



Township of
Lucan Biddulph



Parks and Recreation Master Plan

October 2015

Prepared by:

mbpc
Monteith♦Brown
planning consultants



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Table of Contents

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Acknowledgements	iii
Executive Summary	iv
Section 1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 Master Plan Purpose	1
1.2 Planning Process	2
1.3 Needs Assessment Methodology	3
1.4 Master Plan Organization.....	4
Section 2. Community Profile	5
2.1 Population.....	5
2.2 Age Structure.....	7
2.3 Income & Occupation.....	9
2.4 Other Socio-demographic Considerations.....	10
Section 3. Key Trends and Best Practices.....	12
3.1 Participation in Recreational Activities.....	12
3.2 Provision of Parks and Recreation Facilities	15
3.3 Enhancing Service Delivery in Recreation and Parks.....	19
Section 4. Community Input	23
4.1 Community Open House.....	23
4.2 Community Survey.....	24
4.3 Student Questionnaire	37
4.4 Stakeholder Input.....	41
4.5 Public Meeting	42
4.6 Key Themes Emerging from the Initial Public Input Phase	42
Section 5. Vision and Guiding Principles	44
5.1 Vision Statement.....	44
5.2 Guiding Principles.....	44
Section 6. Service Delivery Assessment	46
6.1 Roles & Responsibilities.....	46
6.2 Programming	48
6.3 Staffing, Volunteers & Governance	51
6.4 Partnerships.....	52
6.5 Policies & Procedures.....	54
6.6 Cost Recovery & Rates.....	55
6.7 Communications & Marketing	56

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Section 7. Indoor Facility Assessment.....	58
7.1 Lucan Community Memorial Centre (arena and halls)	58
7.2 Age-Specific Dedicated Space	67
7.3 Indoor Aquatic Centre	68
7.4 Fitness Facilities	70
7.5 Other Facilities / Facility Requests	70
Section 8. Parks and Outdoor Facility Assessment.....	71
8.1 Sports Fields.....	71
8.2 Playgrounds.....	77
8.3 Outdoor Aquatics	79
8.4 Outdoor Courts & Pads.....	81
8.5 Other Outdoor Recreation Facilities	84
8.6 Parkland Supply, Policy, and Design.....	87
8.7 Park-Specific Recommendations	93
Section 9. Trails Assessment	97
9.1 Existing Conditions	97
9.2 Opportunities & Challenges	98
9.3 Trail Development Strategy.....	100
9.4 Design Guidelines.....	101
9.5 Policy Development	104
9.6 Land Acquisition Strategies.....	104
9.7 Trails Advisory Council & Partnerships	106
Section 10. Implementation Strategy	107
10.1 Funding & Implementation Considerations.....	107
10.2 Summary of Recommendations	108
10.3 Monitoring and Updating the Plan	112
Appendix A – Record of Public Input	A-1
Appendix B – Parks, Facilities, and Program Inventory.....	B-1

Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

About the Plan

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a strategic policy document for future planning and development of parks and recreation facilities and services within the Township of Lucan Biddulph. The Plan examines existing parks and recreation offering, gathers stakeholder and public feedback to identify aspirations and gaps, and formulates recommendations for facility and service improvements covering the next twelve years. A key focus of this Plan relates to the viability of and future requirements for the Lucan Community Memorial Centre and associated outdoor amenities.

“The Township needs a long term vision for recreation. This Township is made up of young families and seniors and their concerns need to be met. There is lots of room for improvement.” – online survey respondent

The planning process was notable for its inclusion of several opportunities for public input, including public information sessions and surveys of community residents, local students, and stakeholders. A Committee comprised of community representatives and members of Township Council and staff assisted the consulting team with this project.

To effectively plan for the future, we must first understand the local context – people who live here, the trends affecting leisure participation, and the expressed needs of the people. The Township’s population is largely concentrated within the urban settlement area of Lucan (and to a lesser degree, Granton and Clandeboye), with the remaining population dispersed across a large rural area. There are an estimated 4,716 residents in Lucan Biddulph (2015 estimate) and, with a median age of 39 years (2011 Census), the population is likely to get older over the coming years, with the greatest growth forecasted for the 65+ age group.

As a result of its size, the Township has limited resources and a modest inventory of recreational amenities, the most significant being the Lucan Community Memorial Centre and Park. Residents make good use of these and other local facilities, but are also reliant on services provided in nearby municipalities. This is not necessarily a limitation, but rather a reflection of service delivery and financial realities.

Looking to the future, the Township’s population will continue to grow. Forecasts suggest that the Township’s population will increase by 28% between 2011 and 2025 to approximately 5,554 and another 23% to 6,809 by 2040. As a result, new programs and facilities will be required, particularly those oriented towards older adults, which is the fastest growing age group.

Key Findings

Section 10 (Implementation Strategy) contains a listing of the Master Plan’s 57 recommendations, along with their priority for implementation. These priorities should be communicated to the community and considered in the Township’s annual budget process, along with other municipal initiatives and services. The Township’s ability to implement these recommendations will depend on a number of factors, such as the rate and location of growth, the cost to provide services (and funding options), availability of suitable land, partnerships, expressed public priorities, etc.

The recommendations are reflective of the direction provided by the following vision statement, which was created to guide the way in which the Township and community deliver and coordinate parks and recreation services:

Working together to provide affordable recreational and active living opportunities for all ages and abilities.

While each of the Plan's recommendations is important in its own right, several key themes and priorities emerged during the creation of this Plan.

1. A desire for improved and/or new indoor recreation facilities was the most common theme heard through the community engagement program. In particular, there is substantial public support for upgrades to the **Lucan Community Memorial Centre**, which will require additional capital investment within the coming years. A major renovation of the Lucan Community Memorial Centre is recommended in order to extend the facility's lifespan, address barrier-free accessibility and lifecycle requirements, improve the user experience, and enhance the multi-use spaces.
2. There is also strong demand for improvements to existing parks and outdoor recreational amenities. Notable requests and needs include space for older adult activities, improvements to existing sports fields, the development of new soccer fields, and enhancements to the supply of local park amenities such as skate parks, splash pads, and playgrounds. Successful grant applications will go a long way towards addressing many of these items.
3. The community has emphasized its support for trail development and, to this end, there is a need to address policies and practices related to trail acquisition, creation, and maintenance.
4. It is recognized that the Township does not have the resources or capacity to meet every public need and expectation. **Partnerships** and collaboration between the Township and community groups are vital to successfully expand services to local residents. This includes working with groups such as volunteer and service clubs, community organizations, schools, and others. The Township's support, facilitation, and recognition of community efforts will build stronger relationships and enhance local opportunities.
5. As mentioned, the community is growing (but aging) and an emphasis needs to be placed on the promotion of physical activity as a means of achieving **community and individual wellness**. Working with its partners, the Township is urged to make advances that generate positive impacts on healthy lifestyles, civic pride, and community cohesion. Examples include continued participation in the Middlesex Active Communities Partnership, facilitation of an annual forum with stakeholder groups, the development of a Community Guide, and reciprocal agreements with school boards.
6. Behind the scenes, there is also a need to formalize the Township's parks and recreation **policies, guidelines, and organizational practices**. This is an important step in the evolution toward becoming a service-oriented agency focused on facilitating community activities and actively providing programs where gaps exist.

"Parks and recreation support quality of life and that's what draws people to want to be part of small communities." – online survey respondent

Section 1. Introduction

1.1 Master Plan Purpose

This is the first Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Township of Lucan Biddulph, which was formed through the amalgamation of the Village of Lucan and the Township of Biddulph in 1999. With a mix of rural and urban landscapes, the Township promotes a small town sense of place with room for growth. The Township is known for its strong agricultural sector, as well as its proximity to the City of London, where many residents commute on a daily basis. Both new and long-time residents enjoy affordable and convenient access to high quality parks and recreation opportunities and there is a desire for this to continue.

To this end, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a strategic policy document intended to guide the planning and development of parks and recreation facilities and services within the Township for the next twelve years. The Master Plan examines parks and recreation opportunities that exist in the Township, gathers public and stakeholder feedback to identify ideas and expectations, and develops a framework for addressing future facility and service needs.

Based on the Plan's Terms of Reference and findings, several key issues and opportunities pertaining to parks and recreation in the Township of Lucan Biddulph have been identified. Direction on the following topics and more is provided within the body of the Master Plan:

- Rationalization of existing parks and facilities (e.g., community halls, arena, pool, spray pad, sports fields, etc.), including the potential to reuse under-utilized assets
- Gaps and future parkland, trail, and recreation facility needs and priorities
- The viability of existing activity spaces within the Lucan Community Memorial Centre and Park and a long-term plan for infrastructure improvements
- The impact of leisure resources in nearby communities on local service delivery
- Classifications and standards for an integrated trails network
- Accessible and affordable recreation opportunities for all ages
- Roles and responsibilities of the Township and other service providers, including partnership opportunities
- Formalization of the Township's parks and recreation policies and guidelines, as well as a review of relevant staffing levels

1.2 Planning Process

The primary goal of this project is to research, develop, design, and produce a community-supported Master Plan document for parks and recreation services and facilities. This has been accomplished through three project phases.

Phase 1 involved the preparation of a Foundation Report, which provided the basis for the Master Plan. This report contained a review of the applicable background documents, research of relevant trends, inventories of the Township's parks and recreation assets, and the results of the community engagement program. The primary sections of the Foundation Report have been integrated into this Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Phase 2 included a number of assessments that led to the recommendations contained within this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The draft Master Plan was presented to the community and Township Council in Phase 3 and subsequently finalized.

The following schematic illustrates the interrelation of the various components of the master planning process.

Figure 1: Master Plan Framework



Monteith Brown Planning Consultants were retained to prepare the Master Plan, with guidance and assistance from a Committee comprised of the Mayor, one Councillor, four community representatives, and key Township staff.

1.3 Needs Assessment Methodology

In Sections 7 and 8 of this Plan, current and future recreation facility needs (to 2027 and beyond) in the Township of Lucan Biddulph have been assessed using a blend of factors, including the Township's historic provision of leisure facilities, public and municipal input, and local participation and utilization factors. The assessments also examine provision (i.e., the total number of each facility type as determined by applying 'targets') and geographic distribution (where the facilities/parks are physically located, in relation to the population).

"Provision targets" represent a recommended measure of the demand for recreation areas and facilities (e.g., 1 tennis court per 'x' residents or 1 ice pad per 'y' ice sport participants). They help to identify current and future infrastructure requirements in terms of total demand, but do not provide direction on geographic gap areas. The targets are created based on a combination of accepted industry standards, market-driven factors (such as demand/participation, trends and demographics), and the past and present circumstances of the community, as well as public input.

The standards are then compared to the facility supply and population figures to determine the degree of under or over supply currently and in the future. Although the focus of this Master Plan is the entire Township, the analysis also examines the geographic distribution of neighbourhood-level facilities to better assess accessibility to residents.

Location, travel patterns, and service levels both locally and within the region influence how users perceive the accessibility of recreation opportunities in the Township. Proximity is one of many factors that can increase one's physical activity. While the village of Lucan contains the largest complement of parks and recreation facilities, those living in the northern portion of the Township are likely to consider using services in the Municipality of South Huron (Exeter), while rural residents may seek destinations in other municipalities. Residents that are more willing to travel – or that are seeking services that are not provided locally – can choose to access services in a wider range of communities, including London, Ilderton, St. Marys, and more, all of which are within a 30-minute drive of the Township, meaning that the service area for recreation services is potentially quite large.

It is important to note that, given the size and composition of Lucan Biddulph, it is not feasible nor realistic for the Township to provide the same complement of facilities and services typically offered in large urban communities. The type of facility/activity and the level of competition/skill will affect catchment areas, with people being generally more like to travel greater distances to participate in more unique and elite activities. The Township's rural charm and affordability are two of the key aspects that residents value, and these factors must continue to be balanced against new levels of service.

1.4 Master Plan Organization

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is organized as follows:

Section 1: Introduction

Describes the purpose, methodology, and organization of the Master Plan.

Section 2: Community Profile

Contains an overview of the Township's population projections and socio-demographic characteristics that may impact the provision of parks and recreation in Lucan Biddulph.

Section 3: Key Trends and Best Practices

Contains a review of emerging trends and best practices observed across Ontario, as well as potential impacts on parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services in the Township.

Section 4: Community Input

Identifies and evaluates the public's perceptions of the current state of leisure in Lucan Biddulph, as well as future needs, opportunities, and challenges as identified through the public engagement program.

Section 5: Vision and Guiding Principles

Outlines a Vision Statement for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and a series of corresponding guiding principles.

Section 6: Service Delivery Assessment

Examines the roles and responsibilities of the Township and other service providers in the delivery of parks and recreation services. Contains recommendations relating to programming, communication, policies, staffing, policy development, and more.

Section 7: Indoor Facility Assessment

Examines the current supply of indoor recreation facilities and identifies necessary improvements, including new development opportunities.

Section 8: Parks and Outdoor Facility Assessment

Examines the current supply of outdoor recreation facilities and parks, in addition to identifying policy considerations for parkland dedication and development.

Section 9: Trails Assessment

Examines the current supply of trails and identifies recommendations for a comprehensive trail system, along with a standard for trail development.

Section 10: Implementation Strategy

Contains a summary of the Master Plan's recommendations with priority and resource implications identified for each. A process for monitoring and updating the Plan is also provided in this section.

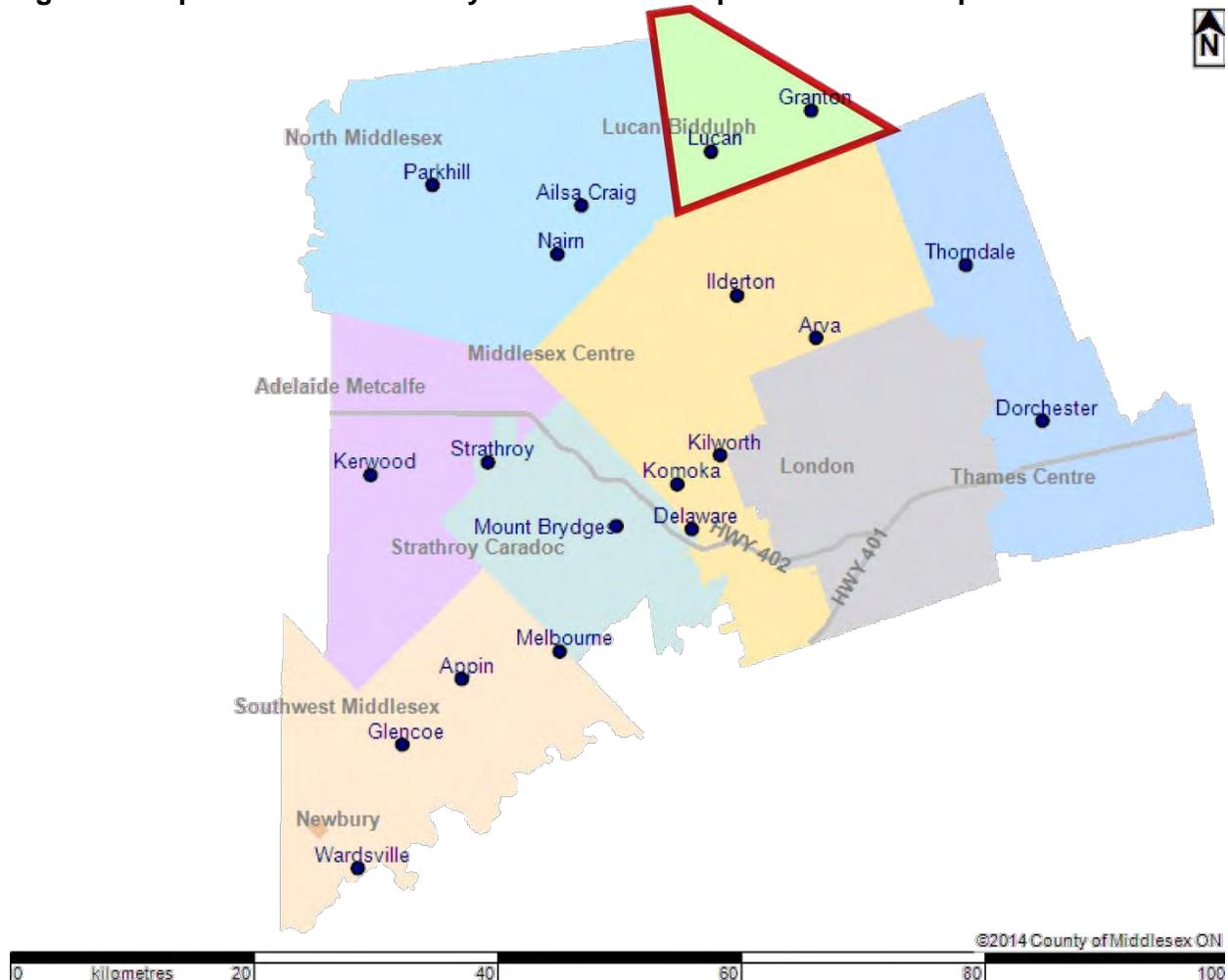
Section 2. Community Profile

This section provides an overview of the Township’s socio-demographic profile, including details regarding population growth trends that may have implications on the provision of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services.

2.1 Population

The Township of Lucan Biddulph is located at the northern edge of Middlesex County in Southwestern Ontario. The Township is in close proximity to the City of London and is bounded by the municipalities of Middlesex Centre, North Middlesex, South Huron, Perth South, and Thames Centre.

Figure 2: Map of Middlesex County and the Township of Lucan Biddulph



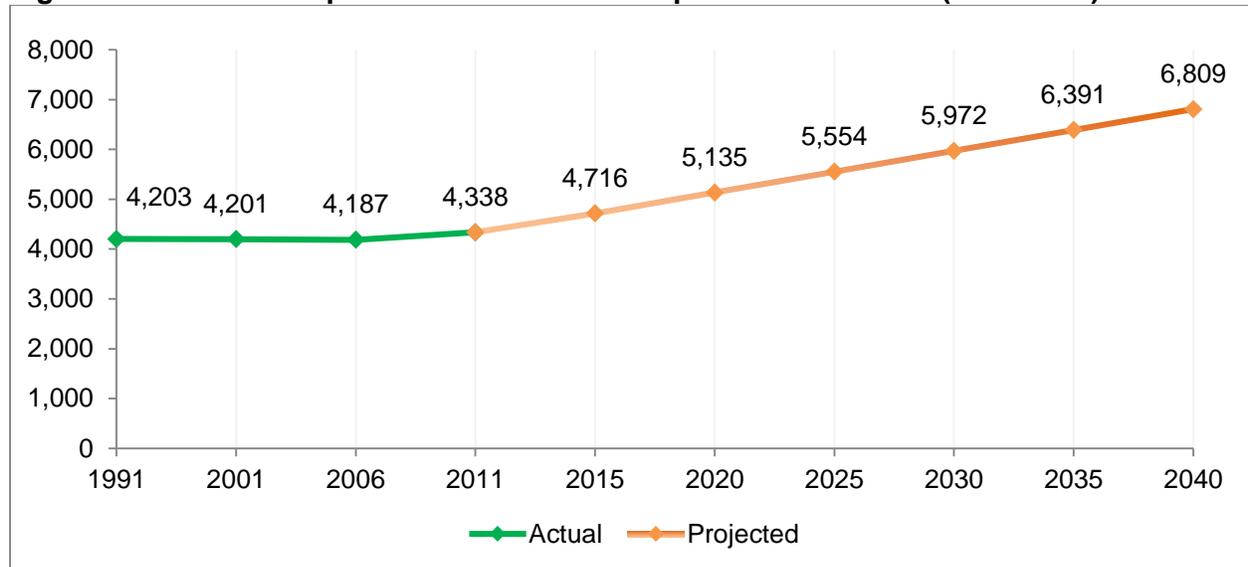
The Township contains three settlement areas: Lucan, Granton, and Clandeboye.

Lucan Biddulph had experienced modest population growth in the past decade. Between 2001 and 2011, the Township’s total population increased from 4,201 to 4,338, or approximately 3% (despite the number of private households increasing by 14%). The majority of the township’s recent population growth has taken place in the Village of Lucan, which is the largest urban area in the municipality¹.

Based on data collected from the 2011 Census and recent residential starts, the Township’s 2015 Development Charges Background Report anticipates the Township’s sustained residential growth to be accompanied by an associated increase in its population. Forecasts suggest that the Township’s population will grow by 28% between 2011 and 2025 to approximately 5,554 and another 23% to 6,809 by 2040² (representing an annual growth rate of 2%, or 85 new residents each year).

It should be noted here that Amendment No. 6 to the Township’s Official Plan (March 4, 2015) references the County’s 5-Year Review Population Projections, which were prepared in 2003 and place the Township’s population at 4,821 in 2026, a figure that is now expected to be exceeded given recent housing starts and growth rates. For the purposes of this Master Plan, the population forecasts contained in the Township’s Development Charges Background Report will be used.

Figure 3: Lucan Biddulph: Historic Growth & Population Forecasts (1991-2040)



Sources: Census of Canada, 1991-2011; Township of Lucan Biddulph 2015 Development Charges Background Report

Between 1991 and 2011, the number of private dwellings in Lucan grew at a rate roughly twice that of the rural area. This trend is more noticeable in recent years as, between 2008 and 2015, 86% of all residential units constructed in the Township were located within Lucan³.

In 2011, there were slightly more residents living in Lucan Biddulph’s rural area (52%, including Granton and Clandeboye) than in the village of Lucan (48%). Currently, the village of Lucan’s

¹ Township of Lucan Biddulph. (2015) Development Charges Background Report. p. 6.

² Ibid, p. 9.

³ Ibid, p. 8.

population is estimated at 2,500, representing 53% of the Township’s total population and this trend is expected to continue as residential growth is directed toward areas with municipal water and sewage services. In the coming decades, growth is anticipated in both urban and rural areas of the Township, although the lion’s share of population growth is forecasted for the village of Lucan – between 2015 and 2040, 80% of the Township’s new residents are expected to settle in the village. As a result, the large majority of future demand for parks and recreation services can be expected to be generated by residents living in the village of Lucan.

Table 1: Lucan Biddulph Population Projections – Lucan and Rural Areas (2011-2040)

Year	Lucan	Rural*	Lucan Biddulph
2011	2,076	2,262	4,338
2015	2,500	2,217	4,716
2020	2,834	2,301	5,135
2025	3,168	2,386	5,554
2030	3,502	2,470	5,972
2035	3,836	2,555	6,391
2040	4,170	2,639	6,809
15 year Change (2015-2030)	1,002 (40%)	253 (11%)	1,256 (27%)
25 year Change (2015-2040)	1,670 (67%)	422 (19%)	2,092 (44%)

* including Granton and Clandeboye

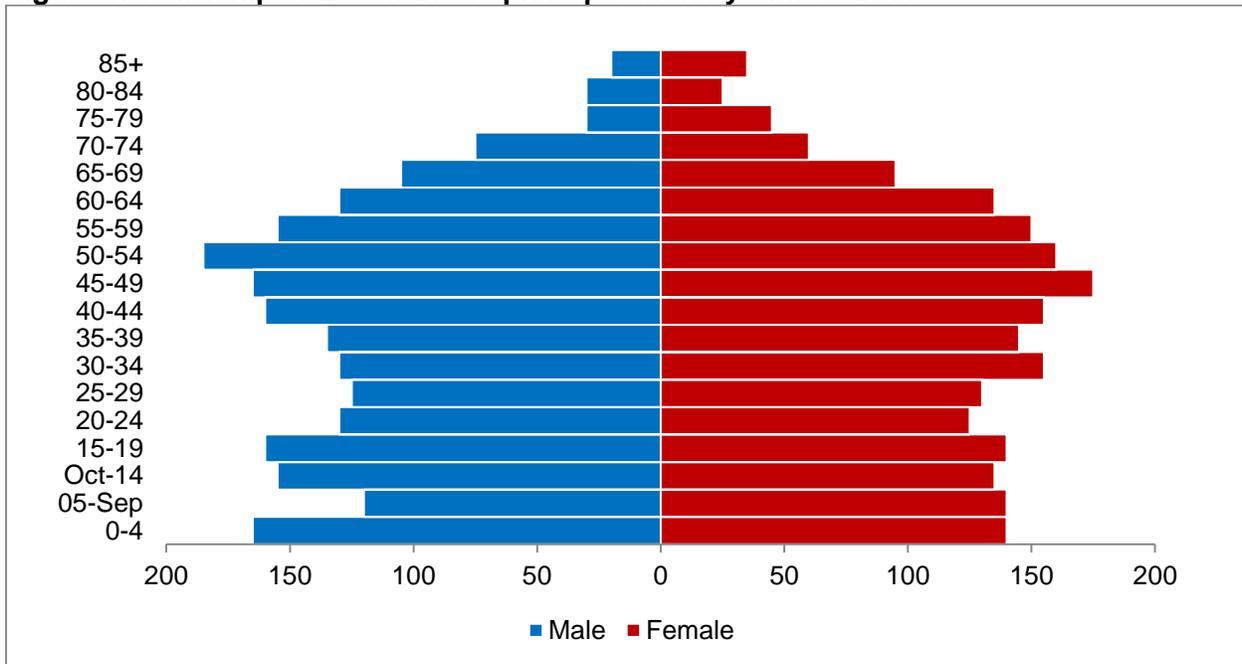
Data source: Township of Lucan Biddulph 2015 Development Charges Background Report

2.2 Age Structure

In 2011, Lucan Biddulph had a somewhat higher proportion of children and youth ages 19 and under (27%) compared to the County (23%). The Township also had a slightly lower proportion of seniors age 65 and over (12%) than the County (15%). This suggests that Lucan Biddulph has a slightly younger age profile, likely attributed in part to its success in attracting and/or retaining young adults and families.

Nevertheless, the aging population trend can still be discerned in the Township’s demographic data. Between 2001 and 2011, Lucan Biddulph’s median age increased from 35.3 to 38.9 years. The Township’s child and youth population (ages 19 and under) decreased in total numbers by approximately 10%, while its senior population (age 65 and over) grew by 27%.

Figure 4: Township of Lucan Biddulph Population Pyramid – 2011



Data Source: Census of Canada, 2011

The most recent age-based population forecast for the Township was prepared by the County of Middlesex in 2003 (see Table 2). This forecast predicted that the proportion of seniors 70 years of age and over will increase from 8% in 2011 to 12% by 2026, while the proportion of both children (ages 0 to 9 years) and youth (ages 10 to 19 years) will decline from 13% to 11% and 14% to 12%, respectively. As the Township is growing and these figures are proportionate to the Township’s total population, it is forecasted that all age groups will see natural increases, albeit some more than others.

Table 2: Lucan Biddulph Population Forecasts by Age Group

Age Group	2011	2026
0 to 9	13%	11%
10 to 19	14%	12%
20 to 34	18%	18%
35 to 54	30%	31%
55 to 69	18%	16%
70-plus	8%	12%

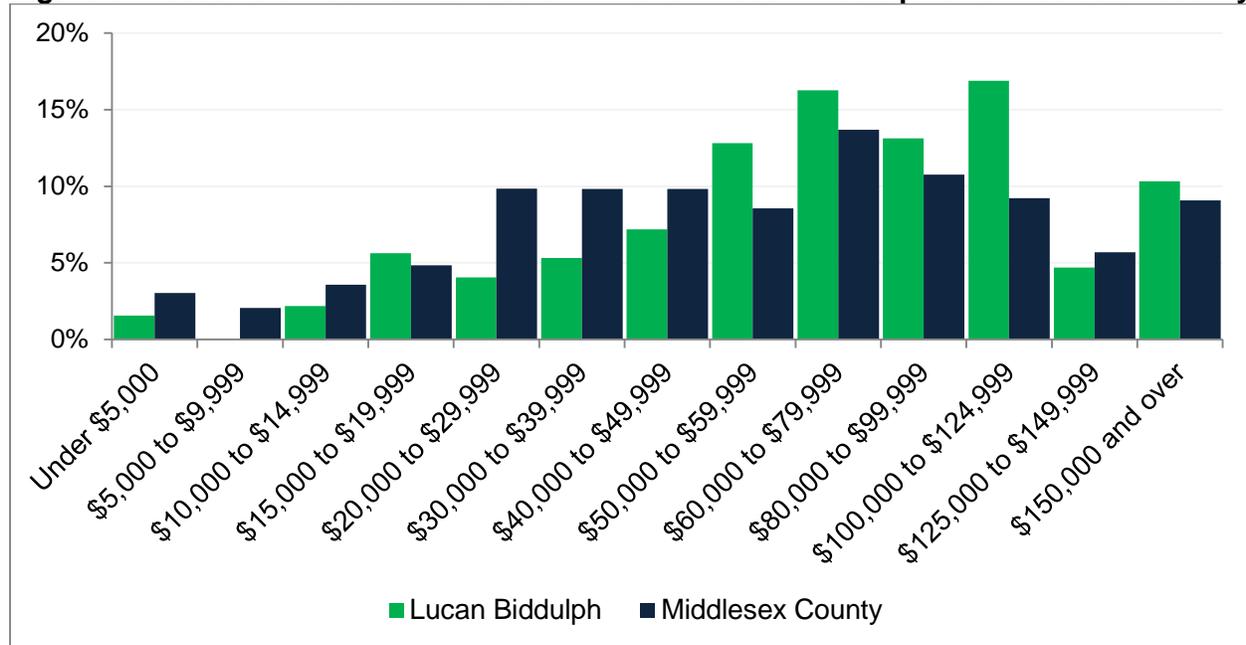
Data Source: County of Middlesex Population Projections, 2003

The Township remains an attractive destination for families, so some growth in all age categories is likely. Nevertheless, with only steady to modest growth in the child and youth populations, proportionately less demand for recreation opportunities targeted to these age groups can be expected. Conversely, greater demand for older adult activities can be expected, such as pickleball, social gatherings, and daytime events.

2.3 Income & Occupation

The Township’s median household income as of 2010 was \$73,073, which is substantially higher than Middlesex County’s median of \$57,987. There is ample research indicating that income levels have significant influences on active recreation participation rates^{4 5}. This is due to the tendency for higher income individuals to have more free time, increased mobility, and more disposable income to afford the expenses associated with organized activities, such as team sports. The relatively high income levels in Lucan Biddulph suggest that residents may be more likely to participate and take advantage of the Township’s parks and recreation services, although it is recognized that there are also households with limited means.

Figure 5: Household Income Distribution in 2010 – Lucan Biddulph and Middlesex County



Data Source: National Household Survey, 2011
Global-non response rate: 38.65% (Lucan Biddulph); 23.9% (Middlesex County)

In 2011, roughly a quarter (24%) of all employed residents worked in trades. There are also significant portions of the population that are employed in sales and service (17%), management (14%), and business (12%). Compared to the County, Lucan Biddulph has a much lower proportion of its population employed in sales and service and a higher percentage employed in trades, which may be part of the reason for the Township’s higher median incomes.

⁴ For more information, see Canadian Parks and Recreation Association’s Position Paper titled “Everybody gets to play – Recreation without barriers”, downloadable at: <http://lin.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/EverybodyGetstoPlayPositionPaper.pdf>

⁵ More information on the relationship between income and recreation and physical activity can be found in Information Sheet 4 of “Everybody Active”, a joint initiative of BC Recreation and Parks Association and the heart and Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon, downloadable at: http://www.physicalactivitystrategy.ca/pdfs/Why_Dont_People_Participate.pdf

Table 3: Proportion of All Workers Employed by Occupation, 2011

Occupation	Lucan Biddulph	Middlesex County
Trades (transport and equipment operators and related occupations)	24%	13%
Sales and service occupations	17%	25%
Management occupations	14%	10%
Business (finance and administration occupations)	12%	16%
Health occupations	9%	8%
Occupations in education (law and social; community and government services)	9%	13%
Natural resources (agriculture and related production occupations)	6%	2%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	3%	6%
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	3%	5%
Occupations in art (culture; recreation and sport)	2%	3%

Data Source: National Household Survey, 2011

Global-non response rate: 38.65% (Lucan Biddulph); 23.9% (Middlesex County)

Notwithstanding these employment statistics, the Township has a relatively small local employment sector and is a net exporter of jobs. The large majority of employed residents work in other municipalities, most notably London (the median commuting distance was 25 minutes according to the 2011 Census). According to the 2006 Census, 26% of employed residents worked at home or within the Township, while 62% worked in another municipality; 11% had no fixed workplace address.

2.4 Other Socio-demographic Considerations

The relationship between one's education and leisure-time physical activity suggests that higher levels of education are typically associated with healthier, more active lifestyles. Level of education can thus be a useful indicator of expected rates of participation in active recreation programs and sports facility usage.

As of 2011, Lucan Biddulph's population had a higher proportion of residents that had attained an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma (12%) than the County (7%) and Province (7%) and a lower proportion of university certificate, diploma or degree holders (14% in Lucan Biddulph, 21% in the County, and 23% in the Province). In addition, 46% of the Township's residents had a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree, and 27% had a high school diploma or an equivalent level of education. The levels of educational attainment for the Township's residents support the area's higher rate of employment in trades occupations.

Another demographic characteristic that has significant influence on one's choice of recreation activities is ethnicity. Simply put, individuals from different ethnic backgrounds tend to have different preferences for recreation. In planning for parks and recreation services in Lucan Biddulph, it is important that the programs and facilities respond to an appropriate range of ethnic groups.

Table 4 identifies the most common ethnic backgrounds to which the residents of the Township belong. The vast majority of Lucan Biddulph's residents identify themselves as some European origin; it is thus reasonable to assume that the most preferred recreation activities would be similar to those that are popular in Canada in the past several decades. Having said that, it is also acknowledged that the popularity of different recreation activities can wax and wane independent of the community's ethnic composition.

Table 4: Lucan Biddulph Ethnic Origin, 2011

Ethnic Origin	Persons*	Percent
English	1,660	39%
Irish	1,350	31%
Scottish	1,270	20%
German	800	19%
Dutch	630	15%
French	385	9%

*Respondents may identify themselves with more than one ethnic background
Data Source: National Household Survey, 2011

Although Canada's population is becoming increasingly diverse with the proportion of foreign-born individuals representing 21% of the nation's total population as of 2011 (compared to 20% in 2006)⁶, this trend has not yet been observed in Lucan Biddulph. According to the 2011 National Household Survey, only 7% (or 285 individuals) of Lucan Biddulph's population were immigrants and there were no recent immigrants who had settled in the Township since 2001. In 2011, approximately 6% of the Township's population reported speaking non-official languages in their households; of this, 31% spoke German, 29% Korean, 24% Dutch, and the remaining 16% spoke other languages.

⁶ Statistics Canada. (2013). Immigration and ethnocultural diversity in Canada. Retrieved from: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/99-010-x/99-010-x2011001-eng.pdf>

Section 3. Key Trends and Best Practices

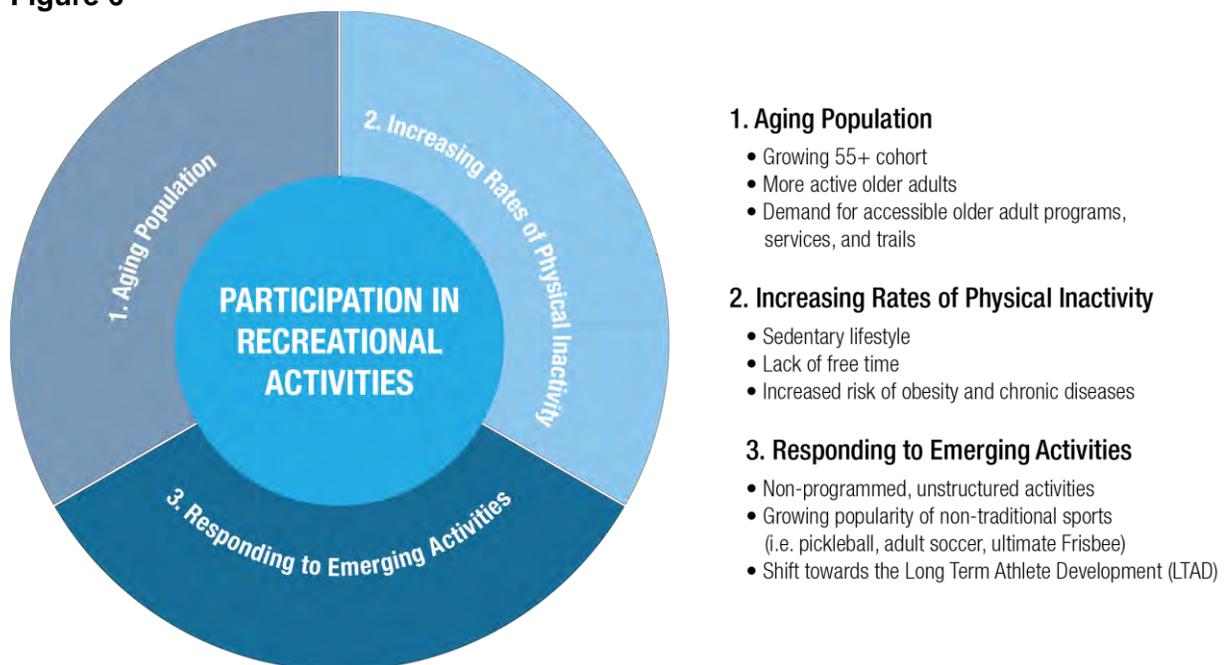
Effective planning requires the identification and constant monitoring of current and emerging trends that could potentially affect facility, program, and service needs.

In a municipal setting, parks and recreation services are provided and facilitated with the full knowledge of demographics, community interests, trends, social issues, and desired community outcomes. Regular communication and consultation with community groups and agencies to address gaps in the delivery of service and developing interventions together continues to be a winning model. From a recreation and active living standpoint, there are common trends that municipalities are addressing to better engage the community in living healthy lifestyles that will assist Lucan Biddulph in providing and facilitating well-rounded and meaningful opportunities for residents of all ages.

The following is a summary of major trends in participation, facility provision, and service delivery based largely on information collected from recent provincial and national research. These broad trends have then been supplemented with a discussion of potential implications within Lucan Biddulph and additional trends specific to the Township will be included in the subsequent assessment phases of the study.

3.1 Participation in Recreational Activities

Figure 6



Aging Population

Across Canada, the population of older adults age 55 and over is growing at a much faster rate than the rest of the population. In 1991, this age cohort represented only 9% of the country's population, but this figure had grown to 28% by 2011 and is poised for further growth. The boomer population (currently ages 51 to 69) will continue to fuel this phenomenon for the foreseeable future, making the aging population a major determinant of the type of parks and recreation services that will be needed for municipalities large and small. As previously identified, Lucan Biddulph is no exception to this national trend.

As a result, targeted and high quality older adult programs and services are expected to be in greater demand over the next decade and beyond, which is a challenge to many Recreation Departments that have traditionally focused on serving children and youth. Furthermore, greater demand for well-maintained and accessible trails can be expected as today's older adults seek to lead a more active lifestyle. To this end, trails are an ideal option as they facilitate moderate physical activities such as biking and walking.

