

City of Ottawa

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



New
Official Plan



Final Draft: October 2021

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Honour and Collaborate with Algonquin Anishinabe Host Nation and Urban Indigenous Communities

Ottawa is built on unceded Algonquin Anishinabe territory. The peoples of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation have lived on this territory for millennia. Their culture and presence have nurtured and continue to nurture this land. The City of Ottawa honours the peoples and land of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation. The City of Ottawa honours all First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Ottawa, and their valuable past and present contributions to this land.

The Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services Department commits to collaboration with the Algonquin Anishinabe Host Nations, on whose unceded territory Ottawa is built, and with Urban First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples that live and work in Ottawa on respectful inclusion and representation of their diverse cultures in the implementation of the Master Plan recommendations. Staff will follow recommendations from the City of Ottawa – Algonquin Anishinabe Nation Consultative Culture Circle and the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition for a First Nations, Inuit and Métis engagement framework that are both being developed at the time of printing.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to everyone who contributed their experience, thoughts, ideas and time to the development of this Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan.

Thanks to the many residents, partners and community leaders from across the city that use recreation facilities for sport, recreation, cultural and community uses for sharing their experiences and insight via public consultation. The Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan has greatly benefitted from the expertise and investment of time from many City Staff across departments. This collection of insights and suggestions from residents and staff have been instrumental in the writing of the Plan.

Executive Summary

City parks are important cornerstones and an indicator of a city's quality of life. They provide a distinctive identity to a city and distinguish one city from another. The residents of Ottawa value and use parks as gathering places, places to play, places for relaxation or discovery and to engage in active organized sports and cultural pursuits. Where and how the City of Ottawa grows is expected to change substantially over the coming years. While the City may change and grow, residents should have continued excellent access to the benefits and services provided by its parks and recreation facilities.

This is the City's first combined Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan and is a supporting document to the City's Official Plan (2021). This Plan identifies the need to add more parkland and recreation amenities to serve the needs of the city's residents to 2031. To get there, the City will need to (fill in the blank).

Key elements of the Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan include:

- An inventory of all current municipal active parkland and recreation facilities
- A summary of population, growth and demographic projections, and
- Recommendations for the amount of new parkland and number of new recreation facilities needed by 2031
- Strategies for achieving the Plan's recommendations

Provision level targets and recommendations within the final version of this Plan will have been approved by Committee and City Council for municipal, active parkland and for twenty-three facility types (such as recreation complexes, aquatic facilities, and sports fields etc.) per 1,000 residents. Recommendations are based on consultation feedback, staff input, analysis of current inventory, population projections, priority neighbourhoods, recent usage and recreation trends, municipal benchmarking and the application of an affordability lens.

This Plan will be used by City staff and the development community as they plan and develop new parks and recreation facilities across the City. This information may be of value to other recreation providers including Community Associations, sport organizations, Colleges and Universities as they plan for the future.

The Plan identifies and explains the main methods by which the City can fund the capital construction of new parks, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, the replacement of facilities that are at end-of-life, the redevelopment of existing parks, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and the addition of new amenities to parks and recreation buildings. Each funding source has its own restrictions and main usage, which are discussed within this Plan. These limitations are discussed and issues that may need to be re-examined are identified.

The City conducted several rounds of consultation specific to the Plan. Consultation methods included surveys, online consultation sessions and targeted meetings that ran from January to the end of July 2021. The City also received, accepted and analyzed feedback via phone, fax, mail and email. Note that consultations were carried out at a time when significant Public Health restrictions were in force requiring primarily a virtual approach.

Stakeholders included individual residents, institutional partners such as the National Capital Commission, the school boards, Colleges and Universities, industry groups, sports organizations, community associations, staff from numerous City departments, Advisory Committees and non-profit organizations working with equity deserving residents. The City of Ottawa Report on findings from Women and Gender Equity Strategy Consultations in 2019 highlighted the priorities that have been considered during development of the Plan, including a gender inclusive city, representation, and resident engagement.

A more detailed description and analysis of the consultation that formed part of the preparation of this Plan is available in the supporting City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan – Consultation Summary Report. This Plan has been prepared in part to fulfill the requirements of producing a municipal parks plan under Section 42 of the Planning Act. The COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, introduced as Bill 197, received Royal Assent in July 2020. The Province concurrently released Ontario Regulation 509/20, Community Benefits Charges and Parkland, under the Planning Act. A new subsection requires that all current parkland dedication by-laws that calculate parkland dedication based on the alternative requirement to be re-enacted by September 2022, or they will expire on this date.

Once the Plan is approved by Committee and Council demonstrating the need for more parkland, it will be possible to continue to collect alternative parkland dedication funds. This is important if the City wishes to continue to collect the funding required to provide parkland at the rate that will meet its residents' projected future needs related to growth.

Section 1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

City parks are some of the cornerstones and indicators of the quality of life of cities. They provide a distinctive identity to a city and distinguish one city from another. The residents of Ottawa value and use parks and open spaces as gathering places and places to play, places for relaxation, discovery or culture and to engage in physical activity and active organized sports.

The City's network of parks is a significant contributing factor to the City's green infrastructure. When parks are developed, a primary objective is to make attractive and accessible spaces that meet the needs of the people who use these public places. Less obvious, but equally important and as essential to the design considerations are the environmental contributions of this green infrastructure as the City's lungs, climate cooling mechanism, and as the location of extensive permeable surfaces that assist to regenerate and improve ground water, surface water quality and air quality. The benefits of these vital green spaces are as essential to the sustainability of a city as the infrastructure of roads and utilities and contribute to its overall environmental quality and liveability. The social, health and environmental benefits of parks will be increasingly important as our climate changes.

As part of the city fabric, parks range in size, scale and location and over time reflect the character, history and transformation of communities. The changes in programming and renewal of amenities and recreational opportunities indicate the changing needs and priorities of residents. As important assets in all neighbourhoods, parks contribute to the vitality, energy, strength and dynamics of a city. Their value continues to appreciate over time and their contribution to the City and region can be measured in terms of human and environmental health, their ecological heritage and cultural land value contributions.

Where and how the City of Ottawa grows is expected to change substantially over the coming years. While the City may change and grow, all residents should have access to the benefits and services provided by the City's parks and recreation facilities.

This Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (the Plan) looks at the City's current parks and recreation facilities and examines what parks and facilities will be required to serve the needs of the city's residents to 2031.

In the context of this Plan, parks are lands owned by the City and specifically dedicated or acquired as parkland. The Plan also includes lands the City has leased long-term and uses to provide recreational facilities such as Mooney's Bay Park. As these lands are

under City stewardship and control, the City has the ability to upgrade, enhance and/or use them to provide recreation programs to residents. There are other lands, such as Canada's Capital Greenbelt (the Greenbelt) and school yards, which are green space, but over which the City has no control and no ability to guarantee continued public access and use. These lands do not form part of this Master Plan.

The Plan is a supporting document to the City's Official Plan (2021). While the Official Plan (2021) provides high level direction on parks and green spaces, this Plan provides more subject specific recommendations and policy direction on municipal parks and recreation facilities.

There are several subjects that this Plan is not meant to address. These include but, are not limited to:

- Stand-alone cultural facilities that are not embedded within a recreation facility, such as theatres and museums
- Privately-owned and operated recreation facilities, with the exception of facilities that have a Public Private Partnership (P3) agreement with the City of Ottawa
- Green spaces, sports fields and recreation facilities that are not owned, leased, or operated by the City of Ottawa
- Municipally owned green space, such as Urban Natural Features and ravine lands, that can't be actively programmed, or used for facilities and amenities.
- Issues related to operations and maintenance, such as garbage pick-up, grass mowing and facility conditions
- Recreational programming
- Building condition assessments to determine whether facilities are at functional end of life
- Recommendations for decommissioning, renovation or redevelopment of specific existing facilities
- Recreation amenities, such as equestrian centres, curling and golf clubs, that are beyond the current service mandate of Recreation Culture and Facility Services

This Plan has been prepared to fulfill the requirements of a municipal parks plan under section 42 of the *Planning Act*. Specifically, this Master Plan examines the need for parkland in the City in accordance with subsection 42 (4.1) of the *Planning Act* and complying with the consultation requirements specified in subsection 42 (4.2), to:

- allow the City to adopt specific policies dealing with the provision of lands for parks, or other public recreational facilities, and the use of the alternative parkland dedication requirement in the Official Plan (2021) (this provision allows for increased parkland dedication in areas of higher density such as proposed by the new Official Plan)

- permit the current Parkland Dedication By-law to provide for the alternative parkland dedication requirement after the Official Plan (2021) comes into effect, and
- permit the future Parkland Dedication By-law to provide for the alternative parkland dedication requirement after the current By-law is repealed or expires

1.2 Methodology

In preparing this plan, a literature review was undertaken of relevant provincial and municipal legislation with implications to parks and recreation. A draft outline was developed, and a body of work was generated based on the City's existing and proposed plans and policies relevant to this Plan. Through review and analysis, a baseline of existing and proposed city inventory was established using:

- the current data of population and development trends,
- the per capita data of existing parks and recreation facilities and most current plans for future parks and recreation facilities to 2031, and
- the per capita projected needs for parks and recreation facilities to 2031 based on population projections and provision level targets.

The data was also benchmarked against parks and recreation facility inventories from other municipalities. The City conducted surveys and held public and stakeholder meetings to include in the information, knowledge and data collection for this Plan¹.

1.3 The Sections of this Document

The sections of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan are structured as follows:

Section 2 provides a summary of the Provincial and Municipal policy context with a bearing on the delivery of parks and recreational facilities. This includes the City's Official Plan (2003), Official Plan (2021), relevant Master Plans and key policies related to recreation.

Section 3 summarizes citywide growth projections to 2031, broken down by 'transect' to match the geographic planning transects identified in the Official Plan (2021). Section 3 also provides a summary of demographic information, trends and equity in consultation and recreation facility design in the city.

¹ Refer to the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan – Consultation Summary Report for a full description of the consultation that formed part of the preparation of this Plan.

Section 4 discusses the impacts of growth, as projected by the City's Official Plan (2021), on the provision of city owned parkland.

Section 5 provides a summary of the needs assessment for 23 different recreation facility types. The full needs assessments, which analyze each of the 23 identified facility types at citywide and transect wide scales, are detailed in Appendix A.

Section 6 is a summary of the needs assessment for municipal parkland, with the full needs assessment presented in Appendix B.

Section 7 further discusses future parkland needs and details a parkland provision strategy. This is followed by Section 8 which outlines next steps and implementation. The final sections, 9 and 10, provide a list of references and a glossary of terms, respectively.

Appendix A provides the full needs assessment and recommendations for 23 different recreational facility types. The appendix includes a description of the facility types, existing and planned facilities to 2031, per capita provision rates, municipal benchmarking, as well as information on participation and utilization rates.

In a similar fashion, Appendix B provides a full needs assessment and recommendations related to the provision of parkland. The appendix includes a description of current park typologies, existing and planned parks to 2031, per capita provision rates and municipal benchmarking.

Appendix C provides a list of sports and facility types that are not covered by this Plan.

Appendix D provides information on the impacts of climate change on parkland and recreation facilities.

Appendix E provides a copy of the Official Plan (2021) schedule showing Urban Expansion Areas.

Development of this Plan included stakeholder consultation; stakeholders include the general public, sports organizations, the development industry, non-profit organizations working with equity deserving residents, and institutional partners such as Ottawa's four local school boards and the National Capital Commission. City staff from across departments provided input via a Technical Advisory Committee. The consultation process and the findings from the process itself are described in the supporting Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan – Consultation Summary Report.

Section 2. Planning Context

2.1 Planning Act

The *Planning Act* (the Act) is provincial legislation that sets out the ground rules for land use planning in Ontario. It describes how land uses may be controlled, and who may control them (Government of Ontario: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. [Citizen's guide to land use planning: The Planning Act](#)).

The Act gives the authority to municipalities to require land for parks and recreational purposes at the time of the development. This requires any land development application to transfer a predetermined amount of parkland to the City at no cost. The amount of parkland that can be requested is limited by the Act and varies depending upon the proposed uses. As an alternative to requiring a dedication of specific land, the City is permitted to require the payment of the cash value of the land, referred to as cash-in-lieu of parkland (CIL or CILP). Requiring CIL may be more efficient than the dedication of parkland in some cases, such as where land dedication on the site is impractical or where the City can make better use of the money to acquire parkland or improve the capacity of existing parks and recreation facilities elsewhere in the community.

Sections 42 and 51.1 of the Planning Act deal with matters related to parkland.

The *Act* places limitations on the amount of parkland dedication that the municipality can require based on the proposed land use, as follows:

- a maximum of two per cent (2%) of the land area to be developed or redeveloped for commercial or industrial purposes, and
- a maximum of five per cent (5%) of the land area for any other development or redevelopment including residential uses. However, in the case of the development or redevelopment of land for residential purposes, a municipality may choose to utilise an 'alternative rate' that provides up to one hectare of parkland for every 300 dwelling units proposed in the development or, a specified lesser rate if the municipality chooses. To use this 'alternative rate', the City must have a by-law which provides for it. It must also have specific policies dealing with the provision of lands for parks or other public recreational purposes and the use of the alternative requirement in its Official Plan, which policies must be based on a parks plan that examines the needs for parkland in the municipality.

When the municipality requires the payment of cash instead of land dedication, the cash value cannot exceed the value of the land that would otherwise be required to be conveyed to the municipality. One exception is in the case of land that would be dedicated on the basis of the alternative rate: where cash is taken in lieu of such land,

the maximum amount is calculated based on the rate of one hectare per 500 dwelling units (compared to a higher maximum rate of one hectare per 300 dwelling units in the case of parkland dedication).

Where cash is taken instead of land, the money can be spent only for the acquisition of land to be used for park or other public recreational purposes, including the erection, improvement, or repair of buildings and the acquisition of machinery for park or other public recreational purposes.

The *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act*, introduced as Bill 197, received Royal Assent on July 21, 2020. Key amendments to the *Planning Act* and *Development Charges Act* were proclaimed on September 18, 2020 and came into force at that time. The Province concurrently released *Ontario Regulation 509/20, Community Benefits Charges and Parkland*, under the *Planning Act*.

The *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act* introduced requirements for consultation prior to passing a parkland dedication by-law and the ability to appeal by-laws that provide for the alternative rate to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT).

A new subsection, 42 (4.26), requires that all current parkland dedication by-laws that calculate parkland dedication based on the alternative requirement to be re-enacted by September 18, 2022, or they will expire on this date.

The *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act* amends section 37 of the *Planning Act* to authorize municipalities to impose community benefit charges against land to pay for the capital costs of facilities, services and matters required because of development or redevelopment in the area to which the by-law applies. The charges may be imposed on development that requires certain specified development applications and is limited to higher-density residential or mixed-use development (development or redevelopment involving a building of 5 or more storeys above ground and adding 10 or more residential units). The *Community Benefits Charges and Parkland* regulation sets out the requirements for a community benefits charge strategy which must be adopted prior to a municipality passing a community benefits charge by-law and sets the maximum for a community benefits charge at four per cent of the value of the land being developed.

2.2 Development Charges Act

The *Development Charges Act, 1997* (the “*Development Charges Act*”) permits municipalities to enact development charge by-laws. Subsection 2(1) of the Act allows the City to establish the by-law and impose development charges against land to pay for increased capital costs required because of increased needs for services arising from development of the area to which the by-law applies.

Development charges can be imposed on certain services designated in subsection 2 (4) of the *Development Charges Act*. As a result of the amendments in the *COVID-19*

Economic Recovery Act and related amendments which came into effect September 18, 2020, the list of permitted services includes “Parks and recreation services, but not the acquisition of land for parks”. This means, for example, that the City can collect Development Charges for new park and facility development due to growth but not for staffing new facilities. Regulation O. Reg. 82/98, issued under the *Development Charges Act*, describes “land for parks” to include “(a) land for woodlots and land that is acquired because it is environmentally sensitive;” and “(b) does not include land for an enclosed structure used throughout the year for public recreation and land that is necessary for the structure to be used for that purpose, including parking and access to the structure.”

A municipality is now able to fully recover the growth-related capital costs related to the provision of various services which were often referred to, informally, as “soft” services. Prior to the amendments which came into force with the *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act*, the growth-related portion of capital costs of parks and recreation services were recoverable through development charges but would have been subject to a 10 per cent statutory reduction as they were one of the several “soft” services which were prescribed in the regulation.

2.3 Provincial Policy Statement

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development in Ontario. The 2020 version of the PPS (“PPS 2020”) was issued under section 3 of the *Planning Act* and came into effect on May 1, 2020. The PPS 2020 applies to all municipal planning matter decisions made or after May 1, 2020.

Section 3 of the *Planning Act* requires that decisions affecting planning matters “shall be consistent with” policy statements issued under the Act. Accordingly, the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan is a supporting document to the City’s Official Plan which must be consistent with the PPS and other applicable policy statements.

Part IV of the PPS describes the vision for Ontario’s land use planning system. The vision includes efficient development patterns that optimize the use of land, resources and public investment in infrastructure and public service facilities.

Section 1.0, Building Strong Healthy Communities, indicates that Ontario’s long-term prosperity, environmental health and social well-being depend on wisely managing change and promoting efficient land use and development patterns.

Subsection 1.1 contains policies for managing and directing land use to achieve efficient and resilient development and land use patterns. In particular, policy 1.1.1 g) states “*Healthy, liveable and safe communities are sustained by ensuring that necessary infrastructure and public service facilities are or will be available to meet current and projected needs...*”.

Public service facilities are defined in the PPS as land, buildings and structures for the provision of programs and services provided or subsidized by a government or other body. Recreation and cultural services form part of the programs and services provided in, or by, public service facilities addressed in this policy.

Policy 1.1.2 states, “*Sufficient land shall be made available to accommodate an appropriate range and mix of land uses to meet projected needs for a time horizon of up to 25 years, informed by provincial guidelines...*”.

To be consistent with the PPS, the City shall ensure that parks and recreation facilities are or will be available to meet the current and projected needs and that sufficient land is made available through the Official Plan to meet the projected needs for a time horizon of up to 25 years. The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan focuses on the provision of parks and recreation facilities for a time horizon from 2021 to 2031.

Subsection 1.1.3, Settlement Areas, indicates that growth and development shall be focused in settlement areas. The policies in subsections 1.1.3.2 to 1.1.3.8 promote the efficient use and timely provision of public service facilities to meet current and projected needs.

Subsection 1.1.4 includes policies for rural areas in municipalities. Policies 1.1.4.1 to 1.1.4.3 speak to ensuring the long-term health, integration, and viability of rural areas by using existing infrastructure and public service facilities efficiently and by ensuring appropriate provision of such services as development occurs.

Subsection 1.2 of the PPS addresses the coordination of planning matters, including the planning of public service facilities. Relevant policies for parks and recreation facilities include policies 1.2.1 and 1.2.2. These are:

1.2.1 *A coordinated, integrated and comprehensive approach should be used when dealing with planning matters within municipalities, across lower, single and/or upper-tier municipal boundaries, and with other orders of government, agencies and boards including:*

d) infrastructure, multimodal transportation systems, public service facilities and waste management systems;

1.2.2 *Planning authorities shall engage with Indigenous communities and coordinate on land use planning matters.*

Housing policies are described in Subsection 1.4 of the PPS. Policy 1.4.3 directs that new housing will be located where public service facilities are, or will be available, and that such housing will be provided at densities which use such facilities efficiently.

Subsection 1.5 of the PPS contains policies for public spaces, recreation, parks, trails and open space as described below:

1.5.1 *Healthy, active communities should be promoted by:*

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

Further to Policy 1.5.1b), recreation is defined in the PPS Glossary as leisure time activity undertaken in built or natural settings for purposes of physical activity, health benefits, sport participation and skill development, personal enjoyment, positive social interaction and the achievement of human potential.

Subsection 1.6 contains policies for infrastructure and public service facilities. Policies 1.6.1 to 1.6.5 speak to providing public service facilities in an efficient and financially sustainable manner, that prepares for the impacts of a changing climate. The policies speak to green infrastructure, adaptive reuse, and the creation of community hubs and co-locating facilities to promote cost-effectiveness and facilitate service integration, access to transit and active transportation.

Subsection 1.7 of the PPS contains policies for long-term economic prosperity and addresses parks and recreation facilities under policy 1.7.1. Subsection 1.8 includes policies for energy conservation, air quality and climate change; most relevant to parks and recreation facilities are the policies under 1.8.1.

2.4 City of Official Plan (2003)

Official Plans are legal documents adopted under the authority of the Ontario *Planning Act*. The City of Ottawa's Official Plan (originally enacted in 2003, amendments consolidated in 2013, 2016 and 2019) speaks to the City's strategy for parks and leisure areas. Section 2.5.4 states that "municipal parks are lands specifically dedicated or acquired as parkland by the City and designed for active and passive recreation uses". Key elements of Section 2.5.4 policies of the Official Plan include:

- Parks and leisure areas will be linked to the Greenspace Network
- Council will pursue a target for parks and leisure areas of 2.0 hectares per 1,000 people in the urban areas and villages

- New parks will be distributed equitably, accessible by pedal, rolling or strolling, visible within the community, and designed for a wide spectrum of users
- The City will determine the park requirements based upon the maximum potential for development anticipated

Parkland dedication policies in Section 4.10 of the Plan note that the City will acquire parkland through the provisions of the Planning Act. In general, the policies direct that parkland dedications amounts are to be 2 per cent of the area of land that is developed or redeveloped for industrial or commercial purposes and 5 per cent (or the alternative dedication under the Act) of the area of land that is developed or redeveloped for all other purposes. Section 4.10 also speaks to the possibility of payment-in-lieu of parkland. Policy 4.10.3 reads:

“The City shall require the dedication of land for parks in an amount not exceeding 5% of the area of land that is developed or redeveloped for all other purposes except that the City will calculate the park dedication for residential development or redevelopment at densities that exceed 18 units per net hectare using the ‘alternative requirement’ of 1 hectare for every 300 dwelling units as provided in the *Planning Act* or some lesser amount based upon this requirement. The Parkland Dedication By-law will identify circumstances when a lesser amount will be considered”.

The provision of parkland will follow the direction and policies of the Official Plan until such time as the Official Plan (2021) is in full force and effect.

2.5 Official Plan (2021)

In 2019, the City of Ottawa began a multi-year process to develop a new Official Plan (OP). The City’s new Official Plan (2021) is expected to receive ministerial approval in 2022.

The Official Plan (2021) contains the City’s goals, objectives, and policies to guide growth and manage physical change to 2046. The vision of the OP (2021) is to make Ottawa the most liveable mid-sized city in North America. To achieve this goal, the OP (2021) proposed ‘Five Big Moves’ to frame the policy direction; these fall under the headings of Growth, Mobility, Urban Design, Resiliency and Economy.

The Strategic Directions of Section 2.2 globally point to the importance of parks in creating a liveable city for all. Section 2.2.1 projects that the City of Ottawa “will grow by 402,000 people between 2018 and 2046” and states that over half of urban residential growth will occur within the existing built-up area. This section introduces the concept of 15-minute neighbourhoods and the need to ensure that the availability of “services,

parks, recreational facilities, public spaces, and other elements of a complete neighbourhood” keeps pace with the increasing population density. In subsequent subsections, the concept is tied to quality of life and well-being, long-term health, gender equity and culture. Many sections of the Official Plan (2021) note the importance of parks and recreational facilities and link these with resiliency and healthy, inclusive communities. .

Section 2.2.3 contains direction and policies related to energy and climate change. The section speaks to the need for resilience and sustainability planning in the face of a changing climate with more extreme weather. It notes the role of parks in mitigating the urban heat island effect and providing reprieve from the heat, thereby also building healthier communities.

Section 3, Growth Management Framework, identifies minimum residential density requirements in different geographic areas and land use designations of the city. Areas identified as Hubs and Corridors and Protected Major Transit Station Areas are projected to see significant intensification through the application of minimum density requirements. Areas identified as Neighbourhoods and Minor Corridors will similarly see significant intensification though target residential density ranges for intensification. These minimum density requirements, and the resultant population increases, have implications for the provision of parks and recreational facilities, as discussed in Section 4 of this document.

Section 4 of the Official Plan (2021) addresses citywide policies and Section 4.4 deals with Parks and Recreation Facilities. The Official Plan (2021)P emphasizes that parks make cities liveable. Parks and recreation facilities are safe places for people of all ages to build community, play, exercise, connect and gather. As the city grows, it is critical for the provision of parks and facilities to keep pace with that growth and changes in neighbourhood context. Section 4.4 also notes that the design of parks and facilities must also respond to our changing climate.

Section 4.4 directs the provision of a variety of park types through the city. Section 4.4.1 identifies park priorities within Ottawa’s growth areas. The policies of the 4.4.1 subsections speak generally to the mechanisms by which parks can be provided, criteria for parkland and what shall not be considered as parkland dedication, addressing parkland gaps and community needs, and the rate of parkland acquisition.

Together with subsection 4.4.2, the document indicates how parkland typologies will be set and suggest methods and locations for acquiring parks. The subsection policies further provide new direction to prioritize land dedication, instead of money for parks, given the importance of parks in neighbourhoods.

The Official Plan (2021) differentiates park policies by context, from the downtown to suburban and rural areas. Section 4.4.3 includes policies suggesting how to provide new parks in the downtown core and inner urban areas of the city. The section recognizes that parks are central pieces of infrastructure and equitable access to parkland is crucial to support urban life, particularly in high-growth, high-density areas. The section recognizes the need for parks of all sizes in these parts of the city. Section 4.4.4 policies also speak to providing a range of parks sizes in the Outer Urban and Suburban Transects but emphasizes the provision of larger parks. Within the rural portions of the city, Section 4.4.5 speaks to locating new parks within villages.

Section 4.4.6 outlines how park design contributes to quality of life for users of all ages and responds to climate change. Parks should have a preferred tree canopy target of 40 per cent. Shaded outdoor recreation spaces and cooling amenities such as splash pads encourage safe, continued use in much warmer temperatures and provide reprieve from the heat, especially for vulnerable populations. The implications of a changing climate on the provision of parks and recreation facilities are discussed in Appendix D.

2.6 Greenspace Master Plan

Ottawa City Council approved the *Greenspace Master Plan (GMP) - Strategies for Ottawa's Urban Greenspaces* in 2006 to express its vision for green space in urban Ottawa and establish policies to achieve that vision in the future.

The GMP considers green space to be land that serves one of two purposes:

- a. "Provision of recreation and leisure opportunities for the use and benefit of the public, or
- b. Preservation of the natural environment and environmental systems"² (Section 1.3).

Since these lands can be either publicly or privately owned, the GMP speaks to a broad spectrum of lands such as waterways and remnant woodlands, stormwater management ponds, school grounds, corridor lands, parks and private campuses.

The GMP identifies five broad objectives for green spaces: adequate supply, accessibility, connectivity, quality and sustainability. The City is to ensure an adequate supply of green spaces to meet growing community need while maintaining natural

² City of Ottawa, 2006, Greenspace Master Plan, Section 1.3

systems. Green spaces are to be accessible, connected to each other and the community, of high quality and sustainable³.

Recreation land, such as public parks, sports fields and multi-use pathways are addressed in Section 2.3, Ottawa’s Open Space and Leisure Lands. “Mapping all the land that contributes to open space and leisure use reveals the pattern that they form and the relationships among them...the distribution of public parks in different communities is more evident and standards of delivery for new communities and older communities are more readily monitored”⁴.

Section 2.3.1 states that “public parks, sports fields, and multi-use pathways are the primary and most important lands that provide for the recreational needs of the community. The City owns most of these lands and compared with other public bodies, has the most direct mandate for open space, active recreation and leisure. New public parks, sports fields, and multi-use pathways are provided through public acquisition and through parkland dedication required under the Planning Act at the time of development”⁵.

2.7 Greenspace and Urban Forest Master Plan

The City is updating the Greenspace Master Plan to a new document entitled the *Greenspace and Urban Forest Master Plan*. The Greenspace and Urban Forest Master Plan is expected to be presented for Council approval in 2022.

The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan and the Greenspace and Urban Forest Master Plan, together, aim to provide all residents within Ottawa’s urban boundary with equitable access to a connected

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan and the Greenspace Master Plan

Both master plans are supporting documents to the City’s Official Plan (2021) and aim to make green spaces accessible to all residents to improve quality of life.

The Greenspace Master Plan mapped the City’s Urban Greenspace Network - of which parks were a part.

Through the creation of the new Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan and Urban Forest and Greenspace Master Plan, a distinction is being made between built and natural green spaces.

The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan provides strategies for parkland acquisition and focuses on meeting residents’ needs for recreation.

The Greenspace and Urban Forest Master Plan will provide direction for preserving and managing natural green spaces and the urban forest for biodiversity, climate change adaptation, and public well-being.

³ City of Ottawa, 2006, Greenspace Master Plan, Section 1.4.2

⁴ City of Ottawa, 2006, Greenspace Master Plan, Section 2.3

⁵ City of Ottawa, 2006, Greenspace Master Plan, Section 2.3.1

network of natural areas, green open spaces, pathways, and parks supporting a healthy, diverse urban forest. The City, in collaboration with the National Capital Commission and local Conservation Authorities, manages this green space system to sustain its vital ecosystem services such as biodiversity, shade and urban heat mitigation, recreational uses, and human health benefits. Ottawa's urban green space varies in form and character from rugged, near pristine forested valleys to landscaped parks and event spaces.

It is the position of the Greenspace and Urban Forest Master Plan that parks play a particularly important role in Ottawa's green space network as formally dedicated and maintained public lands. They support a range of recreational and cultural uses, both active and passive. The role and benefit of formally dedicated, public parks in the urban green space network is that their form and character can evolve over time to meet the needs of the surrounding community and the City. In that way, they are the most flexible component of the City's green space network. The flexibility of parks to evolve in response to the needs of Ottawa's citizens is critical to the continued provision of equitable access to green space.

2.8 Climate Change Master Plan

In January 2020, Ottawa's City Council approved the Climate Change Master Plan (CCMP), the City's overarching framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and respond to the current and future effects of climate change. The CCMP's vision is to take unprecedented collective action to transition Ottawa into a clean, renewable and resilient city by 2050 and identifies eight priority actions to be undertaken by 2025. Priority actions include:

- Implement Energy Evolution: Ottawa's Community Energy Transition Strategy
- Undertake a climate vulnerability assessment and develop a Climate Resiliency Strategy
- Apply a climate lens to the new Official Plan and its supporting documents
- Apply a climate lens to asset management and capital projects

In October 2020, Ottawa City Council approved Energy Evolution, the framework for how Ottawa will meet its targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the community by 100 per cent by 2050 and from City operations by 100 per cent by 2040. A total of 20 projects were identified to be undertaken by 2025 to help accelerate action and investment towards achieving these targets in five sectors: land use, buildings, transportation, waste and renewable natural gas, and electricity.

In late 2020, the City initiated work on a climate vulnerability assessment which will feed into the development of a Climate Resiliency Strategy and Action Plan (to be completed in 2023). The purpose of the vulnerability assessment and strategy is to assess how

Ottawa is vulnerable to climate change and identify strategies to adapt to changing climate conditions and mitigate the greatest risks. The final Strategy and Action Plan will identify priority actions to build resiliency to climate change in the community, infrastructure, natural environment and economy. This work will include identifying actions to build resiliency into City parks and recreation facilities.

While work in both Energy Evolution and the Climate Resiliency Strategy is ongoing, the Master Plan considers a climate lens in the following ways:

- Section 2.5 outlines relevant policy directions from the Official Plan related to climate change and parks and recreation facilities;
- Section 3.2 includes a summary of climate change trends.
- Appendix D outlines the impacts of climate change on parklands and recreation facilities

2.9 City of Ottawa Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards and Strategy

The City of Ottawa Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards and Strategy (2019) provides a written description of recreation sites and facility types. Some examples of City of Ottawa recreational facility types are multi-sport complexes, community centres, field houses and arenas. Within these facility types, there are individual elements that may be included at these sites. For example, an element may be a parking area, pool, fitness facility, storage, canteen, arena, gymnasium, or multi-purpose room. The Standards set minimum expectations for recreation facility infrastructure and its critical requirements for each defined space, considering multifunctional elements to optimize client use, complying with legislation and regulations, while incorporating municipal and industry best practices. These standards are a blueprint in a new build or renovation for a recreation facility, to inform design development from concept through tender drawings and construction.

The standards for each facility type state the accessibility requirements. The facilities must meet current AODA, City of Ottawa Accessibility Design and OBC Standards. The standards also detail any additional specific requirements. For example, the standards for outdoor lap pools also define the requirements for accessible ramp entry, accessible showers, and for on-deck tactile borders around the pool.

When additions or renovations are made to existing City of Ottawa facilities, the AODA, City of Ottawa Accessibility Design and OBC Standards must be met.

This Plan identifies the need for new parks and recreational facilities but does not locate or design these parks and facilities. Accessibility requirements are incorporated through the parkland acquisition process, as well as through the park and facility design and development process.

2.10 Park Development Manual (2017)

The City of Ottawa's Park Development Manual was created to define, standardize and improve the park development process in the city. The Manual details the process by which a park site is identified and then a park is designed, built and transferred to the City.

It describes the City's Park Classification System which defines park typologies. For each typology it outlines standards related to parkland size, location, service area radius, configuration, and amenities, parking, lighting, vegetation, canopy and naturalization targets.

The Manual also sets park design standards by outlining design criteria, accessibility requirements, amenities for older adults and issues related to public health.

Under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), guidelines were developed for the design of public spaces to ensure a minimum degree of access for users. The City of Ottawa also maintains and disseminates their own Accessibility Design Standards, which provide more information on accessible features for a variety of public environments. All new construction in City of Ottawa Parks is required to meet the accessibility requirements outlined in these documents unless specific exemptions are granted.

The Park Development Manual directs design and development of parks, as such, these topics are not addressed in this Plan.

2.11 Partners in the Provision of Sport and Recreation

Through numerous partnerships, the City is able to broaden the amount and variety of sport and recreation programs available to residents.

The City has several collaborative partnerships with both private and public recreational facility operators. These partnerships open a tremendous number of opportunities to offer additional space for programs, as well as a direct option for residents to book these private sports and recreation facilities. These partnerships bring innovative solutions by providing several additional facilities for recreational sport and community programs. For example, the City has agreements with local colleges and universities, and private operators to rent ice, gym and field time for City programs.

The City also shares a reciprocal use agreement with the four Ottawa school boards. As part of this agreement the City and school boards exchange their space in order to offer optimal use of our facilities and parks for students and residents. Where there are

agreements, the City may book school facilities and offer programs to the public⁶. School lands and buildings are also available to the public via Community Use of Schools programs. While these programs are administered directly by the school boards and are outside of the jurisdiction of the City, access to school sites enhances overall recreational opportunities for residents.

Local colleges and universities, and organizations such as the YMCA and RA Centre, also provide a wide range of publicly accessible facilities including pools, arenas, gymnasiums and sports programs. The public can buy gym memberships, register in aquatic programs and join sports clubs.

Community associations are also important partners, often managing community centres and offering programs to residents. Recreation Culture and Facility Services invests capital contributions into community partnership programs, which result in the development of new community recreation facilities.

The City's Municipal Sports Strategy 2017-2022, in partnership with The Ottawa Sport Council, committed to an action to "Design and apply a "sport inclusion lens" to all sport programming, policy development, and facility design/development considerations."

The programs and facilities offered by this large range of partners, greatly expands and supplements what the City has on offer. The City remains open to new and additional partnerships with communities, registered charities, public, not-for-profit and private organizations to augment all residents' additional access to recreation.

⁶ The specific schools, amenities and hours of use that are available for the City to use are defined in the use agreements and vary by facility. The City does not have joint use agreements for all school sites.

Section 3. Population, Residential Growth and Trends

3.1 Population and Residential Growth

The City of Ottawa continues to grow year over year. In 2020, the City's estimated population was 1,018,000 people. As per the Section 3 of the Official Plan (2021), the mid-2021 population is projected to be 1,064,000 people. Ottawa's population is projected to grow by 155,000 people, or 15 per cent, during the ten-year period from 2021 to 2031, reaching an estimated population of 1,219,000. The Official Plan (2021) identifies that City's population is projected to increase to 1,410,000 by 2046, representing growth of 346,000, or 33 per cent, over the 25-year period.

Section 2.2.1 of the Official Plan (2021) states that over half of urban residential growth will occur within the existing built-up area by 2046. Many older neighbourhoods are seeing growth through infill development. Other neighbourhoods have remained relatively unchanged since their initial development. In both cases, the neighbourhood populations have been considered relatively stable. Given the Official Plan (2021)'s proposed Transect population projections, this consideration is expected to change. The expected population growth will put more demand on local parks and recreational facilities and challenge park planning to find new ways to meet the demand.

What is a Transect?

A Transect is a term used in the Official Plan (2021). The document divides the City into six concentric geographic policy areas called Transects. Schedule A of the Official Plan (2021) shows these six Transect areas.

For parks and recreation facility analysis and planning, this Master Plan further divides the Suburban transect into three sub-areas: Suburban West, Suburban South, and Suburban East.

Figure 1: Schedule A – Transects, Official Plan (2021)

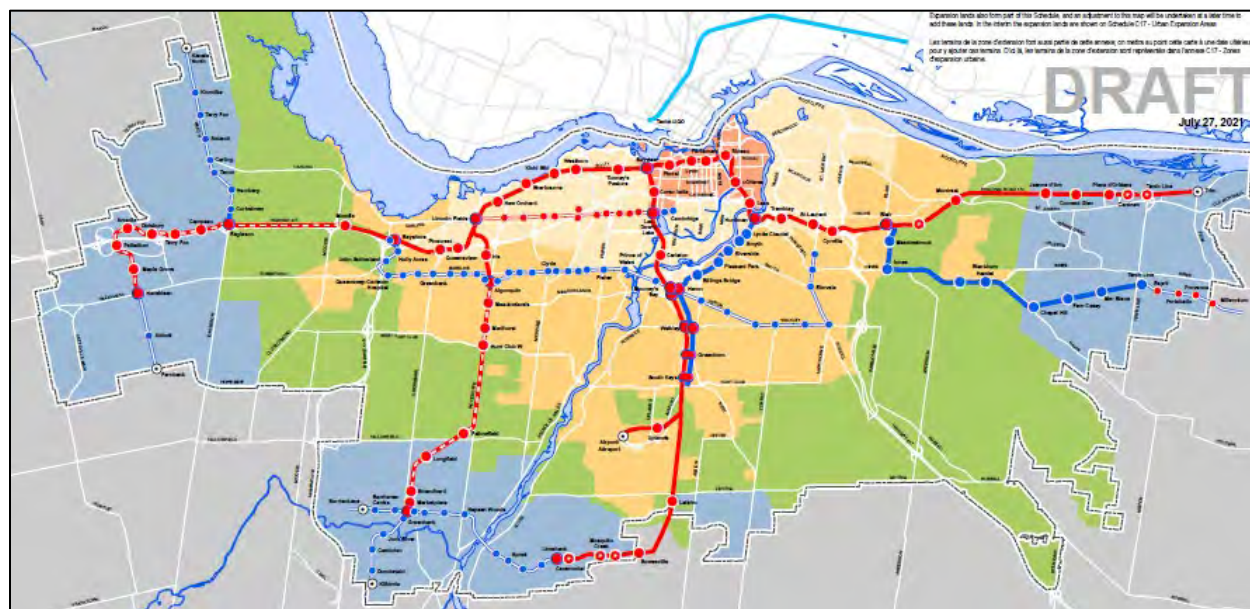


Table 1 breaks down the projected population increases by the geographic transects identified in the Official Plan (2021)⁷.

Table 1: City of Ottawa Projected Population by Transect

| Transect | 2021 Population Projection | 2031 Population Projection | 2046 Population Projection |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Downtown Core | 73,574 | 86,754 | 98,637 |
| Inner Urban | 176,764 | 194,422 | 220,367 |
| Outer Urban | 290,742 | 313,604 | 348,735 |
| Suburban West | 151,293 | 181,109 | 189,860 |
| Suburban East | 136,444 | 156,939 | 181,563 |
| Suburban South | 140,228 | 175,742 | 204,661 |
| Rural | 97,485 | 116,483 | 165,851 |
| Greenbelt | 204 | 204 | 204 |
| Total | 1,066,734 | 1,225,254 | 1,409,878 |

⁷ This Plan covers the period to 2031; however, the population growth to 2046 is provided to illustrate expected growth beyond 2031.

3.2 Demographic, and Climate Trends

Demographics

Ottawa Public Health's (OPH) report *State of Ottawa's Health, 2018* provides demographic information for Ottawa. The report notes that "the median age of Ottawa residents is 40 years. An estimated 15% of the population is 65 years of age and older, up from 12% in 2006. As the population ages, it is estimated that older adults (65+ years) will account for over 22% of the population by 2035"⁸.

State of Ottawa's Health, 2018 indicates that "over one quarter (26%) of Ottawa residents identified themselves as a visible minority in 2016, an increase from 20% ten years earlier" and that "a quarter (24%) of Ottawa's population was not born in Canada"⁹. Immigration is a major reason Ottawa's population continues to grow faster than that of Ontario or Canada.

The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition estimates Indigenous population conservatively at 40,000 people, representing 4% of the City's total population. Estimates are as follows: for urban First Nations at 25,000; Inuit at 200-5,000 and Métis at 10,000-15,000 people at any given time. In 2016, the average age of the Indigenous population was almost 10 years younger than non-Indigenous people according to Statistics Canada.

Ottawa's changing demographics will influence the types of parks, recreation amenities and activities that are provided into the future.

Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour

State of Ottawa's Health, 2018 "provides an overview of the health of Ottawa's population, including information about the demographic characteristics of Ottawa residents; key measures of general health...; and behaviours that affect health"¹⁰.

The report includes data on the physical activity and sedentary behaviour of Ottawa residents. The report states that "regular physical activity helps protect against obesity, promotes well-being and self-esteem, and protects against symptoms of mental illness"¹¹.

For youth, the report states that "In 2017, one in five (22%) of Ottawa youth reported being active more than 60 minutes every day, which is the level recommended by the

⁸ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 7

⁹ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 7 and 8

¹⁰ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 6

¹¹ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 14

Canadian 24–Hour Movement Guidelines”¹² and boys were more likely than girls to meet the guidelines (27% vs 16%), and students in grades 7 to 8 were more likely to meet the guidelines (36%) than those in grades 9 to 12 (14%). Students who perceived themselves to be in lower socioeconomic status families (14%) were less likely to meet the guidelines than students at higher perceived socioeconomic levels (25%)”¹³. The *State of Ottawa’s Health*, 2018 report did not capture data for active time for trans and non-binary youth or adults.

The report indicates that “in 2017, 59% of Ottawa youth reported spending more than the recommended two hours per day in sedentary “screen time” activities such as playing video games, watching TV, and surfing the Internet. Students in grades 7 to 8 (50%) were less likely than those in grades 9 to 12 (63%) to spend more than two hours a day on screen-time activities”¹⁴.

The Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines recommend that adults spend at least 150 minutes per week in physical activity. For adults, the report notes that about two-thirds (65 per cent) of Ottawa residents aged 18 and over met this guideline, and that “adults aged 65 years and older were less likely (49%) to report meeting the physical activity guidelines than younger adults (20-44 years of age: 69%; 45-64 years of age: 60%)”¹⁵.

As evidenced by the numbers, most youth do not meet the recommended levels of daily activity. The *State of Ottawa’s Health* report does not identify the reasons why certain age or population groups are less likely to meet the recommended targets. The *Spotlight on the Role and Wellbeing of Ottawa’s Community Services* report (2018) states that: “Not all children have equal opportunities to participate in physical activity. For example, children and youth who live in overcrowded housing with little access to safe outdoor play spaces have limited opportunities at home...”¹⁶

A Healthier City

The Building Blocks for a Healthy Ottawa: New Official Plan Discussion Paper explores how we can ensure the places we build enable all people to be healthy, thrive, and live to their fullest potential. The paper describes many ways that green spaces provide

¹² For more information on the 24-Hour Movement Guidelines see the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology <http://csepguidelines.ca>

¹³ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 14

¹⁴ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 15

¹⁵ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 15. The Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines are referred to in the 2018 Ottawa Public Health document. The Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines have now been replaced by the 24-hour Movement Guidelines for Adults.

¹⁶ Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres of Ottawa. 2018. *The Ottawa Community Wellbeing Report: Spotlight on the Role and Wellbeing of Ottawa’s Community Services*. 54

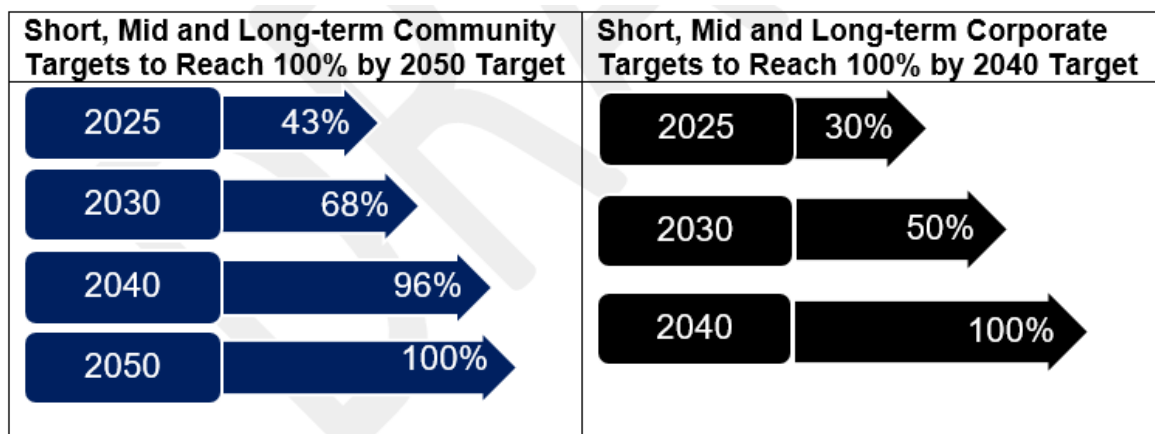
health benefits including stress reduction and mental health promotion, heat and humidity regulation, air pollution filtration, as well as protection from ultraviolet radiation, wind, noise and storm water runoff¹⁷. An additional health benefit is increased physical activity. The paper states that “Children with a park playground located within 1 kilometre of their home were five times more likely to have healthy weights. Low-income neighbourhoods with lots of greenspace had fewer deaths associated with circulatory diseases, and children had healthier weights”¹⁸. The paper goes on to note that “greenspaces are under-utilized public health resources that offer potential to address the growing burden to mental health and disease in Ottawa”¹⁹.

