



P.O. Box 1749  
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**Item No. 15.4.1**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**December 13, 2022**

**TO:** Mayor Savage Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed  
Councillor Patty Cuttell, Chair, Community Planning & Economic  
Development Standing Committee

**DATE:** November 17, 2022

**SUBJECT:** **Bedford West Park Facilities Plan**

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**ORIGIN**

November 17, 2022 meeting of Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee, Item 15.1.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Legislative Authority is outlined in the attached supplemental staff report dated November 14, 2022.

Administrative Order One, Respecting the Procedures of Council, Schedule 3 Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee Terms of Reference:

1. (1) The purpose of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee is to recommend to the Council directions to support Community and Economic life “making HRM the most livable community in which to live, work and play”.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council adopt the Bedford West Park Facilities Plan as set out in Attachment B of the November 14, 2022 report as a guiding document for future park improvements in the Community of Bedford West.

## **BACKGROUND**

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee received a staff recommendation report dated November 14, 2022 to consider adopting the proposed Bedford West Park Facilities Plan.

For further information refer to the attached staff report dated November 14, 2022.

## **DISCUSSION**

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee considered the staff report dated November 14, 2022 and approved the recommendation to Halifax Regional Council as outlined in this report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial implications are outlined in the attached supplemental staff report dated November 14, 2022.

## **RISK CONSIDERATION**

Risk consideration is outlined in the attached supplemental staff report dated November 14, 2022.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Meetings of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee are open to public attendance and members of the public are invited to address the Standing Committee for up to five (5) minutes during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Standing Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

For further information on Community Engagement refer to the attached supplemental staff report dated November 14, 2022.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Environmental implications are outlined in the supplemental staff report dated November 14, 2022.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee did not discuss alternatives.

Alternatives are outlined in the attached supplemental staff report dated November 14, 2022.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Staff recommendation report dated November 14, 2022.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.292.3962

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P.O. Box 1749  
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**Attachment 1**

**Item No. 15.1**

**Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee  
November 17, 2022**

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Community Planning & Economic Development  
Standing Committee

**-Original Signed-**

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Schofield, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** November 14, 2022

**SUBJECT:** **Bedford West Park Facilities Plan**

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**ORIGIN**

2020/21 Parks and Recreation Budget and Business Plan.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

*Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*

Section 79A (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if

- (a) the expenditure is included in the Municipality's operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council adopt the Bedford West Park Facilities Plan as set out in Attachment B as a guiding document for future park improvements in the Community of Bedford West.

## **BACKGROUND**

Bedford West is a mixed-use community, characterized by a relatively high density of residential development. The community is located to the west of Highway 102, north of the proposed Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park, east of the community of Kingswood, and south of Hammonds Plains Road (Attachment A).

In 2006, Regional Council approved the Bedford West Secondary Planning Strategy (Bedford West SPS), which continues to provide guidance for the development of the community through 12 sub-phases. Development began in 2008 and is expanding on the south side of Larry Uteck Boulevard, northeast of Kearney Lake Road; and at Larry Uteck Boulevard and Hammonds Plains Road. A fast rate of growth, high residential density, and a variety of housing types has led to a need to consider the allocation of park facilities, and to plan for current and future recreation needs.

There are currently 28 park and open space parcels occupying approximately 81 hectares (ha) in Bedford West. Much of the parkland remains in a 'pad-ready' or undeveloped state, which has sparked interest from the community for the development of park facilities. In 2018, Regional Council directed a service level analysis of sport courts in the Bedford West community, to identify the need for new tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts in the community. To understand the broader recreation needs of the community, the development of a Bedford West Park Facilities Plan (Park Facilities Plan) was added to the 2020/21 Parks & Recreation Budget and Business Plan. The Park Facilities Plan was subsequently completed as outlined in Attachment B.

Parts of the prospective Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes (BMBCL) Regional Park are within the Parks Facilities Plan Area. They are being considered through a separate project and are therefore not included within the scope of this project.

## **DISCUSSION**

Park plans, prepared by municipal staff with community engagement, have been developed in situations where a plan is needed to help address park service delivery, functional park issues and opportunities, and establish a sense of place in parks. Such is the case within Bedford West, which has a variety of parks and uses and requires a community-wide plan to guide the distribution and design of park facilities.

The Park Facilities Plan has been prepared to identify and prioritize facility needs for Bedford West. The community provides examples of successes and challenges in obtaining and developing parkland through the subdivision development process where developers are required to dedicate 10 percent of a subdivision in land area, equivalent values in cash, or a combination thereof. Such parkland, especially for high-density developments, may not be of a size or configuration that fully meets recreational needs and, in many cases, does not include recreation facilities. Without park facilities required and services such as utilities, sidewalks and street trees, and funded through other means such as development charges, new parkland is often undeveloped when subdivisions are fully built. In some instances, in Bedford West, the parkland dedications have exceeded minimum requirements, but there is still an observed deficiency of parkland and facilities.

Understanding the above factors, an assessment of park needs was conducted with a full evaluation of:

- physical park condition
- land ownership
- existing park facilities
- community growth and
- guiding municipal plans and policy

To confirm assumptions regarding the park and gather community values, desires, and needs; staff consulted with the community. There were two opportunities for the community to engage in the park planning process:

### Values Gathering, February 1 – March 8, 2021

The purpose of the first engagement program was to collect the issues and opportunities that the public have experienced, and how park projects should be prioritized. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were limited opportunities for in-person engagement. Staff developed an online survey to capture public feedback. There was interest from the community to bring park parcels to a useable and finished state, a final park form that offers a variety of play and respite and relieves pressure on already overused parks.

### Presentation of Ideas, July 29 – September 13, 2021

To follow-up on the previously hosted online engagement program, 'What We Heard' and park opportunity summaries were presented to the public. The park opportunity summaries were comprised of maps that identified potential parkland improvements that had been refined based on public consultation and further analysis and presented in subsequent sections.

Overall, survey respondents were satisfied with the proposed direction outlined within this engagement program. Even with general acceptance of the proposed direction, survey respondents reaffirmed the desired opportunities submitted in the first round of engagement (e.g., a wider variety of park facilities for all ages, better distribution of park resources, addressing the overuse and safe access of park space, among others). Without a full understanding of how the community is planned to grow over time, some negative responses to the proposed park facilities could be based on opinions that there should be limited facility development in favour of retaining the natural state of parks.

### **Findings**

Some discrepancies emerged between what the public articulated as needs, compared to the anticipated needs that were identified during a thorough analysis. Part of this response may be related to the fact that the community is still developing and the plan for future community development may not be readily apparent. As a result, some park facilities included within the plan may fall outside public expectation. Lands already approved for development were often identified by the public for open space preservation; there may not have been a full understanding of how future parkland and facilities are to be added to the municipal parkland inventory.

Public engagement responses form one part of the analysis that has included consideration of available parkland, future approved parkland, service delivery benchmarks, guiding policy, and community growth.

Through the analysis, several key findings emerged, including:

- many parks are in an undeveloped state;
- community members are interested in hands-on park development opportunities;
- many parks within the community have a single use or limited range of recreation opportunities;
- designated access to water is limited to one beach that is at capacity;
- overcrowding and overuse of some parks limits the sustainability and comfortable use of public spaces;
- land ownership and maintenance responsibilities are not clearly distinguishable within the community;
- off-leash dogs in parks are problematic;
- there are inefficiencies in the way parkland is organized and this challenges the movement between parks;
- park safety and accessibility needs greater attention; and
- as the community densifies, there are few mechanisms in place to acquire new parkland from development without the subdivision of land.

## **Park Opportunities**

From the findings, the Park Facilities Plan suggests several opportunities to guide park development over time. In total, 14 park enhancements (trail development, seating, park signage, tree planting) and 11 major park opportunities (individual park plans, regional recreation facilities) requiring the development of detailed designs have been outlined. Three priority areas have been identified as a phased roll out:

### Priority One

Given the quick residential growth along Brookline Drive, a priority is to be placed on balancing park service delivery on the west side of Larry Uteck Boulevard. This includes the development of a sport park that considers sport courts and a regional specialized facility such as a pump track. Another priority is the installation of park signage, seating, and tree planting in existing parks throughout the community and tennis courts fronting Broad Street in Unnamed Park 27. The new Bedford Ravines School will come online in the short-term, and the park facilities there will eventually serve the community. A detailed study of Kearney Lake Beach Park is recommended to control the safe access to the beach, to the lake, and to manage the anticipated increase in park use, as well as examining alternatives for water access.

### Priority Two

The next opportunity space for the collocation of park facilities (playground, multipurpose sport court, walking paths, community garden, play lawn, picnic area) is Broad Street Park. If not implemented already, the addition of a regional specialized facility like a pump track or skate park could be considered at this stage in a prominent location like Gary Martin Drive Park. It is expected that this priority phase would include community trail work and water access on the east side of Larry Uteck Boulevard. Another initiative to make recreation more accessible would be to remove the fencing from the beach volleyball courts at the HRM 4-Pad and make availability a first-come, first-served basis.

### Priority Three

The planning of community sub areas 10 and 12 is underway, however, it is not expected that parkland in these sub areas will come online in the short or medium term. In the longer term, a wider network of trails through existing open space can be considered through capital planning or community-led trail development.

## **Specialized Facilities**

There may be some desire for special facilities that may not be readily accommodated within the study area. These may be considered through a broader review that may include the consideration of parkland outside the study area.

## **Conclusion and Next Steps**

Currently, there is no park facilities plan to guide the development of parks within the Community of Bedford West. The pace of development within the community has put pressure on capital budgets which has resulted in many parks being left in an unfinished state. Based on a fulsome review of existing park conditions, park service delivery, community demographics, guiding municipal policy, and public engagement results; a prioritized list of park opportunities has been developed. The approval of the Park Facilities Plan will set a guiding document for future park plans and upgrades to be rationalized in future Business Plans.

Without confirmed project capital, park priorities have no timelines attached to them. Throughout all priority stages, a focus will continue on the state of good repair of established park facilities. The capital available for park construction takes into consideration timelines for facility recapitalization and gaps in the park network. Plan priorities can be re-evaluated if an opportunity for park enhancement presents itself (e.g., developer-led park finishes, external funding, community-led projects).

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications at this time since this report is seeking an approval of the Park Facilities Plan. However, if the plan is approved as a guiding document for future park improvements, possible future capital expenditures for functional park plans and accompanying facilities would be considered in subsequent years during the business planning process.

**RISK CONSIDERATION**

Depending on facility implementation timelines, shifting community demographics may change park facility priorities. This risk can partially be addressed by:

- revisiting and updating the Park Facility Plan opportunities over time;
- considering community-led park facility improvements such as trails and placemaking projects; and
- working with developers in the community as future sub-phases of development arise, to ensure park size, location, and level of finish adequately address prospective community needs.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Online public engagement was hosted from February 1 to March 8, 2021 and a follow up online engagement from July 29- September 13, 2021.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no specific environmental implications that have been identified with the content of this report.

**ALTERNATIVES**

The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee may recommend that Regional Council:

1. Request changes to the Park Facilities Plan as presented. This may require additional review, possible community consultation, and a separate staff report.
2. Decline to adopt the proposed Park Facilities Plan. This will delay a plan to guide future parks capital decisions for the community.

**ATTACHMENTS**

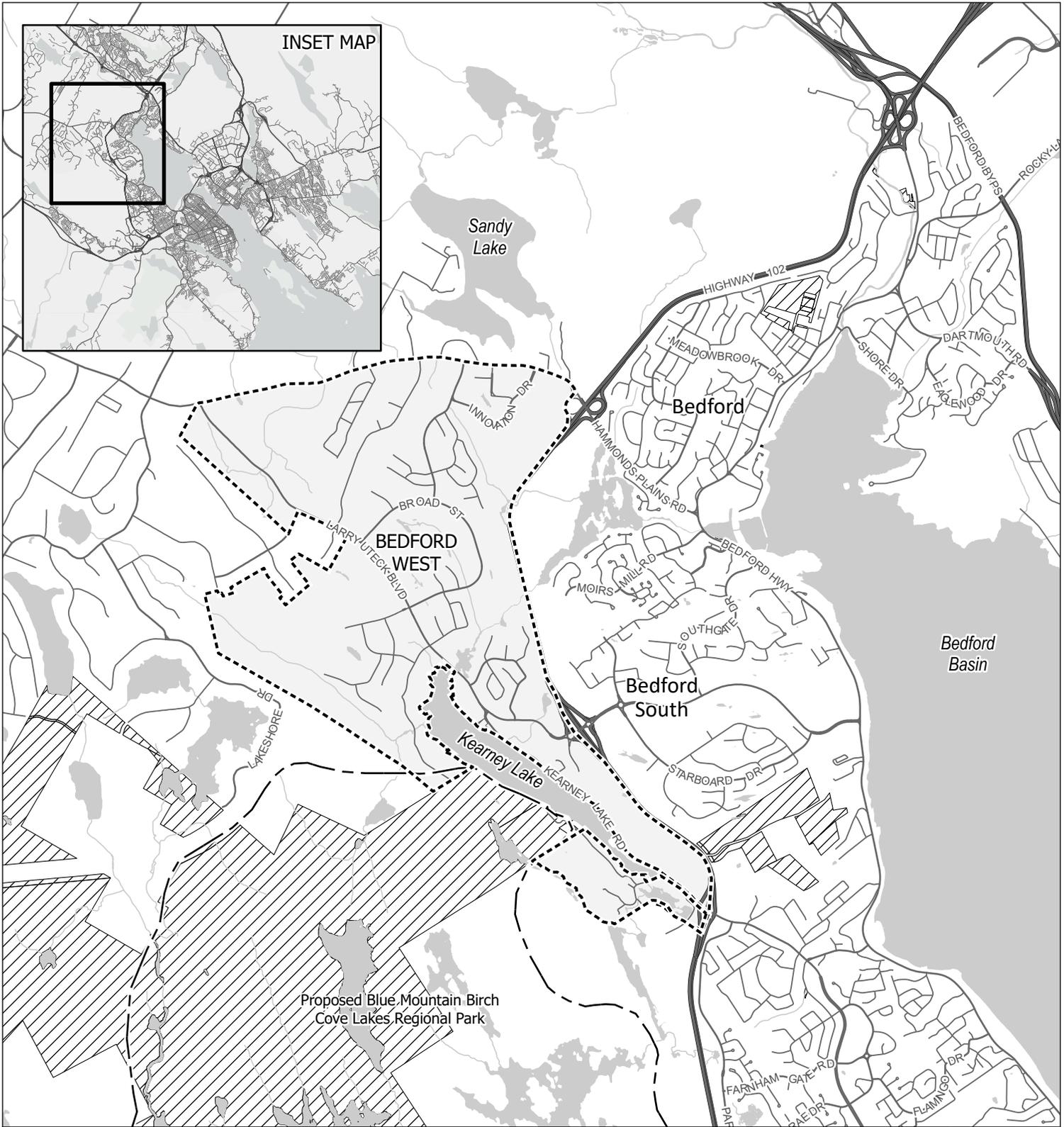
Attachment A – Bedford West, Location Map  
Attachment B – Bedford West Park Facilities Plan

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Stephen Cushing, Landscape Architect, Policy & Planning, Parks & Recreation,  
902.292.1565

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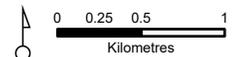


### Community of Bedford West

-  Bedford West
-  Conceptual Wilderness Park Boundary
-  Provincial Lands

# HALIFAX

## Parks & Recreation Policy & Planning



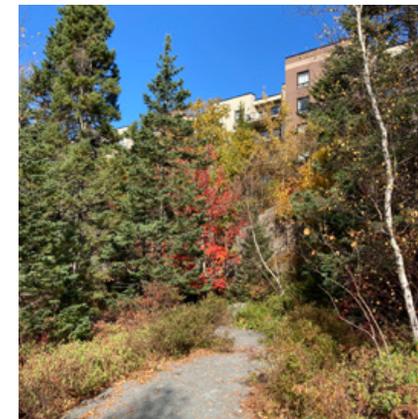
# HALIFAX BEDFORD WEST PARK FACILITIES PLAN

JUNE 2022



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## BACKGROUND

Bedford West is mixed use community that is characterized by a relatively high density of residential development. It is located to the west of Highway 102, north of the proposed Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park, east of the community of Kingswood, and south of Hammonds Plains Road. Over the last number of years, the local Councillors and residents have identified needs for more facilities within parks, some of which have yet to be developed. Subsequently, Regional Council directed that a park plan be prepared through the adoption of the 2020/21 Parks and Recreation Business Plan.

Parkland that is obtained through parkland dedications that are part of new subdivision developments, may not be capable of fully meeting recreational needs and in many cases, do not include recreation facilities.

Public engagement was undertaken and has given valuable information related to recreation need. There were many different ideas for how parks should be planned and managed into the future. Some discrepancies have emerged between what the public has told us as compared to the need identified during a thorough park analysis. Part of this is the fact that the community is still developing, and residents may not fully understand the plan for community development or the future parks and facilities that are planned. As a result, feedback was weighed against physical park condition, land ownership, existing park facilities, service delivery benchmarks, community growth, and guiding policy.

## FINDINGS

From the background analysis and public engagement, several findings emerged:

- Many parks are in an undeveloped state;
- Community members are interested in hands-on park development opportunities;
- Many parks within the community have a single use or limited range of recreation opportunities;
- Designated access to water is limited to one beach that is at capacity;
- Overcrowding and overuse of some parks limits the sustainability and comfortable use of public spaces;
- Land ownership and maintenance responsibilities are not clearly distinguished within the community;
- Dogs off-leash in parks is problematic;
- There are inefficiencies in the way parkland is organized and this challenges the movement between parks;
- Park safety and accessibility needs greater attention; and
- As the community densifies, there are few mechanisms in place to acquire new parkland from development without the subdivision of land.

## Park Facilities Plan

The Bedford West Park Facilities Plan is a community-wide plan and guiding document that will oversee the distribution and design of park facilities. This plan recognizes the pressures that residential density places on parkland and how level of service and park finish can be improved to better meet community needs. From the Findings, several opportunities are recommended to guide park development over time. In total, 14 park enhancements (e.g., trail development, seating, park signage, tree planting) and 11 major park opportunities (e.g., individual park plans) serve as a framework for detailed design and development. Implementation priority areas and a list of actions have been identified in this plan.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

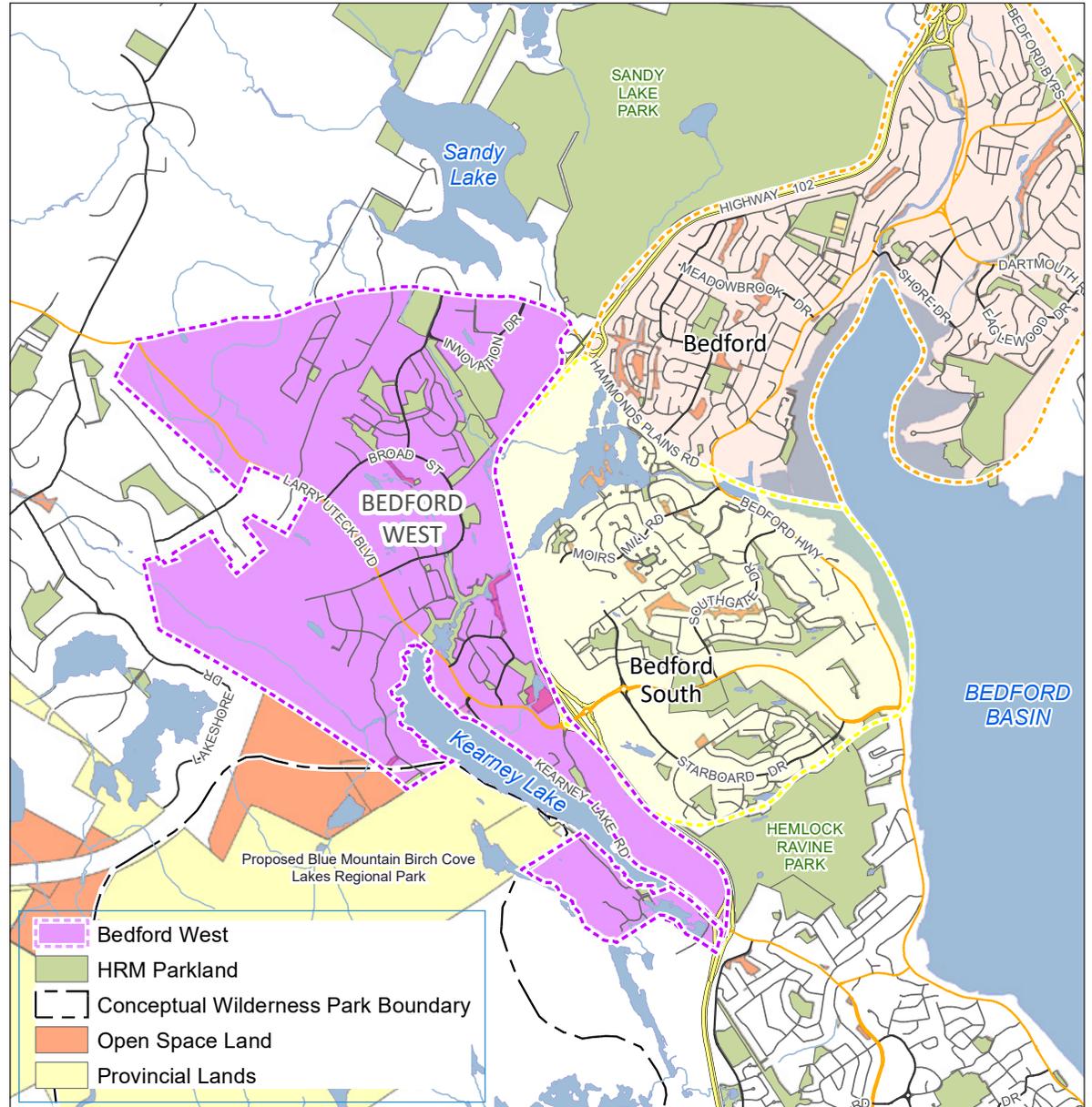
## 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2018, Regional Council directed a service level analysis of sports courts in the Bedford West community. Specifically, to identify the need for new tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts in the community. To understand the broader recreation needs, this plan evaluates a wide range of park facility opportunities.

## 1.2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Parkland within the community has primarily been acquired through the subdivision process. Much of this parkland remains in a pad-ready or undeveloped state. This has sparked interest from the community to review current levels of park use and the potential for park development as the community grows. Increasingly, communities are looking for a balance of both active and passive park uses in close proximity to home. This plan is a guiding document, to be used as a resource for park and facility development as resources become available.

