

MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS
RECREATION MASTER PLAN

HIGHLIGHTS – RECREATION MASTER PLAN WORKING PAPER

March 2022



PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

1. Project Status Update
2. Share Insights
 - What We Heard
 - What We Found
3. Introduce Preliminary Strategies
 - Facilities
 - Service Delivery

PURPOSE & SCOPE OF THE RECREATION MASTER PLAN

- Intentional, forward-looking strategy to guide and inform decision making about major recreation and parks assets and the way recreation is provided
- Establishes priorities
- Informed by community and stakeholder insights
- Reflects demographic shifts, industry trends and proven practices

PURPOSE OF THE WORKING PAPER

- Establishes an information baseline of:
 - “What We Found”
 - “What We Heard”
- Identifies implications & considerations

It **is not** the Recreation Master Plan

PROJECT APPROACH



ONE Data & Information Assembly

- Start-up Meeting
- Reports & GIS Data
- Engagement Planning



TWO Analysis

- Community Research
- Planning & Policy Review
- Benefits & Trends
- Inventory & Utilization
- Spatial Distribution
- Service Delivery Review



THREE Engagement

- Site Visits
- Resident Survey
- Stakeholder Group Survey
- Stakeholder Interviews



FOUR Master Plan

- Draft Master Plan
- Final Master Plan



DELIVERABLE: WORKING PAPER



**DELIVERABLE:
MASTER PLAN**

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE MASTER PLAN

- Population growth & growth nodes
 - Shifting and changing demographics
 - Affordability
 - Physical accessibility - AODA
 - Changes in the regional context
-
- Participation & activity trends
 - Volunteer trends
 - Service delivery expectations
 - Asset management practicalities
 - Budget constraints
-
- Resident and user expectations

PARTICIPATION IN ENGAGEMENT

Household Questionnaire

- 284 responses

Stakeholder Discussions

- 34 interviews

User Group Survey

- 21 responses

IMPORTANCE OF PARKS AND RECREATION

- Most residents indicate that **recreation and parks opportunities are important.**
 - More say it is important for overall quality of life and attracting / retaining residents and businesses than for themselves or their household

HOW IMPORTANT ARE PARKS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES TO..

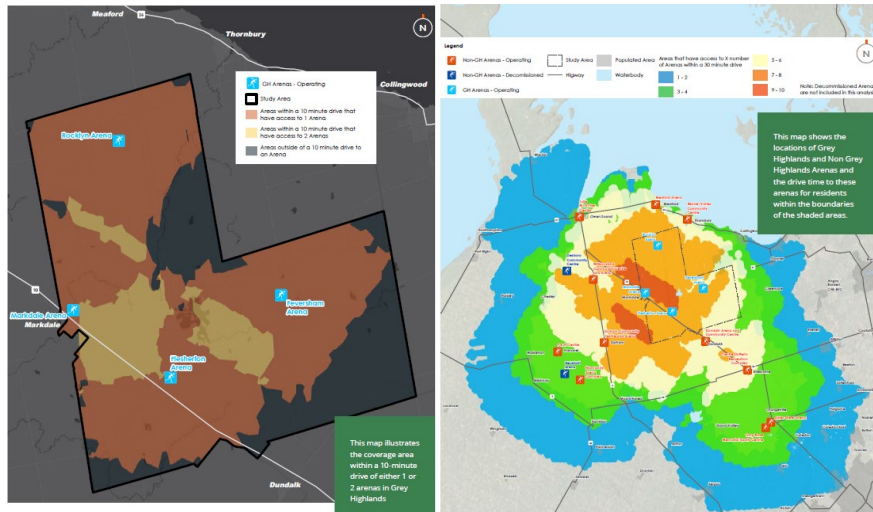
	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Unsure
...quality of life for all residents in Grey Highlands?	82%	17%	1%	0%
...your household's quality of life?	77%	21%	2%	0%
...your household's pursuit of active/healthy living?	73%	25%	3%	1%
...the appeal and attractiveness of Grey Highlands for current and prospective residents?	78%	18%	3%	1%

INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

- Consistent with participation trends – **unstructured, passive and individual indoor activities** are the most popular
- Residents visit municipalities to the North vs. South, West and East to use facilities that are not available in Grey Highlands
- **Relatively low satisfaction** with existing indoor facilities
- **Demand for indoor fitness and wellness space**, particularly for older residents
- **Top 3 Indoor Facilities for Enhancement**
 1. Community halls and social gathering spaces
 2. Arenas
 3. Senior's spaces
- **Top 3 Indoor facilities for Development**
 1. Indoor aquatic facilities
 2. Fitness facilities
 3. Youth spaces