The paper also connects neighbourhood design to health. The paper states that “people with a strong sense of community belonging are more likely to have better physical and mental health. Neighbourhood design promotes health when communities are complete, compact, and connected” and “Complete communities have a diverse mix of land uses which include...parks and open spaces”²⁰.

Climate Change

In April 2019, Ottawa City Council declared a climate emergency for the purposes of naming, framing and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our ecosystems, and our community from climate change. The City has set short, mid and long-term targets to reduce GHG emissions for the community and the corporation.

Figure 2: Short, Mid and Long-range Targets



¹⁷ City of Ottawa, 2019, The Building Blocks for a Healthy Ottawa, 15

¹⁸ City of Ottawa, 2019, The Building Blocks for a Healthy Ottawa, 15

¹⁹ City of Ottawa, 2019, The Building Blocks for a Healthy Ottawa, 17

²⁰ City of Ottawa, 2019, The Building Blocks for a Healthy Ottawa, 18

The City tracks GHG emissions on an annual basis. Between 2012 and 2019, community emissions decreased by 12 per cent and emissions from City operations decreased by 34 per cent. Forty-five per cent of emissions came from Ottawa’s building stock in 2019. The rate and extent of climate change will depend on our collective ability to accelerate action and investment to reduce GHG emissions over the coming years.

Ottawa is experiencing warmer, wetter and more unpredictable weather. On average, summers are getting hotter and winters less cold. While average total annual precipitation (rain and snow) has increased, it varies greatly both in terms of where and when it falls. Overall, Ottawa’s weather is becoming more variable and unpredictable, & more extreme heat, wind, rain and snow events have been experienced in recent years.

A 2020 study of Climate Projections in the National Capital Region found that Ottawa will continue to become increasingly warmer and wetter over the coming decades, with more intense rainfall and more extreme events projected to occur. These changes are expected to have significant consequences to our health and safety, infrastructure, economy and the environment. The potential impacts to parks and recreation facilities and services from a changing climate are outlined in Appendix D.

3.3 Equity Considerations

The terms Equity or Equity deserving group, help to identify people or communities that face significant challenges due to opportunity, resources, and discrimination. This could be “based on age, ethnicity, disability, economic status, gender, nationality, race, sexual orientation and transgender status, etc.”²¹

The Canadian Index of Wellbeing (2016) states “The impact of participation in leisure and cultural activities is even greater for people in marginalized groups, such as those living with disabilities, living in poverty, or as members of a minority population.”²² This connection between equity and the need for new parkland and recreation facilities is supported by the work of City staff in partnership with the City for All Women Initiative (CAWI) with the developed Equity and Inclusion Lens Handbook and Snapshot profiles. These profiles have been used to guide City staff as they work to remove systemic barriers, promote inclusion, brainstorm better solutions by learning from diverse perspectives and improve client service.²³

²¹ Canada Council for the Arts, 2021

²² Canadian Index of Wellbeing (2016). [How are Canadians Really Doing-The 2016 CIW National Report](#). University of Waterloo.

²³ City of Ottawa & CAWI. 2015. [Equity and Inclusion Lens Handbook](#). City of Ottawa, 6

Equity in Facility Design

Staff recognize the importance of and are committed to providing new parks and recreation facilities that are accessible for all and gender inclusive. New facilities, lifecycle renewal and facility replacement projects are designed to be barrier-free, meeting or exceeding the City of Ottawa Accessibility Design Standards and the Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards (RFIS). Additionally, design features such as the ability to accommodate all-gender teams with changerooms and the provision of gender-neutral washrooms, are included in major projects. These initiatives are supported by the city-wide accessibility barrier removal program at parks and recreation facility sites, the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan, and the RFIS.

Despite increased labour force participation, women are the predominant providers of informal (i.e., unpaid) care to children. Allocating space and resources for parks and recreation facilities provides essential support to those who frequently handle household and care tasks.

Equity in Consultation

Equity deserving groups face barriers to participating in many of the City's planning processes, which can reduce the input from these residents in the development of corporate policies and plans. Planning processes that recognize intersectionality²⁴ can help address inequities.

To improve participation from equity deserving groups, one-on-one consultation sessions were held with city staff specializing in equity and inclusion (such as the Accessibility Office and Anti-Racism Specialist). Consultations were also held with community agencies that work with residents that identify with many intersections such as First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, people living with disabilities, people living in poverty, racialized people, newcomers, older adults, GLBTTQ2S+, women and youth etc. Consultation feedback was also analyzed by subgroup to see if there were differences between the subgroups. For details on equity and inclusion in the consultation process, refer to see the supporting Consultation Summary Report.

The City of Ottawa [Report on Findings from the Women and Gender Equity Strategy Consultations](#) in 2019 highlighted the following priorities that have been considered during development of the Master Plan, including:

- a gender inclusive city,

²⁴ Intersectionality is the way that people's identities can overlap. For example, a racialized woman with a disability, or an older man living in poverty. The more intersections that a person identifies with, the more their experiences of discrimination can be compounded.

- representation, and
- resident engagement

Equity, as used in this plan, does not refer to a comparison of the age or quality of recreation facilities, nor does it refer to equal number of parks and recreation facilities by geography, distance, neighbourhood or transect. For clarity, the Plan uses terms “distribution” or “geographic distribution” for this comparison of distance between facilities.

Section 4. Impacts of Growth on Parkland

In the next 25 years, through the Official Plan (2021), the City will encourage the development of denser neighbourhoods, in both developing and existing areas of the city. The policies for residential density and intensification, and accompanying population increases, will impact the per capita provision levels of parks and recreation facilities. This section explains the impacts of some of the Official Plan (2021) policies, Transect²⁵ policies (Section 5) and Overlay²⁶ policies (Section 5.6) in the Official Plan (2021) direct the significant transformation of many neighbourhoods. The Official Plan (2021) Plan B-Series Schedules illustrate the Transect and Overlay areas, and tables 3a and 3b identify minimum density requirements. Table 3a identifies the minimum residential density requirements for areas defined as Hubs, Corridors and Protected Major Transit Station Areas. These range from 120 – 350 dwellings per net hectare.

Table 3b provides the residential density requirements for areas defined as Neighbourhoods and Minor Corridors. This is expressed as a target residential density range by transect as follows:

- Downtown Core: 80 – 120 dwellings per net hectare
- Inner Urban Transect: 60 – 80 dwellings per net hectare
- Outer Urban Transect: 40 – 60 dwellings per net hectare
- Suburban Transect: 40 – 60 dwellings per net hectare

Section 5.6 describes overlay policies which include direction on density and built form characteristics. Section 5.6.1.1.2b states [where an Evolving overlay applies], “the zoning by-law shall include minimum density requirements as identified in Table 3a, and permissions to meet or exceed the density targets of Table 3b”.

²⁵ A Transect is a term used in the Official Plan (2021). The document divides the City into six concentric geographic policy areas called Transects.

²⁶ The Official Plan (2021) uses several ‘overlays’ to provide additional policy direction to the underlying land use designations. The overlays provide policy direction to allow certain types of activities and provide built form guidance in evolving areas.

With density targets of 60 – 80 units per net hectare in the Inner Urban transect, some neighbourhoods could see three to four times the existing density. In the Outer Urban transect where neighbourhood density targets are 40 – 60 units per net hectare, some neighbourhoods could see two to four times the existing density.

Overlay²⁷ policies in Section 5.6.1.6 state “zoning By-law development standards and development on lands with an Evolving Overlay should generally include built form and site design attributes that meet most of the urban characteristics described in Table 6 in Section 5...”. Table 6 is recreated in this document as Table 2.

Table 2: Official Plan (2021), Section 5, Table 6 – General Characteristics of Urban Built Form and Suburban Built Form and Site Design

| Urban | Suburban |
|--|--|
| Shallow front yard setbacks and in some contexts zero front yards with an emphasis on built-form relationship with the public realm | Moderate front yard setbacks focussed on soft landscaping and separation from the right-of-way |
| Principal entrances at grade with direct relationship to public realm | Principal entrances oriented to the public realm but set back from the street |
| Range of lot sizes that will include smaller lots, and higher lot coverage and floor area ratios | Larger lots, lower lot coverage and floor area ratios |
| Minimum of two functional storeys | Variety of building forms including single storey |
| Building attached or with minimal functional side yard setbacks | Generous spacing between buildings |
| Small areas of formal landscape that should include space for soft landscape, trees and hard surfacing | Informal and natural landscape that often includes grassed areas |
| No automobile parking, or limited parking that is concealed from the street and not forming an integral part of a building, such as in a front facing garage | Private automobile parking that may be prominent and visible from the street |

What the Official Plan (2021) level and form of intensification functionally means is that the City can expect many more people living in areas served by much less yard space. These people will need somewhere to go for recreation. This suggests the increased importance of and demand on the recreational opportunities provided by City-owned

²⁷ The Official Plan (2021) uses several ‘overlays’ to provide additional policy direction to the underlying land use designations. The overlays provide policy direction to allow certain types of activities and to provide built form guidance in evolving areas.

Maps 1 - 3 illustrate the provision of City-owned active parkland per 1,000 people. Map 1 shows the transect-wide active parkland averages. These transect-wide averages remain unchanged from 2021 to 2031. Maps 2 and 3 provide more detail by showing active parkland per 1,000 people at a finer scale, in 2021 and 2031 respectively. Maps 2 and 3 also shows neighbourhoods identified by the *Ottawa Neighbourhood Equity Index (NEI)*²⁸ as having disparities resulting in strong equity concerns.

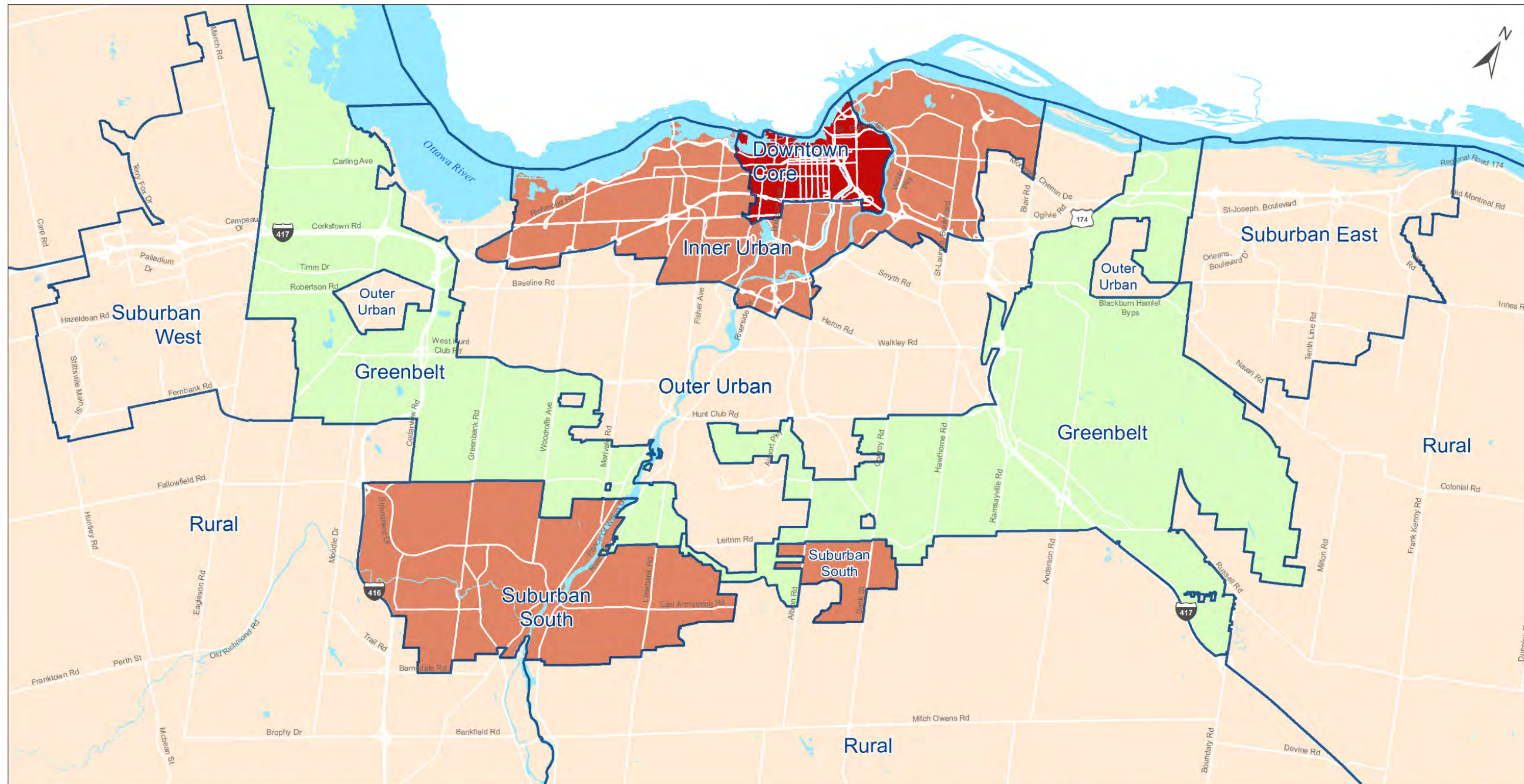
For the purposes of this Plan, 30 priority neighbourhoods are identified based on their scores on four of the NEI domains: economic opportunity; social and human development; health; and community and belonging. Indicators in the physical environment domain are excluded because this Plan focuses on one aspect of the physical environment – municipal parks – and provides a comprehensive view of their geographic distribution. Additional parks investments are not relevant to addressing the other equity issues highlighted by the indicators of the NEI physical environment domain (transit scores, commute times and community places for meetings). Index scores were recalculated without the physical environment indicators and a cut-off was identified based on a breakpoint in the scores and slopes at neighbourhood #30. All index scores are based on 2016 Census data; certain neighbourhood scores are likely to change following the next census.

On the maps 2 and 3, the areas of darkest colour are those that are most deficient in parkland. Where a neighbourhood or portion of a neighbourhood with strong equity concerns falls within those areas of darkest colour, the parkland need is greatest. The areas of darkest colour and those with strong equity concerns should be top priorities for the acquisition of new City-owned parkland. Recreation facilities are built within City-owned parkland; without the acquisition of new land for parks, new City recreation facilities and amenities cannot be added.

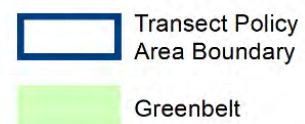
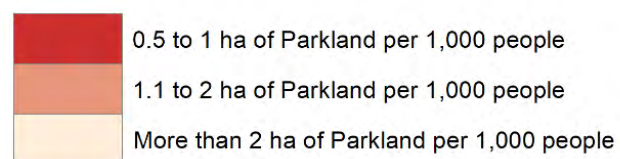
²⁸ The Ottawa NEI is a tool to assess and compare inequities at a neighbourhood level across multiple domains. It provides a deeper understanding of neighbourhoods, so that planners and policymakers can consider the community's needs and how to address them – as well as the community's assets and how to use them. The NEI identified 49 of Ottawa's 195 census tracts as areas of "strong equity concern" based on the composite Neighbourhood Equity Index Score. The Index Score captures 17 indicators across five "domains": economic opportunity; social and human development; physical environment; health; and community and belonging. The NEI also provides scores within each individual domain to help planners better understand the nature of the equity concerns in each neighbourhood.

Note: The population projections model for the City of Ottawa distributes total projected population to 2031 into sub-areas called Traffic Zone. Traffic Zones are used primarily for transportation planning purposes. However, because each Traffic Zone has an identified population, and because the location of city parks is known, the information can be used together to map parkland per 1,000 residents. Maps 2 and 3 were created using the City's Traffic Zone information.

Map 1: 2021 and 2031 Transect-wide average of municipally owned or leased active parkland per 1,000 people



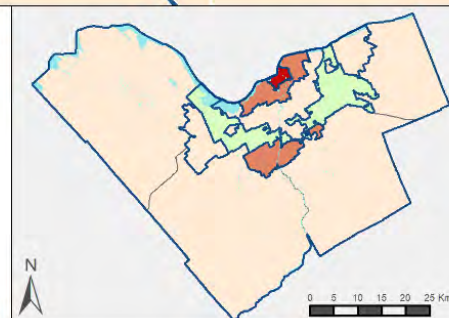
2021 and 2031 transect-wide average of municipally owned or leased active parkland per 1,000 people



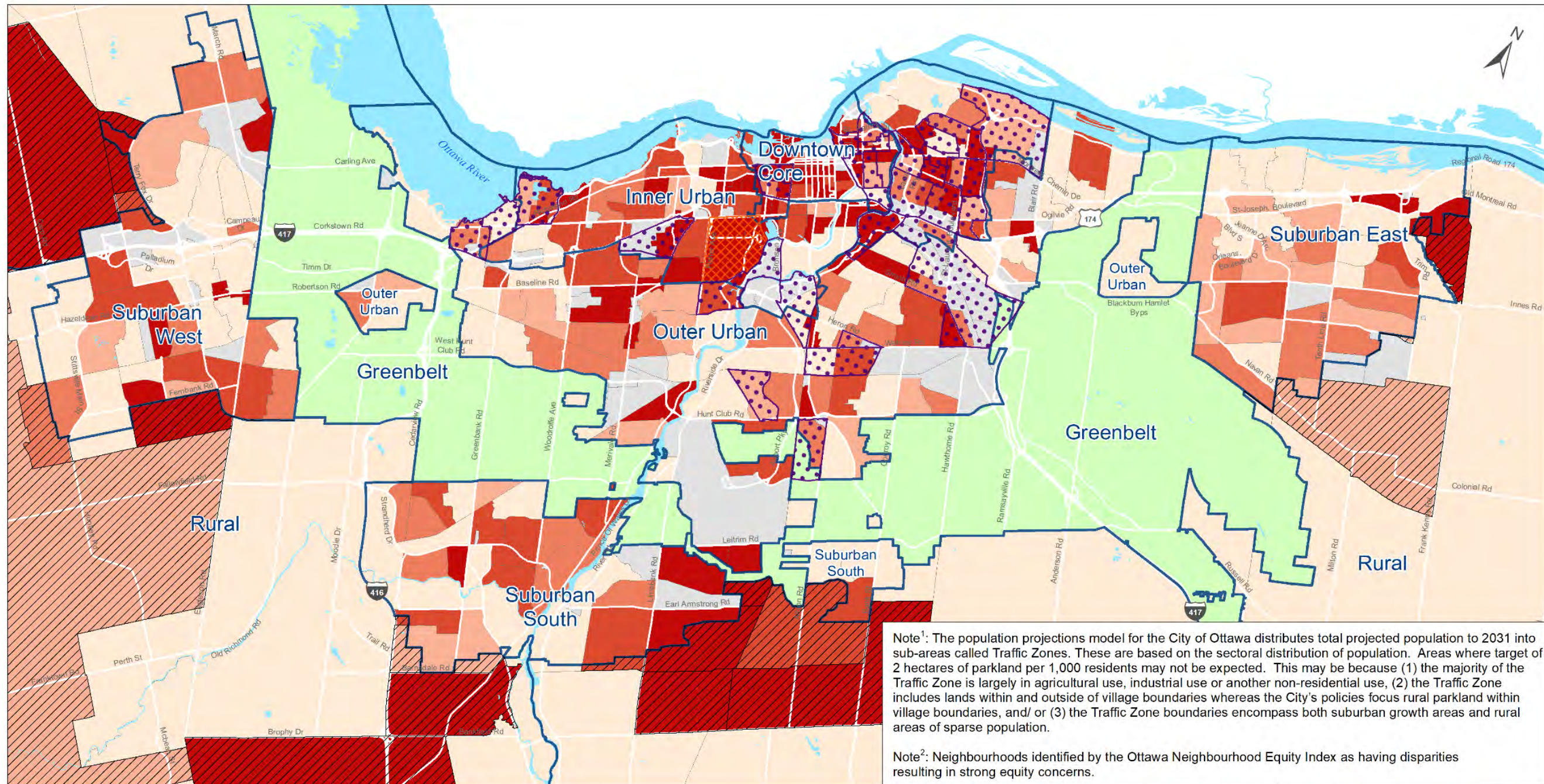
Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



Published: 2021-Aug-18
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services

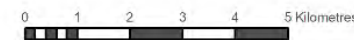


Map 2: 2021 municipally owned or leased active parkland per 1,000 people with detail by Traffic Zone

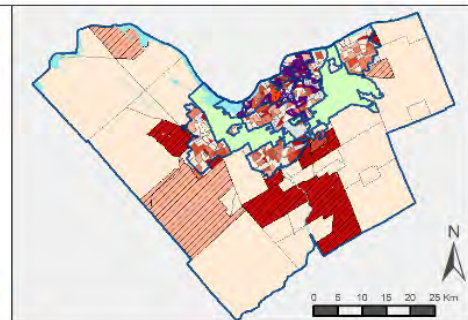


2021 municipally owned or leased active parkland per 1,000 people with detail by Traffic Zone

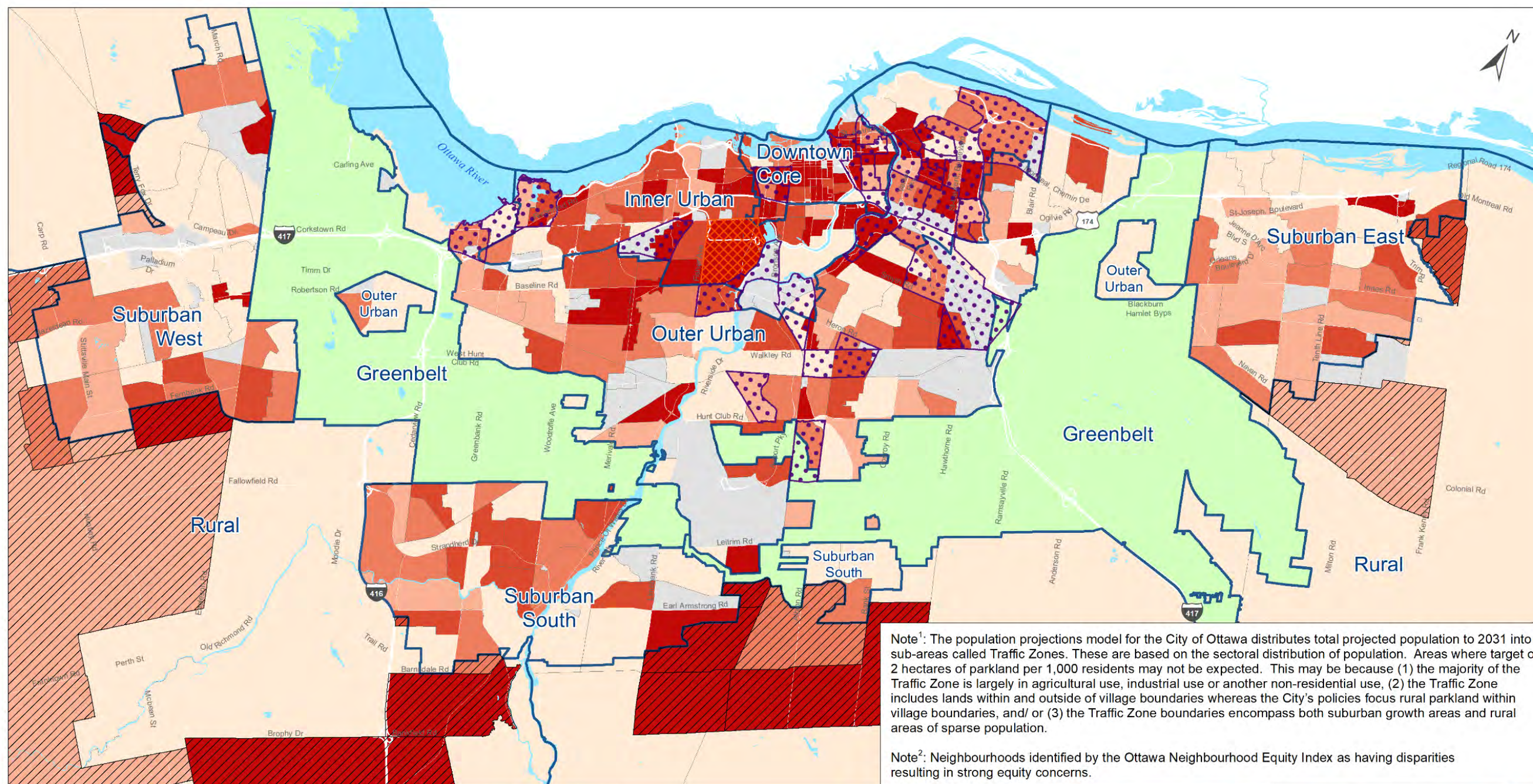
Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



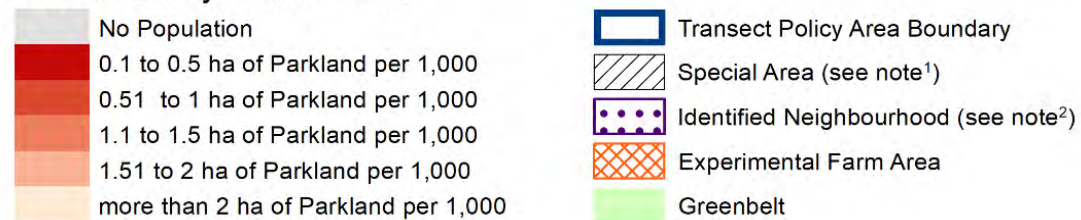
Published: 2021-Aug-18
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



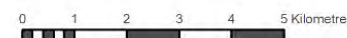
Map 3: 2031 municipally owned or leased active parkland per 1,000 people with detail by Traffic Zone



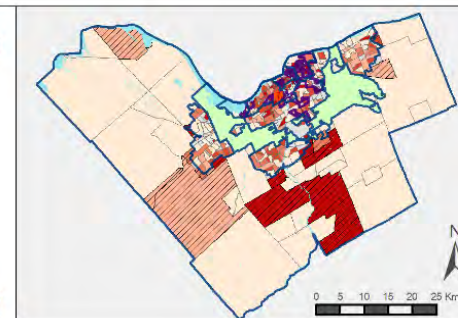
2031 municipally owned or leased active parkland per 1,000 people with detail by Traffic Zone



Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



Published: 2021-Aug-18
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



Section 5. Summary of Recreation Facilities Needs Assessments

This section summarizes the key recommendations related to 23 different classes of recreational facilities. Appendix A provides the full needs assessment and detailed recommendations for each of the recreational facilities. The facility types are listed in this section, in the order in which they appear in Appendix A .

Each needs assessment in Appendix A includes a description of the facility type, the number of existing and currently planned facilities to 2031, as well as the current and 2031 per capita provision rates²⁹.

Where data is available, the City's provision rates are benchmarked against other municipalities. The needs assessment for each facility type also includes information on participation and utilization rates when available. This is followed by recommendations, strategy statements and maps that show the location of existing facilities.

Table 3 below provides a summary of the existing and recommended citywide provision levels for each facility type. It also summarizes the currently planned facilities and those to consider adding citywide by 2031. The table is followed by text summaries of the specific recommendations for each of the 23 facility types.

There are a number of sports and recreation types that are not included in this Plan. These are discussed in Appendix C. The City remains open and flexible to address new sports and new recreation trends that emerge, as well as to consider opportunities for sport specific partnerships as they present themselves.

The effects of climate change will affect park design and the delivery of park programs. Climate change will be considered, at the outset, in the development of new parks and it is expected that existing parks will gradually evolve to reflect changing climate and use patterns.

Through consultation, the importance parks and outdoor facilities that remove barriers to participation (such as financial, dependent care, transportation and use by multi-generational households) by people living and working in priority neighbourhoods was identified. These facility types included splash pads, play equipment, grass sports fields, basketball courts, outdoor fitness equipment. This information has helped to craft the recommendations in Appendix A. In addition to showing the locations of facilities, the maps in Appendix A show neighbourhoods with strong equity concerns, as identified on maps 2 and 3. Together the recommendations and maps will help inform the planning

²⁹Planned facilities represent facilities that the City currently knows will be built in a transect by 2031. As a result of ongoing land development, additional facilities are anticipated to 2031 but, these are not included in the tables as the future facility types and locations are currently unknown. The 2031 per capita provision rates in the tables do not represent the recommended per capital provision rate; they only indicate what citywide provision rate based on known planned facilities.

and development of new parks and recreation facilities, including from an equity perspective.

The Plan’s provision level recommendations for recreation services will be further reviewed through a lifecycle and affordability lens in the Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP), which is expected to be underway by Q3 2024.

Table 3: Summary of 2021 citywide provision levels, recommended citywide target provision levels, facilities currently planned to 2031, and additional facilities to consider adding by 2031 in order to meet recommended citywide target provision levels³⁰

| Facility Type | 2021 citywide provision level | Recommended citywide target provision level | Currently planned to be built by 2031 | Additional facilities to consider adding by 2031 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Recreation Centres and Complexes | 1:71,100 | 1:70,000 | 1 | 1 |
| Community Centres | 1:21,800 | 1:22,000 | 4 | 3 |
| Community Buildings | 1:15,700 | 1:16,000 | 4 | 4 |
| Indoor Aquatic Facilities | 1:50,800 | 1:50,000 | 2 | 1 |
| Outdoor Deep-water Pools | 1:106,700 | Maintain current supply | 0 | 0 |
| Beaches | 1:266,700 | Maintain current supply | 0 | 0 |
| Splash Pads | 1:7,400 | 1:7,500 | 35 | 0 |
| Wading Pools | 1:19,000 | Maintain current supply | 0 | 0 |
| Ice Surfaces (Arenas) | 1:20,100 | 1:20,000 | 2 | 6 |
| Outdoor Ice Rinks | 1:3,800 | 1:5,000 | 36 | 0 |
| Outdoor Refrigerated Ice Rinks | 1:266,700 | 1:200,000 | 0 | 3 |

³⁰ For some facility types, no additional new facilities are needed to meet the citywide recommended target provision level by 2031. However, if transect provision levels are at, or fall below, the citywide recommended target provision level, new facilities can be considered. Facilities may also be considered if they are identified as a community and transect priority and can fall within existing operating budgets.

| Facility Type | 2021 citywide provision level | Recommended citywide target provision level | Currently planned to be built by 2031 | Additional facilities to consider adding by 2031 |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields | 1:133,300 | 1:120,000 | 3 | 1 |
| Natural Grass Full-size Rectangular Sports Fields | 1:2,800 | 1:2,800 | 44 | 2 |
| Ball Diamonds | 1:4,200 | 1:4,000 | 6 | 10 |
| Tennis Courts | 1:3,300 | 1:3,500 | 24 | 10 (shared with Pickleball) |
| Pickleball Courts | 1:4,600 | 1:3,500 | 39 | 10 (shared with Tennis) |
| Outdoor Basketball Courts | 1:5,700 | 1:5,400 | 29 | 10 |
| Outdoor Volleyball Courts | 1:9,000 | 1:10,000 | 5 | 0 |
| Outdoor Fitness Equipment | 1:30,500 | 1:23,000 | 20 | 1 |
| Cricket Pitches | 1:213,300 | 1:200,000 | 2 | 1 |
| Lawn Bowling Greens | 1:266,700 | Maintain current supply | 0 | 0 |
| BMX, Pump Track and Mountain Biking Facilities | 1:213,300 | 1:150,000 | 4 | 0 |
| Recreational Boat Launches and Docks | 1:71,100 | Maintain current and planned supply | 1 | 0 |
| Fenced Dog Off-Leash Parks | 1:97,000 | Maintain current and planned supply | 5 | 0 |
| Skateboard Parks | 1:50,800 | 1:50,000 | 8 | 0 |
| Playgrounds | 1:1,400 | 1:1,400 | 111 | 0 |
| Gymnasiums | 1:35,600 | 1:30,000 | 7 | 3 |

1. Recreation Complexes

Current citywide provision level: 1:71,100 residents.

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned one new recreation centre.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of recreation complexes at 1:70,000 residents.
- b. Consider the development of one new, additional facility in the 2021 – 2031 period . The location should be determined based on the transect-wide provision levels, available square meters of space per resident, and available land. The future facility should be located in close proximity to transit.

Strategy Statements:

- c. When considering the addition of new recreation complexes, evaluate both the provision level and the total square footage of indoor community and recreational space, in all facility types.
- d. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan and other City strategies that identify which recreation complexes could be replaced by new City-standard facilities.

2. Community Centres and Community Buildings

Current citywide provision level for Community Centres: 1:21,800 residents, and for Community Buildings: 1:15,7000 residents

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned four new community centres and four new community buildings.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of community centres at 1:22,000 residents and for community buildings at 1:16,000 residents
- b. Consider the development of three additional new community centres and four additional new community buildings during the 2021- 2031 period. This may include renovation or expansion of existing facilities.

Strategy Statements:

- c. When considering the addition of a new community centre or community building, the consolidation of or upgrades to community centres or buildings, evaluate both the provision level and the total square footage of available community indoor space, in all facility types to assist in assigning priorities.,

- d. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan and other City strategies that identify which community centres and buildings could be replaced / consolidated during the 2021-2031 period into new City-standard facilities serving larger catchment areas

3. Indoor Aquatic Facilities

Current citywide provision level: 1:50,800 residents.

The City will proceed with the development of both the currently planned new standard indoor aquatic facility and new 50-m aquatic facility.

Recommendations:

- a. Set a standard, 25-meter indoor aquatic facility target provision level of 1:50,000 residents.
- b. Co-locate the new 50-meter aquatic facility with a 25m pool, to meet RFIS and competitive swimming standards (location to be determined).
- c. Consider the development of one additional new standard indoor aquatic facility during the 2021- 2031 period.

Strategy Statements:

- d. Maintain the City of Ottawa practice for the development of new indoor aquatic facilities, over outdoor deep-water pools, due to their longer operating seasons and greater number and range of programming opportunities.
- e. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP) and other City strategies that identify which indoor aquatic facilities could be replaced when they reach end of life.

4. Outdoor Deep-Water Pools

Current citywide provision level: 1:106,700 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current provision of 10 outdoor deep-water pools.

Strategy Statements:

- b. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP) and other City strategies that identify which outdoor deep-water pools could be replaced when they reach end of life.

5. Beaches

Current citywide provision level: 1:266,700 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current number of supervised beaches.

6. Splash Pads and Wading Pools

Current citywide provision level: 1:7,300 residents for splash pads and 1:19,400 residents for wading pools

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 35 new splash pads.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of splash pads at 1:7,500 residents.
- b. Maintain the City's current provision of 56 wading pools.
- c. Set a geographic provision target of one splash pad within approximately a 1,200m radius of most homes located within the Urban Area Boundary or a Village (where servicing permits)
- d. Equity and urban heat island mapping should be considered when selecting locations for new splash pads.

Strategy Statements:

- e. As existing splash pads reach end of life, consider rebuilding these facilities in transects that have low provision rates. In decision making, evaluate both the provision level and access to water (wading pools, splash pads and deep-water pools) within the transect. Equity and urban heat island mapping should be evaluated when considering relocating splash pads.
- f. Support the development of wading pool life-cycle strategies through the RAMP and other City strategies to update and replace existing wading pools. As existing wading pools reach end of life, consider rebuilding these facilities in transects that have low / no service level provision. In decision making, evaluate both the provision level and access to water (wading pools, splash pads and deep-water pools) within the transect. Equity and urban heat island mapping should be evaluated when considering relocating wading pools.

7. Arenas

Current citywide provision level: 1:20,100 residents

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned two new ice surfaces.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of ice surfaces at 1:20,000 residents.
- b. Consider the redevelopment or expansion of arenas to create six new indoor ice surfaces in the 2021-2031 period. .

Strategy Statements:

- c. Maximize efficiencies through infrastructure upgrades and expansions to existing single-pad arenas where possible. Infrastructure upgrades should include consideration of off-season use.
- d. Identify end-of-life arenas in all transects for potential redevelopment during the 2021-2031 period. Plan for the replacement/consolidation of these facilities into new City-standard arenas that serve wider catchment areas.
- e. Support the development of a single pad arena optimization study, informed by the RAMP and other studies, to update and replace existing ice surfaces, particularly in the Downtown Core, and Inner and Outer Urban transects.

8. Outdoor Ice Rinks

Current citywide provision level: 1:3,800 residents

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 36 new outdoor ice rinks.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of outdoor ice rinks at 1:5,000 residents.
- b. Set a new citywide target for the provision of outdoor refrigerated rinks at 1:200,000.
- c. Consider the development of three new, additional outdoor refrigerated rinks in the 2021-2031 period.

9. Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields

Current citywide provision level: 1:133,300 residents

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned three artificial turf fields.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the Citywide target for the provision of Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields at 1:120,000 residents

Consider the conversion of an existing natural grass field or, the development of one new, additional, outdoor artificial turf field in the 2021 – 2031 period.

Strategy Statements:

- b. Investigate possible conversion of Downtown Core and Inner Urban natural grass fields to artificial turf fields, to allow for intensified use and more competitive level lit facilities.
- c. Consider additional capital funding to support the development of new or additional public-private partnerships for indoor artificial turf facilities.

10. Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Fields

Current citywide provision level: 1:2,800 residents

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 44 new full-size grass sports fields

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the citywide target for the provision of grass sports fields at 1:2,800 residents
- b. Consider the development of two new full-size grass fields or redevelopment of existing grass fields to artificial turf fields in the 2021- 2031 period.

Strategy Statements:

- c. Review potential site and funding opportunities to:
 - i. prioritize opportunities for parkland acquisition in the Downtown Core and Inner Urban transects for new sports field development
 - ii. upgrade infrastructure to promote and support higher usage of the existing sports fields within the Downtown Core and Inner Urban transect (i.e., addition of irrigation and lighting and (per above) conversion to artificial turf surface);
 - iii. assess the potential need and opportunity(s) to develop additional regional and/or tournament sports field sites in strategic locations

11. Ball Diamonds

Current citywide provision level: 1:4,200 residents

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned six new ball diamonds.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of ball diamonds at 1:4,000 residents
- b. Consider the development of 10 new, additional, ball diamonds in the 2021 – 2031 period.

Strategy Statements:

- c. Identify opportunities for more senior, competitive lit fields, including adult softball diamonds and higher-level baseball play.
- d. Undertake upgrades to existing fields to promote higher usage. The City's current inventory includes 26 ball diamonds that were not included in the provision level table as the diamonds do not meet minimum size standards as given in the Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards. Work to upgrade or improve these facilities to meet the standards.

12. Tennis and Pickleball Courts

Current citywide provision level: 1:3,300 residents for tennis and 1:5,700 residents for pickleball

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 24 new tennis courts and 39 pickleball courts.

Recommendations:

- a. Set a Citywide target provision level of 1:3,500 residents for both tennis courts and pickleball courts including shared courts
- b. Add new pickleball court line painting to additional existing public courts that do not currently have pickleball court lines, to increase the provision of pickleball courts to 1:3,500 residents by 2031.
- c. Consider the development of up to 10 new, additional, shared outdoor tennis / pickleball courts in the 2021 – 2031 period.
- d. Develop a Tennis and Pickleball Strategy.

Strategy Statements:

- e. In appropriate locations, review the feasibility of adding lighting to existing and/or new public courts to expand the hours of use and to increase utilization

13. Outdoor Basketball Courts

Current citywide provision level: 1:5,700 residents

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 29 new full-sized basketball courts.

Recommendations

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of full-size basketball courts at 1:5,400 residents
- b. Consider the development of up to three new, additional, full-size basketball courts in the 2021 – 2031 period

Strategy Statements:

- c. In appropriate locations, review the feasibility of adding lighting to existing and/or new courts to expand the hours of use.

14. Outdoor Volleyball Courts

Current citywide provision level: 1:9,000 residents

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned five new outdoor volleyball courts.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of outdoor volleyball courts at 1:10,000 residents

Strategy Statements:

- b. Prioritize new outdoor volleyball courts within parks that are also occupied by a recreation complex, recreation or community centre, to facilitate programming opportunities, oversight and maintenance of the courts.

15. Outdoor Fitness Equipment Areas

Current citywide provision level: 1:30,500 residents

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 20 new outdoor fitness equipment areas.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of outdoor fitness equipment at 1:23,000 residents.
- b. Consider the development of one new, additional, outdoor fitness equipment area, in the 2021 – 2031 period, in addition to the 20 currently planned areas.
- c. Given the importance attached to this facility type in equity consultations, Identified Neighbourhoods should be given priority consideration when selecting locations for new outdoor fitness equipment areas.

Strategy Statements:

- d. Explore opportunities to develop outdoor dynamic fitness equipment areas (similar to indoor fitness equipment) at recreation complexes and facilities, where controlled access can be assured.

16. Cricket Pitches

Current citywide provision level: 1:213,300 residents

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned two new cricket pitches.

Recommendations

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of cricket pitches at 1:200,000 residents
- b. Given the land requirements of cricket pitches, investigate suitable locations for the development of one new, additional, cricket pitch in the 2021 – 2031 period.

Strategy Statements:

- c. Reassess the need for additional cricket pitches during the first review of the Master Plan, to determine if changes to demographic and migration patterns, within the city, will impact the demand for cricket pitches in the future.

17. Lawn Bowling Greens

Current citywide provision level: 1:266,700 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current supply of four lawn bowling greens.

Strategy Statements:

- b. Reassess the need for lawn bowling greens, during the first review of the Master Plan

18. Recreational Boat Docking Facilities

Current citywide provision level: 1:71,100 residents

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 1 additional recreational, seasonal, boat launch / dock.

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current citywide supply of 16 recreational boat launches and docks.

Strategy Statements:

- b. Additional seasonal docks for non-motorized watercraft and that are funded through partnerships or other programs can be considered.

19. BMX, Pump Track and Mountain Biking Facilities

Current citywide provision level: 1:213,300 residents

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned four new facilities.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the BMX, Pump Tracks, and Mountain Bike Facilities at 1:150,000 residents

Strategy Statements:

- b. During the design process of the four currently planned facilities, consider building an all-wheel track and a formal Mountain Biking Facility, preferably together, where a managing partner can be found.

20. Fenced Dog Off-Leash Facilities

Current citywide provision level: 1:97,000 residents. When all fenced and unfenced off-leash dog areas are considered, the provision level is 1:3,400 residents.

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned five new off-leash dog facilities.

Recommendations

- a. Develop fenced off-leash dog facilities where warranted, as the needs vary greatly depending on the area being served.

21. Skateboard Parks

Current citywide provision level: 1:50,800 residents

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned eight new skateboard parks.

Recommendations:

- a. Set a citywide target provision level of 1:50,000 residents.
- b. Investigate the opportunity to redirect funds collected from 2004 Facility Needs Study, to support a partnership development of an indoor skateboard park, towards new and redeveloped outdoor skateboard parks.

Strategy Statements:

- c. In appropriate locations, review the feasibility of adding lighting to existing and/or new skateboard parks to expand the hours of use.
- d. Update and replace the 2012 Interim Skateboard Park Strategy.

22. Playgrounds

Current citywide provision level: 1:1,400 residents

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 111 new playgrounds.

Recommendations:

- a. Set a target provision level of 1:1,400 residents.
- b. Set a geographic provision target of 1 playground within an approximate 400m to 800m radius of most homes located within the Urban Area Boundary or a village.

Strategy Statements:

- c. As infill and intensification of existing urban areas occurs, explore opportunities for the development of new, additional, playgrounds in the 2021 – 2031 period. Expansion of nearby existing playgrounds may also be considered.

23. Gymnasiums

Current citywide provision level: 1:35,600

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned seven new gymnasiums.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of gymnasiums at 1:30,000 residents.
- b. Consider the development of at least three new, additional, gymnasiums in the 2021 – 2031 period via gymnasium additions to existing municipal recreational buildings.

Strategy Statements:

- c. Recreation Culture and Facility Services (RCFS) to investigate the feasibility of and opportunity to create additional, formal, joint-use partnerships with local schools.

Section 6. Summary of Parkland Needs Assessment

This section summarizes the recommendations related to actual land area needed for parks and recreation facilities. *Appendix B – Parkland Needs Assessment* provides the supporting needs assessment, which includes a description of the City’s parks classification system and seven park typologies, the number of existing and planned municipal parks to 2031 by transect, as well as the current and 2031 per capita provision rates for parkland by transect. Appendix B collates the needed parkland, generated by the individual facility needs assessments in Appendix A, to identify the total additional parkland required to provide new facilities beyond those which are planned to 2031.

Appendix B also provides a summary of the citywide distribution of small and large parks, benchmarks the City’s provision rate for parkland against other Ontario municipalities, and presents information gathered through the consultation process.

Together, the information in Appendix B, generates the following recommendations related to parkland:

The current citywide provision level for municipal active parkland is 2.35 hectares per 1,000 residents.

1. Set the citywide provision rate for municipal active parkland at 2.0 hectares per 1,000 residents and apply this provision rate to each transect.
2. Prioritize the acquisition of new parkland in transects and neighbourhoods that do not meet the 2.0 hectares per 1,000 people target.
3. Set a transect level ratio of large to small parks at 1:5.
4. Prioritize the acquisition of large parks in transects where the ratio of large to small parks is higher than 1:5.

