Loyalist Township

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

April 22, 2025



Agenda

1. Project Overview

- Purpose of the Master Plan
- Project Phases and Scope
- Consultation Approach & What We Heard
- Strategic Directions

2. Recommendations Overview

- Recreation Programs & Events
- Facilities
- Parks & Trails
- Service Delivery

3. Implementation

- Considerations
- Costing

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mehak, kelly & associates.

oraclepoll RESEARCH

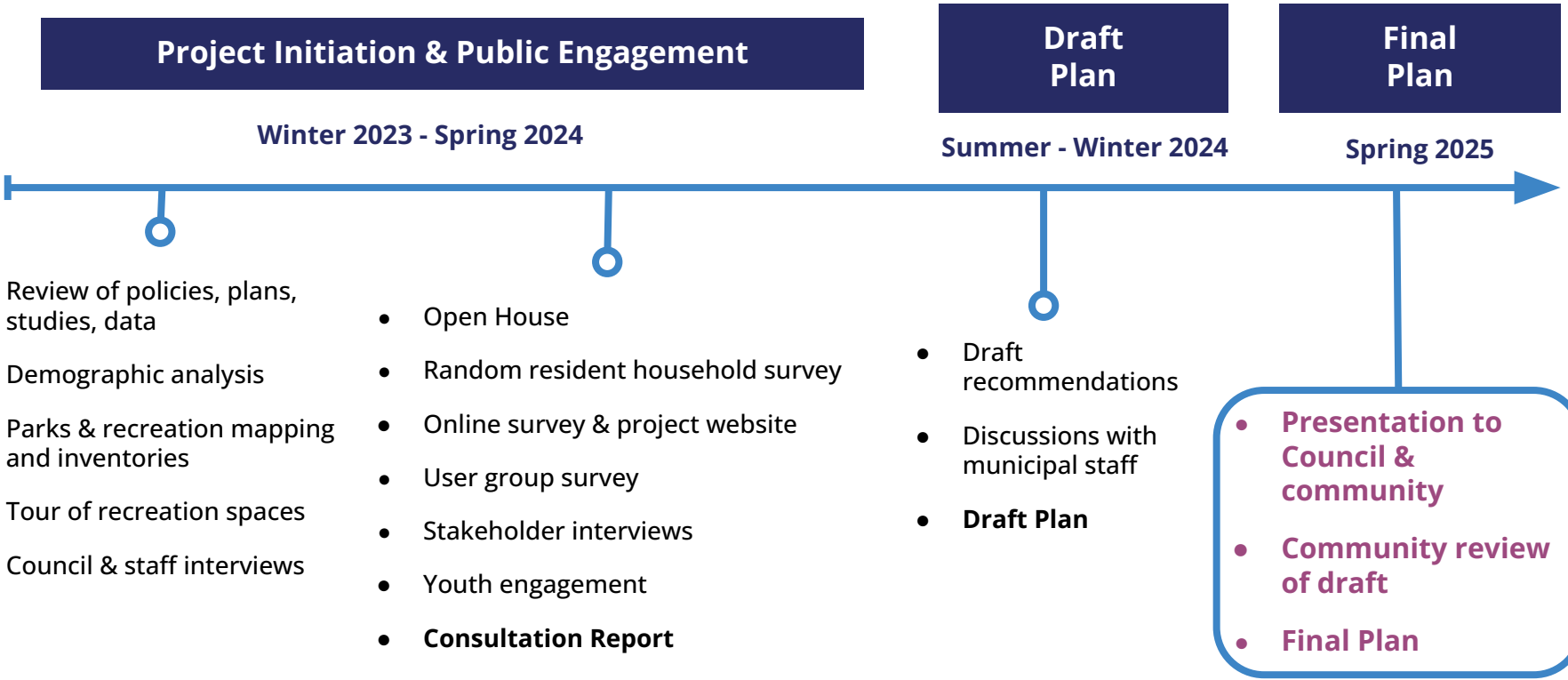
1. Project Overview



Purpose of the Master Plan

- Guides the planning and provision of parks and recreation services, resources and investment over the next 10 years (2024 to 2034)
- Develops recommendations using data from: surveys, interviews, facility use, budget considerations, trends in the parks & recreation sector, local opportunities, concurrent projects, etc.
- Important tool for budgeting purposes
- Viewed as a living document to be updated and adjusted through the annual budget planning process
- Recommendations may be advanced, delayed or amended to respond to changing circumstances
- Some initiatives will require additional community consultation to arrive at detailed plans and designs
- Council, in consultation with municipal staff, will determine when and how initiatives are implemented (e.g., specific type/number of amenities)

