



Rothesay Recreation Master Plan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rothesay Recreation Master Plan

The Rothesay Recreation Master Plan describes recommendations for the enhancement of leisure and recreation services for Rothesay residents. Recommendations are in the form of specific policies that address the scope of leisure and recreation issues. The approach taken to the preparation of this plan is research driven. The findings and recommendations of the Plan are based on an analysis of local and regional demographics, a review and analysis of local and national recreation trends, a review of relevant documents, comprehensive community consultations, a recreation facility inventory and assessment (including a gap analysis), and a review and comparative analysis of benchmark standards for recreation service delivery. This Recreation Master Plan does not aim to provide the answers to all recreation issues, but instead provides strategic frameworks to address priority needs and issues.

Recreation Master Plan Structure

The Recreation Master Plan is presented in 8 major sections:

THE PROJECT – This introductory chapter states importance of recreation planning, the purpose of the Recreation Master Plan, and describes the research-driven approach to its development.

PLANNING CONTEXT AND ANALYSIS – This chapter summarizes growth and socio-economic analysis, Canadian trends in recreation service delivery, general recreation trends, and a review of relevant documents. Together, this analysis forms the basis for assessing community recreation needs and opportunities.

FACILITY INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT – This chapter summarizes the facility inventory and assessment which was prepared by gathering and reviewing a number of written sources and maps; discussions with staff, stakeholders and residents and verified through a site visit to each site.

CONSULTATION – This chapter summarizes input from the community at large (public open house meeting and online survey results), a recreation groups meeting and survey, key stakeholder interviews, interviews with the recreation departments of Saint John, Quispamsis, Hampton and Fredericton; and discussions with key personnel from the Provincial Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT – This chapter assesses the information gathered in the Planning Context and Analysis, Facility Inventory and Assessment and Consultation phases of our research; using benchmark standards for recreation service delivery to identify and prioritize recreation service needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND POLICIES OF THE RECREATION MASTER PLAN – This chapter includes recommendations for enhancing the provision of local recreation service delivery. These recommendations are based on the research, consultation and analysis from all previous phases of the study.

IMPLEMENTATION & EVALUATION – This chapter outlines the actions, proposed implementation timing and resource requirements (financial, human, and infrastructure) of the recommended policies. In addition, a suggested ongoing monitoring and evaluation framework is presented.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES – This chapter identifies several possible funding sources which may be available to support implementation of the recommendations of the Plan.

Recommendations of the Recreation Master Plan

Recommendations are in the form of specific policies that address the scope of leisure and recreation issues and are designed to be a guide that will enable the Parks & Recreation Committee and Recreation Department to effectively address the long term needs of area residents in terms of administration, facilities and programs. These include policies which address:

- Development of Trails
- Formalizing Trails & Wetlands
- Addressing Overlooked User Groups
- Expanding the Scope of Recreation Planning
- Creating a Recreation Campus
- Encouraging Unstructured Activities
- Promoting Eco-Tourism and Educational Enhancement Potential of Wetlands
- Enhancing Communication, Cooperation & Coordination
- Promoting Sustainable Transportation

In addition, recommendations are made with respect to upgrading and/or replacement of existing recreation structures and playgrounds.

Accomplishing the Objectives of the Recreation Master Plan

The Rothesay Recreation Master Plan is intended to help meet the needs of current and future residents by positioning Rothesay to build on the community's unique parks and recreation assets and potential opportunities. It establishes a clear direction to guide city staff, advisory committees, and elected officials in their efforts to enhance the community's parks and recreation programs, services and facilities. The Implementation and Evaluation framework provided in this Plan establishes measurable objectives with defined timeframes and assigns staff members to be accountable for completing each objective.

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1.0 THE PROJECT

1.1 Introduction

Parks and recreation have long had major impacts on the lives of all residents in a community. The traditional view of recreation as dominated by formalized sport and competitive pursuit is no longer valid in today's society. Where traditionally society embraced a strong work ethic, the trend over the last few decades has seen the rise of a leisure ethic determined to bring a healthy balance to our hectic lives. Leisure opportunities provided through recreation give individuals the opportunity to lead a balanced life. Therefore it is important to appreciate the concepts of leisure and recreation in order to satisfy today's realities.

Recreation may include an extremely wide array of activities such as: sports, games, crafts, arts, music, drama, travel, hobbies, intellectual pursuits, outdoor experiences, and social activities. These activities may be engaged in briefly, or in a sustained way, for single episodes or throughout one's lifetime. Recreational choices may be challenging, stimulating, or relaxing and rewarding. They may offer social interaction or be solitary pursuits. Above all, they should be fun! The challenge for municipal providers of recreation services is to provide a broad enough range of choices that meets a diversity of recreation needs and make those choices exciting, rewarding and available to all participants.

Thus, recreation can be defined as any *"socially acceptable activity pursued during leisure time, either individually or collectively, that provides immediate personal enjoyment"*.

Community pride is rooted in leisure opportunities and facilities and the quality of the local environment. Studies addressing quality of life issues focus on the quality of recreation opportunities and the quality of the urban environment. **Communities are often evaluated on their level of open spaces, availability of recreation facilities and leisure programs.** The availability of good, multi-dimensional leisure and recreation opportunities enhances a community's ability to retain and attract residents. Thus important components of the recreation system are parks, playgrounds and open spaces; as well as facilities and programming.

1.2 The Rothesay Recreation Master Plan

The Rothesay Recreation Master Plan describes recommendations for the enhancement of leisure and recreation services for Rothesay residents. Recommendations are in the form of specific policies that address the scope of leisure and recreation issues. The approach taken to the preparation of this plan is research driven. The findings and recommendations of the Plan are based on an analysis of local and regional demographics, a review and analysis of local and national recreation trends, a review of relevant documents, comprehensive community

consultations, a recreation facility inventory and assessment (including a gap analysis), and a review and comparative analysis of benchmark standards for recreation service delivery.

In addition to the recommendations, there are basic principles of recreation planning which should guide the Recreation Master Plan. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Equal access to activities and facilities regardless of interest, age, sex, income, cultural background, housing environment or disability;
- Coordination with other community recreation opportunities to avoid duplication and encourage innovation;
- Development of leisure and recreation activities that are sustainable and within the resources of local communities and sponsoring organizations;
- Development of recreation and leisure opportunities that are accessible to the entire community as a complement to other government and community programs, services and initiatives;
- Facilities that are adaptable to future requirements;
- Programs that meet residents' needs;
- Citizen involvement in the planning process at all stages; and
- A continuous planning process, involving evaluation of the recommendations.

This document is a guide, which will enable Rothesay Town Council, through its Parks & Recreation Committee and Recreation Department to effectively address the long term needs of area residents in terms of administration, facilities and programs.

2.0 PLANNING CONTEXT AND ANALYSIS

2.1 Canadian Trends

Recent trends in Canada indicate that:

- Canada has an aging population with the largest cohort, baby boomers born between 1946 and 1966 entering senior years;
- Canadians have a good quality of life and due to the health care system are living longer; the Canadian workforce is aging;
- Canadians continue to spend more on consumer goods and services;
- The education level of Canadians is increasing;
- Some Canadians have moved back to smaller cities and towns in order to retire or experience country living;
- Canadians appear to be working more hours and spending less time on leisure and recreation
- The challenge for municipalities in the 21st century will be to adapt and design recreation facilities that will respond to the continual change and evolution of community needs. **Facility availability, quality and location have a direct impact on programming options and thus participation.**
- There is a shift among baby boomers from tennis to golf. Golf is the “perfect sport” for retired people as it gives them a focus and purpose to the day, a sense of companionship and exercise. As baby boomers age, they will have more discretionary income to spend on golf and club memberships. [2. Foot, David K.; Boom, Bust, & Echo, MacFarlane, Hunter and Ross, 1996].
- The baby boom generation is a driving force in recreation now and in the future with increased leisure time and increased disposable income. Increased competition for leisure hours, particularly for adults with children will be offset by the baby boom market.
- In situations where facilities are prohibitively expensive, municipalities are opting to pursue mobile recreation programs.
- **Municipalities and recreation agencies are exploring partnerships as means to provide new facilities and programs.** This model of cost sharing allows the public sector to increase the supply of facilities and programs without assuming all the cost and risk. These partnerships have been forged between the private realm such as private health care providers, financial institutions, corporations; and municipalities, hospitals, schools, and universities – who are also pursuing recreational services as part of market enhancement strategies.
- There is an understanding that traditional single use facilities are becoming obsolete, thus **municipalities are turning to more leisure oriented facilities, and more flexible, multi-use complexes to reach a broader clientele and generate operational economies of scale. Today, the trend for recreation facility development is based on changing “capital investment risk”.** This means that facilities like arenas, curling rinks, sports fields are increasingly considered higher risk investments due to an aging population. Municipalities are choosing to invest in multi-use facilities that meet the needs of many age groups and programs rather than single use high end facilities.

2.2 Rothesay Demographic Analysis

This section highlights the population and socio-demographic characteristics of the community. Tables and Figures illustrate population changes over the past decade in the Rothesay, its surrounding communities and the Province as a whole. These characteristics are important to the analysis and overall understanding of the community and impact on the provision of leisure and recreation facilities and programs in the future.

2.2.1 Community Profile

Interest in recreation is influenced by a variety of demographic characteristics, including age, income, education and family background. Future trends will be influenced by changes in the profile of the community. The characteristics of new residents moving into smaller and growing communities can greatly impact demand, particularly if the new residents bring diverse values, concerns, expectations and purchasing power. Increased requests are often made for higher quality amenities and recreational opportunities that do not currently exist. In slow growing communities such as Rothesay, the change in demographics usually has the greatest impact on future demand. As much of the demand for recreation takes place on a regional level, it is important to be aware of the general nature of demographic change within key municipalities within the region outside of Rothesay. Much of the regional recreation system is contributed to, shared and used by the Town of Rothesay.

The Town of Rothesay lies within the Saint John Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) between the City of Saint John and Quispamsis. In the case of Rothesay, figures from the 2006 census (shown in Table 2.1) indicate that slight population growth is taking place. While Rothesay has a much slower rate of population growth (1.1%) than its neighbour Quispamsis (10.7%), it is still growing faster than the City of Saint John (-2.3%) and the Province as a whole (0.1%).

The slight increase in population, however, does not fully explain what socio-economic shifts have been occurring in Rothesay. Given comparative limitations between 2001 and 2006 statistical data (Statistics Canada has altered some categories such as age groups in the 2006 census), it is difficult to assess with accuracy the nature of demographic change that has occurred resulting from in-migration and changes in the dynamics of the local economy.

While it has a slightly lower average household size than Quispamsis (3.1), Rothesay has a higher average household size (3) than the City of Saint John (2.7) and the province as a whole (2.8). This suggests that Rothesay has a higher proportion of families. With regards to Median Income for all Census Families, Rothesay has seen a 17% increase in income that, although slightly lower than the 17.6% increase in Quispamsis, is higher than Saint John at 16.8% and the province at 16%. This increase brings the median income in Rothesay to \$80,820, slightly higher than Quispamsis (\$79,649) and significantly higher than the City of Saint John (\$51,042) and the provincial median income of \$52,878. Therefore, families in Rothesay have more disposable income to dedicate to recreation. This is especially true for baby-boomers (55-65 years old) who

are more active and healthier than their parents and have the means to retire early and pursue more recreation interests.

TABLE 2.1: Selected Socio-Economic Characteristics (2006)¹

	Rothesay	Quispamsis	Saint John	Province
General Population Characteristics				
Population in 2006	11,637	15,239	68,043	729,997
Population in 2001	11,505	13,757	69,661	729,498
Population in 1996	11,470	13,163	72,494	738,113
2001 to 2006 population change	1.1%	10.7%	-2.3	0.1%
1996 to 2001 population change	0.3%	4.5%	-3.9	-1.2%
Population density per km ²	335	267.1	215.7	10.2
Land area (km ²)	34.7	57.1	315.5	71,355.1
Family Characteristics				
Total number of census families	3,455	4,585	19,100	217,790
Average number of persons in all census families	3	3.1	2.7	2.8
Number of married-couple families	2,745 (79.5%)	3,860 (84.2%)	11,920 (62.4%)	151,210 (69.4%)
Number of common-law-couple families	270 (7.8%)	325 (7.1%)	2,465 (12.9%)	31,000 (14.2%)
Number of lone-parent families	435 (12.6%)	400 (8.7%)	4,715 (24.6%)	35,585 (16.3%)
Employment and Income				
Total population 15 years and over	9,220	11,975	56,140	611,745
Participation rate	68.6	73.8	61.7	63.7
Employment rate	63.8	69.9	56.3	57.3
Unemployment rate	7	5.3	8.6	10
Median income in 2005 - All census families	\$80,820	\$79,649	\$51,042	\$52,878
Median income in 2000 - All census families	\$69,027	\$67,709	\$43,677	\$45,558
% Change in Median Income between 2000 and 2005	17%	17.6%	16.8%	16%
Educational Attainment				
Total population 15 years and over	9,220	11,975	56,140	601,420
No certificate; diploma or degree	1,360 (14.7%)	1,885 (15.7%)	14,385 (25.6%)	176,660 (29.4%)
High school certificate or equivalent	2,250 (24.4%)	3,040 (25.3%)	17,050 (30.4%)	156,365 (25.9%)
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	690 (7.4%)	1,175 (9.8%)	5,575 (10%)	65,075 (10.8%)
College; CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	1,905 (20.6%)	2,810 (23.4%)	10,545 (18.8%)	105,670(17.6%)
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	400 (4.3%)	425 (3.5%)	2,030 (3.6%)	19,555 (3.2%)
University certificate; diploma or degree	2,610 (28.3%)	2,630 (21.9%)	6,560 (11.7%)	78,110 (13%)

¹ Statistics Canada. (2007). 2006 Community Profiles. 2006 Census.

TABLE 2.2: Rothesay & Quispamsis – Adjusted Occupations (2001-2006)

	Rothesay		Quispamsis	
	2001	2006	2001	2006
Management	850	890	915	1,020
Business; finance and administration	1,120	1,300	1,465	1,760
Natural and applied sciences and related	380	410	660	720
Health	550	700	430	670
Social science; education; government service and religion	620	<u>610</u>	620	820
Art; culture; recreation and sport	195	<u>165</u>	185	<u>165</u>
Sales and service	1,480	<u>1,295</u>	1,815	2,145
Trades; transport and equipment operators and related	670	<u>640</u>	1,035	<u>1,095</u>
Unique to primary industry	75	125	55	115
Unique to processing; manufacturing and utilities	105	115	245	260

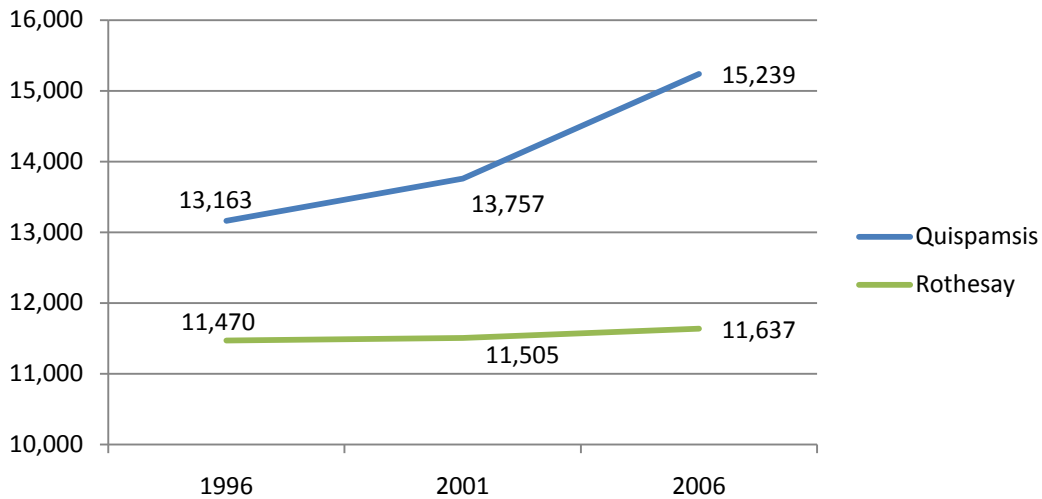
The shifting base of local occupations (Table 2.2) may help explain the change in median incomes. Both Rothesay and Quispamsis have a highly skilled workforce. In 2006, 60.6% of Rothesay residents and 58.6 % of Quispamsis residents over the age of 15 reported education and training above the level of high school; significantly higher than that of Saint John at 44.1% and the province as a whole at 44.6%. There have also been significant increases in Rothesay residents who reported to be working in management, business [finance and administration]; natural and applied sciences; health; primary industries; processing manufacturing and utilities. The shifting base in local occupations is generally similar to that occurring in Quispamsis. The notable difference is that Quispamsis has seen a significant increase in sale and service occupations while in Rothesay, this segment of occupations has dropped. The shifts in occupations and the increase in median incomes suggests a shift to higher paying and more highly skilled occupations in both Rothesay and Quispamsis.

TABLE 2.3: Rothesay – In-Migration (2001-2006)

	2001	2006
Lived in the Same Province 5 Years Ago	92.1%	93.1%
Lived Outside The Province 5 Years Ago	7.9%	6.9%

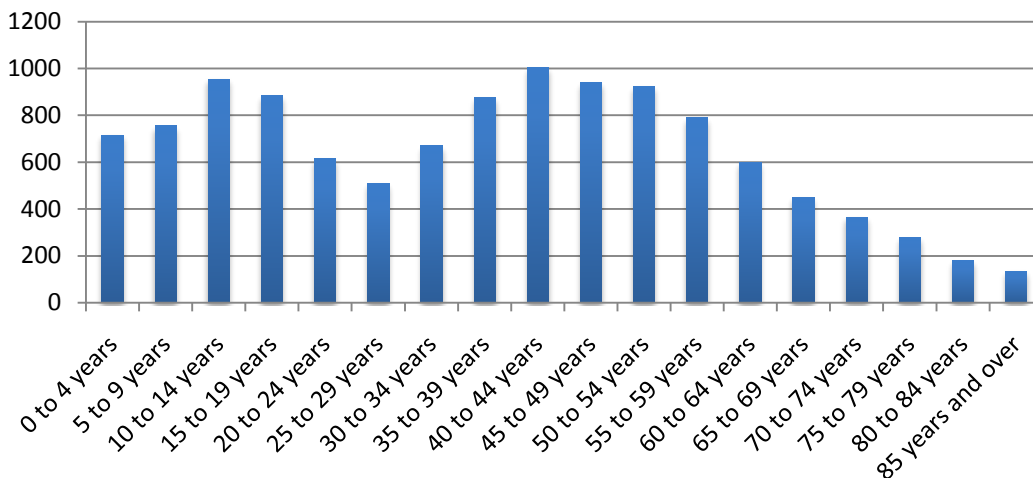
With regards to overall migration patterns, Rothesay shows a slight decrease in in-migration from outside the province. In 2001, 7.9% of the population lived outside the province 5 years earlier. In 2006, the proportion of in-migration increased to 6.9%.

FIGURE 2.1: Rothesay & Quispamsis – Population Change from 1996 to 2006



The 2006 population of Rothesay was reported to be 11,637, an increase of 1.1% from 2001. In 2001, the population of the municipality was reported by Statistics Canada to be 11,505 which represented an increase in 35 residents or 0.3% of the population in 1996. The level of increase in Rothesay is significantly higher than the Province, which by comparison, saw an increase of 0.1% in the period between 2001 and 2006; and a decrease of -1.2% in the period between 1996 and 2001.

