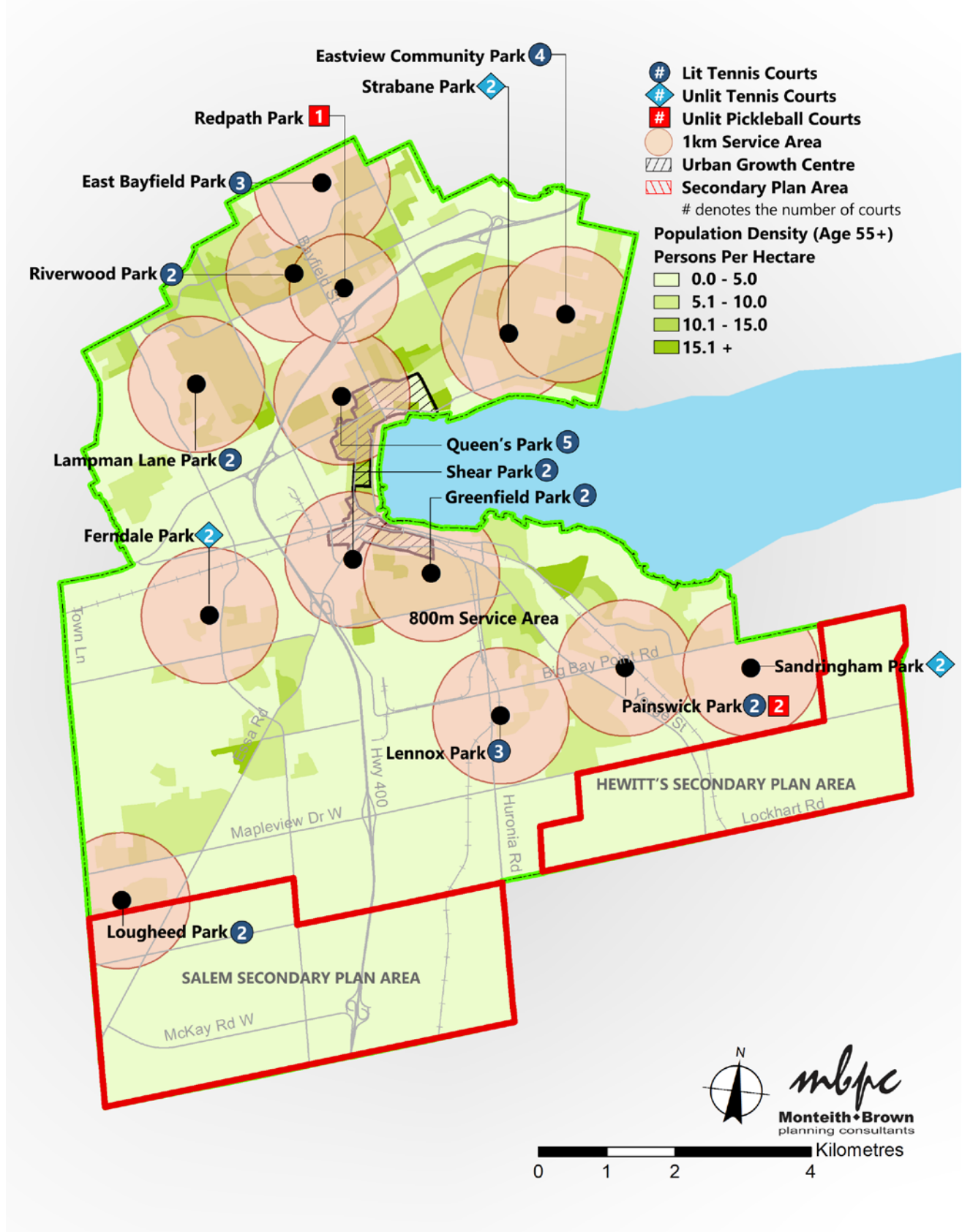
The distribution of tennis courts is further enhanced in Option #3 and is the recommended approach as it provides a balanced distribution of courts at District and Neighbourhood Parks. With a number of outdoor recreation facilities already proposed for Hewitt's District Park, a facility fit exercise should be undertaken to determine the ability to accommodate tennis courts at this park. Should there be insufficient space available, City staff may select an alternative site such as at another Neighborhood Park or potentially at the future outdoor sports park facility.

There are fewer park opportunities within the Salem Secondary Plan to develop the four tennis courts required to serve the approximately 19,000 projected persons in 2041. Similar to Hewitt's, tennis courts should be provided at District and Neighbourhood Parks (two courts at each park). Should it be determined that there is insufficient space at the District Park to provide tennis courts, an alternative site at a Neighbourhood Park should be selected or potentially at the future outdoor sports facility.

While preceding analyses have focused on the Secondary Plans due to their growth-related pressures, Barrie's established areas are also evaluated in terms of geographic distribution notwithstanding application of the population-based standard. A strong distribution of tennis courts was observed in the north end of Barrie. The most notable gap area was found in the central portion of Barrie, north of Maplevue Drive and south of Ardagh Road, on the west side of highway 400. A minor gap area also exists in the area northeast of Big Bay Point Road and Huronia Road. Additionally, a gap area was observed in the north end, east of Bayfield Street and north of Blake Street. It is recommended that these gap areas be resolved by providing a total of seven tennis courts to meet needs by 2041.

Consistent with standard practices, a higher level of design may be considered for tennis courts at higher order locations such as at Community and District Parks to enhance the playing experience such as lighting and an acrylic painted surface. Asphalt surfacing should be used at Neighbourhood Parks.

Figure 19: Distribution of Existing Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Courts



Pickleball Court Needs Assessment

With the municipal provision of outdoor pickleball courts still in its infancy, there are no generally accepted provision targets; outdoor pickleball courts are typically provided on a case-by-case basis in response to localized demands. Although outdoor pickleball courts have not been historically offered in Barrie, the City has indicated that there has been pressure from organized pickleball groups for more court facilities and there is merit in considering additional facilities to respond to the popularity of the sport, as well as the City's aging demographic. As a result, the City of Barrie will be repurposing a hard surface court at Redpath Park to pickleball and plans to build two more pickleball courts at Painswick Park in 2019.

Pickleball courts are best provided within close proximity of older adults and seniors, who are the primary users of pickleball courts. Analyzing 2016 Census population data by dissemination area reveals the highest concentrations of older adults and seniors in the northern areas of Barrie, specifically in the areas of Sunnidale, Queens Park, City Centre, Letitia Heights, West Bayfield, Cundles East, Grove East, Wellington, and Codrington. The areas of Bayshore, South Shore, and Painswick North also has a number of older adults and seniors living in the area.

Multi-use courts are the most common approach to meeting the needs of outdoor pickleball (and tennis) players though the City of Barrie has chosen dedicated courts to test initial demands. Nevertheless, use of multi-use courts is expected to become more common as the City works within an increasingly constrained supply of parkland. A combination of multi-use and dedicated pickleball courts should thus be considered, thereby facilitating a mix of neighbourhood-based and competitive playing opportunities. For example, dedicated pickleball courts should be considered at higher-order destination facilities, such as at a Community, Regional, or District Park, while multi-use courts (tennis and pickleball) should be accommodated at Neighbourhood Parks. To this end, it is recommended that the City construct a minimum of four dedicated pickleball courts. Potential locations include Assikinack Park by re-purposing the lacrosse box (unless it is determined through consultation with the lacrosse organization that the lacrosse box should be maintained). Alternatively, the dedicated pickleball courts should be constructed at another site to be determined by City staff. The City should continue to monitor the demand for outdoor pickleball courts and evaluate future opportunities to enhance distribution of pickleball courts such as at Pringle Park, Shoreview Park, Holly Community Park, or other locations identified by City staff.

Although the majority of population growth is projected to occur in the Hewitt's and Salem Secondary Plans, the demographic composition of residents that will be living there is unknown. While it can be expected that the housing stock will be attractive to young families with children, the Secondary Plans may also be desirable for older adults and seniors. A multi-use tennis/pickleball court template should thus be explored at Neighbourhood Parks in both Secondary Plans with specific locations determined by City staff. Where opportunities exist, dedicated pickleball courts may be considered at Village Squares to enhance distribution.

Recommendations for Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Courts

8. Construct six courts for tennis and/or pickleball in the Hewitt's Secondary Plan in the following manner:
 - a. Subject to available space, construct a dedicated lit two-pod tennis court at the District Park. Alternatively, construct a dedicated lit two-pod tennis court at the future outdoor sports facility or an unlit two-pod multi-use court at a Neighbourhood Park for tennis and pickleball; and
 - b. Construct an unlit two-pod multi-use court (for tennis and pickleball) at two Neighbourhood Parks.
9. Construct four courts for tennis and/or pickleball in the Salem Secondary Plan in the following manner:
 - a. Subject to available space, construct a dedicated lit two-pod tennis court at the District Park. Alternatively, construct a dedicated lit two-pod tennis court at the future outdoor sports facility or an unlit two-pod multi-use court at a Neighbourhood Park for tennis and pickleball; and
 - b. Construct a two-pod multi-use court (for tennis and pickleball) at a Neighbourhood Park.
10. Subject to confirmation of sufficient demand, construct up to seven tennis courts (some or all of which may be multi-use courts) within established areas of Barrie to resolve gap areas, particularly in the areas of central Barrie, north of Mapleview Drive and south of Ardagh Road on the west side of Highway 400 (e.g., Holly or Ardagh area), in the northeast area of Big Bay Point Road and Huronia Road (e.g., Painswick North, Bayshore, or South Shore), and the east area of Bayfield Street north of Blake Street (e.g., Wellington or Codrington).
11. Consistent with existing practices, a higher quality design standard should be applied to tennis courts constructed at Community and District Parks, such as (but not necessarily limited to) court lighting, fencing and painted acrylic surfaces. Multi-use courts at Neighbourhood Parks should have asphalt surfaces.
12. Construct a minimum of four dedicated pickleball courts at Assikinack Park by re-purposing the lacrosse box (unless through further consultation with the lacrosse user group it is determined that the lacrosse box should be maintained). Alternatively, dedicated pickleball courts may be constructed at another site selected by City staff. City staff should monitor the demand for pickleball and evaluate future opportunities to enhance the distribution of pickleball courts at locations such as Pringle Park, Shoreview Park, Holly Community Park, or other locations identified by City staff.

4.6 Outdoor Basketball Courts

Supply

There are 33 basketball locations at 29 parks. This supply includes 20 full courts (eight of which are lit), seven half courts, and six parks contain smaller strips largely suited to practicing free-throw style shots. For the purposes of this Study, the City's basketball pads are excluded from the system-wide supply given that these facilities offer limited playability. Thus, Barrie has an effective supply of 27 basketball locations. The inventory of Barrie's outdoor basketball courts is contained in Table 15 while distribution is illustrated in Figure 20.

Table 15: City of Barrie Basketball Court Inventory

Full Basketball Courts	Supply (*=Lit)	Half Basketball Courts	Supply
1. Catherine Park	1	1. Brown Wood Park	1
2. Centennial Park	2*	2. Huronia North Park	1
3. Coronation Park	1	3. Hyde Park	1
4. Dunsmore Park	1	4. Kozlov Park	1
5. East Bayfield Park	1*	5. Lions Park	1
6. Ferndale Park	1	6. Osprey Ridge Park	1
7. Golden Meadow Park	1	7. Shear Park	1
8. Holly Community Park	2*	Sub-Total	7
9. Lampman Lane Park	2*	Free-Throw Pads	
10. Lennox Park	1*	1. Brock Park	1
11. Loyalist Park	1	2. Ferris Park	1
12. Mapleton Park	1	3. Greenfield Park	1
13. Redpath Park	1	4. Snowshoe Park	1
14. Sandringham Park	1	5. Steel Street Park	1
15. Stollar Park	1	6. Strabane Park	1
16. Summerset Park	2	Sub-Total	6
Sub-Total	20	Total Basketball Locations	33

A service level comparison undertaken with six benchmark municipalities (Table 16). For the purposes of the ORFS, Barrie's six free-throw pads are excluded since comparator municipalities are heavily focused on full and half court templates. Barrie's service level of one per 718 youth between the ages of 10 and 19, which is lower than the benchmarked average. The size and type of outdoor basketball courts vary by municipality, as does the level of access to non-municipal outdoor basketball courts, such as those located at schools.

