

The Corporation of the Township of Georgian Bluffs

By-law Number 2020-144

Being a By-law to adopt a Recreation and Trails Master Plan for the Township of Georgian Bluffs.

Whereas Section 5 (3) of the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended requires that a municipal power shall be exercised by by-law; and

Whereas Section 11 (1) of the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended may provide any service or thing that the municipality considers necessary or desirable for the public; and

Whereas Section 11 (3) of the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended provides the authority to municipalities to pass by-laws regarding culture, parks, recreation and heritage; and

Whereas Committee of the Whole approved recommendation number COW2019-044 at their meeting on August 14, 2019 to develop a Recreation and Trails Master Plan; and

Whereas Council of the Township of Georgian Bluffs deems it necessary and expedient to adopt the Recreation and Trails Master Plan and the recommendations and priorities identified therein;

Now Therefore, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Georgian Bluffs enacts the following:

1. That the Recreation and Trails Master Plan, attached hereto as Schedule 'A' and forming part of this By-law is hereby adopted.
2. That this By-law shall come into force and effect upon passing thereof.

Read a first and second time this 16th day of December 2020.

Read a third time and passed this 16th day of December 2020.

Original signed by the Mayor

Mayor – Dwight Burley

Original signed by the Clerk

Clerk – Brittany Drury



Recreation and Trails Master Plan

December
2020



Monteith • Brown
planning consultants



Township of Georgian Bluffs

Recreation & Trails Master Plan

December 2020

Alternate accessible versions available on request.



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Executive Summary

The Recreation and Trails Master Plan (RTMP) analyzes the Township of Georgian Bluffs' needs for parks, recreation and trail services, programs and facilities to the year 2031. The RTMP has engaged residents and stakeholders to discuss collective values and needs through open houses, workshops, a community survey, and written feedback. With the assistance of the community, the following Vision Statement guides the RTMP and the implementation of its Action Plans over time:

“Invigorated by our nature, connected by our trails, and motivated by our communities to provide recreation for all to enjoy.”

The following pages summarize the majority of Action Plans contained in the RTMP (a listing of all 19 Action Plans can be found in Section 7 of the RTMP).

Providing Spaces for Recreation

First and foremost, the RTMP supports the Township's **role as a provider of recreational space** through community centres, arenas, parks, trails and their associated infrastructure. As a municipality of approximately 10,500 people, the focus on recreational space is one that is cost-effective, intentional, and does not currently require the Township to directly offer programs given the capacity of community providers to do so. With recent changes to the Ontario Planning Act and Development Charges Act, the Township will need to **assess funding-related implications of Bill 108** once the Province of Ontario releases its implementing regulations regarding parkland conveyance, application of the Community Benefit Charge and other potential changes.

Township staff seek ways to encourage use of recreational space through relationships built with local service providers, competitively pricing rentals within the regional market, and certain promotional activities. **Formalizing a “Community Development” approach** as part of the Township's day-to-day recreational operations is a way to build on the municipality's role by dedicating resources towards liaising with community/agency service providers and coordinating communication between them, finding new opportunities for programs and partnerships to maximize facility rentals and the range of services available to residents, and simply tracking trends and best practices in the sector. Doing so would require **a staff position dedicated to Community Development**, possibly in the form of a “Recreation Services Facilitator.” It will also be important to regularly engage community providers to **explore ways to reduce barriers** to participating and volunteering in the local recreation, parks and trails system.

Rejuvenating Community Centres in Kemble & Kilsyth

The Kemble & District Community Centre and the Derby Community Centre are aging facilities designed in an era that did not have the benefits of modern standards governing barrier-free accessibility or recreational programming requirements. With substantial facility renewal costs anticipated over the next 10 to 15 years simply to keep the facilities operational, along with the evolution of demographic characteristics in the communities that they serve, further analysis is needed to determine whether future investment is better spent through more meaningful redevelopment opportunities.

Guided by a vision defined through future community consultations along with considerations identified in this RTMP, a conceptual plan should be developed for both community centres and their associated sites. In doing so, architectural, engineering and/or landscape architectural assessments should be carried out along with a cost-benefit analysis of redeveloping these two facilities. Both the Kemble & District Community Centre and the Derby Community Centre are important assets that allow the Township to fulfill its role as a provider of space, as they serve as outreach destinations for community rentals and programming across the Township of Georgian Bluffs' large territory.

At a minimum, **future recreational components** that should be examined for the Kemble & District Community Centre and the Derby Community Centre include:

- community hall and program/meeting rooms;
- active living / group fitness areas;
- playgrounds, hard surface courts, gardens; and/or
- other ideas brought forward through community visioning processes.

Investing in Parkland

Parks deliver social, environmental, health, and economic benefits to residents while providing places to connect people with each other and to the outdoors. The Township of Georgian Bluffs maintains over 20 hectares (50 acres) in 10 recreational parks translating into a service level of approximately 2.0 hectares per 1,000 residents. Based upon future population projections, **an additional 3 hectares (7.5 acres) will be needed** to keep pace and can be addressed through parkland that will be conveyed through planned subdivisions in Kilsyth, Cobble Beach, land developments in other settlements, and the Township's Cash-In-Lieu of Parkland reserve funds.

To ensure consistent and quality park experiences, a set of **parkland design and maintenance standards** should be developed; such standards will also allow the Township to determine and, if necessary, adjust its staffing levels while also considering works that are presently carried out by community volunteers. The Township should install **entrance signs at all of its parks**, consistent with the brand already found at a select few park locations.

In looking across the existing system of parks, the RTMP identifies the **Clavering Ball Diamond** as a park that could be potentially redeveloped to encourage greater use among area residents and possibly to stimulate certain economic opportunities by virtue of its location along the Highway 6 corridor. A conceptual plan should be prepared for the Clavering Ball Diamond - involving community consultation and a costing analysis - that reorients the park with passive recreation facilities including, but not limited to, seating and shade areas, pathways, picnic and community gathering space, and/or public art. Smaller scale investments are also proposed at Shouldice Park (outdoor fitness equipment) and Balmy Beach Park (pickleball court overlay), as well as outdoor space noted above for the community centre sites in Kemble and Kilsyth.

Adopting a Framework for Trails

Like parks, trails offer many benefits in the form of furthering public health and active transportation objectives, environmental protection, and increasing opportunities for social interaction between people. The RTMP strives towards the creation of a well-managed network of trails in Georgian Bluffs that encourages safe, respectful and enjoyable recreational opportunities while connecting people to local points of interest and regional systems. Georgian Bluffs' trails system is especially critical given the regional linkages that it provides (particularly for tourism and economic development), as well as the fact that it is heavily relied upon for both recreational and utilitarian uses (the latter would include day to day uses and employment functions such as among agricultural workers).

With this in mind, the RTMP establishes a **hierarchy of trails** – consisting of Primary Multi-Use Trails, Secondary Multi-Use Trails and Recreational Trails – along with a **conceptual trail network** that links to existing and planned trail/active transportation routes in Georgian Bluffs; these will assist the Township in planning and implementing future trail-related initiatives. The County of Grey is also presently drafting a Cycling & Trails Master Plan which presents opportunity for collaboration, while there is also a strong case to be made with partnering with agencies and organizations such as the County of Bruce, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Grey-Sauble Conservation Authority, the Bruce Trail Conservancy, local ATV and snowmobile clubs, and private landowners to **coordinate trail planning, funding and linkages**.

Throughout RTMP consultations, much feedback was received regarding the need to **balance the needs of multiple types of trail users**, including motorized and non-motorized functions. The adoption and further refinement of the RTMP's trail hierarchy, along with its application to existing trails and side trails is a first step to assign permitted uses based on any given trail's topographical and environmental conditions, as well as proximity to other land uses. From a day-to-day perspective, there will be a need to **discuss education and enforcement strategies** with law enforcement agencies, by-law enforcement staff, and local trail user groups so that trails are used in accordance with their intended functions.

Section 1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Recreation and Trails Master Plan

The Recreation and Trails Master Plan (RTMP) is the first document of its kind in the Township of Georgian Bluffs since amalgamation in 2001. The intent to complete the RTMP originates from the Township's Strategic Plan which emphasizes the importance of parks, recreation and trails in Georgian Bluffs.

The RTMP analyzes the Township's current mix of parks, recreation and trail services, programs and facilities. The RTMP provides Action Plans that consider opinions expressed by residents and stakeholders, community demographics, trends and best practices. The master planning period spans the years 2020 to 2031.

**Georgian Bluffs Strategic Plan (Goal 4):
Increase Available Recreational and
Social Opportunities**

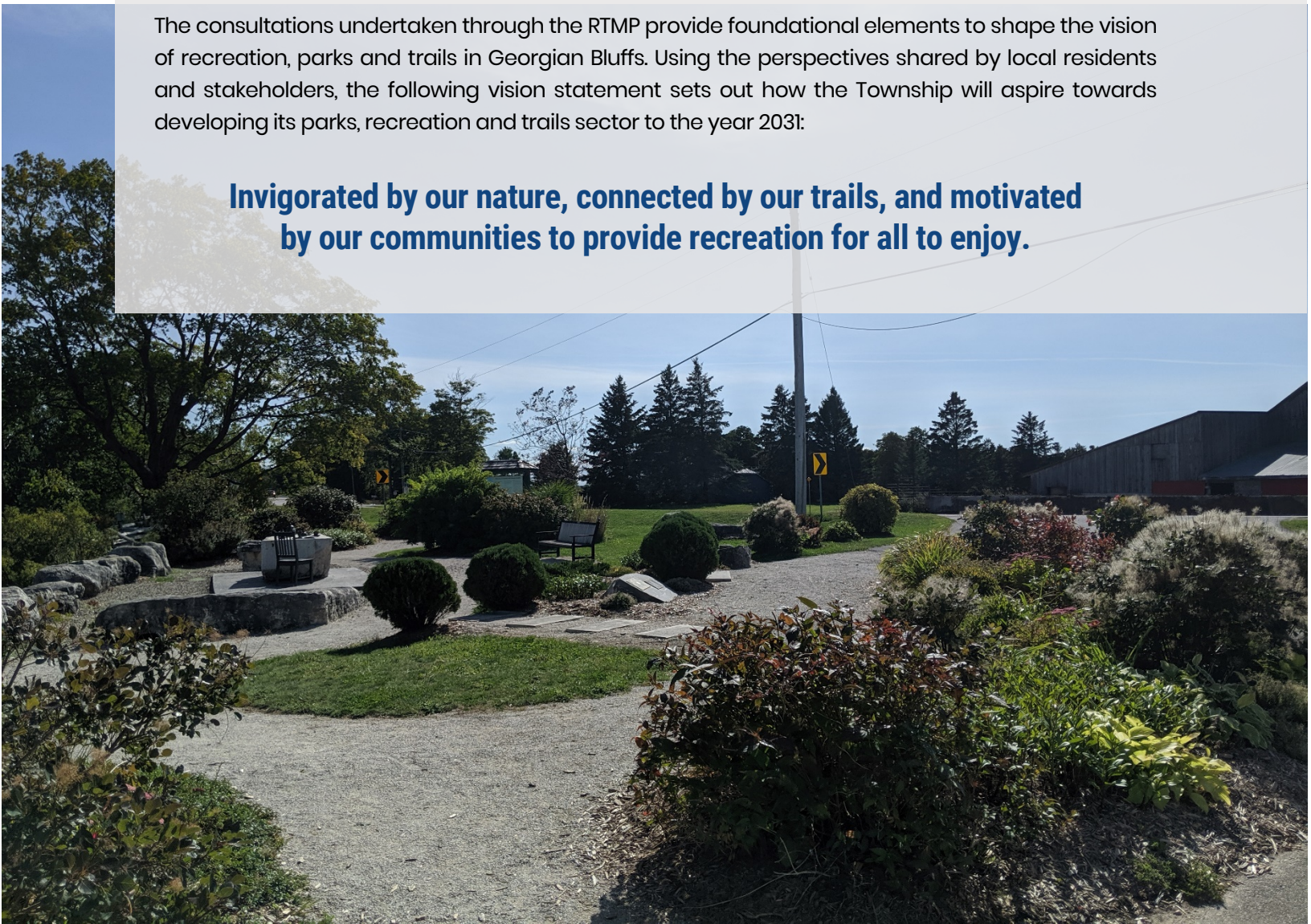
The Township of Georgian Bluffs is committed to providing for recreation and social opportunities for persons in the Township of all ages and abilities.

