

# TOWN OF COBOURG, ON



# PARKS MASTER PLAN

MAY 2013

Prepared By: peter j. smith & company, inc.



# PARKS MASTER PLAN: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2013 Parks Master Plan (PMP) for the Town of Cobourg is a strategy for achieving the Town's vision for a strong, livable and healthy community. The Plan recognizes the importance of parks and their role in building healthy communities and developing green infrastructure. With the Town having expanded recreational facilities based on the recommendations of the 2000 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the 2013 Parks Master Plan looks beyond the development of recreation facilities to improving and creating a comprehensive park system that enhances recreational potential, identity and health of the community.

To create a parks system that meets the needs of the community, the PMP looks at the planning context of this historic Town. With an aging population, shifting leisure trends and a growing need for more park facilities, it is apparent that Cobourg should expand its supply of parks in a way that encourages mobility and fitness. Together with the Steering Committee and significant public input gathered through the comprehensive consultation program, the Parks Master Plan developed seven key goals to guide the plan. Goals address the needs of the community as they relate to character, connectivity, diversity, environment, accessibility, management and waterfront issues.

## **A System of Parks**

To achieve the goals of the Parks Master Plan, a system-based concept was developed. This concept defines the park system as having three distinct elements:

- **Connections:**  
The park system is united with connections that link together all parts of the community with green corridors and nodes. Cobourg's park system connections are identified in a detailed systems plan that includes a network of parks, trails and open spaces.
- **Activities:**  
The park system has a variety of activities that serve to meet the needs of the community. Cobourg's park system activities are varied through the development of a new park classification system that includes six different park types: nature, athletic, leisure, connector, cultural, and landmark parks.
- **Experiences:**  
The park system provides experiences that are memorable and unique to the community. Cobourg's park system experiences are developed through an interpretive program that is specifically based on the Town's physical, environmental, historic and cultural qualities.

*A system for a healthy community.*



### The Waterfront

The defining element in Cobourg's park system is its waterfront. As such, the waterfront is specifically addressed in the Parks Master Plan with waterfront-specific goals and a Design Concept. The concept defines the waterfront as a series of "places" which combine to create a diversity of unique experiences. The Design Concept spatially organizes the waterfront to improve its function, elevate its identity and enhance it as a destination. Expanding on this concept is a Connectivity Plan that identifies opportunities to physically link these places and experiences together. The plan focuses on improving linkages in an east/west direction across the waterfront and strengthening the bond between downtown and the waterfront in a north/south direction. Finally, the Waterfront Master Plan illustrates the features that bring the Design Concept and Connectivity Plan to life. It provides a big picture view of the proposed improvements and how they work together to achieve the waterfront goals.

### Implementation

To achieve community goals and develop a comprehensive park system in Cobourg, the Parks Master Plan provides a detailed plan for implementation. The implementation plan outlines clear policies, recommendations and capital improvements. Policies are guiding statements for parks and recreation decisions. Implementation of the twelve Parks Master Plan policies ensures that decisions impacting the parks system will be consistent with the goals of the Plan. Policies work together with the Plan's eight parks system recommendations. These recommendations provide the next steps for implementation of the Parks Master Plan. Recommendations are as follows:

- Develop Waterfront Project Design Plans
- Develop a Trails Master Plan
- Hire a Recreation Coordinator
- Conduct a Study to Investigate the Feasibility of Developing a Sports Dome
- Conduct a Study to Investigate the Feasibility of Developing a Public-Private Restaurant
- Develop Dog Park Policy and "Pilot Project"
- Support and Promote Fishing Where Permitted
- Complete a Parks Maintenance and Operations Manual

In addition to the policies and recommendations, the Parks Master Plan outlines capital improvements to guide future development and investment in existing parks.

Together these three elements provide the steps necessary to reach the goals of the Parks Master Plan. The result is that Cobourg is positioned to develop a first class parks system, one that meets the needs of the community and helps to achieve the Town's vision of a strong, livable and healthy community.

# TOWN OF COBOURG PARKS MASTER PLAN

May 2013

## Acknowledgements

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A special thanks to all those who participated in the public input process for the Parks Master Plan.

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# INTRODUCTION

*The Parks Master Plan (PMP) is an opportunity to determine the role parks play in the future development of our community. Beyond planning for individual park spaces, the PMP can help shape the Town of Cobourg and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors.*



# Significance of Parks in Cobourg

*The development of a diverse and unique park system reaches towards achieving the vision for the Town of Cobourg.*

## Vision for Cobourg

The Vision Statement detailed in the Town's Official Plan describes Cobourg as a "...strong, livable and healthy community providing a full range of opportunities to live, work, play and shop..." While it is clear that parks directly relate to recreation, what best practices in park planning and recent research into healthy communities shows is that a park system can play a larger role in the development of communities.

This plan outlines how the Town of Cobourg can design a system that can achieve community-wide goals that reach beyond traditional park planning objectives. The result of the Parks Master Plan will be a strategy to actively work towards achieving the vision of a strong, livable and healthy community.

## Importance of Parks

The advantages of parks are overwhelming, with multiple benefits. To detail these benefits, the American Planning Association (APA) has produced a series of briefing papers to explicitly show how parks are used to address many of the pressing issues that cities face. The exercise has identified how parks are used:

- For Community Revitalization
- For Community Engagement
- For Economic Development
- To Create Safer Neighbourhoods
- For Green Infrastructure

- To Help Children Learn
- To Improve Public Health
- For Arts and Cultural Programs
- To Promote Tourism
- For Smart Growth
- For Climate Change Management

Furthermore, in addition to the many intangible benefits that parks provide, the Trust for Public Land has identified several key benefits of parks that can be economically quantified, demonstrating the real value of parks in a community. Economic measures include: Hedonic (Property) Value, Tourism Value, Direct Use Value, Health Value, Community Cohesion Value, Reducing the cost of Managing Urban Stormwater and the Removal Air Pollution by Vegetation. The result is the identification of techniques to include parks in to the equation of how cities work.

Focusing on the impact of Cobourg's Parks Master Plan, there are two key impacts of developing a parks system that push the community towards its vision: Healthy Communities and Green Infrastructure.

### Building Healthy Communities

The development of healthy communities looks to address the many health concerns that are growing in Canada. For example, 69% of Canadian adults and 91% of Canadian children and youth are not getting the recommended levels of daily physical activity.<sup>1</sup> By designing communities that incorporate physical activity into daily life, community planning can impact health. In fact, according to a 2009 report from the Canadian Senate, some 10% of population health outcomes can be attributable to our physical or built environment, with an additional 50% being related to social and economic determinates, many of which are deeply interconnected with environments.<sup>2</sup> By developing a cohesive system of parks, communities can expand opportunities for physical activity by providing parks that serve multiple functions including active transportation like walking, cycling, etc. This strategy looks to expand exercise beyond gym-based routines and instead to intertwine exercise into everyday tasks like going to work, school, shopping, events, etc.

### Developing Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure looks at parks as a key physical element within communities, similar to how we look at other urban infrastructure systems as integral to the development of a city. Green infrastructure provides the support system for the natural ecosystems that improve our lives and the sustainability of the environment. As stated by Frederick Law Olmsted, “No single park, no matter how large and how well designed, would provide citizens with the beneficial influences of nature; instead parks need to be linked to one another and to surrounding residential neighborhoods.”

<sup>1</sup> Colley RC, Garriguet D, Janssen I, Craig CL, Clarke J, Tremblay MS. 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Keon WJ, Pépin L. A healthy, productive Canada: a determinant of health approach. The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, Final Report of Senate Subcommittee on Population Health. Ottawa: 2009.

The Town of Cobourg understands the worth of parks, and has continued to expand and improve the community by focusing on parks and their role in maintaining a high quality of life for residents and visitors. In 2000 the Town completed a parks and recreation master plan that expanded facilities to address community need. Moving forward with this plan, the Town implemented recommendations and capital improvements to provide these critical services. The plan met with so much success, that in 2012 the Town began to ask, what next? Initiating the 2013 Parks Master Plan, Cobourg looks beyond the development of recreation facilities to improving and creating a comprehensive park system that enhances recreational potential, identity and health of the community.



*By designing communities that incorporate physical activity into daily life, community planning can impact health.*

## *The Town of Cobourg has a grand heritage that reflects a community bound for greatness.*

### Cobourg's Heritage

Settlement in Cobourg began around the 1780s by United Empire Loyalists (UEL). The settlement was called by several different names before becoming Cobourg, which was a tribute to the marriage of Princess Charlotte Augusta, Princess of Wales and daughter of George IV, to Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Saafeld. Cobourg was officially incorporated as a Town on July 1, 1837.<sup>1</sup>

The growth of the settlement had also meant the construction of a harbour. Beginning in 1829, following approval by parliament, there was continued improvement of the harbour. This development, coupled with the purchase of 2,000,000 acres north of Hamilton Township from the Mississauga, meant more immigrants settled in Cobourg as the trade industry flourished.<sup>2</sup> With close to 5,000 residents, the Town of Cobourg became a centre of administration, education and commerce by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>3</sup>

Development of the Town had such potential that many thought Cobourg could be more influential than the population centres of Toronto and Kingston. It was around this time that Victoria Hall was constructed. Designed by Kivas Tully, the cornerstone of this monumental building was laid in 1856. It was opened in 1860 by Edward, the young Prince of Wales and the future King Edward VII, during a visit to Cobourg.<sup>4</sup>

1 <http://www.cobourghistory.ca/>

2 [http://www.cobourghistory.ca/cdci\\_west.htm](http://www.cobourghistory.ca/cdci_west.htm)

3 <http://www.cobourghistory.ca/>

4 [http://www.cobourghistory.ca/victoria\\_hall.htm](http://www.cobourghistory.ca/victoria_hall.htm)

Cobourg was set to prosper with the development of a railroad that would bring goods from the north down to the port at Cobourg, passing over Rice Lake. While funding was procured for the construction, the initial bridge over Rice Lake failed and development hopes for the railroad died. This turn for Cobourg and the debt that followed the construction of Victoria Hall slowed development and the Town's growth steadied.

A shift in the history of Cobourg began as many Americans built grandiose summer homes here and the area became a summer holiday destination. With a ferry that carried passengers from Rochester to Cobourg, the Town was readily accessible to United States population centres. The Town of Cobourg also served more industrial purposes with the harbour used as a port for large shipments of oil and coal between the 1950s and the early 1980s.<sup>5</sup>

This varied history has left the Town with many different architectural legacies and cultural significances that can be incorporated into the parks system in Cobourg.

5 <http://www.cobourghistory.ca/>



Source: Cobourg Public Library Archival Photo Database. Creator: W. H. Bartlett

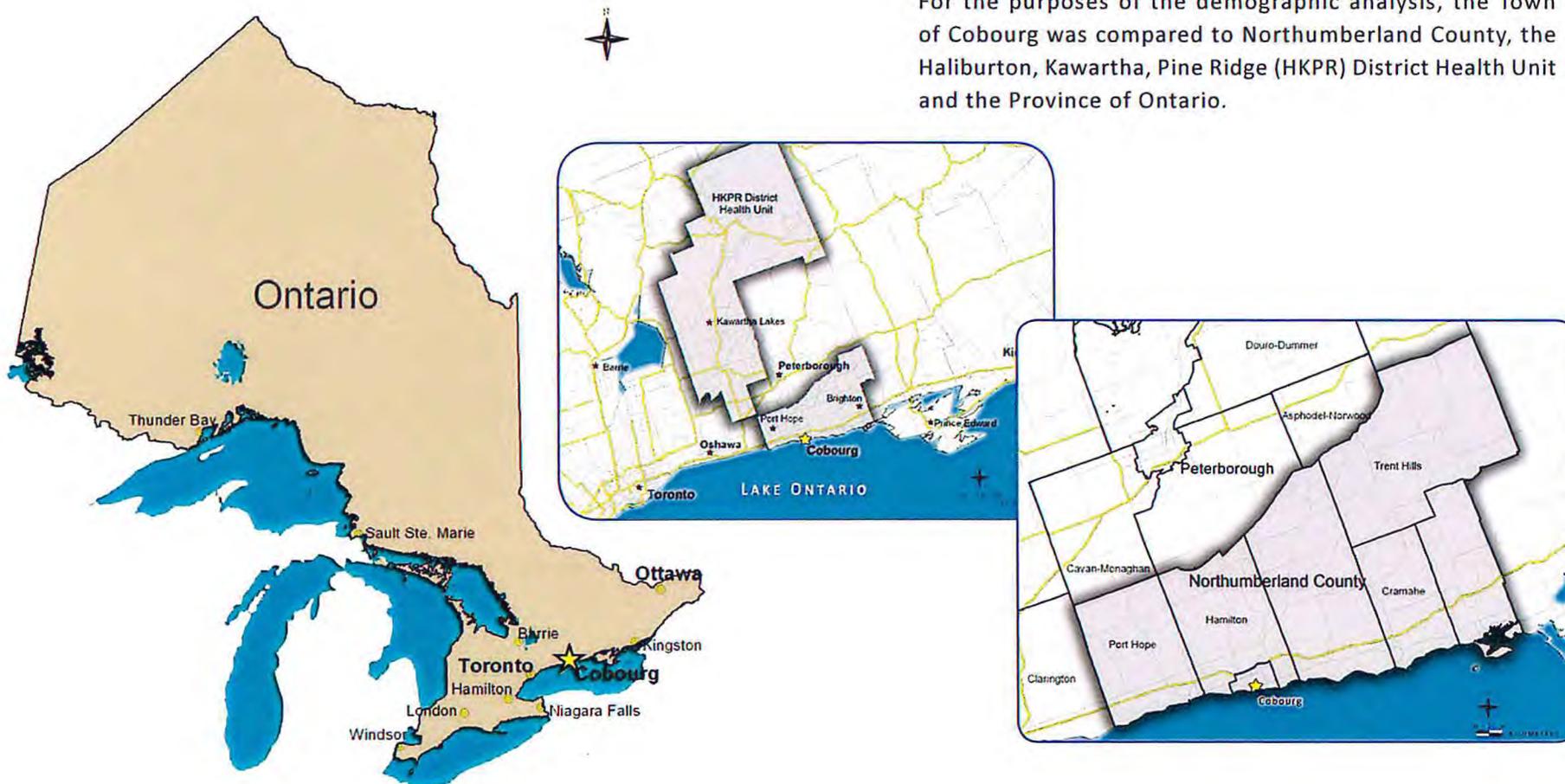
# Planning Context

*An important part of developing a successful Parks Master Plan is understanding the community and its existing conditions.*

Establishing the planning context for the Parks Master Plan means identifying its location, its population, its recreation trends and its supply of parks and recreation. This chapter highlights some of the key findings from the demographic and trend analysis conducted for the PMP.

## Location

The Town of Cobourg, located on Lake Ontario, is the largest Town in Northumberland County. Surrounded by Hamilton Township, Cobourg is proximate to Port Hope, 110 km from Toronto, 145 km from Kingston and 295 km from Ottawa. For the purposes of the demographic analysis, the Town of Cobourg was compared to Northumberland County, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) District Health Unit and the Province of Ontario.

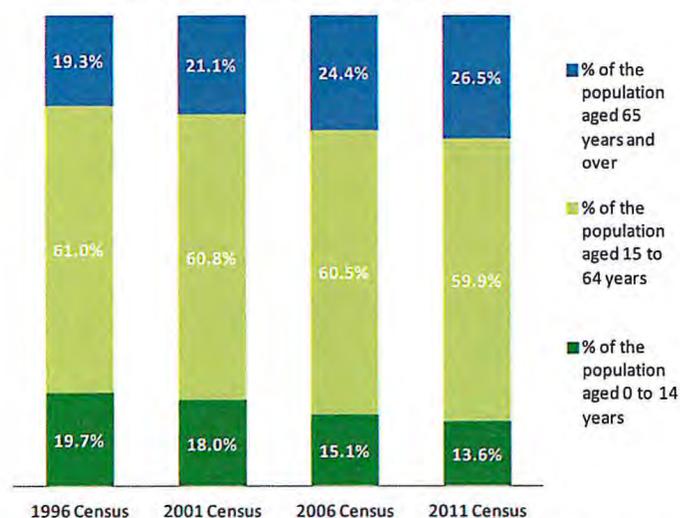


## Changing Demographics

### A Community Growing Older

Since 1996, Cobourg has been growing and its residents have been steadily aging with the proportion of young and very young displaced by the proportion of old and very old. With a 2011 population of 18,519 and a median age of 50, Cobourg has had a seven percent increase in population and an eight year increase in median age since 2001.

Cobourg Population Change



Sources: Statistics Canada, Censuses of Population, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011.

### A Growing Retirement Community

Based on demographic analysis, not only is Cobourg aging, but it is attracting new retirees to settle here for all or part of the year. A 2009 Growth Management Strategy for Northumberland County and its member municipalities, found that based on household size and age Cobourg is increasingly becoming a retirement destination.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the residential development activity compared with increases in population show that many of the new construction in Cobourg is secondary residences.

<sup>1</sup> Growth Management Strategy, County of Northumberland and its Member Municipalities, Final Summary Report, December 2009.

### An Affluent Community

Supporting other statistics that show Cobourg as an aging population are the statistics on income and labour force participation. Cobourg residents' affluence is in line with its demographic as a community of older residents. Furthermore, in the 2006 census Cobourg had a lower labour force participation rate than do the county, health unit and province.

### A Regional Employment Centre

A factor that may have bearing on affluence in Cobourg is its proximity to major employers and well-paying jobs. The prominence of manufacturing employment in the town is of particular note. Six of the top 10 manufacturers in Northumberland County are located in Cobourg – the other four are located just under 12 kilometres away in Port Hope.

### Quality of Life

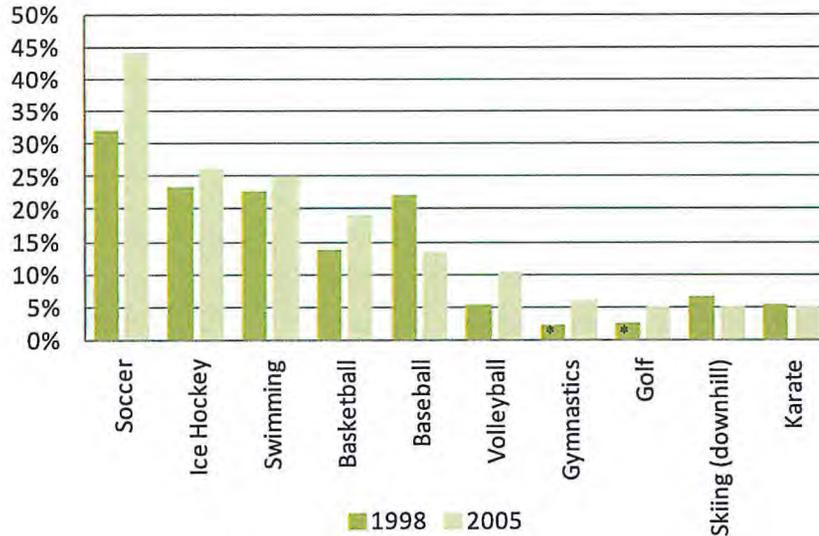
According to Statistics Canada's 2011 Health Profile, residents in the HKPR District Health Unit rate their quality of life as high. Yet, when compared with the Province, residents are more likely to suffer from ailments related to age and lifestyle issues.

More than half of the HKPR District Health Unit residents are moderately active or active in their leisure time; in Canada this was an average of 5.6 hours a day in 2005. Yet leisure time varies depending on age group with both young and old having the most available time for leisure activities.

### Impacts to the Parks Master Plan

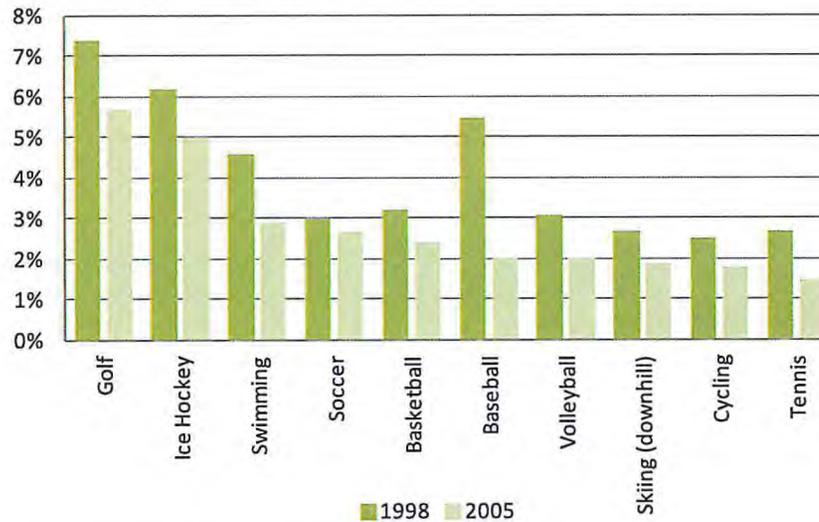
- The plan should ensure the park system is providing the services needed for an older population.
- The likelihood of part-time residents in Cobourg means a decrease in demand for sports field but may increase the demand for some recreation facility such as trails and passive use parks
- Health trends, combined with an aging population demonstrate the need for more opportunities to encourage mobility and fitness.
- Understanding that the largest and fastest growing age cohorts, those over 55 years, have more leisure time than their younger counterparts helps to inform decision-making about which parks and open space types are most needed.

### Top 10 Sports Among Active Children Ages 5-14



\*Figures deemed unreliable and should be used with caution.  
 Sources: Sport participation in Canada, 2005 and previous editions, Statistics Canada Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division and peter j. smith & company, inc.

### Top 10 Sports Among Active Adults Ages 15+



Sources: Sport participation in Canada, 2005 and previous editions, Statistics Canada Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division and peter j. smith & company, inc.

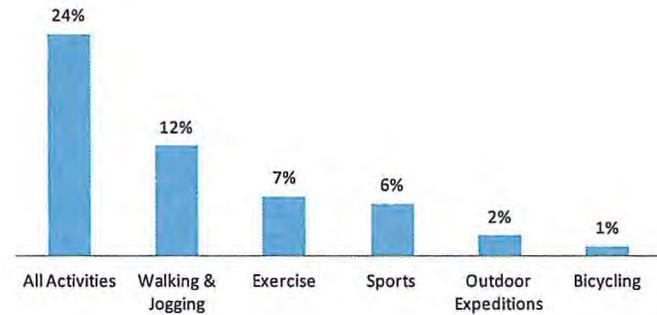
## Leisure Participation

To provide the types of parks and recreation that are appropriate for a specific community, it is critical to look at what types of leisure people are interested in so as to provide the right facilities. Leisure participation in Cobourg was measured by looking at national and local trends in participation.

### National Trends

Leisure participation in Canada in 2005 has grown since 1992. On any given day, 24.3% of Canadians participate in an active leisure activity, up from 20.9% in 1992. The most common active leisure activities in 2005 were walking or jogging and exercise, both of which had statistically significant growth since 1992.

Daily Leisure Participation in Canadians Age 20 and Over



Sources: Canadian Social Trends February 2009

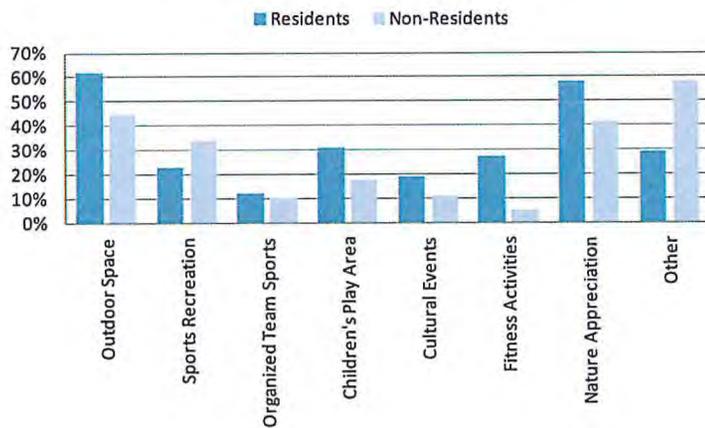
When looking specifically at those who participate regularly in sports (in both structured and unstructured environments), children and young adults participate far more than adults, particularly older adults. Moreover, regular participation in sports is on the decline across all age groups. Positive growth in children's sports participation is due to shifting preferences and growth in sports like soccer, ice hockey, swimming, basketball, volleyball, gymnastics and golf, while sports like baseball, which had a 22% participation rate in 1998, are in decline.

### Local Trends

A comparison of national trends to those from the Cobourg Parks Master Plan online community survey, shows consistencies among trends. For example, among the resident respondents, walking and hiking are by far the most popular recreational activities while soccer and golf the most popular organized sports.

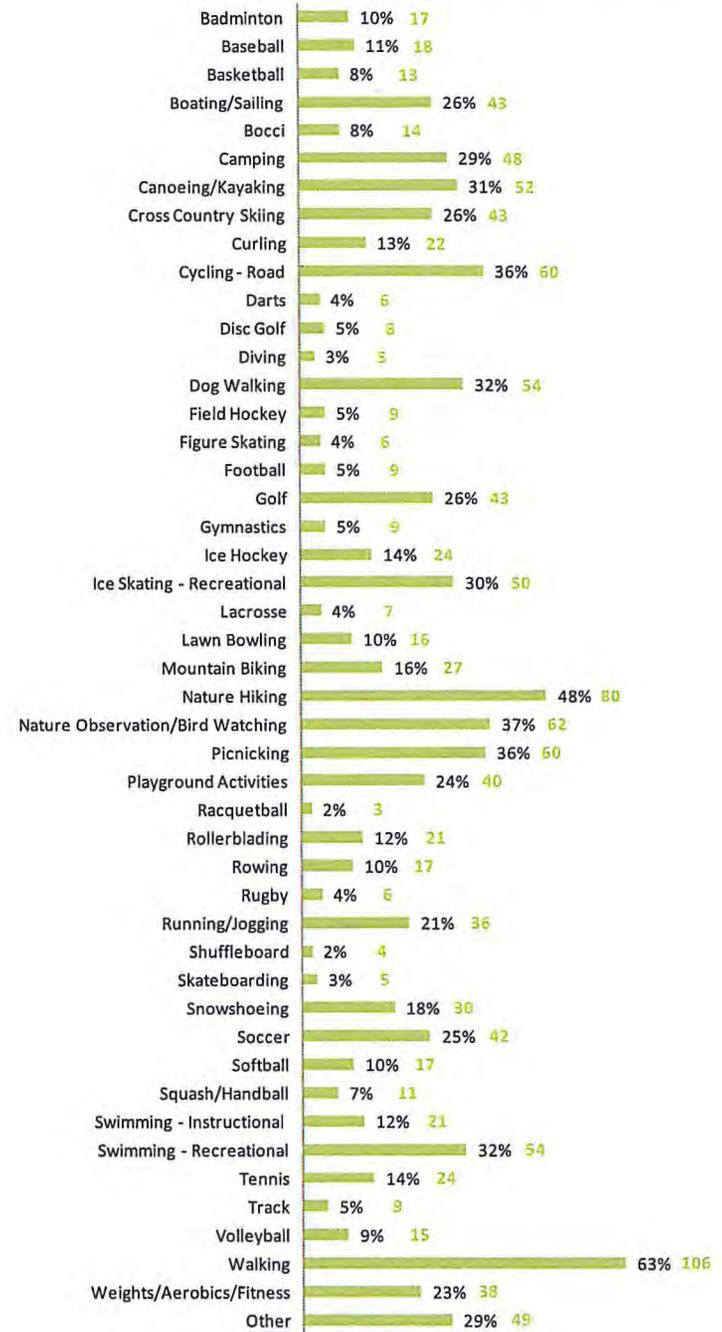
When asked what participants typically use parks for outdoor space and nature appreciation are the most popular reason to visit a park for both residents and non-residents. Organized team sports is the least popular reason to use a park in Cobourg with only 10% of respondents. Residents that chose "other" specified walking, dog walking, and fishing. Non-residents exclusively specified fishing.

What do you typically use parks for?



Sources: Parks Master Plan Online Community Survey

### Activities Resident Respondents Participate or Would Like to Participate In



Sources: Parks Master Plan Online Community Survey

## Supply of Parks & Facilities

In order to determine how many parks and facilities the Town needs, it is necessary to identify how many currently exist and how this number compares to other areas and standards. The total supply of town parkland in Cobourg is 79 hectares. In assessing whether or not this amount is sufficient for the population served, one tool that communities use is level of service (LOS). The level of service is the amount of parkland provided for a given population size, generally 1,000 persons. The parkland in Cobourg provides a level of service that is 4.3 hectares per 1,000 population.