Figure 20: Distribution of Existing Outdoor Basketball Locations

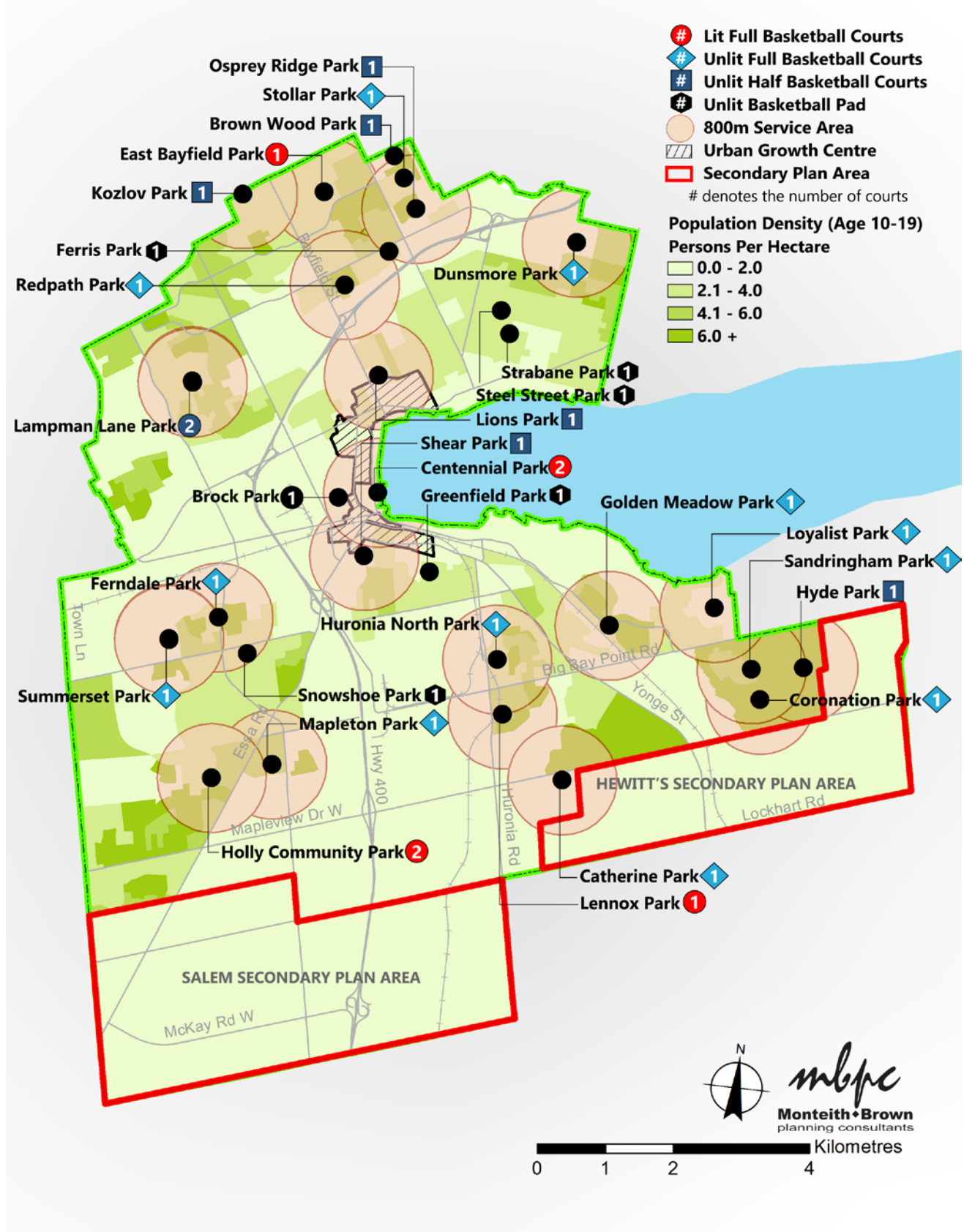


Table 16: Service Level Comparison, Outdoor Basketball Courts

Outdoor Basketball Courts	2018 Youth Population Estimate	Supply	Service Level
St. Catharines	13,100	22	1 : 595
Vaughan	46,500	71	1 : 655
Oshawa	18,700	28	1 : 668
Whitby	20,100	29	1 : 693
Barrie	19,400	27	1 : 718
Windsor	26,300	16	1 : 1,644
Oakville	30,700	15	1 : 2,047
Average	25,000	30	1 : 1,003

Population estimate in each municipality is based on applying the capture rate of youth residents age 10-19 from the 2016 Census to the 2018 population estimate.

Excludes non-municipal outdoor basketball courts. Free-throw pads are also excluded.

Design Considerations

Basketball courts can vary from rudimentary surfaces (e.g., asphalt and concrete) and sizes to high quality, sport-friendly surfaces (e.g., rubber or plastic such as flex court), with removable equipment such as net posts, boards, and hoops. With no established design standard due to their flexible nature, basketball courts can be provided in a variety of shapes and sizes given that these facilities are not programmed and primarily focus on facilitating spontaneous opportunities for active play. Municipalities may construct full size or half size basketball courts depending on available park space. The majority of Barrie’s basketball courts have asphalt surfaces, with the exception of the concrete courts at Lions Park, Osprey Ridge Park, and Centennial Park. The City’s court sizing varies between full court, half court, and free-throw shooting pads.

Best practices suggest that municipal outdoor basketball courts are designed to be equivalent to a high school basketball court, 25 metres by 15 metres (84 feet by 50 feet), although this may vary. Locally, Barrie’s outdoor basketball courts have painted markings with these dimensions. Most of the City’s basketball courts also have paved buffer zones around the perimeter of the playing area. Not only does this serve as a run off area, the enlarged footprint of Barrie’s outdoor basketball courts further broadens the types of activities the hard surface may be used for such as ball hockey, tennis and pickleball, and outdoor skating. Eight of Barrie’s basketball courts are also lit to facilitate extended playing periods. Together with the playing surface and buffer zone, Barrie’s basketball courts have a footprint of approximately 32 metres by 19 metres (104 feet by 62 feet) for single courts and 53 metres by 38 metres (174 feet by 125 feet) for double courts.

Market Trends

Basketball is a popular sport that is played and watched by all ages across the world, though youth are considered to be the primary demographic actively participating in the sport. The popularity of basketball in Canada is linked to several factors such as the success and popularity of the Toronto Raptors, and the fact that many large communities have immigrant populations from countries with a high interest in basketball. Barriers to participation are also low; compared to sports such as hockey, basketball is easy to learn, safe, inexpensive, and can be played as an individual or in a group.



Lampman Lane Park

Needs Assessment

The 2010 Strategic Master Plan and the subsequent Growth Strategies applied a target of one basketball court per 800 youth between the ages of 10 and 19; this standard is carried forward for the ORFS as it remains a consistent benchmark in many parts of the province. According to the City's age cohort projections, it is estimated that there will be approximately 23,800 youth in Barrie by 2031.

Application of one per 800 youth target suggests that there will be a need for 30 outdoor basketball courts by 2031, increasing to 37 basketball courts by 2041 (ten more than what is currently available). Barrie provides a fairly strong level of service to ensure that a strong distribution of courts exists for youth to access. The majority of youth population growth is expected to occur within the Hewitt's and Salem Secondary Plans due to the types of housing stock planned for the area and, as a result, the development of basketball courts should be focused within these areas.

The following strategy is recommended to develop new basketball courts within the Hewitt's and Salem Secondary Plans:

- Subject to available space, two full courts should be located in each of the District Parks in Hewitt's and Salem. Alternatively, these full courts may be located at a Neighbourhood Park in Hewitt's or Salem or at the future outdoor sports facility.
- Full or half courts should be considered at Neighbourhood Parks or Village Squares in Hewitt's and Salem, subject to available space.

Applying an 800 metre service area to each basketball court revealed that this approach would result in strong coverage in Hewitt's and Salem. Full size basketball courts is the preferred template to maximize

the level of use, although half courts may be permitted in Neighbourhood Parks/Village Squares where space is limited. At the City's discretion, additional full or half basketball courts may be considered at other Neighbourhood Parks or Village Squares) in Hewitt's and Salem in an effort to strengthen distribution to meet the total number of additional basketball courts needed in Barrie.

It is also prudent to ensure that youth are located within a reasonable walking distance to basketball courts. Applying an 800 metre service area to existing basketball courts in Barrie suggests that there is a strong distribution, although gaps exist in areas with high concentrations of youth. Efforts should be made to provide basketball courts in these areas, subject to confirmation of sufficient space, particularly at locations such as Hickling Park, College Heights Park, or other locations determined by City staff. Opportunities to enlarge free-throw pads should also be considered when undertaking park improvements.

Consistent with existing practices, basketball courts should be designed with asphalt surfaces in order to accommodate outdoor skating during the winter. Multi-use court lining should also be considered at Neighbourhood Parks/Village Squares to further enhance the range of activities that can be accommodated.

Recommendations for Outdoor Basketball Courts

13. Provide basketball courts in the Hewitt's Secondary Plan in the following manner:
 - a. Subject to available space, construct one full basketball court at the District Park. Alternatively, the full court may be located at a Neighbourhood Park or at the future outdoor sports facility.
 - b. Full or half courts at a Neighbourhood Parks or Village Squares may be considered where required to strengthen geographic distribution, subject to available space.
14. Provide basketball courts in the Salem Secondary Plan in the following manner:
 - a. Subject to available space, construct one full basketball court at the District Park. Alternatively, the full court may be located at a Neighbourhood Park or at the future outdoor sports facility.
 - b. Full or half courts at a Neighbourhood Parks or Village Squares may be considered, subject to available space, in an effort to strengthen distribution.
15. Where opportunities exist, develop basketball courts in underserved areas of Barrie such as at Hickling Park, College Heights Park, or other locations determined by City staff. Opportunities to enlarge existing free-throw pads should also be considered when undertaking park improvements to allow for drop-in games.
16. Consistent with existing practices, basketball courts should be designed with asphalt surfaces in order to accommodate outdoor skating during the winter. Multi-use court lining should also be

considered at Neighbourhood Parks/Village Squares to further enhance the range of activities that can be accommodated.

4.7 Splash Pads

Supply

The City's two splash pads are located at Heritage Park and Lampman Lane Park, each providing a unique water play experience. The splash pad at Heritage Park integrates water features with concrete boulders and is a logical complement to Barrie's waterfront as it provides a safe and controlled water play area for those who may not be comfortable with entering open water in Kempenfelt Bay. The splash pad at Lampman Lane Park replaced an outdoor pool and features a colourful arrangement of water spray features. Both splash pads are co-located with supporting amenities including washrooms and parking. The distribution of Barrie's splash pads is contained in Figure 21.

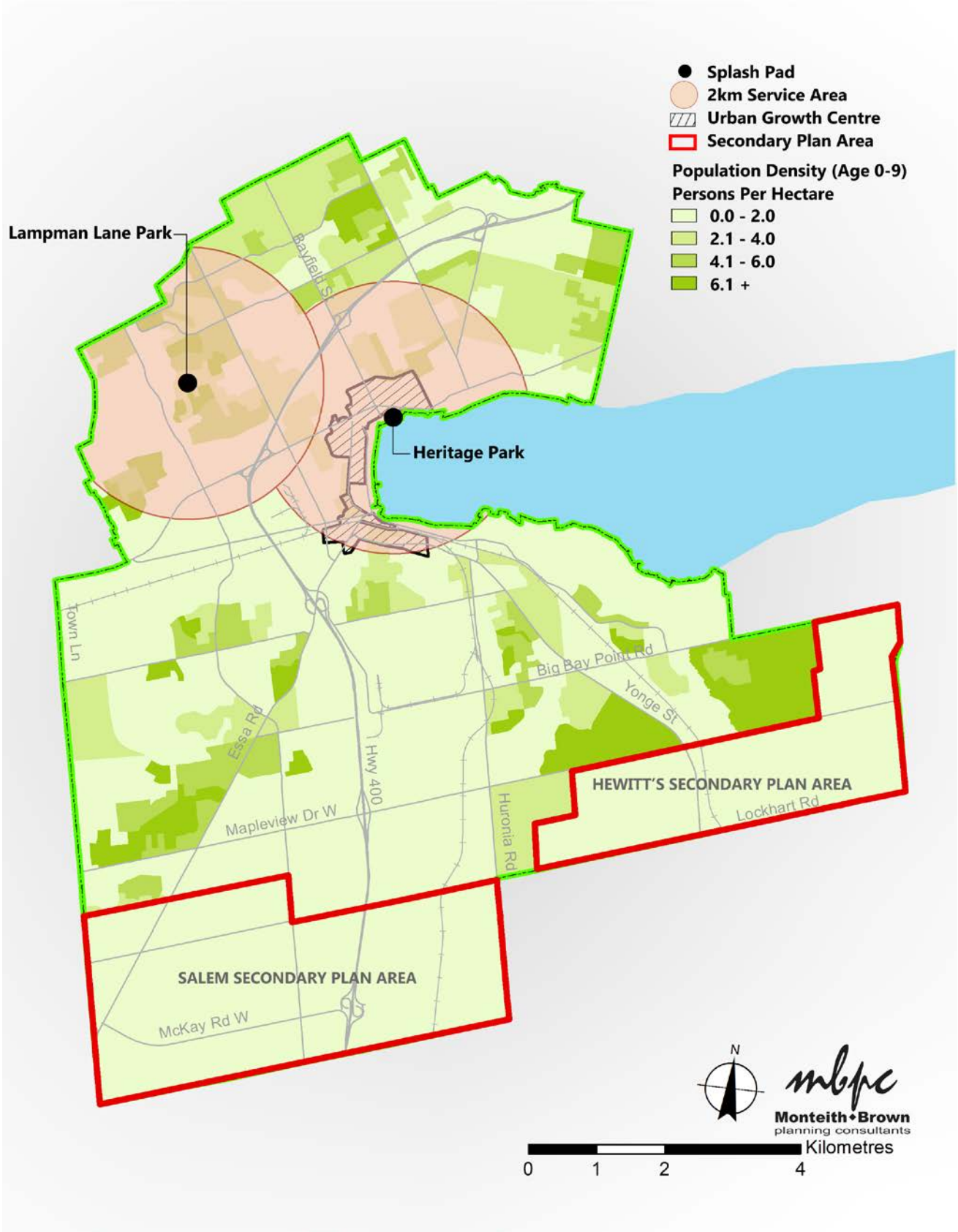
As illustrated in Table 17, Barrie's service level of one splash pad per 8,850 children between the ages of 0 and 9 is the lowest level of service among the six benchmarked municipalities (the average is 1:3,800).

