

PARKS MASTER PLAN

Township of Adjala-Tosorontio



Monteith • Brown
planning consultants

August 2024

Table of Contents

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Executive Summary.....	iv
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 Project Overview	2
1.2 Study Drivers.....	3
1.3 Defining Parks	4
1.4 Study Process.....	5
1.5 Report Organization	6
2. Current State and Planning Context.....	7
2.1 The Township’s Parks System.....	8
2.2 Other Public Open Spaces.....	10
2.3 Community Profile.....	12
2.4 Key Trends.....	18
2.5 Policy Scan.....	22
3. Public Engagement.....	31
3.1 Community Survey.....	33
3.2 Public Open Houses.....	43
3.3 Stakeholder Consultation	44
3.4 Summary of Themes from Public Input	45
4. Strategic Framework	46
4.1 SWOT Analysis.....	47
4.2 Vision and Guiding Principles	48
5. Outdoor Recreation Facility Needs Assessment.....	50
5.1 Sport Fields (Baseball, Soccer).....	51
5.2 Sport Courts (Tennis, Pickleball, Basketball, Volleyball, Winter Skating).....	53
5.3 Playgrounds.....	57
5.4 Splash Pads	61
5.5 Skate Parks and Action Sports	62
5.6 Off-Leash Dog Parks.....	63
5.7 Community and Pollinator Gardens.....	64
5.8 Park Washrooms and Shelters.....	65
5.9 Recreational Trails.....	66
5.10 Other Amenities.....	70
5.11 Summary of Outdoor Recreation Facility Needs.....	71
6. Park Programming, Renewal and Operational Assessment	72
6.1 Park Animation and Outdoor Programming	73
6.2 Lifecycle Analysis.....	76
6.3 Park Renewal	78
6.4 Future Parks and Design Considerations.....	82
6.5 Park Development Guidelines.....	87
6.6 Operations and Maintenance	89

7. Parkland Policy and Land Needs Assessment.....	91
7.1 Park Hierarchy and Classification System	92
7.2 Park Supplies, Distribution and Needs	95
7.3 Parkland Acquisition and Cash-in-lieu	100
8. Implementation Road Map.....	105
8.1 Funding Sources and Considerations	106
8.2 Monitoring and Updating the Plan.....	108
8.3 Summary of Recommendations	109
Appendix A: Park Profiles	A-1
Appendix B: Record of Public Input	B-1

Limitations

This report was prepared by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants Ltd. (herein referred to as “the Consultant”) for the account of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio. The material in this report reflects the Consultant best judgment in light of the information available to it at the time of preparation. Any use which a third party makes of this report, or any reliance on or decisions to be made based on it, are the responsibility of such third parties. The Consultant accepts no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by a third party as a result of decisions made or actions based on this report.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all those Township staff and officials who contributed to the development of this Parks Master Plan. The collective feedback of all those involved has resulted in a study that reflects of the needs of the community.

Council (2022-26):

Mayor: Scott W. Anderson

Deputy Mayor: Julius Lachs

Councillors: Anub Simson, Bob Meadows, Ronald O’Leary, Miklos Borsos, Adam Cox

Township Project Team

Nelson Santos, Chief Administrative Officer

Jaclyn Cook, Planning Technician

Jon Hardy, Supervisor of Operations and Maintenance

Project Consultants

Monteith Brown Planning Consultants Ltd.

Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the traditional territory of the First Peoples, who, for thousands of years before us, were and still are the keepers and caretakers of this land where we live and work. In particular, we would recognize the Petun, Anishinabewaki, Haudenosaunee, Wendake-Nionwentsio, and Mississauga people, as well as all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit People. We recognize all the generations of Indigenous people and their historic connection to the land.



Executive Summary

Overview

This Parks Master Plan identifies the parks and outdoor recreation needs and priorities for the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, community stakeholders, and residents over the next 10 years. During this time, the population in Adjala-Tosorontio is expected to increase by 18.5%, reaching 17,650 persons (post-2031).

Community Engagement

The Master Plan approach involved a combination of research and consultation. Community engagement opportunities were utilized, including public open houses, community stakeholder workshops, community survey, and consultation with Township staff.

The following are key themes from the consultation process (detailed findings are in Section 3), listed in no particular order:

- Improving barrier-free accessibility
- Adding comfort amenities (seating, washrooms)
- Responding to growth, youth, and emerging needs (trails, splash pad, courts, etc.)
- Playground replacement and park maintenance
- Connectivity and safety
- Environmental initiatives (native trees, gardens)
- Collaboration, engagement, and promotion
- Maintaining affordability and leveraging funding

Strategic Framework

Public and stakeholder engagement, community demographics, trends, and supporting documents, helped to inform the development of a vision and guiding principles for the Township. The vision depicts how the Township wants to be viewed in the future and allows Council, staff, and the community to work together to achieve the collected goals over the next 10 years.

The following is the **vision statement** that will guide the Township during the planning and implementation process of the Parks Master Plan.

Parks are the centre of our communities – the places where we play, unwind, and connect. As a community, we will work together to broaden opportunities within our parks and create welcoming and engaging spaces for everyone to enjoy.

A set of **guiding principles** have been established to achieve the vision, which can be implemented through the recommendations contained in this Master Plan. Collectively, these principles will help the Township achieve its vision for the parks system and lead to higher satisfaction levels overall.

Our parks system will:

1. Be convenient and accessible to the Township’s residential communities.
2. Support all ages and abilities and offer opportunity for year-round use.
3. Evolve to respond to growth and emerging needs, tailored to the unique needs of each community.
4. Encourage participation through quality design and programming.
5. Be well maintained and cared for, using sustainable approaches.
6. Emphasize partnerships, affordability, and financial feasibility.

Findings and Directions

The following summarizes some of the more prominent recommendations contained in this Master Plan. A listing of all recommendations (including priority and timing) can be found in Section 8.

Specifically, this Parks Master Plan:

- a) provides guidance and direction for the design and outfitting of new parks in residential growth areas;
- b) includes a prioritized list of playground replacement projects;
- c) identifies potential park redevelopment opportunities for each municipal park, with a commitment to accessibility and activities for users of all ages;
- d) promotes and supports the expansion of trails within parks and future growth areas;
- e) examines the need for outdoor recreation facilities and recommends the provision of additional basketball courts, tennis/pickleball courts, outdoor fitness equipment, and sports fields (longer-term);
- f) encourages the preparation of a business plan for an outdoor covered multi-use court that can be used for activities, events, and programs across all seasons;
- g) proposes the expansion of year-round programming and events in parks, in partnership with the community;
- h) supports the regular engagement of the community on potential programming and animation of parks; and
- i) proposes a broader range of park acquisition tools and funding sources to help implement the plan – this Plan supports the Township’s ability to be “grant-ready” as funding opportunities arise.



1



Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

The goal of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Parks Master Plan is to assess current needs and opportunities for residents to stay active and engaged in the community. The plan is influenced by public and stakeholder input, the Township's evolving socio-demographic profile, population growth, emerging trends, current condition of parks amenities, and related factors.

This Parks Master Plan for Adjala-Tosorontio is needed to provide an overall vision, direction, and guidance to staff and council for making decisions about parks, trails, and related services. It is to be supported by public input and aligned to strategies and best practices, trends, demographic shifts, and growth forecasts. The Master Plan provides the Township with a roadmap for addressing community needs and strategic priorities over its targeted ten-year timeframe (2024 to 2034).

This is the Township's first comprehensive Parks Master Plan. It is intended to guide parks, trails, and outdoor facility requirements for the next 10 years.

The Plan provides a comprehensive and inclusive process to accommodate the full scope of municipal and community parks, trails, and outdoor facilities. The Plan defines the needs of current and future residents and identifies appropriate levels of service and standards for the sustainability of such services. Additionally, the Master Plan strives to be financially viable and address the anticipated demand for service and facility improvements over time.

Further, the Township wishes to position itself with a modernized policy framework to support its current and future system of parks. This Parks Master Plan contains an assessment of current parkland service levels and provides guidelines and recommendations to assist the Township in addressing its growth-related parkland needs.

The following objectives have been established for the Parks Master Plan:

1. Promote active living/healthy environments;
2. Seek to increase physical activity among all age groups;
3. Enhance the overall community quality of life;
4. Enhance volunteer opportunities and participation.

1.2 Study Drivers

Parks are more than areas for recreation or the protection of open space – they are increasingly being viewed as essential infrastructure and are vital contributors to personal and community health and wellness. They also provide environmental benefits and support economic development opportunities.

A variety of factors have influenced the Township’s decision to undertake this Master Plan:

Long-term Decision Making and Capital Forecasting: This Master Plan provides a 10-year roadmap for addressing operational and capital requirements, allowing the Township to update their long-range planning documents and work towards funding strategies that will support implementation.

Population Growth and Placemaking: Adjala-Tosorontio is projected to grow by over 38% to 17,650 residents by post 2031. With approximately 6800 new residents, the Township can expect increased pressure on its parks system and additional parkland needs within emerging residential areas.

Parkland Policy Changes: There have been many changes to land use policies governing the conveyance of public parkland in Ontario in recent years, largely in response to evolving land economics and an attempt to incentivize housing development. The Ontario Planning Act and Township/County Official Plan contain the primary tools through which the municipality secures parkland through the land approvals and development process. These legislative and policy frameworks identify minimum requirements for parkland dedication (or cash-in-lieu of parkland) as well as guidelines for municipal parkland provision. Recent changes to legislation such as Bill 23 (More Homes, Built Faster Act) resulted in adjustments to parkland dedication requirements (among other changes), which may impact how much parkland the Township can receive as part of the development approval process.

Aging Infrastructure: The Township’s existing parks and outdoor recreation facilities are aging, and many parks are unable to meet emerging community needs. A critical component of this Master Plan will be to make recommendations for updates to parks and outdoor recreation infrastructure.

Park and Amenity Distribution: The Township’s parks are well distributed within each residential community, but in some cases park amenities are unevenly distributed. This Master Plan examines potential gaps and makes recommendations for improved park and amenity distribution to effectively meet the needs of all residents and visitors.

Considering the various challenges and opportunities, the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio has experienced success in some recent park improvements. Some examples include improvements to Haley Park (installation of accessible playground equipment, baseball diamond, and enhanced parking and landscaping), Wardens’ Park (walking path improvements and new playground),

Lisle Memorial Park (installation of new playground equipment and parking lot). These projects were made possible through senior government grants and local funding.

1.3 Defining Parks

The following definitions and examples are used throughout this Parks Master Plan:

“Parkland” typically consists of tableland suitable for the development or installation of built recreational or civic amenities (such as sports fields, playgrounds, courts, gardens, etc.) that may be used for both organized and unorganized activities, although these parks may also incorporate natural features. In the context of this Parks Master Plan, the terms “park” and “parkland” are used interchangeably.

“Open Space” generally have no to low development potential and are primarily designated for purposes such as environmental conservation, stormwater management, buffers, etc. While it is important to recognize the benefits of open space lands, they are excluded from policies relating to parkland as they typically have limited opportunities for active recreation and are not generally accepted as parkland through the development process.

Parkland and open space may be provided by a variety of agencies and take different forms. In addition to active municipally-owned parklands discussed above, there are other **open spaces** found in Adjala-Tosorontio that are owned by schools, government agencies (e.g., County, conservation authorities, Province, etc.) and private landowners. The Township recognizes the role of these open spaces in contributing to opportunities available for the public to experience the outdoors and in supplementing municipal parkland. However, the degree of public access and functions of such lands will vary and can be different from what the Township delivers through its own parkland.

Policies related to the Open Space designation are outlined in Part D, Section 11 of the Township’s Draft Official Plan, 2023. Further, parks within the context of this Parks Master Plan do not include lands consisting of environmental protection/conservation areas nor their buffers, conservation lands, as well as any other undevelopable, unsuitable, or hazardous lands that may be characterized by (but not limited to) steep or unstable slopes, ravines and woodlots, easements, or contaminated lands. Such lands are not required to be accepted as parkland dedication under the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Official Plan and are excluded from the Parks Master Plan scope.¹

¹ Note: Bill 23 introduced changes to the Planning Act that will allow developers the opportunity to identify the land they intend to convey to the municipality for parkland, including encumbered land. Clarification of these conditions will be provided by way of regulations (not yet released).

1.4 Study Process

The Township of Adjala-Tosorontio retained Monteith Brown Planning Consultants Ltd. to lead the preparation of the Parks Master Plan. The Plan involved a review of the Township’s existing parkland inventory and amenities, demographic profile, as well as planning policies and frameworks that are applicable to local-level decision-making.

The development of the Parks Master Plan was divided into three phases: Research and Consultation, Master Plan Development, and Finalization. Each phase was designed to accomplish a variety of tasks while including internal meetings and reporting. The development of the Master Plan was guided by a Project Team consisting of Township staff.

Figure 1: Parks Master Plan Development Phases



The scope of the Parks Master Plan excludes the following:

- calculating or setting fees for cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication payments
- financial or growth modelling, Official Plan policy, or by-law development
- technical parkland design or development standards
- assessments of the natural heritage system or other open space lands
- on-road cycling or trail routes, as well as motorized use activity
- land acquisition strategies or the identification of specific parcels to acquire

1.5 Report Organization

This master plan contains the following sections:

Section 1 - Introduction: Introduces the Parks Master Plan, discusses study drivers, definitions, and study process.

Section 2 - Current State and Planning Context: This section explores key inputs that influence the provision and use of Adjala-Tosorontio's parks system, including population growth, socio-demographic characteristics, societal trends, and policy scans.

Section 3 - Public Engagement: Research and community engagement are factored into this Master Plan. The public engagement program included opportunities for residents and stakeholders to discuss the study and provide feedback.

Section 4 - Strategic Framework: Based on the research and consultation activities, a vision and guiding principles have been created to guide the continued development of Adjala-Tosorontio's parks system.

Section 5 - Outdoor Recreation Facility Needs Assessment: The current availability and future needs for park amenities are examined in this section.

Section 6 - Park Programming, Renewal and Operational Assessment: This section explores opportunities for the renewal of specific parks as well as operational and programming considerations.

Section 7 - Parkland Policy and Land Needs Assessment: This section examines the Township's parkland policy and classification framework, as well as calculations of future parkland requirements.

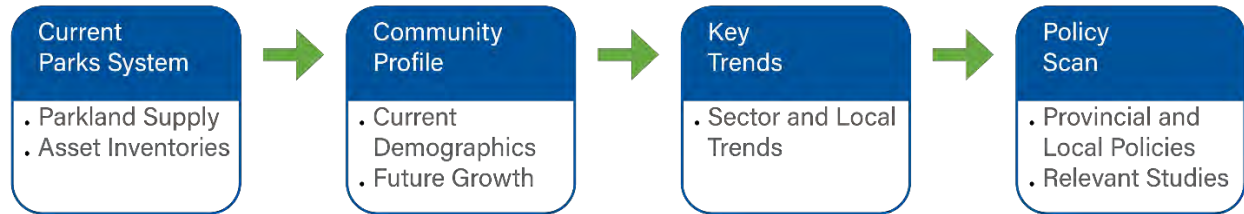
Section 8 - Implementation Road Map: This section contains a summary of recommendations contained within this Master Plan, as well as strategies to support sustainable investment in the parks system.

2

Current State and Planning Context

This section explores key inputs that influence the provision and use of Adjala-Tosorontio’s parks system.

Figure 2: Key Inputs Considered in this Section



2.1 The Township’s Parks System

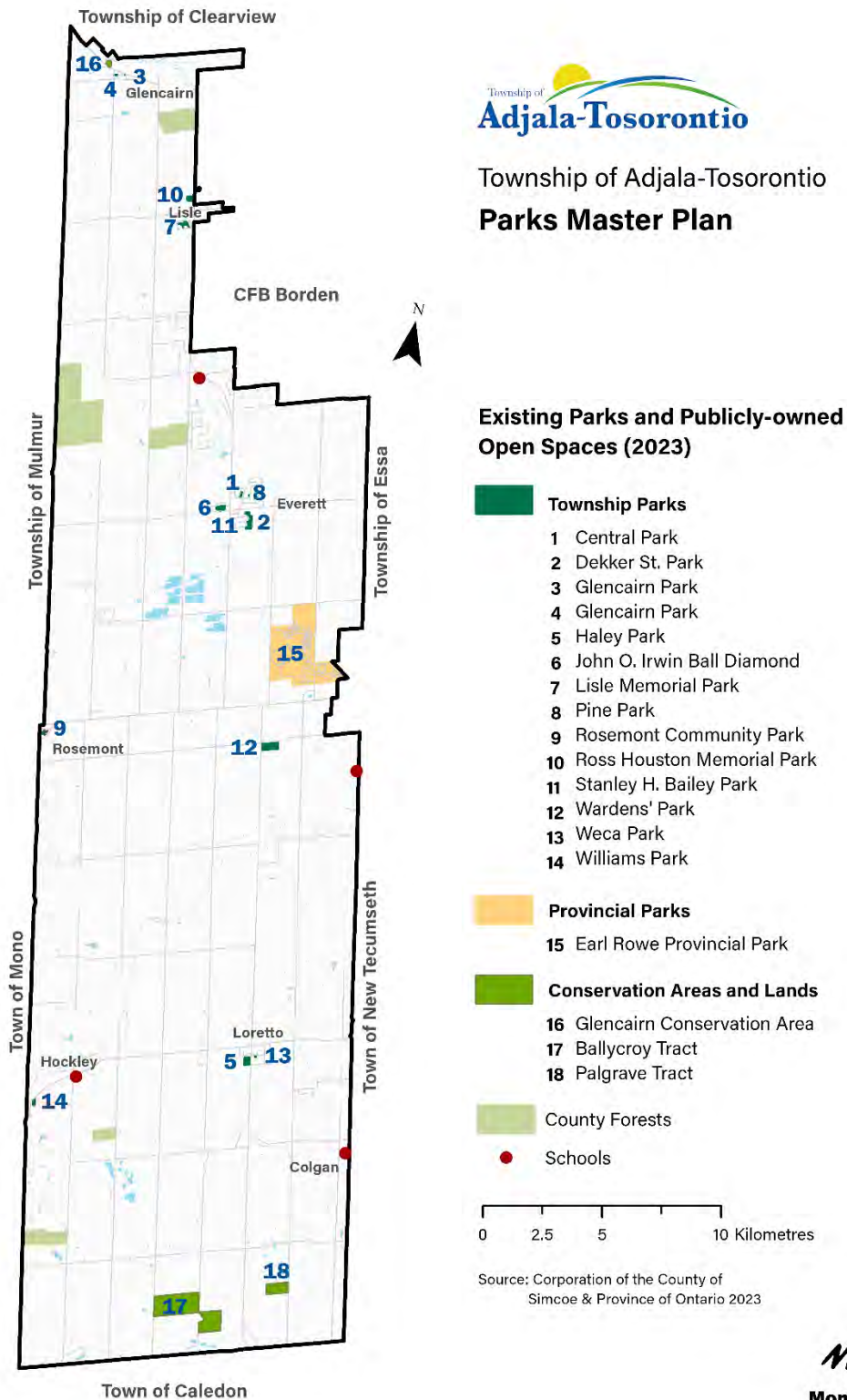
Adjala-Tosorontio maintains 25.8 hectares of active parkland distributed across 14 sites. This service level of parkland translates into 2.35 hectares per 1,000 residents based on a population of 10,989. These parks are predominantly used for unstructured recreational activities, including playground use and informal play by children, youth, and families. Several parks also contain ball diamonds, which are well used by both youth and adults during the summertime. The paved walking loop at Wardens’ Park is also a popular destination across most seasons.

In Adjala-Tosorontio, the Public Works department cares for the 14 Township parks. In the summer months, a person is hired for day-to-day park duties, including garbage collection and dealing with reports of any safety issues. Grass cutting at Township parks is outsourced to a private provider.

The Township acquires parkland (or cash-in-lieu of parkland) through land approvals and development processes. The Ontario Planning Act and the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Official Plan have frameworks that identify the minimum requirements for parkland dedication.

Park locations are shown on the following page and their profiles are contained in **Appendix A**.

Figure 3: Township Parks and Other Public Open Spaces



2.2 Other Public Open Spaces

Schools

There are four schools within the Township:

- Tosorontio Central Public School
- Adjala Central Public School
- St. James Catholic School
- Alliston Community Christian School

School grounds may include play structures, sports fields, and hard surface courts. School facilities are often designed and maintained to different standards than those of municipal parks and may not always be conducive to the needs of all residents or user groups. School grounds are only available to the general public after school hours or during school holidays which means access to these lands is limited. Consultations with local school boards was carried out as part of this Parks Master Plan and can be found in Section 3.3.

Simcoe County Forests

The County of Simcoe owns and maintains over 13,355 hectares of County Forest, including 458.53 hectares within Adjala-Tosorontio. Adjala-Tosorontio is home to five (5) County Forest parcels:

- Modrits Tract
- Patterson Tract
- Tosorontio Tract
- Wallwin Tract
- Ward Tract

Simcoe County Forests are working forests, but allow a range of public recreational activities, including non-motorized recreation pursuits. The permitted uses allowed at the five County Forests within the Township are cross country skiing, cycling, dog walking (on leash), hiking, horseback riding, and snowshoeing. Trail establishment and maintenance is administered through agreements with local trails association.

Restricted activities include mountain biking (no unauthorized trail construction), off-road motorized vehicles (need a permit for designated trails), hunting and fishing (per provincial regulations, hunters require OFAH membership), and organized / commercial events (property use agreement required).

Table 1: County Forest Tracts within Adjala-Tosorontio

	ATV Clubs	Snowmobile Clubs	Trail Riders (OFTR)	Hunting – WMU (77B)
Modrits Tract	X	√	X	√
Patterson Tract*	X	X	X	√
Tosorontio Tract	X	√	X	√
Wallwin Tract*	√	√	X	√
Ward Tract*	X	X	X	√

* off-street parking lot available

Provincial Parks

There is one (1) provincial park within the Township, Earl Rowe Provincial Park. It is a recreational park that is 312.42 hectares and managed by Ontario Parks.

Earl Rowe Provincial Park allows a range of recreational activities, including, biking, camping, canoeing, discovery program, fishing, hiking, snowshoeing, and swimming. The park has an outdoor pool that has been closed since 2020, but is slated to reopen in 2024.

Conservation Areas and Lands

Both the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) have watersheds within the Township. Consultations with area conservation authorities were carried out as part of this Parks Master Plan and can be found in Section 3.3.

The NVCA owns and manages the only conservation area within the Township – Glencairn Conservation Area, which is approximately 2.7 hectares. This day-use conservation area allows a range of recreational activities, including, hiking, picnicking, dog walking (on-leash), geocaching, and fishing.

Many lands owned and managed by local conservation authorities are broadly accessible, but the functions of these lands are primarily geared to the conservation and protection of the ecological systems within them. Examples include the Ballycroy and Palgrave Tracts, which are owned and managed by the TRCA. Hiking, dog walking (on-leash), and birding are permitted uses.

Private Ownership

Parks held in private ownership are not considered part of the parkland inventory and fall outside of the scope of work for this Parks Master Plan. Section 4.7, of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Official Plan (draft, 2023) identifies that while there may be some privately owned lands within

the Open Space Recreation Designation, it shall not imply that they are publicly accessible or that the Township or any other public agency is obligated to purchase the lands.

2.3 Community Profile

Local Context

The Township of Adjala-Tosorontio was formed in 1994, amalgamating the former Townships of Adjala and Tosorontio. Adjala-Tosorontio is a lower-tier municipality within the County of Simcoe. Located in the southwest corner of the County, the Township has a population of approximately 11,000 and covers 440 square kilometres.

Because of the Township’s location and dispersed population, many Adjala-Tosorontio residents rely on surrounding municipalities to support their recreation needs.

Generally, residents visit nearby municipalities for naturalized trails, indoor recreation facilities, sports fields, etc.

Figure 4: Regional Context



Figure 5: Facilities in Neighbouring Municipalities

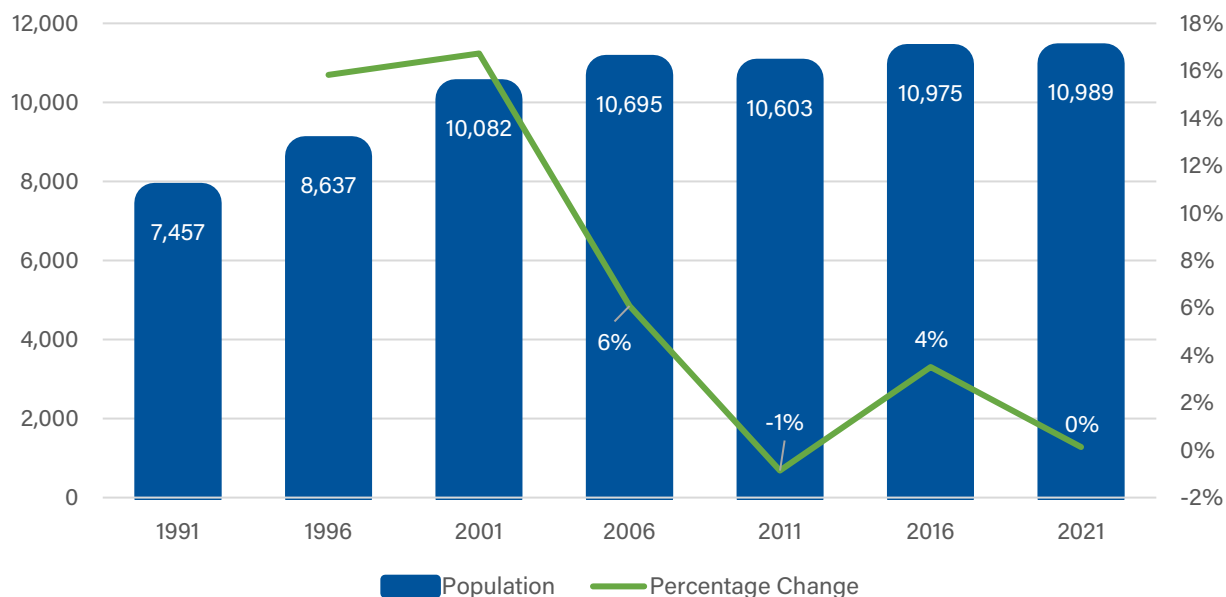
FACILITY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ball diamond	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Basketball Court		●		●	●	●		●	●
Community centre	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Community garden		●	●	●	●				
Ice pad	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Indoor fitness	●	●		●	●			●	●
Indoor swimming	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	
Off-leash dog park	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Outdoor fitness		●		●					●
Outdoor skating		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pickleball	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Playground	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Soccer field	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Splash pad	●	●		●	●			●	●
Skatepark		●	●	●	●			●	●
Tennis court	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Trails	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

- 1 CFB Borden
- 2 Caledon
- 3 Clearview
- 4 Essa
- 5 King
- 6 Mono
- 7 Mulmur
- 8 New Tecumseth
- 9 Springwater

Population and Growth

Statistics Canada 2021 Census reported a population of 10,989 residents in Adjala-Tosorontio, representing a 3.6% increase since 2011. Over the past 30 years, Adjala-Tosorontio has had an increase in population, but growth was particularly slow between 2006 and 2021.

Figure 6: Population and Percentage Change, Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, 1991 to 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 to 2021 Census.

After years with little change, Adjala-Tosorontio is projected to grow considerably over the next ten-plus years. It is estimated that by 2031 there will be 14,385 residents in Adjala-Tosorontio, growth of nearly 31% (approximately 3,400 persons). The population is forecasted to continue to grow to 17,650, beyond 2031.

Table 1: Population and Percentage Change, Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, 2021 to Post 2031

	2021 Current Population	2031 Forecasted Growth	Post 2031 Forecasted Growth
Population	10,989	14,385	17,650
Percentage Change	n/a	30.9% (2021-2031)	60.6% (2021-post 2031)

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2021 & Adjala-Tosorontio Development Charges Background Study, 2021

As Adjala-Tosorontio's population grows, we can expect greater use of local parks year-round.

The communities of Everett and Colgan will be the primary locations for future residential growth in the Township. At present, both communities have several large draft and/or registered plans of subdivision, with active building having been initiated in Colgan. Several park blocks have been identified within these subdivisions. Beyond 2031, Everett is anticipated to become the primary location for residential growth in Adjala-Tosorontio.

Table 2: Estimate of Residential Growth by Community, 2021 to 2031 and beyond

Community	2021 to 2031 (10 years) Net Population Change	2021 to Post-2031 (10+ years) Net Population Change	2021 to Post-2031 (%)
Everett	1,615	5,142	77%
Colgan and Remaining Urban	1,745	1,464	22%
Rural	24	43	1%
Township Total	3,384	6,649	100%

Source: Adjala-Tosorontio Development Charges Background Study, 2021

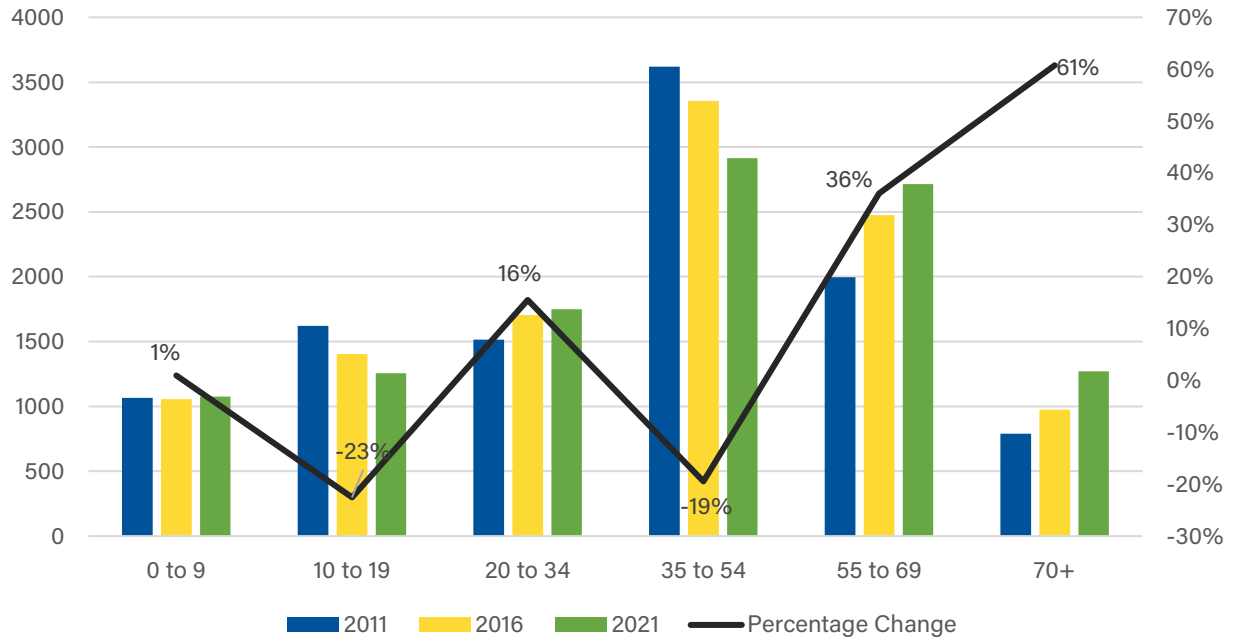
The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) identifies Adjala-Tosorontio as one of the highest growth municipalities with under 15,000 residents. According to MPAC, Adjala-Tosorontio’s new construction and/or additions to existing properties that were completed and assessed went from \$13.5 million (2022) to \$92.6 million (2023).² This information can help the Township reflect on their budgets for parkland.

Age Composition

Age characteristics are an important factor when planning for parks and outdoor recreation. Meeting the needs of all ages of the community is a primary focus of this Master Plan. Between the 2011 and 2021 Census, the Township’s median age increased from 43 years to 46.4 years, which is slightly higher compared to Simcoe County (median age of 41.8 years in 2021).

² Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. <https://www.mpac.ca/en/News/FactSheet/2023RollReturnFactSheet>

Figure 7: Population Change by Age Cohort, Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, 2011 to 2021

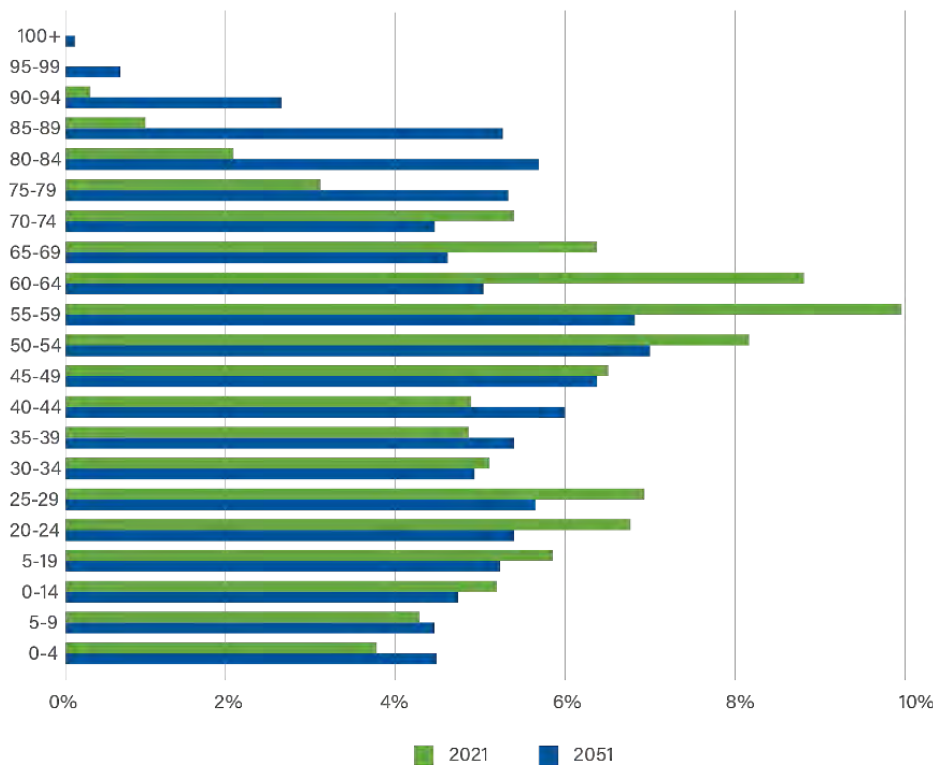


Source: Statistics Canada Census

As we can see, the population change in the Township shows young adults (35 to 54) and children (10 to 19) moving out of the Township. The older adult (55 to 69) and senior (70+) population is increasing within the Township from 2011 to 2021.

As Adjala-Tosorontio grows, it can expect increased pressure on its parks and expectations for a high-quality parks system, which will be a key factor in attracting new residents and retaining existing residents, particularly from younger age cohorts which is projected to grow to varying degrees. New parkland opportunities will have to be explored to address needs within emerging residential areas, as well as strategies to revitalize or enhance existing parks within established areas.