### Level of Service Comparative Analysis

To assess Cobourg’s level of service for parkland a comparative analysis was conducted using communities similar in population to Cobourg. All are waterfront communities that have become, to varying degrees, tourist destinations. In addition, all have well defined downtowns proximate to their central waterfront. The following chart illustrates the results of the comparison to Cobourg.

**Parkland Comparison**

Town	2011 Population	Hectares (Ha) of Parkland	Ha/1,000 Population
Amherstburg	21,556	106	5
Collingwood	19,241	102	5.3
Midland	16,572	97	5.9
Orilla	30,586	180	5.9
Owen Sound	21,688	144	6.6
		<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>5.7</b>
Cobourg	18,519	91 (including the Conservation Area)	4.8
		79 (Town)	4.3

As illustrated in the chart, Cobourg currently supplies less parkland than all these communities, and approximately 1.0 ha/1000 population less than the average amongst them. A key result of the Community Survey is a desire to increase parkland in the Town. In this regard, it proposed that a new level of service target of 6.0 ha/1,000 be established. To understand the effects of meeting this target, when applied to the today’s existing population of 18,500 approximately 19 hectares of additional parkland would have to be supplied, an increase of approximately 20%. When applied to the projected population in 2031 of 26,000, it will be necessary to supply approximately 150 hectares of parkland at that time. Over the next 19 years, it will therefore be necessary for the Town to supply approximately 60 more hectares of parkland than what it delivers today.

In addition to an assessment of overall parkland, a comparative analysis looking at the provision of soccer and softball/baseball facilities was completed. (Please note that Midland has a major regional softball complex.) This analysis shows that for its level of population Cobourg has a relatively generous supply of soccer fields and softball fields.

**Regional Sports Facility Comparison**

Town	2011 Population	Soccer Fields	Ball Diamonds
Amherstburg	21,556	14	13
Collingwood	19,241	10	5
Midland	16,572	6	31
Orilla	30,586	10	8
Owen Sound	21,688	8	10
Cobourg	18,519	14	19

### Park Standards

Another tool to evaluate the supply of parks and recreation facilities are standards such as those from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, and the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), an American organization. These standards are intended to provide a guide for the number of facilities required based upon population. The limitation to these standards is that they do not take into account the local trends, preferences and practices of a given community, therefore they must be used in connection with a local analysis of the realities of the individual community.

The table at right compares the number of existing facilities in Cobourg to these standards. Deficiencies are highlighted in blue and the corresponding standard is highlighted in green. Comparison to both standards shows the need for additional baseball diamonds, a football field, volleyball courts, basketball courts, and a track. Additionally, comparison to standards from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation show that there is also a need for outdoor ice rinks, and splash pads. With respect to tennis courts, Cobourg exceeds the Ministry of Culture and Recreation's standards but is deficient per the NRPA standards.

Type of Facility	Cobourg	Ministry of Culture & Recreation		NRPA	
	Number Existing Facilities	Number of Facilities Recommended per Population	Needed for 25,000 Population	Number of Facilities Recommended per Population	Needed for 25,000 Population
Baseball Diamond	2	1 per 5,000	5	1 per 5,000	5
Softball Diamond	17	1 per 5,000	5	1 per 5,000	5
Soccer Field	9	1 per 20,000	1	1 per 10,000	2
Soccer Field (Jr)	5	1 per 5,000	5	1 per 10,000	2
Ice Arena (Hockey)	3	N/A	N/A	1 per 100,000	0
Football	0	1 per 20,000	1	1 per 20,000	1
Outdoor Pool	1	1 per 20,000	1	1 per 20,000	1
Tennis	6	1 per 5,000	5	1 court per 2,000	12
Volleyball	1	1 per 5,000	5	1 per 5,000	5
Trail Systems	1	1 per region	0	1 per region	0
Basketball	2	1 per 5,000	5	1 per 5,000	5
Track	0	1 per 20,000	1	1 per 20,000	1
Boat Launch	1	1 per region	0	N/A	N/A
Ice Rink (Outdoor)	1	1 per 5,000	5	N/A	N/A
Lawn Bowling	1	1 per 25,000	1	N/A	N/A
Splash Pad	1	1 per 5,000	5	N/A	N/A

 Deficiency  Corresponding Deficiency Standard

# Community Involvement

*Parks play a critical role in the quality of life for residents and visitors. To develop a park system that meets the needs of the community, it must be informed by the community.*

As part of the Parks Master Plan a detailed community involvement program was completed that included a vision session, focus groups, community meetings and a community survey. In addition, a Parks Master Plan Steering Committee was involved throughout the planning process to guide the

direction of the Plan. Together these input-gathering techniques provide a clear picture of the desired future for the parks and waterfront in the Town of Cobourg.

The following summary provides a brief description of the input techniques utilized and highlights some of the key findings.

topics related to the plan. Focus group topics included: Baseball; Hockey; Naturalists; Parks Advisory Committee; Service Organizations; Soccer & Rugby; Special Stakeholders; Sports Activities; and Waterfront.

## Community Survey

An online community survey was completed to gather community-wide input on the Parks Master Plan. The survey was distributed by linking it to the Town website. Paper copies were also available for those who were unable to complete the online version. Topics covered in the community survey included: Recreation Participation; Use of Town Parks; Accessibility of Parks; the Parks System; and the Waterfront. The result of this input technique was 278 unique responses to the survey.

## Community Meetings

Two community meetings were conducted at key points in the planning process. The first meeting provided a description of the project and gathered input regarding parks and waterfront issues and opportunities through an interactive workbook and mapping session. The second meeting presented the draft Parks Master Plan and identified plan priorities through an interactive workbook session.

**Note:** Detailed accounts of all input techniques can be found in the appendix.

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*The foundation for the Parks Master Plan is community involvement.*

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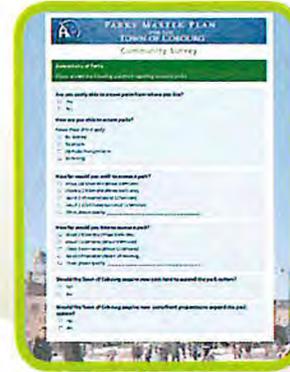
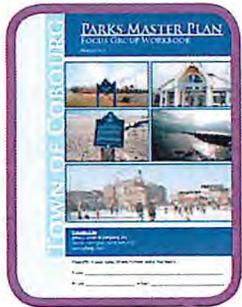
## Vision Session

An interactive vision session was conducted with the Steering Committee at the onset of the planning process. This input session provided an initial direction for the Parks Master Plan and helped to inform the project's goals and objectives.

## Focus Groups

In-depth discussions regarding parks and waterfront issues and potentials were conducted during nine focus groups sessions. Those invited to participate in the focus groups were identified, with the help of the steering committee and Town staff, as experts by vocation or avocation in various

# The Future Parks System: Cobourg Parks Master Plan



## Vision Session

- Connected Parks System
- High Quality Multi-Use Facilities
- Year-round Facility

## Focus Groups

- New Sports Facilities
- Space for Festivals
- Trail System
- Fishing Access
- Need More Washrooms & Parking

## Issues & Opportunities Public Meeting

- Priority Improvements:
  - Kerr Road Trail
  - Pool and Sports Dome
  - Pier Improvements

## Community Survey

- Most Popular Activity for Residents: Walking & Hiking
- Most Popular Reasons to Visit a Park: Outdoor Space & Nature Appreciation
- Link Parks in a Unified System
- Town's Defining Icon: The Waterfront

## Prioritization Public Meeting

# Goals & Objectives

*The Parks Master Plan is guided by seven key goals for developing the parks system. These goals and the objectives that detail these goals are based on the input received during the Community Involvement Program.*



## Goal #1: Character

Develop the parks system as an icon and defining feature of Cobourg.

### Objectives:

- » To enhance the character of Cobourg through the development of a high quality parks system
- » Develop a design language for parks that is unique to Cobourg
- » Ensure parks are developed in a context sensitive manner



## Goal #2: Connectivity

Create an integrated and connected network of park and public open spaces.

### Objectives:

- » Develop the parks system as a key physical organizing element of the Town
- » Link parks together and create a unified system of public destinations and active transportation (pedestrian/bicycle) circulation corridors
- » Create a continuous parks and open space system across the waterfront
- » Develop a wayfinding system to enhance awareness of the parks system and improve circulation



## Goal #3: Diversity

Develop the parks system to provide a wide range of gathering, recreation, education and cultural experiences.

### Objectives:

- » Improve the multi-functional use of parks
- » Develop facilities and supply park amenities that support the highest use
- » Provide facilities and accommodate activities that promote year round use
- » Elevate the value of parks through the integration of educational and interpretive programming
- » Promote Cobourg's cultural and natural heritage through the parks system
- » Create a hierarchy of park spaces that accommodate a variety of civic events, celebrations and festivals



## Goal #4: Environment

Preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment of Cobourg.

### Objectives:

- » Maintain and preserve natural ecosystems and their functions
- » Develop parks to enhance environmental integrity, productivity and diversity
- » Protect stream and valley lands to preserve and enhance wildlife corridors and natural connections to the Lake
- » Protect riparian resources and enhance aquatic habitat
- » Enhance appreciation and understanding of the environment through accommodating public access and providing interpretation/educational opportunities



## Goal #5: Accessibility

Ensure residents and park users have complete access to all parks and equal opportunity to participate in the parks system.

### Objectives:

- » Make the park system available and inclusive to all people regardless of age, income level, ethnicity or physical/mental/sensory ability
- » Develop parks to improve public safety and security
- » Ensure parks are adequately and appropriately maintained to ensure public use and enjoyment
- » Ensure residents are informed and aware of the parks system and its offerings; enhance promotion of the parks system



## Goal #6: Management

Supply and deliver parks, facilities and services to the public in an efficient/effective manner

### Objectives:

- » Encourage partnerships with local service clubs, community groups and the private sector to enhance the parks system and delivery of services
- » Improve how the Town manages the delivery of park services and programs to the public
- » Encourage volunteers and support their activities with needed assistance
- » Employ techniques to reduce energy consumption across the parks system
- » Strategically reduce maintenance requirements and intensity



## Goal #7: Waterfront

Enhance the urban waterfront as the primary attraction and premier destination in Cobourg

### Objectives:

- » Encourage compatible and character-appropriate commercial uses
- » Reduce the impact of parking on the experience of the waterfront
- » Support and promote the highest and best use of the waterfront
- » Strengthen the connection between the downtown and the waterfront
- » Improve the flow of circulation at the waterfront and strengthen E/W connections
- » Support multi-modal transportation
- » Promote and accommodate year round use of the waterfront
- » Enhance boating facilities and water based activities





# A SYSTEM OF PARKS

*The Parks Master Plan for Cobourg goes beyond creating great parks. Instead the Master Plan looks to create a great parks system, one with interconnected parks, trails, events, activities, themes and stories. The following chapter identifies the future parks system for Cobourg, how individual parks fit into this system and how residents and visitors experience the system.*



# A System-Based Concept

*A great park system feels effortless, one park flows into the next with ease and connects the community with comfortable public spaces and links to community attractions.*

Fulfilling the goals and objectives of the Parks Master Plan, a park system will help to create a strong, livable and healthy community for residents and visitors. A key element of great places, a park system will provide Cobourg with the green infrastructure to equal the Town's historic prominence in the region. The park system will also serve to meet the needs of a changing population, providing experiences and activities that serve the growing number of older residents and integrate healthy "leisure" based activities, such as walking and cycling into daily life. Finally, the park system will support recreation facilities by providing efficient space for sports activities.

## A Park System

A parks system is more than a grouping of parks, it is a series of connections, activities and experiences that make a cohesive community and environment. It is these three elements that will work together to fulfill the goals and objectives of the plan.

Connections define how we move from one part of the parks system to another. A successful park system is united, linking together all parts of the community with green corridors and nodes.

Activities define how we use parks. A successful park system has a variety of activities that serve to meet the needs of the community.

Experiences define how we perceive parks. A successful park system provides experiences that are memorable and unique to the community.

The following sections detail how to develop the connections, activities and experiences that will provide the Town of Cobourg with a remarkable park system and improve the quality of life in the community.



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*With the 2013 Parks Master Plan, Cobourg looks beyond the development of recreation facilities to improving and creating a comprehensive park system that enhances recreational potential, identity and health of the community.*

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# Connections

*Cobourg has the unique ability to establish a comprehensive system of open space that can preserve the character of the Town and help it develop a first class parks system.*

This ability lies in creating a matrix of open space that integrates the Town's three main creek corridors (Cobourg Creek, Midtown Creek and Brook Creek), the waterfront, Nickerson Woods, and the Kerr Street and Rogers Road allowances. Uniting these areas and providing public access to them for passive and compatible recreational use, will significantly enhance the appeal of the Town and its ability to retain its distinct identity. Furthermore, this system

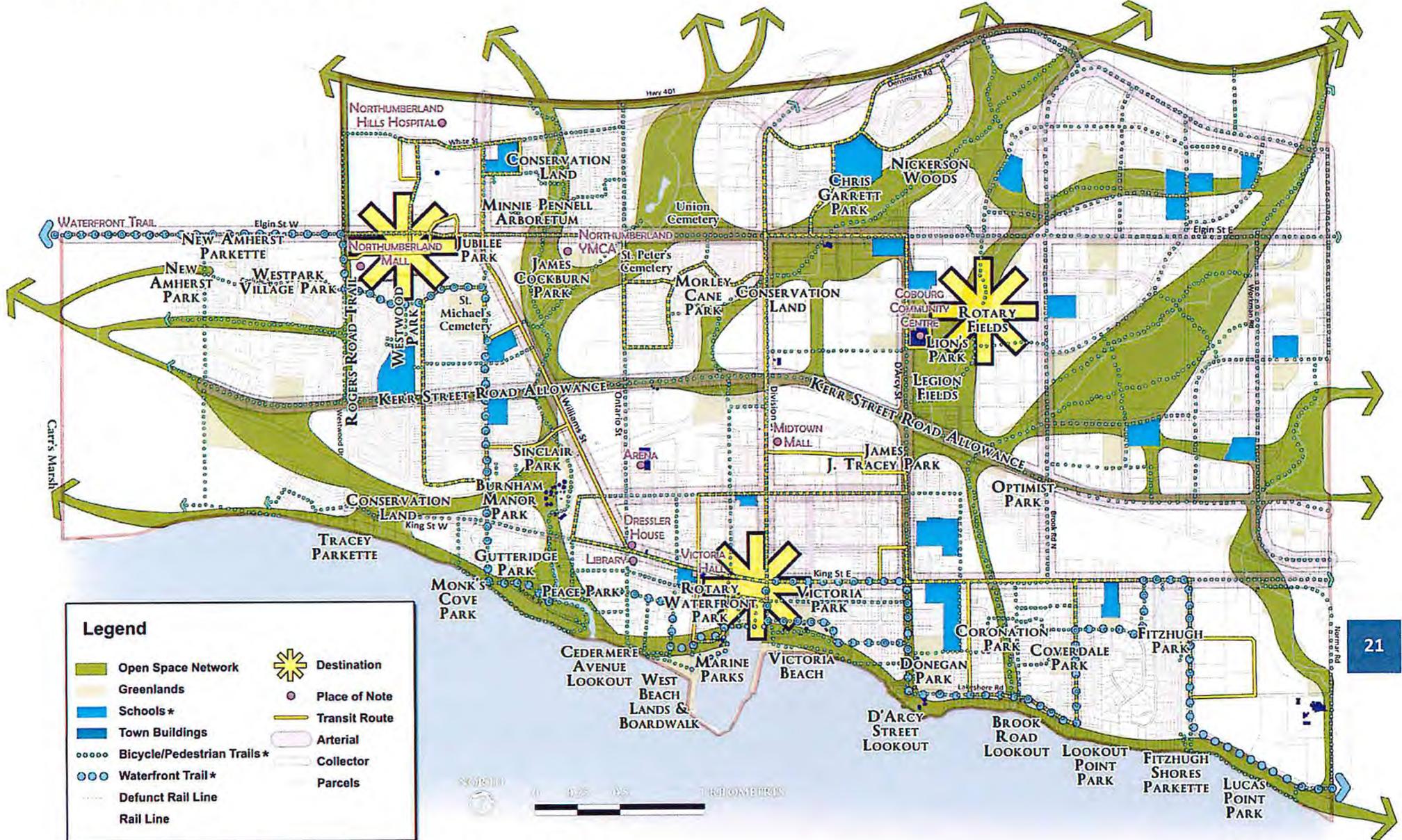
of "green infrastructure" serves to give organization and order to the physical form of the Town. In support of the open space system, many of the Town's major streets are incorporated into the Plan to promote connectivity and link the park system with other key attractions in Cobourg. These include King Street, Elgin Street, William Street, Ontario Street, Division Street, and D'Arcy Street.

As a means to encourage "active transportation" and promote healthy living, a network of multi-use trails, nature trails, foot paths and cycling routes are envisioned as the key features of the Systems Plan. In addition to these different types of trails, key town streets are integrated into the Systems Plan to complete the necessary connections. Sidewalks, on-road bicycle lanes, and multi-use trails within the road allowance, are part of the system. The implementation of all these facilities may fall under the responsibility of different departments within the Town including Parks and Recreation, Engineering and Environment and Public Works. As well, other public agencies including the GRCA, Northumberland County and the Ministry of Transportation may have regulatory role. These issues, along with alignment trail development standards, implementation costs, etc., would be addressed in a Trails Master Plan Study recommended to be undertaken following adoption of the Parks Master Plan.

The Plan builds upon objectives and concepts presented in the Town's Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan regarding long term greenlands and trail planning / development.



# Systems Plan Map



\* Mapped information provided by Town of Cobourg Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan

Note: See page 46 for enhanced waterfront design

### Potential Parkland Acquisitions

To fulfill several goals of the Parks Master Plan, and to develop a fully functional parks system that meets the future needs of residents, it is necessary for the Town of Cobourg to consider acquiring additional park land. During the course of study, six strategic locations were identified for potential acquisition. These acquisitions are important to successfully implementing key objectives of the Plan including developing

an integrated open space system for the Town, improving connections between parks (and other Town destinations), promoting active transportation, enhancing access to the park system, and preserving the natural areas of Cobourg. The acquisitions recommended are illustrated on the Systems Plan and are summarized in the following chart.

Potential Acquisitions

Area	Location	Purpose	Approximate Size
1	Kerr Street Allowance between William and Ontario Streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Open Space System - Kerr Street Trail</li> </ul>	1.25 ha
2	Portion of rail lands between Ontario and George Streets north of tracks; 85 Buchanan Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote multi-modal use of Via Station</li> <li>Link to Kerr Street Trail</li> </ul> <p>*NOTE: Requires easement for pedestrian bridge over tracks</p>	2.65 ha
3	640 Cottesmore Avenue, one parcel south to Kerr Street allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates improved access to Legion Park</li> <li>Link to Kerr Street Trail</li> </ul> <p>*NOTE: Potential for dog park</p>	1.51 ha
4	Kerr Street allowance from Cottesmore Avenue to Brook Road N.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Open Space System - Kerr Street Trail</li> </ul>	1.25 ha
5	Parcels south of King Street, west of Cobourg Creek to Tremaine Street; including 399 & 415 King Street; 180 & 122 Tremaine Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Open Space System - Cobourg Creek Trail</li> </ul> <p>*NOTE: may subdivide street frontage properties</p>	2.62 ha
6	117 Durham Street (football field) and 100 Bagot Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Open Space System</li> <li>Link to West Beach</li> </ul>	2.0 ha



# Opportunities & Activities

*Parks range not only in size but in purpose and must provide a variety of opportunities activities to accommodate the needs of the community.*

To provide the appropriate activities for Cobourg this section addresses the types or classifications of parks that are provided in the Town. By creating the necessary classifications, the park system can provide the necessary variety of activities.

## Traditional Approach to Parks Classification

The Town of Cobourg employs a parks classification system commonly used by many municipalities. In most cases, the classifications generally define the size of parks, the area they serve, and the facilities or amenities they provide. This approach has resulted in a narrow definition of parks in terms of how they are programmed and developed. To a large degree, the focus is on active recreation and the supply and distribution of sports fields and other athletic facilities. As a result, parks have tended to become single use facilities that meet the needs of a small number of users. While they may accommodate sporting and athletic activities, they have limited appeal to the public at large, and almost no appeal to visitors.

The net result is that parks are no longer integral elements of the form of the city or the experience it offers. They no longer serve as the focus of communal space or as a venue for public gathering, meeting, or celebration. In many instances, they are no longer beautiful places that provide relief from the urban environment and they have lost their importance in the city building process.

## New Parks Classification System

A new system for classifying parks in Cobourg has been developed. While supporting the effective elements of the traditional approach described above, this new approach is character based and focuses creating a diversity of opportunities and activities. It promotes parks as integral components of the form of the Town and emphasizes access, visual quality and connectivity. It is fundamentally based on the belief that parks should be more than places for passive or active recreation. Rather, parks are a means to improve the social, cultural, environmental and economic well being of a community. This approach elevates the role of parks in the future of the Town.

### Existing Town of Cobourg Parks Classification

The Town of Cobourg currently has four different park classifications which include Village Park, Local Park, District Park, and Park. As summarized in the following chart, these parks are classified by the more traditional approach of defining park size, service area, and facilities.

Existing Park Classification

Type	Facilities	Location	Size	Service Area
Village Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tot lot</li> <li>• Sitting areas</li> <li>• Landscaping appropriate to park area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central to neighbourhood or sub-neighbourhood</li> <li>• 30 m frontage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum - N/A</li> <li>• Optimum - 0.9 acres</li> </ul>	400 m
Local Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard size sports fields</li> <li>• Jr. and sr. play apparatus</li> <li>• Hard surface play areas</li> <li>• Parking (street where appropriate)</li> <li>• Sitting areas/furnishings</li> <li>• Passive and free play areas</li> <li>• Landscaping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjacent to collector road</li> <li>• Elementary school</li> <li>• Other open space</li> <li>• 60 m frontage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum - 3 acres</li> <li>• Optimum - 5 acres</li> </ul>	400-800 m
District Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major/standard size athletic facilities/sports fields</li> <li>• Other major facilities (ie. tennis, bowling greens)</li> <li>• Jr. and sr. play apparatus</li> <li>• Water spray pad</li> <li>• Hard surface play area</li> <li>• Washrooms</li> <li>• Parking including on street</li> <li>• Passive/free play</li> <li>• Shelters</li> <li>• Landscaping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjacent to collector or arterial</li> <li>• Elementary school</li> <li>• Other open space</li> <li>• 100 m frontage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum - 10 acres</li> <li>• Optimum - 10+ acres</li> </ul>	1.6 - 2.4 km
Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique characteristics</li> <li>• Special significance to Town</li> <li>• Culture/heritage assets</li> <li>• Waterfront location</li> <li>• Commemorative facility</li> <li>• Natural/geographic facility</li> <li>• Other as deemed appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criteria for local and district parks apply</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum - N/A</li> </ul>	Town

The park classifications proposed for the Town of Cobourg are briefly outlined below:

Leisure Parks - are the most common type of park and provide the greatest degree of access to the system. They are centrally located in each neighbourhood and are within a short walking distance of all homes.

Cultural Parks – possess historic/heritage qualities distinct to Cobourg. These parks help define the Cobourg experience and are unique places for community celebrations and special events. In conjunction with Landmark Parks, they provide the greatest opportunity to enhance the tourism appeal of the community.

Nature Parks - are predominantly natural in character and exhibit landscape/environmental characteristics common to Cobourg or the surrounding area. The focus of these parks is conservation, nature appreciation, and interpretation. They provide a nature-based experience and environmentally compatible passive recreation activities.

Athletic Parks – are large scale facilities whose primary function is active recreation. These parks serve both the Town and the surrounding region and are designed to accommodate a variety of events/activities simultaneously. Programmed for sports tournaments or festivals with a regional draw, they can contribute to the economic development of the Town.

Landmark Parks – are located on Cobourg’s waterfront. They are defining icons of the Town and provide a range of experiences and water related activities. As the centre piece of the Town’s event programming, Landmark Parks are regional destinations that have wide appeal to a diverse audience. Portals are a sub-component of this classification and provide public access to the waterfront at street ends that terminate at the lake.

Connector Parks – are generally linear public spaces that connect parks and primary Town attractions. They are components of the Systems Plan described in the previous section of the document and integrate creek corridors, abandoned utility/rail corridors, street allowances, etc.

The following chart summarizes the key attributes of each park classification including character, function, facilities (primary & secondary), and location. In addition, the chart identifies how existing parks are align with the new classification system.

## New Park Classification

Type	Character	Primary Function	Primary Facilities (required)	Secondary Facilities (allowed)	Location	Existing Parks (Reclassified)
Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wooded</li> <li>Stream corridor</li> <li>Valley land</li> <li>Shoreline</li> <li>Passive</li> <li>Wildlife habitat</li> <li>Low/no maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature preservation</li> <li>Nature appreciation</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Small group gatherings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trails</li> <li>Interpretation</li> <li>Naturalization</li> <li>Demonstration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural play area</li> <li>"Outdoor classroom"</li> <li>Enviro-washroom</li> <li>Public art/sculpture,</li> <li>Community gardens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural areas</li> <li>Stream corridors</li> <li>Environmental areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James Cockburn Park</li> <li>West Beach Lands &amp; Boardwalk</li> <li>Ecology Garden</li> <li>Minnie Pennell Arboretum</li> <li>Sinclair Park</li> <li>Peace Park</li> <li>Lucas Point Park</li> </ul>
Athletic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open</li> <li>Flat</li> <li>Well organized</li> <li>Maintained</li> <li>Active use</li> <li>Multi-use</li> <li>Specific use areas</li> <li>Vistas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athletics</li> <li>Major sports activities</li> <li>Tourism</li> <li>Large gatherings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sr. athletic fields</li> <li>Park centre (washroom, concession)</li> <li>Parking</li> <li>Pathways</li> <li>Picnic facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water play facility</li> <li>Skate/bike park</li> <li>Play area</li> <li>"Dome/bubble"</li> <li>Community gardens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrial areas</li> <li>Buffered from residential</li> <li>Primary road access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cobourg Community Centre</li> <li>Donegan Park</li> <li>Legion Fields</li> <li>Lion's Park</li> <li>Rotary Fields</li> </ul>
Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mix of open and treed areas</li> <li>Sun/shade</li> <li>Unique to neighbourhood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary passive recreation</li> <li>Play</li> <li>Pathway</li> <li>Small gatherings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pathway</li> <li>Play area</li> <li>Seating area</li> <li>Shelter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jr. play field</li> <li>Multi-use court</li> <li>Neighbourhood interpretation</li> <li>Info kiosk</li> <li>Spray pad</li> <li>Public art/sculpture</li> <li>Community gardens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central to neighbourhood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burnham Manor Park</li> <li>Coronation Park</li> <li>Coverdale Park</li> <li>Fitzhugh Park</li> <li>James J. Tracey Park</li> <li>Morley Cane Park</li> <li>New Amherst Parkette</li> <li>Optimist Park</li> <li>Westpark Village Park</li> <li>Westwood Park</li> <li>Gutteridge Park</li> </ul>
Connector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linear</li> <li>Recreationway</li> <li>Linked nodes</li> <li>Wayfinding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linkage</li> <li>Create connected open space system</li> <li>Access to gathering spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trail/pathways</li> <li>Trail head</li> <li>Interpretation</li> <li>Wayfinding features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rest areas</li> <li>Parking at nodes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utility corridors</li> <li>Abandoned rail lines</li> <li>Street rights of way</li> <li>Open space corridors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monk's Cove Park</li> <li>Rogers Road Trail</li> <li>Kerr Street Allowance</li> </ul>
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unique</li> <li>Inspirational</li> <li>Informative</li> <li>Cobourg identity</li> <li>Organized</li> <li>Shade/trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art</li> <li>Culture</li> <li>History</li> <li>Events</li> <li>Variety of gathering sizes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public art/sculpture</li> <li>Memorials</li> <li>Interpretation</li> <li>Pathways</li> <li>Gathering space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Themed play area</li> <li>Themed gardens</li> <li>Event space</li> <li>Horticultural display</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central location within Town</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victoria Park</li> <li>Jubilee Park</li> <li>Chris Garrett</li> <li>New Amherst</li> <li>Rotary Waterfront Park</li> </ul>
Landmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lakefront</li> <li>Urban</li> <li>Active</li> <li>Continuous</li> <li>Linked nodes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake access</li> <li>Tourism</li> <li>Festivals</li> <li>Large gatherings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marina/boating</li> <li>Commercial/retail</li> <li>Water based activity</li> <li>Promenade</li> <li>Festival space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water feature</li> <li>Public art/sculpture</li> <li>Spray pad</li> <li>Picnic facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjacent to Lake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victoria Beach</li> <li>Marina Park</li> <li>Central Esplanade</li> </ul>
Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Services</li> <li>Monumental and natural</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake access/views</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pathway from street</li> <li>Seating</li> <li>Overlook</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entry feature</li> <li>Interpretative panels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road end at Lake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cedermere Avenue Lookout</li> <li>D'Arcy Street Lookout</li> <li>Lookout Point Park</li> <li>Fitzhugh Shores Parkette</li> <li>Tracey Parkette</li> <li>Green Street</li> <li>Henry Street</li> </ul>

### Level of Service by Park Type

Each of the six park types that comprise the new classification system have been further defined by four important level of service factors. These include service area, service radius, park supply by population, and level of public gathering. Each of these factors combine to help determine the size and function of each park type, as well as the facilities, features and amenities provided. These factors are defined below:

**Service Area** – identifies the approximate boundaries (and related population) a park type is intended to support.

**Service Radius** – identifies the targeted distance a park type is from its intended users and defines its distribution across the Town

**Park Supply by Population** – identifies the existing and targeted quantity of parkland to be supplied in hectares for every 1,000 residents

**Public Gathering** – identifies the number of people the primary central space within a park should comfortably accommodate for events, ceremonies and gathering

The following chart outlines the level of service each new park type is intended to provide. The targets identified have been based on a number of considerations including achieving the goals and objectives of the Parks Master Plan, the trends/needs/supply/standards analysis, and input from the public, stakeholders and staff provided during the study.