Table 17: Service Level Comparison, Splash Pads

Splash Pads	2018 Children Population Estimate	Supply	Service Level
Whitby	18,200	15	1 : 1,213
Oakville	24,300	15	1 : 1,620
Oshawa	19,300	9	1 : 2,144
Vaughan	40,200	17	1 : 2,365
Windsor	23,400	6	1 : 3,900
St. Catharines	13,100	2	1 : 6,550
Barrie	17,700	2	1 : 8,850
Average	22,200	9	1 : 3,807

Population estimate in each municipality is based on applying the capture rate of children residents age 0-9 from the 2016 Census to the 2018 population estimate.

Figure 21: Distribution of Existing Splash Pads



Design Considerations

Splash pad designs are highly variable as they can be customized according to size, employ different themes and configurations through an abundance of choice in spray features and colours, and thereby can create unique park-based experiences. Smaller scale “cooling stations” are used by some municipalities in locations which feature one or two basic spray functions. The two main mechanical systems used for splash pads are: 1) a fresh water system that does not require treatment and therefore, does not require regular staffing; and 2) a recirculation system that treats water but requires regular staff visits to monitor chemical levels.

Market Trends

A number of municipalities have redirected capital resources away from reconstructing aging or end-of-life outdoor pools to splash pads. Splash pad facilities have proven to be more cost effective than traditional outdoor pools to build and operate as they can be integrated into most park settings and do not require staffing since there is no standing water to supervise. Splash pads have become one of the most sought after amenities for young families due waterplay being an affordable and accessible opportunity to cool down on hot days. Splash pads are often viewed as complementary facilities to large bodies of water (such as Kempenfelt Bay) as not everyone is comfortable with swimming in open water.

Needs Assessment

Splash pad needs are evaluated based on an age-specific provision target given that these facilities are primarily used by children under the age of 10. Municipalities generally utilize a provision target of one per 3,000 to 5,000 children. The 2010 Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommended a standard of one per 4,000 children (ages 0 to 9) while the subsequent Growth Strategy slightly revised that standard to one per 5,000 children in recognition of an overall aging that was occurring in Barrie’s population as well as the city growing out to its urban boundary.

Given the continued aging trends and trend towards higher density developments, the one splash per 5,000 children target is retained. The 2016 Census recorded 16,500 children in the 0 to 9 year age groups which would require a total of three splash pads City-wide. Based on the population target only and not taking into account distribution (as discussed below), the City’s age cohort projections estimates that there will be approximately 22,600 children by 2031 at which point four splash pads will be required, increasing to five splash pads by 2041.

Consistent with the Growth Strategy, the preferred implementation is to construct two new splash pads, each located in the Hewitt’s and Salem Secondary Plans and more preferably within their respective District Parks. Although age cohort projections specific to the Secondary Plan Areas are not available, planned land use patterns suggests that households within these Secondary Plans will be comprised of young families with children; with no splash pads presently located in south Barrie, the addition of two in the Secondary Plans will provide their respective populations with access in reasonable distance. Development alongside community centres proposed in the District Parks will also benefit the splash

pads in terms of providing access to onsite washrooms/changerooms, vehicular parking, as well as centralized staffing to undertake water testing and treatment-related tasks.

With respect to established areas of Barrie and location of splash pads within the City, a review of geographic distribution shows a gap area in between the Tiffin Street and Mapleview Drive. Given the fact that there are high concentrations of children living within this area, the City should evaluate potential sites for two new splash pads on each side of Highway 400 to address this gap area. Potential sites that should be evaluated include parks located in areas with high concentrations of children or with complementary features such as playgrounds and washrooms/changerooms such as at Holly Community Centre or other sites identified by City staff. Beachfront parks (such as Tyndale Park, Minet's Point Park, and other locations) may also be considered for a splash pad as this facility type is commonly viewed as a complementary facility along the waterfront as not everyone is comfortable with swimming in open water, particularly small children. Beachfront parks also tend to already have other facilities such as playgrounds and washrooms. This approach, together with two new splash pads in Hewitt's and Salem would result in a total of six splash pads, one more than what is required based on the recommended service target, although this justified on the basis on strengthening distribution and addressing service gaps.

In addition to developing new splash pads, the redevelopment of Barrie's existing splash pad at Heritage Park should be considered as discussions with City staff indicated that many of its components are approaching the end of their useful life. Rather than replacing components to extend the life of the splash pad, the development of a new splash pad is recommended given that the existing water play feature is a concrete art installation that has limited playability. Constructing a dedicated splash pad in a new location provides the City with creative flexibility to develop a destination-style water play space in Heritage Park, particularly as this park represents an important part of Barrie's waterfront system. It is recognized that the City is planning to initiate a park master plan for Heritage Park in the short-term. The location and design of a replacement splash pad should be considered as a part of this project.

Recommendations for Splash Pads

17. Construct two new splash pads, one to be located at the Hewitt's District Park and the second at the Salem District Park.
18. Construct two new splash pad in between Tiffin Street and Mapleview Drive corridors, each located on either side of the Highway 400 corridor, at locations to be determined pending site and feasibility assessments conducted by City staff. Potential neighbourhoods that should be evaluated include Holly, Ardagh, Painswick North, South Shore, and Allandale Heights.
19. As a part of the park master plan for Heritage Park, incorporate the development of a destination-style splash pad as a replacement to the existing water play feature, which has reached the end of its lifespan.

4.8 Playgrounds and Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Supply

There are 105 playground locations located at parks across the City. There are 14 playgrounds located at community parks, which feature junior and senior play structures, some of which have inclusive play equipment and accessible features such as firm and stable surfaces. Using a high level design, each playground locations features a different theme with a broad range of designs, colours, climbing structures, colours, swings, and more. Additionally, there are six outdoor fitness equipment stations located along the waterfront. The distribution of Barrie’s playgrounds is contained in Figure 22.

For the purposes of providing comparable service levels to inform the Study, playgrounds were benchmarked against six comparable municipalities. As illustrated in Table 18, Barrie provides a service level of one per 1,500 residents or one per 169 children, which is slightly above the benchmark average. It is important to note that in each community (including Barrie), residents also have access to non-municipal playgrounds such as those located at schools, which provides an enhanced level of access although non-municipal playgrounds may provide a different playing experience.



Lennox Park

Table 18: Service Level Comparison, Playgrounds

Playground Locations	2018 Children Population Estimate	Supply (Locations)	Service Level
St. Catharines	13,100	90	1 : 146
Whitby	18,200	110	1 : 165
Barrie	17,700	105	1 : 169
Oshawa	19,300	110	1 : 175
Windsor	23,400	124	1 : 189
Oakville	24,300	128	1 : 190
Vaughan	40,200	164	1 : 245
Average	22,200	119	1 : 182

Population estimate in each municipality is based on applying the capture rate of children residents age 0-9 from the 2016 Census to the 2018 population estimate.

Note: Excludes non-municipal playground locations

Design Considerations

The design of playgrounds has evolved from traditional playground equipment consisting of swings, slides, and other elements that generally do not provide engaging play experiences. There are generally two types of play structures that are geared toward different age groups. Junior playgrounds are smaller play structures that are appropriate for toddlers under the age of 5, while senior structures are larger and are designed to appeal to children between the ages of 5 and 9.

Modern playgrounds are uniquely designed to facilitate creative play that allows the user to use their imagination to create more enjoyable playing environments. This may include a broad range of design elements such as the use of vibrant colours, interactive play components, thematic designs, and components that stimulate the senses. These features are governed by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), which establishes the standards for children's play spaces and equipment. In addition to meeting CSA guidelines, new or redeveloped municipal playgrounds must also incorporate accessible features, which may include sensory and active play components, a firm and stable surface, sufficient clearance in and around play spaces, and consulting with local Accessibility Advisory Committees. The City of Barrie also requires playground purchases to be certified by the International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA), which ensures product quality.

An alternative to the traditional and creative playground model, natural and adventure playgrounds are becoming more popular around the world. These playgrounds encourage the use of landscape features to provide more creative options and daring opportunities. The use of natural materials is also encouraged such as wood, logs, ropes, stones, boulders, and more. These playgrounds are designed to appear more precarious and facilitate the concept of "risky play", which encourages children to take more risks through climbing, exploring, moving vigorously, and creating their own activities using their imagination.

Much like the playgrounds for children, outdoor fitness equipment vary in design, colour, and configuration, as individual stations can be arranged together at a single site or along a pathway to create a unique workout experience.

Market Trends

Playgrounds are neighbourhood-level amenities that benefit early childhood development, foster cognitive development and social skills, and encourage physical activity. Playgrounds are typically provided within walking distance of major residential areas (five to ten minute walk), without having to cross major barriers such as arterial roads, highways, railways, significant topography, and waterbodies.

Creative playgrounds continue to be the most popular template for play structures. However, as previously mentioned, the popular of natural and adventure playgrounds are gaining traction across the world as international research found that playgrounds in the United Kingdom that had unique design elements and a diversity of play surfaces had 53% more visitors and up 16%-18% higher physical activity

levels in children and youth compared to traditional playgrounds in the United States. Additionally, natural and adventure playgrounds tend to cost less to build.¹¹

This type of play may be viewed as being beneficial for children, particularly given that the most recent ParticipACTION report card identified that the over-protection of children (due to the perceived need to ensure that they are healthy and safe) is negatively impacting children's ability to be physically active and develop valuable skills.

Leading municipalities have been providing outdoor fitness equipment within parks to respond to increasing demands for physical fitness opportunities. While the concept of outdoor fitness equipment is still in its infancy in Canada, they have existed in Europe and part of the United States for some time. More Canadian municipalities have been introducing outdoor exercise stations featuring low-impact, joint-friendly equipment that uses resistance created by a person's own body weight. Not only do outdoor fitness stations encourage physical activity, they offer other benefits such as improving motor skills and coordination, reducing isolation and depression, and help animate parks and other public spaces.

Playground Needs Assessment

Playground needs are evaluated based on geography as these facilities are primarily utilized by families with small children, which is consistent with Barrie's previous studies. Playgrounds are best suited in parks that are located within walking distance of residential areas to maximize access, particularly as children and some young families may not have access to a vehicle. Best practices suggest that playgrounds should be located within 400 to 800 metres of all residential areas, which generally equates to a five to ten minute walk, with consideration given to pedestrian barriers.

Applying a maximum service area of 800 metres to existing playground locations revealed that the City provides a strong geographic distribution across the City. Gap areas exist in the centre of Barrie as well as in the west side of the City. The City recognizes that gaps exist within these areas and have already made efforts to address these underserved areas as six playgrounds are proposed to be located in future parks as a part of residential development applications.

The City's playground strategy moving forward with respect to established areas is to continue implementing its playground replacement program to renew aging playground equipment, as necessary. The City should continue to provide playgrounds that offer a combination of junior and senior play structures to ensure that playgrounds appeal to toddlers under the age of 5 and children between the ages of 5 and 9.

Where possible, consideration should be given to incorporating inclusive playground features for new and replacement playgrounds to meet AODA requirements. This may include, but not be limited to, barrier-free play components and firm and stable surfaces, although there may be some playground locations that may not be able to incorporate inclusive features due to space constraints (such as at some Neighbourhood Parks). The City is commended for providing 14 accessible playgrounds (at the time of

¹¹ Studiolumo. 2017. London Study of Playgrounds. Retrieved from <https://static1.squarespace.com>

preparing this Study), with future plans to install accessible playgrounds at St. Vincent Park, Tynedale Park, and Sandringham Park. Consideration may also be given to the provision of adventure/nature playgrounds to enhance playing experiences, although this should only be considered in select areas to gauge interest and evaluate demand.

Additionally, intensification is expected to occur within Barrie's urban growth centre. While the composition of future residents that will be residing in this area is unknown, the City should be positioned to respond to increasing pressure on its outdoor recreation facilities. From a playground perspective, this may involve enhancing/enlarging playground structures at a time of replacement, particularly for playgrounds at parks located within or near the urban growth centre such as at Lions Park and Sam Cancilla Park, or other locations determined by City staff.

The Hewitt's and Salem Secondary Plans are expected to accommodate the majority of population growth over the planning period. Efforts to develop new playgrounds should be concentrated in this area as residential development occurs. Secondary Plan schedules indicated that there will be eight parks in Salem and 19 parks in Hewitt's. Based on a maximum service area of 800 metres, constructing a new playground at each of these future park locations would ensure that all future residential areas will have access to a playground. This approach would yield a total of 27 new playgrounds (two District Park playgrounds and 25 Neighbourhood Park or Village Square playgrounds).

As previously discussed, combination junior and senior play structures are recommended at each playground, although consideration should be given to the immediate toddler and children population as one type of play structure (junior or senior) may only be required to serve local needs. This may be particularly necessary in smaller parks such as Village Squares where only one type of play structure can be accommodated on site. Regardless of the park size and location, future playgrounds should have unique designs that are now commonplace in Barrie's playground design.

Outdoor Fitness Equipment Needs Assessment

Although the use of outdoor fitness equipment is not tracked due to the non-programmed nature of the facility, there is merit in constructing new fitness stations in parks and public spaces to encourage no-cost outdoor physical fitness activities. There is no generally accepted provision target for outdoor fitness equipment. As a best practice, outdoor fitness equipment are best provided in areas of high visibility such as along major pathways and within major parks.