Increasing Rates of Physical Inactivity

Physical inactivity rates continue to be a concern across the country. A lack of free time due to increased workloads both at home and in the workplace, coupled with a busier lifestyle oriented towards less physically intense pastimes, have made youth and adults more sedentary. Case in point, in a survey undertaken by ParticipACTION, teens identified that socializing (97%), entertainment (96%), and the internet (93%) were the most important aspects of their daily lives compared to physical activity (84%).⁷

While the Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines recommend that teens achieve a minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity each day, a report by Active Healthy Kids Canada on physical activity levels among the Country's younger population reports that only 7% of children (between the ages of 5 and 11) and 4% of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) are meeting this target, resulting in a physical activity grade of "D-" for 2015.⁸ This grade has remained the same for the third year in a row.

The issue of physical inactivity is not only limited to children and teens. A position paper prepared by the Middlesex-London Health Unit in 2013 titled "Linking Health and the Building Environment in Rural Settings: Evidence and Recommendations for Planning Healthy Communities in Middlesex County" found that 52% of adults in the County were overweight or obese, despite 53% of the adults considering themselves to be at least 'moderately active' during their leisure time (i.e., equivalent to walking at least 30 minutes a day). Furthermore, the paper also identified rural residents as being more likely to experience compromised health, as they have an increased risk of being obese and suffering from obesity-related illness, and are also less likely to be physically active.

To combat the decline of physical activity among all age segments of the population, many communities within Middlesex County (including Lucan Biddulph) have endorsed the Toronto Charter for Physical Activity to promote a more active lifestyle in their communities. The Charter

⁷ ParticipACTION. (2010). Coca-Cola and ParticipACTION survey results fact sheet. Retrieved from <http://www.participaction.com/wpcontent/uploads/2013/04/sogoactivefactsheet-final.pdf>

⁸ ParticipACTION. (2015). The Biggest Risk is Keeping Kids Indoors – Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth Retrieved from: <http://www.participaction.com/report-card-2015/report-card>

calls on decision-makers to create funding systems that prioritize recreation opportunities for all community members. It also identifies key actions to maximize parks and recreation opportunities in the community such as: advocacy for affordable and accessible parks and recreation services; education on services offered; and increased support for parks and recreation through partnerships, regular facility maintenance, and enhancement of parks and green space connectivity⁹. Within Lucan Biddulph, the upkeep of recreation facilities is particularly important in maintaining a healthy lifestyle as these facilities are identified as primary locations for physical activity in the position paper prepared by the Middlesex-London Health Unit.

Responding to Emerging Activities

Regional trends in parks and recreation services include a growing emphasis on non-programmed, unstructured activities – this profile does not align well with organized sports. Many new forms of recreational activities are emerging beyond the traditional spectrum of programs and facilities. They include but are not limited to: pickleball; adult soccer; off-leash dog parks; ultimate Frisbee; and many other pursuits. Most of these activities have been introduced in Lucan Biddulph in recent years. The popularity of these and other activities are driven by a number of factors, including a shift in demographics and leisure preferences.

One of the most notable activities requested in other communities is pickleball. Lucan Biddulph held a free pickleball open house event in August 2014 in partnership with Ontario Senior Games Association and the Township now runs a year-round pickleball program that plays every Tuesday at the Lucan Community Memorial Centre. While the sport originated in 1965, the activity has surged in popularity over the past few years due to the growing older adult community.

Another sport that has emerged in the past decade in Canada is soccer. The sport underwent enormous growth in the 1990s (replacing baseball and hockey as the most popular team sports among Canada's youth) and has been sustained by high registration in the past decade. Soccer's popularity continues today, although its growth appears to be slowing across the province, including players in younger age cohorts. Despite this slowdown, a recent study conducted by Solutions Research Group in 2014 found soccer to be second on a list of top 10 sports and activities in Canada among youth 3-17 years of age¹⁰. As soccer is comparatively inexpensive to play, it is a more accessible activity for participants in all income levels.

Ice and field sport governing bodies in Canada are now implementing a Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model that emphasizes athlete growth, maturation and development. This model identifies the needs of athletes at various stages of their development, including training and competition needs and also addresses the appropriate stages for the introduction and refinement of technical, physical, mental and tactical skills.¹¹

As a result of the LTAD and other factors (such as the amalgamation of associations and changes to residency requirements that allow for greater player movement), competitive

⁹ Draft International Toronto Charter for Physical Activity Toolkit, 2015, p. 12

¹⁰ Solutions Research Group Consultants Inc. (2014). Massive Competition in Pursuit of the \$5.7 Billion Canadian Youth Sports Market. Retrieved from: <http://www.srgnet.com/2014/06/10/massive-competition-in-pursuit-of-the-5-7-billion-canadian-youth-sports-market/>

¹¹ Canadian Sport for Life. (2011). LTAD path: A clear path to better sport, greater health, and higher achievement. Retrieved from: <http://canadiansportforlife.ca/parents/ltad-path>

development experiences and opportunities are in high demand. The higher the level of play and the greater the focus on athlete development, the more time that is required for practices, games, and camps. Hockey schools, academies, and other enhanced development experiences (e.g., power skating) are turning hockey, soccer, and other sports into year-round activities. Adoption of the LTAD model has also led to changes in how some sports associations allocate practice and game times, as well as facility requirements (e.g. a variety of new soccer field dimensions have been introduced; greater demand for dryland training spaces; etc.).

Although Lucan Biddulph has yet to experience a surge in non-traditional activities, the Township should nonetheless be cognizant of these emerging activities and proactively plan to accommodate them where demand exists. The repurposing of underutilized facilities and the provision of flexible facility spaces are two effective ways to meet the needs of a changing demographic.

3.2 Provision of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Figure 7



1. Aging Infrastructure

- Need to update facilities built in 1970s & 80s
- Opportunity to integrate new and emerging technologies
- Growing emphasis on environmentally sustainable building practices

2. Barrier Free Facilities

- Compliance with AODA and changes to OBC
- Growth in population with physical disabilities
- Marginalization of low-income families

3. Multi-Use and Multi-Generational Facilities

- Co-location of complementary facility components
- Convenient, centralized activity centres
- Multi-field complexes

4. A Renewed Vision for Parks and Recreation

- Recreation as a means to achieve wellbeing for the individual, community, and the natural and built environment
- Five goals: Active Living, Inclusion and Access, Connecting People, Supportive Environments, and Recreation Capacity

5. Active Transportation

- Increased awareness of its benefits (economic and health)
- Opportunity to create interconnected network of bike paths, walkways, and trails

Aging Infrastructure

There is ample research indicating that it is much more difficult for people to be active if public spaces and facilities for physical activity are not easily accessible¹². What's more, accessibility-related challenges are more pronounced in rural communities as their residents are more geographically dispersed. In 2006, Parks and Recreation Ontario estimated that 30-50% of recreation facilities were nearing the end of their useful lifecycle.¹³ Many recreation facilities were built between 1956 and 1980, with a number of them constructed to celebrate Canada's Centennial year in 1967. More recently, a number of grant and shared funding programs were introduced to renew the nation's aging recreational facilities and, while these programs went a long way toward reducing the infrastructure deficit, significant funding shortfalls remain.

Ontario Recreation Facilities Association recommends that recreation facilities that have surpassed 32 years of age undergo upgrades and renovation to ensure that they are safe and serviceable¹⁴. Many buildings that were constructed in the 1980s are now reaching this age and having a plan in place to either replace or upgrade them is more vital than ever. There are a number of challenges with older facilities, including (but not limited to) the following:

- many were designed to different construction and design standards and may have antiquated facility components (structural, mechanical, electrical, etc.);
- many lack modern amenities, such as larger (or a sufficient number of) change rooms, heated arena viewing areas, and multi-use designs;
- many may not be barrier-free for persons with disabilities; and
- many are not energy efficient and thus have higher operating costs.

Locally, the Township of Lucan Biddulph has identified the need to assess the Lucan Community Memorial Centre in order to ensure that it is able to offer a high level of service over the longer-term, as well as to accommodate emerging recreation activities through the efficient use of resources.

The need for Lucan Biddulph to upgrade and possibly plan for the rebuild of parts of its parks and recreation infrastructure also presents the Township with an opportunity to integrate new and emerging technologies into its service delivery system. Better communication with members of the public, improved energy efficiency, and enhanced social connections (especially among youth) are potential benefits that could be captured by investing in 'tech-savvy' facilities. In particular, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability have become key considerations in renovation or new construction projects. Many communities have adopted policies to require LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), BOMA BEST (Building Environmental Standards), or other similar certification for certain types of buildings. Feed-in-Tariff programs that promote renewable energy sources (e.g., solar panels) are also being considered by many municipalities. Although these sustainable building practices tend to have higher up-front costs,

¹² Middlesex-London Health Unit. (2013). Linking Health and the built environment in rural settings: Evidence and recommendations for planning healthy communities in Middlesex County. Retrieved from: <https://www.healthunit.com/uploads/linking-health-and-the-built-environment-in-rural-settings-evidence-and-recommendations-for-planning-healthy-communities-in-middlesex-county.pdf>

¹³ Parks and Recreation Ontario. (2006). Ontario sport and recreation infrastructure study. Retrieved from: <http://216.13.76.142/PROntario/index.htm>

¹⁴ Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc. (2009). Determining your facilities replacement.

the resultant savings from reduced utility consumption means that this type of investment may be able to pay for itself over time.

Barrier Free Facilities

Through the design of new facilities and adaptation of existing facilities, municipalities are striving to remove physical barriers in order to promote inclusivity. This vision is supported (and legislated) through recent changes to the Ontario Building Code and the introduction of the 2005 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), which has a goal of removing all barriers by 2025.

It is estimated that nearly one-quarter of Ontarians are living with a physical disability¹⁵, which translates to over 1,050 in the Township of Lucan Biddulph alone. As many of the Township's facilities were built in the past several decades and may not be considered accessible by today's standards, it is important that any facility upgrades or construction incorporate accessible design elements wherever possible. Accessible ramps at principal entrances, sufficient turning radii in accessible washroom stalls, and adequate accessible seating are just some accessibility-related provisions that the Township should consider to meet the needs of the population in the coming years.

In addition to physical disabilities, economic inequality is another major barrier to participation in parks and recreation activities. The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association reported that family after-tax income inequality rose by 41% between 1995 and 2011¹⁶, marginalizing opportunities for lower-income families to participate in recreational experiences due to costs associated with transportation, equipment, lessons for organized sports and activities, and facility rental. The planning and future provision of Lucan Biddulph's parks and recreation services need to be aware of the growing income disparity and take steps to mitigate economic barriers to participation.

Multi-Use and Multi-Generational Facilities

There is a growing expectation that facilities contain something for everybody, rather than being designed solely for singular uses. Co-location of complementary facility components often creates convenient, centralized activity centres and generates operating efficiencies. The provision of high quality, multi-use facilities encourages physical and social activity among all age groups, while also supporting opportunities for sport tourism at a municipal or regional scale.

Building on the aspect of convenience and consumer demand for high quality facilities, the traditional single sports field park is losing favour among user groups who instead prefer multi-field parks that provide amenities such as parking, concession stands, and washrooms. Multi-field complexes are also gaining favour because they cater to the tournament market and provide opportunities to have multiple family members participating in different activities at the same location, often at the same time.

¹⁵ Statistics Canada. (2006). Canadians in context – People with disabilities. Retrieved from <http://www4.hrsdc.gc.ca/.3ndic.1t.4r@-eng.jsp?iid=40>

¹⁶ Canadian Parks and Recreation Association. (2015). A framework for recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to wellbeing. Retrieved from: <http://lin.ca/resources/framework-recreation-canada-2015-pathways-wellbeing-final>

The Lucan Community Memorial Centre is a good example of a multi-use recreation facility. This facility contains an arena, community halls, outdoor soccer fields, baseball diamonds, running track, and more. There may be potential to further diversify the services offered at the Centre through new programming and/or by appropriating existing structures and spaces for new purposes.

A Renewed Vision for Parks and Recreation

The Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association published a paper in 2015 describing a Framework for Recreation in Canada. The Framework proposes an updated definition of ‘recreation’ as “the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing” (Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, 2015, p. 4). It envisions recreation as a means to achieve wellbeing for the individual, community, and the natural and built environment.

To achieve this, the Framework describes five goals and related priorities for action. The five goals include:

- Active Living
- Inclusion and Access
- Connecting People
- Supportive Environments
- Recreation Capacity

In the past 50 years, the provision of parks and recreation services has shifted from focusing on outreach to the marginalized to an “individual-based, facility-focused, user-pay model” (Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, 2015, p. 7). The Framework aims to revitalize the community-centric approach to developing parks and recreation services that enhance the wellbeing of all who participate.

Active Transportation

Active transportation is defined by the Public Health Agency of Canada as any form of human-powered transportation (i.e., walking, cycling, etc.) for utilitarian and leisure purposes.¹⁷ In addition to its apparent economic and environmental benefits (e.g., reduced motorized vehicles, road congestion, and greenhouse gas emissions, lower road maintenance costs, etc.), there are many other inherent benefits to active transportation, particularly with regards to human health. For example, it is effective in combating chronic diseases related to physical inactivity and obesity, and has also been found to heighten community and social vibrancy by encouraging compact developments and more livable communities where people are more likely to have personal contact with each other.

Opportunities for active transportation are largely dependent on the proximity between residential areas and destinations such as commercial, recreational, institutional and employment areas, as well as the prevalence of natural or man-made corridors that can be leveraged for active transportation purposes. Research has shown that residents in rural areas are less likely to use active transportation methods given the spatial distribution of destinations

¹⁷ Public Health Agency of Canada. (2010). What is active transportation? Retrieved from <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/hp-ps/hl-mvs/pa-ap/at-ta-eng.php>

and the lack of supporting infrastructure (e.g., sidewalks), resulting in a greater reliance of automobiles. However, with more than half of the Township's population being located within the urban settlement area of Lucan, there is a unique opportunity for establishing an active transportation network comprising of bike paths, walkways, and recreational trails that connect the various residential neighbourhoods, parks and recreation sites, commercial areas, schools, and other key destinations.

3.3 Enhancing Service Delivery in Recreation and Parks

Figure 8



1. Partnerships

- Engaging private and community partners for facility renovation/upgrade, or new construction
- Partnership in programming & fund raising
- Involving stakeholders in the facility planning process

2. Volunteerism

- Slightly rising volunteer rates
- Mostly older adults
- Challenge and opportunity in engaging youth to volunteer

3. Increased Focus on Tourism

- More festivals, tournaments, and special events
- Improve awareness of local resources
- Enhance parkland and trails system

4. Technology and Customer Service

- Integration of web-base technologies for scheduling and communication
- Software solutions for facility and program management

5. Cost Recovery

- Policy-driven pricing strategies
- Performance targets and repair and maintenance funds
- Hourly fee surcharge to fund identified projects

6. Making Recreation Affordable

- Funding partnerships
- Fee subsidy programs
- Child and youth development programs

Partnerships

Community partners, service clubs, private organizations, school boards, and related agencies are critical contributors to the local parks and recreation system. Active players in the community, such as the Lion's Club and the Optimists' Club, should be engaged in the conversation about Lucan Biddulph's future provision of parks and recreation services to identify opportunities for leveraging resources and delivering quality service in an effective and efficient manner. In terms of facility provision, many municipalities are seeking ways to collaborate with outside organizations in the funding of facility projects and/or management of facility components. In exchange, private/community partners may receive benefits in the form of

increased access to high quality parks and recreation facilities, support from local residents, and other economic benefits (i.e., from increased tourism and facility space rental).

Private and community partners can also be engaged to provide parks and recreation programming to the Township, as well as in the stewardship of Lucan Biddulph's parks and recreation facilities. For example, partnership opportunities may also exist with private sector businesses through sponsorships, project funding, and donations. The most successful partnerships are derived from common objectives (e.g., environmental conservation, community improvement, physical activity, trail development, etc.), utilizing the skills and strengths of each group in delivering access while sharing responsibilities and minimizing risks (e.g., costs and liabilities).

While there are many benefits to sharing risks and liabilities through partnerships, there are also some potential risks that the Township should be aware of. For example, the residents of Lucan Biddulph will hold the Township accountable for the quality of parks and recreation services provided, even if those services are provided by a private/community organization under a partnership agreement. It is therefore very important that third party service providers be monitored on a continuing basis and evaluated periodically.

Volunteerism

Volunteers are essential to the operation and delivery of many parks and recreation services, and they are particularly vital in smaller communities where resources tend to be more limited. The National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (2010) indicated that volunteerism is rising slightly, but experiences in several communities suggest that many groups still struggle in finding volunteers, particularly younger volunteers.

Older adults currently represent the most active volunteer group; however, it is anticipated that this group will soon move on from the volunteer workforce, resulting in greater pressures on the delivery of services and impact programming capacity. This gap in the volunteer base will create opportunities to attract new volunteers, particularly among youth. This presents a unique opportunity for Lucan Biddulph; as mentioned earlier, the Township has a higher proportion of children and youth than its neighbours in the County. Successfully engaging this group, along with young adults, to contribute more of their time towards community service and participation will alleviate much of the stress in maintaining high quality parks and recreation services in the Township.

Increased Focus on Tourism

The provision of high quality parks, trails, and facilities are a way to draw visitors and participants from external markets through tournaments, festivals, special events, nature-based and historical experiences, and more. Promoting tourism requires exploring ways to improve awareness of the local resources to visitors. To encourage visitors and tourism, municipalities and communities often assess opportunities provided by their parkland and trail systems, as well as through the provision of high quality facilities and services that become destination points.

While parks may not generate significant revenues and profits, they are often a destination for visitors. In particular, their ability to accommodate festivals and special events often generate "multiplier effects" from tourism spending but also create a sense of local pride, builds

community spirit, and offers tourists and residents alike with a variety of leisure opportunities. In Lucan Biddulph, the Township and community has in the past held several local events for residents and visitors to take part in and socialize with one another, such as the Shamrock Floor Hockey Tournament, community craft shows, and Baconfest.

Technology and Customer Service

In recent years, the adoption of new technologies has provided many municipalities and community groups with a more advanced and streamlined process to track participation levels, improve scheduling, and provide quick registration for participants. With the number of homes with high-speed internet access steadily increasing, municipalities are able to provide a wealth of pertinent information on municipal websites. In addition, most age groups are capable of navigating the internet (to varying degrees). The Township of Lucan Biddulph has a well-developed website, a growing presence on social media, and makes use of contemporary software solutions for facility and program management.

Cost Recovery

As operational costs rise, more municipalities are establishing cost recovery ratios to justify rental fees. Traditionally, municipalities have relied on historical precedent and regional benchmarking, but this is gradually being eliminated in favour of policy-driven pricing strategies.

Financial performance targets based on annual operating expenses are the most common approach, but there are some municipalities that include small capital reserve contributions in their pricing strategies. For example, a municipality may contribute to an annual repair and maintenance fund that is considered as part of the operating budget; the pricing policy is then based on the hourly operating cost (including the reserve contribution), discounted by user type.

The matter of capital reserves is often addressed more directly through an hourly fee surcharge. Surcharges are commonly applied for a pre-determined number of years at a consistent rate. Typically, municipalities consider surcharges when there is an identified project on the horizon, which makes it more likely for users to support this form of capital fundraising. Depending on the charge, it may take several years for the contributions to accumulate, which is why alternate forms of funding and/or financing are required for major capital projects.

Making Recreation Affordable

The Charter for Recreation and Parks in Ontario states that “everyone in Ontario has a right to quality, accessible and inclusive recreation and parks services in their communities – services that are essential for the health of Ontarians, the quality of life in our communities and the sustainability of our environment.”

Affordability can be a significant barrier to participation in recreation, particularly in higher cost sports, as studies have correlated higher household income to higher participation rates due to a greater ability to pay. For hockey, costs can be intensive, particularly for rep level play (i.e., “representative” travel teams) where household expenditures on registration fees, equipment, and travel are much higher than at the house league level. This concern is especially prevalent in rural communities and the Township’s geographic location also necessitates a high degree of travel for competitive level sports. According to a recent article, cost could be the most pressing problem facing hockey at the grassroots level, with a senior Hockey Canada official stating that

cost plays a significant role in the stagnant or declining registration numbers faced by many minor hockey associations.¹⁸

To provide equal opportunities across all income groups, various policies, procedures, and programs have been established to remove income-related barriers to participation. In 2010, Parks and Recreation Ontario released a guide of best practices in delivering recreational opportunities to engage low-income families. This guide identifies a series of practices which focus around five key themes:

1. Community partnerships and inter-sectoral collaboration help ensure a holistic approach that maximizes resources and increases access to recreational, social and educational programming.
2. Funding partnerships are key, as many practices are dependent on additional funding to ensure financial viability and long-term sustainability.
3. Fee subsidy programs that minimize or eliminate user fees, transportation costs and equipment costs enable low-income families to access recreational programs that they would otherwise not be able to afford.
4. A written access policy that is approved by a municipal council formalizes the commitment of the organization and helps ensure the viability and long-term sustainability of the policy.
5. Child and youth development programs foster leadership and self-esteem, which enhances physical and emotional health and increases social skills, resulting in healthier, more resilient adults who are able to effectively contribute to society.¹⁹

¹⁸ Rutherford K. Is the cost keeping kids out of minor hockey? Absolutely, players and parents say. CBC Sports. Available online at www.cbc.ca/sports/hockey/ourgame/story/2009/01/16/hockey-costs-too-much.html

¹⁹ Parks and Recreation Ontario. Affordable Access to Recreation for Ontarians. 2010. Retrieved from http://www.prontario.org/index.php/ci_id/3721.htm

Section 4. Community Input

Community engagement is a key component of any master planning process as it provides insight into the perceived needs of the public, stakeholders, staff, and local government officials. Locally collected data, when combined with an analysis of national and provincial trends and other factors, provides a solid foundation upon which to build the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Specifically, this Plan has employed the following public participation tools:

- community open house
- community survey
- student questionnaire
- stakeholder group survey, key informant interviews, and focus groups
- public meeting (to present the Draft Plan)
- presentations to Council
- regular meetings with the Master Plan Committee

These engagement methods provided valuable input regarding strengths, challenges, needs, and opportunities relative to parks and recreation in the Township. Combined with other research, these findings have been used as a basis for the assessments that follow. Please note that this section summarizes public input and does not contain any recommendations. The information presented is specific to each consultation tool and has not been considered in the context of other research or consultation initiatives.



4.1 Community Open House

A community open house was held at the Lucan Community Memorial Centre on June 16, 2015 to formally launch the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process and to solicit input from the public. Approximately 40 participants attended this event, which had displays that included background information about the Township and the master planning process. Attendees were asked to respond to a series of questions, which are summarized below. A transcription of responses from the event can be found in Appendix A.

- Strong support was expressed for a connected trails system
- More programs for children, adults, and seniors were requested
- Suggestions for maintaining and upgrading existing facilities, including:
 - various improvements to the Main Hall and Arena
 - installation of a signalized crosswalk at the arena
 - warmer water pool (possibly an indoor pool)
 - improvements to ball diamonds and tennis courts
- Balanced provision of facilities between Lucan and Granton
- Greater direct communication with community groups

4.2 Community Survey

Residents of Lucan Biddulph were invited to participate in an online survey to express their opinions on the parks and recreation services currently offered by the Township, how future services should be provided, and desired programs and facilities. The information gathered from this survey assists in providing a basis for an informed assessment of the strengths, challenges, current capacity, and future needs of the Township.

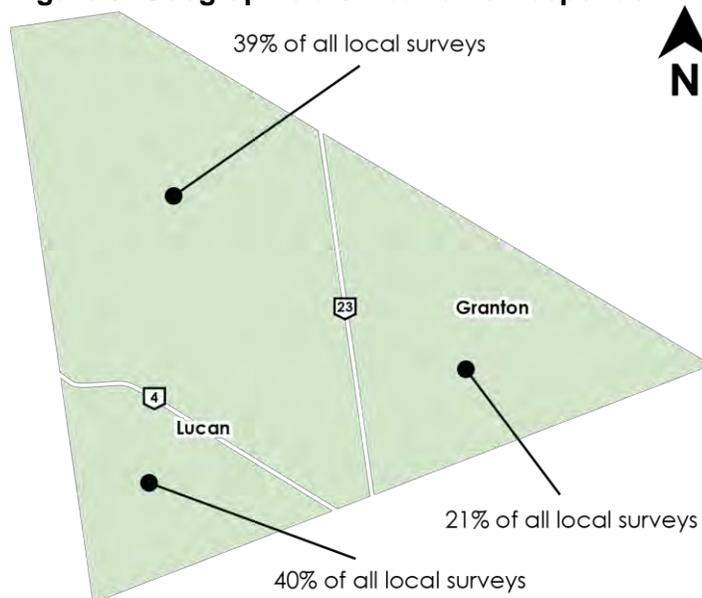
The online survey was active for eight weeks from May 22, 2015 to July 10, 2015 and was promoted through the Township's website, information posters, and signage erected in parks and recreation facilities throughout the community. A total of 299 respondents completed the survey and the findings represent the opinions of these individuals and the households to which they belong. Not all respondents answered all questions and the summary data has been adjusted to account for non-response. The findings of the online survey are not considered statistically significant, as it is a self-administered survey and the sample is not randomly selected.

This section provides a summary of the main findings of the survey. As with other consultation tools, the survey findings should not be considered in isolation, but instead factored in the context of other community input and assessment methodologies. A full account of the survey data is contained in Appendix A.

Residency & Demographic Profile of Survey Respondents

94% of all respondents are residents of Lucan Biddulph. Of this, 21% live to the east of Highway 23 (Granton and area), while 40% live to the south/west of Highway 4, and 39% live to the north/east of Highway 4 (but west of Highway 23).

Figure 9: Geographic distribution of respondents living in Lucan Biddulph (n=220)



The geographic distribution of the surveys is generally consistent with the Township’s population distribution. For respondents who indicated that they were not residents of the Township (6%), their place of residence included nearby municipalities such as Middlesex Centre, North Middlesex, South Huron, London, and Strathroy-Caradoc.

Respondents were asked to indicate the total number of persons within their household that fall into each age category. The age group most represented within the survey is the ‘34-54 years’ cohort (comprising of 31% of all individuals), followed by the ‘under 10 years’ cohort (25%), and the ‘20-34 years’ cohort (16%). Very few older seniors (age 70+, 1%) participated in the online survey. The prominence of the younger age cohorts represented in the online survey suggests that the Township’s younger population – particularly families with young children (the average respondent household contains 3.8 members) – are engaged in conversations about the provision of parks and recreation services in Lucan Biddulph.

Table 5: Age composition of responding households (n=257)

Age Category	Number of Individuals Represented	% of Individuals Represented	2011 Census % for Lucan Biddulph
Under 10 years	240	25%	13%
10-19 years	132	14%	14%
20-34 years	155	16%	19%
35-54 years	297	31%	29%
55-69 years	133	14%	18%
70 years and over	10	1%	7%
Total	967	100%	100%

The income distribution of survey respondents is generally skewed towards the more affluent end of the income spectrum. 47% of the surveyed households reported annual income levels of \$100,000 and over, more than the 31% that was reported in the 2011 Census for the entire Township. This too suggests that a large portion of younger, two-income families completed the survey.

Figure 10: Respondents' household Income distribution in 2014

(n=185; ‘Don’t know/Prefer not to disclose’ responses are not displayed in the chart)



Participation

Measuring the participation levels of different leisure activities undertaken by Township residents helps to ensure that Lucan Biddulph’s parks and recreation services are responsive to the needs of the community. The online survey asked respondents to identify the activities that they or members of their households participated in within the past 12 months and found that walking or hiking for leisure was the most popular at 75%, followed by use of playground equipment (60%), swimming (56%), and hockey/ figure skating/ ice skating (55%). It is interesting to note that, with the exception of the ice sports, the most popular activities amongst survey respondents are unorganized activities, where one has greater flexibility to choose the timing, duration, and level of one’s participation.

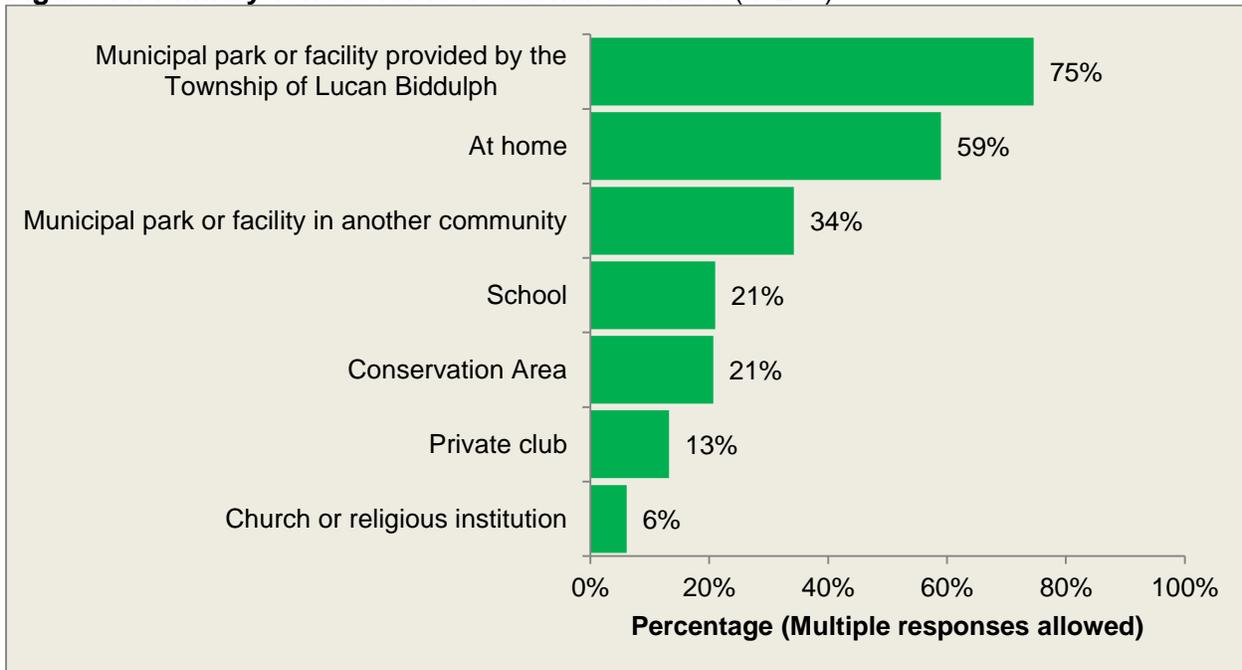
Table 6: Proportion of responding households that participated in selected activities within past 12 months (n=290; multiple responses allowed)

Activity	Percentage of Households
Walking or Hiking for Leisure	75%
Use of Playground Equipment	60%
Swimming	56%
Hockey, Figure Skating, or Ice Skating	55%
Aerobics, Yoga, Fitness or Weight-training	52%
Dog Walking (on or off-leash)	40%
Baseball or Softball	40%
Running or Jogging	38%
Soccer	37%
Cycling or Mountain Biking	34%
Pre-School or Children Programs	26%
Volleyball	19%
Skateboarding	17%
Basketball	13%
Tennis	10%
Organized Teen Programs	10%
Organized Seniors Programs	4%
Curling	2%
Other (various)	7%

Respondents were asked where these activities generally take place, with multiple responses allowed. Three-quarters (75%) of all respondents stated that they participate in recreation activities in a municipal park or facility provided by the Township, 59% reported that they participate in these activities at home, and 34% reported going to a municipal park or facility in another community.

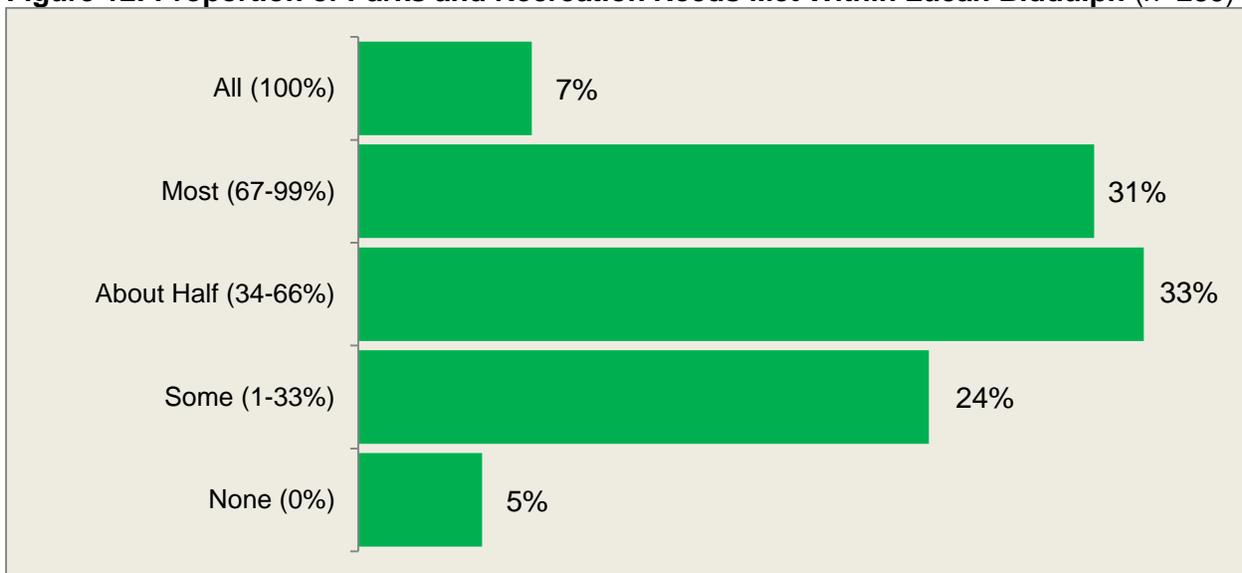
The vast majority of respondents (87%) stated that they had visited the Lucan Community Memorial Centre within the past 12 months, highlighting the role of the Centre as a social and recreation hub for Lucan Biddulph.

Figure 11: Primary venues for recreational activities (n=295)



38% of respondents noted that all or most of their recreation needs are met within the Township, 33% indicated that about half of their needs are met locally, and 29% felt that only some or none of their needs are met locally. Given the proximity of the Township to larger population centres that offer a wider variety of recreational opportunities, these findings are not surprising and are indicative of reasonable levels of service with 71% of respondents indicating that about half or more of their recreational needs are met within Lucan Biddulph.

Figure 12: Proportion of Parks and Recreation Needs Met Within Lucan Biddulph (n=289)



When asked whether respondents and their household members are able to participate in parks and recreation activities as often as they would like, 46% indicated that they were not. Of this, 65% identified a lack of desired facilities or programs as the primary reason for their inability to participate as often as they would like. Other reasons include: a lack of personal time (46%); desired program not offered at a convenient time (43%); and lack of information on recreation opportunities in the Township (30%). These findings suggest that it may be possible for the Township to increase programs participation rates through facility upgrades and expanding its current range and scope of recreation programming and initiatives.

It is interesting to note that 57% of survey respondents living in Lucan and area indicated that they are able to participate as often as they like, while only 44% of survey respondents from Granton and area indicated the same, suggesting that additional barriers to participate (whether real or perceived) exist in Granton and area.

Table 7: Reasons given for inability to participate in recreation activities as often as preferred (n=122; multiple responses allowed)

Reason	Percentage of Households
Lack of desired facilities or programs	65%
Lack of personal time / Too busy	46%
Program not offered at a convenient time	43%
Lack of information / Unaware of opportunities	30%
Lack of money / Too expensive	24%
Lack of Child Care	15%
Lack of transportation / Facility too far away	11%
Health problems / Disability / Age	9%
Language / Cultural Barrier	1%

By far, the activities that respondents travel to other communities for the most are fitness training (including going to the gym, fitness clubs, getting a personal trainer, and weight training) and indoor swimming (mostly at the St. Marys facility). Respondents also frequently went to other communities for baseball (including softball and t-ball), hockey, and activities relating to the usage of a trail network (walking/jogging, hiking, and cycling); it should be noted that several local sports teams travel outside of the Township as part of regular league play.

Table 8: Top 10 activities respondents participated in outside of Lucan Biddulph (n=233; open-ended responses)

Activity	Percentage of Households
Fitness	24%
Swimming	20%
Indoor Swimming	9%
Baseball (including Softball)	9%
Hiking	8%
Hockey	8%
Walking/Jogging	7%
Gymnastics	6%
Cycling	5%
Soccer	5%

70% of respondents stated that the reason they travel to other communities for these activities is because they are unavailable in the Township. 24% noted that the quality of the program/facility offered in other communities was the reason for their decision to travel elsewhere. Other reasons given include: lack of available facility/program at the preferred time (22%), attending tournaments and other special events (15%), and personal connections to other communities (12%).

Table 9: Reasons for travelling to other communities for recreation activities
(n=122; multiple responses allowed)

Reason given	Percentage of Respondents
Facility/program is not available in the Township	70%
Quality of facility/program is superior	24%
Facility/program not available at the preferred time	22%
Tournaments/special events/travel teams	15%
"Connected" to other community/used to live there	12%
Closer to other activities or shopping	9%
Less expensive	9%
Closer to work or school	8%

Program/Activity Gaps

Between 60% and 80% of survey respondents reported that they would like to see the Township offer additional parks and recreation activities (note: several respondents skipped this question, making their intentions uncertain). Suggestions varied greatly and no one specific activity stood out. Suggestions include gymnastics, various activities for children, dance classes, basketball, fitness classes (including personal training and weight training), baseball, and yoga. Although not an activity in itself, many respondents also mentioned a desire for a gym/fitness centre and indoor pool frequently in their feedback.

Table 10: Activities respondents would like to see the Township offer more of
(n=165; open-ended responses)

Type of Activity	Count
Gymnastics	14
Children's Activities (e.g., camps, dance, music, skating, gymnastics, etc.)	12
Dance	12
Basketball	9
Fitness Classes/Programs	8
Swimming/Aquatic Classes for children	8
Baseball (including softball, t-ball, tournaments)	7
Yoga Classes	7

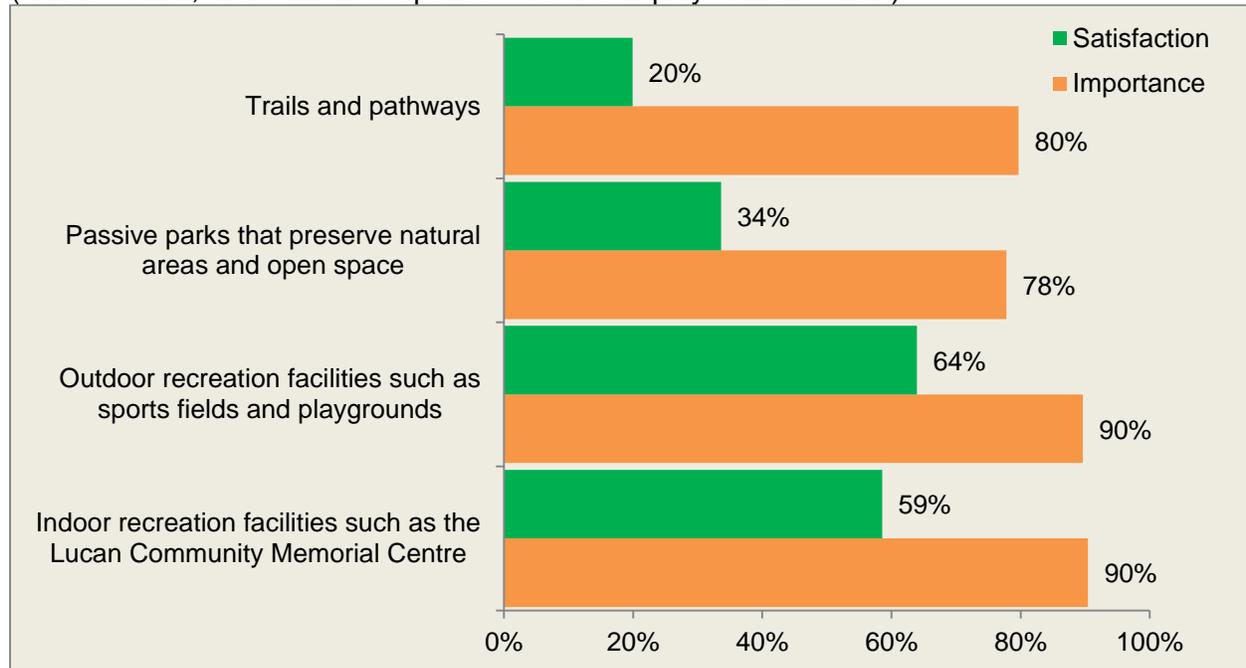
Most respondents (72%) felt that new parks and recreation programs and activities would best be delivered in combination among the Township, community/volunteer organizations, and the private sector, as is currently the case. Only 21% of all respondents thought that the Township should be the sole provider of new programs and activities.

