



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF SMITHS FALLS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING AGENDA

Monday, April 28, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, Town Hall

LINKS TO LIVESTREAM:

Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/townofsmithsfalls/>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIFXU6Sq9neiC5VU9QbmLtQ>

Chairperson: Councillor S Robinson

Land Acknowledgement

On April 28, 2025 we acknowledge that this sacred land on which Smiths Falls is now located has been a site of human activity for over 10,000 years and is rich in Indigenous history. This land is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation. We are grateful to the Algonquin ancestors who cared for the land and water in order that we might meet here today. We are also grateful to the Algonquin People for their contribution in the making of the Rideau Canal which runs thru Smiths Falls. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to reconcile with all our relations. Together, may we care for this land and each other, drawing on the strength of our mutual history of nation building through peace and friendship being mindful of generations to come.

Pages

1. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

2. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at ----PM

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Recommended Motion:

THAT the April 28, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda be approved as circulated.

4. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommended Motion:

The Minutes of the March 24, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved as circulated.

6. DELEGATIONS

- 6.1 Marilyn Bird and Carol Ann Deneka, Board Members 4
Lanark County Community Justice / Repairing Relationships & Building Stronger Communities with Restorative Practices
- 6.2 Megan McIlvenna, Coordinator, Downtown Smiths Falls Business Association 11
Updates to the Russell St. W. Parkette

7. CAO/DIRECTORS VERBAL REPORTS

8. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CONSENT REPORTS

9. IN CAMERA/CLOSED SESSION

- 9.1 Litigation (M Morris)

Recommended Motion:

THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls, as provided in Section 239 (2) (e) of the Municipal Act 2001, as amended move into a closed meeting at XXXX p.m. to discuss a litigation matter.

Recommended Motion:

THAT Council revert back into open session at XXXX p.m.
Rise and Report:

10. PRIORITY ISSUES/REPORTS

- 10.1 Lower Reach Park Redesign, Report 2025-037 (S Clark) 13
- 10.2 Smiths Falls For All Committee Interim Report, April 2025, Report 2025-40 (K Costello) 104
- 10.3 Smiths Falls For All Committee Motion: Request to Declare Food Insecurity an Emergency in the Town of Smiths Falls, Report 2025-041 (K Costello) 129
- 10.4 Twinning with Ukraine (S Pankow) 150

11. COMMITTEE, BOARD AND EXTERNAL ORGANIZATION UPDATES

12. INFORMATION LISTING/CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

13. IN CAMERA/CLOSED SESSION

13.1 Proposed Acquisition/Disposition of Land (K Grenke)

Recommended Motion:

THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls, as provided in Section 239 (2) (c) of the Municipal Act 2001, as amended move into a closed meeting at XXXX p.m. to discuss a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land.

Recommended Motion:

THAT Council revert back into open session at XXXX p.m.

Rise and Report:

14. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

15. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion:

THAT the Committee adjourn its proceedings XXXX p.m. and stand so adjourned until the next duly called Committee meeting.

Presentation to Smiths Falls Council

April 28th, 2025



Repairing Relationships & Building Stronger Communities with Restorative Practices



Our Vision: A community that embraces restorative practices to repair harm, build community and strengthen relationships.

Tamara Derkzen – Board Chair
Marilyn Bird – Board Member

Our Programs

□ Court Diversion

An alternative to the traditional Criminal Justice System.

□ Restorative Parenting / Restorative Families

Support for parents and other family members in connecting, repairing past harms and collaborating with teen children to find new ways forward.

□ Restorative Practices for Educators Training

Workshops teaching restorative practices **in dealing** with conflict in schools.

The Restorative Process

1. Referral from either **Police, the Crown or the Community**
2. **Intake Process / Risk Assessment**
 - Key issues
 - Accountability
 - Identify Participants
 - Agreement
3. Assigned to **Facilitators** – Lead, Co-lead and Observer
4. **Interview the Participants** and prepare for the **forum**

What Happens at a Forum:

Facilitators ask:

- The **Complainant** to describes the Impact on them because of the crime.
- What happened, who was harmed, what were you thinking at the time, what have you thought about since, how can you make things

right?
A **Legally Binding Agreement** is agreed upon, which is supervised and supported. Referrals can be made to other agencies to support accused and victims.

Result: Charges avoided, withdrawn or stayed.

Present:

- Accused+ support
- Complainant+ support
- Facilitators & Observers



Who Benefits?

The Criminal Justice System:

RJ is **Less Expensive** (thousands \$ saved). RJ **Reduces Recidivism:** 30% vs 5%-8%. RJ is a **Community Response** to crime and wrongdoing.

The Accused: **No criminal record;** is not labelled or stigmatized.

They understand the consequences and **accept responsibility.**

Apologizes to the Complainant. **Reconciliation** and forgiveness may result. Avoids legal costs.

The Complainant(s): Have a **voice in the process** and agreement / **traumatization is reduced** / receives **compensation & apology** / reconciliation is possible. Increased feelings of **safety & security.**

Does it Work?

Measure	Justice System	LCCJ RJ Process
Satisfaction with how the case was handled	68%	90%
Would recommend to another complainant	24%	98%
Days to complete	150	82
Recidivism	30%	5%-8%
Cost per case	\$20,000 +	\$2,000

So:

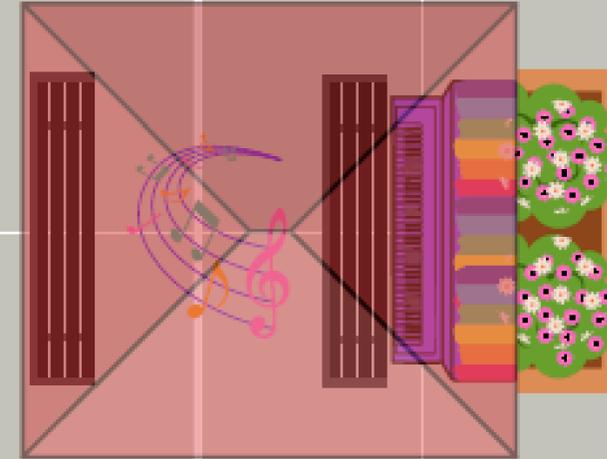
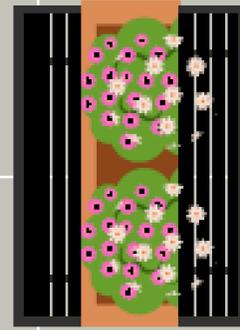
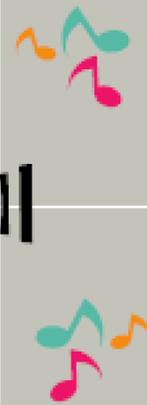
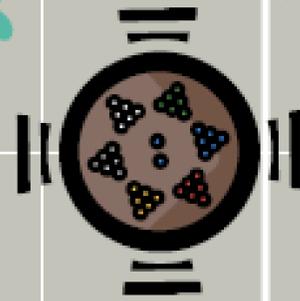
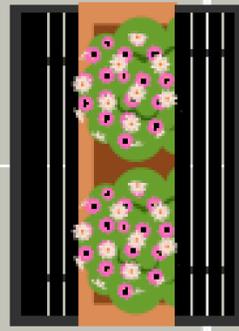
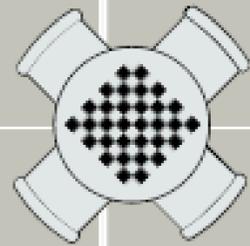
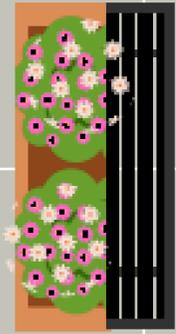
- **Recommendation rate 4 x the justice system,**
- **Half the time,**
- **75% less likely to re-offend,**
- **One tenth of the cost.**

How Can People Help ?

- 1. Become a volunteer facilitator**
- 2. Join our Board of Directors**
- 3. Provide free meeting space for community justice forums**
- 4. Ask for Restorative Justice when harm has occurred in your community**



DSFBA RUSSELL ST. W. PARKETTE



EXPLORE





To: Mayor and Council

From: Stephanie Clark, Director of Community Services

Date: March 24, 2025

Committee of the Whole Date: April 14th, 2025

For Direction

For Information

For Adoption

Attachment 73 pages

Title: Lower Reach Park Redesign

Recommendation: THAT Council receive the report on the Lower Reach Park redesign as presented;

AND THAT Council approve the placement of the primary parking lot and entrance;

AND THAT Council adopt the Lower Reach Park redesign in principle, recognizing that future phases will be subject to budget deliberations and future Council approval.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the finalized concept for the Lower Reach Park redesign and to seek approval for the placement of the primary parking lot and entrance. This report further recommends that Council adopt the overall redesign plan in principle, recognizing it as a long-term vision that will guide future capital investment, phased implementation, and ongoing enhancements. No additional funding is being requested at this time beyond the previously approved capital allocation for the parking lot project.

Background:

Lower Reach Park Reimagining – Summary & Synthesis

Lower Reach Park is a 53-acre waterfront community park in Smiths Falls, originally transformed from a former landfill in the 1970s. It is the Town’s largest park and a key regional asset for both active and passive recreation. The current redesign initiative was launched by the Community Services Department in 2024 to modernize the park, respond to growing community needs, and guide phased capital investment over the long term.

Key Drivers for Redesign

- Aging infrastructure and facilities near or past their useful life.
- Disconnected and inefficient layout due to piecemeal development over decades.
- Increasing demands from sports groups, families, and visitors.
- Safety, accessibility, and environmental challenges (e.g., drainage, vehicle access, shoreline erosion).
- Desire for better year-round functionality and enhanced event capacity.

Public & Stakeholder Engagement Highlights

Engagement efforts included surveys, youth workshops, a public open house, and targeted stakeholder interviews. Over 300 responses were gathered, leading to several strong themes:

Top Priorities Identified by Stakeholders:

- Expanded and modernized sports facilities (tennis, bocce, pickleball, soccer, and baseball).
- Improved parking, lighting, and circulation (especially around Old Slys Road).
- Centralized, accessible storage and washrooms.
- Enhanced pedestrian and cycling safety.
- Inclusive playgrounds and updated splashpad features.
- Dedicated event spaces, performance stages, and shaded seating.
- Environmental features like naturalized shorelines, improved drainage, and increased tree planting.

Design Vision & Recommendations

The revised concept plan offers a phased, multi-decade approach that balances recreational needs, environmental sustainability, and operational practicality:

Core Recommendations:

- **Improved circulation and connectivity:** Paved primary and secondary pathway systems, upgraded pedestrian crossover on Old Slys Road, and widened trails for accessibility and event use.
- **Infrastructure upgrades:** New lighting, power distribution, barrier curbs, and properly constructed parking lots (centralized and decentralized).
- **Reconfigured sports zones:** Full-size soccer and football fields, relocated and upgraded ball diamonds, new pickleball and bocce courts.
- **New and relocated amenities:** Splashpad, inclusive playgrounds, a flexible performance stage, activity plaza, and a swimming beach (pending feasibility).
- **Expanded parking strategy:** Five distinct parking zones designed to balance peak demand with year-round use, offering over 400 total stalls.
- **Gleeson Dog Park relocation:** Improved fencing, shade, water access, and dedicated parking.
- **Environmental enhancements:** Naturalized shoreline, low-impact design features, permeable surfaces, and enhanced landscaping.

Design Philosophy

The plan maintains a "living document" philosophy, intended to guide immediate safety improvements and long-term revitalization. It prioritizes universal accessibility, multi-generational programming, operational efficiency, and community stewardship. It also emphasizes adaptability to emerging recreation trends and budget realities.

The Lower Reach Park Reimagining process reflects a thoughtful blend of technical analysis, public input, and creative design. It establishes a shared vision for the future of Smiths Falls' most prominent park — one that strengthens its identity as a recreation destination, regional hub, and cherished gathering space for decades to come.

Analysis and Options:

The redesign of Lower Reach Park represents the culmination of extensive community and stakeholder engagement, site analysis, and long-term planning led by the Community Services Department. The concept plan establishes a multi-phase vision for revitalizing the Town's most significant waterfront park, addressing current infrastructure deficiencies, improving public safety and accessibility, and supporting increased community use across a wide range of ages and interests.

The placement of the primary parking lot and entrance is a critical foundational element of the overall plan. Its approval at this stage will support the timely implementation of an already approved capital project and ensure consistency with the broader redesign vision. The location was selected based on accessibility, traffic safety, event capacity, and proximity to key amenities, including the Kinsmen Pavilion and sports facilities.

While several future phases of the redesign are envisioned—including upgraded play areas, pathway systems, waterfront enhancements, and active recreation zones—these will be brought forward individually for Council consideration as part of future budget deliberations and capital planning processes. Adopting the plan in principle allows staff to align operational decisions, grant applications, and project development with a consistent long-term vision.

Options Available to Council:

1. Approve the report and recommendations as presented (**recommended**).
2. Approve the report but defer adoption of the redesign in principle.
3. Receive the report for information only and provide alternative direction to staff.

Budget/Financial Implications:

There are no new financial commitments in 2025 associated with this report beyond the previously approved capital budget allocation for the primary parking lot project.

Future phases of the Lower Reach Park redesign will be subject to available funding and will be brought forward through the Town's capital budget process. Staff will also continue to explore and pursue external funding opportunities, including provincial and federal grant programs, to support the implementation of future elements of the redesign.

Link to Strategic Plan:

This initiative aligns with the Strategic Plan in the following ways:

Vision Statement 3 - Creating a healthy community with "Quality of Life" services for residents.

Strategic Priority: Parks, Trails & Recreation:

Goal: To enhance quality of life and provide diverse recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. And;

Strategic Priority: Waterfront & Downtown

Goal: Enhance the waterfront experience for residents and visitors by developing places that attract people.

Strategic Initiative 6.3 - Operationalizing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to identify investments.

Existing Policy: Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Consultations: FOTENN Planning and Design led public consultations:

- Stakeholder Interview and Targeted Consultation (ie Parks Canada, Curling & Squash Club, Dog Park Users, Pickleball and Bocce groups, Minor Baseball, Minor Soccer, Accessibility Advisory Committee members, REAL)
- Online Public Engagement Survey (316 responses)
- Youth Workshops (SFDCI)
- Public Open House
- Community Services staff

Attachments: FOTENN Planning and Design "Reimagining the Reach"

Respectfully Submitted by:

Approved for agenda by CAO:

Stephanie Clark,
Director of Community Services

Malcolm Morris, CMO



CONTEXT PLAN



DO NOT SCALE DRAWINGS

LEGEND

- 1** 30m REGULATORY SETBACK FROM WATER LINE
- 2** IMPROVED PATHWAY
Pathway network to extend to connect with Beckwith Street. Maintains and augments the general circulation patterns through the park. A hierarchy of pathways and trails through the park should be developed to consider type, expected volume of use, lighting requirements, winter maintenance and/or possible x-country skiing. Improvements to the pathway loop to include new benches, and increased tree planting to enhance safety, comfort, and accessibility.
- 3** NEW SIDEWALK WITH BARRIER CURBS
Will prevent cars from accessing the park interior and causing damage and relegate vehicles to park on the street. The addition of sidewalks along all the street frontages should be considered when/if they are undergoing infrastructure renewals/replacements. Street parking should only be considered on River St., Riverdale Ave., Ryan St., Frost St., and Vincent St.
- 4** NATURALIZED SHORELINE
With multiple mown accesses to the water's edge.
- 5** NEW PIER
Reserved for small vessel (car-top) launching and fishing. Potential in this location for privately operated canoe, kayak, SUP rentals (dashed line).
- 6** EXISTING TENNIS COURTS
These courts are properly oriented (N-S), in decent condition, and will require only minor lifecycle improvements (surfacing, lighting, a new gate).
- 7** RELOCATED & EXPANDED BOCCIE COURTS
Expanded to accommodate Special Olympics tournaments.
- 8** NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS (4)
Fenced, paved with acrylic surfacing. A practice wall on the south end could help to attenuate sound.
- 9** NEW PARKING AREA
Accommodating approximately 35 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs, and maintenance access gate. This lot is proposed to have more than the required minimum of barrier-free stalls to accommodate Special Olympics practices at the adjacent bocce court(s). This parking lot is not expected to be winter maintained.
- 10** NEW CLUBHOUSE
3-season building, storage of gear, information kiosk for league play, accessible washroom.
- 11** EXISTING FITNESS AREA
Could remain and be replaced, subject to demand.
- 12** EXISTING BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT
Could remain subject to demand.
- 13** ADDITIONAL/RELOCATED BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT
- 14** RELOCATED U5 SOCCER PITCH (2)
25m x 18m.
- 15** IMPROVED FULL SIZE SOCCER PITCH (About Field)
To FIFA standard dimensions 100m x 60m, with upgraded lighting to IES Standards. Could also be expanded to a CFL-sized football field as demand arises.
- 16** NEW U10-U11 SOCCER PITCH
40m x 30m.
- 17** NEW U-13 SOCCER PITCH
71m x 42m.
- 18** EXISTING/EXPANDED BASKETBALL COURT
- 19** MAINTAIN EXISTING ENTRY
The gated entry should remain restrictive to vehicles, but consider using the basketball courts as occasional, temporary parking during large events.
- 20** NEW BASEBALL DIAMOND
The re-located and expanded Madden Diamond with a 225-250ft. centre field, lighting, clay-based base paths, grass infield and movable pitcher's mound to accommodate a range of age groups.
- 21** NEW CENTRALIZED PARKING
A large, centrally-located lot for approximately 120 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance access gates. The laneway and only a portion of the lot would be winter-maintained to accommodate year-round access to the Kinsmen Pavillion.
- 22** STAGING AREA
- 23** NEW OPERATIONS CENTRE
The existing building could be upgraded to provide secure tool and equipment storage. A secured exterior space (with adequate visual screening) could provide additional space for temporary storage of materials.
- 24** EXISTING KINSMEN PAVILLION
Pedestrian entrances upgraded for accessibility and ease of maintenance.
- 25** SPLASHPAD
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 26** JUNIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 27** SENIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 28** PLAZA AREA
A flexible space that could be programmed as a teen/adult lawn games area (cornhole, ping pong, chess tables etc.) with jet water features that could be turned off during events for expanded events area.
- 29** NEW SWIMMING BEACH
Refurbished swimming piers, lifeguard station, permanent umbrellas and Muskoka chairs.
- 30** PASSIVE AREA
Moveable picnic tables for small-to-large group gatherings near the water's edge. Consider adding BBOs here as well.
- 31** NEW PERFORMANCE STAGE
Could be designed to also accommodate group picnics when not in use.
- 32** WIDENED PATHWAY
Will allow for farmer's stalls, parking for classic car shows, access for event set-up deliveries.
- 33** PASSIVE SPACE BENEATH EXISTING MATURE TREES
Can function as a picnic area and transform into a shaded, spectator zone for live performances.
- 34** POSSIBLE ALL WHEEL FACILITY
An all-wheels facility or other facility as deemed appropriate.
- 35** EXISTING GRAVEL PARKING LOT
The gravel parking lot would remain with a relocated entrance and extents. It could eventually be transformed into a landscaped green space as parking capacity in the park expands. Sod and new tree plantings to enhance the park's natural environment, improve water quality, stormwater management. This area can accommodate expanded festival area or community events.
- 36** RELOCATED KIWANIS U-13 SOCCER PITCH
71m x 42m, with upgraded lighting to IES Standards.
- 37** NEW VEHICULAR ENTRANCE TO CIVITAN BLOCK
- 38** NEW VEHICLE ENTRANCE UPGRADES and NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSS-OVER
Will improve safety and provide a more fluid connection, requires further coordination with squash and curling club.
- 39** NEW PARKING AREA
Approximately 90 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance gate. An opportunity to increase seasonal off-peak parking for the Civitan diamonds and the Smiths Falls Curling and Squash Club. Subject to further discussion.
- 40** RE-LOCATED GLEESON DOG PARK
Similar capacity to existing facility. Fenced with controlled access, small & large breed zones, shade tree planting and furnishings. A high mast net (illustrated by the dashed line) would separate the dog park from the baseball diamond.
- 41** RE-LOCATED SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 230ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers. Space could be accommodated in this area for a potential future bullpen and batting cage.
- 42** RE-LOCATED EXPANDED BASEBALL/SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 290ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers.
- 43** CENTRALIZED GATHERING AREA
A possible shade shelter and furnishings with a water bottle filling station with water fountain and pet water bowl.
- 44** ACCESS TO Jasper Ave. CLOSED
Gated access for maintenance vehicles only, to allow for diamond expansion.
- 45** NATURALIZED SHORE
To be coordinated with Parks Canada to add ecological benefits and enhance views from the water.

Design Brief

Reimagine the Reach

A Renewed Vision for Lower Reach Park
Smiths Falls
April 2025

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Prepared for the Town of Smiths Falls

Prepared by Fotenn Planning + Design
420 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 1W4

April 2025

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Reimagine the Reach

A Renewed Vision for Lower Reach Park Design Brief

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

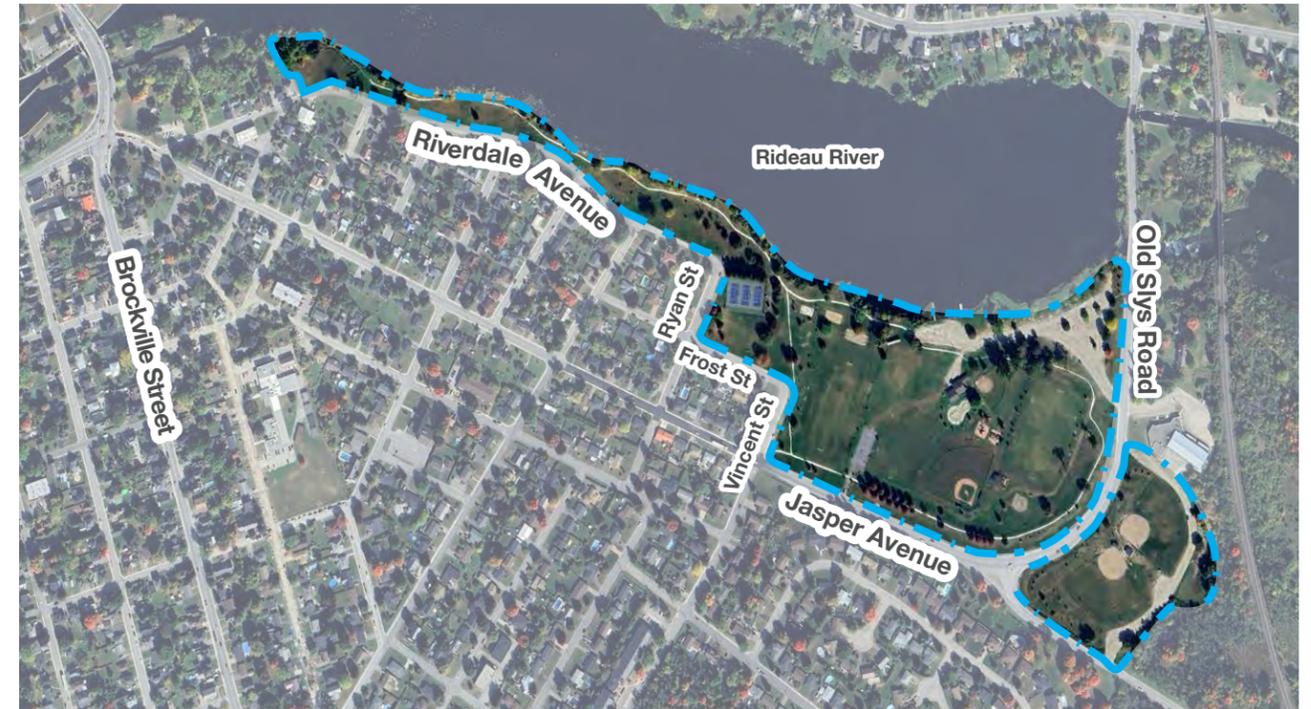
In 2024 the Town of Smiths Falls Community Services Department initiated a comprehensive re-design study for Lower Reach Park, a vital community asset along the Rideau River and Rideau Canal. At over 21-hectares (53-acres) in size, Lower Reach is the Town’s primary sports park, but it also offers a diversity of passive amenities and is the longest stretch of publicly-accessible waterfront under the Town’s custody. Lower Reach Park began its transformation from a former landfill site in the late 1970’s. A Master Plan was developed at that time, along with recommendations for a 6-phase implementation strategy. Only a few recommendations of that Master Plan were ever realized and the park continued to evolve haphazardly over the decades in response to needs of the day and the capital funding that was available at the time. To better serve the new and changing recreational needs of the residents of Smiths Falls, surrounding communities and visitors, an updated Master Plan is a critical first step in prioritizing these needs and ensuring a fiscally prudent, phased strategy for both small improvements and major changes over time.

1.2 Scope of Work

As it has been nearly 50 years since the original Master Plan was drafted, this study was an opportunity to consider why and how it changed as it did over the years and to contemplate what the future should hold for Lower Reach Park.

While this document offers a snapshot of the needs and desires of residents of Smiths Falls in 2025, it is intended to be a “living”, flexible plan so that unforeseen recreation trends that may emerge can be accommodated within the park without sacrificing other well-used amenities.

This document is intended to be a tool for current and future Staff and Councils to help guide decisions about capital investments and improve year-round management and operations in the park on a daily-basis and during large gatherings and special events. The true value of this document will only be realized if it is consulted on an annual basis and used for long-range capital and operational budget planning.



Lower Reach Park Study Area

1.3 Study Area

Lower Reach Park is the Town of Smiths Falls’ largest municipal park. The main area of the park is bound by collector road Jasper Avenue to the south and the Rideau River / Canal to the north. Local roads Vincent, Frost and Ryan Streets contain what this Brief will describe as the “core” area of the park to the west, while Old Slys Road, also a collector, bounds it to the east.

What are known as Civitan Park and Gleeson Dog Park are located on the opposite (east) side of Old Slys Road. Due to proximity and complimentary recreational programming, these lands were included in the subject area. There is a long and narrow piece of Lower Reach that stretches west from the active, central portion of the park, bound by Riverdale Avenue to the south and the River and Canal to the north. While the relatively narrow depth of this portion of Lower Reach offers little opportunity for active recreation facilities, it is a valuable pedestrian link to the downtown area and Victoria Park to the east and includes a section of the Rideau Trail and the Smiths Falls Heritage Trail. While not graphically represented in all the illustrations in this report, it is very much recognized as an asset and considered within the scope of this study.

1.4 Study Methodology

At the outset of this study, Town Staff had already identified key priority considerations for examination. Pedestrian accessibility and circulation, the outdoor performance space, vehicular traffic flow, parking facilities, and current sports infrastructure were part of the initial list. As was the intent of this study, the Project Team uncovered a host of additional challenges and opportunities which informed the reimagining of Lower Reach Park. The process and methodology are described below in general, chronological order.



1.4.1 Analysis

This initial stage of the project involved assessing the site's characteristics - its physical limitations and its assets. Numerous site reviews were conducted by the Project Team at various times of day and observations about usage patterns were documented. Evident operational and maintenance challenges were also assessed.

Physical characteristics of the site such as current programming, topography, vegetation, access, circulation and views were also assessed and documented.

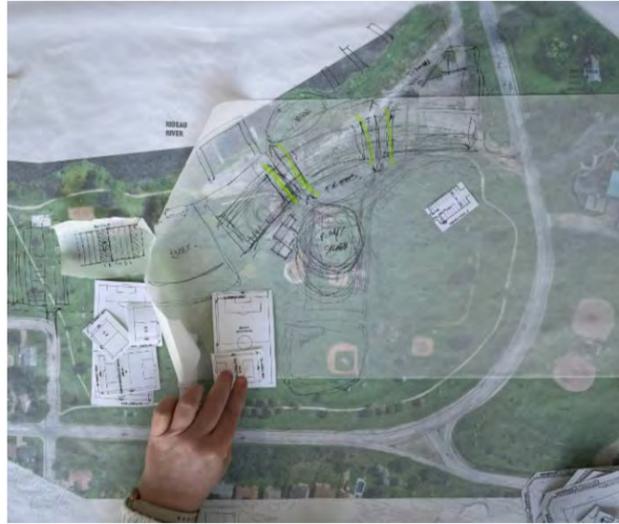
Information on the existing utility and services infrastructure was collected and analyzed at a high-level. The scope of this study did not permit a detailed assessment of condition or capacity of this infrastructure.



1.4.2 Engagement

A thorough stakeholder and public engagement strategy permitted the Project Team to have a meaningful dialogue and appreciate what residents of Smiths Falls value most in Lower Reach Park. It also helped inform an understanding of what residents would like to see changed, and how those changes might generally be prioritized.





1.4.3 Synthesis

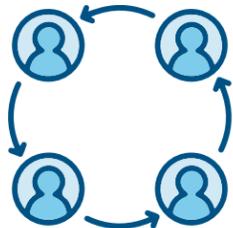
A series of preliminary Concept sketches were explored through numerous meetings and discussions with Town staff, regulatory representatives, and key stakeholders. These discussions together with the public engagement activities allowed the Project Team to appropriately “braid” the expressed needs and desires of the community with the opportunities and constraints afforded by the physical site.

1.4.4 Design

The evolution of the concept sketches and the input from the community and Town staff is represented in the finalized Lower Reach Park Reimagined Concept Plan. It sets forth a long-range, flexible plan to guide seasonal management, small improvements and major renovations in the park over the decades to come.

1.4.5 Budget

An overall capital improvement budget was prepared with a high-level phased implementation plan that prioritizes immediate safety and infrastructure upgrades and the mostly commonly expressed community needs.



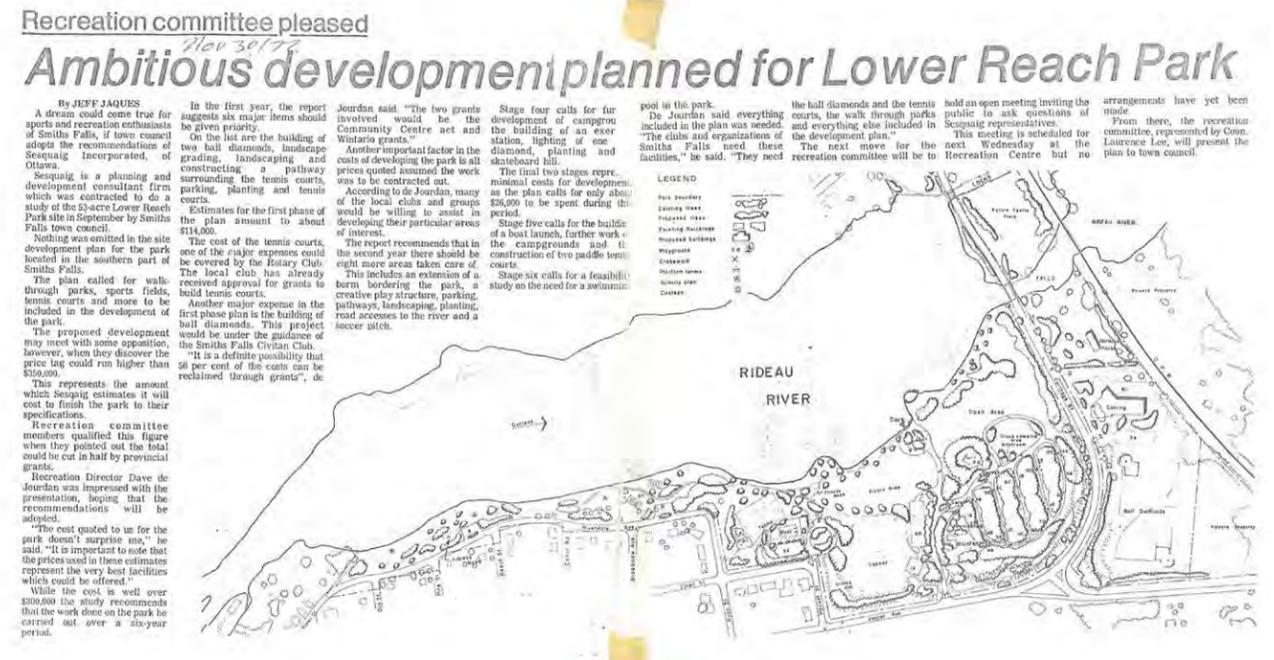
2.0 Site Analysis

2.1 Historical Land Use

Before becoming the park that visitors will experience today, Lower Reach was a landfill site. In 1971 the Town, realizing the potential for the site as a public park, commissioned a Master Plan. Due to a lack of public input and funding, this plan was not seriously considered until a few years later.

Following the opening of the adjacent Curling Club in 1976 and the decommissioning of the landfill operations, interest in the creation of a waterfront park was re-invigorated and local service organizations (Civitan, Rotary and Kinsmen), the Smiths Falls Fastball Association, the Smiths Falls Tennis Club and a Recreation Committee, advocated for public and political support. The Town engaged design firm Sesquaiq International in the spring of 1977 to validate the recreational needs of Smiths Falls through public surveys. Following this data collection, the firm prepared a Park Master Plan and sought feedback at a public open house in October of that year.

