

TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN



January 2010

TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
JANUARY 2010

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a tool that will be used by the Township of West Lincoln, stakeholders and the general public in determining the effective delivery of parks and recreation facilities within the Township and determine future directions or changes that are required to meet the recreational needs of the Township's residents. The goal of this study is to provide an action plan that directs the delivery and development of parks and recreation facilities in a fiscally responsible manner, while meeting projected demand to the year 2031. This Master Plan also makes specific recommendations regarding the future use/direction of the Fairground and Leisureplex lands, two major recreational facilities in the Township.

This document summarizes the research, inventory and analysis of parks and recreation facilities in the Township of West Lincoln and provides recommendations and strategic actions based on the analysis of this information. This Plan is comprised of the following components:

- A review of the policy framework which directs the provision of recreation and leisure services in the Township;
- A population profile and projection of growth in West Lincoln;
- An inventory of the parks, open space and recreational facilities in the Township;
- An overview of the public participation program including findings of the stakeholder group surveys, focus group sessions, public meeting comments, and interviews with key municipal staff and officials;
- A review of development strategies, recommendations and implementation plan.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan does not assess the state of trails in West Lincoln as this is a separate component/study expected to be completed by the end of 2010.

2.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

This section reviews the characteristics and demographic composition of the Township. Understanding demographic trends provides valuable information regarding the projected needs and demands that will be placed on the Township's parks and recreation facilities.

2.1 Community Context

The Township of West Lincoln is located in the Region of Niagara, southeast of the City of Hamilton (Figure 1). The Township is located in the western portion of the Region and is the largest municipality by land area in Niagara (387.7 km²). The Township is located in proximity to a number of major urban centres in this Region including the Town of Grimsby (12 km), City of Welland (30 km) and the City of St. Catharines (35 km).

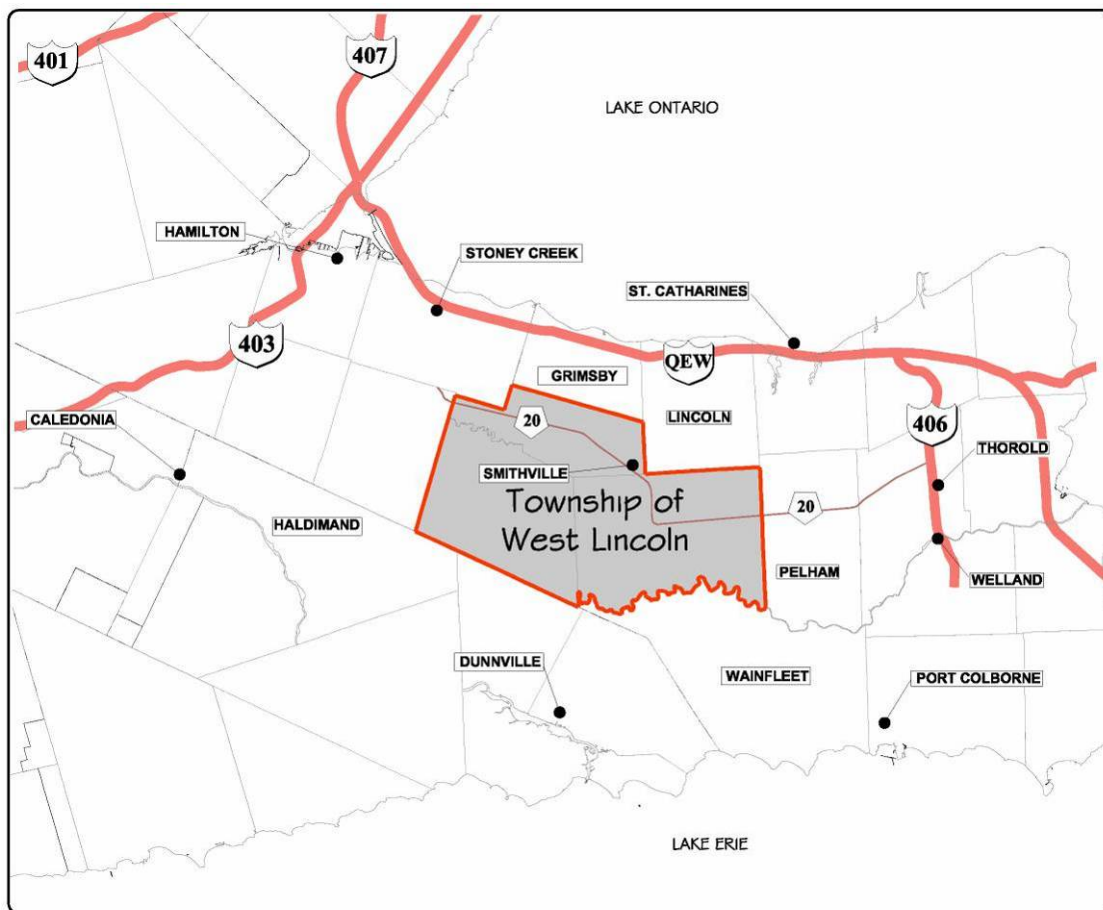


Figure 1 - Township of West Lincoln Location Map

According to the 2006 Census, the Township had a population of 13,167. The Township has a relatively low population density (34 people / km²) compared to the other local municipalities in the Region of Niagara. The largest serviced urban centre in West Lincoln is Smithville with a population of approximately 4,600. Smithville is located along Regional Road 20, a major highway that travels east/west through West Lincoln. The Township's business district and administrative office is located in Smithville. There are several unserved hamlets located in West Lincoln including Wellandport, Caistorville and St. Anns.

2.2 Population Growth

The Township of West Lincoln has experienced above average growth compared to the province in the last 15 years (see Table 1).

Table 1 - Summary of Historic Population Change in the Township of West Lincoln

| Year | Population | % Change | % Change in Ontario |
|------|------------|----------|---------------------|
| 1991 | 10,864 | - | - |
| 1996 | 11,513 | 6.0% | 6.6% |
| 2001 | 12,268 | 6.6% | 6.1% |
| 2006 | 13,167 | 7.3% | 6.6% |

Source: Statistics Canada

In the last 15 years, the population of the Township has increased by an average of approximately 154 residents each year.

2.3 Age Profile

The median age of a West Lincoln resident (36.5) is significantly lower than the average age of an Ontario resident (39.0). Almost 25% of the Township’s population is between the ages of 5 and 19 (Figure 2). This segment of the population is traditionally an active user of parks and recreation facilities. The Township must consider maintaining and enhancing services for this age group in order to be an effective recreation service provider. Although it is expected that this age group will not grow dramatically, it is expected that the volume of this age group will remain relatively constant. This is a phenomenon expected across the Region.

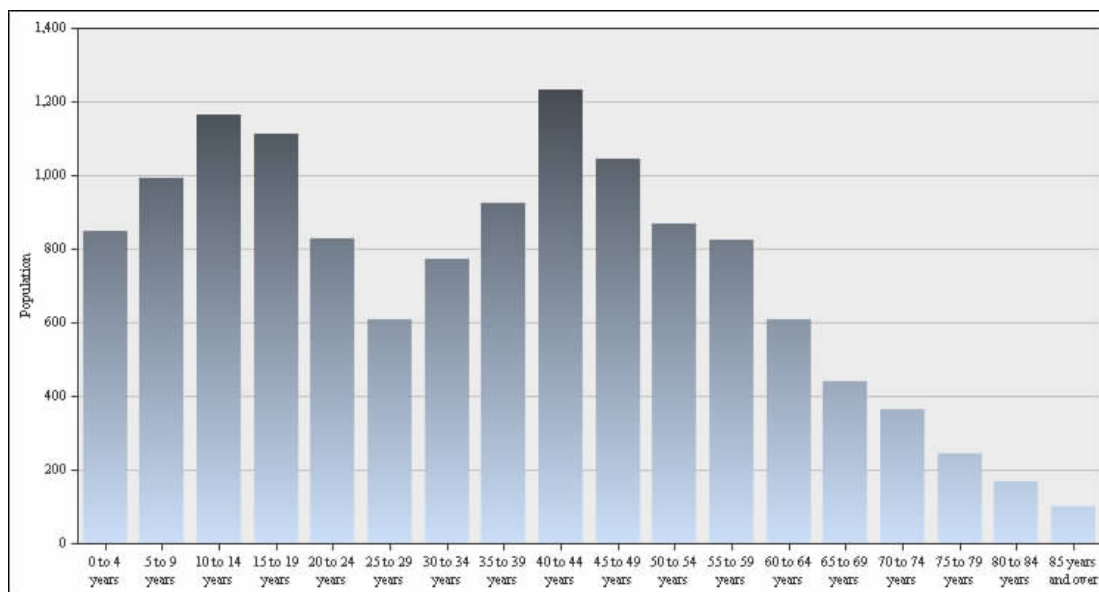


Figure 2 - Township of West Lincoln Population by Age Group

Source: Statistics Canada (2006 Census)

Another important age group to be aware of are the ‘Older Adults’. ‘Older adults’ aged 40-59 are increasingly becoming more engaged in physical recreational activities. The delivery of certain aspects of parks and recreation including community centres and passive recreational opportunities, which are geared towards the aging population, will increasingly need to be planned for and considered.

A significant trend in Ontario that will become evident in West Lincoln is an aging population. While the population aged 65 and over in West Lincoln is relatively lower than most municipalities, over the next 10 to 15 years a shift will occur in demographics leading to an ‘older’ population. This demographic shift will need to be considered when planning for parks and recreation. The challenge will be to balance the needs of this growing age group versus the continuing needs of the other age groups.

2.4 Future Growth

Niagara Region projected future population and employment growth as part of the Region’s Growth Management Strategy. The following projections in Table 2 were used for each of the growth options for West Lincoln.

Table 2 - Review of Growth Options for the Township of West Lincoln

| Growth Option | Total Population (2031) | Net Increase in Population (from 2006) | Total Employment (2031) |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Option A (Current Trends) | 23,900 | 10,733 | 7,210 |
| Option B (Grow South/City Focus) | 14,100 | 933 | 4,270 |
| Option C (Nodal Growth) | 21,300 | 8,133 | 6,560 |
| Option D (Preferred Growth Option of Region) | 16,700 | 3,533 | 6,230 |

Source: Niagara Region Growth Management Strategy

Please note, the Region’s Policy Plan Amendment implementing the Growth Management Strategy was appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board. At the time of this report, final determination on the growth allocation for the Township therefore remains unsettled.

Notwithstanding this uncertainty regarding the Region’s Growth Strategy, it is expected that the majority of future growth in the Township will occur in Smithville, the only serviced urban area within the Township. This expectation is also articulated in the Township’s current Official Plan, which recognizes that Smithville will be the centre for growth in the Township.

A Township-initiated Regional Policy Plan Amendment has been submitted to Niagara Region to expand the urban boundary of Smithville. Approximately 140 hectares (346 acres) of residential land is proposed to included in the urban area.

Through the implementation of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan, it is important to recognize that parks and recreation should not be planned at existing levels but must be planned based on future growth with a strong understanding of recent and projected trends and demographic needs.

2.5 Income / Education

Levels of income and educational attainment have been found to have a positive relationship on participation in physical activity. The costs to participate in organized sports or engage in physical activities are often viewed as one of the main barriers to participation. In West Lincoln, the median income for residents 15 years old and over is \$27,358 (2006 Census). This is comparable to the Ontario median income, which is \$27,258. The median income for Niagara Region residents is \$25,832, which is almost 6% lower than the West Lincoln median. Approximately 73% of West Lincoln’s population is over the age of 15 with an identified income level.

Approximately 4.1% of West Lincoln’s population is in the low-income bracket (defined as those significantly lower than the average). This is considerably lower than the Ontario (14.7%) and Niagara (12.0%) averages.

The majority of West Lincoln’s population has a high school certificate or lower (no certificate, diploma or degree). Figure 3 provides a proportional breakdown of educational attainments for West Lincoln residents 15 years and over compared to Niagara Region and Ontario.