**Park Type - Level of Service**

Type	Service Area	Service Radius	ha/1,000	Public Gathering	Size
Nature	Town	2 - 3 km	Increase to 2.20 ha/1,000 (from 1.7)	30	N/A
Athletic	Region	3 - 4 km	Maintain Extg 1.4 ha/1,000	200+	10-30 ha
Leisure	Neighbourhood	400 metre (5 minute walk)	Increase to 1.20 ha/1,000 (from 0.7)	20 - 40	0.25 ha - minimum
Connector	Town	400 metre (5 minute walk)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cultural	Town	2 - 3 km	Maintain Extg 0.6 ha/1,000	100+	Varies
Landmark	Region	3 - 4 km	Increase to 0.6 ha/1,000 (from 0.4)	500+	5 ha - minimum
Portal	Neighbourhood	N/A	N/A	4+	N/A

## Park Prototypes & Guidelines

For each new park classification, design guidelines have been developed to direct the future design and development of parks. The design guidelines are a vital component of successfully implementing future parks and achieving the goals of the Parks Master Plan. They have been developed to identify the key design attributes of each park type. The guidelines are meant to be flexible enough to allow for creative design expressions while establishing a minimum standard of development. The guidelines have been organized under nine issue topics: location, access, entrances, pedestrian

circulation, vehicular circulation, buildings, landscaping, signage and special features/functions. The types of design guidelines provided for each topic are detailed in the Park Design Guideline Descriptions table below.

Prototypical illustrations have been prepared to graphically illustrate the intent of the guidelines. These illustrations focus on depicting how the main features of each park type should be physically organized on a site to achieve a design solution that is orderly and functional. The illustrations are not site specific.

### PARK DESIGN GUIDELINE DESCRIPTIONS

LOCATION	Describes the ideal location in the community where each park type should be developed
ACCESS	Describes the type of street each park type should be located on and street frontage requirements
ENTRANCES	Describes the location of entrances and the relationship between pedestrian and vehicular entrances
PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION	Describes the requirements for internal pathway systems, and established minimum width standards
VEHICULAR CIRCULATION	Describes the location of vehicular circulation systems and features within each park type
BUILDINGS	Describes the function, type and location of buildings in each park type
LANDSCAPING	Describes provisions for sun/shade areas, buffering, naturalization, etc.
SIGNAGE	Describes requirements for park identification signage and wayfinding
SPECIAL FEATURES/ FUNCTIONS	Describes requirements to accommodate / provide special design elements or park uses

## Park Type: **ATHLETIC**

**Overview:** As a primary destination, this active use park has a town-wide or regional draw for major sporting activities/events, tourism, or other special events that draw a large attendance. The park should be located with frontage on an arterial road with views into and out of the site. It should be located in commercial or industrial areas with

buffers away from residential areas. The park should be well organized with defined/clustered recreation/athletic facilities. A centrally located building should house public washrooms, concessions, storage, change rooms, etc. An internal pedestrian network should link all facilities within the park and connect to the town-wide pedestrian system.

### PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES

- LOCATION** ➤ Should be located in commercial or industrial areas; should not impact residential land uses
- ACCESS** ➤ Should have minimum 50.0 m street frontage on primary street; should have frontage on two streets, should be located on transit route; should be integrated into open space system and be accessible by Connector Park
- ENTRANCES** ➤ Should have two points of entry; should include separate pedestrian entrances, should be announced with signage, landscaping
- PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION** ➤ Should have a primary internal path 3.0 m wide to link facilities, secondary path should be 2.0 m wide, should connect to the Town wide pedestrian system
- VEHICULAR CIRCULATION** ➤ Parking should be on-site; should be located to minimize impact; parking lots should be landscaped; parking lots should be lit; proximate to primary use areas; should provide "green" overflow parking areas to limit hard surfaced areas
- BUILDINGS** ➤ Should provide a centralized building with washrooms, concession, storage facilities; should provide adjacent outdoor gathering space/seating
- LANDSCAPING** ➤ Should provided shaded viewing / picnic areas; should screen adjacent land uses impacted by park activities
- SIGNAGE** ➤ Should provide park identification sign at entrances, should employ standardized Town design, should provide wayfinding, should be pedestrian scaled
- SPECIAL FEATURES/FUNCTIONS** ➤ Should be designed to accommodate multi-uses, special events; may provide historic, cultural, natural, civic and/or heritage features; should accommodate outdoor winter use



**Prototypical Athletic Illustration**

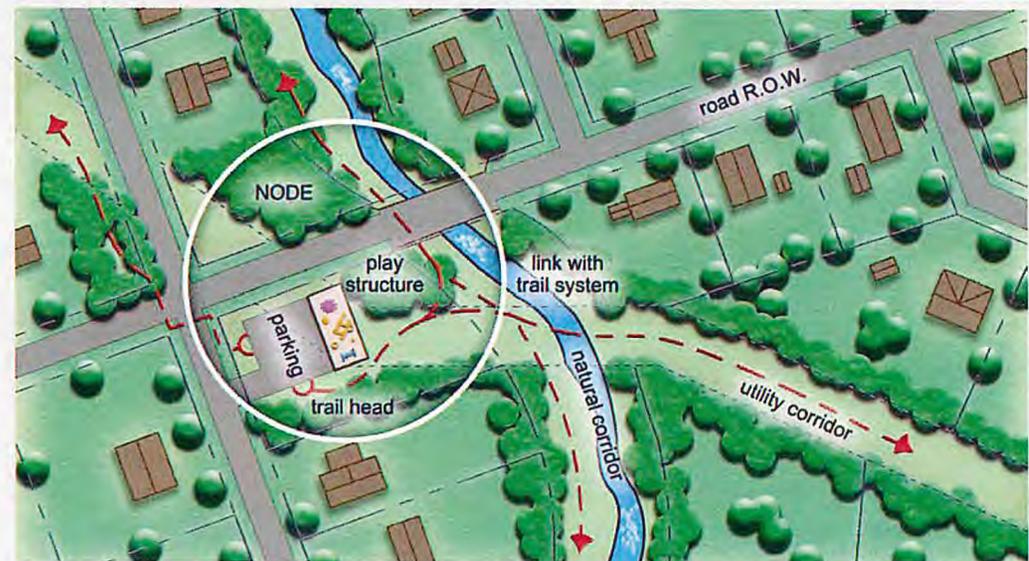
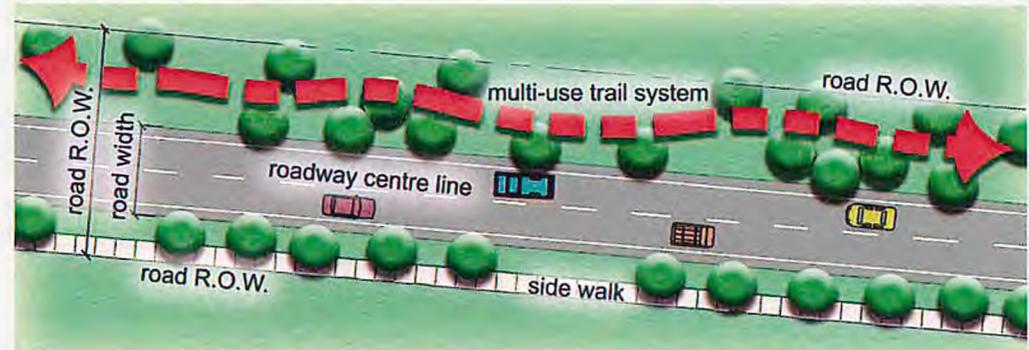
## Park Type: CONNECTOR

**Overview:** Connector Parks are intended to create an integrated and connected system of open space that link parks and other Town destinations/attractions together. Comprised primarily of natural and man-made corridors, they are designed for pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorized modes of circulation, and provide an alternative means of moving through the Town. As such, connector parks provide both a recreational and commuter function.

They support healthy living, promote physical activity, act as natural buffers, and can enhance the value of adjacent property. In addition, these parks promote linkages for habitat and naturalization, and can be part of stormwater management strategies. Within road allowances (i.e. Kerr Street), the centre line of the roadway should be offset from the right-of-way centre line to allow generous space to develop an off-road, multi-use trail.

### PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES

<b>LOCATION</b>	➤ Town-wide - natural areas, stream corridors, rail lands, road right-of-ways
<b>ACCESS</b>	➤ Should have minimum 5.0 m street frontage
<b>ENTRANCES</b>	➤ Should include wayfinding signs/map, seating, landscaping, bicycle racks
<b>PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION</b>	➤ Comprises the Town wide pedestrian system; primary multi-use path 3.0 m wide, secondary path – 2.0 m wide
<b>VEHICULAR CIRCULATION</b>	➤ Should only be accessible to emergency/service vehicles; may provide limited parking at major trailheads
<b>BUILDINGS</b>	➤ Not required
<b>LANDSCAPING</b>	➤ Should buffer adjacent industrial / commercial uses
<b>SIGNAGE</b>	➤ Should provide park identification sign at entrances, should employ standardized Town design, should provide wayfinding, should be pedestrian scaled
<b>SPECIAL FEATURES/FUNCTIONS</b>	➤ May provide rest/seating areas along primary trails or points of intersection; could include shade shelters, benches, interpretive panels, trash receptacles



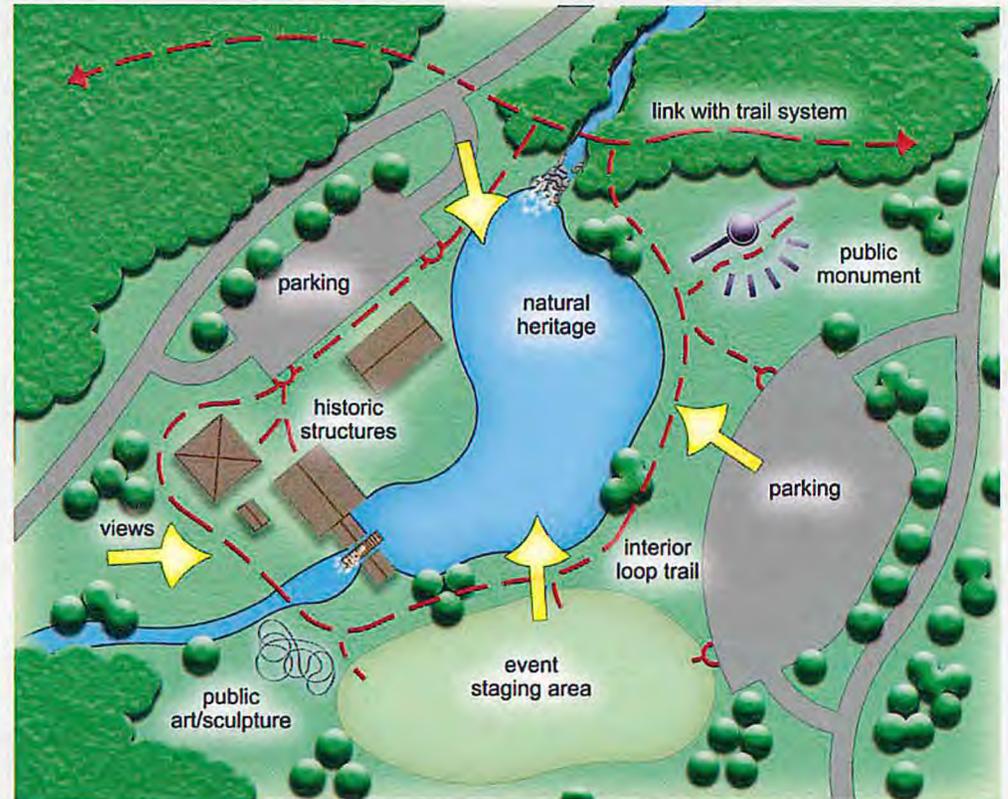
Prototypical Connector Illustration

## Park Type: CULTURAL

*Overview: Cultural Parks are distinctive public spaces that celebrate the history and culture of the Town. They are intended to be defining features of the community and can vary in size and function from small single monument settings to large, municipal event space. They contain public art/ sculpture, memorials, and historical grounds and, where feasible, have well-organized pedestrian circulation and public gathering space. Cultural Parks are well landscaped and include unique features such as horticultural displays, interpretive stations, gazebo's, water features, etc.*

### PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES

- LOCATION** ▶ Should be located in high visibility / active use areas
- ACCESS** ▶ Should have minimum 30.0 m street frontage on primary street; should be located on transit route; should be integrated into open space system and be accessible by Connector Park
- ENTRANCES** ▶ Should have well defined pedestrian entrance announced with unique landscape features (walls, structures, public art, signage, landscaping, etc.)
- PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION** ▶ Should have primary internal path 3.0 m wide to link facilities, secondary path should be 2.0 m wide, should connect to the Town wide pedestrian system
- VEHICULAR CIRCULATION** ▶ Could provide on-street parking; could provide on-site parking if demand warrants and can be accommodated
- BUILDINGS** ▶ Could provide a centralized building with washrooms, concession, storage facilities
- LANDSCAPING** ▶ Should provided shaded viewing / picnic areas; should screen adjacent land uses impacted by park activities
- SIGNAGE** ▶ Should provide park identification sign at entrances, should be unique/custom designed, should provide wayfinding in large parks, should be pedestrian scaled
- SPECIAL FEATURES/ FUNCTIONS** ▶ Should be designed to accommodate multi-uses, special events; may provide historic, cultural, natural, civic and/or heritage features



Prototypical Cultural Illustration

## Park Type: LANDMARK

**Overview:** Landmark parks are located on the waterfront and are defining features of the Town. They enhance the identity of Cobourg as a waterfront community and support a diversity of water related recreation activities. In the urban area, they support the downtown and are intended to enhance tourism and economic development opportunities. Across the Cobourg waterfront, Landmark Parks are envisioned to be connected and continuous and

provide direct pedestrian access (visual and physical) to the Lake. They support a wide variety of uses, activities and experiences and are integral to the economic well being of the community. As a sub-component of Landmark Parks at the waterfront, Portals are designed at all north/south streets that end at the Lake to provide public access and lake viewing opportunities.

### PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES

- LOCATION** ➤ Should be located on the waterfront; should be continuous/connected across the waterfront
- ACCESS** ➤ Should maximize street frontage for park use; should preserve views to the water
- ENTRANCES** ➤ Should have well defined pedestrian entrances connected to the street; entrance should connect with a primary pedestrian promenade or boardwalk
- PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION** ➤ Should have a hierarchy of pedestrian circulation features; should provide a primary pedestrian promenade or boardwalk a minimum 5.0 m wide, should connect to the Town wide pedestrian system
- VEHICULAR CIRCULATION** ➤ Should be designed to enhance the experience of the waterfront; should minimize the impact on public use/access to the waterfront; should limit parking on the waterfront
- BUILDINGS** ➤ Should provide washrooms, concession, change rooms, storage, etc.; buildings should be connected to the primary promenade or boardwalk; should be orientate to preserve views of the water; should have a character compatible with its waterfront location
- LANDSCAPING** ➤ Should be used to reinforce pedestrian circulation and focus views to the water; should provide shade; should mitigate beach erosion/sand displacement; should support environmental function of waterfront
- SIGNAGE** ➤ Should provide park identification sign at entrances, should be unique/custom designed, should provide wayfinding in large parks, should be pedestrian scaled
- SPECIAL FEATURES/FUNCTIONS** ➤ Should enhance tourism and economic development; should accommodate increased commercial use/activities; should support special events; should have a character unique to Cobourg



Prototypical Landmark Illustration

## Park Type: LEISURE

**Overview:** Leisure Parks are the most common park type in the Town and are centrally located within each neighbourhood. They are intended to be the primary public space in a neighbourhood and provide the most direct access to park space. As passive recreation spaces, they offer casual and un-programmed park use/activities to local residents. Leisure Parks are within a short walking distance from all residential areas and are a minimum of 0.25 ha.

### PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES

- LOCATION** ➤ Should have minimum 20.0 m street frontage on a local street; should be connected to adjacent side-streets with pedestrian lane
- ACCESS** ➤ Should have defined pedestrian entrance connected to the sidewalk
- ENTRANCES** ➤ Should be centrally located in each neighbourhood
- PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION** ➤ Should have primary internal path 2.5 m wide to link facilities, secondary pathway 1.8 m wide could be provided, should connect to the Town wide pedestrian system
- VEHICULAR CIRCULATION** ➤ Not required; could provide on-street parking (preferred) or on-site if demand warrants; should minimize impact on site use
- BUILDINGS** ➤ Not required
- LANDSCAPING** ➤ Should provided shaded seating area; should buffer adjacent residential uses
- SIGNAGE** ➤ Should provide park identification sign at entrances, should employ standardized Town design, should provide wayfinding, should be pedestrian scaled
- SPECIAL FEATURES/FUNCTIONS** ➤ Should be designed with a defined "centre"; should provide family facilities/play area



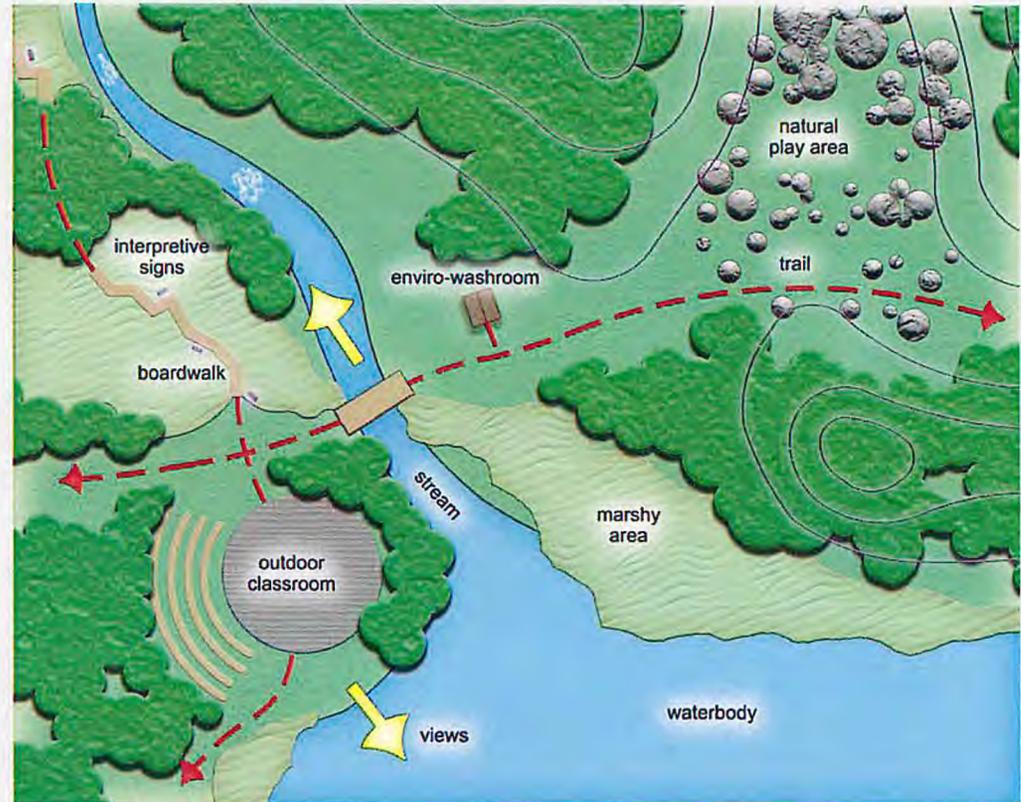
Prototypical Leisure Illustration

## Park Type: NATURE

*Overview: Nature Parks are intended to protect, preserve and enhance the environmental qualities of the Town. They are comprised of natural areas, woodlots, hazard lands, and select waterfront public spaces. They accommodate public access and provide environmental educational opportunities and experiences. Development within Nature Parks is generally limited to pedestrian facilities that integrate well with the natural environment and enhance the experience. This includes nature trails, overlooks, bird blinds, interpretive panels, etc.*

### PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES

- LOCATION** ➤ Should have minimum 40.0 m street frontage on primary street; should be integrated into open space system and be accessible by Connector Park
- ACCESS** ➤ Should have pedestrian entrance connected to the street
- ENTRANCES** ➤ Should be in natural areas – woodlots, stream corridors, wetlands, lake edge
- PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION** ➤ Should have primary internal path 2.5 m wide to link facilities, could provide secondary path should be 1.8 m wide, should connect to the Town wide pedestrian system
- VEHICULAR CIRCULATION** ➤ Not required; could provide on-street parking (preferred) or on-site if demand warrants; should minimize impact on site use
- BUILDINGS** ➤ Could provide a centralized building with washrooms, concession, storage facilities
- LANDSCAPING** ➤ Should enhance the environmental function of the site; should enhance habitat; should be developed for educational purposes
- SIGNAGE** ➤ Should provide park identification sign at entrances, should be unique/custom designed, should provide wayfinding in large parks, should be pedestrian scaled
- SPECIAL FEATURES/FUNCTIONS** ➤ Should be a model of green design; should employ extensive environmental design/construction techniques; should be an outdoor education destination



Prototypical Nature Illustration

# Experiences

*Creating memorable park experiences means telling an interesting story, one that is relevant and informative.*

Experience within a park system can be developed through an interpretive program that is specifically made for Cobourg and the physical, environmental, historic and cultural qualities that are the essence of this community.

The following details components of an interpretive program that enhances the experiences of the park system in Cobourg. It provides an educational value to the parks and supports the environmental enhancement and preservation approach to the development of open space. The program consists of seven themed areas as shown in the Interpretive Plan and described below. Topics specific to each of the themed areas have been identified.

The Committee for Art in Public Spaces should be involved in the development and implementation of the interpretive program.

## Creek System

The creek system is the most significant north/south component of the park system. Acquisitions and naturalization of lands along the creek will be a priority. Telling the story of the Cobourg Creek watershed is significant as the backbone of the north south trail system. The interpretive story involves the watershed that drains the Northumberland hinterland with head waters in the Oak Ridges Moraine. The story could evolve from watershed planning, and the water cycle, to river /creek dynamics including erosion, groundwater recharge, fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic zones etc. Interpretive stations along the trail system would create destinations and themed educational facilities.



### Working Waterfront

The commercial history of Cobourg's harbour has been a significant definer of the modern waterfront and downtown. The evolution of the former railway and industrial lands to become a regional waterfront both for recreation and public access is a significant story. The interpretive story would include shipping on the Great Lakes, coal iron ore, oil shipped out of Cobourg and Great Lakes fishing. Other interpretive stories include the American presence and investment including the Rochester Ferry and the history of tourists to the waterfront.

### Wetlands

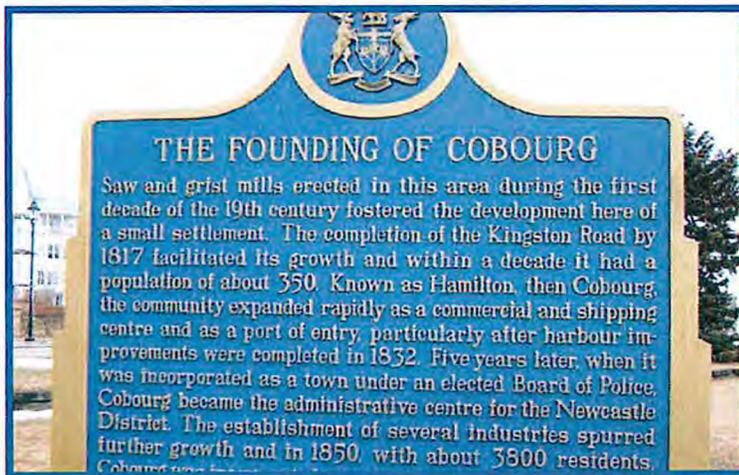
Enhancement of the wetlands as living places provides an opportunity to develop an educational program linked to the importance of wetlands and the role they play in sustaining healthy communities. Focused on communicating the diverse ecological function of wetlands, specific interpretive features could include: wetlands and the water cycle, wetland habitat, aquatic zones, wetland birds, wetlands and storm water retention. The interpretive program could include interactive demonstration facilities at interpretive nodes.

### Historic Cobourg

The people, culture and historic figures of many famous Canadians from the Town of Cobourg is obviously an important story and the one most popular with visitors and residents alike. The ghosts of Cobourg pervade the community from the founding by United Empire Loyalists in 1798, the building of Victoria Hall with its opulent Ballroom and the Old Bailey-style courtroom to the numerous downtown buildings in the Heritage Districts including Victoria Park and its stately trees. Today, the resort community is reflected in the enormous summer homes built by wealthy American visitors from a by-gone era. All are the interpretive stories that could be developed into a core area "ghosts of Cobourg" experience.

### Bluffs Waterfront

The clay bluffs define the east and west of Cobourg and shape the harbour and beaches. Although not extremely high they are a feature that reflects the original shoreline and can be used to interpret the formation of Lake Ontario after the ice age, local geology, soil profiles and shoreline protection. Habitat, native vegetation and bird watching are also interpretive opportunities.



