

# Document 4 – Summary of Current Recreation Facility Related Impacts on Service Delivery

## Introduction

Recreation, Cultural and Facilities Services (RCFS) Department is developing a Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (The Plan). The Plan will be a supporting document to the City’s Official Plan (2021). The Master Plan is a comprehensive review of the City’s current provision levels for parks and facilities and provides an analysis and projection of what parks and recreation facilities will be required to serve the needs of the city’s residents through to 2031. The Plan uses Official Plan (2021) population growth projections to 2031 and benchmarking of other municipalities to create a per capita provision rate for recreation facilities and amenities in each Official Plan transect.

## Purpose of this attachment

This attachment, although not part of the original Master Plan process, provides a program delivery lens to recreation facility needs that will accompany the master plan as well as an overview of some of the more prevalent facility related service delivery challenges. This document was developed after Master Plan public consultations generated significant input from residents and community groups relating to service delivery gaps and challenges beyond the growth-related focus of the Plan. For example, outdated community facilities relative to today’s modern standards are counted in the Master Plan’s service provision ratios, though frequently these facilities are too small or do not meet current accessibility or programming standards to properly address community needs.

This document provides a qualitative review of five key facility types in each of the transects identified in the Master Plan Each transect will include an introduction and a review of the pools, arenas, gyms, community space, and field houses in that area based on information collected from subject matter experts during the summer of 2021.

## Transects

### Downtown Core Transect

The downtown core is geographically the smallest transect with a population that fluctuates significantly at certain times due to the influx of day-time workers, tourism,

and special events. Recreation facilities tend to be smaller, older and to serve a neighborhood level of activity. In addition to City recreation facilities, this transect hosts recreation amenities with public access operated by the University of Ottawa, including a pool, arenas, gyms, and sports fields. The City is a partner in the Lees Avenue campus synthetic turf field and benefits from seasonal use made available to community users. The area also benefits from the amenities at the Downtown YMYWCA, including a pool and gym space.

The Downtown Core has four indoor swimming pools: Champagne, Jack Purcell, Lowertown and Plant Recreation Center. The pools have some programming and service gaps due to their age and unique characteristics. Plant Pool is the most modern pool in the area and meets most of the modern standards for programmability and accessibility. Lowertown Pool is a full 25-meter pool but was constructed without many of the accessibility standards required today. Jack Purcell and Champagne pools are both smaller in size than the current standard, and have issues with accessibility, changeroom sizes, and program amenities. Jack Purcell Pool is a therapeutic pool with very warm water and therefore has limitations for broader public use, lane swims and aquatic sports.

The upper floor of the Champagne Pool has been creatively adapted to host a fitness center, and combined with the limited pool amenities below, has become a facility more focused on meeting adult fitness needs. The pools do not have ramp entries and do not offer universal changerooms. This limits the ability to serve residents with mobility issues as well as individuals who would use universal change rooms (resident and support worker, parent with child of the opposite sex, etc.). In addition, limited deck space reduces the amount of lifeguarding and certification courses that can be offered.

The pools in the core, other than the Plant Bath Recreation Centre, are not multipurpose and do not meet the requirements for aquatic sports (water polo, diving, artistic swimming, etc.) or for fitness swims. Residents often must travel outside the transect to access these services. Pools in the core have one tank which limits the amount and type of programming that can occur – lane swimmers want the water cooler whereas preschool and senior swimmers want it warmer and more therapeutic. The RCFS Inclusive Recreation team runs a vast amount of their programming out of the Jack Purcell Community Centre and pool. Adding features like an accessible kitchen would allow for a more comprehensive program offering.

The two arenas in the downtown core are single pad older facilities. The pad at the Sandy Hill arena is a standard size of 200 ft x 85ft and has a significant 1,300 seat spectator area. McNabb arena has a sub-standard 175ft x 75ft pad with a smaller 300

seat spectator area. The facilities have limited changeroom space with limited accessibility and support amenities. They are adequate to support local uses for public skating and minor sports but are not a suitable option for competitive sports or to host tournaments and competitions. Both facilities provide significant ice time for the growing demand for girl's hockey. This transect does not have a double or multi pad municipal arena with support amenities to meet current needs.

