

PRESCOTT  
EST 1784  
THE FORT TOWN

# RECREATION MASTER PLAN



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## 1 Introduction to the Plan

### 1.1 What is a Recreation Master Plan?

A Recreation Master Plan is a municipal guiding document that provides a long-term vision and goals for the provision of facilities and services relating to recreation and parks within the Town of Prescott. Sierra Planning and Management was retained by the Town to develop a Recreation Master Plan for the municipality. This document is the first of its kind for the Town.

### 1.2 Plan Development Process

This Master Plan provides a comprehensive, multi-year framework of short (1 to 3 years), medium (4 to 6 years), and long-term (7+ years) priorities for recreation facilities, programs, parks, trails, and open space, for the next 10 years within the Town. Development of the Master Plan involved the following:

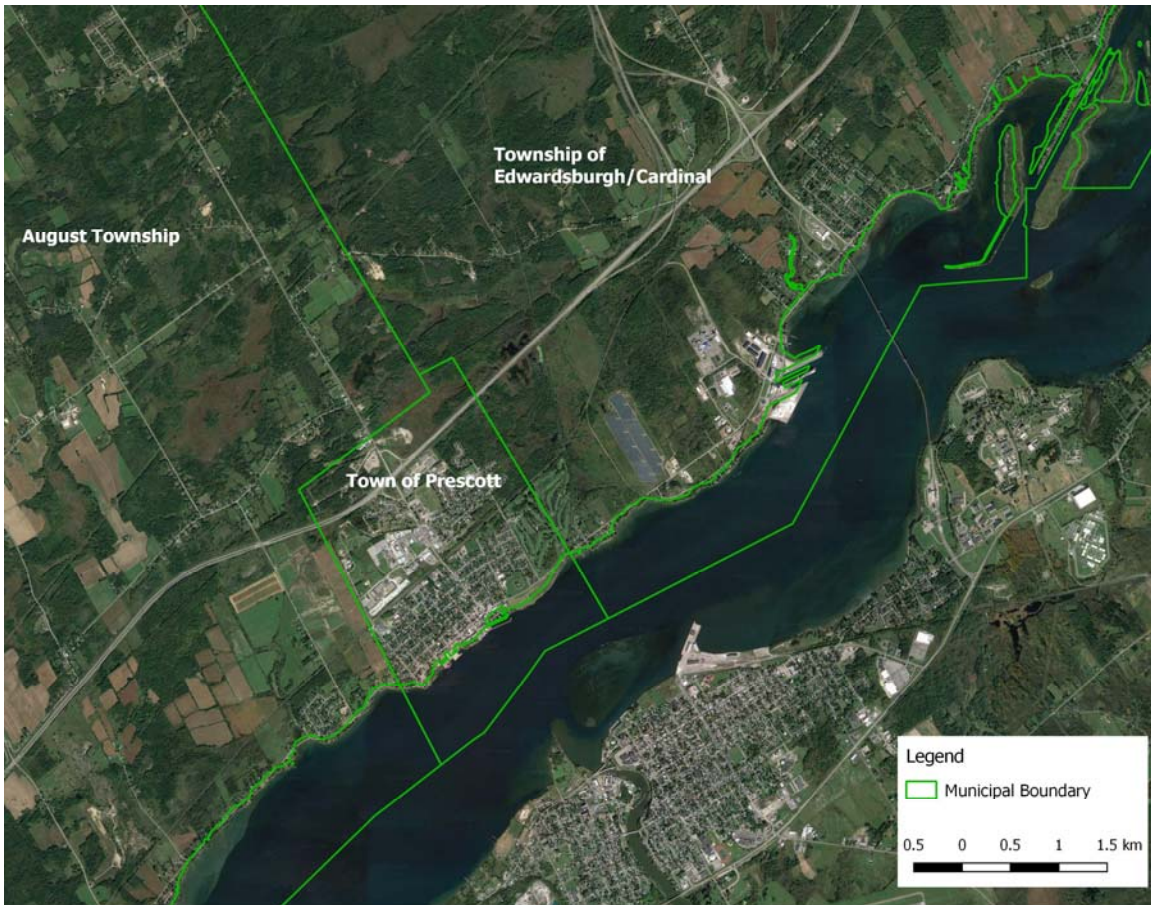
- Public engagement, stakeholder outreach, and Town staff and Council engagement. This included two online surveys (1 public, 1 user group) and two community workshops (1 public, 1 with user groups), as well as telephone interviews with key stakeholders, and one-on-one interviews with members of Council.
- Analysis of local, regional, and provincial demographic and leisure trends, as well as best practice in other communities.
- Review of existing recreation facilities (indoor and outdoor) and programs, including conditions and utilization.
- Analysis of relevant strategic planning documents, policies and priorities (local and provincial).
- A compilation of the community's vision of recreation and evaluation of service level changes required to actualize goals in consideration for future demographics, recreation trends and socioeconomic conditions.
- Historic and future population dynamics and demographic change and the impact of this on the delivery of recreation.
- An understanding of the current municipal delivery model for recreation including levels of investment in the sector; and,
- The identification of gaps and opportunities for the provision of facilities, services and programs that may be addressed through the recommendations of the Master Plan.

## 2 Planning Context

### 2.1 Regional Context of Prescott

The Town of Prescott is a single-tier municipality in eastern Ontario. The Town is surrounded by the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, which is comprised of several lower-tier municipalities. Of these lower tier municipalities, the Townships of Augusta and Edwardsburgh/Cardinal lie directly adjacent to the Town of Prescott.

*Exhibit 1: Geographic Boundaries of Prescott*



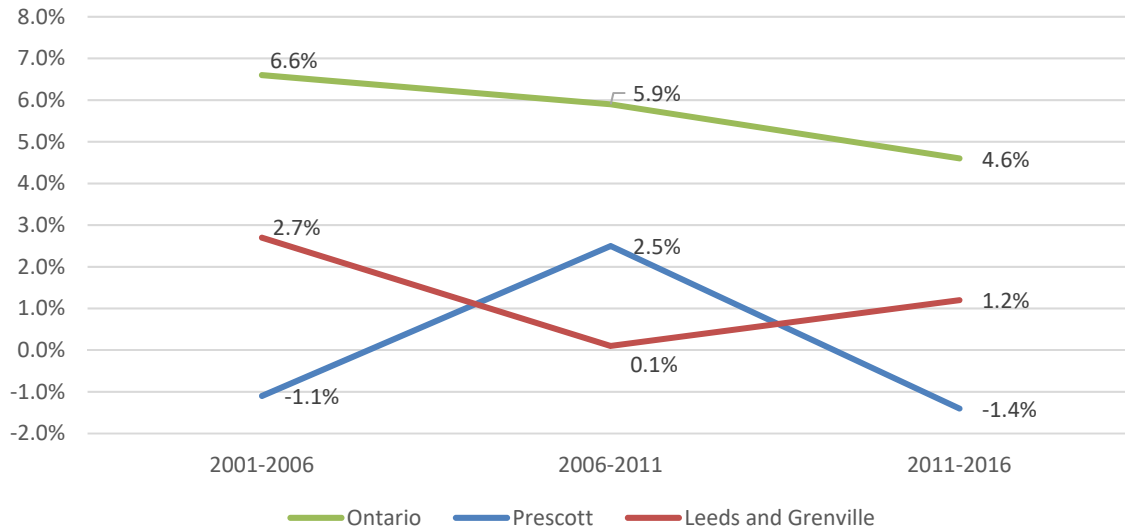
*Source: Mapping provided by the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, adapted by Sierra Planning and Management.*

## 2.2 Demographics

### 2.2.1 Historic Population Change

Statistics Canada identified that as of the 2016 Census, the Town of Prescott had a population of 4,222 permanent residents, representing a 1.4% decrease from the 2011 Census population of 4,284.

Exhibit 2: Population Growth Rate (2011 to 2016)



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016.

Despite the overall decline observed, at a more scoped geographic level, parts of the Town have experienced variances in population growth. This is illustrated in the following exhibits.

Most areas of the Town have experienced a marginal decline of population between 2011 and 2016. Population decline ranges from -1.8% to -7.8% for the various Dissemination Areas<sup>1</sup>.

Areas of growth include the new subdivision in the eastern portion, which grew by 8.3% between 2011 and 2016, as well as a western portion within the downtown, which grew by 5.8% since 2011.

<sup>1</sup> Dissemination Area (DA) is defined by Statistics Canada as small area composed of one or more neighbouring dissemination blocks, with a population of 400 to 700 persons.

Exhibit 3: Population Growth / Decline, by Dissemination Area Details

DA No.	2011 Pop.	2016 Pop.	% Change
35070225	517	496	-4.10%
35070226	524	513	-2.10%
35070227	519	498	-4.00%
35070228	432	457	+5.80%
35070229	541	499	-7.80%
35070230	479	444	-7.30%
35070231	618	607	-1.80%
35070232	654	708	+8.30%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016.

Exhibit 4: Population Growth / Decline, by Dissemination Area Map



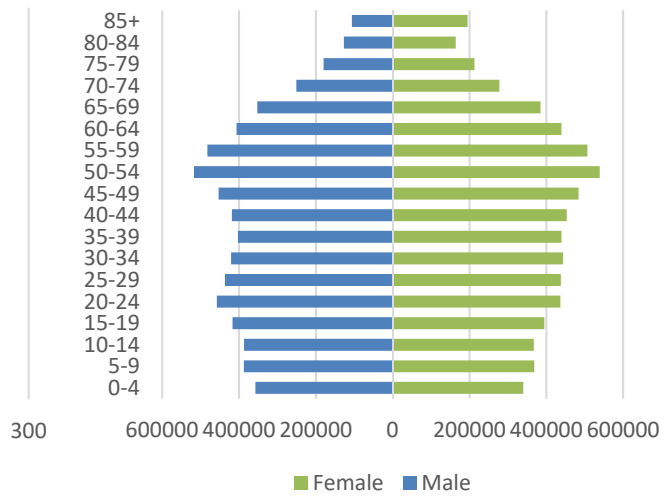
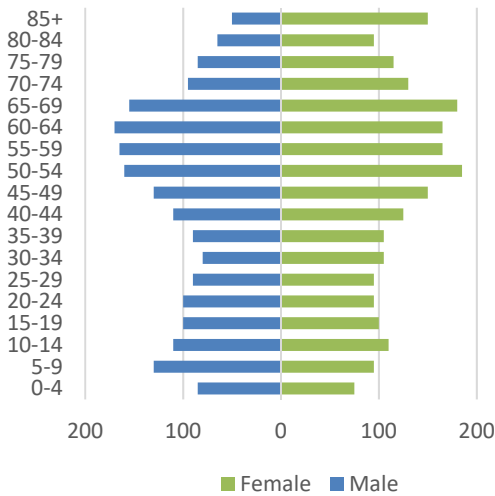
Source: Mapping by Sierra Planning and Management using data from Statistics Canada, Census 2016.

### 2.2.2 Age Structure

The demographic distribution of Prescott is similar to that found in smaller municipalities across Ontario. As baby boomers age, there is a growing proportion of older adults. This is especially true for Prescott, where a large share of the population are over 50 years of age.

Exhibit 5: Prescott Age Breakdown, 2016

Exhibit 6: Ontario Age Breakdown, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016.

Exhibit 7: Prescott Population Trends by Age Cohort

Age Cohort	2011 Pop.	% Pop. Share	2016 Pop.	% Pop. Share	Trend
0 to 9 years	475	11%	390	9%	Declining
10 to 19 years	495	12%	420	10%	Declining
20 to 29 years	370	9%	380	9%	Stable
30 to 39 years	465	11%	385	9%	Declining
40 to 49 years	560	13%	515	12%	Stable
50 to 59 years	630	15%	670	16%	Stable
60 to 69 years	525	12%	670	16%	Growing
70 years +	765	18%	790	19%	Stable
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,285</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,220</b>	<b>100%</b>	

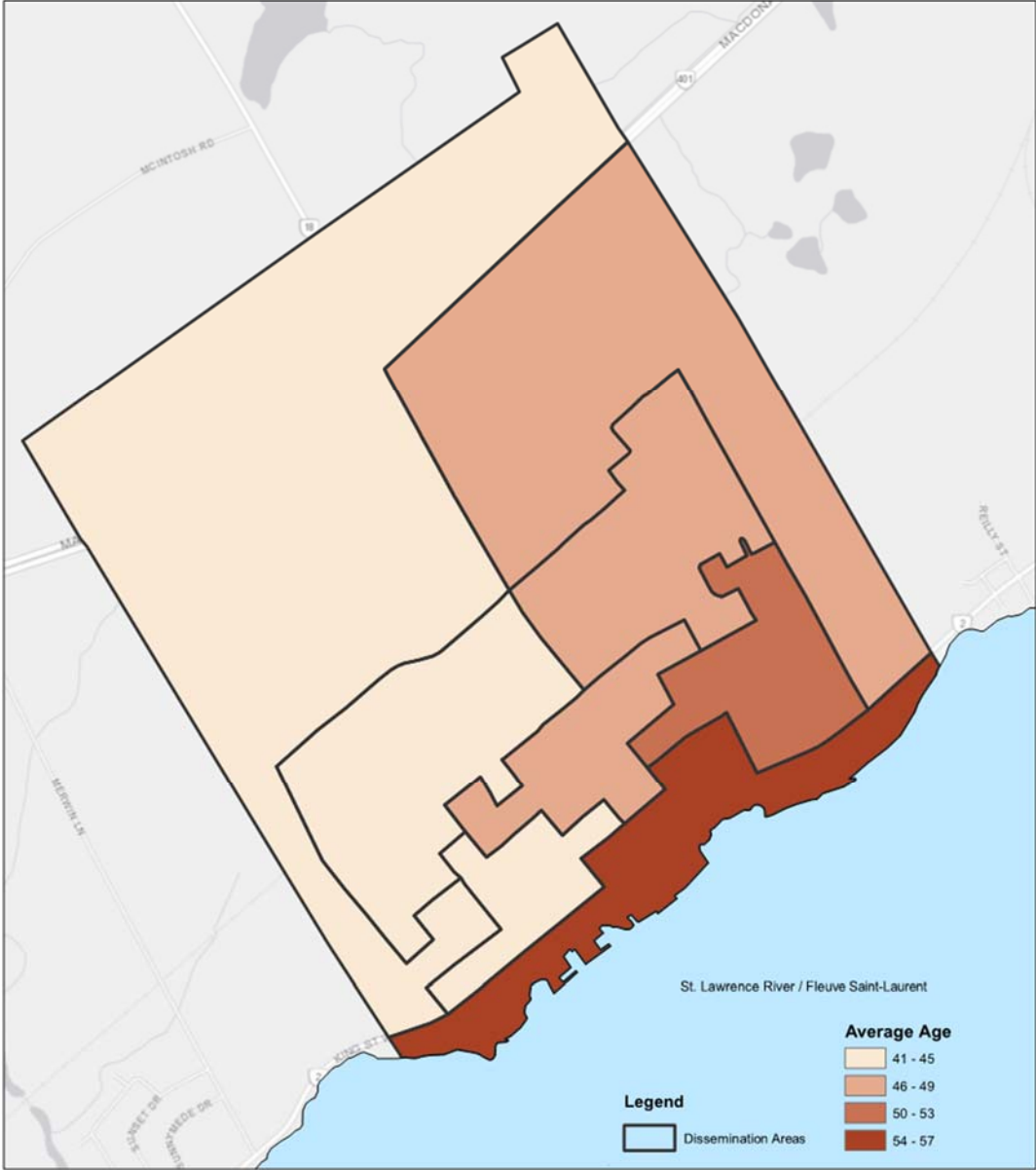
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016.

2016 Dissemination Area data as presented in Exhibit 8, illustrates the relative geographic spread of aging in the Town. The downtown area has the highest average age, 57.1 years. This corresponds with the concentration of older adults within the downtown area, as detailed in Exhibit 10. The lowest average age is found in the northwestern portion of the Town, with an average age of 41.4 years.



Prescott’s overall average age is 47.1 years. This is higher than both the provincial average (41.0 years) and that of the United Counties (45.6 years) which surrounds the Town.

Exhibit 8: Prescott Average Age, by Dissemination Area



Source: Mapping by Sierra Planning and Management using data from Statistics Canada, Census 2016.

The downtown area of Prescott has the lowest prevalence of residents under the age of 19, where this age cohort accounts for only 9.0% of the population (45 persons).

The newer residential areas (closer to Highway 401) have the highest percentages of children and youth (those under the age of 19), with children and youth comprising 25% of the population (125 children / youth).

*Exhibit 9: Total Population 19 Years of Age and Younger, by Dissemination Area*

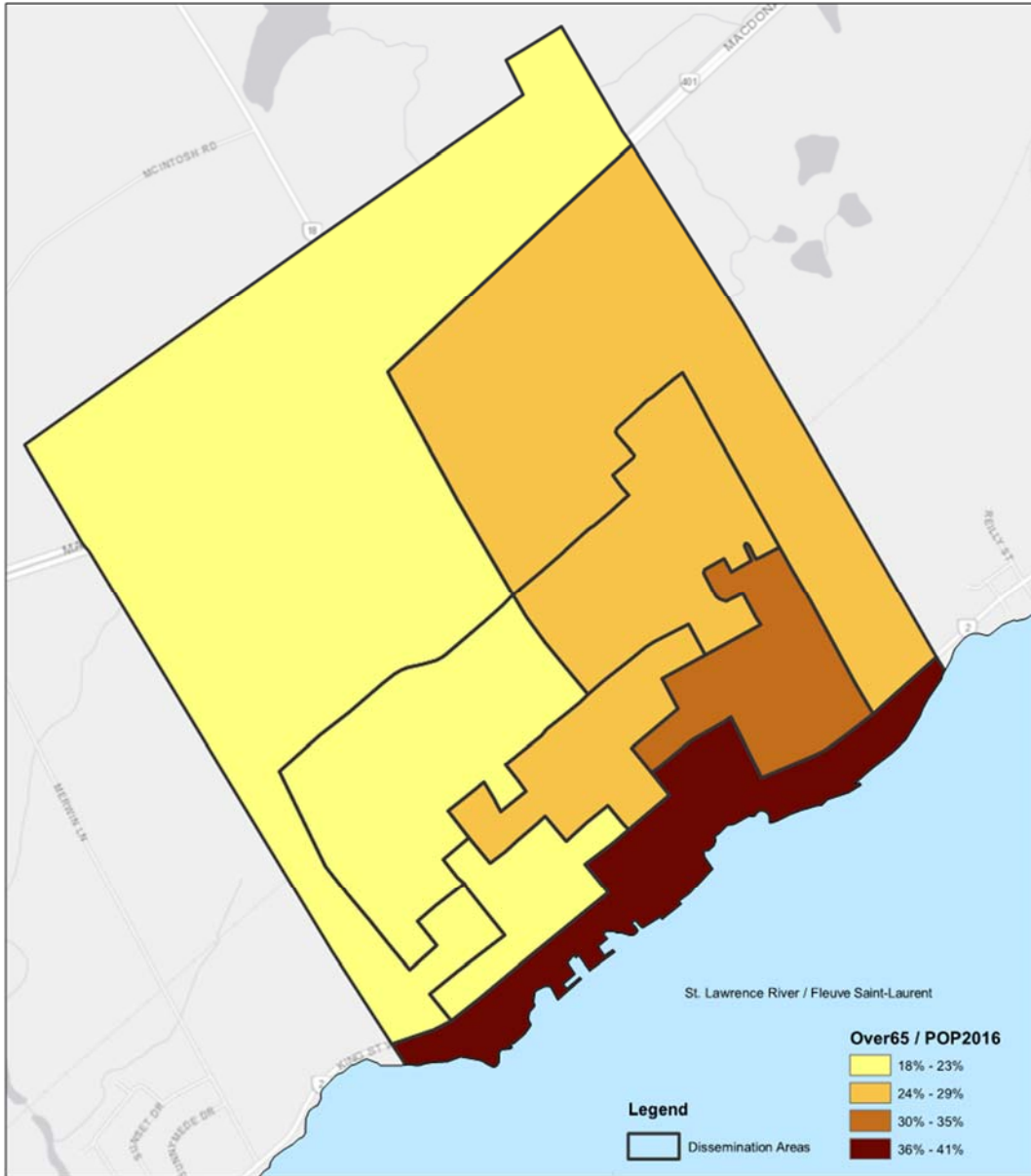


Source: Mapping by Sierra Planning and Management using data from Statistics Canada, Census 2016.

As identified above, the downtown area has the highest average age, 57.1 years. This corresponds with the concentration of older adults in this area.

Areas with lower proportions of older adults are located on the west side of town.

Exhibit 10: Total Population over 65 Years of Age, by Dissemination Area



Source: Mapping by Sierra Planning and Management using data from Statistics Canada, Census 2016.

### 2.2.3 Income

Overall, Prescott’s Median Household Income (2015) is significantly lower than that of the province and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. Ontario’s median household income is approximately 50% higher than Prescott’s, a difference of over \$20,000.

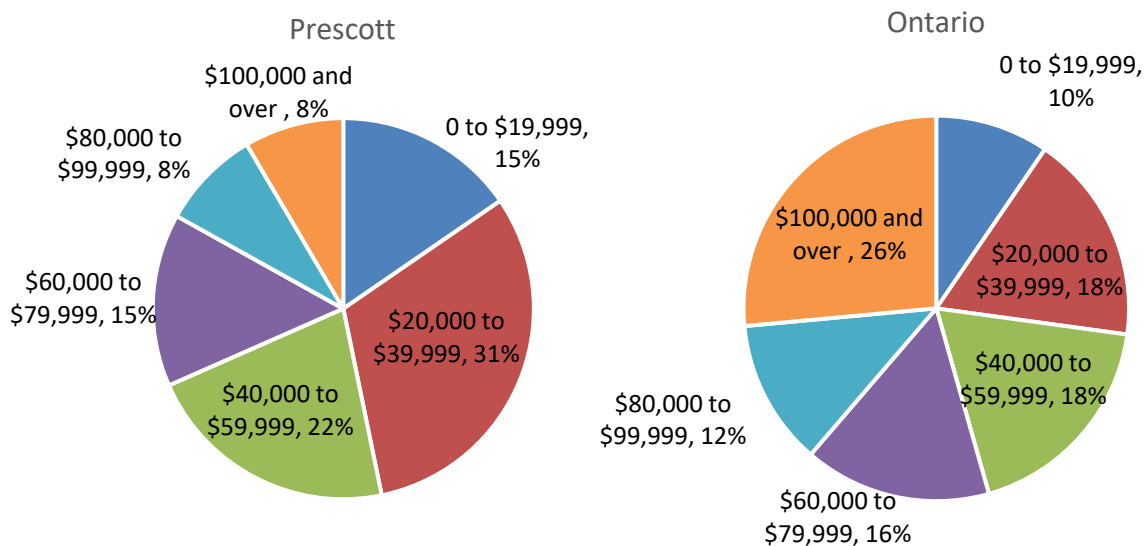
Exhibit 11: Median Household Income – After Tax (2015)



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016.

When looking at income groups within the Town, a majority (53%) of households fall within the range of \$20,000 to \$59,000. This compares to the province, where 36% of Ontario households are within this range.

Exhibit 12: Comparison of Household Income Groups – After Tax (2015): Prescott and Ontario



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016.

### Low Income Households

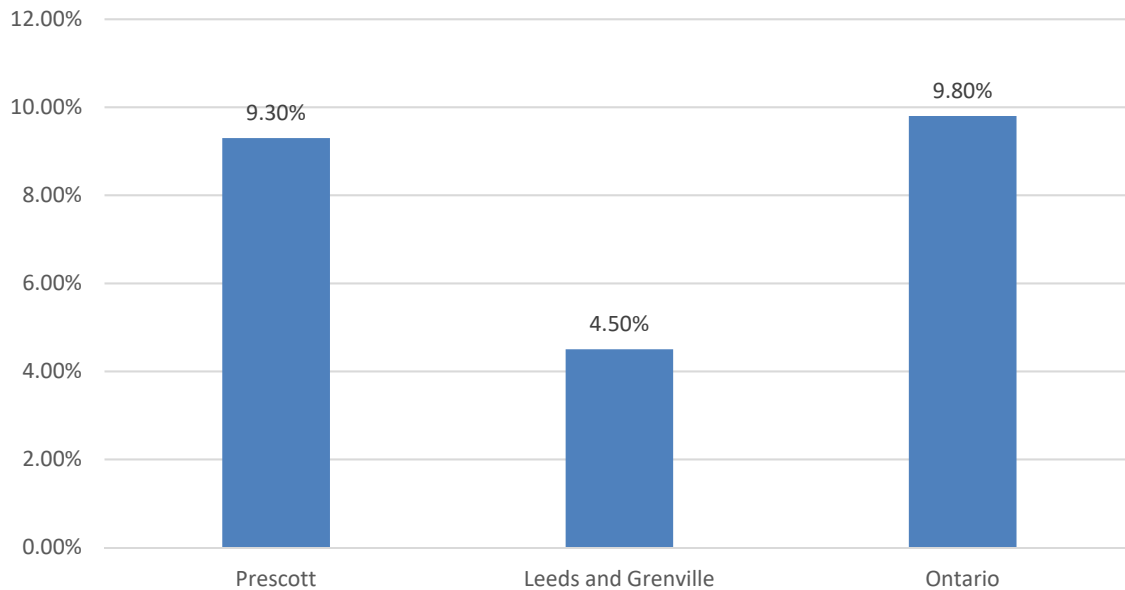
Statistics Canada defines low income cut-offs (LICOs) to be income thresholds below which a family will likely devote a larger share of its income on the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than the average family.

