



# Parks and Recreation Master Plan

November 2013



## Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	2
1.1 Why Prepare a Parks and Recreation Master Plan? .....	2
1.2 Profile of Mississippi Mills.....	3
2.0 TRENDS IN RECREATION.....	13
2.1 The Benefits of Recreation.....	13
2.2 General Trends in Recreation in Canada .....	14
2.3 How Active Are We? .....	15
3.0 PARKS AND FACILITY INVENTORY.....	16
3.1 Inventory Methodology .....	17
3.2 Park and Recreation Facility Inventory Profiles.....	17
3.3 Park Inventory by Recreational Activity.....	17
3.4 Summary of all Park and Recreation Facilities.....	17
4.0 INVENTORY OF RECREATION PROGRAMS .....	20
4.1 Recreation Programs offered by the Town.....	20
4.2 Recreation Programs offered by Community Organizations .....	23
5.0 INVENTORY OF SPECIAL EVENTS.....	24
6.0 PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKING.....	25
7.0 COMMUNITY INPUT .....	31
7.1 Surveys.....	31
7.2 Public Workshop.....	50
7.3 Workshop with Community Organizations .....	53
7.4 Other Input.....	56
8.0 ACTION PLAN .....	58
8.1 Analysis of the Current Situation of Parks and Recreation Facilities .....	58
8.2 Vision, Mission Statement and Guiding Principles .....	60
8.3 Recreation Facility Strategic Actions .....	61
8.4 Recreation Program Strategic Actions .....	73
8.5 Special Events Strategic Actions .....	75
8.6 Parkland Strategic Actions .....	76
8.7 Service Delivery Model.....	85
8.8 Recreation Funding Strategies.....	89
8.9 Partnership Opportunities .....	91
Appendix 1 List of Parks	
Appendix 2 List of Recommended Strategic Actions	
Appendix 3 Map of Existing Park Locations and Service Radius	
Appendix 4 Map of Almonte Existing Park Locations and Service Radius	

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Why Prepare a Parks and Recreation Master Plan?

The decision to undertake the preparation of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Town of Mississippi Mills came as a result of an economic development initiative. In September 2010, a day long think tank session called the “Community Conversation” was held with community leaders to talk about economic development in the area. Parks and Recreation was one of many topics of discussion. Recognizing that the Town possesses an abundance of natural features – watercourses, woods, trails and parks – which contribute to the appeal of the community, it was felt that over time, the Town would link its trails and open space systems to accommodate sports and recreational activity. The vision for Parks and Recreation was to develop parks and open spaces so that the residents of all ages may become more physically active. The means identified to achieve this was the preparation of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the report emanating from the event recommended the preparation of the Plan be a priority with the municipality.

In October 2011, a second “Community Conversation” event was held. Again, the need to create a Parks and Recreation Master Plan was identified as a priority. The intent was that such a Plan will include parks, recreation and open spaces and will plan for staff resources, facilities and other supporting resources. A Cultural Plan was also identified as a need that would be linked to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

On October 1, 2012, Town Council approved “*A Community and Economic Development Strategy*.” Regardless of the potential economic benefits, it was felt that healthy active living should be strongly promoted in Mississippi Mills. By raising the physical well-being for each individual, the quality of life is raised for the entire community. Therefore, the achievement of healthy living in Mississippi Mills is one of the goals of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It was recognized that there are many agencies and services providers in addition to the Town that play a role in achieving a higher state of well-being, including the Lanark, Leeds and Grenville District Health Unit, school boards, private sport and recreational organizations, social agencies, health care and elderly care providers.

With this background of activity in mind, the central issue to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is increasing the level of health and wellness of the community and to improve its residents’ level of physical well-being through increased physical activity. The strategies and recommendations emanating from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan are directed to achieving this goal.

The undertaking of a Recreation Master Plan has many benefits to the community. It is an opportunity to:

- Review all recreational programs and services being offered in the Town;



- Communicate with citizens to determine their expectations and to encourage their involvement and participation in recreation services;
- Recognize the recreation potential and thus provide a wider range of recreational opportunities;
- Improve cooperation between recreation authorities, institutions, private agencies and community organizations;
- Lay the ground work to make informed decisions about future financial requirements, programs and activities, facilities and park development.

The study to develop a Recreation Master Plan begins by:

- Researching relevant background information about growth and development in the Town and relevant planning studies;
- Researching recreation trends in Canada and the benefits of recreation;
- Examining socio-demographic and population trends, health status, and participation levels in physical activity;
- Undertaking an inventory of the existing parks and open space, recreation facilities, and recreational programs operated by the Town.

The Recreation Master Plan then asks these fundamental questions:

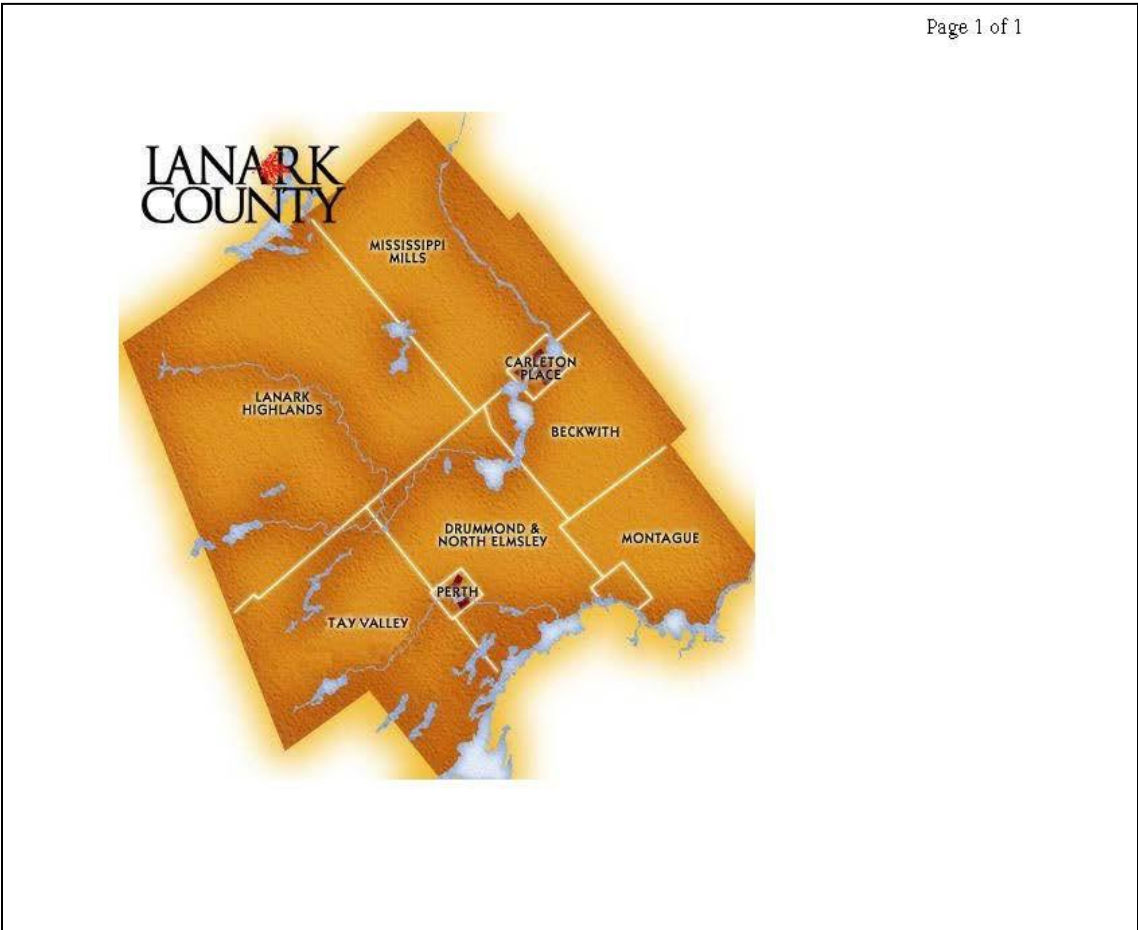
- What are the interests of people, degree of participation, and satisfaction levels with the current offering of recreation programs, parks and facilities and what improvements would they like to see?
- What potential is there in the current inventory of parks and facilities to better meet the needs for recreation through setting standards, better design and change in funding?
- What delivery model that combines Town and volunteer involvement would best address the shifting interests and changing conditions for providing services in recreation?

An important component of developing this Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been engaging the residents and community organizations of Mississippi Mills through surveys and through two facilitated workshops to better understand their recreational needs, current level of participation in recreation, satisfaction with current programming and facilities, and how they think the parks, open space, recreation facilities and programs can be expanded and improved.

## **1.2 Profile of Mississippi Mills**

January 1, 2013 marked the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the existence of the Town of Mississippi Mills as a municipality, having been formed by the amalgamation of the former Town of Almonte, Township of Pakenham and Township of Ramsay on January 1, 1998.

The Town is located in the north-east corner of Lanark County. To its immediate east is the City of Ottawa, the capital and fourth largest city in Canada. Downtown Ottawa is about 30 kilometers to the east, centering a community of about 900,000 in population. To the south, is the Town of Carleton Place, an urban center with employment and retail opportunities. Also to the south is the Township of Beckwith. To the west is the Township of Lanark Highlands. The Town of Arnprior and the Township of McNabb/Braeside are located to the north.



Mississippi Mills comprises a number of communities – the former Town of Almonte, the village of Pakenham and the hamlets of Appleton, Blakeney and Clayton and the rural former Townships of Pakenham and Ramsay. All of these communities owe their existence to being on waterways as they were settled based on the availability of water power. Almonte and Pakenham have retained their traditional main streets in their respective core areas. Outside the town and villages are rural landscapes – more agricultural in nature to the east of the Mississippi River and more of a natural environment to the west of the River.

The 2011 Census of Canada indicates that the Town of Mississippi Mills had a population of 12,385 which was an increase of 5.5 % over the previous census five years earlier and is similar in growth to the Province of Ontario average of 5.7%. Neighbouring municipalities experienced varying rates of change: Arnprior grew by 13.4% over the same period; Beckwith Township by 9.4%; Ottawa by 8.8%; Carleton Place by 3.8%; McNabb/Braeside by 2.1% and Lanark Highlands by 1.0%.

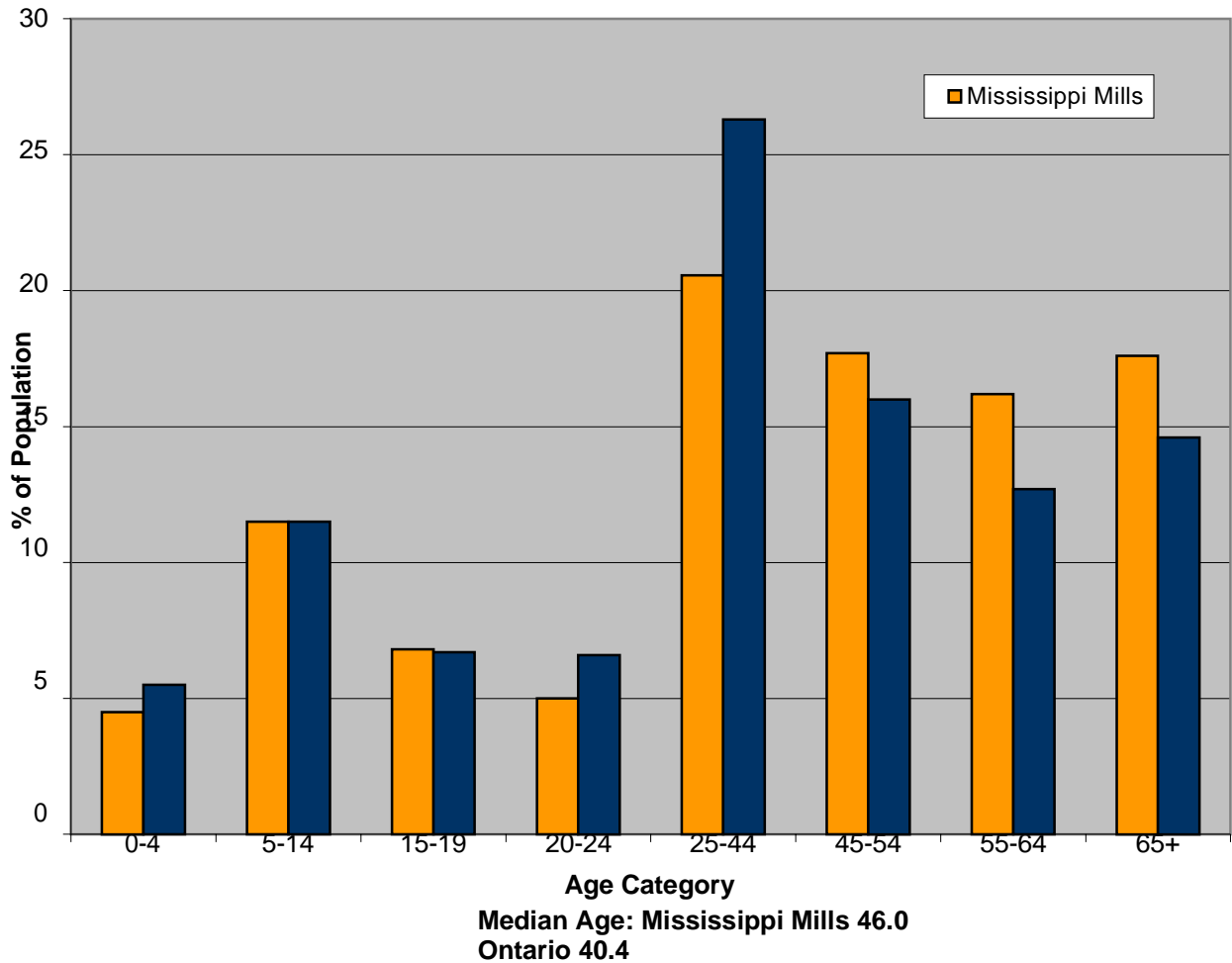
Mississippi Mills has a land area of 519.5 square kilometers and a population density of 23.8 persons per square kilometer compared with the Provincial average of 14.1 persons per square kilometer.

### **Population Characteristics**

The median age of the population of Mississippi Mills in 2011 was 46.0 years which is higher than the Provincial median of 40.4 years. In 2006, the median age of the population in Mississippi Mills was 42.6 years and in the Province, 39.0 years.

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Mississippi</b>	<b>Mills</b>	<b>Province of</b>	<b>Ontario</b>
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
0 - 18	2,675	21.6	2,867,785	22.3
19 - 59	6,585	53.2	7,340,055	57.1
Over 60	3,125	25.2	2,643,980	20.6
Total	12,385	100	12,851,820	100

**Demographic Comparison  
Mississippi Mills and Province of Ontario  
2011 Census**



In terms of broad age groups, for those aged 0 – 14 years, there was a 6.8% decrease between the 2006 and 2011 census; for those aged 15 – 24, a 1.3% decrease; for those aged 25-44 years, a 2.4% decrease; for those aged 45 - 64 years, a 2% increase; and for those 65 and over, a 26.7% increase.

In 2011, there were 3,125 seniors (over the age of 60 years) in Mississippi Mills, comprising 25.2% of the total population. Just under 1,000 of these (985) were 75 years of age and over.

In 2006, there were more children in Mississippi Mills than were there seniors. However, the reverse was true in 2011.

There were about 4.4 million Canadians or 14.3% of the population who reported having a disability in 2006. For children 14 years of age and under, the percentage was 3.7% and for those 75 years and over, 56.3%. Using the Canadian average for 2006, it is estimated that Mississippi Mills has about 1,800 residents with disabilities, of which about 1,000 are seniors.

There were an almost equal number of males and females in Mississippi Mills in 2011, with 6,285 females and 6,100 males.

In 2011, the number of census families was 3,735; an increase of 9.2% from 2006. Of these families, 75.8% were married couples compared with the Provincial average of 72%; 12.6% were common-law couples compared with 10.9% provincially and 11.8% were lone parent families versus 16.7% provincially.

The average number of persons per census family was 2.9 compared to 3.0 persons per census family in Ontario.

In total, in 2011, 6,700 or 64.5% of the population of Mississippi Mills were either married or living-common-law compared with 57.7% provincially and 35.5% were either not married or not living with a common-law partner including those who were single (never married), separated, divorced or widowed.

According to the 2011 census, there were 4,835 private households in Mississippi Mills, an increase of 10.5% since 2006.

In terms of language, Mississippi Mills is almost entirely English speaking, with 92.6% of the population speaking English only as a mother tongue, 3.3% reported speaking French only in their home, and only 3.3% speaking a non-official language. (0.8% gave multiple responses).

For income data, as of the date of report writing, the most current statistics are from the 2006 census. In 2006, the median household income in Mississippi Mills was \$67,114. compared to the Provincial average of \$69,156. The median economic family income was \$79,098 and the median income for persons 15 years of age and over and not in an economic family was \$26,085. "Household income" refers to all who occupy a dwelling – a family; two or more families sharing a dwelling, a group of unrelated persons sharing a dwelling or a person living alone in a dwelling. In contrast, an economic family is the total incomes of all members of a family.

In terms of mobility, in 2006, 70% of the population of Mississippi Mills lived in the same address as five years before; 13.2% moved from within Lanark County and 15.1% moved from outside but from within the Province of Ontario and 1.7% moved from out of province or country.



In 2006, 66.9% of the population of Mississippi Mills was employed and 5.8% were indicated as unemployed compared to 62.8% and 6.4% provincially.

For Mississippi Mills, of those who were employed, 11.2% worked at home; 81.7% drove to work; 8.4% were a passenger in a vehicle to work; 1.6% used public transit and 7.4% either walked or biked to work.

The 2006 census recorded 9,380 residents age 15 and over. Of these, 19.6% had no certificate, diploma or degree from a school; 26.3% had a high school certificate or equivalent; 1% had a trade certificate or diploma; 23.1% had a non-university certificate or diploma; 0.2% had university below the Bachelor level and 20.9% had a university certificate, diploma or degree.

### **Historic Residential Growth in Mississippi Mills**

The following information was provided by the Town of Mississippi Mills recording new residential building permit activity as an indication of the rate and location of residential growth since 2006 in the Town;

<b>Year</b>	<b>Almonte</b>	<b>Pakenham</b>	<b>Ramsay</b>	<b>Total</b>
2006	28	10	30	<b>68</b>
2007	39	7	16	<b>62</b>
2008	46	9	15	<b>70</b>
2009	43	9	9	<b>61</b>
2010	74	12	12	<b>98</b>
2011	92	6	16	<b>114</b>
2012	33	8	19	<b>60</b>

### **Overall Health**

#### **Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Profile**

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit (LDLDHU) produced a District Health Unit (DHU) Profile in 2008 that was updated in 2010 using 2006 Census data. The profile was produced to answer the question, "How healthy are the residents of the district?"

The LDLDHU comprises the Counties of Leeds, Grenville and Lanark. Most of the residents (58%) live in a rural environment compared to the Province of Ontario at 16%.

The Profile notes that Canada's population is aging due to increased longevity and Canada's fertility rate. The Profile illustrates the Projected Population in 5-year increments from 2006 to 2021 and shows a continuing shift towards an older age cohort.

The Profile reports that chronic conditions are prevalent throughout the District with 74.9% of residents aged 12 or over having at least one chronic condition.

“Chronic conditions are typically characterized as being non-communicable, having a long latency before becoming obvious to the affected person, resulting from uncertain causes, and can be the result of multiple risk factors. Most chronic conditions tend to have a long duration and do not improve over time. Chronic conditions are rarely cured completely. These diseases have a profound impact on an individual's physical, emotional and mental well-being.”

In general, the presence of chronic conditions increases for populations over 65 years of age. In discussion with Mr. Jim Cunningham of the LDLDHU, he noted a growing tendency for chronic illness to be affecting an increasingly younger population. For example, Type B diabetes is now affecting an increasing number of children. The prevalence of arthritis for residents aged 12 and over was significantly higher in the District than for the rest of Ontario. Also in the District, rates of high blood pressure for females were significantly higher than in the rest of the province.

The Profile states that for all types of cancer, of which there are over 200, the mortality rates were significantly higher for the District than for Ontario. Cancers of the respiratory system were most common followed by colorectal and pancreatic cancers. Taken on their own, deaths from prostate and breast cancers overtook colorectal cancer for second place in the District.

The general fertility rate for the District was lower and had a slightly downward trend compared to the Province which had a relatively steady fertility rate between 2000 and 2006.

According to the Profile, in 2008, 49% of visits to Emergency Departments in the District were due to injury, poisoning or other external causes and respiratory diseases. The latter was dominated by children of up to 9 years of age and the latter, by all other age groups.

The LGLDHU Profile reported that, in 2005, the average life expectancy at birth is 81 years for females and 77.2 years for males in the District.

The leading cause of premature death in the District was neoplasms which are the diseases characterized by abnormal growth and division of cells and include very different diseases including cancer and leukemia.

Lastly, the LGLDHU Profile reported that, in 2005, diseases of the circulatory system and neoplasms accounted for 63% of deaths in the district. Another 22% were caused by respiratory diseases, external causes of mortality and endocrine and nutritional and metabolic diseases.

## **Town of Mississippi Mills Official Plan**

The Town of Mississippi Mills Official Plan was adopted in 2005 and is intended to guide development of the town until the year 2025. It is based on the adopted Vision Statement for the community;

"Mississippi Mills is an outstanding urban and rural community that is recognized for its natural and architectural beauty, high quality of life and respect for its heritage and environment. In its vision for the future, the community will be seen to promote and manage balanced economic growth."

The Official Plan looks to achieve balanced growth that manages development and protects natural resources by adopting the principles of Smart Growth.

The Plan is based on the assumption that the Town's population will increase to about 18,500 by 2026. This is an increase of 6,850 people or at 1.9% growth per year until 2026.

The settlement strategy is a 50 / 30 / 20 plan that directs 50 percent of new growth to Almonte on full municipal services; 30% to rural areas, existing villages with large lots or new settlement areas; and 20% to existing villages or to new rural settlement areas with servicing that can support 1000 sq. m to 2000 sq. m lot sizes.

Under this strategy, Almonte would grow from 4,650 to 8,080 by 2026; rural areas from 7,000 in 2001 to 9050 by 2026; and serviced settlement areas outside of Almonte to 1,370. To do so, no new rural estate residential lots on private services are permitted; sufficient urban serviced land is designated in Almonte; full municipal or communal sewer and water services are promoted in villages and new settlement areas are to be on full municipal or communal water services.

Almonte is planned to develop at a higher density of between 15 to 35 residential units per gross hectare compared to other villages and settlement areas because it is on full municipal services. Rural settlement areas shall develop residentially on lots of at least 0.4 hectares (1 acre). Should full urban services or communal sewer and water systems be introduced to existing or new settlement areas, lot sizes can be 5 to 10 units per gross hectare. Non-farm residential lots created by severance shall be at least 1 hectare in area.

The Official Plan contains designations with policies to protect environmental features, water resources, and ecosystems partially because of the presence of watercourses, wetlands and wooded areas in the municipality. Directing development away from these areas or with appropriate setbacks from them will implement these policies. The Town does not include a plan to acquire provincially significant wetland or an area of natural scientific interest (ANSI's) but encourages private stewardship of such lands.

Section 3.7 of the Official Plan establishes policies for Parkland and Open Space. The Plan recognizes the value of lands for active and passive recreational uses, for trails, bicycle and pedestrian ways and for natural areas and open spaces. It recognizes the need to establish high quality parks in conjunction with growth.

The Official Plan recognizes that besides the Town, the Province of Ontario, County of Lanark, Mississippi Valley Conservation, North Lanark Agriculture Society, school boards and other public and private agencies contribute to the inventory and maintenance of land for recreation purposes.

The Official Plan contains the following goal for Parkland and Open Space;

“Promote and develop public open space to serve the recreation, leisure and quality of life needs of the community.”