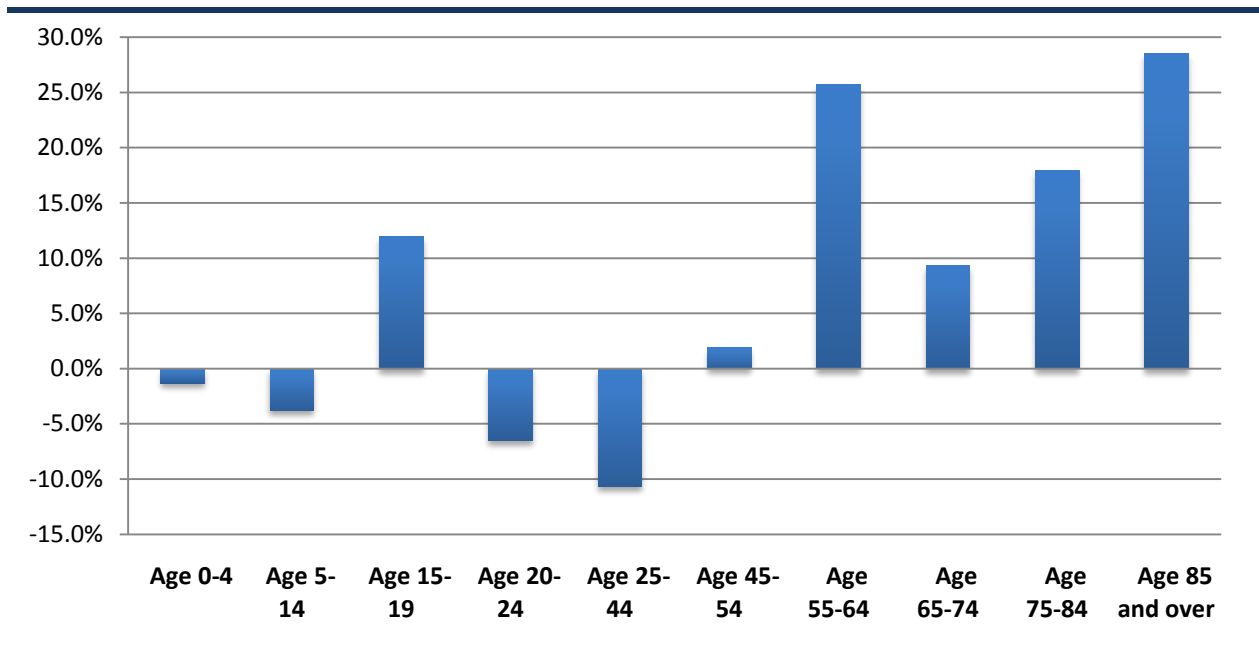
FIGURE 2.2: Rothesay – Age Groups (2006)



As indicated in Figure 2.2, there are two significant peaks in terms of age groups; one occurring with the 10-14 years age group and another at the 45-49 years age group. Beyond suggesting that there are two dominant age groups; the population distribution of age groups suggests that there is a high proportion of families in Rothesay. The bulk of Rothesay’s population is below 60.

Although a large number of Rothesay residents are below the age of 60, a comparison of age distribution between 2001 and 2006 raises a critical issue. The percentage change in age groups among the population in the period between 2001 and 2006 indicates that Rothesay, similar to wider provincial and national trends, is experiencing an aging trend among its residents. A decrease in most age groups below the age of 45 is accompanied with an increase in all age groups 45 and over. The 45 and over segment of the Rothesay population represented 40% of the total population in 2006; up from 36% in 2001. As of 2006, however, there was a sizeable increase in the percentage of the 15-19 age group.

FIGURE 2.3: Rothesay – Percentage Change in Age Groups from 2001 to 2006



Another way of conceptualizing the fact that the proportion of seniors in Rothesay is increasing is in terms of the median age of the population. This measure indicates what age falls at the middle point where 50% of the population is above and below. Province-wide, the median age in 2001 was 38.6 increasing by 7.5% to 41.5 in 2006. In 2001, the median age in Rothesay was 37.1; jumping to 39.1 in 2006; representing a 5.3% increase. In 2001, the median age in Quispamsis was 36.1; which climbed to 37.5 in 2006; representing a 3.8% increase. The population of Rothesay and Quispamsis is aging at a slower rate than the province.

Through the standardization the growth rates for the 5 year periods between 1991 and 2006, a baseline projection² of population growth within the region is possible. Based on this averaging of growth rates, Rothesay will grow every 5 years by an average of 0.5%, a lower rate than Quispamsis at 6.3% but higher than both Saint John (-3.2%) and the Province (0.4%). The population of Rothesay, if it continues its current rate of growth will increase by 234 people by the year 2026. This is significantly lower than the 4198 increase in Quispamsis which is forecasted for the same period. A significant issue which is brought to light through this analysis is the negative growth rate in the City of Saint John; which, if it continues at its current rate of decline, will lose an additional 8,300 residents; or approximately 12% of its current population.

Table 2.4: Regional Population Projections

	Rothesay	Quispamsis	Saint John	New Brunswick
Population 1991-2006				
1991	9,211*	12,665	74,969	723,900
1996	9,228*	13,163	72,494	738,133
2001	11,505	13,757	69,661	729,498
2006	11,637	15,239	68,043	729,995
Percentage Change in Population				
1991-1996	0.2%	3.8%	-3.4%	1.9%
1996-2001	--*	4.5%	-3.9%	-1.2%
2001-2006	1.1%	10.7%	-2.3%	0.1%
Average Change 1991-2006	0.5%	6.3%	-3.2%	0.4%
Population Projection Based on Average Change in Population from 1991-2006*				
2011	11,695	16,199	65,866	732,915
2016	11,753	17,219	63,758	735,847
2021	11,812	18,304	61,718	738,790
2026	11,871	19,437	59,743	741,745

*The 1991 and 1996 census figures did not include the surrounding Local Service Districts.

**Amalgamation occurred in Rothesay during the period of 1996-2001 – excluded.

2.2.2 Impact of New Energy Projects within the Saint John Region

If population projections take into account proposed new energy projects such as the Irving Oil Ltd. Refinery Expansion and Colson Cove expansion, which in a high projection scenario anticipate a permanent population increase of approximately 16,000 for the Saint John Census Metropolitan Area in 2021; Rothesay's population would increase by 1,470 based on its 9.2% share of the CMA population. The low projection scenario for a permanent population increase due to new energy projects, which anticipates an increase of 2,000 to 2,500 for the CMA; would increase Rothesay's population by about 200 (approximate total of 12,000 by 2021).

² This population projection is based on the average increases or decreases which have occurred in the 1991-1996, 1996-2001, and 2001-2006 cycles. This does not take into account other demographic variables or current economic development projects which are proposed.

2.2.3 Conclusions

There are two key demographic changes occurring in Rothesay; one is related to changes to the local base of occupations; the other significant change being an aging population. Recognizing that change in demographics usually has the greatest impact on future demand, planning for recreation infrastructure must consider the shifting base of occupations and the aging population as well. These changes, although subtle, warrant a reassessment of recreation needs.

The benefits of expanded recreational opportunities for seniors are well documented. Physical recreation significantly reduces the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke; combats osteoporosis and diabetes; helps prevent site-specific cancers. It is well documented that routine physical activity and involvement in recreation and sport help people, particularly seniors, who tend to be less active, achieve overall health and overcome the social isolation that often comes with age.

In order to maintain a physically active and vibrant population, Rothesay must take a decisive role in developing a recreation infrastructure strategy that reflects the existing needs and anticipates and plans for the future needs of its population. Rothesay will need to carefully balance the needs of two significant segments of the population in Rothesay, families with children and a growing senior population.

2.3 Recreation Trends

There is ample research highlighting the benefits of active living and participation in sporting activities. Sport participation can improve social cohesion and strengthen community identity. Active living can also have a positive effect on an individual's quality of life by improving fitness levels and increasing resistance to certain diseases. These beneficial outcomes often result in higher rates of life satisfaction among physically fit and healthy individuals.³ As such, a recreation system that meets the specific interests and needs of its citizens can go a long way in improving the health and well-being of a community.

This section examines two dominant recreation trends: facility planning trends and participation trends.

2.3.1 Facility Planning Trends

Population statistics are a common method used by municipalities to determine the location and number of recreation facilities needed. As an example, the *Ontario Recreation Facilities Association*, whose standards are also followed in New Brunswick, uses population ratio standards to determine what number of recreation facilities are needed for a given community.

³ Statistics Canada (2005). *Sport Participation in Canada*.

However, this relatively inelastic approach to facility planning does not take into consideration community-specific issues such as age groups and emerging sporting interests. As such, more and more municipalities are turning to recreation master planning as a more effective way to gauge the recreation needs of their communities by taking a variety of factors into consideration, including existing and forecasted populations, facility inventories, and historical and emerging recreation patterns.

Trends across the country also include a changing “**capital investment risk**” as single use facilities are being replaced by “inter-generational” recreation complexes that offer flexibility of use that can cater to a diverse market thereby generating some economic benefits in terms of operational costs. The trend for investment is in trails, leisure pools, natural areas and gardens and theatres (Seniors’ Recreation Strategy Report, *Sport Canada*, 2005).

A multi-use facility is economically more efficient since it centralizes activities under one roof, reduces operating and maintenance costs for a municipality and allows for year-round programming, which reduces the likelihood of a facility remaining idle or under-used during the off-season. Its flexible design allows for more community needs to be met in one building and it can also accommodate emerging recreation trends. If planned as part of a comprehensive recreation master plan that also focuses on neighbourhood-level improvements, such as local parks, fields and trails, community-wide recreation needs can be better met.

Furthermore, there is an increasing trend in recreation planning towards grouping recreational facilities together to serve as geographic community hubs. A “community hub” is typically defined as “a gathering place where people come together to participate in activities, learn new skills, socialize and interact with others, and/or relax and enjoy watching others participate as a spectator or observer.” (Fredericton Recreation Master Plan, p.23) Community hubs should establish a “sense of place” for the local population and should include non-recreational elements such as a branch library or a community policing presence. Diversity, inclusiveness, accessibility and user-convenience are all fundamental aspects of a community hub.

2.3.2 Participation Trends

Whether planning for active sports or casual physical activities, barriers to participation remain one of the major stumbling blocks for many recreation systems. Barriers can be physical (wheelchair accessibility, distance from a recreational facility), emotional (low self-worth, perceived lack of time) or financial (high user fees). These barriers tend to be higher for two specific age groups: youth, who rely heavily on their parents for transportation and finances, and seniors, who may have greater mobility issues than other adults, or who may be on fixed incomes. System accessibility is vital to the success of a municipality’s recreation system.

Statistics Canada points to a national decline in sport participation rates, with the exception of soccer and girl’s hockey. Not surprisingly, hockey remains one of the most popular sports to

play in the country, second only to golf, with swimming, soccer and basketball rounding out the top five. Baseball's fortunes continue to decline, while soccer has emerged as one of the fastest-growing sports in Canada.⁴ With statistics indicating that soccer is now the sport of choice for children under 14 in Canada, this trend is expected to continue well into the future.

In spite of the national trends of declining participation, sport participation continues to remain popular in Rothesay. As indicated by the Recreation Groups' Survey (See Appendix D) most recreation service providers in the KV region have indicated that there has been significant growth in participation within the last 5 years: KV Karate has seen 50% growth; the Kennebecasis Kayak Club has doubled the number of members between 2005 and 2007; and Coast Tire KVC Marathon Relay has more than doubled its membership from 100 to 250. But many groups also believe that future growth is constrained by venue capacity issues and scheduling conflicts.

Income and family demographics play a major role in the trend toward increased sport participation in Rothesay. Studies indicate that income has a profound impact on sport participation. Statistics Canada points out that in 2005, less than half of children from households with incomes less than \$40,000 were active in sports compared to 63% of children from households with incomes of over \$80,000. At more than \$80,000, Rothesay has one of the highest per capita income levels in the province. And with 10-14 year olds constituting the second largest age group in Rothesay, it appears that there is a larger than average proportion of well-off families with multiple children that have enabled the town to buck the national trend of declining participation rates in sporting activities.

Overall physical activity levels in the province have improved. In 2005, adult physical activity levels had risen to 44%, an increase of 9% over 1994 levels.⁵ This increase may be attributed to changing work patterns that limit adults' ability to participate in scheduled sports activities, and conversely encourage participation in unstructured physical activities (such as walking, cycling and running). It is also a sign of an aging population that is more interested in lower-impact activities than competitive sports. Walking, swimming and bicycling are some of the most popular physical activities for youth, adults and seniors in Canada.⁶ Other emerging activities include martial arts, Ultimate Frisbee, yoga, in-line skating and running.

Conclusions

As Rothesay's population continues to age, it is very likely that demand for casual physical activity options within the community will continue to increase. This will mean more demand for activities such as Yoga, Dancing, Tai Chi, and walking. Simultaneously, if demographic trends continue and families with children continue to live in and move to Rothesay, the pressure for

⁴ Statistics Canada (2005). *Sport Participation in Canada*.

⁵ Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute (2005). *Physical Activities Among Canadians: The Current Situation*.

⁶ Ibid.

adequate facilities that can accommodate a wide-variety of scheduled sporting and recreational activities, especially hockey, soccer and basketball, will also remain.

2.4 Review of Relevant Documents

A review of relevant background documents helps create a better understanding of a project's context and will inform planning considerations as this project moves forward.

Rothesay 2002 Municipal Plan: Recreation Goals and Policies

Rothesay's Municipal Plan 2002 is the first municipal plan for the town since amalgamation in 1998. The vision for Rothesay is that of a low-density residential neighbourhood with significant natural areas and a concentration of commercial uses in the eastern end of town.

The Plan recognizes that as a residential community the town "must support its residents with appropriate and rational recreation opportunities, open space and the provision of leisure services."⁷ Section 10 of the plan focuses on recreation and states that there is a relatively even distribution of neighbourhood, municipal and regional facilities throughout the town, with the exception of the area south of the Mackay Highway. The plan also recognizes a shortage of linear walking trails throughout the community. In order to address some of these deficiencies, the plan identifies the following goals and policies:

GOALS

To ensure that safe, accessible, high quality recreation programs and facilities and well-maintained open spaces are available throughout the community to serve the needs of residents.

To address the deficiency in recreation facilities in the area of the Town south of the Mackay Highway.

To develop a linear trail system free from motorized vehicles, with linkages to neighbourhoods within Rothesay and to regional trail systems

To continue to acquire land for recreation and open space including taking the maximum permitted under the Act when land is being subdivided.

To ensure that existing facilities are used to their full potential and new facilities added only where a clear need exists.

To ensure that existing programs are used to their full potential and needs of all segments of the community are addressed.

POLICIES

- (a) Council shall ensure that all Town-owned park and recreation facilities are safe and well maintained.
- (b) Council shall permit active recreation land uses in all zones as long as the area of the recreation land parcel does not exceed the minimum lot area for the zone by more than 25 percent.
- (c) Council shall undertake to have a recreation master plan prepared to provide detailed direction for the development of an appropriate parks and recreation system.
- (d) Demographic trends and facility and program usage shall be monitored to ensure that changing user needs are addressed through:
 - i. the development or redevelopment of parks and recreation facilities
 - ii. the tailoring and designing of programs that suit the intended users

⁷ Rothesay Municipal Plan 2002, p. 36.

- (e) Council may consider proposals for lease agreements, lease-to-own, contract service agreements and public/private partnership arrangements when considering the provision of recreation and park facilities or services.
 - (f) Council shall pursue the development of linear open space for the development of a trail system free of motorized vehicles.
 - (g) Council may, when appropriate, acquire lands through purchase, lease or as land for public purposes in the subdivision approval process.
 - (h) Council shall require new neighbourhood parks to be developed in areas of new residential development.
 - (i) Council will seek to partner with the School District 6 to encourage full utilization, shared use and proper maintenance of play fields and recreation facilities.
 - (j) Council shall consider co-operation with operators of private recreation facilities, clubs and service groups to facilitate the wider use of their existing services and programs.
 - (k) Council will aggressively pursue senior government funding to improve the recreation facilities and open space in Rothesay.
 - (l) Council shall set out a Recreation Zone in the Zoning By-law.
-

Rothesay Zoning By-Law No. 02-02

The Rothesay Zoning By-law outlines the purposes for which any land, building or structure may be used and standards to which any given land use, building or structure must conform.

Section 4.2.1 details the requirements of the "Recreation Zone". Permitted uses for such zones include boat houses, marinas, outdoor rinks, open spaces and parks, swimming areas and trail systems among others. Larger facilities, such as arenas, golf courses and gymnasiums, are uses subject to Planning Advisory Committee review for terms and conditions.

Rothesay Subdivision By-law No. 3-02

Section 5.1 of the town's subdivision bylaw indicates that land in the amount of 10% of the area of a subdivided parcel is to be set aside as "Land for Public Purposes" intended to be used for recreation use by the general public.

2004 Recreation Needs Analysis: Kennebecasis Valley

In 2004, the Director of Recreation Services for the Town of Rothesay conducted a recreation needs analysis study for the entire Kennebecasis Valley, although the report was specifically for Rothesay. The stated goal of the study was to determine the current and future needs of the KV region. 25 recreation service providers responded.

The report determined that there was a need for additional recreational activity space in order to accommodate growth within the different programs. Feedback from providers indicated a severe lack of "prime time" availability for activities in school gymnasiums and arenas. Both large groups (such as hockey, basketball and soccer associations) and smaller groups (such as martial arts and dance classes) felt the same space needs.

The report recommended a full-scale feasibility study that would look at the potential size, location options, capital and operating costs, management options and user fees.

City of Saint John Recreational Facilities Committee Report (2004)

In 2004, Saint John's Mayor and Common Council requested the creation of a recreational facilities committee in order to assess and provide recommendations for the present and future needs of Saint John. The findings were presented in a 2005 document commonly referred to as the Wallace Report, named after the committee's Chair John Wallace.

The report argues that the City needs to prioritize facility refurbishment and expansion over new construction. However, the report goes on to argue that if at some point a new facility of significant size is deemed necessary, then all the communities of the Greater Saint John region should come together to discuss how a new multi-purpose facility could best serve all their needs. For example, the report states that there is a need for two additional ice surfaces in the Saint John region, but argues that none of the local municipalities, including Quispamsis and Rothesay, should attempt to address the shortfall independently. It recommends that the current need "should be addressed by combining the requirements, efforts and resources of each of these municipalities, and possibly others, in the development and operation of a recreational/sporting multi-use facility."⁸

The report also recommends that the City of Saint John discuss a potential partnership with the Town of Rothesay as it attempts to complete the eastern end of its Main Trunk Trail system, which is has identified as an immediate first step.

2008 Recreation Service Provider Consultations

In 2008, meetings were held by the town's Park and Recreation Committee with local recreation service providers. The purpose of these two meetings was to assess the current state of recreational sports in the area and identify potential future needs.

The results of these meetings were more or less consistent with the 2004 needs analysis. Recreation service providers argued that there was not enough available time or space to accommodate all of their current needs and future growth. All agreed that the opening of the Arthur Miller Fields had helped alleviate some of the problems, but more still needed to be done.

Much of the discussion centred on the construction and design of a multi-purpose facility that could accommodate large and small user groups and offer a year-round activity space. Even with the anticipated construction of the QPlex in Quispamsis, many providers believed it would not fully alleviate their scheduling restrictions due to high demand, especially for ice time.

⁸ *City of Saint John Recreational Facilities Committee (2004): Report Summary, p. 9.*

Features of the Proposed QPlex Recreation Centre Site, Quispamsis, N.B.

This one-page document available on the Quispamsis Town website outlines some of the key features of the proposed QPlex development in Quispamsis⁹. It will include, among other things, an NHL-sized ice surface, an outdoor pool with two water slides, a three-lane walking track, a trade and convention centre, expanded outdoor walking trails and a dog park. The project hopes to showcase green design principles and achieve LEED Certification – either silver or gold. It will be designed to allow for the future twinning of the ice surface.



QPlex Site (Vincent Road)

Town of Rothesay Risk Management Report, Frank Cowan Company

This 2008 Risk Management Report was conducted to identify conditions or potential hazards on community-owned land and in community-owned facilities. For the purposes of this report, a photographic inventory of inspected buildings and structures was used to help generate a list of recreation facilities in the Town of Rothesay.

