



PARKS MASTER PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT DECEMBER 2019



Mission Statement

Alnwick / Haldimand is committed to providing a comprehensive range of high-quality parks and recreation services through resource and asset management, fiscal accountability and effective partnerships.

This report is completed to “review and make recommendations to Council on the programs, initiatives and funding proposals that relate to the Parks Master Plan” (Terms of Reference)

The Parks Master Plan (PMP-2018) was completed by Sierra Planning and Management in April 2018

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PRIORITIES

1 Priority

We recommend that: The Township develop a Parks and Rec strategy with maintenance, inspection and replacement schedules that remain consistent. Council and township employees must plan to ensure that our Township is achieving the goals it sets.

The Township have a designated Township employee who is accountable and responsible for the parks and recreation facilities for ongoing maintenance, upkeep and replacement schedules of parks, park assets and park equipment.

2 Priority

We recommend that: All new developments should be Community Hubs/multi-purpose facilities, to attract a larger spectrum of users.

Ensure that Community Hubs are developed within the three communities so there is representation in our three areas: Grafton, Centreton and Roseneath.

Lake to Lake should be used as a reference point on all documentation concerning Parks and Recreation because we truly are Lake to Lake.

PARKS

1. **We recommend that:** Consistent signage be installed at each of the Township owned properties. Recommended Time frame – 2020/21
2. **We recommend that:** A playground should be defined as a “Park with Playground Equipment” vs a Park (which does not have playground equipment)
3. **We recommend that:** Playground equipment should be standardized for our Parks with Playground Equipment at Grafton Arena Park as a model (swings, slide etc.). Standardized means similar in outlook, quality and expense while being specific to the needs of the community it represents.
4. **We recommend that:** Playground equipment should be considered fully amortized after it has been in use for 14 years (PMP-2018) and replaced if needed.
5. **We recommend that:** Playground equipment should be upgraded at Sandy Bay Park
Recommended Time frame – 2020
6. **We recommend that:** New naturalized recreation area should be installed at Wicklow Beach
Recommended Time frame – 2021
7. **We recommend that:** At Roseneath a playground / playground equipment to be installed
Recommended Time frame – 2022



8. **We recommend that:** A playground be established in Lakeport. Lakeport needs a park / playground. Reaching out to Cramahe to co-develop this park would be in everyone's best interests. Recommended Time frame – 2023

9. **We recommend that:** The Township reach out to neighbouring service clubs (ie: Rotary, etc.) to see if they have an interest in partnering on a playground or equipment.

Parks - Excess lands:

10. **We recommend that:** Centreton Centennial Park should be sold with the funds to be used for parks projects. Recommended Time frame – 2020

11. **We recommend that:** Stonafton Park on St Andrews Drive, Grafton. The Township should retain / reposition the trail through to Johnson Court and sell off the rest of the land as a building lot with funds used for parks and recreation projects. Recommended Time frame – 2020

TRAILS

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12. **We recommend that:** issues surrounding the accessibility at all trails for wheelchair and stroller access be addressed. Trails need to be compliant for the use by all individuals. Recommended Time frame – 2021
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13. **We recommend that:** a short trail be established between the Seniors complex, Haldimand Court Apartments, and the ball diamonds. Recommended Time frame – 2020
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14. **We recommend that:** The Township resolve issues with the Roseneath Fairgrounds to allow for the development of a walking/cycling trail in Roseneath to connect the Roseneath Parkette, The Fairgrounds and Alwick Civic Centre to the broader system of trails; Item 46a) Explore opportunities for local trail enhancements. Recommended Time frame – 2020
-
15. **We recommend that:** a waterfront trail be established from Wicklow Boat Launch to Nawautin Nature Reserve Specifically Item 46b): Explore opportunities for local trail enhancements Recommended Time frame – 2021
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16. **We highly recommend that:** The Township explore developing a digital app to help promote awareness of the trails (and parks). This could be utilizing the open software app that the Town of Milton has that highlights everything in Milton, including trails. Recommended Time frame – 2020
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BOAT LAUNCHES

17. **We recommend that:** Sandy Bay boat launch be developed to the standard established at Wicklow Boat Launch in conjunction with the improvements to Sandy Bay Park. Recommended Time frame – 2020
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To be kept in good repair, parking improved, signage improved, and area clearly designated regarding boat size, hours etc.

18. **We recommend that:** That all other locations currently referred to as boat launches should be referred to on signage and all communication as 'Public Access to Rice Lake Via Open Road Allowance'.
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There is a potential liability issue in labelling everything on Rice Lake as a boat launch when there is insufficient space at these locations to be labelled or developed as a boat launch.