9.3% of Town-wide population are under the low income cut-off. This compares to Ontario as a whole, where 9.8% of the population are in low income households.

Based on DA information, the downtown area has the highest prevalence of low income households (18.2%), while the central portion of the area just to the north of downtown had the lowest prevalence of low income households, with 5.7%.

Consideration for affordable access to facilities and programs will be important moving forward.

Exhibit 13: Prevalence of Low Income based on LICOs – After Tax (2015)



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016.

Exhibit 14: Total Population in Low Income based on LICO, After Tax, by Dissemination Area



Source: Mapping by Sierra Planning and Management using data from Statistics Canada, Census 2016.

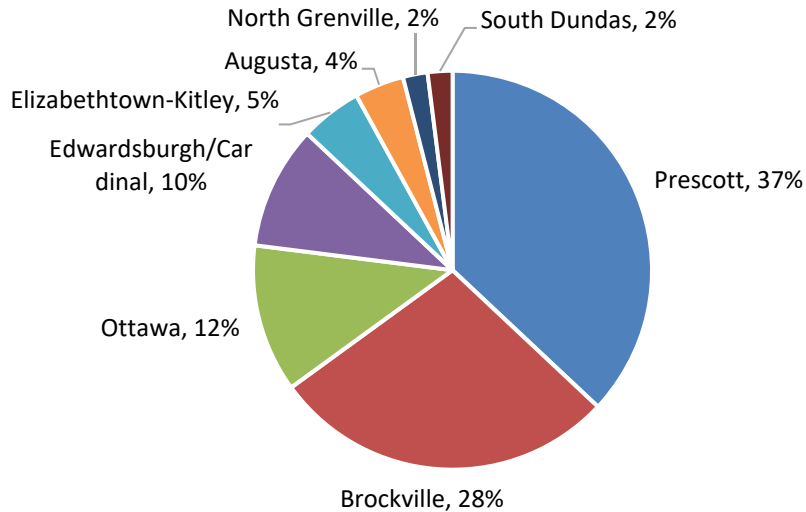
### 2.2.4 Commuting Trends

For those residents 15 years and over, Statistics Canada’s National Household Survey identifies residents ‘usual place of work’ for those individuals living in private households. The information provided is based on Statistics Canada’s 25% sample.

37% of Prescott residents work within the community, meaning that a high percentage of Prescott residents work outside of the Town (63%). A majority of commuters’ travel to Brockville for work (28%).

Flexible programming and facility hours will be important considerations for that segment of the population that commutes to work and is looking for recreational opportunities into the evening and on weekends.

Exhibit 15: Journey to Work Trends for Prescott Residents



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016, based on a 25% sample of employed labour force.

### 2.2.5 Future Population Change

Since 2001, the Town’s population has remained relatively stable, with various periods of growth and decline.

While the Town has not prepared official growth forecasts, the Development Charges (DC) Background Study (2012) forecasted that Prescott’s population will grow marginally to 2021 by less than 1%. It is noted that the projections for 2016 identified in the DC Study are higher than those recorded in the 2016 Census, where a decrease in total population was observed (as identified above).

The adjacent municipalities of Augusta and Edwardsburgh/Cardinal have experienced similar marginal decreases in their populations over the same 2011 to 2016 period. The Official Plan for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville forecasts that the populations of these two townships will experience growth to 2031 by 6% and 9% respectively<sup>2</sup>; however, based on the 2011 and 2016 Census data, growth has not been as strong as projected.

Prescott is home to four schools, two public (one elementary and one secondary), one separate (elementary), and one private (elementary).

The Upper Canada District School Board forecasts that there will be a decrease in the enrollment and utilization rates of the two public schools within Prescott, Wellington Elementary School and South Grenville District High School. This indicates a projected decrease in the number of children and youth (and therefore young and middle age adults) within Prescott over the next 12 years.

While the consulting team reached out to contacts at both St. Mark Catholic School and St. Lawrence Academy (private), no response was received from either school at the time of reporting. Therefore, at this point, it can only be assumed that these schools are expected to experience a similar trend.

*Exhibit 16: Enrolment Projections for Public Schools in Prescott*

School	Capacity	Enrolment				Utilization			
		2015/16	2019/20	2024/25	2029/30	2015/16	2019/20	2024/25	2029/30
Wellington ES	213	202	176	175	183	95%	83%	82%	86%
South Grenville District HS	819	422	359	337	338	52%	44%	41%	41%

*Source: 2015-2016 Upper Canada District School Board 15-Year Long-Term Accommodation Projections, Upper Canada District School Board (May 2016).*

Based on this information, it can be anticipated that the proportion of older adults will continue to grow, while the proportion of children and youth within the Town can be expected to continue to decline. In order to maintain or increase the population, even slightly, developing methods to retain and attract residents will be important moving forward.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the Statistics Canada 2016 Census data.



## 2.3 Strategic Priorities for Recreation

The Recreation Master Plan is developed within a positive and supportive policy environment for recreation. In 2015, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association and Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council released *A Framework for Recreation in Canada - 2015 – Pathways to Wellbeing*. The report positions recreation as being central to all facets of wellbeing: individual wellbeing, community wellbeing and the wellbeing of natural and built environments.

The five goals identified in the framework provide guidance for all recreation providers and related stakeholders to consider – these goals include: fostering active living through physical recreation, increasing inclusion and access to recreation for marginalized populations, helping to connect nature through recreation, ensuring the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage recreation, and ensuring continued growth in the recreation field. This framework’s vision of enhancing wellbeing and the holistic approach to sustaining recreation practices aligns with the overall goals of this Master Plan.

### Provincial

At the provincial level, the Ontario *Planning Act* supports the adequate provision and distribution of recreational facilities and also identifies requirements for parkland conveyance through Bill 73. Similarly, the *Provincial Policy Statement (2014)* states that active communities should be promoted by “planning and providing for a full range and equitable distribution of publicly-accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including facilities, parklands, public spaces, open space areas, trails and linkages, and, where practical, water-based resources” (*Section 1.5.1, Provincial Policy Statement, 2014*).

### Local

At a local level, the Town’s *Official Plan (Approved, 2006)* sets the following goals for parks and open space:

1. Recognize parks and open space lands as valuable resources that define the identity and image of Prescott and contribute to the quality of life of Town residents.
2. Protect significant natural features in the Town.
3. Work toward the creation of an interconnected network of green spaces comprised of park and open space features.
4. Enhance access to park and open space features, including shoreline and waterfront areas, for Prescott residents.

The *Official Plan* translates these goals into a series of policies which have the purpose of delivering a wide range of land uses in the Town’s parks and open space and enhancing existing facilities.

The Town has since published a *Strategic Plan*, in partnership with Corporate Learning and Performance Improvement at St. Lawrence College, which includes priorities that are relevant to recreation provision, including:

- A commitment to prepare a Recreation Master Plan;
- To support and expand cultural activities;
- To develop more recreational programs along the Waterfront, including completion of a splash pad;
- To create a long-term plan for maintenance and renewal of municipal facilities, including the rejuvenation of the Leo Boivin Community Centre; and
- To explore options for the Prince Street soccer/ball field.

These two documents, and their associated priorities and policies, align to become the goals and policies identified in the update to the Official Plan which is currently in draft form, dated April 2017.

### 3 Community Priorities

A series of community input activities has formed the basis of understanding resident needs and aspirations for recreation opportunities in the Town of Prescott. These included:

- 2017 online public survey (available for one month, 262 respondents).
- 2017 online user group survey (available for one month, 21 respondents).
- 2017 user group meeting (15 November 2017).
- 2017 public workshop (7 December 2017).

Several important themes emerged from the public and user group input activities. These themes are identified and described below. A summary of the results from both the public and user group survey is provided in Appendix A.

#### Theme: Maintenance of Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Overall, the majority of respondents to the public and user groups surveys were satisfied with the quality of the Town's outdoor municipal recreation facilities. However, for those who expressed that they were unsatisfied with facilities, the principal reason cited was the poor state of repair of playing surfaces and equipment, including ball diamonds and seating, playgrounds, tennis courts, and soccer fields.

It was particularly important to residents and user groups that repairs are undertaken to ensure outdoor recreation assets are both safe and enjoyable to use, and thereafter that they are more regularly maintained to a higher standard.

Exhibit 17: Satisfaction with Outdoor Facilities (No. of persons)

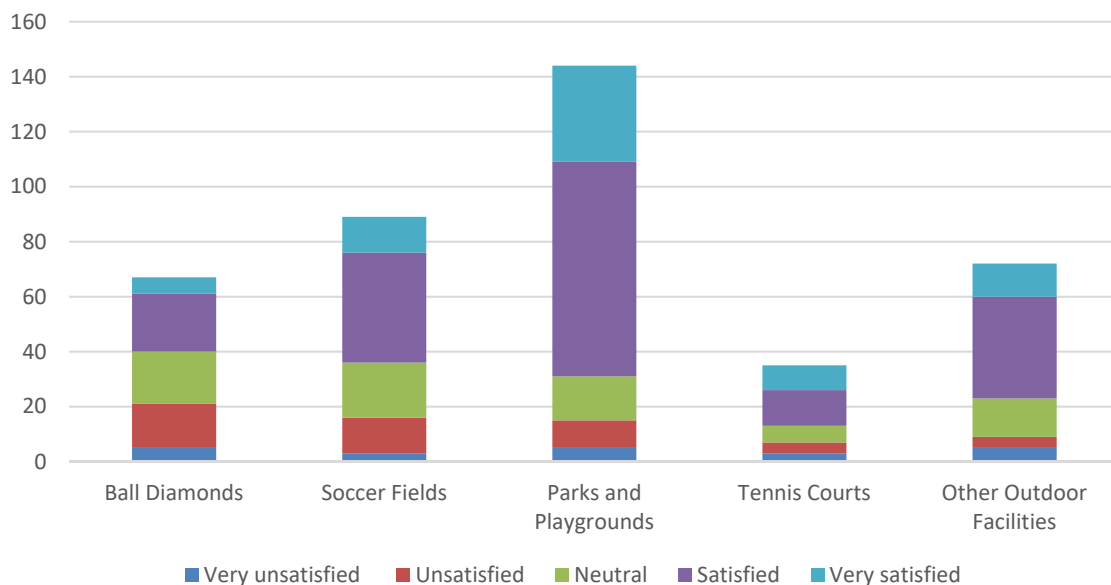
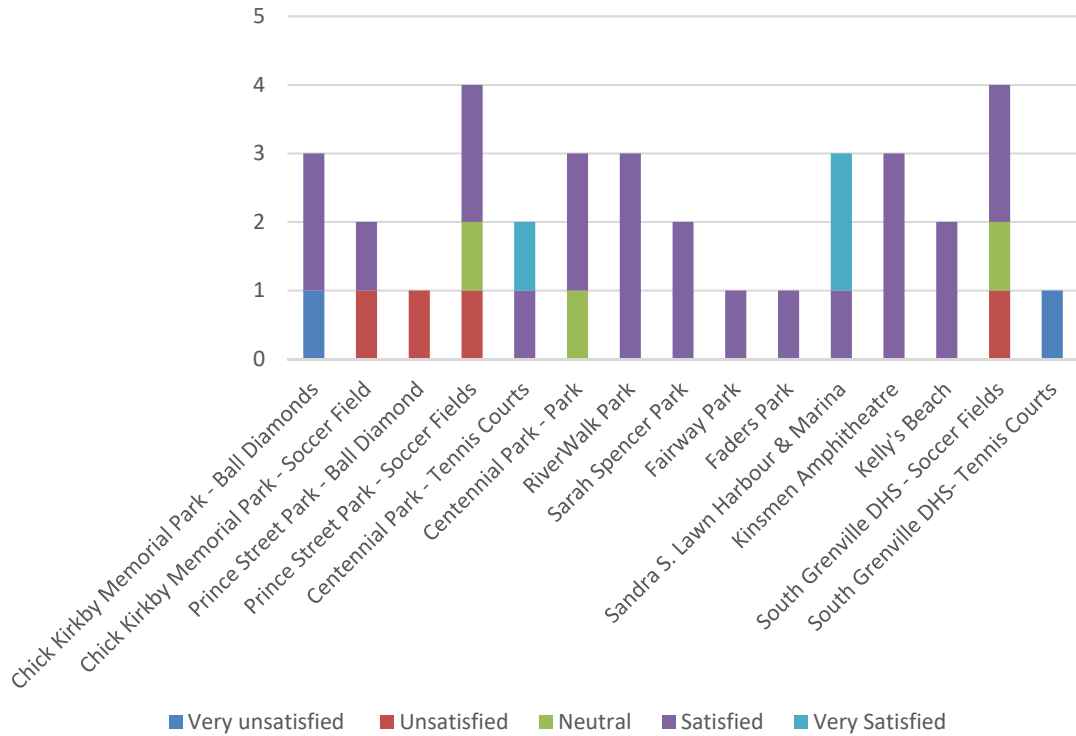


Exhibit 18: Satisfaction with Outdoor Facilities (No. of user groups)



**Theme: New or Improved Arena**

Many respondents identified that they were unsatisfied with facilities at the Leo Boivin Arena. The reasons given principally related to the arena being outdated, a lack of accessibility, changerooms being too small, and maintenance issues including mould, cleanliness and problems with the heating system.

Consequently, it is important to many residents that the arena facilities are improved (whether it be via refurbishment or construction of a new arena), not only to enhance the experience for existing users, but also to attract some of the Town’s residents who currently use alternative arenas outside the Town.

The opportunity of creating a multi-use venue was also cited as a benefit of providing new arena facilities (suggested co-located uses including: a walking track, event space, indoor soccer, indoor pool).

Exhibit 19: Satisfaction with Indoor Facilities (No. of persons)

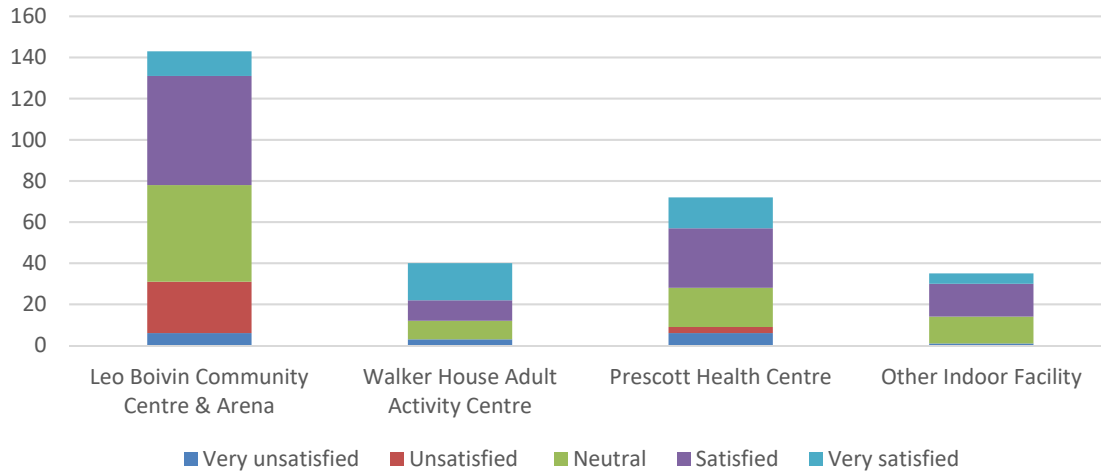
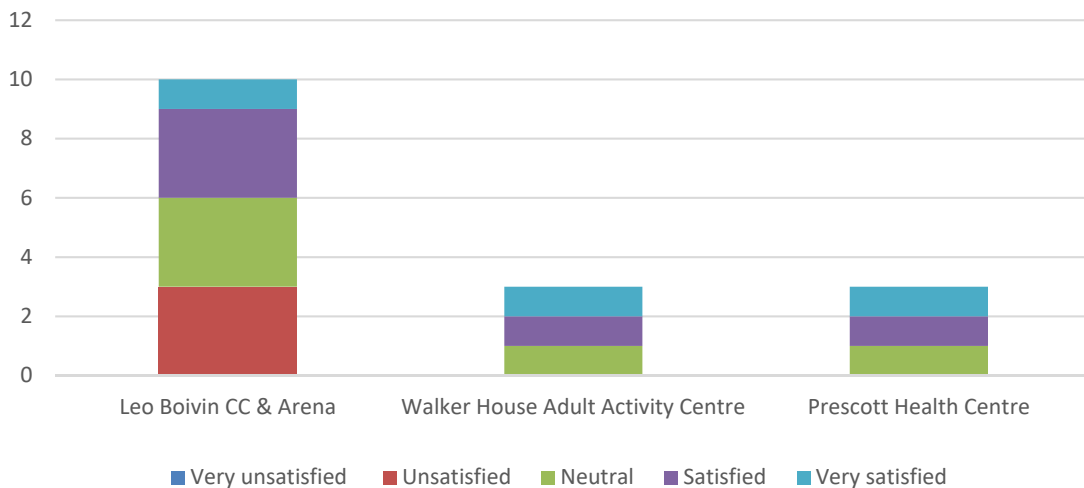


Exhibit 20: Satisfaction with Indoor Facilities (No. of user groups)



**Theme: Health and Wellbeing**

Health and wellbeing was very important to many residents. In terms of participation, 9 of the 10 most popular responses were outdoor recreation and leisure activities, the majority of which are informal and take advantage of the Town’s rural and waterfront location (e.g. walking for leisure or exercise, dog walking, swimming in outdoor lakes and rivers and boating). This is in-line with the trend seen across Ontario, where walking for exercise and individual fitness activities (i.e. yoga, aerobics, etc.) are among the top three physical activities for adult participants.

Suggestions on how participation in these activities could be increased included: quantitative and qualitative improvements in walking, hiking, and cycling trails; the creation of a dog park; a new splash pad and exploring opportunities to make better use of the waterfront.

Residents also commented that they would like to see expanded or enhanced indoor and outdoor community space(s) in the Town which could be used for both sport and non-sport related programming all year round.

In terms of other facilities, suggested improvements included a temporary cover for the amphitheatre and new indoor space for theatre rehearsals.

### **Theme: Focus on Programming**

77% of respondents to the public survey considered that the Town has a role to play in delivering recreation programs to its residents. The key trends arising from the responses were: the need to ensure that future pricing is cost-effective, and that programs should cater for a wide range of activities and offer greater opportunities for community participation.

Reoccurring suggestions on potential programs included:

- Activities for children, e.g. scouts, summer camps, sports teams;
- Swimming classes;
- Exercise/health & wellbeing classes for all ages and fitness levels/abilities;
- Seniors programming;
- Wider variety of community–participation events; and,
- Winter activities.

## 4 Vision for Recreation

This section identifies the key principles, vision statement and preliminary goals to guide the development and implementation of the Master Plans recommendations, as well as future decisions related to recreation within the Town of Prescott.

### 4.1 Key Principles Guiding the Master Plan

The recommendations contained within the Recreation Master Plan for Prescott are guided by several key principles. These were developed based on the outcomes of the community engagement activities, locational context, consideration for future demographics, local and provincial strategic priorities, and review of existing recreation facilities and programs.

1. Promote community health, wellness and active living through a variety of recreational opportunities.
2. Address the needs of an aging population through recreation planning.
3. Fully utilize the existing recreational assets available in the Town.
4. Strategic investment in recreation for resident retention and attraction, economic development, and to promote tourism (including sport tourism).
5. Asset management-based approach to practical capital investment in recreation facilities.
6. Recreation opportunities for all members of the community regardless of age, ability, income, or ethnicity.
7. Provision of an effective range of indoor spaces for public use and programming.
8. Protect and enhance Prescott's waterfront as the primary location for passive recreation, visitor services, and tourist opportunities.

## 4.2 The Vision

A vision is an inspirational statement that describes what an organization aspires to achieve or accomplish in the future. The vision statement specific to this Master Plan identifies what the Town aspires to do in the realm of recreation going forward. The following 10-year vision statement is provided for consideration and adoption as it relates to recreation within the Town of Prescott:

*“A vibrant and active community that maximizes its existing natural and built assets to offer superior indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities to residents and visitors.”*

## 4.3 Goals for Recreation in Prescott

The proposed goals of the Recreation Master Plan are intended to be high level, directional statements that guide the overall context for the development of recreation facilities, programs and services for residents of the Town. These goals should be used in future decisions related to recreation within the Town, including the recommendations of the Master Plan. The following goals are proposed for the Town of Prescott’s Recreation Master Plan:

1. A healthy and active community.
2. Recreation is accessible by all.
3. Connected open space network through active transportation and trail linkages.
4. Multi-functional and multi-generational facilities, spaces and program opportunities.
5. Recreation facility investment and renewal.
6. Maximize partnerships for access to facilities and programs.



## 5 Recommendations

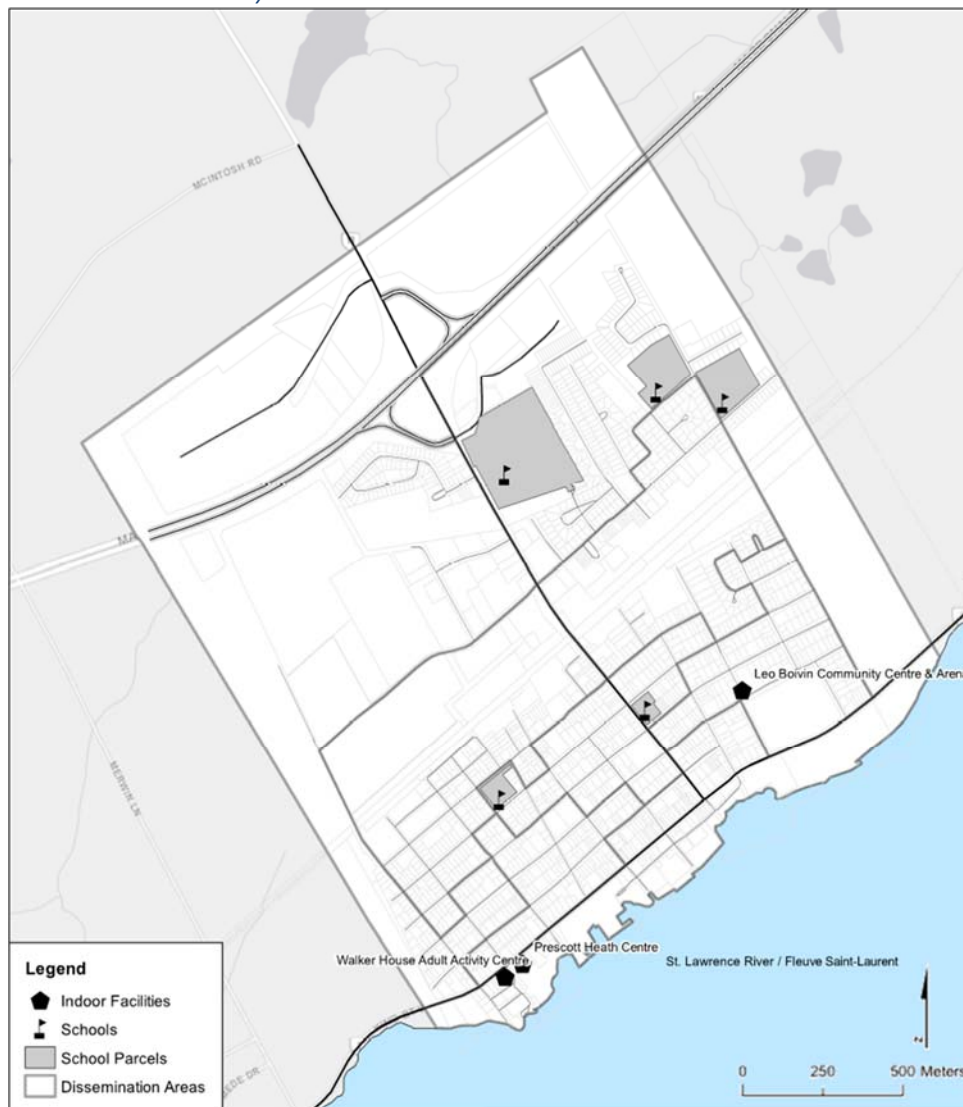
The identified goals of this Master Plan are achieved through a series of action items, falling into three broad categories: Indoor Recreation Facilities; Outdoor Recreation Facilities; and Service Delivery and Program Offer, and are detailed below.

### 5.1 Indoor Recreation Facilities

The Town provides three indoor recreation assets:

- Leo Boivin Community Centre and Arena;
- Walker House Adult Recreation Centre; and,
- Prescott Health Centre.

*Exhibit 21: Asset Inventory – Indoor Recreation Facilities*



Source: Mapping by Sierra Planning and Management.

### 5.1.1 Arena Strategy

The Leo Boivin Community Centre and Arena sits on a 0.48-hectare (1.2 acre) site, a portion of which is leased from Parks Canada<sup>3</sup>. The lease was renewed in 2012, effective for 20 years. The site includes a community centre / arena building as well as a parking lot. The building includes the following amenities:

- 1 ice sheet (185' by 85')
- Community room
- Concession (run by 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor)
- 4 dressings rooms
- 1 referee room

### Regional Context of Ice Supply

When looking at the regional supply of ice, there are 5 indoor ice pads located within a 30 km radius or an approximate 20-minute drive of Prescott. This equates to a standard of 1 indoor ice pad per 9,974 residents. This standard of provision is based on the populations of Prescott, Brockville, Elizabethtown-Kitley, Augusta and Edwardsburgh-Cardinal.