Figure 8: Population Age Structure (2021 & 2051), Township of Adjala-Tosorontio



Source: County of Simcoe Growth Forecasts and Land Needs Assessment, 2022

Other Socio-Demographic Characteristics

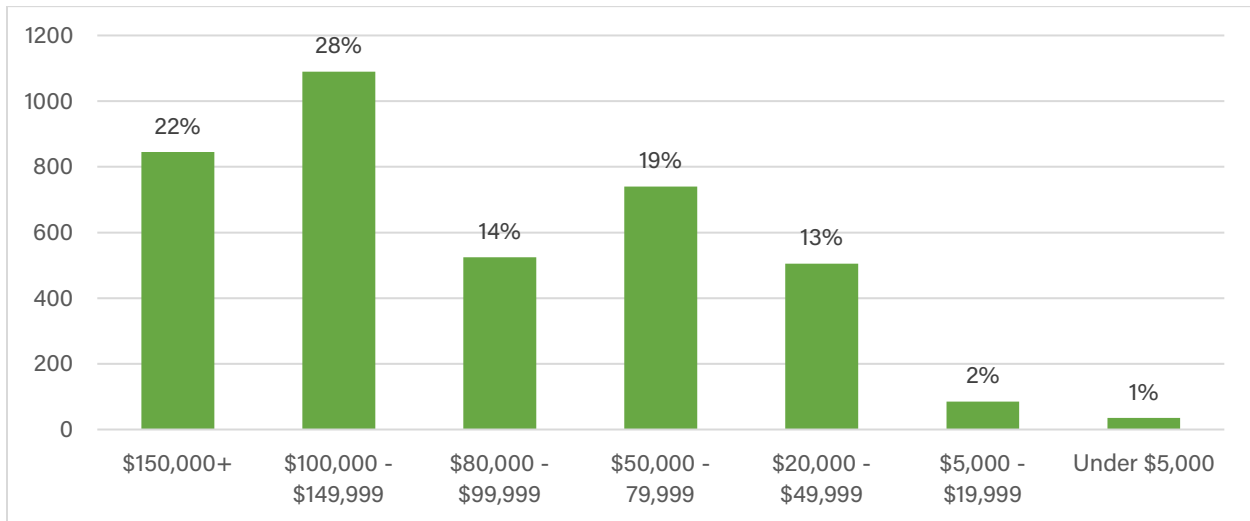
The 2021 Census reported that just over 15% of Adjala-Tosorontio’s residents are immigrants, which is less than half of the provincial measure of 30%. The majority of new Canadians came to Adjala-Tosorontio more than +40 years ago (before 1980), with nearly two-thirds (65%) coming from Europe and the United Kingdom.

Canada’s immigration policy suggests that greater ethnic diversity can be expected in the future. Traditionally, large urban centres have been a destination for new immigrants; however, this is changing as many immigrants are drawn to communities based on economic opportunity, affordability, and lifestyle considerations, characteristics that Adjala-Tosorontio offers. This may lead to greater demand for parks to support a wider range of passive and active outdoor opportunities.

Adjala-Tosorontio’s residents are generally wealthier than their counterparts in the County of Simcoe and the Province. The 2021 Census found that the median household income after-tax in Adjala-Tosorontio was \$100,000, while the County of Simcoe was \$82,000 and the province was

\$79,500.³ The Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute found that household income is proportional to participation in physical activities. Households that make more than \$80,000 are more likely to participate in organized physical activities compared to households that have a lower median income.

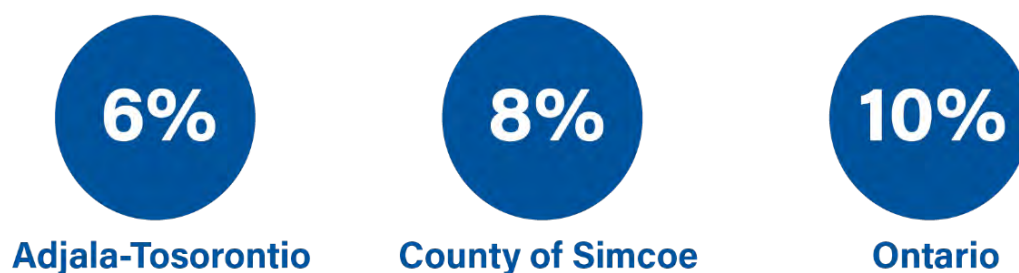
Figure 9: Median Household Income After-tax 2021, Township of Adjala-Tosorontio



Source: Statistics Canada Census

On the basis of household income, it is suggested that Adjala-Tosorontio residents are more likely to participate in physical activities compared to the rest of the county and province. Regardless of income status, there is a need to minimize barriers around recreation to residents in Adjala-Tosorontio. As 6% of households were considered low-income in 2021.

Figure 10: Low-Income Measure After-Tax (LIM-AT), 2021



Source: Statistics Canada Census

³ 2021 Statistics Canada Census. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Adjala%2DTosorontio&DGUIDlist=2021A00053543003&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0>

2.4 Key Trends

This section identifies several trends that are influencing the demand for and delivery of parks services in Canadian municipalities. Some of these trends have emerged as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, while others have been affecting service provision for several years. These trends should be balanced against other study inputs through the master plan's upcoming development stages.

Parks as Critical Outdoor Spaces

Access to outdoor space matters as parks are increasingly being seen as critical social, health, and environmental infrastructure. Green spaces offer places of respite and improve air quality, provide venues for physical activity, and conserve natural and cultural heritage landscapes. Recent surveys have found that 87% of Canadians support more investment in parks, including more places to experience nature close to home⁴.

The increasing focus on the integration of "places" and "destinations" through urban design practices seeks to create comfortable, connected and sustainable streetscapes. Park development can increase the attractiveness and marketability of new development areas, while redevelopment of parkland can similarly act as a catalyst for revitalizing established neighbourhoods.

Park Use Skyrocketed During the Pandemic

Communities witnessed increased park use and demand for unstructured outdoor recreation activities within parks and trails during the COVID-19 pandemic as people found or rediscovered new ways to remain active and connected. Parks were increasingly used as "outdoor living rooms" across all four seasons, strengthening connections with nature and introducing many people to new activities within their neighbourhood. The large majority (82%) of Canadians said that parks and outdoor spaces have become more important to their mental health during COVID-19 and 70% indicated that their appreciation for parks and green spaces had increased during the pandemic⁵.

As a result of this renewed interest, residents expect more from their parks in terms of amenities and quality. Public demand is especially strong for year-round washrooms in parks and natural areas. Further, there continues to be great potential to animate unused or non-traditional outdoor spaces for community activities and nature-based programming.

⁴ Park People. <https://parkpeople.ca/blog/park-people-parks-platform-2023-toronto-parks-as-core-urban-infrastructure>

⁵ Park People. COVID-19 and Parks Survey. July 2020. <https://parkpeople.ca/2020/07/16/covid-19-and-parks-highlights-from-our-national-surveys>

Supporting Active Transportation

Active transportation offers many personal health and wellness benefits and is a core element of complete communities. During the pandemic, municipalities observed a surge in recreational trail use as residents participated close-to-home and sought connections with nature. Expanded use of these networks can be expected to continue – interest in bike lanes, off-road trails and cycling infrastructure are common requests in most communities. Active transportation is environmentally-friendly as it reduces road congestion and vehicle-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Combating High Levels of Physical Inactivity

Physical inactivity rates remain alarmingly high and levels of inactivity rose further during the pandemic as more sedentary activities took hold, particularly among children and youth in both school and community settings. Physical inactivity has been found to be a contributor to Canada’s growing obesity problem. In 2017, a study by Statistics Canada found that nearly one-third of Canadian children and youth (age 5-17) are obese or overweight, which was an increase from 23% reported in 1979.⁶ During the same period, almost two-thirds (64%) of adults over the age of 18 were found to be obese or overweight, which was an increase from 49% in 1979.⁷ The downstream health care costs are significantly higher than the upfront preventative costs associated with active living.

For many, municipal parks and recreation services provide critical supports to maintain personal health and physical literacy by addressing inactivity levels, social isolation, stress and anxiety. Access to outdoor spaces, physical literacy, and affordable, accessible leisure activities are key determinants in engaging people in active recreation. There is evidence that larger parks have a more direct impact on physical activity as they have the space to accommodate a wider variety of amenities and experiences. Proximity to parks and facilities is also correlated with higher levels of physical activity.⁸

Encouraging Outdoor and Free Play

A majority (57%) of Canadian parents believe that children these days spend too much time in organized activities, and not enough time just playing.⁹ According to some, the erosion of play has become a silent emergency across the world, with 1 in 5 children saying they are ‘too busy’ to play.¹⁰ Play is so important to children’s holistic development that both the American Academy of

⁶ Public Health Agency of Canada. Tackling obesity in Canada: Childhood obesity and excess weight rates in Canada. 2017. <https://www.canada.ca>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Urban Institute. The Health Benefits of Parks and their Economic Impacts: A Review of Literature. February 2022.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Real Play Coalition. Reclaiming Play in Cities. 2020.

<https://www.arup.com/perspectives/publications/research/section/reclaiming-play-in-cities>

Pediatrics and the UK Children’s Commissioner have called for “play prescriptions” from public health authorities.

We are living in an ever increasingly urban world, with more children growing up in cities than ever before. In addition, lifestyles are changing, with a growing prevalence of insecurity and parental risk aversion, the increasing role played by technology in our lives, and a recurring time-scarcity problem, each of which impact children’s play experiences. Play is often seen as an activity confined to playgrounds or schools, but communities are increasingly looking for ways to design public spaces and the built environment to support play and learning opportunities for children, including the introduction of more natural play features and loose toys/tools for imaginative play. Everyday activities such as walking and cycling can also support a physically active population.

Environmental Stewardship

As people become more aware of the benefits of environmental protection, demand for passive settings that connect people to nature is growing and expectations for what role parks should play, and how they should benefit both people and the environment are changing. Many communities are placing a greater emphasis on the development of passive park space (e.g., woodlots, prairie grasslands, flower gardens, civic gathering spaces, etc.) and parks are now expected to serve environmental functions like surface water management, heat island reduction, and wildlife habitat improvement, leading to greater needs to naturalized park space to promote biodiversity, reduce maintenance costs and encourage habitat for pollinators. There is a growing reliance on natural open space systems and trails for recreation such as cycling, walking, and jogging as access to nature becomes more important to residents.

Already thought of as “green infrastructure”, parks are being positioned to be more environmentally sustainable through reducing grass cutting and naturalization initiatives, planting of native species, tree canopy targets, and programs that educate about local natural heritage features (e.g., outdoor classrooms or interpretive signage). More communities are also experimenting by piloting new approaches in parks, such as bioswales, rain gardens, pollinator gardens, habitat restoration, and biodiversity initiatives. Green infrastructure strategies that include directions for parks are becoming more common and helping to ensure these practices become standard.

Making Parks and Recreation Accessible for All

Older parks and facilities were designed to the standards of the day and many lack full barrier-free accessibility, which creates challenges for some users; one in five Canadians aged 15 years and over have one or more disabilities relating to physical, sensory, cognitive or mental health¹¹. Play and exercise are essential for one’s physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development

¹¹ Statistics Canada. Canadian Survey on Disability. 2017. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/181128/dq181128a-eng.htm>

and access to the outdoors can also be valuable in providing therapeutic relief. All new and redeveloped parks must be designed with accessibility at the forefront. For example, many communities are beginning to incorporate spaces that directly benefit persons with disabilities, such as sensory gardens, quiet areas, raised garden beds, and autism-friendly play areas.

In addition, all communities have a role to play in recognizing the importance of Indigenous voices in parks, recreation, and sport. Some municipalities are showcasing Indigenous history through public art and plaques in community centres and parks, along with exploring sports programs and ceremonial events that deepen our understanding of these cultures.

Ensuring that parks provide attractive and comfortable experiences is also paramount to encouraging high levels of appropriate use. Multiple elements go into contributing to user safety, comfort, and convenience, such as signage, comfort amenities, lighting, seating, shade, washrooms, and parking. Park projects should be designed with user safety in mind through the application of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) and other contemporary design principles.

Park Activation and Year-Round Programming

Municipalities across Canada are experiencing increased demand for “activation” and programming in parks, such as social gatherings, community events, art displays, movie nights and more. Viewing parks as “outdoor living rooms” helps to expand the scope of use and engages a broader range of residents and visitors, leading to experiential learning, participation, and community mobilization. Non-programmed spaces oriented to social interaction and gathering can also draw people from their homes and into the park setting.

Emerging Recreation Activities

The variety of activities and sports available today is much broader than in the past and the popularity of recreation and sport activities are affected by a variety of socio-demographic and lifestyle trends. Many of these new recreational pursuits have emerged in the past few decades that were never contemplated in the design of most older parks.

There are several emerging recreation trends regarding the use of parks and outdoor spaces, including (but not limited to):

- Residents are increasingly choosing more informal and individual recreation activities that are more convenient and affordable;
- Activities and spaces such as pickleball, cricket, off-leash dog parks, splash pads, sport courts, disc golf, skateboarding and BMX biking, outdoor skating, challenge courses and adventure play, and trails are increasing in demand;
- Public fitness opportunities are in higher demand (e.g., exercise equipment and loops), particularly for seniors;
- Casual group spaces for diverse exercise and recreation experiences are in high demand (e.g., tai chi, BBQ pits, picnic spaces, etc.);

- Greater frequency of requests by private groups to schedule community events, permitting the public to be involved in programming;
- Demand for digital infrastructure, such as Wi-Fi in parks;
- Changes to drinking laws that have prompted some Ontario municipalities (e.g., Toronto, Stratford, etc.) to pilot programs to allow the consumption of alcohol in parks (with restrictions); and
- Passive recreation spaces that support casual and informal activities are equally important to active programming (e.g., community gardens, outdoor classrooms, unstructured spaces, etc.).

2.5 Policy Scan

Summarized below are applicable national, provincial, county, and local policies and studies that have relevance to this Parks Master Plan.

Provincial Policy Statement

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), issued under the authority of the Planning Act, sets a vision for land use planning in Ontario. The PPS is a significant document since it provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest as it pertains to land use planning and development. County and local planning policies (including those prescribed through Official Plans) must be consistent with the PPS.

Policy 3.9 of the proposed (2024) policy statement addresses Public Spaces, Recreation, Parks, Trails and Open Space (see below).

Healthy, active, and inclusive communities should be promoted by:

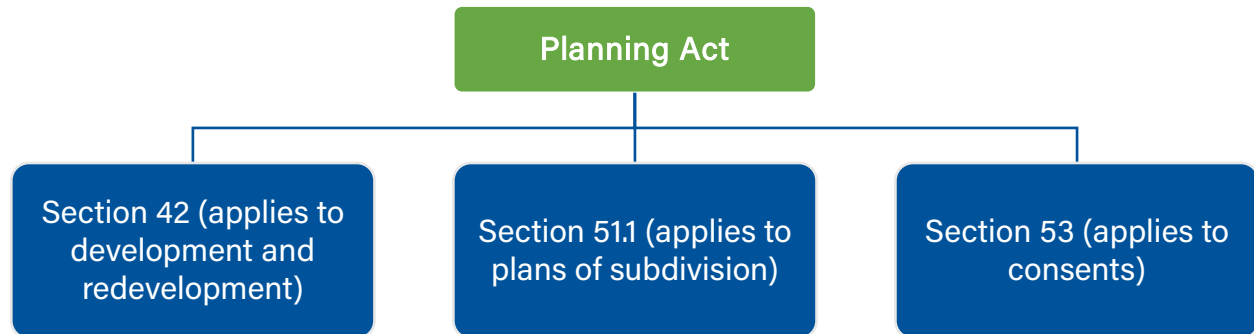
- a) planning public streets, spaces and facilities to be safe, meet the needs of persons of all ages and abilities, including pedestrians, foster social interaction and facilitate active transportation and community connectivity;
- b) planning and providing for the needs of persons of all ages and abilities in the distribution of a full range of publicly-accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including facilities, parklands, public spaces, open space areas, trails and linkages, and, where practical, water-based resources;
- c) providing opportunities for public access to shorelines; and
- d) recognizing provincial parks, conservation reserves, and other protected areas, and minimizing negative impacts on these areas.

Among other things, the PPS also outlines the importance of active transportation and green infrastructure, mitigating impacts of climate change, and a clean and healthy environment.

Ontario Planning Act

Parkland conveyance authority is established in the *Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, c. P.13* and facilitated through the Township's Official Plan policies. Specifically, this includes Planning Act Section 42 (which pertains to parkland conveyances associated with development and redevelopment) and Sections 51.1 and 53 (which pertain to parkland requirements as a condition of plan of subdivision approval and consent).

Figure 11: Parkland Dedication Sections in the Ontario Planning Act



Under the Act, municipalities may levy a **standard rate** of 5% of developable residential lands (or cash-in-lieu) or 2% of commercial and industrial lands, or an **alternative rate** of up to one hectare of land for every 600 hundred residential units or an equivalent to one hectare of land for every 1,000 units when requiring cash-in-lieu of land. The alternative rate typically generates more parkland when densities exceed 30 units per hectare when accepting land and 50 units per hectare when accepting payment, although recent changes to the Act through Bill 23 have instituted caps on this (10% of land or its value for sites under 5 hectares, and 15% for sites greater than 5 hectares).

In recent years, significant changes have been proposed to the parkland dedication requirements established in the Planning Act:

- **Bill 108** (More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019) proposed sweeping changes to parkland dedication requirements, but these changes were not brought into force as they were ultimately further amended through Bill 197.
- **Bill 197** (COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020) introduced a sunset clause for existing parkland dedication by-laws that use the alternative rate (September 18, 2022); new by-laws are appealable to the Ontario Land Tribunal.
- **Bill 109** (More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022) amended parkland requirements on lands designated as transit-oriented communities; this clause is unlikely to apply to the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio due to the lack of higher-order public transit.
- **Bill 23** (More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022) was introduced in October 2022 and came into effect on November 28, 2022. This Act introduced significant changes to parkland dedication requirements (among many other aspects of the Planning Act, Development

Charges Act, etc.), including but not limited to reductions in the alternative parkland dedication requirement.

- **Bil 185** (Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024) clarified certain requirements around parkland dedication notices and reporting.

The changes introduced by the **More Homes Built Faster Act (Bill 23)** will result in reductions to parkland dedication and cash-in-lieu requirements compared to the previous legislation, especially for communities that are supporting higher density residential development. A summary of some of these changes expected to impact Adjala-Tosorontio is provided below:

- Affordable residential units, attainable residential units, inclusionary zoning residential units, non-profit housing and additional residential unit developments are **exempt** from parkland dedication requirements. This will reduce parkland dedication and cash-in-lieu to the Township.
- **Parkland rates** are frozen as of the date that a zoning-by law or site plan application is filed. The freeze is effective for two years after approval. This will reduce cash-in-lieu payments to the Township.
- To take effect at a future date, developers will be able to identify the land they intend to convey to the municipality for parkland. These lands may include **encumbered lands** and privately-owned public space (POPs). If agreement cannot be reached, the municipality or the landowner can appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal. This may result in less suitable lands being accepted as parkland dedication.
- There is a new requirement for municipalities to **spend or allocate** at least 60% of the monies in their parkland reserve account at the beginning of each year.
- Furthermore, the Act now requires that a municipality prepare a **Parks Plan** before passing a parkland dedication by-law should the municipality choose to enact the alternative rate for parkland dedication. The Township does not presently have such a by-law.

Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Official Plan

Official Plans (OP) direct growth and development, consistent with provincial policy. Amongst their many uses, these plans contain a variety of policies that aim to provide an adequate range and distribution of recreation, parks, and trails that will meet the community's long-term needs.

The Township of Adjala-Tosorontio's current Official Plan was approved by the County of Simcoe on October 28, 1999. A new Draft Official Plan is currently being prepared, with the initial draft made available to the public to review on December 13, 2023. Selected policies from the Draft Official Plan (subject to change) are noted below:

In Part A, Section 4, of the Draft Official Plan, it states:

"To support the development of complete, vibrant, healthy communities that are sustainable, and to provide for convenient access to employment, public service facilities,

housing, parkland and open space, active transportation, and access to local and healthy food.”

“To provide an adequate range and distribution of public spaces, recreation, parks, and trails to meet long-term needs in a sustainable manner.”

In Part B, Section 2, of the Draft Official Plan, states:

“Open space/park facilities and pedestrian connectivity shall be a component of all future residential development proposals; the focal role of existing parks shall be enhanced and reinforced.

In Part C, Section 2.4, of the Draft Official Plan establishes policies for public spaces. Policies relating to this MP are:

“Recreational facilities shall provide a range of active and passive park facilities that accommodate a range of users.”

Part C, Section 2.4 speaks on policies relating to public spaces, recreation, parks, and trails. Specifically, Section 2.4.2 identifies the dedication of parkland as permitted by the Planning Act:

“All new residential development or redevelopment shall be conditional on a parkland dedication of 5% of the developable land area or the equivalent of 1 hectare for every 600 units, whichever is the greater and all new non-residential development shall be conditional on the provision of 2% of the developable area for parkland purposes.

Part C, Section 2.4.3, of the OP talks about recreational trails and how they are an essential component:

“The provision, and development, of land for trails shall therefore not be considered to be part of the park dedication requirement. That is, the provision of trails shall be over and above the requirements for provision and development of parkland.”

Part C, Section 5.3 speaks about linkages:

“The Township shall work with the province, Simcoe County, conservation authorities and trail organizations on initiatives that contribute to, or complement, the creation of a regional trails network and where appropriate, include pedestrian accessible green spaces, passive recreation uses, and connections to provincial and County trail systems.

Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Development Charges Background Study (2021)

The Township of Adjala-Tosorontio 2021 Development Charges Background Study supports the Development Charges Act 1997 (s.10) and recommends new development charges (DC) policies for the Township. The Study contains development-related capital requirements for Parks and Recreation Services spanning a 10-year period (2021-2031). The Study supported funding for this Master Plan and identified costs of \$2.1 million for development at Wardens’ Park and parks within the Loretto, Everett and Colgan areas. Some of these capital projects have since been completed, while others (most notably in Colgan) are planned for future years.

Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Strategic Plan - Draft (2024)

The Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Strategic Plan provides a guideline for the Township, which is explored through a vision, mission, values, and priorities.

Vision: "To Build a safe & welcoming community, close to nature, rich in history, with opportunities for all."

Mission: "To serve a connected community by nurturing our rural roots & fostering a prosperous future."

Values: Integrity, Progressive, Responsible, Service

Relevant Strategic Priorities & Actions:

- Operations & Good Governance
 - Be a leader in **municipal innovation**
- Financial
 - Ensure the **financial sustainability** of the municipality
- Planning
 - Deliver **quality parks and recreation services**
 - Build and develop a **sustainable community**
- Economic Development
 - Develop a **Farmers Market and Adj-Tos Festival**
 - **Create Identity** for the community
- Infrastructure
 - Develop and outdoor recreation including a **rink and pathway**
 - Build a **community center and Library**

Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Recreation Master Plan (2006)

A Recreation Master Plan was prepared in 2006 and was the first planning document to provide direction for recreation services within the Township.

Key recommendations from the Recreation Master Plan are noted below, most of which were not fully implemented:

- Simple upgrades at the ball diamonds (lighting, seating, sanitary services);
- Ensure parkland is usable in subdivision plans, the areas would need road frontage with either playground equipment or a sports field;
- Demand for a skateboard park is high enough to warrant the provision of one;
- With demand in Everett, a new soccer field could be supported, provided a proper league is established;
- If a multi-use facility were to be established, a public pool could be incorporated;
- If a multi-use facility were to be established, there is an opportunity for tennis courts;
- The Township is encouraged to expand walking trails and encourage sidewalks in large subdivision developments;

- A youth Centre would be beneficial; there is potential to partner with church or volunteer organizations to help run the facility.

Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2024-2028 (2024)

A Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is a measure the Township has taken to identify, remove, and prevent barriers for people with disabilities who use the Township's services and facilities.

Relating to this Parks Master Plan, the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan has technical requirements for newly constructed or developed public spaces or buildings. The Built Environment Standard (Design of Public Spaces) focuses on removing barriers for the public spaces including recreational trails, outdoor public use seating areas, outdoor play areas, exterior paths of travel, accessible parking, obtaining services, and maintenance. Section 12 in the Accessibility Plan discusses the Built Environment Standard. Section 12 focuses on public spaces and how they can be designed to remove barriers to newly constructed or developed spaces.

Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Building Condition Assessment Report

A Building Condition Assessment Report was completed for Adjala-Tosorontio to assess the current condition of individual assets in Wardens' Park, Ross Houston Memorial Park, and John O. Irwin Ball Diamond. Recommendations for Ross Houston Memorial Park are for the Township to consider replacing the outhouses with a portable washroom to improve hygiene and accessibility.

Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Park Condition Assessment

A Park Condition Assessment was completed for the parks in the Township. The document outlines a general overview of the current condition of parks and the replacement costs of the park system. Key findings are summarized in Section 5 of this Parks Master Plan.

SMDHU Healthy Community Design – Policy Statements for Official Plans (2014)

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) has created a document called Healthy Community Design that suggests policy direction that is focused on the health of residents in Simcoe County. By designing communities with the residents in mind, there can be a positive impact on their physical and mental health. The key ideas in the report focus on the environment, injury and safety, physical activity, sun safety, food access, and social cohesion and well-being.

The environmental policy focuses on protecting and conserving the natural environment. The injury and safety policy aims to create a physical environment that is safe. Sun safety policy is to create an environment that allows residents to have daily physical activity that is safe. The food access policy focuses on healthy food and increasing the availability to residents. The social cohesion and well-being policy is about creating a physical form in communities that promotes and encourages social interaction and social capital.

County of Simcoe Trails Strategy (2014)

The County of Simcoe's Trails Strategy provides direction for active transportation infrastructure. The vision is to create a network of multi-purpose passive-use trails that connect the communities throughout Simcoe County. The goals of the Strategy are to:

- Support a variety of passive trail uses through an accessible, connected trail network that links communities and places of interest
- Maximize trail investments
- Enhance trail-user experience
- Collaborate with stakeholders
- Promote awareness of Simcoe County trails

For Adjala-Tosorontio, the Strategy identifies a possible trail connection between Everett to CFB Borden lands. The Strategy also identifies an objective of creating two large loop trails (approximately 150 km each) that would capitalize on the growing recreation/cycling tourist market, with funding opportunities made available through the County's Trails Connecting Communities Program. A map showing the proposed routes is contained in Section 5 of this Parks Master Plan (under Recreational Trails).

County of Simcoe Transportation Master Plan (2014)

The County of Simcoe's Transportation Master Plan provides direction for transportation around the County, including active transportation and related design guidelines. Section 9 speaks to active transportation and highlights that there are proposed off-road routes planned through Adjala-Tosorontio, consistent with the County's Trails Strategy.

Simcoe County Positive Aging Strategy 2018-2023 (2018)

The County of Simcoe's Positive Aging Strategy informs the public on the age-friendly initiatives, programs, and services for the older adult population in the County. The report states that 31% of the population in Simcoe County is older than 55 years. In the report, when talking about Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Priority 5 is to install more bench seating in the community and park areas. The Township can use the County's Priority #5 when thinking about parks seating within Adjala-Tosorontio.

Parks Canada – Parks for All (2017)

Parks for All is widely recognized by the parks sector as the national charter that advances the provision of parkland using an evidence-based approach. It was prepared by Parks Canada on behalf of the Canadian Parks Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association to articulate the importance and benefits provided by parks and nature. Parks for All articulates a Vision as follows:

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

The Parks for All framework identifies priorities and actions that are organized under four Strategic Directions of “Collaborate”, “Connect”, “Conserve” and “Lead”. Many of these priorities and actions provide a strong basis for municipalities such as Adjala-Tosorontio to continue investing in local parks systems.

Canadian Parks and Recreation Association – Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015)

The Framework for Recreation in Canada (FRC) is a watershed guideline designed to support coordinated policies and practices in recreation and related sectors in Canada. Its aim is to improve the wellbeing of individuals, communities, and the built and natural environments by outlining a new vision for recreation in Canada supported by clear goals and underlying values and principles.

Figure 12: Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015) – Goals



Building from this work, in 2023 CPRA released a supplement to the Framework for Recreation in Canada, the purpose of which is to lend focus to short-term actions that can be achieved over the next two years or until a new Framework is released. The Supplement considers many of the significant changes and issues that have emerged in recent years, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change considerations, focus on DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion), economic challenges, and more.

It is a goal of the sector to use the Framework as the premier policy to guide parks and recreation programming, service delivery, and facility decisions. While the FRC vision and goals remain the same, several new actions have been suggested (see table below) for selected actions that may be relevant to this Parks Master Plan.

Table 3: Framework for Recreation in Canada Supplement (2023) – Selected Actions (draft)

<p>Goal 1: Active Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Utilize the 24-hour Movement Guidelines (all ages) to help community members increase physical activity and reduce sedentary living. b) Focus on non-competitive and unstructured play for people of all ages, in both indoor and outdoor spaces. c) Create and promote active transportation opportunities.

Goal 2: Inclusion and Access

- a) Develop and implement strategies, policies, and programs that ensure all community members across the lifespan have equitable access to parks and recreation opportunities and services. It is critical to consider race, culture, gender identity, income, ability, and all people.
- b) Learn about and implement actions that create a sense of belonging for all members of the community in both indoor and outdoor spaces and places.
- c) Learn about and apply Indigenous ways of learning.

Goal 3: Connecting People and Nature

- a) Provide natural spaces and places in neighborhoods, communities, and regions through the retention and addition of natural areas, forests, parks, trails, and recreational waters (rivers, lakes, canals and beaches).
- b) Gather and share best practices about planning, creating, maintaining, and monitoring a comprehensive system of parks and protected areas that allows year-round (if appropriate) access to nature.
- c) Increase the public's understanding of the importance of nature and outdoor spaces to health and wellbeing while respecting parks, trails, and other natural environments.
- d) Develop operational policies and practices that show leadership in environmental stewardship, minimizing negative impacts on the natural environment, and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Goal 4: Supportive Environments

- a) Provide accessible, inclusive, and welcoming parks and recreation facilities and outdoor spaces in all neighbourhoods, communities, and regions.
- b) Renew parks and recreation physical and social infrastructure.
- c) Support placemaking strategies that encourage community members to take a leadership role in activating neighbourhoods to increase physical activity and social connectedness.
- d) Develop and implement education campaigns that increase knowledge about how parks and recreation contribute to enjoyment and quality of life.

3

Public Engagement

Research and community engagement are critical inputs into this Master Plan. A comprehensive community engagement strategy was devised to involve the public and stakeholders in the identification of needs and expectations related to parks, trails, and outdoor recreation in Adjala-Tosorontio. The strategy was structured to solicit input on the key objectives of this Parks Master Plan.

The public engagement program included a variety of opportunities to discuss the study and provide feedback. These opportunities were promoted through the Township’s webpage, media release, social media, posters, digital roadside sign, Councillor eblasts, etc. A page on the Township’s website was active throughout the course of the project.

The first phase of engagement commenced in Fall 2023 and was designed to generate comments about the current state of parks and emerging needs. The second phase of engagement sought community feedback on the draft Parks Master Plan in Summer 2024.

Figure 13: Community Engagement Tactics



Each opportunity for input brings a unique perspective to the plan. The analysis in subsequent sections compares this feedback with other factors such as demographics, trends, and participation levels to arrive at recommendations.

Note: The results included herein represent the thoughts and opinions of those who were consulted and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants and/or the Township.

3.1 Community Survey

An online community survey was created to better understand resident use and participation within parks and outdoor recreation and future investment priorities in Adjala-Tosorontio. The survey was available for 12 weeks from November 2023 to February 2024. The community survey was available to complete online or by hardcopy.

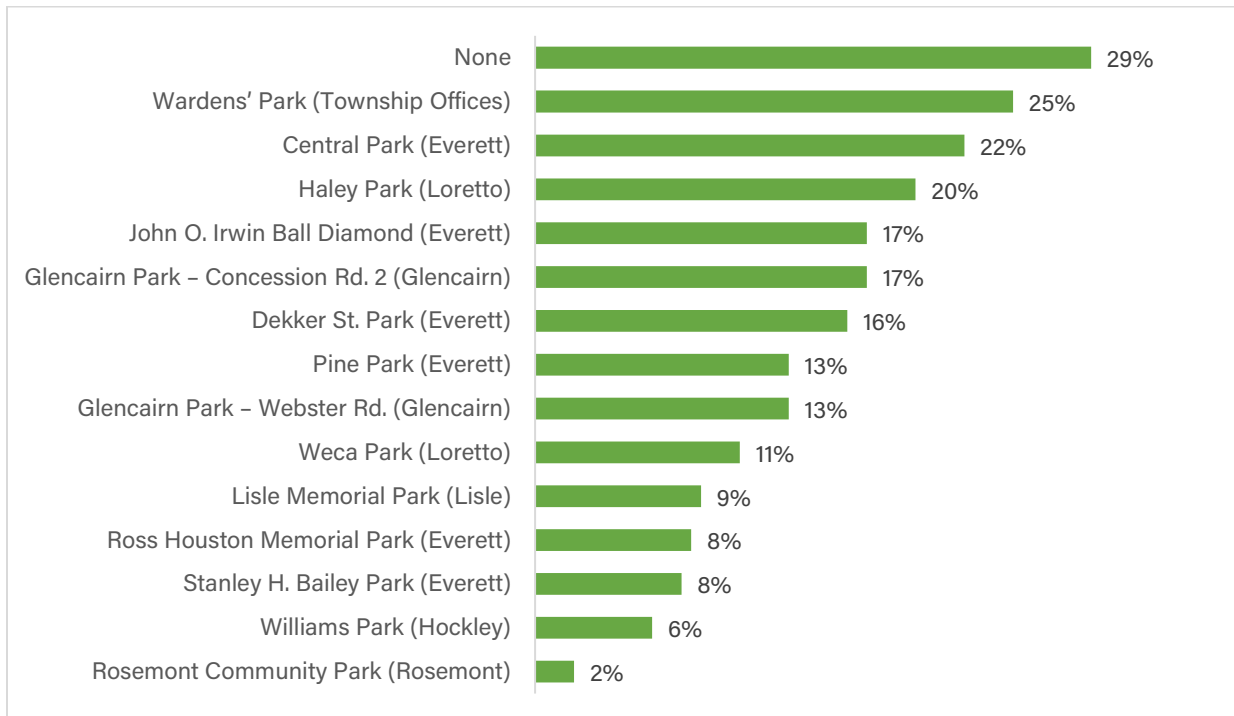
A total of 198 responses were received, being a voluntary, self-directed survey, response rates vary by question. The following is a high-level summary of survey responses. Tabulated survey response data has been provided in **Appendix B**.