2008 Finn Report on Local Governance

Regionalization and municipal restructuring have been ongoing topics of discussion in New Brunswick, with multiple reports published on the issue. Since debate is ongoing, it is important to understand what impact this discussion has had, and could continue to have on the Town of Rothesay.

Most recently, the provincial legislature tabled a report by Commissioner Jean-Guy Finn, titled *Building Stronger Local Governments and Regions: An Action Plan for the Future of Local Governance in New Brunswick*. The 2008 report built upon the previous 25 prior studies that have been conducted on issues related to local governance and municipal restructuring.

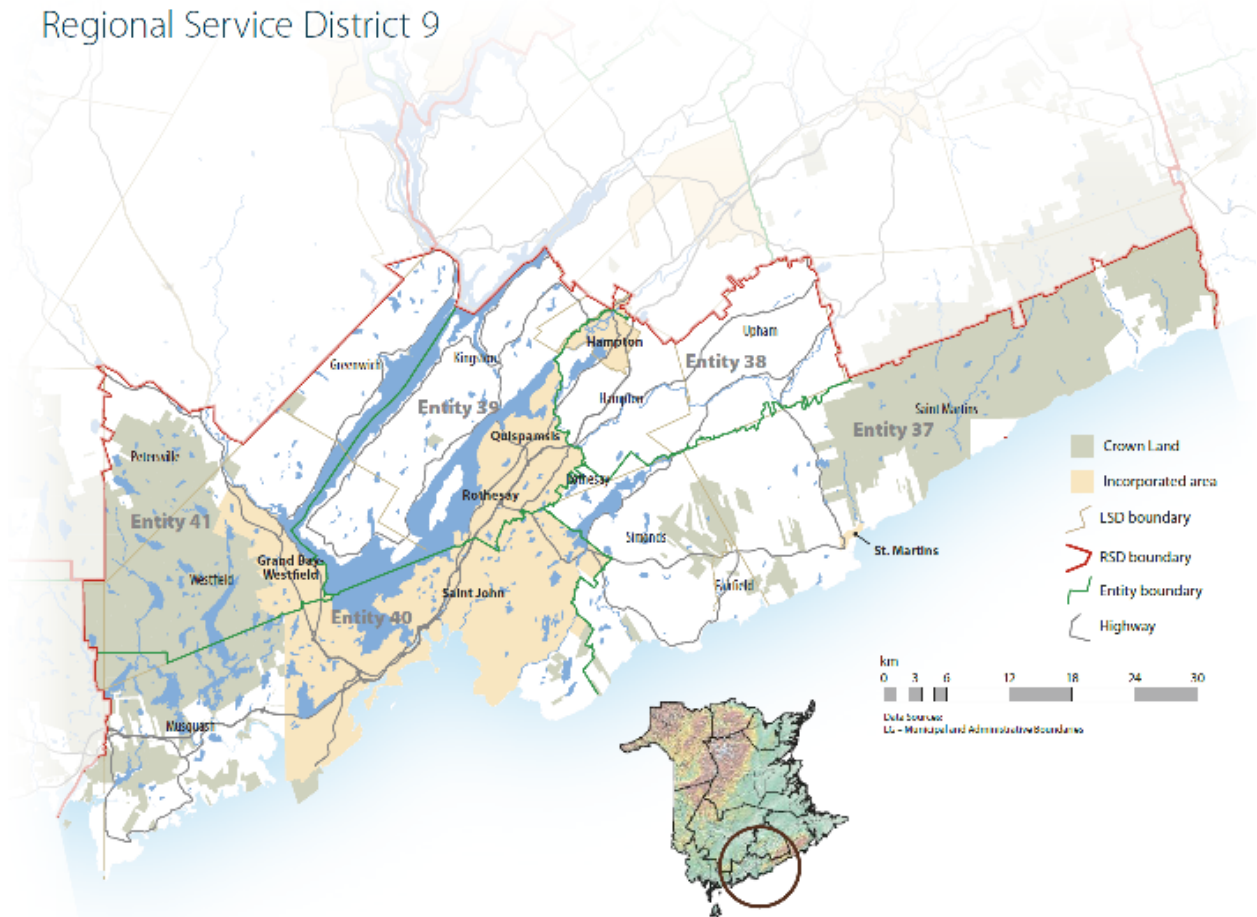
Commissioner Finn points to a list of duplications in service within the Greater Saint John Area, including two economic development bodies (Enterprise Saint John and Enterprise Fundy), three separate police forces and 13 separate fire departments. Finn argues that a single regional municipality for the Greater Saint John Area would be the most effective reorganization option,

⁹ At the time of writing; bidding for the construction of the QPlex were over the Town's anticipated budget; averaging \$3 million above the \$18.5 million set aside for construction costs.

but goes on to state that “it is a conclusion that the residents of the region have to come to themselves.” (88) Instead, he argues, a more politically palatable approach would be the creation of five separate municipalities within one Regional Service District. In Finn’s approach, Rothesay would amalgamate with Quispamsis and the Kingston peninsula to form one municipality and would share five regional services with the surrounding municipalities, including planning, solid waste management, policing, emergency measures, and economic development. Detailed boundaries of Commissioner Finn’s proposal are shown in Figure 2.4.1.

Figure 2.4.1 Proposed Regional Service District

Regional Service District 9



Source: *Building Stronger Local Governments and Regions: An Action Plan for the Future of Local Governance in New Brunswick*

3.0 FACILITY INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

Municipal Facility Inventory and Assessment

A facility inventory was conducted of Rothesay's recreation system (Please see Map A: Rothesay Recreation Facility & Open Space Inventory; Appendix A contains a detailed list of recreation facilities). The inventory was prepared by gathering and reviewing a number of written sources and maps; discussions with staff, stakeholders and residents; and verified through a site visit to each site.

3.1 Facilities

A recreation buildings review was conducted for town owned recreation structures including Rothesay Arena, the Bill McGuire Centre, the Fundy Soccer Association building, Renforth Wharf and Boat Club, the Rowing Club House, the change facility at Jordan Miller Park, the change house at Rothesay Common, and the community centre at Wells Recreation Park (a recreational assessment of buildings can be found in Appendix B). This review was visual and is not meant to be a detailed building condition report. Deficiencies and problems with buildings visible to the naked eye were noted. No deconstruction or excavation was conducted. While most of the structures are in relatively good condition overall, there are several structures (such as Rothesay Arena, the Renforth Boat Club, and the change house at Jordan Miller Park) which will need intervention through repair and improved maintenance. It was also noted that improvements could be made to all facilities to make them universally accessible.

3.2 Open Space / Parks

Open space is public and private space that is opens to the sky and is used or has the potential to be used for public recreation. It is not necessary for open space to be "natural" in the sense of being untouched by human intervention. Open space can include areas occupied by man-made structures as well as spaces formed by those structures.

Active Open Space means space used primarily for recreation that is of a physical nature such as sports. Areas may be organized for a particular sport, or not organized.

Unstructured Open Space means space used primarily for recreation that is of an individual nature, for example, walking, reading, and picnicking. Physical activity is not vigorous and is usually not organized.

Open space forms a system in which different land uses are combined to create a network. This system can include green spaces and corridors, trails and linkages [such as streets and plazas]

parks, playgrounds, fields and environmental features such as reservoirs, flood basins, watersheds, waterways and wetlands, and the like.

The open space system is an important planning tool as it provides a structural framework for urban growth and development. As a framework, it also provides continuity in the urban context by binding together otherwise disconnected and unrelated development areas, creating a sense of identity for the Town.

Rothesay has a significant number of open spaces; spaces which are town owned and land intended for public purposes and more informal and unstructured open spaces.

3.2.1 Unstructured Open Spaces



Open Spaces – Left to right: Jordan Miller Park; Rothesay Common

Within several of Rothesay's neighbourhood and community parks, there are unstructured open spaces which provide residents with sufficient space for informal leisure activities. In the case of Rothesay Common; it serves an important role as a community meeting space allowing for summer programming such as Canada Day events, craft events, plays and concerts.

3.2.2 Land for Public Purposes (Unstructured Open Spaces)



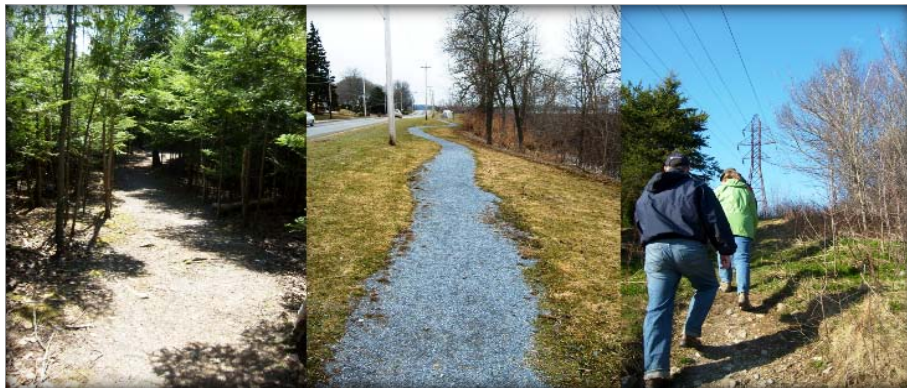
Land for Public Purposes – Left to right: Maliseet Drive; Pickett Lane; Longwood Drive; Stack Road Lagoon

Among Rothesay's lands for public purposes, there are several spaces which, although unstructured, offer a reasonable capacity for recreational use. These spaces include an area with

riverfront access near the intersection of Pickett Lane and River Road; another space with riverfront access on Maliseet Drive; a linear space near a creek off Longwood Drive; and the land adjacent to the Stack Road Lagoon (and area with the potential for the development of a trail).

3.2.3 Trails

Rothesay has limited formal trails such as: Steele Kennedy Nature Park, East Riverside Kingshurst Park Trail and Rothesay Trails. However, the municipality has many informal trail opportunities within both town-owned land and private property which are used by hundreds of residents and regional trail users. In the coming years, there is the possibility that the existing rail line along Rothesay Road and Gondola Point Road will be redirected should potash mining activities in the Sussex area expand; creating an opportunity for expanded development of the riverside trail.



Left to right: Rothesay Trails; East Riverside Kingshurst Park Trail; and Spyglass Trail (Informal)

Informal trails include "Spyglass Trail" (an elaborate trail network north of the highway which crosses several privately owned properties) and areas such as Renforth Bog (south of the Mackay Highway). There are significant regional eco-tourism opportunities (for the Greater Saint John region) which are associated with the Renforth Bog area. Consultation with the Atlantic Coastal Action Program suggested that Rothesay has significant potential to enhance links to the Saint John trails system through the enhancement of access to the Renforth Bog trails off the highway exit at Fox Farm Road. Although the majority of Renforth Bog is within the Saint John city limits, it begins within the Rothesay town limit at the Fox Farm Road.



Renforth Bog Trail (left to right): Illegal dumping; bog view; trail damage caused by ATV use.

Currently, the area is used informally as trails; but unfortunately it is also used as an illegal dumping ground and ATV trail; both significantly damaging to the bog area. Formalizing the entrance to the trail; through the introduction of garbage cans and 'No Dumping' signage may help encourage community stewardship of the area.

3.2.4 Playgrounds

There are 13 playgrounds within the community (3 of which are owned and managed by schools – and used by residents outside of school hours). These include playgrounds at Wells Recreation Park, Dobbin Street, Highland Avenue/Clermont Avenue, Scribner Crescent, Donlyn Drive, Islay Drive, at Renforth Wharf, within Rothesay Common, Monaco Drive, Jordan Miller Park; and school playgrounds at Kennebecasis Park Elementary, Rothesay Elementary and Fairvale Elementary.



Playgrounds – Left to right: Wells Recreation Park; Rothesay Commons; Scribner Crescent

A cursory observation revealed that all playgrounds seem well used throughout the municipality; however, deficiencies were noted with the state of a number of playground equipment installations and supporting infrastructure. Deficiencies and problems with equipment and surfaces visible to the naked eye were noted. No excavation or forms of testing were conducted. A formal audit should be carried out by a certified playground inspector. In these instances, deficiencies may limit the use of several play structures (Appendix A contains a visual assessment for each playground). These include degraded surfaces beneath some play structures, rusting of metal parts, exposed concrete footings, and older model slides which may not meet today's CSA standards. These issues can be addressed through diligent maintenance and equipment replacement and/or repair and are discussed in Section 6.2.6 (Playground Maintenance) of this report.

3.2.5 Rothesay Common

Rothesay Common is an important community resource which provides several key features of Rothesay's recreation system. Centrally located, the Common provides open space, a central community gathering space that can be used for festivals and events, a newly refurbished

playground, basketball courts (which serve as an outdoor ice rink in winter), a change/skate house and shares a track with Rothesay Park School. Further discussion can be found under the heading of Rothesay Common on Page 67.

3.2.6 Cycling Lanes

There is currently a white line on the shoulder of Fox Farm Road which, although not developed to be a cycling lane, is considered by many residents to be a cycling lane given the fact that there seems to be enough room for sharing the road with cyclists. Rothesay does not have any explicitly designated cycling lanes/trails. However, the City of Saint John, through funding assistance from the Province is planning the development of cycling lanes in two phases: phase 1 will be from Colony Road to the Rothesay Road underpass, and phase 2 will extend from the Rothesay Road underpass to Ashburn Road (creating a Rothesay Avenue connection). The project will include the development of sidewalks and bike lanes.

4.0 CONSULTATION

The initial phase of the project addressing a socio-demographic analysis and population projections; national and industry recreation trends including facility planning and participation trends; review of relevant local documents; and preliminary facility (parks and open space) assessment (as described in Chapter 2) formed the foundation for community and stakeholder consultations. These are described as follows.

4.1 Public Open House

On the evening of April 15th, 2009, ADI Limited hosted a Public Open House Session at Rothesay Town Hall. 110 residents of Rothesay attended. The objectives of the open house were to inform Rothesay residents of general trends in recreation, highlight the importance and scope of recreation planning, but most importantly to provide the public with an opportunity to offer input into the recreation planning process.

4.1.1 Recreation Budget Exercise

In order to obtain a general sense of recreation desires, ADI developed a recreation budgeting exercise which allowed residents to make choices regarding recreation facilities. Based on a review of documents and previous studies, ADI produced choices – A New Multi-Purpose Facility; A New Rink; New Trails; and Other – over which residents would deliberate. Each participant was given \$400 Rothesay Recreation Dollars (in \$50 bills) which they were asked to distribute among the four choices (in separate bowls). Participants were asked to write down their preferred option for the “Other” category on the back of their bills. This exercise asked residents to deliberate in much the same way as Council when making decisions regarding municipal investments; requiring them to understand that there are trade-offs to consider when deliberating over a set budget. Participants understood that if they placed a given amount of money within one facility, there would be less available for others.



Of a total of \$42,500 in available Rothesay Dollars (See Table 4.1.1), residents collectively budgeted \$14,450 (34%) for a New Multi-Purpose Facility, \$9,500 (22%) for New Trails, \$8,650 (20%) for a New Rink, and \$9,900 (24%) within the “Other” category.

Table 4.1.1 Rothesay Recreation Budget Exercise Results

Recreation Facility Choices	Number	\$ Amount	Percentage
A New Multi-Purpose Facility	289	\$14,450	34%
New Trails	190	\$9,500	22%
A New Rink	173	\$8,650	20%
Other	198	\$9,900	24%
Total	850	\$42,500	100%

Based on the specific requests written on the back of the Rothesay Dollar bills that were placed in the "Other" category, the responses were grouped into themes (See Table 4.1.2). The top groups among this category were requests for Senior Facilities, an Indoor Pool, and more Tennis Courts.

Table 4.1.2 Breakdown of "Other" Facility Choices

"Other" Categories	Number	\$ Amount	Percentage
Senior Facilities	74	\$3,700	37%
Miscellaneous	31	\$1,550	16%
Indoor Pool	27	\$1,350	14%
Tennis Courts	19	\$950	10%
Bike/Walking Lanes	14	\$700	7%
Library	13	\$650	6%
Outdoor Hockey	3	\$150	1.5%
Playgrounds - Upgrades	3	\$150	1.5%
Water Pad at Rothesay Common	2	\$100	1%
Dog Park	2	\$100	1%
Waterfront Access	2	\$100	1%
Seniors Housing	2	\$100	1%
Seniors Transportation	2	\$100	1%
Wheelchair Accessibility	2	\$100	1%
Kayaking and Boating	1	\$50	0.5%
Green Space	1	\$50	0.5%
TOTAL	198	\$9,900	100%

4.2 Online Community Survey

An online survey was made available to residents from April 1 to April 23 with use of the online survey website, SurveyMonkey. During this time period, 77 residents responded to the survey which included 10 questions relating to recreation habits, needs and assessment of the local recreation system. Respondents were asked to indicate through the online survey if they were Rothesay residents. The open and accessible nature of the SurveyMonkey online survey prevents

verification if survey participants are Rothesay residents. Therefore, it should not be considered a statistically significant method of soliciting public input. However, it does indicate a general sense of what the community is thinking. What follows is a summary of survey results (for detailed survey results, see Appendix C).

When asked about which activities the survey respondent has participated in within the last year, walking is the most popular recreational activity in Rothesay. Just over 86% of survey respondents indicated that they've walked for recreation in the past year in the community. Cycling was also popular at 65.8%. Archery, racquetball and squash are the least popular activities. Only 1.3% of respondents indicated that they had participated in these over the course of the year (See Appendix C for a complete collation of results).

Survey results indicate that gymnasiums and parks and open spaces are the most used recreation facilities in Rothesay. Approximately 60% of respondents indicated they use gymnasiums weekly or more, while 46% indicated they use parks and open spaces weekly or more. Baseball and softball fields appear to be the most underutilized of Rothesay's recreation facilities.

According to survey results, the most prevalent barrier to participation in recreation activities is a lack of adequate facilities. Limited space in recreation programs is also a significant barrier to participation.

When asked to rate Rothesay's facilities, more than 83% of survey respondents gave Rothesay's swimming pool facilities a rating of inadequate (this indicates that although Rothesay does not have a public pool¹⁰, for many of the respondents, the Town needs a swimming pool – many Rothesay residents use the Saint John Aquatic Centre and/or the Hampton pool). Walking and running tracks were given the second worst rating. Exactly 61% of respondents gave these a rating of inadequate. Alternatively, soccer and rugby fields are the most favourably viewed and 50% of respondents gave them a rating of excellent.

Survey respondents indicated that multi-purpose facilities and walking tracks are the indoor recreation facilities considered most necessary in Rothesay. Just fewer than 89% of respondents felt that a single complex allowing for a variety of recreation uses would best benefit the community.

Multi-use trails for walking and cycling are considered most necessary in Rothesay. More than 83% of survey respondents indicated that the community lacked suitable outdoor trails for recreation.

¹⁰ Rothesay is a member of the Canada Games Aquatic Centre Commission and thus Rothesay residents have access to the Aquatic Centre located in Saint John. Rothesay taxpayers contribute financially to the operational costs of the Aquatic Centre yearly, through the Regional Facilities Commission.

Teens and older adults are the most poorly served age groups when it comes to availability of recreation programs in Rothesay. Approximately 71% of respondents feel that additional recreation programs need to be implemented in the community.

The majority of survey respondents feel that the provision of additional facilities is the improvement most necessary to Rothesay's current recreation sector. The implementation of arts courses, such as painting and photography, are also seen as critical areas for improvement.

By and large, survey respondents are most willing to pay increased property taxes to fund multi-purpose community facilities. In fact, 23.5% of respondents indicated they would pay an increase of \$100 or more for this recreation service.

4.3 Stakeholder Consultations

During the month of April, ADI consulted with a variety of stakeholders including local community stakeholders; provincial government departments and agencies; police agencies; recreation departments in adjacent communities; and recreation organizations. Stakeholders were questioned regarding the relationship of their work with the recreation system and also about their perceptions of Rothesay's recreation system.

