MUNICIPALITY OF RITCHOT
RECREATION MASTER PLAN

FINAL REPORT | FEBRUARY 2019













SCATLIFF + MILLER + MURRAY
visionary urban design + landscapes

jharper & associates

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Unless otherwise noted, photos appearing throughout this report were largely supplied by the Municipality of Ritchot.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Spring 2018, Scatliff + Miller + Murray and J. Harper & Associates were retained by the Municipality of Ritchot to prepare a comprehensive long-range Recreation Master Plan. The intent of the Master Plan is to help guide Ritchot's recreation delivery, facility operations and development, parkland and trail development and recreation programming over the next 20-years.

PURPOSE OF THE RECREATION MASTER PLAN

More specifically, the purpose of the Recreation Master Plan is to:

- Create a roadmap for the Municipality to establish goals and priorities around recreation development and delivery;
- Establish a 20-year vision for recreation in Ritchot to meet future community needs;
- Assess how the Municipality funds recreation;
- Review Ritchot's current recreation delivery system;
- Determine the need for new and improved parks, facilities and programs; and,
- Identify the implications for a capital funding strategy.

PLANNING PROCESS

The process for the Plan involved close consultation with a Recreation Master Plan Committee that was established by Municipal Council. Its role was to represent the Municipality, the community and stakeholders; assist in identifying issues to be addressed in the plan; and to provide feedback on ideas, strategies and proposed recommendations.

The Recreation Master Plan Committee provided feedback and oversight to the consultants throughout the process, which involved the following:

- Inventory and analysis of existing recreation facilities and services;
- Review of existing governance and management structures;
- Review of community demographics, economic/budget and social planning data;
- Analysis of recreation trends and participation;
- Site inspection of parks and facilities; and,
- Public consultation process with recreation stakeholder organizations, including interviews (in-person and by telephone), site visits, and a community survey.

Public consultation was an important component of this project, which involved regular meetings with the Recreation Master Plan Committee, interviews with recreation stakeholder organizations, and a community-wide recreation needs survey.

KEY ISSUES

The following is an overview of the primary issues that were identified through the community and stakeholder consultation process. These issues guided the focus of the resultant strategies and recommendations that form the core of the Master Plan.

1. Recreation governance and organization of the recreation service delivery system.
2. Communication, cooperation and coordination amongst recreation service providers.
3. Need for new and improved recreation facilities, parks, and programs.
4. Asset management and the long-term sustainability of recreation facilities.
5. Financing for the development, operation and maintenance of recreation facilities.
6. Service gaps and unused capacity in recreation programs and facilities.
7. Community growth and economic, social and demographic shifts.
8. Pressure to do more with less.
9. Decline of the volunteer.
10. Reaching and informing the public through traditional and emerging communication platforms.

OVERVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is an overview of the core recommendations contained in this Master Plan. Section IV of the document provides further detail on the rationale for each recommendation and strategies for implementation.

RECOMMENDATION 1 | RECREATION GOVERNANCE MODEL

That the Municipality of Ritchot appoint a Recreation Advisory Committee with representation from Council, recreation stakeholders and the community at large to advise on all matters related to recreation development. The committee would report to Council through municipal administration.

RECOMMENDATION 2 | STAFFING NEEDS - ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

That the Municipality of Ritchot hire an Asset Manager to develop a maintenance management and facility lifecycle program to assist voluntary facility operators in planning, development, operation and maintenance of public facilities as a means to protect their long-term viability and sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION 3 | VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

That the Ritchot Recreation Department in cooperation with the Recreation Advisory Committee (once appointed) play a leadership role in developing a comprehensive volunteer management program as a means to fully engage the community in an integrated recreation delivery system that functions for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders and the community.

RECOMMENDATION 4 | REVIEW CAPITAL GRANT POLICY

That the Municipality undertake a review of its capital facility grant policy to ensure that the policy reflects the long-range maintenance and replacement realities of major facilities and the capacity of volunteer associations and facility boards to achieve facility viability and sustainability in the future.

RECOMMENDATION 5 | REVIEW MUNICIPAL OPERATING GRANT POLICY

That a review of the current operating grant practices be undertaken to ensure non-profit recreation service and facility operators meet basic requirements, report on post grant outcome measures, have the resources they require to be successful and are providing expected levels of "public good" in exchange for the tax-funded financial support they receive.

RECOMMENDATION 6 | SUPPORT TO ARENA AND FACILITY OPERATORS

That the Municipality provide leadership in the provision of administrative support, integrated program coordination, consistency in policy and procedures, standardization of financial management and operational oversight through the development of a facility administrative policy manual.

RECOMMENDATION 7 | SUPPORT TO GRANDE POINTE COMMUNITY FACILITY

That the Municipality of Ritchot provide support for the development of a community gathering facility at the Grande Pointe Park by approving use of municipal land, providing administrative and planning support and, if deemed appropriate, capital funding support for the project.

RECOMMENDATION 8 | MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND EXPANDED USE OF THE TCC

That the municipal administration, in cooperation with the TCC board of directors, continue its efforts to improve the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the TCC, as well as program and market the facility as a regional recreation activity hub, and develop appropriate physical, cultural and artistic program options for the main hall and upper board room as a means to reduce program service gaps, improve economic efficiencies and ensure the facility achieves its full potential.

RECOMMENDATION 9 | DELAY FITNESS / WELLNESS FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

That the Recreation Department, in consultation with the community and school partners, explore opportunities to maximize the use of available facilities (e.g. TCC, community centres and schools) for fitness and physical activity programs before the construction of new fitness facilities is considered.

RECOMMENDATION 10 | DELAY INDOOR AQUATIC FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

That the Municipality of Ritchot delay the development of a new indoor aquatic facility until such time as the population increases significantly, considerable financial contributions from senior levels of government are available, or other circumstances warrant such an investment and it is deemed to be viable, sustainable and within the financial capacity of the Municipality.

RECOMMENDATION 11 | LIFECYCLE MAINTENANCE PLAN

That the Municipality of Ritchot hire and task the Asset Manager with the responsibility of developing a recreation facility lifecycle program that tracks the ongoing performance of all recreation facilities and building systems, and institutes a schedule of preventive maintenance, component upgrades and system replacements as a proactive plan to achieve cost savings, economic efficiencies and long-term facility sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION 12 | CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

That the Municipality of Ritchot review its current recreation reserve policies with a view to increase annual contribution to a level consistent with future requirements for facility upgrading and replacement based on a current facility condition assessment and lifecycle costing strategy, once completed.

RECOMMENDATION 13 | ENHANCED PARKLAND POLICIES

Develop and implement enhanced parkland policies as part of the pending Development Plan review process. In addition to policies around parkland use, development, acquisition, access, distribution, design and operations, an enhanced parkland policy framework for Ritchot should include two core components:

1. a parkland classification system; and,
2. mechanisms for the acquisition of parkland and land for trails.

RECOMMENDATION 14 | CARTIER PARK ENHANCEMENTS

That the Municipality support Ste. Agathe CDI's efforts to advance its long-term plans for Cartier Park. Furthermore, that the development of an outdoor pool or other outdoor aquatic facility, be subject to a full feasibility study and form part of a comprehensive vision / strategy for the long-term development of the park.

Consistent with the desire to elevate the Park's position as a regional draw, the CDI may wish to consider interim opportunities for enhanced programming that leverages the Park's existing assets. Given the size of the Park and its amenities, including its campground, Cartier Park could be an ideal location for summer camp programming, outdoor festivals, farmer/craft markets, as well as a range of winter activities (eg. snowshoeing, cross country skiing, etc.).

RECOMMENDATION 15 | ST. ADOLPHE PARK ENHANCEMENTS

That the Municipality consider plans for strategic, low-cost enhancements to St. Adolphe Park. While the site is flood prone, it has natural features and terrain that would lend itself well to the potential development of a pump track or mountain bike course, nature trails, tobogganing (using the dyke), as well as a canoe / kayak launch.

RECOMMENDATION 16 | PRECONDITIONS FOR NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT IN ILE DES CHÊNES

Recognizing the need and desire for additional park space in Ile des Chênes, the Municipality should assess the feasibility of developing new park space that builds off the existing D'Auteuil Park and provides connectivity to Optimist Community Park. These efforts should consider land ownership and/or the options for a long-term lease agreement with TransCanada Pipeline, funding opportunities, as well as a phased approach to park development.

RECOMMENDATION 17 | PLANNING FOR NEW 10-ACRE PARK IN ST. ADOLPHE

That the Municipality advance planning for a new park in St. Adolphe, located on the site fronting St. Adolphe Road, across from the St. Adolphe Community Centre / Arena and Curling Club Site. The plans for the site should consider opportunities for all-season activation and could incorporate a range of amenities (i.e. skate park, splash pad and toboggan slides) to serve both local and regional recreation interests, as resources become available.

RECOMMENDATION 18 | MUNICIPAL-WIDE MULTI-USE TRAIL NETWORK

That the Municipality develop comprehensive active transportation master plan for the long-term (20-year) development of a multi-use trail network that connects the entire municipality, including linkages between local neighbourhoods, natural areas, local / regional destinations, community facilities, parks and cultural landmarks*.

RECOMMENDATION 19 | STE. AGATHE BOAT LAUNCH

That the Municipality of Ritchot collaborate with Ste. Agathe CDI to consider future enhancements to Promenade Sur La Rouge that complement the boat launch – and the access to the river it provides – and supports the year-round activation of the park.

RECOMMENDATION 20 | MECHANISM TO EVALUATE PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW OUTDOOR AMENITIES

That the Municipality develop a clear process and defensible mechanism to evaluate proposals for the development of new outdoor amenities, based on community need, alignment with community plans / priorities, financial feasibility, and identification of funding sources (capital and operating).

RECOMMENDATION 21 | COOPERATIVE INTEGRATED PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

That the Municipality, through its Recreation Director, form an even closer working relationship with voluntary recreation program providers through the coordination of annual program guide, promotion of programs through social media, and organization of an annual meeting with all program providers to eliminate duplication and coordinate / integrate program services.

IMPLEMENTATION & NEXT STEPS

Not all of the above strategies and recommendations have financial implications, nor do they all require Council approval. However, some of the recommendations are directed to, and dependent on, the establishment of a Recreation Advisory Committee and the expansion of the Recreation Department.

The following is an outline of immediate next steps in the implementation of this Plan:

1. The Municipality of Ritchot Council should **receive the Recreation Master Plan for information** and refer it to its Administration for implementation. The intent is that Administration will bring forward individual recommendations to Council for approval over time, as required.
2. **Appoint a Recreation Advisory Committee**, as per Recommendation 1. The establishment of the Recreation Advisory Committee could be supported by the Provincial Recreation Consultant.
3. **Initiate discussions with the Macdonald-Ritchot Planning District to embed new parkland and recreation-related policy directives into the updated Development Plan**, as part of the ongoing Development Plan Review process.

I INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Municipality of Ritchot is located in south central Manitoba. It borders the City of Winnipeg and forms part of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region. Ritchot has many small communities within its boundaries, including the three prominent communities of St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe, and Ile des Chênes, and the smaller areas of Grande Pointe, Glenlea, and Howden. Ritchot was officially incorporated as a municipality in 1890, with its municipal office located in St. Adolphe.

The Municipality of Ritchot is one of the fastest growing municipalities in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, with a 2016 census population increase of 21.9% (6,679) since 2011 (5,478). The rapid population growth is partly due to proximity to Winnipeg, attractive tax policy, quality schools and new housing developments affording a small-town / rural appeal. Ritchot is also a diverse municipality, with communities that each have their own distinct identity and cultural appeal.

Ritchot has a number of volunteer operated, non-profit indoor recreation facilities located throughout the Municipality, including:

- The TransCanada Centre in Ile des Chênes;
- Three artificial ice indoor arenas in Ste. Agathe, Ile des Chênes and St. Adolphe;
- A 3-sheet curling club in St. Adolphe; and,
- Several community halls (e.g. Pioneer Hall in St. Adolphe; Howden Community Club, etc.).



TransCanada Centre



Ile des Chênes/Grande Pointe Arena



St. Adolphe Curling Club



Howden Community Club

Ritchot is also home to several large parks (Grande Pointe Park, Cartier Park, D' Auteuil Park, Optimist Park), numerous local parks and playgrounds and various cultural and recreation stakeholder groups (Ste. Agathe Culture and Community Club, Vintage Club, Club Amical).


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GRANDE POINTE
ILE DES CHENES
HOWDEN
ST. ADOLPHE
GLENLEA
STE. AGATHE
Municipality of Ritchot

1.2 BACKGROUND FOR PLANNING

Until the recent appointment of a Recreation Director, most recreation programs, services and municipally-owned facilities have historically been organized and operated by volunteers. These volunteer groups responded to demand for recreation services, developed programs and built and operated recreation facilities in their communities. In essence, local demand for facilities and programming has been met primarily through the efforts of local non-profit associations and stakeholders.

As the Municipality grew, and expectations for increased recreation services increased, Council identified a need to investigate the efficiency and effectiveness of the recreation delivery system to plan for future growth. The Department of Recreation and Regional Services (RRS) of the Province of Manitoba was initially engaged to assist in the process, and in 2013 the Municipality of Ritchot Council appointed Dillon Consulting to complete a recreation needs assessment.

The process looked into various aspects of recreation programming / activity, producing a report with a number of recommendations. One of the recommendations was to hire a Recreation Director, which the Municipality proceeded to do in early 2013. Initially the Recreation Director worked directly for Ritchot Council, but over time this reporting relationship evolved and the Director now reports to the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Although recreation is vibrant in Ritchot, the Municipality recognized the lack of a comprehensive planning document that assessed current recreation infrastructure, projected recreational needs and provided guidance for future program decisions, as well as capital improvement planning. In February 2018, Council issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a comprehensive, municipal-wide Recreation Master Plan that would create “a road map for the municipality to establish goals and priorities for the next twenty years” (RFP, 2018).

1.3 SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF MASTER PLAN

The scope of the Recreation Master Plan includes all communities and areas within the Municipality of Ritchot. The objectives of the Recreation Master Plan are to:

1. Determine the current status of the recreation delivery system (i.e. programs, facilities, services, operations and management).
    - Engage stakeholders through consultation processes so that the public feels ownership for the results and is committed to implementing the plan.
    - Review current recreation policies that deal with: recreation partnerships; resource allocation; public access; service fees; and, grants to recreation organizations.

2. Assess demand for new and improved services.
    - Identify recreation and demographic trends, issues and factors likely to affect the development of future recreation services and recommend strategies to deal successfully with these issues.
    - Engage such stakeholders as community organizations, citizens, and elected councils through meaningful consultation.

3. Identify gaps and overlap in facilities and programs.
    - Inventory and assess existing recreation facilities to develop an asset management plan that proposes a sustainable lifecycle maintenance strategy and priorities for a long-term capital redevelopment plan.

4. Propose a plan for systematic service improvements and propose strategies to fill service gaps and meet demand within the capacity of the Municipality.

5. Review current partnerships and strategic alliances related to the delivery of community recreation services, as well as the role and implications of public, private and non-profit service providers in the overall recreation delivery system.

6. Prepare a comprehensive Recreation Master Plan report and present to Council. The report will:
    - Form the basis for recognizing the full potential of existing recreation programs and services within the Municipality.
    - Define the future of recreation in relation to identified and confirmed needs / opportunities.
    - Articulate recommendations for the development and operation of recreation facilities and parks, recreation service delivery, and recreation programming within the Municipality.

1.4 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The process for the Plan involved close consultation with a Recreation Master Plan Committee that was established by Municipal Council. Its role was to represent the Municipality, the community and stakeholders; assist in identifying issues to be addressed in the plan; and to provide feedback on ideas, strategies and proposed recommendations.

The Recreation Master Plan Committee provided feedback and oversight to the consultants throughout the process, which involved the following:

- Inventory and analysis of existing recreation facilities and services;
- Review of existing governance and management structures;
- Review of community demographics, economic / budget and social planning data;
- Analysis of recreation trends and participation;
- Site inspection of parks and facilities; and,
- Public consultation process with recreation stakeholder organizations, including interviews – in-person and by telephone, site visits, and a community survey (see Appendices A and B).

Public consultation was an important component of this project. It involved regular meetings with the Recreation Master Plan Committee, interviews with recreation stakeholder organizations, and a community-wide electronic recreation needs survey. Final presentation of the Plan will be made to the Recreation Master Plan Committee and Municipal Council.

This Plan provides an analysis of critical data, a summary of findings, and recommended developmental strategies and priorities that reflect the objectives listed above.

SECTION II
FRAMEWORK FOR RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This section outlines the legislated and jurisdictional basis for local government provision of recreation and parks services and defines the mandate and roles various partners play in recreation service delivery. The section also provides a perspective of the value and benefits of parks and recreation services and outlines why local governments consider recreation to be an essential service. The purpose of Section II is to provide a context and rationale for the Recreation Master Plan and future recreation development in the Municipality.



St. Adolphe School Play Structure

2.2 BENEFITS OF RECREATION AND PARKS

As explained later in this section, while federal and provincial governments have an important role to play in recreation development, the foundation for the delivery of recreation and parks services is the responsibility of municipalities and local governments across Canada.

Over the past two decades a great deal of research has focused on the benefits of recreation and parks for participants and communities. The "benefits movement" as it has been described, was largely driven by a need to reposition local government parks and recreation service delivery systems to articulate the personal, social, economic, and environmental benefits and outcomes associated with recreation participation and use of parks.

National studies on "The Use and Benefits of Local Government Recreation and Parks Services" and follow up longitudinal surveys in Ontario and Alberta (Harper, 2007/2008) have concluded that:

- Leisure (55%) is significantly more important to people than work (31%), representing a dramatic shift in attitudes over the past two decades;
- 82% of respondents used local government recreation and parks services over the past twelve months;
- 97% of respondents reported they received benefits from local parks and recreation, including those who reported they don't directly use the services;
- Next to family and friends, the public relies most on local governments for recreation services; and,
- Recreation and park use is spread equally across all gender and age groups.

These studies also confirmed that the public believes recreation is an essential service that contributes to public good. Table 2.1 illustrates the impact that the public associates with participation in recreation activities and the development and use of parks

TABLE 2.1 Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services

	Example of Selected Outcomes	Personal	Social	Economic	Environmental
1	Essential to PERSONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS	✓			
2	Key to HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	✓			
3	Essential to QUALITY OF LIFE	✓	✓		
4	Reduces ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	✓	✓	✓	
5	Builds Strong FAMILIES and COMMUNITIES		✓	✓	
6	Pay Now or PAY MORE LATER			✓	
7	Significant ECONOMIC GENERATORS			✓	
8	Essential to ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SURVIVAL				✓

Source: The Benefits Catalogue (1997). CPRA, Ottawa

Provincial and national findings related to the benefits of recreation are consistent with attitudes and values expressed by Ritchot residents. When asked to identify what they value most about the quality of life in their area, the second most frequently-given response (28.9%) by community survey respondents was recreation services.

> *"Parks provide a sense of place in the community, allowing for escape, contemplation, discovery, access to nature, interpretive education and recreation. Parks enhance community aesthetics, increase property values and improve the image and livability of communities"* (Harper, 2008).

This evidence supports the premise that recreation and parks provide many values for users and non-users alike.

> *"Recreation through physical activity, social engagement and artistic expression provides opportunities for people to improve their health and wellness, socialize and interact with others, learn new skills, have fun and find balance in their lives. Research has shown that regular physical activity results in improved physical and mental health, reduces health care costs, provides positive lifestyle choices for youth at risk, contributes to independent living among older adults and develops improved self-image. Sport and recreation events, festivals and visual and performing arts exhibits and performances provide opportunities for self-expression and social interaction, create a sense of community, and are a source of civic pride"* (Harper, 2008).

The World Leisure Organization (2009) in describing the role of leisure in our lives states that:

> *"Leisure plays an essential role in community development: it affects the quality of life and the well-being of individuals, contributes to the development of social ties and social capital, and represents a place for expression and engagement in democratic life."*

The evidence of the benefits for users and non-users alike is the rationale for including recreation and parks services as an essential municipal service and its contribution to "public good" justifies including recreation and parks as a tax-supported local government service.

In recent years, an emphasis on integrated community sustainability planning has been strongly promoted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). The FCM defines five pillars of community sustainability including governance, environmental, economic, social and cultural dimensions. Each represents important considerations in holistic integrated community sustainability planning. Recreation, parks, culture and tourism services contribute directly or indirectly to each of the dimensions of integrated community sustainability.

Local governments have an opportunity to use public recreation services as a vehicle for achieving socially worthwhile goals and objectives; where such achievement clearly results in some form of indirect benefit to all residents of the community. For example, recreation programs may foster a sense of community by connecting citizens to their community emotionally through special events, spectator sports, arts and cultural experiences.

For example, facilities such as the St. Adolphe Community Centre serve as a central hub to bring people together. Team sports competition can be a growth experience for participants and source of civic pride. The seniors' meals program provided by Club Amical provides a social experience that may help reduce isolation and foster a sense of companionship and well-being.



Club Amical


St. Adolphe Community Centre/Pioneer Hall

2.3 THE JURISDICTIONAL BASIS FOR PUBLIC RECREATION SERVICE DELIVERY

The public recreation sector involves tax-supported services provided by federal, provincial and municipal governments across Canada. The jurisdictional responsibilities of these three partners have been defined by precedent, laws (acts, laws, by-laws and regulation), negotiation and agreements. In this regard, there is both a legal and jurisdictional basis for the provision of local government recreation and parks services.

Following is a description of the role played by each level of government in the Canadian system and the legal and jurisdictional framework for services in the Municipality of Ritchot.

Role of the Federal Government

The delivery of Canadian public recreation services evolved over time as the three levels of government defined and negotiated their jurisdictional mandate and unique roles. The federal government declared that recreation was the constitutional responsibility of the provinces but recognized that this did not mean exclusivity. It recognized that the cooperation of other jurisdictions and support of many private, community and voluntary agencies would be required. It also acknowledged that local governments were the best positioned and closest to respond directly to the needs of stakeholders and citizens (ISRC, Canadian Sport Policy, 2002).

In general terms, the federal government assumes responsibility for national and international sport, cultural policy, national parks and co-funding recreation facility infrastructure through agreements with the provincial governments.

Role of the Provincial Government

Provincial governments recognized that direct recreation services were best managed by local governments that were closest to the people for whom the services were being provided. Provincial governments subsequently passed enabling legislation mandating local governments to create recreation boards and commissions and levy local taxes for the purpose of providing recreation programs, parks and facilities, as well as supporting community organizations to carry out the goal of "public good" through recreation and parks services.

In Manitoba, there is a variety of provincial legislation that deals with the provision of recreation, parks, culture and heritage. The legislation (Continuing Consolidation of the Statutes of Manitoba, C.20) establishes regulations regarding the designation, use and disposition of public reserve land. The legislation restricts the use of public reserve to public parks, recreation areas, natural areas, planted buffer strips, and public works. While the Act allows for the sale of public reserve or acceptance of cash-in-lieu of dedicated park reserve, the proceeds of such sale may only be used for public parks or other recreational purposes. Over the long term, accepting cash-in-lieu of public park land has not proven to be economically beneficial to local governments.

The provincial government in Manitoba delivers services through a number of departments and agencies, but the primary departments are: Indigenous and Northern Relations; Sport, Culture and Heritage; and, Municipal Relations (Recreation and Regional Services Branch). The Province of Manitoba developed a Rural Recreation District Grants program (1972) and subsequently the Recreation Opportunities Program that defines its mandate with respect to the "health and well-being for individuals and social and economic health for communities" (ROP, 1991).

This document articulates four basic principles that guide the actions of Recreation and Regional Services (RRS) in its relationship with local governments, community organizations and citizens of the province. One of the four principles relate to developing the role of local governments and recognizes that "recreation opportunities available to communities can best be enhanced by developing local government's ability to respond to specific interests and needs" (A Review of Manitoba's Policy for Recreation Opportunities - What we heard from key stakeholders, 2015).

More recently, a national discussion on recreation development in Canada resulted in a "National Framework for Recreation in Canada" (2015) that provided philosophical perspectives on recreation development and recommended policy and priorities related to public sector recreation development. The Province of Manitoba followed with the development of "Manitoba's Policy for Recreation Opportunities" (February, 2015) that articulates principles, guidelines and policies designed to strengthen recreation service provision in municipalities across the province.

Role of Local Governments

Provincial enabling legislation provides the authority and framework for local government recreation and park service delivery in Manitoba. It also recognizes that each municipality is unique with different issues, challenges, assets, and resources.

Local governments strive to develop programs and services that ensure all residents have access to, and share equally in, the benefits associated with recreation participation. Increasingly, recreation is viewed as an essential local government service. The costs associated with delivering recreation services are viewed as an investment in social, cultural, environmental and economic development of the community and its citizens.

While the authority and powers of local governments are outlined in provincial legislation, each local government functions as an autonomous organization in interpreting how best to carry out its mandate for recreation and parks services. Confirming the mandate, vision, goals and policies regarding recreation development in the Municipality of Ritchot is a major objective of this Recreation Master Plan.

Community Recreation System

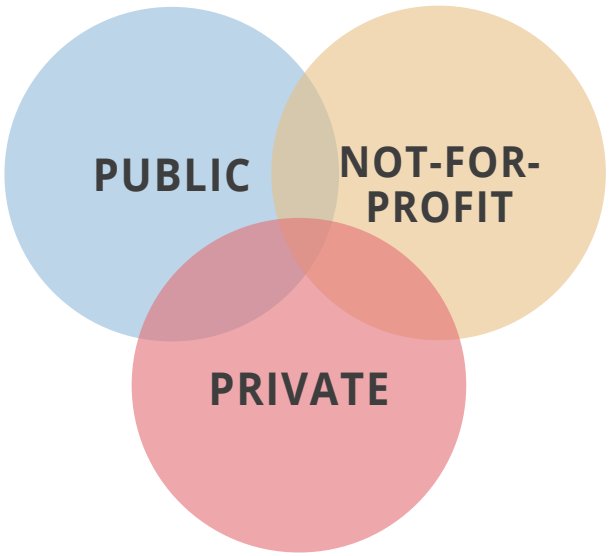
Municipalities across Manitoba organize their services based on local circumstances that include their community vision; demographic, social and economic conditions; local needs and demands; and the availability of human, physical and fiscal resources. Recreation services are no exception.

The delivery of recreation and parks services at the local level is a complex system comprising three important service sector providers. The service sectors include private companies and businesses, non-profit organizations and associations and the public (federal, provincial and municipal) sector. Each sector has different motives and objectives for the services it provides.

In general, the prime motive of the private sector is profit while the non-profit sector is driven by the provision of service to its members. The public-sector role is to develop services that fill gaps not included in the private and non-profit sector services and to ensure that core recreation services are accessible and available on an equitable basis for all community residents and are designed to achieve "public good."

There are instances where the services provided by each sector overlap, but generally these occurrences are due in part to each sector responding to implied demand in its own way. It is generally understood that the public sector avoids competing with the private and non-profit sectors where these services are generally accessible to the public, provided in an equitable manner and meet public service objectives. In communities across Manitoba, the types of recreation services that are provided by each sector are based on the factors outlined above as well as local tradition and culture, mutual agreement and precedent.

Figure 2.1 Community Recreation Delivery System



Status of Recreation Development in the Municipality of Ritchot

The recreation governance and service delivery model in the Municipality of Ritchot is a focus of this Recreation Master Plan and will be dealt with in more detail in Section IV of the report. Until recently, the Municipality has relied heavily on volunteer initiative in the development of recreation facilities and services. The role of Council was to support their efforts through operating grants and provision of public land for recreation development.

In 2012, the Municipality commissioned a Recreation Needs Assessment (2013) that among other things, recommended the appointment of a Recreation Director. In addition, the plan recommended:

- An improved communication strategy;
- The development of a comprehensive inventory and recreation data base;
- Options for funding recreation infrastructure development, maintenance, and operation;
- Development of expanded partnerships and strategic alliances;
- Development of targeted new and improved recreation facilities;
- An open space strategy and policy plan;
- Improved active transportation and trail development; and,
- Improved access and use of its rivers as a recreation resource.

In 2013 a full-time permanent Recreation Director was hired, and work has been done on several of the other recommendations in the report. The results of the 2012 study and work done on the recommendations will inform the development of strategies and recommendations in the 2018 Recreation Master Plan.

Vision, Mission and Mandate

The municipal vision statement with respect to the role that recreation plays in the community is articulated in the 2018 strategic development plan.

> ***"A sustainable municipality that engages residents in their quality of life and place"*** (Ritchot 2018 Strategic Plan Report – February 2018).

The Ritchot recreation mission statement further builds on the principles implied in the municipal vision statement and articulates its commitment to inclusivity, access, engagement, benefits and improved quality of life through the provision of recreation and use of parks.

> ***"To ensure that all residents have access to and share equally in the benefits of park / facility use and recreation participation that contributes to improved health, sustainable communities and enhanced quality of life"*** (Resolution 2017 08 38 - REC-001Policy).

Policy and Planning

Council has created a number of recreation-related policies to guide the orderly provision of recreation services. To this end, the Municipality of Ritchot has two legislative documents which currently provide some framework for the basis of recreation-related development: The Municipality of Ritchot Zoning By-Law No. 18-2002 (2002); and the Macdonald – Ritchot Planning District Development Plan (2011). The majority of recreational land uses are defined in the Ritchot Zoning By-Law No. 18-2002. Recreational areas (athletic fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, etc.) are considered conditional uses, however there are several recreational uses also permitted in the Agricultural General (AG) and Agricultural Restricted (AR) Zones.

The Development Plan, Community Facility Policy (Sec. 3.1.9) emphasizes the importance of recreational opportunities and the quality of life of a community and encourages "shared use of multi-service facilities (including recreation centres and schools)". The Community Green Space Policies (Sec. 3.1.10) promote passive recreational opportunities, and their integration into new developments. These include:

- Acquiring land for green connections / trails where feasible (as part of the development approval process);
- Decreasing barriers between greenspace and residential areas; and,
- Increasing the choice and awareness of recreational opportunities and activities.

The current Development Plan was developed seven years ago and much has changed in the Municipality since then. A new Development Plan is currently under consideration and recommendations in this report will suggest areas related to recreation and parks for review and policy development within the revised plan.

In addition to policies included in the 2011 Development Plan, Council has developed a number of operating policies and procedures that serve to guide recreation and parks development.

- **Recreation Capital Funding Policy (Resolution 2017 08 38 - REC-001)** - deals with funding requests that involve facility development or major capital improvements at existing recreation facilities.
- **Recreation Facility Operating Grant (Resolution 2017 08 38 – REC-002)** - the Municipality will pay for insurance and allocate $5,000.00 to each municipally-owned recreation facility in an effort to support the operating costs of recreation facilities. (Definition: Recreation Facility - a building or green space that is owned by the Municipality and is used for recreation purposes).
- **Community Grant and Sponsorship Policy (Resolution 2014 01 04 – REC-003) -** lends financial support in the form of grants and funding to organizations that seek to improve the quality of life of residents within the community.
- **Recreation Green Space Funding (Resolution 2017 08 38 – REC -004)** – Ritchot will contribute $75,000 annually or as agreed upon by Council to green space projects.

- **Recreation Facility Development (Resolution 2017 08 38 – REC-008) -** guides recreation infrastructure development for new construction or renovation projects.
- **Recreation Facility Priority Use (Resolution 2017 08 38 – REC-009)** - guides user-group access to Municipality of Ritchot facilities.
- **Grant Application (Resolution 2017 08 38 – REC-011)** – Council regularly seeks funding opportunities to support project, program and facility developments and has developed a grant application process.

The policies outlined above will be considered in relation to recommendations in the Recreation Master Plan. Section IV of the plan reviews in detail the governance and service delivery model in Ritchot, as well as policies and strategies related to the planning, development, operation and maintenance of parks, facilities, and recreation programs.

TABLE 2.2 Summary Chart of Ritchot Recreation Policies

Recreation Capital Funding Policy (Resolution 2017 08 38 - REC-001)	Deals with funding requests that involve facility development or major capital improvements at existing recreation facilities.
Recreation Facility Operating Grant (Resolution 2017 08 38 –REC-002)	The Municipality will pay for insurance and allocate $5,000.00 to each Municipally-owned recreation facility in an effort to support the operating costs of recreation facilities. (Definition: Recreation Facility - a building or green space that is owned by the Municipality and is used for recreation purposes.)
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Grant Application (Resolution 2017 08 38 – REC-011)	Council regularly seeks funding opportunities to support project, program and facility developments and has developed a grant application process.

SECTION III
PLANNING CONTEXT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Recreation and parks are increasingly viewed as essential municipal services that affect the quality of life of residents and thus, the livability of communities. Decisions related to the type and supply of facilities and the scope and scale of development, location and available programs are driven by many factors.

There are unique, local circumstances across Manitoba municipalities that influence governance, priorities and resource allocation decisions affecting local service delivery. When decisions are made to invest in public recreation and parks, the key objectives are to ensure that they reflect the local environment, meet the broadest range of needs possible, and achieve public good.

Decisions are also influenced by community vision and values, philosophy, beliefs and priorities. Other key factors to be considered are trends in recreation participation, as well as demographic, social / cultural conditions and how the profile of a community might change over time. Understanding how these influences affect participation in recreation activities is critical to decision-making related to future parks and facility development. These factors are what make each municipality unique but also make comparisons across municipalities difficult.

This section of the report identifies the unique characteristics of the study area with respect to the demographic, social and economic profile of the community, the interests and aspirations of residents identified in the community survey, and the trends / changing conditions that are likely to impact the future delivery of recreation services.



St. Adolphe Curling Club

3.2 PLANNING FACTORS AND CONSIDERATIONS

The preparation of a long-range comprehensive recreation and parks master plan involves an examination of multiple factors, issues, and considerations. It is important to relate the current supply of services with the needs and demands of community residents, as the social, demographic and economic make-up of the community has an impact on the provision of recreation services.

The objective of this plan is to balance the needs and aspirations of the community with the feasibility and sustainability of the programs and facilities needed to meet those expectations.

In the context of this plan, data and information was assembled related to the following factors:

- Vision and goals for recreation and parks services in the Municipality of Ritchot.
- The supply of recreation and parks programs and facilities, and the capacity of these services to meet the needs / demands of the Municipality.
- Geographic distribution and location of services in proximity to users.
- Current demand for, and use of, recreation / parks facilities and programs.
- Demographic and social variables that impact recreation participation.
- Trends and probable futures related to recreation and leisure participation.
- Community needs and preferences regarding recreation and parks services.
- Comparative standards for facility development and service provision.

3.3 COMMUNITY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Part of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, the Municipality of Ritchot is located directly south of the City of Winnipeg situated along Highways 59, 200, and 75. The municipality borders both sides of the Red River and includes the communities of St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe, Ile des Chênes, Grande Pointe, and the areas of Glenlea and Howden.

In 2016 Ritchot reported a population of 6,679 (Statistics Canada), showcasing a 21.9% increase since 2011. The size, make-up and growth of a population are important determinants of present and future demand for various services. One of the limitations of census data for Ritchot is that data is collected on an municipal-wide basis and there is limited breakdown for each community within the Municipality. This makes it difficult to establish where age-based demand for certain services may be concentrated.

Between 1996 and 2001 the Municipality of Ritchot population dropped by 405 residents (7.6%), thought to be the result of the 1997 Red River "Flood of the Century". In the past 15 years, due to enhanced flood protection and other factors, the population has steadily increased by 34.7%, far exceeding the provincial growth rate of 5.8%.

TABLE 3.1 Historic Population Growth – Ritchot

YEAR	POPULATION	% INCREASE
2001	4,958	
2006	5,030	1.45%
2011	5,478	8.9%
2016	6,679	21.9%
Total Increase (2001-2016)		**34.7%**

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA, 2017

TABLE 3.2 Age Group Distribution – Ritchot 2006-2016

AGE	2006	2011	2016	% CHANGE
0 to 4 years	325	335	450	38.5
5 to 9 years	355	405	455	28.2
10 to 14 years	425	410	470	10.6
15 to 19 years	460	435	435	-5.4
20 to 24 years	310	360	425	37.1
25 to 29 years	230	390	485	210.9
30 to 34 years	305	315	480	57.4
35 to 39 years	355	385	460	29.6
40 to 44 years	475	385	460	-3.2
45 to 49 years	465	515	425	-8.6
50 to 54 years	425	455	530	24.7
55 to 59 years	295	410	500	69.5
60 to 64 years	24	295	410	70.8
65 to 69 years	115	215	295	256.5
70 to 74 years	105	100	205	95.2
75 to 79 years	80	85	95	18.8
80 to 84 years	40	55	60	50.0
85 years and over	25	40	35	40.0
Total	**5,030**	**5,478**	**6,679**	**32.8%**

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA 2016

School-aged population growth mirrors overall population growth in the Municipality. This population increase will likely ripple through the education system as that cohort (0 - 9 years) ages. This will also place additional demands on the recreation delivery system, as programming for children remains a significant portion of recreation programming in the Municipality.

Recreation stakeholders further reported that public school use by community recreation programs is high, making school accessibility for community recreation programs somewhat limited. Limitations are related to the high number of extra-curricular (after school) programs currently available to students, which take priority over other community uses of the schools.

TABLE 3.3 School Enrollment – 2013-2017

YEAR	SCHOOL	DIVISION	COMMUNITY	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
2017	École Sainte-Agathe	DSFM	Ste. Agathe	119	
	École/Coll. rég. Gabrielle-Roy	DSFM	Ile des Chênes	488	
	École Ile-Des-Chênes School	SRSD	Ile des Chênes	232	
	École St. Adolphe School	SRSD	St. Adolphe	240	
				Total all schools	**1,079**
2016	École Sainte-Agathe	DSFM	Ste. Agathe	107	
	École/Coll. rég. Gabrielle-Roy	DSFM	Ile des Chênes	454	
	École Ile-Des-Chênes School	SRSD	Ile des Chênes	240	
	École St. Adolphe School	SRSD	St. Adolphe	226	
				Total all schools	**1,027**
2015	École Sainte-Agathe	DSFM	Ste. Agathe	105	
	École/Coll. rég. Gabrielle-Roy	DSFM	Ile des Chênes	446	
	École Ile-Des-Chênes School	SRSD	Ile des Chênes	231	
	École St. Adolphe School	SRSD	St. Adolphe	216	
				Total all schools	**998**
2014	École Sainte-Agathe	DSFM	Ste. Agathe	100	
	École/Coll. rég. Gabrielle-Roy	DSFM	Ile des Chênes	422	
	École Ile-Des-Chênes School	SRSD	Ile des Chênes	224	
	École St. Adolphe School	SRSD	St. Adolphe	205	
				Total all schools	**951**
2013	École Sainte-Agathe	DSFM	Ste. Agathe	99	
	École/Coll. rég. Gabrielle-Roy	DSFM	Ile des Chênes	377	
	École Ile-Des-Chênes School	SRSD	Ile des Chênes	208	
	École St. Adolphe School	SRSD	St. Adolphe	190	
				Total all schools	**874**
DSFM – Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine					
SRSD – Seine River School Division					

SOURCE: PROVINCE OF MANITOBA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

As previously mentioned, lack of community-specific demographic data for all urban areas in the Municipality makes it difficult to predict with any certainty the population structure going forward. However, the Regional Economic Analysis Process Report (2014) indicated that population growth in the Ritchot exceeded Manitoba's rate of growth in 2013 and projects that it will continue to exceed this overall growth rate for years to come.

As previously mentioned, lack of community-specific demographic data for all urban areas in the Municipality makes it difficult to predict with any certainty the population structure going forward. However, the Regional Economic Analysis Process Report (2014) indicated that population growth in the Ritchot exceeded Manitoba's rate of growth in 2013 and projects that it will continue to exceed this overall growth rate for years to come.

Population growth across the Municipality varies, as Ste. Agathe and St. Adolphe are impacted by community ring-dikes, which affects their supply of developable land. Variables including the presence of major highways, pipelines and municipal boundaries impact the potential growth of Ile des Chênes.

The following Table illustrates population growth rates in the four, more urban communities in Ritchot:

TABLE 3.4 Community Population 2011 – 2016

COMMUNITY	2011	2016	% CHANGE	% OF RM POP
Ile des Chênes	1,253	1,763	40.7%	26.4%
Grande Pointe		350		5.2%
St. Adolphe	1,036	1,362	31.5%	20.4%
Ste. Agathe	614	637	3.7%	9.5%
Total RM	5,478%	6,679%	21.9%	

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA AND PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

Ritchot's proximity to Winnipeg is another significant factor when considering the provision of recreation and parks services. As a major Canadian city, Winnipeg is home to literally every recreational (public, private, non-profit) pursuit possible. The proximity to these services makes them readily available to Ritchot residents, and based upon recent community survey results, more Ritchot residents currently participate in recreation in Winnipeg or elsewhere (61.7% vs 35.6%) than in Ritchot.

With such a high proportion of Ritchot residents working in Winnipeg, visiting Winnipeg daily or living close to many Winnipeg recreation facilities, the option of having a choice between programs offered in Winnipeg versus Ritchot would be a reasonable consideration. Given this situation, recreation programs or services provided in Ritchot will be compared to similar options available in Winnipeg and will have to compete on variables consistent with those offerings. If Ritchot is to consider developing new or improved recreation programs and services it must consider the effects of this factor.

Recreation program user expectations are based upon a myriad of considerations. Cost / price, location of service, variety of service options available and convenience are but some of these considerations. These factors must be taken into account when future recreation programs, facilities and services are being considered in Ritchot.

3.4 TRENDS IMPACTING PUBLIC RECREATION SERVICES

It is now acknowledged that recreation and parks are essential local government services because they make an important contribution to the quality of life and the livability of communities. Recreation participation patterns however, are subject to many factors that include age, gender, stage of life, environment, health, economic status, culture, and personal interests.

Local governments set priorities and make choices about investing in recreation development based on assessment of which services will provide the greatest benefit for the overall community within its economic constraints. Tracking changes in society that will impact recreation participation and facility use is an imperfect science, but there are trends and metrics available that can assist in anticipating how best to allocate available resources. The following is a summary of some emerging trends that could affect the provision of recreation and parks facilities, programs and services in the Municipality of Ritchot in the near and long-term future (adapted from Brokenhead 2017, Headingley 2018, and Neepawa 2018).

Public Funding / Economics and Maintaining Infrastructure

Local governments are faced with a number of economic challenges as they deal with competing demands for limited tax dollars. The reality of maintaining infrastructure, and the high cost to replace existing facilities has prompted governments to rethink traditional funding models and ensure that their focus is on core services and facilities. Many municipalities have shifted their emphasis from a reliance on tax dollars to a reliance on partnerships to make the most of available resources.

Ritchot is well positioned to take advantage of these types of partnerships as most significant recreation facilities (i.e. Ste. Agathe, St. Adolphe and Ile des Chênes arenas; Trans Canada Centre) are owned by the Municipality but operated by non-profit local organizations. As residents continue to demand access and services from these facilities it is imperative that partnerships be maintained with local community associations to ensure relevant and useful programming continues.

Uncertain support from senior levels of government for recreation program and infrastructure development has required municipalities to rely heavily on local sources of support. There is optimism that federal / provincial cost sharing programs may return, but the development of major recreation infrastructure will remain a main responsibility of the local municipality.

Aging Recreation Infrastructure

Communities across Canada are faced with the dilemma of aging infrastructure. Ritchot is fortunate that the majority of built infrastructure (i.e. local hockey arenas, Trans Canada Centre, etc.) are newer than the large percentage of public indoor and outdoor recreation facilities in Canada. Most Canadian recreation facilities were developed in the late 1960's and early 1970's, and many communities have not created reserve accounts for facility replacement or formal asset lifecycle management programs. At present, many Canadian communities are faced with expensive retrofitting, renovation and increasing repair costs.

The future cost of facility development and maintenance for local governments in Canada are potentially significant, as population growth, increased demand and escalating development costs are likely. Preparing for this by establishing and maintaining adequate recreation reserve funds and asset management practices should be a priority for Ritchot.

Proliferation of Recreation Commissions / Departments in Manitoba

Primarily through the Partners in Leisure (Recreation Opportunities Program), the Province of Manitoba has supported the development of Recreation Commissions throughout the province. The program was designed to promote partnerships between municipalities and school divisions, in order to create a "critical mass" to support the hiring of a recreation professional. Over the years the program resulted in the creation of more than 50 recreation commissions and the hiring of recreation professionals in all areas of Manitoba.

As rural communities grew and developed their own recreation service delivery capacity, such as human resources, physical infrastructure, etc., some chose to opt out of the recreation commission structure and form municipal recreation departments. Currently there are a variety of delivery systems in Manitoba, each reflecting the local needs and issues of their communities.

Whether through a recreation commission, recreation department, recreation advisory committee of council or other structure, guidance and support for the provision of recreation services has proven beneficial to municipalities with these systems in place. Ritchot has operated without a structure guiding recreation delivery and should consider creating a mechanism that supports the growth of recreation throughout the municipality.

Environmental Consideration - Green Facilities

Current trends toward sustainable facility development, such as those that seek to achieve LEED design standards, minimize community impact, employ energy efficient design, reduce land use and provide attractive aesthetic design are becoming increasingly popular through the increasing awareness of the environmental impact of major facility development. The TransCanada Centre is a local example of a LEED-certified facility in the Municipality of Ritchot.

Active transportation routes and corridors also encourage non-motorized, sustainable forms of transportation such as hiking, skiing, walking, and cycling. The Municipality of Ritchot has several well-developed parks, such as Optimist Park in Ile des Chênes and Cartier Park in Ste. Agathe, and several other parks / green spaces that have development potential. Local interest in outdoor activities and facility development, as indicated by responses to the community survey, suggests that these types of initiatives would be well-received and utilized in Ritchot.

Adaptive Reuse of Recreation and Parks facilities

Another trend in recreation facility development is the adaptive reuse of existing spaces. This approach is an economical way to develop or create facilities to meet new demands without the expense of new construction. The conversion of community halls to social and physical activity-based spaces is a prime example of this approach. There may be opportunities in Ritchot to consider evaluating the use of current recreation and parks facilities to meet new and emerging demands for recreation services.

Recreation Participation Trends

Changing recreation participation patterns affect the long-term demand for, and supply of, various types of recreation facilities. Balancing the needs of competing interest groups with those of the broader community can also pose challenges. Changes in participation rates in local programs are one signal that facility use may be shifting. Innovation in program and facility design can compensate for shifts in recreation participation by ensuring maximum flexibility and adaptability of facilities. The first step is for local governments to clearly define their role in facility development to ensure that core services receive priority consideration and public good is reflected in decision-making regarding program development and facility provision.

There are many activity trends that will have an effect on facility use now and in the future. The most prominent of these trends are the following.


Assiniboine Park Nature Playground
Credit: Scatliff + Miller +Murray


Assiniboine Park Nature Playground
Credit: Scatliff + Miller +Murray


The Plaza at The Forks
Credit: Scatliff + Miller +Murray


St. John's Ravenscourt Outdoor Classroom
Credit: Scatliff + Miller +Murray

Focus on Wellness: The trend in physical activity programming is to focus on health-related outcomes rather than on narrow measures of fitness.

Improved Health Status: When asked about the number one thing they could do to improve their health, 80% of Canadians said they should be more physically active (Physical Activity: for the Health of Canadians, 2002). Over 50% of Canadians said they intended to be more active, a strong predictor of future behaviour.

Activity Preferences: Walking is the number one activity in Canada and according to the community survey, the most popular activity in Ritchot. The community survey also identified hiking and biking trails, parks and outdoor facilities to be developed or improved.

Youth Physical Activity and Healthy Living: Parents, schools and communities are reacting to the messages about child and youth obesity and inactivity. There will be increasing demands for programs that encourage activity in young people and help them in making healthier choices.

Outdoor Activities and Environmental Learning: Lack of contact with nature, particularly for children, is now recognized as a growing deficit. Publications such as "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv and the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association's, "Children in Nature" (2008) point to a growing nature deficit and the serious health implications for children and adults. There is a growing interest in learning about local and regional flora and fauna, and bird watching has emerged as a popular pastime for many Canadians.


École St. Avila Playground
Credit: Scatliff + Miller +Murray

Risk and Adventure Recreation: Combined with the interest in outdoor recreation is a growth in risk and adventure recreation. Activities such as skateboarding, snowboarding, climbing and mountain biking have all gained in popularity. These activities are important to nurture because they work so well with programs for at-risk youth and those not interested in organized and regulated activities. Cycling is currently experiencing tremendous growth in interest and participation, and Ritchot is well positioned to take advantage of this growth activity through its inventory of existing and potential trails/ proximity to Winnipeg.


Gordon Bell High School Athletic Field
Credit: Scatliff + Miller +Murray

Team Sport to Lifetime Sport Pursuits: Over the past twenty years there has been a shift from team sport to 'life sport' activities. Recent surveys that track participation patterns of Canadians all report that the trend has been moving away from organized structured recreation, toward individual life sport activities. In Ritchot, the community survey indicated high participation and keen interest in unstructured recreation activities.


St. John's Ravenscourt Outdoor Classroom
Credit: Scatliff + Miller +Murray

Decline in Youth Sport Participation: In recent years, interest in sport participation has declined among Canadian youth. A Statistics Canada (2008) study indicated that sport participation of Canadians age 15 and over had declined significantly from 57% to 51% between 1992 and 2005. There has also been a decline in many traditional activities including swimming, hockey, and baseball. The increase in use of technology, screen time and other forms of passive entertainment has also impacted youth participation.

3.5 INVENTORY OF FACILITIES

The Municipality if Ritchot is well supplied with a broad range of indoor and outdoor parks and recreation facilities. The number of facilities to serve the broad interest of the community is one measure to consider when evaluating facility supply, but the location, quality and variety of programmable spaces are also important considerations. The following is a quantitative summary of all major facilities and open spaces within the Municipality. These have been separated by community, with accompanying inventory Maps 3.1 to 3.5 (Glenlea map not included). Also included is a brief summary of public school facilities in the area. Table 3.5 and Map 3.6 provide a compendium of all Ritchot's inventory of major recreation facilities and parks.

Glenlea

Glenlea is a small residential community located in the centre of the municipality. Beyond residential housing and a small number of businesses, there are no indoor or outdoor parks or recreation facilities located within this community. Following our review and due to this lack of facilities, a map of Glenlea has not been included.

Grande Pointe

The extent of Grande Pointe's recreational amenities are concentrated at Grande Pointe Park. The 20-acre site includes three (3) baseball diamonds and one (1) soccer pitch, with an outdoor play structure, theatre stage, fitness equipment, and natural playground features. An outdoor rink also functions as a hard court / basketball court with pickleball nets and nearby picnic shelter for viewing. Indoor washrooms and a skate change area give solace to winter visitors.