Section 7. Future Parkland Needs and Parkland Provision Strategy

7.1 Future Parkland Needs

Maps 1 - 4 and the Needs Assessment in Appendix B illustrate that acquiring additional parkland will be required to meet the needs and desires of a growing population in increasingly dense neighbourhoods. The City will need to develop additional strategies for parkland acquisition in order to meet the projected need.

When redevelopment occurs, the City currently requests land for parks when the lot in question is a minimum of 4,000m² in size. Currently, the City can request that 10 per cent of the redevelopment site become dedicated parkland. A lot of 4,000m² generates

a 400m² park; this is essentially a small urban plaza and the smallest park size in the City.

The future park at St. Charles Street and Beechwood Avenue is one example of such a park. Parks of this size can support park benches and trees and a small park amenity such as half-court basketball or small playgrounds. Larger parks are required for amenities such as pickleball and full court basketball, or if there is a desire to have more than one amenity per park.

Figure 3: Concept Plan for Park at St. Charles Street



Where the lot is less than 4,000m², the City takes cash-in-lieu of parkland. Much neighbourhood residential intensification will occur on a lot-by-lot basis, often on lots that typically range from 465 – 930m² (5,000 – 10,000 sq. ft).

Such redevelopment will only generate cash-in-lieu of parkland (CILP) and only if its collection is captured by the Parkland Dedication By-law CILP is taken through Consent (severance) applications to the Committee of Adjustment when a net increased in units is proposed³¹. CILP is also taken through Site Plan Control Applications. If collected, CILP can result in a gradually increasing pot of funding that can be used to acquire new parkland. However, for development that does not require a Consent application or Site

³¹ In some neighbourhoods, such as the City View area, consent applications do not generate CILP.

Plan Control application, the City has not collected CILP since 2010; lot-by-lot infill development may not require a Consent application and typically does not require a Site Plan Control application. If CILP is not collected, there are few sources of funding with which to acquire new parkland.

Without new strategies, it is anticipated that in some areas there will be limited opportunities to acquire land parcels large enough to support a variety of recreational facilities. This is particularly true for facilities that require more space, such as community centres, arenas, pools, sports fields, ball diamonds, court surfaces and skateparks. If the provision of new parkland and recreation facilities is to keep pace with population increases across the city, new parkland policies and strategies are required.

7.2 Parkland Provision Strategy

The need for additional parkland to meet the needs and expectations of residents is outlined in Sections 4 and 5. Without parkland, the indoor and outdoor recreational facilities that residents expect and would like to see in their neighbourhoods cannot be provided. Through the use of existing policies and tools, as well as through the development of new ones, the City's parkland provision strategy focusses on retention, optimization and acquisition.

Retention of Existing City-owned Parkland

Given the need for future parkland and recreational facilities, as detailed in Appendices A and B of this document, the City must protect the investments that it has made into existing parkland. Existing parkland shall retain recreation as its primary function and shall not be sold or built upon with the exception of facilities that serve a parks and recreation function.

Uses such as stormwater management, commercial purposes and commuter parking will not be considered as serving a parks and recreation function. Note that when land is acquired through the Parkland Dedication By-law or Planning Act, it is expected that it will be transparently zoned for the purposes of active or passive park uses, as per the Recreation Cultural and Facilities Services (RCFS) mandate. Where parkland is proposed to be used for purposes outside of the RCFS mandate, the explicit concurrence of the General Manager of RCFS is required. For example, stormwater blocks may occur within park areas, on exceptional or as needed basis (with the concurrence of the General Manager of RCFS) but any stormwater blocks will not count towards parkland dedication.

This land is required to help meet the recommended provision level targets for both parks and recreational facilities throughout the city. To address a growing population,

the quality, accessibility and sustainability of existing parkland is to be enhanced where a need is identified and where space and funds are available. This may mean more intensive programming of existing parks and facilities. It may also mean the addition of elements and facilities, such as lighting, new courts, resilient surfacing or splash pads, to extend the use of park spaces.

Land First Policy

Through the development review process, in transects where the provision rate of parkland is lower than 2 hectares per 1,000 people, request as a first priority the dedication of land to increase transect wide parkland provision rates.

The assigned Parks Planner will determine whether the resultant parcel meets the minimum criteria for municipal parkland and may, at their discretion, request Cash-in-lieu of Parkland (CILP) or a combination of land and CILP. Or, in some circumstances, Recreation Culture and Facility Services may consider accepting land of equal real market value, off-site, and preferably within the same transect, when appropriate.

Parkland Dedication By-law

As noted in Section 2.1, the Planning Act gives the City the authority to require land, or cash-in-lieu of parkland (CIL or CILP), for parks and recreational purposes at the time of the development. This is, and will continue to be, the City's primary method of acquiring new parks and recreational amenities into the future. Each municipality's Parkland Dedication By-law details specifically how the municipality will collect parkland or cash-in-lieu of parkland. The City's Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Funds Policy directs how these funds can be spent.

The City of Ottawa's Official Plan (2021) will increase development intensity by transect, as described and illustrated in Section 4. The population growth associated with these changes will generate increased parkland demand, as described in Section 4.

The City's current Parkland Dedication By-law (By-law No. 2009-95) was adopted in 2009. Left unchanged, the By-law would not reflect the shift in growth to higher density development and many park needs would be unmet. Changes are required to the Parkland Dedication By-law to align with all of the following principles:

- a) Alignment of expansion and enhancement with growth to ensure that necessary parkland and recreation infrastructure can be economically provided;
- b) Maximize the parkland dedication as part of the review and approval of new or modifications to existing development; and

c) Increased access to parkland given geographic distribution and the need to support regeneration.

The City has the legislative requirement to update its Parkland Dedication By-law to reflect parkland needs between 2021 and 2046³², the 2020 Draft OP's planning horizon.

The City plans to update the Parkland Dedication By-law in 2022. To this end, beginning in 2021, the City will initiate a review of its Parkland Dedication By-law. The by-law review and update will include an examination of:

- Ottawa's Parkland Dedication By-law in comparison to those of other large and mid-sized Ontario municipalities
- Residential and mixed-use rates and methods of parkland dedication calculation. Ottawa's parkland dedication rates must reflect the parks needs generated by new development, growth and regeneration.
- The current 10 per cent Parkland dedication cap on high density sites
- Parkland dedication exemptions
- The timing of collection of cash-in-lieu of parkland
- How cash-in-lieu of parkland funds are allocated to a Ward or Transect, to a citywide fund, and to an acquisition fund
- Forms of parkland that will be accepted as parkland dedication. They should be specified and reflect the parks typology in the City's Parks Development Manual, 2017.

The goal of this review and update to the Parkland Dedication By-law and Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Funds policy is to ensure that, as the city develops and intensifies, the available tools are used to their fullest potential to meet the parks and recreational needs identified through this Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan and to support the Official Plan (2021)'s direction.

Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Funds Policy

The Cash-in-lieu of Parkland (CILP) Funds Policy was approved by Council in 2011 and updated in 2015. The Policy "is designed to ensure the consistent and wise use of funds collected for park and recreation purposes by defining the purposes for which these funds may be used, how the funds are allocated, and how the spending is accounted for both internally and publicly" (Report to Committee, [ACS2015-PAI-DCM-0001](#) – August 2015, Cash in lieu of Parkland Policy Amendments)

³² While the timeline for the Official Plan (2021) is to the year 2046, this Plan projects to 2031. The first update of this Plan is expected to carry its projections and recommendations to 2046.

The Policy states: “Cash-in-lieu funds collected through the development review will be allocated as follows:

- a. Sixty percent (60 per cent) of the funds paid will be allocated to use in the Ward in which the development is located and forty percent (40 per cent) of the funds paid will be allocated for citywide purposes.
- b. in a special administrative area identified in the Parkland Dedication By-law, one hundred per cent (100 per cent) of the funds paid will be allocated to use in the special administrative area where the development is located.”

Given current levels of infill construction in certain wards, the intensification projected by the Official Plan (2021), the sharp differences in transect level rates of parkland provision per 1,000 residents, the age of facilities in certain parks and the costs of real estate, both the 60/40 split and the conditions under which a special administrative area can be identified should be re-examined in order to ensure that the City can make the best use of available tools to address parkland and facility deficiencies.

Development Charges

The City collects Development Charges (DCs) for a range of designated services to pay for the increased capital costs resulting from increased needs for services arising from development. Amongst the designated services are parks development and recreation facilities.

Only those specific capital projects included in the current Development Charges Background Study are eligible for funding. Recreation, Culture and Facility Services is reviewing options that would allow the City to update the DC urban park list as an annual program to fund urban park opportunities arising from new development applications and future land acquisitions.

Given that the Official Plan (2021) directs significant new growth to existing neighbourhoods through intensification, the City should seek to expand the use of Development Charges to fund growth-related parks and recreation facilities. The background study and detailed analysis to support this should flow from the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan so that changes may be considered as part of the 2024 Development Charge update.

Community Benefits Charge

The Government of Ontario’s [COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020](#) replaced density bonusing under the former Section 37 of the *Planning Act* with a new

Community Benefits Charge (CBC). On February 10, 2021 Ottawa City Council approved the recommendations of staff report *Framework for adopting a Community Benefits Charge By-law to replace current Section 37 Policies* (ACS2021-PIE-GEN-0001), which proposed a framework for consulting on and preparing a new Community Benefits Charge strategy and by-law for the City.

A new CBC By-law can be used to pay for “the capital costs of facilities, services and matters required because of development or redevelopment in the area to which the by-law applies.” There are no overlaps permitted with other mechanisms such as the conveyance of parkland dedication and development charges.

A municipality may only charge a CBC against residential or mixed-use development or re-development containing ten or more residential units and being five or more storeys in height. Certain types of development are exempt from a CBC. For example, a CBC may not be imposed on retirement homes, post-secondary institutions or not-for-profit housing. Additionally, the CBC cannot exceed 4 per cent of the value of the land. Given these requirements, it is unclear how much revenue a new CBC will generate to fund required growth-related capital projects.

Staff report [ACS2021-PIE-GEN-0001](#) notes that based on building permits issued from January 2015 to October 2020, only 49 of 10,000 entries met the CBC application criteria with respect to residential apartment buildings. The report also notes that this means that the City would have less than ten CBC eligible projects a year based on current construction patterns and that while this number seems low, it is higher than the number of projects that were subject to Section 37 in the past three years (between one and six).

Staff report ACS2021-PIE-GEN-0001 notes that given the Official Plan’s intensification goals, the number of developments eligible for a CBC should grow in time. However, most new development would not be subject to the new CBC because the Official Plan’s growth management strategy envisions most intensification to take the form of ground-oriented, multi-family development rather than towers.

At the time of writing of this Master Plan, the scope of community benefits is still being determined, and may include community-oriented projects such as cultural facilities, affordable housing, and intersection improvements. Given the limited number of projects that are likely to be subject to the CBC By-law, and the range of community-oriented projects that may be supported, the resulting funds may be small and unreliable supplements to other methods of meeting public needs.

Disposal of City-owned Land

On occasion, the City owns land that is deemed surplus and is proposed for disposal. It is recommended that the Recreation, Culture and Facility Services Department (RCFS) and the City's Corporate Real Estate Office (CREO) develop a policy that would benefit the creation of new municipally owned parks. Where surplus City-owned land is considered for disposal in areas where the parkland provision rate is less than 2 hectares per 1,000 people, the policy should direct that some or all of that land be made available to RCFS for new parkland. In cases where municipally owned parkland is not provided through the sale of surplus lands, the policy should direct that a percent of the City's net proceeds from the sale of City owned lands be transferred to the citywide Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Fund to fund the acquisition of new parkland and / or to increase the function of existing parks.

Targeted Land Acquisition

Given the difficulties of acquiring new parkland through the land use planning process and redevelopment³³ in existing neighbourhoods, targeted real estate acquisitions will be essential to address projected parkland deficiencies. It is recommended that the development of a real estate acquisition strategy follow the adoption of this Master Plan. A targeted acquisition strategy would focus on the transect and neighbourhoods in greatest need as well as opportunities that are presented to enlarge existing parks and create new ones. Any land acquisition strategy would need to identify sources of available funding for land purchases and should pursue privately owned land as well as available land held by other levels of government and public institutions.

Maximizing new Acquisitions

As described in Appendix B, park sizes in new developments have been shrinking, indicative of a trend of acquiring more smaller parks and fewer larger ones. This trend is also seen in the redevelopment of large urban parcels, such as shopping centre sites and parking lots, where proposed future parkland can be 'remnant' pieces of the site.

Larger park parcels allow more flexibility for the evolution of the park use and function over time as the community demographics and needs change. Whereas a larger park

³³ In existing neighbourhoods, redevelopment is expected via small scale lot-by-lot redevelopment that will not generate parkland, only cash-in-lieu of parkland. Redevelopment may also occur on larger sites such as malls, strip plazas and institutional sites via Site Plan Control application. Depending on the size of such sites, parkland may be generated but not in the amounts that would meet the identified need for additional parks and recreation facilities.

can accommodate multiple changing functions over the years, smaller spaces have much less ability to evolve.

Going forward, where Site Plan Control applications generate parkland, smaller park parcels will be consolidated. If a site generates parkland:

- of 400m² to 1,800m², the parkland is required to be consolidated into a single park
- greater than 1,800m² but less than 2,200m², then the parkland may be divided into two parks, with no park smaller than 400m².

7.3 Funding Sources and Meeting the Recommendations of the Plan

There are a few main methods by which the City can fund the capital construction of new parks, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, the replacement of facilities that are at end-of-life, the redevelopment of existing parks, and the addition of new amenities to parks and recreation buildings. The three primary methods include the use of Development Charge funding; Cash-in-lieu of Parkland funding, and tax support. Some projects may also be funded via P3 partnerships, Federal or Provincial grants, City Major and Minor Capital Grants, and community partnerships. Each funding source has its own restrictions and main usage.

Development Charges (DC)

Development Charge (DC) funding is growth-related, meaning the funding is collected as a result of new development and the resultant population increase in an area. DC funding cannot be used to fund the replacement of park features or amenities that are at end-of-life. This is because replacement of existing features is not growth related. DC funding cannot be used for the acquisition of land for parks but could be used for acquisition of land for enclosed year-round public recreation buildings/structures.

i) Inside the Greenbelt

Inside the Greenbelt (Downtown Core, Inner and Outer Urban transects), Urban Park DC funding is used to develop new parks. Considering the extent of intensification planned for the city, the current individual park-based DC allocation model needs to be re-examined to consider a program-based urban park allocation model or other responsive means to accommodate the speed in which growth may occur. The current required 10-year Development Charge forecast is not responsive to the speed of new development and intensification. More nimble approaches are required to address the park and facility development needs of new residents that intensification and growth will bring.

It is anticipated that a nimbler DC park model would not generate additional growth-related funding; however, it would ensure that new urban parks will be funded for development when they are needed to serve the growing population.

ii) Outside the Greenbelt

The City has not collected parkland DCs for suburban areas outside the Greenbelt since 2014. In the suburban and rural transects, developers are responsible for funding and building new parks in accordance with an indexed park development rate established in the DC bylaw. The Developer-Build (DB) model continues to be the prime method of delivery for new parks in suburban areas. However, with intensification also planned within the suburban areas, it is recommended that the 2024 update to the DC Bylaw consider the introduction of park DCs for suburban areas that are going through infill and redevelopment, as well as new land areas not currently considered by the 2019 Development Charge By-law.

Cash-in-lieu of Parkland

Cash-in-lieu (CIL) of parkland can be used to fund land acquisition, the development of new parks and recreation buildings, and additions and refurbishments to existing parks and recreation buildings. The current method of collection and allocating CIL funds does not adequately direct money to the areas and projects where the identified need is greatest. RCFS will review the Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Funds Policy to ensure that the policy most effectively supports the addition of projects identified in this Plan; any recommendations will be brought forward to Committee and Council.

Tax Support

Tax support is the primary method for funding all life cycle renewal and replacement projects. The City is always looking at sources of external funding whenever possible (provincial, federal, community, etc.) If a recreation building, pool or park structure is at end of life, its full renewal or replacement is only possible when there is sufficient funding available. This Plan proposes new recreation facilities based on anticipated growth. The growth of facilities to meet service level targets is dependant on a stable foundation of existing facilities. Currently, there are not sufficient funds through tax support to pay for the full renewal or replacement of park amenities and recreation buildings that are at end of life. Continued or improved renewal funding for parks and recreation facility infrastructure, such as sports courts, pathway lighting, minor park improvements, park redevelopment and other infrastructure upgrades, is required. RCFS will support an asset management plan for recreation facilities, that sees the full life cycle renewal or replacement of facilities identified in this plan; this includes for

example community buildings, arenas, and wading pools. When amenities and facilities are replaced, they are replaced to modern standards as identified in the RFIS, the Ontario Building Code etc. 'Like-for-like' replacement does not imply that, for example, a 20-yard pool would be replaced with another 20-yard pool; it would be replaced with the minimum standard pool as identified in the RFIS.

Funding requirements to meet the recommendations of the Plan

Appendices A and B identify currently planned inventory 2031. These facilities and parks are either projects for which the City is currently collecting Development Charges or are projects that are funded through the 'developer build' model.

The recommendations in Appendix A list numerous additional facilities to consider adding to the City's inventory by 2031, in order to meet the recommended citywide per capita provision levels. Currently, no locations have been identified for these additional facilities and they are not currently funded.

Delivering these additional recommended facilities is contingent on various funding models and the supporting requirements associated with them. In suburban growth areas, new parks are anticipated to be delivered through the 'developer build' model. Inside the Greenbelt, Urban Park Development Charges will fund some new parks, Cash-in-lieu of Parkland may fund some park improvements and Recreation Development Charges would help support the addition of new recreation buildings. However, a revision to the Development Charges By-law is required and recommended in order to add new parks and facilities not previously contemplated.

Revisions to the Development Charges By-law must be supported by a detailed review that examines past levels of provision, the pattern of growth and future population growth forecasts, among other things. The City's Development Charges By-law will be reviewed with an update required by 2024; this review will include a review and projection of parks and recreation facilities related development charges.

All new projects also must consider the overall affordability of the project including the impacts on operating and long-term maintenance budgets and the impacts on municipal taxes.

This Plan identifies the parks and recreational facilities needed to address population growth to 2031. Delivery of all of the recommendations is dependant on policy tools and available resources, including land and funding.

Section 8. Next Steps and Implementation

There are a number of initiatives that the City must undertake for the Plan's implementation. These are identified in Sections 5 and 7 and presented in brief below.

Section 5 summarizes the key recommendations from Appendix A - Recreation Facility Needs Assessment. These recommendations include updating or creating the following strategies:

- Tennis and Pickleball strategy
- Skateboard Park strategy.

These strategies will be completed by staff in advance of the next mandated ten-year Official Plan review.

Section 5 and Appendix A also recommend identifying end-of-life facilities Recreation Complexes, Community Centres/ Buildings, and Arenas for replacement or consolidation. The studies to identify these facilities will be commenced by staff by 2023.

Section 7 identifies existing, and new, policies and tools, that the City must revise or create, in order to meet parkland needs as follows:

- a. Create a *Retention of Existing City-owned Parkland* policy statement
- b. Create a *Land First Policy* policy statement to address parkland need
- c. Revise the City's *Parkland Dedication By-law*
- d. Revise the City's *Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Funds Policy*
- e. Prepare a Background Study and detailed analysis to support an expansion of the use Development Charges to fund growth-related park and recreation facility capital costs (to be prepared for 2024 Development Charge update).
- f. Prepare of a Community Benefits Charge strategy to consider the need for the use of a *Community Benefits Charge* by-law to collect growth-related capital costs, which may include capital costs related to parkland needs and growth-related park and recreation facility needs provided it does not duplicate other existing sources of funding for those costs
- g. Create a *Disposal of City-owned Land* policy to address parkland need
- h. Create a *Real Estate Acquisition* strategy to address parkland need
- i. Update the Park Development Manual to address the recommendation on *Maximizing new Acquisitions*
- j. Review the Park Development Manual to ensure that the park development process addresses the City's corporate engagement strategy
- k. Develop an *Urban Parks* strategy, as recommended by the Official Plan (2021), to be completed in advance of the mandated ten-year Official Plan review.

In addition, the Plan and its recommendations will be used to inform upcoming projects, processes and strategies, including but not limited to:

- A Community Benefits Charge Strategy
- Decision making with regards to future one-time funding (i.e., Federal Stimulus Funding) and other discretionary funding
- The Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP)

Section 9. References

City of Ottawa (2021) Report to Committee Ref N°: [ACS2021-PIE-GEN-0001](#)

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City of Ottawa and National Capital Commission (2020) Climate Projections for the National Capital Region. Available at ottawa.ca/climatechange

Government of Ontario: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. *Citizen's guide to land use planning: The Planning Act*. [Citizen's guide to land use planning | Ontario.ca](#)

Ottawa Public Health (2018). *State of Ottawa Health 2018*. December 2018.

Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13 [Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13 \(ontario.ca\)](#)

Provincial Policy Statement, 2020, as approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, Order in Council No. 229/2020. [Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 | Ontario.ca](#)

Municipal Open Data Sources:

Calgary: <https://data.calgary.ca>

Halifax: <https://catalogue-hrm.opendata.arcgis.com/>

Winnipeg: <https://data.winnipeg.ca/browse>,

Hamilton: <https://open.hamilton.ca>,

London: <https://opendata.london.ca>,

Edmonton: <https://data.edmonton.ca/browse>,

Toronto: <https://open.toronto.ca>,

Mississauga: <https://data.mississauga.ca/>,

Brampton: <https://geohub.brampton.ca/search>,

Montreal: <https://donnees.montreal.ca/>,

Kingston: <https://cityofkingston.ca/explore/data-catalogue>,

Vancouver: <https://opendata.vancouver.ca/explore>

Section 10. Glossary

2SLGBTQIA+– An acronym that represents: Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, Trans/Transgender, queer (or questioning), Intersex, Asexual and the “+” includes others that use different terms for their gender identities, expression or sexual orientation.

Active Parks: An active park is a park containing any features or facilities that encourage use by the public. These parks may include active facilities such as pathways, play structures, water play and sports fields, among others.

Amenities: Refers to the facilities within a park, such as pathways, play equipment, splash pads, sports fields, ball courts, tennis courts, rinks, shade structures, site furniture, etc.

Cash-in-lieu of Parkland – means the payment of funds equivalent to the value of the amount of land that the City would otherwise have been entitled to require to be conveyed for park purposes as part of a development. The payment of cash-in-lieu is usually required as a condition of development approval and is assessed as the value of the land the day before the City grants approval for the development, as specified in the Planning Act.

Citywide: means something having relevance to or providing services for the population of the City as a whole or a part of the City that is larger than a single ward.

Community centre: Large, single storey, 20,000+ ft² multi-purpose community building, composed of the following program spaces: Customer Service/Reception and Lobby, Gymnasium, Fitness-Cardio, Fitness-Weight, Multi- Purpose Room(s), Meeting Room(s) and Kitchenette. The community centre will also include the following support spaces: Washrooms, Dry Change Rooms, Recreation Administration

Community building: Small, single storey 3,500 ft² multi-purpose building intended to serve as a small community centre and to support the facilities in the park in which it is located. A Community Building is composed of the following program spaces: two (2) Multi-Purpose Rooms, Meeting Room and Kitchenette, Washrooms.

Equity: “The fair and respectful treatment of all people and involves the creation of opportunities and reduction of disparities in opportunities and outcomes for diverse communities. It also acknowledges that these disparities are rooted in historical and contemporary injustices and disadvantages.” (University of Toronto, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, 2021)

Equity Deserving Groups: “Equity deserving groups are communities that face significant collective challenges in participating in society. This marginalization could be created by attitudinal, historic, social and environmental barriers based on age, ethnicity, disability, economic status, gender, nationality, race, sexual orientation and transgender status, etc. Equity deserving groups are those that identify barriers to equal access, opportunities, and resources due to disadvantage and discrimination.” (Canada Council for the Arts, 2021)

Greenspace: land that provides recreation and leisure opportunities for the use and benefit of the public and /or that preserves the natural environment and environmental systems. Greenspaces include publicly held and accessible to residents as well as lands that are privately held. Greenspaces include a variety of different spaces such as parks, open space and natural areas

Park: A City-owned property that includes land to be acquired through the development review process under the provisions set out in the Parkland Dedication By-law, expropriated or purchased by the City for park or recreation purposes. Parks are also land that the City has leased long-term and uses to provide recreational facilities. Parks may include soft and hard surfaces and active recreational facilities such as play structures, water play and sports fields, among others. They are characterized by designed landscape with trees, turf and other vegetation along with recreation amenities and community buildings.

Passive Parks: similar to greenspace, passive parks are properties that do not or cannot contain a predominance of active recreation facilities.

Transect: a term used in the City of Ottawa’s Official Plan (2021). The Official Plan divides the City into six concentric geographic policy areas called Transects. Each Transect represents a different gradation in the type and evolution of built environment and planned function of the lands within it, from most urban (the Downtown Core) to least urban (Rural).

Service Area Radius: The service area radius refers to the general area expressed as a distance or walking time) from which a park draws the majority of its users.

Urban heat island effect: Describes built-up urban areas that are hotter than nearby rural areas or greenspace because buildings and paved surfaces amplify and trap heat. The average air temperature of a city with 1 million people or more can be 1–3°C warmer than its surroundings. In the evening, the difference can be as high as 12°C. Heat islands can exacerbate the impact of an extreme heat event, putting additional stress on the health of vulnerable people.

Appendix A: Recreation Facility Needs Assessment

Appendix A provides detailed needs assessments for 23 recreation facility types in the City of Ottawa. For each facility type, the needs assessment provides a general description of the facility and discusses the City's existing and currently planned inventory. The inventory speaks to actual facility numbers by transect and describes per capita provision levels for each of the facility types. This is expressed as a figure, such as 1:50,000 which means that there is one of that facility for every 50,000 residents.

For analysis and planning, this Plan uses the transects policy areas established by the Official Plan (2021). These are the Downtown Core, Inner Urban, Outer Urban, Greenbelt, Suburban and Rural transects. For this Plan, the Suburban transect is further divided into three sub-areas; Suburban West, Suburban South and Suburban East. In this analysis, any existing facilities in the Greenbelt transect have been tabulated as serving the closest adjacent transect³⁴. For example, the Nepean Sportsplex, which technically lies just inside the Greenbelt transect boundary, is counted as serving the Outer Urban transect and included in the Outer Urban transect supply.

Why describe per capita provision levels?

A per capita provision level is a tool used by the City to quickly assess the availability of parks and recreation facilities to residents of each transect.

Combined with maps and other data, it helps to identify current differences in distribution and to plan to meet future community needs.

The Official Plan (2021) identifies Urban Expansion Areas on Schedule C17. The schedule is provided in Appendix E of this Plan. The projected population attributed to the Urban Expansion Areas has been accounted for in this Plan's needs assessments.

Each needs assessment details the existing and currently planned inventory by transect. The data on existing facilities is sourced from the City of Ottawa Recreation Geodatabase. City of Ottawa facility projections are based on staff records of anticipated parkland acquisition to 2031 and the expected amenities in these new parks³⁵. Currently planned facilities represent those that the City currently knows will be built in a transect by 2031. Over the next 10 years, most of these are in growth areas in the suburban and rural transects as these are areas where future parkland acquisition

³⁴ Facilities in the Greenbelt have been attributed to adjacent transects as the Greenbelt population is expected to remain stable at 204 residents, there are comparatively few existing recreational facilities in the transect and no new facilities are anticipated.

³⁵ The projections are based on the number of expected parks and facilities as known in 2021 as noted in area master plans, long range planning documents, and by currently proposed parks and facilities. The figures and projections in this document are subject to change over time.

can be identified on plans of subdivision; all new greenfield developments start without existing parks and recreation facilities. New parks and acquisitions will occur inside the Greenbelt but, are much harder to predict.

As a result of ongoing development, additional facilities are anticipated to 2031 in all transects. The 2031 per capita provision rates indicate what the citywide provision rate will be based on currently planned facilities; this is not the same as the recommended provision rate.

Where enough data is available and the validity of the comparison is high, the 2021 provision rate is benchmarked against the rates of other municipalities. Where a municipality's open data site provided no information on a facility type, that municipality is not listed in the benchmark tables. Similarly, when there is reliable data, the needs assessments discuss participation and utilization. Each assessment ends with a discussion of target provision levels and recommendations. 'Currently planned facilities' correspond to the known facilities to be built to 2031. The recommendations also refer to facilities, additional to those that are currently planned, to consider adding to the City's inventory by 2031. These additional facilities are required to achieve the recommended per capita provision rate for each facility type. Each of the needs assessments is supported by a map showing the location of existing facilities within the transects.

The 23 facility types in this section vary in scale. Facilities such as recreation centres, mountain bike parks, skateboard parks, beaches, arenas and sites with multiple sports fields serve a wide catchment area and draw users from beyond the transect in which they are located. Other facility types such as playgrounds and splash pads serve users within a much more localized area. This Master Plan recognizes that larger facility types, of citywide appeal, are located as advantageously as possible and considering ease of access by all residents.

1. Recreation Complexes

1.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards (RFIS) describes a Recreation Complex as a large-scale, multi-purpose recreation building, composed of a Community Centre and one or more of the following recreation facilities: Indoor Aquatic Facility (Natatorium), Single or Multi-Pad Arena and Gymnasium(s). The recreation facilities may be located in one building or in multiple adjacent buildings. Recreation complexes are typically 8,000 – 12,500m² in size.

Recreation complexes have been traditionally planned and developed or, have evolved to serve large district level catchment areas and to offer a wide range of recreation

programs for all ages and abilities. A recreation complex is intended to function as “one-stop shopping” for recreation activities serving a large district of the City. In addition to the activities supported by the community centres, recreation complexes support a wide range of sports and activities including basketball, pickleball, badminton, floor hockey, recreational social dance, ice-based sports and activities, and pool-based sports and activities.

1.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 4, there are 15 recreation complexes serving the City. The majority of these predate the RFIS so, they do not fit neatly into the definition of Recreation Complex nor do they unilaterally follow the size parameters. For this needs assessment, the sites identified as recreation complexes are in this category because their characteristics match most closely with RFIS’s definition of a recreation complex.

The current citywide provision level for recreation complexes is 1:71,100 residents. With four recreation complexes, the Suburban West transect has the highest provision level at 1:37,800 residents. The Outer Urban transect has the lowest provision level at 1:96,900 residents. This is followed by the Inner Urban transect which has a provision level at 1:88,400 residents. The Rural transect does not contain recreation complexes; however, is served by recreation complexes/centres in abutting areas.

Table 4: Recreational Complex Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 1 | 1: 73,600 | 0 | 1 | 1: 86,800 |
| Inner Urban | 2 | 1: 88,400 | 0 | 2 | 1: 97,200 |
| Outer Urban | 3 | 1: 96,900 | 0 | 3 | 1: 104,500 |
| Suburban West | 4 | 1: 37,800 | 0 | 4 | 1: 45,300 |
| Suburban South | 2 | 1: 70,100 | 1 | 3 | 1: 58,600 |
| Suburban East | 3 | 1: 45,500 | 0 | 3 | 1: 52,300 |
| Rural | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| City Total | 15 | 1: 71,100 | 1 | 16 | 1: 76,600 |

One new recreation complex is currently planned to be constructed by 2031. This will increase the overall citywide supply to 16 facilities and will result in a citywide provision level of 1:76,600 residents. The new recreation complex is planned to be in the Riverside South community to serve the Suburban South transect and surrounding area.

The 15 existing recreation complexes were built during different periods of time, often prior to amalgamation and to different recreation infrastructure standards, which makes them difficult to compare. However, in addition to looking at the per capita provision level, it is possible to do a rough comparison of building size. Table 5 compares the total square meters of recreation complex by transect. Looking at both per capita provision rate and available square meters help to understand facility availability to residents. For example, while the Suburban West transect has a better provision rate per capita than the Suburban East transect, the Suburban East transect has more square meters of available space per resident.

Table 5: Square meters of Recreation Complex per 1,000 residents

| Area | 2021 sq m | 2021 sq m per 1,000 | 2031 Total sq m | 2031 sq m per 1,000 people |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Downtown Core | 3,251.58 | 44 | 3,251.58 | 37 |
| Inner Urban | 9,706.34 | 55 | 9,706.34 | 50 |
| Outer Urban | 36,853.49 | 127 | 37,968.32 | 121 |
| Suburban West | 36,535.86 | 241 | 36,535.86 | 202 |
| Suburban South | 15,033.91 | 107 | 27,575.72 | 157 |
| Suburban East | 35,561.41 | 261 | 35,561.41 | 227 |
| Rural | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| City Total | 136942.586 | 128 | 150599.22 | 123 |

1.3 Benchmarking

Due to wide differences in the ways that municipalities describe and classify buildings used for recreational purposes, benchmarking of recreational complexes and centres has not been included.

1.4 Participation and Utilization

There were 228,879 registrations in recreation and culture programs in municipal facilities in 2019³⁶. Staff have identified that space within complexes is heavily programmed.

³⁶ This includes registrations at recreation complexes, community centres and other municipal facilities offering registered programs.

1.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned, new recreation complex in the Suburban South transect.

Without the benefit of benchmarking the recreation complexes provision levels of other Canadian municipalities, it is recommended that the target provision level for recreation complexes be set at 1:70,000 residents to be slightly above the current provision rate.

Several recreation complexes do not meet current recreation facility infrastructure standards and have components that are approaching end-of-life. These facilities or components are candidates for replacement or consolidation with nearby facilities.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of recreation complexes at 1:70,000 residents.
- b. Consider the development of one new, additional facility in the 2021 – 2031 period., The location should be determined based on the transect-wide provision levels, available square meters of space per resident, and available land. The future facility should be located in close proximity to transit.

Strategy Statements:

- c. When considering the addition of new recreation complexes, evaluate both the provision level and the total square footage of indoor community and recreational space, in all facility types.
- d. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan and other City strategies that identify which recreation complexes components could be replaced by new City-standard facilities.

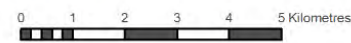
Map 4: City of Ottawa Recreation Complexes



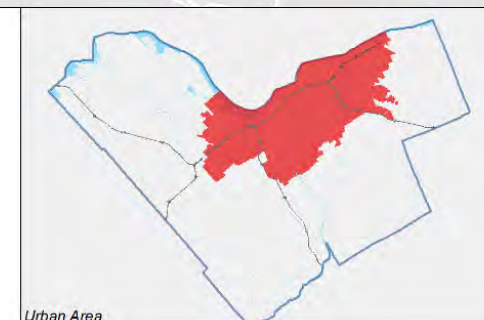
City of Ottawa Recreation Complexes

- Recreation Complex
- Terminus Station
- Transfer Station
- O-Train and Station
- O-Train and Station – at grade
- Transitway and Station – at grade
- Transitway and Station – grade separated
- Future O-Train and Station

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



Published: 2021-Aug-19
 Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation,
 Cultural and Facility Services



2. Community Centres and Community Buildings

2.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards (RFIS) describes a Community Centre as a multi-purpose community building. Community centres are categorized by size. Larger facilities are referred to as Community Centres, which range between 1,000 m² and 2,000 m² or larger. They are composed of two or more of the following program spaces: Customer Service/Reception, Gymnasium, Fitness Room(s), Multi-Purpose Room(s), Meeting Room(s) and Kitchenettes; in some cases, they may include a pool. Community centres are public buildings where members of a community gather for group or individual recreation activities, social support, public information, and other purposes. Community centres provide indoor recreation programs serving a specific community in the City.

Smaller facilities are commonly referred to as Community Buildings, which range between 280m² and 325m² and generally consist of two multipurpose program spaces or a community hall, a kitchenette, washrooms and storage spaces. Community buildings provide indoor recreation space for programs serving a specific neighborhood in the City.

Both community centres and community buildings offer a range of sport and recreational opportunities. They also function as social and community meeting spaces for people of all ages and increase well-being and cohesion in communities.

In addition to community centres and community buildings, the City has 70 fieldhouses. The RFIS defines a fieldhouse as a small single-story all-season building to support the recreational facilities in the park in which it is located. A fieldhouse is generally 160m² and is composed of a single open room with kitchenette and one or two universal washrooms. Despite their small size, fieldhouses often function as local gathering spaces. This section does not provide a needs assessment for fieldhouses; however, it is recognized that as existing City assets, they may present opportunities for the future to serve an expanded community function. Fieldhouses are subject to the future Recreation Asset Management Plan.

2.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

As shown in Tables 6 and 7, there are 49 community centres and 68 community buildings serving the City. The majority of these predate the RFIS so, they do not fit neatly into the definition of Community Centre or Community Building, nor do they unilaterally follow the size parameters. For this needs assessment, the sites identified as community centres or buildings are categorized as such because their characteristics

match most closely with RFIS’s definition of community centres and community buildings.

There are 28 community centres located in the Outer Urban, Inner Urban and Downtown Core transects. The Suburban West, Suburban South, Suburban East and Rural transects have a total of 21 community centres. Overall, the provision of community centres is generally evenly distributed across the City, with the exception of the Suburban South transect.

The current citywide provision level for community centres is 1:21,800 residents. The Rural transect has the highest provision level at 1:8,900. The Suburban South transect has the lowest provision level at 1:70,100 residents.

Four new community centres are currently planned to be constructed by 2031, which will increase the overall citywide supply to 53 facilities. This will result in a provision level of 1:23,100 residents.

Table 6: Community Centre Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 5 | 1: 14,700 | 0 | 5 | 1: 17,400 |
| Inner Urban | 10 | 1: 17,700 | 1 | 11 | 1: 17,700 |
| Outer Urban | 13 | 1: 22,400 | 0 | 13 | 1: 24,100 |
| Suburban West | 4 | 1: 37,800 | 1 | 5 | 1: 36,200 |
| Suburban South | 2 | 1: 70,100 | 1 | 3 | 1: 58,600 |
| Suburban East | 4 | 1: 34,100 | 1 | 5 | 1: 31,400 |
| Rural | 11 | 1: 8,900 | 0 | 11 | 1: 10,600 |
| City Total | 49 | 1: 21,800 | 4 | 53 | 1: 23,100 |

Of the City’s 68 community buildings, 35 are located in the Outer Urban, Inner Urban and Downtown Core transects. The Rural transect has 18 and the Suburban West, South and East transects have a total of 15 community buildings.

The citywide provision level for community buildings is 1:15,700 residents. The Rural transect has the highest provision level at 1:5,400. The Suburban East transect has the lowest provision level at 1:34,100 residents.

Four new community buildings are currently planned to be constructed by 2031, which will increase the overall citywide supply to 72 facilities. This will result in a provision level of 1:17,000 residents.

Table 7: Community Building Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021 - 2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 3 | 1: 24,500 | 0 | 3 | 1: 28,900 |
| Inner Urban | 13 | 1: 13,600 | 0 | 13 | 1: 15,000 |
| Outer Urban | 19 | 1: 15,300 | 0 | 19 | 1: 16,500 |
| Suburban West | 5 | 1: 30,300 | 0 | 5 | 1: 36,200 |
| Suburban South | 6 | 1: 23,400 | 0 | 6 | 1: 29,300 |
| Suburban East | 4 | 1: 34,100 | 1 | 5 | 1: 31,400 |
| Rural | 18 | 1: 5,400 | 3 | 21 | 1: 5,500 |
| City Total | 68 | 1: 15,700 | 4 | 72 | 1: 17,000 |

The City's existing community centres and buildings were built during different periods of time, often prior to amalgamation and to different recreation infrastructure standards. In addition to looking at the per capita provision level, it is possible to do a rough comparison of building size to understand the facility availability to residents. Tables 8 and 9, respectively, compare the total square meters of community centre and community building by transect.

Table 8: Square meters of Community Centre per 1,000 residents

| Area | 2021 sq m | 2021 sq m per 1000 | 2031 Total sq m | 2031 sq m per 1000 people |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Downtown Core | 9,168.7 | 125 | 9,168.7 | 106 |
| Inner Urban | 14,533.0 | 82 | 17,338.7 | 89 |
| Outer Urban | 32,012.0 | 110 | 32,012.0 | 102 |
| Suburban West | 4,968.5 | 33 | 6,919.4 | 38 |
| Suburban South | 1,275.3 | 9 | 3,226.2 | 18 |
| Suburban East | 1,790.8 | 13 | 5,692.7 | 36 |
| Rural | 11,421.1 | 117 | 11,421.1 | 98 |
| City Total | 75,169.4 | 70 | 85,778.9 | 70 |

Table 8 shows that while the per capita provision level might be similar, the actual available square meters of space might be different. For example, the Suburban West transect has a provision level of 1:32,700 and the Suburban East has a provision level of 33,700. Despite the provision levels being similar, the available square meters of space per 1,000 residents is quite different; the Suburban West transect offers 33m² of space per 1.000 residents whereas the Suburban East transect offers 13m².

Table 9: Square meters of Community Building per 1,000 residents

| Area | 2021 sq m | 2021 sq m per 1000 | 2031 Total sq m | 2031 sq m per 1000 people |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Downtown Core | 3,952.6 | 54 | 3,952.6 | 46 |
| Inner Urban | 6,026.0 | 34 | 6,026.0 | 31 |
| Outer Urban | 6,560.8 | 23 | 6,560.8 | 21 |
| Suburban West | 3,215.7 | 21 | 3,215.7 | 18 |
| Suburban South | 1,697.5 | 12 | 1,697.5 | 10 |
| Suburban East | 1,883.1 | 14 | 2,143.3 | 14 |
| Rural | 17,713.5 | 182 | 18,549.6 | 159 |
| City Total | 41,049.2 | 38 | 42,145.4 | 34 |

Table 9 also shows differences in community buildings. The Downtown Core and Suburban South transects have similar provision levels at 1:24,500 and 1:23,400 respectively. However, the Downtown Core offers 54m² of space per 1,000 residents while the Suburban West transect offers only 12m².

2.3 *Benchmarking*

Due to wide differences in the ways that municipalities describe and classify buildings used for recreational purposes, benchmarking of community centres has not been included.

2.4 *Participation and Utilization*

There were 228,879 registrations in recreation and culture programs in municipal facilities in 2019³⁷. Staff have identified that space within community centres is heavily programmed.

2.5 *Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations*

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned four new community centres and four new community buildings.

Without the benefit of benchmarking of community centre provision levels of other Canadian municipalities, it is recommended that the citywide target provision level for community centres be set at 1:22,000 residents and for community buildings be set at 1:16,000 residents. This is an appropriate citywide service level for facilities serving an immediate and identifiable community or neighborhood catchment area.

³⁷ This includes registrations at recreation complexes, community centres and other municipal facilities offering registered programs.

Recommendations

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of community centres at 1:22,000 residents and for community buildings at 1:16,000 residents.
- b. Consider the development of three additional new community centres and four additional new community buildings during the 2021- 2031 period. This may include renovation or expansion of existing facilities.

Strategy Statements:

- c. When considering the addition of a new community centre or community building, the consolidation of or upgrades to community centres or buildings, evaluate both the provision level and the total square footage of available community indoor space, in all facility types to assist in assigning priorities.
- d. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan and other City strategies that identify which community centres and buildings could be replaced / consolidated during the 2021-2031 period into new City-standard facilities serving larger catchment areas.

Map 5: City of Ottawa Community Centres and Community Buildings



Identified Neighbourhood (see note)
 Experimental Farm

Transect Policy Area

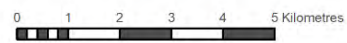
| | |
|--|--|
| Downtown Core | Suburban West |
| Inner Urban | Suburban South |
| Outer Urban | Suburban East |
| Greenbelt | Rural |

Note: Neighbourhoods identified by the Ottawa Neighbourhood Equity Index as having disparities resulting in strong equity concerns.

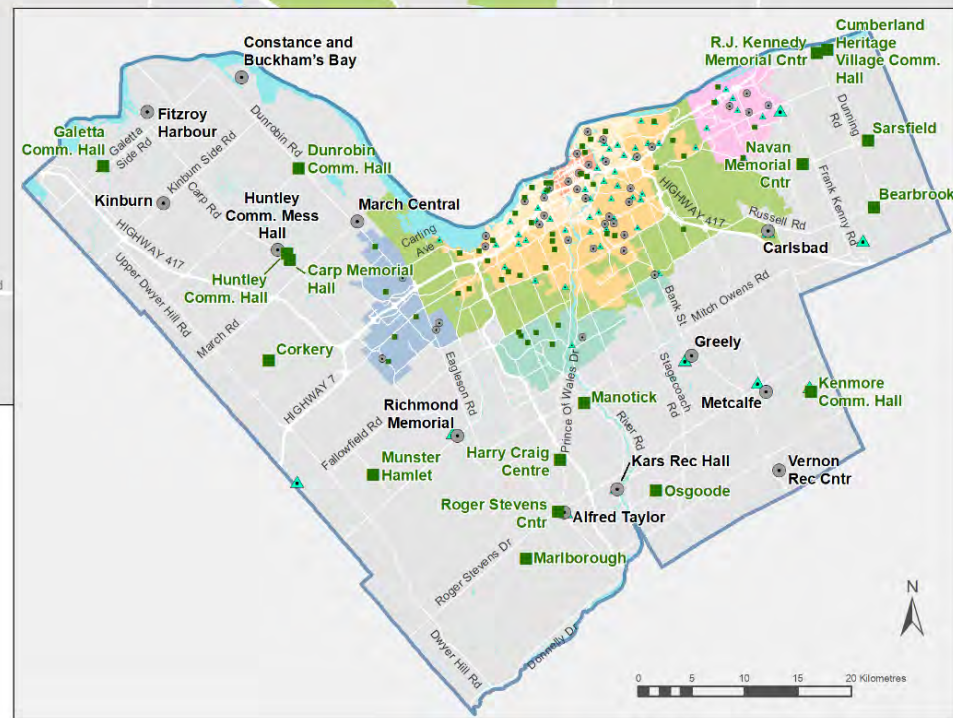
City of Ottawa Community Centres, Community Buildings & Fieldhouses

- Community Centre
- Community Building
- ▲ Fieldhouse
- Terminus Station
- Transfer Station
- O-Train and Station
- O-Train and Station – at grade
- Transitway and Station – at grade
- Transitway and Station – grade separated
- Future O-Train and Station

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



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 Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



3. Indoor Aquatic Facilities

3.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards (RFIS) describes two types of Indoor Aquatic Facilities. The standard indoor facility is described as a large building containing a natatorium with a minimum 6-lane, 25-metre Lap Pool and a secondary Leisure Pool, along with support spaces such as Change Rooms and Pool Instruction rooms. The second indoor aquatic facility is described as a 10 lane, 50-meter lap pool with infrastructure associated to support aquatic sports such as diving (dive platforms) and competitive swimming (bulkheads and timing system).