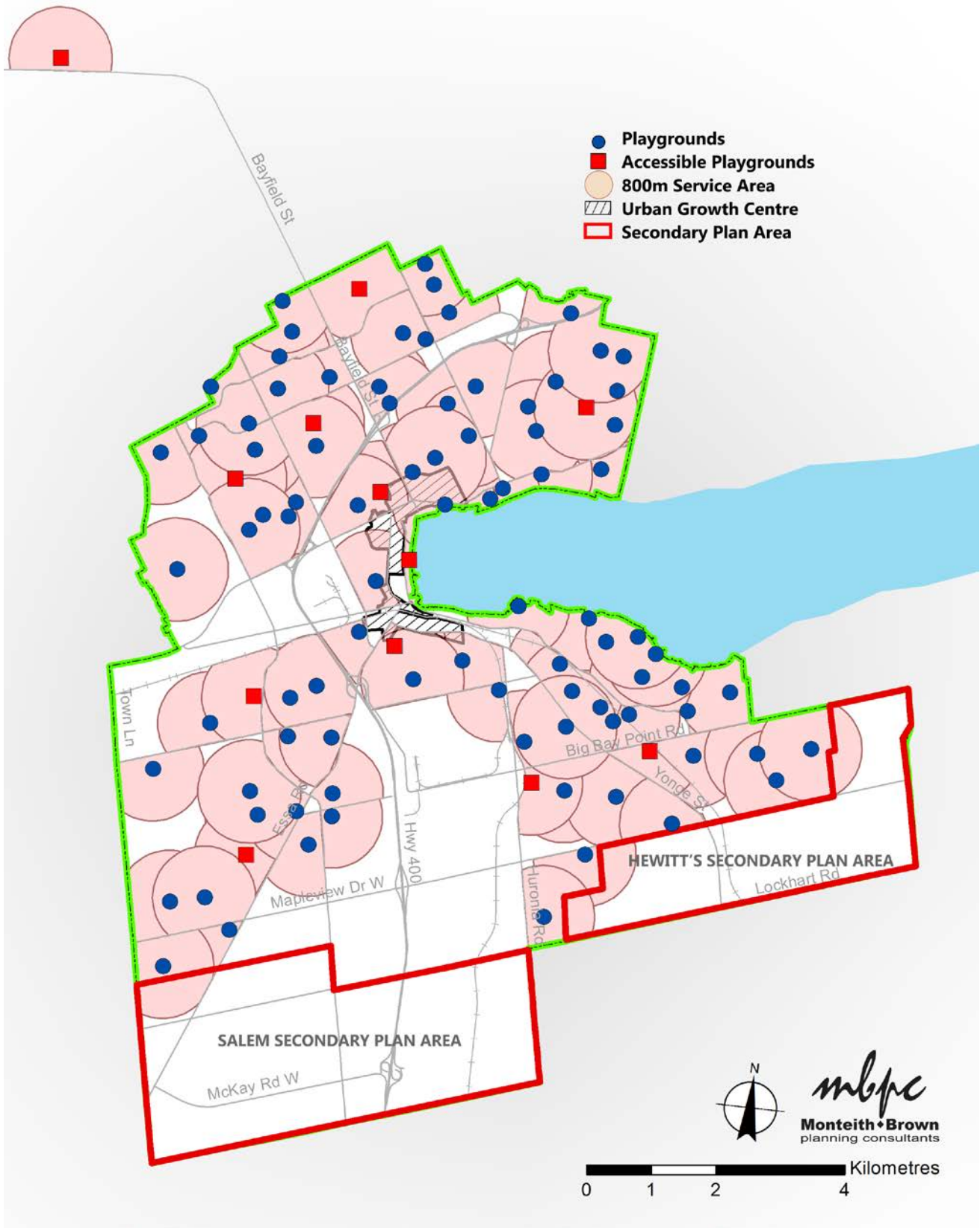
Barrie's outdoor fitness stations are located along the waterfront, which is ideal given that this high traffic area attracts numerous residents and visitors each year. Continuing with this theme, consideration should be given to installing adult playground components in areas of the City where there is a high concentration of older adults given that this segment of the population are common users of outdoor fitness equipment. Priority areas should be Community, Regional, and District Parks, and major trail routes, such as at Sunnidale Park, Lampman Lane Park, North Shore Trail (e.g., Kempenfelt Park), or other options identified by the City. There is also merit in providing outdoor fitness equipment in the Secondary Plans in order to create no-cost, outdoor fitness opportunities. It is recommended that outdoor fitness

equipment be installed at the Hewitt's and Salem District Parks - together or along an internal pathway – to maximize visibility and community access, while complementing other indoor and outdoor facility components located on-site. Recognizing that the development of the City's existing outdoor fitness equipment were donor driven, a similar approach is recommended for future outdoor fitness equipment.

Recommendations for Playgrounds and Outdoor Fitness Equipment

20. Continue to implement the City's playground replacement program to renew aging playground equipment, as necessary. Where possible, consideration should be given to incorporating inclusive playground features, as well as natural/adventure elements, for new and replacement playgrounds. Opportunities to enlarge/enhance the size of playground structures should also be considered at a time of replacement, particularly in areas within or near the Urban Growth Centre such as at Lions Park, Sam Cancilla Park, and other locations to be determined by City staff.
21. Construct a playground at each park within Hewitt's and Salem to ensure that residents have access to a playground. Combination junior and senior play structures are recommended at each park, although the population of toddlers (under the age of five) and children (age 5-9) should be considered as only one type of play structure (junior or senior) may be accommodated at smaller parks (e.g., Village Squares). New playgrounds should incorporate inclusive play features with a unique design.
22. On a case-by-case basis, City staff should install outdoor fitness equipment in areas with high concentrations of older adults or high priority areas, including along major trail routes or at Community, Regional or District Parks. Potential locations include, but are not limited to, Sunnidale Park, Lampman Lane Park, Kempenfelt Park, the future District Parks in Hewitt's and Salem, or other options identified by the City.

Figure 22: Distribution of Existing Playgrounds



4.9 Outdoor Skating Rinks

Supply

There are seven outdoor skating rinks that are maintained by City staff; two are artificial ice rinks and five are natural skating rinks. These skating surfaces are predominantly located in the north end, north of Little Avenue. Additionally, there are 36 volunteer-maintained rinks, although some of these rinks may not be operational due to weather conditions (among other factors), thus actual supply tends to vary year to year.

For the 2018/19 skating season, the skating rink at Queens Park was not active, while the rinks at Greenfield Park and Redpath Park are undergoing reconstruction (all of which are volunteer-maintained). The City's outdoor rinks are primarily used for recreational skating, although a shinny hockey program is available at Centennial Park during designated times. The other large lit locations are at Holly Community Park and Lampman Lane Park. The distribution of Barrie's outdoor skating rinks is contained in Figure 23.

City Maintained Outdoor Skating Rinks	1. Centennial Park (Artificial)		
	2. Circle at the Centre (Artificial)		
	3. Eastview Park		
	4. Heritage Park Pond		
	5. Lampman Lane Park		
	6. Redpath Park		
	7. Shear Park		
Volunteer Maintained Outdoor Skating Rinks	1. Batteaux Park	13. Elizabeth Park	25. Lougheed Park
	2. Bayshore Park	14. Ferndale Park	26. Loyalist Park
	3. Bear Creek Park	15. Gibbon Park	27. Pringle Park
	4. Cartwright	16. Golden Meadow Park	28. Queen's Park
	5. Catherine Park	17. Greenfield Park	29. Radenhurst Park
	6. Cheltenham Park	18. Hammer Park	30. Sanderingham Park
	7. Cloughley Park	19. Harvie Park	31. Shalom Park
	8. College Heights	20. HG Robertson Park	32. Sheppard Park
	9. Coronation Park	21. Holly Park	33. Strabane Park
	10. D'Ambrosio Park	22. Hyde Park	34. Summerset Park
	11. Dunsmore Park	23. Kuzmich Park	35. Tollendal Woods
	12. East Bayfield	24. Lennox Park	36. Victoria Woods Park

For the purposes of providing comparable service levels to inform the Study, outdoor skating rinks were benchmarked against six comparable municipalities. As illustrated in Table 19, Barrie's outdoor skating rinks achieves a service level of one per 3,981 residents, which is the highest service level compared to benchmarked municipalities. A higher level of service may be due to the fact that the City has a strong volunteer base as well as colder winters compared to the benchmark municipalities.

Figure 23: Distribution of Existing Outdoor Skating Rinks

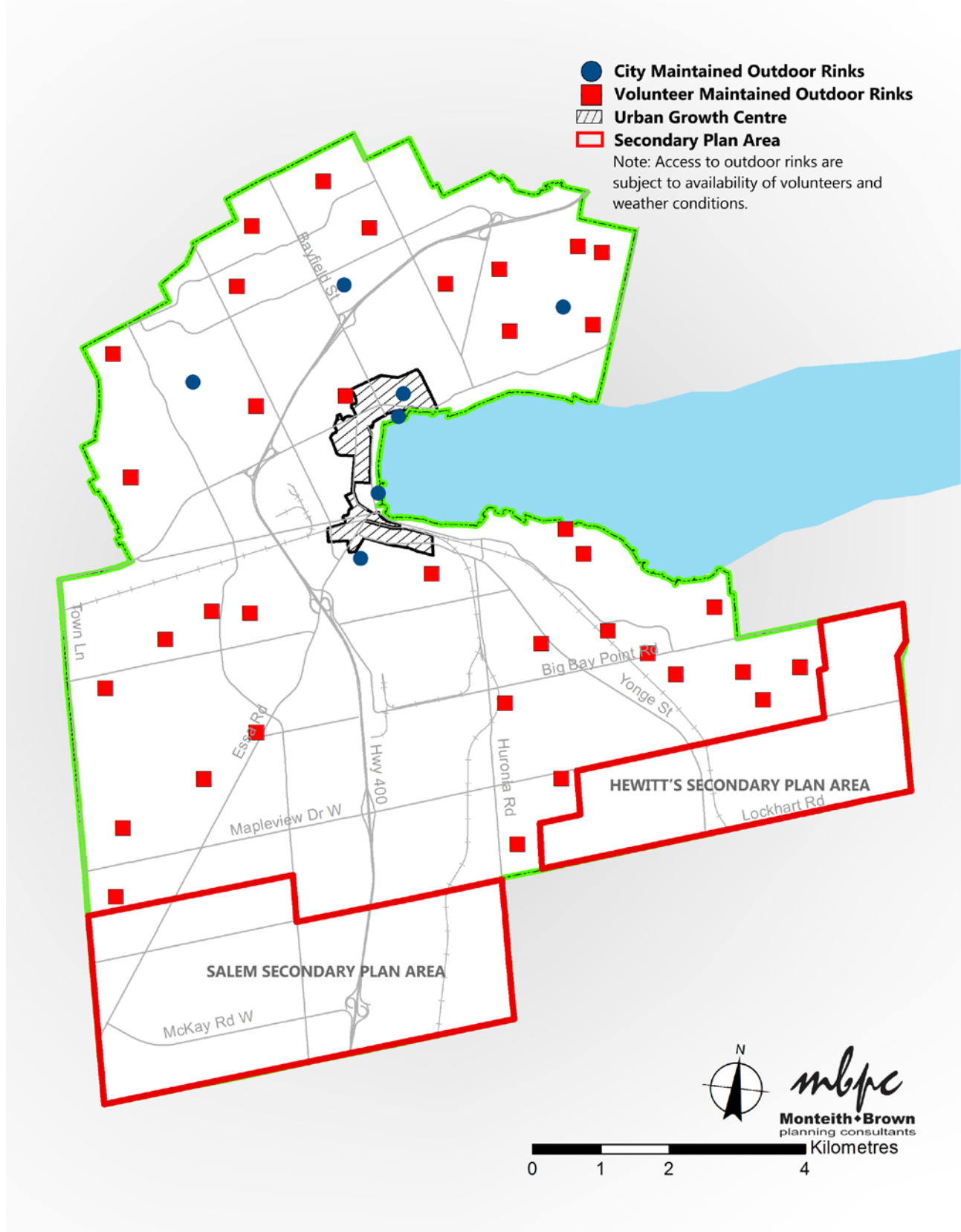


Table 19: Service Level Comparison, Outdoor Skating Rinks

Outdoor Skating Rinks	2018 Population Estimate	Supply	Service Level
Barrie	147,300	37	1 : 3,981
Oakville	210,000	16	1 : 13,125
Vaughan	334,700	5	1 : 66,940
Windsor	219,000	2	1 : 109,500
Oshawa	171,200	0	n/a
St. Catharines	140,000	0	n/a
Whitby	139,800	0	n/a
Average	194,600	14	1 : 48,387

2018 population estimates are based on a straight-line extrapolation using the most recent population data available in each municipality (e.g., Development Charges Background Studies, Planning Department, Master Plans, policy documents, etc.).

Design Considerations

There is no standard design template for outdoor skating rinks. Municipalities will typically set up designated skating areas using rink boards or other physical barriers (e.g. curbs) to flood a surface. Barrie and other municipalities use hard surface courts as sub-surfaces for outdoor skating rinks, leveraging their flat and stable surface, although the freezing and thawing water can increase deterioration and reduce a court’s lifespan. At some parks, such as at Lampman Lane Park, basketball courts are constructed slightly below grade to define the boundaries of a skating surface.