Jurisdiction -Public Works vs. Parks and Recreation- Who looks after the boat launches?

LIBRARIES

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19. **We recommend that:** The Township consult with the Library Board regarding: Moving the Grafton Library to a new / newer facility in a Community Hub. Recommended Time frame – 2020
-
20. **We recommend that:** The Township examine the successes the libraries have had in programming / attracting user groups to use as a base for forming opinions about how a Community Programs Officer may function within the existing system. Recommended Time frame – 2020
-
21. **We recommend that:** The Township continue to invest in necessary repairs and upgrades to the Centreton Library. Recommended Time frame – ongoing
-
22. **We recommend that:** improvements to Centreton Park are to be considered as part of broader site development opportunities for this facility and which may include a reading garden for the Library's Summer Reading Program. Recommended Time frame – 2025
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23. **We recommend that:** The Township continue to invest in essential repairs and maintenance at the Bette LeBarr Library in Grafton while it is in existence at the present location, in conjunction with the Library Board. Recommended Time frame – 2020
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24. **We recommend that:** As part of a public interest survey and feasibility study for a new multi-use facility in Grafton, in conjunction with the Library Board evaluate the opportunity to develop a new library as part of the development. Recommended Time frame – April 2020
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25. **We recommend that:** Subject to the result of a public interest survey and feasibility study seek to invest in a new library in Grafton as part of a multi-use facility. Recommended Time frame – 2021

26. **We recommend that:** In consultation with the Library Board develop a new library in Grafton. With the implementation of a new multi-use community hub in Grafton, invest in a new, enhanced library to support additional space components as follows:

- Reading nooks and pods;
 - Digital/maker space for arts and crafts
 - Space for other programs for children, youth, adults and seniors;
 - Rooms for computer hubs
 - Other meeting rooms within the Library or a room to be used jointly with a community centre
-

27. **We recommend that:** A community-scale media room to support movie and documentary showings and other community programming such as lectures, small theatre performances, etc. to be incorporated with community hall plans / multi-purpose room(s) be a part of this new Community Hub.

28. **We recommend that:** If a new library is implemented in Grafton, that the Township retain the existing Grafton Library building as a lease property. We suggest that the Township work with the existing YMCA Daycare tenant to expand/optimize its occupancy in this building but not until a new library is operational

29. **We recommend that:** As part of a public interest survey and feasibility study for the Alswick Civic Centre, evaluate the architectural and structural opportunities to enhance and potentially expand the existing library branch at this location in consultation with the Library Board. Concepts and resulting capital cost estimates should include consideration for the addition of a formal library reception area, reading nooks, multi-use programs room(s), as well as dedicated office space for library staff. Recommended Time frame – May 2020



30. **We recommend that:** The Alnwick Library have an expanded library as part of a community hub with after school programs in consultation with the Library Board. This community hub should include a computer lab. Recommended Time frame – 2021

31. **We recommend that:** an addition be made to the Centreton Library to make sound-proof space for a small meeting room. (up to 6 people) This should be made in consultation with the Library Board. Recommended Time frame – 2025

COMMUNITY CENTRES

32. We recommend that: Each Community Centre should report to Council / Staff on a quarterly basis to track usage both in programs offered and in the number of participants in each event. Recommended Time frame – January 1, 2020

33. We recommend that: The role of the Community Programs Officer be developed as a permanent - full time position. This will help coordinate data and programming for our community centres. (PMP-2018 s. 8.3 Embracing a Role for the Township in Program Delivery) Recommended Time frame – 2020

34. We recommend that: The job of the Community Program Coordinator be to help generate activities and interest in our community centres. This should be the primary focus. After the New Community Hub is developed in Grafton it is recommended that the Community Program Coordinator be the person responsible for all programming occurring at the new facility, as well as in conjunction with the existing community centres, where Parks and Recreation are concerned. Recommended Time frame – 2021

The Township is in the process of hiring a Community Programs Coordinator to work in conjunction with our community centres.

35. We recommend that: A public interest survey for residents should be conducted via insert in tax bill, online survey on the website, in person drop-in opportunities in February, March and April in Roseneath, Centreton and Grafton. The survey should have site specific sections as well as a section for everyone regarding the new facility to be built in Grafton. The goal would be to provide residents with varied opportunities to respond to encourage reaching all demographics, from families with young children, teens and youth, adults, seniors, rural residents, etc.". Recommended Time frame – February 2020

Alnwick Civic Centre / Old Firehall

36. **We recommend that:** a detailed site assessment study be commissioned for Alnwick Civic Centre / Old Firehall after the public interest survey is completed. Recommended Time frame – June 2020
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Wish List:

Multi-purpose courts (Basketball, Pickleball, etc.)