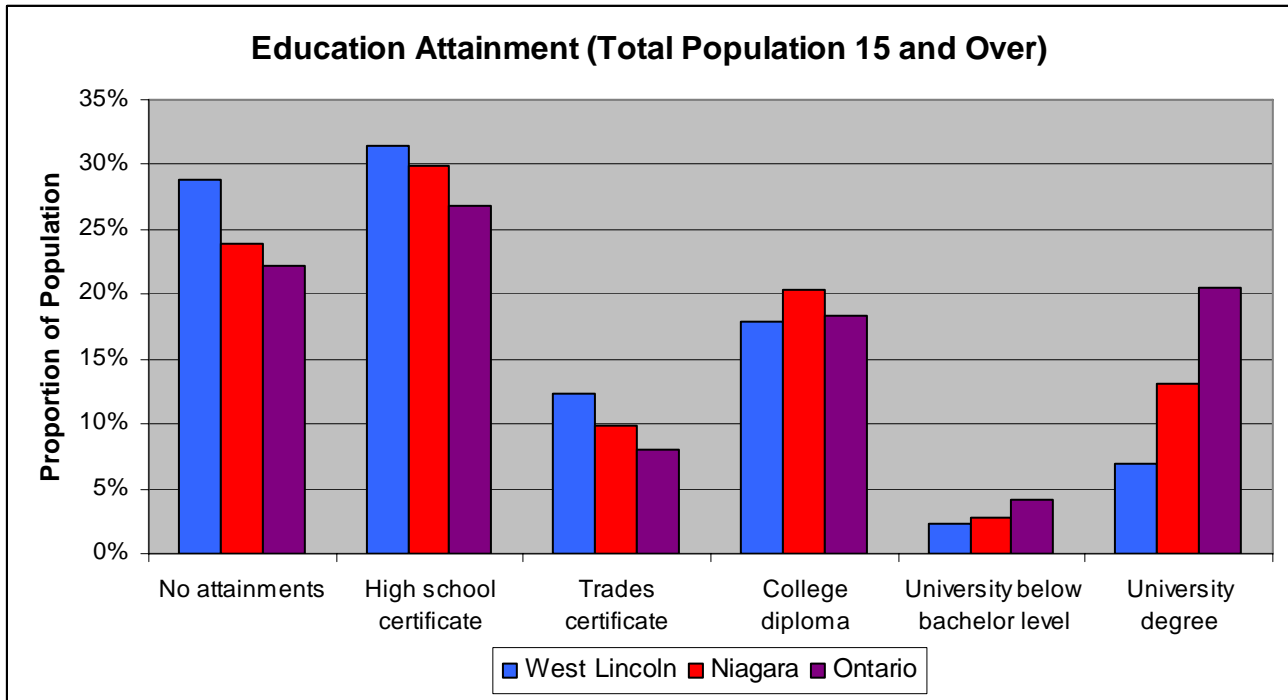


Figure 3 - Proportional Breakdown of Educational Attainments for Township of West Lincoln, Niagara Region and Ontario
Source: Statistics Canada (2006 Census)

Compared to Ontario and the urban municipalities in Niagara, West Lincoln has proportionally less college and university graduates. This could be attributed to the fact that West Lincoln is primarily a rural municipality with a strong agricultural presence. Residents are less likely to attend college or university in these types of rural communities. While West Lincoln has proportionally more residents with no education attainments and fewer residents with a university degree compared to Niagara Region, the median income in West Lincoln is higher than the median income in Niagara.

3.0 TRENDS

There are a series of trends that are occurring within the short and long term that will influence the Township's role and involvement in the delivery of parks and recreation services. The following material represents the key points that will need to be considered.

3.1 Aging Population

It is now well documented that there is an aging phenomena within the Canadian population, particularly in southern Ontario. By 2020, potentially 25% to 30% of the population will be over the age of 65. This is all connected to the baby boom generation.

What is also increasingly important to recognize, is that there will not be a decline in the absolute number of preschoolers, youth and teenagers. Though these age categories may not grow dramatically in volume, they will sustain their absolute numbers. It will be the proportionality that will decline.

Therefore, the aging phenomena will affect programming needs related to seniors but this should not be at the expense of children and youth who will exist in the same volumes.

3.2 Cultural Diversification

Each year Canada receives between 150,000 and 220,000 new Canadians. Toronto, Ottawa and London are the primary settlement areas in Ontario. What often happens is that second and third generation members of these families begin to move further afield from their initial settlement point.

Much of the immigration being experienced in the last decade has been from non-traditional sources in South America, Africa and Asia. These individuals bring significantly different needs and interests, many of them coming from life situations where recreation is a non-entity on an organized basis.

Responding to the needs of a more diversified society is an important consideration in terms of providing recreation and culture services for all residents. Though the impact on the Township may be marginal, some diversification will be experienced and will need to be recognized in services planning.

3.3 Environment

There is an increasing awareness within communities about the vitalness and vulnerabilities of our natural environment, weather, air, water, land, vegetation or wildlife. The Township has extensive resources already allocated to large open areas.

Protecting the environment through designations and classification systems involving parks and other strategies will be important in meeting the longer term needs and expectations of the residents and the natural resources of the Township.

3.4 User Fees and Service Financing

For the last several years in the Province, there has been significant growth in user fees for accessing recreation and cultural activities. Expectations have grown due to fiscal constraint and changing responsibilities within municipal operating environments to increase user fees so that they pay a higher proportion of the cost to deliver the services. A coverage rate of 70% on average is often utilized, with expectations of 100% coverage relative to adult services.

These increases also can result in some families not being able to participate due to limited incomes and financial resources. Therefore, what often needs to occur in parallel to user fee increases is to work with service clubs and other organizations to ensure that affordability and accessibility prevails across the community for these important services by establishing affordability policies and specialized accessibility practices.

3.5 Early Childhood Development and Social Service Connectivity

Increasingly, recreation and cultural services at the community level are seen as important contributors to assisting families and youth who are at-risk or potentially at-risk of difficult situations in their lives. Social service providers are identifying access to minor sports, cultural programs, community events and other activities as ways to assist children in their early childhood development to build self-esteem, to improve their socialization skills and as a way to assist families to improve their functioning and parenting activities.

Therefore, one of the key values that culture and recreation services need to support is the quality of human life and the ability of people to develop their skills and values. This focus should be partnership based and inclusive of all residents.

3.6 Community Expectation Profiles

There has been a demonstrated increase in higher level expectations of community members in Canada related to facility and resource development for recreation and culture involving facilities of higher quality with more amenities. This ranges from providing food services in libraries, to showers in physical activity areas, to improved acoustics and viewlines in cultural centres.

Though many of these expectations exist for higher-end recreation and culture facilities, they also pertain to more flexible and safer playground equipment, improved soccer and baseball fields and other quality initiatives and enhancements across the services spectrum.

3.7 Multi-Use Facilities

One of the core trends in recreation services delivery has been the move to multi-use facilities. This has come about for two reasons. First, the operating and capital cost economies of scale range between 20% and 30%, which is an important consideration related to the impact on taxpayers and ongoing operating costs.

Second, such facilities offer greater convenience, improved family interactivity and other initiatives whereby people can go to one facility, park once and access an array of services. Therefore, incorporating libraries with community centres, and other associated integrations are popular and cost effective.

3.8 Individual Leisure Activities

There is significant growth in soccer participation as a minor and now adult recreation activity. Soccer has surpassed hockey as having the highest registration in Canada. There has also been significant decline in some categories of baseball in many communities.

Other areas of particular growth have been in youth golf, in some areas tennis, as well as many individual activities versus team-oriented sports.

In adult areas, walking, bird watching, informal program activities and other similar pursuits are showing growth, some of which is associated with an aging population.

Therefore, having a balance of passive and active recreation activities is an important service delivery goal for any community in meeting a broadening array of recreational interests and needs.

The prioritization of youth-based recreation and leisure programs is an important aspect in the delivery of parks and recreation programs and facilities. Engaging youth in recreation activities at an early age increases their chances of adopting healthy lifestyles throughout their lifespan. Ensuring access to and accommodating youth programs should be a priority for a municipality followed by adult and other non-youth programs.

3.9 Non-Profit and Private Sector Involvement

There has been significant growth in the involvement of non-profit organizations and the private sector in the delivery of recreation and culture services. YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, community-based organizations, writers clubs and many others have taken initiatives to develop and deliver programs, often facilitated by the municipality.

In some communities, the private sector has become increasingly involved with arenas, sportplexes for softball, fitness and other programs and services.

The municipality can not be the sole deliverer of recreation and culture services in communities. There is growing involvement of other sectors, which recognizes there are opportunities for many groups to be involved, and that the municipality cannot be all things to all people at all times. The trend is towards using all the community's resources to meet the needs of residents.

3.10 Partnerships

Increasingly, municipalities are working with other organizations in the development and delivery of recreation and culture services. Partnerships, whereby organizations access municipal lands or receive a capital grant but develop and deliver facilities independently are becoming more identifiable.

Partnerships are an opportunity to share costs, to expand service and to build on the skills and capacities of all the resources of the community without creating an over dependence on limited municipal resources. This strategy also focuses on letting the best organization and skills lead the service.

3.11 Virtual Activities

Increasingly, children are gravitating towards many virtual and thrill oriented activities and away from, in various degrees, more traditional pursuits. The rise of the Internet, computer games, virtual reality centres and thrill-oriented parks and related services has been showing growth and increased popularity.

In many cases, municipalities are not directly involved, though for some facilities, they may provide facilitation support in terms of acquiring land, zoning and promotional assistance.

3.12 Special Events and Tourism

Another trend for many municipalities is the movement into special event supports that often use their recreation and culture facilities. These activities are seen as important from several perspectives. First, they provide opportunities and unique programming and event opportunities to residents. Second, they can enhance utilization of existing facilities and resources, often during down times. Third, the potential

economic impacts of drawing day-trippers and overnight users into the community can result in new revenues and improved visibility for the municipality.

The basis of much of this activity is often the existing recreation and culture facilities. Therefore, promotion and support of these special events and attractions has seen increased municipal participation and support.

4.0 POLICY REVIEW

Part of this study includes a review of the existing policy framework regarding the provision of parks and recreation facilities in the Township of West Lincoln. The Township of West Lincoln Official Plan provides the overall policy direction with respect to the delivery of parks, open spaces and recreation facilities over the planning period of the Official Plan. The current Official Plan has a planning horizon of 2016. The Township is currently in the process of updating its Official Plan and it is anticipated that it will have a 20 year time horizon. It is anticipated that this study and its recommendations will help form policies regarding parks, open spaces and recreational facilities such that the Township can meet the needs of its residents over the planning horizon. For the purpose of this Master Plan, a planning horizon of 2031 has been utilized such that is consistent with the Region’s Growth Management Strategy.

The policies of Section 2.4 of the Official Plan deal specifically with the provision of parks and recreation facilities in the Township. One of the goals of the Official Plan is to:

“To develop and implement a comprehensive recreational strategy to ensure the provision of adequate parks, open space and other indoor and outdoor recreational facilities to meet the need of residents of the Township throughout the time period of this Official Plan.”

This study is intended to implement this goal of the Official Plan.

The Official Plan contains a hierarchy of parks, which consists of the following:

1. **Linear Parks** – provide opportunities for passive recreational activities such as walking, hiking and jogging along a trail system. These parks vary in size and scope.
2. **Urban Parks** – provide recreational facilities for youths for unorganized recreational activities. Amenities include playgrounds, junior soccer fields and passive areas. These parks should be a minimum of 1 ha.
3. **Community Parks** – designed for senior caliber and organized recreational activities. Amenities include baseball diamonds, soccer fields and major playground facilities. These parks should be a minimum of 4 ha.
4. **Township Parks** – serve a Township-wide function and may include track and field facilities, baseball diamonds and picnic areas. These parks vary in size but should be a minimum of 10 ha.

Based on this hierarchy, there are two (2) Township parks, two (2) community parks and eight (8) urban parks within the Township of West Lincoln (see Table 3).

Table 3 - Breakdown of Park Types in the Township of West Lincoln

| Type of Park | Park/Facility |
|-----------------|--|
| Township Parks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leisureplex ▪ West Lincoln Community Centre (Fairgrounds) |
| Community Parks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wellandport Community Park ▪ Caistor Community Park |
| Urban Parks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anastasio Estates Park (Phase 1 and 2) ▪ Rock Street Park ▪ Alma Acres Park ▪ Streamside Park ▪ St. Anns Park ▪ Silverdale Park ▪ Olde Town Gateway Park |

The Township's current Official Plan park classification system appears to be adequate as it encompasses an appropriate level of detail for the range and function of the four park classifications. Consideration should be given to renaming "linear parks" to "greenspace corridor/linear parks" to recognize that linear parks/greenspace corridors may consist of passive open space parkland which connect parks and natural heritage features throughout the Township and to emphasize the intent of these parks to provide continuous greenspace corridors.

When reviewing development applications, the Township should endeavor, where possible, to plan and provide for linear trails/corridors consistent with the Trails Master Plan (to be completed in 2010/2011) to improve pedestrian connectivity throughout the municipality. The Township's Urban Design Guidelines (when prepared) should also incorporate this requirement.

The definitions of the four park classifications in the existing Official Plan specify minimum park sizes for the various park types. The park sizes recommended in the existing policies are appropriate given the described function of the various parks. However, it is recommended that the Township not develop parks any smaller than one (1) hectare in size, as parks smaller than one (1) hectare may be too small to provide for satisfactory leisure activities. Reducing the number of parks smaller than one hectare may also reduce operational costs, which may be incurred by maintaining a greater number of smaller parks. It is therefore recommended that the Township discourage the acceptance of parks less than one hectare through conveyances.

The existing policies do not specify a minimum park/open space area target for the municipality. It is recommended that the Official Plan policies target a parkland service level of 3.0 hectares per 1,000 residents (see Section 6.1 of this report for further discussion regarding the Township's parkland service level). This parkland service level is generally a standard applied in other municipalities in Ontario.

At the time of the next Official Plan Review, Council should also consider amending the Official Plan Policy to encourage access to any or all types of active parkland within an 800 metre (approximately 10 minute walking distance) radius of major residential areas. Access to active parklands should be free of major pedestrian barriers such as rail lines, highways, rivers and/or major roads. This level of coverage will ensure there is sufficient opportunity for access to active parkland from major residential areas.