Importance & Satisfaction

Respondents were also asked to rate the importance of various types of parks and facilities to their household. 91% stated that indoor recreation facilities were important/very important for their household, while a similar number (90%) was reported for outdoor recreation facilities such as sports fields and playgrounds. 79% of the respondents considered trails and pathways to be important/very important, while 78% saw passive parks as such.

Respondents were also generally satisfied with the Township’s indoor (59% satisfied/very satisfied) and outdoor (64% satisfied/very satisfied) recreation facilities, but generally dissatisfied with its trails and pathways (with only 20% indicating they were satisfied/very satisfied). With regard to the Township’s passive parks, respondents were generally neutral, with approximately 45% stating that they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the amount and quality of passive parks offered in Lucan Biddulph. This finding is likely due to the small supply of open space parks and general lack of public awareness of such.

Figure 13: Importance and satisfaction with the Township's parks and recreation facilities (n=246 to 272; 'Don't know' responses are not displayed in the chart)



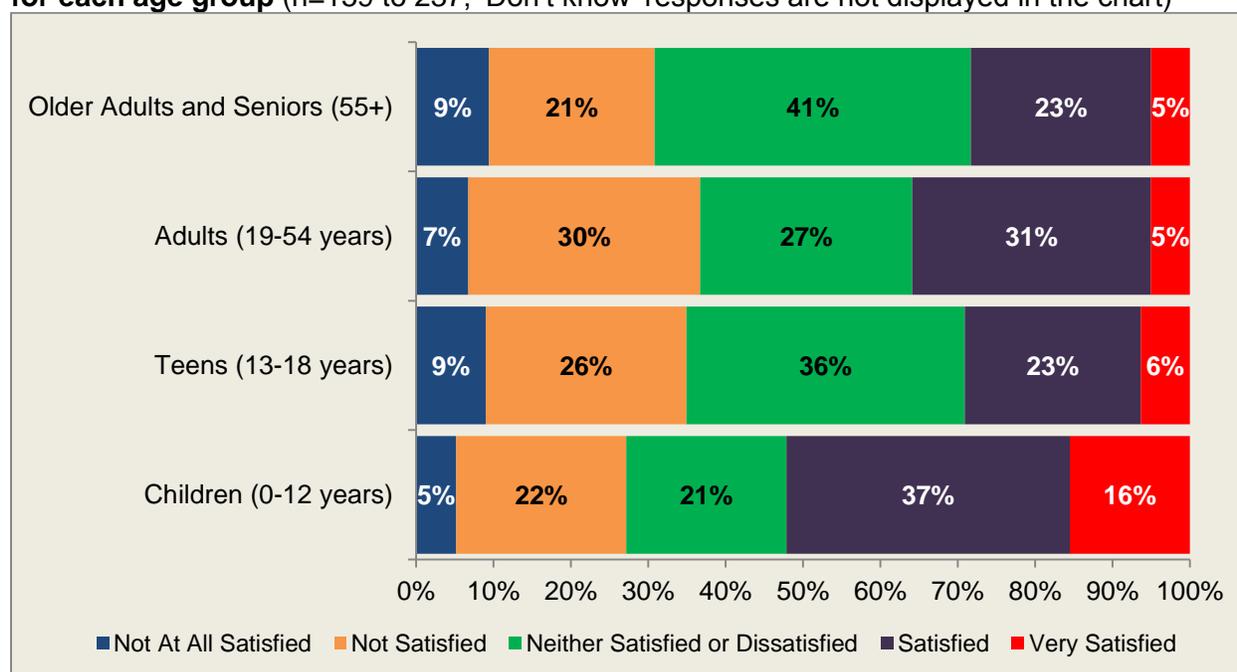
These findings suggest that the Township’s residents are primarily focused on indoor and outdoor recreation facilities when thinking about future parks and recreation service provision. They also indicate that the Township’s facilities are not meeting the respondents’ expectations (although we recognize that response bias is common in self-selected surveys such as this), particularly trails and pathways, which only garnered 20% satisfaction from respondents, even though 80% considered them important. Respondents from Granton and area more dissatisfied with the Township’s trails and pathways than those living in Lucan and area.

Table 11: Importance and satisfaction of the Township's parks and recreation facilities, organized by community (Lucan & Area n=156 (satisfaction), n=161 (importance); Granton & Area n=44)

Facility Type	Importance		Satisfaction	
	Lucan & Area	Granton & Area	Lucan & Area	Granton & Area
Indoor Recreation facilities such as arenas and community centres	92%	79%	56%	61%
Outdoor Recreation facilities such as sports fields and playgrounds	89%	87%	63%	55%
Passive Parks that preserve natural areas and open space	77%	70%	33%	24%
Trails and Pathways	80%	70%	21%	7%

The survey also asked about overall satisfaction with recreational opportunities for various age categories.

Figure 14: Levels of satisfaction with the Township's parks and recreation opportunities for each age group (n=159 to 237; 'Don't know' responses are not displayed in the chart)

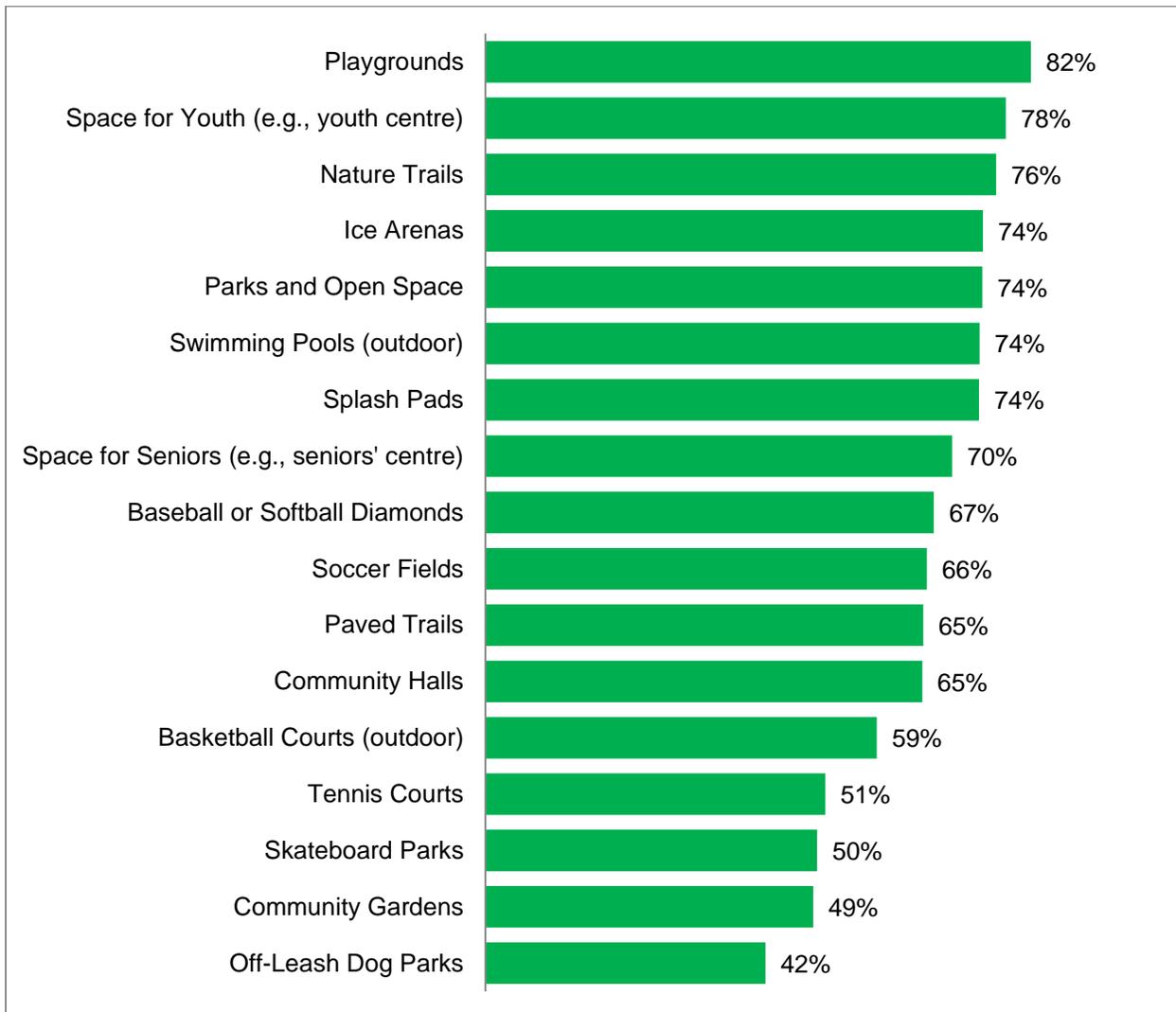


Respondents were generally satisfied with the parks and recreation opportunities offered in the Township for children 0-12 years of age, with 53% of respondents stating they were either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied'. Conversely, respondents were least satisfied with the parks and recreation opportunities for adults (37% 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied'), teens 13-18 years of age (35% 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied'), and older adults 55 years of age and over (30% 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied'). The proportion of the Township's population that is comprised of teens is expected to decline slightly over the next decade from 14% to 12%, while the proportion of seniors is expected to grow from 8% to 12%. Therefore, the priority given to older adult services in particular is an area that may require additional attention.

Facility Priorities

Respondents were asked the degree to which they support additional public spending on a range of parks and recreation facilities. Most facility types received substantial support, which is common in surveys of this nature.

Figure 15: Support for additional spending of various types of parks and recreation facilities (n=244 to 256)



Playgrounds received the greatest overall level of support, with 82% of all respondents in favour of additional public funding for this type of facility. Space for youth (e.g. youth centre) and nature trails were also widely supported by respondents, with 78% and 76% approval respectively. Tennis courts (51% support), community gardens (49%), and off-leash dog parks (42%) received the lowest overall levels of support, suggesting that the current level of provision for these facilities sufficiently meets the needs of most Lucan Biddulph's residents. It should be noted that the list of facilities was prepared by the consultants and an indoor swimming pool was specifically excluded so as not to raise unrealistic expectations regarding future service levels.

Lucan Community Memorial Centre

Respondents were asked which one aspect of specific parks and facilities they would most like to see improved. For the arena and halls in the Lucan Community Memorial Centre (LCMC), respondents would most like to see the construction of an additional ice arena, followed by improved maintenance and cleanliness, upgrading the arena change rooms, the establishment of a fitness centre (since provided by a third party through a lease of the former library space), and general upgrades to existing spaces.

Table 12: Requested improvements to the LCMC's arena and halls (n=143)

Suggestion	Count
Additional ice pad	24
Cleanliness	15
Upgrade change rooms	15
General upgrade to all facilities	14
Fitness centre	9
Walking track	9
Heated seating area in arena	8
Greater variety of programs & activities	7
Upgrade appearance	7
Better customer service/more diligent staff effort	4
More affordable hall and arena rental fees	4
Upgrade existing arena	4

By far the most frequent suggestion with respect to the LCMC's park and pool is for the creation of an indoor pool so residents can swim year-round. Other frequent mentions included upgrades to the existing outdoor pool, including measures to ensure that the pool is heated properly, and to renovate the pool change rooms and washrooms. Respondents also identified a number of maintenance related suggestions, which include regularly raking the baseball diamond, grass cutting, filling holes found in the soccer fields, and ensuring that the fields and running track are free of stones and large pebbles.

Table 13: Requested improvements to the LCMC's park and pool (n=141)

Suggestion	Count
Build an indoor pool	40
Upgrade outdoor pool	21
Ensure outdoor pool is properly heated	19
Park maintenance (e.g. raking diamond, clearing stones, playground clean up)	15
Upgrade pool change rooms	8
Upgrade pool washrooms	6
Upgrade appearance	6
Covered seating area at various outdoor locations	5
Accessible sidewalk to soccer field	4
Closer washrooms to soccer field	4
More seating area	4
Upgrade playground	4

Granton Park

For Granton Park, several suggestions were received relating to improvements to the baseball diamond. Suggestions include putting down a clay surface for the diamond, upgrading its fencing and lighting, and installing new bleachers. Other suggestions for Granton Park include the installation of additional children’s play equipment (e.g. swings), a splash pad, and a skate park.

Table 14: Requested improvements to Granton Park (n=61)

Suggestion	Count
Ball diamond (e.g. lighting, clay surface)	16
More children’s play equipment	7
Splash pad	6
Skate park	5
Better upkeep of soccer field	3
General upgrade of all facilities	3
Washrooms	2
Bike/walking trail	2
Safety	2
Overall maintenance	2
Outdoor ice rink	2
More community activities	2

Lions Market Street Park

In general, respondents would like to see more equipment purchased for Lions Market Street Park that caters to toddlers, children, and youth (note: a new playground was installed at this park near the end of the survey period). Other suggestions for the park include better washroom access, as well as upgrades to the ball diamond and lighting throughout the park. Some parents would also like to see additional seating at the park while their children enjoy the facility.

Table 15: Requested improvements to Lions Market Street Park (n=68)

Suggestion	Count
More playground equipment	11
Better washroom access	8
Upgrade playground	8
Upgrade ball diamond	6
Better lighting	5
Improve paved walkway	4
More seating	4
General upgrade	3
Enforce parking by-law	2
Upgrade pavilion	2
Improved site drainage	2
Splash pad	2

Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park

Respondents were generally quite satisfied with Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park. The most common suggestions for improvement pertained to offering additional seating and shaded areas for parents near the splash pad, a wider range of equipment for users of different age groups, and ongoing maintenance of existing facilities. There were also suggestions to extend the hours of the splash pad and the washroom facility, and for the installation of additional splash pad equipment and a new basketball court.

Table 16: Requested improvements to Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park (n=74)

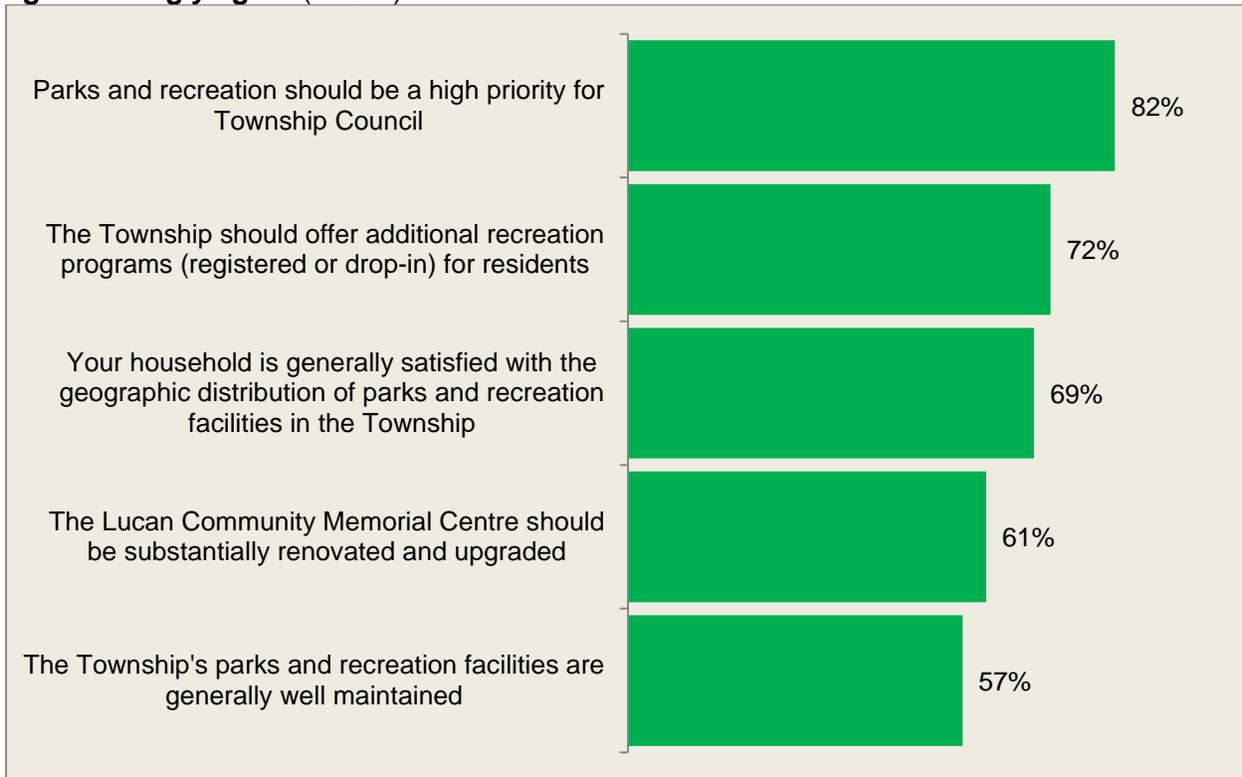
Suggestion	Count
More seating (near splash pad)	9
Maintenance	9
More playground equipment	7
More shade (e.g. trees)	6
Improve ball diamond	5
Improve washroom facility (e.g. more washrooms, longer hours)	5
Upgrade existing playground equipment	5
New basketball court	4
Upgrade splash pad	4
More picnic tables	2
More swings	2
Build a wading pool	2

Other Feedback on the Township’s Parks and Recreation Services

Respondents were asked to state their level of agreement to several statements:

- The vast majority of respondents (83%) felt that parks and recreation should be a high priority for Township Council, recognizing their importance as critical components to a healthy, high quality lifestyle.
- Most respondents (72%) would also like to see the Township expand its current range of recreation programs. As highlighted in the findings above, the types of programs suggested include fitness activities (much echoed throughout the survey), yoga, dance, gymnastic, and youth and senior programs.
- A majority (69%) of respondents were satisfied with the geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities in the Township.
- 56% agreed with the statement that parks and recreation facilities are generally well-maintained (28% disagreed).
- When asked whether the Lucan Community Memorial Centre should be substantially renovated and upgraded, 61% of the respondents indicated their support (17% disagreed).

Figure 16: Proportion of respondents who agree with the following statements; agree/strongly agree (n=261)



Looking at area of residence, respondents from Granton and area are generally satisfied with the geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities in the Township, although their level of agreement is lower (66%) than those residing in Lucan and area (91%). Furthermore, 91% of respondents living in Lucan and area are of the opinion that the Township's parks and recreation facilities are generally well-maintained, however, only 45% of residents living in Granton and area agree with this statement.

Other Comments

Respondents were asked to provide additional comments regarding parks and recreation in the Township of Lucan Biddulph. Among the most frequently cited suggestions for improvement relates to the cleaning and maintenance of the Township's facilities. Specifically, many felt that the LCMC's arena and dressing rooms needed a thorough clean, if not renovated entirely. Other comments pertaining to the LCMC speak to the dated look of the facility and the need for minor repairs (e.g., properly sealing the exterior doors to prevent snow blowing into the hallways during winter, heated seating, etc.), better maintenance of the facilities both inside and outside the community centre, and additional facilities for winter activities such as another ice pad, indoor pool, and indoor walking track. Within the adjacent park, respondents would also like to see lighting added to the soccer field as more participants are using the fields during evening hours. There were also suggestions for a paved walkway leading from the parking area/community garden to the soccer fields for improved accessibility.

A number of survey respondents would like to see additional recreation programs for the Township's youth, as many felt that other than hockey, the Township currently does not offer

many alternatives that are of interest to this age group. There were also suggestions for the installation of a small splash pad and a skate park in Granton for children and youth in the area. Furthermore, the establishment of a multi-purpose trail was echoed by many respondents, with suggestions for a circuit encompassing the Optimist Elm Street Park, LCMC, Walnut Grove subdivision, and Wilberforce Public School. It should be noted that many respondents also recognize the need for a long term vision for the provision of park and recreation services in Lucan Biddulph, and favoured a financially responsible approach to addressing current and future needs.

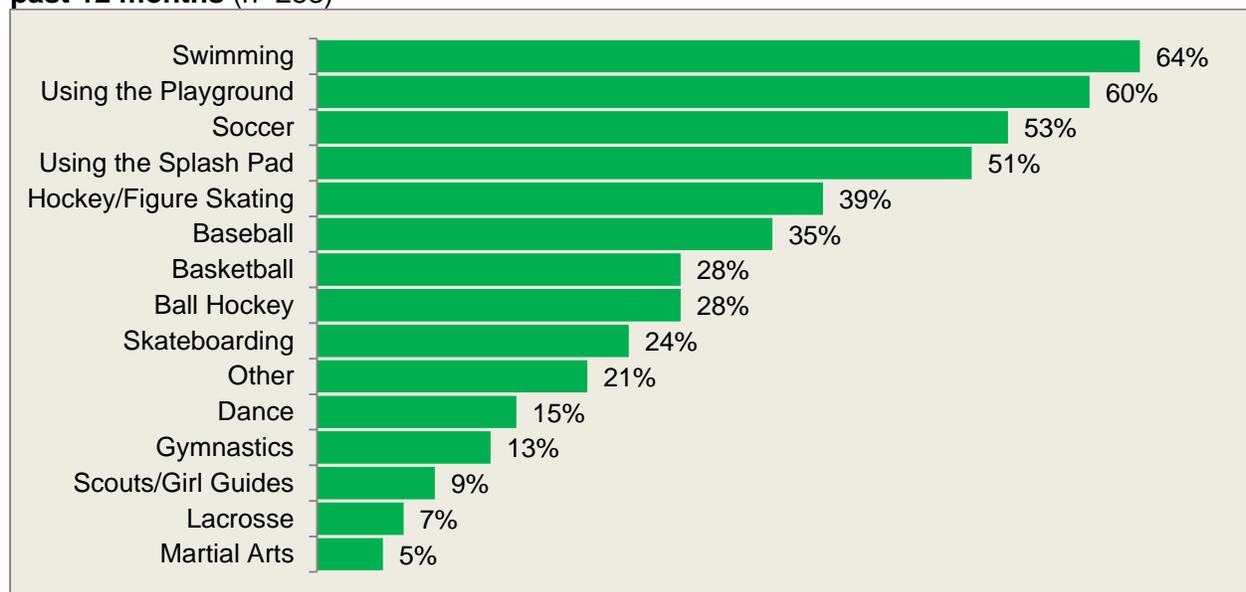
4.3 Student Questionnaire

To better understand the parks and recreation needs of local children and youth, a questionnaire was distributed to students of Grades 4 to 8 at both Wilberforce and St. Patrick Elementary Schools in June 2015. The questionnaire asked the students to rate their level of participation, satisfaction, and the importance of the various facilities and activities offered in the Township and beyond. A total of 256 responses were received and the findings are summarized below, with detailed data contained in Appendix A.

Participation

The survey found that 64% of students had participated in swimming, 60% had used a playground, 53% had played soccer, and 51% had used a splash pad in the past 12 months. A significant portion also reported having played hockey (39%) and baseball (35%) in the same time period. Of those who had swam in the past year, 47% had done so at the LCMC outdoor pool, while 28% swam in their own backyard pools or that of a friend or relative and 18% travelled to London to use its aquatic facilities. For other activities that students frequently participated in (soccer, using the playground, splash pad) the survey found that the vast majority of them took place within the Township, with a minority of students having travelled to Ilderton and London.

Figure 17: Percentage of students who had participated in the following activities in the past 12 months (n=253)



Opinions on Parks and Recreation Facilities

Students were asked to indicate which aspects of each of the Township's parks and recreation facilities they liked most and which needed improvement. They were then asked to indicate their level of satisfaction of different facilities provided by the Township and to rate the importance of various parks and recreation programs and facilities.

Granton Park

Among those who had visited Granton Park, the basketball court, rope climbing pyramid, swings, and the large open space are considered favourite features. In terms of improvements, a better equipped playground, upgraded ball diamond, and the creation of a skateboard park for older children and youth are the primary suggestions made by the students.

Lions Market Street Park

The most popular feature of Lions Market Street Park for students is found to be its swings, followed by the playground and the slide. Some students also noted they enjoyed using the park's ball diamond, and the large size of the park. For features that required improvement, the most common suggestion is to expand the playground area and install newer equipment, followed by the installation of a new slide, and additional climbers for older children and youth (note: these items were completed in June 2015). Other suggestions for improving the Park include upgrading the ball diamond, adding new swings, and upgrading the pavilion.

Lucan Community Memorial Centre

Most students identified the arena as their favourite feature of the LCMC, mostly utilizing the facility for hockey sessions. Many also viewed the Centre's soccer fields, skateboard park, gymnasium (often for indoor soccer use), and pool in a positive light. Aspects of the LCMC that many students would like to see improved include upgrades to the dressing rooms, skateboard park, playground, and arena seating. In particular, many students noted that the dressing rooms are not sufficiently heated, and they should also be cleaned more thoroughly. Suggestions were also made for improved heating of the arena's seating area and the outdoor pool. Other suggestions include longer hours and more gymnasium activities, an additional ice pad, upgrades to the tennis court, and better maintenance of outdoor facilities.

Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park

By far the students' favourite feature at Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park is the splash pad, with many pointing out that they enjoy the 'water bucket' immensely. The park's swings are a distant second, followed by its playground, climbers, basketball net, and the availability of open space. For improvements, the most frequent suggestion is to upgrade the splash park (e.g., water slides, higher water pressure, and heated water), upgrades to the park's swings, playground equipment, washrooms (e.g., longer hours, change rooms), and new basketball net or conversion to a full court.

Overall Satisfaction of Facilities in Lucan Biddulph

Overall, students appear to be quite satisfied with the facilities currently offered in the Township. The Lucan arena received the highest level of satisfaction (96%, with 48% being 'very' satisfied), followed by the Township's playgrounds (89%, with 29% being 'very' satisfied),

swimming pool (88%, with 60% being 'very' satisfied), bike paths (87%, with 41% being 'very' satisfied), and soccer fields (86%, with 46% being 'very' satisfied). The facilities that received the lowest levels of satisfaction are outdoor basketball courts (69%, with 21% being 'very' satisfied) and tennis courts (65%, with 22% being 'very' satisfied).

Figure 18: Level of satisfaction by facility type (n=255)



Students were also asked to rank the importance to them and their families of six types of facilities; facilities were ranked from 1 to 6, with 1 being the most important. Overall, the Lucan arena is ranked as the most important facility (46% ranked it first), followed by the Township's soccer fields, and the gymnasium. Despite being noted as a possible area of improvement, basketball courts ranked as the least important among the list of selected recreation facilities.

Table 17: Ranking of the Township's parks and recreation facilities in terms of importance

Facility/Rank	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	n=
Arena	46%	19%	7%	9%	10%	9%	242
Soccer Fields	19%	20%	21%	14%	11%	15%	244
Gymnasiums	8%	19%	27%	21%	17%	9%	241
Baseball Diamonds	8%	22%	13%	19%	22%	17%	236
Skateboard Park	15%	11%	15%	16%	15%	29%	245
Basketball Courts	6%	11%	17%	19%	26%	21%	239

The survey offered students an opportunity to identify what other new parks or recreation facilities they would like to see in Lucan Biddulph. The students mentioned a wide range of facilities, and the most frequent suggestion (made by 15% of all students) is a new and improved skate park in the community (many students feel that the existing skate park is dated and not large enough to meet their needs, others feel that a skate park should be created in

Granton). This was followed by the construction of a new outdoor pool (7%), additional basketball courts throughout the community (6%), and a lacrosse field (6%).

Table 18: Top 10 new facilities students would like to see in Lucan Biddulph (n=193)

Facility	Percentage of Students
Skateboard Park	15%
Outdoor Pool	7%
Basketball Court	6%
Indoor Pool	6%
Lacrosse Field	6%
Ball Diamond	4%
Football Field	4%
Parks	4%
Trails	4%
Gym/Fitness Centre	3%
Paintball Arena	3%

Opinions on Recreation Programming

With regard to the recreation programs, team sports were identified as being the most important (45% ranked it first), followed by swimming, and arts and crafts programs. Dance programs were generally seen to be the least important of the selected programs.

Table 19: Ranking of the Township's recreation programs in terms of importance

Program/Rank	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	n=
Team Sports	45%	15%	13%	10%	9%	8%	239
Swimming	24%	38%	18%	11%	3%	7%	240
Arts & Crafts	15%	16%	15%	22%	17%	14%	236
Music	6%	13%	17%	28%	25%	11%	236
Summer Camp	3%	11%	24%	17%	29%	16%	240
Dance	9%	6%	12%	10%	17%	47%	240

As a follow up question, students were also asked what other sports and recreation programs they would like to see more of in Lucan Biddulph. 10% of all students stated that they would like to see gymnastics offered in the Township and various team sports – including lacrosse, basketball, and football – were suggested by 8% to 9% of students.

Table 20: Top 10 programs students would like to see more of in Lucan Biddulph (n=175)

Program	Percentage of Students
Gymnastics	10%
Lacrosse programs	9%
Basketball programs	9%
Football programs	8%
Dance programs	4%
Horseback riding	4%
Tennis	4%
Volleyball	4%
Ball hockey	3%
Baseball (e.g., camps)	3%

4.4 Stakeholder Input

A self-administered online survey oriented towards stakeholder groups (e.g., community associations, volunteer organizations, local agencies, partners, facility/park renters, etc.) was undertaken in June and July 2015 to collect information regarding group participation, facility utilization, and future group needs, and more. A total of six (6) surveys were completed and received from the following groups:

- Lucan Area Heritage Society
- Lucan Minor Hockey
- Lucan Seniors Sunshine Club
- Lucan Soccer Association
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 540 Lucan
- Senior Exercise Class

Several key informant interviews were also undertaken with various community partners and stakeholders during the same period in order to provide an opportunity for organizations to speak candidly about a range of topics. Subjects included facility utilization, areas for improvement, programming and service needs, opportunities for partnerships and funding, and more. In total, approximately forty (40) individuals representing the following eighteen (18) groups participated in the focus groups and interviews:

- Granton Parks Committee
- Haskett Funeral Homes
- Heritage Committee
- Lucan Area Trails Association
- Lucan District Lions Club
- Lucan Irish Junior C Hockey Club
- Lucan Minor Hockey
- Lucan Royal Canadian Legion
- Lucan Scouting
- Lucan Skating Club
- Lucan Soccer Association
- Lucan/Ilderton Minor Ball
- Optimist Club of Lucan
- Perth-Middlesex Early Years Services
- Seniors' Exercise Group
- Sunshine Club (seniors)
- VON Canada – Smart Program
- Whole Health Fitness

The input received from these surveys and interview sessions was highly detailed and has been integrated into subsequent sections of the Master Plan, where appropriate.

4.5 Public Meeting

A public meeting was held on October 1, 2015 to present the draft Master Plan to the public and stakeholders. Approximately 40 persons attended the meeting and input from the session and subsequent two-week commenting period have been incorporated into the Plan as appropriate.

4.6 Key Themes Emerging from the Initial Public Input Phase

The following is a summary of the common themes that emerged from the public and stakeholder consultation phase.

1. Recognizing the age of the **Lucan Community Memorial Centre**, there is strong support for **refreshing and upgrading** the facility (including the arena, halls, outdoor pool, and supporting amenities) as opposed to a major reconstruction. While the facility was ahead of its time in many ways when it was built, new facilities in other municipalities have raised expectations. User comforts, barrier-free accessibility, kitchen upgrades, HVAC and lighting systems, and a new sound system were all common requests, as were various upgrades to the outdoor pool.
2. A number of comments related to new major indoor infrastructure.
 - a. Several requests were made for the development of an **indoor swimming pool** at the LCMC, in place of the outdoor pool.
 - b. There is also a desire for a **hub for seniors' activities, indoor track, and fitness centre** (since opened as a third-party venture within the LCMC).
 - c. A **second ice pad** was requested by Minor Hockey, although this group cannot sustain one additional ice pad on their own.
 - d. Additional user comforts within parks, such as **shade and seating**, in addition to **splash pads and skateboard parks** were suggested.
3. Many felt that the various **halls and meeting rooms** within the LCMC are not being used to their capacity (although, in fairness, this can be said of similar spaces in most other municipalities). Some suggested a possible need for different sized rooms or the ability to divide existing spaces. There was very little consensus on what new activities these spaces could be used for, although gymnastics was one option suggested by the students. It would appear that existing **programs** are generally meeting needs, but that the Township may wish to test demand for a limited number of new activities as demand builds over time.
4. A common suggestion for improving the usage of community halls was to occasionally offer them to local organizations free of charge (or at more affordable rates). Sensitivity to **rates** was an issue raised by many groups.
5. Due partially to available staff resources and the overall age and design of Township facilities, improved **maintenance of the LCMC** was a common request. Enhanced maintenance and additional repairs were also suggested for various **sports fields**.
6. There is a general desire for **more trails**, particularly nature trails and simple connections within the villages. Currently, trail loops exist on private land and are accessed via informal

agreements with the Lucan Area Trails Association, though these are not well known by many residents.

7. Many residents from Granton participated in the public engagement program and suggested a number of improvements to **Granton Park** (e.g., ball diamond, pavilion/Lions' Hall, fencing, etc.), as well as new elements such as a skate park and/or spray pad. Many commented on how they felt that Granton was underserved in comparison to Lucan and were looking for greater balance as a general principle, regardless of the facilities or services provided (or population counts).
8. Many residents and organizations commented positively on the new **Parks and Recreation Department** structure. The personal relationships between the Township and volunteers are valued and help to promote accountability.
9. The Master Plan provided an opportunity to connect with a variety of residents and organizations, many of which have not been asked for their input previously. This opportunity was appreciated and there was a general indication that **communication** could be improved through regular discussions and networking activities. Greater **awareness and promotion** of events, programs, and activities was also requested.
10. The Township's **population growth** has helped to sustain registration in many activities, particularly minor sports, which have experienced steady to modestly increasing membership in recent years. Continued population growth underscores the need to plan for the future; however, the age composition of those moving into the community will have an impact on the types of desired activities. While the Township is attracting new families with young children, empty nesters and retirees are also moving to the community. Engaging newcomers in volunteer activities and special events is an ongoing challenge.



Section 5. Vision and Guiding Principles

This section identifies a vision statement and guiding principles to guide the development and implementation of the Master Plan's recommendations, as well as future decision making for the Township of Lucan Biddulph.

5.1 Vision Statement

A 'vision' is an inspiring statement describing an ideal future state. Setting a vision for the Township in the delivery of parks and recreation service is the initial step in setting a strategic path forward. A vision statement depicts how the Township wants to be viewed in the future and compels people to work together to achieve the vision over time. Council, residents, and staff must embrace the importance of healthy and active lifestyles and each play a role in ensuring that recreation is a lifelong opportunity within the community.

To assist with this task, a visioning exercise was undertaken with the Master Plan Committee early on in the process. The Committee considered affordability for both users and taxpayers and the ability to engage people of all ages to be the two most desirable features of the Township's future parks and recreation system. In addition, they wish to see parks and recreation become a defining aspect of the Township's quality of life and also value the health benefits associated with higher levels of physical activity. The Committee envisions the Township's business and community partners continuing to play a significant role in the delivery of parks and recreation services. To this end, the Committee recognizes the need for effective communication and promotion of local services and initiatives.

The following vision statement is offered for consideration and adoption:

Working together to provide affordable recreational and active living opportunities for all ages and abilities.

Over time, this vision will allow the needs of all residents to be considered and will encourage the proper provision of high quality leisure opportunities that will assist residents in achieving their personal and community goals.



5.2 Guiding Principles

The Master Plan's guiding principles are intended to be high level, directional statements that articulate the overall context for what is intended to be accomplished. Guiding principles are ideals that the Township of Lucan Biddulph and the community should strive to achieve over time. The following guiding principles – embracing the Township's vision for parks and recreation – are proposed:

1. **Individual and Community Wellbeing:** Encourage healthy and active lifestyles amongst residents of all ages (particularly youth and seniors) and strengthen community cohesion through parks and recreation services.
2. **Capacity & Partnership Building:** Support volunteers and partners in the coordinated delivery of community-driven parks and recreation initiatives, activities, and events.
3. **Accessibility & Equity:** Enhance participation and accessibility by encouraging a range of affordable and locally-responsive recreation opportunities, ideally close to where people live.
4. **Resilient & Responsive Infrastructure:** Maintain a safe, accessible, and appropriate supply of parks, trails, and recreation facilities in order to meet the demonstrated needs of both long-time and new residents.
5. **Communication:** Raise awareness of local opportunities and solicit public input through a variety of community engagement initiatives and techniques.
6. **Service Excellence:** Maintain public trust by upholding consistently high standards in customer service, policies and practices, and facility maintenance.
7. **Financial Sustainability:** Show accountability to both customers and taxpayers through the efficient use of resources, balanced application of user fees, sound decision-making, and pursuit of other non-municipal funding sources such as fundraising.

Section 6. Service Delivery Assessment

The Township of Lucan Biddulph Parks and Recreation Department serves the public in providing and facilitating a range of parks, recreation, and cultural opportunities and experiences. In addition, the Township often works in partnership with other providers to maximize resident access to quality parks and recreation opportunities. This section contains a review of the Township's existing parks and recreation service delivery system, including considerations related to programming, policies, fees, communications, other providers, and more.

6.1 Roles & Responsibilities

One of the primary functions of the Parks and Recreation Department is the planning, development, operation, and maintenance of facilities, parks, and trails – this core role is not expected to change, although this Master Plan has an opportunity to influence priorities and practices in these areas.

For many years, the Township's role – through the Public Works Department – was simply that of a facility provider, focused on asset management and rentals to the community, who were the primary service providers. This approach can be cost effective as it keeps staff resources to a minimum, but it creates a heavy reliance on the community to provide needed services to residents. More recently, with the inception of the Parks and Recreation Department, the Township has begun to offer some direct programming and drop-in activities at the LCMC.

As in the past, the strength and success of the Township's parks and recreation system will continue to rest in its ability to work in partnership with the community to provide its residents and visitors with high quality facilities, programs, and events. The majority (72%) of respondents to the online survey felt that new parks and recreation programs and activities would best be delivered in combination among the Township, community/volunteer organizations, and the private sector, as is currently the case.