Market Trends

Recreational skating outdoors is a Canadian tradition although the ability to maintain outdoor rinks has become increasingly difficult due to warming climates. Natural ice rinks are the most affordable method to build and maintain given that expenses are largely relegated to water and staff time. However, maintenance can be cumbersome when temperatures are near or above the freezing mark during the winter.

Alternatively, municipalities can construct refrigerated outdoor rinks although this approach is much more expensive given the capital and operating costs of having mechanical infrastructure in place. For example, the City of Montreal committed \$7.5 Million in its 2019 Capital Budget towards constructing refrigerated outdoor skating rinks (constructing a refrigerated skating rink costs between \$1 and \$1.5 Million to construct).¹² In addition to cost challenges, there are other limiting factors specific to outdoor ice rinks including safety and liability concerns, proximity to residences, less daylight in the winter, having hydro and water services in place, etc. However, outdoor skating opportunities can enhance social connections among individuals during the winter months when people tend to spend more time indoors, thereby allowing the community to come together and provide passive recreation activities in a convenient, drop-in manner.

¹² City of Montreal. 2019-2021 Three-year capital works program. Retrieved from <http://ville.montreal.qc.ca>

Needs Assessment

There is generally no accepted provision target for outdoor ice rinks as municipalities provide these facilities on a case-by-case basis as opportunities become available. The City currently provides a strong distribution of outdoor skating rinks across the City, the majority of which are community-based rinks that are maintained by volunteers to provide residents with free neighbourhood-level, drop-in skating.

Natural municipal outdoor ice rinks have been becoming increasingly more challenging to provide each year. The primary driver of this trend is that municipalities across Ontario are experiencing increasingly warmer winters, which is not suitable for outdoor skating. Consistently cold temperatures are required to provide a safe and level skating surface. As a result of milder winters, municipalities are forced to shorten skating seasons and in some cases, outdoor rinks are closed completely. Artificial skating rinks are less susceptible to this trend, although there may be a higher cost associated with maintaining ice during warmer winters. Commitment from volunteers in operating community-based outdoor rinks have also been diminishing over time due to the maintenance efforts required. As a result, some community-based outdoor rinks (including those in Barrie) may not be in operation due to the lack of volunteer support.

Despite these challenges, experience in other communities suggests that outdoor ice rinks continue to be highly desirable facilities that provide outdoor winter activities where residents can enjoy one of Canada's oldest recreation activity. Outdoor ice rinks can also be positioned as distinct destination-type amenities, particularly in high traffic areas. As a result, there is still merit for the City to consider outdoor skating rinks.

As noted in the 2010 Strategic Master Plan, Barrie's built boundary enjoys a strong distribution of outdoor ice rinks. The majority of City-maintained outdoor rinks are located in the north end of Barrie, with the most southern rink located at Shear Park, while community-based rinks are dispersed throughout the City. Four outdoor ice rinks are located within the Urban Growth Centre – three City-maintained rinks and one community-based rink. It is anticipated that these locations will face increasing pressures through residential intensification and a greater level of maintenance could be required to respond to higher levels of use.

The current supply of outdoor ice rinks is deemed to be sufficient to serve the established areas of Barrie. At the neighbourhood-level, it is recommended that the City continue to work with volunteers to provide community-based skating opportunities, which may include assisting groups to attract new volunteers to assist with ice maintenance. Community-based outdoor ice skating rinks without sufficient volunteer support should be removed from the inventory.

With over 50,000 residents projected to live in Hewitt's and Salem by the year 2041, there is merit in the City extending its established level of service into the south. This will provide residents living in the south end of Barrie with a similar degree of access to no-cost, drop-in skating opportunities as is presently found in the north. Given that indoor arenas are proposed to be located at each District Park in the Hewitt's and Salem Secondary Plans, it is recommended that outdoor skating rinks be directed towards Neighbourhood Parks to strengthen the distribution of skating opportunities. City staff should identify

potential Neighbourhood Parks that have with proposed tennis courts and basketball courts, which can be used for outdoor skating pads during the winter. These outdoor skating rinks should be maintained and operated by City staff, although solicitation of volunteers that are interested in initiating a community-run ice rink program may also be encouraged. Due to the impact of climate change, the use of artificial ice rinks in strategic locations should be considered.

Recommendations for Outdoor Skating Rinks

23. Identify outdoor skating rink opportunities at Neighbourhood Parks in Hewitt’s and Salem that have proposed tennis and basketball courts that have asphalt surfaces. These outdoor skating rinks should be maintained and operated by City staff, although solicitation of volunteers that are interested in initiating a community-run ice rink program may also be encouraged. Due to the impact of climate change, the use of artificial ice rinks in strategic locations should be considered.

4.10 Skateboard Parks

Supply

Barrie has two skateboard parks located at Queen’s Park and Lampman Lane Park (Figure 24).

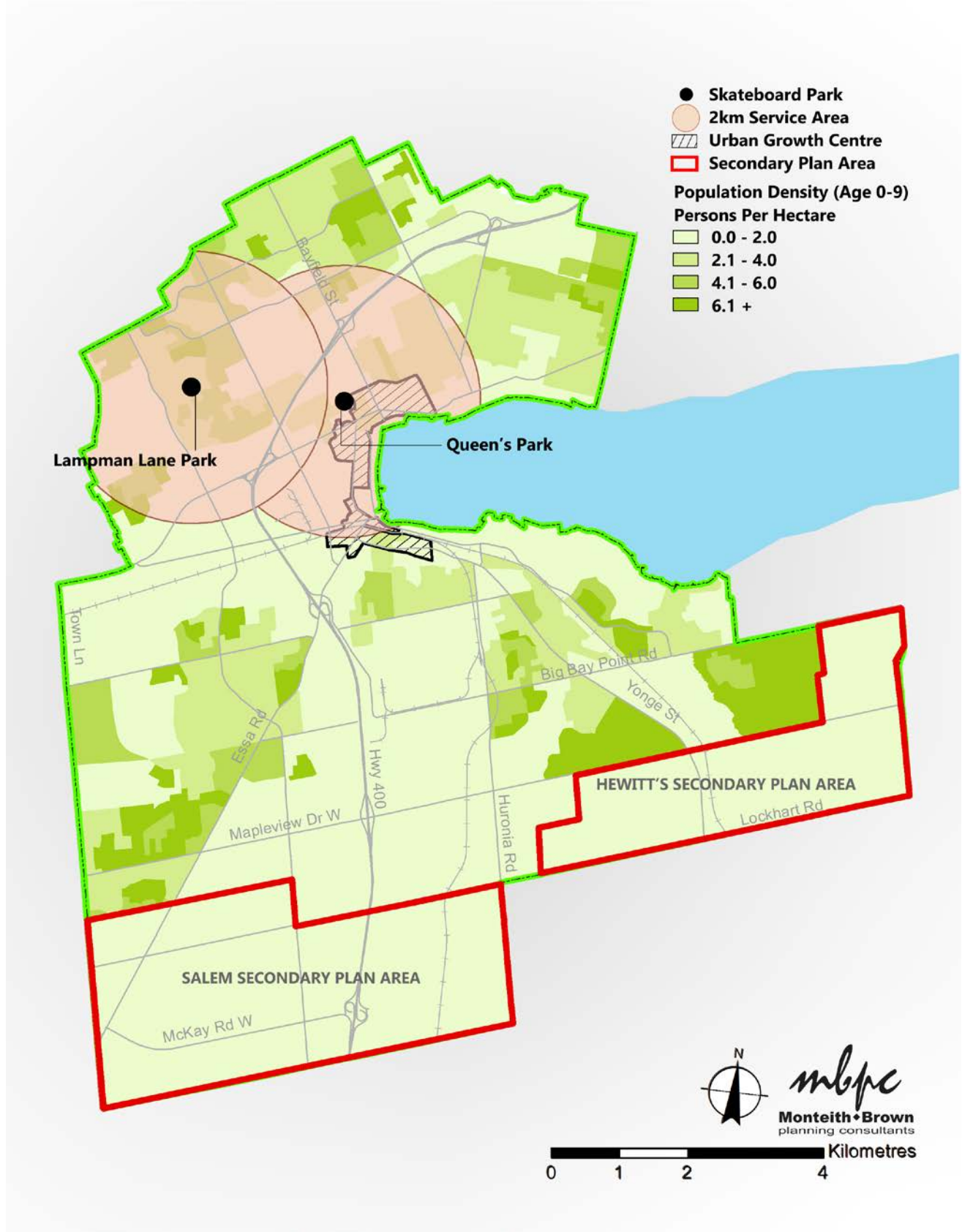
For the purposes of providing comparable service levels to inform the Study, skateboard parks were benchmarked against six comparable municipalities. As illustrated in Table 20, the City’s supply of skateboard parks results in a service level of one per 9,700 youth (ages 10 to 19), which is higher than the benchmarked average.

Table 20: Service Level Comparison, Skateboard Parks

Skateboard Parks	2018 Youth Population Estimate	Supply	Service Level
Oshawa	18,700	3	1 : 6,233
Whitby	20,100	3	1 : 6,700
St. Catharines	14,600	2	1 : 7,300
Barrie	19,400	2	1 : 9,700
Oakville	30,700	3	1 : 10,233
Windsor	26,300	2	1 : 13,150
Vaughan	46,500	1	1 : 46,500
Average	25,200	2	1 : 14,260

Population estimate in each municipality is based on applying the capture rate of youth residents age 10-19 from the 2016 Census to the 2018 population estimate.

Figure 24: Distribution of Existing Skateboard Parks



Design Considerations

One of the key design principles of skateboard park developments is to create unique, fun and engaging skating experiences that draw users in. Skateboard parks can be designed to be a large plaza with a variety of skating components such as rails, stairs, bowls, jumps, and more. Large skateboard parks are generally designed to serve a broad community. Smaller skateboard parks (or “skate zones”) may have fewer, introductory-level components that draw from a smaller catchment area. Skateboard parks can be permanent venues that are constructed from concrete or modular systems that can provide opportunities to reorient components or be moved to other locations. To enhance the level of uniqueness of skateboard parks, some municipalities engage professional artists or leverage the creative minds of skateboarders to create murals at skateboard parks. The concrete pad at Queen’s Park includes a variety of custom skateboard components including ramps, rails, ledges, and stairs, whereas the skateboard park at Lampman Lane consists of prefabricated skateboard park features, which has the ability to be dismantled and relocated to an alternate location, if desired.

Market Trends

Historically, skateboarding and other action sports such as roller blading, scooters, and BMX bikes were commonly associated with negative behaviour. This perception has evolved over time as this activity become mainstream among youth and young adults. Prior to the existence of skate parks, skateboarders and other action sport enthusiasts would use a variety of municipal and private properties due to the lack of a better venue, resulting in excessive wear and damages.

Over the past 20 years, municipalities have been constructing dedicated skate parks to respond to the growing popularity of skateboarding and other action sports, as well as for parents of skateboarders who wanted their children skating in safer locations. Additionally, municipal investment in youth through constructing skate parks responded to national trends of declining participation in other organized sports such as hockey and the desire for alternative unstructured activities.



Queens Park

Needs Assessment

The 2010 Strategic Master Plan and the subsequent Growth Strategies applied a target of one skateboard park per 5,000 youth between the ages of 10 and 19; this target is carried forward for the ORFS as it remains a consistent benchmark in many parts of the province. Based on the capture rate of youth in the 2016 Census, it is estimated that there are currently 19,400 youth in Barrie, suggesting that there is a need

for three skateboard parks at present. By 2031, this need will increase to four skateboard parks and five skateboard parks by 2041, three more than what is currently provided.

Geographic distribution needs to be factored into the equation as well, particularly in the Hewitt's and Salem Secondary Plans where there is a high likelihood of households with children and youth; as a result, there is a need to ensure that there are sufficient skateboard parks to respond to the needs of youth residing there. The recommended strategy moving forward is to construct a major skateboard park at the future District Parks in Salem and Hewitt's (similar in scale to the existing skateboard park at Queens Park). This approach would ensure that these skateboard parks are centrally located and complement a variety of other recreation facilities that are located on site.

Additionally, City staff should explore opportunities to construct two new skateboard parks in the established area of Barrie. While the City's north end is well-served with two skateboard parks, a gap area exists south of Tiffin Street, north of Mapleview Drive. A skateboard park should be constructed on the west and east side of Highway 400 to serve this gap area. Candidate parks should be located in areas with high concentrations of youth such as at Holly Community Park, Painswick Park, Lennox Park, or another site identified by City staff. This approach, together with the two recommended major skateboard parks in the secondary plan areas, would result in one more skateboard park than what is required, although this is reasonable in an effort to bolster geographic distribution, particularly as youth are limited in the distance that they can travel.

Future skateboard parks should be designed to be permanent concrete facilities as they tend to provide users with a higher quality experience that will continually draw users in compared to temporary skate parks. Permanent skateboard parks also provides the City with flexibility in design, with consideration given to features including, but not limited to, bowls, ramps, railings, stairs, elevation changes, and other components. To engage local users, consultation with the skateboarding (and wheels action sports) community is recommended.