Standard indoor aquatic facilities have been traditionally planned and developed to serve a large district level catchment area and to offer a wide range of aquatic programs for all ages and abilities. The City's 50-meter indoor aquatic facility, at the Nepean Sportsplex, was constructed to support community based aquatic programs as well as regional and national aquatics competitions.

The majority of the City's aquatic facilities predate the RFIS so, they do not fit neatly into the document's definition for the standard. The City's oldest pool was built in the 1930s, many pools were added in the 1960s and 70s, while the City's newest pool dates to 2014. Over time pool standards and regulations, building code requirements, health regulations, technology and societal expectations have all changed. This means that the City's 21 pools are not all the same and cannot be easily compared.

All of the following factors make one pool different from another:

- Number of Lanes (ranges from 4 – 8 lanes)
- Overall pool length (ranges from 20 yards to 50 meters)
- Width of lanes (ranges from 2.1 – 2.5 meters apart)
- Bather load in the water (permitted number of people)
- Occupancy capacity on the pool deck (amount of space for programs, lifeguard chairs, emergency equipment and accessibility for emergency services)
- Pool amenities (e.g., diving boards, play pools, slides)
- Size and type of change areas (male, female, family or universal)
- Availability of spectator seating

The City's RFIS were approved in 2019. New pools will be built to meet the requirements of the standards. While older pools may not meet some or all of the current standards, they continue to serve the recreational needs of residents.

3.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 10, there are currently 21 indoor aquatic facilities, with the majority (13) located in the Downtown Core, Inner and Outer Urban transects. There is one 50-meter indoor aquatic facility located in the Outer Urban transect.

The Suburban West, Suburban South and Suburban East transects, have a total of eight indoor aquatic facilities. There are no indoor aquatic facilities serving the Rural transect.

The current citywide provision level for indoor aquatic facilities is 1:50,800 residents. The Downtown Core has the highest provision level at 1:18,400 residents. Apart from the Rural transect, the Suburban South transect has the next lowest provision level at 1:70,100 residents.

Table 10: Indoor Aquatic Facility Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 4 | 1: 18,400 | 0 | 4 | 1: 21,700 |
| Inner Urban | 3 | 1: 58,900 | 0 | 3 | 1: 64,800 |
| Outer Urban | 6 | 1: 48,500 | 0 | 6 | 1: 52,300 |
| Suburban West | 3 | 1: 50,400 | 0 | 3 | 1: 60,400 |
| Suburban South | 2 | 1: 70,100 | 1 | 3 | 1: 58,600 |
| Suburban East | 3 | 1: 45,500 | 0 | 3 | 1: 52,300 |
| Rural | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| City Total | 21 | 1: 50,800 | 1 | 22 | 1: 55,700 |

Overall, indoor aquatic facilities are relatively evenly distributed across the City; however, the provision levels are the lowest in the Inner Urban and Suburban South transects.

One new indoor aquatic facility is planned to be constructed by 2031, which will increase the overall citywide supply to 22 facilities. This will result in a provision level of 1:55,700 residents. The new indoor aquatic facility is planned to be in the Riverside South community to serve the Suburban South transect. This new facility will increase the provision level of indoor aquatic facilities in the Suburban South transect from 1:70,100 residents to 1:58,600 residents.

The Recreation Culture and Facilities Services department has identified a need to construct one 50-meter indoor aquatic facility, in the 2021-2031 period. This is in order

to address needs, related to competitive swimming and the City’s ability to host swim meets,, that are no longer achieved at the existing 50-meter indoor aquatic facility. The existing facility was constructed in 1974 and no longer meets standards for training and competition for: age group swimming, masters swimming, diving, artistic swimming, water polo, regional and national competitions. In addition, population growth in the city warrants the addition of a second 50-meter indoor aquatic facility to meet community programming.

3.3 *Benchmarking*

In comparing the provision levels of indoor aquatic facilities in Ottawa to the municipalities listed in Table 11, Ottawa’s provision level of 1:50,800 residents is ranked 3rd.

Table 11: Municipal Benchmarking of City-owned Indoor Aquatic Facility Provision Rates

| City Name | City Indoor Pools | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|-------------------|---|
| Hamilton | 17 | 1 : 34,400 |
| Toronto | 65 | 1 : 47,600 |
| Ottawa | 21 | 1 : 50,800 |
| Winnipeg | 13 | 1 : 61,000 |
| Montreal | 35 | 1 : 61,100 |
| Mississauga | 11 | 1 : 69,900 |
| Vancouver | 9 | 1 : 76,600 |
| Edmonton | 13 | 1 : 83,800 |
| Brampton | 7 | 1 : 103,300 |
| Calgary | 12 | 1 : 118,200 |
| Kingston | 1 | 1 : 133,700 |
| London | 3 | 1 : 141,600 |
| Halifax | 3 | 1 : 150,500 |

3.4 *Participation and Utilization*

A review of 2019 registered aquatic programs at indoor aquatic facilities and outdoor pools shows that registered courses at indoor aquatic facilities were on average 80 per cent full, compared to 66 per cent capacity for registered courses at outdoor pools. This higher participation and utilisation rate for indoor aquatic facilities is due to the longer annual operating season (11 months) for indoor aquatic facilities (versus two months for outdoor pools) and their consistent regulated interior environments. Although only a

snapshot of the utilisation of indoor aquatic facilities versus outdoor pools, it is indicative of the user's preference for indoor aquatic programming over outdoor pools. It also underlines Ottawa's aquatic recreation strategy of investing in indoor pools over outdoor pools.

A review of the availability of indoor aquatic facilities shows that bookable rental times were 100 per cent full over a five-year period from 2015-2019; waiting lists are maintained for groups wishing additional rental time. Rental programs are primarily utilized by community based aquatic sport groups.

3.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of both the currently planned new standard indoor aquatic facility and new 50m aquatic facility.

A rounded level of 1:50,000 residents is the recommended target provision level for indoor aquatic. The 80 per cent aquatic program participation and utilization level in current indoor aquatic facilities suggests that these facilities are being well used, with some room for growth. However, there is a need to better balance indoor aquatic facility provision levels across the City. There is also a need to construct a new 50-meter aquatic facility to address the existing gaps relating to community based aquatic sports and demand for long course leisure swimming opportunities by residents and given population growth.

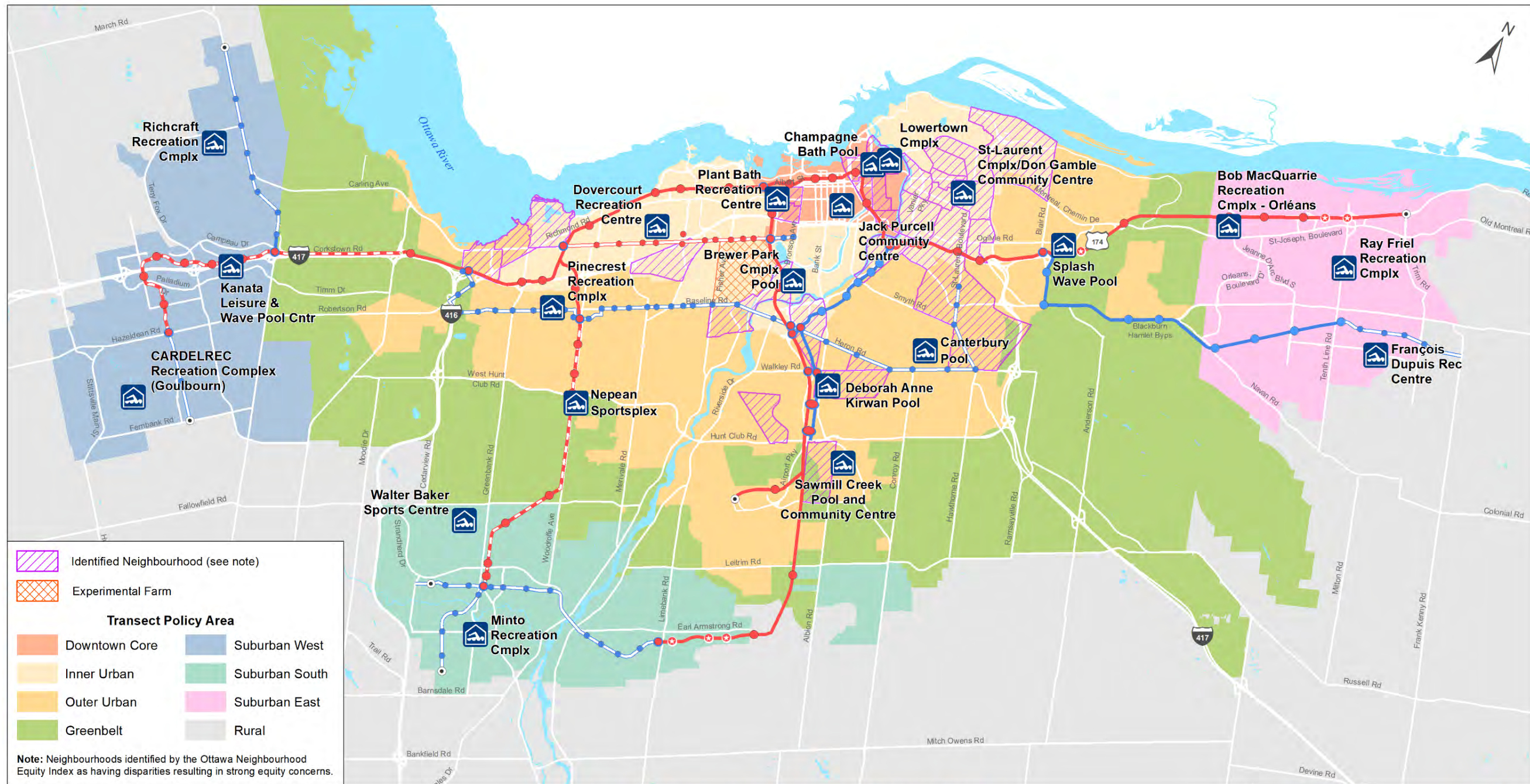
Recommendations:

- a. Set a standard, 25-meter indoor aquatic facility target provision level of 1:50,000 residents.
- b. Co-locate the new 50-meter aquatic facility with a 25m pool, to meet RFIS and competitive swimming standards (location to be determined).
- c. Consider the development of one additional new standard indoor aquatic facility during the 2021- 2031 period.

Strategy Statements:

- d. Maintain the City of Ottawa practice for the development of new indoor aquatic facilities, over outdoor deep-water pools, due to their longer operating seasons and greater number and range of programming opportunities.
- e. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP) and other City strategies that identify which indoor aquatic facilities could be replaced when they reach end of life..

Map 6: City of Ottawa Indoor Aquatic Facilities



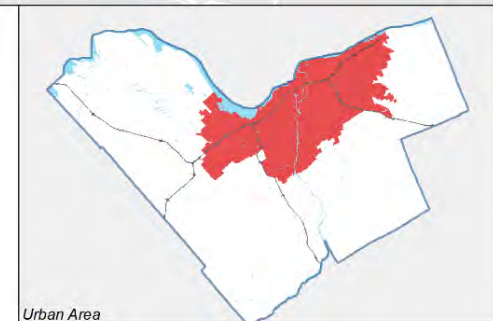
City of Ottawa Indoor Aquatic Facilities

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

-  Indoor Aquatic Facility
-  Terminus Station
-  Transfer Station
-  O-Train and Station
-  O-Train and Station – at grade
-  Transitway and Station – at grade
-  Transitway and Station – grade separated
-  Future O-Train and Station



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4. Outdoor Deep-Water Pools

4.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards describes an Outdoor Deep-Water Pool as a seasonal exterior aquatic facility with a 6-lane, 25-metre lap pool basin with shallow and deep ends, an accessible ramp entry, diving board and a seasonal pool change building.

4.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 12, there are currently 10 outdoor deep-water pools serving the City. The distribution of outdoor deep-water pools in Ottawa reflects the historic aquatic recreation strategies of the former municipalities prior to amalgamation in 2001. The former City of Ottawa chose to invest in indoor aquatic facilities due to their longer season and greater programming opportunities. The former City of Ottawa also operated three beaches as seasonal aquatic alternatives to outdoor deep-water pools. One existing outdoor deep-water pool was closed when it reached end of life. As a result, together, the Downtown Core and the Inner Urban transects currently have one outdoor deep-water pool (Genest), which is located in the former City of Vanier.

The aquatic recreation strategies of the former municipalities of Nepean, Kanata, Gloucester and Rideau included the development of outdoor deep-water pools, as evidenced by the nine outdoor deep-water pools located in the Outer Urban, Suburban West and Rural transects. As most of these former municipalities expanded, the development of outdoor deep-water pools declined as, they too, chose to invest in indoor aquatic facilities due to their longer seasons and greater programming opportunities.

The majority (five) of the outdoor deep-water pools are located in the Outer Urban transect. There are no outdoor deep-water pools serving the Downtown Core, Suburban South or Suburban East transects. There are three outdoor deep-water pools serving the Suburban West transect and one each serving the Inner Urban and Rural transects³⁸.

The current citywide provision level for outdoor deep-water pools is 1:106,700 residents. The Suburban West transect has the highest provision level at 1:50,400 residents, followed by the Outer Urban transect with a provision level of 1:58,100 Residents. Apart

³⁸ The deep-water outdoor pool shown in the Rural Transect is the Long Island Aquatic Club in Manotick. This is included as the facility is City owned; however, the City does not fund or operate programs at this site. The Club is privately operated and requires a membership to join.

from the transects that have no outdoor deep-water pools, the Inner Urban transect has the lowest provision level at 1:176,800 residents.

Table 12: Outdoor Deep-Water Pool Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Inner Urban | 1 | 1: 176,800 | 0 | 1 | 1: 194,400 |
| Outer Urban | 5 | 1: 58,100 | 0 | 5 | 1: 62,700 |
| Suburban West | 3 | 1: 50,400 | 0 | 3 | 1: 60,400 |
| Suburban South | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suburban East | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rural | 1 | 1: 97,500 | 0 | 1 | 1: 116,500 |
| City Total | 10 | 1: 106,700 | 0 | 10 | 1: 122,500 |

No new outdoor deep-water pools are planned to be built between 2021 and 2031. The current City of Ottawa aquatic recreation strategy is to continue to plan and invest in indoor aquatic facilities, to meet the aquatic recreation needs of the community, while maintaining the existing inventory of outdoor pools. Investment is limited to the lifecycle replacement of existing outdoor deep-water pools when they reach end of life, as has already occurred with the full replacement of Crestview Pool.

4.3 Benchmarking

In comparing the provision levels of outdoor deep-water pools in Ottawa to the municipalities listed in Table 13, Ottawa's provision level of 1:106,700 residents are ranked 6th.

Table 13: Municipal Benchmarking of Outdoor Deep-Water Pools

| City Name | Outdoor Pools | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|---------------|---|
| Montreal | 77 | 1 : 27,800 |
| London | 11 | 1 : 38,600 |
| Toronto | 57 | 1 : 54,300 |
| Winnipeg | 10 | 1 : 79,300 |
| Hamilton | 6 | 1 : 97,500 |
| Ottawa | 10 | 1 : 106,700 |
| Mississauga | 7 | 1 : 109,900 |

| City Name | Outdoor Pools | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|-----------|---------------|--|
| Halifax | 4 | 1 : 112,800 |
| Kingston | 1 | 1 : 133,700 |
| Vancouver | 4 | 1 : 172,300 |
| Calgary | 8 | 1 : 177,300 |
| Edmonton | 4 | 1 : 272,300 |
| Brampton | 1 | 1 : 723,200 |

4.4 Participation and Utilization

A review of 2019 registered aquatic programs performance for outdoor deep-water pools shows that registered courses were at 66 per cent capacity. This lower participation and utilisation level for outdoor deep-water pools, as compared to indoor facilities, is due to the shorter annual operating season (two months) and the unpredictability of weather.

4.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

With the City of Ottawa's current strategy of maintaining the existing inventory of outdoor deep-water pools, outdoor deep-water pool provision levels will decline in concert with population increases. Even with this decline, this will keep Ottawa's deep-water pool provision level within the median range of the municipalities listed in Table 13.

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current provision of 10 outdoor deep-water pools.

Strategy Statements:

- b. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP) and other City strategies that identify which outdoor deep-water pools could be replaced when they reach end of life.

5. Supervised Beaches

5.1 General Description

A beach is a landform alongside a body of water which consists of loose particles from rock, such as sand, gravel, and pebbles. Beaches can be naturally occurring or developed. Ottawa's beaches provide seasonal supervised swimming and water-front animation.

5.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

The City of Ottawa has four³⁹ supervised beaches along two of its rivers, the Ottawa and the Rideau rivers. The Ottawa River runs east-west along the Ontario-Québec border and the Rideau River generally runs north-south, emptying into the Ottawa River at Rideau Falls. There are three beaches along the Ottawa River: Britannia, Westboro, and the Petrie Island Beaches - ‘East Bay’ and ‘Island River’. Britannia and Westboro are west of downtown within the Inner and Outer Urban transects and the Petrie Island Beach is east of downtown within the Suburban East transect. Mooney's Bay is Ottawa’s fourth beach and the only one located on the Rideau River. The beach is southwest of downtown in the Inner Urban transect. The citywide provision level of supervised beaches is 1:266,700 residents. No new supervised beaches are planned to be built between 2021 and 2031. As such, the citywide provision level will drop to 1:306,300 residents.

Table 14: Supervised Beach Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Inner Urban | 1 | 1: 176,800 | 0 | 1 | 1: 194,400 |
| Outer Urban | 2 | 1: 145,400 | 0 | 2 | 1: 156,800 |
| Suburban West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suburban South | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suburban East | 1 | 1: 136,400 | 0 | 1 | 1: 156,900 |
| Rural | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| City Total | 4 | 1: 266,700 | 0 | 4 | 1: 306,300 |

5.3 Benchmarking

In comparing the provision rates of beaches in Ottawa to the municipalities listed in Table 15, it is important to note the geographic context in which they are found. Halifax and Vancouver are coastal municipalities with extensive shorelines along the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Hamilton, Kingston and Toronto abut Lake Ontario. Both Ottawa and Montreal have beaches along their shores of the rivers that run through them.

³⁹ There are two beaches at Petrie Island. For the purposes of this Master Plan, they are counted as a single beach.

Within this context, Ottawa’s provision rate of 1:266,700 residents is similar to Montréal’s provision rate of 1:267,100 residents.

Table 15: Municipal Benchmarking of Beaches Provision Rates

| City Name | Beaches | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|----------|---|
| Kingston | 10 | 1 : 13,400 |
| Halifax | 19 | 1 : 23,800 |
| Vancouver | 11 | 1 : 62,600 |
| Hamilton | 8 | 1 : 73,100 |
| Ottawa | 4 | 1 : 266,700 |
| Montreal | 8 | 1 : 267,100 |
| Toronto | 11 | 1 : 281,500 |

5.4 Participation and Utilization

The City of Ottawa’s supervised beach season typically runs from mid-June to Labour Day weekend.

2019 attendance numbers, for swimmers, at the City’s supervised beach locations were approximately:

- Mooney’s Bay: 211,000
- Westboro: 48,000
- Britannia: 100,500
- Petrie: 79,000

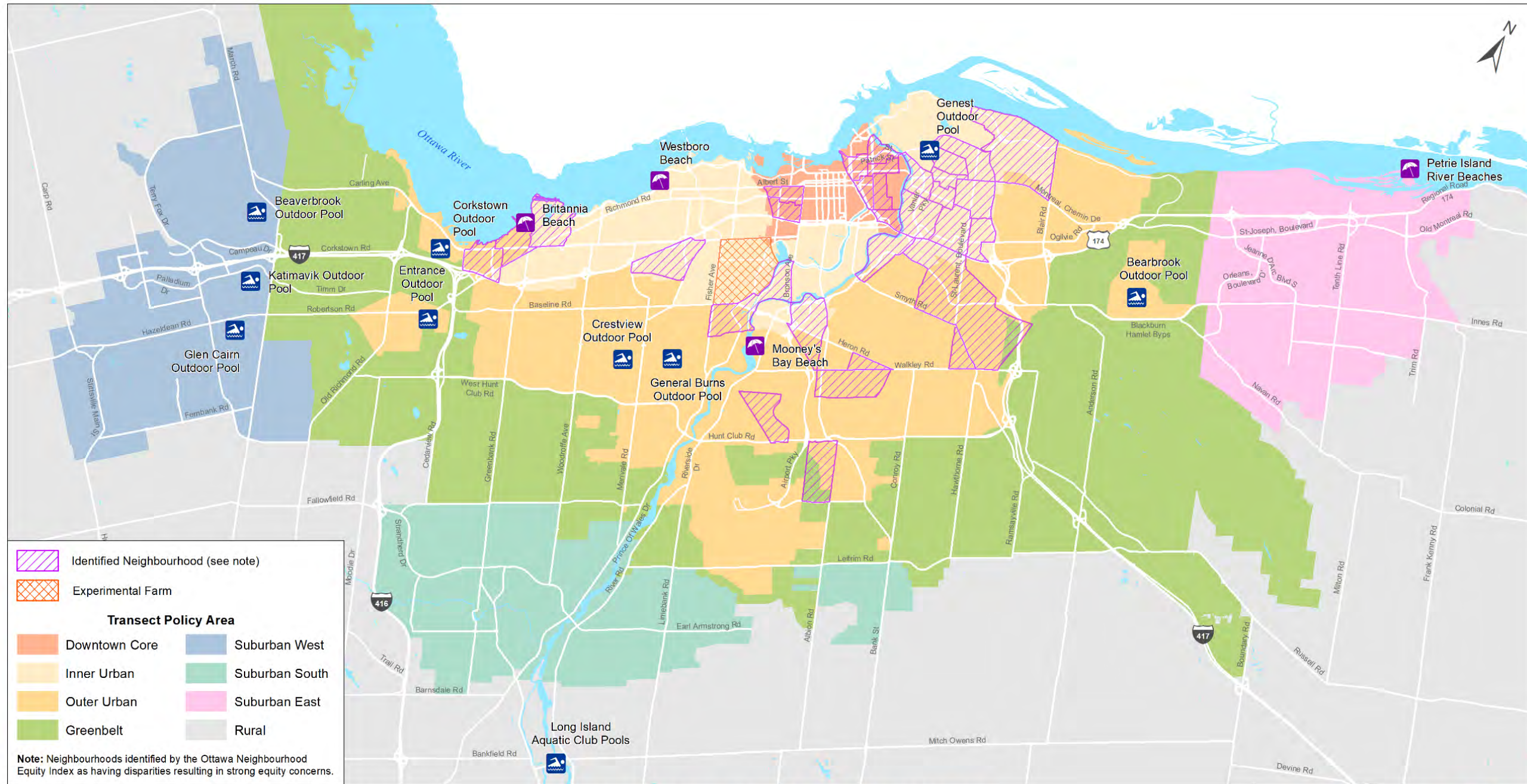
5.5 Target Provision Level and Additional Recommendations

The number of supervised beaches within the City of Ottawa will remain constant over the next ten years. As the city’s population grows, the number of residents using each beach is expected to increase. The citywide provision level is expected to be 1:306,300 residents by 2031.

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current number of supervised beaches

Map 7: City of Ottawa Outdoor Deep-Water Pools and Supervised Beaches



Identified Neighbourhood (see note)
 Experimental Farm

Transect Policy Area

| | | | |
|--|---------------|--|----------------|
| | Downtown Core | | Suburban West |
| | Inner Urban | | Suburban South |
| | Outer Urban | | Suburban East |
| | Greenbelt | | Rural |

Note: Neighbourhoods identified by the Ottawa Neighbourhood Equity Index as having disparities resulting in strong equity concerns.

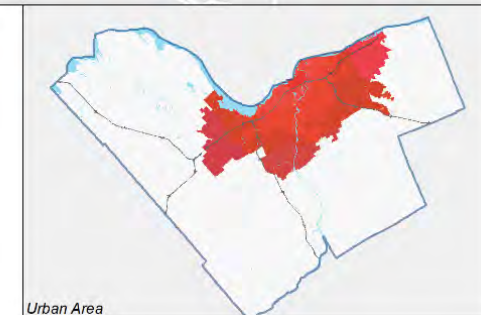
City of Ottawa Outdoor Deep Water Pools & Supervised Beaches

- Supervised Beach
- Outdoor Deep Water Pool

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



Published: 2021-Jul-21
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



6. Splash Pads and Wading Pools

6.1 General Description

Splash Pads are recreation facilities located in public parks, that provide water play with no standing water. Participants push a button to activate water spray features. Splash pads are primarily intended for use by families and young children. They are best located in residential areas where they are visible and accessible on by pedal, rolling or strolling. In Ottawa's case, splash pads are connected to the municipal water main to meet Provincial regulations to guarantee the safety of the water for drinking purposes. Further, Provincial regulations require that the splash pad immediately drain the body contact water into local sewers. This eliminates the need for a recirculation system, water testing and staffing. Splash pads have a longer operating season and longer daily operating hours than wading pools.

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards (RFIS) describe wading pools as permanent seasonal supervised multiple depth, accessible outdoor pools for children, predominantly located in community and neighbourhood parks. Wading pool park features include but are not limited to two separate basins (deep and shallow), shaded areas and a comfort station. Wading pools are primarily intended for recreation use by families and young children. Wading pools are best located in residential areas to support community needs, aquatic safety and affordable access. In comparison to splash pads, wading pools are staffed.

6.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 16, the City of Ottawa has 146 outdoor splash pads, which include a variety of sizes, structure types and spray features. These are located in all transects of the city. At 1:48,700 residents, the Rural transect has the lowest provision rate. This is followed by the Downtown Core with a provision rate of 1:14,700 residents. At 1:4,500 residents, the Suburban East transect has the highest provision rate.

As shown in Table 17, the City has 55 outdoor wading pools which include 1-2 basins, shaded areas and washroom/first aid support. Wading pools are located in the Downtown Core, Inner Urban and Outer Urban transects as they were constructed by the pre-amalgamation cities of Ottawa and Vanier. Other former municipalities did not construct wading pools. The current provision level of wading pools is 1:19,400.

Table 16: Splashpad Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 5 | 1: 14,700 | 4 | 9 | 1: 9,600 |
| Inner Urban | 22 | 1: 8,000 | 2 | 24 | 1: 8,100 |
| Outer Urban | 47 | 1: 6,200 | 0 | 47 | 1: 6,700 |
| Suburban West | 16 | 1: 9,500 | 8 | 24 | 1: 7,500 |
| Suburban South | 24 | 1: 5,800 | 11 | 35 | 1: 5,000 |
| Suburban East | 30 | 1: 4,500 | 8 | 38 | 1: 4,100 |
| Rural | 2 | 1: 48,700 | 2 | 4 | 1: 29,100 |
| City Total | 146 | 1: 7,300 | 35 | 181 | 1: 6,800 |

Table 17: Wading Pool Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 9 | 1: 8,200 | 0 | 9 | 1: 9,600 |
| Inner Urban | 27 | 1: 6,500 | 0 | 27 | 1: 7,200 |
| Outer Urban | 19 | 1: 15,300 | 0 | 19 | 1: 16,500 |
| Suburban West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suburban South | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suburban East | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rural | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| City Total | 55 | 1: 19,400 | 0 | 55 | 1: 22,300 |

There are 35 new splash pads planned for the 2021 – 2031 period. The majority of these are planned for the Suburban West, Suburban South and Suburban East transects. Two new splash pads planned for the Rural transect, where they can be connected to City services, and will improve the rural provision level standard to 1:29,100 residents. Four new splash pads in the Downtown Core will improve the provision level there to 1:9,600 residents. The citywide provision level for splash pads in 2031 is expected to be 1:6,800 residents.

There are no new wading pools planned between 2021 – 2031. In comparison to splash pads, wading pools have a significantly shorter operating season and are open for set hours each day. Of the city's 55 wading pools, 54 are at end of life and require full replacement.

6.3 Benchmarking

In comparing the provision levels of splash pads in Ottawa to the Canadian municipalities listed in Table 18, Ottawa's provision level of 1:7,300 residents is ranked 1st. As shown in Table 19, Ottawa's provision level for wading pools of 1:19,400 residents is ranked 2nd.

Table 18: Municipal Benchmarking of Splashpad Provision Rates

| City Name | Splashpads | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|------------|---|
| Ottawa | 146 | 1 : 7,300 |
| Hamilton | 56 | 1 : 10,400 |
| Montreal | 154 | 1 : 13,900 |
| Kingston | 9 | 1 : 14,900 |
| Edmonton | 72 | 1 : 15,100 |
| Toronto | 142 | 1 : 21,800 |
| London | 16 | 1 : 26,500 |
| Mississauga | 26 | 1 : 29,600 |
| Vancouver | 15 | 1 : 45,900 |
| Brampton | 14 | 1 : 51,700 |
| Winnipeg | 13 | 1 : 61,000 |
| Halifax | 6 | 1 : 75,200 |
| Calgary | 4 | 1 : 354,500 |

Table 19: Municipal Benchmarking of Wading Pool Provision Rates

| City Name | Wading Pools | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|--------------|---|
| Winnipeg | 89 | 1 : 8,900 |
| Ottawa | 55 | 1 : 19,400 |
| Montreal | 93 | 1 : 23,000 |
| Toronto | 93 | 1 : 33,300 |
| Hamilton | 17 | 1 : 34,400 |
| Vancouver | 20 | 1 : 34,500 |
| London | 11 | 1 : 38,600 |
| Kingston | 1 | 1 : 133,700 |
| Halifax | 3 | 1 : 150,500 |
| Calgary | 4 | 1 : 354,500 |

| City Name | Wading Pools | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|-----------|--------------|--|
| Brampton | 2 | 1 : 361,600 |
| Edmonton | 1 | 1 : 1,089,400 |

6.4 Participation and Utilization

Use of and participation at splash pads and wading pools includes families and children and is gender inclusive. Splash pads are not staffed amenities, therefore attendance is not collected nor monitored. Total annual attendance at City wading pools was 171,100 people in 2018, 156,300 people in 2019 and 85,000 people in 2020⁴⁰.

6.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 35 new splash pads.

The City of Ottawa does not have a strategy that identifies a provision level target for wading pools. The City plans to replace existing wading pools as they reach end-of-life and to continue to construct new splash pads.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of splash pads at 1:7,500 residents.
- b. Maintain the City's current provision of 56 wading pools.
- c. Set a geographic provision target of one splash pad within approximately a 1,200m radius of most homes located within the Urban Area Boundary or a Village (where servicing permits)
- d. Equity and urban heat island mapping should be considered when selecting locations for new splash pads.

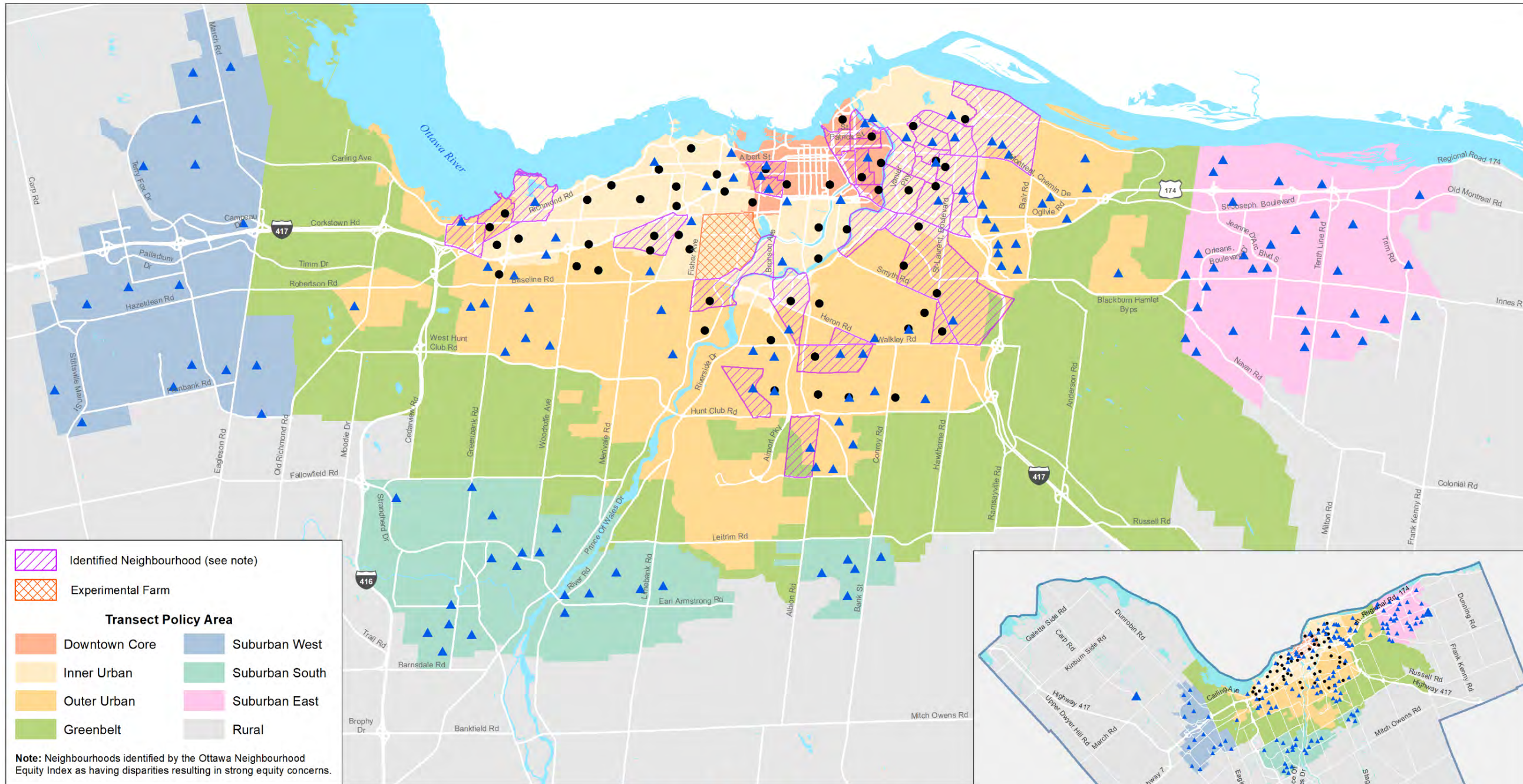
Strategy Statements:

- e. As existing splash pads reach end of life, consider rebuilding these facilities in transects that have low provision rates. In decision making, evaluate both the provision level and access to water (wading pools, splash pads and deep-water pools) within the transect. Equity and urban heat island mapping should be evaluated when considering relocating splash pads.
- f. Support the development of wading pool life-cycle strategies through the RAMP and other City strategies to update and replace existing wading pools. As existing

⁴⁰ Reduced capacity due to COVID-19

wading pools reach end of life, consider rebuilding these facilities in transects that have low / no service level provision. In decision making, evaluate both the provision level and access to water (wading pools, splash pads and deep-water pools) within the transect. Equity and urban heat island mapping should be evaluated when considering relocating wading pools.

Map 8: City of Ottawa Splash Pads and Wading Pools



Identified Neighbourhood (see note)

Experimental Farm

Transect Policy Area

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Downtown Core | Suburban West |
| Inner Urban | Suburban South |
| Outer Urban | Suburban East |
| Greenbelt | Rural |

Note: Neighbourhoods identified by the Ottawa Neighbourhood Equity Index as having disparities resulting in strong equity concerns.

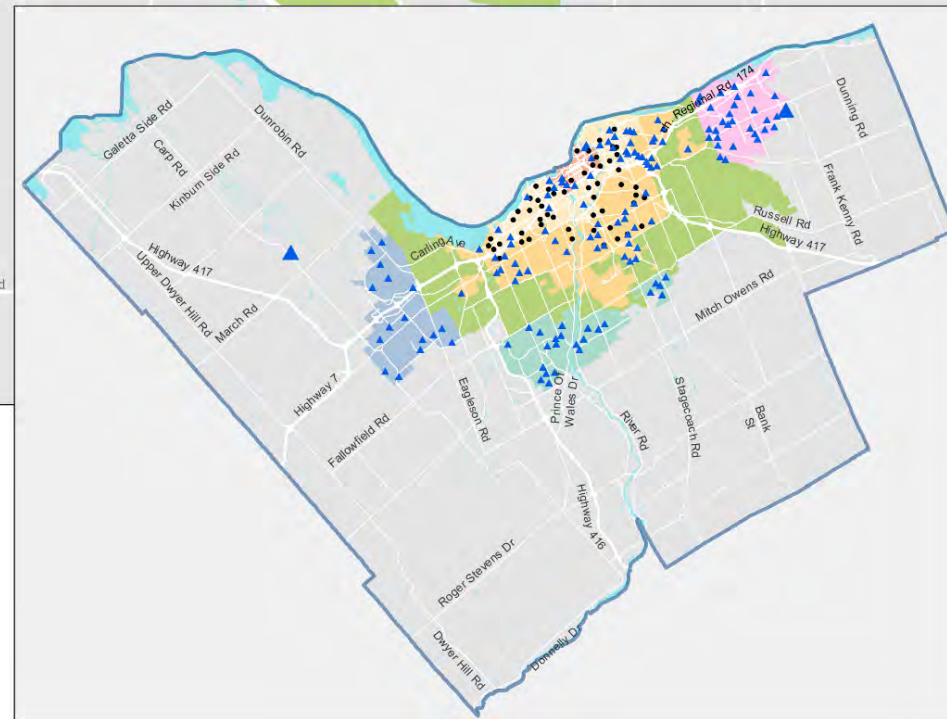
City of Ottawa Splash Pads and Wading Pools

- Splash Pad
- Wading Pool

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



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 Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



7. Arenas

7.1 General Description

An Arena is an indoor ice facility that can be used for skating and other ice sports such as hockey and ringette. The arena ice surface is installed in a purposely built space, which includes a refrigerated concrete base and complementary infrastructure and support spaces for ice-based activities. Aside from the ice use, an arena facility can also be used without ice for non-skating sports-related activities, as well as for special events and community gatherings, if facility infrastructure permits. Some typical non-ice uses include league-play lacrosse, ball hockey and summer camps. Use of arena facilities provides opportunities for all ages, all genders and abilities.

7.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

The City of Ottawa owns and operates 24 single-pad and nine multi-pad arenas (seven twin-pad and two three-pad) for a total of 44 indoor ice surfaces. The City also books ice at nine P3 (partnership) facilities. In total, the City currently books ice at 53 indoor ice surfaces.

The average age of the City owned arenas is within the threshold of typical economic and operational lifespan consideration of requiring major reinvestment. The condition of the aging infrastructure was identified in the 2017 State of the Asset Report (SOAR), where the physical condition of indoor arenas was categorized to rate priority maintenance requirements.

The citywide provision level is 1:20,100 ice surfaces per residents in 2021. There are 23 ice surfaces located in the Downtown Core, Inner and Outer Urban transects, and a total of 30 in the Suburban West, Suburban South, Suburban East and Rural transects. This reflects a geographically balanced distribution of ice surfaces across the City, however there are differences by population across transects.

Table 20: Indoor Ice Surface Provision Levels City-owned and P3, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 3 | 1: 24,500 | 0 | 3 | 1: 28,900 |
| Inner Urban | 4 | 1: 44,200 | 0 | 4 | 1: 48,600 |
| Outer Urban | 16 | 1: 18,200 | 0 | 16 | 1: 19,600 |
| Suburban West | 11 | 1: 13,800 | 0 | 11 | 1: 16,500 |
| Suburban South | 6 | 1: 23,371 | 2 | 8 | 1: 21,968 |
| Suburban East | 5 | 1: 27,289 | 0 | 5 | 1: 31,387 |
| Rural | 8 | 1: 12,200 | 0 | 8 | 1: 14,600 |
| City Total | 53 | 1: 20,100 | 2 | 55 | 1: 22,300 |

7.3 Benchmarking

In comparing the provision levels of municipally owned ice surfaces in Ottawa to the 12 municipalities listed in Table 21, Ottawa’s provision level of 1:20,100 residents is ranked 2nd.

Table 21: Municipal Benchmarking of City-owned Ice Surface Provision Rates⁴¹

| City Name | Number of city owned ice pads (Indoor) | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|--|---|
| Kingston | 8 | 1 : 16,700 |
| Ottawa | 53⁴² | 1 : 20,100 |
| Halifax | 21 | 1 : 21,500 |
| London | 17 | 1 : 25,000 |
| Hamilton | 23 | 1 : 25,400 |
| Mississauga | 23 | 1 : 33,400 |
| Edmonton | 32 | 1 : 34,000 |
| Brampton | 15 | 1 : 48,200 |
| Toronto | 61 | 1 : 50,800 |

⁴¹ Data sources for arenas were gathered for an earlier City initiative and are therefore different than those the data sources used for the other benchmark tables. For municipal arenas, numbers were gathered from each municipality’s website. For arena benchmarking, the census subdivision population and boundaries were used, rather than census metropolitan transects.

⁴² 53 ice surfaces includes 44 that are municipally owned and nine P3 ice surfaces that the City books.

| City Name | Number of city owned ice pads (Indoor) | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|-----------|--|---|
| Montreal | 40 | 1 : 53,400 |
| Winnipeg | 12 | 1 : 66,100 |
| Calgary | 19 | 1 : 74,600 |
| Vancouver | 8 | 1 : 86,100 |

7.4 Participation and Utilization

Use of indoor ice surfaces at arenas remains steady during priority hours (5 – 9 pm on weekdays) with lower demand during non-priority times. Depending on location, ice time during non-priority times remains generally available and unused. Overall, there is higher demand for ice time in the west end of the city.

Many of the City’s arenas are over 40 years old and have design features that no longer meet current needs; these include a limited ability to accommodate mixed-gender teams, inadequate changerooms, poor energy efficiencies and barriers to universal accessibility. The outdated design features can make it difficult to attract users to certain City facilities as, amenities at private arenas are often more modern and better support hosting of sporting events.

7.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 2 new ice surfaces.

The City’s current ice surface provision level of 1:20,100 residents is one of the highest listed in Table 21. As the demand for the use of ice surfaces in Ottawa remains steady, it is recommended that the target provision level be set at 1:20,000 residents.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of ice surfaces at 1:20,000 residents.
- b. Consider the redevelopment and expansion of arenas to create six new indoor ice surfaces in the 2021-2031 period.

Strategy Statements:

- c. Maximize efficiencies through infrastructure upgrades and expansions to existing single-pad arenas where possible. Infrastructure upgrades should include consideration of off-season use.
- d. Identify end-of-life arenas in all transects for potential redevelopment during the 2021-2031 period. Plan for the replacement/consolidation of these facilities into new City-standard arenas that serve wider catchment areas.

- e. Support the development of a single pad arena optimization study, informed by the RAMP and other studies, to update and replace existing ice surfaces, particularly in the Downtown Core, and Inner and Outer Urban transects

Map 9: City of Ottawa Arenas



Identified Neighbourhood (see note)
 Experimental Farm
Transect Policy Area
 Downtown Core Suburban West
 Inner Urban Suburban South
 Outer Urban Suburban East
 Greenbelt Rural
Note: Neighbourhoods identified by the Ottawa Neighbourhood Equity Index as having disparities resulting in strong equity concerns.

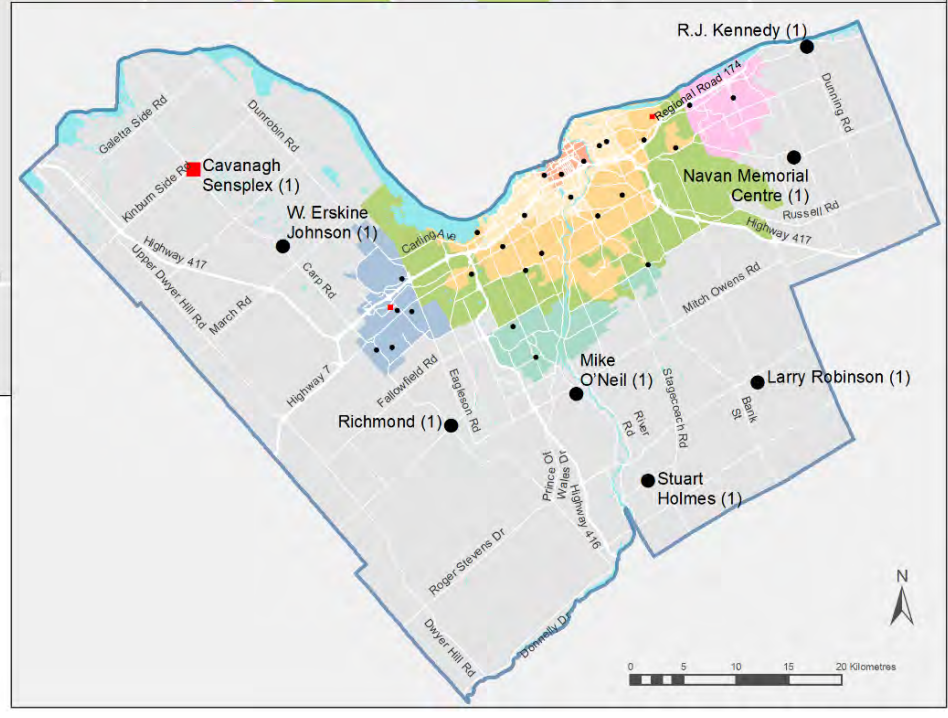
City of Ottawa Arenas

- Arena (x)
- P3 Arena (x)
- x = Number of Ice Pad
- Terminus Station
- Transfer Station
- O-Train and Station
- O-Train and Station – at grade
- Transitway and Station – at grade
- Transitway and Station – grade separated
- Future O-Train and Station

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

 Published: 2021-Aug-12
 Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



8. Outdoor Ice Rinks

8.1 General Description

An Outdoor Ice Rink can be described as a level ground surface and supporting infrastructure that allows for an ice surface to be installed and maintained. The ice surface is used for recreational skating or sport purposes and may be refrigerated or natural.