### Northumberland Agriculture

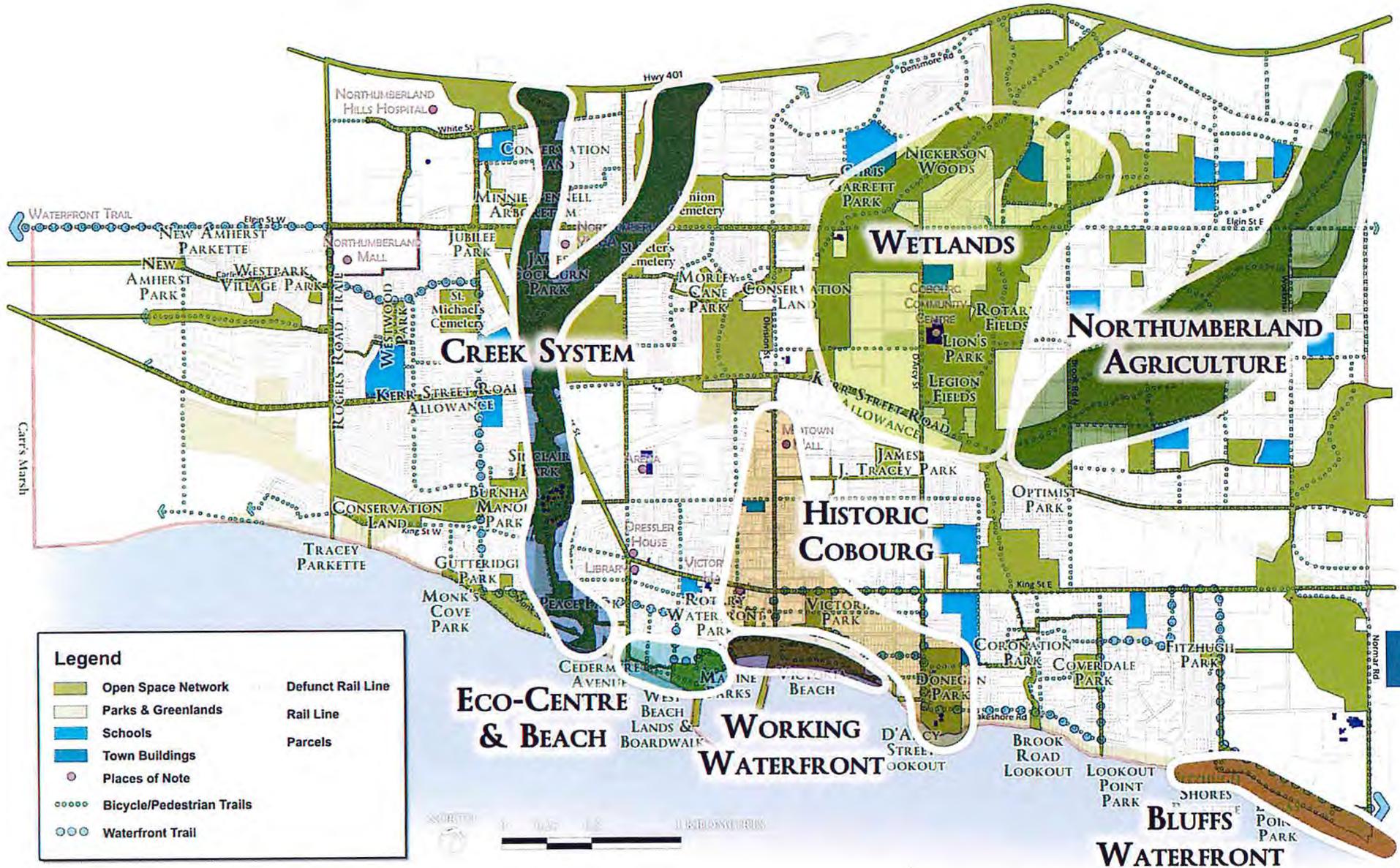
Northumberland County history and agriculture is a unique component formulating the social and cultural history of the Town and linking Cobourg to surrounding destinations. Interpretation could include the history of farming, farming techniques, innovations and economic impacts. Besides interpretive panels and nodes an existing farmstead could be included in future acquisitions on a joint venture with the county to develop an interactive museum.

### Eco-Centre & Natural Beach

The west beach is a natural landscape of sand, cobbles and beach grasses which supports a unique wildlife. Interpretation could take the form of the interaction between lake and beach, in and out of the water interface would include riparian drift, beach deposition, fish habitat, beach vegetation and habitat and waterfowl. The boardwalk running along the beach adjacent to the natural access road would allow nodes for bird blinds and interpretation. An iconic building, on the edge of the harbour, would be a signature interpretive facility for the interpretation of the natural beach/lake interface story.



# Interpretive Concept Plan







# THE WATERFRONT

*Integral to the identity of Cobourg, the waterfront is a key feature of the parks system. Maintaining and enhancing the significance of the waterfront, the following chapter describes in detail its role within the parks system.*



# Waterfront Goals

*The waterfront goals specifically address the waterfront issues and potentials, consistent with the goals and objectives of the Parks Master Plan.*

## Waterfront Goal #1: Identity

Cobourg's waterfront is a unique, memorable and unified experience that truly reflects the history, culture and geography of the Town.

### Goal Rationale

Cobourg is a waterfront community; its identity has intertwined with the history and culture of life and commerce at the lake. Therefore, it is critical that the plan recognizes the importance of the waterfront and captures the spirit of the Town.

### Potential Actions

- Preserve/Enhance Victoria Park
- Enhance Waterfront Promenade
- Expand Interpretive Programming

## Waterfront Goal #2: Access

All of Cobourg's waterfront is accessible in all seasons.

### Goal Rationale

It is of prime concern that everyone has the ability to enjoy the lake and to support downtown businesses and lakefront facilities. By planning for all season accessibility (physical and visual) across the waterfront, use is expanded beyond the typical summer and shoulder seasons, incorporating this essential asset into the fabric of the community.

### Potential Actions

- Develop East Beach Boardwalk
- Accommodate Access along West Breakwater
- Develop Parking to serve Waterfront and Downtown

## Waterfront Goal #3: Connectivity

Cobourg's waterfront is a cohesive whole, where destination nodes are linked and direct people along the waterfront.

### Goal Rationale

Currently, connections to and along the waterfront are inadequate and the waterfront is not perceived as a unified entity, but as a series of disjointed spaces. As such, it is necessary that the plan promotes connectivity along the waterfront.

### Potential Actions

- Enhance East/West Streetscapes
- Enhance Pedestrian/Bicycle link through Trailer Park/Victoria Park
- Extend West Beach Boardwalk to Peace Park

Below are the goals for seven different waterfront issues. The rationale for each goal details the desired outcome and the reason the Town should strive to achieve these goals. The potential actions listed identify opportunities to achieve each goal.

### *Waterfront Goal #4: Downtown Linkages*

Cobourg's waterfront is linked, both physically and visually, to the downtown through enhanced sightlines, walkways, open spaces and amenities.

#### Goal Rationale

Access to the downtown and the central common should be accented to promote community, business and culture. Beneficial for both waterfront users and downtown vibrancy, it is necessary to incorporate clear linkage between the two into the plan.

#### Potential Actions

- Enhance North/South Streetscapes
- Create "Town Commons"
- Create First Street link

### *Waterfront Goal #5: Gathering & Event Space*

Cobourg's waterfront event space accommodates a variety of simultaneous events and gatherings and expands across the entire waterfront area.

#### Goal Rationale

The Town has numerous public events, both on the waterfront and in Donegan Park. It is important for the plan to view the entire waterfront as gathering space so that people may easily move along the streets and waterfront space, stimulating economic development in support of the downtown.

#### Potential Actions

- Link Donegan Park to Waterfront
- Create multi-functional parkland at Waterfront
- Expand gathering space at Harbour

### *Waterfront Goal #6 Signature Anchors*

Cobourg's waterfront is identifiable by a clearly defined signature anchor.

#### Goal Rationale

Currently, the waterfront does not have an anchor that reflects the identity of the Town. Therefore, it is important that the plan creates a single iconic facility that represents Cobourg's waterfront. A signature anchor demonstrates the significance of the waterfront as a visitor destination and provides an educational component for the benefit of all.

#### Potential Actions

- Create interpretive facility - Eco-Centre
- Improve access/public use of Pier
- Accommodate waterfront restaurant

### *Waterfront Goal #7: Environment*

Cobourg's waterfront reflects modern ecological principles in the development of all facilities, complete streets and amenities.

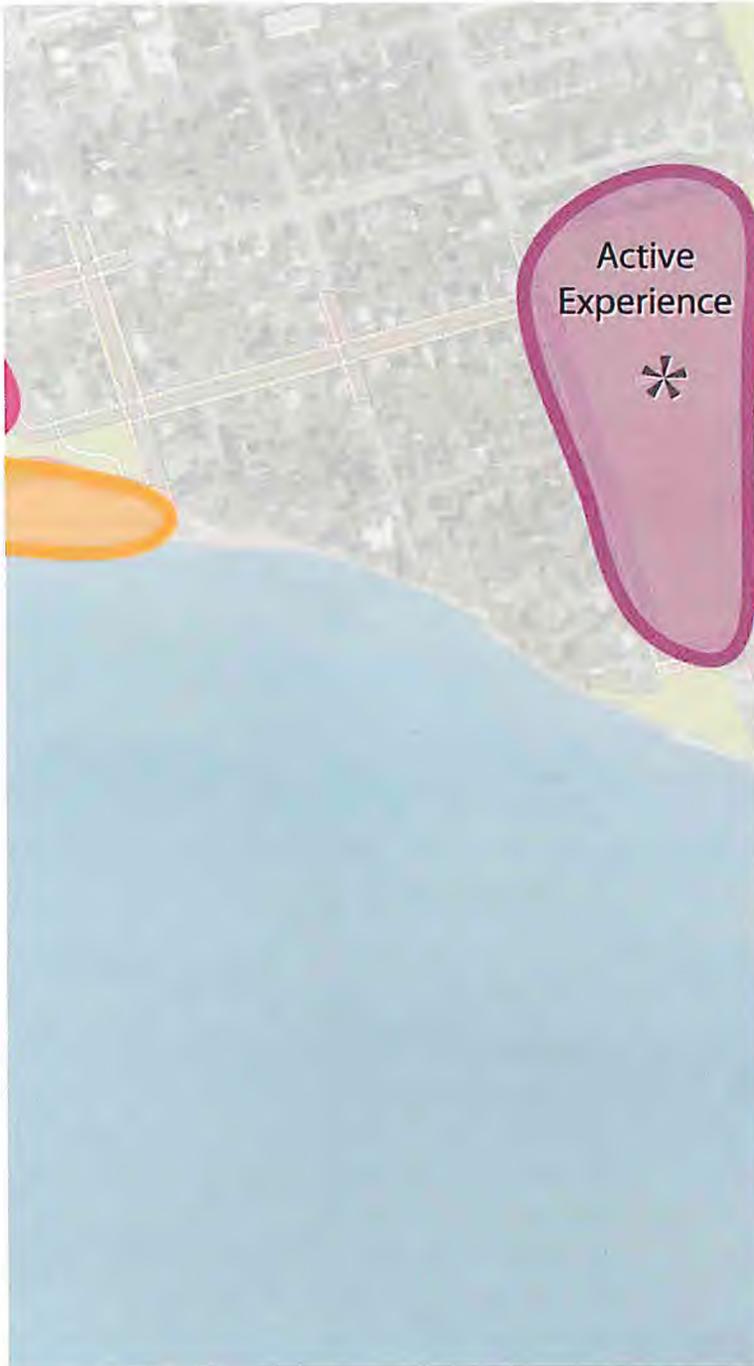
#### Goal Rationale

The lakefront is, in essence, a natural area and the residents of Cobourg are the stewards of their waterfront. As such, it is important that the plan reflect the responsibilities of environmental stewardship.

#### Potential Actions

- Enhance environmental quality at West Beach, Harbour
- Daylight Midtown Creek at Harbour
- Mitigate sand migration at East Beach





# Organizing the Waterfront

During the inventory and analysis phase of work it was recognized that the waterfront lacked a strong sense of cohesion, organization and diversity. As a result, the waterfront appears to be a collection of individual pieces with weak relationships between them. Contributing to this problem is a lack of strong physical connections across the waterfront and to the downtown, which was a key issue identified during the public consultation process. These core issues are addressed in the following section of the document and are discussed under the headings of Design Concept and Connectivity Plan.

## Design Concept

While many areas of the waterfront have been improved over time, there remains tremendous potential to elevate the experience of the waterfront and diversify its role in the Town. The Design Concept demonstrates how the waterfront can be spatially organized to enhance it as the defining feature of Cobourg. Building upon the varied physical characteristics of the area, the Concept identifies seven distinct areas that combine to create an integrated series of “places” that elevate the waterfront as a destination. Each area is defined by the experience it offers and the role it plays in diversifying the waterfront. Together with the Connectivity Plan, these areas provide the foundation for the Waterfront Master Plan that has been developed. The seven experience areas are:

- Natural Waterfront Experience - *emphasizes natural beach environment*
- Urban Waterfront Experience - *emphasizes urban character, structured, organized, active*
- Park Experience - *emphasizes green character, passive/pastoral quality*
- Beach Experience - *emphasizes active beach use; beach environment*
- Town Commons - *emphasizes downtown character, active, public gathering*
- Historic/Cultural Experience - *emphasizes heritage/cultural interpretation; appreciation*
- Active Experience - *emphasizes active recreation*





## Connectivity Plan

The Connectivity Plan identifies opportunities to create a waterfront that is viewed as a cohesive whole, where destination nodes are linked to direct people along the waterfront. Primary lake views are preserved and enhanced through careful siting of waterfront amenities.

Uniting the destinations within each experience area and extending a circulation system east-west along the waterfront and north-south into downtown promotes walkability and safely integrates pedestrian/cyclist access with vehicular circulation. A system comprised of different elements connects the waterfront in an east-west direction. These include: a grand waterfront promenade (the Promenade), which integrates/enhances the existing walkways along the inner harbour and the east beach; a beach boardwalk (the Boardwalk), which extends across the east beach, the east pier, the west pier, and integrates the existing west beach boardwalk; and streetscape enhancements on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, the Esplanade, Division Street, Queen Street, Church Street and Bay Street for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. Consideration should be given to exploring the potential to develop a one-way street system along the waterfront.

Three potential primary parking zones are identified for future development to expand the availability of off street parking to serve the downtown and the waterfront.

The parking locations are triangulated around the perimeter of downtown to provide sufficient, convenient coverage for all areas.

If parking garages are constructed, incorporate mixed uses at ground level to promote a vibrant downtown.

If parking garages are constructed, consider installing green roofs to reduce stormwater runoff and reduce the buildings' contribution to the urban heat island effect.

Two of the parking zones coincide with existing surface lots (adjacent to the police station on Hibernia Street and on Covert Street).

The third parking zone, proposed for the block between Queen and Charles Streets, would require the acquisition of the property at 17 Queen Street (Northumberland Professional Building) and the parking lot associated with the post office.



# Waterfront Master Plan

In addition to Victoria Hall, the waterfront is the defining icon of Cobourg. With one of Ontario's best beaches and a first class marina for recreational boaters, Cobourg's waterfront is a remarkable resource that gives the Town its core identity. The immediate proximity to downtown and historic Victoria Park only serve to strengthen its distinction as a premier waterfront place.

Throughout its time as the focus of life in Cobourg, the waterfront has been a dynamic place in a state of transition. From its beginnings in the 1830's, when the first pier was constructed at the base of Division Street, the waterfront has functioned both as a passenger ferry landing and an industrial port through which a variety of commercial products were shipped. In 1981, the waterfront changed forever as the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans suggested to the Town re-designating the port a small craft harbour. Recognizing the vast potential of the waterfront as a public resource, the Town was quick to act. Within a decade, a harbour secondary plan established a new vision for the waterfront, oil tanks and rail tracks were removed, contaminated lands remediated, and a new public waterfront began to emerge. Today, the waterfront has evolved into a significant destination that supports a variety of activities for both residents and visitors. The remarkable transformation of Cobourg's waterfront is the result of the vision, efforts and commitment of past and present elected officials, community leaders and residents.

The concepts developed during the Parks Master Plan study build upon the role of the waterfront as a dynamic and diverse public space at the centre of community life. Preliminary in nature, the concepts illustrate a range of possibilities to enhance the role, function and appeal of the waterfront to a varied user group.



## Town Commons: Potential Key Improvements to the Area

- The asphalt paving/parking surrounding Victoria Hall and the market building is removed and replaced with plaza space and public gardens to create “Victoria Square” strengthening the link between Rotary Waterfront Park and the downtown. The existing market building could be redeveloped as a interpretive

and visitor welcome centre that is open year round.

- The buildings along Albert Street west of Rotary Waterfront Park could be redeveloped/re-purposed to create a Market Square that serves as a more significant year round public destination and retail area. Incorporating indoor/outdoor market activities, the area would be an integral component of the Town Commons concept and include public gathering space and active plaza areas.
- A new north-south walkway on the east side of Rotary Waterfront Park connects the urban waterfront and marina area to downtown and Albert Street.
- A new mid-block, north-south walkway west of Division Street at First Street connects the marina area to downtown and King Street.

Detail Plan of the Town Commons Area



Town Commons Location Context



## Urban Waterfront (and Pier): Potential Key Improvements to the Area

- Streetscape enhancements on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and the Esplanade from Hibernia Street to Division Street could include bicycle lanes and sidewalks on both sides, tree planting, banners, and waterfront themed fixtures and furnishings.
- The existing walkway adjacent to the harbour wall is improved, widened (to +/- 6 m) and expanded upon, to create the Promenade, which includes generous seating areas, interpretive panels, tree planting, and waterfront themed fixtures and furnishings.
- The final portion of Midtown Creek, between the Parkway Promenade and Cobourg Harbour, is daylighted to reinforce one's understanding of the connection between our urban creeks and Lake Ontario. Interpretive signage could be expanded to further explain the role of urban creeks in stormwater management and the effect urban environments have on water quality.
- Two plazas with retail kiosks flank the space between the Esplanade and the Promenade, bringing the urban downtown feeling to the waterfront. The kiosks are envisioned as open structures for seasonal use, which would compliment downtown businesses and activities. Siting of the kiosks maintains views to the marina and water.
- Restrooms and change rooms are provided at the existing marina building.
- The Cobourg Yacht Club (CYC) is a primary "partner" at the waterfront and plays a central role in its appeal and

function. In addition to accommodating boater needs for docking and storage, the CYC provides its members and the community with a number of benefits/services/facilities including sailing classes, hosting events, and a waterfront restaurant.

- The marina has the potential to be improved with a number of enhancements including new boat slips, an expanded double width boat launch, and a travel lift or gantry for hoisting boats in/out of the water. A universally accessible canoe/kayak launch has been integrated into the shoreline within the basin.
- A new restaurant with outdoor patio expands eating and entertainment opportunities proximate to the pier and beach. To develop this, there is potential to relocate the Coast Guard and develop a boathouse at their dock on the inside the basin, and redevelop their building for the restaurant, or other uses including "surf shop" or snake bar.
- Improvements to the existing pier include:
  - » Pedestrian and vehicular areas are clearly defined, with pedestrian boardwalks around the perimeter, and an interior road with a turnaround at the end, and parking.
  - » Cantilevered overlooks on the inside of the basin expands the area available for pedestrians.
  - » Shelters along the pier provide protection from the sun and wind to extend use
  - » Armour stone outcroppings adjacent to the east side of the pier provide lake viewing areas, enhance aquatic habitat and expand fishing opportunities.

Urban Waterfront (and Pier) Location Context



Detail Plan of the Urban Waterfront Area



## Natural Waterfront: Potential Key Improvements to the Area

- The existing boardwalk is extended to connect with Cobourg Creek and Peace Park. Overlooks along the boardwalk provide lake views with seating areas, bird blinds, and interpretive stations integrated into the boardwalk.
- Planted with native beach vegetation to mitigate sand migration, the boardwalk is sensitively integrated into the West Beach Environment to ensure a compatible fit and minimize visual impact
- There is potential to develop an Eco-Centre as an iconic feature of the Town/waterfront to provide a visitor destination and environmental education opportunities. The building could be a dramatic architectural feature that reflects its location and prominence as defining feature of the waterfront. In addition to providing land and water-based environmental educational features, the building could also provide community facilities including meeting rooms, reception space, public restrooms, etc.
- A boardwalk along the inside of the breakwater, or overtop of the water, is designed as an extension of the Eco-Centre experience and includes overlook areas and interpretive stations. A variety of aquatic habitats are created along the boardwalk and interior of the breakwater, including armour stone outcroppings, wetland plantings and sandy beaches. Interpretative signage could explain the various types of aquatic habitats and their benefits.
- In combination with a land-based pathway, this combined system extends along the inside of basin to the end of the breakwater, where it terminates in a viewing platform and pavilion to complete the system. Bird blinds, located along the boardwalk/pathway, provide opportunities for bird watching.



Natural Waterfront Location Context



## Victoria Park & Trailer Park: Potential Key Improvements to the Area

- Victoria Park is envisioned as a primary heritage and cultural destination and is proposed to be developed as an “outdoor museum” of Cobourg. Historical displays, artifact, and public art/sculpture would be integrated to enhance it’s heritage/ museum function
- The existing north-south walkway through the park is improved and straightened to create a central axis and improve sight lines to the water. Secondary pathways link heritage/museum features together and connect with adjoining streets.
- Existing elements, such as the playground and splash pad, are reinvented and relocated within the park to fit with the improved layout and pedestrian circulation and to preserve views and sight lines. The outdoor pool is phased out at the end of its life cycle.
- Additional amenities such as picnic shelters, and restrooms/ change rooms are incorporated into the park while maintaining sight lines to the water.
- The existing path through the Trailer Park is proposed to be enhanced for pedestrians and cyclists to improve the connection between Victoria Park and urban waterfront/ marina basin. Immediately north of the pathway to the property line, the area remains green space and can accommodate tenting. In the long term, consideration should be given to transforming the Trailer Park into a more multi-functional waterfront park space with a more diverse user group.
- Lands between the Trailer Park and Charles Street have been identified as long term acquisition potentials to expand park land at the waterfront, provide additional “green” street frontage at the waterfront, and improve the link between Victoria Park and the urban waterfront/marina basin.
- Site furniture at the trailer park should be located at the ends of the pathway; not internal to the park.

Victoria Park (and campground) Location Context



## The Beach: Potential Key Improvements to the Area

- The existing raised walkway delineating the beach and Victoria Park is enhanced to be a continuation of the Promenade. It is made wider (6 m) and includes generous seating areas, interpretive panels, tree planting, and waterfront themed fixtures and furnishings



- A Boardwalk set at sand level and connected to the Promenade with ramps provides the opportunity to enhance universal access to the sand and extend use of the beach. Ramp extensions from the Boardwalk could be developed to provide universal access to the water's edge. The Boardwalk is set into plantings of native beach grasses to integrate it as a feature and mitigate the effects of drifting sand. Beach-appropriate plantings soften the space between the Promenade and the Boardwalk. Armour stone blocks are integrated for seating.

The Beach Location Context



## Donegan Park: Potential Key Improvements to the Area

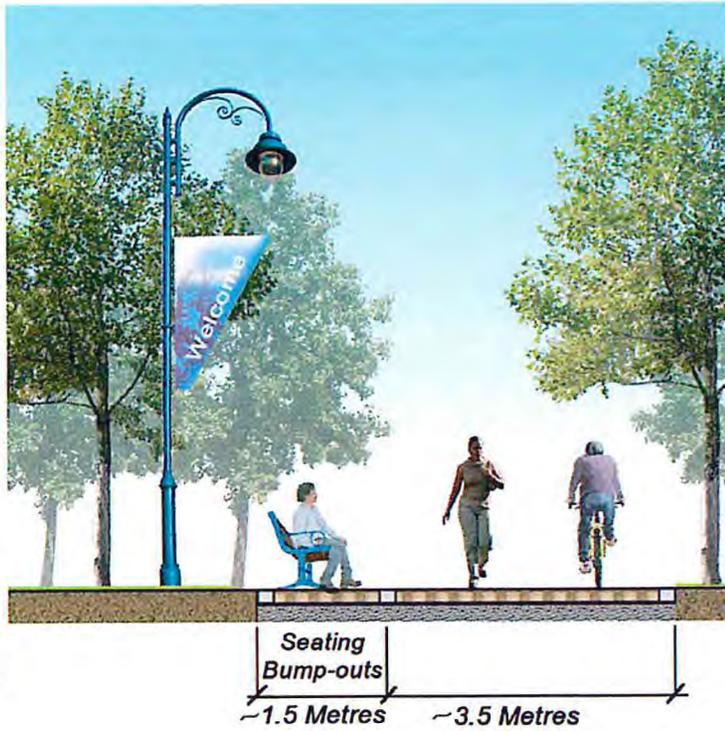
- Streetscape enhancements continue from Victoria Park to connect with Donegan Park. Streetscape elements, such as light pole banners and street furniture, identify this section of Bay Street as an extension of the Parkway.
- Proposed pedestrian trails within Donegan Park improve connectivity and provide opportunities for exercise and passive recreation.
- The existing baseball diamond could be improved with enhanced spectator facilities developed in a traditional heritage “ball park” style
- Removal of a portion of the fence at the water treatment plant opens this space to the park and provides continuous access to the lake.
- The Lake Walk, a waterfront path/trail, connects Donegan Park to Victoria Park and the beach.
- The entrance to park is enhanced.
- The intersection of D’Arcy Street and Bay Street is enhanced as a Gateway to the waterfront with specialty paving at the intersection, enhanced landscaping and signage features.

Donegan Park Location Context



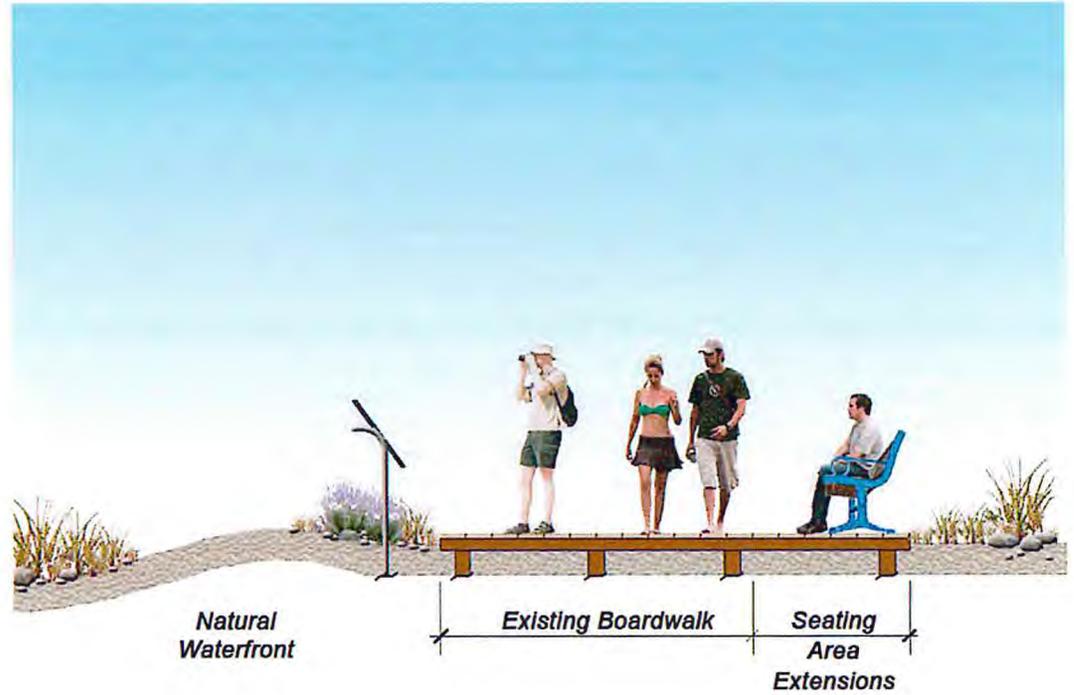
## Trailer Park Pathway

The illustration shows the improved pathway for pedestrians and cyclists through the Trailer Park to better connect Victoria Park and the marina basin/urban waterfront.