~ Township of Georgian Bluffs
Strategic Plan 2019-2023

1.2 Vision for Recreation & Trails in Georgian Bluffs

The consultations undertaken through the RTMP provide foundational elements to shape the vision of recreation, parks and trails in Georgian Bluffs. Using the perspectives shared by local residents and stakeholders, the following vision statement sets out how the Township will aspire towards developing its parks, recreation and trails sector to the year 2031:

**Invigorated by our nature, connected by our trails, and motivated
by our communities to provide recreation for all to enjoy.**



1.3 Recreation and Trails in Georgian Bluffs

The Township of Georgian Bluffs’ abundant natural beauty is characterized by the Niagara Escarpment, trailways, forested tracts, rolling agricultural landscapes, and the Georgian Bay shoreline. Collectively these outdoor areas allow many forms of recreation that connect people to the outdoors, while the Township’s parks system contains sports fields, playgrounds, beaches, sport courts, open spaces, etc. that also offer organized and drop-in forms of activity. Arenas and community centres in Georgian Bluffs allow community programs and rentals to take place throughout the year.

The countless benefits of parks, recreation and trails have led to the creation of national/provincial charters such as Parks for All, the Framework for Recreation in Canada, and documents prepared by industry bodies (e.g. Parks and Recreation Ontario, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association, Ontario Parks Association, etc.). Within Grey-Bruce, a recent study finds that health and wellness is the second most important indicator of quality of life while the environment ranks fourth.¹ These services directly and indirectly benefit residents and businesses in Georgian Bluffs through the physical, health, psychological, economic and environmental benefits they provide.

Municipal parks and recreation facilities have served residents prior to and following amalgamation of the former Townships of Keppel, Sarawak and Derby into the Township of Georgian Bluffs. A campus defined by Shouldice Park and Shallow Lake Community Centre is the Township’s primary hub of for recreation while smaller community centres are located in Kilsyth and Kemble along with a number of parks distributed throughout other settlements. Pre-amalgamation, community centres and parks employed different designs at the time of their construction and are now in varying states of lifecycle condition.

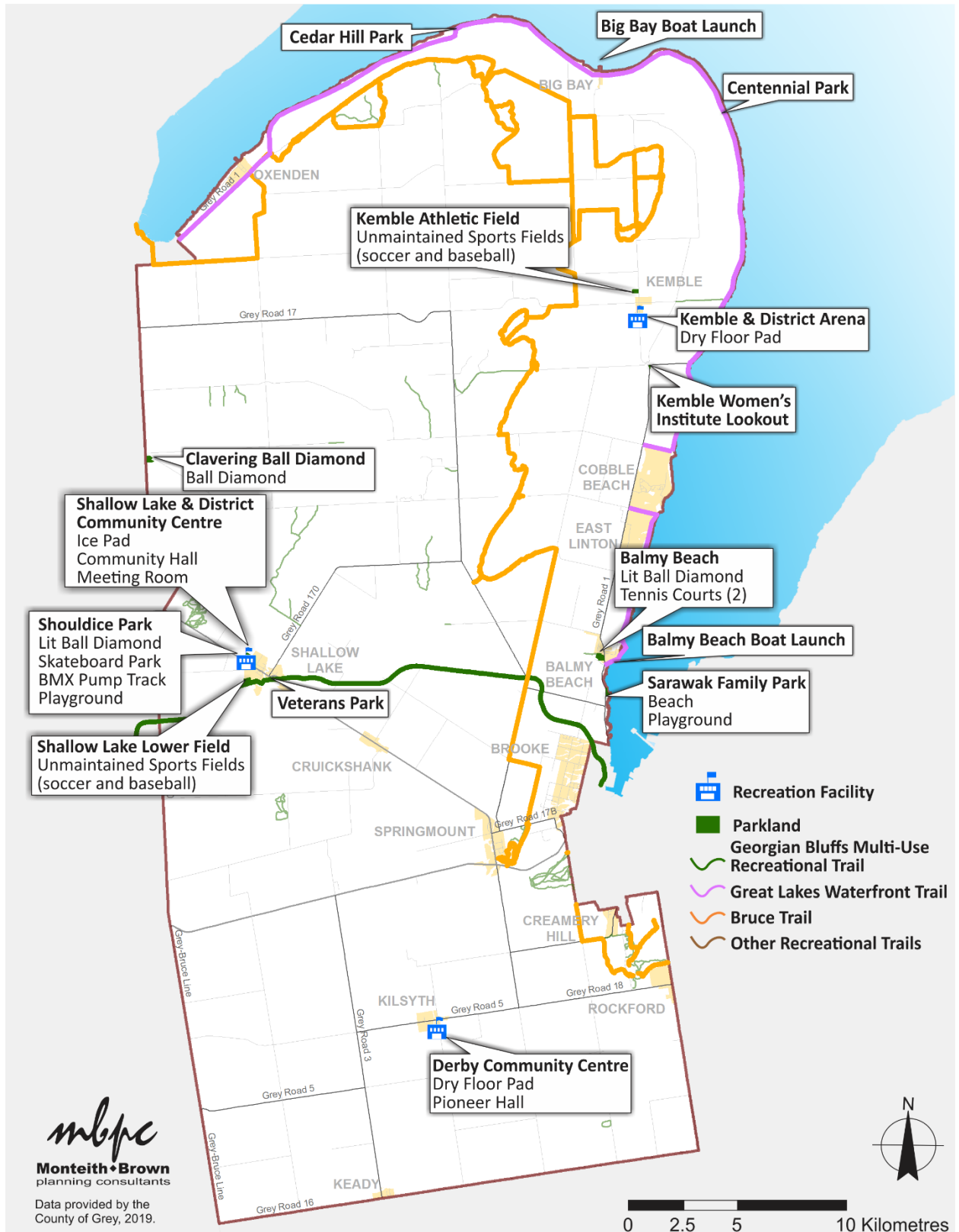
Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of Township-owned recreation facilities and parks. Schools, conservation areas and other non-municipal providers further augment service distribution; with Georgian Bluffs’ residents spread across over 600 square kilometres, population density is fairly low which reinforces the importance of municipal and non-municipal recreational infrastructure to fill geographic gaps.

Notable Recreation Facilities, Parks & Trails in Georgian Bluffs

- 20+ hectares across 10 Township parks
- 3 waterfront parks, one of which contains a designated swimming area
- 2 public boat launches (one is operated under agreement with the federal government)
- Georgian Bluffs Multi-Use Trail with trail heads in Shallow Lake, Benallen and Range Road
- Access to the Bruce Trail and other regional trail systems
- Community Centres in Shallow Lake, Kemble and Kilsyth
- 1 ice arena and 2 indoor dry pads
- 3 ball diamonds
- 2 tennis courts
- 1 skateboard park and 2 playgrounds

¹ Community Foundation Grey Bruce. 2016. Vital Signs: taking the pulse of our community. p. 4.

Figure 1: Major Parks & Facilities in Georgian Bluffs



1.4 Community Demographics

The number of people in the Township along with their socio-economic characteristics influence the types of facilities and services that are needed locally. The following pages describe population in terms of how many people are estimated to live in the Township over the master planning period along with considerations of specific age groups. In addition, Section 6.3 contains information to reflect needs of certain sub-demographic groups including income and cultural diversity.

Population Growth Potential

The Township’s current population is estimated at 10,730 persons. Discussions with Township Planning staff indicate that there is limited growth potential in Georgian Bluffs due to provincial legislation (e.g. Provincial Policy Statement, Niagara Escarpment Plan designations) and limited infrastructure servicing potential.

Projected population growth is expected to add less than 1,000 persons by the year 2031 per the Grey County Growth Management Strategy,² amounting to a 9% increase. Based upon submitted and approved plans of subdivision, growth potential over the master planning period is primarily attributed to Kilsyth (including a new subdivision located on lands adjacent to the Derby Community Centre) and the Cobble Beach settlement. Township staff indicate that the Kemble settlement area is largely built out and settlement boundary expansion of Shallow Lake appears to be unlikely in the next 10 years.

Grey County’s shoreline and other natural amenities make it an attractive destination for seasonal residential developments. A review of 2016 Census data and the County’s 2015 Growth Management Strategy Update³ records the number of seasonal units in Georgian Bluffs in the range of 800 units, and that the Township’s share of seasonal units is slightly lower than the County average. This could add approximately 1,600 to 2,000 additional persons to the Township’s summertime population, and could influence the demand for certain types of parks and outdoor recreation services. The Growth Management Strategy forecasts 130 seasonal units being added in Georgian Bluffs by the year 2036, which could add between 250 and 350 seasonal residents by that time.

Table 1: Georgian Bluffs Forecasted Population

Year	Permanent Population
2020 (estimate)	10,730
2021	11,050
2026 (estimate)	11,380
2031	11,710
Growth Rate, 2019–2031	980 persons (+9%)

Notes: 2020 estimate provided by Township Planning Staff; forecasts include Census net undercoverage. Year 2026 estimate is rounded and derived using straight-line growth between 2021 and 2031 figures
Source: Hemson Consulting, May 2018

² Hemson Consulting Ltd. Memorandum Re. Grey County Growth Management Strategy – Forecast and Land Supply Review and Update. Dated May 17, 2018.

