



TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG
PARKS MASTER PLAN
UPDATE 2025

SEPTEMBER, 2025



AMHERSTBURG
EST. 1796

**FOR
REC**

MGA
MCQUEEN GALLOWAY ASSOCIATES

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Town of Amherstburg acknowledges that the land on which we gather, live and raise our families is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, (comprising the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomie Peoples), and of the Huron-Wendat and Wyandot Peoples. We recognize the land as an expression of gratitude to those whose traditional territory we reside on, and a way of honouring the Indigenous people who have been living and thriving on the land since time immemorial. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FORREC and the MGA-McQueen Galloway & Associates team would like to extend our thanks to the Mayor and Council, Town Staff, and the many community volunteers, user groups, organizations, and residents who contributed their insights and feedback to the development of this Plan.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mayor Michael Prue

Deputy-Mayor Chris Gibb

Councillor Molly Allaire

Councillor Linden Crain

Councillor Peter Courtney

Councillor Donald McArthur

Councillor Diane Pouget

STEERING COMMITTEE

Heidi Baillargeon

Director, Parks, Facilities & Recreation

Annette Zahaluk

Manager, Parks and Naturalized Areas

Stephen Hayes

Technical Support Project Manager

Rita Chappell

Executive/Comms Assistant, Dir., Parks, Facilities & Recreation

Trese MacNeil

Manager, Recreation

Terry Fasan

Manager, Facilities





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NOTE ON IMAGES

Photos taken by Project Team

Coloured plans by FORREC or Town of Amherstburg

Perspective views are a combination of design drawings and AI. They are intended to represent the character and ideas of the space, and are conceptual only.



I. INTRODUCTION

The Town of Amherstburg is in Southwestern Ontario, approximately 30 km southwest of the City of Windsor and is one of seven lower-tier municipalities in the County of Essex. The current population of The Town of Amherstburg is just over 23,500.

The Town last updated its Parks Master Plan in 2018, and has successfully followed the previous recommendations to implement projects and guide decision making.

The update being undertaken in 2024/2025 is to include all Town parks, with an emphasis on aligning with the Town's most current and updated planning documents. The plan update is also intended to deliver specific master plans for several key parks within the Town of Amherstburg in collaboration with the Town administration and community. These individual park plans are responsive to the feedback received through the extensive consultation program and the need to be financially viable in the long term.

Parks and recreation are integral to promoting the physical and mental health of Amherstburg's residents. Accessible green

spaces and recreational facilities encourage people of all ages to engage in physical activities such as walking, cycling, playing sports, and participating in unstructured recreation opportunities. These activities are essential for maintaining physical health, reducing the risk of chronic disease, and improving overall fitness levels.

The Town of Amherstburg's parks and trails system provide a perfect setting for participation in a variety of year-round activities. Spending time in nature, whether it's a leisurely stroll or a family gathering, helps reduce stress and anxiety, contributing to better mental health and emotional well-being.

Parks and recreation play a vital role in fostering a strong sense of community and social cohesion in Amherstburg. Public parks, trails and the indoor and outdoor facilities at the Larry Bauer Park/Libro Credit Union Centre Recreation Complex serve as gathering places where residents can connect, interact, and build lasting relationships. Amenities within the parks system provide options for residents across the geographic expanse of the municipality.

Facing Page:
K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park Master Plan Conceptual Illustration
FORREC Rendering - AI and Photoshop

Investments in parks, recreation, and cultural programs also have significant economic benefits for Amherstburg. Attractive parks, the

trail network and vibrant events draw visitors from neighbouring areas, boosting local tourism and supporting businesses.

WHY UPDATE THE PARKS MASTER PLAN?

Updating the Parks Master Plan was identified as a priority in the Town's Community Strategic Plan. The Town of Amherstburg should be congratulated for initiating the update to its Parks Master Plan and for identifying many strategic priorities aligned with parks, recreation, tourism and public amenities in it's Strategic Plan. Many of the recommendations

from the previous Parks Master Plan have been completed, and/or efforts are ongoing. An update at this time provides staff and Council with an opportunity to continue to provide exceptional service to Town residents and visitors and plan for the future of Amherstburg including the population growth projected in the coming years.

KEY REASONS FOR DEVELOPING A PARKS MASTER PLAN

A Parks Master Plan is an investment in the people, facilities, environment, and future of the Town of Amherstburg. It is a tool that will inform future decision making to ensure park services are responsive, inclusive, and sustainable positioning the Town as a vibrant, healthy, and connected community for years to come.

1. Supports Health and Well-being

- a. Encourages physical activity, mental wellness, and healthy lifestyles.
- b. Reduces risk of chronic illness and promotes stress relief and relaxation.
- c. Recognizes that parks and recreation connect people, fostering a healthier, more active, and engaged community.

2. Reflects Community Needs

- a. Informed by qualitative and quantitative data.
- b. Engages residents, user groups, and community organizations through consultation.
- c. Assesses current and future park needs across all ages and demographics.

3. Guides Strategic Decision-Making

- a. Aligns with the Town's Community Strategic Plan, the Official Plan, the Asset Management Plan and other planning documents.
- b. Provides a 10-year plus road map.

4. Informs Budget and Resource Allocation

- a. Assists with setting priorities for capital and operating budgets.
- b. Ensures efficient and impactful use of financial and staff resources.
- c. Allows for potential grant opportunities by having drafted conceptual master plans to build from.

5. Improves Service Delivery and Efficiency

- a. Identifies service gaps and underutilized amenities.
- b. Tracks current participation trends to align projections with community need.

6. Strengthens Community Connections

- a. Builds inclusive spaces that foster social interaction and community pride.
- b. Supports events, activities, and amenities that encourage connection across all age groups.
- c. Enhances overall quality of life and promotes a sense of belonging.

7. Enhances Environmental Stewardship

- a. Protects and encourages resident participation in environmental education and conservation.

- b. Integrates sustainable practices into parks planning and maintenance.

8. Boosts Local Economy

- a. Increases property values and makes neighbourhoods more attractive.
- b. Attracts visitors and supports local businesses through tourism and events.
- c. Creates jobs in maintenance, programming, operations and parks sectors.

MASTER PLAN - PROCESS

The Town of Amherstburg's Parks Master Plan is grounded in a proven methodology. The process was designed to build on overarching policies, quantitative data, emerging trends, and continuous validation through qualitative information and engagement feedback driven by the community.

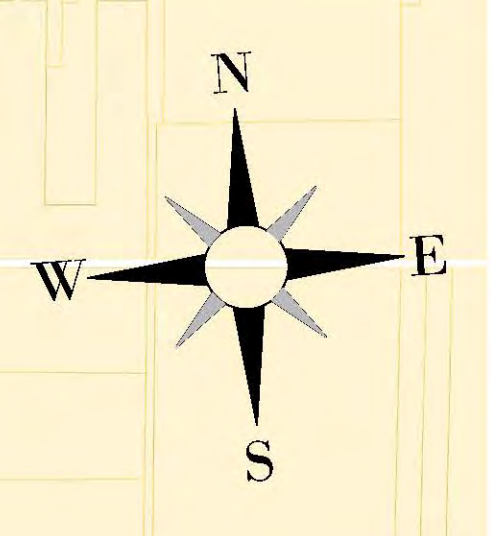
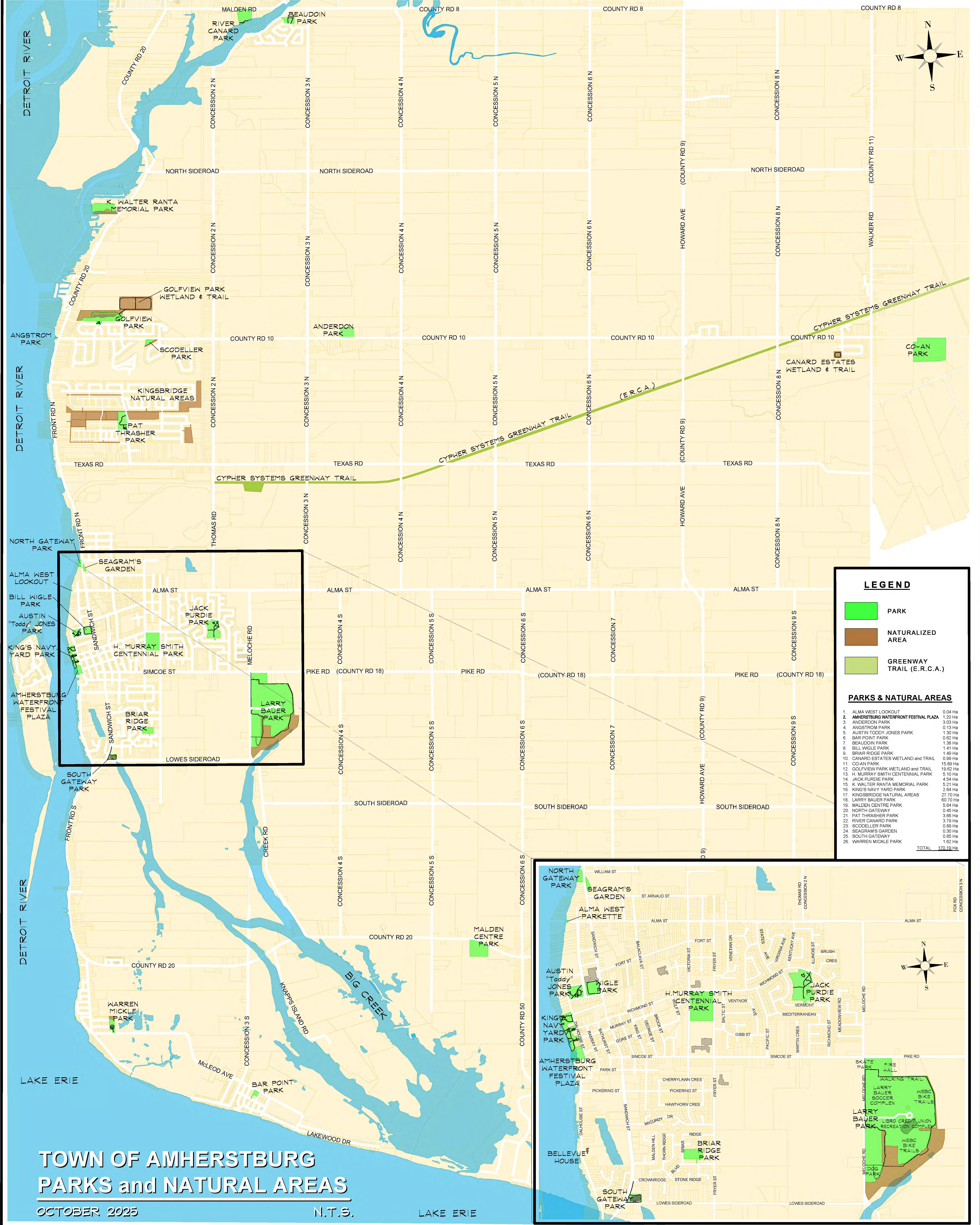
The development of the Parks Master Plan involved the following four phases:

MASTER PLAN – PROCESS		
PHASE 1 - Project Launch		July to September 2024
Parks Summit 1 (July 2024)	Review of Town-produced individual park concepts with public comments. (Sept 2024)	
PHASE 2 - Background Research & Analysis		November 2024 to March 2025
Policies and Plans	Financial Data	Participation numbers
Rental numbers and utilization data	National and Provincial Policy review	Staff structure
Trends analysis	Existing Condition Assessment Report (November 2024)	Completion of a Situational Analysis Report (January – March 2025).
PHASE 3 - Engagement		August 2024 to April 2025
Mayor & Members of Council	Staff	User Groups
Advisory Committees (3)	Partner Organizations	Event Hosts
Residents – Parks Summit Open Houses and Public Survey	Parks Summit 2 Open House	Community Engagement Summary Report. (April 2025)
PHASE 4 - Parks Master Plan & Individual Park Plans		April 2025 to September 2025
Development and circulation of Draft Master Plan	Development and presentation of Final Master Plan with Recommendations	Completion of individual Park Master Plans (April to September 2025)

AMHERSTBURG PARKS

Amherstburg has a total of 26 current parks, some of which are shared amenities with the adjacent two municipalities in both Essex and LaSalle.

An overview parks map is shown on the facing page (source: Town of Amherstburg).



LEGEND

- PARK
- NATURALIZED AREA
- GREENWAY TRAIL (E.R.C.A.)

PARKS & NATURAL AREAS

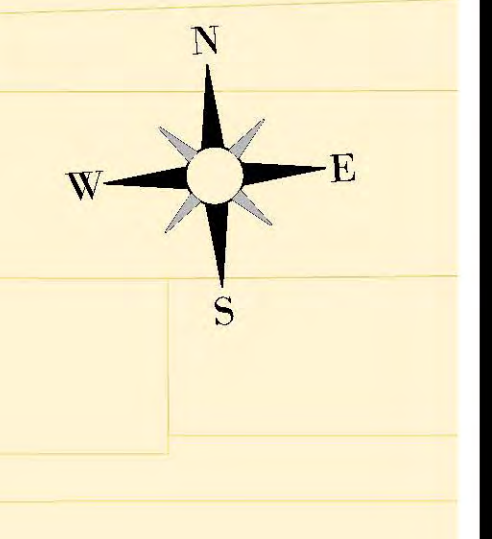
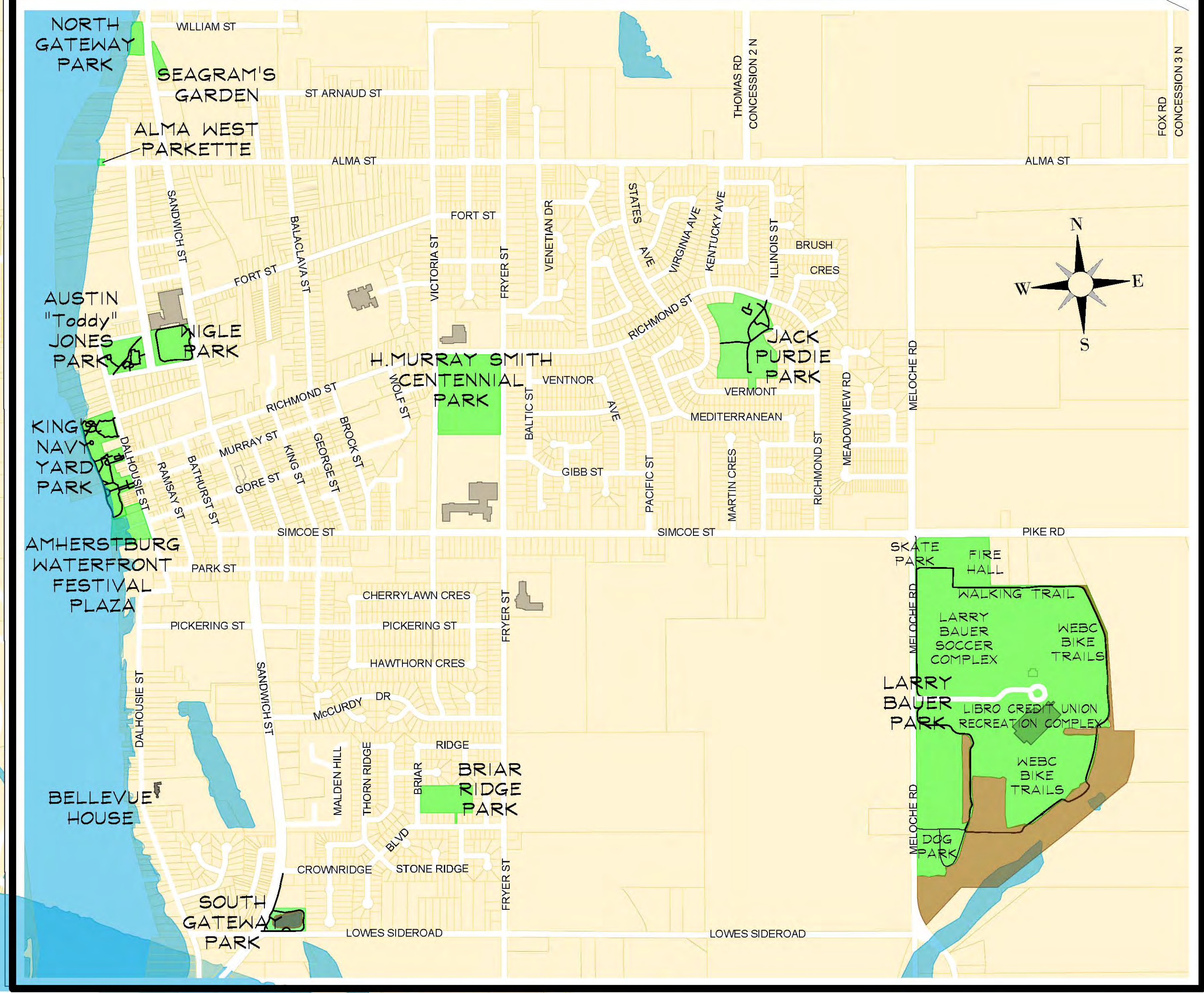
1. ALMA WEST LOOKOUT	0.04 Ha
2. AMHERSTBURG WATERFRONT FESTIVAL PLAZA	1.20 Ha
3. ANDERSON PARK	3.03 Ha
4. ANGSTROM PARK	0.13 Ha
5. AUSTIN "TODDY" JONES PARK	1.30 Ha
6. BAR POINT PARK	0.62 Ha
7. BEAUDOIN PARK	1.38 Ha
8. BILL WIGLE PARK	1.41 Ha
9. BRIAR RIDGE PARK	1.40 Ha
10. CANARD ESTATES WETLAND and TRAIL	0.99 Ha
11. CO-AN PARK	15.89 Ha
12. GOLFVIEW PARK WETLAND and TRAIL	19.52 Ha
13. H. MURRAY SMITH CENTENNIAL PARK	5.10 Ha
14. JACK PURDIE PARK	4.54 Ha
15. K. WALTER RANTA MEMORIAL PARK	5.21 Ha
16. KING'S NAVY YARD PARK	2.54 Ha
17. KINGSBRIDGE NATURAL AREAS	27.70 Ha
18. LARRY BAUER PARK	60.70 Ha
19. MALDEN CENTRE PARK	5.64 Ha
20. NORTH GATEWAY	0.46 Ha
21. PAT THRASHER PARK	3.66 Ha
22. RIVER CANARD PARK	3.79 Ha
23. SCODELLER PARK	0.89 Ha
24. SEAGRAM'S GARDEN	0.30 Ha
25. SOUTH GATEWAY	0.85 Ha
26. WARREN MICKLE PARK	1.62 Ha
TOTAL	170.19 Ha

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG PARKS and NATURAL AREAS

OCTOBER 2025

N.T.S.

LAKE ERIE





Warren Mickle Park Boardwalk and Viewing Tower, FORREC Rendering - AI and Photoshop

II. SUPPORTING STUDIES

The Parks Master Plan is supported by three preliminary studies which informed the findings, recommendations and master plans for individual parks. These include an Existing Conditions Report, Engagement Summary and Situational Analysis Report. Each report is summarized below.

1. TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG PARKS – EXISTING CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

The Existing Conditions Report provides a comprehensive review of the Town of Amherstburg's park system, including all municipal parks, trails, naturalized areas, and recreational amenities. The report evaluates existing conditions, capacity for growth, and future needs, with special emphasis on the Town's master-planned parks.



2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The Project Team lead multiple community engagement sessions to provide opportunities for Council, staff, user groups, advisory committees, community leaders, participants, and residents to share their insights and interest in the future of parks, and services. The process was designed to gather diverse input from Council, staff, community organizations, event organizers, user groups, school boards, advisory committees, and residents. Engagement activities included workshops, committee and staff meetings, focus groups, interviews, and targeted surveys, ensuring a broad and inclusive range of voices contributed.

The initiative launched with the first Parks Summit in July 2024, where residents provided feedback on all town parks using interactive displays. A User Group Survey followed in October 2024, collecting data from sports organizations, park users, and event hosts to

identify usage trends, satisfaction levels, and future facility needs. Council Committees—including Parks & Recreation, Accessibility, and Environmental—contributed through virtual sessions guided by the SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results) framework and surveys. Town staff and Council members also participated in facilitated discussions.

Ongoing user group meetings and a public survey launched in April 2025 expanded engagement further. The final Parks Summit Open House on May 5, 2025 showcased draft recommendations and conceptual park designs. Residents provided input via comment sheets, Post-It notes, and direct dialogue. This report summarizes all engagement findings and alongside the Situational Analysis, forms the basis for recommendations in the Parks Master Plan.



3. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS REPORT

The second phase of this project included the creation of a Situational Analysis Report which is a snapshot in time and is comprised of the culmination of research and data analysis. The purpose of the Situational Analysis Report is to create a benchmark with respect to how the Municipality is currently meeting the needs of its residents. This exercise includes quantitative results of the current inventory of assets, utilization rates, financial performance, demographics, and growth projections. It is further informed by qualitative information through a review of policy alignment, trends and best practices, and sound planning principles. The Community Engagement report summarized all feedback received through in-person, virtual and written submissions with a

variety of stakeholders in the community. The Facility Conditions Assessment report provided detailed information on each park with an overall condition assessment. The Situational Analysis Report, Facility Conditions Assessment report, and the Community Engagement Summary report help determine, through a series of findings, what (if any) gaps currently exist and how, when, where, and why those gaps could be addressed. These observations informed the themes and recommendations in this final Parks Master Plan.

The purpose of the Situational Analysis Report (SAR) is to provide a current analysis of the Town of Amherstburg's parks amenities and services. The SAR begins with an analysis of the Corporate Policy framework to determine the



extent to which parks programs and services are aligned with higher order policies and plans of the Town.

The Situational Analysis Report does not contain any specific recommendations. Rather, the SAR notes a series of "findings" or "considerations" resulting from the analysis of various policies, services, data, and facility review. The Situational Analysis Report represents a "point in time" with information gathered to a certain date. The SAR for the Town of Amherstburg including findings as of March 2025.



III. PARKS MASTER PLAN

1. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The following demographic profile has been scoped to include characteristics that are most relevant to understanding parks and recreation services. The table includes parallel data from a provincial perspective to offer insight on how Amherstburg is unique as a municipality as compared to the provincial demographic profile.

[Top](#)
Austin Toddy Jones / Bill Wigle Civic Green Master Plan Conceptual Illustration
FORREC Rendering - AI and Photoshop

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA	AMHERSTBURG	ONTARIO
	23,524 (was 21,936 in 2016)	14,223,942 (was 13,448,494 in 2016)
	45.6	41.4
	43.4	41.1
	2.5	2.6
	96.8%	69%
	0.3%	3%
	1.9%	28%
	5.6%	29.3%
	\$98,560	\$105,000
	\$49,280	\$62,000

CANADA CENSUS - AMHERSTBURG COMMUNITY PROFILE

CENSUS DATA	2021	2016	2011
Population:	23,524 (7.2% from 2011)	21,936 (0.8% from 2011)	21,556 (-0.9% from 2006)
Land area:	185.61 km ² (71.66 sq mi)	185.61 km ² (71.66 sq mi)	185.68 km ² (71.69 sq mi)
Population density:	128.0/km ² (183.76/sq mi)	118.2/km ² (306/sq mi)	116.1/km ² (301/sq mi)
Median age:	45.6 (M: 44.4, F: 46.4)	42.2 (M: 41.6, F: 42.8)	42.2 (M: 41.6, F: 42.8)
Total private dwellings:	9190	8951	8600

GROWTH PROJECTIONS

YEAR	POPULATION
2016	22,600
2021	24,300
2026	26,400
2031	28,500
2036	30,700
2041	32,700
2046	34,400
2051	36,100

Source: 2016-2021, derived from Statistics Canada Census data. 2021-2051 forecast by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. (Essex County Population Forecast by Area Municipality Medium Scenario, 2021-2051).

The County of Essex Official Plan notes the projected population growth to 2051 as follows, using a low, medium and high growth scenario.

YEAR	POPULATION
2021	24,300
2051	36,100
Low	32,800
Medium	36,100
High	38,500

FINDINGS (DEMOGRAPHICS)

- The median and average age is increasing and is slightly higher than the provincial average.
- Only 3% of households do not speak one of the official languages. The greater majority (96.8%) speak English as compared to the provincial average of 69%.
- Black, Arab, South Asian, and Filipino residents make up most visible minorities.
- Using the medium growth projection, Amherstburg is projected to grow to 36,100 by 2051.

2. CORPORATE POLICY / PLAN REVIEW

The purpose of the Corporate Policy & Plan Review is to determine the variety and completeness (status) of corporate policies and plans, and the extent to which various policy documents are aligned with one another. This review will in turn ensure that the Parks Master Plan update is brought into alignment with higher order policy documents. (A full review of the Plans is included in the Situational Analysis Report).

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- **Official Plan 2024/2025**
- **Community Strategic Plan 2024**
- **Asset Management Plan (2025)**
- **Development Charges Background Study 2024**
- **Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2022/2023**
- **Inclusive Community Program – Needs Assessment and Action Plan 2022/2023**

FINDINGS:

- There is significant alignment between several of the Corporate Policies and Plans at both a Strategic and more detailed level requiring further review and intentional consideration as the Parks Master Plan is being developed (significant intersection opportunities, timing options and financing implications).
 - The Official Plan is under review and aligning the Parks Classification system within the OP update presents an opportunity.
 - The entire Strategic Plan, goals, pillars and initiatives are aligned with the Parks Master Plan update; select specific notations include: updating the Parks Master Plan, finalizing plans for the previously named “Duffy’s site” including completing the extension (Amherstburg Waterfront Festival Park), investigating the feasibility of a boat launch at K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park, and positioning Amherstburg as a centre for Sports Tourism and Eco Tourism.
- There are several areas that are directly linked to the Parks Master Plan and implementation considerations noted in the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and the Inclusive Community Program Needs Assessment and Action Plan
- The Asset Management Plan (updated 2025) includes several references to parks and park amenities including condition assessments and updated financial information to be used to inform future capital budget forecasts and the allocation of scarce financial resources.
- The DC Background Study identifies growth related costs, of which some can be recovered from Development Charges based upon the analysis completed at the time of the DC Background Study. Pending changes to the DC Act will affect funding opportunities in the Parks Master Plan. Changes to the DC Act are currently in flux and will affect funding of potential projects.



King's Navy Yard Park. Photo by FORREC

3. MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations are grouped by subject area. Most subject areas include background with reported findings (taken from the Situational Analysis Report). The findings are a high-level summary that contribute to the recommendations and set the context for the subject area by referencing rationale on why the topic is of importance. Periodic reviews in conjunction with the recommendations will provide staff with the relevant background upon which to ensure alignment with resources and respond to changing information that may affect the short, mid, and long-term priorities. For example, approval of a grant application may affect the timing of a project.

ALIGNMENT FOR MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

SECTION	CORPORATE ALIGNMENT	BACKGROUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS
1.0 ACCESSIBILITY, SAFETY & SECURITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Year Accessibility Plan • Asset Management Plan • Community Strategic Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input from Accessibility Committee • Engagement feedback • Provincial Policy review (AODA)
2.0 PARK AMENITIES AND LEVELS OF SERVICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map and Grow Program • Town Tree planting program • Asset Management Plan • Community Strategic Plan • Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement feedback • Best Practices for Parks and Recreation • Provincial Sport Organizations (where available)
3.A PARK CLASSIFICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Plan update 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices for park classification systems • Staff input • Trends in Park classification systems and Official Plans in Ontario
3.B. PARK SUPPLY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial Policy Statement • Official Plan update 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Recreation & Parks Association database • County of Essex growth projections • Staff input
3.C PROVISION STANDARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategic Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practices Research – provision standards • Engagement feedback • Facility Utilization data
3.D. DESIGN & ADJACENCY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement feedback • Staff input
3.E WATERFRONT ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategic Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement feedback • Safety and Regulatory considerations

SECTION	CORPORATE ALIGNMENT	BACKGROUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS
3.F CURRENT PARK INITIATIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategic Plan • Asset Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Budget Forecast • Status of Grant applications
4.0 FINANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategic Plan • Asset Management Plan • Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating and Capital Budgets / Forecasts • Engagement feedback
5.0 COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategic Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement feedback • Staff input • User Groups • Stakeholders • Survey Data
6.0 ADMINISTRATION, AGREEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategic Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal staffing • Comparators • Amherstburg Document Review • User Fees • Ownerless Assets Draft • Engagement feedback

IMPLEMENTATION TIMING:

Short-Term	1-10 years
Medium-Term	10-20 years
Long- Term	20 + years
Ongoing	assess and refine / update annually

The plan also aims to align with the Town’s Capital and Operating Budget cycles which currently range from one to seven-year projections, with an anticipated building up to a ten-year forecast based upon growth projections.

As noted, this timing may be adjusted through proactive monitoring of corporate budgets, trends, funding programs, staff availability, alignment with corporate priorities, volunteer support and other external influences that may affect implementation plans.



Shelter at Austin 'Toddy' Jones Park

1.0 ACCESSIBILITY, SAFETY & SECURITY

CONTEXT

Accessibility was identified as a prime priority during all public feedback engagement sessions. Designing all facilities for universal access makes good sense for the entire community. Retrofitting existing facilities should continue to be identified by and a listing created to be used to identify budget priorities. Accessibility considerations should include affordable choices, options that meet the needs of a majority of the community, and offerings that are available for all ages and abilities. Accessibility is 'good for all'.A

	1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - ACCESSIBILITY, SAFETY AND SECURITY	SUGGESTED TIMING
1.1	<p>Ensure Accessibility Advisory Committee members and Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee members continue to identify priorities for budget planning. Provide regular communication updates of accessible parks and accessible features in parks.</p>	Ongoing

	1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - ACCESSIBILITY, SAFETY AND SECURITY	SUGGESTED TIMING
1.2	Create a listing of all amenities required within each park for accessibility. This should consider from arrival to departure (parking, trails, seating, washrooms, water, waste management, shade, signage etc.)	Short
1.3	Continue work with WEBC and CWATS to pro-actively focus on connectivity, comprehensive on/off road transportation options, trails, sidewalks and all associated signage and safety requirements. Identify connectivity opportunities within the Official Plan to be addressed as development proceeds. Update the Town's Transportation Master Plan to include parks (within parks and access to parks) and connectivity within the Town and neighbouring communities.	Ongoing
1.4	Offer a variety of unstructured opportunities for play for all ages. Consider access to the natural environment, options for seniors, youth activities that can be spontaneous. Ensure that not all green spaces need to be filled with a 'designated' use.A	Medium
1.5	Continue opportunities to strengthen connections within parks and to surrounding areas. Over time, improve technology options including WIFI within parks to promote user activity of all open space.	Ongoing
1.6	Incorporate technology improvements (use of QR codes, interactive maps) within the park system for user enjoyment, but also to improve timely responses for park maintenance, operational issues and to track park/trail/open space use through robust data collection. Providing staff with technology aided equipment (i.e., automated sports field lining system) can improve productivity. (City Wide)	Medium
1.7	Develop prioritized list of lighting enhancements and security monitoring and reporting systems within all parks, trails and open space. Manage transition to technology solutions with static options in the interim (signage, locational identification signs).	Medium
1.8	Adopt a standardized parks signage program that includes signage related to identification, directional, historic/heritage, informational, safety and security focused, customer service response detail and all other information, as relevant, depending on park type, location and usage. Implement program over time and align with individual park plan improvements/ enhancements as budget allows.	Ongoing

	1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - ACCESSIBILITY, SAFETY AND SECURITY	SUGGESTED TIMING
1.9	<p>Conduct a park audit using CPTED principles (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design). Engage local community groups (Neighbourhood Watch, 'Mom's' groups and law enforcement personnel) to discuss options to maximize 'eyes on parks'. Given the adjacency to an international border, all parks on the Detroit River (i.e., K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park) need a detailed review to discourage unwanted or unlawful activity.</p>	Short
1.10	<p>Investigate the potential to increase lighting in parks and install, where possible, CCTV monitors for heavily used parks. Placing cameras in strategic areas can help ensure public safety, protect property and reduce crime. Any future initiatives shall adhere to the Video Surveillance Policy.</p>	Medium



Fountain at King's Navy Yard Park - Photo by FORREC

2.0 PARK AMENITIES AND LEVELS OF SERVICE

CONTEXT:

Existing and future sports fields and large open space areas should be supported by amenities that provide an enhanced user and spectator experience. This level of service should be accessible and built into all park re-development and new projects. With year-round use of parks increasing during the COVID-19 pandemic, many communities have seen this increased use continue, thus requiring features to support use at all times of the year. Access to parking, water filling stations, shade, seating, trees, storage (where needed) and other desired features should be added as budget permits and included in the design for any future park and sport field development. Provision of these amenities was noted during all engagement sessions as priority. Not all parks include features for all ages and activities. Strategic placement of amenities within the parks system to support the intended use, will assist in providing existing and future residents with access to a robust park experience.