Project Phases and Scope



Consultation Approach

✓ Residents

- Random Telephone Survey: 300 households
- Open House: held on Family Day at the WJH
- Online survey: 664 respondents
- Youth engagement by Township

✓ Municipal Representatives

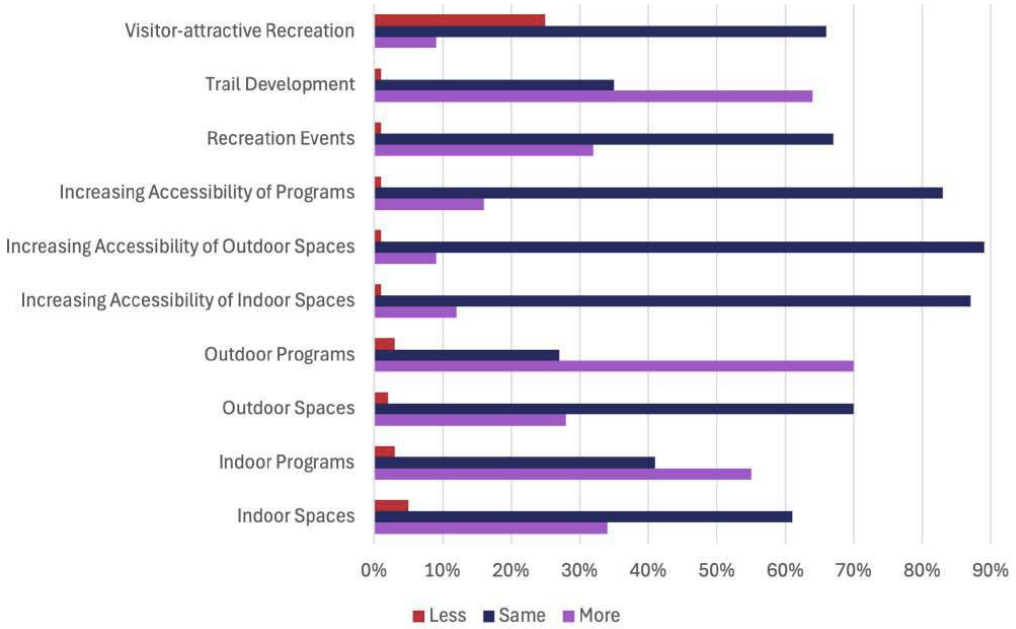
- 19 interviews with Councillors and municipal staff

✓ Partners & Stakeholders

- Parks & Recreation User Groups Online Survey: 18 respondents
- 8 stakeholder interviews

What We Heard

- Need for more indoor recreation space, particularly gymnasium space
- Desire for more equitable distribution of recreation opportunities
- Splash pad, dog parks, skate park/pump track, trails and pickleball
- Interest in more outdoor recreation
- Attracting and retaining staff
- Larger expenditures to occur mid/late term



7 Strategic Directions

1. **Provide equitable recreation opportunities across Township:**
   - Bringing more to Bath and Odessa
   - Supporting opportunities on Amherst Island

2. **Align service provision with population growth:**
   - Township expected to see the most residential growth of all municipalities in L&A County to 2051

3. **Improve, increase and modernize existing amenities and facilities:**
   - Lack of municipal facilities, and limited access to non-municipal facilities such as schools.
   - Playgrounds and park amenities overdue for renewal.

