



Municipality of the District of West Hants

Parks and Open Space Plan

2016 - 2026



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Glossary

Acquisition	The process of purchasing or obtaining parks or open space. Acquisition may also apply to access of outdoor spaces that are not Municipally-owned, such as through land lease agreements.
Action	A term used in this plan to indicate the steps required or recommended for the Municipality to ensure the successful implementation of this plan.
Active Transportation	All forms of human powered or non-motorized transportation. It typically refers to walking, running and cycling, but also rollerblading, skateboarding, wheelchair use, etc.
Adaptive Management	Referred to as 'adaptive management', parks and open space plan objectives and outcomes should be regularly evaluated in order to meet the changing needs of people and the environment. Regular refinement of standardized evaluation, management and design guides, such as the Decision-Making Toolkit and Municipal policy and recommendations, is essential to being 'adaptive'.
ArcGIS	Produced by ESRI, it is a geographic information system (GIS), or software, for creating and working with maps and geographic information.
Asset Mapping	A mapping activity that relies on the community to identify its assets and to generate a plan to solve problems.
Citizens	People who reside in West Hants either full time or part time during the course of a year.
Community Park	Typically 2 hectares (5 acres) or more, these parks are usually home to athletic facilities, picnic areas, paths, schools and other passive recreation opportunities. May accommodate community food garden plots. These typically attract people within a 5 kilometre radius of the park.
Crown Land	Public land administered by Provincial and Federal governments. Crown land is officially entitled to the Canadian monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, however this is in her position as sovereign, not an individual therefore Crown land cannot be sold by the sovereign without the proper advice and consent of her (Canadian) ministers.
Cultural Park	These include outdoor spaces that have an attached historical or cultural value (e.g. gardens, cemeteries, church properties, memorials, etc.). Cultural Parks may accommodate community food garden plots and they attract people from 30 kilometres of the park.

Dissemination Area	The smallest standard geographic area for which all Statistics Canada census data are disseminated, it is a relatively stable geographic unit with a population of 400 to 700 persons.
Divestment	The sale of unsuitable or unusable land by the Municipality.
Downzoning	The assignment of a zoning grade to land under which the permitted density of housing and development (and therefore future profitability) is reduced.
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life; habitats for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecological and other scientific purposes; rivers, streams, bays, estuaries and coastal beaches, lake shores, banks of rivers and streams, and watershed lands.
Gap Analysis	The comparison of actual performance with potential or desired performance (e.g. of policy, or park lands)
Geographic Information System	(GIS). A computerized system for geographical data collection, storage, manipulation, and analysis.
Green Infrastructure	The planted and natural greenspaces of the Municipality that are used to ensure the health and safety of citizens and to adapt to a changing climate. Green infrastructure includes parks and open space, stormwater infiltration and street trees.
Hazard Area	Areas requiring special management or regulations, (e.g. steep slope areas, floodplains, wetlands, watersheds, geo-hazards)
Integrated Community Sustainability Plan	A long-term plan, developed in consultation with citizens, to help the community realize sustainability objectives within environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions of its identity.
Ipsos Reid	Canada's largest market research and public opinion polling firm.
Land Use By-Law (LUB)	Land Use By-laws are regulations that specify development controls and land use development policies found in the MPS.
Level of Service	The measurable quantity and quality of service (of parks and open space) provided to citizens by the Municipality.

Linear Park	A variety of outdoor connections such as trails, riparian buffers, road right-of ways, dykelands, coastal protected areas, and shorelines. Both recreation and nature conservation are promoted.
Management	Outdoor space operations, maintenance, acquisition of new spaces, divestment of superfluous spaces, funding for outdoor spaces, and coordination of outdoor community groups.
Municipality	The Municipality of the District of West Hants.
Municipal Climate Change Adaptation Plan	(MCCAP). A plan adopted by Council that identifies the impacts of climate change in West Hants, and also policy and procedures that could help protect people, properties, special places, and essential municipal services.
Municipal Government Act	The legislative framework that delegates provincial authority to municipal councils in Nova Scotia.
Municipal Planning Strategy	A Municipal document that provides the framework to guide the growth and development in West Hants and sets out the policies of council regarding future developments.
Natural Areas	Areas designated by the Province of Nova Scotia to be protected as representative native ecosystems, for the protection of endangered species, and used for education and research.
Neighbourhood Park	The smallest-sized park type in West Hants, which is used on a daily basis by members of a neighbourhood typically within a 1 kilometre radius of the park. Informal active recreation or passive recreation are typical and informal fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, and seating are found. May accommodate community food garden plots.
Open Space	<p>Lands owned by government or other entity that are not programmed for recreational use and typically do not contain buildings or other structures. These may be unused naturalized land, environmentally-sensitive land, landscape views or lands within prescribed setbacks or other reserves on private property. In this plan, Open Space falls within the Preservation and Production park, and open space type.</p> <p>Opportunities, standards and other references to Open Space in this plan refer to Municipally-owned lands only, unless otherwise specified.</p>
Park	Land owned by the Municipality or other entity that is programmed for active or passive recreational enjoyment. There are five park types in West Hants, which are defined by uses, size and numbers of people serviced: Neighbourhood, Community, Regional, Cultural and Linear. Parks typically contain buildings or sports/play infrastructure and standard levels of service apply.

Park Planning Area	Useful for determining levels of service, and for education and promotion, these signify the sections of West Hants where citizens both live and recreate (without going outside of that Area), as determined through public engagement.
Preservation And Production (Open Space)	Typically at least 4 hectares (~10acres) in size, these have few or no built amenities. These spaces act primarily as preserves to protect natural (e.g. woodlands, wetlands, conservation areas, streams, ponds and lakes, watersheds, agriculture lands, dykelands and coastline) or agricultural resources.
Protected Water Area (PWA)	<p>A designation administered by the Province of Nova Scotia under the Environment Act that enables the universally accepted multiple-barrier framework for managing municipal drinking water supplies in Nova Scotia.</p> <p>West Hants is host to three water supply areas, two that are designated and one with designation in draft form, respectively: Mill Lake, French Mill Brook and Davidson Lake.</p>
Regional Park	<p>Typically 20 - 100 hectares in size, these serve citizens of the entire Municipality and attract visitors from outside the Municipality. Portions of these parks may be set aside for natural and cultural conservation. Opportunities for passive and active recreation is programmed. Regional Parks are often owned and managed by the Provincial government or private enterprises, such as large Provincial Parks, ski resorts and golf courses.</p> <p>Opportunities, standards and other references in this plan refer to Municipally-owned lands only, unless otherwise specified.</p>
'Right of First Refusal' or 'Option on Land'	A contractual right to acquire property prior to it being available on the open market. It is typically obtained through a formal request to the land owner and may or may not be accompanied by a fee.
Stakeholder	Groups, individuals, or organizations (e.g. business, government, recreation) who have a financial, business, or public stake in the parks and open space network. The interest and stake is different than that of the general public.
Stormwater	Water originating from precipitation events (e.g. rain, snow) that 'runs off' of paved surfaces (e.g. sidewalks, roads, parking lots) into catch basins, drainage areas, or water bodies.
Subdivision	The division of land into smaller pieces for ease of sale or development.

Usable Land	Land considered usable as parks or open space as defined by the Municipality of the District of West Hants and the former Town of Hantsport Subdivision By-laws.
Subdivision By-law	This by-law includes regulations that establish standards for how land can be subdivided.
Value	Qualities and characteristics that citizens of West Hants describe as important in their outdoor spaces.
Values-Based Planning Approach	The inclusive and transparent process that considers the values of West Hants citizens into parks and open space decision-making. Values can be used in many ways including the prioritization of open space management, to determine the allocation of resources, to identify conflicts in the landscape, and to maintain or enhance landscape elements that are favoured.
West Hants	The geographic area governed at the municipal level by the Municipality of the District of West Hants, which excludes Windsor but has included Hantsport since July 1, 2015.
Wilderness Areas	Areas designated by the Province of Nova Scotia to contain representative landscapes and native biodiversity and also used for recreation.

Acronyms

AT	Active Transportation
DA	Dissemination Area
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICSP	Integrated Community Sustainability Plan
GFLUM	Generalized Future Land Use Map
LUB	Land Use By-law
MCCAP	Municipal Climate Change Adaptation Plan
MGA	Municipal Government Act
MPS	Municipal Planning Strategy
PWA	Protected Water Area



Cambridge Beach

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Citizens of the Municipality of the District of West Hants use parks and open space for personal and organized recreation, to connect with people, and to enjoy nature. A ten-year comprehensive plan has been developed to direct the management (e.g. operations, maintenance, acquisition, divestment, funding, programming, education) of approximately 175 hectares (435 acres) of Municipally-owned land. This plan will ensure that the local network of parks and open space will continue to meet recreational needs, and protect unique natural and cultural resources.

The Municipality of the District of West Hants Parks and Open Space Plan stands as a milestone in the Municipality for two reasons: First, a full inventory and review of approximately 165 Municipally-owned parcels has been conducted. Second, for the first time, citizens of the Municipality have been consulted on what they value about the entire parks and open space network and what the future of the network should look like. Identifying what people value in their outdoor spaces is a more proactive approach than focusing on problems. These values help define 'suitable' future parks and open space when using the Suitability Framework found in Appendix 1. This plan also includes a review of public policy, planning precedents, gap analysis, and six Guiding Principles to shape future decisions.

Four methods of data collection contributed to the formation of the Parks and Open Space Plan: 1) a review of best planning practices across Canada; 2) a review of existing policy frameworks set out by the Municipality of the District of West Hants, and policy set in place by the Province of Nova Scotia; 3) an extensive public engagement process including paper and online surveys, community open houses and workshops, a stakeholder workshop, and a youth engagement

session; and 4) ground-truthing of 165 parcels to collect pertinent site information, which is now available to the Municipality in a database.

A series of 15 prioritized management actions stem from the analysis of collected parks and open space information. Three analysis tools were used to reveal these 15 actions. First, a gap analysis was completed to identify the locations of citizens who are lacking access to certain types of parks. Second, using plan Guiding Principles as a framework, gaps in parks and open space policy was revealed. Third, site opportunities were developed from the review and synthesis of the parks and open space data collected during site visits. A 'top 5' list of well-used and frequently visited parks and open space was identified. For each of the five spaces, site opportunities were extensively evaluated and cost estimates provided. Concept drawings were illustrated to highlight the approximate locations of site opportunities. Additionally, five park planning areas were identified based on park location, park capture area, and location of dwellings.

In addition to the establishment of park types and standards for West Hants, a key deliverable from this Parks and Open Space Plan is a Decision Making Toolkit to be used by Municipal staff or a committee. The Toolkit can guide decisions about the Parks and Open Space network, to ensure decisions about land acquisition, divestment and development meet the intent of the plan. Users of this toolkit will be able to evaluate and prioritize lands for acquisition based on the four standards described in detail in the Toolkit: usability, suitability, budget, and urgency.

For the next ten years, decision-makers, community groups, and other stakeholders will be able to use this plan to deliver a parks and open space network that will meet the needs of citizens in West Hants.



Irishmans Road Recreation Site

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

Parks and open space are public properties that enable recreation and enjoyment. They also protect the environment, and preserve culturally important places. This Parks and Open Space Plan comprehensively reviews community values and the West Hants parks and open space inventory to identify the best possible network to meet the needs of citizens for the next ten years.

Municipal policy documents¹ have called for the creation of a Parks and Open Space Plan. As a result, this plan serves as an important milestone in West Hants for two reasons:

A Citizens' Values are Identified

For the first time, citizens of West Hants were consulted on what they value about the entire parks and open space network and what the future of the network should look like. This is significant as parks and open space research and planning show that a truly sustainable network of open space and the resources within it depends on a broad set of values identified by the public (e.g. Digby Open Space Strategic Plan, HRM Urban Forest Master Plan, Point Pleasant Park Master Plan, CSA Sustainable Forest Management). This is balanced by public policy and planning precedents.

B Management Plan Identified

The development of this plan included the inventory and analysis of Municipally-owned land. This plan ensures that all Municipally-owned and accessible lands will be inventoried and analysed. Importantly, management actions have been outlined for the horizon of 2016 to 2026.

West Hants spans some 1,345 square kilometres (332,356 acres). The Municipality owns and manages 175 hectares (435 acres) of parks and open space lands. Although this plan strategically considers all parts of the network (e.g. Municipal, Provincial and private lands), Municipally-owned lands are the primary focus.

1.2 Values Based Planning Approach

Identifying what people value in outdoor spaces is a more positive approach than simply focusing on problems. Values are qualities and characteristics that citizens of West Hants have described as important in their outdoor spaces. A range of values have been collected and used to inform this Plan. These values are easily organized into two types:

- Ecological (e.g. biodiversity of plant species, removal of carbon from the atmosphere, wildlife habitat, flooding mitigation, soil stabilization, mitigation of climate change effects), and
- Social (e.g. physical activity, personal well-being, natural beauty, community gathering).

In the West Hants Parks and Open Space Plan, values have been used, in part, to:

- Define 'suitable land' for parks and open space use in West Hants;
- Identify challenges with the current parks and open space network; and to
- Suggest improvements to the current parks and open space network.

¹ Plans include the Active Living Strategy, West Hants Municipal Planning Strategy and Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

1.3 Guiding Principles

Guiding principles direct the creation and management of the parks and open space network. These principles come from community values, municipal policies, and best practices:

Table 1: Guiding Principles

Prioritize environmental protection.	Environmental protection must be considered a high priority to ensure sensitive lands, waters, and wildlife habitat are not unduly harmed by human recreation.
Plan green infrastructure to adapt to climate change.	Green infrastructure includes the planted and natural greenspaces that are used to ensure the health and well-being of citizens and to mitigate the negative effects of climate change. Mitigative actions include carbon sequestration, stormwater capture, flood mitigation and shoreline stabilization. Green infrastructure may be a key component of parks such as trees, garden, rain gardens, and swales. Parks may be developed around green infrastructure such as stormwater management ponds.
Plan spaces for all interests and abilities.	Access to active and passive recreation is important to all citizens of West Hants for their physical and mental health. 'Access' means having appropriate amenities, such as flat and stable walking surfaces, water access, and stimulating appropriate recreation spaces within a suitable proximity to where citizens live.
Link parks and open space with other places.	Linking people from their home to parks using trails, multi-use paths, and water access points enables active transportation, and the freedom for people of all ages to access the parks and open space network.
Showcase community identity and history.	Sense of identity is strengthened when valued outdoor spaces are enhanced. Enhancements may prominently display park aspects related to West Hants history, resource production, natural processes, and geography (e.g. Mi'kmaw and Acadian land works and settlements, resource production and harvesting, among others). Good park maintenance and design can also strengthen community pride.
Evaluate and update plans over time.	Referred to as 'adaptive management', parks and open space plan objectives and outcomes should be regularly evaluated in order to meet the changing needs of people and the environment. Regular refinement of standardized evaluation, management and design guides, such as the Decision-Making Toolkit and Municipal policy and recommendations, is essential to being 'adaptive'.

1.4 Methods and Analysis

Methods

M1 Best Practice Review

Four park and open space plans and related subdivision by-laws were reviewed in detail for local understanding. This review included definitions of usable land, park department budgets and park types. This review is attached in Appendix 5 (Detailed Policy Framework). Plans from across Canada were used as precedents and to inform the Suitability Framework, Guiding Principles, park size and catchment area standards, and gap analysis.

M2 Policy Review

The West Hants Parks and Open Space Plan conforms to Municipal and Provincial policy. To design the best parks and open space network, amendments to policy and regulation were evaluated. Policy documents reviewed for this plan are described in Section 2.0 Planning Context. A detailed review using the Guiding Principles to identify gaps is in Appendix 5, and proposed changes to existing regulation are in Appendix 6.

M3 Public Engagement

A) Online and Paper Survey

To reach a large group of citizens in West Hants, surveys were distributed in digital and paper formats. The online survey was hosted on the survey website called Survey Monkey and the link was distributed via the Municipal website, Facebook, Twitter, posters in public spaces and at schools, and newspaper and various organizations' newsletter advertisements. The paper survey was distributed at schools, public buildings, at a youth engagement session and to interested seniors groups. A mixture of open and closed-ended questions were administered to create an accurate picture of where people go outside, what they do, what they value and would like to improve in these outdoor spaces.

B) Community Open Houses and Workshops

Five community engagement sessions were held in the Municipality in November 2015. The program for engagement included:

Open House: Upon arrival, event participants were given unstructured time to interact with the Consultant Team to ask questions and

gain clarity on the purpose and methods of the Parks and Open Space Plan. At each open house session, participants were able to illustrate, with stickers on a map, where they live and recreate within the Municipality.

Workshop: Each session began with an introduction of the Consultant Team and a brief presentation on the value of public participation and how the session would run.

In small groups, participants were invited to respond to a series of questions by writing and drawing on maps, paper, and post-it notes.

After each session, participants reviewed and prioritized all responses collected during the engagement session.

C) Stakeholder Workshop

Parks and open space stakeholders are individuals, organizations, or groups within West Hants that have a special interest in the parks and open space network (e.g. outdoor related businesses, recreation groups, school board, tourism groups). A stakeholder workshop was conducted on November 12, 2015. Questions specific to organizational mandates, funding opportunities, and open space network were asked.

D) Youth Engagement Session

Youth in West Hants were an asset in the development of the Parks and Open Space Plan. Youth, active in their respective communities in West Hants, were invited to attend an interactive workshop on October 19, 2015. Discussion, asset mapping, and multimedia exercises were used to draw out ideas for the future of outdoor spaces in West Hants. The youth from this session were given surveys and posters to disseminate at their respective schools and communities.

M4 Ground Truthing

After a detailed desktop review of parks and open space in West Hants, the consultant team visited and evaluated each parcel of municipally-owned land (approximately 165 parcels) to collect pertinent site condition information showing in the Parks and Open Space Inventory in this Plan. Detailed site criteria were collected from October to December, 2015.²

2 The resulting inventory is showcased in Appendix 2

Analysis

Three analysis tools were used to evaluate the data collected.

A1 Park and Open Space Standards Gap Analysis

A gap analysis was completed to identify the locations of citizens who are lacking access to certain types of parks. This analysis was done using mapping software (ESRI ArcMap); Catchment areas of various standard sizes were drawn around parks according to the park type.³

A2 Park and Open Space Policy Gaps

An opportunity exists for the Municipality to have a parks and open space network that fulfils the Guiding Principles. After Municipal policies were sorted by the Guiding Principles, gaps in policy (related to certain Principles) became apparent. Some recommendations in this report suggest policy amendments that provide new or updated policy that will address important aspects of each Guiding Principle, such as proposed amendments to the definition of usable land found in the Subdivision By-Law(s).

A3 Parks and Open Space Network Analysis

Based on the parks and open space data collected during site visits, opportunities and recommendations were developed. A further analysis for surrounding activities and connections was made possible through a desktop analysis using mapping tools (e.g. ArcGIS, aerial photos land owner information, park and open space maps developed in this plan).

The full inventory of West Hants parks and open space is presented in Appendix 2 (Inventory and Opportunities).

³ Park types and standards, and park type catchment areas are explained in Table 3.

Information Limitations

Information in this plan is based on trends, assumptions, and data, which come from various sources. As such, information has its parameters and limitations. The list below reports such parameters and limitations by chapter in this Plan:

2.0 Planning Context

Population Counts: Statistics Canada 2011, grouped by Dissemination Area - part time citizens such as cottagers are likely not to be included in this population count.

Park Planning Areas: derived from public engagement sessions, existing road network, and Dissemination Area boundaries. Public input was limited to those who responded.

Resident Locations: Building points for buildings not commercial, cottage, industrial or otherwise non-residential. Hantsport building points not readily available for display.

Ipsos Reid Survey: See survey to view limitations.

3.0 Public Engagement

1A: Where We Go - Based on responses received through online and paper surveys. More than 450 people were represented, achieving a 95% confidence level for responses. Age groups were adequately represented. These were 0-15, 16-30, 31-40, 41-60 and 60+.

1B: What We Do - This is from responses received through online and paper surveys. Respondents listed the activities they perform and these responses were tallied.

1C: What We Value - Based on Responses received through online and paper surveys, as well as workshop sessions, Top 5 values were chosen from a list of values, and other values described are related to Top 5 but in the words of individuals rather than the prescribed options.

4.0 Inventory + Opportunities

Map 3: Current Parks and Open Space - Parks are limited to Municipally-owned lands only.

Map 4: Water Access Locations - Limited to locations noted during public consultation, and planning consultants' observations during site visits to Municipal lands. Locations may or may not be on public land.

Table 3: Parks and Open Space Types in West Hants - Park Types were adapted from planning standards and enhanced to address local conditions

4.3: Current Parks and Open Space Level of Service - Based on the Park Type Standards. The amount of land area for Neighbourhood Parks is comparable to that of Community Parks because most Community Parks are also considered Neighbourhood Parks. Many parks have more than one park type designation.

Map 5: Gap Analysis of Park Types - Green, grey and hatched buffers represent catchment areas for each Municipal parcel that is considered 'used' by citizens for park use. Parcels that are deemed 'under-used' do not have a buffer attached and therefore are not seen as servicing citizens. 'Used' and 'under-used' designations are found in the Detailed Inventory in Appendix 2.

4.4: Top 5 Parks - These parks were selected based on popularity and future infrastructure needs. Proposed infrastructure and site opportunities were identified through public consultation, from Municipal Staff knowledge, and consultant input (based on experience and best practices).

4E: Network Opportunities - These were derived from public consultation, Municipal Staff knowledge and consultant input, which is based on experience and best practices.

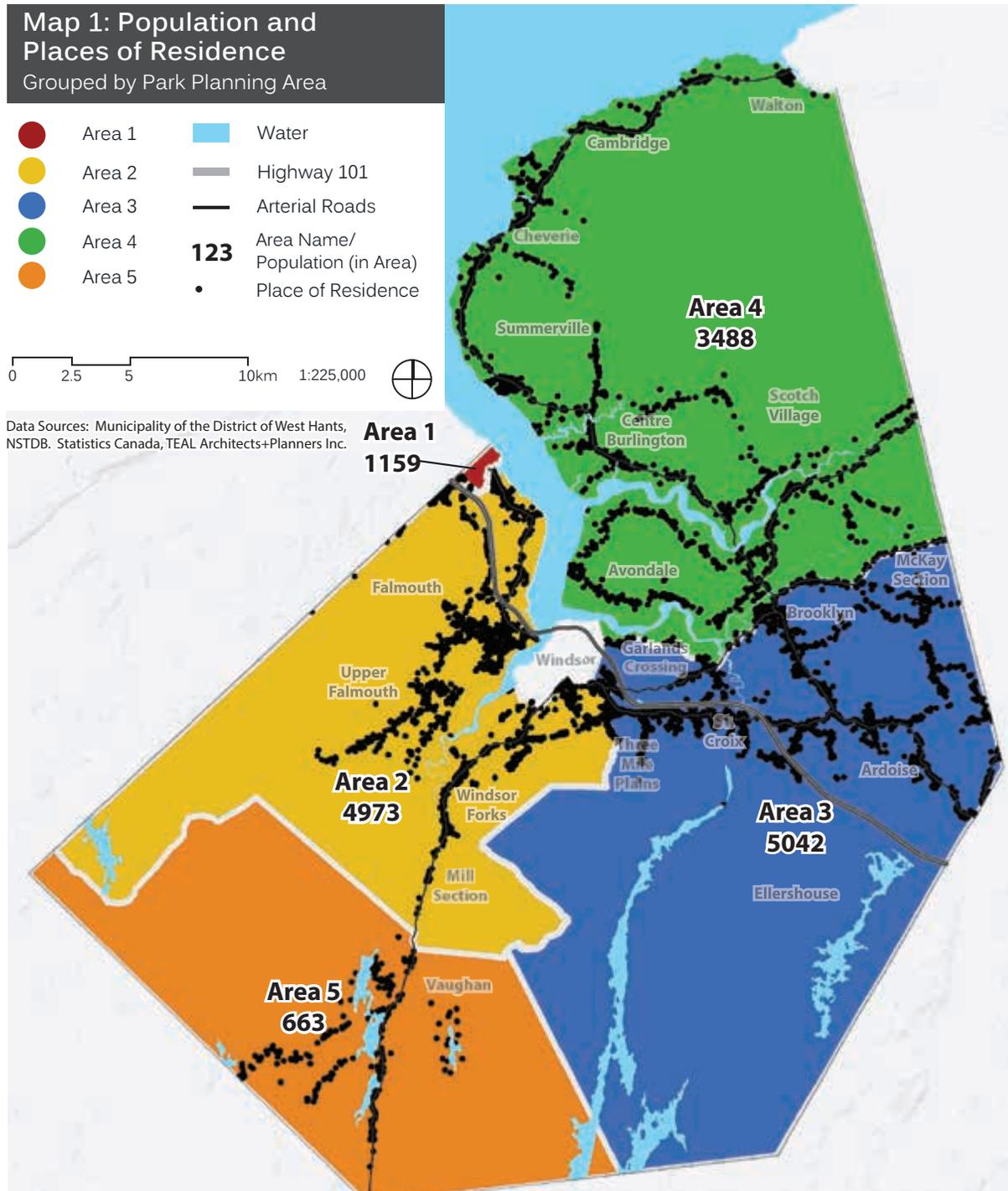




A West Hants Open Space,
Hantsport

2.0 PLANNING CONTEXT

This chapter identifies current and future demographics, the existing parks and open space network, and the local policy context that form the base understanding for planning the future West Hants park network. The planning context and other information throughout this Plan are grouped into five 'Park Planning Areas', which are seen below. These high-level areas generally represent the boundaries of where people live and the parks and open spaces they visit and are useful in understanding the gaps in parks and open space service provided by the Municipality.



2.1 People and Recreation

West Hants is one of the few municipal districts in Nova Scotia that is experiencing positive population growth. The former Town of Hantsport dissolved and merged with West Hants on July 1, 2015.^{4,5} At the time of the 2011 Census, West Hants had a population of 14,165 and Hantsport had a population of 1,159.

A report completed prior to the dissolution of Hantsport projected that the population of West Hants would increase by 4.5% by the year 2031.⁶ The same study projected that Hantsport (then a separate municipality) would lose 12.6% of its population. In actual numbers, this would result in total populations of 14,802 for West Hants (excluding Hantsport) and 1013 in Hantsport, a total of 15,815 in West Hants (including Hantsport) in the year 2031.⁷ Combining projections for both areas, this represents overall growth of 3.2% between the years 2011 and 2031.

The distribution of citizens of West Hants is shown in Map 1. A successful parks network enables most current and future citizens to access various park types, such as neighbourhood and community parks. As the population grows, West Hants will have to monitor what is needed to service parks and open space needs. Service standards are detailed further in this Plan.

West Hants has a slightly younger population compared to that of Nova Scotia, with 23% of people under 20 years of age and 16% over 65, compared to 21% and 17%, respectively, for Nova Scotia. Trends of an aging population are similar to those of most, if not all, communities in Nova Scotia. Trends show an increasing number of older people, and a decreasing number of younger people. Trends are displayed in more detail in Appendix 3.

4 The addition of Hantsport's population to that of West Hants is not reflected in Census data and is not a contributor to population growth in West Hants for the purpose of this report.

5 Census information for West Hants and Hantsport used in this section has been combined unless otherwise indicated. Data tables are displayed in Appendix 01.