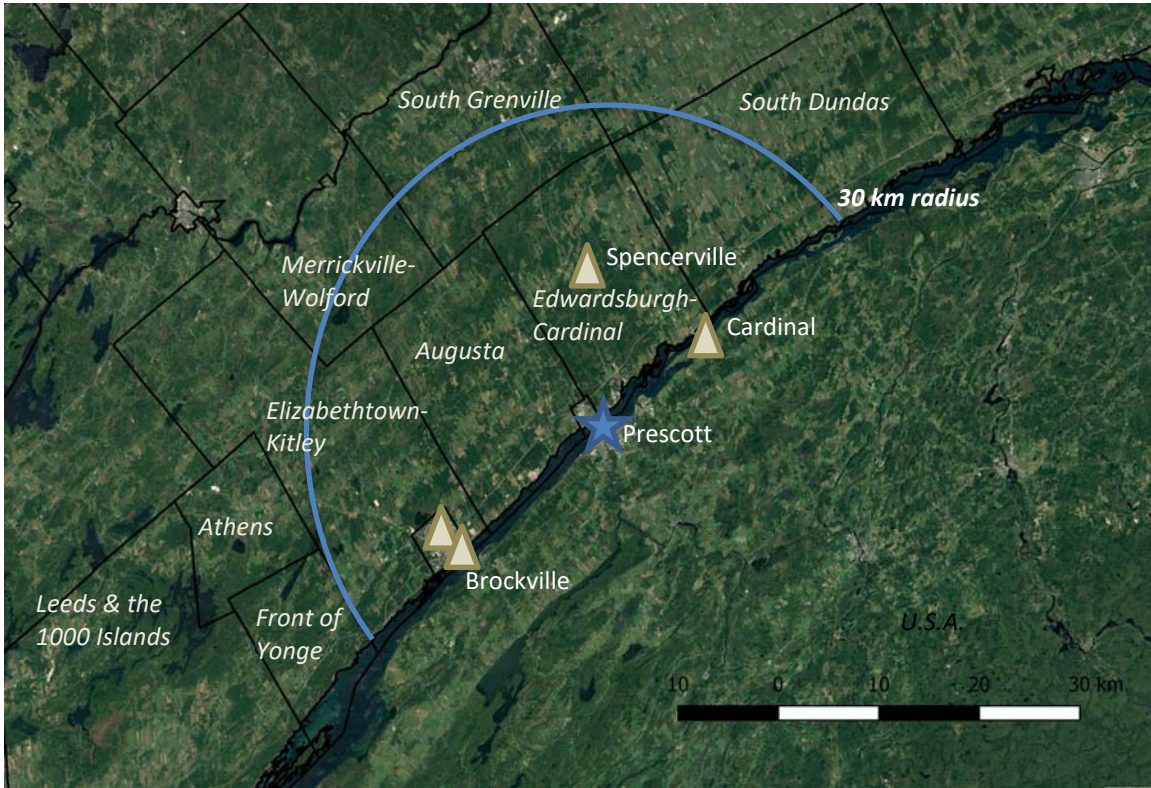
It is understood that the arena(s) in Brockville, Edwardsburgh-Cardinal and Prescott, function as a local circuit for indoor ice. Survey responses indicated that ice in Kemptville is also used on a regular basis, although located slightly farther away from Prescott (40 km or 30-minute drive) than the other arenas.

*Exhibit 22: Regional Ice Supply Details*

Municipality	Location	Facility	# Ice Pads
Town of Prescott	Prescott	Leo Boivin Arena + Community Centre	1
Town of Brockville	Brockville	Brockville Memorial Arena	1
Town of Brockville	Brockville	Brockville Centennial Youth Arena	1
Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal	Spencerville	Spencerville Arena	1
Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal	Cardinal	Ingredion Centre (Cardinal Arena)	1
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>

<sup>3</sup> Arena portion leased, Town owns parking lot.

Exhibit 23: Regional Ice Supply Map



**Provision Standard**

As of 2016, the Town standard of indoor ice provision was 1 indoor ice surface per 4,222 residents. This is not an uncommon level of provision in smaller communities that have made the decision to invest in indoor ice.

Exhibit 24: Population-based Standard of Provision for Arenas

Existing Standard of Provision	1 arena: 4,222 population (Town)
Observed Standard in Comparable Communities	1 arena: 3,000 to 7,000 population

A comparison of participation-based standards across similar communities in Ontario suggests that Prescott is within an acceptable range.

*Exhibit 25: Participation-based Standard of Provision for Arenas*

Existing Standard of Provision	1 indoor ice pad: 580 minor participants / 750 total participants <sup>4</sup>
Observed Standard in Comparable Communities	1 indoor ice pad: 450 to 700 participants

## Utilization

Utilization of the Leo Boivin Arena has been calculated based on available prime-time hours (4:00pm to 11:30pm on weekdays and 8:00am to 10:00pm on weekends) during the 26-week ice season (October to March<sup>5</sup>). The facility's prime-time utilization rate has remained consistently high over the past three years.

*Exhibit 26: Leo Boivin Arena – Prime-Time Utilization Rate (2014-2017)*

Year	Hours Booked	Hours Available	Utilization Rate
2014-15	1560	1703	92%
2015-16	1456	1703	85%
2016-17	1469	1703	86%

Source: Booking data provided by the Town of Prescott.

Based on participation-based standards and the current utilization of the existing arena, this Master Plan concludes that a second ice pad will not be required over the plan period.

## User Satisfaction

As a facility, the Leo Boivin Arena was the most used, but had the highest level of dissatisfaction among online survey respondents, as 21% were 'unsatisfied' or 'very unsatisfied' with their experience at the arena. When asked if the Town needs additional indoor recreation facilities, the majority share of online respondents (32%) indicated a new indoor arena facility as a priority for investment. Many respondents indicated that additional uses should be co-located with a new arena - ideas included a gymnasium facility for dry land sports, fitness studios, and an indoor walking track.

<sup>4</sup> This level of provision is comparable to many communities within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

<sup>5</sup> While the arena is open from September to April, these shoulder months were not typically booked in the same manner and therefore have been excluded from the analysis.

## Operating Financials

The annual operating performance of the Leo Boivin Community Centre and Arena was reviewed, based on the Town's 2017 Operating Budget. The identified budget for 2017 indicates that the Arena's anticipated revenues total \$235,000 (most of which comes from ice rentals) while expenses are anticipated to be in the range of \$515,000 (including a \$107,000 transfer to reserves). This results in a municipal subsidy of approximately \$280,000. This is typical of municipal arenas across the province, as ice rinks are important recreational assets for communities, and therefore the renewal of these assets is important.

## Building Condition

The facility was built in 1967, and recently, some issues related to the condition of the building have emerged, as detailed below.

A building condition assessment of the arena was completed in October 2017, identifying several deficiencies that need to be addressed within the next three to five years (many immediately), with an estimated cost of \$650,000<sup>6</sup>.

The report suggests that without significant upgrades and repairs, the remaining lifespan of the building structure and envelope is expected to be less than ten years. However, even if the recommendations within the report are completed, it is anticipated that additional new deficiencies will arise, as the building and its components are at or beyond their expected lifespan. A number of these deficiencies relate to safety and accessibility upgrades.

A Designated Substance Survey (DSS) was also completed in October 2017, which identified a number of designated substances and hazardous materials within the arena including, but not limited to, asbestos, lead, and ammonia. In conjunction with this, a Mould Survey Report was completed which confirmed the existence of water damage materials and mould in the arena building. The report recommended several immediate actions, including cleaning of all interior surfaces (this has recently been completed at a cost of \$90,000), and longer-term actions, including determining the source of water infiltration causing the mould to prevent future problems.

Another issue identified at the arena is the presence of ammonia in the ice plant system. While the replacement of such a system has not been fully costed at this time, the overall capital costs required to maintain the arena in its current functional state are likely to be significant, accounting for a large proportion of the current assessed value of the arena building at \$5.8 Million.

Considering the provision standards for ice, utilization and condition of the existing arena, it is recommended that the Town develop a new single-pad multi-use recreation facility, contingent on the decommissioning of the Leo Boivin Arena as an ice pad.

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<sup>6</sup> It should be noted that this assessment did not review mechanical or electrical equipment. However, it did note that the mechanical and electrical equipment appears to be at or beyond its expected lifespans.

While the Master Plan is not recommending a preferred site for development of a multi-use facility, criteria that should be considered in a site selection process includes:

- **Size:** Generally, the site should be within a minimum range of 4.0 to 7.0 acres (1.6 to 2.8 hectares) to accommodate a variety of uses within the building design.
- **Parcel Configuration:** Relative capacity of the site to maximize flexibility for building siting, efficiency of footprint, location of parking, site circulation, expansion potential, sufficient setbacks from existing uses, etc.
- **Site Constraints:** Limitations of siting, design efficiency, site servicing and other extraordinary development costs.
- **Visibility:** With Prescott's strategic location along the Highway 401 corridor, visibility of the facility from the highway would provide immense advertising for the facility on its own. It is recommended that siting of the facility take advantage of this opportunity.
- **Location and Access:** Site should be located on an arterial or collector road for ease of access. Localized access, and the impacts of access on capacity of local roads should also be considered.
- **Zoning:** Degree to which the existing use represents a distinct change (and rezoning) from the intended use of the lands (recreational facilities/community centres are permitted in Public Park and Institutional zones with maximum lot coverages of 35% and 50% respectively).

Based on the above, a second ice pad will not be required over the plan period. However, in the unforeseen event that one of the older arenas within the region were to close, Prescott may have additional pressure for ice, which may necessitate the need for a second pad. Continuous monitoring of ice use and pressure on ice facilities should be done on an annual basis. In any case, the site configuration and design should allow for the ability to invest in a second pad in the future (contingent on identified need, to be determined through a detailed ice needs assessment).

Once the ice is decommissioned, there is the opportunity to repurposing the existing arena to be a multi-purpose field house for use by a variety of community and sport groups (i.e. soccer, pickleball, gymnastics, etc.), however, the feasibility of this requires further assessment.

#### *Recommendation(s): Arena Strategy*

##### **Leo Boivin Arena:**

1. Over the short-term, invest in essential upgrades and maintenance for the Leo Boivin Arena as warranted for continued safe community use while plans for a new multi-use recreation facility are prepared.
2. With the development of a new multi-use recreational facility, decommission the existing ice surface (including removal of the ice plant) at Leo Boivin Arena and evaluate the feasibility and cost-benefits (Feasibility Study) of repurposing the

existing arena or building new for other indoor recreation uses, including the potential for an indoor field house.

- Should this be an option, purchasing the land from Parks Canada in future will need to be considered.

**A New Multi-Use Facility:**

3. Immediately commence planning (Feasibility Study and Business Plan) to replace the existing arena with a view to achieving implementation of the new facility within the next 5 to 8 years.
4. In the medium- to long-term, invest in a new single pad multi-use recreation facility with gymnasium, fitness studio, walking track, and other complementary indoor spaces. The preferred location for this facility should be determined through a site selection process as part of a facility feasibility study.
5. In the long-term, continue to monitor the demand for ice on an annual basis.

### 5.1.2 Indoor Pool

There is currently no indoor aquatics facility within Prescott, however, consultation indicated that the development of an indoor pool was long-term aspiration (22% of 130 question respondents<sup>7</sup>), in addition to other indoor facilities, such as a gymnasium or indoor field house, event space, and walking track.

48% of survey respondents said that of the facilities they use outside of Prescott, they use indoor pools the most (followed by 39% using arenas outside of Prescott the most). Based on proximity, it is assumed that most people use the YMCA pool in Brockville, although indoor aquatic facilities are also provided within the National Capital Region (Ottawa-Gatineau), Kingston and Cornwall.

While the opportunity exists in the future for the Town to develop an indoor pool, as has been done in other small communities in Ontario (Port Hope is an example of this), it can be concluded that pools are used on a broad regional scale and people are being served elsewhere.

Notwithstanding the fact that an indoor pool would likely have a direct impact on resident attraction and retention, providing an important service for people of all ages in South Grenville and beyond, and would help to renew the profile of the community to become a hub for recreation, sport and leisure, indoor pools are major capital investments and very expensive to operate. The economic realities of indoor pools don't suggest that Prescott should pursue the development of an indoor pool within the plan period.

<sup>7</sup> When asked "What indoor facilities are needed in Prescott?"

### 5.1.3 Walker House Adult Recreation Centre

The Walker House property was donated to the Town in 1985 for the sole purpose of developing a recreation centre for older adults (within the existing residential house). The Centre is provincially recognized as a Seniors Active Living Centre.

Walker House is comprised of 3 floors:

- **Basement:** used for storage and utility space, as well as two recreational spaces (containing a pool table and shuffleboard table and poker table).
- **Main floor:** has a large activity room, kitchen, cloakroom and washroom.
- **Second floor:** has a smaller activity room, library, craft supply room, small sitting / computer room, kitchen, washroom and office.

The facility is governed by a Board of Management comprised of volunteers and one member of Town Council. All programming decisions are evaluated by the Board prior to implementation. Funding is provided by a number of sources annually, including Ontario Seniors Secretariat (OSS), OSS Special Grant, New Horizons for Seniors, Senior's Community Grant, Town of Prescott, as well as community fundraising.

#### Provision Standard

Standards for the provision of facilities geared towards older adults differ among communities and is dependent upon specific program offer and geographic distribution. At present, 35% of Prescott's residents are over the age of 65, this proportion is expected to increase reflecting the aging trend that is occurring across Ontario. Therefore, demand for services oriented to this age group are also expected to increase, and additional attention to the overall health and wellbeing of this age group will be necessary.

There is also a growing need to recognize and provide a balance between the needs of "new seniors" and opportunities for more elderly age groups. In general, the Town should seek to provide more active living programs (i.e. fitness, educational, and arts-based) that appeal to a broad range of older adults.

#### Utilization

In 2017, the administration at Walker House began using new software to modernise the record keeping for the Centre and more effectively track the utilization of the facility. This will be used for both financial record keeping as well as membership and programming activities. Previously this was tracked by hand written records. Continuous monitoring of program registrations will be important to determine the mix of programs offered in the future.

#### Building Condition

A building condition assessment for Walker House was completed in December 2017. Overall, the facility was determined to be in fair condition, however general concern related to occupant life safety were specifically noted. The condition report identified several deficiencies related to the foundations, walls, exterior, and stairs. While the deficiencies identified within the report



total \$49,250, many are considered to be high priority and are recommended to be completed immediately (less than 1 year). The immediate priorities total \$41,250.

A Designated Substance Survey (DSS) was undertaken in December 2017 to gain a better understanding the Designated Substances and / or hazardous materials present in the building. While no asbestos was identified in the samples collected, the report identified that it may be present in inaccessible areas such as walls and ceiling cavities. Lead was detected in some samples and based on the age of some of the building infrastructure, the report presumes that there are some hazardous materials within the building, specifically, mercury, silica, and PCBs.

In addition to the above, there are some accessibility concerns with the building (i.e. multi-level access is limited, doorway and hallway widths present challenges, washrooms are small, etc.).

### Membership and Satisfaction

Walker House currently has approximately 215 members, 45% of which are out of town residents. Membership to Walker House is \$15 per year for Prescott residents, and an additional charge of \$25 per year for out-of-town residents (for a total fee of \$40 per year). Fees for specific activities are charged on top of the membership fee and vary by activity.

Of the respondents to the public survey who use Walker House (40 respondents), 70% were satisfied or very satisfied with their experience. However, as space is limited within the Centre, it is understood that programming also occurs on a weekly basis at a local church, the community room at the Town Hall (yoga), and the community room at the health centre (ball exercise).

Overall, given the anticipated growth in this age group, additional space and programming for older adults will be required to adequately serve their diverse needs over the course of the plan's timeframe. Accessible multi-use space(s) that can accommodate a variety of uses and users will be required. Flexible space oriented to programming for older adults (but not necessarily dedicated) should be considered in a new multi-purpose recreation facility.

#### **Recommendation(s): Walker House Adult Recreation Centre**

6. Continue to maintain Walker House in good condition in the short-term.
7. As part of a Feasibility Study, explore the opportunity to develop spaces for use by older adult programming (not dedicated) as part of a new recreational facility in the medium-term.
8. Should the Feasibility Study determine that programming space for use by older adults should be included as part of a new recreational facility, seek to decommission the existing Walker House in the medium – long term.
  - Explore the options related to retention of the property by the Town, or disposal of the property for alternative uses.

#### 5.1.4 Prescott Health Centre

The Prescott Health Centre is located on King Street West, strategically situated adjacent to Centennial Park and Walker House Adult Recreation Centre. The building offers a community room, kitchen, and health clinic component, which consists of 15 units leased by medical professionals and/or services. This is an important asset within the community providing necessary medical and health services to residents.

##### Utilization and Condition

While the community room is available for rent from the Town, it is only utilized for 28 hours of an available 72 hours per week (9:00am to 9:00pm, Monday through Saturday) based on a typical week. This is less than 40%. The space is rented by a variety of organizations, including:

- Community & Primary Health Care (CPHC) for fitness classes for older adults, and an adult day program offered two days per week;
- Men's Breakfast Club;
- Walker House fitness classes;
- Private instructor providing yoga classes; and,
- Other community organizations/meetings.

Based on the utilization rate, there is the capacity to expand the programs offered within this facility, whether they are Town-run or provided by private partners with the Town's assistance. Potential program opportunities for this and other municipal recreation facilities are described in Section 5.3.3.

A facility condition assessment has not been completed, however there are no known major building condition issues for this asset at the time of reporting.

##### *Recommendation(s): Prescott Health Centre*

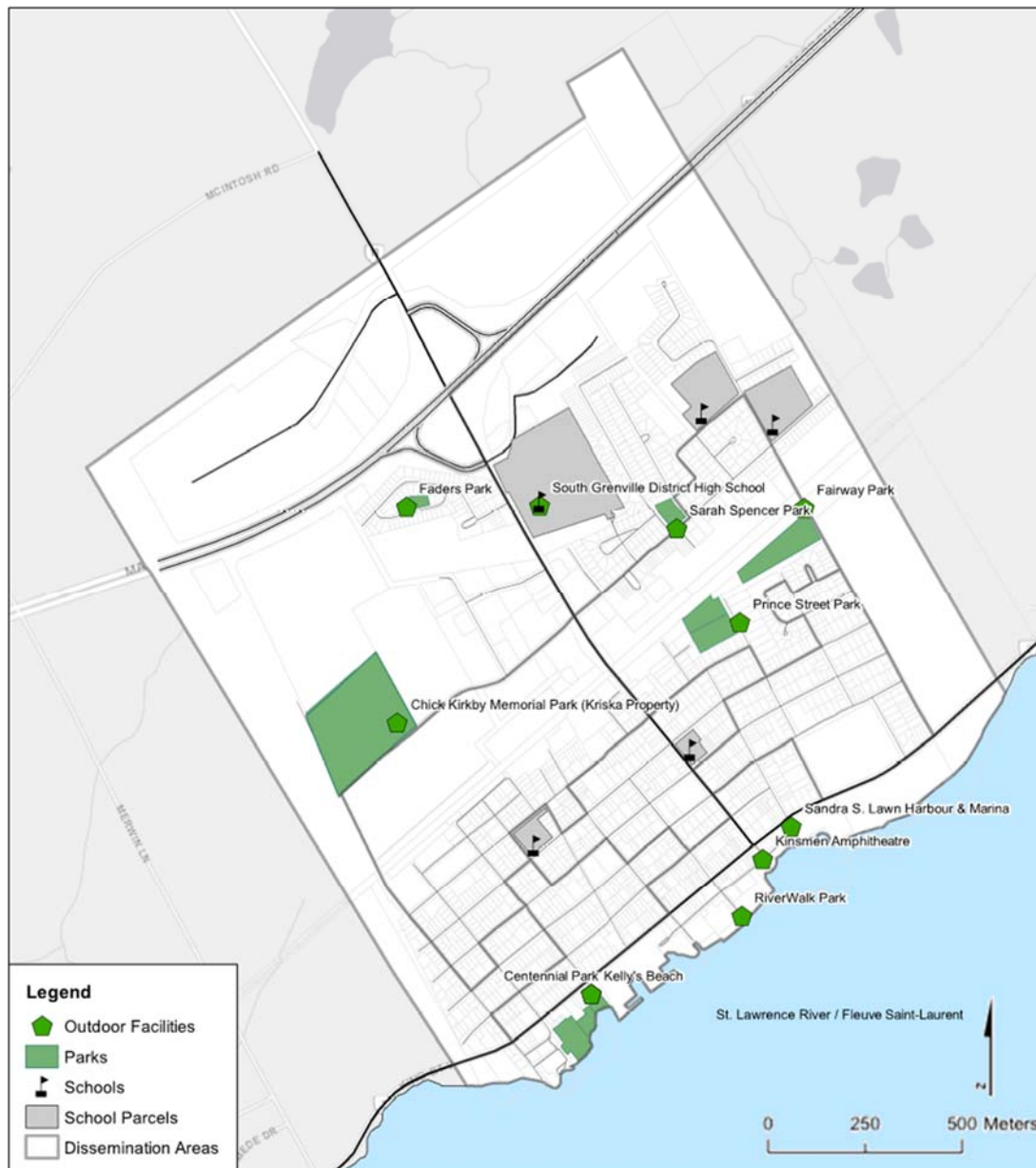
9. Continue to market the community room at the Health Centre as a space for use by the Town to provide direct programming, or by community groups and private rentals/bookings.

## 5.2 Outdoor Recreation Facilities

The Town's inventory of outdoor recreation facilities includes the following:

- 7 parks
- 4 ball diamonds
- 2 soccer fields
- 3 tennis courts
- 4 play structures
- 1 skate park
- 1 outdoor pool
- 1 public beach
- 1 boat launch
- 1 harbour and marina
- 1 outdoor amphitheatre

*Exhibit 27: Asset Inventory – Outdoor Recreation Facilities*



Source: Mapping by Sierra Planning and Management

## 5.2.1 Parkland

### 5.2.1.1 Existing Parkland

The Town's supply of outdoor recreational assets are located through the Town, with a concentration of facilities on the waterfront (Centennial Park, RiverWalk Park, Kinsmen Amphitheatre, Sandra S. Lawn Harbour and Marina) as well as within residential neighbourhoods.

*Exhibit 28: Current Supply of Public Parkland within Prescott*

Park Name	Size (ha)
<b>Centennial Park</b>	3.91
<b>Central Waterfront Area, including:</b>	3.06
- RiverWalk Park	0.89
- Kinsmen Amphitheatre	0.18
- Marina (estimated land area)	0.50
- East Parcel	1.49
<b>Sarah Spencer Park</b>	0.45
<b>Fairway Park</b>	2.25
<b>Fader's Park</b>	0.20
<b>Prince Street Park</b>	1.73
<b>Total (Municipal Owned)</b>	<b>11.60</b>
Chick Kirkby Memorial Park	7.54
<b>Total (All)</b>	<b>19.14</b>

It should be noted that Chick Kirkby Memorial Park is not owned by the Town but privately owned. The site was developed with outdoor recreational facilities by previous property owners, however the property is currently maintained by the Town. Recently, the Town has been in communication with the owner to discuss the development of a formal lease agreement for Town use of the land. This is an important step before the Town invests any additional capital dollars to (re)develop infrastructure on the site, as recommended in this plan.

Details of the facilities located within each municipally-owned park property are provided in the exhibit below.

Exhibit 29: Park Facility Details

	Ball Diamond	Soccer Field	Tennis Courts	Play Structure	Swing Set	Skate Park	Outdoor Pool	Public Beach	Boat Launch	Harbour + Marina	Outdoor Amphitheatre
<b>Centennial Park</b>			✓ (3)	✓			✓	✓	✓		
<b>Sarah Spencer Park</b>				✓	✓						
<b>Fairway Park</b>					✓						
<b>Fader's Park</b>				✓	✓						
<b>Prince Street Park</b>	✓ (1)	✓ (1)									
<b>RiverWalk Park</b>				✓							
<b>Kinsmen Amphitheatre</b>											✓
<b>Sandra S. Lawn Harbour + Marina</b>										✓	
<b>Chick Kirkby Memorial Park</b>	✓ (3)	✓ (1)				✓					

### 5.2.1.2 Parkland Classification System

The Town of Prescott does not currently have a parkland classification system or hierarchy to assist in the planning of future parks. Developing a parks hierarchy will provide a reference tool for Town staff to guide the development of new parks, and investment in existing parks that may not currently meet the needs of the community to their fullest potential.

