



Council Presentation Draft Recreation & Facilities Master Plan

May 17, 2023



Purpose and Scope

The **Recreation & Facilities Master Plan** is a key initiative of the Corporate Strategic Plan to create a roadmap to address community needs and strategic priorities through a prioritized action plan over the next 10 years.

The Master Plan provides direction on:

- Indoor and outdoor recreation facilities;
- Parks, open spaces and trails; and
- Service delivery policies, programs and practices.



Project Status

Phase 1: Background Review

Phase 2: Community Engagement

We are here



Phase 3: Needs Assessments and Draft Master Plan

Phase 4: Test and Finalize Master Plan

The Draft Master Plan contains 67 recommendations



Master Plan Inputs

Background documents

Community profile and growth projections

Parks and recreation trends

Public and stakeholder consultation

Parks and facility inventory and distribution

Facility usage data



Public and Stakeholder Consultation

Public awareness and promotion

Public open houses

Community survey

Stakeholder focus group

Staff workshop

Council interviews

Written submissions

**A public open house will be held to collect feedback
and 'test' the Draft Master Plan**

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide showing an ice hockey rink with red and white boards and a yellow line.


Key Recommendations

Explore strategies to **bolster arena usage** by increasing morning usage, engaging schools, promoting ice availability on the municipal website, and encouraging greater usage of the arena floor.

Begin long-term planning for the **redevelopment/replacement of the arena**. In implementing this recommendation, consider:

- Establishing a dedicated arena reserve fund;
- Establishing an arena surcharge;
- Evaluating potential site acquisition;
- Exploring external funding and partnerships;
- Preparing a business and financial plan; and
- Considering other facility enhancements or community space needs.

A detailed **arena feasibility study** is encouraged to inform future decisions.

A vertical strip on the right side of the slide showing an ice hockey rink with white and blue boards and a yellow line.

Key Recommendations

Monitor the level of **access to school gymnasiums** to inform future decisions to provide a municipally owned and operated gymnasium.

Explore alternative uses of **Ken Vernon Park, West Williams Community Centre** and **Carnegie Library Gallery**. In the absence of alternative uses, divest these properties with the proceeds used to enhance parks and recreation assets and services or to acquire new parkland. As part of this exercise, work with users of these facilities to accommodate their programs, activities and events within existing community spaces or at alternative locations.

Establish **outdoor fitness equipment** at Parkhill Sports Park and Ailsa Craig Lions Park. Other locations may be considered, including Ailsa Craig Community Park, Coronation Park, East Williams Optimist Park, and Lieury Park.



Key Recommendations

Explore opportunities to establish a **new park in Ailsa Craig** to relocate the ball diamond from Ailsa Craig Community Park. The preferred site should be large enough to accommodate two lit, adult ball diamonds with supporting features and outdoor recreation amenities. Relocating the ball diamond from Ailsa Craig Community Park would provide opportunities to construct:

- Two courts for **tennis and pickleball**; and
- A multi-use court for **basketball and ball hockey**.

Construct a small scale **splash pad** and **skateboard park** at East Williams Optimist Park.

Monitor the use of the Ailsa Craig **off-leash dog park** and evaluate future opportunities to establish a second location in Parkhill if there is a viable community partner to assist with daily operations.

Key Recommendations

Acquire **5.2 hectares of parkland** through parkland dedication as permitted by the Planning Act and alternative land acquisition strategies to maintain a current service level of 2.9 hectares per 1,000 residents.

Adopt a “**Parkland First**” approach that prioritizes parkland conveyance over cash-in-lieu of parkland to address parkland needs.

Undertake a **Trails Master Plan** to guide the development of active transportation opportunities. Considerations should be given to:

- Pedestrian circulation areas within parks (e.g., pathways to sports fields and playgrounds);
- A walking loop in Parkhill and Ailsa Craig using sidewalks and off-road trails;
- Connections between Parkhill, Ailsa Craig and Nairn;
- Active transportation routes within future residential areas; and
- Promoting and encouraging active transportation opportunities.




Key Recommendations

Explore opportunities to enhance **comfort and accessibility features** within parks to encourage use such as pathways, seating, shade, and picnic tables.

Undertake renewal of the **Coronation Park gazebo** or replace it with a new structure to support the use of the splash pad.

Work with community partners to explore strategies to be **resilient to climate change** and to **enhance the natural environment** such as creating pollinator gardens and establishing “no mow” areas. Opportunities may exist at Lieury Park, Ailsa Craig Lions Community Park and other locations.

Prepare an **Age-Friendly Action Plan** to identify strategies to be more welcoming of older adults and seniors and encourage them to age in place. Consider enhancing parks and recreation opportunities including, but not limited to, accessibility, comfort amenities, and addressing gaps in programs and services (potentially in coordination with community partners). Other strategies should also be explored with respect to transportation, housing, health care and more.



Key Recommendations

Establish a **Recreation Supervisor** position for the Recreation & Facilities Department to provide day-to-day staff oversight, including coordination, monitoring work quality, training, scheduling and other related tasks.

Evaluate **staff requirements** on an as needed basis to maintain the existing level of service as the Municipality grows to ensure successful implementation of this Master Plan, in addition to ensuring that staff have the appropriate supports to carry out duties (e.g., **technology needs**).

Amend the Terms of Reference for the **Recreation Advisory Committee** to support the Municipality with implementing this Master Plan.

Create a **Recreation Guide** to promote and raise awareness about recreation and community facilities, programs, service, events, and information about community service providers.

Work with community partners to ensure that parks and recreation facilities, programs and services are **inclusive and accessible** for all residents.

Implementation

Recommendations are based on short, medium and long-term **priorities**.

Staff will bring individual recommendations forward through **annual work plans** to be considered and integrated into capital and operating budgets and to provide additional information, as necessary, for Council to make informed decisions.

Regularly **track** population projections, facility usage data, etc. to address evolving needs.

Explore **external funding opportunities** (e.g., grants) and **community partnerships** to implement recommendations.



Next Steps

Collect Public Feedback on the Draft Master Plan

- In-person Public Open House (to be scheduled)
- Online feedback form (two week period)

Finalize the Master Plan

Final Council Presentation





- Questions
- Comments
- Suggestions

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