Beginning with the construction of the tennis courts, the park developed and evolved over the years in response to community-based advocacy, changing recreational needs, political support and available funding and grant opportunities of the day. In comparing what was proposed in the 1977 Master Plan to what exists today, several notable amenities were never fully realized, including a swimming pool, “platform” tennis (comparably known today as pickleball), and a large campground with individual and group campsites. While not arranged exactly as originally contemplated, there remain commonalities between the 1977 Master Plan, the current park layout and this proposed Re-Imagined Lower Reach Park Concept Plan. It is evident that active recreation and organized sport have always been prioritized in the evolution of Lower Reach Park.



2.2 The Physical Site

Next to the long list of programming elements that a park of this scale can accommodate, likely the most appreciated asset of Lower Reach Park is the over 1-kilometer of publicly accessible waterfront along the historical Rideau Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Most of the shoreline and littoral zone are naturalized to approximately 3.5-6m back from the controlled waterline. Occasional mown paths promote controlled pedestrian access to the water's edge while two finger docks offer more formalized opportunity access, fishing and launching small watercraft.



The composition of trees throughout the rest of the park is primarily deciduous and includes both planted and trees that were present before the development of the park. Species mostly include Maple, Oak, Poplar, and Elm, and a few scattered Willow, Honeylocust, and Linden specimens. Planted coniferous species are mostly Spruce and there are some naturally occurring Fir and Pine specimens along the shoreline. Some deciduous trees are declining in health, dead, or storm-damaged but there is evidence of a tree planting program with a clear focus to create shade conditions where visitors tend to congregate. Except for the shoreline, all trees are maintained within a manicured turfgrass condition.

The topographical elevation within the park differs only 1.25m from highest to lowest. Over a site this vast, this grade differential makes the park appear relatively flat. This offers passive surveillance opportunities and ease in providing universally accessible slopes. The minimal topographical change, however, can present drainage challenges, particularly in the rainy seasons.

Despite the naturalized shoreline and generally flat topography, open views of the water to the north can be found from almost anywhere in Lower Reach Park. On every visit, the Project Team witnessed visitors arriving by car and parking near the river to enjoy a coffee while taking in the view.

The non-irrigated turfgrass throughout the passive areas and sports fields is generally in good condition. Staff and user groups have articulated maintenance challenges related to drainage and over-use following storms and during summer drought, vehicle damage and the sheer area to keep regularly mown.

Like many public parks of this size that develop and evolve over several decades, the organization and distribution of features and facilities in Lower Reach are somewhat disjointed. A reconsideration of the 1977 Master Plan each time a new facility was added might have helped to address the lack of connectivity between complimentary uses, the inefficient layout, and maintenance challenges experienced in the park today.

2.3 Current Programming and Existing Features

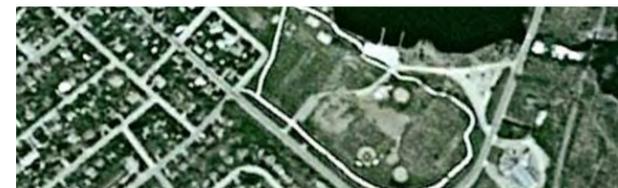
2.3.1 Access and Parking

Until the mid-1990's a road through the core part of the park existed, linking Jasper Avenue to Old Slys Road but it was decommissioned due to safety concerns with vehicles speeding and short-cutting through the park. Currently only one designated vehicular entrance to the core area exists along the east boundary, as a gravel entrance drive T-aligned with the shared entrance to the Smiths Falls Curling and Squash Club / Heritage House Museum on the east side of Old Slys Road.

The south-western portion of the park including the Civitan softball diamonds and the Gleeson Dog Park, has in-and-out gravel entrances from Old Slys and Regional Road 17 (Jasper).

The park frontage along all local road rights-of-way is a gravel shoulder condition and along Jasper Avenue and Old Slys Road there is a gravel shoulder with a (minor) road-side swale that is manicured turfgrass. The lack of barrier curbs, sidewalks or bollards along all road frontages permits un-restricted vehicle access and parking along all street edges of the park, resulting in safety concerns and regular damage to softscape areas within.

The access roads to both sides of the park are gravel and based on the rutted surface conditions, likely not properly constructed to accommodate year-round vehicle access and winter maintenance. The parking zones in both parcels of the park are also gravel, with no definition or organizing elements to ensure safe vehicular flow or efficient parking. There are some remnant wood bollards that are ineffective in restricting vehicles from entering any and all areas of the park. Visitors to Gleeson Dog Park and the Civitan Softball Diamonds are forced to park on the gravel road along the outfield fences.



As Staff and Stakeholders had confirmed through on-going discussions, Lower Reach Park is severely under-served in its parking capacity. Based on the programmed facility offering in the park currently, a reasonable estimate of parking capacity during peak summer use is 690 spaces. This assumes all facilities are in-use at the same time and considers the turnover between league games as well as the added spectators typically experienced with youth leagues. A rough estimate of parking capacity on the interior gravel surfaces within the park and the un-marked parallel spaces along the adjacent local (only) streets totals 240 stalls, representing a shortfall of more than 450 stalls.

The extreme shortage of adequate parking facilities at Lower Reach Park often leaves visitors inclined to drive over the gravel shoulder and park along the perimeters or well within the park. This creates a dangerous scenario for vehicles and cyclists travelling along Old Slys Road and Jasper Avenue and a safety risk to visitors inside the park boundaries. The aforementioned turfgrass damage becomes an operational burden and the health and vitality of park trees is seriously compromised as many drivers try to park their vehicles within the critical root zones of mature shade trees.

2.3.2 Pathways

Under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), the Design of Public Spaces Standard (DOPS) focusses on removing barriers in public spaces that would otherwise fall under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Building Code. DOPS mandates accessibility for exterior spaces to ensure inclusiveness for everyone. The project team has identified that there are currently no pathways or trails within Lower Reach Park that would meet this Standard.

A gravel trail encircles the main part of the park and extends west along the River towards Beckwith Street, downtown and Victoria Park beyond. The west extension between the River and adjacent rear residential lots, is narrow, overgrown with vegetation and the surface has become muddy and seasonally wet. Despite this, it is highly used by able-bodied pedestrians and cyclists.

To the east, there is currently no designated pedestrian crossing to safely link the Civitan Softball Diamonds and Gleeson Dog Park to the core of Lower Reach Park. This has long been identified as a safety concern given the volume and speed of vehicular traffic on Old Slys Road.

The primary loop in the central portion of Lower Reach Park is incredibly well-used. The Project Team witnessed all-ages using this trail; walking (and dog walking), jogging and cycling at each visit to the park. The surface of the trail is a fine granular material (a variety of limestone screenings and white crusher fines). Except for the western-most extension previously described, the trail is compact and stable, but the edges have been overtaken by the adjacent turfgrass, narrowing the passable width to as little as 0.6m in some areas. The trail is mostly constructed with longitudinal slopes that are within acceptable tolerances for universal accessibility, with only a few localized lengths of trail that exceed 5% slope.

There are only 2 points of pedestrian entry to the Park where visitors do not have to traverse turfgrass to access the interior trail system; at the corner of Vincent Street and Jasper Avenue and at the northernmost tip of the park at a newly extended sidewalk terminus along the west side of Old Slys Road.



2.3.3 Community Pavilion

The Kinsmen Community Pavilion opened in 2012 and was realized through a partnership with the Town of Smiths Falls and the Smiths Falls Kinsmen Club. The all-season building includes washrooms, rental hall space, commercial kitchen, an attached picnic shelter and a canteen that is operated by volunteers during summer evenings and weekends. There are no AODA compliant paths of travel or parking to service this building.

The Pavilion has become a popular gathering place and important landmark at Lower Reach Park.



2.3.4 Sports Fields and Courts

Sports facilities in the park have been developed incrementally over the years to accommodate evolving recreational trends and community demands. The town's primary active park serves as a hub for practices, games, and tournaments across various sports. However, many popular sports clubs are now facing challenges, as the existing facilities fail to fully meet their growing needs.

For instance, the soccer and baseball clubs continue to experience increasing popularity but are unable to host tournaments for older age groups due to the limited size of their fields.

The organic, piecemeal development of the park has resulted in a scattered layout of facilities. This inefficient use of space has contributed to issues such as wasted areas and insufficient parking capacity, which fails to meet current demand.



Tennis Courts

Three tennis courts are properly oriented (N-S), in decent condition, and will require only minor lifecycle improvements. Six pickleball courts could be accommodated on the courts.



Bocce Courts

Three bocce courts serve the Special Olympics group. Maintenance of the courts and topdressing remains an issue for the group.



Basketball Courts
One NBA size and modified half court.



Beach Volleyball
One court with grading issues.



Softball Diamonds
Two diamonds that serve the adult recreation league (250ft center field).



Baseball Diamonds
Two diamonds, Friendship (110ft center field) and Madden (200ft center field).



Soccer Fields
Two Frost Fields (32x25m each), Aboud Field (100x60m), McMullen 1 Field (80x54m), McMullen 2 Field (50x32m), Kiwanis (100x54m). Mini and Super Mini fields are also set up on all but the Frost fields.



2.3.5 Playground

Two play areas near the Kinsmen Pavilion and the splashpad are reaching the end of their usable lifecycle. Since site analysis visits by the Project Team concluded, one of the two playstructures was replaced with a double-bay, steel-frame swing set. Elsewhere in the park, there are remnant pieces of older play equipment (estimated to be over 40 years old, swings at the Civitan Diamonds, a metal climber near the fitness park) that do not appear to be receiving regular use and there is no safety surfacing. There are no AODA compliant paths of travel to any of the playground areas and the safety surfacing did not appear to be adequate for safety or accessibility. Play equipment was not reviewed for safety or CSA or Annex H Compliance. The complement of equipment is of an age to confidently conclude that it would not meet any modern-day standard for inclusive play



2.3.6 Splashpad

The splashpad centrally located near the Kinsmen Pavilion is a popular draw for young families, many of which were observed to arrive by car and spend many hours at the park. There is evidence of structural failure of the concrete surfacing and Staff have reported continual operational issues with the mechanical and water feature components



2.3.7 Fitness Equipment

A suite of fitness equipment was added to Lower Reach Park within the last decade. The dynamic equipment, complete with pictorial instructions, offers a wide range of strengthening, balancing and flexibility exercises where users can move through a circuit-style workout. All equipment is mounted on a concrete pad which is “floating” in a turfgrass area with no connecting pathway.

As most of the equipment operates with moveable components, the exposure to the elements renders many pieces inoperable. The project team did not witness any park visitors using the Fitness Zone during any visits, and anecdotal feedback during engagement confirmed that it is a seldom-used, unpopular amenity. The equipment was not evaluated for its degree of inclusivity



2.3.8 Off-leash Dog Park

An off-leash dog park, Gleeson Dog Park, was established several years ago along the eastern boundary of the Civitan Softball Diamonds, between the outfield of Diamond #2 and the adjacent rail corridor. This is a frequently, well-used asset for residents and their canine friends. The Project Team observed social many interactions between both canine and human.

The park is securely fenced with both small and large-breed zones. It is well provisioned with mature trees for shade comfort, seating, signage and solar “morality” lighting. There have been complaints about the toxicity of fruit that falls from the mature trees within the Park. Based on the condition of turfgrass within each of the zones, the size of the park appears to be appropriate to the volume of users.

Due to the proximity to the outfield fence of Diamond #2, there are continual incidents of home run balls sailing into the fenced-in areas, presenting a safety hazard to visitors and dogs. The challenges of convenient parking and winter maintenance are similar to the rest of Lower Reach Park



2.3.9 Docks

There are two floating piers that extend approximately 12 and 18 meters into the river. These appear to always be in use by people fishing, operating remote-controlled boats, launching or arriving by canoe/ kayak, taking photographs or simply taking in the long views down the river. These docks remain in place year round



2.3.10 Performance Stage

A freight trailer has been adapted into a performance stage located near and oriented toward Aboud Field. The stage has an electrical supply and is accessible by stairs. It is being removed due to safety concerns and the community wishes to see it replaced.



2.3.11 Site Furnishings

There is no consistent aesthetic in site furnishings in Lower Reach Park and seating is found mostly in the central core of the park. Numerous, movable wood picnic tables and fixed benches are clustered near points of interest like the playground, splashpad, waterfront and beneath mature trees. None of the tables or benches observed would meet the criteria for inclusivity and are mostly located “floating” in turfgrass areas, inaccessible to those with mobility challenges.

Some of the fields and diamonds have spectator bleachers that need repair or replacement. There is no separated waste containers offered in the park, but there is a healthy distribution of moveable industrial drum liners located throughout.

The recent corporate identity re-branding of the Town has been included in identification and interpretive signage updates throughout. A seemingly well-utilized community notice board greets visitors arriving by car at the Old Slys entrance.



2.3.12 Park Utility Buildings

There were two small utility buildings near the Civitan Softball Diamonds, one of which was in disrepair and demolished prior to the conclusion of the site analysis exercise. Portable privies are included at the Civitan Diamonds on a seasonal basis.

In the core park zone there is a 500 sq.ft. (approx.) maintenance shed that staff have advised is in need of repair and replacement. A space adjacent to this building is used for exterior storage of landscaping materials (soil, infield mix, etc.).



There is a shipping container placed near the bocce courts for storage of equipment. Some of the softball and baseball diamonds have small steel storage boxes for bases.

There is an obvious and requested need for additional, conveniently located storage for league sports equipment (nets, field chalk/paint, bases, rakes, practice equipment, etc.).

2.3.8 Special Events

Classic Car Show

Paddlefest

Canada Day Funrun

Canada Day Fireworks

Old Home Week

Concerts

Family Fun Days

Fun Runs

School Sports Days

Sports Tournaments

*Summer Camp Programs
(new – 2025)*



3.0 Infrastructure and Utilities

No detailed or exploratory investigations of existing infrastructure was undertaken as part of this study. This is a cursory overview only, informed by basic data made available by the Town of Smiths Falls and observations of the Project Team during site visits. Especially due to the park being on a nationally registered former landfill site, more thorough investigations are recommended prior to initiating design work for future improvements or renovations.

3.1 Electrical Services

There are 4 existing electrical service locations within the park, one of which services the Civitan Softball Diamonds. The ground-mounted cabinet near the intersection of Jasper Avenue and Vincent Street is serviced by underground connections, while the others are overhead lines on direct-buried wood poles. The services were reviewed by the Project Team and found to be deteriorated, and the pole-mounted distribution cabinets were noted to be unsafe.

The courts, sports fields and diamonds that are illuminated are aged with outdated, energy inefficient fixtures. No photometric data was collected to properly assess the light distribution, illumination levels, glare or light trespass.

There is no pathway lighting in the park and only sentry fixtures on the Kinsmen Pavilion and a few “cobra-head” fixtures along the entrance driveway offer any lighting beyond the sports amenities. The Town has experimented, with reported success, with a few commercial-grade photovoltaic pedestrian light standards in Gleeson Dog Park.

Refer to Appendix C for more detailed information on the electrical and lighting infrastructure.

3.2 Sanitary Sewer

Town-provided data indicates that a 600mm diameter sanitary sewer runs through the park in an east-west direction, crossing Old Slys Road and running through the Heritage House Museum property.

3.3 Storm Sewer

According to records provided there are at least three storm sewers that drain south-to-north, through the park and outlet to the Rideau River/Canal.

3.4 Water Supply

Drawings provided by the Town indicate that a 4” diameter water supply runs through Lower Reach Park, with valves located at Frost and Vincent Streets and at Old Slys Road at the Heritage House property. Secondary service lines are presumed to lead to the Kinsmen Pavilion and the Splashpad

4.0 Community Engagement

The re-imagined plan for Lower Reach Park and the recommendations of this report were deeply informed by a comprehensive community engagement process. The intent of the approach for engagement was to generate ideas, identify priorities and reach a consensus on the general direction for changes and improvements to Lower Reach Park. In welcoming meaningful participation and encouraging all voices to be heard, the Project Team was able to understand and appreciate what residents of Smiths Falls and visitors to Lower Reach value most in their park.

The engagement process can be broadly categorized into three activities that were on-going during the study.



4.1 Stakeholder Interviews

The initial engagement activity included a series of stakeholder interviews. In consultation with Town Staff, a targeted list of community groups was identified and invited to participate in interview sessions with Project Team representatives. These stakeholders were selected due to their long-standing involvement, participation or interaction with Lower Reach. These groups included representatives from service clubs and community sports organizations.

4.2 Public Open Houses, Workshops / Design Charrettes

The public was invited to participate in two open forum sessions. Prior to beginning any design work, the project team hosted an interactive workshop to gather ideas. A second open house was held to present and gather feedback on a preliminary Re-Imagined Lower Reach Park Plan. Additionally, the project team hosted two design charrettes with students at Duncan J. Schouler Public School and Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute, which yielded valuable, input about what the youth of Smiths Falls most appreciate about Lower Reach and what gaps exist in their recreational needs.

4.3 Public Surveys

Two public opinion surveys were conducted through the Town's website. The initial survey was launched to gather data on how people participate at Lower Reach Park and their opinion on the improvements needed. The second survey was to solicit comments and feedback on the appropriateness of the preliminary Re-Imagined Lower Reach Park Plan.

The full summary of the Community Engagement efforts are included in Appendix A of this document.

5.0 Design

5.1 Process Overview

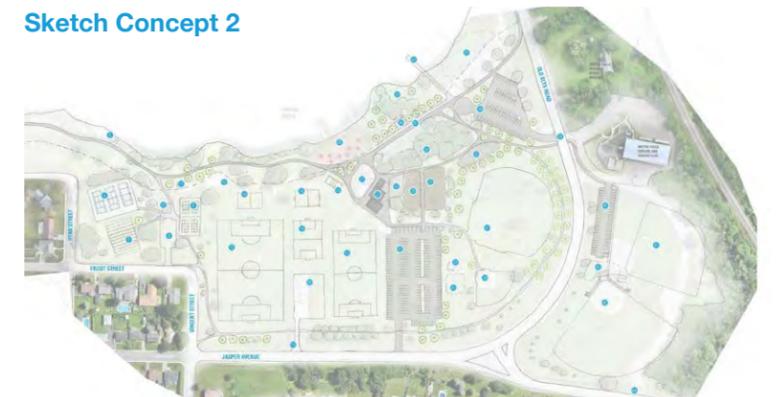
Informed by an appreciation of the physical site conditions and an understanding of the community's needs and desires, the Project Team prepared three Concept Sketches for review with Town Staff. This was an iterative and collaborative process which continued to uncover additional insight into how the park is used, maintained and operated. Following some targeted refinement of key areas, the Preliminary Lower Reach Park Re-Imagined Plan was formally presented to the public in February 2025 at an Open House. Attendees were invited to provide feedback in person at that session and a second public survey was posted to solicit comments in response to the Preliminary Plan. The Project Team also invited the targeted stakeholders to review and comment on this version of the Plan through the survey or through direct discussion or correspondence. A fulsome summary of Community Engagement efforts, as included in Appendix A should be reviewed in conjunction with this Design Brief.

This feedback was reviewed, and additional refinements were made, in consultation with Staff, and the Lower Reach Park Reimagined Concept Plan was finalized. The recommendations of the plan are further articulated in the next Recommendations section of this Design Brief.

Sketch Concept 1



Sketch Concept 2



Sketch Concept 3



Reimagine the Reach



CONTEXT PLAN



0 5 25 50
DO NOT SCALE DRAWINGS

Refer to Appendix B for a higher resolution copy of the concept plan.

LEGEND

- 1** 30m REGULATORY SETBACK FROM WATER LINE
- 2** IMPROVED PATHWAY
Pathway network to extend to connect with Beckwith Street. Maintains and augments the general circulation patterns through the park. A hierarchy of pathways and trails through the park should be developed to consider type, expected volume of use, lighting requirements, winter maintenance and/or possible x-country skiing. Improvements to the pathway loop to include new benches, and increased tree planting to enhance safety, comfort, and accessibility.
- 3** NEW SIDEWALK WITH BARRIER CURBS
Will prevent cars from accessing the park interior and causing damage and relocate vehicles to park on the street. The addition of sidewalks along all the street frontages should be considered when/if they are undergoing infrastructure renewals/replacements. Street parking should only be considered on River St., Riverdale Ave., Ryan St., Frost St., and Vincent St.
- 4** NATURALIZED SHORELINE
With multiple mown accesses to the water's edge.
- 5** NEW PIER
Reserved for small vessel (car-top) launching and fishing. Potential in this location for privately operated canoe, kayak, SUP rentals (dashed line).
- 6** EXISTING TENNIS COURTS
These courts are properly oriented (N-S), in decent condition, and will require only minor lifecycle improvements (surfacing, lighting, a new gate).
- 7** RELOCATED & EXPANDED BOCCO COURTS
Expanded to accommodate Special Olympics tournaments.
- 8** NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS (4)
Fenced, paved with acrylic surfacing. A practice wall on the south end could help to attenuate sound.
- 9** NEW PARKING AREA
Accommodating approximately 35 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs, and maintenance access gate. This lot is proposed to have more than the required minimum of barrier-free stalls to accommodate Special Olympics practices at the adjacent bocce court(s). This parking lot is not expected to be winter maintained.
- 10** NEW CLUBHOUSE
3-season building, storage of gear, information kiosk for league play, accessible washroom.
- 11** EXISTING FITNESS AREA
Could remain and be replaced, subject to demand.
- 12** EXISTING BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT
Could remain subject to demand.
- 13** ADDITIONAL/RELOCATED BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT
- 14** RELOCATED U5 SOCCER PITCH (2)
25m x 18m.
- 15** IMPROVED FULL SIZE SOCCER PITCH (About Field) to FIFA standard dimensions 100m x 60m, with upgraded lighting to IES Standards. Could also be expanded to a CFL-sized football field as demand arises.
- 16** NEW U10-U11 SOCCER PITCH
40m x 30m.
- 17** NEW U-13 SOCCER PITCH
71m x 42m.
- 18** EXISTING/EXPANDED BASKETBALL COURT
- 19** MAINTAIN EXISTING ENTRY
The gated entry should remain restrictive to vehicles, but consider using the basketball courts as occasional, temporary parking during large events.
- 20** NEW BASEBALL DIAMOND
The re-located and expanded Madden Diamond with a 225-250ft. centre field, lighting, clay-based base paths, grass infield and movable pitcher's mound to accommodate a range of age groups.
- 21** NEW CENTRALIZED PARKING
A large, centrally-located lot for approximately 120 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance access gates. The laneway and only a portion of the lot would be winter-maintained to accommodate year-round access to the Kinsmen Pavillion.
- 22** STAGING AREA
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 23** NEW OPERATIONS CENTRE
The existing building could be upgraded to provide secure tool and equipment storage. A secured exterior space (with adequate visual screening) could provide additional space for temporary storage of materials.
- 24** EXISTING KINSMEN PAVILLION
Pedestrian entrances upgraded for accessibility and ease of maintenance.
- 25** SPLASHPAD
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 26** JUNIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 27** SENIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 28** PLAZA AREA
A flexible space that could be programmed as a teen/adult lawn games area (cornhole, ping pong, chess tables etc.) with jet water features that could be turned off during events for expanded events area.
- 29** NEW SWIMMING BEACH
Refurbished swimming piers, lifeguard station, permanent umbrellas and Muskoka chairs.
- 30** PASSIVE AREA
Moveable picnic tables for small-to-large group gatherings near the water's edge. Consider adding BBQs here as well.
- 31** NEW PERFORMANCE STAGE
Could be designed to also accommodate group picnics when not in use.
- 32** WIDENED PATHWAY
Will allow for farmer's stalls, parking for classic car shows, access for event set-up deliveries.
- 33** PASSIVE SPACE BENEATH EXISTING MATURE TREES
Can function as a picnic area and transform into a shaded, spectator zone for live performances.
- 34** POSSIBLE ALL WHEEL FACILITY
An all-wheels facility or other facility as deemed appropriate.
- 35** EXISTING GRAVEL PARKING LOT
The gravel parking lot would remain with a relocated entrance and egress. It could eventually be transformed into a landscaped green space as parking capacity in the park expands. Sod and new tree plantings to enhance the park's natural environment, improve water quality, stormwater management. This area can accommodate expanded festival area or community events.
- 36** RELOCATED KIWANIS U-13 SOCCER PITCH
71m x 42m, with upgraded lighting to IES Standards.
- 37** NEW VEHICULAR ENTRANCE TO CIVITAN BLOCK
- 38** NEW VEHICLE ENTRANCE UPGRADES and NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSS-OVER
Will improve safety and provide a more fluid connection, requires further coordination with squash and curling club.
- 39** NEW PARKING AREA
Approximately 90 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance gate. An opportunity to increase seasonal off-peak parking for the Civitan diamonds and the Smiths Falls Curling and Squash Club. Subject to further discussion.
- 40** RE-LOCATED GLEESON DOG PARK
Similar capacity to existing facility. Fenced with controlled access, small & large breed zones, shade tree planting and furnishings. A high mast net (illustrated by the dashed line) would separate the dog park from the baseball diamond.
- 41** RE-LOCATED SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 230ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers. Space could be accommodated in this area for a potential future bullpen and batting cage.
- 42** RE-LOCATED EXPANDED BASEBALL/SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 290ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers.
- 43** CENTRALIZED GATHERING AREA
A possible shade shelter and furnishings with a water bottle filling station with water fountain and pet water bowl.
- 44** ACCESS TO Jasper Ave. CLOSED
Gated access for maintenance vehicles only, to allow for diamond expansion.
- 45** NATURALIZED SHORE
To be coordinated with Parks Canada to add ecological benefits and enhance views from the water.

6.0 Design Recommendations

6.1 Infrastructure Upgrades

New 120/240V, 200A hydro services with metering / distribution kiosks are recommended in numerous locations in the park. These upgrades are recommended to be implemented in phases and correspond to facilities that are proposed to be upgraded or added at the same time. Wherever possible, new incoming services and distribution lines should be placed underground for reliability and to minimize the visual clutter of pole-mounted lines. All new lighting should include energy-efficient LED lamps and the light levels should comply with the standard for light level and distribution appropriate to the programmed use as determined by the Illuminating Engineering Society.

Refer to Appendix C for a more detailed description of the proposed electrical upgrades.

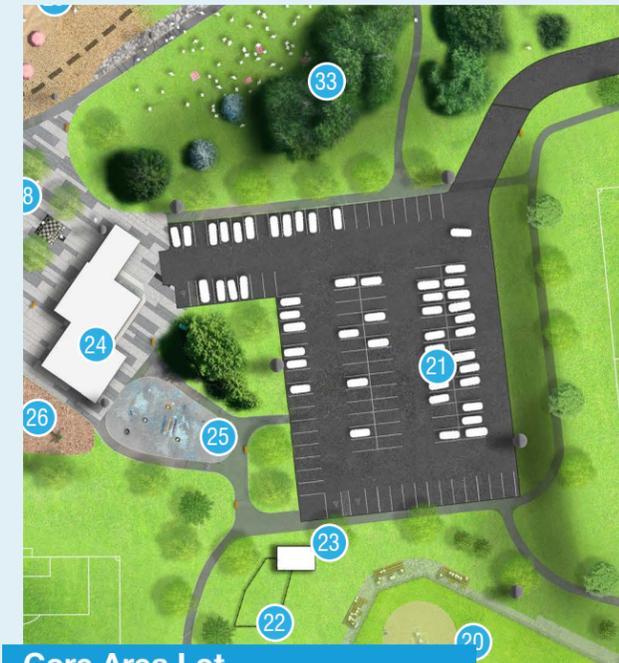
6.2 Access and Parking

Meeting the estimated peak demand for parking of nearly 700 spaces is not a fiscally realistic goal, nor would residents want to see the current amenities offering compete with space for parking. There are few municipal parks of comparable size, programming and service area that can do so. To strike a balance between peak and non-peak times, this Plan proposes a well distributed parking strategy that promotes safety, accessibility, convenience and eases the burden on the Town for year-round maintenance.

A well-distributed series of parking cells are proposed to be suitably located near new and existing amenities and sized appropriately for the anticipated volume of use. It is proposed that all parking facilities have adequately designed structural bases, drainage and paved surfaces, be illuminated and address all design requirements of the AODA. All parking lots and entrance lanes should be enclosed with barrier curbs to prevent vehicles from driving throughout the park, causing damage and unsafe scenarios. Access gates should be included for maintenance vehicles and special events set-up.

Publicly available mapping for Lower Reach Park should be regularly updated for the benefit of non-local visitors. Communication with the sports clubs will help to clarify where league participants should first attempt to park. This will alleviate the chaotic traffic patterns during tournaments and peak league playing schedules.

It is recommended to consider features in the parking facilities such as integrated deciduous tree planting and low-impact development features (bio-swales, rain gardens, permeable paving), where appropriate, to mitigate flood risk and heat-island effect.



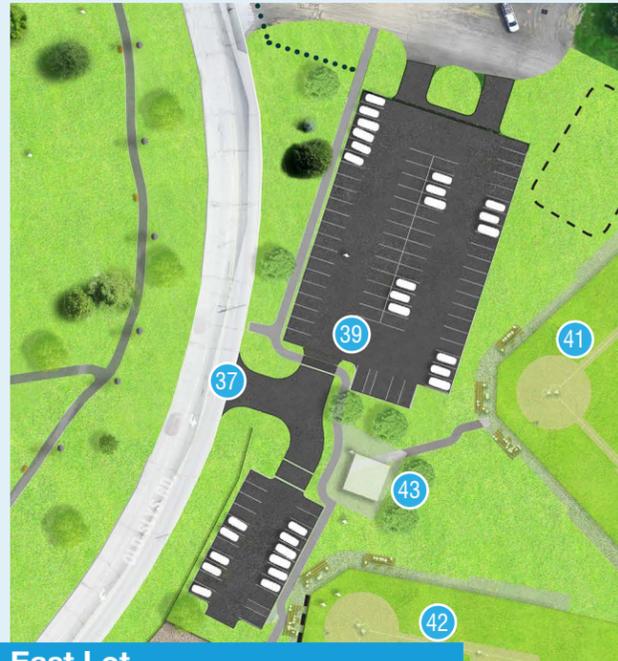
Core Area Lot

A new centralized parking lot in the core area of the park (plan key #21) could accommodate approximately 120 vehicles. While other entrance locations were explored during this study, the current access from Old Slys Road was deemed to be the most logical location. This largest of all parking lots proposed in the plan is centrally located to serve those facilities with the highest and most frequent use. This parking lot is recommended to be winter maintained, but it may be that only portions of it would need to be cleared to accommodate year-round access to the Kinsmen Pavilion. Staff may evaluate this over the first few seasons of operation and adjust accordingly.



West Lot

A new parking cell (plan key #39) with an entrance from Frost Street would conveniently serve the tennis courts, fitness zone, new pickleball courts, relocated/expanded bocce courts and a new canoe/kayak launch. It is recommended that this Lot has a compliment of accessible stalls that exceed minimum AODA requirements due to the long-standing use of the bocce courts by the Special Olympics organization. This Lot can accommodate approximately 25-35 vehicles.



East Lot

A new entrance drive from Old Slys Road would lead to a 2-cell parking Lot that would service re-constructed softball/baseball diamonds and the re-located Gleeson Dog Park. Part of this Lot could be constructed and operated jointly with the Smiths Falls Curling and Squash Club. This potential scenario was introduced during stakeholder engagement, and it is recommended to continue the discussion as there are obvious off-season benefits for the Club and visitors to the Civitan diamonds and Gleeson Park.

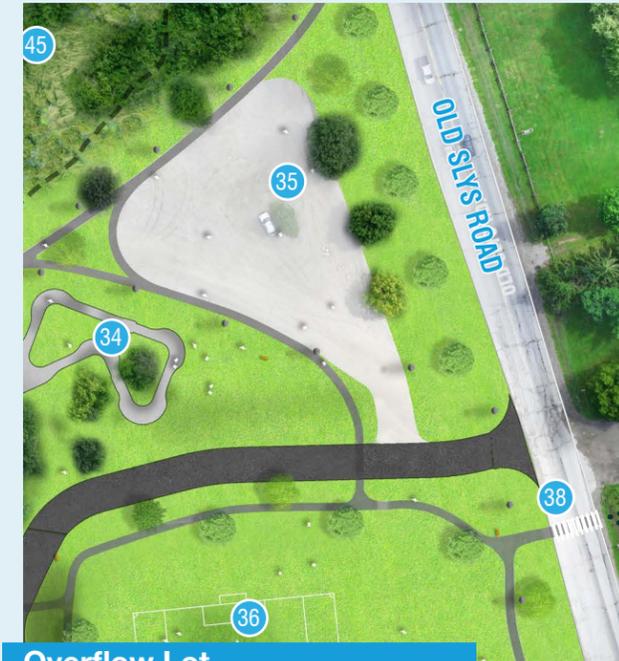
The Lot is positioned to avoid the current occurrence of vehicle damage from foul and home run balls. Combined this Lot provides approximately 90 stalls. The smaller cell, with space for 20 vehicles, is proposed to be winter maintained for visitors to the Dog Park.

The existing gravel driveway from Regional Road 17 (Jasper) is proposed to be restricted to maintenance vehicles only, to allow for the ball diamonds to be enlarged.



Street Parking

Riverdale Avenue, Ryan, Frost and Vincent Streets are single-loaded, local roads that accommodate up to 90 parallel vehicles along their northern edges (plan key #3). As these roads and below-grade infrastructure are eventually renewed at the end of their functional lifecycle, the Town could consider adding monolithic barrier curbs and sidewalks to allow for access and safe parallel parking along the frontages. In the interim, proper signage and enforcement may help to minimize occurrences of cars driving and parking within the park on the grass.