198
 responses were received from the online community survey, representing nearly 450 residents or 4% of the Township's population.

Participation

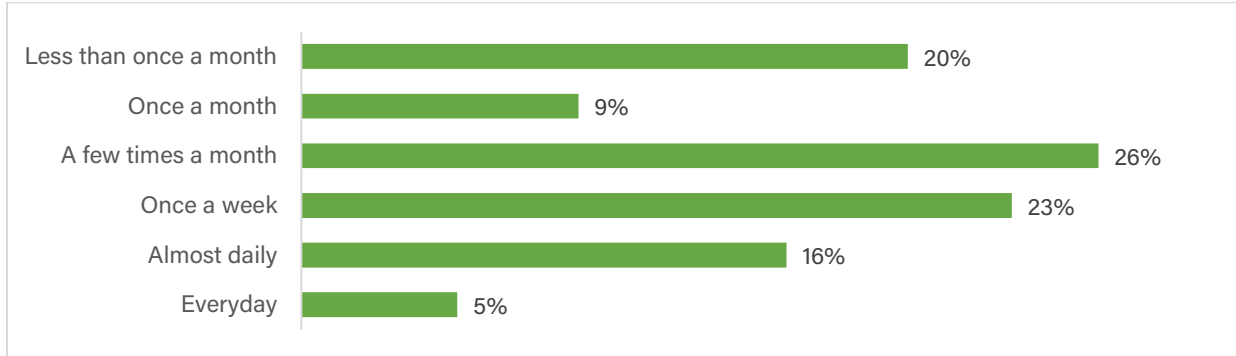
To establish a participation profile, respondents were asked to identify parks and recreation activities their household has participated in over the past 12 months. The top three parks used in Adjala-Tosorontio are Wardens' Park, Central Park, and Haley Park. It is also noted that 29% of respondents had not visited a Township park within the past 12 months.

Figure 14: Which of the following Township Parks have you or members of your household used in the past 12 months?



For those using Township parks, the following chart displays the self-reported frequency of visits, with the majority visiting parks a weekly or bi-weekly basis.

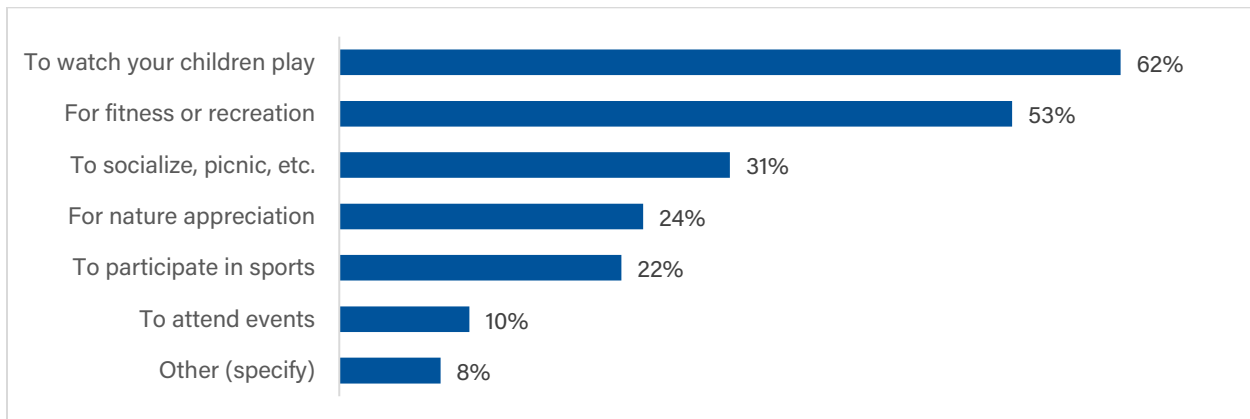
Figure 15: In the past 12 months, how often did you or members of your household use a Township park?



In terms of transportation modes, the survey identified that 62% households typically walk to Township parks, 29% drive, and 9% bike. With 71% using active transportation choices, this underscores the importance of accessible park locations within all Township communities.

The following figure displays the list of activities households participate in. The primary reasons for visiting parks are for children’s recreational activities (62%) and fitness activities (53%).

Figure 16: What are the main reasons your household uses parks in Adjala-Tosorontio?

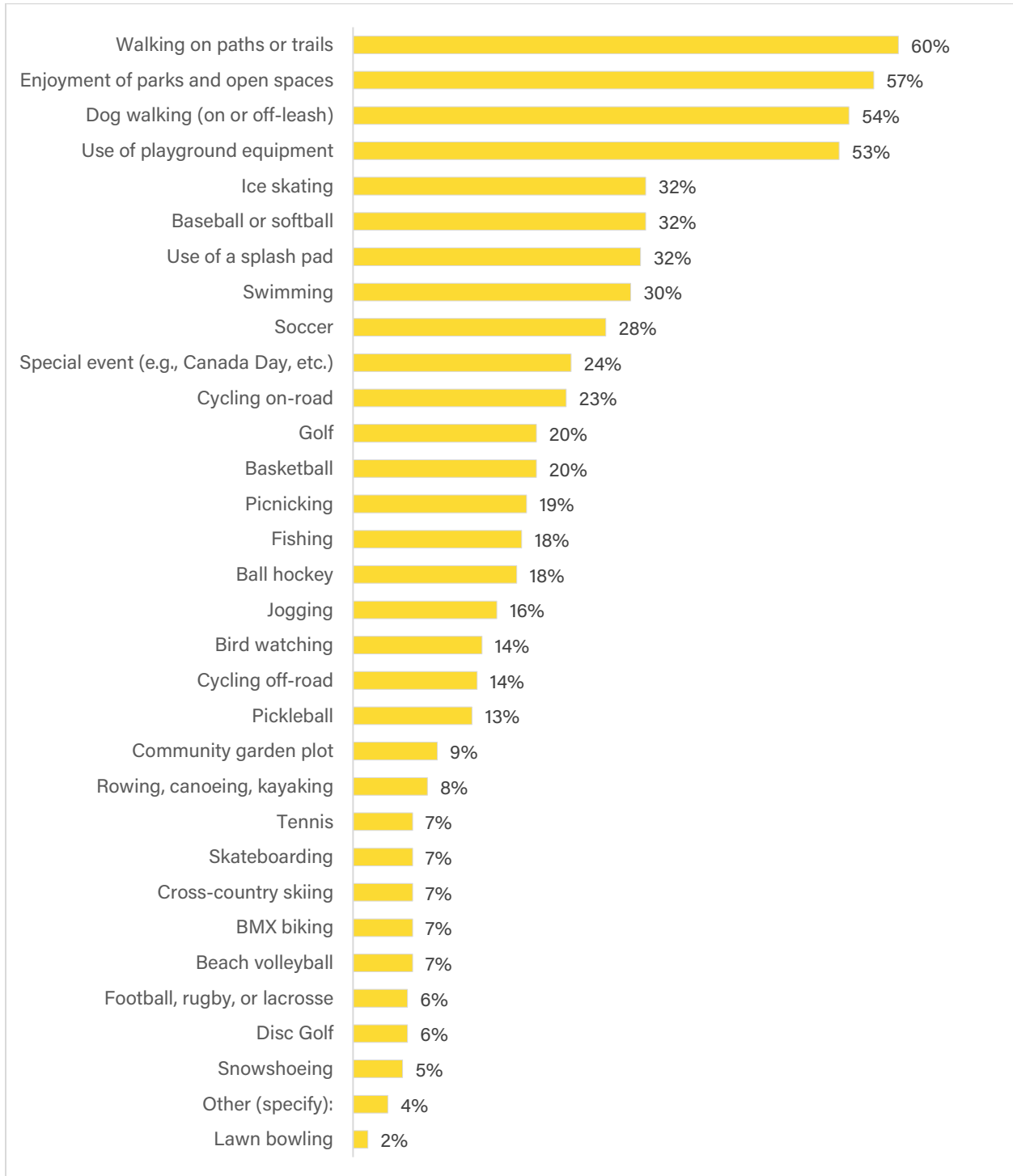


Note: “Other” responses included dog walking.

Respondents were asked to identify outdoor recreation activities that they or their household participated in. Top activities included walking (60%), general enjoyment of parks and open spaces (57%), dog walking (54%), and use of playground equipment (53%). Top team sports

included baseball (30%) and soccer (28%). More specialized, niche activities such as disc golf, snowshoeing, and lawn bowling received the lowest participation ratings.

Figure 17: In the past 12 months, which of the following outdoor recreation activities have you or anyone in your household participated in, either in Adjala-Tosorontio or elsewhere?



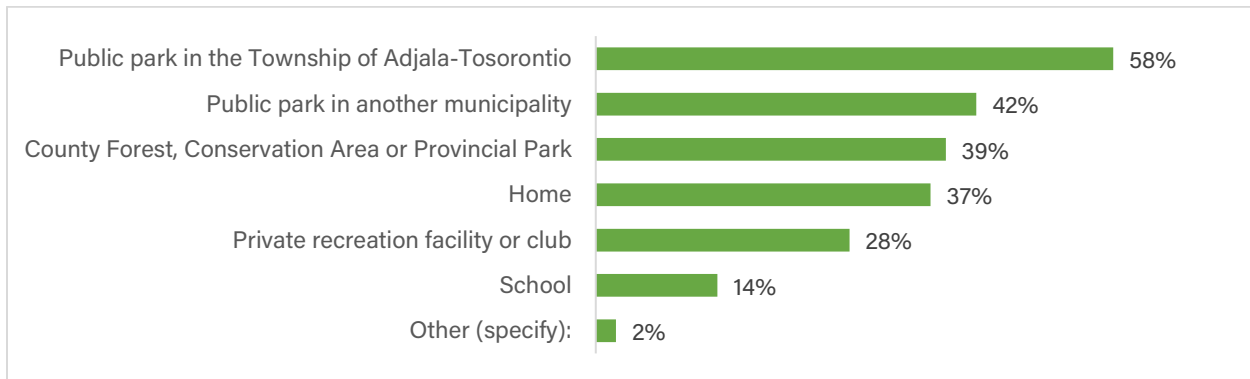
Residents were asked if they were able to participate in park activities as often as they would like. 61% answered yes and 39% no. This means that approximately two out of every five households experience some barriers keeping them from using parks to their fullest.

For those unable to participate as often as they would like, the most common barriers included:

- **64%** - Parks do not have necessary recreation amenities (fields, courts, playgrounds, etc.)
- **36%** - Lack of personal time / too busy
- **33%** - Parks do not have necessary support amenities (washrooms, parking, shade etc.)

Respondents were asked to identify where their household participates in outdoor recreation activities most, and the majority (58%) indicated they use a public park in the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, followed by 42% using parks in other municipalities and 39% visiting County forests, conservation areas, or provincial parks.

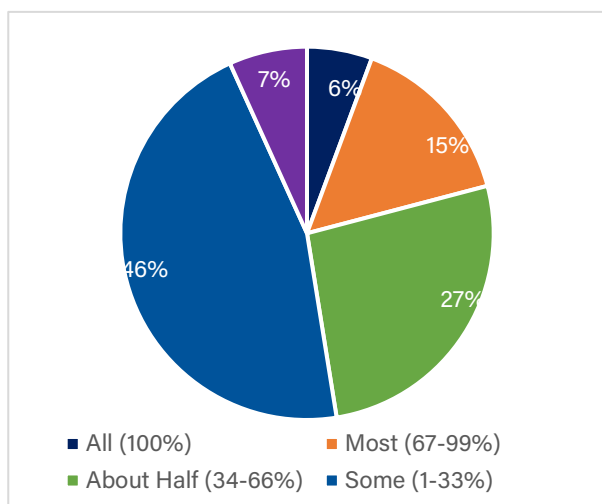
Figure 18: Where does your household participate in outdoor recreation activities most often?



Residents were asked where their outdoor recreation needs are met, with 21% reporting that all or some of their needs are met within the Township. Conversely, 53% of respondents indicated that only some or none of their outdoor recreation needs are met locally, indicating that most residents commonly travel outside of Adjala-Tosorontio to utilize parks.

Walking/hiking (27%) was the most participated outdoor recreation activity that residents enjoy, outside of the Township. The top responses other than walking/hiking are baseball/softball (18%), hockey/skating (16%), and pickleball (14%).

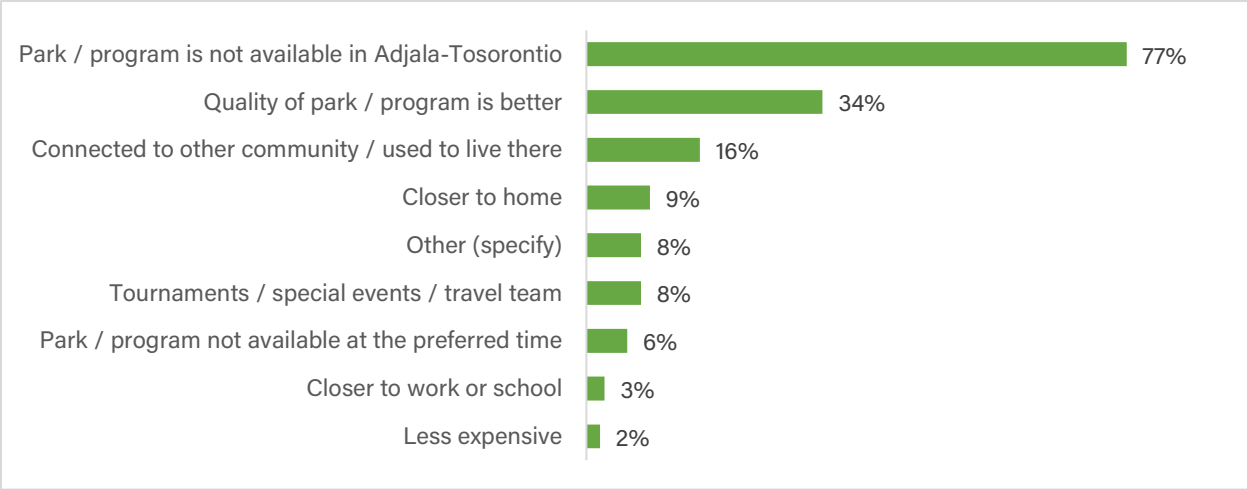
Figure 19: Generally, what proportion of your household's parks and outdoor recreation needs are met within the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio?



Respondents who participate in outdoor recreation activities outside of Adjala-Tosorontio were asked where they primarily participate in these activities. The most common municipality was the Town of New Tecumseth (16%), followed by Town of Caledon (11%), Township of Clearview (11%), and Township of Mulmur (10%). Due to the settlement areas in Adjala-Tosorontio being spread out, residents commonly commute to a neighbouring municipality to participate in outdoor recreation activities.

Residents were asked why they participate in activities outside of the Township, with the primary reason due to the park / program not being available in Adjala-Tosorontio (77%).

Figure 20: Why does your household participate in these activities outside of Adjala-Tosorontio?

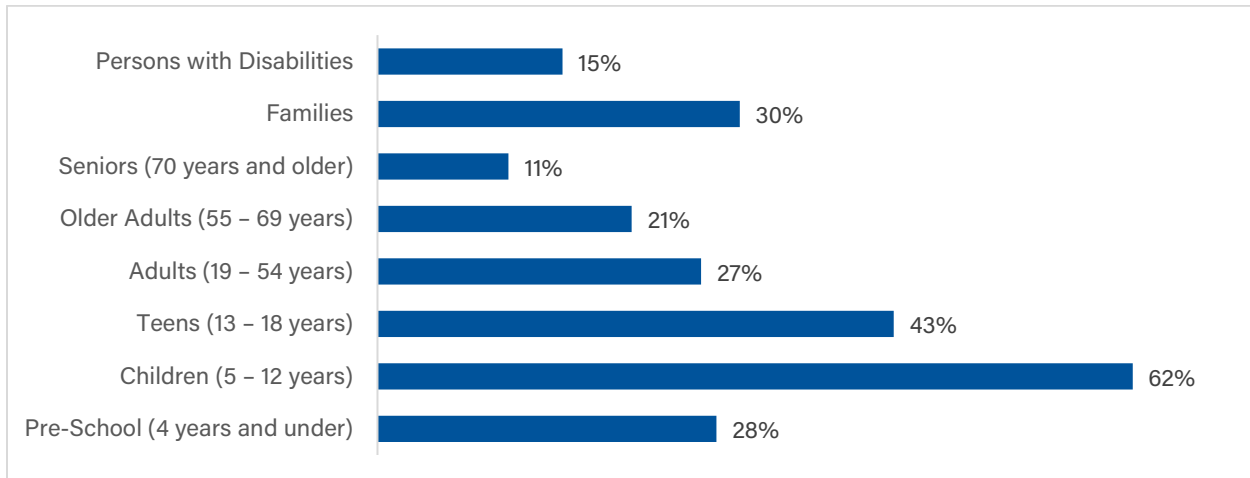


Program and Activity Gaps

To better understand priorities for Adjala-Tosorontio’s park and recreation system, respondents were asked to identify activities they would like to see offered in the Township (open-ended question). Nearly three-quarters of respondents (71%) identified specific park and recreation activities that they would like to see offered locally. Top activities included swimming (13%), disc golf (11%), yoga (9%), and trails for biking (9%).

Residents were asked which age groups should be the highest priorities if the Township were to upgrade local parks. Children (62%) and teens (43%) were identified as the highest priorities.

Figure 21: If the Township were to upgrade local parks in Adjala-Tosorontio, which age groups should be the highest priorities?



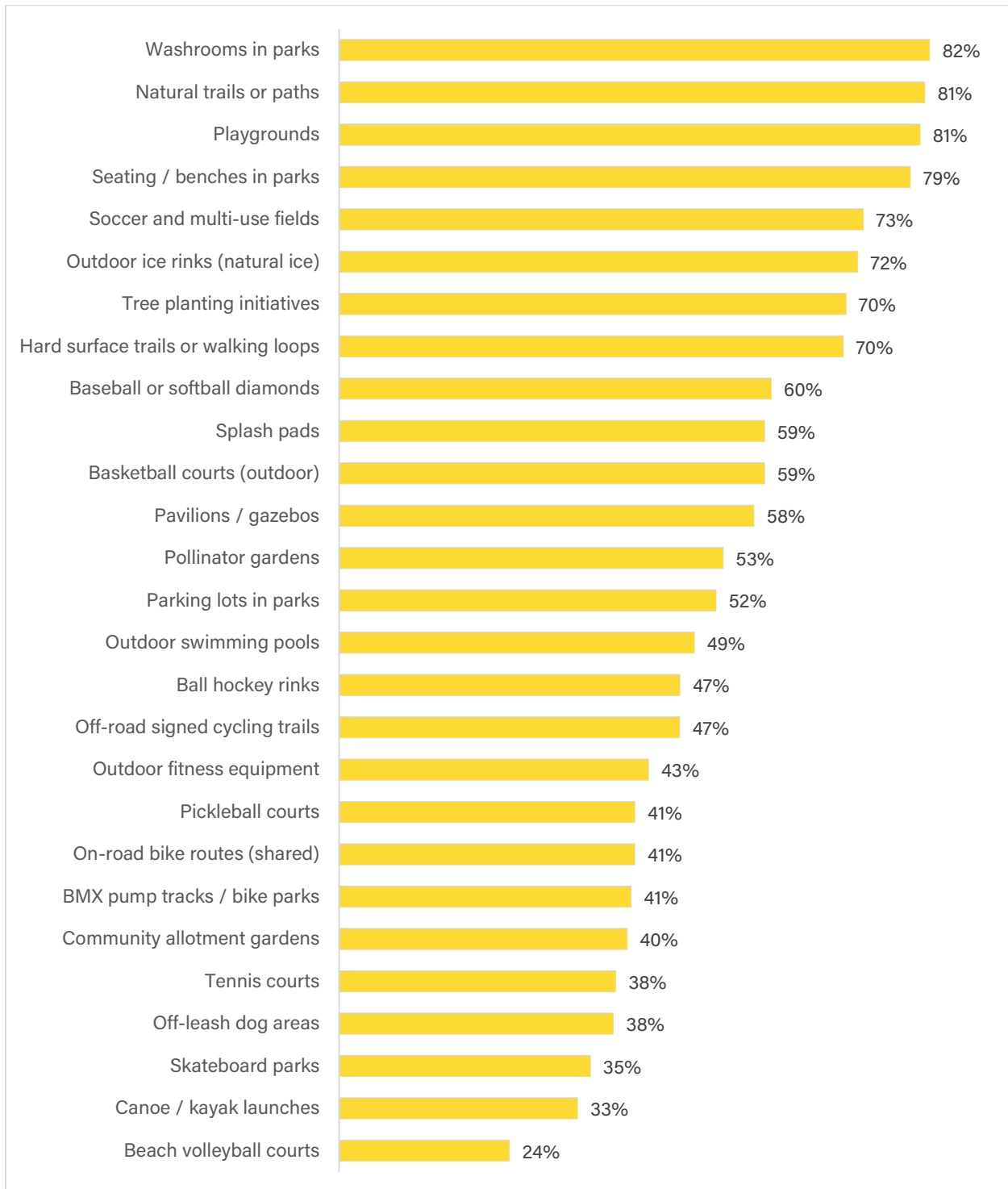
Additional Investment

Respondents were asked to identify their priorities for additional investment in local parks, recognizing that changes to the services may result in tax increases. The top priorities for additional investment among respondents included:

- Washrooms in parks (82%)
- Natural trails or paths (81%)
- Playgrounds (81%)
- Seating / benches in parks (79%)
- Soccer and multi-use fields (73%)
- Outdoor ice rinks (natural ice) (72%)
- Tree planting initiatives (70%)
- Hard surface trails or walking loops (70%)

Most of the top activities are self-scheduled, casual activities that can generally be enjoyed by persons of all ages and abilities. As noted earlier, many residents are travelling outside of the Township to participate in these activities. If there were to be additional investment in certain amenities, residents may participate more in outdoor recreation activities.

Figure 22: The Township collects property taxes in part to support park maintenance and improvements. Changes to these services may result in higher property taxes. With this in mind, how important is it to you that the Township spends additional public funds on improving the following parks and outdoor recreation facility types?



Other Priorities

Respondents were asked their level of agreement with a series of statements. Residents place strong value on the local parks system and are seeking improvements that would help them participate more. With most agreeing that parks are in convenient locations and many indicating that there are enough parks, the desire for improvements would appear to be focused on making parks better for all ages and adding amenities that residents currently must travel outside the Township for. There was good support for considering community fundraising to help fund park improvements.

- **86% agree / 12% disagree** - Your household would participate in outdoor activities more often if Township parks were improved.
- **84% agree / 10% disagree** - The Township's parks are conveniently located.
- **83% agree / 14% disagree** - Investment in parks and open spaces should be a high priority for Township Council.
- **78% agree / 17% disagree** - You are confident that you know where most local parks and open spaces are located.
- **74% agree / 17% disagree** - Community fundraising should be used to help offset park improvement costs.
- **52% agree / 36% disagree** - The Township should acquire new parkland to expand the park system.
- **51% agree / 26% disagree** - You would be interested in volunteering to support outdoor ice rinks or community gardens in parks.
- **45% agree / 42% disagree** - The Township should consider selling small parks that are under-utilized and surplus to needs.
- **36% agree / 60% disagree** - The Township's parks meet the needs of all ages, from young to old.
- **29% agree / 64% disagree** - The Township should rely on neighbouring municipalities for most outdoor recreation programs and sports.

Residents were also asked to provide any additional comments or suggestions they have regarding parks and open spaces in the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio.

Table 4: Top Themes from Open-ended Comments

Top Themes	Summary of Comments
Infrastructure improvements	Create a crosswalk to Haley Park across Highway 50, implement sidewalks, lighting in parks, and benches.
Outdoor recreation courts and pads	Focus on pickleball, splash pads, and hockey rink.

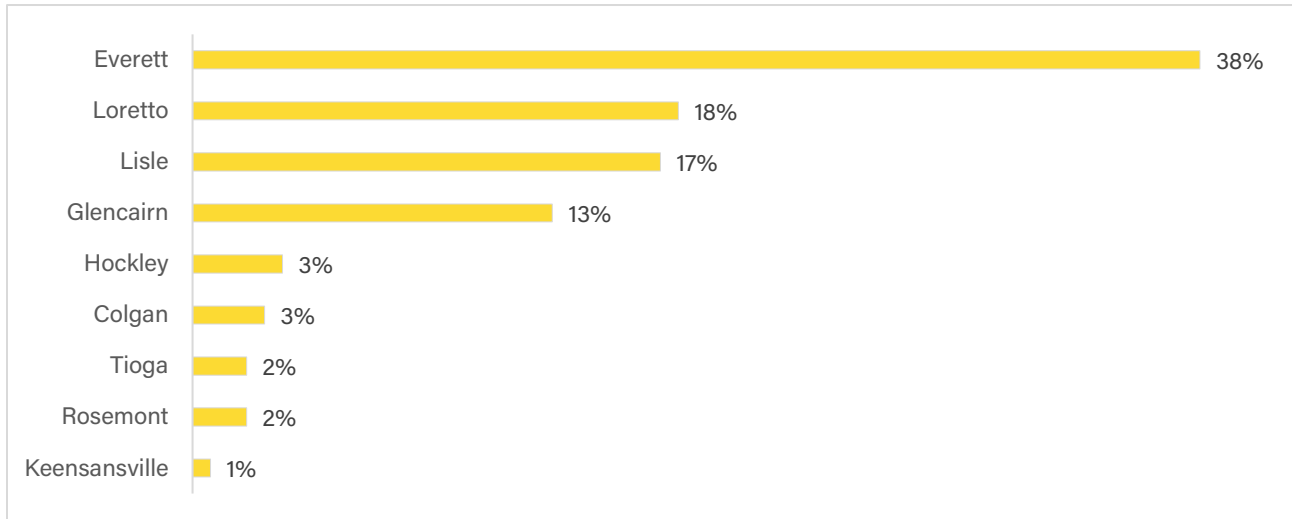
Top Themes	Summary of Comments
Park maintenance and updates	Maintain existing parks, keep Weca Park open and update it, and improve existing baseball diamonds.
Taxes and affordability	Some residents are reluctant to support projects if they lead to increased taxes.
Community engagement and fundraising	Involve community groups and understand that these groups help clean up the diamonds.
Information and promotion	Better promotion of existing parks, improve information on township website, maps, highlight trails and recreation areas.
Connectivity and safety	Better connectivity from neighbourhoods to parks, crosswalks, off-road trails, and implement pedestrian safety measures.
Youth and teen activities	Focus on serving for youth and teens.
Environmental initiatives	Create pollinator gardens, natural play areas for children (no mow areas) wildflower meadows, or forested areas.
Collaboration with neighbouring communities	Partner up with neighbouring municipalities to provide year-round access to facilities and trail networks.

Profile of Respondents

The survey gathered information regarding the socio-demographic makeup of respondents to ensure representation and facilitate an in-depth analysis. Key findings include:

- **97%** of respondents reported living in Adjala-Tosorontio. For those living elsewhere, Caledon, Innisfil, and New Tecumseth were the places they lived.
- **52%** of respondents have lived in Adjala-Tosorontio for more than 10 years. **24%** have lived in Adjala-Tosorontio for 5 to 9 years, while **23%** have moved to Adjala-Tosorontio within the last 5 years.
- **38%** of the respondents live in Everett, the largest settlement area in Adjala-Tosorontio.

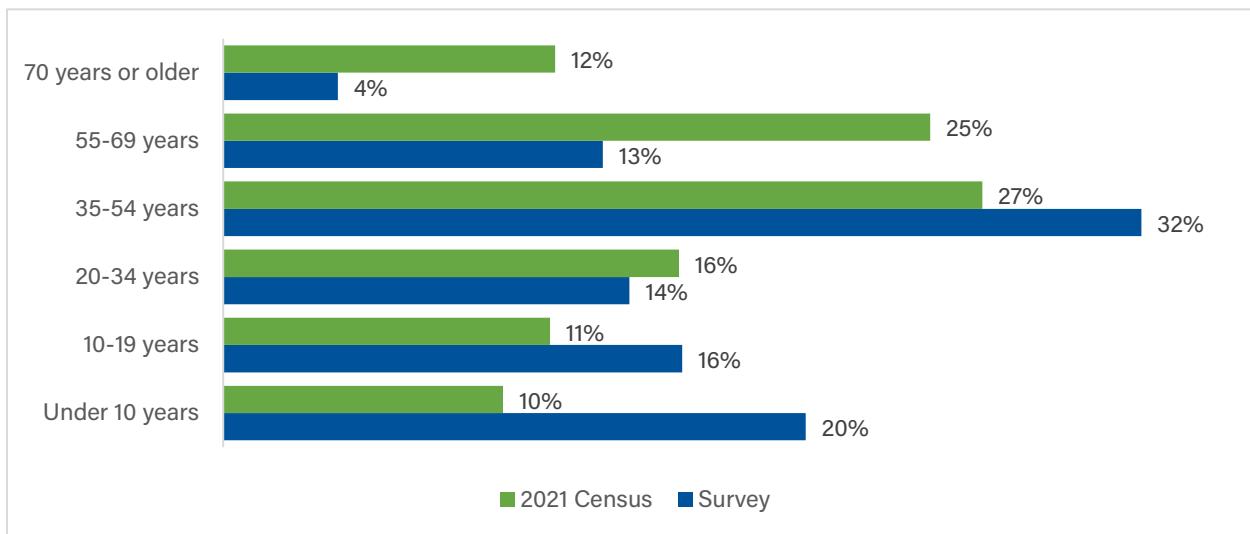
Figure 23: In which part of Adjala-Tosorontio do you live closest to?



The average household size was **2.2 persons**, slightly lower than the Township's average of 2.9 persons per household (2021 Statistics Canada Census).

- **69%** of respondents identified that their household consists of a “couple with children living at home”. 18% of respondents are a “couple with no children / empty nesters”.
- The age distribution of household population of respondents was different than the 2021 Statistics Canada Census. The respondents who have completed the survey are younger than the census with the majority of people being aged 34-54 and under 10 years of age.

Figure 24: Indicate the total number of people within your household that fall into the following age categories.



3.2 Open Houses and Other Public Feedback

Public open houses were held on December 7, 2023, from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm at the Municipal Centre to introduce the Master Plan process to the community. Input was gathered to understand the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities associated with the parks and outdoor recreation system of Adjala-Tosorontio. Approximately 10 people that attended the sessions. The feedback received is summarized below.

Tell us about existing parks. How can we improve our outdoor spaces?

- Improve playground at Ross Houston Park
- Maintain sports fields and playgrounds
- More paved trails
- Parking at parks that have none
- Parks should be accessible by sidewalks
- Put portable toilets at Haley Park
- Maintain ball diamonds at Haley Park

What would you like to see more of in our parks?

- Accessible paths to playgrounds
- Bike trails
- More connected / looped trails in new subdivisions and around stormwater management ponds
- BMX biking
- Skateparks
- Disc golf
- Dog park
- Historical plaques in parks
- Multi-purpose courts (basketball, ice rink, pickleball, tennis, etc.)
- Pickleball courts at Wardens' Park
- Naturalized areas
- Seating
- Shade / shelter in parks

Two parks are proposed to be developed in the Tribute Communities (Colgan 1 & 2). Please provide feedback on the preliminary concepts prepared in collaboration between the Township and developer.

- Proposed basketball courts (sport on the rise) and multi-use courts
- One commenter liked the proposed ball hockey rink, while another was uncertain if it would be used.

Subsequently, in June and July 2024, the Draft Parks Master Plan was made available for public review. The Township advertised the request for public engagement through Facebook, the Township website, an announcement at the July 10th Regular Council Meeting, Council Highlights, the Township digital sign, and in the June 2024 Township Newsletter. Fourteen

submissions from members of the public were received during this review period, with suggestions for a splash pad, pickleball courts, playground upgrades (for younger children), basketball courts, and more. This input has been integrated into the final version of the plan.

3.3 Stakeholder Consultation

Workshops and interviews were held with community groups and agencies in early 2024 to obtain insight into parks and outdoor recreation needs, pressures, and key priorities in Adjala-Tosorontio. The purpose of the sessions was to create awareness and seek feedback, priorities, and challenges relating to Adjala-Tosorontio's parks and outdoor recreation.

Several groups were invited to provide input on the Master Plan, with the following groups participating:

- Everett Baseball Association
- Lisle Astros Baseball Club
- North Dufferin Baseball League
- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
- Simcoe County District School Board
- Simcoe County Forests
- Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (written input)
- Tottenham Beeton District Minor Softball Association
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Town of New Tecumseth
- YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka (written input)

The following is a high-level summary of common themes. Additional input is documented through subsequent sections of this report.

- **Demand for Trails and Paths in Adjala-Tosorontio.** The most common theme heard was the lack of trails and paths in the Township. Residents only have one paved path option in the Township (Wardens' Park), with County forest tracts providing several nature trails. By creating more options for paths and trails in the Township, residents can be more engaged in physical activity and be connected to greenspaces. There may be opportunities to connect trails to adjacent municipalities where Adjala-Tosorontio can be part of a larger trail system.
- **Municipal Support and Communication.** Enhancing communication between sport groups and the Township was suggested to help identify opportunities and improvements to existing diamonds and fields. Working together to improve how the diamonds and fields are booked was also suggested.
- **Field Maintenance.** Requests were made for a caretaker to care for the parks and ball diamonds. With high use of certain ball diamonds, caring for the diamonds can be a burden on organizations that do not have access to proper equipment to care them.
- **Accessibility and Comfort Amenities.** There is a desire for more accessibility to parks outdoor recreation amenities. Some organizations have noticed it can be challenging for

the older population and/or persons with disabilities to make it to the parks, fields, or diamonds to watch a game. It was also mentioned that there is not a lot of space for people to sit and watch games.

- **Native Plantings.** In keeping with best practices, there is a desire for more native plant species throughout the Township. Native planting can be incorporated into parks and can be implemented through pollinator gardens.

3.4 Summary of Themes from Public Input

The list below summarizes the key themes that emerged from the multiple engagement tactics used to support this Master Plan. Themes are not listed in priority order.