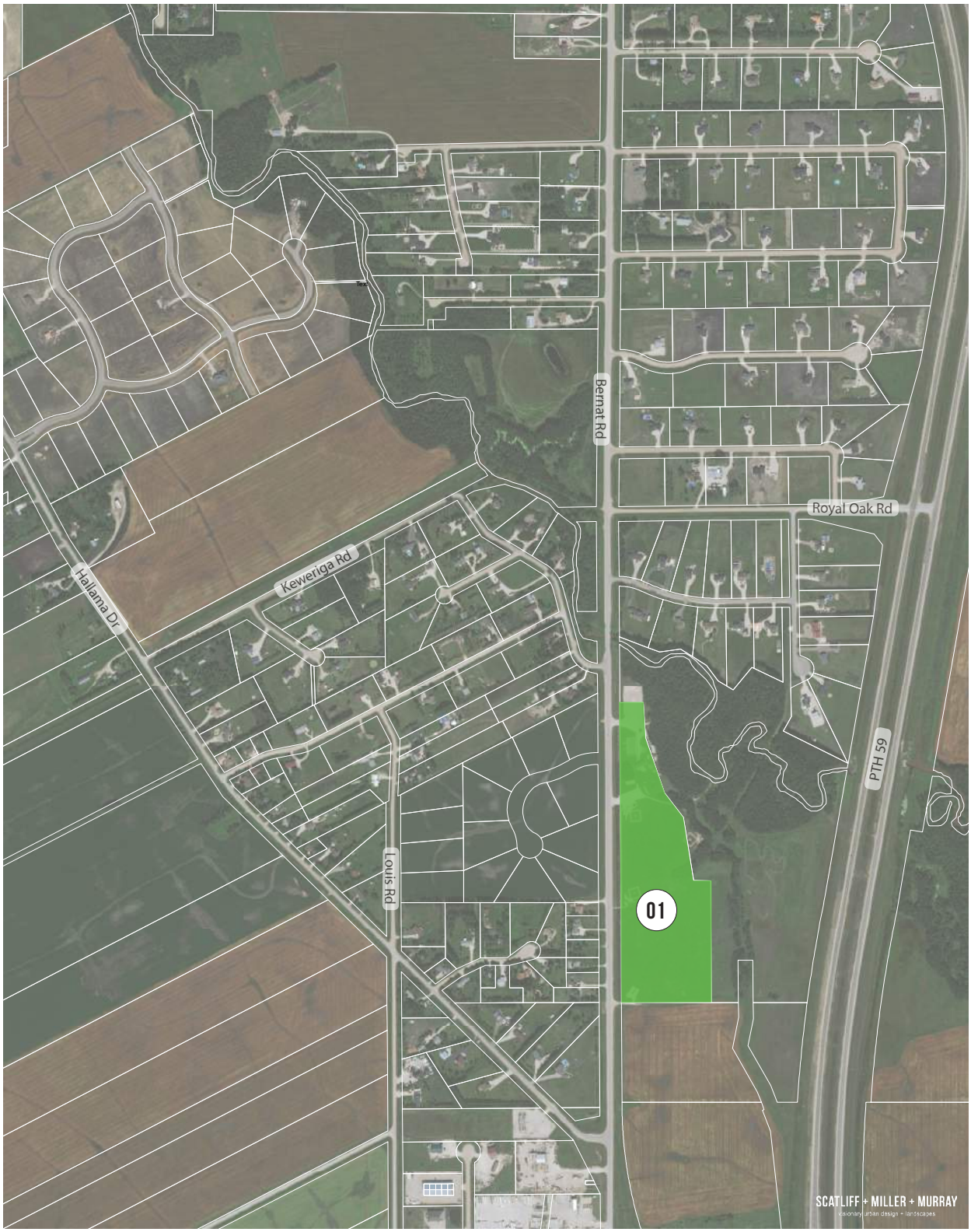
The site is well serviced by informal walking paths / AT trails that connect the east side of the park and follow the Seine River. Grande Pointe's only formal AT path, successfully funded by the Province of Manitoba in 2017, follows Bernat Road and connects the Park to the rest of the community. While Grande Pointe Park boasts a number of recreational amenities, there are no other open space or parkland locations in the community.

Grande Pointe Inventory, as identified on Map 3.1.

01 GRAND POINTE PARK

- Outdoor stage
- Picnic shelter
- Outdoor rink
- Outdoor basketball court
- Pickleball court
- Washrooms
- Skate change area
- Baseball diamond (x3)
- Walking trail / cross-country ski trails in winter
- Play structure
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Soccer pitch
- Natural playground features

MAP 3.1 Grande Pointe Inventory



Howden

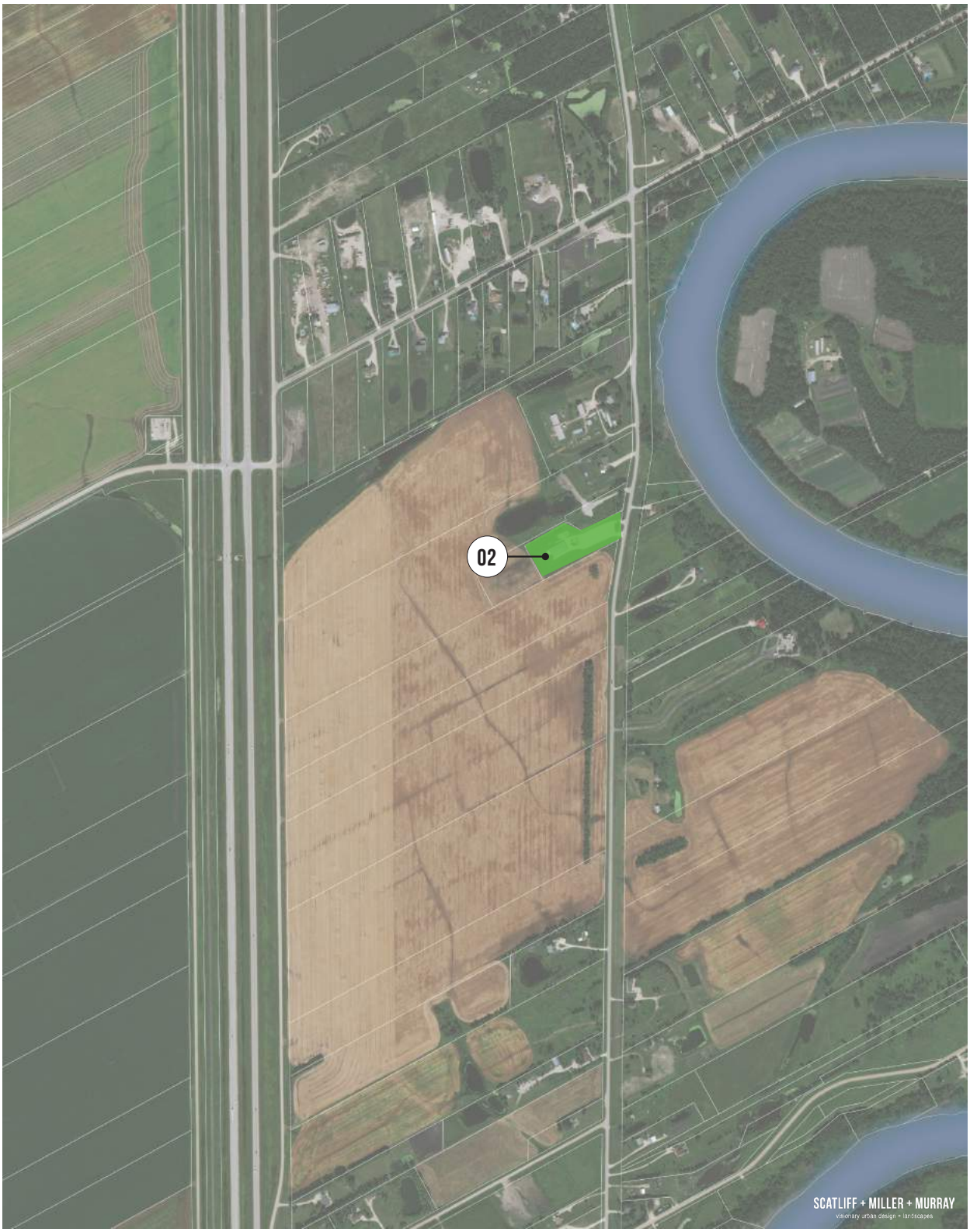
With no open space or parkland amenities, the community of Howden is limited in terms of recreation. Built in 1950, the Howden Community Centre is currently the only recreational amenity that serves the area. The facility has a capacity of 300 and is a popular rental space for birthday parties, weddings and similar events. Patrons are attracted to on-site kitchen and wet bar facilities, and an addition in 1998 brought the building to its current state. The site also includes an outdoor play structure.

Howden Inventory, as identified on Map 3.2.

02 **HOWDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE**

- Community hall (capacity = 300)
- Kitchen
- Bar area
- Washrooms
- Play structure

MAP 3.2 Howden Inventory



Ile des Chênes

Comparatively speaking, Ile des Chênes is generally well served in terms of recreation. The TransCanada Centre (TCC) and Knights of Columbus Community Hall offer rental space to the community and are popular locations for organized recreation activities. The community's sole indoor arena, Ile des Chênes Arena, offers one (1) indoor and one (1) outdoor rink, with canteen, dressing rooms, and a viewing area for spectators.

The community includes two (2) parks: D'Auteuil Park and Optimist Community Park. D'Auteuil Park includes the disconnected Promenade Olive Guillemete, a picnic shelter, and natural playground features. Optimist Community Park includes six (6) baseball diamonds, converted tennis courts for blast ball, canteen, washrooms, and informal walking trails. There is also a 26-acre future / potential park that is contiguous to Optimist Community Park and D'Auteuil Park.

Finally, Ile des Chênes is home to two (2) of the Municipality's schools: École / College Regional Gabriel Roy and École Ile-des-Chenes School. Both school sites include an indoor gym, play structure, playing field, soccer pitch (1), and swings. École / College Regional Gabriel Roy is home to one of three of Ritchot's Municipally-funded public libraries and a community garden. École Ile-des-Chenes School also includes an informal walking / AT trail and baseball diamond.

Ile des Chênes Inventory, as identified on Map 3.3.

03 TRANSCANADA COMMUNITY CENTRE
- Daycare centre (capacity = 190)
- Community hall (capacity = 500)
- Meeting room
- Kitchen
- Commercial rental space

04 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COMMUNITY HALL
- Community hall (capacity = 80)

05 ILE DES CHENES ARENA
- Indoor ink
- Canteen
- Dressing rooms
- Outdoor rink
- Seating / viewing area

06 D'AUTEUIL PARK
- Walking trail / cross country ski trails in winter
- Picnic shelter
- Natural playground features

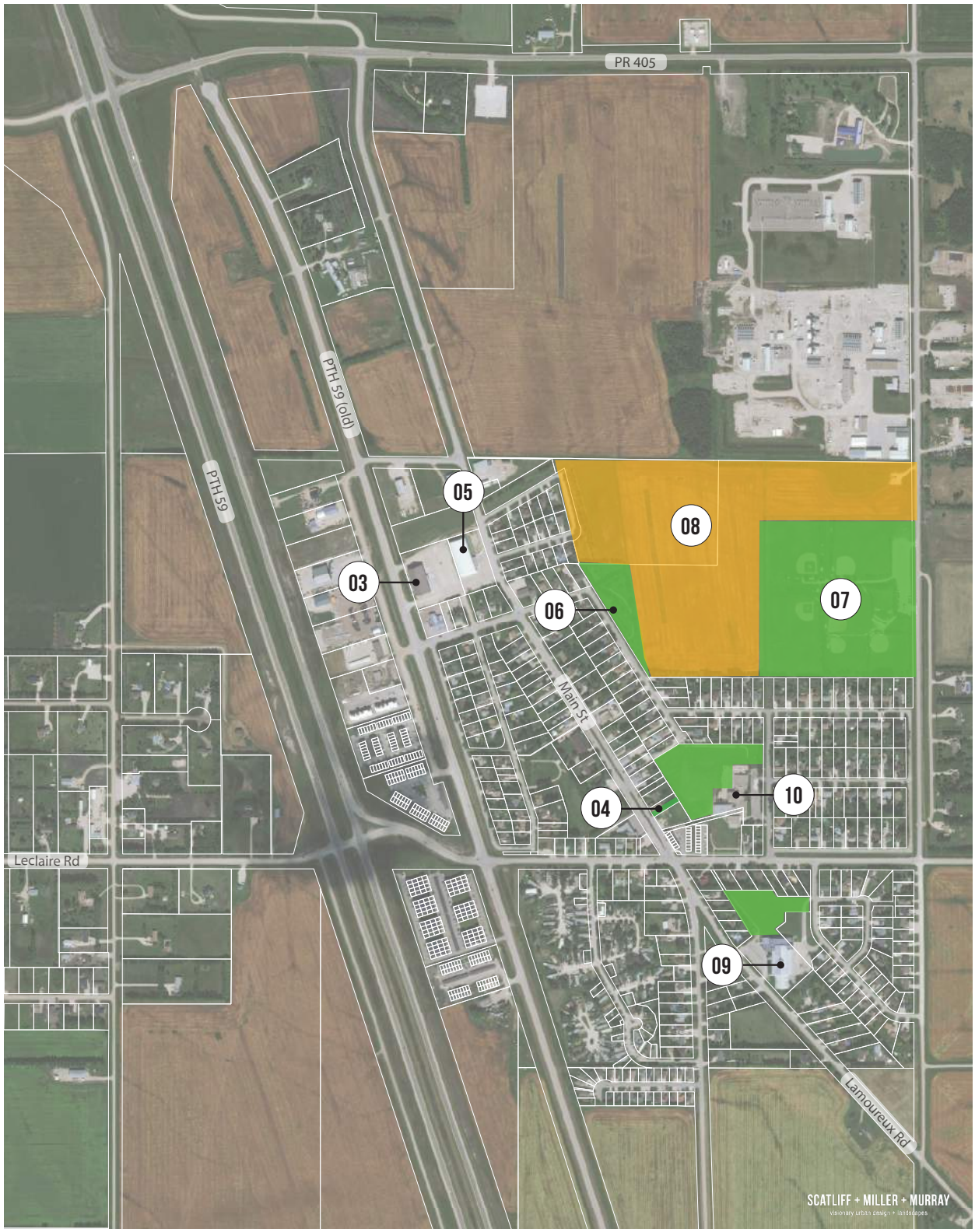
07 OPTIMIST PARK
- Baseball diamond (x6)
- Washrooms
- Canteen
- Walking trail / cross-country ski trails in winter

08 PARKLAND RESERVE 1 (PRIVATE UNDEVELOPED)
- 26-acre proposed park

09 ECOLE / COLLEGE REGIONAL GABRIEL ROY
- Indoor gym
- Play structure
- Playing field
- Soccer pitch
- Swings
- Community garden

10 ECOLE ILE DES CHENES SCHOOL
- Indoor gym
- Play structure (currently being renovated)
- Playing field
- Walking trail
- Soccer pitch
- Swings

MAP 3.3 Ile des Chênes Inventory



St. Adolphe

St. Adolphe is home to the highest number of rental hall facilities (4) in the Municipality of Ritchot. Club Amical, Ritchot Senior Services Centre, St. Adolphe Community Centre Arena and St. Adolphe Curling Club offer various programming and rental opportunities for the Municipality. Ritchot Senior Services Centre also includes a library, fitness equipment, and community garden. St. Adolphe Community Centre Arena is home to the areas only indoor rink, with canteen and change rooms on-site. The Curling Club includes three (3) ice sheets plus a kitchen and popular upstairs bar.

St. Adolphe also has a high concentration of parks, with three (3) serving the community: St. Adolphe Park, Pointe Coupée Park, and Perron Park. St. Adolphe Park has informal walking / AT trails and is generally not developed due to its location within the flood zone. Pointe Coupée Park has one (1) outdoor rink, one (1) basketball hoop, play structure, and picnic shelter. Perron Park is a smaller, pocket park that includes a play structure and swings that back on to a larger playing field. There are also four (4) future / potential parks that have been identified for development within this community: Parkland Reserve 2 (public undeveloped) – a 10-acre parcel identified in residential subdivision Development Agreement for parkland / open space reserve; Parkland Reserve 3 (public undeveloped) – a right-of-way / green space identified in development plans for residential subdivision; Parkland Reserve 4 (public undeveloped) – a municipally-owned parcel on the north east side of St. Adolphe identified for long-term, future trail head development; and, a Civic Site Opportunity - as identified in the Main Street Revitalization Plan (2016), which includes trail connection to St. Adolphe Park and community plaza with potential for markets and/or outdoor skating rink.

Finally, St. Adolphe is home to École St. Adolphe School that includes an indoor gym, play structure, one (1) baseball diamond, mini soccer pitches (seasonal), and community garden. The school is also home to the second of three of Ritchot's municipally-funded public libraries.

St Adolphe Inventory, as identified on Map 3.4.

11 CLUB AMICAL
- Community hall (capacity= 65)
- Commercial rental space (x3)
- Kitchen

12 RITCHOT SENIOR SERVICES
- Community hall (capacity = 40 - 50)
- Library
- Fitness equipment
- Community garden

13 ST. ADOLPHE COMMUNITY CENTRE / ARENA
- Pioneer hall (capacity =300)
- Indoor rink
- Canteen
- Change rooms
- Washroom

14 ST. ADOLPHE CURLING CLUB
- Ice sheets (x3)
- Lounge (capacity = 90)
- Kitchen

15 ST. ADOLPHE PARK
- Walking trail / cross-country ski trails in winter

16 POINTE COUPEE PARK
- Outdoor rink
- Basketball court
- Play structure
- Picnic shelter

17 PERRON PARK
- Play structure

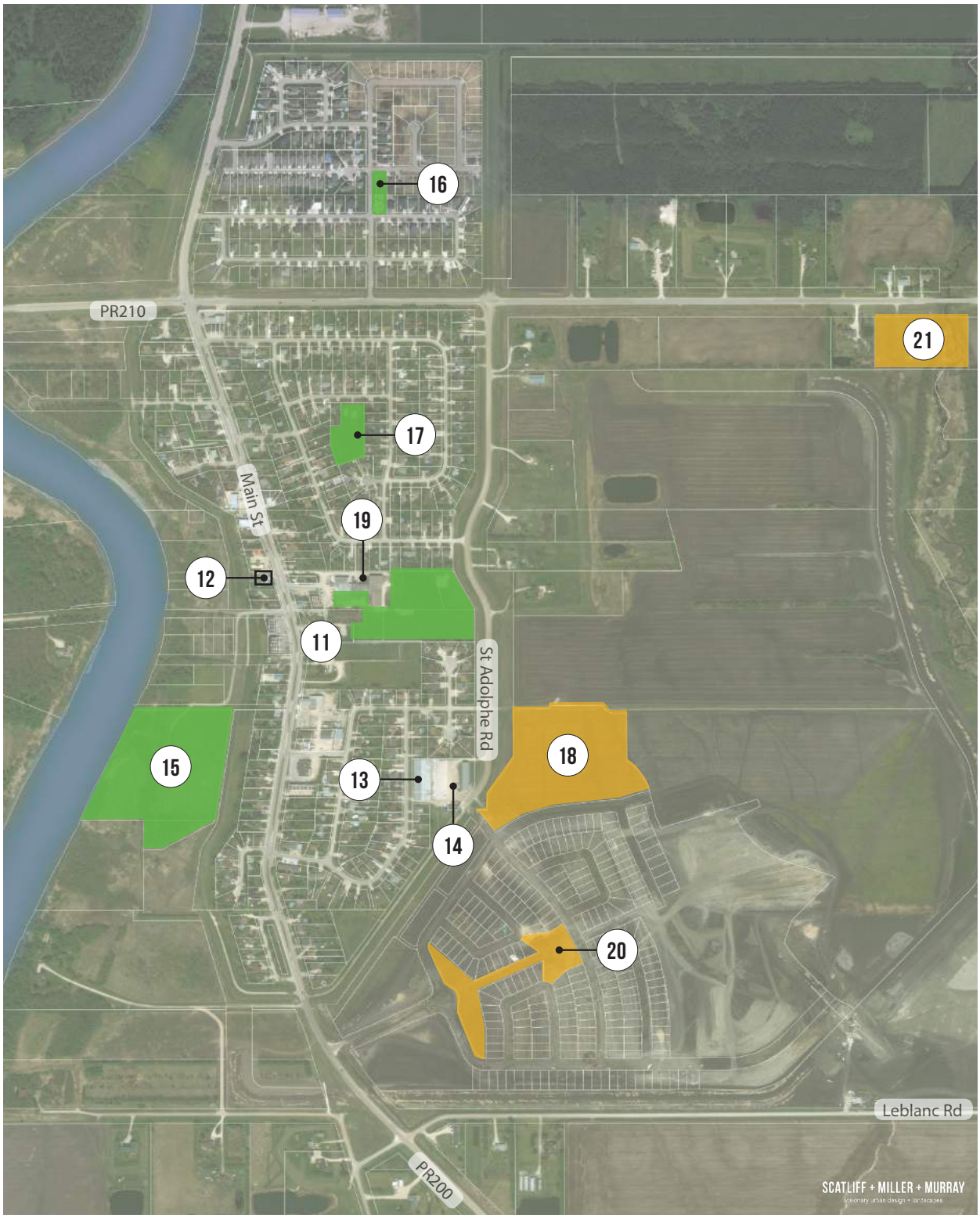
18 PARKLAND RESERVE 2 (PUBLIC UNDEVELOPED)
- 10-acre proposed park

19 ECOLE S.T ADOLPHE SCHOOL
- Indoor gym
- Play structure
- Baseball diamond
- Mini soccer pitches (seasonal)
- Community garden

20 PARKLAND RESERVE 3 (PUBLIC UNDEVELOPED)
- Public right-of-way / green space identified in Development Agreement

21 PARKLAND RESERVE 4 (PUBLIC UNDEVELOPED)
- Municipal-owned parcel identified for future trailhead

MAP 3.4 St. Adolphe Inventory



Ste. Agathe

Ste. Agathe is home to three (3) rental halls, with Ste. Agathe Culture & Community Centre, Ste. Agathe Arena and Cartier Park Picnic Shelter (seasonal) currently serving the community. Beyond the rental hall, Ste. Agathe Arena includes one (1) rink, canteen, change rooms, and seating / viewing area for spectators. The community is also home to three (3) parks: Cartier Park, Lemoine St. Park, and Belle Riviere Park. Cartier Park includes two (2) baseball diamonds, washroom facilities, canteen, horseshoe pit (x3), natural wetland pond, and informal walking / AT trail. This park also includes 14 serviced and 40 unserviced campgrounds and an indoor / outdoor picnic shelter capable of hosting large community events. Lemoine St. Park has natural playground features, while Belle Riviere Park is a more formal destination with a play structure and swings. In addition to the above, there is also one (1) future / potential park (Parkland Reserve 5) that has been identified for development on the north east corner of the community, along the Red River. This park could also provide potential future connection to Parc Promenade Sur La Rouge.

Ste. Agathe is home to École Sainte-Agathe, which includes indoor gym, play structure, outdoor rink, baseball diamond, and inform walking / AT trail. The school is also home to one of three municipally-funded public libraries.

Ste. Agathe Inventory, as identified on Map 3.5.

22 STE. AGATHE CULTURE & COMMUNITY CENTRE
- Community hall (capacity = 350 sitting / 500 standing)
- Kitchen

23 STE. AGATHE ARENA
- Rink
- Canteen (open)
- Multipurpose room
- Change rooms
- Washrooms
- Seating / viewing area

24 CARTIER PARK
- Baseball diamond (x2)
- Campground (14 serviced / 40 unserviced)
- Picnic shelter (capacity = 150 - 200)
- Kitchen
- Washrooms
- Canteen
- Horseshoe pit (x3)
- Walking trail / cross-country ski trails in winter
- Pond

25 LEMOINE ST. PARK
- Natural playground features

26 BELLE RIVIERE PARK
- Play structure

27 ECOLE SAINTE-AGATHE
- Indoor gym
- Play structure
- Outdoor rink
- Baseball diamond
- Walking trail

28 PROMENADE SUR LA ROUGE
- Walking trail green space
- Covered shelter and seating area

29 PARKLAND RESERVE 5 (PUBLIC UNDEVELOPED)
- Municipal-owned parcel identified for future development

MAP 3.5 Ste. Agathe Inventory



TABLE 3.5 Major Facility and Open Space Inventory - Community Summary

		GRANDE POINTE	HOWDEN	ILE DES CHÊNES	ST. ADOLPHE	STE. AGATHE	TOTAL
Population (2016)		350		1,763	1,362	637	6,679
Distance from WPG (km)		14.8	7.7	13.5	15.1	24.8	
FACILITIES & COMPONENTS							
Community Hall		0	1	2	4	3	10
Curling Rink		0	0	0	1	0	1
Indoor Arena		0	0	1	1	1	3
Outdoor Rink		1	0	1	1	1	4
School Gymnasium		0	0	2	1	1	4
Library (Public / School)		0	0	1	1	1	3
Outdoor Play Structure	Community	1	1	0	2	1	9
	School	0	0	2	1	1	
Hard Court / Basketball		1	0	1	1	0	3
Tennis Court		0	0	0	0	0	0
Pickleball	Indoor	0	0	1	0	0	2
	Outdoor	1	0	0	0	0	
Baseball Diamond		3	0	6	1	3	13
Soccer Pitch		1	0	2	Mini	0	3
Indoor Pool		0	0	0	0	0	0
Outdoor Pool		0	0	0	0	0	0
Wading Pool / Splash Pad		0	0	0	0	0	0
Indoor Walking Track		0	0	0	0	0	0
Walking Path Trails		1	0	3	1	2	7
Community Park Space (Existing)	Major	0	0	1	0	1	10
	Community	1	0	1	1	1	
	Neighbourhood	0	0	0	2	2	
Fitness Equipment	Outdoor	1	0	0	0	0	2
	Indoor	0	0	0	1	0	
Natural Playground		1	0	1	1	1	3
Outdoor Picnic Shelter		1	0	1	1	1	4
Community Garden		0	0	1	2	0	3
Skateboard Park		0	0	0	0	0	0

MAP 3.6 Recreation and Parks Inventory

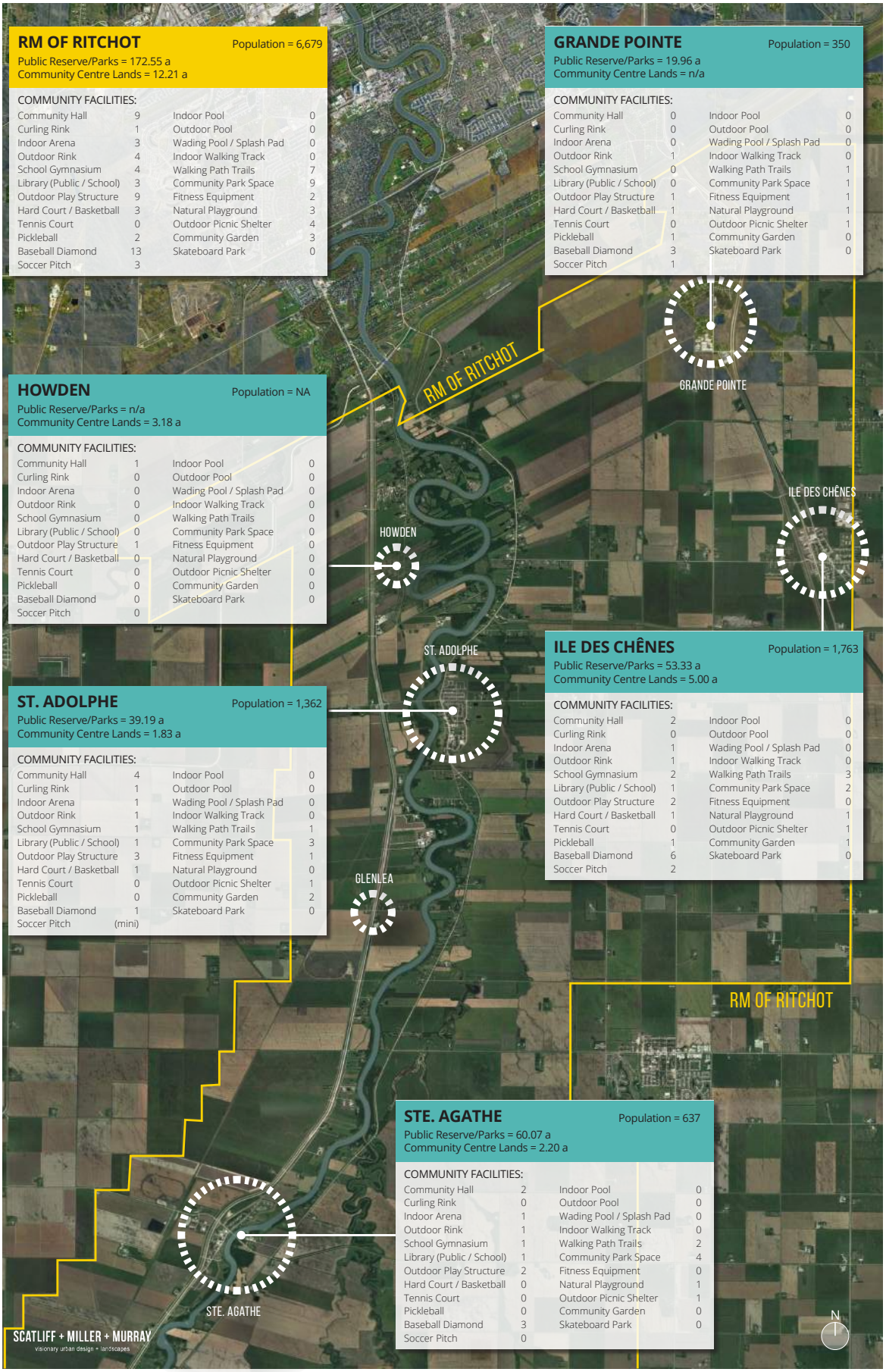


TABLE 3.6 Major Facility Component Information - Community Summary

COMMUNITY	FACILITY	COMPONENTS	OWNER	YEAR BUILT
Grande Pointe	1. Grande Pointe Park	Outdoor stage	Municipality	
		Picnic shelter		
		Outdoor Rink		
		Basketball court (outdoor)		
		Pickleball court (outdoor)		
		Washrooms		
		Skate change area		
		Baseball diamond (x3)		
		Walking trail / cross-country ski trails in winter		
		Play structure		
		Outdoor fitness equipment		
		Soccer pitch (x1)		
		Beach volleyball court		
		Hose shoe pit		
		Natural playground features		
Howden	2. Howden Community Centre	Community hall (capacity = 300)	Municipality	1950 (built), 1998 (addition)
		Kitchen		
		Bar area		
		Washrooms		
		Play Structure		

TABLE 3.6 Major Facility Component Information - Community Summary (cont`d)

COMMUNITY	FACILITY	COMPONENTS	OWNER	YEAR BUILT
Ile des Chênes	3. TransCanada Centre	Daycare centre (capacity = 190)	Municipality	2011
		Community hall (capacity = 500)		
		Meeting room		
		Kitchen		
		Commercial rental space (x1)		
	4. Knights of Columbus Community Hall	Community hall (capacity = 80)	Private	
	5. Ile des Chênes Arena	Indoor rink (x1)	Municipality	2013 (conversion to geothermal)
		Canteen		
		Dressing rooms		
		Outdoor rink (x1)		
		Seating / viewing area		
	6. D'Auteuil Park	Walking trail / cross-country ski trails in winter	Municipality	
		Picnic shelter		
		Natural playground features		
	7. Optimist Park	Baseball diamond (x6)	Municipality (on TransCanada land - Lease Agreement)	
		Washrooms		
		Canteen		
		Hard Court Area		
		Walking trail / cross-country ski trails in winter		
	8. Parkland Reserve 1 - (Private Undeveloped)	26-acre proposed park	TransCanada Land	
	9. École / College Regional Gabriel Roy	Indoor gym	DSFM, Municipality funds Public Library	
		Bibliothèque Ritchot Library		
		Play structure		
		Playing field		
		Walking trail / cross-country ski trails in winter		
		Soccer pitch (x1)		
		Swings		
		Community Garden		
	10. École Ile-des-Chenes School	Indoor gym	SRSD	
		Play structure (currently being renovated)		
		Playing field		
		Walking trail / cross-country ski trails in winter		
		Soccer pitch (x1)		
		Baseball diamond (x1)		
		Swings		

TABLE 3.6 Major Facility Component Information - Community Summary (cont`d)

COMMUNITY	FACILITY	COMPONENTS	OWNER	YEAR BUILT
St Adolphe	11. Club Amical	Community hall (capacity = 65)	Municipality	
		Commercial rental space (x3)		
		Kitchen		
	12. Ritchot Senior (Services) Centre	Community hall (capacity = 40-50)	Privately owned with lease	
		Library		
		Fitness equipment		
		Community garden		
	13. St. Adolphe Community Centre / Arena	Pioneer Hall (capacity = 300)	Municipality	1985 (covered), 1991 (ice plant), 2002 (Pioneer Hall)
		Rink (x1)		
		Canteen		
		Change rooms		
		Washrooms		
	14. St. Adolphe Curling Club	Sheets (x3)	Private	
		Lounge (capacity = 90)		
		Kitchen		
	15. St. Adolphe Park	Walking trail / cross-country ski trails in winter	Municipality	
	16. Pointe Coupee Park	Outdoor rink (x1)	Municipality	
		Basketball court (outdoor)		
		Play structure		
		Picnic shelter		
	17. Perron Park	Play structure	Municipality	
		Play field		
		Swings		
	18. Parkland Reserve 2 (Public Undeveloped)	10-acre proposed park	Municipality	
	19. École St. Adolphe School	Indoor gym	SRSD, Municipality funds Public Library	
		Bibliothèque Ritchot Library		
		Play structure		
		Baseball diamond (x1)		
		Mini soccer pitches (seasonal)		
		Community garden		
	20. Parkland Reserve 3 (Public Undeveloped)	Greenway identified in Subdivision Development Agreement	Municipality	
	21. Parkland Reserve 4 (Public Undeveloped)	Municipal-owned parcel identified for future trailhead	Municipality	

TABLE 3.6 Major Facility Component Information - Community Summary (cont`d)

COMMUNITY	FACILITY	COMPONENTS	OWNER	YEAR BUILT
Ste. Agathe	22. Ste. Agathe Culture & Community Centre	Community hall (capacity = 500 standing, 350 sitting)	Municipality	
		Kitchen		
	23. Ste. Agathe Arena	Rink (x1)	Municipality	1976
		Canteen		
		Multi-purpose Room (capacity = NA)		
		Change rooms (x5)		
		Washrooms		
		Seating / viewing area		
	24. Cartier Park	Baseball diamond (x2)	Private	
		Campground (14 serviced, 40 unserviced)		
		Picnic shelter (capacity = 150-200)		
		Kitchen		
		Washrooms		
		Canteen		
		Horseshoe pit (x3)		
		Walking trail / cross-country ski trails in winter		
		Natural wetland pond		
	25. Lemoine St. Park	Natural playground features	Municipality	
	26. Belle Riviere Park	Play structure	Municipality	
	27. École Sainte-Agathe	Indoor gym	DSFM, Municipality funds Public Library	
		Bibliothèque Ritchot Library		
		Play structure		
		Outdoor rink (x1)		
		Baseball diamond (x1)		
		Walking trail / cross-country ski trails in winter		
	28. Promenade sur la Rouge	Walking trail green space	MIT	
		Covered shelter and seating area		
	29. Parkland Reserve 5 (Public Undeveloped)	Municipal-owned parcel identified for future park use	Municipality	

School facilities have been included in this summary because they are public facilities, however access by recreation program providers is limited relative to other municipally-owned facilities. The Provincial Government's Communities Use of Schools Policy clearly outlines protocols for establishing access to public schools by communities. The Recreation Director has indicated that a strong and positive relationship exists between Ritchot and both School Divisions, however a signed agreement between all partners is not in place and should be a priority.

3.6 RECREATION NEEDS AND PREFERENCES: A SURVEY OF AREA RESIDENTS

3.6.1 Introduction

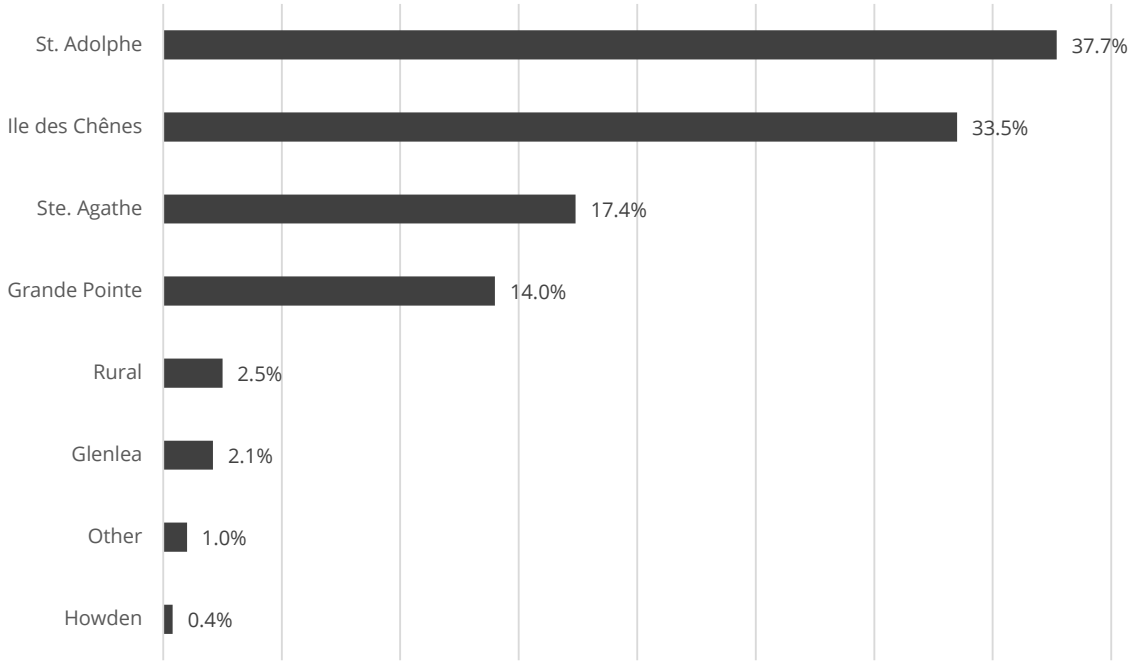
Community input in the development of the Recreation Master Plan was gathered through an anonymous online survey. The survey was open to all residents of the Municipality of Ritchot and all members of the household were invited to respond. The survey was made available using an electronic format on SurveyMonkey, and consisted of 23 questions that focused on quality of life and recreation programs / services in the region. Several of the questions were open-ended and allowed respondents to make suggestions about the development of new, improved or expanded recreation services and programming in general, as well as about improvements to specific existing park areas in the region. Basic demographic information was also gathered.

3.6.2 Survey Findings

The online survey was open between June 3, 2018, and June 22, 2018, with 296 survey respondents. The results of this survey are summarized in this chapter, and the data is included in Appendix A.

Respondents were asked which of the communities in the Municipality they lived in or nearest to (see Figure 3.1). Over one-third of the respondents (37.7%) indicated that they lived in or near St. Adolphe, and 33.5% lived in or near Ile des Chênes. Ste. Agathe was home to approximately one in six respondents (17.4%) and 14.0% lived in or near Grande Pointe. Fewer than 10 respondents selected Glenlea, Howden, rural areas or other locations as their place of residence.

FIGURE 3.1 Which of the following communities do you live in or nearest to?

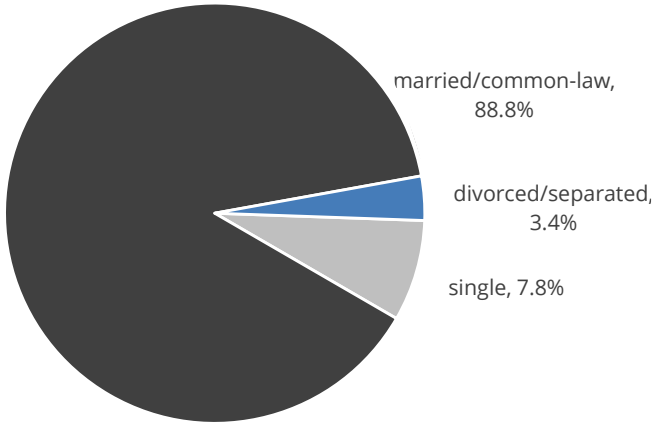


According to the 2016 census, 23.1% of Ritchot residents live in Ile des Chenes, 20.4% in St. Adolphe and 9.5% in Ste. Agathe. Therefore, the populations of Ile des Chênes and St. Adolphe are similar, with the population of Ste. Agathe approximately half the size. This is similar to the distribution of survey respondents. Since survey respondents could identify the community they lived near to, as well as in, this does suggest that the geographic distribution of the survey respondents may be generally representative of the population.

Two-thirds of the respondents (66.1%) identified as female, 32.2% as male and 1.7% as other. According to the 2016 census, 48.4% of the population of the Municipality of Ritchot were female, suggesting that the perspectives of female residents may be overrepresented in this survey.

Most of the survey respondents (88.8%) reported that they were married or in a common-law relationships, which is substantially higher than the general population (68.9%), according to the recent census.

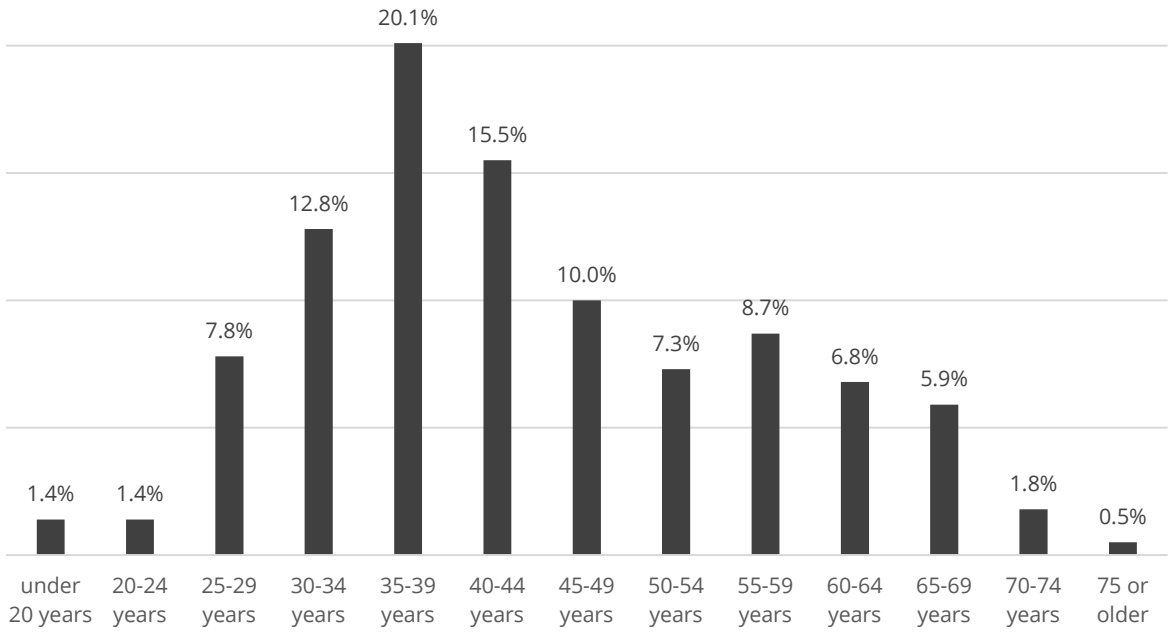
FIGURE 3.2 What is your marital status?



In two-fifths of respondent households (38.2%) there were no children (18 or under) reported living in the household. Most of the remaining households had one (17.7%) or two (31.8%) children. One in eight households (12.4%) contained three or more children. In the 2016 census, 45.4% of couple-led households did not have children in residence, indicating that the perspectives of households with children may be overrepresented in the survey.

Respondents ranged in age from 14 to 76 years, with an average of 43.8 years. Individuals aged 65 or older comprised 8.2% of the survey respondents, which is slightly lower than the population distribution of the municipality (10.5%). The majority of survey respondents were between the ages of 25 and 44 (56.2%), approximately double that found in the general population distribution (28.2%) (Statistics Canada, 2016).

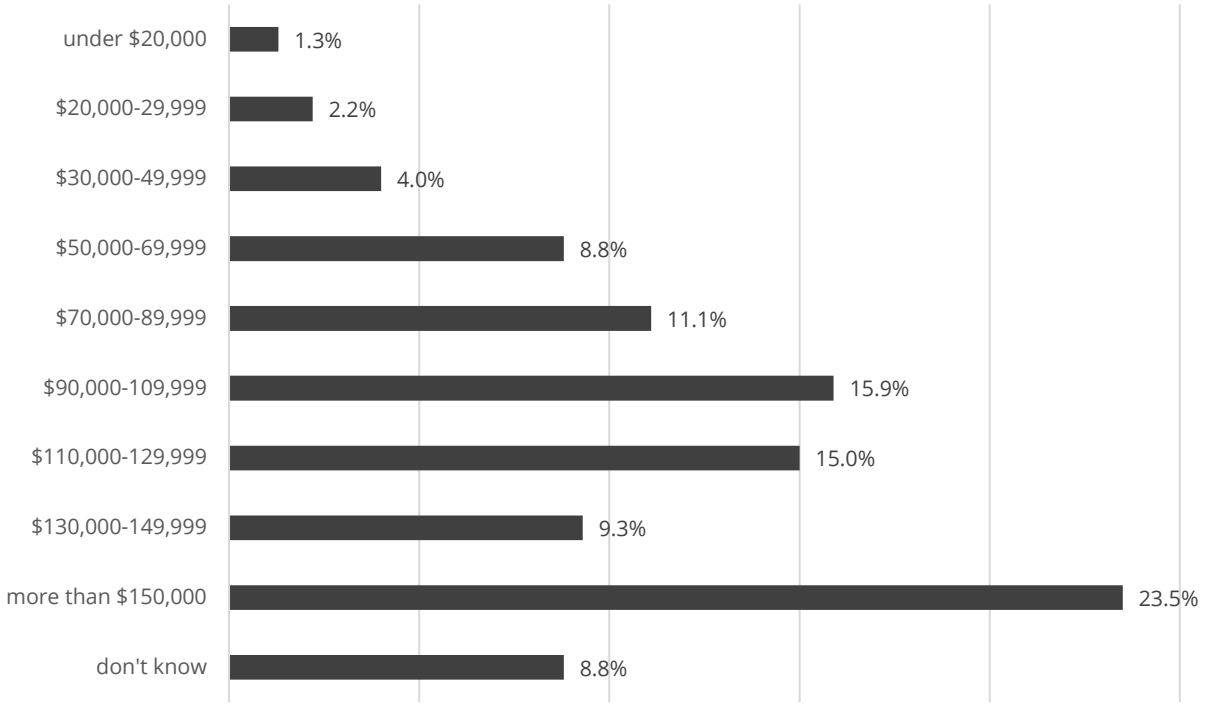
FIGURE 3.3 What is your age?



Survey respondents reported living in the Municipality of Ritchot for between two months and 76 years. The average length of time in the area was 15.9 years, but one quarter of the respondents (25.7%) had been in the community for fewer than five years.

The survey respondents enjoyed a relatively high household income; almost one half (47.8%) had household income of $110,000 or more, and 23.5% of respondents reported a household income of over $150,000 per year. According to the 2016 census, the median household income for the Municipality was over $95,000, higher than the provincial median of about $68,000, but it appears that the survey respondents may skew slightly toward the higher income range. Almost two-thirds of the survey respondents (64.2%) were employed full-time and 11.4% employed part-time. Only 16.2% of the respondents identified as retired.

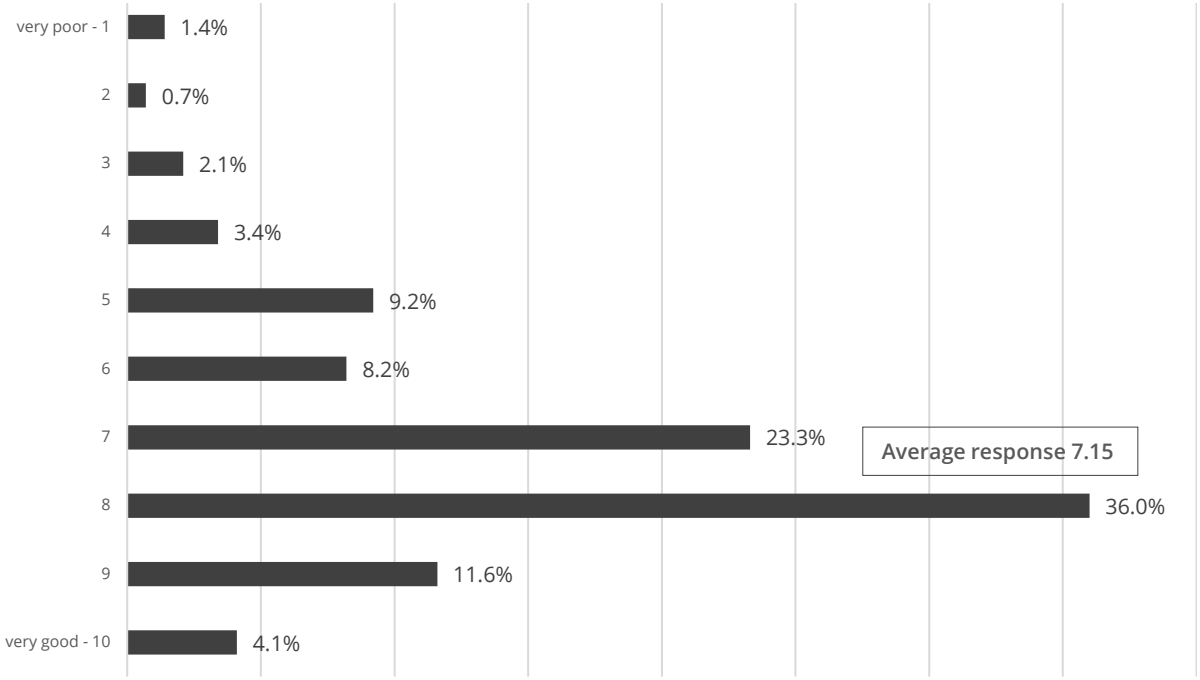
FIGURE 3.4 What is your approximate total household income?



Perceptions of Quality of Life

Survey respondents rated quality of life in Ritchot using a scale ranging from 1 (very poor) to 10 (very good). Respondents rated quality of life quite favourably, with an average rating of 7.15, and 51.7% of respondents gave a rating of '8' or higher.