Some of the objectives include;

- ❖ Adopt a parks and open space system that meets the needs of a broad range of interests
- ❖ Create an inventory of public spaces
- ❖ Establish a program to acquire new public lands
- ❖ Assist others to develop and maintain trails
- ❖ Recognize water bodies and watercourses as major recreational, social and economic assets
- ❖ Maintain and improve local beaches and important public spaces
- ❖ Encourage the development of riverside footpaths in Almonte and Pakenham that are linked to the community trail system

The Official Plan establishes a parkland hierarchy classification system to guide the municipality in future acquisition and development of parkland and open spaces.

- ❖ Neighbourhood parks are to be located in neighbourhoods and accommodate multigenerational needs. They can be used for active and passive recreational uses and organized and informal sports. Generally, they are less than 4 hectares in area and are within a 0.5 km area of the residents using the space.
- ❖ Community parks are for “multigenerational social, cultural, education and physical activities of particular interest to the community.” They include organized sports and are to be adjacent to schools. They are between 1.5 to 10 hectares in area and are provided at a ratio of 0.5 to 1 hectare per 1000 population and located within a 2 km radius of the population. Access to major roads and pedestrian systems is encouraged.
- ❖ Regional parks are the largest in scope and function ranging in size from 10 to 70 hectares in area. They are intended to provide facilities to a wide segment of the population including natural areas, cultural or historic features.

Beyond the hierarchy of parks, the Official Plan urges connectivity by trails to the open space areas in the Town and the Regional trail network.

The Official Plan implements the Planning Act parkland and cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication requirements by stating under what circumstances the Town will require parkland conveyance or payment of cash-in-lieu as a condition of subdivision approval. Parkland dedication techniques and other techniques available to municipalities are to be used in order to obtain land for access to waterfront and walkway routes.

Outside of the Planning Act, the Official Plan encourages the acquisition of required public land through purchase, donation or bequest.

Other lands that may be considered for addition to the park and open space system include stormwater management areas, lands unsuitable for development for environmental or physical condition reasons and lands having special natural features or scenic vistas. The Town is also enabled to establish a reserve fund for active transportation – walkways, trails, bike paths and sidewalks.

For public non-municipal parklands, the Town shall work to ensure the lands remain in public ownership. Further, the Town shall work to maintain and enhance public access to lakes and waterways.

Lastly, the Town supports the concept of land trusts as a means of protecting natural and cultural areas. The Mississippi – Madawaska Land Trust Conservancy is an example of an existing body dedicated to this cause.

### **Three Year Review of the Official Plan**

In December, 2010, JL Richards and Associates completed an *Official Plan Review 2010-2011 Lands Needs Background Study* and an *Official Review 2010 Three Year Review Items Report*.

The reports examined the supply and demand for residential land for housing purposes and concluded that at a rate of building activity of 78 new dwelling units per year beginning in 2011, there was sufficient residential lot supply to meet the projected housing needs to 2031 and beyond. A review of servicing requirements identified the need to provide additional water supply capacity through the construction of additional wells to meet the needs of future serviced developments in Almonte. The reports also concluded that there is sufficient wastewater plant capacity to provide services until the year 2026. The Reports also observed that the Official Plan strategy of 50 / 30 / 20 was being exceeded in Almonte where not 50% but 63% of new housing was occurring and the 20% attributed to future growth to the existing villages or new rural residential service areas with a form of servicing that can support lots of about



1000 sq. m to 2000 sq. m had experienced no growth at all. It was their conclusion that based on Smart Growth principles, more than 50% of new housing in Mississippi Mills will likely occur in Almonte.

## 2.0 TRENDS IN RECREATION

### 2.1 The Benefits of Recreation

The importance of parks and recreation to individual lives, communities, economy and the environment has been demonstrated extensively over the years. One outstanding source is "*The Benefits of Parks and Recreation: A Catalogue*" prepared by the Parks and Recreation Federation of Ontario (PRFO) together with the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. This catalogue was prepared in the late 1980's at a time of increasing competition for public funds – a stress that has increased rather than abated. This catalogue uses research from over 100 different sources to make conclusions about the benefits of parks and recreation.

The catalogue puts forward benefit statements relating to parks and recreation in four different categories – personal, social, economic, and environmental. The following is a selection of benefit statements that supports the concerns and comments received from the residents of Mississippi Mills during the public consultation process for this study. Some of the issues of importance were health promotion, activities for youth, tourism and improving facilities.

#### Personal Benefits

- Regular physical activity is one of the very best methods of health insurance for individuals.
- Leisure opportunities for youth provide positive lifestyle choices and alternatives to self-destructive behaviour.
- Parks and open spaces bring beauty to an area while giving people satisfaction and improving their quality of life.

#### Social Benefits

- Leisure provides opportunities for community involvement, and shared management and ownership of resources.
- Recreating together builds strong families, the foundation of a stronger society.
- Leisure opportunities, facilities and the quality of the local environment are the foundations of community pride.

#### Economic Benefits

- Small investments in recreation yield big economic returns.

- Recreation and park services are often the catalyst for tourism, a growing sector of our economy.
- Pay now or pay more later! Investment in recreation as a preventative health service makes sense.

### Environmental Benefits

- Investing in the environment through parks and the provision of open space in residential areas, leads to an increase in neighbourhood property values through accessibility to environmentally friendly green spaces and associated recreation opportunities.
- The public is often prepared to pay for environmental protection and rehabilitation in their communities, and to support parks and recreation organizations that play a lead role in that protection.

## 2.2 General Trends in Recreation in Canada

In October 2011, John Frittenburgh, President of The JF Group, delivered a paper at the National Recreation Summit, entitled “**Community Recreation and Parks Infrastructure: A Pan-Canadian Perspective and Policy Considerations**”. The JF Group specializes in studies related to fitness, sports and recreation. The following is a summary of Mr. Frittenburgh’s observations which we believe are valid today.

### **Trends that will Influence Future Infrastructure Projects;**

- Physical Inactivity – More than one-half of Canadians are considered insufficiently active for optimal health. Obesity is affecting all age groups. Municipal recreation master plans are becoming focused on improving community health by increasing physical activity. Fitness facilities, healthy living programs, nutrition, healthy cooking classes and other instructional forums are being offered by public service providers
- Aging Populations – There will be an increased demand for programs and services to serve an older population searching for leisure activities that are interesting, engaging and combine a variety of independent activities. This group will likely be more self-directed and will likely expect that time be made available for spontaneous activities rather than sign up for a program
- Increasing Expectations – Users today are typically looking for a higher quality standard of facility than existed when many facilities were built. The type of facilities, where they are located and how they are managed have changed dramatically over the past two decades. Sometimes retrofits are possible such as compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act
- Urban vs. Rural – Sometimes planning principles and provision standards that are suitable for urban areas are not appropriate for less densely populated areas – sometimes in the same municipality. Facility location and accessibility issues are often contentious

- Balancing Fiscal and Service Priorities – Municipalities are under pressure to maintain existing levels of service at the same or less cost and to deliver new services within existing budgets

### **Changing Patterns of Work and Leisure**

- Lack of available time is the single most significant barrier to participation in leisure activities. Canadians are working longer hours and youth are experiencing a leisure time crunch due to demands on them for free time – television, computer and hand-held devices
- Growth in two-person working households is likely to continue and will result in rising demand for services at both peak and non-traditional hours and for multi-purpose facilities that provide cross-programming opportunities that can serve more than one family member at the same time

### **Facility Trends**

- Multi-purpose facilities are becoming “community hubs” that can be used simultaneously by more than one family member. The key is to locate them where they are readily accessible either as a drive to or walk/cycle to facility.
- Multi-generational facilities – Such centers offer a grouping of activities and flexible program space for all generations, rather than for example a dedicated youth center or seniors center. As an example, gymnasias can be used by a variety of users, through the week or month.
- Active transportation – results in benefits in increased physical activity, environmental advances and cost economies.

## **2.3 How Active Are We?**

In the past decade, chronic (non-communicable) diseases caused the majority of premature deaths in Canada and contribute to the majority of disabilities. In 2005, more than 40% of Canadians over the age of 11 reported living with at least one chronic disease – heart disease, cancer, diabetes, hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary heart disease, eating disorders respiratory diseases and stroke. The major risk factors to chronic disease include obesity, poor diet, and physical inactivity as well as alcohol consumption and the built environment. Today, in Canada, over 50% of our population is considered to be overweight. In 2010, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care estimated the total annual health care costs of dealing with obesity related chronic diseases at \$4.3 billion. For the treatment of diseases related to a sedentary lifestyle, the estimated annual costs to the health care system were \$5.2 billion. Currently, approximately 40% of annual Provincial Government expenditure is directed to the area of health care of Ontarians. Achieving a balance between healthy food consumption and regular physical activity is imperative to achieving a healthy weight and preventing chronic disease.

Canada's *Physical Activity Guide to Healthy Active Living* recommends adults engage in 30 minutes of moderate physical activity (such as brisk walking) on most days of the week accomplished in segments of at least 10 minutes or more throughout the day. The Province's *ACTIVE2010* program set as a target of 55% of Ontarians achieving this level of physical activity. The Ontario Ministry of Education has since introduced Daily Physical Activity as a mandatory component of the elementary curriculum requiring a minimum of 20 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity each school day during instructional time as a means of increasing the level of physical activity in children.

### Sports Participation of Canadians

The Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute publish data on recreation activity across Canada. The following is the most current information on the most popular sports activities by Canadians;

#### Popular Sports by Age Group 2009 – 2010, Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute

0 – 17*	18 - 24	25-44	45 - 64	65+
Soccer 38%	Hockey 30%	Hockey 36%	Golf 36%	Golf 51%
Hockey/Ringette 23%	Soccer 30%	Baseball/Softball 19%	Hockey 19%	
Swimming 17%	Basketball 19%	Soccer 15%	Racquet Sports 15%	
Basketball 15%	Volleyball 15%	Golf 15%	Baseball / Softball 13%	
Baseball/Softball 10%		Racquet sports 12%	Curling 10%	
Martial Arts 9%		Volleyball 11%		
Volleyball 8%		Basketball 8%		
Football / Rugby 6%				
Skiing/Snowboarding 6%				

**\* 2009 data, all other data is 2010**

Trends noted in 2009 – Soccer is strong in participation, golf is increasing in women's participation, skiing and watersports are decreasing.

### 3.0 PARKS AND FACILITY INVENTORY

A key component of developing this Parks and Recreation Master Plan is the creation of an inventory of the parks and recreation facilities in the Town of Mississippi Mills. Publicly owned trails form part of the inventory. This Section includes the methodology for creating the inventory and a profile of all the parks and recreation facilities. Section 4.0 provides an inventory of the recreation programs offered in the Town.

### **3.1 Inventory Methodology**

The inventory of parks and recreation facilities was compiled using several sources of data and methods of collection. The following is a description of each of these sources and methods.

GIS data from the Town was used to create a series of location maps of the Town's parks.

Information from municipal staff provided valuable data that was not always captured on the base maps or from site visits.

Finally, all of the above sources of information were verified with site visits to each park and facility. Photographs were taken, diagrams of facility layouts were sketched and observations were recorded.

### **3.2 Park and Recreation Facility Inventory Profiles**

Inventory profiles were created for each park and recreation facility.

Each profile provides a site or facility description such as site area, abutting streets, park classification, list of structures and buildings, representative photographs, and a sketch of the facility layout.

### **3.3 Park Inventory by Recreational Activity**

From the data collected for each park site, a chart was created to highlight the park sizes, types and quantity of recreational facilities, and related amenities found on each of the park sites.

### **3.4 Summary of all Park and Recreation Facilities**

All of the preceding information was then summarized in spreadsheet format that can be easily updated as required. The spreadsheets appear on the following pages.



TOWN OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS PARKS

Town/Ward	Park	Size (acres)	Park Classification	Play Equipment	Beach	Basketball Court	Baseball Field	Football Field	Soccer Field	Horseshoe Pit	Outdoor Skating Rink	Open Grass Area	Facilities / Buildings on Site	Other
Almonte	ALMONTE BEACH	1.24	Neighbourhood Park		✓							✓	Rented banquet hall	Supervised beach, in operation from mid-June to August.
Almonte	AUGUSTA STREET PARK	0.40	Neighbourhood Park	✓		✓						✓	BMX track	The Town has a revitalization plan
Almonte	COLEMAN ISLAND	1.24	Neighbourhood Park									✓		Scenic trail behind residential property and along river bank.
Almonte	MARTIN STREET NORTH PARK	15.50	Community Park											
Almonte	DON MAYNARD PARK	1.00	Neighbourhood Park									✓		
Almonte	GEMMILL PARK	60.40	Community Park	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Amphitheatre for major events and concerts. Lighted tennis courts, lighted ball diamond with bleachers. The ball diamond is for softball. Has a full sized and junior sized soccer field, and a 400-metre track. There are many biking, cross-country skiing and walking trails. Used for Celtic festival and by Almonte Bicycle Polo League and Tennis Club.	Located adjacent to the Almonte and District Community Centre. A skateboard park is planned for 2013.
Almonte	JAMES STREET PARK	0.40	Neighbourhood Park	✓		✓						✓		The play equipment includes swings and a bench.
Almonte	McINTOSH PARK	1.24	Neighbourhood Park	✓								✓		Located in a new subdivision.
Almonte	MEADOWGLEN PARK	0.22	Neighbourhood Park	✓		✓						✓		
Almonte	METCALFE GEOHERITAGE PARK	2.00	Community Park		✓							✓	Washrooms, picnic area, non-motorized boat launch area, parking lot	Adjacent to downtown Almonte and the scenic Mississippi River. It is both visible and accessible. There are picnic tables. In the future, rocks will be rearranged into a display. Parking lot connects to the Riverwalk.
Almonte	RIVERWALK	1.00	Neighbourhood Park										Gazebo, scenic trail with benches and interpretive signage	Located in downtown Almonte; adjacent to Mississippi River
Almonte	SNEDDEN-CASEY BALL FIELD	13.00	Neighbourhood Park				✓							Ball field is lighted.
Almonte	VETERAN'S WALKWAY / CENOTAPH	2.60	Neighbourhood Park											Unlighted stone dust trail, cenotaph, benches
Almonte	WYLIE STREET PARK / NEW ENGLAND PARK	0.63	Neighbourhood Park	✓		✓						✓		
Pakenham	FIVE SPAN BRIDGES PARK	7.00	Neighbourhood Park									✓		Park is used for fishing. Parking lot.
Pakenham	FRED MILLAR FIELD	2.13	Neighbourhood Park						✓					Two soccer fields
Pakenham	PAKENHAM BEACH	1.00	Community Park		✓							✓		Located within Fred Millar Park behind the Stewart Community Centre. The beach is open from mid-June to August.
Pakenham	PAKENHAM COMMUNITY PARK	4.40	Community Park				✓			✓			Canteen, parking lot, skate park	Located beside the Stewart Community Centre. The baseball field is lighted. There are 12 horseshoe pits. Used for Remembrance Day ceremonies.
Ramsay	APPLETON BAY PARK	1.00	Neighbourhood Park	✓								✓	Boat launch	Located on the Mississippi River. Has picnic benches.
Ramsay	APPLETON PARKETTE	0.57	Neighbourhood Park									✓		Picnic tables
Ramsay	CLAYTON TAYLOR PARK	1.00	Neighbourhood Park									✓	Boat launch, picnic area with cenotaph	Located at the dam
Ramsay	JAKE LUBBERS FIELD	8.00	Neighbourhood Park						✓					Two soccer fields
Ramsay	MUNROE MEADOWS	4.00	Neighbourhood Park									✓	Pathway	Located in a Rural subdivision
Ramsay	R.W. MacGREGOR MEMORIAL BALL PARK	15.50	Neighbourhood Park				✓		✓					Next to municipal offices on Old Parth Road.
Ramsay	ELEANOR WRIGHT PARK	1.00	Neighbourhood Park										Pathway	Located in Appleton
Ramsay	GREYSTONE ESTATES PARK	2.00	Neighbourhood Park											Located in a Rural subdivision

Town Ward	Facility	Civic Address	Facilities / Buildings on Site	Other
Almonte	ALMONTE OLD TOWN HALL	14 Bridge Street	Auditorium used for events and athletic classes	
Almonte	ALMONTE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE	182 Bridge Street	Arena, banquet hall, curling rink, canteen and lounge, accessible elevators, shuffleboards, meeting rooms	
Almonte	ALMONTE LAWN BOWLING CLUB		Lawn bowling club house and bowling greens	
Pakenham	CEDAR HILL SCHOOL HOUSE	270 Cedar Hill Road	Heritage school house fits 55 people, canteen, washrooms	Is used for weddings, picnics and other events. Open space area, also available.
Pakenham	STEWART COMMUNITY CENTRE		Arena, change rooms with showers and washrooms, canteen, banquet hall, sound system, piano, cloakroom, accessible elevator access	
Ramsay	CLAYTON COMMUNITY CENTRE	147 Tatlock Road	Community centre, canteen, stage area with a piano, change rooms	Has a picnic area. Play equipment, basketball court, baseball, and open grass area.
Ramsay	UNION HALL		Canteen, washrooms	May be booked for events
	MILL OF KINTAIL CONSERVATION AREA		Museum within the restored gristmill, art gallery, open chapel, conference centre, canteen, WIFI	Trail network through forest, field and stream. A family picnic area is provided. The facilities are often rented for events and functions such as weddings and spiritual celebrations. There is a vehicle admission fee. Has play equipment.

The Clayton Community Centre and Union Hall are privately owned and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority owns the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area.

## Municipal Trails

The following is a list of publicly owned trails in Mississippi Mills. There are numerous trails on private property as well;

Riverwalk located adjacent to the Mississippi River and the Almonte Old Town Hall

Almonte Waste Station Ponds Bird Walk located on the north side of Wolf Grove Road, west of County Road 29 at the municipal waste station site

Gemmill Metcalfe Park Trails located in both Gemmill and the Metcalfe GeoHeritage Parks in Almonte

Rotary Centennial Trail located on County Road 29 between Carleton Place and Appleton

Coleman Island Trail located behind homes on Carleton Street and adjacent to the Mississippi River.

Eleanor Wright Trail located in Appleton at the end of Dunn Street in Wright Park.

## **4.0 INVENTORY OF RECREATION PROGRAMS**

The Town of Mississippi Mills provides some recreation programs and also relies on several community organizations and volunteers to plan and provide recreation programs.

### **4.1 Recreation Programs offered by the Town**

The following is a list of recreation programs organized and provided by the Town;

#### **For Adults**

##### **Adult Recreation Badminton**

Almonte and District High School

Mondays, September to April

Average Attendance; 35 – 40

##### **Adult Recreation Volleyball**

Almonte and District High School, Almonte

Tuesday's, September to April

Average Attendance; 40

##### **Adult Recreation Ladies Volleyball**

R. Tait McKenzie P.S.

Tuesdays, October – April

Average Attendance: 30

##### **Adult Recreation Volleyball**

R. Tait McKenzie P.S.

Thursdays, September – May

Average Attendance: 30

##### **Adult Ladies Basketball**

Almonte and District High School

Thursdays, October – May

Average Attendance: 30

##### **Pakenham Adult Yoga**

Stewart Community Centre upper hall

Wednesdays, September – June

Average Attendance: 40

##### **Adult Pakenham Pickleball**

Pakenham P.S.

Wednesdays & Thursdays, October – May

Average Attendance: 30

**Pick up Hockey at Almonte Arena**

John Levi Community Centre, Almonte

Thursdays, 4-5pm Ages 10-15 years

October to March

Average Attendance; 10 – 15

**Pick up Hockey at Almonte Arena**

John Levi Community Centre, Almonte

Tuesdays 4-5pm Ages 16-21 years

October to March

Average Attendance: 10-15

**Pick up Hockey at Pakenham Arena**

Stewart Community Centre, Pakenham

Wednesdays, 4-5pm Ages 10-15 years

October to March

Average Attendance; 10 – 15

**Pick up Hockey at Pakenham Arena**

Stewart Community Centre Pakenham

Thursdays 4-5pm Ages 16-21 years

Average Attendance: 10-15

**Line Dancing – Almonte**

Almonte and District Community Centre, Almonte

Thursdays, October to June (Fall/Winter/Spring)

Average Attendance; 40

**Adult Almonte Pickleball (Summer)**

John Levi Community Centre – Curling slab

May – August

### **For Youth Youth Nights**

Almonte and District High School  
Friday's, October to April  
Average Attendance; 40 – 50 youth aged 10 – 15

### **Babysitting Course**

Almonte and District High School, Almonte  
Red Cross Babysitting Course  
1 day course October & April dates  
Average Attendance; 20 per session, must be at least 11 years of age

### **5 Span Strong (kids after school program)**

Stewart Community Centre  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
October - June

### **Recreation Hockey Program**

Pakenham Arena, Pakenham  
Saturday from October to March  
Average Attendance: 100 youth  
Age groups 5 -6 years; 7 – 8 years; 9 – 11 years and 12 – 15 years

### **Soccer – Pakenham Soccer Club**

Pakenham Community Park, Pakenham  
Mondays, end of May to July  
Average attendance; 60 – 70 youth ages 4 – 12 years

### **Seniors**

#### **Senior's Shuffleboard -Almonte**

Almonte and District Community Centre, Almonte  
Monday's, Tuesday's and Thursday's,  
October to May

#### **Senior's Shuffleboard -Pakenham**

Stewart Community Centre, Pakenham  
Wednesday's, September – June

### **Recreation Opportunities Available to**



**various Age Groups Public Skating –  
Almonte (October to March)**

Almonte and District Community Centre, Almonte  
Tuesday's – Parents and Tots 11am - 12noon  
Wednesday's – Parents and Tots  
Wednesday's – Senior Skate 1-3pm  
Sunday – All age groups

**Public Skating, Pakenham (October to March)**

Stewart Community Centre, Pakenham  
Friday's – All age groups  
Saturday's – All age groups

**OTHER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO MISSISSIPPI MILLS RESIDENTS NOT ORGANIZED BY THE MUNICIPALITY**

**Senior's Lawn Bowling**

Almonte Lawn Bowling Club, Robert Street, Almonte  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday, May to September (weather permitting)

LIST OF PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY OTHERS

<b><u>Senior's Lawn Bowling</u></b>	<b><u>Curling</u></b>
Almonte Lawn Bowling Club	Almonte Curling Club
	Pakenham Curling Club
<b><u>Soccer</u></b>	<b><u>Broomball</u></b>
Almonte Soccer Club	Men's Broomball
	MacMillan Broomball
<b><u>Hockey</u></b>	
	<b><u>Cycling</u></b>
Almonte Pakenham Minor Hockey Association	Mississippi Mills Bicycle Club Almonte Bicycle Club The Rusty Spokes The RIMM Rovers
Junior B Hockey OVT	<b><u>Basketball</u></b>
Girls hockey OVSS	Naismith Basketball
Ladies hockey Almt Raiders	
Pakenhockey Mens'	<b><u>Cross Country Skiing</u></b>
Seniors Hockey	Mississippi Valley Ski Club
Midtimers	<b><u>Judo</u></b>
Old Timers	Almonte Judo Club
White Lake Hockey	
Franks Hockey	<b><u>Dance</u></b>
Pond Hockey	Almonte Academy of Dance
<b><u>Skating</u></b>	<b><u>Other Programs and Sponsors</u></b>
Almonte Skating Club	
	Mississippi Mills Youth Centre
	Special Needs and Seniors – Carebridge Community Support
<b><u>Tennis</u></b>	Almonte Civitan Club
Almonte Tennis Club	Pakenham Civitan club
	Almonte Lions Club
<b><u>Baseball</u></b>	Royal Canadian Legion
Mississippi Little League	Mississippi Field Naturalists
Almonte Co-Ed Slo- Pitch	
Pakenham Slo-pitch	Pakenham Darts Club

<b>St. Patrick's Day Dance, March 17<sup>th</sup></b> Stewart Community Centre, Pakenham Average Attendance; 220	<b>Almonte Santa Claus Parade and Celebration,</b> Sunday, early in December
<b>Doors Open</b>	<b>Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month, June</b>
<b>Canada Day Eve, June 30</b> Stewart Community Centre, Pakenham	<b>Cellfest, weekend after July 1<sup>st</sup></b> Gemmill Park, Almonte
<b>Canada Day, July 1</b> Gemmill Park, Almonte	<b>Almonte Agricultural Fair, weekend after Cellfest in Sept</b> Almonte and District Agricultural Society Fairgrounds
<b>Truth &amp; Reconciliation, Sept 30</b>	<b>Puppets Up! International Festival, August</b> Mill Street, Almonte
<b>Community Open House, early September</b> Almonte and District Community Centre	<b>Naismith 3 – on – 3 Basketball Tournament, August (Same weekend as Puppets Up!)</b>
<b>Light Up the Night, First Friday in December</b> Mill Street, Almonte Average Attendance; 7,000 (estimated)	<b>North Lanark Highland Games, end of August</b> Almonte and District Agricultural Society Fairgrounds
<b>Pakenham Santa Claus Parade and Celebration,</b> Saturday, early in December	<b>Christmas in the Valley Craft Show</b> Stewart Community Centre, Pakenham

The following special events do not involve municipal staff;

<b>Folkus</b>	<b>Doors Open Mississippi Mills</b>
<b>Fibrefest</b>	<b>Busfusion</b>
<b>Almonte Lectures</b>	<b>Crown and Pumpkin Tour</b>
<b>Almonte in Concert</b>	<b>Maple Run Studio Tour</b>
	<b>Pakenham Frost Festival</b>



## PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKING

The Municipality of North Grenville and Town of Greater Napanee were contacted and information was gathered to determine the amount of parks, open space and

recreational facilities that are available to the public in these communities and how the programs and services are provided. Municipal budget information was also collected. These two Ontario communities are very close in population size to Mississippi Mills, and like Mississippi Mills, have both an urban and a rural population. It was felt that a comparison between Mississippi Mills, North Grenville and Greater Napanee was relevant to a review of the municipalities' financial commitment in the area of parks and recreation activities, programs and facilities. The following is a comparison of the three municipalities.

