

Recreation Services Plan

November 2024





Township of Selwyn

Recreation Services Plan

November 26, 2024

Prepared by:



Executive Summary

This 2024 Recreation Services Plan (“RSP”) looks at spaces ranging from community centres to playgrounds, along with how the Township delivers parks, recreation and trail services and works with the community. It is a roadmap to strategically manage the direction of recreation, park and trail services until the year 2035, building on the foundations established in the 2012 RSP and 2014 Recreational Trails Master Plan.

Selwyn’s population is estimated at 19,500 persons and is projected to exceed 20,800 persons by the year 2035 at the end of the RSP’s planning period. The following are the recommended Actions arising out of this RSP.

- Action #1** The Township’s role should continue to be a “Facilitator” of parks and recreation services through the provision of spaces, associated amenities/equipment, in-kind supports and subsidies. In support of this role, the Township should encourage a Community Development Model through engagement and provision of appropriate supports to empower its volunteers and community organizations, develop their internal capacity, and enhance their ability to deliver services over time.
- Action #2** Organize regular forums for volunteers and community organizations delivering parks, recreation and trail services in Selwyn to allow information/idea sharing and networking opportunities to take place.
- Action #3** Design ongoing opportunities for engagement, municipal services and spaces to be inclusive of persons with disabilities, Indigenous communities and diverse ethno-cultural groups, low income populations, seniors and youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and other marginalized groups. The intent is to understand recreation, parks and trails needs of under-represented groups so that they can be active, connected and are welcomed.
- Action #4** In accordance with the AODA, seek input from the Accessibility Advisory Committee to improve accessibility in recreation facilities, parks and trails to reinforce principles of universal design, safety and comfort. In addition the Township may seek input from other parties/technical experts on criteria that considers the AODA, Building Code and other design requirements.
- Action #5** Continue to implement outstanding recommendations of the 2020 Parks & Recreation Department Service Delivery Review.
- Action #6** Acquire parkland in accordance with Planning Act dedications and other means to ensure an appropriate supply and distribution, particularly in Lakefield South and other future residential development areas.
- Action #7** Continue to promote marine and water-based activities within Selwyn by enhancing amenities for boating, canoe/kayaking, and wind and paddle sports through facilities to access the water. This should include developing a water access point in the North Smith area and considering the use of mobi-mats at municipal beaches, where appropriate, to improve barrier-free accessibility.

- Action #8** Continue to implement the Isabel Morris Park Masterplan / Landscape Concept Plan with a focus on formalizing a festival and performance area scaled to community-level events, and adding a natural / adventure playground structure.
- Action #9** Prepare a plan for Cashel Park to determine amenities, including but not limited to trails and pathways, that are suitable in the context of its naturalized state.
- Action #10** Undertake a review of the Township’s Community Parks with washroom facilities and identify Community Parks that may be suitable candidates for permanent washrooms in addition to parks suited to portable accessible washrooms. In addition, the Township should identify opportunities that improve the barrier-free accessibility of portable washrooms.
- Action #11** Advocate to the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility through AMO, ROMA and other advocacy organizations to encourage the Province of Ontario to update Provincial Standards for accessible portable washrooms to address modern accessibility needs, and ensuring that manufacturers construct portable washrooms facilities that meet the needs of persons with disabilities.
- Action #12** Implement the trail classification based on the hierarchy recommended in this Recreation Services Plan. The classification should be used to guide the Township when planning, designing, constructing and maintaining trails.
- Action #13** Coordinate trail development, planning, and funding and the potential to link the existing trail systems in Selwyn together and beyond. Consider partnering with volunteer or partners, including, but not limited to, County of Peterborough and Otonabee Conservation to achieve this recommendation.
- Action #14** Document the current level of service for trail maintenance throughout the Township and review the risk management, operational and financial impacts of any proposed increase in the level of service.
- Action #15** Improve connectivity between and within settlement areas through the Recreation Services Plan’s “Recommended Hike/Bike Improvement Projects” to encourage active transportation and tourism.
- Action #16** Develop an Ice Allocation Policy that considers participant numbers of individual ice sport organizations, principles of inclusion and gender equity, youth and adult priorities, and resident status at a minimum.
- Action #17** Monitor ice sport participation rates, outcomes from improved ice allocation practices, along with utilization of arenas in Selwyn and adjacent municipalities for a minimum of five years to provide baseline information to inform future arena needs.
- Action #18** The Township should explore a formal reciprocal agreement with the school boards to allow for use of their gymnasiums and sports fields at reduced rental rates for community users.
- Action #19** Install sports field lighting at the Robert E. Young Recreation Complex south diamond.

- Action #20** Develop one new rectangular field, potentially in conjunction with future parkland development in Lakefield South.
- Action #21** Construct a splash pad and basketball court at Paul J. English Park subject to facility fit and feasibility studies.
- Action #22** Engage local pickleball representatives to discuss the willingness for them to organize into a formal league(s) so that the Township may allocate times on the existing overlay courts, assist with promoting the sport, and/or provide dedicated courts consistent with municipal fee and facility allocation policies.
- Action #23** Support the construction of a fully barrier-free playground in Ennismore and a new playground in Lakefield South. At the time of new playground construction and renewals, consider integration of barrier-free and natural play components.
- Action #24** Explore the suitability of a disc golf course at the Douglas Sports Centre.
- Action #25** Undertake a scoped update of the Recreation Services Plan in 2029 to capture changes in population (including the future developments in Lakefield South), trends, corporate objectives, inventories, etc. Progress in implementing the RSP should be integrated into Departmental work plans and tracked annually with results (and related corporate achievements) regularly communicated to Township Council and the general public.
- Action #26** Requests for recreation, parks, and trail facilities/services that presently fall outside of the Township's core mandate should be evaluated based on anticipated municipal role, quantifiable measures of demand and costs to the Township, and other long-term implications prior to decision whether or not to partner in the public interest.
- Action #27** Continue to promote sound and strategic asset management practices to maintain the Township's recreation, parks and trail infrastructure over the long-term through sustainable fiscal planning.

Contents

1	A Foundation for Recreation, Parks & Trails	1
1.1	The Importance of Recreation, Parks & Trails	2
1.2	Community Profile & Selected Trends	4
2	Consultation	6
2.1	Engagement Methods	6
2.3	Public Open House Themes	7
2.4	Community Feedback Form	8
2.5	Community & User Group Roundtables	9
2.6	Advisory Committee & Board Workshops	10
3	Service Delivery Objectives	11
3.1	The Township's Role & Service Delivery Model	11
3.2	Communication & Marketing	12
3.3	Volunteers & Partners	12
3.4	Providing Inclusive Choices	13
3.5	Service Delivery Recommendations	16
4	Parks & Trails in Selwyn	17
4.1	Parks in Selwyn	17
4.2	Parkland Needs for the Next 10 Years	22
4.3	Beaches & Waterfront Areas	25
4.4	Trails in Selwyn	26
4.5	Trails Classification	31
4.6	Future Trails Connections	33
4.7	Parks & Trail System Recommendations	40
5	Recreation in Selwyn	41
5.1	Recreation Facilities in Selwyn	41
5.2	Ice Sports	44
5.3	Aquatics	47
5.4	Gymnasiums	47
5.5	Multi-Purpose Rooms	48
5.6	Sports Fields	50
5.7	Hard Surface Courts	53
5.8	Skateboard / Wheeled Action Sport Parks	54
5.9	Playgrounds	54
5.10	Frisbee & Disc Sports	57
5.11	Recreation Facility Recommendations	58
6	Implementation	59
6.1	Monitoring & Updating the RSP	59
6.2	Financial Considerations	60
6.3	Implementation Recommendations	60
6.4	Summary of Recommendations	61

1 A Foundation for Recreation, Parks & Trails

The Township of Selwyn is fortunate to have access to an abundance of natural areas and lakes that enable opportunities for recreation and offer residents the ability to connect with nature. The Township supplements these natural areas with parks, trails and beaches along with opportunities for indoor recreation through its community centres and arenas. This system of recreational public space and natural areas are used for active and passive pursuits including sports and hiking to playground use and picnics. Selwyn's parks, recreation and trails system has historically had strong support from Township Council and a dedicated team of staff, along with a committed base of volunteers that deliver quality spaces and services to Selwyn's residents.

The Township has a long history of proactively planning its parks, recreation facilities and trails. The first Parks and Recreation Services Plan was prepared in 2002 followed by a renamed Recreation Services Plan in 2012 and a separate Recreational Trails Master Plan in 2014. A scoped update to the RSP was carried out in 2018.

The Township has made considerable progress in implementing the previous Recreation Services Plan and Recreational Trails Master Plan. Combined with population growth, socio-demographic diversification and changing recreational preferences, the time has come to renew the vision for parks, recreation and trails in Selwyn while providing a new set of recommendations.

This 2024 Recreation Services Plan ("RSP") looks at spaces ranging from community centres to playgrounds, along with how the Township delivers parks, recreation and trail services and works with the community. It is a roadmap to strategically manage the direction of recreation, park and trail services until the year 2035, building on the foundations established in the 2012 RSP and 2014 Recreational Trails Master Plan.



1.1 The Importance of Recreation, Parks & Trails

Selwyn's recreation, parks and trails systems are essential to the health and well-being of every resident living in the community and for the Township as a whole. Recreation facilities, parks, trails and related programs provide Selwyn residents with many physical, social, psychological, economic and environmental benefits. Participation in physical and social activities enable a healthy lifestyle while also facilitating cognitive development and greater self-esteem, mitigates risks of social isolation, encourages economic spending, conservation of natural lands, and nurtures community vibrancy.

The Township of Selwyn recognizes the benefits of proactively planning its recreation, parks and trail services to provide evidence-based rationale that supports its decisions. The RSP, specialty studies and analysis regularly undertaken by Township staff have helped to develop policy frameworks, understand benefits and needs, and establish performance measures.

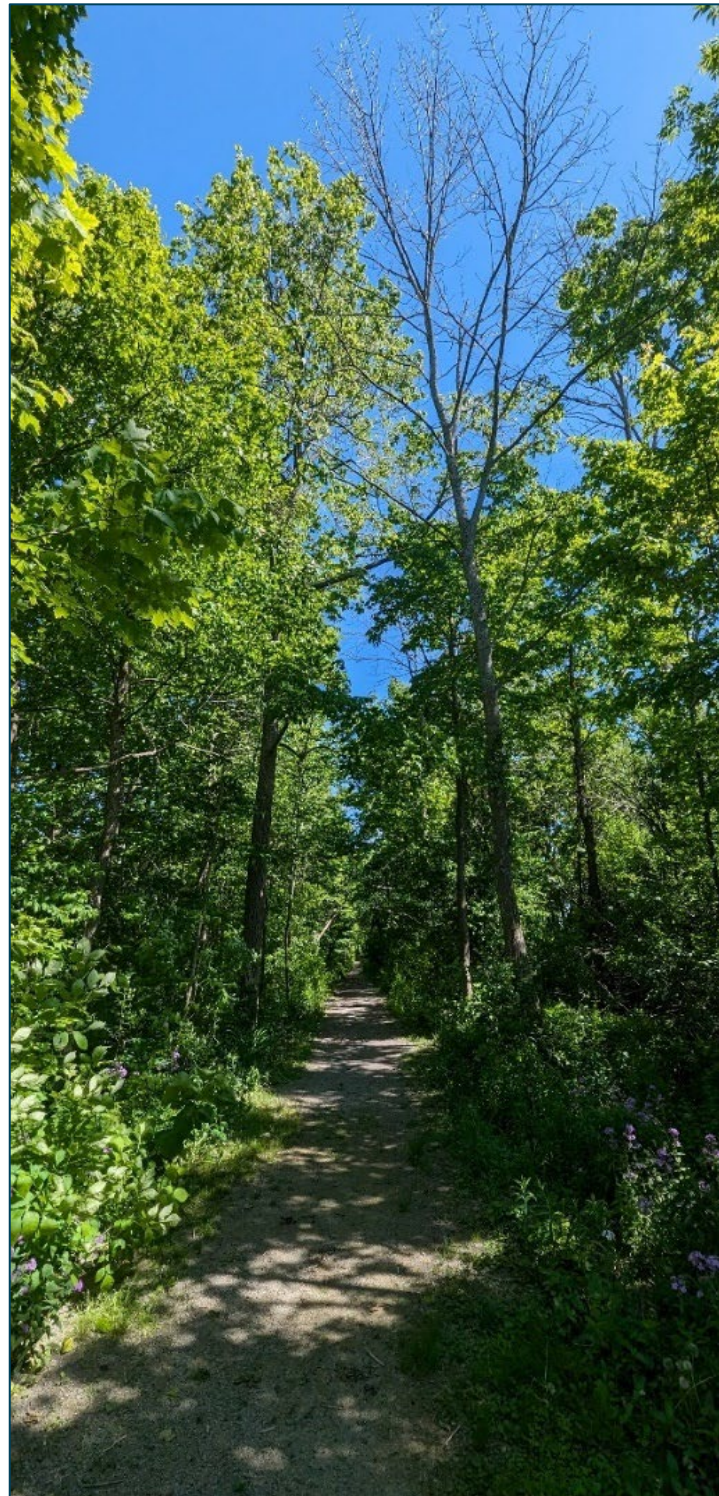
The Township has much to be proud of having accomplished a great deal since the 2012 RSP. In an effort to keep pace with population growth, emerging interests and changing legislative environments, the Township has invested in its public spaces and municipal services. This not to say that there have not been challenges along the way, yet progress has been incremental despite the current period of global economic uncertainty and post-pandemic realities.

Notable Recreation Facilities, Parks & Trails in Selwyn

- 19 parks totalling 86.4 hectares
- BEL Rotary Trail, Trans Canada Trail, and other on and offroad routes
- Community centres / arenas in Lakefield and Ennismore
- 1 marina
- 3 municipal beaches
- 5 rectangular fields
- 5 ball diamonds
- 8 pickleball courts, 4 tennis courts, 2 multi-sport courts
- 1 skateboard park
- 6 playgrounds

Notable achievements made by the Township since the 2012 RSP include, but are not limited to:

- Façade and accessibility improvements to the Lakefield-Smith Community Centre.
- Expansion of on and off-road trail networks.
- Conversion of the former Sea Scout building to the River Den to include accessible washrooms and police services office.
- A new ball diamond developed in partnership with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board and local volunteers.
- New and refurbished hard surface courts that allow pickleball, tennis and basketball to be played at the Robert E. Young Recreation Complex in Ennismore and Douglas Sports Complex in Lakefield.
- Development of a disc golf course at Ennismore Waterfront Park and Ultimate Frisbee field at Paul J. English Park in Bridgenorth.
- Installation of a 1.15km outdoor fitness trail at the Robert E. Young Recreation Complex.
- Construction of two canoe/kayak launches and a skateboard / wheeled action sports park at Isabel Morris Park in Lakefield.
- Completion of a Service Delivery Review for the Parks & Recreation along with studies guiding the Lakefield Marina and Lakefield Campground, the latter of which led to a new partnership with the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority and has improved operational efficiencies and value to campers and ratepayers.
- Development of Woodland Acres Park (including playground and trail) and acquisition of Cashel Park in Ennismore.



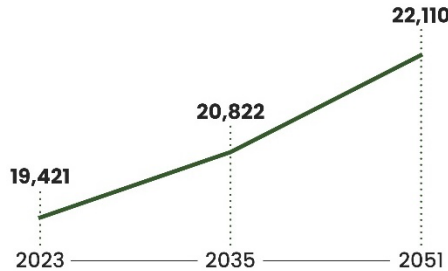
1.2 Community Profile & Selected Trends

Community Profile



19,500

Population, 2024¹



47.2

Average Age, 2021²

\$95,000

Median Household Income, 2021²

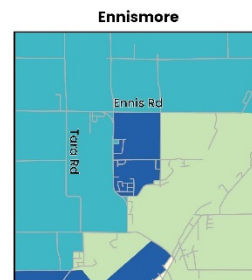
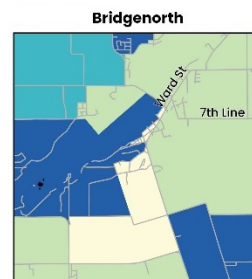
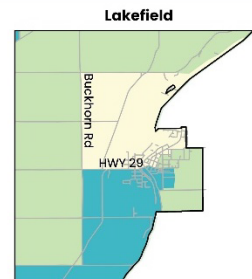
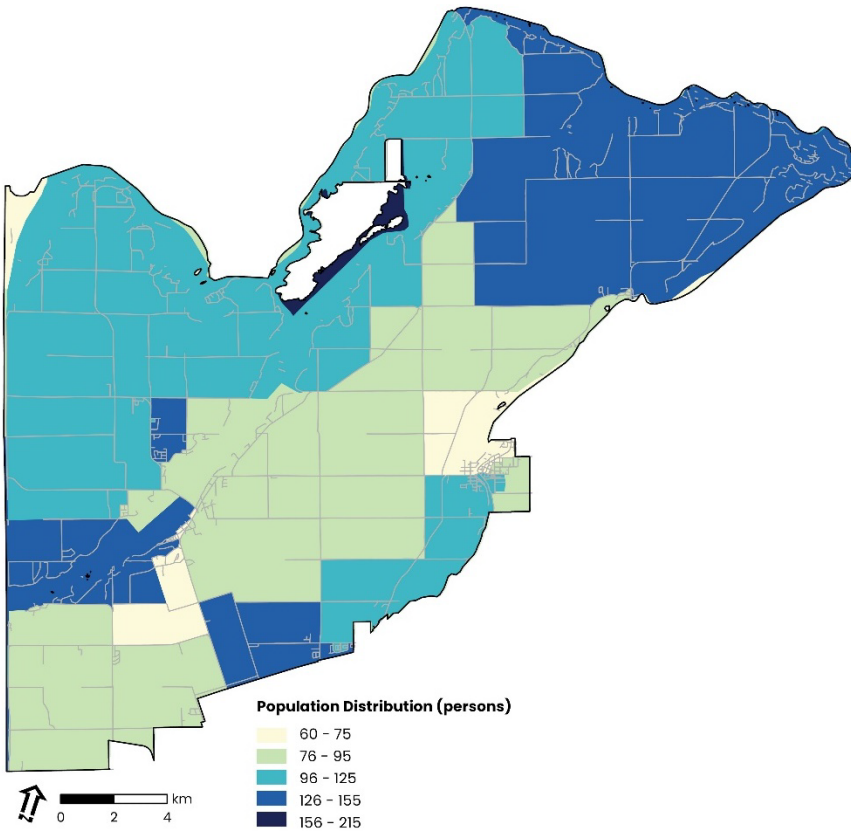
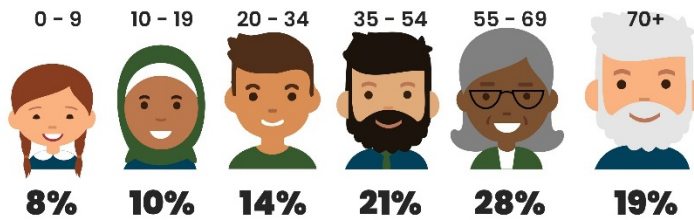
6.5%

Low Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT), 2021²

64%

of growth occurring in Lakefield until 2051 with 45% in Lakefield South¹

Age Structure, 2021²



¹2024 and 2035 population is extrapolated based off the Township of Selwyn Development Charges Background Study, 2023
²Statistics Canada Census, 2021

Trends

Aging Infrastructure

Many recreation facilities and parks in Ontario are approaching or have reached the end of their life.



Placemaking

Delivering a range of services at a central location will strengthen residents' mental, physical, and social wellbeing.



Unstructured, Self-Directed Activities

There is a growing desire for unstructured, self-directed, individual, and small group activities.



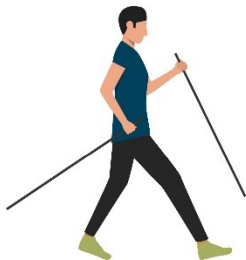
Volunteerism

Challenges in finding, retaining, and recognizing volunteers.



Growth of Older Population

Increasing program demands (e.g., pickleball, walking, fitness) for older adults and seniors to allow them to remain active.



Affordable Options

Low-to-no cost options can reduce participation barriers.



Partnerships

Opportunities for collaborations with service providers, schools, and other organizations.



Barrier-Free Facilities

When building or redeveloping facilities, remove all barriers to make the space fully accessible to all.



2 Consultation

Consultation with the public, community partners, Council, and Township Staff was critical to the RSP. Consultations provided an understanding of preferences, opinions, ideas, desires, and needs of the community, key informants, Council and Township Staff. A variety of methods were used to promote the RSP and gather valuable input, ensuring numerous opportunities to provide feedback.