6 Hantsport Governance Study (2014), S. 2.4

7 This 10-year plan time horizon falls short of the year 2031 by 5 years, however these projections are nonetheless considered appropriate for the purposes of this plan.

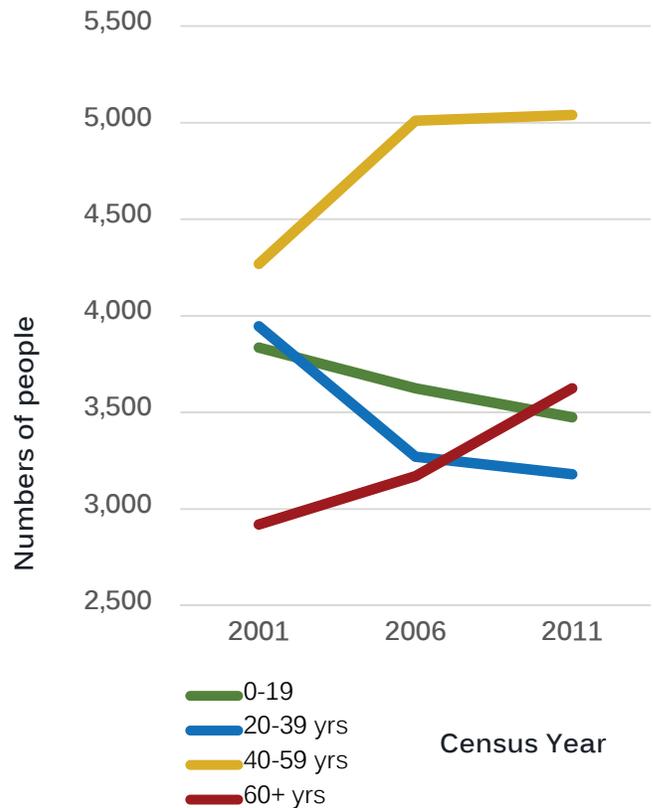


Figure 1: Population of West Hants by Age Category (2001 - 2011)

An Ipsos Reid phone survey of 300 West Hants citizens over the age of 18 was conducted in 2012. Information collected from this survey complements data gathered from the survey and public workshops completed during the creation of this Plan.

The Ipsos Reid Survey found that the most popular activity for adults was walking. Sixty percent (60%) of respondents said they walk on a regular basis. Other activities mentioned by at least 7% to 9% of respondents were swimming, running, biking, and skiing/snowboarding. The most popular activities for children, as reported by parents, were skiing/snowboarding, soccer, and swimming.

Facilities used by both groups include trails or pathways, and sports fields or courts. Activities that both adults and children take part in are swimming, skiing/snowboarding, walking, and running.

Outdoor spaces used at least once a month include:

Adults⁸

<i>Sidewalks and road shoulder</i>	67%
<i>Trails or pathways</i>	56%
<i>Parks or green spaces</i>	47%
<i>Beaches or lakes</i>	37%
<i>Sports fields or courts</i>	18%

Children (reported by parents)⁹

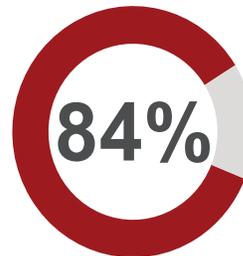
<i>Sports fields or courts</i>	67%
<i>Playgrounds</i>	62%
<i>Trails or pathways</i>	55%

When asked what would help adults become more physically active, most adults (84%) chose “access to paths, trails, and green spaces” as an important factor. Other responses suggest that adults’ physical activity could increase with the following improvements to parks and open space:

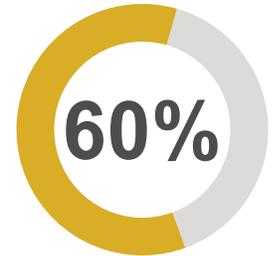
- Improve walking routes to key destinations (shops, services, work, school, community facilities)
- Provide walking space at the sides of roads (paved shoulder, trail, or sidewalks)
- Support walking events, programs, or clubs
- Develop more trails and pathways
- Improve safety (not crime-related) on walking routes (consider vehicle traffic, barriers or obstructions)

⁸ The lists of facilities were not extensive and some facilities listed as options for adults were not listed as options of facilities used by children (e.g. “sidewalks and space at the side of the road”, “beaches or lakes” and “parks or green space”).

⁹ Percentage represents the portion of parents who responded that their child (or children) participates in the activities listed. Each positive response may represent one or more children participating in the activities.



Adults walk on a regular basis



Adults say access to paths, trails, and green spaces would encourage physical activity.

2.2 Policy Context

A successful parks and open space network is described in complementary policy and planning documents. In West Hants, land-use plans and by-laws exist for both West Hants and Hantsport. Only the Active Transportation Plan (2014) considers the two communities together (see Figure 2).

Consideration has been given to strategic initiatives undertaken by other organizations, such as the Waterfront Development Committee’s Waterfront Strategic Plan (for Lake Pisiquid) and Bicycle Nova Scotia’s Blue Route. It is anticipated that coordination between organizations will occur at appropriate times to ensure the success of all initiatives.

Key components from relevant municipal documents are listed below and on the following pages. A comprehensive review of Municipal policies, regulations and other statements is found in Appendix 5.

MGA

The Municipal Government Act (MGA) is Provincial legislation that enables and requires Municipalities, in various ways, to plan their communities. In terms of parks and open space planning, highlights from the MGA include:

- A requirement for the Municipality to make the public aware and seek feedback when considering the divestment of lands for parks or open space acquired through the subdivision process.
- Minimum and maximum amount of land, or cash-in-lieu, to be taken by the Municipality upon the subdivision of land.
- The ability for Municipalities to define ‘useable land’ for parks and open space use.

- Money in exchange for lands that were acquired through the subdivision process must be re-invested in the parks and open space network.

Subdivision By-law, West Hants

- Lands for parks and open space use are collected primarily through the dedication of land upon subdivision approval.¹⁰
- Land required to be dedicated upon subdivision is currently 5% of the total land area or the equivalent of 5% of market value of the land in cash to the Municipality.^{11,12}
- A combination of land and cash is also permitted, as well as a transfer of land that is not a part of the proposed subdivision but located elsewhere.
- Notably, when lands proposed for subdivision have water frontage, the By-law requires a portion of the land to be dedicated for public access to the water.

Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS), West Hants

- Open Space is intended to be permitted in all zones.
- Community use designation is intended to be applied to all open spaces for community recreation in the Generalized Future Land Use map.
- Only municipally-owned lands should be zoned for open space purposes.

Land Use By-law, West Hants

- Parks and open space are permitted in all zones, pursuant to Section 5.35
- Three zones and one overlay (special area) exist specifically for the designation of parks and open space and related uses: Open Space (OS) zone, Recreation Commercial (RecC) zone and Water Supply zone, and Dykelands Overlay. It is to be noted that new structures are extremely limited in the Dykelands Overlay pursuant to Section 34.1.
- Water Supply (W) zone promotes the protection of watersheds by limiting subdivision of land and permitted uses. This zone establishes a 4.05 hectare (10 acre) minimum lot size requirement and a 91.4m (300 ft) minimum length of water frontage.
- All structures must be set back from a watercourse a distance of 15.24 m (50 ft), pursuant to Section 5.49.

Subdivision By-law, Hantsport

- No requirement for 'parkland' dedication, nor a definition of usable land.

Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS), Hantsport

- Several mentions of the municipality's responsibility to provide open space and recreation opportunities.
- Future land use should be according to the Generalized Future Land Use map.

Land Use By-law, Hantsport

- Buildings must be set back from a watercourse a distance of 30 m (~98 ft).
- Two zones exist to serve the purpose of designating areas for parks and open space: Recreation Open Space (ROS) zone and Conservation Open Space (COS) zone.

¹⁰ Municipality of the District of West Hants Municipal Planning Strategy (2008), p.103, <http://www.westhants.ca/planning.html>

¹¹ Municipality of the District of West Hants Subdivision By-law (2008, as amended), http://www.westhants.ca/component/com_docman/Itemid,180/view/docman/

¹² These funds must be used for the acquisition or development of parks and open space.

Municipality of the District of West Hants Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)

- Commits Council to consider the preparation of a Parks and Open Space Plan for the Municipality.
- Encourages eco-tourism development (e.g. salt water marshes, bike routes, interpretive centres, etc.).
- Encourages community gardens in urban areas.

Active Avon: Active Transportation Plan for the Avon Region

- Proposes improved linkages between trails, AT routes, and existing recreation facilities.
- Proposes connections between schools and neighbourhoods for youth to walk and bike.
- Notes that siting of recreation opportunities close to existing communities is critical to maintaining a community feel and reducing costs to the municipality.
- Notes that signage can improve sense of arrival at parks and open spaces.
- Identifies trailhead opportunities.
- Identifies proposed trail locations.

Municipality of the District of West Hants: Active Living Strategy

- Calls for the protection of public access to lakes and the Minas Basin waters through a parks and open space plan.
- Mentions the need to develop a parks and open space plan to identify ways to improve citizens' access to physical activities.

Municipality of the District of West Hants: Municipal Climate Change Adaptation Plan (MCCAP)

Reveals that coastal flooding, drought, and inland flooding are the three most concerning natural hazards in terms of risks to life and damage to infrastructure.

- Lands within a 10m elevation from the current highwater mark are projected to be affected by rising tides and storm surges by 2100.
- Presents strategies to limit greenhouse gas emissions, improve organizational adaptive capacity, strengthen emergency management capabilities and reduce risks of adverse effects of climate change.



Figure 2: Policy Documents



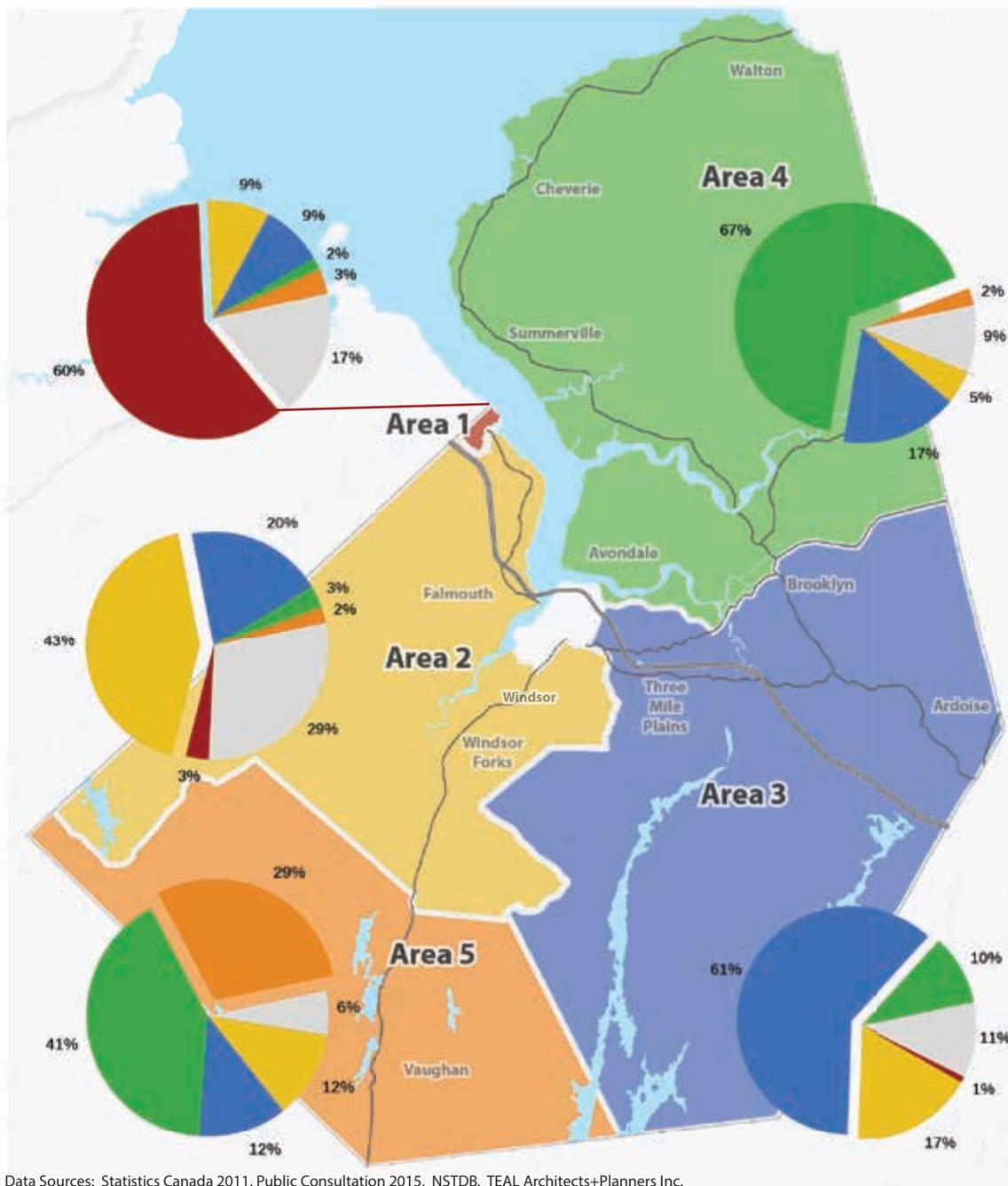
West Hants Public Engagement

3.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Information in this section was derived from the online and paper survey.

3.1 Where We Go

Useful for determining levels of service, and for education and promotion, the charts signify the sections of West Hants where citizens both live and recreate (without going outside of that Area), as determined through public engagement.



Data Sources: Statistics Canada 2011, Public Consultation 2015, NSTDB, TEAL Architects+Planners Inc.

● Area 1 ● Area 2 ● Area 3 ● Area 4 ● Area 5 ● outside West Hants

Figure 3: The Planning Areas Where Residents of Each Planning Area Recreate

Table 2: Which parks and open space properties do you visit?

Municipal Locations	# of mentions	Locations	# of mentions
Falmouth Mini Park and Causeway Trail	21	Falmouth Mini Park and Causeway Trail	21
Eldridge Road Recreation Site	17	Eldridge Road Recreation Site	17
Avondale Wharf and Waterfront	13	Avondale Wharf and Waterfront	13
Hobarts Beach	12	Hobarts Beach	12
Irishmans Road Recreation Site	12	Irishmans Road Recreation Site	12
Kempt Quarry Recreation Site	11	Kempt Quarry Recreation Site	11
Cheverie Salt Marsh Restoration Trail	6	Cheverie Salt Marsh Restoration Trail	6
Brooklyn District Elementary School Trail	5	Brooklyn District Elementary School Trail	5
Foundry Field	5	Foundry Field	5
St. Croix Recreation Site	4	St. Croix Recreation Site	4
		Beaches along Kempt Shore	12
		Bramber Beach	5
		Windsor Forks District School	4
		Provincial - Smileys Park	48
		Private - HMCC	28
		Private - Ski Martock	19
		Provincial - Falls Lake	9
		Provincial - road sides	7
		Laurie Saulnier Memorial Trail (Akins Marsh)	6
		Rail or old road	6
		Private - Castle Frederick Farm Trails	5
		Private - Grey Mountain	5

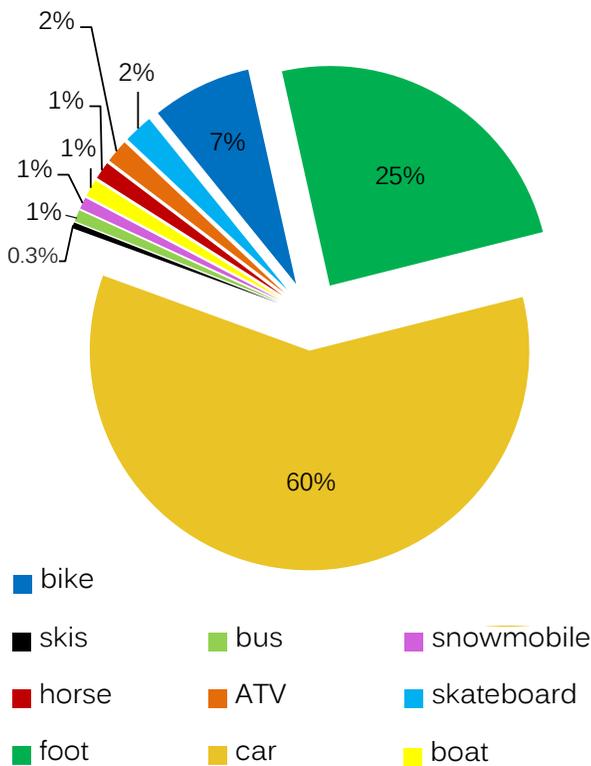
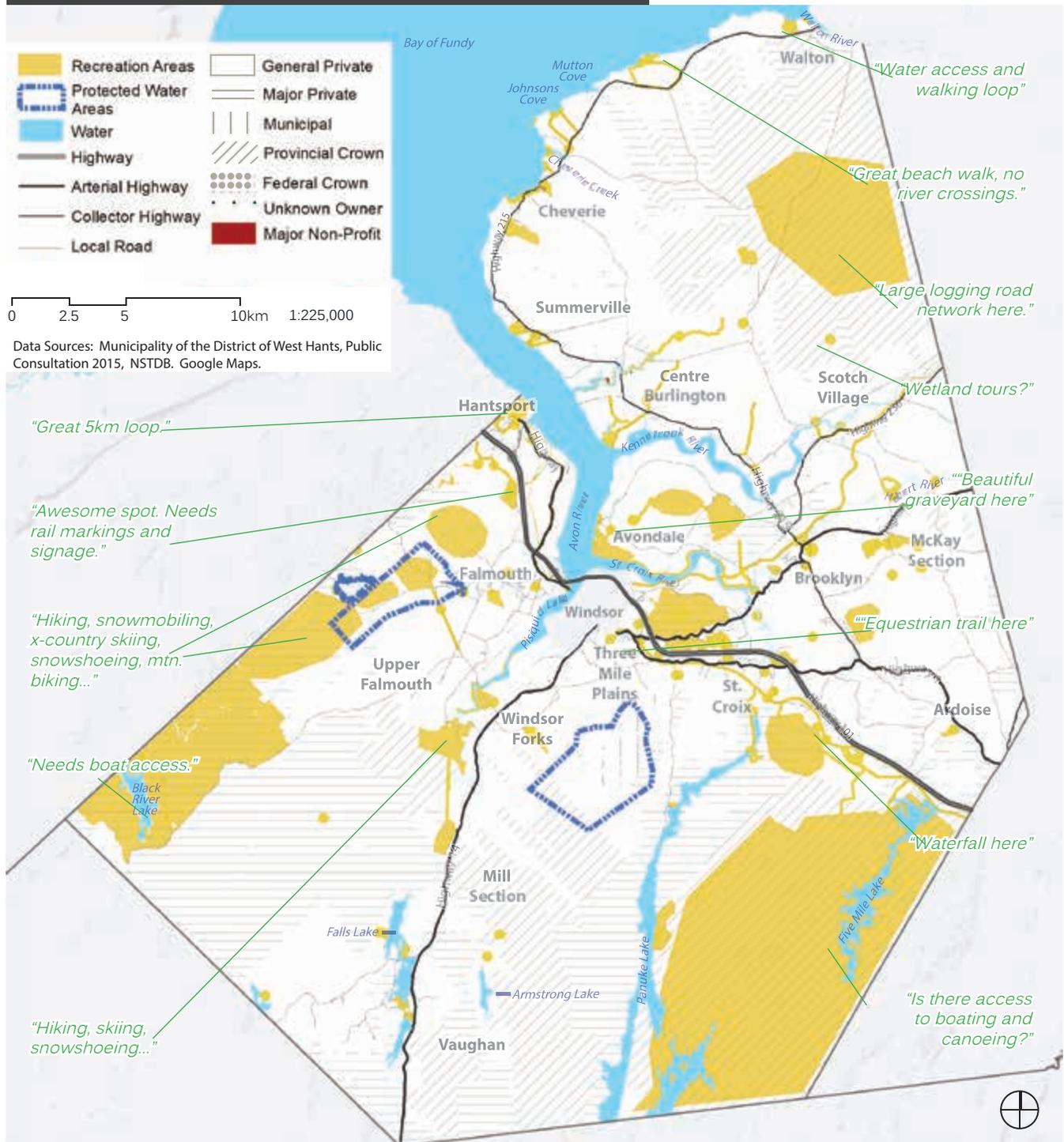


Figure 4: How do you get to your parks?

3.2 What We Do

Draw on a map where you recreate.*

Map 2: Places People Recreate or Would like to Recreate



* This map is a representation of responses from public engagement events and is not an endorsement by the Municipality to recreate on private lands.

Top 10 Activities:

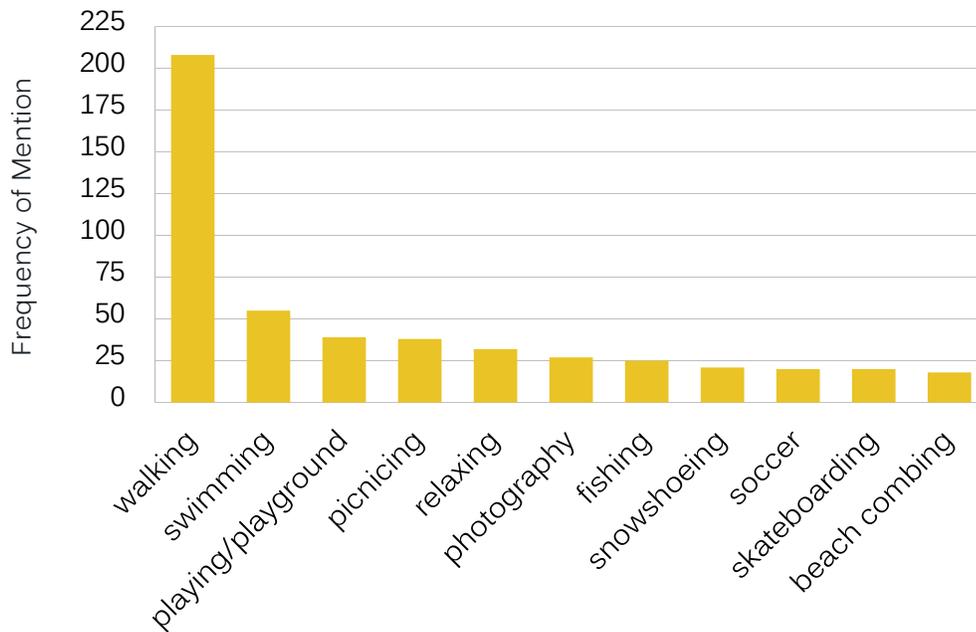


Figure 5: What activities do we do?

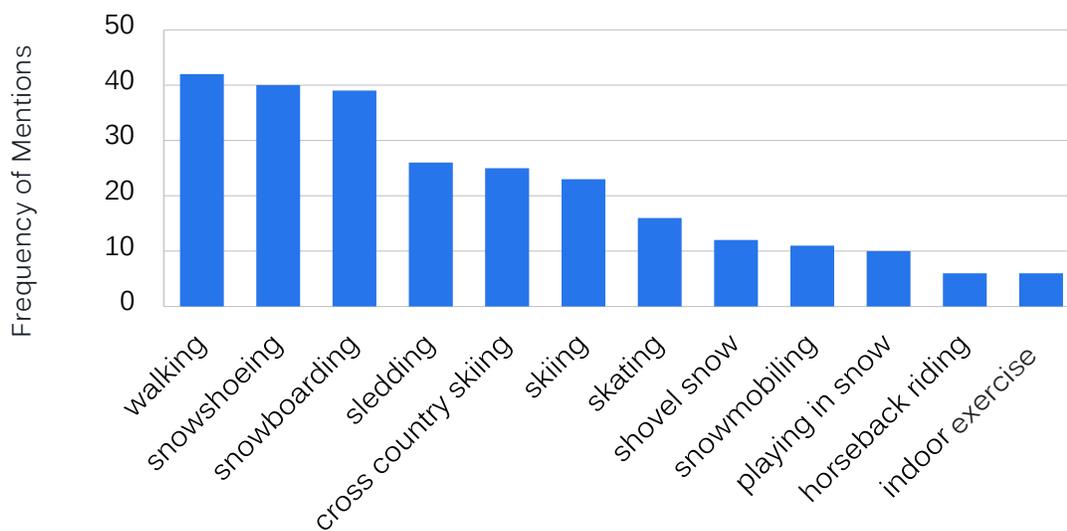


Figure 6: What activities do we do in Winter?

3.3 What We Value



Physical health

exercise, fresh air, health benefit, multi-use, sports, activities



Mental well-being

peace, serenity, freedom, isolation, permission relaxation, tranquillity, zen, adventure



Recreation

good connection to other trails, extensive networks for ATV, safe for children



Aesthetics & natural beauty

clean natural beauty, natural processes (tides), natural quality, no traffic, views, smells



Wildlife habitat

fauna, flora, habitat conservation

Figure 7: For what do we most value our parks and open space?

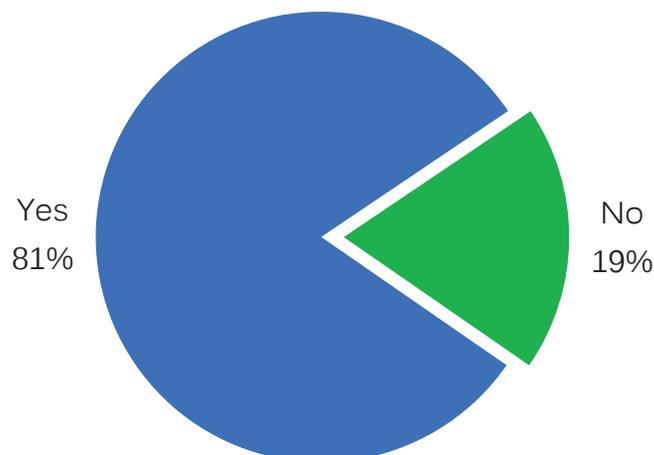


Figure 8: Should we spend more money on parks and open space?



Hobarts Beach

4.0 INVENTORY + OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 Existing Parks and Open Space

An inventory of the West Hants parcels has been developed using Municipal data, a desktop review and by visiting each parcel. The highlights below help form a base understanding of the existing network that may be enhanced over the lifetime of this Plan.

The Municipality currently owns and/or manages over 20 parks and seven (7) school parks including:

1. Dr. Silas Rand Park
 2. Shamrock Ball Field
 3. Chittick Park
 4. John Wiley Walkway
 5. Fundy Centennial Park
 6. Foundry Field
 7. McDade Park
 8. Hantsport Riverbank Cemetery
 9. Prince Street Path
 10. Eldridge Road Recreation Site
 11. Halewood Drive Field 1
 12. Halewood Drive Field 2
 13. Halewood Drive Path
 14. Falmouth Mini Park and Causeway Trail
 15. Falmouth District School
 16. Falmouth Boat Launch
 17. Windsor Forks District School
 18. Underwood Road Parcels 1+2
 19. Three Mile Plains District School
 20. Irishmans Road Recreation Site
 21. Newport Station District School (closed)
 22. St. Croix Recreation Site
 23. Lakewood Drive Pond
 24. Brooklyn Fire Hall Trail
 25. Brooklyn District Elementary School
 26. Brooklyn Municipal Cemetery
 27. Bramber Beach Water Access
 28. Cheverie Salt Marsh Restoration Trail
 29. Kempt Quarry Recreation Site
 30. Hobarts Beach
 31. Dr. Arthur Hines Elementary School
 32. Upper Burlington Planters Trail
 33. Avondale Wharf and Waterfront
 34. West Hants Middle School
 35. Chateau Lane
 36. Armstrong Lake
 37. Riverview Road, Vaughan
- There are 43 parcels of land are held by the Municipality that are used by citizens for recreation. Some parcels are small, such as a pathway off Halewood Drive (<0.25 acres or 0.1 ha), and some are large, such as Irishmans Road Recreation Site (172 acres or 69.6 ha).
 - 11 parcels of land are held by the Municipality for the purpose of recreation, are currently under-used but have potential to be a part of the future park and open space network.
 - 19 parcels of land held by the Municipality for the purpose of recreation are under-used by citizens and may not benefit current or future citizens due to their location and/or condition.
 - 199 hectares (492.5 acres) of West Hants land is owned by the Municipality and is currently used for recreation purposes.

