



Recreation Master Plan

Presentation to Council
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About the Master Plan

The Recreation Master Plan guides park and facility improvements, policy development and service delivery to 2031.

The **scope** of the Master Plan includes:

- Recreation facilities and activities
- Parks and open space
- Trails
- Arts and culture (alignment with Municipal Cultural Plan)

The Master Plan contains **74 recommendations** for consideration by Township Council. Suggested priority and timing are provided for each recommendation.



Master Plan Building Blocks

- Public Consultation
- Population Forecasts and Socio-Demographic Data
- Activity Trends and Participation Figures
- Facility Provision and Distribution Levels
- Industry Guidelines and Best Practices
- Background Documents (e.g., Corporate Strategic Plan, Community Growth Plan, etc.)



Public Engagement

- Online Survey – 435 responses
- Phase 1 Public Input Sessions (2) – 34 people
- Stakeholder Workshops – 54 people representing 34 organizations
- Youth Input/ Local Schools
- Public Input Sessions to present the Draft Master Plan – 60 people



Strategic Framework

To guide the development and implementation of the Master Plan, the following vision and principles were developed:

Ensuring affordable, inclusive and high quality recreation, parks and cultural opportunities through effective communication and combined community efforts.

1. Opportunities for All
2. Meaningful Engagement & Communication
3. Working Together to Achieve Shared Goals
4. Responsive Facilities, Parks & Trails
5. Customer-Focused Services
6. Commitment Toward Financial Sustainability

Service Delivery – Key Recommendations

1. Adopt a **municipal service delivery role** that reflects the Master Plan's guiding principles, with a primary focus on providing and maintaining core municipal assets, coordinating community-wide events and facilitating programming through a community development approach.
5. Create a **volunteer recognition and awards program** to celebrate outstanding achievements and contributions to recreation services in the Township, and lend support to volunteer information networks where possible.
6. Work with community organizations (e.g., Youth Action Council, etc.) to maximize existing facilities through **no to low-cost informal, unstructured activities and inclusive programming** for children, teens and seniors.
9. Encourage greater coordination and expansion of **seniors' activities in Mount Forest**.
14. Hold **regular forums** with community groups, organizations and the public to provide the ability to network and discuss issues and opportunities related to recreational service delivery, community needs, marketing, promotion and communication.

Service Delivery – Key Recommendations

16. Use the Township's **Community Development Fund** to guide municipal involvement and fundraising requirements for community-initiated projects.
19. Update **rates and fees** (including categories and associated policies) on a regular basis to provide a reasonable balance between true costs and public benefits.
20. Create a **Community Recreation Coordinator** position to act as a liaison between parks and recreation stakeholders and the Township, enhance communication and implement the Recreation Master Plan.
22. Develop a **staff training and development plan** to articulate the skills and competencies needed to deliver on the Departmental objectives and set out an annual training program.
24. Reconstitute the **Recreation & Culture Committee** as an advisory body of Council. Develop a terms of reference that confirms the Committee's mandate and guides the selection of members, which should include lay appointees from across the Township. Reference should be made to the best practices identified in the Recreation Master Plan.

Facilities – Key Recommendations

26. Undertake a “refresh” of the arena component of the **Arthur & Area Community Centre**, including replacement of the ice slab and other lifecycle requirements.
27. Create an **ice allocation policy** to develop a fair and transparent process for allocating ice time based on registration and accepted standards of play. The policy should include a requirement for annual ice scheduling meetings.
28. Monitor ice usage, demand and the regional supply of arenas. **Assess long-term ice needs** (beyond 2031) and facility replacement strategies through the next Master Plan Update (or sooner if indications of accelerated demand or deteriorating condition).
32. Support initiatives to **enhance access to existing facilities for the growing senior’s population in Mount Forest**. Dedicated space is not recommended, rather opportunities to maximize existing facilities should be sought.
33. Further explore the potential to relocate the **Arthur Seniors’ Centre** to the upper hall at the Arthur & Area Community Centre, with consideration to long-term needs and a cost-benefit analysis.

Facilities – Key Recommendations

35. Develop a **splash pad in Mount Forest**, potentially at Bill Moody Lions Playground / King Street Fairgrounds Park, with the assistance of community fundraising. Ensure the provision of appropriate support amenities, such as benches, shade and pathway/sidewalk connections.
36. Replace the Lion Roy Grant Pool with a **new outdoor pool in Mount Forest**, potentially at Campbell deVore Park / Mount Forest & District Sports Complex, with the assistance of community fundraising.
38. Establish a **playground replacement program**, with a short-term focus on playgrounds in Campbell deVore Park (including the pathway) and Birmingham Street Lions Park (including flood control measures).
39. Develop **one youth ball diamond** at the Arthur Community Centre and Fairgrounds Park in the short-term.
40. Develop **two lit ball diamonds at a future park site in Mount Forest** to accommodate longer-term needs.

Facilities – Key Recommendations

42. Develop an itemized list of **repairs, upgrades and improvements for Arthur Community Centre and Fairgrounds Park** including (but not limited to) lifecycle replacement of the pavilion/washrooms and ball diamond lighting, fencing and/or netting.
43. Develop **one full size soccer field** at a future park site in Mount Forest to accommodate longer-term needs.
45. Develop a **skate park in Arthur** in the short-term, with the assistance of community fundraising. Site selection and design should comply with municipal standards and youth should be engaged in the design process.
47. Begin planning to create an **off-leash park as a trial project**. This will require: (a) a site evaluation exercise to consider appropriate site characteristics, compatibility and impacts, and design; and (b) identification of an organization to sponsor the park and oversee its management.

Parks and Trails – Key Recommendations

50. Strive to achieve a minimum municipal parkland service level of **2.75 hectares per 1,000 residents**, which would require an **additional 13.8 hectares of parkland by 2031** to meet current and future needs.
51. Secure **additional parkland (a minimum of 6 hectares) for sports fields in Mount Forest**, either through a park expansion or establishment of a new community park.
58. Review **park maintenance and operational service levels** on a regular basis to ensure that they reflect community needs and effective operating practices.
59. Promote opportunities for **unstructured play, passive recreation and naturalization efforts** within the Township's parks system, where appropriate.

Parks and Trails – Key Recommendations

62. Establish consistent and high quality **signage** at all municipal facilities, parks and along trail heads to enhance branding and wayfinding.
63. Assign **high priority to the creation and promotion of trail and active transportation routes**, as guided by the Wellington County Active Transportation Master Plan, ongoing public input, and opportunities created by the development approvals process.
67. Pursue the development of **looped trails**, including the renewal of the Marvin Howe Trail and connection to the River Trail in Arthur.
71. Work with the County and other partners to develop and distribute **mapping and promotional material** (in both hard copy and electronic versions, including the Leisure Calendar) on trail and active transportation routes in the Township.

Master Plan Implementation

All 74 recommendations are listed in Section 8 of the Master Plan, along with:

- Priority (high, medium, lower)
- Timing (short, medium, long-term, or ongoing)
- Considerations (cost factors, linkage to principles, implementation factors)

A process for monitoring and updating the Plan is also identified, as are potential funding sources.



Thank You!