Outdoor ice rinks, or outdoor rinks, are guided by the City of Ottawa Outdoor Rink Policy (2002). The policy identifies and implements the community rink grant program, whereby funding is provided to support community volunteers with the ongoing rink operations and maintenance. The policy defines and classifies outdoor rinks into community-based board rinks, puddle rinks (no boards) or a combination of the two types of rinks.

The majority of outdoor rinks in Ottawa are not refrigerated and depend on the weather to establish a stable and skateable surface. Some of these unrefrigerated rinks are located on a permanent hard surface with permanent boards and are used for activities such as basketball, ball hockey or pickle ball, during the spring, summer and fall seasons. Where boards are installed seasonally, the rinks are typically on grassed areas that are used for free play when the boards are removed.

Refrigerated outdoor rinks have a permanent hard surface and allow for a longer skating season. These rinks may or may not be used for other active or passive uses, such as plazas or fountains, outside of the skating season.

8.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 22, the City has 282 outdoor rinks. The 2021 citywide provision level of outdoor rinks is 1:3,800 residents.

Almost half of all of the outdoor rinks are located in the Inner and Outer Urban transects. The Downtown Core has the fewest outdoor rinks and the lowest provision level at 1:9,200 residents. The currently planned inventory to 2031 includes an additional 36 outdoor rinks. The projected citywide provision level is expected to be 1:2,900 in 2031.

Table 22: Outdoor Ice Rink Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 8 | 1: 9,200 | 1 | 9 | 1: 9,600 |
| Inner Urban | 41 | 1: 4,300 | 4 | 45 | 1: 4,300 |
| Outer Urban | 92 | 1: 3,200 | 0 | 92 | 1: 3,400 |
| Suburban West | 36 | 1: 4,200 | 17 | 53 | 1: 3,400 |
| Suburban South | 27 | 1: 5,200 | 5 | 32 | 1: 5,500 |
| Suburban East | 45 | 1: 3,000 | 5 | 50 | 1: 3,100 |
| Rural | 33 | 1: 3,000 | 4 | 37 | 1: 3,100 |
| City Total | 282 | 1: 3,800 | 36 | 318 | 1: 3,900 |

8.3 Benchmarking

Table 23 compares the supply and provision rate of outdoor natural ice rinks. Ottawa's provision level of 1:3,800 residents is ranked first out of the 13 municipalities listed.

Table 23: Municipal Benchmarking of Outdoor Natural Ice Rink Provision Rates

| City Name | Outdoor Ice Rinks | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|-------------------|---|
| Ottawa | 282 | 1 : 3,800 |
| Winnipeg | 175 | 1 : 4,500 |
| Kingston | 17 | 1 : 7,900 |
| Hamilton | 59 | 1 : 9,900 |
| Montreal | 212 | 1 : 10,100 |
| Mississauga | 59 | 1 : 13,000 |
| Toronto | 65 | 1 : 47,600 |
| London | 6 | 1 : 70,800 |
| Vancouver | 7 | 1 : 98,400 |
| Halifax | 3 | 1 : 150,500 |
| Edmonton | 7 | 1 : 155,600 |
| Brampton | 4 | 1 : 180,800 |
| Calgary | 6 | 1 : 236,400 |

Table 24 compares the supply and provision rate of outdoor refrigerated ice rinks. The table shows that Ottawa's provision level of 1:266,700 residents is ranked second out of the 4 municipalities listed.

Table 24: Municipal Benchmarking of Outdoor Refrigerated Ice Rinks Provision Rates

| City Name | Outdoor Refrigerated Ice Surfaces | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Toronto | 52 | 1 : 59,500 |
| Ottawa | 4 | 1 : 266,700 |
| Montreal | 8 | 1 : 267,100 |
| Mississauga | 2 | 1 : 384,600 |

8.4 Participation and Utilization

Use of and participation at outdoor rinks includes families, young children, teens and adults and is gender inclusive. Most outdoor rinks are not staffed amenities; therefore, attendance and participation levels are not collected nor monitored. The City's Seasonal Recreation Outdoor Rink grant program provides funding to community associations to maintain outdoor ice surfaces over the winter season. The ability to establish a rink surface, including ongoing winter maintenance, is contingent on weather, which fluctuates yearly. Winters are expected to become both warmer and shorter over the coming decades. Given the warmer and shorter winters that are expected as a result of climate change, the City's approach to the provision of outdoor rinks will need to be reassessed on a regular basis.

8.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

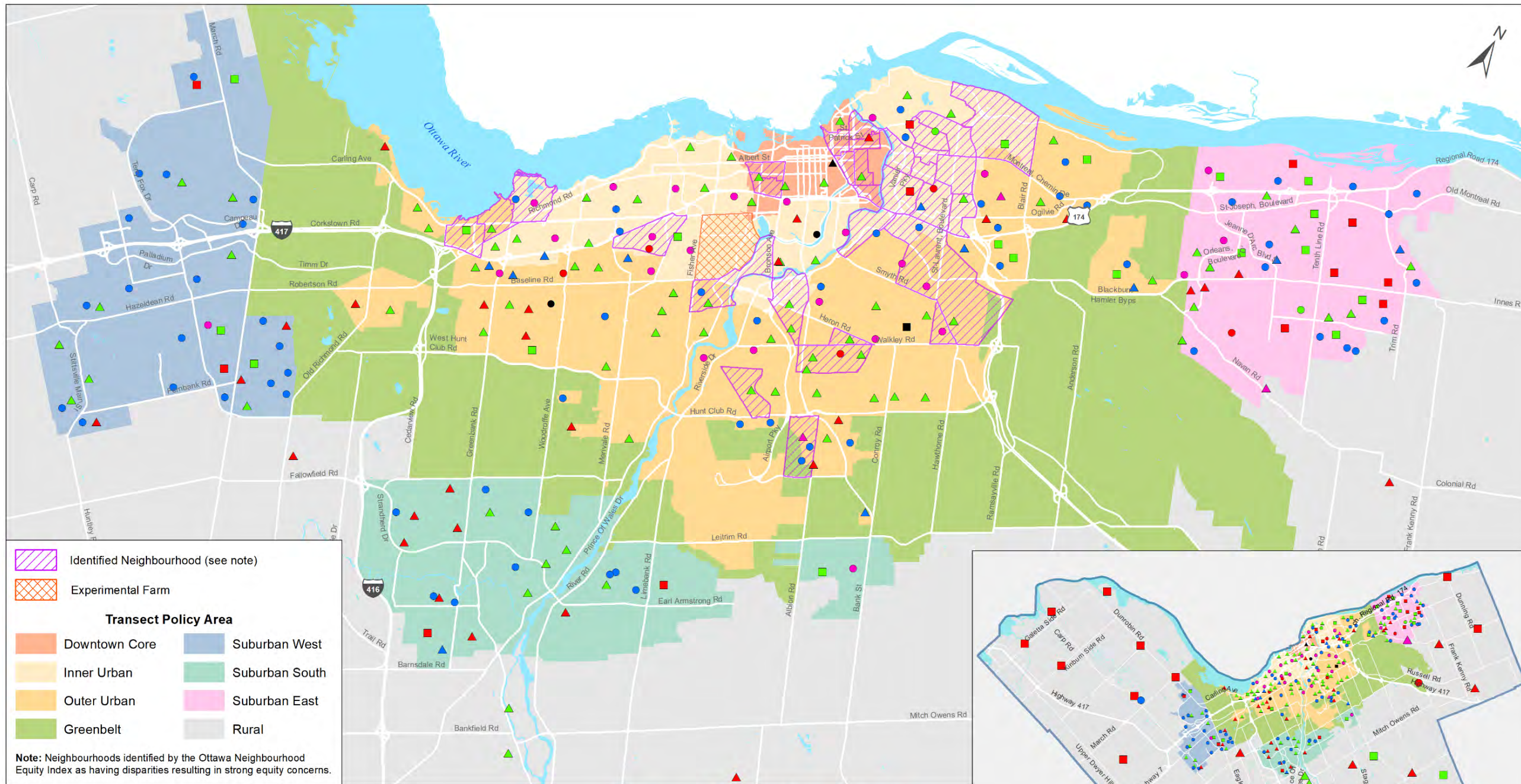
The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 36 new outdoor ice rinks.

It is recommended that the target provision level for outdoor rinks be 1:5,000 residents. This provision level will serve the current and future demand and reflect the realities of climate change. In order to offset the loss of outdoor natural rinks from warming temperatures, it is recommended that the City increase the supply of outdoor refrigerated rinks over the 2021 to 2031 period and beyond.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of outdoor ice rinks at 1:5,000 residents.
- b. Set a new citywide target for the provision of outdoor refrigerated rinks at 1:200,000.
- c. Consider the development of three new, additional outdoor refrigerated rinks, in the 2021-2031 period.

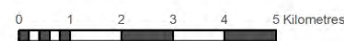
Map 10: City of Ottawa Outdoor Ice Rinks



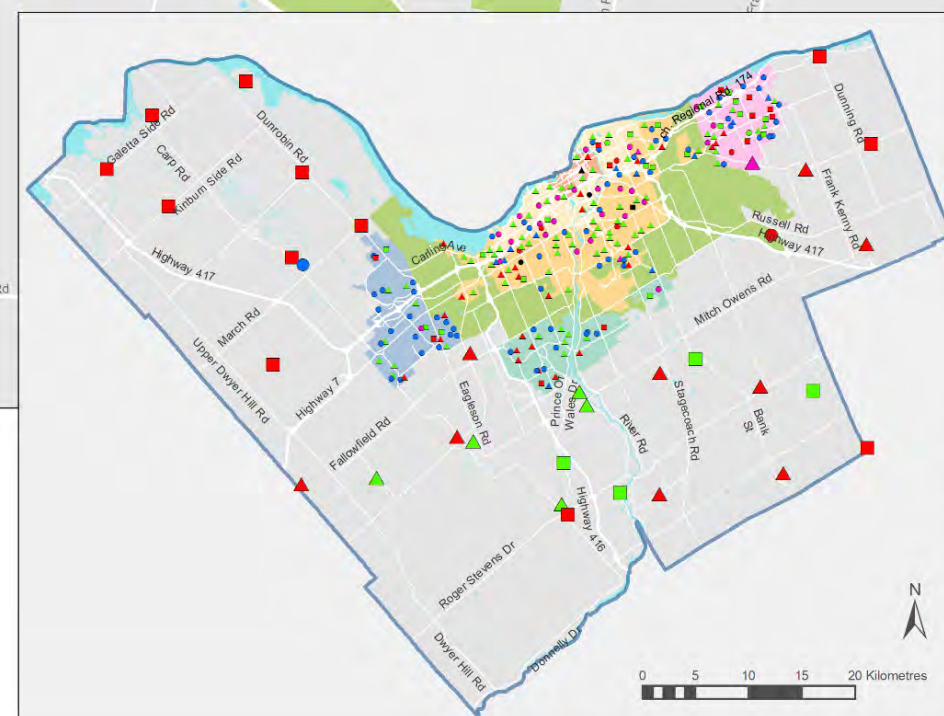
City of Ottawa Outdoor Ice Rinks

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Type of Board (Symbol) | Type of Rink (Symbol Colour) | Refrigerated Ice Surface |
| ● None | ● Rink | ● Refrigerated Ice Surface |
| ■ Permanent | ● Puddle | ● Rink with Puddle |
| ▲ Seasonal | ● Double Surface | |

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



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9. Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields

9.1 General Description

An outdoor artificial turf field is a field surface that is comprised of synthetic fibers that resemble natural grass. The primary reason for the use of artificial turf fields is the durability of the surface, as artificial turf stands up to constant heavy use and can extend the operating season in Ottawa's northern climate conditions. Unlike natural grass fields, outdoor artificial turf fields do not require a period of rest and recovery between games/bookings or for seasonal regeneration periods. Additionally, outdoor artificial turf fields are also not subject to closure during periods of heavy saturation. As a result, artificial turf fields in Ottawa tend to have a 7 – 8 month playing season, while natural grass fields which tend to have a 5-month season with fewer bookings per day.

Artificial turf fields do retain heat. As a result of climate change and the projected increases in extreme heat days in Ottawa, the heat impacts of artificial turf on users should be considered and field closures may occur on extreme heat days. These impacts can be mitigated by providing irrigation and additional trees for shade or shade structures.

This information below pertains to municipally owned fields and does not include fields on school board, college and university properties.

9.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

The City currently has five municipally owned outdoor artificial turf fields and 3 P3 (partnership) fields, for a total of eight artificial turf fields. The 2021 citywide provision level is 1:133,300 residents and will improve to 1:122,500 residents by 2031 with the addition of three new fields.

There are no existing or planned facilities within the Inner Urban and Suburban East transects. Minto Field at the Nepean Sportsplex, technically lies within the Greenbelt transect but, is counted as serving the Outer Urban transect and is included in the Outer Urban transect supply. Although listed in the Rural transect, the Millennium Sports Park artificial turf field services the Suburban East transect.

Three new outdoor artificial turf fields are planned between 2021-2031, one each in the Downtown Core, Suburban West and Suburban South transects. With these new facilities, the citywide provision level in 2031 will be 1:122,500 residents..

Table 25: Outdoor Artificial Turf Field Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 1 | 1: 73,600 | 1 | 1 | 1: 86,800 |
| Inner Urban | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outer Urban | 3 | 1: 96,900 | 0 | 3 | 1: 104,500 |
| Suburban West | 1 | 1: 151,300 | 1 | 2 | 1: 90,600 |
| Suburban South | 1 | 1: 140,200 | 1 | 2 | 1: 87,900 |
| Suburban East | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rural | 2 | 1: 48,700 | 0 | 2 | 1: 58,200 |
| City Total | 8 | 1: 133,300 | 3 | 10⁴³ | 1: 122,500 |

9.3 Benchmarking

Table 26 compares the supply and provision rate of outdoor artificial turf fields with other municipalities. Ottawa's provision level of 1:133,300⁴⁴ residents is ranked second.

Table 26: Municipal Benchmarking of Outdoor Artificial Turf Field Provision Rates

| City Name | Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Vancouver | 11 | 1 : 62,600 |
| Ottawa | 8 | 1 : 133,300 |
| Kingston | 1 | 1 : 133,700 |
| Mississauga | 4 | 1 : 192,300 |
| Edmonton | 5 | 1 : 217,900 |

9.4 Participation and Utilization

Use and participation on outdoor artificial turf fields includes youth to adults, beginner to competitive levels, and all genders. With the increased cost of booking artificial turf facilities, competitive groups and associations are the primary users. Such groups often

⁴³ The City currently has a lease agreement for the use of the artificial turf field at University of Ottawa's Lees Campus. This field is shown in the 2021 supply but is removed from the 2031 supply as the lease agreement may no longer be in place.

⁴⁴ Ottawa's provision rate includes municipally owned fields and P3 fields where the City books time for municipal use.

request priority bookings of existing facilities and sometimes express interest in partnering with the City to develop and construct new facilities.

Although the City promotes and mandates multi-use of outdoor artificial turf fields, sport specific specifications and requirements for turf have made it difficult to adhere to the best practices benefits of considering multi-use synthetic turf systems. As an example, field hockey use requires a shorter synthetic fibre pile while football requires a longer/higher pile, with associated needs/wants for differing infill material requirements. Depending on level of play, soccer prefers or requires “soccer only” lines on the field making multiuse fields less desirable for competitive matches and tournaments.

9.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned three new outdoor artificial turf fields.

It is recommended that the target provision level for the development of new outdoor artificial turf field be set at 1:120,000 residents. This provision target level will serve to meet the current and future demand for outdoor artificial turf fields in Ottawa

Recommendations:

- a. Set the Citywide target for the provision of Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields at 1:120,000 residents.
- b. Consider the conversion of an existing natural grass field or, the development of one new, additional, outdoor artificial turf field in the 2021 – 2031 period.

Strategy Statements:

- c. Investigate possible conversion of Downtown Core and Inner Urban natural grass fields to artificial turf fields, to allow for intensified use and more competitive level lit facilities.
- d. Consider additional capital funding to support the development of new or additional public-private partnerships for indoor artificial turf facilities.

10. Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Fields

10.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards describes natural grass sports fields as areas within City parks having structures and surfaces for grass sports uses. Sports field facilities can be used by multi-sports (such as field hockey, football, rugby, soccer and ultimate frisbee), regardless of sport-specific field dimensions and field markings. City sports field facilities are primarily intended for recreation use by all ages and abilities, with graduating level of play field consideration. They may also be booked by

organized sports groups. Those sports fields that are lit or are contemplated for lighting should have consideration to minimize proximity to residential areas, when possible.

Sports field development has been guided by the City of Ottawa Sportsfield Strategy (2004). The 2004 strategy identifies service levels for provisions of fields and provides a framework for addressing current and future sports field needs. The 2004 strategy also provides sport-specific requirements for field development and supports more local ease of access to fields to promote recreational and introductory level participation. The strategy also prioritizes the need for more sports fields in the Urban Core where the service level is lowest.

The information below pertains to municipally owned fields and does not include fields on school board, college and university properties.

10.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 27, the City of Ottawa has 384⁴⁵ existing outdoor natural grass sports fields. The 2021 citywide provision rate is 1:2,800 residents. The Outer Urban and Rural transects have the highest supply, with 124 and 73 sports fields respectively. With only five sports fields, the Downtown Core transect has the lowest provision level, with a rate of 1:14,700 residents. The Inner Urban transect, at 20 sports fields, has the second lowest rate with 1:8,800 residents.

Table 27: Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Field Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 5 | 1: 14,700 | 0 | 5 | 1: 17,400 |
| Inner Urban | 20 | 1: 8,800 | 1 | 21 | 1: 9,300 |
| Outer Urban | 124 | 1: 2,300 | 0 | 124 | 1: 2,500 |
| Suburban West | 69 | 1: 2,200 | 22 | 91 | 1: 2,000 |
| Suburban South | 49 | 1: 2,900 | 10 | 59 | 1: 3,000 |
| Suburban East | 44 | 1: 3,100 | 6 | 50 | 1: 3,100 |
| Rural | 73 | 1: 1,300 | 5 | 78 | 1: 1,500 |
| City Total | 384 | 1: 2,800 | 44 | 428 | 1: 2,900 |

⁴⁵ 45 sports fields were removed from the total field count as they are not the minimum dimension according to City of Ottawa Recreation Facility Standards. 59 sports fields were removed as they overlap a larger field (e.g., where 2 mini soccer fields overlap a full field, the mini fields were not counted).

Forty-four new full-sized sports fields are planned for development, over the 10-year period to 2031. The addition of the 44 sports fields will maintain the citywide provision level at 1:2,900 residents in 2031.

10.3 Benchmarking⁴⁶

Table 28 compares the supply and provision rate⁴⁷ of outdoor natural grass fields with other municipalities. Ottawa’s provision level of 1:2,800 residents is ranked 3rd out of the eight municipalities listed.

Table 28: Municipal Benchmarking of Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Field Provision Rates

| City Name | Total Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Fields | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|---|---|
| Halifax | 258 | 1 : 1,700 |
| Vancouver | 350 | 1 : 2,000 |
| Ottawa | 384 | 1 : 2,800 |
| Brampton | 181 | 1 : 4,000 |
| Hamilton | 148 | 1 : 4,000 |
| Kingston | 31 | 1 : 4,300 |
| Winnipeg | 169 | 1 : 4,700 |
| London | 88 | 1 : 4,800 |

10.4 Participation and Utilization

Use of sports fields includes youth to adults, beginner to competitive and all genders. Natural grass sports fields are primarily used by soccer groups. Other sports users included field hockey, football, lacrosse, rugby, track and field, and ultimate frisbee.

10.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 44 new full-sized grass sports fields.

It is recommended that the target provision level for full-size grass sports fields be maintained at 1:2,800 residents.

⁴⁶ The benchmarking data for rectangular grass sports fields was gathered through direct communication with staff from the municipalities listed in the benchmarking table.

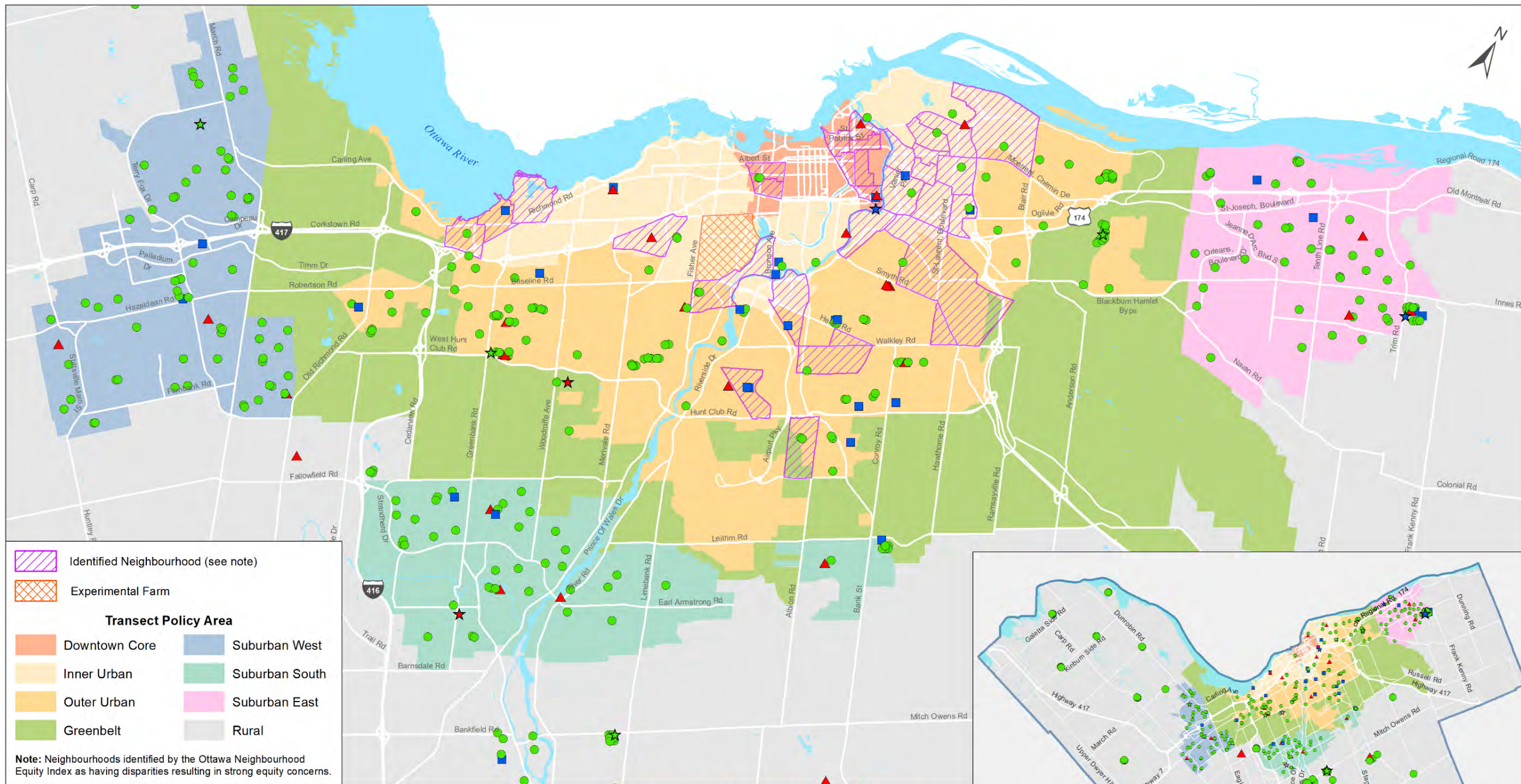
Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the citywide target for the provision of full-size grass sports fields at 1:2,800 residents.
- b. Consider the development of two new full-size grass fields or redevelopment of existing grass fields to artificial turf fields, in the 2021 – 2031 period.

Strategy Statements:

- c. Review potential site and funding opportunities to:
 - i. prioritize opportunities for parkland acquisition in the Downtown Core and Inner Urban transects for new sports field development;
 - ii. upgrade infrastructure to promote and support higher usage of the existing sports fields within the Downtown Core and Inner Urban transect (i.e., addition of irrigation and lighting and (per above) conversion to artificial turf surface);
 - iii. assess the potential need and opportunity(s) to develop additional regional and/or tournament sports field sites in strategic locations

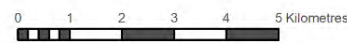
Map 11: City of Ottawa Outdoor Artificial Turf and Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Fields



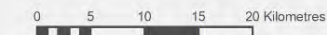
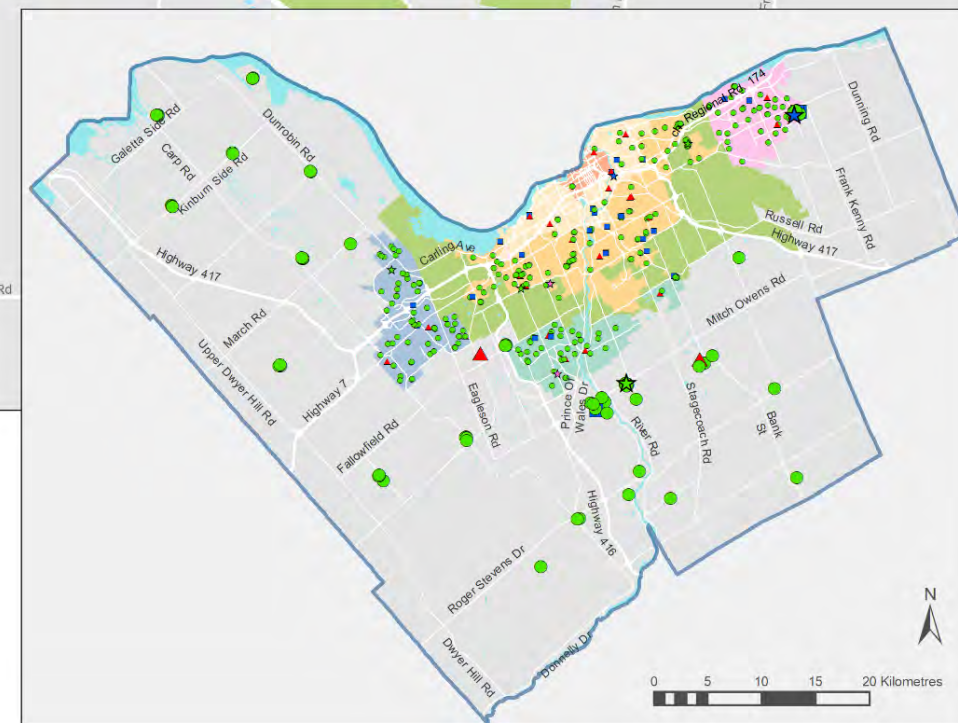
City of Ottawa Artificial Turf Fields and Outdoor Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Fields

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Artificial Turf Field | Natural Sport Field |
| ★ Football | ■ Football |
| ☆ Soccer | ● Soccer |
| ★ Multi-use | ▲ Other Type |

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



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11. Ball Diamonds

11.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards describes Ball Diamonds (Baseball Field, Softball Field and T-Ball Field) as fields on which Baseball, Softball and T-Ball games are played. All fields generally consist of an infield, outfield, dug out(s) or players' benches, and backstop fencing. Some fields also have line and outfield fencing, a warning track and lighting. Ball Diamonds are primarily intended for recreation use by all ages, abilities and genders .

Baseball fields provide field requirements for Senior, Intermediate and Junior levels of play, including competitive Baseball Ontario Regulation Field specifications. Infield surfacing is standard baseball infield mix, or custom clay mix, with a pitcher's mound.

Softball fields provide field requirements for Senior and Junior levels of play, including Canadian Slo-Pitch Softball requirements and Ottawa junior softball standards suitable for junior softball competition and adult non-competitive play. Infield surfacing is standard granular/sand sports field mix with no pitcher's mound.

Senior and junior baseball fields have larger dimensions compared to softball fields including the distance from home plate to the outfield fence, the size of the infield surface, and the distance from home plate to the backstop. Consequently, baseball requires a larger field and cannot be played on a softball field.

T-Ball fields provide field requirements suitable for introductory local level competition. Infield surfacing is standard granular/sand sports field mix with no pitcher's mound, and generally does not include outfield fencing.

This section pertains to municipal ball diamonds and does not include diamonds on school sites.

11.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 29, the City has 257 existing ball diamonds. Of these, 34 are baseball fields. The 2021 citywide provision rate is 1:4,200 residents. The Outer Urban and Rural transects have the highest supply of ball diamonds, with 94 and 50 respectively. The Rural transect has the highest provision rate in the City with 1:1,900 residents, and the Outer Urban transect the second highest rate with 1:3,100 residents. The Downtown Core, which has three ball diamonds, has the lowest provision level with a rate of 1:24,500 residents. The Suburban South transect, with 17 ball diamonds, has the second lowest rate at 1:8,200 residents.

Table 29: Ball Diamond Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 3 | 1: 24,500 | 0 | 3 | 1: 28,900 |
| Inner Urban | 41 | 1: 4,300 | 0 | 41 | 1: 4,700 |
| Outer Urban | 94 | 1: 3,100 | 0 | 94 | 1: 3,300 |
| Suburban West | 25 | 1: 6,100 | 1 | 26 | 1: 7,000 |
| Suburban South | 17 | 1: 8,200 | 3 | 20 | 1: 8,800 |
| Suburban East | 27 | 1: 5,100 | 2 | 29 | 1: 5,400 |
| Rural | 50 | 1: 1,900 | 0 | 50 | 1: 2,300 |
| City Total | 257 | 1: 4,200 | 6 | 263 | 1: 4,700 |

Six new ball diamonds are planned for development over the 10-year period to 2031. By 2031, the citywide provision level is expected to be 1:4,700 residents.

11.3 Benchmarking

Table 30 compares the supply and provision rate of ball diamonds with other municipalities. Ottawa's provision level of 1:4,200 residents is ranked 7th out of the 13 municipalities listed.

Table 30: Municipal Benchmarking of Ball Diamond Provision Rates

| City Name | City Ball Diamonds | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|--------------------|---|
| Kingston | 85 | 1 : 1,600 |
| Edmonton | 520 | 1 : 2,100 |
| Halifax | 183 | 1 : 2,500 |
| Calgary | 479 | 1 : 3,000 |
| Hamilton | 193 | 1 : 3,000 |
| Winnipeg | 265 | 1 : 3,000 |
| Ottawa | 257 | 1 : 4,200 |
| London | 74 | 1 : 5,700 |
| Vancouver | 109 | 1 : 6,300 |
| Mississauga | 113 | 1 : 6,800 |
| Toronto | 311 | 1 : 10,000 |
| Montreal | 159 | 1 : 13,400 |
| Brampton | 47 | 1 : 15,400 |

11.4 Participation and Utilization

According to local organizations, registration in ball leagues and programs has increased since 2017. Participation in local programs includes people of all ages, abilities and genders. Growth in the sport is due, in part, to its inclusiveness, affordability and increasing opportunities for girls and women. Local organizations note increased demand in growing suburban areas where, they feel, that there is a lack of new fields to meet demand, and specifically lit fields. This has reportedly limited registrations.

11.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 6 new ball diamonds.

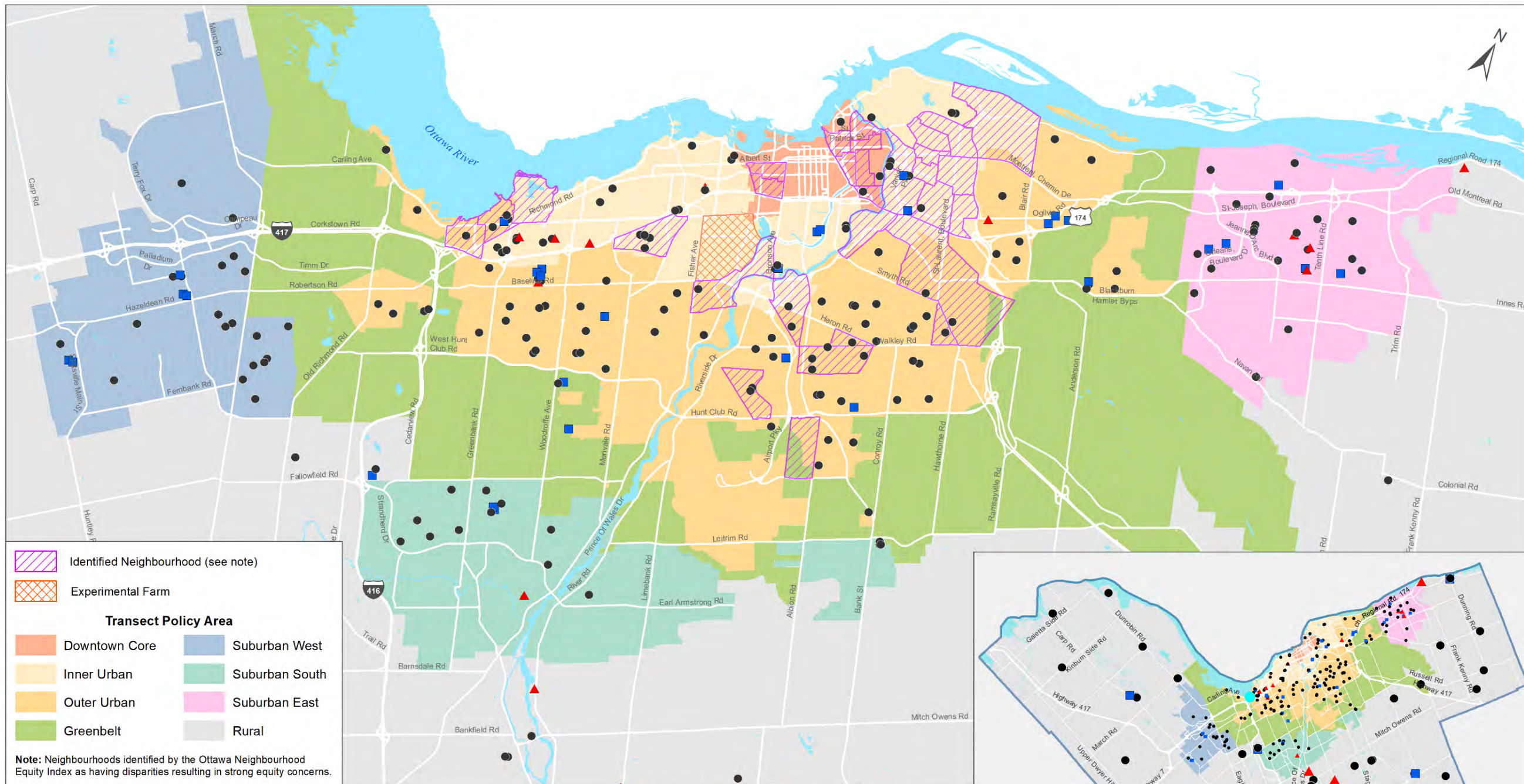
Ottawa's current ball diamond provision level of 1:4,200 residents is in the mid-range of municipal ball diamond provision levels of municipalities listed in Table 30. It is recommended that the target provision level be 1:4,000 residents. *Recommendations:*

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of ball diamonds at 1:4,000 residents
- b. Consider the development of 10 new, additional, ball diamonds, in the 2021 – 2031 period.

Strategy Statements:

- c. Identify opportunities for more senior, competitive lit fields, including adult softball diamonds and higher-level baseball play
- d. Undertake upgrades to existing fields to promote higher usage
- e. The City's current inventory includes 26 ball diamonds that were not included in the provision level table as the diamonds do not meet minimum size standards as given in the Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards. Work to upgrade or improve these facilities to meet the standards.

Map 12: City of Ottawa Ball Diamonds



City of Ottawa Ball Diamonds

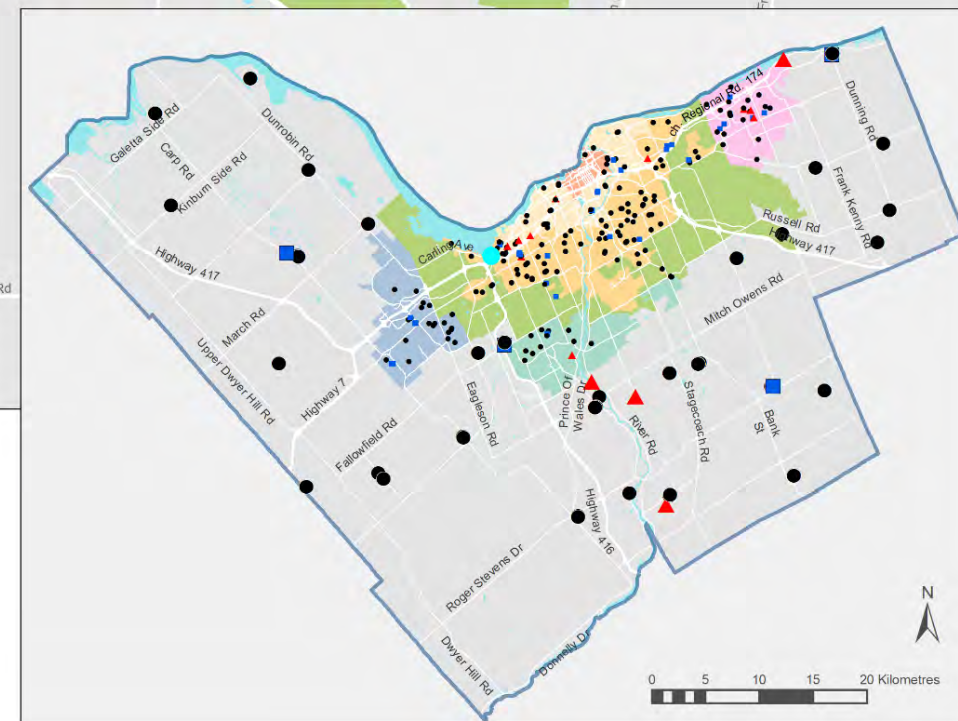
Type of Ball Diamond

- ▲ T-Ball
- Softball
- Baseball

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



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12. Tennis and Pickleball Courts

12.1 General Description

As described in the City's Recreation Facilities Infrastructure Standards, tennis courts and pickleball courts typically consist of a firm rectangular asphalt surface with a low net stretched across the centre and fencing around the court. The court surface can be lined to play singles tennis, doubles tennis, progressive tennis or pickleball. Progressive tennis uses modified tennis balls, racquets, nets and courts for young players. The net height for pickleball and progressive tennis is lower than for tennis. The City of Ottawa standard is suitable for community level play.

Pickleball is a sport that combines the elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong. The game is played with two or four players on a court the size of a doubles badminton court. Players use a paddle to hit a whiffle-type ball over a low net, similar to tennis. Pickleball is played both indoors and outdoors.

Indoor pickleball programming is offered at many of the City's indoor recreation facilities, such as gymnasiums, using the badminton court line painting. Surfacing materials for indoor pickleball include sprung hardwood flooring and concrete slabs.

The dimensions and facility requirements for outdoor public tennis and pickleball courts are described in the City of Ottawa Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards. The City prefers new construction to have a minimum of a double court layout. Other public court facility types such as single court facilities or multicourt facilities may be developed depending on the site-specific needs and considerations.

12.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

The City's supply of tennis and pickleball courts is comprised of public courts and municipal membership club courts. Public courts are outdoor courts that are free and available to all residents. Public courts may also be rented to individuals and groups on a limited basis. Municipal membership clubs operate tennis and pickleball courts at City parks on behalf of the City through recreation service delivery agreements. Tennis or pickleball players pay a fee to use courts at a membership club. In 2021, there were 25 membership clubs with a total of 117 courts. 17 of the clubs offer tennis facilities only, seven provide both tennis and pickleball courts, and one has pickleball courts only. Private tennis and pickleball clubs are not included in the City's inventory.

Tennis Courts

The City has an existing supply of 321 tennis courts including public courts and municipal membership club courts. The inventory consists of 315 outdoor courts and six P3 partnership indoor courts. The area distribution and provision levels of tennis courts are shown in Table 31, and the locations are shown on Map 13. The current citywide provision level is 1:3,300 residents. The Outer Urban transect has the highest provision level with 1:2,000 residents and a total of 144 courts. The Downtown Core has the lowest provision level with 1:8,200 residents and a total of nine courts. Suburban South has the second lowest provision level with 1:6,400 residents and a total of 22 courts.

Twenty-four new tennis courts are planned to be constructed by 2031, which will increase the total supply to 345 courts. This will result in a provision level of 1:3,600 residents based on the projected 2031 population, representing a small decrease in the provision level compared to 2021. There are no planned courts for the Downtown Core, which lowers the 2031 provision level to 1:9,600 residents.

Table 31: Tennis Court Provision Levels - Public Courts and Membership Club Courts, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 9 | 1: 8,200 | 0 | 9 | 1: 9,600 |
| Inner Urban | 50 | 1: 3,500 | 2 | 52 | 1: 3,700 |
| Outer Urban | 144 | 1: 2,000 | 0 | 144 | 1: 2,200 |
| Suburban West | 29 | 1: 5,200 | 6 | 35 | 1: 5,200 |
| Suburban South | 22 | 1: 6,400 | 8 | 30 | 1: 5,900 |
| Suburban East | 35 | 1: 3,900 | 8 | 43 | 1: 3,600 |
| Rural | 32 | 1: 3,000 | 0 | 32 | 1: 3,600 |
| City Total | 321 | 1: 3,300 | 24 | 345 | 1: 3,600 |

Pickleball Courts

There is a current supply of 233 pickleball courts comprised of 172 outdoor courts and 61 indoor courts. The inventory includes outdoor public courts that have both pickleball and tennis lines with tennis-height nets, outdoor public courts with pickleball lines only and pickleball-height nets, indoor courts with badminton lines that are used for both pickleball and badminton, and municipal membership club courts. A standard pickleball net has a lower height than a tennis net. Public courts with pickleball lines and tennis-height nets are included in the pickleball inventory since they are considered by the City

to be suitable for recreational pickleball. However, these courts do not meet standards for competitive play.

Map 13 shows the location of the City’s existing pickleball courts in 2021. The current citywide provision level is 1:4,600 residents. The Rural transect has the highest provision level with 1:3,000 residents, while the Downtown Core has the lowest level with 1:36,800 residents.

Thirty-nine new pickleball courts are currently planned for development over the next ten years, which will increase the total supply to 272 courts. The planned facilities include 31 new outdoor courts, three new indoor pickleball / badminton courts, and five existing tennis courts that will have new pickleball line painting added when the courts are resurfaced through lifecycle renewal. The addition of the planned facilities will improve the provision level to 1:4,500 residents in 2031.

Table 32: Pickleball Court Provision Levels - Public Courts, Membership Club Courts and Indoor Courts, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 2 | 1: 36,800 | 0 | 2 | 1: 43,400 |
| Inner Urban | 25 | 1: 7,100 | 7 | 32 | 1: 6,100 |
| Outer Urban | 84 | 1: 3,500 | 2 | 86 | 1: 3,600 |
| Suburban West | 44 | 1: 3,400 | 7 | 51 | 1: 3,600 |
| Suburban South | 15 | 1: 9,300 | 13 | 28 | 1: 6,300 |
| Suburban East | 31 | 1: 4,400 | 10 | 41 | 1: 3,800 |
| Rural | 32 | 1: 3,000 | 0 | 32 | 1: 3,600 |
| City Total | 233 | 1: 4,600 | 39 | 272 | 1: 4,500 |

12.3 Benchmarking

Benchmarking of tennis court and pickleball provisions levels with other municipalities is presented in Tables 33 and 34, respectively. Ottawa had the highest provision rates for tennis courts and pickleball courts amongst the municipalities with data available for the benchmarking review.

Table 33: Municipal Benchmarking of Tennis Court Provision Rates

| City Name | Tennis Courts | Actual Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) | Target Provision Rate |
|--|---------------|--|---|
| Ottawa | 321 | 1:3,300 | 1:3,500 |
| Toronto ⁴⁸ (2019) (provision rate is for tennis & pickleball courts) | 602 | 1:4,800 | 2 km radius |
| Mississauga ⁴⁹ (2019) | 146 | 1:5,600 | 1:5,000 population |
| London ⁵⁰ (2019) | 59 | 1:6,900 | 1:7,000 population |
| Brampton ⁵¹ (2017) | 52 | 1:11,800 | 1:10,000 population in new growth transects |

Table 34: Municipal Benchmarking of Pickleball Court Provision Rates

| City Name | Pickleball Courts | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|-------------------|---|
| Ottawa | 233 | 1 : 4,600 |
| Kingston | 8 | 1 : 16,700 |
| Winnipeg | 45 | 1 : 17,600 |
| London | 6 | 1 : 70,800 |
| Halifax | 6 | 1 : 75,200 |
| Vancouver | 5 | 1 : 137,800 |

12.4 Participation and Utilization

There were 5,294 registered members at the City's tennis and pickleball membership clubs in 2020.

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in Canada. Part of its appeal comes from the fact that just about anybody can participate and be competent enough to play

⁴⁸ Toronto (2019 Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan)

⁴⁹ Data is from Mississauga's 2019 Parks & Forestry Master Plan and includes club courts.

⁵⁰ London (2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan)

⁵¹ Brampton (2017 Parks and Recreation Master Plan)

games right from the very first experience. Ottawa has developed one of the largest and most active pickleball communities in Ontario. A large portion of these players are seniors, many who have transitioned from playing tennis.