The Official Plan states that parkland shall be acquired through the conveyance of land or cash in lieu of parkland dedication in the amount of 5% for residential development. Cash in lieu of parkland dedication in the amount of 2% is required for all other developments. These policies are consistent with *Planning Act* requirements. It is recommended that these policies be maintained and continually implemented. Parkland conveyance and/or cash in lieu are effective ways in meeting increased parkland demand as growth occurs. The Township should also continue to look for ways to expand and improve its parkland and recreational facility inventory through other means such as commercial, industrial or institutional lands available for sale, applying density bonusing systems, land exchanges, reallocating surplus municipal land, etc.

Recommendations:

- At the time of the next Official Plan Review, the Township should consider renaming "linear parks" to "linear parks/greenspace corridors".
- The Official Plan policies should be updated at the next available opportunity to stipulate a minimum park size of 1.0 hectare unless otherwise deemed acceptable by the Township, in order to minimize operating costs to smaller parks.
- At the next Official Plan Review, the Township should consider encouraging active forms of parkland within an 800 metre radius of major residential areas.
- The Township should plan and provide for linear trails through development applications consistent with the Trails Master Plan. The Township's Urban Design Guidelines (when prepared) should incorporate this requirement as a way to encourage pedestrian connectivity.

5.0 PUBLIC / STAFF CONSULTATION

A series of public input activities were completed in support of the research tasks in preparing the Master Plan.

In early October 2009, the Township held two (2) public open houses to solicit input from the public and user groups. The purpose of the open houses was to gather information on the state of parks and recreation in the Township of West Lincoln from a public and user group perspective.

Surveys were also distributed to the public and user groups in October. The survey was available at the open houses, the Township’s office, schools and the Township’s website. The survey was not intended to be representative of the entire population but rather a tool to gather more information on current and future parks and recreation needs in West Lincoln.

To supplement the information obtained through the public consultation, existing background information (e.g. Leger Marketing Recreation Survey (Nov. 2005), YMCA Niagara Survey (2008), and West Lincoln Facilities Assessments) were also reviewed.

5.1 Public Surveys

The public survey was self-administered and 61 surveys were completed and returned to the Township. As previously mentioned, the survey was not intended to be representative of the views of the entire community but to offer some insight into the issues of importance to West Lincoln residents.

The survey asked residents what type of new recreational facilities they would like and where the facilities should be located. Tables 4 and 5 summarize the responses to these questions.

Table 4 - Preferred Type of New Facility Survey Results

| What type of new Recreational Facilities would you like to see in the Township of West Lincoln? | |
|---|-----------------|
| Preferred Type of New Facility | # of Responses* |
| Multi-use | 26 |
| Pool | 22 |
| Skateboard Park | 14 |
| Aerobics/Gym | 7 |
| New Park | 5 |

*Respondents were able to select more than one new recreational facility

Table 5 - Preferred Location of New Facilities Survey Results

| Where in the Township of West Lincoln would you like to see new Recreation Programs and Facilities? | |
|---|----------------|
| Preferred Location of New Facilities | # of Responses |
| In town/close to town | 22 |
| Leisureplex | 20 |
| Fairgrounds | 10 |

In summary, a multi-use recreational facility (e.g. arena with a gym) was the most cited choice for a new recreational facility in West Lincoln. Other highly cited facilities included a pool and skateboard park. When asked what new recreational programs residents would like to see, aerobics and dance programs were the most selected programs. There were also requests for more youth and senior oriented programs.

In terms of location, respondents preferred new programs and facilities to be located within Smithville as opposed to other locations in the Township. The majority of respondents either chose ‘in town’ or ‘close to town’, or responded with ‘at the fairgrounds’ or ‘at the arena’.

Residents were also asked how they would rate the variety of recreation facilities and programs in West Lincoln. Figures 4 and 5 illustrate the responses to these questions.

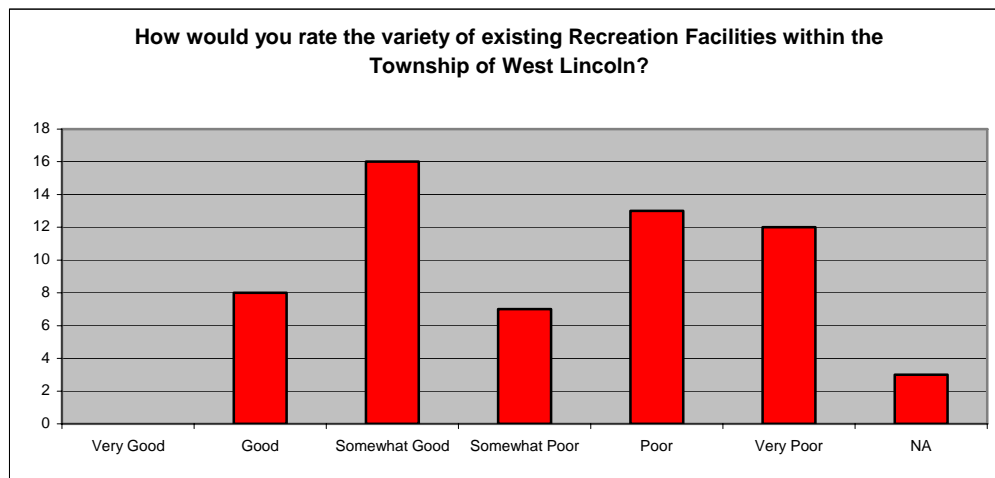


Figure 4 - Public Survey Response to Variety of Existing Recreation Facilities

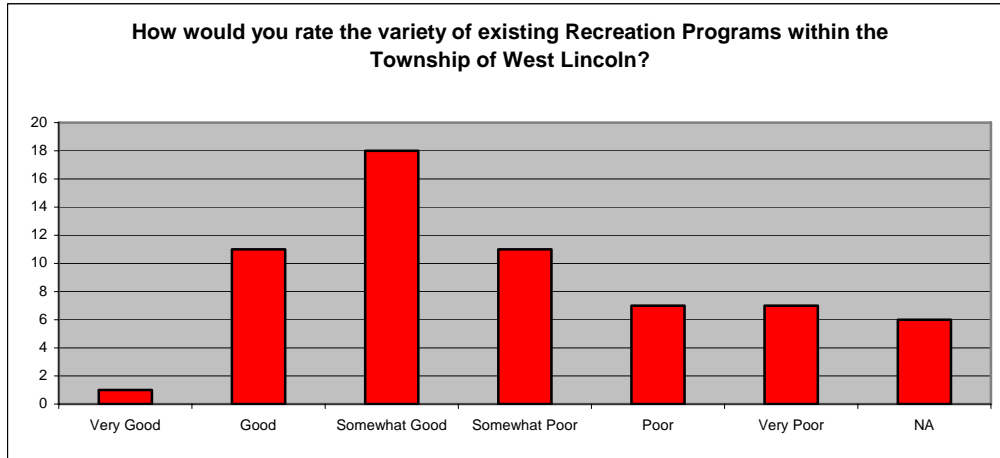


Figure 5 - Public Survey Response to Variety of Existing Recreation Programs

Respondents were generally not very satisfied with the variety of existing recreation facilities. Just over half of the respondents (31) indicated that the variety of existing recreation facilities was ‘Somewhat Poor’ to ‘Very Poor’. These results are likely indicative of the respondents’ preference for a multi-use recreation facility and/or a pool.

The variety of existing recreation programs scored better relative to the facilities question. Thirty of the respondents felt that the variety of existing recreation programs was ‘Somewhat Good’ to ‘Very Good’.

5.2 User Group Surveys

A survey was also distributed to all the recreational user groups in the Township. The purpose of the survey was to obtain specific information on the user groups in terms of registrations numbers (e.g. existing and projected) and projected needs/concerns specific to the individual user groups. A total of six (6) surveys were returned. Although the response to the survey was generally poor, the results provided some useful insights into specific needs and/or deficiencies experienced by the various user groups.

The following is a summary of survey responses received from the user groups (a complete list of recreation user groups is provided in Appendix A):

Smithville Coed Slo-Pitch League

- Request more diamonds at the Leisureplex and Fairgrounds (preferably the Fairgrounds)

Niagara District Men’s Slow Pitch League

- Request future diamonds to have a fence depth of 300 feet

West Lincoln Ladies Slow Pitch

- Prefer upgrades to the Fairgrounds because of its central location

South Lincoln High School

- Better pedestrian access to the Leisureplex should be provided

Smithville Agricultural Society

- Prefer development of Leisureplex for recreational facilities

West Lincoln Minor Football

- Request better access to the field at the Leisureplex

5.3 Public Open Houses

Approximately 15-20 residents and user group representatives attended each of the public open houses held on October 6th and October 8th, 2009. The forum of the open house included a brief presentation by the consultant followed by a facilitated session focusing on three key questions (listed below) and an open discussion where all facets of parks and recreation were discussed. The following three questions were presented (a general summary of the responses is provided):

1. **What do you like/enjoy about the parks, recreation and culture services and facilities that the Township of West Lincoln has to offer?**
 - There is good accessibility to the Fairgrounds, and it is within walking distance for most of the urban residents.
 - The quality and quantity of parks are seen as an asset. Neighbourhood parks, parkettes and playgrounds are close to most residents of the Township, and their maintenance and upkeep is viewed positively.
 - The festivals and events held within the Township, including Poultry Fest, Annual Fall Fair, and the Farmers Market, are well liked and enjoyed. The festival location at the Fairgrounds location is of importance.
 - Programs that are being offered are well liked, and the new summer programs for children are specifically mentioned. The communication between staff and recreation volunteers to create new programs is seen as a factor for the quantity and quality of new programs.

2. **What challenges/concerns do you see or have with parks, recreation and culture services and facilities that the Township of West Lincoln has to offer?**
 - There is general dissatisfaction with the West Lincoln Arena. Participants of the open houses noted that ice time is at or nearing capacity, and that there are no structured schedules for use of the rink. The facility is aging, and the availability of program choices other than hockey is seen as limited.
 - The Leisureplex was seen as inaccessible to some residents, as access is restricted to vehicles.
 - Current meeting space is insufficient, with not enough space to satisfy demand or need. The second-floor hall in the Arena is too small and inaccessible to the disabled. The user fees charged for community centre use is also viewed as a concern.
 - An overcapacity and lack of upkeep of outdoor sporting facilities. Participants identified the need for additional soccer pitches and baseball diamonds to satisfy demand. As well, existing outdoor sporting facilities were identified as being inadequately maintained. Scheduling conflicts for some fields were also of concern.
 - There is a shortage of outdoor trails and biking is viewed as a challenge.
 - There is an absence of programs and facilities for teenagers and youth. A skatepark and YMCA were identified as potential youth-oriented facilities.

3. **What opportunities do you see in the future in terms of delivery of parks, recreation and culture services and facilities that the Township of West Lincoln has to offer?**
 - Aquatics centre
 - Multi-use community centre
 - Skate park

- Additional baseball, soccer and football facilities
- Additional arena/ice pad
- Upgrades to outdated facilities (arena, community halls)
- Fairgrounds could become a passive park – Fall Fair moved to the Leisureplex
- Opportunity for a recreation committee with Councillors, staff, user groups and the general public
- Graffiti board
- Opportunities for trails along Twenty Mile Creek

5.4 Leger Survey

A parks and recreation survey was conducted in November 2005 by Leger Marketing and 575 residents responded to the survey. The purpose of the survey was to generate responses regarding the need for parks and recreation facilities and assess the general satisfaction of the Township's ability to deliver parks and recreation services. In summary, most respondents were satisfied with the upkeep and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities. This is generally consistent with the results from the public and user group surveys.

More than 50% of the respondents stated that there is a lack of facilities or recreational programs of interest. Respondents cited aquatics as the most wanted program (indoor and outdoor aquatic uses). In the recently completed surveys, a pool was highly chosen in response to new recreational facilities wanted in the Township.

The most significant barriers to participation in recreation programs according to the Leger survey were lack of interest, expense and lack of time. The significant barrier identified in the recent surveys was the lack of available field and ice time. This was primarily directed to the Arena where usage is highest relative to other recreation facilities.

5.5 YMCA Survey

In 2008, LeisurePlan conducted market research on behalf of the YMCA Niagara to evaluate the potential of multi-purpose facilities in Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln. The research focused on determining the size and characteristics of the potential markets through a recreation survey.

The identified location in West Lincoln was at the Leisureplex lands on South Grimsby Road 6. Approximately 67% of respondents (residents in Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln) were 'not very likely' or 'not at all likely' to become a member at a facility at this location. The West Lincoln location was the least likely of all the proposed locations to have respondents purchase a membership (the highest scoring location was Bartlett Avenue and the QEW in Grimsby).

In terms of total potential adult membership (\$45/month), the West Lincoln location had the lowest potential primary and secondary target market segments. Ultimately, the survey determined that a potential multi-purpose facility operated by the YMCA of Niagara at the Leisureplex lands was not feasible relative to the locations evaluated.

5.6 Summary of Public Consultation

Generally, the community is satisfied with existing recreation and leisure facilities. Results from the Leger Marketing survey indicate that a large majority of respondents that have used facilities in the past year are satisfied with the facilities. Comments received from open house participants and survey respondents indicate similar satisfaction levels. The Fairgrounds and arena are valued for their proximity

to the urban population, and the Leisureplex is valued for its accessibility by vehicle to the wider community. However, concerns have been raised regarding the condition of the arena and the lack of available ice time.