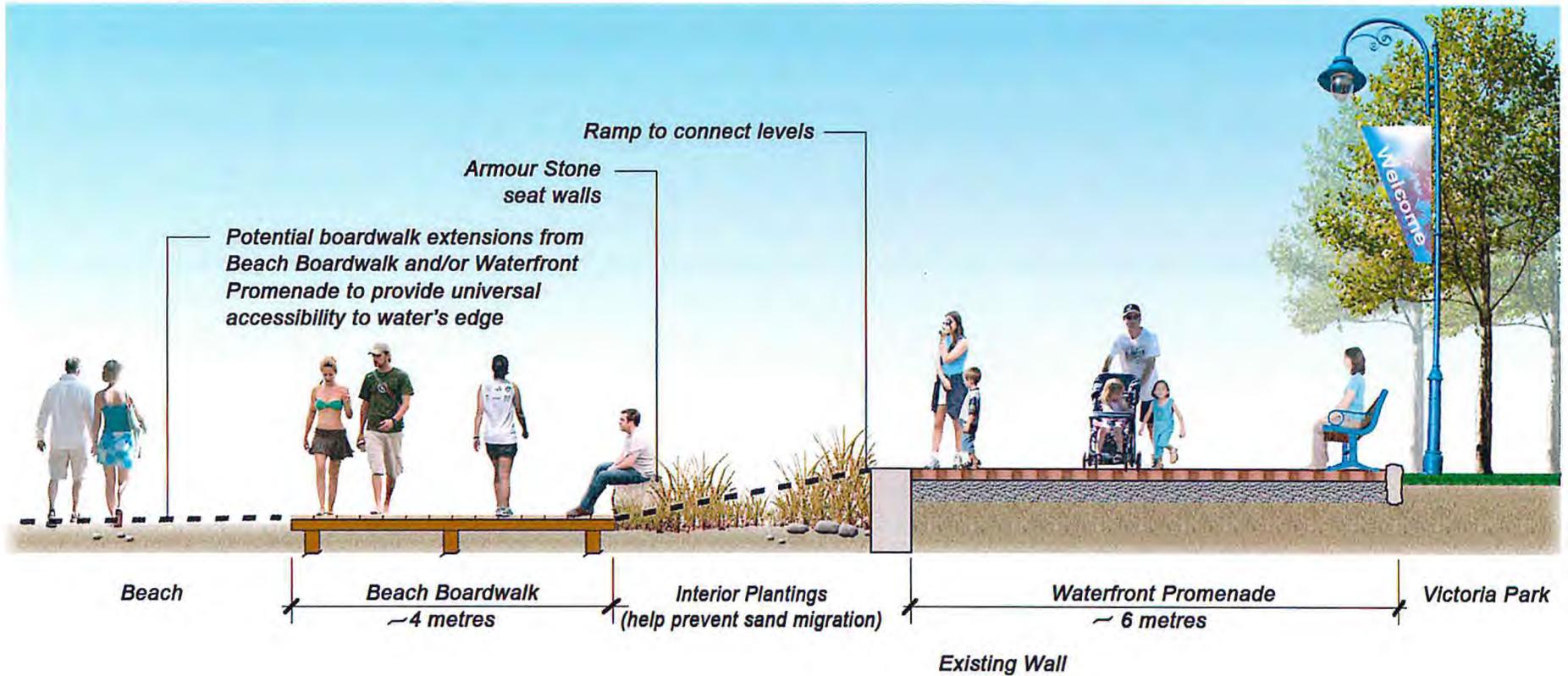
## West Beach Boardwalk

As shown in the illustration, the existing boardwalk could be enhanced with seating areas, bird blinds, interpretive station and native beach vegetation.



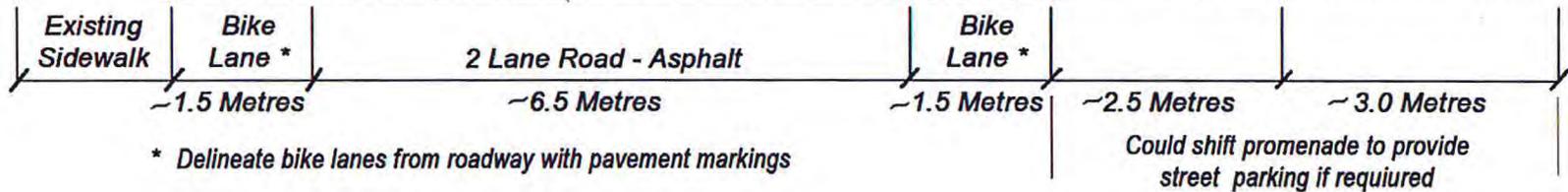
## Waterfront Promenade/Beach Boardwalk – Victoria Park

The illustration depicts the expanded Promenade and beach boardwalk at the east beach and Victoria Park. Native beach grass plantings function to minimize sand migration.



## Streetscape Enhancements - Urban Waterfront

The illustration shows streetscape enhancements on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and the Esplanade from Hibernia Street to Division Street. Potential improvements include bike lanes, enhanced sidewalks, tree planting, and themed street fixtures/furnishings.





# IMPLEMENTATION

*Developing a first class park system in Cobourg means having a detailed plan for implementation. With policies, recommendations and capital improvements, the following chapter provides the steps necessary to reach the goals of the Parks Master Plan.*



# Policies & Recommendations

*Policies are what guide decision making in a community. Clear policies, together with the recommendations for next steps to implementation will provide the foundation for developing and enhancing the park system.*

## Policies

The following 12 policies provide the guiding statements for parks and recreation decisions.

- P1. Universal accessibility helps the inclusivity of parks therefore parks and facilities shall be accessible and comply with applicable standards / codes / legislation (incl. ODA, CSA, OBC) however some open spaces may include areas of natural terrain that are much more difficult to access.
- P2. Visibility and accessibility increase the profile of parks which should have frontage on at least one street and have a defined entrance that connects to the street.
- P3. Safety and security are essential to inviting people into parks which should be designed to support principles of crime prevention and accommodate emergency vehicle access.
- P4. In order to maximize the use of space, parks should utilize multi-use and shared use facilities.
- P5. Since land is a limited resource and outdoor exercise is an essential component of park development and therefore parks should be designed for four season use.
- P6. As a public and educational resource parks should include public art / sculpture to enhance community identity.
- P7. In addition to outdoor exercise parks supply an outdoor experience for users of all ages and should provide a variety of sun and shade seating opportunities.
- P8. Parks are outdoor rooms and require defined circulation and a focus therefore a park should provide a central gathering space and include a primary pathway as an organizing feature that links key facilities/features within the park.
- P9. As outdoor spaces parks should be sufficiently landscaped to improve the aesthetic quality and planted with native tree species to enhance the tree canopy in the Town minimizing radiation and maximizing the cooling effect.
- P10. The waterfront enhances the identity of Cobourg and is one of the most significant amenities and in the Town therefore acquisition of waterfront access to and along the waterfront should be of high priority.
- P11. The development of trails and linkages is important to residents and a program for development should be pursued linking all components of the community.
- P12. Schools supply facilities that are equal to parks and the Town should work with the school boards to develop shared facilities accessible to the public.

## Cobourg Recommendations

R1. Waterfront Project Design Plans – The concepts developed for the waterfront are preliminary and are intended to illustrate a range of ideas for enhancing the waterfront as a destination and an icon of Cobourg. Based upon the potentials captured in the concepts, it is recommended that more detailed studies, or Project Design Plans (PDP), be undertaken of the primary areas that comprise the master plan. Referencing the individual waterfront areas discussed in the report, and in order of priority from highest to lowest, individual PDP's should be prepared for:

- Natural Waterfront (page 52)
- Urban Waterfront and Pier (page 51)
- Town Commons (page 50);
- Beach
- Victoria Park, Trailer Park (pages 53, 54 - could be combined with the Beach)

The PDP's would be undertaken to identify the full range of opportunities and constraints associated with developing each area. Based on accurate topographic information, these studies would more precisely address layout, materials, grades, architectural details, quantities, costs, permitting/approval requirements.

In addition, a tourism/market analysis and feasibility study for the Eco-Centre should be undertaken to further investigate the potential for developing this feature. The study would address issues related market condition (size, trend, growth potential), visitor profiles, facility programming (size, location, space planning, amenity), organizational/operational structure, financial structure/analysis, partnerships, potential funding sources, etc.

In 2006, the Town of Cobourg conducted a parking study of the downtown. The waterfront concept plan illustrates three zones where public parking could be developed to serve both the downtown and the waterfront. The zones combine to create a triangle of conveniently located parking to the west beach, downtown/central waterfront, and east beach areas. The 2006 Parking Study should be updated to explore the need/potentials for developing public parking/garages in these zones.

As referenced in the document consideration should be given to exploring the potential to develop a one-way system along the streets identified for enhancement at the waterfront. A traffic study should be undertaken to identify related impacts/benefits on vehicular circulation, use of the waterfront and related land uses.

R2. Trails Master Plan – The Systems Plan developed during the study process envisions a connected network of pedestrian trails and cycling routes that link parks together and integrates other Town destinations. It is recommended that a more detailed study be undertaken of the System to identify the specifics of implementing a town wide trail system. The study scope should include trail alignment alternatives, trail development standards (trail hierarchy/type, dimensions, material, street intersections/crossings, wayfinding/signage, landscaping, lighting), development costs, construction phasing, regulatory permits/approvals, and potential acquisitions. With the Kerr Street trail a priority, the study should focus on identifying opportunities to accommodate a multi-use trail within the right-of-way. (Note: the design guidelines for Connector Parks illustrates the centreline of the roadway offset from the centreline of the right-of-way to accommodate a "greenway" and separated multi-use trail.

- R3. Recreation Coordinator – The Town of Cobourg does not currently have a parks and recreation department. The Town relies on volunteers to coordinate the use of park facilities with different groups, organizations and sporting associations. During the public consultation process, it was made clear there is a need to improve how these parties secure the use of park facilities. It is therefore recommended that the Town consider hiring a “recreation coordinator” to provide this service and improve access for these user groups.
- R4. Sports Dome – Input received from the public consultation activities (public meetings, focus groups, community survey) indicated there was a desire for an enclosed “air supported” sports dome. These structures allow for a wide variety of recreational and sporting activities to occur throughout the year. Depending on size and programming (sizes often range from 10,000 sf to over 100,000 sf), these facilities can be designed to be multi-functional and can accommodate soccer, lacrosse, football, ball hockey, tennis, golf, softball/baseball, walking/jogging track, etc. Many domes have been developed with other complimentary uses such as sports retail stores, physical therapy and rehabilitation centres, and restaurants. As well, many are programmed to accommodate larger corporate functions and other special events. Financial models for developing a sports dome include private sector business venture, public sector capital project, and public/private partnerships.

It is recommended that the Town conduct a study to investigate the feasibility of developing a sports dome in Cobourg. The study would address issues related to market demand, size of structure/site requirements, site locations, development and life cycle costs, and user fee structure. Most importantly, the study would address potential financial model options including the dome being developed and operated by the Town, by a private developer, or under a partnership agreement between the Town and a developer. In addition, the role and potential financial contribution by key user groups should be explored.

- R5. Waterfront Restaurant - Preliminary investigations were undertaken to identify possible models for how a restaurant could be developed at the waterfront as indicated in the concepts. The City of Mississauga and the City of Port Colborne were contacted to enquire how restaurants at Port Credit Harbour (Mississauga) and Sugarloaf Harbour (Port Colborne) were developed. Details are provided in the Appendix.
- R6. Dog Park – Input received from the public consultation activities indicates there is a desire for a dog park in the Town. Dog parks are considered important facilities that provide owners with a place to exercise their dogs and allow them to socialize with other dogs. At the present time, many dog owners use James Cockburn Park as a run-free dog park. This activity impacts the natural environment in the park, including wildlife, and is inconsistent with the long term vision for the park as described in the Parks Master Plan, and the 2002 Cobourg Conservation Area Master Plan Update by the GRCA .

Common types of dog parks include:

- “run-free” – large, unfenced open space area with limited/no facilities
- “off-leash” – fenced area (often 2 – 5 acres) with double gate entry, facilities may include separate areas for large/small dogs, seating areas, shade structures, water, dog litter bag dispensers
- “spot lot” – very small fenced compound in urban areas for dogs to “relieve” themselves; usually surfaced with pea gravel, includes sub-drainage system; proximate to fire hydrant for washing

To address this need and prior to selecting a permanent site, it is recommended that the Town develop policy regarding type of facility, site selection (including excluded lands, proximity to adjacent land uses, soil characteristics); site design (including size, fencing, setback from existing park facilities), implementation (costs, partners/contribution, maintenance and operations), and rules (clean-up, hours of operation, number/control of dogs). To assist with developing policy, and to meet an immediate need, the Town may consider developing a short term “pilot project” ( 1-2 years) to assess the impacts and requirements of developing a dog park.

- R7. Fishing – A key issue raised during the public consultation process was the restriction of fishing at the waterfront. There is public perception that fishing is prohibited across the entire waterfront, however, the Town’s by-law currently prohibits fishing inside the harbour basin only. The waterfront concept identifies the potential to develop armour stone protected overlooks on the Lake side of the east pier. These overlooks are envisioned to accommodate a number of uses (as identified on the concept) including functioning as fishing platforms. It is recommended that the Town support this use at this location and undertake a public awareness program, including sign postings, to better inform the public of where fishing is permitted.
- R8. Park Maintenance and Operations Manual – During the public consultation process, the maintenance of parks was a concern raised by many residents, While the majority of people who participated in the process commented that parks in the Town were generally of good quality, maintenance issues related to trash collection, landscaping, condition of sports fields, and washroom cleanliness, were raised. It is recommended that the Town proceed to complete a Parks Maintenance and Operations Manual to address this concern. Such a manual would establish maintenance and operations policies, standards, practices, and frequency schedules. In addition, the manual would provide the Town with a mechanism to inform the public of how parks are maintained.

# Capital Improvements

*Capital improvement recommendations provide the Town with a comprehensive strategy to guide future development and investment in existing parks.*

Proposed capital improvements are general in nature and are intended to address the basic improvements necessary to achieve the following fundamental objectives:

- Enhance use and create multi-functional parks
- Enhance public access to parks and improve internal circulation
- Enhance visual quality
- Appeal to a more diverse user group
- Support the proposed parks classification system

Identified improvements are based on the inventory/analysis of existing park conditions, projected needs as determined from the trends and demand analysis, and input received during the course of study. The capital costs identified are provide an “order of magnitude” view of improvements, to assist in future capital budgeting. The detailed construction costs are subject to future design development.

Park improvements have been prioritized in terms of high priority projects (completed in 1-4 years from plan adoption), medium priority projects (completed in 5-10 years from plan adoption), and low priority projects (more than 10 years out).

## High Priority Projects

The projects considered high priority were determined based on need, ease of moving forward with construction, and attaining tangible and visible results in a short time frame.

In addition to the physical improvements proposed in the first four years, two planning and pre-design studies are considered high priority:

West Beach Master Plan – scope should include physical design opportunities/limitations, tourism analysis, Eco-Centre feasibility, development costs, construction phasing, regulatory permits/approvals, public consultation

Multi-Use Trail System - scope should include trail alignment alternatives, trail development standards (trail hierarchy/type, dimensions, material, crossings, markings, wayfinding/signage, landscaping, etc.), development costs, construction phasing, regulatory permits/approvals, public consultation

The high priority projects are:

Park Classification	Park Name/Location	Budgetary Estimate
Connector	Monks Cove	\$100 - 125,000
	Select trail sections	TBD
Leisure	Tut Gutteridge	\$90 - 110,000
	Optimist	\$90-110,000
Portal	*D’Arcy Street	\$60-75,000
	*Fitzhugh Shores	“
	Green Street	“
	Henry Street	“
	Lookout Point	“
	Tracy Parkette	\$60-75,000

TBD - To be determined

\* - Highest priority amongst group

### Medium Priority Projects

A series of medium priority projects, proposed to be undertaken 5-10 years following adoption of the Parks Master Plan, focus on implementing more complex projects. These projects represent significant investment in the parks system and continue the pursuit of implementing many of the more major park classifications. Based upon the design guidelines and prototypes outlined in this document, master plans for the individual parks included in this phase will need to be prepared.

The medium priority projects are:

Park Classification	Park Name/Location	Budgetary Estimate
Athletic	Donegan	\$450-500,000
Connector	Phased trails	TBD
Landmark	West Beach	TBD
Leisure	*Westwood	\$275-300,000
	Coverdale	\$175 - 200,000
	Burnham Manor	\$90-110,000
Nature	*Lucas Point	\$325 - \$350,000
	Peace Park	\$175-200,000
	Sinclair	\$175 - 200,000

TBD - To be determined

\* - Highest priority amongst group

### Capital Improvements by Park

Individual capital improvement sheets have been prepared for each park. These sheets describe and summarize the improvements proposed, provide a budgetary cost, and establish whether improving the park is a high-medium-low priority. In addition, each sheet lists the facilities inventoried and their condition, as well as providing the park's size and existing/proposed classification.

Individual capital improvement sheets for each parks can be found on the following pages.

### Potential Athletic Field Adjustments

As part of the capital improvements, the Parks Master Plan identifies potential adjustments to the provision of athletic fields. The following table summarizes these adjustments:

SOFTBALL/BASEBALL	
ADD	REMOVE
1 Baseball (Donegan)	2 Softball (Donegan)
	3 Softball (Sinclair)
	1 Softball (Westwood)
SOCCER/RUGBY	
ADD	REMOVE
1 Soccer (Coverdale)	
1 Soccer (Westwood)	
1 Rugby/Multi-use (Westwood) - (allows 2 jr. soccer)	2 Soccer (James Cockburn)

# Burnham Manor Park

**Address:** 464 Burnham Street  
**Current Classification:** Neighbourhood Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Leisure  
**Size:** 1.21 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** Low  
**Priority:** Medium  
**Description:** Open Space between neighbourhood and tracks

Burnham Manor Park is undeveloped. To serve the local residents of Burnham Street, Burnham Manor Court and Shirley Street, proposed improvements include developing a play area with adjacent seating, a pathway to connect with Burnham Manor Court, Sinclair Street and Sinclair Park, and tree planting to provide shade and define use areas. The adjacent railway is to be landscape buffered.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	None	N/A
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	Pathway	Medium
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	None	N/A

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Playground	
Seating area	
Tree planting	\$90,000- \$110,000
Pathway/link to street	
Screen RR tracks	



# Chris Garrett Park

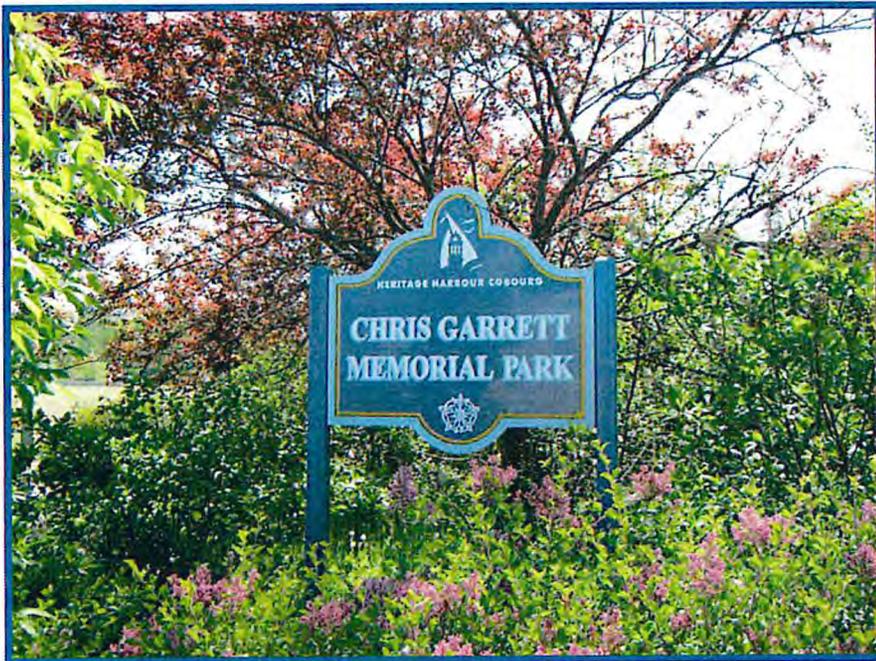
**Address:** Birchwood Trail  
**Current Classification:** City Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Cultural  
**Size:** 5.46 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Memorial Park

Chris Garrett Park has been recently developed and includes a memorial to Officer Chris Garrett. Proposed enhancements include developing a boardwalk and overlook at the storm pond, interpretive features, and a pathway link to St. Mary's School.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	8 Benches	High
	3 Flag poles	High
	2 Memorial Stones	High
	Sculpture	High
	Garbage can	Medium
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	Pathway	High
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	Natural and new	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Boardwalk/overlooks at pond	\$225,000- \$250,000
Interpretive program	
Pathway link to school & woodlands	



# Coronation Park

**Address:** 7 Coronation Crescent  
**Current Classification:** Neighbourhood Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Leisure  
**Size:** 1.19 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** Medium  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Open field, no amenities

Coronation Park is undeveloped and is internal to the surrounding single family homes. The park is within the floodplain and does not have any street frontage. It is accessed by narrow "throughways" from the street. The park should remain as open space and could be enhanced native plant community garden.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	None	N/A
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	None	N/A
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	None	N/A

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Maintain/Enhance as naturalized open space	0-\$25,000



# Coverdale Park

**Address:** 29 Coverdale Avenue  
**Current Classification:** Neighbourhood Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Leisure  
**Size:** 6.51 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** Medium  
**Priority:** Medium  
**Description:** Playground and fields in middle of neighbourhood

Coverdale Park currently includes tennis courts with an adjacent washroom building, a play area, and a softball diamond. Proposed improvements include adding a improving the play area, developing an internal pathway system to link on site facilities and potentially connect to Foote Crescent, and tree planting. There is the potential to remove the softball diamond (pending further with the user group) and develop a new soccer pitch or re-purpose the area for other recreational use. Additional parking on will be required to service the new soccer pitch and could be accommodate on the north side of the park.



Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	Bench	Low
	Garbage can	Low
Athletic Fields	3 Tennis courts	High
	Softball diamond	Low
Circulation (LF)	Granular road	Low
Parking (spaces)	13 spaces - granular	Medium
Playground Equipment	Play structure	High
	Swing & climber	Low
Structures	Bathroom	Medium
Trees	Mixed deciduous/ coniferous	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

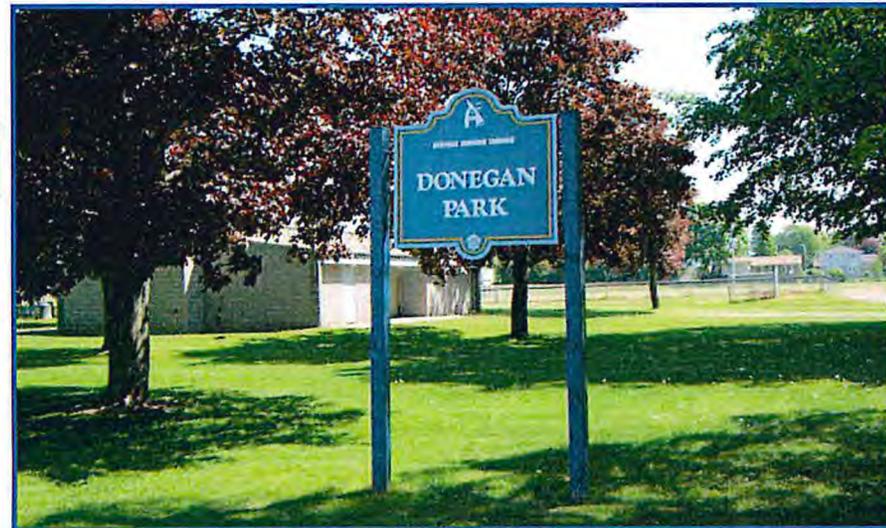
Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Pathways to link facilities	
Seating areas	
Tree plantings	\$175,000- \$200,000
Enhance playground	
Soccer pitch	

Note: Potential to expand to north area of park

# Donegan Park

**Address:** 92 D'Arcy Street  
**Current Classification:** Community Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Athletic  
**Size:** 16.85 acres  
**Context:** Residential/Waterfront  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Medium  
**Description:** Sports complex

Donegan Park is a premier park in the Town's park system and includes a top quality baseball diamond and soccer pitch. It is home to the Highland Games. The connection to the waterfront should be strengthened through the L.U.S.I. property and a shore link made back to the main east beach. The park is proposed to be enhanced as a premier facility that can continue to accommodate these functions. The baseball diamond could be improved with enhanced spectator facilities developed in a traditional heritage "ball park" style. In addition, a new baseball diamond orientated similar to the existing one is proposed. The softball diamond in the southwest corner of the property is proposed to be removed, and the skatepark could be relocated to Lions Park/Cobourg Community Centre. Entry features should



be created to announce arrival to the park along D'Arcy Street at Lakeshore Drive and Bay Street. An internal pathway to connect on site facilities should be developed. The existing washroom/concession building and adjacent patio/picnic area should be improved to better accommodate park users.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	4 Benches	Low
	2 Garbage cans	Low
Athletic Fields	3 Softball	Medium-Low
	Baseball	High
	Soccer	High
Circulation (LF)	Road	High
Parking (spaces)	100 spaces - Asphalt	High
Playground Equipment	Play structure & swing	High-Medium
Structures	Bathroom, concession	Medium
Trees	Few	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Pathway to link facilities	
Pedestrian entrances	
Baseball diamond	\$450,000-
Improve Existing softball diamond	\$500,000
Improve washroom building	
Improve plaza	
Relocate skate park to CCC/Lion's Park	Not included
"Heritage" theme stadium	Not included

Note: Potential - remove 1 softball diamond (SW corner)

# Ecology Garden

**Address:** 107 Hibernia Street  
**Current Classification:** Community Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Nature  
**Size:** 0.39 acres  
**Context:** Waterfront/Open Space  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Demonstration Garden

Ecology Garden is proposed to be enhanced with a stronger pedestrian link to the West Beach Boardwalk, expanded demonstration areas and interpretive facilities, and enhanced habitat/bird watching facilities.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	Picnic table	Medium
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	Pathway	Medium
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	Storage	High
	Log shelter	High
Trees	Mature beech, saplings	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.



Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Expand interpretation program	
Link to West Beach boardwalk	\$20,000-
Enhance habitat/birdwatching	\$25,000
Expand demonstrations	

# Fitzhugh Park

**Address:** 533 Delanty Road  
**Current Classification:** Neighbourhood Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Leisure  
**Size:** 1.86 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Neighbourhood park

Fitzhugh Park is a high quality Leisure Park that requires few enhancements. Potentials to improve the park included a widened pathway, an expanded play area, new site furnishings, and tree planting.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	2 Benches	Low
	Garbage can	Low
Athletic Fields	Basketball court	High
Circulation (LF)	Pathway	Medium
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	Play structure & swing	High
Structures	Shelter	High
Trees	Good mix	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Multi-use court	
Enhance playground area	
Repair/widen pathway - to link facilities	70,000- \$90,000
Site furnishing	
Tree planting	



# Fitzhugh Shores Parkette

**Address:** 78 East House Crescent  
**Current Classification:** Waterfront Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Portal  
**Size:** 0.61 acres  
**Context:** Residential/Waterfront  
**Overall Quality:** Medium  
**Priority:** High  
**Description:** Trailhead and waterfront lookout from neighbourhood

Fitzhugh Shores Parkette provides a "throughway" link to the lakefront from East House Crescent. Proposed enhancements include an entrance feature, a pathway connecting to a seating area overlooking the lake, and tree planting. There is potential to connect the park with Lookout Point along the waterfront.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	None	N/A
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	Path, Stairs to beach	High
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	None	N/A

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.



Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
New entry feature	\$60,000-\$75,000
Overlook	
Pathway	
Site furniture	
Interpretive signs	
Tree planting	

# James Cockburn Conservation Area

**Address:** 700 William Street  
**Current Classification:** Conservation Area  
**Proposed Classification:** Nature  
**Size:** 29.8 acres  
**Context:** Mixed  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Wooded area with open space for fields

James Cockburn Park is owned by the GRCA and managed by the Town. It is proposed to be enhanced as a Nature Park and would include an expanded trail system with interpretive programming/stations, picnic facilities, and an “enviro” washroom facility. The existing soccer pitches are proposed to be removed and relocated. These improvements align with the master plan prepared for the property by the GRCA in 2002. There is potential to expand the granular parking area to serve the park and Minnie Pennell Arboretum. In addition, a signalized pedestrian crosswalk linking the Park and the Arboretum is required. These improvements should be undertaken in partnership with the GRCA.



Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	3 Tables	Medium
	Garbage can	Medium
Athletic Fields	2 Soccer fields	Low
Circulation (LF)	Pathway	High
	Footbridge	High
Parking (spaces)	20 spaces - granular	Medium
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	Natural wooded	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Habitat enhancement	
Interpretation program	
Trail system	\$300,000-
Picnic facilities	\$325,000
Enviro-washroom	
Expand parking for arboretum	
Crosswalk to Arboretum	Not included

Note: Potential - Remove/relocate 2 soccer pitches

# James J Tracey Park

<b>Address:</b>	450 Walton Street
<b>Current Classification:</b>	Neighbourhood Park
<b>Proposed Classification:</b>	Leisure
<b>Size:</b>	4.87 acres
<b>Context:</b>	Industrial/Residential
<b>Overall Quality:</b>	Medium
<b>Priority:</b>	Low
<b>Description:</b>	Playground and field between neighbourhood and tracks

James Tracy Park is proposed to be improved with pedestrian entrances, an enhanced play area with adjacent seating, tree planting, and landscape buffering of the adjacent railway tracks. The existing pathway should be replaced and expanded to link all on site facilities.



Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	2 Benches	Low
	2 Garbage cans	Medium-Low
Athletic Fields	Softball field	High
Circulation (LF)	Pathway	Low
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	Play structure & swing	Medium
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	Few	Low

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Pathway to link facilities	
Expand play area	
Tree planting	\$90,000- \$110,000
Screen RR tracks	
Pedestrian entrances	

# Jubilee Park

**Address:** 935 William Street  
**Current Classification:** City Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Cultural  
**Size:** 0.96 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Commercial  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Tourist Information Kiosk

Jubilee Park is an outdoor welcome centre that introduces visitors to the Town. It is a high quality park space that requires no significant improvements. Potential enhancements include an expanded visitor information program and interpretive panels.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	Memorial Marker	High
	2 Benches	High
	Garbage can	Medium
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	Pathway	High
Parking (spaces)	10 spaces - asphalt	Medium
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	Shelter/Kiosk	High
Trees	New	Medium

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Expand information/interpretation program	\$15,000- \$20,000



# Legion Fields

**Address:** 650 D'Arcy Street  
**Current Classification:** Community Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Athletic  
**Size:** 21.9 acres  
**Context:** Industrial  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Athletic fields in remote area

Legion Fields is a premier softball facility located adjacent to the Cobourg Community Centre. To enhance its function, proposed improvements include developing an entry feature and pathway link from Cottesmore Avenue, which would connect with the Kerr Street Road Allowance, and improved picnic facilities. Lighting could be installed on Diamond #3 to expand use of the park.



Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	10 Tables	High
	3 Flag poles	High
Athletic Fields	3 Softball fields	High
	Soccer field	High
Circulation (LF)	Path	High
	Footbridge	High
Parking (spaces)	100 spaces - asphalt	High
	100 spaces - granular	High
Playground Equipment	Swings	Medium
Structures	Concessions/bathroom	High
Trees	Stream corridor-mature	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Tree planting	
Pedestrian entrance	\$70,000-
Pathway - link to Cottesmore Ave	\$90,000
Enhance picnic facilities	
Lighting ball diamonds	Not included

# Lionel Tut Gutteridge Park

**Address:** 115 Stuart Street  
**Current Classification:** Parkette  
**Proposed Classification:** Leisure  
**Size:** 0.77 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** High  
**Description:** Small park in neighbourhood

Gutteridge Park is proposed to be improved with an entrance feature and pathway connecting to the play area, a shaded seating area adjacent to the play area, and tree planting.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	Bench	Low
	Garbage can	Low
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	None	N/A
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	Play structure & swing	High
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	Street trees	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Seating area	
Enhance play area	\$90,000-
Pathway from street to play area	\$110,000
Tree planting	



# Lions Park

**Address:** 750 D'Arcy Street  
**Current Classification:** Community Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Athletic  
**Size:** 9.98 acres  
**Context:** Mixed  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Athletic fields in remote area

Lions Park, which includes the Cobourg Community Centre, is newly developed and includes 4 high quality soccer pitches. Potential improvements include additional bleachers for spectators and tree planting to provide shade and define use areas. In association with the possible relocation of the skatepark to the CCC from Donegan Park, there is potential to integrate a major water play facility. The lands between the park and Legion Fields, (designated major institutional), which currently include the Cobourg Soccer Club offices and a day care, should be master planned to identify opportunities to better organize the space and create a more functional and high quality "campus" of complimentary uses.



Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	4 Benches	Low
	Garbage can	Low
Athletic Fields	4 Soccer fields	High
Circulation (LF)	Pathway	High
Parking (spaces)	100 Spaces - asphalt	High
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	Few	Medium

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Spectator bleachers	
Tree planting	\$275,000- \$300,000
Splash pad	

Note: Lands designated major institutional require master plan.  
 Potential to relocate skate park from Donegan Park

# Lookout Point Park

**Address:** Foot of Coverdale Avenue  
**Current Classification:** Waterfront Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Portal  
**Size:** 0.28 acres  
**Context:** Residential/Waterfront  
**Overall Quality:** Medium  
**Priority:** High  
**Description:** Street end waterfront look out

Lookout Point Park is located at the end of Coverdale Avenue. Proposed enhancements include an entrance feature, a pathway linking to a seating area overlooking the lake, stairs down to the water and tree planting. There is potential to connect the park with Fitzhugh Shores Parkette and Lucas Point Park along the waterfront.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	2 Memorialized benches	High
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	None	N/A
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	None	N/A

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Entry feature	
Overlook	
Pathway	
Site furniture	\$75,000- \$90,000
Interpretive signs	
Stairs to water	
Tree planting	



# Lucas Point Park

**Address:** 545 Willmott Street  
**Current Classification:** Waterfront Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Nature  
**Size:** 13.2 acres  
**Context:** Industrial/waterfront  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Medium  
**Description:** Trail and open space along waterfront

Lucas Point Park is proposed to be a premier Nature Park and a prime destination in the Town. It is proposed to be developed as an outdoor educational centre with an extensive interpretive program. Potential improvements include an outdoor classroom for visiting school groups, an “enviro” washroom facility, themed nature trails, habitat enhancement structures, and overlook features along the top of slope. Additional tree planting should be undertaken to create an arboretum of native trees. Discussions should be initiated with Sabic Innovative Plastics to secure an easement across the waterfront to extend the waterfront trail. There is potential to connect the park with Lookout Point and Fitzhugh Shores Parkette along the waterfront.



Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	9 Benches	Low
	Garbage cans	Low
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	Stairs	High
	Pathway	High
Parking (spaces)	8 spaces - granular	Medium
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	Naturalized, some non-native plantings	Medium

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Create “native arboretum”	
Interpretive stations	
Pathways/waterfront trail	
Overlooks	\$325,000- \$350,000
Site furniture	
Habitat enhancement	
Outdoor Classroom	

Note: Potential to negotiate easement across industrial lands for waterfront trail

# Minnie Pennell Arboretum

**Address:** 941 Frei Street  
**Current Classification:** City Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Nature  
**Size:** 3.54 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Arboretum

Minnie Pennell Arboretum has the potential to be enhanced as a premier destination in the Town. Proposed improvements include entrance features and a new nature trail that weaves through the site connecting display areas/trees. A seating area located on the top of bank overlooking the river should be integrated into the trail. Interpretive stations along the trail should be developed to expand educational programming at the site. A signalized pedestrian crosswalk to connect the Arboretum with James Cockburn Park should be installed to improve the link between the two parks and accommodate shared parking.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	Bench	Low
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	Pathway	Low
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	Mixed wooded	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Entrance features	\$150,000- \$175,000
Pathways	
Site furniture	
Overlook at top of river bank	
Interpretive stations	
Pedestrian crossing to James Cockburn Park	Not included



# Monk's Cove Park

**Address:** 121 Burnham Street  
**Current Classification:** Shoreline Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Connector  
**Size:** 0.9 acres  
**Context:** Residential/Waterfront  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** High  
**Description:** Linear waterfront access

Monks Cove Park is part of the waterfront trail but is undeveloped. Proposed improvements included developing a multi-use trail along the top of slope with seating areas overlooking the lake. Interpretive panels integrated with the seating areas should be developed, and tree planting should be undertaken.



Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	2 Benches	Low
	Garbage can	Medium
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	Stairs	Medium
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	Few	Medium

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Waterfront trail	
Overlooks	
Site furniture	\$100,000- \$125,000
Tree planting	
Interpretive stations	

# Morley Cane Park

**Address:** 65 Ballentine Street  
**Current Classification:** Neighbourhood Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Leisure  
**Size:** 4.7 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** Medium  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Baseball field & playground in neighbourhood

Morley Cane Park should be enhanced as a Leisure Park with a new play area, an adjacent shaded seating area, a pedestrian entrance feature, and a pathway to link the parking area with the existing baseball diamond. Park users currently use the adjacent Salvation Army parking lot; on-site parking could be developed if future demand warrants.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	3 Benches	Low
	Garbage can	Low
Athletic Fields	Baseball Field	High
Circulation (LF)	None	N/A
Parking (spaces)	12 spaces - granular	Medium
Playground Equipment	Play structure & swing	Medium
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	Very few	Low

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Pathway to link facilities	
Pedestrian entrance	
Tree planting	\$100,000- \$125,000
Improve play area	
Seating area	



# New Amherst Park

**Address:** 845 New Amherst Street  
**Current Classification:** Neighbourhood Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Cultural  
**Size:** 1.86 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Clock tower with planned neighbourhood commons

New Amherst Park is newly developed and designed to be the centre piece of the New Amherst community. Proposed enhancements include adding a play area, tree planting to provide shade and define the street edge.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	2 Benches	Medium
	Garbage can	High
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	Pathway	High
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	Clock Tower	High
Trees	Few	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Pathway	
Play Area	\$100,000-
Seating Area	\$125,000
Tree Planting	



# New Amherst Parkette

**Address:** 857 Caddy Drive  
**Current Classification:** Neighbourhood Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Leisure  
**Size:** 0.52 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Neighbourhood common

New Amherst Parkette is newly developed. Potential enhancements include additional tree planting to define the street edge/park space.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	2 Benches	Medium
	Garbage can	High
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	Pathway	High
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	Few	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Tree planting	\$15,000- \$20,000



# Optimist Park

**Address:** 30 Meredith Crescent  
**Current Classification:** Pocket Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Leisure  
**Size:** 0.58 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** Medium  
**Priority:** High  
**Description:** Neighbourhood playground

Optimist Park should be enhanced as a Leisure Park with a pedestrian entrance feature, a pathway that links the street to the existing play parking area, and a new seating area adjacent to the playground. Tree planting and landscape buffering of the railway tracks is required.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	Table	Medium
	Garbage can	Low
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	None	N/A
Parking (spaces)	8 spaces - granular	Medium
Playground Equipment	Play structure & swing	High
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	Few	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Pathways from street to play area	
Tree planting	
Buffer RR tracks	\$90,000-
Pedestrian entrance	\$110,000
Improve playground area	
Seating area	



# Peace Park

**Address:** 175 Fourth Street  
**Current Classification:** Neighbourhood Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Nature  
**Size:** 9.88 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** Medium  
**Priority:** Medium  
**Description:** Area between neighbourhood & Cobourg Brook

Peace Park is proposed to be developed as a Nature Park that provides immediate pedestrian access to the Lake Ontario shoreline and Cobourg Creek. Proposed improvements include a trail along the creek, fishing platforms, interpretive stations, and a canoe/kayak launch.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	Garbage can	Medium
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	Footbridge	High
Parking (spaces)	8 spaces - granular	Medium
Playground Equipment	Play structure & swing	High
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	Mature/wooded	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Fishing platforms	
Trail along creek to lake	
picnic shelter	\$175,000-
Canoe launch	\$200,000
Tree planting	



# Rotary Fields

**Address:** 750 D'Arcy Street  
**Current Classification:** City Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Athletic  
**Size:** 14.78 acres  
**Context:** Natural/Open Space  
**Overall Quality:** Medium  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Open field with soccer pitches

Rotary Fields is located adjacent to the Cobourg Community Centre and includes 5 soccer pitches. Proposed improvements include a pedestrian entrance feature and a pathway linking the fields to the parking area. Site furniture and spectator bleachers should be provided.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	Bench	Low
Athletic Fields	5 Soccer fields	High
Circulation (LF)	Footbridge	Medium
Parking (spaces)	100 - granular	High
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	Natural/wooded	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Pedestrian entrance	
Pathways	\$70,000-
Bleachers	\$90,000
Site furniture	



# Rotary Waterfront Park

**Address:** 110 Albert Street  
**Current Classification:** City Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Cultural  
**Size:** 1.87 acres  
**Context:** Urban Waterfront  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Walking trail with outdoor ice rink & waterfront promenade

Rotary Waterfront Park is newly developed and is a premier year round attraction in the downtown. Potential improvements to enhance the park include enhancing the changing room building with a concession and integrating public art/sculpture into the park.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	18 Benches	High
	Flag pole	High
	Promenade	High
	6 Garbage cans	High
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	Pathway	High
Parking (spaces)	Lots on adjacent streets	N/A
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	Skate changing room	High
Trees	Few	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Public art/sculpture	\$20,000- \$25,000

Note: Strengthen link to waterfront - require pedestrian crossing of internal roadway



# Sinclair Park

**Address:** 540 Sinclair Street  
**Current Classification:** Neighbourhood Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Nature  
**Size:** 8.72 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** Medium  
**Priority:** Medium  
**Description:** Playfields between neighbourhood & RR tracks along creek

Sinclair Park is proposed to be a Nature Park along Cobourg Creek. With a focus on year round passive recreation use, potential improvements include developing an internal trail system that would be “mile marked” and groomed in winter for X-country skiing and snowshoeing. Along the creek, overlooks and interpretive stations should be developed. A series of wetlands and ponds provide the opportunity to enhance habitat and manage on-site storm water. In winter time, the potential exists to accommodate tobogganing and ice skating at the park. The park should



be naturalized with indigenous tree plantings and the railway tracks along the south boundary should be buffered. The existing softball diamonds are proposed to be removed. The existing tennis facility is proposed to remain as long as demand warrants.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	2 Garbage cans	Medium-Low
Athletic Fields	3 Softball fields	Medium-Low
	3 Tennis courts	High
Circulation (LF)	Cobourg trail	Low
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	Play structure & swing	High
Structures	Bathroom	Medium
Trees	Wooded along stream	Medium

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Wetland/habitat	
Pathways	
Interpretive stations	\$175,000-
Tree planting	\$200,000
Buffer RR tracks	
Pedestrian entrances	

Note: Potential - Remove 3 softball diamonds

# Tracey Parkette

**Address:** Tracey Road  
**Current Classification:** Waterfront Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Portal  
**Size:** 0.17 acres  
**Context:** Residential/Waterfront  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** High  
**Description:** Street end waterfront look out

Tracy Parkette is located at the end of Tracy Road. The park should be kept natural and enhanced with entrance feature, a pathway linking to a seating area overlooking the lake, and tree planting.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	Bench	Low
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	Pathway	Medium
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	New	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
New entry signs	
Overlook	
Pathway	\$60,000-
Site furniture	\$75,000
Interpretive signs	
Tree planting	



# Westpark Village Park

**Address:** 815 Prince of Wales Drive  
**Current Classification:** Neighbourhood Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Leisure  
**Size:** 0.55 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Low  
**Description:** Neighbourhood Common with gazebo

West Park Village Parkette is newly developed. Potential enhancements include additional tree planting.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	Garbage can	Low
Athletic Fields	None	N/A
Circulation (LF)	Pathway	High
Parking (spaces)	None	N/A
Playground Equipment	None	N/A
Structures	Gazebo	High
Trees	New	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.



Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Tree planting	\$15,000- \$20,000

# Westwood Park

**Address:** 665 Carlisle Street  
**Current Classification:** Neighbourhood Park  
**Proposed Classification:** Leisure  
**Size:** 7.74 acres  
**Context:** Suburban Residential  
**Overall Quality:** High  
**Priority:** Medium  
**Description:** Subdivision playground & fields

Westwood Park is proposed to include one new soccer pitch, and a new rugby field to serve the growing demand for such a facility. The rugby field can be multi-functional and also serve as a soccer pitch with the use of moveable goal posts. Accommodating these two athletic facilities requires the removal of the existing softball diamond. Other potential improvements include expanding the parking area and improving the play area. A pathway system to connect facilities is required through the park and should extend to the adjacent side streets.

Existing Facilities		
Type	Description	Condition*
Amenities	Bench	Low
	2 Garbage cans	Low
Athletic Fields	Soccer field	Medium
	Softball field	Low
Circulation (LF)	None	N/A
Parking (spaces)	8 spaces - granular	Medium
Playground Equipment	Play structure & swing	Medium
Structures	None	N/A
Trees	Few Cedar clumps	High

\*Condition listed as N/A abbreviates Not Applicable.

Capital Improvements	
Items	Estimated Cost
Pathway to link facilities	\$275,000- \$300,000
Pedestrian entrance	
Tree planting	
Improve play area	
Seating area	
Soccer pitch	
Rugby field	

Note: Potential for shared development/facilities with school board

Potential - Remove 1 softball diamond

Potential - Add 1 soccer pitch

Potential - Add 1 rugby/multi-functional field





# APPENDIX

*The appendix includes a detailed summary of the consultation, inventory and analysis that is the foundation for the Parks Master Plan. This information was used to inform the development of the parks system and the waterfront concept.*



# Demographic Analysis

*To establish the planning context for Cobourg, a detailed demographic analysis was conducted. The following outlines the background data used to conduct the analysis.*

The demographics analysis focuses on Cobourg residents, but also takes into consideration the residents of Northumberland County, the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit and – for comparison purposes – the Province of Ontario.

The analysis uses a wide range of socio-economic information about the residents of Cobourg from Statistics Canada, as well as information at the county and health unit level. Using the different levels of data as comparison further highlights aspects of the socio-demographic profile that stand out for Cobourg and complete the picture of Cobourg’s changing demographics and need for parks, trails and other outdoor recreation facilities.

## 2006 & 2011 Population by Age Cohort

	Cobourg		Northumberland County		HKPR District Health Unit		Ontario	
	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011
0 to 14 years	15.00%	13.63%	16.00%	14.05%	15.70%	13.66%	18.20%	16.97%
15-24 years	12.60%	10.77%	12.00%	11.54%	11.90%	12.20%	13.40%	13.36%
25-44 years	20.70%	18.87%	22.30%	19.14%	21.70%	18.97%	28.40%	26.33%
45-54 years	14.70%	14.96%	16.20%	16.93%	16.30%	17.26%	15.30%	16.04%
55-64 years	12.50%	15.31%	14.00%	16.55%	14.50%	16.20%	11.20%	12.69%
65-79 years	16.30%	17.82%	14.20%	16.11%	14.70%	15.58%	9.90%	10.59%
80+	8.20%	8.64%	5.40%	5.67%	5.30%	6.13%	3.60%	4.03%
Median Age	46.1	50	44.8	48	45.5	48.1	39	40

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006 and 2011.

## Regional Population Totals and Population Change

	Cobourg	Northumberland County	HKPR District Health Unit	Ontario
Population in 2011	18,519	82,126	179,006	12,851,821
Population in 2006	18,210	80,963	171,671	12,160,282
Population in 2001	17,172	77,497	161,761	11,410,046
Population Change, 2006-2011	1.7%	1.4%	4.30%	5.70%
Population Change, 2001-2006	6.00%	4.50%	6.10%	6.60%
Population Change, 2001-2011	7.30%	5.60%	9.60%	11.20%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 2006 and 2011.

## Population Changes

The 2006 and 2011 Census found that Cobourg residents are older than the residents of the County, Health Unit and Province. Cobourg’s median age is higher than that of the County and the Health Unit and significantly higher than that of the Province. For over a decade, Cobourg has been growing and its residents have been steadily aging, the proportion of young and very young displaced by the proportion of old and very old. The median age rose, between 1996 to 2011, from 39 years to 50 years. From 1996 to 2006, the proportion of couples (married or common law) with any children dropped six percent, while the proportion of couples with at least one child under age 25 dropped seven percent.

## Cobourg Population Change

	1996 Census	2001 Census	2006 Census	2011 Census
Total population count	16,017	17,172	18,210	18,519
% of the population aged 0 to 14 years	19.70%	18.00%	15.10%	13.63%
% of the population aged 15 to 64 years	61.00%	60.80%	60.50%	59.91%
% of the population aged 65 years and over	19.30%	21.10%	24.40%	26.46%
Median age	39	42	46	50
Ratio of age groups 0 to 14 years to 65 years and over	1	0.9	0.6	0.5
% of couples with children of any age	51.60%	50.10%	45.80%	N/A
% of couples with at least one child under 25 years of age	48.80%	45.90%	41.90%	N/A

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011.

## Growth & Population Projections

According to the Growth Management Strategy prepared for the County of Northumberland and its member municipalities, Cobourg grew at an annual rate of two percent between 1976 and 2006, from 11,421 in 1976 to 18,210 in 2006, an overall 59.4 percent growth. Furthermore, the Town is expected to continue to grow based on 2031 population forecasts.

The Growth Management Strategy forecasts County growth using three different growth scenarios. As part of the Strategy, each community is assigned an allocation of this growth; Cobourg's share is just under 36 percent. The Strategy shows that if the higher growth alternative scenario is reached that growth in age cohorts of people of child-rearing age are more present in the projection. However, they continue to be far out-numbered by the projected growth in the older age cohorts. Under both the reference scenario and the more modest growth scenario, the young and child-bearing age

## Growth Management Strategy Projections for Northumberland County

	Reference Scenario			Alternative Scenario +		Alternative Scenario ++	
	2006	2031	Change	2031	Change	2031	Change
Total	83,940	96,000	12,060	107,000	23,060	126,000	42,060
Age Cohort							
0-14	13,390	12,060	-1,330	13,820	430	16,890	3,500
15-19	5,870	4,360	-1,510	4,960	-910	6,030	160
20-24	4,480	3,890	-590	4,400	-80	5,300	820
25-34	7,700	7,660	-40	8,630	930	10,300	2,600
35-44	11,550	11,530	-20	13,210	1,660	16,130	4,580
45-54	13,400	10,120	-3,280	11,570	-1,830	14,180	780
55-64	11,480	12,800	1,320	14,140	2,660	16,440	4,960
65-74	8,430	18,960	10,530	20,320	11,890	23,020	14,590
75+	7,640	14,890	7,250	15,950	8,310	17,710	10,070

Source: Growth Management Strategy, County of Northumberland and its Member Municipalities, Final Summary Report, December 2009.

cohorts actually shrink. Cobourg's growth can be expected to range from 4,300 new residents to 15,000 with the modest growth scenario forecasting a growth of 8,200 by 2031.

The Growth Management Strategy also found that 1,008 new single detached dwellings and 550 multiple residential units – most of these on the waterfront – were constructed in Cobourg between 2002 and 2006. More than 90 percent of multi-unit residential development that has taken place in Northumberland County between 2002 and 2006 took place in Cobourg. This means that about half of all residential units constructed in the County over the period were built in Cobourg, suggesting that many of the new dwellings are not primary residences.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The study found that the inconsistency between population growth and dwelling unit growth is significant enough to warrant further investigation. However, further review will likely reach a similar conclusion: that second- and third-home growth in Cobourg can explain the disparity between population and dwelling unit growth.

## Income & Earnings

Cobourg residents' affluence is in line with its demographic as a community of older residents. Earnings in 2006 among all people aged 15 and older were consistent with the earnings of the residents of the County and the Health Unit but somewhat lower than those of the Province as a whole. Median earnings of those who worked full-time the whole year through were much higher and similarly consistent across the County and Health Unit.

The Census draws a distinction between those with incomes and those with earnings. The 2006 earnings are defined as "total income received by persons 15 years of age and over during calendar year 2005 as wages and salaries, net income from a non-farm unincorporated business and/or professional practice, and/or net farm self-employment income" and income as "total of income from all sources, including employment income, income from government programs, pension income, investment income and any other money income."<sup>2</sup> The difference is that income includes so-

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada Income and Earnings Reference Guide, 2006 Census, accessed at <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/rp-guides/income-revenu-eng.cfm> April 9, 2012.

called passive income, retirement pensions and government distributions as well as earnings.

In terms of income from all sources, Cobourg residents' pre- and post-tax medians are in-step with those of the comparison areas. This suggests that the unearned or passive income, whatever its sources, of Cobourg residents makes up for lower earnings. Most striking are the low income status figures for Cobourg and the comparison areas. The proportion of Cobourg residents who are low income is consistently lower than that of the comparison areas and much lower than that of the Province as a whole.

Higher incomes are associated with greater ability to access recreation facilities and programs. Cobourg's relative affluence, as measured by income and its smaller proportion of individuals classified as low income is an indicator that access to recreation is not a driving issue in Cobourg. Low income children in Cobourg have access to recreation programming and facilities through their schools and the YMCA of Northumberland County offers reduced fee memberships to individuals and families through its Strong Kids Campaign.

### 2006 Earnings, Income and Low-Income Status

	Cobourg	Northumberland County	HKPR District Health Unit	Ontario
Persons 15 years and over with earnings				
Median earnings of persons 15 and over	\$24,985	\$25,433	\$23,836	\$29,335
Median earnings those who worked the full year, full time	\$41,545	\$41,187	\$40,011	\$44,748
Persons 15 years and over with income				
Median income	\$27,100	\$26,254	\$25,183	\$27,258
Median income after tax	\$24,597	\$23,794	\$22,795	\$24,604
% in low income before tax - All persons	6.90%	7.90%	9.20%	14.70%
% in low income after tax - All persons	5.00%	5.70%	6.40%	11.10%
% in low income before tax - Persons less than 18 years of age	9.30%	10.30%	12.20%	18.00%
% in low income after tax - Persons less than 18 years of age	7.40%	8.00%	8.80%	13.70%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006.

## Proximity to Major Employers

A factor that may have bearing on affluence in Cobourg is its proximity to major employers and well-paying jobs. The prominence of manufacturing employment in the Town is of particular note. Among top employers in Cobourg, nine are manufacturers. Health care and social assistance, public administration, retail trade, and arts and entertainment round out the list. The largest top employer in Cobourg is Northumberland Hills Hospital with a range of 500 to 600 employees.

The adjacent table highlights top employers in Cobourg.

## Top Cobourg Employers 2012

Company	Employees
<b>HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE</b>	
Northumberland Hills Hospital	500-600 Employees
Extendicare Cobourg and The Landmark	100-200 Employees
Golden Plough Lodge	150-250 Employees
<b>PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</b>	
Corporation of the County of Northumberland	400-500 Employees
Corporation of the Town of Cobourg	200-300 Employees
Brookside Youth Centre	100-200 Employees
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>	
Wal-Mart Superstore	300-400 Employees
Metro	100-200 Employees
Home Depot	100-200 Employees
David's No Frills	100-200 Employees
Canadian Tire	100-200 Employees
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>	
Weetabix of Canada Ltd.	200-300 Employees
Horizon Plastics Company Ltd.	150-250 Employees
Belden (Canada) Inc.	150-250 Employees
Arclin Surfaces Inc.	150-250 Employees
SABIC Innovative Plastics	100-200 Employees
CPS Wood Products	100-200 Employees
Weston Bakeries Ltd	100-200 Employees
Cameco Fuel Manufacturing (Cobourg Division)	100-200 Employees
Protoplast Inc.	100-200 Employees
<b>ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT</b>	
Cobourg YMCA – Branch of YMCA Northumberland	100-200 Employees

Source: Business & Tourism Centre, Town of Cobourg, ON

## Occupations

(Experience Labour Force Age 15 and Older)

	Cobourg	Northumberland County	HKPR District Health Unit	Ontario
Management occupations	9.50%	8.60%	8.90%	10.30%
Business; finance and administration occupations	13.30%	13.50%	13.70%	18.60%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	4.80%	4.70%	3.80%	7.00%
Health occupations	6.00%	5.40%	5.80%	5.30%
Occupations in social science; education; government service and religion	8.60%	7.40%	7.00%	8.40%
Occupations in art; culture; recreation and sport	3.00%	2.70%	2.30%	3.10%
Sales and service occupations	27.40%	23.90%	25.10%	23.50%
Trades; transport and equipment operators and related occupations	14.60%	18.40%	19.70%	14.10%
Occupations unique to primary industry <sup>[1]</sup>	1.80%	5.10%	5.20%	2.60%
Occupations unique to processing; manufacturing and utilities	10.80%	10.30%	8.40%	7.20%

[1] These are farms, fisheries, oil, gas and logging industries.

*Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006.*

## Occupations

The prevalence of manufacturing, government and health care employers in Cobourg is reflected in the occupations of members of its workforce. The largest occupation sector among Cobourg and the comparison areas is sales and service occupations. The proportion of workers in manufacturing occupations is above that of the Health Unit and the Province although it has fallen County-wide over the years from 5,373 in 2001 to 5,130 in 2006. Cobourg and Port Hope, as the location of most of the manufacturing in the County, stand to lose more of these jobs as the sector shrinks. It still, however, is a major employer compared with the Province. The proportion of workers in health care occupations is slightly higher in Cobourg, reflective of the location of hospital and long-term care facility; government occupations are also slightly higher, these would include workers in Town government and County government in Cobourg as well as employees of the provincial correctional facility. The adjacent table summarizes occupation in Cobourg, Northumberland County, the Health Unit and Ontario.

## Journey to Work

Most workers in Cobourg have a regular place of business to which they report; in fact, a larger proportion of Cobourg workers have this “usual place” of employment than do workers in the County and Health Unit and proportionally more than in the Province. Proportionally more Cobourg workers work in the municipality of residence – in this case, Cobourg – than do residents of the Province and significantly more than residents of the County and Health Unit.