In recognizing and utilizing the assets available within the community, the Township is able to concentrate on its primary role as a facilitator of parks and recreation spaces while benefitting from the expertise in parks and recreation programming that already exists amongst local residents and organizations. This requires a community development approach that promotes collaboration between the Township, volunteers, non-profit providers, stakeholder agencies, and the private sector.

Specifically, community development involves building the capacity of local residents and community partners in order that they may work together to enhance the community, and in this case, the parks and recreation opportunities available for residents and visitors. It is through this collective attitude and cooperation that issues and gaps can be addressed and local expertise and assets emphasized. In Lucan Biddulph, this largely consists of a dedicated base of community organizations, service clubs, and volunteers, along with all of the resources (e.g., people power, fundraising capability, activity-specific skills and knowledge, etc.) that they possess. As it grows, the Township must continue to expand its emphasis on community development and partnerships.

The Township of Lucan Biddulph will continue to play a lead role in supporting, coordinating, and managing the parks and recreation system, including being the primary (but not always the only) provider of recreation infrastructure. In keeping with the guiding principles of this Master Plan, a secondary role of the Township is to offer direct recreational programming where there are identified benefits to core markets and the community at large, including opportunities for maximizing facility utilization. It is important for the Township to evaluate the delivery of recreation services on a regular basis and to consider new approaches that may improve the efficiency and effectiveness of existing services.

Support to volunteers, community engagement, and capacity building will also continue to be key roles for the Township in ensuring a well-rounded and sustainable recreation delivery system. A loose network of municipal departments, agencies, institutions, private business, community organizations, volunteers, and residents play vital roles in the delivery of leisure services. Much like the adage “it takes a village to raise a child”, it takes a shared effort to provide accessible and affordable leisure services to all Lucan Biddulph residents. The recommended community development approach emphasizes the need to build capacity and encourage service providers to focus on the things they do best – a “strengths-based” delivery system that meets the unique needs of the community.

In activating this role, the following municipal service delivery responsibilities are proposed:

- Understanding local demographics, community issues, and emerging needs and trends;
- Ensuring that the Township’s community facilities are available, safe, affordable, and meet the needs of residents and community organizations;
- Building and fostering relationships with community partners;
- Playing a supporting role to community organizations, partners, and volunteer groups that are directly responsible for the delivery of traditional programs and services;
- Facilitating drop-in programs and community events, as well as administrating popular activities that do not unduly compete with other service providers, as a means to promote physical activity and maximize municipal assets
- Encouraging parks and recreation opportunities that are inclusive of all resident groups, regardless of background, orientation, and abilities;
- Advancing parks and trail development through parkland dedication and conveyance of land for pathways through the land development process;
- Ongoing staff training and development to provide exceptional customer service, compliance with legislative requirements, etc.; and
- Engaging the community in meaningful dialogue through planning, decision-making, special projects, and service delivery processes.

Recommendations

1. Adopt a municipal service delivery role that reflects the guiding principles of this Master Plan, with a primary focus on supporting community-led parks and recreation activities through a community development approach, and a secondary focus on direct facilitation of general programs and community events that promote physical activity and social inclusion.

6.2 Programming

Access to affordable and high quality leisure programs is an essential component of a healthy community. Several recreation programs currently exist in the Township and surrounding municipalities. A summary of local organizations and the programs they provide has been compiled and is contained in Appendix B of this Master Plan. This inventory represents a good starting point in maintaining an inventory of recreational opportunities available in the Township. It is recommended that the Township continue to improve this inventory in order to maintain an updated portfolio of recreation activities in the area.

Through activating its primary role as a facilitator (i.e., community development), the Township should have regular contact with various community partners (e.g., Middlesex-London Health Unit, Middlesex Active Community Partnership, YMCA, Middlesex County Library, school boards, etc.) – either collectively (e.g., through committees, working groups, etc.) or individually – to identify potential opportunities for community-led programming and facility rentals, with an emphasis on low cost options for older adults/seniors and children/youth.

Program offerings vary widely from community to community across the province. The following are the most common categories:

- Special events – which are typically free and open to all that wish to attend – are the most basic form of programming that is commonly offered amongst the municipal sector. The Township of Lucan Biddulph has for many years hosted several special events within their facilities and parks and is starting to play a larger role in their coordination, such as Baconfest.
- Drop-in programs – which are open times during which free or low cost structured or unstructured activity takes place, often with little instruction and/or direct supervision – are becoming increasingly common as they are responsive to busy schedules and often accepting of a wide range of skill levels. The Township of Lucan Biddulph offers drop-in times for sports such as pickleball.
- Registered programs – which are those programs requiring advance sign-up and often led by a paid instructor (paid for partially or fully through a registration fee) – represent the most sophisticated form of programming. Registered programs may be one-time or a series of sessions and typically require a minimum participant threshold in order to run. The Township of Lucan Biddulph offers a very limited range of registered programs, including yoga, which are led by contracted instructors. Examples of registered programs offered in other municipalities include swimming and skating lessons, arts and dance classes, summer camps, and a wide range of special interest courses such as computers, photography, cooking, specific sports, and much more.

The type and range of programming has direct implications on staff resources and budgets. For example, registered programs for youth and/or older adults may require instructional and additional clerical support and would likely require ongoing municipal subsidies in order to encourage usage and maintain affordability to the user.

In playing a largely supporting role in program delivery, the Township must first work to facilitate and promote the provision of third-party or partnered active living, sport, and community activities in its facilities and parks. One opportunity to do so is through participation in the Middlesex Active Community Partnership, a regional collaborative developed out of a

partnership with the local Health Unit that aims to address physical inactivity within Middlesex County. Continued participation in this initiative will assist in achieving the goals of this Master Plan and will also help to avoid program duplication with neighbouring communities.

In response to growing demands, in 2014/15 the Township began offering summer camps and a number of drop-in activities (e.g., adult co-ed volleyball, pickleball, yoga, seniors exercise, aquafit, adult shinny, ball hockey tournament). As most of these activities have been up and running for less than one year, it is too early to complete a meaningful analysis, though the Township should monitor participation and actively seek feedback from program participants (as they did in early 2015 through a program and facility survey).

“I think the current Parks and Recreation Manager is putting effort into his position to better the activities available for residents of Lucan Biddulph – both young and old. I hope he continues to have success with getting the word out to residents that there are some new programs to try at the Community Centre that are sponsored and held at a low cost to the participants.” – online survey respondent



In cases where the local volunteers and community organizations are unable to offer a suitable program for an activity that is in demand, the Township may seek to facilitate or directly administer the activity, as is the case with summer camps and some gymnasium sports. Generally, programs directly provided by the municipal sector emphasize affordable opportunities focused on basic skill development, physical activity, and social inclusion. These outcomes – which are emphasized in the Toronto Charter for Physical Activity that has been adopted by the Township – should be considered when the Township is evaluating new program opportunities.

“The more activities that residents can participate within the community, the stronger the community becomes. As the population grows, more varied activities should be offered.” – online survey respondent

72% of online survey respondents would like to see the Township expand its current range of recreation programs. Specific suggestions included gymnastics, pre-school programs (e.g., indoor play gym), dance classes, fitness classes (including personal training and weight training), various team sports (such as basketball, baseball, lacrosse, and football), shuffleboard, yoga and pilates, and craft shows and expos. Some of these activities are already

offered in the Township, underscoring the importance of improving marketing and community awareness efforts.

“There seems to be a disconnect between youth who are not “into sports” and the activities offered by our parks and recreation programs. If we could find some way to engage these youth, perhaps there would be some very positive outcomes for the community as a whole.” – online survey respondent

Youth have always and will continue to be a key target market for municipal recreation departments. With greater efforts in this area, the Township may wish to pursue a youth-friendly designation through the Play Works Partnership.

Given the notable growth forecasted for the Township’s older adult population, additional attention to the personal and social health and well-being of this age group will be required. Segmentation amongst this age group is considerable, from baby boomers to the elderly, all with varying interests, abilities, and resources. The newest generation of older adults is expected to remain active longer in life and to have greater financial resources at their disposal, which may lead to growing interest in drop-in activities and value-added services. At the same time, there will continue to be many older adults that are interested in more traditional seniors’ activities (e.g., cards, teas, bingo, etc.). Furthermore, as older adults age, many will acquire disabilities (e.g., mobility, dementia, illnesses, etc.) that will need to be accommodated, with municipal staff and volunteers receiving proper training.

A lack of time is the number one barrier to participation for every age group, including older adults. Activities that are convenient, accessible, affordable, and relevant will be the most successful. Program gaps and preferences (including those that may better accommodate the aging baby boomer population) should be regularly identified and assessed through a variety of means.

Recommendations

2. Maintain an up-to-date inventory of recreation opportunities within the community (including a database of community groups and their contact information) to ensure that a full range of activities are available for all age groups. This database should be made accessible to local residents and serve to enhance awareness of local activities, programs, leagues, and events.
3. Support and promote physical activity and healthy communities through participation in the Middlesex Active Community Partnership.
4. Undertake program planning in coordination with community partners and in response to local needs, with an emphasis on low cost services that promote physical activity and social inclusion for children/youth and older adults/seniors.
5. Establish performance measurement criteria in order to evaluate municipal recreation programs and actively seek feedback from program participants.

6.3 Staffing, Volunteers & Governance

The Township of Lucan Biddulph's Parks and Recreation Department was formed in 2014 and oversees parks and facilities maintenance and operation, event coordination, and programming. Prior to this time, the program and service delivery function was largely absent as a Facilities Manager (reporting to the CAO) looked after the operation of the LCMC and parks maintenance was addressed by the Public Works Department. As a distinct department, Parks and Recreation now has a broader mandate – activated through its Parks & Recreation Manager – to coordinate and liaise with the community, including offering programs and undertaking special projects, while still being directly responsible for park and facility availability and quality.

Workload pressures on Township staff are increasing due to rising resident expectations and the provision of a broader range of services. In response, the Township recently created a Community Events Coordinator position (2-year contract) to assist with special events and community development activities. Stakeholder feedback regarding this position has been positive as it has led to customer service improvements and an expanded array of recreation services. This position is also in keeping with the enhanced role of the Department and is consistent with staffing structures in several municipalities. It is recommended that the Community Events Coordinator be made a permanent full-time position.

The Department also includes four full-time Facility Operators that oversee the day-to-day operations of the Lucan Community Memorial Centre and Township parks, as well as a variety of part-time staff, including a facility operator, lifeguards (8), canteen staff (6), bartenders (5), facility cleaners (3), parks labourers (2), program/camp instructors (2), and contract staff (e.g., yoga). This model is contemporary and effective, however, any change in responsibilities, customer demand, or asset inventories may cause the Township to re-evaluate its staffing needs. For example, several comments were received from the public regarding a desire for greater general maintenance of parks and recreation facilities. Clearly, maintenance must be a primary emphasis for the Township – as it has been since the Parks and Recreation Department was formed – though we suggest that improvements be sought through continued staff training and the implementation of customer service standards rather than additional personnel at this point in time.

Community volunteers are the backbone of the parks and recreation system as they deliver minor sports programs and many other activities, such as seniors' services. Special events are also heavily dependent upon volunteers, which means that the demand for individuals to fill these positions is high. However, increasing regulation and administrative requirements are taxing many groups.

Traditionally, older adults have provided many volunteer hours, although there has been a drive in recent years to involve youth in volunteering through mandatory community service hours. There is still some concern across the province that as the population continues to age, there will be a shortage of volunteers if proactive solutions are not discovered and put into practice. Building community capacity and offering direct support is the preferred approach in attempting to secure a long-term volunteer presence within the municipality.

Overall, there is a growing need for volunteer assistance and management resources (e.g., recruitment, screening, training, recognition, grant writing, etc.). Recognition of the achievements and efforts of volunteers is also of great importance as it can serve as incentive for involvement as well as aid in the retention of existing volunteers. It is recommended that the

Township develop a corporate-wide (i.e., not just specific to parks and recreation) recognition program to show their appreciation for local volunteers. The coordination of a volunteer fair may also be considered as a way to encourage local residents to give back to their community.

Lastly, unlike many municipalities, the Township does not have a Parks and Recreation Committee that acts as a sub-committee of Council. A primary role of these Committees is to give a platform for public input on matters relating to parks and recreation. In addition, such a Committee could assist in defining community needs, responding to leisure trends, reviewing policies and budgets, and advising on service delivery partnerships. Special projects (such as major building projects) and initiatives are excellent opportunities to form a Parks and Recreation Committee. One potential task would be to develop an annual work plan identifying key projects and priorities, using this Master Plan as a guide. Given the Township's current governance structure (which does not currently contain any standing committees), such an entity is not currently recommended. However, should the Township find that the matters relating to local parks and recreation are requiring more discussion than can be accommodated by Council, the creation of a project-specific and/or standing committee should be considered.

Recommendations

6. Convert the Community Events Coordinator to a permanent full-time position.
7. Ensure that the maintenance of parks and recreation facilities remains a high priority for the Township through continued staff training and the implementation of customer service standards.
8. Re-evaluate staffing requirements over time as changes occur in the scope of municipal responsibilities, customer demand, or asset inventories.
9. Develop a corporate-wide volunteer recognition initiative to celebrate the achievements of local residents and encourage greater levels of volunteerism.

6.4 Partnerships

Formal and informal partnerships play an important role in the provision of parks and recreation facilities and services in Lucan Biddulph. Economic pressures may prompt the Township to pursue partnerships as a means of containing capital and operating costs, gaining management expertise, sharing risks, increasing the speed with which new projects can be brought online, expanding the availability of capital, increasing revenues, enhancing facility maintenance, and improving the cost efficiency of service delivery. Alternately, the Township's goal of increasing community participation in programs and services may also lead it to pursue partnerships with outside interests. The most successful partnerships are derived from common objectives (e.g., environmental conservation, community improvement, physical activity, trail development, etc.), maximizing the strengths of each party, and mitigating risks such as costs and liability.

Through the Community Use of Schools Program, several partnerships exist throughout Ontario between municipalities and school boards to facilitate the sharing of community facilities. The success of this program varies across municipalities and school boards. For example, some municipalities have solidified long term reciprocal agreements to share access to facilities. Both the Thames Valley District School Board and London District Catholic School Board provide opportunities for municipalities and non-profit groups to access school facilities for use of

gymnasiums and classrooms. However, the Township does not have any formal or informal agreement with local schools and the amount of community use of schools is unknown. It is recommended that the Township establish reciprocal use agreements with the local elementary schools in order to promote community usage and active recreation opportunities for both students and residents.

From time to time, municipalities are approached with unsolicited partnership proposals from community groups, not-for-profit organizations, or the private sector. In these cases, there are a number of criteria that must be considered prior to establishing a relationship with a third party wishing to introduce a new level of service with municipal assistance, such as:

- that the proposed partnership is consistent with the municipal mandate and philosophies;
- that there is a role for the Township to play in the provision of the program or service;
- whether there is a quantifiable or justified need for the service in the community;
- that the service can be properly accommodated within the Township's long-term capital and/or operating resources;
- whether the partner is sufficiently capable / qualified (e.g., financially, staffing, internal expertise, etc.) to be able to deliver the service over the long-term, and in compliance with legislated policies and municipal standards;
- that the level of risk (e.g., financial, liability, etc.) is acceptable and that there is a plan in place to manage the risk;
- whether the partner can provide the service on a sole source basis; and/or
- that there is full agreement of terms, conditions, standards, and responsibilities amongst all parties.

After partnerships are developed and agreements are formalized, it is important that the Township regularly meet with its partners to discuss successes and challenges of the partnership by revisiting the original agreement and, where necessary, strengthening the agreement to ensure that a dynamic process exists to respond to challenges and public preferences.

Recommendations

10. In order to increase community participation and improve cost efficiency, encourage appropriate partnerships with public, not-for-profit, and/or private organizations in the provision and delivery of parks and recreation facilities and services.
11. Actively seek community and corporate sponsorships to enhance the delivery of recreation programs and services.
12. Establish reciprocal use agreements with the local elementary schools in order to promote community usage and active recreation opportunities for both students and residents.

6.5 Policies & Procedures

With every passing year, the complexity of Township operations grows. A focus must continue to be placed on creating policies and procedures to guide matters related to risk and liability management, health and safety for staff and facility users, government regulations, fiscal responsibility, inter-departmental coordination, operating performance, and customer service. Some of the Township's practices and procedures are not formally documented and there is also a need to preserve the managerial and operational knowledge established over years of experience and commitment.

For example, there is benefit in preparing an Ice Allocation Policy to establish arena scheduling procedures and booking priorities (e.g., minor v. adult users, residents v. non-residents, etc.). This process will also require the continued collection of group registration data, which will allow the Township to better track utilization levels, trends, and changing demands. Annual meetings with major users may be held to coordinate ice scheduling and discuss challenges and opportunities.

It is also suggested that the Township consider establishing policies for the following matters, though it is recognized that this is not an exhaustive list:

- Fundraising & Partnership Policy – most groups understand that there is a responsibility to contribute toward capital improvements that directly benefit their organization or community; a fundraising and partnership policy would formalize this requirement and establish parameters for community-led projects, such as minimum fundraising levels (25% or more is common, depending on the nature and scope of the project)
- Financial Assistance Policy – recreational activities are not affordable to all residents and, while some groups offer assistance on an as-needed basis, this may not be sufficient for those not involved in mainstream organized sport; one option is the Middlesex County sponsored “Can I Play Too” program, which is currently in place in Strathroy-Caradoc and Southwest Middlesex
- Advertising/Sponsorship Policy – advertising within Township parks and recreation facilities and communication materials is largely limited to rink boards at present; a policy could assist in identifying sponsorship opportunities and establishing relevant parameters with a view toward enhancing future revenue streams
- Customer Service Standards – the documentation of customer service standards is a best practice that helps to promote responsive and consistent messaging to the public
- Cancellation and Refund Policies – although the Township employs various procedures for cancelling and refunding ice and hall rentals, the development of a policy would create transparency and certainty for all parties
- Cash Handling – a documented procedure for cash handling reduces risk for Township employees
- Ticket Ice Policy – the Township offers access to the arena in low use periods, such as weekday mornings, to individuals (predominantly figure skaters) seeking practice time at a relatively affordable rate; ticket ice is not well understood or advertised by the broader community; a written policy would help to clarify the intent of ticket ice so that it is not used improperly

Recommendations

13. Develop an ice allocation policy to establish a priority ranking and procedures for arena scheduling.
14. Establish consistent data collection protocols and tracking mechanisms and monitor facility utilization to assist in identifying trends, changing demands, and allocation. Collect annual registration data from all organizations that make regular use of Township parks and facilities.
15. Ensure that policies and procedures are in place to directly support fundraising and partnerships, financial assistance, advertising and sponsorships, customer service, cancellations and refunds, cash handling, and ticket ice. Review all policies every five years, at minimum.

6.6 Cost Recovery & Rates

To offset a portion (but not all) of the costs associated with its parks and recreation facilities and associated services, the Township charges rental rates and program fees that are updated periodically based largely on inflationary factors, while being sensitive to what surrounding municipalities are charging for similar services. Rates may vary depending on the time of day, day of week, or season. The Township has a tiered rate structure that distinguishes between minors and adults for some facility types, but not for all. There are no additional charges applied to non-resident rentals or commercial operators.

While the Township's rate structure identifies rental costs for various recreation facilities, it does not address circumstances for waiving or reducing the fees, leaving this to Council's discretion. For the purposes of equity and transparency, the Township should establish a policy relating to special requests for fee waivers. Examples from other communities include: each affiliated community organization may receive one two-hour room rental free each year for an annual meeting; and non-profit youth-based groups may qualify for a discount for Monday to Friday daytime rentals.

Although several stakeholder groups commented about the high cost of room rentals, it is important to point out that rates are not set at full cost recovery levels and are instead subsidized through funds from general taxation, though the degree of subsidization likely varies by service. If fees and charges were based on the full costs of providing such services, then many would become unaffordable to most residents. As such, it is expected that some subsidization will continue to reflect the public benefits of recreation services. Based on the information made available to the consultant, the Township's current subsidy rates appear to be generally in line with those of many comparable urban/rural communities.

With that being said, the Township has not established operating cost recovery targets to help direct the setting of rates and fees, an exercise that would help to ensure that changes in true costs are appropriately captured through the rate structure. Another best practice is to include an annual capital replacement charge within the cost recovery levels to more effectively address the capital maintenance costs associated with upgrades and major facility renewal. Given the Township's aging infrastructure, this approach has merit as it promotes sustainability and fiscal responsibility; this approach is discussed further in Section 10.

Recommendations

16. Regularly assess rates and fees (along with user categorization) for parks and recreation programs and facilities to ensure that they represent a fair and equitable balance between true costs and public benefits.
17. Establish a policy regarding rental rate waiver/space donation for parks and recreation services.

6.7 Communications & Marketing

A lack of public awareness of activities and programs was raised as a concern by residents and organizations. This is a common issue in rural communities, where people are geographically dispersed and word-of-mouth remains a preferred form of communication. Enhancing communication with the Township's residents should be a high priority as participation in leisure activities can be impacted if the public is unaware of the many opportunities that exist.

Generating awareness in today's society requires the use of a very wide range of communication tools. The Township informs residents of parks and recreation opportunities through advertising at community facilities, signboards, the municipal website, social media, local partners and community organizations, and via available media (e.g., newspaper). The Township has also prepared exit surveys in the past to learn more about program needs and customer expectations.

“Advertise more community events on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. These are free social media platforms for you to utilize. It can also bring more younger residents to our community!” – online survey respondent

The success of the Township's recreation services often depends on connecting with residents through a variety of ways, providing new and proactive strategies for spreading the word as well as tried and true mechanisms that are familiar and predictable to current users. The Township's 2015 program survey found that the Lucan Biddulph's Facebook page and flyers were the most successful means of sharing community information. Promotion should focus not only on activities, events, and services, but also the benefits of participation and healthy lifestyles.

The Township recently completed an update to its website to improve its scope and usability. Online visitors may now find information about community facilities and parks and the amenities within them, as well as a programs offered by the Township. This is a positive step forward. It is anticipated that the new Community Events Coordinator position and greater use of local schools will also help in this regard, as well as improved signage and advertising at Township parks and facilities.

There were many requests for the Township to prepare a community guide (like the one provided in the Municipality of South Huron) that identifies program opportunities, facility information, community contacts, and other municipal information. Hard copies of these guides can be made available at municipal facilities, libraries, and facilities operated by partner organizations, as well as often being delivered directly to households either within a local newspaper or municipal tax bills; online versions should also be created. The primary benefit of a community guide is that all residents are able to access the same information about parks and recreation services.

To this end, it is recommended that the Township develop a bi-annual community guide that identifies basic municipal information, parks and recreation offerings, trails and heritage resources, and community contact information. This would build off the existing digital newsletter and may include items such as: waste and recycling pick-up dates; information about facility rentals; library programs and opening hours; community group contacts; community events; public reminders; etc. In addition, the Township may consider seeking advertising from local businesses in order to offset the costs of producing the community guide, which is similar to the model followed by the Ausable Community Centre for their monthly “Community News” monthly newsletter.

It may also be time for the Township to consider developing a corporate-wide branding and marketing strategy that aims to promote Lucan Biddulph and its values as a way to attract and retain businesses and residents.

Lastly, it is crucial for the public to be aware of the many ways for them to become engaged and provide feedback to decision-makers. The Township should provide opportunities to facilitate dialogue between groups and/or residents through an annual forum (or a similar approach, such as a stakeholder breakfast event) in order to bolster communication and to promote a collaborative approach in service delivery. Additional engagement opportunities should also be provided prior to undertaking large community projects to solicit input from the public.

Recommendations

18. Develop a bi-annual Community Guide (hard copy and online) that identifies basic municipal information, parks and recreation offerings, trails and heritage resources, and community contact information.
19. Provide opportunities to facilitate dialogue between groups and/or residents through an annual forum in order to bolster communication. Additional engagement opportunities should also be provided prior to undertaking large community projects to solicit input from the public.



Section 7. Indoor Facility Assessment

This section evaluates the current supply of indoor recreation facilities utilizing a combination of market driven targets (see explanation in Section 1.3) and other Master Plan inputs to inform future facility needs and provision strategies.

7.1 Lucan Community Memorial Centre (arena and halls)

A primary goal of the Master Plan is to examine the Lucan Community Memorial Centre and Park in order to:

- rationalize the existing facilities and amenities and consider their closure, re-purposing, renovation, expansion, or replacement
- consider the realignment or relocation of the existing sports fields, play equipment, and parking areas (as part of an overall site plan for the park)
- identify possible lands that would be of interest to acquire for future expansion
- outline a management process to facilitate the redevelopment of the site



The outdoor elements are assessed in Section 8 of this Plan, while this section addresses the indoor elements of the LCMC.

Overview of the LCMC

The Lucan Community Memorial Centre was originally built in 1949, though most of what remains was constructed in 1976 when the arena and main hall were developed. Today, the facility consists of the following primary components:

- single pad arena
 - rink dimensions: 185 feet by 85 feet
 - bowl seating with a capacity of approximately 2,000
 - 6 change rooms plus a dedicated change room/office for the Junior C team
 - referee's room (small)
 - canteen
- Leprechaun Hall (upper hall) with full kitchen and washrooms
- Main Hall (large hall that also serves as a gymnasium and event space) with full kitchen and upper mezzanine
- Committee Room (small meeting room)
- former library branch (2,700sf), which is currently being leased to Whole Health Fitness

Although the facility is approaching its 40th anniversary, it is generally in good condition for its age. A new rink slab was poured in 2010 (though the boards are original), the roof and steel trusses over the arena are in good condition, the arena's refrigeration system is running well, and small-scale improvements have been made for user comfort and accessibility (e.g., installation of motion-activated doors).

The Township has undertaken assessments of the LCMC's structure, mechanical system, and electrical system in the past two years:

- the building condition assessment (2014) found a number of minor deficiencies pertaining to the roofs, walls, and structural systems, but noted that the overall structure of the LCMC was in good condition
- the mechanical assessment (2014) examined the capital equipment related to the arena operation and identified a lifecycle replacement program that included approximately \$340,000 of capital items by 2030; overall, the arena's mechanical systems are in good condition
- the electrical assessment (2015) identified up to \$62,000 in improvements to be undertaken over next 10 years; this analysis did not examine opportunities to allow for energy efficiency, which the Township should consider when replacing existing systems

Based on these assessments and input from staff, the Township's long-term capital budget identifies \$1.33 million in lifecycle improvements to the LCMC between 2016 and 2028; major items include rink boards, chiller, roofing, dehumidification, flooring, etc. This budget figure appears to be reasonable given the facility's age and condition, although adjustments may be required in future years based on changing requirements. It bears noting that this amount will only keep the facility running in its current form – any upgrades or expansions to the facility will be over and above this figure.

When the LCMC was built in 1976, it was ahead of its time. With arena bowl seating (rarely seen in a community of this size), six change rooms (most arenas only had four at the time), and ample halls and activity spaces, it truly was a well planned facility that has served the community very well for many years. The LCMC was also designed to attract users from outside the area and, since that time, several new facilities have been built in other nearby towns that have reduced its draw. Several communities have also built twin pad arenas that are better able to accommodate tournaments and events.



The LCMC also has a number of features that are beginning to wear out or simply do not compare to modern offerings in other communities (many of which have amenities like indoor tracks). For example, accessibility is a primary issue throughout the complex, including washrooms, seating areas, the rink itself (it cannot accommodate sledge hockey), certain entrances, and the upper hall (which is serviced by a restricted access lift). Barrier-free compliance must be addressed through any future major renovations.

“An indoor walking track at the arena would benefit residents of all ages and provide a safe environment for everyone to remain active.” – online survey respondent

In addition, many residents and user groups commented on the age of the Leprechaun (Lep) Hall finishes and kitchen (which make it harder to keep clean), the arena’s sound system (which is original to the building), the lack of heaters in the arena bowl, and the overall need for general facility upgrades. The referee’s room is very small and four of the change rooms have shared facilities showers/washrooms (not ideal when scheduling girls and boys teams back-to-back).



The facility’s design can also be a challenge. For example, the bowl seating that encircles the arena is excessive, but makes the installation of a walking track impractical, which would be a valued addition for residents of all ages. The placement of the complex’s various activity areas also makes it feel disjointed, with various entrances, control points, and parking areas. While its

location along the street frontage assists with visibility, its facade is inconsistent and the front plaza area is under-used.

When asked whether the Lucan Community Memorial Centre should be substantially renovated and upgraded, 61% of the respondents to the online survey indicated their support (17% disagreed). Arenas were also identified as a high priority for additional spending through the online survey (74% support). It bears noting that these questions were asked without any mention of costs and tax implications, which could be substantial.

Arena Demand

In many communities, recent increases in female hockey participation have helped to sustain demand; however, trends suggest that participation rates have stabilized and overall registration is unlikely to increase at the same rate as future growth due to the aging population. Across Canada, changes in hockey registration are notable:

- Approximately 9% of Canadian children and youth play hockey (although the percentage in Lucan Biddulph appears to be much higher than this), half the percentage that played 20 years ago. The size of Ontario's 5 to 19 age group increased by only 0.4% between 2001 and 2011, despite the entire population growing by 12.6%.
- Hockey Canada and the Ontario Hockey Federation experienced peaks in youth registration for the 2008-2009 season. Youth registration has declined by 13% in Ontario since this time, a time period that coincides with the economic downturn and very slow youth population growth. Registration remains strongest in the younger age groups (Initiation, Tyke, Novice), while the Atom to Midget age groups have seen the greatest declines.
- Female hockey participation in Ontario also peaked in 2008/09. In the ten years prior to 2008/09, female hockey registration increased nearly four-fold and made-up for a reduction in male registration. Female hockey participation has declined slightly since, suggesting that the market has reached equilibrium. In 2013/14, females comprised nearly one-third of all youth hockey registrants in Ontario.

Similarly, Skate Canada (the national governing body for figure skating) has also experienced a slow decline in registration, with the number of associate members declining by 9% between 2006/07 and 2012/13. Synchronized skating and power skating programs have seen the greatest increases.

Prime time hours consistently remain in high demand in most municipalities; these times are usually between 5pm and 10pm on weekdays and all day on weekends, with a focus on youth-serving organizations. However, with more households facing time constraints, there is evidence of a shrinking "window" of desirable ice times and more competition for prime time rental slots. In some communities, declining registrations have adversely affected bookings during "shoulder" hours that fall just outside of the prime times (e.g., 7 to 8am, 4 to 5pm, and 10pm to 12am). Daytime (weekday) usage during non-prime hours has traditionally been difficult for most municipalities to sell. This is also the case in Lucan Biddulph.

The Lucan Community Memorial Centre arena is generally available for booking between 7 am and 12 am, although there is very little use before 5pm on weekdays, before 8am on weekends,

or after 11pm throughout the week. The Township keeps ice in the arena throughout most of the year and, although summer usage is strong, the peak season generally runs from October to March.

An examination of peak season schedules supplied by the Township indicates that 95% of prime time hours (5pm to 10pm Monday to Friday, 7am to 10pm Saturday/Sunday) are rented/used; the only time that is not used on a regular basis is early weekend mornings before 8:00 or 8:30am. 80% of all usage occurs during prime time hours; this figure rises to 85% when public skating / shinny is excluded. Although usage during non-prime hours is quite low, it is not completely out-of-line from the profiles of arenas in comparable communities.

The LCMC contains a single pad arena. Primary users Lucan Minor Hockey, Lucan Skating Club, Lucan Irish Junior C, and adult groups. The ice season extends from mid-July to March in order to accommodate summer renters, including the MAC Skating School.

Table 21 illustrates registration levels in local ice sports. Registration has been relatively steady in recent years, with some increases in the number of minor hockey and figure skating participants. These groups have indicated a desire to add new programs (e.g., skill development, synchronized skating) and feel that they are unable to do so without access to additional ice time.

Table 21: Peak Season Ice Registration, LCMC

Ice Sport Registration	Category	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Lucan Minor Hockey	Youth	288	326	322
Lucan Skating Club	Youth/Adult	n/a	69	82
Lucan Irish Junior C	Youth	23	23	23
Rec Hockey League	Adult	90	90	90
Men's Broomball League	Adult	n/a	n/a	75
Flyers / Old Timers	Adult	28	28	28
Pickup Hockey (2 groups)	Adult	20	20	20
Total	--	--	--	640

Source: Township of Lucan Biddulph

The aging population trend can be expected to have a significant impact on the number of participants making regular usage of the Township's arena. Although the overall Township population is expected to increase by 27% by 2030, child and youth cohorts are forecasted to grow at a slower pace (15%). This is important as children and youth constitute the primary users of ice time; in Lucan Biddulph, nearly 80% of ice rentals are for youth organizations. As such, while demand for ice time is expected to increase, a modest rate of growth can be expected. It is suggested that the Township's population projections, along with ice sport participation, be monitored closely over the coming years.

The current estimated level of provision in the Township is 1 ice pad per 640 participants (youth and adult); the current youth-only ratio is one rink per 390 youth registrants. From our experience, this ratio of youth participants per ice pad is indicative of a well-used arena that prioritizes youth within prime time hours. Depending on the nature of the programming (most notably rep/travel hockey, which requires more ice time), we normally see a range of 350 to 450 youth per pad in most smaller/rural communities. For Lucan Biddulph, it is recommended that a

provision target of 1 ice pad per 400 youth registrants (ages 5 to 19) be utilized for assessing local arena needs.

Using a 15% growth rate for minor sport participants, it is estimated that the 390 youth registrants will grow to 450 by 2030, assuming that the groups continue to operate similar programs into the future. 450 youth participants is at the upper end of the capacity for a single ice pad, but well short of the “tipping point” for a second ice pad (which would require a minimum of 600 youth registrants in addition to strong adult and regional demand, along with positive future growth trends). As time goes by, demand for ice time can be expected to increase, requiring some groups to use less desirable hours (such as adult groups moving into later, non-prime time slots as per the recommended ice allocation policy) or rent ice in other communities. **Nevertheless, the current and forecasted demand is insufficient to justify a second ice pad in the Township.**

There are a number of factors that are impacting ice demand in Lucan Biddulph. First of all, youth registration has increased over the past three seasons and there is an expectation amongst some groups that this will continue. In addition, there is a desire amongst the minor ice sport associations to increase practice time and offer additional opportunities for skill development, including the formation of a junior synchro team. Specifically, Lucan Minor Hockey felt that they could use another 20 hours of prime time ice time each week; this request is 50% more ice time than the group currently receives and is generally equivalent to one-third of a second ice pad. Based on our experience, the number of hours currently allocated to Lucan Minor Hockey is in line with accepted standards of play, thus their request for additional hours is largely in response to a desire for program enhancements. There is not enough available ice time to accommodate this request within the current schedule; however, this request alone is not sufficient to justify the development of a second ice pad.

In terms of regional demand, the large majority of rentals at the LCMC arena are to local organizations, although summer ice is often rented by non-residents to a greater degree. We are not aware of any new arena developments or closures currently planned within the municipalities surrounding the Township, although the Municipality of Middlesex Centre is in the early stages of considering the long-term needs and options associated with the Ilderton Arena & Curling Club. Recent arena development in St. Marys and Komoka has likely helped to address some of the latent ice demand throughout the region.

Gymnasium / Hall Demand

The LCMC contains three other activity spaces: a large Main Hall/gymnasium, the upper Lep Hall, and a small Committee Room; there is also a mezzanine area that is seldom used. These are contemporary recreation spaces that were seen as forward-thinking at the time that the Centre was constructed. Together, these spaces serve several purposes including: meeting space for non-profit groups; recreational programming; private functions and events; community group use; clinics and information sharing sessions, etc. Several programs are being provided directly by the Township out of the halls, such as pickleball, volleyball, and yoga. The cross-programming opportunities and versatility offered by the LCMC – with the attached arena and outdoor amenities – help this to outperform most stand-alone community halls in similar jurisdictions.

In addition, a private fitness operator recently became a tenant at the LCMC. Whole Health Fitness offers a variety of health and fitness classes and services, including an open gym. Being

a relatively new group in a growing industry, they see the potential to offer expanded services out of other spaces within the facility and the Township's parks.

A review of the LCMC's rental data from 2014 reveals that these spaces were utilized, on average, for 16% of all open hours (8am to 10pm, seven days a week). Lower levels of use are observed between April and September (summer months), which is common in facilities of this type – usage was higher at 22% between October and March. Usage during the daytime tends to be focused on programming for seniors or early years, while evening use is more commonly used for active sports; weekend use is often oriented toward special events. The Main Hall is not being rented as frequently for weddings and banquets as it once was due to a number of factors, including competition from the private sector (e.g., golf courses), the lack of local lodging options, and changing preferences and behaviours.

Since the Township began offering an extended suite of programs in late 2014, usage of the Main Hall has been on the rise. Although seemingly low, the LCMC's utilization levels – an average of 5 hours per day between the Main Hall and Lep Hall – are in line with rates seen for comparable facilities in other municipalities, though there is certainly capacity for greater use.



The Township should continue to explore opportunities to increase utilization of its community spaces and consider options for promoting them for a diverse and flexible range of uses. Reorienting the Township's facilities to accommodate a wider variety of uses is important to their long-term sustainability. Given that demand for more formal events such as weddings is waning, it would be prudent to focus on ways to enhance the use of these spaces (particularly the Main Hall, which is the facility's most unique and versatile space) for active recreation, community events, and activities with broader social interests.

When assessing community halls – or any type of facility for that matter – consideration should be given to the following items:

- **Adaptable Design:** Can the facility accommodate various current and future opportunities and can it serve the functional needs of numerous activities at one location?
- **Community Wellness:** How does the facility benefit the health, wellbeing, and social development of the community?
- **Accessibility:** Is the facility barrier-free and inclusive of all potential users?
- **Sustainability:** Is the facility economically sustainable?
- **Geographic Coverage:** How does the facility contribute to the geographic spread of facilities throughout the Township?

The presence of multi-use spaces within Lucan Biddulph provides a great deal of community benefit and ensures that affordable and accessible venues are available. While the Township's multi-purpose spaces are meeting local needs, they also have capacity to accommodate additional demand. Typical provision targets for municipal multi-purpose rooms vary widely, but are often in the range of one per 2,000 to 5,000 residents and the Township is well within this range. No new multi-purpose spaces are recommended during this planning period, although improvements to the existing spaces should be a priority.

Summary

"We have a great facility in the Lucan Community Memorial Centre. However, it's looking very dated." – online survey respondent

Older facilities that have not been substantially renovated simply do not function as efficiently or effectively as newer facilities, particularly with respect to energy efficiency, required capital maintenance, accessibility, and user comfort. Due to the age and condition of the LCMC, combined with sustained demand into the future, there is a clear need to re-invest in the facility. This may require creative funding solutions in order to be financially achievable as the Township does not have a dedicated reserve for major capital replacement, though one is recommended moving forward (see Section 10).