1. **Barrier-free accessibility** – Accessible park spaces can be used by everyone and should be made a priority through all future park renewal projects.
2. **Comfort amenities** – Residents are seeking more support infrastructure that will allow them to stay in parks longer, such as seating, shade, and washrooms. These and other comfort amenities may be considered for appropriate locations.
3. **Responding to growth, youth, and emerging needs** – Community requests have been received for additional and new park amenities, such as trails, a splash pad, courts, and more. Opportunities should be sought to engage youth and people of all ages within the parks system.
4. **Playground replacement and park maintenance** – Playgrounds are one of the main reasons why residents use Township parks. The timely replacement of playgrounds as they reach end of life and regular maintenance of park spaces is critical to supporting their continued use.
5. **Connectivity and safety** – Most residents walk or bike to their local parks and it is vital that locations be designed to ensure safety within and around the park areas. Expanding on and off-road connections and trails was a common request from residents.
6. **Environmental initiatives** – Parks and open spaces play an important role in mitigating climate impacts through biodiversity and stewardship opportunities such as community gardens and naturalization. Designing parks with native species and resilient infrastructure will help the Township meet its environmental goals.
7. **Collaboration, engagement, and promotion** – Residents, community groups, and a range of agencies all have a big part to play in helping the Township manage and activate local parks. Effective collaboration will be necessary to advance the many initiatives proposed in this plan.
8. **Maintaining affordability and leveraging funding** – Parks are fundamental community spaces that require a range of funding sources and partners to develop and maintain. The Township is encouraged to use this plan to help support future grants and/or fundraising for priority park projects.

4

Strategic Framework

This section includes a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis of the Township’s parks and open space system based on the research and community input contained in the previous sections. A vision and guiding principles are then established to help guide the Master Plan’s development and implementation. All recommendations identified in the following sections will have consideration to this strategic framework.

4.1 SWOT Analysis

Before identifying a strategic path forward, it is necessary to undertake an honest examination of the current state. Based on the research and consultation activities, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) have been identified relating to the Township’s existing system of parks and associated services (see below – note: may not be a complete list). These and other matters are addressed in the sections that follow.

Table 5: SWOT – Township Parks and Related Services

Strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks are located in every community (good distribution and supply) • Most parks are well located and visible • Lots of open space in many parks which allows for new amenities • Good signage identifying park names • Walking track at Wardens’ Park is especially well used • Parks are well-maintained • New playgrounds in several parks • Community / volunteer involvement is strong, especially ball diamond users • Many residents have easy access to parks and trails in adjacent municipalities
Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most parks lack sidewalks to the site and many parks do not have off-street parking • Infrastructure at many parks is aging and in need of renewal or upgrades • Barrier-free accessibility within parks is inconsistent or sporadic • Low and dispersed population can spread resources thin • Very few passive open space parcels in Township ownership • Lack of full municipal services limits potential for splash pads • No indoor recreation facilities and no land for possible future facilities • There are no notable trail systems and a lack of public lands and corridors to support trails

Opportunities

- Providing recreation options for residents of all ages, including adults and older adults
- Connections to nature; passive opportunities in partnership with other agencies
- Greater variation in park amenities and designs through park reinvestment
- New parks in growing areas (Colgan, Everett) will help address emerging needs
- Enhanced park use and programming in collaboration with others

Threats

- Limited funding reliance on government grant
- Low population in many settlement areas, higher growth in others
- Change to parkland policy through Planning Act may limit Township's ability to secure adequate parkland in the future

4.2 Vision and Guiding Principles

A strategic framework is fundamental in creating a cohesive and consistent strategy to guide the continued development of Adjala-Tosorontio's parks system.

The following vision affirms the many personal, social, environmental, and economic benefits of parks on our community. It recognizes that a diversity of park types, sizes, programming, and functions are essential to maximize these benefits, while acknowledging that the nearer people are to parks, the more they will use them and receive the demonstrated benefits.

Vision

Parks are the centre of our communities – the places where we play, unwind, and connect.

As a community, we will work together to broaden opportunities within our parks and create welcoming and engaging spaces for everyone to enjoy.

In order to activate the vision and meet Adjala-Tosorontio's unique needs, the following guiding principles have been prepared to provide a framework for guiding future parkland dedication.

Guiding Principles

Our parks system will:

1. Be convenient and accessible to the Township's residential communities.
2. Support all ages and abilities and offer opportunity for year-round use.
3. Evolve to respond to growth and emerging needs, tailored to the unique needs of each community.
4. Encourage participation through quality design and programming.
5. Be well maintained and cared for, using sustainable approaches.
6. Emphasize partnerships, affordability, and financial feasibility.

5

Outdoor Recreation Facility Needs Assessment

This section examines the current condition, functionality, and usage of existing park amenities. Key considerations for future provision have been derived from the research and public input contained in previous sections.

Where appropriate, the Parks Master Plan makes use of provision targets that will help Adjala-Tosorontio identify and plan for new parks and outdoor recreation amenities. These targets are based on a combination of market-driven factors (such as demand, trends, demographics, etc.), public input expressing local desires and expectations, benchmarks seen in other municipalities, and the unique circumstances of the Township. Provision targets are intended to be applied flexibly and may be modified over time to remain responsive to local needs. New information, changing trends, public input, and community needs all have the potential to influence priorities.

5.1 Sport Fields (Baseball, Soccer)

The Township's parks contain 4 ball diamonds, including two hardball diamonds at John O. Irwin Ball Diamond / Veterans Park and Ross Houston Memorial Park and two softball diamonds at Haley Park and Stanley H. Bailey Park (junior). All fields are unlit. Usage is greatest on the hardball diamonds, while rentals on the two softball diamonds have been lighter and more variable. The diamond at Haley Park was recently improved, which has attracted greater levels of use in 2024.

Additionally, the Township offers spaces within 3 parks that can be used for soccer or other field sports, including Wardens' Park (1 full field and 2 intermediate fields), Haley Park (1 full field and 1 mini field), and Lisle Memorial Park (1 informal play field due to narrow width). Prior to 2023, these fields did not have regular users (they were used for informal play, special events, and occasional games); however, a local soccer club was formed in 2024 and is basing its operations out of Wardens' and Haley Parks.

Organized use is the main driver of sport fields demand. With ball diamonds in Everett, Lisle, and Loretto, the Township is providing localized service to several communities. These diamonds support a variety of adult teams and minor programs, including local clubs and those serving a broader region (e.g., New Tecumseth and beyond). Furthermore, field dimensions and amenities are appropriate for the level and age of play. Many ball clubs also help to support diamond maintenance.

Table 6: Sport Fields Analysis Summary

Condition and Functionality	Usage and Community Input	Future Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Township's diamonds and soccer fields are all in fair to good condition No diamonds or fields have lights for night play In some cases, fencing and lighting has reached the end of its designed life and will require replacement on an as-needed basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of the Township's diamonds are used, but there is capacity for greater use on some diamonds (softball) A local soccer club was formed in 2024 and is basing its operations out of Wardens' and Haley Parks Baseball is the primary outdoor sport played by Township residents (32% of households), followed by soccer (28%) 73% of survey respondents support additional spending on soccer and multi-use fields (ranking 5th out of 27 options), and 60% support additional spending on ball diamonds (rank 9) Requests were received for improved coordination of diamond maintenance and capital enhancements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional improvements are required to ensure that diamonds remain accessible and usable, such as infields, dugouts, bleachers, fencing, etc. Growth in Everett and possibly Colgan may necessitate sport field development

Input from user groups found that demand for adult ball remains strong and there is some growth at the youth level as well. Tottenham-Beeton District Minor Softball Association indicated that they will be increasing their use the Haley Park diamond as there is no additional capacity in New Tecumseth. Suggestions were also received for improvements to the Stanley H. Bailey diamond (infield, etc.) and John O. Irwin diamond (outfield fence, batting cage, etc.). User groups indicated that communication between their groups and the Township might help to address opportunities and improvements to existing diamonds and also suggested that the Township be more proactive with its booking and allocation process to ensure that fields are being used and maximized for public benefit.

The existing inventory of ball and soccer fields should generally be capable of serving current needs and those for the next ten years. Diamond users are seeking maintenance/improvements to existing diamonds and there is capacity for greater use of the recently upgraded diamonds in Haley Park. School fields (accessed through the school boards) may also be considered should there be additional demand in the short-term.

Over the longer-term, lighting of hardball diamonds may be considered should demand grow in the future (adding lights can nearly double the capacity of an unlit diamond due to the ability to host an additional game each evening). Furthermore, with significant growth anticipated in

Everett (over 5,000 new residents by post-2031), additional soccer fields may be planned for this community (at one future park) and land may be set aside for a future ball diamond (at a second future park). For Colgan, many of the organized field sports needs are anticipated to be met within nearby Tottenham; however, open space for casual and informal play should be identified within future parks.

Recommendations – Sport Fields

1. Undertake a **review of ball diamond booking practices, maintenance practices, and user fees** in consultation with local user groups to ensure that there are clear lines of responsibility, schedules are optimized, and that fees are set at fair cost recovery levels. An **annual pre-season meeting** with all user groups is recommended to address these and priority capital improvements (see below).
2. Work with local user groups to undertake **priority improvements to ball diamonds**, including but not limited to consideration of sand/clay infields, dugout and bleacher enhancements, and fencing repairs, where required. Installation of lights on diamonds at John O. Irwin Ball Diamond and/or Haley Park may be considered should demand increase in the longer-term.
3. Plan for soccer fields (2) within a **future park** in Everett, and longer-term potential for one ball diamond. Ensure that future parks in Colgan have open space for informal play activities.

5.2 Sport Courts (Tennis, Pickleball, Basketball, Volleyball, Winter Skating)

The Township's parks contain a variety of sport courts, including:

- Basketball (full courts) at Central Park and Rosemont Community Park
- Basketball (half courts) at Glencairn Park (Concession 2) and Lisle Memorial Park
- Ball Hockey rink at Rosemont Community Park

Adjala-Tosorontio also offers a Community Outdoor Ice Rink program that supports winter skating on selected courts with the help of community volunteers. In 2023/2024, skating rinks were established in Central Park and Lisle Memorial Park. The program is guided by a Volunteer Ice Rink Policy and sites vary from year to year based on community support.

There are no tennis, pickleball, or beach volleyball courts within the local parks inventory. Input from the community found interest in continued opportunities for youth (including basketball) and older adults and seniors (such as pickleball).

Table 7: Sport Courts Analysis Summary

Condition and Functionality	Usage and Community Input	Future Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing courts accommodate basketball and ball hockey (Rosemont), with some also being used for winter ice skating The Park Condition Assessment notes that all courts are in good to fair condition, with both the Rosemont and Central Park courts at or approaching end of life; nevertheless, all courts appear to be capable of remaining in service with regular maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the community survey, 32% of local households have members that ice skate (indoor or outdoor), 20% that play basketball, 18% that play ball hockey, 13% that play pickleball, 7% that play tennis, and 7% that play beach volleyball 72% of survey respondents support additional spending on outdoor ice rinks (ranking 6 out of 27 options), compared to 59% for basketball courts (rank 11), 47% for ball hockey rinks (rank 16), 41% for pickleball courts (rank 19), 38% for tennis courts (rank 23), and 24% for beach volleyball courts (rank 27) Requests were received for more youth activities within parks (such as basketball) as well as more opportunities for older adults and seniors (such as pickleball) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many courts serve as walkable community destinations, thus should be promoted within the Township's largest settlement areas With no existing tennis or pickleball courts, residents must travel outside of the Township to play these sports All-season use of parks should be promoted and may be achieved through facilities and/or programming; the Community Strategic Plan identifies consideration of an outdoor pad that can support use throughout the year New park development projects will offer opportunities to consider new facilities and courts and expanded local recreational activities to serve existing and future populations

Ice Skating

Outdoor skating is a popular Canadian pastime and community interest has been expressed for local skating opportunities. As the Township does not offer an indoor arena, seasonal outdoor ice rinks provide local venues for residents to skate, but are subject to the weather, volunteer commitments, and site conditions. In particular, warmer winters have had a negative impact on rinks across the province the last few years.

To combat climatic factors, some municipalities have been introducing covered rinks that offer a more stable environment for year-round use. This option appears to be especially popular for smaller municipalities (e.g., North Perth, Puslinch, Georgina, South Bruce, West Nipissing, Tiny, etc.) due to the lower construction and operational cost compared to an indoor arena. Some of these offer refrigerated ice pads, while others are left natural. Artificial ice rinks offer a longer operating season, but are much more expensive to construct and operate. Adding roof cover helps to prevent melting, reduce snow/rain impacts, and add skate-able days during a season,

while also offering greater potential for use during the warmer months due to cover from rain and sun.

Council, through the Community Strategic Plan, has a vision for developing an outdoor pad to support multi-season use. This venue would expand the Township's provision of year-round public space as it would be able to accommodate activities such as pickleball, basketball, ice skating (natural ice), ball hockey, farmers' markets, camps, events, programming, etc. It is recommended that the Township explore the potential for a covered, non-refrigerated pad in Wardens' Park or a future park in Everett that can serve as an all-season multi-use venue. A business plan should be created to confirm dimensions, costs, staffing models, and programming options.

Figure 25: Examples of Covered Ice Rinks / Multi-use Pads



Tennis

There are no public courts in Adjala-Tosorontio. Casual play is accommodated through public courts within adjacent municipalities, while organized/club use can be arranged through a club in Alliston.

Tennis is a well-established sport that has been growing in popularity in recent years. This can be attributed to the growing segment of baby boomers that are seeking social, lower impact activities (tennis has the second fewest injuries after baseball), as well as its appeal to diverse populations (young/old, newcomers, etc.) and its affordability.

The recommended provision target for outdoor tennis is one court per 5,000 residents, suggesting a need for 2 courts within the Township presently, growing to 3 to 4 courts longer-term. To address this demand and to improve geographic access, it is recommended that the Township establish two (2) two-court tennis complexes within future parks, one each in Colgan and Everett. These courts may be lined for pickleball use as well, with a model that offers access based on a first-come, first-served basis. Should conflicts arise, defined times may be established for each sport or a court booking system put into place.

Below is a list of suggested guidelines to assist in site selection and subsequent design of tennis/pickleball courts:

- Courts should be developed in pairs (ideally oriented north-south), using fixed posts, netting, and fencing.
- Shared use courts (tennis and pickleball) may be permitted where usage is anticipated to generally be lower and managed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Pickleball court locations must consider potential for noise impacts on adjacent properties. For a 2-court complex with no noise mitigation, the preferred minimum setback is 50-metres
- Soft Asphalt (penetration) should be the minimum standards for court surfacing.
- Lights for night play may be considered within appropriate park types.
- Nearby parking (on or off-street) and washrooms (portable or permanent) should be provided.
- Enhanced levels of service (such as winds screens, acrylic surfacing, and other supporting amenities) may be considered through sponsorship or other partnership opportunities.

Pickleball

As an emerging sport, municipalities are gradually adopting strategies to address pickleball needs, such as painting pickleball lines on tennis courts and establishing purpose-built dedicated pickleball courts through new construction or the permanent conversion of existing spaces. Shared courts are often seen in communities where there is capacity for added use due to lower demand, whereas dedicated pickleball courts are becoming more common. Increasingly, municipalities have cited problems with pickleball courts being located too close to residential areas due to both the racquet noise and the social nature of the game, so proper siting is a must.

Interest was expressed for opportunities to play pickleball locally. To address growing demand, it is recommended that the Township establish two (2) two-court pickleball complexes within future parks, one each in Colgan and Everett. Opportunities may also be available through a future covered outdoor pad that can accommodate multiple sports and activities. These locations should offer ample opportunity to accommodate local pickleball demand into the future.

Basketball

The popularity of basketball is also on the rise due to its affordability and growing appeal, with courts becoming a standard element of park design in many municipalities. Outdoor basketball courts can be designed with one or two hoops, as well as opportunities to accommodate other activities throughout the year (e.g., ball hockey, ice skating, etc.).

As children and youth are the primary demographic using basketball courts, a priority should be placed on ensuring equitable geographic access. Outdoor basketball courts are currently provided in Everett, Lisle, and Rosemont, offering walkable access within these communities. As these courts approach end of life, consideration should be given to replacing them in order to maintain these opportunities within local communities. Further, it is recommended that the Township develop full courts within a future park in Colgan and Everett in order to serve growing youth populations in each community.

Beach Volleyball

Outdoor beach volleyball is a social sport that appeals largely to youth and young adults. In communities across Ontario, interest has been growing for organized recreational leagues and camps, often facilitated by private clubs that promote and deliver programs. From our experience, casual use of sand courts is sporadic. As a result, the introduction of beach volleyball courts is not recommended within the Township at this time.

Recommendations – Sport Courts

4. Evaluate options for developing a **covered (open air) outdoor pad for all-season recreational use** within Wardens' Park or a future park in Everett. Potential uses include pickleball, basketball, ice skating (natural ice), ball hockey, farmers' markets, camps, events and programming, etc. Develop a business plan to confirm dimensions, costs, staffing models, and programming options.
5. Include **two public tennis courts** and **two pickleball courts** within one future park in both Colgan and Everett, for a total of four tennis and four pickleball courts.
6. Develop **full basketball courts** (2 hoops) within a future park in Colgan and Everett in order to serve growing youth populations in each community.

5.3 Playgrounds

Playgrounds are vital park features that sustain high levels of use. They can be accommodated in most park types, stimulate outdoor play, promote inclusivity, and support family-friendly neighbourhoods. The Township provides public playgrounds within 13 of its parks, with some sites having multiple installations. Most sites consist of a mixture of traditional play equipment (e.g., swings, slides, rocking horses, etc.) and creative play structures with additional interactive components.

Table 8: Playground Analysis Summary

Condition and Functionality	Usage and Community Input	Future Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many playgrounds are older and approaching the end of their designed life – replacement should be a high priority • Some playgrounds are partially accessible, but lack many modern barrier-free features (e.g., bucket swing, pathways, sensory features) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of playgrounds is one of the top reasons for visiting local parks and 81% of survey respondents support additional spending in this area • Positive feedback has been received on the new playground installations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground should be designed within most new parks; an-accessible destination playground may be considered within a future park site • Surfacing should be engineered wood fibre across all installations, addressed at the time of replacement

All of the Township’s largest settlement areas have walkable access to a municipal playground and there are currently no significant gaps in service based on a 400-metre walkability radius. As residential growth occurs, park and playground development will be required within Everett and Colgan (funding for the initial phase of park construction is contained within the Township’s 10-year Capital Forecast).

Despite recent installations in several parks, the playground equipment within Adjala-Tosorontio’s parks is an average of 16 or more years old. These amenities are aging and also lack variety in their designs. As supported through the recent Park Condition Assessments, playgrounds should be replaced at the end of their lifespan (generally up to 25 years). On average, the Township should be replacing a minimum of one playground every two years and given the current state of infrastructure, this schedule should be accelerated over the next few years to address priority replacements. With one playground replacement project currently in the Township’s 10-year forecast (Weca Park), current funding levels are insufficient to support this recommended cycle.

The table below summarizes key details of each playground site, including priority level for replacement based off visual inspections and recommendations within the 2024 Park Condition Assessment.

Table 9: Age of Playground Equipment

Park	Manufacture Date	Current Age (years)	Compliance Rating	Recommendation	Priority Order
Weca Park	pre-2000	25+	78%	replace	1
Ross Houston Memorial Park	pre-2000	25+	82%	replace	2
Williams Park	pre-2000	25+	82%	replace	3
Central Park	2002	22	81%	replace	4
Dekker St. Park	2004	20	80%	replace	5
Pine Park	pre-2000	25+	85%	replace	6
Glencairn Park (Webster Rd)	pre-2000	25+	81%	remove	tbd
Rosemont Community Park	2004 / 2019	5-20	85%	remove older play equipment	tbd
John O. Irwin / Veterans Park & Stanley H. Bailey Park	2004 / 2022	2-20	81%	remove older play equipment	tbd
Glencairn Park (Concession 2)	2012	12	85%	maintain	n/a
Wardens' Park	2010 / 2022	2-14	82%	maintain	n/a
Haley Park	2002 / 2022	2-12	85%	maintain	n/a
Lisle Memorial Park	2022	2	94%	maintain	n/a

Compliance Rating derived from playground inspections contained in 2024 Park Condition Assessments

The Township should allocate additional funds in its capital forecast to support playground replacement and also to introduce outdoor fitness equipment into selected sites. Through revitalization projects, the Township will ensure that its playgrounds and supporting infrastructure (e.g., pathways, seating, etc.) meet or exceed AODA regulations. Engagement with the County's Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee may assist in determining how playgrounds (and the parks in which they are located) can be designed to be more inclusive of all users.

Below is a list of suggested guidelines to assist in the design of new playgrounds (not an exhaustive list):

- Playgrounds must provide surfaces that have impact attenuating properties for injury prevention. It is recommended that any remaining sand-based surfaces (approximately 70% of existing sites) be replaced with engineered wood fibre when possible.
- Playgrounds must be designed to include accessibility features that serve the needs of children with disabilities. Some examples include bucket swings, ramps (with accessible pathways), etc.
- Playgrounds should be designed to provide degrees of difficulty and challenge for user groups of different ages and abilities. Many of the Township's playgrounds are appropriate for younger children (e.g., ages 2 to 6 years), but do not capture the

imagination of older children (up to age 12). Older children can also benefit from larger green spaces near playground areas for participatory games.

- Design strategies should be centered around nature, inclusion, and fitness. Adventure playgrounds (e.g., natural components, sensory gardens, etc.) may be considered as innovative alternatives that can help to improve imagination, resiliency, and ecological literacy. The Township's draft Official Plan, along with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, promotes the integration of features from the natural environment into playground design as this helps stimulate free-form, creative, and social play. Pine Park may be a good candidate for a natural playground given its surrounding environment.

Figure 26: Examples of Natural Playgrounds



Recommendations – Playgrounds

7. Establish an annual line item in the Township's capital budget to support the **replacement of aging playgrounds** (approximately one per year for at least the next five years, then one every two to three years based on lifecycle and condition). Encourage service clubs to help fund improvements. Priorities for replacement in the short term include (in general order of priority): Weca Park; Ross Houston Memorial Park; Williams Park; Central Park; Dekker St. Park; and Pine Park. Ensure that new and replacement playgrounds consider barrier-free components, site infrastructure (e.g., pathways, seating, shade, etc.), and play value to both younger and older children to support broad use. Engineered wood fibre should be adopted as the minimum specification for playground surfacing as this offers greater benefits over sand.
8. Consider the **removal of the playground (slide and swings) at Glencairn Park** (corner of Webster Road and Frame Street) when it reaches end of life. Redevelopment of this park site is recommended and considered through a separate recommendation.
9. Include **playgrounds** within most new neighbourhood parks, including parks planned for **Colgan and Everett**, ensuring that residents have access to a playground within a 400-metre radius. One playground in Colgan should be fully accessible and serve as a destination site for the community.
10. Consider the introduction of **outdoor fitness equipment** within key park sites, such as Wardens' Park (as part of a circuit alongside the walking track) and a future park in Colgan and/or Everett.

5.4 Splash Pads

Splash pads are accessible, affordable, and interactive waterplay features with user-activated sprays and jets; these amenities offer an extended season for children and youth, providing a popular way to cool off on hot days. They have no standing water and are unsupervised sites, but can attract large numbers of children and youth looking to cool off on a warm day. They can vary in size and be designed using a range of different features, providing unique experiences throughout the parks system. Annual operating costs for a modestly-sized splash pad with a flow through system are estimated at \$30,000, depending on water rates and usage.

There are no splash pads in Adjala-Tosorontio, although there are options in nearby communities (e.g., Alliston, Tottenham, CFB Borden, Orangeville, Shelburne, etc.). Servicing constraints are such that splash pad development is not currently feasible in the Township, but may be considered through new development that will benefit from improved servicing (water and wastewater) solutions.

The community survey found that 32% of local households have used a splash pad within the past 12 months, with 59% indicating that spending on splash pads should be a top priority (ranking 10th out of 27 facility types). Despite this interest, a provision target of 1,500 to 2,000 children (ages 0-9 years) is recommended to support a splash pad. The 2021 Census reported 1,075 children in the age group throughout Adjala-Tosorontio, which indicates that the market is currently too small to adequately support such a feature.

Figure 27: Examples of Splash Pads



In the longer-term, as the Township grows and attracts more families, it may reach a threshold where splash pad provision becomes an option. Unfortunately, the Township's dispersed population will hinder geographic accessibility; if a splash pad is built in the Township, some residents will still live closer to ones in other communities (e.g., Tottenham, Alliston, etc.). Beyond the ten-year timeframe of this plan, the provision of a splash pad may be considered further at a future park site (possibly in Everett), with support from community fundraising and/or government grants.

Recommendations – Splash Pads

11. Reconsider the need and potential provision of a **splash pad in Everett** beyond the ten-year horizon of this Master Plan.

5.5 Skate Parks and Action Sports

All-wheels parks (skateboarding, scootering, biking), skateboard parks, and/or pump tracks are now a standard level of service in many municipalities, large and small. They respond to increasing interest in unstructured, low-cost activities and support physical activity. For many youth, action sports are an outlet for self-expression and an opportunity to find a sense of belonging that they cannot get elsewhere. By their very nature, action sports build independence and resilience. Participation in these sports has a broad appeal to both youth and young adults, as well as an emerging market for young families. There are no facilities of this type in Adjala-Tosorontio.

The community survey found that 7% of households participated in skateboarding and/or BMX biking in the past 12 months, while demand for these spaces ranked 25th and 21st respectively out of 27 facility types.

At present time, there is currently insufficient demand for an all wheels skate park in Adjala-Tosorontio, although the Township should monitor future needs (with a focus on the youth population) and opportunities. Unless a local organization comes forward to help fund a skate park (built to municipal standards), this should not be a priority during the ten-year horizon of this plan.

If the Township does consider providing a skate park, locations adjacent to civic facilities or within community parks are preferred as they provide access to other amenities and typically have both the visibility and necessary buffers to deter inappropriate behaviours and mitigate noise. All wheels facilities should not be placed directly adjacent to playgrounds. Input from local skaters is essential in the design of these parks and helps to create buy-in to the final product.

Figure 28: Examples of Skate Parks



Recommendations – Skate Parks and Action Sports

12. Reconsider the need and potential provision of an **all wheels/skate park in Everett** beyond the ten-year horizon of this Master Plan.

5.6 Off-Leash Dog Parks

Dog parks are becoming increasingly popular park spaces, particularly in urbanized areas where residents may not have access to private open space for their pets to run freely. This is also in line with national trends that suggest that pet ownership is on the rise. Dog exercise is not only beneficial for pets, the activity also provides owners with an opportunity to get outside and socialize; this is particularly true for older adults and seniors who often find pet ownership helps to prevent social isolation and encourages outdoor activity.

There are no off-leash dog parks in Adjala-Tosorontio, although there are options in nearby communities (e.g., Alliston, Beeton, CFB Borden, Shelburne, etc.). The community survey found that 54% of local households have gone dog walking (on or off-leash) within the past 12 months, with 38% indicating that spending on off-leash dog areas should be a top priority (ranking 24th out of 27 facility types). These findings suggest that a dog park is a low priority for the community at this time.

Support for dog parks can be polarizing and their provision is often conflict-driven (e.g., safety concerns, unauthorized use of public spaces, etc.). Furthermore, off-leash dog parks can be effective in urban areas, but tend to be under-utilized in smaller rural communities where there is more private and public space for people to exercise their pets. Furthermore, selecting appropriate sites for dog parks can be difficult and must consider factors such as the safety of users, setbacks from residential and other sensitive uses, and the provision of amenities (e.g. parking, benches, garbage containers, shade, etc.).

Figure 29: Examples of Off-leash Dog Parks



The development of an off-leash dog park in Adjala-Tosorontio is not a priority at the time. If local demand factors change, the Township may consider piloting a site that can adequately support

this use, such as at Wardens' Park, noting that this would be a "drive-to" location. Off-leash dog parks should generally be 0.25 to 1.0 hectare in size, which can limit their ability to be situated within dense areas. Compatibility with adjacent land uses is paramount (e.g., lands next to schools, playgrounds, historic sites, community gardens, environmentally sensitive areas, etc. are not appropriate) and off-leash dog areas should avoid backing onto residential properties without a substantial buffer. Lastly, a community organization should be encouraged to manage the site to enhance stewardship and usage levels.

Recommendations – Off-Leash Dog Parks

13. Reconsider the need and potential provision of an **off-leash dog park** beyond the ten-year horizon of this Master Plan. When ready, initiate a site selection exercise to determine an appropriate location.

5.7 Community and Pollinator Gardens

The Township supports community and pollinator gardens on municipal lands in partnership with community groups and volunteers. Community gardens transform passively-used green space into productive gardens and provide mental and physical health promotion through the activity of food production and gardening skills. Pollinator gardens support and protect birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other beneficial insects and small mammals that pollinate plants by providing food, preventing soil erosion, and increasing carbon sequestration.

There are currently two sites that are authorized under the Township's community and pollinator garden program: Glencairn Park (Concession 2) and Lisle Memorial Park. Additional sites may be considered through the formation of a community garden group and nomination of a coordinator. Securing volunteers to lead these programs has been a challenge for the Township.

Among their many benefits, community gardens are an intergenerational activity, offering offer educational and stewardship opportunities and bring people together. Gardens can be accommodated in unused or underused open spaces within the parks system or other public to quasi-public spaces. Nearly one in ten (9%) of households responding to the community survey noted that they have used community garden plots, with 40% seeking more spending in this area (ranking 22nd out of 27 facility types). Interest was greater in pollinator gardens (53%, ranking 13th out of 27).

With a growing, aging, and more diverse population, demand for community gardens is rising across Ontario. Smaller residential lots (sometimes with non-existent backyards) are also leading to fewer opportunities for backyard gardens, creating greater demand. Longer-term expansion of the community and pollinator garden program is recommended with support from volunteers or sponsoring organizations, particularly in the Township's growing communities (Colgan and Everett). New community gardens should offer access to nearby parking, water, fencing, shade, and accessible features (e.g., raised beds are age-friendly). Furthermore, new and redeveloped

parks may consider the provision of pollinator / butterfly gardens, wildflower meadows, and naturalized areas, as appropriate.

Recommendations – Community and Pollinator Gardens

14. Conduct a review of the Township’s **community and pollinator garden program**, including opportunities to strengthen partnerships with volunteers and organizations in the maintenance of these sites. Consider adding new sites in the Township’s growing communities (Colgan and Everett) in the longer-term.

5.8 Park Washrooms and Shelters

The Township offers a permanent (seasonal) washroom within John O. Irwin Ball Diamond / Veterans Park and a vault restroom at Ross Houston Memorial Park. The Township’s 2024 Building Condition Assessment Report recommended replacing the washrooms at Ross Houston with portable washrooms to improve accessibility. Washrooms are also available at the Municipal Centre within Wardens’ Park during business hours, as well as portable washrooms within the park.

Demand is high for additional public washrooms in parks – 82% of survey respondents indicated support for more, the highest ranking of the listed facility options. However, public washrooms are only appropriate in parks with high volumes of use. Seasonal portable washrooms may be considered in those parks with sports fields or other features that encourage visitors to stay for more than one or two hours (e.g., Wardens’ Park, Haley Park, etc.).

Pavilions play a supporting role in the parks system and are generally provided in conjunction with sport/tournament sites, event parks, or as shelters in passive parks. The Township offers a pavilion within Ross Houston Memorial Park and Wardens’ Park contains a gazebo that is a popular venue for weddings, photos, and events. The casual use of park spaces for social activities, especially on weekends, is increasing in many communities and pavilions respond directly to this trend. Nearly three-fifths (58%) of community survey respondents identified pavilions as a priority area for investment. Modestly-sized (non-rental) sun shelters/shades adjacent to play areas should be considered for existing and future park sites (where appropriate), with seating for adults to facilitate supervision and socialization.

Recommendations – Park Washrooms and Shelters

15. Consider modestly-sized (non-rental) **sun shelters/shades** adjacent to play areas within existing and future park sites, as appropriate.

5.9 Recreational Trails

Recreational trails are commonly used for walking, hiking and cycling, which are popular activities for people of all ages. They allow residents to actively enjoy the outdoors, connect with nature, and improve physical activity levels. The paved walking loop within Wardens' Park is one of the most popular amenities within the Township's parks network as it provides a venue for residents and visitors alike.

Trails are also being recognized by many communities as way to generate economic development through tourism. Extensive trail networks that provide many kilometres of continuous trails that connect communities (like the Trans Canada, Bruce, and Ganaraska Trails) have become destinations for trail users and cyclists. Depending on restrictions, some trails may also be used for horseback riding, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, all terrain vehicle riding, and other uses.

The Township's recreational trail system consists of a variety of routes, almost all of which are on lands owned and/or managed by non-municipal agencies. There are no connected routes that transect the municipality and the Township does not currently have an active role in trail development.

Existing trails within Adjala-Tosorontio include:

- **Municipal Park Trails:** Wardens' Park (paved loop, 1.35km) and Haley Park (partial loop; gravel path);
- **Non-municipal Park/Forest Trails:** Earl Rowe Provincial Park (Province of Ontario), Simcoe County Forests (5, each with internal trail networks managed by trail associations under agreement), Ballycroy and Palgrave Tracts (TRCA), Glencairn Conservation Area (NVCA)
- **Linear Trail Systems:** the Ganaraska Trail connects through Glencairn; note: both the Trans Canada Trail and Bruce Trail transect nearby municipalities, but do not have access points within Adjala-Tosorontio

Guidance for trail planning, design, and management can be found in the Township's Official Plan, secondary plans, policies, as well as the County of Simcoe Trails Strategy (2014) and Transportation Master Plan (2014; currently being updated). The proposed trail network for Adjala-Tosorontio from the County's 2014 Trails Strategy is shown below. For Adjala-Tosorontio, the Strategy identifies a possible trail connection between Everett to CFB Borden lands.