2.1 Engagement Methods

Engagement for the RSP included:

- An **Awareness Campaign** included a project webpage (Speak Up Selwyn), posters dispersed throughout municipal buildings, promotion on the Township’s Calendar of Events, eNewsletter, press release in Kawartha Now, advertisement in the Lakefield Herald, email blasts, and social media promotion.
- A **Public Open House** was held on May 29, 2024 at the Township Office where residents provided input regarding the municipal recreation, parks and trail services. A second open house was held on October 28, 2024 to test the Draft Strategic Plan and RSP with the community prior to its finalization.
- **Community & Staff Feedback Forms** established a broad picture of recreation participation, preferences, barriers, opinions, suggestions, and needs. A total of 177 community feedback forms were completed.
- **Community & User Group Workshops** obtained specific insights into recreation services and other Township needs, explored ideas for prospective partnerships, and to provide an opportunity for community groups to network.
- **Advisory Committee Workshops** have been held with the Lakefield Trail Committee, Selwyn Accessibility Committee, and Selwyn Public Library Board.
- A **Strategic Planning Session** with Township Council and Senior Staff identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and constraints related, but not limited to policies, facilities, programs, services, community development, and organizational effectiveness.
- **Written feedback** was accepted throughout the planning process and considered as part of the RSP.

1,100
visits to the
Speak Up
Selwyn project
page

177
community
feedback form
responses

2.3 Public Open House Themes

Community

Selwyn residents value the small-town atmosphere, friendly community, and historical and natural beauty. There is a strong desire to maintain this charm by limiting growth and implementing environmental protections to preserve natural areas. Attendees would like increased engagement and transparency within the Township processes. Recommendations were received for improving communication about new initiatives within the Township.

Enhancement of Natural Spaces

There is a strong appreciation for the natural area and conservation efforts in Selwyn. Suggestions included more tree and shrub plantings in urban areas, protection of wetlands, creating additional pollinator gardens, beach and lakefront amenities, and more natural trails and boardwalks.

Infrastructure & Facility Improvements

Comments were received to modernize and expand certain parks and recreation facilities in Selwyn. Requests for more frequent maintenance of municipal spaces, providing more garbage cans and improving signage were noted. There were mixed opinions for beaches and lakefront amenities as some want limited facilities while others requested canoe/kayak/boat launches and more docks.

Transportation & Mobility

A number of discussions and written comments pertained to increasing traffic and congestion, which many attendees foresee as becoming worse with new residential developments. Improvements to roads and bridges were suggested as was expansion of the active transportation network to allow mobility by sidewalks, trails, and bicycle paths.

2.4 Community Feedback Form

Community feedback was collected on resident's uses and needs of Township services between May 20, 2024 and June 15, 2024. The Feedback Form was available in hard copy and digital formats, the latter hosted on the Speak Up Selwyn. A total of **177 responses** were completed and the input received will be considered to help inform the recommendations emerging from this RSP.

Residents were asked their participation in recreational activities, barriers they experience when participating, their satisfaction with Selwyn services and their requests for additional spending. The top answers are highlighted below.

Top Recreation Activity

- Walking on unpaved trails (67%)

Top Barrier to Participation in Recreation Activities

- Nothing – I can participate as often as I like (29%)

Top Barrier to Trail Use

- Nothing – I can participate as often as I like (41%)

Importance of Recreation, Parks & Trails Services

- Natural areas and open spaces (52% rated this service as essential)

Satisfaction of Selwyn Recreation, Parks & Trail Services

- Trails & pathways (respondents are most satisfied with this service)

Requests for Additional Spending

- Parks and open space (top request for additional spending on recreational opportunities within the Township)

Trail Requests for Additional Spending

- Improve existing trails (top request for additional spending related to trails)

2.5 Community & User Group Roundtables

Roundtables with representatives of local community service organizations and recreation groups were carried out in June 2024. The first roundtable was attended primarily by community service providers while the second roundtable was attended by recreation groups primarily consisting of local arena users. Most feedback received pertained to the Recreation Services Plan though some input also had relevance to the Strategic Plan. User groups that participated in the roundtables included:

- Community Care Ennismore
- Community Care Lakefield
- Ennismore Minor Hockey
- Friday Night Men's 3 Pitch
- Lakefield College School Hockey
- Lakefield Horticultural Society
- Lakefield Jazz, Art & Craft Festival
- Lakefield Ladies Hockey Lakefield Minor Hockey Association
- Lakefield Skating Club
- Smith-Ennismore Historical Society
- Thursday Pickup Hockey
- Peterborough & Kawarthas Chamber of Commerce

Notable themes arising out of the Roundtables are summarized below:

- **Community Pride:** Selwyn's small town charm, great community support and pride in making communities beautiful were stated as strengths.
- **New Community Centre:** Certain organizations are seeking larger spaces in Lakefield. Requests were made for a small fitness centre, an indoor walking track, and a new community centre to meet the Township's needs and attract younger generations.
- **New Ice Pad:** Certain arena users indicated that another ice pad is required to grow their registrations.
- **Isabel Morris Park:** Some groups indicated that Isabel Morris Park is one of the best outdoor spaces in Selwyn. Adding a multi-use performance area could bolster the number, type and quality of festivals and events offered there.
- **Parks & Open Spaces:** Additional parks and open spaces were requested, particularly in Lakefield South and other future development areas where parks would be provided as a condition of planning approvals.
- **Trails & Connectivity:** There is a desire for Selwyn to be a walkable community.
- **Support for Volunteers:** Organizations attending were primarily those that rely on volunteers. They indicated that it is difficult to find new volunteers and there is a desire for the Township to provide appropriate support to aid with recruitment, communications, recognition, etc.

2.6 Advisory Committee & Board Workshops

Workshops were conducted with the Lakefield Trail Committee, Accessibility Advisory Committee, and the Selwyn Public Library Board to discuss needs, priorities, and opportunities. Key themes that emerged from the workshops are outlined below.

- **Growth Management & Communication:** The Township should strategically manage residential, commercial, and industrial growth to ensure it aligns with community values and service capacity. There is a need for improved outreach, particularly through social media and other means.
- **Volunteerism:** There is a desire to maintain the volunteer-supported services within the Township.
- **Infrastructure & Space Needs:** Currently, there is insufficient space in libraries and community centres, with a need for expanded meeting rooms and adaptable infrastructure, particularly in Lakefield.
- **Community Services & Collaboration:** Libraries are an essential community service, offering more than books. Recognize the diverse needs of the Township and ensure all areas receive appropriate levels of service.
- **Expansion & Maintenance:** There is a need for more parks, trails, and amenities within the growing community, especially in Lakefield South.



3 Service Delivery Objectives

This section gives an overview of the Township’s role, current service delivery model, proposed service delivery model, communication & marketing, volunteers & partners, funding, monitoring and updating this RSP, which will establish a clear action plan for implementation this RSP.

3.1 The Township’s Role & Service Delivery Model

Like most municipalities, the Township of Selwyn has a centralized organizational structure in place whereby recreation and parks services and other Departments report to the Chief Administrative Officer, through whom key decisions are considered for approval by the elected Township Council. The municipality’s recreation, parks and trail operations fall under the responsibility of the Parks & Recreation Department although other Departments also have an influence in certain aspects (e.g. finance, public works, capital planning and budget development, etc.).

The Township’s primary responsibility is to provide physical infrastructure through which parks, recreation and trail services can be delivered. The 2024 Tax Budget levy for Township-funded parks, recreation and trail services amounted to approximately \$2.2 million¹ or \$112 per capita. Approximately \$1,000,000 is directed to parks, sports fields and trail operations and \$970,000 towards recreation facilities (e.g. Lakefield Smith Community Centre, Ennismore Community Centre and Ennismore Multi-Use Building).

Recreation and sport programs in Selwyn are delivered by external providers (service clubs, community groups, volunteers, etc.). The Township provides recreational spaces and supports user groups. Even though the Township does not currently deliver programming, there is a focus on ensuring there is a choice of services available for all age groups. The Township uses an indirect service delivery model, where the community delivers programming, and the Township provides physical space. This delivery model is common in smaller and/or more rural municipalities where there is low population density or a smaller population size.

Programs and services provided are aimed to being cost efficient, provided in safe environments, and a choice of quality opportunities. Both the Township and community partners need to be mindful of evolving national trends, changing interests and demographics, industry priorities, and expectations. The Township provides physical dedicated space to a variety of community partners to support their programming and service needs, typically at a low or no cost. The community groups that benefit from this physical space include area service clubs seniors’ groups, heritage organizations, and other local community groups.

Recreation, parks, and trail opportunities in Selwyn are provided through an “integrated service delivery system” that involves multiple community-based providers and various Township Departments. For an integrated service delivery system to be successful, the community must have a strong internal capacity to sustainably provide programs and services over the long term. It is in the Township’s interest to facilitate a community development approach so that organizations and volunteers grow to a point where they can function autonomously and with

¹ Township of Selwyn 2024 Taxation Budget. Note that the \$1 million for parks, sports fields and trails reflects “Department 40” components including the Marina, The River Den, community halls, etc.

minimal support from external agencies. “Asset Based Community Development” is an approach that focuses on capacities of organizations, rather than their deficiencies, to address their needs; a relevant analogy is as simple as viewing the “glass being half full” or “half empty.” The intended result of community development is to empower the community to create positive outcomes for themselves.

The Township’s Parks & Recreation Department Service Delivery Review, completed in 2020, recommended continuing with the indirect service model and the Asset Based Community Development Approach. The Parks & Recreation Department has made excellent progress in implementing the Service Delivery Review with 92% of its recommendations having been completed or are currently in progress.

Adoption of the community development model will require a significant amount of staff time to meaningfully engage groups, residents and prospective partners. With Parks & Recreation Department Staff spending more time communicating with public and community groups on top of their core responsibilities, it may be challenging for them to address non-operational customer service requests and added maintenance as the parks system grows without additional resourcing. The Parks & Recreation Department Service Delivery Review recommended development of a Community Recreation Liaison whose duties have been integrated into the Administrative Assistant position supporting the Department.

Asset-Based Community Development focuses on the strengths and capacities of groups, not on their deficiencies, to identify and address their needs.

3.2 Communication & Marketing

Experiences across Ontario demonstrate that people can find it difficult to know what services, facilities, and amenities are offered by the municipality and community providers. Approximately 12% of respondents to the community feedback form indicated that they are unaware of what parks and recreation facilities exist in Selwyn.

With the different forms of communication that are used by different market segments; for example, print or word-of-mouth may be more accessible for older generations while social media advertising may be more effective for younger generations. With the Township having an older population overall, a mix of communication engagement tactics should continue to be used (webpage, social media posts, posters at the Township Office, etc.).

3.3 Volunteers & Partners

Volunteers are critical for municipalities that engage in indirect service delivery, as the community provides the programs. Many parks, recreation, and trail providers are volunteer-based or not-for-profit organizations, where it can be challenging for them to find resources or support when providing programming.

During the consultation process, community groups have indicated that it has been challenging to retain new volunteers, with some groups wondering if they will be able to continue providing services. The Township should provide resources to residents on the municipal webpage about the community groups within the Township. By providing the

community groups information, there is a higher chance that more residents would volunteer with knowing the opportunities available.

3.4 Providing Inclusive Choices

Progressive Parks & Recreation Departments in Canada recognize the importance of taking a multi-faceted approach to including all segments of the population, particularly those populations that face above-average levels of marginalization or vulnerability. Populations that commonly experience barriers to participation include persons experiencing low income, persons with disabilities, the LGBTQ+ community, and Indigenous Peoples.

Older Adults

Nearly one out of two Selwyn residents (47%) are 55 years of age and above and thus the Township should continue to consider age-friendly planning principles when developing parks and recreation facilities. The Township of Selwyn, County of Peterborough and other area municipalities have adopted an Age-friendly Peterborough Community Action Plan prepared by the Peterborough Council on Aging.

“Peterborough is a thriving region that is inclusive, respectful and accessible to people of all ages and abilities.”

**~ Vision from the
Age-friendly Peterborough
Community Action Plan, 2017**

The Community Action Plan was developed in consultation with many regional organizations and individuals including Selwyn residents. According to the World Health Organization, age-friendly communities are one of the most effective policy responses to support an aging population through accessible environments, social networks, and community services.

The Community Action Plan can be supported through this RSP. Parks, recreation and trail services help older adults attain basic needs to be active, mobile, and socially connected. For example, trails provide an affordable and safe means of travel throughout Selwyn and its settlement areas while parks and recreation facilities offer spaces where older adults can access programs and gather in ways that promote healthy aging.

Low Income

Selected RSP consultations identified that affordable programs should be available, recognizing that there are households in Selwyn with limited financial means. Research bears this out with ample evidence that correlates a person’s level of income with their frequency of participation; households with more income available to spend on parks, recreation and culture pursuits are more likely to be engaged than households where cost to participation is a barrier.

The median after-tax income for all private households in Selwyn was \$83,000 in 2020, which is above median incomes for the County and Ontario (\$70,500 and \$79,500, respectively). Selwyn has a lower proportion of low-income residents with 6.5% of the population living below Statistics Canada’s low-income measure, after-tax. By comparison, approximately 11.5% of residents in the County and Province live below the low-income measure.²

² Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Canada.

The Township of Selwyn does not have a formal financial assistance policy in place, largely because it is not involved in the direct delivery of programs. It is up to individual service providers to address financial constraints through their own policies and practices, with User Group Roundtables noting that groups as a whole try not to turn individuals away if they cannot afford to participate. Some organizations will leverage programs through Canadian Tire Jumpstart while other organizations have more informal approaches that typically involve individual discussions with people to see how they can be accommodated within their means, and some stakeholder groups strive to keep their registration/program rates as low as possible. However, the Township's provision of subsidized spaces is one important way to strive towards affordability for all residents.

Persons with Disabilities

The 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability found that 8 million people reported living with some form of disability, most commonly identified as pain-related, flexibility, mobility and mental health-related. This amounts to 27% of the population, a substantial increase from the 13% of the population (3.8 million people) reporting living with a disability in the 2012 Survey on Disability.

Assuming that the national average of 27% is applied to the population in Selwyn, there could be over 5,000 residents living with some form of disability. The Township is committed to making its facilities and programs accessible where possible, with examples including accessibility improvements at its community centres and certain parks. It has ongoing work plans to identify and remove physical barriers to built spaces and provides training to Township Council members, employees and volunteers undertaking work on behalf of the municipality when required to do so.

Persons from Diverse Cultural Backgrounds

According to the 2021 Census, 7.5% of Selwyn residents were born outside of Canada and most have been established in the country for well over a decade; less than 1% of the population immigrated after 2011 which is much lower than the provincial rate.

Persons of European descent make up the largest cultural groups, primarily those from the United Kingdom but also of Dutch heritage. Racialized persons make up just 3% of the Township's permanent residents while persons with Indigenous ancestry also constitute 3% of the population (noting that the Township shares borders with the Curve Lake First).

A number of municipalities are exploring ways to seek reconciliation with Indigenous communities and promote truth and understanding through ways such as parks and recreation offerings. Other municipalities are trying to attract newcomers and diverse cultural groups to their communities as part of broader economic development and business expansion/retention strategies. With immigrants constituting a major share of population growth province-wide, municipalities are seeking to understand the types of incentives and quality of life factors that draw culturally diverse groups. Recreation facilities, parks, and trails is part of the mix of services that most people, including culturally diverse individuals, consider when deciding whether to settle in a community; municipalities and community service providers often look at broadening the types of services that they offer to respond to the needs of individuals with "non-traditional" interests and activity preferences through programs, services and facilities.

As Selwyn can be expected to diversify further in the years to come based upon provincial trends, its efforts to embrace cultural diversity through programs and festivals remain relevant.

In communities that are experiencing, or have already experienced strong rates of ethno-cultural diversity, one of the most promising practices is to build relationships with diverse cultural individuals and groups that are active in the community. Initial discussions centre on understanding parks, recreation and arts/culture needs, how to provide access, and ways to navigate municipal government. Program related initiatives include the introduction of traditional Canadian sports and activities, and introducing all residents to diverse activities, sports and leisure pursuits.

2SLGBTQIA+ Community

There is no data that quantifies how many persons belong to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, though polls and studies conducted elsewhere estimate the percentage to be in the range of 3.5% to 5%. The 2SLGBTQIA+ community often faces barriers to participation in parks, recreation and cultural programs as a result of exclusion and bullying; however, their participation is critical as the 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy groups often attribute exclusionary attitudes with mental health issues, homelessness, suicide and harmful practices in their communities. The role of the Township helps ensure that the 2SLGBTQIA+ community is welcomed, included and can participate freely from harassment, hatred or bias within safe public spaces and programs.



3.5 Service Delivery Recommendations

- Action #1** The Township’s role should continue to be a “Facilitator” of parks and recreation services through the provision of spaces, associated amenities/equipment, in-kind supports and subsidies. In support of this role, the Township should encourage a Community Development Model through engagement and provision of appropriate supports to empower its volunteers and community organizations, develop their internal capacity, and enhance their ability to deliver services over time.
- Action #2** Organize regular forums for volunteers and community organizations delivering parks, recreation and trail services in Selwyn to allow information/idea sharing and networking opportunities to take place.
- Action #3** Design ongoing opportunities for engagement, municipal services and spaces to be inclusive of persons with disabilities, Indigenous communities and diverse ethno-cultural groups, low income populations, seniors and youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and other marginalized groups. The intent is to understand recreation, parks and trails needs of under-represented groups so that they can be active, connected and are welcomed.
- Action #4** In accordance with the AODA, seek input from the Accessibility Advisory Committee to improve accessibility in recreation facilities, parks and trails to reinforce principles of universal design, safety and comfort. In addition the Township may seek input from other parties/technical experts on criteria that considers the AODA, Building Code and other design requirements.
- Action #5** Continue to implement outstanding recommendations of the 2020 Parks & Recreation Department Service Delivery Review.

4 Parks & Trails in Selwyn

4.1 Parks in Selwyn

The natural beauty of Selwyn is one of the Township's defining features and one of the most valued aspects of living in the community based on what residents communicated throughout the planning process. The Township's parks showcase natural beauty found locally but also are places for people to connect with each other, be physically active and simply get fresh air.

A well-designed parks system offers environmental, social, health, and economic benefits, and has the potential to bring people together. As noted in a national charter entitled Parks For All, parks are defined as "any land and water that exists on the parks continuum" which could be located on public or privately held lands. As outdoor spaces, parks provide an important connection to nature which is required for human survival as well as personal, community and societal enrichment.³

Selwyn maintains 84.1 hectares across 19 recreational parks, translating into a service level of 4.3 hectares per 1,000 population. The Township's parks inventory has grown by over 20 hectares since 2012 while the overall rate of parkland per population has also increased. The Township is to be commended for bolstering its parkland supplies in a provincial legislative environment that has made it more difficult to do so. The addition of Cashel Park in Ennismore and Woodland Acres Park are the primary sources of net parkland additions.

The RSP establishes a classification of parkland considering historical hierarchies contained in the former Township of Selwyn Official Plan (which has recently been updated and no longer contains a park classification) and past iterations of the RSP. Table 1 articulates the park classification system which distinguishes parks based on the geographic catchments they serve, their functions and intended uses, and targeted levels of service. Two categories of parkland are included in the classification system which guide the Township's ongoing parkland acquisition, design, and maintenance activities. The 77.8 hectares of Community Parks shown in Table 2 translates into 4.0 hectares per 1,000 while 6.3 hectares of Neighbourhood Parks results in 0.3 hectares per 1,000.

A Vision for Canada's Parks

Connected Canadian Park Lands and Waters that support healthy Nature and healthy people in harmony for generations to come, backed by an active, diverse parks community that cultivates shared goals, mutual respect, and collective action.

~ Parks for All. Parks Canada, 2018

³ Parks Canada Agency. 2018. Parks for All: An Action Plan for Canada's Parks Community.

Table 1: Overview of the Township of Selwyn Parkland Classification System

Community Parks	
Description:	Community parks are intended to provide a broad range of multi-purpose recreational areas for active and passive pursuits. Community parks will provide outdoor recreation facilities that serve residential neighbourhoods within the Township and are a focal point for community activities.
Provision Target:	3.0 ha per 1,000 residents
Functionality:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides multi-purpose recreational areas for active and passive pursuits, including large open areas which can facilitate active sport activities • Incorporate natural areas, when possible • Be accessible to neighbourhoods and with future subdivision plans, walkways to new or existing parks should be incorporated • Be located on or near an Arterial or Collector Road
Neighbourhood Parks	
Description:	Neighbourhood parks will typically consist of small children's play facilities at the neighbourhood level and serve individual neighbourhoods within a community.
Provision Target:	1.0 ha per 1,000 residents
Functionality:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides mainly passive outdoor areas • Centrally located in neighbourhoods • Adjacent to secondary schools or major indoor sports facilities

The parkland classification system noted above continues to target parkland at a rate of 4.0 hectares per 1,000 population. Whereas previous service rates were 2.5 hectares per 1,000 for Community Parks and 1.5 hectares per 1,000 for Neighbourhood Parks, these rates have been adjusted to better reflect the parkland supplies as they presently exist. The recommended Community Park provision rate has been increased to 3.0 hectares per 1,000 with the deviation between the actual service rate rationalized by Cashel Park slightly skewing the calculation due to a substantial naturalized portion that has been counted. The Neighbourhood Park service rate has been slightly reduced to 1.0 hectares per 1,000.