	2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - PARK AMENITIES & LEVELS OF SERVICE	SUGGESTED TIMING
2.1	<p>Levels of service for parks within the system should include a minimum provision of amenities to support the user experience based on park classification. These should include – parking, accessible access to and from parking, directional/security/educational and other signage as needed, shade, access to water, provision of washrooms (permanent, portable or nearby access), seating, and WIFI (where feasible). Parks adjacent to the waterfront may require additional provisions.</p>	Medium/ Ongoing
2.2	<p>Plan to add shade options to existing and future park locations. Shade is needed at many parks to support players and spectators using playing fields and park amenities. (trees, shade sails, gazebo/pavilion options). Tree placement should be based on identified park amenities and sports fields in the parks master plan concept drawings for each park.</p>	Ongoing
2.3	<p>Continue to support programs such as Map and Grow Program which is a long- term tree growth and canopy development program partnership between the Town of Amherstburg and the University of Windsor that establishes tree planting on private property. Recommendation to support any new programs to ensure tree planting and shade canopy within Amherstburg. Continue education programs regarding the importance of trees to environmental health and sustainability and shade opportunities for the Town. Work with By-Law personnel to strengthen the Tree Protection By-law oversight to better protect trees in the Town.</p>	Ongoing
2.4	<p>Introduce new features within existing parks, gateways and water viewing areas that provide options for older adults – chess boards, checker boards, a variety of seating options, gathering areas with Wi-Fi, shade as budget allows or through grants.</p>	Short
2.5	<p>Introduce new feature/s to provide options for youth including cornhole boards, climbing options, meeting areas with Wi-Fi, multi-use court, other. Engage local youth in the development of the detailed project designs.</p>	Short

	2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - PARK AMENITIES & LEVELS OF SERVICE	SUGGESTED TIMING
2.6	<p>Explore options for naturalized / environmentally friendly features within parks, including functional amenities for drainage, permeable surfaces, etc., as well as unique / beautifying features that attract residents and visitors and explore the natural environment within the Town of Amherstburg. Include support for wildlife and bird habitat unique to the Amherstburg area and design these features in a way that accommodates viewing and engagement of the public without disturbance to protected species.</p> <p>In addition to natural features, continue to build on the existing floral baskets, park entry features and boulevard treatments. Consider solar powered charging stations. Assess Parks fleet and equipment to ensure environmentally supportive options are considered (i.e., electric or hybrid fleet).</p>	Medium/Long

3.0 PARKS & OUTDOOR AMENITIES

The Parks Master Plan update is a foundational document that guides how the Town of Amherstburg will plan to improve and develop parkland and outdoor facilities to support population growth and land development. To fund the capital project costs recommended in this plan, it is recommended that where possible, the Town utilize growth-related revenue tools to the extent allowable under applicable legislation. The main revenue tools the Town can utilize are:

- Development Charges
- Parkland Dedication
- Community Benefit Charges - Parkland Dedication

Utilizing these revenue tools will assist the Town in recovering growth-related costs from new development, consistent with the principle of “growth pays for growth”. Note that due to recent changes in the applicable legislation (New Planning Act 2025), greatly reduce the use of, and dollars allocated for revenue. As a result, substantial funding still needs to come from the tax base for park development.

Development Charges may be utilized for growth-related needs for parks and recreation services, except for land for parks. This includes funding of parkland development (e.g. landscaping, fencing, signage, drainage, etc.), parkland amenities (including playgrounds, splashpads, etc.), trails, vehicles, and equipment, and recreation facilities (e.g. arenas, community centres, etc.). Refer to Town-wide Development Charges under By-law 2024-085, adopted January 1, 2025.

Parkland Dedication can be utilized to receive physical land, or payment-in-lieu of the land. The payment should be the equivalent value of the land. This can be used to purchase new parkland as well as rehabilitation of existing parks and vehicles/equipment. The Town should consider maximizing use of this revenue tool to minimize impact to the taxpayer.

Community Benefit Charges are a new revenue tool for municipalities to recover growth-related capital costs from high-density development where there are at least 10 residential units and at least 5 storeys. With the anticipated growth, the Town may see increased demand for high-density developments.

Other than the above revenue tools, the Town can explore grant opportunities with upper levels of government. There are some existing grant programs including the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (Ontario) which provides funds to repair or upgrade existing sport and recreation facilities. It is recommended that the Town continue to explore grant funding opportunities wherever possible to support both growth and non-growth-related capital expenditures. A more fulsome listing of potential grant opportunities / funding tools is included in the Appendix.

Use of other non-growth-related funding will need to be explored, including use of Town source revenues (reserves, property taxes), partnerships, land disposition and/or exchanges, fund-raising etc. This will need to be monitored over time as the Town realizes projected growth.

The Town should follow the Asset Management Plan and look to replace existing assets before building new ones.

3.A. PARK CLASSIFICATION

Context:

The 2018 Town of Amherstburg Parks Plan provided the existing (2009) Official Plan classifications and recommended new classifications. This 2018 Master Plan was approved by Council. The 2018 plan included a new park classification framework.

Key Considerations in Park Classification:

- **Accessibility:** Ensuring parks are accessible to people of all ages and abilities.
- **Distribution:** Strategically locating parks to provide equitable access across the municipality.
- **Amenities:** Providing facilities that meet the recreational needs of the community, such as playgrounds, sports fields, and picnic areas.
- **Environmental Protection:** Preserving natural habitats and promoting biodiversity within park lands.
- **Cultural Significance:** Recognizing and integrating cultural, historical, and artistic elements into park spaces.

As part of the updating of the Official Plan (2025), a revised Parks Classification is being recommended, and the Parks Master Plan update should align with the Official Plan. The proposed classifications are generally considered as standard and used throughout many municipalities in Ontario.

Park Type	Description / Function / Design	Service Area & Targets	Typical Size
Regional/Special Purpose Parks	Regional/Special Purpose parks are public open space of various scales that encompass unique physical characteristics such as access to water or recreational amenities that have the ability to draw and host tourist and visitors on a regional scale. The purpose of these parks is to provide for a variety of needs including civic gathering spaces, access to water, beautification / greening display gardens, passive leisure recreational opportunities and unique plaza seating areas. These parks may also be established for large scale public recreational functions, unique sporting events, special events with a tourist draw or may contain designated uses such as a marina, boat launching or camping amenities. They also can provide for development opportunities such as the provision of accommodation.	Located by prominent landforms and natural environment features. No set provision target.	Variable

Park Type	Description / Function / Design	Service Area & Targets	Typical Size
Neighbourhood Parks	Local-level parks primarily supporting children's play spaces, passive recreational opportunities with access to smaller scale amenities such as basketball key, unlined open fields for various sports. They are centrally located, within safe and convenient walking distance of the majority of neighbourhood residents.	Localized service area (800-metre radius). Provision target is 1.0 hectares per 1,000 population (applied Town-wide).	<3.0 hectares
Community Parks	Larger Scale Parks designed for all ages and abilities. Community parks provide recreational amenities for both organized and nonorganized sports, more amenities than neighbourhood parks, often with access to parking and larger scale play spaces. Landscaping, beautification, and passive recreation opportunities are provided with sports fields that are developed as focal points for team sports, athletic activities and casual recreation.	Community to Town-wide service area. Provision target is 1.5 hectares per 1,000 population (applied Town-wide).	4.0 to 8.0 hectares
Naturalized Areas/ Linear Parks	Lands preserved for their environmental significance, including forests wetlands and other sensitive ecosystem. Natural areas also support features such as hiking trails, wildlife observation areas, educational signage with minimal development to protect natural features flora and fauna. Naturalized areas often mesh with linear parks and trail connections. Linear parks are intended to link neighbourhoods and recreation facilities together through a comprehensive trail system and are designed with sensitivity to natural heritage features. They provide a range of minor amenities/facilities, including multipurpose paved trails, multiple access points from adjacent communities, benches, play areas, soft surface trails, water access, picnic facilities and natural areas.	Service area will vary. No set target as provision is opportunity-based.	Variable

	PARK NAME	NATURALIZED (HA)	MAINTAINED (HA)	AREA (HA)	CLASSIFICATION OFFICIAL PLAN	CLASSIFICATION 2018 PARKS PLAN	RECOMMENDED CLASSIFICATION 2025 PARKS MASTER PLAN
1	Alma West Parkette	0.00	0.04	0.04	Special Purpose	Leisure/Civic	Regional/Special Purpose
2	Amherstburg Waterfront Festival Plaza	0.00	1.20	1.20	Community	Destination	Regional/Special Purpose
3	Anderdon Park	0.00	3.03	3.03	Neighbourhood	Leisure	Neighbourhood
4	Angstrom Park	0.00	0.13	0.13	Special Purpose	Leisure/Civic	Regional/Special Purpose
5	Austin "Toddy" Jones Park	0.00	1.30	1.30	Community	Destination	Regional/Special Purpose
6	Bar Point Park	0.00	0.62	0.62	Neighbourhood	Leisure	Neighbourhood
7	Beaudoin Park	0.00	1.38	1.38	Neighbourhood	Leisure	Neighbourhood
8	Bill Wigle Park	0.00	1.41	1.41	Community	Leisure/Civic	Regional/Special Purpose
9	Briar Ridge Park	0.00	1.49	1.49	Neighbourhood	Leisure	Neighbourhood
10	Canard Estates Wetland and Trail	0.79	0.20	0.99	Community	Leisure/Natural	Neighbourhood/ Naturalized Areas
11	Co-An Park	0.00	15.89	15.89	Community	Athletic/Destination	Regional/Special Purpose
12	Golfview Park Wetlands and Trails	15.78	3.84	19.62	Neighbourhood	Leisure/Natural	Neighbourhood/ Naturalized Areas
13	H. Murray Smith Centennial Park	0.00	5.10	5.10	Community	Athletic/Leisure	Community

	PARK NAME	NATURALIZED (HA)	MAINTAINED (HA)	AREA (HA)	CLASSIFICATION OFFICIAL PLAN	CLASSIFICATION 2018 PARKS PLAN	RECOMMENDED CLASSIFICATION 2025 PARKS MASTER PLAN
14	Jack Purdie Park	0.00	4.54	4.54	Neighbourhood	Leisure	Community
15	K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park	1.62	3.59	5.21	Community	Leisure/Destination	Regional/Special Purpose
16	King's Navy Yard Park	0.00	2.64	2.64	Community	Destination	Regional/Special Purpose
17	Kingsbridge Natural Area	27.70	0.00	27.70			Naturalized Areas
18	Larry Bauer Park	13.37	47.33	60.70	Community	Athletic	Regional/Special Purpose (includes Naturalized areas)
19	Malden Centre Park	0.00	5.64	5.64	Community	Athletic	Community
20	North Gateway	0.00	0.45	0.45	Special Purpose	Civic	Regional/Special Purpose
21	Pat Thrasher Park	0.00	3.66	3.66	Neighbourhood	Leisure	Community
22	River Canard Park	0.27	3.52	3.79	Neighbourhood	Leisure/Natural	Regional/Special Purpose
23	Scodeller Park	0.22	0.67	0.89	Neighbourhood	Leisure	Neighbourhood
24	Seagram's Garden	0.00	0.30	0.30	Town Garden	Civic	Regional/Special Purpose
25	South Gateway	0.41	0.44	0.85	Special Purpose	Civic	Regional/Special Purpose
26	Warren Mickle Park	0.37	1.25	1.62	Neighbourhood	Leisure/Natural	Neighbourhood

PARK AMENITIES AND CURENT LEVELS OF SERVICE PER CLASSIFICATION

DESCRIPTION	REGIONAL/SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS	COMMUNITY PARKS	NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS	NATURALIZED/LINEAR PARKS
General Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique physical characteristics and public recreational functions • Civic beautification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space for organized sport facilities (regulation size) • Supplemented with open space, naturalized areas, trails • Increased travel distance to access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for all ages; can tailor feature for neighbourhood demographic (children/youth, adults/ seniors) • On street or smaller parking • 10-minute walk • Some low maintenance areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails, lookouts, educational and interpretive signage
Grass Cutting/ Beautification	Twice per week (May-Sept); high level of service for horticultural areas	Weekly and sports field grooming as needed	Every 10 – 14 days; some areas naturalized	2 times per season; low maintenance
Lighting	Full pathway and event lighting	Pathway and sports field lighting	Entry and pathway	None to minimal
Parking	On-site and parking strategy for events	On-site and street overflow	Curb or street parking	Trailhead lot or walking access
Event Power/ Water Access	Permanent Hook Ups	Outdoor utility units	Portable (on request)	none
Shade Structure	Pavilions/Pergolas	Gazebo or small shelters; tree canopy (avoid field of play)	Tree canopy; small shelter adjacent play structure, splash pad	Natural canopy

DESCRIPTION	REGIONAL/SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS	COMMUNITY PARKS	NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS	NATURALIZED/LINEAR PARKS
Washrooms	Permanent Accessible – open all year	Permanent seasonal	Portable	None or vault, or portable
Playgrounds	Custom or themed structures	Multi-age structures	Junior/senior combo structure; tailor to neighbourhood demographic	None or natural play, ie, logs/stumps
Sports Courts/ fields	Open space, Amphitheatre	Soccer, ball diamonds, basketball, multi-court, cricket, ultimate frisbee	Half-court or open grass space	none
Seating/picnics	Every 25m seating, picnic area	Every 50m, picnic table	Benches around play area and a few picnic tables	Natural benches at viewpoints
Benches	Bench every 2500-5000 m2 of park space	2 benches per playground or gathering area	2 benches per playground or gathering area	Natural benches at viewpoints
Bike Racks	1 bike rack per 20 parking spaces or at each park entrance	1 bike rack per 100 users	1 bike rack at each entrance	1 bike rack at each entrance (depending on trail surface, if appropriate)
Waste Receptacles (recycling options depending on municipal waste pick up policy)	1 receptacle at each playground, shelter, sport field, entrance, washroom building. Pet waste station (requires appropriate maintenance effort)	1 receptacle at each sport field, 1 receptacle at each playground or seating area, 1 at park entrance or parking lot, pet waste station (requires appropriate maintenance effort)	2 – (1) at entrance and (1) at playground or seating area	1 at park entrance

	3.A. RECOMMENDATIONS – PARK CLASSIFICATION	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.A.1	Adopt the revised Parks Classification System as identified in the Official Plan Update (2026).	To align with Official Plan update (2026)
3.A.2	Continue efforts to complete Development Manuals (manuals that define requirements for developers when planning for new growth areas) with Planning and Infrastructure Services to support staff in their review of applications for new Secondary Plans and development applications.	Short
3.A.3	Ensure that dedicated parkland within new developments include corresponding maintenance/management plans with associated funded operating budgets to align with the development approval process. This will ensure that the Town has adequate resources to maintain new lands to expected standards as the Town assumes the ultimate maintenance responsibility.	Ongoing
3.A.4	Create a policy in conjunction with Planning and Development and Infrastructure Services to address maintenance required for non-essential assets that may be turned over to the Town as part of subdivision development. This policy should address contributions from developers to look after these assets 'in perpetuity' and can include entry features/gateways, decorative medians, window street fences, special signage, gardens and beds etc. (i.e., Perpetual Maintenance Fund).	Medium
3.A.5	3.A.5 Working with Planning and Development and Infrastructure Services, maximize all growth-related funding sources for future park development. (i.e. Development Charges, Community Benefit Charge, etc.). Refer to By-law 2024-085.	Ongoing

3.B PARK SUPPLY

Context:

The Town of Amherstburg has a current supply of 173.20 hectares of parkland, including naturalized areas. Using the most recent population data from the 2021 Census (23,524), this results in a per/capita supply of approximately 7.4 hectares/1,000 population. The area of maintained parkland is 109.66 hectares, resulting in a per capita supply of approximately 4.7 hectares/1000 population. This level of overall parkland supply is above the recommended supply of 4.0 hectares/1,000 from the National Recreation and Parks Association, and is generally meeting the needs of the Town.

To maintain the Town's current parkland supply standard with the expected population growth, the Town may consider a variety of acquisition options in addition to maximizing all growth-related funding available. It is anticipated that previously used acquisition policies will not yield the required land to continue to meet the current standard (assuming the current standard of parkland supply is maintained) due to changes in Provincial legislation and regulation governing parkland dedication and use of development charges. Options such as purchase of lands, partnerships with other public and/or private agencies, land exchanges, and maximizing community use of school's properties etc. may need to be considered. This document shall refer to the Town's Official Plan for future parkland needs.

Summary of Parkland by Classification:

PARK CLASSIFICATION	HA
Special Purpose	74.72
Community	15.28
Neighbourhood	19.66
Naturalized Areas	63.5
*Total Parkland (including naturalized areas)	173.20

Parkland Distribution:

The map outlines the park classification distribution and corresponding radius as per the Town's updated Official Plan that identifies coverage for each class. This map can be used as a guide to understand what may be needed in the future as new residential development moves forward.

PROVINCIAL PLANNING STATEMENT, 2024 (UNDER THE PLANNING ACT)

Definitions:

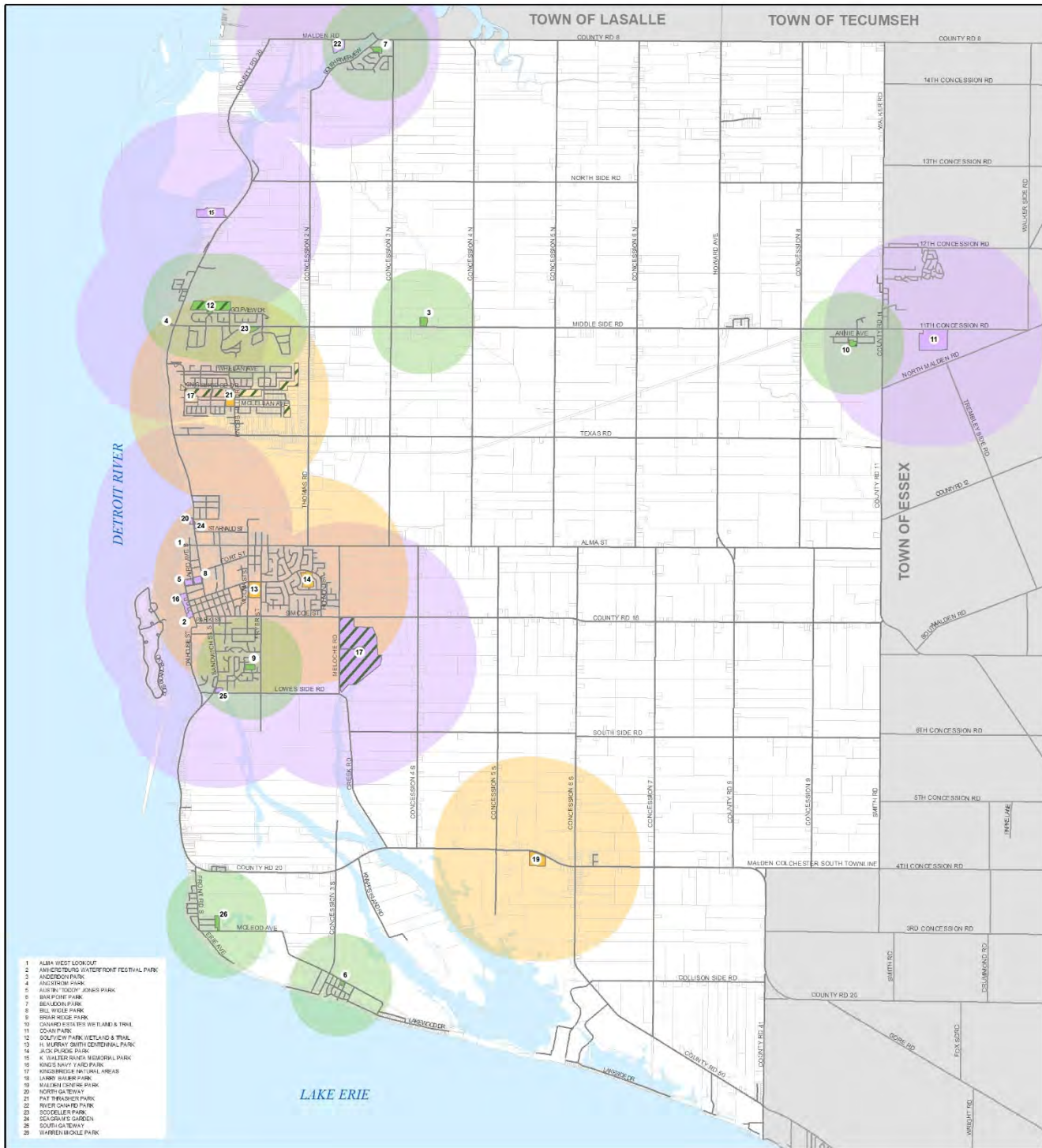
Complete communities: means places such as mixed-use neighbourhoods or other areas within cities, towns, and settlement areas that offer and support opportunities for equitable

access to many necessities for daily living for people of all ages and abilities, including an appropriate mix of jobs, a full range of housing, transportation options, public service

Facing Page: Parks Classification Map
 Provided by Town of Amherstburg



TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG PARK CLASSIFICATIONS



- 1 ALMA WEST LOOKOUT
- 2 AMHERSTBURG WATERFRONT FESTIVAL PARK
- 3 ANCESSION PARK
- 4 ANGSTROM PARK
- 5 AUBIN "BOBBY" JONES PARK
- 6 BAR POND PARK
- 7 BELMONT PARK
- 8 BIL WISE PARK
- 9 BRARIDGE PARK
- 10 CONARD ESTERIE WETLAND & TRAIL
- 11 COACH PARK
- 12 SOUTHERN PARK WETLAND & TRAIL
- 13 H. MURRAY SMITH CENTRAL PARK
- 14 JACK PARRIS PARK
- 15 K. WALTER RIVERA MEMORIAL PARK
- 16 KING'S BIRTH PLACE PARK
- 17 KORNBERGER PATRIAL AREAS
- 18 LARRY RABBIT PARK
- 19 MALDEN CENTRE PARK
- 20 NORTH GARDEN
- 21 PAT THERIAULT PARK
- 22 RIVER CHASE PARK
- 23 SCOCHELLE PARK
- 24 SEAGRAVE GARDEN
- 25 SOUTH GARDEN
- 26 WARREN BRIDLE PARK

PARK CLASSIFICATION	
	COMMUNITY PARK (1600 m)
	NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK (800 m)
	REGIONAL SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK (1600 m)
	NATURALIZED / LINEAR PARK

1:85,000

DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2025

facilities, local stores and services. Complete communities are inclusive and may take different shapes and forms appropriate to their contexts to meet the diverse needs of their populations.

Compact built form: means a land use pattern that encourages the efficient use of land, walkable neighbourhoods, mixed land uses (residential, retail, workplace, and institutional) all within one neighbourhood, proximity to transit and reduced need for infrastructure. Compact built form can include detached

and semi-detached houses on small lots as well as townhouses, duplexes, triplexes and walk-up apartments, multi-storey commercial developments, and apartments or offices above retail. Walkable neighbourhoods can be characterized by roads laid out in a well-connected network, destinations that are easily accessible by transit and active transportation, sidewalks with minimal interruptions for vehicle access, and a pedestrian-friendly environment along roads.

3.B. RECOMMENDATIONS – PARK SUPPLY		SUGGESTED TIMING
3.B.1	Monitor growth related developments in terms of population impact to identify future parkland needs. The current supply of parkland is adequate, but as new development occurs, additional parkland may be needed to continue to meet the parkland standard, or to provide parks within an acceptable distance of urban residential areas. i.e., 10-minute walking distance to a neighbourhood park.	Ongoing
3.B.2	In order to provide additional growth-related Community Parks, a review of the population projections, park and facility needs, and geographic distribution should be considered. Cash-in-lieu of parkland funding may be considered to provide needed funding for larger community park developments as needed.	Long
3.B.3	Continue to protect natural habitat in existing and future parks using sound management practices, working with partners such as the Essex County Conservation Authority, and working to continue to educate the public on significance and benefits to the community and the environment.	Ongoing
3.B.4	Continue to balance the provision of park facilities in a campus-like setting (i.e., Larry Bauer Park), with neighbourhood and geographic distribution. Given the geographic expanse of the Town, it is important to continue to provide parks and park amenities for various ages across the Town. Centralizing certain outdoor sports and park facilities can maximize operational efficiencies but ensuring neighbourhood/community-based options are available remains a good principle for park development.	Medium

	3.B. RECOMMENDATIONS – PARK SUPPLY	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.B.5	Continue to work with Planning and Development staff to plan for new development and intensification to align with the preferred approach to build complete communities.	Ongoing
3.B.6	Identify existing gaps in connectivity (lack of sidewalks, bike lanes, trails and green corridors) and budget for required improvements (i.e., Simcoe Street to the Larry Bauer Park Complex has been identified as not being suitable for non-vehicular use).	Short (Simcoe Street) Medium
3.B.7	Work with Infrastructure Services to ensure that the Town Transportation Master Plan continues to focus on connectivity within the community. Work with CWATS to focus on and off-road transportation linkages and active transportation routes. Focus on connectivity with existing parks, internal to parks, and linked to connections that already exist. Provide signage as needed	Short/Medium
3.B.8	Consider siting future parks adjacent to other open space areas to maximize the public's access to parks, naturalized areas and open space. (natural areas); ensure parks have safe access for walking, biking etc. and appropriate street frontage.	Medium
3.B.9	In smaller developments the Town should consider accepting cash-in-lieu of parkland to assist in building their parkland reserve to acquire any additional parkland beyond that available through parkland dedication. .	Medium
3.B.10	Do not accept lands (as parkland dedication) that are constrained by environmental areas or are not suitable to provide adequate playing fields, and open space for sports, park amenities and other uses that require flat land. Do not accept stormwater management facilities as parkland.	Medium
3.B.11	Consider contributing to Reserves and Reserve Funds to create sufficient funding to purchase lands in future, recognizing that legislative impacts on growth related development funding may not yield all funds needed for future parks.	Medium/Long
3.B.12	Concept plans identify options for future naturalized areas within parks. Work with volunteer environmental and horticultural groups to promote education and awareness of naturalized spaces, pollinator gardens etc. Include signage.	Medium

3.C PROVISION STANDARDS

Context:

Some outdoor amenities have recognized provision standards that are associated with them and have been developed and revised over time. By example, a common provision standard for rectangular playfields is one field for every 80 - 100 registered minor participants. Other provision standards may be based on #/population. These standards are not absolute and are subject to regional interests. Our research shows that it is meaningful to rationalize future amenity planning needs at the local level.

Many park amenities do not have recognized provision standards and are usually a reflection of community/neighbourhood interest, trends, opportunities based upon community fund-raising etc. Looking forward, planning for these amenities should continue to reflect community need, regional needs (and partnerships), gaps, funding availability and opportunities to maximize recreation for all.

The Outdoor Amenities Inventory speaks to the number of existing amenities, and not to the quality of the amenities themselves. Recommendations regarding quality, state of repair, and additional support features are contained in the Existing Conditions Assessment report (companion section.)

For example, Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports enjoyed by all ages in many jurisdictions. There are no provision standards currently as the sport is growing exponentially in all municipalities.

The Town commenced development on 8 dedicated outdoor pickleball courts in 2024 which opened in June 2025. As interest grows, the Town can expand with dedicated courts

and also consider lining existing and new tennis/multi-purpose courts to meet the needs for various sports. An area adjacent the permanent courts at the Larry Bauer Park should be identified as a possible location for expansion of dedicated courts. Portable nets can be used for pickleball. The Town should also monitor demand for both tennis and pickleball on an on-going basis.

Tennis has a strong following in the Town of Amherstburg with active play at the Anderdon Courts. There is interest in continuing to work with the Town to provide tennis facilities as H. Murray Smith Centennial Park, while some concern was expressed with the condition of the Anderdon courts.

All court sport uses should be considered in the provision of any additional multi-courts (tennis, pickleball, basketball etc.) as there is expressed interest in the use of multi-courts for a variety of unstructured and structured play opportunities.

There are no common standards for Ultimate Frisbee, Bocce, Disc Golf and other amenities that may be meeting local needs. In these cases, annual monitoring of interest, participation numbers and trends can assist in identifying the need for additional amenities.

The provision standard for play structures is one play structure with a 500-800 metre radius of homes in urban residential areas. The Town is generally meeting this standard within its existing urban boundaries. Many play structures have been replaced within the last 3 years, with additional structures being identified for replacement in the capital budget forecast. For example, Malden Centre is receiving a new structure in 2025. As new development occurs,

the Town should ensure that a play structure is provided in new neighbourhood parks to ensure that residents have access within a 500-800 metre distance. Engaging the community in design and features to meet expected age cohorts is also recommended.

In considering future play features and play opportunities, the Town should consider all ages in the selection of features. Engaging youth and seniors and ensuring options that might include 'risky play', drop-in type activities such

as corn-hole and chess/checkers and options that cater to all ages will contribute to making the play areas more suitable over the long term as neighbourhoods change and demographics change with it. Suggestions for parks that could accommodate these sports include H. Murray Smith Centennial Park (bocce), K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park and Jack Purdie Park (disc golf), and the Larry Bauer Park or Pat Thrasher Park (ultimate frisbee).

OUTDOOR AMENITIES INVENTORY

AMENITY TYPE	CURRENT SUPPLY	LOCATION
Rectangular Fields		
Senior (Football/FIFA)	1	Larry Bauer Park
Full	6	Larry Bauer Park (5), Co-An Park (1)
Intermediate	4	Larry Bauer Park
Mini	9	Beaudoin Park, Larry Bauer Park (8)
Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields		
Rectangular (soccer and football combined)	1	Larry Bauer Park
Baseball	1	Larry Bauer Park
Basketball		
Lit	1	Anderdon Park
Unlit	2	Bar Point Park, River Canard Park
Ball Diamonds		
Lit	5	Bill Wigle Park, Larry Bauer Park (premier and accessible turf fields), Malden Centre Park, Co-An Park.
Unlit	13	Malden Centre Park (4), Co-An Park (5), River Canard Park (4)



Miracle League field at Larry Bauer Park - Photo by FORREC

AMENITY TYPE	CURRENT SUPPLY	LOCATION
Tennis Courts		
Lit	2	Anderdon Park
Unlit	3	Co-An Park (2), River Canard Park (1)
Multi-Purpose Courts		
Lit		
Unlit		
Pickleball		
Unlit	8	Larry Bauer Park
Skateparks		
	1	Larry Bauer Park
Splash Pads		
	1	Austin "Toddy" Jones Park

AMENITY TYPE	CURRENT SUPPLY	LOCATION
Play Structures		
Accessible	12	Bar Point Park, Beaudoin Park, Co-An Park, Golfview Park Wetland and Trails, Jack Purdie Park (2), Pat Thrasher Park, Warren Mickle Park, Briar Ridge Park, K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park, Austin "Toddy" Jones Park, Larry Bauer Park
Not Accessible	1	Scodeller Park
Disc Golf		
	1	Beaudoin Park (6 hole)
Sand Volleyball Courts		
	0	
Ultimate Frisbee		
	0	(play on existing rectangular fields, indoor and outdoor)
Cricket Pitch		
	1	(approved by Council May 2025)
Dog Park		
	1	Larry Bauer Park (area for large dogs and an area for small dogs)
Pavilion/Gazebo		
	9	Austin "Toddy" Jones Park, Beaudoin Park, Co-An Park, King's Navy Yard Park, Malden Centre Park, North Gateway, Scodeller Park, South Gateway (2).
Track		
	0	
Toboggan/Sledding Hills		
	3	H. Murray Smith Centennial Park, Scodeller Park, Larry Bauer Park
Public Boat Launch		
	1	River Canard Park – boat and kayak
Fishing Pier		
	2	River Canard Park, King's Navy Yard Park

FACILITY UTILIZATION

Where available, facility utilization data has been reviewed for a variety of facilities and is used to support provision standards recommendations. Data is limited and all sports fields within the town are not accounted for.

Baseball Diamonds

MALDEN CENTRE PARK – DIAMONDS (2024)					
	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Field 5
May	16	5	13	5	14
June	17	10	16	16	17
July	22	5	11	12	17
August	8	0	8	2	10
Sept.	4	0	0	0	0
Total	67	20	48	35	58

MALDEN CENTRE PARK – DIAMOND USAGE SUMMARY (2024)		
June	4	1
	5	1
July	4	4
	5	1
August	3	Max
September	1	1

MALDEN CENTRE PARK – DIAMOND USAGE SUMMARY (2024)		
Month	Diamonds Used	# of Days
May	4	1

BILL WIGLE PARK – DIAMONDS (2024)		
	Games	Practices
May	0	14
June	5	7
July	3	8
August	0	1
September	0	0
Total	8	30

Co-An Park:

The leagues have their own executives and programming and approach the Park Board for Diamonds and times. These leagues have been in place for decades.

Baseball:

- Monday and Wednesday nights May through June, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm - McGregor Minor Ball - all 6 diamonds
- Tuesday night's May through September, 5:30-8:30 pm - Oldtimers Dia#1, Essex teams' practice – use 5 diamonds
- Thursday nights – Ladies League – May through September, 5:30 – 9:00pm - all 6 diamonds, plus under lights occasionally
- Friday nights – Malden Co-Ed League-May through Sept, 5:30-9:00 pm – 4 diamonds, plus tournaments where applicable on open diamonds and under lights
- Saturdays – Tournaments where applicable – had (5) in 2024, had (6) in 2023
- Sunday mornings – Sunday Men's League – May through Sept. 10 am – 1pm - 2 diamonds, plus
- Tournaments where applicable

Soccer:

- Yearly July and August – Tuesday and Thursdays 5:30- 8:30 pm

Other:

- Dog Walkers – 5-10 daily throughout the year
- Parents/Toddlers/Walkers – 5-10 daily April – October (play equipment)
- Tennis/Pickleball (various, no league) – 2-10 daily May through October

Events:

- WECSSA – various daytime tournaments – May /June yearly
- Music Jamboree - Second Sunday of June yearly
- Essex Steam & Gas Engine Museum Annual Show – 3-day event – Yearly 2nd Weekend August
- Mug Run – 3-day event usually 3rd or 4th weekend of September yearly
- Bus Patrol Safety Clinic – yearly in September 1-2 daytime events
- Additionally, some of family reunions use a diamond with their rentals
- 5 Baseball tournaments 2024:

CO-An Event Summary:**2023:**

- 11 Jack n Jill's on Saturday nights
- 2 Jack n Jill's on Friday nights
- 1 Wedding on a Saturday night
- 10 Family reunions – Sundays
- 4 Company Picnics – Friday daytime/ Saturday
- 5 Baseball Tournaments

2024:

- 9 Jack n Jill's on Saturday nights
- 6 Weddings
- 7 Family Reunions
- 2 Company Picnics
- 5 Baseball Tournaments

Data is not currently available for other sports fields within the Town due to limited program software capabilities.