ARENAS

- **Very high provision** relative to current population (1 ice sheet for 2,655 residents compared to a benchmark average of 1:9,599)
- Participation in **ice-based team sports** has been **declining**
- **Utilization has been declining**
- No net new future demand is anticipated (either from population growth or participation growth)
- Overall **primetime utilization** is considered **low** (comparator) **to moderate** (current)
- Significant available prime time capacity and no demand for near/nonprime
- Annual operations require a total levy of \$660,000
- Significant lifecycle and asset management requirements is anticipated



COMMUNITY HALLS

- Important indoor facilities for settlement area and rural service delivery; **hyper-local**
- Spaces are friendly for socializing / gathering space vs. accommodating recreation / sport activities
- Relatively low use (resident survey) and **few cost-effective opportunities to increase utilization**
- Most halls are **not currently accessible**

OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

- Considerably **greater participation** in a full range of **outdoor activities compared to indoor ones**
- Individual, unstructured, non-competitive activities are more popular than team-based activities
- **Outdoor recreation very important to residents** – particularly trail use and access to parks and conservation areas

Top 3 Outdoor Facilities for Enhancement

1. Ball diamonds
2. Skating rinks
3. Playgrounds

Top 3 Outdoor Facilities for Development

1. Indoor Aquatics
2. Splash pad
3. Fitness equipment

SPORTS FIELDS

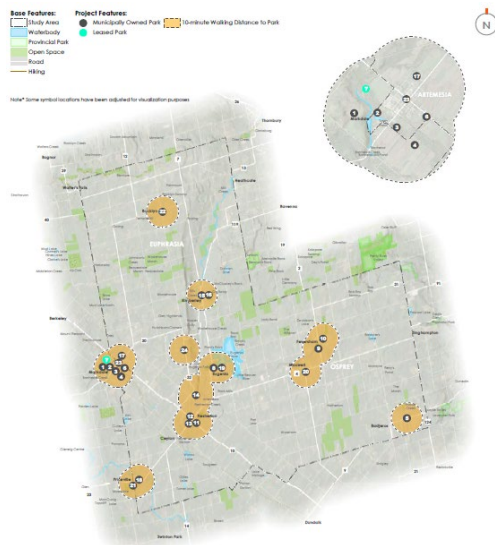
- Organized **youth soccer participation** has **increased** (Markdale)
- Organized **youth ball** participation has **remained stable** (Flesherton)
- Significant community-driven effort and investment of financial resources in asset maintenance
- Coordinated municipality – **school board investment** in fields **has not been pursued** in the past
- Potential redevelopment of underused ball diamonds
- Indications of demand for local access to indoor turf

PLAYGROUNDS

- Provision / supply **seems adequate** for the **settlement areas** (1:1,327)
- **Walkable for most residents** of settlement areas (10 minutes, 800 meters)
- Lifecycle replacement requirements are not currently scheduled
- **Limited diversity** in playground equipment
- Most equipment is **not accessible**
- **Highest spontaneously use outdoor asset** (public survey)