Schools / District 6

Principals of Rothesay schools and administrators for District 6 were interviewed over a two week period in order to generate input regarding community use of school facilities and obtain input regarding their perception of the local and recreation system within the Kennebecasis Valley. According to the principals of Rothesay Area Schools, the most important recreation and leisure needs for their students consists of ensuring that they are encouraged to be as physically active as possible. In order to promote an active lifestyle, school-aged children should be provided with a wide variety of recreational activities.

The rates for use of school facilities within the town of Rothesay range from free use for not-for-profit organizations to \$240 (for two hour blocks) for the general public which includes for profit activities such as karate. School District 6 sets guidelines for schools which set rate standards for facility use based on the types of users which are categorized into four groups. These categories include Direct School Services, Youth Oriented Not-For-Profit, Youth and Adult Oriented For-Profit and Commercial uses.



School Gyms - Left to right: Harry Miller Middle School; Rothesay Park School; Rothesay High School

There are a variety of users of school facilities ranging from formalized sports such as the Kennebecasis Valley Basketball Association (KVBA), KV Minor Hockey Association (KVMHA) and Fundy Soccer; to instructional disciplines such as KV Karate, School of Highland Dancing, Tae Kwon Do, and Tai Chi; and more informal leisure activities. Schools in Rothesay also make use of municipal recreational facilities for their PhysEd programs and school team sports such as Rothesay Arena and the Arthur Miller Fields. Facilities used by Rothesay schools outside of town include Harbour Station, the Canada Games Aquatic Centre and the Quispamsis Arena.

Representative Users of Rothesay Area School Facilities *(List does not include School Team Sports)

Kennebecasis Park Elementary School	KVBA Puppy Program
Rothesay Park School	Adult Badminton, KVBA, Fundy Twirlers, Adult Volleyball, School of Highland Dance
RCS Netherwood School	Squash Club, Recreation Basketball League, KVMHA, KV Skating Club, Old Timers Hockey, host tournament for Rugby Club, Fundy Soccer.
Rothesay High School	KVBA, KV Woodworkers, Special Olympics, KV Karate, KV Bantam Football, Indoor Soccer League
Fairvale Elementary School	KVBA, Adult Marathon Training
Harry Miller Middle School	KVBA, Tae Kwon Do, Brownies, Lacrosse NB, Saint John Athletics, Baseball Summer Camps
Rothesay Elementary School	KVBA, After-School YMCA, Ball Hockey, Summer Camps (Canadian Parents for French & English as a Second Language)

Rothesay Netherwood School, although providing recreation facility time to regional recreation users, given an explicit policy of priority for its students, does not consider itself as part of the KV regional recreation system.

Central Booking

As most of Rothesay’s school facilities are well booked outside of school hours, the significant degree of scheduling and management required is incurred by school staff. When asked if they would prefer a central booking agency; the majority of principals agreed that it would be a good idea; alleviating school staff from the need to manage facility time with a variety of users. A

central booking agent would improve efficiency for school and municipal facilities; helping organizations maximize participation in their community programs, activities and fundraising events.

The City of Fredericton Community Services Department was consulted with regards to their use of facility management software. Through the use of Class 6.0 software, the recreation facilities coordinator is able to effectively manage and schedule all municipally owned and school facilities. Through a private-public partnership agreement with schools, the City is provided with the availability of school gyms and fields which enables more effective consolidation of facility capacity. This has vastly improved community access to recreation services.

Municipal/School Coordination

A successful recreation system is largely dependent upon and accomplished through a cooperative effort of the town and all others with a stake in development of quality recreational opportunities. The School District is an extremely important member of this cooperative venture because it represents a very large public investment of the taxpayer's dollars in terms of public owned land areas and structural facilities. Schools generally locate in areas best suited to serve a concentration of population at the neighbourhood, community and regional levels (Greater Saint John region). The Town should maintain an ongoing relationship with the District to efficiently and economically plan for joint school/municipal facilities.

Library

The Kennebecasis Valley Public Library provides library services for both Rothesay and Quispamsis; with both towns jointly financing the building and furniture, while staffing and materials are financed by the Province. The library users are predominantly from the under 12 and over 50 age groups. In addition to providing basic library services, the Kennebecasis Public Library has taken on an Ad Hoc role of community cultural centre, showcasing local art and providing a support for a number of programs which range from young to old.

Additional Programming Offered By the Kennebecasis Public Library

- Babies In Library (French and English) for 1-18 months – weekly
- Toddlers for 18-36 months – weekly
- 3 and Up Club – weekly
- Hacmatack Program – Grades 4-5 (Outreach program for Quispamsis Elementary) – weekly
- Stories in the School – K-1 (Rothesay Elementary) – weekly
- With-Us (Volunteer Run Program – helps kids whose mother tongue is not English) – weekly
- Special March-Break programs for elementary school-aged children
- Summer Reading Club
- Various ad hoc summer programs

- Teen programming on occasion (Rothesay Reads)
 - Adult Book Club – every 3 weeks
 - Seasonal programs such as the Easter Egg Workshop; Mother’s Day program (for kids to make a gift for mom)
 - Newcomers Club (adults) to learn English
 - Support of Art Workshop at Saint John Arts Centre (ABEC)
 - Dear Author (Grade 9 students annual)
-

Stakeholder Perceptions of the Rothesay Recreation System

Stakeholders were asked the following questions with regards to the local recreation system:

1. What are your general perceptions of the Rothesay recreation system?
2. What recreation qualities do you think distinguish Rothesay within the context of the KV region?
3. What is your assessment of the current park and recreation conditions within Rothesay?
4. What do you think the greatest challenges are to the local recreation system?
5. What recreation programs and facilities, do you perceive, are needed in Rothesay?
6. What do you think are future opportunities for the local recreation system?
7. Do you see any opportunities for partnering or other funding sources for the enhancement of the local recreation system?
8. What do you think is the single most important recreation facility within the Town of Rothesay?
9. What do you think should be the most important goal of the Rothesay Recreation Master Plan?

When asked about their general perceptions of the Rothesay recreation system, stakeholder responses range from poor to very good. Respondents believe that the opening of the Arthur Miller Fields was a good step forward for Rothesay’s recreation system, but for the most part the town still has a lot of work to do. Respondents point to a lack of ice time, the burden on schools to respond to the community’s recreational needs and the lack of adequate facilities for numerous activities, especially swimming, biking and running, as major shortcomings in the town’s recreation system. Some also argue that Rothesay is not doing as much as neighbouring communities to improve its system.

With regards to Rothesay’s explicit recreation qualities, respondents believe the town’s active culture helps distinguish it within the KV region, although some argue more needs to be done to cater to the abundance of local joggers. In terms of facilities, Arthur Miller Fields stands out as the one that distinguishes Rothesay’s recreational reputation within the KV region the most, with

the Riverside Golf and Country Club, Kennebecasis Rowing and Canoe Club, and Fairvale Elementary School's Dreamland Park also receiving mention.

In their assessment of the current park and recreation conditions in Rothesay, once again stakeholders' opinion ranges from poor to very good. Respondents believe that while Arthur Miller Fields are in great condition, maintenance is lacking for much of the rest of Rothesay's park and recreation system. Respondents point to the aging arena and general accessibility issues as areas that could use improvement.

Respondents listed limited venue capacity, balancing user needs, adapting to changing recreational needs, and limited funding for recreational investment as the four greatest challenges for the local recreation system. Some believe the construction of a field house or multi-purpose complex could go a long way to addressing some of these challenges, while others argue that improvements should focus on improving system accessibility for seniors.

In order to obtain a better sense of what people have been talking about at the community level, stakeholders were asked what recreation programs and facilities they have heard, are needed in Rothesay. Responses include a field house or multi-purpose facility, a hockey arena, swimming facilities, basketball courts and walking/biking trails. Wheelchair accessibility and free parking should be features of new facilities.

In consideration of future opportunities for the local recreation system; as one respondent stated, there is unlimited potential for Rothesay's recreation system. Many believe there is ample opportunity to improve local capacity for water sports, including swimming, boating and fishing by better exploiting the town's location along the Kennebecasis River. Other areas of potential opportunity include collaboration with the local school district, improving walking/biking trail network, and improving the system's overall accessibility.

Concerning funding and partnership options for the enhancement of the local recreation system, many respondents believe that funding is a major barrier for the enhancement of the local recreation system. Some believe that a regional approach would be beneficial (in order to avoid duplication of services), while others believe a partnership between the town and school district would go a long way to improving the local system. Other suggestions include private-public partnerships, corporate sponsorships and provincial and federal funding opportunities. One respondent believes that local recreation service providers could join forces to establish a fundraising committee.

According to the stakeholders, Arthur Miller Fields stands out as the single most important recreation facility in the Town of Rothesay, with some respondents also mentioning local

schools, the Rothesay Arena and the Kennebecasis Public Library as important recreational venues.

ADI also gave stakeholders the opportunity to suggest the most important aspect of the recreation master plan. In summarizing respondents' answers to this question, four dominant goals emerge. In the view of stakeholders, the Rothesay Recreation Master Plan should:

- a. encourage active living, especially among children
- b. create a recreational system that accommodates a wide range of users, including seniors and the disabled
- c. take advantage of a variety of partnerships to make the system stronger
- d. improve and expand recreational facilities (including the construction of a field house and expanded library, as well as meeting rooms, kitchens and bathroom facilities, etc.)

Recreation Organizations

As part of ADI's stakeholder consultations, recreation groups and organizations which use Rothesay leisure facilities were asked to complete a survey regarding their group's activities, membership, and nature of use and perception of local facilities. The recreation organizations that responded to the 2009 Rothesay Recreation Master Plan survey represent a wide cross-section of interests. Although 32 recreation organizations were contacted repeatedly (each group was contacted at least 3 times by phone day and night and by email) throughout the period of consultations, 15 of the groups returned a completed survey. Although it was indicated that many of the groups felt that they have provided 'enough' input over the last few years; therefore, less eager to contribute to the current recreation planning process, the returned surveys did represent a good cross-section of local sports groups. Respondents include sports groups and associations (hockey, basketball, rowing and martial arts among others), recreational groups (archery and baton twirling) and childcare services (for detailed survey results, see Appendix D).

All recreational service providers had residents of Rothesay participating in their activities. However, all the clubs based in Rothesay had participants from surrounding communities, including Quispamsis, Saint John, Grand Bay-Westfield, Hampton and Sussex. The same is true for clubs based in other municipalities who do not use Rothesay facilities, but nonetheless provide a recreational service in which Rothesay residents participate. **This trend points to a regional approach to recreational service provision, evidenced by the name of many of the associations that include "Kennebecasis Valley".**

The survey highlights a strong community use of schools for recreational services. Many schools host more than one recreational club throughout the week, including martial arts classes,

basketball, track and field, and racket sports. Other facilities used include the Rothesay Arena (hockey and fitness training), the Bill McGuire Centre (childcare) and even local churches (tai chi classes). The majority of respondents rated the specific facility they use as satisfactory, while the minority rated them as either excellent or inadequate. However, opinion drops when respondents are asked to expand their analysis to the town level. Just under one half of respondents found that the town's recreational services were inadequate, while the majority (8 of 14) found that Rothesay's recreational facilities as a whole were inadequate. This discrepancy in opinion between facility-level and town-level opinion suggests that while recreational service providers have found a specific facility to use, they are aware that there are no other adequate facilities in town for their use.

Recreational organizations argue that there is a need to improve Rothesay's recreational facilities, which will in turn help improve the town's recreational services. Some believe there is a need for a field house or some other type of multi-purpose complex to accommodate a variety of users, improve scheduling flexibility and allow for future growth in recreational participation. Some also believe that outdoor facilities are needed, including improved facilities for water sports, as well as walking and biking trails, which could also help serve the recreational needs of an aging society.

While the majority of groups have experienced an increase in the number of participants in the last five years, many service providers indicate that future growth is limited due to venue capacity issues. They also argue that scheduling limitations and lack of adequate facilities are hindering the ability of participants to improve, preventing clubs from meeting Canada-wide standards for their sport, or inhibiting the Town of Rothesay to host certain sports championships that would bring additional economic benefits to the town.

Conclusions of Community and Local Stakeholder Consultations

Consistent with the findings of the demographic analysis and review of national recreation trends in Chapter 2 which conclude that the recreation and leisure needs of seniors and families are emerging as a main concern, consultations with the community and local stakeholders reveal that there is a need for more unstructured recreational activities; a need for indoor and outdoor amenities which can accommodate a wider variety of activities, and a need to address overlooked user groups such as teens, seniors and disabled people.

Recreation Departments from Adjacent Communities

Representatives from the recreation departments of three adjacent communities were consulted in order to better understand what they consider to be recreational priorities for their communities and how they anticipate their recreation systems will evolve in the future. Included in this phase of the consultation were representatives from the Quispamsis Recreation Department, Saint John Leisure Services and the Hampton Recreation Department.

The feedback received as part of this phase of consultation highlighted of a wide range of recreational services and facilities throughout the KV region, with little coordination across municipal boundaries. Saint John is home to four recreation facilities that are cost-shared with the Kennebecasis Valley municipalities: the Canada Games Aquatic Centre, Harbour Station, the Saint John Arts Centre and the Imperial Theatre. However, each municipality is also host to a variety of recreational facilities of their own, although used by residents from throughout the valley area. In Quispamsis alone one can find:

- 1 ice rink
- 2 soccer fields
- 7 playgrounds
- 3 parks
- 3 tennis courts
- Several trail networks
- 4 baseball fields
- 3 public beaches
- 2 beach volleyball courts
- 1 boat launch
- 1 outdoor ice rink

The recreation systems of all three communities continue to evolve. Saint John is about to embark on a trails master planning process, and update of its Recreation and Open Space Master Plan as part of its municipal plan review. With the exception of a proposed new indoor soccer multiplex at Exhibition Park, Saint John anticipates that the future of its recreation system lies in facility renewal and new trails, rather than brand new facilities. However, it does recognize the need for a new ice surface in the city, but has not determined an appropriate location. Future ice surface development in Quispamsis through the QPlex (and/or Rothesay) may impact that decision.

The Town of Hampton has already started the process of consultation for its recreation master plan, a library feasibility study, and revitalizing its town square. It has also just completed construction on the Lighthouse River Centre, a multi-purpose rental facility. The Hampton Recreation Department indicates that swimming, ball-hockey and running clubs are activities of high-demand in their community.

In contrast, the construction of the QPlex development has been the main focus of Quispamsis' recreation system. As reported by town officials, it involved a lengthy public consultation process. The facility includes a new ice rink, outdoor Olympic-sized pool, two water slides, a three-lane walking track, a trade and convention centre, expanded walking trails and a dog park. Beyond the development of the QPlex, Quispamsis is planning to focus on a 200km expansion of its trail network.

As the above discussion indicates, each community has determined its own future recreation priorities and areas of expansion. But, with the exception of Hampton which (conversation with Hampton Recreation Director) doesn't identify with the Kennebecasis Valley as much as it does with its surrounding local service districts, there is a general recognition that what happens

elsewhere in the KV region impacts their own recreation systems. While past attempts at regional recreation coordination have not come to fruition, there is support for coordination of the region's trail network. All municipalities have identified trail expansion as an area of future interest and connectivity across municipal borders would strengthen the system.

New Brunswick Trails Council

ADI met with Poul Jorgensen, Executive Director of the New Brunswick Trails Council to discuss local trail development potential in Rothesay. According to Jorgensen, the Trans Canada Trail is slated to be connected through the communities of Saint John, Rothesay, Quispamsis and Hampton, although the location of such a trail has not yet been determined. It is advisable, in the view of NB Trails, that communities within the Greater Saint John region coordinate their efforts in the planning of trails.

5.0 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The results of the research and consultations were analysed to reveal a community demographic profile, recreation trends, the current situation in Rothesay with respect to parks, open space, facilities and programs in order to assess the recreational infrastructure to determine needs for the next planning period. In order to adequately measure Rothesay’s community needs, the local recreation system is compared to benchmark standards for recreation service provision.

Although the Province of New Brunswick has not developed guidelines or standards for the development of recreational facilities, it does recognize the standards as set out by the *Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation – Sports Division’s Guidelines for Developing Public Recreation Facility Standards* (1998). Accordingly, the application of a set of standards¹¹, to a community should be sensitive to the context of the community; taking into consideration the rate of growth, nature of development, and available resources (personnel, finances). This method of recreation service assessment provides a valuable broad view of how effectively a community’s recreation system is catering to its residents.

5.1 Benchmarking Rothesay’s Recreation System to Industry Standards

Table 5.1.1 Benchmark Standards for Relevant Recreation Facilities

Facility	Description	Standard
Arena, artificial indoor ice area	One in each community should have spectator seating; the rest should be for recreation purposes	One location per 8,000 (very active use); 20,000 (somewhat active use)
Rink, natural ice, outdoor	May be maintained by volunteers; should be three ice surfaces: one for hockey, one for small children, and one for skating	One location per 5,000
Centres, community centre (Field House)	A multi-purpose building; may be part of a school complex or included with an indoor pool and arena	One location per 25,000
Day centre	Specifically for senior citizens; complete and continuous programs of activities, including a noon meal	One location per 20,000
Drop-in centre	Usually for teens or senior citizens; should be centrally located and close to public transportation	One location per 20,000
Youth centre	May be part of a school, church or community centre	One location per 20,000
Library	An integrated system is essential within each municipality; may be combined with school system; should include bookmobile service for rural areas	One location per 20,000
Football field	Usually combined with school playfield or soccer field	One location per 20,000
Baseball field	A neighbourhood facility where interest warrants; at least one or more in each municipality should be lighted	One location per 5,000
Basketball court	Best in a school; often in a church	One location per 5,000

¹¹ Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation – Sports Division’s Guidelines for Developing Public Recreation Facility Standards (1998).

Facility	Description	Standard
Centre, neighbourhood	May be a small building in a neighbourhood park; preferably part of an elementary school; a meeting area plus space for a change area for outdoor skating or swimming	One location per 5,000
Paved multi-use areas	Preferable in conjunction with a school; used as an outdoor skating area in the winter	One location per 5,000
Playground, creative	Usually in conjunction with a neighbourhood park or school	One location per 5,000
Tennis court	Should be lighted and developed in conjunction with elementary and secondary schools; at least three courts per location	One location per 5,000
Soccer field	Combined with community park or secondary school playfield; a separate facility if interest warrants with seating accommodation	One location per 20,000
Track and Field	Usually part of an athletic field, secondary school or sports stadium; each school should have practice areas	One location per 20,000
Beach area	An essential facility; all potential beach areas should be developed for public use	No standard
Centre – Civic Centre	Operated as a commercial facility, even when publicly owned	One per region
Golf course	18 holes; minimum of 120-180 acres; pay as you play when public	One per 30,000
Trails – Hiking and Cycling	Walkway, finger or ribbon park, developed according to the interest of available areas; often used to link all publicly owned open space	One system per region
Nature Trail	Used for teaching via labelled flora and significant points of interest	One per region

5.2 Facilities

Public, private and commercial facilities provide recreation opportunities in a community. Industry benchmark standards for the provision of facilities apply only to those community based facilities that are municipally owned or over which the municipality has jurisdiction. The provision of local and regional facilities [such as libraries, movie theatres, bowling alleys and the like] is based on factors of population size, demographics, local or regional need, private investment, and often the commitment of other levels of government. Thus recommendations can be made only for the development of future community recreation facilities owned and operated by the municipality.

5.2.1 Arena Needs

The Rothesay Arena is very actively used by the community, serving both local and KV regional needs in terms of ice sports. The KVMHA is the main user, and as indicated by consultations, the hockey association and other ice users could benefit from additional ice time. The KVMHA, however, is a KV regional sports association operating in Rothesay and Quispamsis (KVMHA also uses the Rothesay Netherwood School Arena during the season and Harbour Station in Saint John for tournament play), and as such, a greater regional needs assessment of rinks which includes rinks in Quispamsis and Saint John should be taken into consideration. There are approximately 1000 players between the ages of 6 and 17 who participate in the KVHMA (45% from Rothesay) and, as indicated by representatives of the KVHMA, membership will increased by approximately 20% over the next five years.