Overflow Lot

The existing gravel parking lot is currently under the custody of Parks Canada. Preliminary plans proposed to return this gravel to a turfgrass picnic area, but consultation with the community suggested that it should be maintained as an overflow lot for peak times and special events. This decision could be re-evaluated in the future, but in the meantime, it can accommodate approximately 110 vehicles.



Special Event Lot

The expanded basketball courts offer the possibility for additional overflow parking during special events (key plan #18). This would require additional operational considerations (posted notices, temporary barricades, and a parking attendant). The space available (expanded courts) could accommodate 30-40 vehicles.

6.3 Pathway System

The Town is actively working to establish a path and trail standard for its parks system. As Lower Reach Park accommodates a diverse range of uses and a high volume of pedestrians and cyclists, it is recommended to establish a hierarchy of pathways. This hierarchy should consider width, surface material, slope/elevation, lighting, and seasonal maintenance. It is reasonable to expect the shallow topography of the Park would allow all new pathways to meet basic universal accessibility requirements with minimal added construction expense. For this, the latest version of the provincial Design of Public Space Standards document should be consulted to ensure proposed improvements comply.

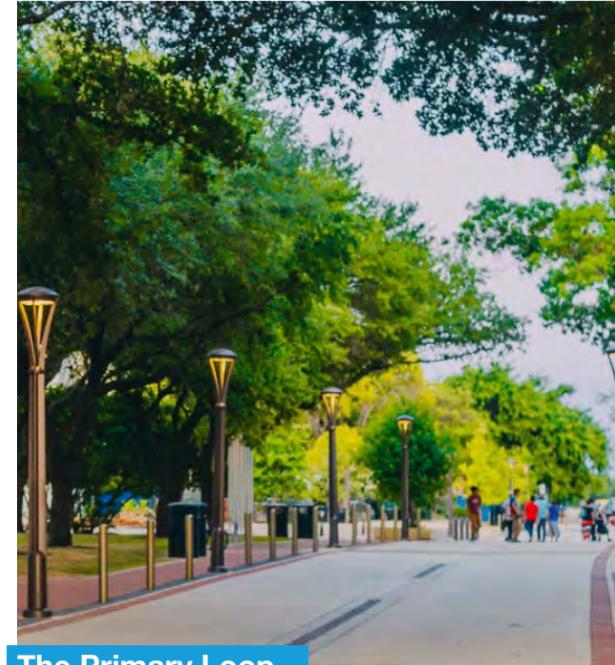
Capital investment in an upgraded path system can be implemented over time and in concert with other park renovations and additions as they happen. Maintaining portions of the path system in the winter will require further evaluation as there will be operational budget impacts



Pedestrian Crossover (PXO)

The core area of Lower Reach Park remains physically and functionally divided from the Civitan Ball Diamonds and Gleeson Park by the high volume and high speed Old Slys Road. A long-recognized safety issue has ignited recent support to formalize a pedestrian crossover (PXO). While subject to further Engineering assessment the Project Team has suggested that a PXO would likely need to be a Type C PXO, as defined in Book 15 Pedestrian Crossing Treatments of the Ontario Traffic Manual. This requires pavement markings, regulatory and warning signs, rectangular rapid flashing beacons and pedestrian refuge spaces on either side of the road. A detailed Engineering Assessment will also consider grading and sitelines, which may require additional work beyond the immediate limits of the roadway. The PXO location illustrated on the Plan (plan key #38) is schematic only, but will provide a more fluid, functional and safe pedestrian connection and help to better link the two pieces of the park.

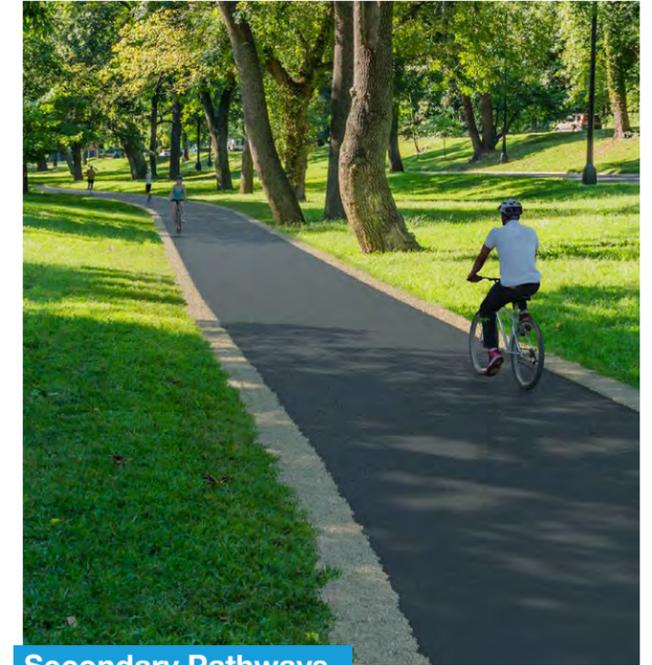
Refer to Appendix D for a more detailed description of the proposed PXO



The Primary Loop

The pathway that currently traverses along the waterfront (part of the Trans Canada Trail and Smiths Falls Heritage Trail) and the outer loop that runs parallel along Jasper Avenue and Olds Slys Road should be the immediate focus of pathway upgrades. It is recommended to be paved to a width of no less than 3m. Rest stops, with flattened areas, and accessible benches or picnic tables should be located periodically around this loop for visitors with lowered physical stamina or mobility challenges. A heavy-duty granular base (and sub-base with geotextile) should be installed to properly support park maintenance vehicles. Vehicles would be able to utilize the pathway for regular garbage pick-up and general repairs, thereby reducing damage to the turfgrass. Subject to budgetary restrictions, portions of this loop could be winter maintained or track-set for cross-country skiing.

A fitness circuit could also be included along the primary loop. A series of carefully planned, static exercise elements would allow visitors of varying ages and abilities to participate in self-guided cardiovascular, strengthening and stretching exercises.



Secondary Pathways

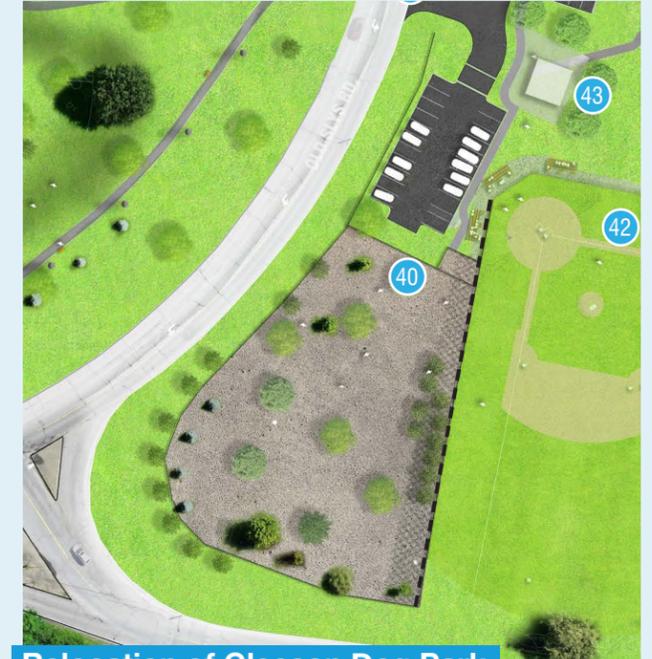
Near the proposed new performance stage (plan key #s 31 and 32), it is recommended to further widen the pathway to accommodate the expected volume of people that would congregate near the stage. It is recommended that widened edges should be constructed of a different material, possibly permeable unit pavers, to minimize the visual impact while special events are not taking place. This widened portion of the pathway could then be used for special events like classic car shows, farmer's markets, food truck and BBQ festivals and group celebrations that would be booked in the performance stage.

The west extension of a paved pathway to Beckwith Street may prove challenging where the property narrows along the River's edge. If this proves not to be feasible, the pathway could be re-routed to align with a street sidewalk near the intersection of River Street and Oak Street and still establish a strong and safe pedestrian link to downtown.

A series of secondary pathways would seek to connect all amenities and parking facilities throughout the park. These pathways are also recommended to be paved with a width of no less than 1.8m.

6.4 Relocation, Expansion and Addition of Recreation Facilities

Like the addition of parking facilities, the relocation and expansion of some of the soccer pitches, baseball and softball diamonds and courts are proposed to maximize the overall layout and daily function of the park. Considerations for these choices include registration data for each sport, observed and anecdotal participation levels, prioritizing ideal sun orientations for evening summer play, clustering of complimentary sports, efficient use of the available space and future flexibility.



Relocation of Gleeson Dog Park

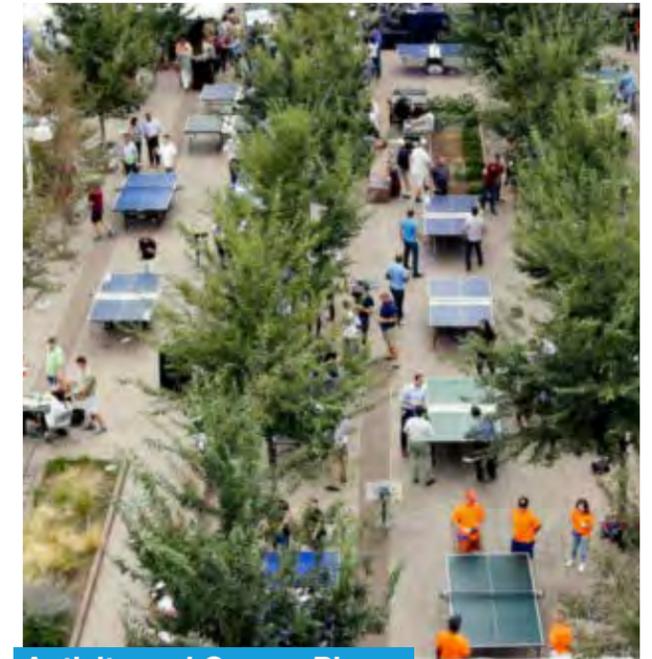
Through the design stage, several new locations for Gleeson Dog Park were explored. Ultimately it was felt that with proper foul ball netting on the expanded Civitan Ball Diamond #1, the location shown (plan key #40) offers a similar sized space, the ability to include a dedicated, winter-maintained parking cell, eases the provisioning of a future water service connection and takes advantage of existing and new fencing. Should the use of the Gleeson Dog Park experience an increase before this relocation is considered, the Town may wish to consider an alternative to a turfgrass surface, such as decomposed granite chip. Separated small and large breed areas and a similar complement of site furnishings to what exists should also be offered in a new location.

Central Gathering Hub



Performance and Event Stage

The popularity of performances in the park has sparked interest in a more formalized, purpose-built facility. The proposed location (plan key #31) would allow spectators to benefit from the shade cast from the existing mature trees to the south and the trees would partially help to mitigate “sound bleed”. The stage is recommended to be flexibly designed to accommodate other events like group picnics and wedding ceremonies. This would be a permitted, pay-for-use facility.



Activity and Games Plaza

A new activity and games plaza (plan key #28) adjacent the Kinsmen Pavilion is intended to provide space for teens and adults who are not otherwise engaged in active sport in the Park. This plaza space is proposed to include some fixed furnishings, misting jets (for cooling and play) shade trees and flexible spaces for portable, games that promote social interaction like cornhole, ping pong, and shuffleboard. Equipment could be stored and made available on a sign-out basis in partnership with volunteers or Kinsmen Club members. This plaza location allows adult caregivers to conveniently and comfortably supervise their children who may be enjoying the new playgrounds and splashpad.



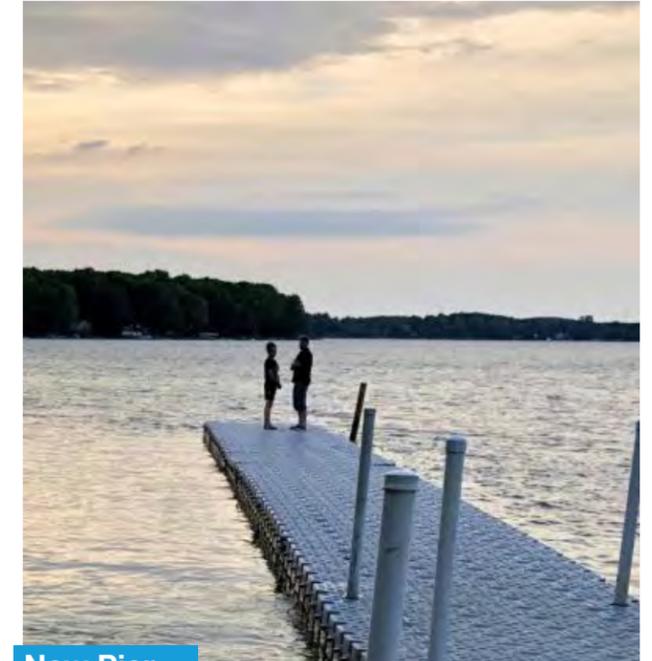
Splash Pad



Splash Pad



Swimming Beach



New Pier



Playground

As the existing playgrounds and splashpad are approaching their usable lifecycle, it is recommended that the Town now begin to forecast capital budgets for replacement. The sizes indicated on the Plan are approximate and are typical for regionally serving destination parks like Lower Reach.

New playgrounds and the splashpad should be designed with input from the community, seek to be inclusive for all physical and emotional abilities, comply with the most stringent of barrier-free standards and be durable and easy to maintain.

Over many decades, the Town has attempted to operate a public beach in the upper basin of the Rideau Canal between Detached Lock Station and Combined Lockstation with marginal success. Valid safety concerns raised during public engagement about a swimming beach (plan key #29) for Lower Reach Park require further study to test the feasibility of this proposal. Concerns include, but are not necessarily limited to, proximity to Old Slys dam, river bathymetry and current, water quality, and potential conflict with boat traffic. An operational plan and budget would also need to be established as lifeguard supervision, and a means to restrict after-hours access would require a financial commitment. Further dialogue with Parks Canada would also be necessary as that organization regulates the use and access to the shoreline of the Rideau Canal and Rideau River.

A new finger dock is proposed (plan key area #5) in consideration of a Swimming Beach conflicting with the popularity of fishing on the existing docks. This new dock could allow portable (rooftop) vessels like canoes, kayaks and stand-up-paddleboards (SUP) to access and explore the River and Canal between Old Slys and Combined Lockstations, and beyond. Private proponents have had recent success in Ontario operating self-service SUP and kayak rental stations. This could be explored as a pilot project in Lower Reach Park.

6.5 Site Furnishings and Signage

A signage standard should be developed for all facilities and pathways in Lower Reach Park and extend the graphic standards and marketing themes found at other Town facilities. For parks of this size, wayfinding signs should be intuitive and include distances and estimated walking times to the next notable destination, so that visitors unfamiliar with the area can make informed decisions about their route, especially if they have physical limitations.

All signage should adhere to the minimum standards of legibility as outlined in the aforementioned DOPS.

Given that Lower Reach welcomes more visitors than any other park in Smiths Falls, a primary identification sign near the entrance drive to the core of the park could include an electronic notice board to promote upcoming events and activities.

It is recommended to establish a palette of site furniture that is unique to the Town of Smiths Falls parks system. The provincial DOPS document should be consulted for specific barrier-free and inclusive standards for the placement, distribution and dimensional ranges of benches and picnic tables. Other considerations include product durability and predictable availability of furnishings and replacement parts. Lastly, committing to a general aesthetic style of furnishings will help make Lower Reach Park an iconic and recognizable Smiths Falls facility.



6.6 Environmental Sustainability and Resiliency

A regular program for adding trees to Lower Reach Park should continue, preferably on an annual basis. An increased tree canopy cover helps to mitigate climate change, sequesters carbon, retains stormwater, provides habitat, provides cool respite space for visitors and contributes to the beauty of the setting, creating memorable user experiences. Native species should be prioritized, and the variety should be diverse to build-in resilience against pests, disease or extreme storm damage that may occur. An annual program of tree planting will also ensure that there is a succession of replacement as other trees mature to the end of their natural life. A corresponding commitment to maintenance during establishment and long-term assessment and care should accompany the capital investment in a tree planting program. This plan should be used to inform locations for trees so that they can remain and not be impacted by future expansion and renovations.

The naturalized edge of the waterfront could be easily increased in depth in some places simply by adjusting the limits of regular mowing and allowing the naturally occurring shrubs and perennials to self-seed and colonize. Other areas could also be naturalized in similar fashion, but only under careful consideration as these measures can often be misperceived by the public as neglect or poor maintenance standards. The motivation for naturalizing features in any public park should not be to reduce operational burden, but rather to improve ecological conditions. The need for maintenance will not necessarily be reduced. The carbon emissions resulting from regular mowing will be reduced or eliminated in natural areas, but these features still require care and monitoring, which may include removal of invasive/damaging/injurious weeds, seasonal mowing if (an area is intended to remain in a meadow state), and manual litter pick-up.

The creation of meadow areas may be a viable means to reduce the concentrations of toxic contaminants that remain in the soil from the former landfill. This cost-effective phytoremediation technique should be explored for Lower Reach.

While sustainability was a common theme raised during public engagements, providing information through notice signs, volunteer-led workshops, and community planting events, will help to further broaden the public's understanding and acceptance about natural features in parks.

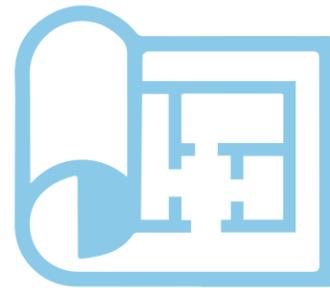


7.0 Implementation and Cost

The Renewed Vision for Lower Reach Park proposed in the plan and this document represents a significant investment for the Town of Smiths Falls. A phased approach, spanning many years, is the only realistic way to implement the plan. The order of magnitude opinion of probable cost, provided in Appendix E, represents costs as if the Plan were implemented in a singular phase. The unit rates assume typical construction costs in 2025, so inflationary considerations need to be accounted for when re-visiting the budget in the future.

While needs, priorities, political will and funding opportunities will vary over the years, the budget is presented as a tool that should be consulted and adjusted annually by Staff in preparing forecasts and annual capital and operational budgets. This plan and cost data can also be used to inform and support funding and grant applications that may arise over the years. Demonstrating near “shovel-ready” plans and community support for specific new amenities and improvements will give the Town of Smiths Falls and its partners an advantage over other communities vying for the same financial support.

Regular dialogue between the Town, community groups and sports clubs will help to avoid any disturbance with rentable facilities in the park that may be scheduled for major events or tournaments.



8.0 References and Acknowledgements

The Town of Smiths Falls and the Project Team appreciate the input from the hundreds of groups and individuals who took part in the public engagement meetings, stakeholder consultations, design charrettes and public surveys. Groups that participated include, but are not limited to:

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS

Duncan J. Schoular Public School
Parks Canada
Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL)
Smiths Falls Baseball and Softball Leagues
Smiths Falls Curling and Squash Club
Smiths Falls and District Soccer Club
Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute
Smiths Falls Kinsmen Club
Smiths Falls Pickleball
Smiths Falls Tennis Club
Special Olympics (bocce league)

CLIENT TEAM

Town of Smiths Falls
Stephanie Clarke, Director of Community Services
Tana Torch, Community Services Coordinator
Trevor Cassell, Operations Supervisor
Jenny Davis, Administrative Assistant
Kyle Langdown, Lead Hand
Paul McMunn, Director of Public Works and Utilities

PROJECT TEAM

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT | LEAD CONSULTANT

Fotenn Planning + Design
Sydney Truesdale, Landscape Designer
Doug Fountain, Principal Landscape Architecture
Sarah Marsh, Associate Landscape Architect
Megan Blay, Landscape Architect
Susan Garwood, Landscape Designer
Stuart Paterson, Landscape Designer
Emily McKenna, Landscape Architect

LIGHTING & ELECTRICAL CONSULTANT

Ziyutec Engineering
Jeff Dubeau, Director, Engineering

TRANSPORTATION ADVISOR

CGH Transportation Inc.
Andre Harte, Vice President / Senior Project Manager
Brenden Benoit, Designer

REFERENCES

TOWN OF SMITHS FALLS Request for Proposal, Lower Reach Park Redesign, RFP 24-CS-010 including Addenda 1-3

2023-2026 | TOWN OF SMITHS FALLS STRATEGIC PLAN

Town of Smiths Falls PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN, by RC Strategies, June 2022

Smiths Falls ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN, by WSP, November 2021

D. Fountain, A SITE ANALYSIS, Lower Reach Park and Christie Pits, December 1991

Appendix A



Town of Smiths Falls Lower Reach Park Re-Visioning Plan

Public Engagement and Survey Analysis

1.0 Executive Summary

The Town of Smiths Falls is developing a plan for Lower Reach Park to identify opportunities for improvements and enhancements of key areas within the park. After the completion of an extensive site analysis, the second phase of the re-visioning plan involves resident and stakeholder engagement. The park is already heavily utilized by various groups, teams, and the public throughout the year. Unlike a new development, this park already has a community presence, so it is integral to the success of this plan that these voices are heard. Community engagement is an extremely valuable resource when designing as not only are you allowing for the needs of residents to be heard, essential insights into the minute workings of an area can only be parsed from people with intimate knowledge of that space. This makes the end result, the re-visioning of Lower Reach Park, that much more nuanced and successful as the plan matures.

Therefore, the second phase consists of four parts: a public open house workshop, a public opinion survey, targeted stakeholder engagements, and a youth engagement workshop. The Town of Smiths Falls and Fotenn hosted a community workshop to allow residents the chance to share their ideas for the park's redesign at interactive feedback stations. The Public Workshop was held on November 4th, 2024 at the Smiths Falls Memorial Community Centre between 6:00pm and 9:00pm with approximately 30 people in attendance. An accompanying public survey was also promoted through the Town's social media channels, its website, and through local media publications, allowing for a greater number to participants to express their opinions. The online survey was open from October 29th to November 10th, 2024 to visitors, residents, business owners, property owners, and those employed within the town. 302 completed surveys were received, compiled, reviewed, and assessed by the project team. The youth engagement workshops were held on November 29th, 2024 at Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute and Duncan J. Schoular Public School. Three classes were interviewed with approximately 30 children in attendance per class. This document provides a summary highlighting the key themes that emerged from each of the four engagement opportunities in phase two.



Residents apply stickers to the dotmocracy boards signifying their preferences for different park features

2.0 Key Themes and Priorities by Stakeholder Group:

A park is a central physical Third-Space where a sense of community can be fostered and strengthened. Lower Reach Park has a rich established community presence comprised of various stakeholders from sports teams who use the courts and fields, to clubs like the Kinsmen who operate the pavilion. Understanding the important roles these groups play, The Town of Smiths Falls provided Fotenn with a list of stakeholders to engage, and while every effort was made to connect, the following is a summary of feedback from each respondent group. The findings are split into three categories: current challenges, priorities, and design implications.