### **Town of Mississippi Mills Community Profile**

As noted elsewhere in this report, the 2011 population of the Town of Mississippi Mills was 12,385, up 5.5% from 2006. The Town has an area of 519.5 square kilometres. In 2011, the median age of its population was 46, an increase from 42.6 years of age five years previously. This is higher than the median age of Ontario's population of 39 years in 2006 and 40.4 years in 2011. Mississippi Mills unemployment rate was 5.8% which was lower than the Provincial average of 6.4% in 2006. The median family income in 2005 was \$79,098 which was higher than the Provincial median of \$72,734 that year.

### **Municipality of North Grenville Community Profile**

The Municipality of North Grenville had a population of 15,085 in 2011, which was a 6.2% increase over the five years from 2006. This is slightly higher than the national average growth of 5.9%. The population is slightly higher than Mississippi Mills at 12,385. North Grenville is smaller, with an area of 352 sq. kilometres – about 2/3 the size of Mississippi Mills. In 2011, the median age of the Municipality of North Grenville population was 42.8 which is slightly above the provincial median age of 40.4 years. Its 2006 unemployment rate was 4.6% which is lower than the provincial rate of 6.4%. North Grenville's median family income in 2005 was \$76,425 which was lower than that of Mississippi Mills (\$79,098) and higher than the Provincial median of \$72,734.

### **Town of Greater Napanee Community Profile**

In 2011, the Town of Greater Napanee had a population of 15,511, which was a 0.7% increase over its 2006 population. This is less than the national average growth of 5.9% as well as Mississippi Mills growth of 5.5%. The Town has an area of 461 square kilometres which is comparable to Mississippi Mills at 519 square kilometers. In 2011, the median age of its population was 44.4 years which is close to that of Mississippi Mills at 46 years and above the provincial median of 39 years. Greater Napanee's unemployment rate in 2006 was 5.7%, which was lower than the Provincial rate of 6.4%. The Town of Greater Napanee's median family income in 2005 was \$60,412 which is lower than Mississippi Mills (\$79,098), and less than the provincial median at \$72,734.

The following table summarizes the key information gathered from the three municipalities for comparison purposes;

<b>Benchmarking Comparison</b>			
	<b><u>Mississippi Mills</u></b>	<b><u>North Grenville</u></b>	<b><u>Greater Napanee</u></b>
<u>Demographic and Size</u>			
2011 Population	12,385	15,085	15,511
Area	519 sq. km	352 sq. km	461 sq. km
Median Age	46.0 yrs.	42.8 yrs.	44.4 yrs.
<u>Parks</u>			
Parkland	26 parks, 144 acres	10 parks, 150 acres	23 parks, unknown
Soccer Fields	7 full and 5 mini	8 full and mini	5 full
Baseball Diamonds	4	9	9
Tennis Courts	3	4	0
Beaches	2	2	1
Skateboard Parks	1	0	1
Boat Launch	3	2	1
Basketball Courts	6	6	0
Pathway/Trails/Roadways	<10km	>150km	<10km
<u>Facilities</u>			
Arenas	2 single pad 1970's	1-2 pad 2000's	1-2 pad 2000's
Pools	1 indoor (Carleton Place)	1 outdoor	0
Halls/Community Centers	7	1	10
<u>Municipal Rec. Programs</u>			
Pick up Hockey	√		
Badminton	√		
Volleyball	√		
Line Dancing/Dance	√	√	
Youth Nights	√		
Babysitting Course	√		
Soccer	√		
Skate Lessons	√	√	√
Shuffleboard	√		
Public Skating	√	√	√

Aerobics/Fitness	√	√				
Aquatics		√				
Tennis	√	√				
Taekwondo		√				
Day Camps		√				
P.A. Days		√				
Summer Hockey Camps		√	√			
Movies		√				
Arena Ice Sports	√	√				
Youth Drop Ins	√	√	√			
Baseball			√			
4 on 4 Hockey	√		√			
Jr. Leadership			√			
<u>Special Events</u>	16	1	7			
<u>Municipal Human Resources</u>						
Full Time Staff	9	15	17			
Part Time Staff	9 + 4 Students	15 part time & students	10 + 2 Students			
<u>Financial Resources</u>	Exp.	Revenues	Exp.	Revenues	Exp.	Revenues
Annual Budget	\$1.467M	\$540,000	\$3.6M	\$1.6M	\$2.5M	\$1.6M
Arena / Community Centre	\$465,250	\$424,750	\$2.6M	\$1.0M	\$1.8M	\$1.5M

### **Town of Mississippi Mills Staff and Financial Resources**

In the Department of Recreation and Culture, the Town of Mississippi Mills employs 9 full time staff (a Recreation Coordinator; Community Economic and Cultural Programmer; Administration / Booking Clerk; two Working Foreman and four Recreation Facility Operators), nine part-time staff when the arenas are in full operation and four students in the summer (1 for grounds keeping, 2 for beautification work and 1 for tourism information). The Department is also responsible for property maintenance at three cemeteries, the municipal administration building, public library, Pakenham Public Works facility, Ottawa Street roundabout and specific high visibility intersections. A small private contract is issued annually for property maintenance at these locations.

The 2013 Operating Budget for Recreation and Culture totalled \$1,467,324.00 which included all programs, including the curling club, special events and all recreation and culture facilities. Historically, the goal for funding recreation was to be 60% from users and 40% from the Town. Additional expenditure items have been added to the Department's budget in recent years (such as T.Y.P.S. grant, museum grant and special events such as Canada Day, Christmas parades and Light Up the Night) since the



formula was introduced. Analysis by the Town's Treasurer on the 60 / 40 formula applied to the Department's approved 2013 revealed that after removing the "add on" items from the Department's budget and applying the 60 / 40 formula to the revenues and expenditures, the Town is actually funding 63% of recreation including the curling club while the users are funding 37% of the budget.

The Department's 2013 Capital Budget comprised \$387,000 of capital project expenditures.

The capital budget comprises the following items;

- Recreation Master Plan \$50,000.
- Meadowglen Play structure \$15,000.
- Lawn Bowling Club Roof \$15,000.
- Hockey Goal Frames \$5,000.
- Snedden Casey Ball field & Lights \$5,000.
- Site Work, Almonte Skateboard Park \$40,000.
- Stewart Community Centre Upgrades \$242,000.
- Accessibility Health & Safety Items \$15,000.

Of the \$387,000 total, \$121,000 is funded by Federal Grants for the upgrades to the Stewart Community Centre, \$211,000 is from reserves and the balance (\$55,074) is by local municipal tax supported funding.

The Town has a reciprocal agreement with the Upper Canada District School Board that allows community organizations and groups recognized and sanctioned by the Town access to gymnasias in all four schools located in Almonte and Pakenham.

In addition, the Town has an agreement with the Town of Carleton Place and Township of Beckwith for access to libraries, arenas and the indoor swimming pool in Carleton Place. This agreement is dated 1987 and has been the subject of a periodic review to determine the continued validity of the agreement and its cost-sharing arrangements and formula.

### **Municipality of North Grenville Staff and Financial Resources**

Administratively, the Municipality of North Grenville employs 15 full time staff (a Director, Recreation Coordinator, Facility Coordinator, Booking Clerk, Graphics Designer, Facility Supervisor, Lead Hand, 7 Operators) and 15 students and seasonal part-time staff in its delivery of recreation programs and activities and operation of its facilities. Students are employed as life guards at the outdoor pool and in running summer day camps. The Municipality has joint use agreements with two local high schools as well as three public schools in the area that give access to playing fields and gymnasias.

Its annual budget includes expenditures of approximately \$3,600,000 with revenues of \$1,650,000. Their revenues recover 44.5% of the expenses. Of this amount, the North

Grenville Municipal Centre has an annual operating budget of \$2,600,000. and revenues of \$1,000,000, most of which come from hall rental and ice rental.

### **Town of Greater Napanee Staff and Financial Resources**

Administratively, the Town of Greater Napanee has recently undergone reorganization. The former Parks and Recreation Department had been responsible for programming as well as the maintenance of recreation fields and facilities. However, after reorganization, recreation programs and special events are now provided by a Community and Corporate Services Department. There is a General Manager of the Department, an Economic Development Coordinator and a Youth Center Coordinator who are responsible for recreation programming and special events. They hire 7 students in the summer to run their day camp and junior leadership programs. In winter, they hire one position to teach skating.

The former Parks and Recreation Department is now called Parks and Facility Services and its mandate is to maintain buildings, parks and halls. The new department has a General Manager, 3 administrative staff and 10 full time operators and 2 part time staff. Students are also hired in summer to assist with grounds maintenance. The 3 administrative staff is responsible for the booking of 10 municipal buildings, as well as the registration of the 4 on 4 hockey program and learn to skate program. The 10 operators are responsible for parks and playing field maintenance in summer and arena operations and snow clearing of parking lots and walkways in the winter. The two part time staff is dedicated to the cleaning of halls.

With the new division in function between departments - one responsible for programming and the other responsible for building and field maintenance, it is difficult to determine the annual cost of parks and recreation services for comparison purposes with other municipalities. The budget for Community and Corporate Services staff involved in recreation programming and special events is now part of a larger department budget and is not possible to separate out.

However, the 2013 operating budget for the new Recreation and Culture Services Department, responsible for building and field maintenance is approximately \$2,500,000 with revenues of \$1,600,000. The largest single component of the budget is the Strathcona Paper Center. It has forecast expenditures of \$1.8 million and revenues of \$1.5 million for a net taxpayer funding requirement of \$300,000

Between the two Departments, the Town of Greater Napanee has 17 full time staff, 2 part time staff and 10 students and seasonal staff that are collectively responsible for the booking of facilities, recreation programs offered by the Town as well as the maintenance of parks and recreation facilities including playing fields.

As a separate benchmarking exercise, municipalities that abut Mississippi Mills were contacted to determine their hourly ice rental rates. In order to achieve its annual revenues for ice time rental, it is important that the Town be competitive in its rental fees.

The following is a summary the current ice time rental rates for 2013 including those of the neighbouring City of Ottawa;

<b>Mississippi Mills Recreation Master Plan- Surrounding Municipality Benchmarking Study</b>				
<b>Public Skating and Rink Rental Comparison-2013-03-21</b>				
<b>Public Skating</b>				
	<b>Mississippi Mills</b>	<b>Greater Napanee</b>	<b>North Grenville</b>	<b>Arnprior</b>
Adult	\$2.50 per skate	\$3.00 per skate	\$2.00/\$3.00 evening per skate	\$2.50 per skate
Children	\$2.00 per skate	\$2.50 per skate	\$2.00 per skate	\$2.25 per skate
Seniors	\$2.00 per skate	\$2.50 per skate	N/A	\$2.25 per skate
	<b>Carleton Place</b>	<b>Township of Beckwith</b>	<b>Lanark Highlands</b>	<b>City of Ottawa</b>
Adult	\$2.00 per skate	\$2.00 per skate	\$1.00 per skate	\$2.50 per skate
Children	\$1.00 per skate	\$2.00 per skate	\$1.00 per skate	\$1.50 per skate
Seniors	Mondays & Thursdays-Free	\$2.00 per skate	\$1.00 per skate	\$2.50 per skate
<b>Ice Rental</b>				
	<b>Mississippi Mills</b>	<b>Greater Napanee</b>	<b>North Grenville</b>	<b>Arnprior</b>
<b>Primetime</b>				
Adult	\$153.00/hour(\$183.00 non-resident)	\$191.00/hour	\$178.00/hour(\$218.00 non-resident)	\$162.77/hour(\$244.15 non-resident)
Youth/Minor	\$110.00/hour(\$183.00 non-resident)	\$146.00/hour	\$138.00/hour(\$218.00 non-resident)	\$119.18/hour(\$244.15 non-resident)
<b>Non-Primetime</b>				
Adult	\$128.00/hour(\$156.00 non-resident)	\$105.00/hour(\$191.00 non-resident)	\$99.00/hour	\$138.35/hour(\$207.52 non-resident)
Youth/Minor	\$90.00/hour(\$156.00 non-resident)	\$86.00/hour(\$146.00 non-resident)	\$99.00/hour(\$218.00 non-resident)	\$101.30/hour(\$207.52 non-resident)
	<b>Carleton Place</b>	<b>Township of Beckwith</b>	<b>Lanark Highlands</b>	<b>City of Ottawa</b>
<b>Primetime</b>				
Adult	\$147.97/hour(\$164.04 non-resident)	\$165.00-\$190.00/hour	\$176.54/hour	\$266.25/hour
Youth/Minor	\$107.97/hour	\$165.00-\$190.00/hour	\$115.50/hour	\$159.59/hour
<b>Non-Primetime</b>				
Adult	\$126.55/hour(\$103.98 non-resident)	\$138.75/hour(\$153.97 non-resident)	\$176.54/hour	\$124.15/hour
Youth/Minor	\$84.51/hour	\$92.75/hour(\$123.12 non-resident)	\$115.50/hour	\$124.15/hour

\*Non-resident fees only apply to municipalities where noted.

## 7.0 COMMUNITY INPUT

Through the process of this study, public input included consulting with the public at large, stakeholder groups and community groups about their degree of satisfaction with existing facilities and their desires for new programs and facilities. Surveys and interactive workshops were used to obtain their responses.

### 7.1 Surveys

In February 2013, a twenty-seven question survey was made available to all residents. Notice was placed in the February 2013 EMC News that the survey was available at both municipal offices as well as all branches of the library and on the Town's website. Mention of the Recreation Master Plan exercise was made at Council meetings prior to the release of the survey. Survey respondents were asked to complete the survey on-line, or alternatively, mail, drop off or fax completed surveys to the Town. A total of 220 completed surveys were returned. The results of this survey are statistically significant to within 6.5% accuracy 19 times in 20.

Section A of the survey was designed to help better understand the characteristics of people interested in recreational activities in the community and asked questions about the age of those in each household and how much time they spent weekly on leisure and recreational activities. Section A was intended to help assess the availability of time to spend on leisure and recreational activities in Mississippi Mills' households.

Section B probed respondents' interest in recreation, their opinions about programs, activities and facilities; and their degree of satisfaction with current activities and facilities. It also inquired about the role of the Town and of volunteers in delivering recreational programs.

Questions in Section C were directed to obtaining suggestions for improving recreational activities in the Town. People were asked to identify *who* should be targeted and *what* facilities and programs are needed. At the end of this section an open-ended question allowed residents to offer any additional comments they felt appropriate regarding recreation in Mississippi Mills.

The final section collected household background data. Respondents were advised in the questionnaire that they may choose not to answer a question.

## **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC RESPONSE TO RECREATION MASTER PLAN SURVEY**

### **SECTION A – General Household Information**

**Q1a. What is the age of each member of your household?**

**Overall average age = 37**

**Median = 40**

Total Respondents = 621

Age	Number of Respondents
0-11	111
12-18	69
19-59	325
60+	116
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>621</b>

**Q1c. On average, how many hours per week do members of your household spend on leisure and recreational activities?**

Number of Hours	Number of Respondents
1-2	92
3-6	245
7-12	170
13-24	69
25+	26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>602</b>

**Median = 3-6 hours per week**

**SECTION B – Programs, Facilities and Participation**

	<b>Average</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Total Respondents</b>
<b>Q3. How important are recreation programs and facilities to your household?</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>5</b>	5 (96 responses or 51.9%)	1 (7 responses or 3.8%)	(2 responses or 1.1%)	185
<b>Q4. Generally, how satisfied are you with recreation programs offered by Mississippi Mills?</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3</b>	5 (5 responses or 2.7%)	1 (15 responses or 8.1%)	(14 responses or 7.6%)	185
<b>Q5. Generally, how satisfied are you with Mississippi Mills' inventory of parks and facilities? (Facilities include fields, trails, play structures, picnic areas, arenas, etc.)</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3</b>	5 (5 responses or 2.7%)	1 (19 responses or 10.3%)	(5 responses or 2.7%)	185

**Q6. Do you believe the Town should have the primary role in the delivery of recreational programs?**

**141 Yes = 141/184 = 76.6%**

26 No = 26/184 = 14.1%

17 No Opinion = 17/184 = 9.2%

Total Respondents = 184

**Q7. Should local volunteer committees share the responsibility of delivering recreational programs?**

**131 Yes = 131/184 = 71.2%**

26 No = 26/184 = 14.1%

27 No Opinion = 27/184 = 14.7%

Total Respondents = 184

**Q8. Would you consider volunteering to help run any programs/activities? If yes, which ones?**

**96 Yes = 96/127 = 75.6%**

19 No = 19/127 = 15.0%

12 Maybes = 12/127 = 9.4%

Total Respondents = 127

**Q9. In the last 12 months, did anybody in your household have to go outside the community of Mississippi Mills to participate in an activity? If so, please indicate what the activities were, where they had to go and why they had to leave the community.**

**138 Yes = 138/150 = 92%**

12 No = 12/150 = 8%

Total Respondents = 150

Many activities were identified. The most frequently noted activities were swimming (75); walking/running/hiking (17); bike/cycling (15); gymnastics (14); hockey (13); soccer (11); fitness/cardio/weights (11) and kayaking/canoeing (7).

Carleton Place and Ottawa were the most frequently visited places for out of town activities.

**Q10-15. During the last 12 months, did the members of your household participate in any of the following activities?**

- **Organized sports/physical activities (e.g. soccer, aerobics, hockey etc.)**
- **Outdoor recreational activities (e.g. hiking, cycling, fishing, snowmobiling etc.)**
- **Social group or club (e.g. Service Club, Bridge Club, Youth Group, etc.)**
- **Non-academic classes (e.g. babysitting course, carpentry, language courses etc.)**
- **Water related activities (e.g. swimming, visiting beaches, canoeing, kayaking, etc.)**

**Please briefly describe the types of activities in which your household participated in Mississippi Mills only, indicate the park or facility where the activities were held, the participant's overall level of satisfaction (1=low, 5=high) with the activities and the reasons for their level of satisfaction. When commenting on satisfaction, please comment on the quality of both the activity and the facility.**

**Number of Activity Type Participants**

221/652 Outdoor recreational activities (e.g. hiking, cycling, fishing, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, mountain biking, etc.)  
209 Organized sports/physical activities (e.g. soccer, aerobics, swimming etc.)  
175 Water related activities (e.g. swimming, kayaking, boating, etc.)  
38 Social group or club (e.g. Service Club, Bridge Club, Youth Group, etc.)  
9 Non-academic classes (e.g. babysitting course, carpentry, language courses etc.)

**Number of Park/ Facility Users**

107/376 Gemmill Park; 70 Almonte Community Centre; 60 Appleton Bay Park; 46 Schools; 31 Stewart Community Centre; 24 Pakenham Community Park; 19 GeoHeritage Park  
17 Civitan Sports Fields  
2 Clayton Taylor Park

**Park/ Facility Rating against Reason for satisfaction being Condition of Facility**

	<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>mean</b>	<b>median</b>
<b>Almonte Community Centre</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4.21</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Appleton Bay Park</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>3.23</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Civitan Sports Fields</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4.11</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Clayton Taylor Park</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>GeoHeritage Park</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4.22</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Gemmill Park</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>3.55</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Pakenham C. Park</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3.08</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Schools</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Stewart C. Centre</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3.82</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>3.18</b>	<b>3</b>

**Park/Facility Rating against Reason for satisfaction being quality of supervision/management**

	<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>mean</b>	<b>median</b>
<b>Almonte Community Centre</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Appleton Bay Park</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Civitan Sports Fields</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Clayton Taylor Park</b>	<b>0</b>		



<b>GeoHeritage Park</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Gemmill Park</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3.77</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Pakenham C. Park</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Schools</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4.55</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Stewart C. Centre</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3.86</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4.15</b>	<b>4</b>

**SECTION C – Suggestions and Comments**

**Q16. Which groups, if any, do you believe the Town should provide additional programs for?**

Total Respondents = 140

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
<b>11-15</b>	<b>86/140</b>	<b>61.4%</b>
<b>6-10</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>47.9%</b>
<b>16-20</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>41.4%</b>
36-50	54	38.6%
0-5	50	35.7%
61-70	49	35.0%
51-60	47	33.6%
Over 70	46	32.9%
Persons with disabilities	43	30.7%
21-35	42	30.0%

**Q17. If you think new or improved recreational facilities are required in Mississippi Mills, please check the types you would like.**

Total Respondents = 160

Recreational Facility	Responses	
<b>Hiking trails</b>	<b>94/160</b>	<b>58.4%</b>
<b>Bike trails</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>52.2%</b>
<b>Waterfront access</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>50.3%</b>
<b>Splash pads</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>45.3%</b>
Outdoor rinks	63	39.1%
Outdoor pools	58	36.0%
Picnic area	55	34.2%
Play structures	47	29.2%
Municipal gym	46	28.6%
Arts/Culture	37	23.0%
Campground	31	19.3%
Indoor training	30	18.6%
Basketball courts (in neighbourhood parks)	30	18.6%
Tennis courts	24	14.9%
Soccer fields	22	13.7%
Baseball diamonds	20	12.4%

**Q18. In the interest of everyone in your household, are there any recreation programs or activities that you feel should be developed?**

Total Respondents = 123

The most frequently mentioned recreation programs or activities identified were pool related (38); walking/running/hiking (36); bikes/cycling (26); splash pad (17); outdoor skating (12) and water/beach access (12).

**Q19. If you are a youth between the ages of 12 – 18 years, what kind of activities would you like to participate in?**

Total Respondents = 16

Biking/cycling (7); soccer (5); swimming (5); hockey (4) were most frequently mentioned.