The gyms in the downtown core are limited in numbers and small. Two community centers, McNabb, and Jack Purcell share gym space with an elementary school. The gym at the Routhier Community Center is popular for community rentals but very basic and terms of features and support amenities. The gyms at the Lowertown Community Centre (Le Patro) are of a better quality and there are opportunities to expand and diversify community use. The lack of full-size gym space in the transect is acutely felt during evenings and weekends and this is further accentuated by reduced access to some school gyms. Sports groups have reported programming gaps for all gym sports but especially ones in highest demand and emerging trends such as basketball, badminton and pickleball.

Community meeting and programming space in the downtown core is primarily provided at neighborhood community centers. This area is home to many active community associations that are active users of the available spaces for their own programming, special events and activities. As well, the central location attracts groups coming from all parts of the city. Limited parking and storage space in the smaller buildings are often mentioned as challenges that cause users to seek alternatives outside the core in newer facilities City Hall is within this transect and offers a variety of room sizes for community use and Marion Dewar Plaza to support community programming, festivals, and special events. A few of the community centers in this area are also impacted by non-recreation or community uses for the spaces. Notably, portions of the Routhier Community Center are dedicated to the City's Public Art program, the gym and some of the community rooms at the McNabb Community Centre are shared with the adjacent school and the Lowertown Community Centre has exclusive space dedicated to Le Patro and the Lowertown Community Resource Centre operations.

The Core was part of the old City of Ottawa and therefore benefitted from the construction of several fieldhouses in parks to support the wading pool and outdoor rink programs. These buildings were designed to provide very basic support to park activities and generally do not meet the needs for community space or expanded indoor programming without significant expansion, renovation, or replacement. The Jules Morin Fieldhouse is an excellent example in this transect of a of a successful

replacement project of a dated facility with a more modern and versatile fieldhouse. There is significant community interest in this transect and others to replace or expand existing fieldhouses to provide a broader range of local recreation services year-round while maintaining support to park activities.

## **Inner Urban Transect**

The inner urban transect has many similarities to the Downtown Core transect in terms of the type and age of recreation facilities. It consists of well-established communities with active Associations that face some limitations and gaps in service based on the design of local aging recreation facilities and often with little to no room for future expansion. In addition to City recreation facilities, this transect hosts recreation amenities with public access operated by Carleton University, including a pool, arenas, gyms, and sports fields. The area also benefits from recreation facilities at the RA Centre, including an outdoor pool and gym space.

The pools in the inner urban transect include Brewer, St. Laurent and Dovercourt. Brewer and St. Laurent are more traditional rectangular pools, while Dovercourt is a leisure pool. This transect also includes the Genest deep water outdoor pool. The gaps in service are very similar to the pools in the core transect with limited universal changerooms and pool layouts that do not accommodate aquatic sports. Brewer Pool features an additional lane and a larger spectator area which has made it popular for hosting aquatic competitions. Dovercourt's leisure pool concept provides a more relaxed approach to aquatic activity, with a basin better adapted to non-competitive uses. Most of the pools lack fun modernized components that kids, youth, and camps enjoy such as diving boards, Tarzan ropes or slides.

The arenas in this transect are mostly single pads that are well used by minor sport organizations and families. This transect also hosts one double pad at the Jim Durrell Recreation Center and the City's first outdoor refrigerated ice surface with a roof adjacent to the Canterbury Arena thus creating new capacity at the site. Four of the transects arenas feature large, attached community halls that provide valuable additional space to accommodate local and City-wide sports and community events. The RA Centre's decision to re-purpose their arena is expected to impact the availability of ice time in the area and increase the demand for adult leagues in the transect and across the City.

The six gyms in the inner urban transect are busy with sports and fitness programming and drop ins. There is a good mix of gym space available for rentals and city run programs. The older gyms in the transect have a design limitation in terms of the area

surrounding the courts being too narrow to allow for serving and safe run off space to accommodate sports like pickleball and volleyball.

Community space in the inner urban transect offers a variety of spaces ranging from small community buildings, to full size community centers, to the unique buildings at Lansdowne Park. Larger facilities include sites like Hintonburg, Overbrook, Richelieu Vanier, and Dovercourt. Smaller facilities include sites like Manor Park, Dempsey, Laroche, Old Town Hall and McKellar. Local Community Associations in the transect play a significant role in delivering some or all of the programming in many community centers. The Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre is a hub for community activities on its first floor but dedicates the second floor to the local museum. Lansdowne Park facilities have a significant portion of available time dedicated to hosting large events with citywide and tourism appeal. The Glebe, Old Ottawa East and Ottawa South facilities have heritage characteristics that impact on useability and ability to modify the facility. Several Community Centers in the transect have seen major renovations or new construction and expansion in recent times, including Overbrook, Churchill Seniors Center, Lindenlea, New Edinburg, Van Lang, Ottawa South, and McKellar. There are also plans to develop a new Community Center as part of the Greystone development in Old Ottawa East, including a new gym.