Results from the Leger Marketing study and the community consultation process have shown that there is a public interest in the development of a multi-use facility and aquatics facility. When asked whether the Township should do more when it comes to facilities and programs, 65% of the Leger survey respondents felt that the Township should do more in terms of indoor swimming. When asked what type of new facility they would like to see in West Lincoln, the majority of the public survey respondents chose a multi-use facility and an aquatics facility as the first and second most preferred options, respectively.

6.0 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

A detailed inventory of the Township’s recreational facilities was completed as part of this Study. Appendices B and C of this report identify the location/distribution of parks and recreation facilities within the Township. This Study does not include an inventory of school board or other institutional land in the Township. It is recognized these institutional uses provide an important function in the delivery of leisure and recreation activities in the Township. Although these uses provide additional field space for organized sports (e.g. soccer) as well as informal/unstructured play areas and formal meeting space or space to host indoor sports or activities, the focus of this Master Plan is on municipally-owned and operated facilities and services.

6.1 Municipal Parks

There is a total of 44 hectares (108 acres) of municipally-owned parkland in the Township. The majority of this parkland in the Township is located in Smithville, totaling 32 hectares (79 acres). There are a total of 12 park sites presently owned and maintained by the Township including eight parks in the urban area of Smithville.

A parkland service level of 3.0 hectares per 1,000 residents is generally the standard applied in order to achieve an appropriate distribution of parks that can provide both passive and active forms of recreational activities. At present, the Township is currently meeting the target parkland service level with 3.34 hectares per 1,000 residents (based on the 2006 Census population and parkland inventory as of July 2009). By comparison, the Township’s parkland service level is similar to or slightly higher than some of its neighbouring municipalities including Grimsby (1.67 hectares per 1,000 residents) and Brant (3.0 hectares per 1,000 residents).

It is important to note that the Township’s current parkland service level noted above does not include the additional vacant lands owned by the municipality at the Leisureplex. The Township currently owns 27.6 hectares (68.2 acres) of vacant land immediately north of the existing Leisureplex facility. Should these lands be included in the parkland inventory, the Township’s parkland service level increases to 5.43 hectares per 1,000 residents (based on the 2006 Census population). Assuming the highest growth projection (Option A) for the municipality, the total amount of parkland (including all the Leisureplex lands) represents an adequate supply of parkland to meet projected need to 2031.

The following table summarizes the projected parkland needs based on the various growth options from the Region’s Growth Management Strategy. The supply of parkland for 2031 is assumed to be 71.7 hectares which includes the 27.6 hectares of vacant land at the Leisureplex.

Table 6 - Projected Parkland Needs

| | | 2031 | | | |
|--|------------|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| | 2006 | Option A | Option B | Option C | Option D |
| Population | 13,167 | 23,900 | 14,100 | 26,300 | 16,700 |
| Supply of Parkland (ha) | 44 | 71.7* | 71.7* | 71.7* | 71.7* |
| Required Parkland (3 ha / 1,000 residents) | 39.5 | 71.7 | 42.3 | 63.9 | 50.1 |
| <i>Surplus/Deficit (ha)</i> | <i>4.5</i> | <i>0</i> | <i>29.4</i> | <i>7.8</i> | <i>21.6</i> |

Note: * Includes 27.6 hectares of vacant land at Leisureplex facility.

Based on a parkland service level of 3.0 hectares per 1,000 residents and the total parkland supply in 2031 of 71.7 hectares, it is projected that there is a surplus of municipal parkland in all four growth options to 2031 (with the exception of Option A which would meet the minimum parkland service level).

It is important to note that the vacant land at the Leisureplex would most likely be used for structured / high activity recreational uses (e.g. soccer and baseball). Given the use of the vacant Leisureplex lands for these types of activities, it is our opinion that there will remain a limited need for urban parkland in future residential growth areas of Smithville in order to meet the parks needs of future residents in these growth areas. Therefore, the Township should continue to implement the parkland conveyance / cash in lieu policy as a way to develop urban parks throughout the Township.

Based on the parkland need projections to 2031, the Township should be able to maintain an adequate distribution of municipal parkland. Existing municipal parkland in Smithville was assessed using an 800-metre walking radius (5-10 minute walk) for each park. As illustrated in Appendix D of this report, the current distribution of parks in Smithville are generally well distributed relative to the major residential areas in Smithville and are within an appropriate walking distance to active parks. The only exception are the residential neighbourhoods north of the railway tracks, which have restricted access to parks south of the railway tracks such as the Fairgrounds. The Township should continue to look for opportunities to maintain sufficient municipal parkland access for the residents north of the railway tracks in Smithville.

6.1.1 Review of Urban Parks

There are eight urban parks in the Township of West Lincoln. Seven of these parks are located within the urban area of Smithville. St. Anns Park is a ‘rest-stop’ park along Highway 20 east Smithville. There is a total of 8.6 hectares (21.3 ac) of urban parks in West Lincoln. The majority of urban parks have play structures constructed within the last 10 years. Rock Street Park includes 2 junior soccer fields as well as a play structure.



Alma Acres Park



Rock Street Park

Opportunities to improve access to urban parks should be explored as much as possible. Linkages and trails that connect urban parks and natural open spaces should be improved. The lack of trails in the Township was identified as a concern at the open houses.

Together with trails and linkages, natural features should be integrated as much as possible into park settings. Many municipalities are incorporating native plant species and conserving woodlots within passive park areas. Municipal parkland plays a role in the protection of natural features and this should be emphasized throughout all parks.

Safety concerns should be considered in the design of future parks to ensure that safety does not become a barrier to park usage. In this regard, the Township should incorporate CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles in its park design.

Playgrounds provide opportunities for active childhood leisure and should be incorporated within all urban parks. An important consideration in playgrounds is safety. According to the Canadian Institute

for Health Information, provincial hospitals are reporting an increase in the number of injuries related to playground use. Maintenance and inspections on all playgrounds should be undertaken on a regular basis. All new playground equipment should meet accessibility standards and be constructed to CSA standards.

The Township should develop consistent park design standards that address playgrounds, benches, passive areas, signage, picnic areas and various other park amenities. Signage is a key component in identifying parks and providing visual features. Signs should be clear, attractively designed and provide key points of information including park name, emergency numbers and funding partners for the park.

Recommendations:

- The Township should initiate a Trails and Greenspace Linkages Master Plan that will identify existing trails and provide recommendations for future trails and greenspace linkages.
- Incorporate natural features into the design of passive and active park space.
- Ensure that playgrounds are provided in newly developed or existing residential areas that offer access within an 800 m walking distance.
- Ensure that all new playground equipment meet accessibility standards and be constructed to CSA standards.
- Regularly maintain and inspect all playgrounds and playground equipment.
- Target at a minimum a parkland service level of 3 ha / 1,000 residents throughout the municipality.
- Develop park design standards that address various park amenities including playgrounds, benches, passive areas and signage.
- Provide consistent signage clearly identifying all parks.

6.1.2 Review of Township and Community Parks

6.1.2.1 Leisureplex Township Park

The Leisureplex Township Park is located at the northeast corner of South Grimsby Road 6 and Regional Road 614 (Townline Road), immediately west of Smithville. The park has an area of 18.3 hectares (45.2 ac) and is the largest park owned by the Township (a fact sheet of the Leisureplex and Fairgrounds is provided in Appendix E). The Township owns an additional 27.6 hectares (68.2 ac) of undeveloped farmland that could potentially be used for recreational uses. The Leisureplex is located outside of the urban boundary in Smithville and municipal services are currently unavailable. Although private services are available, the lack of full municipal services may provide limitations on the range of future uses/facilities that can be accommodated on the Leisureplex lands.

The developed portion of the Leisureplex is designated 'Public Parks' in the Official Plan. This portion is zoned Agricultural (A2) with special provisions (96-91 and 246). Recreation uses are not specifically permitted in the A2 Zone but the special provisions permit recreation uses.

The undeveloped portion is designated 'Agriculture'. Passive recreation uses such as trails are the only recreation-related uses permitted in this designation. This portion is zoned Agricultural (A2) with a temporary use by-law that expires in June 2010. The purpose of the temporary use by-law was to permit a horse riding show for the Dunnville Saddle Club of West Lincoln (currently not in operation at this site).

The Leisureplex serves the entire community of West Lincoln and to an extent, Niagara Region. The park has good access to the Township's collector road network (South Grimsby Road 6 and Regional Road 614). The Leisureplex functions as a Township Park and is the location of the majority of the Township's main sports and recreation activities such as soccer, football, baseball and track and field. The Township uses the main building for equipment storage and maintenance. The Leisureplex was constructed in 2000 and the sports fields are relatively new and in good condition.

Currently, the location of the Leisureplex is relatively isolated and physically separated from Smithville. The surrounding land uses are agricultural. There is limited pedestrian access to the lands. Pedestrian access is currently provided along Townline Road as well as a walking trail from Anastasio Estates Park. Access to this facility is largely by automobile. Residents identified the lack of safe pedestrian access to the Leisureplex as a major concern.

An issue of concern also raised by residents is parking at the Leisureplex particularly during tournaments or major events when several fields are being used by different users (soccer, football and baseball). The lands north of the Leisureplex present an opportunity to accommodate additional parking.

Other concerns identified by the public regarding the Leisureplex facility include:

- The location of the play structures are separated from the active play fields thus creating safety concerns; and,
- The availability of washrooms and access to the concession stand is inconsistent given field times.

Currently, the Township does not have an overall Master Plan for the Leisureplex lands. The planning and design of the lands have generally been on an "ad-hoc" basis. The Township should consider preparing an overall Master Plan for the Leisureplex lands which would detail not only the existing features and playfields, but also the layout and distribution of future playfields and/or facilities which are recommended and may be implemented through this Master Plan.

The Township should explore partnership opportunities with other leisure groups, sports interest groups and/or other levels of government (e.g. Region) in potentially developing the Leisureplex as a Regional recreational centre. Partnerships provide an opportunity to share costs and expand essential services while delivering an efficient and valuable recreation resource to the community.

The undeveloped portion of the Leisureplex lands is of a significant size and represents an excellent opportunity to expand major sports and recreational facilities, which are currently established in this location. Basic infrastructure such as arterial roads, parking, hydro, water and septic are available to support additional sports and recreational facilities. Given the limited availability of full municipal services to the site and the potential cost associated with extending full services to the property, it is recommended that any new sports or recreational facilities located at this site should not require extensive upgrades to existing infrastructure available at the site. As such, it is further recommended that the Township continue to operate the Leisureplex lands as a major sports and recreational facility and concentrate/consolidate any new sports field (baseball, soccer) at this location. The site's relative isolation from sensitive land uses (i.e. residential areas) is viewed as an advantage in terms of providing mitigation from noise and/or parking issues that may arise as a result of major activities/events occurring at the Leisureplex lands.

Given the availability of space and the locational attributes of the Leisureplex lands from a traffic, access and land use compatibility perspective, it is recommended that the Township consider initiating discussions with the Agricultural Society and the Poultry Festival organizations to consider options to relocate their respective events (i.e. Fall Fair, Poultry Fest) to the Leisureplex lands. Dedicated space for the respective events can be provided on the expanded Leisureplex lands. The relocation of these events and facilities at the Leisureplex will provide additional opportunity at the Fairground lands (where these

events are currently occurring) in terms of improvements and/or expansions to the existing facilities at the Fairgrounds.

It has been observed in other municipalities that as fairs grow in size and appeal, the tendency has been to relocate the fairs from areas that may have been central to the town or village to areas outside the urban centre, which provide greater space and flexibility to host these community events. Examples of this trend have occurred in municipalities such as Lindsay, Centre Wellington and recently in Barrie.

A conceptual plan for the redevelopment of the vacant lands at the Leisureplex is provided in Appendix F. This concept plan is not intended to conclude on the future development of the Leisureplex lands. The plan has been provided simply to illustrate the range of uses and facilities that can be accommodated on a large site. For comparison purposes to the conceptual plan prepared for the Fairground lands, a potential twin-pad arena has been illustrated on the Leisureplex lands.

Recommendations:

- Prepare a Master Plan specifically for the Leisureplex detailing the existing features and uses and potential plans for the lands. The Plan should include an assessment of the feasibility and costs associated with extending municipal services to the Leisureplex and any other infrastructure improvements (i.e. pumping station) that may be required.
- The Township should consider in cooperation with the Agricultural Society and PoultryFest, relocating the PoultryFest and the Fall Fair facilities from the Fairgrounds to the Leisureplex. Dedicated space at the Leisureplex for these events and the facilities associated with each event should be allocated on the vacant Leisureplex lands.
- The Township should promote the Leisureplex as a regional sports facility and continue to support local user groups with tournaments and other events at the Leisureplex.
- Explore partnership opportunities with leisure groups, sports interest groups and/or other levels of government (e.g. Region) in potentially developing the Leisureplex as a Regional recreational centre.
- In the short-term, the Township should consider providing additional parking areas to support the existing and proposed facilities and tournaments.
- The Township should improve pedestrian linkages to the Leisureplex through walking/biking trails that are visible and easily accessible.



Lit baseball field



Soccer fields

Photos from the Leisureplex

6.1.2.2 *The Fairgrounds (West Lincoln Community Centre)*

The Fairgrounds is a Township Park located at 177 West Street (Highway 20) in Smithville. The Fairgrounds is conveniently located in the centre of Smithville. The Fairgrounds are 6.1 ha (15.1 ac) in size.