Beyond the immediate catchment of the major skateboard parks, youth may also benefit from having skateboard opportunities. A small-scale "skate spot" or "skate zone" may be considered that are characterized by one or two basic features, such as a rail or curb, which tend to be integrated fairly easily within a designated space in a Neighbourhood Park. It is recommended that the City explore the potential to establish 'skate zones' to provide geographically accessible recreation opportunities for local youth. Small-scale skate zones may be constructed as temporary facilities, which may allow the City to remove and relocate skating opportunities to other parks from time to time, further enhancing distribution and allowing the City to test skateboarding demand across Barrie.

Recommendations for Skateboard Parks

24. Construct one major skateboard park at the Hewitt's District Park and a second skateboard park at the Salem District Park. The skateboard park should be similar in scale to the one at Queens Park.

25. Two major skateboard parks should be constructed at an existing park in the west and east side of Barrie, north of Mapleview Drive and South of Tiffin Street. Potential sites should be determined by City staff based on a site and feasibility assessment. Candidate sites may include, but not be limited to, Holly Community Park, Painswick Park, Lennox Park, or another site identified by City staff.
26. Future skateboard parks should be designed to be permanent concrete facilities with a variety of features including, but not limited to, bowls and ramps, railings, stairs, elevation changes, and other components. To engage local users, consultation with the skateboarding (and wheeled action sports) community is recommended.
27. Explore the potential to construct small-scale permanent or temporary “skate spots” or “skate zones” within a designated space in Neighbourhood Park to provide an enhanced level of with geographically accessible recreation opportunities for youth. Skate spots/zones may be constructed as temporary facilities, which may allow the City to remove and relocate skating opportunities to other parks from time to time, further enhancing distribution and allowing the City to test skateboarding demand across Barrie.

4.11 Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts

Supply

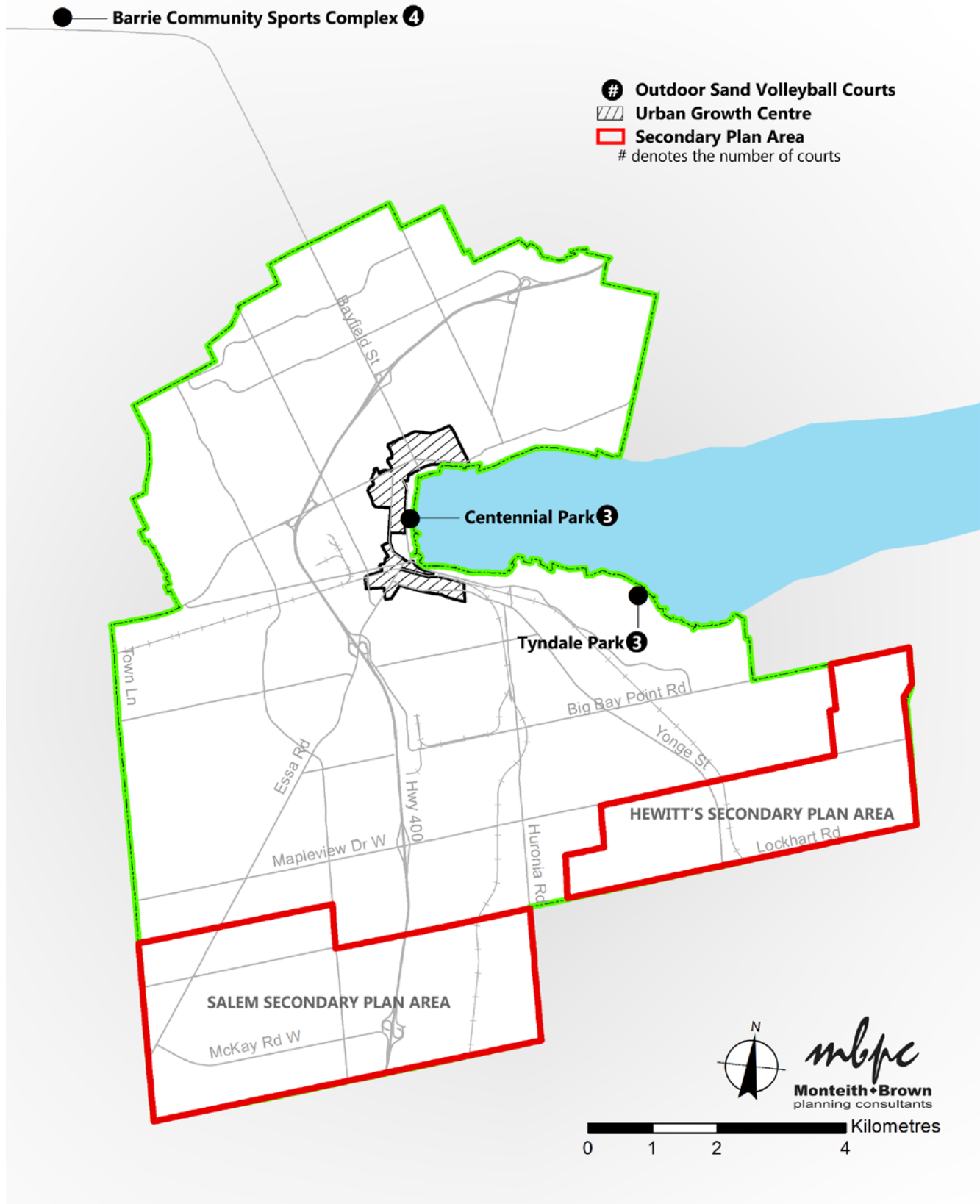
The City provides ten outdoor sand volleyball courts – four are located at the Barrie Community Sports Complex, three at Tyndale Park and three at Centennial Park. The City’s supply of sand volleyball courts results in a service level of one per 14,730 residents, which is higher than the benchmarked average (Table 21).

Table 21: Service Level Comparison, Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts

Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts	2018 Population Estimate	Supply	Service Level
Barrie	147,300	10	1 : 14,730
Oshawa	171,200	4	1 : 42,800
Oakville	210,000	0	n/a
Vaughan	334,700	0	n/a
Windsor	219,000	0	n/a
St. Catharines	140,000	0	n/a
Whitby	139,800	0	n/a
Average	194,600	7	1 : 28,765

2018 population estimates are based on a straight-line extrapolation using the most recent population data available in each municipality (e.g., Development Charges Background Studies, Planning Department, Master Plans, policy documents, etc.). Excludes non-municipal outdoor sand volleyball courts.

Figure 25: Distribution of Existing Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts



Design Considerations

Sand (or “Beach”) volleyball courts are rudimentary in design, which consists of a sand base, netting, and netting posts. Regulation beach volleyball courts measure 16 metres by 8 metres (26 feet by 53 feet). Side-by-side courts should have a minimum separation distance of 5 metres (16 feet).

Market Trends

Beach volleyball has become a popular warm weather activity in many municipalities, particularly in waterfront communities such as Barrie. The sport is primarily played on sand courts primarily by young and young adults in a flexible, non-structured environment. The low cost to participate in the sport also adds to the appeal. Sand volleyball courts are commonly provided for casual pickup games. In the case for Barrie, some of the City’s sand courts are used for municipally-run programs and organized league play. The City has an active volleyball community with three organizations. The Georgian Cubs Volleyball Club reported approximately 150 members. Other users include the Barrie Elites Volleyball Club and Barrie Spikes Volleyball (these organizations did not participate in the consultation process).

Stakeholder Input

The Georgian Cubs Volleyball Club is the only volleyball organization that participated in a focus group and submitted a stakeholder survey. As previously mentioned, the organization uses the volleyball courts located at Tyndale and Centennial Park. The organization reported challenges with competing with City programs and suggested improvements such higher quality playing surfaces, lighting to support extended playing periods, and storage. The desire for a fourth playing court at Tyndale Park (the City reported that land constraints restrict any court expansion at this location).

Utilization Profile

Booking data provided by City staff found that there were 1,216 hours booked in 2018, which is a decline from the 1,988 hours booked in 2016. This downtrend is due to two factors. The first one being that one volleyball organization ceased booking courts after 2016. Secondly, City staff indicated that the number of hours booked in 2018 does not represent the actual number of hours used. In actuality, the number of hours used in 2018 is more in line with the number of hours reported in 2017. Based on this information, it is suggested that volleyball usage has been stable over the past three years.

Needs Assessment

Sand volleyball courts tend to be provided based on local needs rather than defined service level targets. While sand volleyball courts typically facilitate unstructured activities, it is recognized that the City’s courts are used for municipal programs and there is a strong organized presence. Both of these factors have placed pressures on the City’s permitted volleyball courts.

While volleyball court usage is stable, consultation with the Georgian Cubs Volleyball Club revealed that they are competing with City programs to secure additional court time, which restricts the number of

hours that they can book (the ability to find qualified instructors was also identified as a factor). The Club identified a desire for a fourth volleyball court at Tyndale Park as four courts are required to run tournaments. However, City staff indicated that any expansion is prohibited due to land constraints. Constructing additional volleyball courts at Centennial Park is also not recommended due to the fact that it is already a busy location that draws numerous beach goers during the warmer season.

Due to space constraints at other existing parks within Barrie, it is recommended that the City explore opportunities to provide additional volleyball courts, potentially at an existing park or at the future outdoor sports facility. A minimum of four courts should be provided as this is the minimum number of courts required to facilitate tournaments. While potential sites are being considered, the City should continue to encourage use of existing court locations, particularly at the Barrie Community Sports Complex as it is underused compared to other locations. Consultation with the local volleyball organizations is recommended to ensure that the future development of volleyball courts is appropriate.

Recommendations for Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts

28. In consultation with volleyball organizations, explore opportunities to construct additional volleyball courts at an existing park or at the future outdoor sports park facility. A minimum of four volleyball courts should be developed at a site in order to facilitate tournaments.

5.0 Outdoor Recreation Facility Development Strategy

This section contains the outdoor recreation facility development strategy recommended in the ORFS. The strategy contains the number of outdoor recreation facilities required to meet the current and future population needs towards 2041. Through this process, it was determined that many of the required outdoor recreation facilities are focused within the Hewitt's and Salem communities where the majority of population growth is expected to occur.

A primary challenge in preparing the ORFS was that many planned parks within Hewitt's and Salem are limited in size and number, many of which are Neighbourhood Parks and Village Squares that are unable to support sports fields. As a result, the ORFS recommends that the City initiate a site selection and land banking process to develop a future outdoor sports facility to provide the balance of sports fields required to meet growth-related needs. Outdoor recreation facilities that should be accommodated at the future outdoor sports facility include:

- **4.0 unlit equivalent major rectangular sports fields (e.g., 2 lit artificial turf fields or other combination);**
- **22.5 unlit equivalent major ball diamonds (e.g., 15 lit major ball diamonds or other combination);**
- **1.0 cricket pitch;**
- **Other potential recreation facilities including, but not limited to, playgrounds and tennis, pickleball, basketball, and volleyball courts that would otherwise not be able to be accommodated at planned parks within Hewitt's and Salem; and**
- **Supporting amenities including, but not limited to, parking, washrooms/changerooms, storage, spectator seating, unstructured greenspaces, and other spaces identified by City staff.**

Based on the outstanding number of outdoor recreation facilities, the City should seek to secure a site in excess of 21 hectares (52 acres). This area excludes setbacks from sports fields, space for other outdoor recreation facilities that would otherwise not be accommodated at planned parks in Hewitt's and Salem (e.g., tennis, basketball, volleyball courts and playgrounds), as well as support spaces such as parking, circulation areas, storage, and washrooms/changerooms. Development of these future lands should occur after the City completes a five-year review of the needs assessments contained in the Outdoor Recreation Facility Study to ensure that facilities are built to match future community needs.

In addition to the recommended outdoor recreation facilities in Hewitt's and Salem, strategies to resolve service gaps within the established areas of Barrie are also identified through constructing new recreation facilities within existing parks. As Barrie's population continues to grow, particularly in areas of intensification, there will be a greater need to maximize the use of Barrie's park system, while ensuring that appropriate greenspaces are available to facilitate unstructured activities. The timing of development

is contingent upon factors such as the timing of available capital funds, population growth, park redevelopment, potential partnership opportunities, and other variables that should be considered when implementing the ORSF.

The following is a summary of outdoor recreation facilities recommended in the ORFS.

Rectangular Sports Fields

1. A total of five unlit equivalent rectangular fields should be constructed to redistribute underperforming/low quality fields in existing areas to improve access within Hewitt's and Salem (and surrounding area), potentially implemented in the following manner. Should it be determined that they cannot be located at the recommended location, they should be located at the future outdoor sports facility or elsewhere determined by staff.
 - a. One lit major rectangular sports field at Hewitt's District Park (+1.5 unlit equivalents);
 - b. One lit major rectangular sports field at Salem District park (+1.5 unlit equivalents);
 - c. One lit artificial turf field at the Barrie Community Sports Complex, subject to confirmation of sufficient space after factoring the recommendation to add two lit major ball diamonds (Recommendation #5a) (+2.0 unlit equivalents);
 - d. Offset new field additions with reducing the level of maintenance of fields that are not currently being used by sports organizations.
2. Initiate a site selection and land banking process through which to develop a future outdoor sports facility required to provide the balance of four unlit equivalent rectangular fields to meet growth-related needs. Development of these future lands should occur after the City completes a five-year review of the needs assessments contained in the Outdoor Recreation Facility Study to ensure facilities are built to match future community needs.
3. Future rectangular fields should be designed to Ontario Soccer's Long Term Player Development standards using an 11v11 field template with consideration given to other supporting amenities such as on-site parking. Opportunities to enhance existing sports fields to 11v11 design specifications should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis at the time of park redevelopment.
4. At the City's discretion, the provision of 3v3, 5v5 or 7v7 field templates may be provided within Neighbourhood Parks on the basis of facilitating unstructured neighbourhood use and enhancing geographic distribution.