Residents of Cobourg who worked in a usual or no fixed place are less likely to drive themselves and slightly more likely to be passengers in carpools than are residents of the County as a whole and the Health Unit. What's surprising is that residents of Cobourg are far more likely to walk or bike to work than are their peers in the County and Health Unit and even the Province. This suggests a community still compact enough that employment centres are within a comfortable walk of homes. For the Parks Master Plan, it means that an emphasis on maintaining and expanding the non-automotive transportation network will be an important part of maintaining the community as a compact, walkable and pleasant place to live for those in the workforce as well as those who do not participate in the workforce.

## Labour Force Participation

In keeping with the Cobourg's attraction of retirees and second-home owners, in the 2006 Census Cobourg had a lower labour force participation rate than do the County, Health Unit and Province. The labour force participation rate is eight percent below that of the Province. The unemployment rate in Cobourg was 6.7 percent at the 2006 Census, higher but not significantly higher than the unemployment rate in the County, Health Unit and Province. While participation rate can be driven down by workers who are frustrated by their inability to find work and so give up, that probably is not the case here as the demographics suggest and as a relatively low – at the beginning of a world-wide economic slowdown – unemployment rate would suggest.

## Place of Work

(Labour Force Participants Age 15 and Older)

	Cobourg	Northumberland County	HKPR Region	Ontario
Worked at home	6.10%	10.20%	10.70%	7.10%
Worked outside Canada	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.60%
No fixed workplace address	8.70%	10.60%	11.90%	9.70%
Worked at usual place	84.90%	79.10%	77.10%	82.60%
Municipality of residence	62.00%	37.60%	46.30%	60.00%
Different municipality, same county	17.60%	29.30%	16.10%	15.60%
Different county	20.30%	32.90%	37.40%	23.80%
Different province	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.60%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006.

## Transportation to Work

(Labour Force Participants Age 15 and Older with Usual or No Fixed Place of Work)

	Cobourg	Northumberland County	HKPR Region	Ontario
Car; truck; van; as driver	74.70%	81.00%	82.10%	71.00%
Car; truck; van; as passenger	10.70%	9.40%	9.20%	8.30%
Public transit	2.10%	1.20%	0.90%	12.90%
Walked or bicycled	12.00%	7.60%	6.80%	6.80%
All other modes	0.60%	0.80%	1.00%	1.00%

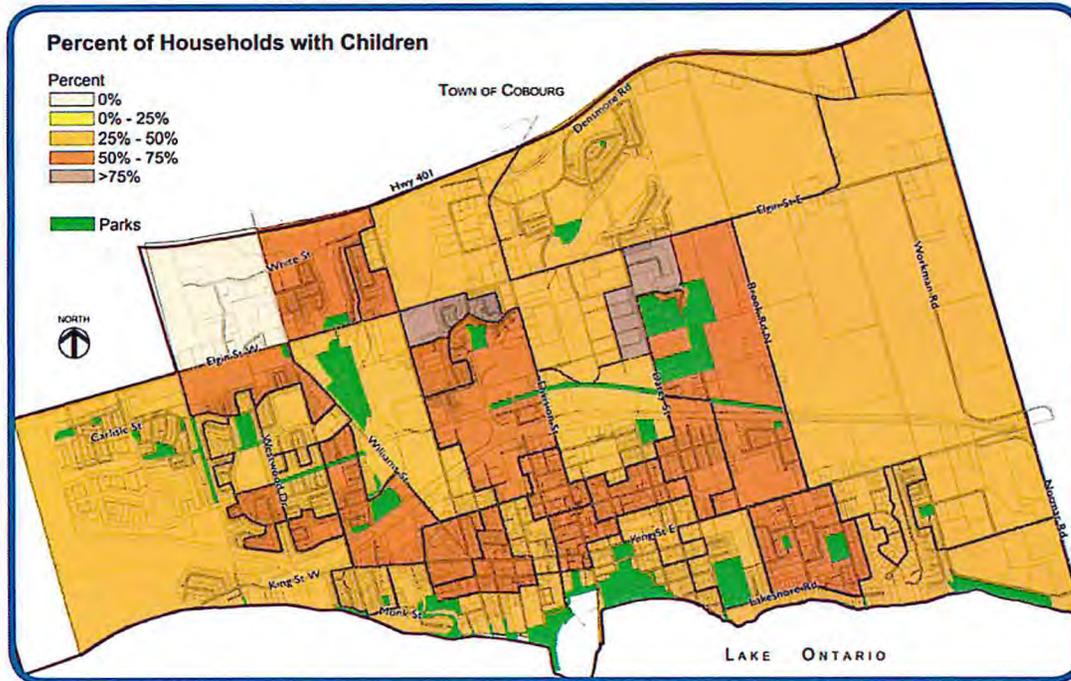
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006.

## Labour Force Participation

(Total Population Age 15 and Older)

	Cobourg	Northumberland County	HKPR Region	Ontario
In the labour force	58.80%	61.40%	60.70%	67.10%
Employed	93.30%	94.00%	93.80%	93.60%
Unemployed	6.70%	6.00%	6.20%	6.40%
Not in the labour force	41.20%	38.60%	39.30%	32.90%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006.

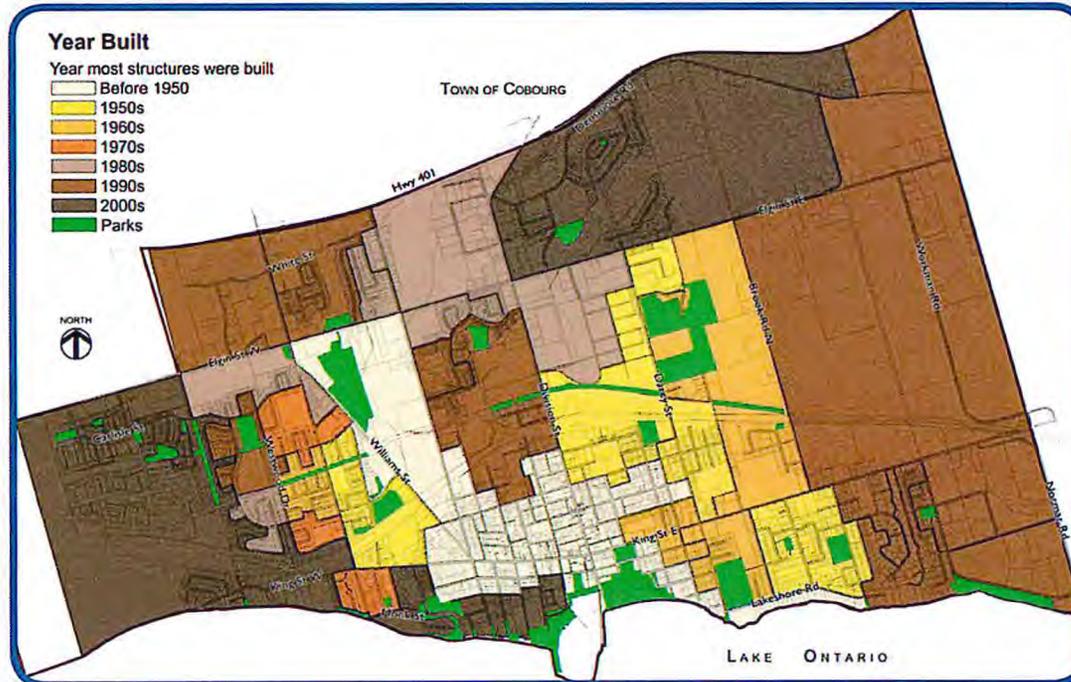


## Mapping Demographic Data

As part of the demographic analysis, different types of data were mapped for the Town using the 2006 Census data and Town dissemination areas (DAs). The information helps to identify parts of the Town that may be in need of park and recreation facilities.

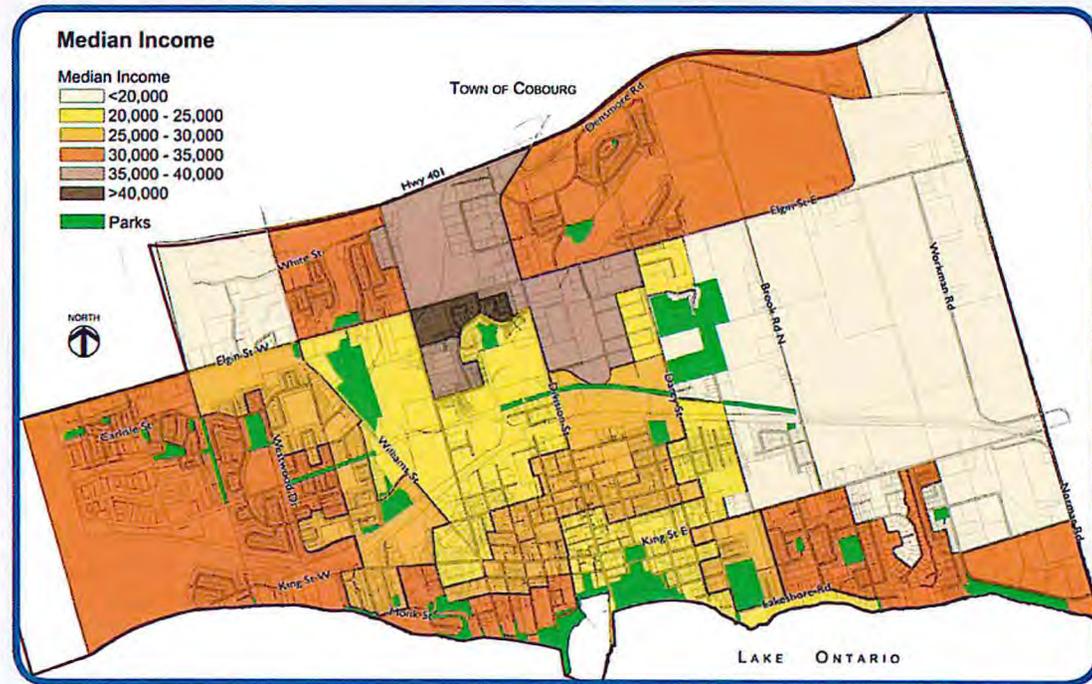
*Note: The New Amherst development south of Elgin Street West is not on these maps as it post-dates the 2006 Census.*

The adjacent figure shows the concentration of households in Cobourg with children.

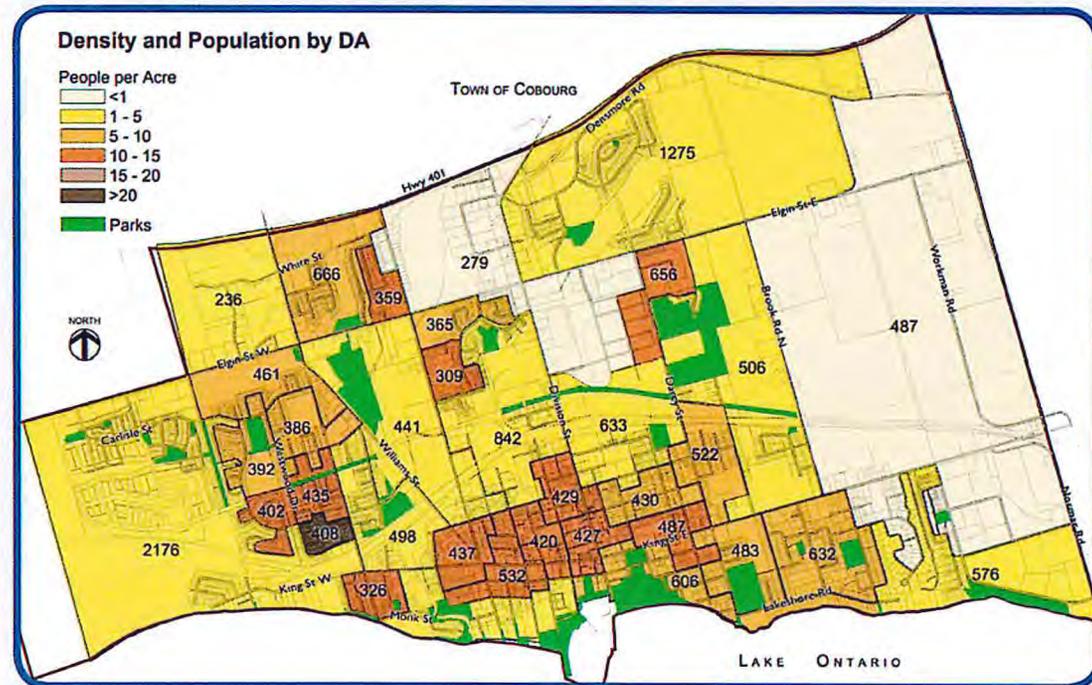


The adjacent figure summarizes the housing period built in Cobourg.

The adjacent figure shows the concentration of income cohorts in Cobourg by dissemination area.



The adjacent figure shows the concentration of population by dissemination area in Cobourg with the parks indicated in green. Denser subdivisions located away from the town's downtown core and/or from shopping and service destinations will be of special interest for the Parks Master Plan as they will require additional off-road and shared roadway transportation options to promote a healthy community and encourage less use of carbon-based fuels.



# Trend Analysis

*To better understand park needs in Cobourg, an analysis of regional leisure and recreation participation trend was conducted. The following outlines the background data used to conduct the analysis.*

The quality of life in the Haliburton, Kawartha Park Ridge District Health Unit is high, as its residents reported as summarized in Statistics Canada's 2011 Health Profile. According to the Health Profile, more than half of Health Unit residents are moderately active or active in their leisure time. This is consistent with the concept that Cobourg's low employment participation is due to more retirees and fewer young people in the community. With a high quality of life come positive feelings of community engagement, good mental health, and better functional health. All of these are indicators of physical ability to access recreation, as well as the social and psychological ability to do so.

On the other hand, residents of the health unit are somewhat more likely to suffer from ailments related to age and lifestyle issues: they are as likely to be overweight but more likely to be obese than the residents of the Province as a whole; they are more likely to have arthritis, asthma, high blood pressure and COPD; and they are more likely to smoke and drink heavily. These and other statistics suggest that special care should be paid in the Parks Master Plan to providing recreational opportunities to encourage mobility and fitness. The Town discovered this for itself with the enormous popularity of the walking trails and particularly the indoor track at the Cobourg Community Centre.

## Health and Perceived Health - Selected Characteristics

	HKPR District Health Unit	Ontario
Perceived health; very good or excellent (%)	53.1	61
Perceived mental health; very good or excellent (%)	69.4	74.3
Perceived life stress (%)	26.3	24
Sense of community belonging (%)	71.6	67.4
Life satisfaction; satisfied or very satisfied (%)	89.2	91.5
Functional health; good to full (%)	74.3	79.9
Leisure-time physical activity; moderately active or active (%)	56.4	50.5
Fruit and vegetable consumption; 5 times or more per day (%)	41.1	43.2
Bike helmet use (%)	34.5	34
Participation and activity limitation; sometimes or often (%)	40.5	28.2
Pain or discomfort that prevents activities (%)	18.9	13.5
Overweight (%)	34.1	34
Obese (%)	23.1	18
Arthritis (%)	25.2	17.3
Diabetes (%)	6.4	6.8
Asthma (%)	10.9	8.3
High blood pressure (%)	24.9	17.4
Mood disorder (%)	10.7	6.8
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (%)	8.9	4.2
Hospitalized stroke event rate (per 100000 population)	107	126
Heart Attack (per 100000 population)	230	207
Current smoker; daily or occasional (%)	25	18.9
Current smoker; daily (%)	20.1	14.5
Heavy drinking (%)	21	15.9
All cancers; deaths (per 100000 population)	177.8	159.1
Circulatory diseases; deaths (per 100000 population)	172.3	155.6
Respiratory diseases; deaths (per 100000 population)	50.3	41.3
Life expectancy at birth (years)	80.2	82.5
Life expectancy at age 65 (years)	19.5	20.9

Source: Statistics Canada

## Leisure Time

Canadians had 5.5 hours a day to devote to leisure activities in 2005 – Ontarians reported they had an average 5.4 hours –and despite a general feeling that in these modern times everyone is busier than they used to be, in fact leisure time hasn't changed much over the 1992-2005 timeframe.

### Leisure Time, Men and Women (Age 15 and Older)

	1986	1992	1998	2005
All Canadians	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.5
Men	5.7	6	6	5.7
Women	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.3

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Surveys<sup>1</sup>

Note: The sum of active and passive time may not add up to leisure time totals due to rounding error.

- 1 Source for Leisure Tables: Calculations of HRSDC based on Statistics Canada for 2005. General Social Survey on Time Use: Overview of the Time Use of Canadians. Ottawa, Statistics Canada, 2006 (Cat. No. 12F0080XIE, see Table 1.1); for 1992 and 1998, Statistics Canada, General social survey (GSS), average time spent on various activities for the population aged 15 years and over, by sex and main activity, occasional (CANSIM Table 113-0001). Ottawa, Statistics Canada, 2006 accessed online at hrsdc.ca April 2012.

In 2005 Canadians spent an average 2.2 hours a day engaged in passive leisure activities: Watching television or listening to music for example, sedentary activities that neither challenge the brain nor the body. Active leisure activities are broken down into three sub-categories:

- Social – interacting with other people;
- Cognitive – activities that challenge the brain, puzzles, games, reading, for example; and
- Physical – sports and exercise.

Not surprisingly, the young and the old have the most time available for leisure activities.

From a perspective of planning for parks for Cobourg, understanding that the largest and fastest growing age cohorts, those over 55 years, have more leisure time than their younger counterparts helps to inform decision-making about which parks and open space types are most needed.

### Leisure Time (Age 15 and Older)

	1992	1998	2005
Passive leisure	2.3	2.3	2.2
Active leisure	3.4	3.5	3.4
Social	1.8	1.9	1.7
Cognitive	1.1	1.1	1.2
Physical	0.5	0.5	0.5

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Surveys<sup>2</sup>

Note: The sum of active and passive time may not add up to leisure time totals due to rounding error.

### 2005 Leisure Hours Per Day (Canadians Age 15 and Older)

	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years
Hours per day	6	4.8	4.3	4.8	6	7.6

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Surveys<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## Leisure Participation

When looking at trends for a Parks Master Plan it is also important to separate an analysis of sport participation from an analysis of recreation participation. Canadians are waging the battle of the midriff bulge, certainly, but they are more active than they have been in the past, according to Canadian Social Trends published by Statistics Canada. The report is based time use data collected using a 24-hour time diary in the 1992 and 2005 General Social Survey (GSS) to identify leisure participation on any given day. The most common active leisure activity in 2005 was walking or jogging – which includes running. However, Statistics Canada could not determine if the relatively modest increase was a result of more people getting out for exercise in the form of walking or jogging or if more people were just getting out for the sake of going outside. From a leisure participation standpoint it may not matter as the provided resources needed to participate are the same regardless of the level of the activity: a street, trail, track, etc.

The second-most participated in activity was exercise and it covers a broadly defined group of activities from yoga to weight lifting to “working out.” Sports includes organized activities such as hockey or soccer league play as well as pick-up games.

### Daily Leisure Participation in Canadians (Age 20 and Older)

	1992	2005
All activities	20.90%	24.30%
Walking & jogging	10.60%	12.00%
Exercise	4.60%	6.50%
Sports	5.00%	5.70%
Outdoor expeditions	2.00%	2.20%
Bicycling	0.70%	1.00%

Source: Canadian Social Trends February 2009, Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2005.

## Sports Participation

Through its General Social Survey (GSS), Statistics Canada has conducted a series of analyses of participation in sports for 1992, 1998 and 2005. These trends relate to Canada as a whole, but through them an understanding of how they apply to provisions of sports capacity in Cobourg can be arrived at with the help of the public input process. For example, through the focus groups conducted as part of the Parks Master Plan public consultation program, it emerged that Cobourg once counted many more baseball team members among its active sporting population of all ages. Now, however, it's a shadow of its former self.

The Statistics Canada analyses can't tell what happened to baseball or why but it can help with the facts – baseball participation is down, way down, in Canada. Cobourg's experience is not an isolated circumstance, but part of a national trend. It is safe to conclude, therefore, that baseball is not likely to spring back. If Cobourg were surrounded by a baseball-happy Canada, it might be better to view what has happened in Cobourg as an anomaly and expect it to recover.

## Sports Participation by Adults (Canadians Ages 15 and Older)

	1992	1998	2005
Ontario	40.90%	31.80%	27.10%
All Canadians, by age			
15-18	76.80%	68.20%	59.10%
19-25	61.30%	51.10%	42.80%
25-34	52.80%	38.60%	30.90%
35-54	43.00%	31.40%	25.20%
55 and over	25.30%	19.80%	17.40%

*Source: Sports Participation in Canada, 2005 and previous editions, Statistics Canada Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division and peter j. smith & company, inc.*

## Sports Participation by Children (Canadians Ages 0 -14)

	1992	2005
All children, ages 5-14	57%	51%
Boys, ages 5-14	66%	56%
Girls, ages 5-14	49%	45%
All children, ages 5-10	53%	47%
All children, ages 11-14	64%	55%

*Source: Sports Participation in Canada, 2005 and previous editions, Statistics Canada Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division and peter j. smith & company, inc.*

### About the Sports Participation Data

Sport Participation in Canada 2005 defines sport as any competitive venture involving two or more people in which a score is kept. As part of the General Social Survey (GSS), survey respondents were asked “Did you regularly participate in any sports during the past 12 months?” “Regularly” meant that the respondent participated in a sport at least once a week during the season or for a certain period of the year. For example, although bowling is not a seasonal sport, the respondent was to include bowling if it was played on a regular basis during a period of the year.

Guidelines for determining whether a physical activity fell within scope as a ‘sport’ were determined by Sport Canada. Specifically, a sport is an activity that involves two or more participants engaging for the purpose of competition. Sport involves formal rules and procedures, requires tactics and strategies, specialized neuromuscular skills and a high degree of difficulty and effort. The competitive nature of sport implies the development of trained coaching personnel. It does not include activities in which the performance of a motorized vehicle is the primary determinant of the competitive outcome.

Based on these general guidelines, a list of sports was provided by Sport Canada. A number of physical and leisure activities were excluded such as noncompetitive aerobics, aqua-fitness, bicycling for recreation/transportation only, body building/body sculpting, car racing, dancing, fishing, fitness classes, hiking, jogging, lifting weights (non-competitive), motorcycling, snowmobiling, and non-competitive walking.

Survey respondents were also asked if the sports in which they participated were structured or unstructured.

A note on the data: Active participants are those who participate in at least one sports activity.

The fact that baseball participation is down is compounded by the finding that sport participation has been dropping. Sport participation is shifting, more women are playing ice hockey than before. Volleyball, still strong among women, is losing male participants. Cobourg, with its excellent resource for beach volleyball in Victoria Park, probably has a higher participation rate for volleyball. Golf remains the most participated in sport.

These findings from Statistics Canada are consistent with the community survey completed for the Parks Master Plan. When asked what sports do they participate in or would like to participate respondents’ most-named team sports was soccer with 25 percent of respondents; 24% of respondents participate in or would like to participate in ice hockey. Among respondents who specified another sport or activity in which they participate or would like to participate, 36 or 21 percent of residents respondents specified fishing.<sup>1</sup> When asked how they use parks, survey respondents’ top two choices were outdoor space and nature appreciation. Children’s’ play was third with 31 percent of resident respondents, and team sports was eighth, or last, on the list with 12 percent. Among those who specified another use for parks, dog walking and fishing were the most-named.

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<sup>1</sup> Among all respondents to the survey, residents and non-residents, 42 percent specified fishing.

### Top 10 Sports Among Adults (All Adults Ages 15 and Older, Active Adults)

	Adults		Active Adults		Active Men		Active Women	
	1998	2005	1998	2005	1998	2005	1998	2005
Population (000s)	24,260	26,106	8,309	7,314	5,140	4,568	3,169	2,745
Golf	7.40%	5.70%	21.70%	20.30%	25.80%	25.20%	15.00%	12.20%
Ice Hockey	6.20%	5.00%	18.00%	17.70%	27.90%	25.90%	2.10%	4.20%
Swimming	4.60%	2.90%	13.50%	10.40%	8.40%	5.50%	21.70%	18.70%
Soccer	3.00%	2.70%	8.90%	9.70%	10.70%	8.80%	6.00%	11.30%
Basketball	3.20%	2.40%	9.50%	8.60%	10.70%	9.70%	7.50%	6.60%
Baseball	5.50%	2.00%	16.10%	7.10%	18.50%	7.70%	12.20%	6.20%
Volleyball	3.10%	2.00%	9.00%	7.00%	7.70%	4.60%	11.00%	11.10%
Skiing (down-hill)	2.70%	1.90%	7.90%	6.70%	6.70%	5.80%	9.90%	8.10%
Cycling	2.50%	1.80%	7.30%	6.30%	7.00%	6.20%	7.90%	6.40%
Tennis	2.70%	1.50%	7.90%	5.50%	8.40%	5.20%	7.10%	6.00%

Source: Sports Participation in Canada, 2005 and previous editions, Statistics Canada Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division and peter j. smith & company, inc.

### Top 10 Sports Among Active Children (Ages 5-14)

	Active Children		Active Boys		Active Girls	
	1998	2005	1998	2005	1998	2005
Children age 5-14	51.70%	49.80%	58.80%	55.40%	44.30%	44.10%
Soccer	32.10%	44.10%	35.30%	44.40%	27.80%	43.70%
Ice Hockey	23.40%	26.10%	36.00%	33.80%	5.80%	16.20%
Swimming	22.90%	24.80%	17.90%	20.50%	29.90%	30.30%
Basketball	13.80%	18.90%	13.10%	17.20%	14.80%	21.00%
Baseball	22.10%	13.60%	25.90%	15.50%	16.90%	11.20%
Volleyball	5.40%	10.50%	3.00%	8.10%	8.70%	13.50%
Gymnastics	2.30%	6.00%	U	1.90%	4.50%	11.10%
Golf	2.60%	5.20%	3.30%	6.30%	U	3.80%
Skiing (downhill)	6.70%	5.00%	6.00%	5.60%	7.70%	4.20%
Karate	5.40%	5.00%	6.40%	6.00%	4.10%	3.60%

Source: Sports Participation in Canada, 2005 and previous editions, Statistics Canada Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division and peter j. smith & company, inc.

# Public Input Summary

*As part of the Parks Master Plan, a community consultation program was conducted to identify the needs and wants of the community. The following is a summary of the input received during the consultation program's focus groups, public meetings and online survey.*

## Focus Groups

There were nine focus groups sessions conducted for the Parks Master Plan between March 26 and 28 of 2012. For the focus group sessions, people identified as experts by vocation or avocation in various topics related to the plan were invited to participate in a facilitated discussion around their topic area. During the sessions, participants considered a series of questions relating their topic area to park and waterfront planning.

The participants for the focus groups were identified with the help of the steering committee and town staff. The topics were:

- Baseball
- Hockey
- Naturalists
- Parks Advisory Committee
- Service Organizations
- Soccer & Rugby
- Special Stakeholders
- Sports Activities
- Waterfront

The focus group discussions areas included needs and potential location of new facilities, quality or other problems associated with existing facilities, interaction and coordination with other groups and groups served/not served. Participants were well prepared for the discussions, with some bringing printed materials to support their ideas. Participants generally expressed a high degree of willingness to collaborate with one another to support the parks in Cobourg.

With the exception of the hockey and lawn bowling stakeholders, all the competitive and team sports groups identified a potential need for new facilities including baseball, soccer and rugby. Other new facilities for which groups advocated included expanded trail and waterfront walking and biking trail system and water access for fishing and boating. Sports field and waterfront uses and those of festivals was an identified source of conflict.