The combined 2006 populations of Rothesay and Quispamsis is 26,876. Based on the assumption that the QPlex arena will be developed, the KV region of Rothesay and Quispamsis will have 3 municipal rinks to accommodate ice users. According to facility standards, the rink requirement for very active community use is one rink per 8,000 residents. Thus, three rinks adequately supply a community of 24,000 residents with very active use.

Under these circumstances; considering the Rothesay-Quispamsis area where Rothesay provides one rink and Quispamsis provides two rinks (with KV ice users having additional access to the RNS Netherwood Arena), the KV region will have an adequate supply (although slightly beyond the population threshold). However, it is critical that in the coming years, that Rothesay monitor the population and needs of ice users to ensure that the provision of rinks meet the needs of the community.

By comparison, in larger municipalities, the benchmark standard often used for rink provision is 1:20,000. The City of Fredericton, for example, which has a population of 50,535 (85,688 for the census agglomeration); provides 3 municipal arenas (one with 2 ice surfaces) for a total of 4 rinks [in Fredericton, the construction another arena on the south east side of the City is scheduled for 2010]. With one additional arena providing ice-time for limited community use at UNB Fredericton, there are a total of 5 publicly accessible rinks for Fredericton and area residents. Thus Fredericton serves a population of 50,535 with 5 ice surfaces; while Rothesay and Quispamsis offer 4 ice surfaces for a population of 26,876 or half that of the Capital City.

It should also be noted that Rothesay has many opportunities for the development of more informal outdoor rinks (through the winter use of local ponds and outside basketball courts) which can complement informal ice user needs for 4 months of the year.

5.2.2 Gymnasium Needs

Community use of gymnasias is, for the most part provided by local schools. These spaces offer useable recreation space for a variety of structured recreation activities such as karate, baton twirlers, and judo. The key user group of Rothesay gymnasiums, however, is the Kennebecasis Valley Basketball Association (KVBA) that uses school gyms at Rothesay Park School, Rothesay Elementary, and K-Park Elementary (below regulation size), Fairvale Elementary (below regulation size), Harry Miller Middle School, and occasionally Rothesay High School for yearend tournaments.

Benchmark standards suggest that one basketball court should be available for every 5,000 residents. Unlike Soccer and Hockey, gymnasium users such as the KVBA do not have access to

a dedicated facility; but make use of local school gyms. Among Rothesay's schools¹², 4 gymnasiums have regulation size courts for basketball (the K-Park Elementary gym is slated for renewal and expansion). The KVBA, however, has been expanding membership over the last few seasons and is anticipating increased demand for basketball in the years ahead. There are 616 children who participate in the KVBA (41% from Rothesay) and, as indicated by representatives of the KVBA, membership can double if not for the fact that the association is currently at maximum capacity given the available facilities for older children (requiring regulation-sized basketball courts).

5.2.3 Library Needs

Given the breadth of the Kennebecasis Public Library's cultural community services and the demand for such services, the lack of space to address local needs has become a prevalent issue; prompting the need for library expansion. As stated through discussions with the Head Librarian and the Chair of the Kennebecasis Public Library Board, a Library Planning Committee has been established in recent years to determine the needs of the community and the nature of the library expansion.

Reasons for Library Expansion (As posted in Kennebecasis Public Library Wall)

1. There is no room on the shelves.
 2. There is not enough 'community space'.
 3. We need more room for computers.
 4. We need a meeting room that can be divided to allow for concurrent programming.
 5. We need more parking.
 6. The teens should have a separate area, a place to 'hang out', with room for listening stations and comfy chairs.
 7. We need a new audio-visual area for the new formats available since we opened in 1984 (DVDs, CDs, and listen for pleasure).
 8. We need a larger – and specialized – area for our preschoolers and young children.
 9. We need room for special collections.
 10. Work space and storage space is very limited.
-

In 2006 a needs analysis was carried out which considered demographics, population growth and usage criteria; using provincial benchmarks for library service provisions. At this stage; it is determined that there is a definite need for library expansion; with the Library Planning Committee and Board considering potential sites.

¹² Although Rothesay School Gyms are factored into the assessment, it should be noted that the priority for these gymnasias are students. Community use of the facilities occurs outside of school hours and school team sports' practices times.

5.2.4 Considering the Need for a Multi-Purpose Facility (Field House)

As the analysis in Chapter 2 reveals, the population is aging and demand for leisure activities and casual physical activity options such as Yoga, Dancing, Tai Chi, and walking will continue to increase. As well, demographic trends indicate that more families with children will live in Rothesay, the pressure for adequate facilities that can accommodate a wide-variety of sporting and leisure activities will remain. Through community and stakeholder consultations, a need was expressed for the development of a field house or multi-purpose facility which would act as a 'catch-all' for a variety of indoor recreation and leisure activities. The results of the Recreation Budget exercise, open house session, recreation groups' surveys, stakeholder input and online survey, indicate a need for the development of a multi-purpose facility.

This is consistent with national recreation trends that see recreation facility development based on a changing "capital investment risk". Single use facilities are becoming obsolete and Canadian municipalities are developing more leisure oriented facilities that are more flexible multi-use complexes that accommodate the needs of a broad spectrum of age groups and uses.

Rothesay schools' classrooms, multi-purpose rooms and gyms are, in some cases, booked to capacity by outside users. As students are a priority for use of these facilities, the various community uses of schools (as discussed in Section 4.3) often comes into conflict with school use, making it difficult for community and recreation groups to maintain a consistent schedule and location for their activities.

A multi-use facility is economically more efficient since it centralizes activities under one roof, reduces operating and maintenance costs for a municipality and allows for year-round programming, which reduces the likelihood of a facility remaining idle or under-used during the off-season. Its flexible design allows for more community needs to be met in one building and it can also accommodate emerging recreation trends. If planned as part of a comprehensive recreation master plan that also focuses on neighbourhood-level improvements, such as local parks, fields and trails, community-wide recreation needs can be better met. A suggested list of potential components which may be housed within a multi-purpose facility appears in Section 6.2.4 of this Plan.

5.3 Open Spaces / Parks

5.3.4 Gap Analysis

Conducting a gap analysis enables a general sense of how well Rothesay's recreation system serves the community in comparison to industry standards (for details regarding the spatial analysis, see Map B: Community & Neighbourhood Parks Catchment Area). This form of spatial analysis consists of plotting the neighbourhood and community parks on a map and creating a

buffer which represents their catchment areas (the area and population from which a service attracts visitors). In the case of neighbourhood, community and regional parks, guidelines for adequate service is shown in Table 5.1.1.

The gap analysis map indicates that there is a considerable concentration of neighbourhood and community park catchment areas in the north-west sector of town. In the case of the Wells sector of Rothesay, the Wells Recreation Park undoubtedly services the general area and given the large lots throughout the community, it could be argued that there is little need for neighbourhood parks. The map also indicates that the Barsa subdivision and the Kennebecasis Park area are not adequately served by neighbourhood parks. However, the playground at Kennebecasis Park Elementary School, developed in part by money raised by the community, serves the K-Park residents as a local neighbourhood park. There are no municipally-owned neighbourhood parks in these two areas. The development of neighbourhood parks in the residential areas south of Mackay Highway (Wells area and the Barsa Subdivision) should be considered.

Table 5.3.1 Neighbourhood, Community and Regional Park and Open Space Standards

Park Category	Catchment Area	Provision Standard
Neighbourhood	0.8 km	1.0 Hectares/1,000 population
Community	1.5 km	1.5 Hectares/1,000 population
Regional	30 km	3.0 Hectares/1,000 population
Open Space	--	4.0 Hectares/1,000 population

Table 5.3.2 Rothesay Parks and Open Space Provision Assessment

Park Category	Provision Standard	Rothesay Needs	Available in Rothesay
Neighbourhood	1.0 Hectares/1,000 population	11.6 Hectares	1.76 Hectares
Community	1.5 Hectares/1,000 population	17.5 Hectares	31.65 Hectares
Regional	3.0 Hectares/1,000 population	34.9 Hectares	23.38 Hectares
Open Space	4.0 Hectares/1,000 population	46.5 Hectares	306.96 Hectares
Total Open Space (including Parks)	9.5 Hectares/1,000 population	110.5 Hectares	363.75 Hectares

Neighbourhood parks - serve the people who live within a neighbourhood. They are developed to meet the interests of that population group and should be within walking distance of all sections of the neighbourhood. Neighbourhood parks have a catchment area of 0.8 km radius. A guideline for the provision of neighbourhood parks is 1.0 hectares per 1000 population. Neighbourhood parks include parkettes, tot lots, playgrounds, sitting areas and small sports fields. Additional neighbourhood parks should be planned in areas of new residential subdivisions as these areas are planned and developed in the future.

Rothesay Neighbourhood Parks

Highland Ave/Clermont Ave Playground

Donlyn Drive Playground

Islay Drive Playground

Stuart Dobbin Memorial Park

Dobbin Street Playground

Monaco Drive Playground

*Playground at James Renforth Wharf

**Kennebecasis Park Elementary School Playground

**Rothesay Elementary School Playground

**Fairvale Elementary School Playground

*Also serves at a Neighbourhood Park capacity

**School Facility (not municipally owned or managed)

Rothesay is currently served by 6 neighbourhood parks (playgrounds) and 3 school playgrounds which are used by residents outside of school hours. Despite the presence of several neighbourhood parks, there are deficiencies which should be taken into consideration as indicated by the Neighbourhood and Community Parks Catchment Areas analysis. Renforth Wharf was classified as a community park; however, the playground located here also functions as a neighbourhood park.

According to provision standards which suggest that a community should have 1 hectare of neighbourhood parks for every 1,000 residents, Rothesay should have a total of 11.6 hectares of neighbourhood parks. Municipally owned neighbourhood parks in Rothesay total 1.76 hectares which greatly falls below the standard. If, however, school playgrounds and fields are factored into the neighbourhood park system, the total hectares for neighbourhood parks increases to 15.92 hectares; exceeding the provisional standard. This illustrates the degree to which school playground and field infrastructure contributes to the local neighbourhood park system. It should also be noted that if Rothesay Netherwood space (although private) were also factored in to the neighbourhood park system, it creates an additional 16.76 hectares of space.

Community parks – provide space for active and unstructured recreation for all age groups. They usually serve more than one neighbourhood. They act as a major focus for each community often providing recreational facilities such as soccer fields, playgrounds and tennis courts. The catchment area is 1.5 km radius which services a number of neighbourhoods. A guideline for the supply of community parks is 1.5 hectares per 1000 population.

Rothesay Community Parks

J.M. Fitzgerald Memorial Field
 Wells Recreation Park
 East Riverside Kingshurst Park & Trail
 Scribner Crescent Playground & Ball Field
 James Renforth Wharf, Beach & Playground
 Rothesay Common Park & Playground
 Fairvale Outing Association Ball Field
 Steele Kennedy Nature Park
 Jordan Miller Park & Beach

Wells Recreation Park and Rothesay Common are examples of a community parks in Rothesay. Rothesay has fewer community parks than neighbourhood or regional parks. As shown in the analysis of catchment areas for community parks, there are deficiencies which should be acknowledged. Existing community parks are well used and resident input suggests a demand for more unstructured activities which are available in these facilities.

According to provision standards which suggest that a community should have 1.5 hectares of community parks for every 1,000 residents, Rothesay should have a total of 17.5 hectares of community parks. Municipally owned community parks in Rothesay total 31.65 hectares which considerably exceeds the standard.

Regional parks – provide space for active and unstructured recreation and specialized pursuits. They protect unique natural features and provide city-wide attractions. A regional park may serve the people who live within a larger region (in this case, the KV region). They provide space for active and unstructured recreation for all age groups, and include a wide range of specialized uses. A regional park may be a “tourist attraction” serving residents and visitors alike. A guideline for the supply of regional parks is 3.0 hectares per 1000 population.

Rothesay Regional Parks

Bicentennial Ball Field
 Arthur Miller Fields

In terms of providing for the regional recreation system, Rothesay’s contribution includes the Arthur Miller Fields and the Bicentennial Ball Field (and Rothesay Trails) which is located near the corner of Dolan Road and Route 111 (categorized as regional due to its easy accessibility from the highway). The demands for more unstructured activities from residents should be acknowledged when planning for future regional facilities.

In a comparison of provision standards which recommend that a community should have 3 hectares of regional parks for every 1,000 residents, Rothesay should have a total of 34.9 hectares of community parks. Municipally owned regional parks in Rothesay total 23.38 hectares which falls below the standard. It should be acknowledged, however, that if the private space occupied by the Riverside Golf & Country Club were added to this assessment, local regional park space would total 88.09 hectares.

Open Space – means all space, public or private, that is open to the sky and is used or has the potential to be used for public recreation. Open space may be categorized as active or unstructured and serves the community in a physical, educational, aesthetic or protective manner. A guideline for the supply of regional parks is 4.0 hectares per 1000 population.

Rothesay Open Spaces

Pickett Lane / River Rd Land for Public Purposes

*Spyglass Trail

Renforth Bog

Rothesay Lagoon

Stack Road Lagoon

Maliseet Drive Land for Public Purposes

Longwood Drive Land for Public Purposes

*Although accessible to the public, it is not Town-owned and the course of this informal trail crosses several private properties.

Recreation provision standards recommend 4 hectares of community parks for every 1,000 residents. Accordingly, Rothesay should have a total of 46.5 hectares of open spaces. Municipally owned open spaces in Rothesay total 306.96 hectares which greatly exceeds the standard.

Despite the ample open space in Rothesay, the demand expressed by many residents through the online survey and open house session suggests that Rothesay needs more accessible open spaces. The above list shows Rothesay's informal open spaces (*one of which falls within privately owned land). In the case of Renforth Bog, Rothesay Lagoon, Stack Road Lagoon and the various lands intended for public purposes; there is potential the formalizing of accesses which would, in turn, cater to demands for more unstructured spaces.

5.3.5 Trail Needs

Through the public open house and online survey, residents articulated a significant demand for the development of more trails which is consistent with national recreation trends which show an increased demand for trail development. As noted earlier, Rothesay has a limited formal trail

system which includes Rothesay Trails, a section of East Riverside Kingshurst Park, and Steele/Kennedy Nature Park; but opportunities exist to 'formalize' access to informal trails such as Renforth Bog and the lands for public purposes.

5.3.5 Cycling/Running Needs

Community consultations revealed a significant need for the inclusion of cycling/running lanes as part of the road infrastructure in order to improve safety for active transportation users and leisure cyclists / runners. This need can be addressed through consideration and planning for all active transportation modes. This also highlights an opportunity for Rothesay to link to the Saint John bike path system (which is linking to Rothesay's boundary on Rothesay Road). Creating a supportive environment can help ensure that an active (healthy) choice is also an easy one. This is consistent with recreation trends and provincial and federal governments' programs and infrastructure initiatives to support active healthy living and active transportation.

5.4 User Needs

5.4.1 Adolescent Needs

In Canada today, adolescents are leading increasingly sedentary lives, dominated by computers, televisions and video games, which has led to an increasing prevalence of weight-related issues. According to Statistics Canada, almost one in every three adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17 was either overweight or obese in 2004.¹³ While young Canadians are still more likely to be engaged in active sports participation than other age groups, their rate of involvement has dropped to 59% in 2005, a sharp decline from two decades earlier when the rate stood at 77%.¹⁴

Adolescents are less likely to have their recreational needs properly addressed than most other age groups. One reason it is difficult to plan for the recreational needs of adolescents is because they are increasingly involved in unorganized recreational activities. Walking, jogging/running, bicycling, swimming and home exercise rank as the top five physical activities for youth, with higher participation rates than any team sport.¹⁵

This means that despite the variety of programmed sports and activities in Rothesay, there is still a segment of the adolescent population that does not formally participate in recreation and leisure. A representative of the Rothesay Regional Police was consulted with regards to his

¹³ Statistics Canada (2005). "Canadian Community Health Survey: Obesity among children and adults," *The Daily*, Wednesday, July 6, 2005. Accessed online on the world wide web: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/050706/dq050706a-eng.htm>

¹⁴ Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics (2005). *Sport Participation in Canada, 2005*.

¹⁵ Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute (2005). *Physical Activities Among Canadians: The Current Situation*.

perception of the Rothsay recreation system; who confirmed that there are a number of adolescents who prefer not to have their leisure activities programmed, the negative results of which can be loitering, inappropriate skateboarding, and vandalism. It was stated that the KV region had, in years past, a teen centre, which created a leisure space for adolescents; although the project was cancelled. It is worth noting that a multi-purpose facility may accommodate such a use to cater to adolescent needs.

Recognizing that recreation needs for these teens is very difficult to assess, it was suggested that offering a wider variety of unstructured recreation opportunities and alternatives would help address the issue. Another manner in which adolescent recreation needs could be acknowledged is through the inclusion of adolescents in Rothsay's Parks and Recreation Committee.

5.4.2 Disabled Persons' Needs

An often underrepresented group in recreation planning are disabled persons. ADI consulted with the Chair of the Kennebecasis Valley Committee for Disable Persons in order to include her perspective and input with regards to local recreation. The main focus of this committee is raising awareness and broadening access for persons with disabilities; contributing to the development of a barrier-free environment. According to Gordon, both Rothsay and Quispamsis could stand to improve wheelchair accessibility within their recreation systems.

Gordon indicated that there are a number of ways to adequately address these needs within a recreation planning framework; and that consideration for accessibility to all should be taken when developing new facilities. For example, infrastructure such as indoor walking tracks, wheelchair accessible picnic tables, and non-gender-specific bathrooms (allowing caretakers to attend to disabled person more easily) are features which would greatly reduce barriers for disable persons.

5.4.3 Seniors' Needs

It is important to recognize that the "seniors" group is not a homogeneous one, and abilities will range from "active younger seniors" to "frail older senior." Thus, two groups of "seniors" are emerging as the "baby boom" generation begins to retire from the job market. The first group is the "Younger, Healthy, Active Adults" category (55+ years) who are able to retire at a younger age, and who remain active and thus healthy. Studies show this group is more active, and more active longer, than their predecessors¹⁶. The second group is the "Older Adult" category (60+ years). Although many in the 60+ category remain very active and healthy, for older seniors

¹⁶ Foot, David (1996). *Boom, Bust & Echo: How to Profit from the Coming Demographic Shift*.

(70+) whose activity level and health may decline, recreation becomes more about social interaction than physical activity.

ADI consulted with representatives of the Kennebecasis Valley Seniors, a senior's social and leisure organization. The group meets on a weekly basis in two locations within the area; the gym at Saint-David's United Church in Rothesay (used by mainly Rothesay seniors) and the Civic Centre located above the KV Regional Fire Department (used by mainly Quispamsis seniors). KV Seniors gather on a weekly basis for activities such as bridge games. Their requirements are a meeting room, card tables and chairs, storage space, a kitchen for the preparation of refreshments and adequate parking facilities. Renforth area seniors also meet at the McGuire Centre 2 afternoons a week. It should be noted that, the development of a multi-purpose facility, can meet seniors' meeting space requirements.

When asked about potential barriers for seniors to participate in leisure activities with KV Seniors, it was suggested that weather, distance and transportation were the most significant. Previously, there were volunteer drivers who would transport seniors to weekly meetings; however, insurance and liability issues prevented continuation of the service. The transportation barrier also affects the ability for seniors to take part in additional recreation activities such as swimming at the Canada Games Aquatic Centre in Saint John. The alternative for many local seniors is enrolling in a Seniors' Pool Aerobics Course which is given at the Amsterdam Inn in Quispamsis.

Given the increasing segment of its aging population, Rothesay is well suited for the development of a working group or task force that addresses seniors' recreation needs and has the potential of being a model for other communities elsewhere in the province. This can also be accomplished through senior representation on the Town's Parks and Recreation Committee.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND POLICIES OF THE RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The Town of Rothesay has recognized the need to produce and implement a Recreation Master Plan that will direct the future provision of leisure and recreation services and facilities. Therefore, it is recommended that the Recreation Master Plan be adopted by Council and implemented under the auspices of the Parks & Recreation Committee. Furthermore, to ensure its effectiveness, it is recommended that the Recreation Master Plan form an integrated component of Rothesay's Municipal Planning strategy, ensuring Rothesay residents a continued quality of service in leisure and recreation.