Through reviewing the Town's existing park and open space inventory, it is recommended that the Town adopt the following hierarchy of parkland:

Exhibit 30: Parkland Classification System / Parks Hierarchy

Typology	Service Area	Size	Access / Location	Facilities
<b>Waterfront Park</b>	Region-wide, and beyond	1 to 3 ha	Public access to shoreline of river; linkages to trails for pedestrians /cyclist access connections where possible.	Facilities to support water-related recreational activities (i.e. beaches, swimming areas, boating / docking facilities, fishing platforms) pathways, special event facilities, splash pad/pool, parking, bike racks, washrooms, shelters, etc.
<b>Community Park</b>	Town-wide	Adequate to provide a range of recreation facilities	Accessible to pedestrians, cyclists / highly visible locations with street frontage (major roads); may be co-located with indoor recreation facilities.	Sports fields, sport courts, play structure(s), open space, pathways, lighting, skate park, special event facilities, parking, bike racks, washrooms, etc.
<b>Neighbourhood Park</b>	Local neighbourhood, 5 to 10-minute (400m to 800m) walking distance	Min. 0.35 ha, exception for existing locations	Prominent local street intersections with frontage	Play structure(s), open space, pathways, lighting, community gardens, bike racks, etc.
<b>Natural Areas</b>	Varies	Feature size, incl. buffers	Natural lands, lands protected from development, natural heritage features	Passive open space, trails, interpretive and wayfinding signage, benches

### Provision Standard

The Town currently provides 2.75 hectares of municipal parkland per 1,000 population. If Chick Kirkby Memorial Park property is included (currently not Town-owned), the level of provision improves substantially to 4.53 hectares per 1,000 population; which is a high level of provision when looking at comparable communities, who typically provide between 2.0 and 4.0 hectares of total parkland for every 1,000 population.

Exhibit 31: Population-Based Standard for Parkland

Classification / Typology	Total	Total Area (ha)	Existing Provision Standard	Comparable Standard
<b>Waterfront Parks</b>	2	6.97	1.65 ha per 1,000 population	Comparable level of provision not applicable.
<b>Community Parks (excl. Chick Kirkby)</b>	2	3.98	0.94 ha per 1,000 population	1.0 ha per 1,000 population
<b>Neighbourhood Parks</b>	2	0.65	0.15 ha per 1,000 population	0.5 ha per 1,000 population
<b>Natural Areas</b>		-	Not applicable	Comparable level of provision not applicable.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11.60 ha</b>	<b>2.75 ha per 1,000 population</b>	<b>2.0 to 4.0 ha per 1,000 population</b>

#### *Recommendation(s): Classification and Provision of Parkland*

10. Adopt a parkland classification system / hierarchy per this plan as a basis for planning for and acquiring, designing, developing and programming parkland.
11. Adopt a minimum level of provision of 2.75 ha of parkland per 1,000 population to maintain the existing standard.

#### *5.2.1.3 Parkland Acquisition and Dedication*

Parkland acquisition is mostly done via the land dedication or cash-in-lieu of parkland requirements of the *Ontario Planning Act* to support the provision of parkland within new development areas, or intensification / redevelopment areas. The *Planning Act* enables the Town to require the conveyance of land for parks or other public recreation purposes as a condition of land development. The *Planning Act* also sets out an alternative which identifies that municipalities may require the payment of cash-in-lieu of parkland that is required to be dedicated. This alternative is best utilized when the parcel for parkland offered by the developers is too small to accommodate any significant recreational facilities.

With limited land supply in the Town, the acquisition of parkland must be strategic in nature and have consideration not only for the quantity of parkland, but also the quality of acquired municipal land. Acquired parkland must be of a sufficient size and configuration to accommodate the development of a variety of active and passive amenities. Therefore, in principle, there should be a priority for developing larger Neighbourhood or Community Parks

over smaller park parcels. This could be accomplished through a mix of parkland dedication (as required) and cash-in-lieu funding.

Future parkland acquisition should be guided by the following:

- Providing a balance of both active and passive parkland opportunities;
- Geographic distribution within the Town, especially local access to neighbourhood parks;
- Opportunity-based and strategic acquisition of:
  - Parkland to accommodate the expansion of existing waterfront parks and community parks;
  - Natural corridors, areas and open space (that can accommodate trails);
  - Important linkages to create and expand a connected parks, open space, and trails network; and,
  - Land required for specialized facilities that support local or regional events, tourism, or specific recreational programs.

#### **Recommendation(s): Parkland Acquisition and Dedication**

12. As per policies set out in the *Planning Act*, align parkland dedication requirements with the recommendations included within this master plan to maximize the supply of available parkland through dedication from development. Consideration should be given to include the following parkland dedication and cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication policies:
  - For residential purposes: 5% of the area of the lot being developed or 1 hectare per 300 dwelling units (at a density exceeding 15 dwelling units per hectare), whichever is greater;
  - For industrial / commercial purposes: 2% of the area being developed; and,
  - For mixed-use development: 1 hectare per 300 dwelling units.
13. Through *Official Plan* review process, amend / update parkland-related policies to reflect the acquisition and dedication requirements set out in Recommendation 11 above.
14. Develop an implementing Parkland Dedication and Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Dedication By-Law to enact parkland acquisition and dedication provisions of the Town's Official Plan, once approved.



## 5.2.2 Waterfront Parks

The waterfront area of Prescott, a major destination within the Town, is in proximity to the downtown core, drawing tourists, visitors and residents alike. As identified in the Town's *Official Plan*, waterfront development and connecting the waterfront with the downtown core should be a key priority going forward.

The Town's waterfront is divided into two areas – one in the west and one in the east– separated by the Canadian Coast Guard property. While uninterrupted access to the water's edge is typically ideal, the two waterfront areas within Prescott are distinctly different and provide a variety of diverse amenities, as detailed below.

### 5.2.2.1 Centennial Park

Centennial Park, comprises the western portion of Prescott's waterfront. It is a 3.91-hectare property with several site amenities, including:

- 3 tennis courts (lit) and clubhouse (Town-owned property, privately operated);
- Centennial pool (outdoor, heated);
- Play structure (built in 2001);
- Kelly's Beach – unsupervised (swim at own risk);
- Washroom / change room facilities;
- Boat launch and turnaround;
- Asphalt parking lot;
- Pathways – paved;
- Small storage building;
- Concrete break wall (west end) / fishing platform.

In addition to these outdoor amenities, Centennial Park is located in proximity to the Prescott Health Centre, Tennis Courts and Clubhouse, and Walker House Adult Recreation Centre; yet, through observation during the field review, these assets feel somewhat disconnected.

#### Utilization and Condition

The park is very well used in the summer months by families and for Town events. Centennial Pool is used for life saving society programs, and recreational swim team practices (refer to Section 5.3.2 for pool program participation details).

The Town has allocated capital funds to improve the boat launch and turnaround area and formalize the trailer parking area within Centennial Park. The Master Plan endorses this planned improvement.

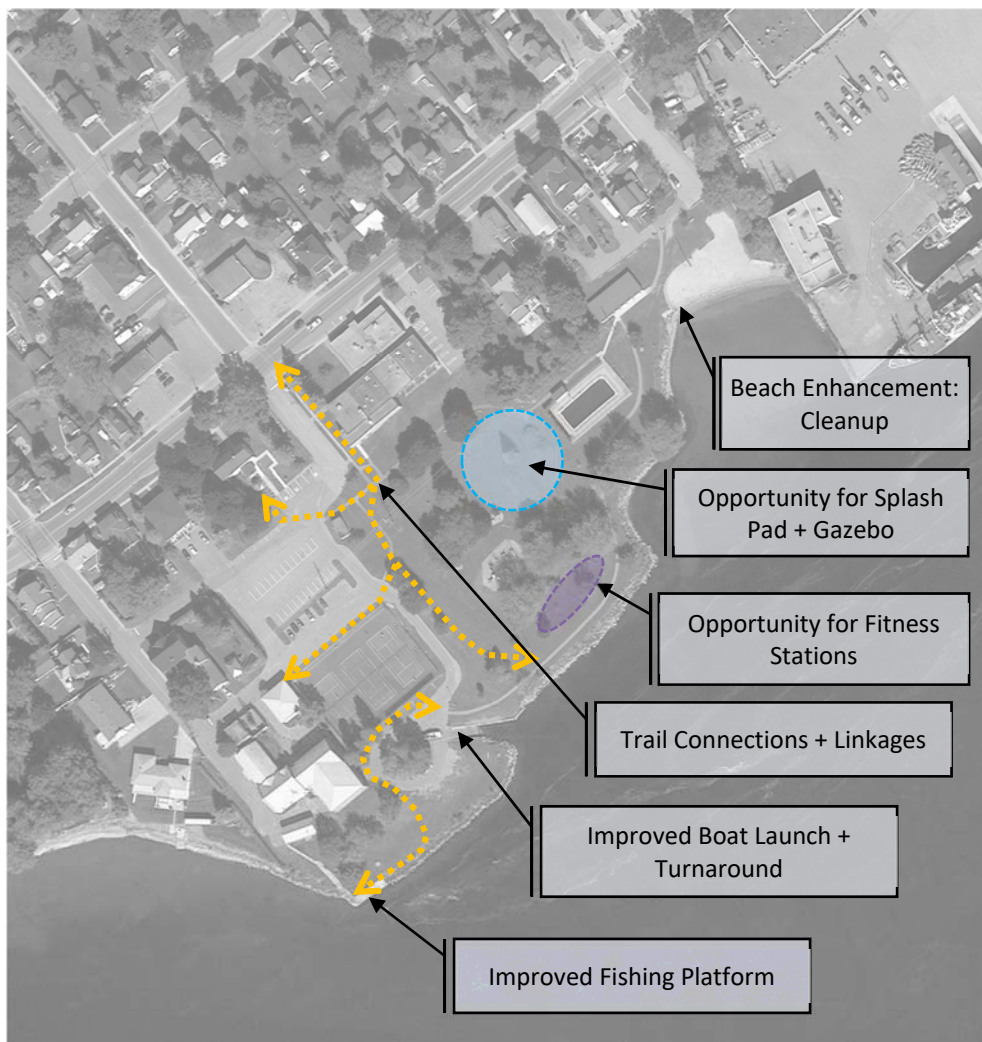
Based on observations during the site visit, the fishing platform is a popular spot for fishing within the Town, however, the concrete is in poor condition and in need of repair to continue to provide a safe facility for public use. The opportunity exists to renew and improve this area to facilitate safe fishing activities.

Centennial park was a popular topic throughout the consultation process. Public consultation indicated the priorities included:

- Addition of a picnic pavilion / shelter;
- Addition of a splash pad;
- Improvement of the beach area (cleanup); and,
- Linking the waterfront areas with other Town assets through trails and pathways.

Potential opportunities for improvement are illustrated on the exhibit below. In order to ensure a coordinated approach to implementing improvements at Centennial Park, the Town should work with the community and local service groups to develop future design concepts for Centennial Park. This process will also require consultation with the Canadian Coast Guard to ensure safe water access for swimmers / park users and compliance with any agency requirements.

*Exhibit 32: Centennial Park Development Opportunities (not approved and subject to consultation)*



**Recommendation(s): Centennial Park**

15. Continue with planned upgrades to the boat launch, turnaround, and trailer parking area to improve the facility for continued public use.
16. Based on the opportunities identified in this Plan, initiate and develop a concept plan for Centennial Park. This should be done through an iterative public and stakeholder consultation process and may include retaining a specialist consultant to confirm the needs and viability of the opportunities presented above.

**5.2.2.2 Central Waterfront Area**

The central waterfront area, located to the east of the Canadian Coast Guard property, includes many unique amenities:

- RiverWalk Park
  - Play structure
  - Picnic area
  - Passive walkways
- Kinsmen Amphitheatre
- Sandra S. Lawn Harbour and Marina
- Rotary Pavilion

RiverWalk Park and Playground was built in 2015, and is a popular destination for residents, as 50% of respondents to the public survey have used it in the past year. A majority of respondents were satisfied with their experience at the playground and with the other facilities within the Central Waterfront Area.

The Kinsmen Amphitheatre consists of a wooden gazebo (used as part of the stage), and tiered stone and grass seating. This facility is well-used by the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival and the Sunday Night Concert Series, as well as for weddings and private functions. Potential improvements to the Amphitheatre identified through consultation included the provision of weather protection and shade to patrons. This could be done through the planting of additional trees and/or the provision of a shade structure (i.e. tensile, etc.) and could improve the daytime utilization of the facility. The opportunity exists for those groups that use the facility to undertake fundraising efforts for the provision of the identified improvements.

The Marina is generally a well-used facility, with 47% of public survey respondents indicated that they have used it within the past year. Through consultation it was identified that the Marina needs some maintenance to keep it in good working condition, including upgrades to the electrical system and docks. To address these concerns, the Town has undertaken a review of the upgrades required to the existing electrical system and are currently planning for their implementation.

The Town currently provides kayaks and bicycles for rent by marina patrons only. The opportunity exists to expand the variety of recreational equipment available for rent, and to make it available to a broader audience, to include residents, visitors and tourists. This could include other non-motorized water vehicles (i.e. canoes, paddleboards, etc.) and other water- or land-related sports equipment. The rental of this equipment should be available through the main building at the harbour. The potential fees associated with equipment rental will need to be determined through a review of the Town's existing user fee structure (see Recommendation 48).

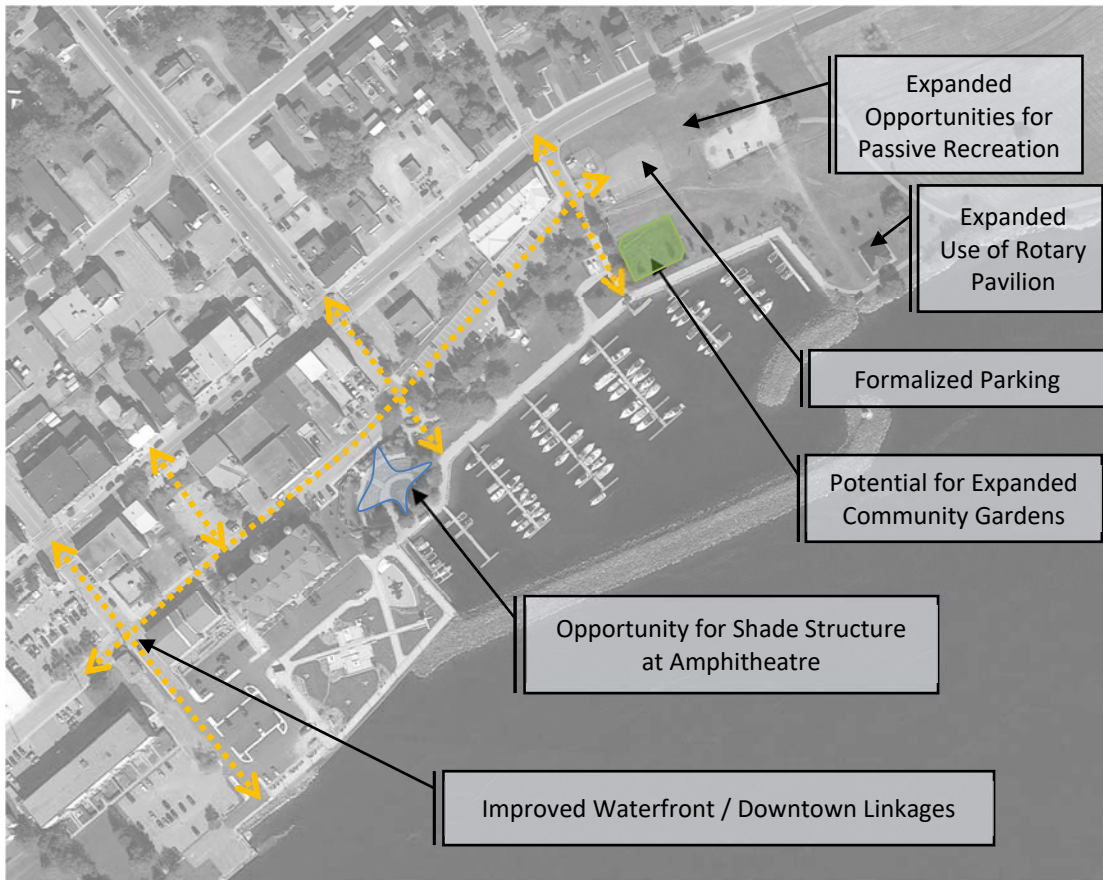
The Rotary Pavilion is located east of the marina with views to the water. This structure is currently used for community barbeques, picnics, family gatherings, and a variety of other activities. Previously, this facility has been rented by those who offer indoor programs over the winter as an outdoor space to do these same activities (i.e. yoga) as it is large enough to provide adequate shelter from the elements (e.g. sun, light rain, etc.). The opportunity exists to expand the utilization of this facility to allow for dedicated rental of the Pavilion to hold programs, classes, and/or outdoor workshops (provided either directly by the Town or by private instructors). This could include such programs as tai chi, painting or drawing classes, nature appreciation workshops, etc. The fees associated with renting this facility will need to be determined through a review of the Town's existing user fee structure (see Recommendation 48).

In addition, the Town owns a 1.49-hectare parcel of land east of the Marina that is currently home to parking, an open lawn area, community gardens for public use and pathways. As an important part of the waterfront, retaining this parcel as an area for passive recreation is important. Potential opportunities for future development include formalizing the parking area, expanding the community gardens area, and providing open space for unstructured play as well as treed or shaded gathering nodes for human comfort.

With the proximity of the waterfront and Marina to the downtown core, the Town should seek to strengthen the existing pedestrian linkages between the two areas through the provision of improved pedestrian amenities. This should be done in partnership with the downtown Business Improvement Association (BIA) as part of the implementation of the *Downtown Revitalization Strategic Plan* (2012).

Potential development opportunities for the Central Waterfront Area are summarized on the following exhibit.

Exhibit 33: Central Waterfront Development Opportunities (not approved and subject to consultation)



### Recommendation(s): Central Waterfront

17. Continue to maintain the marina and associated building in good condition for use by residents and tourists and promoted as an attraction / destination for the Town.
18. Explore the opportunity to expand the variety of recreational equipment available for rent from the Town. These assets should be made available to all residents, visitors, tourists and marina patrons (for a pre-determined fee).
19. Investigate the potential to expand the use of the Rotary Pavilion to enable the paid rental of the facility for dedicated programs, classes and workshops.
20. Based on the opportunities identified in this Plan, initiate and develop a concept plan for the eastern portion of the Central Waterfront Area. This should be done through an iterative consultation process and may include the retention of a consultant to confirm the needs and viability of the opportunities presented.

### 5.2.3 Ball Diamonds

The ball diamond inventory for the Town includes the following assets:

*Exhibit 34: Sports Field Inventory*

Park / Location	Ball Diamonds (unlit)	
	Hardball	Softball
Prince Street Park	1	-
Chick Kirkby Memorial Park	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

There are 4 ball diamonds located within the Town:

- 3 ball diamonds (unlit) are located at Chick Kirkby Memorial Park (not owned by Town), including 1 hardball diamond and 2 softball diamonds (1 of which is very overgrown and unusable).
- 1 ball diamond (lighting has been decommissioned) is located at Prince Street Park. This is a hardball diamond, however it has not been utilized by community groups in some time and is now more focused for soccer facilities (with a field located on the outfield of the ball diamond).

*Exhibit 35: Population-based Standard of Provision for Ball Diamonds*

Existing Standard of Provision	1 ball diamond: 2,111 population
Observed Standard in Comparable Communities	1 ball diamond: 2,000 to 3,000 population

Comparison of participation-based standards across similar communities in Ontario suggest that the level of provision is in line with observed standards. This standard reflects the 1 usable field for softball at Chick Kirkby. However, it should be noted that the Prescott Slow Pitch League indicated that they are having to limit their membership because there is only one usable softball diamond in town. They have been required to turn away potential new members due to a lack of appropriate fields for use by their teams. Consultation also indicated that there is no minor baseball league within the Town, due to a lack of appropriate facilities for play.

*Exhibit 36: Participation-based Standard of Provision for Ball Diamonds*

Existing Standard of Provision	1 ball diamond: 90 participants
Observed Standard in Comparable Communities	1 ball diamond: 75 to 100 participants

Respondents to the public survey indicated that 24% of ball diamond users were ‘unsatisfied’ with the quality of the facilities they use, citing poor maintenance (i.e. unsafe seating, turf maintenance issues, etc.), unlit diamonds, and washrooms in poor condition. These concerns were echoed by the Prescott Slow Pitch League, whose concerns included a ‘sinking’ outfield, fencing is in disrepair, and lighting is not adequate for night time games as some fixtures are not working properly.

In general, consultation activities indicated that if the fields were revitalized to an appropriate standard for game play, there would be more membership in hardball and softball. Acceptable facilities are simply lacking within the Town to provide enough capacity for more teams.

The opportunity exists for Chick Kirkby Memorial Park to become a hub for softball and hardball within Prescott, consolidating ball diamonds at this location to provide a venue for tournaments and specialized sporting events. This includes repurposing the existing (unused) soccer field to be a ball diamond, with the potential to revitalize the overgrown diamond in the future (to provide a 4<sup>th</sup> diamond beyond the plan period or as demand dictates).

As previously identified, Chick Kirkby Memorial Park is not currently in the Town’s ownership but maintains it. Therefore, the long-term use / (re)development of the facilities located on the property is contingent on the execution of a formalized long-term lease agreement between the Town and the current owner for a minimum of 20 years, or ultimately ownership of the land.

If a long-term lease for / ownership of the property was to be secured, the Town should develop a Ball Diamond Allocation Policy, to develop a schedule of users for the improved fields and appropriate rental fees associated with use (to be determined through a review of facility user fee structure, see Recommendation 48).

#### **Recommendation(s): Chick Kirkby Memorial Park**

21. Continue to pursue a formalized lease agreement (20-year min.) between the Town and the owner of the Chick Kirkby Memorial Park property for future use by the public and investment by the municipality.
22. Long-term, seek to pursue the purchase of Chick Kirkby Memorial Park property to secure continued use for recreational purposes, should the land become available.

#### **Recommendation(s): Ball Diamonds**

23. Contingent on the execution of a long-term lease agreement / ownership, revitalize the 2 usable ball diamonds at Chick Kirkby Memorial Park to better accommodate user groups in the short-term. This includes improved fencing, lighting, outfield and infield conditions, bleachers, and washroom facilities.

24. Contingent on the execution of a long-term lease agreement / ownership, repurpose the existing soccer field at Chick Kirkby Memorial Park to be a ball diamond in the medium term, or as demand dictates.
25. Contingent on a lease agreement or ownership of the Chick Kirkby property, develop a Ball Diamond Allocation Policy to determine a schedule for use and associated rental fees for the diamonds. This should be reviewed on an annual basis.
26. Formally decommission the ball diamond and related infrastructure at Prince Street Park to be repurposed as a soccer-focused facility (see Recommendation 24).

#### 5.2.4 Sports Fields

The sports field inventory for the Town includes the following assets:

*Exhibit 37: Sports Field Inventory*

Park / Location	Soccer Fields (Full-size)	Football Fields
<b>Prince Street Park</b>	1	-
<b>Chick Kirkby Memorial Park</b>	1	-
<b>South Grenville District High School</b>	4.5	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>1</b>

Soccer is a popular and growing sport in Prescott with approximately 600 participants last season. There are 6.5 soccer fields within the Town:

- 1 soccer field (unlit) is located at Chick Kirkby Memorial Park (not owned by Town), however based on discussions with Town staff and residents, this space is not formally utilized for soccer.
- 1 soccer field (unlit, located on ball diamond outfield) at Prince Street Park.
- In addition, there are soccer fields located at the South Grenville District High School. The Upper Canada District School Board identifies that 2 soccer fields are located here, and through discussion with user groups, it was identified that they configure these fields, and other open grass areas, to be 10 fields of varying sizes (estimated to be 4 mid-size and 6 mini fields) based on player age groups. Based on the field equivalents established<sup>8</sup>, it is presumed that there are 4.5 soccer fields on-site.

It should be noted that there is also one football field in Prescott, located at the South Grenville District High School. This facility is used by students and for rugby.

<sup>8</sup> 1 mid-size unlit field = 0.75 fields, 1 mini unlit = 0.25 fields.



## Provision Standard

*Exhibit 38: Population-based Standard of Provision for Soccer Fields*

Existing Standard of Provision	1 soccer field: 650 population
Observed Standard in Comparable Communities	1 soccer field: 1,500 to 2,500 population

Comparison of participation-based standards across similar communities in Ontario suggests that Prescott provides a similar level of provision for soccer fields. However, if soccer continues to grow as a popular sport in Prescott, as anticipated by the local soccer groups, additional facilities (indoor or outdoor) will likely be required over the term of the plan.

*Exhibit 39: Participation-based Standard of Provision for Soccer Fields*

Existing Standard of Provision	1 soccer field: 80 youth / 92 total participants
Observed Standard in Comparable Communities	1 soccer field: 80 youth / 100 total participants

The existing standard of football fields, typically provided by educational institutions, is in line with that observed elsewhere. Therefore, no additional football fields are required over the plan period.