The fieldhouses in the inner urban transect were part of the former City of Ottawa and built to support the wading pool and outdoor rink programs. These buildings were designed to provide very basic support to park activities and generally do not meet the needs for community space or expanded indoor programming without significant expansion and renovation. McKellar Park is an excellent example of a successful fieldhouse replacement project to meet current needs, as it offers programmable space for camps and community activities, in addition to maintaining its ability to support park activities. Laroche Park Fieldhouse is currently undergoing a similar replacement. There is growing community interest in this transect and others to pursue fieldhouse projects like the one at McKellar or Jules Morin.

## **Outer Urban Transect**

Residents in this area have access to a wide range of recreation amenities such as gyms, complexes, outdoor deep-water pools, a wave pool, arenas, and smaller community centers. This transect also provides convenient access for suburban residents who access facilities not available in their area or convenient to them. In addition to City recreation facilities, this transect hosts recreation amenities with public access operated by Algonquin College, including a gym and sports field.

The pools in the outer urban transect offer a variety of options to residents including: a wave pool, an outdoor deep-water pool, a therapeutic warm water leisure pool, standard 25-meter indoor pools, a 50-meter pool and a beach. Gaps in service are similar to what is seen in the Core and inner urban transects, including limited or lack of universal changerooms, absence of amenities to support competitive aquatic sports, and limited space and pool configurations to support concurrent programming. Another gap in service is limited access at the Deborah Ann Kirwan pool, which is owned by and attached to a school. This shared use of the facility limits the City's access to only evenings and weekends during most of the year. The warm water temperature and configuration of this pool also limits the type of aquatic programming that can be offered. This transect also has an indoor pool with public access operated by the Boys and Girls Club Britannia Unit.

Outdoor deep-water pools in this transect are extremely popular in the summer months for public swimming and learn to swim programs and play an important part in meeting local needs. These pools are aging, fall short of modern programming and accessibility standards and would benefit from a replacement similar to the work done at Crestview Pool. Historically, the Nepean Sportsplex has been the City's hub for aquatic sport competitions being the only aquatic facility in Eastern Ontario with the capabilities to host aquatic sport competitions at the regional, provincial, national, and international levels. Over the years, sport competition standards have changed, and aquatic sports have evolved. As a result, the Nepean Sportsplex is no longer a sought-after option for aquatic sport training and competitions at all levels since the pool no longer meets many competition standards. Though the pool continues to play an important role in meeting community aquatic programming and leisure activities, it is no longer a contender to host competitions and a new modern alternative 50-meter pool is needed.

The arenas in the outer urban transect are in high demand for minor hockey. There are six single pad facilities as well as three ice pads at the Nepean Sportsplex. One of the single pads, the Belltown Dome, has the City's smallest ice surface dimensions, temporary trailer dressing rooms and a short season because of the unique aluminum panel roof that is not insulated. Three other rinks in the transect are full size (200 x85). Additionally, the transect includes the four-pad Sensplex East that operates as a P3 and where the City purchases an annual allocation of ice time for reallocation to community users. It is anticipated that the closure of the privately operated Minto Skating Center, and the resulting loss of two ice surfaces, will negatively impact the availability of ice time in the transect and beyond, especially for figure skating, adult hockey leagues and learn to skate programs.

The seven gyms in the outer urban transect are seeing increased demand for community use. These gyms are relatively new and generally provide adequate space for community programming. Gyms in this transect are used for sports programming, drops ins and fitness. Similar to other amenities in the outer urban transect they support the demand from residents travelling from other areas.

The community spaces in the outer urban transect are well distributed across the area offering residents a wide variety of options. Many community buildings in the former City of Nepean are managed and programmed by community associations with the City offering some complimentary programs. There is adequate parking at most sites and facilities host smaller gatherings up to large scale events and fairs at the Nepean Sportsplex. Some of the aging buildings require accessibility and connectivity updates to address gaps in service and to better meet community needs.