2.1 Tennis Club



2.2 Baseball Group



2.3 Bocce + Special Olympics

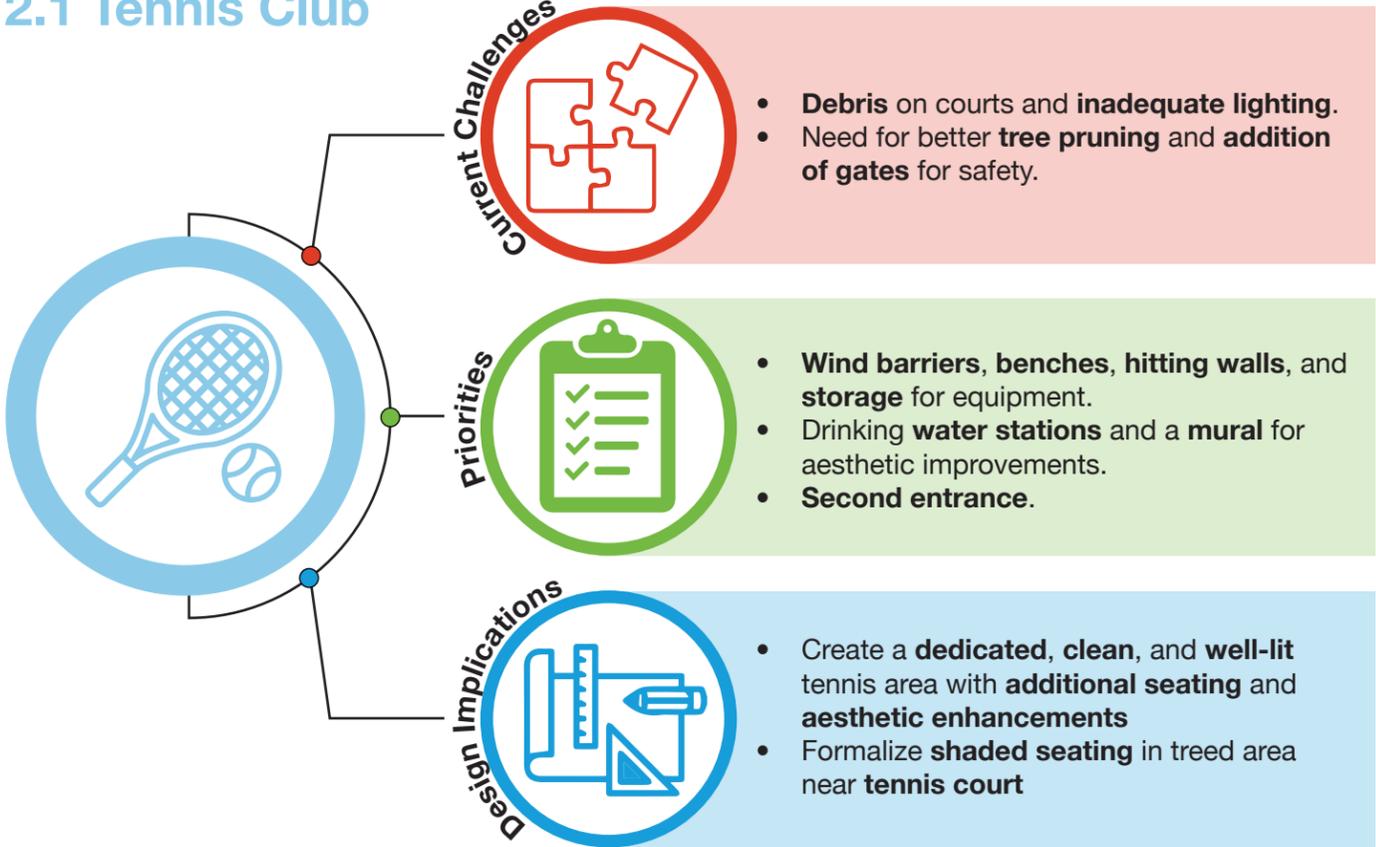


2.4 Pickleball Group

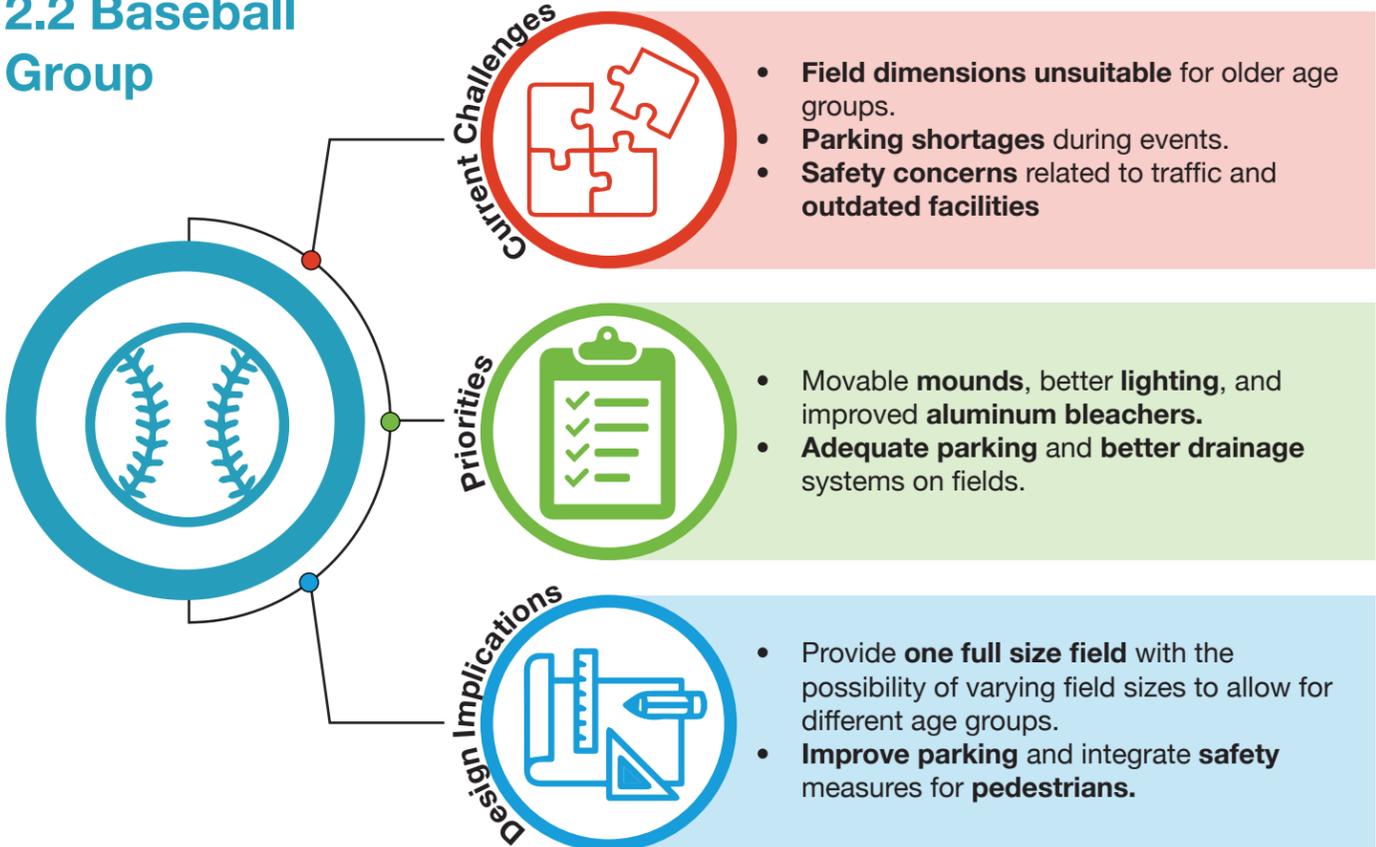


2.5 Soccer Club

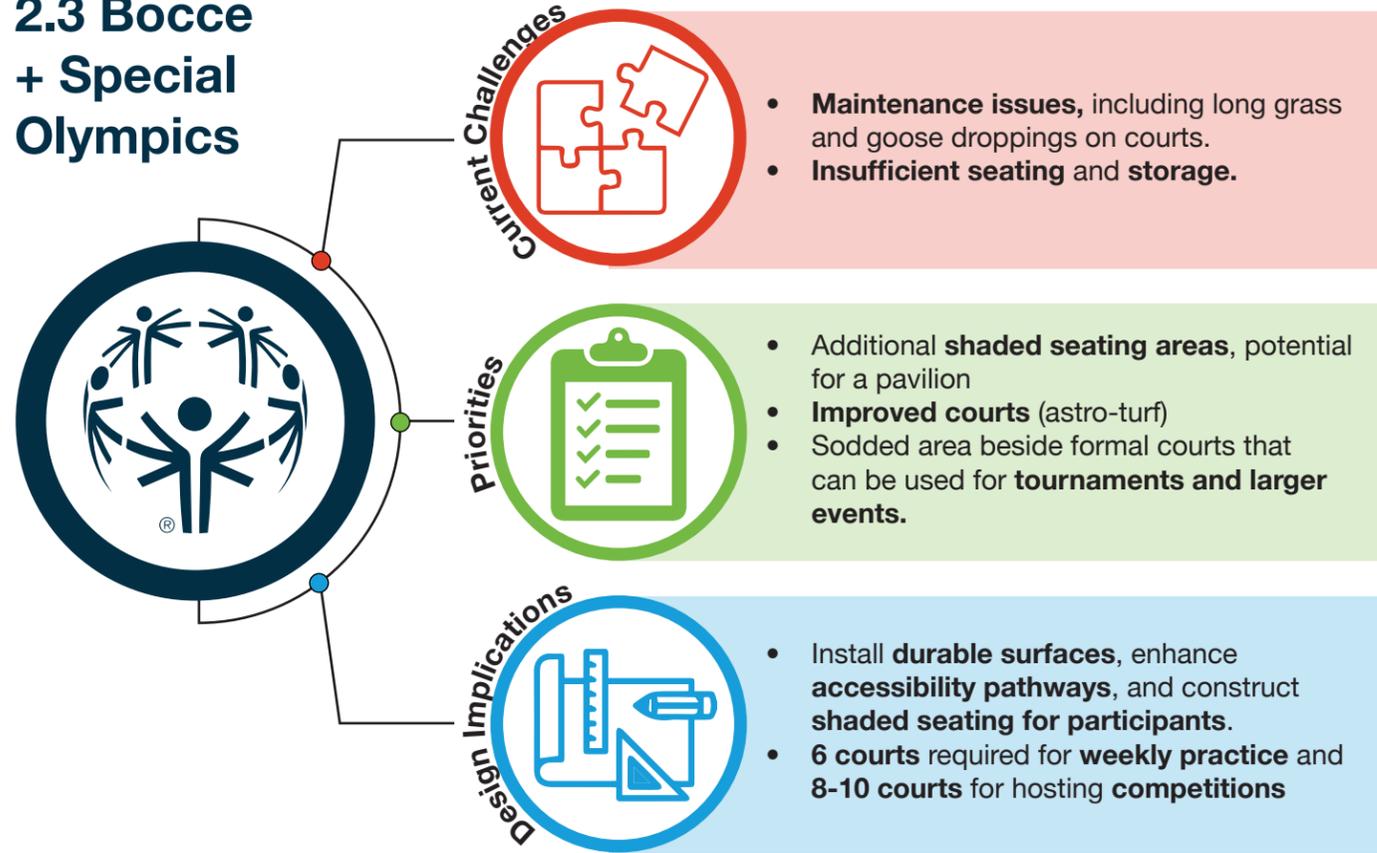
2.1 Tennis Club



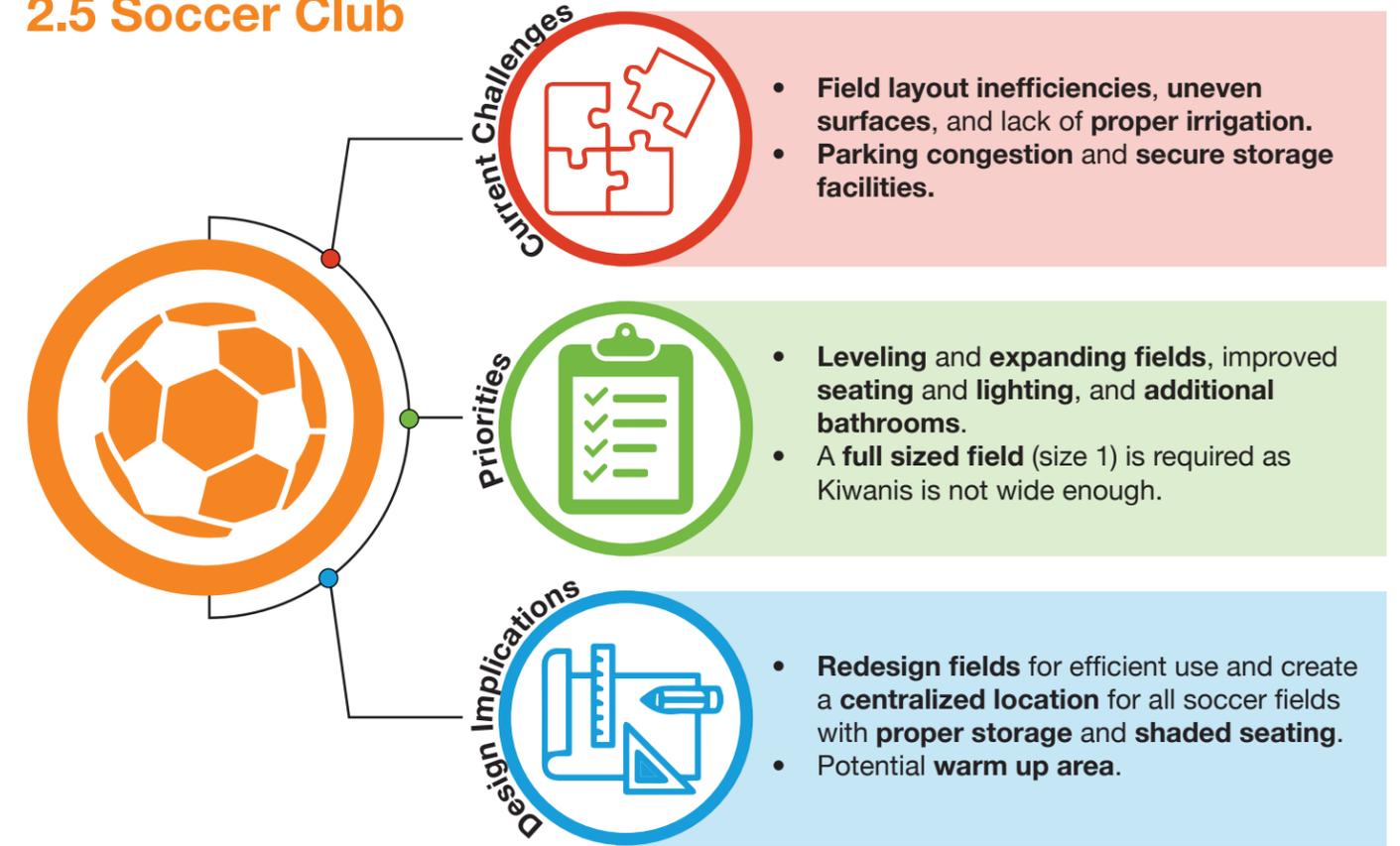
2.2 Baseball Group



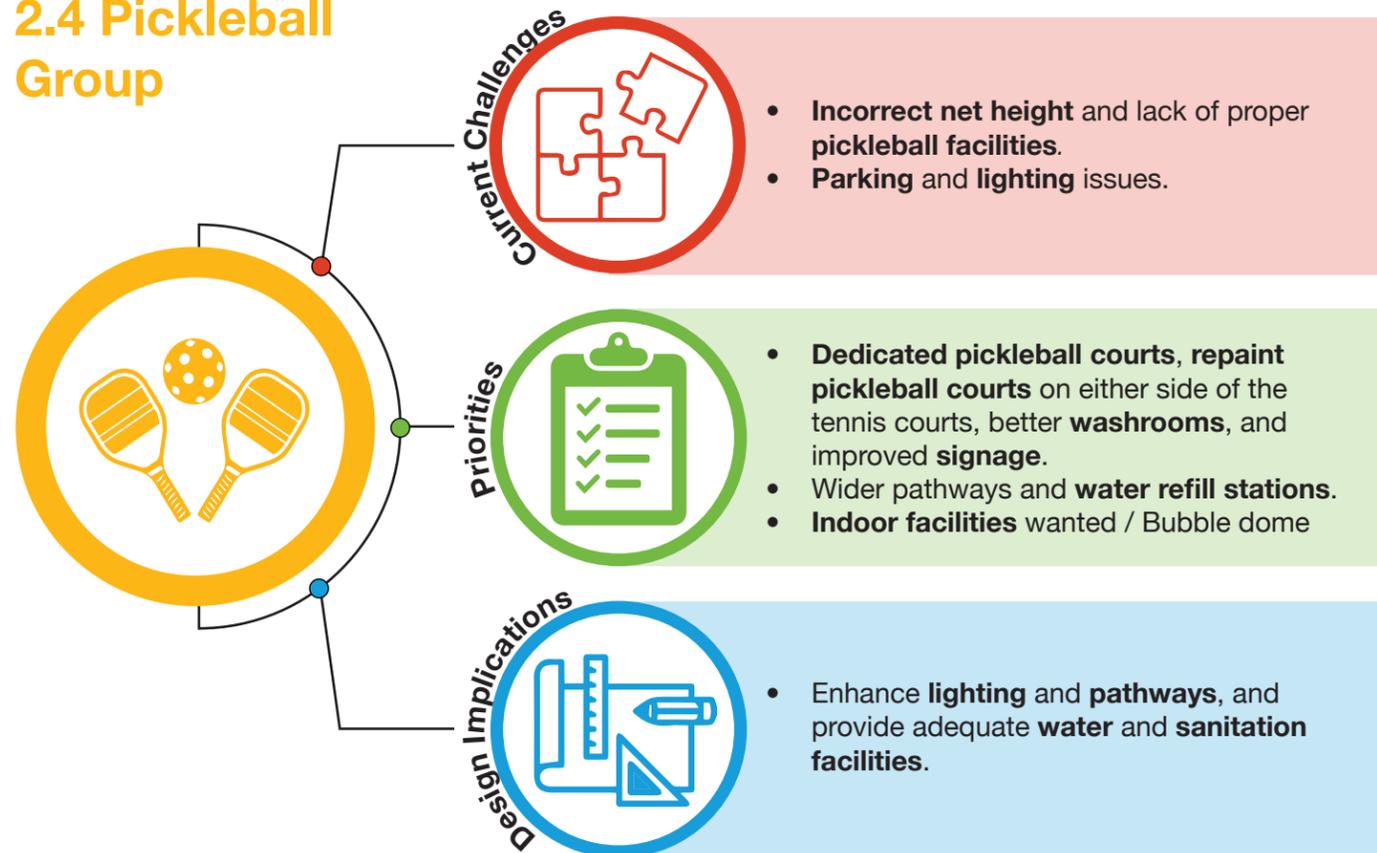
2.3 Bocce + Special Olympics



2.5 Soccer Club



2.4 Pickleball Group



2.6 Additional Stakeholders

As this project proceeds, it is the recommendation of Fotenn that engagement continue with stakeholders, especially the groups that were part of the list consulted but unable to participate. Further engagement with groups such as the Heritage House Museum, Smiths Falls Squash and Curling Club, the Smiths Falls Kinsmen, and local Indigenous groups is recommended.



Stakeholders and Fotenn work together to layout potential park amenities

3.0 Common Themes Across Groups:

3.1 Accessibility and Safety



Lighting



Parking



Pedestrians + Cyclists

- Improve lighting, parking, and pathways
- Address safety concerns, especially for pedestrians and cyclists

3.2 Storage and Facilities



Secure Storage



Accessible Washrooms

- Need for secure, centralized storage
- Accessible washrooms

3.3 Expanded and Upgraded Features



Updated Courts



Updated Soccer Field



Shaded Seating

- Fields and courts designed to modern standards.
- Shaded areas, metal bleachers, and enhanced maintenance practices.

4.0 Charts and Summaries:

4.1 Breakdown by Age Group

Based on participant responses, the existing amenities are used primarily by the following age groups:



Tennis
30-50
~10 people



Soccer
2-14
576 + members



Bocce
18-65+
40 athletes in Special Olympics / 25 people in Bocce club



Baseball
U5-U18
325 members



Pickleball
50+
130 members



Softball
18+
165 members

4.2 Feedback Summary:



- **Parking and accessibility:** Mentioned by all groups.
- **Field/Court Improvements:** High Priority for all sports groups.
- **Lighting:** Needed for nighttime events and safety.

5.0 Design Recommendations:



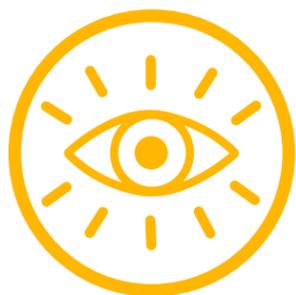
5.1 Layout Improvements

- Consolidate fields and courts for **multi-use flexibility** and easy **accessibility**.
- Ensure **centralized** and **safe parking**.



5.2 Accessibility Upgrades

- Install **wider, well-lit pathways**.
- Provide **accessible shaded seating** and **bathrooms**.



5.3 Aesthetic Enhancements

- Add **murals** and **greenery** to improve the park's visual appeal.
- Add **way-finding** and **clear signage**.



5.4 Infrastructure Enhancements

- Build **additional storage units**, **shade structures**, **drinking water stations**, and **upgraded bleachers**.
- Invest in **durable surfaces for courts and fields** to minimize maintenance needs.

6.0 Dotmocracy:

6.1 Park Furnishing Preferences



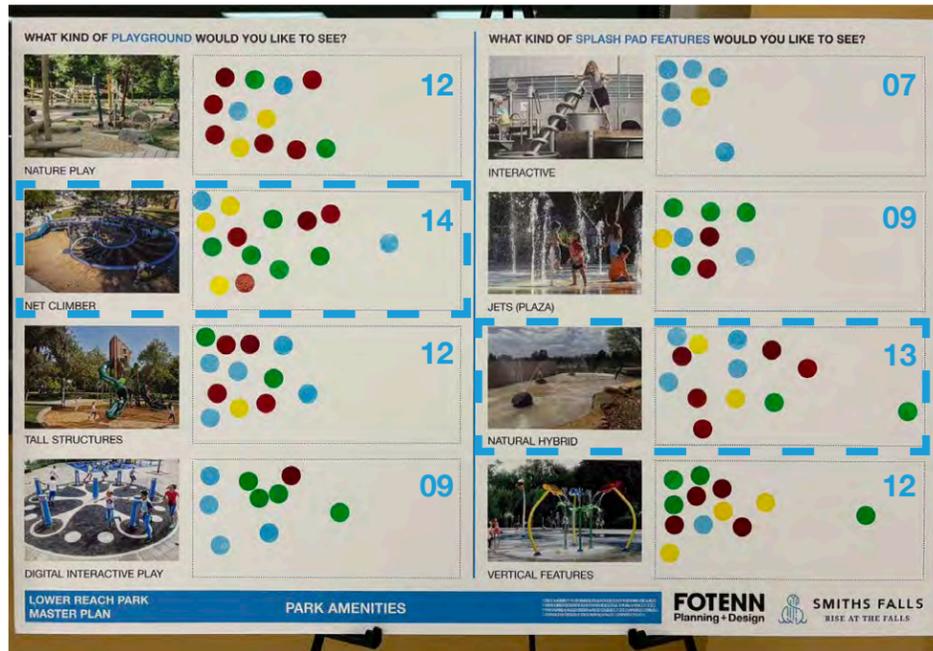
- “**Contemporary Organic**” received the most interest with “Traditional styles” and “Rustic/Cottage” both receiving 11 votes. “Playful” was the least preferred.
- This indicates a stronger inclination towards **natural materials** and **organic shapes**.

6.2 Waterfront Amenities and Access



- **Enclosed River Swimming Area**, **Public BBQ Area**, and **Beach** were among the most popular choices, suggesting a desire for **family-friendly** and **social gathering spaces**.
- **Kayak/SUP Rental** options and **Floating Fishing Docks** were also popular, indicating an interest in **water-related activities**.

6.3 Playground and Splash Pad Features



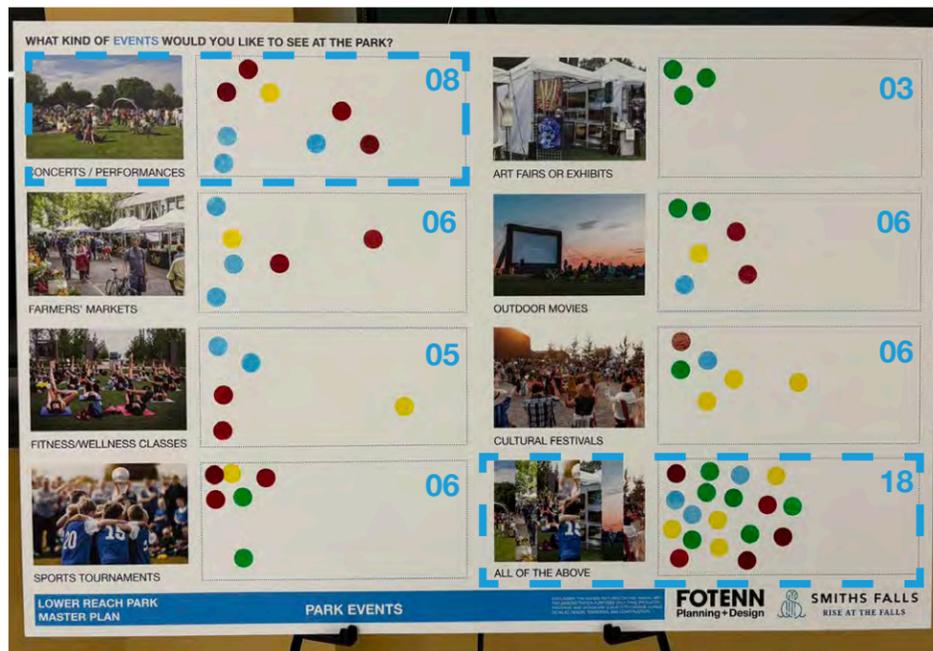
- **Net Climber playgrounds, nature play, and tall structure** playground styles were highly favored, showing a preference for **adventurous** and **nature-inspired play**.
- For splash pads, a **Natural Hybrid design** and **Vertical Features** were preferred, suggesting an interest in **imaginative** and **engaging water play**.

6.5 Bandstand and Game Preferences



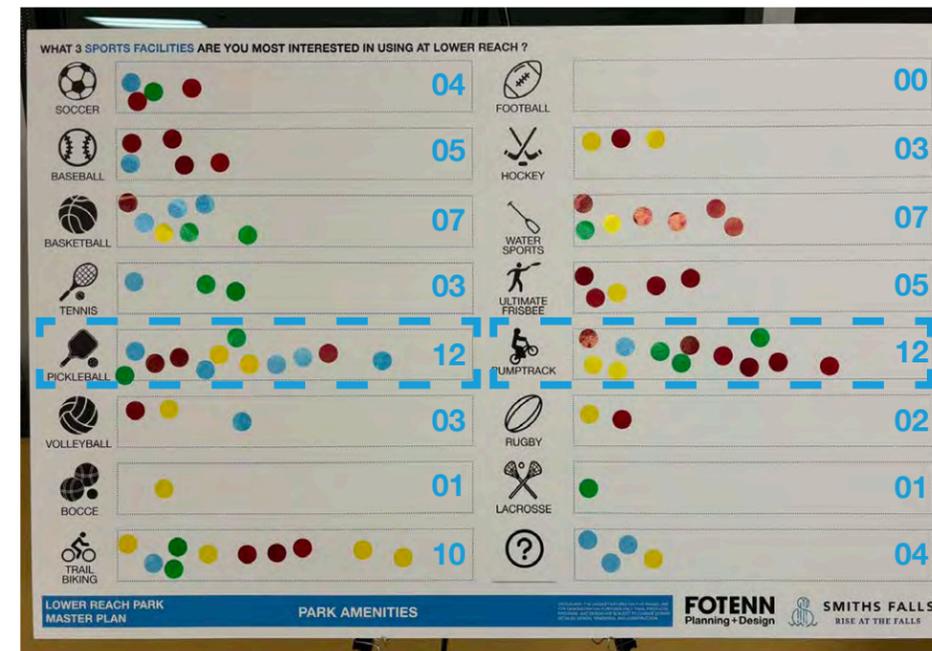
- A **Chalet-Style Bandstand** was the most favoured option, reflecting a preference for **natural materials** that compliment the environment and **face the water**.
- **Cornhole** was the highest rated game showing an interest in games that **facilitate social interactions** for **gatherings of various sizes and abilities**.

6.4 Event Types



- **All of the Above** received the most interest, indicating broad support for a variety of **cultural** and **social gatherings**.
- **Concerts/Performances** was second post popular vote highlighting a community interest in the **musical and performing arts**.

6.6 Sports Facilities



- **Pickleball** and **Pumptrack** received the most interest reflecting the **varied demographics** that use this space.

7.0 Post-It Note Feedback:

The following are key themes and suggestions pulled from post-it notes left on the design boards related to the park's accessibility, circulation, and features



7.2 Circulation and Safety Improvements

Traffic and Pedestrian Flow:

Notes highlighted the importance of improving pedestrian and vehicle flow within the park, including designated bike paths and safer pedestrian crossings.

Lighting:

Improved lighting was frequently mentioned, especially along pathways and in parking areas, to increase safety for evening use.

Signage and Wayfinding:

There were suggestions for clearer directional signage and information boards to help visitors navigate the park and locate amenities easily.

7.3 Park Amenities and Facilities

Waterfront Enhancements:

Participants showed a strong preference for enhancing the waterfront with features like kayak/canoe rentals, an enclosed swimming area, and designated fishing spots.

Playground and Recreation Areas:

There was interest in nature-inspired playgrounds, more interactive and challenging play structures, and additional sports facilities like pickleball courts and soccer fields.

Bandstand and Event Spaces:

Suggestions included creating a permanent, well-designed bandstand for events, with nearby seating and shaded areas for spectators.

7.1 Accessibility Enhancements

Pathways and Trails:

Multiple notes emphasize the need for better-maintained pathways, additional walking paths, and more accessible trails. Improved pathway surfaces were also suggested.

Seating and Rest Areas:

Suggestions included adding more accessible seating and benches throughout the park, especially near popular areas like playgrounds and waterfront spots.

Parking Improvements:

Many participants mentioned the need for expanded and clearly marked parking areas, along with parking located closer to activity areas for accessibility.

7.4 Environmental and Aesthetic Improvements

Tree Planting and Shade Structures:

Many comments requested additional trees and shaded areas, both for aesthetic enhancement and to provide relief from the sun.

Naturalization and Landscaping:

Several notes advocated for naturalizing certain areas, such as the shoreline, and adding more greenery around paths and picnic spots.

Beautification Features:

Murals, garden spaces, and other visual enhancements were suggested to improve the park's appeal and create a welcoming atmosphere.

7.5 Infrastructure and Maintenance

Storage and Maintenance Facilities: Some users highlighted the need for proper storage for sports equipment and improved maintenance of existing facilities.

Restroom Facilities: Comments indicated a desire for additional restroom facilities throughout the park, especially in areas far from existing restrooms.

Surface and Drainage Improvements: Issues with muddy areas and water pooling were noted, suggesting a need for better drainage systems and durable surfaces for high-traffic zones.

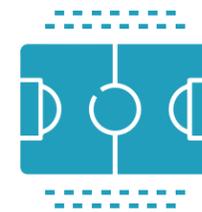
These themes reflect a strong community interest in making the park more **accessible, functional, and environmentally friendly**, with enhancements to both **infrastructure and recreational features**.



8.0 Cut-Out Feedback:



8.1 Core Facility Placement



8.1.1 Sports Fields: Soccer and baseball fields were **centrally placed** in the park, likely indicating a preference for an **active sports area at the heart of the park**.



8.1.2 Playgrounds and Picnic Areas: Observations suggest that playgrounds and picnic areas are positioned closer to the **edges of the active sports areas**, possibly intended as **quieter zones** that still allow nearby access to sports facilities.



8.1.3 Parking and Accessibility: Several **parking areas** were positioned near **main facility clusters**, likely to support easy access for sports spectators and families.

8.2 Spatial Patterns and Clusters



8.2.1 Active Recreation Zone: There's a clear clustering of sports facilities like soccer fields, baseball diamonds, and tennis/pickleball courts in one section, indicating a **consolidated zone for active recreation**.



8.2.2 Community and Leisure Zone: Playgrounds, picnic spots, and possible gathering areas are **clustered near the waterfront and tree-dense areas**, suggesting a vision for more passive recreation and community gatherings in quieter park sections.

8.3 Partial Plan Analysis



8.3.1 South Section: This area features **parking** and easy **access to facilities** like the soccer fields and larger sports courts, indicating a preference for accommodating both local sports teams and families in an organized layout.



8.3.2 North and Waterfront Sections: These areas reflect more **leisure-focused** use, with playgrounds and natural areas preserved for **gatherings, relaxation, and views of the river**.

8.4 Usage Preferences



8.4.1 Focus on Sports and Recreation: The predominant placement of sports fields and courts indicates a strong focus on **active recreational use**, suggesting that the community prioritizes sports facilities.



8.4.2 Emphasis on Multi-Use Spaces: The layout suggests a desire for **multi-use spaces** where families can **participate in or watch sports** while also having **access to playgrounds and picnic areas** for varied recreational activities.



8.4.3 Natural and Community Spaces: The inclusion of picnic and seating areas near natural elements shows a vision for creating spaces where the community can **gather, enjoy nature, and engage in low-impact activities**.

8.5 Overall Participants Vision and Priorities



8.5.1 Active Recreation Hub: Participants envision a **central hub** dedicated to sports and active recreation, making it a **prominent feature of the park**.



8.5.2 Community and Leisure Areas: The vision includes **quieter zones** for picnics, playgrounds, and natural aesthetics along the edges, particularly by the river.



8.5.3 Accessible Layout: The strategic placement of parking and accessible paths reflects a priority for making the park **user-friendly for families, sports spectators, and community gatherings**.



8.5.4 Conclusion: This analysis suggests a strong preference for a **multi-use park** that balances active **sports facilities** with peaceful, natural **community spaces**.



9.0 Picture the Park Analysis:



9.1 Gateway Feature

Suggestion: A gateway structure labeled “Lower Reach Park” was drawn, indicating a desire for a prominent entrance feature.



9.2 Water Play and Splash Features

Elements: Drawings included a “super splash pad” and a “big pool,” suggesting strong community interest in water-based play areas.

Implication: This gateway could serve as a welcoming landmark, making the park more recognizable and enhancing the sense of arrival for visitors.

Implication: Additional water features could provide interactive and cooling elements that are family-friendly, especially during warm months.



9.3 Play and Climbing Structures

Details: Drawings showed climbing equipment like a “circle spinner” and various play areas, indicating a desire for active play options.

Implication: Including unique and adventurous play structures could enhance the park’s appeal to children, providing spaces for physical activity and exploration.



9.4 Animal Interaction and Nature Elements:

Features: Some drawings included animals like dogs and birds, indicating an interest in natural or pet-friendly areas.

Implication: The community may appreciate spaces that integrate nature, such as bird-watching.



9.5 Shaded and Picnic Areas:

Suggestion: “Add mats” and benches were mentioned, suggesting a desire for comfortable, shaded resting areas.

Implication: Shaded seating and picnic spots could make the park more enjoyable for families and individuals looking to relax.

9.6 Conclusion:

These insights highlight a community vision for Lower Reach Park that includes **engaging water play areas, unique playground equipment, natural features, and ample shaded seating.** These elements could be prioritized in the park’s design to align with community interests.



10.0 Survey Analysis:

The following are key themes and suggestions are pulled from the online survey offered to residents before, during, and after the Open House. The answers are pulled from 302 responses.

10.1 Age Group Distribution



Key Insight: The majority of respondents fall into the 30-44 and 18-29 age brackets, and over half of respondents indicated they have children under the age of 12 indicating significant interest from younger adults and families.

10.2 Sustainable Features Preferences



Native Plants



Solar-Powered Lighting



Pollinator Garden



Rainwater Collection

Native Plants and Trees:

- A high percentage of respondents prioritize incorporating native vegetation for aesthetics and ecological benefits.

Solar-Powered Lighting:

- Strong interest in energy-efficient solutions for pathways and facilities.

Pollinator-Friendly Gardens:

- Popular among respondents who value biodiversity and sustainability.

Rainwater Collection Systems:

- A smaller but notable portion supports infrastructure for sustainability.

10.3 Events Preferences



Music Concerts



Farmers Market



Outdoor Movie Night



Art Exhibition

Music Concerts:

- Favored across age groups, highlighting interest in cultural and community experiences.

Farmers Markets:

- Broadly supported, suggesting an interest in fostering community interaction and local businesses.

Outdoor Movie Nights and Art Exhibitions:

- Attract diverse groups, including families and youth.

10.4 Reasons for Visiting



Walking Trail



Organized Sports



Relaxing in Park



Swimming

Walking or Jogging:

- The most common reason for park visits, highlighting the importance of trails and pathways.

Organized Sports and Games:

- Reflecting interest in maintaining and upgrading sports facilities.

Relaxing or Reading:

- Suggests a need for quiet, shaded spaces.

Boating and Swimming Access:

- Popular among users, emphasizing the significance of the waterfront.

10.5 Youth-Focused Insights



Sports



Social Gathering

High school-aged respondents showed particular interest in:

- **Sports Fields: Soccer, basketball, and other organized games.**
- **Social Gathering Spaces: Areas for picnics and group activities.**
- **Music Concerts and Fitness Events: Reflecting a desire for active and social experiences.**



Music Concerts



Fitness Events

10.6 Improvement Opportunities



Trails



Waterfront

What respondents liked:

- Trails, open spaces, and the waterfront are widely appreciated

What needs improvement:

- Parking, lighting, and the need for additional trees and shade are recurring themes.
- Better grouping of sports facilities was also suggested.



Informal Parking



Sports Facilities

In conclusion, this analysis highlights a community-wide interest in **sustainability, diverse recreational activities, and social spaces**, with a strong focus on **accommodating younger demographics and families**.

11.0 Student Engagement:

On November 29th, 2024, the design team presented to, and held a design workshops, for a grade 10 and grade 11 class from Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute (SFDCI) and a grade 4/5 class from Duncan J. Schoular Public School (DJSPS). Approximately 95 students participated. The students were given an introduction to the project, invited to participate by adding to the Dotmocracy boards, and then were then split into smaller groups where they worked directly with a designer sketching on the 1:750 boards. The following is a summary of discussions, concerns, and opportunities.

11.1 Common Themes



11.1.1 Make this a destination park

- improved wayfinding/ signage throughout the park
- anchor gateways / monument for photo opportunities

11.1.4 Improve maintenance (facilities / bridge / winter)

- facilities such as the docks along the water and volleyball are in disrepair
- pathways and pedestrian bridge requires maintenance
- the trails / parts of the park

11.1.2 Improve lighting

- lighting was brought up as a safety concern along the paths and within the park. This park is part of a lot of resident's commute

become unusable in the winter. As the park is often cut through as a commute, improving the maintenance is desirable

11.1.3 Improve / add trails throughout the park

- improve surface of trails for accessibility
- add additional trails through park as it is often cut through as a commute

11.1.5 Dog Swimming Area

- increase dog off-leash area to include shade and area for swimming

11.2 DJSPS Outcomes



11.2.1 Enhanced Playground: There is interest in making this the **destination playground / park** for all of Smiths Falls. There is a want for modern/ advanced features such as a climbing wall, zipline track, different types of swings. Also accessibility was mentioned as there is a desire for **rubberized safety surface** to replace the existing mulch.



11.2.2 Enhanced Accessibility: Upgrading and maintaining the trails for accessibility was discussed, especially a desire for **rubberized safety surface** as mentioned before. As well as improved accessibility in the splash pad and for **swimming access**.



11.2.3 Swimming Facilities / Larger Splash Pad: An outdoor pool and larger splash pad with more elements is requested.



11.2.4 Community Gardens and Community Board: There is interest for garden space as well as a space for community members to leave notices. This can become an exterior central hub.



Students from DJSPS arrange park elements together discussing their wishes for the future plan



Students from DJSPS arrange park elements together and sketch discussing their wishes for the future plan



Students from DJSPS add to the Dotmocracy boards



Students from SFDCI add to the Dotmocracy boards



Students from DJSPS arrange park elements and sketch together discussing their wishes for the future plan

11.3 SFDCI Outcomes



11.3.1 Spots Facilities:

- **Improve volleyball facilities.** There is a want for both indoor and outdoor facilities. The current beach volleyball court is unusable and the grass beside is used instead.
- **Swimming:** it is hard to swim as the shoreline is not pleasant. Better access to the water - such as a dock.
- **Basketball:** a desire for half courts for more informal games and activities
- **Football and Rugby pitch:** there is a want as popularity is increasing but players must travel for it currently which is a barrier of access.
- **All season rink:** skating in winter and rollerblading summer



11.3.2 All Season Washroom:

There is a need for accessible facilities year round. The current port-a-poties are brought late in the season and removed too early.



11.3.3 Lack of facilities for teenage demographic:

- There is a want for areas for teens to hangout AND play.
- 12+ splash pad and playgroundn equipment
 - events for teens ie movie in the park
 - bmx/pump track
 - passive play/areas to hangout
 - outdoor gym
 - food trucks



Students from DJSPS arrange park elements and sketch together discussing their wishes for the future plan

12.0 Concept Plan Presented



Residents attended a public open house and provide feedback on the concept plan.

12.1 Public Open House

Residents were invited to a public open house on February 19th, 2025, to provide feedback on the Lower Reach Park Concept design.

The concept design and a review of the public engagement to date was presented.

“Big moves”, included: re-located vehicular entrances and pedestrian cross-over, infrastructure upgrades (electrical service and distribution), distributed parking strategy, capitalizing on the Kinsmen Pavillion as an anchor, formalized swimming beach, personal watercraft access, re-organized / improved sports

facilities, re-located off-leash dog park, new outdoor stage and spectator area, annual tree planting program, improved playgrounds and splashpads, future flexibility.

Participants were encouraged to complete the second survey so that feedback could be incorporated into the final design.

12.2 Sketch Concepts Presented

Sketch concepts were presented for discussion and to illustrate the designs suggested through discussions with stakeholders to date.

These 3 concepts presented to the Town informed the Concept Plan that was then refined as the rendered concept plan.

The ‘passive’ area of the park along Riverdale Ave was largely the same in all options so the main ‘active’ part of the park became to focus in the next steps.

12.2.1 Sketch Concept 1



12.2.2 Sketch Concept 2



12.2.3 Sketch Concept 3



12.3 Concept Plan Comments



12.4 Survey Trends

The second online public engagement survey responses reveal several recurring themes and concerns. Highlights of the feedback focusing on missing elements, suggested improvements, and recurring comments can be categorized into the following:

12.4.1 Parking

There was a strong desire for increased parking facilities including, paved and well-maintained lots. Suggestions for centralized parking, and better access to park amenities were common. Concerns were raised about traffic congestion and parking overflow onto residential streets.

12.4.2 Dog Park

Respondents highlighted the dog park as a valuable community space for socializing and exercise, suggesting larger spaces with amenities like lighting and water stations. Many also wanted to see it relocated away from ball diamonds or busy roads.