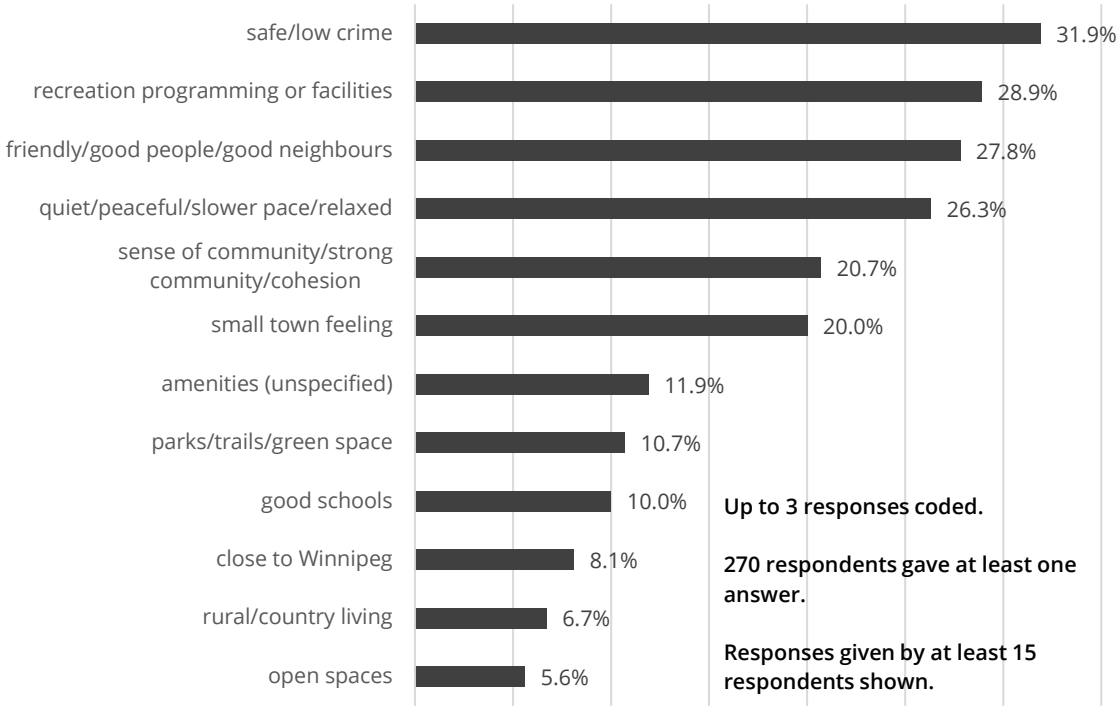
FIGURE 3.5 On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being very poor and 10 being very good, what is your perception of the overall quality of life in your community?



Female respondents rated the quality of life as better (7.58) than male respondents (6.97). Income also impacted respondent perceptions, with higher income respondents giving more favourable ratings than lower income respondents. Ratings were consistent among residents of the various communities within the Municipality, with the exception of Ile des Chênes where residents gave a poorer rating (6.62) than residents of other communities (7.43). With other demographic characteristics (i.e. age, length of residence in the area, marital status, presence of children, etc.) quality of life was rated consistently, with no significant differences among groups.

When asked to identify what they value most in terms of quality of life in their community, the most frequently given response was the perception of safety and relative lack of crime (31.9%). This view was more likely to be held by longer-term residents of the area; those who mentioned this value had lived in the region for an average of 18.9 years, compared to an average of 14.2 years for those who did not mention this. In addition, unmarried respondents (50%) were more likely than married respondents (28.8%) to mention perception of safety and relative lack of crime as an aspect of their community that they value.

FIGURE 3.6 What do you value most about the quality of life in your community?



Another common value affecting quality of life was recreation programming or facilities (28.9%), as well as existing parks, trails, and green spaces (10.7%). These features were less frequently mentioned by residents of Grande Pointe (17.2%) than residents of other communities (36.3%). Not surprisingly, respondents who currently volunteer in recreation programs or events were more likely to mention recreation as a valued aspect of their community (43.6%) than those who did not volunteer to support recreation (29.9%).

Many of the respondents noted that they valued their fellow residents and neighbours (27.8%) who contributed to social cohesion and a strong sense of community (20.7%). Residents of St. Adolphe (50.0%) mentioned this aspect more often than residents of other communities (31.9%). As was the case with recreation programming and services, those respondents who were involved with their communities through volunteering (50.0%) mentioned sense of community and neighbours more than people who were not active volunteers in their community (34.8%).

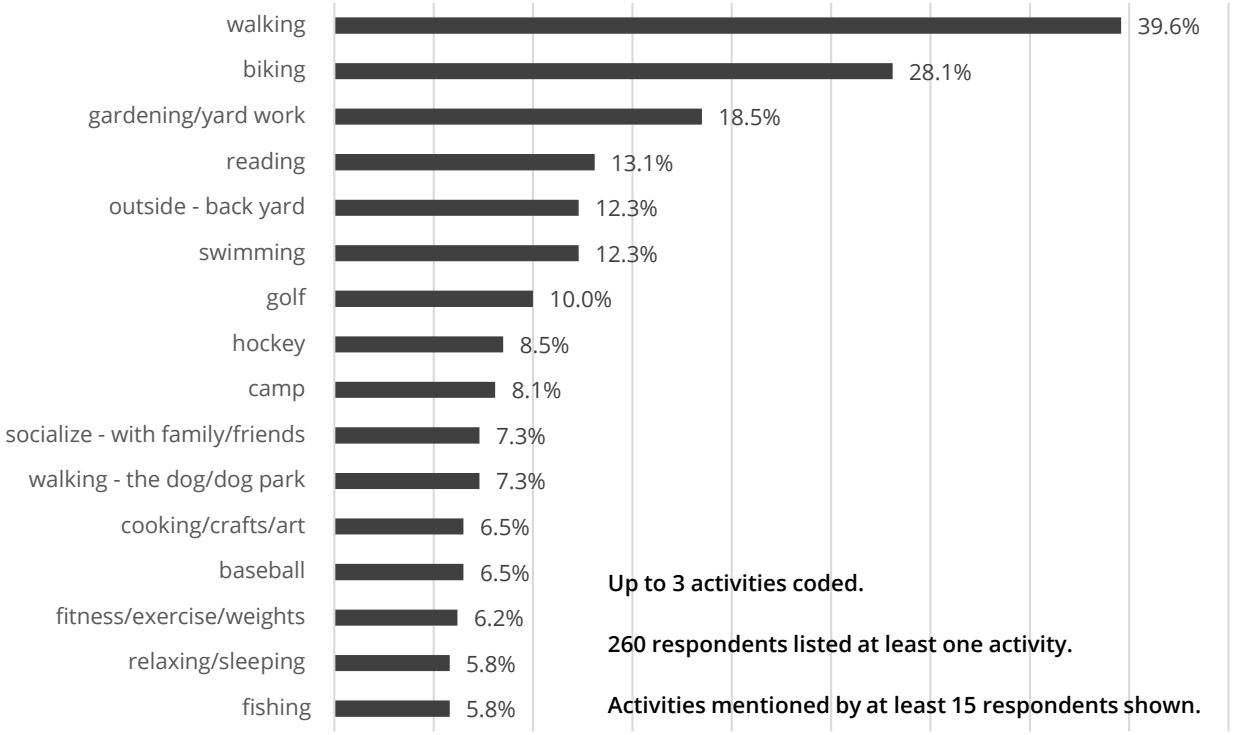
Over one-quarter of the respondents (26.3%) mentioned that they valued the 'peace and quiet' of their community, with a relaxed, slower pace. This aspect was more likely to be mentioned by respondents who did not have children living in their households (36.3%) than those with children (18.3%). The respondents who valued peace and quiet used fewer of the recreation facilities in the area (1.96 facilities on average) than those who did not mention this quality (2.58 facilities). Other aspects that were mentioned included the 'small-town feeling' (20.0%) and 'country living' (6.7%).

Current Participation in Recreation and Leisure Activities

Survey respondents were asked about the types of activities they enjoy doing during their free time. Up to three activities for each respondent were coded, and the most frequently-mentioned activities was walking (39.6%), with another 7.3% stating walking their dog. Female respondents were more likely to mention walking as a favourite activity (54.9%) than were male respondents (28.4%). The respondents who enjoyed walking were also likely to be older, and to have no children living in the household. Residents of Grande Pointe were the most likely to list walking as a favourite activity, while residents of Ste. Agathe were least likely to do so.

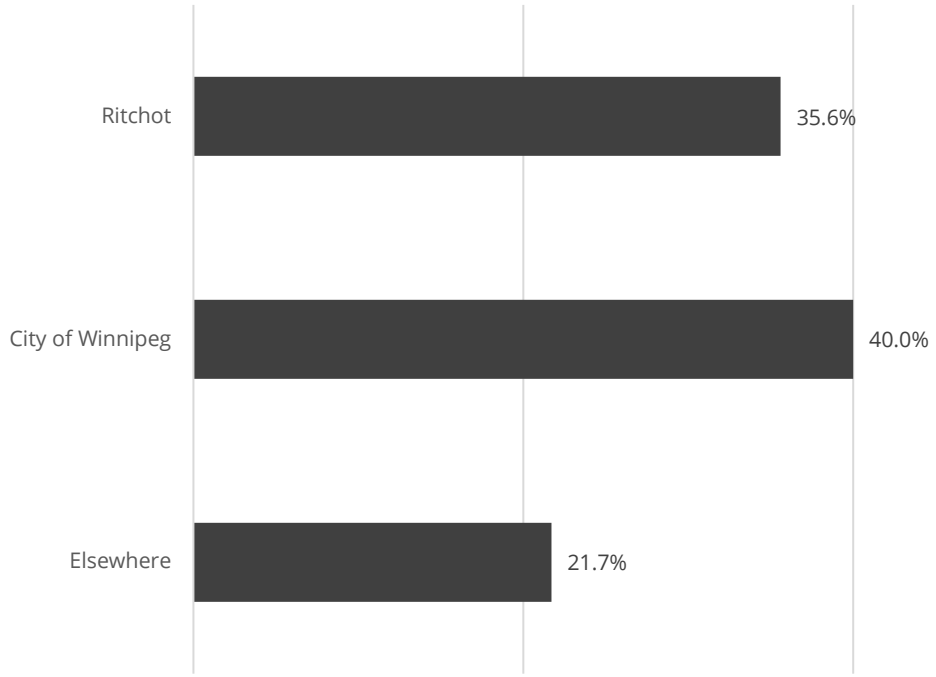
Other popular activities included biking (28.1%) and gardening / yard work (18.5%). Some respondents enjoyed unstructured activities such as reading (13.1%), spending time in the back yard (12.3%) and socializing with friends and family (7.3%). Among team sports, hockey was the most frequently mentioned (8.5%), followed by baseball (6.5%). For the full list of favourite leisure activities, see Appendix A.

FIGURE 3.7 Please list up to three of your favourite free time activities



Survey respondents were asked to consider where they engaged in recreation activities and to indicate what percentage of the activities were done in Ritchot, Winnipeg and other locations. For each of these three options, the responses ranged from none (0%) to all (100%). For Ritchot, respondents indicated that an average of 35.6% of recreation activities occurred within the Municipality. Respondents indicated that on average 40.0% of their daily recreational activities were done in Winnipeg, while an average of 21.7% of activities were done in other areas.

FIGURE 3.8 Approximately what percent of your current recreation and leisure activities do you do in recreation and parks facilities in each of the following locations (average percentage)?



If the respondents were classified according to the relative proportion of activities into the categories 'primarily in Ritchot', 'primarily in Winnipeg', and 'primarily elsewhere', there were differences that characterized each of these groups. Those whose activities were primarily done in Winnipeg were the youngest group (41.6 years of age on average) and those whose activities were done in locations other than Winnipeg and Ritchot were the oldest (47.1 years).

Longer-term residents of the region were more likely than more recent residents to do most of their recreation activities within the Municipality. Not surprisingly, compared to the other two groups those who indicated that most of their recreational activities were in Ritchot had used a larger number of the region's recreation and parks facilities, were more aware of the opportunities to volunteer with recreation programs and services, and were more likely to currently volunteer with these programs and services. Respondents who did not have children living in their households were evenly distributed among the three groups.

In contrast, of those who did have children 46.2% indicated that their activities were primarily in Winnipeg, 38.7% indicated that their activities were primarily in Ritchot, and 15.1% indicated that most of their activities were done elsewhere. Respondent decisions regarding where to engage in recreation activities also impacted their perception of their quality, as those who did most of their activities within the Municipality rated the quality of life more favourably (7.65 on a scale from 1 to 10) than those whose primary location for recreation was Winnipeg (6.63) and elsewhere (7.17).

Respondents were presented with a list of indoor and outdoor parks / recreation facilities in Ritchot, and were asked to identify which of those facilities they visit or use on a regular basis. Only 11.5% of respondents indicated that they did not use any of the facilities regularly. For the remaining respondents, the average number of facilities they had used was 2.9, with most of the respondents using one (27.2%) or two (21.9%) of the facilities.

Facility use was found to be influenced by a number of factors. Respondents who did not have children living in their household used an average of 2.3 facilities, compared to 3.0 facilities on average used by respondents with children. Younger respondents used more facilities than older residents and retired respondents used 2.1 facilities on average, compared to 2.9 that was reported by others.

There was also a positive association between the higher number of facilities used and the greater length of time those respondents had lived in the region. Likewise, use of facilities was higher for respondents who were not only aware of volunteer opportunities in their community (3.5 vs 2.3), but who also currently volunteered in recreation programs or events (3.6 vs 2.2). Residents of Ste. Agathe reported using the most facilities (3.5 on average) than residents of other communities (2.6).

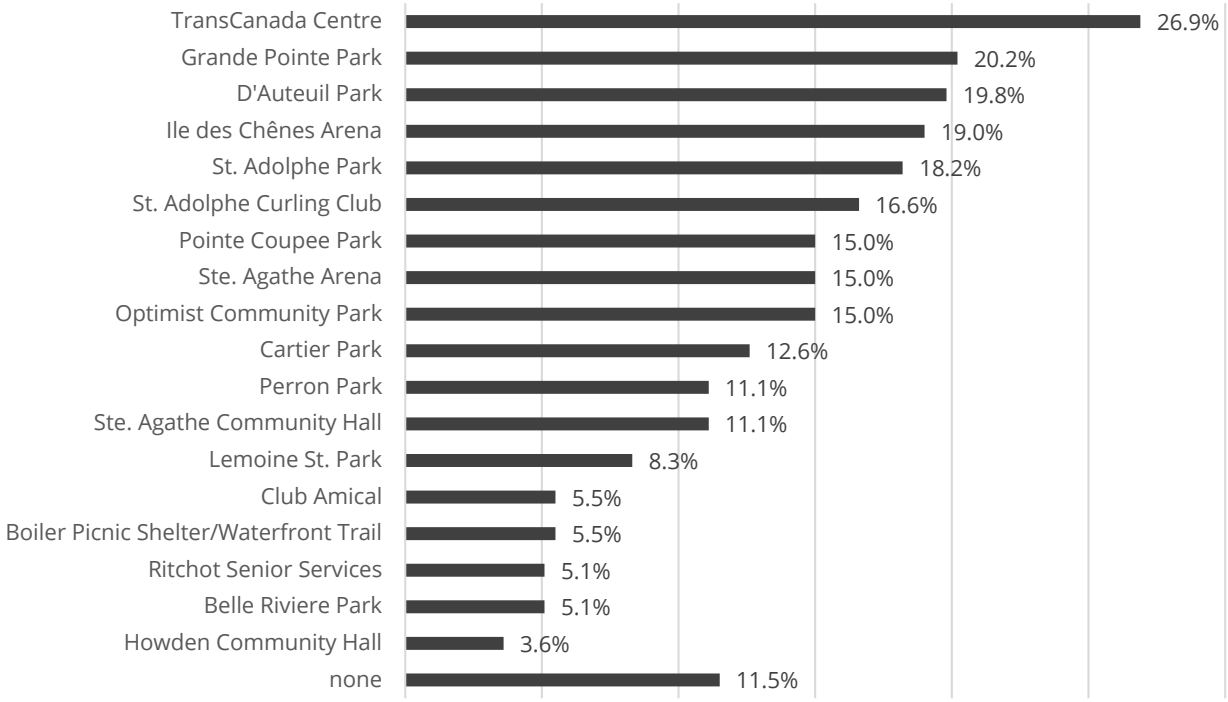
The TransCanada Centre in Ile des Chênes was the facility that the largest proportion of respondents had used (26.9%). Other facilities in that community were also well used, including D'Auteuil Park (19.8%), the Ile des Chênes Arena (19.0%), and Optimist Park (15.0%). Further to this, residents of Ile des Chênes were more likely than other respondents to have used these facilities. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to have used the TransCanada Centre (31.0% vs 18.1%) and D'Auteuil Park (25.2% vs 9.7%), while fewer retired respondents used the Ile des Chênes Arena (0% vs 23.4%) and Optimist Park (5.4% vs 19.1%).

Overall, approximately one in five respondents (20.2%) had used Grande Pointe Park, though Grande Pointe residents were more likely (87.9%) to have used the park than non-residents (8.6%).

Regarding facility use in Ste. Agathe, 15.0% had used the Ste. Agathe Arena and 12.6% had used Cartier Park. For both of these sites, Ste. Agathe residents were more likely to have visited than were non-residents. A greater proportion of male respondents (23.6%) had used the Ste. Agathe Arena than did female respondents (11.6%).

As with other communities, the residents of St. Adolphe were the most frequent users of community facilities such as the Arena, Curling Club, St. Adolphe Park and Pointe Coupee Park. In addition, respondents who had used these four facilities also reported that a higher percentage of their recreation and leisure time was spent within the Municipality, and a smaller percentage of their activities spent in Winnipeg and elsewhere, compared with respondents who did not use these facilities. The St. Adolphe Arena and Pointe Coupee Park were more frequented by respondents with children than those without, while male respondents were more likely than female respondents to use the St. Adolphe Curling Club.

FIGURE 3.9 Which of the following indoor and outdoor parks and recreation facilities do you visit or use on a regular basis?

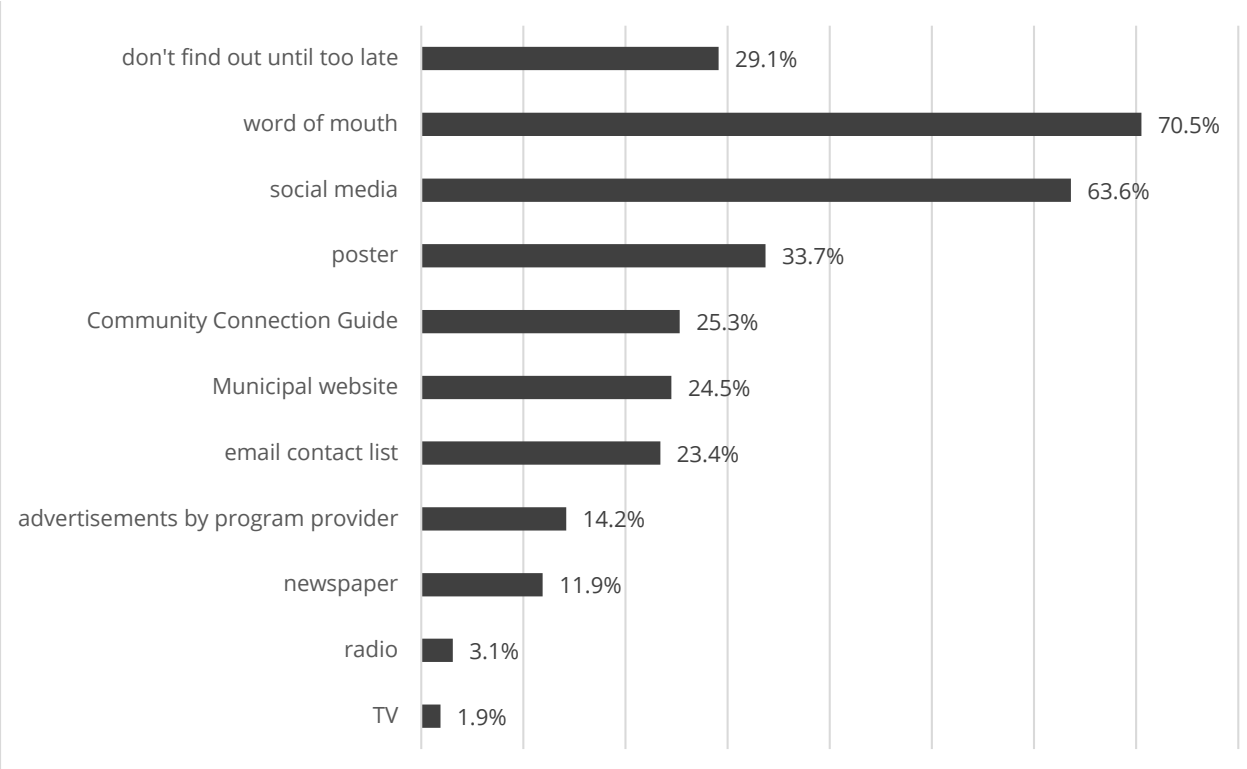


About one in nine respondents indicated that they did not use any of the facilities regularly. These respondents tended to be older (50.3 years) than those who reported facility use (42.9 years). While only 5.9% of respondents who did not have children living in their household indicated they had visited none of the facilities, 17.3% of those without children identified themselves as non-users. Those who had not used any of the facilities reported a smaller percentage of recreation activities done in Ritchot and a larger percentage of activities in Winnipeg.

Receiving Recreation Service Opportunity Information in Ritchot

Survey respondents were asked to identify ways in which they found out about recreation programs and services in their community. The majority of survey respondents (70.5%) reported that they found out about recreation programs and services available in the area through 'word of mouth', with men (82.7%) more likely than women (66.9%) to identify this as a consistent source of information for recreation opportunities. Respondents were also more likely to receive information about recreation services through 'word of mouth' if they were currently volunteering with recreation programs and events (82.1%), than if they were not (64.2%).

FIGURE 3.10 How do you find out which recreation programs or services are available in the area?



Social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, was also identified an important source of such information (63.6%). This source was more likely to be used by younger respondents and those with higher income. Few retired respondents relied on social media (22.2%) compared with other respondents (71.2%). While 45.1% of respondents who did not have children living in the household got information about recreation through social media, 75.7% of respondents who had children did.

About one-quarter of the respondents obtained information through the municipal website (24.5%) or as a result of being on an email contact list (23.4%). Other important sources of information included the Community Connection Guide (25.3%) and posters around the community (33.7%).

Almost one-third of respondents (29.1%) stated that they did not find out about recreation programs and services until it was too late. These respondents tended to access fewer of the existing recreation facilities and parks, and to have lower annual household incomes. Residents of Ile des Chênes were more likely to feel that they missed timely notification about recreation services (39.7%) than residents of other communities (24.5%).

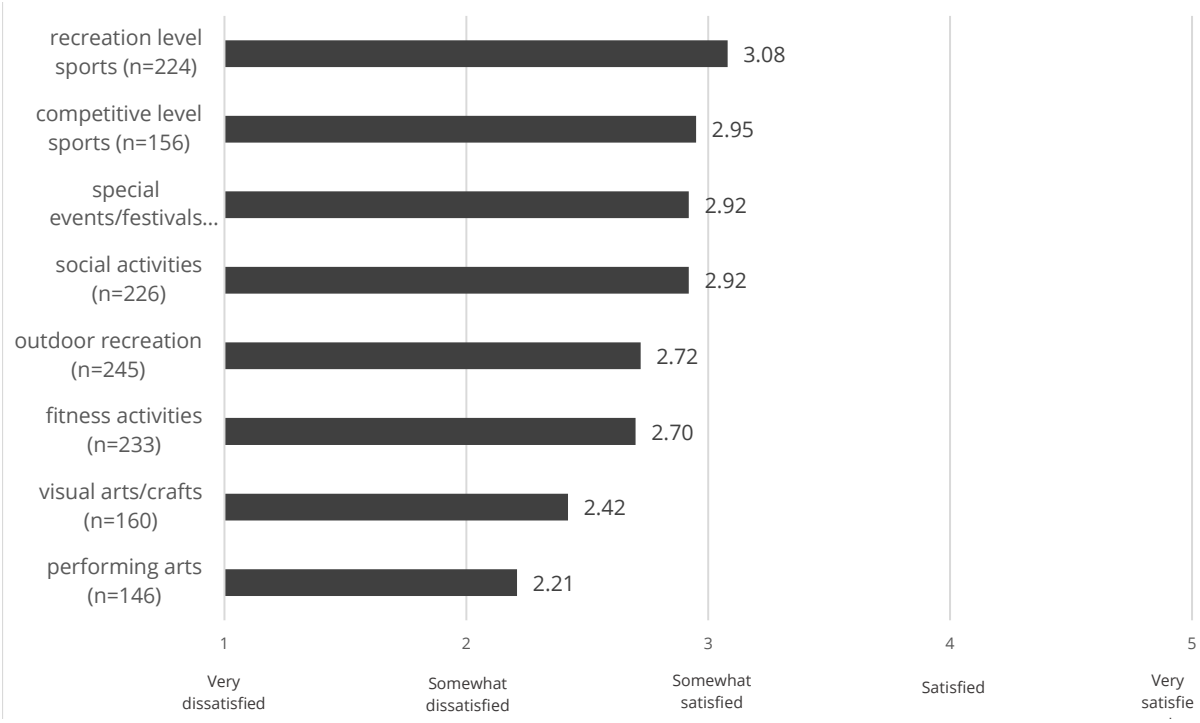
Survey respondents were also given opportunity to offer suggestions about how to improve recreation services communication in Ritchot. Suggestions were given by 71 respondents and many suggestions centered on internet-based communication. Fourteen respondents commented about the website, suggesting the need for a dedicated recreation website that ensures its information is up to date. Ten respondents felt that the ability to sign up for email notification would be helpful.

Whatever the means of communication, a common concern was a consistent inability to receive information in a timely manner, far enough in advance of events to allow for planning and registration.

Satisfaction with Current Recreation and Leisure Opportunities

Respondents rated satisfaction with current recreation and leisure opportunities using a scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied). Presented with a list of current recreation and leisure activity sorted by activity type respondents expressed the greatest amount of satisfaction with opportunities related to sports, both recreation-level (average rating 3.08) and competitive (2.95). Residents of the Grande Pointe area were significantly more satisfied with opportunities for competitive sports than other areas, while residents of St. Adolphe were significantly less satisfied. Overall, longer-term residents were more satisfied with competitive sports opportunities than more recent residents. There was a positive relationship between the number of facilities the respondents currently use, and higher satisfaction with recreation-level sports.

FIGURE 3.11 For each of the following activity categories, how satisfied are you with existing recreation and leisure opportunities?



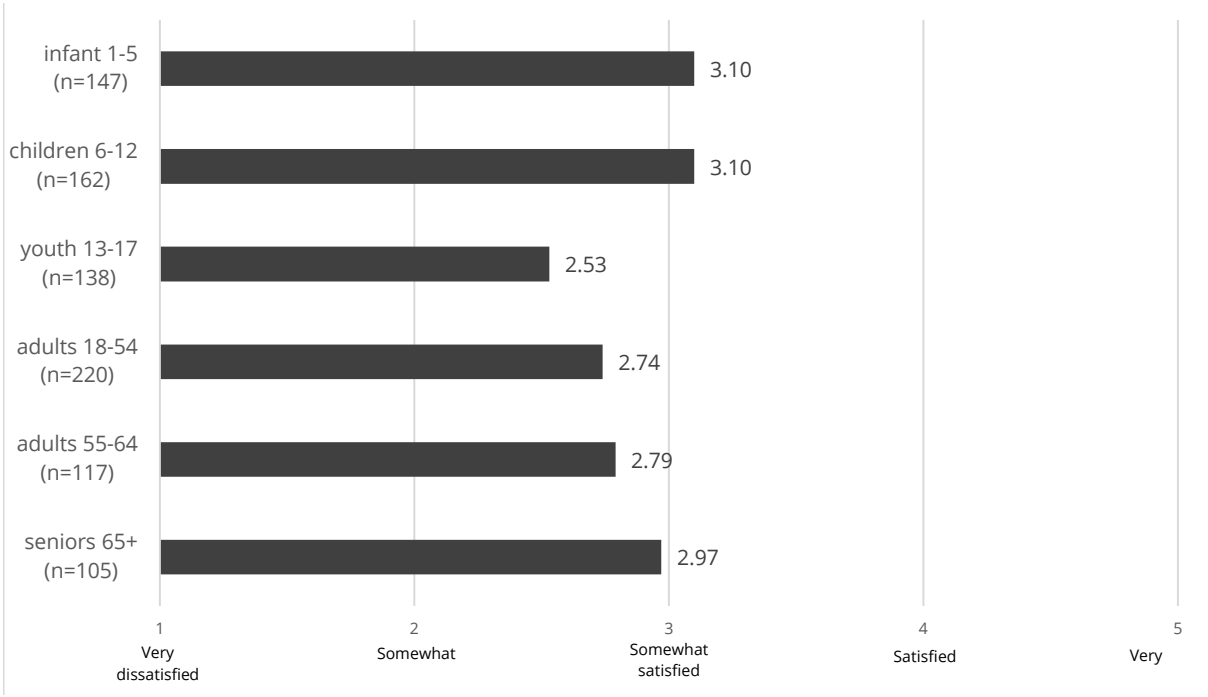
Respondents were satisfied overall with opportunities for social activities (2.92), including community activities such as special events and festivals (2.92). For both of these areas, male respondents gave more favourable ratings than female respondents. As with recreation-level sports, respondents who used a greater number of existing recreation and parks facilities gave higher ratings than respondents who used fewer facilities. Grande Pointe residents gave the most positive ratings for opportunities for outdoor recreation, while Ile des Chênes residents gave the lowest ratings in this area.

The overall lowest satisfaction was reported for arts-based activity opportunities, including visual arts (2.42) and performing arts (2.21). Residents of Grande Pointe rated their satisfaction with both of these types of activities the highest. St. Adolphe residents were least satisfied with opportunities to experience performing arts.

Two factors impacted ratings of satisfaction for almost all activity types. Respondents who indicated that most of their recreation activity took place within Ritchot rated the opportunities for every type of recreation activity more favourably than respondents for whom most of their recreational activity was in Winnipeg or other areas. In addition, respondents who currently volunteered to support recreation programming and events rated almost all types of recreation opportunities significantly more favourably than those who did not volunteer.

Respondents were also asked to rate their satisfaction with recreation and leisure opportunities available in the area for residents of different age groups. Respondents are often unable to rate their satisfaction for age groups with which they are not familiar. 87.6% of respondents were able to rate their satisfaction with recreation opportunities for adults aged 18 to 54 years, but only 43% of the respondents rated satisfaction with opportunities for seniors aged 65 or older. Table 3.12 shows the average rating of satisfaction for each age group, among the respondents who were able to provide a rating, therefore the number of respondents ("n") differs for each item.

FIGURE 3.12 For each of the following age categories, how satisfied are you with existing recreation and leisure opportunities (mean response)?



On a scale ranging from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied) the highest ratings of satisfaction were related to opportunities for infants (3.10) and children aged 6 to 12 (3.10). The lowest satisfaction was for youth aged 13 to 17 (2.53).

Male respondents gave more favourable ratings of satisfaction than female respondents for opportunities for youth, and for adults aged 18 to 54. Similar to satisfaction with types of recreation, the respondents who used more existing recreation and parks facilities were more satisfied with opportunities for recreation across almost all age groups (except infants). Residents of Ile des Chênes were less satisfied than residents of other communities with opportunities for infants, children, and adults 18-54, while residents of Ste. Agathe gave the highest ratings of all respondents for recreation opportunities for adults 18-54.

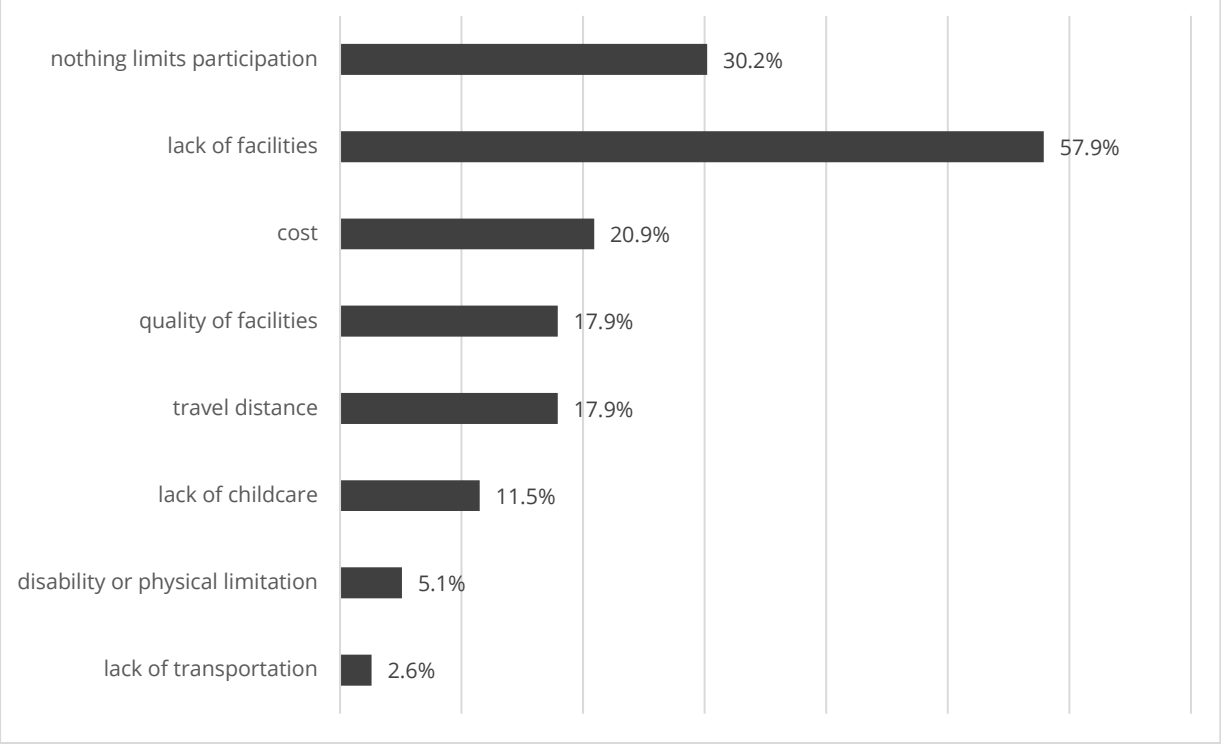
Satisfaction was once again associated with the location in which respondents engaged in recreation activities. The respondents who spend most of their recreation time in Ritchot gave more positive ratings for opportunities for all age groups, compared to respondents whose recreation activities were primarily in Winnipeg or other locations.

Barriers to Participation in Recreation or Leisure Activities

Almost one-third of respondents (30.3%) felt there was nothing preventing them from participating in recreation and leisure activities and very few characteristics distinguished respondents who faced barriers to participation from those who did not. Respondents who felt limited in their ability to participate had lower household income than those who did not, but these groups were otherwise similar in age, gender, residence and other demographic characteristics.

Barriers to participation impacted respondent perception of their community. Respondents who felt restricted in their participation rated the overall quality of life in the region less favourably than those who did not face such barriers. Perceived barriers to participation also impacted respondent satisfaction with current recreation and leisure opportunities. Respondents who felt there was a barrier preventing them from participating in recreation and leisure activities were significantly less satisfied with many of the recreation opportunities based on activity types and age groups, compared to respondents perceiving no barrier.

FIGURE 3.13 What most limits or prevents you from participation in recreation and leisure activities?



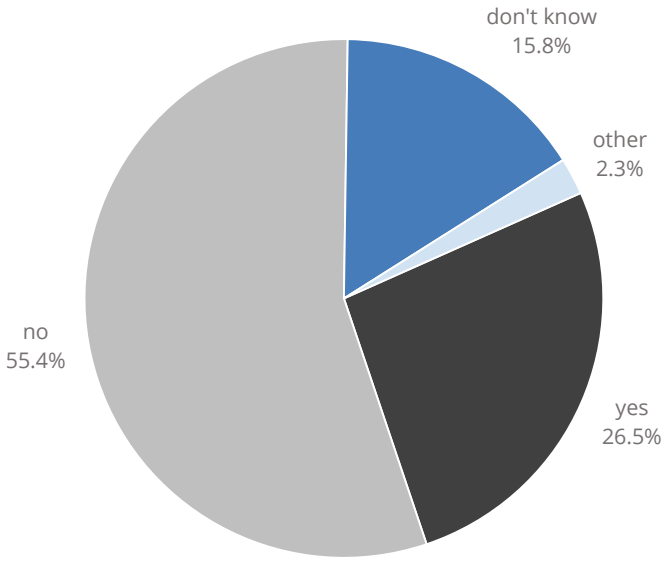
Among the respondents who indicated there were obstacles in their ability to participate in recreation or leisure activities, the most common obstacle was the perception of a lack of recreation facilities in their area (57.9%). This belief was held by respondents regardless of age, gender, income or demographic characteristics. The most significant characteristic distinguishing between those who identified lack of facilities as a barrier to participation from those who did not, was facility use. Respondents who listed lack of facilities as a barrier reported using 2.4 facilities, while the respondents who did not see this as a barrier reported using 3.1 facilities.

About one in five of the respondents (20.9%) identified cost as a barrier to participation. Not surprisingly, this was significantly associated with respondents' household income, with lower income respondents more likely to perceive this barrier than those with higher incomes.

Volunteerism

Survey respondents were asked several questions about opportunities to volunteer at recreation programs, facilities or events in Ritchot. Initially, respondents were asked if they were aware of such recreation volunteer opportunities and over one-quarter of respondents (26.5%) stated they were.

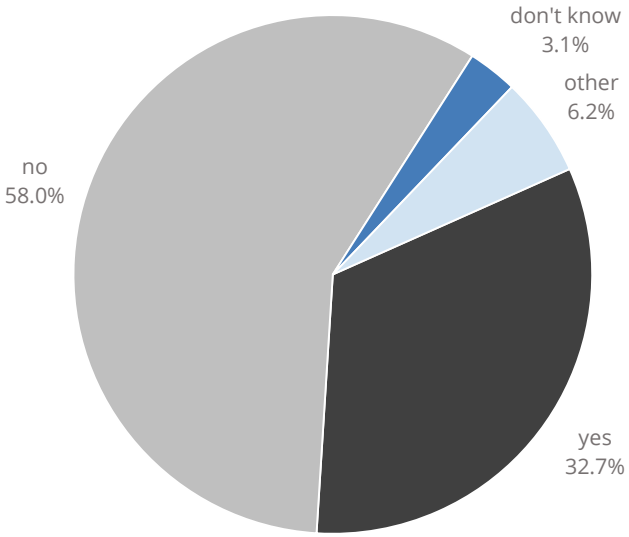
FIGURE 3.14 Are you aware of recreation volunteer opportunities in Ritchot?



Respondents who lived with children under the age of 18 were more likely to be aware of volunteer opportunities (33.1%) than those without children in their household (17.9%). Awareness of recreation volunteer opportunities also increased with length of time living in the area, and with the number of existing recreation and parks facilities that the respondent used. Residents of Ile des Chênes were the least likely to be familiar with volunteer opportunities.

Respondents who had chosen the response 'other' for this question were given the opportunity to comment and explain their answer. Of the six respondents who entered a comment, three indicated that they were aware of some opportunities, but not many. One respondent stated that s/he was not interested in volunteering, and the other two respondents said that they would be interested in volunteering only for specific activities.

FIGURE 3.15 Do you volunteer at recreation programs, facilities or events in Ritchot?

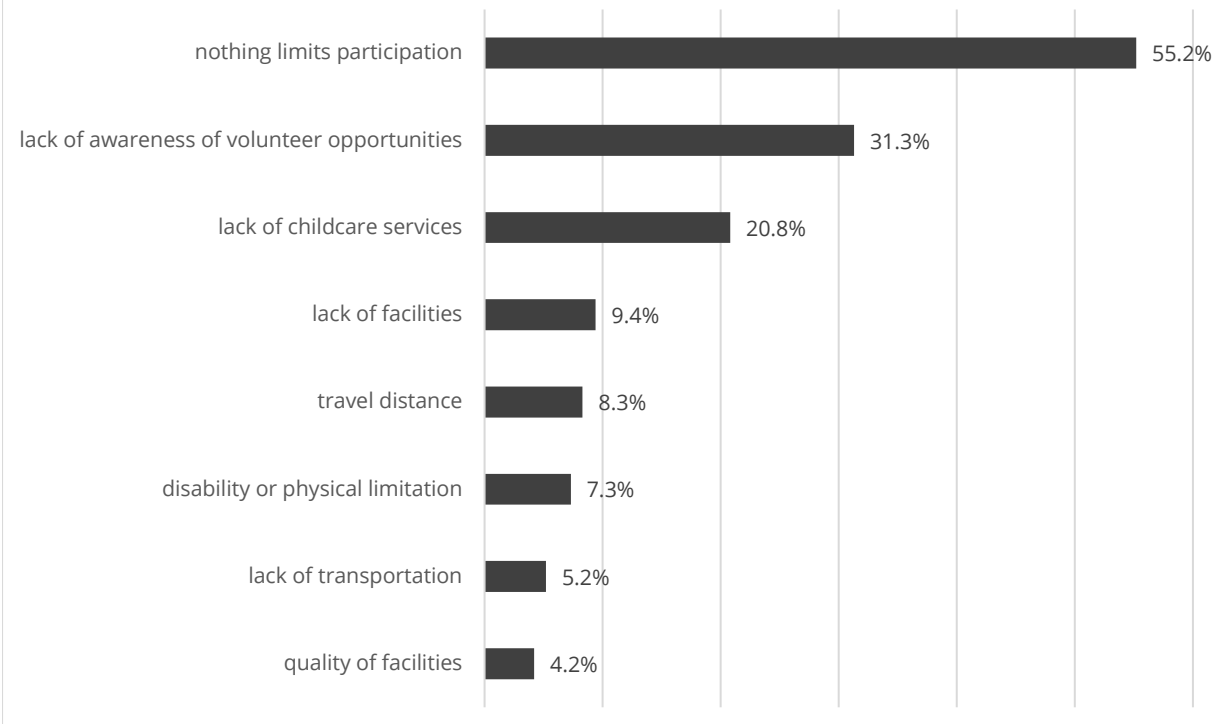


Despite an apparent lack of awareness, about one-third of respondents (32.7%) do currently volunteer at recreation programs, facilities or events in Ritchot. However, only three-quarters (75.4%) of respondents who stated they were aware of volunteers opportunities actually volunteer. A higher proportion of male respondents (45.3%) than female respondents (29.5%) volunteer, and respondents who have children in the house are more likely to volunteer (44.9%) than those without children (20.2%). In a trend similar to that of awareness, those who currently volunteer used more of the current recreation and parks facilities, and had resided in the area longer than respondents who did not volunteer. Finally, residents of Ste. Agathe were the most likely to volunteer.

Sixteen respondents who indicated 'other' offered comments. Five respondents stated they had volunteered in the past but were not volunteering currently. Six respondents do volunteer but in a more informal way, i.e. for specific events when they have time. One respondent stated that s/he would volunteer if s/he heard of opportunities. Of the two remaining respondents, one volunteered for recreation outside of Ritchot and the other felt that their volunteering for hockey did not count because it was mandatory.

Respondents who were not currently volunteering for recreation programs, facilities or events were asked what prevented them from volunteering. Most respondents (55.2%) indicated that nothing prevented them from volunteering. For about one-third of these respondents (31.3%), their participation in volunteering opportunities was limited by lack of awareness. Interestingly, lack of childcare services was more of a barrier for volunteering (20.8%) than it had been for participating in recreation activities (11.5%). The most frequently mentioned barriers that limited ability to volunteer for recreation programs and event was lack of time (16) and being busy with other commitments such as work and family (14). Nearly half of these respondents (43.2%) stated they would be willing to volunteer at recreation programs, facilities or events in Ritchot, and approximately 50 respondents provided their contact information to volunteer on the survey.

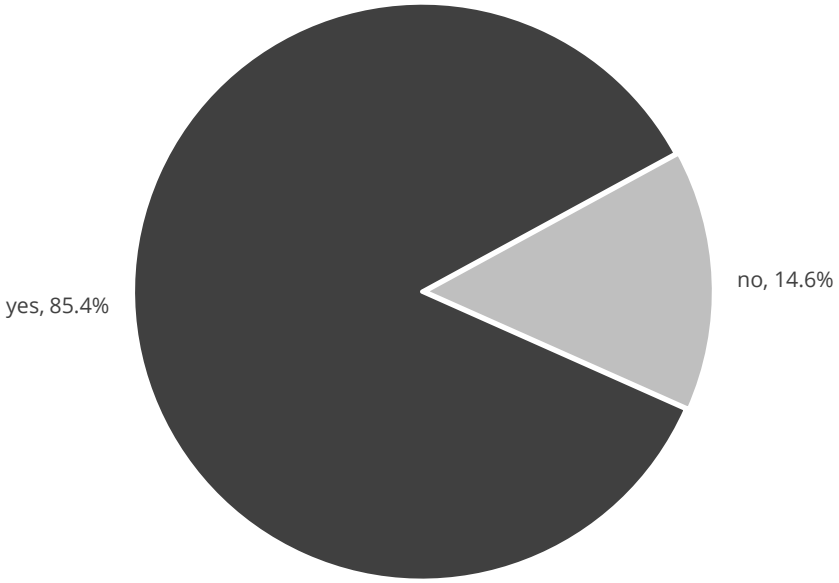
FIGURE 3.16 What most limits or prevents you from participation in recreation volunteer opportunities?



Support for the Development of Recreation and Parks Facilities

The majority of respondents (85.4%) felt that new, improved or expanded recreation and parks facilities or programs were needed in Ritchot.

FIGURE 3.17 In your opinion, are new, improved or expanding recreation and parks facilities / programs needed?



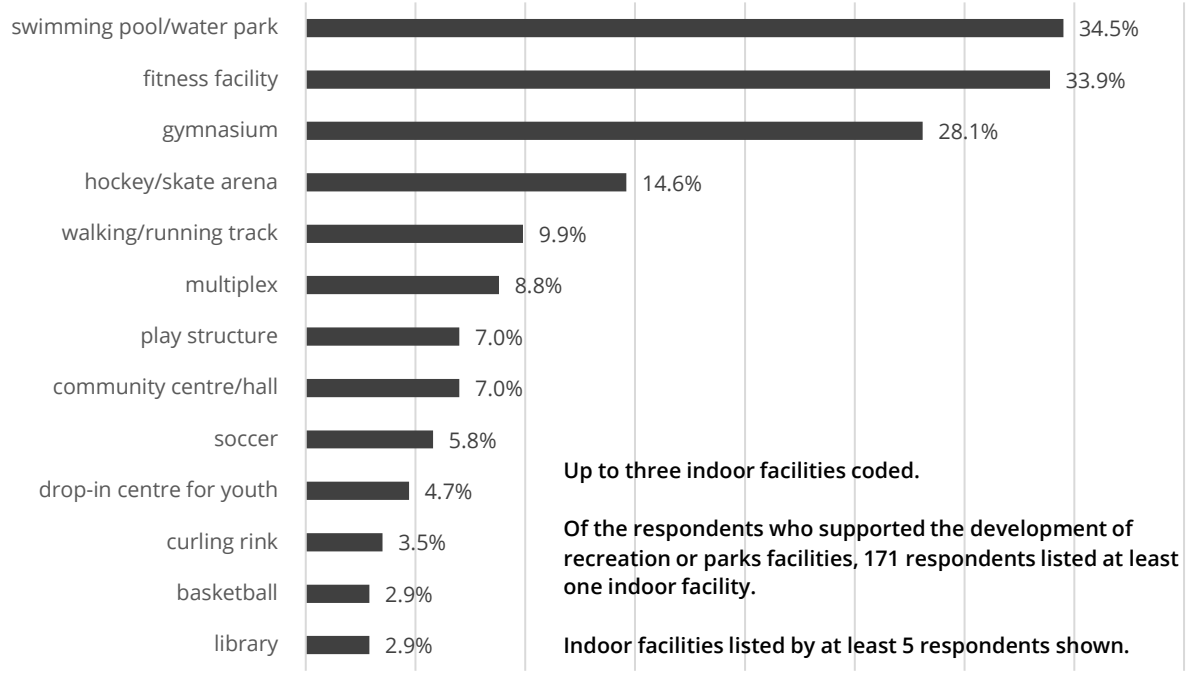
Respondents who were living with children were more likely (89.7%) to support the development of recreation facilities or programs than those without children (78.3%). No other demographic or personal characteristic distinguished between those who supported such development and those who did not.

Respondents who supported such development had expressed less satisfaction with current opportunities for recreation of all types, particularly for children and youth. Respondents who felt there were barriers to participation in recreation and leisure activities were more likely to support recreation development (90.7%) than those who do not face such barriers (76.5%). Specifically, those who perceived lack of facilities as a barrier were more likely to want new or expanded facilities and programs in the region (93.2% vs 77.1%).

Of the respondents who reported currently volunteering at recreation programs, facilities or events in Ritchot, 91.7% would like to see new facilities or programs developed, compared with 82.2% of respondents who did not report volunteering.