The Fairgrounds are designated 'Public Parks' in the Official Plan. The lands are zoned 'Open Space' (O1). Recreational uses are permitted in the O1 Zone.

Existing residential uses border the Fairgrounds on three sides. An existing rail line defines the northern limit of the Fairgrounds. These land uses define the boundaries of the Fairgrounds and to a certain extent, limit the range of potential uses on the property. Having said this, the Fairgrounds are accessible and within walking distance to a large proportion of the population in Smithville. This statement was confirmed by residents through the surveys and open houses.

The Fairgrounds are home to the Smithville Fall Fair and PoultryFest, an annual festival recognizing the poultry industry in Niagara Region. The festival is widely known across the Region and has been held at the Fairgrounds for the past 10 consecutive years.

The Township's only arena and Community Centre are located on the Fairground lands. Further discussion regarding the future use and needs for the arena and community centre are provided in Section 6.3.2 of this report. As previously noted, the Fairgrounds are well located relative to the major residential areas in Smithville as well as the broader municipality. Given these locational attributes and the availability of existing infrastructure/services, it is reasonable to expect that any redevelopment plans for the arena/community centre should be focused at the Fairgrounds. Similar to the Leisureplex lands, the Township is encouraged to prepare an overall Master Plan for the Fairgrounds. Such a Plan can be completed in conjunction with a Feasibility Study to assess the needs/designs for any redevelopment plans for the arena/community centre. A conceptual plan is attached in Appendix G.

Recommendations:

- **Prepare a Master Plan specifically for the Fairgrounds detailing the existing features and uses and potential plans for the lands. The Master Plan should be prepared in conjunction with a Feasibility Study that assesses options and a range of uses contemplated for a re-developed arena/community centre. The Master Plan should consider a range of uses to be provided at the Fairgrounds including amenities such as arts and cultural meeting spaces and/or opportunities for outdoor music such as an amphitheatre.**
- **The Township should promote the Fairgrounds as an urban park and through the redevelopment of the lands consideration should be given to relocating the baseball and soccer fields and focusing on providing passive walking trails, playgrounds, open space areas and natural landscaping at the Fairground lands.**
- **The Township should consider acquiring additional lands to provide secondary ingress/egress from Highway 20 particularly if a twin pad arena is developed.**
- **The Township should evaluate and consider opportunities to provide a pedestrian connection between Westlea Drive with Swayze Court at the north end of the Fairgrounds.**



View of The Fairgrounds from the parking lot



Ball Diamond A

Photos from the Fairgrounds

6.1.2.3 Wellandport Community Park

The Wellandport Community Park is located at 5042 Regional Road 63 in Wellandport. This park serves residents living in the south portion of the Township as well as residents living in the adjacent municipality to the south, the Township of Wainfleet. The park is approximately 7.8 hectares (19.3 ac) in size and extends south to the Welland River.

The Wellandport Community Park is designated 'Hamlet Community' and 'Hazard Lands' (within the Welland River floodplain) in the Official Plan. Parks are a permitted land use within the Hamlet Community designation. Uses such as recreational facilities and passive outdoor recreation uses are contemplated in the Hazard Lands subject to further conditions.

The lands are zoned 'Open Space' (O1) and 'Hazard' (H). Parks and associated recreational uses are permitted in the H Zone.

Facilities at the Wellandport Community Park include:

- 1 lit baseball diamond
- 1 soccer field
- 2 tennis courts
- Community Centre/Hall
- West Lincoln Library
- Playground

The community park has convenient access to the Welland River. There is a boat launch and a picnic area. Throughout the public consultation, residents stated the importance of this community asset. No other significant improvements were identified for this park.

Recommendations:

- Enhance access to the Welland River and promote the park as the Township destination for water-related activities (boating, canoeing, etc.).
- Maintain the picnic area along the Welland River and provide adequate signage to such area.



Wellandport Community Centre



Baseball Diamond

Photos from Wellandport Community Park

6.1.2.4 Caistor Community Park

The Caistor Community Park is located at 9184 Regional Road 65 in Abingdon. This park serves residents living in the west portion of the Township. The park is approximately 3.7 hectares (9.1 ac) in size.

The Caistor Community Park is designated ‘Rural Cluster’ in the Official Plan. Public parks are a permitted use in this designation.

The lands are zoned ‘Residential’ (R1) and ‘Agricultural’ (A2). The lands zoned R1 are in place for the community centre along Regional Road 65.

Facilities at the Caistor Community Park include:

- 2 lit baseball diamonds
- 1 soccer field
- Playground
- Community Centre/Hall

The only major concern identified with this park was the need to provide publicly accessible washrooms at the park. The Township should ensure that appropriate facilities including washrooms (either permanent or portable) are provided at this park. This should be a minimum standard applied to all of the Township’s community parks.

Recommendation:

- **The Township should ensure portable washrooms are provided at Caistor Park. Over the long-term, consideration should also be given to construction permanent washrooms that are publicly accessible for users of this park.**



Caistor Community Centre



Baseball Diamond

Photos from Caistor Community Park

6.2 Outdoor Recreation Facilities

6.2.1 Soccer Fields

There are six regulation-sized soccer fields in the Township with the majority of the soccer fields located at the Leisureplex (including one lit field). A lack of soccer fields was identified as a concern at the open houses. Soccer is a growing sport in Ontario and this is evident locally in West Lincoln as soccer registration numbers are increasing.

Generally, the target threshold for soccer fields is one (1) soccer field for every 80 registered players based on targets used in other municipalities. According to the West Lincoln Youth Soccer Association, they currently have 518 registered soccer players. Based on the 2006 Census population, the total number of registered soccer players equates to 4% of the total population in the Township. Assuming this proportion remains constant over the planning horizon, it is estimated that there will be approximately 838 registered soccer players by the year 2031. As a result, there is a need for a total of 10 soccer fields to meet projected demand by 2031.

There are currently six (6) existing soccer fields (2 at the Leisureplex, 1 at Caistor Community Park, 1 at Wellandport Community Park and 2 junior fields at Rock Street Park). Therefore, there is a need to provide four (4) additional full-size soccer fields to projected demand. Some of the full-size fields can also be utilized for mini soccer fields. Public concerns have been raised regarding the drainage/flooding of the soccer fields at Wellandport and Caistor Community Parks. The Township should investigate options/opportunities to improve the drainage of the soccer fields at these parks.

Recommendations:

- **Build four (4) more soccer fields based on projected need to 2031. Consideration should be given to locating the majority of the new fields on the undeveloped, Township-owned land at the Leisureplex.**
- **The Township should investigate and improve the drainage issues on the soccer fields at Wellandport Community Park and Caistor Community Park.**

6.2.2 Baseball Diamonds

There are six lit baseball diamonds in the Township. The baseball diamonds are well distributed throughout the Township (2 at Caistor, 2 at the Leisureplex, 1 at Wellandport and 1 at the Fairgrounds). The condition of some of the baseball diamonds has been identified as being inadequate in certain locations. Residents feel that the repair of existing diamonds is a matter to be considered immediately. For example, baseball diamond B located at the north end of the Fairgrounds has size restrictions, as it is immediately adjacent to the residential area resulting in an undersized and constrained baseball diamond.

The Township should adopt standardized baseball field sizes for any new baseball fields. In order to maintain the quality of the baseball fields and facilities, the Township needs to establish a regular maintenance program to annually monitor the quality of the facilities and identify required capital improvements.

Based on the surveys, some residents feel that there should be more baseball diamonds. The target threshold for baseball diamonds is generally one (1) baseball diamond for every 4,000 residents. By 2031, it is estimated that there will be a population of 21,300. As a result, a total of five (5) baseball diamonds will be required by 2031. **Therefore, the existing supply of baseball diamonds appears adequate to meet future need to 2031.**

The existing baseball diamonds at the Fairgrounds are substandard and the diamonds will require upgrades to the backstops, fencing and dugouts in the immediate future. These fields are actively used by groups such as the Smithville Coed Slo-Pitch League and the Smithville T-Ball Association. However, further investment in the fields may be more appropriately directed to new fields at the Leisureplex. Should the Fairgrounds redevelop to provide a new community centre/arena, the Township should consider relocating the baseball fields at the Fairgrounds to the Leisureplex lands.

In order to maintain an adequate supply of baseball diamonds to 2031, the Township should invest in its current supply of baseball diamonds by immediately scheduling improvements to the baseball diamonds at Caistor Community Park and Wellandport Community Park. This includes the standardization of diamond and field sizes, new fences and backstops, and lighting improvements, where necessary.

Recommendations:

- **The Township should investigate and improve the drainage issues on the baseball diamonds at Wellandport Community Park and Caistor Community Park.**
- **Upon redevelopment of the Fairground lands, the Township should consider removing the baseball diamonds at the Fairgrounds and relocate them to undeveloped portion of the Leisureplex lands.**
- **The Township should ensure that all new baseball diamonds are sized appropriately according to the level of play.**
- **Township should establish a regular maintenance program to annually monitor the quality of the sport fields and identify/budget for required capital improvements.**
- **The Township should immediately schedule improvements to the baseball diamonds at Caistor Community Park and Wellandport Community Park to ensure appropriate playing standards for a variety of user groups.**

6.2.3 Tennis Courts

There are four tennis courts in the Township, which are located at the Fairgrounds and Wellandport Community Park. These courts are primarily used for unstructured tennis activities in which leagues or games are not evident. Residents have not identified concerns or opportunities with the existing supply or condition of the tennis courts. Tennis is generally not an activity that has experienced considerable growth across the province.

As experienced in other municipalities, the target threshold for tennis courts is generally one (1) tennis court for every 4,000 residents. Based on projected populations to 2031, it is estimated that there will be a need for a total of five (5) tennis courts. Therefore, it is projected that one (1) additional tennis court will be required to meet the future need to 2031.

Recommendation:

- The Township should consider options to either build a tennis court at Caistor Community Park or expand the tennis courts either at the redeveloped Fairgrounds or the redeveloped Leisureplex.

6.2.4 Basketball Courts

There are two basketball courts in the Township, which are located at the Fairgrounds. The basketball courts are in conjunction with the tennis courts at the Fairgrounds.

The target threshold for basketball courts is generally one basketball court for every 800 residents aged 10-19. In 2006, there were 2,400 residents aged 10-19. In 2031, it is estimated that there will be 3,877 residents aged 10-19. Based on these growth projections, a total of five (5) basketball courts will be required by the year 2031. Therefore, an additional three (3) basketball courts will be required to meet the future need to 2031.

Recommendations:

- Build three more basketball courts throughout the Township to meet future need to 2031.
- The Township should consider relocating the existing basketball courts at the Fairgrounds so that they are an independent use from the tennis courts.

6.2.5 Football Fields

There is one football field in the Township, which is located at the Leisureplex. A running track is also located around the outside of the field. The field is currently used by users group such as West Lincoln Minor Football and South Lincoln High School. West Lincoln Minor Football currently has 80-100 registered football players aged 8-14.

There were limited comments received regarding the football field. Generally, users of the football field (West Lincoln Minor Football and South Lincoln High School) are satisfied with the maintenance and quality of the field. West Lincoln Minor Football requested that the Township install portable stands along the side of the football field.

In many municipalities, football fields are considered multi-purpose fields where other sports such as field lacrosse or soccer can be accommodated on the field. Generally, the target threshold for these multi-purpose fields is approximately 1-2 fields for every 100,000 residents in a municipality. Based on this target threshold, there is not an identified need for a new football field to meet projected demand by 2031. The Township should ensure that the existing football field is well maintained and at an appropriate standard based on the users of the field.

Recommendations:

- **The Township should consider installing portable stands along the western side of the football field.**

6.2.6 Other Recreational Activities

There is a growing demand for alternative forms of recreation activities geared towards the youth such as a skateboard park or graffiti walls. There are no existing skateboard parks in the Township. The public surveys indicated that there is a desire for a skateboard park in the Township. Residents feel that there are not enough youth-oriented recreation activities available and a skateboard park was identified as a potential activity. A central location for such a facility should be considered in order to maximize access and use of these facilities.

Other potential alternative recreational activities include outdoor skating surfaces. Outdoor ice space can help alleviate ice time conflicts and demand by providing unstructured opportunities for skating and hockey. Volunteers and/or community groups can play a vital role in implementing outdoor skating surfaces program. Such programs are generally located on municipally owned parklands. Municipalities such as East Gwillimbury, Centre Wellington and Kitchener have had some success in implementing such a program. The Township should investigate the feasibility of starting an outdoor skating program as a means to alleviate demands on existing ice time at the arena as well as provide for more opportunities for unstructured activities during the winter months.

Recommendations:

- **Assess the feasibility of building a skateboard park at the northern end of the Fairgrounds.**
- **Consider providing space for alternative outdoor recreation activities in the redesign of the Fairgrounds.**
- **The Township should investigate the feasibility of starting an outdoor skating program as a means to alleviate demands on existing ice time at the arena as well as provide for more opportunities for unstructured activities.**

6.3 Indoor Recreation Facilities

6.3.1 Halls

There are five community halls in the Township of West Lincoln (Fairgrounds, Fulton, Silverdale, Wellandport and Caistorville). The locations of the halls are well distributed throughout the Township. The halls are owned by the Township but operated/administered by private groups. The halls are available for rent to the general public for meetings and other social activities. Hall rentals are arranged/administered by the individual hall groups. The capacity of the halls range between 75 and 200 people. The largest community hall is at the Fairgrounds, which accommodates a maximum of 200 people.