Small scale gym / fitness centre / showers

Walking track

Library expansion / I.T. centre

Fenella and Vernonville

- 37. We recommend that:** Fenella and Vernonville be given a clear timeline to improve usage, with goals to be accomplished along the way. Recommended Time frame – January 2020
-

These should be set in conjunction with the Community Program Coordinator. These goals should be set in relative proportion to the usage and number of participants of the other community centres so that they are reasonable and attainable.

The decision by our group on the viability of these two centres were mixed. At one end we had a suggestion that there should be no bookings into 2021 without a positive upswing on usage. At the other end there was a need for a minimum of 5 years of data to be collected prior to any final decision being made (ie: 2025).

This was softened to a target date of 2023 as an urgency was delivered to these two community groups in 2018. Further decisions concerning the fate of these facilities should be data driven.

Centreton Community Centre

38. **We recommend that:** A priority be made for clarifying the title of the church lands/cemetery lands abutting the Centreton Community Centre to see if any of the lands are owned by the Township or could be acquired for future expansion or use. Recommended Time frame – 2020
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39. **We recommend that:** Funds to be given to repair / resolve the leak where the Library and Community Hall buildings connect. There appears to be evidence of black mold and may be a Health and Safety issue. Recommended Time frame – immediate
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40. **We recommend that:** An outdoor reading area be considered at Centreton Park, across the street from the Community Centre. This could be done with a gazebo. This might be a potential Men's Shed project. Recommended Time frame – 2020/2021
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41. **We recommend that:** 'Centreton Men's Shed' group be consulted to see if there is any interest in: Building picnic tables and benches (to municipal code) Create a second entrance / exit to the barn, which would allow for usage other than storage Other projects they could either initiate or partner on for this or any other facility within the Township.
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42. **We recommend that:** the staff and volunteers at Centreton should be recognized for their success in building interest and growing a larger user group.
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Grafton Community / Haldimand Memorial Arena Property

43. **We recommend that:** A detailed site assessment study be commissioned for the Grafton Arena site after the public interest survey has been completed. Recommended Time frame – June 2020
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In developing the site, we provide the following wish list as suggestions for possibilities to be included in the survey for the new build that is to occur at this site.

- a. Gym with stage (or removeable risers)
- b. Two or more indoor multi-purpose courts (Basketball, pickleball, etc.)
- c. An outdoor multi-purpose pad (Basketball, ball hockey, tennis, ice skating / refrigeration package)
- d. Library
- e. Media room
- f. Community room
- g. 25-meter pool with waterslide or WIBIT
- h. Walking track
- i. Fitness equipment
- j. Showers
- k. Climbing wall
- l. Refurbish / Retrofit the existing arena
- m. Therapy pool
- n. Senior's Centre
- o. Kitchen / banquet hall
- p. Upgrade existing baseball diamonds
- q. Retain and promote the existing shuffleboard facility

44. **We recommend that:** Township personnel consult with neighbouring communities as part of the planning process.

This would hopefully ensure that any facility our township plans for is not duplicated with one that our neighbours may be planning.

45. **We recommend that:** Once the vision of the new or renovated facilities have been established, then engineering/construction should be planned to be expandable. (ie: Phase 1, 2, 3, etc.)

46. **We recommend that:** Research into grants and financing programs be done, along with a fundraising initiative, seeking community partners and possible naming rights. Recommended Time frame – September 2020

47. **We recommend that:** Phase 1 of the new build project for the Grafton Community Hub should commence. Recommended Time frame – 2021

48. **We recommend that:** If funding for the arena ice is discontinued, then the facility should be used short term as a multi-purpose pad for things like pickle ball, floor ball, basketball until such time as the new facility is built. Recommended Time frame – as needed

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

2020

The Township Council should consider the following items in Township budget:

- a) Wayfinding signage
- b) Web page presence with calendar and email links and a smartphone app for Parks and Trails be established and maintained to ensure everything is kept current
- c) Sandy Bay Park Playground Equipment
- d) Sandy Bay Boat Launch – improvements to launch, parking and signage
- e) Grafton Arena trails be made accessible
- f) A trail / pathway be constructed between the seniors building, Haldimand Court Apartments, and the Grafton Arena trail
- g) Community Programs Coordinator position
- h) Repair / resolve the leak at Centreton Community Centre
- i) Conduct a public interest survey via insert in tax bill, online survey on the website, in person drop-in opportunities in February, March and April in Roseneath, Centreton and Grafton
- j) Detailed Site assessment study be commissioned for Alswick Civic Centre / Old Firehall
- k) Detailed Site assessment study be commissioned for Haldimand Memorial Arena property
- l) Proceed with sale of Centreton Centennial Park and portion of Stonafton Park