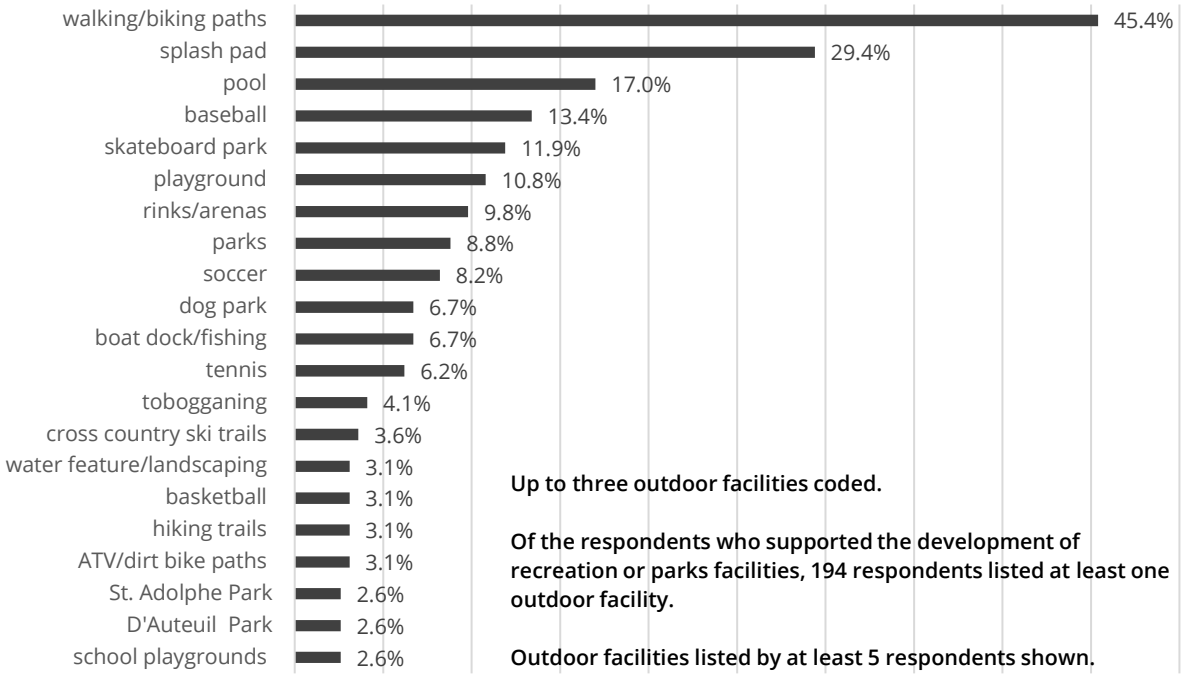
Respondents who supported recreation and parks development were given the opportunity to suggest what type of facility and what type of programming, both indoor and outdoor, they would like to see. Of the 216 respondents who supported the development of recreation and parks facilities, 171 provided at least one suggestion for the type of indoor facilities that were needed. Facilities that were mentioned by at least five respondents are shown in Figure 3.18.

FIGURE 3.18 What new, improved or expanded indoor recreation facilities would you most like to see developed?



The most frequently mentioned indoor facility was a swimming pool or waterpark, followed closely by a fitness facility (33.9%). Many respondents also identified a gymnasium (28.1%) to play sports such as basketball and volleyball. Suggestions for new or expanded outdoor facilities or parks were offered by 194 respondents, and the suggestions given by at least five respondents are shown in Figure 3.19.

FIGURE 3.19 What new, improved or expanded outdoor recreation facilities would you most like to see developed?



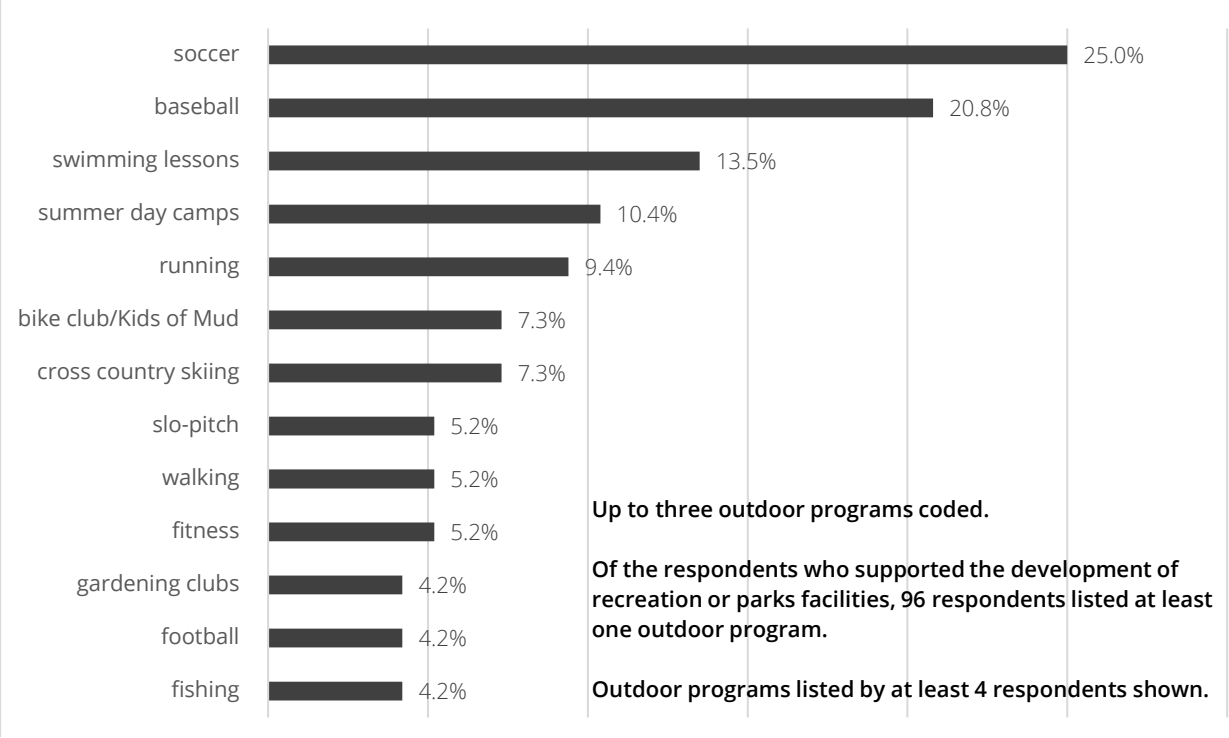
The most popular outdoor feature mentioned was walking or biking paths (45.4%). Female respondents (52.0%) were more likely than male respondents (33.3%) to suggest this type of development. Although a larger proportion of respondents who were married wanted walking paths (49.4%) compared to those who were not married (20.0%), the suggestion was also more likely to be made by respondents who did not have children (56.3) compared to those living with children (38.3%). Those who wanted to see the development of walking or biking paths were older (45.0 years) than those who did not make this suggestion (41.5 years). Not surprisingly, this suggestion was more frequently mentioned by those respondents who had also listed walking as a favourite activity (55.6%) compared to those who did not (35.9%).

The next most frequently mentioned outdoor facility was a splash pad. Again, female respondents (35.4%) were more likely to suggest this type of development than male respondents (19.0%), but this suggestion was more likely to be made by younger respondents (37.7 years compared to 45.1 years) and those who have children in their household (40.8% vs. 10.9%). Residents of St. Adolphe were the most likely to want a splash pad (43.4%) compared to respondents from other communities (20.5%).

Respondents were also asked to identify suggestions for new, improved or expanded recreation programming. 136 respondents stated at least one suggestion for indoor recreation programming. Table 3.20 shows the suggestions made by at least five respondents. For more detailed information regarding the range of suggestions given, see Appendix A.

Unlike recreation facilities, programming can be targeted to specific groups of individuals. For example, 19 respondents identified fitness programs as their suggestion for a new indoor recreation program. However, eight respondents listed fitness programs for adults, one wanted fitness programs for seniors, one for youth, and one for families, bringing the total number of respondents who mentioned fitness programs in some form to 30. A consideration with responses regarding programming is location, as many suggested new programs that are already being offered in the Municipality but in more favourable locations, near participants.

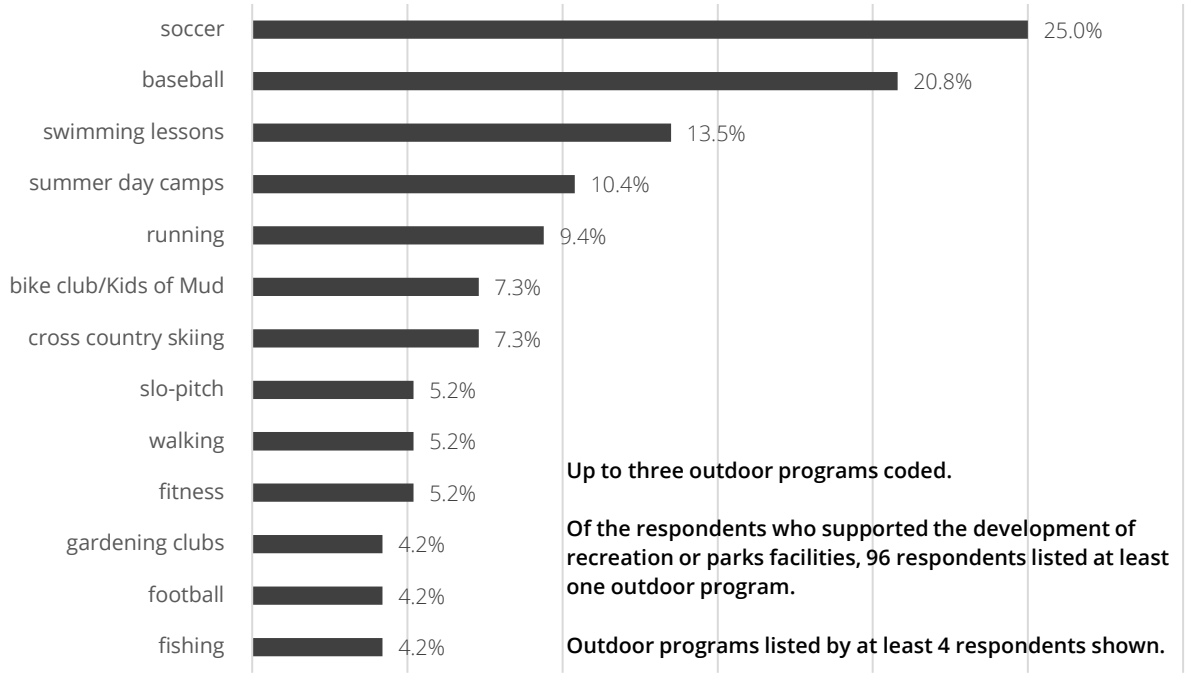
FIGURE 3.20 What new, improved or expanded indoor recreation programs would you most like to see developed?



The most frequently mentioned desired indoor program was swimming lessons (19.1%), and one additional respondent suggested swimming lessons specifically for children. As previously mentioned, fitness programs were identified by 19 respondents, with another 11 respondents specifying fitness programs for targeted groups. Yoga was mentioned by 11.8% (16) respondents, with another two respondents specifying yoga for adults and two specifying yoga for seniors. Art classes or groups were mentioned by 9.6% (13) respondents, three respondents indicated art classes for children and one indicated art classes for adults.

Suggestions for new, improved or expanded outdoor recreation programs were given by 96 respondents. As with the suggestions for indoor recreation programming, some respondents gave general suggestions, such as soccer, while other respondents specified programming for particular groups. Figure 3.21 identifies suggestions given by minimum respondents. See Appendix A for more information.

FIGURE 3.21 What new, improved or expanded outdoor recreation programs would you most like to see developed?



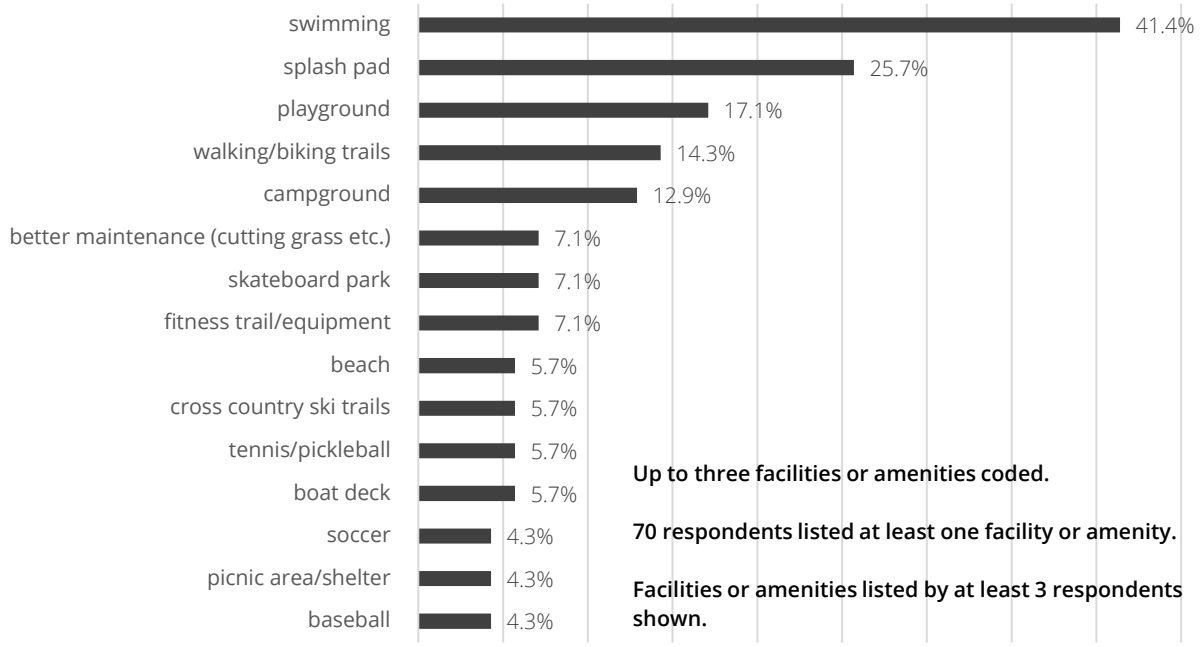
The most frequently mentioned suggestion for outdoor recreation programming was soccer (17.7%, or 17 respondents). Other respondents suggested developing soccer programs that were competitive (3), or targeted toward adults (1), kids (1) or youth (2). A variety of youth soccer programs are currently available in all Ritchot communities, however matching the level of competition / skill within a specific community is a common challenge. Baseball programming was suggested by 11.5% (11) respondents, with additional suggestions of competitive (1) or minor league (1) baseball programs or programs geared toward adults (2), kids (1), youth (3), or seniors (1). Other suggestions included swimming lessons at outdoor facilities (13.5%) and summer or day camps (9.4%).

Development of Existing Parks

Survey respondents were invited to offer suggestions for new / improved facilities or amenities at Cartier Park (Ste. Agathe), Optimist Community Park (Ile des Chênes), St. Adolphe Park, and Grande Point Park. The most frequently mentioned suggestion for each of the parks are shown in Figures 3.22, 3.23, 3.24, and 3.25. For the full list of the suggestions given by respondents see Appendix A.

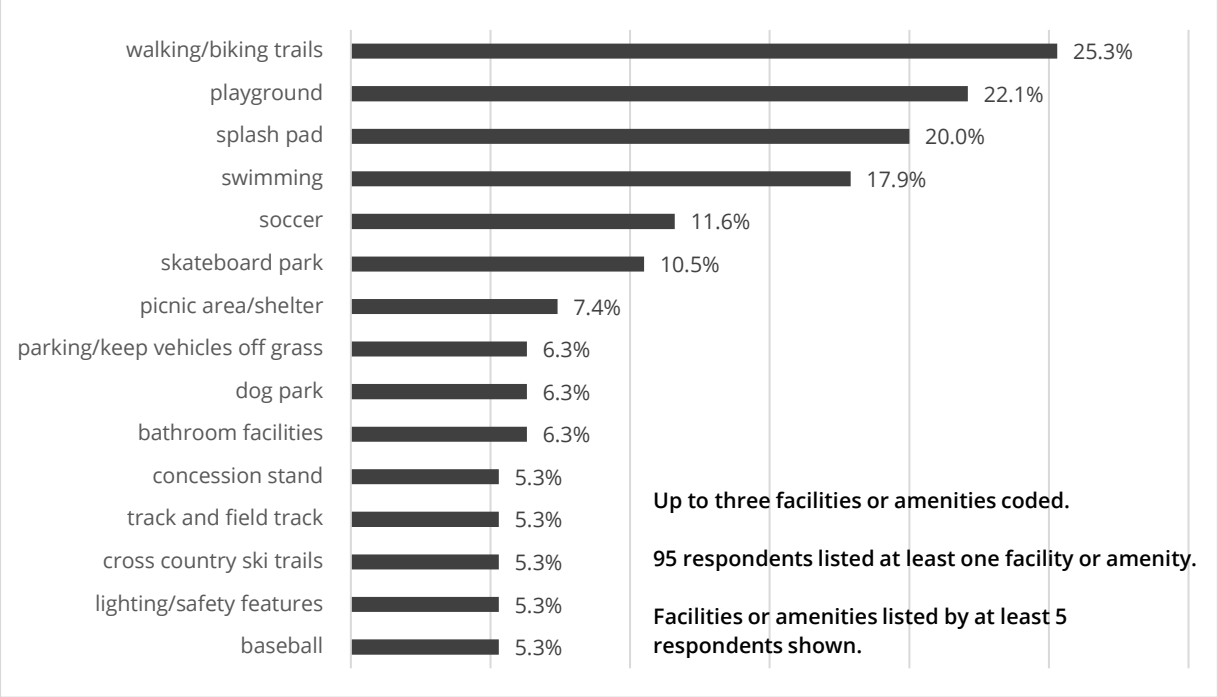
Seventy respondents suggested at least one improvement at Cartier Park. Figure 3.22 shows the suggestions made by at least three respondents, and a full list can be found in Appendix A. The most frequently mentioned suggestions were swimming facilities, a splash pad, and a playground.

FIGURE 3.22 The Municipality of Ritchot has interest in redeveloping Cartier Park (Ste. Agathe). What new or improved facilities or amenities would you like to see provided at this location?



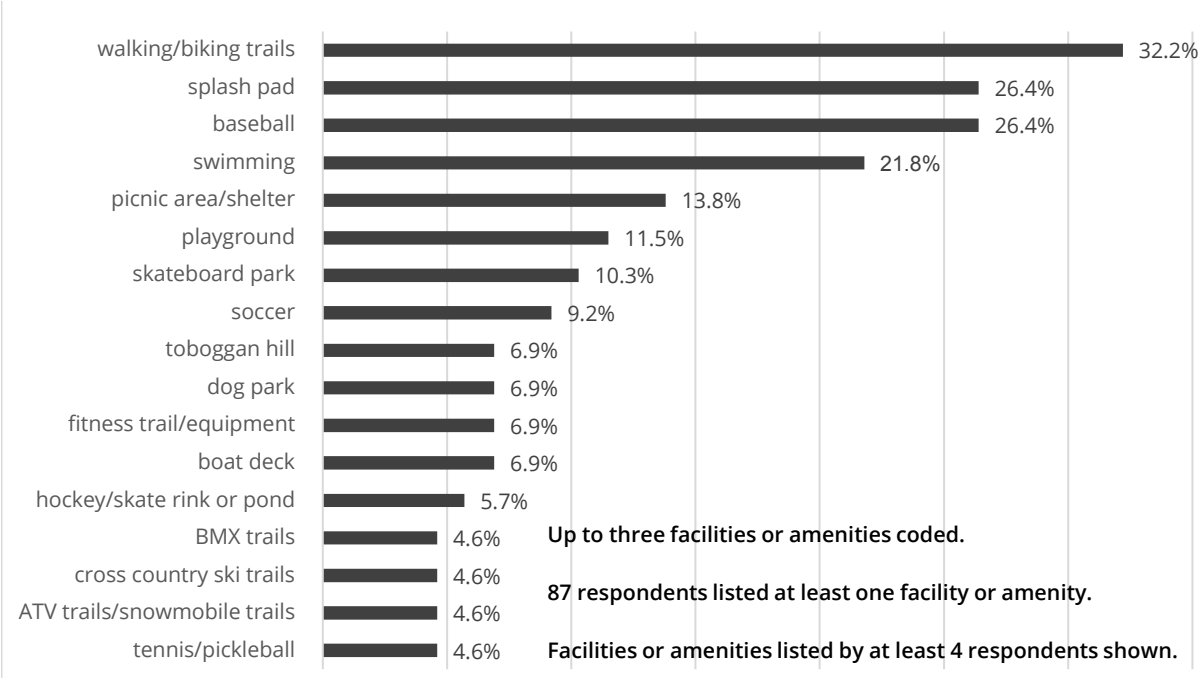
Suggestions for the redevelopment of Optimist Community Park were given by 95 respondents. Suggestions given by at least five respondents are shown in Figure 3.23. For this park, the most frequently mentioned suggestions were walking or biking trails, a playground, and a splash pad.

FIGURE 3.23 The Municipality of Ritchot has interest in redeveloping Optimist Community Park (Ile des Chênes). What new or improved facilities or amenities would you like to see provided at this location?



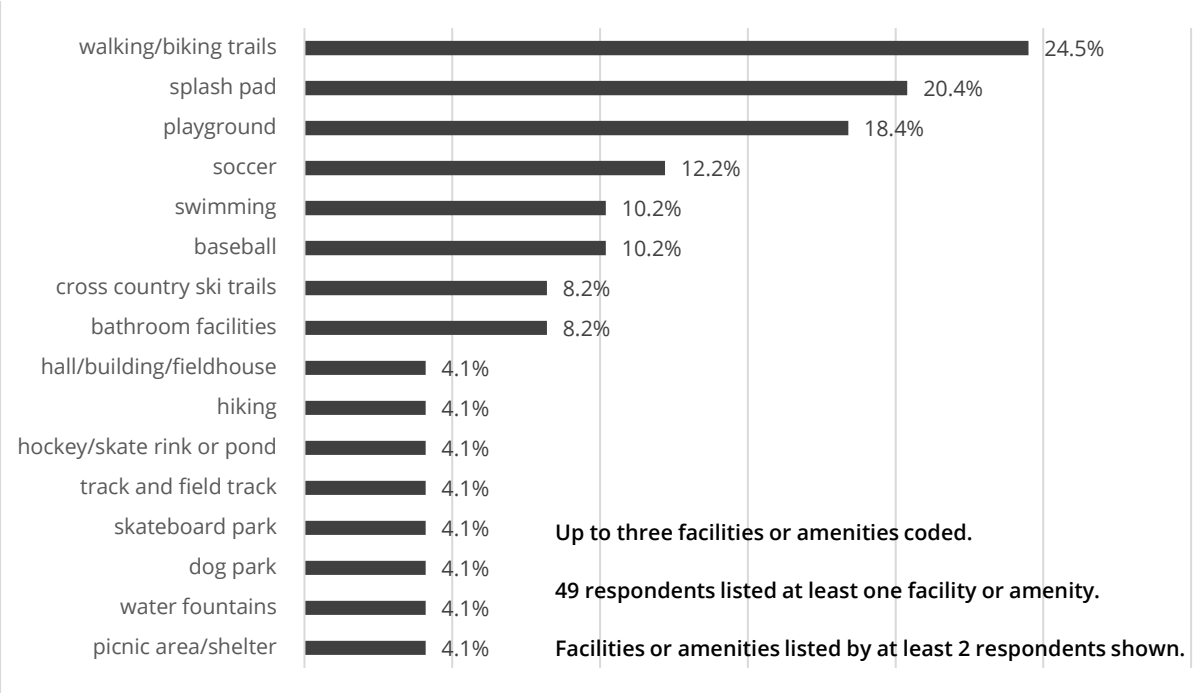
87 respondents gave suggestions for improvements to the St. Adolphe Park. Figure 3.24 shows the suggestions that were supported by at least four respondents. The most popular suggestions for St. Adolphe Park was walking or biking trails, a splash pad, baseball fields, and swimming facilities.

FIGURE 3.24 The Municipality of Ritchot has interest in redeveloping St. Adolphe Park. What new or improved facilities or amenities would you like to see provided at this location?



Fewer respondents offered suggestions for the development of Grande Pointe Park; only 49 respondents provided at least one suggestion. Suggestions made by at least two respondents are shown in Figure 3.25. Similar to other parks, walking or biking trails, a splash pad, and a playground were the most frequently mentioned suggestions.

FIGURE 3.25 The Municipality of Ritchot has interest in redeveloping Grande Pointe Park. What new or improved facilities or amenities would you like to see provided at this location?



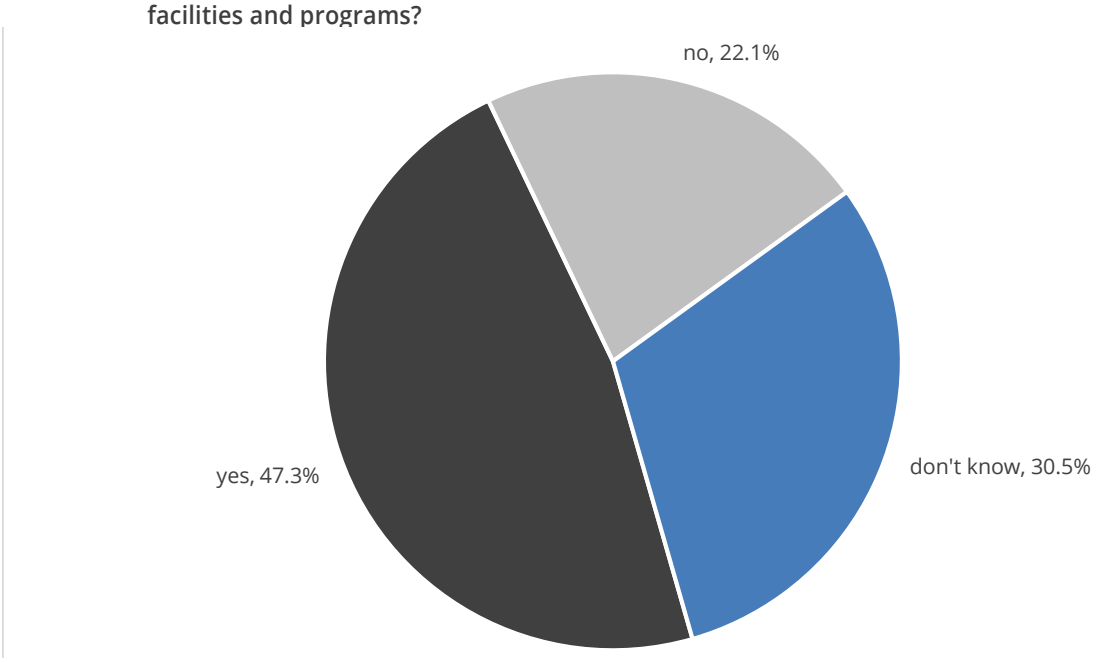
For all four of the parks, respondents who lived in the respective communities were more likely than respondents living in other communities to offer suggestions. Many respondents offered additional comments after each of these questions, often to explain why no suggestions were given. Table 3.7 summarizes comment themes and the number of respondents who made such comments.

TABLE 3.7 Summary of Suggestions

COMMENT THEME	CARTIER PARK	OPTIMIST PARK	ST. ADOLPHE PARK	GRANDE POINTE PARK
Unfamiliar with park, haven't been there	9	10	10	11
Not applicable because wouldn't use the park, it's not in my town	15	6	5	7
Mentioned a specific feature or amenity	6	4	9	4
Mentioned the need to develop elsewhere	5	1	0	1
General positive comment about park development	3	2	5	5
General negative comment about park development	2	2	8	2
Total	**40**	**25**	**37**	**30**

Finally, respondents were asked if they would be willing to pay more taxes for new or expanded parks, recreation facilities, and/or programs. Less than one-half of the respondents (47.3%) stated they would be willing to pay more, and 30.5% were not sure. More than one-fifth of respondents (22.1%) stated they were unwilling to pay additional taxes to support recreation development in Ritchot.

FIGURE 3.25 Would you be willing to pay more in taxes for new or improved parks, recreation facilities and programs?



Of the 107 respondents who stated they were willing to pay additional taxes, 11 commented that their support was conditional on the increase being small or reasonable, with transparency in how it is spent. For eight respondents, their support was also conditional on what was developed or where, and four expressed that the development must be 'what the communities want'.

Of the 69 respondents who were unsure about paying additional tax for recreation development, many also indicated that their support would be conditional on the cost and viability of the project (9). Three of these respondents commented that taxes were already high, and two voiced a preference for community fundraising or user fees to cover recreation development as opposed to increased taxes.

The most common criticism among the 50 respondents who were opposed to a tax increase was that taxes were already too high, in some cases with little to show for it (11 respondents). Three respondents were opposed to development unless it was in their town, and two felt that money should be spent on other projects such as infrastructure or basic services. Two respondents would prefer that the money for development come from fundraising or user fees, while an additional two voiced distrust of Council to manage the project.

Comparing respondents who were willing to pay additional taxes toward the development of recreation facilities and programs with those unwilling or uncertain, no personal or demographic characteristics distinguished the two groups. Residents of St. Adolphe (59.5%) were more likely than residents of other communities to express willingness for a tax increase.

Although willingness to pay additional taxes was not impacted by the number of current recreation and parks facilities used, or by satisfaction with current recreation opportunities, one-half of the respondents who wanted to see new recreation facilities and programs developed were willing to pay additional taxes, but only 31.3% that were uninterested in recreation development would be willing to pay additional taxes. Of the respondents who currently volunteer at recreation facilities, programs or events, 61.5% would be willing to pay additional taxes for recreation development, compared with 39.9% of respondents who are not currently volunteering.

3.7 KEY ISSUES FOR RECREATION PLANNING IN RITCHOT

In addition to the survey responses, stakeholder interviews were conducted with representatives from nearly twenty community associations and organizations (see Appendix B). A content analysis of the interviews and an analysis and interpretation of the community survey was completed. The overall data analysis was used to identify common themes and issues to be addressed in the Recreation Master Plan. These issues are briefly outlined below but are more fully dealt with in Section IV of this report.

Key Issues:

1. Recreation governance and organization of the recreation service delivery system.
2. Communication, cooperation and coordination amongst recreation service providers.
3. Need for new and improved recreation facilities, parks, and programs.
4. Asset management and the long-term sustainability of recreation facilities.
5. Financing for the development, operation and maintenance of recreation facilities.
6. Service gaps and unused capacity in recreation programs and facilities.
7. Community growth and economic, social and demographic shifts.
8. Pressure to do more with less.
9. Decline of the volunteer.
10. Reaching and informing the public through traditional and emerging communication platforms.

3.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR RITCHOT

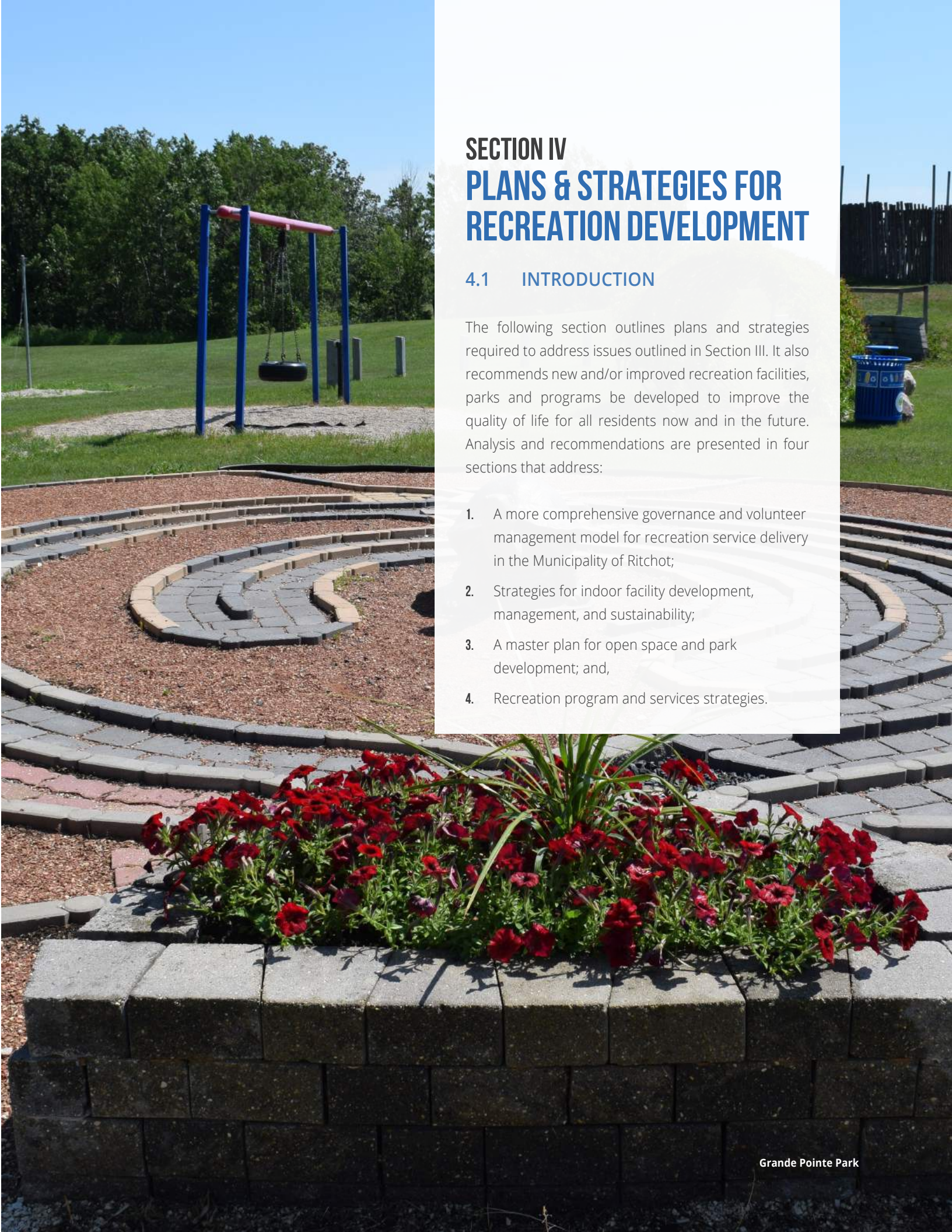
Many of the emerging trends outlined in this section will impact the future development and delivery of parks and recreation services in the Municipality of Ritchot. Going forward, the challenge for local government is to assess how they will adapt and develop proactive strategies to deal with future changes.

As in other communities across Canada, changing social, economic, demographic, and leisure participation trends have had an impact on the Municipality of Ritchot's ability to meet increasing demands for recreation services. The Municipality is encouraged to develop strategies in partnership with community organizations, to maximize the highest and best use of local tax dollars to achieve "public good" through increased recreation opportunities.

Ritchot is unique in many ways. The distribution of approximately 6,679 residents over 333 square kilometres presents challenges, particularly when approximately 60% of the population is concentrated in four separate communities.

In addition, many recreation activities require a critical mass of participants to financially support the provision of programs and services. This suggests that while some recreation services can be efficiently provided at the community level, others rely on a larger population base to succeed. In order for this to occur efficiently in this municipality, decisions regarding location, scale and scope of future developments will be paramount.

In the past, local community organizations operating independently, made a conscious decision to develop substantial recreation amenities in their own communities such as arenas, halls and community centres. The supply of major facilities throughout Ritchot may impact both program development and the Municipality's capacity to sustain facility operation over the long-term.



SECTION IV
PLANS & STRATEGIES FOR RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The following section outlines plans and strategies required to address issues outlined in Section III. It also recommends new and/or improved recreation facilities, parks and programs be developed to improve the quality of life for all residents now and in the future. Analysis and recommendations are presented in four sections that address:

1. A more comprehensive governance and volunteer management model for recreation service delivery in the Municipality of Ritchot;
2. Strategies for indoor facility development, management, and sustainability;
3. A master plan for open space and park development; and,
4. Recreation program and services strategies.

Grande Pointe Park

4.2 RECREATION GOVERNANCE MODEL AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

4.2.1 Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the current delivery of recreation services and proposes a more comprehensive model for service delivery in Ritchot. The model aims to:

- achieve efficiencies and effectiveness through improved coordination of public and non-profit recreation services;
- meaningfully engage with community partners and stakeholders to achieve mutually beneficial goals;
- fairly and equitably distribute available resources;
- assign appropriate tasks for volunteers and professional staff; and,
- expand community capacity through volunteer management strategies.

In developing this integrated service delivery model, it will be important to consider the current role of volunteer recreation associations and major facility boards and to inform and consult with all stakeholders at each step of the process.

The objective of this model is to ensure that the expectations and roles of volunteers are reasonable, appropriate support is available and the overall system operates for the mutual benefit of all partners. This integrated governance and management strategy is based on:

- development of a new governance model;
- increased professional staff support;
- community capacity building through volunteer management strategies; and,
- revised financial support and grant policies.

4.2.2 Recreation Governance, Management and Operations Models

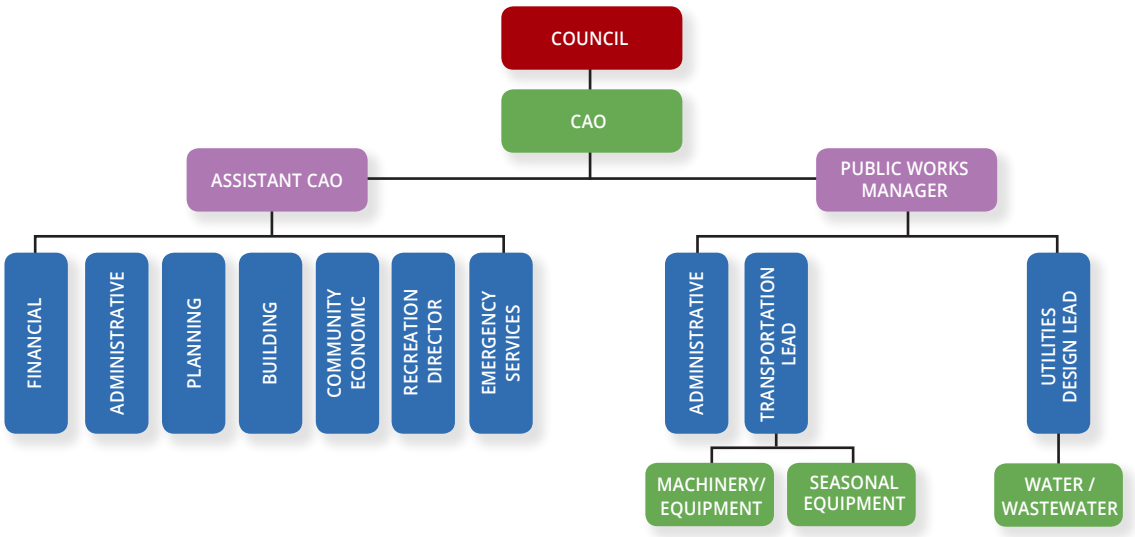
A review of the current recreation service delivery process in the Municipality of Ritchot identified the need for strategies that improve communication amongst and between Council, municipal administration, recreation stakeholders, and residents. This can be achieved by creating a mechanism for engaging the volunteer community more effectively in the planning, policy and decision-making process. There are several options to do this as outlined on page 81, 82, and 83.

Current Recreation Service Delivery Model

Municipal responsibilities in Ritchot are directed by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), who in turn supervises a Manager of Public Works and an Assistant CAO responsible for administrative functions which include Recreation (see Chart 4.1). The Recreation Department is a one-person office (Recreation Director) that reports through the Assistant CAO and CAO to Council.

The Recreation Director is responsible for the administration and coordination of recreation programs, oversight of indoor and outdoor facilities, liaison with community centres and associations, volunteer training and development, policy and procedures, communication, advocacy and public education. The Recreation Director also liaises with Economic Development, Public Works, the CFO and other civic officials as required. The tasks and expectations of the Recreation Director as outlined in the job description are broad and extensive. These tasks require efficient use of time, ability to prioritize and a diverse skill set and expertise. Strategies to deal with the workload and administrative challenges are presented later in this section.

CHART 4.1 Ritchot Organization Chart



Proposed Options for Recreation Governance Model

As indicated earlier, developing a mechanism to encourage coordination and communication between the public, administration and decision makers would provide significant benefits. This process can take a number of forms, each with advantages and limitations. Options include:

1. **Standing committee of council:** Standing committees of council provide a forum for the public to provide input and make recommendations directly to Council on issues within their areas of responsibility. A standing committee has a focused mandate concerning specific services and operations of the Municipality, and in most cases is a permanent committee of council comprised of members of Council and citizen members.
2. **Recreation commission:** A recreation commission is an autonomous organization funded by and designated through council resolution. It is fully responsible for overseeing the delivery of all recreation-related programs and services, including recreation staff supervision within a jurisdiction. Recreation commissions are usually comprised of appointed representatives from organizations or constituencies within the area they represent and also have appointed Council representation. Recreation commissions are accountable to Municipal Council.
3. **Recreation Advisory Committee:** A recreation advisory committee is comprised of Council-appointed representatives of recreation stakeholder organizations within a jurisdiction. Recreation advisory committees are generally tasked with providing Council (and/or a municipal recreation department) insights and information regarding issues related to the delivery of recreation programs / services. Members of the committee are encouraged to reflect the opinions of their organization and the programs / services the organizations provide in the community. An advisory committee is usually tasked to act as a liaison between the community, recreation administration, stakeholder organizations and Municipal Council. Recreation advisory committees have often been described as the "recreation conscience" of a community.
4. **Council of volunteer associations:** A council of volunteer associations (COVA) is a member-based organization serving the collective needs of representative groups. Usually comprised of like-minded or similar organizations, a COVA convenes groups and conversations on issues, initiatives and innovations that affect member groups. It may also create alliances and networks to deal with issues of common concern and provide a platform to connect the voluntary networks of the community. A COVA may advocate on behalf of the group when necessary but generally serves to inform, communicate and coordinate activities.

RECOMMENDATION 1 | RECREATION GOVERNANCE MODEL

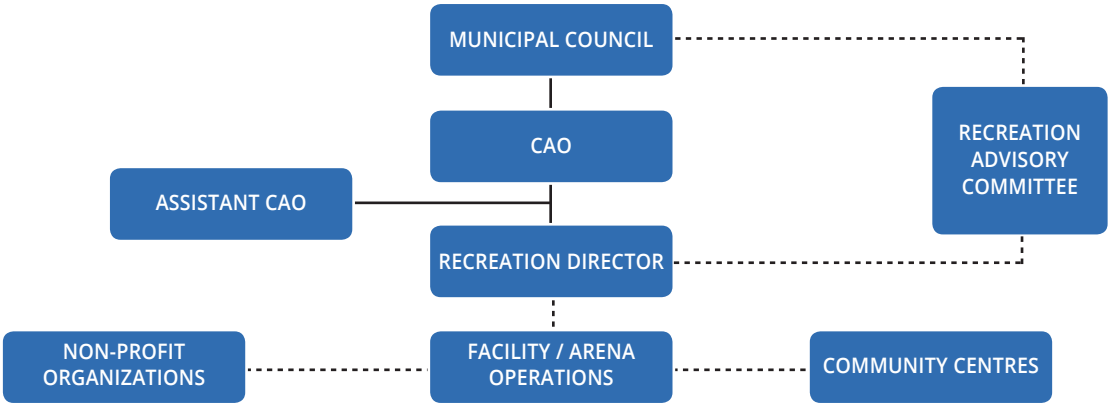
That the Municipality of Ritchot appoint a Recreation Advisory Committee with representation from Council, recreation stakeholders and the community at large to advise on all matters related to recreation development. The Committee would report to Council through municipal administration.

Preferred Option and Implementation

The preferred option is to appoint a Recreation Advisory Committee (see Figure 4.2) that will provide the most flexible mechanisms for communication, advocacy, advice, and support.

The Recreation Advisory Committee can play a role in implementing recommendations in this Master Plan by reviewing and advising Municipal administration and Council. The Committee can also play an important role in managing other aspects of the community capacity building strategy such as improving communication with stakeholders, coordinating program services, integrated facility management across all facility operators, recreation advocacy and policy advice to Council. Assistance in developing an effective Recreation Advisory Committee is available through the Recreation and Regional Services (RRS) Branch of the Department of Municipal Relations. RRS can assist Ritchot in developing the structure, role, make-up, mandate and terms of reference for a Recreation Advisory Committee.

FIGURE 4.2 Proposed Recreation Advisory Committee Structure



4.2.3 Expanded Municipal Leadership Role and Support

Administration Staffing, Leadership, and Expertise

An equally important component of an effective governance model is the availability of technical expertise to support the work of volunteer leaders and associations in providing recreation services in the community. In the course of the community consultation component of this study, several service gaps were identified that could be filled with additional human resources or specialized expertise.

Facility Management and Maintenance

There appears to be an over reliance on volunteers to plan, fund, develop, manage and maintain indoor and outdoor facilities. While this model has worked successfully in past years, the growing population and sophistication of facility operation combined with a diminishing volunteer workforce combine to threaten the long-term sustainability of recreation resources. The Municipality owns indoor and outdoor facilities with an estimated replacement value in excess of $60-million that are currently operated by volunteers. Many of these facilities are aging and in the coming years will require increasing levels of preventive and remedial maintenance. Most recreation volunteers are more motivated to participate in program development than facility maintenance, and they often lack the expertise required to adequately monitor and maintain recreation facilities. Boards and volunteers currently managing major facilities have expressed a need for support and expertise in the operation and maintenance of their facilities. If major facilities continue to deteriorate due to deferred maintenance or volunteers being unable to provide this service, the Municipality would be expected to play this role.

Program Supply and Marketing

Ritchot is blessed with an excellent supply and variety of recreation facilities for a community with over 6,500 residents. Many of the existing facilities however, are utilized to less than their capacity. A number of factors effect use of facilities, including location, travel time, proximity to users, program type and timing, and the capacity availability of volunteers to manage programs. This report suggests that before new facilities are contemplated, efforts to use the capacity in existing facilities should be initiated. Increased facility use could be achieved by integrated and coordinated planning that may also benefit from additional professional expertise and marketing.

Hiring an employee skilled in infrastructure management would assist in protecting the long-term sustainability of facilities, better support the efforts of volunteer facility operators and grant the Recreation Director additional opportunity to address program expectations and available capacity of recreation facilities.

The limitations of volunteer managed facilities in Ritchot include a lack of both communication amongst the organizations that run the facilities and coordination of operating maintenance policies and practices. There is also limited support or oversight on accountability of these municipally-owned assets with respect to their compliance with financial, program and booking policies, as well as maintenance expertise and practices. In essence, they function as autonomous operations that receive public financial support and are owned by the Municipality. Expertise and assistance from the Municipality of Ritchot would provide welcome support and allow the volunteer boards to maintain a measure of autonomy, but concentrate more on the programming and operation functions they do best.

RECOMMENDATION 2 | STAFFING NEEDS - ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

That the Municipality of Ritchot hire an Asset Manager to develop a maintenance management and facility lifecycle program to assist voluntary facility operators in planning, development, operation and maintenance of public facilities as a means to protect their long-term viability and sustainability.

4.2.4 Community Capacity Building Defined

Community capacity building is an approach to social development that focuses on reducing barriers and constraints that prevent people, governments and organizations from realizing their operational objectives. Building community capacity enables local governments to leverage their resources in partnership with voluntary community organizations to achieve collective goals. Nurturing and supporting voluntary initiative has historically been an integral component of the public recreation system in Canada.

Local governments have limited resources to meet all of the diverse recreation needs of the residents they serve and therefore rely heavily on community partnerships to achieve public service objectives. The history and foundation of the Pan-Canadian Public Recreation Movement is based on the premise of "self-help", in which the role of local governments has been to nurture partnerships and cooperative development of services that achieve the goal of "public good" together with their community partners. The process requires that local governments play a leadership role in engaging recreation service providers in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

Sustaining Volunteer Initiative

The social and economic value of voluntary contributions and sweat equity of local citizens groups is difficult to quantify but critical to the success of recreation services in Ritchot. Ritchot is blessed with an active and committed volunteer base that has been responsible for the development and operation of many of the recreation facilities, parks and programs in the Municipality. Sustaining such a commitment is dependent on many factors but ensuring that volunteers have appropriate levels of support, feel appreciated and are recognized for their contributions are key.

Feedback from recreation stakeholders and results of the community survey identified that volunteer participation is declining due to burnout and lack of succession planning as emerging issues affecting local organizational capacity. Ritchot's non-profit organizations indicated that their current operations were managing, but they were concerned about future volunteer participation. Several questions were raised on the community survey about the status of voluntarism in Ritchot. The community survey indicated:

- 74% of respondents were unaware of volunteer opportunities in the community.
- 55.2% of respondents indicated there was nothing preventing them from volunteering.
- 43.2% of respondents indicated a willingness to volunteer in recreation related programs and facilities.

Interested volunteers were invited to provide their contact information and 32 people did so. This information will be useful to recreation organizations when additional volunteer support is needed and will be provided to the Recreation Director to form part of a proposed volunteer management process that expands volunteer resources for local programs.

Sustaining volunteer participation in the community is dependent on a comprehensive, well-designed volunteer management process.

Community Capacity Building through Volunteer Management

The Municipality of Ritchot has an opportunity to strengthen its partnerships with voluntary non-profit recreation service providers to ensure the long-term sustainability of their programs and facilities for the long-term benefit of community residents.

The appointment of a Recreation Advisory Committee is one example of important steps that can be taken to engage the community directly in recreation development. In addition, the Municipality can support voluntary boards in key areas that form the basis of a comprehensive volunteer management program including administrative services, organizational development, communication and coordination, program development, volunteer recognition and funding support.

Nurturing and supporting voluntary initiatives within the community provides mutual tangible benefits for the Municipality and volunteer service providers. The responsibility of the Recreation Department and Municipal Council is to provide leadership, coordination, resources and policies required to successfully engage and support voluntary initiative. An important factor in engaging voluntary leadership is to transfer both responsibility and authority to recreation stakeholders as a means to empower them.

RECOMMENDATION 3 | VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

That the Ritchot Recreation Department in cooperation with the Recreation Advisory Committee (once appointed) play a leadership role in developing a comprehensive volunteer management program as a means to fully engage the community in an integrated recreation delivery system that functions for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders and the community.

Grants and Financial Support

The Municipality of Ritchot has both capital and operating grants program to support the development and maintenance of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and community based organizations. The provision of financial support to voluntary non-profit organization is another way in which local governments can leverage volunteer initiative in building community capacity.

Recreation Capital Grant Policy

There is an important relationship between preventive maintenance and the long-term sustainability of buildings and facilities. The cost requirements for these functions need to be continually monitored as a means to protect the community's substantial investment in recreation infrastructure. There is a delicate balance between encouraging local community initiative in the development and maintenance of facilities and the role local governments play in protecting the long-term public interest in their operation. As the community's major facilities continue to age, costs associated with upgrading and replacement of major components will also rise. The capacity of the volunteer community to keep pace with these requirements may be challenged and more will be expected of the Municipality. This is also true with respect to the need to meet demand for new facilities as the community grows.

Ritchot has a Capital Grant Policy (REC-001 Recreation Capital Funding - 2017) that deals with facility development and facility-related improvements within the Municipality. The Policy includes a thorough Facility Priority Assessment that ensures proposed projects meet core service objectives and achieve significant public good (as defined by the Municipality).

TABLE 4.1 Facility Capital Grants 2014-2017

FACILITY	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Ste. Agathe Arena				$ 15,000.00	$ 15,000.00
St. Adolphe Arena				$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00
Ste. Agathe Outdoor Rink	$3,000.00				$ 3,000.00
Grande Pointe Park			$ 15,000.00		$ 15,000.00
Total	**$3,000.00**		**$ 15,000.00**	**$ 35,000.00**	**$ 53,000.00**

SOURCE: MUNICIPALITY OF RITCHOT

Funding requests are prioritized by Council, based on urgency and assessed on the extent to which they achieve the values and guiding principles for facility development. Since 2014 the Municipality has supported three local projects through its municipal recreation reserve fund, as indicated in Table 4.1. The Municipality also contributed significantly towards the development of the TransCanada Centre prior to the establishment of the 2017 Policy.