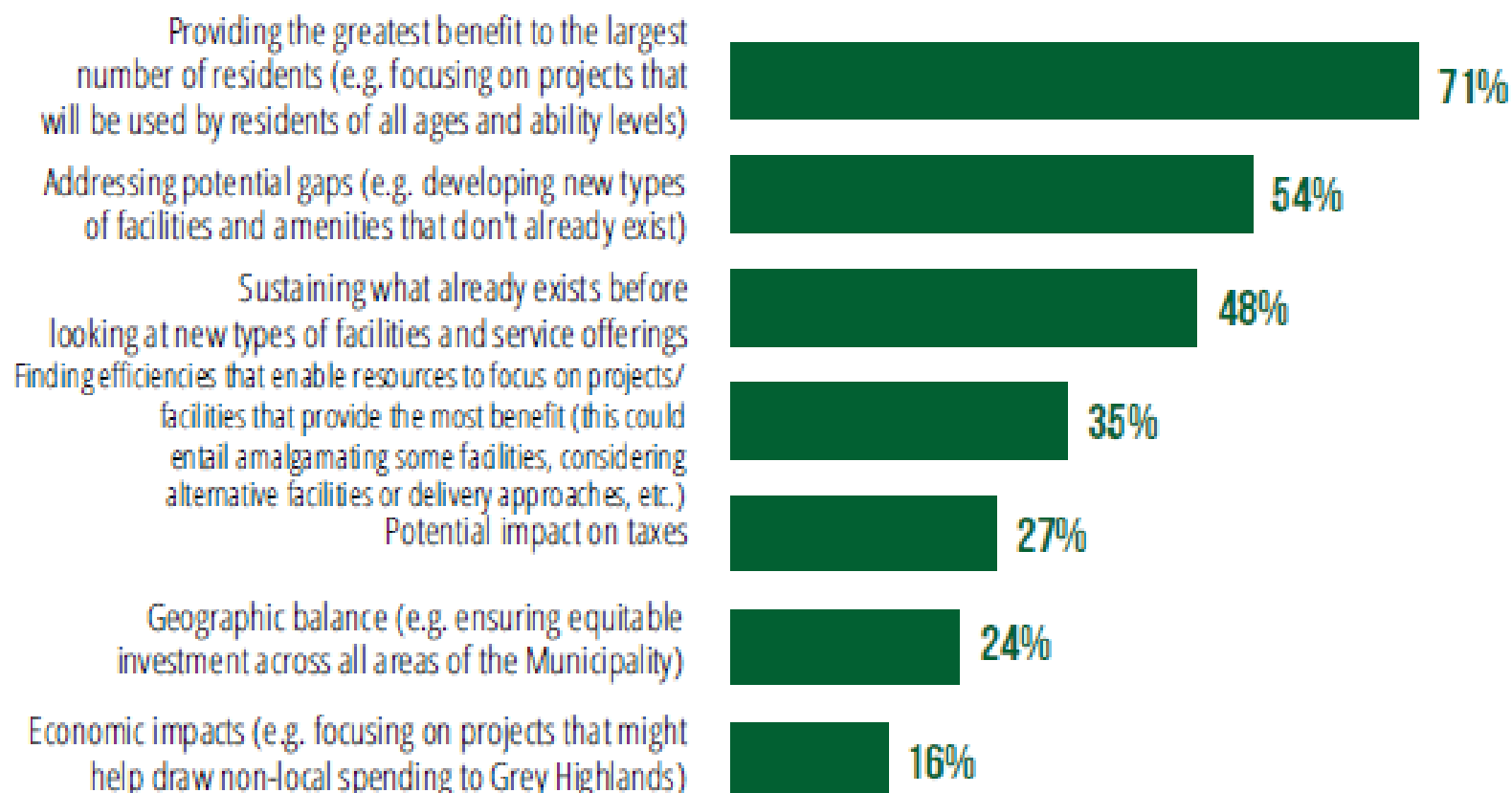
PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION

- Classification System for Parks Planning and Management:
 - Recreation Facility / Active: 15.68 Ha.
 - Community: 8.47 Ha.
 - Neighbourhood: 0 Ha.
 - Parkette: 2.26 Ha.
 - Conservation: 12.23 Ha.
 - Rural: 4.93 Ha.
- The provision level of Municipally owned parkland is 4.34 ha. per 1,000 population (excluding Soccer Complex).
- **A common supply guideline is between 2.0 and 4.0 ha. per 1,000 population.** This suggests that overall, Grey Highlands has enough parkland for its current population.
 - Additional Neighborhood parkland will be required in new subdivisions



PRELIMINARY STRATEGY

KEY FACTORS IN FUTURE PROJECT CONSIDERATION



POSSIBLE BIG MOVES

- A municipal-wide and rural approach to recreation and parks delivery
- A new multi-component Recreation Centre
- Consideration of direct / partner-driven recreation program delivery
- Reducing ice capacity over time redirect budget to future priorities
- Acquisition, development and management of neighbourhood and conservation parks
- A role in managing outdoor recreation spaces

APPROACH TO
SERVICE
DELIVERY

Municipality- Wide (Direct Delivery and Facility Operations)	Rural (Community-Driven & Municipality Supported)
Indoor Ice	Outdoor Ice
Ball Diamonds	Community Halls
Rectangular Fields	Multi-Sport Courts
Indoor Multi-Sport Space	Pavilions
Gymnasia	Community Gardens
Fitness	Playgrounds
Aquatics	

PRELIMINARY SERVICE DELIVERY PRIORITIES

- Service level and organizational requirements, suggested practices, policies, etc.
- User fees; resident/non-resident
- Community grant program / small project guidance
- Volunteer development
- A focus on recreation activities for youth and seniors
- Outdoor recreation priorities – Municipality-wide

NEXT STEPS

- Development of the Recreation Master Plan (draft by early May)
- Present draft to Committee/Council
- Finalize the Recreation Master Plan

THANK YOU!