PARK USAGE FINDINGS:

- Utilization data is not complete for all outdoor facilities
- The format varies and is not able to be compared to available scheduling opportunities (staff addressing this item through software upgrades)
- Bill Wigle Park diamond use appears low
- Rectangular field provision appears adequate, with the potential re-alignment of fields a possibility to maximize play
- Review outdated agreements to improve communication and guidelines.

	3.C. RECOMMENDATIONS – PROVISION STANDARDS	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.C.1	Continue to look to asset management plan for funding strategies to replace artificial turf fields and associated infrastructure as needed. Consider an incremental levy on permits associated with use of the artificial turf fields to fund the replacement of these. Work with District School Boards to assess their interest in providing artificial turf fields in future.	Ongoing
3.C.2	Provide a minimum of 2 groupings of 2 multi-purpose courts side-by-side to support unstructured play including basketball. Line courts for tennis, basketball, pickleball, and ball hockey.	Medium
3.C.3	Provide additional groupings of 2 multi-purpose courts side-by-side in future parks based on monitoring of interest, take-up, trends and future park development. Interest in unstructured play on multi-use courts was high. Courts can support a variety of activities including basketball, pickleball, tennis and pickleball drilling (skills development), ball hockey, lacrosse etc. It is also acknowledged that youth may not have the same mobility options to travel to certain parks and facilities, requiring more facility options to be provided within close proximity.	Medium/Long
3.C.4	Monitor growth in pickleball and consider additional dedicated courts adjacent the existing courts at the Larry Bauer Park.	Medium
3.C.5	After reviewing the space allocation policy regarding use of outdoor fields for all organized sport, ensure a balanced approach to existing and future fields that meets all needs. (Example: soccer, ultimate frisbee). This review should ensure that the approach is fair and transparent by including all users in the review, substantiated by participant numbers and best use of varying field sizes.	Medium
3.C.6	Continue to ensure public engagement regarding the design and replacement of significant capital improvements including play structures, shade amenities, etc.	Ongoing
3.C.7	Continue to provide play spaces in new neighbourhood developments according to the Town's Official Plan.	Ongoing
3.C.8	Identify a location for dedicated ultimate frisbee that includes open field space without obstructions (i.e. trees, pathways) and minimizes conflict with other field user groups. (Larry Bauer Park, Pat Thrasher Park).	Medium

	3.C. RECOMMENDATIONS – PROVISION STANDARDS	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.C.9	Identify an additional location for disc golf. Additional facilities could be considered at K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park or Golfview Park.	Long
3.C.10	Work with the tennis organization to determine the need to complete additional improvements at Anderdon Park and H. Murray Smith Centennial Park	Short
3.C.11	Monitor participation rates for tennis and consider additional courts in new subdivisions (tennis or multi-use courts, depending on interest and participation data).	Medium/Long
3.C.12	Monitor growth in soccer and assess the need for additional rectangular fields as future Community Parks are identified. In the interim, continue working with soccer representatives to assess the layout, configuration, adjacency and scheduling of the fields at the Larry Bauer Park to maximize use of fields to meet organizational needs. Consideration for 'resting' fields and goal mouths should be part of this review process. Over time, irrigation and/or lighting can be considered to extend scheduling opportunities.	Medium (Short – work with local soccer representatives)
3.C.13	Should the Town consider the addition of new artificial turf fields (rectangular or baseball) adequate life-cycle replacement costs and ongoing operational and management costs should be carefully considered as the Town is currently well served for its population. Continuing to ensure that the turf is in a good state-of-repair is highly recommended. Replacement is supported in the Asset Management Plan.	Medium/Long
3.C.14	Add leisure features for all ages to parks that attract a variety of residents and visitors (King's Navy Yard Park, H. Murray Smith Centennial Park, Angstrom Park) such as checkers, chess.	Short
3.C.15	Develop walking loops at the Larry Bauer Park that build on existing trail network and provide supportive amenities. Include features for all ages such as fitness stations, calisthenic course, chess, seating, shade, areas for 3:3 BB, etc.	Medium

	3.C. RECOMMENDATIONS – PROVISION STANDARDS	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.C.16	<p>Validate needs for re-furbished or new baseball diamonds after completing a thorough analysis of use for each existing facility. This should include an assessment of utilization by time/day and season, outline type of play (by age, by type of game (softball, slo-pitch, baseball). Assess against trends in ball, population projections and trends with play in surrounding communities. This should include a review of slo-pitch/softball play and facilities (i.e., Malden Centre) and baseball needs (i.e., Larry Bauer Park), as well as the status of play at the partnership facilities (Co-An) etc..</p>	Medium/Long
3.C.17	<p>Identify a location for a major splash pad that is geographically distributed from the Austin “Toddy” Jones Park. A potential recommended location for a major splash pad could include Pat Thrasher Park, the Larry Bauer Park, or Co-An Park.</p>	Medium
3.C.18	<p>Explore options for a bocce court at H. Murray Smith Centennial Park.</p>	Short
3.C.19	<p>Continue to work with Cricket representatives to monitor interest in cricket within Amherstburg. Identify a suitable location for a cricket pitch and/or tournament type facility that considers access, parking, impacts of day-long play/spectators, etc. and could support sport tourism in future.</p>	Medium/Long
3.C.20	<p>Continue to work with Economic Development staff to assess options and priorities to support Sport Tourism with the Town of Amherstburg. Consider formalizing a criteria matrix to assess priorities to support sport tourism. Recognizing that to support tourism for sporting events and tournaments generally requires a consolidation of facilities and associated support amenities near the host location, future planning to group fields will be required. This could include baseball tournaments, cricket events, additional cycling events, etc. Supportive community-based services are also needed including accommodation, adequate parking, and support services. The Town can build on its success as a tourist destination for other Town parks, features, waterfront and events hosted in and around the downtown core.</p>	Medium

3.D. DESIGN AND ADJACENCY

Context:

There was significant feedback from user groups regarding the impact of adding facilities at the Larry Bauer Park in terms of parking, access and the ability to maximize utilization. The proximity of the artificial turf baseball field and the Miracle League facility limits use due to dust and noise. Parking, while deemed to be sufficient, is not necessarily located in areas that best support users, participants and spectators. Impacts on all facilities during major special events and tournaments can cause congestion and frustration. As the Larry Bauer Park and associated park and naturalized areas are expanded, consideration regarding adjacencies and support facilities will be required.

	3.D. RECOMMENDATIONS – DESIGN AND ADJACENCY	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.D.1	<p>Ensure that the long-term vision and plan for all facilities at the Larry Bauer Park, naturalized areas and expansion plans for both indoor and outdoor amenities align.</p> <p>Ensure that the Phase 3 WEBC trail expansion are considered in terms of access, parking, adjacencies etc. Ensure the plan includes plans for vehicular and pedestrian traffic, policy guidelines and directions to ensure that future expansion (indoor and outdoor) supports all uses, including when all facilities are operating at full capacity. Ensure user groups are involved as part of the public engagement component. Identify possible expansion 'blocks' on A current plans if outdoor facilities are added in the interim to identify future needs.</p>	Ongoing
3.D.2	<p>Identify opportunities to re-align or move amenities at the Larry Bauer Park to ensure investments and facilities are maximized. Current scheduling conflicts exist that could be remedied by shifting and/or moving fields/diamonds to maximize scheduling and use. The artificial turf soccer/football field is denoted in the Concept plan to shift 30m south, and it is recommended that the Miracle field be covered or re-located to maximize use.</p>	Medium (in conjunction with above noted vision/plan)
3.D.3	<p>Work with the Essex Region Conservation Authority to develop long term management plans for parks adjacent to naturalized areas.</p> <p>The opportunity to support access for student field trips, boardwalks, viewing areas, and lookout locations requires careful planning to address human interaction with naturalized areas and habitat.</p>	Medium

	3.D. RECOMMENDATIONS – DESIGN AND ADJACENCY	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.D.4	Increase naturalization and planting of pollinator gardens with a border strip to provide for grooming between public access (trails, open space) and naturalization areas.	Ongoing
3.D.5	Provide user groups with parking plans that vary depending on the use of the Larry Bauer Park and recognize areas of conflict, pinch points, etc. to share with visiting users and teams. (i.e., festivals, tournaments, WEBC events)	Short
3.D.6	As staff gain familiarity with booking/scheduling software, update filters to prevent booking activities that may conflict with other adjacent uses at the same location. This will assist in avoiding play that may result in on-site issues such as foul balls, parking, etc. (As previously noted, upgrading software system capability and client support is required).	Medium
3.D.7	Continue to assess each park within the system to maintain a balance of parks with amenities that meet varying needs and are geographically distributed. Recognizing that not all amenities can be provided in every park (existing and new), there needs to be a reasonable plan for each park, its function and how it best serves the community now and in the future.	Ongoing
3.D.8	Engage relevant users and user groups during the planning and placement of sport facilities to maximize their knowledge of potential issues with adjacencies (foul balls, proximity to play structures, sight lines, impact of sun, etc.)	Ongoing



Hole in the wall Photo Frame at North Gateway Park - Photo by GLOS

3.E. WATERFRONT ACCESS

Context:

The Town of Amherstburg is surrounded by water on three sides and is a premier destination for residents and visitors due to its proximity to water and facilities for boating, fishing and sightseeing. The community expressed interest in expanding access to water, either through physical entry points, fishing locations, views and vistas, and permanent structures such as marinas and dock launch areas.

3.E. RECOMMENDATIONS – WATERFRONT ACCESS		SUGGESTED TIMING
3.E.1	Ensure signage is accurate regarding safe water access points (suitable for type of use – fishing, canoe, kayak). i.e., River Canard, K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park, King's Navy Yard Park, Waterfront Festival Plaza Park).	Short

	3.E. RECOMMENDATIONS – WATERFRONT ACCESS	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.E.2	Develop a strategy to prioritize existing water access points (both official and unofficial) to ensure appropriate parking, safety features, signage and uses are clear. Consider private/public partnerships. Remove access to unofficial sites that may be unsafe	Medium
3.E.3	Considerations should include formalizing kayak/canoe activity at River Canard and K. Walter Ranta Memorial Parks with appropriate support amenities.	Medium
3.E.4	As waterfront access is improved, provide non-traditional waterfront features to draw residents and tourists to experience an activity while enjoying the waterfront. (i.e. playgrounds, walking paths, sports courts, volleyball courts, lighting, disc golf, outdoor chess/checker boards). Ensure parking and access is part of all enhanced development along the waterfront.	Medium
3.E.5	Ensure all events that promote access to the waterfront include parking information. Assess the impact on neighbours, adjacent residential streets, and potential conflict with other events and activities that may be taking place concurrently.	Short
3.E.6	As events continue to occur/expand at waterfront parks, ensure suitable support amenities such as water access, power sources, storage and staging etc. that meet user needs. Consult user groups to maximize shared opportunities and ensure suitable infrastructure needs are provided.	Ongoing

3.F. CURRENT PARK INITIATIVES

Context:

The Town of Amherstburg has been diligent in efforts to improve many parks within the system and to ensure that ongoing consultation and input has been sought from users and residents. Some parks have had individual Master Plans approved by Council.

During the Parks Master Plan process, many projects were being developed, designed and/or prepared for tendering for 2025 installation. Monitoring these efforts and staying in close communication with the public as priorities, grants or funding sources shift will help to strengthen relationships with residents and user groups.

Individual Park plans were also being updated and/or developed to ensure that the Town of Amherstburg had projects ready should funding become available, and to provide direction to staff on priorities for future budget planning.

A summary of park amenities included in this future planning include:

- An increase in the number of multi-purpose courts
- Sand volleyball courts
- Addition of, and realignment of soccer fields
- Addition of, and replacement of play structures
- Dedicated ultimate frisbee field location
- Replacement tennis/pickleball and basketball courts
- Refurbished and new baseball diamonds
- Additional splash pads
- Cricket Pitch
- Additional Dog Park

Specific Park project plans underway include:

Anderdon Park – plans to improve the courts surface, drainage and parking area are underway. Further discussion regarding other options to improve, replace features are being considered.

K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park – ongoing discussions and interest in providing enhanced waterfront access at this park. Pending the outcome, regulatory and approvals requirements, security measures, lighting, controlled access and improved parking/site access and egress will all need to be addressed.

Pat Thrasher Park – basketball court installed (Summer 2025)

River Canard Park – Review the agreement with the Town of LaSalle for the re-development of River Canard Park. Community engagement is required.

Larry Bauer Park / Libro Credit Union Recreation Complex – a variety of discussions are ongoing:

- Improved pedestrian and vehicular access and egress

- Soccer field layout and improved customer experience (parking, access to washrooms, adjacencies etc.)
- Potential for field development on the site of the geothermal field
- Potential for improved site circulation around and within the site
- Future expansion needs for the indoor facilities at the Recreation Complex
- Pump Track subject to fund raising outcome
- Provision for expanded pickleball courts in future, as well as support amenities
- Review amenities needed for the WEBC trail access points and Phase 3 trail component
- Identification of open space for Ultimate Frisbee
- Potential location for a Splash Pad
- Partnership to develop a second artificial turf field
- Provision for future cricket pitch or baseball with supporting amenities

Co-An Park – agreement in process, playground equipment completed with the Town of Essex

H. Murray Smith Centennial Park – re- assessing options regarding the plan to provide 2 basketball courts and 2 tennis courts. The potential to work with the Verdi Club and Seniors Centre to add a bocce court(s) should be explored.

Amherstburg Waterfront Festival Plaza – (Name referenced in EA plan) Environmental Assessment Plan as approved in 2018 is proceeding.

Malden Centre Park – new play structure as selected through a community engagement process installed 2025.

The individual park plans presented for each park in Amherstburg offer a forward-looking vision of what these spaces can become as the community continues to grow and evolve. These designs are not fixed endpoints, but rather flexible blueprints that can adapt to changing community needs, recreational trends, and financial realities.

As a town with a proud history and a strong sense of community, Amherstburg is well-positioned to thoughtfully guide the phased development of its parks. These spaces play a critical role in enhancing quality of life, supporting active living, and fostering community connection.

Ongoing Monitoring and Community Engagement

Monitoring the use and popularity of park amenities will be a key component of the planning process. For example, new features such as cricket pitches, reconfigured baseball and soccer fields, or even additional multi use courts and trails will be introduced now as there is community demand. This ensures that every investment made is relevant, inclusive, and well- utilized.

Amherstburg will continue to listen to its residents, track participation rates, and stay attuned to cultural shifts that may influence recreational preferences. This kind of ongoing engagement is essential to ensure park amenities reflect the diverse and evolving needs.

Phased Implementation with Strategic Funding

Moving forward, park development will be approached in phases, guided

By:

- Town's Asset Management Plan
- Local population growth and demographic changes
- Resident and stakeholder feedback
- Funding opportunities from:
 - Government grants
 - Development charges
 - Community fundraising efforts
 - Council-approved capital funding
 - Private sponsorships

RECOMMENDATIONS - CURRENT PARK INITIATIVES		
3.F.1	Council prioritize annual budgets and park development implementation based on recently approved Asset Management Plan, community feedback, surveys and financial resources.	Annually
3.F.2	Develop a phased implementation plan including improvements at various locations ('quick wins') as well as full park redevelopment based upon Council approved Master Plans and approved funding	Ongoing
3.F.3	Continue to identify and pursue funding opportunities.	Ongoing
3.F.4	Adjust the implementation schedule for the Parks Master Plan as projects are undertaken or as external influences affect implementation for timing.	Ongoing
3.F.5	Review the Parks Master Plan every 5 years.	Ongoing

3.G. TRENDS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

The following trends highlight the evolving role of parks and recreation services in addressing environmental, social, and technological changes, ensuring they continue to meet the diverse needs of communities in Ontario.

It should be noted that these trends are determined to be provincial in nature. Our experience knows that there are unique or distinct differences among regions in Ontario. Through the research phase of this project, coupled with our robust community engagement program, we will establish the most relevant trends that staff of Amherstburg should position themselves to address in the future.

The Trends are organized under 5 main headings:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Social and Community | 4. Parks |
| 2. Sustainability and Environment | 5. Recreation and Outdoor Programming |
| 3. Public Art and Creative Spaces | |

1. SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY

- a. **Four-Day Work Week:** The rise of the four-day work week may affect park and facility operational hours, programming, and staff schedules. The Town might need to adjust programming and staffing to accommodate different operational hours and increased demand for recreational activities on weekdays.
- b. **Remote Work:** Changes in workplace norms, with some employees returning to offices, may influence park and facility usage patterns as more people seek recreational opportunities close to work locations.
- c. **Develop programs** and that cater to remote workers by offering i.e. lunchtime fitness or nature hikes or post-work recreational sport leagues.
- d. **Functional outdoor workspaces** with power (grid or solar) and Wi-Fi are becoming popular in many parks.
- e. **Post-Pandemic Outdoor Recreation Boom:** The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a sustained increase in the use of parks. This trend has prompted enhancements in park infrastructure to accommodate more visitors while maintaining safety and environmental integrity.
- f. **Volunteerism:** Volunteerism remains crucial but faces challenges post-pandemic, with a critical lack of volunteers and burnout among existing ones. Town's need to provide additional support (financial, training, mentoring) to volunteers and create targeted recruitment campaigns to attract new volunteers.
- g. **Social Equity in Park Access:** Efforts are being made to address disparities in park access. Initiatives include investing in parks in underserved areas, engaging communities in the planning process, and ensuring programs are culturally relevant and accessible to all.
- h. **Inclusivity and Accessibility:** There's a strong focus on making parks accessible to everyone. This involves designing barrier-free pathways, installing accessible playground equipment, and providing amenities that cater to people of all ages and abilities, ensuring that parks are welcoming spaces for the entire community.
- i. **Health and Wellness Initiatives:** Parks are pivotal in promoting physical and mental health. Trends include outdoor fitness equipment, yoga and meditation spaces, and programs that encourage active lifestyles. Parks are partnering with health organizations to host wellness events and provide educational resources on healthy living.
- j. **Community Engagement and Programming:** To strengthen community ties, parks are offering diverse programming such as cultural festivals, art workshops, and environmental education classes. Community gardens and volunteer opportunities foster a sense of ownership and engagement among residents.
- k. **Community Food Production:** Parks are incorporating community gardens, orchards, and edible landscaping. These initiatives support local food production, provide educational opportunities, and promote community involvement.
- l. **Alternative Transportation Access:** Enhancing access to parks via walking paths, bike lanes, and public transportation is

becoming a priority. This not only reduces the environmental impact but also promotes healthy lifestyles.

2. SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

- a. Sustainability and Eco-Friendly Practices: Parks are increasingly designed with sustainability in mind.
- b. This includes the use of native plants to promote biodiversity, installation of solar and wind-powered lighting, and the incorporation of green infrastructure like rain gardens and permeable pavements to manage stormwater.
- c. Pollinator gardens are becoming essential amenities to park spaces, with many designed to attract a wide diversity of native insects, birds and other pollinators.
- d. Environmental Education: Increasingly, parks and amenities are used as sites for environmental education, leveraging AI and other technologies to provide history and real-time information on flora, fauna, and ecological processes.
- e. Work with horticultural groups to provide educational programs and install interactive displays and mobile apps that enhance residents' knowledge and engagement with the parks
- f. Climate Change Adaptation: Parks are adapting to climate change by incorporating resilient design elements. This includes planting drought-resistant vegetation, creating shaded areas to combat heat islands, and designing transportation is becoming a priority. This not only reduces the environmental impact but also promotes healthy lifestyles. landscapes that can handle flooding or severe weather events.
- g. Wildlife Conservation and Education: There's a growing emphasis on creating habitats for local wildlife within parks. Educational signage and programs teach visitors about local ecosystems, fostering a connection with nature and promoting conservation efforts.
- h. Greenways and Ecological connectivity: Parks are increasingly seen as key elements in an interconnected network of ecological corridors that integrate nature and natural systems into urban places.
- i. Designing parks and infrastructure to maximize connectivity and eliminate barriers enhances the overall ecosystem function of a city or region.
- j. Smart Infrastructure: Adoption of smart technologies to reduce environmental impact and operational costs.
- k. Implementing solar-powered lighting, water-saving irrigation systems, and other eco-friendly technologies in park and indoor amenities can contribute to positive climate action. The use of AI and mobile data to track park usage can also improve operational efficiency by determining the frequency of usage in the parks.

3. PUBLIC ART & CREATIVE SPACES

Public art and creative spaces in parks are evolving to reflect contemporary societal values, technological advancements, and a desire for community engagement. Parks are not just green spaces anymore; they're becoming cultural hubs that foster creativity and inclusivity. Some notable trends in public art and creative spaces within parks include:

1. Interactive Art Installations:

- a. **Engagement:** Art pieces that invite interaction from visitors, such as sculptures that produce sounds when touched or installations that change with movement.
- b. **Examples:** Musical playgrounds, kinetic sculptures, and participatory murals where visitors can add their own touches.

2. Technological Integration:

- a. **Augmented Reality (AR):** Visitors can use mobile apps to view virtual art overlays in the park environment.
- b. **Projection Mapping:** Using light and projections to transform park features into dynamic art pieces, especially during festivals or events.

3. Community-Created Art:

- a. **Participatory Projects:** Engaging local communities in the creation process, such as mosaic walls or community-painted murals.
- b. **Workshops and Classes:** Offering art workshops in parks to encourage local talent and community bonding.

4. Temporary and Pop-Up Exhibits:

- a. **Rotating Displays:** Regularly changing

art installations to keep the park experience fresh and encourage repeat visits.

- b. **Pop-Up Events:** Short-term art events or installations that create a buzz and attract diverse audiences.

5. Environmental and Sustainable Art:

- a. **Eco-Art:** Art made from natural or recycled materials that often carries an environmental message.
- b. **Land Art:** Sculptures and installations that integrate seamlessly with the natural landscape, sometimes using the land itself as canvas.

6. Functional Art Pieces:

- a. **Artistic Amenities:** Benches, playgrounds, and shelters designed by artists to combine functionality with aesthetic appeal.
- b. **Sculptural Lighting:** Creative lighting installations that enhance safety while adding artistic value.

7. Cultural Representation and Inclusivity:

- a. **Diverse Voices:** Showcasing work from artists of various backgrounds to reflect the community's diversity.
- b. **Thematic Installations:** Art that celebrates local history, indigenous cultures, or significant community narratives.

8. Digital Art and Multimedia:

- a. **Soundscapes:** Incorporating audio elements that enhance the sensory experience of the park.
- b. **Interactive Screens:** Digital displays

that respond to visitor input or display community-generated content.

9. Educational Art:

- a. **Informative Installations:** Art pieces that educate visitors about environmental conservation, local wildlife, or historical events.
- b. **Storytelling Spaces:** Areas designed for reading, storytelling, or small performances, often with artistic backdrops.

10. Performance Spaces:

- a. **Amphitheaters and Stages:** Incorporating venues for music, theater, and dance performances.
- b. **Open Mic and Jam Sessions:** Designated areas where community members can share their talents.

11. Art Trails and Guided Tours:

- a. **Curated Paths:** Trails that lead visitors through a series of art installations.
- b. **Mobile Apps:** Offering audio guides or interactive maps to enhance the art exploration experience.

12. Light Festivals and Nighttime Art:

- a. **Illuminated Installations:** Art pieces that come alive at night, encouraging park use after dark in a safe environment.
- b. **Seasonal Events:** Light festivals that coincide with holidays or seasonal changes.

13. Social Media-Friendly Art:

- a. **"Instagrammable" Spots:** Eye-catching installations designed to be shared on social media, increasing the park's visibility.

- b. **Hashtag Campaigns:** Encouraging visitors to share their experiences online with specific hashtags.

14. Art for Wellness and Mindfulness:

- a. **Meditative Spaces:** Art installations that promote relaxation and reflection, such as labyrinths or Zen gardens.
- b. **Therapeutic Art:** Areas where art is used as a tool for mental health and community healing.

15. Artistic Wayfinding and Signage:

- a. **Creative Signs:** Directional signs and informational plaques designed artistically to enhance the visual appeal.
- b. **Thematic Pathways:** Trails marked with artistic elements that guide visitors through different park zones.

16. Urban Art Integration:

- a. **Murals and Street Art:** Incorporating urban art styles to connect parks with city culture.
- b. **Graffiti Walls:** Designated spaces where local artists can legally showcase their work.

17. Art Addressing Social Issues:

- a. **Awareness Campaigns:** Installations that highlight important social issues like climate change, equality, or public health.
- b. **Interactive Dialogues:** Art that encourages conversations among visitors about pressing community topics.

18. Children's Creative Spaces:

Artistic Playgrounds: Play areas designed with artistic elements that stimulate imagination.

- a. **Art Workshops for Kids:** Programs that encourage children to engage with art and creativity from a young age.

19. Integration with Natural Elements:

- a. **Biophilic Design:** Art that incorporates natural materials and elements, fostering a connection with nature.
- b. **Seasonal Art:** Installations that change

4. PARKS

1. **Multi-Functional Spaces:** Parks are being designed as versatile spaces that can accommodate various activities. Open lawns double as event spaces, and trails serve both recreational and educational purposes. This flexibility maximizes the utility of park areas and caters to a wider range of interests.
2. **Urban Greening and Pocket Parks:** In response to urbanization, small green spaces known as pocket parks are popping up in densely populated areas. These provide residents with accessible natural areas for relaxation and recreation, improving urban livability.
3. **Dog Parks:** Increasing pet ownership drives the demand for dedicated dog parks. Design and develop dog parks with safe, fenced areas, agility equipment, and socialization spaces for pets and owners.
4. **All-Wheel Parks:** Traditional skateboard parks are evolving into all-wheel parks for bikes and boards. Incorporating pump tracks, skate park features, seating areas, shade elements, and public art can make these spaces vibrant and

with the seasons, using plants and natural growth as part of the artwork.

20. Collaborations with Local Artists:

- a. **Artist-in-Residence Programs:** Hosting artists who create site-specific work and engage with the community.
- b. **Art Markets and Fairs:** Providing spaces for local artists to display and sell their work.

attractive to youth of all ages.

5. **Interactive Playgrounds:** Technology is being integrated into playgrounds to create interactive, educational play experiences. Installing interactive panels, augmented reality (AR) features, sensory play equipment, and electronic games can engage children in physical activity and learning.
6. **All Ages & Adventure Play:** Many parks are increasing the challenge and engagement of play spaces by creating features to be enjoyed by children, youth and adults alike. Including safe adventure play follows the increasing demand for outdoor fitness and challenge.
7. **Natural Play Spaces:** As research continues to highlight the value of nature to the healthy development of children and youth, traditional playgrounds are being replaced or supplemented with nature-based play areas. These spaces use natural materials like wood and stone, encouraging children to engage in imaginative play and develop a connection with the natural environment.

touches.

8. Interactive Amenities for All Ages:

Technological and other forms of interactivity increase the engagement and value for all ages. These can include interactive art, educational and entertainment features.

- a. The use of technology is enhancing visitor experiences. Mobile apps provide interactive maps, event schedules, and educational content. Augmented reality (AR) features offer immersive experiences, such as historical overlays or virtual wildlife encounters.
- b. Engagement: Art pieces that invite interaction from visitors, such as sculptures that produce sounds when touched or installations that change with movement.
- c. Examples: Musical playgrounds, kinetic sculptures, and participatory murals where visitors can add their own

5. RECREATION AND OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

1. **Pickleball/Paddle Popularity:** Pickleball's rapid growth across all age groups is increasing demand for new courts and amenities. Creating additional pickleball

courts and programs and/or integrating them into existing amenities can help to address this growing sport popularity, suitable for all ages. Padel is another sport gaining some interest in the North American market.

2. **E-sports and Competitive Gaming:** The e-sports industry is booming, with more

9. Inclusivity and Safety in Playgrounds:

Designing safe playgrounds for individuals of all abilities and user's enjoyment. Building playgrounds with accessible equipment, eco-conscious designs, and natural elements can ensure everyone can enjoy them.

10. Outdoor washroom and amenities for parks and trail heads

that are sustainable, inclusive, and user-friendly contributes to enhancing the overall experience for visitors.

11. **Resilience and Safety Measures:** Parks are implementing design strategies to enhance safety, such as improved lighting, clear sightlines, and the integration of emergency call stations. Community policing and neighbourhood watch programs are also being established to ensure parks remain safe spaces.

people participating in and watching competitive video gaming. Colleges are even offering scholarships for e-sports athletes.

3. **Disc Golf:** Similar to traditional golf but played with flying discs, disc golf is growing due to its low cost and accessibility.

- a. As Disc golf grows in popularity, specialized courses are highly in demand. These include challenge courses in natural areas with terrain and obstacles,

and themed putting courses similar to mini golf, with creative goals around a theme. Often these offer opportunities to integrate public art.

4. **Stand-Up Paddleboarding (SUP):** This water sport involves standing on a large surfboard and using a paddle to move through the water. It's popular for its fitness benefits and minimal learning curve.
 5. **Trail Running and Hiking:** With a growing appreciation for the outdoors, more people are taking up trail running and hiking for both exercise and relaxation.
 6. **Adventure Sports:** Activities like mountain biking are attracting those seeking adrenaline and unique experiences.
 7. **Cycling and E-Biking:** Traditional cycling remains popular, and electric bikes (e-bikes) are making cycling more accessible by reducing the physical strain.
 8. **Yoga and Mindfulness Practices:** Yoga, meditation, and other mindfulness activities are on the rise as people seek ways to reduce stress and improve mental health.
 9. **Outdoor Group Fitness Classes:** In addition to yoga, many more active group fitness classes are being held in outdoor spaces.
 10. **Ultimate Frisbee and Alternative Team Sports:** Non-traditional team sports are growing, especially among younger demographics looking for inclusive and less formal activities.
 12. **Water Sports:** Activities like kayaking, canoeing, and snorkeling are becoming more popular, offering both excitement and a way to connect with nature.
 13. **Social Sports Leagues:** Recreational leagues for adults in sports like soccer, softball, and volleyball provide social interaction and physical activity.
 14. **Dance Classes:** Some parks; integrate an outdoor dance floor for activities like social dancing and classes
 15. **Outdoor Fitness Circuits:** Public parks equipped with fitness stations allow people to work out for free in an outdoor setting.
 16. **Birdwatching and Nature Photography:** These activities combine leisure with a growing interest in wildlife and conservation.
 17. **Mind Sports:** Games like chess and poker are gaining popularity, especially online, blending recreation with strategic thinking.
 18. **Geocaching:** A real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices appeals to adventure seekers of all ages.
 19. **Roller Skating and Blading:** These activities are making a comeback as fun ways to exercise and socialize.
 20. **Wellness Retreats:** Combining travel with wellness activities, these retreats offer a holistic approach to health
 21. **Renewed Focus on Walking and Outdoor Activities:** Enhancing walking trails and opportunities for walking. Improving and promoting safe walking opportunities and adding outdoor fitness equipment to trails can encourage more people to engage in simple yet effective exercise.
 22. **Shifting Older Adult Activity Preferences:** Understanding the changing preferences of healthier and more active older adults suggests the need for more active and dynamic programs for older adults, such
-

as pickleball and outdoor pop-up and leisure programming.

23. Youth Leadership Programs: Initiatives that foster leadership skills and community involvement among youth can provide positive opportunities to engage youth.

24. Sport Trends – Interest in sport evolves and changes for many reasons. Recent success at major games (Olympics) can increase sport facility expectations. For example, 3:3 basketball and Rugby Sevens may see growing interest. Monitoring local trends in all sports such as baseball, soccer, cricket, and rugby is advisable through regular survey data collection from user groups.

25. Try-It Programs There continues to be interest in offering short term 'try- it' or 'pop-up' activities in parks and outdoor spaces to monitor interest. Try- It programming is an evidence-based approach that can effectively

introduce new participants to recreation and physical activity programs. Because it is a low commitment exercise, people are more apt to try something new. Try it programs should be offered as single session, at low or no cost to remove barriers to participation. With the emergence of cross-training, people are now also more aware of the benefits of participating in a wider range of physical activity and sport options. A try-it program can help an organization assess which activities will draw the most people, while providing the flexibility to change programming options more often. Offering these types of one-off programs during shoulder seasons can also help fill programming gaps and maximize unused space. Ongoing programs with more organized registrations and time commitments can follow based upon successful pilots.

By staying abreast of these trends and implementing strategic initiatives, parks and recreation services in Ontario can continue to evolve, meeting the diverse needs of their communities while addressing environmental, social, and technological change.



Wild grass and flowers growing in Larry Bauer Park with information board about Snake Hibernacula- Photo by GLOS

4. FINANCE

CONTEXT

As with any municipality, access to sufficient and sustained funding to meet existing and growing demands is a pressure point in the Town of Amherstburg. Continued opportunities made available through grant programs, working with community partners, fundraising campaigns and user fees are all potential areas to provide revenue to offset costs and/or deliver on new programs and services.

The Town adopted and approved the 2025 Asset Management plan which should be reviewed thoroughly when considering any capital financial investment, especially before considering new assets the Town should look to replace current aging infrastructure. This will not be possible in all cases but is considered good practice.