Some of the parks and open space that citizens in West Hants use are not owned by the Municipality. Some of these lands are owned by the Province of Nova Scotia, some are privately-owned and managed, and some are maintained by the Municipality under a land lease (these lands are included in the comprehensive Inventory found in this plan).

Newport Station District School has closed, however, the park amenities remain in place.

Falmouth Mini Park and Causeway Trail is an example of a park managed by the Municipality, but whereby the land is not owned by the Municipality.

Most non-Municipal lands used by citizens for recreation are included in the mapping found in this plan and are identified as such, however, a comprehensive review by the Municipality is essential when acquisition or maintenance opportunities arise.

Map 3: Currently Maintained West Hants Parks and Open Space

Grouped by Park Planning Area

Area 1

- 1 Dr. Silas Rand Park
- 2 Shamrock Ball Field
- 3 Chittick Park
- 4 John Wiley Walkway
- 5 Fundy Centennial Park
- 6 Foundry Field
- 7 McDade Park
- 8 Hantsport Riverbank Cemetery
- 9 Prince Street Path

Area 2

- 1 Eldridge Road Recreation Site
- 2 Halewood Drive Field 1
- 3 Halewood Drive Field 2
- 4 Halewood Drive Path
- 5 Falmouth Mini Park & Causeway Trail
- 6 Falmouth District School
- 7 Falmouth Boat Launch
- 8 Windsor Forks District School

Area 3

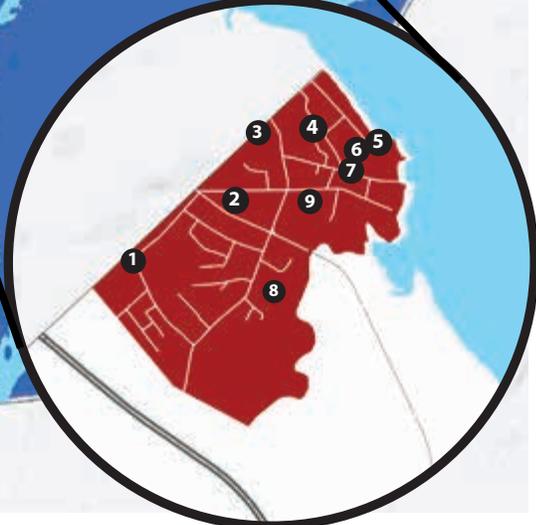
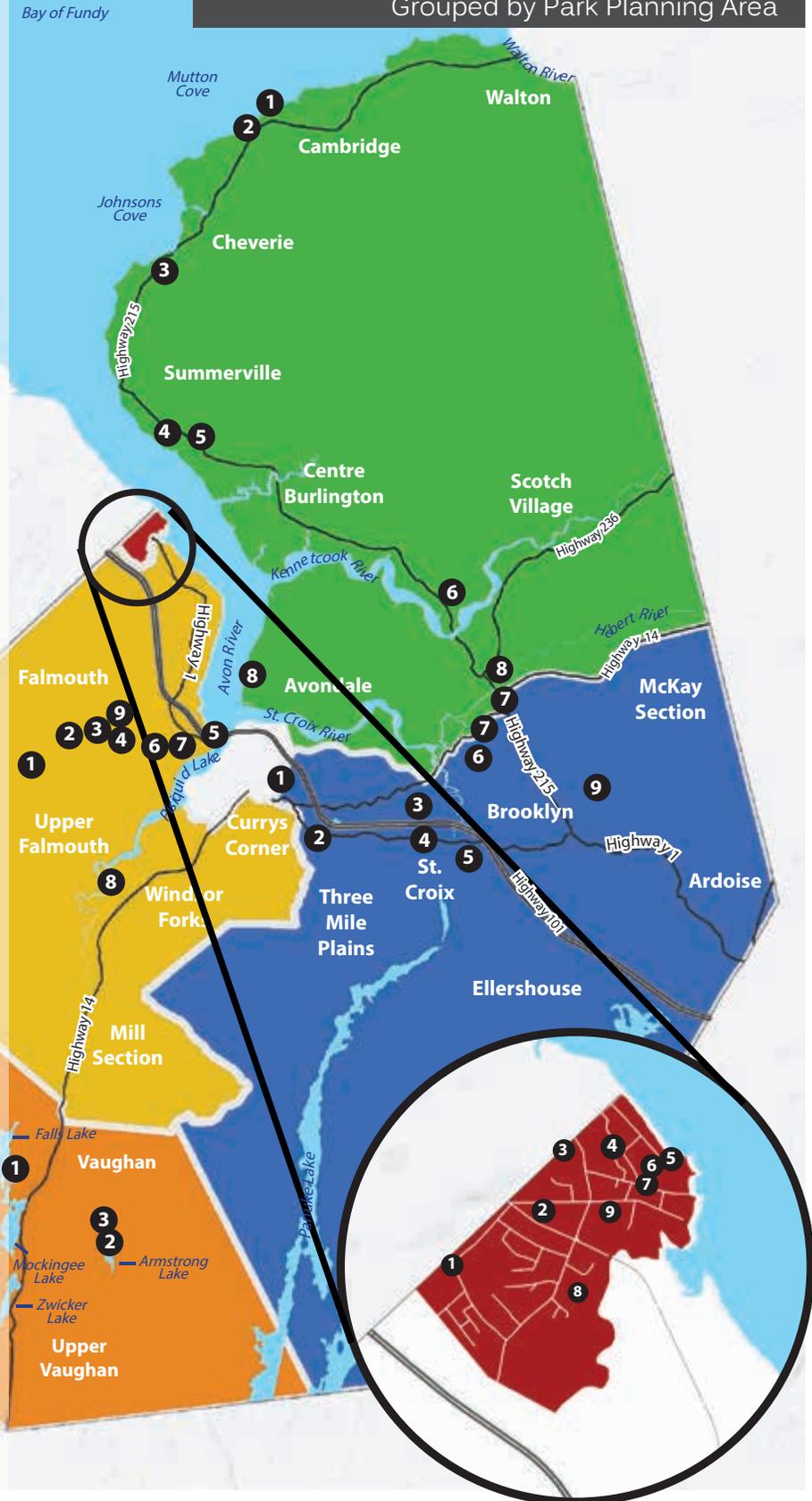
- 1 Underwood Road Parcels 1+2
- 2 Three Mile Plains District School
- 3 Irishmans Road Recreation Site
- 4 Newport Station District School
- 5 St. Croix Recreation Site
- 6 Lakewood Drive Pond
- 7 Brooklyn Fire Hall Trail
- 8 Brooklyn District Elementary School
- 9 Brooklyn Municipal Cemetery

Area 4

- 1 Bramber Beach Water Access
- 2 Cheverie Salt Marsh Restoration Trail
- 3 Kempt Quarry Recreation Site
- 4 Hobarts Beach
- 5 Dr. Arthur Hines Elementary School
- 6 Upper Burlington Planters Trail
- 7 Avondale Wharf & Waterfront
- 8 West Hants Middle School

Area 5

- 1 Chateau Lane
- 2 Armstrong Lake
- 3 Riverview Road, Vaughan

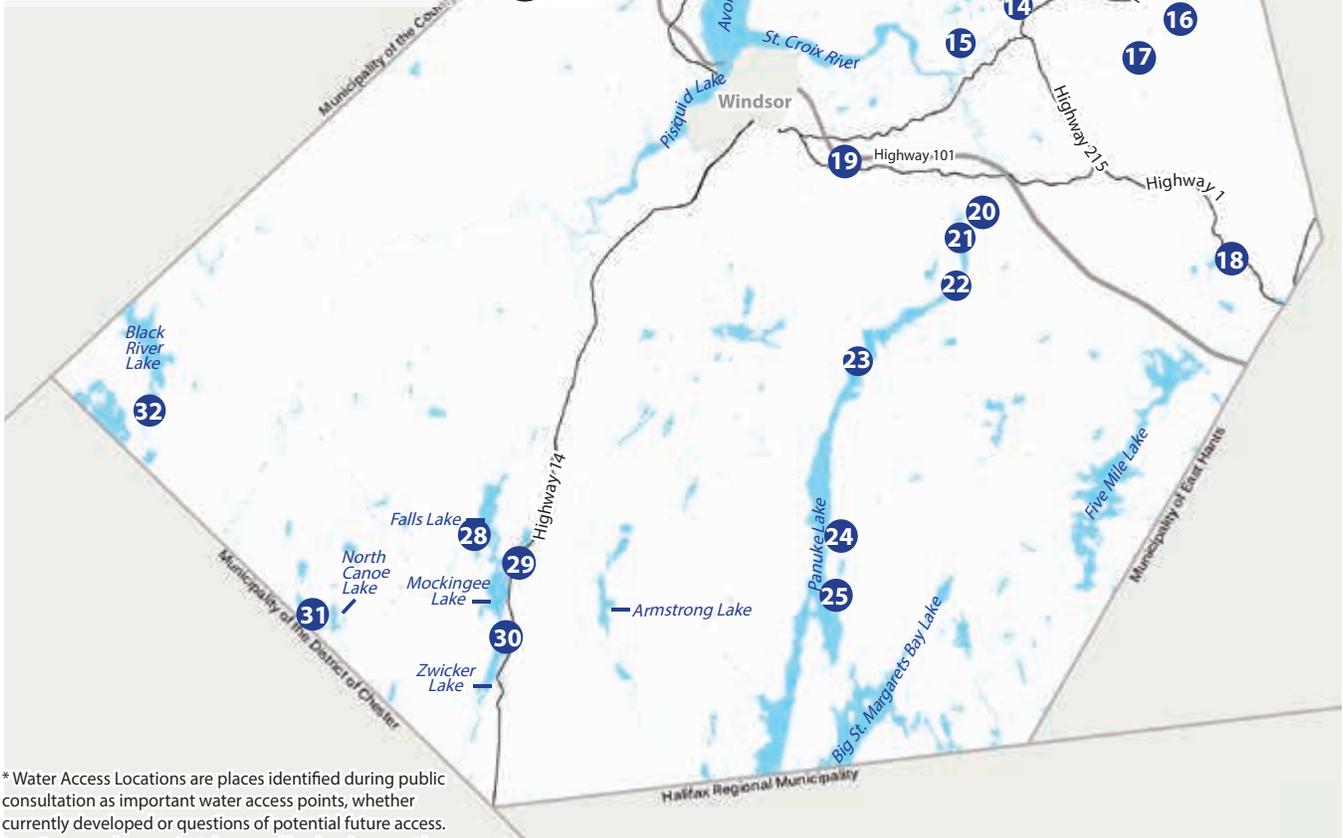


Map 4: Water Access Locations

Potential and Existing*

- 1 Walton River
- 2 Hiltz Road
- 3 Karen Court
- 4 Cove Road
- 5 Ocean Beach Rd
- 6 Sherman Lake Rd
- 7 Shipyard Road
- 8 Cheverie Causeway
- 9 Woods Road 1
- 10 Woods Road 2
- 11 Kennetcook River
- 12 Herbert River**
- 13 Herbert River**
- 14 Herbert River**
- 15 Mantua Tidal Bore
- 16 Meander River
- 17 Quarry Pond 2
- 18 Cameron Lake
- 19 Meadow Pond
- 20 Hartville Road
- 21 potential access?
- 22 potential access?
- 23 Panuke Rd
- 24 potential access?
- 25 potential access?
- 26 Fundy Centennial
- 27 McKinley Road
- 28 Falls Lake
- 29 New Ross Road
- 30 Smeltzer Road
- 31 North Canoe Lake
- 32 Black River Lake

0 2.5 5 10km 1:225,000



* Water Access Locations are places identified during public consultation as important water access points, whether currently developed or questions of potential future access. Locations may be on privately-owned land and may not be currently available for all residents. For more detail contact the Municipal Office.

** Herbert River water access locations noted in numbers 12 and 13 are suggestions for paddling entry points, and number 14 is a suggested paddling exit point.

Data Sources: Public Consultation 2015, NSTDB, Google Maps, CBCL Ltd., TEAL Architects+Planners Inc.

4.2 Parks and Open Space Types in West Hants

The parks and open space type classifications in Table 3 are sorted by characteristics of open space types. Each type has typical characteristics, such as size, primary purpose, and expected amenities. Parks and open space types have been adapted from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation's open space standards¹³ and enhanced to address local conditions. Establishing parks and open space types, specific to West Hants, will provide guidance to the Municipality in determining geographic locations and distribution of varying types of parks and open space throughout the Municipality.

13 Guidelines for Developing Public Recreation Facility Standards (1998), Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, <http://lin.ca/resources/guidelines-developing-public-recreation-facility-standards>



Cheverie Salt Marsh Restoration Trail

Table 3: Parks and Open Space Types in West Hants

Parks and Open Space Type	Description	Catchment Area	Provision Standard / 350 people (min.)		Local Examples	Base-Level Development Standards
			Provision Standard / 350 people (min.)	Parcel Size		
Neighbourhood	The smallest-sized park, which is used on a daily basis by citizens of a neighbourhood, typically drawing from a one kilometre radius of the park. Informal active recreation or passive recreation are typical and infrastructure may include multi-purpose fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, and seating. May accommodate community food garden plots.	1km (0.62 miles)	1ha (2.47 acres)	0.04 ha + (0.1 acres +)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falmouth Mini Park and Causeway Trail Halewood Drive Field 1 and 2 Chittick Park McDade Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grading, levelling and seeding of park site, including sliding hills Shade tree(s) Park sign Social gathering place(s) (e.g., picnic table bench, fire pit, games table, etc.) Bicycle parking/rack(s) Garbage receptacle(s) Adequate lighting
Community	Community parks are typically two hectares or more in area. These parks are usually home to athletic facilities, picnic areas, paths, schools and other passive recreation opportunities. May accommodate community food garden plots. These typically attract people within a five kilometre radius of the park.	5km (3.11 miles)	1.5ha (3.71 acres)	2ha + (5 acres +)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School parks Foundry Field Fundy Centennial Park Avondale Wharf and Waterfront Hobarts Beach HMCC* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grading, levelling and seeding of park site, including sliding hills Shade tree(s) Park sign Social gathering place(s) (e.g., picnic table bench, fire pit, games table, etc.) Bicycle parking/rack(s) Garbage receptacle(s) Playground infrastructure (base, drainage, curbing and sand) Parking for sports fields Adequate lighting

* HMCC is not owned or managed by the Municipality.

Parks and Open Space Type	Description	Catchment Area	Provision		Local Examples	Base-Level Development Standards
			Standard/350 ppl (min.)	Parcel Size		
Regional	Regional Parks are typically 20 - 100 hectares in size, these serve citizens of the entire Municipality and attract visitors from outside the Municipality. Portions of these parks may be set aside for natural and cultural conservation. Opportunities for passive and active recreation is programmed. Regional Parks are often owned and managed by the Provincial government or private enterprises, such as large Provincial Parks, ski resorts and golf courses, however in West Hants the Municipality owns and operates three Regional Parks itself.	30km (18.64 miles)	3ha (7.41 acres)	20-100ha (49.42 - 247.10 acres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Croix Recreation Site Irishmans Road Recreation Site Eldridge Road Recreation Site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grading, levelling and seeding of park site, including sliding hills Shade tree(s) Park sign Social gathering place(s) (e.g., picnic table bench, fire pit, games table, etc.) Bicycle parking/rack(s) Garbage receptacle(s) Playground infrastructure (base, drainage, curbing and sand) Parking for sports fields Washroom(s) as part of on-site facilities Adequate lighting
Cultural	Cultural Parks include outdoor spaces that have an attached historical or cultural value (e.g. gardens, cemeteries, church properties, memorials, etc.). Cultural Parks may accommodate community food garden plots and they attract people from a 30 kilometre radius of the park.	30km (18.64 miles)	N/A	Varies greatly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Burlington Planters Trail McDade Park Avondale Wharf and Waterfront 	N/A

Parks and Open Space Type	Description	Provision			Local Examples	Base-Level Development Standards
		Catchment Area	Standard/350 ppl (min.)	Single Open Space Size		
Linear	Linear Parks form a variety of outdoor connections such as trails, riparian buffers, road right-of ways, dykelands, coastal protected areas, and shorelines. Both recreation and nature conservation are promoted.	N/A	N/A	Varies greatly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falmouth Mini Park & Causeway Trail Cheverie Salt Marsh Restoration Trail 	N/A
Preservation and Production	Preservation and Production lands are typically at least 4 hectares in size, these have few or no built amenities. These spaces act primarily as preserves to protect natural (e.g. woodlands, wetlands, conservation areas, streams, ponds and lakes, watersheds, agriculture lands, dykelands and coastline) or agricultural resources.	N/A	4ha (9.88 acres)	Varies greatly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Burlington Planters Trail Avondale Wharf and Waterfront Protected Water Areas (PWA) 	N/A

4.3 Current Parks and Open Space Level of Service

Arguably, the most-used parks are those near the homes of citizens, such as Neighbourhood Parks and Community Parks. These types of parks serve the every-day social and physical needs of users and are consequently the focus of gap analysis mapping (Map 5).

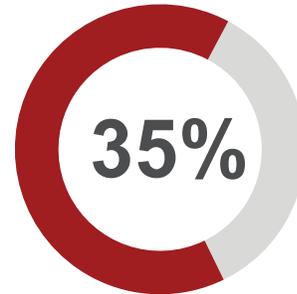
Overall, citizens of the Municipality of the District of West Hants are well-served in terms of parks and open space in terms of area and park type (e.g. neighbourhood, cultural, etc.)

This is determined by mapping where people live and the catchment area of each park type. For example, the Brooklyn District Elementary School property (including the trail system) serves approximately 365 citizens of West Hants within a 1km radius as a Neighbourhood Park, and approximately 2,042 citizens within 5km as a Community Park. Comparing these facts with the Park Type Standards in Section 4.2 of this plan identifies the level of service each resident receives. As citizens spread throughout rural West Hants, providing services to every household is likely to be financially impossible for the Municipality.

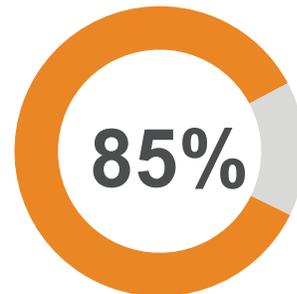
There are many reasons why citizens may or may not feel they are being adequately served in terms of parks and open space. By using service standards adapted to the local context, an adequate level of service can be identified. Many parks are currently in good condition and are well-used. Some parks should be improved to encourage more use. Potential improvements are listed by park in Section 4.4 and Appendix 2.

The following pages show the gap analysis catchment buffers of each Neighbourhood and Community Park in the Municipality. All citizens are serviced with District and Cultural Parks and therefore are not shown on Gap Analysis maps. Solid buffers represent parks managed by the Municipality whereas hatched buffers represent well-used privately-owned park spaces. A grid was used to view all areas of West Hants adequately (the Park Planning Areas vary too much in size).

Further details about the level of service can be accessed by contacting the West Hants Municipal Office, where staff have the digital form of mapped information (using ESRI ArcMap).



% citizens served by a Neighbourhood Park



% citizens served by a Community Park

16

Number of hectares of Neighbourhood Parks (40 acres)*

155

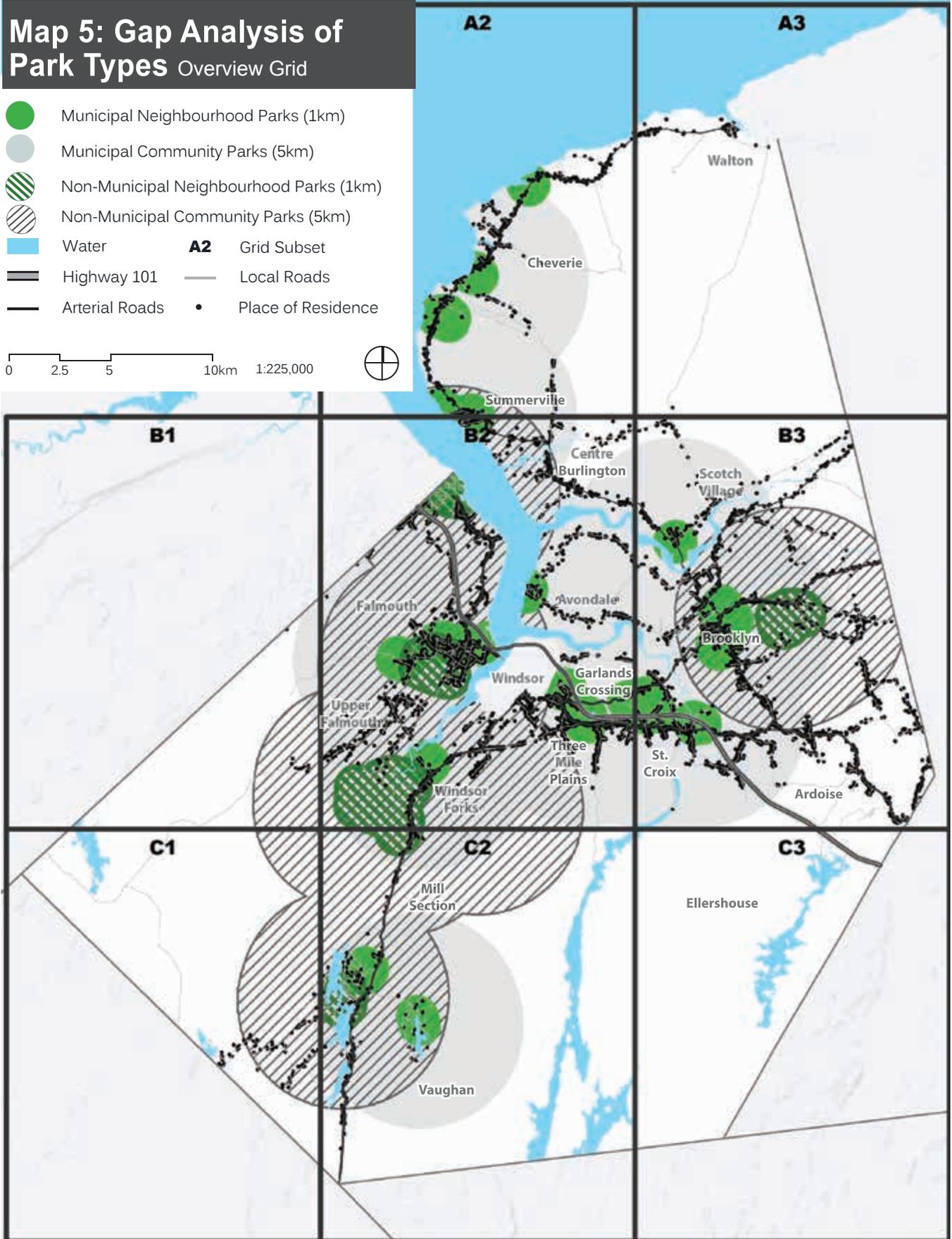
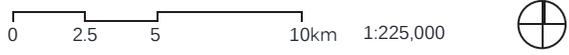
Number of hectares of Community Parks (383 acres)**

* Regional and Community Parks are often used as Neighbourhood Parks as well. This total area for Neighbourhood Parks would be 161ha (398 acres).

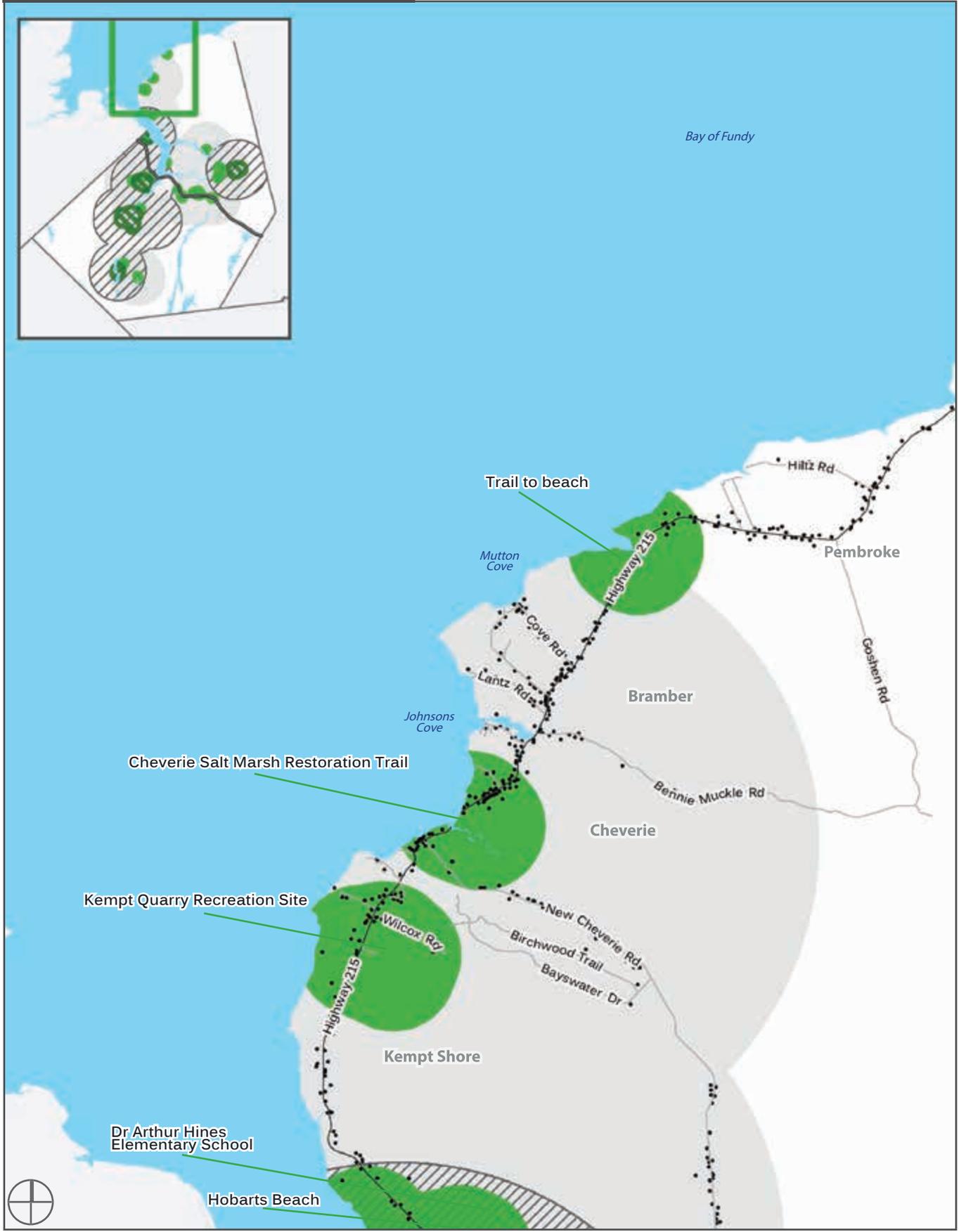
** Regional Parks are often doubled as Community Parks and are factored into this area.