The fieldhouses in the outer urban transect are extremely well used by the community associations and sports organizations. Several small fieldhouses in this transect have been enlarged or replaced in recent years to provide improved community spaces, including those at Banff Ledbury, Albion Heatherington, Bayshore, and Qualicum. The fieldhouse at Beacon Hill North is currently undergoing an expansion to accommodate a wider range of programs. Many of the buildings are aging and in need of upgrades or replacement. There is a demand for more storage and programming space in fieldhouses in this transect.

## **Greenbelt Transect**

There are very few recreation facilities in this transect and any facility that does fall within this area has been assigned to the transect closest to it for the purpose of this document.

## **Suburban West Transect**

The suburban west transect is continuing to grow in population both to the north and south. There is a high demand for recreational activities and access to facilities. The Richcraft Recreation Complex – Kanata is one of the newest facilities in the city and an excellent example of a modern facility with many attractive features that are very well used by the community.

The pools in the suburban west transect offer a variety of options with three outdoor deep-water pools, two indoor pools and one indoor wave pool. The aquatic facilities are used heavily for public and lane swims, learn to swim programs and lifeguard training.

Though the pools in this transect favor community uses, they are not well suited to some aquatic sports because of the depth of shallow ends of the basins.

The arenas in the suburban west transect are heavily used by minor hockey associations (boys and girls) and adults. There is also a high demand for the Recreational Skating School classes. The proximity of the Bell Sensplex 4 pad arena and the Kanata Recreation Complex 2 pad arena makes this combination ideal for hosting tournaments. Renovations to the Kanata Recreation Complex in recent years has added some excellent ancillary space to the arenas that help support tournaments, competitions, and special events. The single pads in the area are older and present the expected challenges with dressing room sizes, accessibility, accommodation for mixed gender teams, etc.,

The gyms in the suburban west transect are very popular for sports, camps and after school programs. The gym at the Richcraft Recreation Complex is the design standard for future City gyms (double gym with wood sprung floor that can be divided in half or quarters). The gyms at Richcraft, CardelRec and Eva James are heavily used for drop-in sports including a rapidly increasing demand for Pickleball. There are two gyms in the transect (Glen Cairn and Bridlewood) that are school owned which limits access times and the type of community programming that can be offered. A gap in service is that many gyms discourage ball hockey as an acceptable use due to impacts on maintenance and repairs, forcing a large league to re-locate.

The community space in the suburban west transect provides a variety of rooms types geographically spread across the area. The Kanata Recreation Complex has the most community space and is well suited to host larger transect wide events and activities. Its large parking lot supports this level of activity and is also used for community celebrations and fairs. Some of the smaller community spaces, like the Old March Town Hall and Pretty Street building were not designed for community recreation and therefore have limitations in the range of programs they can support and accessibility. The Mlacak Center is home to the Kanata Seniors Center and supports a wide variety of passive and active programming.

The fieldhouses in the suburban west transect are well used by the local sport organizations to support a variety of park programming

## **Suburban South Transect**

The suburban south transect has the fastest growing population of the suburban areas. The Minto Recreation Complex – Barrhaven is the newest municipal recreation facility in this area and an excellent example of a modern complex build to today's standards.



The demand for recreational programming in this transect is ever-growing as Minto has already reached capacity in most of its offerings. The facilities in this transect are often utilized by rural residents because of its convenient location in proximity to rural areas.

The pools in the suburban south transect are very busy. The pools at the Minto Recreation Complex and the Walter Baker Sports Centre are the two points of service for aquatic programs in this transect and are both very well used by the community. There is demand in this area from older adults for a therapeutic pool with warm water and this should be considered in future projects in the transect. To address an increase in demand for services related to growth on the east side of the Rideau River (Riverside South) a new aquatic facility is in the planning stages.

The suburban south transect has double ice pads at three locations for a total of 6 pads. The facilities at Minto Barrhaven are new and meet modern standards, while those at Walter Baker and Fred Barrett reflect the challenges noted previously for older facilities. The demand for ice time at these locations exceeds availability for rentals, and there is a noted unmet demand to offer more learn to skate programming to supplement current programs that are at capacity. There are plans to build new ice pads in the Riverside South sector to address population growth and service demand.

The suburban south transect has gyms at Minto Barrhaven, Jockvale and Rideauview that are very well used. The gym at Jockvale is part of the elementary school and is limited in terms of access and activity ranges because its use is shared with the school. The gym at Minto is predominately scheduled with City sports programs and drop-in activities. There are plans to add a gym to the Riverside South sector of this transect as part of a new recreation facility.