³ Grey County. 2015. Growth Management Strategy Update. Prepared by Hemson Consulting Ltd.

Needs of Specific Age Groups

The age of residents influences the types of recreation facilities and programs that are needed in a community. The 2016 Census recorded the average and median age of Georgian Bluffs at 45 and 50 years, respectively, higher than the Grey County and provincial ages.

Children (Ages 0 to 9)

There were 940 children recorded in Georgian Bluffs through the 2016 Census. Many municipal parks and recreation systems focus opportunities on the pre-school through pre-teen age segments. Child-centred programs and spaces provided through municipalities, schools and child care providers, and community organizations are an integral part of early childhood development and learning, including physical literacy and social well-being.

Youth (Ages 10 to 19)

The 2016 Census recorded 1,125 youth between the ages of 10 and 19 living in Georgian Bluffs. Engaging local youth/teens with safe and interesting opportunities is essential for their healthy development; a recent report finds that 64% of 12 to 17 year olds in Grey-Bruce report not getting enough exercise,⁴ something that is cause for concern. Recognizing the importance of encouraging physical activity among youth, the Township of Georgian Bluffs has invested in facilities such as the skateboard park/pump track at Shouldice Park and sports fields located throughout the municipality. Often times, trail networks are also a primary means of travel by youth for walking, biking, etc. given that not all teens have access to cars. The Township is also able to rely on community providers to deliver youth-focused programs and services; collectively, the Township and its partners strive to provide a space and service mix that promotes principles of “Positive Youth Development.”



⁴ Community Foundation Grey Bruce. Vital Signs: Vital Focus on Youth.

Adults (Ages 20–54)

There were 3,990 adults between the ages of 20 and 54 living in Georgian Bluffs in 2016. This age group is characterized by working age individuals and persons in child-bearing age groups whose participation in recreation is typically subjected to time constraints. Many people in these age groups, however, place a high value on having quality parks and recreation services in place to serve their own needs as well as those of their families and thus will consider the types of available recreation services when choosing to either stay in the community or move to the municipality.

Older Adults (Ages 55+)

Many Ontario municipalities define 55+ as the age to be considered an “older adult” through which to access recreation services; there were more than 4,400 permanent residents that are ages 55 years and over recorded by the 2016 Census, amounting to more than 40% of the Township’s total population. Older adults make use of local facilities such as the Derby Community Centre.

A prevailing trend in older adult service provision is the desire for soon-to-be older adults and “younger” generations – particularly Baby Boomers – to resist the label of being a “senior citizen.” While some view the term as a source of pride, it would appear that many 55+ individuals want to participate in parks and recreation activities within intergenerational settings. As a result, fewer seniors’ centres have been constructed in the province in the past decade compared to years prior. Instead, the trend has shifted to dedicating or assigning priority to rooms/spaces for older adult programming within multi-generational, multi-use community centres. In such multi-use settings, older adults have the ability to participate in both physically active programs, arts and culture, as well as more socially-oriented activities.

Grey, Bruce and Simcoe Counties have become retirement destinations for the “active Boomer” who seek activities that keep them moving. The region’s trail system and natural surroundings have contributed to attracting persons seeking to maintain an active lifestyle, while indoor programs such as pickleball and tai chi are supplementing more ‘traditional’ seniors’ activities. The physical activity and cognitive stimulation afforded by the local community centres and parks is highly beneficial for younger older adults as well as the elderly, as there is growing promotion and understanding where “healthy aging” opportunities can prevent/delay the onset of chronic illness and pain.

1.5 Selected Trends Influencing Parks, Recreation & Trails

Physical Inactivity

The 2018 ParticipACTION report card on physical activity for children and youth graded overall physical activity levels a “D+”, which is a marginal improvement compared to previous years. This result suggests that there has been limited progress in improving physical activity at the national level. The Canadian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines for Children and Youth recommends a minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity per day, however, the report card found that only 35% of children and youth are meeting this requirement. The report card also found that 62% of children (age 3 to 4) are attaining the recommended 180 minutes of physical activity under the same guideline.⁵

⁵ The ParticipACTION report card on physical activity for children and youth. 2018.

Looking at Grey-Bruce, residents aged 18 and over were more likely to self-report themselves as obese compared to Ontarians and Canadians, while 57% of residents 12 and over stated that they have very good or excellent general health and another 59% stated that they spend their time being active or moderately active.⁶ This highlights the importance of having a variety of recreational opportunities being made available so that residents have options to engage in as many forms of physical activity as possible.

Lack of Free Time

A lack of time is often identified as the primary barrier to participating in recreation; this is consistent with RTMP Community Survey findings where 35% of respondents are unable to participate in recreation activities and 32% are unable to participate in trail-related activities as often as they would like due to a lack of time (see Section 2.3).

Generally speaking, busy lifestyles at home, work, and school, as well as social interests are competing with time spent on recreational pursuits. To combat this trend, municipalities and other service providers have employed strategies such as extending facility hours of operation and offering programs at different times of the day and week to accommodate the busy schedules of residents. As people become increasingly busy, they are less able to commit to regularly scheduled programs. As a result, demands are growing for spontaneous/unstructured programs without registering in advance. 13% of RTMP Community Survey respondents also mentioned inconvenient times for program offerings as a reason that they do not participate as frequently as desired.

Aging Infrastructure

The 2016 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card rated Canada's sports and recreation facilities as "Fair", which was the lowest ranking out of all municipal assets that were evaluated.⁷ This suggests that municipal sports and recreation facilities require attention, show signs of deterioration, or have deteriorating components.

If any indication, less than half of RTMP Community Survey respondents (41%) believe that Township recreation facilities are well maintained although this also would include day-to-day maintenance in addition to state of repair; comments received through the open house and stakeholder forums also touched on a need to modernize certain recreation facilities in Georgian Bluffs. Provincially and in Georgian Bluffs, a number of municipal facilities were constructed between the 1950s and 1980s. Since this period, infrastructure province-wide has been underfunded, although these pressures have been somewhat alleviated through certain provincial and federal stimulus plans. More recently, the federal government demonstrated its commitment to renewing municipal infrastructure with over \$1.8 Billion in funding directed towards renewing parks and recreation assets, in addition to accessibility and trail improvements.⁸

⁶ Community Foundation Grey Bruce. 2016. Vital Signs: taking the pulse of our community. p. 6.

⁷ Canada Infrastructure. 2016 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card.

⁸ Canadian Parks and Recreation Association. Press Release, March 22, 2017. CPRA applauds federal government commitment to parks and recreation opportunities for Canadians.

Section 2. Input from Residents & Partners

2.1 Overview of Consultations & Common Themes

Consultation with residents, stakeholders, existing and prospective partners, and Township representatives was conducted early in the RTMP to raise awareness, identify issues and opportunities, and help create an overarching vision for the plan. Consultations provided a point of departure to explore ideas along with community demographics and trends in the parks, recreation and trails system.

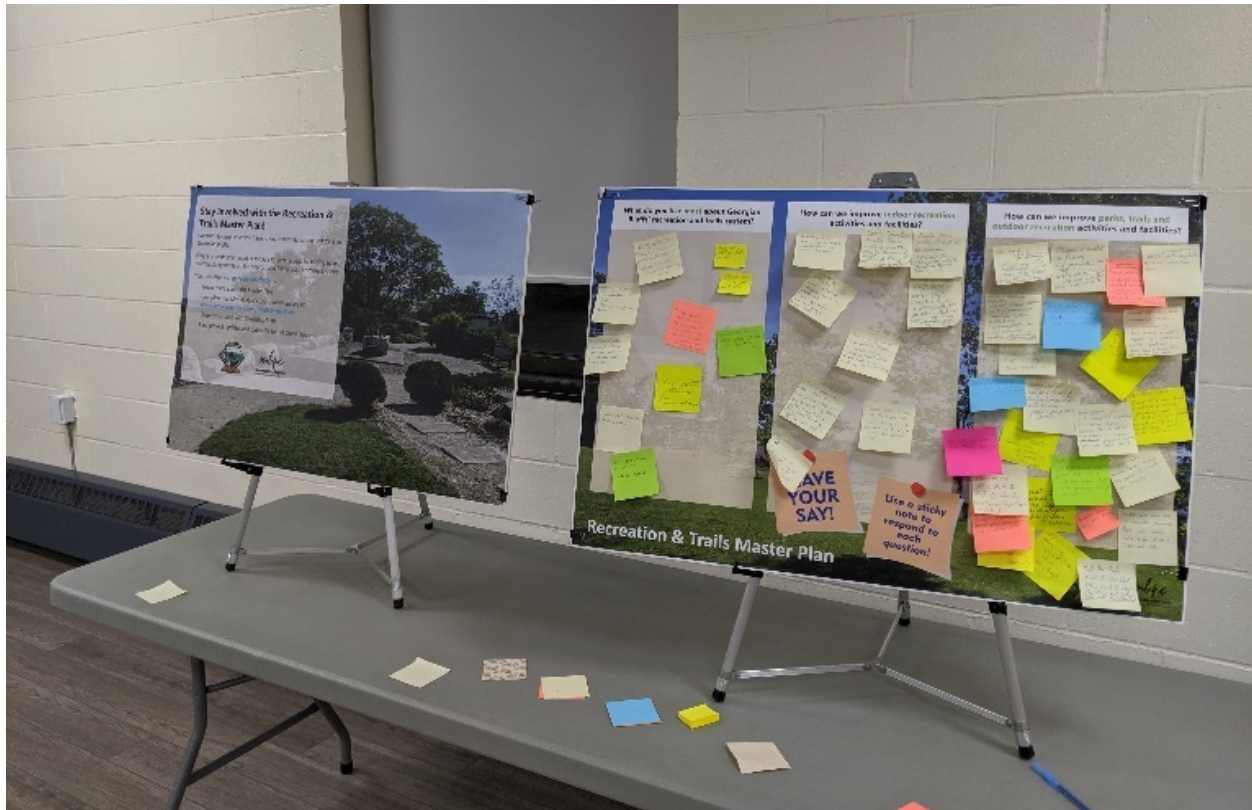
Common themes expressed by residents and stakeholders throughout the RTMP consultation process are summarized below (not listed in any particular order of importance or priority):

- Residents value outdoor recreational opportunities in the Township, largely due to a strong appreciation of the beautiful natural surroundings that characterize Georgian Bluffs.
- Upgrades to the Shallow Lake Community Centre and Shouldice Park are much appreciated by the public, many of whom view this as the main recreational complex in Georgian Bluffs.
- A strong desire to separate conflicting trail uses and designated trails for activities that are appropriate to each route considering factors such as safety, environmental/ecological management principles, proximity to adjacent residential areas. Connectivity to key destinations and other trails was emphasized in order to develop a comprehensive system for recreational and utilitarian means of active transportation.
- A number of comments were received requesting that the Kemble & District Arena be modernized or upgraded to allow a broader range of indoor and outdoor recreational uses to take place.
- Volunteerism and community involvement has historically been strong, however, stakeholder groups report that the number of volunteers has been declining.