Currently, the Township does not have a facility that can accommodate more than 200 people and facilitate larger events such as plays, concerts, etc. The Feasibility Study for a multi-use facility should consider providing for a hall with a minimum capacity of 500 people. Such a hall can be designed to be subdivided into smaller halls and/or accommodate gymnasium-type activities (e.g. gymnastics, badminton, shuffle board, etc.).

Public responses did indicate a concern with the quality of the hall at the Fairgrounds particularly regarding the lack of barrier-free access and the air conditioning. These constraints may limit the range of uses and/or recreation programs that may be offered in this particular facility. The Fairground's hall and the arena surface (in the summer) are typically used for the Township's fitness and summer programs. The hall is also used by the general public and other user groups to host social events, activities, programs or gatherings/meetings. Similar to the other halls, the rental of Fairground hall is administered by a "third-party" (the Agricultural Society).

The structural assessment report for the hall at the Fairgrounds completed in 2003 did not identify any major structural, plumbing, electrical or heating deficiencies. However, it did note the need to replace the arena and community centre roof.

Similarly, the structural assessments completed for Wellandport, Caistorville and Silverdale Community Halls have not identified any major deficiencies other than regular maintenance and repair.

Hall facilities should continue to be regularly monitored and maintained to ensure compliance with the Ontario Building Code.

Although not identified as a concern by the public, Township staff have noted that there are some challenges in managing the hall rentals with the individual hall groups. No information is available on rental activity/usage of these halls, which thus presents challenges in terms of assessing the level of service provided by the halls. Having said this, the availability and distribution of the halls throughout the Township is a community asset that should be retained as it ensures continued opportunities to provide meeting and gathering space for all parts of the Township.

Recommendations:

- Consider renegotiating agreements with the Hall Boards and Agricultural Society (Fairgrounds) and retaining management of the halls.
- The Township should consider up-grading community halls to improve usage and accessibility of these facilities. Up-grades to the hall should be considered in the context of an overall Feasibility Study to be undertaken for the arena/multi-purpose facility.
- The Township should regularly monitor and maintain hall facilities to ensure compliance with the Ontario Building Code.

6.3.2 Arena/Multi-Use Facility (e.g. Aquatics)

The Township of West Lincoln has one arena, which is located at the Fairgrounds. The single pad was constructed in the 1970s and has a seating capacity of approximately 200 people. The arena is well used by existing recreational groups (e.g. West Lincoln Minor Hockey Association, the West Lincoln Skating Club and other adult hockey/skating leagues). There are approximately 18 hours of available ice time of which the majority of time is filled by existing user groups.

Several challenges and concerns were identified with the arena. Ice time is at or nearing capacity and issues with scheduling particularly for adult leagues and private ice time. The condition of the arena was also viewed by the public as inadequate and the survey respondents feel upgrades are necessary.

The target threshold typically applied for an ice pad is one ice pad for every 700 registered skaters. There are approximately 630 registered skaters in the main skating/hockey programs offered in the Township (i.e. West Lincoln Minor Hockey Association, West Lincoln Skating Club and Smithville Men's Hockey League). Assuming the proportion of registered skaters remains the same relative to the total population, it is estimated that there will be approximately 1,023 registered skaters by the year 2031. Therefore, an additional ice pad will be required to meet demand for 2031.

Adult recreational hockey leagues are another prime user of the existing ice pad. Trends indicate that the older adult market is growing and becoming increasingly engaged in physical activity and other organized sports. Therefore, the Township should be prepared to respond to possible increases in the proportion of adults participating in recreational leagues and the potential need for more ice time allocated to adult recreational leagues while still prioritizing youth-based hockey, skating and school user groups.

Existing service levels are already quite high at the arena and this will worsen as the Township grows. Residents stated that lack of available ice time is a major concern. Although a second ice pad is not required immediately, it is estimated that a new ice pad will be required in the short to medium term in order to meet projected demand over the planning horizon. The amount of available funding and Council priorities will determine when a new ice pad will be built.

Given the timeframes required to design and construct a new ice pad, it is recommended that the Township initiate in the short term a Feasibility Study to investigate options and opportunities to either expand/twin the existing arena at the Fairgrounds or construct a new twin pad arena. Given the Fairgrounds central location to the majority of the population in the Township and the existing available infrastructure, it is recommended that the Township consider directing any new arena facility to the Fairgrounds.

The Feasibility Study should assess opportunities for additional uses in the facility including a gymnasium, a large community hall, recreation and leisure program space, and municipal/user group meeting space. The Study should also address the location of the potential new facility. The layout of the existing arena is not ideal considering its restrictive location in the southwest corner of the Fairgrounds immediately adjacent to residential uses. Opportunities to relocate a new facility should be considered. The accessibility concerns identified with the existing arena and hall should also be evaluated in the Study.

A conceptual plan has been prepared and is attached in Appendix G, which illustrates how a new twin pad facility can be accommodated at the Fairgrounds while continuing to provide amenity space for other recreational activities. The cost of such a facility can range between \$11-\$25 million depending on the types of amenities/facilities that are provided within a new twin pad complex (e.g. community rooms, fitness centres, meeting room, etc.). For reference purposes, a summary of multi-use facilities is provided in Appendix H of this report.

Indoor Aquatic Facility

Although aquatics were cited by residents as a ‘wanted’ recreation facility/program both in the Leger Survey and the recent surveys, it has been concluded that it would not be feasible for the Township to build an aquatics facility. Typically, a target threshold of 1 aquatic facility for 35,000 residents is deemed as an appropriate standard for municipalities to provide an indoor aquatics facility (such as an Olympic-sized pool). This population threshold is typically viewed as the minimum population needed in order to sustain on-going operating deficits, which is generally the norm for these types of facilities. Although indoor aquatic facilities provide opportunities to accommodate a variety of aquatic fitness activities for all age groups, in particular the mature adult population, such facilities require significant capital investment and on-going operating expenses. Therefore, a large market is generally required to support indoor aquatic facilities and this would not be evident in West Lincoln to 2031. The burden placed on taxpayers would be significant in terms of the initial capital cost and subsequently, ongoing maintenance of the facility. This conclusion is confirmed by the YMCA study from 2008.

Notwithstanding the proposed YMCA facility (see below), there may be opportunities to provide other forms of aquatic activities in a redesigned multi-use facility at the Fairgrounds. Initial capital and ongoing operating costs will need to be evaluated. It is recommended that the Township, through the Fairgrounds Feasibility Study, explore opportunities for smaller aquatic uses such as a leisure pool or therapeutic pool (if the costs of such aquatic uses are feasible to the Township and its residents).

It should be noted, however, that in December 2009, the Federal and Provincial Governments announced that they will help fund a new YMCA facility in the east end of Grimsby within driving distance of most West Lincoln residents. The proposed 57,000 square foot facility will contain two pools, a gymnasium and program space. Plans for the proposed facility have not been finalized. This new facility provides a significant opportunity to meet the aquatic needs in the Township of West Lincoln because of its location and the inclusion of an Olympic-sized pool. It is recommended that Council endorse the Grimsby location and consider financial support for the new facility.

Recommendations:

- **Initiate a Feasibility Study to evaluate the potential for a multi-use facility on the Fairgrounds lands. Through the study, determine whether to maintain the existing arena and add a new ice pad to the arena or remove the existing arena and build a new twin-pad arena. The Feasibility Study should also assess the need for additional space for meetings, a gymnasium, office space and/or a community hall with a minimum capacity of 500 people.**
- **The Township should endorse the proposed Grimsby YMCA location and consider providing financial support for this new multi-use facility.**
- **The Township should establish procedures, protocols and/or policies for scheduling of arena time such that it is clear for all user groups.**

6.4 Parks and Recreation Service Delivery

Administrative issues such as staffing and meeting space are important in assessing parks and recreation needs. Parks and recreation staff currently work under the Public Works Department. Generally, the Public Works Department has a different mandate, which may not always be focused on the delivery of parks and recreation services. A separate Parks and Recreation Department would ensure that appropriate staff and resources are allocated to specifically address parks and recreation matters such as recreation programming, field/facility maintenance, scheduling, etc., without having to compete for available resources.

In order to effectively deliver parks and recreation services, it is recommended that following the establishment of a multi-use facility (when constructed), the Township should consider creating a Parks and Recreation Department that is separate from all other municipal departments.

The addition of the multi-use facility will create additional demands on the Township's existing parks and recreation staff within the Public Works Department and it is our opinion that this would be an appropriate time to consider creating a separate department. A multi-use facility presents the opportunity for additional office space that would be best served by parks and recreation staff who can directly respond to issues from recreation user groups and issues related to the multi-use facility. It is anticipated the department would be managed by the Coordinator of Recreation Services.

Based on discussions with the Coordinator of Recreation Services, there is a need for one or two more Parks and Recreation staff in order to adequately administer and maintain the Township's facilities. Staff are currently responsible for a wide variety of programs and services. Where possible, parks and recreation staff should have defined roles specific to recreation programs and/or facilities. The importance of placing a staff member to a specific program or facility is crucial and it allows for better and more consistent communication between staff and the public.

Together with this administrative change, the Township should create a Parks and Recreation Committee that meet quarterly. Staff, user group representatives and at least one Council member should be on the committee. This presents an opportunity to discuss issues as well as coordinate parks and recreation events. Improved communication between the user groups and Township Staff was identified as a need through the public consultation process.

Recommendations:

- Create a Parks and Recreation Department that is separate from the Public Works Department if a multi-use facility is developed.
- Assign specific roles and tasks to parks and recreation staff based on recreation facilities and/or activities.

7.0 STRATEGIC ACTIONS/IMPLEMENTATION

The following recommendations outline initiatives that the Township should consider with respect to identifying deficiencies, future needs and community input assessment. These initiatives cover a wide range of activities and will need to be considered individually in terms of how to move forward, capital operating costs, resources and other considerations. The following actions/recommendations are prioritized based on three broad categories (high, medium, and low). High priority actions consist of items that need to be undertaken within the prescribed timeframe. Medium priority actions are items that can be completed when high priority actions have been either initiated or completed or when suitable community partners have been identified for funding. Low priority actions consist of items that can be initiated once the high and medium priority actions have been initiated or completed.

The following recommendations have also been categorized into four timeframes, which include; short term (2010-2015); medium term (2015-2020); long term (2021-2031); and ongoing (over the planning horizon 2009-2031).

Costs have also been identified where appropriate. The costs identified are estimates only and are subject to change given future market conditions and inflation.

The Township should continue to review and assess the actions and recommendations of this Master Plan in order to keep the Master Plan focused, up-to-date and relevant. In this regard, a three-tiered Master Plan review process is proposed for consideration by the Township:

- Every year, the Coordinator of Recreation Services should undertake a review of the preliminary directions, policies and initiatives to update them as well as to measure whether the outcomes are being realized. A report should be prepared for Council on the progress.
- Every five years, a comprehensive review of the Master Plan should be completed in order to implement updates related to population changes, trends, strengths, weaknesses and other considerations. This can involve surveys of organized groups, public consultation processes and a review of utilization and related strategies.
- At the 10 year anniversary, a new Master Plan should be undertaken involving a broader public consultation initiative and reflect the new realities and understandings that exist within the operating environment at that time.