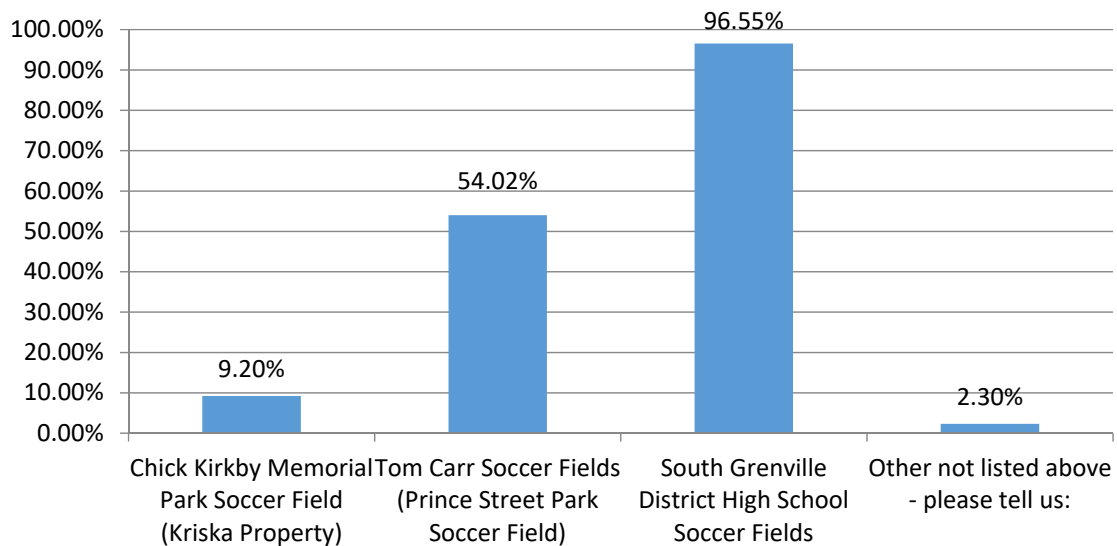
*Exhibit 40: Population-based Standard of Provision for Football Fields*

Existing Standard of Provision	1 football field: 4,222 population
Observed Standard in Comparable Communities	1 football field: 5,000 to 7,000 population

## Utilization and Condition

Respondents to the public and user group surveys indicated that they utilize the fields at the South Grenville District High School the most. These fields are maintained by the school board, and as such, maintained to the school's needs, and not necessarily to the needs of the user groups (who have identified the fields are in very poor condition). Through discussion with the school board it was learned that over \$100,000 in capital investment to upgrade / replace the playing fields has been budgeted, however, the timing of these upgrades is unknown at this time. Moving forward, the Town should liaise with the user groups and the school board to communicate user group interests related to the field upgrades (as main users) and facilitate their involvement in the planning process, as appropriate.

Exhibit 41: Most Used Soccer Fields within Prescott (Public Survey Respondents)



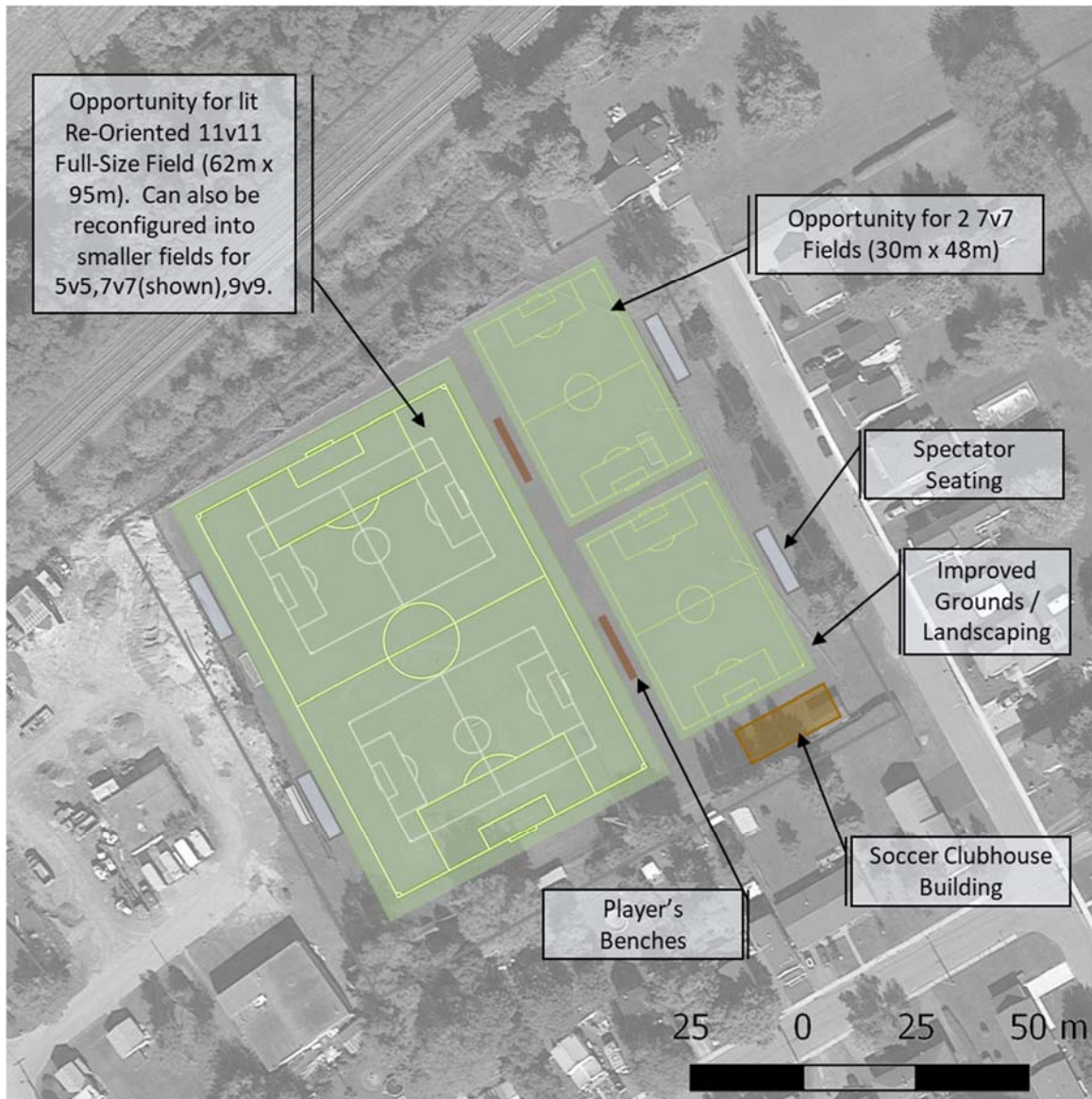
The Prince Street Park soccer field is well used by the adult soccer league. Suggested improvements to the site include the addition of site amenities such as lighting, washrooms, etc. Artificial turf was also mentioned by the local soccer clubs as a potential improvement to the fields.

As per Recommendation 24, the opportunity is present to repurpose Prince Street Park to be a soccer-focused facility with improved amenities (lighting, bleachers, etc.) and a clubhouse building (including washrooms, office, meeting room, etc.). This will require removal of the ball diamond and related infrastructure. As part of this exercise, the Town should explore the potential to implement an artificial turf field in this location. Soccer groups should be involved in this process to determine a preferred layout for facilities/field(s).

Once the property is revitalized and prior to opening, the Town should develop a field allocation policy, to develop a schedule of users for the improved fields and appropriate rental fees associated with use.

Potential development opportunities for Prince Street Park are illustrated in Exhibit 42.

Exhibit 42: Prince Street Park Development Opportunities (not approved and subject to consultation)



Consultation also indicated that there is an appetite within the community for an indoor facility that could accommodate soccer. This would provide an appropriate venue for use during the winter months for training and game play purposes (see Recommendations 2 and 4).

**Recommendation(s): Soccer Fields**

27. Facilitate discussions between soccer user groups and the Upper Canada District School Board related to the anticipated future upgrade / replacement of the playing fields at SGDHS.
28. In connection with Recommendation 24, repurpose Prince Street Park to be a soccer-focused facility with improved amenities (such as properly crowned fields, field lighting, bleachers, etc.) and a clubhouse building (including washrooms, office, meeting room, etc.). Investigate the potential to include artificial turf.
29. Contingent of the revitalization of the Prince Street Park to include upgraded soccer facilities, develop a Field Allocation Policy to determine a schedule for field use and associated rental fees for the fields.

### 5.2.5 Sport Courts

The Town provides 3 tennis courts, located at Centennial Park. These courts are exclusively used by the Prescott Tennis Club. The Town owns the property and provides major capital investment as required (i.e. court resurfacing), while the Tennis Club operated as a private club, and maintains the courts daily and undertakes small repairs as required. As these are publicly-owned courts, all members of the community should be provided the opportunity to have access and use for their enjoyment. The Towns should ensure that this is the case moving forward.

Trends in court-based activities have evolved over the last decade. Pickleball is a growing and emerging sport in many North American communities, including Prescott. With the newly formed (May 2017) and very active South Grenville Pickleball Club, Prescott has seen a rise in local interest in the sport. The Pickleball Club currently plays on one outdoor pickleball court in Maynard during the summer months and on two indoor courts at South Grenville District High School in Prescott (in the small gymnasium) over the winter. It is understood that some game times at SGDHS sold out in record time, and the current availability of indoor and outdoor space is limiting the growth of the Club.

In support of Recommendations 2 and 4, and as the Club grows in the long term, the potential exists for pickleball to be accommodated at the repurposed arena or within a multi-use gym space at a new multi-purpose facility. In the interim, additional indoor locations that should be investigated include the gymnasium at the (former) Central School property, and/or sustained use of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

## Provision Standard

*Exhibit 43: Population-based Standard of Provision for Tennis Courts*

Existing Standard of Provision (Town-owned)	1 tennis court: 1,407 population
Observed Standard in Comparable Communities	1 tennis court: 2,000 to 4,000 population

Four additional tennis courts are located at South Grenville District High School (SGDHS), further improving the standard of provision for tennis courts within the Town.

## Utilization and Condition

### Prescott Tennis Club (Centennial Park)

The Tennis Club has use of the Tennis Clubhouse, situated adjacent to the courts. It is understood that this building is not fully utilized by the Tennis Club, presenting the opportunity for additional uses of the building by the Town, or others. Recently, a woodworking shop was developed in the basement of the building for use by Walker House members. This will help to increase the utilization of the existing asset. To further this, the opportunity exists for the Town to take over the operation of the building to enable its use for additional / new recreational or older adult programming.

The clubhouse building is generally in fair condition, as identified within the Tennis Club Building Condition Study (2017), with required capital investments over the next 5 years totaling \$45,800. This assessment did not include a review of mechanical or electrical equipment. Additionally, the Tennis Club noted that the stairs leading down to the courts are a safety concerns and in need of repair.

### South Grenville District High School Tennis Courts

Facility inventory data provided by the school board indicates that the tennis courts at the SGDHS are in extreme disrepair, however, responses to the public survey indicated that they are still being used by the public.

The opportunity exists for the Town, in conjunction with the Pickleball Club to work with the Upper Canada District School Board to revitalize the tennis courts at SGDHS to be multi-sport courts (i.e. include line painting for pickleball courts). Alternatively (or in addition), the Town should work closely with the Tennis Club and Pickleball Club to determine how to best accommodate both user groups within the existing municipally-owned tennis courts (i.e. one or two courts could include lines for pickleball). In the long-term, the potential exists to repurpose the existing skatepark to be multi-use sport courts (contingent on the development of a skatepark at the new multi-use facility, see Recommendation 38 and 39).

**Recommendation(s): Sport Courts**

30. Maintain the tennis courts, clubhouse and related infrastructure at Centennial Park in good condition for safe use by all members of the public, in addition to Tennis Club and Walker House members.
31. Explore the opportunity for the Town to take over the operation of the Tennis Clubhouse building to expand its usage to include additional / new recreational or older adult programming.
32. Work with user groups and community partners to determine the best solution to accommodate the development of outdoor multi-sport courts within the Town, including use for pickleball.

### 5.2.6 Playgrounds

Town-owned playground facilities are provided at 4 locations within Prescott:

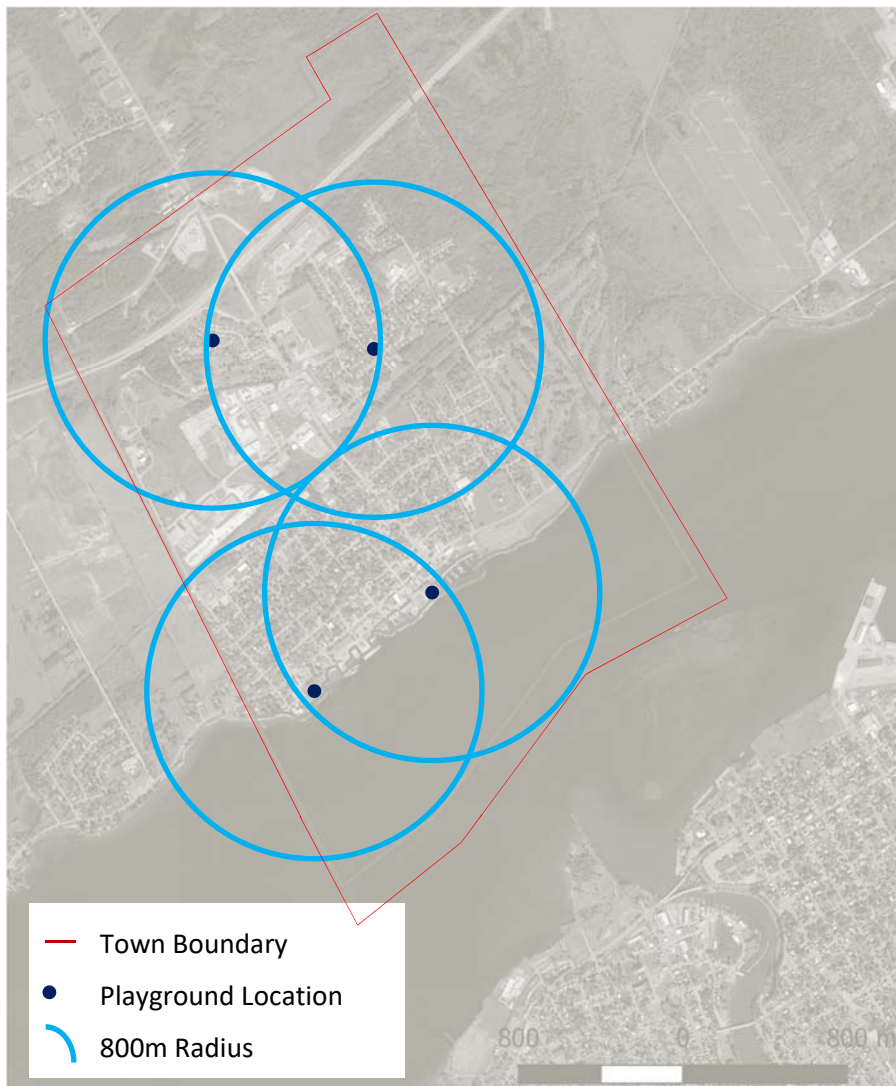
- Fader's Park
- Sarah Spencer Park
- Centennial Park
- RiverWalk Park

Additional playgrounds are provided at the three elementary school properties within Prescott, namely Wellington Public School, St. Mark Catholic School, and St. Lawrence Academy. It should be noted that Fairway Park has 2 swing sets, but no formal play structure.

In settlement areas with at least 500 residents, a minimum of one playground (Neighbourhood Park) within 500m to 800m (5 minute to 10 minute) walking distance of most residences is typically considered as the target service level for playgrounds.

Exhibit 44 illustrates the geographic coverage of facilities based on an 800m radius from each location. In general, the Town has good geographic coverage of these assets.

Exhibit 44: Geographic Distribution of Playgrounds within Prescott



### Recommendation(s): Playgrounds

33. Continue to address current standards for safety and accessibility of play structures through on-going renewal / replacement when determined to be in poor condition (based on asset management).
34. Coordinate playground locations in parks with those available or planned at local schools to maximize access, variety and appeal to children of all ages.
35. Review and consider trends and innovations in playground design and development, with a potential for alternatives to traditional playground structures (i.e. naturalized playgrounds, etc.). This can help to reduce maintenance requirements.

### 5.2.7 Splash Pad

The Town currently does not have a splash pad facility within its jurisdiction. Responses to the Town's *Capital Survey* (September 2017) and public online survey for the Master Plan indicated that a splash pad was an aspiration for the community<sup>9</sup>, as many residents currently travel outside Prescott to use splash pads in neighbouring communities. A splash pad was also a priority facility identified within the *Strategic Plan*.

There is clear demand for a splash pad within the Town, the development of a splash pad has been brought to the forefront within the past few years. A splash pad would improve overall quality of life and provide additional outdoor recreational facilities on the waterfront. As a local, and likely regional destination, this facility should be designed to be universally accessible and include a variety of equipment.

#### **Recommendation(s): Splash Pad**

36. Undertake a Business Case prior to the development of a new splash pad as part of future budget deliberations for Council's review. The Business Case should evaluate the benefits, costs and risks of alternative options and provide a rationale for a preferred solution.

### 5.2.8 Skateboard Park

The Town has one existing skateboard park, located at Chick Kirkby Memorial Park. The facility, originally built by the local Kiwanis chapter, has deteriorated over time and consultation indicated that it is in need to repairs / upgrading.

The opportunity to develop a new skateboard park (concrete structure) as part of a new multi-use recreational facility should be explored. This should be done through consultation with the youth population in Prescott.

#### **Recommendation(s): Skateboard Park**

37. In the short-term, maintain the existing skateboard park for continued use by the public.
38. In the long-term, explore the opportunity to develop a new (replacement) skateboard facility as part of a new multi-use recreation facility.

<sup>9</sup> 42% of Capital Survey respondents identified it as a key priority project and 35% of Master Plan survey respondents identified it as an additional outdoor facility they would like to see within the Town.



39. Contingent on the development of a replacement skatepark at a new facility, decommission the existing skatepark and repurpose the space for other recreational uses with consideration for multi-use sport courts.

### 5.2.9 Dog Park

The consultation process indicated that residents aspire to have a dog park within Prescott. Currently, the underutilized soccer field at Chick Kirkby Memorial Park is informally being used as a dog park because it is fenced. The municipally-owned land south of Churchill Road East and east of Edward Street South (north of railway) is a more central and underutilized location that should be considered.

A permanent and designated dog park location will allow for investment to provide a high quality, functional experience for users. A dog park should consider the following amenities:

- Amenities for both small and large dogs;
- Water source (clean);
- Sufficient (high) fencing;
- Lighting;
- Trash receptacles spread throughout park site;
- Permanent covered area for shade; and,
- Benches / tables for owner's comfort.

#### *Recommendation(s): Dog Park*

40. Identify a permanent, designated location for a dog park to be developed over the short term.

### 5.2.10 Connections and Trails

Currently, the trail network within Prescott is limited to the waterfront trail which runs the length of the Town's riverside jurisdiction and links Centennial Park with the Central Waterfront Area in the east. There is opportunity to expand upon this and develop additional trails linking residential areas with key assets in the Town and beyond.

Consultation indicates that the community would like to see more walking and cycling trails within the Town and within neighbouring municipalities. Linking key assets (recreational or otherwise) within the Town was identified as being important to residents to promote active transportation and physical activity.

Local linkages within Prescott to provide safe pedestrian, cyclist (and other active transportation), access to major destinations within the Town should be explored. These linkages could be provided in a variety of ways, including through the provision of wayfinding and identification signage, sidewalks, off-road multi-use trails, on-road cycling facilities (i.e. sharrows), and pathways within parkland and open space.

In addition, there is the opportunity to work with the Townships of Augusta and Edwardsburgh/Cardinal to coordinate trail linkages beyond the Town boundaries.

Trail connections and linkage opportunities are illustrated on Exhibit 45.

Exhibit 45: Trail/Linkages Opportunities



#### Recommendation(s): Connections and Trails

41. Through the development of an Active Transportation Plan, explore opportunities to develop on- and off-road linkages throughout the Town, with a focus on connecting major destinations such as the waterfront, downtown, schools, and the park network.
42. Work with neighbouring municipalities to identify and develop trail linkage opportunities to better connect the Town with the surrounding area.

## 5.3 Recreational Programming and Service Delivery

### 5.3.1 Service Delivery System

The Town of Prescott has adopted a community development model for recreation delivery. Specifically:

- The Town is the facility and program provider of first-choice where little to no options exist in the private and/or volunteer market to adequately service the needs of the community, however, this could be expanded; and,
- As it relates to event hosting and other activities/programs delivered by the volunteer sector (e.g. minor sport), the Town plays a supportive role through the provision of access to facilities.

Other service delivery functions include the marketing and promotion of municipal, private and volunteer-run programs and activities through several methods (i.e. Town website, the seasonal 'Play' / Leisure Guide, etc.).

Currently, the delivery of most programs and services relies on community groups and individual instructors. The current role of staff is to facilitate and assist groups with the delivery of service through allocation of facilities and administration.

Prescott offers the direct provision of facilities (i.e. Arena) and leisure opportunities (i.e. Centennial Pool) in a limited manner. Through consultation, the community indicated that they would like to see this role expanded to be the provider of a broader range of services and opportunities, creating greater community engagement and participation.

This Master Plan recommends that the Town should seek to better execute the community development model of service delivery in the future. Municipally delivered programs should be directly delivered where there is a gap in the delivery of services and where there is little to no capacity of the community to take action on an identified need. Potential opportunities for directly delivered programming are identified in Section 5.3.3.

#### *Recommendation(s): Service Delivery*

43. Address the existing service gaps and provide programming directly where there is no community capacity to do so.

### 5.3.2 Existing Program Offer

The Town currently provides direct programming at the following indoor and outdoor facilities:

- Walker House Adult Recreation Centre;
- Centennial Park; and,
- Centennial Pool (within Centennial Park).

#### Walker House Programming

A wide variety of programs are offered at Walker House Adult Recreation Centre on a weekly basis. The current schedule of activities is provided in the exhibit below.

*Exhibit 46: Walker House Activity Schedule*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Activities</b>	Bridge  Evening rentals (Weight Watchers, SGGOFA)	Scrabble / Cooperative Scrabble  Coffee + Chat  Crafts (bring your own, some organized)	Traditional Rug Hooking (bi-weekly)  Art (quiet studio time, some organized)  Bridge Lessons	Yoga (St. Paul's Church)  Chair Yoga (Town Hall)  Bunka, Hardanger, Swedish Weaving  Euchre	Yarn and Yak (knitting, crocheting, spinning)  Members Lunch (monthly)  Pepper / Bid Euchre	Bunka, Hardanger, Swedish Weaving  Bridge

#### Centennial Park Programming

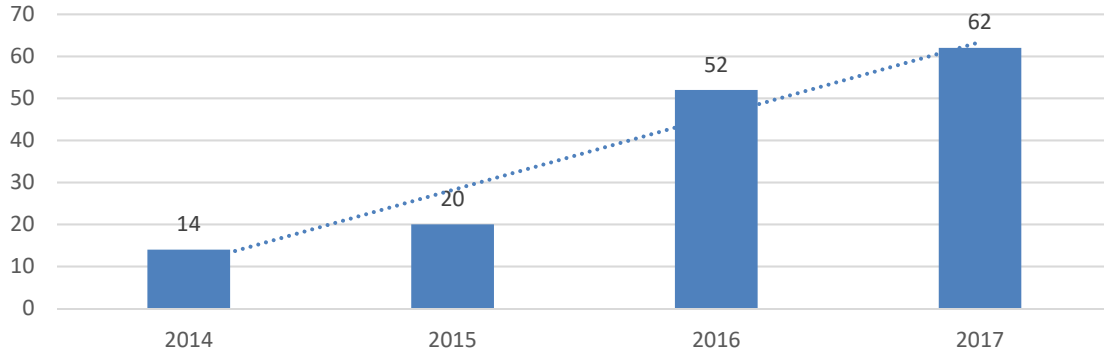
The Town provides summer programming (i.e. day trips, special events), which takes place / is based out of Centennial Park. This has been added recently and has been popular among residents.

#### Centennial Pool Programming

Prescott's outdoor pool, located at Centennial Park, offers a variety of public swimming lessons, private swimming lessons, aquafit, and recreational swim team practices.

Data provided by the Town indicates that registrations in the recreational swim team have increased substantially over the past four years (14 registrants in 2014 to 62 registrants in 2017).

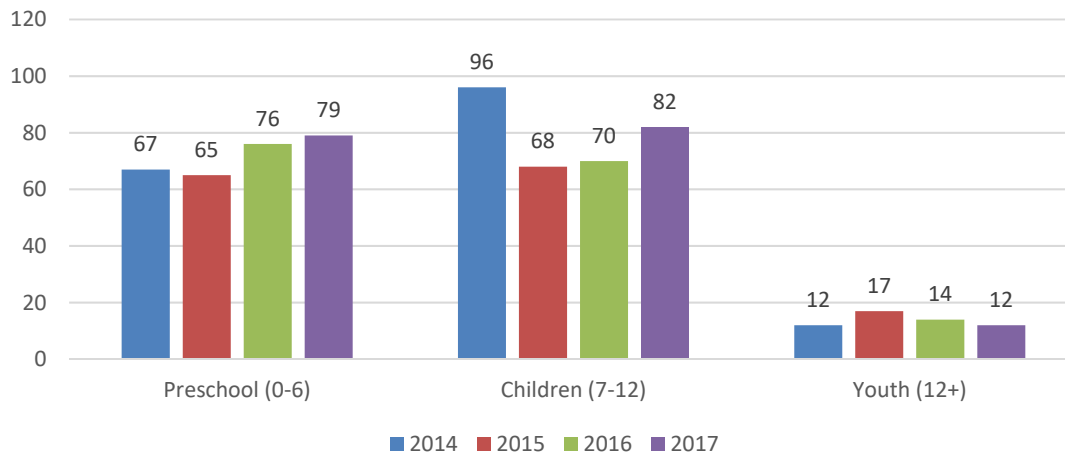
Exhibit 47: Swim Team Registrations (2014 to 2017)



Source: Town of Prescott Registration Data

Registration in swimming lessons has increased marginally for preschool aged children, decreased slightly for children aged 7 to 12 years, and remained stable for youth (aged 12 and above). Aquafit registration has increased since 2014 when there were 7 registrants to 2017 with 16 registrants in the program.

Exhibit 48: Swimming Lesson Registrations (2014 to 2017)



There is also free daily public swimming offered in the evenings in July and August. Staff has indicated that these are very well attended.