2.2 Project Kick-Off Open House

The RTMP was introduced to residents and stakeholders on October 15, 2019 by way of an open house held at the Shallow Lake Community Centre. The drop-in nature of the session allowed residents to arrive at their convenience, review information about the RTMP, and directly engage the Consultants and Township representatives about ideas and issues that were important to their households. The following is a summary of common themes heard at the Project Kick-off. Approximately 50 people attended over the course of the evening.



Indoor Recreation

The majority of comments related to indoor recreation pertained to the revitalization or redevelopment of the Kemble & District Arena. Attendees noted that this facility serves the eastern portion of the Township but is in an antiquated state, has outdated mechanical and electrical components, and is not conducive to the range of modern program options or rental requests desired by residents. Those in attendance envisioned the community centre being used for a greater range of sports, active living programs (e.g. group fitness activities such as yoga), arts and crafts, weddings and banquets, dances, older adult programs, and general meetings. The grounds surrounding the community centre were also noted as a potential opportunity to consider playground equipment or sports facilities.

Requests were also received relating to expanding the range of uses on the two dry floor pads at the Derby Community Centre and the Kemble & District Arena. Ideas floated by those in attendance included conversion of the floors to an indoor turf field (for soccer, lacrosse and Ultimate Frisbee, etc.), expanded hall space, and for lawn bowling.

Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Requests were received for pickleball courts and playgrounds within the parks system. A comment of appreciation was also noted for the Township's work in enhancing Sarawack Family Park.

Trails

Trails were a prominent point of discussion throughout the evening with a number of trail users in attendance representing walking, hiking and cycling along with snowmobile and ATV clubs. A number of residents living in areas adjacent to or in proximity to trails also attended. Nearly all comments received about elements that residents value most about living in Georgian Bluffs pertained to the expansive trail networks that are found throughout the Township.

Some residents expressed concerns that motorized vehicles are using trails that are not designed for ATVs, dirt bikes and 'mud trucks' which is causing destruction of the natural environment and creating excessive noise that is disturbing residents living nearby. Walkers and hikers also reported concerns for their safety on the Township's Multi-Use Trail where motorized trail vehicles are allowed, particularly with people now starting to drive 'side-by-side' ATVs on the path.

On the other hand, motorized trail users indicated that their members obtain the necessary permits required to use the Multi-Use Trail, follow safety regulations, and stick to designated routes in accordance with laws and by-laws. They also reported contributing significant human and financial resources to trail development and maintenance as good stewards. Clubs recognized that there are people that are not members of their respective organizations that do not operate their vehicles in a manner that is courteous or in compliance with regulations, and it was their opinion that they should not be unduly punished for the misdeeds of others.

Ultimately, most non-motorized and motorized trail users agreed that a system needs to be in place whereby appropriate trail uses are assigned to designated trail routes that support intended outcomes. All parties expressed an interest in having safe and enjoyable experiences on the trails, improving connectivity throughout Georgian Bluffs, and a willingness to work with the Township to enhance the number of maintained trailways.

One resident also expressed a desire for the Township to re-institute automobile access for automobiles on Dodd's Hill (also known as the 'W' Hill and Heritage Hill) located near Kemble, a former vehicular transportation right-of-way which the municipality converted to a multi-use trail in 2015. That being said, a written submission was also received through the consultation process from a resident that supports the Township's decision to remove car traffic from Heritage Hill.

2.3 Community Survey

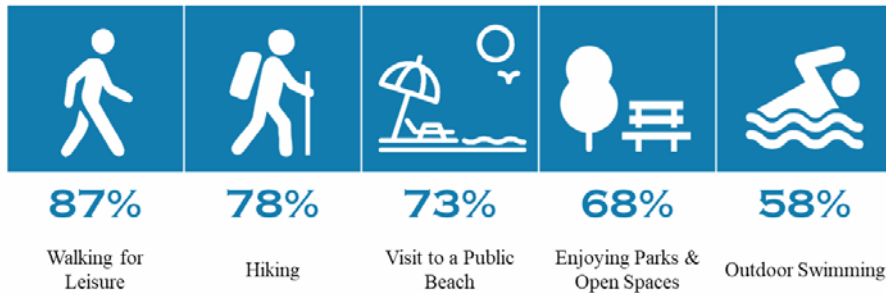
The RTMP included a Community Survey inviting all members of the public to provide insights regarding their participation, interests and priorities relating to parks, recreation and trails in Georgian Bluffs. Available both online and in hard copy between September 20 and October 31, 2019, a total of 280 survey responses were received. The following notable points emerged:

- The top activities undertaken in the past twelve months were walking for leisure, hiking, visiting a public beach, enjoying parks and open spaces, and outdoor swimming. Each of these top five activities are primarily outdoor activities and are unstructured in nature, suggesting a high interest among survey respondents in enjoying the outdoors.
- 82% of respondents reported using a natural surface trail in Georgian Bluffs while 45% reported using a hard surfaced trail and 40% used an ATV/snowmobile trail. Exactly half of all respondents reported using a trail at least once a week, and the majority of respondents (68%) use trails on lands owned by the Township or in Conservation Areas.
- Nearly four out of every five respondents believe that future investments in recreation facilities and trails should be a high priority for Township Council. The highest priorities for future spending on recreational infrastructure were reported for nature trails, multi-use trails, acquiring parks and open spaces, off-road signed trails and arenas.
- Commonly reported barriers to participation in recreational and trail-related activity included a lack of time, lack of desired facilities or programs, and lack of information about what is available in Georgian Bluffs.

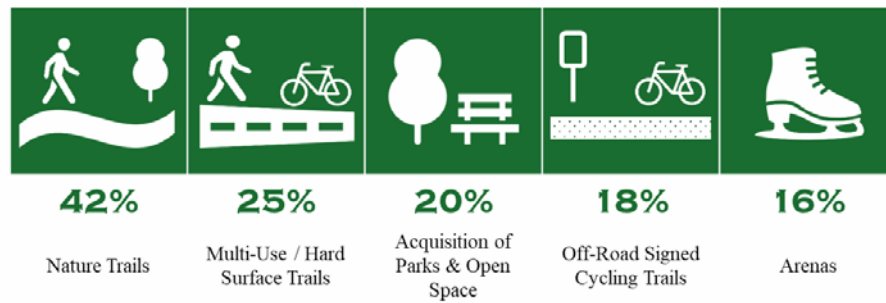
In terms of demographic characteristics of survey respondents:

- 86% of responses were submitted by residents of Georgian Bluffs (77% were permanent residents); the greatest geographic representation originated from the Kemble community with 39% of responses while Shallow Lake and Balmy Beach had representation from 16% and 11% of the sample, respectively.
- The average age of respondents was 51 years suggesting that a slightly older than average number of residents were inclined to complete the survey. An average of 2.8 persons resided in responding households, slightly higher than the Census average, which may suggest that a slightly higher proportion of households with children living at home may be represented as well.

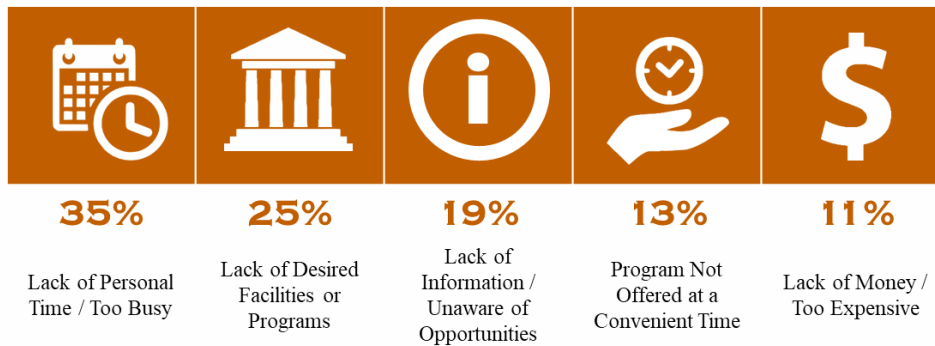
PARTICIPATION IN TOP 5 PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES



TOP 5 PRIORITIES FOR SPENDING ON PARKS AND RECREATION



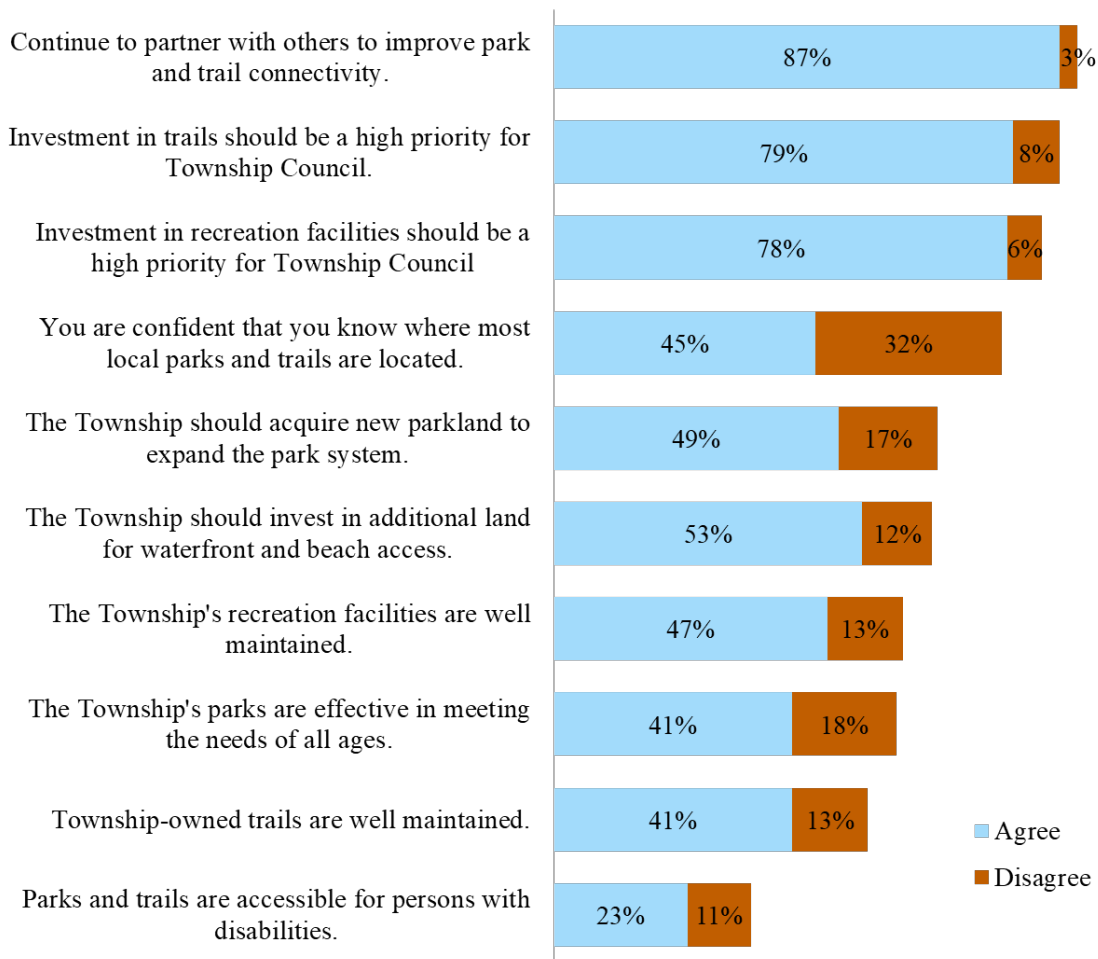
TOP 5 BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION - RECREATION



TOP 5 BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION - TRAILS



AGREEMENT WITH STATEMENTS ABOUT RECREATION AND TRAILS IN GEORGIAN BLUFFS



2.4 Stakeholder Forums

Two separate forums were held with local recreation facility users and local parks and trail users on October 22, 2019 at the Shallow Lake Community Centre. The valuable insights of stakeholders helped to inform the RTMP by way of highlighting strengths, constraints, issues and opportunities from the perspective of organizations that use the local recreation and trails system.