**Q20. If you are between the ages of 19 and 59 years, what kind of activities would you like to participate in?**

Total Respondents = 87 Many activities were mentioned and the most frequent were: hike/walk/run (36); bike/cycle (29); swimming (26); kayak/canoe (19); zumba / yoga /Tai chi/ Pilates (11); ski / cross country ski (10); ball hockey/ hockey/ ringette(10); aerobics/ fitness class / cross fit / gym/ weights (10).

**Q21. If you are 60 years or over, what kind of activities would you like to participate in?**

Total Respondents = 39

The most frequently mentioned activities were: hiking/ walking (16); swimming and water aerobics (13); cycling/ biking (10); aerobics/ fitness (6).

**Q22. If you have a family member with a disability, what kind of activities would you like to participate in?**

Total Respondents = 6

Camps & activities for kids with disabilities (mental as well as physical, i.e., ADHD, Asperger's, etc.)
We all have a disability in my household. We would love to be able to visit a dog park, a splash pad, or have more indoor places to walk during the day, so we don't have to leave town, or wait until after supper when we are sometimes tired.
Outdoor rinks
All play structures should be handicapped accessible. IMHO
Fitness and flexibility training. It is a sad commentary that the only fitness options are in Carleton Place or the physio department at the hospital. Gentle yoga might be nice, too.
Sledge Hockey

**Q23. What initiatives should the Town take to improve the child obesity issue in Mississippi Mills?**

Total Respondents = 92

**37 Increase Outdoor/ Recreational Activities = 37/92**

**24 Increase Organized Sports = 24/92**

17 Educate people = 17/92

16 Increase Social Groups and Clubs = 16/92

13 Lower Costs for programs = 13/92

11 Increase Water-Related Activities = 11/92

10 Increase quality of available food = 10/92

9 Increase Street Safety = 9/92

3 Not the Town's Responsibility = 3/92

**Q24. Would you support allowing a designated off-leash dog park in the Town?**

**98 Support = 98/172 = 57.0%**

36 Oppose = 35/172 = 20.9%

38 No Opinion = 38/172 = 22.1%

Total Respondents = 172

**Q25. Would you support allowing dog's on-leash in designated parks in the Town?**

**114 Support = 114/171 = 66.7%**

25 No = 25/171 = 14.6%

32 No Opinion = 31/171 = 18.7%

Total Respondents = 171

**SECTION D –Household Background Data**

**Q15. Provide the address of your home in Mississippi Mills**

Total Respondents = 147

Almonte 108/147

Pakenham 13

Ramsay 12

Outside of Mississippi Mills 14

**Q27. How long has your household been located in Mississippi Mills?**

Total Respondents = 165

<b>Number of years in MM</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
0-5	44/165	26.7%
6-10	29	17.6%
11-20	33	20.0%
21-30	30	18.2%
30+	29	17.6%

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION SURVEY**

In addition to the public survey, in February 2013 a survey was made available to fifty-two community organizations and groups in Mississippi Mills. A copy of the survey was sent by e-mail mailed to these groups resulting in twenty-five responses.

The survey was directed toward obtaining a profile of each organization – what activity did it provide; where was the activity; how many people participated in its activity; and whether or not it used Town facilities in providing its activity. It was intended to draw out that organization's degree of satisfaction with municipal programs, activities and facilities, and to identify any need for new or different programs or facilities beyond what is available today.

This survey also included an open-ended comment section.

**Organizations that responded to the Survey:**

- Pond Hockey
- Pakenham Business and Tourism Association
- Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists (MVFN)
- Shuffleboard
- Almonte Raiders
- Almonte and District High School
- North Lanark Senior Games Association
- Almonte-Pakenham Minor Hockey Association
- Almonte Skating Club
- St. Andrew's United Church, Pakenham
- Pakenham Dart and Horseshoe club
- Almonte Skate park

- Pakenham Men's Broomball League
- Almonte Men's Broomball League
- Almonte Tennis Club
- Pakenham and District Civitan Club
- Almonte Curling Club
- Senior Women Pick up Hockey – Mum's on Bum's
- Beautification Committee
- Almonte Lawn Bowling Club
- MAAP (Mainstreet Almonte...)
- Almonte Soccer Club
- Friends of the Cedar Hill School House Committee
- Almonte Riverside Trail
- Pakenham P.S.
- TYPs Almonte's Youth Centre
- Almonte Judo Club

The following pages include our summary of the findings from the information received from these groups.

**Summary of Survey Results:**

**Q2. How many members / participants do you have?**

Total Respondents = 26

<b>Number of members</b>	<b>Number of Organizations</b>	<b>Percentage of Organizations</b>
1-25	7	28.0%
26-50	5	21.7%
50-100	5	21.7%
101-200	2	8.7%
201-300	2	8.7%
301-400	2	8.7%
401-500	1	4.0%
500+	2	8.7%

**Q4. Where do you meet?**

- Almonte Community Centre
- Local restaurants
- Almonte Public Library
- Stewart Community Centre
- Almonte Old Town Hall
- Church
- Home of an executive member
- Barley Mow (Almonte) – we have the upstairs room at no costs
- At Almonte and District High School and at various facilities throughout Mississippi Mills
- Pakenham Library
- Almonte Curling Club Lounge
- Pakenham
- Almonte Lawn Bowling Club house on Roberts Street
- Usually at quilting quarters back room
- Library or church
- Cedar Hill School House Community Centre or homes of committee members
- Trail riding
- TYPs Almonte's Youth Centre

**Q6. What are the three main activities or focus areas of your group?**

- 1. Fun
- 1. Pakenham Country Christmas 2. One Local Project each spring
- 1. Lectures 2. Youth programs 3. Environmental education
- The main objective of the club is to encourage and promote the game of tennis. Our main activities are: 1. Manage and maintain the club membership and tennis courts for the members to play tennis during the May to September time frame, or whenever the weather is permitting 2. Foster interest in the game of tennis among youth and adults through training programs. The local high school and elementary schools use the courts for their sports programs. 3. Organize social play and tournaments at the club.
- 1. Recreation. 2. Competition. 3. Social
- 1. Recreation. 2. Competition. 3. Social
- 1. Create a skate park to create a safe place for kids to practice this sport
- 1. Playing darts. 2. Playing horseshoes. 3. Facilitating youth darts
- 1. Faith. 2. Fellowship. 3. Fundraising
- Skating power - Canskate, Starskate, testskate
- 1. Player development. 2. Coach development. 3. Increase membership
- 1. Promote active living for 55+. 2. Maintain and enhance well-being through sports. 3. Increase physical and mental well-being for 55+.
- 1. Academics. 2. Athletics, Arts, Co/Extracurricular Programming. 3. Community involvement (i.e. Town beautification, fundraiser for Haiti, etc.)
- 1. Have fun. 2. Exercise. 3. Social
- 1. Providing exercise. 2. Fellowship. 3. Assisting fundraising arena

- 1. Fundraising. 2. Organizing community events. 3. Financial assistance to individuals, community groups and organizations
- 1. Curling instruction to schools on curling. 2. Rental of lounge to outside groups for curling etc.
- 1. Hockey. 2. Fitness. 3. Social
- 1. Tidiness. 2. Trees. 3. Floral displays
- 1. Enjoyment of the sport of lawn bowling. 2. Fellowship. 3. Healthy life-style activity
- 1. Promote downtown businesses. 2. Special events/ activities in Almonte not just downtown promotion. 3. This is a volunteer – but we try to represent downtown merchants as a group
- 1. Youth recreational soccer. 2. Youth competitive soccer. 3. Adult soccer
- 1. To assist the Town in the maintenance and preservation of the Cedar Hill School House Community Centre. 2. To assist the Town in the promotion of the school house as a significant heritage building. 3. To fund raise through cultural and social community events.
- 1. Private land access. 2. Trial building. 3. Mountain biking.
- 1. After school program. 2. Recreation, life skills, etc. for youth. 3. Community Development/ Youth advocacy
- 1. Confidence, fitness, fairness, discipline. 2. Martial art, Olympic sport. 3. Means of self-defence.

**Q7. What activities do you offer to your community? (i.e., soccer, baseball, hockey, etc.)**

- Pick up Hockey
- Public lectures, nature walks and canoe trips
- 1. Tennis, both singles and doubles, social and competitive. 2. Tennis training, including courses and clinics plus individual coaching by qualified instructors. 3. Tournaments, some of which are fund-raising events for local charities.
- Broomball
- Skateboarding, BMX Biking, scooters
- Darts, horseshoes
- Church service, concerts, dances, camps
- Skating
- Hockey
- North Lanark Senior games available for at least 42 sports.
- Community use of our facilities: gym for soccer, basketball, volleyball, youth programs, presentations, etc.; classrooms for courses such as babysitting, drivers education etc. Joint fundraising ventures: night for Sendi; spread the net; Heart and Stroke Foundation. Good citizenship: we care program at Almonte Hospital; Band playing at Fairview Manor et al on Friday nights; participate in Town beautification program. Community service hours: minimum 40 hours mandatory for graduation diploma. Co-op program: joint venture with community partners.
- Shuffleboard
- Hockey recreational
- Frost festival, Bingos, BBQs
- Curling for all ages 5yrs-95 yrs.



- Pick up hockey for women >30 years
- Pitch-in 5 minute Fridays
- The sport of lawn bowling
- Special events promotion as Celtic fest
- Fund raising events e.g. euchre, strawberry social; social and cultural community events e.g. concerts, clean-up
- Recreational trail access for biking, hiking, snowshoeing
- Education, extra-curricular sports
- Activities for youth: drop in centre, nutrition program, volunteer/ community service for both adults and youth, workshops, special events such as dances, coffee house
- Full range of judo, rec and competitive, year around.

**Q8. Where in the Town does the recreation, leisure, social or cultural activities that your group participates / offers take place? (i.e., which hall, arena, school or park)?**

- Almonte Community Centre Arena
- Use the park at the bridge (tree lighting with horticulture society)
- United Church Parish Hall; Mill of Kintail Gatehouse; Conservation Areas
- The activities take place on the three tennis courts that are located in the grounds of Almonte and District Community Centre
- Stewart Community Centre
- It is being built, volunteer driven to fill the need
- Stewart Community Centre, Stewart Hall and Horseshoe pits
- Church, Arena Hall upstairs
- Rink
- Almonte and Pakenham Arena
- Arena, Legion, schools, clubhouses, curling rinks, Ball diamonds, lawn bowling, horseshoe pits, biking, walking, racing etc.
- Old Town Hall for performances. Phys Ed Program: ski hill, golf course, curling rink, fitness centre, arena, Gemmill Park. Fairgrounds for retreats.
- Stewart Hall
- Pakenham arena
- Throughout Mississippi Mills parks, roadsides
- Club house and greens on Roberts Street
- Mainly in the downtown area but also Gemmill Park
- Cedar Hill School House Community Centre
- Recreational trail along river from Almonte to Mill of Kintail
- Arena, river park, ball diamond

**Q9. Do you feel these facilities are well utilized or are under-utilized?**

**18 Well utilized = 18/24 = 75.0%**

6 Underused = 6/24 = 25.0%

Total Respondents = 24

## Comments:

- Under-utilized due to their present state or availability (i.e. TYPs needs to be open longer hours)
- The halls are not booked (more in Almonte than Pakenham) open ice times during the day
- The tennis court use varies, depending on the time of week and the weather. Overall, the three courts are adequate for the current usage.
- Probably under-utilized – e.g. Hall not available in winter
- The school house is under-utilized as it is closed for five months of the year.

## Q10. Do these facilities need improvements?

19 Yes = 19/23 = 82.6%

4 No = 4/23 = 17.4%

Total Respondents = 23

## Q11. What kind of improvements would you suggest?

- More water pressure in the showers
- Lower ice rate during day, stabilize rental rates
- Rubberized track at Gemmill Park. Improve ADHS fields. Formalized trails for walking, biking, hiking throughout Mississippi Mills.
- Improvements to lawn bowling facilities; better surface for shuffleboard
- **Pakenham rink:** boards are uneven and broken and dangers to all players; there are significant cracks between the ice and the boards; the doors in Pakenham do not close properly and have to be constantly adjusted; the beam in the middle of the benches is dangerous; the glass does not come around close enough to the benches for play protection; improper flooding of the ice, bad conditions with not enough humidity in the arena; ice on the walls; for tournaments having an additional dressing room would be perfect; lines are not as clear as the year goes on.; parking lot needs to be outlined to optimize that amount of parking; many of the hooks in the change room are broken; need new frame and mesh for nets. **Almonte rink:** boards are uneven, broken and dangers to minor hockey; need new frame and mesh for nets (has worse nets than Pakenham); more lights on the tobogganing hill. Ice past March and before October.
- More consistent grass cutting in the summer.
- Build a tennis club house. A club house could provide a washroom, equipment storage area, a deck for viewing play and supervision of tournaments, protection of children waiting to play, etc. It could also serve as a facility in support of events at Gemmill Park which are held throughout the summer (Canada Day, Celfest, etc.).
- Bar/ kitchen area Stewart Community Centre upper hall, it is too small – a change in layout might work.
- New roof, smoother greens, better lighting for night playing at lawn bowling.

- Restricting vehicle access to playing surfaces.
- Winterize the addition to the school house.
- More trail length and quality.
- Develop park by river.
- Pave walkway. Improve outdoor area. New signage so people can find TYPs.

**Q12. On a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being excellent and 5 being very unsatisfactory, please rate the recreation and cultural facilities presently available in Mississippi Mills. Please circle one number on each line**

Facility	Total Respondents	mean	range	median
Recreation	21	<b>2.40</b>	1-4	3
Parks	21	<b>2.50</b>	1-5	2

**Q13. What new recreational facilities, if any, would you like to have in the Town?**

- Improvements to local parks
- Nature trail, bicycle and walking trail
- Outdoor arena in Gemmill Park circular skating rink on track could be maintained by Zamboni
- Skatepark
- Turfed field with permanent bleachers for football, soccer, spectator sports, concerts
- Archery range near lawn bowling club
- Access to upstairs for controlled warm-up training for our teams;
- Outdoor rink.
- Ice in the Almonte arena in summer (summer camps) – or at least be able to start season earlier in Almonte arena;
- Walking and bike trails.
- Pool
- Splash pad
- Basketball court
- Walking trails with outdoor fitness equipment
- Tetherball
- Tennis club with washroom
- Upgrade the Cedar Hill School to make it a year round facility
- Soccer fields
- Parks with play structures
- Hand water pumps in various parks and on roadside stops (to be developed).
- Gymnasium type facilities.
- A municipal swimming pool (indoor).
- Purchase rail line and convert to a hiking/ walking/ biking trail
- Indoor climbing gym

- Outdoor skating
- Indoor soccer
- Collaborate martial arts facility

**Q14. What new programs or activities, if any, would you like to have in the Town?**

- Environmental education, riverside access and interpretation
- More programming for our Grade 7 and 8 students after they finish school and before their parents get home. Some suggestions: art, mini courses for activities (curling, hockey, skating, skiing, golfing), mini courses for fun (knitting, cooking, wood carving.)
- Archery
- Floor hockey for 55+
- Swimming lessons at a new pool
- Sports tournaments and events
- Rec/ pick up hockey.
- More volunteer appreciation events
- A waterpark at the beach
- Aqua fit in a new pool
- Continue to improve roads to promote bike tours/ tourism
- Outdoor education programs for kids
- Cycling trails
- Free or almost free arts and skill building workshops or programs for youth

**Q15. As a key stakeholder, what are your expectations from the Town of Mississippi Mills? (e.g. administrative assistance, programming assistance, financial assistance, assistance with coordination with similar recreational groups, office space etc...)**

- Recreational facility upkeep; occasional grants for equipment; access to website for clubs
- Nothing directly from Town but their support for environmental concerns
- Lower costs for facility offset by new development
- Continue to support school endeavors
- Access to Town communications; Financial assistance; A room for monthly meetings.
- Keep the rental prices affordable
- Financial assistance, administrative assistance
- Continue to provide financial assistance to the tennis club for maintenance and improvement of the courts and facilities
- A small office space would be nice. No phone or other amenities. Just a place to keep papers, etc.
- A subsidy for this group as there is very little available for this group (age).
- Grants for equipment
- Field development
- Continue partnership with the Town for the preservation of the school house as a community centre

- Assistance with liability insurance, sewage, promotion for community/recreational trails
- Upkeep, administration
- Assistance with volunteer, recruitment (help with promotion)
- Assistance with coordination with similar recreational groups
- Assistance with sharing information to the community and other providers of service or recreation
- Provision of space only, i.e. Hall rental

**Q16. Does your group/ organization pay fees for the use of facilities?**

**15 Yes = 15/25 = 60.0%**

10 No = 10/25 = 40.0%

Total Respondents = 25

**Q17. Does your organization receive funding from the Town?**

**5 Yes = 5/26 = 19.2%**

21 No = 21/26 = 80.8%

Total Respondents = 26

**Q19. Does your organization provide any special events to the community? If so, please list them.**

**22 Yes = 22/25 = 88.0%**

3 No = 3/25 = 12.0%

Total Respondents = 25

**Special Events:**

- 'A Pakenham Country Christmas'
- Canoe trips, hikes, nature walks, and youth program
- Assist with fundraising, arena, highland games, CHEO
- We Care program at Hospital, Joint Fund Raisers (for Perianne Jones, Night for Sendai, etc.), Band plays at events (Santa Claus parade, Puppets Up, Fairview Manor, etc.)
- Golf tournament, dance, hockey equipment swap
- Dances, concerts, dinners, church services
- Infrequently run dart tournaments open to the community
- Annual recreation tourneys in both Almonte and Pakenham
- Opening and closing social events in June and September which consist of round-robin play open to all members; mixed open; Inter-club round robins with visiting clubs; tournaments
- Open houses at other events conducted in Mississippi Mills (Celtfest, Canada Day, Relay for Life).
- Frost Festival, spaghetti dinner, auction
- Open house, curling at times, free instructions and clinics
- Arbour Week, Grass Workshop
- Tournaments, regional

- Many, as well as supporting existing events, with fundraising e.g. Light Up the Night, Puppets Up, Fibrefest, Celtfest, Highland Games, Concerts
- Euchre, Strawberry Social, Community Cleanup, music evenings
- Coordination with Mississippi Mills bike month, ad hoc group rides
- Community garden, dances, coffee house, youth awards event, open houses, workshops
- Demos, sponsorships, 'Relay for Life', hosting special judo guests

## 7.2 Public Workshop

On March 20, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., an advertised Public Workshop was held in The Almonte Old Town Hall in Almonte. The workshop was attended by 11 residents, the Recreation Coordinator and David Krajaefski, Jessica Palacios and David Billham from Stantec. Several members of Town Council dropped in to observe part of the workshop.

There were three main questions asked. Over a two and a half hour period, discussion ensued and responses were provided.

Attendees who introduced themselves:

Jeff Mills – Coordinator of Community Development, is working to revamp Augusta Street Park in Almonte. Is interested in cycling

Shawn Humphrey – is a student at Carleton University and is a member of the Accessibility Committee

Linda Cybulski – parent of 4 children 10-17 years of age. Has been in Almonte for 20 years. Is involved with young families

Steve Martin – has been in Almonte for 20 years, likes green spaces, and does not want to lose community green spaces. Is a bicyclist, rides to work to Carleton Place, no active transportation. Has lived 18 months in Almonte, lives on road front estate

Jane and Neil Wayland – low green space is developed canoe, kayak. Wants parks for all ages. Wants more than organized parks such as 'GreenGym' [www.greengym.ca](http://www.greengym.ca)

Barbara Tiffin – 2 years in Almonte from Ottawa with a degree in recreation. Surprised that aquatics are not in the activity interest slide

### **Q1. To meet Mississippi Mills future recreation needs by 2023 ... What new or expanded recreation programs should be provided?**

Response;

- Seniors being driven to recreation activities is involved with lawn bowling, hiking, programs for lunches; need buses to support existing seniors programs
- Support communities like Clayton for potlucks.

- We should recognize that there are many community groups that really give the residents good programs and events to participate in. Feels that they should be given more support.
- Want to better support volunteer groups. Feels that free building rentals are sufficient support to some voluntary groups.
- Make sure bird watching is considered as part of the plan.
- Believes walking has the biggest impact on people's health, use non-structured activities for low-cost, low-profit, big impact on healthy living
- Create a walking program because it is good for all age groups and walking can be more effective for some people's mental health than some medications
- Should have walkable streets
- Naismith School got chosen for a pilot program to be evaluated and get improved safe routes and activities
- How pedestrian friendly a town is how accessible and sustainable a town is. This is important for MM but challenging because of the large gaps between highly populated areas
- Believes MM has sufficient programs for pre-school children [many agreed with this] there is a playgroup network, early sports program, swimming, Run Jump Throw, gymnastics
- Thinks it is important to get kids physically literate by having swimming and gymnastics more available
- Should provide an area for people to do their own thing rather than programming everything for them.
- Should have more play for fun rather than play on teams with competition
- Most of what is currently offered is team or school oriented.
- The Town relies on groups to provide special interest programs
- There is a good program called 'Kidactive'
- Carp has an outdoor daycare that has the children eating and playing outside. Wants to see more things like this and thinks it would be highly successful
- Wants students to get involved and run programs at parks
- Thinks that ping pong and other sports should be encouraged
- Senior games and others don't have to spend lots of money to have fun. They just don't always know what they might like and need to be exposed to new and different activities
- Should coordinate activities with Carleton Place to play with and against them
- Should ask other nearby Towns what they offer and compare to see what MM doesn't yet offer and might be appropriate
- There is a new program called 'Club Excellence'. The way it works is that if clubs get funding they have to teach and give back to the community. Perhaps kick start a certain interest group financially and then, if the community has interest, it will continue.
- Communicate what is going on in MM in order to better coordinate and know what is available so people can get involved and participate
- Feels the key to sustainability is to get citizens to start good groups and utilize those programs
- Carleton Place has a canoe club which brings people to the waterfront; Would like MM to have something similar; Wants to increase canoeing and kayaking

- Want to encourage people to use sports seasonally. Feels that swimming in the winter and playing hockey in the summer is unnecessarily expensive
- Should ensure that everyone has access to recreation regardless of their financial, physical or mental abilities
- Should not limit recreation offered to specific age groups
- Try to get more clubs to think about making themselves more accessible. Feels being inclusive for all is something that must be included in the final plan
- 'Jump Start' by Canadian Tire may be appropriate
- Wants more high school students to volunteer
- Want more 'Calvin's' because he does so many different tasks and he could use more bodies to run and facilitate programs

**Q2. To meet Mississippi Mills future recreation needs by 2023 ... What new or expanded facilities should be provided?**

Response;

- Wonders if all playgrounds meet safety standards [A. If they do not, they are on a replacement plan]
- Wants to plan a large facility now that will be finished in 30 years that is for the whole family
- Want safer roads for cycling
- Would like a senior recreation centre
- Integrate the railway into a multi-use trail from Smith Falls to Mattawa
- There is 1000 acres of County land with no public access and no road access. It is in Old Pakenham Township. This could address cross country ski needs
- Want a new facility that is for all age groups so the whole family can use it. It should be paid for with user fees. Make sure it has a large hall for people to rent for parties and other functions.
- Want community hubs in Almonte, Clayton and Pakenham
- Feels MM already has enough community centres and facilities but needs to expand the ones they have
- Could use a P3 (Public Private Partnership philosophy) – however does not feel this is always successful
- Use Running Room to establish good walking trails
- Would like the Town to acquire rail property
- Want a trail from here to Mattawa. Wants to use the rail area
- Wants an indoor pool but thinks it is expensive
- Wants more connective cycling trails
- Make the River Trail connected with the upcoming River Park
- Want a municipal golf course
- Create a loop for cycling that connect to bed and breakfasts. Sees a potential to connect bike trails to tourism. Use Europe as an example
- Put in paved shoulders as opposed to gravel because it requires less maintenance, and it is safer as well as better for cycling
- Should partner with the Senior group, connect the new senior apartment to a new seniors recreation centre



- The retention of current green space is important. Should also include new green space as part of new developments and make connections between them
- Wants MM to have improved access to the river front
- Wants MM to develop portage routes
- River and rail are great opportunities within MM that many towns do not have. They should be utilized for recreational purposes
- Wants to continue to ensure all people of the Town have water access through parks
- People should have access to a free rink outside
- Feels the Town as a whole has many facilities but the people do not realize this and the Town may be spending too much in too many places. Feels the Town should better focus its resources
- Wants the Town to offer free land to build a velodrome in order for MM to be seen as asking for what it wants

**Q3. What increase in fees or taxes are you willing to accept in order to pay for the provision and maintenance of the new facilities?**

Response;

- “Ontario Trillium Foundation” use for grants for playgrounds
- Should compare number of new doors [houses] and money put into parks/facilities. Believes that funding should increase with growth and that an excess burden of taxes on families is unnecessary
- Believes that relying on taxes for income while growth is restricted is impractical
- Would be willing to pay money for programs and facilities because the Town does not have many fees and recreation and activities are important
- Feels that people are looking for the Town to provide more programs and facilities
- Feels fees are already affordable

### **7.3 Workshop with Community Organizations**

On March 21, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., an advertised Community Organization workshop was held in The Almonte Old Town Hall in Almonte. The event was attended by representatives from 16 organizations and groups in Mississippi Mills, and by Calvin Murphy, Recreation Coordinator, David Krajaefski, David Billham, Jessica Palacios from Stantec.