Community space in the suburban south transect does not meet the demands of the community. Larkin House and Charlie Conacher Community Buildings are small facilities run by the local community associations and offering limited meeting and activity space. Chapman Mills Community Building is a newer facility, is a great example of a successful smaller facility. It is busy with programs during the daytime and accessed for rentals by many different ethnic groups at night. Many rental groups prefer newer buildings with more amenities (Wi-Fi, enhanced accessibility, etc.). There is a gap in the ability to host larger scale events at these neighborhood facilities. Currently, these events are held at nearby recreation complexes or at facilities outside the area.

The fieldhouses in the suburban south transect are limited. The sports associations use the available fieldhouses and community associations offer some programming from these facilities. Limited washroom access is a gap in service. Additional fieldhouses

will be needed to support outdoor programming and outdoor rinks (winterized water sources and washrooms should be standard for all new builds).

## **Suburban East Transect**

The suburban east transect has a rapidly growing population expanding mainly south towards Navan. The LRT expansion will provide enhanced transit connection to Orleans and its recreation amenities. Most notably, the Jeanne d'Arc LRT station will be approximately 300m away from the Bob MacQuarrie Recreation Complex and the Place D 'Orleans Station will bring riders within close distance of community space at the Shenkman Arts Centre.

The three pools in the suburban east transect are concentrated in Orleans and heavily used. The Francois Dupuis Pool is the newest facility and includes the modern programming and accessibility features required to meet today's demands. The Ray Friel facility is a wave pool that provides a different aquatic play experience, but that is less well suited to learn to swim programs, certification programs and lane swims. The Bob McQuarrie pool is the oldest of the three featuring a standard 25-meter tank and a warm water therapeutic basin that is very popular. Though the facility amenities reflect its age, the pool is still very well used and appreciated by residents. This transect also host the beach at Petrie Island offering residents an outdoor swimming option in the summer months as well as related waterfront sports like canoeing, kayaking and beach volleyball.

The suburban east has two arena pads at Bob McQuarrie and 3 pads at Ray Friel. Ray Friel pads offers skating lesson through the City's Recreational Skating School and runs an adult hockey league which is in high demand. Bob MacQuarrie Recreation Complex is home to the Gloucester Skating Club that offers figure skating and skating lessons. One of the pads is Olympic size, which allows for a wider variety of uses, including speed skating. Both arenas are older and do not have some of the modern amenities found at newer rinks.

Three of the four gyms in this transect are shared with schools. This shared use has an impact on availability for community use and places some limits on City and Community programming. There is a high demand for gym time for sports like badminton and Pickleball. Francois Dupuis Recreation Centre is the only city-owned gym in the transect and is at near capacity with programs, fitness, and drop-in sports.

The community space in the suburban east is meeting the demand of the residents. The buildings are evenly distributed geographically and offer a good variety of different

size rooms. Many of the buildings are older and require modernization to meet community programming and accessibility needs.

The fieldhouses in the suburban east are very busy and heavily used by community associations. Some of the communities experiencing growth, such as Bradley Ridge and Cardinal Creek have become very active in park and event programming and have expressed the need for supporting fieldhouse facilities. There is sustained demand in the area for more storage space from community associations and sports leagues. This transect includes Millennium Park and fieldhouse. This Park is a District level sports field and playground facility that includes multiple sports fields, including a synthetic turf field, for hosting large tournaments and sports events. The park includes a fieldhouse and washrooms to support the high level of activity at this location. The Park has been identified as a possible location for a sports field dome in the future.

## **Rural Transect**

The rural transect covers the largest geographical area but it is the least densely populated. For most recreation activities, residents must travel the furthest distance in the city to access services and programming. Many of the small communities within the rural transect have a hub location, whether it be an arena, a community center, or a library, that serves as a meeting point for the residents.

The pools in the rural transect are limited to the Long Island Aquatic Club outdoor pool in Manotick, which is City-owned but operated by a third-party provider. Offerings are similar to those at City operated pools and include Learn to swim, lane swims, and public swims. Generally, rural residents travel to suburban transects for aquatic programs, and pools like Minto Barrhaven, Walter Baker, Sawmill and Francois Dupuis are favored destinations. Over the years, the City has also piloted swimming lessons at residential private pools to provide a convenient option.