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

2021

The Township Council should consider the following items in Township budget:

- m) Wicklow Boat Launch - appropriate natural recreation area
- n) A trail be established from Wicklow Beach to Nawautin
- o) Commence building Phase 1 of a new community hub facility in Grafton
- p) Commence implementation of detailed site plan for Alnwick Civic Centre

TIMELINES

2020

- Develop multi-year Parks and Rec strategy with maintenance, inspection and replacement schedules that remain consistent. Council and township employees must plan to ensure that our Township is achieving the goals
 - Consistent signage be installed at each of the Township owned properties
 - **Lake to Lake** should be used as a reference point on all documentation concerning Parks and Recreation because we truly are Lake to Lake.
 - Sandy Bay park – playground replacement, improved parking and maintenance, improvements grass areas required
 - Centreton Centennial Park should be sold with the funds to be used for parks projects
 - Stonafton Park on St Andrews Drive, Grafton. The Township should retain / reposition the trail through to Johnson Court and sell off the rest of the land as a building lot with funds used for parks and recreation projects
 - Trail improvements to trail behind arena including improved access from Haldimand Court Apartments
 - The Township commence discussions to resolve issues with the Roseneath Fairgrounds to allow for the development of a walking/cycling trail in Roseneath to connect the Roseneath Parkette, The Fairgrounds and Alnwick Civic Centre to the broader system of trails
 - The Township continue funding the libraries and communicate with the Library Board, seeking their input, on all community hub initiatives
 - System established for each Community Centre to report to Council / Staff on a quarterly basis to track usage both in programs offered and in the number of participants in each event
 - The role of the Community Programs Officer be developed as a permanent - full time position. This will help coordinate data and programming for our community centres
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- Clarify the title of the church lands/cemetery lands abutting the Centreton Community Centre to see if any of the lands are owned by the Township or could be acquired for future expansion or use
 - Funds to be given to Centreton Community Centre to repair / resolve the leak where the Library and Community Hall buildings connect
 - Fenella and Vernonville be given a clear timeline to improve usage, with goals to be accomplished along the way
 - Survey of residents regarding Alswick Civic Centre and Centreton Community Centre
 - Survey of residents regarding new community hub project for Grafton
 - Detailed site assessment, based on survey, for Alswick Civic Centre
 - Detailed site assessment, based on survey, for new community hub project for Grafton
 - Commence fundraising efforts for Sandy Bay park, Alswick Civic Centre, and new community hub project for Grafton
 - Commence grant fund applications for Sandy Bay park, Alswick Civic Centre, and new community hub project for Grafton
 - Please see body of report for more details
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2021

- Follow multi-year Parks and Rec strategy with maintenance, inspection and replacement schedules that remain consistent. Council and township employees must plan to ensure that our Township is achieving the goals
- Continue to install consistent signage at each of the Township owned properties
- The Township explore developing a digital app to help promote awareness of the trails (and parks).
- New naturalized recreation area should be established at Wicklow Beach
- Trail improvements to trail at Nawautin
- A waterfront trail be established from Wicklow Boat Launch to Nawautin Nature Reserve
- The Township continue discussions to resolve issues with the Roseneath Fairgrounds to allow for the development of a walking/cycling trail in Roseneath to connect the Roseneath Parkette, The Fairgrounds and Alnwick Civic Centre to the broader system of trails
- The Township continue funding the libraries and communicate with the Library Board, seeking their input, on all community hub initiatives
- Data used to make decisions regarding Fenella and Vernonville Community Centres
- Commence implementation of detailed site plan for Alnwick Civic Centre
- Commence building work on new Community Hub in Grafton
- Continue fundraising efforts for Sandy Bay park, Alnwick Civic Centre, and new community hub project for Grafton
- Continue grant fund applications for Sandy Bay park, Alnwick Civic Centre, and new community hub project for Grafton
- Please see body of report for more details

AD HOC COMMITTEE

“The role of the Alnwick Haldimand Parks and Recreation Ad Hoc Committee is to advise the Council as to specific recommendations or proposals to address the recommendations as illustrated in the Parks Master Plan.” Terms of Reference

This Report is the fulfillment of the Committee’s mandate.

This report has been completed by:

Liam Cragg, Chair

Janet Sullivan

Jon Ling

Abby Covert

Mary Catherine O’Neill

Bill Ferguson

Jen Keller-Nelson

THANKS

The Committee extends its thanks to Councilors Sherry Gibson and Mike Filip, and staff Chris Curwin, Megan Broomfield and Troy Gilmour for their assistance.