**Q1. To meet Mississippi Mills future recreation needs by 2023 ... What new or expanded recreation programs should be provided?**

Response by Group One;

- Need recreational activities other than sports (e.g. yoga). Need mental activities offered. Could be at the Cedar Hill School House such as quilting club and book club, but it is currently unheated

- The Cedar Hill School House has good acoustics that could be open for rent for choirs, birthdays, tai chi, etc. It is only open from April to October but could be open for rent for longer

#### Response by Group Two;

- More walking trails that need to be better maintained
- Connect the town with walking trails
- Would want to ski or walk places
- What we have – lawn bowling mostly used by seniors (could expand), soccer, hockey, curling, badminton is active in Carleton Place
- Need more physical programs to address obesity
- Existing broomball has been approached by the schools to work together
- Want more men to participate in archery; there are many women already. Currently there is a big community here with Canada games connections
- Give more emphasis on sports camps and soccer to get them involved with competitive sports. Drop in is popular with basketball, soccer, and hockey. Increase number of fields and increase introductions for people. Currently feels there is not enough programming – many fields are closed due to overuse so feels that MM needs more
- Need to make a more cohesive hub that coordinates age groups
- The central hub for coordination between organizations should have an office with a printer, phone, computer and website that all the groups can use
- Perhaps youth camps would be good
- Downhill ski area could be better utilized because there is one in MM
- Zumba is a private program and Curves has closed (another private program), golf and skiing are also privately operated. Could the Town make an agreement to bus residents to private sites
- Running and swimming are popular
- Wish youth would be more involved with lawn bowling because there are people qualified to teach them
- Get summer camps set up for kids and youth and get them exposed to different organizations and different types of sports. Later they might be more interested in joining these groups once exposed.
- There are many existing senior clubs. The Senior Games Association gets many citizen groups utilized through the association. Should use a similar framework for a youth association
- It is currently very difficult to register for baseball/ softball
- Baseball and tennis seem to be unpopular due to the observed usage of courts and fields
- Soccer appears to be popular
- In Pakenham there used to be a softball night but it needs many volunteers
- The cycling club is oriented to 25+ but could also consider youth
- Consider facilitating healthy ways to school because there are many ways to get there
- It is an urban-rural community. Are enough activities brought to Pakenham, Clayton, etc.?
- Cubs and brownies are popular

- Provide more recreation for more age groups
- Schools have free gyms if they are not in use by the school. You must request to use the gym through the school. Could use a coordinated system to advertise gym availability
- Provide a sit down facility to give proper support

**Q2. To meet Mississippi Mills future recreation needs by 2023 ... What new or expanded facilities should be provided?**

Response by Group One;

- A skateboard park – not in Gemmill Park but rather along main street where the gas station was
- A swimming pool
- Improvements to Augusta Park. Replace the old equipment
- Gemmill Park needs improved trails (walking, cycling) and needs to be cleaned up
- Softball, touch football, tennis
- Gemmill Park is not utilized, the track is underused, flood a track for skating, make an outdoor rink with a base that could be used in the summer for other sports (the Fire Department would flood), could use park for more entertainment. Civitan has property that could be used
- Wants an all-purpose multi-field complex with a dome (bubble) tennis areas, lawn bowling, golf driving range, aerobic classes and walking areas. User fees would pay for the dome
- Almonte should have a pool
- Need a new tennis proxy room with a key for the washroom, a new club house is also needed. Could have a shared facility club house with other sports
- The youth centre has a lot of space that could be used for other functions

Response by Group Two;

- Maybe Town should provide ice for broomball
- Want a water feature because the river doesn't draw people into it
- The beaches on the river are poorly maintained
- Splash pads are nice for young families

**Q3. What increase in fees or taxes are you willing to accept in order to pay for the provision and maintenance of the new facilities?**

Response by Group One;

- Could use lottery donations for building facilities
- Not happy with raising taxes
- User pay only but subsidies fees for low income users
- Specific fundraising

- Development fees: portion should go to recreation. In Ontario can collect development charges.
- Youth are leaving Town. Encourage them to stay

Response by Group Two;

- Perhaps the Town provides the facilities and the volunteers provide the programs

## 7.4 Other Input

Individual comments were received from organizations and individuals that felt their comments would not fit within the framework of the survey.

### **Mills Community Support Corporation**

“Thank you for soliciting the Mills’ feedback via the 2013 Recreation Master Plan Key Stakeholder Survey. We started to complete the survey form however found it was geared more towards organizations or clubs who provide recreational and/or cultural activities. While the Mills has some involvement in the provision of recreation activities, our work and interests are considerably broader. As such our input as presented below will be more informative and likely more useful than our completion of the survey.

I have enclosed an annual report and would direct you to our website for more information on Mills Community Support. Town staff is familiar with our organization through engagement and partnership on various initiatives.

In terms of initial input into the Recreation Master Plan, I would like to provide the following thoughts on behalf of the Mills:

1. We feel that Mississippi Mills should have an elderly persons/seniors centre. We hope that the Town will consider partnering with us to include such a facility as part of an expansion of the seniors’ affordable housing projects at 375 and 411 Country Street, Almonte. We have shared the concept plan for “Country Street Phase 3” with Town staff.
2. The Recreation Master Plan should contribute to the evolution of a community that is healthier and more inclusive. Specifically, facility and program design should:
  - Reduce/eliminate barriers to participation of people with disabilities
  - Provide opportunities for all age groups, including seniors
  - Incorporate/align with work being done to promote healthy communities
3. As the Mills has helped to demonstrate our involvement with the rehabilitation of Almonte’s Augusta Street Park, community engagement is the foundation for sustainable development. Whereas we recognize that the town has legal

responsibilities and mandates, we would encourage the town to work with citizens and to utilize Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) as a “go to” strategy.

4. This is probably implied in some of what we have said already, but recreation programs, facilities and open space are a means to an end not ends in themselves. The Master Plan should:
  - Link with sustainability planning and economic development
  - Consider continuing education and learning as an important part of leisure (this is not a new concept but it is often seen as “out of scope” and considered to be “part of the education system's” responsibility)
  - Incorporate community use of educational and other publically-funded facilities (e.g., the Mills’ facilities)
  - Align with a vision of a healthy community.

Thank you for considering these comments. Whereas the Mills strongly advocates the inclusion of a seniors centre in the Recreation Master Plan, we also want to renew our offer (made when the planning process was initiated in the Fall of 2012) to work with the Town, Stantec Consulting and other parties, to support community engagement – both in the planning process and in the implementation of the plan.

Sincerely,

Mike Coxon, CEO”

**Mike O’Malley, Mississippi Riverwatcher**

“I had two items that I would like you to consider for input to the Mississippi Mills recreational plan.

1. Restoration of historic recreational canoe routes on the Mississippi River I was speaking to Shaun McLaughlin yesterday and I mentioned that our Mississippi Riverwatcher group may be working with Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority in near future on the restoration of the Mississippi river canoe routes. I can provide details if required, but the restored portage routes would create a new echo tourism opportunity for the region and recreational opportunity in our community.
2. The river as a recreational resource - docks I would like to propose consideration for the addition of town docks at the Old Town Hall portage site (beside the Bridge Street Bridge) and the other in Metcalfe Park. This would allow river residents to come to Almonte by boat, dock, and use town facilities. I currently commute by boat regularly from Appleton during the summer months and others are starting to do so as well, but find docking difficult. The two docks would also tie into the canoe routes restoration, bringing portage traffic through the Almonte merchant section of town via Mill Street.

There has been a dramatic increase in canoe and kayak usage on the reach 18 portion of the river in the last two seasons; I see this as an emerging recreational trend.”

## 8.0 ACTION PLAN

In creating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Town of Mississippi Mills, we have taken into consideration policies and studies related to parks, recreation and open space in the Town, considered current research into the benefits and trends in recreation and created a community profile on demographics, health and physical activity for the Town. We have also created an inventory of parks and open space, trails, recreation facilities, recreation programs offered by the Town as well as special events involving Town Recreation and Culture staff. We have also compared the parks and recreation facilities and programs offered by the Town against two similar Ontario communities and researched best practices of municipalities. Essential to developing our understanding of how recreation programs are delivered in the Town, we have listened to the valuable input from residents and key stakeholders about the Town's parks, recreation facilities and programs and their wants and needs for new and expanded facilities and programs.

### 8.1 Analysis of the Current Situation of Parks and Recreation Facilities

#### Introduction

The following is a summary of our analysis of the information collected and reviewed;

#### Public Opinion

Throughout the study process, residents and representatives of recreation organizations have come forward to express their views on the future of parks and recreation programs and facilities in the community. The public survey results indicated that the community rated the importance of recreation facilities and programs to their household as high, giving it a median score of 5 out of 5. In addition, the community at large and the various user groups expressed that they are satisfied with the current system of parks and recreation facilities available. There is a desire to maintain the parks and facilities well and to expand opportunities for active transportation – walking, cycling, biking, hiking, etc.

#### Recreation Programs

The Town offers a range of recreation programs – more programs are organized by municipal recreation staff than their peers in the Municipality of North Grenville and the Town of Greater Napanee. Based on survey responses, there was no major program deficiency identified by the public. Public support for additional programming was strongest for children and youth between the ages of 6 years and 20 years. With one-half of the Town's population currently 46 years of age and over, there will be a growing demand for recreation programs for persons over 50 years of age that are still working and for persons who are retired. As well, the Town wishes to have a healthy community, so there is an overall need to increase the level of physical activity in all

age groups across the community. It is in these areas that the Town should focus its efforts on for the period of the Master Plan.

### **Parks and Open Space**

Analysis of the supply of neighbourhood and community parks reveals that the target of achieving a supply of 4 hectares per thousand population is being met at present and will be for the period of this Master Plan as new neighbourhood parks are developed over the next 10 years. The Town should re-align some of its parks by creating varying standards of park maintenance so that the most important parks receive an appropriate level of maintenance. Also, where service areas overlap between existing neighbourhood parks or there are parks of a shape, size or location that do not well serve the community, consideration should be given to their disposal with the funding invested in new park facilities. There is a need to renew some of the neighbourhood parks by replacement of play structures as part of an ongoing program.

In general, the Town is currently adequately served with playing fields, soccer fields and ball diamonds. The focus for the period of the Plan should be on their maintenance. In the event that additional playing fields are needed during the period of this Plan, they can be located in new neighbourhood parks coming on-line; on existing school sites through the reciprocal agreements with school boards; in Gemmill Park; or on the Martin Street North Park site.

### **Recreation Facilities**

The Town owns and maintains five recreation facilities including the Old Almonte Town Hall, the Almonte and District Community Centre and the Stewart Community Centre. The latter two facilities include single pad arenas and the Almonte Community Centre includes a curling rink. In general, the Town is well served with recreation facilities. Clayton Community Centre and Union Hall, while privately owned and maintained, are available for community use.

There is strongest community support for future investment for hiking trails, bike trails, waterfront access, splash pads, outdoor rinks and outdoor pools.

During the process of preparing this Master Plan, the Town received a proposal from Mills Community Support to partner with the provision of a seniors drop-in center located at their property in Almonte. There is a growing seniors population in the community.

The focus during the period of this Plan should be in the maintenance and upkeep of these facilities and in making minor upgrades as the need arises. There will be an increasing demand for space for recreational activities by the growing seniors population.

## 8.2 Vision, Mission Statement and Guiding Principles

By virtue of developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Town of Mississippi Mills is poised to take parks and recreation into the future. Based on our findings and forethought as to what the future might look like, we have formulated a vision statement for parks, recreation facilities and programs in the Town.

### The Vision

A healthy, age friendly and welcoming community with programs and facilities that promote active lifestyles for all ages, enrich the community and sustain the environment.

### The Mission

The Department of Recreation and Culture shall achieve The Vision by;

Enhancing the quality of life of residents and visitors by providing programs, facilities and special events that encourage their participation

Supporting the development and renewal of parks, trails and recreation facilities to ensure high quality, sustainable venues

Providing recreation and culture services that are affordable and which meet the needs of changing demographics in the community

Improving economic development opportunities by investing in programming and facilities in the community

### Guiding Principles

To guide the development of recreation and culture services for the next ten years, the following are a set of planning principles. These should help to direct the strategies and actions that the Town will use to plan, design, manage and operate parks, recreation facilities, trails, special events and cultural programs and facilities in the future. These guiding principles are;

#### ➤ Essential Service

Develop well-maintained parks and facilities as essential elements that create a livable, dynamic and vibrant Town

#### ➤ Active Transportation

Develop a connected system of trails and cycling routes as a continuous system with linkages, notably to parks, open spaces, community facilities, schools and services



➤ **Responsiveness**

Support a wider variety of recreation and cultural services for all residents based on need

➤ **The Town's Role**

Remain the coordinator and overseer of the parks, recreation and culture system and the main facility provider

➤ **Partnerships**

Actively pursue partnerships with public and private organizations and with recreation organizations that are active in the community to provide new recreation and cultural programs and facilities in the community

➤ **Community Involvement**

Involve citizens and volunteers in the planning process for the delivery of parks, trails, recreation and cultural facilities and programs

**Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town adopt The Vision, The Mission and Guiding Principles for the Recreation and Culture Department.

### **8.3 Recreation Facility Strategic Actions**

#### **Arenas**

Presently, there are two municipal ice surfaces – one at the Almonte and District Community Centre in Almonte and one at the Stewart Community Centre in Pakenham. Both arenas were built in the 1970's. The target for provision of ice pads is one ice pad per 12,000 residents. These facilities will meet the needs of the Town to the year 2023 and beyond.

The Town has made significant investment to make the facilities compliant with current regulations for access by the physically challenged. In 2010, additional change rooms were added to the Almonte and District Community Centre. In 2013, at the Stewart Community Centre in Pakenham, improvements were funded to the change rooms and the ice resurfacers room and to washrooms in the community hall.

Users of the arenas expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the facility. The main concerns of users were with respect to the condition of rink boards in both arenas and humidity issues in the Pakenham arena.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that a building condition survey be completed for each of the arenas, so that unforeseen costly maintenance expenses do not arise and the surveys include a determination as to whether or not the rink boards and glass surrounding the rinks require replacement;

It is recommended that funding continue to be provided in the 10-year capital budget to address humidity issues in the Pakenham arena.

### **Multi-Purpose Community and Program Spaces**

The Town has a total of six facilities that can be used for multi-purpose community and program purposes; Almonte and District Community Centre; Stewart Community Centre; Almonte Old Town Hall; Clayton Community Centre; Cedar Hill School House and Union Hall. The Clayton Community Centre and Union Hall are privately owned.

This space is invaluable in the delivery of recreation programs to the community. Reciprocal agreements with school boards supplement the amount of multi-purpose community and program spaces available to the community. The combination of these facilities should meet the needs of the Town for the next 10 years.

Surveys conducted indicated that these facilities are well used except for the Cedar Hill School House which cannot be used on a year-round basis.

In addition, the Town has access to school facilities and playing fields through a reciprocal agreement with the Upper Canada District School Board.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that a building condition survey be completed for each of the Town-owned multi-purpose community facilities, so that unforeseen costly maintenance expenses do not arise;

It is recommended that consideration be given to funding in the 10-year capital budget for upgrading the Cedar Hill School House to a facility that can be used on a year-round basis.

It is recommended that consideration be given to providing an annual grant to the owners of the Clayton Community Centre and the Union Hall for maintenance and upkeep of the buildings provided they continued to be accessible for use by the public.

It is recommended that the use of schools be increased by community groups and by the Town.

## **Bikeways, Pathways and Trails**

Walking and cycling are two of the most popular physical activities for both youth and adults in Canada. Surveys conducted as part of the preparation of this Plan indicated the strongest support by Mississippi Mills residents is for new and improved programs and facilities in the area of active transportation – walking, running, hiking, cycling and biking, cross country skiing and mountain biking. Besides the physical benefits of these activities, there is the potential for economic benefits as well. With June as Bicycle Month, there is an opportunity to build on this activity by promoting cycling and hiking routes in and through the municipality. For example, the adjacent City of Ottawa has a very large cycling community and trip to and through Mississippi Mills can be done easily on a weekend.

Trails are also an important facility that promotes sustainability by encouraging physical activity and promoting active transportation. There are several public trails in Mississippi Mills and numerous private ones where people can enjoy nature, bird watch or simply enjoy being outdoors.

An abandoned CP rail line crosses the Town. It stretches from Smiths Falls to the south, through Mississippi Mills to Mattawa, north of Pembroke. It presents an excellent opportunity to connect Almonte to Carleton Place to the immediate south; to Blakeney within the Town; and to Arnprior to the immediate north. This rail line has the potential to be the spine of a trail system as it intersects with major roads and travels through the downtown core of Almonte. Presently the rail line is for sale and the County of Lanark with other municipalities have been investigating acquisition of the rail line for public use.

There are also a number of County roads that cross the Town. They are important as they link many of the communities within the Town as well as to places beyond. Presently, some of them are cycling routes and form a trunk from which trails extend. Many of the County roads have wide shoulders which if paved would significantly add to the safety of the roads for cycling purposes.

The Official Plan places priority on the Town providing its residents with access to the Mississippi River. Therefore, the Town should give top priority for open space linear corridors and trails along and connecting to the River. The Town could use the Planning Act development approval process as lands come forward for development through parkland dedication, road widening, or using off-road infrastructure corridors. In the absence of a development approval process, negotiation for acquisition or expropriation could be entertained. However, in these instances, compensation would be required.

A second priority for open space and trails in the Town should be the use of unopened road allowances. These are already in public ownership and should be individually reviewed to determine whether or not they should be used for trail purposes.

When land is acquired for trail purposes, it should be developed for barrier free multi-seasonal purposes. Trails used for cycling, running and hiking in summer can be used for cross country skiing and snow shoeing in winter.

When new subdivisions are submitted for approval in the Town, they should be reviewed to ensure that they can be integrated into the Town's trail system through road design and by use of pathways.

As walking, cycling, biking and running are activities that appeal to all age groups the Town should invest on an annual basis in the development of new trails.

#### A Trails Management Plan

*Active Transportation (AT) is any form of self-propelled (non-motorized) transportation that relies on the use of human energy such as walking, cycling, inline skating and jogging. These modes can use on-road and off-road facilities (sidewalks, bike lanes, multi-use trails) ....for trips to and from work, shopping and entertainment areas, school and other community facilities like recreation centres.*

*AT is defined by four categories:*

- *Active Commuting which involves journeys to and from work*
- *Active Workplace Travel which includes trips during working hours such as the delivery of materials or attending meetings*
- *Active Destination Oriented Trips which includes trips to and from school, shops, visiting friends and running errands*
- *Active Recreation which involves the use of an AT mode for fitness or recreational pursuits, such as hiking or cycling*

Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, Active Transportation Plan

The following Vision Statement is proposed to guide the development of the Mississippi Mills Trails network;

The Town of Mississippi Mills, in consultation with residents and groups, shall develop a comprehensive, safe, barrier free trails network connecting its communities, its key destinations including recreation facilities, for Active Transportation and healthy recreation.

Objective 1; Connect community to community within and adjacent to Mississippi Mills

Strategy 1: Key Linkages

- Encourage the County of Lanark to pave the shoulders of County roads that connect the communities within the Town to one other and also connect them to the adjacent Towns of Carleton Place and Arnprior.

Strategy 2: Rail Corridor

- Support the public acquisition of the abandoned CP rail line between Mattawa and Smiths Falls for public trail purposes.

Objective 2; Connect residents to key destinations within Mississippi Mills

Strategy 1: Identify and Link Important Nodes

- Consult with residents and groups to identify specific AT nodes such as schools, shopping areas, employment destinations, public buildings, parks, recreation facilities, cultural facilities and residential neighbourhoods.
- Connect residential areas to important nodes either by sidewalk, pavement widening, trail or by other right-of-way.
- Interconnect public trails with private trails.

Strategy 2: Staged Renewal

- Implement a street renewal policy for street, road and sidewalk renewal including cycling lanes to implement the AT network on identified streets.

Objective 3; Support trail development for tourism purposes

Strategy 1: Enhance Recreational Opportunities

- Provide opportunities for hiking, cross country skiing, cycling, snow shoeing and mountain biking by the public to recreate along trails

Strategy 2: Tourism Trails

- Work with the County of Lanark to promote the recreational use of trails within Mississippi Mills as a tourism opportunity.

Objective 4; Provide a safe, barrier free trail system

Strategy 1: Ensure Public Safety

- Design an AT network that complies with current transportation engineering design standards to ensure public safety

## Strategy 2: A Barrier Free System

- Ensure that the AT network complies with *The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town complete an Active Transportation Master Plan to establish a Town-wide walking, hiking, biking, cycling network complete with development priorities and policies.

It is recommended that the Town design trails to be multi-seasonal facilities which can provide a range of opportunities during all seasons.

It is recommended that the Town ensure that future plans of subdivision take into consideration their integration into the Active Transportation Master Plan.

It is recommended that the Town invest on an annual basis for the development of new pathways, bikeways and trails to implement the Active Transportation Master Plan to create a long-term sustainable transportation system for Mississippi Mills.

It is recommended that the Town support public acquisition of the abandoned CP railway line between Smiths Falls and Mattawa for public trail purposes.

It is recommended that the Town give priority to the provision of open space and trails along the Mississippi River and as a second priority, the provision of open space and trails using unopened road allowances.

It is recommended that the Town acquire lands along the Mississippi River for open space and trails through the Planning Act development approval process as lands come forward through parkland dedication, road widening or using off-road infrastructure corridors. In the absence of a development approval process, negotiation for acquisition or expropriation may be considered.

### **Children and Youth Leisure Spaces**

During the period of the Master Plan, the proportion of youth in the community is expected to remain the same or slightly decline from its present 21.6% of the population. Through public consultation, support was greatest for increasing the recreation programs for children and youth between the age of 6 and 19 years. The importance of increased physical activity by this age group cannot be overemphasized. Increased recreation programs for children and youth will be addressed elsewhere in this report. The need for additional indoor recreation space for children and youth was not identified in this study.

Taking Young People Seriously (TYPS) provides support to youth between the ages of 12 and 18 years in Mississippi Mills by providing weekday afternoon and Friday evening services during the school year. It also operates during the summer months. It provides an after school drop-in centre at 65 Mill Street where youth can meet, cook and share time with one another in a safe, drug free environment. The agency provides programs for youth in areas such as cooking and nutrition, music skills, suicide intervention and aids awareness. It offers special activities and programs, sometimes for a small user fee.