Ball Diamonds

5. A total of 9.0 unlit equivalent ball diamonds are recommended, potentially implemented in the following manner. Should it be determined that they cannot be located at the recommended location, they should be located at the future outdoor sports facility or elsewhere determined by staff.
 - a. Two lit major diamonds at Barrie Community Sports Complex subject to sufficient space after factoring the recommendation to add an artificial turf field (Recommendation #1c) (+3.0 unlit equivalents);
 - b. Two lit major diamonds at Painswick Park (+3.0 unlit equivalents);
 - c. Two lit major diamonds at the future Salem Satellite Operations Yard (+3.0 unlit equivalents)
6. Re-evaluate ball diamond needs (in tandem with a review of rectangular sports fields) in five years to confirm the need for the balance of 24 unlit equivalent ball diamonds. Future ball diamonds should be co-located with other sports fields at a location(s), potentially at a future outdoor sports facility, or other locations to be determined by City staff.

Cricket Pitches

7. Upon confirmation of demand, construct a full size cricket pitch (dedicated or multi-use field), potentially to be located at the future outdoor sports facility (see Recommendation #2), the Sandy Hollow Buffer, or alternative location deemed appropriate by City staff.

Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Courts

8. Construct six courts for tennis and/or pickleball in the Hewitt's Secondary Plan in the following manner:
 - a. Subject to available space, construct a dedicated lit two-pod tennis court at the District Park. Alternatively, construct a dedicated lit two-pod tennis court at the future outdoor sports facility or an unlit two-pod multi-use court at a Neighbourhood Park for tennis and pickleball; and
 - b. Construct an unlit two-pod multi-use court (for tennis and pickleball) at two Neighbourhood Parks.
9. Construct four courts for tennis and/or pickleball in the Salem Secondary Plan in the following manner:
 - a. Subject to available space, construct a dedicated lit two-pod tennis court at the District Park. Alternatively, construct a dedicated lit two-pod tennis court at the future outdoor

sports facility or an unlit two-pod multi-use court at a Neighbourhood Park for tennis and pickleball; and

- b. Construct a two-pod multi-use court (for tennis and pickleball) at a Neighbourhood Park.
10. Subject to confirmation of sufficient demand, construct up to seven tennis courts (some or all of which may be multi-use courts) within established areas of Barrie to resolve gap areas, particularly in the areas of central Barrie, north of Mapleview Drive and south of Ardagh Road on the west side of Highway 400 (e.g., Holly or Ardagh area), in the northeast area of Big Bay Point Road and Huronia Road (e.g., Painswick North, Bayshore, or South Shore), and the east area of Bayfield Street north of Blake Street (e.g., Wellington or Codrington).
 11. Consistent with existing practices, a higher quality design standard should be applied to tennis courts constructed at Community and District Parks, such as (but not necessarily limited to) court lighting, fencing and painted acrylic surfaces. Multi-use courts at Neighbourhood Parks should have asphalt surfaces.
 12. Construct a minimum of four dedicated pickleball courts at Assikinack Park by re-purposing the lacrosse box (unless through further consultation with the lacrosse user group it is determined that the lacrosse box should be maintained). Alternatively, dedicated pickleball courts may be constructed at another site selected by City staff. City staff should monitor the demand for pickleball and evaluate future opportunities to enhance the distribution of pickleball courts at locations such as Pringle Park, Shoreview Park, Holly Community Park, or other locations identified by City staff.

Outdoor Basketball Courts

13. Provide basketball courts in the Hewitt's Secondary Plan in the following manner:
 - a. Subject to available space, construct one full basketball court at the District Park. Alternatively, the full court may be located at a Neighbourhood Park or at the future outdoor sports facility.
 - b. Full or half courts at a Neighbourhood Parks or Village Squares may be considered where required to strengthen geographic distribution, subject to available space.
14. Provide basketball courts in the Salem Secondary Plan in the following manner:
 - a. Subject to available space, construct one full basketball court at the District Park. Alternatively, the full court may be located at a Neighbourhood Park or at the future outdoor sports facility.

- b. Full or half courts at a Neighbourhood Parks or Village Squares may be considered, subject to available space, in an effort to strengthen distribution.
15. Where opportunities exist, develop basketball courts in underserved areas of Barrie such as at Hickling Park, College Heights Park, or other locations determined by City staff. Opportunities to enlarge existing free-throw pads should also be considered when undertaking park improvements to allow for drop-in games.
16. Consistent with existing practices, basketball courts should be designed with asphalt surfaces in order to accommodate outdoor skating during the winter. Multi-use court lining should also be considered at Neighbourhood Parks/Village Squares to further enhance the range of activities that can be accommodated.

Splash Pads

17. Construct two new splash pads, one to be located at the Hewitt's District Park and the second at the Salem District Park.
18. Construct two new splash pad in between Tiffin Street and Mapleview Drive corridors, each located on either side of the Highway 400 corridor, at locations to be determined pending site and feasibility assessments conducted by City staff. Potential neighbourhoods that should be evaluated include Holly, Ardagh, Painswick North, South Shore, and Allandale Heights.
19. As a part of the park master plan for Heritage Park, incorporate the development of a destination-style splash pad as a replacement to the existing water play feature, which has reached the end of its lifespan.

Playgrounds and Outdoor Fitness Equipment

20. Continue to implement the City's playground replacement program to renew aging playground equipment, as necessary. Where possible, consideration should be given to incorporating inclusive playground features, as well as natural/adventure elements, for new and replacement playgrounds. Opportunities to enlarge/enhance the size of playground structures should also be considered at a time of replacement, particularly in areas within or near the Urban Growth Centre such as at Lions Park, Sam Cancilla Park, and other locations to be determined by City staff.
21. Construct a playground at each park within Hewitt's and Salem to ensure that residents have access to a playground. Combination junior and senior play structures are recommended at each park, although the population of toddlers (under the age of five) and children (age 5-9) should be considered as only one type of play structure (junior or senior) may be accommodated at smaller parks (e.g., Village Squares). New playgrounds should incorporate inclusive play features with a unique design.

22. On a case-by-case basis, City staff should install outdoor fitness equipment in areas with high concentrations of older adults or high priority areas, including along major trail routes or at Community, Regional or District Parks. Potential locations include, but are not limited to, Sunnidale Park, Lampman Lane Park, Kempenfelt Park, the future District Parks in Hewitt's and Salem, or other options identified by the City.

Outdoor Skating Rinks

23. Identify outdoor skating rink opportunities at Neighbourhood Parks in Hewitt's and Salem that have proposed tennis and basketball courts that have asphalt surfaces. These outdoor skating rinks should be maintained and operated by City staff, although solicitation of volunteers that are interested in initiating a community-run ice rink program may also be encouraged. Due to the impact of climate change, the use of artificial ice rinks in strategic locations should be considered.

Skateboard Parks

24. Construct one major skateboard park at the Hewitt's District Park and a second skateboard park at the Salem District Park. The skateboard park should be similar in scale to the one at Queens Park.
25. Two major skateboard parks should be constructed at an existing park in the west and east side of Barrie, north of Mapleview Drive and South of Tiffin Street. Potential sites should be determined by City staff based on a site and feasibility assessment. Candidate sites may include, but not be limited to, Holly Community Park, Painswick Park, Lennox Park, or another site identified by City staff.
26. Future skateboard parks should be designed to be permanent concrete facilities with a variety of features including, but not limited to, bowls and ramps, railings, stairs, elevation changes, and other components. To engage local users, consultation with the skateboarding (and wheeled action sports) community is recommended.
27. Explore the potential to construct small-scale permanent or temporary "skate spots" or "skate zones" within a designated space in Neighbourhood Park to provide an enhanced level of with geographically accessible recreation opportunities for youth. Skate spots/zones may be constructed as temporary facilities, which may allow the City to remove and relocate skating opportunities to other parks from time to time, further enhancing distribution and allowing the City to test skateboarding demand across Barrie.

Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts

28. In consultation with volleyball organizations, explore opportunities to construct additional volleyball courts at an existing park or at the future outdoor sports park facility. A minimum of four volleyball courts should be developed at a site in order to facilitate tournaments.

Table 22 contains a summary of unit costs for outdoor recreation facilities recommended for existing and planned parks to provide a high level understanding of the financial implications involved with the proposed development strategy. These costs should be reviewed for information only and can be used to inform next steps and other studies (e.g., Development Charges Background Study), although it should be recognized that costs can vary considerably depending on factors such as scale of design, topography, supporting amenities, and more. Construction costs are reflected only. Costs for staff time, site works, inflation, and associated amenities (e.g., seating, pathways, support structures, washrooms, parking, etc.) are excluded. These costs have been developed in collaboration with City staff to ensure that local factors have been taken into account.

Table 22: Estimated Capital Costs for Outdoor Recreation Facilities for Existing and Planned Parks

Facility Type	New Recommended Facilities	Unit Cost	Estimated Cost
Rectangular Sports Fields Former City Boundary Hewitt's Salem	1 artificial turf 1 lit major field 1 lit major field	\$2.2 Million each artificial turf \$500,000 each lit major field	\$3,200,000
Ball Diamonds Former City Boundary Hewitt's Salem	4 lit major diamond 0 2 lit major diamond	\$500,000 each lit major diamond	\$3,000,000
Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Courts Former City Boundary Hewitt's Salem	7 unlit tennis/multi-use courts, 4 pickleball courts 2 lit tennis courts, 4 unlit multi-use courts 2 lit tennis courts, 2 unlit multi-use courts	\$75,000 each lit tennis court \$50,000 each unlit tennis/multi-use court \$35,000 each pickleball court	\$1,090,000
Outdoor Basketball Courts Former City Boundary Hewitt's Salem	Develop at City staff discretion 1 full court 1 full court	\$50,000 each full court	\$100,000
Splash Pads Former City Boundary Hewitt's Salem	2 1 1	\$250,000 - \$400,000 each	\$1,000,000 – \$1,600,000
Playgrounds Former City Boundary Hewitt's Salem	0 1 enhanced, 18 standard 1 enhanced, 7 standard	\$90,000 each (standard) \$200,000 each (enhanced)	\$2,650,000
Outdoor Fitness Equipment Varies	Develop at City staff discretion in high traffic areas or areas with older adults and seniors	No capital cost required if outdoor fitness equipment is donor driven	
Outdoor Skating Rinks Former City Boundary Hewitt's Salem	Develop at City staff discretion at Neighbourhood Parks	No capital cost required if utilizing outdoor tennis or basketball courts for natural ice rinks	
Skateboard Parks Former City Boundary Hewitt's Salem	2 Major 1 Major 1 Major	\$275,000 – \$400,000 each major skateboard park	\$1,100,000 – 1,600,000
Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts Staff to identify location	4	\$10,000 each court	\$40,000

Note: Unit costs based on industry costs with consideration given to the City of Barrie context. Capital costs should be interpreted for information only and vary based on design and scale. Costs for staff time, site works, inflation, and associated amenities are excluded.

Total Cost **\$12,180,000 –
\$13,280,000**

Table 23 contains a summary of unit costs for outdoor recreation facilities that are unable to be accommodated within Barrie’s existing and planned parks, and thus they should be included as a part of a future outdoor sports facility. For the purposes of the ORFS, assumptions were made on the types of sports fields used to meet the required number of unlit field equivalents. It should be noted that the cost for acquiring additional lands for a future outdoor sports facility will need to be identified through a separate site evaluation, partnership, and property valuation exercise.

Based on the number of outstanding sports fields required to serve Barrie residents, the City should seek to secure a site in excess of 21 hectares (52 acres). This area excludes setbacks from sports fields, space for other outdoor recreation facilities that would otherwise not be accommodated at planned parks in Hewitt’s and Salem (e.g., tennis, basketball, volleyball courts and playgrounds), as well as support spaces such as parking, circulation areas, storage, and washrooms/changerooms.

Table 23: Estimated Capital Costs for Outstanding Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Facility Type	Estimated Land Needs (hectares)	Unit Cost	Estimated Cost
Rectangular Sports Fields 2 artificial turf (4.0 unlit equivalents)*	2.0	\$2.2 Million each artificial turf	\$4,400,000
Ball Diamonds 16 lit major ball diamonds (24 unlit equivalents)*	16	\$500,000 each lit diamond	\$8,000,000
Cricket Pitches 1 Cricket Pitch	2.5	\$700,000 each major cricket pitch	\$700,000
Land Acquisition for Future Outdoor Sports Facility	21 (minimum) **	To be determined through a site selection, partnership, and property valuation exercise.	
Total Cost			\$13,100,000

Note: Unit costs have been estimated based on industry costs and in conjunction with City of Barrie staff as to their local experience. Capital costs should be interpreted for information only and vary based on design and scale. Costs for land, staff time, site works, inflation, and associated amenities are excluded.

* For the purposes of estimating high level capital costs, assumptions were made on the types of sports fields that would be used to meet the required number of unlit field equivalents.

** Estimated land needs represents the minimum area required to accommodate the required number of sports fields and excludes sports field setbacks, land for other outdoor recreation facilities that would otherwise not be able to be accommodated at planned parks in Hewitt’s and Salem (e.g., tennis, basketball, volleyball courts and playgrounds), as well as support spaces such as parking, unstructured greenspaces, circulation areas, storage, and washrooms/changerooms.