Map 5: Gap Analysis of Park Types Overview Grid

-  Municipal Neighbourhood Parks (1km)
-  Municipal Community Parks (5km)
-  Non-Municipal Neighbourhood Parks (1km)
-  Non-Municipal Community Parks (5km)
-  Water
-  Highway 101
-  Arterial Roads
-  Grid Subset
-  Local Roads
-  Place of Residence



Gap Analysis Subset A2



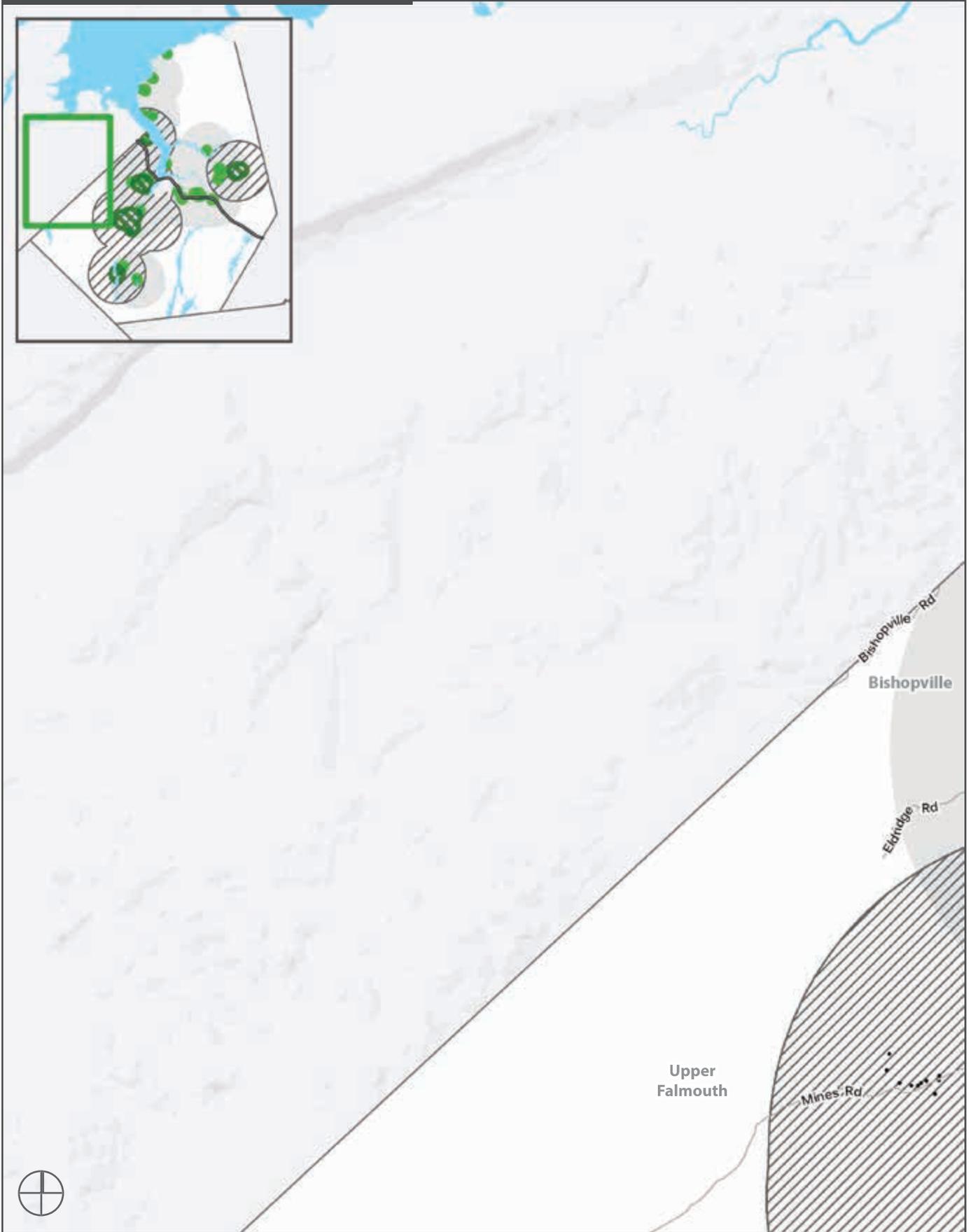
Gap Analysis Subset A3



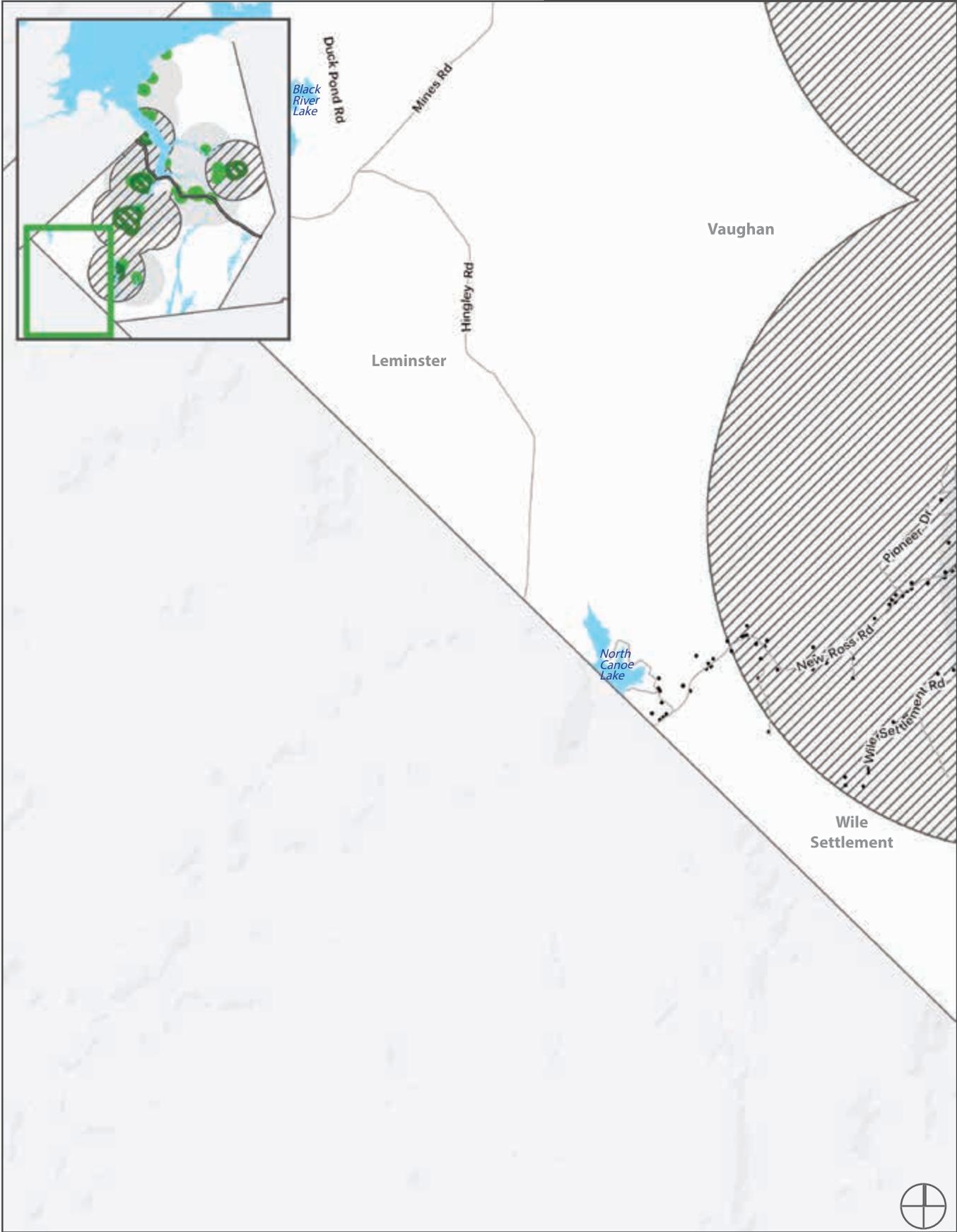
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4.0 Inventory + Opportunities

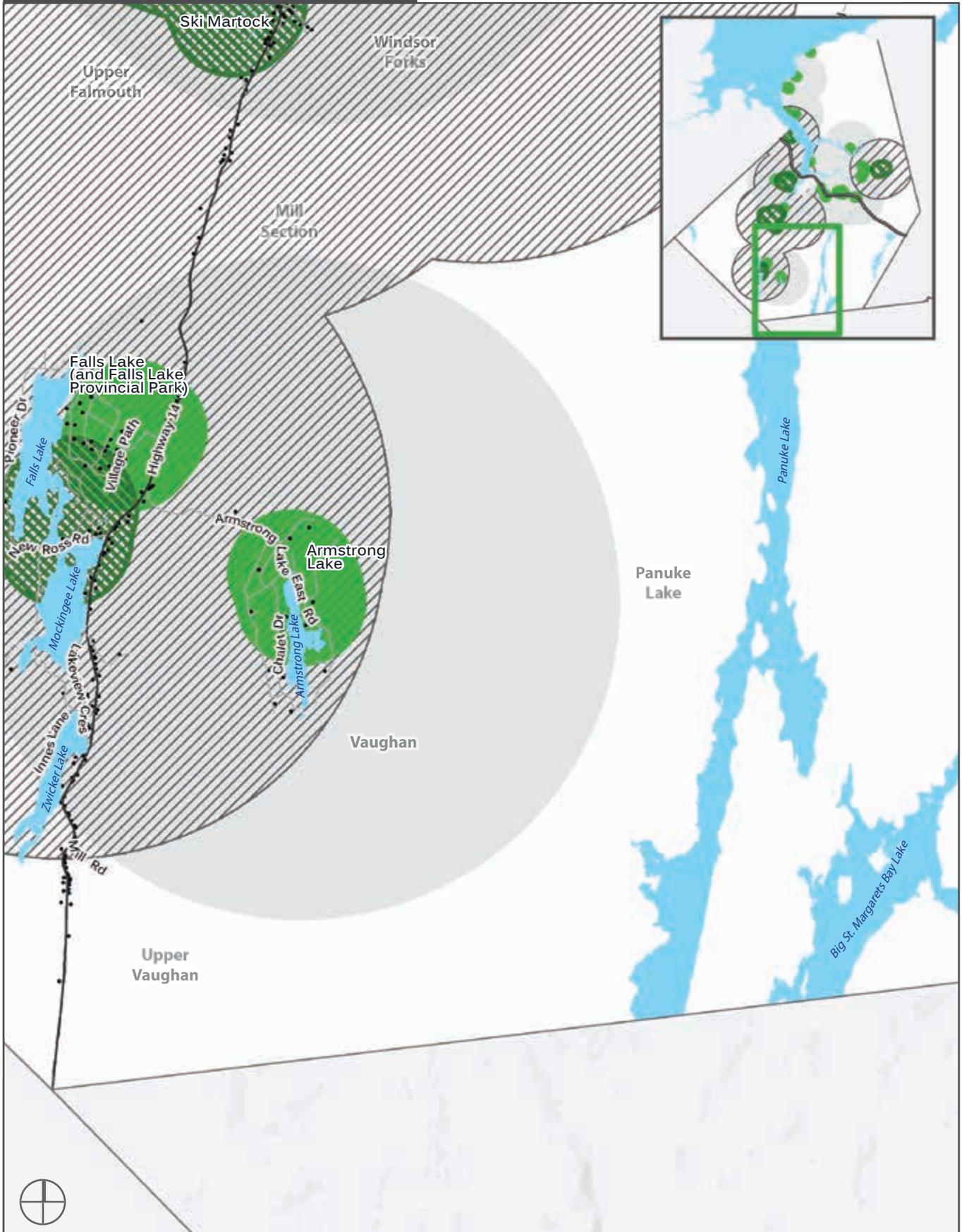
Gap Analysis Subset B1

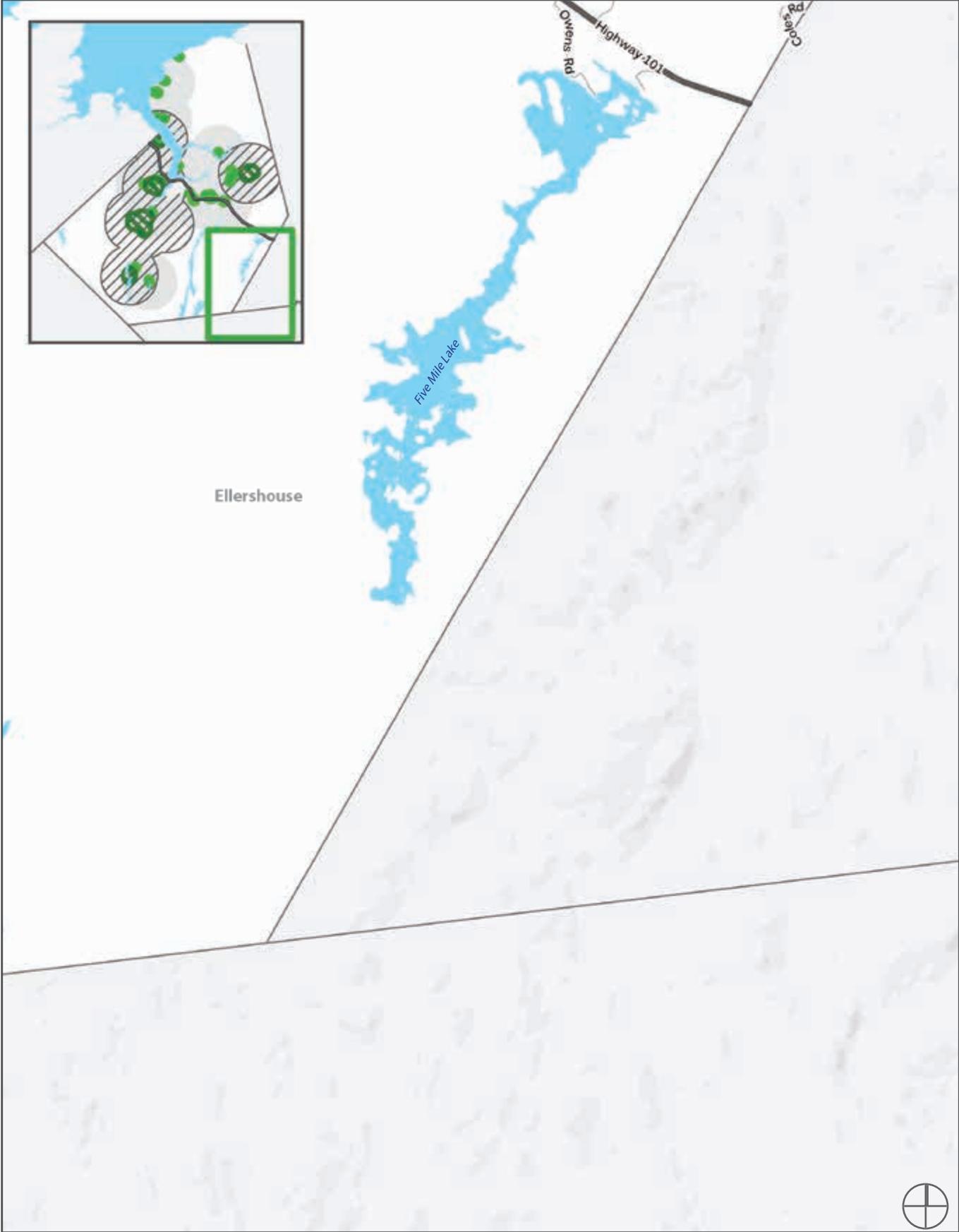


Gap Analysis Subset C1



Gap Analysis Subset C2



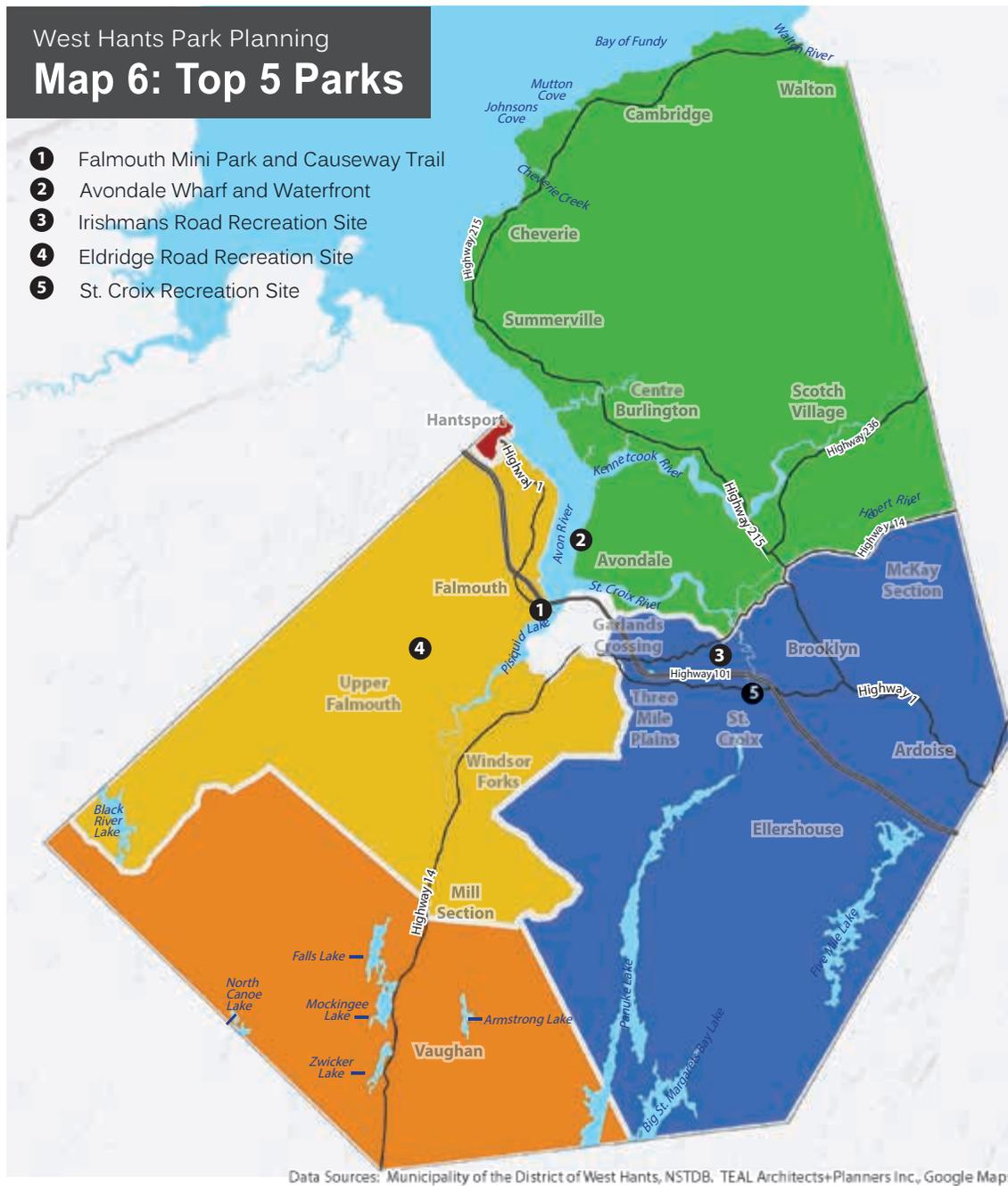


4.4 Top 5 Priority Parks and Costs

Five parks in West Hants have been identified as priorities for investment or upgrades:

- Falmouth Mini Park and Causeway Trail
- Avondale Wharf and Waterfront
- Irishmans Road Recreation Site
- Eldridge Road Recreation Site
- St. Croix Recreation Site

Details for each park follow the next page. For each of the five parks, site opportunities have been extensively evaluated and a “Class D” cost assessment provided. These assessments estimate the cost of improvements and it should be noted that true costs may be within 25% of the estimate. Conceptual park layout drawings are also included, which highlight the approximate locations of possible site improvements.



Falmouth Mini Park and Causeway Trail

Overview

PID: 45224458

Coordinates: 44.9942, -64.1474

Date visited: November 9, 2015.

Address: 2127 Highway #1 Falmouth, NS.

Classification: Neighbourhood, Community Parks.

Size: 1.55 acres (0.63 ha), Total area of provincial land in which the park occupies: 9.10 acres (3.68 ha).

Land cover: A mixture of turfed open areas (75%) and treed naturalized areas (25%). Paved paths and gravel parking area are part of these open areas.

Topography: A fairly flat parcel gently sloping from the northwest to the southeast towards the water. Steep banks to the water in the northwest cove, a more gentle slope at the picnic area.

Maintained by: Municipality; owned by the Province of Nova Scotia.

Use: Swimming, boating, walking, picnicking.

Access: From Evangeline Trail or multiple points in Downtown Windsor.

Parking: 5-10 spaces; not well defined.

Signage: No signage indicating park from the road. Park maintenance signage throughout the park.

History: The Municipality entered into a lease agreement with the Department of Transportation in the early 1980's that allowed the use of the land for recreational purposes. In the early 1990's the Municipality and the Windsor and Area Jaycees agreed to develop

the lands and create what is now the Falmouth Mini Park.

Overlapping Management Plans: 2013 Trails Plan, p.55.

Observations

- No entrance signage indicating park, use, or a map.
- Parking area in conflict with pedestrian spaces/playground.
- Many small trees, but few large shade trees on site.
- Fencing along the west side of the park is in need of replacement.
- Well maintained grounds.
- Access to water isn't clearly indicated or available.

Opportunities

- Reconfigure parking area that makes better use of space and separates pedestrians from cars.
- Landscape park entrance to buffer from road traffic and provide an aesthetic gateway to park.
- Design and development of new trail on highway side of park for shorter secondary loop.
- Improve access to the water from the picnic area.
- Install dock for small boat access, fishing, sitting.
- Improve lighting along highway and in interior of the park.
- Design and install interpretive signage highlighting stormwater movement through the park.
- Create shade over children's play area (e.g. trees, shade structure).
- Phase out invasive species (e.g. Norway Maple).

Falmouth Mini Park and Causeway Trail

Cost Estimate

Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price (\$)	Amount (\$)
Signage				
Park map (48" x 36")	each	1	850.00	850.50
Parking upgrades				
Roadway	m ²	400	32.00	12,800.00
Parking area	m ²	400	32.00	4,800.00
Causeway Trail Loop				
Trail	m	200	40.00	8,000.00
Fence	m	240	105.00	25,000.00
Beach Upgrade				
Beach construction & retaining wall	L.S.	1	30,000.00	30,000.00
Floating dock				
Entrance landscape plan & landscaping	L.S.	1	15,000.00	15,000.00
Lighting				
Option 1: strategically placed bollards	each	30	375.00	11,250.00
Option 2: bollards along entire length of trail loop (not including length along Highway 101)	each	84	375.00	31,500.00
TOTAL (with Option 2)				\$130,450.50

Prices include 25% allowance for contingencies and engineering, but exclude HST.

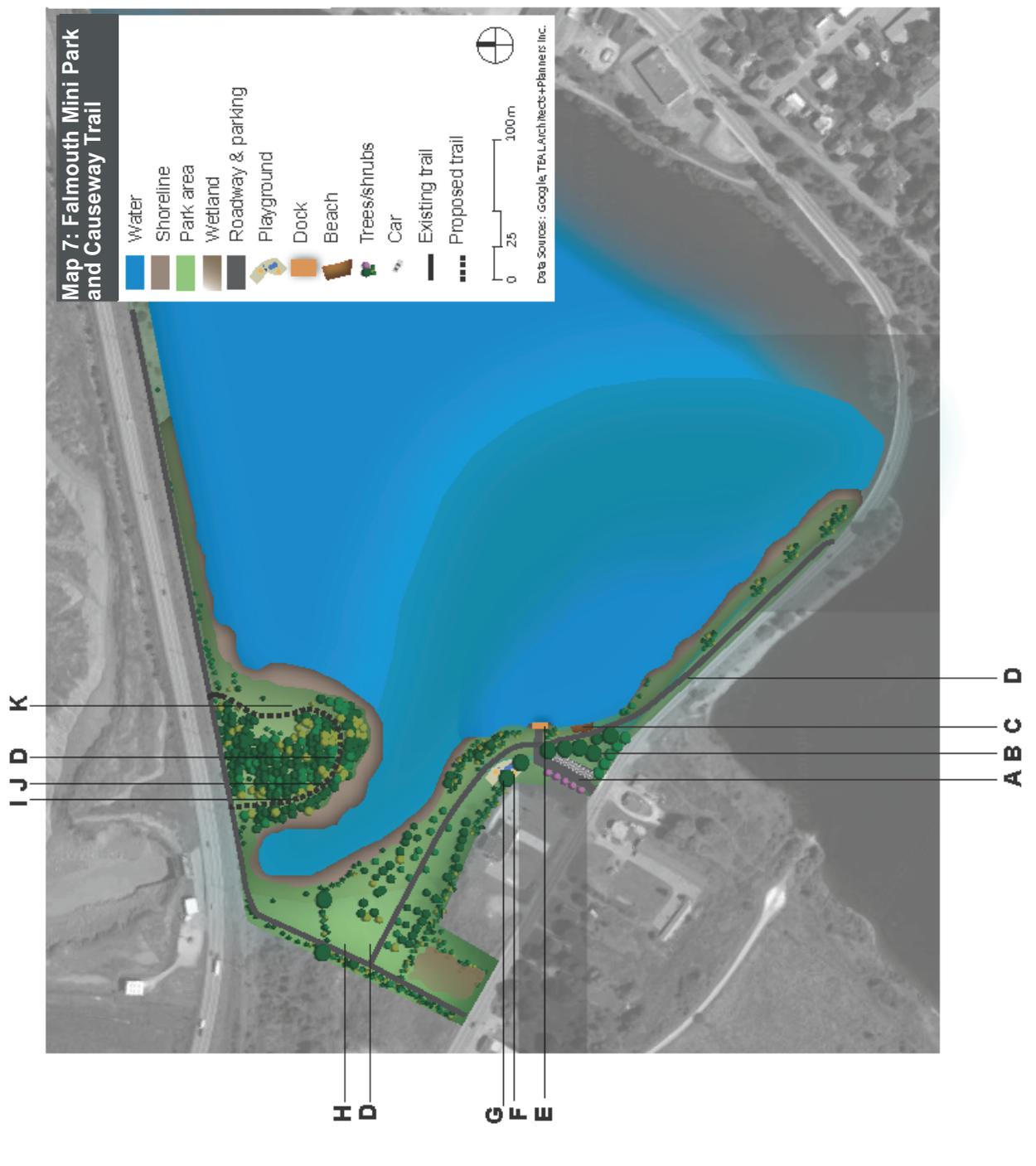
Probable construction costs have been made based on experience, qualifications, and best judgment. Construction costs may vary from the estimated costs above. Design fees are not included.