6.1 Review of Municipal Plan Policies for Recreation - Existing POLICIES

- (a) Council shall ensure that all Town-owned park and recreation facilities are safe and well maintained.
 - (b) Council shall permit active recreation land uses in all zones as long as the area of the recreation land parcel does not exceed the minimum lot area for the zone by more than 25 percent.
 - (c) Council shall undertake to have a recreation master plan prepared to provide detailed direction for the development of an appropriate parks and recreation system.
 - (d) Demographic trends and facility and program usage shall be monitored to ensure that changing user needs are addressed through:
 - i. the development or redevelopment of parks and recreation facilities
 - ii. the tailoring and designing of programs that suit the intended users
 - (e) Council may consider proposals for lease agreements, lease-to-own, contract service agreements and public/private partnership arrangements when considering the provision of recreation and park facilities or services.
 - (f) Council shall pursue the development of linear open space for the development of a trail system free of motorized vehicles.
 - (g) Council may, when appropriate, acquire lands through purchase, lease or as land for public purposes in the subdivision approval process.
 - (h) Council shall require new neighbourhood parks to be developed in areas of new residential development.
 - (i) Council will seek to partner with the School District 6 to encourage full utilization, shared use and proper maintenance of play fields and recreation facilities.
 - (j) Council shall consider co-operation with operators of private recreation facilities, clubs and service groups to facilitate the wider use of their existing services and programs.
 - (k) Council will aggressively pursue senior government funding to improve the recreation facilities and open space in Rothesay.
 - (l) Council shall set out a Recreation Zone in the Zoning By-law.
-

Policies contained within the Municipal Plan (2004) regarding recreation were reviewed in consideration of their relevance to current recreation needs. Policy (c) regarding the

development of a recreation master plan may, at this point, be removed from the Municipal Plan at the time when Council adopts the Recreation Master Plan. All other policies are still relevant and it is suggested that they remain an ongoing pursuit for Rothesay. However, it is recommended that three of these policies be updated as follows:

(f) Council shall pursue the development of linear open space for the development of a trail system free of motorized vehicles.

In recognition of the potential to develop various forms of trails within Rothesay, it is suggested that the word *linear* be excluded from this policy, allowing for a variety of trail forms to be developed, therefore;

1. Council shall pursue the development of open space for the development of a trail system free of motorized vehicles.

(g) Council shall require new neighbourhood parks to be developed in areas of new residential development.

Given the potential for new residential developments to incorporate trail systems which could connect to and complement a community-wide trail network, it is recommended that Rothesay consider including language within its recreation policy (g) that includes trail linkages, therefore;

2. Council shall require new neighbourhood parks and/or trail linkages to be developed in areas of new residential development.

(h) Council will seek to partner with the School District 6 to encourage full utilization, shared use and proper maintenance of play fields and recreation facilities.

As consultations with school officials indicated, and in recognition of the contribution of school facilities to the municipal recreation system, it would be beneficial for Rothesay to continually enhance cooperation with School District 6; therefore;

3. Council shall seek to cooperate with School District 6 to encourage full utilization, shared use and proper maintenance of play fields and recreation facilities.

6.2 Recreation Master Plan Policies

Based on the research, consultation and assessment of the recreation system in Rothesay, the following policies were developed to enhance existing policies and set a framework for the Town's recreation service provision strategy which will guide the Rothesay Parks and Recreation Committee in its mandate to successfully plan for recreation. Policies that are consistent with existing Master Plan policies should be viewed as complementary and serve to enhance those

already in place. Other policies chart out new strategic directions and fill the identified gaps as determined by the research, consultation and assessment of the recreation system in Rothesay.

6.2.1 Trail Projects

Walking has consistently ranked among the most popular recreation activities throughout the country. Canadians have begun to place great appreciation on natural environments and accordingly, demand for nature and hiking trails is greater than ever. Furthermore, studies suggest that a person's propensity to identify walking as a favourite leisure pastime increases with age, making the provision of trail-related opportunities attractive in the context of the aging population. Trail usage has become an increasingly popular recreational activity as it requires little equipment (other than a comfortable pair of shoes); it can be pursued individually or in a group, anytime and anywhere and has no fee.

Development of Trails

Trails are an important component of a recreation and parks system. Rothesay should focus on completing gaps through the extension and formalization of its existing trails into a town-wide system. More corridors should be acquired and trails developed to establish a more extensive off-street trail system. Where possible, connections should be made to popular destinations such as the river front; neighbourhood, community and regional recreation facilities.

Plans have been proposed over the years for the development of a linear trail system along the river. Due to a variety of factors including funding and property acquisition issues, however, these plans have not been realized. With the possible expansion of potash mining in the Sussex area, there is potential for Rothesay to appropriate the existing CN riverside rail line for the development of a linear trail. Core linear trails systems have the potential to function as alternative transportation facilities; but should also have features that recreational users value, including rest areas, art work, scenic views, interesting landscapes and interpretive signage.

Providing 5 to 8 kilometre loops of trail with similar design characteristics throughout (paved or unpaved) greatly improves the attraction for recreational users through variety and comprehensive connections to attractions, rather than relying solely on a linear system that requires a user to return on the same path. Connectivity of the system across roads, rail lines and rivers should also be a priority, with grade-separated crossings preferred.

Consideration should be given to creating trail linkages to existing neighbourhoods which are otherwise dependent solely on the road network, such as the Barsa and Wells subdivisions. As new residential neighbourhoods are developed in the future, connectivity to recreational lands and facilities and other areas of the community should form an integral component of the subdivision plan.

In order to improve connectivity within Rothesay and to adjacent municipalities, a Trail Master Plan should be developed which would provide a communicative tool which can be shared among various Town departments so that implementation of a trail network can be coordinated with other initiatives related to transportation, recreation, tourism, land use and economic growth throughout Rothesay. For example, with regards to the potential for residential development within private properties in the informally used Spyglass trails area, the Trail Master Plan can communicate that trails be retained or developed as part of any new development. This would ensure that any new development in the area could potentially incorporate trails and parkland. Trails Master Such a plan would also lay the groundwork for coordination with the development of trails and bikeways with other municipalities (as well as developing links to the TransCanada Trail Network) in the possible development of a Regional Trail Master Plan. Sentier NB Trail can offer the appropriate technical assistance in the development of local trails.

4. It shall be a policy of Council to develop a Trails Master Plan for the Town of Rothesay which should include, but not be limited to:

- a) a recommended network of off-road trails supported by on-road links (whereby bicycles are expected to travel on streets and pedestrians travel on sidewalks) to ensure continuity of the network that connects neighbourhoods and key destinations;**
- b) an implementation strategy that identifies priorities and costs, and an approach to implementation that can be integrated into the Town’s annual service, capital investment and delivery programs;**
- c) program recommendations to promote, encourage and increase the level of trail use in the Town of Rothesay; and**
- d) a monitoring and maintenance strategy to ensure that the trails are properly cared for once they have been developed.**

Table 6.2.1 Trail Development* – Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Costs**

Trail Length	Range of Cost (\$100-\$140/Lineal Metre)
20km (with possible loop)	\$2 - \$2.8 Million
25km (with possible loop)	\$2.5 - \$3.5 Million

*Surfaces can range from crusher-dust to asphalt; at 3m wide.

** Does not include:

- the cost of land acquisition;
- construction of bridges
- root barrier systems which are dependent on soil conditions and existing vegetation; and
- does not include soft costs such as design fees, permits and approvals, etc.

Formalizing Trails & Wetlands

Rothesay contains a significant number of wetlands and lagoons (which have the potential to be reclaimed as wetlands). Wetlands such as Renforth Bog are natural resources that make up the landscape of the region. This terrain offers opportunities for unstructured outdoor recreation, which is currently underdeveloped and underused. Access to informal trails within the Renforth Bog area is within the town limits of Rothesay. The potential exists to formalize the trail access to Renforth Bog and create an important link to the Marsh Creek trail system in Saint John. Within such a system, there is also the potential to engage summer students in the maintenance and stewardship of these trails.

- 5. It shall be a policy of Council to enter into discussions with relevant agencies such as the NB Trail Council, ACAP Saint John and adjacent municipalities to explore the potential of the unstructured recreation use of informal trails. Furthermore, it is prudent to investigate whether any provincial or federal government programs can offer financial and/or technical assistance.**

6.2.2 Addressing Overlooked User Groups

Healthy living and the retention of confidence and self-esteem are associated with the potential for people to participate and become involved in a range of physical, social and other activities. For some segments of the population, there are barriers to participation which must be considered and addressed in order for the recreation system to attain a broader reach.

Disabled Persons

Statistics Canada's Profile of Disability in Canada (2001) indicates that 14.4% of New Brunswick residents have a physical disability. Community facilities including buildings used for leisure and recreation purposes, municipal buildings (as indicated by ADI's Rothesay Structures Review in Appendix B), parks, playgrounds and fields should be accessible to all residents regardless of physical ability.

Retrofitting for accessibility should consider several key issues:

- set priorities for the retrofitting of other municipally owned recreation facilities in consultations with advocacy groups;
- establish acceptable levels of 'accessibility' specific to each facility and the needs of the community. Levels of 'accessibility' may be described as access that enables an individual to be a *participant*; and
- determine the architectural and structural feasibility of retrofitting each facility.

Table 6.2.2 Retrofitting for Accessibility – Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Costs*

	Range of Cost
Construction/Renovation	\$425,000 - \$725,000

*More accurate budgeting would result from building audits.

May require 30% additional soft costs (such as design, permits, approvals, etc.; as well as 10%+ for site costs and site remediation prior to construction).

6. It shall be a policy of Council to develop a strategy for improving accessibility which includes, but is not limited to:

- a) ensuring that modifications are made to existing public recreation facilities that make them universally accessible in accordance with the National Building Code (and any other applicable codes); and**
- b) including disabled persons’ representation on the Parks and Recreation Committee to more effectively identify their needs.**

Seniors

Consistent with provincial and national demographic trends, Rothesay has a significant proportion of senior citizens which will increase dramatically in the coming years as baby-boomers age. Many seniors perceive recreation as an organized sport or fitness and therefore tend to dismiss it as irrelevant to their lives. Others, some of whom are socially isolated, are simply not aware of available leisure opportunities.

Low impact physical activities such as walking and dancing are becoming more popular among seniors who wish to maintain a consistent exercise regimen. An example of an emerging recreation activity for seniors is the use of the Nintendo Wii™ game console, which, as indicated by recent studies provides an excellent source of year-round low impact physical activity while improving both brain and body coordination.



Seniors Bowling with Wii™ Game Console

Such new recreation opportunities suggest that programming for seniors is an evolving and dynamic matter which requires study, reappraisal and coordination among recreation providers.

- 7. It shall be a policy of Council to develop a strategy for improving senior participation in recreation, which includes but is not limited to:**
 - a) assisting all program providers, including cultural groups and agencies, in advertising those programs and services relevant to senior citizens;**
 - b) encouraging and assisting organizations to improve recreation services for senior citizens, to hold leisure education seminars for seniors, describing leisure and recreation quality of life issues; and**
 - c) including senior representation on the Parks and Recreation Committee to more effectively identify their needs.**

Adolescents

A significant issue for many adolescents is finding an appropriate place to socialize in comfort, and in safety. For those who are not involved in competitive sports, or other programmed cultural activities, few options are currently available to them. This often results in problems such as loitering in malls, and fast food restaurants, much to the annoyance of business owners. The Rothesay Town Council must be committed to the needs of adolescents by encouraging the creation of leisure and recreation opportunities tailored to the needs of adolescents.

- 8. It shall be a policy of Council to develop a strategy for improving adolescent participation in recreation, which includes but is not limited to:**
 - a) encouraging all community groups and private program providers to create leisure and recreation opportunities tailored to the specific needs of adolescents;**
 - b) holding a periodic forum for those involved in providing teen programming to discuss the needs of adolescents; and**
 - c) including adolescent representation on the Parks and Recreation Committee to more effectively identify their needs.**

6.2.3 Expanding the Scope of Recreation Planning

Given the variety of needs as expressed by community and stakeholder input into the recreation planning process, it has become apparent that the Rothesay community does not perceive the goal of recreation planning as exclusively addressing the needs of competitive sports; but rather, the development of a plan which casts a wider net of recreation service provision which reflects the variety of structured and unstructured recreation and leisure needs among Rothesay's residents.

9. It shall be a policy of Council to encourage a range of activities, interests, abilities, ages and genders across its diverse recreation facilities.

6.2.4 Creating a Recreation Campus

Through the concentration of similar activities, institutions can benefit from sharing resources, audiences and target groups. Recreational clusters can be advantageous for both the facilities involved and the general public. Recreational institutions can benefit by taking advantage of their proximity to other facilities and developing partnerships, co-programming their facilities, co-hosting events and sharing, trading and combining the use of their resources. The public can also benefit greatly from a recreational cluster by having access to a variety of activities, programs and services in one easy-to-access location (see Appendix E for examples of clustered recreational municipal facilities).

Community level recreation hubs are multi-generational, multi-activity hubs that support recreational and social opportunities for geographic populations of approximately 20,000 to 30,000. They are accessible through active transportation networks. Their design is sufficiently flexible to respond to changing interests. They respond to the specific needs of the communities in which they are located; and will incorporate at minimum multi-purpose space, social space, and instructional space. Depending on their location they may also be incorporated with facilities serving as a community sport and cultural hub. They may incorporate non-recreational space including a library, a community police station, community health provider offices, etc. They could be part of a community school development. Ideally these facilities will be combined with or close to outdoor local level open fields and casual play areas.

The Town of Rothesay should be committed to providing a “recreation campus” in a centralized location which provides a seamless, integrated, user friendly, and responsive service system in the delivery of its parks, recreation, leisure, cultural and library services. This “recreation campus” can include elements such as:

- a renovated Rothesay Arena and Community Center (with the potential for future twinning of the ice surface);
- a multi-purpose facility (or field house); and
- the Kennebecasis Public Library.

This “recreation campus” will build upon and complement the existing activities in the area which currently attract residents to the Rothesay Arena, Rothesay High School, Harry Miller Middle School and Town Hall; with Arthur Miller Fields and Rothesay Common within walking distance.

A Multi-Purpose Facility (Field House)

Demographic analysis, a review of current recreation planning trends and community and stakeholder consultations in Rothesay indicate that there is a need for multi-purpose space to accommodate a variety of recreation users. Given the lack of such a facility within the region, Rothesay should consider the construction of a multi-purpose recreation facility. Such a facility could accommodate a variety of recreational and leisure-time activities, including serving the senior population, providing space for teens and youth to congregate (with the inclusion of an informal teen drop-in center or dedicated teen recreation space), and serving the general population with indoor arts and crafts spaces, fitness facilities, a gym which can be converted into smaller courts or spaces, meeting rooms and an indoor walking track.

Community facilities are increasingly viewed as community hubs. Recreation facilities are now seen as community social and gathering spaces, often incorporating many non-recreation services including health services, libraries, cultural spaces such as theatres for the performing arts, and retail outlets, and are connected to the local neighbourhoods by alternate transportation options. Contemporary facilities incorporate a variety of components to support a wide range of interests and age groups. There is a decline in sport and age-specific facilities. There is an understanding that traditional single use facilities are becoming obsolete, thus municipalities are turning to more leisure oriented facilities, and more flexible, multi-use complexes to reach a broader clientele and generate operational economies of scale.

Recreational institutions can benefit by taking advantage of their proximity to other facilities and developing partnerships, co-programming their facilities, co-hosting events and sharing, trading and combining the use of their resources. The public can also benefit greatly from a recreational cluster by having access to a variety of activities, programs and services in one easy-to-access location. There are opportunities to partner with organizations such as the YMCA-YWCA, who has already shown a keen interest in partnering with Rothesay in developing a day care centre, teens' and seniors' programs within the proposed recreation campus. In addition, a recreation campus could also incorporate related commercial uses such as sports and fitness retail or a coffee shop (Appendix E illustrates precedents with regards to recreation cluster and mixed-use developments). Based on the needs identified through community consultations; a preliminary list of components that could potentially be incorporated within a multi-purpose facility is itemized below.

Multi-Purpose Facility – Possible Components

- 2 Regulation Sized Gymnasias
- 4 Change Rooms / Washrooms
- 1 Multi-Purpose Room
- Day Care Space

- 4 Meeting Rooms
- 1 Fitness Room
- 1 Non-Commercial Kitchen
- 1 Elevated Walking/Running Track
- 1 Elevator
- Public Spaces / Stairs
- Storage/Electrical/Mechanical Spaces

Arena

An immediate need for an additional rink has not been determined for Rothesay, and indications are that the development of the QPlex ice surface in Quispamsis will forge ahead. However, Rothesay will need to determine its need for an additional ice surface in the future, monitoring variables such as local needs in relation to existing service provision.

There is a need to renovate to the existing Rothesay Arena and Community Centre in order to adequately meet current user needs and accessibility. As stated in ADI's Rothesay Structures Review in Appendix B, the Arena is in overall good condition; however, important improvements should be considered in the short term.

The arena's central location renders ice use practical for schools within the vicinity; and contributes to making it; along with the community centre, Town Hall, and schools a target destination for many residents; creating a critical mass. This location creates an integrated hub of activity with potential to meet the community's needs in a central, readily accessible location.

Library Expansion

Today what libraries provide to the community is changing as quickly as our society: electronic materials, downloadable audio books, and DVDs all are now as much a part of library collections as books; people visit the library from home or office over the Internet as well as by walking through the doors. In addition to general library services, the Kennebecasis Public Library demonstrates that it provides invaluable cultural enrichment to the community. But while these forms change, the substance of library service remains constant from one century to another.

For public libraries to be the most vital and effective agencies they can be, thoughtful planning is absolutely necessary. Thanks to local volunteer efforts, the Kennebecasis Public Library has had the time and resources to invest in systematic long-range planning, recognizing the need for expansion. Libraries must be located centrally in order to optimize accessibility for all residents. Libraries must also be planned with an holistic cultural vision - effective program and capital planning requires a broader view. The recreation campus model should be considered in any further investigations leading to a decision regarding library expansion as it offers new and

advantageous co-locational opportunities for community services provision which were not regarded in previous studies.

10. It shall be a policy of Council to support the development of a Recreation Campus with the goal of meeting the widest variety of recreation, cultural and leisure needs within one central location. Elements to be considered for inclusion within this recreation campus include, but are not limited to:

- a) the development of a multi-purpose facility (field house) which would address a variety of indoor recreation, leisure and cultural needs;**
- b) a renovation to Rothesay Arena; and**
- c) consideration for the inclusion of the Kennebecasis Public Library.**

The location of Rothesay Arena in relation to the two schools and Town Hall is a prime location for consideration when contemplating potential sites for the development of a recreation campus (Appendix F illustrates potential sites for the development of a multi-purpose facility or field house and library expansion). Based on a spatial review of suitable locations in Rothesay, a cursory assessment was made of potential sites for the development of a multi-purpose facility (This should only be viewed as a general assessment of potential options. A feasibility study is required to determine the space programming and area requirements of the building. The feasibility study will also examine potential operational costs (including the additional staff required) and propose budgetary scenarios.



Recreation Campus – Option 1

The first option for the development of a multi-purpose facility will require the acquisition of land adjacent to the Arena along Scott Avenue and shown on the map as Site 1 and Site 2. Together these two (privately owned) properties constitute approximately 4.75 acres. Currently, there are 4 apartment buildings located on Site 1 and a convenience store located on the corner of Scott Avenue and Hampton Road or Site 2. This area of 4.75 acres has the potential to accommodate a twin pad ice surface (in the future), a multipurpose facility, and the library with potentially 2 storeys of upper floor housing. A library located on the corner of Scott Avenue and Hampton Road will act as a focal point and anchor for the “recreation campus.” Connectivity among the new buildings and the existing arena is critical to the success of the “recreation campus” model. Furthermore, its proximity to the Arthur Miller Fields and Rothesay Common provides opportunities for additional linkages.