| Action | Priority | Timing | Cost |
|---|----------|-------------|--|
| Public Parks | | | |
| At the time of the next Official Plan Review, the Township should consider renaming “linear parks” to “linear parks/greenspace corridors” | Low | Medium-term | N/A |
| The Official Plan policies should be updated at the next available opportunity to stipulate a minimum park size of 1.0 hectare unless otherwise deemed acceptable by the Township | Medium | Short-term | N/A |
| At the next Official Plan Review, the Township should consider encouraging active forms of parkland within an 800 metre radius of major residential areas | Medium | Medium-term | N/A |
| The Township should plan and provide for linear trails through development applications consistent with the Trails Master Plan. The Township’s Urban Design Guidelines (when prepared) should incorporate this requirement as a way to encourage pedestrian connectivity. | Medium | Ongoing | N/A |
| The Township should initiate a Trails and Greenspace Linkages Master Plan that will identify existing trails and provide recommendations for future trails and greenspace linkages | High | Short-term | \$30,000 |
| The Township should incorporate natural features into the design of passive and active park space | Medium | Ongoing | N/A |
| Ensure that playgrounds are provided in newly developed or existing residential areas that offer access within an 800 metre walking distance | High | Ongoing | \$40,000 - \$80,000 / playground |
| Ensure that all new playground equipment meet accessibility standards and be constructed to CSA standards | High | Ongoing | N/A |
| Ensure that all playgrounds and playground equipment are regularly maintained and inspected | High | Ongoing | N/A |
| The Township should target at a minimum a parkland service level of 3 ha / 1,000 residents throughout the municipality | High | Ongoing | N/A |
| Develop park design standards that address various park amenities including playgrounds, benches, passive areas and signage | High | Short-term | \$30,000 (consulting services) |
| Provide consistent signage clearly identifying all parks | High | Short-term | Dependent upon the location and style of signs |
| Leisureplex Township Park | | | |
| Prepare a Master Plan specifically for the Leisureplex detailing the existing features and uses and potential plans for the lands. The Plan should include an assessment of the feasibility and costs associated with extending municipal services to the Leisureplex and any other | High | Short-term | \$20,000-\$50,000 (consulting services) |

| | | | |
|--|--------|----------------------|---|
| infrastructure improvements (i.e. pumping station) that may be required | | | |
| The Township should initiate discussions with the Agricultural Society and PoultryFest regarding the relocation of the PoultryFest and the Fall Fair facilities from the Fairgrounds to the Leisureplex. Dedicated space at the Leisureplex for these events and the facilities associated with each event should be allocated on the vacant Leisureplex lands as part of the Master Plan process | High | Short to medium-term | N/A |
| The Township should promote the Leisureplex as a regional sports facility and continue to support local user groups with tournaments and other events at the Leisureplex | High | Ongoing | N/A |
| Explore partnership opportunities with leisure groups, sports interest groups and/or other levels of government (e.g. Region) in potentially developing the Leisureplex as a Regional recreational centre | High | Ongoing | N/A |
| The Township should consider providing additional parking areas to support the existing and proposed facilities and tournaments | Medium | Short-term | Dependent upon location/design |
| The Township should improve pedestrian linkages to the Leisureplex through walking/biking trails that are visible and easily accessible | High | Short-term | Dependent upon location/design |
| <i>Fairgrounds Township Park</i> | | | |
| Prepare a Master Plan specifically for the Fairgrounds detailing the existing features and uses and potential plans for the lands. The Master Plan should be prepared in conjunction with a Feasibility Study that assesses options and a range of uses contemplated for a redeveloped arena/community centre. The Master Plan should consider a range of uses to be provided at the Fairgrounds including amenities such as arts and cultural meeting spaces and/or opportunities for outdoor music such as an amphitheatre | High | Short-term | \$30,000-\$50,000 (consulting services) |
| Following the completion of a Master Plan and Feasibility Study for the Fairgrounds, the Township should initiate the construction of a second arena in a new twin-pad facility. Consideration should be given to including ancillary facilities such as a community centre and meeting space based on the outcome of the Feasibility Study. | High | Short to medium-term | \$10-\$25 million (depending on design) |
| The Township should promote the Fairgrounds as an urban park and through the redevelopment of the lands, consideration should be given to relocating the baseball and soccer fields and focusing on providing passive walking trails, playgrounds, open space areas and natural landscaping at the Fairgrounds | High | Ongoing | N/A |
| The Township should consider acquiring additional lands to provide secondary ingress/egress from Highway 20 particularly if a twin-pad arena is developed | Low | Long-term | Dependent upon market value of lands |

| | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|--|
| The Township should evaluate and consider opportunities to provide a pedestrian connection between Westlea Drive with Swayze Court at the north end of the Fairgrounds. | Low | Long-term | Dependent upon location/design |
| Wellandport Community Park | | | |
| Enhance access to the Welland River and promote the park as the Township destination for water-related activities (boating, canoeing, etc.) | High | Ongoing | N/A |
| Maintain the picnic area along the Welland River and provide adequate signage | Medium | Ongoing | N/A |
| Caistor Community Park | | | |
| The Township should ensure portable washrooms are provided and over the long-term, consider constructing permanent washrooms that are publicly accessible for users of this park | Medium | Short-term | |
| Outdoor Recreation Facilities | | | |
| Build four (4) more soccer fields based on need to 2031. Consideration should be given to locating the majority of the new fields on the undeveloped, Township-owned land at the Leisureplex | Medium-High | Medium-term | \$150,000 (unlit, irrigated) or \$300,000 (lit, irrigated) |
| The Township should investigate and improve the drainage issues on the soccer and baseball fields at Wellandport Community Park and Caistor Community Park | Medium | Medium-term | Dependent upon extent of work required |
| Upon redevelopment of the Fairground lands, the Township should consider removing the baseball diamonds at the Fairgrounds and relocate them to the undeveloped portion of the Leisureplex lands | High | Medium-term | \$150,000 (unlit, irrigated) or \$300,000 (lit, irrigated) |
| The Township should ensure that all new baseball diamonds are sized appropriately according to level of play | Low | Ongoing | N/A |
| The Township should immediately schedule improvements to the baseball diamonds at Caistor Community Park and Wellandport Community Park to ensure appropriate playing standards for a variety of user groups. | High | Short-term | Dependent upon upgrades and retrofits |
| The Township should establish a regular maintenance program to annually monitor the quality of sports fields and identify/budget for required capital improvements | High | Ongoing | N/A |
| The Township should consider options to either build a tennis court at Caistor Community Park or relocate and expand the tennis courts either at the redeveloped Fairgrounds or the redeveloped Leisureplex | Low | Medium-term | N/A |
| The Township should consider relocating the existing basketball courts at the Fairgrounds so that they are an independent use from | Low | Medium-term | N/A |

| | | | |
|---|--------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| the tennis courts | | | |
| Build three more basketball courts throughout the Township to meet future need to 2031 | Low | Long-term | \$200,000 / court |
| The Township should consider building portable stands along the western side of the football field. | Low | Long-term | Dependent upon size |
| Assess the feasibility of building a skateboard park at the northern end of the Fairgrounds | High | Short-term | \$250,000 |
| Consider providing space for alternative outdoor recreation activities in the redesign of the Fairgrounds | Medium | Ongoing | N/A |
| The Township should investigate the feasibility of starting an outdoor skating program as a means to alleviate demands on existing ice time at the arena as well as provide for more opportunities for unstructured activities | Medium | Short-term | \$5,000 / site |
| <i>Indoor Recreation Facilities</i> | | | |
| The Township should endorse the proposed Grimsby YMCA location and consider providing financial support for this new multi-use facility | High | Short-term | \$500,000-\$1 million |
| The Township should consider installing appropriate HVAC system and improve indoor barrier-free accessibility (elevators) if the existing arena/hall is maintained | Low | Short-term | Dependent upon upgrades |
| The Township should establish procedures, protocols and/or policies for scheduling of arena time such that it is clear for all user groups | Medium | Ongoing | N/A |
| Consider renegotiating agreements with the Hall Boards and Agricultural Society (Fairgrounds) and retaining management of the halls | High | Short-term | N/A |
| The Township should consider upgrading community halls to improve usage and accessibility of these facilities. Upgrades to the hall should be considered in the context of an overall Feasibility Study to be undertaken for the arena/multi-purpose facility | Medium | Medium-term | Dependent upon improvements required |
| The Township should regularly monitor and maintain hall facilities to ensure compliance with the Ontario Building Code | High | Ongoing | N/A |
| <i>Parks and Recreation Service Delivery</i> | | | |
| Create a Parks and Recreation Department that is separate from the Public Works Department if a multi-use facility is developed | Medium | Medium-term | N/A |
| Assign specific roles and tasks to Parks and Recreation staff based on recreation facilities and/or activities | Medium | Short-term | N/A |

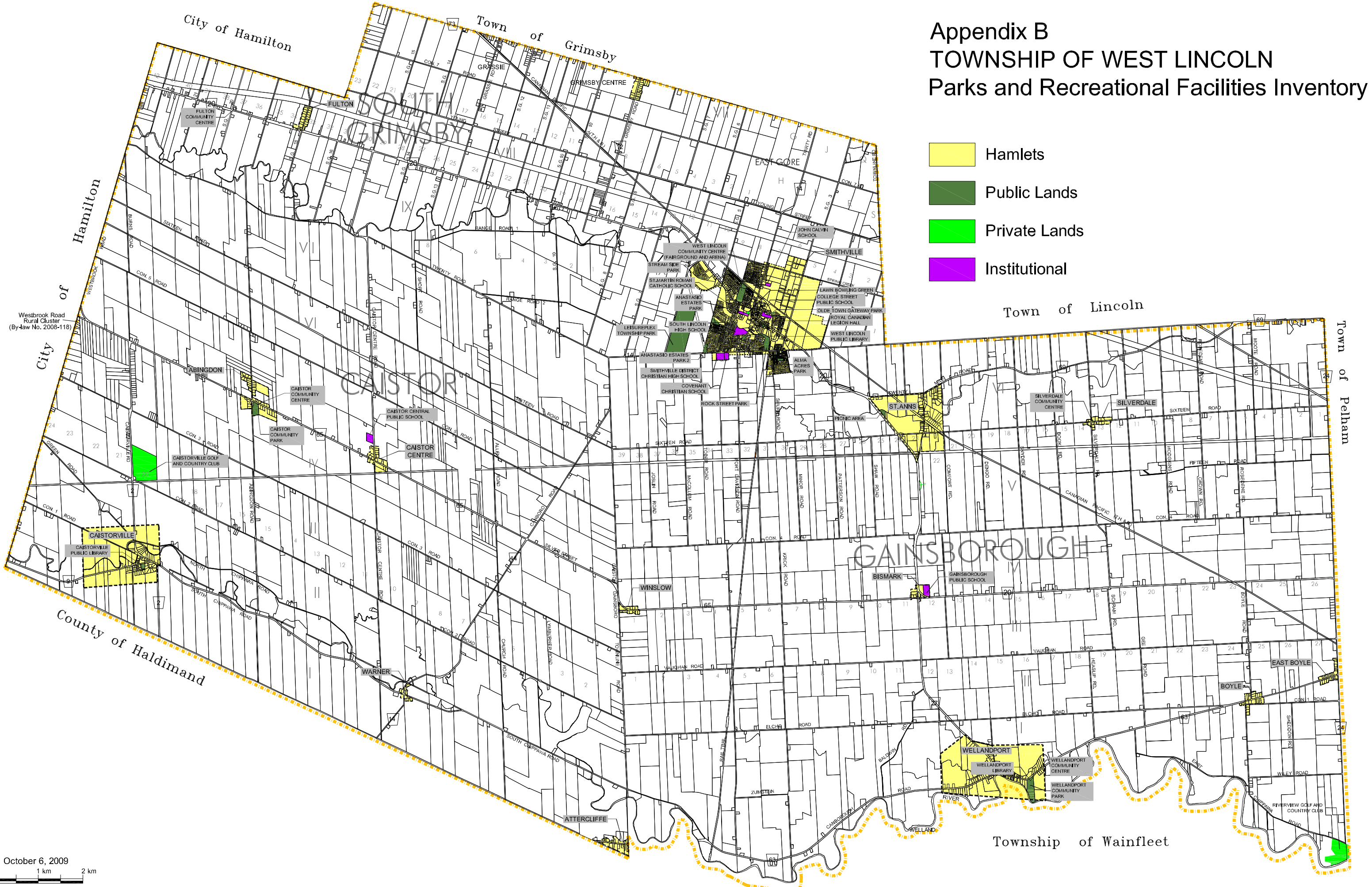
APPENDIX A – LIST OF USER GROUPS

The following chart presents parks and recreation user groups in West Lincoln, the facility the user groups uses, registration levels (if applicable) and the intended age for the user group.