Table 2: Supply of Recreational Parkland

Park	Size	Community
Community Parks		
Cashel Park*	21.9 ha	Ennismore
Chemong Park	3.6 ha	Bridgenorth
Cenotaph Park	0.8 ha	Lakefield
Douglas Sports Centre	5.4 ha	Lakefield
Ennismore Waterfront Park	21.0 ha	Ennismore
Hague Point**	1.9 ha	Lakefield
Isabel Morris Park	1.2 ha	Lakefield
Paul J. English Chemung Lions Park	6.0 ha	Bridgenorth
Robert E. Young Recreation Complex	16.2 ha	Ennismore
Water Street Shoreline	0.5 ha	Lakefield
Total Community Parks	77.8 ha	
Neighbourhood Parks		
Bridgenorth Library Parkette	0.5 ha	Bridgenorth
Burritt Mann Memorial Park	0.6 ha	Rural
Curtis Park	0.1 ha	Lakefield
Champlain Park	0.4 ha	Bridgenorth
East Street Park	0.3 ha	Fife's Bay
Fife's Bay Park	0.7 ha	Fife's Bay
Jones Beach	0.2 ha	Bridgenorth
Kimberly Park	0.2 ha	Ennismore
Victoria Park	1.6 ha	Lakefield
Woodland Acres Park	1.5 ha	Smith
Total Neighbourhood Parks	6.3 ha	
Total Parkland in Selwyn	84.1 ha	

* Cashel Park acreage includes a sizeable naturalized portion which may not be suitable for certain recreation facilities

** Hague Point land area excludes Lakefield Campground & Marshland Centre from active parkland

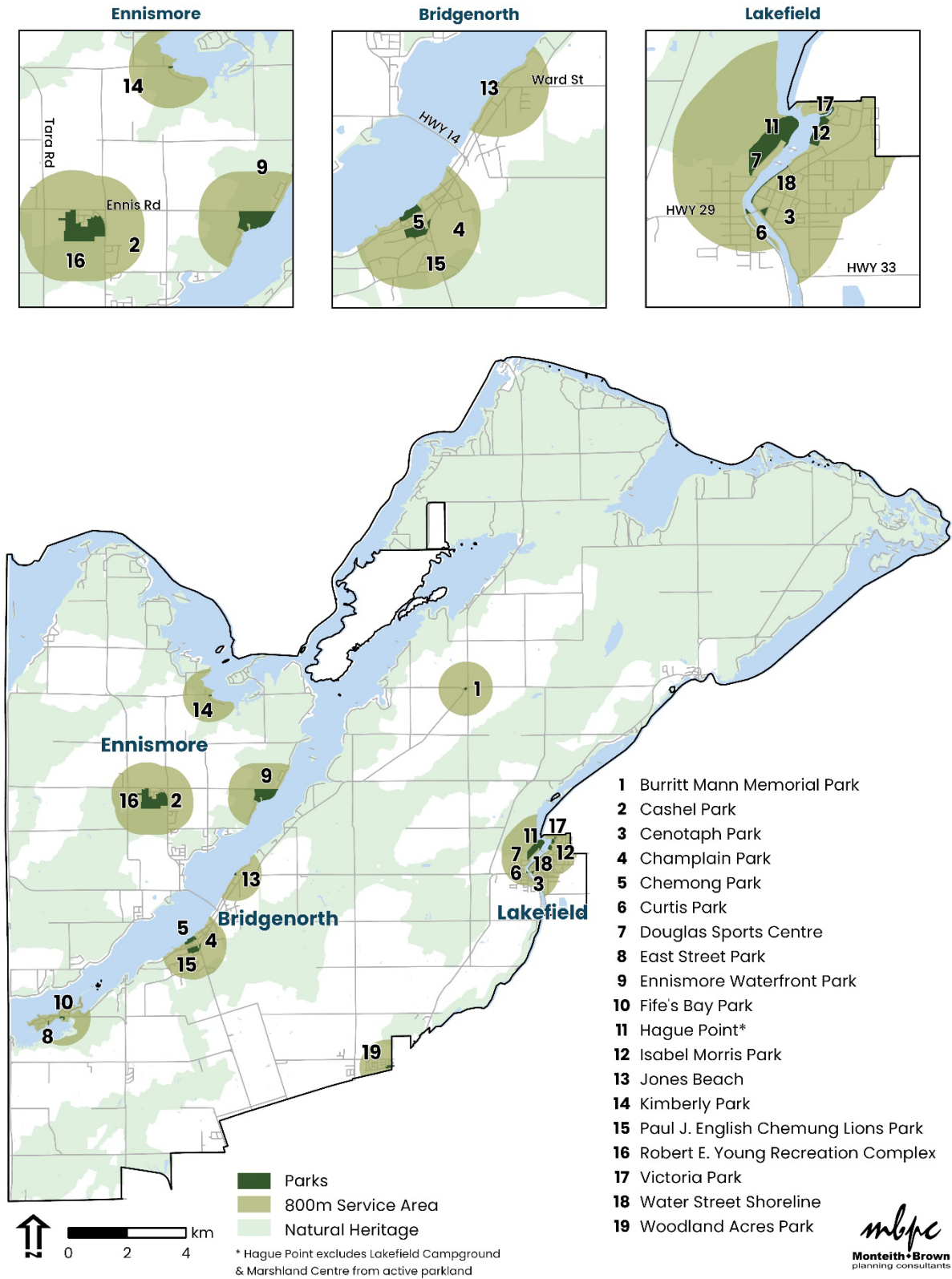
Note: Since the 2018 RSP Update, the Township has refined land areas for parks using GIS and other means. Adjusted land areas have changed previously reported values for Douglas Sports Centre, Hague Point, Isabel Morris Park, Robert E. Young Recreation Complex, Bridgenorth Library Parkette, Woodland Acres Park while adding Water Street Shoreline and Curtis Park to the municipal supply of parkland.

Table 3 illustrates that current parkland supplies will retain the parkland provision rate near the recommended rates as the supply of Community Parkland offsets deficiencies in meeting the Neighbourhood Park needs. In many instances, Community Parks in Selwyn also service neighbourhood-level requirements. While the quantity of parkland may be sufficient to meet 4 hectares per 1,000 residents, quantity alone should not determine whether future parks are required as geographic distribution must also be factored into account. For example, plans of Subdivision that will be submitted for Lakefield South should identify parkland to reconcile geographic gaps and service populations in that growing part of the Township.

Table 3: Parkland Needs, 2024–2035

Year	2024	2035
Community Parkland		
Community Parkland Supply (ha)	77.8	
Actual Parkland Provision Rate Achieved (ha per 1,000 pop.)	4.0	3.75
Parkland Required @ 3.0 ha per 1,000 pop.	58.5	62.4
Deviation from Provision Target (ha)	+ 19.3	+15.4
Neighbourhood Parkland		
Neighbourhood Parkland Supply (ha)	6.3	
Actual Parkland Provision Rate Achieved (ha per 1,000 pop.)	0.3	0.3
Parkland Required @ 1.0 ha per 1,000 pop.	19.5	20.8
Deviation from Provision Target (ha)	- 13.2	- 14.5
Overall Parkland (Community + Neighbourhood)		
Parkland Supply (ha)	84.1	
Actual Parkland Provision Rate Achieved (ha per 1,000 pop.)	4.3	4.0
Parkland Required @ 4.0 ha per 1,000 pop.	78.0	83.2
Deviation from Provision Target (ha)	+ 6.1	+ 0.9

Figure 1: Parkland Distribution with an 800m Service Area



4.2 Parkland Needs for the Next 10 Years

The strong value that residents place on parks, the physical and social benefits created through these spaces, and the economic spinoffs that are generated lend support for continued investment in parkland. Future parkland needs are largely met through the acquisition of new parkland, revitalization of existing parks, and investing in certain amenities for the parks system as a whole.

New Parks

The Township is entitled to receive parkland through the land development process as prescribed by the *Ontario Planning Act*, amounting to 2% of developed industrial and commercial lands and 5% of all other developable lands (or cash-in-lieu of the physical parkland). The *Planning Act* also provides an alternative dedication rate based on density which could be applied locally to medium and higher density residential developments that may emerge in the future. The Township can supplement parklands received through the land development process by purchasing additional lands, securing leases or access agreements, and other means to add parkland to the supply.

With a park supply over 84 hectares amounting to a rate of 4.3 hectares per 1,000 residents, the Township is servicing residents at a healthy level particularly when factoring publicly accessible lands held by other government agencies and private sector park/recreation providers (e.g. Province of Ontario, County of Peterborough, School Boards and the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority).

Understanding that the Township is experiencing some residential growth pressures in certain geographic locations (e.g. Lakefield South), it will be important to ensure that the active supply of parkland is augmented to keep service levels similar to the existing rate. With a healthy provision rate and good geographic distribution of parks relative to settlement area populations, modest additions to the parkland supply are required over the RSP planning period in order to keep pace. In Lakefield South and other future development areas, the Township should collect parkland using a combination of *Planning Act* dedications and other means, while also ensuring appropriate geographic distribution. Optimally, residential developments in the three settlement areas should have a park within 800 metres or a 10 to 12 minute walk; Figure 1 on the previous page illustrates that the Bridgenorth and Lakefield urban areas generally achieve this coverage.

Cashel Park is a significant addition to the Township's parkland inventory but it is noted that a large portion its land area is comprised of natural features. As such, a more naturalized recreational experience is envisioned for that area including walking trails. The Township should develop a plan for Cashel Park to guide its future design and development.

Revitalization of Existing Parks

The park experience is tied to its design, intended function, and the quality of facilities/amenities found within. These factors are often influenced by the era of original construction. A park built decades prior can impart positive feelings of history, sentiment, and pride; however, older parks may also be in need of rejuvenation if deterioration is apparent or if the intended functions no longer respond to modern and/or local area interests and demographics.

Parkland revitalization is thus an important part of attracting continued use over time. Rejuvenation efforts can be major in scale, ranging from complete park redevelopments to renewal of major amenities or adding new facilities where space permits.

Rejuvenation can also take more basic or minor forms as will be discussed in subsequent pages. Often, redevelopment of a park is initiated because of population growth pressures or an evolution that has occurred in demographics of surrounding areas (e.g. a greater proportion of older adults and fewer children), in response to volunteer initiatives (e.g. fundraising or service club contributions), or multiple park-based facilities approaching the end of their lifecycle. Recent reinvestments at the Robert E. Young Recreation Complex, Douglas Sports Centre and Isabel Morris Park (hard surface courts, internal park pathways, skateboard park, canoe launch, etc.) are examples of renewal efforts.

Strengthening Park Experiences with Amenities

The Township can attract greater use of parks and further “animate” them through smaller-scale investments that are commonly focused on drop-in use, comfort, accessibility, and functionality. Through community consultations, desires were expressed for more shade, seating and washrooms within parks and along trails. Comfort features benefit everyone, but especially families with young children as well as older adults. There is a trend towards greater informal gatherings within parks such as picnics, community gatherings, or simply meeting up with friends.

Welcoming & Inclusive Designs

Accessibility and inclusivity are an important part of park design. Parks are typically a place for all, thus facilitating access for persons with disabilities and special needs is something to strive towards. Not all parks or areas within them are appropriate for universally accessible infrastructure (e.g. ecologically sensitive or naturalized zones), however, community-focused spaces should consider the ability of all residents to access them. The Township can increase the likelihood of residents and tourists regularly visiting its parks and trails by making them comfortable, welcoming and safe. As noted at the start of this section, the more connected that people become with the outdoors, the better the outcomes for individuals and the community.

In making parks more accessible and inclusive, the Township should seek advice from its Accessibility Advisory Committee and other qualified entities. Many municipalities are integrating barrier-free components as part of new and replacement playground structures. Going further, the recreation facility needs assessments in Section 5 of this RSP speak to a need for a fully barrier-free playground in Ennismore. Beyond playgrounds, park accessibility is an important consideration and can include accessible park pathway surfacing, seating to provide areas for rest, and sensory gardens can provide a place for neuro-diverse populations to enjoy. Washrooms are another component of accessibility but also from a general comfort as well. There are no set standards guiding what parks municipalities should install washrooms as decisions are dictated by level of park use as well as costs of capital and operation. Portable washrooms are commonly found given that they are more affordable than purpose-built washroom structures, however, portable toilets are not always accessible for persons with disabilities. The Township should undertake an assessment of which parks would benefit from washrooms along with the cost implications of doing so.

Multi-Generational, Multi-Seasonal Usage

The ability to attract the broadest range of people into a park throughout the year is central to many park design philosophies. Although not all parks can or should be everything to everybody, a good park makes sure there is at least something that a person can do regardless of their age. Whether it is a family activity such as use a playground or fly a kite, the ability for adults to congregate with friends around a checkerboard table for a coffee, or simply a place for somebody to sit on a shaded bench and relax, parks should be a destination within the catchment area they are intended to serve.

Support for Festivals Events

The Township provides indoor facilities and parks, along with in-kind support for a number of festivals and special events throughout the year. Support is offered to festivals and events that are endorsed by the Township after demonstrating alignment with municipal values, and are coordinated by volunteer committees; these include Polarfest, the Jazz Festival, Shamrock Festival and Tractor-Pull. These and other unaffiliated events provide an opportunity for residents to gather while serving as important platforms to celebrate local culture, heritage, talent, and achievements.

The REY has space that is conducive to certain events though beyond this there is limited infrastructure in Selwyn that could grow festivals and events beyond their current capacities. Isabel Morris Park in Lakefield was previously identified through a conceptual master plan⁴ as a venue for special events through a rejuvenated pavilion and concrete surface; the Township has been incrementally implementing that concept and the heritage designated pavilion would be an ideal piece to focus on during this RSP planning period, potentially by relocating it closer to the Lakefield Marina. A larger multi-purpose performance space could then be constructed to support more events and programming in the park.

Opportunities for Outdoor Fitness

Outdoor fitness equipment has been installed at the Robert E. Young Recreation Complex, a progressive approach that is in line with leading municipalities across North America. There is evidence that outdoor fitness experiences are growing in popularity, particularly as they pertain to long distance endurance; many residents pursue personal goals for full/half marathon or biathlon/triathlon activities.

The design scale of outdoor fitness areas varies but is commonly exemplified through “fitness stations” that consolidate multiple pieces of exercise equipment in a specific part of a park. The Township’s template is reflective of a “fitness trail” to allow interval training and a mix of cardio and strength training, while other approaches involve use of the landscape to create berms/hills to run on or circular open spaces surrounded by gardens through which to participate in outdoor yoga or tai chi.

As a relatively new investment, results from observation and monitoring of the REY outdoor fitness trail over the next few years will inform the Township as to whether this type of amenity should be extended to other locations such as the Douglas Sports Centre / Hague Point.

⁴ Basterfield & Associates Landscape Architects. Isabel Morris Park Masterplan: Landscape Concept Plan. August 2006.

4.3 Beaches & Waterfront Areas

Selwyn's waterfront areas through the Trent-Severn waterway and numerous in-land lakes are some of the Township's most valuable assets and complements to the municipal parks system. The Township maintains three beaches including Jones Beach (Bridgenorth), Lakefield Beach and Ennismore Waterfront Park.

A Project for Public Spaces blog identified the following 10 qualities that can make for a successful and vibrant waterfront destination when:

1. Surrounding Buildings Enhance Public Space
2. Limits Are Placed on Residential Development
3. Activities Go On Round-the-Clock and Throughout the Year
4. Flexible Design Fosters Adaptability
5. Creative Amenities Boost Everyone's Enjoyment
6. Access is Made Easy By Boat, Bike And Foot
7. Local Identity is Showcased
8. The Water Itself Draws Attention
9. Iconic Buildings Serve a Variety of Functions
10. Good Management Maintains Community Vision⁵

With active outdoor recreational pursuits becoming increasingly popular, especially in municipalities with seasonal populations such as Selwyn, there is growing demand for waterfront recreational activities such as parasailing, stand up paddle-boarding and boating. The Township provides residents and visitors with access to scenic waterfront and beach areas as noted above, with observations and input from consultations observing increasing levels of demand/use for water sports and aquatic programming. The assistive / accessible canoe launches at Isabel Morris Park and Lakefield Beach, along with a number of public water access areas through the Township, enable access to the lakes for watersports and boating. Canoe and kayak rentals are also available through the Lakefield Campground. Through the Lakefield Marina Study, a number of localized opportunities to increase docking and attract commercial tour operators were explored.



⁵ Project for Public Spaces. January 2009. 10 Qualities of a Great Waterfront Destination.

4.4 Trails in Selwyn

The Township provides multi-use trails / paths and should continue to develop their multi-seasonal trails. A variety of trail types (e.g., natural trails, gravel base, paved, on-road, etc.) are important to an active transportation system.

Trails offer many benefits including:

- connecting people with nature
- active transportation
- tourism and economic development
- protection of the environment

In total, there is approximately 15.3km of trail routes managed by the Township of Selwyn. Trails are as much of a recreational amenity as arenas and parks and are highly valued by people. Trails are a year-round facility as they accommodate summer and winter activities.

The 2014 Recreation Trails Master Plan (RTMP) was reviewed during Phase 1 and has informed this RSP. During the consultation process, feedback on trails was received whereby a number of people would like to see enhancement and maintenance of Selwyn’s existing trails to make them more walkable and connected. Residents would also like to see more information on existing trails (informative signage, maps, information on which trails are accessible, etc.). Consultations with the Lakefield Trails Committee spoke to local trails being well used and are maintained by volunteers.

Trails are very important to the residents of Selwyn as walking on unpaved trails was the top recreation activity participated in by feedback from respondents (67%) and walking on paved trails being within the top 5 (51%). 41% of respondents reported no barriers to participating in trail activities. Feedback from respondents appear most satisfied with the trails and pathways within the Township compared to other recreation services and amenities.

It is recommended that the Township continues to strategically extend existing routes and add new routes, while also ensuring sufficient resources are in place to maintain trails for safety and accessibility. The Township should strive to develop an interconnected trail network that links the communities in Selwyn together and beyond. The following is an overview of the Township maintained trail system with a full description following.

Table 4: Township Maintained Trails

Township Maintained Trails	Length	Location
B.E.L. Rotary Bridgenorth Trail	2.5 km	Bridgenorth
Ennismore Fitness Trail	1.2 km	Ennismore
Ennismore Heritage Trail	2.5 km	Ennismore
Lakefield Millennium Trail	8.5 km	Lakefield
Eastwood to Andrew Trail	450 m	Fairbairn Meadows
Fairbairn Trail	1.2 km	Bridgenorth

There are six trail networks managed by the Township of Selwyn that are described below.

B.E.L. Rotary Bridgenorth Trail: The Rotary Bridgenorth Trail is 2.5 kilometres and was created in 2010 by the Township's Recreation Department in partnership with the B.E.L. Rotary Club and private supporters. The trail is located in Bridgenorth from Hilliard Street to Brumwell Street. The trail base is limestone which makes it suitable for walking and cycling.

Ennismore Fitness Trail: The Ennismore Fitness Trail is approximately 1.2 kilometres and located at the Robert E. Young Recreation Complex. This trail is a gravel base with five fitness stations throughout. This trail is suitable for many ages and abilities.

Ennismore Heritage Trail: The Ennismore Heritage Trail is 2.5 kilometres of scenic vistas and key points of interest through Ennismore Waterfront Park. Managed by the Township's Recreation Department constructed as part of the Millennium Bureau of Canada Project. This trail is very popular among residents and tourists and is of a natural surface, has 2 boardwalks, a viewing platform and a picnic area with a pavilion. The west end of the trail system leads to a secret garden, created in 2022 on the former site of the Ennismore Barn.

Lakefield Millennium Trail: The Lakefield Millennium Trail is approximately 8.5 kilometres and connects Lakefield to the Trans Canada Trail and Peterborough County Rotary Trail. This trail was developed in 2000 and is managed by the Stewardship Committee and Township's Recreation Department. The trail guides residents and visitors through an urban and natural tour with interpretive signage noting key points and the Lakefield's historical significance. The trail is asphalt and limestone based, which makes it fully accessible and is suitable for walking or cycling. Recently, in 2022, the trail was extended 150 metres from Smith Street to the future Lakefield South development.

Eastwood to Andrew Trail: The Eastwood to Andrew Trail is 450 metres and was created in 2018. This trail connects two neighbourhoods, Patricia Cres/Andrew Ave to Eastwood Road. This trail is dedicated to local families involved in the 1968 fatal school bus crash.

Fairbairn Trail: The Fairbairn Trail is 1.2 kilometres and completed in 2018. This trail is between 5th Line and Lindsay Road and will connect to the Bridgenorth to Peterborough trail in the future when all three phases are completed.