12.4.3 Beach Area

The addition of a beach/swimming area was widely supported, but concerns were raised about water quality, weed control, and potential conflicts with boat docks. Some suggested expanding the beach area and making it more accessible for families

12.4.4 Pathways and Trails

Improved pathways were frequently mentioned, with requests for paved trails, lighting, winter maintenance, and expanded trail networks. Respondents expressed interest in boardwalks through wetlands and ensuring accessibility for all abilities.

12.4.5 Play Structures and Splash Pad

Upgraded play structures were a priority, with suggestions for unique designs (e.g., pirate ship) and gated areas for toddler safety. The splash pad was noted as being in disrepair, with calls for modernization to ensure safety.

12.4.6 Sports Facilities

Baseball diamonds received mixed feedback, with some advocating updates to meet competitive standards while others questioned their placement near other amenities. Pickleball courts were praised as a valuable addition. Some see the soccer fields as under-utilized.

12.4.7 Environmental Concerns

Respondents stressed the importance of preserving trees and green spaces while minimizing environmental impact. Suggestions included butterfly pathways, quiet nature areas, and spaces for wildlife observation.

12.4.8 Additional Amenities

Requests included: Water fountains for both people and dogs, shade structures near play areas, security cameras for safety, additional picnic tables near the water.

12.4.9 Winter amenities

Some respondents felt the plan was overly focused on summer sports rather than year-round activities like walking paths or winter amenities (e.g., skating rink).

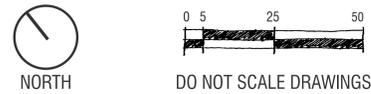
12.4.8 Lighting

Lighting was a theme that came up in this survey, as some respondents mentioned the need for improved lighting along pathways and in the dog park for safety and usability.

Appendix B



CONTEXT PLAN



LEGEND

- 1** 30m REGULATORY SETBACK FROM WATER LINE
- 2** IMPROVED PATHWAY
Pathway network to extend to connect with Beckwith Street. Maintains and augments the general circulation patterns through the park. A hierarchy of pathways and trails through the park should be developed to consider type, expected volume of use, lighting requirements, winter maintenance and/or possible x-country skiing. Improvements to the pathway loop to include new benches, and increased tree planting to enhance safety, comfort, and accessibility.
- 3** NEW SIDEWALK WITH BARRIER CURBS
Will prevent cars from accessing the park interior and causing damage and relegate vehicles to park on the street. The addition of sidewalks along all the street frontages should be considered when/if they are undergoing infrastructure renewals/replacements. Street parking should only be considered on River St., Riverdale Ave., Ryan St., Frost St., and Vincent St.
- 4** NATURALIZED SHORELINE
With multiple mown accesses to the water's edge.
- 5** NEW PIER
Reserved for small vessel (car-top) launching and fishing. Potential in this location for privately operated canoe, kayak, SUP rentals (dashed line).
- 6** EXISTING TENNIS COURTS
These courts are properly oriented (N-S), in decent condition, and will require only minor lifecycle improvements (surfacing, lighting, a new gate).
- 7** RELOCATED & EXPANDED BOCCIE COURTS
Expanded to accommodate Special Olympics tournaments.
- 8** NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS (4)
Fenced, paved with acrylic surfacing. A practice wall on the south end could help to attenuate sound.
- 9** NEW PARKING AREA
Accommodating approximately 35 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs, and maintenance access gate. This lot is proposed to have more than the required minimum of barrier-free stalls to accommodate Special Olympics practices at the adjacent bocce court(s). This parking lot is not expected to be winter maintained.
- 10** NEW CLUBHOUSE
3-season building, storage of gear, information kiosk for league play, accessible washroom.
- 11** EXISTING FITNESS AREA
Could remain and be replaced, subject to demand.
- 12** EXISTING BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT
Could remain subject to demand.
- 13** ADDITIONAL/RELOCATED BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT
- 14** RELOCATED U5 SOCCER PITCH (2)
25m x 18m.
- 15** IMPROVED FULL SIZE SOCCER PITCH (About Field)
To FIFA standard dimensions 100m x 60m, with upgraded lighting to IES Standards. Could also be expanded to a CFL-sized football field as demand arises.
- 16** NEW U10-U11 SOCCER PITCH
40m x 30m.
- 17** NEW U-13 SOCCER PITCH
71m x 42m.
- 18** EXISTING/EXPANDED BASKETBALL COURT
- 19** MAINTAIN EXISTING ENTRY
The gated entry should remain restrictive to vehicles, but consider using the basketball courts as occasional, temporary parking during large events.
- 20** NEW BASEBALL DIAMOND
The re-located and expanded Madden Diamond with a 225-250ft. centre field, lighting, clay-based base paths, grass infield and movable pitcher's mound to accommodate a range of age groups.
- 21** NEW CENTRALIZED PARKING
A large, centrally-located lot for approximately 120 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance access gates. The laneway and only a portion of the lot would be winter-maintained to accommodate year-round access to the Kinsmen Pavillion.
- 22** STAGING AREA
- 23** NEW OPERATIONS CENTRE
The existing building could be upgraded to provide secure tool and equipment storage. A secured exterior space (with adequate visual screening) could provide additional space for temporary storage of materials.
- 24** EXISTING KINSMEN PAVILLION
Pedestrian entrances upgraded for accessibility and ease of maintenance.
- 25** SPLASHPAD
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 26** JUNIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 27** SENIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 28** PLAZA AREA
A flexible space that could be programmed as a teen/adult lawn games area (cornhole, ping pong, chess tables etc.) with jet water features that could be turned off during events for expanded events area.
- 29** NEW SWIMMING BEACH
Refurbished swimming piers, lifeguard station, permanent umbrellas and Muskoka chairs.
- 30** PASSIVE AREA
Moveable picnic tables for small-to-large group gatherings near the water's edge. Consider adding BBOs here as well.
- 31** NEW PERFORMANCE STAGE
Could be designed to also accommodate group picnics when not in use.
- 32** WIDENED PATHWAY
Will allow for farmer's stalls, parking for classic car shows, access for event set-up deliveries.
- 33** PASSIVE SPACE BENEATH EXISTING MATURE TREES
Can function as a picnic area and transform into a shaded, spectator zone for live performances.
- 34** POSSIBLE ALL WHEEL FACILITY
An all-wheels facility or other facility as deemed appropriate.
- 35** EXISTING GRAVEL PARKING LOT
The gravel parking lot would remain with a relocated entrance and extents. It could eventually be transformed into a landscaped green space as parking capacity in the park expands. Sod and new tree plantings to enhance the park's natural environment, improve water quality, stormwater management. This area can accommodate expanded festival area or community events.
- 36** RELOCATED KIWANIS U-13 SOCCER PITCH
71m x 42m, with upgraded lighting to IES Standards.
- 37** NEW VEHICULAR ENTRANCE TO CIVITAN BLOCK
- 38** NEW VEHICLE ENTRANCE UPGRADES and NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSS-OVER
Will improve safety and provide a more fluid connection, requires further coordination with squash and curling club.
- 39** NEW PARKING AREA
Approximately 90 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance gate. An opportunity to increase seasonal off-peak parking for the Civitan diamonds and the Smiths Falls Curling and Squash Club. Subject to further discussion.
- 40** RE-LOCATED GLEESON DOG PARK
Similar capacity to existing facility. Fenced with controlled access, small & large breed zones, shade tree planting and furnishings. A high mast net (illustrated by the dashed line) would separate the dog park from the baseball diamond.
- 41** RE-LOCATED SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 230ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers. Space could be accommodated in this area for a potential future bullpen and batting cage.
- 42** RE-LOCATED EXPANDED BASEBALL/SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 290ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers.
- 43** CENTRALIZED GATHERING AREA
A possible shade shelter and furnishings with a water bottle filling station with water fountain and pet water bowl.
- 44** ACCESS TO Jasper Ave. CLOSED
Gated access for maintenance vehicles only, to allow for diamond expansion.
- 45** NATURALIZED SHORE
To be coordinated with Parks Canada to add ecological benefits and enhance views from the water.

DISCLAIMER: THE IMAGES FEATURED ON THIS PANEL ARE FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY. FINAL PRODUCTS, PROGRAM, AND DESIGN ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DURING DETAILED DESIGN, TENDERING, AND CONSTRUCTION.

CONCEPT PLAN

REIMAGINE THE REACH - A RENEWED VISION FOR LOWER REACH PARK



CONTEXT PLAN



DO NOT SCALE DRAWINGS

LEGEND

- 1** 30m REGULATORY SETBACK FROM WATER LINE
- 2** IMPROVED PATHWAY
Pathway network to extend to connect with Beckwith Street. Maintains and augments the general circulation patterns through the park. A hierarchy of pathways and trails through the park should be developed to consider type, expected volume of use, lighting requirements, winter maintenance and/or possible x-country skiing. Improvements to the pathway loop to include new benches, and increased tree planting to enhance safety, comfort, and accessibility.
- 3** NEW SIDEWALK WITH BARRIER CURBS
Will prevent cars from accessing the park interior and causing damage and relegate vehicles to park on the street. The addition of sidewalks along all the street frontages should be considered when/if they are undergoing infrastructure renewals/replacements. Street parking should only be considered on River St., Riverdale Ave., Ryan St., Frost St., and Vincent St.
- 4** NATURALIZED SHORELINE
With multiple mown accesses to the water's edge.
- 5** NEW PIER
Reserved for small vessel (car-top) launching and fishing. Potential in this location for privately operated canoe, kayak, SUP rentals (dashed line).
- 6** EXISTING TENNIS COURTS
These courts are properly oriented (N-S), in decent condition, and will require only minor lifecycle improvements (surfacing, lighting, a new gate).
- 7** RELOCATED & EXPANDED BOCCIE COURTS
Expanded to accommodate Special Olympics tournaments.
- 8** NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS (4)
Fenced, paved with acrylic surfacing. A practice wall on the south end could help to attenuate sound.
- 9** NEW PARKING AREA
Accommodating approximately 35 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs, and maintenance access gate. This lot is proposed to have more than the required minimum of barrier-free stalls to accommodate Special Olympics practices at the adjacent bocce court(s). This parking lot is not expected to be winter maintained.
- 10** NEW CLUBHOUSE
3-season building, storage of gear, information kiosk for league play, accessible washroom.
- 11** EXISTING FITNESS AREA
Could remain and be replaced, subject to demand.
- 12** EXISTING BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT
Could remain subject to demand.
- 13** ADDITIONAL/RELOCATED BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT
- 14** RELOCATED U5 SOCCER PITCH (2)
25m x 18m.
- 15** IMPROVED FULL SIZE SOCCER PITCH (About Field)
To FIFA standard dimensions 100m x 60m, with upgraded lighting to IES Standards. Could also be expanded to a CFL-sized football field as demand arises.
- 16** NEW U10-U11 SOCCER PITCH
40m x 30m.
- 17** NEW U-13 SOCCER PITCH
90m x 45m.
- 18** EXISTING/EXPANDED BASKETBALL COURT
- 19** MAINTAIN EXISTING ENTRY
The re-located and expanded Madden Diamond with a 225-250ft. centre field, lighting, clay-based base paths, grass infield and movable pitcher's mound to accommodate a range of age groups.
- 20** NEW BASEBALL DIAMOND
The re-located and expanded Madden Diamond with a 225-250ft. centre field, lighting, clay-based base paths, grass infield and movable pitcher's mound to accommodate a range of age groups.
- 21** NEW CENTRALIZED PARKING
A large, centrally-located lot for approximately 120 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance access gates. The laneway and only a portion of the lot would be winter-maintained to accommodate year-round access to the Kinsmen Pavillion.
- 22** STAGING AREA
- 23** NEW OPERATIONS CENTRE
The existing building could be upgraded to provide secure tool and equipment storage. A secured exterior space (with adequate visual screening) could provide additional space for temporary storage of materials.
- 24** EXISTING KINSMEN PAVILLION
Pedestrian entrances upgraded for accessibility and ease of maintenance.
- 25** SPLASHPAD
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 26** JUNIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 27** SENIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 28** PLAZA AREA
A flexible space that could be programmed as a teen/adult lawn games area (cornhole, ping pong, chess tables etc.) with jet water features that could be turned off during events for expanded events area.
- 29** NEW SWIMMING BEACH
Refurbished swimming piers, lifeguard station, permanent umbrellas and Muskoka chairs.
- 30** PASSIVE AREA
Moveable picnic tables for small-to-large group gatherings near the water's edge. Consider adding BBOs here as well.
- 31** NEW PERFORMANCE STAGE
Could be designed to also accommodate group picnics when not in use.
- 32** WIDENED PATHWAY
Will allow for farmer's stalls, parking for classic car shows, access for event set-up deliveries.
- 33** PASSIVE SPACE BENEATH EXISTING MATURE TREES
Can function as a picnic area and transform into a shaded, spectator zone for live performances.
- 34** PUMP TRACK
An all-wheels facility or other facility as deemed appropriate.
- 35** GREEN SPACE EXPANSION
The gravel parking lot is proposed to be transformed into a landscaped green space with sod and new tree plantings to enhance the park's natural environment, improve water quality, stormwater management. This area can accommodate expanded festival area or community events.
- 36** RELOCATED KIWANIS U-13 SOCCER PITCH
90m x 45m, with upgraded lighting to IES Standards.
- 37** NEW AND IMPROVED SHARED ENTRANCE WITH CURLING & SQUASH CLUB
- 38** NEW VEHICLE ENTRANCE UPGRADES and NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSS-OVER
Will improve safety and provide a more fluid connection.
- 39** NEW PARKING AREA
Approximately 90 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance gate. An opportunity to increase seasonal off-peak parking for the Civitan diamonds and the Smiths Falls Curling and Squash Club. Subject to further discussion.
- 40** RE-LOCATED GLEESON DOG PARK
Similar capacity to existing facility. Fenced with controlled access, small & large breed zones, shade tree planting and furnishings.
- 41** RE-LOCATED SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 230ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers.
- 42** RE-LOCATED EXPANDED BASEBALL/SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 290ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers.
- 43** CENTRALIZED GATHERING AREA
A possible shade shelter and furnishings with a water bottle filling station with water fountain and pet water bowl.
- 44** ACCESS TO Jasper Ave. CLOSED
Gated access for maintenance vehicles only, to allow for diamond expansion.
- 45** NATURALIZED SHORE
To be coordinated with Parks Canada to add ecological benefits and enhance views from the water.

LOWER REACH PARK REIMAGINED- CONCEPT PLAN

LEGEND

- 1 PASSIVE RECREATION AREA
Possible boardwalk connection, maintaining open green space and improved pathways and sidewalks.
- 2 NATURALIZED SHORELINE
With multiple moored accesses to the water's edge.
- 3 EXISTING TENNIS COURTS
These courts are properly oriented (N-S), in decent condition, and will require only minor lifecycle improvements (surfacing, lighting, a new gate).
- 4 RELOCATED & EXPANDED BOCCO COURTS
New Pickleball Courts (4)
Fenced, paved with acrylic surfacing. A practice wall on the south end could help to attenuate sound.
- 5 NEW PARKING AREA
Accommodating approximately 25 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance access gate. This lot is proposed to have more than the required minimum of barrier-free stalls to accommodate Special Olympics practices at the adjacent bocce courts). This parking lot is not expected to be winter maintained.
- 6 NEW CLUBHOUSE
3-season building, storage of gear, information kiosk for league play, accessible washrooms.
- 7 EXISTING FITNESS AREA
Could remain and be replaced, subject to demand.
- 8 EXISTING BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT
Could remain subject to demand.
- 9 ADDITIONAL/RELOCATED BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT
- 10 RELOCATED US SOCCER PITCH (2)
25m x 18m.
- 11 IMPROVED FULL SIZE SOCCER PITCH
(Abound Field) to FIFA standard dimensions 100m x 60m, with upgraded lighting to IES Standards. Could also be expanded to a CFL-sized football field as demand arises.
- 12 NEW U10-U11 SOCCER PITCH
40m x 30m.
- 13 NEW U-13 SOCCER PITCH
50m x 45m.
- 14 EXISTING/EXPANDED BASKETBALL COURT
- 15 MAINTAIN EXISTING ENTRY
The gated entry should remain restrictive to vehicles, but consider using the basketball courts as occasional, temporary parking during large events.
- 16 NEW CENTRALIZED PARKING
A large, centrally-located lot for approximately 160 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance access gates. The laneway and only a portion of the lot would be winter-maintained to accommodate year-round access to the Kinsmen Pavilion.
- 17 STAGING AREA
- 18 NEW OPERATIONS CENTRE
The existing building could be upgraded to provide access tool and equipment storage. A secured exterior space (with adequate visual screening) could provide additional space for temporary storage of materials.
- 19 EXISTING KINSMEN PAVILLION
Pedestrian entrances upgraded for accessibility and ease of maintenance.
- 20 SPLASHPAD
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 21 JUNIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 22 SENIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 23 PLAZA AREA
A flexible space that could be programmed as a teen/adult lawn games area with jet water features that could be turned off during events for expanded events area.
- 24 NEW SWIMMING BEACH
Refurbished swimming piers, lifeguard station, permanent umbrellas.
- 25 PASSIVE AREA
Movable picnic tables for small-to-large group gatherings near the water's edge. Consider adding BBQs here as well.
- 26 NEW PERFORMANCE STAGE
Could be designed to also accommodate group picnics when not in use.
- 27 WIDENED PATHWAY
Walk way for farmer's stalls, parking for classic car shows, access for event set-up deliveries.
- 28 PASSIVE SPACE BENEATH EXISTING MATURE TREES
Can function as a picnic area and transform into a shaded, spectator zone for live performances.
- 29 NEW PIER
Reserved for small vessel (car-top) launching. Potential in this location for privately operated canoe, kayak, SUP rentals.
- 30 NEW PARKING AREA
Approximately 74 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance access gates, drop-off loop.
- 31 RE-LOCATED GLEESON DOG PARK
Similar capacity to existing facility. Fenced with controlled access to dog-swim only area.
- 32 PUMP TRACK
An all-weather facility.
- 33 NEW BASEBALL DIAMOND
The re-located and expanded Friendship Diamond with a 265ft. centre field, lighting, clay-based base paths, grass infield.
- 34 EXISTING MADDEN FIELD TO REMAIN
Little league standard, with lifecycle improvements as needed.
- 35 EXISTING VEHICLE ENTRANCE UPGRADES AND NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSS-OVER
Will improve safety and provide a more fluid connection.
- 36 NEW PARKING AREA
Approximately 52 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance gates. An opportunity to increase seasonal off-peak parking for the Civitan diamonds and the Smiths Falls Curling and Squash Club. Subject to further discussion.
- 37 RE-LOCATED SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 230ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers.
- 38 EXPANDED SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 200ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers.
- 39 CENTRALIZED GATHERING AREA AND SMALL (fenced) PLAYGROUND
- 40 ACCESS TO Jasper Ave. CLOSED
Gated access for maintenance vehicles only, to allow for diamond expansion.

CONCEPT 1



LEGEND

- 1 PASSIVE RECREATION AREA
Possible boardwalk connection, naturalized shoreline, maintaining open green space and improved pathways and sidewalks.
- 2 EXISTING TENNIS COURTS
These courts are properly oriented (N-S), in decent condition, and will require only minor lifecycle improvements (surfacing, lighting, a new gate).
- 3 NEW PARKING AREA
Accommodating approximately 21 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs, and maintenance access gate. This lot is proposed to have more than the required minimum of barrier-free stalls to accommodate Special Olympics practices at the adjacent bocce courts). This parking lot is not expected to be winter maintained.
- 4 NEW BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT
- 5 NEW BASEBALL DIAMOND
The re-located and expanded Friendship Diamond with a 265ft. centre field, lighting, clay-based base paths, grass infield.
- 6 RELOCATED Madden Field BASEBALL DIAMOND
Rebuilt to existing Madden Field dimensions, with 115ft. centre field.
- 7 RELOCATED & EXPANDED BOCCO COURTS
Courts built around a new shade shelter.
- 8 NEW EQUIPMENT STORAGE BUILDING
- 9 EXISTING / EXPANDED BASKETBALL COURTS
- 10 MAINTAIN EXISTING ENTRY
The gated entry should remain restrictive to vehicles, but consider using the basketball courts as occasional, temporary parking during large events.
- 11 NEW U-10 SOCCER PITCH (1 of 2)
45m x 30m.
- 12 NEW U-13 SOCCER PITCH
50m x 45m.
- 13 NEW U-12 SOCCER PITCH
60m x 42m.
- 14 NEW U7 SOCCER PITCH
25m x 18m.
- 15 IMPROVED/EXPANDED FULL SIZE SOCCER PITCH
(Kwansa Field) upgraded to FIFA standard dimensions 100m x 60m, with upgraded lighting to IES Standards. Could also be expanded to a CFL-sized football field as demand arises.
- 16 EXISTING KINSMEN PAVILLION
Pedestrian entrances upgraded for accessibility and ease of maintenance.
- 17 SENIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 18 JUNIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 19 SPLASHPAD
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 20 PLAZA AREA
A flexible space that could be programmed as a teen/adult lawn games area with jet water features that could be turned off during events for expanded events area.
- 21 NEW SWIMMING DOCK
Enclosed river swimmer 'jook', with lifeguard station.
- 22 NEW PERFORMANCE STAGE
Located on the swimming docks and oriented toward the park. Could be designed to also function as a covered picnic shelter and lifeguard station when not in use for performances.
- 23 NEW CENTRALIZED PARKING
A large, centrally located lot for approximately 123 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance access gates and lighting. The laneway and only a portion of the lot would be winter-maintained (and illuminated) to accommodate year-round access to the Kinsmen Pavilion. Barrier-free stalls are within proximity to the Pavilion and the central play areas.
- 24 PASSIVE AREA
Movable picnic tables for small-to-large group gatherings near the water's edge. Consider adding BBQs here as well.
- 25 NEW PARKING AREA
Approximately 42 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance access gates, drop-off loop.
- 26 NEW PIER
Reserved for small vessel (car-top) launching. Potential in this location for privately operated canoe, kayak, SUP rentals.
- 27 RE-LOCATED GLEESON DOG PARK
Similar capacity to existing facility. Fenced with controlled access to dog-swim only area.
- 28 NEW OUTDOOR RINK
Permanent, boarded, illuminated with 3-season games courts (pickleball, basketball).
- 29 PUMP TRACK
An all-weather facility with a teen/ adult hang out and seating area.
- 30 EXISTING VEHICLE ENTRANCE UPGRADES AND NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSS-OVER
Will improve safety and provide a more fluid connection.
- 31 NEW PARKING AREA
Approximately 69 vehicles, could remain as gravel.
- 32 EXISTING SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 230ft. field with outfield netting, new lighting and spectator bleachers.
- 33 EXISTING SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 230ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers.
- 34 CENTRALIZED GATHERING AREA AND SMALL (fenced) PLAYGROUND

CONCEPT 2



LEGEND

- 1 PASSIVE RECREATION AREA
Possible boardwalk connection, naturalized shoreline, maintaining open green space and improved pathways and sidewalks.
- 2 30m REGULATORY SETBACK FROM WATER LINE
- 3 EXISTING TENNIS COURTS
These courts are properly oriented (N-S), in decent condition, and will require only minor lifecycle improvements (surfacing, lighting, a new gate).
- 4 NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS (4)
Fenced, paved with acrylic surfacing. A practice wall on the south end could help to attenuate sound.
- 5 NEW CLUBHOUSE
3-season building, storage of gear, information kiosk for league play, accessible washroom, and 8 accessible parking stalls.
- 6 NEW PARKING AREA
Accommodating approximately 118 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs, and maintenance access gate. This lot is proposed to have more than the required minimum of barrier-free stalls to accommodate Special Olympics practices at the adjacent bocce courts). This parking lot is not expected to be winter maintained.
- 7 NEW PIER
Reserved for small vessel (car-top) launching. Potential in this location for privately operated canoe, kayak, SUP rentals.
- 8 RELOCATED & EXPANDED BOCCO COURTS
4 permanent courts with field quality sodded area for an additional 4 games. Courts built with a new shade shelter.
- 9 NEW BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT
- 10 IMPROVED SOCCER PITCH
(Abound Field) upgraded to FIFA standard dimensions 100m x 60m, with upgraded lighting to IES Standards. Could also be expanded to a CFL-sized football field as demand arises.
- 11 NEW U7 SOCCER PITCH (1 of 2)
25m x 18m.
- 12 NEW U-10 SOCCER PITCH (1 of 2)
45m x 30m.
- 13 EXISTING BASKETBALL COURTS
Upgraded with bleachers and access bleachers.
- 14 MAINTAIN EXISTING ENTRY
The gated entry should remain restrictive to vehicles, but consider using the basketball courts as occasional, temporary parking during large events.
- 15 NEW BASEBALL DIAMOND
The re-located and expanded Friendship Diamond with a 265ft. centre field, lighting, clay-based base paths, grass infield.
- 16 EXISTING Madden Field BASEBALL DIAMOND
Madden Field dimensions, with 115ft. centre field.
- 17 IMPROVED/EXPANDED FULL SIZE SOCCER PITCH
(Kwansa Field) upgraded to FIFA standard dimensions 100m x 60m, with upgraded lighting to IES Standards. Could also be expanded to a CFL-sized football field as demand arises.
- 18 NEW CENTRALIZED PARKING
A large, centrally located lot for approximately 80 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance access gates and lighting. The laneway and only a portion of the lot would be winter-maintained (and illuminated) to accommodate year-round access to the Kinsmen Pavilion. Barrier-free stalls are within proximity to the Pavilion and the central play areas.
- 19 EXISTING KINSMEN PAVILLION
Pedestrian entrances upgraded for accessibility and ease of maintenance.
- 20 SPLASHPAD
Upgraded when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 21 JUNIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 22 SENIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 23 PLAZA AREA
A flexible space that could be programmed as a teen/adult lawn games area with jet water features that could be turned off during events for expanded events area.
- 24 NEW SWIMMING DOCK
Enclosed river swimmer 'jook', with lifeguard station.
- 25 PASSIVE AREA
Movable picnic tables for small-to-large group gatherings near the water's edge. Consider adding BBQs here as well.
- 26 NEW PERFORMANCE STAGE
Could be designed to also accommodate group picnics when not in use.
- 27 PASSIVE SPACE BENEATH EXISTING MATURE TREES
Can function as a picnic area and transform into a shaded, spectator zone for live performances.
- 28 NEW PARKING AREA
Approximately 42 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance access gates.
- 29 RE-LOCATED GLEESON DOG PARK
Similar capacity to existing facility. Fenced with controlled access to dog-swim only area.
- 30 PUMP TRACK
An all-weather facility with a teen/ adult hang out and seating area.
- 31 EXISTING VEHICLE ENTRANCE UPGRADES AND NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSS-OVER
Will improve safety and provide a more fluid connection.
- 32 NEW PARKING AREA
Approximately 50 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance gates. An opportunity to increase seasonal off-peak parking for the Civitan diamonds and the Smiths Falls Curling and Squash Club. Subject to further discussion.
- 33 RE-LOCATED SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 230ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers.
- 34 EXPANDED SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 250ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers.
- 35 CENTRALIZED GATHERING AREA AND SMALL (fenced) PLAYGROUND
- 36 ACCESS TO Jasper Ave. CLOSED
Gated access for maintenance vehicles only, to allow for diamond expansion.

CONCEPT 3



WELCOME

Welcome to the Lower Reach Park Re-Design Public Engagement Workshop

Thank you for taking the time to attend this workshop to share your thoughts on how Lower Reach Park can become a better place for everyone!

This session is a drop-in format Workshop, so please circulate through the four activities at your leisure. Facilitators are here to help, please ask them any questions you have about the session and let them know if you have additional thoughts about the park.

How to Participate:

- 1 **Circulate through the four Activities:** We hope each activity will be a chance to get feedback on different aspects of the Park. Facilitators will be stationed at the activities and are hoping to hear from you.

Activity 1: Picture the Park

Activity 2: The Problem is...

Activity 3: What does YOUR Lower Reach Look Like?

Activity 4: Hit it out of the Park

- 2 **Speak with our Facilitators:** They are here to HEAR from you!

- 3 **Fill our the Online Survey:** The survey is a great tool to share with neighbors and friends who weren't able to attend the Open House Workshop.

Next: Another Public Open House will be held in December - stay tuned for updates and we hope you'll join again.

PICTURE THE PARK

Welcome to Our Park Imagination Station!

We're excited to hear your ideas as we plan for the future of this park.

Today, you'll get to draw what you love about the park or imagine new ways to make it even better!

Your creativity will help us shape a space that's fun, beautiful, and welcoming for everyone. Whether you're thinking of exciting playground features, cozy spaces, or something magical, we want to see it all!

How to Participate:

- 1 **Pick a Prompt:** Choose one (or more!) prompts from the list below to get started. Each one is meant to help you imagine something unique and fun for the park.
- 2 **Pick Your Paper:** We have a variety of paper options – find the one that inspires you!
- 3 **Get Creative:** Draw what you'd like to see in the park or something that makes you feel happy when you visit. It could be something totally new or an improvement to something already here!
- 4 **Add Your Finishing Touches:** Color, label, and decorate your drawing to bring your ideas to life.
- 5 **Share Your Vision:** When you're done, pin your drawing on our display board. Feel free to add your name if you'd like!

Prompts

About the Existing Park

1. Draw your favorite thing to do in this park!
2. If you could bring a friend to the park, what would you show them?
3. What animal or bird would you most like to see at the park?
4. Share a memory you have in this park.

For the Future Park

5. Imagine the best play area ever. What would it look like?
6. If this park had a secret hideaway, what would it look like and where would it be?
7. Draw a dream feature you would love to see in the park, like a cool slide, a climbing wall, or a splash area!
8. What would a 'fun day' at the new park look like to you?
9. Imagine the perfect day in the park. What do you see happening?
10. What new feature do you think would make the park an even better place for the community?

THE PROBLEM IS...

Tell us about the existing Park Problems & Potential Opportunities

Welcome! We're gathering input to make Lower Reach Park the best it can be, and your ideas are invaluable.

This activity invites you to explore and share your thoughts on what's currently working well and what could be improved or added to make the park even better.

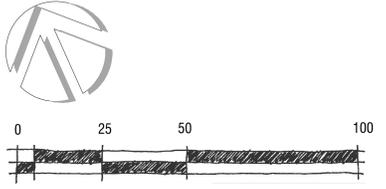
Your insights will help guide our design decisions and create a park that everyone can enjoy.

How to Participate:

- 1 **Review the Plan:** Take a few moments to look at the provided plan of Lower Reach Park. Think about what stands out to you, both the positive aspects and the areas that could use improvement.
- 2 **Share Your Ideas:** Write down your observations, ideas, or concerns on the Post-it notes provided.

Opportunities: What do you love about the park? What features or experiences do you think should be added or emphasized?

Constraints: What challenges do you see in the current park setup? What issues would you like to see addressed?
- 3 **Stick Your Notes to the Plan:** Place your completed Post-it notes on the relevant areas of the park plan to highlight your feedback.
- 4 **Explore and Interact:** Feel free to read others' notes and add your thoughts to theirs to build a conversation.



LOWER REACH PARK

TOWN OF SMITHS FALLS









WHAT DOES *YOUR* LOWER REACH LOOK LIKE?

Welcome to the Park Priorities Boards Activity

We want to hear your vision for Lower Reach Park!

This activity invites you to help shape the park's future by sharing your preferences for different park features and amenities.

By participating, you'll play a part in choosing the elements that make our community park a space everyone can enjoy.

How to Participate:

① **Review the Boards:** Explore the six boards showcasing different aspects of the park:

Board 1: Furnishings and park characteristics palette options

Board 2: Waterfront programming and access

Board 3: Qualitative design options for park play amenities

Board 4: Event options

Board 5: Bandstand options and game areas

Board 6: Sports facilities

② **Rate Your Preferences:** Rate your preferences by placing a dot sticker next to the images or features you like best. Feel free to add multiple dots if you have several favorites on one board!