District of the Municipality of West Hants Parks and Open Space Plan

Park Opportunities Concept Plan: Falmouth Mini Park and Causeway Trail

Item	Description
A	Redesigned parking area to separate people from cars.
B	New landscaping to create a buffer between the park and road and to create a sense of entrance.
C	Proposed beach area with retaining wall and steps.
D	Proposed area of bollard lighting.
E	Proposed dock for launching canoes, kayaks.
F	Shade tree planting around play structures.
G	Proposed stormwater interpretive panel.
H	Opportunity area for future park and open space development.
I	Proposed 200m trail loop.
J	New fence along shoreline.
K	Proposed picnic /rest area.

Prepared by: SC
Date: April 3, 2016



Avondale Wharf and Waterfront

Main Parcel

2

Overview

PID: 45171279

Coordinates: 45.02204, -64.1312

Date visited: November 26, 2015.

Address: 15 Belmont Rd, Avondale.

Classification: Community, Cultural, Neighbourhood Parks.

Size: 1.61 acres (0.65ha).

Land cover: Mostly managed turf with compacted gravel driveway and parking areas, and building footprints.

Topography: Relatively flat terrain sitting lower than Belmont Road at the field and at road elevation at Museum entrance. Gently sloping towards the wharf.

Maintained by: Primarily by community volunteers with support from the Municipality.

Use: Baseball, soccer, sitting, picnicking, walking, playground, bird watching, boating, fishing.

Access: From Belmont Road and Avondale Road.

Parking: No formal parking, opportunities for approximately 10-20 cars.

Signage: Collection of signs at Heritage Museum entrance for buildings/amenities. Newport Landing sign along road shoulder along field. Park entrance sign at southern driveway.

History: This area is formerly a New England Planter settlement. Due to the proximity to water, ship building was an important industry. The Wharf was divested from the Federal Government to the Municipality in 1990 and was rebuilt by the community for

\$13,000.00. In 1996, the Municipality entered into a lease agreement with the Avon River Heritage Society to allow that organization to develop a portion of the property.

Overlapping Management Plans: MCCAP.

Observations

- Outdoor spaces around museum and boat house not well-defined (e.g. parking, gardens, turf).
- Sports field is well maintained. Standing water at field perimeter.
- Playground in good condition.
- Poor drainage, uneven surface, and irregular mixture of materials (e.g. soil, gravel) outside the playground and shipyard shed.
- Tide rising over wharf, boat launch, and driveway causing erosion and structural damage.
- Signage is not coordinated, should be centralized with park use, ownership, and rules identified.

Opportunities

- Site landscape plan to identify optimal pedestrian circulation and landscaping.
- Evaluate the stability and effectiveness of dykes/berms. Further development may be necessary along river to the north and boat launch to the south.
- Engineering assessment of wharf structure.
- New park signage consistent with municipal brand and materials at park entrances.
- The Municipality should consider climate change and work with the MCCAP Committee on projects that relate to the Avondale Wharf and Waterfront.
- Work with the MCCAP Committee to address climate change effects on parcel.



Avondale Wharf and Waterfront

South Shoreline

2

Overview

PID: 45183118

Coordinates: 45.02126, -64.132

Date visited: November 26, 2015.

Address: 1 Avondale Rd, Newport Landing.

Classification: Community Park, Production and Protection.

Size: 1.10 acres (0.45ha).

Land cover: Primarily tidal grassland with trees and shrubs growing at eastern border.

Topography: Slight slope from eastern edge of parcel to the water.

Maintained by: Not a maintained parcel, but owned by the Municipality.

Use: Tidal zone, wildlife habitat, no current recreational use.

Access: From the beach at low tide or from Avondale Wharf and Waterfront Main Parcel driveway.

Parking: Few potential spaces at boat launch.

Signage: None.

History: Deeded to the Municipality of the District of West Hants in 1996 by USG Canadian Mining Limited.

Overlapping Management Plans: MCCAP.

Observations

- No obvious human activity on site.
- Large area covered by water during high tide.

Opportunities

- Little recreational opportunity due to tidal flow, but valuable as wildlife habitat.
- Potential to develop a dyke/berm system to prevent flooding into southern border of Avondale Wharf and Waterfront Main Parcel.



Avondale Wharf and Waterfront

North Shoreline

2

Overview

PID: 45225513

Coordinates: 45.02268, -64.1318

Date visited: November 26, 2015.

Address: 1 Avondale Road, Newport Landing.

Classification: Community Park, Production and Protection.

Size: 1.13 acres (0.46ha).

Land cover: Primarily tidal grassland with exposed sand/sediment during low tide.

Topography: River channel flowing through property. Steep grass-covered/muddy banks on either side of channel.

Maintained by: Not a maintained parcel, but owned by the Municipality.

Use: Tidal flow, wildlife habitat, boat access.

Access: From Avondale Wharf and Waterfront Main Parcel.

Parking: Parking available in Avondale Wharf and Waterfront Main Parcel and roadside,

Signage: None.

History: In May, 1760 the first New England Planters arrived aboard sloops Lydia and Sally. Water lot was deeded to the Municipality in 1990

Overlapping Management Plans: MCCAP.

Observations

- Boat access damaged during previous weather events.

Opportunities

- Improve access to water.



Avondale Wharf and Waterfront

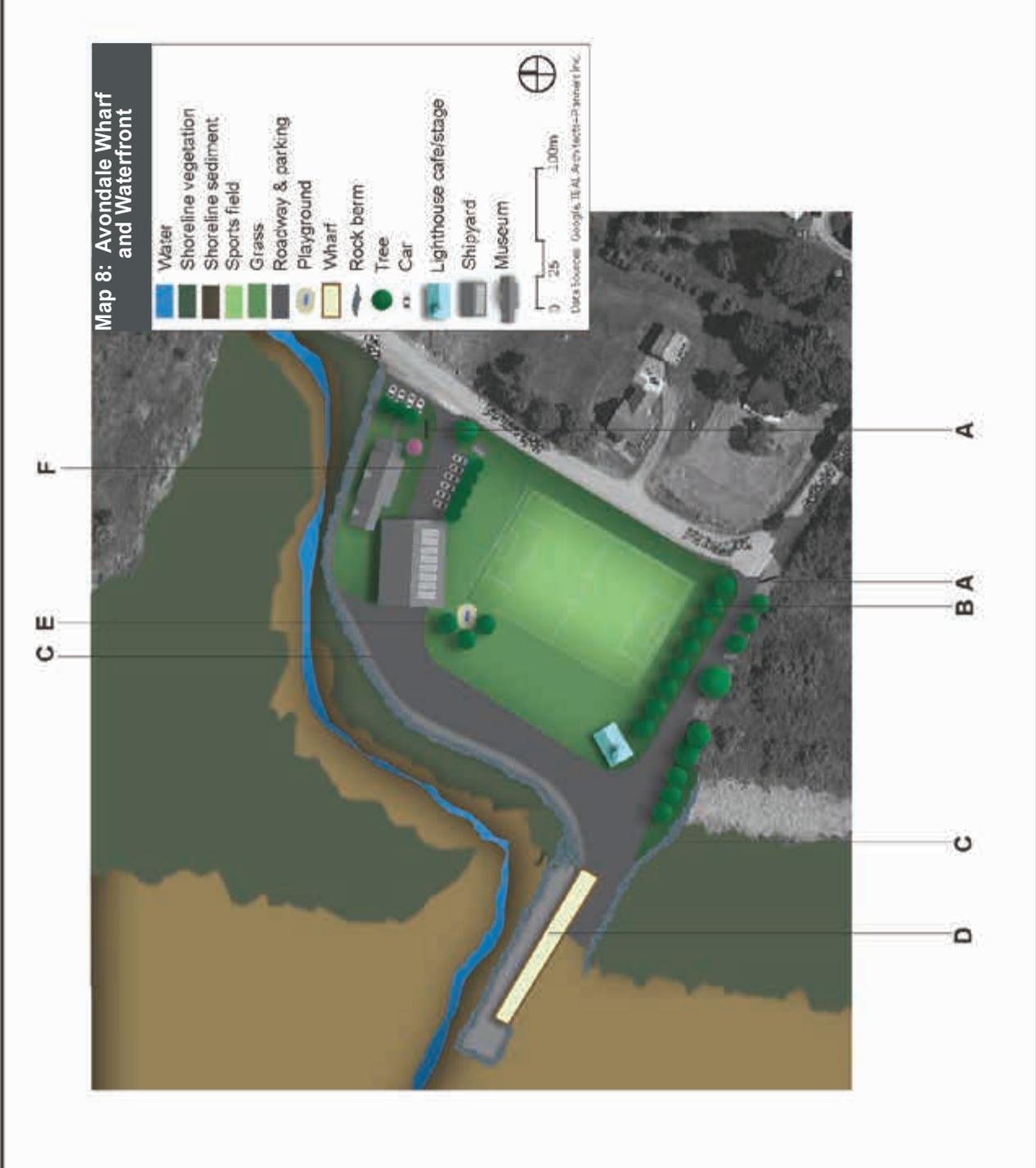
Cost Estimate

Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price (\$)	Amount (\$)
Wharf upgrades				
Option 1: Remove existing wharf, do not replace.	L.S.	1	20,000	20,000
Option 2: Repair existing decking, ladders, curbs.	L.S.	1	60,000	60,000
Option 3: Remove existing wharf & replace with new wharf at same deck elevation.	L.S.	1	170,000	170,000
Option 4: Remove existing wharf & replace with new wharf at 1.5m above existing deck elevation.	L.S.	1	310,000	310,000
<i>A high tide is estimated to over top the existing wharf by approximately 1.0m. An extreme high tide is estimated to over top the existing wharf by approximately 2.5m.</i>				
Reconfigured parking area	m ²	350	32.00	6,400
Berm upgrades & development				
North berm (1.0m additional height)	L.S.	1	120,000	120,000
South Berm (1.0m average height)	L.S.	1	25,000	25,000
Detailed Landscape Plan	L.S.	1	15,000	15,000
TOTAL (with Option 4)				\$476,400

Prices include 25% allowance for contingencies and engineering, but exclude HST.

Probable construction costs have been made based on experience, qualifications, and best judgment. Construction costs may vary from the estimated costs above. Design fees are not included. Price would vary depending on the type, length and quality of the wharf to be constructed. Required permits have not been factored into the cost estimate.

District of the Municipality of West Hants Parks and Open Space Plan	
Park Opportunities Concept Plan: Avondale Wharf & Waterfront	
Item	Description
A	Existing/new signage moved closer to the main road.
B	Trees added to define the entrance and create shade for spectators, visitors.
C	Berms strengthened and raised to prevent tide from flooding park.
D	Wharf upgraded to make structurally sound.
E	Trees planted to shade playground.
F	Redesigned entrance area.



Prepared by: SC
Date: April 3, 2016

Irishmans Road Recreation Site

Overview

PID: 45061843

Coordinates: 44.97263, -64.0588

Date visited: November 16, 2015.

Address: 151 Irishmans Road, Newport Station.

Classification: District, Community, Neighbourhood Parks.

Size: 172 acres (69.61 ha).

Land cover: Primarily a mixed forested stand of red and white spruce, hemlock, yellow birch, sugar maple and American beech. Turf is managed on two sports fields and at their perimeter and along driveways. Gravel parking areas are found at the main entrance and at the upper sports field.

Topography: Main road bed is relatively flat with slight incline to the north east (with drainage ditch on either side). Upper sports field to the west is 25-30 feet above main road. Lower sports field in a depression. Trail to the north of the lower sports field rises and falls with the hillside. Karst topography (i.e. sinkholes formed by soluble gypsum). Is visible in the north and west portions of the park.

Maintained by: Municipality. Portion leased by Glooscap Heritage Archers Association.

Use: Archery, walking, running, mountain biking, soccer.

Access: Park access from Irishmans Road.

Parking: 20-30 spaces along driveway and at the second gate, 20-30 spaces at the top field, evidence of additional parking on grass

shoulders and at the sport field entrances.

Signage: No official signage indicating "Irishmans Road Recreation Park". Signage indicating management and use and prohibiting motorized vehicle use.

History: The park sits on land formerly used as a Municipal landfill, which was decommissioned in 1984. The soccer fields were named the Ryan Lahey Memorial Soccer fields in 2011 in memory of Ryan Lahey.

Overlapping Plans: 2013 Trails Plan, p.47.

Observations

- Entrance to the trail from the second gate is unclear.
- Free standing wall (remaining from landfill) to the north east of the lower field.
- Standing water along trail to the north of the lower field.
- Bleachers at upper field in need of upgrades (e.g. wooden boards).
- Upper parking area needs new base material. Shale is difficult parking surface.
- Area of karst topography found in the north and west areas of the park.
- Fence on the west of the upper field in need of replacement.
- Slumping observed on the west side of the upper field.

Opportunities

- Install entrance and trail signage.
- Design and install interpretive panels to educate the community about former uses, and reclamation of former landfill lands into a recreation facility.
- Expansion of parking area at the second gate and at the upper field.
- Development of a new trail and interpretive area to learn about Karst Topography.
- New fence along the west side of the upper sports field.
- Upgrade sports field (e.g. topdressing, seeding, corrected slumping).
- Potential for additional trails



Irishmans Road Recreation Site

Cost Estimate

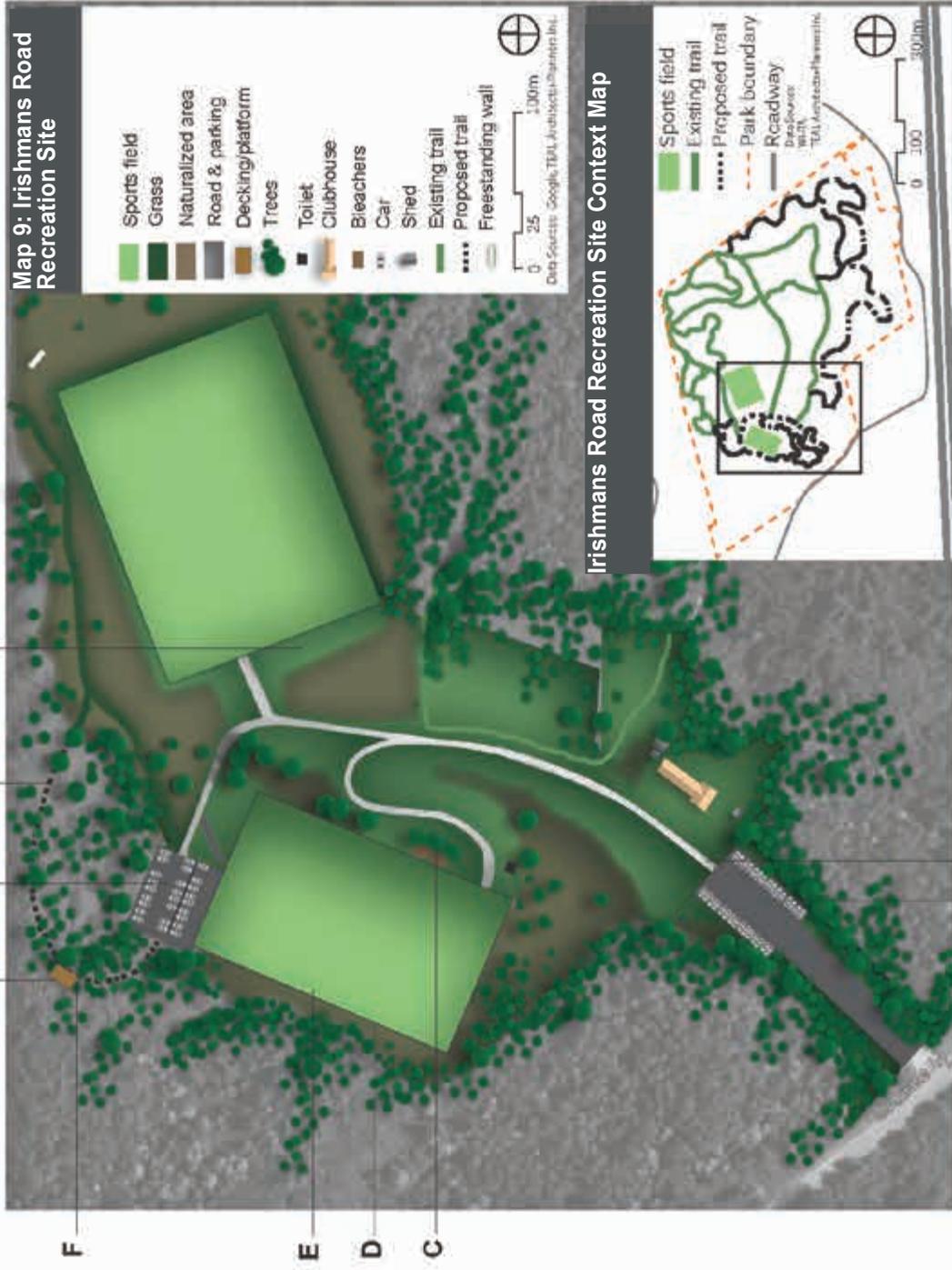
Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price (\$)	Amount (\$)
Signage				
Landfill remediation interpretive board.	each	1	850.00	850.00
Karst topography interpretive board.	each	1	850.00	850.00
Parking upgrades (gravel)				
Upper parking area	m ²	1,200	32.00	38,400.00
Entrance parking area	m ²	300	32.00	9,600.00
West sports field fence upgrade				
Removal of current fencing	L.S.	1	1,000.00	1,000.00
Ground work	L.S.	1	7,000.00	7,000.00
Fencing installation	L.S.	1	4,000.00	4,000.00
Karst Topography look-off				
Trail loop	m	250	40.00	10,000.00
Wood platform (7m x 3m)	L.S	1	5,000.00	5,000.00
Fencing (post and rail)	m	25	60.00	1,500.00
Sports field upgrades				
<i>Aeration (in-house staff & equipment, 2-3 times per year)</i>				
East field	L.S.	1	375.00	375.00
West field	L.S.	1	250.00	250.00
Topdressing				
East field	m ²	10,400	0.48	5,000.00
West field	m ²	7,600	0.48	3,750.00
Overseeding				
East field	m ²	10,400	0.075	780.00
West field	m ²	7,600	0.075	570.00
TOTAL				\$88,145

Prices include 25% allowance for contingencies and engineering, but exclude HST.

Probable construction costs have been made based on experience, qualifications, and best judgment. Construction costs may vary from the estimated costs above. Design fees are not included.

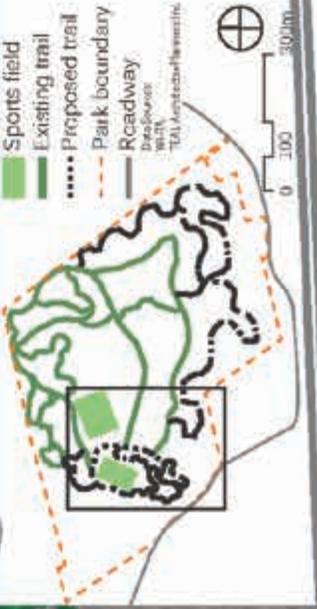
District of the Municipality of West Hants Parks and Open Space Plan	
Park Opportunities Concept Plan: Irishman's Road Recreation Site	
Item	Description
A	Expanded gravel parking area
B	New interpretive board outlining the former landfill site and reclamation into a recreation park.
C	New shade trees planted behind bleachers.
D	Chain link fence replacement.
E	Installation of new sub-base to correct field slumping.
F	New interpretive board highlighting Karst Topography, plant life, and significance to the area.
G	New platform/decking overlooking Karst Topography.
H	Resurfaced and expanded parking area.
I	New trail to Karst Topography look-off.
J	New bleacher seating.

Prepared by: SC
Date: April 3, 2016



Map 9: Irishman's Road Recreation Site

Irishman's Road Recreation Site Context Map



Irishman's Road Recreation Site Context Map

Eldridge Road Recreation Site

Overview

PID: 45211836

Coordinates: 44.99139, -64.208

Date visited: November 20, 2015.

Address: 156 Eldridge Rd, Upper Falmouth.

Classification: District, Community, Neighbourhood Parks.

Size: 15.55 acres (6.29 ha).

Land cover: Sports complex area is primarily managed turf; gravel parking lot and roadway; remaining property forested (e.g. red and white spruce, sugar maple, white and yellow birch, red oak, balsam fir) with turf, soil, and gravel paths.

Topography: Fairly flat terrain with undulating places due to drainage swales and natural depressions.

Maintained by: Municipality.

Use: Soccer, tennis, basketball, walking, tug-of-war, playing (playground), picnicking, sitting, snowmobiling.

Access: From Eldridge Road.

Parking: Unmaintained gravel lot with

overflow parking on grass at eastern park entrance.

Signage: Signage indicating maintenance and sponsors; faded trail markings at former softball field.

History: Parcel was purchased in 1988 from Bernard Curry. The land was developed cooperatively between the Falmouth Community Hall Association and the Municipality of the District of West Hants.

Overlapping Management Plans: None.

Observations

- Recent investment in infrastructure (e.g. tennis court surface, playground).
- Standing water on north and south length of west soccer field.
- North soccer field slow to drain.
- Former softball dugouts in fair shape, roof needs repairs.
- Parking area with standing water.
- Standing water outside play space.
- Former softball field post and chain fence rusting and leaning.
- Retaining wall around former softball field is deteriorating.

Opportunities

- Landscaping upgrades at park entrance.
- Install signage to identify site amenities and trails.
- Correct field drainage for sports fields.
- Paint lines on basketball court.
- Repair and replace damaged boards on benches, picnic tables, bleacher seating.
- Upgrade dugout roofs.
- Redesign the layout of parking area to make more efficient and separate from people spaces.
- Install drainage and new sod around playground space.
- Install new fence along north soccer field perimeter.
- Remove wood retaining wall behind the dugouts at north soccer field perimeter. Replace with drainage swale.



Eldridge Road Recreation Site

Cost Estimate

Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price (\$)	Amount (\$)
Signage				
Park map	each	1	850.00	850.00
Soccer field drainage improvements				
Option 1: French drain along north boundary	m	150	35.00	5,250.00
Option 2: Shallow swale along north boundary	m	150	65.00	9,750.00
Parking upgrades				
Roadway	m ²	1,300.00	32.00	41,600.00
Parking area	m ²	600	32.00	19,200.00
Basketball court grade correction				
Option 1: Chain-link fence on North and East side of court	m	45	165.00	7,425.00
Option 2: Add fill to lessen slope on North and East sides of court	L.S.	1	5,000.00	5,000.00
Basketball court line painting	L.S.	1		
Back soccer field fence extension	m	48	105.00	5,040.00
Back soccer field swale	m	60	150.00	9,000.00
Site lighting (tennis courts, parking lots), mounted on existing utility poles	L.S.	2	2,000.00	4,000.00
Entrance landscape plan & landscaping	L.S.	1	20,000.00	20,000.00
Picnic area upgrades				
Steel park grill/BBQ	each	3	400.00	1,200.00
Picnic tables	each	3	250.00	750.00
Total (with Soccer field drainage Option 2 and basketball court Option 2)				\$129,065

Prices include 25% allowance for contingencies and engineering, but exclude HST.

Probable construction costs have been made based on experience, qualifications, and best judgment. Construction costs may vary from the estimated costs above. Design fees are not included.

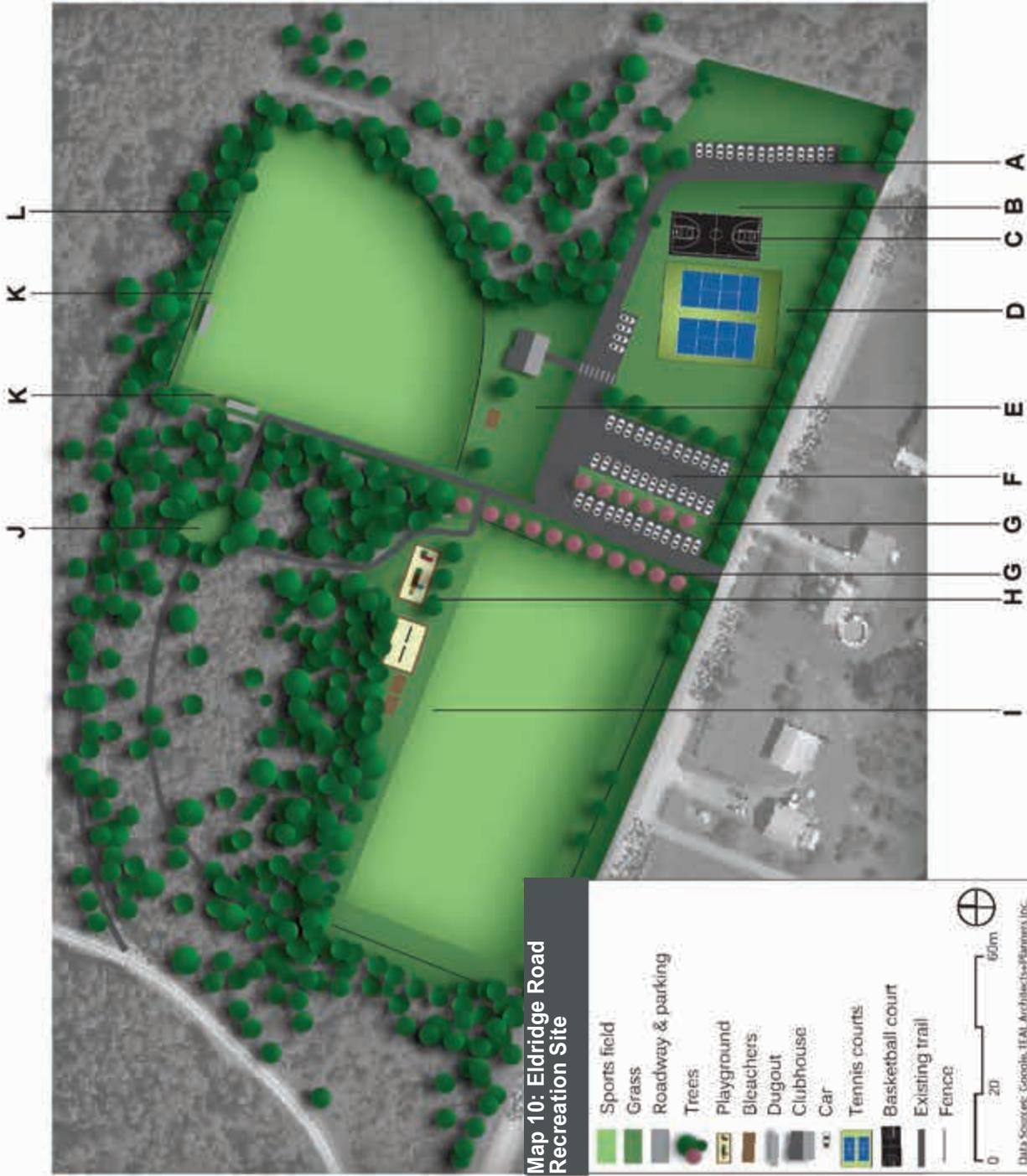
District of the Municipality of West Hants Parks and Open Space Plan

Park Opportunities Concept Plan: Eldridge Road Recreation Site

Item	Description
A	Redesigned parking area.
B	Regraded drainage swale.
C	Painted basketball court lines.
D	Interior park lighting.
E	Snowmobile off-loading area.
F	Redesigned entrance parking area.
G	New entrance landscaping.
H	New shade trees at playground.
I	New drainage system for soccer field perimeter.
J	Picnic/bbq space in clearing.
K	New swale around backstop of former softball field.
L	Chain link fence extension.

Prepared by: SC

Date: April 3, 2016



St. Croix Recreation Site

Overview

PID: 45339231

Coordinates: 44.96515, -64.0255

Date visited: November 12, 2015.