In addition to the Township owned trails, residents and visitors can also use:

- Christie Bentham Wetland:** Christie Bentham Wetland trail is through a property that is on natural, undisturbed waterfront land on Clear Lake. This property is managed by Kawartha Land Trust and spans about 137 acres with approximately 5.2 kilometres of trails. This property features a Provincially Significant Wetland and provides habitats for breeding fish, birds and Species at Risk.
- Gannon's Narrows Conservation Area:** Gannon's Narrows Conservation Area trail is a short hiking trail being approximately 1.3 kilometres. This trail passes by a large pond surrounding an open marsh, upland hardwood forest, thicket, and cedar woods and swamp.
- Imagine the Marsh:** Imagine the Marsh trail is a short hiking trail that is connected to the Township's trail system. The trail is located within the Imagine the Marsh Conservation Area, on Katchewanooka Lake, and managed by the Otonabee Conservation. This property protects a Provincially Significant Wetland for source water protection, biological diversity, conservation education, and nature appreciation.
- Miller Creek Wildlife Area Trail:** The Miller Creek Wildlife Area is managed by the Otonabee Conservation and is 1 kilometre long. This trail takes the user on a journey through forests, open fields, and past a Provincially Significant Wetland. This site includes an observation tower that over looks the wetland.
- Selwyn Beach Conservation Area Trail:** The Selwyn Beach Conservation Area Trail is managed by Otonabee Conservation and is approximately 3 kilometres. This trail is located on the northeast shore of Chemong Lake and is well known for its swimming and sandy beach. Users can also access this trail by docking their boat at the docking facility.
- Trans Canada Trail (Kawartha):** The Kawartha Trans Canada Trail is a total of 53 kilometres long, with 3.6 kilometres passing through Selwyn. This trail runs from the Municipality of Durham (near Uxbridge) to the County of Peterborough (City of Peterborough). The trail surface consists of paved, aggregate (firm surface), natural (firm surface) and paved road.

Figure 2: Points of Interest and Necessary Conceptual Connections, Township of Selwyn, 2024

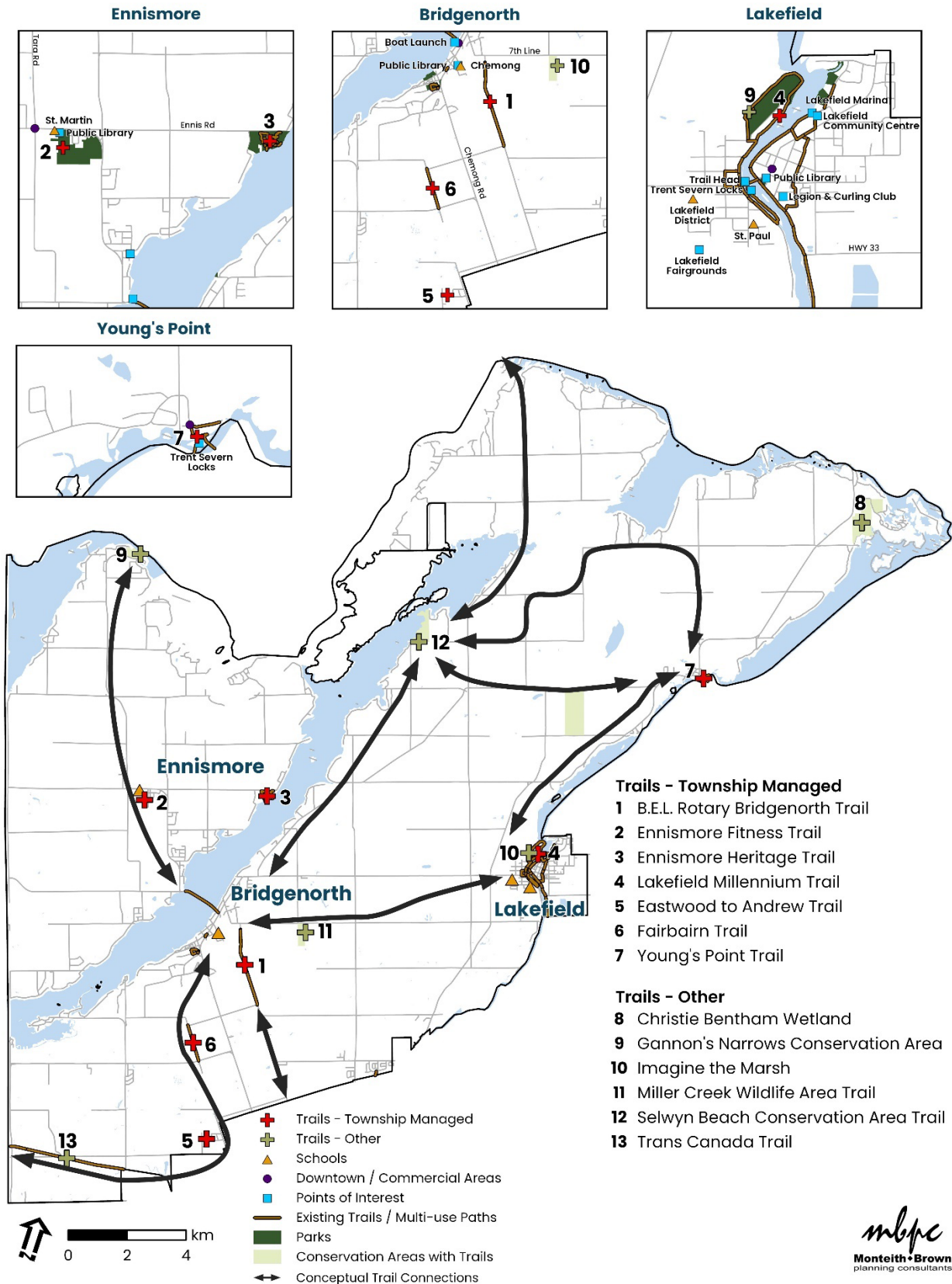
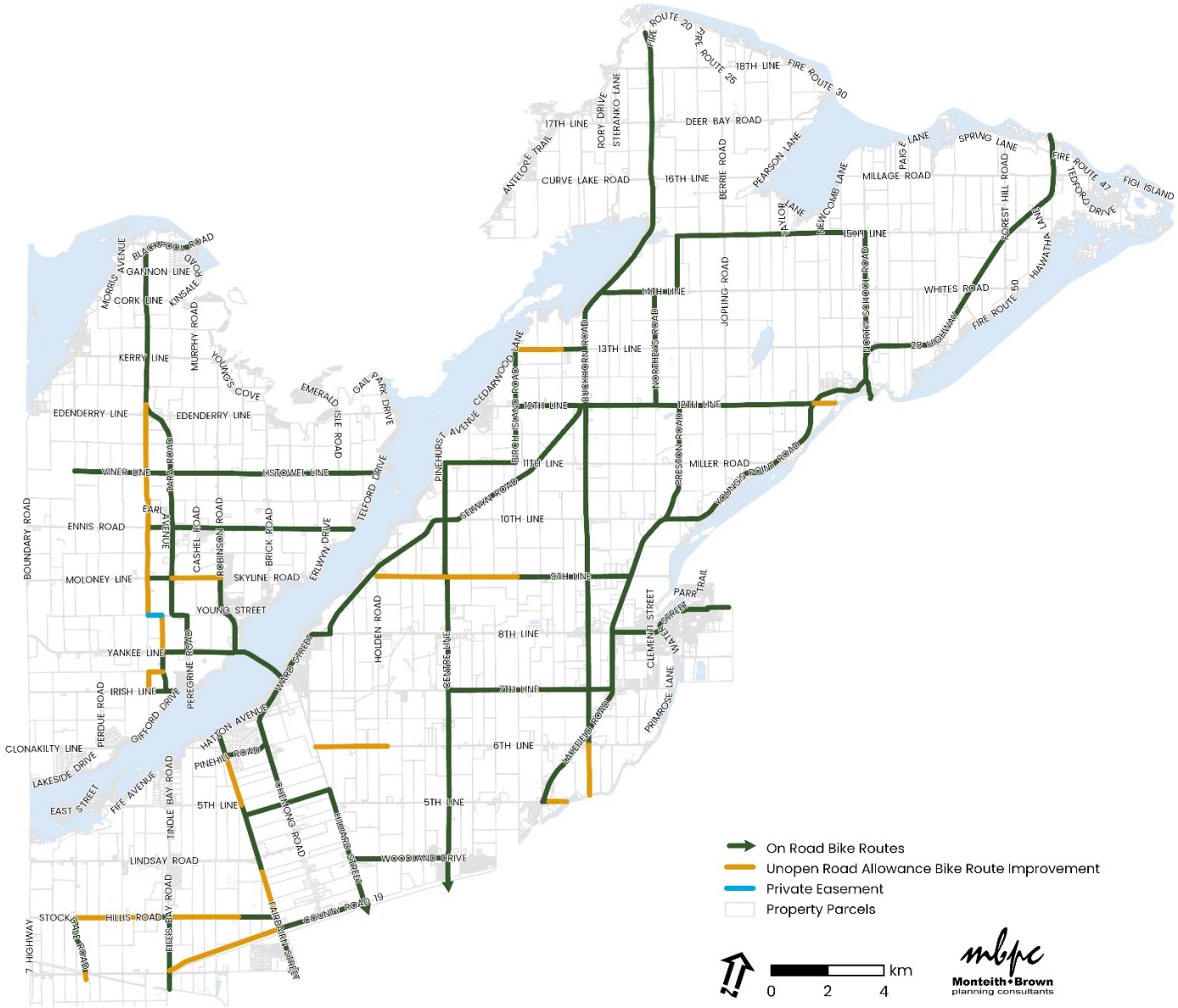


Figure 3: Inventory of Cycling Routes – Unopened Road Allowance (Cycling / Hiking), Township of Selwyn, 2024



4.5 Trails Classification

A trail classification system outlines the different types of trails, trail users, and intended functions. The trail classification designates permitted uses to specific types of trails and identifies surface types, widths, amenities, and other design considerations to guide the implementation of the trail network.

Five classifications of trails are proposed for the Township of Selwyn:

- Primary Multi-use Trail
- Secondary Multi-use Trail
- Recreational Trail
- Nature Trail
- Widened Shoulders

This classification system is intended to apply to all trails under ownership or management of the Township and should be considered on a route-by-route basis when planning, designing, and constructing trails and cycling lanes.

Table 5: Trail Classification for Selwyn

Classification	Description	Typical Uses	Location, Surface & Width
Primary Multi-use Trail	<p>Primary Multi-use Trails are major off-road corridors that connect communities or major destinations across the Township. They support the widest range of users for recreational and utilitarian forms of travel year-round.</p> <p>Designs should meet minimum accessibility requirements and allow for safe two-way directional travel.</p> <p><i>Local example: Lakefield Millennium Trail</i></p>	Walking, hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing, and other non-motorized forms of transportation	<p>Location:</p> <p>These off-road trails may be located adjacent to arterial and collector roads as well as highways. On-road connections may be permitted where necessary to maintain trail continuity.</p> <p>Surface:</p> <p>Asphalt, concrete, compacted granular, or other firm and stable surface.</p> <p>Width:</p> <p>3.0 metres (minimum)</p>
Secondary Multi-use Trail	<p>Secondary Multi-use Trails are off-road pathways oriented to recreational use, serving as linkages within neighbourhoods or communities and can serve as feeders to Primary Multi-use Trails. These trails provide access to and within the overall parks system.</p> <p><i>Local example: Eastwood to Andrew Trail</i></p>	Walking, hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing, and other non-motorized forms of transportation	<p>Location:</p> <p>Typically located within open spaces, including valley lands, river corridors, and utility/hydro corridors.</p> <p>Surface:</p> <p>Asphalt, compacted granular, or mulch (surface treatment should be responsive to site conditions).</p> <p>Width:</p> <p>1.8 to 3.0 metres</p>

Classification	Description	Typical Uses	Location, Surface & Width
<p>Recreational Trail</p>	<p>Recreational Trails are off-road, soft paved pathways oriented to recreational (non-motorized) use. They offer varying degrees of difficulty dependent upon site conditions. They serve to enhance pedestrian circulation at the neighbourhood level, though cycling may be permitted.</p> <p><i>Local example: Ennismore Fitness Trail</i></p>	<p>Walking, hiking, cycling, cross-county skiing, and other non-motorized forms of transportation</p>	<p>Location:</p> <p>Recreational Trails location should be determined through the development application process and pursuant studies to ensure appropriate neighbourhood circulation and connections to other trail routes are achieved.</p> <p>Surface:</p> <p>Asphalt, compacted granular, or mulch (surface treatment should be responsive to site conditions).</p> <p>Width:</p> <p>0.75 to 1.5 metres</p>
<p>Nature Trail</p>	<p>Nature Trails are within natural or wooded areas. These trails should minimize the impact on the surrounding area.</p> <p><i>Local example: Ennismore Heritage Trail</i></p>	<p>Walking, hiking, running, cycling</p>	<p>Location:</p> <p>Located in natural or wooded areas.</p> <p>Surface:</p> <p>Dirt, gravel, mulch, or boardwalk.</p> <p>Width:</p> <p>Typically 0.75 to 1.5 metres, depending on volume of users, topography, environmental sensitivity and site conditions.</p>
<p>Widened Shoulders</p>	<p>Widened shoulders are located within a right-of-way. These routes are commonly marked by signage and pavement markings. These routes may also share the right-of-way with vehicular traffic and should be accommodated with appropriate signage.</p>	<p>Cycling, pedestrian use may be suitable for cycling lanes and routes along low volume and rural roads</p>	<p>Location:</p> <p>Widened shoulders are located within a right-of-way of the Township's transportation network.</p> <p>Surface:</p> <p>Asphalt</p> <p>Width:</p> <p>1.8 to 2.0 metres (dependant on road edge treatment, vehicular traffic speed, volume and parking).</p>

4.6 Future Trails Connections

Based off the existing trail/cycling system, Figure 4 to Figure 9 consist of recommended hiking trails, on and off road bicycle routes, and multi-use trails throughout the Township; please note that proposed Trail Classifications in the previous subsection have not been applied to the mapping as the Township determines the appropriate class of types after factoring technical conditions and trail designs for specific routes. The RSP's Actions focus on addressing incomplete linkages in Selwyn's existing trails network.

A strong trail system provides social and environmental benefits and connects communities together. Continued development is an effective tool to ensure the trail system is accessible, safe, and links users to key destinations. Future emphasis should be placed on connecting settlement areas together where possible. This will encourage active transportation and draw tourists to the Township.

Recognizing the conceptual nature of the recommended trail connections, unique terrain and other land features, modifications to the trail network may be made provided that the guiding principles and general intent are maintained. The following list was used to guide the route development of trails and bicycle routes in the Township.

- **Key Issues.** Preferred trails and bicycle routes should help address the key issues identified during the public consultation portion of this RSP.
- **Safety.** Preferred trails and bicycle routes should be located along direct and maintained routes. These routes should be signed and utilize design standards outlined in the 2014 Recreational Trails Master Plan.
- **Visibility.** Preferred trails and bicycle routes should be located in areas that connect existing trails, points of interests, and communities.
- **Multiple User Types.** Preferred trails, and where possible, bicycle routes should provide opportunities that allow multiple types of users (walkers, runners, cyclists, etc.) to use the same trail.
- **Convenience/Comfort.** Preferred trails and bicycle routes should include rest areas, points of interest, and major destinations at regular intervals.
- **Accessibility.** Preferred trails and bicycle routes should be accessible when and where possible. Accessibility and design will be a primary consideration in any new trails or park developments.

Figure 4: Recommended Hike/Bike Improvement Projects in Lakefield, Township of Selwyn

Lakefield

Recommended Hike/Bike Improvement Projects

On Road Bicycle Routes - Paved Shoulders / Bike Signage

- Seventh Line - Otonabee River Edge to Lakefield Road
- Strickland Street - Queen Street to Township Limits
- Clementi Street - Lakefield Road to D'Eyncourt Street
- D'Eyncourt Street - Clementi Street to Hague Boulevard
- Hague Boulevard - D'Eyncourt Street to Beach
- Victoria Avenue - Isabel Morris Park to Stewart Drive to Queen Street
- Concession Street - Queen Street to County Road 33
- County Road 33 - Water to Lakefield Lagoon
- Lakefield South Secondary Plan

Off Road Trails - Gravel Surface 1.8m - 3m wide (see map for key trail sections)

- A - Young's Point Road to Smith Street Dead End
- B - Katherine Street - Grant Avenue to Seventh Line
- C - Waters Edge - Katherine Street Dead End to Seventh Line (private easement required)
- D - George Street Dead End to Private Property
- E - Fraser Street to Clementi Street (private easement required)
- F - Clementi Street to Lakefield Trail (requires boardwalk and detailed design)
- G - Waste Water Lagoon - (review CoA)
- H - Private Easement Opportunity

- On Road Cycling Improvements
- Shared Bike/Hike (on road)
- Trail Opportunities
- Private Easement Opportunity
- Downtown Streetscape Improvements
- Shimano Route 1
- Shimano Route 1a
- Existing Trails & Multi-use Path
- Property Parcels

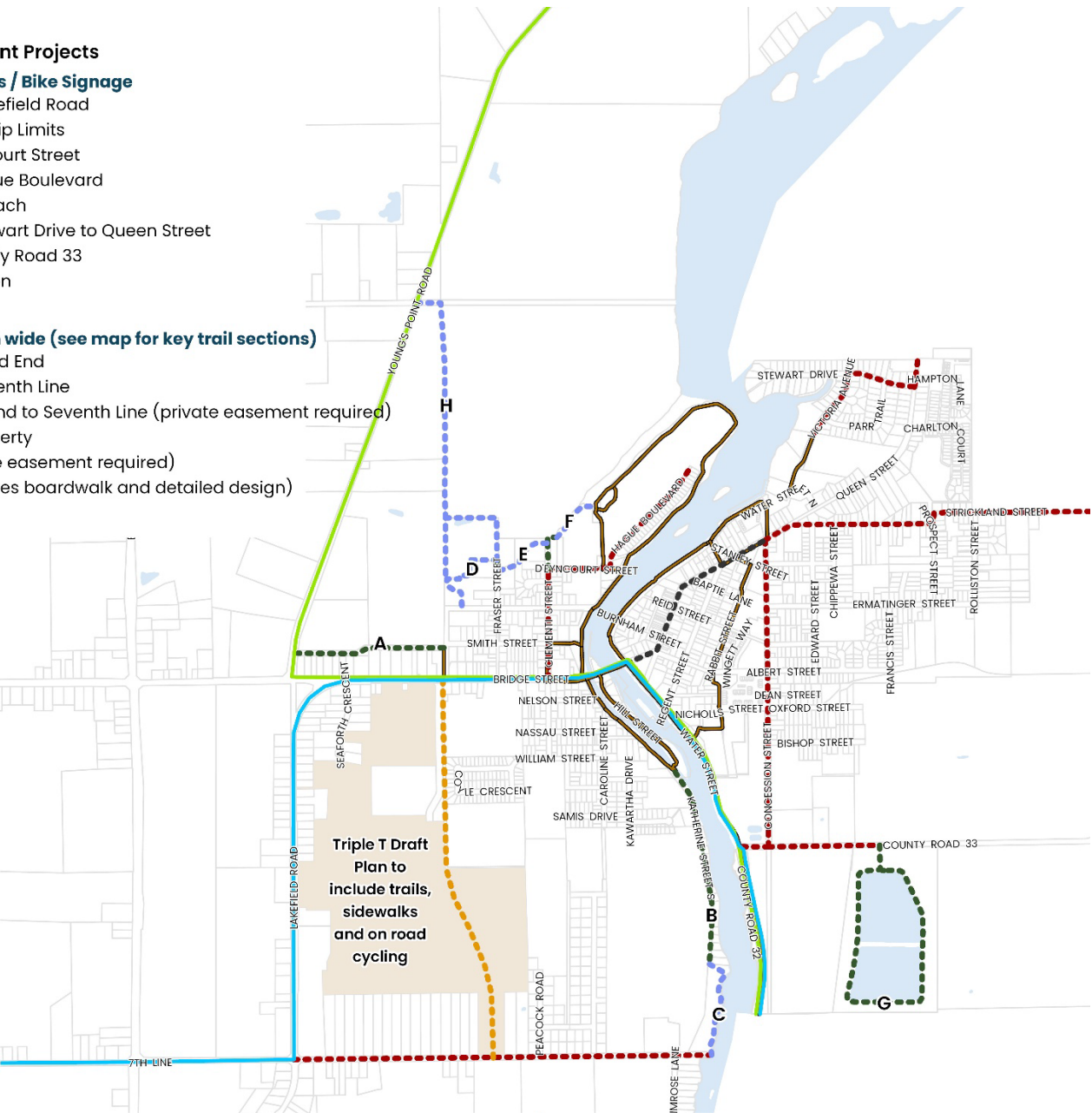
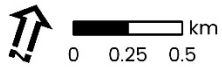


Figure 5: Recommended Hike/Bike Improvement Projects in Bridgenorth, Township of Selwyn