### 5.3.3 Future Program Opportunities

There is a strong correlation between programming and the revenue generation capacity of facilities. With respect to outdoor facilities such as soccer fields and ball diamonds, the programming of these facilities is delivered by user groups such as minor soccer. With respect to indoor facilities, the Town's arena is closed during the summer months. Based on the above, it is observed that the existing facilities within Prescott are not generally operating at optimal capacity. This is reflected in the overall cost recovery for recreation and parks (on programs, services and facilities combined), which was 35% based on 2016 Financial Information Return (FIR) data published by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH). This Master Plan recommends that the Town seek to improve the level of cost recovery through improved facility utilization and program opportunities and review of the existing user fee structure.

With the Town's limited offering of directly delivered programs at present, a majority (77%) of respondents to the public survey indicated that they believe the Town should play a bigger role in delivering recreation programs to its residents. While programming is delivered in some cases by community groups, the Town has the opportunity to improve the overall program offer through developing stronger partnerships with private instructors, community groups / associations, and local service clubs to provide these services, as appropriate. When needed programs cannot be provided by the private sector or community groups, the Town should seek to provide these programs directly. Potential programs areas that could be explored include:

- Programs for pre-school aged children (i.e. Kindermusik, drum fit, etc.);
- Programs for children/youth (i.e. dance, karate, art classes, learn to skate, etc.); and,
- Programs for adults / "new seniors" (i.e. tai chi and yoga in the park, Pilates, Zumba, speaker series, art classes, etc.).

Consultation also indicated that there is a lack of activities during the winter months. Improving the program offer will enable the opportunity to provide year-round activities, utilizing both indoor and outdoor recreational facilities.

Over the short to medium term of this plan, the development of program (hosting) opportunities should be prioritized to generate enhanced utilization at existing facilities (e.g. Prescott Health Centre, Rotary Pavilion, etc.). The Town should continue to monitor and evaluate the success of its programs by tracking annual changes in registrations by activity. There will also be the need to track demand for new sport and activities to ensure the Town is responsive to changing needs in the community. This may be done through the development and implementation of a customer service monitoring strategy.

The development of a new multi-use recreational facility will present further opportunity for program development. Effectively programming space will be important to efficiently operating a new facility. The developing of fitness space as part of the functional space program will offer new programming opportunities.

With this new development, the Town will need to assess / modify its fee structure to reflect the improved spaces provided at the new facility, as well as at revitalized / improved outdoor amenities. This should be done through a detailed User Fee Study to confirm the true cost of service for the delivery of recreation facilities and programs. The study should clearly define

programs, use and services which warrant subsidization and identify those items for which full cost recovery is warranted in keeping with best practice.

#### *Recommendation(s): Program Offer*

44. Continue to annually track program registrations and assess the rate of take-up for individual programs.
45. Undertake regular resident surveys to assess resident/user needs and required improvements to the Town's recreation service delivery model. Progressively address methods to improve the system over time.
46. Expand the suite of non-traditional programs offered/provided by the Town to focus on children, youth, and "new seniors" to enhance the utilization of existing infrastructure (i.e. Prescott Health Centre, Arena in summer, etc.).
47. Explore new program opportunities for fitness and sport with the development of a new gymnasium space in the medium-term.
48. Undertake a review of the Town's user fee structure through the development of a detailed User Fee Study to confirm the true cost of service for the delivery of recreation. This will need to be updated as new facilities and programs are implemented.

#### 5.3.4 Internal Resources

In terms of staff complement, the Operations Department dedicates the following resources to the provision of parks and recreation services:

- 4 full-time / year-round staff, whose time is split between the arena (7 months) and parks (5 months);
- 2 part-time staff, who look after the horticulture, gardens and downtown baskets; and,
- 2 casual staff (students).

The current portfolio of parks and recreation facilities that require maintenance, and therefore internal resources, is broad. With the current complement of staff, the department undertakes the following:

- Grass cutting at 25 properties;
- Maintenance of 7 park properties (as identified within the asset inventory in Section 3). This includes playgrounds, sports fields, open space, etc.



- Maintenance of 20 major Town indoor facilities (i.e. arena, fire hall, Walker House, etc.) and ancillary buildings in parks (i.e. storage sheds, washrooms, etc.).

At present there is indication from the Town that operationally, staffing resources are somewhat strained, with a number of small parcels and properties requiring maintenance throughout the Town (as detailed in Section 2.4.1).

The planning and development of a new multi-use recreational facility will have impacts on the operating budget, including the requirement for additional staff at that location. In addition, the revitalization and upgrading of Prince Street Park, Chick Kirkby Memorial Park and other outdoor amenities will also impact the existing staffing compliment, requiring additional resources to maintain the properties beyond what is currently done.

Continuous monitoring and review of internal staffing resources will be important as the recommendations identified within this Plan are implemented.

#### *Recommendation(s): Internal Resources*

49. Evaluate internal resources and additional requirements on a continuous / annual basis, and as the parks and recreation facilities are renewed / developed per this Plan.

### 5.3.5 Partnerships

In general, local user and service groups play a key role in the local recreation delivery system. Some of the Town's partners for the provision of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and programs include South Grenville District High School, Prescott Youth Centre, T.R. Leger, local churches Prescott Curling Club, Lawn Bowling Club, Prescott Tennis Club and Golf Club.

#### **South Grenville District High School**

Information provided by the Upper Canada District School Board indicates that the school property (indoor and outdoor) is currently being used by community groups, as South Grenville District High School was used for a total of 1,583 hours by the community in 2014/15, compared to the 412-hour average for schools across the Board. In speaking with Town staff and user groups it is understood that the gymnasiums are currently used by a local volleyball league and South Grenville Pickleball Club, an indoor walking clinic utilizes the hallways during the winter months, and a youth drop-in centre also uses space in the building.

#### **Prescott Youth Centre**

The Town partners with the United Way of Leeds and Grenville to provide programming for youth (between the ages of 8 and 18) at the Prescott Youth Centre (located in the former Central School building). The Centre offers such programs as monthly "Boys Night In" and "Girls

Night In” events, cooking club, leisure activities (i.e. computers, pool table, air hockey, etc.), as well as access to the gymnasium and outdoor space.

In order to be able to address the existing gaps and deliver an expanded roster of programming within the community, the Town will need to work closely with local user groups and community partners. Understanding the needs of these partners at present and into the future will assist the Town in the provision of recreational services in a continuous manner to the community.

In addition, South Grenville District High School (SGDHS), as an educational facility, has been identified as having a low utilization rate which is expected to continue to decline over the next 10 to 15 years (as detailed in Section 2.2.5). Because of this, the school board has flagged the school for shared use by community groups or agencies for community programs, etc. As identified in Section 2.4.1, indoor and outdoor facilities at the school are well-utilized by local community groups at present. Use of the school property by the community should be encouraged to continue (including use of fields by soccer groups), with the Town liaising with the stakeholders.

Additional opportunities for the Town to partner with local schools include:

- The potential for future Town-run programming to utilize school facilities (i.e. gyms, classrooms, etc.).
- Joint Use Agreements (Town and schools have an agreement of reciprocated use of facilities).
- Community Hub development to better use under-utilized government-owned assets. Community Hubs can vary considerably depending on localized community needs (i.e. health services, literacy course, employment services, creative spaces, etc.).

#### **Recommendation(s): Partnerships**

50. Host an annual / bi-annual meeting for local user groups and community partners to understand their current and future needs.
51. Continue to liaise with the UCDSB to promote community use of space at the SGDHS (indoor and outdoor) through the Community Use of Schools Policy, and other partnerships, as appropriate.
52. Continue to partner with the United Way of Leeds and Grenville to provide youth-focused programming at the Prescott Youth Centre.

### 5.3.6 Marketing and Customer Service

This Master Plan makes recommendations to improve the programming options available to the community. This change is expected to be incremental, largely-driven by partnerships and will require a series of administrative, communications and marketing efforts to enhance the viability of solutions.

The effectiveness of the Community Development Model for recreation as well as new program delivery will require the Town to adopt a holistic and integrated approach to service delivery, and places the onus on the Town to:

- Engage in partnership development across user groups and organizations including volunteer groups;
- Develop mechanisms to monitor the ability of programs and partnerships to meet the needs of the community;
- Facilitate community-based programming and access to programming not only through space provision but also through:
  - Marketing and communications, ensuring public access to information;
  - Engaging in outreach and advocacy to target sensitive groups (including low-income residents and seniors); and,
  - Quality assurance and evaluation systems and mechanisms to monitor performance in service delivery.

The Town's current 'Fort Town' identity does not convey the importance of recreation within Prescott and the strong interest in it identified by the community. The opportunity exists to raise the profile of parks and recreation on the municipal website as well as on signage at facilities.

The Town currently uses the Recreation portal on the municipal website to provide information related to recreation facilities (indoor and outdoor), and community groups who operate within Prescott. There is room to improve the functionality of this website to enhance access to recreation-related information.

Opportunities include developing an online program registration and facility booking system, and an interactive facility mapping tool complete with relevant information. As the program offer is expanded in the future, an online registration tool will aide to track and assess program take-up and success.

**Recommendation(s): Marketing and Customer Service**

53. Complement the print version of the summer play guide with an online / digital information tool to inform the public of programs, activities, and events happening in Prescott on a year-round basis. This should include programs offered by community groups, private instructors using Town-owned facilities, and activities occurring at Walker House.
  
54. Explore the opportunity to implement a comprehensive online, publicly accessible recreation program registration and facility booking tool on the Town website to enable easy program registration and access to facility rental information. This, combined with an online version of the play guide and detailed facility information, will enhance resident access to recreation information and has the potential to lessen the demand on staff time to provide in-person booking and registration support.

## 6 Implementation Plan

### 6.1 Timing and Priorities

The following identifies approximate timelines for the recommendations contained within this Master Plan. Recommendations related to general maintenance, program, service and policy-based enhancements as well as performance monitoring can be expected to occur on an ongoing basis and/or over time based on municipal capacity and resources, as identified within the following framework:

*Exhibit 49: Implementation Framework Schematic*

		Short-Term	Medium-Term	Long-Term
		1-3 years	4-6 years	7+ years
<b>Indoor Recreation Facility Recommendations</b>				
<b>Leo Boivin Arena</b>	Over the short-term, invest in essential upgrades and maintenance for the Leo Boivin Arena as warranted for continued safe community use while plans for a new multi-use recreation facility are prepared.			
	With the development of a new multi-use recreational facility, decommission the existing ice surface (including removal of the ice plant) at Leo Boivin Arena and evaluate the feasibility and cost-benefits (Feasibility Study) of repurposing the existing arena or building new for other indoor recreation uses, including the potential for an indoor field house.			
<b>New Multi-Use Recreation Facility</b>	Immediately commence planning (Feasibility Study and Business Plan) to replace the existing arena with a view to achieving commissioning of the new facility within the next 5 years.			
	In the medium- to long-term, invest in a new single pad multi-use recreation facility with gymnasium, fitness studio, walking track, and other complementary indoor spaces. The preferred location for this facility should be determined through a site selection process as part of a facility feasibility study.			
	In the long-term, continue to monitor the demand for ice on an annual basis.			
<b>Walker House</b>	Continue to maintain Walker House in good condition in the short-term.			
	As part of a Feasibility Study, explore the opportunity to develop spaces for use by older adult programming (not dedicated) as part of a new recreational facility in the medium-term.			
	Should the Feasibility Study determine that programming space for use by older adults should be included as part of a new recreational facility, seek to decommission the existing Walker House in the medium – long term.			

		Short-Term	Medium-Term	Long-Term
		1-3 years	4-6 years	7+ years
	<b>Indoor Recreation Facility Recommendations</b>			
<b>Prescott Health Centre</b>	Continue to market the community room at the Health Centre as a space for use by the Town to provide direct programming, or by community groups and private rentals/bookings.			
	<b>Parkland</b>	<b>Short-Term</b>	<b>Medium-Term</b>	<b>Long-Term</b>
		<b>1-3 years</b>	<b>4-6 years</b>	<b>7+ years</b>
<b>Classification and Provision of Parkland</b>	Adopt a parkland classification system / hierarchy per this plan as a basis for planning for and acquiring, designing, developing and programming parkland.			
	Adopt a minimum level of provision of 2.75 ha of parkland per 1,000 population to maintain the existing standard.			
<b>Parkland Acquisition and Dedication</b>	As per policies set out in the Planning Act, align parkland dedication requirements with the recommendations included within this master plan to maximize the supply of available parkland through dedication from development. Consideration should be given to include the following parkland dedication and cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For residential purposes: 5% of the area of the lot being developed or 1 hectare per 300 dwelling units (at a density exceeding 15 dwelling units per hectare), whichever is greater;</li> <li>For industrial / commercial purposes: 2% of the area being developed; and,</li> <li>For mixed-use development: 1 hectare per 300 dwelling units.</li> </ul>			
	Through <i>Official Plan</i> review process, amend / update parkland-related policies to reflect the acquisition and dedication requirements set out in Recommendation 11 above.			
	Develop an implementing Parkland Dedication and Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Dedication By-Law to enact parkland acquisition and dedication provisions of the Town's Official Plan, once approved.			

	<b>Waterfront Parks</b>	<b>Short-Term</b>	<b>Medium-Term</b>	<b>Long-Term</b>
		<b>1-2 years</b>	<b>3-6 years</b>	<b>7+ years</b>
<b>Centennial Park</b>	Continue with planned upgrades to the boat launch, turnaround, and trailer parking area to improve the facility for continued public use.			
	Based on the opportunities identified in this Plan, initiate and develop a concept plan for Centennial Park. This should be done through an iterative public and stakeholder consultation process and may include retaining a specialist consultant to confirm the needs and viability of the opportunities presented above.			
<b>Central Waterfront Area</b>	Continue to maintain the marina and associated building in good condition for use by residents and tourists and promoted as an attraction / destination for the Town.			
	Explore the opportunity to expand the variety of recreational equipment available for rent from the Town. These assets should be made available to all residents, visitors, tourists and marina patrons (for a pre-determined fee).			
	Investigate the potential to expand the use of the Rotary Pavilion to enable the paid rental of the facility for dedicated programs, classes and workshops.			
	Based on the opportunities identified in this Plan, initiate and develop a concept plan for the eastern portion of the Central Waterfront Area. This should be done through an iterative consultation process and may include the retention of a consultant to confirm the needs and viability of the opportunities presented.			
	<b>Active Outdoor Facilities</b>	<b>Short-Term</b>	<b>Medium-Term</b>	<b>Long-Term</b>
		<b>1-2 years</b>	<b>3-6 years</b>	<b>7+ years</b>
<b>Ball Diamonds</b>	Revitalize the 2 usable ball diamonds at Chick Kirkby Memorial Park to better accommodate user groups in the short-term. This includes improved fencing, lighting, outfield and infield conditions, bleachers, and washroom facilities.			
	Repurpose the existing soccer field at Chick Kirkby Memorial Park to be a ball diamond in the medium term, or as demand dictates.			
	Contingent on a lease agreement or ownership of the Chick Kirkby property, develop a Ball Diamond Allocation Policy to determine a schedule for use and associated rental fees for the diamonds. This should be reviewed on an annual basis.			
	Formally decommission the ball diamond and related infrastructure at Prince Street Park to be repurposed as a soccer-focused facility.			

	<b>Active Outdoor Facilities</b>	<b>Short-Term</b>	<b>Medium-Term</b>	<b>Long-Term</b>
		<b>1-2 years</b>	<b>3-6 years</b>	<b>7+ years</b>
<b>Soccer Fields</b>	Facilitate discussions between soccer user groups and the Upper Canada District School Board related to the anticipated future upgrade / replacement of the playing fields at SGDHS.			
	In connection with Recommendation 24, repurpose Prince Street Park to be a soccer-focused facility with improved amenities and a clubhouse building (including washrooms, office, meeting room, etc.). Investigate the potential to include artificial turf.			
	Contingent of the revitalization of the Prince Street Park to include upgraded soccer facilities, develop a Field Allocation Policy to determine a schedule for field use and associated rental fees for the fields.			
<b>Sport Courts</b>	Maintain the tennis courts, clubhouse and related infrastructure at Centennial Park in good condition for safe use by the public, and tennis club and Walker House members.			
	Explore the opportunity for the Town to take over the operation of the Tennis Clubhouse building to expand its usage to include additional / new recreational or older adult programming.			
	Work with user groups and community partners to determine the best solution to accommodate the development of outdoor multi-sport courts within the Town, including use for pickleball.			
<b>Playgrounds</b>	Continue to address current standards for safety and accessibility of play structures through on-going renewal / replacement when determined to be in poor condition (based on asset management).			
	Coordinate playground locations in parks with those available or planned at local schools to maximize access, variety and appeal to children of all ages.			
	Review and consider trends and innovations in playground design and development, with a potential for alternatives to traditional playground structures (i.e. naturalized playgrounds, etc.). This can help to reduce maintenance requirements.			
<b>Splash Pad</b>	Undertake a Business Case prior to the development of a new splash pad as part of future budget deliberations for Council's review. The Business Case should evaluate the benefits, costs and risks of alternative options and provide a rationale for a preferred solution.			



	<b>Active Outdoor Facilities</b>	<b>Short-Term</b>	<b>Medium-Term</b>	<b>Long-Term</b>
		<b>1-2 years</b>	<b>3-6 years</b>	<b>7+ years</b>
<b>Skateboard Park</b>	In the short-term, maintain the existing skateboard park for continued use by the public.			
	Through the Feasibility Study, explore the opportunity to develop a new (replacement) skateboard facility as part of a new multi-use recreation facility.			
	Contingent on the development of a replacement skatepark at a new facility, decommission the existing skatepark and repurpose the space for other recreational uses with consideration for multi-use sport courts.			
<b>Dog Park</b>	Identify a permanent, designated location for a dog park to be developed over the short term.			
<b>Connections and Trails</b>	Through the development of an Active Transportation Plan, explore opportunities to develop on- and off-road linkages throughout the Town, with a focus on connecting major destinations such as the waterfront, downtown, schools, and the park network.			
	Work with neighbouring municipalities to identify and develop trail linkage opportunities to better connect the Town with the surrounding area.			
	<b>Programming and Service Delivery Recommendations</b>	<b>Short-Term</b>	<b>Medium-Term</b>	<b>Long-Term</b>
		<b>1-3 years</b>	<b>4-6 years</b>	<b>7+ years</b>
<b>Service Delivery</b>	Address the existing service gaps and provide programming directly where there is no community capacity to do so.			
<b>Expanded Program Offer</b>	Continue to annually track program registrations and assess the rate of take-up for individual programs.			
	Undertake regular resident surveys to assess resident/user needs and required improvements to the Town's recreation service delivery model. Progressively address methods to improve the system over time.			
	Expand the suite of non-traditional programs offered/provided by the Town to focus on children, youth, and "new seniors" to enhance the utilization of existing infrastructure (i.e. Prescott Health Centre, Arena in summer, etc.).			
	Explore new program opportunities for fitness and sport with the development of a new gymnasium space in the medium-term.			
	Undertake a review of the Town's user fee structure in conjunction with the provision of new spaces and improved arena facilities at the new multi-use recreational facility.			
	Undertake a review of the Town's user fee structure through the development of a detailed User Fee Study to confirm the true cost of service for the delivery of recreation. This will need to be updated as new facilities and programs are implemented.			

	<b>Programming and Service Delivery Recommendations</b>	<b>Short-Term</b>	<b>Medium-Term</b>	<b>Long-Term</b>
		<b>1-3 years</b>	<b>4-6 years</b>	<b>7+ years</b>
<b>Internal Resources</b>	Evaluate internal resources and additional requirements on a continuous / annual basis, and as parks and recreation facilities are renewed / developed per this Plan.			
<b>Partnerships</b>	Host an annual / bi-annual meeting for local user groups and community partners to understand their current and future needs.			
	Continue to liaise with the UCDSB to promote community use of space at the SGDHS (indoor and outdoor) through the Community Use of Schools Policy, and other partnerships, as appropriate.			
	Continue to partner with the United Way of Leeds and Grenville to provide youth-focused programming at the Prescott Youth Centre.			
<b>Marketing and Customer Service</b>	Complement the print version of the summer play guide with an online / digital information tool to inform the public of programs, activities, and events happening in Prescott on a year-round basis. This should include programs offered by community groups, private instructors using Town-owned facilities, and activities occurring at Walker House.			
	Explore the opportunity to implement a comprehensive online, publicly accessible recreation program registration and facility booking tool on the Town website to enable easy program registration and access to facility rental information. This, combined with an online version of the play guide and detailed facility information, will enhance resident access to recreation information and has the potential to lessen the demand on staff time to provide in-person booking and registration support.			

## 6.2 On-Going Evaluation and Monitoring

Staff support and partnerships will be required to successfully implement the recommendations identified within this document, there also needs to be a commitment by senior management and administrative oversight for effective implementation.

The Master Plan is a flexible document and recognizing the long-term scope (10-year period) of this Master Plan, this document and its recommendations should be subject to internal departmental review on an annual basis to determine and re-adjust, as necessary, the timing of recommendations in light of unforeseen shifts in the municipal planning environment.

## 6.3 Funding Considerations

While some of the recommendations identified within this Plan can be implemented using existing staff resources, others require more significant capital investment.

The Town of Prescott should consider a wide range of future partnerships for all the capital projects identified in this Plan, and specifically for a new multi-use recreation facility. This may include a variety of funding sources to support the development of new assets, such as:

- Federal and Provincial Government Grant Programs – future potential for one-time grant programs aimed at renewing aging infrastructure, including parks and recreation. Continual monitoring of available programs by the Town will be required.
- Fundraising – community fundraising as part of facility development or redevelopment strategies.
- Capital Surcharge – an additional charge over and above user fees that is directed towards the reserve account to pay for specific capital projects or to pay off a capital debt.
- Development Charges – fees that are assessed against land development projects to help fund the cost of capital infrastructure needed to service growth (note: these fees cannot be used to fund replacement infrastructure offering the same level of service).
- Naming Rights – selling the rights to have a corporation's name associated with a facility or a component of the facility.
- Tax Levy – at Council's discretion, taxes could be re-allocated or increased to fund a portion or the entire capital infrastructure.

It is important that the Town explore all opportunities for funding the capital projects recommended within this Plan on an ongoing basis.

# Appendix A: Summary of Survey Results

# Town of Prescott Recreation Master Plan



## SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS - FEEDBACK & KEY TRENDS

- Public Survey
- User Group Survey

January 3, 2018

# Public Survey

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FEEDBACK AND KEY TRENDS

# Public Survey: Who We Heard From

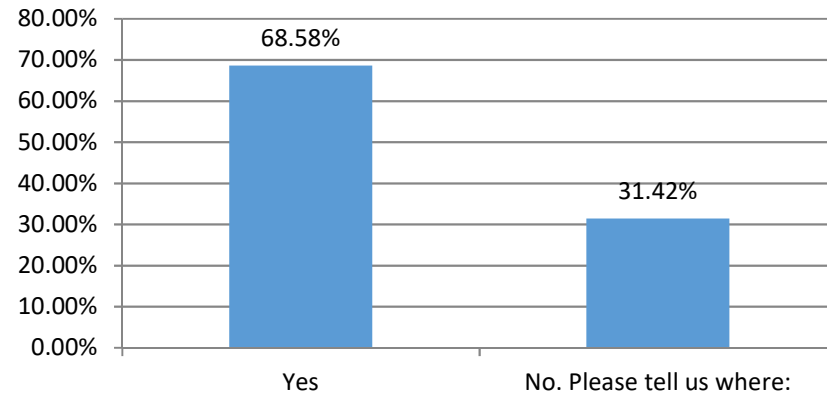
A public online survey was developed in order to garner input related to how the community currently uses the community and recreation facilities in the Town, how satisfied they are with existing infrastructure, and what changes they would like to see in the future.

The survey was available online from 29 November 2017 and closed on 24 December 2017. There were 262 respondents, although not all answered every question.

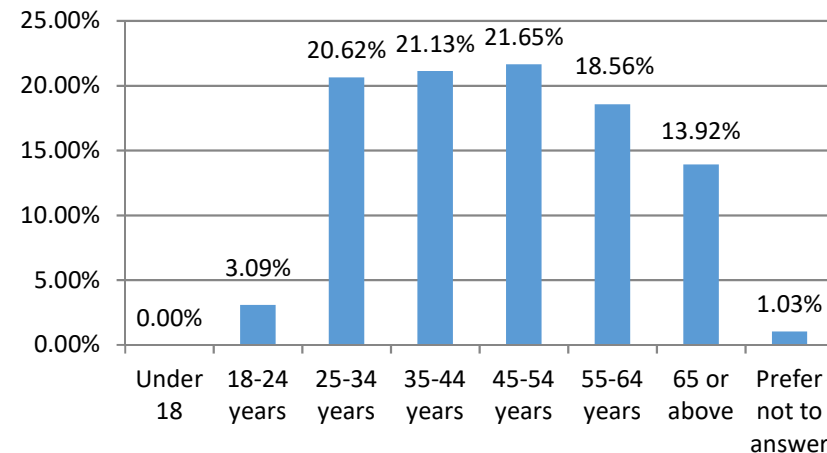
## Respondents' Profile

- Nearly 70% of respondents identified that they live in the Town. The balance (31%) live in communities outside the Town, including Augusta (7%), Johnstown (4%), Spencerville and Cardinal (both 3%). Other locations given were Domville, Brockville, and Maynard.
- Over 60% of respondents declared that they are between the ages of 25 and 54, with a further 33% being 55 years or older. No respondents identified that they were under the age of 18.