Figure 30: Proposed Trail Development – County of Simcoe Trails Strategy, 2014

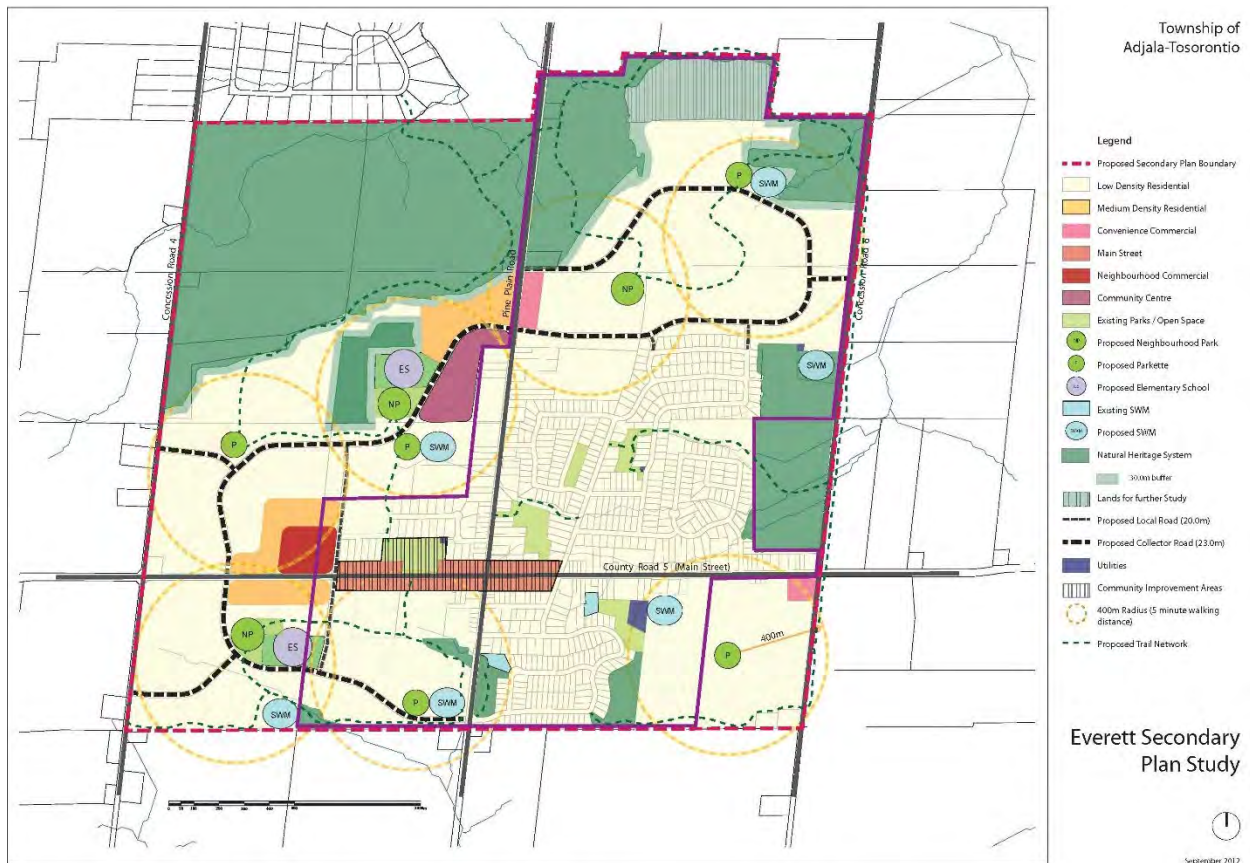


Given the Township’s size, rural geography, lack of corridors (e.g., waterways, abandoned rail lines, hydro corridors, etc.), there is little opportunity to create a municipal-wide off-road trail network. On-road cycling routes are more likely options and are beyond the scope of this Master Plan (but within that of the County’s Transportation Master Plan).

There are, however, opportunities for trail development in growing urban areas, such as Everett and Colgan. A Trails Strategy was initiated by the Township in 2012 and helped to inform the development of a conceptual trail network for the Everett Secondary Plan Study (see next page), which identifies future connections through area parks and woodlots (the Township has secured some land in future subdivisions to help facilitate portions of this trail). Key objectives of this 2012 Strategy included:

- Interconnecting developments to parks, natural features and commercial areas
- Serving as a recreational component for all ages
- Incorporating trails around SWM ponds and environmentally protected lands
- Establishing links to eventually connect with other trails systems

Figure 31: Conceptual Trail Network for Everett (Source: Secondary Plan)



A Township policy was also created entitled "Protocol for Establishing Trail Networks Within Development Areas. Key criteria within this policy are listed below and remain an appropriate guide for future trail development within plans of subdivision:

- a. Each development will incorporate a recreational trail network designed to promote an overall interconnectedness within the development and adjacent land uses;
- b. Trails within a developed area, including neighbourhood parks and stormwater management areas, should have a minimum width of 8 feet (2.4 meters);
- c. Priority will be given to interconnecting places of interest, including neighbourhood parks, natural features, commercial areas, SWM ponds, etc.;
- d. Road crossings should be kept to a minimum;
- e. Trails should be in harmony with the natural environment;
- f. Trail surfaces should have at least a stone dust surface and be suitable for its intended traffic as established through consultation with the municipality;
- g. Trails with higher anticipated volumes should have a paved or concrete surface;
- h. Trails within a developed area should incorporate accessibility standards for the built environment as established through consultation with the municipal accessibility advisory committee on items such as slope of trail and location and design of rest areas, passing areas, viewing areas and other amenities on the trail;

- i. Trail signs may be required as determined through consultation with the municipality and municipal accessibility advisory committee at such locations as trailheads, storm water management ponds, trail intersections, etc.
- j. The Township and the Applicant will review the type and design of trail to create a facility which is most in keeping with the overall intent of the trail network while minimizing maintenance costs and giving due consideration to accessibility.

Policies for trail development are entrenched in the Official Plan. The draft Official Plan promotes the linkage of parks within settlement areas (Colgan and Everett) through the use of trails or pathways. Also encouraged are trails and/or bicycle facilities that connect to local municipalities beyond County boundaries, to be achieved in cooperation with the County and through land dedications that are separate from dedications required for parkland (note: this is contrary to the existing Official Plan which allows for parkland dedications to be used for trails). Section 2.4.3 contains specific policies for Recreation Trails, noting that abandoned rail rights-of-way, utility corridors, and waterways for transportation, recreation and trails purposes shall be examined for opportunities that would facilitate active transportation. Further, section 3.4.3.6 indicates that the Township may consider development of a municipal Active Transportation Plan that would (among other items) identify existing and proposed multi-use trails, connections to the County trail system, and relevant policies to support trail development.

There remains significant public interest in expanding trails and connecting to regional trails systems. Three-fifths (60%) of survey respondents had at least one member of their household that walked or hiked on paths or trails within the past 12 months, which was the most common leisure activity. Four-fifths (81%) support additional public spending on nature trails (70% support spending on hard surface trails or walking loops), ranking 2nd out of 27 facility types behind only park washrooms. Several requests were received for additional hiking and biking opportunities in the Township, including trails and cycling lanes.

Opportunities to improve and expand trails and pathways – particularly to connect communities and local destinations – should be carefully evaluated by the Township through development applications and related initiatives. Possible long-term trail development projects – each requiring further evaluation at the appropriate time – include:

- connecting Colgan to the Trans Canada Trail network in Tottenham (approximately 3.5 kilometres);
- trail/pathway loops within Township parks and woodlots, such as completing the Haley Park walking loop or within woodlots and around stormwater ponds in future parks in Everett and/or Colgan; and
- working with the County Forests, Conservation Authorities, and other agencies to encourage the protection and securement of large land tracts (20 hectares or greater) capable of accommodating trails.

The design of trails will vary depending on the location and intended use, but should consider aspects of safety and accessibility to the greatest degree possible. Additional improvements and

supporting amenities (such as parking, benches, wayfinding signage, washrooms, etc.) should also be a priority.

Recommendations – Trails

16. Regularly evaluate opportunities to **improve and expand trails and pathways** within parks, open spaces, and other public lands/rights-of-way, particularly at the planning stage of new subdivisions.
17. Prepare an **Active Transportation Master Plan** that considers opportunities to expand the local and regional trail network, as recommended in both the Township and County Official Plan. A priority should be placed on: (a) advancing pedestrian trail development within Everett and Colgan; (b) connections to existing trails systems (e.g., County Forests, Trans Canada Trail, Bruce Trail, etc.); and (c) on-road connections between communities and adjoining municipalities.
18. Explore opportunities and work with the Town of New Tecumseth to establish a future **trail connection between Colgan and the Trans Canada Trail** within Tottenham.
19. Promote winter use of the Wardens' Park walking loop through a **snow clearing pilot project**. Establish levels of service and communicate these to the public.
20. When planning and developing trails, consider the incorporation of amenities at key locations, such as **parking, benches, wayfinding signage, and portable washrooms** to facilitate elements of inclusivity and accessibility.

5.10 Other Amenities

Municipalities often receive requests for non-traditional parks and recreation facilities, or those beyond the scope of this Master Plan. Often these requests deal with emerging activities or facilities that are not part of the municipality's core service mandate, such as those more commonly provided by other sectors. The Township may respond to such requests after considering several factors such as (but not limited to): quantifiable market demand; best practices and trends; available local resources; and partnership opportunities.

Unsolicited proposals should be supported by a proponent-led assessment and business plan – acceptable to the Township – that demonstrates the risks and benefits, roles and responsibilities, and funding strategy.

5.11 Summary of Outdoor Recreation Facility Needs

The table below provides a summary of park facility needs based on the preceding analysis.

Table 10: Summary of Outdoor Recreation Facility Needs

Facility Type	Existing Facilities	Short-term Needs (0-10 years)	Longer-term Needs (10+ years)	Notes
Ball Diamonds	4	0	1	Consider adding lights to create additional capacity; secure land for long-term use
Soccer Fields	5	0	2	Secure land for long-term use
Ice Skating	2	1	0	Includes investigation of a covered multi-use rink (Wardens' Park or Everett); volunteer rinks may also be supported
Tennis Courts	0	4	0	Courts proposed in Colgan and Everett
Pickleball Courts	0	4	tbd	Courts proposed in Colgan and Everett; play may also be permitted on the proposed multi-use rink
Basketball Courts	2 half and 2 full	2 full	tbd	Courts proposed in Colgan and Everett
Playgrounds	13	tbd	tbd	Playgrounds proposed for new neighbourhood parks; several priority replacement projects are required
Outdoor Fitness	0	up to 3	tbd	Proposed in Wardens' Park, Colgan and Everett
Splash Pads	0	0	1	Reconsider needs in longer-term
All Wheels / Skate Parks	0	0	1	Reconsider needs in longer-term
Off-Leash Dog Parks	0	0	1	Reconsider needs in longer-term
Community & Pollinator Gardens	2	tbd	tbd	May be supported based on site-specific needs
Park Washrooms	2	0	0	
Shelters	2	tbd	tbd	May be supported based on site-specific needs
Recreational Trails	Various	tbd	tbd	Trail development is a priority and will be supported based on site-specific analysis

6

Park Programming, Renewal and Operational Assessment

Well-designed, attractive, and welcoming parks enhance both community and individual wellbeing by providing places where people can gather, play, relax, and connect. This section provides a framework to direct the planning, management, programming, and redevelopment of parks in Adjala-Tosorontio. Analysis of demand and opportunities is based on a series of inputs, including:

- site information and constraints, including permitted uses;
- participation trends and usage data;
- stakeholder and community input;
- best practices in planning and design;
- relevant supporting documents/initiatives; and
- financial performance and viability.

6.1 Park Animation and Outdoor Programming

Parks and open spaces enhance the vibrancy of our communities and keep individuals connected and engaged. Their impact on personal wellness is significant, including the many mental health and healing benefits associated with connections to nature. Without any notable indoor recreational spaces in Adjala-Tosorontio, the parks system plays an even larger role in contributing to community vibrancy, engagement, and activity.

The Township's parks are well positioned to address most traditional park uses such as organized activities (sports and events) and unorganized pursuits (such as walking, picnicking and informal play). Most of these activities are organized and run by the community, with the Township being responsible for park maintenance and bookings. The Township does not have any staff directly responsible for parks and recreation programming and residents are encouraged to register for activities in bordering municipalities (with the Township offering reimbursement of non-resident surcharges).

The Township and its Community Development and Event Committee play a more hands on role when it comes to organizing the annual Canada Day Celebration at Wardens' Park. This newly formed advisory committee supports and plans community events and initiatives throughout the Township, with a mandate to promote a sense of community and volunteerism and to make recommendations to Council regarding new events. An online event calendar exists to promote area initiatives and a listing of parks is available on the website – links to their locations on Google maps could be added to enhance awareness.

Increasingly, communities are animating their park spaces through programming and new forms of community engagement. For Adjala-Tosorontio, the vision and guiding principles for this plan encourage a broadening of park activities that include:

- all ages and abilities, including older adults
- year-round use of parks, including more off-season (e.g., winter) activities
- community engagement, including more events and programs within parks
- partnerships to support broader uses

Expanding the scope of park usage engages a broader range of residents and visitors, leading to experiential learning, participation, and community mobilization. Some examples are included below for future reference (not a complete list).

Table 11: Examples of Potential Park Programming and Activities

Types of Park Activities	Sample Activities (not a complete list)
<p>Events (one time)</p> <p>Purpose: Meet, Gather, Experience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special event, festival or fair (Canada Day, etc.) • Photography contest (in parks) • Snowman building contest • Easter egg hunt • Fireworks • Food trucks
<p>Programs (recurring)</p> <p>Purpose: Learn, Play, Experience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day camps • Music in the park / concerts • Movie nights • Farmers market / art show • Sensory walks • Trail / path walking group • Biking group • Yoga, Tai Chi, etc. in the park • Outdoor boot camp, stretching classes • Group education program – native plants, cultural history, wildlife • Teen leadership programs, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, etc. • Camp out in the park • Unstructured free play group • Activity of the week – playground game • Bird house painting & install in parks • Reading / book club • Outdoor arts & crafts (rock painting)
<p>Sports and Recreation</p> <p>Purpose: Learn, Participate, Compete</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer • Baseball • Basketball • Football (tackle, flag) • Cricket • Pickleball • Tennis • Beach volleyball • Ball hockey • Bocce • Lawn bowling • Table tennis • Archery • Disc golf • Chess, checkers • Obstacle, ninja courses • Skateboarding, scootering • BMX biking • Ice skating • Running (individual or group) • Biking • Playground use • Outdoor fitness • Swimming • Rock climbing • Tobogganing • Hiking • Urban poling • Snowshoeing • Cross-country skiing • Tobogganing • RC/Drone flying • Informal play (frisbee, kickball, tag, skipping rope, hide and seek, kite flying, manhunt, cornhole, etc.)

Types of Park Activities	Sample Activities (not a complete list)	
<p>Community and Environmental</p> <p>Purpose: Explore, Educate, Relax</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnicking, BBQ • Socializing (e.g., discussion circles) • Weddings, family reunions • Gardening • Photography • Bird watching • Forest bathing, reflection and respite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife observation & sketching • Dog walking • Indigenous placemaking and experiences • Tree planting • Park clean-up / restoration group (e.g., trail / path maintenance, invasive species removal, etc.)

The Township does not have a Parks and Recreation Department and does not currently have the resources required to expand park programming on its own. Currently, staff within the Public Works Department are fully allocated to roads, parks, and municipal property maintenance, and park bookings are handled by corporate customer service staff. Direct program delivery would require additional staff positions that are not currently part of the Township’s structure.

To deliver on the Council’s and the community’s vision for its parks system, a community development model should continue to be relied upon. This means that non-municipal providers will continue to be responsible for offering and coordinating most park programming and events, with the support of the Township. Collaboration with community agencies and volunteer organizations is crucial to the success of the parks system. Enhanced public access to existing sites and facilities – such as schools, County forests, conservation lands, and more – can help to increase participation for residents and strengthen each of its communities.

However, the lack of a Community Outreach/Engagement Coordinator (or similar position) at the Township is a gap that will limit the ability to expand partnerships and support the events that residents are seeking. Such a position could also be responsible for policy/procedure creation and regular engagement with the community regarding new ideas and program offerings that will optimize parks and public spaces. Regular surveying and public forums are also an effective way to collect data that can inform future planning, ensuring that parks are truly community-driven spaces. Adding this or a similar position should be considered at the time of the Township’s next service review.

Recommendations – Park Animation and Outdoor Programming

21. Strive to expand **park programming and events** in all seasons through community development activities (volunteer-led) and special event coordination (Township-led). Work with the Community Development and Event Committee to identify potential events and partners that promote broad participation, healthy living, and community engagement.
22. Through a future service review, explore the need for a **Community Outreach/Engagement Coordinator** to work with residents, volunteers, and organizations in the planning, delivery, and promotion of community initiatives, improvements, and events.

6.2 Lifecycle Analysis

Capital requirements are increasing as the Township’s parks infrastructure ages and amenities require repair or replacement. As is the case in most communities, deferred maintenance items are becoming more commonplace and difficult choices are having to be made regarding park renewal.

It is a key goal of the 2015 Framework for Recreation in Canada to “enable communities to renew recreational infrastructure as required”. This can be accomplished by dedicating sufficient funding collaborating with others, developing assessment tools, and evidence-based guidelines for investing in aging infrastructure, and adopting innovative renewal strategies that enhance affordable access for all.

Inventories and condition analyses were completed by Northern Lights Landscape Architects on behalf of the Township in 2023/24. The general condition of most parks and amenities can be seen in the following tables. The Park Condition Assessment itemized all assets (e.g., playgrounds, courts, fields, fencing, signage, and other site infrastructure with a minimum \$2,500 materiality threshold) within each Township park. Full replacement values were created and the remaining useful life was estimated for all assets. The table below summarizes the capital costs associated with all items with an estimated remaining useful life of ten years or less.

Table 12: Park Condition Assessment – Anticipated Costs over Next 10 Years

Park	Total Replacement Value	Estimated Cost Next 10 yrs	Condition Index
Dekker St. Park	\$125,000	\$125,000	1.00
Weca Park	\$102,000	\$102,000	1.00
Ross Houston Memorial Park	\$246,000	\$241,000	0.98
Williams Park	\$78,250	\$75,750	0.97
John O. Irwin /Veterans Park	\$298,500	\$286,000	0.96
Central Park	\$260,000	\$245,000	0.94
Glencairn Park (Webster Rd)	\$84,000	\$61,500	0.73
Glencairn Park (Concession 2)	\$131,500	\$95,000	0.72
Pine Park	\$118,000	\$84,000	0.71
Wardens' Park	\$391,500	\$200,500	0.51
Rosemont Community Park	\$388,000	\$183,500	0.47
Lisle Memorial Park	\$198,500	\$42,000	0.21
Haley Park	\$361,000	\$47,500	0.13
Stanley H. Bailey Park	\$65,000	\$0	0.00
Totals	\$2,847,250	\$1,788,750	0.63

Source: Park Condition Assessments. Northern Lights Landscape Architects. Revised draft February 27, 2024.

Note: Costs are in 2024 dollars and are not escalated for inflation.

The condition index shown in the table above is calculated by dividing the estimated 10-year costs against the full replacement value of all park assets. The higher figures with values approaching 1.0 are those parks that will require near full replacement of all assets within the next 10 years based on lifecycle analysis. Conversely, those parks with a condition index closer to 0.0 will require more limited capital replacement.

Condition tends to be strongly aligned with the age of the park. Township parks with the most poorly rated overall condition include:

- Dekker Street Park (1.15)
- Weca Park (1.0)
- Ross Houston Memorial Park (0.98)
- Williams Park (0.97)
- John O. Irwin Ball Diamond / Veterans Park (0.96)
- Central Park (0.94)

Only three parks including Stanely H. Bailey Park (the only municipal park without a playground) and Haley and Lisle Parks (both of which have been recently renovated) are rated in “good” condition.

Some park amenities are reaching the end of their functional lifespan and planning is required to ensure their timely replacement and/or revitalization. Across the Township’s 14 parks, the total replacement value is estimated at \$2.85 million, with capital needs of \$1.81 million over the next ten years – an average of \$181,000 per year in order to maintain existing amenities in a state of good repair. These figures exclude upgrades and the introduction of new amenities, as discussed in Section 5.

The estimated parks capital replacement needs (\$1.81 million) are about 60% greater than the amount contained within the Townships 2025-2034 10-Year Capital Forecast (\$1.12 million). This shortfall is approximately \$690,000 or \$69,000 per year (not accounting for inflation). The Township is encouraged to allocate additional funding in future budgets to address the growing need for park asset replacement, as well as park upgrades and new park development (not captured in the figures above).

Pressure for park renewal and redevelopment can also be driven by safety considerations, legislative requirements, as well as changes in leisure preferences and socio-demographic composition. Well maintained parks are more appealing to users, better utilized, and aligned with municipal objectives.

Recommendations – Lifecycle Replacement

23. Increase **annual funding** for park replacement projects to address aging amenities and assets, as well as upgrades and new park development.

6.3 Park Renewal

Since the pandemic, parks and outdoor facilities have experienced a surge in popularity. These community assets have taught us the importance of social connections and have become vital to our wellbeing. Along with greater use has come an increase in requests for improvements that serve both broad needs and specialized uses, such as accommodating special events, athletics, passive recreation, open space buffers, green space and habitat conservation, beautification, and more.

In recent years, the Township has been investing in its parks system by upgrading amenities within several sites. A keen focus must continue to be placed on making the best use of existing park sites, keeping parks relevant considering changing demographics, and improving connectivity within and beyond the Township.

From our observations, the Township's parks system is well maintained, but some older parks contain aging assets and lack barrier-free features and contemporary park amenities. Additional challenges are identified as part of the SWOT Analysis in Section 4. Strategic improvements and enhancements will help the Township continue to respond to emerging pressures, changing demographics, asset management, community priorities, and more.

Because parks must be safe, welcoming, and responsive to community needs, their overall level of service is determined in part by their qualities. To supplement the lifecycle analysis completed by the Township (see previous section), Adjala-Tosorontio's parks were evaluated at a qualitative level based on various attributes. By blending the quantitative (e.g., lifecycle, physical condition, etc.) and qualitative (e.g., function, accessibility, value-added, etc.), the result is a multi-variable approach that lends support to park redevelopment projects.

The following criteria were used to aid in the qualitative evaluation of the Township's parks:

- Condition (e.g., quality of construction, quality of maintenance, state of lifecycle requirements)¹²
- Functionality (e.g., appropriate size, quality of design, safety and visibility)
- Access (e.g., pedestrian access, nearby parking, barrier-free)
- Value-added (e.g., comfort features, uniqueness, general ambiance)

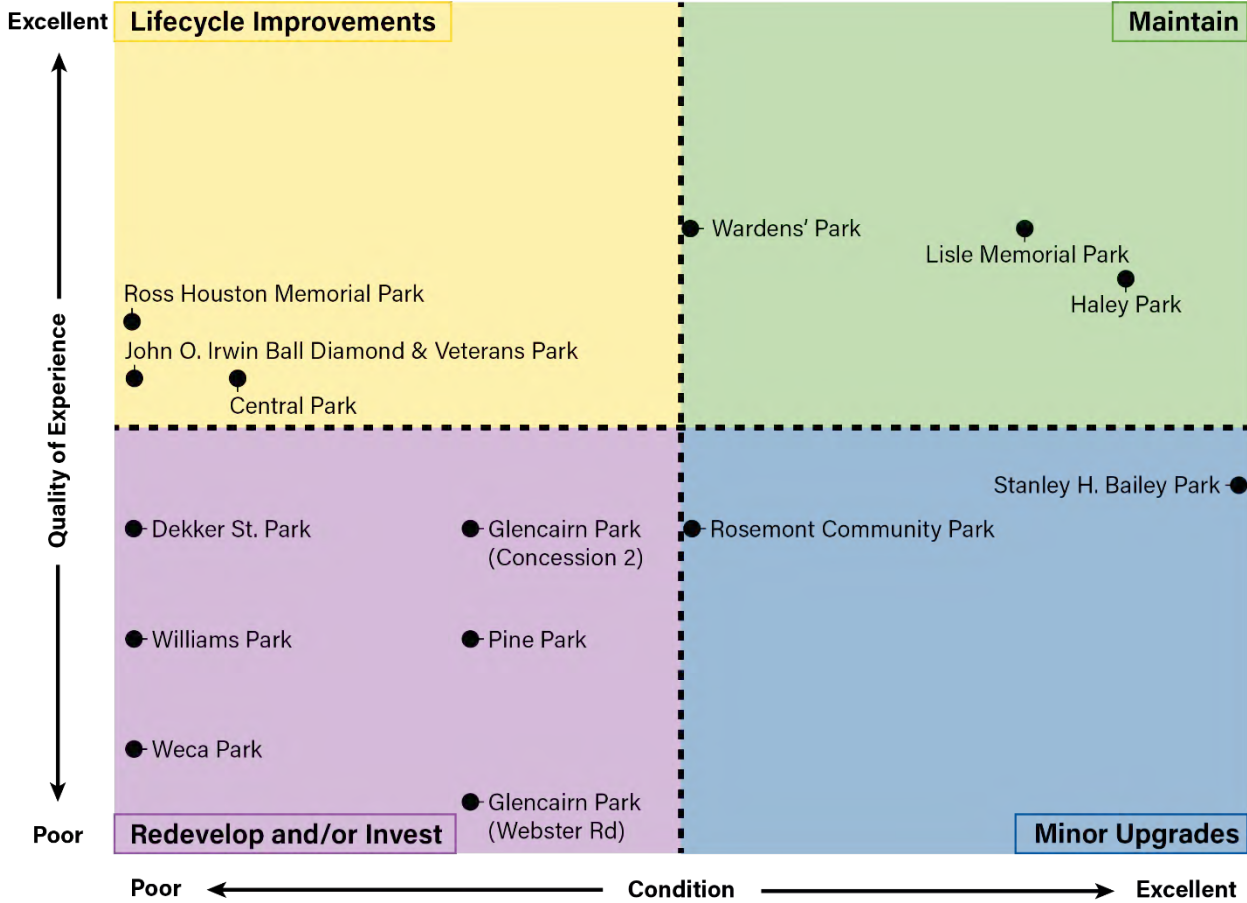
These criteria were independently scored for each recreational component and then aggregated to arrive at an easy-to-follow metric depicting the asset's quality using a three-point scale (poor, average, excellent). These ratings can be found in the park profiles within **Appendix A**. The following chart combines both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the Township's parks system in order to identify key priorities for future redevelopment projects.

¹² Note: Condition ratings were not included in the overall qualitative score as they are evaluated in more detail through the quantitative Park Condition Assessment.

Based on the chart below, primary candidates for redevelopment and/or investment include:

- Weca Park
- Williams Park
- Glencairn (Webster Road)
- Dekker Park
- Pine Park
- Glencairn (Concession 2)

Figure 32: Gap Analysis for Township Parks



To guide the park redevelopment process, it is important to note that the public consultation program and the evolution of the Township’s parks system support a broadening of the range of recreation opportunities within local parks. The municipality must focus on making the best use of existing sites, keeping parks relevant considering changing demographics, and improving experiences throughout the Township.

Strategic improvements and enhancements are necessary to respond to growth pressures, changing neighbourhood demographics, age of parks, availability of funding, volunteer initiatives, etc. Aside from initiatives that improve health, safety and environmental protection, park renewal projects should focus on those sites that receive the heaviest use. The possibilities for parkland

renewal are limitless, but may include enhanced landscaping, provision of shade and comfort amenities, facility upgrades, accessibility improvements, and more.

Some initial ideas received through the public input process are presented in the following table; these are not necessarily recommendations of the Master Plan, but rather represent future considerations for when existing parks are upgraded and redeveloped. The implementation of these and/or other park renewal and redevelopment projects should be accompanied by public consultation, park-specific master plans, and facility fit diagrams to obtain accurate costing associated with any capital works. The timing of capital works will be influenced by needs determined through consultation, demand indicators, coordination of works, and the availability of funding.

Table 13: Preliminary Ideas for Improvements to Existing Adjala-Tosorontio Parks

Park	Examples of Possible Improvements
Central Park (Everett)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground replacement (both junior and senior play) and access pathway • Introduction of casual play amenities (e.g., ping pong table, corn hole, etc.) • Tree planting, shade • Additional seating
Dekker St. Park (Everett)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground replacement and access pathway • Tree planting, shade • Improved definition of parking area • Clarify/define access to woodlot at rear of park
Glencairn Park (Concession 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand playground to include senior play apparatus and add access pathway • Engage community as part of an overall Glencairn Parks Redevelopment initiative (including the park on Webster Road)
Glencairn Park (Webster Road)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove playground equipment at end of life • Redevelop park as a passive park space (e.g., trees, benches, pathway, etc.) • Engage community as part of an overall Glencairn Parks Redevelopment initiative (including the park on Concession 2)
Haley Park (Loretto)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete phase 2 of the park renewal project, including extending the limestone pathway around ball diamond to create a loop • Ensure that portable washrooms are available in summer to serve sports fields • Add a small rain/lightning shelter to keep field users safe from inclement weather • Consider adding a basketball net in parking lot (or half court in park) • Consider public requests for signalized road crossing
John O. Irwin Ball Diamond & Veterans Park (Everett)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to ball diamond infield (clay), fencing, bleachers, etc. as needed • Improved definition of parking area • Removal of outdated playground equipment at end of life • Consideration of ball diamond lighting in the longer-term (based on demonstrated need)

Park	Examples of Possible Improvements
Lisle Memorial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of casual play amenities (e.g., ping pong table, corn hole, etc.)
Pine Park (Everett)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground replacement and access pathway
Rosemont Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of outdated playground equipment at end of life • Trimming of trees around court area to enable use of basketball hoops • Paint pickleball lines on court (promote use of portable nets)
Ross Houston Memorial Park (Lisle)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground replacement and access pathway • Improvements to ball diamond infield (clay), fencing, bleachers, etc. as needed • Remove vault restrooms and replace with portable washrooms
Stanley H. Bailey Park (Everett)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to ball diamond infield, fencing, dugouts, etc. as needed
Wardens' Park (Municipal Centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote winter use of the walking track through a snow clearing pilot project; consider the potential to include a parallel skating trail in the winter • Explore the potential for a covered, non-refrigerated pad that can serve as an all-season multi-use venue • Upgrade all playground surfacing to engineering wood fibre • Continued tree planting • Consider adding outdoor fitness equipment as a circuit along a portion of the walking track • Add an accessible, external access public washroom to the Municipal Centre • Expand community events (e.g., music concerts, cultural events, light displays, etc.) and programming at this site (e.g., urban poling, etc.) • Consider site as a long-term location for a fenced off-leash dog park
Weca Park (Loretto)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground replacement and access pathway
Williams Park (Hockley)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground replacement and access pathway • Consider opportunities for using this park as a community event site and/or service to tourists (small pavilion, tourist mapping, etc.)

Recommendations – Park Renewal

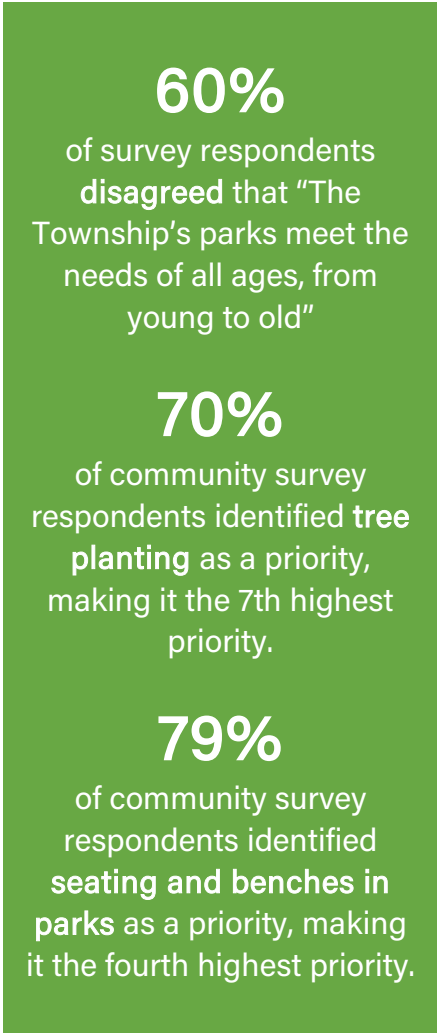
24. Identify and plan for **park improvement and renewal projects** that address emerging needs and aging infrastructure. Primary candidates for evaluation in the short-term include Weca Park, Williams Park, Glencairn (Webster Road), Dekker Park, Pine Park, and Glencairn (Concession 2). Engage stakeholders and the public when designing and redeveloping parks.
25. Engage the local community as part of an overall **Glencairn parks redevelopment initiative** that would see a re-planning of the small park (Webster Road) to passive uses and strategic improvements to the larger park (Concession 2).

6.4 Future Parks and Design Considerations

Designing parks requires a strong understanding of community needs, contemporary design practices, operational requirements, and programmatic considerations. The size, use, and location of each park is also vitally important to its function and value. Some of the key roles a park can play include support for community gatherings, athletics, passive recreation, open space buffers, green space and habitat conservation, beautification, and more. Potential programs and activities are documented in a previous section.

The following are best practices that the Township may adopt in designing new or redeveloped parks. Many of these practices are already in place, but are undocumented.

- a) Promote **universal accessibility** in all parks, such as wheelchair access, pathways, and ramps to play structures, etc. This includes reducing physical barriers when accessing outdoor recreation experiences, following *The Design of Public Spaces Standard* guidebook.
- b) Provide both junior and senior play opportunities in parks with **playgrounds**, where possible. Use engineered wood fibre for surfacing, at minimum. Ensure appropriate sight lines to play areas.
- c) Parks should be designed to allow for **flexibility and seasonality** with a diversity of activities that cater to all ages and abilities. Consider activities and programming for the growing **older adult population**, including increased daytime use and emerging activities such as pickleball.
- d) **Unstructured open space** within parks that allows for a wide variety of **active and passive uses throughout all seasons** is considered an asset.
- e) Consider **new and creative ideas** and encourage **partnerships** that help the Township achieves its vision.
- f) Locate **shade structures and trees** central to amenities. Consideration may be given to shade pavilions, shade sails over or near playground equipment, and tree planting to protect users from the harmful effects of the sun.
- g) Provide informal **seating** opportunities. Locate seating in shaded areas, along accessible routes, and in proximity to active amenities.



- h) Maintained **pathways** should be a minimum of 3.0m wide, unless otherwise required, with clearance along pathways (waste bins, benches, trees, bike racks, etc.) for maintenance vehicles.
- i) Locate **waste and recycle receptacles** close to park entrances to facilitate maintenance.
- j) Select **materials and equipment** (e.g., park furniture) that are not easily vandalized and can be easily sourced for repair and/or replacement.
- k) Provide **consistent branded signage** at all public parks identifying the park name, address, and current municipal branding. Additional signage should include emergency contact information and regulatory requirements (e.g., non-permitted uses, park hours, etc.). Consideration may also be given to wayfinding signage and parks system mapping to assist users in finding and accessing other nearby parks.
- l) Encourage **public art and historical commemoration plaques** at appropriate locations, in keeping with relevant guidelines. Consider opportunities to support **Indigenous themes and education** within the parks system.
- m) Use non-invasive native species in all **plantings**.
- n) Follow **CPTED** (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles to enhance community security and safety features.
- o) Include **buffer space** between pathways and adjacent lot lines (minimum of 5.0 metres when abutting a residential property and 2.0 metres when abutting other land uses), as well as high-activity zones and residential lot lines.
- p) Provide **naturalized buffers** adjacent to natural features. Where appropriate, consider the piloting of naturalization initiatives in under-utilized portions of parks to support habitat creation and other environmental objectives.

As the Township grows, additional parks will be required to serve larger populations, primarily in Everett (approximately 1,850 new homes) and Colgan (approximately 700 new homes). Many of the design guidelines above are evident in the preliminary design concepts that have been prepared for the proposed parks in these communities. It is understood that lands will be conveyed (graded and seeded) through the development process, with the Township being responsible for advancing park construction. Equitable access to parks and open spaces ensures that everyone can enjoy their benefits, thus it is critical that development of these parks advance in step with construction well before the subdivisions are completed.

Current park concepts, which are draft and subject to change, are shown below for reference. A concept may be developed for the second new neighbourhood park in Everett, with direction from this Master Plan.