During stakeholder interviews organizations indicated that the Municipality appeared to lack a long-term recreation facility development or renewal strategy. It was suggested that facility operators were generally "on their own" when it came to facility renewal or upgrading initiatives and were tasked with generating most or all of the funds required for repairs or renovation to their sites. Indoor facilities in Ritchot are relatively new and have been well maintained. They are entering the stage in their lifecycle where more extensive repairs, modernization and upgrading may be beyond the capacity of volunteer boards and require additional public investment. A proactive review of the Capital Grants Policy would assist in preparing the community for future capital requirements.

RECOMMENDATION 4 | REVIEW CAPITAL GRANT POLICY

That the Municipality undertake a review of its capital facility grant policy to ensure that the policy reflects the long-range maintenance and replacement realities of major facilities and the capacity of volunteer associations and facility boards to achieve facility viability and sustainability in the future.

Recreation Operating Grant Policy

The current Operating Grant Policy in Ritchot appears to provide, with one exception, an equal contribution to facility operators (see Table 4.2). The Grant does not appear to be based on criteria that reflect need, size, scope or sophistication of the operation of the facility. Many variables affect the net operating cost of a building including annual hours of operation, age of the facility, design criteria affecting utility costs, type and capacity of use, and operating policies to name a few. To provide the same level of Operating Grant support to all facilities may be equitable, but not strategic.

TABLE 4.2 Municipality of Ritchot - Grants to Organization (2014-2017)

OPERATIONAL GRANTS	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL TO 2017
Howden Community Centre	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$20,000.00
Ste. Agathe Culture & Community Club	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$20,000.00
Grande Pointe Park (Homeowners Assoc.)	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$20,000.00
Ile des Chênes Arena	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$20,000.00
St. Adolphe Arena	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$20,000.00
Pioneer Hall	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$20,000.00
Ste. Agathe Arena	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$20,000.00
TransCanada Centre (IDC)	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$20,000.00
Ritchot Senior Services Inc.	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$20,000.00
Total	**$45,000.00**	**$45,000.00**	**$45,000.00**	**$45,000.00**	**$180,000.00**

SOURCE: MUNICIPALITY OF RITCHOT

The Municipality would benefit from an operating grant review that considers a need or merit-based approach, rather than equity-based. It would also be useful to develop appropriate criteria on which to base each grant allocation along with an Accountability Assessment to ensure that the funding amount is appropriate and used for the purposes and outcomes intended.

There is also a strong rationale and general community support for improving the condition of current recreation facilities, as indicated in the community survey and discussion with facility operators. This can be achieved through both Capital and Operating Grant increases that reflect the need for improved safety and modern patron comfort, as well as preventive Maintenance and Lifecycle Management Programs.

RECOMMENDATION 5 | REVIEW MUNICIPAL OPERATING GRANT POLICY

That a review of the current operating grant practices be undertaken to ensure non-profit recreation service and facility operators meet basic requirements, report on post grant outcome measures, have the resources they require to be successful and are providing expected levels of "public good" in exchange for the tax-funded financial support they receive.

Rationale and Implementation

The municipal grant process should leverage voluntary contributions with public resources. The services non-profit organizations provide to the community are invaluable and local governments lack the resources to undertake many of these services on their own. The process of application and approval of grant funding should reflect this mutually beneficial arrangement.

Although the current Recreation Community Grant and Sponsorship Policy (REC-003 – 2014) includes a comprehensive application process and results in financial resources being provided to all non-profit facility operators, a thorough review of the process is warranted. A review of current funding practices would identify the need for merit-based funding criteria and defined accountability measures. It could also result in establishing an appropriate balance between the expectation for local initiative and the level of tax supported operation funding required to adequately maintain major recreation facilities and program services.

4.3 RECREATION FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

4.3.1 Introduction

One of the objectives of the Recreation Master Plan is to assess the need for new and improved public recreation facilities, and determine the most cost-effective means to develop, program, maintain and operate facilities for the benefit of all community residents.

According to the community survey, 85% of respondents indicated that new, improved or expanded parks and facilities were required. Public opinion related to the supply of recreation facilities is an important consideration, but a number of other factors need to be considered before facility investments are made to ensure they are viable and sustainable. The section that follows deals primarily with indoor facilities followed by an analysis of outdoor parks and facilities. However, there are generic factors, principles and development criteria that apply equally to parks and indoor facilities, and provide a rationale for development decisions across all facility types.

Factors Affecting Facility Development Decisions

Multiple factors affect decisions to develop or improve public recreation facilities and the impact of these factors vary from community to community based on local circumstance. Factors such as location, community size, current supply, demographic make-up, social, cultural and economic conditions all effect recreation facility decision making.

In Ritchot, there are unique conditions and characteristics that affect the need, demand and use of recreation facilities. Some of the key facility development drivers are outlined below.

1. **Proximity to Winnipeg:** The relative proximity to, and availability of, major recreation facilities, parks and programs within the City of Winnipeg affects planning decisions in Ritchot. On average, residents of Ritchot live approximately 15.2 kilometres from Winnipeg. According to survey results, on average 35.6% of respondents' current recreation participation occurs in Ritchot, 40% is in Winnipeg and 21.7% elsewhere. Some recreation participation in Winnipeg may be explained by a lack of services in Ritchot, but it is very difficult to justify the cost of duplicating major recreation facilities for more than 6,500 residents that compete directly with services within a reasonable travel distance from users.
2. **Critical Mass:** Economic performance and cost recovery objectives rely heavily on major facilities operating at or near capacity. Facilities like arenas, pools, fitness centres and gyms with a capacity to serve regional population centres require a critical mass of participants large enough to achieve appropriate cost recovery. The number of users and uses affects the long-term viability and sustainability of the facility. This is also true in relation to the potential tax burden placed on local residents in small population centres. Population trends in Ritchot suggest continued growth but not at a level to justify the addition of facilities that function economically in populations under 10,000.

3. **Distribution of Population Across Ritchot:** According to Statistics Canada, the Municipality has four major population centres at St. Adolphe (1,362), Ste. Agathe (637), Ile des Chênes (1,763) and Grande Pointe (350), each separated by artificial and man-made barriers like highways and rivers. This population configuration works against public interaction and social gatherings in many regards, as residents identify primarily with their community rather than their municipality. There is a true sense of community within each of these population centres and the willingness and/or ability to travel to other locations for recreation programs and services is questionable.
4. **Economic Means and Capacity:** The economic means of a community is based on its residential and commercial tax base, population size / density, property values, existing financial commitments, borrowing authority, and capacity. Smaller population centres typically have a smaller tax base (or share of total tax base) and relatively less financial capacity and flexibility. As a result, they are required to weigh their development options and set priorities accordingly.
5. **Willingness to Pay:** Willingness to pay for new and improved facilities is influenced by many factors. When asked "would you be willing to pay more in taxes for new or improved parks, recreation facilities and programs" 47.3% of respondents said 'yes', while 22.1% replied 'no'. Almost one third of respondents (30.5%) replied 'don't know', indicating that they required additional information before making a decision. Strong public support for new and improved facility development is a critical ingredient for success. Ritchot residents reported they are willing to pay for appropriate recreation development. According to the latest statistics (2015), the average per capita spending on recreation and cultural services by Manitoba municipalities with populations over 5,000 was $112.50 per person (Statistical Information for Municipalities in Manitoba, 2015). The average per capita spending on recreation in Ritchot during that same period was $87.06 per person, suggesting there may be some capacity to increase recreation spending.
6. **Programs and Leadership:** Developing a facility to accommodate recreation and cultural activities represents only one part of an overall strategy to provide community recreation services. A "build it and they will come" strategy is rarely successful. A combination of positive customer service, engaged / skilled leadership, safe, comfortable and inviting spaces, and proactive marketing and communication strategies are all factors affecting recreation participation and facility use.

Guiding Principles for Recreation Facility Development

When contemplating the development of recreation programs, parks and facilities where public funds are utilized, it is critical that efforts be made to ensure that these services focus on providing public good and meet the broadest range of community needs possible in an accessible, affordable and sustainable manner.

The following statements are general guiding principles that reflect generic municipal responsibilities for recreation. They should be reviewed and modified to include and reflect community values in Ritchot. To date, recreation facility development has largely been carried out by volunteer community associations with varying degrees of support from the Municipality. Whether the Municipality has direct or indirect (capital / operating grants) responsibility for facility operation and development, the use of both public land and public funds for this purpose should be based on guiding principles to ensure suitability and consistency:

1. **Core recreation services** – the availability of basic (core) parks, recreation facilities and services that meet the broadest range of community needs and achieve significant public good.
2. **Accessibility and affordability** – the development of recreation facilities and parks that emphasize both accessibility and affordability. Facilities will be barrier-free in design, strategically located to serve the public and operated in an efficient and effective manner with user rates and fees structured to ensure that all residents can participate and share equally in the benefits of recreation and parks.
3. **Economic sustainability** – long-term economic viability and sustainability in the planning and development of new recreation and parks facilities through an appropriate business planning process.
4. **Partnerships and engagement** – work cooperatively and in partnership with community recreation organizations and associations, the private sector and the public in any new parks and facilities to be developed in the Municipality of Ritchot.
5. **Multi-purpose facilities** – where appropriate, integrated multi-use facilities will be developed to achieve the greatest degree of flexibility and diversity of use and capitalize on economies of scale, limit land use and provide a more dynamic recreation experience for the users.
6. **Efficiency and effectiveness** – ensure that before new facility development is contemplated, existing facilities of a similar nature are used to their capacity. Priority for facility development will reflect the extent to which facilities are flexible and adaptable to accommodate changing community leisure needs over time.

7. **Facility classification system** – adopt a parks and facility classification system that reflects the quality, diversity and variety of required parks and facilities, and ensure proximity and accessibility of facilities to the population are designed to serve at the neighbourhood, community and regional levels.
8. **Design** – comply with energy conservation and environmental standards (eg. LEED) wherever possible and with aesthetic design principles appropriate to the communities in which they are located. The design will ensure safety and security concerns are appropriately dealt with, and participant comfort and customer service is maximized.

Compliance with the principles and criteria outlined above can also serve as a means to assess and prioritize program and facility grant requests based on the extent to which they meet the criteria for public recreation development.

Classification and Service Levels for Indoor Facilities

Not unlike parks facilities and open space, indoor facilities can also be classified based on the intended service radius, quality and specifications of design and intended level of play. The quality of a desired service (facility or parks) is affected by the level of planned activity (beginner / expert), age of participants, safety requirements and service standards required by regulatory authorities. The parks and open space section to follow defines and classifies park space based on neighbourhood, community and regional service levels. For the purposes of this study, indoor facilities are developed at the community and regional levels due to the distribution of the population and settlement patterns across the Municipality.

Regional (municipal-wide) Indoor Facilities

These are major indoor facilities that serve residents from the entire municipality. In other words, facilities that serve a critical mass of participants large enough to make them cost effective and practical to operate. They are typically of high quality, located near large population centres and comprise a number of activity components to achieve economies of scale, minimize land use and provide a focus for recreation in the overall municipality. Examples of regional facilities include indoor pools, spectator arenas, and gym / fitness centres.

Community-level Indoor Facilities

Community-level services provide a much smaller market focus than municipal-wide facilities and serve populations between 500–2,500 people depending on the geographic distribution of the population. These facilities are more modest in their development and typically serve younger age groups and basic level of play. They are often the type of facilities and services that need to be provided in closer proximity to users because of the type of activity and the reluctance or inability to travel great distances to access the service. Community centres, halls, fitness studios, multi-purpose social activity space, and craft rooms are examples of this level of service.

4.3.2 Indoor Recreation Facility Strategy

Introduction

Local governments manage the demand for and supply of indoor recreation facilities by weighing the balance between public expectation and financial capacity. When developing a long-range recreation facility strategy, capital development costs as well as lifecycle maintenance and operating costs must be considered carefully as they both impact the financial capacity of the Municipality.

A comprehensive facility strategy not only defines the quantity of facilities required to meet demand but also the operating policies that regulate and control facility use and best practices in facility lifecycle maintenance required to protect and sustain the community's investment in recreation. This section of the report makes recommendations in three interrelated areas including supply of new and improved facilities, management and operating policies / practices, and lifecycle maintenance.

Inventory and Supply

For a municipality with a population of just over 6,500 residents, Ritchot is well supplied with both indoor and outdoor facilities. Section III of the report has a detailed inventory of facilities and site components in each of the major centres. There is a municipal-wide inventory and map illustrating the location of all facilities. Table 4.3 summarizes the number of indoor and outdoor facilities available across the Municipality.

While the quantity of most facilities is adequate to meet demand in Ritchot, some facilities are not located to serve all residents conveniently and may require that some participants travel further distances to use these facilities. This may create the perception that there is an inadequate supply of some facility types across the Municipality. In reality, it may be impractical to develop facilities in close proximity to all users due to the spread-out nature of urban development in Ritchot.

TABLE 4.3 Community Recreation Facility Inventory

		GRANDE POINTE	HOWDEN	ILE DES CHÊNES	ST. ADOLPHE	STE. AGATHE	TOTAL
Population (2016)		350		1,763	1,362	637	6,679
Distance from WPG (km)		14.8	7.7	13.5	15.1	24.8	
FACILITIES & COMPONENTS							
Community Hall		0	1	2	4	2	9
Curling Rink		0	0	0	1	0	1
Indoor Arena		0	0	1	1	1	3
Outdoor Rink		1	0	1	1	1	4
School Gymnasium		0	0	2	1	1	4
Library (Public / School)		0	0	1	1	1	3
Outdoor Play Structure	Community	1	1	0	2	1	9
	School	0	0	2	1	1	
Hard Court / Basketball		1	0	1	1	0	3
Tennis Court		0	0	0	0	0	0
Pickleball	Indoor	0	0	1	0	0	2
	Outdoor	1	0	0	0	0	
Baseball Diamond		3	0	6	1	3	13
Soccer Pitch		1	0	2	Mini	0	3
Indoor Pool		0	0	0	0	0	0
Outdoor Pool		0	0	0	0	0	0
Wading Pool / Splash Pad		0	0	0	0	0	0
Indoor Walking Track		0	0	0	0	0	0
Walking Path Trails		1	0	3	1	2	7
Community Park Space (Existing)	Major	0	0	1	0	1	10
	Community	1	0	1	1	1	
	Neighbourhood	0	0	0	2	2	
Fitness Equipment	Outdoor	1	0	0	0	0	2
	Indoor	0	0	0	1	0	
Natural Playground		1	0	1	1	1	3
Outdoor Picnic Shelter		1	0	1	1	1	4
Community Garden		0	0	1	2	0	3
Skateboard Park		0	0	0	0	0	0

Demand for New and Improved Facilities

The following list of new and improved indoor facility needs (Table 4.4) and estimate of urgency was drawn from the RFP for this project, discussions with stakeholders, survey results and an analysis of the current supply of facilities by the consultants. The items represent proposed new facilities, required upgrading / improvements, funding / operation policies, and maintenance strategies.

TABLE 4.4 New Facilities and Improvement Strategies

INDOOR FACILITIES	PRIORITY*
1. Indoor Arena Upgrading and Improvement	S-O
2. St. Adolphe Indoor Arena Dressing Rooms	S
3. New Fitness / Wellness Facility (court sport, gymnasium, aerobic training)	L
4. New Swimming Pool / Waterpark	L
5. New Community Recreation Centre at Grande Pointe Park	S
6. Policy and Procedures Manual for Community Centre Operation	I
7. Policy, Standards and Requirements to Meet Accessibility (legislated) Standards	I
8. Improved Indoor Facility Lifecycle Maintenance Program and Standards	I-O
9. New Capital Funding Model for Public Recreation Facilities	S

*PRIORITY LEGEND	
TIMING	DESCRIPTION
I	Immediate
S	Short-term 1-3 years
M	Mid-term 3-5 Years
L	Long-range 5 Years +
O	Ongoing

4.3.3 Indoor Arenas

The Municipality has three indoor arenas to serve a population of over 6,500, or a level of supply of 1 arena per 2,200 population. This level of service substantially exceeds public service standards and challenges the capacity of the Municipality to economically manage and sustain arena operations over the course of their lifecycle. For example, at this level of supply the City of Winnipeg would have 318 arenas.

The three indoor ice arenas (St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe, and Ile des Chênes) have an estimated replacement value of approximately $36-million. They are located on public land and owned by the Municipality but operated by autonomous non-profit community organizations. Each facility receives an annual operating grant of $5,000 (St. Adolphe receives an additional $5,000 for Pioneer Hall) and the Municipality covers the cost of property tax and insurance. There is limited communication between the arena operating boards and inconsistency in their operating policies (i.e. rental rates, fees and priority for ice allocation) maintenance standards and financial management policies and practices. Each of the arenas operates at about 60% (Table 4.5) of capacity during a seven to nine month operating season, and manages its own promotions and bookings.

TABLE 4.5 Arena Use vs Capacity

COMMUNITY (YEAR)	Ile des Chenes (2018-19)	St. Adolphe (2017-18)	Ste. Agathe (2018-19)
Year Arena Built	1976	1985	1975
Age of Arena	42	33	43
Arena Users	**Hours**	**Hours**	**Hours**
Adult Hockey - local	173	119	166
Adult Hockey - external	22	64	
HS / Jr Hockey / AAA	139	68.25	
Women`s Hockey	13	53	24
Can Skate / Figure Skating	127.5		11
Youth Hockey - External		140	
Minor Hockey	685.5	436.5	347
Ringette	122		289
Spring Hockey	35	212	
Misc	60.5	168.5	
Shinny	62		
Free Skate (n/c)	32		
Total hours booked	**1471.5**	**1261.25**	**837**
Total hours available*	2118	2118	1512
% use of available	**69%**	**60%**	**55%**
Avg hrs / wk available	60.5	60.5	56
Season (weeks available)	35	35	27
Season (2018-19)	Sept 10 - May 10	Aug 27 - Apr 30	Sept 17 - Mar 24
Ice Rates / Hour			
Minor Hockey	$100.00	$105.00	$110.00
Rec user - internal	$160.00	$160.00	$135.00
Rec user - external	$160.00	$180.00	$155.00
Hours available defined IDC and St. Adolphe 60.5 hr / wk for 35 wks			
Hours available defined Ste. Agathe 56 hr / wk for 27 wks			

Each of the three arenas is on average, a $300,000 per year operation and while they experience year to year cash flow challenges, they have been able to remain viable due to an accumulated surplus or cash reserve accounts. Their reserves, however, are not adequate to absorb anticipated lifecycle costs for aging plants / buildings, and they compete with each other for grants, contributions, and local support.

The challenge facing the Municipality is a capacity to maintain a supply of three indoor arenas all facing major repair or replacement in the coming years. The current facility operating model requiring volunteer boards to be responsible for capital repairs and replacement may not be sustainable as buildings age and costs increase. Arena board representatives expressed concern about their capacity to adequately maintain their facilities and emphasized the need for improved communication / coordination between facility operators. They also identified a need for more municipal support and assistance.

The life expectancy of an indoor arena varies with the quality of construction, consistency of preventive maintenance, type of use, and environmental conditions. A review of the state of arenas in Canada by the Canadian Recreation Facilities Council and Hockey Canada (2005) concluded that "typically an ice arena's lifecycle was between 30-35 years, and in Manitoba [it is] 32 years" based on design, construction trends, technology and modern standards (OFRA, 2009). This standard is not used to suggest that this number represents end of life, but rather a tipping point beyond which major repair and replacement will be necessary. As arenas age, costs rise beyond the capacity of many non-profit operators to meet the associated financial burden and as a result, many arenas have accumulated or deferred maintenance requirements.

A stronger relationship or partnership between the Municipality and facility operators will be necessary to proactively address the challenges ahead with respect to the future sustainability of arenas and other recreation facilities in Ritchot. Suggestions related to Asset Management Strategies and Capital Reserve Funds follow.

Arena Financial Performance

A summary of the Ritchot arena financial operation and performance is outlined in Table 4.6. The information presented was gathered from available arena board and municipal reports. One of the limitations of the analysis is the lack of complete, accurate and consistent data from arena boards but it is based on an interpretation of the information available to the consultants at the time of writing. The one-time capital and annual operating costs presented in Table 4.6 and presented in two sections. This allows an estimate of a typical year-to-year operating scenarios and the 2017 numbers are indicative of the annual ongoing financial requirements of a stand-alone arena operations.

Two of the three arenas experienced an operating loss in 2017 and when the one-time net loss of capital improvements is added, the negative impact on arena operating performance increases. When an arena experiences a net loss in its annual budget it draws down the accumulated bank balance or cash reserves shown at the bottom of Table 4.6. While these 2017 capital improvement expenses are one-time only costs, as the facilities age, the requirements for upgrading and replacement will only grow and are likely to further reduce already marginal arena reserves.

TABLE 4.6 Ritchot Arenas - Finance and Operation

	Ile des Chenes	St. Adolphe	Ste. Agathe
Operational Revenues	**2016-2017**	**2016-2017**	**2016-2017**
Ice Fees, Rentals	$173,850.00	$177,596.00	$77,814.00
Hall Rentals		$12,500.00	
Grants - Op related	$5,000.00	$10,000.00	$7,224.00
Misc / Other	$684.00	$5,630.00	$7,502.00
Donations		$105.00	
Canteen		$23,050.00	
Advertising			$4,100.00
Special Events		$12,879.00	$4,958.00
Total Operational Revenues	**$179,534.00**	**$241,760.00**	**$101,598.00**
Operational Expenses	**2016-2017**	**2016-2017**	**2016-2017**
Contract / Facility Mgmt	$86,284.00	$91,193.00	$34,892.00
Facilities / Equip / Admin	$61,804.00	$64,411.00	$42,469.00
Utilities	$46,770.00	$47,495.00	$27,254.00
Misc / Other	$10,945.00	$12,988.00	
Total Operational Expenses	$205,803.00	$216,087.00	$104,615.00
Net Operating Profit / Loss for Year	**-$26,269.00**	**$25,673.00**	**-$3,017.00**
Capital Project Income	**2016-2017**	**2016-2017**	**2016-2017**
Grants	$50,915.00	$27,919.00	$91,000.00
Insurance - claim		$86,816.00	
Total Capital / Project Income	$50,915.00	$114,735.00	$91,000.00
Capital / Project Expense	**$89,600.00**	**$83,581.00**	**$148,770.00**
Net Capital / Project Income / Expense	-$38,685.00	$31,154.00	-$57,770.00
Annual Capital / Operating Profit / (Loss)	**-$64,954.00**	**$56,827.00**	**-$60,787.00**
Bank Balance (year)	**Apr-18**	**Apr-18**	**Apr-18**
Chequing Account	$65,228.00	$116,145.00	$24,262.00
Capital Reserve	**$22,277.00**	**$15,145.00**	**$11,063.00**

SOURCE: MUNICIPALITY OF RITCHOT AND ARENA BOARDS

Ile des Chênes / Grande Pointe Arena

The Ile des Chênes / Grande Pointe Arena is located on a 3-acre plot of land owned by the Municipality (Property Title: 2492909/1) that includes the TransCanada Centre (TCC). The arena was built in 1976 and is now 42 years old. The volunteer board has made its best efforts to keep pace with ongoing maintenance requirements and in 2016 installed new flooring and painting in the building. An inspection by Community Places identified the need to upgrade the entrance area to comply with Provincial Accessibility Guidelines that recently came into effect. The cost of that project is estimated to be approximately $15,000. According to the arena board, improvements totaled approximately $89,000 in 2017.

St. Adolphe Community Centre / Arena

The St. Adolphe Community Centre / Arena is the only facility in the Municipality that houses both an indoor ice arena and an attached community hall (Pioneer Hall). The arena was constructed in 1985 and is now 33 years old. The arena is available from late August through April 30 and operates at 57% of its capacity, partly due to the availability of ice during the 'non-prime time shoulder season' that is in less demand.

The board indicated that the facility is in relatively good condition and is well maintained. The community centre has identified improvements to existing shower rooms as a priority. In 2017, upgrades to the ice plant condenser and dehumidification system were completed. A project to exchange ice surface glass from two to four feet is also underway. Future plans also include the addition of new dressing rooms at the arena.

At this stage in the planning process there is no functional space plan, engineering assessment or concept design for the dressing rooms so any preliminary costing would be subject to wide margin of error. For the purpose of this report, it is assumed that a typical external four dressing room addition would be approximately 3,000ft^2. Based on comparative costing of similar facilities, the magnitude of construction costs could vary between $250 - $300 per square foot (SF), or $750,000 to $900,000 for the project. The final cost would depend on the final design (4-6 dressing rooms), quality of construction, contribution of voluntary labour / materials, and other unknown factors. The costs above should not be used for budget purposes and are only meant to be used as an estimate of the magnitude of costs associated with the proposed project.

Pioneer Hall is well maintained and requires no major facility upgrades. Primarily through the leadership and initiative of the Old Time Dance Club, the hall has seen several recent improvement projects including resurfacing of the floor and walls, and new window coverings, ceiling, and chairs.

Ste. Agathe Arena

The 43-year old arena in St. Agathe was built in 1975 and an artificial ice plant was added in 1980. The arena is open from September through the end of March and operates at 60% capacity. Recent improvements include the construction of a new zamboni / tractor room for approximately $250,000 (2016) and repairs to the ice plant that cost over $65,000 since 2015. Indications are that the ice plant may need to be replaced in the near future at a cost estimated to be between $300,000 - $500,000 based on experiences in other arenas. A facility consultation / inspection by Manitoba Community Places was carried out in October 2017. The recommendations from that inspection dealt primarily with repairs to the roof and minor site grading issues that need to completed.

A summary of recent arena improvements and anticipated required future improvements in the three area arenas are summarized in Table 4.7 to illustrate the impact of lifecycle maintenance requirements related to aging plants and facilities.

TABLE 4.7 Summary of Recent Improvements and Required Upgrades

COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS	PENDING / PROPOSED UPGRADES
Ile des Chenes / Grande Pointe Arena	
1. 2013 Installed geothermal system	1. Update change rooms and showers
2. 2016 New flooring and painting	2. Improve entrance accessibility $15,000
3. 2017 Arena improvements $89,000	
St Adolphe Arena	
1. 2017 Ice plant upgrade	Dressing room replacement ($750,000-$900,000)
2. 2018 Replace board rink glass	
3. Pioneer Hall upgrades (ceiling, floor, walls)	
4. 2017 Arena improvements $83,500	
Ste. Agathe Arena	
Tractor room addition $250,000	Refrigeration plant replacement ($300,000-$500,000)
2. Repairs for refrigeration plant $65,000	2. Roof repairs
3. 2017 capital improvements $148,700	3. Site grading

Arena Management Challenges

The number of arenas available in Ritchot, approximately 1 for every 2,200 residents, affects their capacity to recruit volunteers, spreads local demand for ice across three facilities and creates competition between arena operators for grants and contributions. The supply of arenas also affects their current use versus capacity and may be a contributing factor in their short-term viability and long-term sustainability.

While some of the available capacity is during 'shoulder season' periods, three arenas operating on average at 60% of capacity could prove to be unsustainable. One solution is to carefully examine the length of the operating season and as these buildings age, consolidation of services could become inevitable.

In addition to infrastructure deficiencies and capacity issues, arena operating boards are also struggling with governance, management, communication, operation, and policy issues. Some have experienced significant turn over and new board members are inexperienced, with little succession planning or information transfer from the previous board. Others have ongoing staff management challenges and lack the operational oversight and supervisory capacity to deal with the scope of the responsibilities their facilities demand. Training, leadership, policy and administrative support to assist in operations is warranted.

RECOMMENDATION 6 | SUPPORT TO ARENA AND FACILITY OPERATORS

That the Municipality provide leadership in the provision of administrative support, integrated program coordination, consistency in policy and procedures, standardization of financial management and operational oversight through the development of a facility administrative policy manual.

Implementation

Assisting volunteer boards that operate facilities on behalf of the Municipality is best achieved by providing policy and operating guidelines that create a consistent approach to all areas of responsibility. This should be supplemented with regular coordination meetings between facility operators and training sessions for volunteer board members / employees. Likewise, reporting requirements should include the submission of an Annual Report with audited financial statement from the organization that accounts for the use of public facilities, funds and resources. A template to create a facility policy manual has been provided in Appendix C.

4.3.4 Halls and Community Centres

There are six community centres, halls and meeting rooms located strategically across the Ritchot. Each of these facilities is operated by a volunteer board that establishes its own policies, programs, and services. Like independent arena operators, hall and community centre operators could benefit from improved communication, coordination, and cooperation. This could be facilitated by employing Volunteer Management Strategies outlined earlier to improve the use and efficiency of their operations (see Section 4.2.4).

Community Centre Capacity and Use

There is considerable unused capacity in all of the community centres and halls suggesting that there may be a lack of programming or an oversupply of hall facilities (see Table 4.8). The survey, however, indicated that access to recreation facilities in their area was respondents' highest reported (57.9%) barrier to recreation participation. This suggests that there may be disconnect between program planning, expressed needs, deficiencies, and facility availability. This issue is further addressed in the program planning section that follows.

TABLE 4.8 Community Centre and Hall Use 2017

FACILITY	% USE vs CAPACITY
Pioneer Hall	20%
TransCanada Centre – Main Hall	30%
TransCanada Centre – Meeting Room	40%
Ste. Agathe Culture and Community Club	25%
Howden Community Centre	15%
Club Amical	25%

SOURCE: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND MUNICIPAL REPORTS

Community Centre Programming

One strategy to increase use of local halls and community centres is to provide regional programming that requires a critical mass of participants, a mass that is unlikely to be available in small population centres. In discussions with community centre stakeholders, it became apparent that the primary use of community centres and halls was by local residents of the community in which they are located, with limited regional or out of community use. The stakeholders believe that this is in part due to cultural and social factors. They suggest that participants prefer their local community and are less likely to travel to nearby communities for recreation activities.

Community Centre Condition Assessment and Sustainability

The community centre and hall operators in Ritchot face the same challenges as indoor arena operators. Many of their facilities are aging and there is a growing challenge with securing funding for preventive maintenance. In addition, volunteer participation is declining, the community is growing and there are increasing program demands. Solutions to these problems can be found in a closer relationship with the Municipality, administrative, financial and volunteer management support, and Asset Management Strategies outlined herein.

Status of Community Centres and Halls in Ritchot:

Pioneer Hall

Pioneer Hall (licensed capacity 352) is located on the second floor of the St. Adolphe Community Centre / Arena complex and is used for local social gatherings, recreational sport activities and a variety of community events. Regular users of the facility include a local gymnastics club and the Old Time Dance Club, which holds approximately 8 dances per year in the Hall.

The Dance Club pays the Community Centre a rental fee representing 20% of dance proceeds and organizes live music dances that are regularly attended by up to 150 participants. The Dance Club has initiated and funded several capital improvement projects in the hall in recent years (new flooring, equipment upgrades, chairs) and supports the work of the Community Centre. Pioneer Hall generated net profits of $7,734 in rental income in 2017-18 and receives an annual $5,000 operating grant from the Municipality. Regular Dance Club and other uses of the Community Centre for programmed recreational activities (gymnastics) take up only a portion of available time. Pioneer Hall has capacity to accommodate additional recreation programs.

Ste. Agathe Culture and Community Club

The Ste. Agathe Culture and Community Club is a former Legion Hall that was damaged during the 1997 flood and has since had an addition and other renovations. It is municipally-owned and operated by a small Volunteer Committee that receives a $5,000 grant from the Municipality. It is used primarily by a seniors group in the community for weekly gatherings and is occasionally rented for social events. Several recreation programs and courses have used the hall, however it has unused capacity to accommodate additional programs.

Howden Community Centre

The Howden Community Centre was originally established in the 1940's and was moved to its current location after the 1997 flood. The Hall has been expanded and renovated, with accommodations for up to 330 guests. The building is owned by the Municipality and operated / maintained by a volunteer board that receives an annual $5,000 municipal grant. The board primarily coordinates bookings for weddings, meetings and social events on weekends and evenings. Event bookings depend largely on the availability of community centre volunteers. It is also used regularly by several local organizations for monthly meetings. While there is capacity available, it has limited appeal due to an isolated location.

Club Amical

Club Amical occupies the former municipal building in St. Adolphe and primarily operates a weekly senior drop-in meal program that runs September through May. The membership-based group has a 99-yr lease for the municipally-owned building and the Municipality covers insurance and defers taxes. Programs at the centre are limited partly due to a decreasing supply of volunteers and the compatibility / suitability of the space to accommodate other types of recreation programs.

Grande Pointe Park

The Grande Point Homeowners Association (GPHA) has developed Grande Pointe Park, a community recreation space considered to be an outdoor recreation hub in Grande Pointe. Grande Pointe Park has become a gathering space for local residents and visitors with facilities that include an outdoor picnic shelter, stage, natural playground, baseball diamonds, rink / basketball court, outdoor fitness equipment, beach volleyball court, horse shoe pits, fire pit, and trails.

As the community grows and park use increases, the GPHA has begun to explore options for a clubhouse or facility at the site to serve as a social gathering area and service building for the outdoor facilities. Phase One of the Grande Pointe Park development plan, initiated in 2017 included an indoor skate shack, heated washrooms and zamboni tractor garage. The next phase of the plan envisions an indoor hall / social gathering area suitable for community events, meetings, rental opportunities, and regular recreation programming. Preliminary designs have been developed and according to the GPHA, preliminary costs are estimated to be $478,000 (2015). The GPHA is seeking municipal approval to develop the facility at its site and is prepared to begin the fundraising process once approval has been granted.

The project has merit due to the growing population in the surrounding area, lack of a hall or meeting place within its neighbourhood catchment area and the need to provide a gathering place that would become the social and recreation focus for the community. While there is significant unused capacity in halls and community centres across the Municipality, residents of Grande Pointe are unlikely to use facilities in another community for social gatherings.

RECOMMENDATION 7 | SUPPORT TO GRANDE POINTE COMMUNITY FACILITY

That the Municipality of Ritchot provide support for the development of a community gathering facility at the Grande Pointe Park by approving use of municipal land, providing administrative and planning support and, if deemed appropriate, capital funding support for the project.

TransCanada Centre

The recently constructed (2011) Trans Canada Centre (TCC) in Ile des Chênes is owned by the Municipality and operated by a volunteer board that employs a part-time building manager. The LEED-certified facility was built as a mixed-use facility designed to attract commercial renters compatible with the recreation amenities in the building. The objective was to attract revenue streams that would supplement the operation of the recreation spaces. Since its inception this strategy has worked with varying degrees of success. The centre currently has a retail / commercial tenant, a large (150 children) day-care centre and a multi-use event / recreation hall.

A review of the 2018 program schedule indicates the main hall is used daily by local organizations for a variety of recreation related activities. The activity hall and upper meeting room are primarily used by local groups and organizations for activities like yoga, Tae kwon do, Zumba classes, pickleball and indoor walking (www.transcanadacentre.com/calendar-main-hall).

Hall rentals for special events are also an important component of the hall operation that generated approximately $57,000 in revenue in 2017. However, many of the hall rental events are booked by non-residents, and although this use generates revenue it sometimes results in limiting access to the facility to regular local user groups. There is also a conflict between hall rental uses that rely on having an aesthetically pleasing environment and physical recreational programs that might not be compatible with the aesthetic features of the hall for social / cultural events.

While recreation programs, tenant capacity and hall rentals have remained relatively constant, according to TCC booking information, overall use of the facility represents approximately 30% of its capacity. If accurate, this level of use raises issues related to the long-term economic sustainability of the facility in its present form and the need to pro-actively identify strategies designed to improve performance.

Until the end of 2016 the role of the Municipality was to support the TCC with an annual grant of $5,000 and provide administrative support. In 2017, the Municipality entered into an operating agreement with the TCC board to assist with some of the administration, accounting and management functions. Part of this agreement included the Municipality receiving the space rental income directly from the tenants (Churchill Wild / IDC Day Care) and granting a portion of this revenue back to the TCC (Table 4.9). In addition, the Municipality provides financial support for hydro, insurance and taxes.

This arrangement was initiated to assist in stabilizing the financial performance of the TCC and covers a number of management and operation functions that are to be reviewed on a two-year basis. While the agreement is based on a two-year renewal period, it is an arrangement that the Municipality should make every effort to maintain given the benefits associated with the operation of a volunteer board and the potential economic, program and community benefits derived from this partnership.

TABLE 4.9 TCC Financial Contribution 2017-2018

DESCRIPTION	2017 ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET
Municipal Income from TCC Tenants		
Churchill Wild Rent	$ 17,333.32	$ 17,330.00
IDC Day Care Rent	$ 58,125.00	$ 83,820.00
Sub-total TCC Rent Income	**$ 75,458.32**	**$ 101,150.00**
Municipal Expenses Related to TCC Operations		
Municipal Operating Grant	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
Municipal Operating Contribution to TCC	$ 51,732.28	$ 60,000.00
Municipal Payment of TCC Hydro	$ 21,621.85	$ 37,200.00
Sub-total Municipal Contributions to TCC	**$ 78,354.13**	**$ 102,200.00**
Net Municipal Cost	**-$ 2,895.81**	**-$ 1,050.00**

SOURCE: MUNICIPALITY OF RITCHOT

The community survey results identified an interest in more space / facilities for court sports, fitness, indoor walking and physical activity programs. The current supply of these program types however, appears to be adequate. The TCC hall could accommodate more use if demand for physical activities warranted. Elsewhere in this report it is suggested that before contemplating the development of an additional fitness / wellness facility that the unused capacity in area gymnasiums and facilities such as the TCC and area halls be explored. This is not to suggest that the TCC be modified to accommodate court sports but that its available capacity for compatible activities be first considered. Efforts to maximize the use of the TCC to improve its performance can be achieved by a closer working relationship with the Recreation Department in programming and marketing the space. In addition, a closer working relationship between the TCC board and the Municipal administration could contribute to improved efficiency, effectiveness and the long-term sustainability of the centre.

TABLE 4.10 TransCanada Centre Financial Comparison 2015 vs 2017

TCC	2015	2017
INCOME		
Program Related Income	$ 4,319.95	$ 7,924.49
Rental Income - Hall / Meeting Room	$ 57,340.00	$ 73,747.65
Rental Income - Tenants (Partial for 2017)	$ 65,000.00	$ 15,000.00
Municipality of Ritchot Payment - Tenant Rent Agreement / Hydro		$ 73,354.13
Municipality of Ritchot Operating Grant	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
Other Grants	$ 7,150.00	$ 5,000.00
Other Misc. Income	$ 400.00	$ 1,523.25
Sub-total INCOME	**$ 139,209.95**	**$ 181,549.52**
EXPENSE		
Administration and Office Related	$ 17,148.56	$ 9,572.17
Operating Expenses	$ 69,024.97	$ 86,978.08
Utilities (hydro, water, Internet, telephone)	$ 37,196.29	$ 33,449.75
Rental Related Expenses	$ 28,562.50	$ 35,573.22
Sub-total EXPENSE	**$ 151,932.32**	**$ 165,573.22**
Net INCOME / EXPENSE	**-$ (12,722.37)**	**$ 15,976.30**

ORIGINAL SOURCE: RM RITCHOT AND TRANS CANADA CENTRE / MODIFIED BY SMM

NOTE: Tables 4.9 and 4.10 above are the consultant's best assessment of the financial picture of the operation of the TCC for the year 2017. There are some inconsistencies between the Municipality's contribution to the TCC and the Profit and Loss statement for the TCC provided to the consultants. This could be due in part to the agreement that commenced part way into 2017 and the TCC partial year statement that covers from January 2017 up to December 17, 2017. Therefore, the consultants modified Table 4.10 to be consistent with the contributions specified by the municipality in Table 4.9. However, the purpose of this analysis is to draw attention to the impact of the agreement between the two parties and to encourage a closer relationship in terms of program development, financial management, and sustainability planning.

RECOMMENDATION 8 | MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND EXPANDED USE OF THE TCC

That the municipal administration, in cooperation with the TCC board of directors, continue its efforts to improve the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the TCC, as well as program and market the facility as a regional recreation activity hub, and develop appropriate physical, cultural and artistic program options for the main hall and upper board room as a means to reduce program service gaps, improve economic efficiencies and ensure the facility achieves its full potential.

4.3.5 Fitness / Wellness / Gym Facility

Survey responses indicated that there was interest in the development of a wellness facility that would provided space for aerobic fitness, strength training and court sport activities. When asked on the survey what new, improved or expanded facilities respondents would like to see most, fitness facility (33.9%), gymnasium (28.1%), walking / jogging track (9.9%) and multiplex (8.8) were high on the list.

As reported earlier, there is considerable capacity in area community centres, halls and the TCC that can accommodate many of the programs that would be provided in a fitness centre / gym. In addition, the TCC is ideally located and has capacity to provide additional activities, though it may require new equipment or some modifications or adaptations to accommodate physical activity without compromising social / cultural activities. Local schools have indoor gymnasiums that are currently used by community groups but additional capacity could be made available for public programs through formal Joint Use Agreements and program coordination. The Municipality is encouraged to explore these opportunities and utilize existing facility capacity before contemplating the construction of a new fitness / gym facility.

RECOMMENDATION 9 | DELAY FITNESS / WELLNESS FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

That the Recreation Department, in consultation with the community and school partners, explore opportunities to maximize the use of available facilities (e.g. TCC, community centres and schools) for fitness and physical activity programs before the construction of new fitness facilities is considered.

4.3.6 St. Adolphe Curling Rink

The St. Adolphe Curling Club owns and operates a three-sheet, artificial ice facility and 150-person clubroom that was originally constructed in 1963. The facility is located adjacent to the St. Adolphe Community Centre and owns two thirds of the shared parking lot. The club has stated it has a "good working relationship" with the Municipality, primarily through contact with the Recreation Director. The Club is concerned that the age and current condition of the facility limits its long-term viability. Most notably, the concern relates to the likelihood of future large capital expenses, as they have no capital safety net or reserve account. Recent improvements such as new LED lighting on the ice surface enhance the facility but ongoing humidity control issues, ice plant concerns and the new residential development's impact on traffic / access concern the organization.

While the curling rink is not a public facility, it is the only curling rink in Ritchot and it provides a valuable service that meets many public recreation service objectives. Consideration should be given to supporting the efforts of the curling club through administrative support and grants where appropriate.

4.3.7 Indoor Aquatic Facility

When asked about the type of new indoor facility survey respondents would most like to see, 34.5% of responses were for an indoor swimming pool / waterpark. Swimming lessons (19.1%) were also at the top of the list of desired new indoor activities. While there appears to be community interest for an indoor aquatic facility, such a development presents a major challenge for Ritchot.

To illustrate this point, the potential capacity of a 25-meter pool is 200,000 – 300,000 individual uses per year. In communities with less than 10,000 residents, pool use represents a small fraction of the available capacity because there aren't enough people swimming often enough to generate adequate revenue to make an indoor pool financially viable unless the Municipality is prepared to support a projected annual operating deficit.

The capital costs to build a modest, 25-metre pool would likely be $12 to $15-million based on recent pool construction projects in Manitoba. With limited senior government facility grant programs currently available, the financial burden would fall directly on the Municipality of Ritchot.

Table 4.11 compares population, annual pool use and operating costs for three urban communities in Manitoba that on average experience a $525,000 annual deficit in their pool operation paid through municipal taxes. It is likely that an indoor pool in Ritchot would experience similar performance due to the high cost of construction and operation, the small population base to utilize the facility, and the small tax base to absorb any capital and operating cost shortfall. In addition, there are indoor pools available within reasonable proximity to Ritchot that would pose competition with an indoor pool developed in the Municipality.

TABLE 4.11 Comparative Indoor Pool Operating Costs

COMMUNITY	A	B	C
Budget Year	**2014**	**2014**	**2017**
Population	13,524	8,251	4,014
Trading Area	50,000	12,000	8,496
Annual Use	115,334	35,553	19,220
Operating Costs	$1,541,763	$547,192	$747,287
Revenue	$869,953	$192,4	$193,855
Net Costs to Municipality	**($671,810)**	**($354,792)**	**($553,432)**

Based on the financial challenges faced by comparable communities across Manitoba, the development of an indoor pool facility in Ritchot would be costs prohibitive for a community of approximately 6,500 residents, as it presents a financial burden for residents and users alike.

RECOMMENDATION 10 | DELAY INDOOR AQUATIC FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

That the Municipality of Ritchot delay the development of a new indoor aquatic facility until such time as the population increases significantly, considerable financial contributions from senior levels of government are available, or other circumstances warrant such an investment and it is deemed to be viable, sustainable and within the financial capacity of the Municipality.

4.3.8 Asset Management and Lifecycle Maintenance

Asset Management Defined

There are three categories that are each equally important for the adequate management and maintenance of facilities:

1. **Ongoing, day-to-day** maintenance that involves cleaning and janitorial functions relating to cleanliness, safety and security of the facility is often referred to as 'first line maintenance', and includes everything from changing light bulbs and washing floors to ice making, grass cutting, and snow clearing. The primary functions of ongoing maintenance are to ensure high quality appearance, cleanliness and safety that contribute positively to the overall comfort and experience of facility users. The cost of ongoing day-to-day maintenance forms part of the annual operating budget for the facility.
2. **Preventative maintenance** involves the regular inspection of all operating systems and performing whatever maintenance that is required at regular intervals to maintain systems in good working order, thereby sustaining their life expectancy. If a part or component of a system has failed, it is replaced as part of the Remedial Maintenance Plan. This type of maintenance could include servicing motors and pumps, replacing worn parts and monitoring the condition of all systems. If maintenance and repairs are nominal, they may be accommodated within the operating budget. If they are more substantial they could be included in the annual operating budget as a current capital expense and funded through a one-time special allocation or from a facility reserve fund.
3. **Remedial maintenance, or second line capital maintenance,** forms part of the application of a planned maintenance management program or a lifecycle costing program. Typically, second line maintenance applies to the upgrading or replacement of major operating systems. Due to the scale of upgrading or repair required, second line maintenance is typically funded from recreation reserves or included in the five-year capital budget of the building operator. Indoor facilities have five key building elements. They include:

    - Building structural system
    - Building envelope
    - Electrical and mechanical
    - Environmental conditions
    - Building standards and code compliance

Each of these components requires monitoring and maintenance on a regular basis and this is one of the roles a Facility Specialist or Asset Manager would play. A well-designed maintenance management system represents pro-active approach to facility operation, management and long-term sustainability.

Facility Lifecycle Management

Lifecycle management is a systematic process to proactively assess and maintain the operating systems and equipment of a facility. The objective is to anticipate the replacement and upgrading of all facility operating systems as a means to monitor building performance and assemble the resources needed to sustain the facility over the long-term. The first step in a lifecycle maintenance system is to conduct a current condition assessment to determine the status of the elements described above and provide a benchmark from which to design a Lifecycle Maintenance Program. The process also involves predicting the average life span and replacement cost of each component, priority for replacement, forecast of scheduled replacement, and ongoing monitoring of all operating systems.

Asset Management Expertise

The increasing sophistication of recreation facility operating systems requires the availability of special expertise to ensure industry standards are maintained and appropriate maintenance carried out. The Municipality of Ritchot has made significant investment in parks, open space and facilities that all require preventive and remedial maintenance to protect their long-term sustainability, and ensure they are safe and comfortable to use.

Many communities have hired Asset Managers with expertise in recreation facility maintenance (as outlined in section 4.2.3 - Recommendation 2), to proactively operate and manage their recreation assets. The Canadian Infrastructure Report Card (2016) provides an assessment of the health of municipal infrastructure as reported by cities and communities across Canada. It found that 89% per cent of all responding municipalities and 82% of small communities reported using an asset management system. It also reported that the 54% of small communities carry out facility condition assessments at least every ten years.

RECOMMENDATION 11 | LIFECYCLE MAINTENANCE PLAN

That the Municipality of Ritchot hire and task the Asset Manager with the responsibility of developing a recreation facility lifecycle program that tracks the ongoing performance of all recreation facilities and building systems, and institutes a schedule of preventive maintenance, component upgrades and system replacements as a proactive plan to achieve cost savings, economic efficiencies and long-term facility sustainability.

4.3.9 Proactive Capital Funding Strategy

As previously mentioned, one of the challenges facing local governments across the country is a growing infrastructure deficit. The economic challenges of local governments are well documented and many communities lack the financial capacity to keep pace with major repairs to municipal infrastructure. As a result, many communities have a back log of deferred maintenance requirements that become overwhelming and prematurely threaten or hasten the end of life for some facilities.

In recent years, funding partnerships with federal and provincial governments for improvements to municipal recreation infrastructure have helped, but senior government grants have also been sporadic and uncertain. The implementation of a Maintenance Management System and Lifecycle Costing Strategy is a means to better plan for the long-term economic impact of facility maintenance requirements. This strategy, however, needs to be coordinated with the municipal capital budget process so that adequate resources are available when they are necessary. Where practical, this can be accomplished with the expansion of recreation reserve accounts that can minimize the impact of large, one-time major capital repairs or replacements. It is recognized that this would require a change in current policy or practice in capital funding for recreation facility development. Currently the Municipality provides the land but encourages volunteer community organization to take the initiative in building and maintaining recreation facilities. This practice may no longer be sustainable if the current supply of facilities is to be retained.

Establishing a proactive financial strategy that includes a healthy reserve fund is one way to absorb the costs of major repair or replacement of facilities over a period of years rather than all at one time. One rule of thumb, suggested by the Alberta Recreation Facilities Association for facility reserve accounts is to set aside 1% of the replacement value of the asset annually. Other facility-based organizations suggest a reserve target between 1.7% and 2.5% of replacement cost. If this was done when facilities were first developed, there would be a substantial reserve to deal with anticipated repairs and upgrading. As many of the major facilities in Ritchot are over thirty years old, and this has been the responsibility of the building operating boards, 1.0% of replacement cost contribution to reserve may be impractical. It may also be excessive if senior levels of government provide cost sharing grants and the Municipality pays a portion of replacement costs.

The Municipality of Ritchot established a recreation reserve in 2014 with an initial contribution of $46,390 from a portion of capital development dedication fees. Since that time the recreation reserve balance has grown to $192,213.93 (June, 2018) mainly from continued contributions of development fees and the reinvestment of account interest. Since the reserve fund was established, the Municipality has distributed $53,000 from its recreation reserve.