OPERATING BUDGET STRUCTURE

The operating budget for Parks, Facilities, Recreation has its expense cost categories as follows:

- Facilities and Libro Credit Union Recreation Complex
- Parks
- Recreation Services

Year-over-year Budget (Source: 2025 Operating Budget)

REVENUES	2023 BUDGET	2024 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET
Facilities & Libro Credit Union Recreation Complex	1,060,457	1,057,463	1,086,092
Parks	34,806	25,419	15,500
Recreation Services	222,911	208,985	203,872
Expenditures			
Facilities & Libro Credit Union Recreation Complex	3,631,409	4,233,254	4,525,636
Parks	1,299,273	1,448,942	1,492,072
Recreation Services	709,223	807,570	859,366
Net			
Facilities & Libro Credit Union Recreation Complex	(2,570,952)	(3,175,791)	(3,439,544)
Parks	(1,264,467)	(1,423,523)	(1,476,572)
Recreation Services	(486,312)	(598,585)	(655,494)

FINDINGS (OPERATING BUDGET ANALYSIS):

Budget Findings:

- In consideration of yearly trends, 2020 and 2021 cannot be considered 'normal' years when assessing year-over-year performance due to the COVID 19 pandemic and the impact on the provision of programs, facility closures, availability of staff, changing health regulations and other issues affecting 'public-facing' services.
- Parks revenues are very low and appear to be related to donations and special revenue (bequeaths, waiving of user fees); there is no specific reference to user fee revenue for play fields, event space, pavilions etc. (within the Park Revenue budget; rental revenue for these amenities reflect in the Recreation budget).
- The net budget for Parks has remained stable between 2021, 2022 and 2023; Prior to this time, limited funding for Parks had a cumulative detrimental impact on park conditions and status of amenities during this time.
- Council should look to the approved 2025 Asset Management Plan and strategies to prioritize capital investment in parks, taking care of those assets already in existence before building new.
- The demands on Parks staff in regard to maintenance requirements for 'ownerless assets' also impacts the operating budget expenditures.

Budget Structure:

- The level of detail for the various budget categories is not sufficient to assess cost recovery for the various service areas. New software to account for tracking is recommended.
- The Libro Credit Union Recreation Complex budget is by far the largest cost centre and could be organized to identify how the various services and programs are doing financially (ice, turf, programs, etc.).
- Allocations for expenses and revenues for indoor and outdoor facilities and amenities would benefit from assessment of whether financial targets are being met, or how much the maintenance costs are for the specific amenity (i.e. Miracle Field, outdoor turf field, provision of concession services etc.) Again new software could help with all of this.

CAPITAL BUDGET FORECAST

The forecast 2025 Capital Budget (as amended) is shown on the facing page. Funding has been added to Parks Master plan so that Council has an opportunity to select projects they wish to fund based on the Amherstburg Parks Master Plan Recommendations.

The Town's Asset Management Plan approved in 2025 should be driving considerations on fixing old infrastructure before building new.

Note: *Projects or expenditures identified in the future are not approved by Council. They are future projections which are subject to change.*

BUDGET ITEM	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
H. Murray Smith Centennial Park Redevelopment	-	-	-	-	-	-	400,000
Parks Equipment replacement program		75,000			65,000	85,000	
Implementation of Parks Master Plan	-		630,000	1,250,000	500,000	500,000	100,000
Parking Lots in the Park system	20,000	-	20,000	-	250,000	-	150,000
Kings Navy Yard Park Upgrades	171,000	250,000	-	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Multi use trails and sidewalks within parks	-	-	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Warren Mickle Park Improvement	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Playground Replacement Program	-	350,000	-	325,000	200,000	500,000	-
Larry Bauer Skate and BMX Amenities	-	-	175,000	-	-	-	-
Co-An Park Redevelopment	100,000	-	-	-	300,000	150,000	-
Trail at the Larry Bauer Park	200,000	-	800,000	-	-	-	-
Amherstburg Waterfront Festival Plaza (formerly Kings Navy Yard Park Extension)	-	-	-	100,000	-	-	-
Angstrom Park	-	-	500,000	-	-	-	-
AODA Accessibility Compliance within Parks	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	-	-	-
K Walter Ranta Memorial Park	-	100,000	-	-	-	-	-
River Canard Redevelopment	25,000	25,000	25,000	-	-	-	-



Plaza at King's Navy Yard Park with 2 Canons and Canadian Flag - Photo by FORREC

FINDINGS - CAPITAL BUDGET FORECAST & RESERVE ANALYSIS:

- Administration advised that the approved 2024 5-year capital forecast is funded in principle.
- Several projects are dependent on external funding sources (including grants) to supplement Town investment (ex. H. Murray Smith Centennial Park)
- Council approved adjustments to some projects pending the outcome of various other studies (Transportation Plan, Parks Master Plan).
- Larry Bauer Park captured in the Asset Management Plan suggests a level of funding required to replace the artificial turf.
- Funding for the Larry Bauer Park skate park/pump track was reduced to \$250,000 in the Town budget which could be supplemented by fundraising from others.
- Reserve and Reserve Fund Forecasted opening balance for 2025 are reflected in the Town's budget. Remaining balances are subject to fluctuations within a given year based on current projects as approved by Council.

	4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - FINANCE	SUGGESTED TIMING
4.1	<p>Continuing development of the capital budget forecast, including funding sources, is needed. Given the extensive roster of desired park improvements, new and different features and amenities, and the need to ensure that parks are kept in a 'state of good repair', setting forecasts and priorities is an imperative. The Town cannot support the financial obligation to build and operate all desired facilities. Monitoring use and operational costs, understanding user groups participation numbers, assessing trends, maximizing the use of parks and open space, and ensuring that there is broad community benefit from Town investment is critical. Acknowledging that the park system cannot provide all desired features and amenities should drive priority setting and financial decisions. Continue working with Finance to prepare a capital budget forecast that identifies projects over a number of years (including logical sequencing), and funding sources. The majority of existing assets have been captured in the Town's Asset Management Plan. When building new alternative funding sources will need to be investigated including grants and community partnerships.</p>	Ongoing
4.2	<p>Assess priorities as noted in the 2025 approved Capital Budget forecast associated with "Implementation of the Parks Master Plan". Ensure there is sufficient money to fund projects. Identify plans to update the Parks Master Plan in 5-year increments in the Capital forecast.</p>	Medium
4.3	<p>Adopt priorities for Capital Budget forecast. As annual budgets are presented to Council, reference the criteria and how it has affected project priorities for parks. Criteria should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety • Accessibility • Asset Management • Condition Assessment • Technical and Regulatory Requirements • Utilization data for parks • Public feedback <p>It should be noted that taking a park or portion of park out of service (surplus property, condition assessment) does not necessarily mean that it should be immediately replaced. The Park and its amenities should be subject to a current review of use, needs, neighbourhood interests, changing demographics etc. This will assist with a more intentional investment program, based upon priorities and data.</p>	Ongoing

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - FINANCE		SUGGESTED TIMING
4.4	Review User Fee revenues and ensure they are reported in the appropriate cost centre to demonstrate cost recovery. Work with Recreation staff to align expenditures and revenues between recreation costs and park costs	Ongoing
4.5	Adjust user fees for outdoor fields to a per hour charge. Current fees are allocated per game. A per hour fee can assist in maximizing scheduling and allows incremental fees to be charged for additional time, and services such as lights, and is a more consistent approach to user fees in other communities.	Ongoing
4.6	Prepare a report to Council as part of the annual operating budget process to demonstrate lost revenue due to waiving of fees. This should include the process for community organizations to request fee waivers. New software would help track these costs.	Short
4.7	Continue to ensure that a number of projects of varying sizes and scale are available as 'shovel ready' to respond to any grant funding programs. Choose projects that are realistic within the capital budget forecast (have been identified for funding within a reasonable time horizon, with or without grant funding) and are able to proceed if funding is confirmed.	Ongoing
4.8	Continue to monitor all grant funding programs that may be available to the Town and to community organizations. (Ontario Trillium Foundation, Provincial Sport Organization grants, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming and Ministry of Sport, other.) (see Appendix for a list of potential grants)	Ongoing
4.9	Continue to support community organizations with their own fund-raising efforts, through the Town's economic development division. Encourage user groups to work with staff for sponsorships, naming rights, and advertising opportunities.	Ongoing
4.10	Continue to ensure annual operating budget allocation to align with capital projects in the year that they will become operational. This is to reflect the ongoing operating and maintenance costs for looking after all assets in a state-of-good repair, ensuring proactive investment and minimizing future costs that may arise if ongoing maintenance needs are neglected.	Ongoing

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - FINANCE		SUGGESTED TIMING
4.11	Continue to communicate Council decisions on park/property acquisition and disposition in line with the Town's Official Plan and all Town policy applicable to providing public notifications. Provide public notification regarding the impact on the Town's finances, subsequent use of funds, source of funding for new projects, etc.	Ongoing
4.12	Investigate opportunities to update the Operating Budget structure with Finance staff to ensure a level of detail that supports decision making on identified cost centres. This could include a job tracking program or similar mechanism to assign staff/equipment costs to parks, facilities, and town assets.	Medium
4.13	Continue to work with Finance staff to align funds for accounts for specific purposes to allocate any funds received from community partnerships/projects to ensure they are identified for the specified purpose and provide transparency to community groups.	Ongoing

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT-CONTEXT:

A multi-faceted community engagement process was employed to provide options for Council, staff, user groups, advisory committees, community leaders, participants, and residents to share their insights and interest in the future of parks facilities and services.

PARKS SUMMIT

A community Parks Summit was hosted in July 2024. The event was held on the arena floor of the Larry Bauer Park/Libro Credit Union Recreation Complex, providing participants with an opportunity to view all parks in the Town of Amherstburg. Comments were invited for each park, providing feedback on existing conditions, potential design elements and general input regarding the park (existing and proposed).

USER GROUP SURVEY

Surveys were circulated to the general public, sport groups and event hosts in October 2024, with results being compiled and used in the collection of park needs, facility requirements and feedback to inform future park planning.

COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS

Three Committees of Council (Parks & Recreation, Accessibility and Environmental) provided feedback for the Parks Master Plan. A process using a 'SOAR' (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results) was used to facilitate feedback from the participants. This information was used to inform engagement findings and validate priorities from the members.

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS – STAFF AND COUNCIL

Meetings with staff groups and Members of Council were held and followed a process of facilitation, combining the SOAR exercise as well as more tailored questions to address specific areas of interest (i.e., staff from various service areas and departments, Councillors and the Mayor).

USER GROUP MEETINGS – SPORTS GROUPS, PARK USERS AND EVENT HOSTS

A summary document of feedback received to date (as of February 2025) was shared and used to validate findings, identify gaps and build information to further expand feedback and engagement outcomes.

PUBLIC SURVEY

The online community survey was available from March 21, 2025, to April 21, 2025. A total of 247 responses were received.

- The survey was promoted through many communication channels:
- Direct email to all community groups, service clubs, special event organizers and sporting user groups.
- Information on website, social media and all Town notice boards

FINAL PARKS SUMMIT MEETING OPEN HOUSE

A final community Parks Summit was held on May 05, 2025, at the Larry Bauer Park/Libro Credit Union Recreation Complex in the community room. The draft strategic themes from the Parks Master Plan, a summary of the survey results, and draft individual Park Plans were on display. Attendees were encouraged to complete feedback forms, add thoughts to the display boards using post-it notes, and through discussion with the consulting team and staff. All responses were collated for inclusion in the Final Community Engagement report.

COMMUNICATION-CONTEXT:

Communication is key to ensuring a transparent relationship with customers (internal and external), user groups, the public and staff. Providing a variety of mechanisms that encourage meaningful and timely two-way dialogue is critical to building trust. Explaining 'why' some things cannot be changed or take time or resources assists with building customer confidence in local government. Periodically testing methods of communication to ensure that the target audiences are receiving the intended message is imperative to avoid making assumptions that cause confusion for all.

	5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - COMMUNICATION	SUGGESTED TIMING
5.1	<p>Continue to host annual user group meetings with park users, event hosts and sport volunteers to assess satisfaction levels, identify priorities, and provide up-to-date data regarding participation numbers and scheduling. Designate a staff liaison for each of the user groups to ensure clear coordination and demonstrate to volunteers who their 'point of contact' is for the season.</p>	<p>Ongoing (Pending budget approval for additional resources)</p>

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - COMMUNICATION		SUGGESTED TIMING
5.2	The noted staff liaison contact should assume responsibility to update users/volunteers on all information needs – scheduling and permitting updates, status of agreements, facility availability, status of projects that affect their service area, etc.	Short (Pending budget approval for additional resources)
5.3	As plans for park enhancements are approved, ensure communication with affected park users (residents, neighbours, sport users) is undertaken in advance. If projects are delayed or funding sources change, communicate with affected users. Reach out to specific target groups/audiences to seek input for park amenities. For example, engage with the community to discuss seating needs, playground features (for special needs in the community) and/or noise levels within parks.	Ongoing
5.4	Ensure internal and external coordination with staff to minimize confusion for residents regarding who to contact for what purpose. (i.e., coordination with recreation service staff regarding scheduling requests, permits, etc.). Assess internal changes that might affect volunteers (staff turnover, changed process requirements) and advise community representatives accordingly.	Short
5.5	Continue providing reports for Council consideration that provide all options, including a recommended option, for decision making using current data and relevant background research/information.	Ongoing
5.6	Enhance website offering with mapping and specific parkland amenities that provides information on each park and its amenities. Provide the public with an interactive option to report issues within parks, recommend enhancements ideas for improvement. Ensure feedback mechanism is included to provide closure to each item/idea noted (i.e., issue addressed, referred to budget etc.).	Short (Citywide resources needed, New website)
5.7	Initiate public education promotion regarding the value of environmentally friendly areas, naturalization, development of pollinator areas etc. to ensure the residents understand the value of a new maintenance approach. Ongoing communication can assist in explaining the benefits and minimizing negative reaction if adjacent residents see the new maintenance practices as cost-cutting rather than intentional and beneficial to the environment.	Ongoing



New playground at Warren Mickle Park - Photo by FORREC

6. ADMINISTRATION, AGREEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

CONTEXT:

A strong policy framework easily understood administrative processes and written agreements provides staff with guidance to aid decision making. Sharing policy development and renewal with community organizations, user groups, staff and volunteers helps with providing transparency, explaining rationale, amending for easier implementation, or removing when policies are outdated or no longer needed.

Periodic assessment regarding adherence to policies and procedures is useful to ensure that there is consistency in application and past

'practice' as replaced with approved policy and procedures.

A review of staffing levels and roles supports proactive planning and ensures staff responsibilities are aligned with community needs.

The administrative support and corporate oversight for all service delivery provided by full and part time staff is an important function provided by the Town. Streamlining and conducting regular assessments helps with focus, removing outdated process steps and communicating with the community on 'why'

some policies and administrative practices are put in place. Reporting, Data Collection and Customer Service feedback all contribute to quantitative and qualitative decision making and improved service delivery over time.

The Town of Amherstburg has done a good job working with partners to share facilities.

Continued communication with partners, updating and refining agreements, and reviewing expected outcomes on a regular basis will ensure that the community is receiving maximum benefit from all agreements and partnerships.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE – STAFFING AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE (WITH COMPARATORS)

PARKS STRUCTURE	AMHERSTBURG	LASALLE	ESSEX
Population	23,524 (2021 census)	34,347	21,216
Manager	Parks & Naturalized Areas	Roads & Parks	Parks and Facilities (1) Assistant Manager Parks and
Supervisor	None	Parks	(Asst. Manager similar role?)
Lead Hand	Lead Hand – implemented only when Manager is away	Leader	Leader - Harrow
Full-time	6 (landscape technicians)	5	2 FT Harrow 1 Landscape Technician 1 Landscape Operator
Seasonal	Groundskeeper/ General Labourers (part-time) 2.40 FTE in 2024	9 (5.2 FTE)	3 PT Harrow
Seasonal (students, May – Sept)	8 (2.80 FTE in 2024)	3.0 FTE	Variable 4-8 can depend on grant funding

NOTES FROM MUNICIPAL COMPARATOR CONTACTS:

Town of La Salle

The Manager for Parks is also responsible for Roads, Drainage, and Fleet and is supported by a Parks Supervisor. They employ a Lead Hand and have a variety of park operators and seasonal staff. It is often a struggle to hire due to the seasonality of the position and wage structure. There is no arborist or landscape architect on staff. They participate with the adjacent communities to share information, network and collect best practices. Their service levels are satisfactory, but they are challenged

with certain unexpected issues (grub, particularly wet spring). They continue to focus on garden beds and beautification and sees Amherstburg as being a community that has done a good job in this area. Currently working on a refrigerated skating trail with gardens, and an event centre. The shared baseball facility is operated by LaSalle and revenues are collected by LaSalle. The Town of Amherstburg pays an annual fee for operations as part of the agreement.

Town of Essex

The Director noted that they manage two major urban areas (of 4 in total), Harrow to the South and Essex in the north. There are combined staff teams for parks and facilities, and they report to an Assistant Manager position at the respective Arena locations. (Harrow Arena and Essex Arena) but they are moving to two Assistant Manager roles, one for Parks and Projects and one for Facilities and Events. There are 2 landscape staff (Landscape Technician and Landscape Operator). Their horticultural efforts are focused primarily on the downtown core streetscapes. Students and casual numbers vary and can be dependent on

grants received. Working on changing fleet to be more efficient transporting more students. Participate in networking meetings with adjacent communities. There is an RFP issued for a new play structure at CO-An park being led by Essex procurement. The park is overseen by a Board, but they are challenged to attract new Board members. May continue to review over the next number of years to ensure risk is minimized, park investment and role clarity if clear. The Town of Amherstburg and Town of Essex pay the Co-An Board annually towards operations.

Findings (Parks and Open Space Staffing and Organizational Structure):

- Amherstburg does not have a position of leadership between the Manager and the full time and seasonal staff (Supervisor)
- The staff with the most seniority is appointed as Crew Leader and assists with work assignment details when Manager is off; being paid a small hourly bonus for this support.
- While not having a Greenhouse, the Town maintain its floral beds, boulevards and baskets to a high level.
- There are varying levels of service for horticultural displays and community beautification; feedback acknowledged that Amherstburg 'set the bar' in this area
- Comparators had varying parks, facilities and amenities to maintain making it difficult to compare 'apples to apples'; in some cases, A facility staff overlapped with Parks staff over various seasons, soccer or diamond complexes draw different resources, having more than one 'urban' area affected fleet, transporting staff etc.

- Shared facilities agreements and oversight could benefit from updating.

RELATED DOCUMENT REVIEW

The Town of Amherstburg has several related documents, reporting templates, and policies that affect the delivery of service.

1. User Group Agreements

2. Community Grants Program Policy (Jan 2024)

3. Public Events Guide

- a. Resource for event organizers dated 2023 – requires forms package to be submitted 3 months prior to event – reviewed by a Special Events Resource Team – includes events in Town facilities, properties, road allowances, all requirements to be met such as insurance and SOP, emergency response plan etc.

4. User fee By-law, rates for District School Board use of Larry Bauer Park / Libro Credit Union Recreation Complex and other facilities. Refer to the Schedule of Fees in the User Fee By-law 2024-030.

5. Ownerless Assets

- a. Staff in several departments are working on a draft document entitled "Ownerless Assets". The purpose will be to confirm where the asset resides for capital and operating budget consideration, as well as maintenance responsibilities.
- b. Upon completion, this document should be reviewed to ensure that appropriate resources are allocated and funded for ongoing operating/maintenance responsibilities to ensure assets remain in a 'state of good repair.

FINDINGS

	6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS – ADMINISTRATION, AGREEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS	SUGGESTED TIMING
6.1	Complete updated agreement regarding Co-An Park. Review agreement with Town of LaSalle for River Canard Park. Agreements should be reviewed every five years.	Short
6.2	Consult with the Miracle League to ensure communication for updated process and practices regarding current requirements.	Short
6.3	Monitor agreement annually with WEBC and conduct a full review in 5-year increments.	Ongoing
6.4	Continue to work with Recreation staff to review and update Allocation Policy with respect to use of outdoor sport fields and ensure groups provide input into the decision-making process. Share policy upon updating, including all process steps to acquire annual permits, make changes, etc.	Short
6.5	Continue to initiate a customer service process for groups to alert the Town to allocation/permitting issues (double bookings, timing issues, inappropriate facility space, other) and include a feedback loop as issues become resolved. This may require investment in a new more robust software system that provides needed functionality with ongoing client support.	Short
6.6	Continue to ensure user groups provide up-to-date data seasonally that includes all relevant information regarding their participation numbers, residency, age profile, wait-lists, barriers to participation etc. Review data at annual user group meetings to highlight trends, pressures with field allocation, growth projections, etc.	Short
6.7	Continue to work with community groups and organizations to reinforce the need to follow Town procurement policies and other administrative requirements. Providing ongoing communication regarding the rationale for transparent procurement policies contributes to building trust and ensuring the public understand the decision-making process regarding Town financial investment.	Short
6.8	Work with user groups for permitted activities to ensure compliance and expectations are met. Review regularly on scheduled timeline.	Short

6.9	<p>Continue to search for grant and funding stream opportunities to fund projects and enhance the parks system. Include information on Town funding and programs available through other levels of Government, and provide ongoing assistance to ensure accuracy for applications, align groups with suitable programs etc. Consider hosting an annual Workshop to share all current information, also allowing groups to share best practices among themselves.</p>	Ongoing
6.10	<p>Continue to post annual capital budget projects and the five-year capital forecast to clarify approved amounts and where support may be required for community fundraising efforts.</p>	Medium
6.11	<p>Review Parks Operation staffing model and create a supervisory position to report to the Manager of Parks. The Parks Supervisor position will allow the Manager of Parks position to oversee all capital projects, policy updates and management of the division while the supervisor would be responsible for the parks and overall maintenance activities and day to day operations. This will aid in providing a level of supervision directly responsible for day-to-day operations, customer feedback and level of service reviews for succession planning.</p>	Short
6.12	<p>Work with Economic Development to strengthen opportunities within the community on naming rights, partnership and sponsorship opportunities that exist within the parks system. Outreach with local business es, boards and community partners to carry out strategic priorities and projects.</p>	Short



Sunset at Golfview Park - Photo by GLOS

7. SUMMARY

The Parks Master Plan should serve as a guiding document for regular reference and reporting purposes. Staff should ensure that relevant recommendations are included in annual business and operational planning with timely reports to Council and the public in a transparent manner. Operating and Capital budgets, as well as capital budget forecasts, will require updating as projects are completed and the operating impacts planned. Ongoing monitoring on the progress of implementation for individual Park Master Plans (as approved by council) will be required to ensure alignment with the overall plan and annual priorities.

Staff resources will need constant monitoring to ensure capacity and to monitor expectations in the community to meet customer satisfaction. In order to prioritize capital projects, the Town's currently adopted Asset Management Plan should be consulted to evaluate how funding should be allocated. The Plan should be reviewed in 5-year increments.





IV. INDIVIDUAL PARK MASTER PLANS

PARKS MASTER PLAN CONCEPTS

As part of the Town-wide Parks Master Plan process, FORREC developed a series of conceptual master plans for parks across Amherstburg. These design concepts were informed by an extensive community and stakeholder engagement process, as well as detailed background studies and site assessments. Each plan reflects opportunities for enhancement, revitalization, and long-term investment. The designs consider the unique character, scale, and function of each park within the Town's overall parks system, integrating ecological sensitivity, inclusive play, community gathering, and a balance of active and passive uses. While aspirational in nature, these concepts provide a flexible framework to guide future upgrades, funding decisions, and phased implementation.

Facing Page:
Angstrom Park Seating & Fishing Overlook
FORREC Rendering - AI and Photoshop

ALMA WEST LOOKOUT

REGIONAL/SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

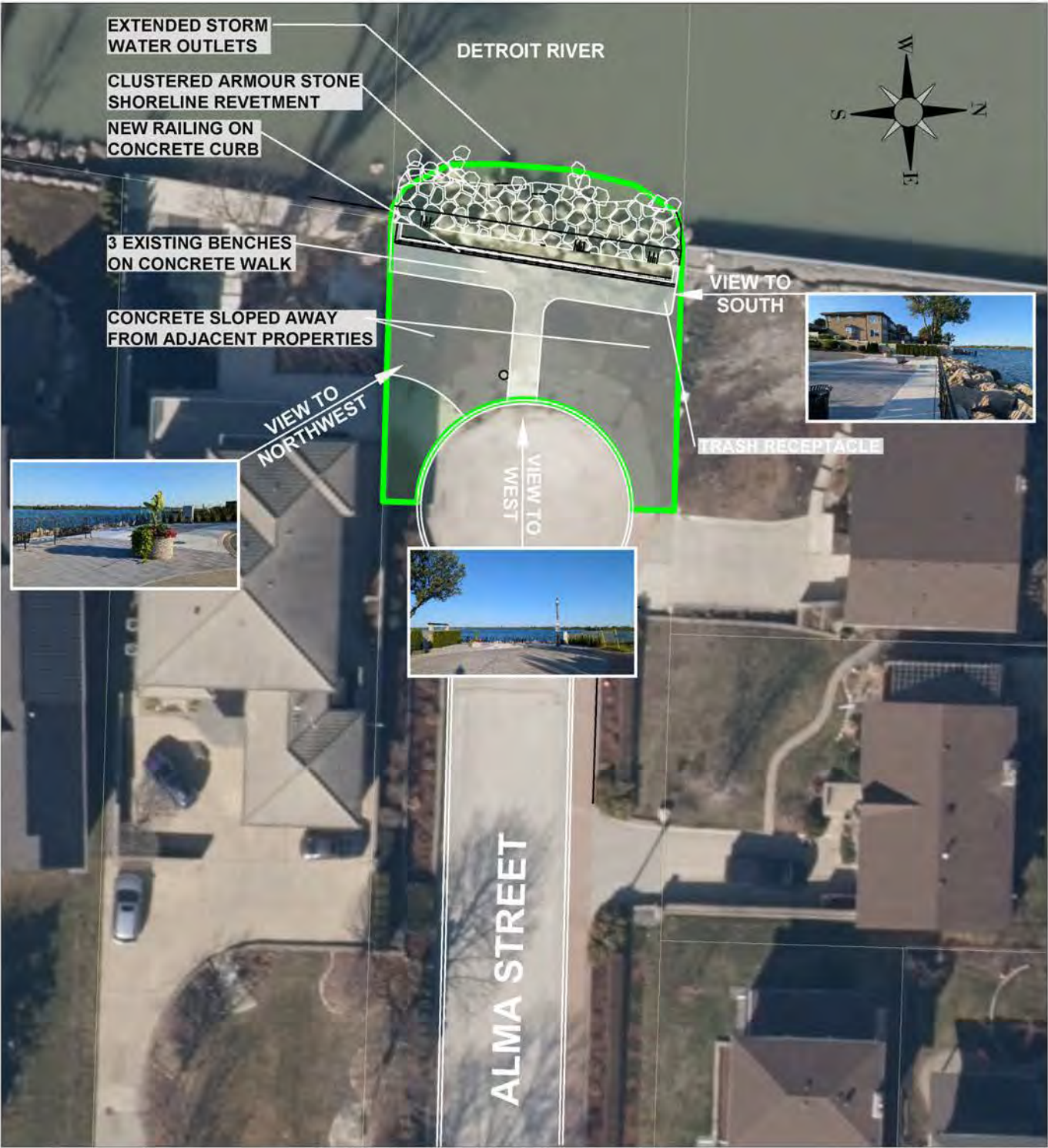
This 0.04-hectare park was recently improved by the public works department. The shoreline was restored with rock revetment and planters were installed along with concrete paving with benches, for people to sit and visit. This park is complete and does not require a master plan.



View from the Alma West Lookout overlooking the water with colourful planting and benches - Photo by GLOS

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

ALMA WEST LOOKOUT
SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK



This 0.04-hectare park was recently improved by the public works department. The shoreline was restored with rock revetment and planters were installed along with concrete paving with benches, for people to sit and visit. This park is complete and does not require a master plan.

EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING

- ✔ Fencing - New metal guardrail serves as a boundary separating break wall. (image 3) Access to rock break wall prevented by locked gate.

PARKING LOT - N/A

PARK AMENITIES

- (1)-Garbage - Provided.
- (3)-Benches - Provided.
- (3)-Flower Planters - Provided.

PLAYGROUND - N/A

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS- N/A

STRUCTURES - N/A

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

- ✔ Sidewalk - Lookout is accessible to adjacent sidewalk.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

- Lighting - (1)-Light pole operational.

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

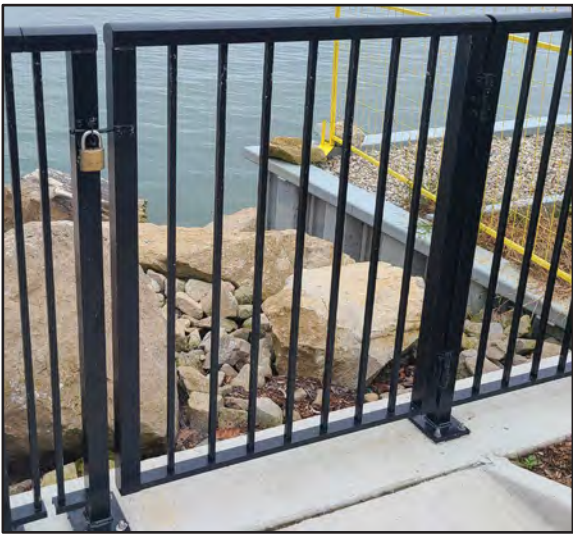
Park Signage



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



Alma Street Parkette looking East - Photo by GLOS

ANDERDON PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

This 3.03-hectare park has 2 tennis / pickleball courts and one basketball court. The courts have been patched and repainted several times and are in need of replacement. There was once a baseball diamond at the rear of the park which was removed and never replaced. The park has a large open field and tree planting around the outskirts. The far east of the site is home to Fire Station #2. The fire hall is planned to be re-built at this location in the future. There are two facility buildings on the site.

PROPOSED DESIGN

The proposed design for Anderdon Park includes upgraded tennis/ pickleball courts near the recently added basketball court. The existing parking will be relocated to the east side in the future with the new Fire Station to mitigate the risk of parking adjacent to the main road. Other features like a shelter, looped walkway, pollinator meadow, cricket pitch, chess tables, picnic tables and potential children's playground creates a space for community gathering and activities.



Anderdon Park
Existing Conditions 2024

EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING

- ! Chain Link Fencing - (image 5) Supporting posts, rails, and base plates: exhibit rust. Remedial work should be considered to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.

PARKING LOT

Gravel Parking - 9 Parking stops provided.

PARK AMENITIES

- (1) - Seasonal Portable Washroom – Provided.
- (1)-Garbage - Provided.

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS

- x (2) Tennis / Pickleball Court Surface — (image 2) Painted asphalt showing signs of wear (image 3). On the date of inspection, some locations had some water retention and surface pooling throughout. Remedial work required to prevent further damage and improve usability.
- ! (1) Basketball Court Surface — (image 4) On the date of inspection, some locations had some water retention and surface pooling throughout. Remedial work would be required to prevent further damage and improve usability.

STRUCTURES - N/A

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

- ! Pathway - (image 1) Gravel pathway from parking to courts– existing condition presents accessibility challenges. Remedial work would be required to improve accessibility.
- Safety Signage - Provided.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

Sport Court Lights – Operational.

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

Barrier-Free Parking: Designated accessible parking spaces not provided.

Park Furniture: Benches and picnic tables.

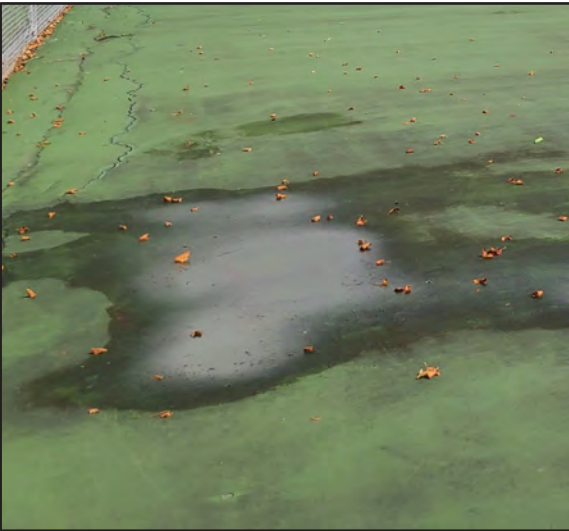
Park Signage: Not provided.