For the purposes of this Park Plan, the Bedford West area is defined as the area west of Highway 102, east of the community of Kingswood, and south of Hammonds Plains Road (Map 1). The open spaces that are associated with the proposed Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Regional Wilderness Park are not included in this plan as a separate program will guide their management. Some subdivision development continues to occur within Bedford West and therefore some of the opportunities within this Park Plan may be subject to change.



MAP 1: THE COMMUNITY OF BEDFORD WEST.

## 1.3 APPROACH

An assessment of park and recreation needs has been evaluated in five parts.

### INVESTIGATION & ANALYSIS

An evidenced-based analysis informs the plan's Findings and Opportunities and includes the following components,

- Community growth;
- Inventory of existing parks; and
- Park service delivery.

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Two opportunities for engagement were hosted in 2021. First a values gathering survey from February 1 to March 8 . Second, a presentation of a 'What we heard' and park opportunities summary was shared online for comment from July 29 - September 13.

### MUNICIPAL PLANS & GUIDING DOCUMENTS

Park planning direction has been drawn from previously completed functional plans and strategies (Appendix A).

### FINDINGS

Park and community findings along with actions have been developed to guide park opportunities.

### OPPORTUNITIES

A list of potential park enhancements and major park opportunities have been developed to make parks more useful and functional for residents. Examples include the completion of trail loops, seating, playgrounds, sport courts, and shade structures.



# 2 INVESTIGATION & ANALYSIS

This section provides an overview of community growth, park inventory data, and park service delivery.

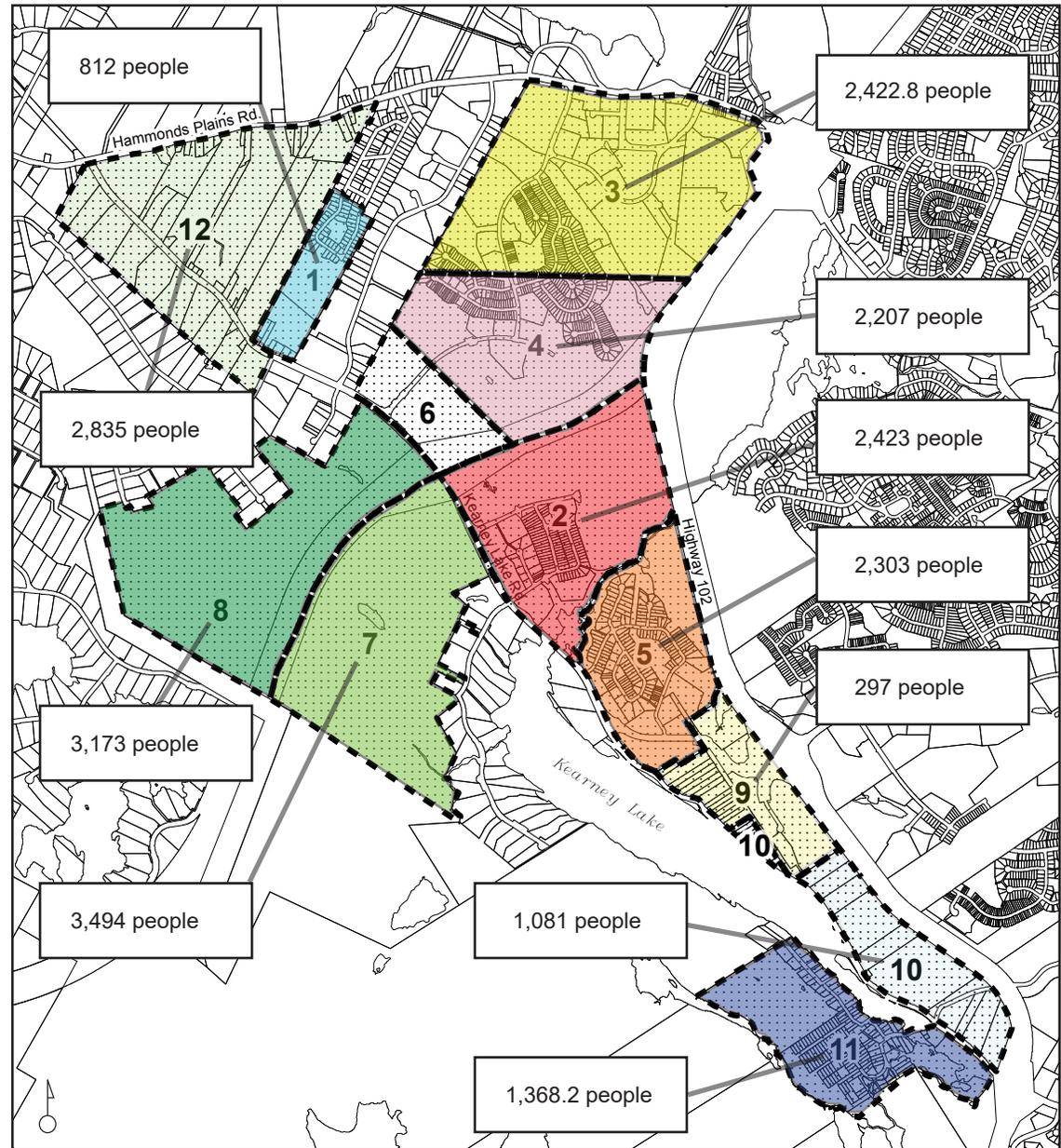
## 2.1 COMMUNITY GROWTH

### DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Given the quick pace of development in the community, published demographic data has not kept pace with the real-time residential growth. As such, a summary of approved and projected population targets for each sub-phase of development within the community has been calculated (Map 2). It is expected that there could be amended subdivision plans over time, but a total future residential population of approximately 24,000 residents is projected.

Early population demographic information, recent survey responses, and the presence of schools suggests that there is a prevalence of young families with school-aged children. The increasing presence of multi-unit apartment buildings also suggests some smaller households that may include young adults and seniors, along with some households with children, all of which may have limited recreational opportunities associated with their housing. In addition, many single detached dwelling units may be on relatively small lots, making parks over backyards to have a high importance.

Given the expectation for varied community demographics, parks should be designed to accommodate a wide range of potential users. The high residential density will have implications for park service delivery and level of park finish.



MAP 2: PROJECTED POPULATION ESTIMATES WITH SUB PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT.  
BASE MAP: BEDFORD WEST SECONDARY MUNICIPAL PLANNING STRATEGY, 2010

## COMMUNITY HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT IN BEDFORD WEST DEVELOPMENT

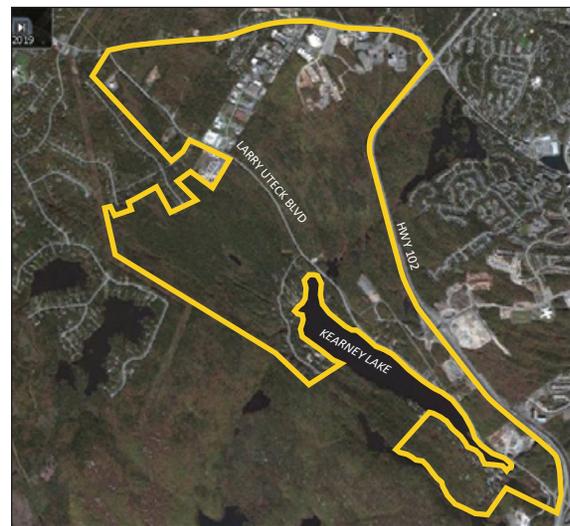
Given the abundance of uninterrupted natural resources that were once found in the Bedford area, the Mi'kmaq people formerly lived, traveled, fished, and hunted on these lands for thousands of years. More recent documented history records British settlement in 1749 at the head of what is now known as the Bedford Basin. Industrial activity (e.g., processing of lumber, paper, woolens, flour, and chocolate) and the expansion of the railway further expanded business and residential settlement. Bedford was officially formed as a town on July 1, 1980 and later amalgamated to form the Halifax Regional Municipality in 1996. With a large residential boom beginning in the 1970s, Bedford has experienced a high rate of residential growth since its incorporation, higher than the regional average.

Recreation has historically been a part of the Bedford community, initially as a resort community with an assortment of leisure activities, especially along the Bedford Basin and lake systems. Prior to Incorporation in 1980, parkland was acquired primarily by the Bedford Service Commission which gradually purchased, received lands through donations, or leased lands. With Incorporation, the Town assumed ownership and responsibility for these lands. Over the last number of years, parkland has been acquired primarily through the subdivision approval process, except for purchases of adjacent lands for HRM's Regional Park program.

In 2006, Regional Council approved the Bedford West Secondary Planning Strategy (Bedford West SPS) which continues to provide guidance for the development of the community. Development began in 2008 and is quickly expanding (Figure 1). The fast rate of growth, a high residential density, and the variety of housing types (e.g., single family, townhomes, multi-unit buildings) have necessitated the allocation of park space and to plan for current and future recreation needs.



2003



2010



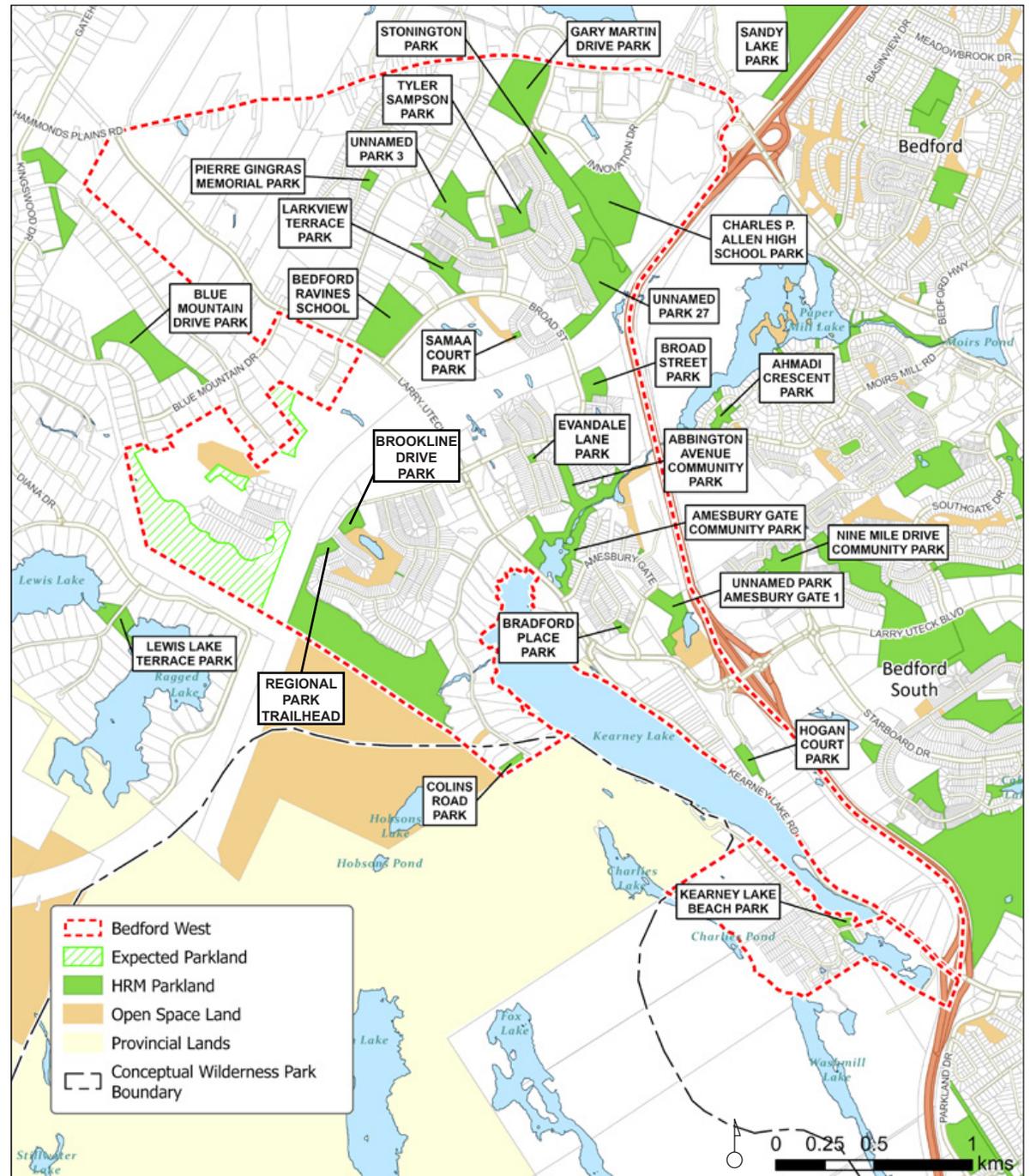
2020

FIGURE 1: PRIOR TO THE FIRST PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT IN BEDFORD WEST, SMALL AREAS OF UNSERVICED, LARGE-LOT RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE ATLANTIC ACRES BUSINESS PARK WERE ACCESSIBLE FROM LARRY UTECK BOULEVARD (KEARNEY LAKE ROAD) AND HAMMONDS PLAINS ROAD. THE MAJORITY OF THE LANDSCAPE WAS FORESTED. SINCE 2008, MUCH OF THE APPROVED DEVELOPMENT ON THE EAST SIDE OF LARRY UTECK BOULEVARD IS COMPLETE WITH DEVELOPMENT NOW UNDERWAY ON THE WEST SIDE OF LARRY UTECK BOULEVARD.

## 2.2 PARK INVENTORY

As of 2022, there were 28 park and open space parcels occupying approximately 81 ha (Map 3). Included in this inventory are municipal parkland parcels, municipal open space parcels, and Provincially-owned school parcels (Table 1).

Future additions of parkland and park facilities are expected with the ongoing development within the community (i.e., sub-phases 8, 10, and 12).



MAP 3: BEDFORD WEST PARK INVENTORY.

TABLE 1: BEDFORD WEST PARK INVENTORY.

PID	NAME	ADDRESS	PARK TYPE	SIZE (HA)	AMENITIES	ACQUIRED	COMMENTS
41287418	Gary Martin Drive Park	61 Gary Martin Drive	Regional	6.58	Four Indoor ice pads, four lit outdoor beach volleyball courts.	2009	Parcel is occupied primarily by the indoor ice surfaces and paved parking area. There is a wooded buffer along the western edge and a planted buffer along Hammond's Plains Road and Gary Martin Drive. Outdoor beach volleyball courts are fenced.
41340324	Charles P. Allen High School	Innovation Drive	District	8.37	All-weather field, full basketball court	Provincial Land, school opened 2013	All weather field is the dominant recreation amenity on-site.
41302456, 41358672	Stonington Park	Gary Martin Drive	Community	6.22	Trail, pathway and seating area, wood lot	2010, 2012	Crusher trails (~ 740 m) connect Gary Martin Drive, CPA School, and a walkway to Hollyhock Way. A seating area with a 50m long path and a look-off is found on Hollyhock Way.
41456161	Unnamed Park 27	Parcel P-12, Broad Street	Neighbourhood	5.92	Undeveloped	2018	Majority of site is a natural drainage area. Flat pad developed on Broad Street.
41333840	Tyler Sampson Park	316 Gary Martin Drive	Community	2.26	Playground, pathway, play lawn, forested area	2011	Parcel is 60% forested. Pathway connecting Gary Martin Drive to Capstone Cres.
41387739	Unnamed Park 3	Parcel P-4A, Gary Martin Drive	Community	3.60	Trail	2013	Forested parcel with trail connecting Aspenhill Ct. and Hazelton Hill to Gary Martin Drive.
40593717, 41337726	Pierre Gringas Memorial Park	124 Lewis Drive	Neighbourhood	0.53	Playground, basketball court	1991	Play area surrounded by forested edge. Gravel driveway into the site. Recently recapitalized playground and basketball court.
41383977 41461658	Larkview Terrace Park	86 Larkview Terrace	Neighbourhood	1.86	Trail	2013, 2019	Flat pad on Larkview Terrace, remaining lot is wooded and depressed. A Halifax Water easement acts as a trail through the western edge, but onto private property.
41479957	Unnamed open space	PARCEL P-13B, Broad Street	Open Space	1.02	Undeveloped	2020	Forested parcel
41456641	Samaa Court Park	49 Samaa Court	Neighbourhood	0.11	Undeveloped	2018	Flat, pad ready

TABLE 1: BEDFORD WEST PARK INVENTORY (CONTINUED).

PID	NAME	ADDRESS	PARK TYPE	SIZE (HA)	AMENITIES	ACQUIRED	COMMENTS
41441353	Broad Street Park	Parcel P-11, Broad Street	Community	1.65	Stormwater drainage area with flat pad.	2017	Parcel is bermed at the street and lower in behind. A flat pad is set for future facilities. A lower play meadow doubles as stormwater drainage.
41421546	Evandale Lane Park	205 Abbingdon Avenue	Neighbourhood	0.14	Playground	2017	Playground is a dominant feature in the park.
41441205, 41402488	Abbingdon Avenue Community Park	Parcel P-7, Abbingdon Avenue	Community	5.68	Trails, pedestrian bridge, benches, gazebo	2016, 2017	Park is a drainage corridor with forested edges. 1000 m of crusher dust trail connect the park from Broad St. connecting to Abbingdon Ave, Crownridge Drive, and Innsbrook Way, and also to Amesbury Gate Park via a pedestrian bridge. Water access is frequented by the public.
41470766	Unnamed Open Space	PARCEL P-03C, Amesbury Gate	Open Space	1.12	Water frontage	2019	Forested parcel adjacent to Abbingdon Avenue Community Park.
41403692	Amesbury Gate Community Park	Parcel P-02, Amesbury Gate	Community	2.11	Trails, gravel parking	2016	Forested parcel with approximately 580 m crusher dust trails connecting to Amesbury Gate and Abbingdon Gate Park. Park has water frontage. Small Parking area at Amesbury Gate/Larry Uteck.
41406729	Unnamed Park Amesbury Gate 2	160 Amesbury Gate	Community	0.06		2016	Narrow frontage, pad ready. Intended to accommodate trail connection/entrance.
41406844, 41408287	Unnamed Park Amesbury Gate 1	Parcel P-04, Amesbury Gate	Community	2.13	Trails, water frontage, natural drainage area	2016	Approximately 400 m Crusher Dust Trail connects Larry Uteck Boulevard and Amesbury Gate.
41470758	P-03C	Amesbury Gate Bedford Parcel P-03b	Open Space	0.72		2019	Forested drainage area adjacent to Unnamed Park Amesbury Gate 2
41408279	Unnamed open space	PARCEL OS-1, Larry Uteck	Open Space	2.5	Water frontage	2017	Forested drainage area adjacent to Unnamed Park Amesbury Gate 1.

TABLE 1: BEDFORD WEST PARK INVENTORY (CONTINUED).

PID	NAME	ADDRESS	PARK TYPE	SIZE (HA)	AMENITIES	ACQUIRED	COMMENTS
41308610	Provincial open space	LOT 2R-2, Bicen-ten-nial Highway	Provincial	0.95		Not acquired: Provincial Land	Forested parcel adjacent to highway roundabout. Not useful for recreation purposes.
41404906	Bradford Place Park	112 Bradford Place	Neighbourhood	0.3	Playground, play lawn.	2016	Playground located on Amesbury Gate side of the park. Halifax Water easement through the eastern edge of the parcel.
41400383	Hogan Court Park	PARCEL P-01, Ho-gan Court	Neighbourhood	0.98	Picnic tables, benches, play lawn	2016	An AT trail cuts through the park but dead-ends at a Halifax Water easement and private property.
00340646, 00340653,00340661, 00340679,4129 9751,40095218, 40095200,0034 1727,00341727, 40554743	Kearney Lake Beach Park	15 Hamshaw Drive	District	0.93	Playground, play lawn, beach, gravel parking, boat launch, dock, seasonal wash-room		The municipality is a partial owner of the waterfront park. A power corridor runs through the middle of the site.
41505009	Brookline Drive Park	Brookline Drive	Community	0.97	Pickleball courts, walking path, playlawn	2022 (expected)	Playground and picnic structure to be installed in 2022.
41505041	Brookline Drive Park- Open Space	Brookline Drive Parcel OS-1	Open Space	4.56	Pond	2022 (expected)	Forested wetland parcel
41504994, 41504978	Unnamed Park-Regional Trail Head, Brook-line Drive	Brookline Drive	Regional	18.37	Parking lot, trailhead, pe-destrian bridge	2022 (expected)	Trailhead for the BMBCL Regional Park.
41508417	Unnamed Passive Park- Brookline Drive	Brookline Drive	Community	1.71	Walking path, picnic area, play lawn.	2022 (expected)	Community use and trailhead for the BMBCL Regional Park.
41400334	Bedford Ravines School	50 Broad Street	Provincial	6.5	Sportsfield, playgrounds, basketball court.	Provincial Land, school set to open in 2022/23	

## 2.3 PARK SERVICE DELIVERY

Parkland needs are partially determined by settlement patterns designated in the Regional Plan (e.g. Regional Centre, Urban Settlement, Rural Commuter, and Rural). Broadly speaking, the more populated and dense a community is, the higher demand there is for parkland and the closer together that parkland and park facilities may be. Less dense residential areas have more opportunities for private outdoor recreation and there may be less of a reliance on parkland to meet daily outdoor recreation needs.

Park service delivery targets have not yet been developed for Bedford West. Given the residential density of the community, the following benchmarks\* have been developed with service distances reflective of those in the Regional Centre:

- General access to parks, 500 m.
- Access to tennis courts, 1600 m (not mapped in this report as there are no tennis courts within the community).
- Access to basketball courts, 1200 m.
- Access to playground, 1000 m.
- Access to play lawns, 1000 m.

Not all parts of the community meet these targets, but the implementation of the park plan can begin to fill in the identified gaps in service. Where possible, parks should be designed to accommodate a variety of passive and active opportunities collocated together.

Other facilities that are less dependent on specific access/travel distance standards include:

- Sport fields, based on their specialized nature.