Bridgenorth

Recommended Hike/Bike Improvement Projects

On Road Bicycle Routes - Paved Shoulders / Bike Signage

- Seventh Line - Lakefield Road to Otonabee River Edge (Lakefield)
- Mann Road - Ward Street to B.E.L. Rotary Bridgenorth Trail Trailhead
- Chemong Road - Downtown Bridgenorth Limits to Fifth Line
- Fifth Line - Chemong Road to Hillard Street

Sidewalk - 1.8m wide Concrete

Ward Street - Bridge & Communication: continuous sidewalk and multi-use path (part of County Ward Street updates - 2027)

Off Road Trails - Gravel Surface 1.8m wide (see map for key to trail sections)

- A - 7th - Ward
- B - West Communication Road - Unopened ROW
- C - Mann Avenue - Eighth Line to Selwyn Road
- D - Sixth Line - Unopened Portion ROW
- E - Private Lands - Gravel Pit (Bridgenorth Trail Extension)
- F - Communication Unopened Road Allowance from 7th Line to existing Bridgenorth Trail

On Road Shared Bike / Hike on Road

(Portions of, see map for location) Westlake Road, Westlake Drive, Hatton Avenue, Hunter Street, Simcoe Street, Kelly Boulevard, Harrison Street, Ward Street, to Jones Road & Jones Beach

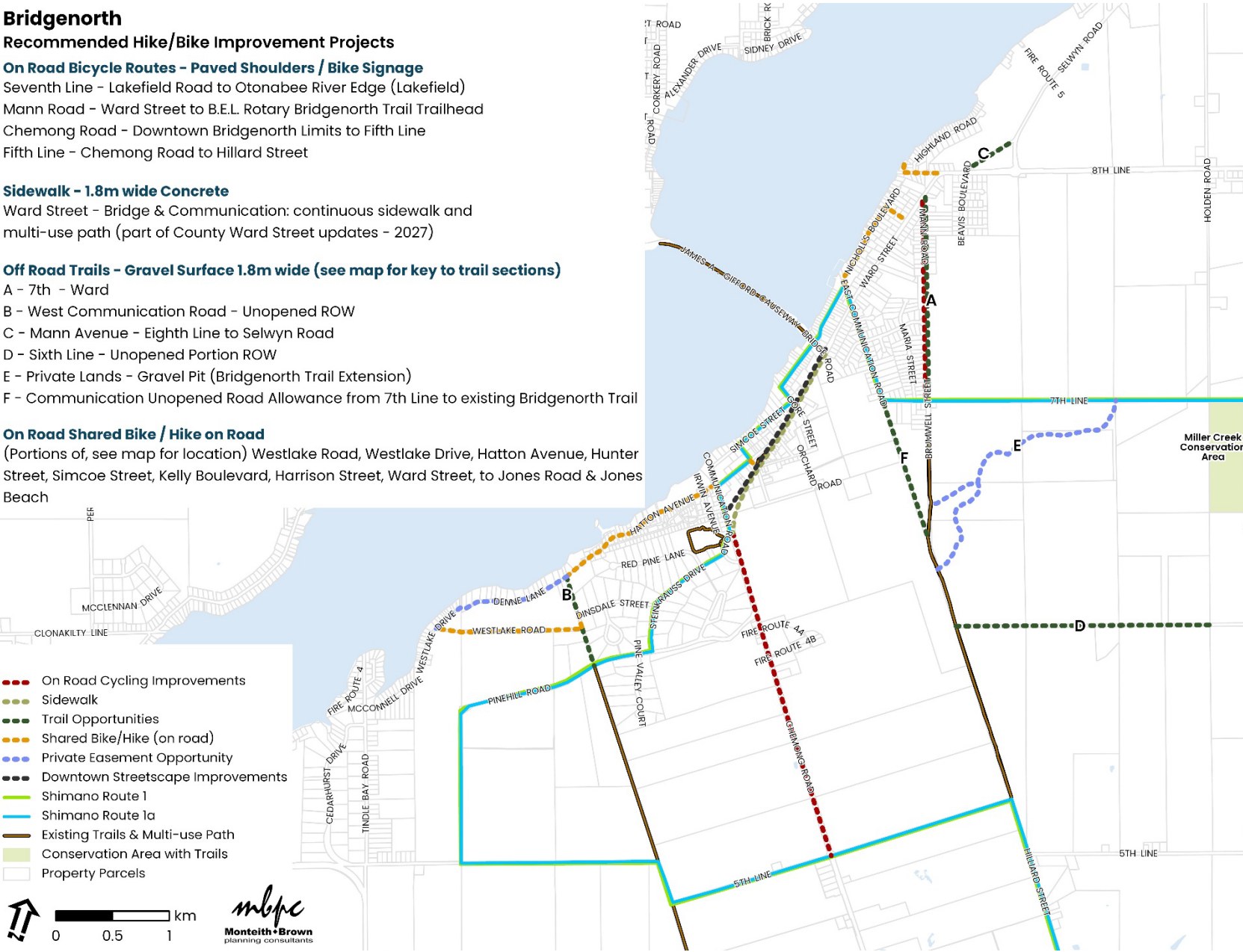


Figure 6: Recommended Hike/Bike Improvement Projects in Ennismore, Township of Selwyn

Ennismore

Recommended Hike/Bike Improvement Projects

On Road Bicycle Routes – Paved Shoulders / Bike Signage

- Ennis Road – Unopened ROW (west of Tara Road) to eastern Ennismore Trail Entrance
- Brick Road – Donoghue Crescent to Listowel Line
- Tara Road – Yankee Line to Gannon’s Narrows Conservation Area
- Peregrine Road – Dalhaven Road to Yankee Line
- Robinson Road – Yankee Line to Edenberry Line
- Glenpatrick Crescent – Robinson Road to Alexander Drive
- Alexander Drive – Glenpatrick Crescent to Brick Road (private easement required)

Sidewalk – 1.8m wide Concrete

- Ennis Road – Tara Road to Earl Avenue (scheduled 2025)

Off Road Trails – Gravel Surface 1.8m wide

- A – Unopened ROW – Ennis Road to Viner Line
- B – Unopened ROW – Tara Road to Robinson Road
- C – Viner Line Unopened ROW – dead end to gravel pit entrance
- D – Cashel Park (detailed design required)

- - - On Road Cycling Improvements
- - - On Road Cycling - Signed
- - - Trail Opportunities
- - - Shared Bike/Hike (on road)
- - - Unopened Road Allowance
- - - Sidewalks
- - - Private Easement Opportunity
- - - Downtown Streetscape Improvements
- Shimano Route 1
- Shimano Route 1a
- Existing Trails & Multi-use Path
- Conservation Area with Trails
- Property Parcels

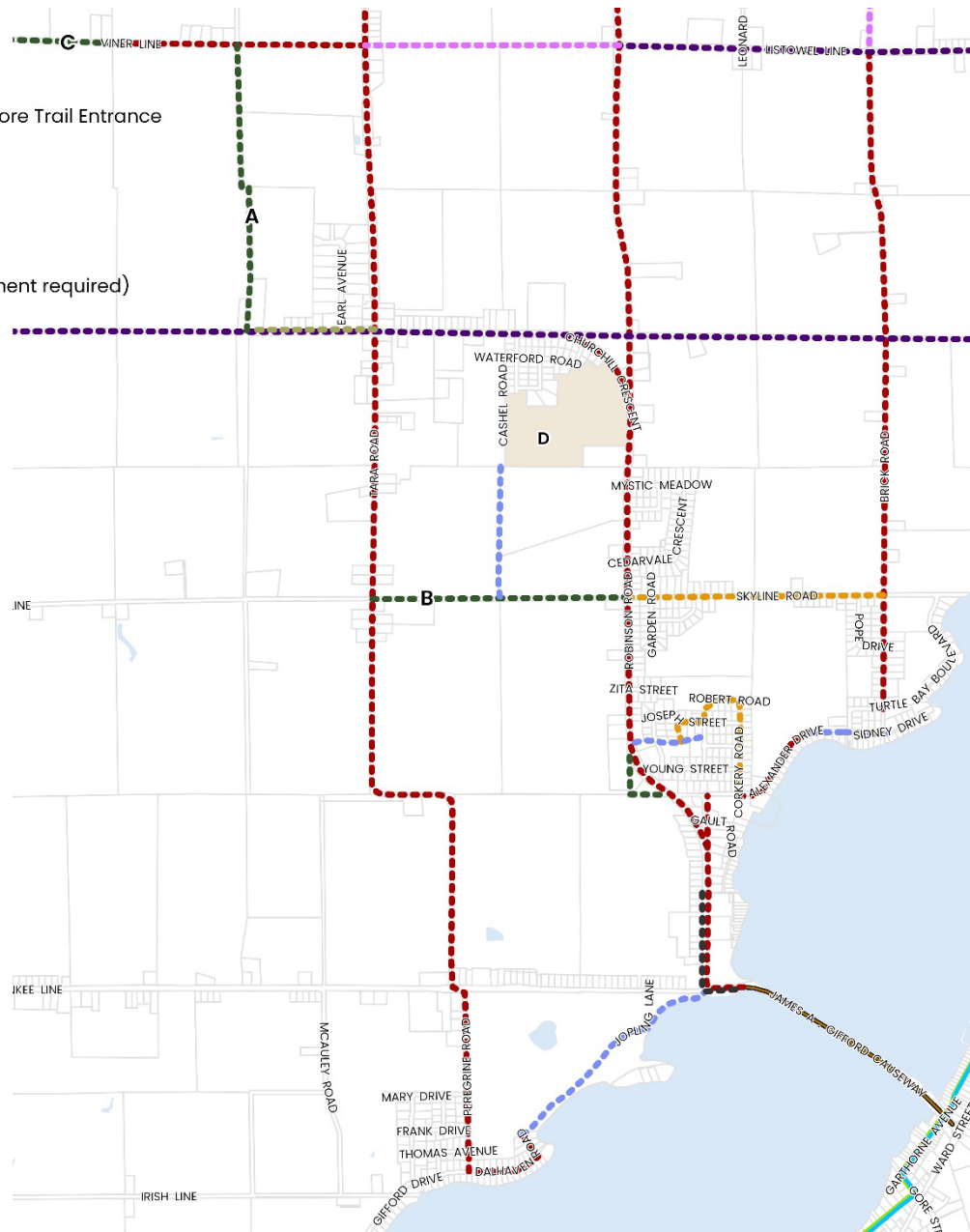
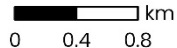


Figure 7: Recommended Hike/Bike Improvement Projects in North Ennismore, Township of Selwyn

North Ennismore

Recommended Hike/Bike Improvement Projects

On Road Bicycle Routes – Paved Shoulders / Bike Signage

- Tara Road – Yankee Line to Gannon's Narrows Bridge
- Edenderry Line – Brick Road to Tara Road
- Viner Line – opened road sections

Unopened Road Allowance

- Connecting Viner Line to Listowel Line – Tara Road to Robinson Road
- Listowel Line – Emerald Isle Road to Telford Drive
- Viner Line – end of Viner Line to Selwyn Gravel Pit

Private Easement

- Chemongview Drive to Telford Drive
- Listowel Line to Connaught Drive

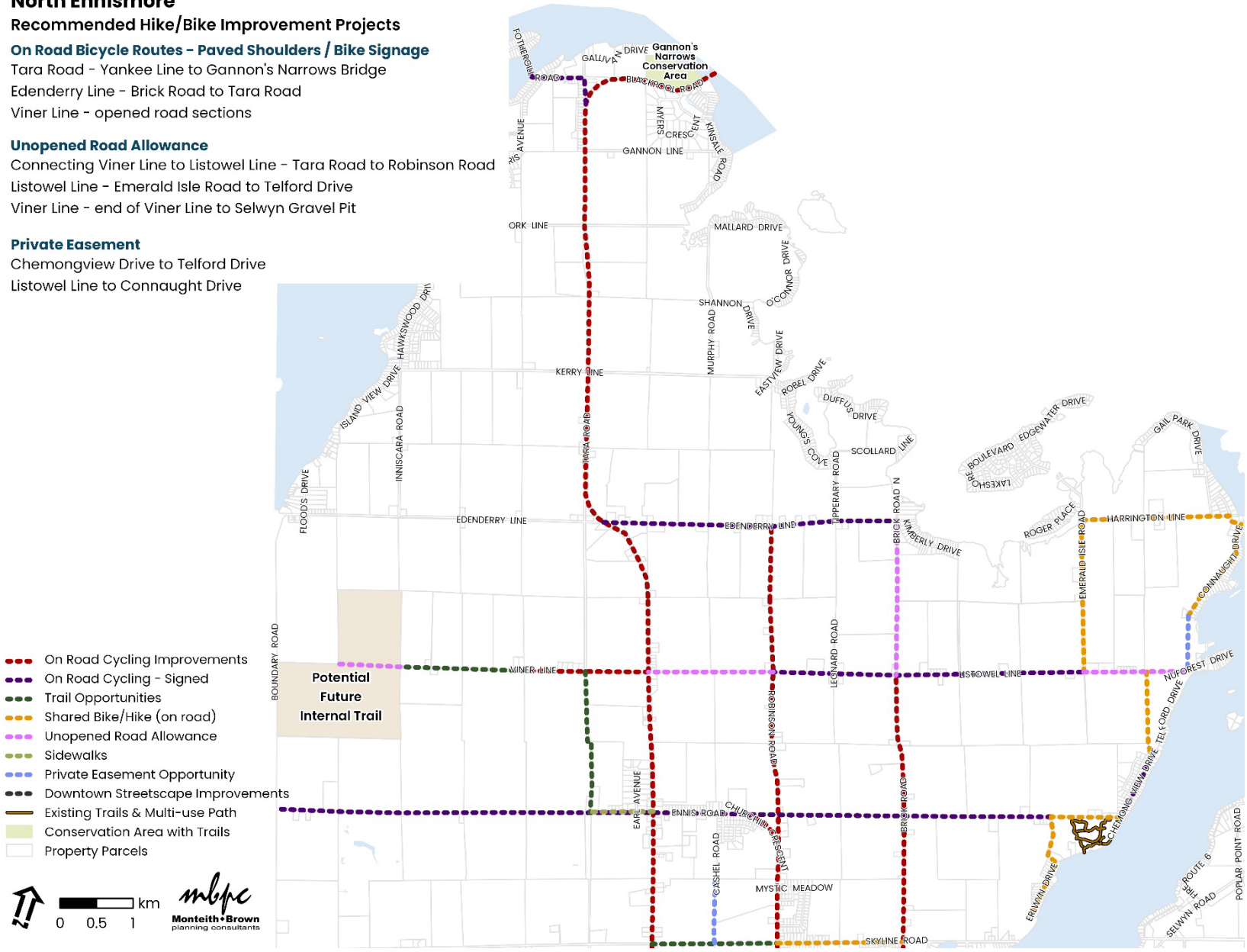


Figure 8: Recommended Hike/Bike Improvement Projects in North Smith, Township of Selwyn

North Smith

Recommended Hike/Bike Improvement Projects

On Road Bicycle Routes - Paved Shoulders / Bike Signage

- Buckhorn Road - 12th Line to Buckhorn
- 14th Line - Buckhorn Road to Jopling Road
- Jopling Road - 14th Line to 15th Line
- 15th Line - Jopling Road to North School Road
- North School Road - 15th Line to Young's Point Road
- Northey's Road - 14th Line to 12th Line
- 12th Line - Birch Island Road to Young's Point Road
- Preston Road - 12th Line to Young's Point Road
- 11th Line - Centre Line to Preston Road (excluding section of unopened road allowance)
- 9th Line - Young's Point Road to dead end
- Lakefield Road - Young's Point Road to Lakefield

Unopened Road Allowance

- 11th Line - near Miller Road
- 9th Line - West to Chemong Lake
- 9th Line - East to Lake Katchewanooka
- 12th Line - Young's Point Road into Lakefield

Off Road Trails

- Selwyn Conservation Area
- Kawartha Land Trust - 12th Line & Hwy 28 - Future

Off Road Trails - Gravel Surface 1.8m wide

- A - Existing Gravel Pit (opportunity at reclamation)

- On Road Cycling Improvements - Widened Shoulder
- On Road Cycling Improvements - Signed
- Unopened Road Allowance
- Shared Bike/Hike (on road)
- Private Easement Opportunity
- Shimano Route 1
- Shimano Route 1a
- Existing Trails & Multi-use Path
- Conservation Areas with Trails
- Property Parcels

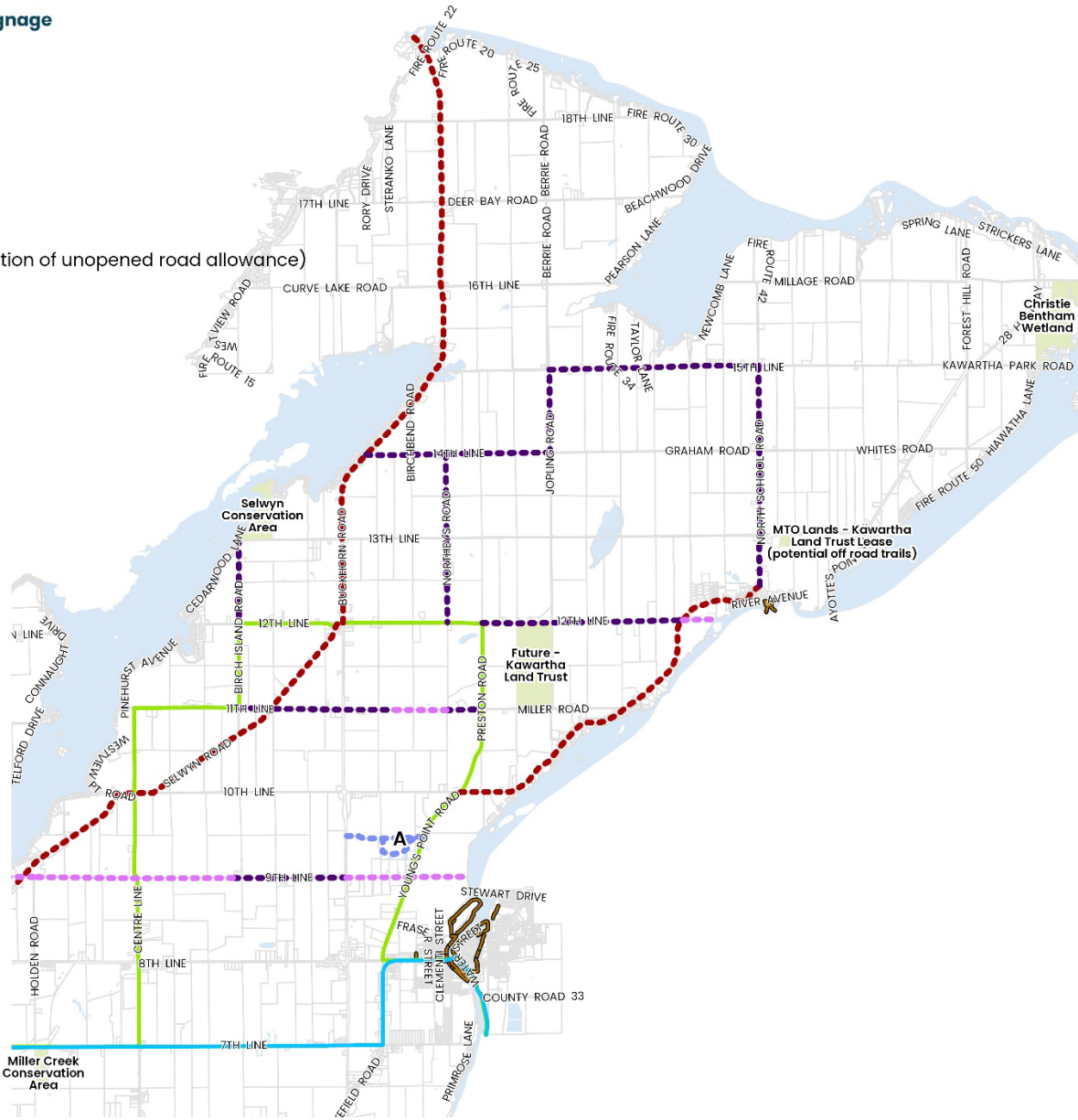
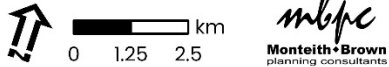
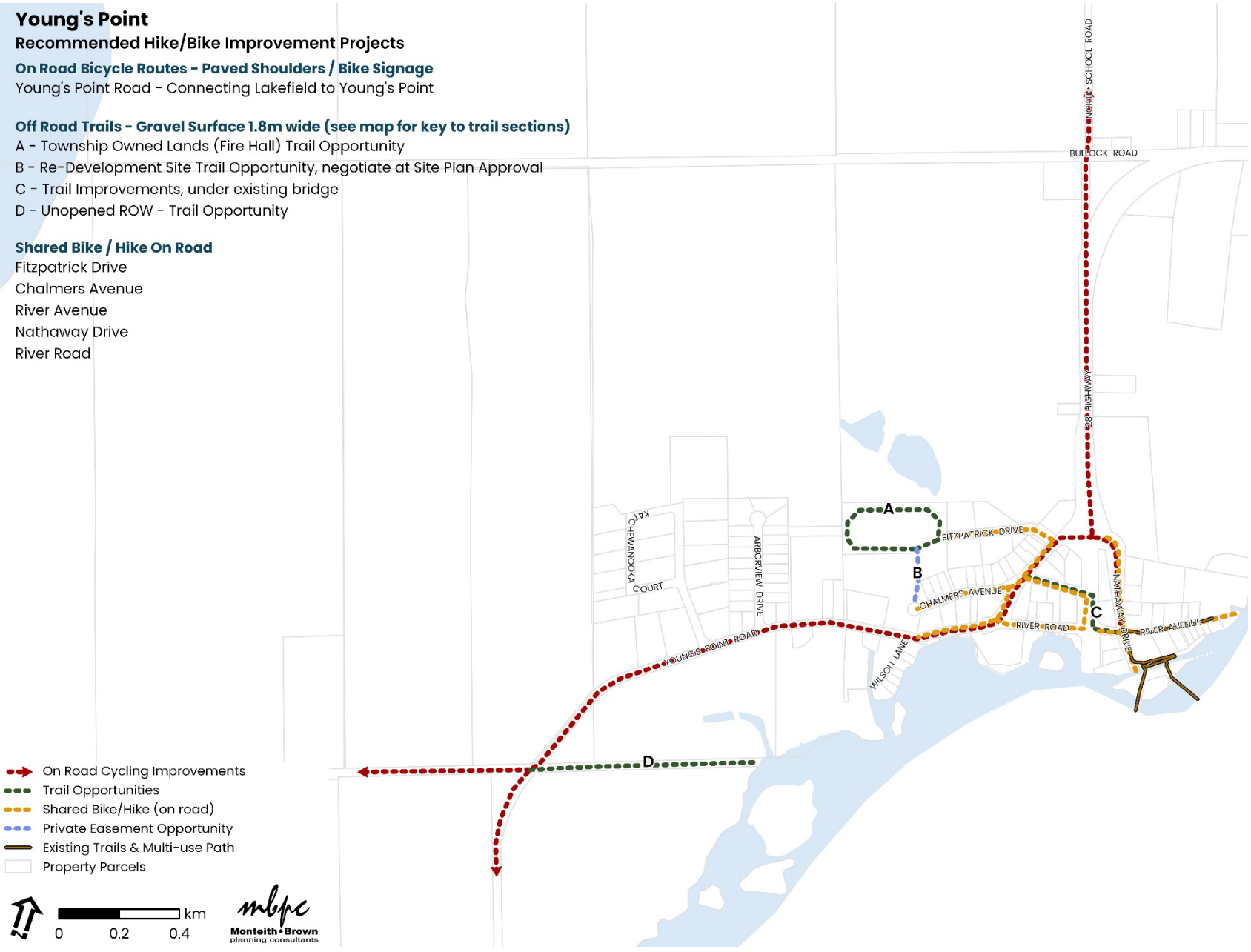