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



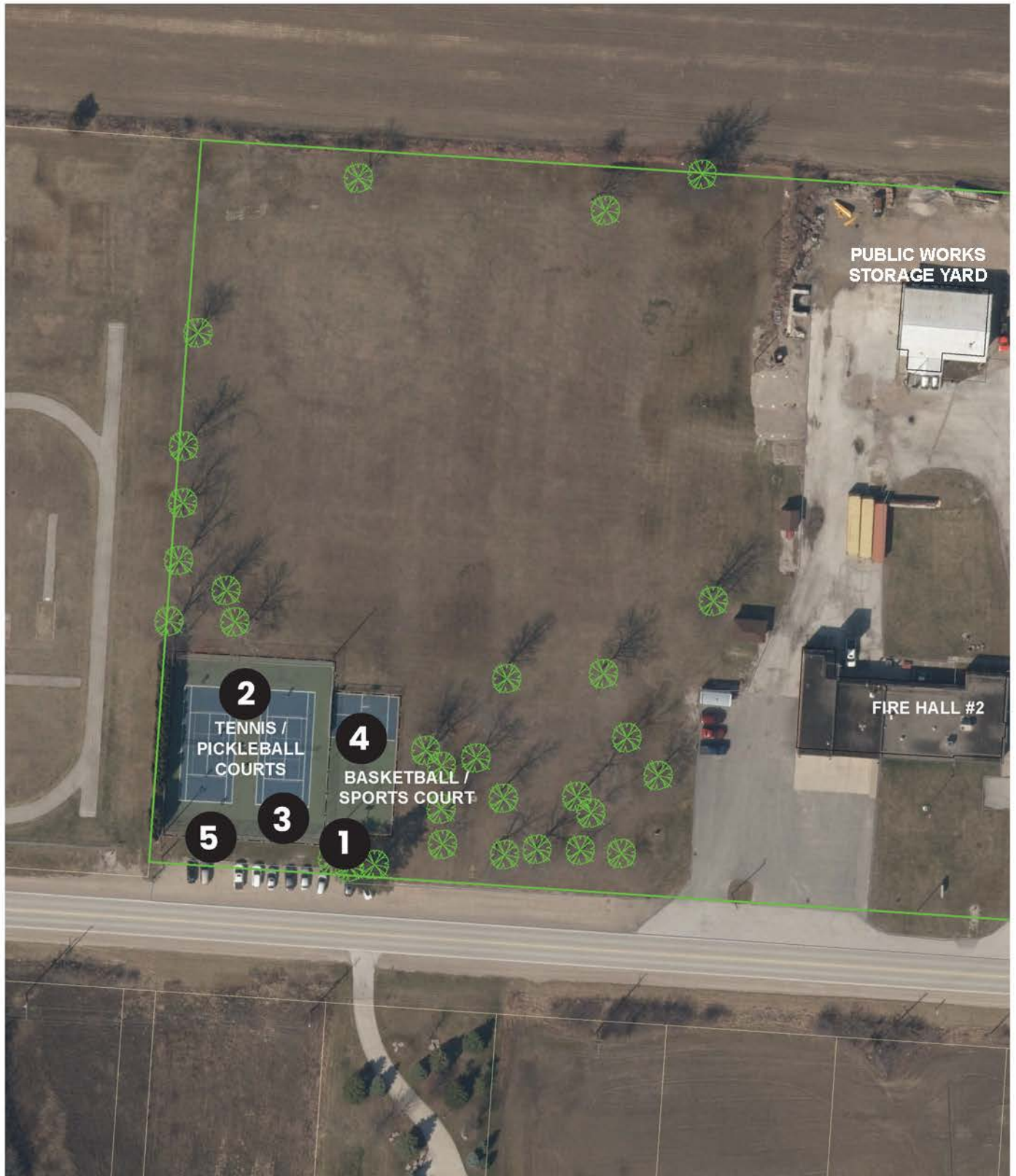
4 IMAGE



5 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

ANDERDON PARK: JULY 2024



ANDERDON PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

April 2025



Legend

- ① Parking (11 Reg. + 3 Acc.)
- ② Park Signage
- ③ Picnic Tables
- ④ Playground
- ⑤ Chess Tables
- ⑥ Basketball Court
- ⑦ Existing Tennis/ Pickleball Courts
- ⑧ Shelter
- ⑨ 3M Wide Asphalt Pathway
- ⑩ Cricket
- ⑪ Seating
- ⑫ Pollinator Meadow
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees
- Street Lighting



Cricket



Basketball court



Shelter



Precedent View of Anderdon Park

The proposed design for Anderdon Park includes upgraded tennis/pickleball courts. The existing parking is relocated to the east side of the park adjacent to the main road. Other features like a shelter, looped walkway, pollinator meadow, cricket pitch, chess tables, picnic tables and potential children's playground creates a space for community gathering and activities.

ANGSTROM PARK

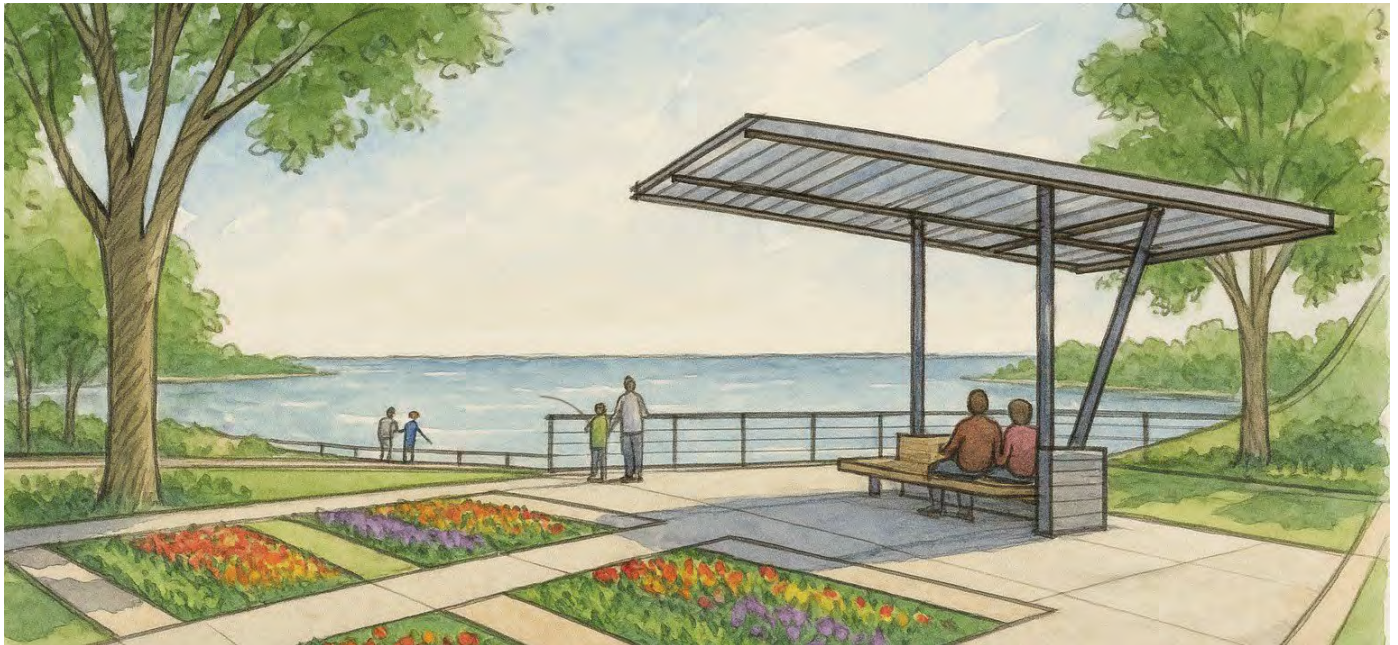
REGIONAL/SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

This park is named after Lawrence Carlton Angstrom, former owner of the property and prominent citizen of Anderdon Township who served in WWI. This is a 0.13-hectare waterfront park that requires accessibility upgrades for public access. There is high archaeological potential at this park due to its proximity to the water and cemetery that abuts the site to the north. This park would benefit from accessible walkways and a potential lookout or gazebo with fishing access. The park is used by kayakers for launching but this is not ideal due to the currents at this location. In addition, parking is an issue. The park's waterfront could use rock revetment and stabilization.

PROPOSED DESIGN

A welcoming waterfront space with a scenic lookout featuring benches, shelter, and a flexible plaza for leisure and events, Angstrom Park includes a pollinator meadow and native shoreline vegetation to enhance character, ecology, and safety. Interpretive signage shares Indigenous and colonial history. Open lake views ensure clear sight lines. A striking, geometric park trail connects the waterfront to the parking lot across the road.

Direct and clear pedestrian routes make it easier and more pleasant for people to access parking from their destinations, whether public spaces or amenities.



Angstrom Park Seating & Fishing Overlook
FORREC Rendering - AI and Photoshop



Angstrom Park
Existing Conditions 2024

EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING

- ! Chain & Post Fencing - (image 4) Chain and supporting concrete posts. Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.

PARKING LOT

- ! Parking at Country Road 20 Entrance - (image 2) Unmarked asphalt surface. The area accommodates only one parking space. Remedial work required to restore usability.
- ! Parking at Country Road 10 Entrance - (image 3) Gravel surface with no signage for use or barrier-free parking. Remedial work required to install appropriate signage.

PARK AMENITIES

- (1)-Garbage - Provided.
- ! (2)-Benches - (image 1) Concrete bench and wooden planks. Replacement required

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS - N/A

STRUCTURES - N/A

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

Park Signage - Wooden sign provided.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

- ! Water Access - (image 4) Area lacks signage indicating permitted access and is not officially designated as a launch point for kayaks or other watercraft. Installation of appropriate signage is required to clarify access and designate the area for watercraft use.
- ! **Shoreline** – (images 5 & 6) Broken concrete observed along the shoreline, used as break wall. Remove of the concrete and replace rock to restore and enhance shoreline stability and protection.

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

Pathway Continuity

Picnic Tables

Barrier-Free Parking

Signage



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE



5 IMAGE



6 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

ANGSTROM PARK: JULY 2024



ANGSTROM PARK

SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

April 2025



Legend

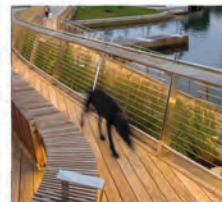
- ① Proposed Plaza
- ② Proposed Look Out Deck
- ③ Proposed Shading Canopy
- ④ Shrub/Tree Buffer
- ⑤ Pollinator Meadow
- ⑥ Proposed Accessible Trail
- ⑦ Proposed Parking-14 Spots
- ⑧ Improved Rock Revetment
- ⑨ Park Signage
- ⑩ Parking Signage
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees



Backless Bench



Proposed Canopy



Waterfront Look Out



Pollinator Meadow

A welcoming waterfront space with a scenic lookout featuring benches, shelter, and a flexible plaza for leisurely viewing the waterfront, Angstrom Park includes a pollinator meadow and native shoreline vegetation to enhance character, ecology, and safety. Interpretive signage shares Indigenous history of the site. Open lake views ensure clear sightlines. A striking, geometric park trail connects the waterfront to the parking lot across the road.



Precedent View of Angstrom Park

BAR POINT PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

This park is nestled within an older subdivision of houses on the southern portion of Amherstburg. The park has a playground with woodchips that will eventually need to be updated. There is a basketball court in poor condition.

PROPOSED DESIGN


The Master Plan proposes upgraded new playground with accessible rubber surfacing along with picnic tables and pollinator garden. A new multi-use court replaces the aged basketball court. Improved pathway connections improve accessibility and create an enjoyable walk through the trees and gardens.



Bar Point Park
Existing Conditions 2024

EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING



-  Chain Link Fencing - (image 1) Areas of fence mesh and posts show signs of wear. Replacement is required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.

PARKING LOT - N/A



PARK AMENITIES

- (2)-Garbage - Provided.
- (1)-Picnic Tables - Provided.

PLAYGROUND

-  Playground - (image 6) Equipment age unknown. Small areas on equipment are showing minimal signs of wear.
-  Playground Surface - Woodchip surface in good condition. Wooden playground borders obstruct access for some user groups. Existing condition presents accessibility challenges


SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS

-  (1) Basketball Court Surface — (image 4) Asphalt court showing surface wear. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair
-  Basketball Nets / Backboards — (image 5) Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.

STRUCTURES - N/A

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

-  Pathway / Trails - (image 2) Gravel pathways. Pathways do not connect to the playground (image 3) or the basketball court. Remedial work is required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
Park Signage & Safety Signage - Provided

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE - N/A

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

Benches



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE



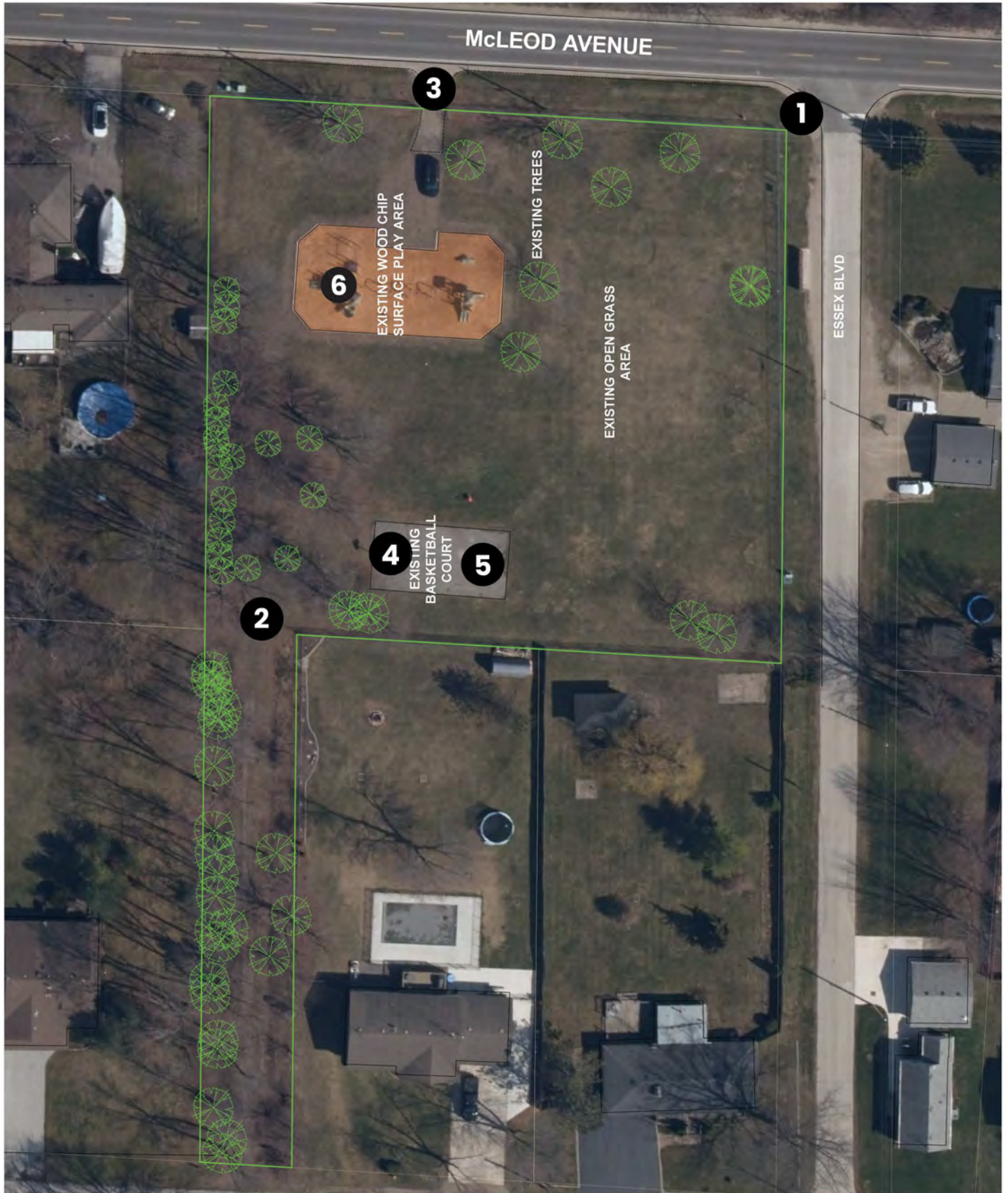
5 IMAGE



6 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

BAR POINT PARK: JULY 2024



BAR POINT PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

April 2025



Legend

- ① Existing Woodchip Surfa Play Area
- ② Landscape Berm
- ③ Pollinator Meadows
- ④ Proposed Picnic Table or Conc Pad
- ⑤ Proposed Asphalt Trail
- ⑥ Basketball Court/Multi-use Court
- ⑦ Park Signage
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees



Proposed Play courts
Basketball and Multi Use



Playground



Picnic Tables



Asphalt Trails

Upgraded new playground with accessible rubber surfacing. A multiuse court, large open space and enhanced meandering pathways traverse shading trees and pollinator meadows. Additional seating areas with shade trees and gathering spaces with picnic tables make the park more lively.



Precedent View of Bar Point Park

BEAUDOIN PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

This 1.38-hectare park in the River Canard Subdivision was named after Leo N.J. Beaudoin who passed away in 1978. He had a 22-year career in municipal politics in the former Anderdon Township and was Anderdon's first Deputy Reeve. This site underwent a complete re-development in 2020 and 2021 with a new playground, pathways, and a 6-hole disc golf course. The shelter was updated at this time and benches were installed.

PROPOSED DESIGN

Community interaction opportunities are created through picnic tables and chess tables. An area is designated for informal soccer without disturbing the existing trees. Pathway accesses are provided from east, north and south for easy connectivity with the neighbourhood. Pollinator meadows and native trees add to the ecological value of the park. The existing disc golf is enhanced by closing the loop with additional tees and holes. Additional benches and trees provide seating and shade.



Beaudoin Park
Existing Conditions 2024

EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING

Chain Link Fencing - Defines property boundaries; owned by the Town.

PARKING LOT - N/A

PARK AMENITIES

- (2)-Garbage - Provided.
- (5)-Benches - Provided.
- (1)-Picnic Tables - Provided.
- (2)-Bike Racks - Provided.

PLAYGROUND

- ✓ Rubber Surface Playground - (image 3) New Equipment and Rubber Surface. Barrier-free access provided.
- ✓ Woodchip Playground - (image 4) Swing set age unknown. Small areas on equipment are showing minimal signs of wear. Surface is free from debris and well maintained.

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS

- ✓ Soccer Field - New goal nets.
- ✓ Disc Golf - (image 5) New disc golf baskets.

STRUCTURES - N/A

- ✓ Pavilion - (image 6) New Pavilion. Barrier-free access provided.

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

- ! Pathway / Trails - Asphalt Pathways - (Image 1 & 2) Showing signs of wear. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
Park Signage & Safety Signage - Provided

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE -

Security Lights - Operational.



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE



5 IMAGE



6 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

BEAUDOIN PARK: JULY 2024



BEAUDOIN PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

April 2025



Legend

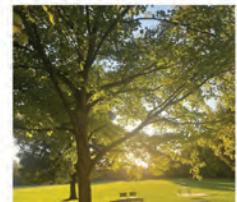
- ① Existing Accessible Playground
- ② Informal Soccer Field
- ③ Proposed Disc Golf
- ④ Existing Disc Golf
- ⑤ Benches
- ⑥ Park Signage
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees



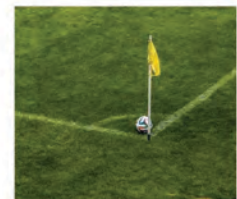
Proposed Benches



Completed Disc Golf Loop



More Shading Trees



Upgrade Soccer Field

(Soccer Field will not be lined are for pick-up recreational play only)

Beaudoin Park will have a light revitalization to enhance the community's outdoor experience. The existing disc golf is enhanced by closing the loop with additional tees and holes. Additional benches and trees provide seating and shade. An informal soccer field fits into an open, multi-purpose turf area.



Precedent View of Beaudoin Park

BILL WIGLE PARK & AUSTIN 'TODDY' JONES PARK

REGIONAL/SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

Austin Toddy Jones Park was formally known as 'West Town Park'. In 1985, the name was changed to Austin 'Toddy' Jones Park. Austin Jones served on Municipal Council from 1975 to 1982. This park has a large accessible playground, splashpad, covered pavilion with an open BBQ, pathways, large trees, and washroom facility. Bill Wigle Park was formally known as East Town Park. Bill Wigle was a well-known baseball player and served seven years on Municipal Council. This park consists of a lit irrigated ball diamond with bleachers, small storage building and a 410 m paved walking path around the perimeter. Known as the Wigle Walkway, a landscaped walkway with benches was added along the street side in 2010.

PROPOSED DESIGN

These two parks are transformed into a civic space that emphasizes gathering, events, and celebratory activities. Connections to the waterfront, downtown and Fort Malden are strengthened, and a central promenade surrounding a water feature leads to a new playscape, splashpad and washroom building. A contemporary pavilion can be used for shade, performances or exhibits. A multi-use court, large open space and enhanced meandering pathways traverse shading trees and pollinator meadows. Additional seating areas with shade trees and gathering spaces with picnic tables make the park more lively.






Austin Toddy Jones / Bill Wigle Civic Green- Master Plan Conceptual Illustration
FORREC Rendering - AI and Photoshop



EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

BILL WIGLE PARK

FENCING

-  Chain Link Fencing Mesh - (*Image 6*) Baseball Diamond shows signs of wear along Sandwich street. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
-  Baseball Diamond Fence Posts – Overall condition good. Rust present in some locations.
-  Metal Iron Fence - Located between Sidewalk and Sandwich Street: Condition Good

PARKING




-  (17+1 Barrier-Free)-Parking Spaces Laird Ave - Replacement of temporary barrier-free parking signage with permanent signage is required to ensure long-term accessibility compliance.
-  (21+1 Barrier-Free)-Parking Spaces North Street - (*Image 4*) In several areas asphalt parking shows signs of wear. Remedial work required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair

PARK AMENITIES


- (3)-Garbage - Provided.
- (5)-Benches - Provided.

PLAYGROUND - N/A

SPORTS


-  (1)- Baseball Diamond - Surface type infield mix, good condition.
-  (2)- Dugouts - (*Image 5*) The metal roof is in poor condition causing water pooling in the dugouts. Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
-  (2) - Spectator bleachers - Provided.

STRUCTURES

-  Washroom — Inaccessible during inspection; operational status and amenities unknown. (Images 1 & 2) Exterior step no barrier-free access observed. (Image 3) Doors show wear. Further investigation and possible replacement recommended.

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

-  Pathway / Trails - Asphalt Pathways - Provided. Good condition.
Safety Signage - Provided at baseball diamond.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE - N/A



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE



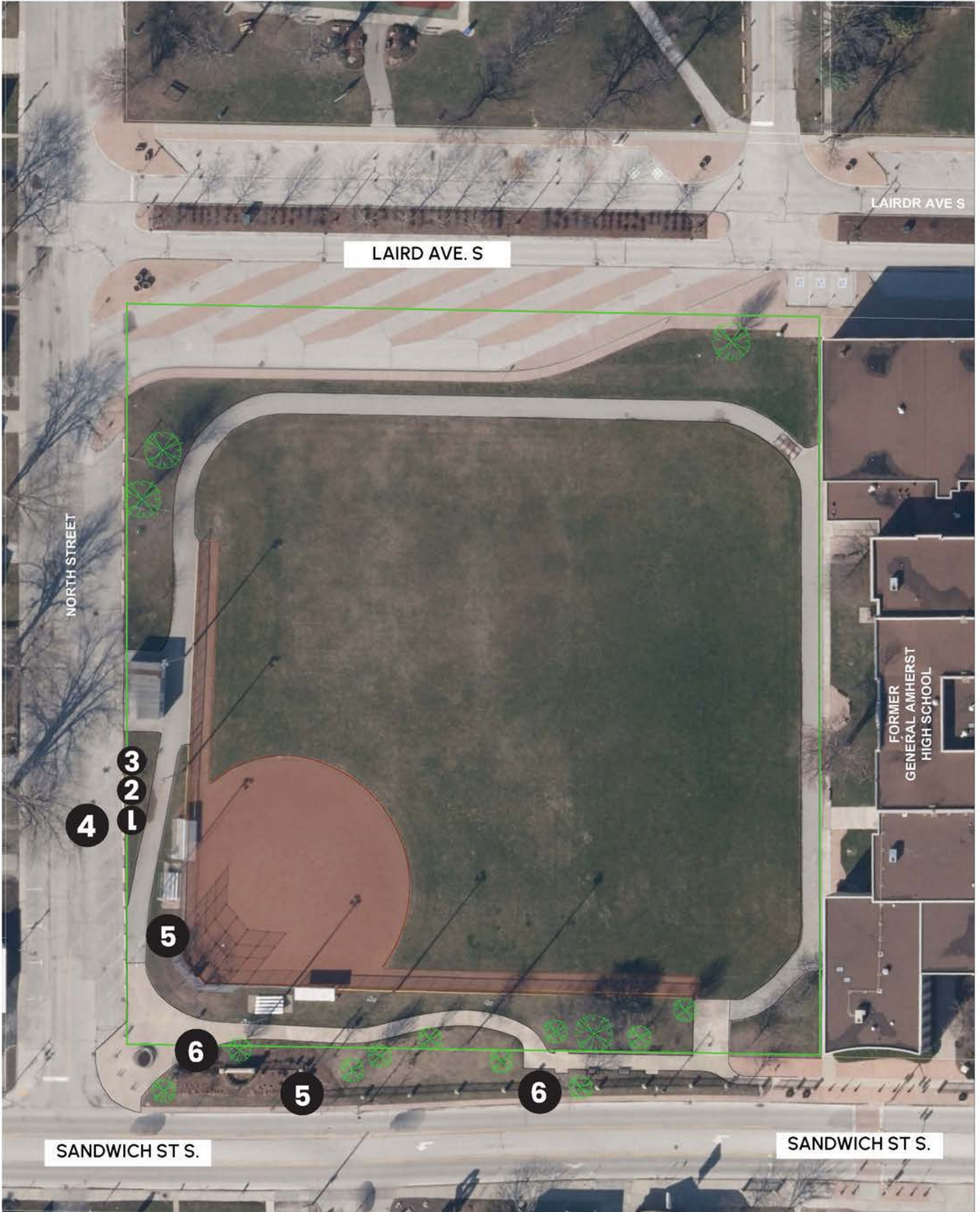
5 IMAGE



6 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

BILL WIGLE PARK: JULY 2024



EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

AUSTIN 'TODDY' JONES PARK

FENCING - N/A

PARKING LOT

- ⚠️ 56 Parking Spaces- *Provided along Dalhousie St, North St, and Laird. Including barrier-free and 2 electric charging station spaces.*

PARK AMENITIES

Garbage - Provided throughout the park.
Benches & Picnic Tables – Adequately provided throughout the park.
(2)-Bike Rack - Provided.

PLAYGROUND

- ✅ Rubber Surface Playground - Good Condition.
- ✅ Splash Pad — Good Condition equipment age unknown. Not active at the time of inspection.

SPORTS- N/A

STRUCTURES

- ⚠️ Historic Pavilion - Signs of wear due to age are evident. (Image 3) Roof sheathing shows signs of wear (Image 4) (Image 5) (Image 6).
Wood fire chimneys are operational. Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.
- ❌ Washrooms - Men’s washroom inaccessible during inspection. (Image 1) Women’s washroom has original shower stalls, but all fixtures have been removed. (Image 2)It includes one barrier-free stall, one typical stall, and one operational lavatory. lighting is dim. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
- ⚠️ Support Facilities - Concession and storage were not accessible at the time of inspection. The operational status and amenities provided within the building remain unknown.

PUBLIC ART / STATUES -

- ✅ Informational Placards - Wildlife informational signage provided.

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

- ✅ Asphalt Pathway - Maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.
Park Signage & Safety Signage - Provided.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

Lighting - Operational light poles and flood lights throughout park. Operational.



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE



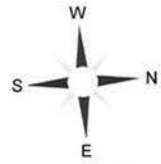
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6 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

AUSTIN TODDY JONES: JULY 2024



BILL WIGLE & AUSTIN 'TODDY' JONES PARK

SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

April 2025



Legend

- ① Connection to Downtown
- ② Connection to Waterfront & Fort Malden
- ③ New Washroom/Change Rm.
- ④ Splash Pad
- ⑤ Play Shelter
- ⑥ Re-located Accessible Playground
- ⑦ Turf / Gathering
- ⑧ Water Feature with Planters and Public seating
- ⑨ Drop off & Accessible Parking
- ⑩ Civic Plaza
- ⑪ Civic Green
- ⑫ Pavilion / Performance Space
- ⑬ Parking (101 Reg. + 19 Acc.)
- ⑭ Bill Wigle Park Gateway
- ⑮ Former High School Building
- ⑯ Park Signage



Splash Pad



Water Feature



Colorful Planting



Civic Green



Pavilion



Raised Planters with Seating

Bill Wigle Park and Austin Toddy Jones Park are transformed into a Civic space that emphasizes gathering, events, and celebratory activities. Connections to the waterfront, downtown and Fort Malden are strengthened, and a central promenade surrounding a water feature lead to a new playscape, splashpad and washroom building. A contemporary pavilion can be used for shade, performances or exhibits. The new layout adds 10 additional parking spaces. Although the parks are joined they can remain as separate parks, Bill Wigle being more civic and Austin Toddy Jones Park being more playful.

BRIAR RIDGE PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

Briar Ridge Park has an expansive turf area with canopy trees and space for informal sport. In 2023 a new playground was installed in the park. The park is in the middle of a subdivision without sidewalks and could benefit from a shelter and some accessible pathways.

PROPOSED DESIGN

In the new master plan, community interaction opportunities are created through picnic tables, chess tables and a shelter. An area is designated for informal soccer without disturbing the existing trees. Pathway accesses are provided from east, north and south for easy connectivity with the neighbourhood. Pollinator meadows and native trees add to the ecological value of the park.



Briar Ridge Park
Existing Conditions 2024

EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING

Chain Link Fencing - Defines property boundaries; owned by the Town.

PARKING LOT - N/A

PARK AMENITIES

(1)-Garbage - Provided.

(4)-Benches - Provided.

(3)-Picnic Tables - Provided.

PLAYGROUND



Rubber Surface Playground - New Equipment and Rubber Surface. Barrier-free access provided.

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS- N/A

STRUCTURES - N/A

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE



Pathway - Barrier-free concrete path from Briar Ridge Ave to playground provided.
Park Signage & Safety Signage - Provided.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE - N/A

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

BRIAR RIDGE PARK: JULY 2024



BRIAR RIDGE PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

April 2025



Legend

- ① Park Signage
- ② Existing Accessible Play Area
- ③ Picnic Tables
- ④ Accessible Picnic Tables
- ⑤ Chess Tables
- ⑥ Shelter
- ⑦ 3M Wide Asphalt Pathway
- ⑧ Seating
- ⑨ Pollinator Meadow
- ⑩ Soccer Field (61mx42m)
- ⑪ Connections to Existing Neighborhood
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees



Soccer Field



Seating



Chess Tables



Picnic Tables



Precedent View of Briar Ridge Park

Briar Ridge park has an existing playground incorporated into the proposed design. Community interaction opportunities are created through picnic tables, chess tables and a shelter. An area is designated for informal soccer without disturbing the existing trees. Pathway accesses are provided from east, north and south for easy connectivity with the neighborhood. Pollinator meadows and native trees add to the ecological value of the park.

(Soccer Field will not be lined.
TArea for pick-up recreational
play only)

CANARD ESTATE WETLAND & TRAIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD/ NATURALIZED AREAS

The park was originally designed to be a storm retention area due to flooding that was occurring within the subdivision. After Phase 1 was built the storm system did not work as designed due to the more frequent storm events occurring. The Developer approached council to have the park converted to an upgraded storm retention area to resolve flooding with a passive parkland component. The design was approved in 2023 by council and completed accordingly. Residents in the area are encouraged to use Co-An park for any sport related recreational needs and/or access to a playground. As part of the planning for this development it was encouraged that a connection trail through CWATS be a priority to create a multi-use trail that links this subdivision to Co-An Park. The finished storm pond has a multi-use trail for passive use and naturalized areas with interpretive signs for wildlife in the areas. The park is designed as a passive public space.



EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING

Chain Link Fencing - Defines property boundaries; owned by the Town.

PARKING LOT - N/A

PARK AMENITIES - N/A

(4)-Benches - Provided around trail.

(1) - Garbage - Provided at Garnet Crest. entrance.

PLAYGROUND - N/A

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS- N/A

STRUCTURES - N/A

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE



Asphalt Trail - New – Good Condition.

Park Signage & Safety Signage - Provided at entrances.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE - N/A

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

Garbage at Aalbers Crescent Entrance



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

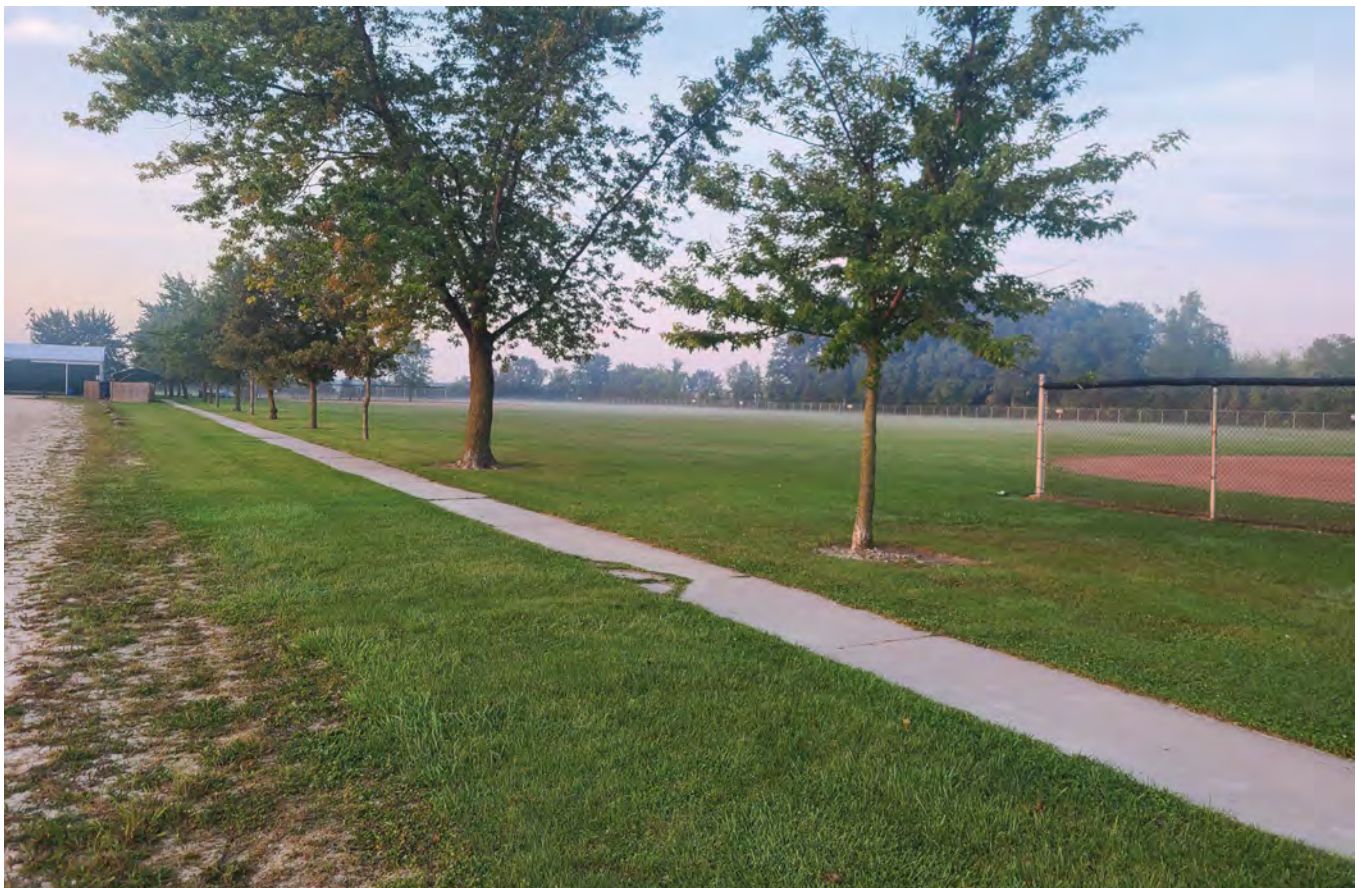
CANARD ESTATES: JULY 2024



CO-AN PARK

REGIONAL/SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK


Co-An Park is jointly owned by the Town of Essex and the Town of Amherstburg but is operated by the Co-An Park board which is comprised of council and residents from both municipalities. The Co-An park board runs and programs the park and has been primarily responsible for decision making for capital investments up to now. Both municipalities are collaborating on the re-development process. The park resides in the Town of Essex and is classified as an athletic park. The park has existing ball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts and a playground. Amenities like Picnic Tables, washrooms, pavilion, canteen and benches are provided in the park.




EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

NOTE: This report is limited to that directly support park amenities. Buildings serving other functions, such as the concession and associated infrastructure, have been excluded from the assessment.

FENCING

-  Baseball Diamonds — *(image 5)* Fencing shows signs of wear.

PARKING LOT

-  Gravel Parking - Additional maintenance is required to bring this asset in good condition.





PARK AMENITIES

- Garbage / Recycling- Provided throughout the park.
- Benches - Provided throughout the park.
- Picnic Tables - Provided.
- Bike Racks - Provided.



PLAYGROUND

-  All Playground Equipment: *(Image 4)* Replaced in 2025. Good condition.

SPORTS

-  Tennis / Pickleball Court - *Age of courts unknown. Good Condition* — *Surrounding fencing shows signs of wear in some locations.*
- (6)-Baseball Diamonds
-  Spectator Bleachers — Mix of metal bleachers good condition. Wood spectator bleachers show signs of wear. Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
-  Team Benches - Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair. Infield Mix — Baseball Diamonds -Overall condition is good and well maintained.
- 

STRUCTURES

-  Support - Concession and storage were not accessible at the time of inspection. The operational status and the extent of amenities provided within the building remain unknown.
-  Washrooms - *(Image 2)* Inaccessible at the time of inspection. The operational status and the extent of amenities provided within the building remain unknown.

STRUCTURES CONTINUED

- ⚠ Pavilion - *(Image 3)* The age of the pavilion is unknown. It appears well-maintained, though signs of wear are evident due to its age.

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

- ✔ Concrete Pathways - Good condition
- ✔ Granular Pathways - Good Condition. Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.
- ⚠ Park Signage— *(image 1)* Age of signage unknown. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair
- Safety Signage - Provided throughout the park.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

- ✔ Lighting - Light poles and flood lights provided throughout park.
- ⚠ Storage Lockers— *(image 6)* Shows signs of wear to doors.



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE



5 IMAGE



6 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

CO-AN PARK 2024



CO-AN PARK

SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK



AMHERSTBURG
EST. 1796

GOLFVIEW PARK WETLANDS & TRAILS

NEIGHBOURHOOD/ NATURALIZED AREAS

This 19.6-hectare leisure park has a playground with woodchips and benches a naturalized area with some informal grass and dirt trails. In 2023 and 2024 the park was expanded to include 2 wetland areas that were formerly sewage treatment lagoons. The lagoons were remediated and converted into wetland and naturalized habitat for wildlife in the area. There is a 10' wide multi use trail the public can access that circles the perimeter of both former lagoons.





EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

GOLFVIEW PARK WETLANDS & TRAILS: JULY 2024



EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING - N/A

PARKING LOT

- ⚠ Gravel Parking - (image 1) Located at Linwood Drive. Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.

PARK AMENITIES

- (2)-Garbage - Provided at playground & Trail Entrance
- (1)-Benches - Provided at playground.
- (2)-Picnic Tables - Provided at playground.
- (1) - Bike Racks - Provided at playground.

PLAYGROUND

- ⚠ Playground Surface - Woodchip surface in good condition.
- ✅ Playground - (image 5) Equipment age unknown. Small areas on equipment are showing minimal signs of wear.

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS- N/A

STRUCTURES - N/A

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

- ⚠ Naturalized Cut Grass Trail - (Images 2 & 3) Not intended for all user groups. Regular maintenance is required to maintain asset in good repair.
- ✅ Granular Trail - Gravel pathway is in good condition.
- Park Signage & Safety Signage - Provided and well distributed.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE - N/A

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

Pathway Continuity

Benches along Granular Trail



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE



5 IMAGE

GOLFVIEW PARK WETLANDS AND TRAILS

NEIGHBOURHOOD/NATURALIZED AREA



AMHERSTBURG

EST. 1796

H. MURRAY SMITH CENTENNIAL PARK

COMMUNITY PARK



This land originally comprised part of the Bell Farm that was acquired by the Town in 1933. In 1977, the park name was officially changed to H. Murray Smith Centennial Park. Smith served as Mayor from 1965-1978, during which he was instrumental in the construction of the Community Centre Arena and development of the park. The park resides in the heart of Amherstburg and was a former sport Athletic Park. In 2018 half of the park was sold to Essex County District School Board for the construction of a new High School. The remaining 4.9 hectares underwent an extensive re-development process where 5 conceptual designs were developed. Council approved two concepts, one with a track and one without. Fundraising efforts were undertaken to see if the community could raise enough money to implement the track. The final plan was approved without the track as the fundraising did not move forward.



EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING - N/A

PARKING LOT





-  Gravel Parking - *(image 1)* Located at Victoria St. Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.
-  (43+ 0 BF)-Parking Spaces Richmond St -In several areas asphalt parking shows wear. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.

PARK AMENITIES


(1)-Garbage - Provided.

PLAYGROUND - N/A

SPORTS



-  Track— *(image 5)* The existing track has been decommissioned. Removal of the track required.
-  Steeplechase - *(image 6)* Removal required.
-  Toboggan Hill — Russell Renaud Hill – Even surface – good.
- 

STRUCTURES


-  Storage Building - *(image 1)* Asphalt shingle roof in poor condition. *(image 2)* Exterior walls are painted. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

-  Sidewalk -*(image 5)* Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.
-  Park Signage & Safety Signage - Recommended.
Signage Hill - Provided. Russell Renaud Hill Wood Signage *(image 3)*.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

-  Site Lighting - Unknown to be operational. Further investigation recommended.

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

Picnic |

Benches



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE



5 IMAGE



6 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

H. MURRAY SMITH - CENTENNIAL PARK: JULY 2024



H. MURRAY SMITH CENTENNIAL PARK

COMMUNITY PARK



Plan provided by Town of Amherstburg



AMHERSTBURG
EST. 1796

JACK PURDIE PARK

COMMUNITY PARK

This Park was named 'John' (Jack) Purdie Park in 1992. Jack Purdie served on Town Council for 8 years, was recognized for his devotion to many minor sports teams and fought with the Essex Kent Scottish Regiment in WWII. This park is classified as a 4.5-hectare community park located within the Monopoly subdivision in the heart of Amherstburg.

The park underwent an extensive public consultation at the same time as H. Murray Smith Centennial Park. Several designs were developed, and Council approved a Master Plan for the park in 2022. In 2023 a new accessible playground was installed as phase 1 of a multi-year phased project. This is one of the few parks with a Council-adopted master plan. In 2025 a new accessible trail was installed as phase 2 of the multi-year phased project.



EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING

Fencing - Defines property boundaries; owned by the Town.

PARKING LOT

- ! Parking: Vermont Drive-(*image 2*) Evidence of water retention and surface pooling was observed during the inspection. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.

PARK AMENITIES

- (1) - Seasonal Portable Washroom – Provided.
- (2) - Garbage - Provided at playground.
- (3) - Benches - Provided at rubber surface playground.
- (4) - Picnic Tables – Provided around playgrounds.
- (1) - Bike Racks - Provided at rubber surface playground.

PLAYGROUND

- ✓ Rubber Surface Playground -(*image 5*) New equipment and rubber surface.
- ! Woodchip Playground — (*image 4*) Areas on equipment are showing signs of wear. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS- N/A

STRUCTURES - N/A

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

- ✗ Asphalt Trail - (*Image 1*) Shows signs of wear. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
- ! Park Signage & Safety Signage - (*image 3*) Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair

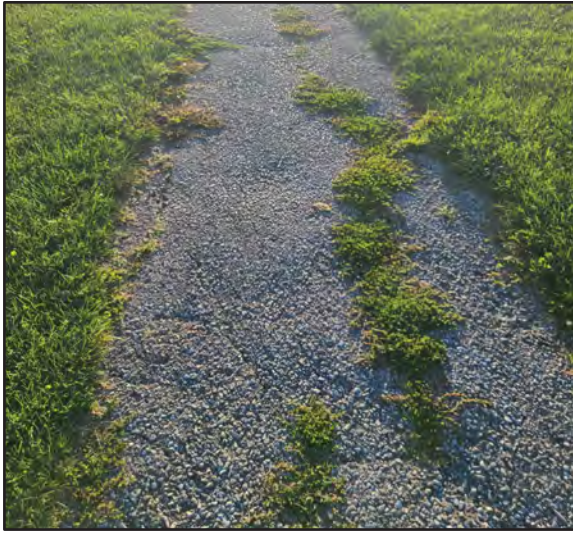
PARK INFRASTRUCTURE - N/A

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

Barrier-Free Parking

Benches along Asphalt Trail

Path Continuity



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE



5 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

JACK PURDIE PARK: JULY 2024



JACK PURDIE PARK

COMMUNITY PARK



Plan provided by the Town of Amherstburg

K. WALTER RANTA MEMORIAL PARK

REGIONAL/SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

This 5.2-hectare leisure park occupies land formerly owned by Walter Ranta, who was the owner of Ranta Enterprises. This park is in the Edgewater Beach neighbourhood, where the mouth of the Canard River meets the Detroit River. The park is adjacent to a privately-owned marina. It includes a nautical themed playground, off street parking and vast open space to the water's edge. Council has directed Administration to investigate the cost to install a public boat ramp.

PROPOSED DESIGN

The K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park is revitalized with a public boat/kayak launch and trailer parking, restored historic and new playgrounds, washroom and shade structures. The waterfront becomes a playful beach experience with a splash pad, beach volleyball and sandy "beach" zones with umbrellas and loungers connected by a flowing path representing the confluence of rivers.



K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park Master Plan - Conceptual Illustration
FORREC Rendering - AI and Photoshop

EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING - N/A

PARKING LOT

- ! GRAVEL PARKING - (image 1) Evidence of water retention and surface pooling was observed during the inspection. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.

PARK AMENITIES

- (1)-Garbage - Provided at playground.
- (1)-Picnic Table - Provided at playground.

PLAYGROUND

- ✓ Playground - (image 4) Small areas on equipment are showing signs of wear.
- ✓ Playground Surface - Woodchip surface in good condition.

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS- N/A

STRUCTURES - N/A

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

- ! PATHWAY TO PLAYGROUND - (image 2) Gravel pathway from parking lot shows sign of wear. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.

PARK SIGNAGE AND SAFETY SIGNAGE - Provided.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE - N/A

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

Pathway Continuity

Benches

Barrier-Free Parking

Water Access - (image 3)



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

K. WALTER RANTA MEMORIAL PARK: JULY 2024



K. WALTER RANTA MEMORIAL PARK

SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

April 2025



Legend

- ① Proposed Parking 75 spot
- ② Shade Structure
- ③ Beach Volleyball
- ④ Recreational Play space
- ⑤ Beach pods
- ⑥ Pathway
- ⑦ Boat and Kayak Launch
- ⑧ New Playground
- ⑨ Accessible Kayak Launch
- ⑩ Disc Golf
- ⑪ Boardwalk
- ⑫ Park Signage
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees



Splash Pad



Beach Volleyball



Shade Structure



Beach Pods – Sandy lounge areas at the park level with lounge chairs and umbrellas.

The K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park is revitalized with a public boat/kayak launch and trailer parking, restored historic and new playgrounds, washroom and shade structures. The waterfront becomes a playful beach experience with a splash pad, beach volleyball and sandy “beach” zones with umbrellas and loungers connected by a flowing path representing the confluence of rivers.



Precedent View of K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park

KING'S NAVY YARD PARK

REGIONAL/SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

Known for its award-winning gardens, King's Navy Yard Park is a 10.5-acre park located on the waterfront in Amherstburg and mirrors the Navy Yard from 1796. The park was the site of the construction of several Provincial War Ships that fought in the War of 1812. Significant watercrafts built include: the Camden, General Hope, General Hunter, Francis, Maria, Queen Charlotte, Lady Prevost, Detroit, Eliza and the General Myers. The park's riverfront property was also used for rope making which, at times, required sailors to span the entire Town while stretching and producing the rope.

Uniquely, the park boasts four historical buildings, each of which reminds visitors of battles won (and lost) to save our country. One remarkable structure is the Commissariat which is the staging post for Ontario's largest Provincial Marine Re-enactment group. It was once the place where soldiers picked up stipends for their services.

Amenities include landscaped gardens, approx. 1,025m waterfront trail, seating areas, cenotaph, fountain, historic monuments, a gazebo, public washrooms, a small fishing area, benches and bike rack. A River Lights display is arranged during the Holiday season.



EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

NOTE: This report is limited to that directly support park amenities. Buildings serving other functions, or with historical value such as the Park House Museum, Commissariat, Gordon House and associated infrastructure, have been excluded from the assessment.

FENCING

- ✔ Fencing - Metal guardrail in good condition, providing a boundary along the water.

PARKING LOT

- ✔ (9 + 1Bf + 1Staff) Parking Lot- Provided off of Dalhousie St – Brick Paving – Good Condition.

PARK AMENITIES

- Garbage / Recycling- Provided throughout the park.
- (57) Benches - Provided throughout the park.
- Picnic Tables – Provided at existing water fountain.
- (3)-Bike Racks - Provided.

PLAYGROUND - N/A

SPORTS- N/A

STRUCTURES

- ⚠ Gazebo - The age of the pavilion is unknown. Appears well-maintained, though signs of wear are evident due to its age. (image 1) The stone veneer wall exhibits the need for repairs to prevent further deterioration. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair
- ✔ Washroom / Maintenance Office: (image 2) Womans washroom includes 1 barrier-free stall, 2 typical washroom stalls, and one lavatory all operational. Mens washroom was inaccessible at the time of inspection.
- ✔ (2)-Wood Trellis: Framing replaced. Well maintenance.

PUBLIC ART / STATUES

- Informational Placards - Historical informational signage provided.
- Chess Table - Provided by the Rotary Club.
- Clock Tower - Provided.
- Memorial Rocks - Provided.
- Anchors - Provided.
- Historical Monuments - Provided near Park House Museum.
- Cannons - 2 Located outside of Commissariat.
- Cannons - 2 Located in plaza at historical monument.

PUBLIC ART / STATUES CONTINUED

- Cannons - 4 Located around the park.
- Fountain - Dedication – water fountain.

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

- ⚠ Brick Pathways - (image 3) Evidence of wear. (image 4) Obstructions along brick pathway to Commissariat.
- ✅ Sidewalk - Park is accessible to adjacent sidewalks.
- ⚠ Brick Pathways to Gazebo - Brick pathway does not connect.
- ⚠ Barrier-Free Ramp - Tactile indicators not provided.
- Water safety signage - Provided.
- Safety Signage - Provided.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

- ✅ Lighting - Light poles and flood lights provided throughout park.
- ✅ Barrier-Free Fishing Area - Provided at north of site.
- ❌ Fishing Area— (image 5) The railings show signs of wear. Additional maintenance and remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE



5 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

KINGS NAVY YARD (DUFFY'S): JULY 2024



KING'S NAVY YARD PARK

SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK



Plan provided by Town of Amherstburg



AMHERSTBURG
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KINGSBRIDGE NATURALIZED AREA

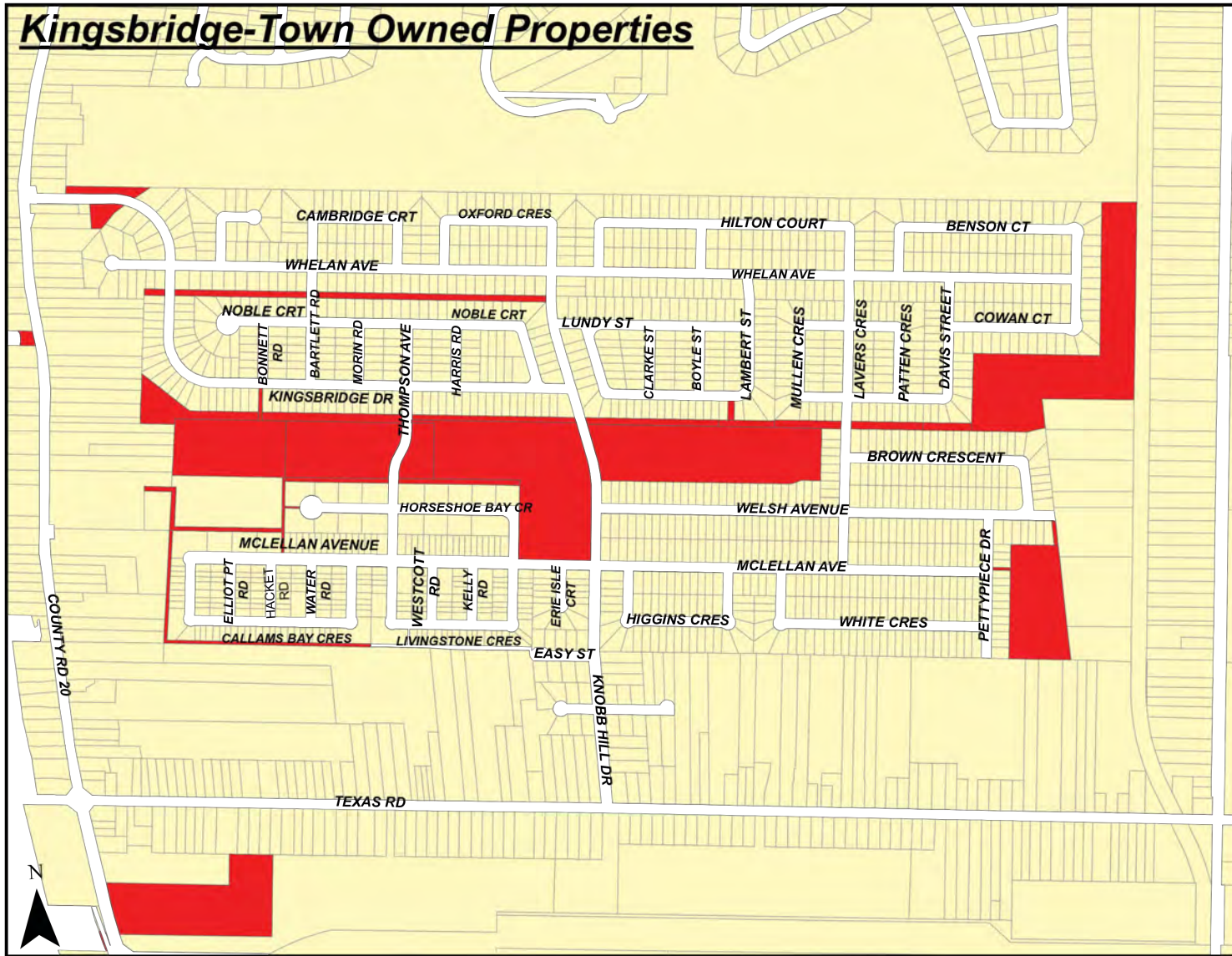
NATURALIZED AREA

The Town acquired 27.7 hectares of naturalized areas in 2023 as part of a subdivision development agreement. The naturalized areas are protected lands with species at risk that remain untouched. These areas have been specially developed with species at risk in mind and are home to a variety of endangered and rare species. The lands are under order through the Ministry Of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) as no mow zones that are protected.



KINGSBRIDGE NATURALIZED AREA

NATURALIZED AREA



AMHERSTBURG

EST. 1796

EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

NOTE: The Kingsbridge Naturalized Area is planned for future development. Proposed enhancements include walking trails that will connect to Pat Thrasher Park, creating an integrated pathway system and improving accessibility to surrounding neighbourhoods. This report focuses on existing conditions and does not include detailed assessments of proposed developments within the Kingsbridge Naturalized Area.

FENCING – N/A

PARKING LOT – N/A

PARK AMENITIES – N/A

PLAYGROUND – N/A

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS- N/A

STRUCTURES – N/A

PUBLIC ART / STATUES – N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

PARKS SIGNAGE & SAFETY SIGNAGE - (*image 1 & 2*) No Trespassing signs are provided at corridors through the naturalized area.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE – N/A

LARRY BAUER PARK

REGIONAL/SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

This 60.7 hectare property was purchased in 2003 and the soccer park named in memory of Larry Bauer who passed in 1994. The park was designed to be the Town's premier athletic park dedicated to sports excellence. A preliminary master plan was developed for the property more than 5 years ago but was never formally adopted by Council. Since that time the northeast quadrant of the site has been approved to be the home of Amherstburg's new Fire station. The northwest quadrant houses a new skatepark with plans for further bike/skate amenities including a pump track. BMX trails and pathways were constructed from 2023 to 2025 by a local riding club Windsor Essex Bike Community (WEBC) that operates the trails through a unique joint use agreement. The park has a large assortment of various sized soccer fields, a premier artificial turf baseball diamond, Miracle League diamond, accessible playground, artificial turf football/soccer field, two rinks with a small goalie rink, and a dog park at the far south end of the property. In 2022 a grant was secured to develop a 3km recreational trail that frames the perimeter of the site. In 2023, Council approved the installation of pickleball courts on the property. Extensive public consultation took place when developing the proposed plans for this park. In 2023, the Skate park was relocated to the property and in 2024 8 dedicated pickleball courts were approved with construction finalized in 2025. The park is often referenced as the Libro Centre or Libro Credit Union Recreation Complex. These terms may be interchanged.

PROPOSED DESIGN

The thoughtfully re-imagined landscape masterplan enhances the facility's role as a regional destination by expanding its functional programming. The park is a comprehensive multi-use recreational facility that integrates inclusive design, sustainable infrastructure, and diverse amenities. The design accommodates large community gatherings and events with flexible open spaces and infrastructure to support cultural and recreational programming.



Larry Bauer Park
Existing Conditions 2024

EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

NOTE: This report is limited to facilities that directly support park amenities. Buildings serving other functions, such as the Libro Credit Union Recreation Complex and associated infrastructure, have been excluded from the assessment.

FENCING

- ✔ Dog Park Fencing- Chain Link Fence Mesh & Posts- Good condition.

PARKING LOT

- ! Gravel parking - Unmarked granular parking. These locations include the dog park, parking lots located off of Pike Road, Strba Lane, and Bruno Casanova Way. Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.
- ✔ Asphalt parking - Good condition. Located off of Bruno Casanova Way; located around Larry Bauer Park / Libro Credit Union Recreation Complex building, Miracle league, artificial turf football / soccer field.

PARK AMENITIES

(3) - Portable Washrooms – Provided.

Garbages - Provided.

Benches - Trail benches provided every 200 meters along Larry Bauer Park trail.

Picnic Tables - Located at near playground / baseball diamonds.

(1)- Bike Rack – Provided near playground / baseball diamonds.

PLAYGROUND



- ✔ Barrier-Free Playground - New playground, barrier-free access provided.
- ! Playground Surface - (image 2) The black rubber tile surface exhibits signs of wear, including color fading in some areas. Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.

SPORTS



- ✔ (20 Mixed Use) Larry Bauer Soccer Fields —Good Condition. Some goal posts and team benches show minimal signs of wear. Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.
- ✔ Football Field — Good Condition.
- ✔ Infield Mix — Baseball Diamonds –Overall condition is good and well maintained.
- ✔ Miracle Baseball Diamond – Good condition.

SPORTS CONTINUED

Premier Baseball Diamond:

-  (1)- Spectator Bleachers — *(image 3)* Located at Premier Baseball Diamond. The block wall obstructs users with mobility aids, such as wheelchairs, from spectating effectively. Additionally, the bottom seats of the bleachers are unable to see past the wall. Provide additional / or alternative seating options to allow for additional spectators to have unobstructed views.
-  Dugout Roof Framing - *(image 4)* Metal deck roof good condition. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair




STRUCTURES

-  Washrooms / Support Facilities- *(image 1)* Signage required for men's washroom. Building exterior, washroom fixtures operational and in good condition.
Miracle League Storage Building / Score Keepers - The operational status and the extent of amenities provided within the building remain unknown. Exterior good condition.
-  Premier Diamond Dugout Storage and Score Keepers Building - The operational status and the extent of amenities provided within the buildings remain unknown. Exterior good condition.




PUBLIC ART / STATUES

Informational Placards - Located along the Larry Bauer Park trail –Wildlife informational signage provided.
Dedication Statue - Larry Bauer Park Soccer Complex

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

-  Larry Bauer Park Trails - Granular Pathway New condition.
-  Pathway to Baseball Diamonds - Concrete pathway provided. Overall condition good. Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.
-  Asphalt Pathway - Provided along Meloche Rd. Good condition.
Park signage - Provided.
Safety Signage and park rules and regulations - Provided.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

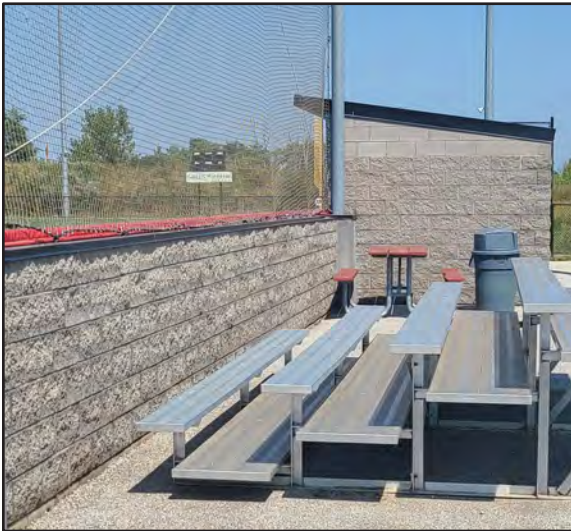
-  Dog Park - Large and Small dog areas enclosed by chain link fence. New condition.
WEBC Bike Trail - Not assessed as maintained by the WEBC.
-  Skate Park - New condition. – No direct access from adjacent sidewalk.
-  Lighting - Light poles and flood lights, new condition.



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

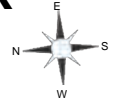
LIBRO CENTRE COMPLEX: JULY 2024



LIBRO CREDIT UNION RECREATION COMPLEX

SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK (INCLUDES NATURAL AREAS)

April 2025



Legend

- ① Skate Park, Pump Track & Bike Skills
- ② Fire Hall
- ③ Existing Soccer Field
- ④ Asphalt Parking
- ⑤ Libro Trail
- ⑥ Storm Water
- ⑦ Proposed Sledding Hill
- ⑧ WEBC Bike Trails (Phase 1)
- ⑨ Premier Diamond
- ⑩ Miracle League
- ⑪ Future Gymnasium
- ⑫ Proposed Relocation Of Artificial Turf (Football/ Soccer Field)
- ⑬ Libro Centre expanded Building Footprint
- ⑭ Multi-use Courts
- ⑮ Pickle Ball Courts
- ⑯ Pad for Future Shelter
- ⑰ Future Washroom
- ⑱ Future Sports Fields
- ⑲ Future Artificial Turf Lit
- ⑳ Pollinator Meadow
- ㉑ Off-leash Dog Parks
- ㉒ Washroom/ Fieldhouse
- ㉓ Gravel Parking
- ㉔ Proposed path and look out
- ㉕ Drive & Parking
- ㉖ WEBC Bike Trails (Phase 2)
- ㉗ WEBC Bike Trails (Phase 3)
- ㉘ Additional Trees
- ㉙ Future Parking
- ㉚ Accessible Playground And Proposed Spray Pad
- ㉛ Existing vehicular maintenance / access route pedestrian pathway
- ㉜ Proposed Drop Off / Lay By
- ㉝ Proposed Pavilion / Plaza
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees



The park is a comprehensive multi-use recreational facility that integrates inclusive design, sustainable infrastructure, and diverse amenities. The thoughtfully reimagined landscape masterplan enhances the facility's role as a regional destination by expanding its functional programming. The design accommodates large community gatherings and events with flexible open spaces and infrastructure to support cultural and recreational sports centre of excellence.



Precedent View of Libro credit union



Spray pad



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MALDEN CENTRE PARK


COMMUNITY PARK

Malden Centre Park is a 5.6-hectare Athletic Park located adjacent to Malden Central Public School. Two formal public consultation sessions have been held to date with comments on the orientation of the baseball fields, reinstating the playground that was removed, tennis courts and basketball court that were at end of life and removed. The Council-approved plan shows 4 upgraded turf baseball fields, one lit. New pavilion and play space provides amenities for visitors. Later versions of the plan include replacement multi-use courts, and an additional youth baseball diamond.




EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING

-  Baseball Diamond - Chain Link Fence Mesh & Posts- Signs of wear as shown at some backstop locations and surrounding fencing. Overall condition good. Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.

PARKING LOT

-  Gravel parking - Additional maintenance is required to prevent potholes and maintain this asset in good condition.






PARK AMENITIES

- Garbage - Provided.
- (1)-Benches - Provided.
- (11)-Picnic Tables - Provided.



PLAYGROUND - N/A

SPORTS

(5)-Baseball Diamonds

-  (11)-Spectator Bleachers — (image 4) Metal and wood. Significant wear is present on spectator bleachers. Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
-  Team Benches - Shows evidence of wear. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
-  (4)-Dugout Roofs - (image 5) The metal siding roof is in poor condition. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
-  Infield Mix — Overall condition is good and well maintained.
-  Sports Courts - (Image 6) No longer present.




STRUCTURES

-  Pavilion - New Pavilion.
-  Washrooms - (image 1) Woman's washroom includes 1 toilet and Lavatory. (image 2) Men's washroom includes 1 toilet, urinal and lavatory. Fixtures operable. No hot water provided. Further investigation is recommended to evaluate the necessary repairs and overall condition of the structure.


PUBLIC ART / STATUES

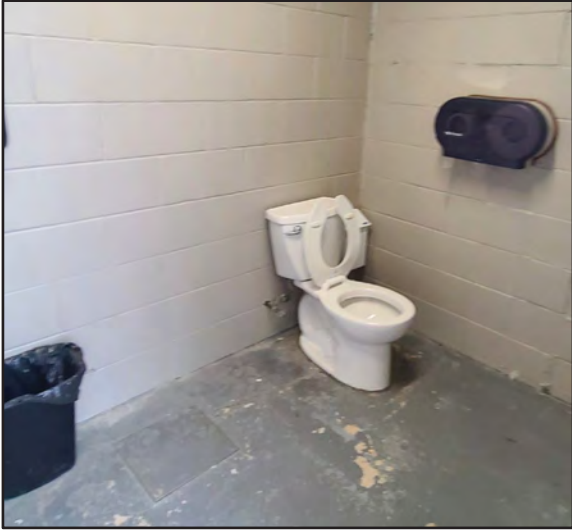
Memorial Rock - Dedication to the people of Malden Centre.

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

-  Pathway to Baseball Diamonds - Granular pathway provided. Overall condition good. Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.
Pathway to Pavilion - Granular pathway provided.
-  Asphalt Pathway - (*image 3*) Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair
-  Park signage - **Provided.**
Safety Signage and park rules and regulations - **Provided.**

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

-  Lighting - Light poles and flood lights. Further investigation and possible replacement recommended.



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE



5 IMAGE



6 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

MALDEN CENTRE PARK: JULY 2024



MALDEN CENTRE

COMMUNITY PARK



AMHERSTBURG
EST. 1796

NORTH GATEWAY PARK

REGIONAL/SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

North Gateway Park is a 0.45 hectare Civic park located at the gateway into downtown. It has the Tourism Windsor- Essex Pelee Island Visitor Information Center and is open seasonally. A Hole in the Wall photo frame provides an Instagrammable moment popular with visitors. It is an existing Park and no change is proposed in the Master Plan Update.




EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

NOTE: This report is limited to that directly support park amenities. Buildings serving other functions, such as the Tourist Information building, shipping marker, transformer station, and associated infrastructure, have been excluded from the assessment.

FENCING

Metal Iron Fence - Located at Sandwich Street North: Condition Good

PARKING LOT

-  (5+1 Barrier-Free)-Parking Spaces - *(image 3)* Asphalt parking some wear is present. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.



PARK AMENITIES

- (1)-Garbage - Provided.
- (1)-Benches - Provided under pavilion.
- (1)-Picnic Table - Provided.


PLAYGROUND - N/A

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS- N/A


STRUCTURES

-  Hole in the Wall - *(image 1)* New Photo-Op structure.
-  Pavilion - *(image 2)* Age of Pavilion unknown. Minimal signs of wear.