"I agree with making improvements, but the improvements need to be financially responsible and not add undue stress to the property tax system." – online survey respondent

A complete rebuild of the facility is not the most prudent or financially achievable option as this point in time, as this would likely carry a capital cost in excess of \$25 million. **A major renovation of the Centre is the preferred approach, with the intent of extending the facility's lifespan for another 20 years, after which redevelopment options should be more closely examined.**

In renovating the Centre, the Township needs to "think beyond the rink". The arena serves only a small proportion of the Township's residents, although many are involved indirectly as parents and spectators. The LCMC provides access to a broader range of recreational and community activities that can be enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities, and interests. The role that this facility plays in the community can be amplified through various upgrades, programs, events, and resident involvement, keeping it a true multi-purpose facility.

As part of the next steps, it is recommended that the Township prioritize renovations to the LCMC, which may include (but not be limited to the following):

Arena

- accessible washrooms in lobby
- accessible seating / viewing area
- new sound system
- change room and shower upgrades (finishes, HVAC)
- heating within arena bowl
- possible reconfiguration of lobby and introduction of natural light into the space

Halls/Multi-use Spaces

- complete renovation of the Lep Hall and kitchen
- upgraded HVAC system
- upgrades to Main Hall stage and sound system
- renovated entrance to Main Hall (accessibility)
- installation of a retractable curtain to divide the Main Hall into two spaces for concurrent programming

Facility Perimeter (excluding outdoor recreation amenities, which are addressed in Section 8)

- reconfigured parking lots and facility entrances
- improved signage at the front of the building

The following are the major steps recommended to achieve this vision for the refurbishment of the Lucan Community Memorial Centre, listed in general order of implementation. Not included below are the various stages of review and approval provided by Township staff, potential partners, and Council.

- 1) Establish a Project Steering Committee (terms of reference, appointments, project charter, etc.)
- 2) Undertake public consultation program to confirm a cohesive vision for the project
- 3) Confirm potential partner interest in the project; establish a partnership framework for unsolicited proposals
- 4) Conduct a tour of comparable facilities and confirm design objectives
- 5) Prepare preliminary business plan (cost estimates, general program plan) and develop concept plans / functional program; may require outside consultant
- 6) Secure base funding
- 7) Initiate RFQ/RFP for architectural services and/or construction manager
- 8) Refinement of concepts through subsequent public consultation phase; refine cost estimates as necessary
- 9) Establish user agreements (if applicable)
- 10) Launch fundraising campaign
- 11) Design, construction, and commissioning phase

As a point of reference, in 2013, the Township of South Huron examined options for revitalizing its arena / recreation centre, which was smaller but of a similar era of construction. The proposal included a wide range of upgrades and renovations, as well as the installation of a walking track and new change rooms – costs were estimated at \$4.8 to \$5.8 million. If most of the recommended improvements to the LCMC can be accommodated within the current building envelope, the costs are likely to be lower than those identified for South Huron.

Recommendations

20. Undertake a major renovation of the Lucan Community Memorial Centre to extend the facility's lifespan for another 20 years. Objectives should include barrier-free accessibility, lifecycle requirements, improving the user experience, and enhancing the multi-use spaces for active recreation, community events, and activities with broader social interests. A project steering committee should be established to guide the renovation project and pursue fundraising opportunities.

7.2 Age-Specific Dedicated Space

Space for Older Adults

The Township does not provide any dedicated older adult spaces, such as seniors' centres, but does accommodate a wide range of older adult programming in its facilities. The Lucan Sunshine Club, Seniors' Exercise Group, and VON all use the LCMC and each serve approximately 30 older adults within the Township. In addition, Whole Health Fitness recently began offering fitness opportunities (including ones specifically marketed to older adults) out of the former library space within the LCMC.

Considerable population growth is anticipated in the 55+ age group. Traditionally, seniors have tended to participate in less physically rigorous activities, such as card playing, crafts, trips, social endeavours, etc. Although these pursuits will remain an important aspect of older adult services, the aging baby boomers are more fit and focused than previous generations on maintaining an active lifestyle. This is expected to translate into increased participation in active recreation pursuits (albeit at a gentler pace), particularly those that are health and fitness related. In this way, the leisure demands of the new senior will closely mirror the needs of older adults, which include activities such as fitness and swimming. Successful models in other municipalities involve the co-location of older adult centres/clubs with multi-use community centres, rather than creating new stand-alone facilities.

The targeted consultation undertaken with older adults within Lucan Biddulph revealed a strong interest in greater recreational participation, which is a positive reflection of this growing population segment. An older adults centre or hub consisting of dedicated space within the LCMC was specifically requested by the Township's seniors' organizations. Such a facility would help to bring the various older adult activities and services under one umbrella, thereby improving communication and awareness and reducing the separation between the various community groups.

Given the growing needs of this age group, there is sufficient interest in an older adults centre or hub to warrant further consideration through a topic-specific study and public engagement process. The preferred option for such a space would be through the adaptive re-use or expansion of an existing community facility, such as at the LCMC or Ausable Community Centre (see below). A visible location and dedicated resources are critical to attracting new users and encouraging regular use of the space. This space need not be large – in fact, it is preferred that it begin at a smaller scale in order to test local needs and interests. Building community capacity (e.g., volunteers, program instructors, lines of communication, etc.) is just as important as providing a physical hub within which older adults can meet and participate. Under this proposal, an Activity Coordinator (funded through the Township, grants, and/or others) may be required in order to organize activities and perform daily responsibilities.

In addition to the LCMC, another possible option to consider for an older adult centre may be the Ausable Community Centre which, until recently, hosted a number of employment services with funding from various agencies (these services have since been moved to the new Lucan Library). As such, the Ausable Community Centre, which is operated by a Board of Directors and not associated with the Township, does not have a major tenant; the space remains available for event rentals. This building is located on Main Street, is accessible (including a ramp and lift), contains meeting spaces and a kitchen, and has public parking nearby. The Board is working on a proposal to bring to the Township that would see the building transformed into an older adults centre with age-relevant programming (e.g., computer literacy, daytrips, etc.). Additional discussions with the Board and community partners will be required to better understand their proposal.

Recommendations

21. Undertake a topic-specific study and public engagement process to explore options for the creation and management of a hub for older adults' activities at an existing facility to help meet the recreational and social needs of this population.

Space for Youth

Youth are traditionally a very challenging market for municipal recreation departments to serve due to the wide range of needs (e.g., recreational, social support, leisure hang-out, etc.), segmentation, peer pressure, changing "trendiness" of certain activities, competing interests, and lack of transportation options. Opportunities for organized sports for this age group are provided by community organizations, leaving municipal and non-profit agencies to cater more towards unstructured drop-in activities.

There is a large portion of youth who do not participate in organized activities and sports programs and, as a result, there may be some interest for a place for youth to occupy their time in a constructive and positive social setting; 78% of online survey respondents supported spending on space for youth. The number of youth in the Township is expected to increase, though not as rapidly as the entire population.

Despite this interest, youth-drop-in centres are difficult to sustain in smaller communities, particularly rural areas with dispersed populations. The lack of a secondary school would also limit the viability of such an initiative. As such, a youth-specific space is not recommended, rather the Township should work closely with its community partners to promote youth programs and resources.

7.3 Indoor Aquatic Centre

The Township does not currently provide any indoor aquatic facilities. Township residents are within a 20 to 25 minute drive of three public indoor swimming facilities located in nearby communities, including the Pyramid Recreation Centre in the Town of St. Marys, and the Stoney Creek YMCA and Canada Games Aquatic Centre in the City of London.

Indoor aquatic facilities are one of the most sought after public facilities due to their ability to accommodate a wide range of ages, interests, and abilities. Learning to swim is an essential life skill that all residents can benefit from. While private backyard pools provide similar leisure activities, public indoor and outdoor pools offer a range of programming opportunities and also

serve as a venue for residents to gather and form community ties. Nevertheless, aquatic facilities are amongst the most expensive leisure facilities to operate and are seldom provided in smaller communities, particularly municipalities like the Township of Lucan Biddulph that have ready access to local outdoor swimming opportunities as well as year-round programs in adjacent communities.



Despite a strong desire for a public indoor swimming pool in the Township, these facilities come at a great cost as they are highly expensive to build and operate. This is a fact that may not be fully appreciated by all of those that expressed their support for this type of facility. Public indoor aquatic facilities are virtually assured of running an operational deficient year after year, even in the largest market (generally requiring annual subsidies ranging between \$250,000 to \$500,000 depending on the type of pool and the market it serves). Furthermore, construction costs could be between \$8 million and \$12 million, but are highly variable depending on the site and pool design. **By our estimates, these expenditures would result in an estimated tax increase of 20% or more, assuming that the Township would be financing half of the capital cost for a modestly sized facility. The Township simply does not have the tax base to support a facility of this nature.**

Within the region, the municipalities of South Huron and Strathroy-Caradoc have both recently examined the possibility of developing indoor aquatic facilities (or enclosing their outdoor pools) and both have found these options to be financial unfeasible.

A slightly lower cost option involves the Lucan Biddulph outdoor pool, which was built in 1964 and is in growing need of substantial upgrades. This facility, however, is a poor candidate for enclosure due to its age. In addition, enclosing the outdoor pool does very little to enhance the facility's design beyond making it a year-round venue; without a significant capital outlay, there is no opportunity to adjust the depth of the pool, add a warm water tank, or offer improved change rooms. Enclosing a 50-year facility that was built for less than three months of annual outdoor use is not a wise investment and cannot be recommended.

Generally speaking, a population of 30,000 to 40,000 (depending on the nature of the secondary market) is a common threshold at which many communities may consider the provision of an indoor aquatic facility. The population base for a more financially sustainable operation is even higher than this threshold. The Township's population is well below this 'industry standard'. **Given these considerations, together with reasonable access to pools within the broader region, a municipal indoor aquatic facility is not recommended.**

7.4 Fitness Facilities

The Township does not currently provide any municipal fitness facilities, but has recently entered into a partnership with a third-party fitness provider to lease the former library space at the LCMC. Yoga and chair fitness programs are also offered by the Township and outside providers using various spaces at the LCMC.

Access to fitness programs and opportunities has never been more important as mounting evidence reveals increased rates of physical inactivity and obesity. In addition to traditional fitness and aerobics, activities that promote active living and wellness are the fastest growing segments in the fitness industry. Active living and wellness are described as health-based and specialized programs such as yoga, pilates, Zumba, athletic training, physiotherapy, personal training, and more. The growth of active living and wellness is largely driven by the older adult and senior demographic, who seek lower impact physical activities.

Equipment-based fitness facilities are traditionally provided by the private sector given their ability to provide a premium level of service and high quality facilities. For these reasons, smaller municipalities often elect not to enter this market and face competition from for-profit entities that can expend greater resources on the latest fitness equipment and offer a more comprehensive fitness experience. The Township should continue to focus on promoting and facilitating active living and fitness programs at existing municipal facilities.

7.5 Other Facilities / Facility Requests

Based on historic service delivery levels, budget limitations, competitive interference, or a myriad of other reasons, the Township simply cannot involve itself in the provision of every type of facility. While the Township should remain open to discussion from new and emerging sport and leisure groups, it should evaluate capital proposals (focussing on those with major potential capital implications of \$100,000 or more) through a formal partnership framework, with consideration to the Master Plan's goals and recommendations, as well as the Township's financial capacity to participate in such projects. The partnership framework should place the onus on the proponent to provide information including (but not limited) to:

- a comprehensive needs analysis and business plan
- the proponent's financial capacity
- a demonstration of the sustainability of the project
- detailed evidence of community benefits
- full risk analysis

Recommendations

22. Evaluate requests for facilities and services not presently within the Township's core mandate on a case-by-case basis. Unsolicited proposals should be supported by a proponent-led assessment that demonstrates the risks and benefits of the Township becoming involved in the provision of a non-core facility, as well as a business plan and partnership strategy suitable to the Township.

Section 8. Parks and Outdoor Facility Assessment

The Township's current supply of outdoor recreation facilities are examined in this section, along with parkland and open space supplies, policies, acquisition methods, and future requirements.

8.1 Sports Fields

Soccer Fields

There are six soccer fields within municipal parks:

- Lucan Community Memorial Centre Park contains two full size fields (each can also be programmed as two mini fields), one intermediate size field, and two mini fields that are largely used for practices; one of the full fields is located on land that is leased from a private landowner
- Granton Park contains one full size field that is largely used for unstructured play at the present time

Additional fields are offered at local schools, but due to their lower quality, these are not used by the local soccer organization.



There is one soccer organization in the Township – the Lucan Soccer Association, which offers programs for youth (including a 10-week indoor program at the LCMC Main Hall) and adults (men's team and co-ed). The youth program is house league soccer only; players seeking a competitive/rep experience play in nearby communities. Some residents, including some in the Granton area, may play recreational soccer in Kirkton.

The club had 350 outdoor players in 2015, down slightly from previous years due to the loss of the co-ed soccer program. Youth registration has been steady for the past three years. Registration data for Lucan Soccer Association suggests that local participation is well above provincial norms, with about 35% of youth ages 5 to 19 playing the sport locally, compared to the provincial average of 13%.

Table 22: Lucan Soccer Association – Registration Data

Category	2013	2014	2015
Youth – outdoor	325	326	330*
Lucan FC (Adult)	20	19	20
Adult Co-ed Soccer	45	40	0
Total – outdoor	390	385	350
Youth – indoor	74	69	63

Source: Township of Lucan Biddulph

* data provided by Soccer Club

In the Township of Lucan Biddulph, there are about as many youth playing outdoor soccer as there are playing hockey. In many communities across the Province, outdoor soccer had overtaken hockey years ago. Despite soccer's enormous growth in the last two decades, enrolment in outdoor soccer within Ontario peaked in 2007 and has seen small declines each year since. While overall soccer registration in Ontario may have begun to stabilize, registration in adult soccer leagues has increased. The strength of adult soccer can be partially attributed to the aging of youth soccer participants from the 1990s, and continuing participation in soccer.

The provision of appropriately sized soccer fields have also been a growing concern across the Province, partially due to the Long Term Player Development (LTPD) program that has been adopted by the Ontario Soccer Association. The LTPD program introduced a series of new rules, regulations, and standards to promote grassroots soccer programs and skill development, with less emphasis on playing games and scoring. Some of these changes will have a direct impact on the provision of soccer fields (e.g., field sizes), thus influencing the demand for field time.

The primary issue raised by the Lucan Soccer Association relates to field maintenance, most notably field levelling and drainage, especially on Field 1 at the LCMC Park. The club also discussed the need for a support building (with washrooms, concessions, and storage) to serve the soccer complex at this location, noting that this is likely a longer-term goal. Several residents also suggested the need for a hardscape path from the parking lot to the soccer fields (and ball diamonds) to facilitate access for persons with disabilities and caregivers with strollers. The installation of lights on one field was raised as another option to consider over the longer-term, which would help to accommodate more adult programs and maximize existing fields (with proper turf maintenance, a lit soccer field is equivalent to 1.5 unlit fields due to the extended hours of play).

The Lucan Soccer Association indicated that the current field supply is meeting their needs, but more may be needed if their membership grows. With 350 outdoor participants and six fields, this equates to an average of 58 players per field; if the co-ed adult league is reinstated, this average would climb to approximately 65 players per field. These figures are within a comfortable range of provision – one field per 60 players is an often-used target – suggesting that the supply is sufficient to meet current demands.

While the Township's population is expected to grow by 27% between 2015 and 2030, much of this growth is anticipated to occur in the older age groups, which may translate into slightly greater demand for adult soccer. In terms of minor sport participants, a growth rate of 15% is estimated, which would increase the current soccer club registration from 350 at present to 450

players by 2030, assuming that the Club continues to operate similar programs into the future (i.e., house league, no rep) and that the co-ed league is restarted. With a provision target of one field per 60 players, this equates to a need for 7.5 fields by 2030 – 1.5 fields more than what is currently available. This demand could be accommodated through the development of one additional full size soccer field and the installation of lights on one field (or the development of a second future field if lighting is not a viable option). All future fields should be full size, allowing for them to be divided into smaller fields for younger age groups.

Additional programming of the Granton Park field is recommended in the short-term, as this field is seldom used by the organization. In addition, there is a need to secure long-term access to Field 3 at the LCMC Park (which is leased from a private landowner) or, alternately, to replace this field should an agreement not be reached. A hardscape path from the parking lot to the soccer fields, as part of other improvements to the park, is also recommended. Lastly, turf maintenance is an area requiring greater attention; in order to address priority concerns, a plan should be put in place in collaboration with the Lucan Soccer Association.



Over the longer-term, site improvements at the LCMC Park should be discussed further with the Lucan Soccer Association, including the potential need and funding for a support building for the soccer complex. Field development will be required in order to meet the demand for 1.5 additional soccer fields, which may be provided through the development of one full size field and the installation of lights on one field (or the development of a second future field if lighting is not a viable option). Further, with plans to expand the small diamond at the park, it is possible that one of the existing mini fields will be displaced, creating a need to replace this field in the longer-term. Ideally, these fields would be provided at the LCMC Park in order to build upon the central operations at this site, however, this would require park expansion, an option that should be explored further. As a point of reference, a total of 4 to 5 hectares of land would be required to accommodate two full size soccer fields.

Recommendations

23. Secure long-term access to Soccer Field 3 at the LCMC Park (which is leased from a private landowner) or, alternately, to replace this field should an agreement not be reached.
24. As part of other improvements to the LCMC Park, install a hardscape path from the parking lot to the soccer fields.
25. Work with the Lucan Soccer Association to establish turf maintenance standards and practices. Promote usage of the Granton Park soccer field.
26. Over the longer-term, develop one to two additional full size soccer fields and explore the viability of installing lights on field. The LCMC Park is the preferred location for these fields, which would require park expansion.

Ball Diamonds

There are five ball diamonds within municipal parks, as described below. Ball diamonds with functional lights can accommodate extended play and are considered to be equivalent to 1.5 diamonds each; with two lit diamonds at present, the Township's supply is equivalent to six ball diamonds.

- Lucan Community Memorial Centre Park contains one large lit diamond with clay infield and one small lit diamond
- Lions Market Street Park contains one small unlit diamond
- Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park contains one small unlit diamond
- Granton Park contains one large diamond with light standards that are currently inoperable

Additional diamonds may be available at local schools, but due to their lower quality, these are not used by local organizations.

Baseball participation in the Township has been relatively steady in recent years, with local registration estimated at 255 players at present. The local minor baseball program recently amalgamated with an adjacent community to form the Lucan/Ilderton Minor Ball Association, which offers both house league and rep teams for boys and girls (as well as one men's team). The club indicates that they have a registration around 350 players, approximately 120 of which live within Lucan Biddulph. The club uses the four diamonds in the village of Lucan, as well as seven diamonds within the Municipality of Middlesex Centre. Adult baseball consists of nine teams (men's and women's), with approximately 135 registrants, the majority of which are assumed to be local residents.

Table 23: Local Baseball/Softball Registration Data

Category	2015
Lucan/Ilderton Minor Ball (local players)	120
Adults (9 teams)	135
Total	255

Source: Township of Lucan Biddulph

Across Ontario, baseball leagues (including softball, hardball, fastball, and slo-pitch) have generally seen a decline in participation since 1992, partly at the expense of soccer’s growing popularity. Baseball Canada has taken significant steps in addressing this decline by introducing new programs and enhancing communication with its member organizations. Nationally, softball has seen a similar decline, however, it appears to be stabilizing as the sport is a popular option for adult recreational leagues.

With six ball diamonds (unlit equivalents) at present, the Township is currently providing one diamond per 43 registered participants. A market-driven provision target of one baseball diamond (unlit equivalent) per 80 active participants has been found to be effective in meeting needs in most other communities based on general standards of play and field capacities. The Township is well below this threshold and – based on current trends and population forecasts – has enough diamonds to meet both current and future needs (to 2030), thus no additional diamonds are recommended during this planning period.

This finding was confirmed in discussions with Lucan/Ilderton Minor Ball, who indicated that they have access to enough diamonds now and into foreseeable future. Their primary concern is diamond maintenance, particularly on the large clay field at the LCMC. Other suggestions included the development of a batting cage and other improvements to the large diamond, such as reconfiguration of the outfield fence and lighting improvements.



Our experience in other communities is that baseball associations are more likely to be concerned about the quality of diamonds than quantity, as is the case in Lucan Biddulph. This is a common problem as many diamonds were built years ago and fencing, benches, and lighting have deteriorated and/or design standards have changed. Further, many diamonds were built at a time when youth baseball was more popular. Today, many diamonds are being expanded to accommodate adult users. The Township should focus on enhancing selected ball diamonds to ensure that they remain responsive to the needs of local users. This should be undertaken in coordination with user groups to identify and prioritize improvements.

In terms of diamond upgrades, as this Master Plan was being prepared, the Township applied and successfully received a capital grant through the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program for improvements to the small diamond at the LCMC Park, with the Federal Government contributing up to one-third of all capital costs. Specific improvements include the installation of a clay infield and extending the fencing to create a larger field of play. This is likely to require further changes to the track, such as a reconfiguration of the track and relocation of the tractor pull area.

Granton Park also contains a ball diamond that has become a focus of discussion during the Master Plan process. The Township does not permit/schedule the diamond and utilization is not tracked, but the diamond is believed to be used about once a week by local residents; it is not used by minor ball. Recently, the diamond's lights became inoperable and the local community is willing to fundraise for them to be repaired. In the Fall of 2015, the Township received funding from Canada 150 Grant program to assist with park improvements, such as infield, fencing, bleachers, paved parking lot, etc. Given the scope of proposed improvements, it is recommended that the Township include the Granton Park diamond within its fees and charges by-law and look after its scheduling in order to track usage.

Lions Market Street Park and Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park both contain small unlit diamonds that are lightly used, typically once or twice a week by minor ball. Usage could easily be redirected to one diamond with the other diamond being re-purposed for alternative uses. While neither park has a pressing need for additional facilities at this time, the Township may wish to consider

Recommendations

27. Upgrade and maintain the two existing ball diamonds at the LCMC Park in consultation with user groups.
28. Undertake improvements to the Granton Park ball diamond and incorporate this field within the Township's fees and charges by-law in order to track usage and provide an appropriate level of maintenance.
29. With public input, consider removal of one ball diamond from either Lions Market Street Park or Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park should a more pressing, community-supported need arise.

8.2 Playgrounds

Each of the Township's four developed parks contains playground equipment:

- Granton Park (creative play, spider climb, swings)
- Lions Market Street Park (new creative play – 2015; swings)
- Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park (creative play, swings)
- LCMC Park (creative play, swings)



Playgrounds serve as neighbourhood-level amenities that can provide children with a wealth of opportunities that benefit early childhood development, such as fostering cognitive and social skills and physical activity. Playground design is guided by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), which has established standards on children's play spaces and equipment. These standards have driven the evolution of traditional playgrounds to creative play structures that feature softer materials in addition to unique designs, bright colours, and interactive components to stimulate the senses to provide an enhanced play experience. Some communities have also explored barrier-free playgrounds (or components of playgrounds) to remain inclusive of those with disabilities. It should be noted that the new built environment regulations of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act will apply to playgrounds installed or redeveloped in 2016 and beyond.

It is common for parks in rural communities to contain outdated and outmoded play equipment, surface treatments, and pathways. The playgrounds and supporting infrastructure within Township of Lucan Biddulph parks are of varying quality and condition, although the Township has recently replaced equipment in Lion's Market Street Park and has plans for upgrades to other structures as funding allows. The online survey found considerable interest in improving and/or expanding the level of service at playgrounds (82% supported additional spending, the highest priority amongst listed facilities). Some requests were also received for the installation of outdoor fitness equipment for adults, which is becoming increasingly popular in many communities (e.g., at the Middlesex Centre Wellness and Recreation Complex in Komoka).

To achieve a reasonable distribution of playgrounds, which are generally considered to be "walk-to" amenities, a provision target of one play structure within a 500 to 800-metre radius of every urban residential neighbourhood (without crossing a highway or major physical barrier). It is recognized that in rural areas with a geographically dispersed population, it is not always possible to achieve complete coverage; however, it is recommended that at a minimum, key settlement areas be serviced as best as possible. Strict application of this service target reveals some small gaps in the village of Lucan, most notably in the Ridge Crossing subdivision, where the installation of a playground is recommended. As development continues in the Olde Clover subdivision, a modest playground should also be considered.

Figure 19; Playground Distribution, Village of Lucan

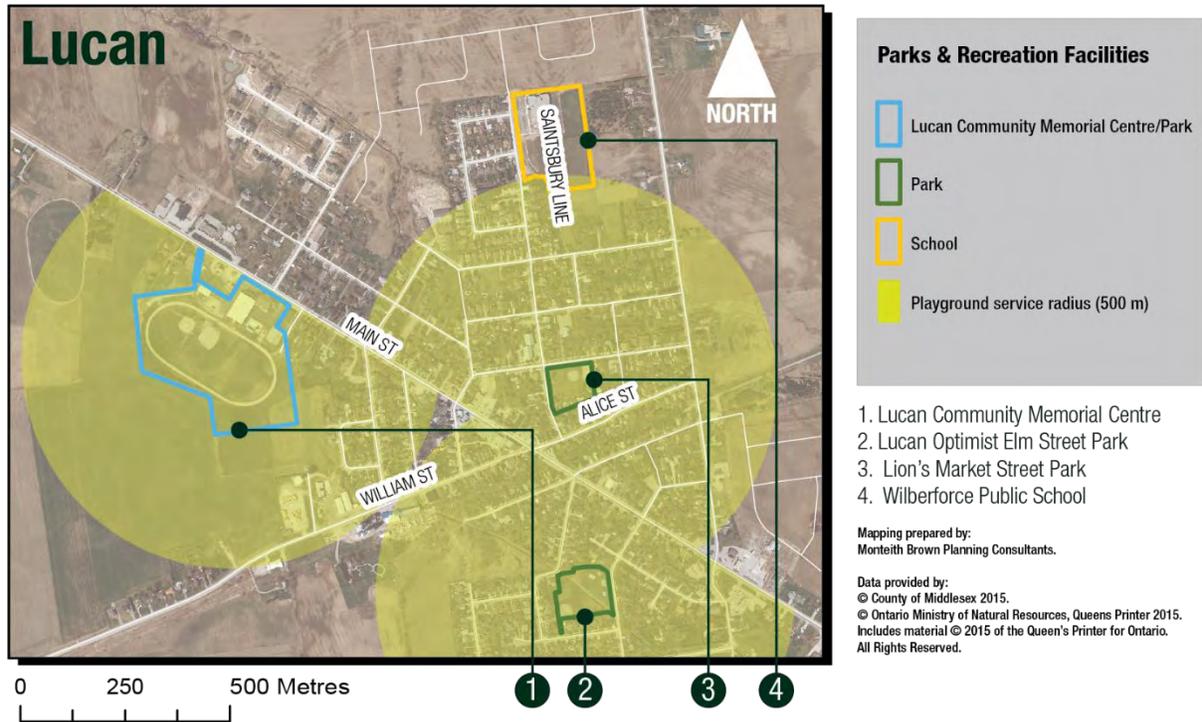
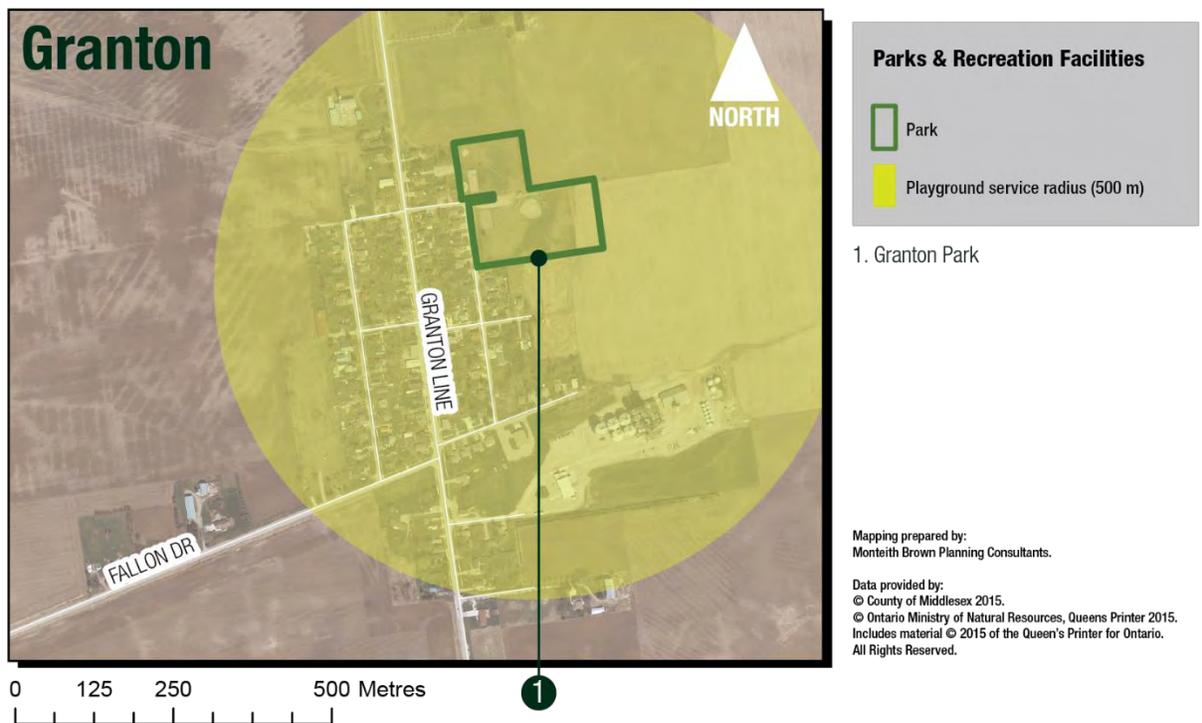


Figure 20: Playground Distribution, Village of Granton



Recommendations

30. Install playgrounds within the park blocks located in the Ridge Crossing and Olde Clover subdivisions.
31. Continue to implement a program for regular playground replacement, upgrades, and installation. In future years, an emphasis should be placed on accessible features (such as ramps, swings, pathways, etc.). Community interest in the installation of outdoor adult fitness equipment at the LCMC Park should also be explored.

8.3 Outdoor Aquatics

Outdoor Pools

The Township operates and maintains an outdoor swimming pool at the LCMC. With no indoor pools in the municipality, the Lucan Pool is the primary venue for swimming lessons, public swimming, and aquafit classes, and is also home to the Lucan Stingrays swim team. Some residents also offer swimming lessons through their own private backyard pools.

The Lucan Pool is 25-metres long with 6 lanes and a depth ranging from 1-metre to 3-metres. It does not have an accessibility ramp but does contain an EZ Stair for easier access. The pool is heated (to 78 degrees Fahrenheit) and contains a 1-metre springboard. The bathhouse contains gender-specific change rooms and washrooms, as well as a small control desk and staff space.



The Lucan Pool is an older facility, having been built in 1964. Although it has stood the test of time well, facilities of this age are predisposed to increased lifecycle maintenance costs and are generally not reflective of modern designs. Many pool tanks of this era are developing major cracks, though this does not appear to be the case for the Lucan Pool. The bathhouse, however, is extremely dated and may be a deterrent to use. The temperature of the pool was also a common complaint, with many patrons (particularly younger children and older adults) expecting warmer water that is more common in indoor pool environments. The deck is concrete with limited seating and no shade structures, which are popular amenities in newer pools.

Usage of the Lucan Pool is underwhelming. In 2014, there were fewer than 2,000 total swims and 80 lesson registrants. While these figures fluctuate from year to year based heavily on weather factors, they have generally been in decline. This trend is consistent with outdoor pools in many other communities; as a point of comparison, outdoor pools in the City of London attract, on average, about three times as many users annually, despite offering similar hours.

In addition to upgrades to the bathhouse and warmer water, another suggested improvement was to offer free swimming, or at least lower admission fees. The Township's entry fees are consistent with those being charged in most area municipalities and, in our opinion, are not likely a major barrier to the pool's use. While outdoor swimming pools are important community resources, they do have a number of limitations that are likely more significant barriers. In particular, the short season, susceptibility to changing weather, competition from water parks and even backyard pools, and high operational costs reduce their appeal to users and operators alike. In fact, many municipalities are grappling with decisions to close outdoor pools, often replacing them with more cost-effective spray pads.

With an underachieving pool that is over 50 years old and with a bathhouse in need of upgrades, a decision is looming for the Township. In 2013, the Township of South Huron examined options for revitalizing its aging outdoor pool. Including a new support building, accessibility upgrades (e.g., pool ramp), and the installation of a spray pad, costs were estimated at \$1.5 million for a refurbished pool facility and \$2.5 million for a new outdoor pool complex. Our experience with similar projects suggests that these costs represent a reasonable range should the Township decide to refurbish the Lucan Pool.

Given the pool's stable to declining use, increasing costs and subsidy levels, impending capital requirements, and other options available in the Township and beyond, the prospect of completely renovating or replacing the Lucan Pool is unlikely. It is recommended that the Township maintain the Lucan Pool as long as it is deemed financially feasible, until such point as major capital replacement (e.g., to the tank, bathhouse, mechanical systems, etc.) can no longer be deferred. Eventual replacement with a spray pad may be considered.

Recommendations

32. Maintain the Lucan Pool as long as it is deemed financially feasible, until such point as major capital replacement (e.g., to the tank, bathhouse, mechanical systems, etc.) can no longer be deferred. Major redevelopment or replacement is not recommended.

Spray Pads

A municipal spray pad is provided at the Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park. This spray pad was installed within the last few years, along with an accessible washroom. The original design contemplated expanded water features pending funding availability.

Spray pads are unsupervised outdoor aquatic facilities containing interactive water play features, such as spouts, jets, water walls, fountains, water guns/cannons, water buckets, etc. These facilities are more affordable to build and operate than traditional outdoor pools and can attract large numbers of children and families that are looking to cool off on a warm day. The size and number of features can vary from one facility to the next. Spray pads contain no standing or pooled water and, in the case of Lucan Biddulph, use treated/recirculated water. With no admission fee, these facilities are particularly appealing to families with young children.

Spray pads are best provided in community parks that have access to washrooms, change areas, and off-street parking; shade and seating is also desired. Within the park, siting of spray pads is important. These facilities should be located near parking but kept a safe distance away from streets. Spray pads work well when near playgrounds, but a proper distance should be maintained to restrict users from tracking sand (which can clog drains) into the spray pad.

The public consultation program found strong support for additional spending on spray pads, along with requests for additional features at the existing spray pad and new facilities in Granton and Lions Market Street Park.

In urban communities, per capita targets may be utilized to determine the future provision of spray pads; for example, the City of London uses a provision target of 1 spray pad per 4,500 youth ages 0 to 14. This approach is not recommended for the Township as geographic distribution is more important given the Township's size and dispersed population. The Township should focus on responding to user demand as well as identifying willing community partners to participate in fundraising. In this way, the Township may consider expanding the spray pad at Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park (and installing additional seating and shade structures and/or plantings) with additional funding from outside sources. In terms of new facilities, other areas of the Township (e.g., Granton and east of Main Street in Lucan) simply lack the critical mass to support such a facility, which carry substantial capital and ongoing operating costs.



Recommendations

33. With the assistance of community fundraising, expand the spray pad at Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park as per the original design and install additional seating and shade structures and/or plantings to improve the user experience.

8.4 Outdoor Courts & Pads

Basketball Courts

The Township provides two basketball hoops at Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park (in the form of a small court) and one basketball hoop at Granton Park (at the edge of the tennis court). Additional hoops and courts are provided at schools for use outside of school hours.

Basketball is a popular sport amongst teens and outdoor courts provide opportunities for unstructured play, particularly as the activity is easily incorporated into most neighbourhood parks, thus allowing easy access. In fact, basketball ranks behind only soccer in terms of number of teens (ages 12-17 years) participating across Canada (ahead of hockey, football, tennis, golf, and baseball). Due to their casual use, the degree to which the Township's basketball courts are used is unknown.



Outdoor courts are community-level facilities and accessibility is an important consideration. The distribution of outdoor basketball courts is relatively good across the Township, with opportunities in both Lucan and Granton. The student survey found some support for improving existing basketball facilities (the court at Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park is small and may require new nets/backboards), though this was not supported as a high priority. No additional basketball courts are anticipated to be required during the timeframe of this Plan. While not a priority at this point in time, any new facilities should be designed as half courts as this is the most common form of play.

Tennis Courts

There are two public tennis courts in the Township, one at Granton Park and another at LCMC Park; both courts are unlit.

Tennis courts are inclusive facilities that accommodate most age groups and a variety of skill levels. Interest in tennis has varied considerably in the past, but a passionate base of players exists in some communities. Many municipalities across the province are dealing with a surplus of courts and new court development is generally only occurring within new residential areas.



While there is some evidence that baby boomers are creating a small boost in tennis participation after years of the sport being in decline, the fastest growing sport in Canada is actually pickleball, a lower intensity paddle sport that can be played on modified tennis courts (it requires a badminton-sized court with a net that is slightly lower than tennis height). Pickleball

recently debuted at the Ontario Senior Games and is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. Notable demand for pickleball was expressed at the public open houses and the Township has begun not only offering drop-in indoor pickleball, but has also painted lines on the outdoor tennis court at the Lucan Community Memorial Centre Park.

Tennis courts were not identified as a significant issue or priority through the public consultation program. No additional tennis courts are anticipated to be required during the timeframe of this Plan, though their continued maintenance is required.

Skateboard Parks

There is one skateboard park (consisting of modular components on a converted tennis court) located at the LCMC Park.



Skateboarding and BMX riding have evolved from fads into mainstream activities, becoming a core level of service in most municipalities. In turn, skate and BMX parks are increasingly being viewed as positive venues that respond to the interests of many children, youth and – to a lesser extent – young adults. The ability for these sports to be unstructured, unscheduled, and of a relatively low cost also adds to their appeal. In addition, the provision of these types of facilities can help discourage informal skating and biking that may take place in residential, commercial, or prohibited areas by offering a safe and purpose-built facility that is specifically designed for this use.

Often located at major parks and community facilities, skateboard parks can take the form of various sizes that feature an array of components from a variation of skate bowls to simplified skate-zones. Skateboard parks can also be constructed from concrete or use modular components that can be moved.

There were a number of public requests for the development of a skate park in Granton, an item that was specifically supported by student survey. A skate park in this location would improve geographic distribution and accessibility, particularly for youth that may not otherwise be able to travel into Lucan for this activity. Through the work of the Granton Park Committee, the installation of a modest skate park may be pursued at this location.

Recommendations

34. Work with the Granton Park Committee to install an appropriately-scaled skate park at this park.

8.5 Other Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Off-Leash Dog Parks

The Township has developed a fenced off-leash dog park consisting of both small and large dog runs at the LCMC Park.

With local by-laws regulating the use of leashes, dedicated off-leash areas provide pet owners with the opportunity to exercise and socialize dogs in a controlled area. Leash-free parks should not be viewed as being facilities strictly for pets, but also a venue for exercise and social interaction for residents with a common interest.

Off-leash parks have proven to be quite successful in many municipalities, with larger urban areas often having several such facilities. Often, there is a lower need for dog parks in rural areas since there are generally sufficient private open spaces available for dogs; it is in the urbanized area where properties are smaller that demand is more evident. Dog parks can also be polarizing in some communities; in Lucan Biddulph, the online survey found lower support (42%) for additional spending on these facilities.