TABLE 4.11 Ritchot Reserve Grants

PROJECT	YEAR	AMOUNT
Ste. Agathe Outdoor Rink	2014	$3,000
Grande Pointe Park	2016	$15,000
Ste. Agathe Arena	2017	$15,000
St. Adolphe Arena	2018	$20,000
Reserve Balance	2018	$212,814

SOURCE: MUNICIPALITY OF RITCHOT

An appropriate facility reserve target should be considered in consultation with current facility operators in conjunction with the development of a more comprehensive Maintenance Management Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION 12 | CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

That the Municipality of Ritchot review its current recreation reserve policies with a view to increase annual contribution to a level consistent with future requirements for facility upgrading and replacement based on a current facility condition assessment and lifecycle costing strategy, once completed.

4.4 PARKLAND AND OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

4.4.1 Introduction – The Value of Parks and Open Space

Parks and open space are an essential component to the structure of every community. Beyond providing space for active and passive recreation, parks are an important contributor to both community and economic development.

Investment in public parkland has many benefits. Public parkland can serve to enhance a municipality's image, its ecological diversity, social cohesion, the health of its residents, and overall increase in quality of life. Furthermore, a well-developed parklands system is good for a municipality's bottom line. Beyond contributing to increased private property values and tax base, investment in public parkland can serve to enhance a municipality's reputation, and in turn, its ability to attract new residents and businesses.

4.4.2 Parkland Policy Context

The 2011 *MacDonald-Ritchot Planning District Development Plan: A Framework for Sustainable Development to 2030* is Ritchot's primary land use policy document. It establishes broad policy directives of the Municipality and the broader long-range growth and development of the Planning District.

Overall, the in-force Development Plan is relatively limited in its policy directives for parkland development. Although the Plan references the importance of outdoor recreation and parklands in terms of creating complete and connected communities, there is little in the way of specific policy related to the municipality's parkland system, parkland classification, or parkland acquisition.

While the Plan does establish a 'Green / Agricultural Policy Area', which as per Section 1.1.4 of the Plan includes outdoor recreation areas and major parks, the related policies are focused almost exclusively on agricultural development and resources.

For the District's Urban Centres, Section 3.1.10 of the Development Plan establishes some policies in regards to 'Community Green Space', but is limited to broad directives around open space connections and strategies to enhance public enjoyment of green spaces. The aforementioned policies also refer to the 'Community's Green Space System', but does not delineate or define what that system consists of.

This apparent deficiency in the current in-force Development Plan effectively means that Ritchot has no clear guidance when it comes to the planning and development of its existing and future parkland.

RECOMMENDATION 13 | ENHANCED PARKLAND POLICIES

Implement enhanced parkland policies within the Municipality's Development Plan as part of the pending Development Plan review process. In addition to policies around parkland use, development, acquisition, access, distribution, design and operations, an enhanced parkland policy framework for Ritchot should include two core components:

1. a parkland classification system; and,
2. mechanisms for acquisition of parkland and land for tails.

4.4.3 Proposed Parkland Classification System

A parkland classification system, with corresponding park development standards is not only essential to understand Ritchot's existing supply of parkland and open space, but also crucial in informing the municipality's strategy for the acquisition of development of new parkland.

The following is a proposed Parks Hierarchy for the Municipality of Ritchot:



North of Optimist Park

MAJOR PARKS
Typical Size Range: > 12ha
Examples: Optimist Park and Cartier Park

Major Parks serve specialized recreational functions for the entire municipality and/or have regional-scale attraction. Typically, Major Parks provide space for active and passive recreation for all age groups, including a wide range of specialized facilities such as arenas, stadiums, camp grounds, swimming pools, boating areas and other facilities which serve a municipal-wide or regional catchment. Given their regional draw, Major Parks include dedicated parking areas for park users. Examples in Ritchot include Optimist Park in Ile des Chênes and Cartier Park in Ste. Agathe.



Grande Pointe Park

COMMUNITY PARKS
Typical Size Range: > 6ha
Example: Grande Pointe Park

Community Parks provide space for active and passive recreation for all age groups including organized sporting activities. Intended to serve the local community in which they are located, community parks may also attract users from the broader region, depending on the facilities. Community parks often include or are adjacent to major indoor community facilities (i.e. community centres, arena, etc.). In most cases Community Parks include parking areas. Examples of community parks in Ritchot include Grande Pointe Park.



D'Auteuil Park

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS
Typical Size Range: 1.6ha - 5.9ha
Examples: Perron Park in St. Adolphe and Belle Riviere Park in Ste. Agathe

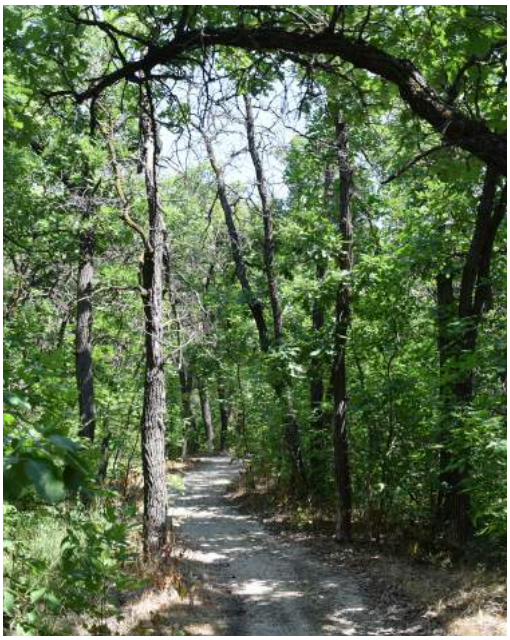
Neighbourhood Parks provide a range of recreational opportunities within walking distance of a local residential area. They typically include a playground and one or more other sports facilities (i.e. field sports), as well as opportunities for relaxation and social interaction at the neighbourhood level. Examples in Ritchot include Perron Park in St. Adolphe and Belle Riviere Park in Ste. Agathe.



St. Adolphe School Playground

PARKETTES
Typical Size Range: 0.4ha – 1.5ha
Examples: Lemoine St. Park in Ste. Agathe / Pointe Coupee Park in St. Adolphe

Parkettes are the smallest park type. They provide passive recreational space to serve local neighbourhoods. They are often developed in areas where larger parks do not exist or are difficult to secure. Parkettes provide playgrounds and greenspace within walking distance (800 m) of residences. Examples in Ritchot include Lemoine St. Park in Ste. Agathe or Pointe Coupee Park in St. Adolphe.



Trails near Grande Pointe Park

MULTI-USE TRAILS

Multi-use trails are an integral component of a municipality's transportation network, but also its overall parkland and open space system, hence their inclusion in the overall Parkland Hierarchy.

Intended for active transportation modes only (i.e. pedestrians, cyclists, etc.), a comprehensive trail network can serve to connect local neighbourhoods, natural areas, and local destinations such as parks and recreational areas, community facilities (i.e. community centres, schools, libraries, etc.), cultural landmarks, and commercial centres. On a regional scale, trails may also provide connectivity between Ritchot's communities and neighbouring municipalities.

Examples in Ritchot include: the Crow Wing Loop in St. Adolphe and the recently added paved shoulder along Bernat Road in Grande Pointe.

4.4.4 Parkland Acquisition

In accordance with the provisions set out in *The Planning Act,* an updated Development Plan should also include enabling policies giving the Municipality the ability to implement land dedication requirements for developers to acquire land for parkland and trails, or accept cash in lieu payments to support the development of parkland and trail systems.

Other mechanisms available to the Municipality to acquire or secure lands for parkland and trail development could include, but are not limited to:

- voluntary sale and public purchase of land through funds allocated in the Municipality's budget or from funds raised through the cash in lieu of land dedications;
- land swaps; and,
- donations, gifts, bequests from individuals and/or corporations.

4.4.5 Parkland Inventory

Notwithstanding the Municipality's relatively limited policy framework, Ritchot currently has a relatively well developed and distributed parkland and open space system.

Overall, the Ritchot has about 120 acres of developed parkland, serving its four largest communities. On a per capita basis, Ritchot is well supplied in terms of the current quantity of parkland and open space, with nearly 18 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, slightly higher than ratio achieved by the City of Winnipeg (15 acres / 1,000 residents) and well in line with international standards for the provision of parkland. With the exception of Ile des Chênes, individually, Ritchot's largest communities contain a significant quantum of parkland per capita, well beyond the municipal-wide average (see Table 4.15).

TABLE 4.15 Parkland Per Capita

COMMUNITY	POPULATION	EXISTING PARKLAND	FUTURE PARKLAND (PARKLAND RESERVE)	TOTAL PARKLAND	EXISTING PARKLAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS	EXISTING AND FUTURE PARKLAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS
Grande Pointe	350	19.96	0	19.96	57.03	57.03
Ile des Chênes	1763	27.33	43.25	70.58	15.50	40.03
St. Adolphe	1362	54.02	6.05	60.07	39.66	44.10
Ste. Agathe	637	16.44	22.75	39.19	25.81	61.53
Ritchot - Total	**6679**	**117.75**	**72.05**	**189.80**	**17.63**	**28.42**

With the potential future development of nearly 55 acres of new parkland, which is examined in the next section of this report, that municipal-wide ratio could exceed 25 acres per 1,000 residents, subject to growth and timing factors.

4.4.6 Strategies for New and Enhanced Outdoor Facilities

At the outset of this project, the Municipality identified a number of new and improved outdoor facilities to be considered as part of the Master Planning process. This 'wish list' was further augmented through the Community Survey which identified the community's desires and priorities for the development of new and/or enhanced parks and outdoor facilities. Table 4.16 provides a compendium of Ritchot's 'wish list' of outdoor recreation facilities.

TABLE 4.16 Wish List: Outdoor Parks, Facilities and Amenities

ITEM	LOCATION
New 10-acre park	St. Adolphe
New 26-acre park	Ile des Chênes
Outdoor aquatic feature in Cartier Park	Ste. Agathe
Walking / biking paths and trails	Ritchot
Splash pad	Ritchot
Outdoor pool	Ritchot
Improved baseball facilities	Ritchot
Skateboard park	Ritchot
New / improved parks and playgrounds	Ritchot
New / improved outdoor rinks	Ritchot
Improved outdoor soccer facilities	Ritchot
Mountain bike course / pump track	Ritchot
Boat launch	Ritchot

In broad terms, the community's 'wish list' can be divided into two broad categories:

- reinvestment in existing parks and outdoor facilities; and,
- planning and investment in new parks and outdoor facilities.

The following sections provide an assessment of these potential opportunities and corresponding recommendations for investment in existing and future outdoor recreation facilities in Ritchot.

Reinvestment in Existing Parks and Outdoor Facilities

As indicated, the Municipality of Ritchot is generally well served in terms of parks and outdoor facilities. All of Ritchot's major communities include at least one community park space that provides recreation opportunities for residents. Howden, given its size, may be the exception. Although it does not have its own park, it does have a playground adjacent to its Community Hall.

While the planning process did not reveal any major deficiencies in terms of the condition of existing parks and outdoor amenities, it did identify potential for future enhancements and investment in two parks: 1) Cartier Park in St Agathe; and 2) St. Adolphe Park in St. Adolphe

Cartier Park

Operated by the Ste. Agathe Community Development Inc. (CDI), Cartier Park is a Major Park that includes a campground, picnic shelter, baseball and soccer facilities and a disc golf course. While the CDI has made significant investments in the Park's development, it is challenged by its location. Located on the west side of Hwy 75, Cartier Park is somewhat isolated from the rest of the Ste. Agathe community.

Recognizing the CDI's desire to enhance Cartier Park as more of a regional attraction building on the existing campground facilities, the CDI has expressed a strong interest in the potential development of an outdoor aquatic facility. This could be done either through the conversion of the Park's existing pond (which we understand is purely aesthetic and does not have any stormwater management function) or the development of a new pool, splash pad or combination thereof.

Undoubtedly, the community survey revealed a strong interest in the development of outdoor aquatic facilities, both on a municipal-wide basis and specifically for Cartier Park. Beyond the capital costs, the long-term operations and maintenance costs of such facilities are often overlooked. Likewise, given the Park's proximity to Winnipeg and number of existing of outdoor public pools in the south part of the City, a major investment in an outdoor aquatic facility raises some questions about regional demand.

Notwithstanding those considerations, the development of some sort of outdoor aquatic facility may make sense in the context of a comprehensive vision for Cartier Park, the campground and its overall potential as a regional attraction.

RECOMMENDATION 14 | CARTIER PARK ENHANCEMENTS

That the Municipality support Ste. Agathe CDI's efforts to advance its long-term plans for Cartier Park. Furthermore, that the development of an outdoor pool or other outdoor aquatic facility, be subject to a full feasibility study and form part of a comprehensive vision / strategy for the long-term development of the park.

Consistent with the desire to elevate the Park's position as a regional draw, the CDI may wish to consider interim opportunities for enhanced programming that leverages the Park's existing assets. Given the size of the Park and its amenities, including its campground, Cartier Park could be an ideal location for summer camp programming, outdoor festivals, farmer/craft markets, as well as a range of winter activities (eg. snowshoeing, cross country skiing, etc.).

St. Adolphe Park

Historically, St. Adolphe Park has been an important public amenity and community park. However, its location within the flood plain is a significant constraint to any sort of major capital investment in park infrastructure.

Notwithstanding that, there are opportunities for low-cost / low-impact interventions that recognize the flood risk, take advantage of the site's topography and natural elements, and provide some unique recreational amenities.

RECOMMENDATION 15 | ST. ADOLPHE PARK ENHANCEMENTS

That the Municipality consider plans for strategic, low-cost enhancements to St. Adolphe Park. While the site is flood prone, it has natural features and terrain that would lend itself well to the potential development of a pump track or mountain bike course, nature trails, tobogganing (using the dyke), as well as a canoe / kayak launch.



Bison Butte Mountain Bike Course
Credit: Scatliff + Miller + Murray

Planning and Investment in New Parks and Outdoor Facilities

Although Ritchot has a relatively strong and well distributed portfolio of existing parks, there are future opportunities for investment in new parks and outdoor recreational facilities. As part of the scope for this Master Planning process, high-level concept plans were developed for two (2) potential new parks: a 26-acre park in Ile des Chênes, and a 10-acre park in St. Adolphe.

Concept Plan for New 26-acre Park in Ile des Chênes

Although Ile des Chênes is home to Optimist Community Park, which is a major regional baseball facility, the community lacks neighbourhood scale park space and associated amenities. Aside from a small quantum of passive park space provided by D'Auteuil Park, as Table 4.15 illustrates, Ile des Chênes is under served in terms of its per capita parkland supply when compared to the other larger communities in Ritchot.

Accordingly, the Municipality has expressed interest in potential development of new park space on a roughly 26-acre undeveloped site situated between Optimist Community Park and D'Auteuil Park (shown on Map 3.4 as Parkland Reserve 1). While Ile des Chênes would undoubtedly benefit from new park space, the complete development of a 26-acre park would be a significant and expensive undertaking for any Municipality to undertake.

The development of this potential new park is further challenged by the fact that the proposed site is owned by TransCanada Pipeline, as is the adjacent Optimist Community Park which is leased to the Municipality on 4-year renewable terms. Without a longer-term lease agreement or some sort of future option for the conveyance of the land to the Municipality, a major public investment on the subject site would not be advisable.

Notwithstanding those challenges, concept plan options have been prepared to illustrate the potential for future development of new park space on the subject lands. The concept plan options (see Figure 4.3) illustrate a possible phased approach to the overall site's development. In terms of amenities, the concept plans emphasize opportunities for trail connections with the adjacent neighbourhoods and between the existing / future elements on site. Recognizing Optimist Community Park's regional draw, the concept plans show opportunities for potential enhancements that would benefit of both the local community and regional visitors to Optimist Park, including new soccer pitches, batting cages, and playground facilities.

RECOMMENDATION 16 | PRECONDITIONS FOR NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT IN ILE DES CHÊNES

Recognizing the need and desire for additional park space in Ile des Chênes, the Municipality should assess the feasibility of developing new park space that builds off the existing D'Auteuil Park and provides connectivity to Optimist Community Park. These efforts should consider land ownership and/or the options for a long-term lease agreement with TransCanada Pipeline, funding opportunities, as well as a phased approach to park development.

FIGURE 4.3 Ile des Chênes Park Concept Plan



01 TREED STREETSCAPE WITH WALKWAY
- Garden Entries
- Connections to Park + Adjacent Recreation Sites

02 NATURE PLAY IN PARK
- Play Features Including Climbing Rocks, Logs + Tree Stump Steppers Nestled Amongst the Trees
- Opportunities for Physical, Social + Creative Play

03 PASSIVE PARK
- Fire Pit / BBQs
- Picnic Sites

04 NATURALIZED RETENTION POND

05 TOBOGGAN HILL

06 NEW TRAILS + TREE PLANTING
- Multi-Use Granular Trail / Cross Country Skiing
- Connect Existing Neighbourhoods to Park Space

07 BLASTBALL

08 SAND + WATER PLAY
- Play Structure
- Shade Structure
- Water Play Feature

09 SOCCER PITCH

10 BATTING CAGES

11 CANTEEN AND PICNIC AREA

ORDER OF MAGNITUDE COST*

Nature play, sand + water play, soccer pitch: $300k - $500k

Toboggan hill, naturalized retention pond: $750k - $1.0m

Streetscapes, park entries, baseball upgrades: $200k

Tree planting, soft landscaping: $200k

Total: $1.45m - $1.9m

**Preliminary estimate of order of magnitude costs based on conceptual design only. More refined costing subject to further design development and components to be included.*

Concept Plan for New 10-acre Park in St. Adolphe

As part of a new planned subdivision in the south end of St. Adolphe, the Municipality has secured land for the development of a new 10-acre community park adjacent to the St. Adolphe Community Centre / Arena and Curling Club. Informed by the community survey, which identified a range of desired outdoor amenities, the concept plan (see Figure 4.4) illustrates a range of possibilities for the development of an active, all-season park.

Potential amenities contemplated in the concept plan include splash pad (see sidebar below), skateboard park (see sidebar on p. 128), play structure, entry garden, naturalized retention pond and toboggan hill, with connectivity provided through the existing and future trail network.

RECOMMENDATION 17 | PLANNING FOR NEW 10-ACRE PARK IN ST. ADOLPHE

That the Municipality advance planning for a new park in St. Adolphe, located on the site fronting St. Adolphe Road, across from the St. Adolphe Community Centre / Arena and Curling Club Site. The plans for the site should consider opportunities for all-season activation and could incorporate a range of amenities (i.e. skate park, splash pad and toboggan slides) to serve both local and regional recreation interests, as resources become available.



Central Park Splash Pad
Credit: Scatliff + Miller + Murray



Central Park Splash Pad
Credit: Scatliff + Miller + Murray

SPLASH PADS

A splash pad is a design-built, recreational amenity typically located in a public park for water play. These facilities have little to no standing water, thereby eliminating the need for lifeguards as there is little risk of drowning.

Splash pads typically replace existing and outdated wading pools, with unique concepts that provide a variety of vertical features and ground sprays to help cool children during the hot summer months. Development of Ritchot's first splash pad could provide a regional draw and is therefore an important investment for the Municipality to consider.

FIGURE 4.4 St Adolphe Park Concept Plan



01 SKATE PARK
02 ENTRY GARDEN
03 SHADE STRUCTURES COMPLETE WITH WASHROOM FACILITIES
04 SPRAY PARK
05 NATURALIZED RETENTION POND
06 PARK PAVILION
07 TOBOGGAN HILL

ORDER OF MAGNITUDE COST*

For approximately 8 acres of park development

Main site features:
$1.5m

Greenspace and trails:
$500k

Total: $2m

Preliminary estimate of order of magnitude costs based on conceptual design only.
More refined costing subject to further design development and components to be included.

SKATEBOARD PARKS

Skateboard parks are purpose-built, recreational amenities designed for skateboarding, BMX, scooter, wheelchair, in-line skating, and spectators. These facilities contain a succession of skateable surfaces that can range in diversity, size, configuration and quality of materials. A dynamic urban space, skateboard parks typically include at least one traditional 'skate bowl', which challenges advanced riders and provides great viewing for spectators and skaters alike – providing something for everyone.

In response to different scales of need and the evolving preferences of skateboarders, BMXers, and scooter users, etc., several variations of custom-made skateboard parks have emerged over time. Development of Ritchot's first skateboard park could provide a regional draw and is therefore an important investment for the Municipality to consider.

TABLE 4.17 Skatepark Typology

TYPE	SIZE (SF)	DESCRIPTION	COST
Skatespot	< 5,000 SF	Characterized as a single design element within a greater community space, skatespots commonly take the form of benches, ledges, or public art pieces, demonstrating an effective way to meet the needs of skateboarders and the public simultaneously.	$20,000 - $50,000
Neighbourhood Skatepark	5,000 - 15,000 SF	Recognized to be a viable option for communities with limited space but great amounts of interest, neighbourhood skateparks can offer a diverse range of terrain types that are appropriate for all skill levels.	$200,000 - $600,000
Community Skatepark	15,000 - 30,000 SF	Considered to be a scaled-up version of the neighbourhood skatepark, community skateparks are appropriate when the facility is likely to serve those beyond its immediate area, typically requiring a user base that is perceived to be between 1,000 and 2,000 people.	$600,000 - $1,000,000
Regional Skatepark	> 30,000 SF	Acknowledged as the largest common variety, regional skateparks are intended to be a destination for people from surrounding communities and districts, requiring a significant base of potential users (2,000+). The extent of these parks allows them to offer a diverse arrangement of features.	$1,000,000 +
Skateboard Plaza	Variable (subject to need)	Introduced as an exciting alternative to traditional skateparks, skateboard plazas are intended to not immediately appear as purpose built skateboard sites, but rather, as a replication of the urban environment. This is achieved through the use of specific materials and strategic design of obstacles.	Variable*
**Cost per SF would likely be higher due to quality of materials and detail of design*			

Walking / Biking Paths and Trails: Active Transportation (AT)

In terms of new, improved or expanded outdoor facilities, the survey revealed that walking / biking paths and trails were by far the most desired amenity by community members (45.5%).

The presence of walking / biking paths and trails are an important component to an integrated, holistic community. Further, connectivity between key recreation destinations provides additional access and increased likelihood for participation across all abilities and user level.

While Ritchot has some existing trail infrastructure, the Municipality lacks a connected trails system. Recent additions like the newly developed paved shoulder along Bernat Road in Grande Pointe are promising but there is potential for new and additional trails systems that improve connectivity throughout the Municipality.

Active Transportation (AT) can be defined as any form of human powered transportation; especially walking and cycling, but also skateboarding, rollerblading, skating, skiing, etc. AT facilities include park pathways, sidewalks, and multi-use pathways; on-road facilities such as bike lanes, protected bike lanes and shared roadways, and bicycle parking infrastructure such as bike racks and lockers. AT facilities serve both recreation users as well as commuters going to and from work or school. These facilities serve as both connections between, and routes to parks and open spaces, recreational destinations and commercial hubs. Provision of AT routes could engage residents and provide infrastructure that promotes a healthy lifestyle accessible to everyone in the communities of Ritchot. Further, the goal of an AT network is to identify a pedestrian and cyclist friendly environment that enhances accessibility and overall quality of life. This includes facilities which are safe, convenient, connected, and aesthetically pleasing.

Identified on the accompanying maps are a network of pathways and trails both existing and proposed that together provide connections for both recreational users and commuters. These walking / biking paths and trails would build on the existing sidewalk network in many of Ritchot's communities that are not mapped. Sidewalks form important connections in rural communities, as they provide separate space for pedestrians away from busy highways and Provincial Roads, as well as connections for children to cycle on. It is important to note that bicycles with a rear wheel diameter great than 410 mm are not permitted on sidewalks under The Highway Traffic Act. Thus, sidewalks should not be considered adequate AT facilities for cyclists.

By creating a safe environment for non-motorized transportation, the Municipality of Ritchot is ultimately meeting the long-term passive recreation and leisure goals of the community.

Things to consider when planning for AT in Ritchot:

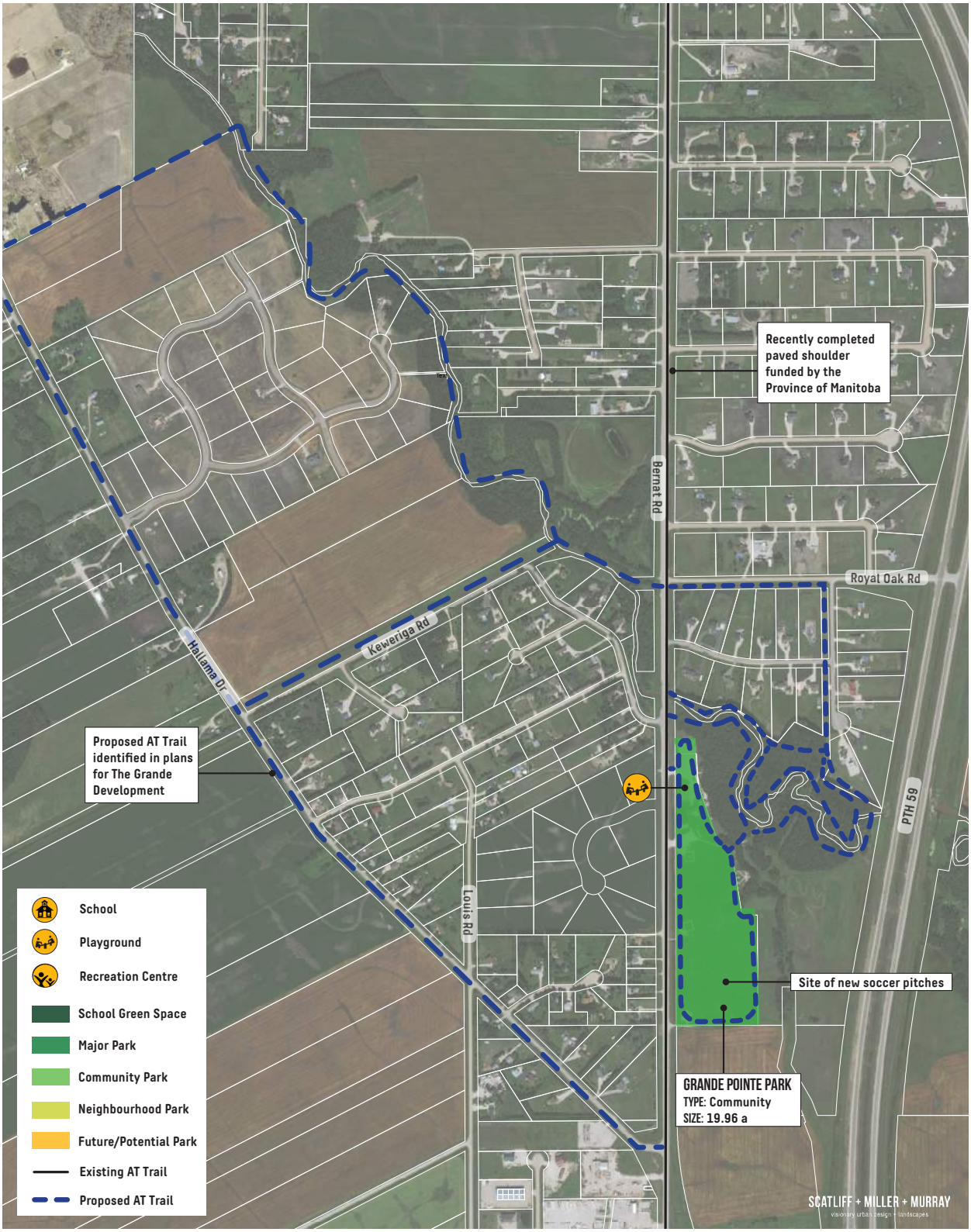
1. When planning new communities or neighbourhoods, the Municipality should ensure they are walkable and bikeable. To do this, the Municipality should ensure new communities are planned with, at minimum, an internal network of trails and/or sidewalks, as well as linkages to the surrounding (existing) area.
2. The Municipality should ensure that all new parks, open spaces and recreation amenities are accessible by pedestrians and cyclists, and that adequate bicycle parking is provided at these new amenities.
3. The Municipality should explore trail opportunities along natural greenspaces such as creeks and rivers, as well as linear right-of-ways such as existing Hydro easements and railways.
4. The Municipality should include AT facility design and construction in road infrastructure projects where any pathways have been proposed adjacent to a roadway.

RECOMMENDATION 18 | MUNICIPAL-WIDE MULTI-USE TRAIL NETWORK

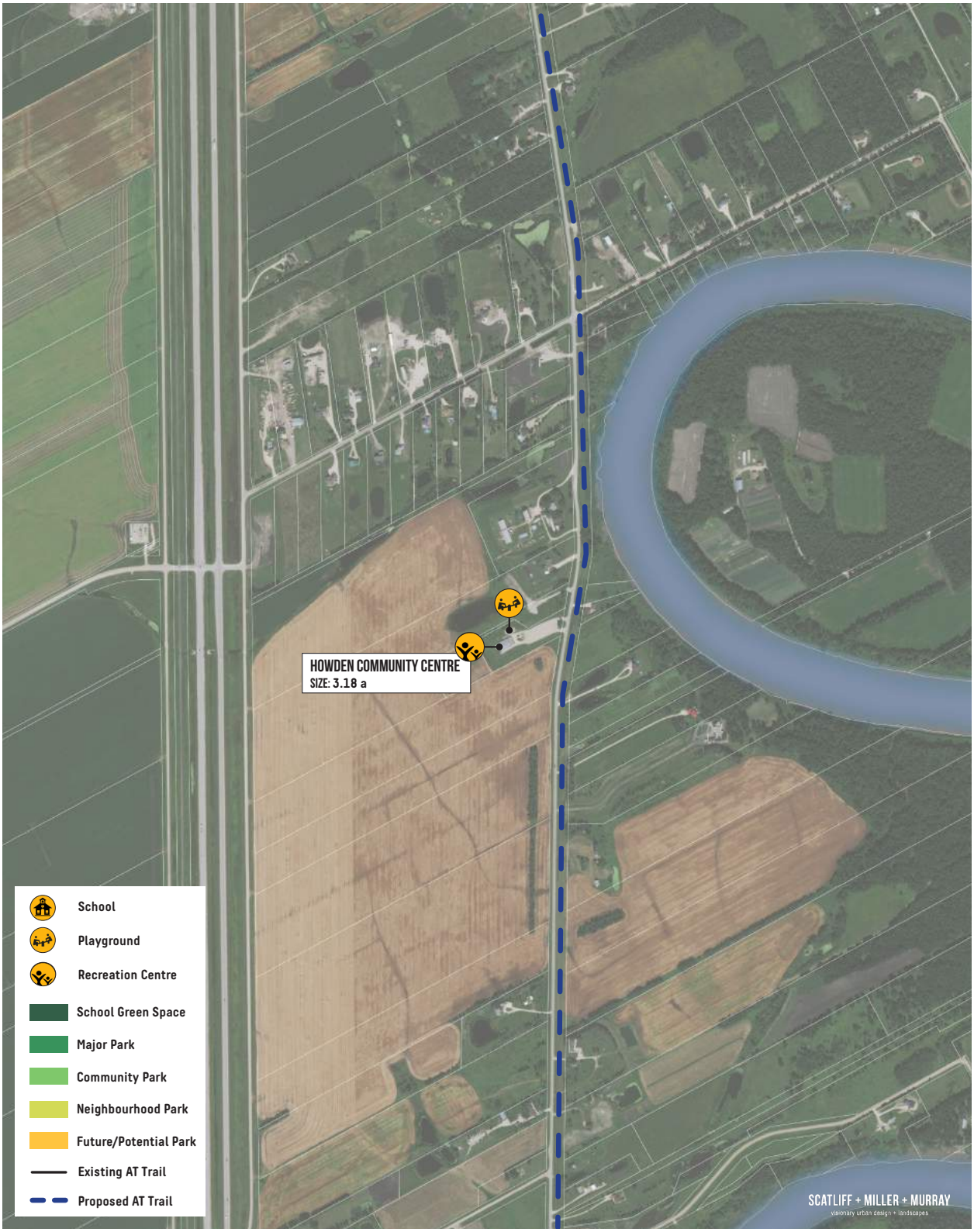
That the Municipality develop comprehensive active transportation master plan for the long-term (20-year) development of a multi-use trail network that connects the entire municipality, including linkages between local neighbourhoods, natural areas, local / regional destinations, community facilities, parks and cultural landmarks*.

*A potential parkland and trails network for each community has been provided on Maps 4.1 through 4.5, with an overall municipal trail network provided on Map 4.6.

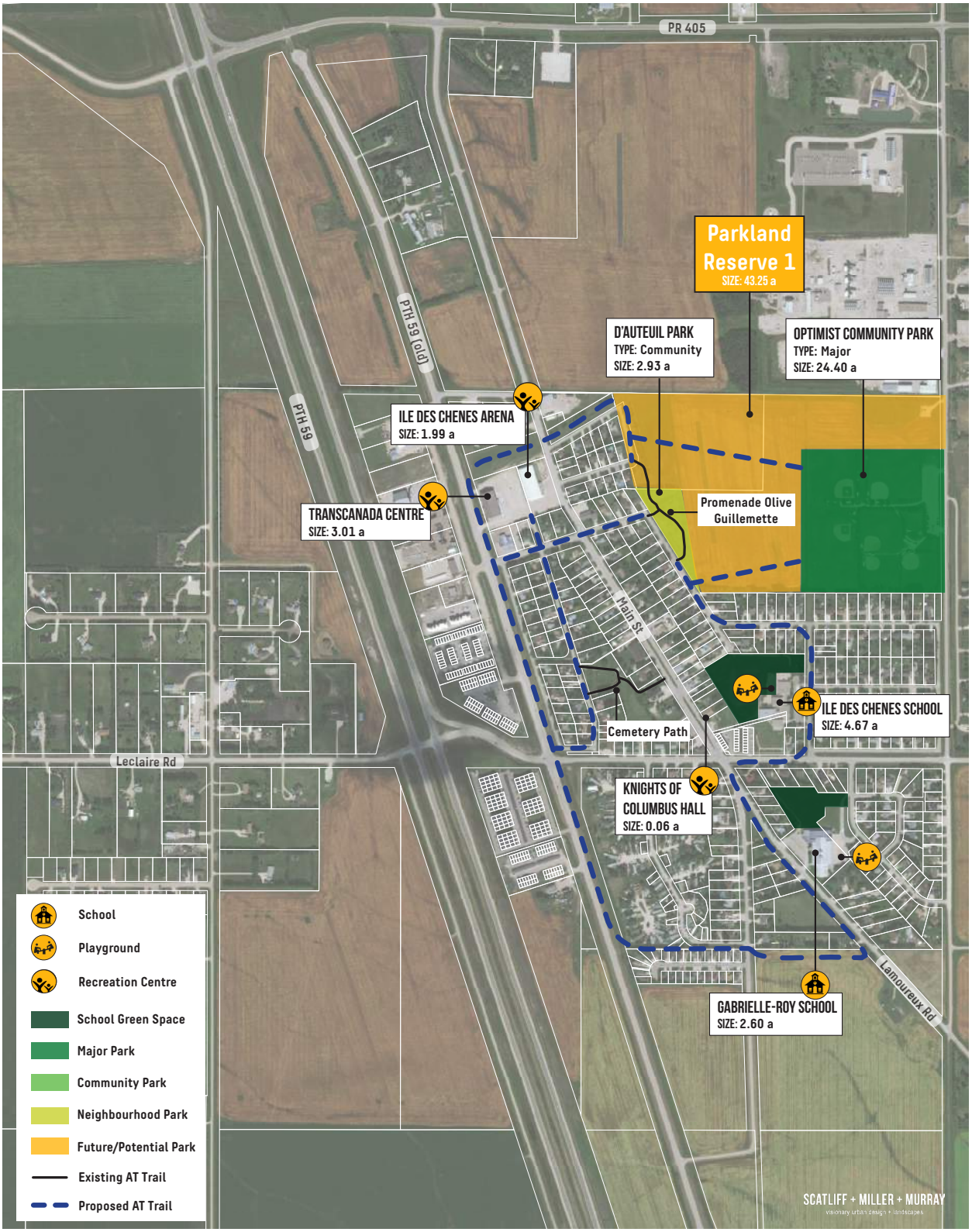
MAP 4.1 Grande Pointe Parkland & Trails Network



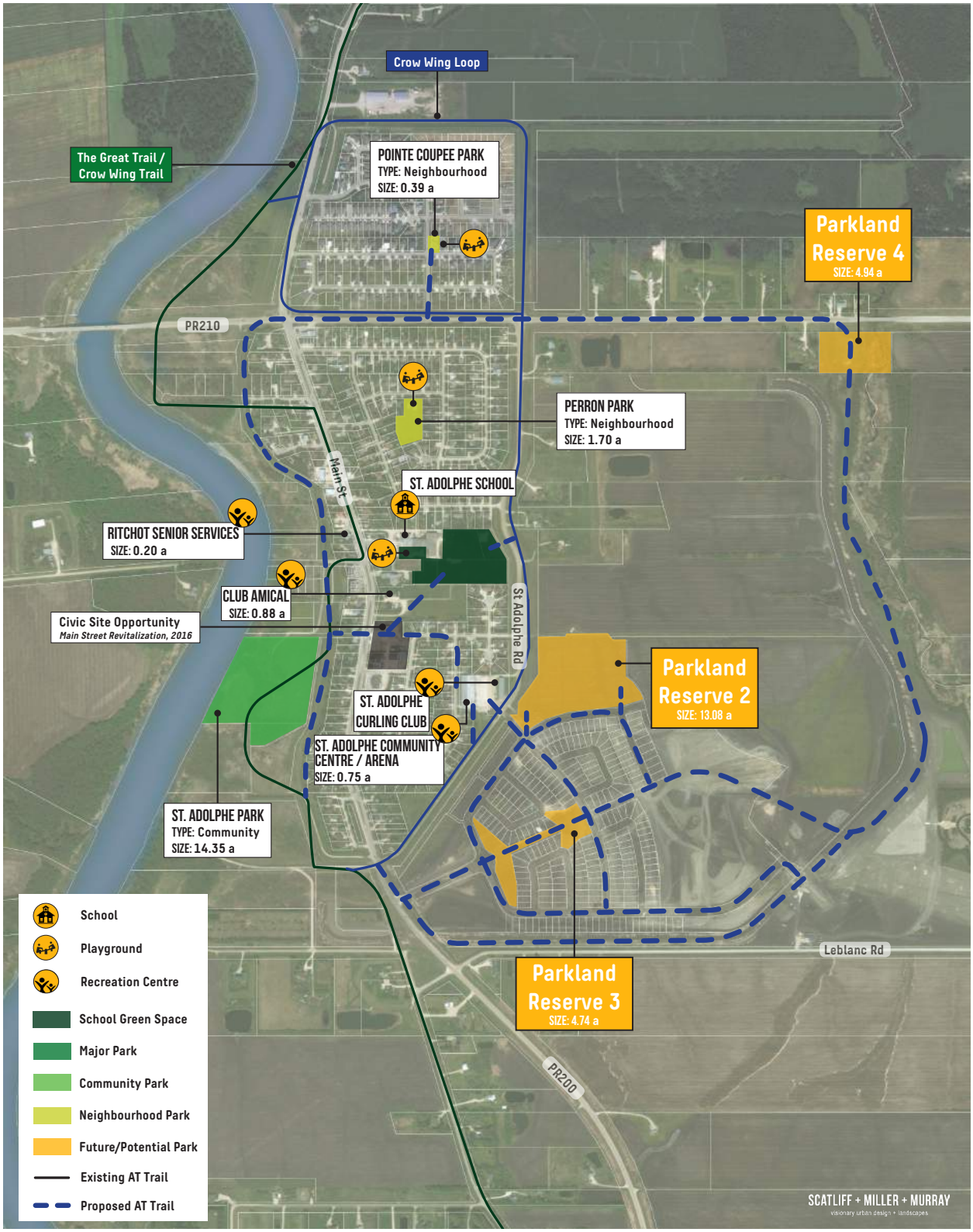
MAP 4.2 Howden Parkland & Trails Network



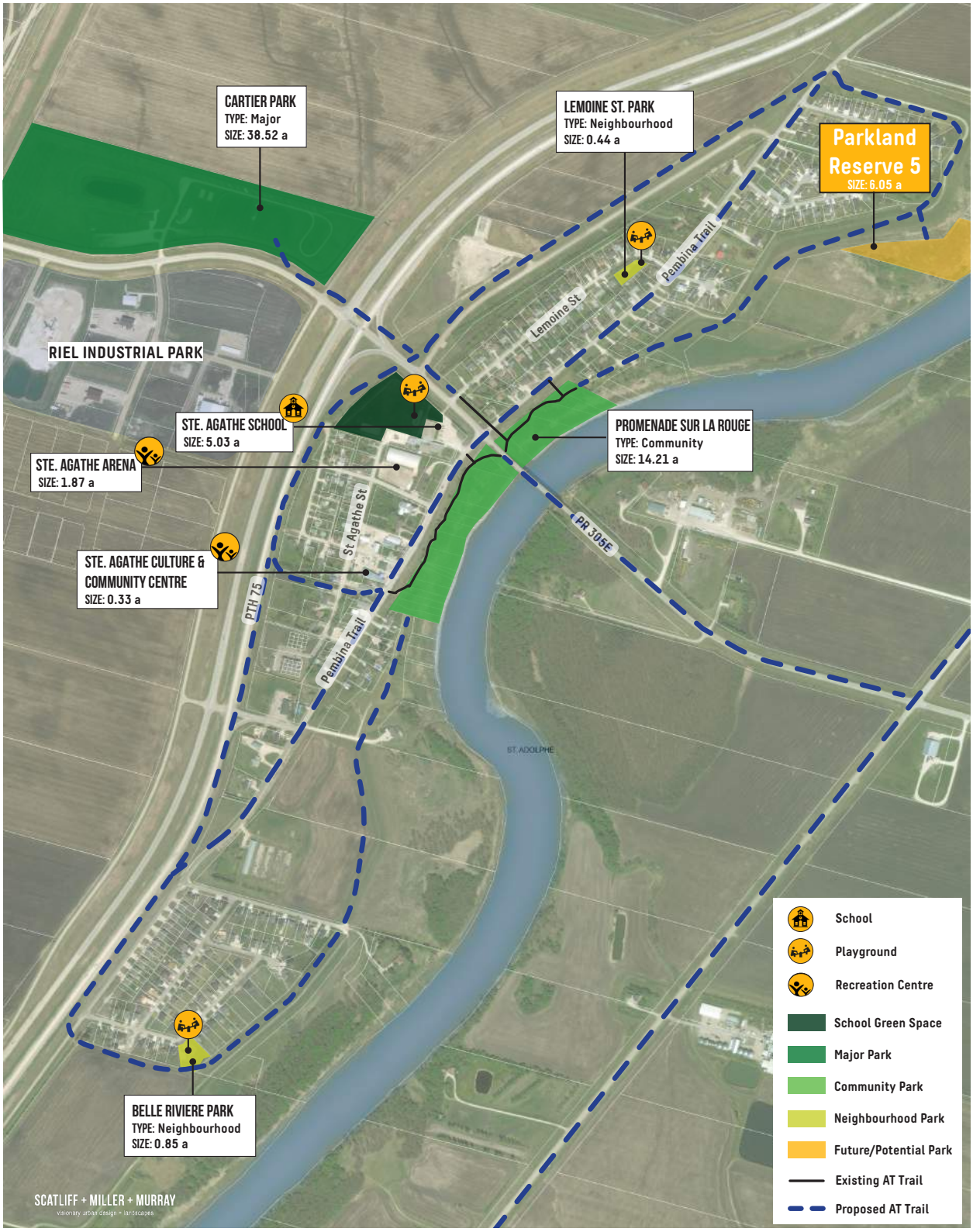
MAP 4.3 Ile des Chenes Parkland & Trails Network



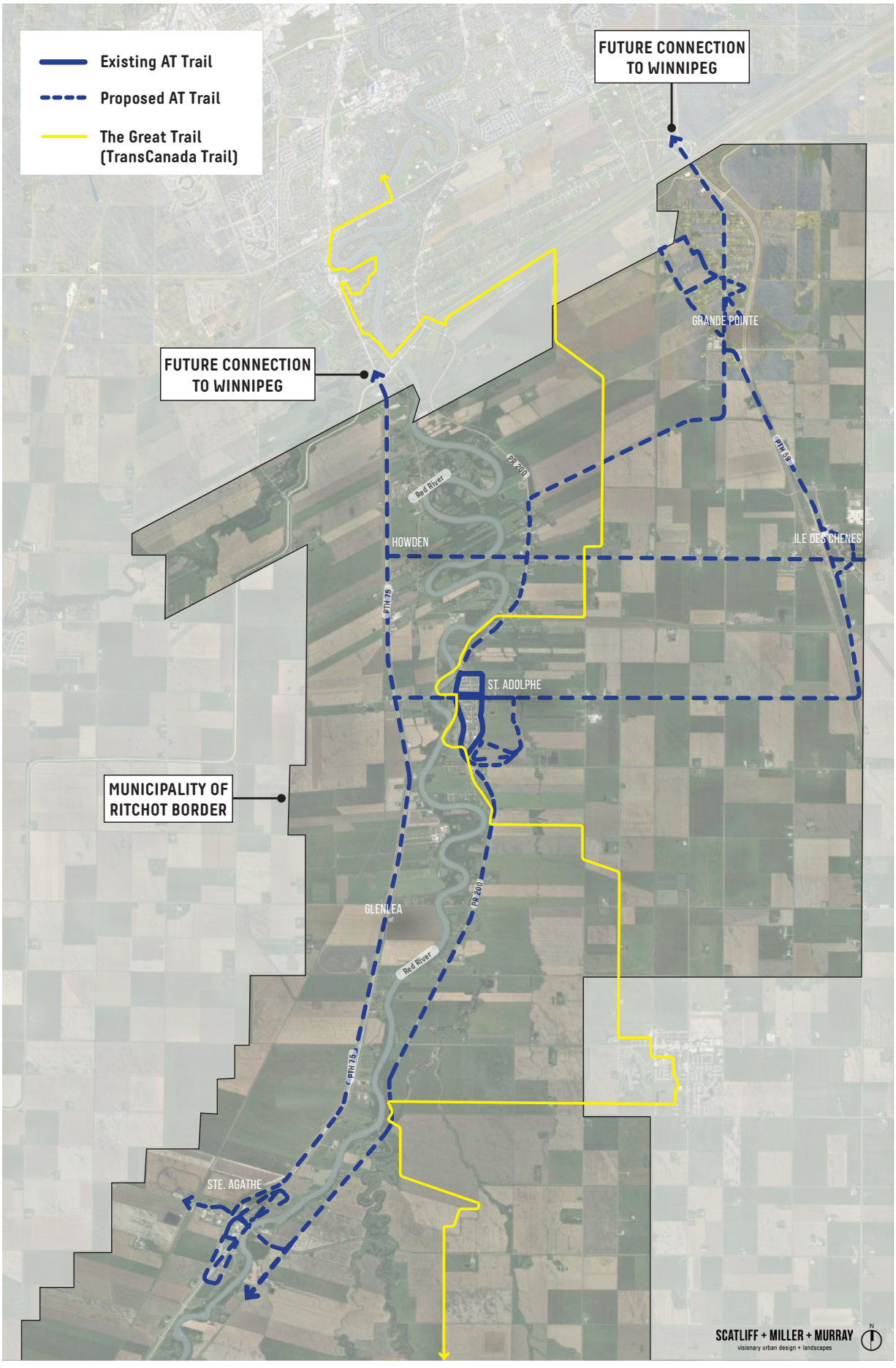
MAP 4.4 St. Adolphe Parkland & Trails Network



MAP 4.5 Ste. Agathe Parkland & Trails Network



MAP 4.6 Municipal Trail Network

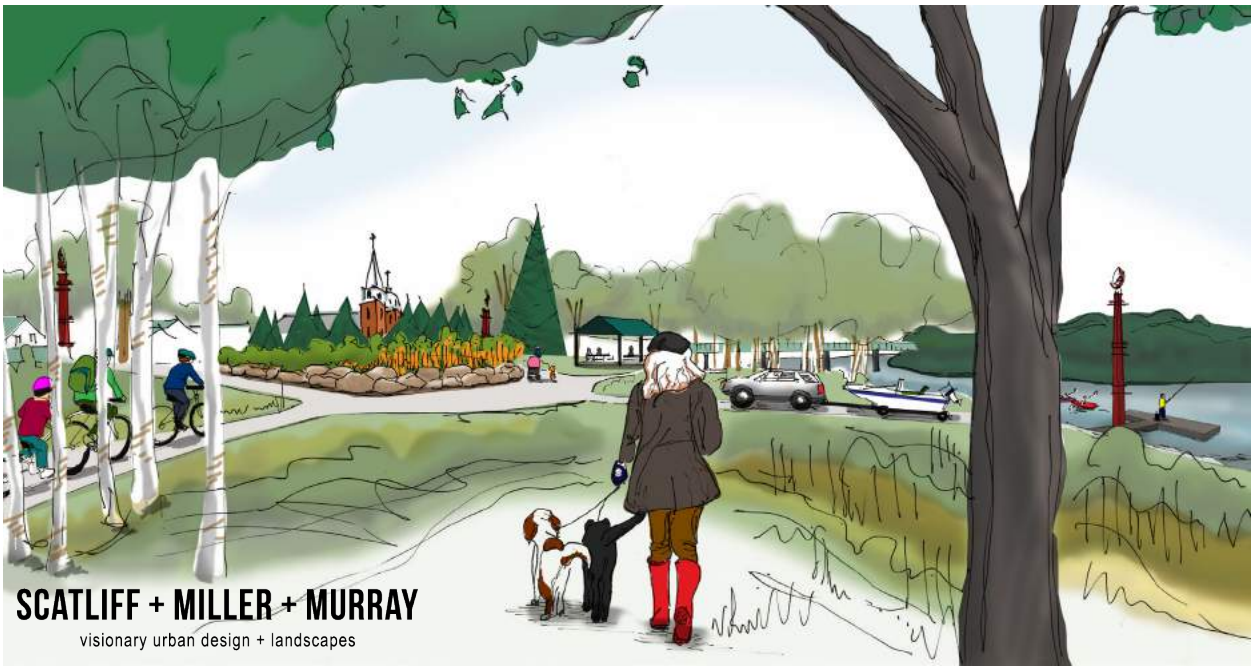


Ste. Agathe Boat Launch

In early 2019, the Ste. Agathe CDI will initiate construction of a boat launch at Parc Promenade Sur La Rouge. While detailed planning is still underway, in addition to the launch infrastructure, planning is also underway for a floating dock. This project is well supported by the community and has the potential to serve as a regional amenity that will attract boaters and fishing enthusiasts alike. In addition, the new boat launch can also serve as a key access point, supporting a range of activities to the Red River during the winter months.