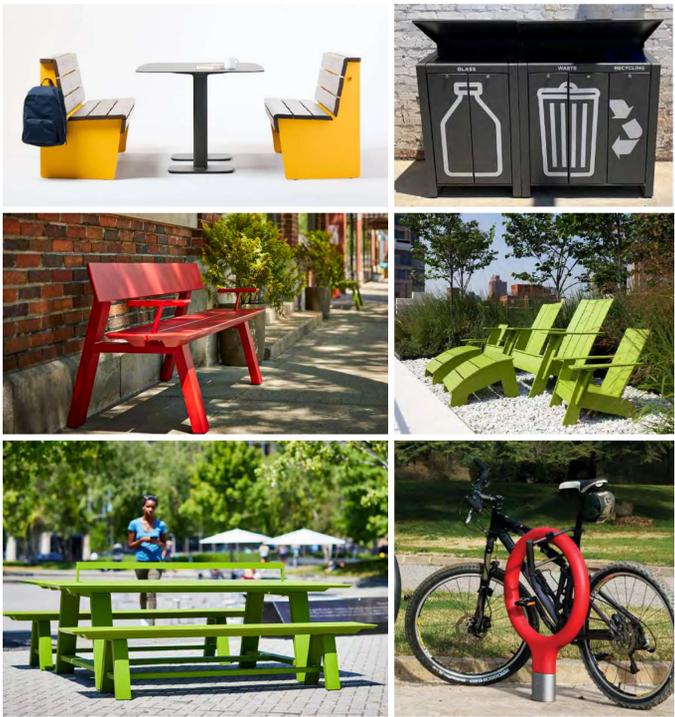
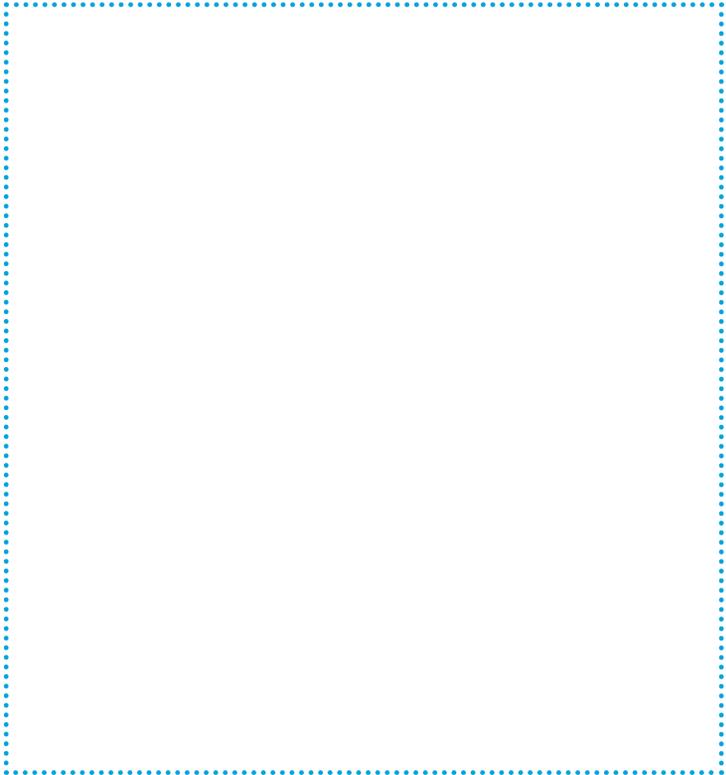
③ **Share Your Thoughts (Optional):** If you have specific ideas or feedback, use the comment cards available to write down your thoughts and place them in the feedback box.

Remember: Your input will help guide the design decisions, ensuring Lower Reach Park reflects the community's desires and needs.

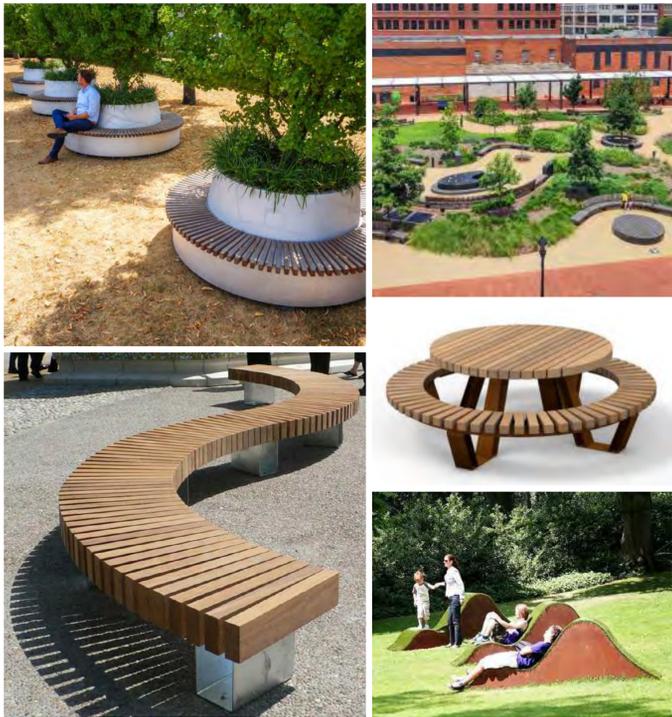
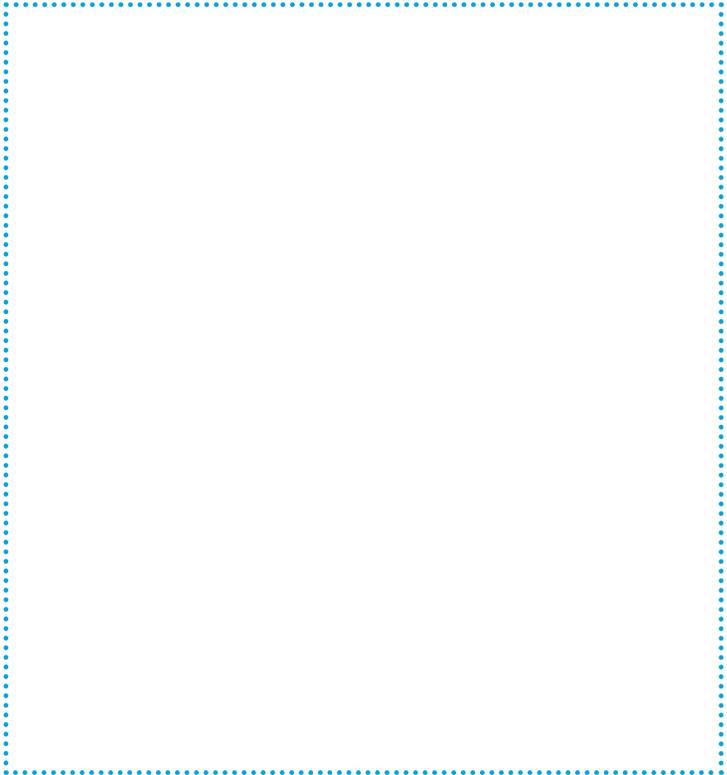
WHAT STYLE OF **PARK FURNISHING** WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?



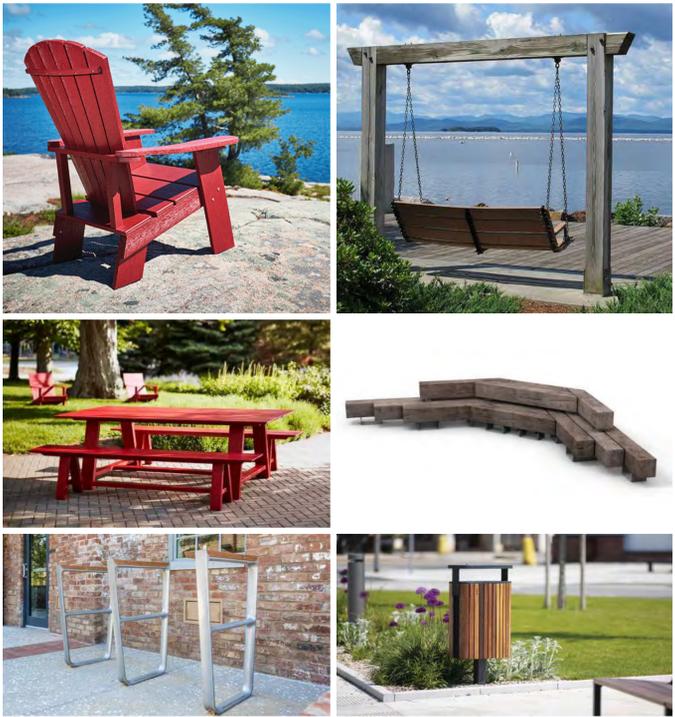
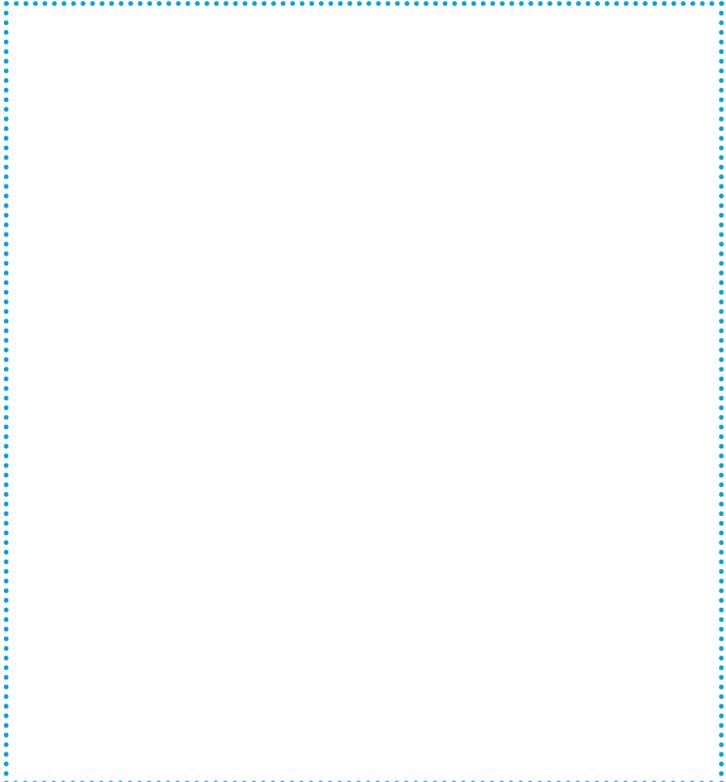
TRADITIONAL



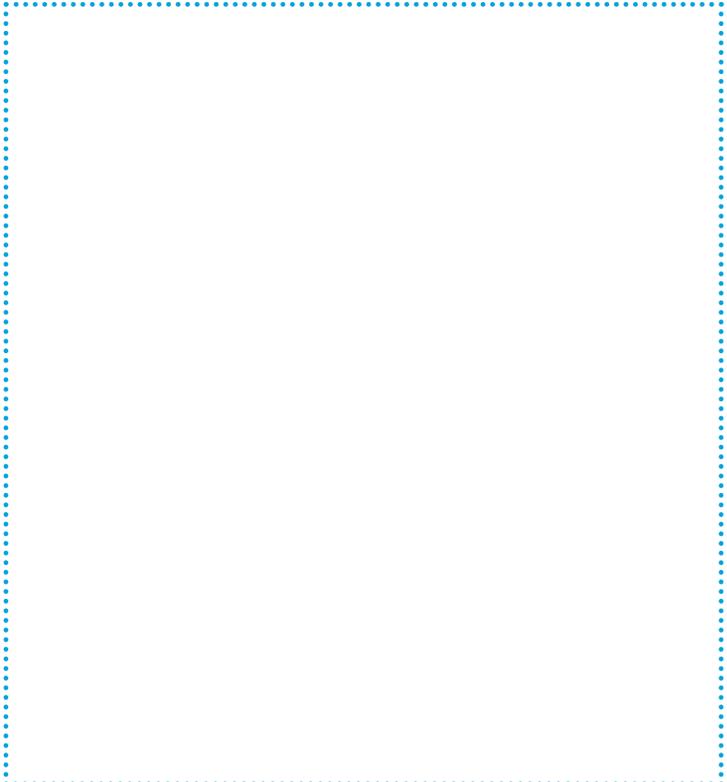
PLAYFUL



CONTEMPORARY ORGANIC



RUSTIC/COTTAGE



PICK 2 AMENITIES THAT WOULD HELP YOU ENJOY THE WATERFRONT?



BEACH



PERSONAL KAYAK/CANOE LAUNCH



ENCLOSED RIVER SWIMMING AREA



KAYAK/SUP RENTAL (KAYAKOMAT)



PUBLIC BBQ AREA



FLOATING FISHING DOCK



WHAT KIND OF **PLAYGROUND** WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?



NATURE PLAY



NET CLIMBER



TALL STRUCTURES



DIGITAL INTERACTIVE PLAY



WHAT KIND OF **SPLASH PAD FEATURES** WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?



INTERACTIVE



JETS (PLAZA)



NATURAL HYBRID



VERTICAL FEATURES



WHAT KIND OF **EVENTS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT THE PARK?



CONCERTS / PERFORMANCES



ART FAIRS OR EXHIBITS



FARMERS' MARKETS



OUTDOOR MOVIES



FITNESS/WELLNESS CLASSES



CULTURAL FESTIVALS



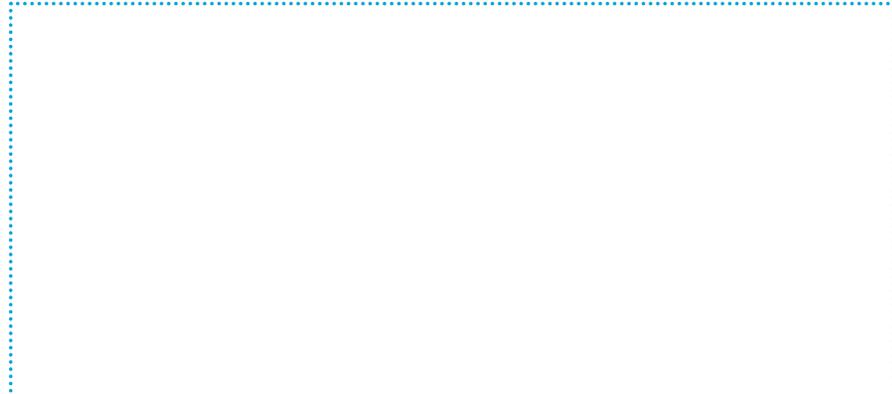
SPORTS TOURNAMENTS



ALL OF THE ABOVE



WHAT KIND OF **BANDSTAND** WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?



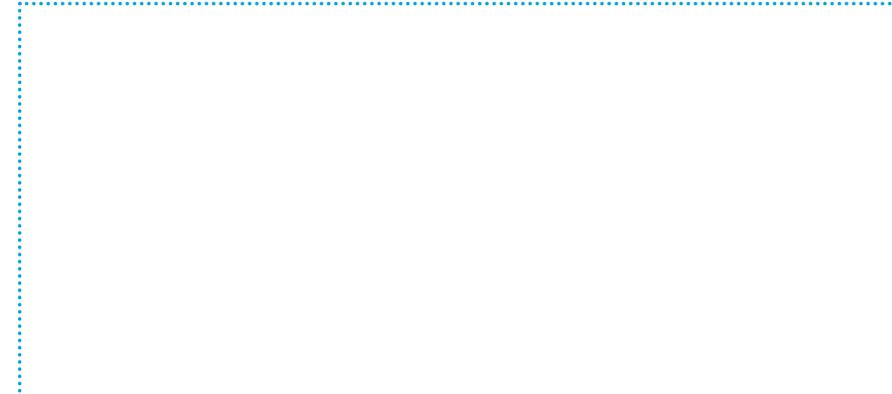
WHAT KIND OF **GAMES** WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?



DISC GOLF



CROKICURL



CORNHOLE



PING PONG



WHAT 3 **SPORTS FACILITIES** ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN USING AT LOWER REACH ?



SOCCER



BASEBALL



BASKETBALL



TENNIS



PICKLEBALL



VOLLEYBALL



BOCCE



TRAIL BIKING



FOOTBALL



HOCKEY



WATER SPORTS



ULTIMATE FRISBEE



PUMPTRACK



RUGBY



LACROSSE



HIT IT OUT OF THE PARK!

Welcome to our Hands on Visioning Activity

Get ready to help shape Lower Reach Park in a fun, collaborative way!

In this hands-on activity, you'll have the chance to use scaled cutouts of sports fields and major park amenities to suggest big, bold ideas for the park's layout.

Work together with others, think creatively, and share your vision for what would make this park truly special!

How to Participate:

- 1 **Join a Group:** Gather around the table with others to start collaborating. Don't worry if you're new – everyone's ideas are welcome!
- 2 **Review the Materials:** Familiarize yourself with the scaled cutouts provided, including sports fields and various park amenities.
- 3 **Design Your Park:** Work together with your group to place and arrange the cutouts on the map of Lower Reach Park. Think outside the box! Consider big ideas and unique arrangements that could enhance the park experience for everyone.
- 4 **Share Your Vision:** Once your group is happy with the arrangement, let one of our team members know. We'll take a photograph of your group's layout to capture your vision.
- 5 **Discuss and Engage:** Feel free to talk through your choices with other groups and share your thoughts on what could make the park even better.

Your creative input will help guide the development of Lower Reach Park and inspire new possibilities. We can't wait to see your big ideas!

Appendix C

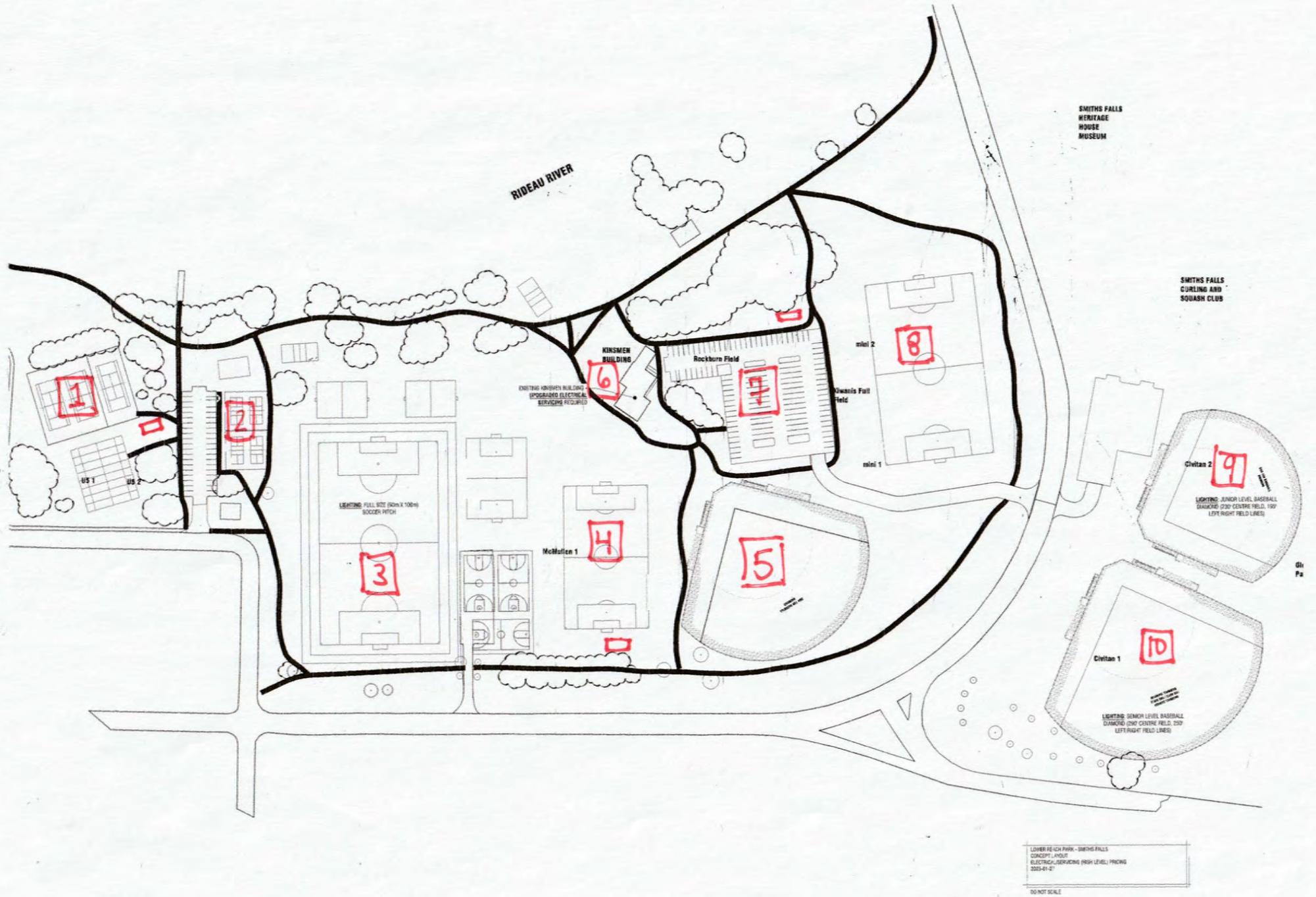


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**TOWN OF SMITH FALLS
LOWER REACH PARK
ELECTRICAL SERVICES**

1 TENNIS COURT

The overall required work would consist of the removal of deteriorated electrical service and replacement of existing metal halide lighting standard (pole and mounting assembly) with a new LED light standard (pole and mounting assembly). A new electrical service kiosk would be centrally located to accommodate the tennis court, nearby parking lot and pickleball court in the area.

An Opinion of Probable cost is **\$185,000.00** (taxes not included)

Description	Cost
Demolition (electrical service, light fixtures and mounting assemblies)	\$ 5,000.00
New sports light standard including pole, LED fixtures and accessories (6)	\$ 60,000.00
New 120/240V, 200A electrical kiosk (c/w metering, electrical distribution, lighting control equipment)	\$ 35,000.00
New Hydro One estimated cost and incoming service	\$ 25,000.00
Electrical Labour and materials	\$ 30,000.00
Contingency 25%±	\$ 30,000.00

2 PICKLEBALL COURT & PARKING LOT

The overall required work would consist of new pickleball lighting, parking lot lighting and connection from centrally located electrical service kiosk identified in Tennis Court costing.

An Opinion of Probable cost is **\$95,000.00** (taxes not included)

Description	Cost
New sports light standard including pole, LED fixtures and accessories (4)	\$ 40,000.00
New parking lot light standard including pole, LED fixtures and accessories (2)	\$ 15,000.00
Electrical Labour and materials	\$ 20,000.00
Contingency 25%±	\$ 20,000.00

3 SOCCER FIELD (EXISTING)

The overall required work would consist of the removal of existing metal halide lighting fixtures with a new LED lighting future, on existing poles. Existing fixture mounting brackets would be replaced with new to accommodate new fixtures.

An Opinion of Probable cost is **\$87,000.00** (taxes not included)

Description	Cost
Demolition (electrical service, light fixtures and mounting assemblies)	\$ 5,000.00
New LED fixtures (12)	\$ 42,000.00

**TOWN OF SMITH FALLS
LOWER REACH PARK
ELECTRICAL SERVICES**

New mounting bracket assemblies (6)	\$ 6,000.00
Electrical Labour and materials	\$ 15,000.00
Contingency 25%±	\$ 20,000.00

4 SOCCER FIELD (NEW)

The overall required work would consist of new soccer field lighting and A new electrical service kiosk would be centrally located to accommodate the soccer field and nearby baseball field in the area.

An Opinion of Probable cost is **\$150,000.00** (taxes not included)

Description	Cost
New sports light standard including pole, LED fixtures and accessories (4)	\$ 40,000.00
New 120/240V, 200A electrical kiosk (c/w metering, electrical distribution, lighting control equipment)	\$ 35,000.00
New Hydro One estimated cost and incoming service	\$ 25,000.00
Electrical Labour and materials	\$ 25,000.00
Contingency 25%±	\$25,000.00

5 BASEBALL FIELD (NEW)

The overall required work would consist of new baseball field lighting and connection from centrally located electrical service kiosk identified in Soccer field costing.

An Opinion of Probable cost is **\$110,000.00** (taxes not included)

Description	Cost
New sports light standard including pole, LED fixtures and accessories (6)	\$ 60,000.00
Electrical Labour and materials	\$ 30,000.00
Contingency 25%±	\$ 20,000.00

6 KINSMEN BUILDING

A new service upgrade would be arranged with Hydro Ottawa and a new disconnect / panel would need to be provided. There is not physical space in the electrical closet, I do not know where you would put new electrical equipment, thus this would require modifications to existing areas to accommodate. The opinion of probable cost does not allow for room modifications, expansion of electrical closet, etc.

An Opinion of Probable cost is **\$65,000.00** (taxes not included)

Description	Cost
New 120/240V, 400A electrical service (c/w metering, electrical distribution panel and connection to existing 200A	\$15,000.00

**TOWN OF SMITH FALLS
LOWER REACH PARK
ELECTRICAL SERVICES**

panel)	
New Hydro One estimated cost and incoming service	\$ 25,000.00
Electrical Labour and materials	\$ 10,000.00
Contingency 25%±	\$ 15,000.00

7 PARKING LOT (NEW)

The overall required work would consist of new parking lot lighting and A new electrical service kiosk would be centrally located to accommodate the parking lot and nearby soccer field in the area.

An Opinion of Probable cost is **\$160,000.00** (taxes not included)

Description	Cost
New parking lot light standard including pole, LED fixtures and accessories (6)	\$ 45,000.00
New 120/240V, 200A electrical kiosk (c/w metering, electrical distribution, lighting control equipment)	\$ 35,000.00
New Hydro One estimated cost and incoming service	\$ 25,000.00
Electrical Labour and materials	\$ 30,000.00
Contingency 25%±	\$ 25,000.00

8 SOCCER FIELD (NEW)

The overall required work would consist of new baseball field lighting and connection from centrally located electrical service kiosk identified in parking lot costing.

An Opinion of Probable cost is **\$110,000.00** (taxes not included)

Description	Cost
New sports light standard including pole, LED fixtures and accessories (6)	\$ 60,000.00
Electrical Labour and materials	\$ 30,000.00
Contingency 25%±	\$ 20,000.00

9 BASEBALL FIELD (EXISTING)

The overall required work would consist of new baseball field lighting and connections to existing electrical service. We have identified the cost of upgrading existing service equipment as an optional cost not included in this Opinion of Probable Cost.

An Opinion of Probable cost is **\$110,000.00** (taxes not included)

Description	Cost
Demolition (electrical service, light fixtures and mounting assemblies)	\$ 5,000.00
New sports light standard including pole, LED fixtures and accessories (6)	\$ 60,000.00

**TOWN OF SMITH FALLS
LOWER REACH PARK
ELECTRICAL SERVICES**

Electrical Labour and materials	\$ 25,000.00
Contingency 25%±	\$ 20,000.00
Optional: Replacement of existing 120/240V, 400A distribution equipment.	\$ 20,000.00

10 BASEBALL FIELD (EXISTING)

The overall required work would consist of new baseball field lighting and connections to existing electrical service.

An Opinion of Probable cost is **\$122,000.00** (taxes not included)

Description	Cost
Demolition (electrical service, light fixtures and mounting assemblies)	\$ 5,000.00
New sports light standard including pole, LED fixtures and accessories (6)	\$ 72,000.00
Electrical Labour and materials	\$ 25,000.00
Contingency 25%±	\$ 20,000.00

Appendix D



Item	Description		Amount
10	Construction		\$ 49,407.10
10.01	Excavation and Removals		\$ 5,843.40
10.02	Concrete		\$ 10,079.19
10.03	Pavement Structure		\$ 7,008.70
10.04	Landscaping		\$ 828.81
10.05	Pavement Marking		\$ 2,500.00
10.06	Electrical		\$ 21,547.00
10.07	Signage		\$ 1,600.00
20	Engineering and Architectural Services		\$ 17,292.48
30	Contract Administration Fees (If Required)	20%	\$ 9,881.42
	Sub Total		\$ 76,581.00
40	Contingency	40%	\$ 19,762.84
GRAND TOTAL			\$ 96,343.84

Notes:

- The costing assumes an electrical connection can occur at the nearest hydro pole location approximately 5m from the PXO on the East side of Old Slys Road
- The costing includes only 3m x 5m concrete landing pads on either side of Old Slys Road and does not cover additional pathway connections to existing pathways/trails or any associated grading work required to ensure AODA compliance on pedestrian approach grades.
- The costing does not cover any associated grading work that may be required to ensure adequate sightlines can be achieved. With the inclusion of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon's associated with a Type C PXO, sightlines are assumed to be adequate but shall be confirmed during the functional design stage.
- The costing has been based on the implementation of a Type C PXO with the existing conditions on Old Slys Road and does not cover any additional costs associated with any roadwork or modifications that may be required resulting from construction of the new park accesses immediately south of the proposed PXO location.
- The costing does not include any potential modifications required to streetlighting in the vicinity of the PXO.
- Estimated costs include scope of providing and installation of materials, but do not include testing or commissioning of the pedestrian crossing.



Item No.	Item Code	Description	Quantity	Units	Unit Price	Amount
10.01		Excavation and Removals				
		Saw Cutting of Asphalt	22	m	\$ 23.00	\$ 506.00
		Remove Asphalt Pavement by Dry Grinding	110	m ²	\$ 31.10	\$ 3,421.00
		Remove Asphalt Pavement - Full Depth (Stripping)	17	m ²	\$ 37.60	\$ 620.40
		Earth Excavation (Includes stripping, Duct and Foundation Removals)	30	m ³	\$ 43.20	\$ 1,296.00
10.02		Concrete				
		Concrete Sidewalks, Boulevards and Islands	30	m ²	\$ 220.50	\$ 6,615.00
		TWSI	3	m ²	\$ 1,154.73	\$ 3,464.19
10.03		Pavement Structure				
		Superpave 12.5mm (40mm Depth)	13	t	\$ 332.77	\$ 4,326.01
		Superpave 19.0mm (70mm Depth)	3	t	\$ 406.63	\$ 1,219.89
		Granular 'A' (150mm Depth)	17	t	\$ 28.24	\$ 480.08
		Granular 'B', Type II (450mm Depth)	29	t	\$ 33.54	\$ 982.72
		New Accesses	-	m ²	\$ 130.00	\$ -
10.04		Landscaping				
		Top Soil, Imported (150mm Thick)	3	m ³	\$ 157.91	\$ 473.73
		Sod, Including Watering	18	m ²	\$ 20.29	\$ 355.08
10.05		Pavement Markings				
		Pavement Markings [Provisional]	1	LS	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
10.06		Electrical				
		Traffic Plant (PXO wiring including ducts)	25	m	\$ 91.88	\$ 2,297.00
		Connect to Existing Demarcation Point or Transformer	1	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
		PXO Type C Pole (incl hardware)	2	ea	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
		PXO Type C Pole Foundation	2	ea	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
		PXO Equipment (push buttons, flashers, etc).	1	LS	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00
10.07		Signage				
		Ra-5L	2	ea	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00
		Ra-5R	2	ea	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00
		Ra-10	2	ea	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00
		Wc-27R	2	ea	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00
Total						\$ 49,407.10

Notes:

- The costing assumes an electrical connection can occur at the nearest hydro pole location approximately 5m from the PXO on the East side of Old Slys Road
- The costing includes only 3m x 5m concrete landing pads on either side of Old Slys Road and does not cover additional pathway connections to existing pathways/trails or any associated grading work required to ensure AODA compliance on pedestrian approach grades.
- The costing does not cover any associated grading work that may be required to ensure adequate sightlines can be achieved. With the inclusion of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon's associated with a Type C PXO, sightlines are assumed to be adequate but shall be confirmed during the functional design stage.
- The costing has been based on the implementation of a Type C PXO with the existing conditions on Old Slys Road and does not cover any additional costs associated with any roadwork or modifications that may be required resulting from construction of the new park accesses immediately south of the proposed PXO location.
- The costing does not include any potential modifications required to streetlighting in the vicinity of the PXO.
- Estimated costs include scope of providing and installation of materials, but do not include testing or commissioning of the pedestrian crossing.

Appendix E

CLASS D - OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

LOWER REACH PARK - SMITHS FALLS

ITEM	UNIT	QTY.	UNIT RATE (\$)*	SUB-TOTAL (\$)	
1 AMENITIES					
.01	SOCCER PITCH - FULL SIZE	ea.	2	271,180.00	542,360.00
	LIGHTING for Improved Full-Size 'Aboud' Field	l.s.	1	85,000.00	85,000.00
	LIGHTING for Relocated Full-Size 'Kiwanis' Field	l.s.	1	110,000.00	110,000.00
.02	SOCCER PITCH - INTERMEDIATE	ea.	1	133,055.00	133,055.00
.03	SOCCER PITCH - MINI	ea.	3	82,368.00	247,104.00
.04	BASKETBALL - FULL COURT	ea.	3	64,376.00	193,128.00
.05	BASEBALL / SOFTBALL DIAMOND	ea.	3	753,883.00	2,261,649.00
.05a	Baseball Diamond Irrigation (incl. booster pump)	ea.	1	90,000.00	90,000.00
.05b	LIGHTING for New Relocated & Expanded 'Madden' Diamond	l.s.	1	110,000.00	110,000.00
.05c	Upgraded LIGHTING for Improved Civitan Field #1	l.s.	1	130,000.00	130,000.00
.05d	Upgraded LIGHTING for Improved Civitan Field #2	l.s.	1	122,000.00	122,000.00
.05e	Upgraded LIGHTING for EXISTING Tennis Courts	l.s.	1	185,000.00	185,000.00
.06	PICKLEBALL COURTS	ea.	2	91,682.50	183,365.00
.06a	LIGHTING for PICKLEBALL COURT (& Adjacent Parking Lot)	l.s.	1	95,000.00	95,000.00
.07	BOCCE COURTS	ea.	8	6,565.00	52,520.00
.08	(BMX) PUMP TRACK	ea.	1	390,000.00	390,000.00
.09	SPLASHPAD - LARGE	ea.	1	299,390.00	299,390.00
.10	JUNIOR PLAY - LARGE	ea.	1	94,406.00	94,406.00
.11	SENIOR PLAY - LARGE	ea.	1	126,880.00	126,880.00
.12	SWINGS - 4 BAYS	ea.	1	38,350.00	38,350.00
.13	SHADE STRUCTURE - LARGE	ea.	1	156,000.00	156,000.00
.14	SHADE STRUCTURE - MEDIUM	ea.	1	104,000.00	104,000.00
.15	PARKING: HEAVY DUTY ASPHALT PAVING	m ²	9500	91.00	864,500.00
.15a	Line Painting (Parking Lots)	ea.	263	30.00	7,890.00
.15b	LIGHTING for NEW Kinsmen Parking Lot	l.s.	1	160,000.00	160,000.00
.16	NEW BANDSHELL	l.s.	1	400,000.00	400,000.00
SUB-TOTAL				7,181,597.00	
2 SITEWORKS & HARDSCAPE					
.01	Rough grading	m ²	23005.3	3.90	89,720.67
.02	Supplemental drainage (sub-drains, area drains, etc.)	ha	2.30	43,550.00	100,188.08
.03	Standard Water Supply Vault for Splashpad(s)	ea.	1	45,000.00	45,000.00
.04	Standard Park Electrical Servicing	ea.	1	10,400.00	10,400.00
.05	Heavy duty asphalt paths	m ²	7300	117.00	854,100.00
.05a	Lighting for Pathways	ea.	97	12,500.00	1,212,500.00
.06	LIGHTING for Kinsmen Building	l.s.	1	65,000.00	65,000.00
.07	Public Pier - Small Watercraft Launch Area	l.s.	1	130,000.00	130,000.00
.08	Boardwalk along waterfront	m ²	775	880.00	682,000.00
.09	Type 'C' PXO Crossing	l.s.	1	105,978.22	105,978.22
SUB-TOTAL				3,294,886.97	
3 SITE FURNISHINGS					
.01	Accessible Bench on Concrete Slab	ea.	20	2,300.00	46,000.00
.02	Picnic tables (no slab)	ea.	12	2,000.00	24,000.00
.03	Waste receptacles	ea.	15	1,600.00	24,000.00
.04	Bicycle racks (6 capacity, incl. concrete pad)	ea.	6	1,800.00	10,800.00
.05	Park sign (2-post model)	ea.	2	4,000.00	8,000.00
SUB-TOTAL				112,800.00	

CLASS D - OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

LOWER REACH PARK - SMITHS FALLS

4 SOFTSCAPE & PLANTING					
.01	Deciduous shade (60mm cal.)	ea.	100	675.00	67,500.00
.02	Coniferous trees (175cm ht.)	ea.	60	550.00	33,000.00
.03	Naturalized hedgerows (incl. caliper, small container and whip size plants, mulch, soil, cedar posts)	m ²	16610	12.50	207,625.00
.04	Sod & Seeded areas (includes topsoil)	m ²	7,273	9.75	70,914.68
SUB-TOTAL				379,039.68	

CONSTRUCTION SUB-TOTAL	10,968,323.65
-------------------------------	----------------------



	Consulting Fee	15%	1,645,248.55
	Construction Contingency	30%	3,290,497.09
	Park Construction Total		14,258,820.74

* premium added to unit rates of select items to cover geotechnical investigations due to site specific sensitivities = 30%

This Opinion of Probable Cost references "CONCEPT PLAN, REIMAGINE THE REACH - A RENEWED VISION FOR LOWER REACH PARK", dated April 14, 2025.