Selecting appropriate sites that are supported by residents is often the most significant challenge in establishing leash free parks. The safety of other park users, setbacks from residential and other sensitive uses, and the provision of amenities (e.g., parking, benches, waste containers, etc.) are important considerations in the design of leash-free parks. Further, many municipalities require that their dog parks be managed by an affiliated organization in order to act as park stewards, something that may be considered for Lucan Biddulph. No changes are recommended to the supply of off-leash dog areas in the Township over the course of this planning period.

Community Gardens

Community garden plots have been created in Granton Park (6 plots) and LCMC Park (12 plots); both are managed by community organizations.



A progressive use for remnant or underutilized spaces in parks, community gardens are planted (typically vegetables), tended, and harvested by a group of community members for personal or communal use. They can be administered by a municipality, local organization, or interested group of citizens free of charge or through a nominal administrative fee. These gardens are typically located on lands that have sufficient access to direct sunlight and a source of water, and can be separated into individual plots. Social interaction, horticultural education, and awareness of the benefits of healthy diets and local food security are part of the appeal of community gardens.

49% of online survey respondents support additional public funding on community gardens, ranking as the second lowest priority. The Township should continue to engage local organizations in the management of the two existing community gardens.

Running Track

The Lucan Community Memorial Centre Park contains a poorly maintained path or track encircling the perimeter of the sports fields. This oval-shaped track is approximately three-quarters of a kilometre long and has a chip and dust base that is becoming overgrown with weeds. The track is largely used as a walking path to access the sports fields, though it is also sporadically used as a walking or running route.



The track is likely to be impacted by the changes planned and recommended for this park, including the reconfiguration of the small ball diamond. There is also a desire to extend a pathway directly to the soccer fields. Given that the track is not a regulation athletic facility (i.e., 400-metres), it is not imperative that it remain in its current location or configuration. Several requests were received to develop additional walking and running routes within the municipality, and this objective could be achieved through the development of a hardscape path that traverses the perimeter of the park, generally in the same location of the existing track but using a more curvilinear design. In this way, the pathway would provide both connectivity to activity areas and an outlet for exercise. The Township recently received partial funding for track improvements through the Canada 150 grant program.

Recommendations

35. Install a curvilinear hardscape pathway in place of the existing track at the LCMC Park to provide connectivity to activity areas and an outlet for exercise.

Pavilions

There are a number of pavilions within the Township:

- Lions Market Street Park contains two pavilions, the largest of which is rented out by the Township
- Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park contains a pavilion that is rented out by the Township
- the Granton Lions Hall is located in Granton Park and consists of a large covered pavilion, kitchen, meeting room, and washrooms; it is operated by the Lions Club

These pavilions are very popular for both structured and unstructured uses, from family gatherings to special events to simply providing a shaded spot to sit. The continued maintenance of rentable pavilions is advised.



8.6 Parkland Supply, Policy, and Design

Parkland Classification

Parkland is a valuable component of the Township's landscape as it provides the land base that supports many recreation amenities and its presence enhances the quality of life for the community as a whole. These spaces can take many different forms, ranging from manicured parks to undeveloped open spaces containing natural heritage features.

For the purposes of this Plan, parks and open space are defined as follows:

'Parks' refer to lands owned, leased, and/or managed by the Township that are developed and maintained primarily for active or passive recreational use by the community. Parks typically contain built recreational or community amenities (such as sports fields, playgrounds, etc.) and are used for both organized and unorganized activities. In Lucan Biddulph, parkland is acquired through various means, including dedication under the Planning Act.

'Open Space lands' are intended to provide for the protection and conservation of systems and to recognize other pockets of land requiring protection from development (e.g., hazard lands, environmental protection lands, environmentally sensitive areas, etc.). In general, open spaces allow for the provision of: physical and visual linkages within the Township; pedestrian and bicycle paths; connections between parks and open spaces; and access to valleys and waterways.

Primary considerations in planning a comprehensive parks and open space system include (but may not be limited to):

- Identifying the appropriate function and use for each park;
- Achieving a satisfactory distribution to ensure that parks are easily accessible;
- Maintaining a high degree of walkability and connectivity among parks through active transportation infrastructure, key linkages, etc.; and
- Preserving the integrity of natural heritage systems through effective policy and management.

It is important to incorporate parks planning through the municipal land use decision-making process. Land use planning in the Township is largely guided by the local Official Plan, which contains broad policies regarding the provision and development of parkland. A review of Official Plan policies reveals the absence of a local parkland classification system (although there is mention to "Neighbourhood Parks"), which is commonly used to assist communities in defining the functional hierarchy of a municipal parks and open space system. A classification hierarchy is essential in advancing the sustainable planning of active and passive forms of parkland by directing many aspects of park usage as defined through size, form, function and/or level of amenity. Moving forward, it is recommended that the Township consider the following parkland classification system in the development or redevelopment of parks and open spaces.

Table 24: Recommended Parkland Classification Hierarchy

Park Type	Amenities / Design Features	Size (Ha)
Neighbourhood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves a distinct residential neighbourhood. • Designed for small scale recreation activities and may include a playground, courts, and generally no more than one sports field. • Centrally located within neighbourhood to optimize accessibility and visibility/safety. • May be served by on-street parking depending on size. 	0.5 ha to 3.0 ha
Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves the entire Township. • Contains a wide range of amenities, such as major sports fields, special event spaces, indoor facilities, etc. • Generally located along main roads, linked to bicycle and/or pedestrian networks, and containing sufficient off-street parking. • Select portions may also be naturalized/ open space. 	4.0+ ha
Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Township-owned lands that are predominantly naturalized or protected due to significant features. May also contain stormwater management ponds. • May be used for passive recreation such as walking or hiking. 	Variable

Recommendations

36. Utilize the Master Plan’s parkland classification hierarchy to guide the development or redevelopment of parks and open spaces according to park type, size, service level, and the amenities that they provide.

Parkland Policies and Acquisition Strategies

There are several provincial and municipal regulations, policies, and guidelines governing the acquisition and location of parkland. The Township’s Official Plan is one of these tools for implementation, which contains limited parkland acquisition policies within Section 2.1.8. The Township does not have a Parkland Dedication By-law, which many municipalities use as a primary implementation tool for decisions and requirements relative to parkland acquisition.

Specifically, the Official Plan indicates that the Township may require the acquisition of parkland through “dedications as a condition of lands being subdivided or otherwise developed, or through purchase using monies received from cash-in-lieu of providing parkland in areas where parkland is not considered necessary or appropriate, or where the lands available for dedication would be insufficient in size or deficient in terms of location.”

The Planning Act identifies that municipalities may require the conveyance of lands for park or other recreational purposes at a rate of 5% of land for residential (2% for commercial and/or industrial) or 1 hectare per 300 dwelling units proposed (note: proposed Bill 73 is proposing to change the alternate requirement to 1 hectare per 500 units). Conversely, Council may require cash-in-lieu of parkland to be used towards future acquisition or development of parkland within the Township.

The Township's Official Plan describes the following locational criteria for evaluating potential lands for parkland dedication:

- proximity and access to existing recreational facilities and parks
- proximity and access to users
- size, shape, topography and drainage
- development and maintenance costs
- potential for expansion



While not noted in the policy, parkland should also have adequate street frontage in order to provide for visibility and safety. Parks should also be encouraged to be located adjacent to compatible uses (such as schools). Furthermore, future park development should concentrate on providing neighbourhood level amenities; thus, the provision of small parks (e.g., <0.5 ha) should be discouraged, unless there is a need to reconcile gap areas. In cases where the development is too small to result in a meaningful park parcel or where the immediate area already has suitable and unimpeded access to sufficient parkland, then the Township may consider accepting cash-in-lieu.

Pursuant to the Planning Act, the Township may also accept undevelopable lands, stormwater management areas, and woodlots for the purposes of passive recreation and educational uses, although these lands should not be considered part of the required parkland dedication.

Should there be a need to supplement parkland supplies beyond the mechanisms permitted by the Official Plan and Planning Act, there are a number of other park acquisition strategies that the Township may pursue, such as (but not limited to):

- Municipal land purchase or lease;
- Land exchanges or swaps, particularly if development is to occur in natural areas highly valued by the community;
- Off-site conveyance of parkland;
- Establishment of a Parks Foundation (e.g., community, corporate, or municipal donations towards parkland acquisition);
- Reallocating surplus municipal lands to park use; and/or
- Partnership/joint provision of lands with local partners.

Recommendations

37. Prepare a Parkland Dedication By-law that governs the dedication of parkland and cash-in-lieu (including requirements, procedures, land valuation, acceptable lands, exceptions, etc.), with due regard to the directions in this Master Plan and the provisions of the Official Plan and Planning Act.
38. Avoid developing or accepting active parkland parcels of less than 0.5 hectare in size unless the Township has determined that there is a need to fill a gap and other options are inadequate.
39. Accepting undevelopable Open Space lands (e.g., storm water management ponds, woodlots, valley lands, floodplains, hazard lands, etc.) as part of the parkland dedication requirement is strongly discouraged. The Township may assume these lands through voluntary dedication or easement if appropriate.
40. Where necessary, employ alternative acquisition tools to enhance future parkland opportunities to serve current and future residents.

Parkland Inventory and Requirements

As illustrated in Table 25, the Township of Lucan Biddulph presently owns and maintains approximately 17.9 hectares (44.2 acres) of active parkland.

Table 25: Municipal Parkland Supply

Municipal Parkland	Area (Ha)
Lucan Community Memorial Centre Park*	12.3
Lion's Market Street Park	1.0
Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park	1.4
Granton Park	3.2
Total Parkland	17.9
Service Level (population = 4,716)	3.8 ha / 1,000 residents

*includes land leased from an adjacent land owner (2.15 ha)

In terms of open spaces, the Township owns an open space block behind the former municipal offices in Lucan (approximately 2 hectares) and, within the next few years, will be assuming the following open space parcels in developing subdivisions:

- Ridge Crossing (undeveloped) – two blocks totalling 3.0 hectares; these parcels may be designated as open space parcels and/or neighbourhood parks
- Olde Clover (undeveloped) – two blocks totalling 1.6 hectares; the larger parcel (0.9ha) may be designated as a neighbourhood park, while the parcel containing the stormwater management pond (0.7ha) would be designated open space

For the purposes of this assessment, focus is placed on the supply of municipally-owned parks as these lands serve to meet the primary outdoor recreation needs of the community.

Neither the Township nor County Official Plan establishes a minimum level of service with respect to parkland, although the Township's current supply equates to approximately 3.8 hectares per 1,000 population based on a current estimated population of 4,716 residents. Township residents are well served in this regard as most urban/rural municipalities seek to provide active parkland at a rate generally between 2.5 and 4 hectares per 1,000 population.

Parkland needs are not only a function of the total supply, but also of the distribution and functionality of the sites. For example, community parks that are capable of accommodating a broad range of activities are generally in demand, as are neighbourhood parks that provide close-to-home opportunities for young children. Open spaces (e.g., woodlots, natural corridors, etc.) are also desired, but need to be thoughtfully provided and managed. The majority of the Township's parks are generally functioning well for their intended use and are indicative of a reasonable distribution, with neighbourhood or community parks located within established residential areas. As noted earlier, additional parkland dedication is anticipated within new subdivisions, which will further improve accessibility to basic infrastructure such as playgrounds and open space areas.

Generally speaking, parkland service levels can vary dramatically between municipalities, but are typically provided at a minimum rate of 2.5 hectares per 1,000 residents in urban/rural communities. Parkland provision targets are dependent on a number of factors such as distribution, non-municipal providers, urban density, local needs, and the types of existing parks and open spaces. Lucan Biddulph is well within the reasonable range at 3.8 hectares per 1,000 residents at present.

While the Township's Official Plan suggests that the villages of Lucan and Granton both have more parkland than they require, it goes on to indicate that neighbourhood parks may be required to meet local needs in newly developed areas. We believe that current parkland levels are adequate and concur that additional parkland will be required to serve growing areas.

It is recommended that the Township adopt a minimum parkland service target of 3.0 hectares per 1,000 residents to be applied to new growth from this point forward. This figure is similar to targets used in comparable municipalities and should generally be sufficient to meet the active recreational needs of new residents within the Township. This target should be applied to active parkland only (exclusive of open space lands and natural areas).

Based on this target and a forecast of 1,256 new residents between 2015 and 2030, the Township will need approximately 3.3 hectares of additional active parkland by 2030 (and a total of 5.8 hectares by 2040). While part of this amount that may be adequately addressed through future dedication within the Ridge Crossing and Olde Clover developments, additional parkland may be required, ideally realized through park expansions. For example, it is anticipated that additional soccer fields will be required to meet growing needs over time, which could be delivered through an expansion to the LCMC Park or alternate location (a total of 4 to 5 hectares of land would be required to accommodate two full size soccer fields). As noted in the next section, there will also continue to be a need to improve and enhance existing parks to respond to new pressures and facility needs moving forward.

Recommendations

41. Adopt a parkland service target of 3.0 hectares per 1,000 residents to be applied to new growth from this point forward. An additional 3.3 hectares of active parkland will be required by 2030 (and a total of 5.8 hectares by 2040), to be achieved through future dedication within the Ridge Crossing and Olde Clover developments and an expansion to the LCMC Park (or alternate site).

Parkland Design Considerations

The Township's parks system has been described as a local strength throughout the public consultation process. With that said, most parks were established based on community needs at the time of development and have evolved over time to meet changing needs, rather than through a more comprehensive and thoughtful design process. In order to move the Township's parks system from "good" to "great", a number of design principles should be considered that endeavour to animate the parks through opportunities for unstructured use by people of all ages.

For example, as the Township acquires or redevelops parkland, emphasis should be placed on developing parks as vibrant destinations where residents and visitors can engage in meaningful experiences. This can be achieved through incorporating unique park designs that facilitate traditional activities and are flexible in accommodating informal and emerging pursuits.

Ensuring that parks are inclusive and barrier free is also crucial to achieving the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Other design features that should be considered include supporting amenities such as seating, shade, parking, connections to key destinations, and safety. In certain instances, environmental protection and naturalization should be sought to preserve sensitive spaces. The Township should also continue to encourage the organized and non-programmed use of its parks and support its community partners in local beautification, environmental management, and stewardship. With very few open space or passive parks at present, the Township should place a priority on tree planting where applicable.

Signage is also an essential design feature that plays an important role in establishing a visual identity and communicating what amenities are available in the community. By having consistent signage throughout the Township, a number of benefits are achieved, including:

- Serving as an indicator of the quality of the local parks system as a whole. As a first impression, a high quality sign can lead people to perceive that the park is of high quality.
- Communicating the corporate brand, carrying consistency throughout the Township, and promoting tourism.
- Promoting awareness among all residents that are part of the larger Township, in addition to non-residents from adjacent municipalities.
- Informing residents and visitors of the location of public property, thereby avoiding confusion regarding access.
- Developing a sense of place to create unique park experiences and foster aesthetic development, while improving wayfinding among residents and visitors.
- Providing interpretive information connecting users to the park and encourage them to take an interest in their surroundings.

A good sign is attractive, clearly designed with contrasting colours to enhance visual recognition, and has regard for its context and local surroundings. Signs should clearly state the name of park or facility, provide an address for emergency purposes, and/or state the name of the local organization that assisted with the development of the facility.

Recommendations

42. Maintain a commitment to accessibility, safety, and comfort within the Township's parks system through compliance with the AODA and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. In recognition of the Township's aging population (and young children), greater attention should be paid to the development of amenities such as washrooms, shade, and benches/seating areas in parks and along trails.
43. Initiate tree planting programs – or work with local conservation authorities and community groups – to bolster tree cover in existing and future parks.
44. Establish a consistent signage design template and install signs at all parks, recreation facilities, and trail heads, as well as directional signage near major intersections.

8.7 Park-Specific Recommendations

The Township's four developed parks provide a focus for the community and their continued maintenance and improvement is anticipated. This section provides a summary of the park-specific recommendations made previously in this Plan, with added context where necessary.

Lucan Community Memorial Centre Park

The park at the Lucan Community Memorial Centre is the Township's largest and should continue to be the focus of active recreation in Lucan Biddulph as there are many benefits to co-locating multiple uses at a single site. Being the Township's largest park, there are also several improvements recommended for this site, including:

- securing access to Soccer Field #3, which forms part of the park but is located on private lands
- ball diamond upgrades, including the expansion of the small diamond with assistance from recently awarded grant funding
- the development of a freeform hardscape path/loop in place of the existing track to improve access to activity areas and to provide an outlet for active recreation
- enhanced maintenance of the soccer fields through adoption of turf management standards
- playground improvements as part of a Township-wide play equipment program, including the possible addition of outdoor fitness equipment
- continued upkeep of the outdoor pool so long as it remains financially viable to do so; major redevelopment or replacement of the pool and bathhouse is not recommended
- pursuing an expansion to the park in the longer-term in order to secure additional land, in particular for soccer field development
- various improvements as outlined in Section 6 relative to the LCMC itself (e.g., arena and halls)

Lion's Market Street Park

Having recently undergone improvements such as the installation of a new playground and pathway (both of which were identified as high priorities through the surveys), there are very few changes being recommended to Lion's Market Street Park. The ball diamond is not well utilized and could be re-purposed, however, there are no pressing needs for this space at the present time.



The park also contains the Lucan Scout/Guide Hall, which is owned by Township and leased to Lucan Scouting and Guides (which sub-leases the basement to the Lucan & District Co-operative Nursery School). The facility is used on a regular basis and is in relatively good condition for its age. The representative from Lucan Scouting requested some minor improvements to the exterior of the building and surrounding parkland that may be able to be addressed through discussions with the Township.

Some residents also requested improved access to washrooms for park users, as the washrooms in the Lucan Scout/Guide Hall are not publicly accessible; installation of a portable washroom may be a solution, particularly if ball diamond usage increases.

Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park

Key recommendations call for the following items for Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park, many of which will be undertaken in cooperation with local organizations and fundraising activities:

- expansion of the spray pad
- installation of additional seating and shade structures and/or plantings
- playground improvements as part of a Township-wide play equipment program
- possible improvements to the existing basketball court, though this was not identified as a high priority



Like Lion's Market Street Park, the ball diamond at this park is also not well utilized and could be re-purposed, however, there are no pressing needs for this space at the present time. As the park is divided by a drain, the space has a natural barrier that may restrict access and/or uses.

Granton Park

The Granton Lions Hall and pavilion are operated by the Granton Lions Club, including bookings and minor maintenance. The Township is responsible for utility costs and garbage disposal. The facility has seen improvements to its kitchen and washroom in recent years, although requests were received for additional minor capital items, such as the replacement of the pavilion curtains (which would primarily be the responsibility of the Lions Club). The Club indicates that the pavilion is well used during the summer months (particularly on weekends) for family reunions and social gatherings.



During the course of the Master Plan's development, a Granton Parks Committee was formed and the group hosted a community meeting. This group was consulted as part of this Plan, as was the Granton Lions Club and local residents. It is understood that these and other local groups are willing to assist with fundraising to ensure that their needs are addressed in a timely manner. This Master Plan has helped to shine the spotlight on this Park and the community has responded by vocalizing their support for park improvements.

Substantial input was received from the community regarding the needs in Granton. Many expressed frustration over the Township's level of service within this community, suggesting that Granton does not receive the same attention as Lucan. In particular, there were many requests for improved maintenance of Granton Park, in addition to the addition of new park amenities, such as more swings, a skateboard park, and possibly a splash pad.

In planning for the needs of this community, it is important to understand the area's demographic profile. Census data indicates that there were approximately 925 people living in Granton and area in 2011 (representing the area generally east of Highway 23 to the Township's boundaries). Further, the age structure within Granton and area is comparable to that of the overall Township, with approximately 27% of residents under the age of 20 and 14% age 65 and older (2011 Census).

Key recommendations in this Plan call for the following items for Granton Park, many of which will be undertaken in cooperation with local organizations and fundraising activities:

- improvements to ball diamond (fencing, benches, bleachers, infield, lighting repairs, etc.)
- the installation of a skateboard park
- greater promotion of the soccer field and ball diamond, including the institution of rental fees
- playground improvements as part of a Township-wide play equipment program

As the Master Plan was being prepared, the Township applied and successfully received a capital grant through the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program for improvements to Granton Park, with the Federal Government contributing up to one-third of all capital costs. Specific improvements include enhanced accessibility (paving of parking lot), ball diamond repairs, and soccer nets.



Section 9. Trails Assessment

The focus of this section of the Master Plan is on off-road multi-use recreational trails, including recommendations for a comprehensive trail system, along with a standard for trail development. The establishment of an on-road cycling network is anticipated to be addressed through an upcoming Cycling Strategy to be prepared by Middlesex County in consultation with local area municipalities and County residents. Motorized forms of transportation and equestrian trails are not considered in this Master Plan, although there may be sections of the network where these activities are permitted.

9.1 Existing Conditions

Providing an interconnected trail network is an important component of human health and ecological function. Linking destinations with a network of multi-purpose trails, sidewalks, cycling routes, and roads provides choices for people to travel to these areas while creating infrastructure for commuter, utilitarian, and recreational uses.

Trails are amongst the most desired features in a community (80% of online survey respondents indicated that they are important or very important), especially in new subdivisions, and are best established (or designated) prior to home construction to heighten awareness. Multi-use pathways are a cost-effective method to increase physical activity levels, of particular importance given the lack of physical activity across Canada. Not only do trail pathways support positive interaction between the community and the natural environment to facilitate recreation activities, they provide links between destinations and, in many cases, provide alternative commuting means if strategically linked to key employment areas.

To date, trail development in Lucan Biddulph has been limited to a number of privately-owned sites. Pedestrians and cyclists rely largely on sidewalks and the road network, as well as the former horse track on the Lucan Community Memorial Centre grounds. As a result, the community has expressed a strong desire to establish a connected and purposeful trail system that can be enjoyed by residents of all ages.

A Trails Master Plan was prepared in 2010 by the Lucan Area Trails Association, a non-profit organization consisting of various local volunteers. This Trails Master Plan was authorized by Township Council but was never formally adopted. Nevertheless, with seed funding from the Lucan District Lions Association, the Plan led to the establishment of a small number of trails for non-motorized use on private lands via landholder agreements, as well as the identification of several potential future trail routes within or near the village of Lucan. These trails are promoted on the group's website (www.lucantrails.ca) and include:

- Hodgins Trail, Clandeboye
- Van Arenthals Trail, McGillivray Drive
- Martens Trail, Coursey Line

The basis of the 2010 Trails Master Plan is sound as it endeavours to connect people and places through a series of on- and off-road trails and guidelines for the development and management. The Plan lays out the many benefits of a well-planned trail system and begins the conversation and sets the groundwork for partnerships and policy development. In addition, the 2010 Plan identifies various trail types (primary trails, secondary trails, and natural trails), with

consideration given to accessibility, signage, surface materials, maintenance, promotion, and more.

Public interest and support for trails is strong in Lucan Biddulph – additional funding for nature trails was supported by 76% of online survey respondents. Although the 2010 Trails Master Plan does not address trail development beyond the village of Lucan and did not include broad-based public consultation, it represents an excellent first step in establishing a local trail network. The 2010 Plan provides a strong foundation upon which this Parks & Recreation Master Plan can build on.

More recently, the County has approved an update to the Township's Official Plan (through Amendment No. 6), which contains several policies that support the establishment of an active transportation network. Active transportation is any form of human-powered transportation²⁰ that facilitates low cost leisure and serves utilitarian purposes that links destinations, settlement areas within municipalities, and neighbouring communities. Examples include walking, jogging, hiking, cycling, skating, and skateboarding. These Official Plan policies have the effect of:

- supporting and encouraging the development of trails on both public and private lands for both pedestrian and other non-motorized forms of transportation which are aimed at promoting public health through outdoor activities;
- promoting inclusivity and accessibility through the design of active transportation systems;
- linking active transportation systems to parks and recreation facilities, institutional facilities, and existing and proposed public or private trail systems (both local and regional);
- supporting and encouraging the development of sidewalks in the villages of Lucan and Granton; and
- allowing the Township to require site plan control (at its discretion) relating to trail design and alignment in order to address such issues as landscaping and fencing.

9.2 Opportunities & Challenges

Based on public input and a review of Township mapping and aerial photos, the following opportunities and challenges have been identified in connection with the development of a recreational trail network in Lucan Biddulph. The following points are presented in no particular order and may require further examination at the implementation stage.

Key Opportunities

- Connect residents to key destinations such as schools and commercial areas, as well as parks and recreational facilities including the Lucan Community Memorial Centre.
- Enhance accessibility within parks through the establishment of hardscape pathways in high traffic areas.

²⁰ Public Health Agency of Canada. (2010). What is active transportation? Retrieved from: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/hp-ps/hl-mvs/pa-ap/at-ta-eng.php>

- Identify future trails and connection possibilities within draft and future plans of subdivisions. For example, the creation of a trail along the Benn Drain in Ridge Crossing is a requirement of the developer's subdivision agreement.
- Undertake improvements to the outdoor track at the Lucan Community Memorial Centre Park.
- Formalize partnerships with service clubs and volunteer organizations for the development and/or management of trails.
- Establish policies, guidelines, and standards for the future planning, design, construction, and management of trails infrastructure.
- Coordinate with Middlesex County on the development of a County-wide Cycling Strategy. Establish cycling routes that link Lucan and Granton and connect to adjacent municipalities (via County Cycling Strategy).



Key Challenges

- The Township lacks the abandoned rail lines, river valleys, and conservation lands that are typically leveraged as the backbone of trails systems in other communities.
- Past residential development has occurred largely without any requirement for trail development, resulting in lost opportunities. Although the Township is working to establish a trail within the Ridge Crossing subdivision, Official Plan policies are not explicit on this requirement.
- A lack of dedicated or sustainable funding for trail development or maintenance and the lack of a Council-endorsed trail strategy.
- Existing trails are on private lands and, thus, access and maintenance can vary from year to year. These trails also lack appropriate supporting amenities such as signage, seating, shade, etc., and are not accessible for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, trails on private lands have a greater potential to generate conflicts between landowners and trail users regarding access and liability.
- The rural nature of the Township and distance between Lucan and Granton presents spatial challenges in linking communities together as well as with adjacent municipalities.
- Crossing uncontrolled Provincial Highways 4 and 23, particularly within the urban area of Lucan.

9.3 Trail Development Strategy

To guide the Township and community in establishing and maintaining a recreational trail network, the following guiding principles represent best practices that should be considered.

- 1) **Connectivity / Linkages to Destinations and Regional Systems:** The network should provide direct linkages to a broad range of destinations, such as commercial shopping, schools, residential areas, and more. Where possible, routes should be designed to form continuous loops within parks and communities, and ensure residents are connected to regional trail systems (if applicable).
- 2) **Safety:** The network should be designed to minimize and reduce user risk and injury by emphasizing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (C.P.T.E.D.) principles and promoting routes that provide adequate separation from and/or awareness by vehicular traffic. Examples may include routing trails through open areas, ensuring unobstructed sight-lines, and properly maintaining parks and vegetation.
- 3) **Visibility and Awareness:** The network should be promoted within the Township and beyond to ensure that residents and visitors are aware of the recreational options in the area.
- 4) **Multi-Modal:** The network should be designed to maximize a multitude of human-powered transportation options, such as (but not limited to) walking and cycling.
- 5) **Accessible:** The network should be designed to be free of physical barriers and inclusive of persons with disabilities, wherever possible.
- 6) **Cost-Effective:** The network should make efficient use of municipal resources, focusing on the provision and maintenance of high traffic priority routes as new trails are phased in over time.
- 7) **Supporting Amenities:** The network should have regard for supporting amenities such as informative and wayfinding signage, seating, parking, and more in order to provide the creature comforts users desire.
- 8) **Partnership Possibilities:** Relationships with new and existing community partners and land owners should be encouraged in the expansion, maintenance, and promotion of the network.

It is recognized that there are a number of informal hiking trails through privately-owned lands that have occurred with or without the consent of the landowner. This is common in municipalities with large rural and agricultural properties. Some landowners have been open to residents accessing their properties for this purpose, while others have raised concerns regarding liability impacts. While public trails on private lands are generally discouraged, in situations where these arrangements are necessary to create a connected trail network, the Township should consider long-term access and maintenance agreements.

Given the Township's modest development potential, particularly over the short-term, the creation of a comprehensive and connected trail network is unlikely. However, trail development is an important local priority and policies and plans should be put into place to allow the

Township to capitalize on opportunities that are presented over time. Trail development is most likely to be possible and viable in the Township's largest settlement area – the village of Lucan. Over the timeframe of this Master Plan, the Township should seek to:

- establish a trail route (largely on public lands) within Ridge Crossing, providing a connection to Wilberforce Public School and surrounding residential areas
- evaluate and formalize agreements with private landowners that are currently providing trails vis-à-vis the Lucan Area Trails Association
- build upon the Lucan Community Memorial Centre as a key community destination and potential trailhead (with parking, washrooms, etc.) by routing trails through this site, including undertaking improvements to the outdoor track
- establish linkages and localized routes within future plans of subdivisions and work toward the development of a trail loop throughout the village of Lucan, consisting of on and off-road segments

It should be noted that trails are only one part of a comprehensive active transportation network, with another key component being on-road cycling routes. The establishment of an on-road cycling network is anticipated to be addressed through an upcoming Cycling Strategy to be prepared by Middlesex County in consultation with local area municipalities and County residents.

Recommendations

45. Use the guiding principles and trail development strategy within this Master Plan as a guide to inform future trail projects. Priority should be given to developing a trail route within Ridge Crossing, emphasizing the Lucan Community Memorial Centre as a potential trailhead (including a crosswalk at Main Street), and establishing linkages and localized routes within future plans of subdivisions.
46. Evaluate and formalize agreements with private landowners that are currently providing trails vis-à-vis the Lucan Area Trails Association.
47. Establish a line item for trail development and maintenance in the Township's annual budget.

9.4 Design Guidelines

Understanding the standards, requirements, and guidelines associated with the design, construction, and maintenance of trails is fundamental to providing a safe and accessible user experience. For public trails on municipal lands²¹, the Township and trail developers should consider the following guidelines, which have been summarized from several key documents including Ontario Regulation 413/12 (Design of Public Spaces Standards – Accessibility for the Built Environment Standards) made under the 2005 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, the Ontario Building Code, and accessibility standards prepared by the City of London and other leading municipalities. It should be recognized that there may be unforeseen instances where terrain and other physical constraints pose challenges to comply with these standards

²¹ Excluding informal trails on private lands, wilderness and equestrian trails, trails for motorized recreational vehicles, portage routes, or any other non-municipal facilities that do not support pedestrian activities.

and as a result, exceptions may be permitted. Ultimate responsibility for compliance rests with the Township and it is recommended that the aforementioned guiding documents be specifically referred to when designing and constructing trails.

Table 26: Proposed Trail Guidelines

Subject	Acceptable	Best Practice
Surface	firm and stable, such as limestone screening; woodchips may be considered for woodlands and environmentally sensitive areas	asphalt or concrete paving may be appropriate for high use urban trails or areas of steeper slope or that are susceptible to erosion
Entrance	traffic control structures at all trail access points (e.g., gate, bollard, etc.) to deter prohibited uses (e.g., motorized vehicles); maintain a minimum clear opening of 0.85 metres	
Width	1.5 metres	1.8 metres
Vertical Height	2.1 metres	
Clearance Width along all trail sides	0.5 metres	1.0 metre
Slope	no defined requirement; consult with the Accessibility Advisory Committee	
Separation Zone from vehicular travel lane or shoulders	2.0 m	6.0 m
Boardwalks	minimum width of 1.0 metres; use firm and non-slip materials; no openings greater than 20mm; if located adjacent to water or a drop-off, a curbed edge / edge protection shall be provided with a minimum height of 50 mm	
Ramps	minimum width of 0.9 metres; running slope no greater than 1:10; refer to legislation for requirements regarding landings, handrails, wall/guard, and edge protection	
Signage	clear, consistent, and accessible signage must be provided at trail access points identifying trail length, surface type, average and minimum trail width, average and maximum running slope and cross slope, and location of amenities	
Seating	supplied as required; seating should have back and arm rests and be located on a firm and stable surface (minimum 0.92 by 1.37 metres in size) with an adjacent clear area to accommodate mobility aids, strollers, etc.	
Other Support Amenities	parking, waste receptacles, washrooms, screening/landscaping, lighting, etc. to be supplied at Township's discretion	

Sources: Ontario Regulation 413/12 (Design of Public Spaces Standards – Accessibility for the Built Environment Standards) made under the 2005 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, the Ontario Building Code, and accessibility standards prepared by the City of London and other leading municipalities

A few words about trail accessibility and safety. The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (A.O.D.A.), 2005, maintains that all Ontarians should have an equal opportunity to participate in the community, regardless of their ability. The A.O.D.A. requires that, by 2016, municipalities must design new and redeveloped recreational trails (as well as sidewalks and boardwalks) to meet accessible standards (where possible), incorporating design elements including, but not limited to, appropriate grade, surface material, width, and cross-slopes, as well as the need to consult with persons with disabilities and the local Accessibility Advisory Committee.²²

While it may be impractical to ensure that all recreational trails are accessible (nature trails are largely exempt, as are trails that are in place prior to 2016), the development of accessible trails can be focused in locations where high levels of utilization are anticipated and the terrain is suitable. Such locations may include trail spines, park trails, and other high volume routes near residential areas. In addition, experiences in other communities suggests that the development of supporting amenities (such as washrooms, rest areas, parking, wayfinding signage, etc.) may encourage usage, regardless of age or ability.

Trails can be designed with users' safety in mind through the application of C.P.T.E.D. (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) and other design principles. High volume areas should be well lit and low visibility areas should be limited, thus discouraging undesirable users and activities. Maintenance of municipal trails is now accepted in the industry as a key component of perceived "safety" and in deterring inappropriate behaviour.

An effective network typically incorporates a number of convenience and comfort-based features at strategic locations along major routes and at trail heads. Users might be looking for amenities such as natural landscaping, shade, benches, bathrooms and rest areas, fitness equipment, and pavilions. The provision of parking is also a convenience that many residents look for in accessing parks and trails, though parking is best suited to locations that are more intensively used, such as those containing parks, community centres, or multiple sports fields.

Ensuring that trail networks provide attractive and comfortable experiences to the user is paramount in ensuring successful utilization and attracting users. The presence of informative signage and attractive trail head features is the first impression that a user will have of the trail and trail system as a whole. Without proper signage, trail users may be confused about their direction and divert from authorized lands. Signs develop a sense of place and, combined with good urban design, can create unique districts and foster aesthetic development. They also provide interpretive information that connects a user to the trail and may encourage the person to take further interest in their surroundings, including environmental stewardship initiatives. A good sign is clear, attractive, and designed in the context of its surroundings.

²² Passo, M., Accessible Trails. National Trails Training Partnership. 2007. Retrieved from <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/accessible/SustainPpasso.html>

9.5 Policy Development

A number of new policies were recently approved as a part of Amendment No. 6 to the Lucan Biddulph Official Plan to provide greater emphasis and support for the development of an active transportation network.

While these policies are appropriate and bring a prominence to trail and cycling infrastructure that was not present in the previous Official Plan, additional policy modifications may be considered in order to strengthen the Township's active transportation network. Specifically, it is recommended that the Township consider a policy to allow the Township to require the dedication of land for the development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure as a condition of plan of subdivision approval as permitted by Section 51(25) of the Planning Act.

Furthermore, it is recognized that the Official Plan identifies some additional future residential land within the urban area of Lucan that is not currently subject to plans of subdivision. While it may not be possible to identify all potential network routes in these areas, the Township should be cognizant of identifying future trail linkages through these areas to maximize connectivity with the overall network. This can be achieved by including the recommended trail network on an Official Plan Schedule.

Furthermore, to minimize future residential concerns for trail development in emerging residential areas, the Township should encourage developers to disclose future routes to potential homebuyers as part of their promotional material and Purchase Agreement. To avoid conflicts with new residents, the Township should also require developers to construct trail routes concurrently with the applicable phase of subdivision construction.

Recommendations

48. Create a policy within the Official Plan to allow the Township to require the dedication of land for the development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure as a condition of plan of subdivision approval as permitted by Section 51(25) of the Planning Act. Integrate the proposed trail network as a part of an Official Plan schedule to serve as an awareness tool amongst the Township, developers, and residents.
49. Encourage developers to communicate information to potential homebuyers about future trail development through promotional material and Purchase Agreements.
50. Engage the public in the trail planning and design process in advance of construction to facilitate opportunities for public input and to promote the social, physical, and environmental benefits of a connected trail network.

9.6 Land Acquisition Strategies

The recommended trail network contained in this Master Plan involves routes on municipal lands as well as non-municipal lands, including lands that have not yet been developed. It is in the best interest of the Township to acquire access to any identified lands not in municipal ownership in order to ensure long-term access and management. To achieve this, there are a number of mechanisms that the Township can deploy to secure future lands. The following are common securement mechanisms that the Township may consider on a case-by-case basis.

Dedication through Plan of Subdivision

As identified by Section 51 of the Planning Act, this strategy allows the Township to require the dedication of lands for pedestrian and bicycle pathways as a condition of draft subdivision approval and ensures protection of lands within settlement areas for the purposes of enhancing the trail network. This mechanism will prove to be the most appropriate in developing new portions of Lucan.

Easement

Securing an easement with a property owner gives the Township the right to use lands for a specified activity without purchasing the lands. This method is typically used to protect municipal service corridors or conservation or heritage lands as governed by the Conservation Lands Act and the Ontario Heritage Act. This formal agreement is registered on the title of the property and the right to access the lands remains through the length of the agreement should the ownership of the property change. This low cost strategy may ensure public access and provide flexibility in the use of the lands. There are likely a number of easements that exist within the Township that may be utilized to advance the local trail network.

Land Purchase

This strategy allows the Township to purchase all or a portion of land at fair market value. Although this strategy ensures protection for public access, it can be financially challenging to purchase significant amounts of privately-owned lands for the purposes of constructing trails. The landowner must be a willing seller and an agreeable purchase price must be identified.

Land Exchange / Land Swap

The Township may make an exchange (or swap) of lands with a private landowner for lands that may lie within the proposed trail route. While this strategy will guarantee public access, the lands proposed to be exchanged must be agreeable to both parties. Land exchanges are typically based on the appraised value, not the size of land.

Right of First Refusal

The Right of First Refusal is an agreement established by the Township and the landowner that grants the Township an opportunity to match another party's offer to purchase a specific property. This agreement may not give the Township immediate access to the lands but provides an opportunity to purchase the property at a later date and discourage competition from other potential buyers.

Donation or Bequest of Land

The Township may accept a donation of land from a landowner, at which point the land owner receives a tax receipt at an appraised value for their charitable donation, provided the donation meets the requirements under the Federal Income Tax Act. This strategy is typically used for the donation of environmentally sensitive lands as a part of the Ecogifts Program, while donations outside this program are subject to capital gains. Alternatively, landowners may choose to bequeath lands to the Township after death, which is more advantageous from a tax perspective.

Lease / License Private Lands

Similar to an easement, the Township may enter into a lease or license agreement with a landowner to establish public access through private lands. By contrast, this form of agreement does not bind future landowners and, as a result, public access is not guaranteed. This option should generally be discouraged for new Township-sponsored trails.