There are 8 arenas in the rural transect which are well distributed geographically amongst the small pockets of communities. One of the eight is the West Carleton Cavanagh Sensplex which is managed by a partner. All the arenas in this transect are single pad facilities that generally meet local demand for public skating and rentals, other than Cavanagh Sensplex they are older and have some programming and accessibility limitations. Recently Manotick arena has been updated to meet current accessibility standards and additional community space. All the arenas have adjacent community halls (multipurpose spaces) to provide local meeting and programming space that also support special events such as fairs and farmers markets. Those with adjacent fair grounds are an essential part of hosting annual rural fairs.

There are no City gyms in the rural transect. As is the case with pools, residents travel to suburban transects to access gyms, with locations like Minto Barrhaven, Richcraft, and Francois Dupuis being popular destinations.

Community space in the rural transect is provided primarily by way of small community centers and community halls attached to arenas. There are 24 locations with community meeting space available in the transect. Community centers are managed and programmed by the local community associations. The community buildings meet the immediate needs of the residents, but they do often travel into the suburban transects to access a broader range of programming and specialized spaces like fitness centers, gyms, dance studios, etc.

The fieldhouses in the rural transect are also overseen by community associations and play an important role in supporting sports field summer use of parks as well as winter skating rinks

# Appendix A

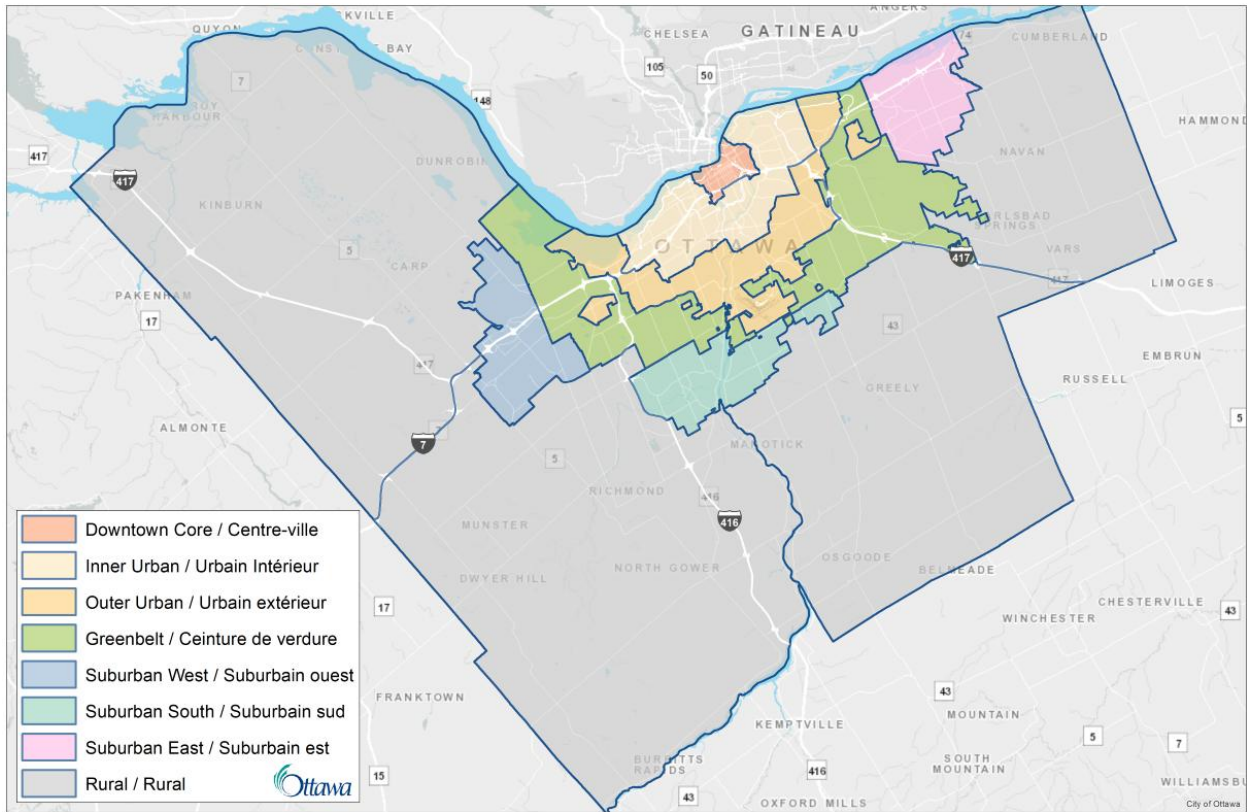


Figure 1 - Map overview of the transects in Ottawa