Figure 9: Recommended Hike/Bike Improvement Projects in Young's Point, Township of Selwyn



4.7 Parks & Trail System Recommendations

- Action #6** Acquire parkland in accordance with Planning Act dedications and other means to ensure an appropriate supply and distribution, particularly in Lakefield South and other future residential development areas.
- Action #7** Continue to promote marine and water-based activities within Selwyn by enhancing amenities for boating, canoe/kayaking, and wind and paddle sports through facilities to access the water. This should include developing a water access point in the North Smith area and considering the use of mobi-mats at municipal beaches, where appropriate, to improve barrier-free accessibility.
- Action #8** Continue to implement the Isabel Morris Park Masterplan / Landscape Concept Plan with a focus on formalizing a festival and performance area scaled to community-level events, and adding a natural / adventure playground structure.
- Action #9** Prepare a plan for Cashel Park to determine amenities, including but not limited to trails and pathways, that are suitable in the context of its naturalized state.
- Action #10** Undertake a review of the Township's Community Parks with washroom facilities and identify Community Parks that may be suitable candidates for permanent washrooms in addition to parks suited to portable accessible washrooms. In addition, the Township should identify opportunities that improve the barrier-free accessibility of portable washrooms.
- Action #11** Advocate to the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility through AMO, ROMA and other advocacy organizations to encourage the Province of Ontario to update Provincial Standards for accessible portable washrooms to address modern accessibility needs, and ensuring that manufacturers construct portable washrooms facilities that meet the needs of persons with disabilities.
- Action #12** Implement the trail classification based on the hierarchy recommended in this Recreation Services Plan. The classification should be used to guide the Township when planning, designing, constructing and maintaining trails.
- Action #13** Coordinate trail development, planning, and funding and the potential to link the existing trail systems in Selwyn together and beyond. Consider partnering with volunteer or partners, including, but not limited to, County of Peterborough and Otonabee Conservation to achieve this recommendation.
- Action #14** Document the current level of service for trail maintenance throughout the Township and review the risk management, operational and financial impacts of any proposed increase in the level of service.
- Action #15** Improve connectivity between and within settlement areas through the Recreation Services Plan's "Recommended Hike/Bike Improvement Projects" to encourage active transportation and tourism.



5 Recreation in Selwyn

5.1 Recreation Facilities in Selwyn

The Township of Selwyn's recreation facilities allow residents to pursue a wide range of recreational activities that keep them active and connected with others in the community. Notable destinations for recreation in the Township include:

- **Lakefield-Smith Community Centre** that contains a single pad arena and community hall, and is adjacent to Isabel Morris Park.
- **Ennismore Community Centre** that houses a single pad arena, community hall and second floor hall. The Community Centre is part of the Robert E. Young Recreation Complex that features sports fields, hard surface courts and a stand-alone library branch.
- **Douglas Sports Centre** which is an outdoor sports field complex with a ball diamond, concession, hard surface courts and trail connections to Hague Point.
- **Paul J. English Chemung Lions Park** located in Bridgenorth serves as an outdoor sports field complex with a ball diamond, rectangular fields and playground.

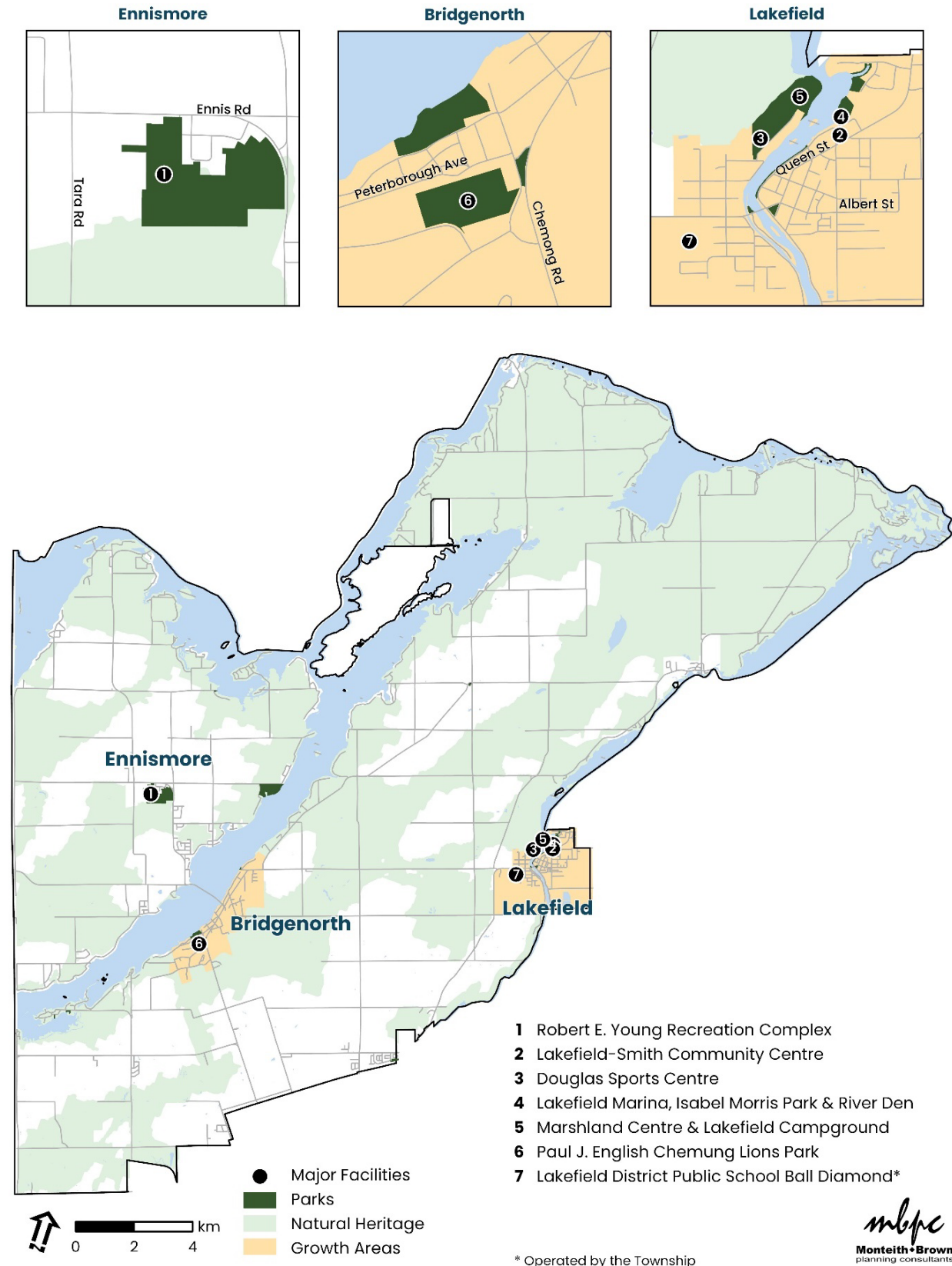
Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative, and spiritual pursuits that enhance individuals and community wellbeing.

~ A Framework for
Recreation in Canada, 2024

Table 6: Township Maintained Recreation Facilities

Recreation Facility	Number	Location
Arenas	2	Lakefield-Smith Community Centre; Robert E. Young Recreation Complex
Ball Diamonds	5	Lit: Douglas Sports Centre; Paul J. English Chemung Lions Park; Robert E. Young Recreation Complex
Lit	3	
Unlit	2	Unlit: Robert E. Young Recreation Complex; Lakefield District Public School (not owned by Township)
Community Centres	2	Lakefield-Smith Community Centre; Robert E. Young Recreation Complex
Hard Surface Courts	12	Multi-Use: Douglas Sports Centre; Robert E. Young Recreation Complex
Multi-use	2	
Tennis	4	Tennis: Douglas Sports Centre (1 dedicated, 1 overlay); Robert E. Young Recreation Complex (2 dedicated)
Pickleball	8	Pickleball: Douglas Sports Centre (4 dedicated); Robert E. Young Recreation Complex (4 overlay)
Multi-Purpose Spaces	6	Bridgenorth Community Hall (Bridgenorth Library); Centennial Room (Lakefield Library); Ennismore Auditorium (Robert E. Young Recreation Complex); Marshland Centre; Neils Pind Room (Lakefield-Smith Community Centre); The River Den
Soccer Fields	5	Lit: Paul J. English Chemung Lions Park
Lit	1	
Unlit	4	Unlit: Robert E. Young Recreation Complex
Beaches	3	Ennismore Waterfront Park & Beach; Lakefield Beach; Jones Beach

Figure 10: Distribution of Major Recreation Facilities



5.2 Ice Sports

The Township operates two ice pads at the Lakefield-Smith Community Centre and Ennismore Community Centre / Robert E. Young Recreation Complex. The two arenas are aging facilities although they remain in good condition due to diligent efforts of Township staff.

Ice sports participation is slowing across the country. Hockey Canada data shows declines of 11% (national) and 19% (Ontario) between 2012 and 2023.⁶ Figure skating and ringette have also experienced decreasing participation rates in many parts of the province. There are a number of reasons for diminishing ice sport participation including lack of time, equipment costs, concerns over safety (e.g. concussions), aging population trends and immigration from countries where arena sports are not frequently played.

Selwyn has experienced growth rates in its ice sport participation contrary to national trends. The 1,580 players and skaters registered with minor hockey associations, skating clubs and adult leagues have 330 more participants since 2011. This represents a 26% growth rate which exceeds the growth rate of the Township’s population as a whole (15%) over that time period. Based on minor hockey and figure skating registrations, more than one out of three Selwyn children and teens are involved in ice sports which is a significantly higher rate than elsewhere in Ontario; however, it should be noted that a percentage of reported registrations are non-residents of Selwyn who may be coming from area municipalities that do not provide arenas or whose facilities are not meeting their own needs.

Arena user groups contributing feedback for the RSP articulated the pressures that they are experiencing to secure ice time for their growing player base. Certain groups report that they are turning away registrants and/or travelling to arenas outside of Selwyn to play; a number of organizations expressed interest in having a third ice pad in the Township. The pressures for prime time ice reported by arena users have merit. Township data indicates that all prime time ice is accounted at the Ennismore Arena while utilization rates are above 95% at the Lakefield Smith Community Centre. As such, there is limited ability to provide additional times on both weekdays and weekends. Input from the broader community, however, was focused on other priorities with the community feedback form rating arenas outside of the top ten facilities supported for additional investment in the future.

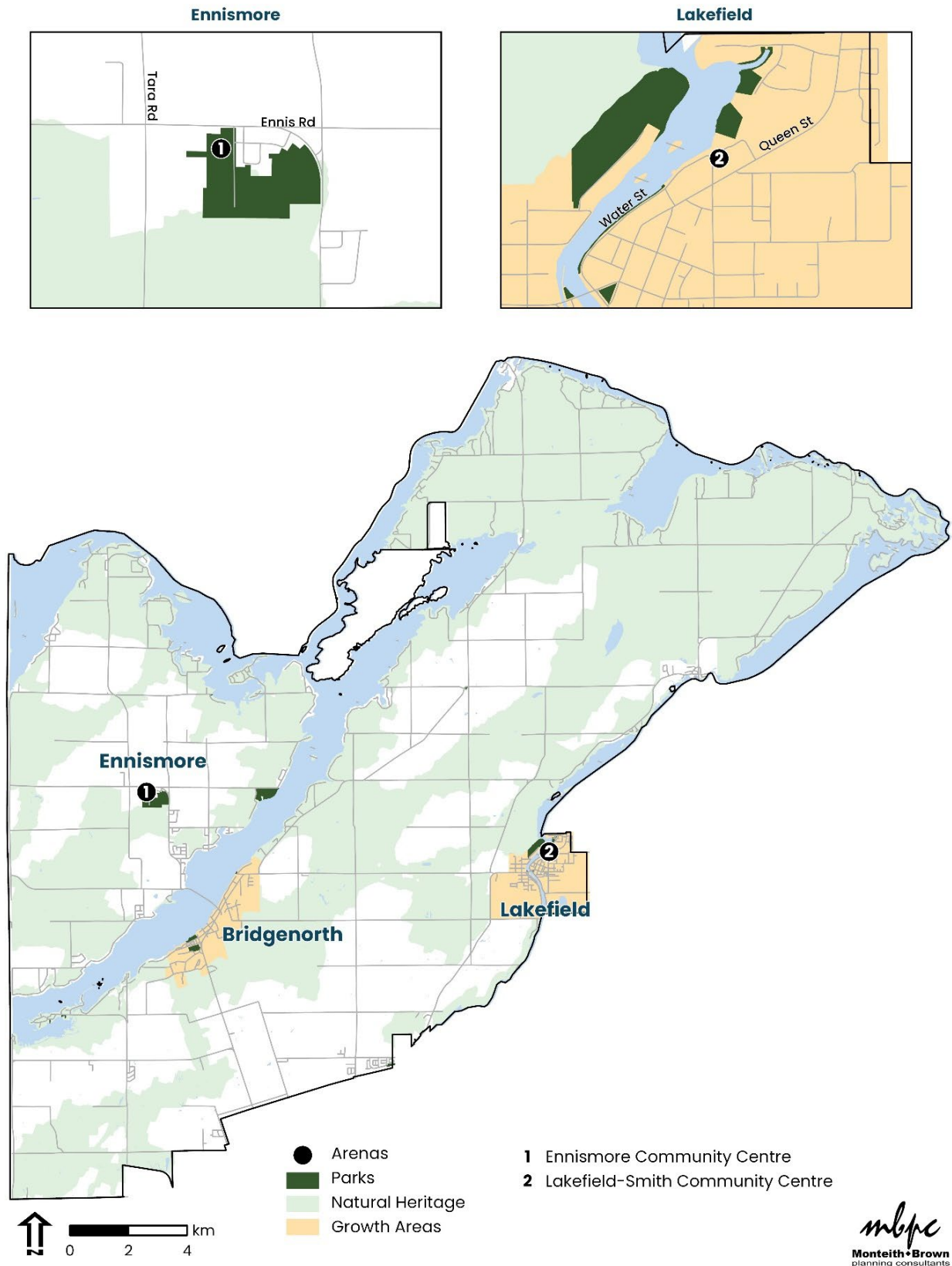
Selwyn’s service level is one ice pad per 9,710 residents or 790 players, both of which are in line with other Ontario municipalities. The service level historically used by the Township to plan its arena supply is one ice pad per 700 registered players meaning that there is a slight deficit at present time, equivalent to a quarter of an ice pad, which is confirmed by the review of arena utilization rates. That said, population growth forecast over the next 10 years suggest that the ice sport market could increase by roughly 100 players by the year 2035.

Table 7: Current and Forecasted Ice Participants

	2024	2035	2051
Estimated Market Size	1,581	1,700	1,800
Existing Supply	2.0	2.0	2.0
Required Ice Pads @ 1 ice pad per 700 participants	2.25	2.4	2.6
Ice Pad Deficit	0.25	0.4	0.6

⁶ Hockey Canada. Annual General Meeting Reports, 2012 & 2023

Figure 11: Distribution of Arenas



Despite the current inability of existing arenas to accommodate greater prime time use, the current and projected 10-year arena deficit would not be deemed to meet a point that should trigger construction of a third ice pad. The rationale being that if a third ice pad were to be built, it would be projected to be utilized to just 40% of its capacity, meaning there would be a strong reliance on non-residents to pick up remaining times. Assuming arena participation rates remain at current levels and do not decrease in line with provincial trends, the business case for a third ice pad would likely be stronger after the next 15 years.

It is recognized that waiting until after the RSP's 10-year planning period will amplify pressures faced by local ice sport organizations, particularly in the short to medium term. The Township could add to its ice pad supply in advance of population growth to alleviate current demands for ice time, however, such a strategy carries financial risk. Arena construction represents a multi-million dollar capital investment while annual operating costs are significant since arenas are not priced to fully recover their expenditures. Prebuilding an ice pad in advance of having sufficient rental capacity in place could result in the following:

- **The Township may be unable to fill all prime time rental slots** thereby exacerbating the annual operating subsidy required in the arena system. There is an inherent risk with prebuilding and relying on non-residents to fill excess capacity, particularly if area municipalities were to add to their own arena supplies and if Selwyn's ice sport participation rates were to revert to national and provincial trends of decline.
- **There is likely to be erosion of shoulder hour rentals at the two existing ice pads** – namely those times later into the evening and on weekends – as groups would shift to hours earlier in the evening. While this would provide greater convenience to users, particularly adult users, it would reduce operational economies of scale presently being gained through rentals presently slotted into the later evening.
- By the time the ice pad is at a point where rental capacity is sufficient in relation to the initial investment, **prebuilding too early in the asset lifecycle could require substantial replacement/renewal costs at that future time.**
- **This RSP does not recommend that Selwyn develop a third single pad arena** within or beyond the current planning period (as multi-pad arenas are more operationally efficient). The Lakefield-Smith Community Centre does not appear to have the land necessary to accommodate a second ice pad which would leave the Ennismore Community Centre as the only option to twin.

The above said, more information could aid the Township and arena users to make a decision. The Township should monitor ice sport participation rates emerging from COVID-19 and anticipated aging population trends, along with utilization of arenas in Selwyn and adjacent municipalities (noting that the City of Peterborough recently invested in a \$62 million arena complex located 20-25 minutes from Lakefield and Bridgenorth). Baseline data should be collected to support analysis of the need for a third ice pad when this RSP undergoes a scoped updated in five years time.

The Township should also develop an updated Ice Allocation Policy that considers participant numbers of individual ice organizations, principles of inclusion and gender equity, youth and adult priorities, etc. in order to seek more efficient use of arena capacity. Local arena user groups could provide greater insights into how much additional time they would be willing to rent over and above their current allocations to inform the financial analysis.