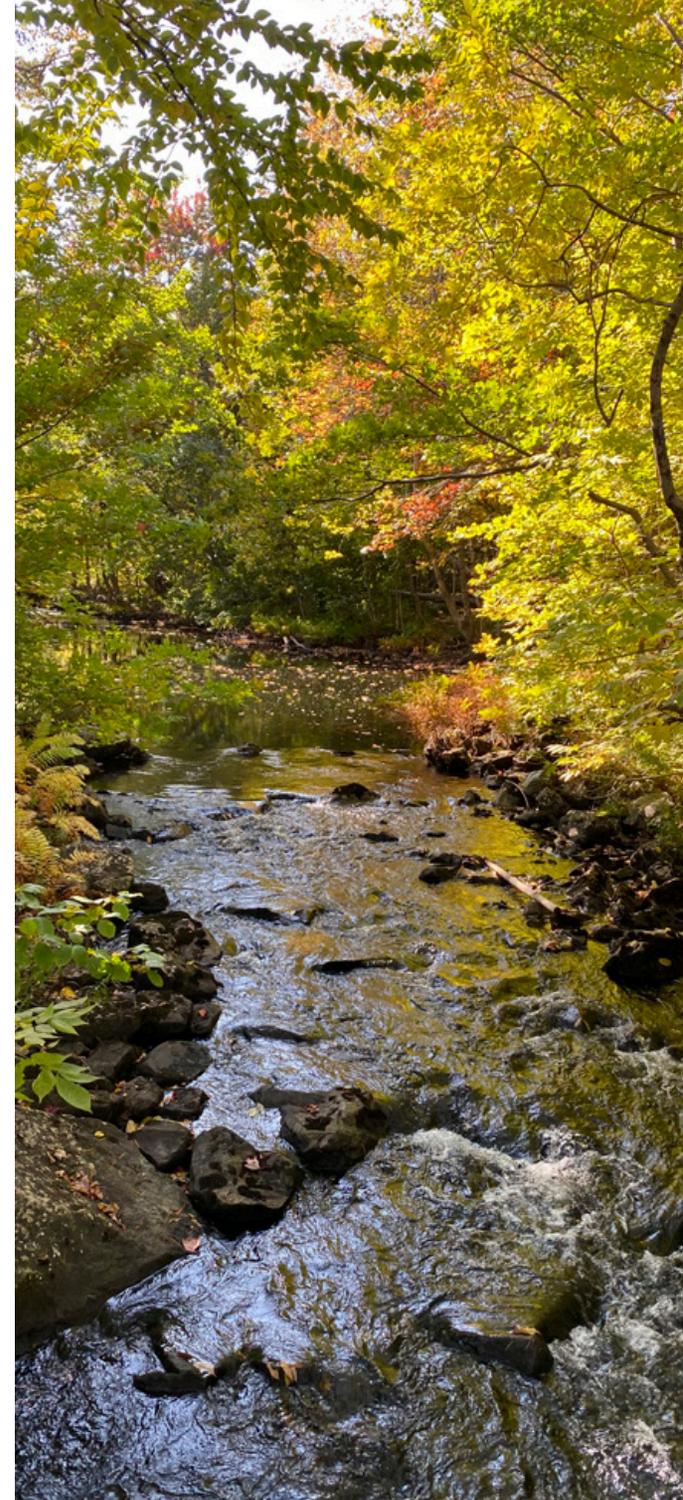
- Trail access, no distance standard. Location is based on topography and ability for connections.
- Pickleball courts continue to emerge as popular facilities and are subject to regular assessment.
- There are other park facilities that are more regional in nature (e.g., BMX and skate park facilities), and may be considered both inside or outside of the community in future budgets to satisfy a described need.

\*At times, a departure from service benchmarks is required to consider the specific needs of a community, residential density, and intensity of use.

### PLANNING CHALLENGES

Planning challenges have emerged within the community of Bedford West where new mixed-use developments with relatively high densities put pressure on existing parkland. Parts of this community have a higher residential density than some areas of the Regional Centre. Multi-unit development, generally with more households per area of land, does not result in additional parkland dedications of land or facilities.

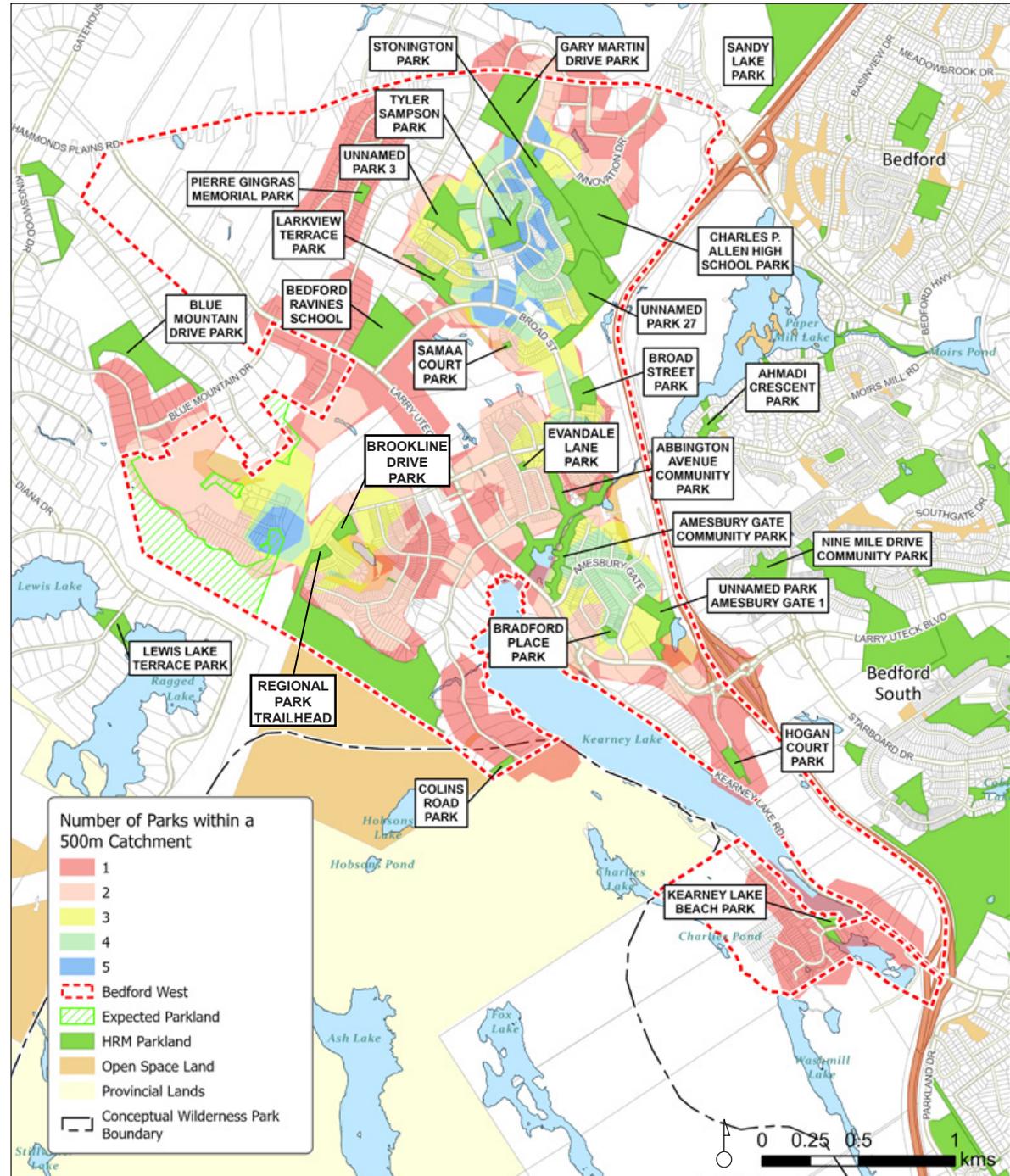
The primary way in which parkland is acquired is through subdivision dedications, but there can be challenges in acquiring well distributed parkland of adequate size given the natural lay of the land, road frontage, and pressure for other forms of infrastructure.



## ACCESS TO PARKLAND

Established for the purposes of this study, a benchmark of 500 m has been set as a service radius to access parkland. Based on the following evaluation (Map 4), most residents have access to at least one park within 500 m of their residence. It is worth noting that this metric identifies an opportunity for a park experience; it does not consider park quality, developed facilities, or their level of finish.

Level of service is colour-coded on the attached map (Map 4). Residential areas shown in blue have five park access locations within 500 m whereas those in dark rose have one. An absence of service is shown in white; this is primarily in areas that have yet to be developed with residential dwellings.



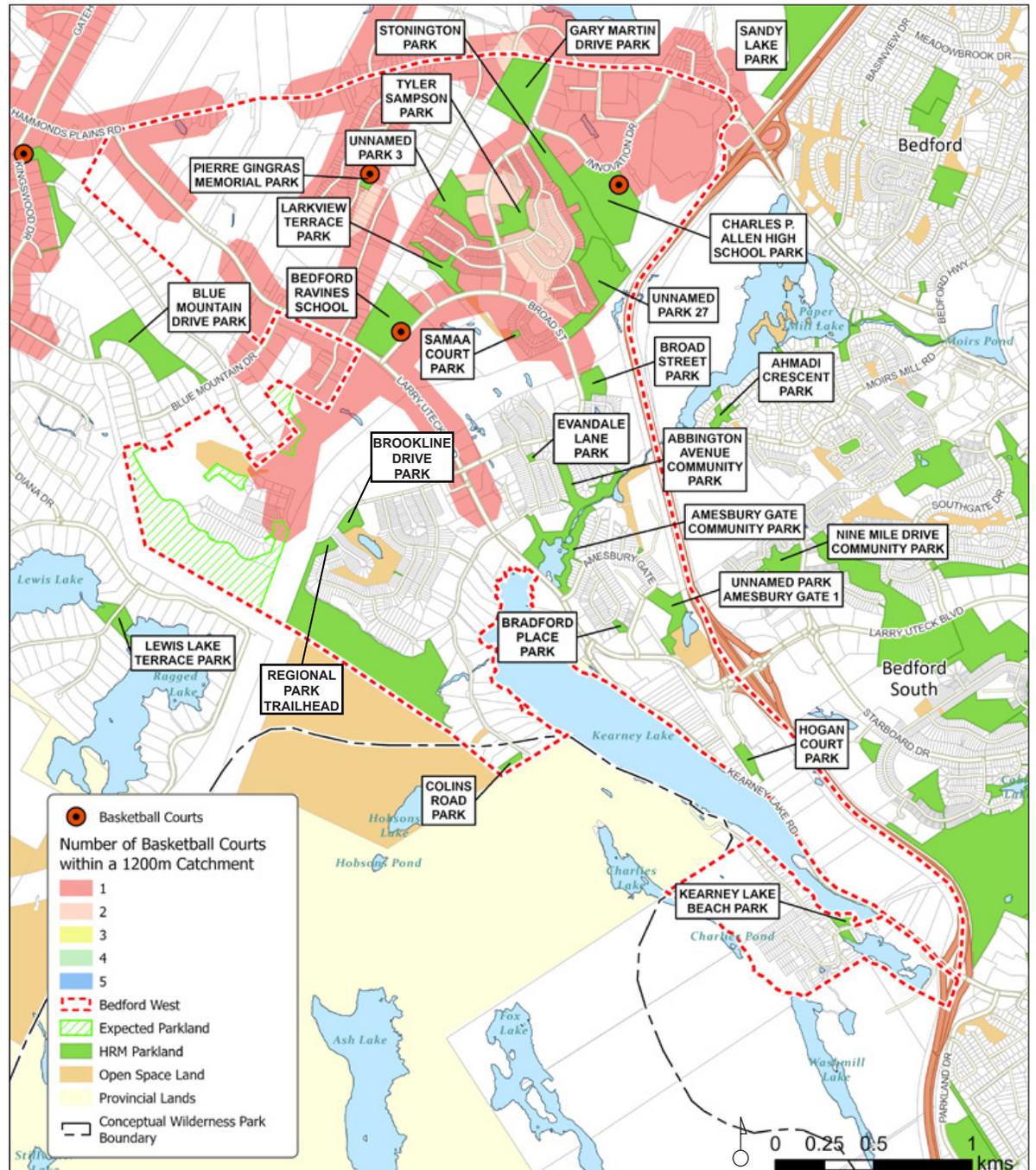
MAP 4: COMMUNITY ACCESS TO PARKLAND

## BASKETBALL COURTS

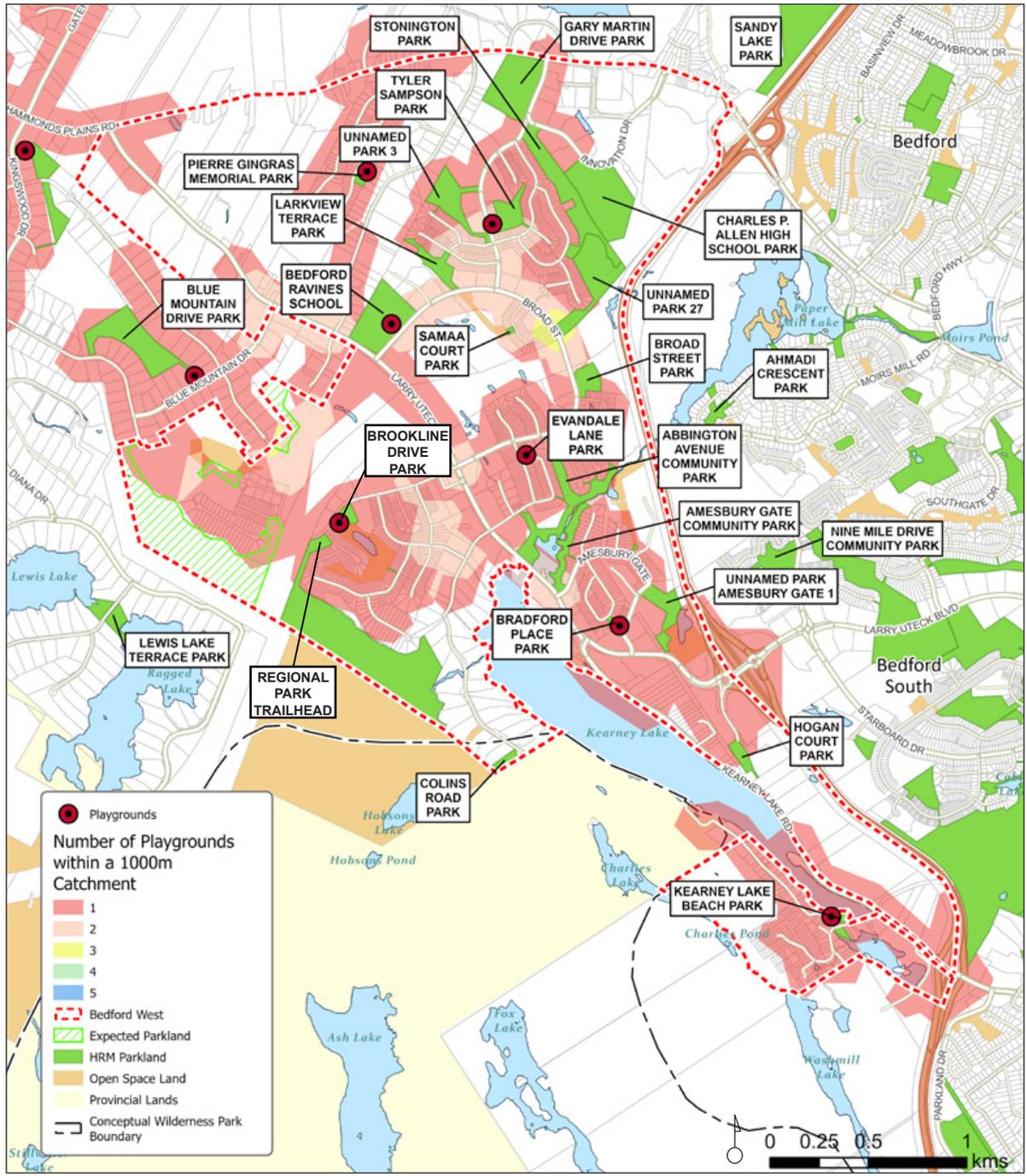
Within Bedford West, there is only limited access to existing basketball courts, which include:

- Pierre Gringras Memorial Park
- Charles P. Allen High School,
- Bedford Ravines School (expected).

Level of service is colour-coded on the attached map (Map 5). Residential areas shown in dark rose have access to one basketball court, within the specified 1200m standard, and those shown in pink have access to two courts. An absence of service is shown in white and this has implications for future facility placement.



MAP 5: COMMUNITY ACCESS TO BASKETBALL COURTS.



**PLAYGROUNDS**

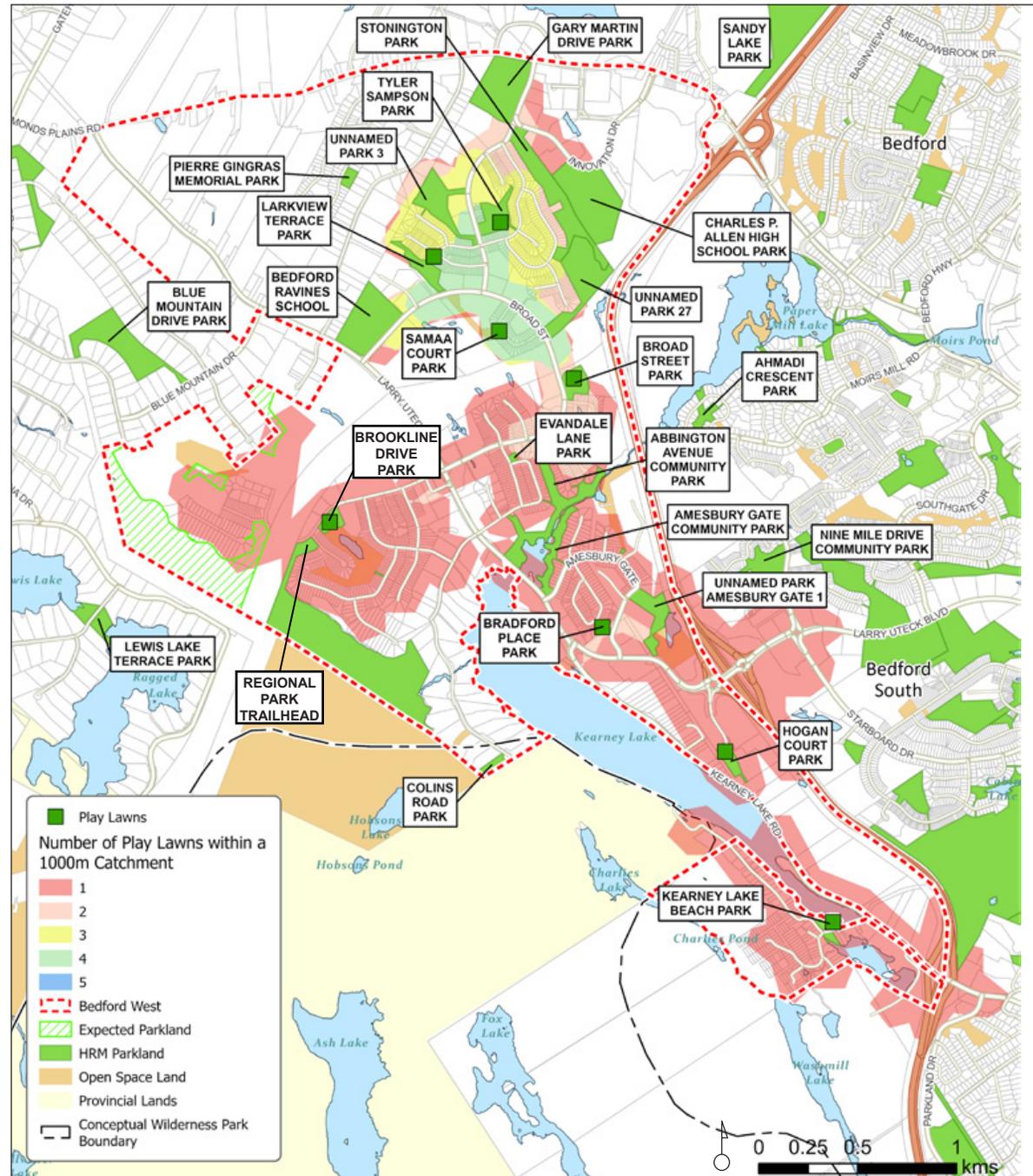
Not considering the quality of playgrounds or range of play opportunities, most residents have access to at least one playground within 1000 m of home (shown in dark rose). Residential areas shown in pink have access to two playgrounds within 1000 m. An absence of service is shown in white, but these areas are largely either undeveloped or comprised of non-residential land uses (Map 6).

MAP 6: COMMUNITY ACCESS TO PLAYGROUNDS.

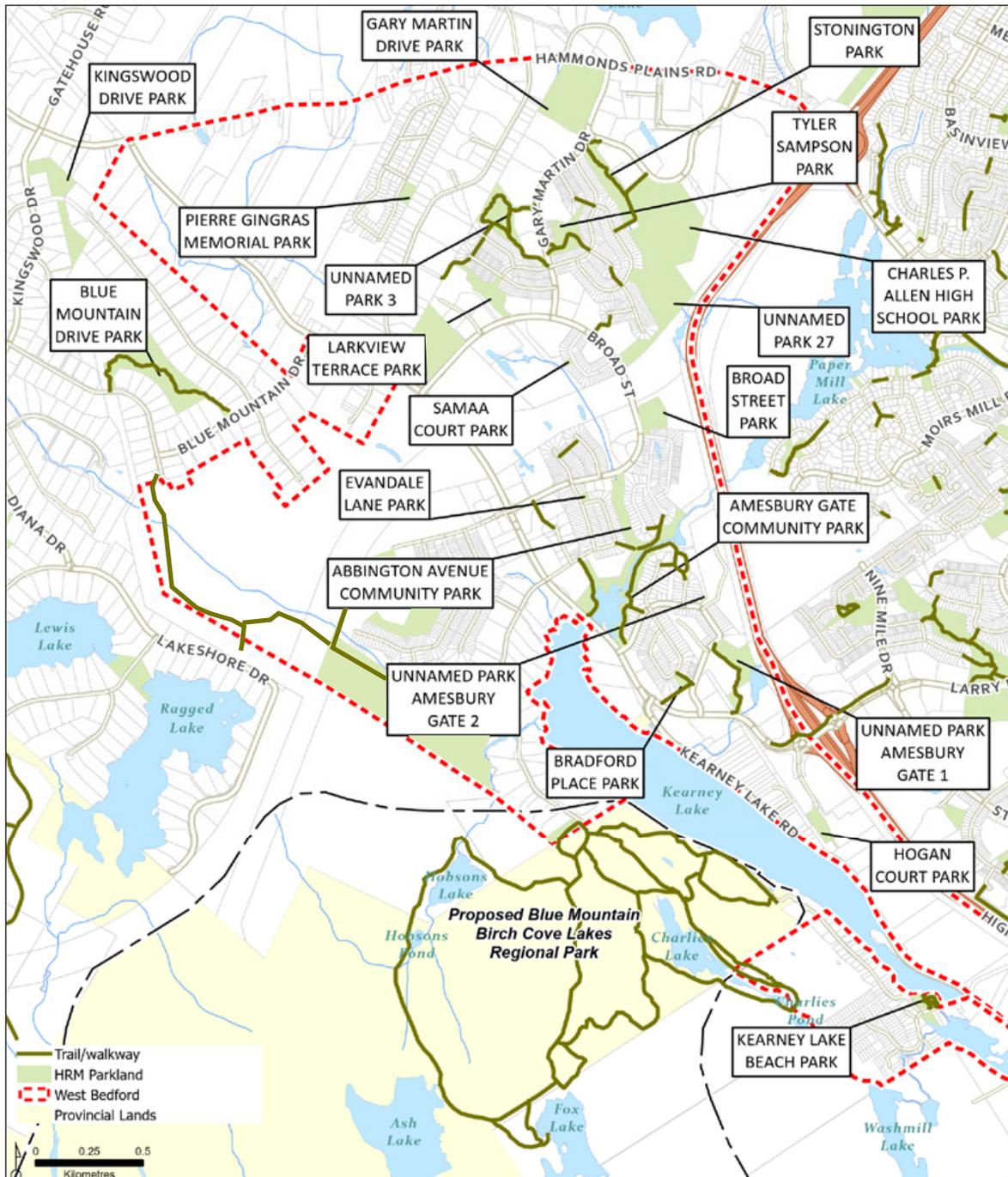
## PLAY LAWNS

For the purpose of this study, play lawns vary in size and shape and are useful for unscheduled pick-up lawn sports and passive gathering (e.g., picnicking, gathering). Play lawns are smaller than sportfields and often accompany playgrounds.