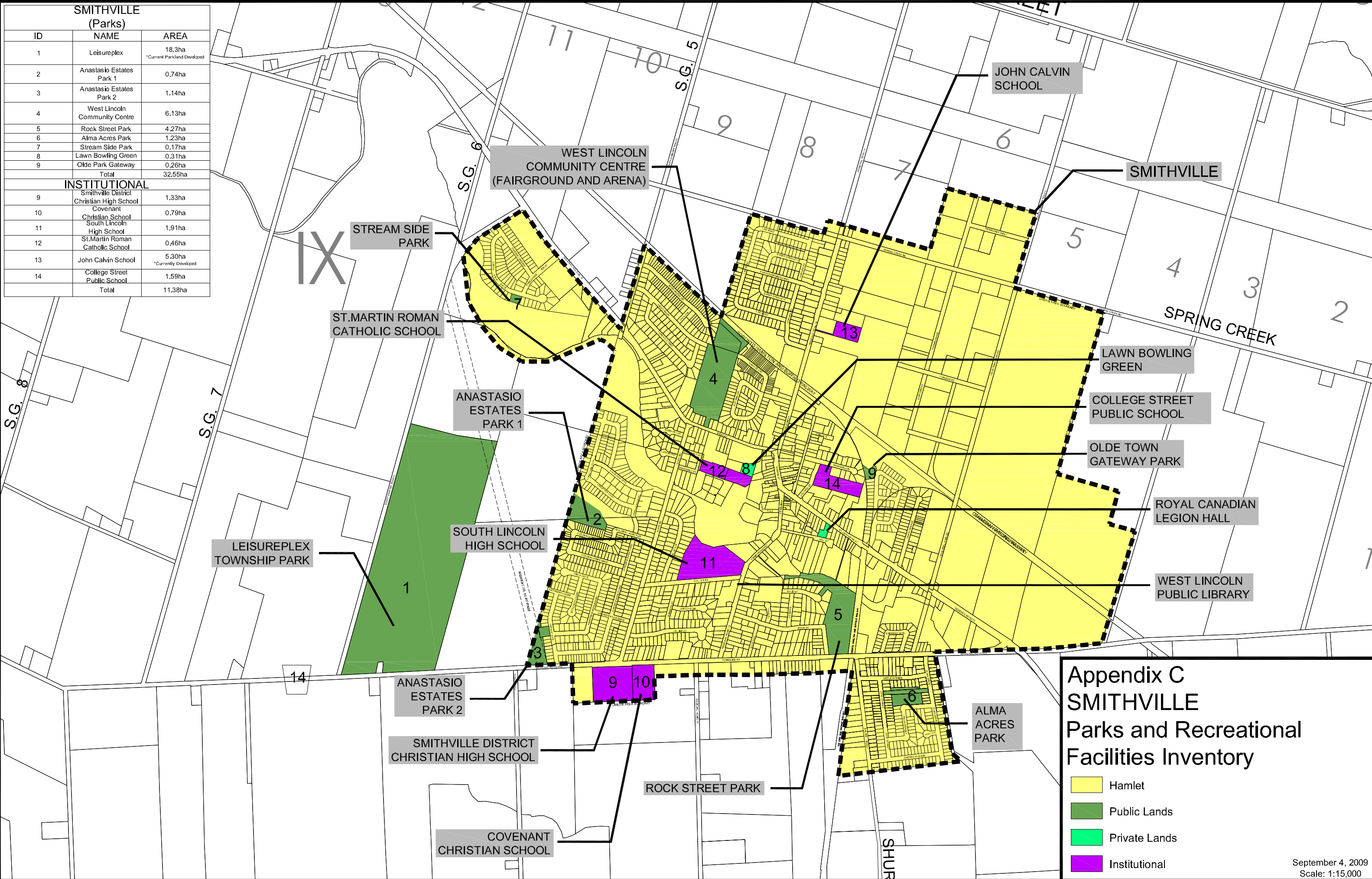
| User Group/Activity | Facility | Registration | Demographics |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Smithville Men’s Non-Contact Hockey | Arena | | 25+ |
| Smithville Dynamic Old Timers Team | Arena | | 35+ |
| West Lincoln Minor Hockey Association | Arena | 282 | 5-19 |
| West Lincoln Skating Club | Arena | 75 | 3+ (children and adults) |
| Karate | Arena Hall | | 4-8 |
| Smithville Gymnastics | College Street Public School | | 16 months-12 years old |
| West Lincoln Minor Football | Leisureplex Football Field | 80-100 | 8-14 years old |
| Smithville Coed Slo-Pitch League | Fairgrounds Diamond A | 100-200 | Adults |
| West Lincoln Ladies Slow Pitch | Fairgrounds | 60 | 19-55 years old |
| Niagara District Men’s Slow Pitch League | Leisureplex | 226 | 18-24: 98 25-35: 88 36+: 40 |
| West Lincoln Men’s Slo-Pitch League | Leisureplex | | 19+ |
| West Lincoln Lawn Bowling | West Lincoln Bowling Grounds | | All ages |
| Caistor Minor Softball Association | Caistor Community Park | 133 | 12-17 |
| Caistor T-Ball Association | Caistor Community Park | | 4-7 |
| Smithville T-Ball Association | Fairgrounds | 34 | 4-7 |
| West Lincoln Youth Soccer Association | Leisureplex | 518 | Youth |

Appendix B TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN Parks and Recreational Facilities Inventory

- Hamlets
- Public Lands
- Private Lands
- Institutional



| SMITHVILLE (Parks) | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| ID | NAME | AREA |
| 1 | Leisureplex | 18.3ha <small>*Current Parkland Developed</small> |
| 2 | Anastasio Estates Park 1 | 0.74ha |
| 3 | Anastasio Estates Park 2 | 1.14ha |
| 4 | West Lincoln Community Centre | 6.13ha |
| 5 | Rock Street Park | 4.27ha |
| 6 | Alma Acres Park | 1.23ha |
| 7 | Stream Side Park | 0.17ha |
| 8 | Lawn Bowling Green | 0.31ha |
| 9 | Olde Park Gateway | 0.26ha |
| Total | | 32.55ha |
| INSTITUTIONAL | | |
| 9 | Smithville District Christian High School | 1.33ha |
| 10 | Covenant Christian School | 0.79ha |
| 11 | South Lincoln High School | 1.91ha |
| 12 | St. Martin Roman Catholic School | 0.46ha |
| 13 | John Calvin School | 5.30ha <small>*Currently Developed</small> |
| 14 | College Street Public School | 1.59ha |
| Total | | 11.38ha |

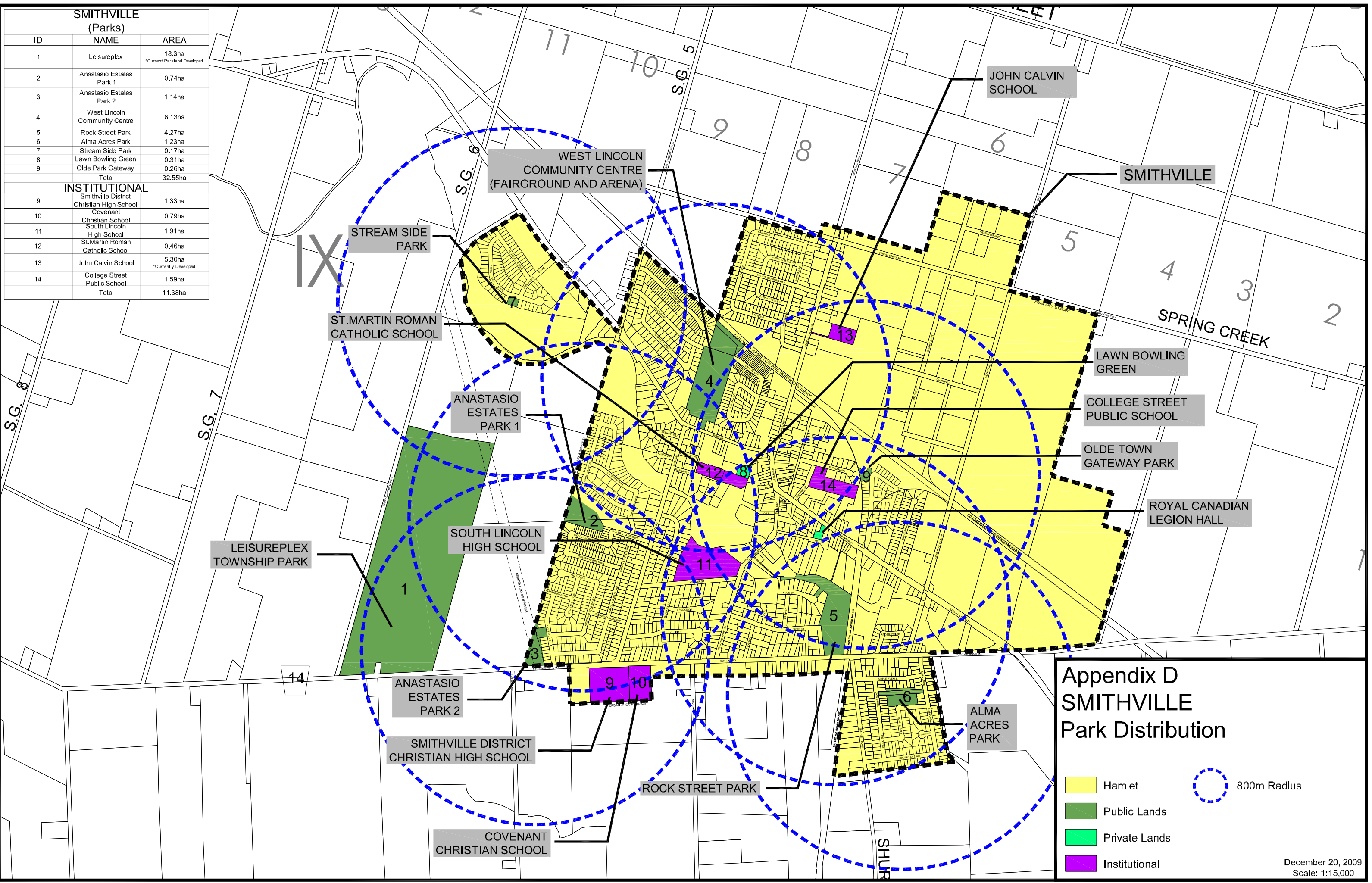


**Appendix C
SMITHVILLE
Parks and Recreational
Facilities Inventory**

- Hamlet
- Public Lands
- Private Lands
- Institutional

September 4, 2009
Scale: 1:15,000

| SMITHVILLE (Parks) | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| ID | NAME | AREA |
| 1 | Leisureplex | 18.3ha <small>*Current Parkland Developed</small> |
| 2 | Anastasio Estates Park 1 | 0.74ha |
| 3 | Anastasio Estates Park 2 | 1.14ha |
| 4 | West Lincoln Community Centre | 6.13ha |
| 5 | Rock Street Park | 4.27ha |
| 6 | Alma Acres Park | 1.23ha |
| 7 | Stream Side Park | 0.17ha |
| 8 | Lawn Bowling Green | 0.31ha |
| 9 | Olde Park Gateway | 0.26ha |
| Total | | 32.55ha |
| INSTITUTIONAL | | |
| 9 | Smithville District Christian High School | 1.33ha |
| 10 | Covenant Christian School | 0.79ha |
| 11 | South Lincoln High School | 1.91ha |
| 12 | St. Martin Roman Catholic School | 0.46ha |
| 13 | John Calvin School | 5.30ha <small>*Currently Developed</small> |
| 14 | College Street Public School | 1.59ha |
| Total | | 11.38ha |





Appendix D SMITHVILLE Park Distribution

- Hamlet
- Public Lands
- Private Lands
- Institutional

800m Radius

December 20, 2009
Scale: 1:15,000

APPENDIX E – FAIRGROUNDS AND LEISUREPLEX FACT SHEET

| Fairgrounds | Leisureplex |
|--|---|
|  |  |
| <p>Site Statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6.1 ha (15.2 ac) ▪ Arena ▪ 3 baseball diamonds (2 lit) ▪ 1 soccer field ▪ Track ▪ Community hall ▪ Pavilion ▪ Concession stand ▪ Parking | <p>Site Statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developed (18.2 ha / 45.2 ac) ▪ Undeveloped (27.7 ha / 68.4 ac) ▪ 2 baseball diamonds (lit) ▪ 2 soccer fields (full-size, 1 lit) ▪ 1 football field ▪ Track ▪ Public works facility ▪ Concession stand ▪ Parking |
| <p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full municipal services available ▪ Close to downtown ▪ Within walking distance of a large segment of the urban population ▪ Pathway connections to adjacent subdivisions ▪ ‘Established identity’ | <p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Large site (additional Township-owned land available for expansion) ▪ Condition of fields ▪ Located along two collector roads ▪ Fields are well used and maintained ▪ Well separated and buffered from noise sensitive land uses |
| <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ice time at capacity ▪ Limited space available within site given range of existing uses ▪ Condition of and accessibility within the arena ▪ Lack of appropriate standards for baseball and soccer fields ▪ One point of access on a Regional Road | <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access restricted primarily to vehicles only ▪ Parking congestion during tournaments ▪ Location of playground relative to playing fields ▪ Isolated from urban centre ▪ Municipal services not available |



Appendix F Potential Facility Layout - Leisureplex Plan For Discussion Purposes Only

Note: Recreation Complex as Illustrated is Based on an Existing Facility in the Township of Woolwich which includes a Twin Pad Facility, Pool, Fitness Centre, Offices, Hall and Meeting Rooms.



Scale 1:4000



Appendix G
Potential Facility Layout Plan - Fairgrounds
For Discussion Purposes Only



Note: Recreation Complex as Illustrated is Based on an Existing Facility in the Township of Woolwich which includes a Twin Pad Facility, Pool, Fitness Centre, Offices, Hall and Meeting Rooms.

Scale 1:1500

APPENDIX H – EXAMPLES OF MULTI-USE FACILITIES

In order to assist Council in making recommendations on the future of a multi-use facility in West Lincoln, a preliminary evaluation of facilities in municipalities of similar sizes was undertaken. The primary purpose of the evaluation was to determine costs, land requirements and uses within these facilities.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>1) County of Brant Twin Pad Complex Population: 34,415 Powerline Road and Rest Acres Road, Paris Size of Site: 4 ha Size of Facility: 2 storey, 80,000 ft² Amenities: twin ice pad, two multi-purpose rooms, 3,000ft² community room Cost: \$20,000,000</p> |  |
| <p>2) Orangeville Alder Street Recreation Centre Population: 26,925 275 Alder Street, Orangeville Size of Site: 7 ha Amenities: twin ice pad, two pools, library branch, fitness centre, five meeting rooms, restaurant Cost: \$18,000,000</p> |  |
| <p>3) Leamington Kinsmen Recreation Complex Population: 28,833 249 Sherk Street, Leamington Size of facility: 179,000 ft² Amenities: twin ice pad, auditorium, track, gym, meeting rooms, day care centre, pool, office space Cost: \$20,000,000</p> |  |
| <p>4) Wilmot Recreation Complex Population: 17,097 251 St. Jacobs Street, New Hamburg Size of site: 12 ha Amenities: twin ice pad, community centre, indoor pool and running track (Phase 2) Cost: \$11,000,000 (twin pad); \$10,000,000 (Phase 2)</p> |  |
| <p>5) Essex Arena and Sports Complex Population: 20,032 Fairview Avenue and Talbot Street, Essex Amenities: twin ice pad Cost: \$12,500,000</p> |  |