The organization obtains funding of its programs from the United Way and from the Town of Mississippi Mills as well as through fundraising such as the sale of cook books. In 2013, the Town provided \$20,000 in annual funding plus a one-time grant for 2013 of \$11,775. It has a total of 7 employees.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town continue its financial support for Taking Young People Seriously in its delivery of services to youth in the community.

### **Older Adult and Senior Spaces**

In the 2011 census, 25% of the population of Mississippi Mills was 60 years of age and older. One half of the population is 46 years of age and older. Over the next 10 years there will be a growing proportion of seniors residing in the community and at some point if current trends continue, 50% of the population, or about 7,000 residents will be 50 years of age and older.

To date, the Town has done well in providing recreation facilities for seniors – shuffleboard, lawn bowling, tennis courts and a curling rink to name a few. As the seniors population grows, there will be an increasing demand for new or improved space to meet their evolving needs.

In addition, Mills Community Support provides many valuable support services to the Town of Mississippi Mills and beyond. This not for profit corporation “promotes and actively engages as a partner in the development of a healthy community which includes and supports the well-being of people of all ages and abilities.”

To this end Mills Community Support carries out activities that support adults with intellectual disabilities, supports seniors and adults with disabilities, provides affordable housing for families and seniors and helps to create healthy, inclusive communities. In terms of resources, Mills Community Support has an annual operating budget of over \$8.5 million and over 140 staff and even more volunteers that operate from its head office in Mississippi Mills.

Mills Community Support obtains assistance and funding from many sources including the Ontario Ministries of Community and Social Services and also Health and Long Term Care; the County of Lanark, the Town of Mississippi Mills, United Way Lanark County and Canada Mortgage and Housing.

Mills Community Support is also working with the Town in the renewal of Augusta Street Park using volunteers and fundraising activities to make improvements to the park as a community development project.

Through its own programs and by working with partners, Mills Community Support is able to leverage resources and, therefore, play a significant role in maintaining and improving the quality of life to many residents of Mississippi Mills.

In 2012, Mills Community Support approached the Town with a proposal for partnership to provide a seniors drop-in centre as an addition to its senior citizens' housing project in Almonte.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town investigate the opportunity to partner with Mills Community Support to provide a seniors drop-in center on its property in Almonte.

### **Waterfront Development**

The Town presently maintains two beaches and has four boat launches at Pakenham, Almonte (GeoHeritage Park), Clayton and Appleton on the Mississippi River. The Mississippi River offers a natural opportunity for recreation and is not used to its full potential for recreation or for tourism purposes.

The Mississippi Riverwatcher has advised that there has been a dramatic increase in canoe and kayak usage on the river in Mississippi Mills. The Riverwatcher plans to work with the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority in the restoration of the Mississippi River canoe routes. If this occurred, an opportunity for eco-tourism would be available that is not present today.

The Riverwatcher suggested the provision of a municipally owned dock at the Almonte Old Town Hall portage site (beside Bridge Street) and at the Metcalfe GeoHeritage Park. This would enable local residents and visitors to come to Almonte by boat, dock and use downtown facilities. Pakenham, Blakeney, Appleton and Clayton are all on the Mississippi River and should have small municipal docks as well.



## **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town continue to operate the two beaches including lifeguards where they presently are provided;

It is recommended that the Town monitor the activity of the Mississippi Riverwatcher and Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority in their effort to restore the Mississippi River canoe routes, and if they are successful, the Town include in its 10-year budget funding for new docks on the Mississippi River at the Almonte Old Town Hall site, at the Metcalfe GeoHeritage Park and on the waterfront at Pakenham, Blakeney, Appleton and Clayton.

## **Soccer Fields**

Soccer has become an increasingly popular sport in Canada and its popularity is likely to increase over time with professional soccer becoming more widespread in Canada. The Town has an inventory of 7 standard size soccer fields and 5 mini-soccer fields including those on the Civitan site in Almonte. There are approximately 900 soccer players registered in Almonte and about 80 registered in Pakenham.

At a guideline of 1 soccer field per 80 registered players, there is a demand for approximately 12 soccer fields. Depending upon the age of the players, there may be a slight deficiency in the number of soccer fields presently available. A request was made through the survey to organizations for additional soccer fields as well as an indoor practice facility. Additional fields may be available on school board property through the reciprocal agreement with school boards. Also, additional fields will be developed as new subdivisions come on stream or by developing soccer fields in Gemmill Park or on the 6 hectare (15 acre) Town owned parkland on Martin Street North.

## **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that Town staff work with soccer clubs to address the demand for additional soccer fields in the term of this Master Plan, including the use of school board facilities as allowed in the reciprocal agreement, in the design of parks in new residential subdivisions, in Gemmill Park and in the development of Town owned parkland on Martin Street North.

## **Ball Fields**

The Town maintains 4 ball fields. In 2013, the Town has provided funding for lights at the Snedden-Casey ball field in Almonte. There does not appear to be widespread support for new ball fields in Mississippi Mills and the existing ball diamond in Gemmill Park has been on a decline in use.

With a guideline of one ball field per 100 participants, no additional ball fields appear to be warranted during the period of the Master Plan.

### **Football Fields**

The Town maintains 1 football field in Gemmill Park although the high school uses its own fields. The football field in Gemmill Park does not appear to be well used and no requests for new fields or improvements to the football field were made through the public consultation process. There does not appear to be a need for additional football fields for the duration of the Master Plan.

### **Tennis Courts**

The Town maintains 3 lighted tennis courts in Gemmill Park. Tennis is a popular sport that appeals to all age groups. The Almonte Tennis Club operates the facility. With a guideline of 1 tennis court per 5,000 population, there does not appear to be the need for an additional tennis court in the period of the Master Plan.

Through the key stakeholder process, the Tennis Club requested a club house including washrooms, equipment storage, a viewing area and protection for children waiting to play.

In August 2013, the Tennis Club brought to Council's attention an issue of cracks developing on the edges of the tennis courts and surmised that it was caused by a drainage issue in Gemmill Park. They requested funding for an engineering study to analyze the situation and recommend a solution. The Town has a significant investment in the three tennis courts. It is estimated that today, three lighted tennis courts would cost approximately \$200,000 to install. Therefore protection of this asset is important. The Tennis Club also requested that the Town fund the replacement of a backboard that was removed in 2011 because of its state of deterioration.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town provide funding for an engineering study to investigate the cause of cracks developing on the edges of the tennis courts and to recommend a solution.

It is recommended that the Town provide funding to the Tennis Club for a replacement backboard.

It is recommended that the Town give consideration to the inclusion of a club house building with washrooms in Gemmill Park as part of the master plan for the park.

## **Basketball Courts**

The Town maintains 6 basketball courts. The guideline for basketball courts is one court per 800 youth aged 10 – 19 years. With fewer than 1500 youth in this age group in Mississippi Mills, there is no need for additional basketball courts for the duration of the Master Plan period.

## **Skateboard Parks**

One skateboard park is maintained by the Town and a second, larger skateboard park is in the planning stages in Gemmill Park. The guideline for skateboard parks is one skateboard park for every 4500 youth between 10 and 19 years. There is no need to provide additional skateboard parks in Mississippi Mills beyond those provided. The existing skateboard site may be redeveloped for an alternative use once the new park is in operation.

## **Horseshoe Pits**

The Town maintains 12 horseshoe pits at the Stewart Community Centre and 10 horseshoe pits in Gemmill Park. The demand for horseshoe pits is totally locally driven and no request for additional pits was made through the process of this study.

## **Indoor Pool / Outdoor Pool**

There are no indoor or outdoor municipal swimming pools or wading pools in Mississippi Mills which is consistent with current practices in service delivery (being largely cost driven).

However, the Town has an agreement with the Town of Carleton Place for access by Mississippi Mills residents to the indoor pool and its programs at the same fee as is paid by a resident of Carleton Place. Mississippi Mills pays Carleton Place an annual fee for this benefit based on assessment values relative to Carleton Place and the Township of Beckwith. The guideline for indoor pools is one indoor aquatic centre per 30,000 residents. There is no need for an indoor pool in Mississippi Mills in the period of this Master Plan.

## **Splash pads**

Municipalities are moving away from outdoor pools and wading pools and toward splash pads because splash pads are more cost effective in construction and operation. Splash pads are most often used by children up to the age of 14 years. Splash pads require a relatively smaller area compared to an outdoor pool, do not require lifeguards and do not have standing water. They vary in size and generally the larger they are, the larger the draw of visitors. A splash pad in Mississippi Mills would be of benefit to the community as it would serve both local residents and visitors to the

community's many special events that occur in summer. A major splash pad facility is a community scale facility that would typically be located in a major park such as Gemmill Park because much of the supporting infrastructure is already in place – such as washrooms and a parking lot.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town provide a splash pad facility in Gemmill Park where the required infrastructure is already available.

### **Off-Leash Dog Park**

Support for an off-leash dog park was expressed through the public survey where 57% expressed support, 21% were opposed and the remainder had no opinion. The preferred location for a dog park would be in part of Gemmill Park where access to parking is nearby and, due to its large size, dogs would not likely come into conflict with other park users. Off-leash dog parks are typically enclosed by fencing.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town proceed with the implementation of an off-leash dog park within a designated area of an existing municipal park and the designated area be enclosed by fencing.

### **Operations Centre**

Currently, the equipment fleet of the Recreation and Culture Department for parks maintenance and beautification activity is serviced and stored at the same facility as the Public Works' fleet at the municipal office location. The Director of Public Works and Roads is currently reviewing that Department's long term needs for equipment facility space including budget requirements and funding options. From an operational efficiency point of view, it makes sense to continue to have both Departments' equipment fleet maintained and stored at the same location and to have a joint planning exercise to look at the long term requirements for a joint facility.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that a joint planning exercise be undertaken by Recreation and Culture and Public Works and Roads Departments to determine the preferred long term location of a combined maintenance and storage facility including space requirements, estimated budget and funding sources.

## 8.4 Recreation Program Strategic Actions

Cultural activities and facilities are a part of the “leisure services landscape.”

The wants and needs of every community are unique when it comes to recreation programs. The best that a municipality can do is provide a range of recreation opportunities to its residents that are responsive to the community's needs. The survey of the public asked for their degree of satisfaction with Mississippi Mills' recreation programs with a score of 1 being low, a score of 3 being satisfactory and a score of 5 being very satisfied. The median score of 185 responses was 3, meaning that there is a degree of satisfaction with the Town's programs presently offered and there is room for improvement as well. About 76% of those responding felt the Town should have the primary role in recreation program delivery and 71% felt that volunteer committees should share the responsibility of delivering programs. When compared to similar size North Grenville and Greater Napanee, Mississippi Mills provides a larger number of recreation programs than those municipalities. In Mississippi Mills today, there is good volunteer support by the public at large, by sports organizations and by service clubs in organizing sports and recreation programs.

In the public survey, a question was asked about which groups the Town should provide additional programs for and the strongest support by 140 respondents was for children and youth aged 6 years to 20 years.

In review of the demographics of Mississippi Mills, the 2011 census indicated the median age of Mississippi Mills was 46 years so that in the 10 year time span of this master plan, the median age of the population will be 50 years at some point and this will represent a population of over 6,500 residents, so the needs of those 50 years and over needs to be addressed as well.

When asked what recreation programs or activities should be developed, of 123 responses, strongest support was in the area of active transportation – walking, running, hiking, biking, cycling and outdoor skating. Water related activities were also supported including swimming and splash pads.

For youth between the ages of 12 and 16 years, support was highest for participating in organized sports – hockey, soccer and basketball - and in individual activities such as biking, cycling and swimming.

For those between the age of 19 and 59 years, highest support was for participating in hiking, walking, running, biking and cycling; swimming; kayaking and canoeing; and exercise and fitness programs.

For those 60 years of age and over, highest support was for hiking and walking; swimming and water aerobics; cycling and biking and for aerobics and fitness classes.

For families having a member with a physical disability, interest was expressed for camps and activities for children with disabilities; a splash pad or a dog park and more indoor places to walk during the day; outdoor rinks; play structures that are handicapped accessible; fitness and flexibility training in Town.

The Town accepts inclusiveness as a core principle in the planning and delivery of its recreation programs and acknowledges its responsibilities under *The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town expand its recreation programming for all age groups in order to achieve its overall goal of a healthy community with focus primarily on children and youth aged 6 years to 20 years and for persons 50 years of age and over.

It is recommended that the Town support initiatives for new recreation programs and activities brought forward by volunteers to expand recreation programs available in the community.

It is recommended that the Town expand its programming for children and youth to include activities such as skateboard lessons, canoeing and kayaking, volleyball and leadership training.

It is recommended that the Town consider the creation of summer day camps during the summer vacation period to assist in providing recreation activities for children and in providing employment opportunities for high school aged youth in Mississippi Mills. Partial funding is available to hire students aged 15 years and older under the Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSDC) Canada Summer Jobs program.

It is recommended that the Town expand its programming for adults over 50 years to include activities such as walking programs, snowshoeing, hiking, age appropriate fitness and exercise programs.

It is recommended that the Town have discussion with the Town of Carleton Place regarding new or expanded water related exercise and fitness programs offered at the indoor pool in Carleton Place.

It is recommended that the Town address the needs of those with a physical disability by continuing its program of improving access to public buildings by means of installing elevators, electric doors and by removing obstacles in public buildings where recreational activities are offered.

It is recommended that the Town work in partnership with Mills Community Support in providing programs and recreation activities for seniors and persons with disabilities.

It is recommended that the Town develop a participant feedback form to determine participant satisfaction once a program is completed for all of its recreation programs. The survey would be completed annually.

It is recommended that the Town use its municipal website and work in conjunction with the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit to implement the Province's Healthy Community Program initiative to promote the benefits of physical activity, nutrition and other matters in order to achieve a more physically active and healthy community.

## **8.5 Special Events Strategic Actions**

Recreation and Culture staff organizes 16 major special events held through the year and assist with and lend staff and or equipment for 10 additional special events. These events enhance the quality of life for residents and support efforts at community building. Also of importance are the economic benefits that these events bring to the local businesses by bringing tourists and visitors to the municipality who visit local stores and restaurants. Special events also raise the profile of Mississippi Mills in Eastern Ontario and beyond.

While some of these events are supported by volunteers, the vast majority of the work is carried out by Recreation and Culture staff - from initiating and organizing the event; to creating and arranging advertising; to monitoring in-person to ensure the event is a success and issues are dealt with quickly as they arise; to organizing the cleanup. In addition, they promote all the events through the Town's social media vehicles. In most cases, staff includes festive and event advertising in the Town's promotional plans and also advertise through traditional media (radio, print, etc.).

Their efforts results in good will toward the municipality. However, there is a cost for the allocation of extensive amounts of time for special events through the year. That cost is the loss of time available for other major responsibilities for the Department such as the organization and creation of new recreation and leisure programs of benefit to the community.

Community feedback supported new and expanded recreation programs and Council is supportive of Mississippi Mills becoming a healthy community through increased levels of physical activity by its residents. One way of achieving this goal is by having more recreation programs available.

Special events are an important part of the mandate of the Recreation and Culture Department and this master plan is not suggesting that these events be discontinued. Rather, it is suggested that more resources are afforded to the Department so that it may give appropriate attention to all areas of its mandate. Staff resources are addressed in the Service Delivery Model Section of this Master Plan.

## **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town maintain regular contact with organizations and businesses in Mississippi Mills that are willing to either take on the responsibility for organizing and carrying out a special event currently being done by the Town or for partnering with the Town in support of the event.

It is recommended that the Town hold an annual volunteer open house in which the Town and other organizations come together at a single event to promote and explain their organization and opportunities available for volunteers to support their activities.

It is recommended that the Town consider holding the Pakenham Santa Claus Parade and the Almonte Santa Clause Parade on a rotating basis on alternate years.

## **8.6 Parkland Strategic Actions**

### **Parkland Classification and Supply**

This section examines the Town of Mississippi Mills current supply of parkland and open space and future parkland requirements. In order to achieve the vision of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan, it is important to have an adequate land base to support the activities and facilities required to achieve a healthy community. This assessment examines the current supply and future demand for parkland and open space to the year 2023, including issues, opportunities, needs and gaps. It also reviews the parkland hierarchy in the Official Plan and identifies future parkland needs and acquisition priorities. Lastly, in accordance with the project terms of reference, it reviews the current practice of the use of cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication provisions under the Planning Act and also examines the issue of whether or not to consider a stormwater management pond as partial fulfilment of the Planning Act requirement for parkland dedication in a plan of subdivision.

### **Parkland Classification**

Having a hierarchy of parks is important as the size, form and use of the park are all important considerations in designing a parks and open space system for a municipality. The Official Plan currently has a hierarchy of parks;

Neighbourhood parks are located in neighbourhoods, are used for both active and passive uses and are less than 4 hectares in size and within a 0.5km area of the residents they serve.

Community parks are for organized sports and are to be located adjacent to schools. They are to be between 1.5 hectares and 10 hectares in area, be provided at a ratio of 0.5 to 1 hectare per 1000 population and be located within a 2 km radius of the population. Access to major roads and pedestrian systems is encouraged.



Regional parks are the largest in scope and range in size from 10 to 70 hectares in area. They are intended to provide facilities for a wide segment of the population and may include natural areas, cultural or historic features.

Upon review of the Official Plan definitions and the parks in Mississippi Mills, it is proposed that the classification system be simplified and a targets based on a standard of hectares per 1,000 residents be provided.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town adopt the following hierarchy of parkland with the following definitions;

Neighbourhood parks are intended to primarily serve their immediate neighbourhood and may contain either active or passive recreation activities, or both. They should have a minimum size of 0.5 hectares and within a 0.5km of the residents they serve.

Community parks serve a larger community and include playing fields, play facilities, etc. They should have a minimum size of 4 hectares and be located within a 2km radius of the population.

### **Parkland Supply**

It is suggested that a target of 4 hectares of parkland per 1000 residents of Mississippi Mills be adopted comprised of 1.5 hectares per 1000 population for Neighbourhood Parks and 2.5 hectares per 1000 population for Community Parks.

In using these targets, it is possible to assess the adequacy of the current quantity of municipal park land as well as the supply and demand for parkland in 2023 and identify any gaps or deficiencies.

The following table is provided to illustrate whether or not the parkland targets are achieved at present and whether or not they will be achieved in the future.

In preparing this chart the following assumptions were made;

- The typical household size in Mississippi Mills will continue to be 3 persons per dwelling unit
- The 174 dwelling units for which building permits were issued in 2011 and 2012 were all built and occupied resulting in a 2013 population of 12,907
- The rate of construction of 78 dwelling units per year until 2031 forecast by JL Richards as part of the 2010 Three Year Official Plan review was used for the basis of estimating the population in 2023
- By the year 2023, the parkland dedications in the draft approved subdivisions by White Tail Ridge, W. Houchiami, Sadler Estates and Riverfront Estates totalling 9.4

hectares of Neighbourhood Park space will have been conveyed to the Town and added to the parkland supply.

In total, presently the Town of Mississippi Mills owns 59.5 hectares or 147 acres of parkland, including the Town owned undeveloped parkland on Martin Street North with its 6.3 hectare or 15.5 acre area. Gemmill Park is the largest park at 24.3 hectares (60.4 acres) of the 26 parks in Mississippi Mills.

#### PARKLAND NEEDS

Year	2011	2013	2023
Population	12,385	12,907	15,247
Neighbourhood Parkland Target	1.5 ha/1000 persons		
Neighbourhood Parkland Supply	25.8 ha	25.8 ha	35.2 ha
Neighbourhood Parkland Required	18.6 ha	19.3 ha	22.9 ha
<i>Deviation from Target</i>	+7.2 ha	+6.5 ha	+12.3 ha
Community Parkland Target	2.5 ha/1000 population		
Community Parkland Supply	33.7 ha	33.7 ha	33.7 ha
Community Parkland Required	30.9 ha	32.2 ha	38.1 ha
<i>Deviation from Target</i>	+2.8 ha	+1.5 ha	- 4.4 ha
<b>Overall Parkland Target</b>	<b>4.0 ha/1000 population</b>		
Overall Parkland Supply	59.5 ha	59.5 ha	68.9 ha
Overall Parkland Required	49.5 ha	51.5 ha	61.0 ha
<i>Deviation from Target</i>	+10.0 ha	+7.0 ha	+7.9 ha

In 2011, the Town met its target of 4 hectares of parkland per 1000 population by achieving 4.8 ha per 1000 population. In 2013, it has 4.6 hectares per 1000 population and in 2023, it is forecast to have 4.5 hectares per 1000 population.

As indicated in the Table above, the Town currently is well served with neighbourhood parks and will continue to be in the period of this master plan.

With Gemmill Park's large size and presently unrealized potential to accommodate a number of community size recreation activities, and the Town owned 15 acres of undeveloped parkland on Martin Street North, it is felt that the Town need not take steps to acquire additional community size parkland in the period of this master plan. In 2000, a master plan was created for Gemmill Park. Since then, a new skateboard park has been planned and this report recommends the park be the site of a future splash pad facility, potentially a dog park as well as a location for naturalization to occur so it is appropriate to review the Gemmill Park Master Plan for the ultimate development of Gemmill Park. Gemmill Park should be declared the Town's main outdoor recreation venue.

A playground is typically located in a Neighbourhood Park and services residents who typically live within a 500m radius. When one looks at the number of Neighbourhood Parks particularly in Almonte, there is some overlap in the 500m service areas between parks. The service area of James Street Park is largely in the area serviced by Veteran's Walkway, Snedden Casey Ball Field and McIntosh Park. However, only James Street Park and McIntosh Park have similar facilities.

In addition to overlap in service area, a few parks are unsuitable to serve as neighbourhood parks due to their small size, existing conditions or location. The parks noted are Coleman Island Park and Don Maynard Park. Coleman Island Park is located at the rear of homes on Carleton Street and adjacent to the Mississippi River. Don Maynard Park, on Gale Street, is adjacent to Holy Name of Mary elementary school site that has a developed playground including a play structure. In Ramsay Ward, there is a 4 acre park in the Munroe Meadows subdivision that is not required for neighbourhood park purposes. For example, all of the lots in the subdivision are of a size that a play structure could easily be located on them without the need to use public land.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town revise the parkland hierarchy in its Official Plan and adopt the parkland targets as noted above to guide the future acquisition and development of the Town's parks and open space system.

It is recommended that the Town retain Coleman Island Park and maintain a pathway along the length of the park while allowing the park to revert to a natural state.

It is recommended that the Town declare Don Maynard Park as surplus to the Town's needs except for land for a pathway from the street to the school site and the property be offered for sale by public tender with the funds being reinvested in parkland development in Almonte Ward.

It is recommended that the Town declare Munroe Meadows Park as surplus to the Town's needs and the property be offered for sale by public tender with the funds being reinvested in parkland development in Ramsay Ward.

It is recommended that Gemmill Park be designated the Town's main outdoor recreation venue and the existing Master Plan be reviewed for the long term development of the Park.

### **Natural Heritage Features as a Part of the Parkland Hierarchy**

The Town of Mississippi Mills Official Plan, Appendix A shows the location of Natural Heritage Features in the municipality. These features include Crown Land, Agreement Forests, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), Flood Plain lands, and Locally and Provincially Significant Wetlands.

Policies in Section 3.1 Environmental Land Use Policies state that the goal of the Plan is to “protect and enhance the quality of the environment and the long term health of the ecosystem.” Policies in this section speak to the protection of Natural Heritage Features by techniques such as zoning to prevent development of the lands, requiring appropriate setbacks from such features, supporting development that conserves the natural features and encouraging environmental stewardship of such lands including tax incentives where such programs exist.

The Official Plan contains no policies for public acquisition of Natural Heritage Features as a means of protection. Therefore, natural heritage features in private ownership would have no place in the municipal parkland hierarchy.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that Natural Heritage Features not form part of the Town’s parkland hierarchy as they are not intended for municipal acquisition.