12.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 24 new tennis courts and 39⁵² pickleball courts, including shared courts and adding new pickleball line painting at existing public courts⁵³.

A provision level target of 1:3,500 residents is recommended for both tennis courts and pickleball courts. The target reflects the current supply of tennis courts and responds to the growing demand for pickleball courts.

Recommendations:

- a. Set a Citywide target provision level of 1:3,500 residents for both tennis courts and pickleball courts including shared courts⁵⁴.
- b. Add new pickleball court line painting to additional existing public courts without pickleball court lines to increase the provision of pickleball courts to 1:3,500 residents by 2031 including:
 - i. Painting pickleball and tennis court lines at all existing outdoor public courts that are resurfaced through lifecycle renewal projects
 - ii. Adding pickleball line painting at other existing outdoor public courts, subject to funding availability
- c. Consider the development of up to 10 new, additional, shared outdoor tennis / pickleball courts, in the 2021 – 2031 period. If park space is limited, pickleball only courts may be considered.
- d. Develop a Tennis and Pickleball Strategy including, but not limited to:
 - i. Identifying locations for future tennis and pickleball courts focusing on transects with low provision level ratios and gaps in the geographic distribution of courts.
 - ii. Assessing the future need for and feasibility of potentially developing new indoor public tennis courts to increase opportunities for year-round play
 - iii. Identifying the demand for separate pickleball courts with nets at pickleball height, and reviewing opportunities to accommodate the demand through

⁵² The 39 pickleball courts include the 24 new tennis courts with pickleball lines, as well as new pickleball only public courts, existing tennis courts that are being resurfaced that will have pickleball lines added, and indoor pickleball/badminton courts

⁵³ Shared tennis and pickleball courts are counted as one tennis court and one pickleball court; shared badminton and pickleball courts are counted as one pickleball court.

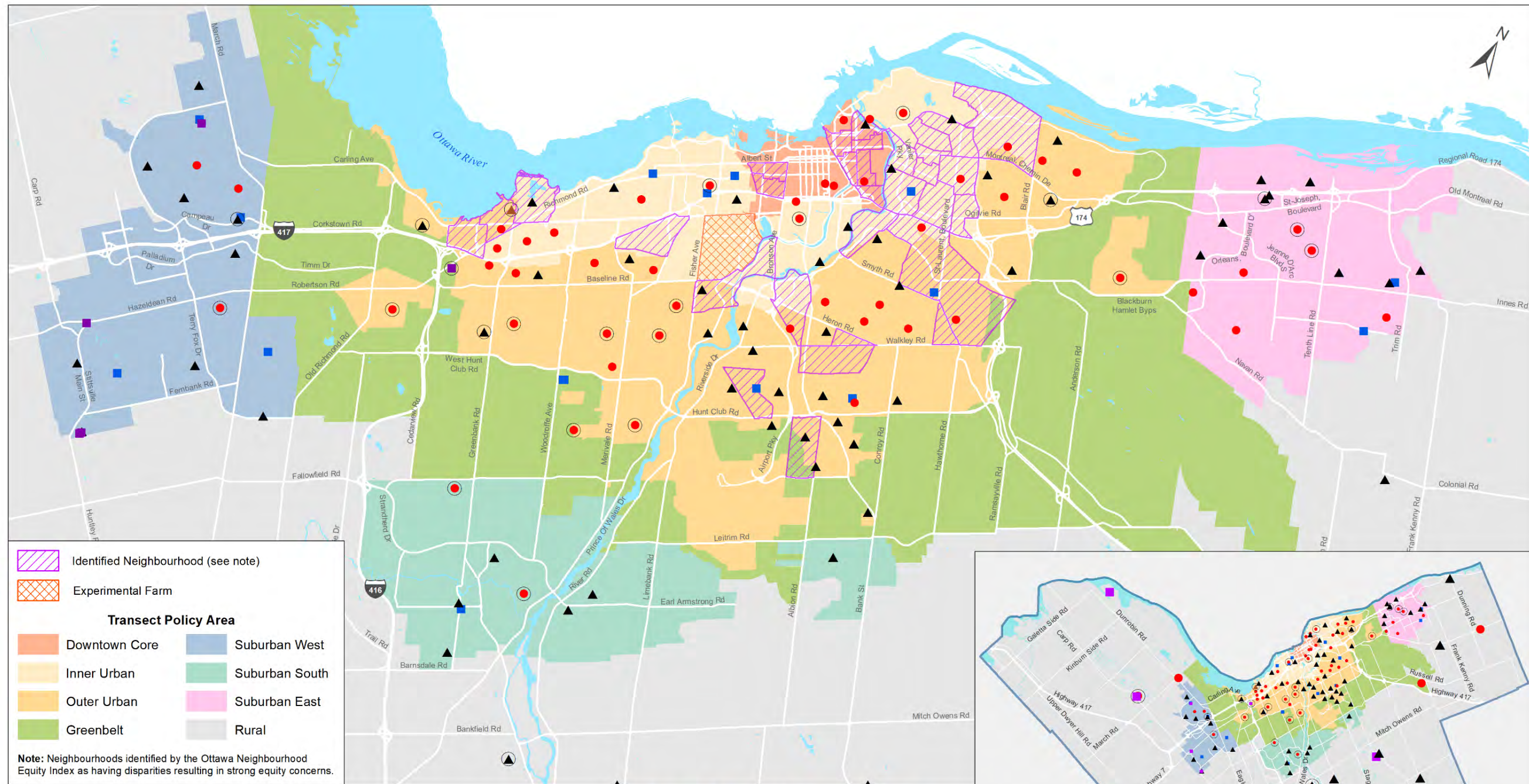
⁵⁴ Pickleball provision levels will be achieved through line painting as per proposed strategy

- the construction of new pickleball courts with pickleball-height nets and retrofitting existing public courts
- iv. Evaluating the conditions of existing courts and identifying facilities for lifecycle renewal funding and implementation within the 2021-2031 period

Strategy Statements:

- e. In appropriate locations, review the feasibility of adding lighting to existing and/or new public courts to expand the hours of use or to increase utilization.

Map 13: City of Ottawa Tennis and Pickleball Courts



City of Ottawa Tennis and Pickleball Courts

- Indoor Pickleball Court
- Outdoor Pickleball Court
- Outdoor Tennis Court
- ▲ Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Court
- ▲ Indoor Tennis and Pickleball Court
- Membership Club

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



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13. Outdoor Basketball Courts

13.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Standards describe Outdoor Basketball Courts as exterior facilities which generally consist of a lined asphalt surface with basketball poles/hoops and nets. The types of basketball courts include full size, small court, half court and basketball key. Outdoor basketball facilities are intended to service local, community, recreational play. Court markings, including 3-point line and half-court are painted, where possible.

This section pertains to outdoor basketball courts only. Outdoor basketball courts located on City property are available on a first come first served basis; no reservation or booking is required.

Local schools are the primary provider of indoor facilities for both instructional and league play. Basketball is also played indoors at community centres, recreation complexes and recreation centres that include a gymnasium⁵⁵.

13.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

The City's supply of basketball facilities is comprised of publicly available courts, of various sizes, including multi-use hard surface small courts within a defined outdoor rink area. All basketball courts are available and free for public use.

Table 35 represents the City's supply of 186 full-sized outdoor courts. The 2021 Citywide provision rate for full-sized courts is 1:5,700 residents. The Outer Urban transect has the highest number of full-sized courts (63).. The Downtown Core has five courts and the lowest provision levels.

Twenty-nine full-sized⁵⁶ basketball courts are currently planned to be developed over the next 10 years.

⁵⁵ Recommendations on the provision levels for gymnasiums are in section 23.

⁵⁶ Full-size refers to a full court and not to an NBA regulation sized court.

Table 35: Outdoor Basketball Court Provision Levels (full court), City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 5 | 1: 14,700 | 0 | 5 | 1: 17,400 |
| Inner Urban | 34 | 1: 5,200 | 4 | 38 | 1: 5,100 |
| Outer Urban | 63 | 1: 4,600 | 1 | 64 | 1: 4,900 |
| Suburban West | 18 | 1: 8,400 | 8 | 26 | 1: 7,000 |
| Suburban South | 17 | 1: 8,200 | 8 | 25 | 1: 7,000 |
| Suburban East | 30 | 1: 4,500 | 5 | 35 | 1: 4,500 |
| Rural | 19 | 1: 5,100 | 3 | 22 | 1: 5,300 |
| City Total | 186 | 1: 5,700 | 29 | 215 | 1: 5,700 |

13.3 Benchmarking

Table 36 compares the supply and provision rate of full basketball courts with other municipalities. Of the municipalities listed, Ottawa's provision rate ranks 4th.

Table 36: Municipal Benchmarking of Outdoor Basketball Provision Rates (full court)

| City Name | City Basketball Courts- Outdoor | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Edmonton | 485 | 1 : 2,200 |
| Halifax | 162 | 1 : 2,800 |
| Kingston | 48 | 1 : 2,800 |
| Ottawa | 186 | 1 : 5,700 |
| Hamilton | 80 | 1 : 7,300 |
| London | 51 | 1 : 8,300 |
| Winnipeg | 76 | 1 : 10,400 |
| Mississauga | 62 | 1 : 12,400 |
| Montreal | 141 | 1 : 15,200 |
| Calgary | 81 | 1 : 17,500 |
| Vancouver | 38 | 1 : 18,100 |

13.4 Participation and Utilization

Participation and utilization of outdoor basketball courts has increased over the years and the trend appears as though it will continue. While basketball courts are generally

intended for recreational use, with increased participation, there is demand for more regulation sized facilities. Additionally, local basketball associations report a steady, high demand for their programs.

13.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 29 new full-sized basketball courts.

A provision level target of one full-size court per 5,400 residents is recommended. The target reflects the current supply of full-size courts and responds to the growing demand for basketball courts. While the trend is to promote development of full-size courts, inclusion of basketball keys is important to continue to grow the sport in all areas and situations where space is not available for a full-size court.

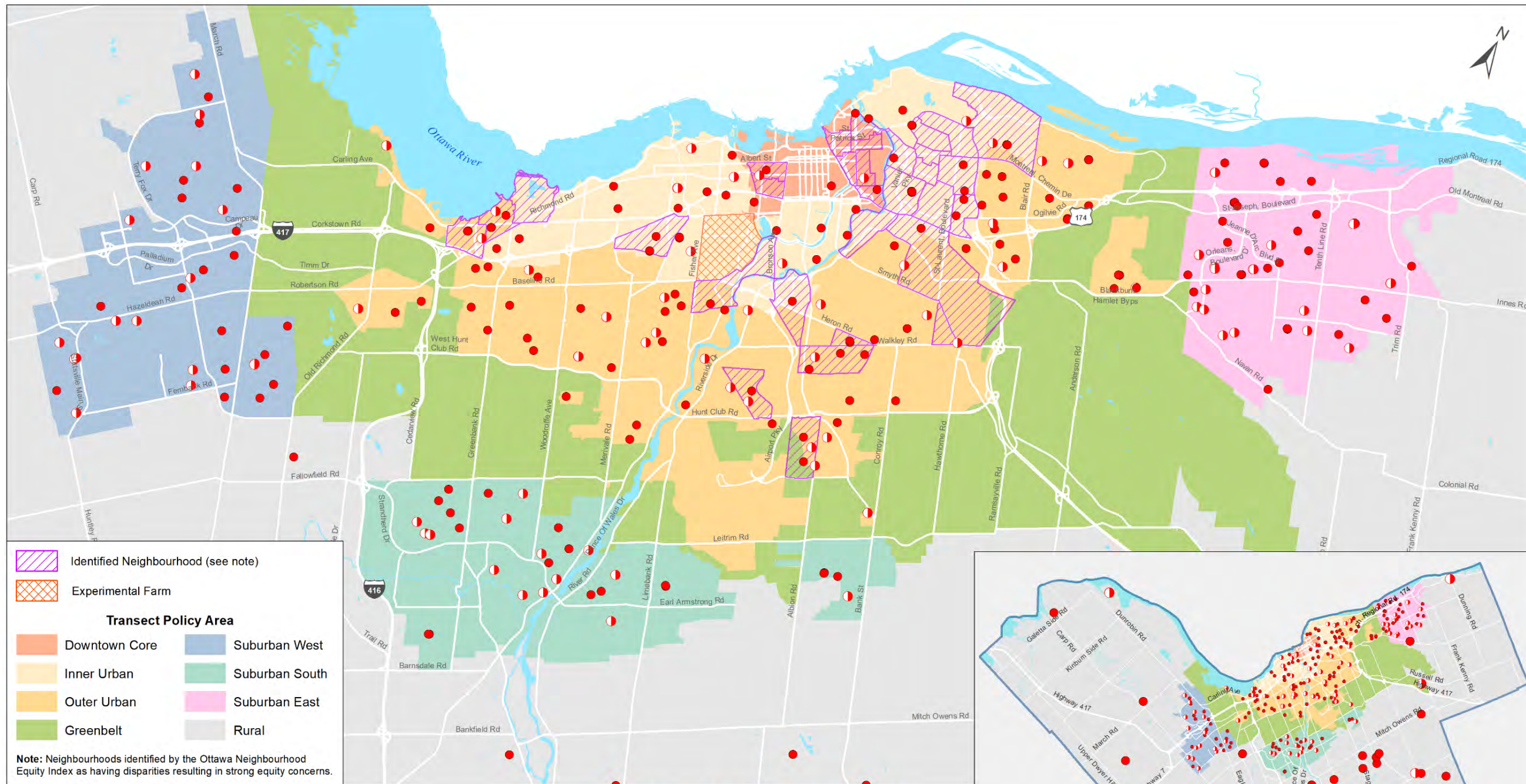
Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of full-size basketball courts at 1:5,400 residents
- b. Consider the development of at least 10 new, additional, full-size basketball courts in the 2021 – 2031 period in order to address increasing demand. If park space is limited, half-courts or basketball keys should be explored.

Strategy Statements:

- c. In appropriate locations, review the feasibility of adding lighting to existing and/or new courts to expand the hours of use.

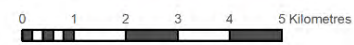
Map 14: City of Ottawa Basketball Courts



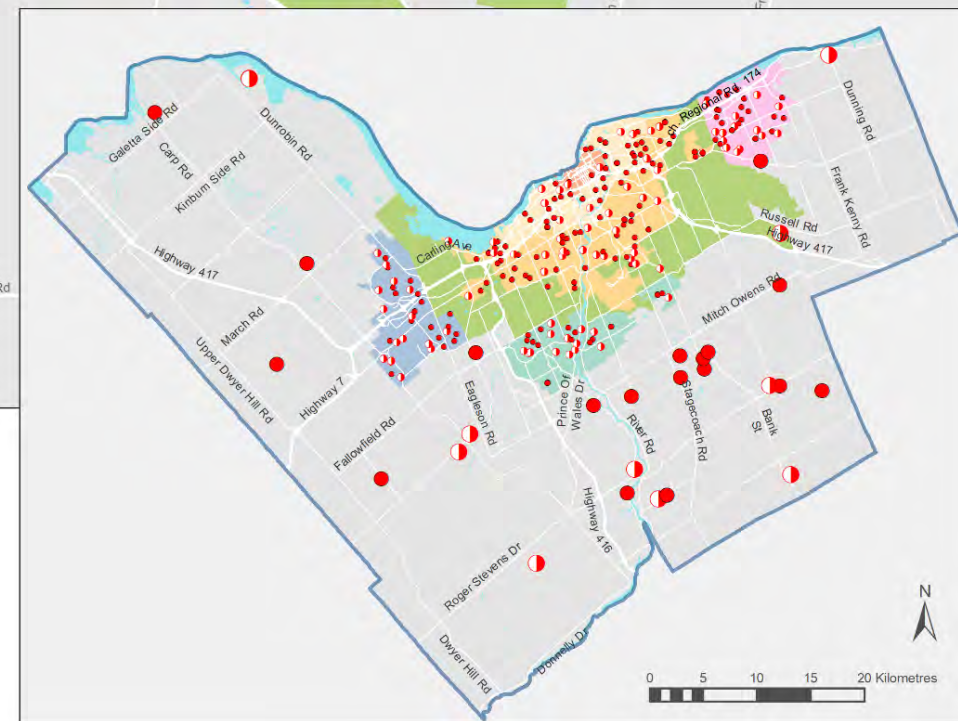
City of Ottawa Basketball Courts

- Basketball Court
- Half basketball Court

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



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 Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



14. Outdoor Volleyball Courts

14.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards describes Outdoor Beach Volleyball Courts as a sport played by two teams each on a sand court divided by a net. The playing area includes the court, service zone, area behind the end line, and the free zone surrounding the court on all sides. Courts can be provided as a single court within a park or part of a complex of courts. The City of Ottawa standard is suitable for local competition game play with options for competition level that are above standard. The City also has grass surfaced volleyball courts for casual play. The City of Ottawa has a mixture of outdoor courts that can be rented for league play, courts that can be rented by the hour and courts that are available on a first come first served basis.

This section pertains to outdoor volleyball courts only. Volleyball is also played indoors at community centres, and recreation complexes that include a gymnasium⁵⁷.

14.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 37, the City has 118 outdoor volleyball courts. The 2021 citywide provision level is 1:9,000 residents. While the Inner Urban, Outer Urban and Suburban East transects have a high number of volleyball courts when compared to the other transects, the volleyball courts are mostly located together at the City beaches found in those areas. Individual courts with both sand and grass surfaces are found in parks across the city as displayed on Map 15.

Table 37: Outdoor Volleyball Court Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 1 | 1: 73,600 | 1 | 2 | 1: 43,400 |
| Inner Urban | 3 | 1: 58,900 | 0 | 3 | 1: 64,800 |
| Outer Urban | 73 | 1: 4,000 | 0 | 73 | 1: 4,300 |
| Suburban West | 2 | 1: 75,600 | 1 | 3 | 1: 60,400 |
| Suburban South | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suburban East | 30 | 1: 4,500 | 2 | 32 | 1: 4,900 |
| Rural | 9 | 1: 10,800 | 1 | 10 | 1: 11,600 |
| City Total | 118 | 1: 9,000 | 5 | 123 | 1: 10,000 |

⁵⁷ Recommendations on the provision levels for gymnasiums are in section 23.

Five new courts are currently planned for development by 2031 including one court in each of the Downtown Core, Suburban West and Rural transects, and two courts in the Suburban East transect. The 2031 provision level is projected to be 1:10,00 residents. The Suburban West transect will remain without any volleyball courts.

14.3 Benchmarking

Table 38 compares the supply and provision rate of volleyball courts with other municipalities. At 1:9,000 residents, the City's provision rate is highest amongst the municipalities listed in the table.

Table 38: Municipal Benchmarking of Outdoor Volleyball Court Provision Rates

| City Name | Volleyball Courts | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|-------------------|--|
| Ottawa | 118 | 1 : 9,000 |
| Kingston | 11 | 1 : 12,200 |
| Vancouver | 34 | 1 : 20,300 |
| Winnipeg | 34 | 1 : 23,300 |
| London | 13 | 1 : 32,700 |
| Montreal | 63 | 1 : 33,900 |
| Halifax | 12 | 1 : 37,600 |
| Mississauga | 8 | 1 : 96,100 |
| Calgary | 6 | 1 : 236,400 |

14.4 Participation and Utilization

The number of hours of registered volleyball programs and rental bookings at the City's outdoor volleyball courts from 2016 to 2019 are presented in Table 39. The total number of hours for programs and bookings ranged from 1,788 to 2,102 hours.

Table 39: Outdoor Volleyball Courts – Number of Hours of Registered Volleyball Programs and Rental Bookings, 2016-2019

| Volleyball at Outdoor Sites | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Number of Hours - Registered Volleyball Programs | 799 | 810 | 624 | 702 |
| Number of Hours - Booked as Rentals | 1,303 | 1,289 | 1,312 | 1,086 |
| Total | 2,102 | 2,099 | 1,936 | 1,788 |

14.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned five new outdoor volleyball courts.

A provision level of 1:10,000 residents is recommended for outdoor volleyball courts, which is in keeping with the 2031 provision rates.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of outdoor volleyball courts at 1:10,000 residents

Strategy Statements:

- b. Prioritize new outdoor volleyball courts within parks that are also occupied by a recreation complex, recreation or community centre, to facilitate programming opportunities, oversight and maintenance of the courts.

15. Outdoor Fitness Equipment Areas

15.1 General Description

Outdoor fitness equipment includes fixed-in-place elements such as push-up bars, parallel bars, rope climbing, monkey bars, pull-up bars, dip stations, balance beams, vault bars, hurdles, step benches, and long benches. Outdoor fitness equipment can be used by people of all ages and genders, those who use mobility devices, and that have a variety of fitness levels. Outdoor fitness equipment areas can allow for both individual and group use.

There are a range in outdoor fitness equipment areas; some smaller areas generally have three pieces of equipment (fixed-in-place elements), while larger areas have more elements.

15.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 40, the City has 35 outdoor fitness equipment areas: one in the Downtown Core, five in the Inner Urban, seven in the Outer Urban, five in the Suburban West, six in the Suburban South, seven in the Suburban East, and four in the Rural transects. This results in a citywide provision level of 1:30,500 residents.

Table 40: Outdoor Fitness Equipment Area Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 1 | 1: 73,600 | 5 | 6 | 1: 14,500 |
| Inner Urban | 5 | 1: 35,400 | 0 | 5 | 1: 38,900 |
| Outer Urban | 7 | 1: 41,500 | 0 | 7 | 1: 44,800 |
| Suburban West | 5 | 1: 30,300 | 3 | 8 | 1: 22,600 |
| Suburban South | 6 | 1: 23,400 | 3 | 9 | 1: 19,500 |
| Suburban East | 7 | 1: 19,500 | 7 | 14 | 1: 11,200 |
| Rural | 4 | 1: 24,400 | 2 | 6 | 1: 19,400 |
| City Total | 35 | 1: 30,500 | 20 | 55 | 1: 22,300 |

Twenty new outdoor fitness equipment areas are planned between the 2021 and 2031 period. As a result, the provision levels will increase to 1:22,300 residents. This will improve the provision level in the Downtown Core, which currently only has one outdoor fitness equipment area and where the population is the most underserved currently. The Inner Urban and Outer Urban transects are projected to have the lowest provision levels in 2031.

15.3 Benchmarking

Table 41 compares the supply and provision rate of outdoor fitness equipment areas with other municipalities. The provision rate of 1:30,500 residents in Ottawa is the second highest.

Table 41: Municipal Benchmarking of Outdoor Fitness Equipment Area Provision Rates

| City Name | Outdoor Fitness Equipment Area Locations | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|--|---|
| Winnipeg | 93 | 1 : 8,500 |
| Ottawa | 35 | 1 : 30,500 |
| Montreal | 63 | 1 : 33,900 |
| Hamilton | 10 | 1 : 58,500 |
| Mississauga | 11 | 1 : 69,900 |
| Halifax | 5 | 1 : 90,300 |
| Toronto | 33 | 1 : 93,800 |
| London | 3 | 1 : 141,600 |

| City Name | Outdoor Fitness Equipment Area Locations | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|-----------|--|---|
| Vancouver | 2 | 1 : 344,500 |
| Brampton | 1 | 1 : 723,200 |

15.4 Participation and Utilization

Use of and participation of outdoor fitness equipment areas generally includes adolescents to adults. Equipment can be used by people of all genders. The equipment components are designed to be adaptable, by exercising different muscle groups, and accessible for many fitness levels and abilities. The City of Ottawa does not keep statistics on the usage of outdoor fitness equipment areas. Outdoor fitness equipment areas are not reservable and are available on a first come first served basis.

Community leaders in equity seeking neighbourhoods note that outdoor fitness equipment areas are valued by residents because they provide free access to exercise equipment. In good weather, this avoids the need for a gym membership that is a barrier to access for many. It also helps overcome challenges with dependent care and trying to get to a specific time and place for an organized fitness class.

15.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 20 new outdoor fitness equipment areas.

A target provision level of 1:23,000 residents is recommended for outdoor fitness equipment areas. This is a rounded provision level that lies between the City's current and 2031 outdoor fitness equipment area provision rates.

Recommendations:

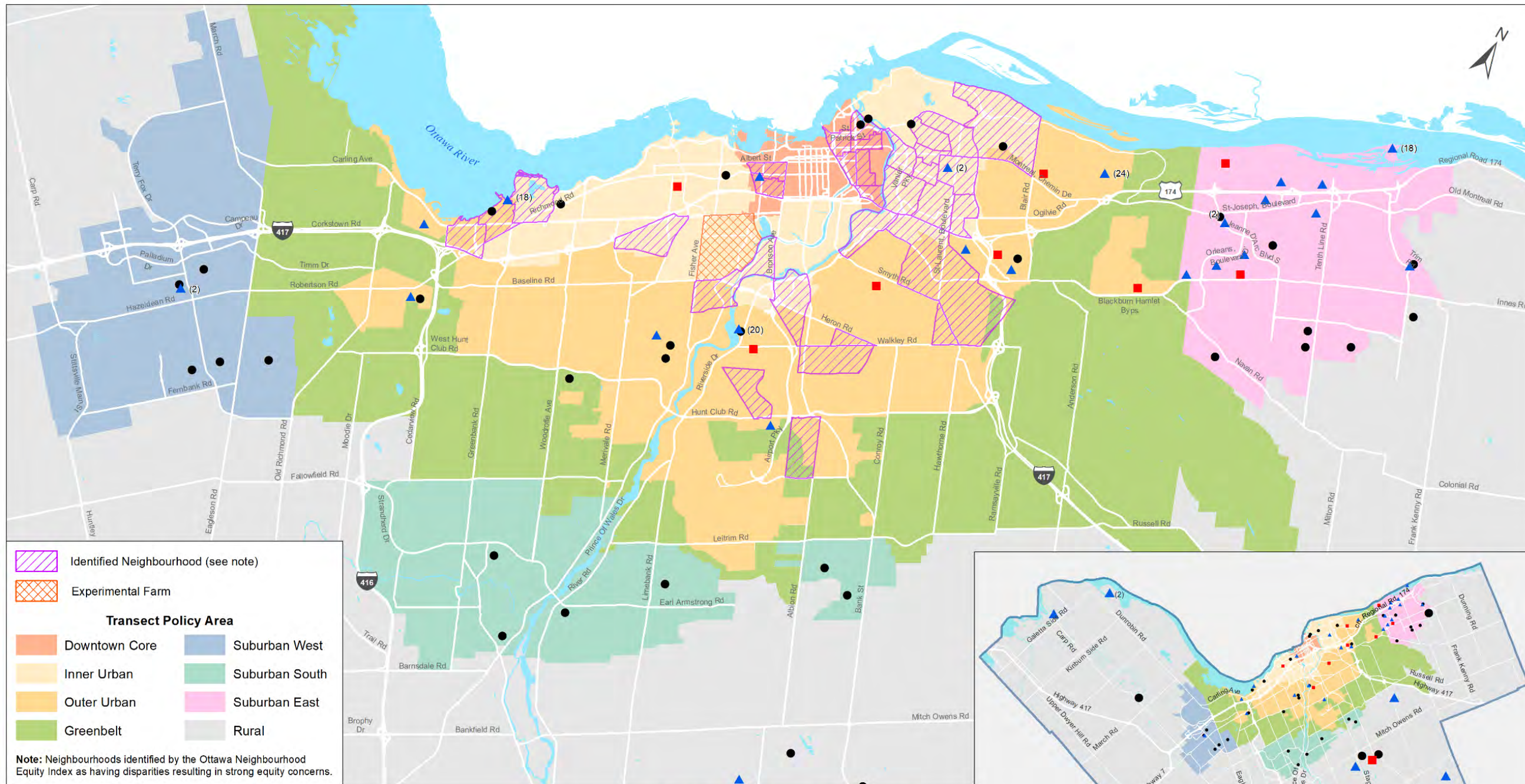
- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of outdoor fitness equipment areas at 1:23,000 residents.
- b. Consider the development of one new, additional, outdoor fitness equipment area in the 2021 – 2031 period in addition to the 20 currently planned areas..

Given the importance attached to this facility type in equity consultations, Identified Neighbourhoods should be given priority consideration when selecting locations for new outdoor fitness equipment areas.

Strategy Statements:

- c. Explore opportunities to develop outdoor dynamic fitness equipment areas (similar to indoor fitness equipment) at recreation complexes and facilities, where controlled access can be assured.

Map 15: City of Ottawa Outdoor Volleyball Courts and Outdoor Fitness Equipment Areas



Identified Neighbourhood (see note)
 Experimental Farm

Transect Policy Area

| | |
|--|--|
| Downtown Core | Suburban West |
| Inner Urban | Suburban South |
| Outer Urban | Suburban East |
| Greenbelt | Rural |

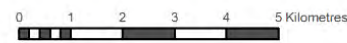
Note: Neighbourhoods identified by the Ottawa Neighbourhood Equity Index as having disparities resulting in strong equity concerns.



City of Ottawa Outdoor Volleyball Courts and Outdoor Fitness Equipment Areas

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

- ▲ (x) Volleyball Sand Court
 - (x) Volleyball Grass Court
 - Outdoor Fitness Equipment Area
- x = Number of court in the location if more than one



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16. Cricket Pitches

16.1 General Description

A cricket pitch is a very large oval field of flat grass roughly equivalent in size to two full-size soccer fields. The wicket area is in the centre of the field, and usually aligned along the long axis of the ellipse. The City of Ottawa standard service level is a cricket pitch for recreational, community play, generally multi-purpose with other field amenities.

16.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 42, the City has five cricket pitches: two in the Outer Urban transect, and one each in the Suburban East, Suburban South and Rural transects. This results in a citywide provision level of 1:213,300 residents.

Two new cricket pitches are planned for the 2021 and 2031 period in Suburban West. As a result, the provision levels will increase to 1:175,100 residents.

Table 42: Cricket Pitch Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Inner Urban | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outer Urban | 2 | 1: 145,400 | 0 | 2 | 1: 156,800 |
| Suburban West | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1: 90,600 |
| Suburban South | 1 | 1: 140,200 | 0 | 1 | 1: 175,700 |
| Suburban East | 1 | 1: 136,400 | 0 | 1 | 1: 156,900 |
| Rural | 1 | 1: 97,500 | 0 | 1 | 1: 116,500 |
| City Total | 5 | 1: 213,300 | 2 | 7 | 1: 175,000 |

16.3 Benchmarking

The number of existing cricket pitches in Ottawa is lower than most of the other municipalities listed in Table 43. The provision rate of 1:213,300 residents in Ottawa is the eighth lowest.

Table 43: Municipal Benchmarking of Cricket Pitch Provision Rates

| City Name | Cricket Pitches | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|-----------------|---|
| Brampton | 9 | 1 : 80,400 |
| Vancouver | 7 | 1 : 98,400 |
| Mississauga | 7 | 1 : 109,900 |
| Winnipeg | 7 | 1 : 113,200 |
| Toronto | 23 | 1 : 134,600 |
| Calgary | 10 | 1 : 141,800 |
| Hamilton | 3 | 1 : 194,900 |
| Ottawa | 5 | 1 : 213,300 |
| Halifax | 2 | 1 : 225,700 |
| Edmonton | 4 | 1 : 272,300 |
| London | 1 | 1 : 424,800 |
| Montreal | 4 | 1 : 534,200 |

16.4 Participation and Utilization

Use of and participation of cricket pitches includes youth to adults. It can be played by people of all genders but is more popular with men. According to Cricket Canada, participation in cricket is growing as Canadian society is becoming more multi-cultural. It is most popular in Canada's most multi-cultural cities, Toronto and Vancouver. The City of Toronto's web site states that "Cricket is popular in Toronto and is one of the fastest-growing sports across the region. City staff are in the process of developing a Cricket Strategy to better meet this growing demand."

16.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned two new cricket pitches.

A target provision level of 1:200,000 residents is recommended. The demand for additional facilities should be monitored. If additional demand is anticipated, the target level may need to be updated.

Recommendations

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of cricket pitches at 1:200,000 residents
- b. Given the land requirements of cricket pitches, investigate suitable locations for the development of one new, additional, cricket pitch in the 2021 – 2031 period.

Strategy Statements

- c. Reassess the need for additional cricket pitches during the first review of the Master Plan, to determine if changes to demographic and migration patterns, within the city, will impact the demand for cricket pitches in the future.

17. Lawn Bowling Greens

17.1 General Description

Traditionally, a lawn bowling green is a close-mown stretch of natural turf for playing the game of bowls. A bowling green could also have an artificial turf surface. The length of a bowling green in the direction of play is generally between 31 metres and 40 metres and, most bowling greens are built at approximately 40m x 40m.

17.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 44, the City has four lawn bowling greens: one each in the Inner Urban and Outer Urban transects and two in the Rural transect. This results in a citywide provision level of 1:266,700 residents.

No new lawn bowling greens are planned to between for the 2021 and 2031 period. As a result, the provision levels will decrease to 1:306,300 residents, as a result of population growth.

Table 44: Lawn Bowling Green Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Inner Urban | 1 | 1: 176,800 | 0 | 1 | 1: 194,400 |
| Outer Urban | 1 | 1: 290,700 | 0 | 1 | 1: 313,600 |
| Suburban West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suburban South | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suburban East | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rural | 2 | 1: 48,700 | 0 | 2 | 1: 58,200 |
| City Total | 4 | 1: 266,700 | 0 | 4 | 1: 306,300 |

17.3 Benchmarking

Table 45 compares the provision rate of lawn bowling greens across 10 municipalities. The provision rate of 1:266,700 residents in Ottawa is the third lowest after Montréal and Brampton.

Table 45: Municipal Benchmarking of Lawn Bowling Greens Provision Rates

| City Name | Lawn Bowling Greens | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|---------------------|---|
| Vancouver | 11 | 1 : 62,600 |
| Winnipeg | 11 | 1 : 72,100 |
| Halifax | 4 | 1 : 112,800 |
| Kingston | 1 | 1 : 133,700 |
| Hamilton | 4 | 1 : 146,200 |
| Mississauga | 4 | 1 : 192,300 |
| Calgary | 6 | 1 : 236,400 |
| Ottawa | 4 | 1 : 266,700 |
| Brampton | 1 | 1 : 723,200 |
| Montreal | 2 | 1 : 1,068,400 |

17.4 Participation and Utilization

Over the last 20 years, membership at local lawn bowling clubs has declined and some clubs have closed. However, more recently, participation has stabilized, and membership numbers of the remaining clubs have stayed relatively consistent.

17.5 Target Provision Level and Additional Recommendations

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current supply of four lawn bowling greens.

Strategy Statements:

- b. Reassess the need for lawn bowling greens, during the first review of the Master Plan, to determine if changes to demographic and migration patterns, within the city, will impact the demand for these facilities in the future.

18. Recreational Boat Launches and Docks

18.1 General Description

Recreational boat launches and docks include boat launches and docks that can be used by the general public. Boat launches are aimed at motorized watercraft. Docks are primarily aimed at self-propelled watercraft, are seasonal and are taken out of the water every fall. The inventory in this section only includes City-owned facilities and does not include facilities that are for the exclusive use of a club. Other public facilities include those managed by Conservation Authorities, the NCC, Ontario Parks, and Parks Canada.

18.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

There are 15 municipal recreational boat launches and docks in Ottawa. This results in a citywide provision level of 1:71,100 residents. One new recreational boat dock in Riverain Park is currently planned within the next ten years. Given population growth, the citywide provision level will become 1:76,600 residents by 2031.

Table 46: Recreational Boat Launches and Docks Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 1 | 1: 73,600 | 0 | 1 | 1: 86,800 |
| Inner Urban | 2 | 1: 88,400 | 1 | 3 | 1: 64,800 |
| Outer Urban | 3 | 1: 96,900 | 0 | 3 | 1: 104,500 |
| Suburban West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suburban South | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suburban East | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rural | 9 | 1: 10,800 | 0 | 9 | 1: 12,900 |
| City Total | 15 | 1: 71,100 | 1 | 16 | 1: 76,600 |

18.3 Benchmarking

Table 47 benchmarks recreational boating facilities, including marinas and boat ramps; this is slightly different than the provision of recreational boat launches and docks. However, based on the data available, Ottawa's provision rate of 1:71,100 residents is 4th highest.

Table 47: Municipal Benchmarking of Recreational Boating Facility Provision Rates

| City Name | Recreation Boating Facilities (Marina, Boat Ramps) | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|--|---|
| Halifax | 64 | 1 : 7,100 |
| Kingston | 18 | 1 : 7,400 |
| Winnipeg | 12 | 1 : 66,100 |
| Ottawa | 15 | 1 : 71,100 |
| Montreal | 21 | 1 : 101,800 |
| London | 3 | 1 : 141,600 |
| Hamilton | 1 | 1 : 584,700 |

| City Name | Recreation Boating Facilities (Marina, Boat Ramps) | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|-----------|---|--|
| Calgary | 2 | 1 : 709,100 |
| Brampton | 1 | 1 : 723,200 |
| Toronto | 1 | 1 : 3,096,400 |

18.4 Participation and Utilization

Recreational boat launches and docks are available seasonally for use by the general public. The City does not monitor the number of people that use the recreational boat launches and docks.

18.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned one additional recreational seasonal boat launch / dock.

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current and planned citywide supply of 16 recreational boat launches and docks.

Strategy Statements:

- b. Additional seasonal docks for non-motorized watercraft and that are funded through partnerships or other programs can be considered. Any new seasonal docks would need to be along safe portions of the City's major rivers and tributaries. Site selection should be based on the locations of existing and proposed municipal parks adjacent to these watercourses, proximity of existing docks, availability of parking lots and the concurrence from the responsible regulatory authorities (Parks Canada, National Capital Commission, Conservation Authorities).

19. BMX, Pump Tracks and Mountain Biking Facilities

19.1 General Description

BMX, Pump Track and Mountain Biking Facilities are facilities that provide non-motorized bikes a specially prepared track to use for both recreational and competitive opportunities. BMX dirt tracks are usually 300-400 metres long and consist of a series of jumps and bumps with banked corners known as berms. Competitive, or race sites have a starting gate area and berms that are preferred to be asphalt for performance and maintenance purposes. A pump track is a looped sequence of banked turns, rollers and berms, it is designed so it can be ridden with minimal pedaling. Pump tracks can be

made of dirt, crushed stone, asphalt and concrete or a combination of materials. A Mountain Bike Facility is a series of nature trails that are groomed and use the natural topography to define the level of difficulty each trail provides the user.

Biking is a sport that is for all ages, abilities and genders.

19.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 48, the City has five existing BMX, pump track and mountain biking facilities, with the South March Highlands Mountain Biking trails park in the Rural transect, being the only formal mountain biking facility within the City. The area requirements and specific natural and topographic conditions limit the ability to develop formalized mountain biking in many of the areas of the City. The current provision level for BMX, pump track, and mountain biking facilities is 1:213,300 residents.

Four new BMX, pump track, and/or mountain biking facilities are planned for the 2021-2031 period with two proposed in the Suburban West Transect and two in the Suburban East Transect. The development and operation of these facilities is dependent on a managing partner. The addition of the new facilities will improve the citywide provision level to 1:136,100 residents.

Table 48: BMX, Pump Track, and Mountain Biking Facilities Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031.

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Inner Urban | 1 | 1: 176,800 | 0 | 1 | 1: 194,400 |
| Outer Urban | 1 | 1: 290,700 | 0 | 1 | 1: 313,600 |
| Suburban West | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1: 90,600 |
| Suburban South | 1 | 1: 140,200 | 0 | 1 | 1: 175,700 |
| Suburban East | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1: 78,500 |
| Rural | 2 | 1: 48,700 | 0 | 2 | 1: 58,200 |
| City Total | 5 | 1: 213,300 | 4 | 9 | 1: 136,100 |

19.3 Benchmarking

Table 49 compares the supply and provision rate of BMX, pump tracks and mountain bike facilities with other municipalities. Of the five municipalities listed, Ottawa's provision rate is in the middle.

Table 49: Municipal Benchmarking of BMX, Pump Tracks and Mountain Bike Facilities Provision Rates

| City Name | BMX, Pump Tracks and Mountain Biking Facilities | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|---|---|
| Halifax | 17 | 1 : 26,600 |
| Kingston | 1 | 1 : 133,700 |
| Ottawa | 5 | 1 : 213,300 |
| Mississauga | 2 | 1 : 384,600 |
| Montreal | 2 | 1 : 1,068,400 |

19.4 Participation and Utilization

The City does not collect utilization data for its recreational bicycle facilities. Feedback from facility user groups, including clubs and associations, indicates that the use of the City of Ottawa BMX, pump tracks, and mountain biking facilities is increasing. The associations that partner with the City of Ottawa for the use, operating and maintenance of the parks include Nepean BMX (Clarke Fields) and Ottawa BMX (Dragon Canyon) and Ottawa Mountain Bike Association (South March Highlands, Carlington Park) these are managing partners, however the parks are open for public use.

Any bike type can be used at the City park facilities, however as the user advances in skill level and enters competitive levels of participation, the material specifications and style of bike becomes an important aspect of the sport.

19.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned four new facilities.

A rounded target level of 1:150,000 residents is recommended for BMX, Pump Tracks, and Mountain Bike Facilities.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the BMX, Pump Tracks, and Mountain Bike Facilities at 1:150,000 residents

Strategy Statements:

- b. During the design process of the four currently planned facilities, consider building an all wheel track and a formal Mountain Biking Facility, preferably together, where a managing partner can be found. A future facility should contemplate design specifications and standards to allow for Adaptive Mountain Biking (for riders who typically cannot ride a standard mountain bike and require

technologically adapted bike/equipment to suit their physical, intellectual, neurological and sensory abilities).

20. Fenced Off-leash Dog Facilities

20.1 General Description

Fenced off-leash dog facilities vary in size but, in general are fully enclosed and gated with an entry/exit vestibule area which is also gated. In general, smaller facilities (less than 1ha) should have specialized surfacing and larger facilities (greater than 1ha) can have grass surface. Some facilities have specialized waste containers and a separate area for small dogs. Fenced off-leash dog facilities are intended to serve the wider community.

The City's off-leashed fenced dog facilities are complemented by 175 parks where dogs are allowed off-leash in a non-fenced environment, and 61 mixed use parks where dogs can be on leash in a portion of the park or at specific times.

20.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

The City of Ottawa has 11 existing fenced off-leash dog facilities that range from a simple small enclosure to larger facilities with surfacing and inground waste receptacles.

As shown in Table 50, the 2021 citywide provision rate is 1:97,000 residents. The Suburban East transect has the highest provision rate with 4 fenced off-leash dog facilities which translates to 1:34,100 residents. The Suburban South transect has two fenced off-leash dog facilities, the Inner Urban transect has three and the Downtown Core and Outer Urban transect has one fenced off-leash dog facility each. Currently, there are no municipally owned, fenced off-leash dog facilities in the Suburban West and Rural transects.

There are off-leash dog facilities at Conroy Pit and Bruce Pit in the Greenbelt. These lands are owned and controlled by the NCC and are, therefore, not captured in this needs assessment but do provide a service to residents.

Table 50: Fenced Off-leash Dog Facility Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 1 | 1: 73,600 | 0 | 1 | 1: 86,800 |
| Inner Urban | 3 | 1: 58,900 | 3 | 6 | 1: 32,400 |
| Outer Urban | 1 | 1: 290,700 | 0 | 1 | 1: 313,600 |
| Suburban West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suburban South | 2 | 1: 70,100 | 1 | 3 | 1: 58,600 |
| Suburban East | 4 | 1: 34,100 | 0 | 4 | 1: 39,200 |
| Rural | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| City Total | 11 | 1: 97,000 | 4 | 15 | 1: 81,700 |

An additional four fenced off-leash dog facilities are planned over the next 10 years., Three are currently planned for the Inner Urban Transect and one in the Suburban South Transect. This will bring the citywide provision level of fenced off-leash dog facilities to 1:81,700 residents.

20.3 Benchmarking

Table 51 compares the supply and provision rate of fenced off-leash dog facilities with other municipalities. The City of Ottawa's provision rate is 6th of the municipalities listed.

Table 51: Municipal Benchmarking of Fenced Off-leash Dog Facility Provision Rates

| City Name | Fenced Off-leash Dog Facilities | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Kingston | 5 | 1 : 26,700 |
| Montreal | 58 | 1 : 36,800 |
| Toronto | 49 | 1 : 63,200 |
| Vancouver | 10 | 1 : 68,900 |
| Hamilton | 8 | 1 : 73,100 |
| Ottawa | 11 | 1 : 97,000 |
| Calgary | 8 | 1 : 177,300 |
| Brampton | 4 | 1 : 180,800 |
| Winnipeg | 3 | 1 : 264,200 |
| Edmonton | 4 | 1 : 272,300 |
| Halifax | 1 | 1 : 451,400 |

While it appears that the City of Ottawa is lagging in the provision of off-leash dog facilities as compared to other municipalities, when one considers the 175 parks where dogs are allowed off-leash in a non-fenced environment and those 61 mixed use parks where dogs can be on leash in a portion of the park or at specific times, it is easier to see how the City is meeting the demand for off-leash dog areas. Considering all of these areas, the City's current provision of off-leash dog areas is 1:3,400 residents.

20.4 Participation and Utilization

The City does not track participation and utilization rates of fenced off-leash dog facilities.