## Do you live in the Town of Prescott?



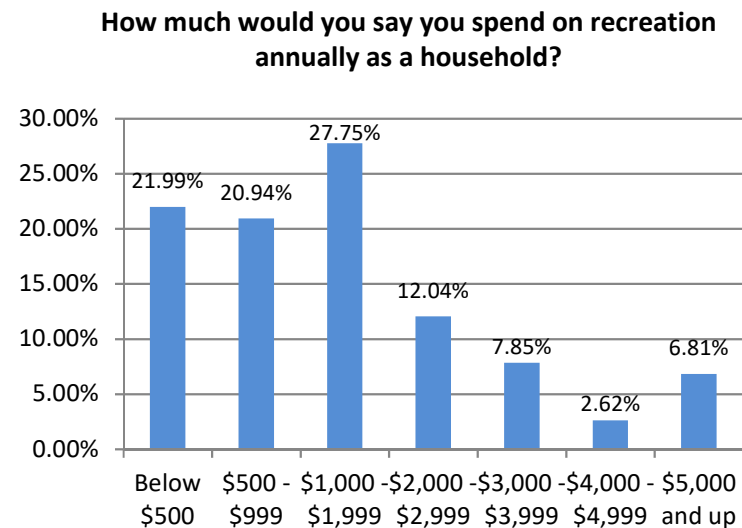
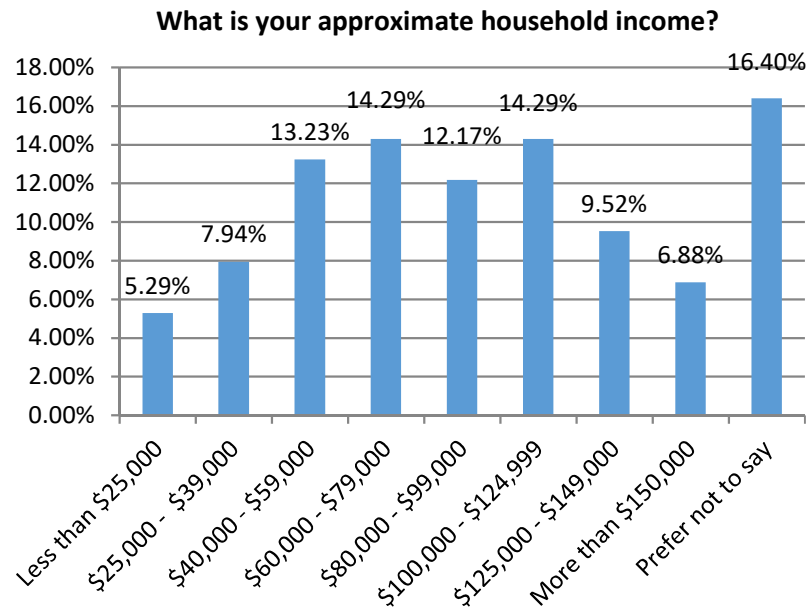
## What is your age category?



# Public Survey: Who We Heard From (Cont'd)

## Household Structure and Income

- 73% of respondents were couples, of which 43% had one or more dependent children. 55% of respondents lived in households of 3 or more people.
- 31% of respondents declared an approximate household income of over \$100,000, although 16% preferred not to say.
- 71% of respondents identified that as a household they spend less than \$2,000 annually on recreation, of which 28% spend between \$1,000 and \$1,999. 22% spend less than \$500, whilst 7% spend \$5,000 or over.





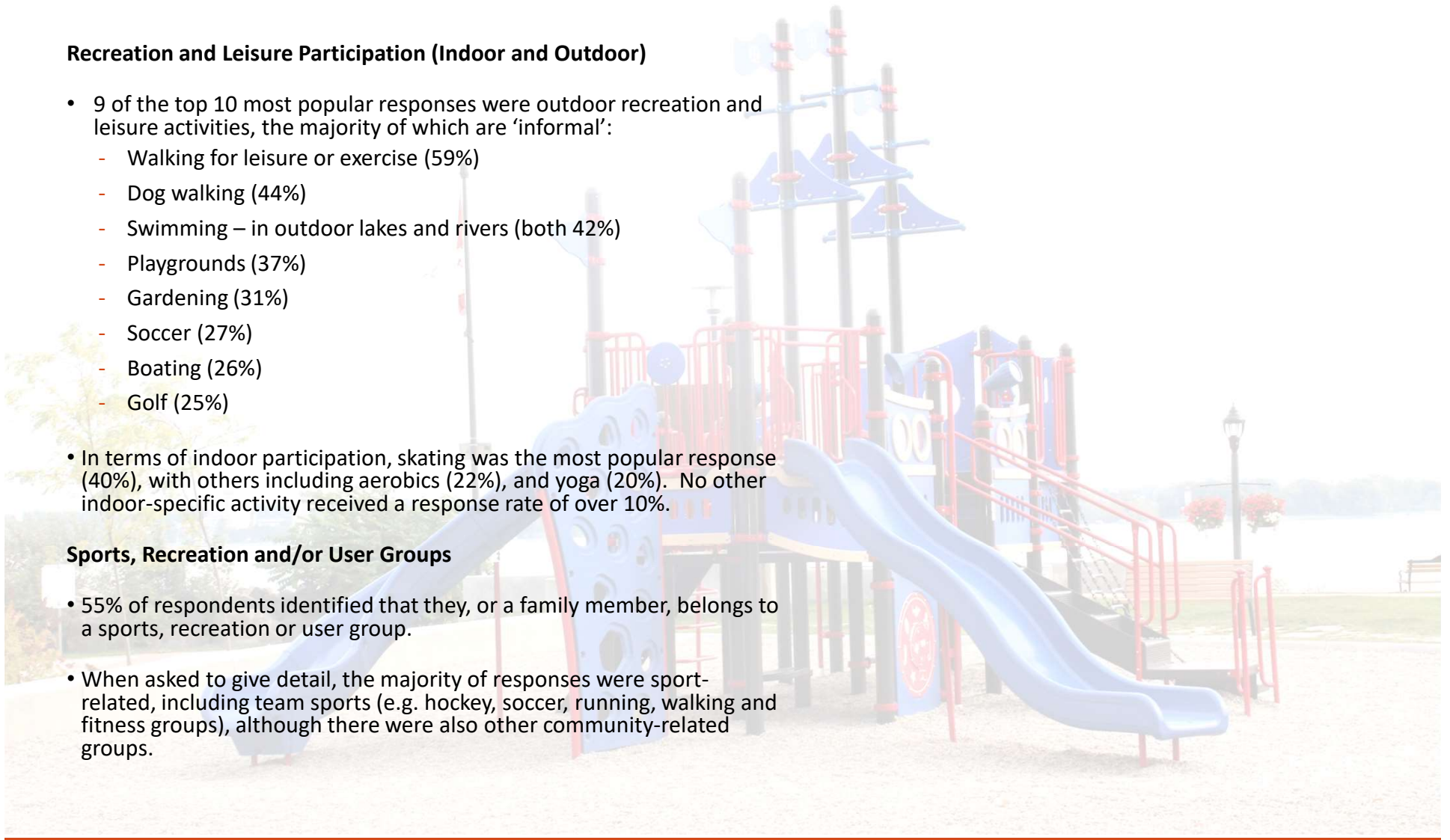
# Public Survey: Local Participation – Key Trends

## Recreation and Leisure Participation (Indoor and Outdoor)

- 9 of the top 10 most popular responses were outdoor recreation and leisure activities, the majority of which are 'informal':
  - Walking for leisure or exercise (59%)
  - Dog walking (44%)
  - Swimming – in outdoor lakes and rivers (both 42%)
  - Playgrounds (37%)
  - Gardening (31%)
  - Soccer (27%)
  - Boating (26%)
  - Golf (25%)
- In terms of indoor participation, skating was the most popular response (40%), with others including aerobics (22%), and yoga (20%). No other indoor-specific activity received a response rate of over 10%.

## Sports, Recreation and/or User Groups

- 55% of respondents identified that they, or a family member, belongs to a sports, recreation or user group.
- When asked to give detail, the majority of responses were sport-related, including team sports (e.g. hockey, soccer, running, walking and fitness groups), although there were also other community-related groups.



# Public Survey: Indoor Facilities – Levels of Participation & Satisfaction

## Participation

72% of respondents identified that they (or family members) had participated, or been a spectator at, an indoor municipal recreation facility(ies) in the Town.

Respondents were then asked about their use of the indoor facilities, and their satisfaction with the quality of provision. The **most used** facility was the Leo Boivin Community Centre & Arena (89%), and the **least used** was the Walker House Adult Activity Centre (29%).

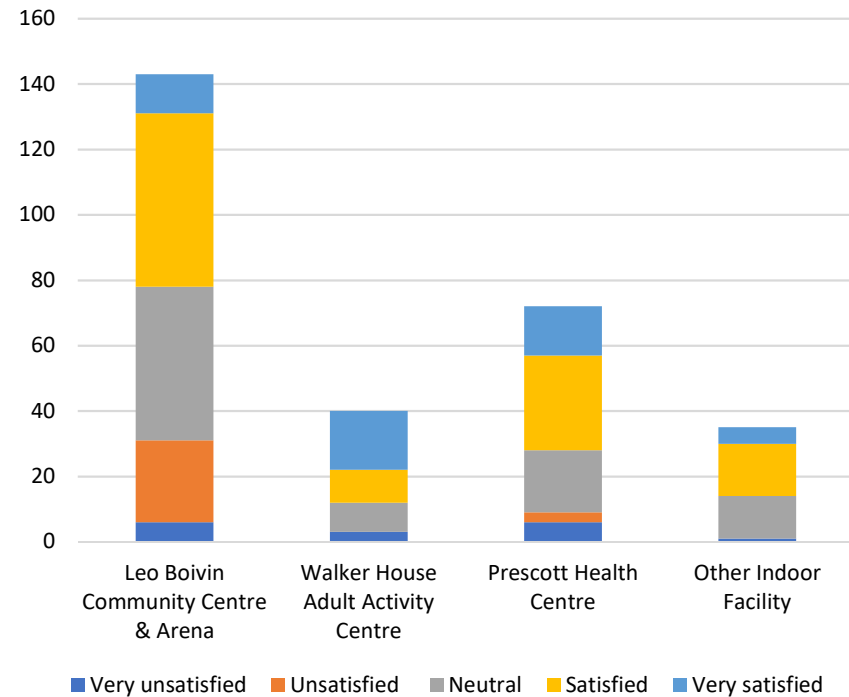
## Satisfaction – Observations

In the case of each facility, the majority of respondents were ‘neutral’ or higher in terms of their experience.

45% of respondents who used the Walker House Adult Activity Centre were ‘very satisfied’ with their experience, albeit this was based on a sample of only 40 respondents.

For the CC & Arena, 17% were ‘unsatisfied’. The reasons given related principally to the arena being out-dated, with mould issues, and the changerooms being too small and unclean.

Satisfaction with Indoor facilities (No. of Persons)



	Very unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Total
Leo Boivin Community Centre & Arena	6 (4%)	25 (17%)	47 (33%)	53 (37%)	12 (8%)	<b>143 (100%)</b>
Walker House Adult Activity Centre	3 (8%)	0 (0%)	9 (23%)	10 (25%)	18 (45%)	<b>40 (100%)</b>
Prescott Health Centre	6 (8%)	3 (4%)	19 (26%)	29 (40%)	15 (21%)	<b>72 (100%)</b>
Other Indoor Facility	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	13 (37%)	16 (46%)	5 (14%)	<b>35 (100%)</b>

# Public Survey: Indoor Facility Improvements

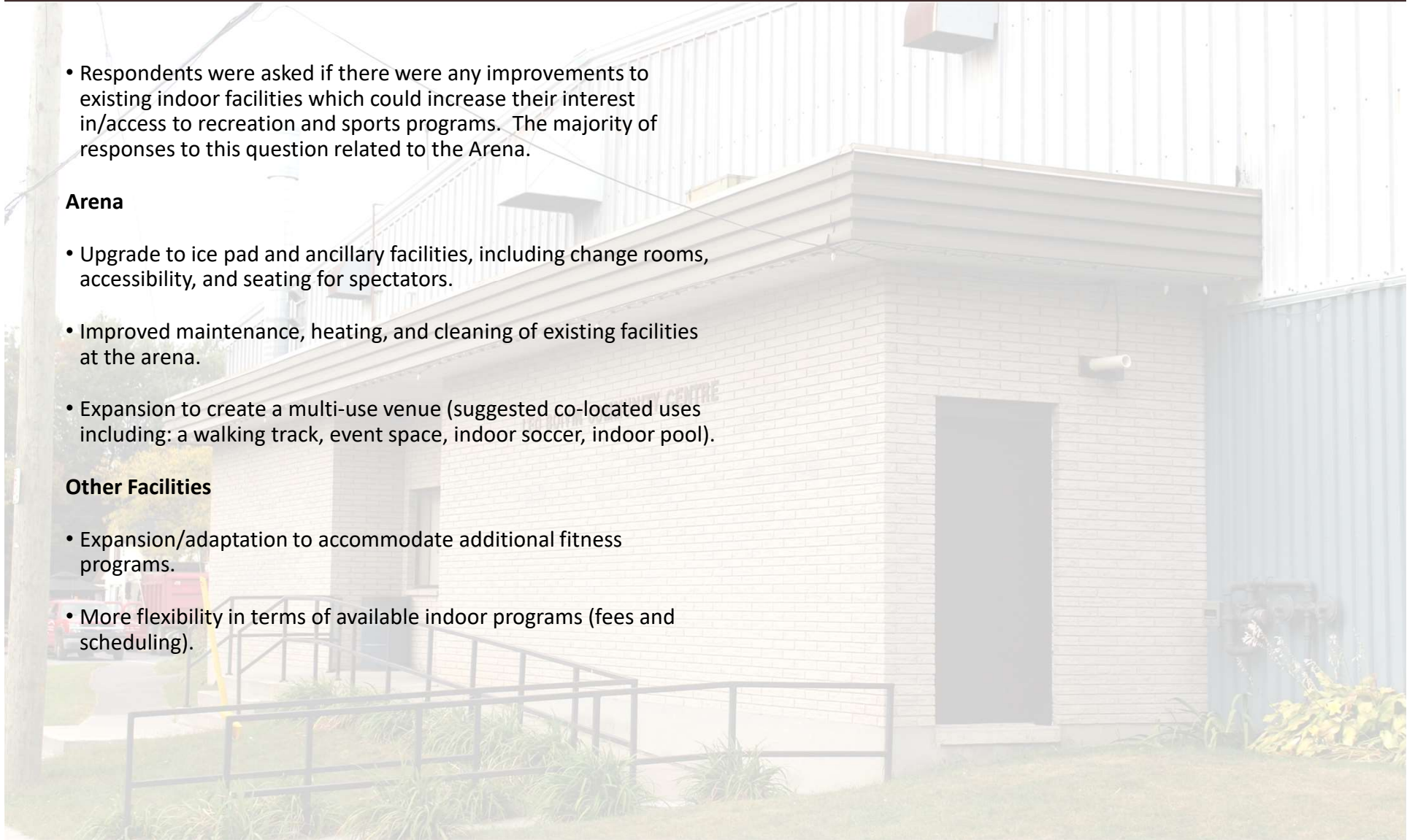
- Respondents were asked if there were any improvements to existing indoor facilities which could increase their interest in/access to recreation and sports programs. The majority of responses to this question related to the Arena.

## Arena

- Upgrade to ice pad and ancillary facilities, including change rooms, accessibility, and seating for spectators.
- Improved maintenance, heating, and cleaning of existing facilities at the arena.
- Expansion to create a multi-use venue (suggested co-located uses including: a walking track, event space, indoor soccer, indoor pool).

## Other Facilities

- Expansion/adaptation to accommodate additional fitness programs.
- More flexibility in terms of available indoor programs (fees and scheduling).



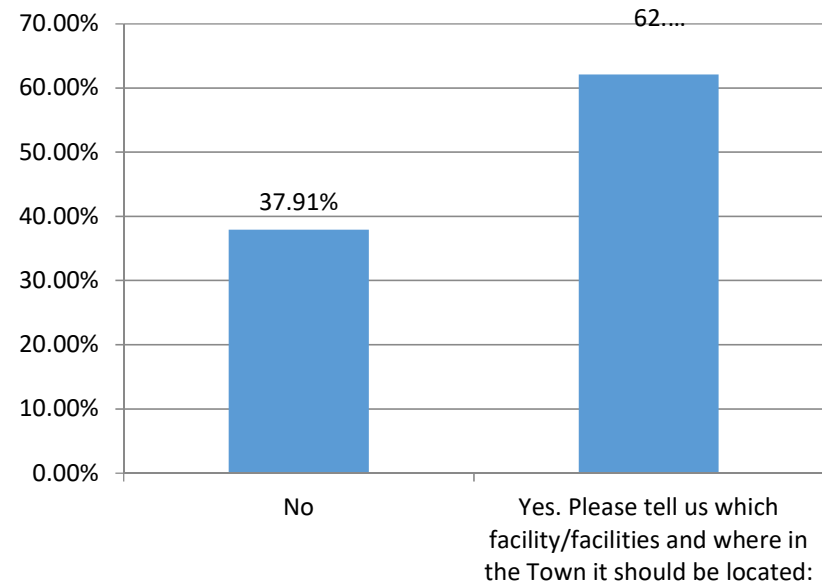
# Indoor Facilities – Additional Requirements?

62% of respondents considered that the Town requires additional or new indoor facilities. In addition to either the upgrading and expansion/replacement of the Arena, suggestions included:

- Indoor pool
- Indoor soccer venue
- Municipality-run gymnasium/fitness centre (similar to YMCA), of sufficient size and flexibility to provide a range of programs including pickleball, volleyball, basketball, and some subsidized programs
- Larger space to hold events, community functions

There was no consensus as to where the new facilities should be located.

**Do you feel the Town of Prescott needs any additional or new indoor recreation facilities?**



# Public Survey: Outdoor Facilities – Level of Participation

77% of respondents identified that they (or family members) had participated, or been a spectator at, an outdoor municipal recreation facility(ies) in the Town.

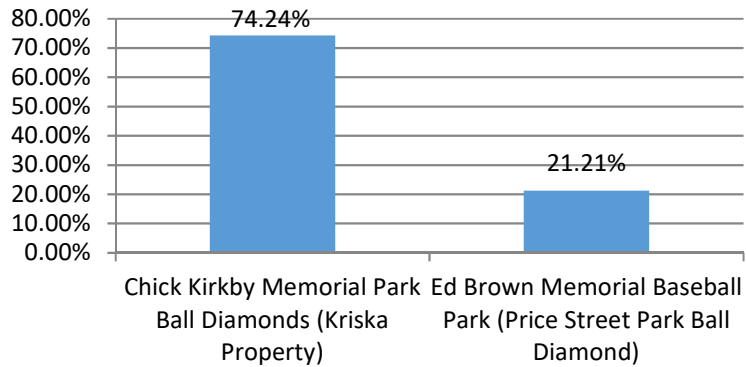
Respondents were asked which outdoor municipal recreation facility(ies) they used the most:

- **Most used ball diamonds:** Chick Kirkby Memorial Park ball diamonds (74%), followed by Ed Brown Memorial Baseball Park (21%).
- **Most used soccer fields:** South Grenville District High School (97%), followed by Tom Carr (Prince Street Park) Soccer Fields (54%), and Chick Kirkby Memorial Park - Kriska Property (9%).
- **Most used parks and playgrounds:** RiverWalk Park and Playground (87%), followed by Centennial Park and playground (72%), and Sarah Spencer Park and Playgrounds (52%). 18% of respondents had used facilities elsewhere, including Fairway Park and Faders Park.
- **Most tennis courts:** Centennial Park (74%) and South Grenville District High School (26%).
- **Most used other facilities:** Sandra S Lawn Harbour & Marina (80%), followed by Kelly's Beach (64%), Prescott Centennial Pool (62%), and Kinsmen Amphitheatre (51%). Respondents also identified that they used the Public Boat launch at Centennial Park, Prescott Kiwanis Skate Park, the Prescott Lawn Bowling Club, the Waterfront Trail, the Rotary Pavilion, and the Fort Wellington Grounds.

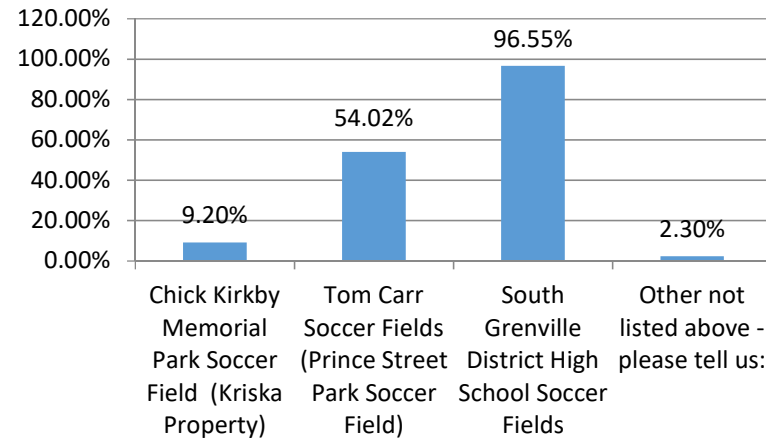
# Public Survey: Outdoor Facilities – Level of Participation

## Participation

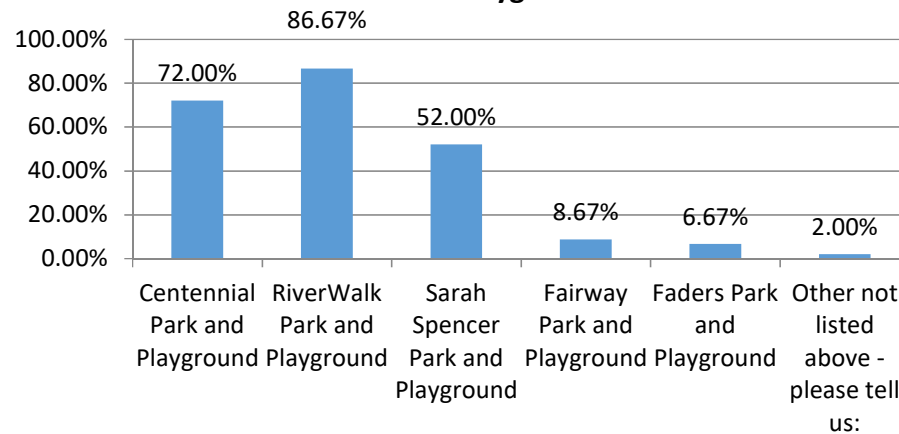
### Ball Diamonds



### Soccer Fields



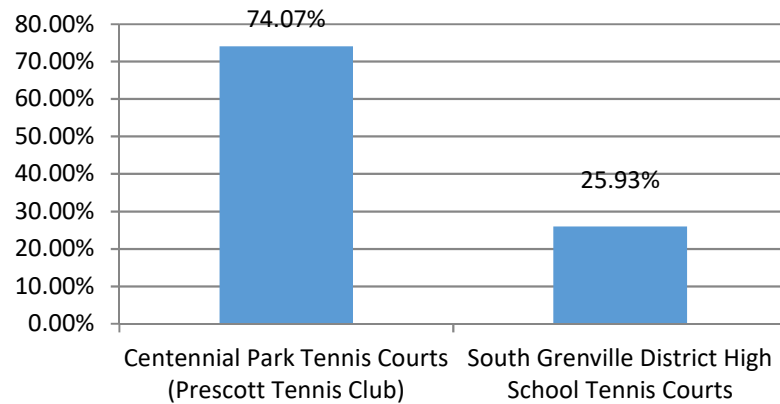
### Parks and Playgrounds



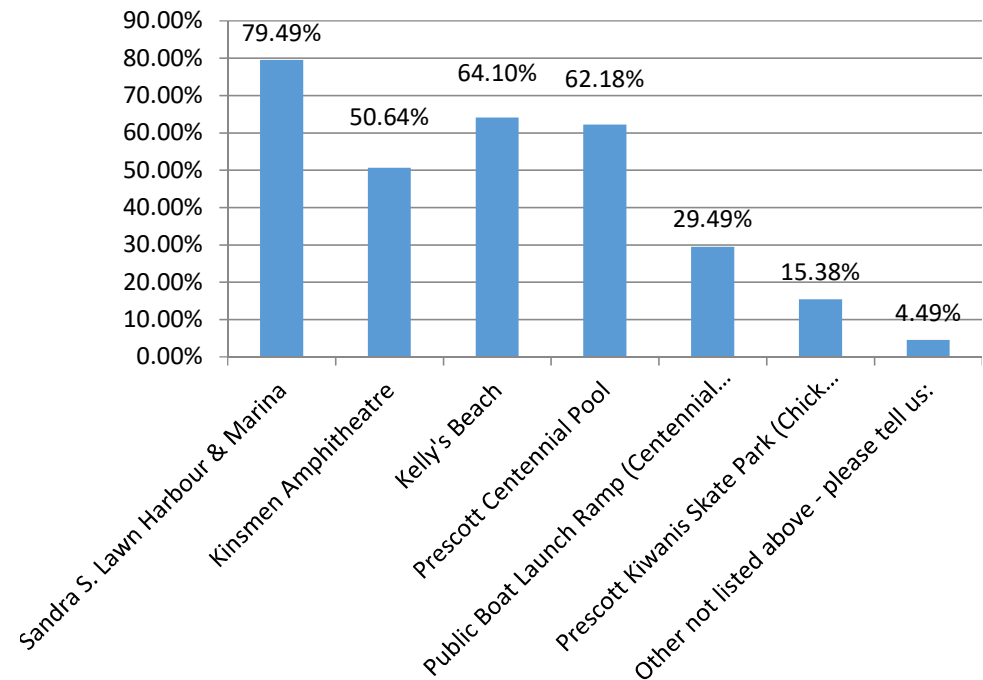
# Public Survey: Outdoor Facilities – Level of Participation

## Participation

### Tennis Courts



### Other Outdoor Facilities



# Public Survey: Outdoor Facilities – Level of Satisfaction

## Satisfaction - Observations

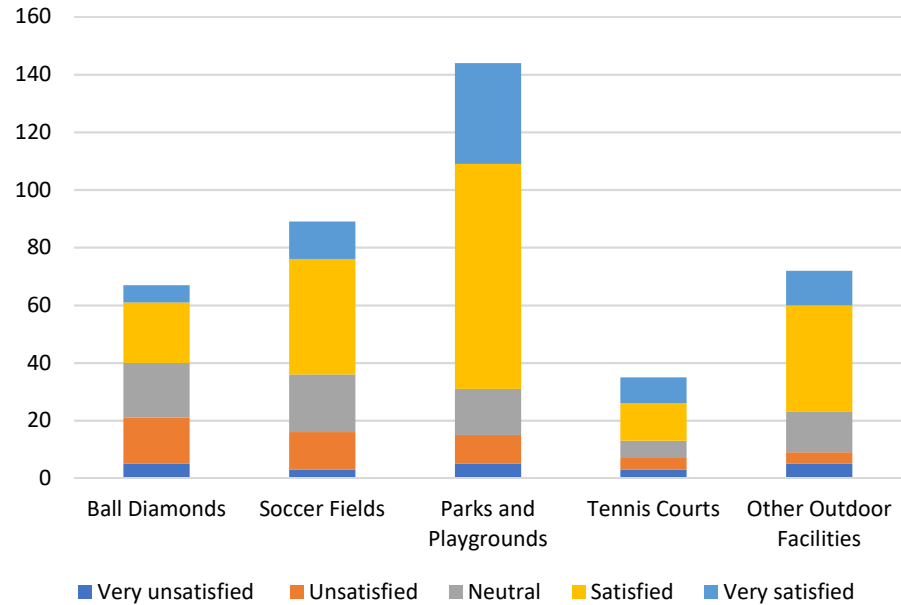
The majority of respondents were either ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with the quality of the Township’s outdoor facilities.