### **Stormwater Ponds and Parkland**

Stormwater management ponds are considered to be an environmental feature that is required in new subdivisions to meet Ontario Ministry of the Environment requirements for stormwater runoff into receiving water bodies. These requirements include both water quality and quantity. As a result, often a significant land area within a large subdivision must be set aside for this purpose. It is a normal requirement of subdivision approval that the stormwater pond is conveyed to the municipality once constructed and accepted by the municipality.

Stormwater ponds may be either “dry ponds” which means that the water is allowed to percolate into the soil without discharging off site or “wet ponds” that typically have permanent standing water and have a controlled release of flow after a major storm event.

As a general practice in Ontario, municipalities do not accept land for stormwater management ponds as partial fulfilment of the parkland dedication requirement under the Planning Act for a plan of subdivision.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that Council adopt a policy of not accepting the dedication of stormwater management ponds as partial fulfilment of the parkland dedication requirement for a plan of subdivision under the Planning Act.

## **Parkland Dedication Policy**

The terms of reference of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan calls for a review of the use of cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication. This is a part of a larger discussion about how the Town requires the dedication of land for park purposes, or alternatively, the payment of cash-in-lieu of land dedication.

Section 42 of the Planning Act allows a municipality to pass a by-law to enable the Council to require as a condition of development or redevelopment of land the conveyance of land up to 2 percent of the site area for commercial and industrial purposes and up to 5 percent in all other cases for park or other public recreational purposes. If the Official Plan allows for it, land may be conveyed at a rate of up to one hectare per 300 dwelling units. This provision is typically used in the site plan control process

Section 42(5) requires that the land so conveyed shall be used for park or other public recreational uses but may be sold at any time.

Section 42(6) allows the Council to require the payment of cash in lieu of land conveyance to the value of land otherwise required to be conveyed. Lastly, where development or redevelopment is being considered, the value of the land is determined as of the day prior to the issuance of the building permit.

Payment under this Section is to be placed in a special account to be used for the acquisition of land for park or other public recreation purposes including the erection, improvement or repair of buildings and the acquisition of machinery for park or other public recreational purposes.

Section 51.1 of the Planning Act enables a municipality to require as a condition of subdivision approval the conveyance of land of up to 2% of the area of the plan of subdivision for a commercial or industrial development or up to 5% of the area for a residential plan of subdivision.

Section 51.1 ( c ) gives the municipality the option of accepting cash-in-lieu of the conveyance of land up to the value of the land otherwise to be conveyed.

Section 51.1(4) clarifies that the amount to be paid as cash-in-lieu is determined by the value of the land "as of the day before the day of the approval of the draft plan of subdivision." Once draft approval is achieved, the market value of a property increases as it's development potential has been enhanced from a vacant parcel of land to a parcel that has a development potential of "X" number of units for a residential subdivision on future public streets. Therefore, the option of taking cash-in-lieu of parkland conveyance becomes a less valuable and less preferred option for a subdivision of more than 20 residential units in size.

With the preceding background in mind, the following guiding principles are suggested in deciding between requiring dedication of parkland or payment of cash-in-lieu of parkland as a condition of development approval;

1. For a residential subdivision of less than 20 residential lots, the preferred alternative is the payment of cash-in-lieu of parkland;
2. For a residential subdivision of 20 or more lots, the preferred alternative is the dedication of land for park purposes;
3. For a commercial or industrial subdivision, or an application for commercial or industrial development on a site that is not in a plan of subdivision, the preferred alternative is payment of cash-in-lieu of parkland;
4. For an application for consent to sever which results in an additional residential unit, the preference is the payment of cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication;
5. For an application for residential intensification where there is an increase in the number of residential units on the site, or where a commercial or industrial site that is not in a plan of subdivision redevelops for residential purposes, the preferred alternative is payment of cash-in-lieu of parkland.

A Parkland Dedication By-law passed under the Planning Act is the appropriate means to implement a policy of parkland dedication and payment of cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that Council adopt a Parkland Dedication By-law as enabled under the Planning Act.

It is recommended that Council give consideration to the approach to parkland dedication and cash-in-lieu of parkland as outlined in this Master Plan in preparing a Parkland Dedication By-law.

### **Parks Maintenance Quality Standards**

The Town of Mississippi Mills Recreation and Culture Staff is responsible for the maintenance of all municipal parkland including sports playing fields, passive parks and open space areas, waterfront recreation areas and municipal property such as the cenotaph in Almonte and the Train Wreck Memorial. The Department is also responsible for the Town's beautification initiatives that include the flowerbeds in Riverwalk, the roundabout on Ottawa Street, Almonte and Pakenham Main Streets (e.g. overhead floral arrangements and planters), flowerbeds at the entrances to new residential subdivisions and also the landscaped area at the intersection of Bridge

Street and Perth Street. In the summer, grass cutting and lining the sports fields is carried out by the two Working Foremen, four Facility Operators and one summer student employee. The Town employs two summer students for beautification work including weeding and watering planted areas and garbage removal.

With the anticipated growth in Mississippi Mills in the next 10 years and the potential addition of 9.4 hectares of additional parkland during the period, it is appropriate to review the parks maintenance quality standards to see if there is an opportunity to achieve efficiencies through introduction of measures such as varied levels of park maintenance.

Presently, the Town's playing fields, including the Civitan sports fields owned by the local Civitan Club, are maintained by the Town. On a weekly basis, the fields are cut and the boundaries of the fields are lined. The balance of the Town own lands noted above, are on a list that is followed by the parks maintainers, so there is a single standard of regular park maintenance throughout the community.

One of the current trends in park maintenance is toward increased areas of naturalization. Environmental concerns have caused municipalities to cease application of insecticides and herbicides in their parks and to reduce the frequency of grass cutting in passive park areas. The reduction in turf area results in an increase in area that supports indigenous plant species. Over time, these areas gradually revert to wildflowers as indigenous plant species adapt and the area returns to its natural state. By leaving designated areas in a more natural state, the prominence of unsightly weeds is reduced and the limited staff resources are allowed to redirect their efforts to the remaining regularly maintained portions of the parks.

The Town has an inventory of 26 parks. It is not suggested that all of the parks have naturalized areas introduced into them as many are relatively small in size. However, for a passive park, such as Coleman Island Park, the opportunity exists to allow much of the park revert to its natural state and maintain a cut turf pathway for the length of the park. Entrances to the park could receive continued grass cutting to maintain an attractive appearance from the street. Gemmill Park, with its 24 hectare (60 acre) area should also be reviewed to determine additional areas of the park – beyond those in their present natural state – that could be allowed to revert to a natural state as part of the master plan exercise for the park. Thirdly, if the play structure and swings in Wylie Park were relocated within the park to a location in proximity to the street, then the rear of the site, where the facilities are presently located, could be allowed to revert to a natural state. These are preliminary suggestions and a more thorough review of the Town's parks should be undertaken if it is decided to allow areas of parkland to have naturalized areas.

Another approach to park maintenance is to establish standards for mowing and trimming, which in turn, will determine the schedule of park maintenance activity. The main outcome of mowing and trimming is safe and healthy turf for all users that is achieved through regular cutting cycles.

Regular mowing is intended to maintain turf at a uniform height. This is beneficial to the plant and reduces the amount of thatch that builds up over time. Regular cutting achieves denser turf, which, in turn discourages some weed species. A regular turf height is necessary for safe playing conditions. In naturalized areas, it defines pedestrian corridors and sight lines.

Trimming is an activity that involves the cutting of long grasses and weeds from areas that are inaccessible to mowing equipment and from around site furniture, fences and trees. It is important not to damage the bark of trees in trimming activity.

It is suggested that the Town consider, on a two year trial basis, the establishment of a standard to cut and trim within the Town's parks. During this period, public feedback from sports groups, residents and park users is encouraged so that the Town may make adjustments as appropriate.

The suggested standard to cut and trim turf in the Town's parks is to the following conditions;

Parks – to a height of 65mm (2.5 inches) with a maximum height of 100mm (4 inches)

Sports fields – to a height of 65mm (2.5 inches) with a maximum height of 90mm (3.5 inches)

Mowing and trimming are typically scheduled activities between the months of May and October, subject to weather conditions. The schedule may not correspond with actual rate of grass growth. Schedule of mowing and trimming may have to be increased in the cool damp spring and fall weather and decreased in mid-summer drought conditions.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town give consideration to the naturalization of some of the areas within the Town's parks.

It is recommended that the master plan for Gemmill Park include the identification of areas where naturalization may occur.

It is recommended that the Town consider on a two year trial basis, the establishment of a standard to cut and trim the Town's parks as described in this master plan with the opportunity for public feedback during this period, so that adjustment be made as



appropriate. At the end of the two year period, the Town establish a permanent standard.

## **8.7 Service Delivery Model**

In Mississippi Mills, the Recreation Coordinator oversees the Town's recreation programs and maintenance of the recreation parks, trails and facilities. He is responsible for the preparation of the operating and capital budgets, staffing and day to day operations of the Department. The Community Economic and Cultural Programmer position is responsible for the Cultural Master Plan and its implementation as well as supporting special events, the Town's beautification program, economic development and tourism as well as the day to day operation, rental and maintenance of Almonte Old Town Hall (AOTH). This includes operating and capital budgets for the facility. Currently, there is no staff at AOTH responsible for the day to day operation of the sound and lighting systems. This role was, until recently, filled by a volunteer who is trying to retire and, therefore will not continue to oversee the equipment for much longer. Money has been invested in the purchase and maintenance of this equipment. The Community Economic and Cultural Coordinator is also responsible for the Information Office housed in AOTH (staff, venue and materials) and all website and social media updates including [www.mississippimills.ca](http://www.mississippimills.ca); [www.exporemississippimills.ca](http://www.exporemississippimills.ca); Facebook and twitter. An Administrative Assistant / Booking Clerk, two Working Foremen and four Facility Operators complete the full-time staffing complement. Part time staff are employed in the winter at the two arenas and part time staff in summer as grounds keepers, beautification staff, tourism staff and life guards.

The Town offers a significant number of recreation and cultural programs – more than its benchmarking comparators. The Town's role as primary provider of recreation and cultural programs and facilities is supported by many volunteer organizations. Some activities, such as minor hockey are organized by volunteers. In Almonte, soccer is organized by volunteers and in Pakenham, by the Town. The private sector plays a small role in the provision of recreation services.

Recreation facilities should be viewed as part of the Town's infrastructure inventory. They are valuable assets and require a program of maintenance and upkeep, just as is required by the Town's other infrastructure – roads, sewage treatment plants, watermains, water filtration plants and stormwater management ponds.

Parks and Recreation facilities, programs and special events promote tourism and economic development by providing attractions that bring visitors to the Town such as festivals, tournaments and cultural and heritage facilities. Recreation and Culture staff are heavily involved with the organization and / or assists with the operation of 16 special events held throughout the year.

We believe that for the term of this Master Plan, the Town will be the primary initiator of new recreation programs. There is a strong volunteer base to support these programs and the potential for partnerships in some areas such as programs for seniors and for the physically challenged.

The Recreation and Culture Department has established its role in the delivery of recreation services in partnership with the community where the Town will have a role as follows;

- ❖ As a provider of core services such as neighbourhood and community parks and trails, community centers, arenas, lawn bowling, tennis and curling facilities and facility programming such as public skating, children, youth and seniors programs.
- ❖ As a partner, helping community groups achieve recreation goals by providing recreation support including program development, equipment purchase and advertising and promotion.
- ❖ As a broker, acting on behalf of the community by identifying new recreation opportunities and bringing together the resources of the Town, volunteers and recreation service providers to create new ventures in the Town.
- ❖ As a facilitator, helping community groups to understand and promote their objectives through an effective public communications process.

There is a need for additional staff to fulfil the mandate of the Department. The current full time positions are heavily involved in their job responsibilities and do not have the capacity to take on additional responsibilities.

A Recreation Programmer position should be created to support the many existing recreation programs provided by the Town and to introduce new and expanded programs for all age groups with emphasis on children, youth and seniors and including a summer camp program. The Recreation Programmer position would work with the Recreation Coordinator to develop, implement and facilitate recreation programs by providing leadership, administrative and customer service support. The Recreation Programmer will monitor and maintain accurate records to ensure recreation programs operate within budget.

A Special Events Coordinator position should be created as a two-year contract position that will be responsible for the organization and coordination of the major special events currently organized and carried out by the Town and for providing assistance and support to those groups who organize and carry out their own special events in Mississippi Mills that is of benefit to the municipality. The Special Events Coordinator should work with the Community Economic and Cultural Programmer position to support economic development initiatives and the maintenance of the economic development section of the Town's website. At the end of the two year

period, the position should be reviewed to determine whether or not it should be a permanent position.

With the addition of these new positions, in order to avoid confusion in the community's mind about overall responsibility for the overall delivery of parks and recreation services, it is suggested that the title of Recreation Coordinator be changed to Manager of Parks and Recreation. This title will reinforce the importance and profile of parks and recreation in the Town.

In the short term, two additional summer students should be hired by Town to support the Town's beautification program and sports fields and park maintenance program. These positions will support the on-going maintenance of flower beds, planters, hanging baskets and other landscape features that require high levels of on-going seasonal maintenance than playing fields and parks. The recent addition of planted beds at the entrances to new subdivisions that are now being turned over to the Town has been included on the list of areas requiring municipal maintenance. In addition, it has been identified that an additional summer student should be hired to help maintain the parks and playing fields. This position is important as many of the parks abut residential property and are subject to scrutiny by residential property owners, the playing fields require regular cutting and often parks that are the location of special events are cut during the week leading up to the event.

With respect to the Facility Operator positions, the staff requirements need to be monitored on an annual basis. The need for additional staff in the form of seasonal positions between April to October also needs to be monitored annually as it will be influenced by the area of parkland to be maintained -new parks in subdivisions coming on stream, the extent of naturalized areas introduced into parks and the publicly accepted standard to cut and trim turf in parks if standards are introduced.

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is a strategy for sustainable community driven development. The appeal of ABCD lies in its premise that communities can drive the development process themselves by identifying and mobilizing existing assets, and thereby creating local economic opportunity. ABCD builds on the assets that are already found in the community and mobilizes individuals, groups and institutions to come together and build on their assets.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town increase its recreation programming supply for all age groups with emphasis on new and expanded programs for children, youth and persons 50 years of age and over.

It is recommended that the Town create a position of Recreation Programmer for the purpose of supporting the many recreation programs already offered by the Town and introducing new and expanded recreation programs for all age groups.

It is recommended that the Town continue its extensive program of Special Events due to the economic development and quality of life benefits that accrue to the Town.

It is recommended that the Town create a two-year contract position of Special Events Coordinator who will be responsible for the organization and coordination of the major special events currently organized and carried out by the Town and for providing assistance and support to those groups who organize and carry out their own special events in Mississippi Mills that is of benefit to the municipality. At the end of the two year period, the position should be reviewed to determine whether or not it should be a permanent position.

It is recommended that the title of Recreation Coordinator be changed to Manager of Parks and Recreation.

It is recommended that the Town hire an additional summer student to support the Town's beautification initiatives and an additional summer student to support the Town's maintenance of parks and playing fields.

It is recommended that the Town annually review its staffing requirements for Facility Operators and also for part time seasonal positions to maintain parks and playing fields.

It is recommended that the Town develop a continuing 10-year capital budget for general park upgrades including replacement of play structures to meet current standards.

It is recommended that the Town encourage partnerships with adjacent municipalities, sports clubs, service groups, public and private agencies in the provision of future recreation and culture facilities and programs.

It is recommended that the Town continue hiring students with funding under Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) Summer Jobs Canada to assist with recreation programs such as children's summer camps.

It is recommended that the Town investigate new funding sources for its recreation and culture programs and facilities.

It is recommended that the Town expand its municipal website to promote active living and recreation programs and activities organized by the Town and by volunteer groups, sports clubs and service groups including contacts so that residents will be more aware of the recreation opportunities available to them in the community.

It is recommended that the Town maintain regular contact with potential partnership organizations such as school boards, conservation authority, District Health Unit, Taking Young People Seriously and Mills Community Support.

It is recommended that the Town support volunteer organizations by hosting an annual volunteer open house in which sports and recreation organizations come together at a single location to promote and explain their organization and its role in providing recreation and cultural programs and activities in order to expand the base of volunteers.

It is recommended that, in an effort to enhance limited financial resources, the Town embrace Asset Based Community Development as a service delivery approach for parks and recreation.

It is recommended that Town initiate a review of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2023.

## **8.8 Recreation Funding Strategies**

One of the key issues in implementing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan is strategies for leveraging funding for recreation facilities and programs. Public private partnerships is one option. Another option is funding opportunities with other levels of Government. The third option is for the Town to fund facilities and programs using the tools available under existing legislation.

The 2013 Federal Budget announced a new Community Improvement Fund that is a 10-year fund with \$32.2 billion as part of the \$52 billion Building Canada Fund. The Community Improvement Fund will include funding for recreation and cultural facilities within its list of funding eligible projects.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) has a Summer Jobs Canada program that can be used by municipalities to partially fund students aged 15 to 30 years for temporary employment over the summer period. This program can be used to assist in funding parks maintainers, lifeguards or for staff to operate summer day camps or other recreation programs.

The Ontario Healthy Communities Fund Grant Program provides funding for programs that will increase the level physical activity in communities and improve nutritional levels of Ontario residents. It is administered by District Health Units and applications can be submitted on an annual basis. Partnerships are encouraged.

The Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund is a provincial grant fund that is directed towards getting and keeping Ontarians active in community sport, recreation and physical activity. It is directed to providing increasing activities for participation in

sport by introducing new programs or increasing access to existing programs. Applications for funding in 2013 are now closed.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation provides funding to municipalities and to not for profit organizations. Examples of municipal projects eligible for funding include outdoor rinks, splash pads, BMX and skateboard parks, improvements for access to water and improved energy efficiency in arenas. Intake of applications occurs twice a calendar year and awards of grants are made in the same year.

The current Mississippi Mills Development Charges By-law assists in funding new parks and recreation facilities by assessing a fee that is collected through the building permit process for new construction. For example, the Town currently assesses a fee of \$294. for outdoor recreation facilities and \$412. for indoor recreation facilities assessed against a building permit for a new single detached dwelling or semi-detached dwelling erected in the Town. The fee assessed varies by type of residential dwelling and also applies to new commercial and industrial buildings. The fee was increased in 2013 to partially fund improvements planned in three parks in new subdivisions in Almonte having a total area of 8 acres.

The Town's annual operating budget and capital budget funds staff positions, equipment and new or improvements to parks and recreation facilities

Although the Town does not have a formal program for providing financial assistance to children and youth to cover the cost of registration fees in recreation programs, some of the local organizations in Mississippi Mills do waive their registration fees for underprivileged children. Canadian Tire Corporation, through their Jumpstart Program, offers to pay the registration fees for children and youth aged 8 to 18 years of age for 73 sports including hockey, swimming, soccer, baseball, dance, yoga and martial arts. Their goal is to remove barriers that prevent children from participating in recreation programs. Individuals must apply for funding.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Town continue to make applications for funding of facility and park improvements and for recreation programs from Federal and / or Provincial programs to support the delivery of parks recreation services and programs in Mississippi Mills.

It is recommended that, in particular, the Town apply for grants under the Federal Community Improvement Program when available and the Ontario Trillium Foundation for grants to improvements to parks, facilities and access to water as identified elsewhere in this Master Plan.

It is recommended that the Town continue to apply to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada for partial funding of student positions under the Summer Jobs Canada program to support its delivery of recreation programs and services.

It is recommended that the Town apply for grants under the Ontario Healthy Communities Fund Grant Program and the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund as appropriate, to expand the number of recreation programs available to residents of Mississippi Mills.

It is recommended that the Town review its 20-year capital budget and Development Charges By-law to include funding of new or expanded facilities identified in the Master Plan when their budgets are finalized.

## **8.9 Partnership Opportunities**

There are many situations where it is mutually beneficial to enter into a partnership arrangement for the delivery of parks and recreation facilities and services.

Presently, the Town has a Recreation Cost Sharing Agreement dated 1987 which it entered into with the Town of Carleton Place and the Township of Beckwith for access to libraries, arenas and the indoor swimming pool in Carleton Place. This agreement is reviewed annually by the Town Council.

The Town has a Reciprocal Agreement with the Upper Canada School Board that allows community organizations and groups recognized and sanctioned by the Town to have access to gymnasiums located in all four public schools. This Agreement dates from 2005 and has not been reviewed recently. Issues have arisen recently regarding the condition of one of the Board's playing fields.

The Town also has an arrangement with the Almonte and District Agricultural Fairground for use of part of their property as a public beach in Almonte. The Town also has an arrangement with the Almonte Civitan Club for the use of part of its property for soccer fields.

The Town provides an annual contribution to Taking Young People Seriously (TYPS) to support its after school programs weekdays and Friday evenings to provide youth age 12 – 18 to have a safe environment where they can meet, cook and share time with one another.

Recently, the Mills Community Support, who provides activities that support adults with intellectual disabilities, supports seniors and adults with disabilities, provides affordable housing for families and seniors, approached the Town with a proposal to partner in providing a senior drop-in center as an addition to its seniors' housing project in Almonte. They already have a partnership arrangement with the Town in the

renovation of Augusta Street Park. The Mills Community Support is able to enlist volunteers and leverage funding through its partnerships and sponsors.

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit (LGLDHU) is the local delivery vehicle to implement the Ontario Government's Healthy Communities initiative by providing funding and courses to improve levels of physical activity and nutrition, amongst other matters. The LGLDHU has the potential to support the Town in implementing parts of this Master Plan by increasing the level of health of residents of Mississippi Mills through increased physical activity and better nutrition.

The Town is encouraged to maintain contact with other potential partnership organizations and to enter into arrangements with them to provide parks and recreation oriented services where it is mutually beneficial to do so.

### **Strategic Actions**

It is recommended that the Reciprocal Agreement between the Town and the Upper Canada District School Board be the subject of a review.

It is recommended that where the Town has not formalized partnerships through agreements with service clubs and other agencies, it proceed to do so.

It is recommended that the Town continue its arrangement with Taking Young People Seriously for the provision of services to youth in Mississippi Mills.

It is recommended that the Town maintain contact with potential partnership organizations such as Mills Community Support and the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit and to enter into arrangements with them where it is mutually beneficial to do so in the provision of parks and recreation oriented programs and services.

## **9.0 Appendices**

Appendix 1 to this Report is a list of the parks in Mississippi Mills and an indication as to whether they should be retained, considered surplus and offered for sale and whether they should be considered for naturalization.

Appendix 2 is a list of all of the recommended Strategic Actions including an indication as to whether they are High Priority (implemented in the first four years of this plan), Medium Priority (implemented in the following three years) or Low Priority (implemented in the final three years of this plan).

Appendix 3 is the Town of Mississippi Mills map of Existing Municipal Park Locations with the service radius added for the parks outside of Almonte.

Appendix 4 is a map of Almonte showing all of the existing municipal parks and their respective service radius.



