



# Recreation Master Plan Update

Council Presentation  
April 26, 2021



# Recreation Master Plan Update – Overview

**The City of Cornwall Recreation Master Plan Update provides a 10-year guide for enhancing recreation programs, facilities, and parks.**

The study builds on the Recreation Master Plan prepared in 2009, aligns with Council's strategic priorities, and will be implemented in conjunction with the City's Official Plan, Waterfront Plan, and related studies.



# The Plan is Grounded in Research

- a) Public and stakeholder consultation
- b) Background documents (Strategic Plan, Official Plan, etc.)
- c) Community profile and growth projections
- d) Trends in recreation and parks services
- e) Potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic
- f) Parks and facility inventory and distribution
- g) Facility usage and participation data

# Public and Stakeholder Consultation

- Community survey – general public
- Questionnaires – key stakeholders
- Input from City Staff
- Public information centre (virtual) to review and receive feedback on the Draft Master Plan

**Over 1,500 households  
(representing more than  
4,500 residents) and 35  
community organizations  
participated in the  
planning process**

# What We Heard

- Recreation and parks services are very important to Cornwall residents.
- The pandemic has highlighted the vital role of parks and trails in staying active and connected.
- Demand is growing for unstructured activities for all ages.
- Affordable recreation opportunities are in demand.
- Many residents are not aware of the broad range of available activities.
- Maintaining existing facilities is a priority over adding new ones.
- We need to be creative in accommodating emerging sports and activities.
- Cornwall's waterfront is its best asset and public use should be maximized.
- The new arts and culture centre will fill a long-time need.
- Partnerships can be effective at leveraging resources.
- The City needs to be proactive in order to maximize value for its residents.

# Master Plan Vision & Goals

**Accessible and high quality recreation and parks services that enable residents of all ages to lead healthy, active lives.**

**GOAL 1**  
Active and  
Engaged Living



**GOAL 2**  
Access and  
Inclusion



**GOAL 3**  
Supportive  
Environments



**GOAL 4**  
Connecting People  
with Nature



**GOAL 5**  
Recreation  
Capacity



*Adopted from the Framework for Recreation in Canada*

### Programming

3. Expand **drop-in programming** (e.g., sports, fitness, and arts) to enable residents of all ages to lead healthy, active lives.
5. Support **expanded park use and programming**, including outdoor play opportunities.
6. Develop a **Long-Range Youth Plan** to maximize youth participation, leadership, and engagement.

### Affordability

8. Increase promotion and funding of the City's **Recreation Financial Accessibility Policy**.
9. Prepare a **User Fee Study** to establish a fair, equitable, and transparent process for setting recreation and parks fees.
10. Continue to offer free swimming opportunities and consider the costs and benefits of **removing the fee for all public swimming hours at outdoor pools**.



## Policies and Supports

13. Review and expand the **Ice Allocation Policy** to other facility types, while ensuring that fair and transparent access to facilities is afforded to all priority groups.
16. Develop a five-year outlook for recreation and parks **staffing and operations levels**.
18. Reinstitute the **Recreation Advisory Committee**(expanded to include ‘Parks’) to assist in implementing the Master Plan and advising on matters within their mandate.
20. Host regular **workshops and information sessions** with local organizations and service providers to enhance community awareness and discuss topics of interest.





# Facilities – Selected Recommendations

## Indoor Facilities

- 26. Explore options to add a multi-purpose room and upgraded change room to the **Cornwall Aquatic Centre**.
- 28. Add a **gymnasium to the Benson Centre** to accommodate additional court sports, activities, and events.



### Outdoor Pools

46. Initiate an **outdoor pool enhancement and redevelopment program**, with a focus on **Mattice, St. Francis, and Reg Campbell pools**. Over time, these pools should be enlarged or redeveloped to provide multi-functional designs with beach entry, water features, accessible changerooms, more deck space, shade, heated water, modern mechanical systems, etc.
47. At such time that they become cost prohibitive to repair, **repurpose St. Joseph and Terry Fox pools** to other park amenities. The City's ongoing structural audit will provide additional information to guide investment decisions.
48. **Consult the community** further regarding the outdoor pool recommendations, along with the location and design of redeveloped pools.





### Sports Fields

37. Continue to explore and evaluate long-term options for **developing ball diamonds on the lands adjacent to the Benson Centre** and relocate youth play from the Legion Park fields. Ongoing consultation with users and the community is required, as is a concept plan (underway) and business plan to assess potential cost impacts.
38. Install a **multi-use artificial turf field with lights at the Benson Centre** to enhance the site as a regional activity hub. This project should coincide with the removal of the football field from **Joe St. Denis Park**, for which future use options should be evaluated further.



### Other Park Amenities

- 32. Provide **playgrounds in selected new subdivisions** (East Ridge, Bellwood Ridge) based on a minimum threshold of one playground within 800-metres of residential areas.
- 33. Install full municipal playgrounds in or **near Joe St. Denis Park and Terry Fox Memorial Park**. Increase the City's **annual budget for playground replacement**.
- 39. Undertake resurfacing and lighting improvements at **all municipal tennis court sites**.
- 40. Over the longer-term, pursue the development of a **dedicated pickleball complex** (supported by washrooms, shade, and nearby parking).
- 43. Work with the skatepark sub-committee to explore locations and options for **replacing the existing skatepark** at Optimist Park.
- 49. Install a **splash pad (and support building)** at **Menard Park** to improve service to East Cornwall.
- 50. Develop a municipal **off-leash dog park**, guided by a site evaluation exercise.





### Parkland Policy and Needs

- 54. Review and update the City's **cash-in-lieu land values** for parkland dedicated through the development process.
- 55. In areas where the supply of parkland is adequate, **prioritize the use of development funds (cash-in-lieu) for parkland improvements**, rather than land acquisition.
- 56. Formalize requirements for **parkland acceptability, design requirements, and developer responsibilities**.
- 57. Establish a growth-related **parkland target** of 2.0 hectares per 1,000 residents to guide future provision. **Additional parkland** may be required to address growth-related needs, enhance public access to the waterfront, establish linear/trail connections, and/or expand the existing community and city-wide parks where necessary.



### Park Activities and Renewal

- 62. Maintain a commitment to **universal accessibility, safety, and comfort** within the City's parks and trails system, including an emphasis on amenities such as washrooms, benches/seating areas, bike racks, and shade in appropriate parks.
- 64. Support **outdoor education, stewardship, and climate change mitigation initiatives** through the parks and open space system, such as tree plantings, naturalization efforts, community gardens, butterfly/pollinator parks, interpretive displays, and adopt-a-park/trail programs, in conjunction with community partners.
- 65. Develop a **Strategic Master Plan for Guindon Park** to guide phased implementation of improvements, including those outlined in the 2019 Waterfront Plan.





# Plan Implementation

This Master Plan:

- enables the City to take stock, identify priorities, and work with others to address community needs
- contains over 70 recommendations that will be used to guide budgets and key initiatives (Development Charges, park-specific master plans, etc.)
- is visionary and inspirational...some recommendations will require further consultation, funding, and/or partnerships
- is also technical and comprehensive...some recommendations can be put into action immediately

# Thank You!



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