Acquisition of the land required to pursue Option 1 will eliminate existing affordable apartment housing in Rothesay. For this reason, the inclusion of 2 storeys of apartment units (approximately 30) is proposed above the library, which may be a combination of mixed income, affordable and seniors’ housing. The inclusion of mixed uses within this “recreation campus” will strengthen and enhance its critical mass.

Creating mixed use developments supports the economic viability and the pursuit of sustainable development, and thus a more efficient use of land. Density that is well designed and assembled makes for a more pedestrian friendly and transit-oriented development, which also renders the recreational, social and cultural area more viable, supports more schools and services close to homes and supports the clustering of development so as to maximize the potential for creating a hub of activity.



Multi-Purpose Facility / Field House Option 2

An alternative option for the development of a multi-purpose facility only would also require land acquisition of the approximately 2 acres of vacant land at the corner of Hampton Road and Hillcrest Drive and in proximity to Arthur Miller Fields. This option would place the multi-purpose facility/field house in proximity to the Arthur Miller Fields, with potential for creating a link between the two. The central location and proximity to the Rothesay Arena, school and Town Hall, would also create a hub of activity, albeit less concentrated than Option 1.

Table 6.2.3 Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Costs Associated With Recreation Campus Elements

	Renovation to Rothesay Arena	Twin Pad	Multi-Purpose Facility	Library***	Apartments Above Library (30 units avg)
Potential Size	----	23,000 ft ²	27,000 ft ²	29,000 ft ²	29,000 ft ²
Opinion of Probable Cost*	\$3.25 Million	\$6.3 Million**	\$7.1 Million**	\$7.8 Million**	\$4.52 Million

*Includes 30% Soft Costs and 10% Site Costs

**These Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Costs:

- does not include the cost of land acquisition;
- assume that rock removal is not required as a component of site preparation;
- do not include loose furniture, seating, exercise equipment, security systems and other similar interior furnishings or systems;
- do not include possible underpinning of adjacent structures; and
- a geotechnical report is required for each site to determine a realistic budget.

***Based on estimates as described in the *Kennebecasis Public Library Facility Planning Study* (2008)

6.2.5 Encouraging Unstructured Activities

A common perception among Rothesay residents is that much of the local recreation system is defined by and catered to organized competitive team sports. More non-competitive and unstructured opportunities and more family-oriented activities have been called for.

11. It shall be a policy of Council to encourage and promote the development of more unstructured recreation activities, to:

- a) promote more non-competitive leisure activities for all age groups with an emphasis on cooperation, sportsmanship, and fun, both through its own and privately funded programming;**
- b) promote more family-oriented activities through the provision of Town sponsored special events, and programs provided by all groups and organizations; and**
- c) encourage and promote the creation of cultural activities and programs by community groups and agencies tailored for family participation.**

6.2.6 Playground Maintenance

Scheduled upgrading and regular and diligent maintenance of outdoor facilities increases use. The planning and development of outdoor amenities must take into account the issue of sustained long-term maintenance. As with most things, proper prevention and care can eliminate costly repairs in the long run.

Commercial playground equipment and structures are manufactured to CSA standards which assure a standard level of safety. These standards are updated regularly which impacts the safety of playground equipment. For this reason it is critical to ensure that municipally owned playground equipment is audited by a Certified Playground Inspector to ascertain CSA compliance. Certification for playground inspectors is provided through the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA). Rothesay should ensure that appropriate municipal staff are trained and receive courses to upgrade and maintain their certification. Maintenance of playground equipment should be carried out by trained staff on a monthly basis. By assessing all equipment and areas for potential hazards, a checklist can be administered, and maintained for each playground (Appendix G gives an example of such a checklist).

12. It shall be a policy of Council to encourage the adequate provision, maintenance and upgrade of playgrounds (and fields), and :

- a) upgrade and regularly maintain Town-owned playgrounds**
- b) conduct monthly maintenance inspections to ensure CSA integrity of playground equipment;**
- c) develop yearly playground maintenance schedule and budget;**

- d) administer Playground Maintenance Checklist which incorporates CSA standards for parks and playground equipment that allow staff to more effectively identify and address deficiencies; and**
- e) maintain and update playground inspector certification for staff.**

Note: Policy 12 addresses and enhances **Municipal Plan Policy (a)** *Council shall ensure that all Town-owned park and recreation facilities are safe and well maintained.*

A cursory observation of playgrounds and fields was conducted by ADI staff. Deficiencies and problems with equipment and surfaces visible to the naked eye were noted and appear in Appendix A. However, a third party audit by a Certified Playground Inspector must be conducted on all municipally owned playground equipment. The resulting detailed reports for each playground will provide information regarding problems and deficiencies associated with CSA standards.

Playground conditions ranged from poor to excellent. Playgrounds with obvious maintenance and equipment problems are: Islay Drive Playground, Monaco Drive Playground, Highland Avenue/Clermont Avenue Playground, Donlyn Drive Playground, Dobbin Street Playground, and Rothesay Common Playground. Given recent upgrades to the Rothesay Common Playground, Rothesay should consider the addition of barrier-free playground equipment to the existing structures to enable use by children (and caregivers) with disabilities; ensure universal access to the playground and change house, including a barrier-free washroom. Benches in other playgrounds, such as Scribner Crescent should be replaced. In addition, the Fairvale Outing Association Ball Field requires repair and possible renewal of fences and equipment.

It is recommended that new playgrounds be developed in the area south of Mackay Highway. This would include the development of one playground/neighbourhood park on municipally owned land within the Barsa Subdivision. As development continues within the Wells area, the development of an additional playground/neighbourhood park within the eastern sector should also be considered on the dedicated 10% LPP lands required by the subdivision by-law.

Table 6.2.4 Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Costs Associated With Playground Maintenance and Refurbishment

	Playground Audit	Per Season Maintenance	Playground Refurbishment
Opinion of Probable Cost (Per Unit)	\$400/Playground (plus travel and expenses)	\$250/Playground (not including site maintenance)*	\$35,000 (for small to medium play structures including a swing set and independents)**
Opinion of Probable Cost (9 Municipal Playgrounds)	\$3,600+	\$2,250	\$315,000
Opinion of Probable Cost for the Development of a New Playgrounds in the Barsa and Wells neighbourhoods	\$35,000+ - for small to medium play structure including swing sets and independents** (This does not include costs such as site preparation and remediation, soft costs, landscaping, additional park furnishings, servicing, etc.)		Total for playground equipment (only): \$70,000+

*Refers to maintenance of moving parts of playground structures associated with fatigue

**Installed – average price in 2009; barrier-free equipment may have an increased cost of app. \$10,000+/-

Rothesay Common

Discussions with staff regarding the outdoor skating rink have revealed that the regular winter conversion of the basketball courts into an ice rink in the winter has been difficult to operate for a variety of reasons, including unpredictable freeze-thaw cycles in the winter. An artificial ice surface is currently being contemplated to address this issue. The plant size for a typical outdoor artificial ice installation is larger than a traditional rink (approximately 40%) because the infrastructure is maintaining the ice surface while fighting the natural elements (sun, rain, and above freezing temperatures) and is only intended to lengthen outdoor use in the winter season. This type of rink would also be limited to winter operation only. In the planning of such a facility, consideration should also be given to the implications of various options in surfacing and associated installations such as refrigeration and buildings to house these units and base alternatives such as a sand floor versus a permanent floor.

Drainage on the Rothesay Common site has also been an issue identified by town staff. Although remediation work has been conducted, there remain significant drainage issues which need to be addressed.

As indicated by the Recreation Buildings Review in Appendix B, the change house will soon need replacement and upgrading for universal accessibility. According to the Buildings Review the change/skate house appears to be approaching the end of its useful life expectancy and replacement in the short to intermediate term should be considered and include the addition of barrier-free washrooms.

It is important to note that any development within Rothesay Common is subject to Special Area Designation approvals by PAC and the Heritage Preservation Board.

Table 6.2.5 Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Costs Associated Upgrades to Rothesay Common

Upgrades to Rothesay Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Artificial Ice Surface: Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Cost provided by Cimco Refrigeration: \$170,000 - \$500,000* Addressing Current Drainage Issues: Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Cost: \$200,000 Change/Skate House building replacement: Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Cost: \$75,000 - \$100,000
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* does not include soft costs or operation building costs or any other peripheral services required; or site remediation costs such as landscaping, fencing

6.2.7 Promoting Eco-Tourism and Educational Enhancement Potential of Wetlands

There is increasing popularity in nature-based recreation and in the diversity of activities that are conducted in a natural setting. As well as increases in the number of people participating in hiking there is increasing popularity in many other recreational uses, such as bird watching. The growing appreciation of natural areas has resulted in the need for a better understanding of the recreation activities conducted in this setting.

A category of nature-based recreation that has been increasing popularity is eco-tourism which can be defined as *a form of tourism to undisturbed areas high in natural beauty or biodiversity that strives to minimize ecological impact or damage*. It helps educate the user; directly benefits the economic development; and fosters respect and promotes stewardship of the natural environment.

As was noted in consultation with the Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) Saint John; Lagoons within Rothesay have the potential to become reclaimed wetlands; redeveloping into an ecosystem which, beyond enhancing the local environment and creating new eco-tourism potential, offer educational opportunities for local schools.

13. It shall be a policy of Council in partnership with other agencies to develop opportunities for nature-based recreation that will promote environmental protection, education and ecotourism in Rothesay.

6.2.8 Communication, Cooperation & Coordination

Through consultation with residents, school officials, community groups, recreation organizations, and recreation departments from adjacent communities, the need for improved

communication, coordination and cooperation was identified as critical to many facets of recreation service delivery and planning. Outreach and collaboration with partner groups, agencies and with the community is integral to communicating the Town's role and the rationale for its policies with regards to recreation.

Local Level Communication

Communication regarding the local recreation system is critical to increased awareness of what recreation, leisure and cultural activities are available in the community. What recreational, leisure and cultural events are taking place can greatly improve levels of participation. The town's current communication strategy can be improved through more frequent updates to the Recreation section of the Rothesay website; periodic public forums, and the development of communication tools such as a key map.

Indicating all recreation facilities and leisure features through the production of 'key' or indicator maps would inform residents and visitors on the types and locations of recreation and cultural facilities within the town. An example of a 'key' map is the City of Fredericton map which highlights the town's recreation facilities, trails and points of interest (see Appendix H for example).

Regional Level Communication, Coordination and Cooperation

Although all of the existing recreation areas and facilities are physically within the boundaries of Rothesay, residents of other municipalities within the Kennebecasis Valley use these resources on a regular basis. The same is true of Rothesay residents who make use of facilities and services elsewhere in the region. In order to provide more efficient recreation service provision, the development of collaborative and cooperative relationships with neighbouring communities is important. Partnerships are essential ingredients in today's service delivery model as they allow for the sharing of costs, risks and benefits and help communities avoid a costly duplication of services.

Regional Coordination through Facility Scheduling Program

In order to enhance the recreation system, and encourage increased participation, more and more communities are making use of facility scheduling software for coordination of municipal and school recreation facilities; which improves the efficiency of recreation facility booking by allowing residents and groups alike to book and pay for facility use over the phone and online (See Appendix I for examples of facility scheduling software). Currently, Rothesay uses Max Solutions facility scheduling software for facility booking. Recreation booking in Rothesay is done on a facility by facility basis; requiring each school within the district to devote staff time to the scheduling of gymnasiums, classrooms, and sports fields; the Rothesay Arena requiring its own scheduling for ice time; as well as the Arthur Miller Fields.

For recreation facility users, particularly emerging recreation organizations, it can be a laborious task to figure out which facilities have available blocks of time that meet their needs. Facility scheduling software has the potential to increase efficiency in this regard. The consolidation of all town operated recreation facilities and school facilities into one scheduling database would allow for better coordination of available recreation facilities, programs and activities; would improve efficiency, customer service and accountability, helping organizations maximize participation (through such elements as the inclusion of online registration); facilitate new organizers and help create new leisure programs. Rothesay's recreation department, in partnership with the school district, could enhance facility scheduling through enhancing the use of booking software. In addition, the use of such software would allow the town to obtain detailed records of activities such as facility use, capacity and trends in usage.

The coordination of town-owned and school facilities into one facility booking agency can maximize efficiencies in recreation programming and be expanded into a partnering venture with Quispamsis and Saint John to further maximize coordination and share operating costs. In addition, it could facilitate a more regional approach which would have efficiencies for groups with memberships from Hampton to Grand Bay-Westfield.

Cooperation with Service Groups and Other Organizations

Discussions regarding public input in the delivery of recreation services are incomplete without the participation of service groups and other organizations with a vested interest. As these groups, along with other agencies such as schools and churches are involved in providing recreation opportunities in Rothesay, their input and continued support must be encouraged. In addition to the community recreational services they provide, many have experience and insight into the needs of special individuals or groups.

To ensure the recreation delivery system operates in an effective manner it is necessary to ensure that recreation services meet the widespread and diverse needs of all members of the community, especially those with special needs, and that costly duplication of services is avoided by fostering better understanding and cooperation between the municipal and private sector providers of recreational opportunities. Through their continued contribution to the community, service groups have provided the citizens of Rothesay with leisure and recreation programs far beyond what the Town itself could realistically provide. Their continued support in undertaking special projects should be encouraged.

14. It shall be a policy of Council, in the planning and implementation of recreation service provision, to encourage more effective communication, collaboration and cooperation, through:

- a) **the development and implementation of a communications plan which will increase public awareness of the recreation system and its planning;**
- b) **meetings with other parks and recreation committees within the Greater Saint John Region, on a periodic basis, with the purpose of establishing better regional cooperation in recreation service delivery and promoting consistency in goals, strategies, actions and priorities across the region;**
- c) **encouraging the use of more efficient and coordinated facility scheduling which incorporates school and municipal recreation facilities (while considering the potential of partnering with Quispamsis and Saint John in facility scheduling); and**
- d) **meetings with representatives of service groups, community organizations and institutions, and other private sector providers of recreation opportunities, on a regular basis to determine, through cooperation, their respective roles and responsibilities in the recreation delivery system, and identify community projects which these groups may wish to pursue, thereby enhancing recreation for the entire community.**

Note: **Policy 14(d)** addresses and enhances **Municipal Plan Policy (j)** *Council shall consider co-operation with operators of private recreation facilities, clubs and service groups to facilitate the wider use of their existing services and programs.*

6.2.9 Promoting Sustainable Transportation

Transport Canada defines sustainable transportation as transportation that produces few, if any, air pollution emissions. Examples include public transport, carpools, car sharing, walking and cycling.

Indoor and outdoor facilities should be accessible by a wide variety of travel modes. This is achieved by locating facilities on major public transit routes, by connecting geographic hubs and other facilities by natural and hard surface trails, ensuring that the orientation of the facility on the site maximizes accessibility and safety, and by providing parking consistent with the demands of the specific facility components.

Public Transportation

Municipal transit decisions have some implication for participation in the recreation system. Recreation planning should consider the role public transit can play in complementing a sustainable transportation framework which will improve the recreation system. Public transit can improve accessibility for seniors, adolescents and residents without cars. The Comex Transit System effectively integrates its transit system with active transportation through the inclusion of bike racks on buses and the promotion of active transportation through exterior bus advertisements. The bike racks on local buses are currently used to capacity. This confirms the

value of bus bike racks and illustrates how effectively active transportation can be incorporated into transit.



Example of a City Bus with Bicycle Rack

Active Transportation

By and large, people agree that active transportation (human-powered travel) is vital to sustainable, healthy communities. When people walk and cycle, they create desirable neighbourhoods with less traffic, livelier streets and cleaner air. Every year, more Canadian communities are making active transportation a priority and enjoying the benefits. The benefits of increasing active transportation options include, but are not limited to:

- improving public health
- reducing CO² emissions
- integrating well with public transit
- improving safety for all road users
- bringing economic benefits by contributing to the revitalization of town centres

Supportive land use planning is critical to making active transportation practical. Distance is a barrier to walking and cycling, so homes should be as close as possible to schools, offices and stores. Sprawling developments discourage active travel, while higher densities bring friends, leisure activities, stores, and restaurants within reach. Mixed uses let people do several errands at once. Streetscapes with multiple entrances, and varied facades can encourage walking, cycling, attract recreation users and create valuable public spaces.

Developing a municipal strategy for active transportation is a great way to motivate elected officials, staff and the public. An entire community can be energized by the process of creating a vision, setting goals, evaluating options, defining networks and writing an action plan. A feasible, affordable strategy with a firm schedule and clear responsibilities is a catalyst for action.

A cornerstone of active transportation is the development of bikeways. Planned bike lanes provide sufficient space to allow cyclists to operate safely rather than allotting whatever residual space is left over after vehicular traffic is accommodated, and encourage cyclists to operate in a

manner consistent with the rule of the road. There are various design options that will accommodate a mix of cycling and vehicular uses within the Transportation Association of Canada: Geometric Design Guide for Canadian Roads, 1999 Edition, Part 2.

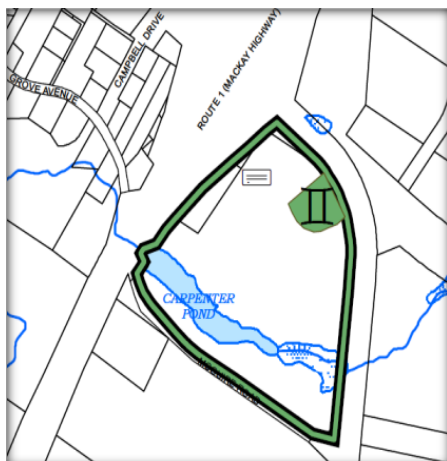
15. It shall be a policy of Council to promote integrated and sustainable transportation by creating an active transportation strategy.

6.2.10 Developing a Dog Park

Leash-free parks are publicly accessible areas designated for dog owners who wish to run their pets off-leash. With the growing recognition that exercise and socialization of dogs are important considerations for pet owners, dedicated off-leash areas are fast becoming a reality of town planning. The development of leash-free parks raises a number of logistical and operational issues, including the need for fencing, disposing of fecal matter, and enforcement of park rules.

Areas that should not be considered for off leash dog area use include:

- Natural or environmentally sensitive areas including designated ravines, wooded areas, sites of natural interest, areas which have undergone significant habitat restoration, wetlands or their buffer zones;
- Designated beaches;
- Playgrounds, splash pads and wading pools;
- Horticultural display areas or ornamental gardens;
- Sports fields;
- Skateboard bowls, tennis courts and other sports pads;
- Artificial or natural ice rinks, toboggan hills;
- Campgrounds;
- Regional and highly tourist areas or parks (area/park that has a significant number of special/cultural events and which attracts residents and tourists);
- Close proximity to hospitals, schools and nursing homes; and
- Close proximity to high density residential area (based on number of units impacted).



The proximity of environmentally sensitive areas is also an important issue when considering appropriate locations for such a facility; however, a dog park may not be as physically disruptive to these areas if designed appropriately.

Based on a review of Rothesay, a cursory assessment was made of potential sites for the development of a dog park or off-leash facility (This should only be viewed as a general assessment of potential options. Further study would be required for a detailed assessment).

One option for the development of an off-leash fenced-in area is within the town-owned land surrounding the Bicentennial Ball Field. This location, in proximity to the ball field and Rothesay Trails, would complement the area with the provision of this additional use.

The City of Fredericton is a good model for the development of an off-leash pet facility. The development of the Cityview Dog Park in Fredericton North was spearheaded by a volunteer-based groups of residents, who, in partnership with the City have developed Fredericton’s first off-leash dog park in June 2006. The dog facilities is maintained and managed largely by volunteers; thus alleviating much of the burden from the City.

16. It shall be a policy of Council to consider the development and appropriate location for one or more off-leash facilities.