Appendix 1  
TOWN OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS PARKS

Town Ward	Park	Size (acres)	Park Classification	Play Equipment	Beach	Basketball Court	Baseball Field	Football Field	Soccer Field	Horseshoe Pit	Outdoor Skating Rink	Open Grass Area	Facilities / Buildings on Site	Retain	Consider Selling	Consider Naturalization
Almonte	ALMONTE BEACH	1.24	Neighbourhood Park		✓							✓		✓		
Almonte	AUGUSTA STREET PARK	0.40	Neighbourhood Park	✓		✓					✓	✓	BMX track	✓		
Almonte	COLEMAN ISLAND	1.24	Neighbourhood Park											✓		✓
Almonte	MARTIN STREET NORTH PARK	15.50	Community Park											✓		✓
Almonte	DON MAYNARD PARK	1.00	Neighbourhood Park									✓			✓	
Almonte	GEMMILL PARK	60.40	Community Park	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Amphitheatre for major events and concerts. Lighted tennis courts; lighted ball diamond with bleachers; full sized and junior size soccer field and a 400-metre track. Biking, cross-country skiing and walking trails.	✓		✓
Almonte	JAMES STREET PARK	0.40	Neighbourhood Park	✓		✓						✓		✓		
Almonte	McINTOSH PARK	1.24	Neighbourhood Park	✓								✓		✓		
Almonte	MEADOWGLEN PARK	0.22	Neighbourhood Park	✓		✓					✓	✓		✓		
Almonte	METCALFE GEOHERITAGE PARK	2.00	Community Park		✓							✓	Washrooms, picnic area, non-motorized boat launch area, parking lot	✓		
Almonte	RIVERWALK	1.00	Neighbourhood Park										Gazebo, scenic trail with benches and interpretive signage	✓		
Almonte	SNEDDEN-CASEY BALL FIELD	13.00	Neighbourhood Park				✓							✓		
Almonte	VETERAN'S WALKWAY / CENOTAPH	2.60	Neighbourhood Park											✓		
Almonte	WYLIE STREET PARK / NEW ENGLAND PARK	0.53	Neighbourhood Park	✓		✓						✓		✓		✓
Pakenham	FIVE SPAN BRIDGES PARK	7.00	Neighbourhood Park									✓	Boat launch	✓		
Pakenham	FRED MILLAR FIELD	2.13	Neighbourhood Park						✓					✓		
Pakenham	PAKENHAM BEACH	1.00	Community Park		✓							✓		✓		
Pakenham	PAKENHAM COMMUNITY PARK	4.40	Community Park				✓			✓			Canteen, parking lot, skate park	✓		
Ramsay	APPLETON BAY PARK	1.00	Neighbourhood Park	✓								✓	Boat launch	✓		
Ramsay	APPLETON PARKETTE	0.57	Neighbourhood Park									✓		✓		
Ramsay	CLAYTON TAYLOR PARK	1.00	Neighbourhood Park									✓	Boat launch, picnic area, cenotaph	✓		
Ramsay	JAKE LUBBERS FIELD	8.00	Neighbourhood Park						✓					✓		
Ramsay	MUNROE MEADOWS	4.00	Neighbourhood Park									✓			✓	
Ramsay	R.W. MacGREGOR MEMORIAL BALL PARK	15.50	Neighbourhood Park				✓		✓					✓		
Ramsay	ELEANOR WRIGHT PARK	1.00	Neighbourhood Park										Pathway			
Ramsay	GREYSTONE ESTATES PARK	2.00	Neighbourhood Park													

## Appendix 2

ID #	Strategic Actions	Priority	Population Benefiting	Capital Cost Implications
<b>VISION, MISSION STATEMENT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES</b>				
1	Adopt the Vision, The Mission and Guiding Principles for the Recreation and Culture Department	High	N/A	N/A
<b>RECREATION FACILITIES</b>				
<b>Arenas</b>				
1	Building condition survey be completed for each of the arenas	High	Arena users	\$12,000 each
2	Funding continue to be provided in the 10 year capital budget to address humidity issues in the Pakenham area	High	Arena users	\$42,000
<b>Multi-Purpose Community and Program Spaces</b>				
1	Building condition survey to be completed for each of the Town-owned multi-purpose community facilities	High	Facility Users	\$20,000
2	Consideration be given to funding in the 10 year capital budget for upgrading the Cedar Hill School House to a facility that can be used on a year-round basis	Low	Pakenham Ward	TBD
3	Consideration be given to providing an annual grant to the owners of the Clayton Community Centre and the Union Hall for maintenance and upkeep	High	Pakenham and Ramsay Wards	N/A
4	Use of schools be increased by community groups and by the Town	Medium	Entire Community	N/A
<b>Bikeways, Pathways and Trails</b>				
1	Complete an Active Transportation Master Plan to establish a Town-wide walking, hiking, biking, cycling network	High	Entire Community	\$50,000
2	Design trails to be multi-seasonal facilities	Ongoing	"	N/A
3	Ensure that future plans of subdivision take into consideration their integration in the Active Transportation Master Plan	Ongoing	Entire Community	N/A
4	Invest on an annual basis for the development of new pathways, bikeways and trails to implement the Active Transportation Master Plan	High	Entire Community	\$25,000 to \$50,000
5	Support public acquisition of the abandoned CP railway line between Smith Falls and Mattawa for public trail purposes	High	Entire Community	Unknown
6	Give priority to the provision of open space and trails along the Mississippi River and also using unopened road allowances	Medium	Entire Community	Unknown
7	Acquire lands along the Mississippi River for open space and trails through the Planning Act development approval process as lands come forward through parkland dedication, road widening or using off-road infrastructure corridors	Medium	Entire Community	Unknown

\* High Priority Years 1 - 4  
 Medium Priority Years 5 - 7  
 Low Priority Years 8 - 10

## Appendix 2

ID #	Strategic Actions	Priority	Population Benefiting	Capital Cost Implications
<b>Children and Youth Leisure Spaces</b>				
1	Continue its financial support for Taking Young People Seriously in its delivery of services to youth in the community	High	Youth	N/A
<b>Older Adult and Senior Spaces</b>				
1	Investigate the opportunity to partner with Mills Community Support to provide a seniors drop-in center on its property in Almonte	Medium	Seniors	Unknown
<b>Waterfront Development</b>				
1	Continue to operate the two beaches including lifeguards where they presently are provided	High	Entire Community	N/A
2	Monitor the activity of the Mississippi Riverwatcher and Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority in their effort to restore the Mississippi River canoe routes, and if they are successful, the Town include it is 10-year budget funding for new docks on the Mississippi River at the Almonte Old Town Hall site and at the Metcalfe GeoHeritage Park	Low	Canoests, Kayakers	TBD
<b>Soccer Fields</b>				
1	Work with soccer clubs to address the demand for additional soccer fields in the term of the Master Plan	Ongoing	Soccer Clubs	TBD
<b>Tennis Courts</b>				
1	Provide funding for an engineering study to investigate the cause of cracks developing on the edges of the tennis courts and to recommend a solution	High	Tennis Club	\$4,005
2	Provide funding to the Tennis Club for a replacement backboard	High	Tennis Club	\$6,000
3	Give consideration to the inclusion of a club house building with washrooms in Gemmill Park as part of the master plan for the park	Low	Tennis Club	TBD
<b>Splash Pads</b>				
1	Provide a splash pad facility in Gemmill Park where the required infrastructure is already available	High	Children and Youth	\$125,000+
<b>Off-Leash Dog Park</b>				
1	Proceed with the implementation of an off-leash dog park within a designated area of an existing municipal park and the designated area be enclosed by fencing.	Low	Dog Owners	\$5,000

\* High Priority Years 1 - 4  
 Medium Priority Years 5 - 7  
 Low Priority Years 8 - 10

## Appendix 2

ID #	Strategic Actions	Priority	Population Benefiting	Capital Cost Implications
<b>Operations Centre</b>				
1	Undertake a joint planning exercise by Recreation and Culture Public Works and Roads Departments to determine the preferred long term location of a combined maintenance and storage facility including space requirements, estimated budget and funding sources	Medium	Municipal Operations	Unknown
<b>RECREATION PROGRAMS</b>				
1	Expand its recreation programming for all age groups in order to achieve its overall goal of a health community with focus primarily on children and youth aged 6 years to 20 years and for persons 50 years of age and over	High	Entire Community	N/A
2	Support initiatives for new recreation programs and activities brought forward by volunteers to expand recreation programs available in the community	Ongoing	Entire Community	N/A
3	Expand its programming for children and youth to include activities such as skateboard lessons, canoeing and kayaking, volleyball and leadership training	High	Children and Youth	N/A
4	Consider the creation of summer day camps during the summer vacation period to assist in providing recreation activities for children and in providing employment opportunities for high school aged youth	Medium	Children and Youth	N/A
5	Expand its programming for adults 50 years of age and over to include activities such as walking programs, snowshoeing, hiking, age appropriate fitness and exercise programs	High	Adults over 50 year of age	N/A
6	Discuss with the Town of Carleton Place regarding new or expanded water related exercise and fitness programs offered at the indoor pool in Carleton Place	Medium	Pool users	N/A
7	Address the needs of those with a physical disability by continuing its program of improving access to public buildings	High	Physically Challenged	TBD
8	Work in partnership with Mills Community Support in providing programs and recreation activities for seniors and persons with disabilities	High	Seniors and Physically Challenged	N/A
9	Develop an annual participant feedback form to determine participant satisfaction once a program is completed for all of its recreation programs	Low	Program users	N/A
10	Use its municipal website and work in conjunction with the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit to implement the Province's Health Community Program initiative	High	Entire Community	N/A

\* High Priority Years 1 - 4  
 Medium Priority Years 5 - 7  
 Low Priority Years 8 - 10

**Appendix 2**

<b>ID #</b>	<b>Strategic Actions</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Population Benefiting</b>	<b>Capital Cost Implications</b>
<b>SPECIAL EVENTS STRATEGIC ACTIONS</b>				
1	Maintain regular contact with organizations and businesses in Mississippi Mills that are willing to either take on the responsibility for organizing and carrying out a special event currently being done by the Town or for partnering with the Town in support of the event	Ongoing	Entire Community	N/A
2	Hold an annual volunteer open house in which the Town and other organizations come together at a single event to promote and explain their organization and opportunities available for volunteers to support their activities	Medium	Entire Community	N/A
3	Consider holding the Pakenham Santa Clause Parade and the Almonte Santa Clause Parade on a rotating basis on alternate years	Low	Unknown	N/A
<b>PARKLAND STRATEGIC ACTIONS</b>				
<b>Parkland Classification</b>				
1	Adopt a hierarchy of parkland with definitions	Low	N/A	N/A
<b>Parkland Supply</b>				
1	Revise the parkland hierarchy in its Official Plan and adopt the parkland targets to guide the future acquisition and development of the Town's parks and open space system	Low	N\A	N/A
2	Retain Coleman Island Park and maintain a pathway along the length of the park while allowing the park to revert to a natural state	Medium	N\A	N/A
3	Declare Don Maynard Park as surplus to the Town's needs except for land for a pathway from the street to the school site and the property be offered for sale by public tender with the funds being reinvested in parkland development in Almonte Ward	Medium	N\A	N/A
4	Declare Munroe Meadows Park as surplus to the Town's needs and the property be offered for sale by public tender with the funds being reinvested in parkland development in Ramsay Ward	Medium	N\A	N/A
5	Designate Gemmill Park as the Town's main outdoor recreation venue and a master plan be created for the long term development of the Park	High	Entire Community	\$20,000 with public consultation

\* High Priority Years 1 - 4  
 Medium Priority Years 5 - 7  
 Low Priority Years 8 - 10

**Appendix 2**

<b>ID #</b>	<b>Strategic Actions</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Population Benefiting</b>	<b>Capital Cost Implications</b>
<b>Natural Heritage Features as a Part of the Parkland Hierarchy</b>				
1	Natural Heritage Features not form part of the Town's parkland hierarchy as they are not intended for municipal acquisition	Low	N\A	N/A
<b>Stormwater Ponds and Parkland</b>				
1	Adopt a policy of not accepting the dedication of stormwater management ponds as partial fulfillment of the parkland dedication requirement for a plan of subdivision under the Planning Act	Low	N\A	N/A
<b>Parkland Dedication Policy</b>				
1	Adopt a Parkland Dedication By-law as enabled under the Planning Act	Medium	N\A	N/A
2	Give consideration to the approach to parkland dedication and cash-in-lieu of parkland as outlined in this Master Plan in preparing a Parkland Dedication By-law	Medium	N\A	N/A
<b>Parks Maintenance Quality Standards</b>				
1	Give consideration to the naturalization of some of the areas within the Town's parks	High	N\A	N/A
2	The master plan for Gemmill Park include the identification of areas where naturalization may occur	High	N\A	N/A
3	Consider on a two year trial basis, the establishment of a standard to cut and trim the Town's parks as described in this master plan with the opportunity for public feedback during this period, so that adjustment be made as appropriate. At the end of the two year period, the Town establish a permanent standard	High	N\A	N/A
<b>SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL</b>				
1	Increase its recreation programming supply for all age groups with emphasis on new and expanded programs for children, youth and persons 50 years of age and over	High	Entire Community	N/A
2	Create a position of Recreation Programmer for the purpose of supporting the many recreation programs already offered by the Town and introducing new and expanded recreation programs for all age groups	High	Entire Community	N/A
3	Continue the extensive program of Special Events due to the economic development and quality of life benefits that accrue to the Town	High	Entire Community	N/A
4	Create a two-year contract position of Special Events Coordinator who will be responsible for the organization and coordination of the major special events	High	Entire Community	N/A
5	Change the title of Recreation Coordinator to Manager of Parks and Recreation	Medium	N\A	N/A

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 Medium Priority Years 5 - 7  
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## Appendix 2

ID #	Strategic Actions	Priority	Population Benefiting	Capital Cost Implications
6	Hire an additional summer student to support the Town's beautification initiatives and one for turf maint.	High	N\A	N/A
7	Annually review its staffing requirements for Facility Operators and also for part time seasonal positions to maintain parks and playing fields	Ongoing	N\A	N/A
8	Develop a continuing 10-year capital budget for general park upgrades including replacement of play structures to meet current standards	Ongoing	N\A	TBD
9	Encourage partnerships with adjacent municipalities, sports clubs, service groups, public and private agencies in the provision of future recreation and culture facilities and programs	Ongoing	N\A	N/A
10	Continue hiring students with funding under Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) Summer Jobs Canada to assist with recreation programs such as children's summer camps	Ongoing	N\A	N/A
11	Investigate new funding sources for its recreation and culture programs and facilities	Ongoing	N\A	N/A
12	Expand its municipal website to promote active living and recreation programs and activities organized by the Town and by volunteer groups, sports clubs and service groups including contacts so that residents will be more aware of the recreation opportunities available to them in the community	High	N\A	N/A
13	Maintain regular contact with potential partnership organizations such as school boards, conservation authority, District Health Unit, Taking Young People Seriously and Mills Community Support	Ongoing	N\A	N/A
14	Support volunteer organizations by hosting an annual volunteer open house in which sports and recreation organizations come together at a single location to promote and explain their organization and its role in providing recreation and cultural programs and activities in order to expand the base of volunteers	Ongoing	Entire Community	N/A
15	Embrace Asset Based Community Development as a service delivery approach	Ongoing	Entire Community	N/A
16	Initiate a view of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2023	Low	Entire Community	\$60,000
<b>RECREATION FUNDING STRATEGIES</b>				
1	Continue to make applications for funding of facility and park improvements and for recreation programs from Federal and/or Provincial programs to support the delivery of parks recreation services and programs in Mississippi Mills	Ongoing	N\A	N/A

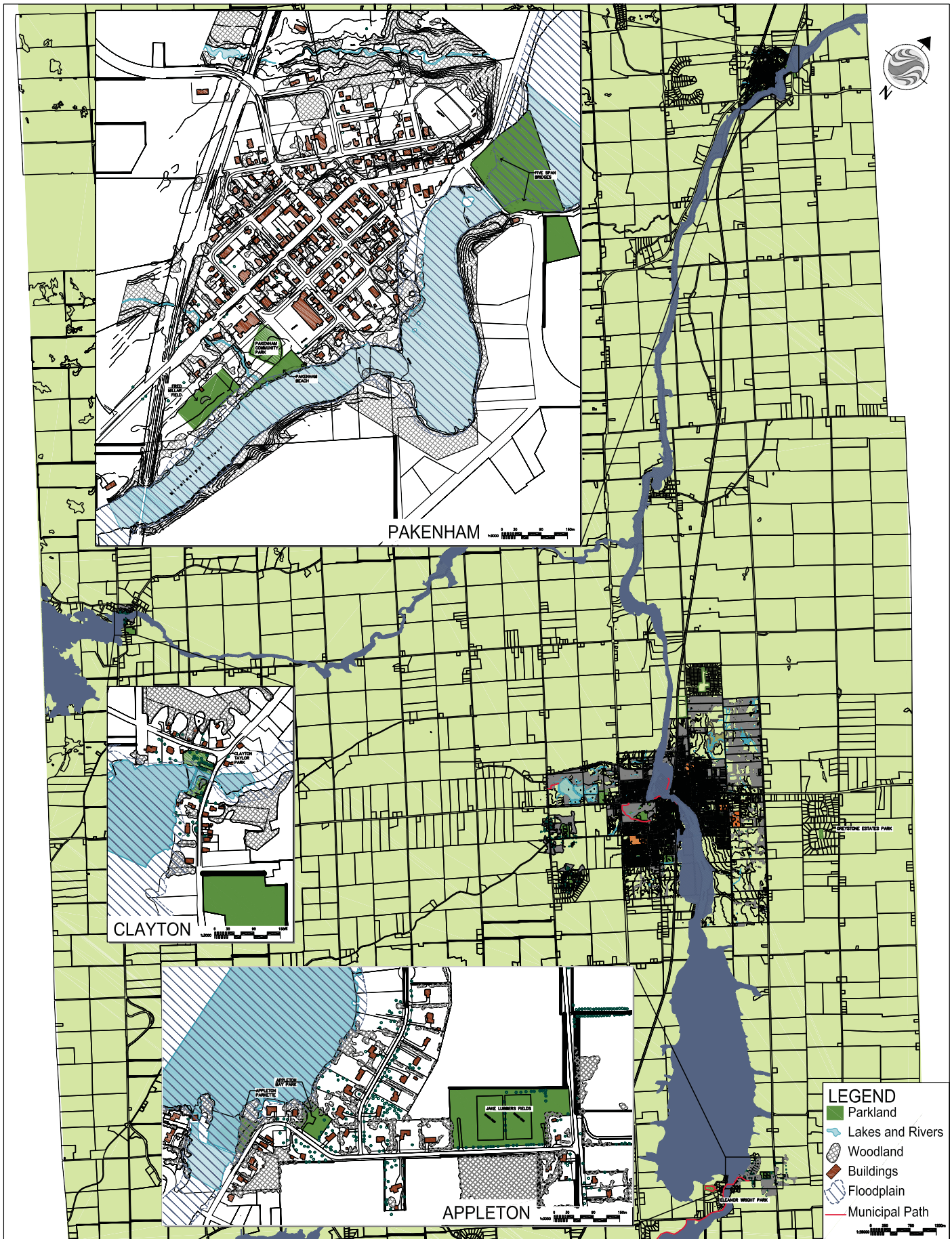
\* High Priority Years 1 - 4  
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## Appendix 2

ID #	Strategic Actions	Priority	Population Benefiting	Capital Cost Implications
2	Apply for grants under the Federal Community Improvement Program when available and the Ontario Trillium Foundation for grants to improvements to parks, facilities and access to water as identified elsewhere in this Master Plan	Ongoing	N\A	N/A
3	Continue to apply to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada for partial funding of student positions under the Summer Jobs Canada program to support its delivery of recreation programs and services	Ongoing	N\A	N/A
4	Apply for grants under the Ontario Healthy Communities Fund Grant Program and the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund as appropriate, to expand the number of recreation programs available to residents of Mississippi Mills	Ongoing	N\A	N/A
5	Review its 20-year capital budget and Development Charges By-law to include funding of new or expanded facilities identified in the Master Plan when their budgets are finalized	High	N\A	N/A
<b>PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES</b>				
1	Review the Reciprocal Agreement between the Town and the Upper Canada District School Board	Low	N\A	N/A
2	Proceed to formalize partnerships through agreements with service clubs and other agencies where it has not done so	Ongoing	N\A	N/A
3	Continue its arrangement with Taking Young People Seriously for the provision of services to youth in Mississippi Mills	High	Youth	N/A
4	Maintain contact with potential partnership organizations such as Mills Community Support and the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit and to enter into arrangements with them where it is mutually beneficial to do so in the provision of parks and recreation oriented programs and services	Ongoing	Entire Community	N/A

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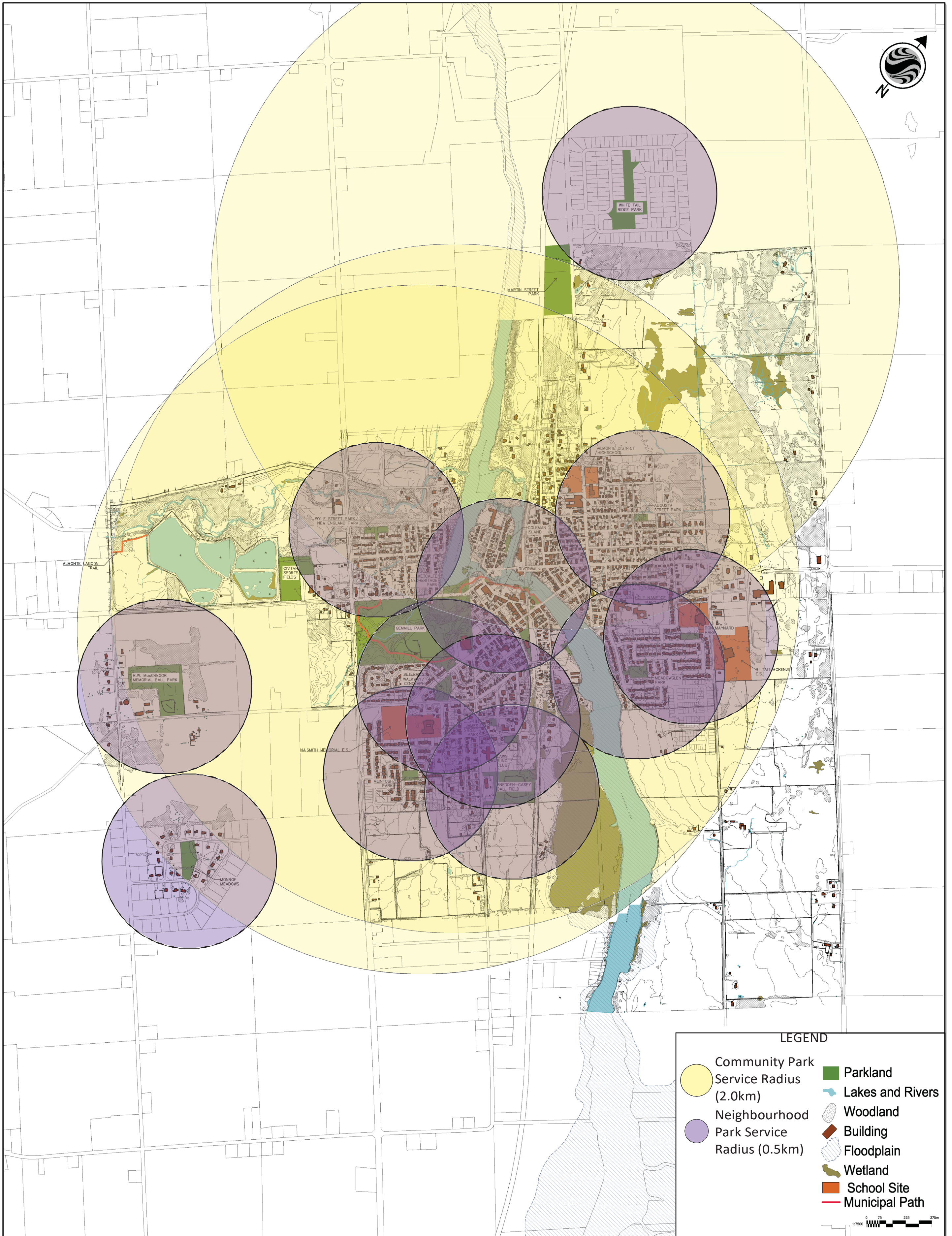




Town of Mississippi Mills  
 Existing Municipal Park Locations  
 Mississippi Mills, Ontario

Landscape Architecture & Planning  
 October 2013





**Almonte**  
**Existing Municipal Park Service Radius Map**  
 Mississippi Mills, Ontario

Landscape Architecture & Planning  
 June 2013