9.7 Trails Advisory Council & Partnerships

To achieve local trail projects, a best practice used on many other communities is the creation of a not-for-profit Trails Advisory Council, which offers a number of benefits compared to municipally-led initiatives. In addition to being able to champion projects more efficiently, Trails Advisory Councils have the ability to apply for additional external funding sources, receive donations, fundraise, and operate independently from the municipality. As these groups are made up of dedicated volunteers with a shared interest in enhancing the active transportation network, they are generally inexpensive to operate.

Developing and managing trails in partnership with local service clubs, community groups, agencies, and private businesses also provides an opportunity to leverage resources and encourage physical activity in the Township. A broad range of other partnership opportunities may exist including, but not limited to, promoting the use of trails within local groups, joint publications, volunteer clean-up, walking programs, monetary donations, and more.

The Lucan Area Trails Association is already established as a not-for-profit organization that operates very similarly to a Trails Advisory Council, albeit with a more localized mandate (Lucan, rather than the entire Township) and without any sustained municipal support. It is recommended that the Township work with this group to redefine its Terms of Reference to ensure that it is aligned with Township-wide interests. In addition, a minimum of one Council member should be appointed to the Council to improve municipal coordination. A municipal staff member should be assigned to work with the Trails Advisory Council and other municipal departments on capital projects, grant applications, and education and awareness initiatives. Once reorganized (or an alternate body established), it is recommended that the Council review this Master Plan and develop an annual work plan identifying key projects and priorities to be accomplished.

Recommendations

51. Review the mandate of the Lucan Area Trails Association and seek to formalize this organization (or establish an alternate body) as a Township-wide Trails Advisory Council responsible for advising and implementing trail development and management projects.

Section 10. Implementation Strategy

This section summarizes the action plans put forth within this Master Plan, along with their suggested priority and timing. A framework for reviewing and updating the Plan is also identified.

“We need a plan to maintain what we have...I suspect we need to be responsible with our money in the short term but have a plan for the long term.” – online survey respondent

10.1 Funding & Implementation Considerations

Throughout the body of this Master Plan, recommendations have been identified at the end of each subsection or topic area. This is not intended to be a definitive list, as additional capital repairs, operating expenditures, and other initiatives outside the scope of this Plan may be identified and prioritized on a case-specific basis. By approving this Plan, the Township is not bound to implementing every recommendation or providing facilities/services in the order, amount, or timing indicated; rather, this Plan provides guidance on community priorities and sets a general course for meeting the needs as they are presently defined. **It is expected that the Township of Lucan Biddulph will make decisions on individual projects and funding sources annually through the capital budget process.**

This implementation strategy provides guidance for ensuring that the most critical recommendations are dealt with in a timely fashion, while the less critical (yet important) recommendations are implemented over time. In addition, high level capital cost estimates for key recommendations have been identified in collaboration with the Township to ensure that local cost factors and standards are properly reflected. Annual operating costs for programs, services, and facilities (existing or recommended under this Plan) are not included in this analysis. It is expected that an analysis of operating budget implications and partnership options would be undertaken prior to approving any capital project and that sufficient annual operating funds would be allocated to any approved project. Identified cost implications are estimates for budgeting purposes only and have not been adjusted for inflation.

The timing of the projects proposed in this Master Plan recognizes the need for phased implementation as some recommendations are based upon what is needed and not necessarily what is financially achievable by the Township at the present time. As such, the timing proposed for some recommendations may not align with the Township’s funding capacities as time goes by. As part of the annual budget process, this Plan will be reviewed to identify areas where the availability of resources may affect the timing of implementation.

Determining priorities is an exercise that should be revisited each year prior to the Township’s capital and operating budget development exercise. Readjusting resource allocations is critical in a climate where base funding is not increasing substantially and resources need to be maximized in order to garner the greatest gain to the community.

In addition to funding availability, factors that might change priorities year to year may include:

- capital lifecycle and considerations of safety;
- legislation and mandated requirements;
- changes to service standards;
- public input and community interests;
- emerging trends and changes in participation rates;
- availability of alternate providers; and
- socio-demographic changes and growth forecasts.

The Township has limited resources and cannot afford to do everything that the community desires; this is one of the primary reasons for undertaking a Master Plan in the first place. Although the Township of Lucan Biddulph may be challenged in providing the appropriate financial resources to meet the Master Plan's recommendations, the Township has an obligation to make every reasonable effort to implement these strategies through a variety of appropriate and acceptable means. The full implementation of this Plan will require the pursuit of development charges, grants, alternative funding, and the establishment of various partnerships and collaborations with community organizations, schools, agencies, and other partners.

Recommendations

52. Use the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a resource in developing Lucan Biddulph's long-term capital forecast.
53. Ensure that Township Council is fully aware of the operating cost implications when deciding on the approval of capital projects.
54. Continue to seek alternative funding sources (e.g., fundraising, sponsorships, grants, etc.) to supplement existing resources and to enable full implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
55. Establish a reserve fund specific to major parks and recreation infrastructure projects with consistent annual contributions through the Township budget process, using a 2% facility replacement target as a benchmark.

10.2 Summary of Recommendations

Priority is often, but not always, synonymous with timing – the higher the priority, the sooner the recommendation should be implemented. Priority has been determined based on an assessment of need, as identified throughout the planning process (including public engagement, trend and demographic analysis, assessments of facilities, parks, services, etc.). The size of the Township's population and tax base restricts the resources that can be allocated to leisure facilities and services. In turn, meeting the widest range of needs possible through the efficient use of resources is paramount.

Within the tables that follow, the priority and timing of recommendations are organized into the following categories:

Priority

High Priority: Immediate attention is recommended during the timeframe recommended.

Medium Priority: Attention is required when high priority recommendations have been initiated or completed, or when suitable partners have been identified for funding.

Lower Priority: Attention is required when high and medium priority recommendations have been initiated/completed.

Timing

Short-term: Current term of Council (2015 to 2018)

Medium-term: Next term of Council (2019 to 2022)

Longer-term: 2023 and beyond

Ongoing: Best practices to be followed on a continual basis

Note: In the following tables, the recommendations are numbered according to the order in which they are presented in the body of the Master Plan. They are not listed in priority order.

Table 27: Service Delivery Recommendations

Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
1. Adopt a municipal service delivery role that reflects the guiding principles of this Master Plan, with a primary focus on supporting community-led parks and recreation activities through a community development approach, and a secondary focus on direct facilitation of general programs and community events that promote physical activity and social inclusion.	High	Ongoing	--
2. Maintain an up-to-date inventory of recreation opportunities within the community (including a database of community groups and their contact information) to ensure that a full range of activities are available for all age groups. This database should be made accessible to local residents and serve to enhance awareness of local activities, programs, leagues, and events.	High	Ongoing	--
3. Support and promote physical activity and healthy communities through participation in the Middlesex Active Community Partnership .	High	Ongoing	--

Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
4. Undertake program planning in coordination with community partners and in response to local needs, with an emphasis on low cost services that promote physical activity and social inclusion for children/youth and older adults/seniors.	High	Ongoing	--
5. Establish performance measurement criteria in order to evaluate municipal recreation programs and actively seek feedback from program participants.	Medium	Medium-term	--
6. Convert the Community Events Coordinator to a permanent full-time position.	High	Short-term	Position is currently contract
7. Ensure that the maintenance of parks and recreation facilities remains a high priority for the Township through continued staff training and the implementation of customer service standards.	High	Ongoing	--
8. Re-evaluate staffing requirements over time as changes occur in the scope of municipal responsibilities, customer demand, or asset inventories.	Medium	Ongoing	--
9. Develop a corporate-wide volunteer recognition initiative to celebrate the achievements of local residents and encourage greater levels of volunteerism.	Lower	Medium-term	--
10. In order to increase community participation and improve cost efficiency, encourage appropriate partnerships with public, not-for-profit, and/or private organizations in the provision and delivery of parks and recreation facilities and services.	Medium	Ongoing	--
11. Actively seek community and corporate sponsorships to enhance the delivery of recreation programs and services.	Lower	Ongoing	--
12. Establish reciprocal use agreements with the local elementary schools in order to promote community usage and active recreation opportunities for both students and residents.	Medium	Short-term	--
13. Develop an ice allocation policy to establish a priority ranking and procedures for arena scheduling.	High	Short-term	Developed in consultation with groups

Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
14. Establish consistent data collection protocols and tracking mechanisms and monitor facility utilization to assist in identifying trends, changing demands, and allocation. Collect annual registration data from all organizations that make regular use of Township parks and facilities.	High	Ongoing	--
15. Ensure that policies and procedures are in place to directly support fundraising and partnerships, financial assistance, advertising and sponsorships, customer service, cancellations and refunds, cash handling, and ticket ice. Review all policies every five years, at minimum.	Medium to High	Ongoing	Staff to identify policy development priorities
16. Regularly assess rates and fees (along with user categorization) for parks and recreation programs and facilities to ensure that they represent a fair and equitable balance between true costs and public benefits.	High	Ongoing	--
17. Establish a policy regarding rental rate waiver/space donation for parks and recreation services.	Medium	Short-term	--
18. Develop a bi-annual Community Guide (hard copy and online) that identifies basic municipal information, parks and recreation offerings, trails and heritage resources, and community contact information.	High	Short-term	Developed in collaboration with other Township departments
19. Provide opportunities to facilitate dialogue between groups and/or residents through an annual forum in order to bolster communication. Additional engagement opportunities should also be provided prior to undertaking large community projects to solicit input from the public.	High	Ongoing	--

Table 28: Indoor Facility Recommendations

Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
20. Undertake a major renovation of the Lucan Community Memorial Centre to extend the facility's lifespan for another 20 years. Objectives should include barrier-free accessibility, lifecycle requirements, improving the user experience, and enhancing the multi-use spaces for active recreation, community events, and activities with broader social interests. A project steering committee should be established to guide the renovation project and pursue fundraising opportunities.	High	Short to Medium-term	Planning work to commence in short-term Availability of capital funding may impact timing
21. Undertake a topic-specific study and public engagement process to explore options for the creation and management of a hub for older adults' activities at an existing facility to help meet the recreational and social needs of this population.	High	Medium-term	Further community consultation required
22. Evaluate requests for facilities and services not presently within the Township's core mandate on a case-by-case basis. Unsolicited proposals should be supported by a proponent-led assessment that demonstrates the risks and benefits of the Township becoming involved in the provision of a non-core facility, as well as a business plan and partnership strategy suitable to the Township.	High	Ongoing	--

Table 29: Parks and Outdoor Facility Recommendations

Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
23. Secure long-term access to Soccer Field 3 at the LCMC Park (which is leased from a private landowner) or, alternately, to replace this field should an agreement not be reached.	High	Short-term	Discussions required with landowner
24. As part of other improvements to the LCMC Park, install a hardscape path from the parking lot to the soccer fields.	Medium	Short-term	--
25. Work with the Lucan Soccer Association to establish turf maintenance standards and practices . Promote usage of the Granton Park soccer field.	High	Short-term	--

Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
26. Over the longer-term, develop one to two additional full size soccer fields and explore the viability of installing lights on field. The LCMC Park is the preferred location for these fields, which would require park expansion.	Medium	Long-term	Would require expansion to LCMC Park or alternate site
27. Upgrade and maintain the two existing ball diamonds at the LCMC Park in consultation with user groups.	High	Short-term	Partial funding secured through Canada 150 Grant
28. Undertake improvements to the Granton Park ball diamond and incorporate this field within the Township's fees and charges by-law in order to track usage and provide an appropriate level of maintenance.	High	Short-term	Partial funding secured through Canada 150 Grant
29. With public input, consider removal of one ball diamond from either Lions Market Street Park or Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park should a more pressing, community-supported need arise.	Low	Long-term	Further community consultation required
30. Install playgrounds within the park blocks located in the Ridge Crossing and Olde Clover subdivisions.	High	Short to Medium-term	Timing dependent on land dedication
31. Continue to implement a program for regular playground replacement, upgrades, and installation . In future years, an emphasis should be placed on accessible features (such as ramps, swings, pathways, etc.). Community interest in the installation of outdoor adult fitness equipment at the LCMC Park should also be explored.	High	Ongoing	--
32. Maintain the Lucan Pool as long as it is deemed financially feasible, until such point as major capital replacement (e.g., to the tank, bathhouse, mechanical systems, etc.) can no longer be deferred. Major redevelopment or replacement is not recommended.	Medium	Ongoing	Dependent on lifecycle requirements
33. With the assistance of community fundraising, expand the spray pad at Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park as per the original design and install additional seating and shade structures and/or plantings to improve the user experience.	Medium	Short-term	--

Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
34. Work with the Granton Park Committee to install an appropriately-scaled skate park at this park.	Lower	Short-term	--
35. Install a curvilinear hardscape pathway in place of the existing track at the LCMC Park to provide connectivity to activity areas and an outlet for exercise.	High	Short-term	Partial funding secured through Canada 150 Grant
36. Utilize the Master Plan's parkland classification hierarchy to guide the development or redevelopment of parks and open spaces according to park type, size, service level, and the amenities that they provide.	High	Ongoing	--
37. Prepare a Parkland Dedication By-law that governs the dedication of parkland and cash-in-lieu (including requirements, procedures, land valuation, acceptable lands, exceptions, etc.), with due regard to the directions in this Master Plan and the provisions of the Official Plan and Planning Act.	High	Short-term	--
38. Avoid developing or accepting active parkland parcels of less than 0.5 hectare in size unless the Township has determined that there is a need to fill a gap and other options are inadequate.	High	Ongoing	--
39. Accepting undevelopable Open Space lands (e.g., storm water management ponds, woodlots, valley lands, floodplains, hazard lands, etc.) as part of the parkland dedication requirement is strongly discouraged. The Township may assume these lands through voluntary dedication or easement if appropriate.	High	Ongoing	--
40. Where necessary, employ alternative acquisition tools to enhance future parkland opportunities to serve current and future residents.	Medium	Ongoing	--
41. Adopt a parkland service target of 3.0 hectares per 1,000 residents to be applied to new growth from this point forward. An additional 3.3 hectares of active parkland will be required by 2030 (and a total of 5.8 hectares by 2040), to be achieved through future dedication within the Ridge Crossing and Olde Clover developments and an expansion to the LCMC Park (or alternate site).	High	Ongoing	Determine viability of LCMC Park

Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
42. Maintain a commitment to accessibility, safety, and comfort within the Township’s parks system through compliance with the AODA and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. In recognition of the Township’s aging population (and young children), greater attention should be paid to the development of amenities such as washrooms, shade, and benches/seating areas in parks and along trails.	High	Ongoing	--
43. Initiate tree planting programs – or work with local conservation authorities and community groups – to bolster tree cover in existing and future parks.	Medium	Medium-term	Opportunity for community/ agency collaboration
44. Establish a consistent signage design template and install signs at all parks, recreation facilities, and trail heads, as well as directional signage near major intersections.	Medium	Medium-term	--

Table 30: Trails Recommendations

Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
45. Use the guiding principles and trail development strategy within this Master Plan as a guide to inform future trail projects . Priority should be given to developing a trail route within Ridge Crossing, emphasizing the Lucan Community Memorial Centre as a potential trailhead (including a crosswalk at Main Street), and establishing linkages and localized routes within future plans of subdivisions.	High	Ongoing	Priority of individual projects may be influenced by opportunity
46. Evaluate and formalize agreements with private landowners that are currently providing trails vis-à-vis the Lucan Area Trails Association.	Medium	Short-term	--
47. Establish a line item for trail development and maintenance in the Township’s annual budget.	Medium	Short-term	--

Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
48. Create a policy within the Official Plan to allow the Township to require the dedication of land for the development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure as a condition of plan of subdivision approval as permitted by Section 51(25) of the Planning Act. Integrate the proposed trail network as a part of an Official Plan schedule to serve as an awareness tool amongst the Township, developers, and residents.	Medium	Short-term	--
49. Encourage developers to communicate information to potential homebuyers about future trail development through promotional material and Purchase Agreements.	Medium	Ongoing	--
50. Engage the public in the trail planning and design process in advance of construction to facilitate opportunities for public input and to promote the social, physical, and environmental benefits of a connected trail network.	High	Ongoing	--
51. Review the mandate of the Lucan Area Trails Association and seek to formalize this organization (or establish an alternate body) as a Township-wide Trails Advisory Council responsible for advising and implementing trail development and management projects.	High	Short-term	--

Table 31: Implementation Recommendations

Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
52. Use the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a resource in developing Lucan Biddulph's long-term capital forecast .	High	Ongoing	--
53. Ensure that Township Council is fully aware of the operating cost implications when deciding on the approval of capital projects.	High	Ongoing	--
54. Continue to seek alternative funding sources (e.g., fundraising, sponsorships, grants, etc.) to supplement existing resources and to enable full implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.	High	Ongoing	--

Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
55. Establish a reserve fund specific to major parks and recreation infrastructure projects with consistent annual contributions through the Township budget process, using a 2% facility replacement target as a benchmark.	High	Ongoing	May assist with funding of LCMC renovation and eventual replacement
56. Implement a system for the regular implementation, monitoring, and review of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan .	High	Short-term	--
57. Reconfirm the direction, priorities, and accomplishments of the Master Plan in 2020. Undertake a complete review and update of the Master Plan in the year 2025.	High	Medium to Long-term	Use of consultant recommended for 10-year update

10.3 Monitoring and Updating the Plan

The Township of Lucan Biddulph should regularly review and assess, and periodically revise the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan in order to ensure that they remain reflective of local conditions and responsive to community needs. This will require monitoring of activity patterns, tracking user satisfaction levels, dialogue with community organizations, annual reporting on implementation and short-term work plans, and undertaking a detailed ten-year update to the Plan. Through these mechanisms – or as a result of other internal or external factors – adjustment of resource allocations and priorities identified in this Plan may be required.

Reviewing the Plan requires a commitment from staff, Council, and the public. An appropriate time for this is prior to the annual budgeting process. The following steps may be used to conduct an annual review of the Master Plan:

- review of the past year (recommendations implemented, capital projects undertaken, success/failure of new and existing initiatives, changes in participation levels, etc.);
- review of the Plan to identify short term projects and priorities based on staff review and considerations (e.g., financial limitations, public input, partnership/funding potential, etc.);
- identification of issues or constraints anticipated for the coming year;
- communication to staff and Council regarding the status of projects, criteria used to prioritize projects, and upcoming projects; and
- budget requests/revisions as necessary.

Recommendations

56. Implement a system for the regular implementation, monitoring, and review of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

57. Reconfirm the direction, priorities, and accomplishments of the Master Plan in 2020. Undertake a complete review and update of the Master Plan in the year 2025.

Appendix A – Record of Public Input

The following information represents the opinions of community residents and stakeholder groups and have helped to inform the needs assessment phase of the Master Plan. They are not necessarily intended to represent recommendations of the consultant.

Included are transcriptions of notes and/or data results from the following consultation events:

- community open house
- community survey
- student questionnaire

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE – June 16, 2015

What I like the most about the Township's Parks and Recreation Facilities and Services:

- Small-town feel; not always a corporate event
- Lucan Community Centre
- Soccer program

How can we improve the Township's programs and activities?

- Getting the word out about events & programs
- Better communication with members of community organizations about events and Township initiatives
- Get Township to communicate with the presidents of community organizations to improve community awareness
- Ensure water heater works in the pool
- Indoor swimming pool
- Energy retrofit for parks and recreation facilities
- More daytime programming for children and seniors
- More pickleball, yoga classes
- Air conditioning for the Main Hall
- Make all facilities more user friendly
- The Township needs a good senior centre

How can we plan for the future of the Lucan Community Memorial Centre?

- Pedestrian activated crosswalk across Richmond (3)
- Better maintenance of outdoor track, i.e. remove weeds (2)
- Locate Tim Hortons in the Community Centre (2)
- Paint the arena green and renovate dressing rooms
- Indoor walking track for future buildings
- Indoor pool like St. Marys
- More floor gradient in the outdoor pool for younger swimmers
- Open up community dive only in summertime
- Heating for the outdoor pool
- Resurface Lucan tennis court
- Resurface Elm St. baseball diamond
- Fitness class such as boot camp and strength classes for after-hours
- Expand floor space to serve growing population
- Move community garden to beside the dog park, and open up Community Dr. during summertime to connect the soccer fields further out
- Establish trail network
- Partition the Main Hall for smaller group rentals

How can we improve the Township's parks?

- A children's park should have been mandatory in Walnut Grove and other new subdivisions
- Permanent washrooms near soccer fields
- A children's playground in the Old Clover Village
- Better drainage on soccer fields
- More trees on Elm St. Park
- Implement Phase 2 of the Elm St. splash pad
- Open/maintained washrooms at Market St. Park
- More tennis courts north of the Village of Lucan

How can we improve the Township's trails?

- Trail entrances need to be more ostensive and labelled 'open to public' (2)
- Bike trails near the Public Works department area
- Trail around the ponds is incomplete
- More walking paths

Are you a resident of Lucan Biddulph?	#	%
Yes	243	94%
No	15	6%
Total	258	100%
Don't Know/ No Response	41	

Municipalities in which respondents who are not residents of Lucan Biddulph reside.	#
Middlesex Centre	7
North Middlesex	2
London	1
South Huron	2
Strathroy-Caradoc	1
Total	13
Don't Know/ No Response	2

In which part of the Township do you live? (see map)	#	%
South/West of Highway 4	89	40%
North/East of Highway 4, but West of Highway 23	85	39%
East of Highway 23	46	21%
Total	220	100%
Don't Know/ No Response	23	

Please indicate the total number of persons within your household that fall into the following age categories.	#	%
Under 10 years	240	25%
10-19 years	132	14%
20-34 years	155	16%
35-54 years	297	31%
55-69 years	133	14%
70 years and over	10	1%
Total Represented	967	100%
Don't Know/ No Response	42	
n=257		

In 2014, what was your household's total annual income before taxes?	#	%
Under \$40,000	8	4%
Between \$40,000 and \$59,999	18	10%
Between \$60,000 and \$79,999	37	20%
Between \$80,000 and \$99,999	35	19%
\$100,000 or more	87	47%
Total	185	100%
Don't Know/Prefer not to Disclose	64	
No Response	50	

Activities Partaken by Respondents in the Past 12 Months	#	%
Walking or Hiking for Leisure	218	75%
Use of Playground Equipment	173	60%
Swimming	163	56%
Hockey, Figure Skating, or Ice Skating	159	55%
Aerobics, Yoga, Fitness or Weight-training	150	52%
Dog Walking (on or off leash)	117	40%
Baseball or Softball	113	39%
Running or Jogging	110	38%
Soccer	107	37%
Cycling or Mountain Biking	99	34%
Pre-School or Children Programs (Early Years, drop-in)	74	26%
Volleyball	55	19%
Skateboarding	49	17%
Basketball	37	13%
Tennis	30	10%
Organized Teen Programs (camps, club, etc.)	28	10%
Organized Seniors Programs (cards, courses, etc.)	12	4%
Curling	7	2%
Other (specify)	27	9%
Dirt Biking	2	1%
Pickleball	2	1%
Gardening	2	1%
Dance	2	1%
ATV	2	1%
Snowboarding	1	0%

Cross-country Skiing	1	0%
Rollerblading	1	0%
Splash pads	1	0%
Indoor Swimming	1	0%
Snowmobiling	1	0%
Crafts	1	0%
Trap Shooting	1	0%
Fishing	1	0%
Scotering	1	0%
VON Smart	1	0%
Library Story Time	1	0%
Santa Claus Parade	1	0%
Scouting	1	0%
Astronomy Outreach	1	0%
Ball Hockey	1	0%
BMX	1	0%
Total Responses	1728	
Total Respondents	290	
Don't Know/No Response	9	

Where does your household primarily participate in parks and recreation activities? (select up to 3 responses)	#	%
Municipal park or facility provided by the Township of Lucan Biddulph	221	75%
At home	174	59%
Municipal park or facility in another community	101	34%
School	62	21%
Conservation Area	61	21%
Private club	39	13%
Church or religious institution	18	6%
Other (please specify)	8	3%
Martens Trails and Morrison Dam	2	1%
Lucan Trail off Coursey Lane	1	0%
Trailer Park	1	0%
Boiler Beach at Kincardine	1	0%
Campground	1	0%
YMCA	1	0%
Studio	1	0%
Total Responses	684	
Total Respondents	295	100%
Don't Know/ No Response	4	

In the past 12 months, have you or anyone in your household visited the Lucan Community Memorial Centre? (this can be either as a participant or a spectator)	#	%
Yes	252	87%
No	39	13%
Total	291	100%
Don't Know/ No Response	8	

Are you and members of your household able to participate in parks and recreation activities as often as you would like?	#	%
Yes	146	54%
No	124	46%
Total	270	100%
Don't Know/ No Response	29	

Why are you and members of your household not able to participate in parks and recreation activities as often as you would like? (select up to 3 responses)	#	%
Lack of desired facilities or programs	79	65%
Lack of personal time / Too busy	56	46%
Program not offered at a convenient time	52	43%
Lack of information / Unaware of opportunities	36	30%
Lack of money / Too expensive	29	24%
Lack of Child Care	18	15%
Lack of transportation / Facility too far away	14	11%
Health problems / Disability / Age	11	9%
Language / Cultural Barrier	1	1%
Other (please specify)	8	7%
Not offered in Granton	2	2%
Don't want to drive out of Granton	1	1%
Lack of adult fitness classes or groups	1	1%
Lack of child care	1	1%
There's no U4 soccer in Lucan	1	1%
Children's Dance and Gymnastics not offered	1	1%
Organizing programs in Granton is not easy	1	1%
Total Responses	304	
Total Respondents	122	100%
Don't Know/ No Response	2	

Generally, what proportion of your parks and recreation needs are met within the Township of Lucan Biddulph?	#	%
All (100%)	21	7%
Most (67-99%)	89	31%
About Half (34-66%)	95	33%
Some (1-33%)	69	24%
None (0%)	15	5%
Total	289	100%
Don't Know/ No Response	10	

What activities do you or members of your household typically participate in outside of the Township of Lucan Biddulph?	# (open-ended)	%
Fitness	65	24%
Swimming	53	20%
Baseball (including Softball)	25	9%
Indoor Swimming	25	9%
Hiking	22	8%
Hockey	22	8%
Walking/Jogging	20	7%
Gymnastics	15	6%
Cycling	14	5%
Soccer	13	5%
Dance	10	4%
Yoga	10	4%
Basketball	6	2%
Skating/Figure Skating	6	2%
Ball Hockey	5	2%
Camping	5	2%
Children Programs in General	5	2%
Skateboarding	5	2%
Aquafit	4	1%
Golf	4	1%
Indoor Walking Track	4	1%
Lacrosse	4	1%
Tennis	4	1%
Culture Events (e.g. festivals and concerts)	3	1%
Curling	3	1%
Ringette	3	1%
Rugby	3	1%
Track and Field	3	1%
Volleyball	3	1%
Aerobics	2	1%
CrossFit	2	1%
Dog Walking	2	1%
Playground	2	1%
Splash Pad	2	1%

ATV	1	0%
Beach	1	0%
Boot Camp	1	0%
Bowling	1	0%
Cake Decorating	1	0%
Cheerleading	1	0%
Children Day Camps	1	0%
Children's Dance	1	0%
Children's Fitness	1	0%
Children's Music	1	0%
Children's Soccer	1	0%
Crafts	1	0%
Daycare	1	0%
Football	1	0%
Indoor Baseball	1	0%
Indoor Playground	1	0%
Karate	1	0%
Music Lessons	1	0%
Nighttime Children's Floor Hockey	1	0%
Outdoor Skating	1	0%
Paintball	1	0%
Park	1	0%
Pickleball	1	0%
Picnics	1	0%
Pilates	1	0%
Shopping	1	0%
Skiing	1	0%
Trap Shooting	1	0%
Wrestling	1	0%
Zumba	1	0%
Total Responses	233	
Total Respondents	268	100%
Don't Know/No Response	35	

Why does your household participate in these activities outside of the Township of Lucan Biddulph? (select up to 3 responses)	#	%
Facility/program is not available in the Township	178	70%
Quality of facility/program is superior	61	24%
Facility/program not available at the preferred time	56	22%
Tournaments/special events/travel teams	38	15%
"Connected" to other community/used to live there	31	12%
Closer to other activities or shopping	23	9%
Less expensive	22	9%
Closer to work or school	21	8%
Other (please specify)	33	13%
Lack of indoor swimming facility in the Township	4	2%
Pool at YMCA (for heated water, and shallower pool)	3	1%
Would rather put money into other communities if Lucan doesn't care enough to put money into Granton	3	1%
Lack of ice time at the Lucan Arena	3	1%
Quality of trail systems elsewhere	2	1%
Better scheduling elsewhere	2	1%
Private swim lessons	2	1%
Lack of pickleball programs	2	1%
Better fencing	1	0%
More enjoyable places to walk	1	0%
Physical disability	1	0%
More wooded areas elsewhere	1	0%
Part of Ontario parks	1	0%
Church	1	0%
Lucan Pool in poor state	1	0%
Township Tennis court in poor state	1	0%
No dance class offered in Township	1	0%
Ilderton has a competitive soccer team	1	0%
Facility is more accessible	1	0%
Lack of children programs in Granton	1	0%
Total Responses	463	
Total Respondents	253	100%
Don't Know/ No Response	14	

Are there any parks and recreation activities that you or members of your household would like to see offered in the Township of Lucan Biddulph that are not currently available?	#	%
Yes	174	80%
No	44	20%
Total	218	100%
Don't Know/ No Response	81	

What activities would you like to see offered in Lucan Biddulph?	# (open-ended)	%
Gymnastics	14	8%
Children Activities (e.g. camps and dance, music, skat	13	8%
Dance	12	7%
Basketball	9	5%
Fitness Classes (including personal training and weig	8	5%
Swimming/Aquatic Classes (e.g. children	8	5%
Baseball (Including Softball, T-ball, and tournaments)	7	4%
Yoga Classes	7	4%
Soccer Programs (e.g. under 4, recreational)	4	2%
Youth Activities	4	2%
Family Activities	3	2%
Hockey	3	2%
Music Groups/Classes	3	2%
Seniors Activities	3	2%
Volleyball	3	2%
YMCA Programs	3	2%
Art Classes	2	1%
Bocce Ball	2	1%
Curling	2	1%
Figure Skating Lessons	2	1%
Martial Arts	2	1%
Mom and baby activities (e.g. fitness classes, swim)	2	1%
Skating	2	1%
Zumba Classes	2	1%
Affordable Programs	1	1%
Archery	1	1%
Boot Camps	1	1%
Fishing	1	1%
Football	1	1%
Gun Club	1	1%
Indoor Sports	1	1%
Lacrosse	1	1%
Petanque	1	1%
Physical Activities	1	1%
Pickleball	1	1%
Ringette	1	1%
Rugby	1	1%
Summer Camps	1	1%
Tennis Lessons	1	1%
Walking Club	1	1%
Winter Sports	1	1%
Women's Hockey	1	1%
Total Responses	138	
Total Respondents	165	65%
Don't Know/ No Response	9	

Note: Several responses to this question identified facilities (particularly fitness centre and indoor pools) rather than activities and have thus been removed from the open-ended count.

In your opinion, which of the following organizations should provide these new programs/activities?	#	%
Township of Lucan Biddulph	33	21%
Community/volunteer organization	6	4%
Private sector	5	3%
A combination of the above providers	111	72%
Total	155	100%
Don't Know/ No Response	144	

In general, how important are the following items to your household?	Not At All Important	Not Important	Neither Important or Not Important	Important	Very Important	Don't Know/ No Response	Total (Excl. DK)
Indoor recreation facilities such as arenas and community centres	5	5	16	67	179	27	272
Outdoor recreation facilities such as sports fields and playgrounds	4	4	20	61	181	29	270
Passive parks that preserve natural areas and open space	6	11	42	96	111	33	266
Trails and pathways	4	9	40	87	121	38	261
In general, how important are the following items to your household?	Not At All Important	Not Important	Neither Important or Not Important	Important	Very Important	Don't Know/ No Response	Total
Indoor recreation facilities such as arenas and community centres	2%	2%	6%	25%	66%	-	100%
Outdoor recreation facilities such as sports fields and playgrounds	1%	1%	7%	23%	67%	-	100%
Passive parks that preserve natural areas and open space	2%	4%	16%	36%	42%	-	100%
Trails and pathways	2%	3%	15%	33%	46%	-	100%

Thinking about those facilities that currently exist in the Township of Lucan Biddulph, what is your level of satisfaction with the following?	Not At All Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know/ No Response	Total (Excl. DK)
Indoor recreation facilities such as the Lucan Community Memorial Centre	14	58	37	126	28	36	263
Outdoor recreation facilities such as sports fields and playgrounds	12	36	49	139	33	30	269
Passive parks that preserve natural areas and open space	17	37	110	70	13	52	247
Trails and pathways	28	79	90	42	7	53	246
Thinking about those facilities that currently exist in the Township of Lucan Biddulph, what is your level of satisfaction with the following?	Not At All Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know/ No Response	Total
Indoor recreation facilities such as the Lucan Community Memorial Centre	5%	22%	14%	48%	11%	-	100%
Outdoor recreation facilities such as sports fields and playgrounds	4%	13%	18%	52%	12%	-	100%
Passive parks that preserve natural areas and open space	7%	15%	45%	28%	5%	-	100%
Trails and pathways	11%	32%	37%	17%	3%	-	100%

What is your level of satisfaction with the recreation and parks opportunities in the Township of Lucan Biddulph for the following age groups?	Not At All Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know	Total (Excl. DK)
Children (0-12 years)	12	51	48	85	36	67	232
Teens (13-18 years)	17	49	68	43	12	110	189
Adults (19-54 years)	16	71	65	73	12	62	237
Older Adults and Seniors (55+)	15	34	65	37	8	140	159
What is your level of satisfaction with the recreation and parks opportunities in the Township of Lucan Biddulph for the following age groups?	Not At All Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know/ No Response	Total
Children (0-12 years)	5%	22%	21%	37%	16%	-	100%
Teens (13-18 years)	9%	26%	36%	23%	6%	-	100%
Adults (19-54 years)	7%	30%	27%	31%	5%	-	100%
Older Adults and Seniors (55+)	9%	21%	41%	23%	5%	-	100%

To what degree do you oppose or support the Township spending additional public funds on the following types of facilities?	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neither Oppose nor Support	Support	Strongly Support	Don't Know/ No Response	Total (Excl. DK)
Playgrounds	4	5	38	111	97	44	255
Space for Youth (e.g., youth centre)	6	10	39	99	94	51	248
Nature Trails	10	7	43	101	93	45	254
Ice Arenas	10	10	45	92	97	45	254
Parks and Open Space	7	5	53	114	74	46	253
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	16	12	38	115	72	46	253
Splash Pads	7	13	47	103	86	43	256
Space for Seniors (e.g., seniors' centre)	7	8	59	102	69	54	245
Baseball or Softball Diamonds	12	18	54	101	70	44	255
Soccer Fields	13	18	56	115	54	43	256
Paved Trails	15	16	56	82	83	47	252
Community Halls	8	13	65	105	57	51	248
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	10	18	74	104	40	53	246
Tennis Courts	14	29	77	93	31	55	244
Skateboard Parks	13	32	81	84	40	49	250
Community Gardens	18	31	79	80	43	48	251
Off-Leash Dog Parks	35	31	77	65	38	53	246

To what degree do you oppose or support the Township spending additional public funds on the following types of facilities?	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neither Oppose nor Support	Support	Strongly Support	Don't Know/ No Response	Total
Playgrounds	2%	2%	15%	44%	38%	-	100%
Space for Youth (e.g., youth centre)	2%	4%	16%	40%	38%	-	100%
Nature Trails	4%	3%	17%	40%	37%	-	100%
Ice Arenas	4%	4%	18%	36%	38%	-	100%
Parks and Open Space	3%	2%	21%	45%	29%	-	100%
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	6%	5%	15%	45%	28%	-	100%
Splash Pads	3%	5%	18%	40%	34%	-	100%
Space for Seniors (e.g., seniors' centre)	3%	3%	24%	42%	28%	-	100%
Baseball or Softball Diamonds	5%	7%	21%	40%	27%	-	100%
Soccer Fields	5%	7%	22%	45%	21%	-	100%
Paved Trails	6%	6%	22%	33%	33%	-	100%
Community Halls	3%	5%	26%	42%	23%	-	100%
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	4%	7%	30%	42%	16%	-	100%
Tennis Courts	6%	12%	32%	38%	13%	-	100%
Skateboard Parks	5%	13%	32%	34%	16%	-	100%
Community Gardens	7%	12%	31%	32%	17%	-	100%
Off-Leash Dog Parks	14%	13%	31%	26%	15%	-	100%

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know/ No Response	Total (Excl. DK)
The Lucan Community Memorial Centre should be substantially renovated and upgraded.	13	30	57	75	79	45	254
Your household is generally satisfied with the geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities in the Township.	16	14	50	132	44	43	256
The Township's parks and recreation facilities are generally well maintained.	24	48	39	124	21	43	256
The Township should offer additional recreation programs (registered or drop-in) for residents.	4	7	61	96	85	46	253
Parks and recreation should be a high priority for Township Council.	8	5	32	104	107	43	256

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know/ No Response	Total
The Lucan Community Memorial Centre should be substantially renovated and upgraded.	5%	12%	22%	30%	31%	-	100%
Your household is generally satisfied with the geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities in the Township.	6%	5%	20%	52%	17%	-	100%
The Township's parks and recreation facilities are generally well maintained.	9%	19%	15%	48%	8%	-	100%
The Township should offer additional recreation programs (registered or drop-in) for residents.	2%	3%	24%	38%	34%	-	100%
Parks and recreation should be a high priority for Township Council.	3%	2%	13%	41%	42%	-	100%

If the Township could improve one aspect of the LCMC arena and halls, what should it be?	#
Additional ice pad	24
Cleanliness	15
Upgrade changerooms	15
General upgrade to all facilities	14
Fitness centre	9
Walking track	9
Heated seating area in arena	8
Greater variety of programs & activities	7
Upgrade appearance	7
Better customer service/more diligent staff	4
Lower hall and arena rental fees	4
Upgrade existing arena	4
Total Responses	120
n=143	

Note: Comments not related to potential facility/park improvements have been removed from the open-ended count.

If the Township could improve one aspect of the LCMC park and pool, what should it be?	#
Indoor pool	40
Upgrade outdoor pool	21
Ensure outdoor pool is properly heated	19
Facilities maintenance (e.g. raking diamond, clearing)	15
Upgrade change rooms	8
Upgrade pool washrooms	6
Upgrade to appearance	6
Covered seating area	5
Accessible sidewalk to soccer field	4
Closer washrooms	4
More seating area	4
Upgrade playground	4
Total Responses	136
n=141	

Note: Comments not related to potential facility/park improvements have been removed from the open-ended count.

If the Township could improve one aspect of Granton Park, what should it be?	#
Ball diamond (e.g. lighting, clay surface)	16
More children's play equipment	7
Splash pad	6
Skate park	5
Better upkeep of soccer field	3
General upgrade of all facilities	3
Washrooms	2
Bike/walking trail	2
Safety	2
Overall maintenance	2
Outdoor ice rink	2
More community activities	2
Total Responses	52
n=61	

Note: Comments not related to potential facility/park improvements have been removed from the open-ended count.