5.3 Aquatics

Like most rural municipalities, the Township does not operate an indoor aquatic centre due to the significant construction and annual operating costs these facilities bear. The nearest indoor aquatic centres are located in the City of Peterborough at Trent University, the YMCA of Peterborough, and the Peterborough Sport and Wellness Centre. Instead of indoor aquatics, Selwyn leverages its lakes and focuses on providing outdoor swimming experiences at its three public beaches. The Lakefield Beach and Jones Beaches are programmed for swimming lessons through partnerships with the Chemung Lake District Lions Club and the YMCA summer day camp. Though RSP consultations resulted in a few requests for the Township to provide an indoor pool – which is a common request in many municipalities – an indoor aquatics centre cannot be justified in Selwyn due to the significant costs relative to a small and dispersed population base. The aquatic centres in Peterborough can be reached in 20 to 35 minutes from Lakefield, Bridgenorth and Ennismore (per Google Maps).

The Township does not presently operate splash pads / spray pads. These are leisurely, unstructured outdoor aquatic facilities that have interactive water play (spouts, fountains, water buckets, jets, etc.) that are more affordable to build and operate than an outdoor pool. Splash pads ranked as the ninth highest priority in the RSP feedback form and a few requests were received for these facilities through the community open house and user group workshops. Splash pads would be a strong complement to the Township's parks, potentially in waterfront areas. Building on a recommendation of the 2012 RSP analysis by the Township and the former Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee supported the development of a splash pad at Paul J. English Park in Bridgenorth which was reconfirmed during the 2018 Scoped Update to the RSP. As this project remains outstanding, it is recommended that development of a splash pad at Paul J. English Park be pursued within the current RSP planning period.

5.4 Gymnasiums

The Township does not operate a gymnasium. The provincial community use of schools initiative is the primary means for the public to gain access to gymnasiums at Chemung Public School (Bridgenorth), St. Martin Catholic Elementary School (Ennismore), St. Paul Catholic Elementary School (Lakefield), Buckhorn Public School, and Lakefield District Public School. Rental of school gyms is coordinated directly with the respective school boards. The former Ridpath Junior Public School was previously available but has since been closed by the school board.

Gymnasiums provide space to facilitate a wide assortment of indoor sports and recreation activities that require open space, a hard surface and high ceiling. Gymnasiums are effective in facilitating drop-in and organized activities such as volleyball, basketball, pickleball, badminton, fitness classes and other active programming. Various non-recreational activities can also be accommodated such as craft and vendor shows, gatherings and other events.

Provision targets for gymnasiums range from one gymnasium to 30,000 to 50,000 residents, although there are smaller communities that provide this amenity with a lower service level. They are typically constructed as part of multi-use community centres, however, with no such facilities being recommended for the RSP planning period the preference would be to continue to leverage the availability of schools that are distributed across Selwyn. To enhance public access beyond those allowed by Community Use of Schools program, the Township should engage the school boards to explore a formal reciprocal agreement which may explore topics such as rental rates, permitted uses and opportunities for daytime access at a minimum.

5.5 Multi-Purpose Rooms

The Township has six multi-purpose rooms (MPRs) located at:

- Bridgnorth Community Hall – 125 person capacity
- Centennial Room – 30 person capacity
- Ennismore Auditorium (Ennismore Community Centre) – 200 person capacity
- Marshland Centre – 75 person capacity
- Neils Pind Room (Lakefield-Smith Community Centre) – 120 person capacity
- The River Den – 40 person capacity

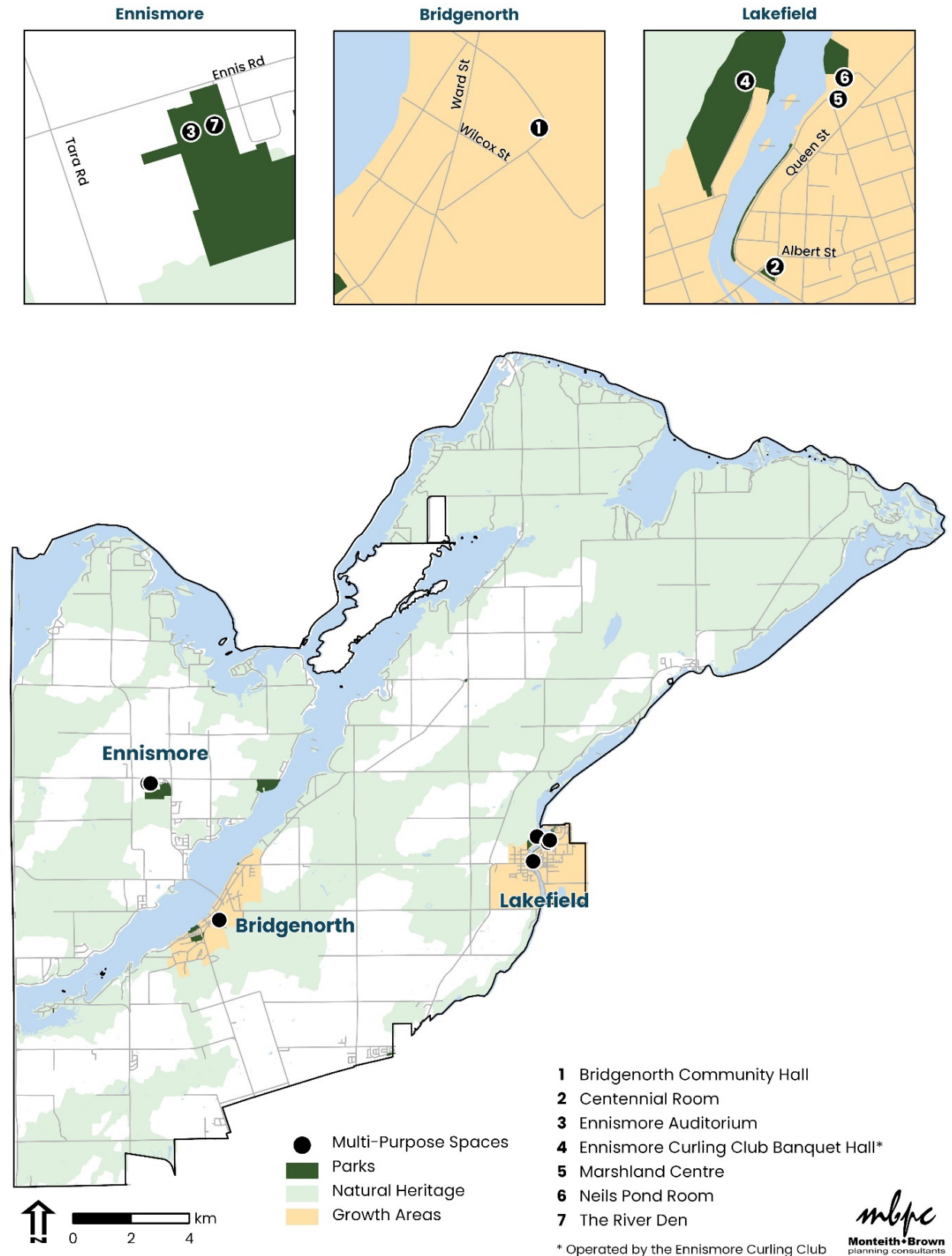
The Bridgnorth Community Hall and Centennial Room (Lakefield) are both co-located with library branches. The Ennismore Auditorium and Neils Pind Room (Lakefield) are co-located with community centres / arenas while the Marshland Centre and The River Den are stand-alone halls in Lakefield. In addition, the Ennismore Curling Club operates the banquet hall at their facility located at the Robert E. Young Recreation Complex; rentals are managed directly through the Curling Club.

Historically, stand-alone community halls were constructed as small single-purpose facilities for social activities (such as gatherings and meetings). The construction of stand-alone facilities is generally discouraged in current facility planning models due to a number of factors such as programming limitations, operational costs, and other variables. The Marshland Centre and The River Den are examples of this past model but these facilities remain in good condition, thus able to service certain community needs due to the efforts of the Township to maintain (and even rejuvenate existing buildings as was the case for the River Den).

During RSP community workshops, the need for a larger community meeting room was raised by an organization whose membership has outgrown the Marshland Centre (capacity 75 persons) while feedback from respondents rated halls and MPRs as their seventh highest priority. MPRs are typically provided when new community centres are built or existing community centres are expanded, however, this RSP has not found a need for a new community centre.

Further, expansion of the Marshland Centre is not recommended due to its setting in a naturalized area and an increased likelihood of environmental and regulatory constraints, as well as potential for additional vehicular parking if hall capacity is expanded. An addition to the Lakefield Library building may pose architectural complexities due to the triangular configuration of the site and the age of the building, and The River Den cannot be reasonably expanded to provide capacity greater than existing at the Marshland Centre. For organizations, the Neils Pind Room and Bridgnorth Community Hall provide 70% more capacity than the Marshland Centre and thus organizations looking for a larger meeting space could be directed to these municipal facilities.

Figure 12: Distribution of Multi-Purpose Rooms



5.6 Sports Fields

The Township maintains five rectangular fields and five ball diamonds that are found in each of the three major settlement areas.

- Douglas Sports Centre - 1 lit ball diamond
- Lakefield District Public School - 2 unlit rectangular fields and 1 unlit diamond
- Paul J. English Chemung Lions Park - 1 unlit rectangular field and 1 lit diamond
- Robert E. Young Recreation Complex - 4 unlit rectangular fields, 1 lit diamond and 1 unlit diamond

In addition to these parks, a ball diamond was constructed in 2022 through a partnership with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPRDSB) at Lakefield District Public School. This high quality diamond is permitted through the Township and features a backstop, red clay infield, and players' benches. KPRDSB also allows community use of two rectangular fields at the school.

The Township has invested in ball diamond lighting at specific parks which extends playing capacity into the evenings, offering approximately 50% more rental capacity than an unlit diamond. To recognize this investment, each lit diamond is counted as 1.5 unlit equivalent diamonds; therefore, the Township maintains a supply of 6.5 unlit equivalent diamonds in addition to 7.0 rectangular fields (there are no lit rectangular fields) including the sports fields at Lakefield District Public School.

Both baseball and soccer are traditional Canadian activities that remain popular summertime pursuits. Participation levels have fluctuated in recent years but the regional outlook is one of growth given the international appeal of soccer and recent successes of professional soccer and baseball teams in Toronto. There are 990 ball players registered with leagues operating in the Township, about two-thirds of whom are minor/youth players and the rest being adults; current registrations equate to a 35% participation increase above the 730 players recorded through the 2012 RSP. There are 900 soccer players, nearly all of whom are minor players; at least one group - the Ennismore Optimists - have increased their registration by 20% over the past decade.

Service level standards for sports fields suggest that the Township could be deficient by two ball diamonds and two rectangular fields, however, it bears noting that feedback has not been received to date from the major field sport organizations operating in Ennismore and Lakefield to confirm if in fact they require additional fields. Within the next 10 years, the Township should endeavour to light the south diamond at Robert E. Young Complex and upgrade infield surfacing, along with adding one rectangular field to its supply (preferably with field lighting).

Figure 13: Distribution of Ball Diamonds

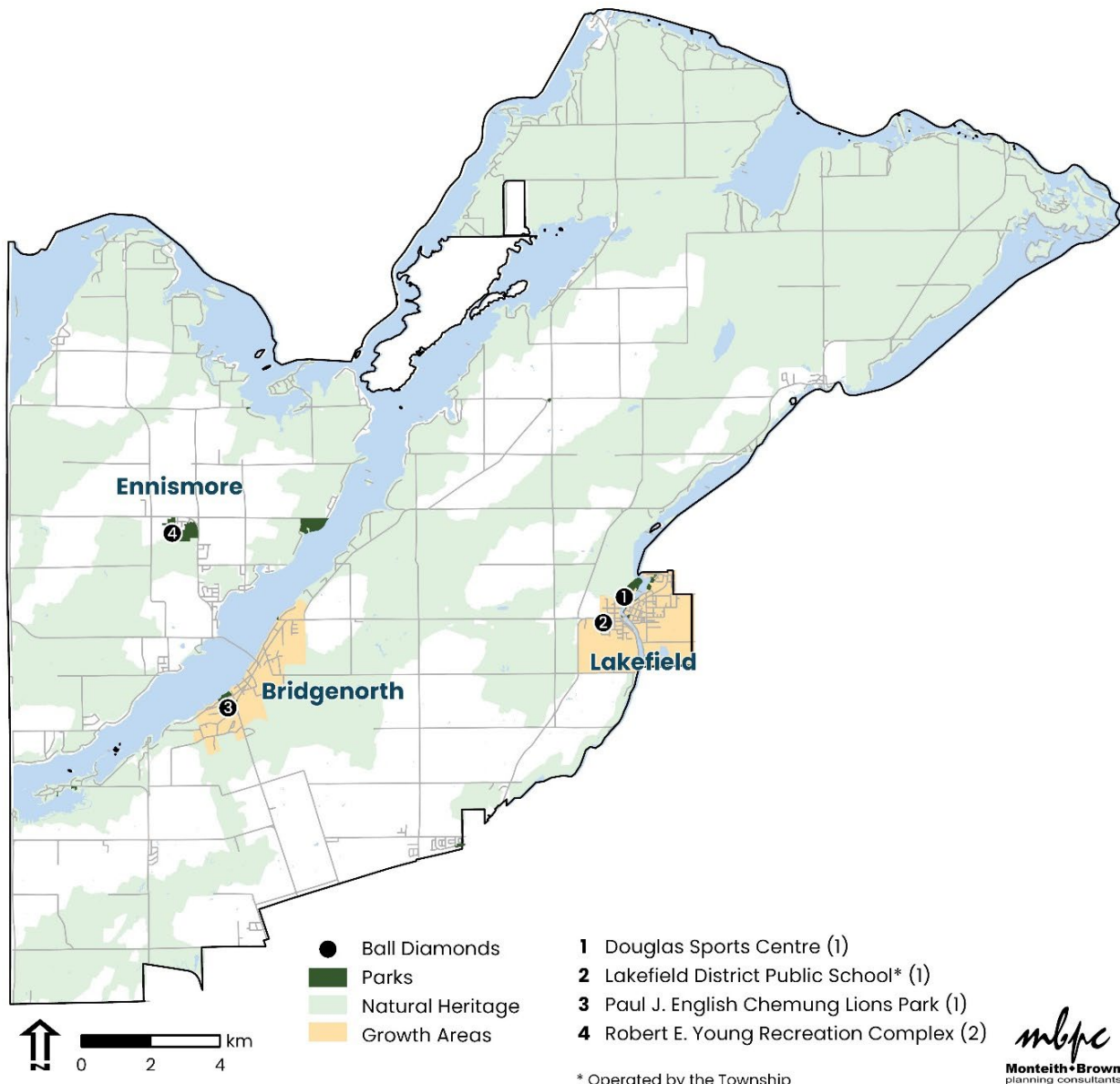
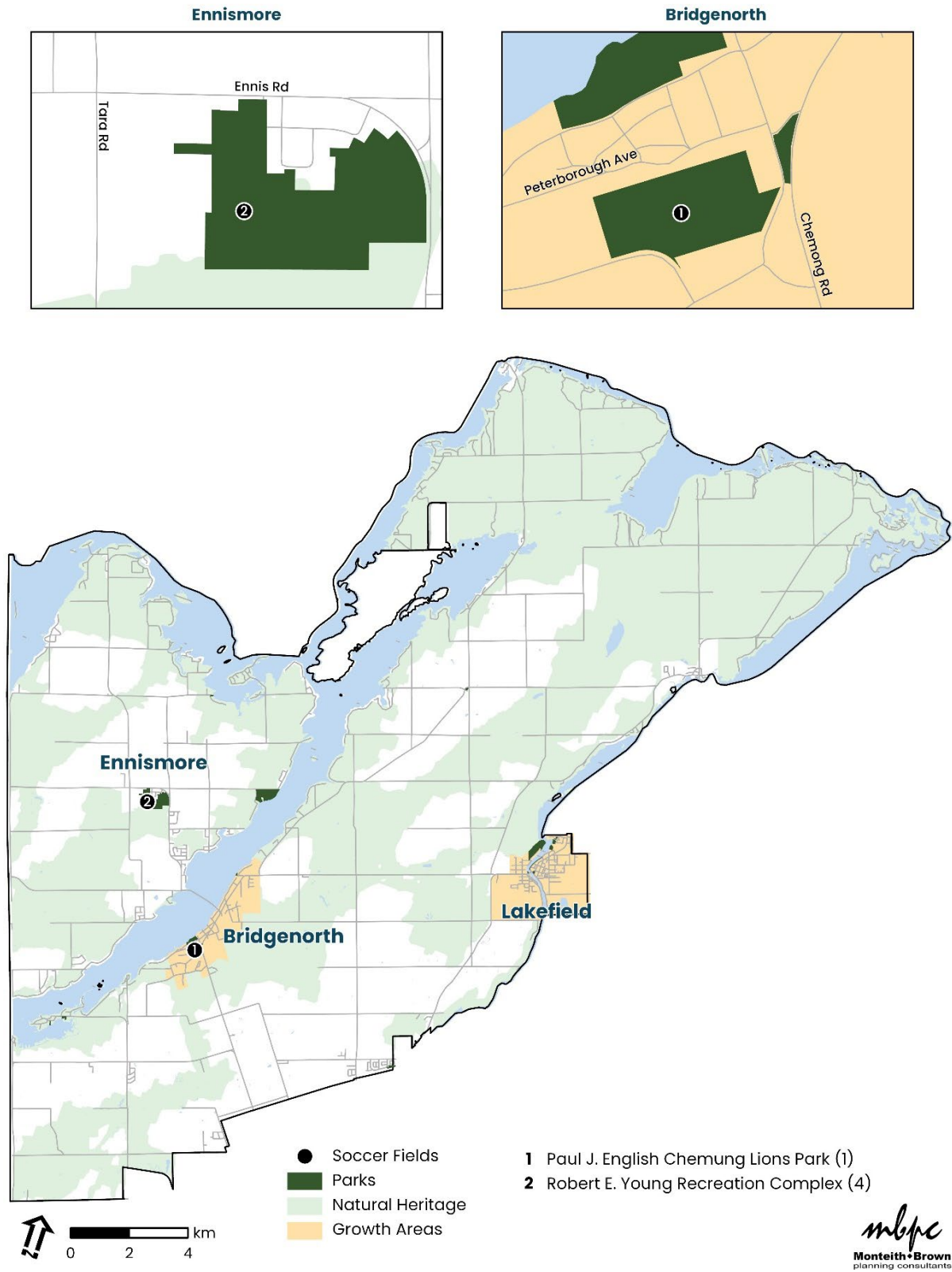


Figure 14: Distribution of Rectangular Fields



Note: excludes Lakefield District Public School rectangular fields which are permitted by the School Board

5.7 Hard Surface Courts

The Township owns and maintains hard surface sport courts at Douglas Sports Centre and Robert E. Young Recreation Complex. Each location has dedicated courts for tennis and basketball, the latter of which can also be used for ball hockey, as well as four pickleball courts that are combined with a tennis court (known as an overlay). These courts are in excellent condition having recently been resurfaced.

Across Ontario, participation in tennis and pickleball has been growing. Pickleball has been branded as one of the fastest growing sports in Canada, and is a low-intensity sport that was originally catered towards older adults but is also gaining traction among younger adults. Municipalities like Selwyn have responded to demands for pickleball in gymnasiums and outdoor courts, however, the private sector has gained entry in certain municipalities and is developing indoor and outdoor multi-court complexes in recognition of market demand.

A comment was received at the RSP Open House regarding the overlay courts in Lakefield and Ennismore for up to eight dedicated pickleball courts at each location, and converting the existing overlays to dedicated tennis. Open House feedback from a few other participants raised concerns about the noise impacts of the new pickleball courts on nearby residences.

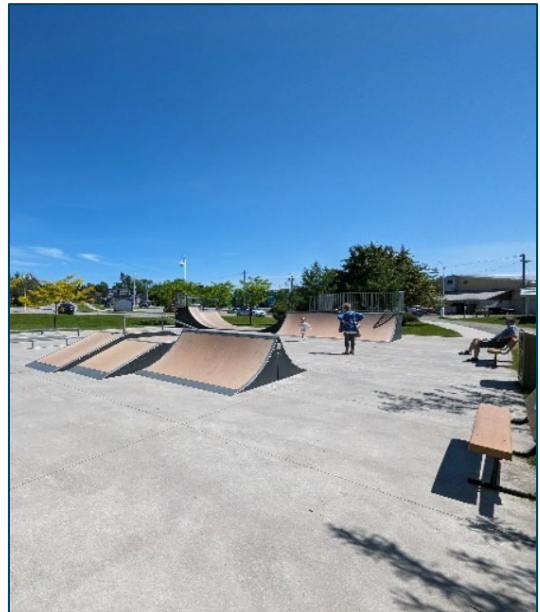
The use of both overlay and dedicated pickleball courts has been employed across Ontario for and the Township is to be commended for introducing opportunities for outdoor pickleball in the community. The overlays have demonstrated that there is a demand for pickleball in Selwyn and the aforementioned group has connected players through a mobile app to form a league, albeit it is one that does not yet have the same status as other sports leagues that permit time at municipal recreation facilities such as arenas and sports fields. The pickleball courts are presently drop-in facilities that are free to use on a first-come, first-served basis. As the pickleball organization seeking dedicated courts is presently unaffiliated, the Township should engage its representatives to discuss formation as an affiliated league along with opportunities to permit the overlay courts at certain times during the week and avoid competition with drop-in tennis players. A discussion may also ensue to discuss cost-recovery opportunities and allocation policies in line with the Township's other permitted facilities (i.e. arenas and sports fields) as well as whether rental revenues may support development of dedicated pickleball facilities.