PUBLIC ART / STATUES

-  Informational Placards - Wildlife informational signage provided.
-  Fountain - Water Fountain

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

-  Sidewalk - Accessible. Good condition.
- Park Signage - Provided.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

-  Water Access - *(image 4)* No direct access is provided.
- Lighting - (2)-Light poles, operational.

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.
Signage



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

NORTH GATEWAY: JULY 2024



PAT THRASHER PARK

COMMUNITY PARK

Dedicated in 2013, this Park is named in the memory of Pat Thrasher, a well-loved community activist and well-known leader in the fight against Multiple Sclerosis who passed in 2001. This 3.6-hectare park has a playground with rubber surfacing, walking path, benches and trees. In 2025 a new basketball court was constructed.

PROPOSED DESIGN

The design update reflects basketball multi-purpose courts, an Ultimate Frisbee field and a splash pad. Picnic tables, game tables, and park benches are distributed throughout. A central shelter and washrooms provide shade and convenience to families. Parking is expanded and relocated for convenience. A looped granular path connects park areas, trees and pollinator meadows will enhance the landscape. The park aims to be accessible, sustainable, and a hub for all ages to enjoy.




Pat Thrasher Park
Existing Conditions 2024

EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING - N/A


PARKING LOT

-  Gravel Parking- *(image 1)* Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.

PARK AMENITIES

- (1) - Seasonal Portable Washroom - Barrier-free washroom provided.
- (1)-Garbage - Provided at playground and Trail.
- (2)-Benches - Provided at playground.
- (1) - Bike Rack - Provided at playground.

PLAYGROUND


-  Rubber Surface Playground - New Equipment and Rubber Surface. Barrier-free access provided.

SPORTS - N/A

STRUCTURES - N/A

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

-  Trail - *(image 2 & 3)* Gravel trail. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
Park Signage & Safety Signage - Provided.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

- Security Lights - Operational.

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

Picnic Tables

Barrier-free parking

Benches along trail.



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



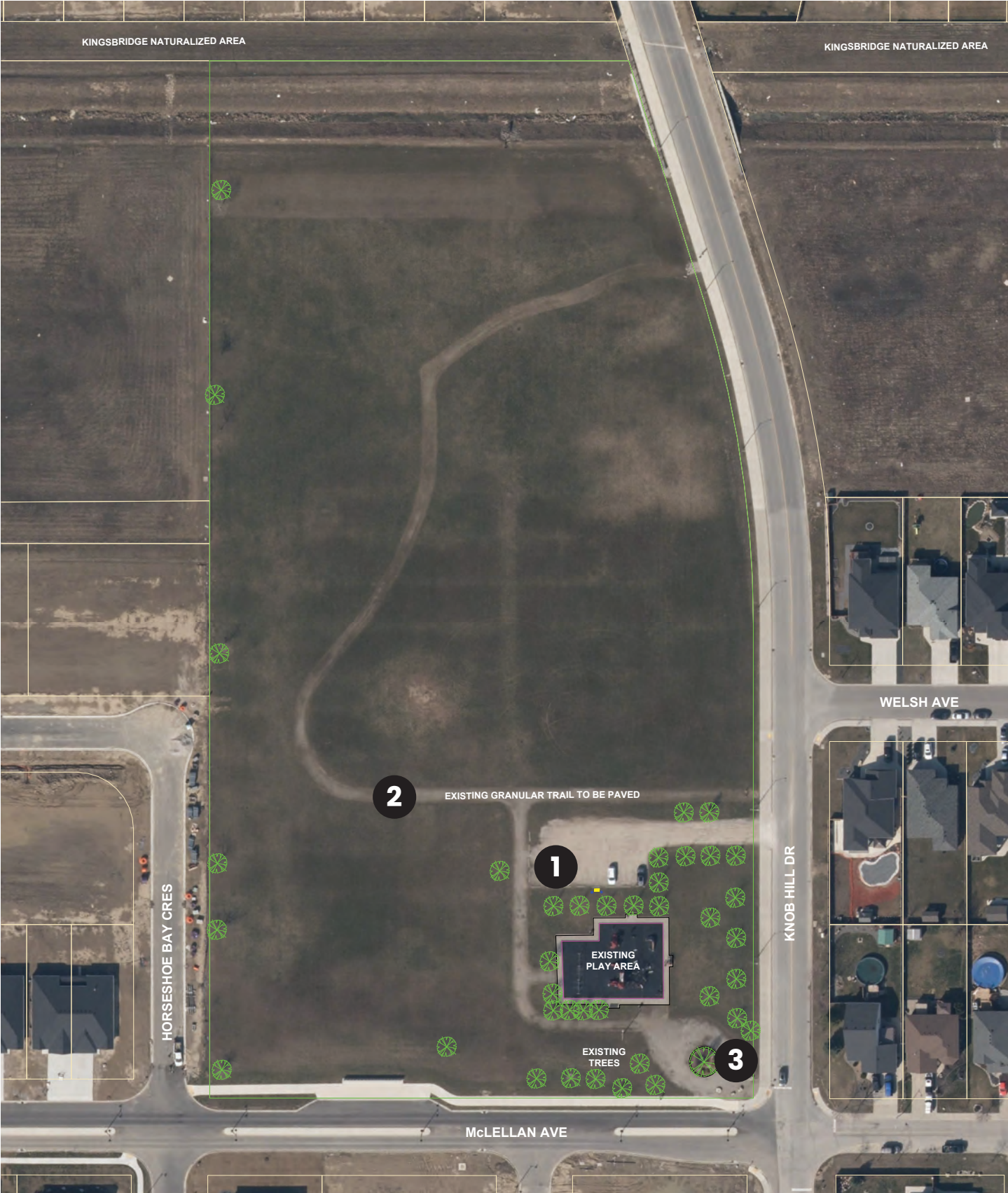
3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

PAT THRASHER PARK: JULY 2024



PAT THRASHER PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD/SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

April 2025



Legend

- ① Pollinator Meadows
- ② Ultimate Frisbee field/Cricke
- ③ Pathway
- ④ Multi-Purpose Courts
- ⑤ Games Tables
- ⑥ Picnic Table
- ⑦ Park Signage
- ⑧ Basketball Court
- ⑨ Existing Playground
- ⑩ Shelter
- ⑪ Washroom
- ⑫ Parking (21 Reg. + 1 Acc.)
- ⑬ Splash Pad
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees



Splash Pad



Pollinator meadow



Game Tables- Chess



Proposed Play courts
Basketball and Multi Use



Ultimate Frisbee

The design update reflects basketball multi-purpose courts, an Ultimate Frisbee field, a splash pad, and an off-leash dog park. Picnic tables, game tables, and park benches are distributed throughout. A central shelter and washrooms provide shade and convenience to families. Parking is expanded and relocated for convenience. A looped granular path connects park areas, trees and pollinator meadows will enhance the landscape. The park aims to be accessible, sustainable, and a hub for all ages to enjoy.



Precedent View of Pat Thrasher Park



AMHERSTBURG
EST. 1796



AMHERSTBURG WATERFRONT FESTIVAL PLAZA

REGIONAL/SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

The former 'Duffy's site' now identified in the Parks Master Plan as Amherstburg Waterfront Festival Plaza was first purchased by the Town in 2016. A Class Environmental Assessment was carried out in 2018 in accordance with the Municipal Engineers Associations Municipal Class Environmental Assessment inclusive of public consultation which resulted in a preferred design solution presented in the Parks Master Plan with the following elements:

- ③ A significant open plaza area
- ③ A performance area/amphitheatre
- ③ Shoreline improvements
- ③ Angled on-road parking along Dalhousie Street
- ③ Transient marina supporting amenities
- ③ Marina breakwater/fishing pier

Also included in the Class EA process was First Nations Consultation including an Archaeological Assessment that was carried out on July 4, 2018.

Approvals from the following agencies were required before construction could commence:

- ③ Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)
- ③ Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)
- ③ Ministry of Environment Conservation and Park (MECP)
- ③ Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Fisheries Department and Land Department) (DFO)
- ③ Transport Canada – Navigation Protection Act
- ③ First Nations (Claim to the Detroit River riverbed)

Phase 1 A, shoreline improvements were completed at the end of 2024. Phase 1B which includes site servicing, walkways, and basic landscaping will be complete by the end of 2025 that will allow the space to open as a public park. The construction of the remainder of the park will be phased in over time in accordance with the approved design and Municipal EA of 2018 as per Council direction.

AMHERSTBURG RIVERFRONT FESTIVAL PLAZA AND MARINA
 CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



RIVER CANARD PARK

REGIONAL/SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

River Canard park is a 3.79 hectare athletic park that is shared between the Town of Amherstburg and the Town of LaSalle. The park borders River Canard with access to the water via River Canard a public boardwalk with fishing pier and kayak launch. Sport facilities include a basketball court and baseball diamonds. The park is owned by both municipalities but is maintained by the Town of LaSalle through an agreement that dates back to late 1970's. The park is primarily programmed for baseball through the Town of LaSalle Turtle club. Future changes to the park will be undertaken with consultation with the Town of LaSalle and the public as stated in recommendation 6.1.



EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING

- ⚠️ Baseball Diamond - Chain Link Fence Mesh & Posts- *(Image 11)* Signs of wear is shown at backstop and surrounding fencing. Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.
- ❌ Sports Courts - Chain Link Fence Mesh & Posts— *(image 16)* Exhibits wear. Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.

PARKING LOT

- ⚠️ Gravel parking - Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.

PARK AMENITIES

Seasonal Portable Washroom - Provided near kayak launch.

(3)-Garbage - Provided.

- ❌ Benches and Picnic Tables - *(image 4 & 5)* The concrete benches and picnic tables. Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.

PLAYGROUND - N/A

SPORTS - (4)-BASEBALL DIAMONDS

- ❌ Spectator Bleachers — *(image 7)* Significant wear is present. Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
- ❌ Team Benches - *(image 8)* Significant wear is present at all diamonds. Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
- ⚠️ Dugout Roof - *(Image 9)* The metal siding roof is in poor condition. Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
- ❌ Infield Mix — *(image 10)* Granular at one diamond.
- ❌ Batting Cage - *(image 12)* Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.

SPORTS COURTS

- ❌ Tennis / Pickleball Court — *(image 13)* Painted asphalt showing significant wear. Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
- Basketball Court — *(image 14)* Basketball Nets / Backboards exhibits extensive wear.
- ❌ Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.
- ❌ Access to Basketball Court — *(image 15)* Concrete curb - removal suggested.

STRUCTURES

- ⚠️ Washroom / Facility Building— *(Image 1)* The facility does not meet barrier-free accessibility requirements for washroom access. *(Image 2)* Asphalt shingle roof was observed to show visible wear noted at the fascia. Further investigation is recommended to evaluate the necessary repairs and overall condition of the structure.

- ! Observational Lookout - New lookout. It is recommended a trash receptacle is placed nearby the lookout.
- ✓ Kayak Launch - New boardwalk and deck.

PUBLIC ART / STATUES

Informational Placards - Wildlife informational signage provided.
Memorial Rock - Dedication to Holden Jacob Kisch.

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

- ! Walking Trail - (image 6) Naturalized pathway from parking lot.
- ! Pathway - to Kayak Launch - Maintenance is required.
- ! Park signage - (image 3) Signage & wood posts. Suggest updating.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

- ! Boat Ramp - (image 17) The gravel ramp is showing signs of wear. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair
- Security Light - Operational. Located at boat ramp.

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

Path Continuity



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE



5 IMAGE



6 IMAGE



7 IMAGE



8 IMAGE



9 IMAGE



10 IMAGE



11 IMAGE



12 IMAGE



13 IMAGE



14 IMAGE



15 IMAGE



16 IMAGE



IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

RIVER CANARD: JULY 2024



SCODELLER PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

This 0.89 - hectare leisure park is named after Louis Scodeller and influential local figure who founded Pointe west Golf Club in 1989. This park was dedicated to the children on June 25, 1994. This park has an older playground with sand base and a pavilion. In, 2025 a dense row of mature evergreen and deciduous trees were removed under the drainage act by-law, which restricts trees within 30M of a municipal drain. An easement in the park is required for future development to prevent mass elimination of trees along this side of the park.

PROPOSED DESIGN

Respecting the existing topography and preserving mature trees where possible, the design introduces an accessible parking area and a walking trail weaving through the park. A defined playground supports active play and improves spatial organization. New trees provide shade and soften the visual impact of parking. Pollinator plantings at key points enhance biodiversity and seasonal interest. Seating is placed along the trail and near the playground for visitor comfort.




Scodeller Park
Existing Conditions 2024

EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING - N/A



PARKING LOT

-  Barrier-Free parking – Not provided.
Gravel Parking - Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.

PARK AMENITIES



- (1)-Garbage - Provided.
- (1)-Bench - Provided.
- (1)-Picnic Tables – Provided.

PLAYGROUND

-  Playground Equipment: In poor condition with heavy signs of wear. (Image 6) .
-  Playground Sand Surface - Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS - N/A

STRUCTURES

-  Boarded-up Structure - (image 1 & 2) Further investigation is recommended to evaluate overall condition of the structure.
-  Pavilion -(image 4) Roof sheathing and wood columns as shown, shows signs of wear. (image 5) Brick paving stones at columns. Remedial work would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.

PUBLIC ART / STATUES -

Dedication rock - Provided to the children of Anderdon Township.

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

Park Signage & Safety Signage - Provided.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE - N/A

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

Pathway Continuity – (image 3)



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE



5 IMAGE



6 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

SCODELLER PARK: JULY 2024



SCODELLER PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

April 2025



Legend

- ① Park Entrances
(5 Reg. + 2 Acc.)
- ② Proposed new accessible
Playground
- ③ Granular Trail
- ④ Benches
- ⑤ Pollinator Meadow
- ⑥ New shelter needed
- ⑦ 30m Easement Setback
- ⑧ Sledding Hill
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees



Benches



Playground



Pollinator Meadow



Granular Trail



Precedent View of
Scodeller Park

Respecting the existing topography and preserving mature trees, the design introduces an accessible parking area and a walking trail weaving through the park. A defined playground supports active play and improves spatial organization. New trees provide shade and soften the visual impact of parking. Pollinator plantings at key points enhance biodiversity and seasonal interest. Seating is placed along the trail and near the playground for visitor comfort.



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SOUTH GATEWAY PARK

REGIONAL/SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

South Gateway Park is an existing 0.85 hectare park with some benches under pavilions, a short pathway and bike racks provided. The park also has an Inukshuk statue and 2 canons. There is a storm water pond in the park. No changes are proposed to this park in the Master Plan Update 2025.



EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING

- ✔ Fencing - Metal guardrail serves as a boundary separating storm water pond. Condition good.

PARKING LOT

- ! (3+0BF)-Parking Spaces - *(Image 4)* parking lot, showing early signs of wear. Remedial work is needed to restore this asset.

PARK AMENITIES

- (2)-Garbages - Provided.
- (4)-Benches - Provided under pavilion.
- (1)-Bike Rack - Provided.

PLAYGROUND - N/A

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS- N/A

STRUCTURES

- ! Trellis Canopy and columns - *(image 1)* The stone veneer wall plinth shows signs of wear. Remedial work is needed to restore this asset.
- ! Pavilion 1: Bike Rack - -Roof framing *(image 2)* is in good condition. Remedial work is needed to restore this asset.
- ! Pavilion 2: Bench - Roof Framing - *(image 3)* is in good condition. Remedial work is needed to restore this asset.

PUBLIC ART / STATUES

- ! Inukshuk - *(Image 5)*- Provided.
- ✔ (2)-Canon statues - Provided.

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

- ✔ Trail - Concrete trail good condition, accessible to adjacent sidewalks.
Park Signage, Trail & Safety Signage - Provided.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

- ✔ Storm Water Pond - Maintenance appears in good condition.
- ✔ Lighting - Good condition.

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

Picnic Table



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



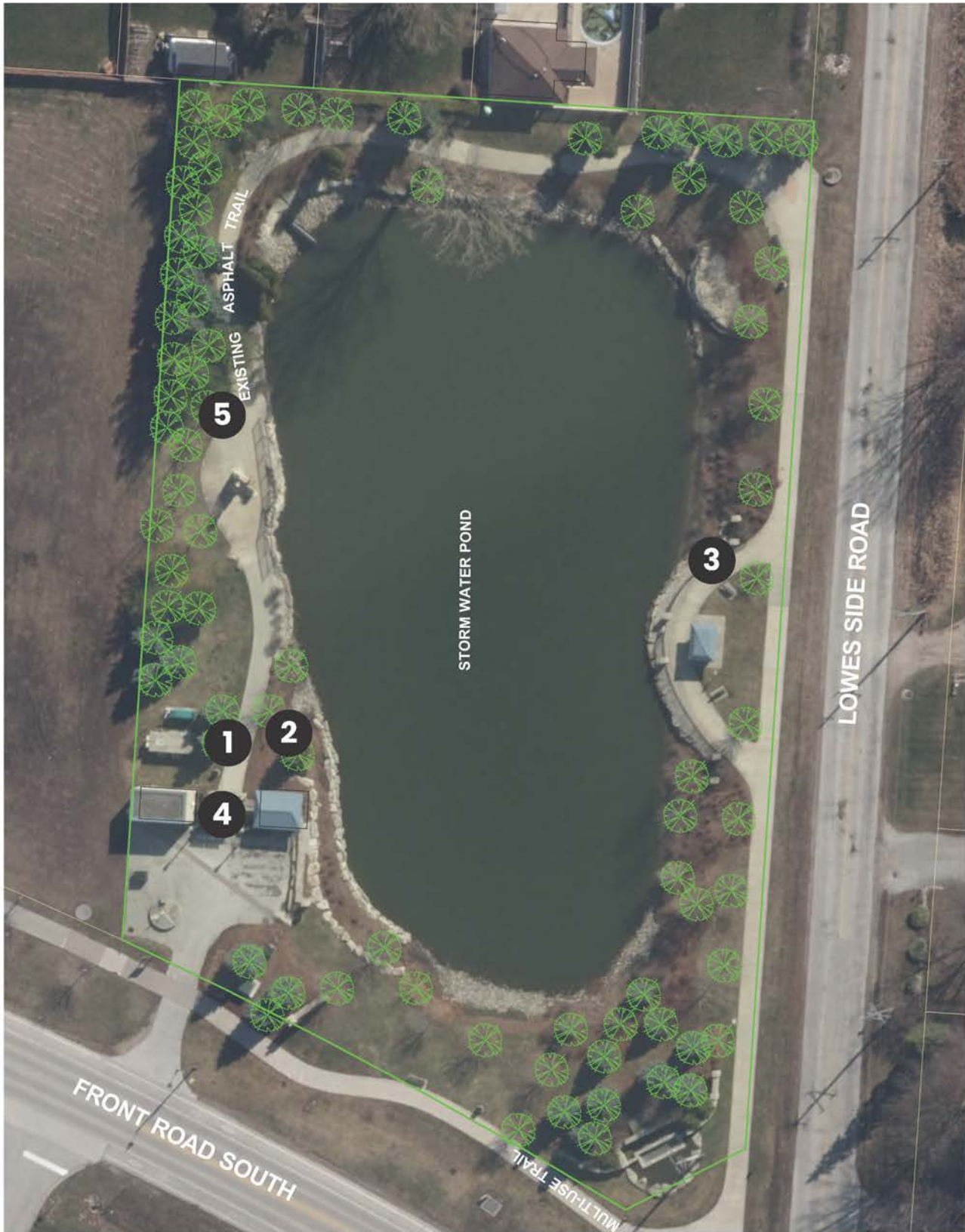
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5 IMAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

SOUTH GATEWAY: JULY 2024



SEAGRAM'S GARDEN

SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK



Plan provided by the Town of Amherstburg



AMHERSTBURG
EST. 1796

SEAGRAM'S GARDEN

SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK

Seagram's Garden is a small 0.3 hectare garden display at the west side of the Diageo property. This park consists of a short pathway and some park benches. It is an existing park and no changes are proposed in the Master Plan Update.



EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING - N/A

PARKING LOT - N/A

PARK AMENITIES

(2)-Benches - Provided at end of garden.

PLAYGROUND - N/A

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS- N/A

STRUCTURES

- ! Trellis 1: *(image 1) wood trellis shows evidence of wear. Remedial work is needed to maintain this asset.*
- Trellis 2: *(image 2) wood trellis shows evidence of wear. Remedial work is needed to maintain this asset.*
- ! Trellis 2: *(image 3) The wood columns exhibits signs of wear. Replacement would be required to bring this asset up to a state of good repair.*

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

- ! Brick Paver Pathway - *(Image 4) Shows signs of wear. Remedial work is needed to maintain this asset.*

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE - N/A

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

- Garbage
- Picnic Table**
- Pathway continuity
- Park Signage



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



3 IMAGE



4 IMAGE

WARREN MICKLE PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

This 1.62-hectare leisure park is located in Amherst Pointe along the Big Creek watershed, and is named after Warren Mickle, a well-known local nature photographer and lifetime resident, who lived and worked in the area. The park was developed as an eco-park after a grant was sought to fix drainage issues whereby rising water levels cause portions of the park to flood. This park abuts the Big Creek watershed making it home to many rare species of birds, flora and fauna, some not found anywhere else in Canada. Public survey and an open house were conducted during this process at which point a preliminary master plan was developed for the park. In 2023 a new playground was installed with benches, bike rack, trees and walking path connecting the park to the surrounding houses. The park is home to 70 assorted native trees which were planted by volunteers in 2024 along the North side of the property.

PROPOSED DESIGN


An accessible playground sits in the middle of the park surrounded by green space. Parking is provided at the entrance plaza for easy access. A loop of granular trails will connect all neighbourhood entry points and define the park's spaces. The park will include a forest trail area, a pollinator meadow, and lookout decks with a central tower to offer stunning views. These zones will highlight the natural beauty of the site and enhance visitor experiences.



Warren Mickle Park - Boardwalk and Viewing Tower
FORREC Rendering - AI and Photoshop

EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

FENCING

-  Fencing - Defines property boundaries.
Fencing - Chain-link fence serves as a boundary separating adjacent marsh. Condition good.


PARKING LOT

-  Gravel Parking - *(image 1)* Located at McLeod Ave. Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.

PARK AMENITIES

- (1)-Garbage - Provided.
- (4)-Benches - Provided at playground.
- (1)-Bike Rack - Provided.

PLAYGROUND



-  Rubber Surface Playground - *(image 4)* New equipment and rubber surface. Barrier-free access provided.

SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS - N/A

STRUCTURES - N/A

PUBLIC ART / STATUES - N/A

PATHWAYS & SIGNAGE

-  Gravel Pathway - *(Image 1)* Additional maintenance is required to maintain this asset in good condition.
-  McDonald Street Entrance: Safety Signage - *(image 2)* Maintenance required.
Pathway - Barrier-free concrete path from Hunter Drive to playground provided.
Park Signage & Safety Signage - Provided.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

-  (1)-Lighting - Light Pole provided.

Amenities below are not provided, and should be flagged for consideration.

Pathway Continuity - *(image 3)* McDonald Street Entrance

Picnic Tables

Barrier-Free Parking



1 IMAGE



2 IMAGE



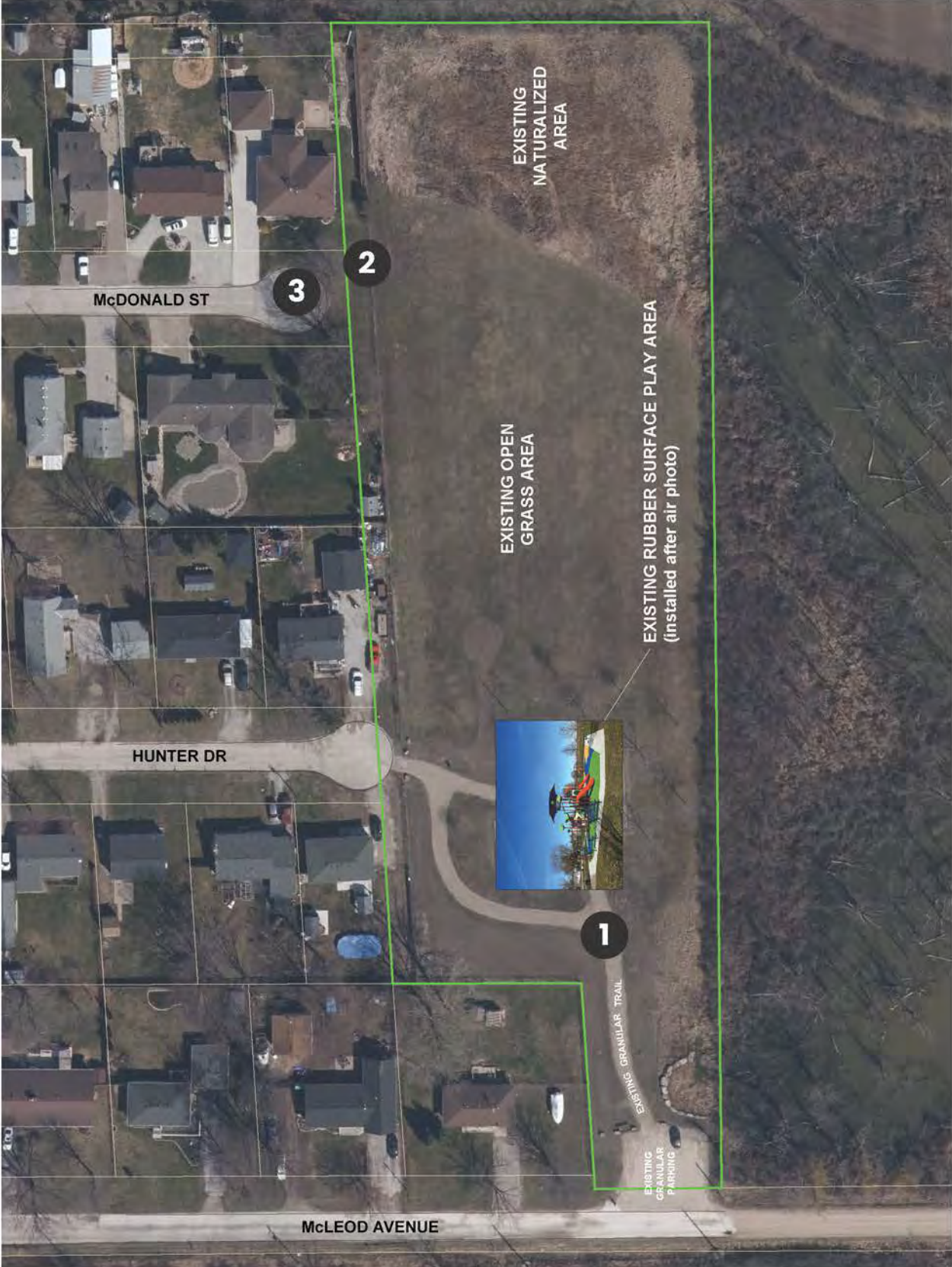
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EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

WARREN MICKLE PARK: JULY 2024



WARREN MICKLE PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

April 2025



Legend

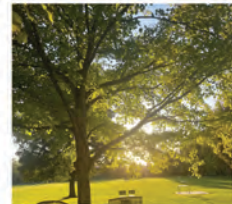
- ① Existing Parking
- ② Entrance Plaza with seating
- ③ Shelter
- ④ Look out Deck
- ⑤ Granular Pathway
- ⑥ Existing Playground
- ⑦ Pollinator Meadow
- ⑧ Forest Trail
- ⑨ Board Walk
- ⑩ Look-out Tower
- ⑪ Existing Wetlands
- ⑫ Signage
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees



Proposed Benches



Viewing Deck



More Shading Trees



Look out Tower

An existing playground sits in the middle of the park with park lawn around. Parking will be provided at the entrance plaza for easy access. A loop of granular trails will connect all neighborhood entry points and define the park's spaces. The park will include a forest trail area, a pollinator meadow, and lookout decks with a central tower to offer stunning views. These zones will highlight the natural beauty of the site and enhance visitor experiences.



Precedent View of Warren Mickle Park

APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

	1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - ACCESSIBILITY, SAFETY & SECURITY	SUGGESTED TIMING
1.1	Ensure Accessibility Advisory Committee members and Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee members continue to identify priorities for budget planning. Provide regular communication updates of accessible parks and accessible features in parks.	Ongoing
1.2	Create a listing of all amenities required within each park for accessibility. This should consider from arrival to departure (parking, trails, seating, washrooms, water, waste management, shade, signage etc.)	Short
1.3	Continue work with WEBC and CWATS to pro-actively focus on connectivity, comprehensive on/off road transportation options, trails, sidewalks and all associated signage and safety requirements. Identify connectivity opportunities within the Official Plan to be addressed as development proceeds. Update the Town's Transportation Master Plan to include parks (within parks and access to parks) and connectivity within the Town and neighbouring communities.	Ongoing
1.4	Offer a variety of unstructured opportunities for play for all ages. Consider access to the natural environment, options for seniors, youth activities that can be spontaneous. Ensure that not all green spaces need to be filled with a 'designated' use.A	Medium
1.5	Continue opportunities to strengthen connections within parks and to surrounding areas. Over time, improve technology options including WIFI within parks to promote user activity of all open space.	Ongoing
1.6	Incorporate technology improvements (use of QR codes, interactive maps) within the park system for user enjoyment, but also to improve timely responses for park maintenance, operational issues and to track park/trail/open space use through robust data collection. Providing staff with technology aided equipment (i.e., automated sports field lining system) can improve productivity. (City Wide)	Medium
1.7	Develop prioritized list of lighting enhancements and security monitoring and reporting systems within all parks, trails and open space. Manage transition to technology solutions with static options in the interim (signage, locational identification signs).	Medium

1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - ACCESSIBILITY, SAFETY & SECURITY		SUGGESTED TIMING
1.8	Adopt a standardized parks signage program that includes signage related to identification, directional, historic/heritage, informational, safety and security focused, customer service response detail and all other information, as relevant, depending on park type, location and usage. Implement program over time and align with individual park plan improvements/ enhancements as budget allows.	Ongoing
1.9	Conduct a park audit using CPTED principles (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design). Engage local community groups (Neighbourhood Watch, 'Mom's' groups and law enforcement personnel) to discuss options to maximize 'eyes on parks'. Given the adjacency to an international border, all parks on the Detroit River (i.e., K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park) need a detailed review to discourage unwanted or unlawful activity.	Short
1.10	Investigate the potential to increase lighting in parks and install, where possible, CCTV monitors for heavily used parks. Placing cameras in strategic areas can help ensure public safety, protect property and reduce crime. Any future initiatives shall adhere to the Video Surveillance Policy.	Medium

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS – PARK AMENITIES AND LEVELS OF SERVICE		SUGGESTED TIMING
2.1	Levels of service for parks within the system should include a minimum provision of amenities to support the user experience based on park classification. These should include – parking, accessible access to and from parking, directional/security/educational and other signage as needed, shade, access to water, provision of washrooms (permanent, portable or nearby access), seating, and WIFI (where feasible). Parks adjacent to the waterfront may require additional provisions.	Medium/ Ongoing
2.2	Plan to add shade options to existing and future park locations. Shade is needed at many parks to support players and spectators using playing fields and park amenities. (trees, shade sails, gazebo/pavilion options). Tree placement should be based on identified park amenities and sports fields in the parks master plan concept drawings for each park.	Ongoing

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS – PARK AMENITIES AND LEVELS OF SERVICE		SUGGESTED TIMING
2.3	Continue to support programs such as Map and Grow Program which is a long- term tree growth and canopy development program partnership between the Town of Amherstburg and the University of Windsor that establishes tree planting on private property. Recommendation to support any new programs to ensure tree planting and shade canopy within Amherstburg. Continue education programs regarding the importance of trees to environmental health and sustainability and shade opportunities for the Town. Work with By-Law personnel to strengthen the Tree Protection By-law oversight to better protect trees in the Town.	Ongoing
2.4	Introduce new features within existing parks, gateways and water viewing areas that provide options for older adults – chess boards, checker boards, a variety of seating options, gathering areas with Wi- Fi, shade as budget allows or through grants.	Short
2.5	Introduce new feature/s to provide options for youth including cornhole boards, climbing options, meeting areas with Wi-Fi, multi-use court, other. Engage local youth in the development of the detailed project designs.	Short
2.6	Explore options for naturalized / environmentally friendly features within parks, including functional amenities for drainage, permeable surfaces, etc., as well as unique / beautifying features that attract residents and visitors and explore the natural environment within the Town of Amherstburg. Include support for wildlife and bird habitat unique to the Amherstburg area and design these features in a way that accommodates viewing and engagement of the public without disturbance to protected species. In addition to natural features, continue to build on the existing floral baskets, park entry features and boulevard treatments. Consider solar powered charging stations. Assess Parks fleet and equipment to ensure environmentally supportive options are considered (i.e., electric or hybrid fleet).	Medium/ Long

3.0 PARKS SECTION

3.A. Park Classification

3.B. Park Supply

3.C. Provision Standards

3.D. Design & Adjacency

3.E. Waterfront Access

3.F. Current Park Initiatives

	3.A. RECOMMENDATIONS – PARK CLASSIFICATION	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.A.1	Adopt the revised Parks Classification System as identified in the Official Plan Update (2026).	To align with Official Plan update (2026)
3.A.2	Continue efforts to complete Development Manuals (manuals that define requirements for developers when planning for new growth areas) with Planning and Infrastructure Services to support staff in their review of applications for new Secondary Plans and development applications.	Short
3.A.3	Ensure that dedicated parkland within new developments include corresponding maintenance/management plans with associated funded operating budgets to align with the development approval process. This will ensure that the Town has adequate resources to maintain new lands to expected standards as the Town assumes the ultimate maintenance responsibility.	Ongoing
3.A.4	Create a policy in conjunction with Planning and Development and Infrastructure Services to address maintenance required for non-essential assets that may be turned over to the Town as part of subdivision development. This policy should address contributions from developers to look after these assets 'in perpetuity' and can include entry features/gateways, decorative medians, window street fences, special signage, gardens and beds etc. (i.e., Perpetual Maintenance Fund).	Medium
3.A.5	3.A.5 Working with Planning and Development and Infrastructure Services, maximize all growth-related funding sources for future park development. (i.e. Development Charges, Community Benefit Charge, etc.). Refer to By-law 2024-085.	Ongoing