20.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

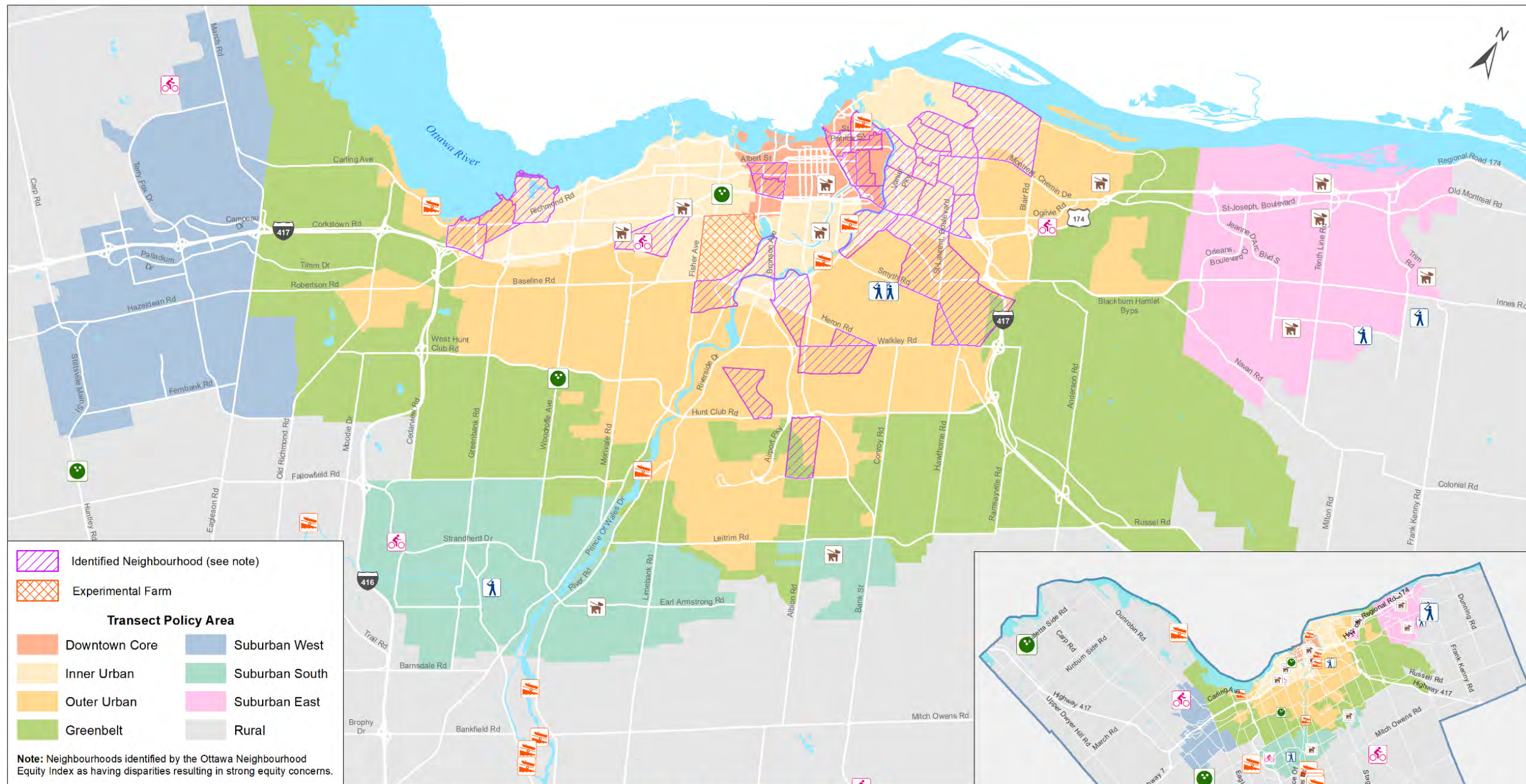
The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned five new off-leash dog facilities.

A target provision level is not proposed for fenced-off leash dog facilities. Additional fenced off-leash facilities may be provided at appropriate sites where warranted.

Recommendations

- a. Develop fenced off-leash dog facilities where warranted, as the needs vary greatly depending on the area being served. Available unfenced off-leash dog areas should be considered when reviewing the needs for additional fenced off-leash facilities. Appropriate dog waste receptacles should be included in off-leash dog facilities where warranted.

Map 16: City of Ottawa Cricket Pitches, Lawn Bowling Greens, Recreational Boat-Docking Facilities, BMX, Pump Track & Mountain Biking Facilities, and Off-leash Fenced Dog Facilities



Identified Neighbourhood (see note)
 [Purple hatched box]

Experimental Farm
 [Orange hatched box]

Transect Policy Area

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| [Orange box] Downtown Core | [Blue box] Suburban West |
| [Light orange box] Inner Urban | [Light green box] Suburban South |
| [Yellow box] Outer Urban | [Pink box] Suburban East |
| [Green box] Greenbelt | [Grey box] Rural |

Note: Neighbourhoods identified by the Ottawa Neighbourhood Equity Index as having disparities resulting in strong equity concerns.

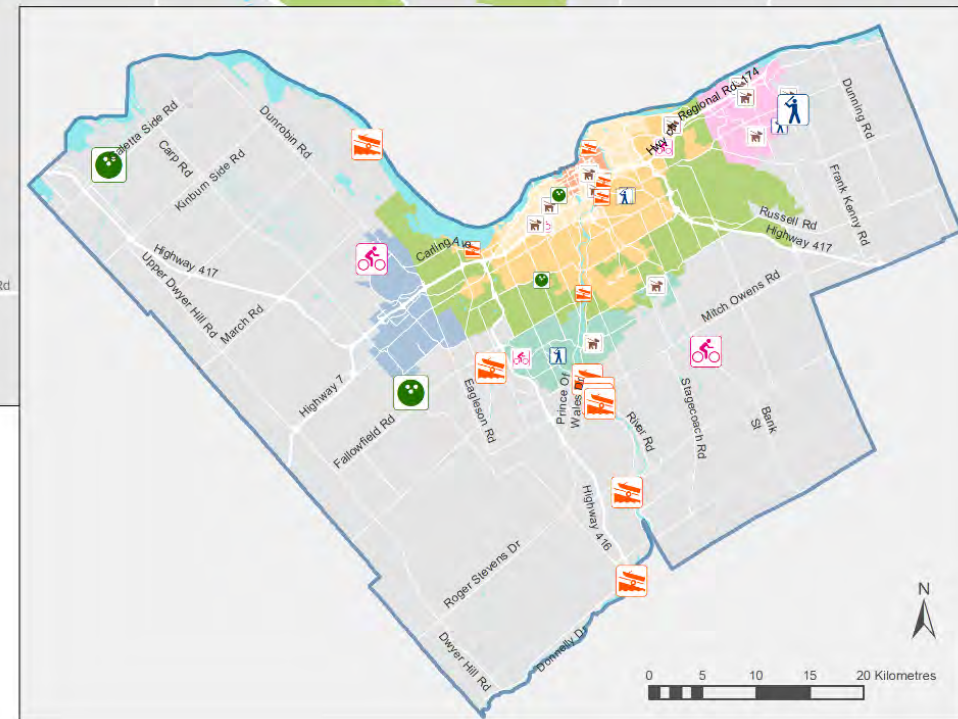
City of Ottawa Cricket Pitches, Lawn Bowling Greens, Recreational Boat-Docking Facilities, BMX, Pump Track and Mountain Biking Facilities, and Off-leash Fenced Dog Facilities

- BMX / Pump Track / Mountain bike trail
- Boating Facilities
- Cricket Pitches
- Dog Park - Off Leash
- Lawn Bowling

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



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21. Skateboard Parks

21.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards describes skateboard parks as outdoor areas having structures and surfaces for skateboarding and inline skating. Skateboard parks can also be used by scooter users. Skateboard park features may include but are not limited to freestyle areas (DYI), slalom runs, snake runs, bowls, manual pads, half pipes and quarter pipes. City skateboard parks are primarily intended for recreation use by all ages and abilities. Skateboard parks are best located near active recreational facilities for supervision and safety and should be situated away from residential areas when possible.

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards provide for three types of skateboard parks: skate spots, neighbourhood or community skateboard parks, and district skateboard parks.

21.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

The City of Ottawa has 21 existing outdoor skateboard parks, which includes full custom designed skateboard parks and dedicated skateboard park elements and amenities within a broader community park design layout.

As shown in Table 52, the 2021 citywide provision rate is 1:50,800 residents. The Rural transect and the Suburban West transects have the highest supply of skateboard parks. The Rural transect also has the highest provision rate in the City with 1:19,500 residents, and the Suburban West has the second highest rate with 1:37,800 residents. The Inner Urban transect has the lowest provision rate at 1:88,400 residents.

Table 52: Skateboard Park Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 1 | 1: 73,600 | 0 | 1 | 1: 86,800 |
| Inner Urban | 2 | 1: 88,400 | 3 | 5 | 1: 38,900 |
| Outer Urban | 4 | 1: 72,700 | 0 | 4 | 1: 78,400 |
| Suburban West | 4 | 1: 37,800 | 1 | 5 | 1: 36,200 |
| Suburban South | 3 | 1: 46,700 | 2 | 5 | 1: 35,100 |
| Suburban East | 2 | 1: 68,200 | 1 | 3 | 1: 52,300 |
| Rural | 5 | 1: 19,500 | 1 | 6 | 1: 19,400 |
| City Total | 21 | 1: 50,800 | 8 | 29 | 1: 42,300 |

Eight new skateboard parks are currently planned for development over the 10-year period. The addition of the eight planned skateboard parks will improve the citywide skateboard park provision level to a rate of 1:42,300 residents in 2031, which exceeds the target of 1:50,000 residents.

The provision level in the Inner Urban transect will increase from the current rate of 1:88,400 residents to 1:38,900 residents in. The addition of two proposed skateboard parks in Riverside South will improve the skateboard park provision level in the Suburban South transect to 1:35,100 residents. The provision level in the Suburban East will increase to 1:52,300 residents. The 2031 provision levels in the Rural transect and the Suburban West transect will remain above the citywide provision level.

The Downtown Core and Outer Urban transects are projected to have the lowest and second lowest provision rates, respectively, in 2031.

21.3 Benchmarking

Table 53 compares the supply and provision rate of outdoor skateboard parks with other municipalities. Ottawa had the 5th highest provision level of skateboard parks amongst the 13 municipalities listed.

Table 53: Municipal Benchmarking of Skateboard Park Provision Rates

| City Name | Skateparks | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|------------|---|
| London | 13 | 1 : 32,700 |
| Kingston | 3 | 1 : 44,600 |
| Mississauga | 16 | 1 : 48,100 |
| Winnipeg | 16 | 1 : 49,500 |
| Ottawa | 21 | 1 : 50,800 |
| Halifax | 8 | 1 : 56,400 |
| Montreal | 30 | 1 : 71,200 |
| Hamilton | 7 | 1 : 83,500 |
| Vancouver | 8 | 1 : 86,100 |
| Brampton | 8 | 1 : 90,400 |
| Calgary | 12 | 1 : 118,200 |
| Toronto | 20 | 1 : 154,800 |
| Edmonton | 6 | 1 : 181,600 |

21.4 Participation and Utilization

Use of and participation at skateboard parks includes youth to adults and all genders. According to the City of Toronto Skateboard Strategy, participation in skateboarding often extends into adulthood. In the City of Toronto's 2015 Skatepark Survey, over 48 per cent of respondents were over the age of 25.

The City does not track participation and use of skateboard parks. Based on observations from City staff and feedback from the skateboard community, the skateboard parks with the highest usage are the district skateboard parks such as Charlie Bowens Skateboard Park and Innovation Skateboard Park, which are poured-in-place custom designed concrete skateboard parks.

21.5 Target Provision Level and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 8 new skateboard parks.

A target provision level of 1:50,000 residents is recommended, which generally reflects the current provision level and the large geographic area of the City⁵⁸.

Recommendations:

- a. Set a citywide target provision level of 1:50,000 residents.
- b. Investigate the opportunity to redirect funds collected from the 2004 Facility Needs Study, to support a partnership development of an indoor skateboard park, towards new and redeveloped outdoor skateboard parks.

Strategy Statements:

- c. In appropriate locations, review the feasibility of adding lighting to existing and/or new skateboard parks to expand the hours of use and to increase utilization in transects with low provision levels and limited parkland availability (e.g., Downtown Core)
- d. Update and replace the 2012 Interim Skateboard Park Strategy including the following:
 - i. Assessing the potential need and opportunity to develop additional district and/or community skateboard parks in strategic locations; and
 - ii. Updating the provision level target for skateboard parks as appropriate.

⁵⁸ The City of Ottawa 2012 Interim Skateboard Park Strategy did not identify a provision level target for skateboard parks.

Map 17: City of Ottawa Skateboard Parks



City of Ottawa Skateboard Parks

Skateboard Park

- Terminus Station
- Transfer Station
- O-Train and Station
- O-Train and Station – at grade
- Transitway and Station – at grade
- Transitway and Station – grade separated
- Future O-Train and Station

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



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22. Playgrounds

22.1 General Description

The city offers a variety of playgrounds that include play amenities such as swings, slides and climbing equipment. These amenities provide recreation opportunities to children of various age groups and abilities. Playgrounds in parks offer unstructured play to support children's physical and emotional well-being while promoting a healthy, active lifestyle for families.

Play structures are categorized into different age groups to provide safe and challenging play opportunities. Junior play structures are geared to ages 2-5, while the more challenging senior play structures are developed to focus on ages 5-12. There are also integrated play structures that are developed for ages 2-12. Playgrounds provide a variety of recreation opportunities for various age groups and abilities.

All new playgrounds are designed to adhere to accessibility design standards (AODA) Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, CAN/CSA Z164:20, Children's Playground Equipment and Surfacing Standard, Annex H. In addition to accessible play components, site development includes accessible safety surfacing, access into the playground and accessible seating.

Playground size, style and types of equipment will vary based on park classifications, available resources and developed in consultation with communities.

Through community partnerships, the City and school boards work together to add play structures in school yards. These play structures were not counted as part of this needs assessment, though these structures provide local community play options outside of school hours.

22.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 54, there are 774 playgrounds serving the city. The current citywide provision level for playgrounds is 1:1,400 residents. The Suburban West and Rural transects have the highest provision levels at 1:1,100 and 1:1,000 residents respectively. The Downtown Core has the lowest provision level at 1:3,700 residents.

Table 54: Playground Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 20 | 1: 3,700 | 3 | 23 | 1: 3,800 |
| Inner Urban | 94 | 1: 1,900 | 9 | 103 | 1: 1,900 |
| Outer Urban | 228 | 1: 1,300 | 1 | 229 | 1: 1,400 |
| Suburban West | 134 | 1: 1,100 | 35 | 169 | 1: 1,100 |
| Suburban South | 87 | 1: 1,600 | 28 | 115 | 1: 1,500 |
| Suburban East | 112 | 1: 1,200 | 21 | 133 | 1: 1,200 |
| Rural | 99 | 1: 1,000 | 14 | 113 | 1: 1,000 |
| City Total | 774 | 1: 1,400 | 111 | 885 | 1: 1,400 |

One hundred and eleven (111) new playgrounds are planned to be constructed by 2031, which will increase the overall citywide supply to 885 playgrounds. This will maintain the provision rate at 1:4,000 residents. The majority (84) of the new playgrounds are planned for the Suburban West, South and East transects.

22.3 Benchmarking

Table 55 compares the supply and provision rate of playgrounds with other municipalities, Ottawa has the fourth highest provision rate of the 13 listed.

Table 55: Municipal Benchmarking of Playground Provision Rates

| City Name | Playgrounds | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|-------------|---|
| Kingston | 143 | 1 : 900 |
| Halifax | 403 | 1 : 1,100 |
| Calgary | 1073 | 1 : 1,300 |
| Ottawa | 774 | 1 : 1,400 |
| Brampton | 319 | 1 : 2,300 |
| Winnipeg | 301 | 1 : 2,600 |
| Edmonton | 401 | 1 : 2,700 |
| Hamilton | 217 | 1 : 2,700 |
| London | 146 | 1 : 2,900 |
| Mississauga | 232 | 1 : 3,300 |
| Toronto | 794 | 1 : 3,900 |
| Montreal | 538 | 1 : 4,000 |
| Vancouver | 113 | 1 : 6,100 |

22.4 Participation and Utilization

The City does not track participation and utilization rates for playgrounds.

22.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned 111 new playgrounds.

A target provision level of 1:1,400 residents is proposed.

A geographic service level target is also recommended to supplement the provision level target. The recommended service level target is to provide access to a park containing a playground within approximately a 400m to 800m radius of most homes located in the Urban Area Boundary or in a village. The target radius may be adjusted to account for any pedestrian barriers such as highways, rivers or rail corridors.

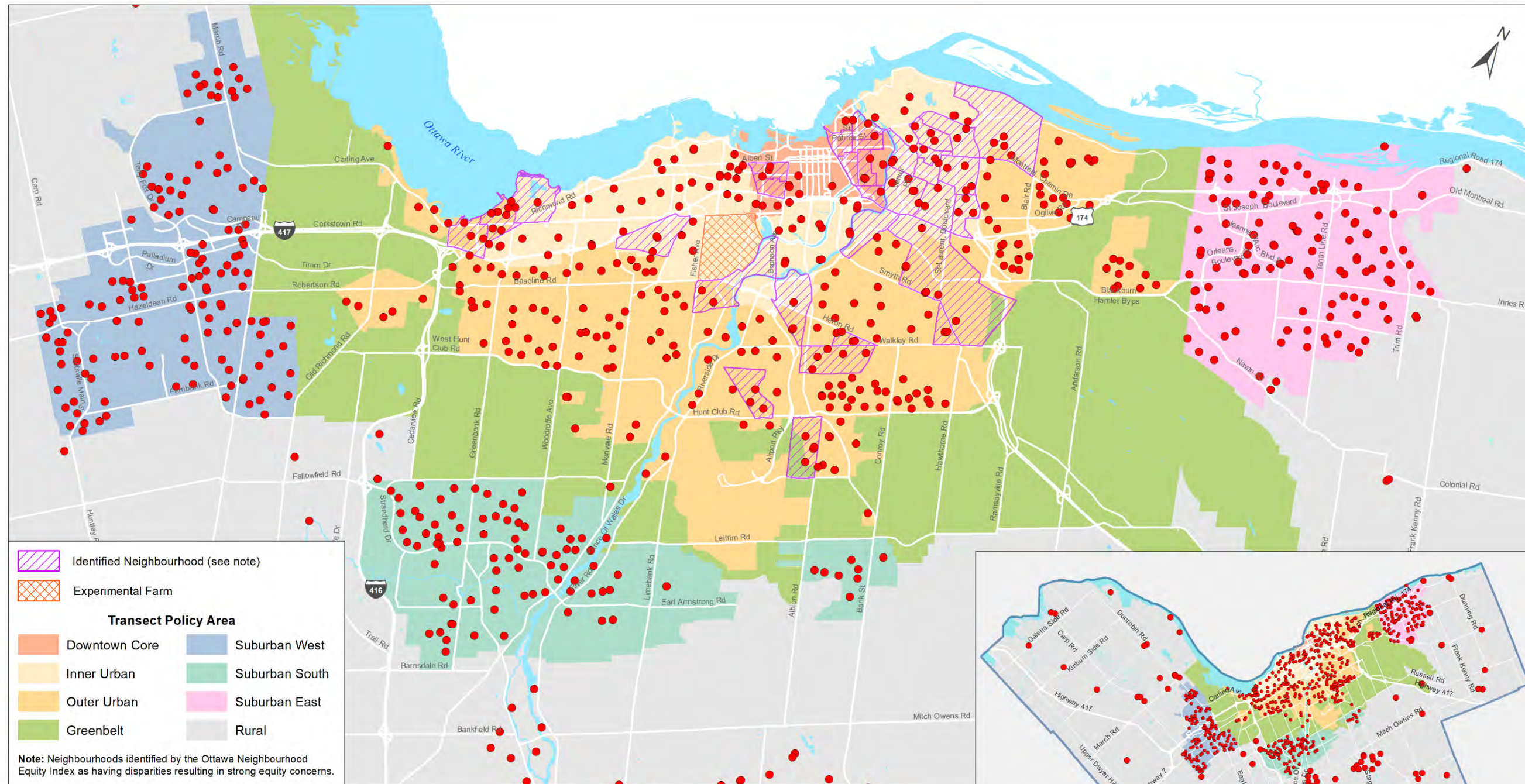
Recommendations:

- a. Set a target provision level of 1:1,400 residents.
- b. Set a geographic provision target of one playground within approximately a 400m to 800m radius of most homes located within the Urban Area Boundary or a village.

Strategy Statements:

- c. As infill and intensification of existing urban areas occurs, explore opportunities for the development of new, additional, playgrounds in the 2021 – 2031 period. Expansion of nearby existing playgrounds may also be considered as an alternative to developing a new playground, to increase the capacity of the playground to serve a greater number of residents.

Map 18: City of Ottawa Playgrounds



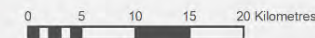
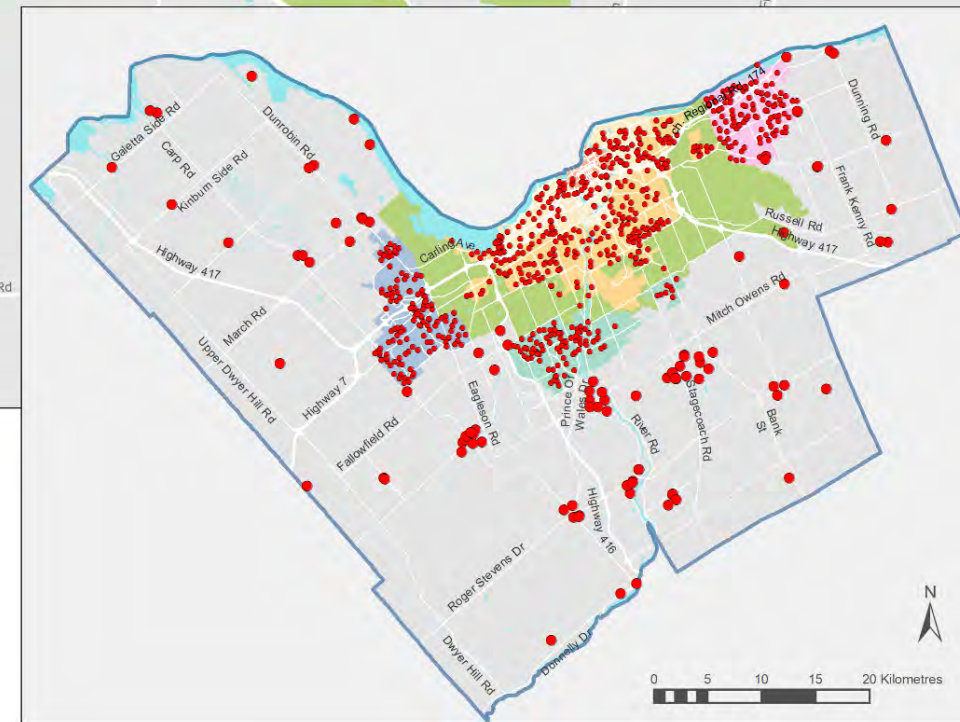
City of Ottawa Playgrounds

● Playgrounds

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



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23. Gymnasiums

23.1 General Description

Gymnasiums support recreation, fitness and sport activities and programs, but also function as venues for large gatherings and events. Gymnasiums may be included as a component of a recreation complex or a community centre. Smaller gymnasiums may be located within older facilities or where site constraints limit the building size. The City does not build single purpose / stand-alone gymnasium buildings.

Gymnasiums typically accommodate a range of sports and recreational activities including recreational social dance, basketball, volleyball, badminton and pickleball. Cross basketball courts may also be provided. Line painting is typically provided for basketball, volleyball, badminton courts, and more recently also for pickleball courts. In addition to sports and recreation, gymnasiums are also used to host community programs and meetings. Gymnasiums may have a retractable divider or curtain to increase flexibility for programming.

The City's gymnasiums were built during different periods of time, often prior to amalgamation and to different recreation infrastructure standards. While they are all multi-purpose spaces that can be programmed for a variety of activities, not all gyms work for all activities. Following are some of the factors that influence how the gymnasiums may be used:

- Square footage - not all are large enough for competitive league play
- Nature and location of lines on floors and location of anchoring points for nets
- Type of flooring - ranges from linoleum to sprung hardwood
- Presence of glass walls and windows, spectator bleachers, a stage and / or dividing wall

In addition to programming provided at municipal gymnasiums, the City also provides programming at school gymnasiums through site specific joint-use agreements. Access to the gyms is shared with the school boards.

Additionally, the City takes advantage of the Community Use of Schools program which provides access to additional school gymnasiums. The number of available gymnasiums can be subject to change yearly as access is at the discretion of the school boards. Over the past number of years, the availability of school gymnasiums to the City has decreased due to increased use by the school boards.

This needs assessment only looks at municipally owned gymnasiums and school gymnasiums where the City has a joint-use-agreement in place with a school board.

23.2 Existing and Currently Planned Inventory

The City currently has 30 gymnasiums including the 9 school gymnasiums that the City has access to through site specific joint-use agreements. For the inventory, the double gymnasium at Richcraft Recreation Complex – Kanata is counted as two gymnasiums since it contains two full-size basketball courts. All of the other gymnasiums in the inventory are considered to be single gymnasiums. Map 19 illustrates the distribution of gymnasiums across the City.

As shown in Table 56, the 2021 citywide provision rate of gymnasiums is 1:35,600 residents. The Downtown Core has the highest provision rate with 1:24,500 residents. The Suburban West has the second highest provision level with 1:25,200 residents. There are no gymnasiums located in the Rural transect. The next lowest provisions rates are in the Suburban South transect with a rate of 1:46,700 residents.

Table 56: Gymnasium Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | 2021 Supply | 2021 Provision Level | Currently Planned Facilities 2021-2031 | 2031 Supply | 2031 Provision Level |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Downtown Core | 3 | 1: 24,500 | 0 | 3 | 1: 28,900 |
| Inner Urban | 6 | 1: 29,500 | 2 | 8 | 1: 24,300 |
| Outer Urban | 8 | 1: 36,300 | 1 | 9 | 1: 34,800 |
| Suburban West | 6 | 1: 25,200 | 1 | 7 | 1: 25,900 |
| Suburban South | 3 | 1: 46,700 | 2 | 5 | 1: 35,100 |
| Suburban East | 4 | 1: 34,100 | 1 | 5 | 1: 31,400 |
| Rural | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| City Total | 30 | 1: 35,600 | 7 | 37 | 1: 33,100 |

Seven new municipal gymnasiums are currently planned to be constructed by 2031 as a component of recreation complex and community centre projects. This will increase the overall citywide supply to 37 facilities and result in a projected provision level of 1:33,100 residents in 2031. Two new gymnasiums are currently planned to be developed in both the Suburban South and the Inner Urban transects by 2031. With the addition of these new facilities, the provision rates are projected to improve to 1:35,100 and 1:24,300 respectively. The Outer Urban, Suburban West and Suburban East transects are each currently planned to receive one additional gymnasium by 2031.

23.3 Benchmarking

Table 57 provides a comparison of the provision rate of gymnasiums with other municipalities. Ottawa has the 3rd highest provision level of gymnasiums amongst the 13 municipalities listed.

Table 57: Municipal Benchmarking of Gymnasium Provision Rates

| City Name | Gymnasium | Provision Rate (Residents per Facility) |
|---------------|-----------|---|
| Halifax | 21 | 1 : 21,500 |
| Toronto | 102 | 1 : 30,400 |
| Ottawa | 30 | 1 : 35,600 |
| Mississauga | 21 | 1 : 36,600 |
| Hamilton | 14 | 1 : 41,800 |
| London | 10 | 1 : 42,500 |
| Vancouver | 15 | 1 : 45,900 |
| Kingston | 2 | 1 : 66,900 |
| Brampton | 7 | 1 : 103,300 |
| Montreal | 17 | 1 : 125,700 |
| Edmonton | 8 | 1 : 136,200 |
| Winnipeg | 4 | 1 : 198,200 |
| Calgary | 3 | 1 : 472,700 |

23.4 Participation and Utilization

The allocation of time at municipal gymnasiums can generally be divided into three categories: drop-in use (such as drop-in badminton, pick-up basketball), regular programs (such as a weekly fitness class) and private rentals. In general, greater than 50% of gymnasium time is reserved for drop-in use and regular programs. There is high demand for private rental of gym space by sports organizations and leagues.

23.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City will proceed with the development of the currently planned seven new gymnasiums.

Given their ability to serve a wide variety of users and uses, it is recommended that the citywide target provision level for gymnasiums be set at 1:30,000 residents.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of gymnasiums at 1:30,000 residents
- b. Consider the development of at least three new, additional, gymnasiums in the 2021 – 2031 period via gymnasium additions to existing municipal recreational buildings.

Strategy Statements:

- c. Recreation Culture and Facility Services (RCFS) to investigate the feasibility of and opportunity to create additional, formal, joint-use partnerships with local schools.

Map 19: City of Ottawa Gymnasiums



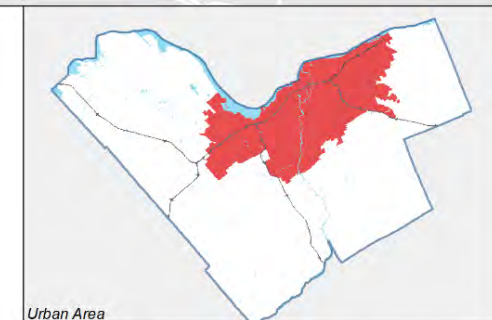
City of Ottawa Gymnasium

- Gymnasium (x)
- School Gymnasium
- x = Number of Gymnasium if more than one
- Terminus Station
- Transfer Station
- O-Train and Station
- O-Train and Station – at grade
- Transitway and Station – at grade
- Transitway and Station – grade separated
- Future O-Train and Station

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



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Appendix B: Parkland Needs Assessment

1. Parkland Classification

The City of Ottawa has a classification system, which defines park typologies designed to meet the social, recreational and environmental needs of its residents (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 4). “The Park Classification establishes park typologies and outlines standards related to parkland size, location, service area radius, configuration, and amenities in order to inform the selection and subsequent design of park blocks” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 4).

The Park Classification currently establishes seven park typologies: District Parks, Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, Parkettes, Woodland Parks, Urban Parkettes/Plazas and Linear Parks, and may be subject to change from time to time. These typologies are described below with excerpts from the Park Development Manual.

District Parks

“District Parks are destination parks with a very large or citywide service radius, that service groups of communities, entire districts, and can be used for citywide functions. They are designed as major destinations for residents and visitors and may have a tourism focus. District Parks may [also] have a competitive recreational focus” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 15). District parks are typically a minimum of 10 hectares in size.

Community Parks

“Community Parks service a specific community or group of neighbourhoods, providing a range of recreational opportunities, and should be well connected to the larger community. They...serve as a focal point within the community, [and host] active and passive recreational opportunities” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 17). Community parks range from a minimum of 3.2 hectares to a maximum of 10 hectares in size.

Neighbourhood Parks

“Neighbourhood Parks serve as the focal point of a neighbourhood, provide active and passive recreation opportunities, and offer a local gathering space within walking distance of local residents” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 19). Neighbourhood parks range from 1.2 to 3.2 hectares in size.

Parkettes

“Parkettes are small parks that are located within walking distance of residents. They provide central green space and social gathering places within neighbourhoods and offer predominantly passive recreation and minor active recreation opportunities within a local residential or mixed-use neighbourhood” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 21). Parkettes range from 0.4 hectares to 1.2 hectares in size. Parkettes supplement a neighbourhood’s park network and are not meant to be the only park typology in a community (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 21).

Urban Parkettes / Urban Plazas

Urban Parkettes and Urban Plazas are small parks associated with the urban fabric and are often acquired through intensification and redevelopment of inner-urban areas. Urban Plazas are a minimum of 400m² in size⁵⁹. Urban Parkettes range from 0.2 to 0.4 hectares in size.

“In highly intensified inner-urban areas, [this park typology] is often characterized by small size, predominantly hard surface with shade trees and other vegetation” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 23). The park may also include elements such as seating, lighting, shade structures and artistic elements. “In moderately intensified outer-urban areas, the size may be larger due to more available space and there may be room for additional plantings, grassy areas and specific recreational components such as basketball, water

What are POPS?

POPS are Privately Owned Public Spaces. These are open spaces that the public may use but, which are owned and maintained by a private party rather than by the City. Typically, POPS are part of high-density developments and are created through negotiations with private developers when a development application is submitted to the City for review and approval; this is most often through the Site Plan Control process.

POPS do not meet the Parkland Dedication By-law requirements for public parkland, are not counted as municipal parkland and are not a substitute for public parks. If a POPS is created through negotiation in the development review process, the City still requires the dedication of parkland or cash equivalent.

POPS are not described in the City’s Park Development Manual and are not part of this Plan because they are not municipally owned and operated.

⁵⁹ Land taken for urban plazas may be less than 400m² where the land taken is adjacent to an existing City park and can be used to expand the size and functions in that park.

play, tennis court, adult fitness and feature playground components” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 23).

Woodland Parks

“Woodland Parks are a unique classification where an established woodland is preserved within a development area and integrated into the park network as a recreational amenity...The development of a woodland park involves more protection than intervention...Woodland parks [are] only considered as a dedicated parkland where the community is already adequately served with other recreational amenities such as sports fields and playgrounds” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 25). Woodland parks range from 1.2 to 3.2 hectares in size and are not classified as environmentally protected zones or urban natural features.

Linear Parks

Linear Parks became a new City park typology in 2021 and, as such, are not described in the 2017 Park Development Manual. A complete description of Linear Parks, including their size and configuration, amenity requirements, vegetation criteria and frontage requirements, will be added to subsequent editions of the Manual. Until that time, proposals for Linear Parks will be examined on an individual basis to determine if they address community recreational needs.

2. Existing and Planned Inventory of City-owned Parkland

In 2021, the City has 2.353 hectares of City-owned and leased active parkland per 1,000 people (see Table 58 and Map 20). Across the city, parkland and recreation amenities in each neighbourhood vary based on when the neighbourhoods were developed and the type of parkland requirements that were in place at that time.

As explained in the 2019 report to Committee and Council *City of Ottawa – New Official Plan Preliminary Policy Directions, Document 2 (ACS2019-PIE-EDP-0046)*, past planning decisions and incentives to encourage growth have had an effect on the availability of City-owned parkland. In inner urban wards, Development Charges are used to construct parks if parkland is secured through a development application agreement. Development charges and parkland dedication/cash-in-lieu of parkland were waived for residential developments in the downtown area from 1994 to 2011, to encourage development in the downtown. This policy applied to an area that is roughly equivalent to the Downtown Core transect.

In 2011, the City began collecting cash-in-lieu of parkland in inner urban wards, but the practice to not acquire public land for parks remained until 2015, when it was

determined that it was important to begin acquiring parkland in these wards. These policies resulted in a 21-year period where no new parks were developed, despite increasing development and redevelopment and the resultant population growth in these areas. While the City is now acquiring parkland in these areas, the ability to acquire land for larger parks to serve local residents can be challenging⁶⁰.

The report *City of Ottawa – New Official Plan Preliminary Policy Directions*, Document 2 additionally explains that “the context is different in suburban areas and rural villages. In recent years, the practice of accepting a combination of both land and cash-in-lieu of parkland has challenged the City’s ability to acquire larger parks. Over the last 5 years, it has demonstrated that individual park sizes have been shrinking overall. On average, 11 new parks per year have been created citywide, at an average size of 1.3 hectares. This trend has led to a demonstratable shortage of active recreation opportunities that require larger parcels. For example, because of smaller parcel sizes, the City typically can only develop intermediate or mini soccer fields instead of full-size ones. In general, soccer leagues switch to full-size fields when children are 12 years old. A trend towards smaller parks restricts the selection of amenities that can be provided to a local community”. By accepting smaller parks sizes, it has become a challenge to meet many community recreation needs and provide facility types that need larger spaces.

Table 58 shows ‘dedicated active parkland 2021’ and ‘new active parkland acquisitions 2021 -2031’. New active parkland acquisitions represent parkland that the City currently knows will be acquired in a transect by 2031; the citywide provision rate in 2031 is based on known planned park acquisitions. The provision rates are calculated based on 2021 and 2031 Official Plan population projections and existing and known acquisitions.

Maps 21 – 29 show the location of existing municipal parkland by transect and the location of known acquisitions to 2031.

As result of ongoing development, additional parkland acquisition is anticipated to 2031, in all transects but, this is not included in the tables or shown on the maps as the park locations and sizes are not currently unknown.

As shown in Table 58, in 2021 some transects are more park rich and some are park deficient. The Downtown Core is the most park deficient at 0.54 hectares per 1,000

⁶⁰Acquiring land for larger parks can be challenging for several reasons including, perceptions that existing parkland meets residents needs, that federal lands provide sufficient recreation opportunities, and that parkland acquisition will compromise development targets, as well as past precedents of accepting a combination of both land and cash-on-lieu of parkland as opposed to land only.

residents. The Inner Urban transect is the second most park deficient at 1.18 hectares per 1,000 residents.

Based on known active parkland acquisition, by 2031 the total City-owned and leased active parkland is expected to be 2.23 hectares per 1,000 people. The Downtown Core and Inner Urban transects will continue to be the most park deficient, while the Rural transect will remain the most park rich.

Table 58: Municipally owned and Leased Active Parkland Provision Level, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

| Area | Dedicated Active Parkland 2021 (hectares) | 2021 Active Parkland per 1,000 people (hectares) | New Active Parkland Acquisition 2021-2031 (hectares) | Total Dedicated Active Parkland in 2031 (hectares) | 2031 Active Parkland per 1,000 people (hectares) |
|------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Downtown Core | 39.92 | 0.54 | 4.06 | 43.98 | 0.51 |
| Inner Urban | 208.78 | 1.18 | 18.14 | 226.92 | 1.17 |
| Outer Urban | 721.21 | 2.48 | 3.19 | 724.40 | 2.31 |
| Suburban West | 357.20 | 2.36 | 78.06 | 435.26 | 2.40 |
| Suburban South | 275.37 | 1.96 | 58.86 | 334.24 | 1.90 |
| Suburban East | 293.05 | 2.15 | 39.27 | 332.32 | 2.12 |
| Rural | 613.18 | 6.29 | 24.63 | 637.81 | 5.48 |
| City-Wide | 2,508.71 | 2.35 | 226.21 | 2,734.92 | 2.23 |

Parkland Need Generated by Facility Needs Assessments

In addition to currently planned facilities to 2031, the facility needs assessments notes instances where additional new facilities should be considered to be built by 2031. These recommended additional facilities and the associated land requirements are summarized in the Table 59.

Table 59: Recommended Additional Facilities and Land Requirements

| Facility Type | Additional facilities to consider adding by 2031 | Land requirement per facility | Total land requirement |
|---|--|--|------------------------|
| Recreation Complex ⁶¹ | 1 | 5.5 ha | 5.5 ha |
| Community Centre | 3 | 0.5ha | 1.5ha |
| Community Building | 4 | 0.5 ha | 2 ha |
| 50m Indoor Aquatic Facility | 1 | 4.7 ha | 4.7 ha |
| Ice surfaces (single-pad, indoor) | 6 | 1.4 – 1.6 ha | 8.4 – 9.6 ha |
| Outdoor Refrigerated Ice Rinks | 3 | 1,800 m ² | .54 ha |
| Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields | 1 | 11,000 m ² | 1.1 ha |
| Natural Grass Full-size Rectangular Sports Fields | 2 | 9,600 m ² | 1.92 ha |
| Ball Diamonds | 10 | 15,000 m ² | 15 ha |
| Tennis / Pickleball | 10 | 1,154 m ² (doubles tennis court) | 1.15 ha |
| Outdoor Basketball Courts | 10 | 608 m ² | 0.61 ha |
| Fitness Equipment | 1 | 250 - 350 m ² | .025 - .035 ha |
| Cricket Pitches | 1 | 2.2 ha | 2.2 ha |
| Gymnasiums | 3 | 1 ha | 3 ha |

The land requirements identified for Recreation Complexes and Community Buildings include the building footprint and all other required land. For the other facilities, the table only identifies the land area to meet the dimension of the facility itself. Because these facilities exist within a larger park, additional land area may be needed to address all supporting park elements such as parking, pathways, servicing bunkers, field safety zones, and the Official Plan (2021) tree canopy requirements.

The estimated amount of parkland to be repurposed or newly acquired, to 2031, will be upwards of 47 hectares. Part of this land requirement will come via Parkland Dedication and the use of the alternative dedication rate under the Planning Act. The City can also purchase land for recreation buildings using Development Charges (DC) funds⁶² or

⁶¹ It is assumed that this would include a standard indoor aquatic facility.

⁶² Funds from Development Charges may not be used to purchase land for parks.

funds collected via Cash-in-lieu of Parkland. However, this funding will not be sufficient to secure all of the required land. Therefore, the City may need to develop other means of land acquisition in order to meet projected parks and facilities needs.

Citywide Distribution of Large and Small Parks

Existing parks can be divided into ‘larger’ and ‘smaller’ parks. Larger parks include the Community and District park typologies and are 3.2 hectares in size or greater. Smaller parks include all smaller typologies and are less than 3.2 hectares in size. Larger park parcels allow more flexibility for the evolution of the park use over time, as the community demographics and needs change. Where a larger park can accommodate multiple changing functions over the years, smaller park spaces have much less ability to evolve.

As noted above, in recent years, the City’s inability to acquire larger parks has led to a demonstratable shortage of active recreation opportunities that require larger parcels. Table 60 identifies the total number of large & small parks in each transect and provides a large to small park ratio. The citywide average ratio of large to small parks is 1:5. The Downtown Core has the fewest large parks (2) & the largest ratio of large to small parks at 1:20. By 2031, this ratio is projected to be 1:25. All other transects have a current large to small part ratio of 1:7 or less, which is projected to remain the case in 2031.

Table 60: Large and Small Parks by Transect 2021-2031⁶³

| Area | 2021 large parks (#) | 2021 small parks (#) | 2021 ratio of large to small parks | Total 2031 large parks (#) | Total 2031 small parks (#) | 2031 ratio of large to small parks |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Downtown Core | 2 | 40 | 1 : 20 | 2 | 50 | 1 : 25 |
| Inner Urban | 18 | 119 | 1 : 7 | 19 | 139 | 1 : 7 |
| Outer Urban | 53 | 227 | 1 : 4 | 53 | 232 | 1 : 4 |
| Suburban West | 27 | 161 | 1 : 6 | 35 | 190 | 1 : 5 |
| Suburban South | 19 | 112 | 1 : 6 | 24 | 136 | 1 : 6 |
| Suburban East | 37 | 85 | 1 : 2 | 40 | 106 | 1 : 3 |
| Rural | 40 | 153 | 1 : 4 | 45 | 158 | 1 : 4 |
| City-Wide | 196 | 897 | 1 : 5 | 218 | 1011 | 1 : 5 |

⁶³ The 2031 ratios are based on known parkland acquisition to 2031.

3. Benchmarking

Table 61 provides a comparison of municipal provision⁶⁴ of parkland per 1,000 people. At 2.0 hectares per 1,000 people, Ottawa's Official Plan (2003) target for parks and leisure areas falls within the middle range of parkland provision.

Table 61: Municipal provision of parkland per 1,000 people

| Municipality | Municipal Parkland per 1,000 people (hectares) | Notes |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Guelph | 3.3 | Target for active parkland |
| Burlington | 3.19 | Includes woodlots, trails, general open space etc. |
| St. Catherine's | 3.0 | Includes woodlots, general open space etc. |
| Barrie | 2.2 | Target for active parkland |
| Whitby | 2.0 | Target for Municipal Parkland |
| Ottawa | 2.0 | Target for municipal parks and leisure areas (2003 OP) |
| Milton | 1.75 | Actual provision rate of active parkland is 2.15 hectares. 1.75 is new target based on 2021 parkland target report. |
| Richmond Hill | 1.37 | |
| Mississauga | 1.2 | Target for active parkland |
| London | 1.15 | Current provision rate for active parkland; no set target |
| Brampton | 1.6 | Represents land suitable for active parks and is the minimum recommended provision rate |
| Hamilton | 0.7 | Target for urban active parkland |
| Toronto | - | Toronto uses four criteria to identify parkland priority transects for acquisition / dedication of parkland. The four criteria are: parkland provision (in 2033), existing low park supply, impact of growth (to 2033) and low-income residents (%) ⁶⁵ . |

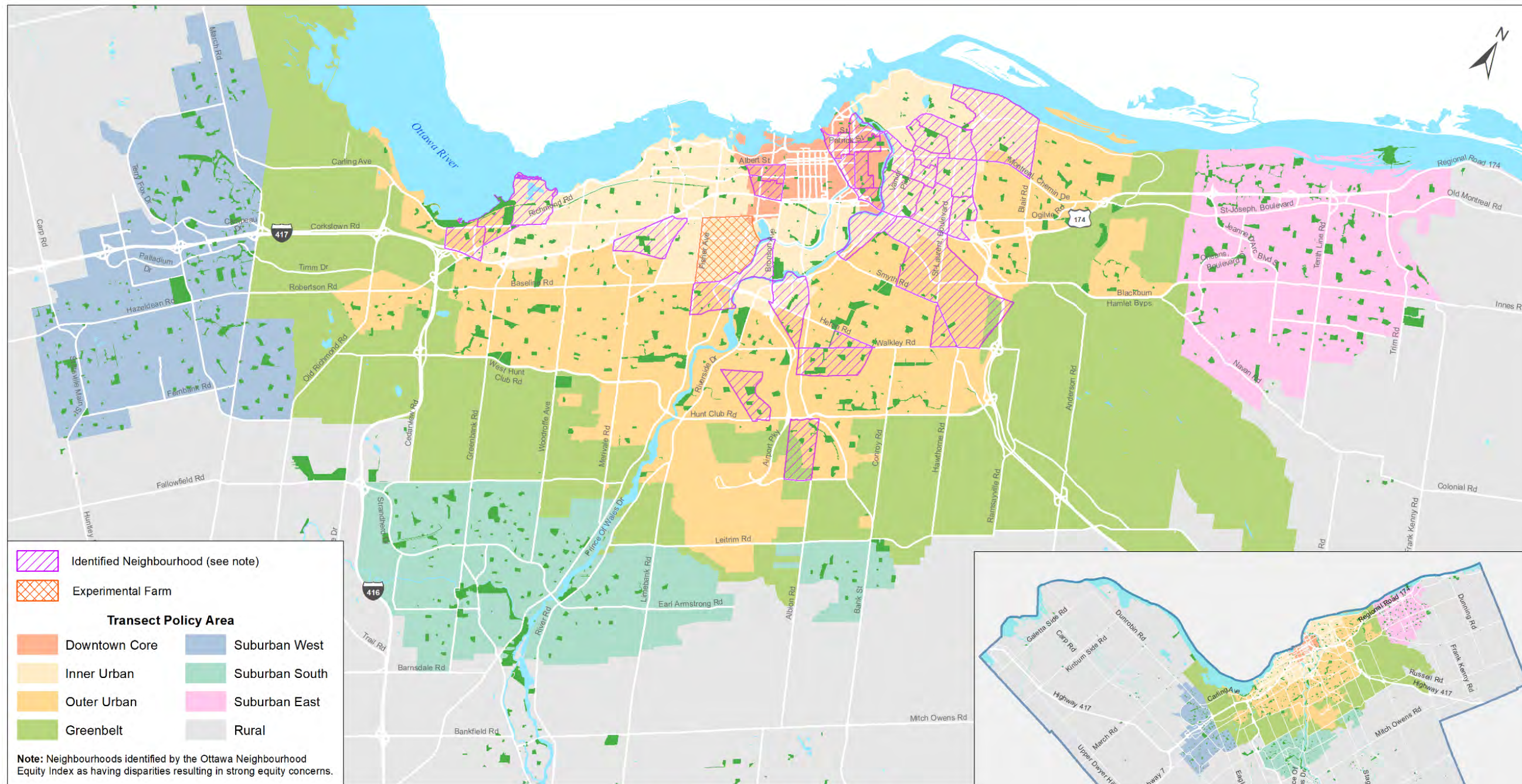
⁶⁴ Figures come from direct correspondence with municipal staff and represent municipally owned parkland.