Address: 54 Ball Park Rd, St. Croix.

Classification: District, Community, Neighbourhood Parks.

Size: 9.60 acres (3.88 ha).

Land cover: Primarily managed turf with gravel surfaces for driveway, parking, and pathways.

Topography: Grade level, seeded, maintained.

Maintained by: Municipality.

Use: Softball, community gathering, horseshoe, picnicking, fishing.

Access: From Ball Park Road.

Parking: 150-200 cars possible on road shoulder, abandoned field, and gravel area to the east.

Signage: No entrance signage. Signage present to indicate maintenance, security, and horseshoe club, but signs are dated and in need of replacement.

History: Land originally owned by Aubrey Smiley and was purchased by the Crown when Highway 101 was constructed. The Crown deeded the remaining lands to the Municipality in 1975 with the stipulation that it be used for recreation purposes.

Overlapping Management Plans: None.

Observations

- Out-buildings are showing signs of weather damage (e.g. water damaged wood, outdated electrical, rotting windows/trim).
- Bleacher footprints made of gypsum (unsuitable structural base).
- Field to east of ballfields is abandoned with old backstop still in place.
- Slope around east ball field bleachers too steep and inaccessible.
- Wiring on east ball field unearthed and is a tripping hazard.
- Wood decking at the top of west ball field is narrow and showing signs of rot.
- Clubhouse ramp on crumbling concrete footings.

Opportunities

- Develop easy access to pond.
- Coordinate signage to indicate park, maintenance, usage, and wayfinding.
- Upgrade wooden out-buildings and clubhouse.
- Replace gypsum bleacher footings with more stable base.
- Install new pathways to improve site accessibility.
- Develop regrading plan for east ball field bleachers are to reduce slope or overcome slope and refine surface materials (e.g. sod instead of large gravel).
- Upgrade decking at top of west ball field observation area.



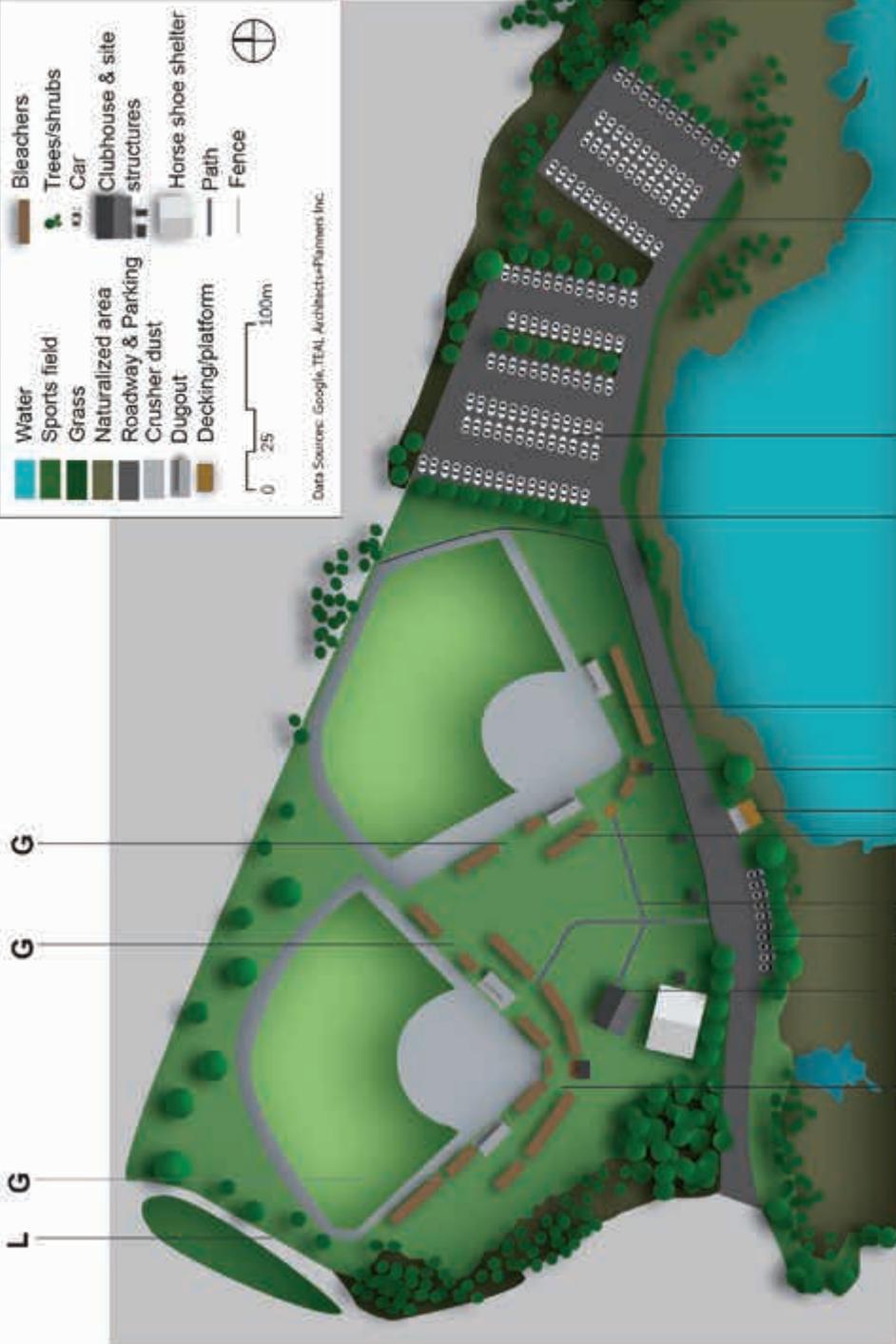
St. Croix Recreation Site

Cost Estimate

Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price (\$)	Amount (\$)
Lighting upgrades				
Clubhouse, Horseshoe area, Announcer's towers	L.S.	1	2,000.00	2,000.00
Site grading				
Stairs built into berm at Eastern field	each	2	2,000.00	4,000.00
Replace gravel underneath bleachers	L.S.	1	3,500.00	3,500.00
Backstop removal	L.S.	1	2,000.00	2,000.00
Parking upgrades (gravel)				
East parking area	m ²	1,875	13.00	24,375.00
West parking area	m ²	2,850	32.00	91,200.00
West gravel turn-around	m ²	450	13.00	5,850.00
Accessible pathways				
To East bleachers	m	30	40	1,200.00
To West bleachers	m	30	40	1,200.00
Structural upgrades				
Horse shoe shed painting	L.S.	1	1	450.00
Entrance shed (new slab, framing, cladding, external painting)	L.S.	1	1	2,050.00
Ticket booth (new slab, framing, cladding, external painting)	L.S.	1	1	800.00
Announcer's tower West field (new framing, cladding, external painting), or if more feasible, replace.	L.S.	1	1	13,400.00
Announcer's tower East field (replace selected framing and cladding panels, external painting), or if more feasible, replace.	L.S.	1	1	6,700.00
Club house interior (new internal painting, floor upgrades, plumbing fixture upgrades, kitchen counter upgrades)	L.S.	1	1	30,700.00
Clubhouse exterior (selected cladding replacement, and external stripping and repainting)	L.S.	1	1	5,600.00
Site landscaping plan & landscaping	L.S.	1	1	10,000.00
TOTAL				\$205,025

Prices include 25% allowance for contingencies and engineering, but exclude HST. Probable construction costs have been made based on experience, qualifications, and best judgment. Construction costs may vary from the estimated costs above. Design fees are not included.

Map 11: St. Croix Recreation Site



District of the Municipality of West Hants Parks and Open Space Plan

Park Opportunities Concept Plan: St. Croix Recreation Site

Item	Description
A	Resurfaced overflow parking area.
B	New parking area.
C	Site landscaping.
D	Re-graded slopes in viewing area.
E	Out-buildings upgraded and lighting added.
F	Proposed decking/platform overlooking the pond.
G	New aggregate base to replace gypsum base underneath bleachers.
H	Accessible paths to viewing platform.
I	Retain existing parking area for accessible parking.
J	Clubhouse upgrades (e.g. new siding, floors, lighting).
K	Upgrades to wood decking in between West ballfield and clubhouse.
L	New gravel surface in turn-around.

Prepared by: SC
Date: April 3, 2016

4.5 Future Parks and Open Space Network: Summary of Opportunities

These 'Priority 2 Park' opportunities were identified through:

- Gap analysis;
- Public engagement sessions;
- Review of all parks and open space in West Hants for spaces that connect parks and open space to people/other key locations.

It is expected that these Priority 2 Parks will be addressed when budgets and opportunities to partner arise. Partnerships are needed for the development of some parks, as noted below. Municipally-owned 'second priority' parks and opportunities are explained in detail in the Network Opportunities in Section 4.5, as referenced below.

Municipal Parks

- 1 Kendall Lane (see page 73)
- 2 Hobarts Beach (see page 79)
- 3 Kempt Quarry Recreation Site (see page 79)
- 4 Underwood Road (see page 76)

Private Partnerships

- 8 Castle Frederick Farm Trails (see page 74)
- 9 Rail to Trail (throughout West Hants)
 - Work with landowners to formalize trail in railway right-of-way including lease agreements, signage, trailheads, receptacles, emergency kits where appropriate and doggy bags.

Government Partnerships

- 5 Roadsides improved for walking and walking loops signed (see pages 71)
 - Sign well-used and appropriate roadside walking loops throughout the Municipality. Some are shown in GIS data under the consultation input file's 'areas' and 'suggestions' Shapefiles, such as a 5k loop through Hantsport and the Hiltz Road walking loop in Cheverie.
- 6 Fundy Shore Beach Walks (see page 80)
- 7 McKinley Road Park (see page 74)



Area 1

Municipal Parks

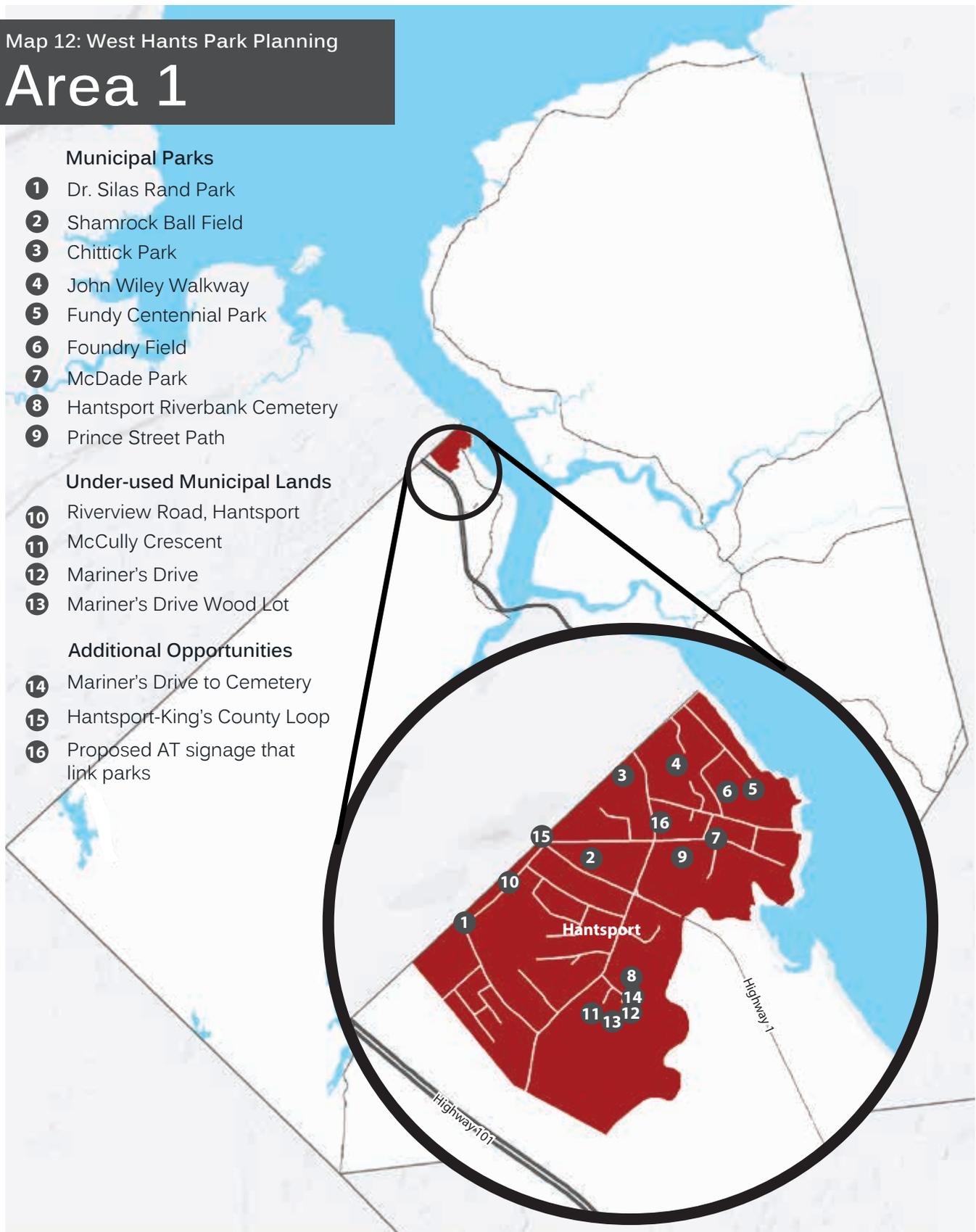
- 1 Dr. Silas Rand Park
- 2 Shamrock Ball Field
- 3 Chittick Park
- 4 John Wiley Walkway
- 5 Fundy Centennial Park
- 6 Foundry Field
- 7 McDade Park
- 8 Hantsport Riverbank Cemetery
- 9 Prince Street Path

Under-used Municipal Lands

- 10 Riverview Road, Hantsport
- 11 McCully Crescent
- 12 Mariner's Drive
- 13 Mariner's Drive Wood Lot

Additional Opportunities

- 14 Mariner's Drive to Cemetery
- 15 Hantsport-King's County Loop
- 16 Proposed AT signage that link parks



Data Sources: Municipality of the District of West Hants, NSTDB, TEAL Architects+Planners Inc., Google Maps.

Network Opportunities for Area 1

Details for each parcel area provided in Appendix 2.

Municipal Parks

- 1** Dr. Silas Rand Park
 - Park signage.
 - More seating options.
 - Addition of a shade tree or shade/picnic structure.
 - Opportunity for community gardens.
- 2** Shamrock Ball Field
 - Park signage.
 - Addition of garbage receptacles by dugouts.
 - Dugout upgrades (e.g. concrete patch work, improve drainage behind dugouts, painting).
 - If desired, a treed buffer between residents to the south and west of the field could be planted.
 - Investigate community interest and cost of field lighting.
- 3** Chittick Park
 - Signage, including interpretive sign related to river and history.
 - Staff education regarding mowing around trees.
 - Have an arborist monitor tree condition around fountain.
- 4** John Wiley Walkway
 - Property serves as potential access point to rail-trail if rail line is to be converted.
- 5** Fundy Centennial Park
 - Park signage.
 - Need for more garbage receptacles on site.
 - Renovation of gazebo needed (e.g. shingles, trim).
 - Reset brick pad to gazebo.
- 6** Foundry Field
 - Ensure Maintenance.
- 7** McDade Park
 - Park signage.
 - Create plan to reorganize park monuments to have better use of space.
 - New coat of paint on park bench.
 - Addition of garbage can by park bench.
 - Remove block planter from park. Plant shrubs directly into ground. No need for raised planter.
- 8** Hantsport Riverbank Cemetery
 - Park signage.
 - Create a plan for future cemetery expansion.
 - Strategically plant shade and ornamental trees for shade and visual interest for visitors.
 - Develop a trail loop along upper portion of slope past cemetery, along adjacent Municipally-owned land through to Mariner's Drive.
- 9** Prince Street Path
 - Maintain connection to HMCC from Prince Street.
 - Walkway signage indicating ownership/maintenance.

Under-used Municipal Lands

- 10** Riverview Road, Hantsport
 - Given the close proximity to other parks and open spaces, it is recommended this parcel be divested to fund the development of nearby municipally-owned parcels.
- 11** McCully Crescent
 - Divest parcel from Municipal holdings and invest in other park and open space opportunities in the area.



Network Opportunities for Area 1

Details for each parcel area provided in Appendix 2.

12 Mariner's Drive

- Retain parcel as part of future park and open space expansion (with adjacent municipally-owned land for Hantsport Cemetery).
- Portion of property (e.g. along McCully Crescent) could be subdivided without compromising future park development on this parcel.
- Any park and open space/trail development would require a fence along the top of the slope.

13 Mariner's Drive Wood Lot

- Parcel ideal for residential lot.
- Lumber from trees can be harvested for community purpose (e.g. amenity structure).
- Divest land to fund the development of nearby municipally-owned parcels for park and open space use.

Additional Opportunities

14 Mariner's Drive to Hantsport Cemetery

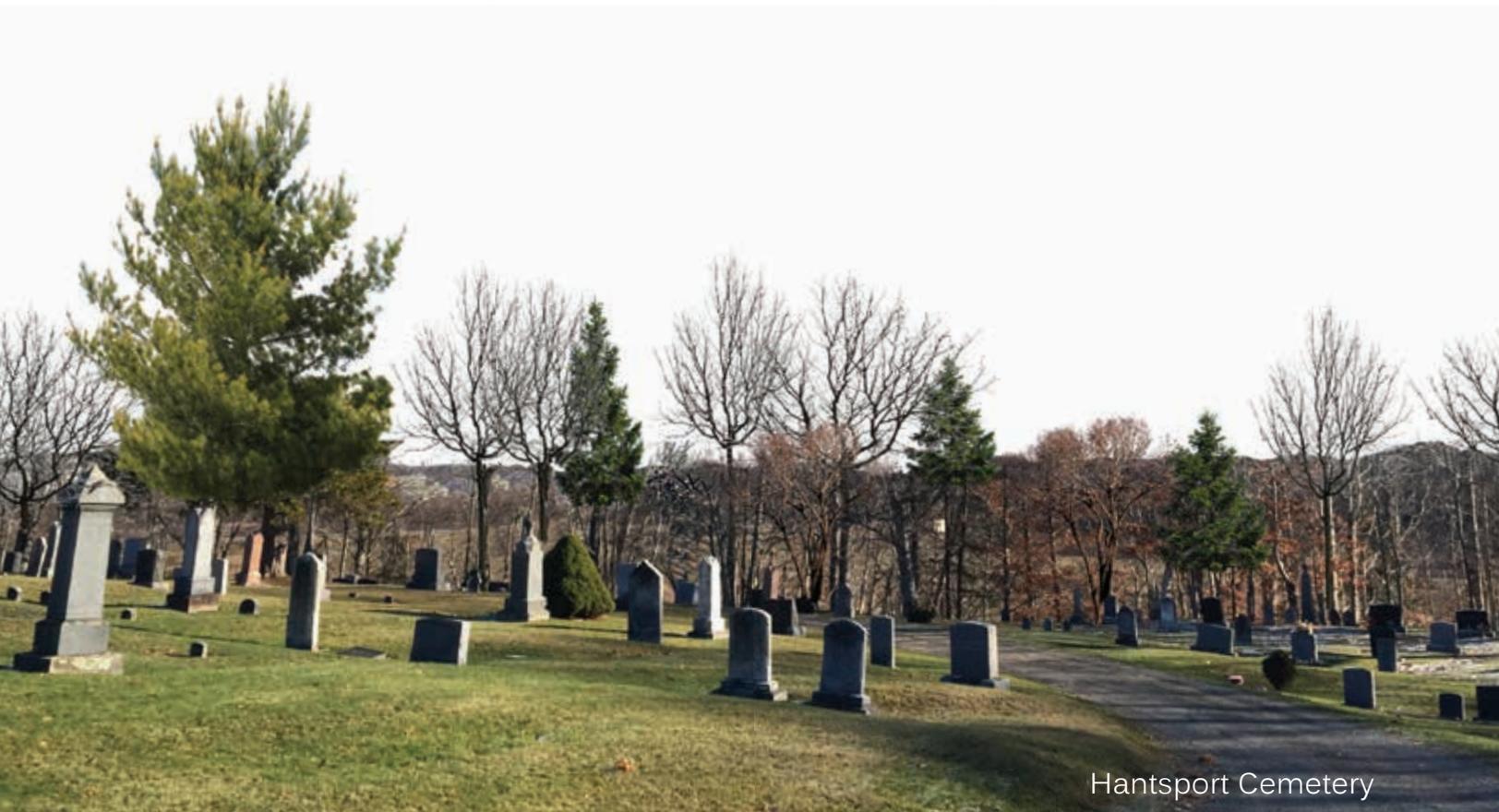
- Subdivide and divest lands not needed to enhance trail connection/loop and Cemetery park. Expand on Cemetery with loop and parkland.

15 Hantsport - King's County Walking Loop (Priority 2 Park)

- Consider signing urban walking loops. A 5k loop was identified during consultation and in former Town of Hantsport Trails Map in the Hantsport Municipal Planning Strategy.

16 Proposed AT signage that link parks

- Consider signing AT corridors to direct traffic to parks and open space.



Hantsport Cemetery

Area 2

Municipal Parks

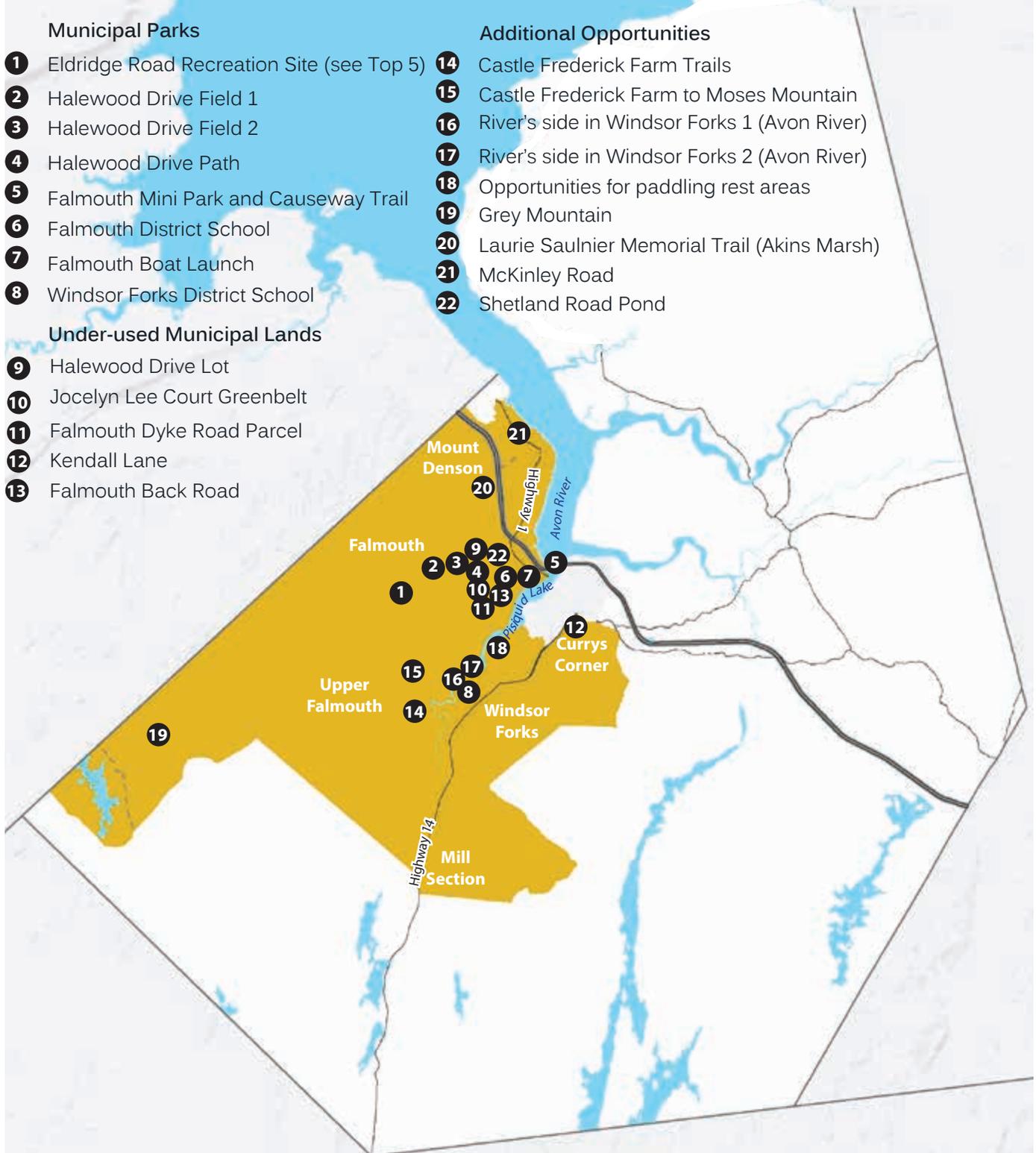
- 1 Eldridge Road Recreation Site (see Top 5)
- 2 Halewood Drive Field 1
- 3 Halewood Drive Field 2
- 4 Halewood Drive Path
- 5 Falmouth Mini Park and Causeway Trail
- 6 Falmouth District School
- 7 Falmouth Boat Launch
- 8 Windsor Forks District School

Under-used Municipal Lands

- 9 Halewood Drive Lot
- 10 Jocelyn Lee Court Greenbelt
- 11 Falmouth Dyke Road Parcel
- 12 Kendall Lane
- 13 Falmouth Back Road

Additional Opportunities

- 14 Castle Frederick Farm Trails
- 15 Castle Frederick Farm to Moses Mountain
- 16 River's side in Windsor Forks 1 (Avon River)
- 17 River's side in Windsor Forks 2 (Avon River)
- 18 Opportunities for paddling rest areas
- 19 Grey Mountain
- 20 Laurie Saulnier Memorial Trail (Akins Marsh)
- 21 McKinley Road
- 22 Shetland Road Pond



Data Sources: Municipality of the District of West Hants, NSTDB. TEAL Architects+Planners Inc., Google Maps.

Network Opportunities for Area 2

Details for each parcel area provided in Appendix 2.

Municipal Parks

- 1 Eldridge Road Recreation site (See Top 5)
- 2 Halewood Drive Field 1
 - Signage
 - Continue to own and maintain parcel to be used by the neighbourhood.
 - Formalize entrance to parcel from Halewood Drive.
 - Consider adding amenity features to the site (e.g. benches, trail loop).
- 3 Halewood Drive Field 2
 - Signage indicating ownership, management, hours of use.
 - Signage to identify stormwater movement on site and importance of water management for local ecology.
 - Low point in south eastern portion of field requires topsoil fill.
- 4 Halewood Drive Path
 - Signage to indicate ownership and maintenance.
 - Pave the path for ease of maintenance.
 - Lighting attached to existing utility poles.
 - If privacy becomes a concern by neighbouring residents, consider wooden post style fencing along each side rather than chain link fencing.
- 5 Falmouth Mini Park and Causeway Trail (See Top 5 pages)
- 6 Falmouth District School
 - No recommendations for properties managed by School Board.
- 7 Falmouth Boat Launch
 - Signage upgrades (when needed)
 - Cut back vegetation from ramp shoulders.
 - Remove existing concrete ramp and replace with gravel (short term), concrete (long term).

- 8 Windsor Forks District School
 - No recommendations for properties managed by School Board.