A total of 10 local organizations participated in the Stakeholder Forums (these and a number of other organizations attended the Kick-Off open house to provide feedback). In addition to organized user groups, the parks and trails meeting was attended by a group of residents whose properties are adjacent to or near trails and unopened road allowances.

Participating Stakeholders

1. Bruce Trail Conservancy
2. Derby Pioneers
3. Grey Bruce Council on Aging
4. Shallow Lake Minor Hockey
5. Shallow Lake Skating Club
6. Shallow Lake Oldtimers Hockey Club
7. Stoney Keppel Riders Snowmobile Club
8. Oldtimers Pick-up Hockey
9. Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs
10. Outdoor Adventures

Recreation Facility Users Forum

The following points were noted during the discussion about recreation facilities in Georgian Bluffs:

- Participants place a high degree of appreciation and value upon the Shallow Lake Community Centre and Shouldice Park complex, particularly with upgrades undertaken to indoor and outdoor components, and noted that they receive good service from Township staff.
- Ice sport organizations are experiencing pressures in accessing needed ice time or being able to afford it. While minor hockey reports a steady increase in its registrations, figure skating reported a decline which has been a challenge financially and in competing for skaters with other regional clubs. The oldtimers leagues are generally satisfied with their ice time and costs, and are also seeing a slight increase in the number of players
- The ability for seniors to access needed programs and services was reported as a challenge due to the large geographic territory and low population density of the Township, particularly since there is not any one “large” urban area in Georgian Bluffs. The importance of recreation was emphasized for seniors to maintain their physical health and to counteract isolation, particularly in rural areas. Improvements to the Derby Community Centre hall were specifically requested, and groups indicated a willingness to assist with grant applications.
- Community development, partnerships with agencies and organizations, and support for volunteers was articulated as a way to help improve affordability for all, outreach to elderly populations living throughout Georgian Bluffs, and ensure sustainability of the recreation system as a whole. Groups discussed the benefits of having a dedicated person at the Township that they could talk to, that could explore new program and partnership opportunities, and generally function in a community development role.

- Groups expressed challenges in attracting and retaining volunteers, largely due to a perceived lack of interest in becoming involved.

Parks & Trail Users Forum

The following points were noted during the discussion about parks and trails in Georgian Bluffs:

- Attendees highly value natural features such as forested areas, trails and the waterfront. They noted that one can be on a trail that “feels like the middle of nowhere” but in reality they are close to a settlement area or valued destination point, as well as emphasizing the marine activities that can take place on open water in addition to the abundance of land-based recreational activities that are available.
- The Bruce Trail Conservancy noted that they highly value the emphasis placed on conservation and preservation of natural lands among all levels of government, and as a result the Conservancy has invested in almost 3,000 acres of land that they know will be protected in perpetuity. Others noted that the natural lands result in strong biodiversity which allows an appreciation of nature, including flora and fauna.
- Observations that local parks and trails are becoming used to a greater extent by residents and visitors to the Township are resulting in certain benefits but also some challenges. Attendees are pleased that people are appreciating nature and contributing to the local economy, but there are also concerns that certain people do not respect parks and trails as one should. Concerns were noted about noise, vehicular traffic and parking impacts, environmental degradation, and safety between different types of trail users. A notable concern was the detrimental impact of ATV use on local muskeg which acts as a base for snowmobile and other trail uses.
- Supporting parks and trails with better infrastructure and amenities was suggested to alleviate pressures such as washrooms and parking areas to address car, tour bus, truck and trailer traffic. There was support to develop a trails classification or hierarchy that specifically defines the types of use that are permitted on certain trail types, and would consider criteria such as environmental characteristics, proximity to adjacent land uses, terrain, etc.
- Better enforcement of parks and trails was a major point of discussion to ensure that the intended uses are occurring and conflicts/illegal activities are minimized. Better communication and educational efforts was also discussed.
- Although there were no ATV club representatives in attendance at the Forum (they attended the open house), an idea was floated to explore conversion of a former landfill near Hepworth to an ATV terrain park to provide ATV users with a managed property to meet their needs.

2.5 Staff Roundtable

A roundtable was held on October 15, 2019 with Township Staff representing multiple departments and operating divisions. Staff shared their thoughts regarding the state of parks, recreation and trails in Georgian Bluffs with the main points of discussion summarized below.

- Staff are most proud of the Multi-Use Trail that connects the Township's east and west borders, and is an important recreational and utilitarian corridor for hikers and motorized recreational vehicles across all four seasons. Staff value the natural beauty that is characterized by many scenic lookouts, waterfalls and shorelines which they describe as being beautiful all year.
- Staff are also proud of facilities such as the Shallow Lake Community Centre and Shouldice Park beside it, as well as the access to Georgian Bay that is allowed by way of public boat launches in Big Bay and Balmy Beach, and the waterfront parks.
- Staff noted that accessibility for persons with disabilities should be improved at certain recreation facilities, parks and trails. Investments such as those being undertaken at Sarawack Park (i.e. barrier-free washrooms, mobi-mats, etc.) are much needed to provide inclusive services.
- Trail etiquette seems to be lacking among certain trail users which creates conflicts between people on the trails, undesirable impacts on residents living near the trails, and deterioration of the trails themselves.
- Staff emphasized that technology could be leveraged to a greater extent in their day-to-day operations in order to increase their efficiency/productivity. One noted example included a demand from customers for online booking and payment opportunities for facility rentals.
- A future vision for the aging Derby Community Centre and the Kemble & District Arena is desired, particularly with a number of younger families having moved or anticipated to live near those facilities in the next ten years.
- Additional staffing resources to support municipal parks and recreation operations would translate into providing better customer service to residents. It was noted that public works staff are often tasked with parks-related responsibilities over and above their core responsibilities. There was also discussion about formalizing a community development model for parks and recreation services but noted that a staff position would need to be created to liaise with the public/stakeholders if such a model were to become successful.
- Concern was also expressed that the Township presently relies on a number of volunteers to undertake park maintenance (e.g. tending floral beds) but there may not be a resident that would assume those duties if the current volunteer is no longer available.
- Staff emphasized the importance of the local parks, recreation and trails system in furthering tourism and economic development potential for Georgian Bluffs. Airport staff are seeing more people flying into the Township for day trips and overnight stays to bike or hike locally, which is especially convenient since the Bruce Trail is located adjacent to the airport lands.

2.6 Written Submissions

A total of 19 written submissions have been received to date, the majority of which have been submitted by residents living near trails that are used legally and illegally by ATVs; these resident comments largely request the Township to designate trails exclusively for non-motorized use, note the damage done to trails by ATV use, and/or are seeking stronger enforcement on the trail routes. Other requests include a need to refurbish or redevelop the Kemble & District Arena (including providing a playground onsite) and a desire for facilities including indoor artificial turf field in Kemble, additional boat launches, improved parking, and washrooms.

A comprehensive submission was received from the Grey Bruce Public Health Unit specifically to inform the RTMP and identify areas where the Health Unit sees potential areas of alignment with the Township. A summary of points from the submission include:

- Planning neighbourhoods in a manner that improves access to recreation for all residents across the Township. This may include strategically locating parks and recreation facilities near major transportation thoroughfares and trails, community destination points, and areas characterized by vulnerable population groups (e.g. low income).
- Reviewing the Municipal Alcohol Policy to identify appropriate properties for the consumption of alcohol.
- Considering shade in the design of parks and the strategic use of facilities during periods of inclement weather or extreme heat.
- Exploring urban agriculture opportunities such as community gardens, edible gardens, etc.).
- Providing greater connections to nature and preserving environmentally sensitive areas.
- Making parks and facilities inclusive of all populations (e.g. persons with disabilities) and safe.

2.7 Draft Master Plan Open House

An Open House will be scheduled once the Draft RTMP has been reviewed and approved for public release. The Open House and a concurrent public review/commenting period will allow interested persons to contribute feedback for the consideration of the Consultants and Township staff prior to finalizing the RTMP.

Section 3. Recreation Needs

3.1 Recreation Facilities in Georgian Bluffs

The Township of Georgian Bluffs' recreation system is notably characterized by:

- Shallow Lake Community Centre and Shouldice Park
- Kemble & District Arena
- Derby Community Centre (in Kilsyth)
- Balmy Beach Park, Clavering Ball Diamond, Kemble Athletic Field & Shallow Lake Lower Field (all contain outdoor sports fields)

This section discusses these facilities and the individual components within them. Programs and services available through the above-noted facilities are provided by community not-for-profit and for-profit providers, as the Township of Georgian Bluffs' core mandate is presently oriented solely to the provision of physical infrastructure.

3.2 Shallow Lake Community Centre

The Shallow Lake Community Centre contains a single pad arena with six changerooms, one of which is dedicated to a Senior A hockey team; an expansion undertaken prior to 2010 added new dressing room space and Township staff report more recent investments such as energy efficient lighting upgrades and replacement of the dasher boards. In 2019, the Township renovated the second floor community hall, meeting room and washrooms. The community centre is designated as an evacuation/emergency operations centre.

The total number of hours booked at the Shallow Lake Community Centre arena during the ice season has increased each year since 2017. With nearly 1,500 hours rented during the 2018/19 winter season, total use increased by 11% compared to the 2016/17 season. Discussions with arena staff indicate that the arena is well used between 6pm and 9pm on weekdays, though there are timeslots available in the late afternoon/early evening, after 10pm, and on weekends. The community centre's second floor hall and meeting room receive nominal use throughout the year, although this may change given the Township's recent renovation these spaces.