If the Township could improve one aspect of Lions Market Street Park, what should it be?	#
More equipment	11
Better washroom access	8
Upgrade playground	8
Upgrade ball diamond	6
Better lighting	5
Improve paved walkway	4
More seating	4
General upgrade	3
Enforce parking by-law	2
Upgrade pavilion	2
Improved site drainage	2
Splash pad	2
Total Responses	57
n=68	

Note: Comments not related to potential facility/park improvements have been removed from the open-ended count.

If the Township could improve one aspect of Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park, what should it be?	#
More seating	9
Maintenance	9
More equipment	7
More shades (e.g. trees)	6
Improve ball diamond	5
Improve washroom facility (e.g. more washrooms, lor	5
Upgrade existing equipment	5
New basketball court	4
Upgrade splash pad	4
Picnic tables	2
More swings	2
Wading pool	2
Total Responses	60
n=74	

Note: Comments not related to potential facility/park improvements have been removed from the open-ended count.

Please provide any additional comments you may have regarding parks and recreation in the Township of Lucan Biddulph. (maximum 100 words) - NOTE: THESE COMMENTS ARE AS SUBMITTED AND NOT EDITED

Elm street park is the perfect area for a small waiting pool, This would also create a couple lifeguard jobs. The space is there to do so.

A drop in youth group for children of all ages would be a fun offer throughout the summer in the pavilions parent volunteer would be needed Soccer/ Advertise more community events on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. These are free social media platforms for you to utilize. It can also bring more All Good but keep focusing on Lucan not Granton

Although my children have now grown, we don't use the community recreational facilities as much as we used to. I don't think there needs to be an indoor An indoor pool and better planned out health and wellness programs (and perhaps a new location for them) would be fantastic for Lucan. I strongly believe An indoor walking track at the arena would benefit residents of all ages and provide a safe environment for everyone to remain active.

As a community we should be proud to invite others to our arena and the simple fact is that we need a new one. I realize that financially this may not be As the community is expanding so should the recreation in the town.

At one time there was a proposal to put a dome over the swimming pool by the Lions Club. Lucan did not have nearly the population it does now, so I would Benches and seating in the market street park would be appreciated, as well as a washroom facility.

Consistently see the grass in the soccer fields poorly cut. Some of the practice fields aren't cut regularly. Painting at the pool is poor quality. Maintenance at Continue with great maintenance Community Centre with private sector partnership offer programming that is age appropriate and on a drop in basis, Definately lucan needs a lift,update,improvement in all areas of town. Thank-you.

Doggy "poop bag stations/disposal units" would be appreciated at all parks in Lucan Biddulph.

Don't believe arena SOME of staff have any pride in the job they are asked to perform. Just look smell the urine in the hockey dressing rooms. Bleach is Don't ignore Granton, we have children and adults who use the park daily and the deserve an updated and clean area.

Every effort should be made to promote outdoor activities appropriate to the season and not just organized sport. We need an outdoor skating rink, open to Everything is spent in Lucan. Granton is desperate. They replaced the swings because of the safety standards; ok but they replaced them WITH LESS Granton park, Water building and other township properties are not being Maintain like the Lucan facilities. This is very disappointing for the Granton Granton park needs repaired and added covered benches. Bench near gardens. Activities for 8-18. Updated safe baseball, soccer and basketball. Granton park needs to be updated. Some of the children are getting older and require something more than a swing to keep them occupied. Our children grantons needs are always neglected for the betterment of lucan

I agree with making improvements, but the improvements need to be financially responsible and not add undue stress to the property tax system I am grateful for the improvements that have been made over the last 6-8 years at the Granton Park. I appreciate the new equipment for the little ones, as I amount many other young mothers would like to have a kids soccer baseball program in Granton with their being so many kids that live in this town. We I believe that Lucan is a fantastic up and coming community and our community resources currently will NOT support the growth. Our Arena facility is I coach mi9nor hockey in town. We have a real shortage of ice time for the kids hockey and skating. this is likley only get worst as more kids are entering I don't think anything needs major overhaul (such as a two rink area) just general upkeep especially with aging facilities such as the pool

I feel an outdoor pavilion at the community center is strongly recommended

I feel that great progress has been made over the last couple years. However, the arena needs major updating. We really need to improve ice availability I feel that it is nice that the Lions Park is unger going renovation but I think \$40,000 is a lot of money when Lucan really needs to put a sidewalk down I feel the maintenance of the baseball diamonds are lacking. My fear is someone will get hurt out there. There are holes in the outfield that need to be filled. I find the grassy walkway from the Arena leading into the soccer fields is needing some upgrading. The tree branches smack people in the faces and you I have been a resident of the village of Granton for 7 years. I am very disappointed with the condition and lack of up keep to our park! I visit the village of I have been apart of lucan for over 20 years and I am very involved in the recreational aspect of the town. I would love to see the small diamond in Lucan I have lived in Granton for 5 years and within that 5 years I haven't noticed any upgrades or care going into our park. The council members don't seem to i hear more often than not from kids in and around Lucan - they are bored. "unless you play hockey or soccer - there is nothing to do"

I held my wedding in the Lucan hall but was not at all satisfied with the hall the dishes or the conditions of the bathrooms For the amount that was charged I know it is hard to make money stretch to cover everything but please do consider affordability of participation for all as part of your decision making.

I play baseball and there are some improvements to make that would make the game more safely and enjoyable. Also a skate park would be a great way I think a new ice rink or pool would be too much of a burden on taxes. We have seen this is other towns that are larger than Lucan and are failing and I think keeping up the facilities and programs you have in place already is money well spent, however doing all of these upgrades and reno's are going to I think the current parks and rec. manager is putting effort in to his position to better the activities available for residents of Lucan Biddulph- both young and I think there should be improvements made regularly to the Lucan Community Memorial Centre. However, I guess I'm not clear on what "substantially I use the arena on a regular basis and find the exterior doors do not seal in the winter months allowing snow to actually blow into the hallways. Also some I would like to see a better dog park! Some tree's , water supply, poop bags, shade. Pathways to walk in. More space expand it!

I'm new to the township and it's really hard to get information on what's available for residents. There isn't much information on the website and it doesn't In general, having trail networks and better opportunities for outdoor healthy living that are not program specific.

In grantonI would like to see the Ball dimond get fixed as in fence more gravel grass cut and trimmed and rolled and fix the tile on the top of fence and a In need of another ice rink. The gravel and grounds of the big ball diamond are in terrible shape. Instead of just cutting the grass for the soccer field, the rest it would be nice to have a portapotty out in the soccer fields. Because the back fields are a long ways from the washrooms for the little kids.

I've organized a stroller bootcamp since there wasn't anything available in town. We had our first one today and everyone commented on the poor shape of Keep things natural where possible, we don't need a concrete jungle in the community.

Let's put some tax dollars to funding for the youth....an indoor swimming pool and youth program will keep these kids busy and out of trouble. What about Love this town. Great facilities but with a quick growing population. Feel the need to upgrade and offer more in the community.

Lucan is a beautiful place that is quickly expanding. I believe that an interactive paved trail for walking/bicycles/jogging would be an excellent addition, Lucan is a wonderful place to live as long as the cost of living here doesn't go up so that it not affordable on on a seniors income!

Lucan is doing a great job, but indoor swim facilities and more evening youth programs would help! Upgrades to the splash pad would be great too!

Lucan needs more options for children/families. Sports, entertainment/shopping.The community has many young families with children. It will expand if Lucan would benefit from a walking track and a gym. The hiking trails could also be better groomed and less hilly.

More conservation areas...

multi-use path linking various parks and neighbourhoods is very desirable and attracts new residents. i.e. path from Elm street park to

My only big complaints are what the teams are charged to play baseball (kids and slow pitch) and the teams end up doing all the work for the games.

Need better lighting and a bigger diamond for baseball. Then tournaments could be held in Lucan generating money

Need second ice pad, the main hall is dated and not as utilized as past years too many quant venues for weddings and anniversaries too much competition

Need to promote fitness. Have recreational facilities within town vs YMCA or gym membership in London. More winter time activities other than hockey ...

Needs to be long term vision. Take the best ideas from other communities. Community centre is a jumbled mess (outside) with no flow.

No Taj Mahal arena!!!

No wheelchair or stroller access at soccer parks at arena.

Our family travels into London, Exeter, St. Mary's to participate in Dance, Gymnastics and Swimming Lesson (where we go to during the winter months) as Outdoor skating would be great for everyone. We ususalgy go to Nairn because we can skate there 24-7

overall its very good!

Parks and recreation support quality of life and, that's what draws people to want to be part of small communities.

Possibly level off soccer fields.Fill hollowed areas with top soil and reseed with grass.Possibly install some drainage in the soccer fields to prevent provide more fitness programs, and childrens programs - more drop in programs for parents and kids

Put some work and money in Granton we are tired of supporting Lucan. Granton is know as the suburb of Lucan.

Some of the park equipment is in substantial need of improvement. The Elm St. swings have rusted chains and the equipment is too high for toddlers. The Take out tennis courts and put bigger skatepark in and take the stones out of the park beside the skatepark

Thank you for the survey! Might it be worth considering to have an Indoor Swimming Pool. It might be well visited in Winter to keep moving.... and well

Thanks for taking the time to improve lucan!

The areas that have in the last 2 years come under the care of 'Parks and Recreation' have been in a steady decline since they took over the duties of

The best way to improve things would be a ball hockey rink or two (small one for kids, bigger one for teens/adults). The other thing i would like to see is a

The community is growing and coming together

The granton park and ball diamond needs to be cleaned up and maintained

The Lucan Arena is DISGUSTING! The entire facility needs to be power washed, painted, and cleaned up. The change rooms are disgusting as are the

The main issue is the size of the small diamond. Its to small for mens and womens softball. the lighting is poor and very hard to see in both outfields. if the

The park in Granton has been not well maintained over the past few years. Ball diamond fences need work and may lead to injured players. If the lights

The sports for young people is well covered. Having a year round pool would benefit all ages, if it is well designed to support all ages from the health and

The town needs a long term vision for recreation. This town is made up of young families and seniors and their concerns need to be met. There is lots of

The town wants to expand its population but does nothing to improve the local facilities. I would like a set up.like patk hill Goderich clinton stmarys.

There are so many people using the facilities that a community center, arena, pool, gym etc (similar to Pyramid in St Mary's) would be awesome for Lucan

There is a dramatic need to put a sidewalk along the sides of the playground to get back to the soccer fields at the community centre. It is very hard for

There seems to be a disconnect between youth who are not "into sports" and the activities offered by our parks and recreation programs. If we could find

There should be a walking trail from Walnut Grove to the school. If kids can't get bussed they should have a direct route. This should be a major priority

There should be upgrades to the pool. The baseball fields should be maintained and bases in and lined prior to each game! Grass should be cut and

They are usually well kept and clean

Things could be greatly improved to keep up with the new residents and young families coming to Lucan. Lucan is a great community with potential. I am

This should become a strong focus for the Township. The more activities that residents' can participate in the community, the stronger the community

Town is growing, more updated facilities would be great but no need to break the budget over it.

township really needs programs for kids 12 - 16

Washrooms at Elm Street park need to be open more often

We are pleased with the amount of recreation sports offered for children in Lucan. We have one child in hockey and strongly see the need for a 2nd ice

We are very fortunate to have several outdoor parks but many need serious upgrades for safety and enjoyment. The splash pad is a great addition but we

We have a great facility in the Lucan Community Memorial Centre however it's looking very dated.

We have young kids and like to take them to the park, we usually go to the elm St park as it is close to our house. I find the equipment boring and the kids

We in Granton pay taxes but it seems like most of the funds go to Lucan projects. I have watch numerous young families move into Granton. They need tp

We need a plan to maintain what we have. Our recent councils have made big decisions as of late to move admin and works dept. I suspect we need to be

We need something for our older children 9 and up to do in granton. We pay taxes for what? There is nothing for our children to do. Skateboard park, play

We need to concentrate on the growth, improvement to all facilities need to be done. We are turning new residents away due to the fact that services are

We often travel to Tennis court in Denfield as the one in Lucan often has broken glass, stones hat make it hazardous. Or the net is not well maintained The

We spend a great deal of time going into London for indoor swimming, volleyball, the gym, fitness classes etc. This winter in order to walk with our 6 month

When I ride my bike up town or take car if I need to go to the washroom there is no place to go. Not all businesses up town have facilities available the

With so many local kids playing minor hockey in Lucan, we really need the dressing rooms and showers upgraded. It currently is disgusting and I'm sure it

With the population becoming more sedintary- need reason to get out and moving instead of home on video games. Indoor gym/walking track would be

Would be nice to see a park, with climber, in Olde Clover Village

Your teenagers have nothing to do. Program for younger and older teens is needed. Keep our kids out of trouble by offering them opportunities. Hockey

In the past 12 months, which of the following activities have you participated in outside of school?

	#	%
Swimming	161	64%
Using the Playground	151	60%
Soccer	135	53%
Using the Splash Pad	128	51%
Hockey	99	39%
Baseball	89	35%
Ball Hockey	71	28%
Basketball	71	28%
Skateboarding	61	24%
Other	53	21%
Dance	39	15%
Gymnastics	34	13%
Scouts/Girl Guides	23	9%
Lacrosse	17	7%
Martial Arts	13	5%
Total	253	

Where do you participate in these activities?

Swimming	#	%
LCMC	71	47%
Home	31	21%
London	27	18%
Friends & relatives'	11	7%
Other (see below)	6	4%
St. Marys	5	3%
Total	151	
Exeter	2	
Kirkton	2	
McGillivray	1	
Grand Bend	1	
Ipperwash	1	

Using the splash pad	#	%
Elm St. Park	102	86%
Ilderton	8	7%
London	5	4%
Other	4	3%
Total	119	

Soccer	#	%
Lucan / LCMC	93	69%
Backyard (Home, other)	19	14%
Ilderton	16	12%
London	4	3%
Other (see below)	2	1%
Total	134	
Kirkton	1	
St. Marys	1	

Using the playground	#	%
Lucan (not specified)	90	66%
LCMC	14	10%
Ilderton	7	5%
Elm St. Park	6	4%
Granton Park	5	4%
Market St. Park	5	4%
Other	4	3%
Backyard (Home, other)	3	2%
London	2	1%
Total	136	

What do you like most about the Granton Park? What do you like least and what needs to be improved?

Favourite feature	#	Improvement	#
Basketball court	7	Playground	6
Climbing gym	7	Ball diamonds	5
Large space	5	Skate park	4
Swings	4	Climbing gym	3
Tennis court	4	Pavilion	3
Ball diamonds	3	Soccer nets	3
Skate/scooter area	2	Tennis courts	3
Playground	2	Overall upgrade	2
Pavilion	1	Basketball court	2
Fun day	1	Site drainage	1
Soccer field	1	Splash pad	1
Total	40	Heated pool	1
		Tarpoline	1
		Tennis courts	1
		Fencing	1
		Swings	1
		Pool	1
		Golf course	1
		Food truck	1
		Total	41

What do you like most about the Market Street Park? What do you like least and what needs to be improved?

Favourite feature	#	Improvement	#
Swings	73	Playground	32
Playground	36	Slide	15
Slide	14	Monkey bars for youth	15
Ball diamond	7	Additional space	12
Spacious	6	Ball diamond	10
Climbers	5	Climbers	10
Everything	4	Swings	9
Climbers	2	Pavilion	7
Location	2	Safety (paving)	4
Shade	2	Pathway	3
Pathway	2	Benches	3
Scout Hall	1	Basketball court	2
Cleanliness	1	New gravel	2
Equipment	1	Lawn maintenance	1
Recreation programs	1	Picnic tables	1
Trees	1	Washrooms	1
Total	158	Scout Hall	1
		Shade	1
		Skate park	1
		Garbage disposal	1
		More flowers	1
		Total	132

What do you like most about the Lucan Community Memorial Centre, Arena, & Park? What do you like least and what needs to be improved?

Favourite feature	#	Improvement	#
Arena (e.g. size, play hockey, skating)	105	Dressing rooms (e.g. heat, cleaning, upgrade)	28
Soccer fields	35	Skate park	20
Skate park	25	Playground	15
Pool	21	Seating (e.g. painting, heat, new benches)	14
Ball diamond	17	Gymnasium (e.g. hours, more activities)	10
Playground	11	Pool (e.g. cleaning, heated)	9
Gymnasium (indoor soccer)	10	Additional ice pad	8
Free skating	7	Tennis court	8
Spacious	7	Additional bleachers	8
Library	6	(e.g. near soccer fields)	
Range of activities	5	Upgrade existing arena	7
Automatic doors	5	Overall upgrade	7
Ample seating	5	Ball diamonds (e.g. clay soil, size)	5
Tennis court	5	Soccer field (e.g. posts, maintenance, lights)	5
Canteen	4	Running track (e.g. paving maintenance)	5
Running track	4	Cleanliness (dressing room, hallways, washrooms)	5
Front entrance/lobby	3	Zipline	4
Recreation programs	2	Canteen (longer hours)	4
Candy machine	2	Washrooms (upgrade)	4
Climbers	2	Basketball court	3
Dressing room	2	Library	3
Good customer service	1	Better heating	3
Ample parking	1	Climbers	2
Cleanliness	1	Portable washrooms	2
Rooms for use	1	Spin chair	2
Ample lighting	1	Indoor pool	2
Dog park	1	Slides	2
Wifi	1	More candy	2
Zipline	1	Sound system	2
Total	291	Equipment maintenance	2

New vending machines	2
Arena catch fence	1
Automatic doors	1
Gold course	1
Football field	1
Free skate time	1
Dog park (maintenance)	1
Splash pad	1
Swings	1
Zamboni	1
More shade	1
Tether ball court	1
Lighting	1
Lobby appearance	1
Signage	1
Water fountain	1
Total	208

What do you like most about the Elm Street Park? What do you like least and what needs to be improved?

Favourite feature	#	Improvement	#
Splash pad	117	Splash pad (e.g. slide, more water, warm water)	35
Swings	14	Swings	21
Playground	12	Playground (e.g. more, clear rocks, wood chip)	17
Climbers	7	Washrooms (change rooms, longer hours)	12
Basketball net	7	Basketball court	12
Open space	7	Ball diamond	11
Creek	6	Climbers	9
Monkey bars	6	General upgrade	9
Ball diamond	4	Larger park	4
Bridge	4	Slide	4
Teeter totter	4	Pool/wave pool	4
Pavilion	2	More activities	4
Slide	2	Lawn cutting	3
Equipment for all ages	2	Pavilion	2
Washroom	1	Seating (e.g. benches)	2
Location	1	Water fountain	2
Picnic tables	1	Safety (e.g. sharp rocks)	2
Seating	1	Teeter totter	2
Total	198	Skate park	1
		Bridge	1
		Sidewalks	1
		Creek	1
		Teen's playground	1
		Drain ditch	1
		Trampoline	1
		Total	162

How satisfied are you with each of the following parks and recreation facilities in Lucan Biddulph: (please put one check mark beside each facility)

	I love this!	I like this	I don't like this	I don't know	Total	Like + Love	Satisfied
Arena	108	110	8	26	252	218	96%
Playgrounds	66	134	24	31	255	200	89%
Swimming Pools	134	62	27	32	255	196	88%
Bike Paths	68	74	22	91	255	142	87%
Soccer Fields	98	87	30	40	255	185	86%
Splash Pads	84	98	40	33	255	182	82%
Baseball Diamonds	58	93	41	63	255	151	79%
Gymnasiums	59	95	42	59	255	154	79%
Skate Board Park	61	91	48	55	255	152	76%
Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	32	71	47	105	255	103	69%
Tennis Courts	35	70	57	93	255	105	65%

Rank from 1 to 6, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important, how important are these facilities for you and your family. Use each number only once.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Average	Total
Arena	111	46	18	21	25	21	2.45	242
Soccer Fields	47	48	51	35	27	36	3.23	244
Gymnasiums	19	45	64	51	40	22	3.47	241
Baseball Diamonds	18	51	30	46	51	40	3.77	236
Skate Board Park	36	27	36	39	36	71	3.92	245
Basketball Courts	14	26	41	46	62	50	4.11	239

What other new parks or recreation facilities would you like to see in Lucan Biddulph?

Skate park (Granton: 2)	28
Pool (outdoor)	13
Basketball court (Granton: 1)	12
Pool (indoor)	12
Lacrosse field	11
Ball diamond (e.g. bigger diamond, backstop, cage)	8
Football field	7
Parks (e.g. larger parks for festivals)	7
Trail (bike, ATV, walking)	7
Gym/fitness centre	6
Paintball arena	6
Ball hockey field	5
Playground	5
Tennis course	5
Dog park	4
Golf course	4
Gymnasium	4
Rock climbing wall	4
Show ground (e.g. horse shows)	4
Soccer field (e.g. bigger, lighting)	4
Splash pad	4
Mini golf course	4
Volleyball court	4
YMCA	3
Trampoline/tumble track	3
Rope climbing pyramid	3
Concession (LCMC, various parks)	2
Dance studio	2
New ice pad	2
Outdoor rink	2
Seating (LCMC)	2
Slide	2
Upgrade LCMC (e.g. booth)	2
Indoor jungle gym	2
Lazer tag	2
Tether ball	2
Bowling	2
Water park	2
Badminton court	1
Ball pit	1
Cricket stadium	1
Facilities for children	1
Market St. diamond	1
Road hockey pad	1
Running track	1
Zipline	1
Zoo	1
Obstacle course	1
Shooting range	1
Parkour	1
Sand hockey pad	1
Street safety signs	1

Rank from 1 to 6, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important, how important are these programs for you and your family. Use each number only once.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Average	Total
Team Sports	108	35	32	24	22	18	2.46	239
Swimming	57	91	42	27	7	16	2.52	240
Arts & Crafts	36	37	36	52	41	34	3.54	236
Music	14	31	41	66	59	25	3.85	236
Summer Camp	8	27	57	41	69	38	4.04	240
Dance	21	14	28	25	40	112	4.60	240

What other sports and recreation programs would you like to see more of in Lucan Biddulph?

Gymnastics	17	Choirs	2
Lacrosse programs	16	Curling	2
Basketball programs	15	Dodgeball programs	2
Football programs	14	Gym/fitness	2
Dance programs	7	Music	2
Horseback riding	7	All time bingo	1
Tennis	7	Badminton	1
Volleyball	7	Driver's education	1
Ball hockey	6	Flag football	1
Baseball (e.g. camps)	6	Road hockey league	1
Cricket programs	5	Meditation	1
Karate	5	Paintball	1
Rugby programs	5	Skating	1
Summer camps	5	Reading	1
Swimming/aquatics	5	Rock climbing	1
Arts and crafts	4	Scooter	1
Hockey	4	Scouts and Guides	1
Soccer	4	Skateboard lessons	1
Acting/drama classes	3	Skeet shooting	1
Boxing	3	Technology classes	1
Dirt biking	3	Community picnics	1
Golf	3		
Ringette	3		
Running	3		

Appendix B – Parks, Facilities, and Program Inventory

The majority of the Township's parks, recreation facilities, and programs are located within Lucan, with some assets situated in Granton (see Map at the end of this section). This appendix contains a listing of the Township's key parks, facilities, and programs, including those offered by the non-profit and private sectors.

Lucan Biddulph is located within close proximity to the City of London and several smaller communities, each of which offer recreation facilities that offer varying degrees of access to Township residents. Several of these facilities are also listed within this appendix.

Indoor Recreation Facilities & Programs

In addition to a description of each major asset, the general range of recreational programs and activities have been highlighted (not an exhaustive list).

Municipal

Lucan Community Memorial Centre

- The Lucan Community Memorial Centre is located in the Village of Lucan. This facility contains a single-pad arena, multi-purpose main hall for sports and events with a seating capacity of 300, the smaller Leprechaun Hall that seats 100, and a committee room that seats 25. Several outdoor amenities, including an outdoor pool and sports fields, are also located onsite.
- This facility is used to host ice activities, community events, luncheons, meetings, and more. Recent recreational programs and events include:
 - Mom & Baby Yoga
 - Senior's Yoga
 - Pickleball
 - Early Years "Drop-In Play" and "Baby Time" (offered by third party)
 - VON "Smart Program" (offered by third party)
 - Lucan Seniors Exercise Class (offered by third party)

Lucan Scout/Guide Hall

- The Lucan Scout/Guide Hall is located in Lion's Market Street Park and is leased to Lucan Scouting and Guides. The main level of the hall is occupied by the local Scouts and Guides groups (and includes washrooms), while the lower level is currently sub-leased to the Lucan & District Co-operative Nursery School.

Granton Lions Hall

- The Lions Hall is a contained with Granton Park and consists of a meeting room, kitchen, washroom, and covered pavilion. The facility is operated by the Granton Lions.
- This facility is used to host community events, luncheons, meetings, and more.

Non-municipal

There are a small number of non-municipal (non-profit, private, etc.) community / recreation facilities within Lucan Biddulph, including:

- Whole Health Fitness (Lucan Community Memorial Centre) – personal and group fitness and spiritual training
- Ausable Community Centre (Lucan) – employment services and hall rental
- Lucan Area Heritage and Donnelly Museum (Lucan) – preservation and showcase of local historical events
- Lucan Library Branch (Lucan) – children’s storytime and children/adult book clubs
- Lucan Lanes (Lucan) – bowling alley
- Daršana Yoga (Lucan) – yoga classes
- Lucan Yoga at the Coach House (Lucan) – yoga and pilates classes
- Keller Fitness (Lucan) – Personal and group fitness training and nutritional consultation
- Royal Canadian Legion Hall (Lucan) – hall rentals
- Knights of Columbus Hall (Lucan) – hall rentals
- The Fox Golf Club (rural) – Golf
- Family-run enclosed natural ice rink (Granton) – no structured programming

Parks

The Township of Lucan Biddulph currently maintains 4 parks totalling 17.9 hectares. The Township also owns a small number of unimproved open space properties, with additional lands to be dedicated through future subdivision development. Parks include:

Lucan Community Memorial Centre Park

- This 10.15 ha (25.1 acre) park is co-located with the Lucan Community Memorial Centre and contains two baseball diamonds (both lit), five outdoor soccer fields (two full, one intermediate, and two mini pitches – one 2.15 ha (5.4 acres)²³ field is leased from an adjacent landowner), community garden, off-leash dog park, 25-metre outdoor pool with bathhouse, playground, skateboard park, tennis court, former horse track, tractor pull area, canteen/storage building, equipment garage, and off-street parking.

Lion’s Market Street Park

- Located at the southwest corner of Market Street and Beach Street in the Village of Lucan, the Lion’s Market Street Park has an area of approximately 1.0 ha (2.6 acres). The park contains a small baseball diamond, playground, off-street parking, and hard surface pathway, a pavilion distinctly marked by its cupola (which houses a bell

²³ The area of the leased field is in addition to the park’s 10.15 ha.

produced by the Meneely Bell Foundry in Troy [now Watervliet, New York]), a small shelter, and the Lucan Scout/Guide Hall. This park contains a number of mature trees and is located across from the Royal Canadian Legion and cenotaph.

Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park

- The Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park is located at the northwest corner of Elm Street and Harold Crescent in the Village of Lucan. It has an area of approximately 1.4 ha (3.4 acres) and its amenities include a small baseball diamond, splash pad, playground, basketball court, pavilion, washrooms, and off-street parking. This park is split by a drain, which can be traversed by a small bridge.

Granton Park

- Granton Park is located at the southeast corner of High Street and Queen Street in the Village of Granton. It has an area of approximately 3.2 ha (7.9 acres) and contains a baseball diamond (with lights, inoperable), tennis court (with one basketball hoop), Granton Lions Hall and pavilion, playground, soccer field (formerly a ball diamond), off-street parking, community gardens, and small storage building.

Trails

There are a number of trails on private property within the Township of Lucan Biddulph. These trails are used under agreement with the Lucan Area Trails Association and include:

- Hodgins Trail, Clandeboye (approximately 3 km)
- Van Arenthals Trail, McGillivray Drive (approximately 1 km)
- Martens Trail, Coursey Line (approximately 1.8 km)

Additional trail systems exist within adjacent municipalities. For example, there is trail network within the Lucan Conservation Area, which is an eight-acre property adjacent to the Little Ausable River in the McGillivray Ward of North Middlesex. The trail forms a loop southwest of the Little Ausable River within the Conservation Area. In addition to the trails listed above, the Thames Valley Trail is located just outside the easternmost boundary of the Township.

Schools

Two elementary schools are contained within Lucan Biddulph, both of which have gymnasiums and outdoor recreation facilities.

Wilberforce Public School

- Located at 340 Beech Street in the Village of Lucan, Wilberforce Public School (K-8) opened in 2010 and has approximately 490 students that were brought together from three former schools: Biddulph Central Public School, Lucan Public School, and Prince Andrew Public School. The school provides its students with co-instructional activities such as cross-country running, soccer, volleyball, basketball, track & field, and instrumental band.

St. Patrick Catholic School

- St. Patrick Catholic School is located just east of Highway 4, approximately four kilometres south of the Village of Lucan. It has a student body of approximately 220 (K-8). The School Board has recently submitted a funding request to rebuild the school as early as 2017. The school provides a number of recreational programs and services to its students.

Churches

Community organizations may also utilize several churches and religious institutions in the Township for recreational purposes, including:

- Villages United Church (Granton)
- Holy Trinity Anglican Church (Lucan)
- Living Hope Church (Lucan)
- St. James Anglican Church (Clandeboye)
- St. Patrick Church (rural)
- Community Bible Church (rural – south of Hwy 7 in Middlesex Centre)

Significant Parks & Recreation Assets & Programs in Surrounding Municipalities

As mentioned, there are several parks and facilities within driving distance of Lucan Biddulph that also provide recreation opportunities for Township residents. Numerous conservation areas and golf courses are also available within the region (not listed). Notable recreation facilities within about 30-minute drive of Lucan Biddulph include (note: this is not intended to be a comprehensive listing):

City of London

- Stoney Creek YMCA – fitness centre, indoor pool, gymnasium, library
- Canada Games Aquatic Centre – 50m indoor pool and diving tower
- Fanshawe Lake Conservation Area – day use, hiking/biking trails
- BMO Centre – indoor turf / soccer
- Western Fair Sports Centre – quad pad arena
- Numerous arenas, sports fields, pools, recreation centres, seniors' centres, etc.
- Several private organizations offering instruction in fitness, gymnastics, dance, martial arts, and much more

Municipality of Middlesex Centre

- Ilderton Arena, Curling Club, and Community Centre (Ilderton) – hall rental, ice activities, curling
- Heritage Park (Ilderton) – sports fields, playground, splash pad, skateboard park
- Walker Hall (private – Ilderton) – fitness, personal training, dance instruction
- Weldon Park (Arva) – sports fields, trails, playground
- Middlesex Centre Wellness and Recreation Complex (Komoka) – twin pad arena, hall and kitchen, fitness centre/gymnasium/walking track (YMCA), library branch, splash pad, outdoor fitness
- Bryanston Community Centre (Bryanston) – hall rental, full kitchen, small meeting room
- additional indoor recreation facilities and various parks, trails, and community-based recreational sports and programming

Municipality of South Huron

- South Huron Recreation Centre – hall rental, agricultural building, sports fields, skateboard park, outdoor swimming pool and splash pad
- Crediton Sportsplex (Crediton) – hall rental, sports fields
- Centralia Community Centre (Centralia) – hall rental
- Dashwood Community Centre (Dashwood) – hall rental, full kitchen and bar
- Kirkton-Woodham Park (South Huron / Perth South) – community centre, outdoor pool, library branch, sports fields
- Stephen Arena (Huron Park) – single ice pad
- Exeter Curling Club (Exeter)
- Exeter Lawn Bowling Club (Exeter)
- various parks, trails, and community-based recreational sports and programming (including common minor and adult sports, ringette, volleyball, playground program,

gymnastics, dance, karate and martial arts, pickleball, organized seniors activities, indoor walking, etc.)

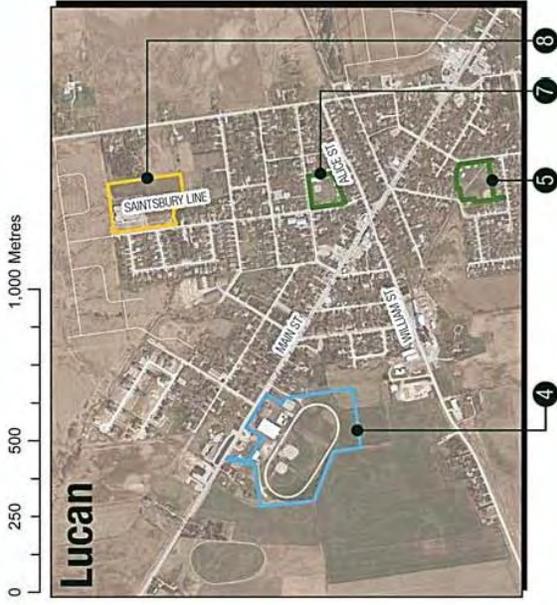
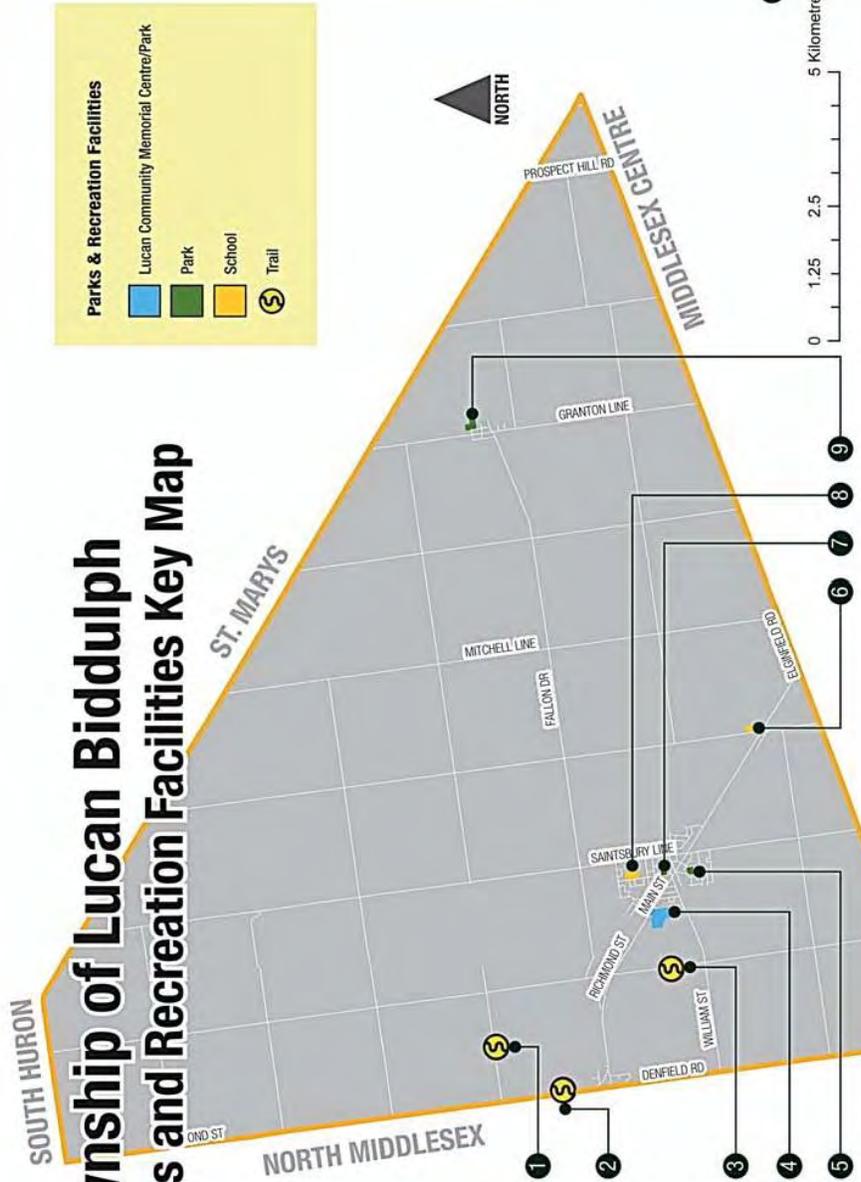
Municipality of North Middlesex

- North Middlesex Arena (Parkhill) – arena, fitness centre (YMCA)
 - YMCA Programs – Cycle Fit, cycling, fitness training, personal training, pickleball
- North Middlesex Community Centre (Parkhill) – hall rental, full kitchen and bar
- Ailsa Craig Community Centre (Ailsa Craig) – hall rental, full kitchen and bar
- West Williams Community Centre (Parkhill) – hall rental, full kitchen and bar
- West McGillivray Community Centre (Parkhill) – hall rental
- various parks, trails, and community-based recreational sports and programming

Township of Perth South / Town of St. Marys

- Pyramid Recreation Centre (St. Marys) – pool, arena, seniors centre, youth centre, outdoor facilities
 - Children and youth programs offered by the Town include: recreational swimming and instruction; public skating; Kids Klub; Tales for Tots; Baby Boot Camp; Soccer Squirts; After School Yoga; Youth Dance; ball hockey; drop-in dodgeball, Hang Time; ping pong tournaments; summer camps; etc.
 - Adult and senior programs offered by the Town include: recreational swimming and instruction; public skating; organized seniors activities (luncheons, bingo, trips, educational courses, crafts, drop-in, etc.); outdoor fitness classes; walking program; Tri-Training; group fitness; Zumba; yoga; urban poling; etc.
- Trail Network (St. Marys): Grand Trunk Trail, Loop Trail, and Riverview Walkway
- Wildwood Conservation Area (Perth South)
- Downie Optimist Community Centre (Perth South) – hall rental, full kitchen and bar; fitness programming
- River Valley Golf & Country Club / Winter Tube Slide (private)
- Prospect Hill Campground (private)
- various parks, trails, and community-based recreational sports and programming

Township of Lucan Biddulph Parks and Recreation Facilities Key Map



Trails (private land)

1. Hoodgin's Trail
2. Marten's Trail
3. Van Arentthal's Trail

Parks

5. Lucan Optimist Elm Street Park
 - Baseball diamond
 - Basketball court
 - Pavilion
 - Playground
 - Soccer field
 - Splash pad

Parks

7. Lion's Market Street Park
 - Baseball diamond
 - Hard surface pathway
 - Lucan Scout/Guide Hall
 - Off-street parking
 - Pavilion
 - Playground
9. Granton Park
 - Baseball diamond
 - Basketball net
 - Community gardens
 - Granton Lions Hall
 - Off-street parking
 - Pavilion
 - Playground
 - Soccer field
 - Tennis court

Community Centre/Park

4. Lucan Memorial Community Centre
 - Arena
 - Baseball diamonds
 - Committee room
 - Community garden
 - Leprechaun hall
 - Main Hall/gymnasium
 - Off-leash dog park
 - Off-street parking
 - Outdoor pool
 - Playground
 - Running track
 - Skateboard park
 - Soccer fields
 - Tennis court
 - Tractor pull area

Schools

6. St. Patrick Catholic School
8. Wilberforce Public School



Township of
Lucan Biddulph



Montelth-Brown
planning consultants

Mapping prepared by Montelth Brown Planning Consultants.
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