Level of service is colour-coded on Map 7. Residential areas shown in dark rose have access to one play lawn and those shown in yellow and teal have access to three and four play lawns, respectively. An absence of service is shown in white, these are areas that are largely either undeveloped or comprised of non-residential land uses.



MAP 7: COMMUNITY ACCESS TO PLAY LAWNS.



MAP 8: INVENTORY OF TRAILS/WALKWAYS.

### TRAILS, WALKWAYS, AND CONNECTIONS

Parks within the community become integral social spaces and transportation corridors that are best connected via multiple forms of transportation, particularly active transportation, and transit.

The development of trails within Bedford West has been integrated into sub area development agreements. The intention is for developers to implement trails that connect to destination nodes. Additional land may also be dedicated for the development of trails by the municipality.

There are many kilometers of trails that offer daily recreational opportunities (Map 8), often through wooded portions of the community. In the road right-of-way, there are sidewalks on most newly developed residential streets. An asphalt multi-use trail loops through the immediate centre of the community along Broad Street/Brookline Road and also to the north along Gary Martin Drive from Broad Street to Innovation Drive. Another multi-use trail spans Innovation Drive from Garry Martin Drive to Western Parkway.

A number of street-to-street connections also exist to aid in pedestrian movement between neighbourhoods.

# 3 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## 3.1 ROUND ONE: VALUES GATHERING

The purpose of the first engagement program was to collect the issues and opportunities that the public have identified and how park projects should be prioritized. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were limited opportunities for in-person engagement. However, staff developed an online survey to capture public feedback. The survey was open for public comment from February 1 until March 8, 2021.

### ONLINE SURVEY SUMMARY

#### Demographics

The online survey was completed by 379 individuals, with the following composition:

- 84% of survey respondents live in Bedford West; 30% of those who reside in the community are relatively new (2 years or less); 29% have lived in the community for 3-5 years; 15% have lived in the community for 6-10 years; and 9% of respondents have lived in the community for more than 10 years.
- Although open to all, no one under the age of 18 years completed the survey. Approximately 15% of respondents are between the ages of 19 to 34 years; 51% of survey respondents are between the ages of 35-49 years; 20% are between the ages of 50 to 64 years; and 12% are 65 years or older (Figure 2).

- 58% of survey respondents are female and 39% male; 1 respondent identified as non-binary and 6 respondents preferred not to answer.
- Approximately 45% of households have four or more people; 55% of households have one to three people per household (Figure 3).
- Approximately 71% of respondents live in a single family home, 18% are living in an apartment or condo and 11% living in a townhouse or duplex (Figure 4).

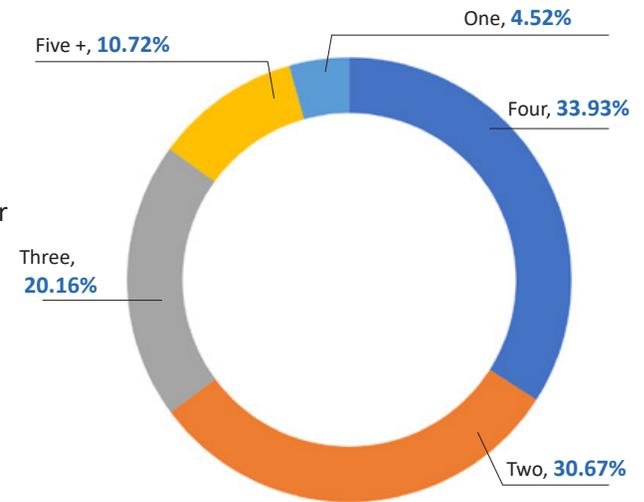


FIGURE 3: NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD.

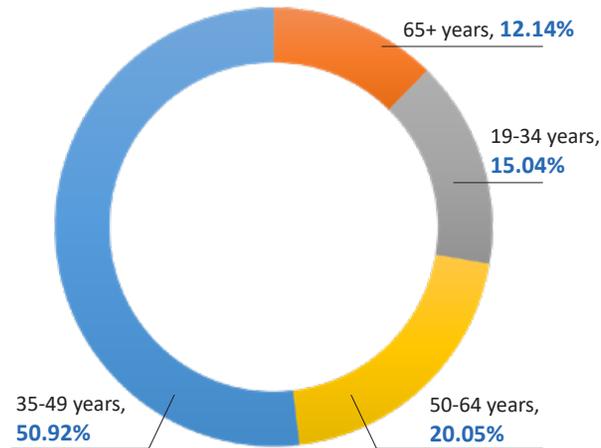


FIGURE 2: AGE BREAKDOWN OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS.

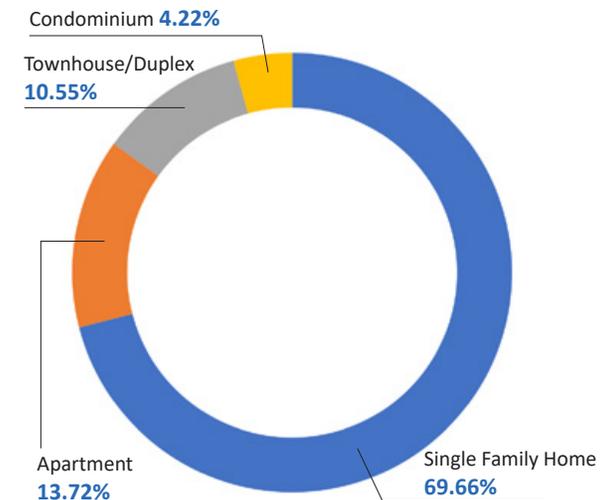
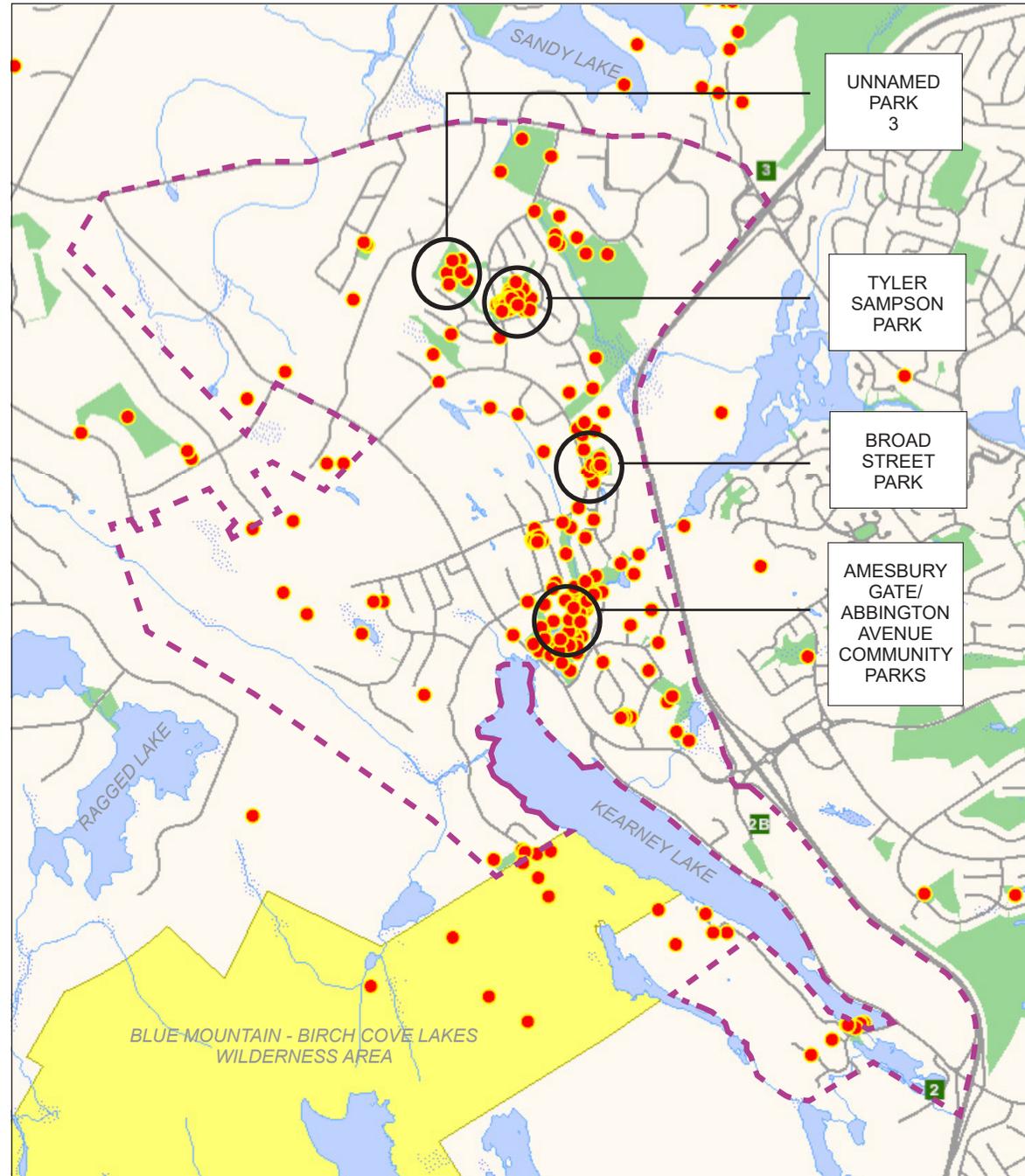


FIGURE 4: BREAKDOWN OF RESPONDENTS' LIVING SITUATION.

## Park User Experiences

- When asked why residents visit parks, a series of responses were frequent: personal and family exercise, to walk and run dogs, to let kids play on the playgrounds, and to connect with and relax in nature. It is clear that these daily interactions with parks are important for respondents.
- 56% of survey respondents said that they visit parks a few times per week, 23% visit a park at least once per week.
- 83% of survey respondents say they walk/roll to use parks within the community; 26% said they bike, 36% said they drive to visit parks. Note that respondents were able to select more than one mode of travel.
- The majority of respondents identified that they do not require special accommodation when visiting parks. Some elderly respondents identified mobility issues that limit travel distances on foot and the need to rest frequently. Some respondents mentioned the importance of access for families with strollers. A few respondents identified themselves as living with a disability, needing access to low-sensory natural environments.
- Although respondents identified that they do visit parks in other areas of the municipality, the most frequently visited parks are close to home within the community (Map 9).
- Respondents said that when they do leave the community to use parks, it is because certain recreation infrastructure is not available close to home (e.g. off-leash dog facilities, swimming and water play, tennis courts, sportfields, playgrounds with wider variety of play, bike trails, accessible wilderness trails), or simply for a change of scenery.



MAP 9: SURVEY RESPONDENTS' PRIMARY LOCATION FOR PARK ACCESS AND RECREATION.

## Park Issues

Survey respondents identified a number of park issues that impact their use of parkland in the community. In total, 11 categories have been summarized below.

### Connectivity

There is concern from some respondents that some parts of the community are isolated from each other. Some established trails in the community are dead-ends or are incomplete.

### Investment in parks

Some respondents believe that parks are underdeveloped with many parcels left forested or grassed. The level of investment in facilities is not seen to be keeping up to community expectations or the demand.

### Active open space

Respondents have stressed that there is a lack of large-scale open space for active recreation. Sportfields, bike facilities, splash pads, and sport courts are some of the commonly mentioned features that are lacking for the community.

### Maintenance

A commonly identified issue is the lack of regular maintenance of green spaces within the community. Mowing, drainage, dying trees, and garbage collection being the mostly frequently mentioned.

### Wayfinding & signage

Respondents believe that wayfinding to identify trails and to direct people is needed within the community. There is a lack of understanding of park/land ownership and rules for park users.

### Overuse of parks

The community is growing quickly and respondents frequently mentioned the

increasing demand for parks and parks facilities. The level of use is seen to be unsustainable and in certain places (e.g. Kearney Lake Beach), damaging to the natural environment.

### Road safety

Although not under parks management, respondents maintain that road access to parks can be problematic given the speed of traffic, road widths, lack of crosswalks, and poor sight lines.

### Dogs off-leash

The presence of dogs in parks is polarizing. The presence of dogs off-leash, lack of enforcement, and the lack of places for dogs to be off-leash are cited as issues within the community.

### Park safety

While personal safety and crime were not extensively raised as issues, respondents brought attention to physical quality of facilities to improve their safety (e.g. trail surfaces, separation between play and traffic/road edges).

### Development pressure

Some respondents identified the challenges living in construction, construction impacts on parkland, and safety for those trying to access parkland. There is concern that land that could be parkland is being built upon instead of being retained as natural space.

### Parking

A lack of enforcement of parking on road shoulders for those accessing parks is a concern for some survey respondents. The lack of parking for park users is also cited as an issue.

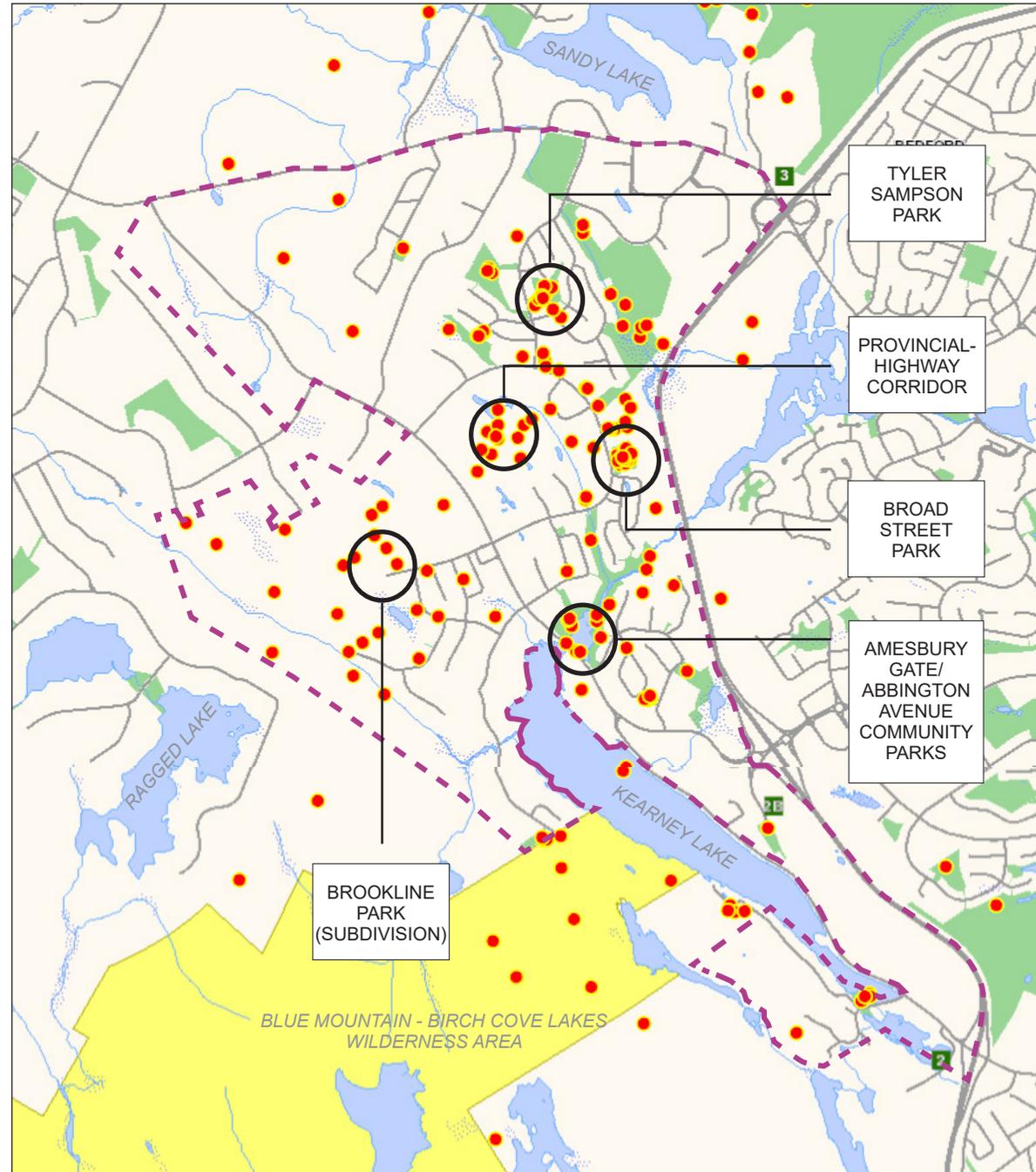
“Park (including swimming area) is insufficient for the population growth in the area. It is often overcrowded, no washroom outside of the two month summer season, wharf is a danger and not maintained, parking is challenging.”

“Broad Street Park is called a park but there is nothing there except a hill to sled on in the winter.”

## Park Opportunities

Survey respondents identified park opportunities spatially with a mapping function. Although there were many spaces identified throughout and outside the community (Map 10), some of the most frequently mentioned opportunity spaces include:

- *Broad Street Park:* Without knowing some of the limitations within the park as they relate to stormwater functions, respondents are looking for a developed park for recreation. Some suggested ideas for development include, a dog park, sport courts (e.g. tennis, basketball, ball hockey), garbage cans, outdoor skating rink, park lighting, splash pad, inclusive playground, skate park, pump track.
- *Tyler Sampson Park:* There is interest from respondents to expand on the existing play elements, including additional playground equipment for older youth, sport courts (e.g. tennis, basketball, ball hockey, multi-purpose), skate park, dog park, picnic areas, splash pad, and trails.
- *Provincial Highway Corridor:* Without knowing the ownership or future of the parcel, many respondents identified opportunities in the wooded area including trail development for recreation and community connection, outdoor field sports, a pool, splash pad, community gardens and oven, and a dog off-leash area.
- *Brookline Park subdivision:* When identifying opportunities for park uses on the west side of Larry Uteck Boulevard, respondents were interested in sport courts (e.g. pickleball, tennis, basketball), trail development, pedestrian connections to Kingswood and BMBCL, community gardens and, playgrounds.



MAP 10: PARK OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS.

- *Amesbury Gate/Abbingdon Avenue Community Parks*: Respondents recognized the opportunity to connect the existing trail system along the power corridor towards Broad Street Park. There are trail sections that dead-end that could be looped to continue the network (e.g. Larry Uteck Blvd). A floating dock was identified to make water access easier in this area.

More general open-ended park opportunity comments were collected and have been organized into 11 categories.

#### Park development

Broadly speaking, many respondents are looking for parks to be developed within the community beyond forested parcels or flat turfed areas.

#### Sport Courts

Many respondents said that they have to leave the community to seek active recreation options (e.g. pickleball, tennis, basketball, ball hockey, multipurpose pads). Sport courts within walking distance are described as important.

#### Preservation of natural lands

Some survey respondents see more opportunities to protect natural forested lands and natural connections from development and to see those lands preserved for recreation.

#### Water access

Respondents see opportunities to expand upon the one main beach access point (i.e. Kearney Lake Beach) to include other points of access with amenities (e.g. floating docks). A small number of comments requesting a community pool were also collected.

#### Interactive water play

When describing opportunities to enhance existing parks and playgrounds, a number of respondents would like to see the development of splash pads.

#### Trail development

Trails are highly valued within the community. Respondents are looking for further trail development to complete loops and enhance experiences. Signage and wayfinding is also valued.

#### Dog Off-leash areas

Although also presented as an issue, a number of respondents would like to see formalized areas for dogs to run and socialize within the community.

#### Winter recreation

Opportunities for parks to offer play during the winter months was described as important (e.g. sledding hills, cross-country skiing trails, hockey).

#### Playgrounds

Although there are some playgrounds within the community, residents see an opportunity for playgrounds that offer expanded play for all ages.

#### Regional active space

Beyond the traditional recreation offerings found in parks, there is some interest within the community to see more unique features like a skate park and a pump track.

#### Field sports

Some respondents would like to see more park spaces developed with sportfields or open areas to run and play. Additional equipment like soccer nets are seen as desirable.

“ In the Parks of West Bedford there needs to be a bigger park rather than smaller ones. Something with a field, basketball court, splash pad. Something that is all-encompassing. Something that attracts the older kids. ”

“ There are a lot of trail sections throughout the West Bedford area, but they are not connected. Connecting them to form a network of trails would be ideal. ”

### Park Priorities

When asked to prioritize specific park facilities that should be included in future park development plans, survey respondents ranked facilities on a scale from 1 to 5, five being the most important (Figure 5).