Shallow Lake Minor Hockey and the Shallow Lake Skating Club are presently the largest users of prime ice time, whose collective registration is reported at 240 skaters. Based on provincially accepted targets, the number of players with these two organizations would equate to approximately half an ice pad worth of demand with the Senior A hockey team, adult groups and casual rentals filling in some other available prime timeslots. Limited registration growth is anticipated for players/skaters from Georgian Bluffs based on forecasted populations and aging population trends, and any demand from growth should be able to be met during daytime and/or later evening hours when adults are able to play.

Looking at the regional arena supply, there is a degree of capacity available in municipalities such as South Bruce Peninsula, Owen Sound and Chatsworth. There is also an agreement with respect to the Keady Arena (in the Township of Chatsworth) dating back to 1963 between the former Townships of Sullivan and Derby that made that facility available to residents of both municipalities, though it

is unknown if that agreement is still in effect; the Township of Georgian Bluffs should clarify the status of this agreement with the Township of Chatsworth. Further, it is understood that both Chatsworth and South Bruce Peninsula are evaluating options for the future redevelopment of their aging arenas⁹ and would welcome discussions with the Township of Georgian Bluffs as to how best regional arena needs can be collaboratively addressed.

As such, no new ice pads are required in Georgian Bluffs over the next 10 years. With the Township's recent dressing room expansion project, renovation of the second floor hall, and ample capacity available to accommodate additional community programs and event rentals, the Shallow Lake Community Centre is well positioned to meet the needs of Georgian Bluffs residents over the master planning period.



3.3 Shouldice Park

Shouldice Park contains the broadest range of active recreational facilities of any park in the Township with a lit ball diamond, large playground, skateboard park and concrete BMX pump track. Combined with the Shallow Lake Community Centre, this campus of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities is the Township's primary hub for year-round activity.

With the playground, skateboard park and pump track all being constructed in the past five years, unstructured recreational opportunities for children and teens are well positioned to meet needs over the master planning period. To increase the appeal for all age groups, the Township should install outdoor fitness equipment at Shouldice Park as discussed in Section 4.3, potentially through exploring a partnership



⁹ Township of Chatsworth Recreation Master Plan, 2018, p.8; Town of South Bruce Peninsula Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan, 2019, p. 47.

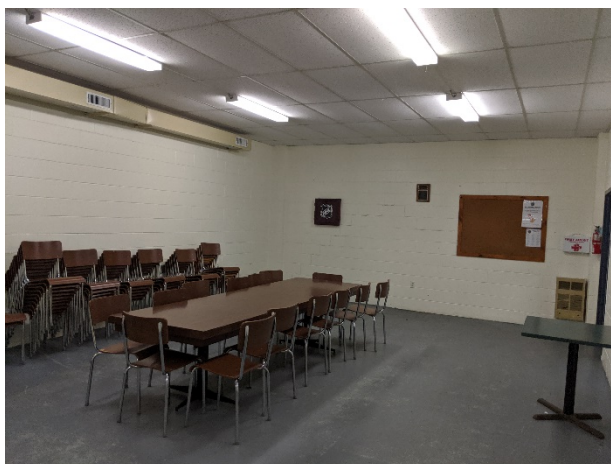
opportunity for funding and programming with the private sector fitness operator located next to the park (and/or other interested parties).

3.4 Kemble & District Arena

The Kemble & District Arena contains a dry-floor pad (formerly an enclosed natural ice rink) with two change rooms and small meeting room. The site was deeded to the Township by its former property owner on the condition that it remains in perpetuity for recreational use. The dry floor pad at Kemble & District Arena receives nominal usage, averaging less than 3 hours per week in 2019 (including winter months which receive little to no use occurs during the cold-weather months); that said, rental hours are trending upwards in the past three years which are primarily attributed to carpet bowling that takes place once per week between June and September.



It is clear from community feedback and site visits that the Kemble & District Arena is in an antiquated lifecycle state and is not responding to the needs of residents living in the surrounding settlement areas. A building condition assessment of the facility identified that many mechanical, electrical and structural components are at or near the end of their remaining useful life. The condition assessment



also found that several building components are not compliant with modern accessibility standards. Over \$520,000 in capital repair/replacement activities are identified for the Kemble & District Arena by the year 2028, however, it bears noting that a detailed structural assessment of the facility was not undertaken and thus lifecycle and costs may be understated through the building condition assessment.¹⁰ It is also noted that the Township's Asset Management Plan identified the replacement cost of the building at \$2.3 million,¹¹ meaning that 10 year renewal requirements account for over 22% of the total replacement cost.

The Kemble & District Arena is important under the Township's current mandate as a provider of physical space for community-based programs and rentals, serving as an outreach destination for residents living in the north and eastern settlements. It is recommended that the Township undertake an architectural and engineering study of the Kemble & District Arena to determine

¹⁰ Pinchin Ltd. 2018. Building Condition Assessment and 10 Year Capital Forecast, 401297 Grey Road 1, Kemble, Ontario N0H 1S0 [Kemble & District Arena].

¹¹ Public Sector Digest Inc. 2016. The 2016 Asset Management Plan for the Township of Georgian Bluffs. pp. 50.

current structural conditions and remaining useful life, along with investigating the feasibility of renovating/repurposing the facility versus undertaking a complete rebuild project.

Facility components should be determined in conjunction with a specific community consultation and visioning process, but it is recommended that a community hall and multi-purpose program room be included at a minimum. As noted in Section 3.2, a functioning arena for ice sports is not recommended at this time and thus there is no need to replace the dry-pad (though there may be opportunity to repurpose it to a more functional use if choosing the facility renovation option).

As part of the conceptualization of a new community centre in Kemble, the open space adjacent to the facility should also be designed to function with more meaningful park activities. At a minimum, this should include a playground structure and outdoor seating/shade areas. Other components that may be considered include minor skateboard features (creating what is commonly known as a “skate spot”), hard surface court (for basketball, ball hockey, tennis, pickleball, etc.), horticultural plantings, interpretive features relevant to the Kemble Mountain, or other ideas brought forward by the community.

3.5 Derby Community Centre

The Derby Community Centre in Kilsyth contains a dry-floor pad (formerly an enclosed natural ice rink) and the second floor Pioneer Hall, the latter of which is accessible only by stairway that has a chair lift for persons with disabilities. The Pioneer Hall was used an average of 13 hours per week in 2019, with the Derby Pioneers (a local seniors club) running programs once a week and limited rentals from other users. Rental hours for the dry floor pad have been trending downwards over the past three years with average use of 5 hours per week in 2019 (includes winter months) with primary users being ball hockey, roller derby, box lacrosse, and some community gatherings.



The Township’s Asset Management Plan identified the replacement cost of the building at \$1.5 million but does not specifically identify its remaining useful life.¹² It is apparent that the community centre is in an advanced lifecycle state. Pressures for recreation programs in Derby can be expected to increase with an approved residential development application immediately to the west of the community centre. An architectural and engineering assessment of the community centre, similar

¹² Ibid. Public Sector Digest Inc., 2016.

to that described in Section 3.4, should be undertaken to determine needed indoor and outdoor recreational components on site. Consultations with the community, including the Derby Pioneers, should be held to help shape a renewed vision for the facility. A playground should also be provided, whether at the community centre site or at a new park that is conveyed as part of the plan of subdivision, with consideration to other outdoor recreation amenities oriented to a range of age and interest groups.

3.6 Balmy Beach Park

Balmy Beach Park offers a lit ball diamond and two tennis courts, and is located adjacent to the Indian Falls Conservation Area. Usage of this local ball diamond is limited, averaging a few hours per week largely as an overflow facility by a league based in Owen Sound.

With respect to tennis courts in the Township, one court per 5,000 residents is a commonly accepted municipal target; therefore, the two tennis courts at Balmy Beach Park would satisfy the Township's population on that basis. The park's location along Grey Road 1 is within a 15 to 20 minute drive of many Georgian Bluffs settlements. The tennis courts, while owned and maintained by the Township, are programmed under agreement with a community provider who offers league play, round robins and lessons (the Township administers customer service requests on the community provider's behalf, including collection of fees).

Provincially, pickleball has surged in popularity due in part to its appeal to older adults whose populations are growing and whose interests increasingly are focused on remaining physically active. In response to growing demands regionally and provincially for pickleball, it is recommended that one or both Balmy Beach tennis courts have lines added for pickleball to create a multi-use court along with any required scheduling adjustments to manage organized use and drop-in potential for both sports. In addition, indoor pickleball play should be considered by lining dry-floor pads at the Shallow Lake Community Centre, Kemble & District Arena and Derby Community Centre.



3.7 Clavering Ball Diamond

The Clavering Ball Diamond was deeded to the Township by its former property owner on the condition that it remain a park for recreational purposes in perpetuity. The diamond receives no organized usage and little drop-in play; therefore, the park is considered to be underutilized.

There are no pressing active recreation facilities identified through the RTMP that could be directed to Clavering. Given the visibility of the park from Highway 6, the Township should consider redeveloping it with passive recreational features such as seating and shade, picnic area, plantings, internal trail and/or public art. This could benefit area residents and also leave a positive impression of the Township on those travelling along the Highway 6 corridor. Other design considerations for the park may include those discussed in Section 4.3 of the RTMP.



3.8 Kemble Athletic Field & Shallow Lake Lower Field

Kemble Athletic Field and Shallow Lake Lower Field each contain a rectangular field with a backstop structure (there are no formal diamonds at either park). These fields are not maintained as sports fields by the Township as there have been no organized soccer rentals in Georgian Bluffs for some time with the absence of local soccer associations; Georgian Bluffs' soccer players primarily participate in organized programs available in Owen Sound and South Bruce Peninsula.

Looking broadly at local soccer participation rates, if any indication, the number of soccer applicants for the Township's Non-Resident Fee Subsidy Request program has been in the range of 125 players between 2015 and 2018, however, that figure dropped to just 61 applicants in 2019. While soccer registrations in some regional programs are understood to be stable to declining, the substantial drop in the non-resident fee offset program could also be a result of a strengthening soccer program in Sauble Beach where the Town of South Bruce Peninsula does not levy a non-resident fee.



Based solely upon quantifiable soccer participation data available through the Non-Resident Fee Subsidy Request program and applying a modest adjustment upwards to capture any players that do not take advantage of it, it is likely that local demand for soccer field would equate to approximately two fields. If needed, the Township has the Kemble Athletic Field and Shallow Lake Lower Field to program should a Georgian Bluffs soccer program be formed in the future.