While most municipalities do not have a set service level standard for pickleball courts due to its more recent emergence, standards are in place for tennis and basketball courts. The recommended provision target for tennis courts is one court per 5,000 residents which is a level that Selwyn is presently meeting and will continue to be in line with over the next 10 years; as such, no new tennis courts are required. For basketball, the Township implemented a recommendation from the previous RSP to construct a court in Lakefield but a recommendation to provide a basketball court in Bridgenorth has not yet been completed; it is recommended that this previous recommendation be carried forward to ensure geographic accessibility given that core basketball court users tend to be youth who often do not have access to their own private vehicle.

5.8 Skateboard / Wheeled Action Sport Parks

The Township provides a quality wheeled action sports / skateboard park in Lakefield known as The Wave, implementing a recommendation from the previous RSP. Wheeled action sports include skateboarding, BMX and mountain biking but also extend to equipment such as rollerblades and scooters.

The Township's service level equates to one skateboard per 1,950 youth between the ages of 10 and 19 which is considered to be strong. However, given that youth do not always have access to a vehicle, geographic distribution also needs to be considered. While the need for a second skateboard park was not expressed as a priority during RSP consultations nor have Township staff received requests for additional facilities for wheeled action sports, additional facilities may be considered in the future if substantiated by need.



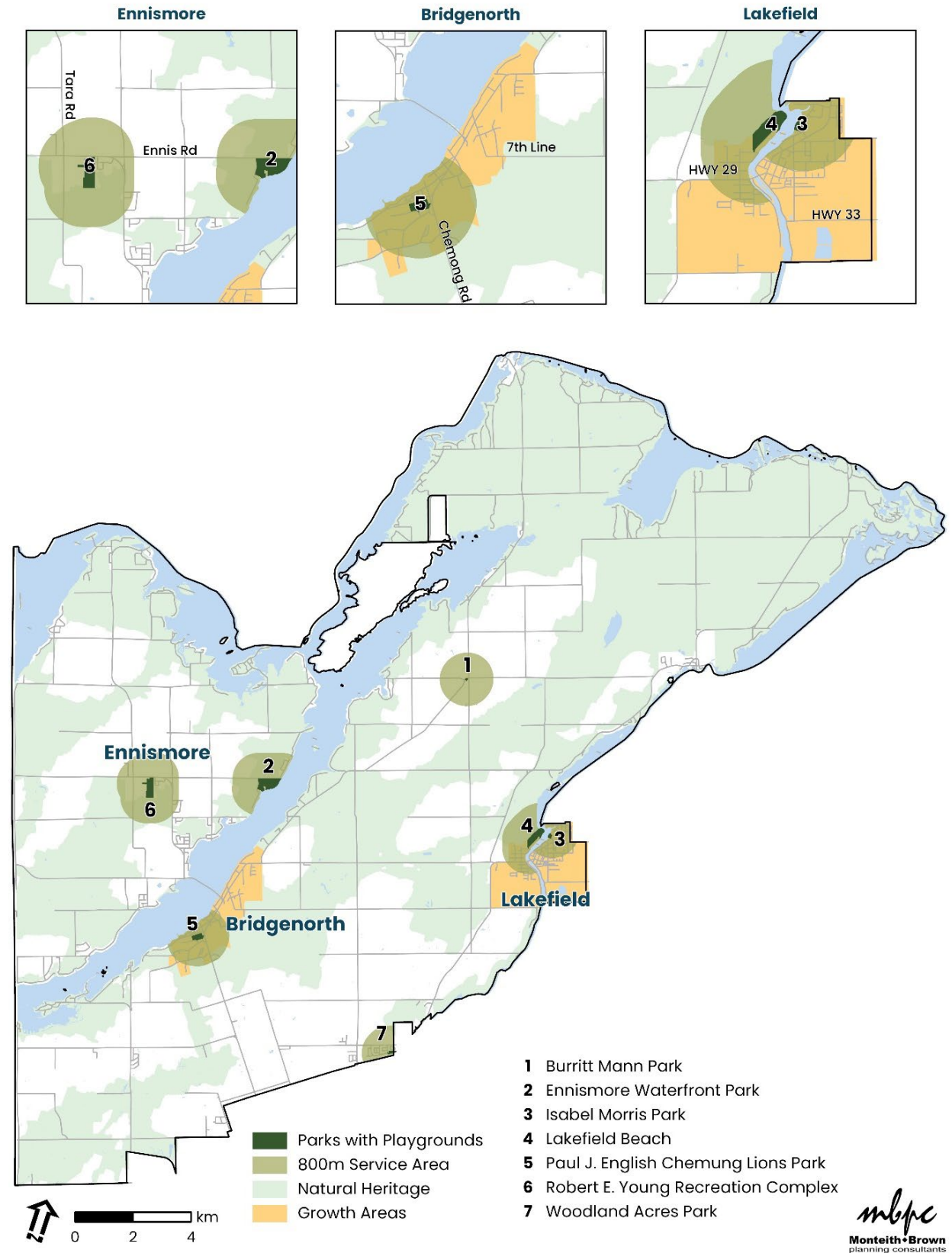
5.9 Playgrounds

The Township provides playgrounds at seven parks, amounting to a service level of 1:2,800 residents. Most sites consist of traditional play equipment (swings, slides, etc.) though the Woodland Acres Park contains a newer template that exemplifies a creative play structure. Playgrounds are an important park feature to households with young children and receive high levels of use from these residents. They can fit in most park types, stimulate outdoor play, and support family-friendly neighbourhoods. Newer playground structures also often integrate barrier-free features into their surfacing and equipment with some municipalities choosing to provide fully accessible playgrounds.

Playgrounds support early child development, encourage physical activity, foster cognitive development and social skills. Best practices are for playgrounds to be situated within a 10 minute walk or 800 metres of residential areas in major settlement areas. The RSP feedback form revealed that additional investment in playgrounds was in the top five priorities of respondents while feedback was received from a local group that has expressed interest in providing accessible playgrounds in Selwyn, including at Ennismore Waterfront Park.

Figure 15 illustrates that coverage is generally satisfactory in Lakefield, however, the future residential developments in Lakefield South will need to be serviced by a playground; therefore, a playground structure should be installed as part of a future park in Lakefield South. While there is also a gap in Bridgenorth to the north of the Causeway, options for space capable of housing a play structure is limited and potentially cost prohibitive.

Figure 15: Distribution of Playgrounds



Integrating barrier-free features into playgrounds should be a focus for the Township as older playgrounds need to be replaced. Use of accessible surfacing materials and procuring play structures that include accessible components is a starting point so that children and caregivers with disabilities can benefit from localized play opportunities. Consideration will also need to be given to accessibility throughout the broader park's internal circulation routes / paths so that play structures and other amenities can be accessed from the street or parking lots. While modern play structures often meet or exceed AODA regulations, it bears noting that playgrounds with accessible components cannot always be considered fully barrier-free.



For this reason, the Township should develop a minimum of one fully barrier-free playground structure which tend to have a firm surface (e.g. vulcanized rubber), ramps, accessible swings, play features supportive of neuro-diverse children, and more. Given the interest expressed by the community and support of the local Optimist Club to contribute towards a fully accessible play structure at Ennismore Waterfront Park, there is merit in supporting this community-based initiative.

The development of adventure and natural playgrounds have also been gaining traction in many municipalities to provide an enhanced playing experience. Research has demonstrated that adventure playgrounds support the modern concept of “risky play” through climbing, exploring, and movement to develop motor skills. The use of natural materials such as wood, ropes, boulders, landscaping, and terrain, also provides users with new playing experiences that stimulates creative play through imagination. Like fully accessible playgrounds, the implementation of adventure and natural playgrounds are commonly directed to higher-order park locations to create a destination venue for children. As recommended in Section 4.7 of the RSP, a natural playground is recommended at Isabel Morris Park given its aging playground structure will be due for replacement within the RSP planning period and the fact that such a playground will be a complementary to ‘adventure’ amenity through The Wave skatepark and the park’s environmental features.

5.10 Frisbee & Disc Sports

The Township has been an early adopter in responding to trends in frisbee and disc sports through the provision of an Ultimate Frisbee field at Paul J. English Park and a disc golf course at Ennismore Waterfront Park. Disc golf is a century old game that originated in Canada in the early 1900s and is now played across the world; it has been gaining in popularity in recent times as an increasing number of young adults are taking up the sport.

Disc golf advocates often speak to the growth potential and benefits of introducing a disc golf courses in municipalities, indicating that disc golf can be a way to rejuvenate outdated parks as well as to enhance safety in parks where such concerns exist by introducing new users; typically at least four acres of land would be required for a 9-hole course. There is no standard level of service guiding municipal provision of disc golf courses, however, interest has been expressed for a second course in Selwyn. Given Selwyn's reputation for its natural surroundings, its supply of parkland that includes open spaces, and Township staff reporting good usage of the Ennismore Waterfront Park course, there is merit to explore a disc golf course in Lakefield potentially at Douglas Sports Centre.



Ultimate Frisbee is a non-contact sport that emerged in the 1990s. While it continues to be a niche sport, it has experienced surging popularity particularly among young adults (including social clubs). As a result, the sport has been recognized by international sporting organizations including the International World Games Association and the International Olympic Committee; however, the International Olympic Committee elected not to include ultimate frisbee in upcoming Olympic Games after giving it consideration for the better part of the last decade. With the RSP recommending investments in the rectangular field supply, this should allow for a degree of use by those wishing to play ultimate frisbee. No community feedback or market-specific information has been received that would suggest a second dedicated field or field complex is required in Selwyn at this time.

5.11 Recreation Facility Recommendations

- Action #16** Develop an Ice Allocation Policy that considers participant numbers of individual ice sport organizations, principles of inclusion and gender equity, youth and adult priorities, and resident status at a minimum.
- Action #17** Monitor ice sport participation rates, outcomes from improved ice allocation practices, along with utilization of arenas in Selwyn and adjacent municipalities for a minimum of five years to provide baseline information to inform future arena needs.
- Action #18** The Township should explore a formal reciprocal agreement with the school boards to allow for use of their gymnasiums and sports fields at reduced rental rates for community users.
- Action #19** Install sports field lighting at the Robert E. Young Recreation Complex south diamond.
- Action #20** Develop one new rectangular field, potentially in conjunction with future parkland development in Lakefield South.
- Action #21** Construct a splash pad and basketball court at Paul J. English Park subject to facility fit and feasibility studies.
- Action #22** Engage local pickleball representatives to discuss the willingness for them to organize into a formal league(s) so that the Township may allocate times on the existing overlay courts, assist with promoting the sport, and/or provide dedicated courts consistent with municipal fee and facility allocation policies.
- Action #23** Support the construction of a fully barrier-free playground in Ennismore and a new playground in Lakefield South. At the time of new playground construction and renewals, consider integration of barrier-free and natural play components.
- Action #24** Explore the suitability of a disc golf course at the Douglas Sports Centre.

6 Implementation

6.1 Monitoring & Updating the RSP

The Township should periodically review, assess, and revise the recommendations of the RSP in order to ensure that they remain reflective of community needs. This may require monitoring activity levels, utilization, demographics, and continuing dialogue with community organizations. The development of annual work plans and year-end reporting should be undertaken to track achievements and lessons learned in order to determine the success of the RSP. Through these mechanisms – or as a result of internal or external factors – adjustment in resource allocations and priorities may be required.

The RSP contains recommendations regarding the delivery of services for the Township to pursue. However, the Township may be pressed for additional recreation, parks and trail services that are not currently of sufficient demand to warrant a specific recommendation in the RSP or whose popularity becomes stronger at a future time. Therefore, the Township must be prepared to appropriately respond to future requests. Requests brought forward for non-traditional, emerging and/or non-core municipal services should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by considering (at a minimum):

- local/regional/provincial trends pertaining to usage and popularity of the activity/facility;
- examples of delivery models in other municipalities;
- local demand for the activity/program/facility;
- the ability of the Township's existing parks, recreation and culture facilities to accommodate the new service;
- the feasibility for the Township to reasonably provide the service / facility as a core service and in a cost-effective manner; and
- the willingness and ability of the requesting organization to provide the service / facility if provided with appropriate municipal supports.

6.2 Financial Considerations

The RSP's recommended Actions reflect that the Township has been proactive in delivering, distributing and maintaining its recreation facilities, parks and trails in a proactive manner that has resulted in few major capital investments being required. The Township should continue to employ strategic asset management practices for its existing (and future) infrastructure through its fiscal planning.

Whereas capital construction of facilities can leverage non-tax base funding sources such as development charges, stimulus or grant programs from senior levels of government and agencies, etc., the long-term operation and maintenance of infrastructure is often funded by the tax base, reserve fund contributions and user fees. Township staff are mindful of proactive fiscal planning and operational sustainability in line with its progressive corporate asset management practices. While certain RSP Actions will have capital and operational implications directly related to the Parks & Recreation Department portfolio, the financial and staffing implications on other Departments also needs to be considered prior to implementation.

All Actions that have a capital requirement would be brought forward on an annual basis through the budgeting process once the Township has the information it needs to develop costs (e.g. amount of parkland being conveyed, site selection, design characteristics, financial contributions from non-municipal sources, etc.). Similarly, it is envisioned that a number of service-delivery focused recommendations centred upon community development and volunteer supports can be worked into existing staff workloads.

6.3 Implementation Recommendations

Action #25 Undertake a scoped update of the Recreation Services Plan in 2029 to capture changes in population (including the future developments in Lakefield South), trends, corporate objectives, inventories, etc. Progress in implementing the RSP should be integrated into Departmental work plans and tracked annually with results (and related corporate achievements) regularly communicated to Township Council and the general public.

Action #26 Requests for recreation, parks, and trail facilities/services that presently fall outside of the Township's core mandate should be evaluated based on anticipated municipal role, quantifiable measures of demand and costs to the Township, and other long-term implications prior to decision whether or not to partner in the public interest.

Action #27 Continue to promote sound and strategic asset management practices to maintain the Township's recreation, parks and trail infrastructure over the long-term through sustainable fiscal planning.

6.4 Summary of Recommendations

The following pages summarize Actions contained within the RSP. Timing is generally synonymous with priority, although it also corresponds to the best estimate based on information available as to when needs will emerge (considering demographics, trends, etc.). Timing is organized into:

Short-Term Actions	2025 to 2028
Medium-Term Actions	2029 to 2032
Long-Term Actions	2033 to 2035

Timing assigned to individual Actions should be considered as a preliminary estimate as it largely relies upon the Township achieving forecasted population thresholds identified in the RSP. It is not the intent of this RSP to provide a definitive timing for Actions but rather to provide a general indication of when the need to implement the actions should be considered along with other future variables. The Township should use a combination of service level targets, historical demand indicators and adherence to fiscally responsible business practices prior to determining the type and timing of recommended facilities and services.

Action		Suggested Timing
Action #1	The Township’s role should continue to be a “Facilitator” of parks and recreation services through the provision of spaces, associated amenities/equipment, in-kind supports and subsidies. In support of this role, the Township should encourage a Community Development Model through engagement and provision of appropriate supports to empower its volunteers and community organizations, develop their internal capacity, and enhance their ability to deliver services over time.	Ongoing
Action #2	Organize regular forums for volunteers and community organizations delivering parks, recreation and trail services in Selwyn to allow information/idea sharing and networking opportunities to take place.	Ongoing
Action #3	Design ongoing opportunities for engagement, municipal services and spaces to be inclusive of persons with disabilities, Indigenous communities and diverse ethno-cultural groups, low income populations, seniors and youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and other marginalized groups. The intent is to understand recreation, parks and trails needs of under-represented groups so that they can be active, connected and are welcomed.	Ongoing
Action #4	In accordance with the AODA, seek input from the Accessibility Advisory Committee to improve accessibility in recreation facilities, parks and trails to reinforce principles of universal design, safety and comfort. In addition the Township may seek input from other parties/technical experts on criteria that considers the AODA, Building Code and other design requirements.	Ongoing

Action		Suggested Timing
Action #5	Continue to implement outstanding recommendations of the 2020 Parks & Recreation Department Service Delivery Review.	Ongoing
Action #6	Acquire parkland in accordance with Planning Act dedications and other means to ensure an appropriate supply and distribution, particularly in Lakefield South and other future residential development areas.	Ongoing
Action #7	Continue to promote marine and water-based activities within Selwyn by enhancing amenities for boating, canoe/kayaking, and wind and paddle sports through facilities to access the water. This should include developing a water access point in the North Smith area and considering the use of mobi-mats at municipal beaches, where appropriate, to improve barrier-free accessibility.	Ongoing
Action #8	Continue to implement the Isabel Morris Park Masterplan / Landscape Concept Plan with a focus on formalizing a festival and performance area scaled to community-level events, and adding a natural / adventure playground structure.	Ongoing
Action #9	Prepare a plan for Cashel Park to determine amenities, including but not limited to trails and pathways, that are suitable in the context of its naturalized state.	Short-Term
Action #10	Undertake a review of the Township's Community Parks with washroom facilities and identify Community Parks that may be suitable candidates for permanent washrooms in addition to parks suited to portable accessible washrooms. In addition, the Township should identify opportunities that improve the barrier-free accessibility of portable washrooms.	Medium-Term
Action #11	Advocate to the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility through AMO, ROMA and other advocacy organizations to encourage the Province of Ontario to update Provincial Standards for accessible portable washrooms to address modern accessibility needs, and ensuring that manufacturers construct portable washrooms facilities that meet the needs of persons with disabilities.	Ongoing
Action #12	Action #11 Implement the trail classification based on the hierarchy recommended in this Recreation Services Plan. The classification should be used to guide the Township when planning, designing, constructing and maintaining trails.	Ongoing

Action		Suggested Timing
Action #13	Coordinate trail development, planning, and funding and the potential to link the existing trail systems in Selwyn together and beyond. Consider partnering with volunteer or partners, including, but not limited to, County of Peterborough and Otonabee Conservation to achieve this recommendation.	Ongoing
Action #14	Document the current level of service for trail maintenance throughout the Township and review the risk management, operational and financial impacts of any proposed increase in the level of service.	Ongoing
Action #15	Improve connectivity between and within settlement areas through the Recreation Services Plan’s “Recommended Hike/Bike Improvement Projects” to encourage active transportation and tourism.	Ongoing
Action #16	Develop an Ice Allocation Policy that considers participant numbers of individual ice sport organizations, principles of inclusion and gender equity, youth and adult priorities, and resident status at a minimum.	Short-Term
Action #17	Monitor ice sport participation rates, outcomes from improved ice allocation practices, along with utilization of arenas in Selwyn and adjacent municipalities for a minimum of five years to provide baseline information to inform future arena needs.	Ongoing
Action #18	The Township should explore a formal reciprocal agreement with the school boards to allow for use of their gymnasiums and sports fields at reduced rental rates for community users.	Short-Term
Action #19	Install sports field lighting at the Robert E. Young Recreation Complex south diamond.	Short-Term
Action #20	Action #19 Develop one new rectangular field, potentially in conjunction with future parkland development in Lakefield South.	Long-Term
Action #21	Action #20 Construct a splash pad and basketball court at Paul J. English Park subject to facility fit and feasibility studies.	Short-Term
Action #22	Engage local pickleball representatives to discuss the willingness for them to organize into a formal league(s) so that the Township may allocate times on the existing overlay courts, assist with promoting the sport, and/or provide dedicated courts consistent with municipal fee and facility allocation policies.	Short-Term

Action	Suggested Timing
<p>Action #23 Support the construction of a fully barrier-free playground in Ennismore and a new playground in Lakefield South. At the time of new playground construction and renewals, consider integration of barrier-free and natural play components.</p>	Short-Term
<p>Action #24 Explore the suitability of a disc golf course at the Douglas Sports Centre.</p>	Medium-Term
<p>Action #25 Undertake a scoped update of the Recreation Services Plan in 2029 to capture changes in population (including the future developments in Lakefield South), trends, corporate objectives, inventories, etc. Progress in implementing the RSP should be integrated into Departmental work plans and tracked annually with results (and related corporate achievements) regularly communicated to Township Council and the general public.</p>	Medium-Term
<p>Action #26 Requests for recreation, parks, and trail facilities/services that presently fall outside of the Township’s core mandate should be evaluated based on anticipated municipal role, quantifiable measures of demand and costs to the Township, and other long-term implications prior to decision whether or not to partner in the public interest.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Action #27 Continue to promote sound and strategic asset management practices to maintain the Township’s recreation, parks and trail infrastructure over the long-term through sustainable fiscal planning.</p>	Ongoing