### Facility Priorities

Some facilities resonated with respondents. For example, 85% of respondents see continued trail development as important within the community; 75% of respondents see more tree planting a priority; 71% of respondents see the passive use of nature as important; 65%

of respondents see lake access as important; 56% of respondents see winter activities (e.g. cross-country skiing, skating, hockey, sledding) as important; 53% of survey respondents see water play (i.e. splash pad) as important within the community; 51% of respondents see the development of new playgrounds as important; and 41% of respondents see multipurpose sport courts as important.

Although there are no registered community garden groups within the community, approximately 38% of respondents view places to grow food as important. The priority

for indoor recreation facilities in parks was split amongst survey respondents with the same number of people describing it as unimportant as important. Despite many comments supporting dog off-leash facilities, prioritization within the community is also split with approximately 54% of respondents describing these facilities as important. Approximately 65% of survey respondents see beach volleyball as unimportant. About 18.5% of survey respondents selected a skate park as an important facility within the community. When asked to prioritize sportfields, approximately 33% of respondents placed importance on this facility.

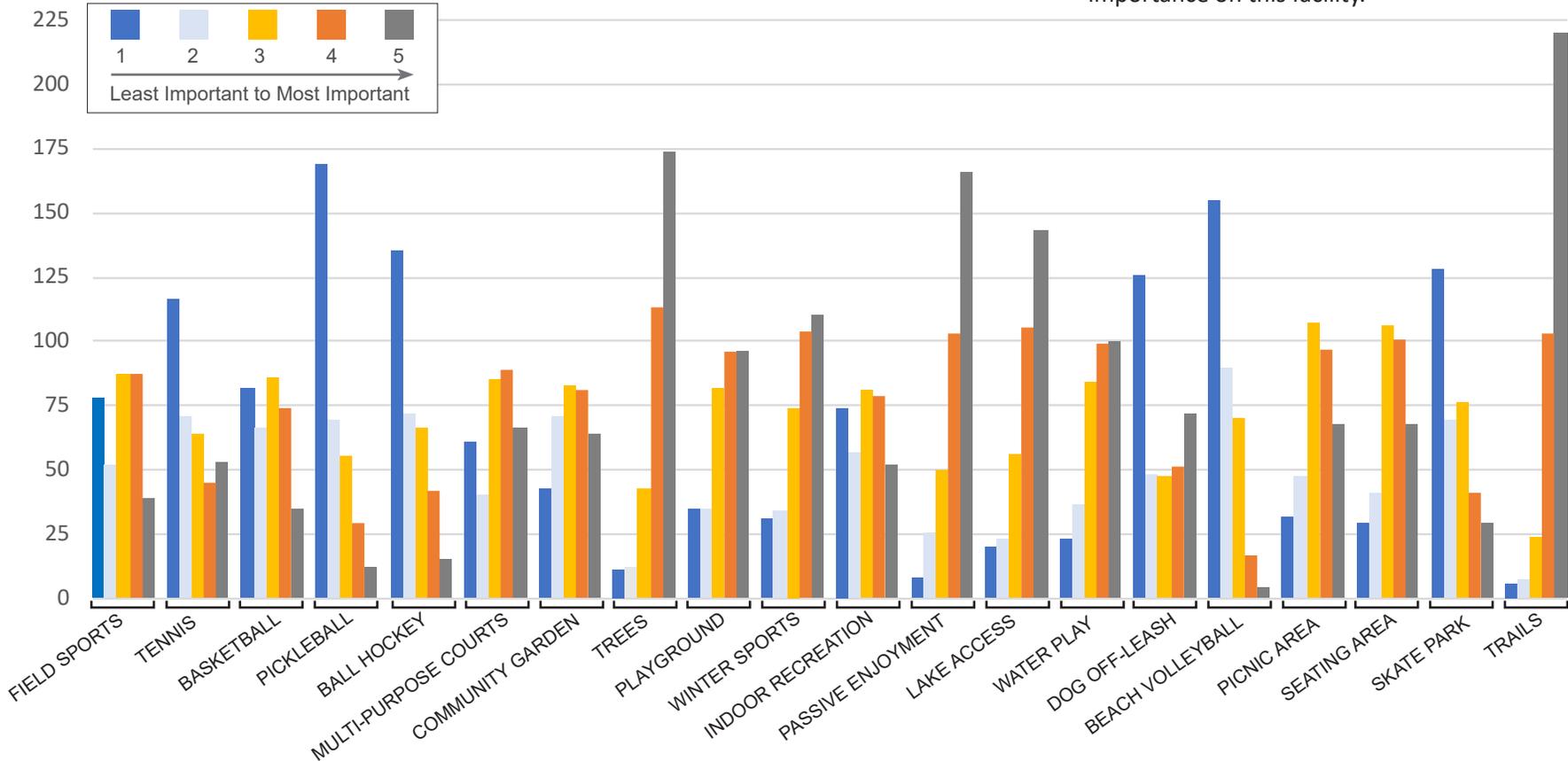


FIGURE 5: PARK FACILITY PRIORITIES.

Other facility priorities are not quite as clear as some discrepancies appear in the results. For example, within open ended responses elsewhere in the survey, sport courts are one of the most requested features within parks. However, when asked to prioritize, only 29% of respondents described basketball courts as important and 26% of respondents described tennis as important. Regarding ball hockey courts, 36% of respondents selected this facility as unimportant. Only 11% of respondents saw pickleball as important.

With the understanding that capital is limited and that upgrades must be funded over many years, survey respondents were also asked to prioritize the types of facilities that they would like to see funded and implemented first. In order of the most frequently mentioned facilities:

1. Trail development
2. Off-leash dog park/off-leash trails
3. Tennis courts
4. Swimming pool
5. Splash pad
6. Playground
7. Protection of natural lands
8. Lake access
9. Tree planting
10. Skate Park

## SUMMARY

- The majority of respondents (84%) live within the community.
- The majority of respondents (85%) are over the age of 34.
- While there were no respondents 18 years of age or younger, many respondents were clearly parents and were identifying needs for children.
- Respondents maintain that parks are an essential component of life for exercise, family recreation, and personal well-being.
- Parks and facilities within walking distance to home are preferred as the majority (83%) of survey respondents walk to visit parks.
- Many respondents described the need to leave to community to recreate because parks within Bedford West lack a wide variety of active recreation facilities.
- Trail development continues to be an important community asset and was one of the most frequently mentioned facilities within the survey.
- There are some discrepancies between described recreation need and the prioritization of facilities. For example, basketball, tennis, and pickleball courts were strongly favoured within written responses, but prioritized lower when displayed in a list of other facilities.
- Frequently mentioned issues observed in community parkland include: a lack of trail connectivity, overuse of existing parks; under investment in park finishes and maintenance; a lack of large-scale open spaces for a variety of facilities; a lack of wayfinding and signage; a gap in enforcement of dog off-leash activity and a lack of official places for dogs; perceived

issues with road safety en route to parks; continued development pressure on parks and natural lands; and a lack of parking for those arriving to parks by vehicle.

- Frequently mentioned opportunities for park development include: improving the level of finish beyond forested and turfed open space; sport courts, the protection of forested lands; improved access to Kearney Lake; water play via splash pads; official dog off-leash areas; spaces conducive for winter recreation; playgrounds offering a wide range of play; sportfields; and active recreation space that allows for the collocation of multiple facilities.
- The top three priorities, as identified by respondents, include the development of trails, off-leash dog parks, and tennis courts.

# 3 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## 3.2 ROUND TWO: PRESENTATION OF IDEAS

To follow-up on the previously hosted online engagement program, 'What We Heard' and park opportunity summaries were presented to the public. The park opportunity summaries were comprised of maps that identified potential parkland improvements that have been refined based upon public consultation and further analysis and presented in subsequent sections.

The COVID-19 pandemic prevented in-person engagement, so the presentation of ideas was delivered online with a short follow up survey. The engagement ran from July 29 - September 13, 2021 and was completed by 89 individuals. The 'What We Heard' and park opportunities summaries remain posted on the park planning webpage as a reference for the community.

Presented in this section are the four questions that respondents were asked and the accompanying community responses.

**Q1: I AGREE THAT THE 'WHAT WE HEARD' SUMMARY IS AN ACCURATE REPRESENTATION OF PUBLIC INPUT.**

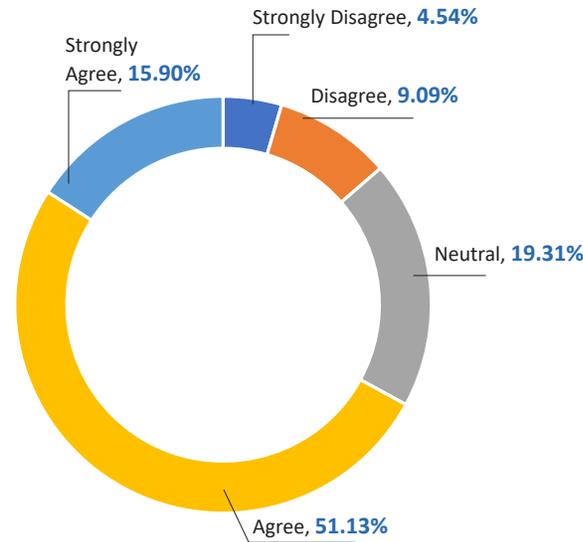


FIGURE 6: PERCEPTION OF ACCURACY OF PUBLIC FEEDBACK.

It is clear that there is general acceptance that the 'what we heard' summary is an accurate representation of public input. Approximately 67% of survey respondents either agree or strongly agree with what was presented. Almost 20% of respondents were indifferent, not agreeing or disagreeing. Approximately 14% of survey respondents do not think that the 'What We Heard' summary reflects the comments provided in the first engagement opportunity.

**Q2: I AGREE THAT THE 'PARK OPPORTUNITIES' IDENTIFIED WILL SATISFY PARK NEEDS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.**

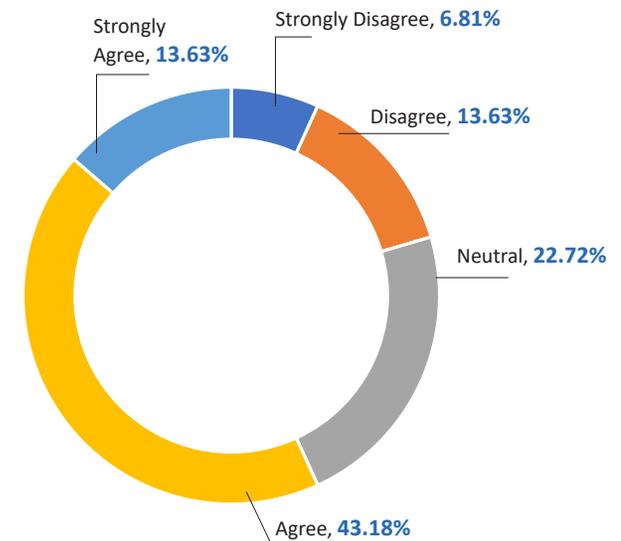


FIGURE 7: RESPONDENT SATISFACTION WITH PROPOSED PARK OPPORTUNITIES.

This question asked respondents to review the park opportunity maps provided and confirm if the conceptual vision is adequate to satisfy the park need within the community. Approximately 57% of respondents agree or strongly agree that the opportunities will satisfy need. Almost 23% of people stayed neutral on the subject, whereas just over 20% of respondents do not believe that these opportunities are a reflection of community park needs.

**Q3: OVERALL, I LIKE THE PARK FACILITIES THAT ARE PROPOSED FOR THE COMMUNITY.**

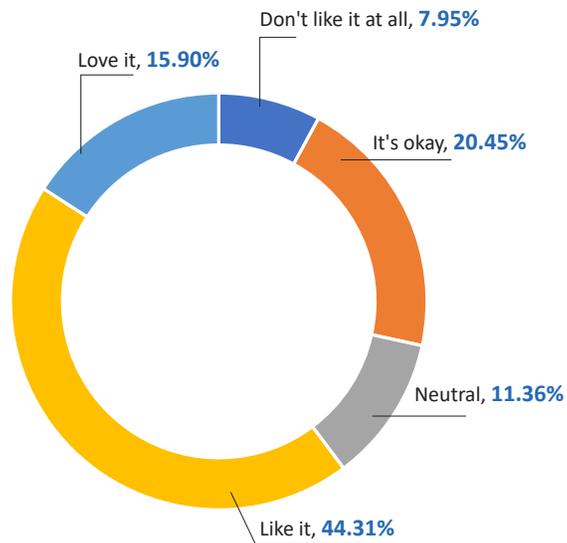


FIGURE 8: OVERALL RESPONDENT SATISFACTION WITH PROPOSED PARK FACILITIES.

Approximately 60% of survey respondents said they were in favour of the proposed park facilities, "Great summary addressing the concerns and potential opportunities for the area. The plans for Broad St. Park sound great... like a mini Halifax Commons". Almost 32% of respondents were either neutral or "okay" with the park facilities but identified gaps, "I do like the plans...though less is planned in terms of improvements/enhancements for the Stonington Park area... the major plans for this area involve signage and shaded areas, instead of something more substantial...". Approximately 8% of respondents said they did not like the proposed park facilities at all reinforcing major challenges within the community, "The Kearney Lake Beach is overused to the point of being unsafe for users, pedestrian access and residents' safe access to our homes".

**Q4: IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE US TO KNOW?**

A number of respondents reinforced what was captured in the last phase of engagement, that undeveloped park spaces aren't fully satisfying a recreation need within the community. An ideal recreation experience is one that balances both recreational trails and defined active play.

There is a sense of urgency amongst some respondents regarding the unsustainable use of parks, namely Kearney Lake Beach. With impending development nearby, there are safety issues that are anticipated to be worsened (e.g. pedestrian and vehicular access from Kearney Lake Road).

Given dog ownership within the community, an outdoor space to recreate with dogs off-leash continues to be a described need. However, dogs off-leash is also described as a nuisance in parks and some fear the presence of dogs.

A handful of responses in this round of engagement yielded new information not captured previously. For example, disc golf and a space large enough for a cricket pitch were mentioned by a small number of respondents.

Although outside the scope of this project, some respondents continue to stress road safety elements within the community such as the need for crosswalks, traffic calming, and parking enforcement.

“Biodiversity and species preservation need to be underlying principles throughout the plan.”

“There are enough trails, green space and trees—we need things for pre teens and teens to do.”

**SUMMARY**

- Public engagement was undertaken and has given valuable information related to recreation need. Facility priorities as identified by the public should be weighed against other recreation needs and service delivery standards over the life of this plan.
- Overall, more than 60% of all survey respondents identified their satisfaction with the proposed directions outlined in this engagement program.
- Some negative responses to the proposed park facilities were based on opinions that there should be limited facility development in favour of retaining the natural state of parks.
- Even with general acceptance of the proposed direction, survey respondents were keen to reaffirm the desired opportunities submitted in the first round of engagement (e.g. a wider variety of park facilities for all ages, better distribution of park resources, addressing the overuse and safe access of park space, among others).

# 4 FINDINGS

## 4.1 KEY FINDINGS AND ACTIONS

Through engagement, certain responses may not reflect the issues and opportunities reflected in this plan. For example, lands already approved for development being identified by the public for open space preservation.

Therefore, public engagement responses form only one part of analysis that also considers available parkland, future approved parkland, service delivery benchmarks, guiding policy, and community growth.

The following section illustrates the translation of park issues into opportunities, and further, into actions.

TABLE 2: PARK ACTIONS



Issues	Opportunities	Specific Actions
Many parks are in an undeveloped state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase park improvements to improve park service delivery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a phased plan that prioritizes park facility improvements.</li> <li>As remaining sub-phases of development are initiated, work with developers in a coordinated plan for recreation facilities.</li> <li>Where possible, coordinate investment into park facilities during the subdivision development process to ensure finished parks as neighbourhoods develop.</li> </ul>
Community members are interested in hands-on park development opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the community led development of new facilities and enhancements (e.g. trails, community gardens).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish, improve, promote, and foster stewardship programs* for the community to lead projects that fit within the Park Facilities Plan.</li> </ul>
Many parks within the community have a single use or limited range of recreation opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where possible, plan for well-distributed large-scaled parks.</li> <li>Improve the diversity of park uses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When acquiring land, plan for parks that can accommodate a variety of facilities and phased development.</li> <li>Combine complimentary park facilities when developing park plans.</li> </ul>
Designated access to water is limited to one beach that is at capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce the pressure on Kearney Lake Beach, increase the number of water access points within the community, or nearby the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve connections to water with a consideration of sites and facilities that can be accessed by active transportation and transit.</li> <li>Expand on the opportunities to access water to include canoe/kayak access.</li> <li>Consider other forms of water play (e.g. interactive fountain) in more urban portions of the community to allow for unsupervised aquatic recreation.</li> </ul>

\*STEWARDS AND PARTNERS: IN ADDITION TO MUNICIPAL-LED FUNDING, COMMUNITY GROUPS MAY ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO ORGANIZE AND FUNDRAISE FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS. IN ADDITION, THERE MAY BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS.

## 4.1 KEY FINDINGS AND ACTIONS

TABLE 2: PARK ACTIONS (CONTINUED)

Issues	Opportunities	Specific Actions
Overcrowding and over use of some parks limits the sustainability and comfortable use of public spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve upon park service delivery to better serve residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify where specific gaps exist within the community and prioritize implementation based on need.</li> <li>• Further analyze high-use parks through more detailed park planning and design.</li> <li>• Ensure that park maintenance considers the needs of high use parks.</li> <li>• Collaborate with other business units, when needed, to ensure the safe access and use of public lands.</li> </ul>
Land ownership and maintenance responsibilities (i.e. HRM, Province, and developers) are not clearly distinguished within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update or install signage within municipal parks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinating signage, including wayfinding and regulation, with other levels of government and organizations.</li> </ul>
Dogs off-leash in parks is problematic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to evaluate the suitability of dog-off-leash areas within the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the Off-Leash Administrative Order for direction on planning for off-leash areas.</li> <li>• Consider further public consultation specific to dog off-leash areas in the community.</li> </ul>
There are inefficiencies in the way parkland is organized and this challenges the movement between parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the layout, connections, and compatibility between adjacent recreation facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move away from isolated and dispersed recreation facilities towards more centralized and collocated facilities within the community.</li> <li>• Evaluate how trails and walkways can better link neighbourhoods and parks.</li> </ul>
Park safety and accessibility needs greater attention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve park access and visibility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site parkland predominantly along road frontage and avoid siting parks and facilities behind homes.</li> <li>• Consider park lighting along major pedestrian routes that receive foot traffic after dark.</li> <li>• Consider paved path surfaces in highly visited areas.</li> <li>• Install park signage at all primary park entrances.</li> </ul>
As the community densifies, there are few mechanisms in place to acquire new parkland from development without the subdivision of land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore processes to allow for density-related contributions towards parkland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Province of Nova Scotia to allow for density triggers for parkland dedication.</li> <li>• Work with HRM Planning and Development on changes to the subdivision bylaw or to determine when an infrastructure charge might be an appropriate tool for parkland parkland facility development.</li> </ul>

# 5 PARK OPPORTUNITIES

With almost 400 survey submissions, there were many different ideas for how parks should be planned and managed into the future. Some discrepancies have emerged between what the public has told us as compared to the opportunities identified during a thorough parks analysis. Part of this is the fact that the community is still developing, and residents may not fully understand the plan for community development, future parkland to be added to the municipal inventory, or what future park facilities are planned. As a result, some park facilities included within the plan may fall outside of public expectation.

Although there are limitations for the development of parks in the municipality, including timelines, budgets, annual maintenance needs, and compatibility with individual neighbourhoods; this Park Facilities Plan balances the various identified desires for improvements that have been suggested, with the parkland in community and feasibility considerations.

There are some park opportunities that have been identified by the public that are specialized and require further evaluation before they can be incorporated into parks within the community (e.g. Dog-off-leash area, pump track, and skate park). Dog off-leash areas in particular are guided by an Administrative Order that requires a minimum park area and be set away from residential areas, along with focused community consultation that would be prioritized against an existing work plan.

While it is important to note that this document is not a capital funding plan, the following pages are a high-level consolidation of public feedback while incorporating what is known about the physical landscape, land ownership, existing park facilities, community demographics, and guiding municipal plans and policy.

Park facility opportunities proposed for the community are broadly categorized into:

## AREAS FOR POSSIBLE PARK ENHANCEMENT

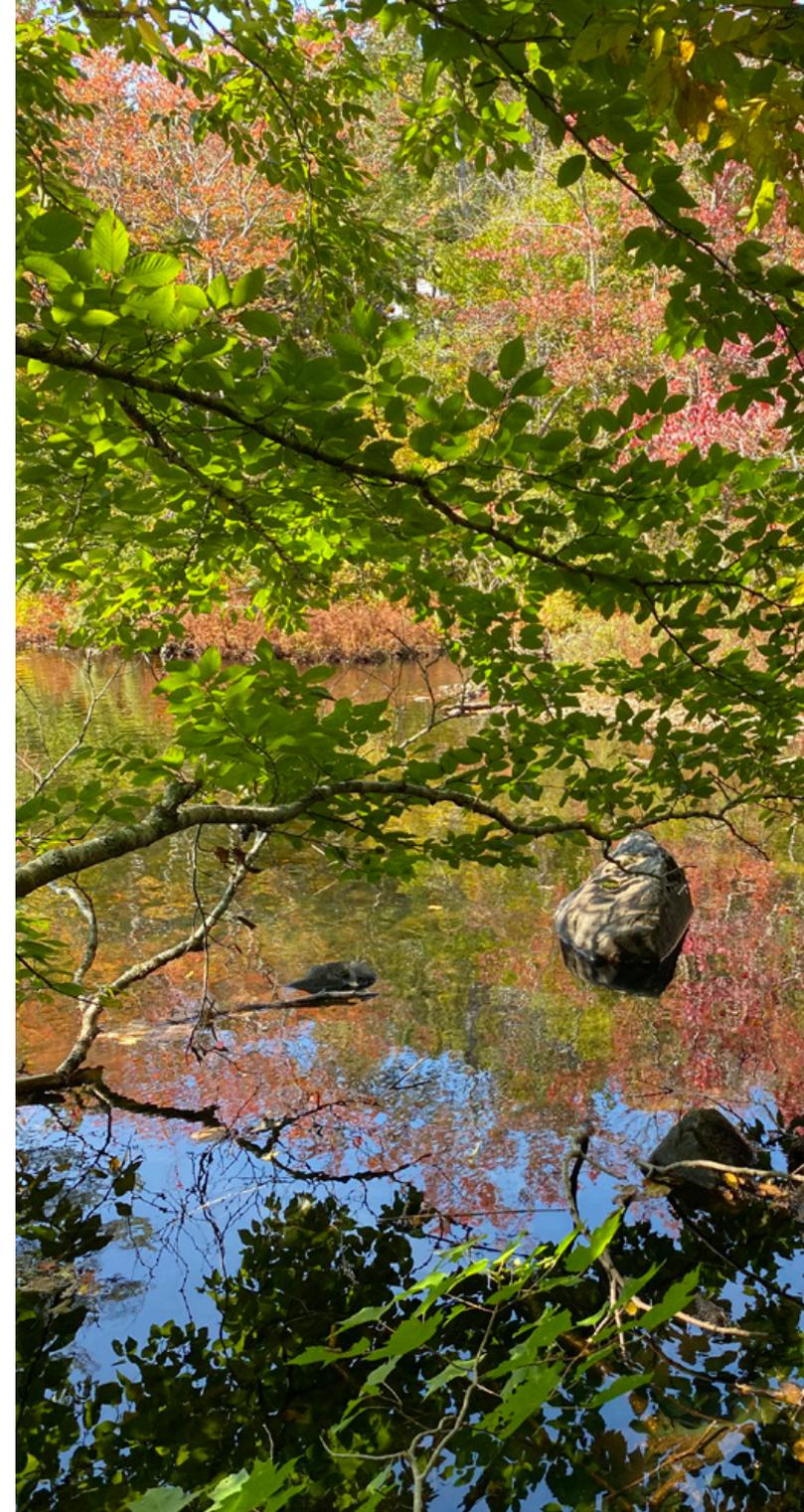
As identified on the Map 11 with red circle markers, areas of possible enhancement include trail development, tree planting, seating, playground expansion, and other improvements that may be more immediate.