⁶⁵ More information can be found in Toronto's Parkland Strategy

4. Provision Level Targets and Recommendations

1. Set the citywide provision rate for active parkland at 2.0 hectares per 1,000 residents and apply this provision rate to each transect. 2.0 hectares per 1,000 residents is recommended as:
 - a. This is consistent with the Official Plan (2003) target of 2.0 hectares per 1,000 people for parks and leisure areas.
 - b. This is required to meet the land requirements to provide the additional new facilities as recommended in the recreation facility needs assessments.
 - c. As measured against other Ontario municipalities, Ottawa's provision level will remain in the middle range
 - d. This recognizes the maximum amounts of land that can be acquired through the Planning Act and Parkland Dedication By-law
 - e. Input received through the public consultations identified that importance of both maintaining existing parks and adding new facilities for residents
 - f. The City's current parkland provision rate is 2.35 hectares per 1,000 people. Dropping the rate significantly below the recommendation would reduce the service level that residents have come to expect and enjoy.
2. Prioritize the acquisition of new parkland in transects and areas that do not meet the 2.0 hectares per 1,000 people target, as shown in Tables 58 and Maps 1 - 3.
3. Set a transect level ratio of large to small parks at 1:5. This recommendation does not supersede the Land First policy of Section 7.2 meaning, where development would only generate a small park, land will still be taken rather than cash-in-lieu of parkland.
4. Prioritize the acquisition of large parks in transects where the ratio is higher than 1:5.

Map 20: City of Ottawa - Municipally Owned Active Parkland



Identified Neighbourhood (see note)
 Experimental Farm

Transect Policy Area

| | |
|--|--|
| Downtown Core | Suburban West |
| Inner Urban | Suburban South |
| Outer Urban | Suburban East |
| Greenbelt | Rural |

Note: Neighbourhoods identified by the Ottawa Neighbourhood Equity Index as having disparities resulting in strong equity concerns.

City of Ottawa - Municipally owned and leased active parkland

Parkland

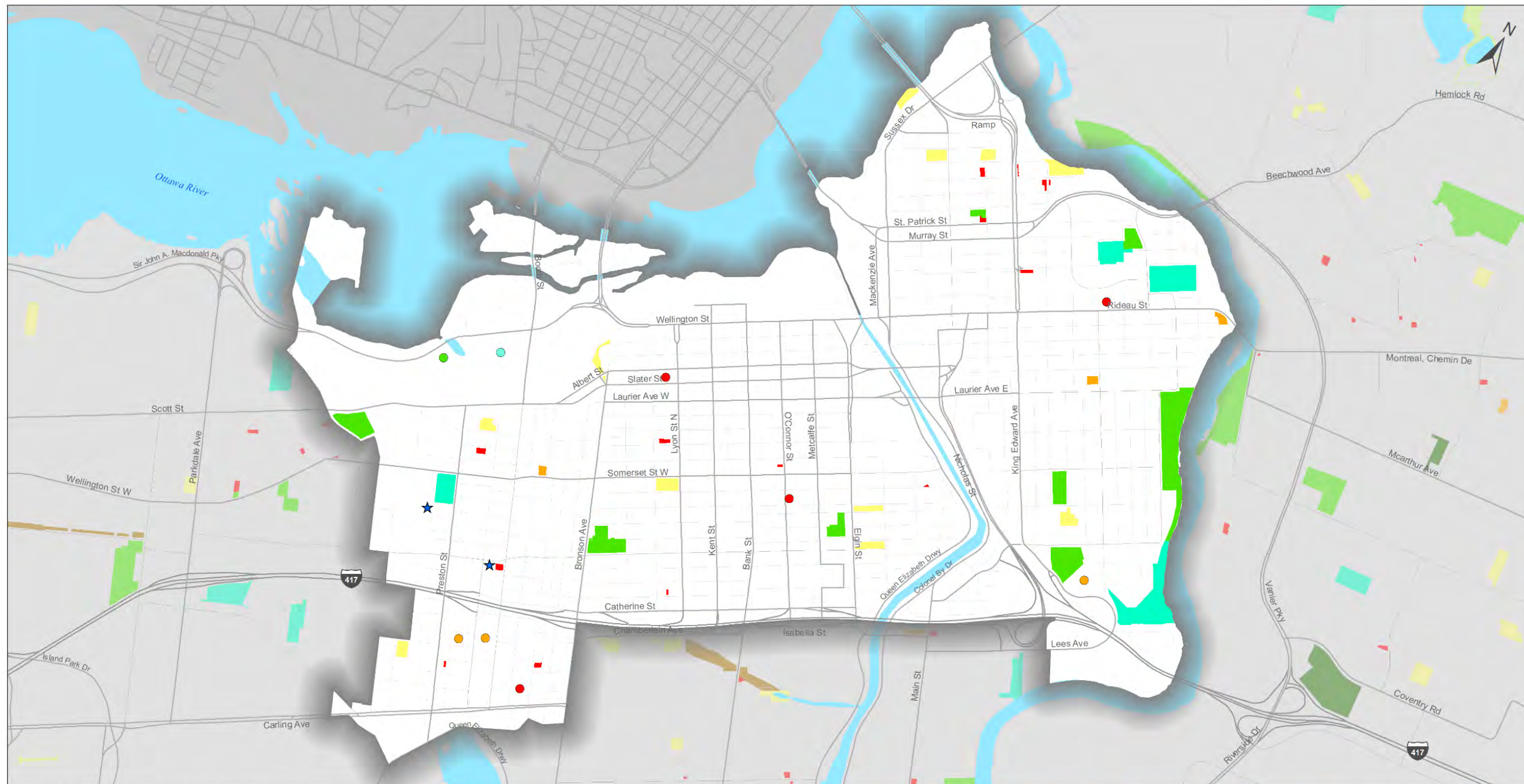
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Maps 21: City of Ottawa Parkland - Downtown Core Transect



City of Ottawa Parkland - Downtown Core Transect

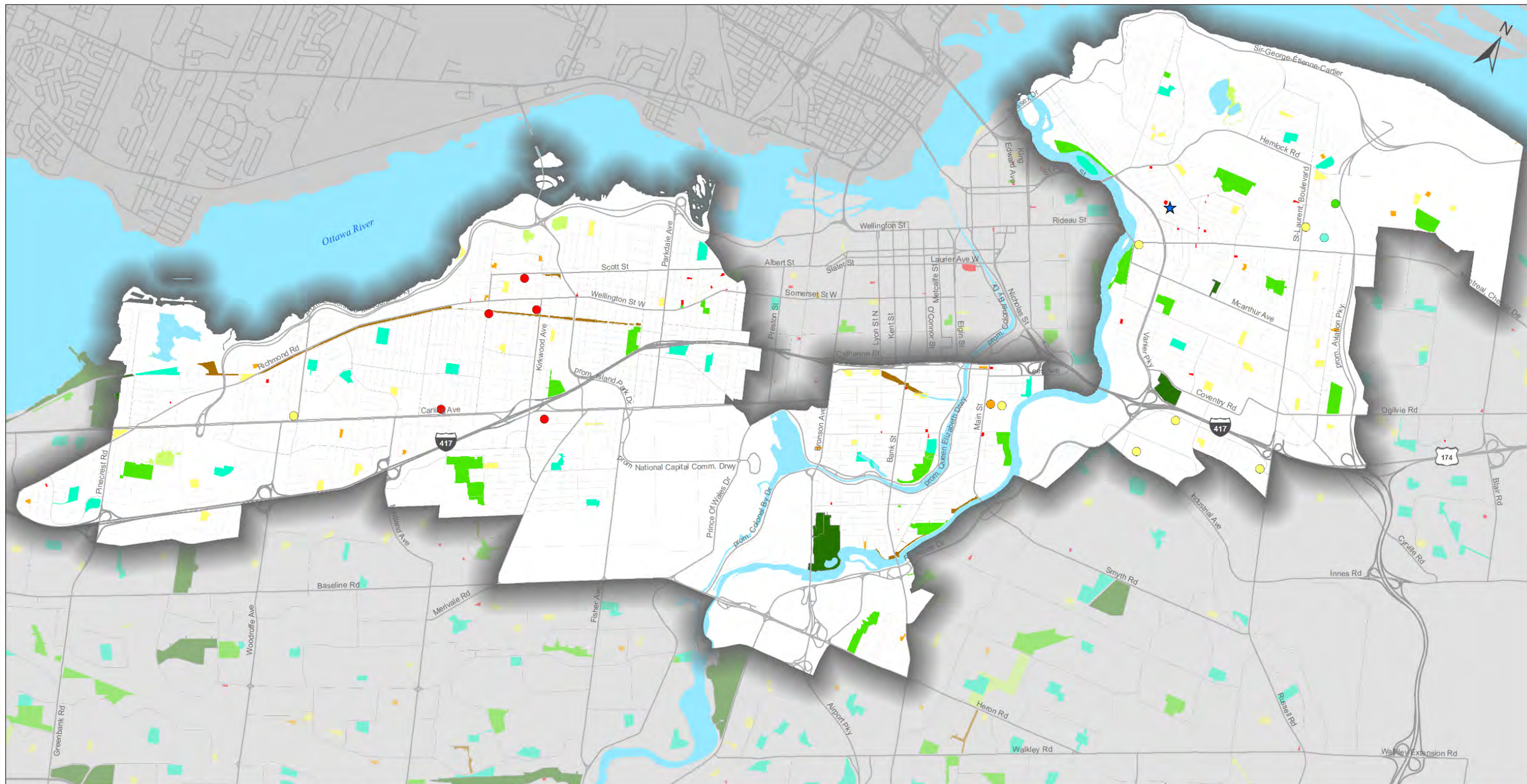
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Map 22: City of Ottawa Parkland – Inner Urban Transect

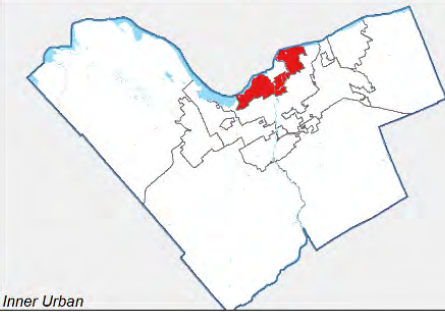


City of Ottawa Parkland - Inner Urban Transect

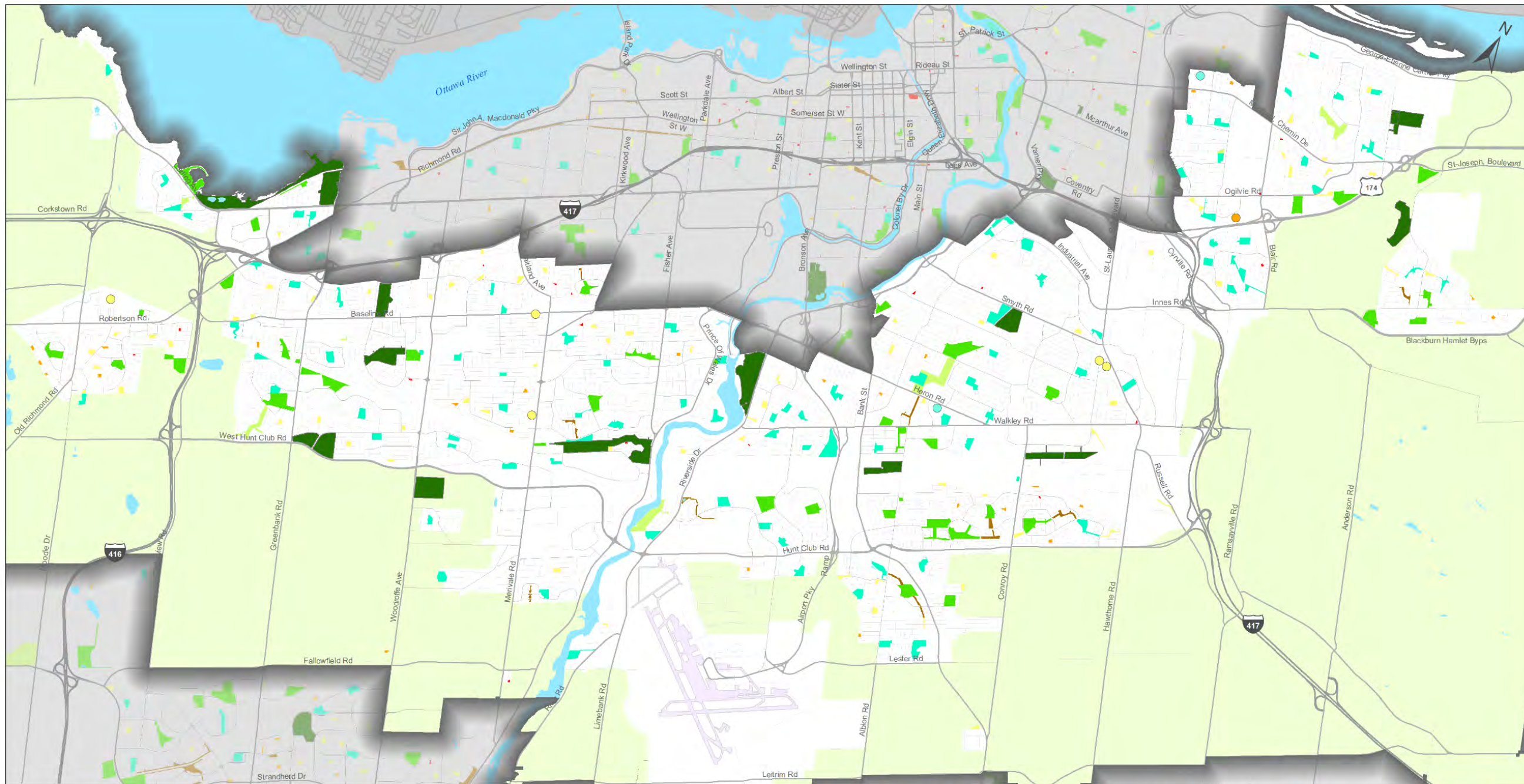
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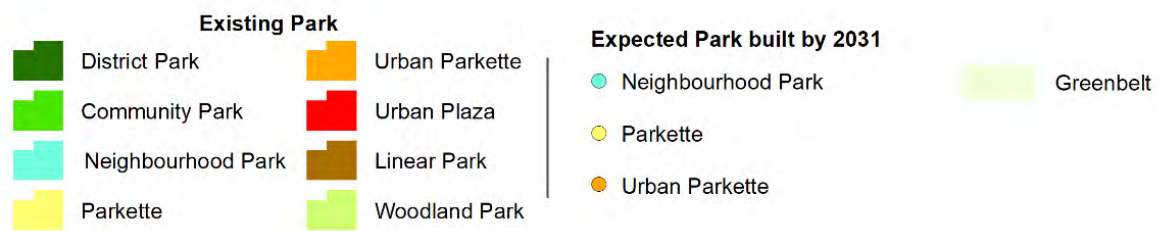


Map 23: City of Ottawa Parkland – Outer Urban and Greenbelt Transects

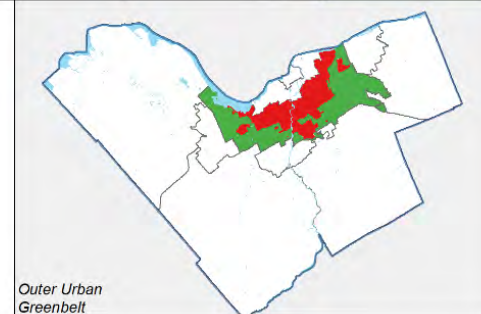


City of Ottawa Parkland - Outer Urban & Greenbelt Transects

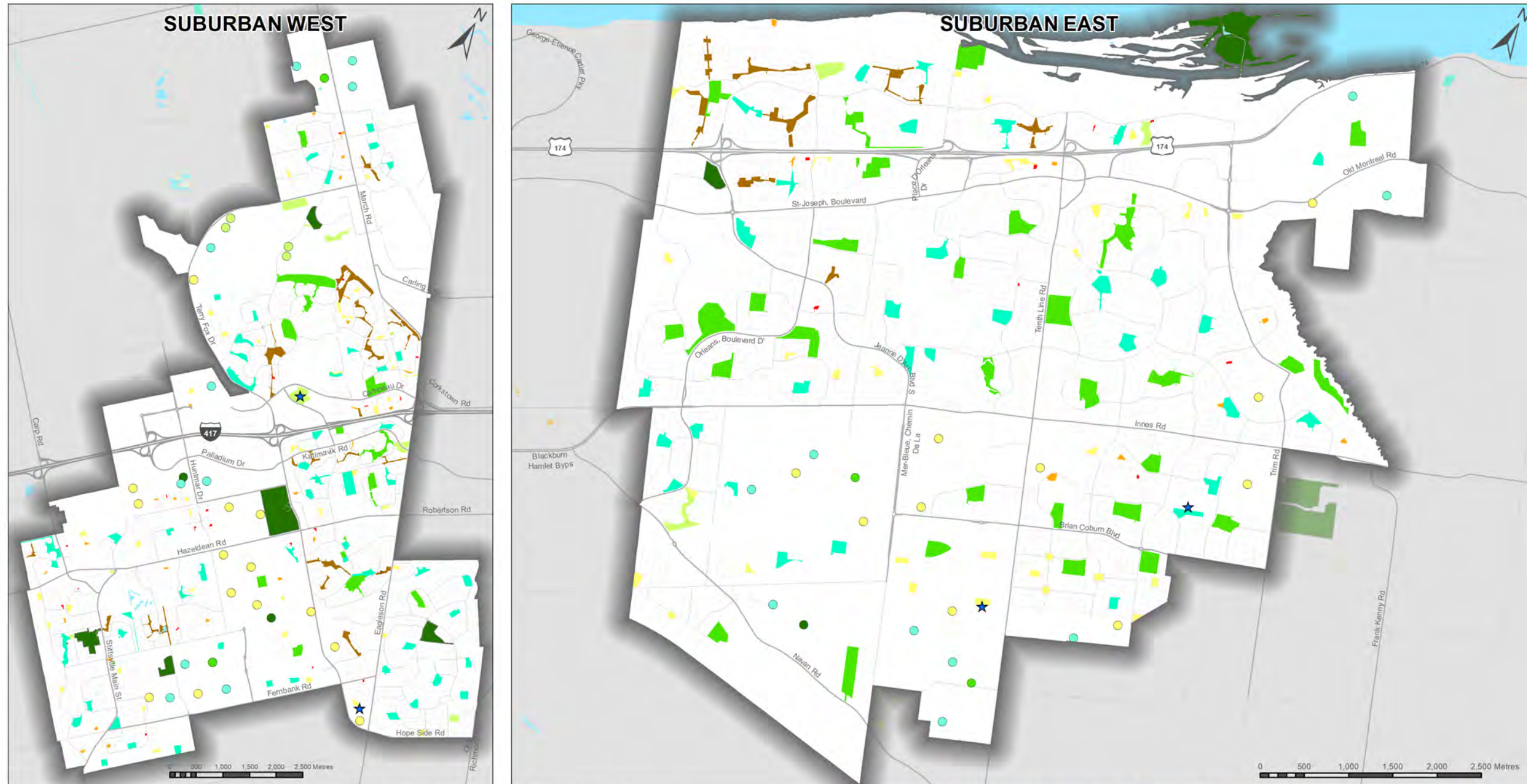
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Map 24: City of Ottawa Parkland – Suburban West and Suburban East Transects



City of Ottawa Parkland - Suburban West and Suburban East Transects

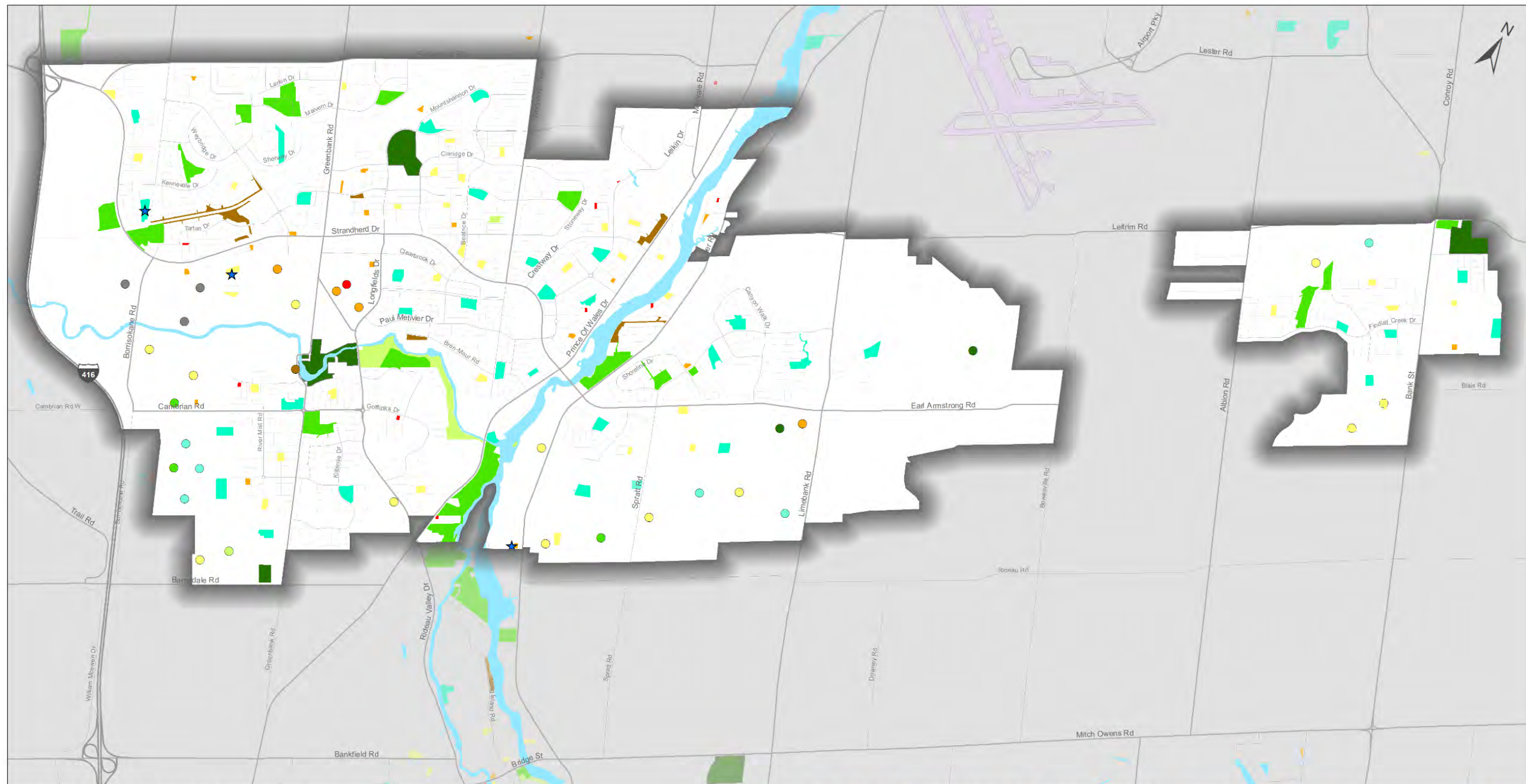
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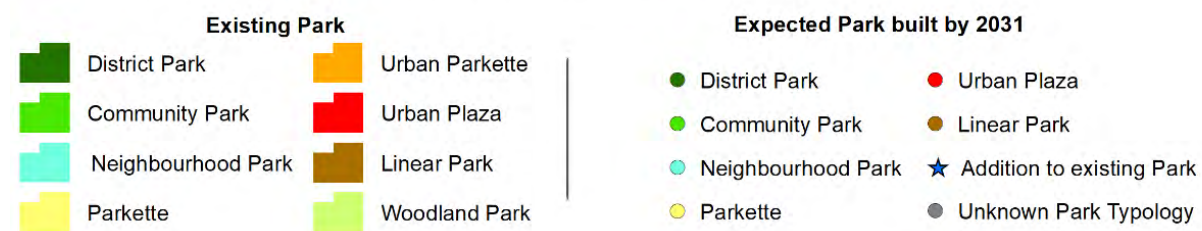


Map 25: City of Ottawa Parkland – Suburban South Transect

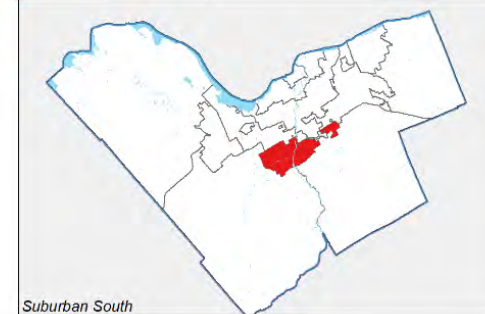


City of Ottawa Parkland - Suburban South Transect

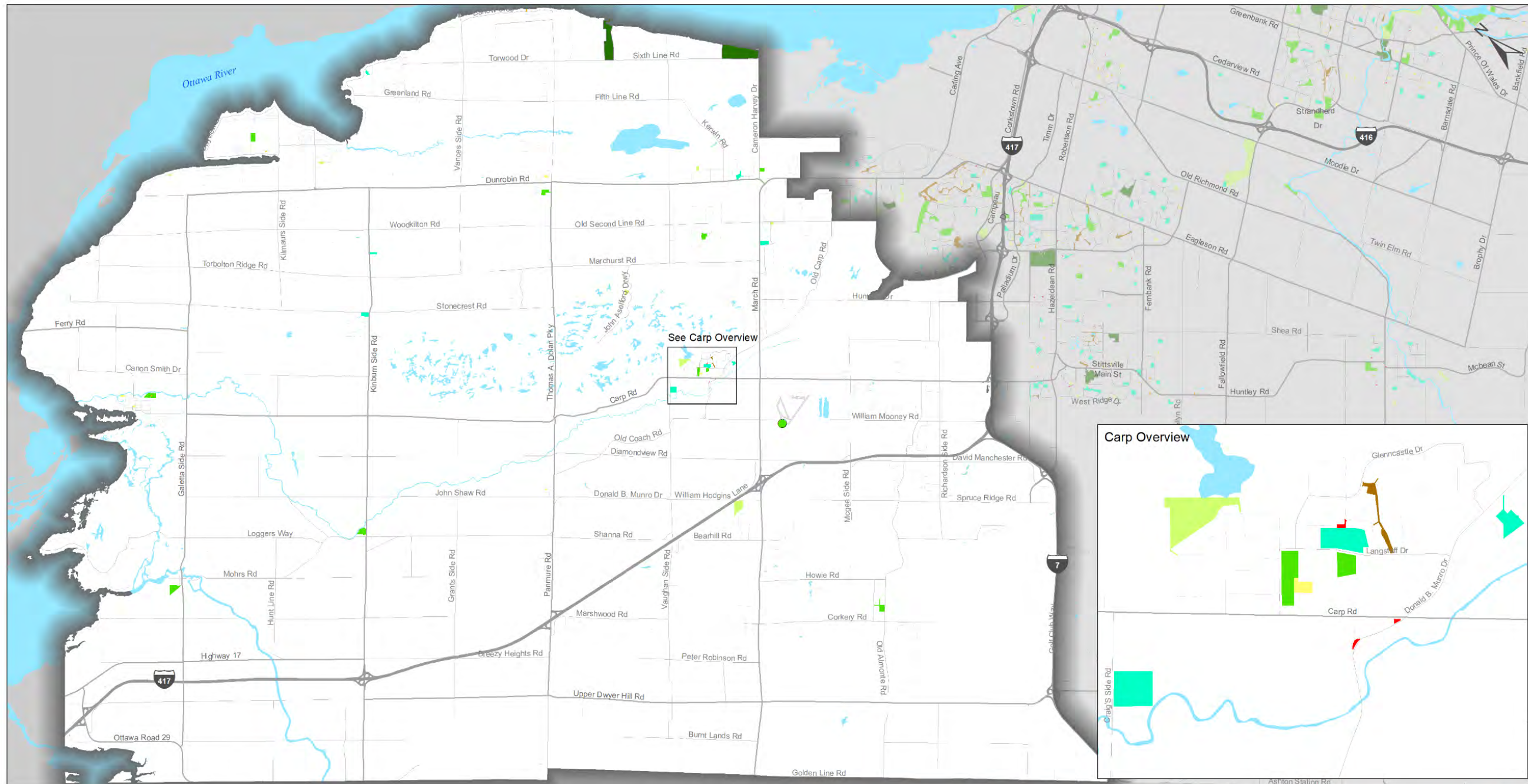
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Map 26: City of Ottawa Parkland – Rural Northwest



City of Ottawa Parkland - Rural Northwest

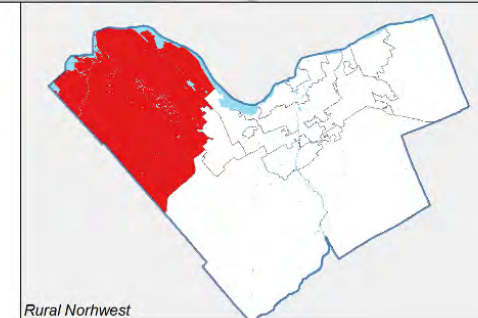
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- | Existing Park | |
|---|--------------------|
|  | District Park |
|  | Community Park |
|  | Neighbourhood Park |
|  | Parkette |
|  | Urban Parkette |
|  | Urban Plaza |
|  | Linear Park |
|  | Woodland Park |

- Expected Park built by 2031**
-  Community Park



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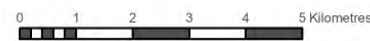
Map 27: City of Ottawa Parkland – Rural Northeast



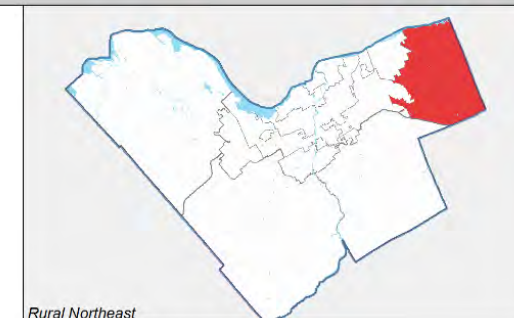
City of Ottawa Parkland - Rural Northeast

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

- Existing Park**
- District Park
 - Community Park
 - Neighbourhood Park
 - Parkette
 - Urban Parkette
 - Urban Plaza
 - Linear Park
 - Woodland Park



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Map 28: City of Ottawa Parkland – Rural Southeast

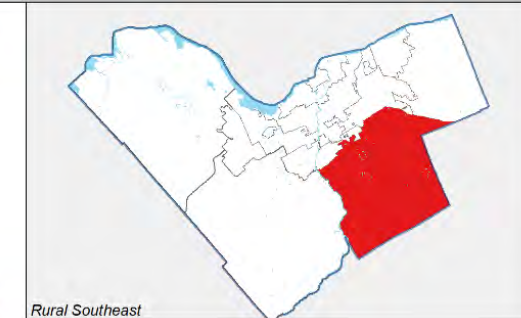


City of Ottawa Parkland - Rural Southeast

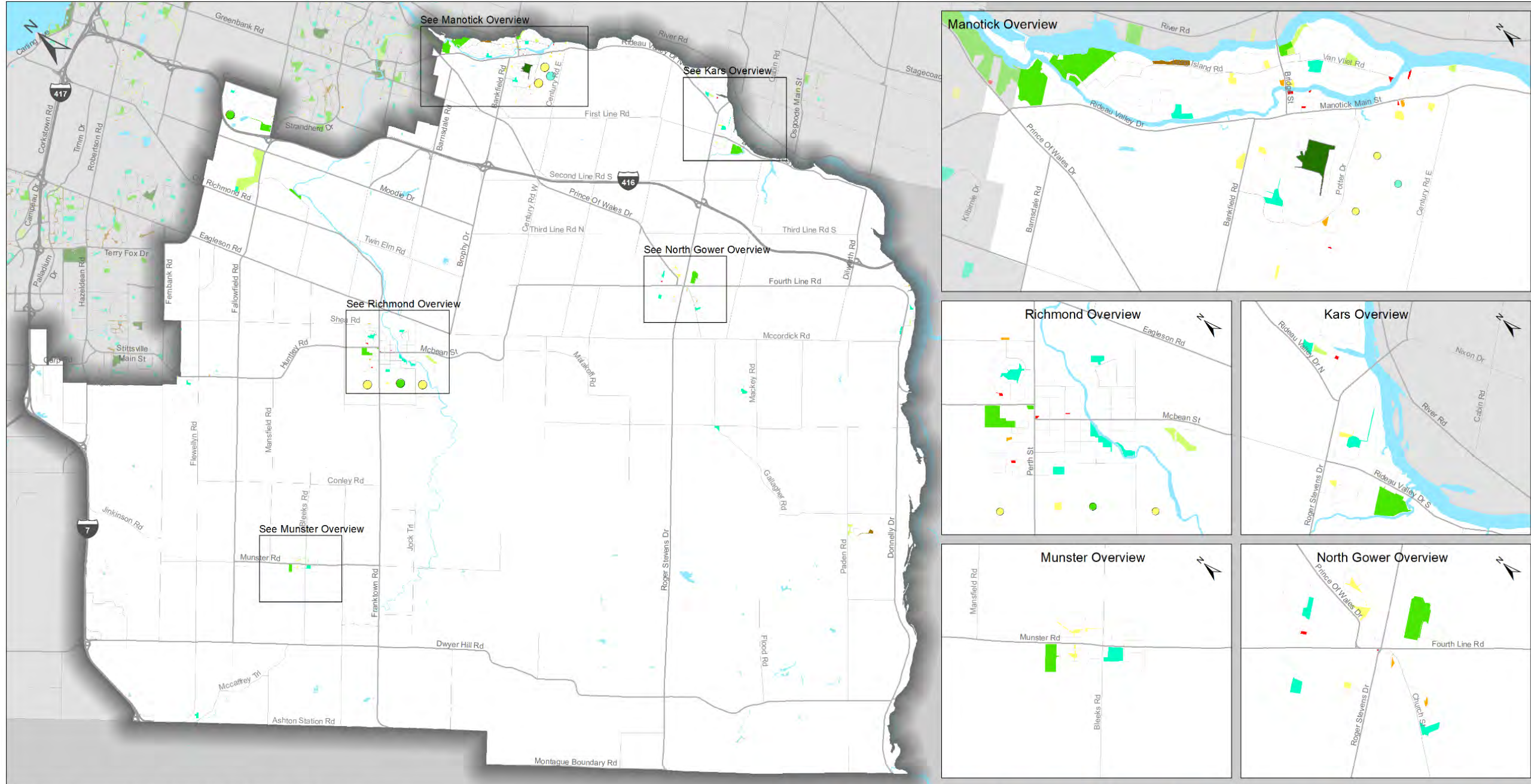
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Map 29: City of Ottawa Parkland – Rural Southwest

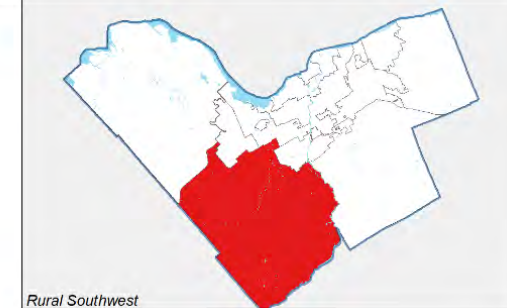


City of Ottawa Parkland - Rural Southwest

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Appendix C: Sports and Facilities not subject of this Master Plan

Appendix A provides needs assessments for 23 recreational facility types. These are recreational facilities that are provided on municipally owned or leased parkland, are addressed by the City of Ottawa's Recreation Infrastructure Standards and / or are considered by the City to be essential for a citywide base level of service.

There are a number of specialized sports and facility installations that are not included in this document, as they are unique opportunities and are above Recreation Culture and Facility Services' base citywide provision levels. These include:

- Bike polo
- Bocce
- Community gardens
- Cross-country trails
- Curling
- Disk Golf
- Equestrian
- Horseshoe pits
- Golf
- Paddling
- Rowing
- Roller Derby
- Sailing
- Sports Domes
- Track and Field
- Stand-alone washrooms buildings

Appendix D: Impacts of Climate Change on Parkland and Recreation Facilities

The provision of parks and recreation facilities contributes both to Ottawa's ability to meet its greenhouse gas emission (GHG) targets (the city's contribution to climate change) and our ability to be a healthy, liveable city in future climate conditions. While actions taken to address climate change mitigation and adaptation may be dealt with in separate plans, policies, or programs (including the Parks Development Manual, relevant Asset Management Plan or maintenance and operation plans), this section outlines the key climate implications.

In order to achieve the long-term targets to reduce GHG emissions, the City must reduce energy consumption and emissions citywide, including within recreational facilities. Recreational facilities will be required to be designed and built to fulfill the energy efficiency targets as identified in Energy Evolution. Requirements will be met through such policies as the Green Building Policy for the Construction of Corporate Buildings. Policies within the Draft Official Plan support and encourage innovative design practice and technologies as part of site planning and building design.

The City shall assess opportunities to conserve energy, reduce peak demand and provide resilience to power disruptions as part of new development. Local integrated energy solutions that incorporate renewable energy such as district energy in high thermal density areas, geothermal and waste heat energy capturing systems and energy storage are supported.

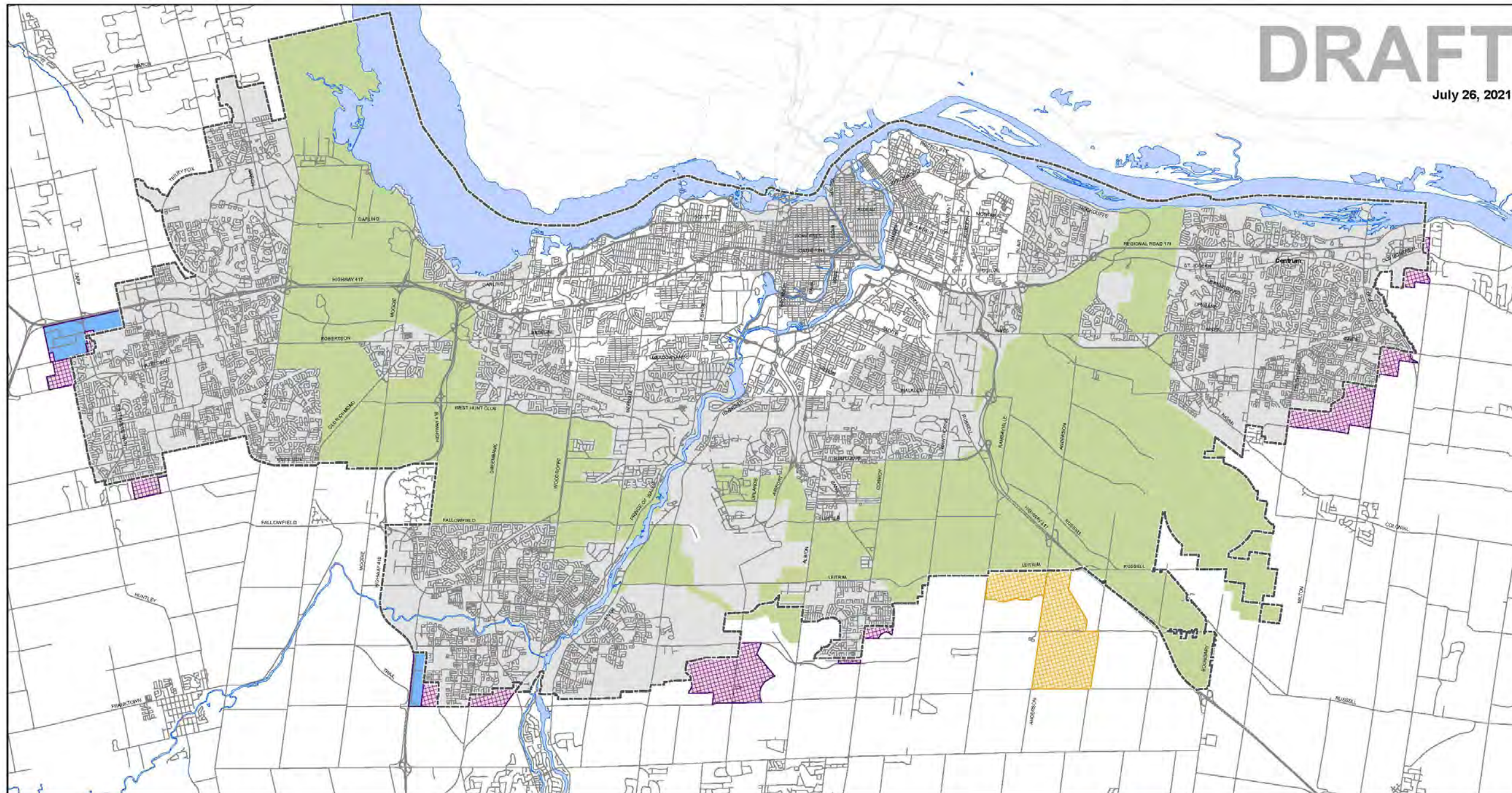
While the impacts of climate change will be looked at in further detail as a part of the climate vulnerability assessment and Climate Resiliency Strategy, projected changes in temperature, precipitation and extreme weather will have broad impacts on our parks and recreation facilities. Anticipated impacts include:

1. Higher temperatures year-round will lead to extended recreational opportunities in spring and fall yet, reduce winter recreational opportunities such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and outdoor skating.
2. Higher temperatures and extreme heat will increase the need for cool passive recreational areas to protect at-risk populations such as the very young, older adults, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness who don't have good access to air conditioning. This includes access to green spaces that have tree canopy and shaded structures. Warmer summer seasons and extreme heat will also increase the need for shaded active recreational areas and cooling amenities where people can seek reprieve from the heat. This will be particularly important in neighbourhoods with residents who have poor access to air

conditioning and/or with limited green space or tree canopy. Shaded recreation areas will permit people to safely recreate.




3. Extreme heat events and extended summer seasons may increase the need for recreational programs, such as indoor and outdoor pools, splash pads and beaches. This will be particularly important in neighbourhoods with vulnerable populations or with limited green space or tree canopy.
4. Extreme heat contributes to increased health risks (sunburn, fainting, dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke) and injuries, especially for:
 - a. people playing sports with protective gear (e.g., football);
 - b. children encountering hot metal surfaces in playgrounds;
 - c. people with pre-existing health conditions or who are vulnerable due to age (i.e., the very young and older adults); and
 - d. people participating in activities on artificial turf surfaces as these materials heat up faster and retain the heat longer into the day.
5. Sports and recreation fields can be impacted by wetter springs (delaying openings) and warmer, drier summers (impacting turf regeneration).
6. Warmer temperatures and extended spring, summer and fall seasons may require different plant species which are more heat or drought tolerant. Conditions may be more favourable for invasive species and pests such as ticks or tree diseases.
7. An increase in extreme events, including high winds, freezing rain or heavy snow, can damage or kill trees and other vegetation, and require increased maintenance to clear branches and trees.
8. Warmer temperatures will reduce heating requirements in the winter months and increase cooling demands during the summer months affecting heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) systems in facilities.



Appendix E: Official Plan (2021) Schedule C17 Urban Expansion Areas



DRAFT
July 26, 2021

URBAN EXPANSION AREAS / ZONES D'EXPANSION URBAINE

-  Category 1 - Future Neighbourhood Overlay /
Catégorie 1 - Zone sous-jacente de quartier futur
-  Category 2 - Future Neighbourhood Overlay - New Tewin Community /
Catégorie 2 - Zone sous-jacente de quartier futur - Nouvelle communauté de Tewin
-  Industrial and Logistics /
Industrie et Logistique

-  Existing Urban Boundary / Périètre d'urbanisation
-  Greenbelt / Ceinture de verdure



Official Plan / Plan officiel
Schedule C17 - Urban Expansion Areas
Annexe C17 - Zones d'expansion urbaine



Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department, Geospatial Analytics, Technology and Solutions
Services de la planification, de l'infrastructure et du développement économique, Analyse géospatiale, technologie et solutions