When comparing the relative satisfaction levels of the different types of outdoor facilities the most noticeable statistics are:

- 78% of users are either ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with parks and playgrounds facilities
- 24% of ball diamond users, 15% of soccer field users, and 11% of tennis court users are ‘unsatisfied’.

However, only a small percentage of respondents are ‘very unsatisfied’ with the quality of outdoor facilities.

Satisfaction with Outdoor Facilities (No. of persons)



	Very unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Total
Ball Diamonds	5 (7%)	16 (24%)	19 (28%)	21 (31%)	6 (9%)	67 (100%)
Soccer Fields	3 (3%)	13 (15%)	20 (22%)	40 (45%)	13 (15%)	89 (100%)
Parks and Playgrounds	5 (3%)	10 (7%)	16 (11%)	78 (54%)	35 (24%)	144 (100%)
Tennis Courts	3 (9%)	4 (11%)	6 (17%)	13 (37%)	9 (26%)	35 (100%)
Other Outdoor Facilities	5 (7%)	4 (6%)	14 (19%)	37 (51%)	12 (17%)	72 (100%)



# Public Survey: Outdoor Facilities: Dissatisfaction & Improvements

The respondents who had stated that they were not satisfied with outdoor facilities were asked for their reasons why, and what improvements could be made. Answers included:

**Ball Diamonds:** Poor maintenance, including uncomfortable and unsafe seating, grass not mowed and diamond not raked or weeded regularly, no proper outdoor lighting, and washrooms in poor condition.

**Soccer Fields:** Surface is uneven resulting in increased risk of accidents, grass not mowed regularly, and no access to washrooms.

**Tennis Courts:** Surface in poor state of repair, and pickleball players cannot currently use these courts.

**Parks & Playgrounds:** Unsuitable equipment for younger children, access to skate park is dangerous, and there can sometimes be a build-up of garbage.

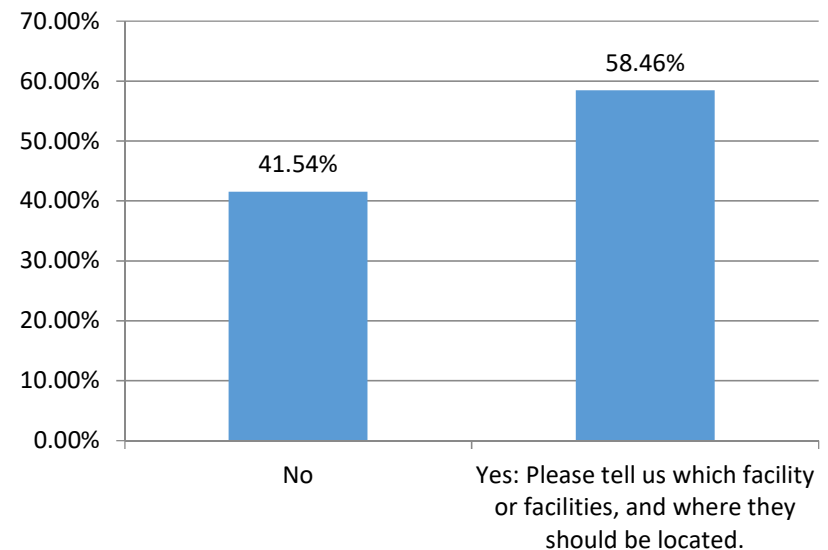
**Lawn Bowling:** Surface needs more regular maintenance.

**Other Outdoor Facilities:** The marina needs updating, including electrical supply and replacement/maintenance of rotten wood; limited shade/protection from sun on River walkway.

# Public Survey: Outdoor Facilities – Additional Requirements?

- 59% of respondents considered that the **Town does need** additional or new outdoor recreation facilities.
- Suggestions on what type of facilities there should be were varied, with reoccurring comment including:
  - Splash pad(s), with suggested locations including Centennial Park
  - Additional swing sets / playground equipment
  - Outdoor ice rink
  - Dog Park
  - Additional outdoor sports courts, including for pickleball
  - Hiking and cycle trails

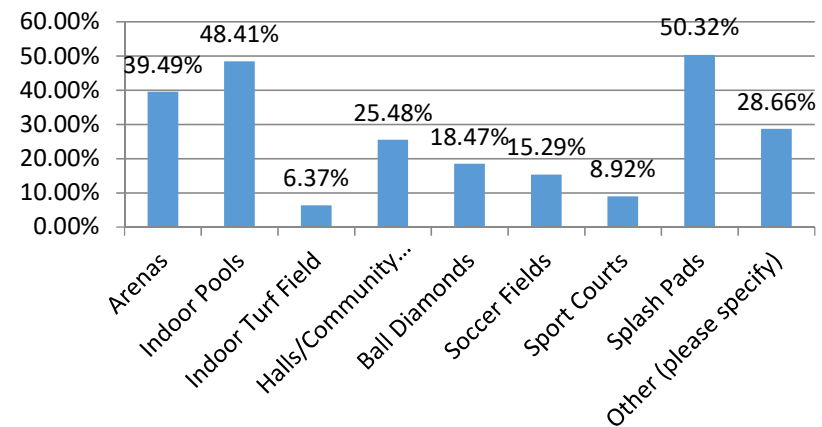
**Do you feel that the Town needs any additional and/or new outdoor recreation facilities?**



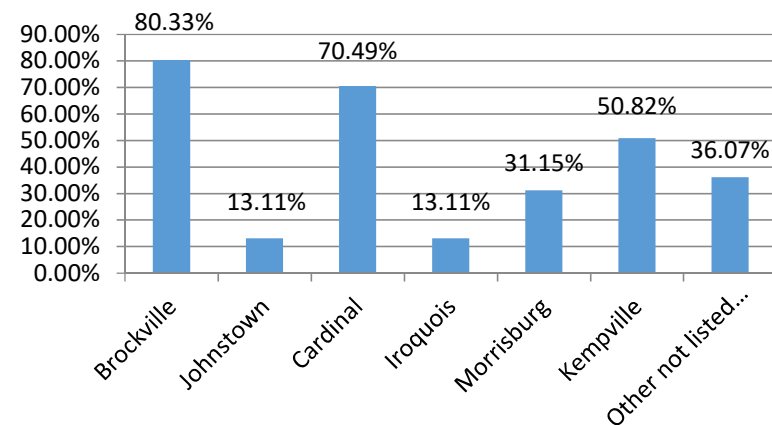
# Public Survey: Facilities Outside Township - Usage

- Respondents were asked what type of recreation and park facilities they use outside the Town, in which locations, and why:
  - Nearly 80% of respondents identified that they travelled out of the Town to use recreation and park facilities.
  - The top three types of facilities used by respondents outside the Town are: splashpads (50%); indoor pools (48%); and arenas (40%).
  - The top three locations outside the Town where respondents used arenas are: Brockville (80%); Cardinal (1%); and Kempville (51%). Other locations given (but not specific in the survey) included Spencerville.
  - The top three reasons given for using facilities elsewhere were 1. The type of facilities are not offered in the Town (79%); availability - ability to book sufficient time/space (25%); and range of programming meets the needs of them and their family (23%).

**Which type of facilities do you use the most outside of Prescott?**



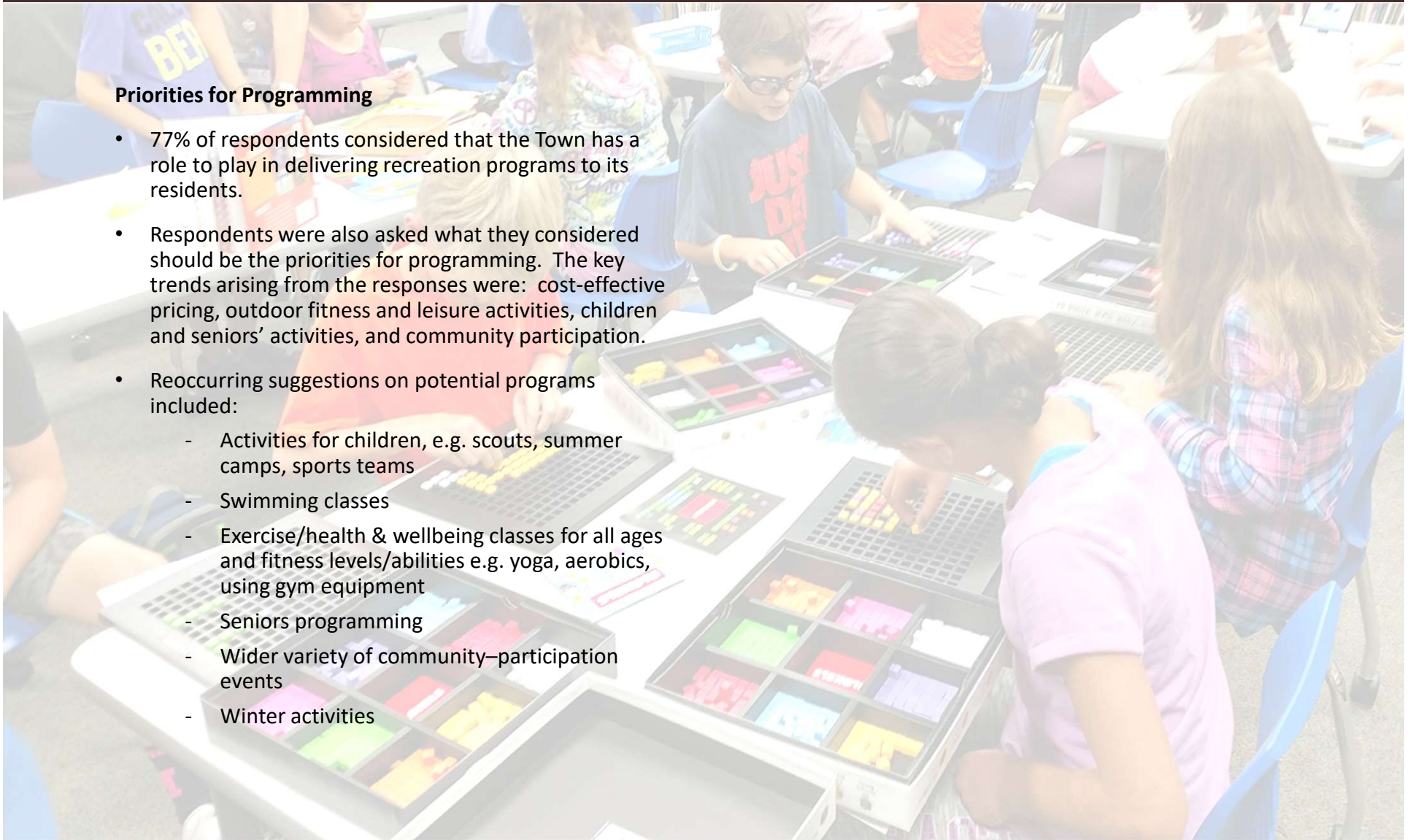
**Please let us know where you travel to use these facilities outside of Prescott**



# Public Survey: Recreation Programming

## Priorities for Programming

- 77% of respondents considered that the Town has a role to play in delivering recreation programs to its residents.
- Respondents were also asked what they considered should be the priorities for programming. The key trends arising from the responses were: cost-effective pricing, outdoor fitness and leisure activities, children and seniors' activities, and community participation.
- Reoccurring suggestions on potential programs included:
  - Activities for children, e.g. scouts, summer camps, sports teams
  - Swimming classes
  - Exercise/health & wellbeing classes for all ages and fitness levels/abilities e.g. yoga, aerobics, using gym equipment
  - Seniors programming
  - Wider variety of community-participation events
  - Winter activities



# User Group Survey

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FEEDBACK AND KEY TRENDS

# User Group Survey: Who We Heard From

The User Group survey was available online from 15 November 2017 and closed on 15 December 2017. Representatives from 21 user groups responded, although not all answered every question.

## User Group Profile

- The user groups' activities varied in nature, including recreational and competitive sports, leisure and social programming, and other non-competitive recreational activities.
- Total membership across the user groups who responded is estimated to be 2,460 persons, with a range of between 7 and 500 members.
- The survey results showed that the user groups provide activities and programming for a wide range of age groups from pre-schoolers to 65+.
- Over the past five years, 40% of respondents identified that their membership had increased, 20% had decreased, and 40% had stayed relatively stable.
- Looking ahead to the next five years, 60% of respondents identified that their membership is likely to be sustaining (minimal increase or decrease), 35% considered that their membership will be strong and growing; with 5% considering that their membership will be decreasing.
- The user groups did not indicate that any programs are declining in popularity. However, 'Learn to Skate' has a strong percentage of skaters who have a long term goal of moving to hockey.
- 30% of the user group membership reside in the Town, with 70% travelling in from other communities including Augusta, Edwardsburgh/Cardinal, Brockville, and Kemptville.

# User Group Survey: Indoor Facilities – Levels of Participation & Satisfaction

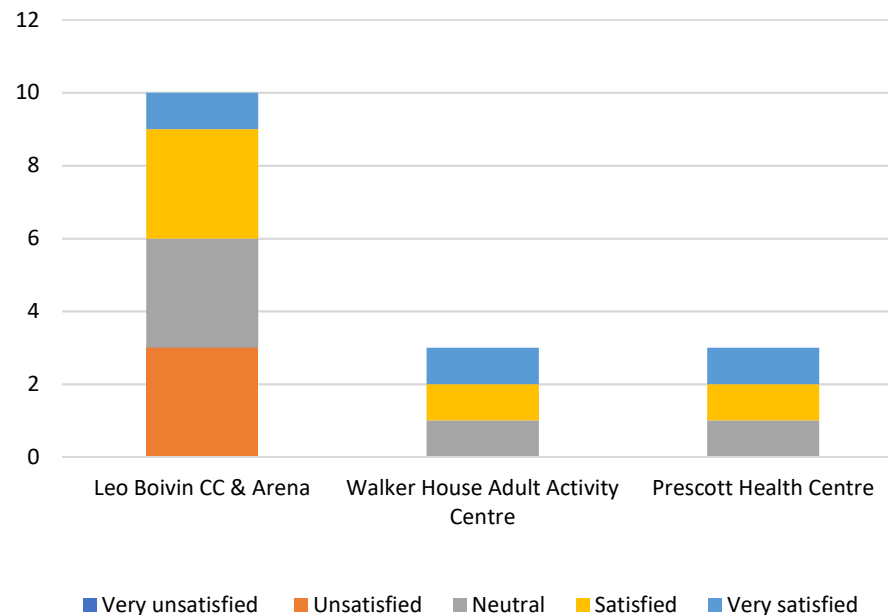
## Participation

- 74% of the user groups identified that they use indoor recreation facilities in the Town.
- Respondents were then asked about their use of the indoor facilities, and their satisfaction with the quality of provision. The **most used** facility was the Leo Boivin Community Centre & Arena (64%). The Walker House Adult Activity Centre and Prescott Health Centres were both used by 14% of user groups.
- Other indoor facilities used (but not listed as options) included the St John’s and St Andrew’s churches, Wellington Elementary School, South Grenville District High School, St Lawrence Academy, the Town Hall, the Curling Club, and the library.

## Satisfaction – Observations

- None of the three respondents who use the Walker House Adult Activity Centre or Prescott Health Centre are ‘very unsatisfied’ or ‘unsatisfied’ with these facilities.
- 3 of the 10 user groups were ‘unsatisfied’ with the Arena facilities, citing the need for its renovation and expansion. It was also noted that many hockey and figure skating organizations rely on the rink being open.
- There is insufficient indoor space in the Town to accommodate non-sports programming.

Satisfaction with Indoor Facilities (No. User Groups)



	Very unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Total
Leo Boivin CC & Arena	0 (0%)	3 (30%)	3 (30%)	3 (30%)	1 (10%)	10 (100%)
Walker House Adult Activity Centre	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (33.3%)	1 (33.3%)	1 (33.3%)	3 (100%)
Prescott Health Centre	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (33.3%)	1 (33.3%)	1 (33.3%)	3 (100%)

# User Group Survey: Outdoor Facilities – Levels of Participation

## Participation

- 58% of the user groups identified that they do not use outdoor recreation facilities in the Town.
- The 42% of user groups that do were then asked about their use of the outdoor facilities, and their satisfaction with the quality of provision:
  - **Ball diamonds usage:** Chick Kirkby Memorial Park (2 groups) and Prince Street Park (1 group).
  - **Soccer fields usage:** Prince Street Park (3 user groups) and South Grenville District High School (3 user groups).
  - **Tennis courts usage:** Centennial Park (1 user group).
  - **Parks usage:** Centennial Park (3 user groups); Riverwalk Park (2 user groups); and Sarah Spencer Park (1 user group).
- **Other facilities' usage:** Sandra S. Lawn Harbour & Marina (2 user groups); Kinsmen Amphitheatre (2 user groups); and Kelly's Beach (2 user groups).
- Although not listed as an option, the green space surrounding Town Hall was also identified as being used.

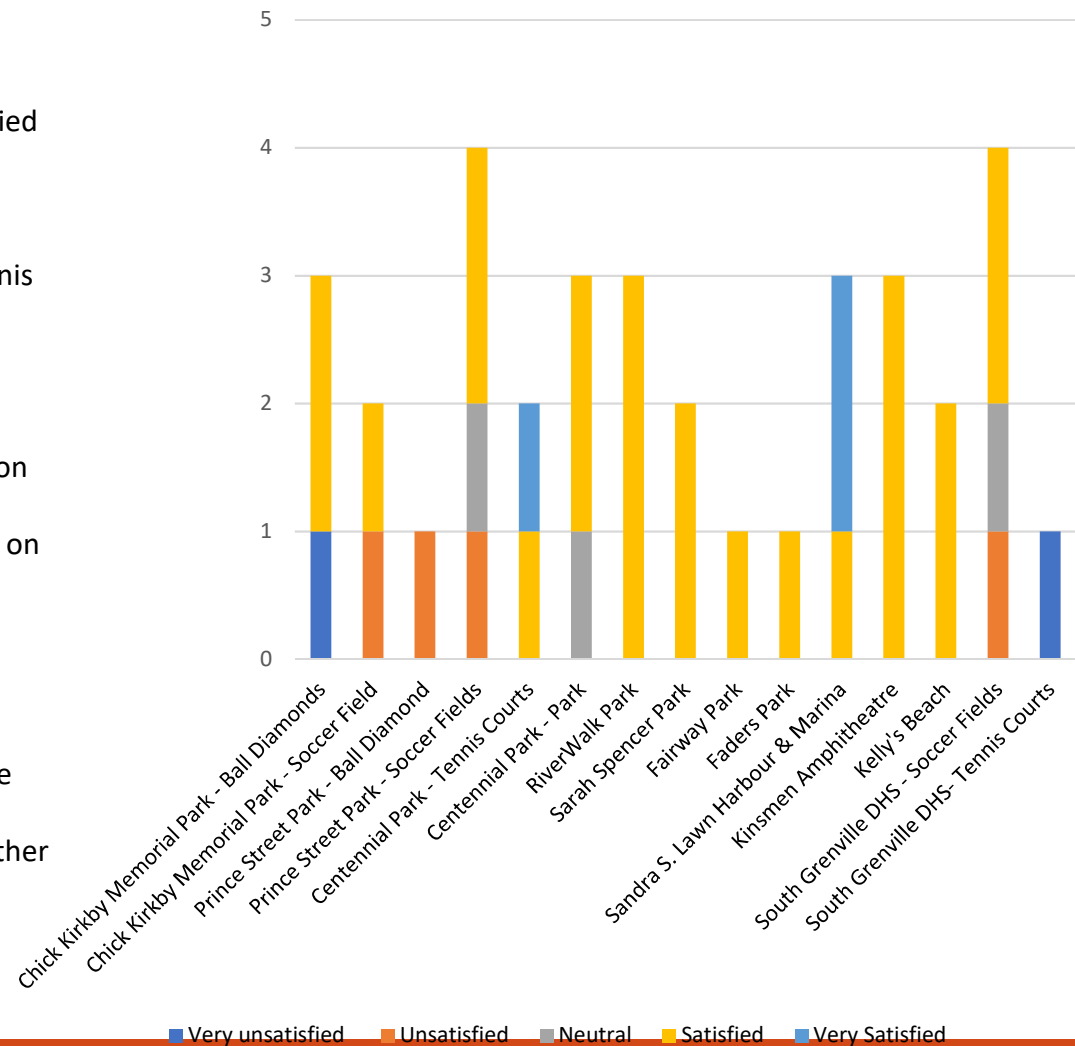


# User Group Survey: Outdoor Facilities – Levels of Satisfaction

## Satisfaction – Observations

- The majority of user groups are 'satisfied' with the Town's outdoor recreation facilities.
- The user groups are either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the tennis courts at Centennial Park and the Sandra S.Lawn Harbour & Marina.
- One user group was 'very unsatisfied' with the tennis courts at South Grenville District High School. No reason was given.
- One user group was 'very unsatisfied' with the ball diamonds at Chick Kirkby Memorial Park. The reason given was that part of the slow pitch outfield is sinking, the fence in the outfield has no protection on the top, there is a gap of 1 foot between the fence and field, and few of the lights work (they play at night).
- It was also noted that the soccer fields at South Grenville District High School are maintained by the school, and as such maintenance is undertaking to meet school needs, and not necessarily those of other user groups.

Satisfaction with outdoor facilities (No. of User Groups)



# User Group Survey: Improvements to Facilities

## Suggested improvements

- Suggestion were made as to how they would like to see the Town invest in facilities and spaces. These included:
- New or renovated arena, including greater accessibility and female changing rooms (however, it was commented that some of the user groups cannot be without access to the arena for an extended period, and so consideration needs to be given to what interim arrangements could be made).
- Improved and more regular maintenance of facilities and outdoor spaces (including steps to tennis courts, ball diamonds, arena and soccer fields).
- Multi-use facility(ies).
- Indoor community space which can accommodate a wider range of programming, with ancillary facilities including washroom, table and chairs and air-conditioning.
- Temporary cover for amphitheatre (particularly to provide shade in the summer months).
- Indoor space at the theatre for rehearsals.

## Paying for improvements

Of the user groups who responded, 53% identified that they would be unwilling to pay for the improvements outlined, 10% would, and 37% were undecided.

# User Group Survey: Facilities Outside Township - Usage

42% of the user groups identified that they travelled outside the Town to use facilities. The facilities used were:

- Other curling clubs
- Community facilities across Leeds-Grenville and beyond
- Churches in Brockville & Cardinal
- Spencerville and Cardinal arenas, including the Cardinal Rink for 'Spring School'

The reasons given for using facilities outside the Town included:

- Better amenities (2 user groups);
- Lower cost (1 user group);
- Facilities in the Town can't give enough time (1 user group);
- The group has always operated outside (1 user group).

The comment was made by several user groups that other rinks needed to be used when the Town's ice is not available.

Two user groups identified that they played out of Town most of the time.