## MAJOR OPPORTUNITY SITES

Given their size, distribution, and ability to fill gaps in park service delivery, ten parks present the best opportunity for the introduction of recreation facilities to serve the community (Map 12). These opportunities are identified with yellow circle markers. These 11 parks will require additional site planning and detailed design to implement the proposed opportunities, which include walkways, sport courts, playgrounds, water play and water access, among other facilities.

## Future Parks

As the community continues to grow, there will be additional parkland dedications and facilities that may be realized in the short, medium, and long-term (Map 13).



## 5.1 AREAS FOR POSSIBLE PARK ENHANCEMENT

### #1 UNNAMED PARK 3

Expanded trail system with seating and park signage.

### #2 TYLER SAMPSON PARK

Development of a trail to Lasalle Court. Shaded seating/picnic area, and creative play opportunities.

### #3 STONINGTON PARK

Trail seating and park signage.

### #4 LARKVIEW TERRACE PARK

Tree planting, seating area, neighbourhood play, and park signage. Resolution of trail access onto private property.

### #5 UNNAMED OPEN SPACE PID 41479957

Evaluate compatibility for a trail connection from Samaa Court Park to Broad Street.

### #6 SAMAA COURT PARK

Tree planting, seating area, neighbourhood play, and park signage.

### #7 EVANDALE LANE PARK

Tree planting and seating.

### #8 ABBINGTON AVENUE COMMUNITY PARK

Development of a trail along the water beside the Kearney Lake Dam. Trail seating and park signage. Improved water access.

### #9 UNNAMED OPEN SPACE PID 41470766

Evaluate compatibility with Amesbury Gate Park and Abbington Avenue Community Park for an expanded trail network.

### #10 AMESBURY GATE COMMUNITY PARK

Connect existing trail into multi-use path proposed along Larry Uteck. Trail seating and park signage.

### #11 UNNAMED OPEN SPACE PID 41470758

Evaluate suitability for a trail connection from Unnamed Park Amesbury Gate 2 to Amesbury Gate Park.

### #12 UNNAMED PARK AMESBURY GATE 2

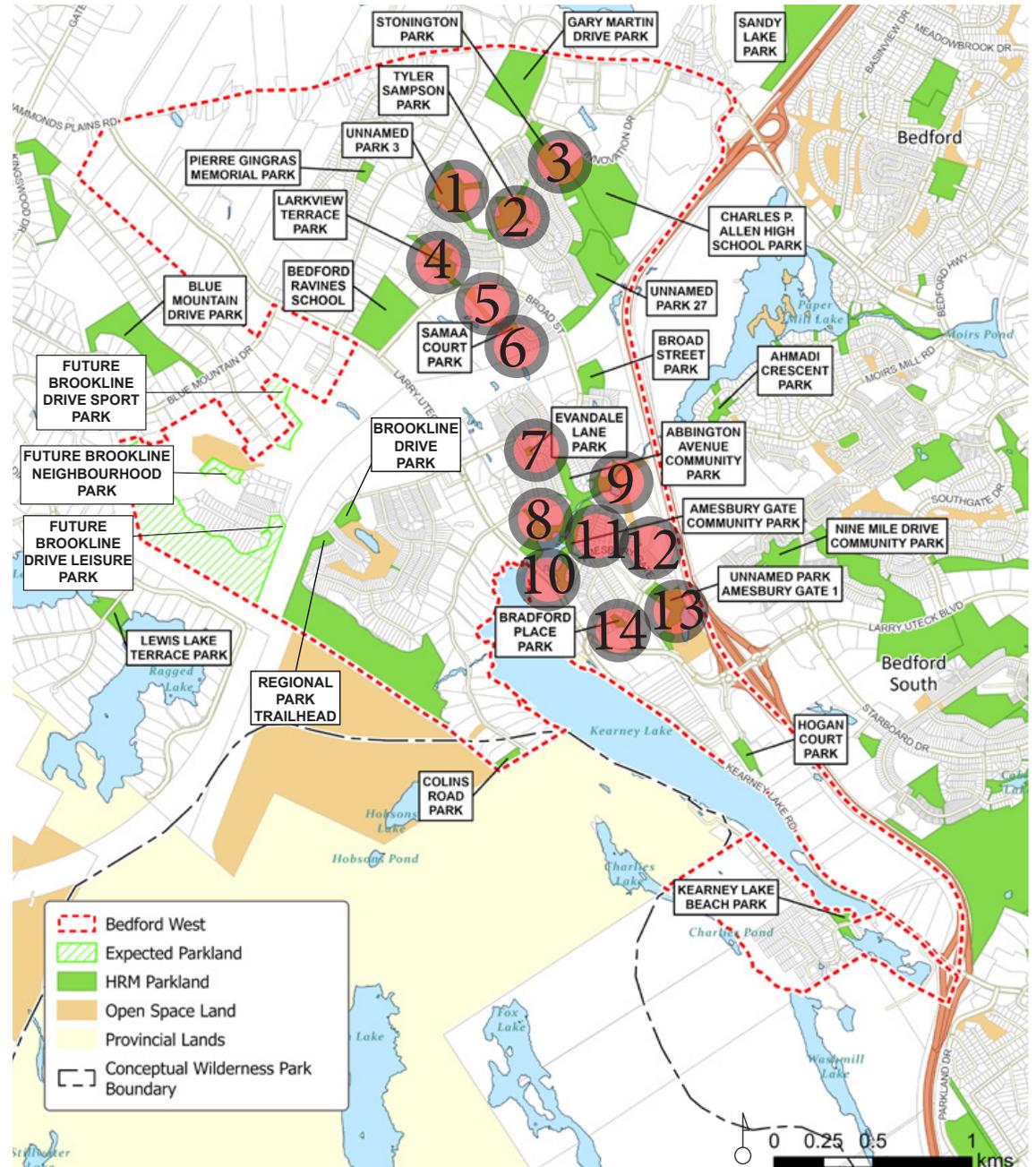
Trail access to the north (see item #11), park signage.

### #13 UNNAMED PARK AMESBURY GATE 1

Trail seating and park signage. Work with community groups to improve winter pond access.

### #14 BRADFORD PLACE PARK

Basketball half-court, shaded seating, and tree planting.



MAP 11: RECOMMENDED AREAS OF PARK ENHANCEMENT.

## 5.1 MAJOR PARK OPPORTUNITIES

### #1 GARY MARTIN DRIVE PARK

The collocation of a specialized park facility, like a skate park, may be considered along Hammonds Plains Road. Improve public access to the existing beach volleyball courts.

### #2 FUTURE BEDFORD WEST SUB PHASE 12

Park planning will be guided by the Park Facilities Plan.

### #3 BEDFORD RAVINES SCHOOL

School development will include a sportfield, basketball court, and playgrounds.

### #4 UNNAMED PARK 27

Tennis courts, seating, park signage, and tree planting.

### #5 BROAD STREET PARK

Perimeter walking path with lighting, sledding hill, accessible playground, interactive water feature, sheltered picnic area, multi-use sport court, tree planting, park signage, and space for a community garden.

### #6 FUTURE BROOKLINE DRIVE SPORT PARK

Sport courts, play lawn, playground, tree planting, seating, lighting and park signage. The collocation of a specialized park facility, like a pump track and water feature, may be considered.

### #7 FUTURE BROOKLINE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

Tree planting, seating, trails, and park signage. Determine the long-term need for a playground.

### #8 FUTURE BROOKLINE LEISURE PARK

Perimeter walking path, picnic area, play lawn, tree planting, and park signage.

### #9 BROOKLINE DRIVE PARK

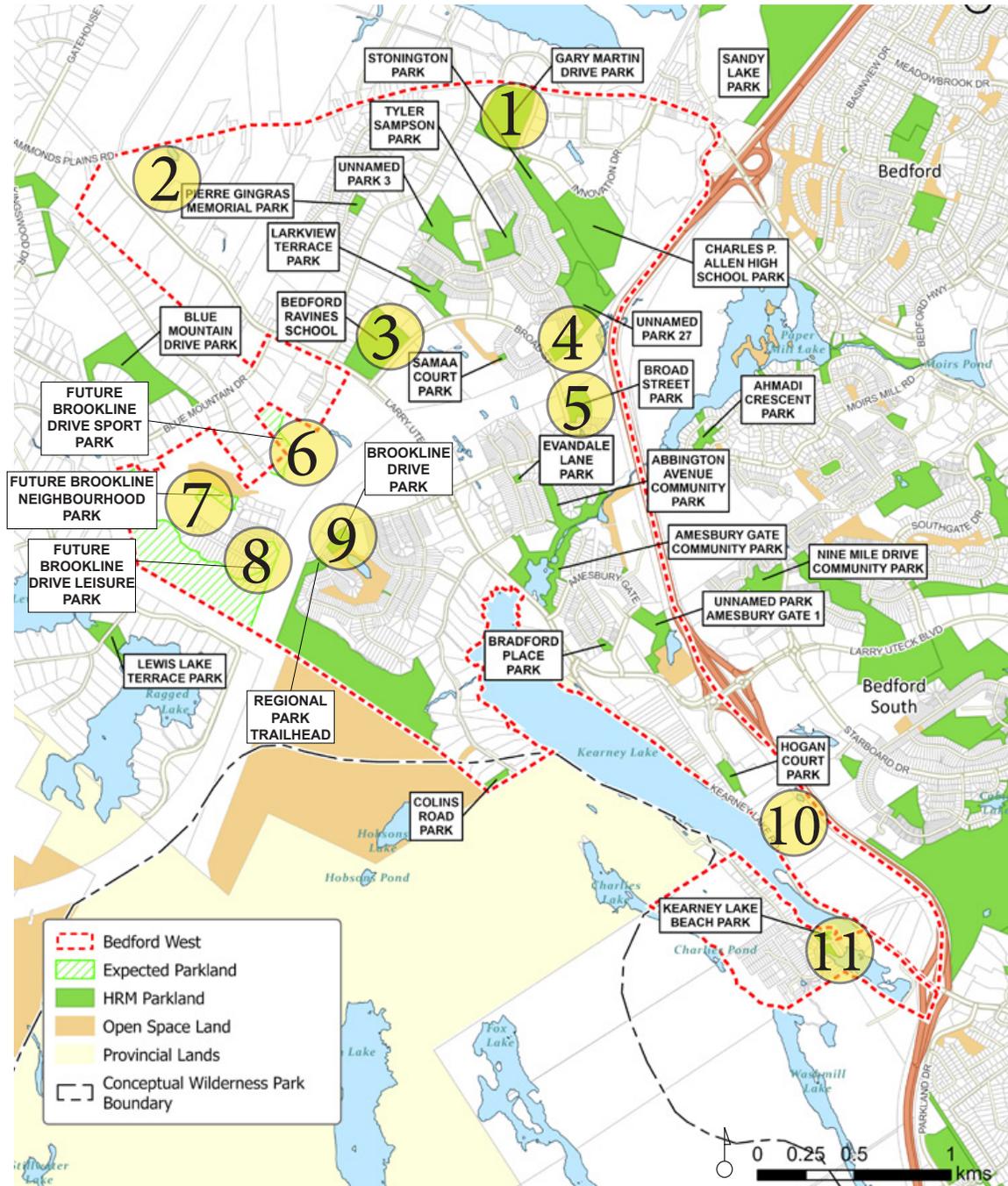
Playground, picnic area, walking path, pickleball courts, play lawn, and tree planting. Consider future access to the pond.

### #10 FUTURE BEDFORD WEST SUB PHASE 10 (INCL. HOGAN COURT PARK)

Park planning will be guided by the Park Facilities Plan.

### #11 KEARNEY LAKE BEACH PARK

A park plan will be required to improved the pedestrian and beach experience, access, and parking.



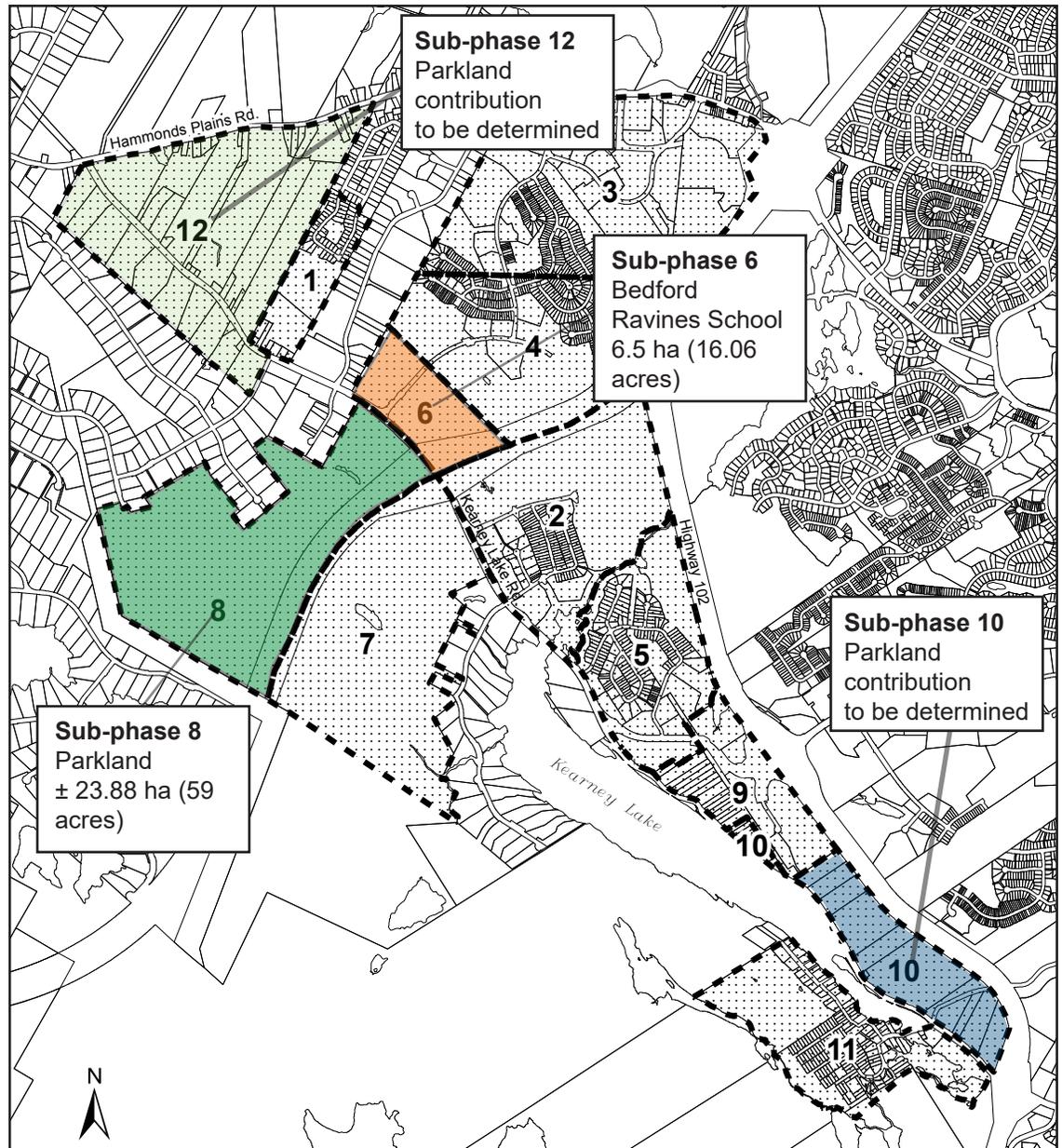
MAP 12: PARKS IDENTIFIED TO HAVE MAJOR SITE OPPORTUNITIES.

## 5.3 FUTURE PARKS

In the short to medium-term, it is expected that parkland will be acquired on the west side of Larry Uteck Boulevard, north of the proposed Highway 113 corridor, as outlined in the development agreements for sub-area 8. Here, approximately 24 ha (59 acres) of land will be acquired as parkland and open space. Details regarding park footprint, level of finish, and park facilities are still to be determined.

Although under Provincial ownership, sub-phase 6 includes the Bedford Ravines School parcel (6.5 ha, 16 acres). The development of the school will include outdoor facilities including a sportfield, playgrounds, and a basketball court that will be maintained by the municipality and available to the community through a joint-use agreement with the province.

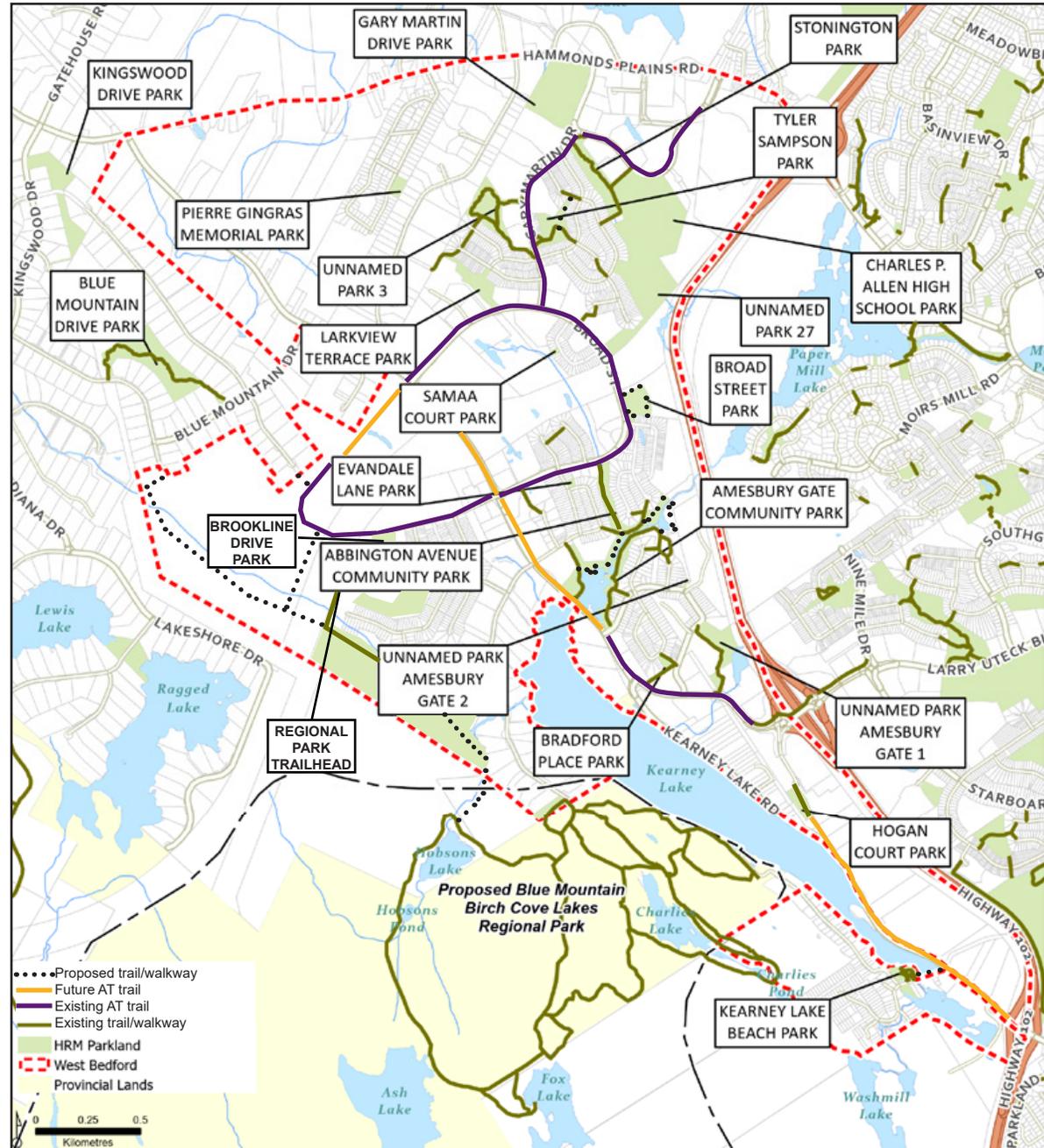
There is the potential for the acquisition of further parkland in the medium to long-term as planning approvals are sought for new subdivision development for sub-areas 10 and 12 (Map 13).



MAP 13: FUTURE EXPECTED PARKLAND FOR THE COMMUNITY OF BEDFORD WEST.  
BASEMAP: BEDFORD WEST SECONDARY MUNICIPAL PLANNING STRATEGY, 2010

## 5.4 TRAILS, WALKWAYS, & CONNECTIONS

Map 14 provides a preliminary assessment of possible and expected future trails and walkways. These opportunities were identified through the public engagement process, site analysis, and previously completed municipal plans. Timelines and the means to develop and complete trails will need to be determined and could be realized as municipal capital projects, further parkland dedications from developers, and community led initiatives.



MAP 14: COMMUNITY ACCESS TO BASKETBALL COURTS.