Appendix A – Background Document References

Strategic and Planning Documents

- 2014 – 2018 Strategic Plan (2015)
- City of Barrie 20 Year Plan (2003)
- City of Barrie Official Plan (2018 Consolidation)
- City of Barrie Official Plan OPA 38 Salem Secondary Plan (2016)
- City of Barrie Official Plan OPA 39 Hewitt's Secondary Plan (2014)
- Parks and Recreation Growth Strategy and Update (2013 and 2017)
- Parks and Recreation Strategic Mater Plan (2010)

Other Background Documents

- Accessibility Plan 2013 – 2018 (2013)
- Age-Friendly Community Plan (2016)
- Development Charges Background Study (2014)
- Growth Management Strategy (2011-2012)
- Intensification Study (2009)
- Long-Term Growth Scenarios Review (2018)
- Recreation Guide (2018)
- Sports Field Allocation Policy (2018)

Appendix B – Stakeholder Survey Summary

The following is a summary of the Stakeholder Surveys that were received.

Ball Diamond Sports Groups

Barrie Men's Slo-Pitch

Barrie Men's Slo-Pitch purpose is to offer recreational slo-pitch to the adult community in the City. The group has maintained nearly 1,100 participants over the past three years and plans to increase membership over the next few years as they believe that slo-pitch is gaining in popularity across the Province, although the number of available ball diamonds is a limiting factor. The group uses the ball diamonds at the Barrie Community Sports Complex. Additional adult-size ball diamonds were requested to support future growth of the group.

Barrie Minor Baseball Association

The Barrie Minor Baseball Association provides organized recreational and competitive programs for local youth. The organization has grown over the last three years to 1,339 members and it is expected that participation will remain stable over the coming years due to the lack of available ball diamonds, which is restricting the growth of the organization.

The organization uses the ball diamonds at the Barrie Community Sports Complex, as well as the ball diamonds in Lennox Park, Lampman Lane Park, Queen's Park, East Bayfield Park, Painswick Park, Marsellus Park, Bear Creek Park, Sandringham Park, Madelaine Park, Hyde Park, Livingstone Park, and Bayshore Park. Improvements were suggested including constructing a new ball diamond complex in the south end, providing permanent bathrooms at parks, enhancing field quality, ensuring all ball diamonds have the appropriate field amenities (e.g., foul posts, etc.). There is a desire for more adult-size ball diamonds as well as the need to improve the coordination between the City and the group, especially when it comes to scheduling tournaments. The high cost of renting ball diamonds in Barrie was reported as a problem.

Barrie Recreational Slo-Pitch League

Barrie Recreational Slo-Pitch League is a co-ed adult organization that has maintained 250 members over the past three years. Membership is expected to remain stable going forward. The group uses a number of ball diamonds at Ferndale Park, East Bayfield Park, and Cheltenham Park.

Barrie Red Sox Senior Baseball Team

The Barrie Red Sox Senior Baseball Team is a men's baseball team with 30 members. The team has grown over the past three years but it is expected that participation will decline in the future due to the age of existing players and the lack of new members. The group uses the Barrie Community Sports Complex and did not identify any concerns.

Barrie Recreational Evening Co-Ed Slo-Pitch

The Barrie Recreational Evening Co-ed Slo-Pitch provides slo-pitch opportunities to the community in a friendly atmosphere with the objective of having fun and fellowship for men and women. The organization has approximately 466 registrants for the most recent year and although there is interest from the public to join, it is expected that participation will remain stable over the coming years. The group believes that participation will not change due to the fact that the lack of access to additional fields is limiting the growth of the organization. It was felt that there is generally a shortage of adult diamonds.

The group reported that they use two ball diamonds at the Barrie Community Sports Complex. It was mentioned that the City should construct more youth ball diamonds to accommodate the ball diamond needs of younger ball players, which would free up existing adult diamonds that can be used by adult users.

Barrie Slo-Pitch Association

Barrie Slo-Pitch Association promotes participation in slo-pitch at all age levels for youth, men and women. The organization has grown to 150 teams and expects that participation will continue to grow. The Association uses the ball diamonds at the Barrie Community Sports Complex and Lennox Park, as well as non-municipal diamonds at Georgian College and in the Township of Springwater. The majority of the group's membership are adults and participants are open to travel to access ball diamonds; however, the Association expressed the desire for ball diamonds in the south end of the City to meet the needs of players residing in this area. The biggest need identified by the group was the ability to access quality diamonds as well as alternative facilities to hold tournaments when the Barrie Community Sports Complex is in use.

Sunday Night Co-ed Slo-Pitch League

Sunday Night Co-ed Slo-Pitch League provides adult slo-pitch once a week. Since inception in 2002, the league has grown to 40 teams and it is expected that the organization will continue to grow in the future. The league uses six ball diamonds at the Barrie Community Sports Complex once a week. The desire for more ball diamonds was requested, as well as ball diamond time on Friday nights in order to accommodate more teams.

Rectangular Sports Field Groups

Little Kickers Simcoe County

Little Kickers Simcoe County's mandate is to provide a positive introduction of the sport to youth. The group teaches soccer in a fun environment, as well as provides a place for youth to get active and learn social skills. The group has grown to 360 members for the current year and plans to continue increasing its membership through raising awareness about their opportunities.

The organization uses six soccer fields in the City, although specific locations were not mentioned; the use of two school fields were also mentioned. The desire for washrooms and parking at the parks that the group uses was requested.

Barrie Rugby

Barrie Rugby provides competitive rugby opportunities for junior/minor players. Participation in the group has grown to 423 players and it is expected that growth will continue over the future as the sport of rugby continues to gain traction in popularity, especially since the sport was introduced at the Olympics and the sport is receiving more media coverage. Representatives of Barrie Rugby are also dedicated in promoting the sport, establishing partnerships, cross-sport marketing, and recruiting members

The organization uses the fields at the Barrie Community Sports Complex, as well as Eastview Park, and Victoria Woods Park. The group expressed the desire for a dedicated rugby field with supporting amenities such as washrooms, storage, and clubhouse. Lit sports fields at the Barrie Community Sports Complex were also requested, as well as an indoor field to support winter programs and training. It was identified that the organization is getting less time at the Barrie Community Sports Complex given that it shares field time with football and Ultimate Frisbee groups and as a result, the group is required to seek time elsewhere in Barrie, or in surrounding communities.

Barrie Minor Lacrosse Association

The Barrie Minor Lacrosse Association provides indoor box lacrosse and field lacrosse in the City. The organization has grown considerably over the past three years, increasing from 286 members in 2015 to 453 members in 2017 (the majority of whom reside in the City). Over the next five years, the organization anticipates growth as the group is emphasizing increasing their membership by raising awareness of lacrosse and their profile in the sports community such as continuing to secure key sponsorships in Barrie.

Barrie Minor Lacrosse uses a number of fields at parks across the City including Golden Meadow Park, Sunnidale Park, and Painswick Park. These are complemented by field usage at non-municipal locations such as the turf fields at Georgian College and other fields in other municipalities. The group indicated that the use of facilities outside of Barrie is due to the fact that there are no appropriate facilities available in the City. Additionally, the organization also plays box lacrosse at several indoor locations.

To support the growth of the organization (and the sport), the organization expressed the desire for an artificial turf field and supporting amenities such as parking and lighting in order to be eligible to host games and tournaments required by the Ontario Minor Field Lacrosse League. Additionally, the group identified that they would like to see the outdoor lacrosse box at Assikinack Park revitalized and maintained.

Other Sports Groups

Barrie Community Tennis Club

The Barrie Community Tennis Club offers tennis for community participants at all skill levels. The group supports participants to improve their skills through competition or to enjoy the sport in a casual setting. The organization currently has maintained approximately 118 to 130 members and expects participation to remain stable. The group uses the tennis courts (and associated clubhouse) at Queen's Park. It was requested that the tennis court lights be improved (e.g., with LED) given that the group uses the courts daily during the week.

Barrie Spikes Volleyball

Barrie Spikes Volleyball teaches volleyball to youth athletes, while growing confidence and self-esteem among its members. The group has grown to 200 members in the past three years and continues to increase participation in the future. Barrie Spikes Volleyball uses the courts at the Barrie Community Sports Complex as well as school facilities including Algonquin Ridge Elementary School and Holly Meadows Elementary School. The group is pleased with the existing courts at the Barrie Community Sports Complex, although more courts were requested in order to grow the group's membership, as well as to enhance the facility as a tournament site and attract sports tourism.

Georgian Cubs Volleyball Club

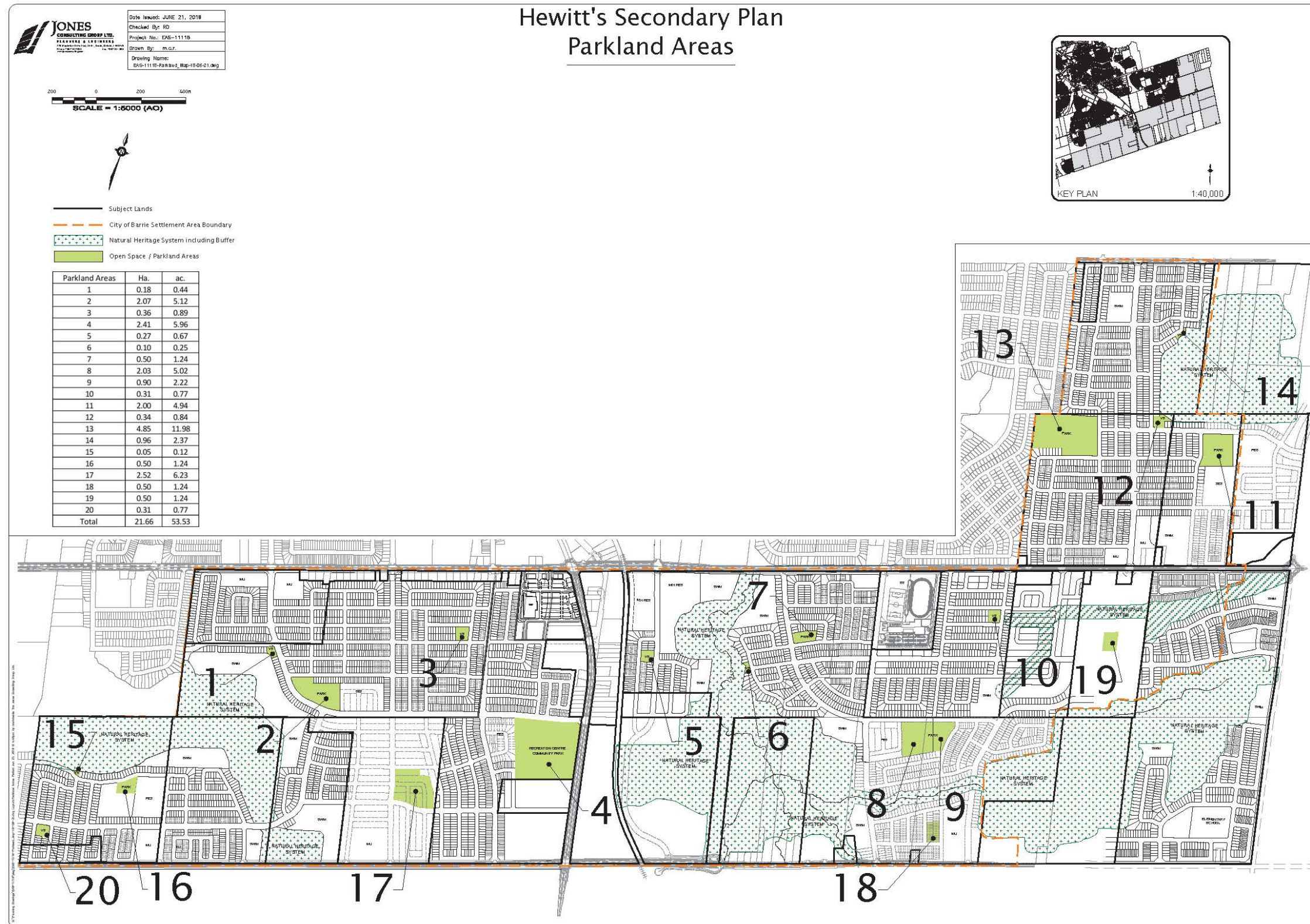
Georgian Cubs Volleyball Club promotes growth and development through competitive volleyball. The group reported that membership fluctuates year to year, although 150 members were reported for 2017. The Club primarily uses the volleyball courts at Tyndale and Centennial Park. Suggested improvements at these locations included lighting to extend the hours of play and storage. The group expressed the desire to use the volleyball courts at the Barrie Community Sports Complex, although it is cost prohibitive.

Simcoe Tennis

Simcoe Tennis provides tennis training and programming for all skill levels from beginner to expert to build competitive athletes. The organization reported 100 members, which has remained steady over the past three years, although the group plans to increase participation in the future through providing high quality services to its tennis members. Simcoe Tennis is based in Midhurst, although the group uses the tennis courts at Eastview Park and expressed the desire for a gazebo and washrooms for its members.

Appendix C – Hewitt’s and Salem Secondary Plan – Parkland Plans

Hewitt’s Secondary Plan – Parkland Plan (June 21, 2018)



SALEM SECONDARY PLAN PARKLAND PLAN