For the time being, it is anticipated that local residents will continue to participate in regional leagues found in South Bruce Peninsula and Owen Sound given their registration numbers allow for a higher quality program in terms of number of teams and divisions. Therefore, no additional soccer fields are needed in Georgian Bluffs, although spill-over demand from regional programs might be possible should those leagues grow over time and their players seek time in other municipalities (there is no information provided by the regional leagues that this will occur).

3.9 Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre (YMCA/Owen Sound)

In 2012, the Township of Georgian Bluffs contributed \$650,000 to the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce towards the construction of an indoor aquatics centre at the **Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre** in Owen Sound (located approximately a 15 to 20 minute drive from Shallow Lake). As part of this contribution, Georgian Bluffs residents can access the YMCA facility at no charge for four “Partner Days” set each year. The YMCA contains a 25 metre pool and separate therapy/leisure pool along with a fitness centre and gymnasium.

Although the YMCA facility is only sporadically available to Georgian Bluffs residents without a membership, the Township’s population is below the threshold for consideration of a municipally-operated indoor aquatics centre and major fitness centre. Therefore, the YMCA remains an option for residents wishing to regularly participate in indoor aquatic programs. It also bears noting that the Town of South Bruce Peninsula’s recently completed Master Plan references interest in a regional indoor aquatic centre (and certain other “service hub” components) and that the Town is open to having discussions with others to investigate the feasibility of providing an indoor aquatic facility.

3.10 Other Recreational Needs

The Township may be pressed for additional indoor and outdoor facilities that are not currently provided through the core municipal service mandate or that are not of sufficient demand to warrant a specific recommendation in the RTMP at this time. However, the Township must be prepared to respond appropriately to requests pending future market characteristics related to population growth, emergence of new sports, future recreational trends and preferences, and other demands may arise for existing activities / facilities.

For example, Township parks presently do not contain amenities commonly found in other municipalities such as basketball courts and splash pads. There are no existing parks that are appropriate for such facilities due to limited populations surrounding the park (particularly children and youth who use facilities such as basketball courts and splash pads), while other parks are also subjected to space or servicing constraints; however, new or redeveloped parks may consider these amenities during the planning/design stage should needs for such recreation facilities materialize.

When requests are brought forward for investment in new, non-traditional, emerging and other non-core municipal services, the Township should evaluate the need for these recreational pursuits on a case-by-case basis. This should involve an examination into (but not be limited to):

- local/regional/provincial trends pertaining to usage and popularity of the activity/facility;
- examples of delivery models in other municipalities;
- local demand for the activity / facility;
- the ability of existing municipal facilities to accommodate the new service;
- the feasibility for the Township to provide the service / facility as a core service, and be able to do so in a cost-effective manner; and
- the willingness and ability of the requesting organization to provide the service / facility if provided with appropriate municipal supports.

3.11 Recreation Action Plans

- #1 Initiate architectural, landscape architectural and engineering assessments of the Kemble & District Arena and Derby Community Centre oriented to renewing these community centres and defining the costs of doing so. Further community consultations are recommended in order to inform the conceptual designs and cost-benefit analysis. At a minimum, future recreational components that should be examined include community hall and multi-purpose program space, active living / fitness areas, playgrounds, hard surface courts, gardens, or other ideas brought forward by the community through the respective facility visioning processes.
- #2 Together with the Township of Chatsworth, clarify the legal status of the agreement between the former Townships of Sullivan and Derby as it relates to the Keady Arena and Community Hall, and discuss future plans for that facility with the Township of Chatsworth.
- #3 In anticipation of emerging demands for pickleball, overlay pickleball court lines on the Balmy Beach Park tennis courts to create a multi-use playing opportunity for pickleball and tennis. Indoor pickleball play can be addressed by installing lining on dry-floor pads at the Shallow Lake Community Centre, Kemble & District Arena, and/or the Derby Community Centre.
- #4 Redevelop the Clavering Ball Diamond property with passive recreation facilities including, but not limited to, seating and shade areas, internal pathways, picnic and community gathering space, and/or public art in order to serve area residents and create a quality focal point along the Highway 6 corridor. A conceptual plan should be prepared for the park in advance that involves community consultation and a costing analysis.
- #5 Requests for facilities presently not part of the Township of Georgian Bluffs' core parks and recreation service mandate should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, after first considering the municipality's role in providing the service in relation to quantified market demand and cost-effectiveness of such services. Potential strategies should also be identified to address the long-term need for such requests should a sufficient level of demand be expressed.

Section 4. Parks System

4.1 Parkland in Georgian Bluffs

Parks deliver social, environmental, health, and economic benefits to residents while providing places to connect people with each other and to the outdoors. 'Parks For All' is a national charter that defines parks as “any land and water that exists on the parks continuum” which could be located on public or privately held lands. As outdoor spaces, parks provide an important connection to nature which is required for our survival as well as personal, community and societal enrichment.¹³

The Township of Georgian Bluffs maintains 20.4 hectares (50 acres) in 10 recreational parks that are distributed across the municipality. Many of these parks serve a localized, neighbourhood level although Shouldice Park, Sarawack Family Park, and to a lesser extent the Kemble Athletic Field and Balmy Beach Park have amenities that could appeal to residents from across Georgian Bluffs.

“The intent of the [Official Plan] open space policy is to provide direction on the provision of sufficient parkland and open space amenity areas for both active and passive recreational pursuits in order to satisfy the needs of all age groups and lifestyles, while having regard for the protection of natural areas and features and their ecological functions.”

*Township of Georgian Bluffs Official Plan,
Section 3.4.4*

<u>Park Name</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Catchment Area</u>
1. Shallow Lake Lower Field	3.1 hectares	Shallow Lake	Neighbourhood
2. Shouldice Park	4.4 hectares	Shallow Lake	Township-wide
3. Veterans Park	0.5 hectares	Shallow Lake	Neighbourhood
4. Kemble Athletic Field	1.9 hectares	Kemble	Township-wide
5. Kemble Women's Institute Lookout	0.3 hectares	Kemble	Neighbourhood
6. Balmy Beach Park	4.8 hectares	Balmy Beach	Township-wide
7. Sarawack Family Park	1.3 hectares	Sarawack	Township-wide
8. Clavering Ball Diamond	2.8 hectares	Clavering	Neighbourhood
9. Cedar Hill Park	0.7 hectares	Rural	Neighbourhood
10. Centennial Park	<u>0.6 hectares</u>	Rural	Neighbourhood
Total Land Area	20.4 hectares		

Other Major Parks & Natural Areas

There are a number of parks and natural areas located in Georgian Bluffs that are owned by provincial agencies, conservation areas, other institutions and private landowners. Some of these open spaces provide public access and opportunity for recreational activity, while playing a role in the protection of important ecosystems. The Grey-Sauble Conservation Authority has a sizeable presence in Georgian Bluffs with the Indian Falls, Pottawatomi and Hepworth Conservation Areas

¹³ Parks Canada Agency. 2017. Parks for All: An Action Plan for Canada's Parks Community.

along with a number of management areas and nature preserves. The Bruce Trail Conservancy has also been actively assembling lands that collectively contribute hundreds of acres for public use and environmental stewardship. These are major public open space areas, some of which contain multi-seasonal recreational amenities and natural features.

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Niagara Escarpment Commission, and the Bruce Trail Conservancy maintain jurisdiction over their properties, contributing parks and open spaces along with associated programming to the general public. The Township of Georgian Bluffs does not have control over parks planning or program delivery in lands owned by these agencies, however, the Township recognizes their contribution to passive recreation, tourism, and trail connections. For example, conservation lands allow hiking, swimming, mountain biking, and picnicking as well as programming related to conservation and nature. The Bruce Ski Club's Sawmill Nordic Centre near Hepworth and Outdoor Adventures' Doug Wardell Memorial Walking Trail in Derby (built

with the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy) are other examples of non-municipal landholdings that facilitate year-round recreational activity for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and walking/hiking. There are other lands of varying sizes, amenities and ownership arrangements that contribute towards the collection of open spaces found in Georgian Bluffs.

4.2 Acquisition of New Parkland

The Township of Georgian Bluffs collects parkland in accordance with the Ontario Planning Act; the Township has placed an emphasis on taking cash-in-lieu of parkland in recent years with the intent of strategically reinvesting in the parks system. With planned subdivisions in Kilsyth and Cobble Beach, there is an opportunity to bolster physical parkland supplies and enhance geographic distribution through a combination of physical land conveyances and purchase of additional parkland using cash-in-lieu reserves.

The Township's present level of service amounts to 1.9 hectares per 1,000 residents. Although a number of municipalities target parkland in the range of 3.0 to 4.0 hectares per 1,000 persons, it is important to recognize that residents of Georgian Bluffs have a greater ability to access naturalized lands through conservation authority, provincial agencies and private lands compared to other municipalities in southern Ontario.

In maintaining parkland service levels in the range of 2.0 hectares per 1,000 residents, the Township should be able to keep pace with needs for 'active' forms of recreational parkland; factoring publically-accessible passive recreational parklands into account would then bring the total level of service closer to generally accepted targets. Applied to Georgian Bluffs' year 2031 population forecast, the Township would require a total parkland supply of 23.5 hectares, or an additional 3.0 hectares (7.5 acres) above the current level. A portion of this quantum can be funded through future parkland dedications through future land developments along with use of the Township's cash-in-lieu reserves.

To create attractive areas for passive and active recreation opportunities year-round and strengthen the local tourism sector, "Specific emphasis shall be placed on the development of passive recreation/leisure opportunities such as a linked trail system, the Bruce Trail, natural environment conservation areas, as well as camping and picnic areas."

*Township of Georgian Bluffs Official Plan,
Section 2.7.3b*

4.3 Parkland Design Considerations

There are a number of ways to design and redevelop parks to augment the user experience. The following paragraphs provide a few considerations that the Township should consider when adding new parks to its supply or renewing existing parks when warranted in the future. The Township can increase the likelihood of residents and tourists regularly visiting its parks and trails by making them comfortable, welcoming, safe and able to meet a broad range of desired uses.

Naturalization Efforts

Municipalities are placing a greater emphasis on the provision of passive open space (e.g., woodlots, prairie grasslands, flower gardens, etc.), often ensuring that portions of new or redeveloped parks remain in a natural state. Naturalization typically involves reduced grass cutting, planting of native species, and public education to create awareness in the community (e.g. through interpretative signage). Certain communities have gone as far as to partner with their area conservation authorities, community organizations and ecologically-focused enterprises to introduce initiatives into the parks system such as:

- “designing” naturalized spaces through an environmental and climate resiliency lens;
- setting municipal tree canopy targets and striving to attain said targets with tree plantings and proactive urban forestry management practices (over 2 million trees have been planted in Grey-Bruce since 2010¹⁴);
- Incorporating pollinator gardens and areas designed as habitats for local wildlife;
- edible gardens and plantings through trees and shrubs, with a local example already found at Cedar Hill Park where mature apple trees bear fruit in the autumn;
- invasive species and phragmites control programs; and
- delivery of environmental education programs in “outdoor classrooms.”