4. **Align staff recruitment, training and retention with increased demand and expected programs and services:**
   - Additional staffing required to grow services
   - Challenges related to recruitment and retention will need to be addressed

7 Strategic Directions

5. Grow support for facilities, parks and recreation service delivery through partnerships and fundraising to ease the burden on residents:

- Taxes, capital funding, and grants will not be sufficient to meet the community's needs within 10-year time frame

6. Make decisions on ongoing topics of discussions:

- e.g., splash pad, dog park, skate park, indoor multi-use recreation space, trails

7. Support unstructured, outdoor recreation opportunities:

- Trending interest for more outdoor, unstructured, free, recreation activities (echoed in the consultation)

2. Recommendations

- Recreation Programs & Events
- Facilities
- Parks & Trails
- Service Delivery
- Implementation

Recreation Programs & Events

Geographic Approach to Provision

- Amherstview: continue as main hub
- Bath and Odessa: increase the amount of programs provided, especially for seniors and youth
- Amherst Island: Continue to partner with AIRA
- Ensure each community has unstructured, outdoor recreation opportunities for all ages









Recreation Programs & Events

Areas for Development

- Preschool, Children, and Youth: active, wellness, camps, and after school programs, all-ages, unstructured opportunities
- Adults: when facility space is available, expand high-demand programs; offer fitness as registered programs
- Seniors: when facility space is available, expand physical and non-physical activities



Recreation Programs & Events

Areas for Development

- Outdoor Activities: move existing programs outdoors, explore new additions, develop the Come Out and Play trailer
- Parks and Recreation Events: hold sport, active, wellness, and park-based events in each community





Recreation Programs & Events

Facilities

Parks & Trails

Service Delivery

Implementation

Facilities

William J. Henderson Recreation Centre

- Phase 1 renewal aquatic centre, upgraded arena, and community spaces almost complete
- Potential WJH Phase 2 facility development may need to be advanced to the next Master Plan (2035-2045)
- Groundwork towards the end of the current Plan's term will require community consultation to update the 2018 feasibility study
- Key potential facilities are gymnasium, track, fitness facilities, more multi-purpose, social event, and meeting space, commercial kitchen, possible 2nd ice pad



Facilities

Recommended Indoor

Facility Needs	Location(s)	Area(s) Served
Shared youth drop in & seniors centre	Amherstview	Township-wide
Community rooms, with required upgrades, for a range of general programming	Wilton, Bath Fire Hall community room, Layer Cake Hall (with County Library)	Township-wide + Wilton Bath Rural areas
School Board gyms for active recreation and spaces for general programming	throughout Township, via lease and reciprocal use agreements with both Boards for 11 schools in or near Loyalist	Township-wide + Amherst Island Odessa Bath Rural areas

Facilities

Recommended Outdoor: Ball Diamonds

Facility Needs
Rehabilitate Willie Pratt Fields
Prepare comprehensive conditions assessments for all other ball diamonds an annual work program to upgrade/repair
Anticipate replacing the two junior LDSB diamonds when they are decommissioned by the Board



Facilities

Recommended Outdoor: Soccer Fields

Facility Needs
Prepare comprehensive conditions assessments for soccer fields and an annual work program to upgrade/repair
If required, accommodate youth participation increases on underused adult fields
If adult use rebounds, provide up to one additional multi-use field for diverse fields sports
Assess the cost of ‘renovating’ underused fields into multi-use fields and promote as such



Facilities

Recommended Outdoor: Courts

Facility Needs
Build two lit tennis courts in Odessa anticipating potential to add courts to support club development
Monitor use of courts to determine needs to co-locate additional facilities
Relocate the Bath tennis court to a new facility in Odessa, and convert the Bath courts to eight single-use pickleball courts
Provide four new casual use pickleball courts within the Amherstview West Secondary Plan area