Although not part of the project, the development of a boat launch is an opportunity for the Municipality and CDI to collectively look at complementary enhancements to Parc Promenade Sur La Rouge to bolster its potential as both a community gathering place and regional destination. Beyond amenities for boaters, there may be opportunities for trail improvements (lighting, landscaping, bike storage, rest areas, interpretative signage, etc.), storage facilities for canoes / kayaks, and additional pavilion / picnic shelter space. Figure 4.5 shows a conceptual image of the proposed boat launch, along with potential park enhancements.

FIGURE 4.5 Ste. Agathe Boat Launch Concept



RECOMMENDATION 19 | STE. AGATHE BOAT LAUNCH

That the Municipality of Ritchot collaborate with Ste. Agathe CDI to consider future enhancements to Promenade Sur La Rouge that complement the boat launch – and the access to the river it provides – and supports the year-round activation of the park.

Other New Outdoor Amenities

While survey respondents cited the desire for a number of other new and improved outdoor amenities, including additional baseball facilities, playgrounds and outdoor rinks, the planning process concluded that overall, Ritchot already has a good distribution of varied outdoor recreational amenities.

As it happens today, the development of new recreation amenities is largely initiated by local community organizations in response to community demand. Given the distance between, and unique characteristics of, its constituent communities, its logical that development of new outdoor recreation facilities be driven by local communities. While the Municipality is reasonably effective in supporting community-led recreation projects, it does not have standardized methods in place for recreation proposal evaluation or assessment.

Over the long-term, as existing amenities age and recreational interests evolve, the Municipality should put in place clear process and mechanisms to evaluate community proposals for new outdoor recreation facilities.

RECOMMENDATION 20 | MECHANISM TO EVALUATE PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW OUTDOOR AMENITIES

That the Municipality develop a clear process and defensible mechanism to evaluate proposals for the development of new outdoor amenities, based on community need, alignment with community plans / priorities, financial feasibility, and identification of funding sources (capital and operating).

TABLE 4.18 New Facilities Outdoor Parks, Facilities and Amenities Strategies

Outdoor Facilities	Priority*
1. New 10-acre park in St. Adolphe	I
2. Splash pad	S
3. Skateboard park	S
4. New 26-acre park in Ile des Chênes	I
5. Improved outdoor soccer facilities	M
6. Improved baseball facilities	S
7. New / improved parks and playgrounds	S
8. Walking / biking paths and trails	I
9. Outdoor aquatic feature in Cartier Park	I
10. Outdoor pool	L
11. Mountain bike course / pump track	I
12. Boat launch	I
13. New / improved outdoor rinks	L

Priority Legend*	
Timing	**Description**
I	Immediate
S	Short-term (1-3 years)
M	Mid-term (3-5 years)
L	Long-range (5 years +)
O	Ongoing

4.5 RECREATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

4.5.1 Introduction

Facilities provide an important locus for the public recreation system in Ritchot. Many programs are provided in municipally-owned facilities, either by non-profit organizations operating the facility, or through the Municipality and organized by the Recreation Director. The Recreation Director works with numerous sports, recreation and cultural associations to provide programming options throughout Ritchot.

4.5.2 Recreation Participation Patterns

Many of the leisure activities Ritchot residents indicated they most frequently engage in are individual pursuits not typically provided by local recreation providers. These include walking (39.6%), biking (28.1%), and gardening / yard work (18.5%). In fact, no organized sport activity made the top five list of activity choices, and only two sports (golf and hockey) made the top ten. Residents were also asked to identify what percent of their current recreation activities they did in Ritchot (35.6%), Winnipeg (40.0%) and elsewhere (21.7%), suggesting that about one third of their recreation activities were served by local facilities and programs.

Stakeholder feedback indicated that with the exception of minor hockey, minor ball and ringette that drew from the region, most residents participated in recreation programs offered in their home community. For example, there are three minor soccer programs operating in Ile des Chênes, St. Adolphe, and Ste. Agathe. Ile des Chênes participants combine with Lorette and play as part of the Boni-Vital Soccer Association. St. Adolphe Community Centre has a spring soccer program that annually registers between 150-200 children, ages four to eleven, that are primarily from St. Adolphe. In Ste. Agathe a Timbits mini-soccer program has operated at École Ste. Agathe and provided activity for young children primarily from that community.

Many social and senior programs also draw primarily from local residents who prefer not to travel to other communities due to safety concerns related to weather, darkness and their familiarity with other neighbourhood participants in their social circle.

4.5.3 Satisfaction with Recreation by Program Type

The community survey indicated a general level of satisfaction with the overall supply and quality of recreation programs based on program type. Physical (sport and fitness), social and cultural programs all scored near three on a five point scale. The only program areas to score marginally lower were visual arts / crafts (2.42) and performing arts (2.21). Residents reported satisfaction with opportunities for community activities such as special events and festivals (2.92 / 5). While the special event ratings varied from community to community, social gatherings and special events that bring people together were well received (Table 4.17).

TABLE 4.17 Ritchot Special Events and Community Festivals

Community				
Grande Pointe	**Ste. Agathe**	**St. Adolphe**	**Ile des Chênes**	**Howden**
Concert in Park & Ball Tournament	Festival d'Ete Cheyenne SummerFest	St. Adolphe Winter Carnival	SnowMan Festival	Howden Community Picnic
Skate in the Park	Ste. Agathe CDI Golf Tournament	St. Adolphe Music Festival	Christmas Craft Show	Howden Christmas Craft Sale
GPHA Bingo Bowl Event	Ste. Agathe Fall Supper	St. Adolphe Fall Supper	Seine River Minor Ball Family Tournament	
GPHA AGM Neighbourhood Party		Breakfast and Skate with Santa	Ile des Chênes Fall Supper	
		Club Amical Seniors Lunch and Bingo	Ile des Chênes Seniors Christmas Dinner	
		Old Time Dances		

SOURCE: MUNICIPALITY OF RITCHOT

Two factors impacted the ratings of satisfaction for almost all types of activities. The respondents who indicated that most of their recreation activity took place within Ritchot rated opportunities for every type of recreation activity more favourably than respondents for whom most of their recreation activity was in Winnipeg or other areas. In addition, respondents who currently volunteered to support recreation programming and events rated almost all types of recreation opportunities significantly more favourably than those who did not volunteer.

4.5.4 Satisfaction with Recreation by Age Group

Residents were given opportunity to rate their level of satisfaction with recreation and leisure opportunities for different age groups. The general ratings across the Municipality indicated that the highest ratings of satisfaction were related to opportunities for infants (3.10) and children aged six to twelve (3.10). The lowest satisfaction was for youth aged 13 to 17 (2.53). Degree of satisfaction was once again associated with the location in which respondents engaged in their recreation activities. The respondents who spend most of their recreation time in Ritchot gave more positive ratings for opportunities for all age groups, compared to respondents whose recreation activities were primarily in Winnipeg or other locations.

4.5.5 Youth Program Strategy

Ritchot has several unique challenges in engaging local youth in recreation programs, the most notable being the geographic location of communities and the mobility of pre-driving youth. Activities like minor hockey, minor ball and ringette are organized based on population demographics. As such, certain ages may not have a critical mass large enough to support a team in their home community and youth participating at these age levels are required to travel to other communities in order to participate. Regarding mobility, distance between communities prevent youth from informal social contacts with peers. The development of an active transportation system, or trails and pathways that safely link communities would not only benefit youth, but others preferring non-motorized forms of transportation within Ritchot.

It is recognized that no single program is the answer to engaging youth in recreation activities. To be successful it is important to plan with youth, not for them, and to have strong leadership among the participants. This involves having youth identify the services they are looking for and require that they take responsibility to organize themselves with the support of the Municipality. Some suggested strategies include:

- Commit to enhancing youth-friendly environments in all municipally-owned facilities by including a youth representative on the Recreation Advisory Committee.
- Encourage youth engagement and consultation by hosting an annual youth forum in the Municipality – rotate the location annually.
- Develop, in consultation with youth representatives, appropriate programs for creative youth service provision in underutilized municipally-owned facilities.
- Ensure that recreation staff working with youth have been trained to deal appropriately with this age group.

4.5.6 Barriers to Participation in Recreation Activities

Among the residents who indicated that there were obstacles in their ability to participate in recreation or leisure activities, the most common obstacle identified was a lack of recreation facilities in their area (57.9%). This belief was held by residents regardless of age, gender, income or other demographic characteristics. However, interviews with non-profit organizations and an analysis of facility schedules indicated that there may be a perception problem rather than a facility deficiency in the Municipality. There are approximately nine community centres and halls, three indoor arenas, four gymnasiums, and a curling rink in the Municipality. In addition, all of the community centres and halls in the Municipality have significant capacity to accommodate additional programs and uses.

Almost one-third of the respondents (30.3%) felt that there was nothing that prevented them from participating in recreation and leisure activities to the extent that they wished. Respondents who felt limited in their ability to participate had lower household income than those who did not, but these groups were otherwise similar in age, gender, residence and other demographic characteristics.

Barriers to participation did impact respondents' perception of their community; the respondents who felt restricted in their participation rated the overall quality of life in the region less favourably than those who did not face such barriers. Perceived barriers to participation also impacted the respondents' satisfaction with current recreation and leisure opportunities. The respondents who felt that there was a barrier preventing them from participating in recreation and leisure activities were significantly less satisfied with many of the recreation opportunities based on activity types and age groups, compared to respondents perceiving no barrier.

4.5.7 Recreation Program Options

There was also a wide variety of recreation programs, events and activities provided across the Municipality of Ritchot in 2017, and organized by the Municipality (through the Recreation Director), non-profit organizations and private service providers, as outlined in Table 4.18.

TABLE 4.18 Recreation Programs Ritchot 2017

	Program	Provider	Location	Age Group
Grande Pointe	Soccer	Public	Grande Pointe Soccer Pitch	Youth
	Baseball	Public	Grande Pointe Park	Youth
Ile des Chênes	Tae Kwon Do	Private	École Ile des Chênes Gym	All Ages
	Skating	Public	Grande Pointe outdoor rink	All Ages
	Spirals Rhythmic Gymnastics	Private	École Ile des Chênes Gym	4 - 10 (Girls)
	Zumba	Public	École Ile des Chênes Gym	All ages
	Yoga	Public	TransCanada Centre	All ages
	Healthy Baby	Public	TransCanada Centre (Meeting Rm)	Mom & Babies up to 6 mo.
	Quantum Dance Academy	Private	539 Main St, IDC	2 - 18
	Seine River Minor Ball	Public	Optimist Park	4/5 - 18
	IDC Minor Hockey	Public	IDC and Grande Pointe	4 - 17
	Kids Dance	Public		4 - 17
	Total Barre	Public	TransCanada Centre	All ages
	Mom & Baby Dancing	Public	TransCanada Centre	Mom & Baby
	Water Colour Painting	Public	TransCanada Centre (Meeting Rm)	All
	Pickleball	Public	TransCanada Centre (Main Floor)	Adult
	Yoga for Older Adults	Public	TransCanada Centre (Main Floor)	Seniors
	Indoor Walking Club	Public	TransCanada Centre Main Hall	All ages
	Batch Cooking	Public	TransCanada Centre	All ages
	Seniors Lunches	Public	TransCanada Centre Main Hall	Seniors
	Zumba	Public	TransCanada Centre (Main Floor)	Seniors
Ste. Agathe	Tae Kwon Do	Private	École Sainte-Agathe	6 - adult
	Pickleball	Public	École Sainte-Agathe	All ages
	Zumba	Public	École Sainte-Agathe	All ages
	Vinyasa Yoga	Public	TBD	All ages
	Public Skating	Public	Ste. Agathe Arena	All ages
	X-Country Ski Jack Rabbit Program	Public	TBD	Child - Youth
	Le Studio Dance	Private	225 Pembina Trail	3+
	Seniors Cards Games	Public	Ste. Agathe Culture and Community Centre	Seniors
	Pluri-Elles French Classes	Public	École Sainte-Agathe	

SOURCE: MUNICIPALITY OF RITCHOT

TABLE 4.18 cont'd Recreation Programs Ritchot 2017

	Program	Provider	Location	Age Group
St. Adolphe	Badminton	Public	École St. Adolphe School Gym	8 - adult
	Karate	Public	École St. Adolphe School Gym	All ages
	Gymnastics & Stunting	Public	Pioneer Hall	Gym = 2.5+, Stunting = 8+
	Kickboxing	Public	École St. Adolphe School	All ages
	Garden to Table Cooking Classes	Public	TBD	10-14, 65+
	Pickleball 50+	Public	École St. Adolphe School Gym	50+
	Shake Rattle & Roll	Public	École St. Adolphe School Gym	2-4 + parents
	Curling	Public	St. Adolphe Curling Club	All ages
	St. Adolphe Hockey Moms	Public	St. Adolphe Arena	Females 18+
	BINGO (+meal)	Public	Club Amical	
	Old Time Dances	Public	Pioneer Hall	All ages
	50+ Fitness 2018 (cardio, muscle and yoga)	Public	Ritchot Senior Services	50+
	Chair Fit	Public	Ritchot Senior Services	Seniors
	Public Skating	Public	St. Adolphe Arena	All ages
	Kids Dance	Public	Pioneer Hall	10 & under and 11 +
	Community Gardens	Public	École Gabrielle- Roy + École St. Adolphe School	All ages
	A Maze in Corn (hay / pony rides, haunted forest, zip line)	Private	1351 PR 200, St. Adolphe	All ages
	Outdoor Skating	Public	IDC, Grande Pointe, Garden Ridge Park - St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe School	
	Tobogganing	Public	St. Adolphe Hill, DIC Snowman Festival	
	Cross Country Skiing	Public	St. Adolphe Park, Grande Pointe Park, Cartier Park	
	Snowshoeing	Public	St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe, IDC	

SOURCE: MUNICIPALITY OF RITCHOT

When analyzing the distribution of program options by age group, the following Tables indicate availability throughout the Municipality. Of note, the distribution of programs generally reflects the population and relative size of the community. The larger communities (St. Adolphe and Ile des Chênes) have more programs than smaller (Ste. Agathe) sites.

TABLE 4.19 Ritchot Recreation Program – By Age Group

Age group	Ile des Chênes / Grande Pointe	Ste. Agathe	St. Adolphe	Total	% of Total
Infants	3	1	8	12	8%
Child	9	4	10	23	15%
Youth	13	5	13	31	21%
Adult	9	7	12	28	19%
Senior	12	9	15	36	24%
Family	7	5	9	21	14%
Total	53	31	67	151	

The following table indicates the distribution of programs according to program type in communities throughout the Municipality. Similarly to program distribution according to age, more programs are available in the larger communities.

TABLE 4.20 Ritchot Recreation Programs – By Type

Type	Ile des Chênes / Grande Pointe	Ste. Agathe	St. Adolphe	Total	% of Total
Physical	16	7	17	40	40%
Social	12	4	12	28	28%
Culture / Art	2	1	2	5	5%
Educational	4	2	4	10	10%
Special Event	9	3	6	18	18%
Total	43	17	41	101	

The preceding Tables indicating the number and type of programs available suggest an adequate supply and variety of options are available to residents. The location and timing of programs is likely more responsible for program satisfaction than the lack of programming, as indicated in the community survey.

4.5.8 Recreation Programs - Issues and Challenges

While there was general satisfaction with the variety and supply of recreation opportunities, there were certain needs identified through the survey that could improve the recreation program / service delivery system.

A key insight from meetings with stakeholders and responses in the community survey is the perceived lack of communication and coordination of services between recreation service providers. Most service providers have a working relationship with the Recreation Department (through the Recreation Director) but relatively little contact with each other.

Part of the communication issue is how residents receive information regarding recreation programs and services provided across the Municipality. A large majority (70.5%) of residents indicated they received information primarily through word of mouth. Additionally, almost one-third (29.1%) stated that they did not find out about recreation programs and services until it was too late.

Another issue that could affect future program services is the long-term sustainability of their organizations due to volunteer decline. While most organizations report that they are currently able to function, they are facing volunteer burn out, and changing demographics are having an impact on the number of people able and willing to volunteer. This situation is not unique to Ritchot and reflects a trend across the country.

The solution to many of these program challenges could be found in a closer working relationship between the Municipality and volunteer organizations.

RECOMMENDATION 21 | COOPERATIVE INTEGRATED PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

That the Municipality, through its Recreation Director, form an even closer working relationship with voluntary recreation program providers through the coordination of annual program guide, promotion of programs through social media, and organization of an annual meeting with all program providers to eliminate duplication and coordinate / integrate program services.

SECTION V
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The Recreation Master Plan contains 21 recommendations and associated implementation strategies to deal with issues identified throughout our study process. Many of the recommendations have resource implications for the Municipality and this section of the report outlines capital and operating cost considerations, sources of potential financial support, priorities for implementation, and suggestions about next steps in the process.



Howden Community Centre

5.2 OPERATING COST IMPLICATIONS

There are several recommendations in the report that if accepted, will have an impact on the operating costs of recreation services. The objective of some of the recommendations is to increase assistance, both financial and management / administrative to non-profit facility-based organizations. This assistance will contribute to a more efficient facility operation and management system, and will further result in greater capacity of the Recreation Department to support programs and services. Strategies for community capacity building, closer relationships between public and non-profit recreation stakeholders and increased utilization of existing facilities are some of the expected benefits.

The public recreation facility recommendations are primarily related to supporting new operation and management systems at the three indoor ice arenas. Also Included is a recommendation to review activities at the TransCanada Centre and involve the Recreation Department to develop and coordinate more physical recreation programming at the site. There is also a recommendation to consider adding two new parks and significant trails in the Municipality.

There are many unknowns with respect to the future operating costs of recreation facilities and services that make it difficult to accurately predict their impact. It is likely that inflation will have an impact on the current cost of services, as will aging infrastructure and operating systems that require a higher degree of preventive maintenance. Operating costs could also be affected by increasing training for volunteers, the continuation of operating and tax deferral agreements with non-profit boards, the future role of volunteers and the important role they play in the provision of recreation services across the Municipality.

It is premature to try to attach a specific cost to these variables but it is these issues and implications that should inform future recreation policy, program and facility decisions.

5.3 PROPOSED CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN FACILITIES

This report suggests some short to mid-range facility additions and improvements that include, but are not limited to:

- Possible future development of a community clubhouse (hall) in Grande Pointe Park;
- Renovations to St. Adolphe Arena, including expansion of dressing rooms;
- Replacement of ice plant in Ste. Agathe Arena;
- The development of a 26-acre park in Ile des Chênes;

- The development of a 10-acre park in St. Adolphe;
- Additions of trails and paths to connect recreation facilities and activity areas to existing municipal trails within each community;
- The development of a municipal-wide trail network; and,
- The possibility of developing a bike pump track facility adjacent or near to St. Adolphe Park.

It is premature to suggest what the capital costs of these future initiatives might be. The cost of new and improved facility development is affected by multiple variables including the scope, scale and components of the project, site conditions, quality and specification of components and materials and the timing of the construction. For example, a project such as the development of a community clubhouse at Grande Pointe Park will vary depending on amenities that may be added and the timing of completion of the proposed phases. Costs are likely be higher than initial 2015 proposed estimates ($478,000) due to inflation and other variables.

When new and improved facilities are under consideration, it's advisable that a predesigned feasibility study be completed. Such a study examines the concept, scope of work, business case and capital cost projections to ensure that the end product is feasible, viable, sustainable and in the best interests of the Municipality.

5.4 CAPITAL BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As previously mentioned, the current supply of major indoor and outdoor facilities appears to be adequate to meet existing demands across the Municipality, with the exception of the need for physical activity program space – which can be met with changes in utilization of the TransCanada Centre's capacity. The challenge ahead will be to work with non-profit organizations to maintain and sustain existing facilities and to plan for long-term facility upgrading and replacement. As the current indoor facilities continue to age, the Municipality will be pressured to contribute more substantially to their renewal, upgrading and ultimately, their replacement.

In this regard, the Municipality should consider an asset management strategy to work with its non-profit and private facility operators to minimize the long-rang impact of aging facilities on the Municipality. There are several strategies to proactively deal with the issue of aging plants and facilities. A major recommendation of this report suggests the Municipality hire a full-time Asset Manager to assist non-profit facility operators – initially to develop and implement the Asset Management Strategy and thereafter to provide ongoing support and guidance regarding plant and facility mechanical system operation.

5.5 ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

In the context of recreation facility development, comprehensive asset management is a strategic systematic approach to managing and operation of a facility throughout its lifecycle - from initial design to decommissioning. The purpose of an asset management process is to ensure safety, cleanliness, responsiveness, efficiency of operation, and return on investment (ROI).

1. Current Condition Assessments

A comprehensive condition assessment includes a review of all building components that include the building envelope and structural analysis, mechanical and electrical inspection, and environmental and code compliance assessment. It should also include a review of the suitability of the design and program standards required to meet modern participant and spectator expectations. The purpose of a condition assessment is to identify facility deficiencies, life expectancy of operating systems, and potential health and safety risks.

2. Preventive Maintenance and Life-Cycle Management

A planned Preventive Maintenance Program establishes the goals, standards, resource requirements and outcome measure for the systematic maintenance of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities based on a hierarchy of managed care criteria. Lifecycle maintenance management is a proactive approach to ongoing, preventive and remedial facility maintenance that is used to predict, budget and schedule the timing of required maintenance, repair and replacement of facility components and operating systems.

3. Capital Reserve Funds

Across Canada, there is a growing recreation infrastructure deficit with respect to the maintenance and operation of public recreation facilities. This is in part due to the high costs of facility development and operation, aging infrastructure and the limited resources available to local governments to fund new facility development and the ongoing operating costs of these services.

An important tool available to local governments is the creation of recreation facility reserve accounts that can support the repair and replacement of facilities as they deteriorate. This ongoing upgrading is necessary to protect the long-term life expectancy of a facility. Many municipalities struggle to set aside adequate funding to meet the growing costs of maintenance but the economical approach is to fund repairs when required, rather than deferring them to a later date. Creating a substantial reserve fund over time to proactively deal with repairs is preferable to having to allocate significant new funding in one year for a costly repair.

There is no prescribed guideline for the amount communities need to contribute annually to their reserve funds. The Alberta Facility Association recommends 1% of present infrastructure value, and the CIRC recommends upwards of 1.75% - 2.50% but few communities can meet these standards. Since 2014, the Municipality of Ritchot has invested just over $55,000 into recreation facility renewal or upgrading from reserve funds. Currently there is approximately $212,814 in the reserve (Table 4.11) which is inadequate to assist its non-profit facility operating partners if emergencies arose.

While the above asset management strategies may require short–term costs, there is a long-term benefit due to the extended sustainability and life expectancy of existing facility, as well as operating costs efficiencies due to the use of modern technology in operating equipment and systems.

5.6 FINANCIAL STRATEGIES AND FUNDING SOURCES

For major facility development where substantial capital investment is required, the objective should be to leverage local resources with other public and private sector partners. This could involve local or regional businesses who share an interest in the project as well as community foundations and senior levels of government. It is also desirable to engage potential users and stakeholders as partners in the project, as well as local community residents.

The key financial strategy is to ensure the scope of the project is realistic and within the capacity of the Municipality to achieve. In recent years, senior governments have established infrastructure grant programs that have supported many local government recreation facility projects. The theoretical cost sharing formula for government supported capital funding has been based on one third from each partner. In reality, local governments have been responsible for funding up to 70% of the capital costs of recent recreation projects in Manitoba.

Federal Government

The federal government Infrastructure Stimulus Funding Program that was available in recent years has not been renewed. More recently, capital funding was available through the Canada 150 Grant Program, but the amount was limited. Currently, there is no other federal recreation infrastructure grant program, but the flexibility of the gas tax funding agreements with municipalities has been broadened to include sport, recreation and cultural capital projects should municipalities choose to use their funds in this way.

Provincial Government

The Province of Manitoba has funded major recreation projects through its Building Manitoba Fund but this program, like most provincial funding programs, is currently under review by the government and no announcements regarding future plans for the fund have been made. The same is true of the Community Places Program but there was a recent provincial announcement of a $20-million dollar combined grant program through Municipal Relations, including the Community Places Program. The funding was available for 2018 capital recreation projects and can include a range of recreation and cultural facility improvements.

On June 4th, 2018, Manitoba signed the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Bilateral Agreement to support infrastructure needs throughout the province over the next ten years. Funding through the ICIP is intended to support a range of investments in recreation, culture, and community infrastructure, including parks and recreational facilities. While an initial intake for Expressions of Interest closed in late summer 2018, the Municipality of Ritchot should monitor future opportunities for funding under the Program.

Local Community Support

Should a major recreation facility development project be considered the first issue that needs to be addressed is deciding where to locate the project. Current population distribution, typical movement and travel patterns of residents and proximity of Winnipeg are significant issues that will need to be discussed and considered.

It is also recommended herein that Council consider increasing annual contributions to create more robust recreation reserve accounts that would serve to minimize the impact of a major investment in new or improved recreation facilities. This is of considerable importance, as major recreation facilities in the Municipality continue to age and current non-profit organization that operate these facilities have stated they are increasingly becoming overwhelmed by the responsibility of maintaining both the "bricks and mortar" and programming activities.

Consultation with the community when contemplating major capital expenditures for recreation is also an important component of the process. The community survey conducted for this report suggested that while there is modest support for increased taxes for new recreation development, approximately one third of the respondents to the survey needed to know more about project plans before could consider supporting any new development. For example, interest in a new indoor pool will be dependent on information about the cost implications for taxpayers. Support for such a facility is likely to change as the high costs to build and operate an indoor aquatic facility become more widely known.

5.7 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPORT & NEXT STEPS

This Recreation Master Plan contains 21 recommendations to address the issues identified throughout the study process. Overall, they are intended to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the recreation service delivery system across the Municipality of Ritchot. Each of the recommendations will have a varying degree of impact on the human, physical and fiscal resources of the Municipality. In addition, there are a number of problem-solving suggestions and implementation strategies articulated throughout the report that do not appear as recommendations but will also have resource implications if carried out.

Not all strategies and recommendations in this Plan have financial implications, nor do they all require Council approval. However, some of the recommendations are directed to, and dependent on, the establishment of a Recreation Advisory Committee and the expansion of the Recreation Department.

The following is an outline of immediate next steps in the implementation of this Plan:

1. The Municipality of Ritchot Council should **receive the Recreation Master Plan for information** and refer it to its Administration for implementation. The intent is that Administration will bring forward individual recommendations to Council for approval over time, as required.
2. **Appoint a Recreation Advisory Committee**, as per Recommendation 1. The establishment of the Recreation Advisory Committee could be supported by the Provincial Recreation Consultant.
3. **Initiate discussions with the Macdonald-Ritchot Planning District to embed new parkland and recreation-related policy directives into the updated Development Plan**, as part of the ongoing Development Plan Review process.

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APPENDIX A

ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

APPENDIX A

Municipality of Ritchot Recreation Master Plan
Community Survey
Results

The Municipality of Ritchot (referred to as the "study area") is developing a comprehensive, long-range Recreation Master Plan and is interested in hearing your opinions concerning current and future recreation services in the area.

The development of a Recreation Master Plan involves a comprehensive public engagement process that includes recreation stakeholder interviews and focus groups, a public forum or open house to discuss plans for future service delivery and the following community survey of residents.

The survey is being conducted by Scatliff + Miller + Murray and J. Harper & Associates who will receive, tabulate and analyze the responses. The questionnaire will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Responses are anonymous and in no way connected to individual respondents. The survey is conducted in compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used solely for the purpose of providing information related to the development of the Recreation Master Plan.

All members of your household are encouraged to submit a survey response and to answer each question to the best of your knowledge. If you wish to comment on any question in more detail, please use the space provided at the end of the questions that apply or in the space provided for comments at the end of the survey.

Your participation is greatly appreciated and will contribute to the development of improved recreation services designed to make Ritchot a better place to live, work and play.

The survey will be open until June 22, 2018.

ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being very poor and 10 being very good, what is your perception of the overall quality of life in your community?

Rating	#	%
Very Poor - 1	4	1.4%
2	2	0.7%
3	6	2.1%
4	10	3.4%
5	27	9.2%
6	24	8.2%
7	68	23.3%
8	105	36%
9	34	11.6%
Very Good - 10	12	4.1%
Total	292	100%
Missing Responses	4	
TOTAL	296	

2. What do you value most about the quality of life in your community? (Please list up to three responses.)

Up to 3 responses coded
270 respondents gave at least one answer
Average number of responses given: 2.7

Response	# mentioned	% of 270 respondents
Safe/low crime	86	31.9%
Recreation programming or facilities	78	28.9%
Friendly/good people/good neighbours	75	27.8%
Quiet, peaceful, slower pace, relaxed	71	26.3%
Sense of community/strong community/cohesion	56	20.7%
Small town feeling	54	20.0%
Amenities (unspecified)	32	11.9%
Parks/trails/green space	29	10.7%
Good schools	27	10.0%
Close to Winnipeg	22	8.1%
Rural/country living	18	6.7%
Open spaces	15	5.6%
Fresh air, clean	14	5.2%
Good services (road clearing, infrastructure, facilities)	14	5.2%

Response	# mentioned	% of 270 respondents
Large lots	12	4.4%
Businesses	11	4.1%
Close/access to nature, beautiful	11	4.1%
Good place for families, children	11	4.1%
Semi-rural/feels rural but also close to city amenities	11	4.1%
Low traffic	10	3.7%
Affordable housing	8	3.0%
Away from/not in Winnipeg	8	3.0%
Low housing density	7	2.6%
Privacy/remoteness	7	2.6%
Space	7	2.6%
Beautiful neighbourhoods/downtown	6	2.2%
Growing community	6	2.2%
Reasonable/low taxes	6	2.2%
Close to family and friends	4	1.5%
Environmentally-aware community	3	1.1%
French culture	3	1.1%
Good neighbourhood, properties	3	1.1%
Ability to use ATV/quad/snowmobIle	2	0.7%
Familiar/know everyone	1	0.4%
Flood protection	1	0.4%
Good government	1	0.4%
Work-life balance	1	0.4%

RECREATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

3. Please list up to three of your favourite free time activities.

Up to 3 activities coded
260 respondents mentioned at least one activity
Average number of responses given: 2.9

Response	# mentioned	% of 260 respondents
Aerobics/zumba	1	0.4%
Aquatic sports (dive, water polo)	2	0.8%
Archery	1	0.4%
Atv/quad	12	4.6%
Badminton	2	0.8%
Baseball	17	6.5%

Response	# mentioned	% of 260 respondents
Basketball	2	0.8%
Beach	1	0.4%
Biking	73	28.1%
Camp	21	8.1%
Canoe/kayak/boating	10	3.8%
Cards/games/puzzles	5	1.9%
Club (service)/church	1	0.4%
Community events (movie night, dances)	5	1.9%
Community/recreation centre (all-encompassing)	1	0.4%
Cooking/crafts/art	17	6.5%
Cross country ski	2	0.8%
Curling	8	3.1%
Dancing	2	0.8%
Driving around	1	0.4%
Fish	15	5.8%
Fitness/exercise/weights	16	6.2%
Gardening/yard work	48	18.5%
Golf	26	10.0%
Hiking	9	3.5%
Hobbies/collecting/special interests (cars, computers)	13	5.0%
Hockey	22	8.5%
Horseback riding	1	0.4%
Hunt	4	1.5%
Lawn bowling	3	1.2%
Library	2	0.8%
Martial arts/self defence	1	0.4%
Movies/music (concerts, in theatre)	7	2.7%
Outside - back yard	32	12.3%
Outside - enjoy nature, birdwatch	3	1.2%
Outside - outdoor activities, being outdoors,	12	4.6%
Outside - specific places mentioned (Beaudry park, river side)	1	0.4%
Pickleball (unspecified)	5	1.9%
Picnic/bonfire	3	1.2%
Play instruments/sing	3	1.2%
Pool/billiards	1	0.4%
Racquetball/squash	1	0.4%
Reading	34	13.1%

Response	# mentioned	% of 260 respondents
Relaxing/sleeping	15	5.8%
Restaurant/eating out	4	1.5%
Rollerblade	5	1.9%
Running	13	5.0%
Shopping	7	2.7%
Skating - unspecified	4	1.5%
Skeet shooting	1	0.4%
Skiing (downhill)	4	1.5%
Snowmobile	5	1.9%
Soccer	7	2.7%
Socialize - with family/friends	19	7.3%
Socialize - with kids, as family	12	4.6%
Spectator sports	5	1.9%
Splash pad	5	1.9%
Sports (unspecified)	14	5.4%
Swimming	32	12.3%
Tennis	1	0.4%
Tobogganing	1	0.4%
Travelling	4	1.5%
Tv/movies/music (at home)	8	3.1%
Volleyball	3	1.2%
Volunteer/coaching	1	0.4%
Walking	103	39.6%
Walking - the dog/dog park	19	7.3%
Yoga/pilates/tai chi/meditation	7	2.7%

4. For each of the following age categories, how satisfied are you with existing recreation and leisure service opportunities.

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Don't know
Infant 1-5 years	7.3%	10.2%	17.5%	18.7%	6.1%	40.2%
Children 6-12 years	8.2	11.9	18.9	19.7	7.8	33.6
Youth 13-17 years	11.1	16.8	18.4	8.2	2.0	43.4
Adults 18-54 years	9.6	27.5	29.9	17.9	2.8	12.4
Adults 55-64 years	5.8	15.8	12.4	11.6	2.9	51.5
Seniors 65+	4.1	13.1	11.1	9.4	5.3	57.0

5. For each of the following activity categories, how satisfied are you with existing recreation and leisure opportunities?

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Don't know
Fitness activities	9.6%	30.0%	30.0%	18.1%	1.9%	10.4%
Recreation level sports	5.4	20.5	26.6	22.4	7.7	17.4
Competitive level sports	7.0	16.7	14.7	16.7	5.4	39.5
Social activities	7.0	21.7	32.9	22.9	3.1	12.4
Special events/ festivals	10.5	22.9	28.7	25.2	5.4	7.4
Visual arts/crafts	12.1	24.1	15.6	8.9	1.6	37.7
Performing arts	14.8	23.0	12.5	5.8	0.8	43.2
Outdoor recreation	12.6	31.4	25.3	18.8	5.7	6.1

6. How do you find out which recreation programs or services are available in the area? (Check all that apply.)

Information about recreation programs/services	#	%
Word of mouth	184	70.5%
Newspaper	31	11.9%
Television	5	1.9%
Radio	8	3.1%
Community Connection Guide	66	25.3%
Advertisements by program provider	37	14.2%
Social media (e.g. website, Facebook, Twitter)	166	63.6%
Posters	88	33.7%
Email contact list	61	23.4%
Municipal website	64	24.5%
Don't find out until too late	76	29.1%

Respondents were given opportunity to provide suggestions for improved recreation communication. Here are the verbatim comments:

- Get an app - Dedicated rec website with e-mail subscription
- A digital sign at the Esso corner, rather than that archaic block letter black sign.
- A lot of recreation services for kids and events are sent to the school in town to be distributed but a good percentage of the kids in town don't go to that school. It's very upsetting to find out afterwards that something was going on but can't participate because our kids go to the French school and we don't get notified.
- A Ritchot recreation Facebook group instead of separate town Facebook groups or email account.
- advertise
- An electronic advertising board listings things that are upcoming. Placed on Main Street near the Esso.
- An electronic sign at Esso intersection with upcoming events and other things listed rather than the fluorescent block letter sign that is currently up there. Also a main community message board kind of like the makeshift one that is inside Esso. Perhaps once our amazing multi-purpose centre is built (next to and part of the municipal office building) we could have a centralized space where community members know they could go for info.

- better collaboration with private enterprises that host functions, regularly scheduled communications, better online formats and official hub, more available print media
- Better online communication. Municipal Recreation should be posting/ sharing what each community has to offer.
- Bike/ walking / running path Off leash dog park Toboggan hill Amphitheater for small shows or even outdoor movies
- Bulletin Board at Post Boxes & Post Office
- Bulletins in mailboxes More active in "The Citizen"
- Certain events in municipality, could be posted on school electronic sign, or around school since people with kids, would see a lot of the upcoming events. Or scheduled events could be mailed to residents
- Choose one website to post/share all the information and notify the residents and organizations about it.
- Communicate with tax payers. No where to find out online about community activities.
- Community billboard
- Community billboard visible from the car
- Community groups for sports need to advertise better. Understand that is a challenge for community groups, or sports teams from investing money to advertise when they need all the money to get by year after year. There needs to be more upfront advertising whether it be on billboards or on social media. Many new faces are moving into the RM and many do not know about any of the activities that happen. Even a door to door campaign telling people about the list of events going on, or get their information and pass it onto the organization. Families get busy and the information isn't always remembered
- Create a monthly news paper for the manicipality. Put in mailbox's
- Create a specific municipal website to promote programs and services and send emails to link to this site.
- Don't know
- email blast
- Email community when a new program is offered
- Emails from the RM would be nice.
- Ensure the website is up to date well in advance before an event, possibly email out to those on the list and make email sign up possible on the website if it is not yet (we had to call the RM office to be added)
- Facebook is a great - I find that there is so much going on that is not advertised anywhere and I don't find out until its too late
- Flyers
- Flyers in the mail?
- Flyers or community newsletters. Not everyone has access or know how to use a computer
- Flyers, posters
- Get someone to write real St. Adolphe news and upcoming events in Carillon News
- Great that the school sends out emails to the parents from the community but is there a Rec emailing list as well??
- I don't read any of the local newspapers and I don't have email, facebook, etc.
- I would prefer mailings of recreation schedules that are mailed out a month or so ahead of registration. We have tried to register for things only to find out they are full. Ads in the Citizen paper also are usually outdated by the time the paper arrives.
- If it's directed more towards the youth it would be smarter to have posters in the schools to let them know something is happening in their town or municipality
- if there was enough services then you could send out recreational guides similar to the leisure guide for the area
- Improve recreation site to be able to search for specific categories of activities, have sign-up dates for upcoming activities posted. The leisure guide is posted once a year but would be best to have it more of an online tool that can be updated on a regular basis. I didn't hear about kids soccer registration until a parent in the park asked me about it. I had tried looking on the recreation website but couldn't find any information.
- Instagram
- Insure that all citizens are included in the methods of communication. There are many age groups in Ritchot and citizens get their news in several different ways. Younger people use their phones, others use Facebook, the local newspapers are very good at covering events, and some need to get direct mail to their homes. To insure complete coverage, Ritchot should insure all citizens receive communications from their local government, whatever method they use to receive information.
- Is there a Ritchot facebook group? Post at schools
- It is impossible for us to attend anything as we do not have childcare here in St Adolphe
- Keeping you app up to day, fire ban took a fews day before updated on the app, send a mailer out to all residence making them aware of the media platforms you use. Could send it out with property tax notices to cut down on postage costs
- Letters or pamphlets in mailboxes.
- Mail information
- Mailbox posters work great!
- Maybe flyers for different activities and more notice for events. A lot of the time we find out the week before and it's hard to make it to sign ups or events. Especially as our household works shift work
- More advertising for municipal events. Approach Red River Community College for creative communications students to provide input to improve existing advertising.
- More flyers in the neighbourhoods
- More marketing thru Facebook & Municipal website
- more use of social media
- most the time i'm not sure what's going on until someone else tells me because I am not part of facebook or social media
- Municipal website app could be better utilized for this purpose
- Need More outdoor advertising

- Need to offer something for teens year round. A place to go bonfires in the summer. A place to meet up in the winter. Not a arcade that encourages theft because they have no money and they want to be with friends. Drop in center year round that offers a welcoming vibe. Tutoring mentoring or just a quiet place other than a library
- No
- No comment
- Not sure if we received information regarding programs and services. Definitely would appreciate one so will watch for it.
- One website 'What's up IDC'....
- Paper copies in the mailbox. Not everyone has social media and people socialize in different groups so may not hear about ALL the functions happening around us.
- Po mail
- Posters on mailboxes work well and i like the Facebook page
- Posters throughout town, and advertisements through social media
- public board like Parks have
- Push notifications. Mailers
- Regular posts on social media accounts as well as enewsletters would be great! Both mediums are free and easy to use
- Reinstate the St Adolphe community webpage
- Residents should provide email addresses and a monthly email should be sent informing everyone of what events are going on
- Ritchie newsletter
- School communication
- Send out flyer to each resident or booklet.
- Send out the Community Connection Guide a full month before events begin.(or at least two weeks prior) Usually when we receive the guide, about 1/3 or the events have happened already or are too soon to make plans to attend.
- Sight on fb like swap n shop but just for notices
- Signs, signs, signs everywhere. Ads in local businesses, through the schools. New activities could be promoted at non-related events
- StAdolphe Swap and Shop Facebook Page
- The grande pointe park needs to be accessed through the Ritchot website
- The St. Adolphe Community Club is TERRIBLE at communication!!!! They need to be accountable.
- Up to date website & social media. Use email list newsletter
- Update the municipality app with the activities, have an updated calendar on both the app and website. Send mail outs in the schools
- We are new to Grande Pointe, it would be nice to have some sort of "welcome" to the neighborhood like you receive in the city.
- WE ARE NEW TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SO REALLY JUST LEARNING ABOUT WHAT IS AVAILABLE.
- What is the Community Connection Guide? This sounds like an interesting resource, yet I have not heard of it.
- Yes, sometimes we are upset because we dont find out until it is too late. Wish to go back to having an calendar of events each month put in our mailbox rather then sometimes finding things out the day before or day after.

7. Approximately what percent of your current recreation and leisure activities do you do in recreation and park facilities in each of the following locations?

Percentage of recreation and leisure activities	RM of Ritchot	City of Winnipeg	Elsewhere
None of it	10.1%	10.5%	34.8%
1-9%	11.3	7.0	7.0
10-19%	16.7	10.9	14.8
20-29%	14.0	17.9	13.6
30-39%	6.2	6.3	5.9
40-49%	5.4	4.3	4.3
50-59%	12.0	11.3	6.7
60-69%	1.2	7.0	3.9
70-79%	7.8	7.7	3.9
80-89%	8.1	6.6	2.4
90-99%	3.5	7.0	2.4
All of it	3.9	3.5	0.4
Average percentage:	35.6%	40.0%	21.7%

Respondents were given opportunity to identify other facilities in the region that they use regularly. Here are the verbatim comments:

- Fields behind Ecole St. Adolphe School
- I have a child in minor hockey, so I am regularly at St. Adolphe Arena and usually at Ste. Agatha Arena and IDC Arena at least once per season.
- I have been to GP Pakr & Trans Canada Cntr for events, but do not attend it regularly as the question asks.
- I used to use the IDC arena a lot but not currently
- IDC school
- irregular only
- Local schools
- Niverville Arena
- Not all on a regular basis. Been to a few in St Adolphe too, but not regularly
- Occasionally
- Parc Cartier
- Public area and trails in St. Adolphe along the river
- School for pickleball
- St Adolphe school
- St Adolphe School- library & gymnasium
- St. Adolphe bible fellowship
- Ste. Agathe School playground
- Ste. Agathe School playground
- though we have some of these facilities I don't know that there is anything going on there for us to participate
- walk in a Niverville park, dont know the name
- walking by the river, and outside and around the dike
- WALKING PATH IN THE GRANDE ALONG THE RIVER
- YMCA at the junction of St.Mary Road and Fermour Ave.
- Yoga Barn

BARRIERS TO RECREATION PARTICIPATION AND VOLUNTEERISM

8. What most limits or prevents you from participation in recreation and leisure activities? (please check all that apply.)

Barrier to Participation	#	%
Nothing limits participation	71	30.2%
Cost	49	20.9%
Disability or physical limitation	23	5.1%
Lack of childcare services	27	11.5%
Lack of facilities	136	57.9%
Quality of facilities	42	17.9%
Travel distance/geographic location	42	17.9%
Lack of transportation	6	2.6%

Respondents were given opportunity to identify other barriers to recreation participation. Here are the verbatim comments:

- Activities are not offered in Ritchot
- Age and Hours
- Availability
- awareness and time
- fitness classes for seniors - facility is way to small and crowded
- FREE TIME
- Hours of operation
- I guess I haven't heard much about what's going on

- In winter no tobogganing hill to enjoy and hardly and winter activities to enjoy, no pool for kids and no water aerobics for seniors or moms and dads.
- Lack of choice of interested activities
- lack of communication, lack of age appropriate options
- Lack of everything in Ile des chenes. Not even safe sidewalks to walk on.
- lack of free time and being unaware of what is available
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of knowledge about activities
- lack of offerings
- Lack of service in evening
- Lack of time
- limited leisure time
- most activities and sports the kids want to do are not offered in our municipality and it is difficult to participate in the city because we are from out of town.
- My comfort zone with not knowing people/self conscious
- No pool in our community
- No pool or water park. Most of our summer recreation is done in lilac for the kids. Camping, pool, parks, and various events for kids
- Not a lot of option in IDC
- not aimed at age my group
- Not enough options in Ritchot.
- not enough things going on that interest me and actually a lack of friendly people who dont talk behind your back
- not knowing what is happening and where
- Not offered in evening for those employed
- Nothing available
- Nothing available that applies to my preferred actiivities
- parks and play grounds
- Poor quality of programming- learn to skate program had very poor instructor.
- Quality of activities
- restrictions imposed by municipality
- retired gone somewhere else
- Scheduling - some activities start before we get home from work
- Seem to be offered for seniors during the day. Nothing available in the evenings
- The activity is not offered, ie. basketball leagues
- The only thing in Grande Pointe is the park, which you need to travel via car to get to from pretty much everywhere in the community. Niverville and St Adolphe are way too far to consider useful facilities wise. Even IDC isn't convenient.
- The time of events. Some are scheduled to early to make it to with work
- There are none
- There just seems to be nothing interesting
- time
- Time
- Time
- time - busy with other things
- Time and days activities are offered
- Time of activity, occur during the day while I'm working
- Time slots for certain activities
- timing of when these activities take place
- unable to bike across 59 hwy from west IDC
- Unknown
- Usually child/family oriented, and I do not have children
- We need more local facilities in our own communities
- work - I have a full time job and 2 part time jobs
- Work hours
- would like a swimming pool with lessons closer to IDC
- Would like to see more walking trails, there really aren't any in the area

9. Are you aware of recreation volunteer opportunities in Ritchot?

Response	#	%
Other	6	2.3%
Yes	69	26.5%
No	144	55.4%
Don't know	41	15.8%
Total	260	100%
Missing Responses	36	
TOTAL	296	

10. Do you volunteer at recreation programs, facilities or events in Ritchot?

Response	#	%
Other	16	6.2%
Yes	85	32.7%
No	151	58.1%
Don't know	8	3.1%
Total	260	100%
Missing Responses	36	
TOTAL	296	

IF 'NO' to Question 10:

11. What most limits or prevents you from participation in recreation volunteer opportunities? (Please check all that apply.)

Barrier to Participation in Volunteer Opportunities	#	%
Nothing limits participation	53	55.2%
Disability or physical limitation	7	7.3%
Lack of childcare services	20	20.8%
Lack of facilities	9	9.4%
Quality of facilities	4	4.2%
Travel distance/geographic location	8	8.3%
Lack of transportation	5	5.2%
Lack of awareness of volunteer opportunities	30	31.3%

Respondents were given opportunity to identify other barriers to volunteering for recreation activities. Here are the verbatim comments:

- Am away during the winter
- Busy with family and events
- Coaching for my school
- Current volunteers control the events
- Don't have always have time
- getting older

- Getting older and not that much energy.
- go to 13
- I don't know what recreation volunteers are!
- I have done lots in previous years but realizing I was working to make money for certain people in charge of committees etc. has turned me off
- I was involved for 18 years when child was in preschool and then school
- I work 2 jobs. I want to enjoy watching my kid
- If volunteer times do not fit schedule for getting babysitter, this may impose a challenge on the amount we can volunteer
- Just too old
- lack of leisure time
- Lack of spare time
- Lack of spare time
- lack of time
- lack of time
- Lack of time
- Lack of time because of family demands
- lack of time to volunteer
- language. do not speak french
- Limited time availability
- My young family
- NEW TO NEIGHBOURHOOD
- No interested
- No lacrosse program that I know of in Ritchot
- No time. Would rather pay a user fee
- Not aware of what programs are out there
- Not enough free time
- not interested
- Nothing seems of interest to me
- recent resident and very involved with family needs currently
- Retired time to watch
- Son plays competitive sports 6 days a week
- the conflicting and competing communities in close proximity of one another, and in separate RMs
- time
- Time
- time
- Time conflict with work
- time constraints - I have very small children
- Time restraint
- timing of the activity or not knowing
- Tjme
- Typically happens on weekends, and we're at the lake in the summer months
- Unpredictable work schedule
- Wasn’t aware there were any.
- work
- Work
- Work
- Work schedule
- Work schedule
- Work schedule occasionally a problem

IF 'NO' to Question 10:

12. Would you be willing to volunteer at recreation programs, facilities or events in Ritchot?

Response	#	%
Yes, and contact info provided	52	26.1%
Yes, but no contact info provided	34	17.1%
No	113	56.8%
Total	199	100%
Missing Responses	97	
TOTAL	296	

RECREATION AND PARKS FACILITIES

13. Which of the following indoor and outdoor parks and recreation facilities do you visit or use on a regular basis? Please check all that apply, or "None" if you haven't used any of these facilities.

Recreation facility	#	%
Trans Canada Centre	68	26.9%
Ile des Chenes Arena	48	19.0%
D'Auteuil Park	50	19.8%
Optimist Community Park	38	15.0%
Grande Pointe Park	51	20.2%
Howden Community Hall	9	3.6%
Boiler Picnic Shelter/Waterfront Trail Ste. Agathe	14	5.5%
Ste. Agathe Arena	38	15.0%
Ste. Agathe Hall	28	11.1%
Lemoine St. Park	21	8.3%
Belle Riviere Park	13	5.1%
Cartier Park	32	12.6%
St. Adolphe Arena/Pioneer Hall	73	28.9%
St. Adolphe Curling Club	42	16.6%
St. Adolphe Park	46	18.2%
Perron Park	28	11.1%
Pointe Coupée Park	38	15.0%
Club Amical	14	5.5%
Ritchot Senior Services	13	5.1%
None (have not used any facilities listed above)	29	11.5%

14. In your opinion, are new, improved or expanded recreation and parks facilities/programs needed?

Response	#	%
Yes	216	85.4%
No	37	14.6%
Total	253	100%
Missing Responses	43	
TOTAL	296	

Respondents were given opportunity to provide comments after this question. Here are the verbatim comments:

- DON'T REALLY KNOW YET
- I think the facilities are in place, but maybe additional programming is required
- Not sure
- 5 mile paved walking path in IDC for safety of parents with strollers and children
- A splash pad for the growing community would be great especially with so many small children around
- Better upkeep of curling rinl
- I may not use them however I believe my neighbors might
- In St. Adolphe area
- Love the new structure and nature playscape!!
- need a proper boat launch
- Needed but like everything in Ile Des Chenes will be talked about but never happen. Great survey but waste of time.
- Not necessarily needed, but always a nice to have
- Outdoor rink in st adolphe next to arena. Proper baseball diamonds. Community sportsplex in st adolphe!!!
- Perron Park expecially!!!!
- Pool and tennis courts
- The communities are Large enough to warrant having a swimming pool
- Walking/cycling paths along Seine River
- We do not have big enough parks in st adolphe. With the expansion of the community we are in need of big parks including bike paths and splash pads
- We should have a splash pad somewhere close. I drive in to island lakes in Winnipeg to take my kids there.
- would appreciate green space with gardens - St. Agathe
- Would be nice to have a campground with actual structures, or some kind of water park, that attracts More young families, and no minor hockey on community, means our kids go elsewhere

IF 'YES' to Question 14:

15. What new, improved or expanded INDOOR recreation <u>facilities</u> would you most like to see developed? (Please enter up to three choices.)