# 6 IMPLEMENTATION

## 6.1 TIMELINE

Table 3 outlines the relationship of this Park Facilities Plan and future capital project planning. The implementation of actual projects is subject to budget priorities and changes that may be required to take advantage of matters such as funding from other sources, such as those from other levels of government. Prospective improvements have been broadly categorized into priority groups.

TABLE 3: PARK PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT SCHEDULE

Milestone	Date
Project start-up	Summer/ Fall 2020
Site inventory and assessment	Summer/ Fall 2020
Information gathering, online survey	February-March 2021
Public comment review, park opportunity development	March-July 2021
Presentation of plans and ideas (round two, public survey)	July - September 2021
Park opportunities refinement	September - October 2021
Report development	October 2021-May 2022
Presentation to Regional Council	Fall 2022
Detailed design development & implementation (Priorities 1, 2, 3)	TBD- pending Regional Council approval & budgets.

## 6.2 PLAN PRIORITIES

### PRIORITY ONE

Given the quick residential growth along Brookline Drive, a priority should be placed on balancing park service delivery on the west side of Larry Uteck Boulevard. This includes the development of a sport park that considers sport courts and a regional specialized facilities. Another priority is the installation of park signage, seating, and tree planting in existing parks throughout the community and tennis courts fronting Broad Street in Unnamed Park 27. The new Bedford Ravines School will come online in the short-term, and the park facilities there should serve the community. A detailed study of Kearney Lake Beach Park is recommended to control the safe access to the beach, to the lake, and to manage the anticipated increase in park use, as well as to examine alternatives for water access.

### PRIORITY TWO

The next largest opportunity space for the collocation of park facilities (e.g. playground, multipurpose sport court, walking paths, community garden, play lawn, picnic area) is Broad Street Park. If still needed, the addition of a regional specialized facility like a pump track or skate park could be considered at this stage in a prominent location like Gary Martin Drive Park. It is expected that this priority phase would include community trail work and water access on the east side of Larry Uteck Boulevard. Another initiative to make recreation more accessible would be to remove the fencing from the beach volleyball courts at the HRM

4-Pad and to make this facility available on a first-come-first-serve basis.

### PRIORITY THREE

The planning of community sub areas 10 and 12 is underway, however, it is not expected that parkland in these sub areas should come online in the short or medium term. In the longer term, a wider network of trails through existing open space can be considered through capital planning or community-led trail development.

See Map 15 for a visual layout of park priorities.

### STATE OF GOOD REPAIR AND FUTURE FACILITIES

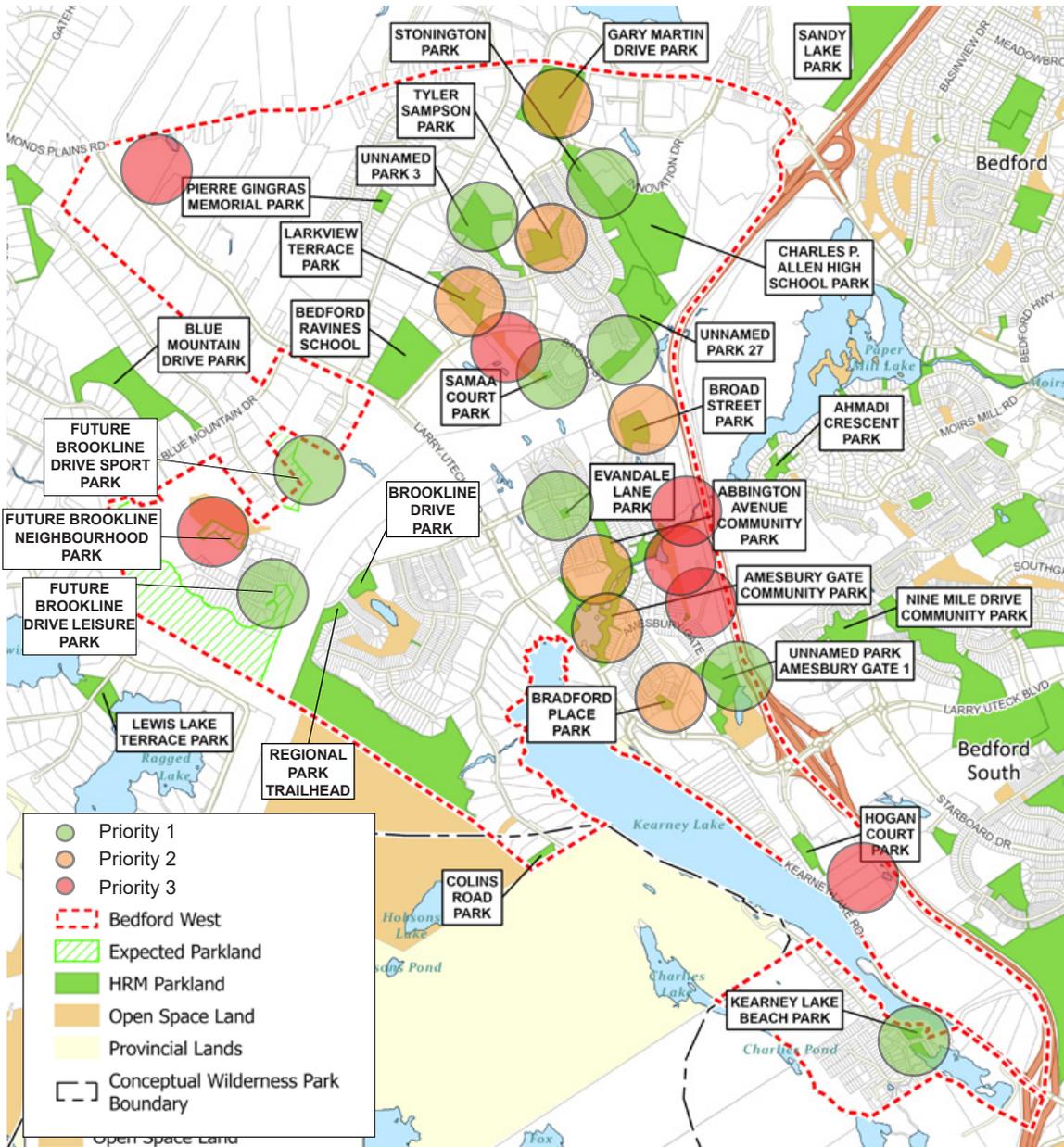
Throughout all priority stages, a focus should continue to be on the state of good repair of established park facilities. The capital available for park construction will take into consideration facility condition (i.e. when a facility requires recapitalization) and gaps in the park network. Plan priorities can be reevaluated if an opportunity for park enhancement presents itself (e.g. developer-led park finishes, external funding, community-led projects).

## 6.3 PROJECT COSTS

There are no immediate financial implications to the recommendations in this report. Future capital expenditures would be considered in subsequent capital years during the business planning process.

There is also the opportunity for the community to be involved with fundraising for the coordination of park enhancements.

# 6 IMPLEMENTATION



MAP 15: PRIORITIZATION OF PROPOSED OPPORTUNITIES.

TABLE 4: PARK PLANNING PRIORITIES\*

## Priority 1 ●

- Kearney Lake Beach
- Stonington Park
- Unnamed Park 3
- Future Brookline Drive Leisure Park
- Evandale Lane Park
- Unnamed Park 27
- Unnamed Park Amesbury Gate 1
- Samaa Court Park

## Priority 2 ●

- Broad Street Park
- Gary Martin Drive Park
- Tyler Sampson Park
- Amesbury Gate Community Park
- Abbington Avenue Community Park
- Future Brookline Drive Sport Park
- Larkview Terrace Park
- Bradford Place Park

## Priority 3 ●

- Sub-Area 10 and 12
- Future Brookline Neighbourhood Park
- Unnamed Park Amesbury Gate 2
- Unnamed Open Space PID 41470758
- Unnamed Open Space PID 41470766
- Unnamed Open Space PID 41479957

\*Refer to Section 5 for park facility descriptions.

# 7 SUMMARY

This Park Facilities Plan provides guidance for the coordinated development of parks within the Community of Bedford West. Changing expectations for park facilities, multiple sub-phases of development, a fast pace of growth, and limited park budgets, among other factors, have created a condition in which residents may not be adequately served by parks.

When residents were engaged to tell us about park issues and opportunities in Bedford West, they told us that parks are an essential component of daily life and are important for personal well-being. Common issues observed in parkland include, a lack of trail connectivity, overuse of existing parks; under investment in parks; a lack of large-scale parks for a variety of play; a lack of wayfinding and signage; a lack of official places for dogs; and continued development pressure on parks and natural lands.

As identified in section 4 of this report, a series of actions (Table 5) have been developed to respond to the dominant park planning issues as derived from public engagement, site analysis, and physical constraints in the landscape. In addition to actions, several park opportunities have been highlighted and organized into three different priority timelines.

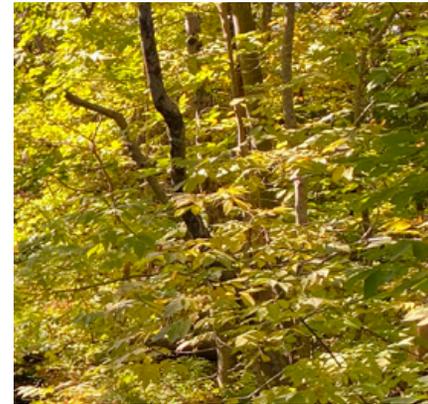
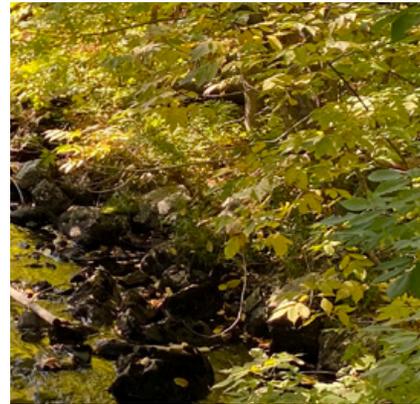
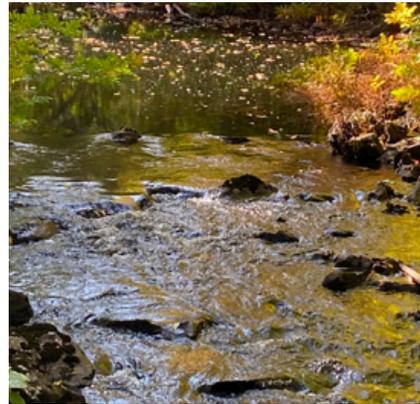
Although there is no formal commitment for capital investment at this time, future development projects will be brought forward in subsequent capital business plans and budgets.

TABLE 5: PARK PLANNING ACTIONS

Park Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a phased plan that prioritizes park facility improvements.</li> <li>• As remaining sub-phases of development are initiated, work with developers in a coordinated plan for recreation facilities.</li> <li>• Where possible, coordinate investment into park facilities during the during the subdivision development process to ensure finished parks as neighbourhoods develop.</li> </ul>
Community Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish, improve, promote, and foster stewardship programs for the community to lead projects that fit within the Park Facilities Plan.</li> </ul>
Recreation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When acquiring land, plan for parks that can accommodate a variety of facilities and phased development.</li> <li>• Combine complimentary park facilities when developing park plans.</li> </ul>
Water Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve connections to water with a consideration of sites and facilities that can be accessed by active transportation and transit.</li> <li>• Expand on the opportunities to access water to include canoe/kayak access.</li> <li>• Consider other forms of water play (e.g. interactive fountain) in more urban portions of the community to allow for unsupervised aquatic recreation.</li> </ul>
Park Service Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify where specific gaps exist within the community and prioritize implementation based on need.</li> <li>• Further analyze high-use parks through more detailed park planning and design.</li> <li>• Ensure that park maintenance considers the needs of high use parks.</li> <li>• Collaborate with other business units, when needed, to ensure the safe access and use of public lands.</li> </ul>
Land Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinating signage, including wayfinding and regulation, with other levels of government and organizations.</li> </ul>
Dog Off-Leash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the Off-Leash Administrative Order for direction on planning for off-leash areas.</li> <li>• Consider further public consultation specific to dog off-leash areas in the community.</li> </ul>
Park Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move away from isolated and dispersed recreation facilities towards more centralized and collocated facilities within the community.</li> <li>• Evaluate how trails and walkways can better link neighbourhoods and parks.</li> </ul>
Safety & Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site parkland predominantly along road frontage and avoid siting parks and park facilities behind homes.</li> <li>• Consider park lighting along major pedestrian routes that receive foot traffic after dark.</li> <li>• Consider paved path surfaces in highly visited areas.</li> <li>• Install park signage at all primary park entrances.</li> </ul>
Funding & Parkland Dedication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Province of Nova Scotia to allow for density triggers for parkland dedication.</li> <li>• Work with HRM Planning and Development on changes to the subdivision bylaw or to determine when an infrastructure charge might be an appropriate tool for parkland dedication.</li> </ul>

# APPENDIX

## APPENDIX A: MUNICIPAL PLANS & GUIDING DOCUMENTS



## APPENDIX A: MUNICIPAL PLANS & GUIDING DOCUMENTS

Planning studies and documents have served as a context for the Park Facilities Plan (Table A). The table below outlines actions from the Urban Forest Master Plan, CFMP2, Green Network Plan, Bedford Municipal Planning Strategy, and

Bedford West Secondary Planning Strategy, among others. These documents provide guidance in the development of the park network in Bedford West.

TABLE A: MUNICIPAL DIRECTIONAL DOCUMENTS TO INFORM PARK ACTIONS.

Document	Date	Direction
Urban Forest Master Plan	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Bedford, new development is the biggest threat to the urban forest with large expanses of wooded areas removed for community growth. Newly exposed forested edges are susceptible to blow-down and damage. Forest cover along waterways is also a concern as outlined in the UFMP, to regular stormwater control among other natural values. As of 2013, the canopy cover in Bedford West was 87%, due to an extensive tree loss to development, the community target is now 20%.</li> </ul>
CFMP2	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessibility and universal design should be a consideration in facility design;</li> <li>Safe and accessible pedestrian circulation is an important design consideration;</li> <li>Walking distance should be considered for the placement of urban park facilities;</li> <li>To identify need, opportunity, and costs associated with playing field design and management decisions, HRM should develop and implement a playing field strategy;</li> <li>Enhance tennis courts including (where appropriate) lighted courts and courts sized for progressive tennis; and</li> </ul>
Green Network Plan	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action 2: Consider the following design and management guidelines when planning, maintaining and restoring essential and important corridors (Map 5 on page 35) through Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws: a) Essential corridors should ideally be greater than 1km wide and composed of intact natural habitat, wherever possible; (b) The width of essential corridors should increase in proportion to its length (i.e. the longer the corridor, the wider it should be); (c) Where a 1km width is not possible for essential corridors, maintain what remains, seek opportunities to restore disturbed areas and mitigate the impacts of nearby human activity.</li> <li>Action 7 - Continue to implement the Urban Forest Master Plan;</li> <li>Action 12 - Work with Halifax Water and Nova Scotia Environment to promote green infrastructure, such as naturalized stormwater retention ponds and bioswales, as the preferred approach to managing stormwater;</li> <li>Action 23 - Balanced with other open space uses, support community gardens and other forms of food production in public parks and other Municipally-owned properties;</li> <li>Action 25 - Consider community gardens, fruit trees, and food supportive amenities, when preparing master plans for public open spaces;</li> <li>Action 34: Work with the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, as opportunities arise, to identify opportunities to construct wildlife crossings under Highway 103 and the planned Highway 113;</li> <li>Action 38: Work with the Province and utility companies when opportunities arise to locate trails within existing and planned transportation and utility corridors;</li> <li>Action 39: Work with the Province to mitigate the impacts on essential and important corridors and valued ecological open spaces when designing new regional transportation projects;</li> </ul>

TABLE A: MUNICIPAL DIRECTIONAL DOCUMENTS TO INFORM PARK ACTIONS (CONTINUED).

Document	Date	Direction
Green Network Plan (continued)	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action 40: Work with the Province to reconnect fragmented landscapes with crossing structures (wildlife overpasses and underpasses) when repairing or expanding existing roads and linear infrastructure;</li> <li>• Action 43: Through Halifax’s Community Engagement Strategy, formalize a public engagement program for the planning and stewardship of parks;</li> <li>• Action 44 - Incorporate year-round recreational infrastructure, including winter-oriented activities, when planning parks;</li> <li>• Action 45 - Enhance existing standards for the design of parks with a focus on versatile and flexible space, based on the nature of different park types and situations, that encourages participation of all ages and abilities;</li> <li>• Action 46 - Include culture and education programs and projects, such as the inclusion of public art within parks and nature interpretation programs when planning for parks;</li> <li>• Action 47 - Ensure there is a clear and consistent communication system related to accessibility and wayfinding to and within parks;</li> <li>• Action 48 - Enhance social gathering in municipal open spaces by encouraging limited private and not for profit commercial initiatives;</li> <li>• Action 50: Develop service level targets for the Regional Plan settlement types to provide public access to the spectrum of recreation experiences (e.g. sportfields, playgrounds, nature trails), within the Halifax park system;</li> <li>• Action 51: Revise travel time/distance tolerance targets and standards to the nearest park based on the designations in the Regional Plan to account for HRM’s varied settlement patterns and residential densities;</li> <li>• Action 52: Revise public park area per capita targets and standards based on designations in the Regional Plan to account for HRM’s varied settlement patterns;</li> <li>• Action 54: Determine service delivery gaps and overlap based on established travel time and park pressure targets (above objective) that considers the distribution of Municipal Parks together with Provincial and Federal Parks, and school grounds;</li> <li>• Action 55: Use the Land Capability Analysis Tool (Appendix B) to evaluate existing and proposed parks for their land capability in terms of: (a) Identity (sense of place); (b) Heritage conservation; (c) Recreation land use; (d) Natural systems conservation (e) Connectivity;</li> <li>• Action 56: Develop a park performance monitoring program to regularly gather park usage data from park and recreation staff, the public, and new technology to count users;</li> <li>• Action 57: Use information gathered through the park performance monitoring program and the Land Capability Analysis Tool (Appendix B) to develop an inventory of low, moderate and high performing parks;</li> <li>• Action 58: Prepare policies and procedures concerning parkland maintenance to incorporate naturalization and green infrastructure (ie. rain gardens and bioswales);</li> <li>• Action 59: In cases of significant service overlap and low scoring from the Land Capability Analysis Tool (Appendix B), consider the disposal of identified low performing parkland;</li> <li>• Action 65: For other future Nature Parks and other open spaces that are already largely in public ownership, continue to work with the Province and other stakeholders respecting their delineation of boundaries, planning and programming;</li> <li>• Action 70: Use the HGNP and other municipal plans, including the AT Priority Plan and Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) to establish linkages between parks, Provincial Wilderness Areas, crown lands, fresh water bodies and ocean fronts that are used for recreation purposes;</li> <li>• Action 76 - Identify, preserve and celebrate cultural landscapes and resources when preparing master plans for publicly-owned open spaces.</li> <li>• Action 77: Work with the Province to update the accuracy and use of the Areas of Elevated Archaeological Potential Map contained in the Regional Plan; and</li> <li>• Action 78: Proactively engage and expand the inventory of cultural landscapes of interest to African Nova Scotian, Mi’kmaq, Acadian and immigrant communities.</li> </ul>

TABLE A: MUNICIPAL DIRECTIONAL DOCUMENTS TO INFORM PARK ACTIONS (CONTINUED).

Document	Date	Direction
Bedford Municipal Planning Strategy	2020 (amended)	<p>It shall be the intention of Town Council to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy P-2: ...through the Recreation Department, the Recreation Advisory Committee, and with public input, to set annual priorities for the acquisition, development, and ongoing maintenance of present and future parkland and recreational facilities which are related to the annual budget of the Recreation Department. These priorities should be reviewed annually ... the Parks and Recreation Implementation Strategy...shall form the primary basis for the preparation of these priorities;</li> <li>• Policy P-3: ...through the Recreation Department, the Recreation Advisory Committee, and with public input, to evaluate, review, and update the Parks and Recreation Implementation Strategy at intervals not greater than five years;</li> <li>• Policy P-4: ... incorporate the parkland classification system contained within the Parks &amp; Recreation Implementation Strategy... neighbourhood parks, town parks, town facilities, parkland open space, linkages, and school sites;</li> <li>• Policy P-5: ...ensure that there are suitable and available parcels of land for neighbourhood use ... which will provide for a wide range of recreational opportunities. Priority shall be given to the acquisition and development of land in neighbourhoods which presently lack sufficient open space...;</li> <li>• Policy P-10: ...continue to improve, and to identify with appropriate signage, linkages connecting parks with residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and major recreational facilities in the Town;</li> <li>• Policy P-11: ...work towards the implementation of the Major Path and Walkway system with provisions, where possible, for access by the physically disabled. It shall be the intention ...to review and update the Major Path and Walkway System at intervals not greater than five years.</li> <li>• Policy P-12: ...actively pursue joint use agreements with the school board to increase access to facilities and to improve maintenance of the playing fields;</li> <li>• Policy P-13: ... identify parcels of land to be acquired as parkland in the Town through the advice of the Recreation Department and Recreation Advisory Committee. The Planning and Development Department of the Town shall work in conjunction with the Parks Planning Sub-Committee to advise the Recreation Department and Recreation Advisory Committee regarding the acquisition and development of parkland parcels. Priority shall be placed on the acquisition of land for neighbourhood parks where deficiencies presently exist;</li> <li>• Policy P-14: ...acquire land for the purpose of providing a variety of types of parkland as well as to achieve a balance between active and passive recreational areas in order to meet the recreational needs of all Town residents;</li> <li>• Policy P-16:...identify existing and future parkland with a Parks designation on the Generalized Future Land Use Map. Under the Parks designation, Town Council shall maintain a Parks Zone which shall permit park and recreational uses, including, but not limited to, community and recreation centres, playgrounds, playing fields, and public parks;</li> <li>• Policy P-17: ...apply a Parkland Open Space Zone to lands identified as open space which are to remain in a naturally maintained state because of their aesthetic, environmental, historic, or unique value. Permitted uses within the POS Zone shall include public parks for passive recreational activities, nature and educational trails, picnic parks, and uses of a similar nature;</li> <li>• Policy P-18: ...place priority on the development of neighbourhood parks where deficiencies presently exist;</li> <li>• Policy P-19: ...make every effort where appropriate and financially feasible, to make park areas and recreation facilities in the Town accessible to the physically disabled;</li> <li>• Policy P-20: ...upon receipt of deed transfer tax payments, to deposit in the special reserve fund capital section, one quarter of the tax, and to maintain the fund for the purpose of acquiring and/or developing parkland and accessories;</li> <li>• Policy P-21: ...through the Recreation Department in cooperation with other municipal departments, to approve the development of a procedure for identifying the demand for and feasibility of developing new major recreational facilities in the Town. The provision of new major recreational facilities shall be in accordance with this procedure;</li> <li>• Policy P-22: ...implement an effective, ongoing maintenance and operation program, through the Recreation Department, to ensure the safe and attractive use of the Town's park and recreation areas;</li> <li>• Policy P-23: ...within its financial capabilities, to improve and upgrade existing park and recreation facilities;</li> </ul>

TABLE A: MUNICIPAL DIRECTIONAL DOCUMENTS TO INFORM PARK ACTIONS (CONTINUED).