Figure 33: Preliminary Concept – Future Everett Park (Farsight)



Figure 34: Preliminary Concept – Future Colgan Park 1 (Tribute)



Figure 35: Preliminary Concept – Future Colgan Park 2 (Tribute)



The following comments are meant to inform adjustments to the preliminary concept plans created for the three future parks, to be considered at the Township’s discretion.

Table 14: Comments on Preliminary Park Concepts

Future Park	Preliminary Amenities (shown in concept)	Comments (aligned with this Parks Master Plan)
Colgan Park 1 (Tribute)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ball hockey/skating rink • 2 full basketball courts • Playground • Community garden • Shelters • Off-street parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one full basketball court is recommended; consideration may be given to adding curbing and water service to allow for winter skating use (volunteer-led) • An event plaza adjacent to the basketball court may be considered to support local events • Consider adding 2 tennis courts, with lines for pickleball (located away from homes) • Open space for informal play is recommended • Community garden would be dependent on demand and available space
Colgan Park 2 (Tribute)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-leash dog area • Playground • Outdoor fitness • Community garden • Shelters • Off-street parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-leash dog area is not recommended at this time; space should be identified as open space for informal play • Playground should be fully barrier-free • Community garden would be dependent on demand and available space
Everett Park (Farsight)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 full-size soccer fields • Shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several amenities are proposed for new parks in Everett – this is one of two neighbourhood parks anticipated in the area. Between the two sites, this Master Plan recommends: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 soccer fields ○ 1 ball diamond ○ Playgrounds (2) ○ 2 tennis courts, with lines for pickleball (located away from homes) ○ Outdoor fitness equipment ○ 1 full basketball court ○ Consideration of a covered outdoor pad (skating, pickleball, basketball, etc.); additional evaluation is required ○ Longer-term consideration of a splash pad and/or skate (all wheels) park

Recommendations – Future Parks and Design Considerations

26. Provide a balance of **active and passive spaces** within the parks system to support all-season recreation and sports, casual use and unstructured play, special events and cultural activities for users of all ages.
27. Maintain a commitment to **universal accessibility, safety, and comfort** within the Township's parks system. Regularly consult with the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee and ensure compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Emphasize the provision of amenities such as **benches/seating areas, bike racks, and shade (structures, tree canopy, etc.)** in appropriate park types and along trails to address the needs of all age groups.
28. Conduct a review of **regulatory signage** within each park (e.g., emergency contact information, smoking/vaping, restricted uses, etc.). Consideration may also be given to **wayfinding signage and parks system mapping** to assist users in finding and accessing other nearby parks.
29. Develop and/or update **design plans for proposed parks in Colgan and Everett** consistent with the recommendations in this Master Plan in order to create public awareness, support potential funding opportunities (e.g., grant applications), and advance park development.

6.5 Park Development Guidelines

For future parks, many decisions regarding land requirements and conditions for acceptance, design, and development rest with the Township, as governed by applicable legislation and policies such as the Official Plan and Ontario Planning Act. However, the Township does not currently have a manual to establish a common set of expectations around the requirements from the development community associated with the design and development of parkland. The following information may be used as a foundation to create such a manual or set of principles that will guide the development of new parks and renewal of existing ones.

When parkland dedication is required pursuant to the Planning Act or development agreements, the designated blocks should be identified on the development plans with enough detail to identify lot grading, drainage, landscaping, access, and other information as may be required. Through subdivision agreement, developers should complete the necessary works as identified by the Township.

The design and site preparation of the parkland and open space should consider the intended and future passive and/or active recreational uses in accordance with this and other master plans as required. **Guidelines for parkland preparation and conveyance are identified below.** The Township may establish additional requirements and/or amend requirements from time to time; additional requirements may apply to developer-built parks.

- a) The developer will prepare grading and drainage plans acceptable to the Township. The developer will complete pre-grading, drainage, fine grading, and grass seeding (with 4-inches of topsoil) to the satisfaction of the Township. No topsoil will be removed from the site. All costs associated with these requirements will be the sole responsibility of the developer and will not be taken out of Development Charges.

- b) As part of the general subdivision development in areas with public services, the developer will be responsible for installing storm sewers serving the park, as well as electrical and water services 2.0 metres into the park property if future municipal plans indicate a need. In privately serviced areas, the developer must include an open ditch, culvert and driveway in the road allowance; a well, constructed as per applicable regulations; and hydro service 2.0 metres into the park property. Sanitary servicing may be required for higher-order community parks. Access for park maintenance will also be incorporated into the design.
- c) The developer will be responsible for all pathway, trail, and/or sidewalk connections to park blocks. These connections do not comprise part of parkland dedication.
- d) All projects will comply with the Design of Public Space Standards under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, such as where walkways or trails are required through parklands.
- e) The developer will be required to post and maintain signage at all park locations indicating that the site will be a future park and that it may have playground equipment installed.
- f) Any site work and designs will pay special attention to the care and preservation of natural wetland and natural features, where applicable.
- g) Stormwater management facilities will be integrated into parkland and open spaces, where possible and applicable (not part of legislated parkland dedication). Low maintenance vegetated buffers will be required around the pond perimeter.
- h) The developer will install permanent fencing around the park perimeter where property lines are shared with residential/commercial land uses or protected/hazard lands, to the specifications approved by the Township, where required.
- i) Plantings will comply with municipal tree planting standards, with an emphasis on native and non-invasive species along all public road allowances. Opportunities for tree preservation should be discussed with the Township prior to undertaking any site works; a detailed Park Tree Preservation Plan may be required.
- j) The developer will be responsible for demolition, removal and disposal of all existing materials, buildings and foundations. Municipal property preserved as open space or intended for parkland development will not be used for the purposes of temporary stockpiling or storage of earth, construction supplies, debris or any other materials without express permission of the Township.
- k) The timing of conveyance of parkland in accordance with the Planning Act will be stipulated in the Subdivision Agreement. The Township will typically require conveyance be completed during registration of the first phase of a subdivision. Parks will generally be constructed by the Township upon 25% to 50% occupancy of a residential subdivision.
- l) At the Township's discretion, the developer will engage the professional services of a registered Landscape Architect to prepare Detail Design/Technical Drawings to fully describe the construction of all park features. The costs of such professional services are

attributable to the park development costs assigned to the park project through Development Charges.

- m) Park construction will include the installation of permanent signage, including park identification signs, regulatory signs and interpretive signs, as specified and located by the Township.

Recommendations – Park Development Guidelines

- 30. Utilize the conditions and processes proposed in this Master Plan to inform and guide the **development process for new parks**.

6.6 Operations and Maintenance

This section provides an assessment of the parks maintenance standards for properties owned and managed by the Township. It considers several trends and best practices related to municipal parks and trails that may impact maintenance and service levels, such as:

- greater diversity and changes in demographics, including an increase in older age groups and young families;
- more demand for accessible parks and trails (and greater regulatory obligations for accessibility);
- increased use of parks and trails, in particular for unstructured, self-directed activities such as walking and informal play;
- year-round use of parks and trails; and
- a demand for increased provision of park washrooms, shade (trees and structures), benches, and other park furniture.

Based on site visits to the Township's parks and input from the public, parks and park amenities in Adjala-Tosorontio are generally well maintained. However, Township staff are receiving requests for new and different municipal park services and higher levels of maintenance on a year-round basis.

Concerns related to service levels, amenities, and maintenance in Township parks identified through our assessments include:

- a lack of year-round spaces for gathering and casual play in parks;
- variable volunteer commitment to the parks system (e.g., community gardens, ice rinks, ball diamonds, etc.);
- the need for new amenities, such as additional sports courts; and
- aging infrastructure and a lack of barrier-free spaces, especially playgrounds.

Parkland, trails, open spaces, and outdoor facilities are operated and maintained by the Public Works Department under the Supervisor of Operations and Maintenance. The Township does not have staff dedicated to the parks portfolio, rather these duties (including trash removal and visual inspections) are shared with other responsibilities within the Department. The Township

contracts out all parks mowing to a third-party, while some extra diamond maintenance (e.g., dragging, chalking, etc.) is performed by baseball organizations/volunteers. These service contracts allow the Township to maintain a lean staff complement that does not rely on part-time staff or seasonal hiring, nor does it require a robust inventory of park equipment and storage space.

In order to meet the Township's needs for parks management and maintenance for the future, it is important that consideration be given to future growth, anticipated changes in usage levels, and the introduction of new activities and amenities. For example, experiences in other small municipalities suggests that Adjala-Tosorontio's current informal determination and documentation of maintenance priorities and practices, while adequate in the past, will require thoughtful review to respond to the increased expectations of a growing resident population and new parks and open spaces.

To be successful, it is important for the Township to know whether level of service standards are being met, what resources are being used, and where deficiencies are (or areas where service exceeds standards). It is recommended that existing levels of service be documented and reviewed at least every two years, and adjustments be made to ensure consistency of service and the Township's ability to meet the needs of park users.

Another trend witnessed in some municipalities is the changing role of volunteers, many of which are stepping away from maintenance activities (e.g., ball diamonds, community gardens, etc.), but becoming more focused on specific capital projects. As this occurs, what once were volunteer responsibilities shift to municipal staff. To ensure long-term sustainability, the Township must continue to explore opportunities for operational savings and maintenance efficiencies. The Township should review its parks maintenance standards and align these with the service levels expected of each park type (e.g., reduce the grass cutting frequency at low use park sites). Operating practices and policies (e.g., field closure policy, operating and partnership agreements, etc.) should also be reviewed on a regular basis in consultation with affected parties.

Recommendations – Operations and Maintenance

31. Regularly review **staffing levels and resources within the Public Works Department** to ensure that they keep pace with the expanded parks system and/or changing responsibilities.
32. Regularly review park **operating policies, maintenance practices, and service levels** to ensure that they respond to local needs and represent an efficient use of resources.
33. Employ operating practices and technologies that promote **operational savings and maintenance efficiencies** (e.g., use of wood fibre safety mulch at playgrounds, selective reduction of mowing, use of low-to-no maintenance landscape treatments, litter-free park programs, etc.).

7

Parkland Policy and Land Needs Assessment

This section provides a policy framework to support the Township’s current and future system of parks, including an assessment of parkland service levels, future needs, and recommendations to assist Adjala-Tosorontio in updating relevant policies.

7.1 Park Hierarchy and Classification System

Most municipalities use parkland classification systems to guide park development, design, and level of service (including maintenance). By identifying intended uses, size, form, function, and/or level of amenity, a parkland classification system allows the public to understand what a park may include and positions parkland to be compatible with adjacent land uses.

At present, the Township lacks a formal classification system to define the function, permitted uses, and maintenance levels of each type of park. While Adjala-Tosorontio’s current and draft Official Plans include reference to various park types, they lack definition and consistency in this regard.

It is recommended that the Township consider a contemporary parks and open space hierarchy that is in common use throughout many small urban/rural municipalities. The recommended hierarchy consists of the following:

a) Parks

Types: Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, and Parkettes

Definition: Parks are typically owned, leased and/or managed by the Township and typically consist of tableland suitable for the development or installation of built recreational or civic amenities (such as sports fields, playgrounds, courts, gardens, etc.) that may be used for both organized and unorganized activities, although these parks may also incorporate natural features.

b) Open Space

Types: Natural Areas, Open Space Linkages

Definition: Open Spaces are typically owned, leased and/or managed by the Township (and sometimes other public entities) that generally have no to low development potential and are primarily designated for purposes such as environmental protection/conservation, stormwater management, buffers, etc. The Township may choose to assume open space lands, they should not generally be accepted as part of the parkland dedication requirements.

More detail on the proposed classification system is presented in the tables on the following pages.

Note: Two options that are being increasingly considered by larger, urbanized communities as partial responses to parkland provision in infill and intensification areas include Privately-Owned

Public Spaces (POPS) and Strata Parks. Due to the relatively low residential densities and rural/urban structure in the Township, these tools are not likely to be applied locally and are not recommended as part of the future policy landscape at this time.

Table 15: Proposed Parkland and Open Space Classification Hierarchy

Classification	General Description / Function / Design	Service Area	Target Park Size
PARKLAND			
Community Park	Community Parks are used by groups of residents and tourists for community events and active recreation. They may contain athletic amenities for organized recreation (such as sports fields, support buildings, and community-wide recreation amenities), as well as pathways, pavilions and/or unique elements that make the park a “destination”.	Township-wide and beyond	3.0 hectares or more
Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Parks primarily support children’s play activities and are often situated within residential areas to promote walkability. Neighbourhood Parks contain playgrounds, local-level play features and activity areas, seating, and/or informal open space intended to serve the immediate area.	Surrounding neighbourhood (400-metre radius)	0.5 to 3.0 hectares
Parkette	Parkettes are publicly-owned lands that are located in highly visible and accessible locations, typically in gateways, commercial areas, or higher density mixed use areas. They serve to support the Township’s social and cultural fabric and create a sense of place for pedestrians. They are typically characterized by public art, monuments, seating areas, etc.	Localized	Less than 0.25 hectares
OPEN SPACE			
Natural Area	Natural Areas are municipal open space and natural properties used for conservation and/or passive recreational activities (e.g., walking, nature appreciation, education). These lands will be largely undeveloped and contain open space or natural heritage features such as woodlots, wetlands, conservation habitat, etc.	Variable	Variable
Open Space Linkage	Open Space Linkages – typically comprised of trails, linear parks, or open space parcels – provide connections within the open space system (for habitat) and between local points of interest (for pedestrians and/or cyclists). They consist largely of unimproved open space and/or trail infrastructure. They may be publicly-owned or controlled (e.g., easement, agreement, etc.).	Variable	Variable (minimum 7.5 metre width)

Parks should be redesigned according to their intended function. For various reasons – including intensity of use, space demands, noise/disruption, etc. – some uses are more appropriate in certain types of parks. Playgrounds (considered to be a basic unit of most park construction) are appropriate in all park types, but higher order facilities may not be appropriate for Neighbourhood Parks due to their significant size and impacts (e.g., parking, lighting, hours of use, etc.). The following table identifies suitable amenities according to park type.

Table 16: Suitability of Potential Amenities by Park Type

Facility/Amenity	Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	Parkette	Open Space
Recreation Facilities				
All Wheels (Skateboard) Park	●	▸		
Ball Diamond	●	▸		
Basketball / Multi-use Court	●	●	▸	
Community Gardens	●	●	▸	▸
Off-Leash Dog Park	●			▸
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	●	▸	▸	
Outdoor Rink	●	▸		
Pavilion / Shelter	●	▸	▸	●
Playground	●	●	●	▸
Recreational Trail	●	●	●	●
Soccer Field	●	▸		
Splash Pad	●	▸		
Tennis / Pickleball Court	●	▸		
Park Amenities				
Bike Rack	●	●	●	▸
Casual Play Area / Open Space	●	●	▸	▸
Naturalized Areas	▸	▸	▸	●
Parking Lot	●	▸		▸
Seating (fixed or portable)	●	●	●	●
Washrooms	●	▸		▸

● = Permitted; ▸ = Conditional/Limited

Note: This table identifies potentially suitable uses by park type and is to be used as a guideline only. Site-specific analysis is required to inform park planning and design.

Recommendations –Parkland Classification

34. Use the Master Plan’s **parkland classification system** to guide the development or redevelopment of parks and open spaces according to park type, size, service level, and the amenities that they provide.
35. Institute a **program to actively monitor parkland acquisitions** and track annual spending and allocation of cash-in-lieu funds.

7.2 Park Supplies, Distribution and Needs

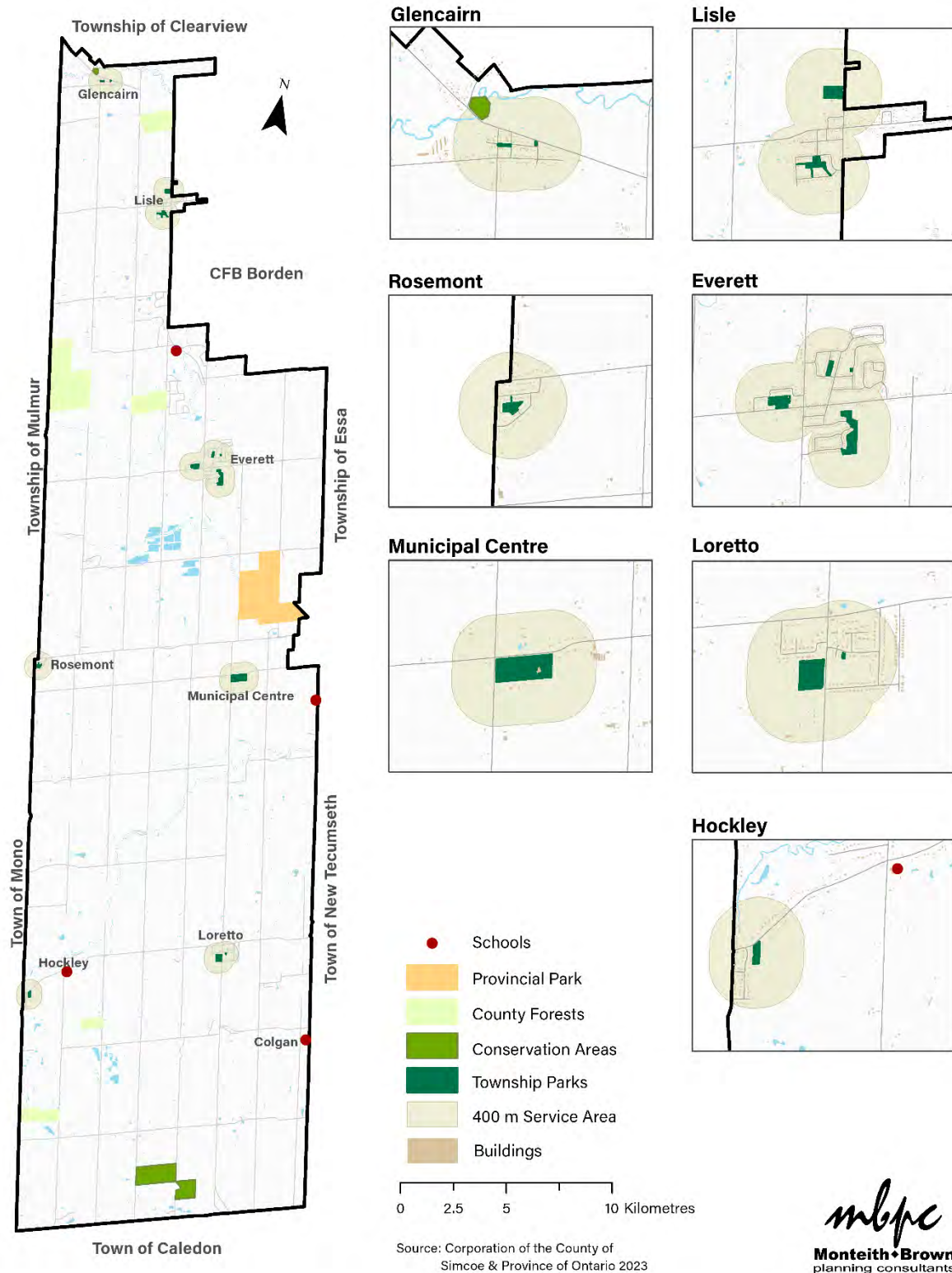
The Township of Adjala-Tosorontio has approximately 25.8 hectares of parkland distributed across 14 sites. This translates into a current level of service of 2.35 hectares per 1,000 residents.

Table 17: Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Park Supply by Park Type

Park Name	Classification	Location	Size (ha)
Central Park	Neighbourhood Park	Everett	0.79
Dekker St. Park	Neighbourhood Park	Everett	1.8
Glencairn Park (Concession 2)	Neighbourhood Park	Glencairn	0.2
Glencairn Park (Webster Rd)	Parkette	Glencairn	0.06
Haley Park	Community Park	Loretto	3.96
John O. Irwin Ball Diamond / Veterans Park	Community Park	Everett	2.2
Lisle Memorial Park	Neighbourhood Park	Lisle	0.5
Pine Park	Parkette	Everett	0.07
Rosemont Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	Rosemont	1.21
Ross Houston Memorial Park	Community Park	Lisle	2.5
Stanley H. Bailey Park	Neighbourhood Park	Everett	0.8
Wardens' Park	Community Park	Municipal Centre / Rural	10.5
Weca Park	Parkette	Loretto	0.1
Williams Park	Neighbourhood Park	Hockley	1.02
Total Active Parkland			25.8 ha

The provision of parkland in Adjala-Tosorontio is both a measure of local parkland supply and access. In rural/urban communities, a typical metric used to determine local accessibility is a 5-minute walk, or a distance of approximately 400-metres. A distributional analysis was undertaken by applying this service area to Adjala-Tosorontio's parks to understand the degree to which residents can access parks within walking distance. This analysis confirmed that all parks are well situated and no notable gaps in distribution exist.

Figure 36: Park distribution with 400-metre service radius



In addition, as of time of writing, the Township anticipates receiving approximately 8.6 hectares of new parkland through the following development applications. Additional future parkland may be dedicated to the Township in the future as new development applications are received and evaluated.

Table 18: Anticipated Future Parkland Dedications

Subdivision	Location	Classification	Park Size (ha)	Comments
Farsight 1	Everett	Neighbourhood	2.4	Subdivision also includes proposed trail (0.43ha), small open space blocks, and a stormwater pond
	Everett	Parkette	0.2	
Barzo	Everett	Neighbourhood / Community	3.0	Subdivision also includes a school block, open space blocks (woodlots), and a stormwater pond
Tribute Colgan 1	Colgan	Neighbourhood	1.5	Subdivision also includes open space blocks
Tribute Colgan 2	Colgan	Neighbourhood	1.2	Subdivision also includes open space blocks and a stormwater pond
Loretto (Joseph/Keenan)	Loretto	Open Space	0.3	Land has yet to be classified
Total Parkland and Open Space			8.6 ha	

An appropriate supply and equitable distribution of parkland is critical to ensuring a high quality of life and maximizing accessibility to services and amenities that achieve community objectives. As the Township grows, there will also be a growing need for more parkland to serve the increasing number of residents.

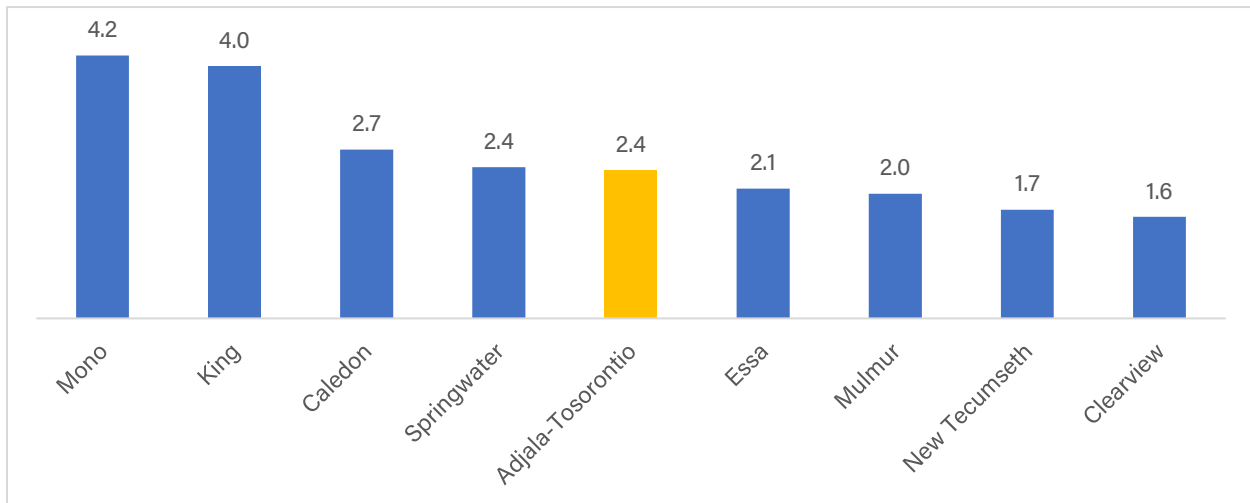
It is recognized that the Township is not the only provider of public space and lands with park features. Conservation areas, school boards, other government agencies, and private landowners may also own and make lands available for public use from time to time. The Township’s draft Official Plan recognizes the role of these open spaces in contributing to opportunities available for the public to experience the outdoors and in supplementing municipal parkland supplies. However, it is noted that hazard lands and environmental protection areas are considered open space and do not constitute part of the dedication for public parkland. The Township is encouraged to continue working with partners to support community access to parks and open spaces.

Most municipalities use population-based targets to calculate and plan parkland supply. A parkland target is particularly important as it is becoming more complex and costly to secure quality parcels for parkland within new higher density forms of development. With recent changes to the Planning Act and smaller residential lots, developments are generating less parkland per capita and smaller park blocks than in the past, making it difficult to accommodate

the desired recreational activities that residents have come to expect from the Township's parks system.

Parkland to population ratios are in common use throughout Ontario and beyond. The Township's current active parkland provision rate is **2.35 hectares per 1,000 residents**, excluding open space (e.g., natural areas). From our experience, this ratio is at the lower end of small urban/rural municipalities that generally provide parkland in the range of 2.0 to 4.0 hectares per 1,000 residents. In fact, this is generally the range provided within municipalities adjacent or near to Adjala-Tosorontio.

Figure 37: Parkland Provision Rates in Nearby Municipalities (hectares per 1,000)



Source: Various Master Plans and Development Charge Background Studies; compiled by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants

It is recommended that the Township establish a municipal-wide provision target for active parkland that allows it to achieve the vision and goals established in this Parks Master Plan. A target should be seen as a benchmark to guide long-term planning and to against which to measure progress.

The suitability of the Township's parks system has been assessed throughout this plan. Public input, research, and observations have generally found that current park locations and sizes are adequate for serving the population that is in place, but that additional parkland will be required to serve the needs of growth. Additionally, there is a desire for future trail development that may occur within corridors or open space lands, which the Township maintains very little of within their current inventory.

In order to continue to support a broad range of outdoor uses, it is recommended that the Township strive to maintain a municipality-wide parkland provision target of 2.35 hectares per 1,000 residents. Although not included in the ratio, it is also important to recognize that this target is supplemented by other public lands that are not defined as parkland, but that can provide valuable contributions to community life, such as County forests, conservation lands, schools, and other open space properties.

The following table illustrates future parkland amounts required to achieve the recommended target. Application of the Township-wide provision target calculates a need for 8.0 additional hectares of parkland by 2031 (to address population growth of 3,400 residents). Beyond 2031, a population forecast of 17,650 has been set for the Township, which would require an additional 15.7 hectares over current supplies. Moving forward, needs are likely to be focused on neighbourhood and community parks in expanded settlement areas.

At present, the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio has identified six new parcels of parkland that will add approximately 8.6 hectares of additional parkland to the Township’s supply. If secured by 2031, these parks will be suitable for meeting parkland needs until this time. **However, approximately 7.1 hectares of additional parkland will be required to meet needs associated with the post-2031 population forecast.**

Table 19: Approximate Parkland Dedication / Acquisition Targets to 2031 and Post-2031

Current Parkland Supply, excluding open spaces	25.8 ha
Population (2021)	10,989 persons
Parkland per 1,000 persons(2021)	2.35 ha/1000
Projected Population (2031)	14,385 persons
Total Parkland Needs (2031), based on 2.35 ha/1000	33.8 ha
Additional Parkland Requirements (2031)	8.0 ha (8.6 ha proposed)
Projected Population (post-2031)	17,650 persons
Total Parkland Needs (post-2031), based on 2.35 ha/1000	41.5 ha
Additional Parkland Requirements (post-2031)	15.7 ha (8.6 ha proposed + 7.1 ha more)

In order to identify realistic approaches to meeting this target, it is important to understand current parkland dedication tools and prospective ratios. From the Township’s draft plans of subdivision, it is estimated that current residential densities are in the range of 10 to 15 units per hectare. As discussed in the next section, there are different formulas that the Township can apply to secure parkland through the development process, but the standard rate of 5% of the site is the one that has and will continue to be applied in Adjala-Tosorontio. The following table illustrates the impact of density on per capita parkland rates.

Table 20: Parkland Dedication Scenarios for Adjala-Tosorontio under the Ontario Planning Act

Units per Hectare	Total Units (10-hectare site)	Estimated Persons per Unit	Total Persons	Dedication Rate Applied	Parkland Dedication or Cash-in-Lieu	Hectares per 1,000 residents
10	100	3.4	340	Standard Rate (5% of site)	0.5 ha (land or CIL)	1.47 ha/1000
15	150	3.4	510			0.98 ha/1000

The recommended target is greater than what can be achieved solely through the provisions of the Planning Act and will require other means of acquiring parkland as the Township can anticipate to generally receive **1.0 to 1.5 hectares of parkland per 1,000 residents** through the development approvals process, including lands under development in Colgan and Everett. The actual ratio will vary depending on the density of the development and the number of persons per unit. This means that all new residential development that occurs within Adjala-Tosorontio will reduce the Township’s overall ratios, unless it is supplemented by other lands. If the Township wishes to achieve the recommended parkland target, then other tools beyond development approvals will need to be used for securing this land. These and other policy approaches are examined in the next section.

Recommendations – Parkland Supplies, Distribution and Needs

36. Establish a municipal-wide **parkland provision target of 2.35 hectares per 1,000 residents** and seek to secure **an additional 15.7 hectares of parkland to meet the post-2031 forecast of 17,650 residents** (note: some, but not all, of this parkland is accounted for through future subdivisions). Achieving this target will require a range of tools, including but not limited to parkland dedication through the development approvals process.

7.3 Parkland Acquisition and Cash-in-lieu

There are several tools and options available to municipalities related to the acquisition and improvement of lands for parks purposes. Amongst these, the practice of requiring parkland dedications as a condition of subdivision or development has long been the primary tool for the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio. Use of cash-in-lieu to purchase parkland as well as other acquisition tools are projected to become more prominent in the future.

As noted in its Official Plan, the Township may require a dedication of up to 5% of the gross area for residential development or 2% for non-residential development. The dedication of land is for the development of public open space, and it may take place in the form of land or cash payment (cash-in-lieu) under the provisions of the Planning Act. These 5%/2% ratios are referred to as the “standard rate”.

Also available to municipalities is the application of an “alternative rate” of 1 hectare of land per 600 units (1 hectare per 1,000 if taking cash); changes were made to this ratio under Bill 23 that was introduced in 2022. There are certain provisions that must be met to apply this alternative rate, but it is not advantageous to the municipality unless development exceeds 30 units per hectare. The densities being planned for new developments in Adjala-Tosorontio are around 10 to 15 units per hectare at the present time. At this density, the 5% parkland conveyance amount would continue to be most advantageous for the Township. As a result, it is recommended that the Township not include the alternative rate in its policies at this time. In the future, the alternative rate may be considered in cases of infill in the event that densities exceed 30 units per hectare (for land) or 50 units per hectare (for cash-in-lieu), noting that a parkland dedication by-law would be required to use the alternative rate, as well as amendments to the Township’s Official Plan.

Figure 38: Parkland Dedication Rates in the Ontario Planning Act



* no conveyance may exceed 10% of the land for sites under 5 hectares or 15% of the land for sites 5 hectares or larger.

Note: Recent Planning Act changes have enacted parkland dedication exemptions for affordable residential units, attainable residential units, inclusionary zoning residential units, non-profit housing and additional residential unit developments. These exemptions should be reflected in the Township’s policies, such as the Official Plan.

Parkland Acquisition

The Planning Act can only deliver on a portion of the Township’s future parkland needs. Additionally, the ability to secure larger parcels for parkland is reduced within time due to land scarcity and higher land values. To meet the recommended parkland target, it is recommended that the Township adopt a “parkland-first” approach that directs staff to prioritize the dedication of land in appropriate locations rather than cash-in-lieu of parkland during the development review process. Additionally, the Township may need to utilize alternative financial tools and other parkland acquisition approaches beyond traditional parkland conveyance mechanisms.

Some supplemental park acquisition strategies that the Township may pursue, include (but are not limited to):

- a) Municipal land purchase or lease (ideally in priority parkland locations or expansion of existing park sites), funded from cash-in-lieu reserves, Community Benefit Charges, general tax funding, grants, donors, etc.;
- b) Land exchanges or swaps;
- c) Off-site conveyance of parkland (ideally in priority parkland locations);
- d) Donations, gifts, and bequests;
- e) Reallocating surplus municipal lands to park use;
- f) Partnership/joint provision of lands with local partners under agreement; and/or
- g) If applicable, the sale or proposed sale of existing parkland (through a surplus lands policy); funds to be used for purchase and / or enhancement of parkland

In addition to the principles established in the draft Official Plan for determining the location of parkland, the following criteria may be used to assess the suitability of potential park sites on a case-by-case basis.

Table 21: Potential Park Site Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Description
Site Conditions	Consider topography (tableland is strongly preferred), parcel configuration (square or rectangular), drainage, and soil conditions (e.g., free of environmental contaminants).
Size	Should meet or exceed minimum standards established for park classification.
Centrality	Proximity to the population to be served, in keeping with the service radius and population targets of the park type.
Land Use Impacts	Compatibility of adjacent land uses; conformity with Official Plan or Secondary Plan (if applicable).
Connectivity	Integration of trail and open space linkages or corridors.
Accessibility	Site has a minimum of 50% frontage on a public road (two roads), reasonable access to trails or sidewalks (in urban areas), etc.
Partnerships	Potential joint use with school sites or other municipal assets.
Visibility	Ability to create a local focus.
Natural Features	Park site is not encumbered by wooded areas or features of cultural or natural significance.
Added Value	Access to watercourses, viewpoints or vistas.
Constructability	Parks should not be built in floodplains, stormwater overflow areas, valley lands, hydro corridors, easements, environmental lands, etc.
Services	Site has appropriate municipal services (e.g., water, storm sewers, and electrical services) to the property line; this may not apply in all local communities.

Criteria	Description
Availability	Timing of parcel availability should coincide with preferred timing of park development.
Cost	Reasonable land valuation (if applicable); lands already in public ownership offer the greatest potential.

Note: Land required to be conveyed to the Township for parkland shall be free of encumbrances and be fully accessible to the public. Despite the foregoing, Bill 23 has proposed to allow developers to identify the land they intend to convey to the Township for parkland. In some cases, these lands may include encumbered lands and privately-owned public spaces. If agreement cannot be reached, the municipality or the landowner can appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal. As of writing, this provision is still awaiting regulations and enactment.

Deciding when to take Cash-in-lieu

Policies in the Official Plan provide the Township with the discretion to take parkland or cash-in-lieu of parkland (or a blend of the two); however, there is little guidance to assist the Township in making this determination.