Under-used Municipal Lands

- 9 Halewood Drive Lot
 - Given the number of parks and open space parcels in the neighbourhood, it is recommended this parcel be divested to fund the development of nearby municipally-owned parcels.
- 10 Jocelyn Lee Court Greenbelt
 - Retain as municipal greenbelt.
 - Trail loop possible on upper side of slope.
- 11 Falmouth Dyke Road Parcel
 - Divest land to fund the development of nearby municipally-owned parcels for parks and open space use.
- 12 Kendall Lane (Priority 2 Park)
 - Signage.
 - Consider regrading a portion of the parcel to create flat accessible surface; will require wall construction and drainage.
 - Opportunity for shade trees, community garden, sitting areas, playground.
 - Work with Kendall Court Seniors Complex and surrounding neighbours to identify parks and open space needs.
- 13 Falmouth Back Road
 - Divest parcel from Municipal holdings and invest in other parks and open space opportunities in the area.



Kendall Lane

Network Opportunities for Area 2

Details for each parcel area provided in Appendix 2.

Additional Opportunities

- 14** Castle Frederick Farm Trails (Priority 2 Park)
 - Portions of this land are culturally significant and are voluntarily protected by the landowner in partnership with the Archaeological Land Trust of Nova Scotia. Detailed information is found here: <http://www.altns.ca/castlefrederick.htm>
 - Work with owners of Castle Frederick Farm to: install wayfinding, entrance and interpretive signage; enhance accessibility of the trails; and develop appropriate rest and play areas.
- 15** Castle Frederick Farm to Moses Mountain
 - See MWH Trails Plan p. 82 for proposed trail network, also supported through consultation for this Parks and Open Space Plan.
- 16** River's side in Windsor Forks 1 (Avon River)
 - Explore possibility of a picnic table/paddling rest area.
- 17** River's side in Windsor Forks 2 (Avon River)
 - Explore possibility of a picnic table/paddling rest area (on island).
- 18** Opportunities for paddling rest areas
 - Explore other locations for picnic table/paddling rest area.
- 19** Grey Mountain
 - Explore the value of land use or lease agreements to the parks and open space network on privately held land holdings throughout Grey Mountain areas (excluding the Water Protection Areas).
- 20** Laurie Saulnier Memorial Trail (Akins Marsh)
 - See Trails Plan 2013 for details.
 - Support relationship between Hants West Wildlife Association, DNR, Ducks Unlimited Wildlife Habitat Canada.
- 21** McKinley Road
 - Develop a Neighbourhood Park overlooking water with signed and safe water access for paddlers and possibly swimmers. If permitted, connect to rail to trail. Seek partnership with Provincial Government to establish park on its land.
- 22** Shetland Road Pond
 - This is a stormwater retention pond. However, due to its visual significance and recreation potential for sitting, watching and playing nearby, issues regarding liability and safety should be considered to enable the safe use by residents.
 - Improve seating, signage, trees to buffer noise and view from the highway and shade tree for shelter.



Atkins Marsh

Area 3

Municipal Parks

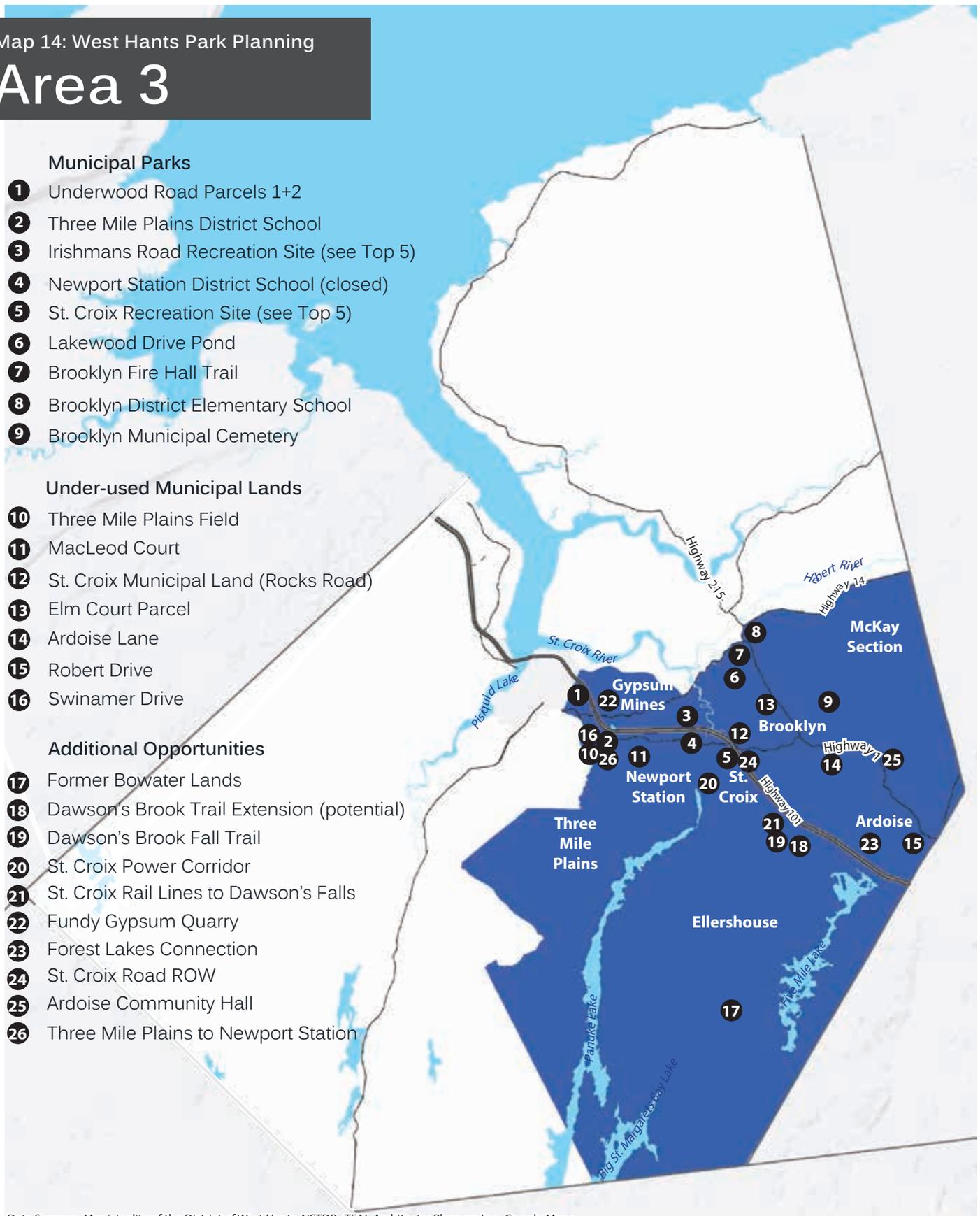
- 1 Underwood Road Parcels 1+2
- 2 Three Mile Plains District School
- 3 Irishmans Road Recreation Site (see Top 5)
- 4 Newport Station District School (closed)
- 5 St. Croix Recreation Site (see Top 5)
- 6 Lakewood Drive Pond
- 7 Brooklyn Fire Hall Trail
- 8 Brooklyn District Elementary School
- 9 Brooklyn Municipal Cemetery

Under-used Municipal Lands

- 10 Three Mile Plains Field
- 11 MacLeod Court
- 12 St. Croix Municipal Land (Rocks Road)
- 13 Elm Court Parcel
- 14 Ardoise Lane
- 15 Robert Drive
- 16 Swinamer Drive

Additional Opportunities

- 17 Former Bowater Lands
- 18 Dawson's Brook Trail Extension (potential)
- 19 Dawson's Brook Fall Trail
- 20 St. Croix Power Corridor
- 21 St. Croix Rail Lines to Dawson's Falls
- 22 Fundy Gypsum Quarry
- 23 Forest Lakes Connection
- 24 St. Croix Road ROW
- 25 Ardoise Community Hall
- 26 Three Mile Plains to Newport Station



Data Sources: Municipality of the District of West Hants, NSTDB. TEAL Architects+Planners Inc., Google Maps.

Network Opportunities for Area 3

Details for each parcel area provided in Appendix 2.

Municipal Parks

- 1 Underwood Road Parcels 1+2
 - Signage.
 - Evaluate encroachment into municipal land by surrounding residents (e.g. tree clearing, landscaping).
 - Retain as treed, naturalized area for shade, stormwater attenuation, wildlife habitat. Retain open space and develop as formal neighbourhood park.
 - Formalized access into the park (e.g. delineate public from private property along entrance).
 - Work with neighbourhood to develop a park needs assessment for future park amenities.
- 2 Three Mile Plains District School
 - No recommendations for properties managed by School Board.
- 3 Irishmans Road Recreation Site (see Top 5)
- 4 Newport Station District School (closed)
 - Close proximity to Irishmans Road. Explore potential to link the properties via a new trail corridor.
 - Explore partnerships with community groups who may be able to lease the building.
 - Explore opportunities for a Public/Private Partnership or sale of building to retrofit school into seniors living.
- 5 St. Croix Recreation Site (see Top 5)
- 6 Lakewood Drive Pond
 - Improve access to water.
 - Signage indicating ownership, use, and maintenance.
- 7 Brooklyn Fire Hall Trail
 - Create resting spots for sitting, picnicking, include receptacles.
 - Switchbacks or curve in trail bed would lessen the slope in some areas and create more visual interest.
 - Trail bed could be made more accessible by using crusher dust.

- Planting of trees (native or ornamental) would provide visual interest along the trail route.
- The addition of trees and/or children's playspaces **must** be reviewed in conjunction with Fire Department Executive due to space limitations as this is a helicopter landing area.

- 8 Brooklyn District Elementary School
 - No recommendations for properties managed by School Board.
- 9 Brooklyn Municipal Cemetery
 - More noticeable signage to mark cemetery.
 - Interpretive boards documenting history.
 - Expansion of gravel pad at entrance for additional parking.

Under-used Municipal Lands

- 10 Three Mile Plains Field
 - Retain as a multi-functional space for use by community centre users.
- 11 MacLeod Court
 - Divest parcel to fund the development of nearby municipally-owned parcels.



Irishmans Road Recreation Site

Network Opportunities for Area 3

Details for each parcel area provided in Appendix 2.

Under-used Municipal Land con't

- 12** St. Croix Municipal Land (Rocks Road)
 - See Trails Plan 2013 for additional details.
 - Although isolated by the highway, this property is an excellent display of local geology, West Hants dykelands, freshwater ecology, and walking trails.
 - Public access to the creek.
 - Promote as recreation area (e.g. walking, picnicking, sitting, sports).
 - Work with the Province of Nova Scotia on possible trail connections to St. Croix Recreation Site underneath Highway 101.
- 13** Elm Court Parcel
 - Develop as a Neighbourhood Park.
 - Regrade entrance to make accessible.
 - Create simple trail loop
 - Install garbage bin and seating area.
 - Entrance signage indicating use and management
- 14** Ardoise Lane
 - Although this parcel is in an ideal geographic location for a Neighbourhood Park, this lot and its set back into a quiet residential street does not suit itself to be a well-visited park space.
 - Divest from Municipal holdings and invest in other parks or open space in the area.
- 15** Robert Drive
 - Work with developer at Forest Lakes Community to outline future parks and open space development in close proximity to Robert Drive parcel. This parcel could become a municipal access point to proposed open space and trails. If road access to Forest Lakes is created at the foot of Robert Drive, this municipal parcel would not be required. At that time, this parcel should be considered for divestment
- 16** Swinamer Drive
 - Divest parcel from Municipal holdings and invest in other parks and open space opportunities in the area.

Additional Opportunities

- 17** Former Bowater Lands
 - Consider working with the Province of NS and motorized vehicle groups such as SANS and ATVNS to determine if signage or amenities are required and/or possible in the motorized vehicle trail network.
- 18** Dawson's Brook Trail Extension (potential)
 - Identify and connect trail to any waterfalls.
- 19** Dawson's Brook Fall Trail
 - See trails Plan 2013 for details.
 - Formalize walking trail with landowner to Dawson's Falls; sign roadways.
- 20** St Croix Power Corridor
 - Consider working with landowner to formalize walking trail in power and turbine corridor to Dawson's Falls; sign roadways.
- 21** St Croix Rail Lines to Dawson's Falls
 - Consider working with landowner to formalize walking on old railbed to Dawson's Falls; sign roadways.
- 22** Fundy Gypsum Quarry
 - Maintain relationship with Fundy Gypsum Lands in the event that trails may be developed through the site.
- 23** Forest Lakes Connection
 - Ensure public trail connections to (future) Forest Lakes Country Club greenspaces.
- 24** St. Croix Road ROW
 - Connect St. Croix Recreation Site with underused Municipal parcel on opposite side of Highway PID 45061223.
- 25** Ardoise Community Hall
 - Consolidate parking to one side (e.g. across road), expand community garden, create outdoor social/passive recreation space, outdoor learning space for children.
- 26** Three Mile Plains to Newport Station
 - Evaluate opportunity to develop a trail loop connecting Three Mile Plains District School, Gypsum Mines, Irishmans Road and Newport Station District School.

Area 4

Municipal Parks

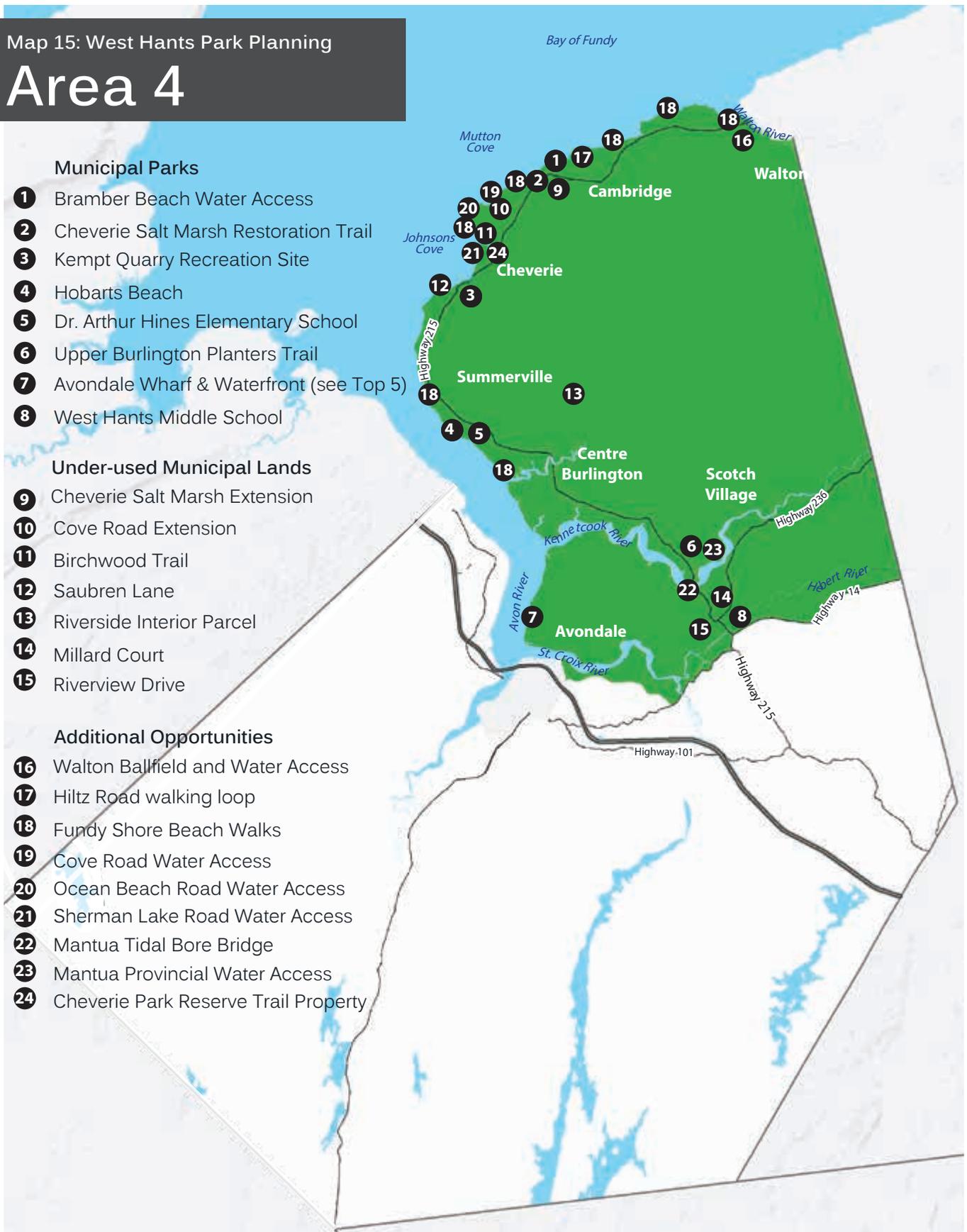
- 1 Bramber Beach Water Access
- 2 Cheverie Salt Marsh Restoration Trail
- 3 Kempt Quarry Recreation Site
- 4 Hobarts Beach
- 5 Dr. Arthur Hines Elementary School
- 6 Upper Burlington Planters Trail
- 7 Avondale Wharf & Waterfront (see Top 5)
- 8 West Hants Middle School

Under-used Municipal Lands

- 9 Cheverie Salt Marsh Extension
- 10 Cove Road Extension
- 11 Birchwood Trail
- 12 Saubren Lane
- 13 Riverside Interior Parcel
- 14 Millard Court
- 15 Riverview Drive

Additional Opportunities

- 16 Walton Ballfield and Water Access
- 17 Hiltz Road walking loop
- 18 Fundy Shore Beach Walks
- 19 Cove Road Water Access
- 20 Ocean Beach Road Water Access
- 21 Sherman Lake Road Water Access
- 22 Mantua Tidal Bore Bridge
- 23 Mantua Provincial Water Access
- 24 Cheverie Park Reserve Trail Property



Data Sources: Municipality of the District of West Hants, NSTDB, TEAL Architects+Planners Inc., Google Maps.

Network Opportunities for Area 4

Details for each parcel area provided in Appendix 2.

Municipal Parks

- 1** Bramber Beach Water Access
 - Install signage to identify ownership, uses, and to house tidal information.
 - Expand parking area at trailhead.
 - Regrade trail bed to improve walking surface and drainage. Raising the trail bed may be required near the beach.
 - Monitor for illegal dumping and/or add receptacles at trail head.
 - Connect to larger network of beach access points on Highway 215.
- 2** Cheverie Salt Marsh Restoration Trail
 - Repairs to Camera Obscura internal structure (e.g. door).
 - Signage to identify Camera Obscura, maintenance, views.
 - Define path (trailhead) from parking lot to Camera Obscura.
- 3** Kempt Quarry Recreation Site (Priority 2 Park)
 - Signage and wayfinding.
 - Develop visual/physical barrier between trail and parking.
 - Upgrade paths to improve accessibility around the pond to picnic and swimming area.
 - Install sod over exposed gravel (on gypsum sinkholes).
 - Consult with an arborist to evaluate tree health around amenities.
 - Basic site landscaping at entrance and picnic area to improve park aesthetic.
 - More seating and picnic opportunities around the Quarry.
- 4** Hobarts Beach (Priority 2 Park)
 - Redesign parking lot for more efficient layout, to create a visual/physical barrier between people and cars, and to improve drainage.
 - Shoreline stabilization necessary around boat launch.
 - Signage at top of Block Wharf Road and at parking lot.
 - Formalize fire pits with steel boxes/BBQ.
 - Regrade picnic area for accessibility.
 - Monitor for illegal dumping.
- 5** Dr. Arthur Hines Elementary School
 - No recommendations for properties managed by School Board.
- 6** Upper Burlington Planters Trail
 - Signage at roadside indicating trail and cultural site, signage at trail head.
 - Interpretive signage/shelter in need of structural and cosmetic upgrades.
 - Weeding of gravel baseball diamond
 - New or updated basketball court
- 7** Avondale Wharf & Waterfront (see Top 5)
- 8** West Hants Middle School
 - No recommendations for properties managed by School Board.

Under-used Municipal Lands

- 9** Cheverie Salt Marsh Extention
 - Consider future connection to existing trail and boardwalk.
- 10** Cove Road Extension
 - Divest from Municipal holdings and invest in other parks or open space in the area.
- 11** Birchwood Trail
 - With large wooded residential parcels adjacent to municipal parcel, it is unlikely that the development of public park would be well-used; divest from municipal ownership to fund other parks and open space in the area.
- 12** Saubren Lane
 - Divest parcel from municipal holdings and invest in other parks and open space opportunities in the area.
- 13** Riverside Interior Parcel
 - Divest from Municipal holdings and invest in other parks or open space in the area.

Network Opportunities for Area 4

Details for each parcel area provided in Appendix 2.

Under-used Municipal Land con't

- 14** Millard Court
 - Divest from Municipal holdings and invest in other parks or open space in the area.

- 15** Riverview Drive
 - Little potential for water access or recreation use due to steep slope.
 - Divest from Municipal holdings and invest in other parks or open space in the area.

Additional Opportunities

- 16** Walton Ballfield and Water Access
 - Consider exploring partnership with landowner to clear a stable walking track around the ballfield and formalize water access.

- 17** Hiltz Road walking loop
 - Explore opportunity for walking loop clearing, formalizing access to beach, promotion, signage

- 18** Fundy Shore beach walks (2nd Priority)
 - Identify beach walks with existing or potential formalized water/land access points; develop a consistent wayfinding and interpretive signage program for key points along the walks; consistency should be in signage materials, colours, locations, information available (excepting special site-specific information); include tide charts at each interpretive sign.

- 19** Cove Road Water Access
 - Formalize beach access: signage from road and at beach, garbage receptacles, grading/mitigate impacts of erosion on accessway.

- 20** Ocean Beach Road Water Access
 - Formalize beach access: signage from road and at beach, garbage receptacles, grading/mitigate impacts of erosion on accessway.

- 21** Sherman Lake Road Water Access
 - Formalize beach access: signage from road and at beach, garbage receptacles, grading/mitigate impacts of erosion on accessway.

- 22** Mantua Tidal Bore Bridge
 - Install interpretive signage at this bridge.

- 23** Mantua Provincial Water Access
 - Consider working with Province to install water access park, signage for tubers, boogie boarders, swimmers, etc. of the Mantua Tidal Bore (if appropriate location and widely desirable activities. This was noted during public engagement.)

- 24** Cheverie Park Reserve Trail Property
 - See Trails Plan 2013 for details on the property.
 - Request right of first refusal should adjacent lands ever be for sale.



Cheverie Salt Marsh Restoration Trail

Area 5

Municipal Parks

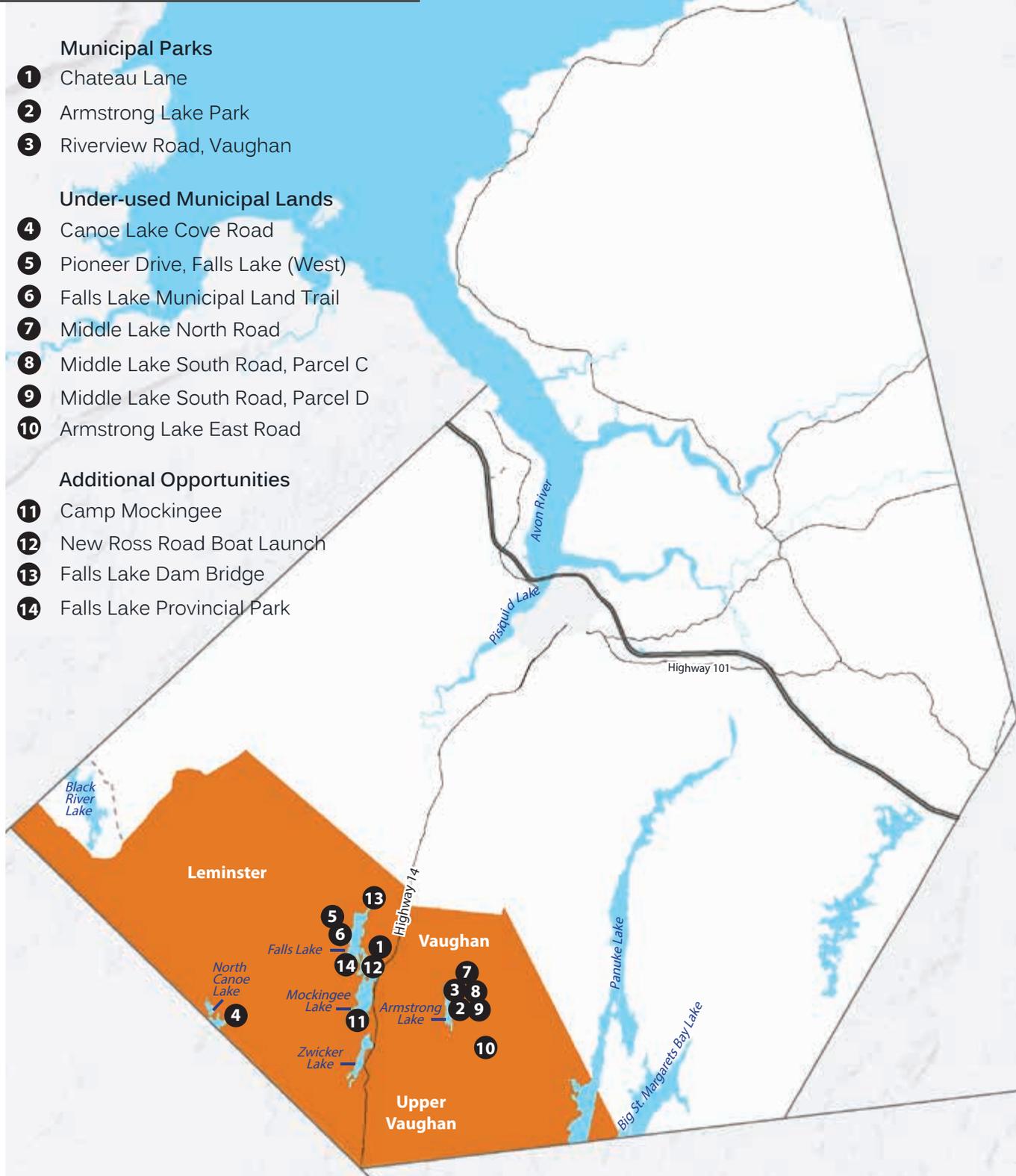
- 1 Chateau Lane
- 2 Armstrong Lake Park
- 3 Riverview Road, Vaughan

Under-used Municipal Lands

- 4 Canoe Lake Cove Road
- 5 Pioneer Drive, Falls Lake (West)
- 6 Falls Lake Municipal Land Trail
- 7 Middle Lake North Road
- 8 Middle Lake South Road, Parcel C
- 9 Middle Lake South Road, Parcel D
- 10 Armstrong Lake East Road

Additional Opportunities

- 11 Camp Mockingee
- 12 New Ross Road Boat Launch
- 13 Falls Lake Dam Bridge
- 14 Falls Lake Provincial Park



Data Sources: Municipality of the District of West Hants, NSTDB, TEAL Architects+Planners Inc., Google Maps.