	3.B. RECOMMENDATIONS – PARK SUPPLY	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.B.1	Monitor growth related developments in terms of population impact to identify future parkland needs. The current supply of parkland is adequate, but as new development occurs, additional parkland may be needed to continue to meet the parkland standard, or to provide parks within an acceptable distance of urban residential areas. i.e., 10-minute walking distance to a neighbourhood park.	Ongoing

	3.B. RECOMMENDATIONS – PARK SUPPLY	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.B.2	In order to provide additional growth-related Community Parks, a review of the population projections, park and facility needs, and geographic distribution should be considered. Cash-in-lieu of parkland funding may be considered to provide needed funding for larger community park developments as needed.	Long
3.B.3	Continue to protect natural habitat in existing and future parks using sound management practices, working with partners such as the Essex County Conservation Authority, and working to continue to educate the public on significance and benefits to the community and the environment.	Ongoing
3.B.4	Continue to balance the provision of park facilities in a campus-like setting (i.e., Larry Bauer Park), with neighbourhood and geographic distribution. Given the geographic expanse of the Town, it is important to continue to provide parks and park amenities for various ages across the Town. Centralizing certain outdoor sports and park facilities can maximize operational efficiencies but ensuring neighbourhood/community-based options are available remains a good principle for park development.	Medium
3.B.5	Continue to work with Planning and Development staff to plan for new development and intensification to align with the preferred approach to build complete communities.	Ongoing
3.B.6	Identify existing gaps in connectivity (lack of sidewalks, bike lanes, trails and green corridors) and budget for required improvements (i.e., Simcoe Street to the Larry Bauer Park Complex has been identified as not being suitable for non-vehicular use).	Short (Simcoe Street) Medium
3.B.7	Work with Infrastructure Services to ensure that the Town Transportation Master Plan continues to focus on connectivity within the community. Work with CWATS to focus on and off-road transportation linkages and active transportation routes. Focus on connectivity with existing parks, internal to parks, and linked to connections that already exist. Provide signage as needed	Short/Medium
3.B.8	Consider siting future parks adjacent to other open space areas to maximize the public's access to parks, naturalized areas and open space. (natural areas); ensure parks have safe access for walking, biking etc. and appropriate street frontage.	Medium

	3.B. RECOMMENDATIONS – PARK SUPPLY	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.B.9	In smaller developments the Town should consider accepting cash-in-lieu of parkland to assist in building their parkland reserve to acquire any additional parkland beyond that available through parkland dedication. .	Medium
3.B.10	Do not accept lands (as parkland dedication) that are constrained by environmental areas or are not suitable to provide adequate playing fields, and open space for sports, park amenities and other uses that require flat land. Do not accept stormwater management facilities as parkland.	Medium
3.B.11	Consider contributing to Reserves and Reserve Funds to create sufficient funding to purchase lands in future , recognizing that legislative impacts on growth related development funding may not yield all funds needed for future parks.	Medium/Long
3.B.12	Concept plans identify options for future naturalized areas within parks. Work with volunteer environmental and horticultural groups to promote education and awareness of naturalized spaces, pollinator gardens etc. Include signage.	Medium

	3.C. RECOMMENDATIONS – PROVISION STANDARDS	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.C.1	Continue to look to asset management plan for funding strategies to replace artificial turf fields and associated infrastructure as needed. Consider an incremental levy on permits associated with use of the artificial turf fields to fund the replacement of these. Work with District School Boards to assess their interest in providing artificial turf fields in future.	Ongoing
3.C.2	Provide a minimum of 2 groupings of 2 multi-purpose courts side-by-side to support unstructured play including basketball. Line courts for tennis, basketball, pickleball, and ball hockey.	Medium
3.C.3	Provide additional groupings of 2 multi-purpose courts side-by-side in future parks based on monitoring of interest, take-up, trends and future park development. Interest in unstructured play on multi-use courts was high. Courts can support a variety of activities including basketball, pickleball, tennis and pickleball drilling (skills development), ball hockey, lacrosse etc. It is also acknowledged that youth may not have the same mobility options to travel to certain parks and facilities, requiring more facility options to be provided within close proximity.	Medium/Long

	3.C. RECOMMENDATIONS – PROVISION STANDARDS	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.C.4	Monitor growth in pickleball and consider additional dedicated courts adjacent the existing courts at the Larry Bauer Park.	Medium
3.C.5	After reviewing the space allocation policy regarding use of outdoor fields for all organized sport, ensure a balanced approach to existing and future fields that meets all needs. (Example: soccer, ultimate frisbee). This review should ensure that the approach is fair and transparent by including all users in the review, substantiated by participant numbers and best use of varying field sizes.	Medium
3.C.6	Continue to ensure public engagement regarding the design and replacement of significant capital improvements including play structures, shade amenities, etc.	Ongoing
3.C.7	Continue to provide play spaces in new neighbourhood developments according to the Town's Official Plan.	Ongoing
3.C.8	Identify a location for dedicated ultimate frisbee that includes open field space without obstructions (i.e. trees, pathways) and minimizes conflict with other field user groups. (Larry Bauer Park, Pat Thrasher Park).	Medium
3.C.9	Identify an additional location for disc golf. Additional facilities could be considered at K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park or Golfview Park.	Long
3.C.10	Work with the tennis organization to determine the need to complete additional improvements at Anderdon Park and H. Murray Smith Centennial Park	Short
3.C.11	Monitor participation rates for tennis and consider additional courts in new subdivisions (tennis or multi-use courts, depending on interest and participation data).	Medium/Long
3.C.12	Monitor growth in soccer and assess the need for additional rectangular fields as future Community Parks are identified. In the interim, continue working with soccer representatives to assess the layout, configuration, adjacency and scheduling of the fields at the Larry Bauer Park to maximize use of fields to meet organizational needs. Consideration for 'resting' fields and goal mouths should be part of this review process. Over time, irrigation and/or lighting can be considered to extend scheduling opportunities.	Medium (Short – work with local soccer representatives)

	3.C. RECOMMENDATIONS – PROVISION STANDARDS	SUGGESTED TIMING
3.C.13	<p>Should the Town consider the addition of new artificial turf fields (rectangular or baseball) adequate life-cycle replacement costs and ongoing operational and management costs should be carefully considered as the Town is currently well served for its population. Continuing to ensure that the turf is in a good state-of-repair is highly recommended. Replacement is supported in the Asset Management Plan.</p>	Medium/Long
3.C.14	<p>Add leisure features for all ages to parks that attract a variety of residents and visitors (King's Navy Yard Park, H. Murray Smith Centennial Park, Angstrom Park) such as checkers, chess.</p>	Short
3.C.15	<p>Develop walking loops at the Larry Bauer Park that build on existing trail network and provide supportive amenities. Include features for all ages such as fitness stations, calisthenic course, chess, seating, shade, areas for 3:3 BB, etc.</p>	Medium
3.C.16	<p>Validate needs for re-furbished or new baseball diamonds after completing a thorough analysis of use for each existing facility. This should include an assessment of utilization by time/day and season, outline type of play (by age, by type of game (softball, slo-pitch, baseball). Assess against trends in ball, population projections and trends with play in surrounding communities. This should include a review of slo-pitch/softball play and facilities (i.e., Malden Centre) and baseball needs (i.e., Larry Bauer Park), as well as the status of play at the partnership facilities (Co-An) etc..</p>	Medium/Long
3.C.17	<p>Identify a location for a major splash pad that is geographically distributed from the Austin "Toddy" Jones Park. A potential recommended location for a major splash pad could include Pat Thrasher Park, the Larry Bauer Park, or Co-An Park.</p>	Medium
3.C.18	<p>Explore options for a bocce court at H. Murray Smith Centennial Park.</p>	Short
3.C.19	<p>Continue to work with Cricket representatives to monitor interest in cricket within Amherstburg. Identify a suitable location for a cricket pitch and/or tournament type facility that considers access, parking, impacts of day-long play/spectators, etc. and could support sport tourism in future.</p>	Medium/Long

3.C.20	<p>Continue to work with Economic Development staff to assess options and priorities to support Sport Tourism with the Town of Amherstburg. Consider formalizing a criteria matrix to assess priorities to support sport tourism. Recognizing that to support tourism for sporting events and tournaments generally requires a consolidation of facilities and associated support amenities near the host location, future planning to group fields will be required. This could include baseball tournaments, cricket events, additional cycling events, etc. Supportive community-based services are also needed including accommodation, adequate parking, and support services. The Town can build on its success as a tourist destination for other Town parks, features, waterfront and events hosted in and around the downtown core.</p>	Medium
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3.D. RECOMMENDATIONS – DESIGN AND ADJACENCY		SUGGESTED TIMING
3.D.1	<p>Ensure that the long-term vision and plan for all facilities at the Larry Bauer Park, naturalized areas and expansion plans for both indoor and outdoor amenities align. Ensure that the Phase 3 WEBC trail expansion are considered in terms of access, parking, adjacencies etc. Ensure the plan includes plans for vehicular and pedestrian traffic, policy guidelines and directions to ensure that future expansion (indoor and outdoor) supports all uses, including when all facilities are operating at full capacity. Ensure user groups are involved as part of the public engagement component. Identify possible expansion 'blocks' on A current plans if outdoor facilities are added in the interim to identify future needs.</p>	Ongoing
3.D.2	<p>Identify opportunities to re-align or move amenities at the Larry Bauer Park to ensure investments and facilities are maximized. Current scheduling conflicts exist that could be remedied by shifting and/or moving fields/diamonds to maximize scheduling and use. The artificial turf soccer/football field is denoted in the Concept plan to shift 30m south, and it is recommended that the Miracle field be covered or re-located to maximize use.</p>	Medium (in conjunction with above noted vision/plan)

3.D. RECOMMENDATIONS – DESIGN AND ADJACENCY		SUGGESTED TIMING
3.D.3	Work with the Essex Region Conservation Authority to develop long term management plans for parks adjacent to naturalized areas. The opportunity to support access for student field trips, boardwalks, viewing areas, and lookout locations requires careful planning to address human interaction with naturalized areas and habitat.	Medium
3.D.4	Increase naturalization and planting of pollinator gardens with a border strip to provide for grooming between public access (trails, open space) and naturalization areas.	Ongoing
3.D.5	Provide user groups with parking plans that vary depending on the use of the Larry Bauer Park and recognize areas of conflict, pinch points, etc. to share with visiting users and teams. (i.e., festivals, tournaments, WEBC events)	Short
3.D.6	As staff gain familiarity with booking/scheduling software, update filters to prevent booking activities that may conflict with other adjacent uses at the same location. This will assist in avoiding play that may result in on-site issues such as foul balls, parking, etc. (As previously noted, upgrading software system capability and client support is required).	Medium
3.D.7	Continue to assess each park within the system to maintain a balance of parks with amenities that meet varying needs and are geographically distributed. Recognizing that not all amenities can be provided in every park (existing and new), there needs to be a reasonable plan for each park, its function and how it best serves the community now and in the future.	Ongoing
3.D.8	Engage relevant users and user groups during the planning and placement of sport facilities to maximize their knowledge of potential issues with adjacencies (foul balls, proximity to play structures, sight lines, impact of sun, etc.)	Ongoing

3.E. RECOMMENDATIONS – WATERFRONT ACCESS		SUGGESTED TIMING
3.E.1	Ensure signage is accurate regarding safe water access points (suitable for type of use – fishing, canoe, kayak). i.e., River Canard, K. Walter Ranta Memorial Park, King's Navy Yard Park, Waterfront Festival Plaza Park).	Short

3.E.2	Develop a strategy to prioritize existing water access points (both official and unofficial) to ensure appropriate parking, safety features, signage and uses are clear. Consider private/public partnerships. Remove access to unofficial sites that may be unsafe	Medium
3.E.3	Considerations should include formalizing kayak/canoe activity at River Canard and K. Walter Ranta Memorial Parks with appropriate support amenities.	Medium
3.E.4	As waterfront access is improved, provide non-traditional waterfront features to draw residents and tourists to experience an activity while enjoying the waterfront. (i.e. playgrounds, walking paths, sports courts, volleyball courts, lighting, disc golf, outdoor chess/checker boards). Ensure parking and access is part of all enhanced development along the waterfront.	Medium
3.E.5	Ensure all events that promote access to the waterfront include parking information. Assess the impact on neighbours, adjacent residential streets, and potential conflict with other events and activities that may be taking place concurrently.	Short
3.E.6	As events continue to occur/expand at waterfront parks, ensure suitable support amenities such as water access, power sources, storage and staging etc. that meet user needs. Consult user groups to maximize shared opportunities and ensure suitable infrastructure needs are provided.	Ongoing

3.F. RECOMMENDATIONS– CURRENT PARK INITIATIVES

3.F.1	Council prioritize annual budgets and park development implementation based on recently approved Asset Management Plan, community feedback, surveys and financial resources.	Annually
3.F.2	Develop a phased implementation plan including improvements at various locations ('quick wins') as well as full park redevelopment based upon Council approved Master Plans and approved funding	Ongoing
3.F.3	Continue to identify and pursue funding opportunities.	Ongoing
3.F.4	Adjust the implementation schedule for the Parks Master Plan as projects are undertaken or as external influences affect implementation for timing.	Ongoing
3.F.5	Review the Parks Master Plan every 5 years.	Ongoing

	4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS – FINANCE	SUGGESTED TIMING
4.1	<p>Continuing development of the capital budget forecast, including funding sources, is needed. Given the extensive roster of desired park improvements, new and different features and amenities, and the need to ensure that parks are kept in a 'state of good repair', setting forecasts and priorities is an imperative. The Town cannot support the financial obligation to build and operate all desired facilities. Monitoring use and operational costs, understanding user groups participation numbers, assessing trends, maximizing the use of parks and open space, and ensuring that there is broad community benefit from Town investment is critical. Acknowledging that the park system cannot provide all desired features and amenities should drive priority setting and financial decisions. Continue working with Finance to prepare a capital budget forecast that identifies projects over a number of years (including logical sequencing), and funding sources. The majority of existing assets have been captured in the Town's Asset Management Plan. When building new alternative funding sources will need to be investigated including grants and community partnerships.</p>	Ongoing
4.2	<p>Assess priorities as noted in the 2025 approved Capital Budget forecast associated with "Implementation of the Parks Master Plan". Ensure there is sufficient money to fund projects. Identify plans to update the Parks Master Plan in 5-year increments in the Capital forecast.</p>	Medium
4.3	<p>Adopt priorities for Capital Budget forecast. As annual budgets are presented to Council, reference the criteria and how it has affected project priorities for parks. Criteria should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety • Accessibility • Asset Management • Condition Assessment • Technical and Regulatory Requirements • Utilization data for parks • Public feedback <p>It should be noted that taking a park or portion of park out of service (surplus property, condition assessment) does not necessarily mean that it should be immediately replaced. The Park and its amenities should be subject to a current review of use, needs, neighbourhood interests, changing demographics etc. This will assist with a more intentional investment program, based upon priorities and data.</p>	Ongoing

	4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS – FINANCE	SUGGESTED TIMING
4.4	Review User Fee revenues and ensure they are reported in the appropriate cost centre to demonstrate cost recovery. Work with Recreation staff to align expenditures and revenues between recreation costs and park costs	Ongoing
4.5	Adjust user fees for outdoor fields to a per hour charge. Current fees are allocated per game. A per hour fee can assist in maximizing scheduling and allows incremental fees to be charged for additional time, and services such as lights, and is a more consistent approach to user fees in other communities.	Ongoing
4.6	Prepare a report to Council as part of the annual operating budget process to demonstrate lost revenue due to waiving of fees. This should include the process for community organizations to request fee waivers. New software would help track these costs.	Short
4.7	Continue to ensure that a number of projects of varying sizes and scale are available as ‘shovel ready’ to respond to any grant funding programs. Choose projects that are realistic within the capital budget forecast (have been identified for funding within a reasonable time horizon, with or without grant funding) and are able to proceed if funding is confirmed.	Ongoing
4.8	Continue to monitor all grant funding programs that may be available to the Town and to community organizations. (Ontario Trillium Foundation, Provincial Sport Organization grants, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming and Ministry of Sport, other.) (see Appendix for a list of potential grants)	Ongoing
4.9	Continue to support community organizations with their own fund-raising efforts, through the Town’s economic development division. Encourage user groups to work with staff for sponsorships, naming rights, and advertising opportunities.	Ongoing
4.10	Continue to ensure annual operating budget allocation to align with capital projects in the year that they will become operational. This is to reflect the ongoing operating and maintenance costs for looking after all assets in a state-of-good repair, ensuring proactive investment and minimizing future costs that may arise if ongoing maintenance needs are neglected.	Ongoing

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS – FINANCE		SUGGESTED TIMING
4.11	Continue to communicate Council decisions on park/property acquisition and disposition in line with the Town's Official Plan and all Town policy applicable to providing public notifications. Provide public notification regarding the impact on the Town's finances, subsequent use of funds, source of funding for new projects, etc.	Ongoing
4.12	Investigate opportunities to update the Operating Budget structure with Finance staff to ensure a level of detail that supports decision making on identified cost centres. This could include a job tracking program or similar mechanism to assign staff/equipment costs to parks, facilities, and town assets.	Medium
4.13	Continue to work with Finance staff to align funds for accounts for specific purposes to allocate any funds received from community partnerships/projects to ensure they are identified for the specified purpose and provide transparency to community groups.	Ongoing

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - COMMUNICATION		SUGGESTED TIMING
5.1	Continue to host annual user group meetings with park users, event hosts and sport volunteers to assess satisfaction levels, identify priorities, and provide up-to-date data regarding participation numbers and scheduling. Designate a staff liaison for each of the user groups to ensure clear coordination and demonstrate to volunteers who their point of contact is for the season.	Ongoing (Pending budget approval for additional resources)
5.2	The noted staff liaison contact should assume responsibility to update users/volunteers on all information needs – scheduling and permitting updates, status of agreements, facility availability, status of projects that affect their service area, etc.	Short (Pending budget approval for additional resources)
5.3	As plans for park enhancements are approved, ensure communication with affected park users (residents, neighbours, sport users) is undertaken in advance. If projects are delayed or funding sources change, communicate with affected users. Reach out to specific target groups/audiences to seek input for park amenities. For example, engage with the community to discuss seating needs, playground features (for special needs in the community) and/or noise levels within parks.	Ongoing

5.4	Ensure internal and external coordination with staff to minimize confusion for residents regarding who to contact for what purpose. (i.e., coordination with recreation service staff regarding scheduling requests, permits, etc.). Assess internal changes that might affect volunteers (staff turnover, changed process requirements) and advise community representatives accordingly.	Short
5.5	Continue providing reports for Council consideration that provide all options, including a recommended option, for decision making using current data and relevant background research/information.	Ongoing
5.6	Enhance website offering with mapping and specific parkland amenities that provides information on each park and its amenities. Provide the public with an interactive option to report issues within parks, recommend enhancements ideas for improvement. Ensure feedback mechanism is included to provide closure to each item/idea noted (i.e., issue addressed, referred to budget etc.).	Short (Citywide resources needed, New Website)
5.7	Initiate public education promotion regarding the value of environmentally friendly areas, naturalization, development of pollinator areas etc. to ensure the residents understand the value of a new maintenance approach. Ongoing communication can assist in explaining the benefits and minimizing negative reaction if adjacent residents see the new maintenance practices as cost-cutting rather than intentional and beneficial to the environment.	Ongoing

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS – ADMINISTRATION, AGREEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS		SUGGESTED TIMING
6.1	Complete updated agreement regarding Co-An Park. Review agreement with Town of LaSalle for River Canard Park. Agreements should be reviewed every five years.	Short
6.2	Consult with the Miracle League to ensure communication for updated process and practices regarding current requirements.	Short
6.3	Monitor agreement annually with WEBC and conduct a full review in 5-year increments.	Ongoing
6.4	Continue to work with Recreation staff to review and update Allocation Policy with respect to use of outdoor sport fields and ensure groups provide input into the decision-making process. Share policy upon updating, including all process steps to acquire annual permits, make changes, etc.	Short

6.5	<p>Continue to initiate a customer service process for groups to alert the Town to allocation/permitting issues (double bookings, timing issues, inappropriate facility space, other) and include a feedback loop as issues become resolved. This may require investment in a new more robust software system that provides needed functionality with ongoing client support.</p>	Short
6.6	<p>Continue to ensure user groups provide up-to-date data seasonally that includes all relevant information regarding their participation numbers, residency, age profile, wait-lists, barriers to participation etc. Review data at annual user group meetings to highlight trends, pressures with field allocation, growth projections, etc.</p>	Short
6.7	<p>Continue to work with community groups and organizations to reinforce the need to follow Town procurement policies and other administrative requirements. Providing ongoing communication regarding the rationale for transparent procurement policies contributes to building trust and ensuring the public understand the decision-making process regarding Town financial investment.</p>	Short
6.8	<p>Work with user groups for permitted activities to ensure compliance and expectations are met. Review regularly on scheduled timeline.</p>	Short
6.9	<p>Continue to search for grant and funding stream opportunities to fund projects and enhance the parks system. Include information on Town funding and programs available through other levels of Government, and provide ongoing assistance to ensure accuracy for applications, align groups with suitable programs etc. Consider hosting an annual Workshop to share all current information, also allowing groups to share best practices among themselves.</p>	Ongoing
6.10	<p>Continue to post annual capital budget projects and the five-year capital forecast to clarify approved amounts and where support may be required for community fundraising efforts.</p>	Medium

	6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS – ADMINISTRATION, AGREEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS	SUGGESTED TIMING
6.11	<p>Review Parks Operation staffing model and create a supervisory position to report to the Manager of Parks. The Parks Supervisor position will allow the Manager of Parks position to oversee all capital projects, policy updates and management of the division while the supervisor would be responsible for the parks and overall maintenance activities and day to day operations. This will aid in providing a level of supervision directly responsible for day-to-day operations, customer feedback and level of service reviews for succession planning.</p>	Short
6.12	<p>Work with Economic Development to strengthen opportunities within the community on naming rights, partnership and sponsorship opportunities that exist within the parks system. Outreach with local business es, boards and community partners to carry out strategic priorities and projects.</p>	Short

APPENDIX B: POTENTIAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES/FUNDING TOOLS

POTENTIAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES/FUNDING TOOLS:

- FCC AgriSpirit Fund <https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/community/apply-funding/agrispirit-fund>
- Richardson Foundation
- Through the Richardson Foundation, Richardson International and its various divisions support many different community initiatives, such as splash parks, playgrounds, sports fields, arenas, community halls and volunteer fire departments.
- <https://www.richardson.ca/supporting-our-communities/>
- Enabling Accessibility Fund
- The Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) provides funding to eligible capital projects that increase access for people with disabilities to Canadian communities
 - and workplaces, which in turn creates opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in community activities or access employment opportunities.
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/enabling-accessibility-fund.html>
- Canadian Tire Jumpstart
- Accessible grants that support the programming and operational of projects aimed at helping kids of all abilities enjoy sport and play.
 - <https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/pages/community-development-grants>
- Medavie Active Living Grant
 - Within the area of Active Living, our goal is to strengthen access to physical activity with a focus on supporting increased participation across a population.
 - <https://www.medavie.ca/en/medavie-foundation/#healthy-living>
- Canada Post Community Foundation
- The Community Foundation awards grants to Canadian schools, charities and community organizations that make a difference in the lives of children and youth, up to the age of 21.
- <https://www.canadapost-postescanada.ca/cpc/en/our-company/giving-back-to-our-communities/canada-post-community-foundation.page>
- Canadian Dermatology Association (CDA)'s Shade Structure Grant Program
- This initiative awards grants up to \$7,500, for the creation of permanent shade structures in schools, daycares, parks, and non-profit organizations across Canada. The goal is to create a safe outdoor environment that protects people from the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation.
- <https://dermatology.ca/public-patients/sun-protection/shade-structure-grant-program/>
- Kal's RePlay Fund
- Kal's RePlay Fund provides grants to offset the cost of recycled rubber products made from Canadian scrap tires. All Canadian non-profit organizations are welcome to apply.
 - <https://www.kaltire.com/en/kals-replay-fund/>
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
 - The Community Building Fund – Capital stream provides support for non-profits, Indigenous communities and Municipalities

in the community sport and recreation sectors. The fund will help strengthen communities by supporting the repair, renovation or retrofitting of existing sport and recreation to address local community need by extending the life and maximizing the use of existing (e.g. playgrounds, splashpads, etc.)

- <https://www.otf.ca/our-grants/community-building-fund/community-building-fund-capital-stream>
- Ontario Community Environment Fund (Ontario):
 - Supports community-based activities like shoreline cleanups, habitat restoration and tree planting.
 - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-community-environment-fund#section-0>
- Ontario Inclusive Community Grants
 - The Inclusive Community Grants Program provides funding to local governments, not-for-profit organizations and Indigenous communities/organizations. The goal of the program is to encourage local government and community organizations to consider Ontarians of all ages and abilities at every stage of community planning and development.
 - The program provides up to \$60,000 in grant funding to eligible applicants for projects that increase the accessibility of outdoor spaces by making improvements to the built environment to create equitable access to community resources
 - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/inclusive-community-grants>
- The Green Cities Foundation (GCF) #GreenMyCity Grant
 - has a new grant program to support

the creation and restoration of urban greenspaces across Canada. The program aims to provide resources and funding to bring meaningful green infrastructure to communities, enhancing resilience, biodiversity and overall well-being. Eligible spaces include parks, community gardens, playgrounds, sports fields and open public spaces.

- Grants up to \$150,000
- <https://www.gcfoundation.ca/apply>
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant
 - The Foundation supports a wide range of environmental initiatives, with a primary focus on environmental education and green space programs. Eligible projects include schoolyard greening, park revitalization, community gardens, park programming and citizen science initiatives. Municipalities are eligible to apply.
 - <https://www.td.com/ca/en/about-td/ready-commitment/funding/fef-grant>
- Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund
 - The ECCC-administered Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF) is a \$1.4 billion, ten-year fund to reduce annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 5-7 megatonnes (Mt) by 2030. The NSCSF will achieve this by supporting projects that reduce the loss, restore, or improve the management of ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, peatlands and grasslands. These projects will also benefit important habitat for migratory birds, species at risk and other species of cultural and/or socio-economic importance to local communities.
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment->

[climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/nature-smart-climate-solutions-fund.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/environmental-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/nature-smart-climate-solutions-fund.html)

- Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk
 - The objectives of this program are to:
 - support habitat projects that benefit species at risk, enable Canadians to become actively involved in stewardship projects for species at risk, which will

Other Innovative Funding Tools

- Community fundraisers and sponsorships
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
 - In Ontario, a TIF involves municipalities making funds available, in the form of annual grants, on a site-specific or area-specific basis to support redevelopment or revitalization, with the grants being funded

result in tangible and measurable conservation benefits, and improve the scientific, sociological and economic understanding of the role of stewardship as a conservation tool.

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/environmental-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/habitat-stewardship-species-at-risk.html>

by the increase in property taxes over the original level. The authority for the use of TIF is established under the Community Improvement Plan provisions of the Planning Act.

- Properly Utilized, TIF Districts can be significant revenue tools for communities experiencing growth.

APPENDIX C: NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL POLICY CONTEXT

This section forms part of the overall literature review to the Situational Analysis for the Parks Plan. The focus of this section is to offer insight into national policy frameworks and/or provincial legislation that has specific relevance to the planning of future recreation and park services.

A summary of the relevant policies or legislation is offered, and the specific relevance to the Town of Amherstburg is outlined. The specific frameworks and legislation contained in this report is as follows:

- Framework for Recreation in Canada:

FRAMEWORK FOR RECREATION IN CANADA: PATHWAYS TO WELLBEING

The *Framework for Recreation in Canada: Pathways to Wellbeing 2015* (the Framework) was developed and endorsed by the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to provide guidance and galvanize the parks and recreation sector. It was designed to position parks and recreation as an important means to address and contribute to solving societal challenges by uniting the sector through a collective commitment to a shared vision, values, goals, and priorities.

The Vision of the Framework is a Canada where everyone is engaged in meaningful, accessible recreation experiences that foster:

- individual wellbeing,
- community wellbeing, and
- the wellbeing of our natural and built heritage.

The goals and priorities provide the basis for organizations to develop action plans that, when implemented, can contribute to the wellbeing of individuals, communities, and the built and natural environments.

Pathways to Wellbeing

- Canadian Sport Policy Canadian Sport Policy 2012
- A Common Vision for increasing physical activity and reducing sedentary living in Canada: Let's Get Moving
- Affordable Access to Recreation for Ontarians Policy Framework (2009) – Parks and Recreation Ontario
- Parks for All
- Childcare and Early Years Act (CCEYA)

The 5 overarching goals of the Framework are:

1. Active Living
2. Inclusion and Access
3. Connecting People and Nature
4. Supportive Environments
5. Recreation Capacity

The Framework is currently being reviewed with the goal of a full renewal of the document in 2025. An interim "supplement" will be available through the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association. It will provide additional resources and information that brings the 2015 document into the current context.

Considerations for the Town of Amherstburg:

The key benefits of aligning with the Framework is the opportunity to measure your progress and to develop action plans that enhance access to parks, programs and non-organized play for all ages.

CANADIAN SPORT POLICY 2012

Like the Framework for Recreation in Canada, the Canadian Sport Policy (CSP) is currently in the process of renewal. This policy helps identify Canadian sport priorities and guides how federal, provincial and territorial governments advance sport. The CSP has always referenced recreational/community sport as a prime objective and documents released in 2023 show that recreational sport still plays an important role in achieving the overall vision for the CSP.

Specifically, the CSP recognizes that most are owned and operated by municipalities and

represent a significant investment. Additionally, it notes that municipalities and other community recreation providers have an important role to play in providing opportunities for lifelong participation, which aligns with Goal 1 in the Framework for Recreation in Canada.

Considerations for the Town of Amherstburg: As with the Framework, strategies will align with the key policy objectives of lifelong participation and providing high quality for community sport and recreation. Fostering strong partnerships is also a factor for successful implementation.

A COMMON VISION FOR INCREASING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND REDUCING SEDENTARY LIVING IN CANADA

The Common Vision is Canada's first national policy focusing on increasing physical activity and reducing sedentary behaviours. Like the CSP and the Framework the Common Vision has broad areas of focus for collaborative action that can be applied at the community level: Cultural Norms, Spaces and Places, Public Engagement, Partnerships, Leadership and Learning and Progress.

Considerations for the Town of Amherstburg: Specific strategic imperatives in the Common Vision broadly apply to the development of a Parks Plan.

- Prioritize the design of spaces and places to

increase recreational physical activity and utilitarian physical activity opportunities across all

- Settings, while also increasing accessibility of existing , venues and infrastructure.
- Adapt Canadian best practices in promoting physical activity, as well as learn from already successful community based public engagement programs.
- Adopt an approach to collaboration based on the unique strengths of all partners across sectors with clear roles, targets and deliverables that demonstrate both short- and long-term progress.

PARKS FOR ALL

Parks for all is a sector-led initiative to provide a framework for enhancing our connection with nature through all types of parks and open space. Its vision is to create a connected

hierarchy of park lands and waterways that support healthy people and environments. As such, it aligns and amplifies the goals of the Framework for Recreation in Canada.

Considerations for the Town of Amherstburg:

Parks for All highlights both the economic and mental and physical health benefits of parks and access to nature. During COVID-19, the rise in park use has stimulated continued growth in the demand for and use of public outdoor

spaces. As such, strategies should be guided by the principles of increasing access to parks and open space through collaboration and leadership. The principle of providing residents and visitors with a variety of open spaces and trails is of key importance.

AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO RECREATION FOR ONTARIANS POLICY FRAMEWORK (2009) – PRO

This Policy Framework promotes access to recreation for Ontarians. It sets out a vision, objectives and strategic directions to guide those who develop public policy, make funding decisions, offer recreation programs, or build and maintain or open spaces. It is a call to action for all involved to work together in a systematic way to make recreation affordable and accessible to all.

The Affordable Access to Recreation Framework encourages municipalities to establish systems that remove barriers to participation. It recommends that municipalities have a mix of free programs and/or events as well as some kind of fee assistance program. Amherstburg works with the County of Essex to provide P2P (Pathway to Potential) for eligible residents.

Considerations for the Town of Amherstburg:

AODA: DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACES

The [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005](#) (AODA) is the law that sets out a process for developing, implementing, and enforcing accessibility standards. Government, businesses, non-profits, and public sector organizations must follow the standards. [Accessibility laws and standards](#) help to reduce and remove barriers and make Ontario more inclusive for everyone.

The following outdoor spaces must comply with accessibility regulations if you are creating new spaces or making major changes to existing spaces (partial list):

1. Trails and beach routes
2. Outdoor eating areas
3. Outdoor play spaces

4. Outdoor paths

5. Parking

Parks and Recreation Ontario, in collaboration with the Ontario Accessibility Directorate, created short [guidebook](#) on accessible outdoor spaces.

Considerations for the Town of Amherstburg: It is recommended that the municipality continue to work with the Accessibility Committee to identify priorities and budget accordingly. It should be noted that the legislation does not require 100% of the area of new outdoor parks and trails to be accessible to all, especially where natural features may be negatively impacted. Annual walking tours of parks, trails and outdoor spaces assists in identifying needs, including for safety and signage.



AMHERSTBURG
EST. 1796



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