To inform decision-making, it is recommended that the Township consider accepting cash-in-lieu of parkland in the following circumstances:

- a) Where the area served by the development is determined (at the Township's discretion) to be have sufficient existing active public parkland to accommodate existing residents and needs (as well as projected population growth);
- b) Where the development would not result in a suitably-sized, shaped or functional park site (recommended minimum size is 0.25 hectares for a parkette or 0.5 hectares for a neighbourhood park); and/or
- c) Where it is preferable to use the cash-in-lieu to expand existing parks directly serving the area or where the Township identifies land in a more appropriate or accessible location that has been, or is to be, acquired by the Township.

Given the anticipated need to acquire additional parkland to meet the targets established in this plan, the Township is strongly advised to use cash-in-lieu of parkland for acquisition, rather than capital improvements in parks. The priority for acquisition of lands for public parkland should be in proximity to the development (generally within 400 metres).

The Township maintains a parkland dedication reserve fund (approximately \$192,000 as of 2023), although this amount is projected to fluctuate year-to-year subject to how the funds are planned to be allocated and future levies collected by the Township. Note: Bill 23 has instituted a new requirement for municipalities to spend or allocate at least 60% of the monies in their parkland reserve account at the beginning of each year.

In cases where the Township has required cash-in-lieu of parkland, the Township has traditionally required development applicants to submit an appraisal of the market value of the

land from a certified professional appraiser. This approach should be carried forward to ensure that these amounts reflect market rates.

Recommendations – Parkland Acquisition and Cash-in-lieu

37. Adopt a **“Parkland First” approach** that prioritizes parkland conveyance over cash-in-lieu of parkland in order to address future parkland requirements.
38. Utilize **alternative parkland acquisition approaches** beyond traditional land conveyance mechanisms as necessary to meet the Township’s long-term parkland target. The Township is encouraged to actively pursue direct purchase of land in proximity to growing settlement areas.

8

Implementation Road Map

This Master Plan is a multi-year phased plan to guide the actions, responsibilities, and budget decisions of the Township regarding parks and trails services, policies, and improvements. This section establishes a clear action plan for implementing the Parks Master Plan. All recommendations are summarized herein, along with priorities, timelines, and high-level costs. Potential funding sources are discussed, and a process for monitoring and updating the Master Plan has been outlined.

8.1 Funding Sources and Considerations

In approving this plan, the Township is not required to implement every recommended park project. Rather, this plan provides guidance on community priorities and sets a general course for meeting the needs as they are presently defined. It is expected that Council will make decisions on individual projects and funding sources annually through the capital budget process. Although Adjala-Tosorontio may experience various challenges in providing the applicable financial and human resources to achieve the Master Plan's recommendations, it is expected that the Township will make every effort to implement these strategies through appropriate means.

Full implementation of the Master Plan will require the use of numerous funding sources, such as (but not limited to):

- Development Charges and Community Benefits Charges (if applicable)
- Parkland Cash-in-Lieu for land purchases or park improvements
- Municipal Taxation and Reserves
- Fundraising, Donations, and Sponsorships
- Naming Rights and Advertising
- User Fees and Surcharges
- Debenture Financing
- Ongoing Government Programs and Transfers, such as Provincial Gas Tax Revenues (for active transportation projects)
- One-Time Grants and Transfers
- Partnerships

There are a number of government and community grant programs that may be able to assist the Township in addressing capital improvements within its parks system or to introduce new programming. Below are a sample of some funding opportunities that have been active in recent years (note: this is not an exhaustive list; not all funding programs may be active at this time):

- **Canada Community-Building Fund:** for the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of recreational facilities or networks (e.g., playgrounds, splash pads, trails, etc.)
- **Enabling Accessibility Fund (Government of Canada):** this program aims to make communities more accessible for persons with disabilities, such as creating more opportunities for participating in community activities and programs (small projects component up to \$125,000)

- **Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (Province of Ontario):** Repairing and upgrading existing sport and recreation facilities into more accessible, state-of-the-art facilities that better suit the community's needs (\$200 million over 3 years)
- **Ontario Trillium Foundation:** on behalf of a recreation agency, the municipality may apply for a capital grant to update buildings, enhance spaces, and purchase fixed and non-fixed equipment that foster physically active lifestyles (\$10,000 to \$200,000)
- **Ontario Community Environment Fund (Province of Ontario):** supporting resilient communities and local solutions to environmental issues, such as restoring wetlands, installing rain gardens, planting trees, shrubs or plants, etc. (\$5,000 or more)
- **Seniors Community Grant Program:** administered by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, one stream of this program provides opportunities for older adults to stay active and connected in their communities, such as weekly physical activities (e.g., pickleball) (up to \$25,000)
- **Canadian Tire Jumpstart Community Development Grant:** focussed on children and youth with disabilities or in financial need, this grant program helps to support inclusive, equitable, safe sport participant experiences (variable)
- **Growing Canada's Community Canopies (Green Municipal Fund):** supports tree planting projects, urban forestry planning, and research and operational support for tree canopies (variable)
- **TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant:** this program supports a wide range of environmental initiatives, with a primary focus on environmental education and green space programs; eligible projects include park revitalization, community gardens, park programming and citizen science initiatives (up to \$10,000)
- **FCC AgriSpirit Fund:** supports capital projects such as those that improve accessibility and inclusion or include upgrades to community buildings (variable)
- **Canada Post Community Foundation:** provide support for initiatives that benefit Canadian children and youth (up to \$25,000)
- **Community Tree Grants (Tree Canada):** this grant supports the planting of fruit- and nut- bearing trees and shrubs and other community tree planting projects (up to \$10,000)
- **Richardson Foundation:** support to many different community initiatives, such as splash parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and more (variable)
- **Energizing Life Community Fund (Hydro One):** municipal community groups may apply for funding for programs focused on improving community physical, psychological, or emotional safety as well as supporting cultural diversity in their communities (variable)
- **ParticipACTION Community Challenge:** funding to support local sport and physical activity initiatives (up to \$1,500)

Additionally, working with service clubs has been a successful approach for park improvements with many rural municipalities. These groups sometimes are able to help achieve community fundraising goals and also access different grant streams.

Recommendations – Funding Sources and Considerations

39. Supplement typical funding sources with **alternative cost-sharing approaches** to fund park improvements, such as (but not limited to) fundraising, grants, sponsorships, and various forms of collaboration.
40. Use this **Master Plan as a resource** in developing the Township’s annual budget documents, Development Charges, secondary plans, and related studies. The Township is encouraged to establish a multi-year capital improvement and funding strategy to ensure that high priority park improvements are addressed in a timely manner.

8.2 Monitoring and Updating the Plan

The Township should regularly review and assess, and periodically revise the recommendations of the Parks Master Plan to ensure that they remain reflective of local conditions and responsive to the changing needs of the community. This will require monitoring of activity patterns, tracking user satisfaction levels, regular dialogue with community organizations, annual reporting on implementation and short-term work plans, and undertaking a detailed ten-year update to the Plan. Through these mechanisms – or as a result of other internal or external factors – adjustment of resource allocations and priorities identified in this Plan may be required.

Some potential metrics that the Township can use to annually measure the success of this plan and the performance of the parks system include (but may not be limited to):

- Parkland per capita (ha/1000 residents) and kilometres of trails
- Park maintenance cost per hectare
- Number of sport field rentals and associated revenues
- Number of special events (including estimated attendance) and associated revenues
- Number of volunteers engaged (e.g., community gardens, rinks, etc.)
- Number of partners/organizations involved in the parks system
- Participation in park programs (if applicable)
- Annual capital investment in the parks system
- Amount of deferred maintenance (lifecycle) across the parks system
- Age of playgrounds
- Resident satisfaction (via surveys or other engagement tools)

Reviewing the Plan requires a commitment from all staff involved in the planning, financing, and delivery of parks services, Council, and the public. An appropriate time for this is prior to the

annual budgeting process. The following steps may be used to conduct an annual review of the Master Plan:

- a. review of the past year (recommendations implemented, capital projects undertaken, success/failure of new and existing initiatives, changes in participation levels, issues arising from the public and community groups, etc.);
- b. identification of issues impacting the coming year (anticipated financial and operational constraints, emerging opportunities, etc.);
- c. cursory review of the plan for direction regarding its recommendations;
- d. preparation of a staff report to indicate prioritization of short-term projects and determination of which projects should be implemented in the coming year based upon criteria established by staff (e.g., financial limitations, community input, partnership/funding potential, etc.);
- e. communication to staff and Council regarding the status of projects, criteria used to prioritize projects and projects to be implemented in the coming year; and
- f. budget requests/revisions as necessary.

Recommendations – Monitoring and Updating the Plan

41. Implement a system for the **implementation and annual review** of the Master Plan. Consider using the Township’s online engagement platform to solicit public input on park projects and potential programming and events.
42. Undertake a **comprehensive review and update** of the Parks Master Plan no later than 2034.

8.3 Summary of Recommendations

This section contains a summary of recommendations contained within the Master Plan. By approving this Plan, the Township is not bound to implementing every recommendation or providing facilities/services in the order, amount or timing indicated; rather, this Plan provides guidance on community priorities and sets a general course for meeting the needs as they are presently defined.

The timing of the recommendations proposed in this Master Plan recognizes the need for phased implementation and/or outside funding sources as some recommendations are based upon what is needed and not necessarily what may be financially achievable at the present time. As part of the annual budget process, this Plan will be reviewed to identify areas where the availability of resources may affect the timing of implementation. Analysis of implementation options and budget implications should be undertaken prior to approving major projects. The full implementation of this Plan will require the use of various funding sources and partnerships with others.

Determining priorities is an exercise that should be revisited each year prior to the Township’s capital and operating budget development exercise. It is expected that the

Township will make decisions on individual projects and funding sources annually through the budget process.

The following considerations have been used to direct priority-setting:

- a. **Park Safety:** any health and safety concerns should be a high priority for mitigation
- b. **Barrier-Free:** compliance with AODA and today's design standards
- c. **Condition:** aging infrastructure and lifecycle repair and replacement
- d. **Input:** public and stakeholder requests and input from public surveys/forums
- e. **Equity:** population growth and under-served communities
- f. **Emerging Needs:** changing demographic and leisure needs
- g. **Usage:** over- or under-utilized parks and park amenities
- h. **Design:** park design and amenities that are safe and meet proper technical standards
- i. **Redevelopment Potential:** availability of unallocated space within a park (or repurposing potential)
- j. **Partnership Potential:** ability to leverage community resources and collaborations
- k. **Cost:** general magnitude of capital and operating costs

Within the tables that follow, the priority, timing, and high-level costing of the recommendations are organized into the following categories. Priority is often aligned with timing, except for capital recommendations that are tied to population thresholds.

Priority

- **High Priority:** Immediate attention is strongly suggested during the timeframe recommended.
- **Medium Priority:** Attention is required when high priority recommendations have been initiated or completed, or when suitable partners have been identified for funding.
- **Lower Priority:** Attention is required when high and medium priority recommendations have been initiated/completed.

Timing

- **Short-term:** 2025 to 2027
- **Medium-term:** 2028 to 2031
- **Longer-term:** 2032 and beyond
- **Ongoing:** Guidelines and practices to be followed on a continual basis

Potential Cost Impacts

(note: all cost estimates are preliminary and to be confirmed through future study)

- **Minor (\$):** estimated at \$50,000 or less
- **Moderate (\$\$):** estimated to be between \$50,000 and \$250,000
- **Major (\$\$\$):** estimated at \$250,000 or more

Table 22: Summary of Recommendations – Priority and Timing

ID. Recommendation	Priority	Timing	Costs / Comments
Section 5: Outdoor Recreation Facility Needs Assessment			
1. Undertake a review of ball diamond booking practices, maintenance practices, and user fees in consultation with local user groups to ensure that there are clear lines of responsibility, schedules are optimized, and that fees are set at fair cost recovery levels. An annual pre-season meeting with user all groups is recommended to address these and priority capital improvements (see below).	Medium	Short-term	Staff-led process
2. Work with local user groups to undertake priority improvements to ball diamonds , including but not limited to consideration of sand/clay infields, dugout and bleacher enhancements, and fencing repairs, where required. Installation of lights on diamonds at John O. Irwin Ball Diamond and/or Haley Park may be considered should demand increase in the longer-term.	Medium	Ongoing	Minor (\$) to Moderate (\$\$) Cost-sharing with user groups anticipated
3. Plan for soccer fields (2) within a future park in Everett, and longer-term potential for one ball diamond. Ensure that future parks in Colgan have open space for informal play activities.	Medium	Short- to Medium-term	Major (\$\$\$\$) Development of facilities should align with growth/demand
4. Evaluate options for developing a covered (open air) outdoor pad for all-season recreational use within Wardens’ Park or a future park in Everett. Potential uses include pickleball, basketball, ice skating (natural ice), ball hockey, farmers’ markets, camps, events and programming, etc. Develop a business plan to confirm dimensions, costs, staffing models, and programming options.	High	Short-term	Business Plan – Minor (\$) Construction – Major (\$\$\$)
5. Include two public tennis courts and two pickleball courts within one future park in both Colgan and Everett, for a total of four tennis and four pickleball courts.	Medium	Short- to Medium-term	Moderate (\$\$) to Major (\$\$\$)

ID.	Recommendation	Priority	Timing	Costs / Comments
6.	Develop full basketball courts (2 hoops) within a future park in Colgan and Everett in order to serve growing youth populations in each community.	High	Short- to Medium-term	Moderate (\$\$)
7.	Establish an annual line item in the Township’s capital budget to support the replacement of aging playgrounds (approximately one per year for at least the next five years, then one every two to three years based on lifecycle and condition). Encourage service clubs to help fund improvements. Priorities for replacement in the short term include (in general order of priority): Weca Park; Ross Houston Memorial Park; Williams Park; Central Park; Dekker St. Park; and Pine Park. Ensure that new and replacement playgrounds consider barrier-free components, site infrastructure (e.g., pathways, seating, shade, etc.), and play value to both younger and older children to support broad use. Engineered wood fibre should be adopted as the minimum specification for playground surfacing as this offers greater benefits over sand.	High	Ongoing	Moderate (\$\$) per year Seek other funders to assist
8.	Consider the removal of the playground (slide and swings) at Glencairn Park (corner of Webster Road and Frame Street) when it reaches end of life. Redevelopment of this park site is recommended and considered through a separate recommendation.	Medium	Short-term	Minimal costs for removal
9.	Include playgrounds within most new neighbourhood parks, including parks planned for Colgan and Everett , ensuring that residents have access to a playground within a 400-metre radius. One playground in Colgan should be fully accessible and serve as a destination site for the community.	High	Short- to Medium-term	Moderate (\$\$) per site
10.	Consider the introduction of outdoor fitness equipment within key park sites, such as Wardens’ Park (as part of a circuit alongside the walking track) and a future park in Colgan and/or Everett.	Lower	Medium-term	Moderate (\$\$) per site
11.	Evaluate the need and potential provision of a splash pad in Everett beyond the ten-year horizon of this Master Plan.	Lower	Longer-term	Major (\$\$\$)

ID.	Recommendation	Priority	Timing	Costs / Comments
12.	Evaluate the need and potential provision of an all wheels/skate park in Everett beyond the ten-year horizon of this Master Plan.	Lower	Longer-term	Major (\$\$\$)
13.	Evaluate the need and potential provision of an off-leash dog park beyond the ten-year horizon of this Master Plan. When ready, initiate a site selection exercise to determine an appropriate location.	Lower	Longer-term	Moderate (\$\$)
14.	Conduct a review of the Township's community and pollinator garden program , including opportunities to strengthen partnerships with volunteers and organizations in the maintenance of these sites. Consider adding new sites in the Township's growing communities (Colgan and Everett) in the longer-term.	High	Short-term (review) Longer-term (new sites)	Minor (\$)
15.	Consider modestly-sized (non-rental) sun shelters/shades adjacent to play areas within existing and future park sites, as appropriate.	High	Ongoing	Minor (\$) to Moderate (\$\$)
16.	Regularly evaluate opportunities to improve and expand trails and pathways within parks, open spaces, and other public lands/rights-of-way, particularly at the planning stage of new subdivisions.	High	Ongoing	Costs to be determined on site-specific basis
17.	Prepare an Active Transportation Master Plan that considers opportunities to expand the local and regional trail network, as recommended in both the Township and County Official Plan. A priority should be placed on: (a) advancing pedestrian trail development within Everett and Colgan; (b) connections to existing trails systems (e.g., County Forests, Trans Canada Trail, Bruce Trail, etc.); and (c) on-road connections between communities and adjoining municipalities.	Medium	Longer-term	Minor (\$)
18.	Explore opportunities and work with the Town of New Tecumseth to establish a future trail connection between Colgan and the Trans Canada Trail within Tottenham.	Medium	Ongoing	Costs to be determined depending on viability

ID. Recommendation	Priority	Timing	Costs / Comments
19. Promote winter use of the Wardens' Park walking loop through a snow clearing pilot project . Establish levels of service and communicate these to the public.	High	Short-term	Operating costs to be determined
20. When planning and developing trails, consider the incorporation of amenities at key locations, such as parking, benches, wayfinding signage, and portable washrooms to facilitate elements of inclusivity and accessibility.	High	Ongoing	Costs to be determined on site-specific basis
Section 6: Park Programming, Renewal and Operational Assessment			
21. Strive to expand park programming and events in all seasons through community development activities (volunteer-led) and special event coordination (Township-led). Work with the Community Development and Event Committee to identify potential events and partners that promote broad participation, healthy living, and community engagement.	High	Ongoing	Grants may be pursued to offset operating costs
22. Through a future service review, explore the need for a Community Outreach/Engagement Coordinator to work with residents, volunteers, and organizations in the planning, delivery, and promotion of community initiatives, improvements, and events.	Medium	Medium-term	Moderate (\$\$) per year Staffing levels to be reviewed
23. Increase annual funding for park replacement projects to address aging amenities and assets, as well as upgrades and new park development.	High	Short-term	Variable costs, identified through other recommendations
24. Identify and plan for park improvement and renewal projects that address emerging needs and aging infrastructure. Primary candidates for evaluation in the short-term include Weca Park, Williams Park, Glencairn (Webster Road), Dekker Park, Pine Park, and Glencairn (Concession 2). Engage stakeholders and the public when designing and redeveloping parks.	High	Ongoing	Moderate (\$\$) to Major (\$\$\$) per park Potential grant opportunity

ID. Recommendation	Priority	Timing	Costs / Comments
25. Engage the local community as part of an overall Glencairn parks redevelopment initiative that would see a re-planning of the small park (Webster Road) to passive uses and strategic improvements to the larger park (Concession 2).	Medium	Short-term	Moderate (\$\$) Community input required
26. Provide a balance of active and passive spaces within the parks system to support all-season recreation and sports, casual use and unstructured play, special events and cultural activities for users of all ages.	High	Ongoing	Best practice
27. Maintain a commitment to universal accessibility, safety, and comfort within the Township's parks system. Regularly consult with the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee and ensure compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Emphasize the provision of amenities such as benches/seating areas, bike racks, and shade (structures, tree canopy, etc.) in appropriate park types and along trails to address the needs of all age groups.	High	Ongoing	Best practice To be addressed through park redevelopment projects
28. Conduct a review of regulatory signage within each park (e.g., emergency contact information, smoking/vaping, restricted uses, etc.). Consideration may also be given to wayfinding signage and parks system mapping to assist users in finding and accessing other nearby parks.	Medium	Medium-term	Minor (\$)
29. Develop and/or update design plans for proposed parks in Colgan and Everett consistent with the recommendations in this Master Plan in order to create public awareness, support potential funding opportunities (e.g., grant applications), and advance park development.	High	Short-term	Minor (\$) Landscape architect
30. Utilize the conditions and processes proposed in this Master Plan to inform and guide the development process for new parks .	High	Ongoing	Best practice
31. Regularly review staffing levels and resources within the Public Works Department to ensure that they keep pace with the expanded parks system and/or changing responsibilities.	High	Ongoing	Best practice

ID.	Recommendation	Priority	Timing	Costs / Comments
32.	Regularly review park operating policies, maintenance practices, and service levels to ensure that they respond to local needs and represent an efficient use of resources.	High	Ongoing	Best practice
33.	Employ operating practices and technologies that promote operational savings and maintenance efficiencies (e.g., use of wood fibre safety mulch at playgrounds, selective reduction of mowing, use of low-to-no maintenance landscape treatments, litter-free park programs, etc.).	Medium	Ongoing	Best practice
Section 7: Parkland Policy and Land Needs Assessment				
34.	Use the Master Plan's parkland classification system to guide the development or redevelopment of parks and open spaces according to park type, size, service level, and the amenities that they provide.	High	Ongoing	Best practice
35.	Institute a program to actively monitor parkland acquisitions and track annual spending and allocation of cash-in-lieu funds.	High	Short-term	Requirement under the Planning Act
36.	Establish a municipal-wide parkland provision target of 2.35 hectares per 1,000 residents and seek to secure an additional 15.7 hectares of parkland to meet the post-2031 forecast of 17,650 residents (note: some, but not all, of this parkland is accounted for through future subdivisions). Achieving this target will require a range of tools, including but not limited to parkland dedication through the development approvals process.	High	Ongoing	See below
37.	Adopt a "Parkland First" approach that prioritizes parkland conveyance over cash-in-lieu of parkland in order to address future parkland requirements.	High	Ongoing	Best practice
38.	Utilize alternative parkland acquisition approaches beyond traditional land conveyance mechanisms as necessary to meet the Township's long-term parkland target. The Township is encouraged to actively pursue direct purchase of land in proximity to growing settlement areas.	High	Ongoing	Major (\$\$\$) if land acquisition is required (potential to offset costs through parkland reserve)

ID. Recommendation	Priority	Timing	Costs / Comments
Section 8: Implementation Road Map			
39. Supplement typical funding sources with alternative cost-sharing approaches to fund park improvements, such as (but not limited to) fundraising, grants, sponsorships, and various forms of collaboration.	High	Ongoing	Best practice
40. Use this Master Plan as a resource in developing the Township’s annual budget documents, Development Charges, secondary plans, and related studies. The Township is encouraged to establish a multi-year capital improvement and funding strategy to ensure that high priority park improvements are addressed in a timely manner.	High	Ongoing	Best practice
41. Implement a system for the implementation and annual review of the Master Plan. Consider using the Township’s online engagement platform to solicit public input on park projects and potential programming and events.	High	Ongoing	Best practice
42. Undertake a comprehensive review and update of the Parks Master Plan no later than 2034.	High	Longer-term	Moderate (\$\$)

Appendix A: Park Profiles






CENTRAL PARK

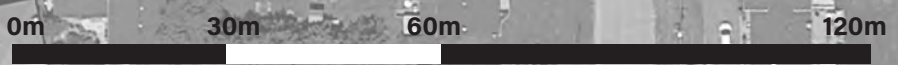


Loree Dr

Wales Ave N

Moore Ave

-  Court
-  Entrance
-  Green space
-  Play structure
-  Swing set



CENTRAL PARK

PLAY STRUCTURE



COURT



PLAY AREA



SWING SET



GREEN SPACE



COMMUNITY

Everett

ADDRESS

9 Loree Dr

PARK TYPE

Neighbourhood Park

ADJACENT LANDS

Residential

SIZE

0.79 ha

FRONTAGE

180 m

VISIBILITY

Excellent

PARKING

None

MAJOR AMENITIES






- Basketball court (full)
- Play structure (sand base)
- Swing set (sand base)

		RATING	NOTES
CONDITION	Quality of Construction Quality of Maintenance Status of Lifecycle Requirements	Average Average Average	Playground is at end of life
FUNCTIONALITY	Appropriate Size Quality of Design Safety and Visibility	Excellent Average Excellent	Site is fully fenced; good visibility on two streets
ACCESS	Pedestrian (sidewalk, trail) Nearby Parking Barrier-Free	Average Average Average	Park lacks internal pathways
VALUE-ADD	Comfort Features Uniqueness General Ambiance	Average Average Average	Ample open space for informal play activities
COMMENTS	Park has open space which is an opportunity for more amenities if needed. Site lacks shade, but trees are still maturing.		

DEKKER ST. PARK



Dekker St

-  Entrance
-  Green space
-  Water Treatment Plant
-  Play structure
-  Swing set



DEKKER ST. PARK

PLAY STRUCTURE



SWING SET



WATER TREATMENT PLANT



BENCH & GARBAGE



GREEN SPACE



COMMUNITY

Everett

ADDRESS

27 Dekker St

PARK TYPE

Neighbourhood Park

ADJACENT LANDS

Residential
Agricultural

SIZE

1.8 ha

FRONTAGE

83 m

VISIBILITY

Good

PARKING

Yes (informal)

MAJOR AMENITIES

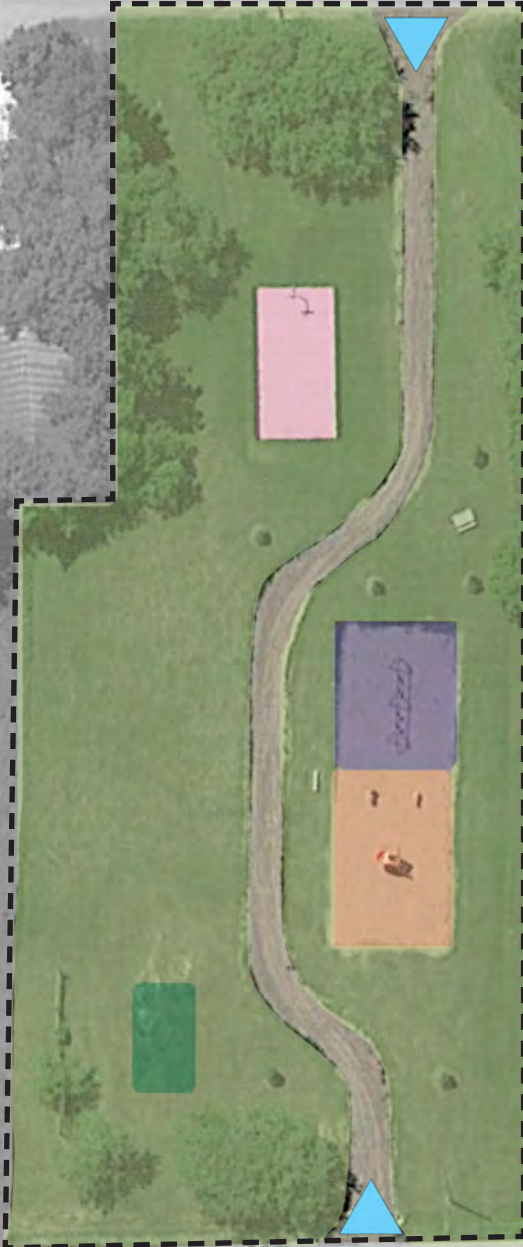
- Play structure (sand base)
- Swing set (sand base)







		RATING	NOTES
CONDITION	Quality of Construction Quality of Maintenance Status of Lifecycle Requirements	Average Average Average	Playground is approaching end of life (2004)
FUNCTIONALITY	Appropriate Size Quality of Design Safety and Visibility	Average Average Excellent	Large open space area - underutilized
ACCESS	Pedestrian (sidewalk, trail) Nearby Parking Barrier-Free	Average Average Poor	Playground has accessible features but lacks pathway;
VALUE-ADD	Comfort Features Uniqueness General Ambiance	Poor Average Average	Site lacks shade
COMMENTS	Large neighbourhood park mostly comprised of open space. Shared with waste water treatment facility. Parking area is not well defined.		

GLENCAIRN PARK (Concession 2)

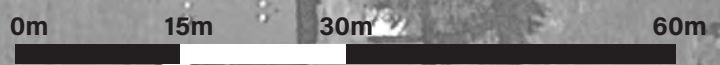


Concession Rd 2

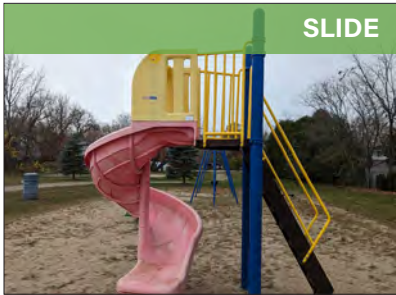


-  **Community garden**
-  **Court**
-  **Entrance**
-  **Green space**
-  **Play structure**
-  **Swing set**

Grieve St



GLENCAIRN PARK (Concession 2)



SLIDE



BASKETBALL COURT



SWING SET



COMMUNITY GARDEN



PATH THROUGH SITE

COMMUNITY

Glencairn

ADDRESS

8757 Concession Rd 2

PARK TYPE

Neighbourhood Park

ADJACENT LANDS

Residential

SIZE

0.2 ha

FRONTAGE

80 m (access from two streets)

VISIBILITY

Excellent

PARKING

None

MAJOR AMENITIES

- Basketball court (half)
- Community garden
- Path (gravel)
- Play structure - slide (sand base)
- Swing set (sand base)

		RATING	NOTES
CONDITION	Quality of Construction Quality of Maintenance Status of Lifecycle Requirements	Average Average Average	Playground and court installed in 2012
FUNCTIONALITY	Appropriate Size Quality of Design Safety and Visibility	Average Average Average	Frontage onto two streets
ACCESS	Pedestrian (sidewalk, trail) Nearby Parking Barrier-Free	Average Average Average	Walking path (gravel) through site
VALUE-ADD	Comfort Features Uniqueness General Ambiance	Poor Average Average	Site lacks curb appeal
COMMENTS	Well equipped park centrally located to Glencairn.		

GLENCAIRN PARK (Webster Road)



Webster Rd



Entrance



Green space



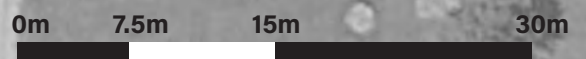
Play structure



Swing set

Evan Ave

Frame St



GLENCAIRN PARK (Webster Road)



SWING SET



PLAY STRUCTURE



BENCH



OVERVIEW OF PARK



GARBAGE

COMMUNITY

Glencairn

ADDRESS

8825 Webster Rd

PARK TYPE

Parkette

ADJACENT LANDS

Residential

SIZE

0.06 ha

FRONTAGE

83 m (from all streets)

VISIBILITY

Excellent

PARKING

None







MAJOR AMENITIES

- Play structure (sand base)
- Swing set (sand base)

		RATING	NOTES
CONDITION	Quality of Construction	Average	Playground is at end of life
	Quality of Maintenance	Average	
	Status of Lifecycle Requirements	Poor	
FUNCTIONALITY	Appropriate Size	Average	Small, residential size lot with frontage on three streets
	Quality of Design	Average	
	Safety and Visibility	Average	
ACCESS	Pedestrian (sidewalk, trail)	Poor	Site is fully fenced; no parking, no sidewalks
	Nearby Parking	Poor	
	Barrier-Free	Poor	
VALUE-ADD	Comfort Features	Poor	Potential to serve as gateway from the East
	Uniqueness	Poor	
	General Ambiance	Poor	
COMMENTS	Small park that is a candidate for redesign to more passive uses. Playground exists at nearby park (Glencairn, Concession 2) and could be removed.		

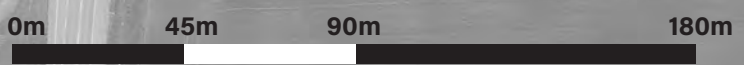
HALEY PARK



-  **Ball diamond**
-  **Entrance**
-  **Green space**
-  **Parking**
-  **Play structure**
-  **Rectangular fields**

County Road 50

Joseph St



HALEY PARK

PLAY STRUCTURES



PLAY STRUCTURE



PATH THROUGH SITE



PARKING ON-SITE



RECTANGULAR FIELD



COMMUNITY

Loretto

ADDRESS

2774 County Rd 50

PARK TYPE

Community Park

ADJACENT LANDS

Residential
Agricultural

SIZE

3.96 ha

FRONTAGE

200 m

VISIBILITY

Good

PARKING

Yes - (off-street)

MAJOR AMENITIES

- Softball diamond (adult)
- Parking (asphalt)
- Play structure - 2 (wood fibre base)
- Swing set (wood fibre base)
- Rectangular fields - 1 full, 1 mini
- Walking path (gravel)

		RATING	NOTES
CONDITION	Quality of Construction	Excellent	Recent improvements (playground, parking lot, ball diamond in 2023)
	Quality of Maintenance	Average	
	Status of Lifecycle Requirements	Excellent	
FUNCTIONALITY	Appropriate Size	Excellent	Multiple sports fields provide opportunity for organized and casual play
	Quality of Design	Excellent	
	Safety and Visibility	Average	
ACCESS	Pedestrian (sidewalk, trail)	Poor	Large paved parking lot; but located on County Rd making walking difficult
	Nearby Parking	Excellent	
	Barrier-Free	Excellent	
VALUE-ADD	Comfort Features	Average	Despite having sports fields, site lacks washrooms
	Uniqueness	Excellent	
	General Ambiance	Average	
COMMENTS	Located at edge of Loretto on busy County Road. Planned phase 2 improvements include extended pathway, etc.		