Costs listed do not include taxes. Please note quantities do not include offsite works - landscape works may be required to reinstate areas that have been constructed for access and utility connections.

The costs are provided for budgetary purposes only. Actual Costs will vary from this opinion of probable cost. By accepting this estimate, the owner waives the right to make any claim or commence action or bring any other proceedings in any Court of Law against Fotenn Consultants Inc., in connection with advice or information relating to this estimate whether in contract, tort or otherwise.

Prepared by: Fotenn Planning + Design (S. Paterson), April 10, 2025.



FOTENN



SMITHS FALLS
RISE AT THE FALLS

Reimage the Reach

A Renewed Vision for Lower Reach Park



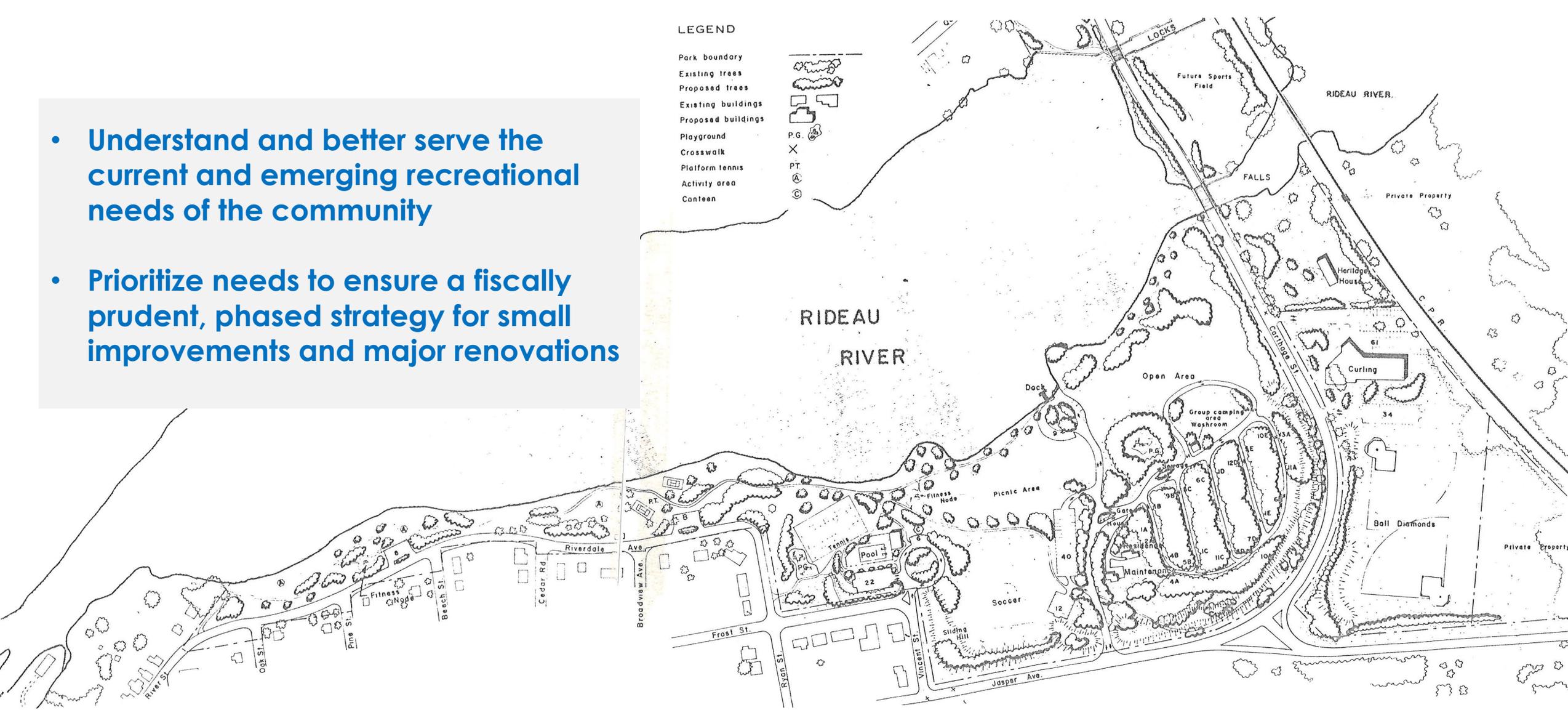
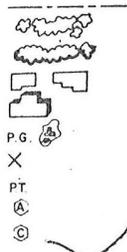


STUDY AREA

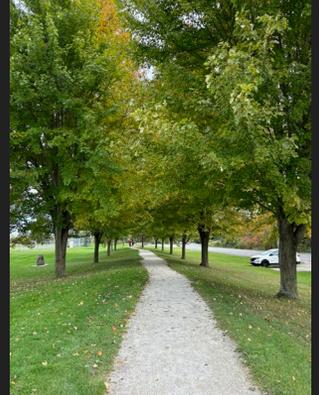
- Understand and better serve the current and emerging recreational needs of the community
- Prioritize needs to ensure a fiscally prudent, phased strategy for small improvements and major renovations

LEGEND

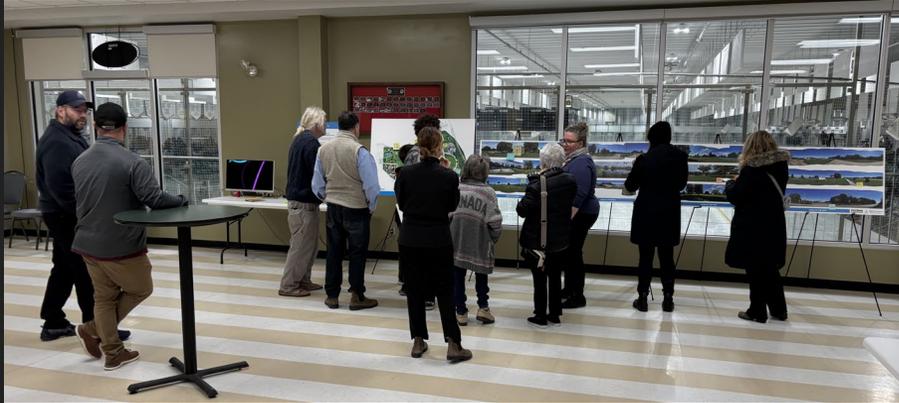
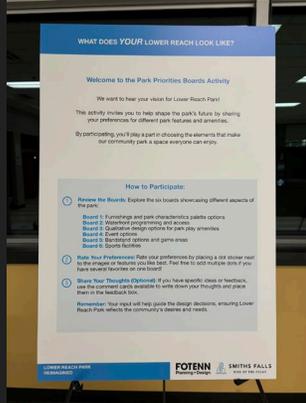
- Park boundary
- Existing trees
- Proposed trees
- Existing buildings
- Proposed buildings
- Playground
- Crosswalk
- Platform tennis
- Activity area
- Canteen



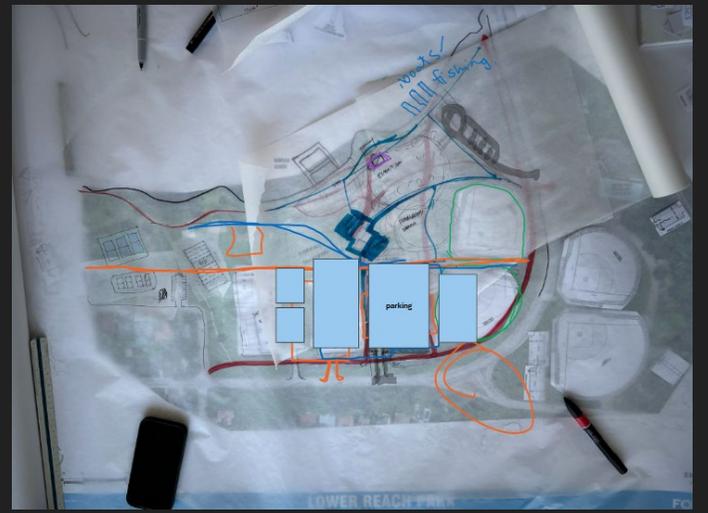
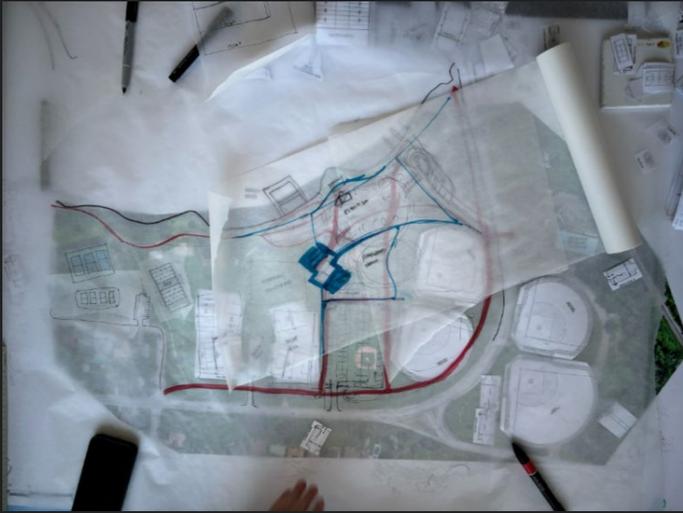
WHY?



HOW? Inventory & Analysis



HOW? Community Engagement



HOW? Synthesize Findings & Explore Options



HOW? Synthesize Findings & Explore Options



1st DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN – February 2025



FINAL CONCEPT PLAN – April 2025



CONTEXT PLAN



DO NOT SCALE DRAWINGS

LEGEND

- 1** 30m REGULATORY SETBACK FROM WATER LINE
Expanded to accommodate Special Olympics learn-to-swim.
- 2** IMPROVED PATHWAY
Pathway network to extend to connect with Beckwith Street. Maintains and augments the general circulation patterns through the park. A hierarchy of pathways and trails through the park should be developed to consider type, expected volume of use, lighting requirements, winter maintenance and/or possible e-courty skiing. Improvements to the pathway loop to include new benches, and increased tree planting to enhance safety, comfort, and accessibility.
- 3** NEW SIDEWALK WITH BARRIER CURBS
Will prevent cars from accessing the path interior and causing damage and relegate vehicles to park on the street. The addition of sidewalks along all the street frontages should be considered when/if they are undergoing infrastructure renewal/replacements. Street parking should only be considered on River St., Riverdale Ave., Ryan St., Frost St., and Vincent St.
- 4** NATURALIZED SHORELINE
With multiple mown accesses to the water's edge.
- 5** NEW PIER
Reserved for small vessel (car-top) launching and fishing. Potential in this location for privately operated canoe, kayak, SUP rentals (dashed line).
- 6** EXISTING TENNIS COURTS
These courts are properly oriented (N-S), in decent condition, and will require only minor lifecycle improvements (surfacing, lighting, a new gate).

- 7** RELOCATED & EXPANDED BOCCIE COURTS
Expanded to accommodate Special Olympics learn-to-swim.
- 8** NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS (4)
Fenced, paved with acrylic surfacing. A practice wall on the south end could help to attenuate sound.
- 9** NEW PARKING AREA
Accommodating approximately 25 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance access gate. This lot is proposed to have more than the required minimum of barrier-free stalls to accommodate Special Olympics practices at the adjacent boogie court(s). This parking lot is not expected to be winter maintained.
- 10** NEW CLUBHOUSE
3-season building, storage of gear, information kiosk for league play, accessible washroom.
- 11** EXISTING FITNESS AREA
Could remain and be relocated, subject to demand.
- 12** EXISTING BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT
Could remain subject to demand.
- 13** ADDITIONAL/RELOCATED BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT

- 14** RELOCATED U5 SOCCER PITCH (2)
25m x 19m.
- 15** IMPROVED FULL SIZE SOCCER PITCH
(About Field) to FIFA standard dimensions 100m x 60m, with upgraded lighting to IES Standards. Could be expanded to a CH-sized football field as demand arises.
- 16** NEW U10-U11 SOCCER PITCH
40m x 30m.
- 17** NEW U-13 SOCCER PITCH
71m x 42m.
- 18** EXISTING/EXPANDED BASKETBALL COURT
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 19** MAINTAIN EXISTING ENTRY
The gated entry should remain restrictive to vehicles, but consider using the basketball courts as occasional, temporary parking during large events.
- 20** NEW BASEBALL DIAMOND
The re-located and expanded Western Diamond with a 225-250ft. centre field, lighting, clay-based base paths, grass infill and movable pitcher's mound to accommodate a range of age groups.
- 21** NEW CENTRALIZED PARKING
A large, centrally-located lot for approximately 120 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance access paths. The laneway and only a portion of the lot would be winter-maintained to accommodate year-round access to the Kinsmen Pavilion.

- 22** STAGING AREA
- 23** NEW OPERATIONS CENTRE
The existing building could be upgraded to provide secure tool and equipment storage. A second exterior space (with adequate visual screening) could provide additional space for temporary storage of materials.
- 24** EXISTING KINSMEN PAVILLION
Pedestrian entrances upgraded for accessibility and ease of maintenance. 40m x 30m.
- 25** SPLASHPAD
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 26** JUNIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 27** SENIOR-AGE PLAYGROUND
Relocated when up for lifecycle replacement.
- 28** PLAZA AREA
A flexible space that could be programmed as a teen/adult lawn games area (cornhole, ping-pong, chess tables etc.) with water features that could be turned off during events for expanded events area.
- 29** NEW SWIMMING BEACH
Rehabilitated swimming piers, lifeguard station, permanent umbrellas and Muskoka chairs.
- 30** PASSIVE AREA
Movable picnic tables for small-to-large group gatherings near the water's edge. Consider adding BBQs here as well.

- 31** NEW PERFORMANCE STAGE
Could be designed to also accommodate group picnics when not in use.
- 32** WIDENED PATHWAY
Will allow for farmer's stalls, parking for classic car shows, access for event set-up/deliveries.
- 33** PASSIVE SPACE BENEATH EXISTING MATURE TREES
Can function as a picnic area and transform into a shaded, spectator zone for live performances.
- 34** POSSIBLE ALL WHEEL FACILITY
An all-vehicles facility or other facility as deemed appropriate.
- 35** EXISTING GRAVEL PARKING LOT
The gravel parking lot would remain with a relocated entrance and extends, it could eventually be transformed into a landscaped green space as parking capacity in the park expands. Soil and new tree plantings to enhance the park's natural environment, improve water quality, stormwater management. This area can accommodate expanded festival area or community events.
- 36** RELOCATED KIWANIS U-13 SOCCER PITCH
71m x 42m, with upgraded lighting to IES Standards.
- 37** NEW VEHICULAR ENTRANCE TO CIVITAN BLOCK
- 38** NEW VEHICLE ENTRANCE UPGRADES and NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSS-OVER
Will improve safety and provide a more fluid connection, requires further coordination with squares and curbing.

- 39** NEW PARKING AREA
Approximately 50 vehicles, paved, with barrier curbs and maintenance gate. An opportunity to increase seasonal off-peak parking for the Civitan diamonds and the Smiths Falls Curling and Squash Club. Subject to further discussion.
- 40** RE-LOCATED GLEESON DOG PARK
Similar capacity to existing facility. Fenced with controlled access, small & large breed zones, shade tree planting and furnishings. A high mast will (illustrated by the dashed line) would separate the dog park from the baseball diamond.
- 41** RE-LOCATED SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 280ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers. Space could be accommodated in this area for a potential future bullpen and batting cage.
- 42** RE-LOCATED EXPANDED BASEBALL/SOFTBALL DIAMOND
A 260ft. centre field with new lighting and spectator bleachers.
- 43** CENTRALIZED GATHERING AREA
A possible shade shelter and furnishings with a water bottle filling station with water fountain and pet water bowl.
- 44** ACCESS TO Jasper Ave. CLOSED BLOCK
Gated access for maintenance vehicles only to allow for diamond expansion.
- 45** NATURALIZED SHORE
To be coordinated with Parks Canada to add ecological benefits and enhance views from the water.

Next Steps

- Approve this document as a roadmap
- Commit to revisiting the document annually
- Regularly engage with the community about the plan and consider small adjustments as needs change and as improvements are made
- Use the document to illustrate community and Council support to un-lock funding opportunities



Reimage the Reach

A Renewed Vision for Lower Reach Park

Thank You!

Questions?



RIDEAU RIVER

KIRKENDY HILLING

Rockham Field

US 2

Abundant Field

US 1

McMullen 1

Friendship Diamond

Madden Field

SMITHS FALLS HEALTH & FITNESS MUSEUM

SMITHS FALLS CURLING AND SQUASH CLUB

Cotton 2

Cotton 1

Cloveland Park



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

Report # 2025-40

To: Mayor and Council
From: Kerry Costello, Clerk
Date: April 23, 2025
Committee of the Whole Date: April 28, 2025
Title: Smiths Falls For All Committee Interim Report, April 2025

- For Direction
- For Information
- For Adoption
- Attachment 23 Pages

Recommendation: THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls receive the Smiths Falls For All Interim Report, April 2025 and provide direction to staff.

Purpose: To provide Council with an update on the discussions/activities of the Smiths Falls For All Committee and offer some items for Council's consideration.

Background: The Smiths Falls For All Committee was tasked with continuing with the great work done by the previous Racism and Discrimination Task Force and expand their mandate. This committee is responsible for advancing the Town's efforts to further develop a diverse and inclusive community that provides equity to all its citizens. The inaugural meeting of the Smiths Falls For All Committee was held on September 14, 2023.

The committee has been actively meeting monthly and has engaged with many delegations, discussed many issues, planned events, and thought about the future work of this committee. The committee has discussed the mandate, outlined priorities/objectives and ways to reach the objective and prioritization of the tasks.

Analysis and Options:

Currently in the Terms of Reference includes the following four pillars of the sustainability framework (as per the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities):

1. Economic Sustainability
2. Environmental Sustainability
3. Social Sustainability
4. Cultural Sustainability

After much consideration the Committees is looking to amend the current Terms of Reference to reference the Four (4) Priorities developed by the Committee: (Housing, Poverty, Food Insecurity, Inclusivity). The group feels this better aligns with Council's Strategic Priorities and better aligns with our community.

The committee also is requesting a minor change to the name of this committee to Smiths Falls Equity for All Committee. This better reflects what the committee is trying to accomplish.

Option 1: Recommended

THAT Council authorize the following:

- Receive the report for information.
- Change the name of the committee to Smiths Falls Equity for All Committee.
- Amend the current Terms of Reference to reference the 4 Priorities developed by the Committee (Housing, Poverty, Food Insecurity, Inclusivity)

Option 2: Not recommended

THAT Council receive the report only.

Option 3: Not recommended

THAT Council receive the report and only one of the requests for Council's consideration..

Attachment: Smiths Falls for All Interim Report, April 2025

Budget/Financial Implications: \$5,000 has been allocated in the 2025 budget.

Link to Strategic Plan:

Vision: Helping marginalized people move out of poverty

Guiding Principle Integrity and Honesty: Ensuring inclusivity

Guiding Principle Integrity and Honesty: Treating everyone equally and equitably.

Guiding Principle Respect: Treating everyone equally and equitably.

Guiding Principle Respect: Caring for the community and its people.

Strategic Priority #2- Housing: Support more diverse built housing stock to ensure all our citizens have a home they can afford.

Existing Policy: Bylaw 10457-2023 (Adopting the Terms of Reference)

Consultations: Smiths Falls For All Committee Members

Notes/Action (space for Council Member's notes):

Respectfully submitted by:
Original signed by:

Kerry Costello
Clerk

Approved for agenda by CAO:
Original signed by:

Malcolm Morris, CMO
Chief Administrative Officer

SMITHS FALLS FOR ALL

INTERIM REPORT, April 2025

PURPOSE

This committee will be responsible for advancing the Town's efforts to further develop a diverse and inclusive community that provides equity to all its citizens.

This committee will make recommendations designed to enhance immigration into our community, to develop actions that will diminish prejudice, racism and discrimination and help advance Smiths Falls as a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive community.

BACKGROUND

The issue of racism, discrimination and prejudice throughout the world is not new but it has certainly taken on heightened prominence recently. The municipal role in combating this social ill has also expanded, particularly in larger urban cities where diversity of cultures has historically been more profound. The Town of Smiths Falls wishes to take the necessary steps to promote building a community that is welcoming and inclusive to all members of society.

On June 15, 2020, Council proclaimed:

.....that racism, bigotry, and discrimination in all forms will not be tolerated in Smiths Falls; and further, that we stand united with this commitment.

The Racism and Discrimination Task Force (11 members) met regularly from May 2021 until late 2022. The members shared ideas and discussed options in order to fulfill the mandate and scope of work as outlined in their Terms of Reference.

The Smiths Falls Racism and Discrimination Task Force was a committee of Council that work in partnership with the Smiths Falls community, organizations, businesses, stakeholders, and the Town to:

- Understand local realities and develop a plan of action to foster inclusion.
- Identify barriers and areas of opportunity, in order to enhance the shared experience and opportunities afforded to racial minorities and those impacted by discrimination and prejudice.
 - Identify and coordinate opportunities for stakeholder and community engagement.
 - Provide input and recommend action on matters relating to the provision of anti- racism and discrimination initiatives including education within the community.
- To make a recommendation to Council regarding membership and commitment to the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination.
 - Increase trust, loyalty, and respect within the community by promoting greater equality and inclusion.

The Smiths Falls Racism and Discrimination Task Force was tasked with identifying and implement actions to fulfill the following goals and objectives:

- Work towards the reduction/elimination of racism and discrimination.
- To identify existing systemic barriers for racial minorities and those impacted by discrimination, and develop/provide opportunities to address these barriers, provide education, and effect change.
- Improve our practices to promote social inclusion.
- To promote human rights and diversity.
- Produce an action plan and report to Council within six months of the inaugural meeting to identify primary goals, measurement tools, implementation plans, timelines, and budget.
- Build partnerships and share resources with like-minded organizations to maximize benefit, be aware of global best practice, to reduce potential for overlap of services and initiatives.
- Be inclusive of all community residents at all levels and abilities.
- Engage stakeholders, businesses, and cultural organizations as partners in the delivery of initiatives.

RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION TASK FORCE SUCCESSES

Reviewed and recommended that Council support Motion M-84 Anti-Hate Crimes and Incidents and private members Bill C-313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act. On September 30, 2021, Council passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the City of Kitchener passed a resolution with respect to Motion M-84 Anti-Hate Crimes and Incidents and private member's bill Bill-C 313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act; and

WHEREAS on June 15, 2020, Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls passed a resolution proclaiming "that racism, bigotry and discrimination in all forms will not be tolerated in Smiths Falls; and further, that we stand united with this commitment." and

WHEREAS Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls established a Racism and Discrimination Task Force to understand local realities, development of a plan of action to foster inclusion, identify barriers and areas of opportunity to enhance experience and opportunities afforded to racial minorities and those impacted by discrimination and prejudice; and

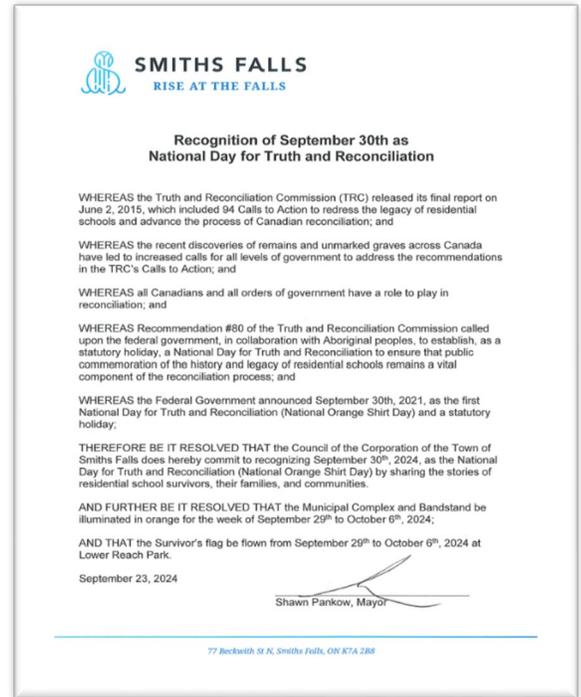
WHEREAS MP Peter Julian's motion M-84 Anti-hate crimes and incidents and private member's bill Bill-C 313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act is an opportunity to make all Canadians feel safer in the communities that they live;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls support the City of Kitchener's resolution endorsing MP Peter Julian's private member's bill Bill-C 313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act.

AND THAT the Federal Government conduct a comprehensive review of all possible symbols of hate and discrimination and consider developing a law that would prohibit hate within our country.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs Steve Clark, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Parm Gill, MP Scott Reid, MPP Randy Hillier, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities Ontario and all other municipalities in Ontario.

Upon recommendation from the Racism and Discrimination Task Force, Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls proclaims and recognizes September 30th of every year, as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) by sharing the stories of residential school survivors, their families, and communities. The Bandstand and Municipal Complex are lighted up orange in commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process. Every Child Matters flag is also flown to honour the innocent lives lost.



A recommendation was also made to seek approvals from Parks Canada to allow for the space to be erected on Duck Island. A Healing Circle was installed in September 2024 and was officially welcomed into the community on the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation September 30.

The Racism and Discrimination Task Force worked with Mr. Chuck Commanda to prepare a Land Acknowledgement that is now read at every Council, Committee and Board Meeting. The inaugural reading of the Land Acknowledgement took place at the September 27, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

June is proclaimed as PRIDE Month annually in The Town of Smiths Falls. The Mayor and Council encourage residents to reflect on the ongoing struggle for equality members of the LGBTQ+ community face and to celebrate the contributions that enhance our municipality. The PRIDE flag also is proudly displayed in front of the Municipal Complex.

EVOLUTION OF THE SMITHS FALLS FOR ALL COMMITTEE

The formation of the Smiths Falls For All Committee is to continue with the work done by the Racism and Discrimination Task Force and expand their mandate. This committee supports the principals of further developing a community where racism, discrimination, prejudice, and bias will not be tolerated and are silenced by overwhelming support for an equitable, diverse, and welcoming environment.

Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls adopted the Terms of Reference for the Smiths Falls For All Committee in June 2023. The inaugural meeting of the committee was held on September 14, 2023. This committee is responsible for advancing the Town's efforts to further develop a diverse and inclusive community that provides equity to all its citizens.

This committee is to make recommendations designed to enhance immigration into our community, to develop actions that will diminish prejudice, racism and discrimination and help advance Smiths Falls as a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive community.

Membership is comprised of:

- a) A maximum of two (2) Council members
- b) Representation from the health sector and social services.
- c) Up to eight (8) citizens members
- d) Up to two (2) youth members youth(s)
- e) One member of the Smiths Falls Police Service shall be appointed.

In Year 1, the committee was to research and prepare a mandate and feasible work plan that outlines the committees' priorities/objectives, ways to reach the objective, prioritization of the tasks, assignment of a pillar and the proposed timeframe for completion (i.e., Year 1, Year 2, etc..). The workplan was to include the following four pillars of the sustainability framework (as per the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities:

1. Economic Sustainability
2. Environmental Sustainability
3. Social Sustainability
4. Cultural Sustainability

The committee has been actively meeting monthly and has engaged with many delegations, discussed many issues, planned events, and thought about the future work of this committee.

In year 2 through 5, the committee will work through the listing of objectives with bi-annual reports to Council. The Task Force shall prepare a final report to Council outlining recommendations for the future.

DELEGATIONS

November 2, 2023

Dionne Nolan (Traditional Name is Zoogipon Ikwe)
Indigenous Navigator at the Cancer Centre in Kingston

December 14, 2023

John Reid & David Sompi
Planet Youth Lanark County

Rob Rainer, Chair of the Steering Committee for Lanark Basic Income Network.
Basic Income

January 11, 2024

Amber Coville, Business Development & Program Officer
Valley Heartland

Linda Alexander, Lanark and Renfrew Counties Shared Recruitment &
Settlement Coordinator, Rural Inclusion Pilot Project

April 11, 2024

Julia Crowder, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism
Departmental overview, initiatives underway, communications, etc...

May 9, 2024

Ramsey Hart, Falls Food Hub and The Table Community Food Centre

June 13, 2024

Anne Armstrong & Pauline Levesque/Bridges out of Poverty

Karl Grenke, Manager of Development Services/Steps and Actions Town has
taken to assist with Affordable Housing

July 11, 2024

Michelle Toop, Employment Services Manager
ontrac, Smiths Falls

October 10, 2024

Natalia Soteroff, Executive Director
Smiths Falls Community Food Bank

February 20, 2025

Dana Douglas, Registered Dietitian and Public Health Nutritionist, South East Health Unit (Food Insecurity)

Elaine Power, Professor, School of Kinesiology and Health Studies Queen's University & Brandon Tozzo, City of Kingston Councillor (Food Insecurity/Declaration of Emergency, City of Kingston)

March 13, 2025

Karl Grenke, Manager of Development Services (Additional Residential Units & Community Improvement Plan)

SUCCESSSES

Pink Bench/Inclusive Corner Established

With the refresh of the pride crosswalks, a new pink bench was installed at the corner of Beckwith and Church Street as part of a new inclusion corner within the downtown. The colour pink was chosen as it is a recognized colour for anti-bullying across Canada.

The pink bench suggestion was first brought forward by Community Services Coordinator, Tana Torch. "My hope is that the inclusion corner can become a focal point for our community engagement, where individuals from different walks of life can come together to celebrate diversity, share experiences, and foster understanding. But ultimately, the pink bench represents a celebration of love, acceptance, and diversity, reminding everyone who passes by that every individual deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of who they are or who they love."

The Smiths Falls For All Committee discussed the initiative at a recent committee meeting, and were in full support of the inclusion corner and what it represents. The Smiths Falls For All Committee is responsible for advancing the Town's efforts to further develop a diverse and inclusive community that provides equality to all its citizens. "With the assistance and support from the Town, we are hoping to implement various initiatives throughout the term that support our mandate", noted Mayor Pankow, chair of the committee. "An inclusive environment promotes empathy, respect for human rights, and freedom, creating a harmonious society where everyone feels valued and free to contribute positively. When there's diversity and inclusion in our community, it significantly strengthens social cohesion."



Newcomer Event

Held a Successful Newcomer Event on June 22nd, 2024. The committee hopes to build on the success of the 2024 event and plan a bigger event for 2025.



Many organizations that would benefit newcomers set up booths and had information handy to assist with any questions. The Heritage House Museum staff had cotton candy, popcorn and face painting for the children. There was a free BBQ and kites and other swag for children.

Basic Income

Mr. Rob Rainer, Chair of the Steering Committee for Lanark Basic Income Network. Basic Income was a delegation at our December 2023 meeting where he discussed Basic income and how is money distributed to eligible people, regularly, reliably, and without work requirement, and which, absent other income, should meet basic human needs. The Smiths Falls For All committee passed the following resolution:

Moved by: C Cutler

Seconded by: E Halladay

THAT the proposed motion drafted by Rob Rainer regarding Basic Income be presented to Committee of the Whole for their consideration.