Network Opportunities for Area 5

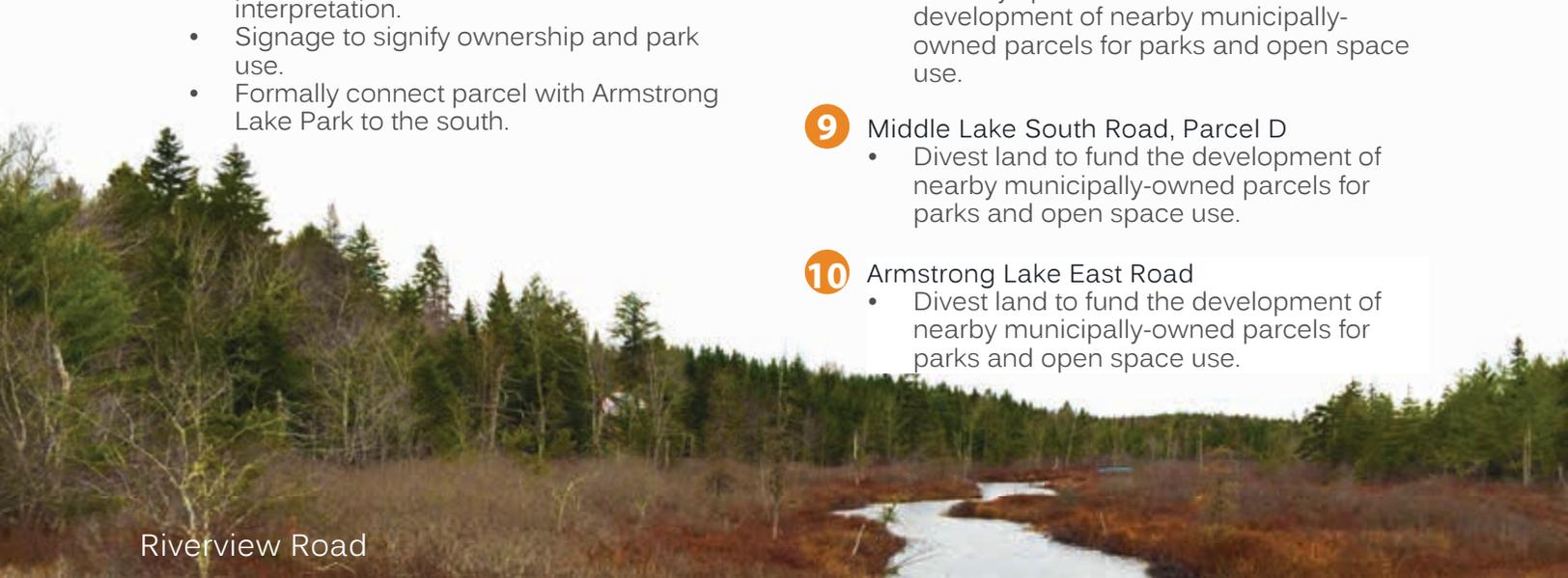
Details for each parcel area provided in Appendix 2.

Municipal Parks

- 1** Chateau Lane
 - Install entrance signage and trail markers.
 - Retain land and develop as formal trail loop.
 - Create formal access point from surrounding roadway.
 - Potential for expanded/renovated trail system on property.
 - Establish partnership with Sugar Shack property owners to encourage use of trail and outdoor programs.
- 2** Armstrong Lake Park
 - Entrance signage
 - New interpretive signage about local wildlife (to replace Loon signage that is damaged).
 - New trail /water access markings with post.
 - New gravel surface for boat launch to improve access to water.
- 3** Riverview Road, Vaughan
 - Retain land to protect wetland habitat and for recreation value.
 - Partner with community group or NGO to highlight importance of ecosystem.
 - Interpretive signage before the bridge at gravel area.
 - Boardwalk or platform on the water for recreation (e.g. fishing) and interpretation.
 - Signage to signify ownership and park use.
 - Formally connect parcel with Armstrong Lake Park to the south.

Under-used Municipal Lands

- 4** Canoe Lake Cove Road
 - Develop public access to the lake.
- 5** Pioneer Drive, Falls Lake (West)
 - Trail connection opportunity to improve water access from Levy Meadow Trail.
 - Subdivide or enact an easement/land use agreement on the remainder of the property.
 - Trail connection opportunity to improve water access from Levy Meadow Trail.
 - Subdivide or enact an easement on the remainder of the property.
- 6** Falls Lake Municipal Land Trail
 - More visible signage.
 - Promote as a public water recreation area.
 - Beach improvement (e.g. sand, benches, fire pit/BBQ area).
 - Garbage receptacles.
 - Periodic site monitoring.
- 7** Middle Lake North Road
 - Middle Lake is not a high value amenity area. Divest land to fund the development of nearby municipally-owned parcels for parks and open space use.
- 8** Middle Lake South Road, Parcel C
 - There is little potential to develop as amenity space. Divest land to fund the development of nearby municipally-owned parcels for parks and open space use.
- 9** Middle Lake South Road, Parcel D
 - Divest land to fund the development of nearby municipally-owned parcels for parks and open space use.
- 10** Armstrong Lake East Road
 - Divest land to fund the development of nearby municipally-owned parcels for parks and open space use.



Riverview Road

Network Opportunities for Area 5

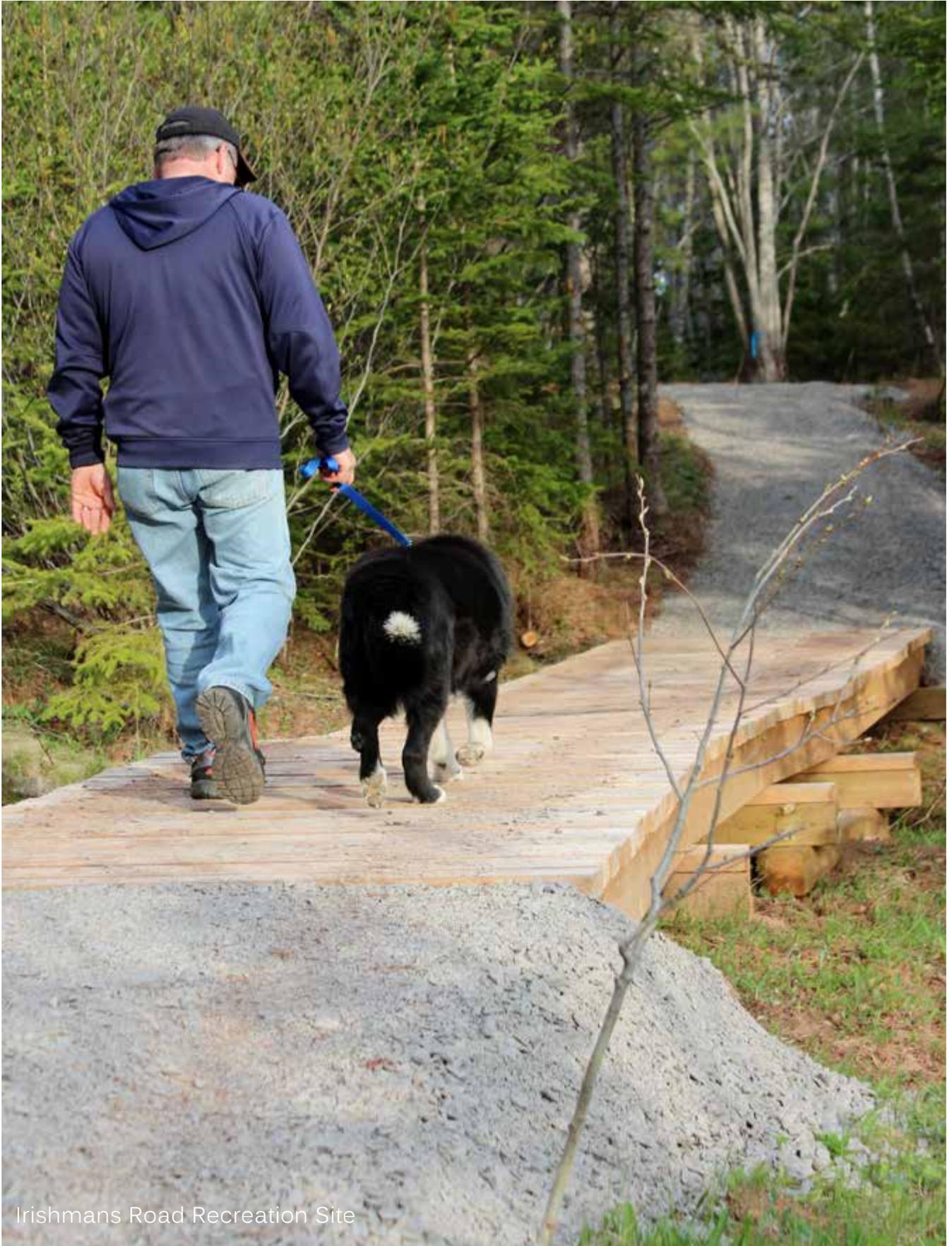
Details for each parcel area provided in Appendix 2.

Additional Opportunities

- 11** Camp Mockingee
 - Consider future acquisition by obtaining first right of refusal upon the future sale of the land (if ever up for sale).
- 12** New Ross Road Boat Launch
 - Consider acquiring easement or purchase property and enable an easement for NS Power to ensure safe public access to the boat launch.
- 13** Falls Lake Dam Bridge
 - Consider partnership with NS Power to permit the public to cross the dam's pedestrian bridge. (This was noted during Public Engagement).
- 14** Falls Lake Provincial Park
 - Consider future acquisition by obtaining first right of refusal upon the future sale of the land (if ever up for sale).



Armstrong Lake



Irishmans Road Recreation Site

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Prioritized Actions

Year 1

1. Request Council to adopt this Plan, which includes Appendix 1: iv. *Suitability Framework*, which may help the Municipal staff to evaluate the suitability of new lands for park and open space purposes.
2. Present this Parks and Open Space Plan to Stakeholders and general public for promotion. Collectively, citizens of West Hants may work together in various ways to achieve the opportunities identified during consultation and which are listed in this plan.
3. Amend policy documents to enable the outcomes of this plan. See Appendix 6 for suggestions for the Subdivision By-law(s) and Municipal Planning Strategies.
4. Ensure the Municipality has the ability to provide tax receipts for donations to the 'parks budget' (e.g. Charitable Status with Canadian Revenue Agency).
5. Assign staff to regularly track and update a new database of funding and partnership opportunities for the development and maintenance of parks and open space.
6. Phase in new Active Avon signage with upgrades to parks and open space.
7. Adopt a plan review at the one-year and five-year points after the initial adoption of this plan. Amendments should be made and adopted by Council before the end of each scheduled review period.
8. Obtain and train staff on a tracking software to monitor and schedule park maintenance, acquisition and development of parks and open space.

Years 1 - 3

9. Build on existing parks and open space education programs, as recommended in Section 5.3, to increase knowledge of natural assets and benefits of outdoor spaces in West Hants.
10. Initiate an official marketing campaign to promote the existing and potential West Hants Parks and Open Space Network. Use opportunities identified in this plan to supplement other Municipal initiatives.

Years 1 - 10

11. Actively seek to identify, protect and develop, through easement or acquisition, water access points (some are identified on Map 4). This could be facilitated by a 'West Hants Water Access Plan'.
 12. Develop or upgrade Priority 2 Parks and Partnership Opportunities seen in Section 4.5 as soon possible.
 13. Improve the places where people walk as recommended in the Avon Region Active Transportation Plan.
 14. Consider adding to the lending program of sports equipment - free of charge - for items such as cross country skis, etc.
 15. Consider adding the West Hants Cultural Landscape to this Plan. Survey the Municipal District for locations of cultural significance, such as Acadian Heritage sites, Mi'kmaq Heritage Sites, Planters Heritage Sites, culturally-significant views, and so on. Consider connecting with the group that promotes Acadian Heritage to protect or support promotion for Acadian Heritage sites, seen online at <http://ns1763.ca/remem/acadianheritagesigns.html>.
- (Note: Two Acadian Heritage Sites currently fall on or within 50m of Municipal lands: one across from Cheverie Salt Marsh and one at Avondale Wharf and Waterfront.)

**These
Actions
should be
completed
in their order
to achieve
the intent
of this Plan.**

5.2 Decision-Making Toolkit for Land Management Decisions

A Decision Making Toolkit was developed to be used by Municipal staff. The Toolkit will guide decisions about the West Hants Parks and Open Space network to ensure decisions about parkland acquisition, divestment and development meet the needs of citizens and protect unique natural and cultural resources. Users will be able to evaluate and prioritize lands for acquisition based on four standard issues: useability, suitability, budget and urgency.

Priority land is that which provides a solution to all of the four issues. This is illustrated in Figure 9 below.

Also included in the Toolkit is information about acquisition methods, the definition of useable land, a land suitability criteria, funding opportunities, and scenarios that illustrate the issues of urgency and land divestment.



Figure 9: Acquisition Priorities.

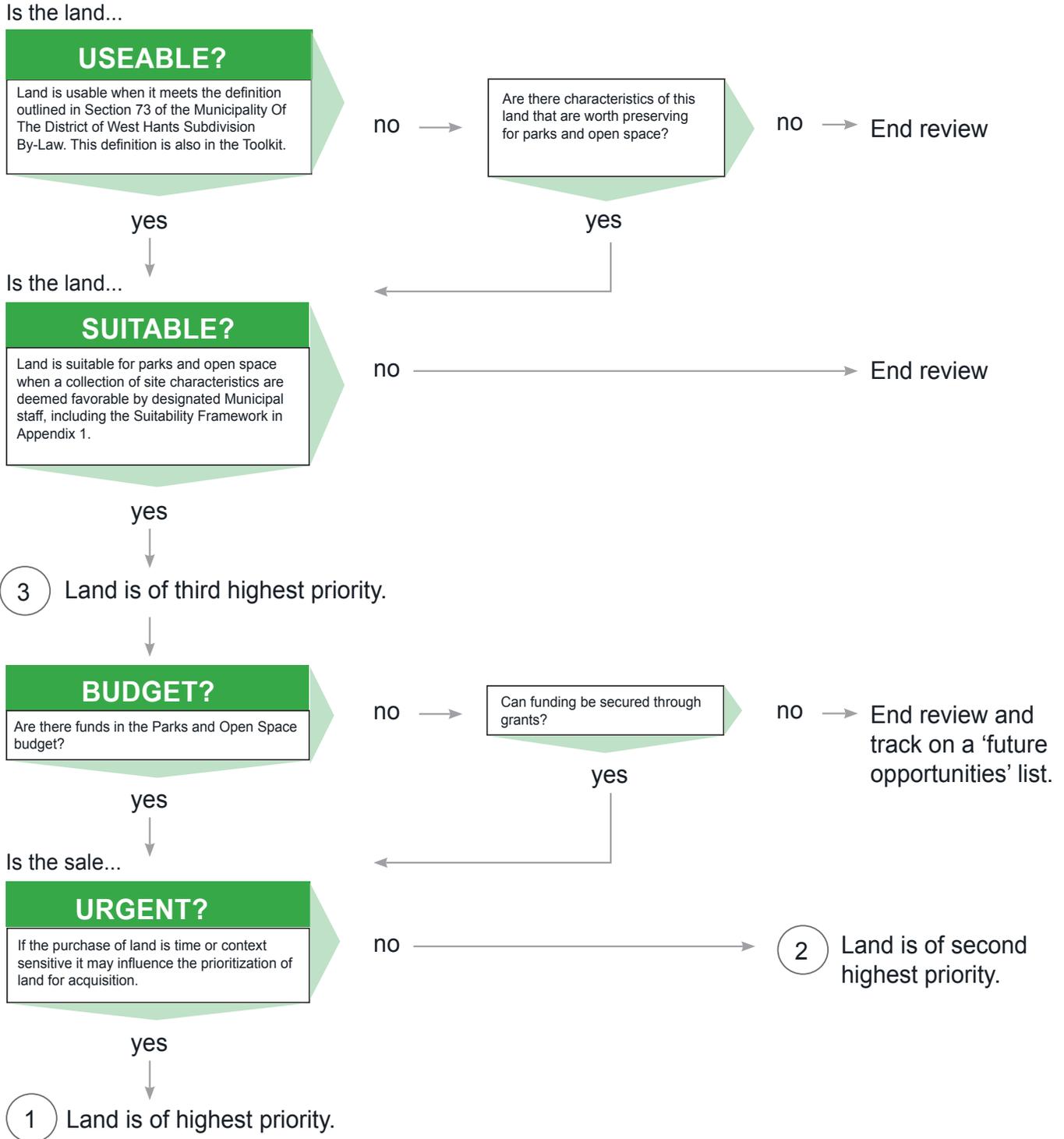


Figure 10: Process to Identify Priority Lands.

5.3 Education and Promotion Opportunities

The more citizens know about the parks and open space in their communities the more they will feel pride and desire to use and even become stewards of these shared spaces. When information is shared about events in these spaces people can be connected to members of the broader West Hants community. Citizens can plan day trips to various parks and open space when the unique features of each space is available and promoted and physical health can improve with increased activity in the great outdoors. Widely promoting the West Hants parks and open space network will attract visitors who will come to experience the rich history, beauty and local business offerings in West Hants. Below identifies many opportunities for education and promotion of the West Hants parks and open space network:

A. Initiate an online parks and open space marketing campaign



I. Develop a Web Page

Promoting parks and open space is more than hosting information online, it should also be action oriented. Online promotional methods can profile outdoor spaces and activities in the Municipality. In addition to background information, news postings should be frequent, consistent in quality and message, and highlight the benefits of parks and open space to citizens.

The West Hants Municipal Website should contain a stand-alone page for Parks and Open Space. This space would be available for park-related documents (for download), links to interactive mapping or relevant parks and recreation sites (like Acadian Heritage Sites page, Trails NS, NS Department of Environment, West Hants Trail Association, etc.).

Effort must be made to launch West Hants Park Network information on other agencies' websites (e.g. Province of Nova Scotia). The quality and accuracy of parks and open space information hosted on these websites must be monitored and updated. 'Active Avon' branding should be used.



II. Develop an online interactive map for use by citizens and visitors.

Municipally-hosted interactive maps enable Municipal Staff to distribute up-to-date, and easy-to-understand park and open space network information to a large audience. Information includes parks and open space sizes, locations, measuring tools, amenities available, activities on site, photos, related links and so on. Unlike paper maps, online maps can be easily updated as information changes and the number of people viewing online content can be monitored.





B. Printed park and trails maps/ brochures.

Some citizens of West Hants do not have (nor require) access to internet. We see value in producing a parks and open space brochure with inset maps to highlight 'Places To Go'. These brochures can be hosted in prominent locations around the Municipality (e.g. fire halls, community halls, gas stations, municipal office, convenience stores). In addition to hosting information, these brochures in themselves are promotional material that can easily be shared and used while in parks and open space for direction.



C. Establish a coordinated system of cultural and environmental interpretation.

Some outdoor spaces have great examples of park interpretation associated with them (e.g. Upper Burlington Community Hall, Cheverie Salt Marsh), but their design and content is inconsistent. Creating a coordinated design, materials, and shelters (if required) will help create a Municipal wide brand that will help to inform citizens and visitors of the unique features of outdoor spaces in the Municipality.

A key component to a coordinated Fundy Shore Beach Walk is signage at multiple locations that highlight the changing schedule of tides. The timing and height of tide change with the day and the season, a calendar of high and low tides will allow citizens and visitors to plan their beach walks accordingly. This tidal signage would be changed seasonally and would be in line with 'Active Avon' branding.

Actively promote parks and open space for regional, national, and international sporting and entertainment events: Promoting existing parks and open space as ideal destinations for entertainment and sporting events can generate

revenue from venue rental and spin-offs to the local economy. Local citizens can be involved in planning which can create a sense of pride and ownership of the spaces.



D. Guided outdoor walks and talks.

Building on existing guided walks we see value in expanding this program to highlight each of the six park planning areas. This would bring attention to not only the large parks and open space, but the smaller spaces and connections in between. Information sharing can be a new component to these events. Informative walks related to native tree and plant species, karst topography, or Acadian or Mi'kmaq cultural tours (among others) would allow for visiting educators or locally led tours.

Cheverie Beach Walk
Tidal Calendar - 2016 Season

May	June	July	August	September	October
May 1: High 10:30, Low 4:30	June 1: High 11:30, Low 5:30	July 1: High 12:30, Low 6:30	August 1: High 13:30, Low 7:30	September 1: High 14:30, Low 8:30	October 1: High 15:30, Low 9:30
May 2: High 11:30, Low 5:30	June 2: High 12:30, Low 6:30	July 2: High 13:30, Low 7:30	August 2: High 14:30, Low 8:30	September 2: High 15:30, Low 9:30	October 2: High 16:30, Low 10:30
May 3: High 12:30, Low 6:30	June 3: High 13:30, Low 7:30	July 3: High 14:30, Low 8:30	August 3: High 15:30, Low 9:30	September 3: High 16:30, Low 10:30	October 3: High 17:30, Low 11:30
May 4: High 13:30, Low 7:30	June 4: High 14:30, Low 8:30	July 4: High 15:30, Low 9:30	August 4: High 16:30, Low 10:30	September 4: High 17:30, Low 11:30	October 4: High 18:30, Low 12:30
May 5: High 14:30, Low 8:30	June 5: High 15:30, Low 9:30	July 5: High 16:30, Low 10:30	August 5: High 17:30, Low 11:30	September 5: High 18:30, Low 12:30	October 5: High 19:30, Low 1:30
May 6: High 15:30, Low 9:30	June 6: High 16:30, Low 10:30	July 6: High 17:30, Low 11:30	August 6: High 18:30, Low 12:30	September 6: High 19:30, Low 1:30	October 6: High 20:30, Low 2:30
May 7: High 16:30, Low 10:30	June 7: High 17:30, Low 11:30	July 7: High 18:30, Low 12:30	August 7: High 19:30, Low 1:30	September 7: High 20:30, Low 2:30	October 7: High 21:30, Low 3:30
May 8: High 17:30, Low 11:30	June 8: High 18:30, Low 12:30	July 8: High 19:30, Low 1:30	August 8: High 20:30, Low 2:30	September 8: High 21:30, Low 3:30	October 8: High 22:30, Low 4:30
May 9: High 18:30, Low 12:30	June 9: High 19:30, Low 1:30	July 9: High 20:30, Low 2:30	August 9: High 21:30, Low 3:30	September 9: High 22:30, Low 4:30	October 9: High 23:30, Low 5:30
May 10: High 19:30, Low 1:30	June 10: High 20:30, Low 2:30	July 10: High 21:30, Low 3:30	August 10: High 22:30, Low 4:30	September 10: High 23:30, Low 5:30	October 10: High 24:30, Low 6:30
May 11: High 20:30, Low 2:30	June 11: High 21:30, Low 3:30	July 11: High 22:30, Low 4:30	August 11: High 23:30, Low 5:30	September 11: High 24:30, Low 6:30	October 11: High 25:30, Low 7:30
May 12: High 21:30, Low 3:30	June 12: High 22:30, Low 4:30	July 12: High 23:30, Low 5:30	August 12: High 24:30, Low 6:30	September 12: High 25:30, Low 7:30	October 12: High 26:30, Low 8:30
May 13: High 22:30, Low 4:30	June 13: High 23:30, Low 5:30	July 13: High 24:30, Low 6:30	August 13: High 25:30, Low 7:30	September 13: High 26:30, Low 8:30	October 13: High 27:30, Low 9:30
May 14: High 23:30, Low 5:30	June 14: High 24:30, Low 6:30	July 14: High 25:30, Low 7:30	August 14: High 26:30, Low 8:30	September 14: High 27:30, Low 9:30	October 14: High 28:30, Low 10:30
May 15: High 24:30, Low 6:30	June 15: High 25:30, Low 7:30	July 15: High 26:30, Low 8:30	August 15: High 27:30, Low 9:30	September 15: High 28:30, Low 10:30	October 15: High 29:30, Low 11:30
May 16: High 25:30, Low 7:30	June 16: High 26:30, Low 8:30	July 16: High 27:30, Low 9:30	August 16: High 28:30, Low 10:30	September 16: High 29:30, Low 11:30	October 16: High 30:30, Low 12:30
May 17: High 26:30, Low 8:30	June 17: High 27:30, Low 9:30	July 17: High 28:30, Low 10:30	August 17: High 29:30, Low 11:30	September 17: High 30:30, Low 12:30	October 17: High 31:30, Low 1:30
May 18: High 27:30, Low 9:30	June 18: High 28:30, Low 10:30	July 18: High 29:30, Low 11:30	August 18: High 30:30, Low 12:30	September 18: High 31:30, Low 1:30	October 18: High 32:30, Low 2:30
May 19: High 28:30, Low 10:30	June 19: High 29:30, Low 11:30	July 19: High 30:30, Low 12:30	August 19: High 31:30, Low 1:30	September 20: High 32:30, Low 2:30	October 21: High 33:30, Low 3:30
May 20: High 29:30, Low 11:30	June 20: High 30:30, Low 12:30	July 21: High 31:30, Low 1:30	August 22: High 32:30, Low 2:30	September 23: High 33:30, Low 3:30	October 24: High 34:30, Low 4:30
May 21: High 30:30, Low 12:30	June 21: High 31:30, Low 1:30	July 22: High 32:30, Low 2:30	August 23: High 33:30, Low 3:30	September 24: High 34:30, Low 4:30	October 25: High 35:30, Low 5:30
May 22: High 31:30, Low 1:30	June 22: High 32:30, Low 2:30	July 23: High 33:30, Low 3:30	August 24: High 34:30, Low 4:30	September 25: High 35:30, Low 5:30	October 26: High 36:30, Low 6:30
May 23: High 32:30, Low 2:30	June 23: High 33:30, Low 3:30	July 24: High 34:30, Low 4:30	August 25: High 35:30, Low 5:30	September 26: High 36:30, Low 6:30	October 27: High 37:30, Low 7:30
May 24: High 33:30, Low 3:30	June 24: High 34:30, Low 4:30	July 25: High 35:30, Low 5:30	August 26: High 36:30, Low 6:30	September 27: High 37:30, Low 7:30	October 28: High 38:30, Low 8:30
May 25: High 34:30, Low 4:30	June 25: High 35:30, Low 5:30	July 26: High 36:30, Low 6:30	August 27: High 37:30, Low 7:30	September 28: High 38:30, Low 8:30	October 29: High 39:30, Low 9:30
May 26: High 35:30, Low 5:30	June 26: High 36:30, Low 6:30	July 27: High 37:30, Low 7:30	August 28: High 38:30, Low 8:30	September 29: High 39:30, Low 9:30	October 30: High 40:30, Low 10:30
May 27: High 36:30, Low 6:30	June 27: High 37:30, Low 7:30	July 28: High 38:30, Low 8:30	August 29: High 39:30, Low 9:30	September 30: High 40:30, Low 10:30	October 31: High 41:30, Low 11:30

Active Avon logo and icons for walking, no dogs, no bikes, no dogs on leash, and no dogs on leash.



E. Enable Stewardship

i. Volunteering and Donations

Create opportunities for volunteers to be stewards of parks and open space. Examples of stewardship may be pruning of fruit and shade trees, gardening, donating plants or doggy bags, design/build projects such as community gardens, rain gardens and special play spaces (e.g. trails, natural playgrounds public art).

Another opportunity is for citizens to donate funds, perform activities such as gardening or other maintenance like the 'Adopt a Highway' Program.

Opportunities may be facilitated on a section of the Website where citizens see maintenance and capital items needed for parks and open space.

ii. Workshops

Community learning may be possible by hosting workshops with trained professionals (e.g. horticulturists, trail groups, designers, community facilitators, etc.).



Bike Maintenance 101 Workshop