Up to three responses coded
171 respondents gave at least one suggestion
Average number of responses given: 1.9

Indoor Facility	# who mentioned	% of 171 respondents
Arts/crafts space	1	0.6%
Badminton/tennis/pickleball	3	1.8%
Baseball training centre	3	1.8%
Basketball	5	2.9%
Billiards hall	1	0.6%

Indoor Facility	# who mentioned	% of 171 respondents
Bowling alley	1	0.6%
Childcare/day care	2	1.2%
Community centre/hall	12	7.0%
Curling rink	6	3.5%
Dance/gymnastics	2	1.2%
Drop in centre for youth	8	4.7%
Facility for special needs individuals	1	0.6%
Fieldhouse	1	0.6%
Fitness facility	58	33.9%
Gymnasium	48	28.1%
Hockey/skate arena	25	14.6%
Library	5	2.9%
Movie theatre	1	0.6%
Multiplex	15	8.8%
Paintball	1	0.6%
Performing arts space	3	1.8%
Playstructure	12	7.0%
Racquetball	2	1.2%
Rock wall	4	2.3%
School gyms	3	1.8%
Seniors activity centre	2	1.2%
Skatepark	3	1.8%
Soccer	10	5.8%
Swimming pool/waterpark	59	34.5%
Volleyball	2	1.2%
Walking/running track	17	9.9%

IF 'YES' to Question 14:

16. what new, improved or expanded OUTDOOR parks and recreation facilities would you most like to see developed? (Please enter up to three choices.)

Up to three responses coded
194 respondents gave at least one suggestion
Average number of responses given: 2.2

Outdoor Facility	# who mentioned	% of 194 respondents
Archery	1	0.5%
ATV/dirt bike paths	6	3.1%
Baseball	26	13.4%

Outdoor Facility	# who mentioned	% of 194 respondents
Basketball	6	3.1%
Bathroom facilities	3	1.5%
BBQ/fire pits	1	0.5%
Beach volleyball	1	0.5%
Beach volleyball	4	2.1%
Boat dock/fishing	13	6.7%
Campground	2	1.0%
Cartier Park	2	1.0%
Cross country ski trails	7	3.6%
D'Autueil Park	5	2.6%
Dog park	13	6.7%
Fitness trail/equipment	3	1.5%
Foot bridge over Seine at Grande Point	1	0.5%
Golf	1	0.5%
Grande Pointe Park	4	2.1%
Heritage sites	1	0.5%
Hiking trails	6	3.1%
Meeting place/plaza	3	1.5%
Optimist Community Park	1	0.5%
Parks	17	8.8%
Perron Park	4	2.1%
Picnic tables/shelter	2	1.0%
Playground	21	10.8%
Pool	33	17.0%
Rinks/arenas	19	9.8%
River skate	1	0.5%
Running/biking path along highway	1	0.5%
School playgrounds	5	2.6%
Skateboard park	23	11.9%
Ski hill	1	0.5%
Soccer	16	8.2%
Splash pad	57	29.4%
St. Adolphe Park	5	2.6%
Tennis	12	6.2%
Tobogganing	8	4.1%
Track	1	0.5%
Volleyball	1	0.5%
Wading pool	1	0.5%
Walking/biking paths	88	45.4%

Outdoor Facility	# who mentioned	% of 194 respondents
Warm-up huts	2	1.0%
Water feature/landscaping	6	3.1%
Zipline	1	0.5%

IF 'YES' to Question 14:

17. What new, improved or expanded INDOOR recreation <u>programs</u> would you most like to see developed? (Please enter up to three choices.)

Up to three responses coded
136 respondents gave at least one suggestion
Average number of responses given: 2.0

Indoor Program	# who mentioned	% of 136 respondents
Adult programming	6	4.4%
Aerobics classes FOR ADULTS	1	0.7%
Aerobics/Zumba/Spin classes	7	5.1%
Alternative time/schedule for existing programs	3	2.2%
Archery	2	1.5%
Arts classes FOR ADULTS	1	0.7%
Arts classes FOR KIDS	3	2.2%
Arts classes/groups	13	9.6%
Baby/toddler groups	5	3.7%
Badminton	6	4.4%
Badminton FOR ADULTS	1	0.7%
Baseball clinics/training	1	0.7%
Basketball	3	2.2%
Basketball FOR ADULTS	1	0.7%
Basketball FOR YOUTH	3	2.2%
Children's programming	6	4.4%
Community events	1	0.7%
Cribbage	2	1.5%
Cultural/Language activities	1	0.7%
Curling	1	0.7%
Dance FOR KIDS	2	1.5%
Dance FOR YOUTH	1	0.7%
Dance, line dancing	7	5.1%
Dodgeball FOR ADULTS	2	1.5%
Drama classes FOR KIDS	1	0.7%
Drama classes/groups	3	2.2%

Indoor Program	# who mentioned	% of 136 respondents
Drop in activities	3	2.2%
Drop in activities FOR YOUTH	2	1.5%
Educational programming/leisure	5	3.7%
Educational programs FOR ADULTS	2	1.5%
Family activities	1	0.7%
Fitness programs FOR ADULTS	8	5.9%
Fitness programs FOR FAMILIES	1	0.7%
Fitness programs FOR SENIORS	1	0.7%
Fitness programs FOR YOUTH	1	0.7%
Fitness programs/weight training	19	14.0%
Floor/ball hockey	6	4.4%
Groups (Boy scouts etc)	3	2.2%
Groups FOR KIDS	1	0.7%
Groups FOR YOUTH	1	0.7%
Gym activities/sports	6	4.4%
Gym sports FOR KIDS	1	0.7%
Gymnastics	5	3.7%
Gymnastics FOR KIDS	1	0.7%
Hockey	7	5.1%
Hockey FOR ADULTS	1	0.7%
Hockey FOR YOUTH	1	0.7%
Lacrosse	1	0.7%
Library programs	3	2.2%
Martial arts FOR ADULTS	1	0.7%
Martial arts FOR KIDS	3	2.2%
Martial/defence arts	3	2.2%
Music lessons	5	3.7%
Music lessons FOR KIDS	1	0.7%
Pickleball	4	2.9%
Ringette	2	1.5%
Rock climbing	1	0.7%
Seniors programming	2	1.5%
Skating (public, lessons)	3	2.2%
Soccer	13	9.6%
Sports	2	1.5%
Summer camps	4	2.9%
Swimming (lessons)	26	19.1%
Swimming lessons FOR KIDS	1	0.7%
Tai Chi	2	1.5%

Indoor Program	# who mentioned	% of 136 respondents
Volleyball	7	5.1%
Volleyball FOR ADULTS	4	2.9%
Walking group	1	0.7%
Walking groups FOR SENIORS	1	0.7%
Wrestling	1	0.7%
Yoga FOR ADULTS	2	1.5%
Yoga FOR SENIORS	2	1.5%
Yoga/pilates	16	11.8%
Youth programming	4	2.9%

IF 'YES' to Question 14:

18. What new, improved or expanded OUTDOOR recreation programs would you most like to see developed? (Please enter up to three choices.)

Up to three responses coded
96 respondents gave at least one suggestion
Average number of responses given: 1.7

Outdoor Program	# who mentioned	# of 96 respondents
Adult activities	2	2.1%
Archery	1	1.0%
Baseball	11	11.5%
Baseball COMPETITIVE	1	1.0%
Baseball FOR ADULTS	2	2.1%
Baseball FOR KIDS	1	1.0%
Baseball FOR SENIORS	1	1.0%
Baseball FOR YOUTH	3	3.1%
Baseball MINOR LEAGUE	1	1.0%
Beach volleyball	2	2.1%
Beach volleyball FOR ADULTS	1	1.0%
Bike club FOR YOUTH	1	1.0%
Bike club/kids of mud	6	6.3%
Boat/paddle club	2	2.1%
Bootcamps	2	2.1%
Camping	1	1.0%
Clubs (Beavers/scouts)	1	1.0%
Craft clubs/group	1	1.0%
Cross-country skiing	7	7.3%
Drop in activities FOR YOUTH	1	1.0%

Outdoor Program	# who mentioned	# of 96 respondents
Drop-in activities	1	1.0%
Education	1	1.0%
Festivals/concerts	3	3.1%
Fishing	4	4.2%
Fitness	4	4.2%
Fitness programs FOR ADULTS	1	1.0%
Football	4	4.2%
Gardening clubs	3	3.1%
Gardening FOR ADULTS	1	1.0%
Golf (team, leagues)	3	3.1%
Hockey FOR ADULTS	2	2.1%
Hockey RECREATIONAL	1	1.0%
Horseback riding	1	1.0%
Horseshoes/lawn bowling	2	2.1%
Lacrosse	1	1.0%
Preschool activities	3	3.1%
Running	8	8.3%
Running groups FOR ADULTS	1	1.0%
Senior activities	1	1.0%
Skating	1	1.0%
Ski club	1	1.0%
Slo-pitch	4	4.2%
Slo-pitch FOR ADULTS	1	1.0%
Soccer	17	17.7%
Soccer COMPETITIVE	3	3.1%
Soccer FOR ADULTS	1	1.0%
Soccer FOR KIDS	1	1.0%
Soccer FOR YOUTH	2	2.1%
Sports camps	1	1.0%
Sports unspecified	1	1.0%
Summer/day camps	9	9.4%
Summer/day camps FOR KIDS	1	1.0%
Swimming lessons	13	13.5%
Tennis	3	3.1%
Track and field	3	3.1%
Ultimate	2	2.1%
Ultimate FOR ADULTS	1	1.0%
Walking	4	4.2%
Walking groups FOR SENORS	1	1.0%

Outdoor Program	# who mentioned	# of 96 respondents
Youth activities	3	3.1%

19. The Municipality of Ritchot has interest in redeveloping Cartier Park (Ste. Agathe) to provide new recreation experiences and opportunities. What new or improved facilities or amenities would you like to see provided at this location? (Please enter up to three choices.)

Up to three responses coded
70 respondents gave at least one suggestion
Average number of responses given: 2.1

Cartier Park	# who mentioned	% of 70 respondents
Baseball	3	4.3%
Basketball	2	2.9%
Bathroom facilities	1	1.4%
BBQ/fire pits	1	1.4%
Beach	4	5.7%
Beach volleyball	2	2.9%
Better maintenance (cutting grass etc)	5	7.1%
BMX trails	1	1.4%
Boat deck	4	5.7%
Campground	9	12.9%
Community garden	1	1.4%
Composting	1	1.4%
Concession stand	1	1.4%
Cross country ski trails	4	5.7%
Dog park	2	2.9%
Festivals/stage/amphitheatre	2	2.9%
Fishing	2	2.9%
Fitness programming/camps	2	2.9%
Fitness trail/equipment	5	7.1%
Flower gardens, water feature, landscaping	1	1.4%
Frisbee golf	1	1.4%
Golf (driving range)	1	1.4%
Hiking	1	1.4%
Hockey/skate rink or pond	2	2.9%
Kayaking/white water park	1	1.4%
Lawn sports (cricket, bowling)	1	1.4%
Mini golf	2	2.9%
Park	1	1.4%

Cartier Park	# who mentioned	% of 70 respondents
Picnic area/shelter	3	4.3%
Playground	12	17.1%
Skateboard park	5	7.1%
Soccer	3	4.3%
Splash pad	18	25.7%
Sports park	1	1.4%
Squash courts	1	1.4%
Swimming	29	41.4%
Tennis/pickleball	4	5.7%
Toboggan hill	1	1.4%
Walking/biking trails	10	14.3%

Respondents were given opportunity to provide comments after this question. Here are the verbatim comments:

- an aquatic center would keep people in town that go to altona/morris/steinbach etc for their centers and could attract people that just want to get away from the city to camp and splash around in a safe environment
- Are Agathe is too far from me
- awesome that would be very exciting this park needs to be used!
- Closer to drive in to winnipeg then to st agathe
- Do not use this park
- does not apply to me- wont attend Ste.Agathe for recreation
- Doesn't matter, I do not go to Ste Agathe
- Don't use it
- don't use the facility enough to know
- Don’t know this park, but invest first in childcare then more people would move here
- Don’t live there so doesn’t matter
- dont know where cartier park is
- I can’t comment, I never go there
- I do not go there
- I don't know the area well enough to comment.
- I don't live there don't want to go there
- I don’t frequent ste Agathe
- I’ve personally noticed that I only use the park during the summer... developing some winter activities and opportunities at the park would be nice!
- Ile des chenes needs stuff!!!
- Much needed in our own town in St. Adolphe
- Municipality shouldn’t be doing this it should be the volunteers from st agathe if they want it. Tell them to get off their ass and do something
- never been there
- No plans to go out of town to use anything
- None- St. Agathe already has an amazing park
- none...not a good spot anymore
- Not interested. I would not travel to SteAgathe. I live inSt. Adolphe
- not sure kinda far
- Not too sure as i've never been there so i have no idea what it has
- Nothing not MY town
- Pool would give the teenagers a job opportunity
- Redeveloping cartier park is a great idea!
- So St Adolphe is expected to expand by 4000 people within 10 years but yet we are taling about something in St Agathe ?
- Ste Agathe is ridiculously far from Grande Pointe and it seems like there is very little money and attention paid to the facilities in this community, when our property taxes are pretty significant. More investment for families in Grande Pointe who have basically nothing at the moment is needed.

- There are no 'water type' facilities that I am aware of within our RM. It would be AMAZING to have either a man made beach, splash pad or outdoor pool. There are so many neighbouring towns in the area that would also get so much use out of a facility like this.
- Transportation an issue
- Upgrades to picnic shelter for showers/change rooms for water feature or separate building for this purpose possibly at site of Interperative Centre
- Use Niverville as a model but include modern washrooms
- Where is Cartier park
- Would love to see a splash pad in St. Adolphe
- Wouldn't use it

20. The Municipality of Ritchot has interest in redeveloping Optimist Community Park (Ile des Chenes) to provide new recreation experiences and opportunities. What new or improved facilities or amenities would you like to see provided at this location? (Please enter up to three choices.)

Up to three responses coded
95 respondents gave at least one suggestion
Average number of responses given: 2.0

Optimist Community Park	# who mentioned	% of 95 respondents
Baseball	5	5.3%
Basketball	3	3.2%
Bathroom facilities	6	6.3%
Beach volleyball	3	3.2%
Benches	3	3.2%
Better maintenance (cutting grass etc)	2	2.1%
BMX trails	3	3.2%
Campground	2	2.1%
Community information board	1	1.1%
Concession stand	5	5.3%
Cross country ski trails	5	5.3%
Dog park	6	6.3%
Festivals/stage/amphitheatre	4	4.2%
Fitness trail/equipment	3	3.2%
Flower gardens, water feature, landscaping	3	3.2%
Hiking	1	1.1%
Hockey/skate rink or pond	2	2.1%
Lawn sports (cricket, bowling)	1	1.1%
Lighting/safety features	5	5.3%
Mini golf	2	2.1%
Parking/keep vehicles off grass	6	6.3%
Picnic area/shelter	7	7.4%
Playground	21	22.1%
Skateboard park	10	10.5%
Soccer	11	11.6%

Optimist Community Park	# who mentioned	% of 95 respondents
Splash pad	19	20.0%
Squash courts	1	1.1%
Swimming	17	17.9%
Swings (kids and adult)	2	2.1%
Tennis/pickleball	3	3.2%
Toboggan hill	2	2.1%
Track and field track	5	5.3%
Wading pool	1	1.1%
Walking/biking trails	24	25.3%

Respondents were given opportunity to provide comments after this question. Here are the verbatim comments:

- *** parking is an issue at this park, people have to park on the street
- All diamonds need fencing and backstop maintenance (balls get under)
- As I live inSt. Adolphe I would not travel to Ile des Chenes
- cannot comment as do not visit
- Don't use it
- don't use the facility enough to know
- Don't use this park
- I don't even know where that is. From GP, IDC is way farther than say Sage Creek in Winnipeg and because we don't have our own community resources we make use of the CofW's
- I don't know the area well enough to comment.
- I don't live there don't want to go there
- I don’t frequent optimist park
- Idc people can do it themselves just like how the park started. Too lazy to be on a committee and expect the rm to do it for them
- Much needed in st. Adolphe
- never been there
- no interest
- No plans to go out of town to use anything
- Not familiar
- Not familiar with area
- Nothing Not MYTown
- Optimist park is already amazing and it would be a shame to spend more money there as the facility is great!
- Soccer field
- The Same For All Parks in Ritchot
- Transportation an issue
- Use Niverville as a model but include modern washrooms
- we need to keep to keep our kids busy in the winter

21. The Municipality of Ritchot has interest in redeveloping St. Adolphe Park to provide new recreation experiences and opportunities. What new or improved facilities or amenities would you like to see provided at this location? (Please enter up to three choices.)

Up to three responses coded
87 respondents gave at least one suggestion
Average number of responses given: 2.4

St. Adolphe Park	# who mentioned	% of 87 respondents
Baseball	23	26.4%
Basketball	1	1.1%
Bathroom facilities	1	1.1%
BBQ/fire pits	2	2.3%
Beach volleyball	1	1.1%
Benches	2	2.3%
Better maintenance (cutting grass etc)	3	3.4%
BMX trails	4	4.6%
Boat deck	6	6.9%
Campground	2	2.3%
Cross country ski trails	4	4.6%
Dog park	6	6.9%
Festivals/stage/amphitheatre	3	3.4%
Fitness programming/camps	1	1.1%
Fitness trail/equipment	6	6.9%
Golf (driving range)	1	1.1%
Hockey/skate rink or pond	5	5.7%
Lighting/safety features	1	1.1%
Outdoor market	1	1.1%
Park	1	1.1%
Parking/keep vehicles off grass	2	2.3%
Picnic area/shelter	12	13.8%
Playground	10	11.5%
Playstructure/playgrounds	3	3.4%
Programs (tai chi etc)	1	1.1%
Quad trails/snowmobile trails	4	4.6%
Skateboard park	9	10.3%
Soccer	8	9.2%
Splash pad	23	26.4%
Swimming	19	21.8%
Swings (kids and adult)	1	1.1%
Tennis/pickleball	4	4.6%
Toboggan hill	6	6.9%
Track and field track	2	2.3%
Wading pool	1	1.1%
Walking/biking trails	28	32.2%
Water fountains	2	2.3%

Respondents were given opportunity to provide comments after this question. Here are the verbatim comments:

- an active community is a healthy community is a happy community
- Any improvements with financial implications need to be focused to Parks inside the dike
- Anything that will benefit the community in the long run!!
- Baseball
- because of flooding it does not make sence to spend much money there
- Can't comment- I don't go there
- close proximity - any of the services listed above - bike paths
- Do not go there
- do not visit but would if there were things that interested my child
- Doesn't matter, I don't go to st Adolphe
- Don't use it
- Don't go there
- Don't live there
- dont know this area
- Flood zone and your setting us up for failure
- I haven't been there yet
- I realize this all flood plain so not very viable.
- In the early 80's as a child we would travel from Winnipeg to St Adolphe as my Dad was in an active baseball league. St Adolphe had baseball diamonds, a couple of camping spots and the outdoor pool. Some of my favorite memories as a child was to come here, camp overnight and swim all day at the pool. There was a canteen that provided food, drinks, snacks and cold treats.
- Leave the rm out if it
- no interest
- Not familiar with area
- not too sure, i've never been there
- Once again, St Adophe is way too far to go for recreation from GP
- Picnic Shelter
- remember this park supported an outdoor pool at one time
- Rm needs to maintain the grass and snow clearing to allow for regular use
- Socce fields, baseball diamonds
- The ATV's do help to keep the bush clear on the trails, but we've to get them out of the park. This park is a precious resource that is basically ignored or forgotten by the general public. I think it has such potential.
- The dyke needs to fixed/moved to prevent this area from flooding and will prevent damage to the area. Waste of time to invest money in something that could possibly flood year after year
- The Same For All Parks in Ritchot
- There is nothing to do on a hot day in town.
- This area floods. Consider green space in Tourand Creek.
- Use Niverville as a model but include modern washrooms
- Walking on the road is unsafe especially on our roads and limited sidewalks
- We live on the river might use it.
- Where is St. Adolphe Park?
- wouldn't use it

22. The Municipality of Ritchot has interest in redeveloping Grande Pointe Park to provide new recreation experiences and opportunities. What new or improved facilities or amenities would you like to see provided at this location? (Please enter up to three choices.)

Up to three respondents coded
49 respondents gave at least one suggestion
Average number of responses given: 1.7

Grande Pointe Park	# who mentioned	% of 49 respondents
Archery	1	2.0%
Baseball	5	10.2%

Grande Pointe Park	# who mentioned	% of 49 respondents
Bathroom facilities	4	8.2%
Cross country ski trails	4	8.2%
Dog park	2	4.1%
Festivals/stage/amphitheatre	1	2.0%
Fitness programming/camps	1	2.0%
Fitness trail/equipment	1	2.0%
Flower gardens, water feature, landscaping	1	2.0%
Football	1	2.0%
Hall/building/fieldhouse	2	4.1%
Hiking	2	4.1%
Hockey/skate rink or pond	2	4.1%
Lighting/safety features	1	2.0%
Picnic area/shelter	2	4.1%
Playground	9	18.4%
Quad trails/snowmobile trails	1	2.0%
Skateboard park	2	4.1%
Soccer	6	12.2%
Splash pad	10	20.4%
Swimming	5	10.2%
Swings (kids and adult)	1	2.0%
Tennis/pickleball	1	2.0%
Track and field track	2	4.1%
Walking/biking trails	12	24.5%
Water fountains	2	4.1%

Respondents were given opportunity to provide comments after this question. Here are the verbatim comments:

- Anything to benefit the community in the long run
- Do not use this park
- Doing a great job developing this park so far!!!
- Don't care about grand pointe
- Don't use it
- Don’t live there
- dont know that area
- Fix the baseball diamonds
- Grand Point has had their park recently redeveloped, so they should be at the bottom of he list for redevelopment funding.
- Great park!!
- Haven’t been there...
- I don't know the area well enough to comment.
- I have never been to this park or even knew that it existed
- I like this one, there is some hiking trails and stuff there so i think this one is good
- its great for the people that live there. Dont want to drive all the time
- Leave the rm out of it
- N/A - can't comment as not familiar with this park
- never been there

- never visited
- no interest
- Not familiar
- Not familiar with area and their current amenities
- Not my Town
- Please do not invest in St. Adolphe Park at this time! Perron park needs to be redeveloped! Not st. Adolphe park which gets flooded every year. A lot of new families are moving into the perron park area and the structure is falling apart.
- Sorry I would not travel to Grande Pointe
- St. Adolphe needs it more for our growing community
- The Same For All Parks in Ritchot
- Use Niverville as a model but include modern washrooms
- Warm up shack for skating ring open during weekdays
- wouldn't use it

23. Would you be willing to pay more in taxes for new or improved parks, recreation facilities, and programs?

Response	#	%
Yes	107	47.3%
No	50	22.1%
Don't know	69	30.5%
Total	226	100%
Missing Responses	70	
TOTAL	296	

Respondents were given opportunity to provide comments after this question. Here are the verbatim comments:

- depends for what and how much.
- Depends on increase amount
- Depends on location of improvements
- depends on the amount
- Depends on the hike in taxes
- Depends on what is being offered & how much more
- Depends on what is offered and how it will be improved.
- Depends what and how much
- Depends what it is
- Depends. Fix Main st in ile des chenes like it was supposed to be. FIX OUT SIDEWALKS!!!! I busted my ankle on the sidewalk on the NW side of main st.
- I don't pay taxes but I'd be happy to donate my time to help develop these projects
- I would be willing to pay more taxes if..... 1) All projects were put up for tender with complete transparency in the costs prior to passage at a Council Meeting.(the new outdoor rink that was recently completed in St. Adolphe should have cost have the price). 2) There was a 5 year master plan with fairness, I would not be willing to fund a project in a town which already has more than its fair share of facilities). 3) I would know in advance, what the increase in taxes would be should a project be approved.
- If the RM will listen to the needs of the people, I think a small increase would be acceptable
- it depends how it affects me. If it is something I cannot use or have no interest in, my support would not be there.
- It depends. Fundraising could be an option?!
- It's difficult with such a wide RM. I would pay more in taxes for improvements in St. Adolphe, where I live, but do not want to pay more for improvements to IDC, Grand Pointe, and/or Ste. Agatha when I and my family do not, and will not, ever use them.
- Just do it right, not half assed. I hope it's better than the way you fix the streets in town
- maybe slightly, but already feel that taxes are fairly high
- Our taxes have continually been on the rise without a rise in amenities and services
- really depends how much of a raise it would be. Perhaps looking at community fundraising events could help also. Block parties and meet and greets are great events that could work as fundraisers. Perhaps a community 50/50 draw half goes to the winner and the rest goes to funds for working on the new park
- We already pay so much and don't have anything to show for it.
- Would depend on what was being offered.

- For the amount of taxes I pay I shouldn't have to fork out more to actually have a park to be able to walk to that isn't 30 mins away when I live in the town....
- I find the taxes we pay for what we have in our town is enough. Our town has only now gotten a fire hall, and have limited amenities. All sporting events and recreation is in other communiTies. Hockey for example is in Niverville or Morris
- keep improvements simple - look for donations/volunteers.
- loaded question. nobody wants to pay more taxes. but i already pay taxes for services i don't use or need without a choice.
- Money isn't being spent transparent. Don't trust current council
- My taxes have increased substantially in the 16yrs we've lived here and we have nothing to show for it so no I would not be interested in further increases
- Only if they would be upgrading in my town
- Our taxes are high enough,
- Pensions and severances packages to the councillors and mayor should be reviewed prior to raising taxes.
- since St Adolphe new devolpement, my taxes have gone from 1500$- over 2000$, and the roads are horrific, perron and Aubin drive are unacceptable, and needs to be replaced not poorly patched, roads are so bad if someone gets hurt could result in a lawsuit
- Taxes are way to high trim other expences to find the money
- There isn't the population base in Richot (tax base) to provide Winnipeg level services without causing financial hardship to tax payers.
- We have no reliable policing, no bylaw enforcement, no animal control officer. Our tax money should be used for essential services not playtime. People who want more recreation facilities should pay out of pocket not force those not interested in paying higher taxes.
- we Pay 3900.00 a yr in Ile Des Chenes and have nothing. Our taxes seems to be providing for other communities.
- We pay enough. People can get off their asses and volunteer if they want something better. This is rural living, if they want that move back to the city
- We pay higher taxes here than in the city, so why don't we have the facilities the city does
- You would think with the amount of taxes we pay, that we would have side walks, beautiful parks, and immaculate landscaping in Ste. Agathe. Yet, the RM can't even mow the lawn and maintain current facilities and parks. It's a disgrace compared to other towns. When the councillors solution is to go and do the work himself as opposed to looking to the RM, there's and obvious issue.
- As long as its a modest increment
- As long as the RM holds a voting venue for community members to decide, democratically, what the majority agrees to install.
- As long as things were well though out and the community is consulted
- But not in other towns, we have nothing here and would like some funding for our town and future
- But not more than $500 per year
- Community life is based on good recreational programs & facilities which enhances overall health & well being.
- Depends how much
- I would be willing to pay more if the money I pay is invested in my community (Grande Pointe). We already pay taxes comparable to the City of Winnipeg for basically no amenities. I don't want my tax dollars funneled into a bigger community that has a much larger tax base to draw from. There is not enough money being invested into Grande Pointe, and there are quite a few young families with children who could benefit.
- if in IDC
- if it benefits the town yes
- if it is increasing safe walking/running paths in Ile des chenes
- If it was a reasonable amount
- If there is more out there for the kids to do, I would want to pay a bit more.
- in Ste Agathe
- just a little bit more
- Minimal amount.
- Programs should be self sufficient, or close to - just need a paid coordinator. Yes - I would contribute up to $250 towards improved recreation in the community if it included the organization of the events like other towns do.
- small amount more would be acceptable
- There are other areas for government efficiencies that could limit the tax increases required.
- To be a complete community we need to invest in parks, recreational facilities and programs
- We would like to see a dedicated percentage of the RM budget to recreation in the RM. As our communities are in state of expansion, it's vitally important to ensure that recreation opportunities exist for all residents. This will translate to promotion of our communities as a great place to live thus increasing our tax base which ultimately should have a reinvestment into recreation and facilities in order to provide various opportunities for a healthy and active lifestyle.
- With providing residents budget expectations to provide facilities/programs
- Within a certain tolerance i would be willing to accept it
- Within reason of course
- Within Reason, money should have been continuously put into the community over the years. This community remains affordable for all walks of life and activities/recreation development won't be useful if people can't afford to live here. Creating safe sidewalks is an examples of affordable activities that is age friendly. What's good for the young is good for the old
- Would very much depend on return on investment. I don't want my taxes in IDC to jump because ste Agathe got a new park. Etc.
- Yes, I would be willing to pay more in taxes but only if the new/improved parks/facilities/programs were located in the town which I live in. I have no interest in paying more tax for a facility that is a half hour drive away.

ABOUT YOU

24. How do you identify yourself?

Response	#	%
male	76	32.2%
female	156	66.1%
other	4	1.7%
Total	236	100%
Missing Responses	60	
TOTAL	296	

25. What is your marital status?

Response	#	%
Single	18	7.8%
Married/CLU	206	88.8%
Divorced/separated	8	3.4%
Total	232	100%
Missing Responses	64	
TOTAL	296	

26. What is your age?

Average age 43.8 years
Range 14-76 years

Age category	#	%
Under 20 years	3	1.4%
20-24 years	3	1.4%
25-29 years	17	7.8%
30-34 years	28	12.8%
35-39 years	44	20.1%
40-44 years	34	15.5%
45-49 years	22	10.0%
50-54 years	16	7.3%
55-59 years	19	8.7%
60-64 years	15	6.8%
65-69 years	13	5.9%
70-74 years	4	1.8%
75 or older	1	0.5%

Total	219	100.0%
Missing response	77	
Total	296	

27. What is your approximate total household income?

Response	#	%
Less than $20,000	3	1.3%
$20,000-$29,999	5	2.2%
$30,000-$49,999	9	4.0%
$50,000-$69,999	20	8.8%
$70,000-$89,999	25	11.1%
$90,000-$109,999	36	15.9%
$110,000-$129,999	34	15.0%
$130,000-$149,999	21	9.3%
More than $150,000	53	23.5%
Don't know	20	8.8%
Total	226	100%
Missing Responses	70	
TOTAL	296	

28. Which of the following categories best describes your employment status?

Response	#	%
Employed full time	147	64.2%
Employed part time	26	11.4%
Not employed	12	5.2%
Student	7	3.1%
Retired	37	16.2%
Total	229	100%
Missing Responses	67	
TOTAL	296	

29. How many children (18 or under) reside in your household?

Response	#	%
No children	84	38.2%
1	39	17.7%
2	70	31.8%
3	23	10.5%
4	3	1.4%
5	1	0.5%

Total	220	100%
Missing Responses	76	
TOTAL	296	

30. How long have you lived in Ritchot?

Response	#	%
Under 2 years	25	10.9%
2 - 4 years	34	14.8%
5 - 9 years	47	20.4%
10 - 14 years	30	13.0%
15 - 19 years	10	4.3%
20 - 24 years	23	10.0%
25 - 29 years	14	6.1%
30 - 34 years	17	7.4%
35 - 39 years	14	6.1%
40 - 44 years	4	1.7%
45 - 49 years	3	1.3%
50 - 54 years	4	1.7%
55 - 59 years	2	0.9%
60 years or more	3	1.3%
Total	230	100.0%
Missing Responses	66	
TOTAL	296	

31. For verification purposes, please enter your POSTAL CODE. (No space between letters – example: R4H2G2)

32. Which of the following communities do you live in/nearest to:

Response*	#	%
Glenlea	5	2.1%
Grande Pointe	33	14.0%
Howden	1	0.4%
Ile des Chenes	79	33.5%
Ste. Agathe	41	17.4%
St. Adolphe	89	37.7%
Rural	6	2.5%
Other	3	1.0%

* Multiple responses were allowed

APPENDIX B

LIST OF STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS

Jeff Anderson – St. Adolphe Curling Club

Bev Baggley - Vintage Club

Roger Blanchette – St. Adolphe Arena

Janine Boulanger – Grande Pointe Homeowners Association

Joe Brodeur - Club Amical / Ritchot Senior Services

Janice Burnett - Club Amical / Ritchot Senior Services

Sharon Burns - Vintage Club

Sue Carriere - St. Adolphe Curling Club

Sean Corr - Ste. Agathe CDI

Lynne Dotremont – Grande Pointe Homeowners Association

Sheldon Dubois - Seine River Minor Ball

Joel Gagnon - Ste. Agathe CDI

Paulette Giesbrecht - Ste. Agathe Community Club

Alex Grenier - Seine River Minor Ball

Claude Lemoine - Ste. Agathe CDI

Jules Manaigre - Pioneer Hall / Old Tyme Dance

Jennifer McNaughton - Ile des Chênes Minor Hockey

Ken Neil - Ile des Chênes Arena

Shane Pelletier - Ile des Chênes Arena

Roger Perron - TransCanada Centre

Bev Prystenski - Howden Community Centre

Alain Robert - Ste. Agathe CDI

Marc Robert - Ste. Agathe Arena

Kerry Schwark – St. Adolphe Curling Club

Eveline Turenne - Club Amical / Ritchot Senior Services

Renata Wall - Ile des Chênes Minor Hockey

APPENDIX C

ARENA, COMMUNITY CENTRE + HALL POLICY MANUAL GUIDELINES

ARENA, COMMUNITY CENTRE AND HALL

Policy Manual Guidelines

NOTE:

The following manual is provided as a sample to be used as a template to develop a policy manual for the operation of Arenas and Community Centres in Ritchot. The material provided is specific to Arena operations, but can also be used as a template to create a policy manual for community centres and halls.

(Information included in manual is adapted from Hepburn (SK) Arena Policy)

ARENA, COMMUNITY CENTRE AND HALL
Policy Manual Guidelines

1) INTRODUCTION

The Arena Association was formed in 19__ with the construction of the arena. The purpose of the Arena is to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for patrons who wish to participate in activities in the facility or who wish to come to watch the various activities. Further, the management of the Arena believes that people participate for fun, enjoyment and the thrill of competition. Therefore, management seeks to provide an environment which enables this to happen.

2) ARENA USE GUIDELINES

a) Everyone entering the arena is asked to act in accordance with the regulations and rules posted. Arena Staff and volunteers are responsible for ensuring that the regulations are adhered to by the patrons. A staff member or volunteer is required to be on duty to ensure the safety of patrons, secure the facilities, and assist persons, groups or organizations during public functions.

b) The Arena staff reserve the right to remove from the facility any person for a discretionary period of time with cause. Rowdiness, horseplay, running, foul language, physical violence, and other such acts that disrupt others enjoyment of the event, by our patrons, or compromises public safety, will not be tolerated. Persistence in these acts will result in eviction from the facility. Anyone found deliberately damaging the facilities will be responsible for repairs to those damages. Depending on the extent of damages, suspension from the facilities and criminal prosecution of the individual(s) will be at the discretion of the owner/arena board.

c) Consumption or possession of alcohol or illegal drugs is not allowed on the premises of the facility, unless approved by arena board and an Authorized Permit for such an event is secured and posted in accordance with the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Authority. (incl. NAME OF ACT)

d) Smoking and smokeless tobacco, cannabis, are not permitted on the premises of any recreational facility.

e) The arena board and employees will not be held responsible for loss or theft of articles in and on the arena facility properties.

3) ICE RENTAL PRIORITY

The youth of this community utilize this facility through the minor hockey system, figure skating club and the school system. Whenever possible these organizations or other youth groups should be granted scheduled hours that will provide suitable hours for their activities. Preference may be given to local groups.

All scheduling arrangements will be made through the Arena Manager. The Arena Manager has the authority to initiate changes to the schedule for special events, ice conditions/ maintenance and activities. Effort with be made to provide at least 48 hours' notice to the affected group and they will receive replacement time, when available. Any group or organization may rent the ice at the going rate providing the time is available.

Priority of use will be based on, but not limited to, the following categories:

a) Community Programs and Municipally sponsored events. (i.e. LIST NAME OF EXAMPLE EVENTS)
b) Minor Sports Groups
c) Adult Programs (senior, intermediate, recreational, etc.).
d) Public Skating Events
e) Casual ice rentals

Booking can be made by emailing the arena operator or by calling the arena operator. Contact info:

- Email:
- Phone:
- Cell:

4) ARENA FEES

Rental Rates for ice times will be set by (NAME/LIST JURISIDICTIONAL BODY). This is to include all public skating rates and all rental rates for youth teams, clubs or events, public skating, local teams, out of area teams or any other special function. Ice time will be rented on a first- come, first-served basis for all times not previously scheduled by regular user groups.

a) Rental Rates

All ice time will be sold in block times based on a 60 min block. Each group will be responsible for the use and payment of the ice from the start to the end of their block. Ten minutes will be set aside after each ice time for ice maintenance when deemed necessary.

☐ **Ice Rentals**:

➢ Local youth teams, clubs or events	$0.00 per hour
➢ Out of area youth teams, clubs or events	$0.00 per hour
➢ Local adult teams, clubs or events	$0.00 per hour
➢ Out of area adult teams, clubs or events	$0.00 per hour

☐ **Tournament Rates**

➢ Youth tournament	$000.00 12 hr. max
➢ Adult tournament	$000.00 12 hr. max

☐ **Non Ice Rentals:**

The Arena may be made available for rental during non-ice times. Renters are responsible for any damages and cleaning all areas of the facility which they use. A $00.00 cleaning deposit is required at time of booking.

➢ Lobby and kitchen	$X/day	$X/per hour
➢ Ice surface area	$X/day	

b) Billing

- All ice time will be invoiced at the end of each month. All ice time accounts are due when billed, any outstanding accounts beyond one month from the date of billing are subject to interest at __% per month.
- Groups that are regularly in arrears with their account may be required to prepay their ice time fees, along with any outstanding balance, prior to any ice allocation.
- Unless there is sufficient justification for not making payment by the due dates there may not be any consideration made for future ice time and the annual allocation of ice time blocks may be reassigned.

c) Ice Rental Cancellation Policy

Cancellations made twenty four (24) hours or less before the start of the scheduled event will be charged a $__ cancellation fee. Should the facility staff assess that the facilities are not suitable for use no fee will be charged.

Unpredictable, unexpected or extreme situations will be taken into consideration for cancellation deadlines (i.e. weather)

5) ARENA ETIQUETTE

a) The Zamboni **must** be off the ice BEFORE **GOING ON THE ICE**.

b) Please leave the ice promptly at the end of scheduled ice times to allow ice resurface to keep to schedule

c) Remove all pucks, cones and other items from the ice surface at the end of scheduled ice time

d) Leave the dressing room within 45 minutes after your ice rental. Last rental of the day may take up to 1 hr. after end of the scheduled ice time.

e) Clean dressing room to a condition you would expect upon entering before you leave.

f) Absolutely no abusive language or actions towards staff members will be tolerated.

6) ARENA HOLIDAY HOURS

The Arena is closed for Christmas Eve, Christmas day as well as New Year's Day.

7) PUBLIC SKATING

Public skating times will be communicated through arena/municipal website and calendar in the arena.

Rules for public skating

a) Everyone under the age of 18 must wear a helmet while on the ice surface. NO EXEPTIONS.

b) The far side of the ice is for shinny use. Nets are to be placed so game runs across the width of the ice. If kids are chasing the puck into the skating side ask them to send only one person to retrieve the puck and take it back across the red

line before resuming play.

c) Ask anyone passing puck/ring to use the center ice area, to keep sticks and pucks out of the skating arena. Use your discretion.
d) The near side of the ice surface is for skating.
e) Remind users to be courteous and look out for other skaters. You may ask them to leave if they are endangering others.
f) Keep skates on the rubber mats or cover the blade with skate guards.

8) COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING AND SIGNAGE

Advertising in the form of signage for commercial businesses can be approved by (NAME OF APPROVER). These signs must be placed on a 4' X 8' sheet of plywood or similar sturdy material (lexan, vinyl sheeting, etc). When the sign is approved and the rental rate paid the (NAME OF INSTALLER) will install the sign upon delivery to the Arena. Depending on when the sign is put up, the rate could be prorated for a partial year. Rates are set by (JURISIDICTIONAL ORGANIZATION). Current rate is $__ per season.

9) USE AND MAINTENANCE OF DEFIBRILLATOR

Arena Staff shall be trained in the use of the defibrillator, the Arena Manager shall be responsible to ensure that the defibrillator is kept in good working order and shall maintain a log of all inspections and test results. The Log Book is to be kept in the carrying case for the defibrillator.

10) ORGANZATIONAL STUCTURE

The manager is in charge of the Arena. The bookkeeping is done by the (?) as all invoices and payments go through the office. The manager of the Arena is an employee of the (?) and as such adheres to the policies of the (Organization) and conducts themselves as a representative of the (NAME OF ORGANIZATION).

a) Concession

- The Arena board is responsible for securing a person(s) to supervise the concession that runs from (DATE) (or when the ice is installed) to (DATE) (or until events end or ice melts).
- This person(s) must have their Safe Food Handling Course by December of that year (paid for by ?). They in turn must ensure that all volunteers are aware of basic safe food handling and kitchen procedures.
- The concession supervisor is responsible to set up a schedule of workers for the concession. Whether this is volunteers from the community or user groups, is for that individual to decide.
- ALL receipts must be kept and turned into the arena board in order to maintain good bookkeeping practises.

- All monies received in the concession should be given to the (NAME) once a week. If more than this is required and the office is not open, a bank deposit may be done and the deposit slip turned in to the Office.

b) Caretaker

The caretaker is an employee of the (NAME OF FACILTY) and his/her responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Preparing the arena surface for flooding.
- Preparing the ice. This is started as soon as weather allows.
- Ensure that there is a thick enough layer of ice before painting lines on the ice.
- Painting the lines on the ice. This may be done with the help of volunteers but the caretaker organizes this project.
- Ensuring that the ice surface is safe, the puck board is in good shape with no sharp edges, ensure that the doors to enter and exit the ice are in good working condition.
- Ensure that the doors entering and exiting the arena are in good working condition (lobby doors, fire exit doors, Zamboni room overhead doors...).
- Communicate with the (OWNER) about what upgrades or repairs need to occur.
- Flooding of the ice – the caretaker is responsible for flooding the ice between various events.
- Keep the Zamboni room tidy as well as repair/contract repairs for the Zamboni.
- Takes booking for ice times and updates calendar and online calendar.
- Communicates with local user groups as to the times and days they require to run their programs.
- Booking outside groups and ensuring that there is someone present to let them in and make sure that the facility is left in good order after groups leave.
- Keys to the arena are distributed to the caretaker, part time employees for the arena, the concession supervision, whoever the (OWNER) deems necessary.

c) Janitorial

The (OWNER) will hire someone to take care of janitorial duties. This may or may not be part of the caretaker's duties.

Janitorial responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Cleaning the public washrooms (toilets, floors, sinks and mirrors, replenishing paper product, replacing light bulbs,)
- Cleaning the dressing room washrooms, sweeping and mopping the dressing rooms Sweeping and mopping the lobby
- Cleaning the lobby windows that look onto the ice Sweeping the bleachers (inside and out)
- Cleaning up the garbage's when full and picking up garbage Keeping the janitorial supply closet stocked with cleaning supplies

11) FORMS (SAMPLE OF FORMS USED IN ARENA OPERATIONS)

Public skating

Volunteer supervision

Rules

1. Everyone under the age of 18 must wear a helmet while on the ice surface. NO EXEPTIONS.
2. The far or north side of the ice is for shinny use. Nets are to be place so game runs across the width of the ice. If kids are chasing the puck into the skating side ask them to send only one person to retrieve the puck and take it back across the red line before resuming play
3. Ask anyone passing puck/ring to use the center ice area, to keep sticks and pucks out of the skating arena. Us your discretion.
4. The close side or south side of the ice is for skating.
5. *Remind users to be courteous and look out for other skaters. You may ask them to leave if they are endangering others.*

What to do

- When you arrive unlock the front doors and both sets of doors into the ice surface
- Turn on the ice surface lights
    - **Info on Ice surface lights**
    - Please DO NOT turn lights on or off with the breakers, Please USE the light switches to the right. Using the breakers causes them to wear out prematurely.
    - Look at the posted schedule, if there is a group after public skating please leave the lights on. If there is no group for the next two hours please turn off the lights.
    - Doing this will help us use less power and run the arena more efficiently, thank you for your cooperation.
- Take down the nets if you can or assist with taking them down. This is to avoid kids dropping the nets on themselves/others or on the ice taking out chucks of ice.
- At the end of public skating time ask users to clean up pucks, cones, chairs etc. off the ice surface. Put up the nets and break up any piles of snow so the ice can be resurfaced.
- If there are no groups or public skating times for the next two hours you can turn off the lights and lock the doors. Make sure the side doors in the ice surface area are latched closed. If next supervisor or operator has not arrived after you are done lock the front door when you leave.
- If you have questions please ask/call the arena operator or call 204.123.4567.

Arena Rental Agreement

ARENA CONTACT

Arena phone:

Arena Manager email:

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact person: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone (Home): _____ (cell): _____

Email: _____

Secondary Contact Person: _____

Telephone (Home): _____ (cell): _____

Email: _____

Group / Organization / Association: _____

RENTAL INFORMATION

Day of Week: _____ Time of Rental: _____

Start Date: _____ Finish Date: _____

Ice Rental Rate $_____/hour

$_____Tax

$_____Total Rate

TERMS OF CONTRACT

Payable:

- ☐ At Facility
- ☐ In Advance
- ☐ Monthly

Contract Approved By: _____

Facility Position: _____

I, the undersigned, have read, understand and agree to the terms and conditions in this contract which are stated on the reverse and hereby accept the same on behalf of the said members of the organization, team or association. I acknowledge and agree that breach of any of the said conditions may result in the termination of the allotted ice time at the discretion of the arena board.

Lessee Signature: _____

Ice Time Policies and Conditions of Rental

1. Rental of ice time is based on a “60” minute hour (ice surface floods, when deemed necessary, will be conducted during 10 minutes between rentals)
2. The representative shall ensure that all members keep off the ice during the resurfacing and shall not go on the ice until the resurfacing has been completed.
3. Teams must leave the ice surface promptly to help maintain the schedules.
4. The arena board and employees will not be held responsible for loss or theft of articles in and on the arena facility properties
5. The representative renting the ice shall be responsible for all damages caused to the building, grounds, and equipment belonging to the Arena, reasonable wear and tear considered. The said damages are to be repaired or paid for to the full satisfaction of the management.
6. The representative renting the ice shall be responsible for such insurance as may be necessary for its personnel and shall assume full liability for any accident occurring in connection with the rental of ice. Proof of insurance must be provided prior to use of facility.
7. The Arena shall reserve the exclusive right to the sale of all food and beverage concessions within the facility.
8. No smoking is allowed in the Arena Facility – including dressing rooms.

9. Consumption or possession of alcohol or illegal drugs is not allowed on the premises of the facility, unless approved by the arena board and an Authorized Permit for such an event is secured and posted in accordance with the Manitoba Liquor & LOTTERIES Authority.
    a. *(NAME OF ACT)*

Fees

1. Ice time rates and fees will be assessed at the current rates as established by resolution of the arena board (or jurisdiction body).

2. All ice time accounts are due when billed, any outstanding account beyond thirty days from the date of billing shall be assessed a late payment charge on the unpaid balance. Groups that are regularly in arrears with their account may be required to prepay their ice time fees, along with any outstanding balance, prior to any further ice allocation

Cancellations

1. For cancellation situations, the Arena management, whenever possible, will notify the representative 24 hours prior to the said cancelled ice time.
2. If the representative wishes to cancel ice time on any particular day, the representative shall give 24 hours' notice, by contacting the Arena Management between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. If the required notice is not given, the representative shall be responsible for payment of a $__ cancellation fee.
3. Should the facility staff assess that the facilities are not suitable for use no fee will be charged.
4. Any cancellations caused by storms and flooding, power failure, Act of God or business interruption caused by mechanical failure of the Arena's facilities will be considered unavoidable and the representative will not be charged for cancellations of that nature.

Dressing Rooms

1. The representative shall ensure that the Dressing Rooms are vacated within 45 minutes of leaving the ice or 1 hr. in the case of last rental of the day. The representative further ensures that the dressing rooms shall be left in a reasonably tidy condition.
2. The representative agrees that it is their responsibility to obtain a dressing room key from the Arena attendant. It is the responsibility of the representative to lock all dressing room doors before going on the ice. Should a lock prove defective or unable to be locked, the representative shall notify the Arena Attendant immediately.

Waiting Lists

1. Arena Management reserves the right to establish a waiting list for ice rentals. Anytown Minor Hockey and/or the Anytown Skating Club (or LOCAL GROUP) shall be given a first priority in the event regularly scheduled ice rental time becomes available. Priority will be given to those persons on a "first come first serve" basis.

Key Holder Agreement Form

Arena

Key Holder Name (Last, First):_____, _____

Key ID Description _____

Key Status*: P_____R_____S_____L_____U_____

Before the keys can be issued you are asked to sign this declaration and acknowledge the conditions of use.

Arena Keys conditions of use:

By signing below I agree to:

1. Not to loan the key(s) to anyone
2. Not to copy or make any attempts to copy the key(s)
3. Not to alter the key(s) in any shape or form
4. To store the key(s) safely
5. To immediately report lost or stolen key(s)
6. Upon request, produce or surrender the key(s)
7. To pay a replacement fee for lost key(s)
8. I will return my keys directly to the arena manager / office upon completion of the duties which entitle me to hold a key and the status* of my key will be marked as returned.
9. I understand that should my keys be used by another individual that I may be responsible to cover any and all damages

Signature_____Date _____

*Status of Keys P= in possession of key holder, R = Key has been returned to administration, S= Key has been stolen, L= key is lost, U = Key is unassigned