JOHN O. IRWIN BALL DIAMOND / VETERANS PARK



Main St

-  **Ball diamond**
-  **Centotaph**
-  **Entrance**
-  **Green space**
-  **Play structure**
-  **Washroom / pumping station**



JOHN O. IRWIN BALL DIAMOND / VETERANS PARK

BALL DIAMOND



NEW PLAY STRUCTURE



WASHROOM / PUMPING STATION



OLDER PLAY STRUCTURE



HISTORICAL PLAQUE



COMMUNITY

Everett

ADDRESS

8186 Main St

PARK TYPE

Community Park

ADJACENT LANDS

Residential

SIZE

2.2 ha

FRONTAGE

100 m

VISIBILITY

Good

PARKING

Yes (off-street)

MAJOR AMENITIES

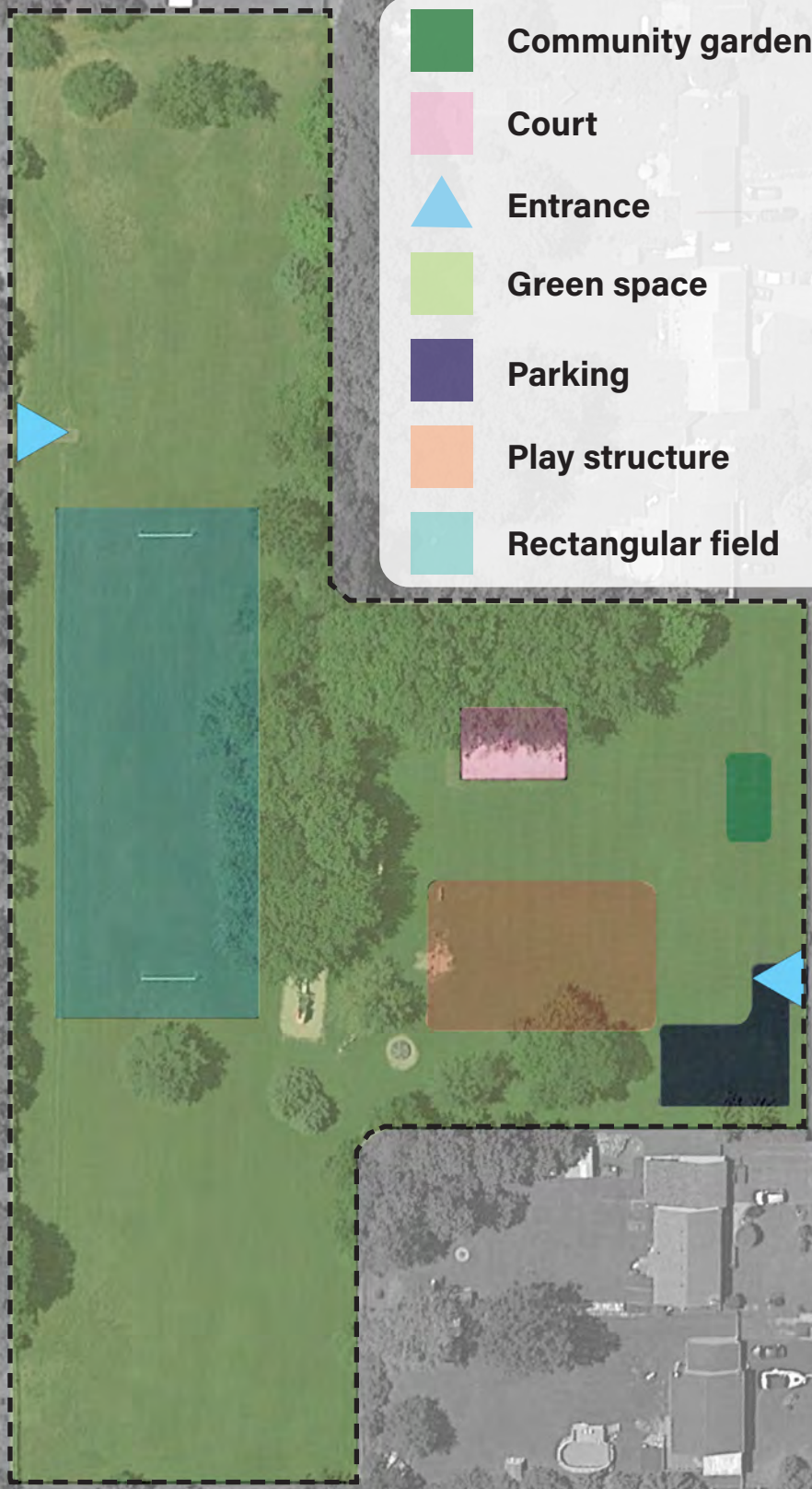
- Batting cage
- Hardball diamond (adult)
- Play structure (sand base)
- Play structure (wood fibre)
- Washroom building

		RATING	NOTES
CONDITION	Quality of Construction Quality of Maintenance Status of Lifecycle Requirements	Average Average Average	Recent improvement (playground 2023)
FUNCTIONALITY	Appropriate Size Quality of Design Safety and Visibility	Average Average Average	Diamond suitable for most adult hardball activities (unlit)
ACCESS	Pedestrian (sidewalk, trail) Nearby Parking Barrier-Free	Average Excellent Average	Park contains on-site parking (poorly defined)
VALUE-ADD	Comfort Features Uniqueness General Ambiance	Excellent Average Average	Park contains permanent washroom building
COMMENTS	Well used baseball park with public washroom and cenotaph. Centrally located in Everett.		

LISLE MEMORIAL PARK

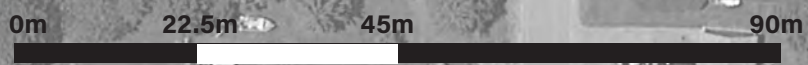


-  Community garden
-  Court
-  Entrance
-  Green space
-  Parking
-  Play structure
-  Rectangular field



Market St

Princess Dr



LISLE MEMORIAL PARK

PLAY STRUCTURES



OFF-STREET PARKING



COMMUNITY GARDEN



RECTANGULAR FIELD



BASKETBALL COURT



COMMUNITY

Lisle

ADDRESS

33 Princess Dr

PARK TYPE

Neighbourhood Park

ADJACENT LANDS

Residential

SIZE

0.5 ha

FRONTAGE

73 m

VISIBILITY

Good

PARKING

Yes (off-street) - limited

MAJOR AMENITIES

- Basketball court (half)
- Community garden
- Informal play field
- Parking (gravel)
- Play structure (wood fibre base)

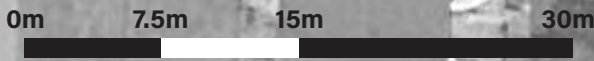
		RATING	NOTES
CONDITION	Quality of Construction	Excellent	Recent improvements (playground - 2023, parking lot - 2023, court - 2012)
	Quality of Maintenance	Excellent	
	Status of Lifecycle Requirements	Excellent	
FUNCTIONALITY	Appropriate Size	Average	Rear portion of park is not well used due to irregular configuration
	Quality of Design	Excellent	
	Safety and Visibility	Average	
ACCESS	Pedestrian (sidewalk, trail)	Average	Site offers off-street parking and accessible path to playground
	Nearby Parking	Excellent	
	Barrier-Free	Excellent	
VALUE-ADD	Comfort Features	Average	Mature trees provide shade
	Uniqueness	Excellent	
	General Ambiance	Excellent	
COMMENTS	Centrally located within Lisle. Front end of park contains most amenities; open space at rear is under-utilized (non-regulation size soccer field)		

PINE PARK



-  Entrance
-  Green space
-  Play structure
-  Swing set

Pine Park Blvd



PINE PARK

OVERVIEW OF PARK



SLIDE



SWING SET



BENCH



PUMPING STATION



COMMUNITY

Everett

ADDRESS

16 Pine Park Blvd

PARK TYPE

Parkette

ADJACENT LANDS

Residential
Pumping Station

SIZE

0.07 ha

FRONTAGE

23 m

VISIBILITY

Good

PARKING

None

MAJOR AMENITIES

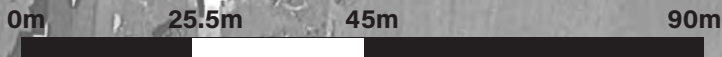
- Play structure - slide (sand base)
- Swing set (sand base)

		RATING	NOTES
CONDITION	Quality of Construction	Average	Site requires regular leaf / debris clean-up due to adjacent woodlot
	Quality of Maintenance	Average	
	Status of Lifecycle Requirements	Average	
FUNCTIONALITY	Appropriate Size	Poor	Good visibility, but playground located close to local street
	Quality of Design	Average	
	Safety and Visibility	Average	
ACCESS	Pedestrian (sidewalk, trail)	Poor	Swale / ditch located along frontage
	Nearby Parking	Poor	
	Barrier-Free	Poor	
VALUE-ADD	Comfort Features	Poor	Park is largely shaded
	Uniqueness	Excellent	
	General Ambiance	Excellent	
COMMENTS	Small parkette that provides localized play opportunities for nearby residents. Located adjacent to pumping station.		

ROSEMONT COMMUNITY PARK



-  Court
-  Entrance
-  Green space
-  Pumping station
-  Play structure
-  Swing set



ROSEMONT COMMUNITY PARK

MULTI-USE COURT



GREEN SPACE



PLAY STRUCTURES



PLAY STRUCTURE



ENTRANCE



COMMUNITY

Rosemont

ADDRESS

2 Park St

PARK TYPE

Neighbourhood Park

ADJACENT LANDS

Residential

SIZE

1.21 ha

FRONTAGE

15 m

VISIBILITY

Poor

PARKING

Yes (off-street) - limited








MAJOR AMENITIES

- Multi-use pad (basketball, ball hockey)
- Play structures (sand base)

		RATING	NOTES
CONDITION	Quality of Construction	Average	Recent improvements (playground 2019), though some older features remain
	Quality of Maintenance	Average	
	Status of Lifecycle Requirements	Average	
FUNCTIONALITY	Appropriate Size	Average	Site has one narrow entrance and is otherwise backlotted with low visibility
	Quality of Design	Average	
	Safety and Visibility	Poor	
ACCESS	Pedestrian (sidewalk, trail)	Poor	Rolling terrain may create some accessibility challenges
	Nearby Parking	Average	
	Barrier-Free	Poor	
VALUE-ADD	Comfort Features	Average	Mature trees provide ample shade
	Uniqueness	Excellent	
	General Ambiance	Excellent	
COMMENTS	Centrally-located park in Rosemont offering open space, shade, and play opportunities (playground, court).		

ROSS HOUSTON MEMORIAL PARK



-  Ball diamond
-  Clubhouse
-  Entrance
-  Green space
-  Parking
-  Pavillion
-  Play structure
-  Swing set
-  Washrooms (vault)

Concession Rd 4

0m 30m 60m 120m

ROSS HOUSTON MEMORIAL PARK

BALL DIAMOND



PAVILLION



PLAY STRUCTURE



SEATING AREA



SWING SET



COMMUNITY

Lisle

SIZE

2.5 ha

ADDRESS

8090 Concession Rd 4

FRONTAGE

123 m

PARK TYPE

Community Park

VISIBILITY

Good

ADJACENT LANDS

Agriculture
Residential

PARKING

Yes - (off-street)

MAJOR AMENITIES

- Clubhouse (portable trailer)
- Hardball diamond (adult, unlit)
- Parking (grass)
- Play structure (sand base)
- Swing set (sand base)

		RATING	NOTES
CONDITION	Quality of Construction	Average	Playground is at end of life
	Quality of Maintenance	Excellent	
	Status of Lifecycle Requirements	Average	
FUNCTIONALITY	Appropriate Size	Excellent	Predominantly serves as park for adult baseball team (assist with maintenance)
	Quality of Design	Average	
	Safety and Visibility	Average	
ACCESS	Pedestrian (sidewalk, trail)	Poor	Sufficient on-site parking
	Nearby Parking	Excellent	
	Barrier-Free	Average	
VALUE-ADD	Comfort Features	Average	Contains shelter, concession, and washrooms (vault)
	Uniqueness	Excellent	
	General Ambiance	Excellent	
COMMENTS	Located at edge of Lisle and is a quiet setting. An underutilized open space area at rear of property.		

STANLEY H. BAILEY PARK



Fisher Dr



-  Ball diamond
-  Entrance
-  Green space

0m 15m 30m 60m

Main St

STANLEY H. BAILEY PARK

BALL DIAMOND



BALL DIAMOND



DUGOUTS



COMMUNITY

Everett

ADDRESS

29 Fisher Dr

PARK TYPE

Neighbourhood Park

ADJACENT LANDS

Residential

SIZE

0.8 ha

FRONTAGE

11.5 m

VISIBILITY

Poor

PARKING

None

MAJOR AMENITIES

- Softball diamond (junior)

		RATING	NOTES
CONDITION	Quality of Construction	Poor	Low usage diamond; infield improvements would help with maintenance
	Quality of Maintenance	Poor	
	Status of Lifecycle Requirements	Average	
FUNCTIONALITY	Appropriate Size	Average	Park serves as an extension of John O. Irwin Ball Diamond
	Quality of Design	Average	
	Safety and Visibility	Average	
ACCESS	Pedestrian (sidewalk, trail)	Average	Parking is on-street or within adjacent park
	Nearby Parking	Average	
	Barrier-Free	Average	
VALUE-ADD	Comfort Features	Average	Washrooms in adjacent park
	Uniqueness	Average	
	General Ambiance	Average	
COMMENTS	Park is adjacent to John O. Irwin Ball Diamond / Veterans Park.		

WARDENS PARK



-  Entrance
-  Green space
-  Municipal building
-  Parking
-  Pavillion
-  Play structure
-  Rectangular fields
-  Swing set

30 Sideroad

Simcoe County Rd 50



WARDENS PARK

PLAY STRUCTURES



RECTANGULAR FIELDS



PAVILLION



WALKING TRACK



PLAY STRUCTURES



COMMUNITY

Municipal Centre / Rural

ADDRESS

7855 Sideroad 30

PARK TYPE

Community Park

ADJACENT LANDS

Agricultural

SIZE

10.5 ha

FRONTAGE

500 m

VISIBILITY

Excellent

PARKING

Yes (off-street)

MAJOR AMENITIES

- Gazebo
- Parking (gravel)
- Play structures (sand base)
- Play structures (wood fibre base)
- Swing set (wood fibre base)
- Rectangular fields (1 full, 2 intermediate)
- Walking path loop (paved, 1.35km)

		RATING	NOTES
CONDITION	Quality of Construction Quality of Maintenance Status of Lifecycle Requirements	Excellent Excellent Average	Recent improvements (playground 2023)
FUNCTIONALITY	Appropriate Size Quality of Design Safety and Visibility	Excellent Excellent Excellent	Township's largest park with ample open space
ACCESS	Pedestrian (sidewalk, trail) Nearby Parking Barrier-Free	Poor Excellent Excellent	Large parking lot; walking path is paved, accessible and well-used
VALUE-ADD	Comfort Features Uniqueness General Ambiance	Average Excellent Average	Gazebo and walking path are unique features; no after-hours washroom
COMMENTS	Co-located with Municipal Centre. Park is large and has opportunity for more amenities. Rural location means that park users must drive; site can be windy.		

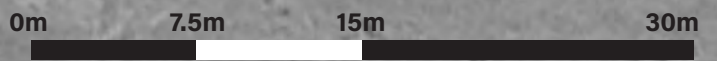
WECA PARK



John St



-  Entrance
-  Green space
-  Play structure
-  Swing set



WECA PARK

PLAY STRUCTURE



SWING SET



SENSORY PLAY



BENCH



SIGNAGE



COMMUNITY

Loretto

ADDRESS

1 John St

PARK TYPE

Parkette

ADJACENT LANDS

Residential

SIZE

0.1 ha

FRONTAGE

19.5 m

VISIBILITY

Good

PARKING

None

MAJOR AMENITIES

- Play structure (sand base)
- Swing set (sand base)

		RATING	NOTES
CONDITION	Quality of Construction	Poor	Playground is at end of life
	Quality of Maintenance	Average	
	Status of Lifecycle Requirements	Poor	
FUNCTIONALITY	Appropriate Size	Poor	Small Parkette (residential lot)
	Quality of Design	Poor	
	Safety and Visibility	Average	
ACCESS	Pedestrian (sidewalk, trail)	Average	Area lacks sidewalks
	Nearby Parking	Average	
	Barrier-Free	Poor	
VALUE-ADD	Comfort Features	Poor	Mature trees line edges of park
	Uniqueness	Poor	
	General Ambiance	Average	
COMMENTS	This is the Township's smallest park, located centrally within the community of Loretto.		

WILLIAMS PARK



County Road 1



Entrance



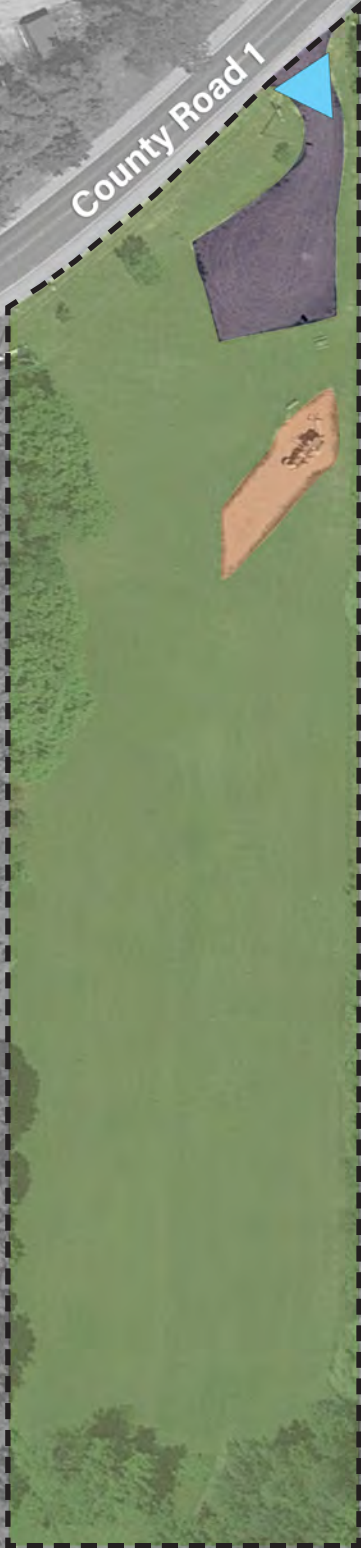
Green space



Parking



Play structure



0m 22.5m 45m 90m



WILLIAMS PARK

PLAY STRUCTURE



GREEN SPACE



PARKING



CONNECTION TO SIDEWALK



PICNIC TABLE



COMMUNITY

Hockley

ADDRESS

9395 County Rd 1

PARK TYPE

Neighbourhood Park

ADJACENT LANDS

Residential

SIZE

1.02 ha

FRONTAGE

67 m

VISIBILITY

Good

PARKING

Yes (off-street)

MAJOR AMENITIES

- Parking (gravel)
- Play structure (sand base)

		RATING	NOTES
CONDITION	Quality of Construction Quality of Maintenance Status of Lifecycle Requirements	Poor Average Average	Playground is at end of life
FUNCTIONALITY	Appropriate Size Quality of Design Safety and Visibility	Average Poor Average	Park is narrow and deep, with substantial open space
ACCESS	Pedestrian (sidewalk, trail) Nearby Parking Barrier-Free	Average Excellent Poor	Park has off-street parking
VALUE-ADD	Comfort Features Uniqueness General Ambiance	Poor Average Poor	Park lacks imagination and curb appeal
COMMENTS	Park is located at edge of Hockley on busy County road. Ample open space to add amenities if needed.		

Appendix B: Record of Public Input

Participation

1) Which of the following Township Parks have you or members of your household used in the past 12 months? (Select all that apply)

	#	%
Central Park (Everett)	44	22%
Dekker St. Park (Everett)	32	16%
Glencairn Park – Concession Rd. 2 (Glencairn)	34	17%
Glencairn Park – Webster Rd. (Glencairn)	26	13%
Haley Park (Loretto)	39	20%
John O. Irwin Ball Diamond (Everett)	34	17%
Lisle Memorial Park (Lisle)	17	9%
None	57	29%
Pine Park (Everett)	26	13%
Rosemont Community Park (Rosemont)	4	2%
Ross Houston Memorial Park (Everett)	16	8%
Stanley H. Bailey Park (Everett)	15	8%
Wardens' Park (Township Offices)	49	25%
Weca Park (Loretto)	21	11%
Williams Park (Hockley)	12	6%
answered question	198	
skipped question	0	

2) In the past 12 months, how often did you or members of your household use a Township park? (Select one only)

	#	%
Everyday	9	5%
Almost daily	28	16%
Once a week	41	23%
A few times a month	46	26%
Once a month	16	9%
Less than once a month	35	20%
answered question	175	100%
skipped question	23	

3) Typically, how do you or members of your household travel to Township parks that you use the most?

	#	%
Drive / private vehicle	50	29%
Walk	109	62%
Bike	16	9%
answered question	175	100%
skipped question	23	

4) What are the main reasons your household uses parks in Adjala-Tosorontio? (Select all that apply)

	#	%	Other (please specify)	#
For fitness or recreation	93	53%	Dog Walking	12
For nature appreciation	42	24%		
To participate in sports	39	22%		
To watch your children play	108	62%		
To attend events	18	10%		
To socialize, picnic, etc.	54	31%		
Other (specify)	14	8%		
answered question	175			
skipped question	23			

5) In the past 12 months, which of the following outdoor recreation activities have you or anyone in your household participated in, either in Adjala-Tosorontio or elsewhere? (Select all that apply)

	#	%	Other (please specify)	#
Ball hockey	33	18%	Hockey	1
Baseball or softball	59	32%	Roller skating	2
Basketball	37	20%	Downhill skiing	2
Beach volleyball	12	7%	Enduro Riding	1
Bird watching	26	14%	Hunting	1
BMX biking	12	7%		
Community garden plot	17	9%		
Cross-country skiing	12	7%		
Cycling off-road	25	14%		
Cycling on-road	43	23%		
Disc Golf	11	6%		
Dog walking (on or off-leash)	100	54%		
Enjoyment of parks and open spaces	105	57%		
Fishing	34	18%		
Football, rugby, or lacrosse	11	6%		
Golf	37	20%		
Ice skating	59	32%		
Jogging	29	16%		
Lawn bowling	3	2%		
Soccer	51	28%		
Special event (e.g., Canada Day, etc.)	44	24%		
Swimming	56	30%		
Pickleball	24	13%		
Picnicking	35	19%		
Rowing, canoeing, kayaking	15	8%		
Skateboarding	12	7%		
Snowshoeing	10	5%		
Tennis	12	7%		
Use of a splash pad	58	32%		
Use of playground equipment	98	53%		
Walking on paths or trails	110	60%		
Other (specify):	7	4%		
answered question		184		
skipped question		14		

6) Are you and members of your household able to participate in park activities as often as you like?

	#	%
Yes	113	61%
No	71	39%
answered question		184 100%
skipped question		14

7) If you answered "NO" to the previous question: Why are you and members of your household not able to participate in park activities as often as you would like? (Select up to three)

	#	%
Lack of personal time / too busy	25	36%
Parks are too far away	14	20%
Parks do not have necessary recreation amenities (fields, courts, playgrounds, etc.)	44	64%
Parks are not physically accessible	4	6%
Parks do not have necessary support amenities (washrooms, parking, shade etc.)	23	33%
Parks are not well maintained	12	17%
Unaware of where parks are located	4	6%
Parks are too busy	1	1%
Don't feel safe using parks	2	3%
Health problems or disability	5	7%
Not interested in participating in park activities	1	1%
answered question		69
skipped question		129

8) **Where does your household participate in outdoor recreation activities most often? (Select up to three)**

	#	%	Other (specify):	#
Public park in the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	102	58%	Roads around the township	1
Public park in another municipality	75	42%	Community recreation centres	2
County Forest, Conservation Area or Provincial Park	69	39%	Workplace	1
Private recreation facility or club	50	28%		
Home	66	37%		
School	24	14%		
Other (specify):	4	2%		
answered question	177			
skipped question	21			

9) **Generally, what proportion of your household's parks and outdoor recreation needs are met within the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio? (Select one only)**

	#	%
All (100%)	10	6%
Most (67-99%)	27	15%
About Half (34-66%)	47	27%
Some (1-33%)	81	46%
None (0%)	12	7%
answered question	177	100%
skipped question	21	

10) What two outdoor recreation activities do you or members of your household participate in most frequently outside of Adjala-Tosorontio?

	#	%
Badminton	1	1%
Ball hockey	11	7%
Baseball/softball	27	18%
Basketball	6	4%
Beach volleyball	1	1%
Being outdoors	1	1%
Biking	7	5%
Birding/nature appreciation	2	1%
Camping	3	2%
Cornhole	1	1%
Crossfit	1	1%
Cycling	2	1%
Dirt bike / ATV trail riding	1	1%
Disc Golf	1	1%
Dog park/walking	7	5%
Equestrian	1	1%
Fishing	3	2%
Fitness	5	3%
Golf	3	2%
Hiking	3	2%
Hockey/skating	23	16%
Jogging/running	2	1%
Kayaking	2	1%
Parks	10	7%
Pickleball	20	14%
Picnicking	3	2%
Playground equipment	16	11%
Pump track	1	1%
Skateboarding/BMX	4	3%
Skiing/snowboarding	12	8%
Soccer	6	4%
Splash pad	14	10%
Strength training	1	1%
Swimming	17	12%
Tennis	4	3%
Trails	2	1%
various	7	5%
Walking/hiking	39	27%
Water activities	1	1%
Yoga	2	1%
answered question	147	
skipped question	51	

11) 12) Where do you primarily participate in the activity from the previous question)? (Select all that apply)

	#	%	Other (specify):	#
Town of Caledon	31	21%	Acton	1
Town of Mono	20	13%	Barrie	7
Township of Clearview	28	19%	Blue mountain	4
Township of Essa	45	30%	Bradford West Gwillimbury	1
Township of Mulmur	15	10%	CFB Borden	5
Town of New Tecumseth	166	111%	Dufferin County	4
Other (specify)	33	22%	Durham Region	1
answered question	149		East Gwillimbury	2
skipped question	49		Grey County	1
			Innisfil	1
			locally	9
			Maple	1
			Mount Albert	2
			Muskoka	1
			Orangeville	2
			Parry Sound	1
			Simcoe County	9
			Sundridge	1
			various	13
			Vaughan	1
			Wasaga Beach	2
			Wellington County	1

12) Why does your household participate in these activities outside of Adjala-Tosorontio? (Select up to three)

	#	%	Other (specify):	#
Connected to other community / used to live there	25	16%	More accessible playground equipment	1
Closer to home	14	9%	More options	2
Closer to work or school	4	3%	activity not in Adjala-Tosorontio	1
Park / program is not available in Adjala-Tosorontio	119	77%		
Park / program not available at the preferred time	9	6%		
Less expensive	3	2%		
Quality of park / program is better	52	34%		
Tournaments / special events / travel team	12	8%		
Other (specify)	12	8%		
answered question	155			
skipped question	43			

Program and Activity Gaps

13) Are there any parks and outdoor recreation activities that you or members of your household would like to see offered in the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio that are not currently available?

	#	%
Yes	111	71%
No	46	29%
answered question	157	100%
skipped question	41	

14) If you answered “YES” to the previous question: What activities would you like to see offered? (List up to two)

	#	%
Crosswalks	1	1%
Ball hockey	6	4%
Baseball	6	4%
Basketball	7	4%
Better accessibility to playgrounds/parks	1	1%
Daycamps	1	1%
Disc golf	18	11%
Dog park	1	1%
Gaga ball pit	1	1%
Lighting in parks	9	6%
More adult recreation activities in parks	1	1%
More outdoor picnic/gazebo areas	3	2%
More recreational activities	11	7%
More/updated playground equipment	3	2%
Multi-purpose court	1	1%
Outdoor fitness equipment	1	1%
Outdoor rink	1	1%
Outdoor skating	2	1%
Pickleball	1	1%
Pump track/skateboard park	2	1%
Skating/hockey	6	4%
Snow Shoeing/Cross Country Skiing	5	3%
Soccer	1	1%
Splash pad	1	1%
Sport leagues	2	1%
Swimming	21	13%
Tee-ball	1	1%
Tennis	3	2%
Trails - Biking	15	9%
Trails - Hiking	1	1%
various sports	3	2%
Volleyball	3	2%
Walking track around parks	1	1%
Water fountains/washrooms	3	2%
Yoga	15	9%
answered question	158	
skipped question	40	

15) If the Township were to upgrade local parks in Adjala-Tosorontio, which age groups should be the highest priorities? (Select up to three)

	#	%
Pre-School (4 years and under)	44	28%
Children (5 – 12 years)	98	62%
Teens (13 – 18 years)	67	43%
Adults (19 – 54 years)	42	27%
Older Adults (55 – 69 years)	33	21%
Seniors (70 years and older)	17	11%
Families	47	30%
Persons with Disabilities	24	15%
answered question	157	
skipped question	41	

Additional Investment

16) The Township collects property taxes in part to support park maintenance and improvements. Changes to these services may result in higher property taxes. With this in mind, how important is it to you that the Township spends additional public funds on improving the following parks and outdoor recreation facility types?

	Not at all Important		Not Important		Important		Very Important		Don't Know		Answered		Skipped
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Ball hockey rinks	34	23%	36	24%	56	37%	15	10%	9	6%	150	100%	48
Baseball or softball diamonds	30	20%	25	17%	60	40%	30	20%	5	3%	150	100%	48
Basketball courts (outdoor)	28	19%	25	17%	69	46%	19	13%	8	5%	149	100%	49
Beach volleyball courts	58	39%	49	33%	32	22%	3	2%	6	4%	148	100%	50
BMX pump tracks / bike parks	43	29%	37	25%	43	29%	17	11%	8	5%	148	100%	50
Canoe / kayak launches	57	39%	34	23%	43	29%	6	4%	8	5%	148	100%	50
Community allotment gardens	42	28%	38	25%	43	29%	17	11%	10	7%	150	100%	48
Hard surface trails or walking loops	23	15%	19	13%	69	46%	36	24%	3	2%	150	100%	48
Natural trails or paths	11	7%	15	10%	70	47%	52	35%	2	1%	150	100%	48
Off-leash dog areas	43	29%	40	27%	34	23%	22	15%	8	5%	147	100%	51
Off-road signed cycling trails	33	22%	31	21%	49	33%	21	14%	14	9%	148	100%	50
On-road bike routes (shared)	40	26%	35	23%	44	29%	18	12%	14	9%	151	100%	47
Outdoor fitness equipment	35	23%	42	28%	47	32%	17	11%	8	5%	149	100%	49
Outdoor ice rinks (natural ice)	16	11%	19	13%	71	47%	37	25%	7	5%	150	100%	48
Outdoor swimming pools	33	22%	35	24%	41	28%	32	22%	7	5%	148	100%	50
Parking lots in parks	28	19%	34	23%	64	43%	14	9%	9	6%	149	100%	49
Pavilions / gazebos	23	15%	36	24%	68	45%	19	13%	5	3%	151	100%	47
Pickleball courts	36	24%	39	26%	40	26%	22	15%	14	9%	151	100%	47
Playgrounds	14	9%	12	8%	56	37%	65	43%	3	2%	150	100%	48
Pollinator gardens	29	19%	33	22%	46	31%	34	23%	8	5%	150	100%	48
Seating / benches in parks	14	9%	12	8%	81	54%	38	25%	5	3%	150	100%	48
Skateboard parks	39	26%	47	32%	45	30%	7	5%	11	7%	149	100%	49
Soccer and multi-use fields	23	16%	13	9%	82	56%	25	17%	4	3%	147	100%	51
Splash pads	31	21%	25	17%	41	28%	47	32%	5	3%	149	100%	49
Tennis courts	32	21%	52	34%	43	28%	15	10%	9	6%	151	100%	47
Tree planting initiatives	15	10%	18	12%	54	36%	53	35%	12	8%	152	100%	46
Washrooms in parks	14	9%	8	5%	68	45%	55	37%	5	3%	150	100%	48
Other													
Taxes too high already													4
Indoor pool													1
Native plantings													1
Lighting, charging stations, accessible pathways													1
Lights to cross over Hwy 50 to Haley Park													1
Dirt bike trail													1
Naturalized play areas													1
Timed lights for use in the evening													1
fountains, historical information displays, native plantings													1
Multi-use parks that are accessible													1

Key Priorities

17) Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Agree		Strongly agree		Don't Know		Answered		Skipped
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Investment in parks and open spaces should be a high priority for Township Council.	11	7%	11	7%	55	36%	71	47%	4	3%	152	100%	46
The Township's parks meet the needs of all ages, from young to old.	39	26%	51	34%	37	24%	17	11%	8	5%	152	100%	46
Your household would participate in outdoor activities more often if Township parks were improved.	4	3%	13	9%	51	34%	80	53%	4	3%	152	100%	46
The Township should acquire new parkland to expand the park system.	18	12%	37	24%	44	29%	35	23%	18	12%	152	100%	46
You are confident that you know where most local parks and open spaces are located.	2	1%	25	16%	80	53%	39	26%	6	4%	152	100%	46
The Township should consider selling small parks that are under-utilized and surplus to needs.	29	19%	34	23%	45	30%	23	15%	20	13%	151	100%	47
Community fundraising should be used to help offset park improvement costs.	8	5%	18	12%	81	53%	32	21%	13	9%	152	100%	46
The Township's parks are conveniently located.	2	1%	13	9%	108	71%	20	13%	9	6%	152	100%	46
The Township should rely on neighbouring municipalities for most outdoor recreation programs and sports.	38	25%	58	39%	33	22%	11	7%	10	7%	150	100%	48
You would be interested in volunteering to support outdoor ice rinks or community gardens in parks.	9	6%	30	20%	62	41%	15	10%	36	24%	152	100%	46

18) Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you may have regarding parks and open spaces in the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio. (Open-Ended Response)

Top Ten Themes	Comments
Infrastructure improvements	crosswalk to Haley Park (HWY 50), sidewalks, lighting in parks, benches
Outdoor recreation courts and pads	pickleball, splash pads, hockey rink
Park maintenance and updates	maintain existing parks, keep Weca Park open and update, improve baseball diamonds
Tax concerns	high taxes, reluctance to support projects if they lead to increased taxes
Community engagement and fundraising	involve community groups, understand that these groups help clean up the diamonds
Information and publicity	better publicity of existing parks and amenities, improve information on township website, maps, highlight trails and recreation areas
Connectivity and safety	connectivity from neighbourhoods to parks, crosswalks, off-road trails, pedestrian safety measures
Youth and teen activities	focus on providing for youth and teens, bike trails, bmx, splash pad
Environmental initiatives	pollinator gardens, natural play areas for children (no mow areas) wildflower meadows, forested areas
Collaboration with neighbouring communities	Partner up with Earl Provincial Park and neighbouring municipalities to provide year-round access to facilities and trail networks

Demographic Information

19) How many people including yourself, live in your household?

	#	%
1	1	1%
2	36	24%
3	14	9%
4	55	37%
5	31	21%
6	9	6%
7	2	1%
answered question	148	100%
skipped question	50	

20) Please indicate the total number of people within your household that fall into the following age categories.

	#	%
Under 10 years	66	20%
10-19 years	52	16%
20-34 years	46	14%
35-54 years	104	32%
55-69 years	43	13%
70 years or older	13	4%
total people in households	324	100%
average persons per household	2.19	

21) How old are you?

	#	%
Under 20 years	0	0%
20 – 34 years	23	15%
35 – 54 years	88	59%
55 – 69 years	25	17%
70 years or older	6	4%
Prefer not to say	7	5%
answered question	149	100%
skipped question	49	

22) Which choice best describes your household?

	#	%
Couple with no children / empty nesters	27	18%
Couple with children living at home	102	69%
Single parent with children	3	2%
Extended family	5	3%
Adult living alone	1	1%
Prefer not to say	10	7%
Other (specify):	0	0%
answered question	148	100%
skipped question	50	

23) In which part of Adjala-Tosorontio do you live closest to?

	#	%
Colgan	4	3%
Everett	56	38%
Glencairn	20	13%
Hockley	5	3%
Keensansville	1	1%
Lisle	26	17%
Loretto	27	18%
Rosemont	3	2%
Tioga	3	2%
Do not live in Adjala-Tosorontio	4	3%
answered question	149	100%
skipped question	49	

in which community do you reside	
Caledon	1
Innisfil	1
New Tecumseth	1
Rural	1

24) How long have you lived in Adjala-Tosorontio?

	#	%
Less than 5 years	34	23%
5 to 9 years	36	24%
10 to 19 years	27	18%
20 years or more	51	34%
Do not live in Adjala-Tosorontio	2	1%
answered question	150	100%
skipped question	48	