Recreation Programs & Events
Facilities
Parks & Trails
Service Delivery
Implementation

Parks and Trails

General recommendations related to:

- Parks Classification updates
- providing more sizable community parks with more amenities rather than many small neighbourhood parks
- Improve park naming conventions by using only one unique name to refer to each park, and do not name facilities within the park separately
- Guidance for accepting parkland dedication vs cash-in-lieu



Parks and Trails

Waterfront Master Plan

- Potential relocation or redesign of the Township boat launch at Finkle's Shore
- Inclusion of non-motorized watercraft dock (kayak and canoes) on the mainland
- Management of waterfront-based tourism
- Safety concerns such as busy road crossings
- Off-road waterfront trail development
- Water quality and water access
- The acquisition of additional waterfront open space



Parks and Trails

Odessa

- Centennial Park: trail, naturalization, dog park
- Sk8er Park: monitor number of ice days, introduce programming, consider a refrigerated pad
- New community park: Develop a new Community Park in Odessa, potentially working with OAS to site the park at the fairgrounds
- Potential to add a pump track in the mid/late term



Parks and Trails

Amherstview

- Willie Pratt design: orientation of sports fields, support amenities, accessibility and circulation, storage, etc.
- Loyalist Park design: skate park/pump track, community events, accessible washrooms, storage, parking, etc.
- Amherstview West Secondary Plan Area: dog park, pickleball courts
- Lakeside Ponds Subdivision: if possible, develop a trail loop around the pond



Parks and Trails

Amherst Island

- Gowan property adjacent to school: work with AIRA to develop a design, including consideration of a multi-sport court
- Gowan waterfront property: develop as a passive waterfront park include for example, seating, shade structure, fishing area, paddle craft launch, tree planting, etc.



Parks and Trails

Bath

- Bath Park design: develop as a district park with splash pad, accessible washrooms, shade structure, parking, storage, etc.
- Aura by the Lake: attempt to secure a more preferable parcel of parkland, adjacent to Briscoe Park.



Recreation Programs & Events
Facilities
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Service Delivery

Volunteers, Collaboration, Policies

- Work with Heritage, Culture, Tourism to develop and implement a Parks & Recreation Division volunteer program
- Expand collaborations and partnerships to develop facilities and deliver programs / services, backed by agreements
- Update existing and develop new policies to support service provision and delivery
- Develop revenue generating programs



Service Delivery

Volunteers, Planning, Marketing

- Further develop and implement service planning, monitoring and evaluation capacity to align service provision with verified community needs
- Establish an ongoing service planning and evaluation process to include community partners
- Continue to develop marketing efforts and communications tools to inform the community and promote services



Recreation Programs & Events
Facilities
Parks & Trails
Service Delivery
Implementation

Implementation: 10-year time frame

Considerations:

- 157 recommendations
- 22 involve studies/designs
- 41 involve capital costs
- Costs/Budgeting:
  - Immediate need
  - Operating vs. capital vs. studies
  - One-time or ongoing cost
- Interrelated dependencies and efficiencies
- Staff resources: park, facility and program staff
- Flexibility

Table 6-2: Summary of Total Estimated Costs by Service Area from 2024-2034

	Total Estimated Costs			
Service Area	**Short Term (2025-2026)**	**Medium Term (2027-2030)**	**Late Term (2031-2034)**	**Total Costs**
Programs and Events	$0	$0	$0	$0
Recreation Facilities	$825,000	$2,850,000	$1,454,500	$5,129,500
Parks and Trails	$4,022,000	$4,065,000	$10,010,000	$18,097,000
Service Delivery	$35,000	$0	$0	$35,000
Total	**$4,882,000**	**$6,915,000**	**$11,646,500**	**$23,261,500**



Questions?

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