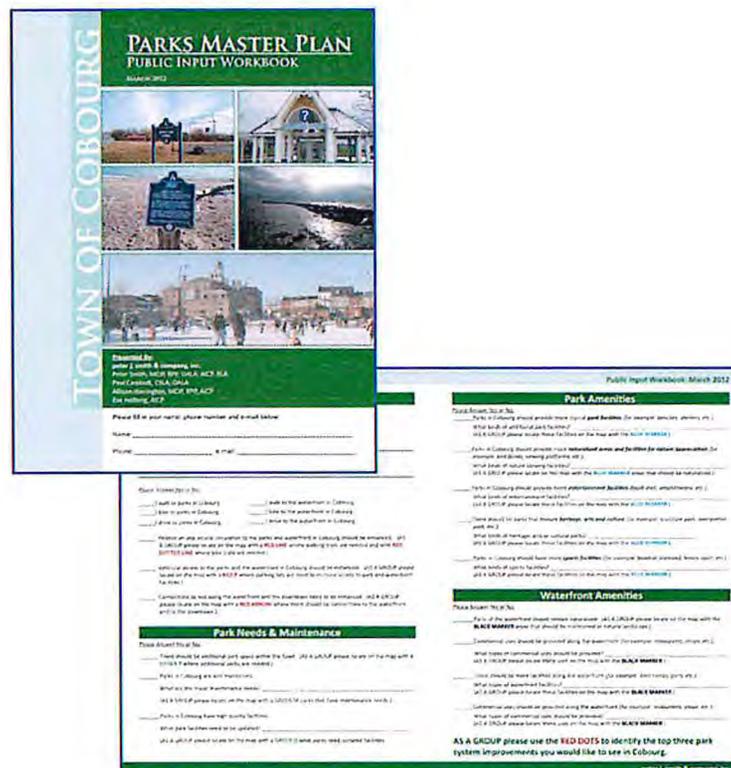
Other topics raised included the need to address downtown and waterfront parking, facility fee structures and the dog park. The need for additional washrooms and their location and upkeep were raised by several groups. Several of the team sports stakeholders raised concerns about the maintenance of the fields and facilities for their sports.

## Stakeholder Groups Contacted for Focus Group Involvement

- Advisory Committee of Council
- Angels Ladies Softball Club
- Arboretum
- Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
- Central Northumberland Ultimate Club
- Cobourg Alliance Church Volleyball
- Cobourg Baseball Association
- Cobourg Beach Society
- Cobourg Community Hockey League
- Cobourg Cougars Junior A Hockey Club
- Cobourg Cycling Club
- Cobourg Dragon Boat and Canoe Club
- Cobourg Highland Games Society
- Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club
- Cobourg Legion Minor Softball
- Cobourg Men's Baseball League
- Cobourg Saxons Rugby Club
- Cobourg Seniors Advisory Committee
- Cobourg Soccer Club
- Cobourg to Port Hope Waterfront Trail and Parks Committee
- Cobourg Yacht Club
- Codeman's Fries and Things
- Community and Economic Development
- Coverdale Tennis Club
- DBIA
- Dog Walkers
- Ecology Garden
- Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority
- Health Unit
- Horticultural Society
- Lions Club
- Local Fishing Group
- Men's Over 35 Hockey
- Men's Over 48 Hockey
- Northumberland Breakers Volleyball Club
- Northumberland Sports Council / Committee
- Pine Ridge Hiking Club
- Ribfest
- Rotary Club
- Senior Women's Hockey
- Skateboarders
- Tennis
- Trillium Walkers
- Waterfront Festival
- West Northumberland Curling Club
- West Northumberland Girls Hockey Association
- Willow Beach Field Naturalists
- YMCA Northumberland

## Issues & Opportunities Public Meeting

On March 28, 2012 an Issues and Opportunities Public Meeting was conducted to introduce the Parks Master Plan process and to gather input from the community regarding the vision for the future of Parks in Cobourg. As part of the meeting, participants were guided through an interactive input program in which they completed an individual workbook exercise and a group mapping exercise. The following summarizes the responses from the workbook exercise.



Public Workbook

## Public Workbook Results

	Yes	No	No Response	
I visit parks in Cobourg.	34	0	0	
I walk to parks in Cobourg.	29	4	1	
I bike to parks in Cobourg.	19	14	1	
I drive to parks in Cobourg.	19	14	1	
I walk to the waterfront in Cobourg.	31	2	1	
I bike to the waterfront in Cobourg.	17	16	1	
I drive to the waterfront in Cobourg.	21	12	1	
Pedestrian and bicycle circulation to the parks and waterfront in Cobourg should be enhanced.	12	1	21	
Vehicular access to the parks and waterfront in Cobourg should be enhanced.	8	6	20	
Connections to and along the waterfront and downtown need to be enhanced.	10	0	24	
There should be additional park space within the Town.	8	15	11	
Parks in Cobourg are well maintained.	20	3	8	Not Always (3)
Parks in Cobourg have high quality facilities	12	4	11	Yes & No (5)
Parks in Cobourg should provide more typical park facilities.	20	4	10	
Parks in Cobourg should provide more naturalized areas and facilities for nature appreciation.	22	3	9	
Parks in Cobourg should provide more entertainment facilities.	7	13	14	
There should be parks that feature heritage, arts and culture.	12	7	15	
Parks in Cobourg should have more sports facilities.	14	6	14	
Parts of the waterfront should remain naturalized.	21	0	13	
Commercial uses should be provided along the waterfront.	16	9	9	
There should be more facilities along the waterfront.	10	12	11	

## Group Mapping Exercise

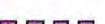
As part of the public meeting, participants were asked to break up into groups and work together to identify on maps of Cobourg existing issues and opportunities for parks and waterfront development. The adjacent public input synthesis map shows the results of all group mapping input received.

In addition to the workbook and mapping exercise, participants were asked to identify priority improvements for parks in Cobourg. The following lists the priority improvements identified (Note: Several improvements were identified more than once.):

- (3) Kerr Road Trail
- (3) Pool and Sports Dome
- (3) Improve Pier\*
- 3-way Stop at McGill and Queen
- Enforce By-Laws
- Parking issue on Perry
- Keep West Beach Natural
- North South Trail along Cobourg Creek
- Walking path along waterfront
- Washrooms all season
- Fishing on Pier
- Connect Downtown with Waterfront
- \*Pier Improvement ideas varied



# Public Input Synthesis Map

- LEGEND**
-  Park Improvements Needed
  -  Location for New Park
  -  Parking Needed
  -  Walking or Multi-use Trail
  -  Bike Lane
  -  Specific Area Need



## Online Community Survey

An online community survey was completed for the Town of Cobourg Parks Master Plan. The survey was designed by peter j. smith & company, inc., with the input of the steering committee. The survey instrument was hosted by FluidSurveys, a Canada-based company with offices in Ottawa and Bridgewater, NJ, USA.

The survey instrument was available online from April 2 to April 25, 2012. In addition to online accessibility, paper copies of the survey were made available through the Town of Cobourg for those who were unable to complete the online version. No paper survey responses were received. There were 278 unique responses to the survey. Among those, there was a 76% completion rate, meaning 76% of respondents answered every question.

The survey asked a series of questions about activities in which respondents participate or would like to participate, their assessment of existing recreational facilities in Cobourg, how often they use them, how they access them – on foot, by bike or automobile – and the activities in which they participate in Cobourg parks.

The community survey also asked for respondents' opinions about park and waterfront land acquisition, how parks should be linked, environmental awareness and how parks can promote Cobourg as a destination for residents and for tourists. A section of the survey sought respondents' input on the Cobourg waterfront, its role in the community and what sorts of facilities should be located on the waterfront.

Finally, a series of questions to be used for classifying respondents were asked. These included size of household, age of respondent, household income, home tenure status and length of residency in Cobourg. It also asked respondents if they do not live in Cobourg, where do they live. Of the

256 responses to the question about residency in Cobourg, 74 respondent said they do not live in Cobourg.

### Analysis of the Survey Results

There is always the risk of obtaining an unrepresentative sample when conducting a public survey such as the survey for the Cobourg Parks Master Plan. A demographic comparison of Cobourg residents, however, shows a fairly close match between survey respondents and town residents. No resident-respondents were under 25 years of age. This means that 27 percent of residents were unrepresented in the survey results. However, 39 survey respondents reported having children aged 12 and under in their households and an additional 45 reported at least one household member between the ages of 13 and 19. Otherwise, the age cohorts over 25, respondents match residents quite closely. There is a higher percentage of people between the age of 65 and 80 living in Cobourg, but the smaller percentage of people over 80 responding to the survey. The percentage of people over 65 responding to the survey is equivalent to the percentage of people over 65 in the town.

Resident-respondents are generally more affluent than residents of the town. According to the 2006 census, 23% of households have incomes of less than \$20,000 while just 2% of respondents said their household income is below \$25,000. On the other end, 38% of survey respondents had household incomes above \$100,000, whereas the 2006 census records 17% of households with incomes in this range. A higher cost of living and/or an influx of affluent people since 2006 may have contributed to these differences, but they are significant.

A higher proportion of resident-respondents own their own homes than do residents. The 2006 census records 71% of residents are homeowners while 89% of resident-respondents said they own their own homes.

The survey is but one element of the overall public input program and does not hold more or less power because of its scientific nature. The input received during the focus groups is different and no less compelling. The survey helps to gauge and confirm the impressions gathered during the rest of the public input process and highlight any other significant issues that did not emerge elsewhere. In this regard, the survey completed for the Cobourg Parks Master Plan was a successful and worthwhile venture.

The analysis of the survey presents the results of respondents who are residents of Cobourg, those who are not and all responses. Please note that not everyone answered all questions – the survey had an overall 76 percent completion rate – so some respondents who failed to answer the residency questions are not represented in the resident or non-resident analysis but they are in the “everyone” category. It was decided to look at the three groups (residents, non-residents and everyone) because there were some ambivalences about some developments, particularly waterfront uses and development that were quite different than those expressed by the non-residents. Removing them from one of the analyses allows the residents’ voices to be heard more loudly. Further, the 74 non-resident respondents were far and away members of the angling community.

The results of the survey are presented below.

#### **What activities do you participate in or would like to participate in?**

For residents of Cobourg, walking and hiking are by far the most popular recreational activities. Nature observation, picnicking and cycling are also enjoyed by more than one third of the residents who responded to the survey. Soccer is the most popular organized sport with 25% of respondents involved in the sport. Of the non-residents, 82% choose “other” as the activity they in which they participate, with

fishing being the predominant write in activity. Boating and camping are also popular activities of the non-resident respondents.

#### **Overall, how would you rate existing recreational facilities in Cobourg and the way they serve specific age.**

Overall, residents have a more favorable opinion of the park system than the non-resident respondents. People were less satisfied with how the park system serves teenagers than the other age groups. No age group got a majority of people that responded either good or excellent. While most respondents said facilities were fair or good, more people said they were poor than those who said they were excellent

#### **How often do you go to parks in Cobourg?**

Not surprisingly, residents frequent the parks in Cobourg than non-residents. Nearly half of non-residents go to parks less than once a month while 70% of residents go to parks at least once a week.

#### **What do you typically use parks for?**

Outdoor space and nature appreciation are the most popular reason to visit a park for both residents and non-residents. Organized team sports is the least popular reason to use a park in Cobourg with only 10% of respondents. Residents that chose “other” specified walking, dog walking, and fishing. Non-residents exclusively specified fishing.

#### **How are you able to access parks?**

More than 80% of the respondents are able to access parks by walking. More than half of the respondents said that they could access parks with a bicycle. Nearly 20% of respondents would use public transportation to access parks.

#### **Are you easily able to access parks from where you live?**

Most respondents found parks in Cobourg are easily accessed with 90% of residents and 75% of non-residents.

**How far would you walk to access a park?**

More than 60% of residents and 50% of non-residents would be willing to walk more than a kilometer to access parks.

**How far would you bike to access a park?**

Roughly a third of all respondents said they would be willing to bicycle six kilometers to go to a park in Cobourg while only 17% percent would only be willing to ride one kilometer.

**Should the Town of Cobourg acquire new park land to expand the park system?**

Three quarters of all respondents think that the town should acquire more property in order to expand the park system. Residents were more inclined to disagree that the Town should acquire more land.

**Should the Town of Cobourg acquire new waterfront properties to expand the park system?**

A larger percentage of respondents agree that the Town should acquire more waterfront property than new park land. Again, residents were more inclined to disagree that the Town should acquire waterfront property than non-residents.

**Within all neighbourhoods there should be park space.**

Nearly all respondents agree that all neighbourhoods should have some park space.

**Parks in Cobourg should link the Town together for a unified system of public space.**

Nearly three quarters of the respondents think that the parks should be linked together as a unified system. Very few people disagreed with the idea of linking the parks together.

**Major athletic facilities should be concentrated in areas that do not impact surrounding land uses.**

While two thirds of the people agree that major athletic facilities should be concentrated, only a quarter of them strongly agree. Another quarter of the people are neutral on the idea of concentrating athletic facilities. Responses among residents and non-residents are nearly identical.

**Parks that preserve the natural ecosystems and promote environmental awareness should be incorporated into the parks system.**

More than 90% of respondents agree that parks that promote environmental awareness should be incorporated into the park system with a majority of people strongly agreeing. Responses among residents and non-residents are nearly identical.

**Parks that feature culture, art, historic interpretation and events should be incorporated into the parks**

More than two thirds of the people think that parks that feature culture, art, historic interpretation and events should be incorporated into the parks. A quarter of the people are neutral on these types of parks and 8% disagree.

**Parks in Cobourg should enhance the character of the community and promote the Town as a destination for residents.**

Nearly all respondents agree that the park system should promote the Town as a destination for residents, with only a few people disagreeing.

Parks in Cobourg should enhance the character of the community and promote the Town as a destination for tourists.

Three fourths of all respondents agree that the parks should enhance the character of the community and promote the Town as a destination for tourists. Non-residents were more strongly in agreement, while 13% of residents disagreed.

The waterfront should be the Town's defining icon.

Three fourths of the respondents agree that the waterfront should be the Town's defining icon, while 10% disagreed.

The waterfront should be the primary location for events and activities in Cobourg.

Just over half of residents agree that the waterfront should be the primary location for events and activities in Cobourg. Non-residents were more strongly in agreement, while 21% of residents disagreed.

There should be more commercial uses along the waterfront.

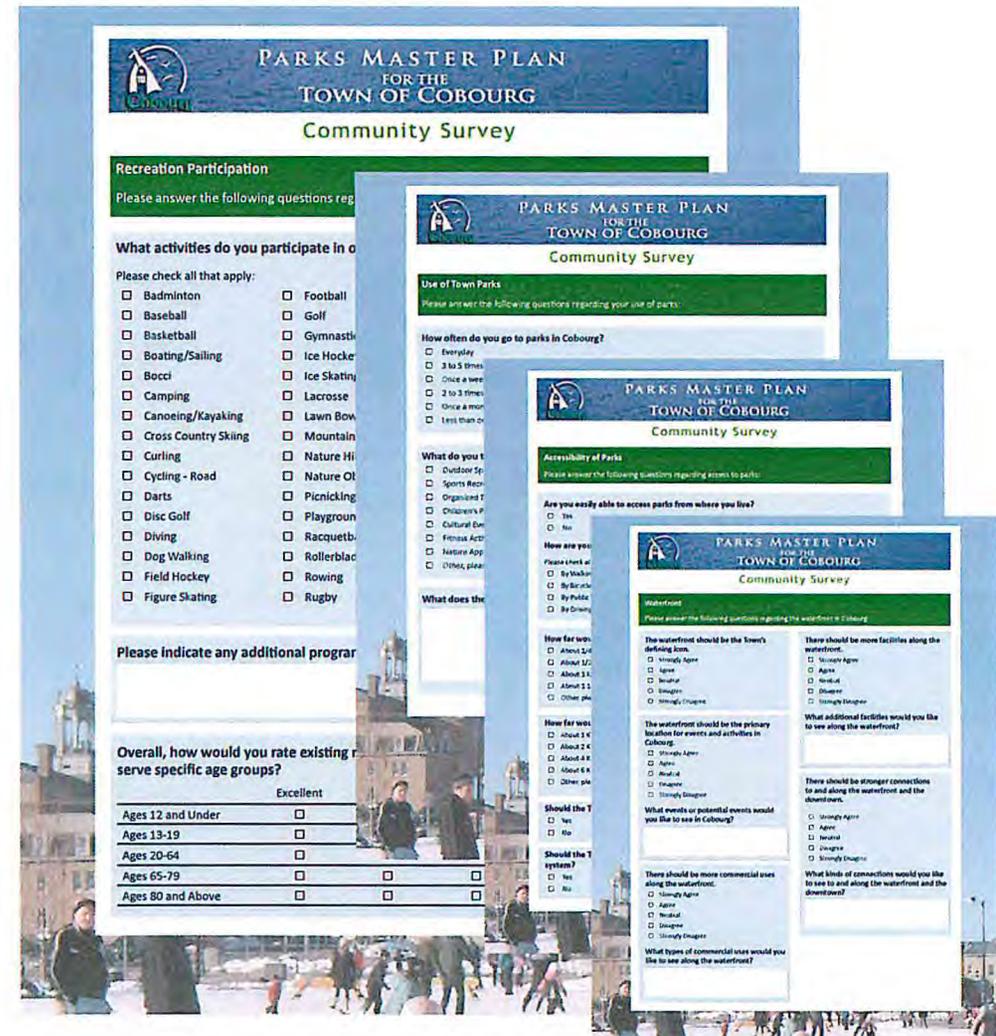
While many people were neutral on whether there should be more commercial uses along the waterfront, more people disagreed than agreed. Non-residents showed stronger disagreement with over 50% disagreeing and only 7% in favor.

There should be more facilities along the waterfront.

More than half of all respondents agree that there needs to be more facilities on the waterfront. Nearly 20% of residents think there are enough facilities on the waterfront. A large share of non-residents were neutral about having more facilities on the waterfront.

There should be stronger connections to and along the waterfront and the downtown.

More than 60% of residents and non-residents believe there needs to be a stronger connection between the downtown and the waterfront. Only one non-resident disagreed that there needs to be a connection.



# Parks Inventory

*Early in the study, a general inventory was completed of all existing parks in the Cobourg system.*

The inventory was undertaken for the primary purpose of identifying existing park facilities and their quality or condition. Evaluation forms were prepared and completed on site to document existing conditions and were put into an Arcview GIS mapping database. The database provides an effective tool for managing park facilities and can be easily updated and kept current as improvements are made to existing parks. In addition to completing the evaluation forms, each park was extensively photographed. Opportunities to enhance the use and function of each park were also identified during the inventory. The results of this work form the basis of the capital improvements and recommended for each park. The adjacent map identifies existing parks that were inventoried as part of the Parks Master Plan.

# Existing Parks Map



# Background Review

*A background review of existing studies and best practices was conducted to develop the Parks Master Plan. The following summarizes key findings from this review.*

Various existing studies were reviewed, including:

1. Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan, September 2000 by Monteith Planning Consultants
2. Transportation Master Plan, August 2011 by HDR/iTRANS
3. Urban Design Guidelines, Town of Cobourg East Community Secondary Plan Area, November 2004 by Brook McIlroy Inc Planning
4. Cobourg Parks Master Plan – Victoria, Donegan, & Elgin-Densmore Parks, 2001 by Hough Woodland Naylor Dance Leinster and dMA Planning & Management Services
5. Master Plan Update, Cobourg Conservation Area, December 2002, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority

Key points from each of these studies are highlighted in the Previous Studies Summary Table.

## Previous Studies Summary

<b>Parks &amp; Recreation Facilities Master Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a total of 56 hectares (139 acres) of municipal parks and open space in the Town: about 75% designed for active use: about 25% is for more passive uses and natural areas</li> <li>In comparison, Cobourg's existing parks and recreation facilities are excellent and even slightly ahead of the "pack" with other municipalities</li> <li>The Town's population is expected to grow by 30% by 2021</li> <li>The current provision level of parkland is too high and could be reduced to 3.0 hectare per 1,000 population</li> <li>Household survey found 16% of respondents felt that additional programs were required and 74% indicated satisfaction with existing programs: youth oriented programming was the most frequently suggested needed program</li> <li>Currently, there is no lack of seniors' activity groups; with aging population, may be a need for increased variety in programming</li> <li>Required new facilities noted by public include a skateboard park, bicycle and walking paths, a new arena and a youth centre</li> <li>Current leisure delivery system is fragmented with municipal staff (responsible for maintaining the Town's parks and recreation system) reporting to three separate departments</li> <li>Improved coordination is needed between municipal staff and the actual provider of the Town's recreation and leisure programming</li> <li>Need to develop a paved pathway system for walking, biking and in-line skating</li> <li>The Town should implement the Official Plan's pedestrian/bicycle path and linkage system</li> <li>The Town's Official Plan should be used as a basis for building upon the open space linkage system</li> <li>Listed detailed recommendations with priority and capital cost estimates</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation Master Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional network capacity needed to support planned growth, with east/west travel most constrained</li> <li>Improved connection to Highway 401 needed to support future population growth and economic activity</li> <li>Arterial and County roads in Cobourg experience localized capacity constraints under existing conditions and traffic congestion worsen under future conditions</li> <li>Population is projected to increase by 57% from 18,210 persons to 28,500 persons by 2031; employment is projected to increase by 27% from 12,060 jobs to 15,300 jobs by 2031</li> <li>Multi-use pathways, bicycle facilities and sidewalks need better connectivity to support and encourage alternative modes of transportation</li> <li>A sustainable transportation system that promotes alternative modes of travel and reduces the environmental impacts of users and facilities is desired, along with the provision of services and facilities that support these initiatives (e.g. infrastructure improvements, policies and programs)</li> <li>Increased traffic congestion and delays could have potential negative impacts on the Town's economic well-being and competitiveness</li> <li>To maximize the benefits of high density development along major corridors and improve quality of living in low density residential areas, development planning and design principles should follow the Transit-Supportive guidelines prepared by the Province of Ontario. Additionally, the Town's 2006 Transit Ridership Growth Plan and 10-year Asset Management Plan provided transit supportive development design guidelines to ensure transit needs are addressed in new growth areas</li> <li>The Town of Cobourg should develop a Transportation Demand Management Master Plan</li> <li>Implement a "cycling spine" network utilizing existing cycling facilities and the Town's collector and local road network to provide a network of signed-only cycling routes that could be implemented in the short-term</li> <li>The Town should follow the recommendations provided in the Official Plan and Urban and Landscape Design Guidelines, ensuring that policies for the provisions of sidewalks along the arterial, collector and local road network are followed so that all discontinuities in the sidewalk system are connected</li> </ul>
<b>East Community Secondary Plan Area Urban Design Guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the Urban Design Guidelines is to provide a common urban design direction for Cobourg Council, Town Staff, Public Agencies, Property Owners, Developers, Consultants and Utilities and others involved in the development of Cobourg East Community Secondary Plan Area</li> <li>Opportunity to create a new progressive community that is closely linked to its natural and cultural heritage</li> <li>The Secondary Plan Area is proposed to become a series of generally compact, linked pedestrian scaled neighbourhoods in close proximity to employment, public use and mixed use areas</li> <li>The natural environment should be the primary framework of the community, which links the proposed neighbourhoods with existing development, and provides places to recreate and interact</li> <li>The Open Space Network, parks, trails and roads will integrate the individual neighbourhoods, creating physical linkages to open space, parks, stormwater management ponds and woodlots to express the natural environment as the dominant community image</li> <li>Primary Objectives:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a strong community framework</li> <li>Create neighbourhood centres</li> <li>Create an interface with natural features</li> <li>Create a diverse community framework</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Victoria, Donegan, & Elgin-Densmore Parks Master Plans

### Victoria Park – North Side

- Rehabilitate the park rather than redevelop it
- Provide new landscaped park entrance and plaza at King Street with entrance feature (e.g. pergola or stone walls) and park information/heritage kiosk, all tied to the downtown streetscape improvements
- Resurface existing central walkway; provide new diagonal walkway from King to Queen Streets and along McGill Street to the beach area
- Resurface Queen Street with decorative paving, eliminate parking, provide gateway features at McGill and Church Streets (allows for street closure for park events)
- Accentuate park entrances and feature areas with display garden areas
- Replace wading pool with larger, updated splash pad facility near the washroom/concession building; fixture on existing splash pad is replaced with bubbler, ground sprays for small child use

### Victoria Park – South Side

- Enhance beachfront recreation area with updating washroom/concession building (i.e. façade updating, washroom expansion, concession improvements); link recreational amenities to existing pergola and boardwalk with walkway and landscaped plaza
- Renovate Centennial Pool; expand/re-organize adjacent parking lot to include a new park entrance with a drop-off
- Replace softball diamond with open lawn area for picnicking, free play and waterfront festival set-up
- Develop picnic pavilion at east end
- Formalize/expand parking along Bay Street
- Create new waterfront trail along the existing road alignment through the trailer park and behind the bandshell, linking the harbour area to Bay Street
- Enlarge bandshell viewing area through selective removal of hazardous trees and a 'no planting' zone
- Provide landscaped plaza for gathering and quiet seating areas adjacent to the Cenotaph
- Widen Lawn Bowling Association greens (left and right sides) to achieve regulation width; Incorporate seating/viewing areas on the west side under existing trees
- Retain mini-golf area in its current form; develop adjacent walkway and plaza areas to achieve additional landscaping and seating areas

### Donegan Park

- One of Town's key sports parks and home to men's baseball team
- Re-orient/re-grade the baseball diamond; add new fencing and lighting
- Provide new seating/picnic plaza and jr. playground at the concession building
- Remove scrub softball diamond
- Provide picnic pavilion and jr./sr. playground near sports fields, with lit walkway from parking lot and to washroom/concession building
- Provide park pathway system to link with high school property
- Provide basketball court and a modest skateboard area, or splash pad
- Provide shade trees and seating areas adjacent to the main parking facilities

### Elgin-Densmore Park

- Park to have ecological focus supporting/buffering adjacent natural areas
- Provide a main walkway linking the high school and the park (and potentially the Birchwood Trail which is to have park entrances off of it)
- Provide entrance point and looped nature trail system within the woods
- Create a centrally located activity area with a tot lot, jr./sr. playground and seating areas, adjacent to an open lawn for free play
- Redesign stormwater pond as "natural" amenity
- Future amenities could include a tennis or basketball court, and shuffleboard

## Cobourg Conservation Area Master Plan Update

- Keep essentially as is (passive recreational use area)
- Wayfinding, welcoming and use signage required (all signage to include the words "Cobourg Conservation Area" promoting the area as such)
- Need parking lot at William Street
- Expedite naturalization of the site by leaving a minimum 10 metre no mow zone along creek banks, planting native species in the no mow zone for habitat and erosion control, and tree planting in the Caim portion as well as potential extensions of the arboretum (using natural themes)
- Place picnic tables south of parking lot on Elgin Street (3 tables) and in treed area across from Boulton Street on south side of creek (4 tables)
- Remove or repair fitness trail (confirm with Rotary Club)
- Monitor and repair erosion sites
- Limit pedestrian access to dam
- Locate additional garbage containers in area
- Increase educational use of the area
- Construct the pedestrian/bicycle trail system through the area as detailed in the Town's Official Plan and in the Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan

## Models for Waterfront Restaurant Development

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The following summarizes the information gathered from the City of Mississauga and the City of Port Colborne:

### Mississauga -Port Credit

- City leases Port Credit Harbour from the Federal Government in the early 90's
- Port Credit Yacht Club moves out to new location at Lakefront Promenade Park in early 90' and abandons their building
- City's first contract included cleaning up the Harbour area, removing the docks, and making the site safe.
- City prepares a Master Plan for the Harbour area that identifies the former Yacht Club building as a future restaurant.
- City calls for Letters of Interest from restaurant operators, with performance specifications on desired end product and based on the fact that the City would be revitalizing the Harbour
- City was interested in an operator who would come in and pay for all the capital costs of constructing an 'up-scale' restaurant, and in return receive a 20 year lease to operate in the park. After 20 years, the City would own all improvements.
- The winning bidder was responsible for developing the building and an area 3 metres beyond the footprint; everything outside this areas was the responsibility of the City.
- The operator improved the existing building; spent approximately \$1.2M
- The City expanded the parking lot for the restaurant operation, and was responsible for all other capital costs... dredging, shoreline construction, marina docks, landscaping, bridge over the river, and bringing new services to the restaurant. The operator has exclusive rights to dock next to the restaurant along the sheet pile wall.

### Port Colborne

- The City of Port Colborne owns the land at the waterfront
- The City completed a detailed waterfront master plan in the early 1980's, which identified the potential for a restaurant
- Following approval of the master plan, the City defined the criteria under which they would build a restaurant (size, location, facilities, etc.)
- Expressions of Interest were solicited from potential restaurant operators from which a successful one was selected
- The City constructed the "base" building; the operator was responsible for leasehold improvements to suit their operation (ie. kitchen appliances, furnishings, lighting, etc.)
- The initial lease was for 5 years and was subsequently renewed; in addition to lease payments, the City receives a percentage of the operator's annual profits (5 -10%)
- As landlord and property owner, the City is responsible for major repairs/capital improvements to the building and general maintenance (ie. snow plowing); the operator is responsible for day-to-day maintenance and appearance improvements

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**DESIGN**<sup>based</sup>  
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