In turn, Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls passed resolution 2024-04-074 in April 2024 supporting the concept of a basic income guarantee for working-age adults to help combat low income and economic vulnerability within our community. Council called upon the federal and the provincial and territorial governments to collaborate on the design, introduction, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of a national basic income guarantee program for working-age adults. This resolution was distributed to the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, federal ministers, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston MP Scott Reid, Ontario Premier Doug Ford, relevant provincial ministers and to Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston MPP John Jordan, calling on these orders of government to collaborate on the design, introduction, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of a national basic income guarantee program for working-age adults. This was also shared with all Ontario municipalities, Eastern Ontario Mayors Caucus, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Development of our Circular Flow Chart

In January 2024, the group undertook a SWOT analysis. In strategic planning a SWOT analysis is a decision-making technique to help us understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in Smiths Falls and what is standing in the way of having an equitable, diverse, and welcoming environment. See attached analysis – Appendix A.

From the SWOT analysis the committee developed “Circular Flow Chart” that they feel are more relevant and practical for our community.

A circular flow chart demonstrates the interconnectedness of poverty, housing, food security and inclusivity and shows how they affect the other. In a broad sense, a circle symbolizes unity, wholeness, infinity, and the cyclical nature of life. The circle's lack of beginning or end, and its continuous form, makes it a powerful symbol of unity, completeness, and oneness. The circle can represent inclusion, connection, and community, as anything within the circle is part of the whole.



Under each priority there are initiatives and tasks. [See attached listing – Appendix B.](#) This list will evolve and be updated as this committee progresses through their mandate.

A survey was then launched with questions that touched on each of the pillars. Feedback on the survey is to help the committee prepare recommendations to enhance immigration into our community, to develop actions that will diminish prejudice, racism and

discrimination and help advance Smiths Falls as a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive community. Survey questions and results attached.

2025 & BEYOND

Allyship Pamphlet

The committee is currently working on an Allyship Pamphlet.



Rainbow Registry

Rainbow Registered is a national accreditation for 2SLGBTQI+ friendly businesses and organizations. When you see a Rainbow Registered symbol, you know the business or organization meets a stringent set of standards to ensure that 2SLGBTQI+ customers feel more welcomed and accepted. Currently looking at the registration process, costs and the awareness sessions that they conduct. The committee would like to support the corporation to become Rainbow Registered and support businesses in our area to become Rainbow Registered and join a network of businesses committed to inclusive practices.

Canada has numerous hotels, restaurants, and attractions that openly embrace diversity and inclusion. They have committed to do more than put a Pride flag in a window. Rainbow Registered businesses have gone through a rigorous process to become accredited as 2SLGBTQI+ friendly with the only certification endorsed by the Federal government of Canada. Being Rainbow Registered demonstrates a commitment and consistent effort to provide a welcoming and accepting experience for 2SLGBTQI+ customers through progressive policies and practices.

www.rainbowregistered.ca

Diversity & Inclusivity Training for Managers, Staff and Committees/Boards

Diversity refers to the range of differences within a group, such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexuality, and disability. In the workplace, diversity can bring a myriad of perspectives, experiences, and ideas. It can lead to more creativity, innovation, and problem-solving. When people with different backgrounds come together, they bring diverse ways of thinking and approaching challenges. Inclusion, on the other hand, is about creating an environment where everyone feels valued, respected, and included, regardless of their differences. It's about making sure that all voices are heard and that everyone has equal opportunities to succeed. Inclusion is equally important, as it ensures that all employees feel respected, valued, and included in the workplace. When employees feel included, they are more likely to be engaged, motivated, and satisfied with their work.

Launch a Smiths Falls For All Page on the Town's Website

The committee wants to prepare a page on the Town's website and create an online presence for Smiths Falls For All. Information can be posted about the group and links to useful resources.

- Community Events Calendar
- Links to resources
- Minutes/Agendas of meetings
- Terms of Reference
- Link to Apply to be a member
- Surveys
- Link to their rights as a tenant
- Link to Landlord Tenant Workshop
- Food Bank/ Food Bank hours
- Visual of all food resources available
- Include auditory reader
- Map/Address and pertinent organizations/resources.

Open House Event

Open to everyone – not just newcomers. Have organization(s) that are affiliated with each priority present. A working group has been established with the committee to start the organization of this event.

Food Insecurity / Declaration of Emergency

The Smiths Falls For All Committee has proclaimed "Food Insecurity" as one of four priorities that the committee believes needs to be addressed to assist in creating an inclusive and equitable community. The Town of Smiths Falls continues to support the concept of a basic income guarantee program for working-age adults to help combat low income and economic vulnerability within our community. The committee has drafted a resolution to present to Council with the hopes that Council will declare food insecurity an emergency in the Town of Smiths Falls. The drafted resolution is requesting the Provincial Government immediately increase its base funding to existing school food programs and increase its financial commitment to enable the expansion of school food programs to additional schools to build a universal school food program as well as raise social assistance rates to meet life's basic needs. The Provincial and Federal Governments need to act to address the causes of food insecurity by establishing a Guaranteed Liveable Basic Income include the reduction of food insecurity as a component of all appropriate government policies.

Assist with the Smiths Falls/Canada-Ukraine Twin Cities Initiative

The hope is that the Smiths Falls For All committee can help in coming up with ways to build bridges with the people in the Ukraine.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

1. Budget. \$5000 has been placed in the 2025 budget. These funds will assist in printing material, the newcomer event, training and advertising.
2. Change the name of the committee to Smiths Falls Equity for All Committee. The committee feels this better reflects what the committee is trying to accomplish.
Support minor amendment in the Terms of Reference
3. Amend the current Terms of Reference to reference the 4 Priorities developed by the Committee (Housing, Poverty, Food Insecurity, Inclusivity) and not the four pillars of the sustainability framework (as per the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities: Small and Rural Municipalities (Economic Sustainability, Environmental Sustainability, Social Sustainability and Cultural Sustainability).

STRENGTHS

Collaboration

LIP - Local Immigration Partnership

Rural Inclusion Project with Lanark County and Renfrew County

EDI Working Group ; Lanark County Child and Youth Services Collab

BBBS LC - Reigniting our Potential

Lanark Queen Connect

Strong Chamber of Commerce and BIA who champion our town

“Small Town” friendliness

Fabulous Town Staff

Far seeing Mayor

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Smiths Falls situated between major urban centres - Ottawa and Kingston

Continue to strive towards welcoming each member who comes to our community (disability, cultural issues)

We have a desire to have a community that is inclusive.

Welcoming and caring community / desire to embrace and welcome persons who are newcomers to this area

Multitude of health and social services agencies that support our community

New affordability housing initiatives through Carebridge
Community Support and Lanark County

Food Hub

Affordable homeownership program

Single tier municipality, which allows us more autonomy to make
our own decisions

Own police service / during community events we see presence
of police - they are visible and supporting the town.

Cleanliness of the town

Downtown is a safe area to walk

Local businesses do not look at their own benefits, but rather
support one another for the greater good of the Town

Youth-focused town

Education system is amazing - all teachers and administration
have a great passion for children

Library that is working actively in community

Good connection with the community through website and social
media.

Lots of events / almost every event is free and inclusive

WEAKNESSES / CHALLENGES

Underdeveloped transportation availability

Small part of our population that is resistant to change

Long neglected capital improvements that are now costing us money

Affordable lodgings/housing

Collaborations with Indigenous Communities within the Smiths Falls community.

Welcome Wagon / Systems navigation

Food insecurity

Does not meet committee members needs for accessibility-this creates a barrier in our community as well as for the citizens.

Lack an understanding of the importance of updating customer service training in all areas so employees can be culturally aware of safety factors for newcomers who have dealt with trauma.

Need to start thinking outside the box of how we communicate everyone is fully informed to get best overall response.

Not enough awareness and education.

lack of media support (we do have the Record Journal, along with Ottawa Valley and radio as well).

Lack of an indigenous leadership locally to provide advice to various organizations

Lack / need more communication and advocacy about anti-racism

Need for more support for small businesses or family businesses, which could include some bonuses or welcome package

Insufficient funding for mental health agencies, and lack of access to withdrawal management and patient addiction treatment facilities.

Shared services through Lanark County with Social Services

Integration of new families to Smiths Falls and families already here who would like children involved in activities within the town.

Lack of support for single working mothers looking for employment - long waiting lists for daycare.

OPPORTUNITIES

Desire to welcome newcomers

Opportunity to help solve an ongoing integration problem

UWEO leads the EARN, HIO tables, United for All and IELAT

Community education

Small - Med Business / mom and pop shops

Better education on an annual basis for Town employees and committee members (anti-racism training).

Create an ambassador program (newcomers will not understand our governance). How that governance can affect depending on their experience in their homeland (indigenous people due to colonial legacy)

Make sure honesty, integrity and dignity are in every statement – even if it is a difficult truth. Crucial we admit our failings in order to combat this.

THREATS

Bias's

Lack of capacity for organizations

Potential pushback by people not sharing the goals of the committee

Loss of interest by committee members - fatigue when things take too long or go too slowly

If we keep ourselves educated and aware by doing training, keeping updated on disabilities act, human right commission, we are lessening our chances of having to face media attacks.

If we can't say we have made mistakes, we know we need to continue to grow – that is why this committee was created.

Racism / Prejudice

Smiths Falls For All “4 Strategic Pillars”

Housing

Preamble: Housing is a Strategic Priority for Smiths Falls Town Council. SF4All will assist and support Council as they work to accomplish for a more diverse built housing stock to ensure all Smiths Falls citizens have a home they can afford.

Housing Task Force made 17 Recommendations that SF4All can continue to work on.

Transitional Housing at the old Willowdale.

44 Chambers Street project took 5 years to pull together.

Proposed Robinson Street housing project

Look at rent supplements

Partner with nonprofits or give money to nonprofits to create these programs as they can keep affordable units as affordable.

SF4All to make recommendation to Smiths Falls Town Council regarding Federal money to Province for housing being cut. This will affect the County who supplies housing in the Town of Smiths Falls.

Waiving planning fees

Advertise the Tax Abatement Program (Community Improvement Program)

Educational campaign on what secondary units are and the process to have one (i.e. building requirements)

Reduce stigma that plays a role in homelessness.

Smiths Falls For All “4 Strategic Pillars”

Food Security

Preamble: Smiths Falls has an active food bank and the Falls Food Hub and The Table Community Food Centre. Food insecurity amongst our population has increased significantly over the years. SF4All will promote and assist existing supports.

Provide supports for the Falls Food Hub

Promotion of Food Baskets available through the Lions Club.

Promote/assist with Community Gardens (one currently at the Heritage House Museum and one at the REAL Deal Store property).

- people providing space in their own backyard
- gardening tool rentals (free/minimal costs) free rentals?
- gardening Club could support this.

Council considering allowing chickens within town boundaries. Currently going out for public consultation.

Smiths Falls For All “4 Strategic Pillars”

Poverty

Preamble: Our community has a high level of poverty. 40% of our households try and manage on an income of \$50,000 or less.

Although poverty is a complex issue, SF4All will endeavor to have strategies and tools to help reduce and prevent poverty.

DRAFT

Smiths Falls For All “4 Strategic Pillars”

Inclusivity

Preamble: Smiths Falls Town Council and Town staff are dedicated to building a sustainable and vibrant community that is welcoming and inclusive to all members of society. SF4All supports the principals of further developing a community where racism, discrimination, prejudice, and bias will not be tolerated and are silenced by overwhelming support for an equitable, diverse, and welcoming environment.

Pride celebrating on June 29th.

Pride Flag raising on June 1st

Pride Crosswalk to be repainted for June 1st

Pink Bench installed at corner of Beckwith St/Church St. Created “Inclusive Corner”



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

Report # 2025-41

To: Mayor and Council
From: Kerry Costello, Clerk
Date: April 23, 2025

- For Direction
- For Information
- For Adoption
- Attachment 19 Pages

Committee of the Whole Date: April 28, 2025

Title: Smiths Falls For All Committee Motion: Request to Declare Food Insecurity an Emergency in the Town of Smiths Falls

Recommendation: THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls endorse a motion, prepared by the Smiths Falls For All Committee, regarding the declaration of food insecurity as an emergency in the Town of Smiths Falls.

Purpose: To provide Council with a motion, drafted by the Smiths Falls For All Committee, to consider passing a resolution declaring food insecurity an emergency in the Town of Smiths Falls.

Background: On February 20, 2025 Dana Douglas, Registered Dietitian and Public Health Nutritionist, South East Health Unit provided the Smiths Falls For All Committee with a presentation (attached as Appendix A) that outlined that 15.5% of households in the Leeds Grenville and Lanark catchment area are food insecure.

Elaine Power, Professor, School of Kinesiology and Health Studies Queen’s University and Brandon Tozzo, City of Kingston Councillor also discussed food insecurity at that meeting and noted that in Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington estimated about 1 in 3 households in their catchment area are food insecure. The City of Kingston has declared food insecurity as an emergency in their community (City of Kingston Resolution attached as Appendix B).

The Smiths Falls For All Committee lists “Food Insecurity” as one of their key priorities and prepared the attached motion for Council to consider (Draft Motion attached as Appendix C).

Analysis and Options:

Option 1: THAT Council pass the attached motion and declare food insecurity as an emergency within our community.

Option 2: THAT Council pass the attached motion, with amendments, and declare food insecurity as an emergency within our community.

Option 3: Take no action .

Attachments: South East Health Unit presentation to Smiths Falls For All
City of Kingston Resolution declaring food insecurity an emergency
Draft resolution for Council’s consideration

Budget/Financial Implications: N/A

Link to Strategic Plan:

Vision: Helping marginalized people move out of poverty

Existing Policy: N/A

Consultations: Smiths Falls For All Committee Members

Notes/Action (space for Council Member's notes):

Respectfully submitted by:
Original signed by:

Kerry Costello
Clerk

Approved for agenda by CAO:
Original signed by:

Malcolm Morris, CMO
Chief Administrative Officer

Page 2 of 2

Food Insecurity in Leeds, Grenville & Lanark

2024 - 2025



Outline

- Food insecurity defined
- Impacts of food insecurity
- Nutritious Food Basket costing
- Cost of healthy eating
- Addressing food insecurity
- Food access



Food Insecurity

- Inadequate or insecure access to food due to **financial constraints**
- **15.5%** of households in LGL are food insecure
- Food insecurity can affect anyone:

46% of single mother households	32.3% of single father households
28.4% of children	25.6% of those living alone
36.8% of Indigenous people living off-reserve	27.5% of renters
52.8% of food insecure households relied on employment income	58.6% of households relying on social assistance were food insecure



Impacts of Food Insecurity

- Not being able to afford nutritious food affects the health of individuals, families and our communities
 - Adults are more likely to experience: poor physical and mental health, worse oral health, infectious diseases and injuries, chronic diseases and shorter life expectancy
 - Children are more likely to experience: poor mental health, asthma, and poor growth and development



Impacts of Food Insecurity

- Health care costs among food insecure adults are **more than double** that of food secure adults. **Why?**
 - ↑ hospitalization, ↑ length of stay, ↑ risk of being readmitted
 - Delay/skip medication due to financial constraints
 - Difficulty managing chronic health constraints (e.g., medication, therapeutic diet) due to financial constraints



Cost of Healthy Eating in LGL

Nutritious Food Basket

- Standardized food costing tool used by PHUs in Ontario to monitor the affordability of food
- Survey of 61 food items that together form a nutritious diet based on Canada's Food Guide
- Results are compared to individual and family incomes and expenses to assess food affordability for various scenarios



Cost of Healthy Eating in LGL

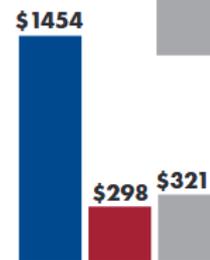
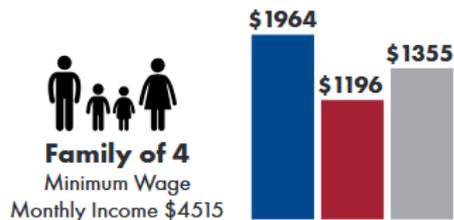
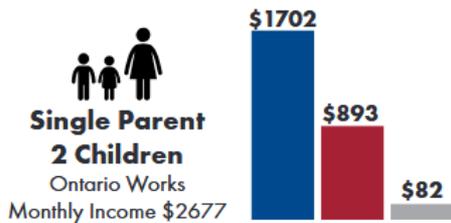
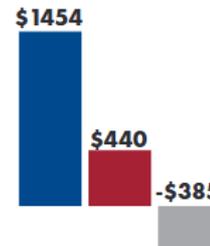
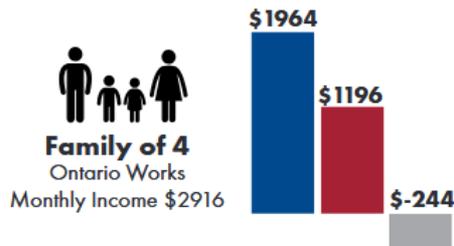
The cost of feeding a family of 4 in LGL is **\$1196** per month



Household Income Scenarios in LGL



Household Income Scenarios in LGL



Addressing the Root of Food Insecurity: Poverty

- Systemic, income-based solutions are needed to address the root cause of food insecurity – **poverty**
- Solutions that together can help eliminate poverty include:
 - Ensuring social assistance and minimum wage rates provide for the cost of living
 - Expanding income tax filing initiatives for low-income households to ensure access to eligible government subsidies
 - Implementing basic employment standards to reduce precarious employment
 - Encouraging local businesses to becoming living wage employers and supporting those that do



What can municipalities do?

- Advocate for federal and provincial governments to implement income-based policies and programs
- Facilitate local level initiatives that increase economic resilience for individuals and families living with low income, such as:
 - Free income tax filing assistance
 - Targeted support for access to and training for jobs with livable wages, benefits
- Collaborate with community partners from various sectors



What are municipalities doing?

- Councils for the **City of Kingston**, the **City of Mississauga** and the **City of Toronto** have all passed motions to declare food insecurity an emergency
- Common recommendations in these motions included:
 - Request provincial government increase base funding for school nutrition programs and invest in expansion
 - Request provincial/federal governments:
 - Commit to addressing food insecurity
 - Increase/index social assistance rates
 - Invest in affordable housing
 - Build a stronger workforce by improving working conditions (labour laws, worker support programs)



Food Access



Help for
Getting
Food



Growing,
Gathering &
Buying Food



Preparing
& Eating
Food



Sustaining
Our
Future

Free/Low Cost Meals Almonte, Carleton Place, Lanark September to December 2024

Community Meals

Program	Details	Address/Contact
Hungry Lunch Zion Memorial United Church	Hot, nutritious meals served every Tuesday at 12:00pm. Dine-in or take-out, all welcome.	37 Franklin St., Carleton Place (613) 257-2133
Mississippi Mills Youth Centre Community Meals Program	Serving free meals and snacks 2:30pm - 7:30pm Monday - Friday 11:00am - 5:00pm - Saturdays	134 Main St., Almonte (613) 256-5959
St. James Breakfast Table St. James Anglican Church	Breakfast every Wednesday 8:30am - 10:30am	225 Edmund St., Carleton Place (613)-257-3178



Questions?



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KINGSTON CITY COUNCIL DECLARES FOOD INSECURITY AN EMERGENCY IN KINGSTON

Moved by: Councillor Tozzo

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Ridge

Whereas food insecurity is defined as the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints, a marker of pervasive material deprivation (poverty), and posing a serious public health problem because of its association with higher rates of numerous diseases and chronic health conditions and a higher risk of early death; and

Whereas chronic stressors like disability, precarious work, and/or the cost-of-living crisis, and acute shocks like COVID-19, illness or eviction, make it more difficult to afford life's basic needs and live free from poverty; and

Whereas current social assistance rates are woefully inadequate, making it impossible to afford a healthy diet; and

Whereas KFL&A Public Health estimates that about 1 in 3 households are food insecure; and

Whereas the City of Kingston has committed to addressing food insecurity through initiatives such as financial support for the expansion of a new building for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, partnering with Lionhearts Inc.'s Fresh Food Market Pop-Ups, and establishing a Fines for Food pilot program; and

Whereas Ontario nonprofits, including food banks, are collectively experiencing stagnant and declining resources amidst climbing demand, and increased reserve use;

Therefore Be It Resolved That Kingston City Council declare food insecurity an emergency in Kingston; and

That Council request the Provincial Government immediately increase its base funding to existing school food programs and increase its financial commitment to enable the expansion of school food programs to additional schools to build a universal school food program; and

That Council request the Provincial Government immediately raise social assistance rates to meet life's basic needs; and

That Council request the Provincial and Federal Governments act to address the causes of food insecurity by establishing a Guaranteed Liveable Basic Income; and

That Council request that the Provincial and Federal Governments include the reduction of food insecurity as a component of all appropriate government policies; and

That Council request that all major federal and provincial political parties address food insecurity as a component of their respective party platforms; and

That a copy of this motion be shared with The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada, the Honorable M.P.P. Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, M.P. Mark Gerretsen, Kingston and the Islands, M.P. Scott Reid, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston, M.P.P. Ted Hsu, Kingston & the Islands, M.P.P. John Jordan, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston, M.P. Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, M.P. Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada, M.P. Yves-Francois Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois, M.P. Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada, M.P.P. Marit Stiles, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario, Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party, M.P.P. Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Green Party of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Public School Boards Association, and the Canadian School Boards Association.

DECLARING FOOD INSECURITY AN EMERGENCY IN THE TOWN OF SMITHS FALLS

Moved by: Mitra Ghaffari

Seconded by: Janet Sinclair

THAT the Smiths Falls For All Committee recommend that the following resolution be provided to the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls for their consideration:

WHEREAS food insecurity is defined as the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints, a marker of pervasive material deprivation (poverty), and posing a serious public health problem because of its association with higher rates of numerous diseases and chronic health conditions and a higher risk of early death; and

WHEREAS chronic stressors like disability, inadequate social assistance rates, precarious work, and/or the cost-of-living crisis, and acute shocks like COVID-19, illness or eviction, make it more difficult to afford life's basic needs and live free from poverty; and

WHEREAS Public Health Ontario estimates that 1 in 7 households in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark are food insecure; and

WHEREAS the Smiths Falls For All Committee has proclaimed "Food Insecurity" as one of four pillars that the committee believes needs to be addressed to assist in creating an inclusive and equitable community; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls has committed to addressing food insecurity through financial support in the amount of approximately \$200,000 since 2019; and

WHEREAS Ontario nonprofits, including food banks, are collectively experiencing stagnant and declining resources amidst climbing demand, and increased reserve use; and

WHEREAS the Smiths Falls Community Food Bank has reported seeing over 950 clients per month; and

WHEREAS according to the 2021 census, 25.8% of all Smiths Falls households were facing affordability issues; and

WHEREAS the South East Health Unit (formerly Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit), in its "Addressing Food Insecurity in Leeds, Grenville & Lanark, 2024

Report”, indicated that living wage for the region to be \$21.65 per hour, which confirms that half of our employed population is earning a wage below the living wage; and

WHEREAS the Town of Smiths Falls contends with a significant proportion of low-income residents, marking a staggering 16.4% of our population, including a concerning 22% of children under the age of 5 (far exceeding the provincial average of 5.3%); and

WHEREAS among those considered low income are over 1400 Smiths Falls individuals/families on ODSP and over 700 on Ontario Works whose rates fall short of providing adequate financial support for fundamental needs such as housing, food, and transportation; and

WHEREAS the 2021 census noted that 45.4% of Smiths Falls households are renter households, the highest of all Lanark County municipalities, in which 43.7% faced affordability issues; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls continues to support the concept of a basic income guarantee program for working-age adults to help combat low income and economic vulnerability within our community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls declare food insecurity an emergency in the Town of Smiths Falls; and

THAT Council request the Provincial Government immediately increase its base funding to existing school food programs and increase its financial commitment to enable the expansion of school food programs to additional schools to build a universal school food program; and

THAT Council request the Provincial Government immediately raise social assistance rates to meet life’s basic needs; and

THAT Council request the Provincial and Federal Governments act to address the causes of food insecurity by establishing a Guaranteed Liveable Basic Income; and

THAT Council request that the Provincial and Federal Governments include the reduction of food insecurity as a component of all appropriate government policies; and

THAT Council request that all major federal and provincial political parties address food insecurity as a component of their respective party platforms; and

THAT a copy of this motion be shared with The Right Honorable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, the Honorable M.P.P. Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, M.P. Scott Reid, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston, M.P.P. John Jordan, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston,

M.P. Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, M.P. Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada, M.P. Yves-Francois Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois, M.P. Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada, M.P.P. Marit Stiles, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario, Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party, M.P.P. Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Green Party of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Public School Boards Association, and the Canadian School Boards Association.

Twinning agreement with a municipality in Ukraine

- Prepared by Volodymyr (Walter) Palagniuk

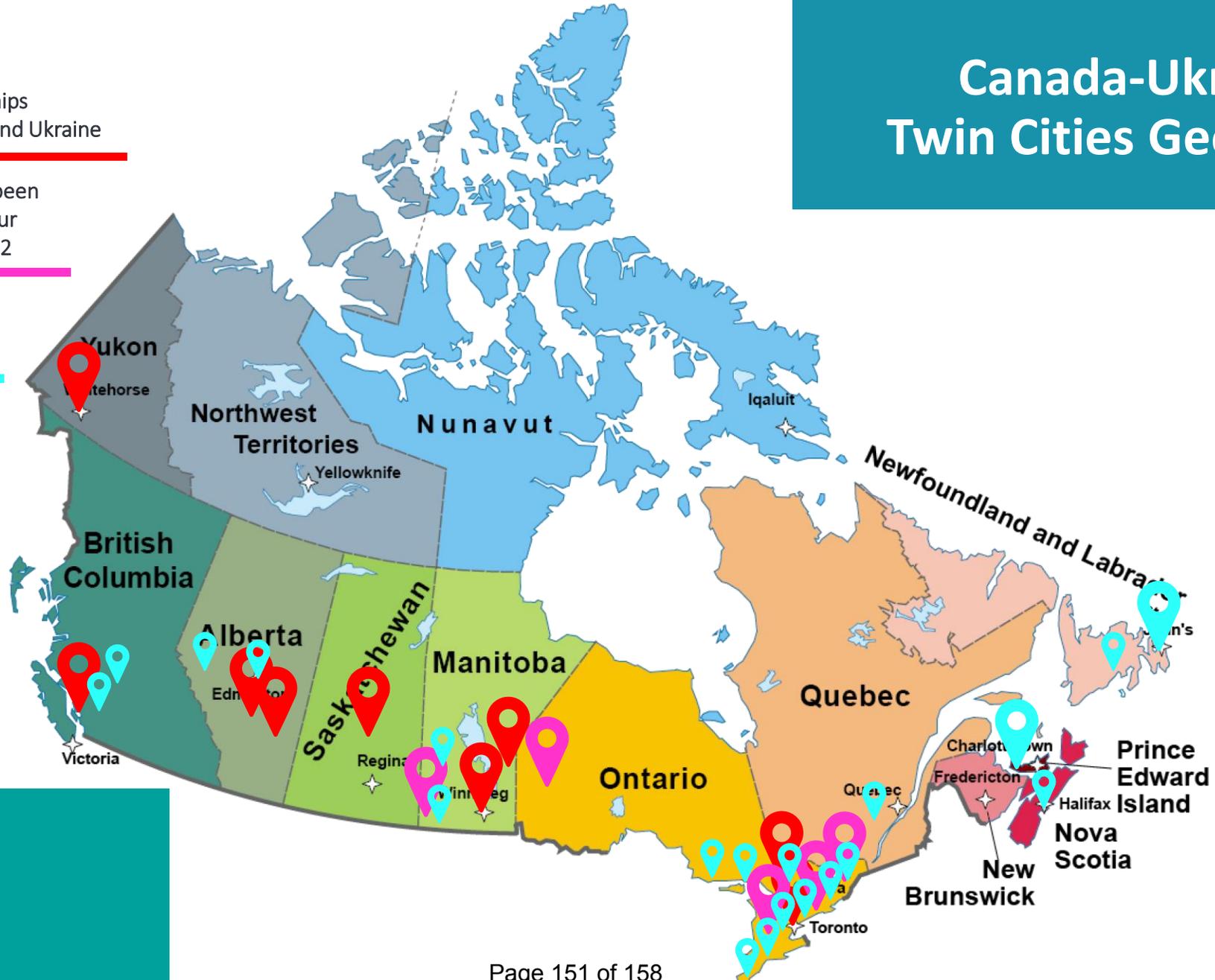


Canada-Ukraine Twin Cities Geography

15 twin city partnerships
between Canada and Ukraine

6 agreements have been
signed as part of our
initiative since 2022

**MANY
MORE** work in progress

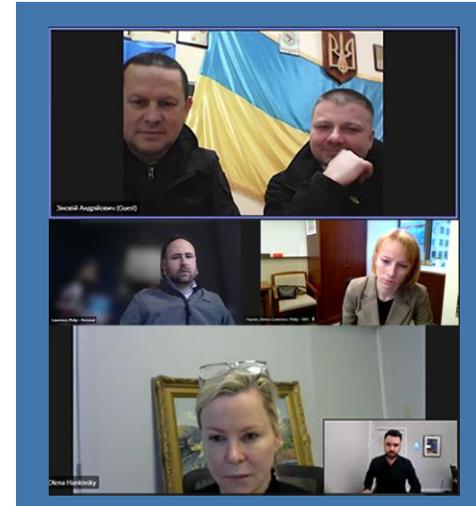


Our Success Stories



Twinning Agreement between Brantford and Kamianets-Podilskyi

110K population cities in Ontario and Khmelnytskyi Oblast



Twinning Agreement process between Port Hope and Nadvirna

20K population cities in Ontario and Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast



Twinning Agreement between Sioux Lookout and Vashkivtsi

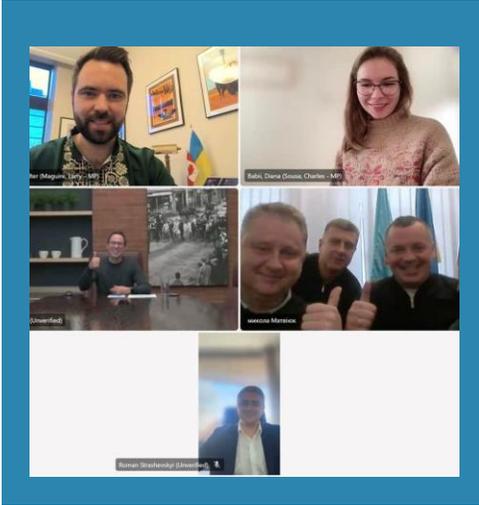
10K population towns in Northern Ontario and Chernivtsi Oblast



Twinning Agreement between Brandon and Sheptytskyi (formerly Chervonohrad)

60K population cities in Manitoba and Lviv Oblast

Our Success Stories



Twinning Agreement between Summerside and Kremenets

20K population cities in PEI and Ternopil Oblast



Twinning Agreement between North Grenville and Sokal

25K population cities in Ontario and Lviv Oblast





Twinning Process

- Choosing a potential sister city
- Contacting the Mayor in Ukraine
- Holding a vote by the City Council in Canada (in Ukraine, a mayor doesn't need an approval from the council to sign a twinning agreement)
- Organizing a Zoom meeting between the mayors and city officials
- Signing the agreement
- Creating a working group of municipal staff, local agencies, and community representatives to develop both short- and long-term relationship between the sister cities

Zolochiv, Lviv Region



- 24,000 population
- Founded in 1424
- Located 65 km to Lviv, Western Ukraine
- Industries: food industry, light industry, and radio-electronics
- Tourism: famous Zolochiv Castle
- Sister cities: Oława, Poland; Schöningen, Germany

Twinning Steps



Choosing the city,
contacting the
counterparts in
Ukraine, and agreeing
to proceed

Support from the City
Council



Signing the Agreement
by the Mayors

Launching a working
committee to
coordinate any
initiatives





*AGREEMENT ON TWINNING
AND COOPERATION*

between

the city of Kamianets-Podilskyi (Ukraine)

and

the city of City of Brantford, Ontario (Canada)

We, the Mayor of Kamianets-Podilskyi (Ukraine) Mykhailo Positko and the Mayor of City of Brantford, Ontario (Canada) Kevin Davis, in accordance with our powers, on the basis of existing agreements and friendly relations of our countries, signed this Agreement on Twinning and Cooperation of Our Cities development of cooperation between our cities in the field of:

- Development of tourism
 - Culture
 - Youth cooperation
 - Sports
- Science and education
- Protection of the environment and cultural monuments
 - Exchange of experience in various fields

This agreement on twinning and cooperation is made in two copies and signed by representatives of both cities and enters into force on the date of its signing.

Kamianets-Podilskyi

Mayor



Brantford

Mayor

Potential Fields of Cooperation

- Development of tourism,
- Culture,
- Youth cooperation,
- Sports,
- Science and education,
- Mutual assistance,
- Protection of the environment and cultural monuments,
- Exchange of experience in various fields.



THANK YOU! DIAKUYU!

GLORY TO CANADA! SLAVA UKRAINI!