Table 6.2.6 Developing a Dog Park – Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Costs*

	Probable Cost
Chain-Link Fencing	App. \$18/linear foot
Signage, Garbage Cans	\$2,000+/-
Water Supply, etc.	TBD

*May require 30% additional soft costs (such as design, permits, approvals, etc.; as well as 10%+ for site costs and site remediation prior to construction.

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION & EVALUATION

7.1 Planning Evaluation

Planning is an ongoing process or evolution whose ultimate goal is to effect change. In order to ensure that the process runs smoothly and recommended policies enact the established goals and objectives, it is necessary to impose an evaluation formula. Evaluation after implementation of the Recreation Master Plan policies is critical to its long-term success. Evaluation will enable the Parks and Recreation Committee to determine the effectiveness of objectives and policies and make alterations if necessary, before proceeding to the next implementation step.

Using the policy implementation schedule described in the next section, the steps of the evaluation process are described as follows:

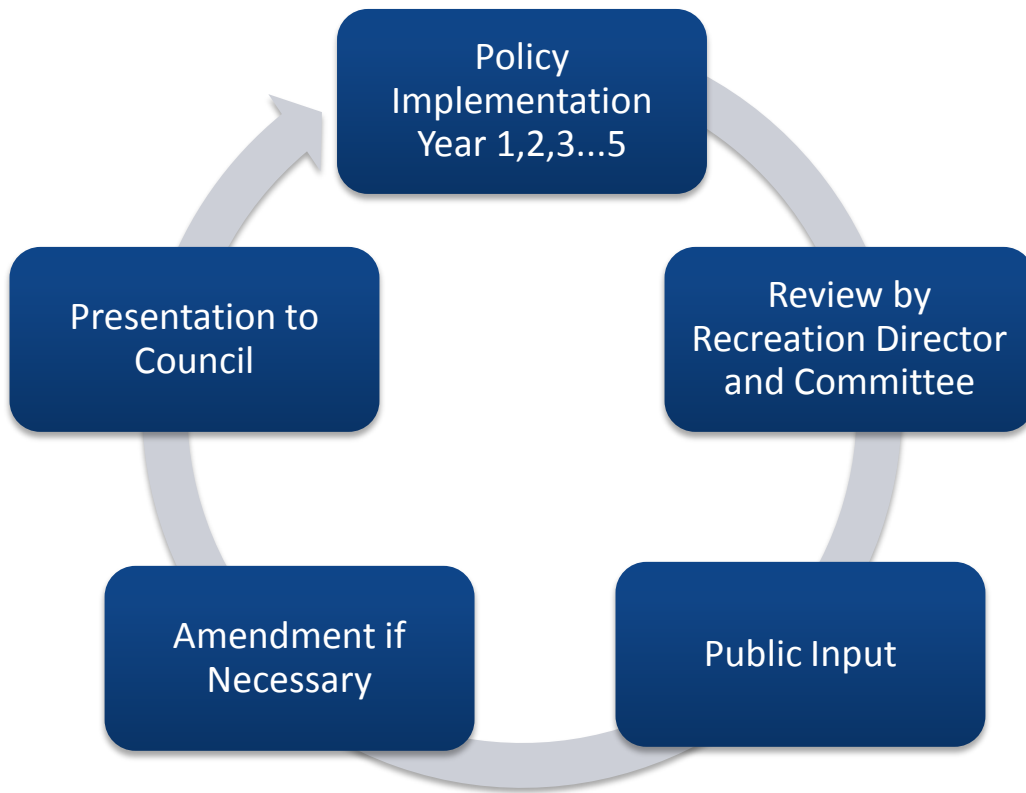
1. The Committee will commence the implementation of policies to be initiated in the short-term, through the Director of Recreation Services.
2. At the end of each implementation year the Director shall prepare a report outlining:
 - a) those policies of the Recreation Master Plan that have been initiated and the level of success;
 - b) those policies that have not been initiated and why;
 - c) recommendations for action the following year; and
 - d) mitigating circumstances which may affect or require the alteration of policies to be implemented.
3. The Parks and Recreation Committee will hold a public forum periodically to outline the public accomplishments in policies to be implemented in the coming year. This will allow the public to participate in the implementation of the Recreation Master Plan.

Under review of public comments, in conjunction with the report of the Director, policy changes or alterations to the schedule will be made if necessary.

4. The Parks and Recreation Committee will present its report to Council, outlining accomplishments of the previous year, direction for the coming year, priority of policies to be implemented, including any policy amendments, and budgetary implications.

The process of evaluation is shown graphically in the next page.

7.1.1 Policy Implementation Evaluation Process



7.2 Implementation Schedule

The Recreation Master Plan serves two critical functions. First, it provides a framework for future service delivery – the focus of services, the way services will be provided, priority markets etc.. Secondly, the Master Plan does suggest some very specific new directions. While some of the actions recommended in this Plan are in place now, and others are adaptations to current practices, many will be entirely new.

Within the following implementation schedule, the recommended policies are grouped according to their order in the preceding section. Some policies will be implemented in one year, while others will require successive years to complete; and others still may be a function of available funding.

Table 7.2.1 – Implementation Table

Action	Timing Short (1-3 yrs) Medium (4-7 yrs) Long (8-10 yrs)	Personnel	Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Cost	Comments
POLICY 4: It shall be a policy of Council to develop a Trails Master Plan for the Town of Rothesay.				
ACTION 4.1: Develop a Trails Master Plan	Short-Term	Parks & Rec. Ctte	\$50,000	The purpose is to establish a network of off-road trail systems; implementation strategy and monitoring framework – Cost is dependent on Scope. May also consider collaboration on Regional Trails Plan.
Potential Trail Development	Short to Medium-Term	Parks & Rec. Ctte	\$2 - \$3.5 Million for a 20-25km Trail	Does not include: - the cost of land acquisition; - bridges - root barrier systems which are dependent on soil conditions and existing vegetation; and - does not include soft costs such as design fees, permits and approvals, etc.
POLICY 5: It shall be a policy of Council to enter into discussions with relevant agencies such as ACAP Saint John and adjacent municipalities to explore the potential of the passive recreation use of informal trails.				
ACTION 5.1: Discussion, collaboration and planning with Sentiers NB Trail Council and ACAP Saint John	Short to Medium-Term	Staff	Staff Time	As identified upon completion of Trails Master Plan

Action	Timing Short (1-3 yrs) Medium (4-7 yrs) Long (8-10 yrs)	Personnel	Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Cost	Comments
POLICY 6: It shall be a policy of Council to develop a strategy for improving accessibility.				
ACTION 6.1: Identify accessibility issues in existing recreation facilities	Short to Long-Term	Staff	Per building audit cost: \$2,500-\$7,500 \$20,000 -60,000 / 8 buildings	Requires in-depth architectural/engineering building audits to identify required improvements
ACTION 6.2: Modify identified recreation facilities to provide universal accessibility	Medium to Long-Term	Consultant	Range: \$425,000 - \$725,000 (construction/renovation)	More accurate budgeting would result from building audits. May require 30% additional soft costs (such as design, permits, approvals, etc. and 10%+for site costs and site remediation) prior to construction
ACTION 6.3: Include disabled persons' representation on Parks & Recreation Committee	Ongoing	Parks & Rec. Ctte / Staff	\$200	Advertise for volunteer member or approach appropriate groups
POLICY 7: It shall be a policy of Council to develop a strategy for improving senior participation in recreation.				
ACTION 7.1: Establish task-force to raise awareness of relevant programs and services for senior citizens	Short-Term	Parks & Rec. Ctte / Staff	Staff Time	Invite program providers to Parks & Recreation Ctte meeting and develop a strategy for raising senior awareness and improving senior leisure services; possible advertising costs
ACTION 7.2: Include seniors' representation on Parks & Recreation Committee	Ongoing	Parks & Rec. Ctte	\$200	Advertise for volunteer member or approach appropriate groups

Action	Timing Short (1-3 yrs) Medium (4-7 yrs) Long (8-10 yrs)	Personnel	Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Cost	Comments
POLICY 8: It shall be a policy of Council to develop a strategy for improving adolescent participation in recreation.				
ACTION 8.1: Include adolescent representation on Parks & Recreation Committee	Ongoing	Parks & Rec. Ctte / Staff	\$200	Consult with school principals and possible youth agencies; and/or advertise for youth member volunteer
ACTION 8.2: Establish task-force to determine teen recreation needs	Short-Term	Parks & Rec. Ctte / Staff	Staff Time	Invite teens and program providers to jointly assess teen recreation needs and strategies to address identified deficiencies
ACTION 8.3: Hold a periodic forum to discuss the needs of adolescents	Ongoing	Parks & Rec. Ctte / Staff	Staff Time	As part of the overall strategy to determine teen recreation needs; possible advertising costs
POLICY 9: It should be the policy of Council to encourage a range of activities, interests, abilities, ages and genders across its diverse recreation facilities.				
ACTION 9.1: Identify programs and activities that are consistent with this policy and determine ways to expand the diversity of available programs and activities	Ongoing	Parks & Rec. Ctte / Staff	Staff Time	Public forum to determine potential new programs/activities to augment existing. May also require additional financial resources for potential program development.
POLICY 10: It should be a policy of Council to support the development of a Recreation Campus with the goal of meeting the widest variety of recreation, cultural and leisure needs within one central location.				
ACTION 10.1: Conduct a Feasibility Study that considers the proposed "recreation campus model" including the existing arena and renovations; future twin pad; multi-purpose facility; library; upper-floor housing and connectivity among the buildings	Short-Term to Medium-Term	Council / Parks & Rec. Ctte / Staff	\$75,000+	The feasibility study will determine the conceptual plan/layout, the facilities program, capital and operating costs and implementation and timing of the development.

Action	Timing Short (1-3 yrs) Medium (4-7 yrs) Long (8-10 yrs)	Personnel	Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Cost	Comments
POLICY 11: It shall be a policy of Council to promote the development of more unstructured recreation activities				
ACTION 11.1: Identify programs and activities which are consistent with this policy and determine ways to develop more unstructured activities and programs	Short-Term to Ongoing	Parks & Rec. Ctte / Staff	Staff Time	Public forum to additional unstructured activities and opportunities. May also require additional financial resources for potential program development.
ACTION 11.2: Develop a promotional strategy for family-oriented unstructured recreation activities	Short-Term to Ongoing	Parks & Rec. Ctte / Staff	Staff Time	May require additional financial resources for the development of a strategy. A promotional strategy may be developed in-house or determined to require consulting services
POLICY 12: It shall be a policy of Council to encourage the adequate provision, maintenance and upgrade of playgrounds (and fields).				
ACTION 12.1: Conduct an audit of playgrounds to determine renewal and repair issues	Short-Term	Staff	\$400/Playground (plus travel and expenses) Full Cost: \$3,600+	Ensures audit by certified playground inspector and CSA compliance
ACTION 12.2: Conduct monthly maintenance inspections to ensure CSA integrity of playground equipment	Ongoing	Staff	Staff Time	Will require the maintenance and update of playground inspector certification for staff (Approximate cost of course: \$1,500 - \$1,900+/- and travel expenses)
ACTION 12.3: Develop yearly playground maintenance schedule and budget	Ongoing	Parks & Rec. Ctte	Staff Time	Costs associated with staff maintenance and establishing budget

Action	Timing Short (1-3 yrs) Medium (4-7 yrs) Long (8-10 yrs)	Personnel	Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Cost	Comments
POLICY 13: It shall be a policy of Council in partnership with other agencies to develop opportunities for nature-based recreation that will promote protection, education of the environment and ecotourism in Rothesay.				
ACTION 13.1: Develop a strategy for promoting and developing opportunities for nature-based recreation and educational potential.	Short-Term to Ongoing	Parks & Rec. Ctte / Staff	Staff Time	Parks & Recreation Committee should initiate a meeting with ACAP Saint John and School Officials to discuss and identify opportunities for development
POLICY 14: It shall be a policy of Council, in the planning and implementation of recreation service provision, to encourage more effective communication, collaboration and cooperation.				
ACTION 14.1: The development and implementation of a communications plan to increase public awareness of the recreation system	Short-Term	Rec. & Parks Ctte / Staff	Staff Time	May require public forum to identify possible deficiencies in communication
ACTION 14.2: Meet with other parks and recreation committees within the Greater Saint John Region to coordinate a regional recreation planning strategy	Ongoing	Rec. & Parks Ctte / Staff	Staff Time	Will require periodic meetings which may evolve in the development of a regional recreation plan or strategy
ACTION 14.3: Augment facility scheduling which incorporates school and municipal recreation facilities	Short-Term	Staff	Staff Time	Facility scheduling may be expanded to include a partnership with Saint John and Quispamsis
ACTION 14.4: Periodically meet with representatives of service groups, community organizations and institutions, and other private sector providers of recreation opportunities	Ongoing	Staff	Staff Time	Potential to encourage collaboration and form partnerships
POLICY 15: It shall be a policy of Council to promote integrated and sustainable transportation.				
ACTION 15.2: Develop an active transportation strategy	Short-Term to Medium-Term	Rec. & Parks Ctte / Staff	Staff Time	Develop and active transportation task-force; public input; Liaise with NB Trail Council

Action	Timing Short (1-3 yrs) Medium (4-7 yrs) Long (8-10 yrs)	Personnel	Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Cost	Comments
POLICY 16: It shall be a policy of Council to consider the development and appropriate location for one or more off-leash facilities.				
ACTION 16.1: Determine sites for the development of off-leash facilities	Short-Term to Medium-Term	Rec. & Parks Ctte / Staff	Staff Time; Costs: chain-link fencing (at app. \$18/linear foot); signage/ garbage cans (\$2,000+/-); Water supply TBD, etc.	May solicit public input; will require costs associated with setting up off-leash dog park

8.0 POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

This section identifies various possible funding sources which may be available in support of the recommendations of this recreation master plan. The following listing was obtained from various government web sites and is provided to recommend some funding options that Rothesay may wish to consider.

Some of these programs which have time limitations may no longer be in place. However, these funding sources remain pertinent as they may offer technical assistance and new funding programs may yet materialize.

8.1 Provincial Funding

Active Communities Grant Program



With a maximum grant potential of \$5,000, the Active Communities Grant Program provides support for activities and projects that raise awareness about the importance and enjoyment of physical activity and provide new or expanded opportunities for New Brunswick residents to be active.

Family and Youth Capital Assistance Program (FYCAP)



The objective of this program administered by the NB Regional Development Corporation is to provide funding for non-profit organizations and municipalities that are involved with youth and family-related projects such as playgrounds, sports/recreational facilities, community centres, and community equipment. Playground projects may be eligible for up to 100% of the material costs up to a maximum of \$15,000, while all other types of projects will be eligible for up to 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of \$50,000.

Assistance will be available to non-profit organizations, local service districts and/or municipalities engaged in youth and family related projects such as playgrounds, sports/recreational facilities, community centres and community equipment. Examples of the sports/recreational facilities include the following: baseball fields, soccer fields, volleyball courts, tennis courts, football fields, and skateboard parks, arenas/rinks, and youth camps, local and municipal parks. Examples of centres include community, seniors, women's institutes, youth and recreation. Examples of community equipment include recreational and fire brigade.

The New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund



This fund provides assistance for action-oriented projects with tangible, measurable results, aimed at protecting, preserving and enhancing the Province's natural environment. There are six categories of projects eligible for financial assistance being: Protection, Restoration, Sustainable Development, Conservation, Education and Beautification. Community groups, NB municipalities, non-profit NB organizations, and institutions furthering sustainable development may apply to the Environmental Trust Fund. Funds are program-specific and determined each year by the department of the environment. Priority areas for ETF funding for the coming year include climate change, education, projects promoting sustainable development and sustainable communities, stewardship activities including solid waste management and water management, and the preservation of wetlands, watersheds, and coastal areas.

Efficiency New Brunswick



Efficiency New Brunswick promotes the design and construction of sustainable high-efficiency buildings in the province of New Brunswick through the Start Smart New Commercial Buildings Incentive Program. The program provides technical support and financial incentives to offset the costs associated with designing sustainable high-efficiency buildings based on estimated annual energy savings.

8.2 Federal Funding

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund



FCM's Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) is a unique program that supports municipal initiatives across Canada that benefits the environment, local economies and quality of life.

GMF grants and below-market loans directly support municipal initiatives, while GMF education and training resources help municipal governments share expertise and strengthen their ability to set and surpass their sustainable goals. The GMF also offers financial assistance for municipal studies and projects related to sustainable transportation. The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with \$550 million to establish GMF.

Infrastructure Stimulus Fund



Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government has established a new \$4 billion Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF) that provides funding to provincial, territorial and municipal construction-ready infrastructure rehabilitation

projects. Funding is available for two years for projects that begin during the 2009 and 2010 construction seasons and can be completed before March 31, 2011.

Local governments can are eligible for these funds within the following categories:

- Water and Waste Water Infrastructure
- Public Transit Infrastructure
- **Local Road Infrastructure**
- Disaster Mitigation Infrastructure
- Solid Waste Management Infrastructure
- Brownfield Redevelopment Infrastructure
- **Cultural Infrastructure**
- Airport Infrastructure
- Port and Cruise ship Infrastructure
- Municipal Buildings
- **Parks and Trails**

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency



The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) has a variety of community economic development programs and initiatives that are focused on building economic capacity in Atlantic Canada.

One of the primary objectives of ACOA's Innovative Communities Fund (ICF) is to strengthen community infrastructure in rural communities and to invest in projects that enhance communities' capacity to overcome economic development challenges and take advantage of their strengths, assets, and opportunities.

The Canada – New Brunswick Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund administered by ACOA, supports smaller scale municipal infrastructure projects that improve the quality of life, sustainable development, and economic opportunities, particularly in smaller communities.

Canadian Council for the Arts Grants



The Canada Council for the Arts is a national arm's length agency created by the federal government in 1957 to "foster and promote the study and enjoyment of, and the production of works in, the arts." To fulfil this mandate, the Canada Council provides grants and services to professional Canadian artists and arts organizations in dance, inter-arts, media arts, music, theatre, visual arts, writing and publishing. Grant amounts vary from \$3,000 - \$20,000.

New Horizons for Seniors



This program provides funding to non-profit and other organizations, the New Horizons for Seniors Program helps to ensure that seniors can benefit from, and contribute to, the quality of life in their communities, through active living and participation in social activities. The objective of this program is to encourage seniors to contribute their skills, experience, and wisdom in support of social well-being in their communities and to promote the ongoing involvement of seniors in their communities to reduce their risk of social isolation.

The Program funds projects that help improve the quality of life for seniors and their communities – from enabling seniors to share their knowledge, wisdom and experiences with others, to improving facilities for seniors' programs and activities, to raising awareness of elder abuse.. The program supports projects led by seniors by providing funding up to \$25,000.

8.3 Alternative Financing Methods

Canada-New Brunswick Infrastructure Project



This joint Federal/Provincial program directs funds toward infrastructure initiatives that are deemed (1) Communities Component and (2) Major Infrastructure Component. The Communities Component is available for infrastructure investments in communities with populations of less than 100,000. The focus of the first intake (as of July 2008) will be water, wastewater infrastructure and capacity building. Projects will be selected by a federal-provincial committee through a competitive process. The Major Infrastructure Component will support larger-scale projects, particularly public infrastructure projects that have a national or regional impact and generate significant benefits in terms of a growing economy, a cleaner environment or stronger communities. The Atlantic Canadian Opportunities Agency (ACOA) is responsible for the Canada Infrastructure Program in Atlantic Canada.

Canada-New Brunswick Gas Tax Agreement



The Gas Tax agreement is providing \$146 million to be dedicated toward environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure in New Brunswick. These investments will result in significant environmental benefits, such as cleaner air, cleaner water or reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Municipalities will each receive an annual allotment of dollars whereas the Province, through the Department of Local Government is responsible for the services in unincorporated areas. Eligible project categories include water, wastewater, solid waste management, public transit, community energy systems, active transportation infrastructure and capacity building.