Document	Date	Direction
Bedford Municipal Planning Strategy (continued)	2020 (amended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy P-24: ... develop and provide recreational programs in the Town through the Recreation Department and the Recreation Advisory Committee;</li> <li>• Policy P-25: ... increase and, where appropriate, secure public access to the Town’s fresh and salt water resources;</li> <li>• Policy P-26: ... recognize the value of the Town’s lakes, waterways and Bedford Bay as recreational resources and work to protect and improve their water quality to a level where they are able to support various recreational uses, including swimming where appropriate... provide sanitary facilities at locations where the Town encourages supervised/organized swimming activities;</li> <li>• Policy P-27: ... manage and regulate the use of parkland and community recreation facilities in order to minimize conflicts between potentially incompatible recreation activities;</li> <li>• Policy P-28: ... ensure that any new commercial or industrial land use which abuts parkland does not adversely affect its recreational use by requiring separation distances and permanent buffers through the Town’s Land Use By-law;</li> <li>• Policy P-29: ... undertake a program of signage and boundary demarcation for all Town owned lands in an effort to facilitate the use of parklands, to provide a clear definition between public and private property, and to ensure proper use of the lands. The signage and boundary markers shall be of a standard form with consistent colours to aid recognition;</li> <li>• Policy P-30: ... consider accepting from proponents lands identified as environmentally sensitive. Such donations would be in addition to the 5% land dedication requirement of the Subdivision By-law;</li> <li>• Policy P-31: ... direct the Town’s Planning Department to actively negotiate with developers to do site preparation work while acquiring land under the 5% land dedication requirement of the subdivision approval process;</li> <li>• Policy E-3: ...encourage the use of innovative storm water management systems which reduce the impact of urban development on the environment. Such systems include incorporation of stormwater retention/detention ponds into the storm sewer system, use of velocity breaks and drop manholes on storm sewers which discharge to watercourses, use of open ditch drainage systems where appropriate, and directing roof drains to the surface rather than connecting directly to the storm sewer system where appropriate. Storm sewer systems are to avoid the direct discharge of stormwater into water bodies where possible;</li> <li>• Policy E-13: ... identify on a map areas which are environmentally sensitive to development. This map shall be known as the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Map. These areas, which require special consideration in their development because of the presence of certain hydrologic and geomorphic features, are slopes which exceed 20% and water retention areas [lakes, ponds, swamps, bogs, marshes]. Environmentally sensitive areas within the two large undeveloped portions of the Town located within the Residential Development Boundary have been studied and identified: a) Union Street RCDD, and b) Papermill Lake RCDD;</li> <li>• Policy E-26: ... explore ways to protect the designated public views and vistas in an effort to provide visual relief from the built environment as well as preserve views of features which give identity to the Town. Priority shall be given to the identification and protection of public views of and from the Bedford Basin;</li> <li>• Policy E-27: ... ensure proper management of trees on Town land (including but not limited to, maintenance, and planting) and provide assistance and encouragement to the private land owner to do the same. In addition the Tree Committee shall work to establish an ongoing Tree Planting Program on Town parkland and in existing and new residential, commercial, and industrial developments with the cooperation of developers/subdividers and residents of the area; and</li> <li>• Policy E-28: ... identify unique stands of trees and through such means as the adoption of a Tree Protection By-Law and/or acquisition through the parkland dedication process, to seek to protect these trees to conserve them as an environmental resource.</li> </ul>

TABLE A: MUNICIPAL DIRECTIONAL DOCUMENTS TO INFORM PARK ACTIONS.

Document	Date	Direction
Bedford West Secondary Planning Strategy	2010 (amended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy BW-9: Within any watercourse protection setback established under policy BW-7, no vegetation or soil shall be removed or altered unless a management plan has been approved to provide for restoration of vegetation, shoreline access paths, habitat management, safety and welfare or shoreline recreation where such provisions may be made without adversely affecting the primary purpose of preserving water quality in the lake. Any study or management plan submitted pursuant to this clause shall be prepared by a person qualified to make the required determinations and an approval procedure shall be established under the terms of a development agreement;</li> <li>• Policy BW-11: A tree replanting program shall be incorporated into development agreements. The program shall specify the locations, number, type and diameter of trees to be planted. The type of trees shall be indigenous to Nova Scotia;</li> <li>• Policy BW-17: (c) a regional trail system shall be designed to connect with the destination nodes illustrated on BW-5; (d) community trail systems shall be constructed by the developer of the lands on which it is located with the design specifications negotiated under a development agreement. Trails shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the Guidelines of the Nova Scotia Trails Federation unless otherwise acceptable to the Municipality. Variations to the Municipal Service Specifications for sidewalks may be considered where a trail is proposed which would provide improved accessibility for pedestrian travel in the community;</li> <li>• Policy BW-18: The Municipality shall prohibit motorized conveyances on all trails, except maintenance, emergency or patrol vehicles, and except electric wheelchairs or similar devices required for mobility by persons with disabilities;</li> <li>• Policy BW-25: The areas designated as Open Space on Schedule BW-7 shall be reserved for recreational uses, conservation uses including stormwater management and environmental protection. Provided that the area of the designation is not materially reduced, the boundaries of the Open Space Designation may be varied where such changes provide: (a) enhanced protection of environmentally sensitive site features; (b) more opportunity for preservation of significant aesthetic features; (c) more suitable lands for recreational uses; or (d) a more functional trail system for pedestrians and cyclists;</li> <li>• Policy BW-27: No stormwater management, sanitary sewer or water service system shall be located within the Open Space Designation which would adversely affect environmentally sensitive areas, detract from the aesthetics of the area or impair any recreational functions intended;</li> <li>• Policy BW-28: In the event that the Municipality is unable to determine whether any undertaking will adversely affect environmentally sensitive areas, the Municipality shall require that an environmental impact analysis be undertaken at the cost of the developer by a person qualified to make such a determination and as selected or agreed upon by the Municipality;</li> <li>• Policy BW-29: The development of all recreational facilities shall conform with the HRM Guidelines for Parkland Planning adopted by Council;</li> <li>• Policy BW-30: Prior to any subdivision approval being granted, the developer shall prepare a recreation facilities plan for the development of recreational facilities for lands to be conveyed to the Municipality for parkland and open space dedication. The plan shall consider facility requirements in relation to present and future community needs, safety and convenience, environmental protection or enhancement, financial resources and phasing; and</li> <li>• Policy BW-31: Community parks are intended to be located on lands reserved for schools within the Institutional/Residential designation shown on Schedule BW-7. In the event that schools are not developed on these lands, the Municipality may require that these lands or portions thereof be reserved for community parks.</li> </ul>

TABLE A: MUNICIPAL DIRECTIONAL DOCUMENTS TO INFORM PARK ACTIONS.

Document	Date	Direction
Administrative Order No. 2020-011-ADM Respecting HRM's Grant Programs for Active Transportation and Recreational Trails	2020	<p>The purposes of this A.O. are</p> <p>(a) to provide grants to eligible Trails Organizations and Community Organizations to support the Municipality's Active Transportation objectives; and (b) to support the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of MUPs and Recreational Trails within the Halifax Regional Municipality;</p> <p>4. There is hereby established two separate grant programs to provide financial support to eligible Trails Organizations and Community Organizations, as follows:</p> <p>(a) the Active Transportation Grants Program; and,</p> <p>(b) the Recreational Trails Grants Program;</p> <p>5. Under the Active Transportation Grants Program there are the following funding categories:</p> <p>(a) Active Transportation Capital Grants, with a maximum of \$1,000,000 per Applicant, are awarded to assist with the costs associated with planning, design, construction and related capital costs to support new MUPs and their associated structures and amenities;</p> <p>(b) Active Transportation Recapitalization Grants, with a maximum of \$1,000,000 per Applicant, are awarded to assist with the costs associated with engineering studies, engineering redesign, tendering packages and mandatory structural inspections and construction to support projects that re-instate or upgrade MUPs and their associated structures and amenities.;</p> <p>(c) Active Transportation Emergency Repairs Grants, with a maximum of \$50,000 per Applicant, are awarded to assist with the costs associated with emergency maintenance required as a result of natural disasters, vandalism, failure of structures on existing MUPs and their associated infrastructure and amenities;</p> <p>(d) Active Transportation Operations and Maintenance Grants, of a maximum of \$30,000 per Applicant, are awarded to assist with the costs associated with maintaining existing MUPs and their associated infrastructure and amenities to an accessible and/or safe standard for public use; and</p> <p>(e) Active Transportation Education and Promotion Grants, with a maximum of \$50,000 per Applicant, are awarded to assist with the costs associated with the Municipality's Active Transportation objectives, including, but not limited to: safety programs, education/skills training programs, community-based Active Transportation plans, etiquette programs, promotional/engagement/marketing programs, and transportation demand management programs;</p> <p>6. Under the Recreational Trails Grants Program there are the following funding categories:</p> <p>(a) Recreational Trails Capital Grants, with a maximum of \$125,000 per Applicant, are awarded to assist with the costs associated with project planning, design and construction or capital costs to support new Recreational Trails and their associated structures and amenities;</p> <p>(b) Recreational Trails Recapitalization Grants, with a maximum of \$125,000 per Applicant, are awarded to assist with the costs associated with engineering studies, engineering redesign, tendering packages and mandatory structural inspections and construction to re-instate or upgrade Recreational Trails and their associated structures and amenities; and</p> <p>(c) Recreational Trails Operations and Maintenance Grants, with a maximum of \$10,000 per Applicant are awarded to assist with the costs associated with maintaining existing Recreational Trails and their associated infrastructure and amenities to an appropriate accessible and safe standard for public use; and</p> <p>7. (1) In each fiscal year, Trails Organizations or Community Organizations may apply to, and receive funding from, either the Active Transportation Grants Program or the Recreational Trails Grants Program.</p> <p>(2) When applying to a grant in accordance with subsection 7(1), a Trails Organization or Community Organization may apply to more than one funding category within either the Active Transportation Grants Program or the Recreational Trails Grants Program.</p>

TABLE A: MUNICIPAL DIRECTIONAL DOCUMENTS TO INFORM PARK ACTIONS.

Document	Date	Direction
Integrated Mobility Plan	2017	<p>Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement pedestrian infrastructure that is accessible to all ages and abilities;</li> <li>• Halifax will help to enable year-round bicycling in the “all ages and abilities” bicycle network. This would require additional resources and would be subject to the budgeting process and Council approval;</li> <li>• Expedite the planning, design and construction of the regional network of multi-use pathways;</li> <li>• Expand active transportation connections in rural communities;</li> <li>• Connect communities by facilitating improved links for active transportation across geographical or structural barriers;</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of active transportation in the region; and</li> <li>• Prepare for ongoing implementation of the Active Transportation Priorities Plan beyond 2019.</li> </ul>
Active Transportation Priorities Plan	2014	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation #31: The municipality should focus on making connections in the greenway network in general, and specifically tackling those connections into and through the regional centre. Halifax should also continue to improve connections between existing communities and nearby greenways;</li> <li>• Recommendation #32: The municipality should continue to support the Community Development Model for the development of greenways. This may be especially critical for the development of long distance greenways where community oversight may be essential to long term sustainability. Due to the increased complexities of urban greenway development the Community Development Model may not always be used, or may only be employed during the public engagement and planning stages;</li> <li>• Recommendation #33: The municipality should continue to seek opportunities to leverage funding from other sources to build the greenway network;</li> <li>• Recommendation #34: At least for the next five years of AT Plan implementation, consideration should be given to prioritizing funds from the Active Transportation and Regional Trails budgets towards greenways with a transportation focus (i.e. those that support walking and bicycling and connect origins with destinations);</li> <li>• Recommendation #35: Consider MPS, LUB, and Red Book amendments to protect the continuity of the greenway network, facilitate the construction of new greenways along with land development, and ensure new communities are connected to existing greenways;</li> <li>• Recommendation #36: When carrying out any capital works, reviewing new subdivisions, or negotiating development agreements, municipal staff should give consideration to this AT Priorities Plan and seek to fill gaps in the envisioned greenway network (through means available to them) and also provide good connections to it from adjacent communities;</li> <li>• Recommendation #37: The municipality should consider the development of a consistent and uniform AT wayfinding and route identification system for greenways which is integrated with the signage proposed for Local Street Bikeways;</li> </ul> <p>Map 3, Regional Greenway and Bicycle Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed greenway along Larry Uteck Boulevard from 102 overpass to Broad Street;</li> <li>• Candidate bike route from Blue Water Road to Highway 102; and</li> <li>• Trail connection between Collins Road and Saskatoon Drive.</li> </ul>

TABLE A: MUNICIPAL DIRECTIONAL DOCUMENTS TO INFORM PARK ACTIONS.

Document	Date	Direction
Long Term Aquatics Strategy	2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bedford West is a Master Plan area that currently has the largest anticipated residential growth outside the Regional Centre.</li> <li>• Bedford West is identified as a community experiencing significant growth. It is anticipated that a gap in indoor recreational offerings will be experienced in this area.</li> <li>• Bedford has one of four municipal outdoor pools in the region. All residents in Bedford are within a 20 minute drive of this outdoor pool.</li> <li>• Although Bedford West is an emerging gap in indoor recreational aquatics, providing an additional net facility is not expected to be required within the Strategy's time frame. However, it is recommended that planning for a net new facility or examining the potential for future expansion of nearby existing facilities be initiated within the time frame. This could involve identifying available lands within the noted catchment area (Bedford West/Bedford South/Bedford).</li> <li>• As a strategy action, it is recommended that staff monitor population growth trends throughout the municipality, assess emerging service gaps in and surrounding Bedford West and, if warranted, identify available lands for a potential future facility or explore expansion opportunities with existing facilities.</li> <li>• Over the medium term, Bedford can be considered to establish a regional distribution of splash pads. A regional distribution will diversify the outdoor aquatic inventory and improve municipal wide aquatic access.</li> </ul>
Off-Leash Administrative Order	2018	<p>Designation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5. All or a portion of a Park may be designated as an Off-Leash Dog Area.</li> <li>• 6. (1) Regulations related to the use of any Off-Leash Dog Area , including time-of-day and time-of-year use, may be included as part of an Off-Leash Dog Area designation and shall be posted by a sign or other device erected in accordance with the Municipal Parks By-law.</li> <li>• (2) The regulations stipulated by sign or other device may also be posted on HRM's website.</li> </ul> <p>Designation Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7. The process to consider the establishment of an Off-Leash Dog Area shall be initiated in one of the following ways:</li> <li>• (a) by a motion of Regional Council, which may include directions for public consultation, to consider the establishment of an Off-Leash Dog Area within a specific park or community; or (b) by the Director, where in the opinion of the Director, the potential impact of a proposed Off-Leash Dog Area upon a Park and surrounding land uses is minimal, and public consultation is unnecessary.</li> <li>• 8. Once initiated, proposals to consider the establishment of an Off-Leash Dog Area shall be referred to staff for consideration and evaluation.</li> <li>• 9. Staff shall review potential Off-Leash Dog Areas against the criteria set out in Section 14.</li> <li>• 10. Staff may undertake community consultation to gather public input on the suitability of establishing an Off-Leash Dog Area.</li> <li>• 11. Staff shall submit a staff report with recommendation regarding: (a) the proposed Off-Leash Dog Area to either Regional Council or the Director, whichever initiated the process, and (b) any proposed regulations to the Director, along with a summary of comments received during the public consultations.</li> </ul> <p>Off-Leash Dog Area Classification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12. There are two classifications of Off-Leash Dog Areas: (a) shared Off-Leash Dog Areas, where dogs are permitted off-leash within areas of a Park that are not Dedicated Off-Leash Dog Areas; and (b) dedicated Off-Leash Dog Areas, where an area of a Park is fully fenced for the purpose of providing a reserved area for off-leash dog use, including areas for service dogs.</li> </ul> <p>Evaluation Criteria for Shared Off-leash Dog Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13. The following shall be considered in determining whether any Park is appropriate for the establishment of a shared Off-Leash Dog Area: (a) the existing Off-leash Dog Area system with respect to:</li> </ul>

TABLE A: MUNICIPAL DIRECTIONAL DOCUMENTS TO INFORM PARK ACTIONS.

Document	Date	Direction
Off-Leash Administrative Order (continued)	2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (i) the relationship and distances of candidate sites to existing designated Off-leash Dog Areas and service gaps; and (ii) extent of conflicts in existing parks where there are existing Off-Leash Dog Areas;</li> <li>• (b) population distribution and dog licensing and ownership data; (c) whether the proposed Off-Leash Dog Area is of sufficient size to accommodate the expected level of usage, with a minimum Park size of 2.5 acres generally being required to accommodate an Off-Leash Dog Area; (d) the existing function and classification of the Park; (e) the compatibility of an Off-Leash Dog Area with recreational activities and events that occur in the Park; (f) whether an Off-Leash Dog Area will negatively impact any other uses of the Park such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (i) play structures; (ii) wading pools or splash pads; (iii) beaches that are supervised; (iv) sports fields during active seasons; (v) sports courts including tennis courts and basketball courts; (vi) environmentally sensitive features; (vii) cultural features; (viii) monuments and public art; (ix) gardens including community gardens; (x) memorial parks; or (xi) other similar facilities or features.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• (g) whether the use is compatible with the physical and environmental capabilities of the Park and is designed to take into account topography, hydrology, vegetation and property configuration; (h) whether the use as an Off-Leash Dog Area would jeopardize public safety; (i) the type and proximity of nearby land uses outside of the Park, and whether there are adequate separation distances or mitigation measures available to provide a sufficient visual and acoustic buffer from such uses; (j) the availability of sufficient and appropriate parking; (k) the intended level of service to be provided, the park infrastructure required for the Off-Leash use, and the design of the Off-leash Dog Area; (l) any appropriate site-specific restrictions on use, including hours of operation and seasons of use; (m) the opportunities for active use by dog owners, such as the provision of off-leash trails that encourage greater physical activity by dog owners; (n) the results of community engagement, if applicable; and (o) the financial implications of establishing the Off-Leash Dog Area.</li> </ul>

**Dedicated Off-leash Dog Area**

- 14. The following shall be considered in determining whether any Park is appropriate for the establishment of a dedicated Off-Leash Dog Area: (a) the criteria in section 13; (b) the Park’s ability to accommodate regional users; and (c) the long-term impact of the dedicated Off-Leash Dog Area on the Park.

**Regional Council and Director Approval**

- 15. (1) If the process was initiated by Regional Council, Regional Council shall consider staff’s recommendation respecting the proposed Off-Leash Dog Area and may approve, modify or refuse the designation of the proposed Off-Leash Dog Area. (2) If the process was initiated by the Director, the Director shall consider staff’s recommendation respecting the proposed Off-Leash Dog Area and may approve, modify or refuse the designation of the proposed Off-Leash Dog Area. (3) If a proposed Off-Leash Dog Area is approved, the Director may: (a) consider staff’s recommendation respecting any proposed regulations; and (b) in accordance with the Municipal Parks By-Law, cause to be erected a sign or other device specifying in the Off-Leash Dog Area activities that are permitted, prohibited or restricted.

TABLE A: MUNICIPAL DIRECTIONAL DOCUMENTS TO INFORM PARK ACTIONS.

Document	Date	Direction
HalifACT 2050: Acting on Climate Together	2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action 14: Develop a holistic, integrated, and climate-informed stormwater management plan and program.</li> <li>• Action 20: Fund and implement the Green Network Plan and Urban Forest Master Plan.</li> <li>• Action 21: Continue the naturalization program through pilot projects, public education and awareness to support the development of a region-wide naturalization program.</li> <li>• Action 22: Develop and implement a region-wide tree planting and re-greening program.</li> <li>• Action 26: Acquire more land to preserve natural areas and ecosystem health in alignment with the Green Network Plan</li> </ul>

Community-wide water conservation measures will include infrastructure improvements and water use behavioural changes, as well as reducing the amount of stormwater entering the wastewater system through sewer separation and promoting on-site infiltration and water retention...Green infrastructure is a core component of effective stormwater management. An integrated approach to water management will involve close coordination between the Municipality, the Halifax Regional Water Commission and the public.

Natural areas and green infrastructure increase water infiltration and reduce runoff, reduce the heat island effect, improve water quality, provide shade and areas for reprieve, and sequester carbon. Examples of natural areas and green infrastructure include parks, trees, shrubs, urban forests, green roofs and walls, gardens, bioswales, natural channels, watercourses, ponds, and constructed wetlands. Naturalization is an ecological approach to landscape management that enhances biodiversity and improves ecosystem health and resilience in an urban environment. Naturalization reduces maintenance requirements and costs, as systems are self-renewing and resilient, and provides more naturalized space to residents and wildlife. Halifax Regional Council provided direction to expand naturalization efforts in parks and rights-of-way areas in January 2019. Both the Urban Forest Master Plan and the Green Network Plan highlight the benefits that are associated with increased naturalization and biodiversity.

Planning policies through the Regional Plan and municipal planning strategies can provide direction to reduce sprawl and allow for the efficient use of land, energy, and transportation systems. These strategies should also emphasize green spaces, urban forests, and community spaces that further reduce urban heat island effects and improve the environmental health of communities.

For land protection, strategies include protecting green spaces that already exist through conservation and land use planning, restoring and maintaining what already exists through careful management and ecosystem restoration, and expanding natural areas and green infrastructure. Available municipal tools for protection can include amending land use bylaw regulations, open space subdivision, zoning, and through development agreement between the developer and the Municipality. Additional tools that could be explored in partnership with other stakeholders include land donation, easements, and voluntary preservation. The Municipality will continue to strategically acquire lands that provide ecological value and preserve biodiversity. The current Regional Plan review provides an opportunity to strengthen the Municipality's role in acquiring and protecting lands that will both sequester carbon to mitigate climate impacts and increase adaptive capacity.