Welcoming and Comfortable Designs

Parks need to provide attractive and comfortable experiences if they are to be successful in encouraging people to use them and attract a broad range of activities. Once inside a park, park users often look for a number of convenience and comfort-based features depending upon their intended use. In non-programmed or passive parks where social activities such as picnicking, family gatherings, cultural events, etc. are taking place, park visitors look for amenities such as treed areas and shade structures, picnic tables or pavilions, park benches or seating areas, and washrooms (either permanent or temporary). Centennial Park and Cedar Hill Park are good local examples where picnic shelters and mature tree canopies and direct access to the waterfront create a comfortable and attractive atmosphere, while the Kemble Women’s Institute Lookout incorporates interesting public art features and landscaping beds to complement the natural beauty and scenic vistas that surround the park.

¹⁴ Community Foundation Grey Bruce. 2016. Vital Signs: taking the pulse of our community. p. 12.

Comfort amenities are especially beneficial in strategic locations along major trail routes and at trail heads, and are highly desired by all population segments but particularly families and a growing number of older adults in the community as was expressed through RTMP consultations. There is an inherent cost to creating a comfortable park, therefore, municipal investment may be strategically directed to those parks which are intended to function as premier destinations for gatherings and events.

Including all People in Parks

Accessibility and inclusivity is an important part of park design. Parks are typically a place for all, thus facilitating access for persons with disabilities and special needs is something to strive towards particularly with a sizeable older adult population already living in the Township and as the population continues to age. If any indication, less than a quarter of people completing the RTMP Community Survey agreed that parks and trails are accessible for persons with disabilities. Not all parks or areas within them are appropriate for universally accessible infrastructure (e.g. ecologically sensitive or naturalized zones), however, community-focused spaces should consider the ability of all residents to access them.

Multi-Generational, Multi-Seasonal Usage

The ability to attract a broad range of people into a park throughout the year is central to many park design philosophies. Although not all parks can or should be everything to everybody, a good park makes sure there is at least something that a person can do regardless of their age or physical ability. Whether it is a family activity such as use a playground or flying a kite, an ability for adults to meet with friends around a checkerboard table for a coffee, or simply provide a place for somebody to relax on a shaded bench, parks should be a destination within the catchment area they are intended to serve.

Through RTMP consultations, many people stated that they enjoy parks and trails throughout the year. Although there are a number of residents that travel south for the winter, ensuring opportunities for those that remain in Georgian Bluffs over the cold weather months is an important part of keeping people physically active and socially connected. Parks are increasingly being designed with a year-round view whereby areas are being incorporated for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, outdoor skating, and supplemented by windbreaks and other areas sheltered from the weather.

Safety

Parks are being designed with patrons' safety in mind through the application of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) and other design principles. High volume areas should be well lit, low visibility areas should be limited, and neighbourhood level parks should be designed so that there are "eyes on the park" from the street and nearby residences to discourage undesirable activities. Maintenance of parks and open spaces - to be discussed in subsequent pages - is accepted in the industry as a key component of perceived "safety" in parks and in deterring inappropriate behaviour. Many municipalities engage their local emergency services agencies, including police and fire departments, to aid in their design of safe parks.

Signage in Parks

Signage is an essential design feature that plays an important role in identifying publicly accessible outdoor spaces, as well as establishing a visual identity or brand for a municipality. In fact, alignment with municipal branding objectives at the corporate level has been undertaken elsewhere in the province as a means to effectively communicate the availability of municipally-delivered services. The Township has a sign template and has installed signage at some, but not all, of its 10 parks.

Opportunities for Outdoor Fitness

Outdoor fitness equipment is being installed in municipalities across Ontario, including communities in Grey and Bruce Counties (such as Bluewater Park in Wiarton, Lake Ridge Park in Port Elgin, and Sauble Beach). There is evidence that outdoor fitness experiences are growing in popularity, particularly as they pertain to long distance endurance; many residents pursue personal goals for full/half marathon or biathlon/triathlon activities while a growing number of older adults are seeking opportunities to improve their physical fitness in outdoor settings.

The design scale of outdoor fitness areas varies but is commonly exemplified through “fitness stations” that consolidate multiple pieces of exercise equipment in a specific part of a park. Other approaches include “fitness trails” to allow interval training and a mix of cardio and strength training, while other approaches involve use of the landscape to create berms/hills to run on or circular open spaces surrounded by gardens through which to participate in outdoor yoga or tai chi.

Shouldice Park is a potential candidate for outdoor fitness equipment as discussed in Section 3.3, particularly since there is an active fitness club operating next door who could be a potential partner. There is an established pathway that encircles the ball diamond where stationary equipment could be placed (though additional screening may be required to protect users due to the orientation of the diamond), while there are also some smaller open spaces elsewhere within the site.

4.4 Parkland Maintenance

Parkland maintenance activities are primarily completed by full-time staff that take care of parks in the summer before transitioning to the Shallow Lake Community Centre in the fall/winter, as well as Public Works staff when needed. Community members are also involved in selected maintenance activities at the Kemble Women’s Institute Lookout and Cedar Hill Park.

With additional parkland being recommended to keep pace with needs, the Township will need to ensure that it has the necessary staffing and volunteer complement to undertake day-to-day operations of the parks system. The current dedicated parks maintenance team of two individuals is likely to require additional support if the parks system is to grow, as maintenance activities are presently impacted by the large geographic territory that they must cover along with the need to address day-to-day requests that they receive from the public.

The Township should formalize parks maintenance standards, including type of maintenance and frequency for each park, in order to establish a baseline level of service; the Township would subsequently evaluate its ability to meet these standards by considering the ability of existing staff

and potential needs for additional staff, as well as prepare itself in the event that existing volunteers that undertake parks maintenance are no longer able to contribute their efforts.

In addition to day-to-day operations, longer-term capital renewal projects will represent a significant portion of the Township's parks budget moving forward as infrastructure ages and amenities require repair or replacement. Strategic renewal can be accomplished by dedicating sufficient funding, collaborating with community and agency partners, developing assessment management tools and evidence-based guidelines for investing in aging infrastructure, and adopting strategies that enhance affordable access for all.

4.5 Parkland Action Plans

- #6 Assemble a minimum of 3 hectares in additional parkland by the year 2031 using a combination of parkland dedications permitted under the Ontario Planning Act, existing funds accrued through cash-in-lieu of parkland reserves, and other means as appropriate.
- #7 Implement consistent signage at entrances to all Township parks.
- #8 Develop parkland design and maintenance standards. Parkland maintenance requirements resulting from new parks and formalized operations standards should be supported by the required staffing complement that, at a minimum, involves adjusting the number of Township staff assigned to such duties and working with community volunteers presently engaged in park maintenance to provide training, materials and succession planning necessary to ensure long-term sustainability in the park-specific volunteer force.
- #9 Construct outdoor fitness equipment at Shouldice Park, potentially funded and programmed in collaboration with a local fitness club(s) and/or other interested community partners.

Section 5. Trails System

5.1 Trails in Georgian Bluffs

Like parks, trails offer many benefits in the form of furthering public health and active transportation objectives, environmental protection, and increasing opportunities for social interaction between people. In addition, a 2007 report by the Ontario Trails Council estimates that 5 million trail users contributed between \$2 billion and \$5 billion annually to the provincial economy while the economic impact of regional trail systems in Grey-Bruce is estimated in the millions of dollars each year. Given the extent of ATV and snowmobile use in the Township, it is worth noting that a report commissioned by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs found that snowmobilers spent over \$94 million in the region in 2018/19 (including Georgian Bluffs)¹⁵ while an industry-commissioned report found that ATV users contributed \$3.3 billion in direct spending across Canada in 2005.¹⁶

To achieve a well-balanced transportation network, it is an objective of the Township to “Encourage a pedestrian movement system, including sidewalks, walkways and trails which link major commercial, residential, community facilities and open space areas.”

*Township of Georgian Bluffs Official Plan,
Section 2.9.2b*

Given the amount of feedback received specific to trails in Georgian Bluffs through the RTMP, a goal statement – aligned to the vision of the RTMP – is provided to guide future trail development. In addition, Guiding Principles are provided to assist the Township plan and manage its trails system; these principles consider trends and best practices in trail development, together with local input, with the aim of making the recommended trail network responsive to community needs.

The goal statement and guiding principles are identified in Figure 2; these statements were considered in the identification of the Proposed Trail Network (Section 5.4) and it is recommended that the Township apply these principles through the planning/management of new or expanded route opportunities.

¹⁵ Harry Cummings & Associates. 2019. The Economic Impact of Snowmobiling in Ontario: An Assessment of the 2018-2019 Snowmobile Season. p.47.

¹⁶ Smith Gunther and Associates. 2006. The Economic Impact of All Terrain Vehicle Recreation in Canada.

Figure 2: Goal Statement & Guiding Principles for Trails

Goal Statement:

“Georgian Bluffs’ well managed network of trails encourages safe, respectful and enjoyable recreational opportunities that connects people to local points of interest and regional systems.”

Guiding Principles:

Linking to Destinations and Regional Systems

The trail network provides direct linkages to existing and future destinations within settlement areas, such as community centres and parks, schools, residential areas, and more. To the greatest extent possible, trail routes form continuous loops within parks and communities while connecting people to regional trail systems, such as the Bruce Trail or networks in conservation areas and adjacent municipalities.

Safety for Users

The trail network should be designed and maintained to minimize risk and injury to users by routing trails through open areas, designing trails to reduce potential for conflict between different types of trail users, ensuring unobstructed sight-lines, properly maintaining trails, and other best practices.

Promoting Local Trails

The trail network should be promoted within the Township, and Grey and Bruce Counties, so that residents and visitors are aware of the recreational trails in Georgian Bluffs.

Multi-Modal Means of Year-Round Travel

The trail network facilitates different recreational and utilitarian travel choices throughout the year by designating appropriate sections for human-powered transportation and/or motorized forms of recreational travel.

Striving for Accessibility

Where possible and appropriate to do so, the trail network should be designed to be free of barriers to be inclusive of persons with disabilities.

Cost-Effective Trails

The trail network makes efficient use of municipal resources by focusing on priority routes as dictated by sound planning.

Supporting Trails with Amenities

The trail network has regard for supporting amenities including signage, seating, parking, and more in order to provide the comforts that trail users seek.

Pursuing Partnerships with Others

Ongoing pursuit of, and strengthening relationships with new and existing community partners and land owners encourages the expansion, maintenance, and promotion of the trail network.

The network of trails in Georgian Bluffs serves recreational and utilitarian purposes ranging from scenic walks and nature appreciation to accessing destinations that are important in the day-to-day life of the community. Major trail networks include:

- The **Georgian Bluffs Multi-Use Trail** (Rail Trail) which spans nearly 20 kilometres across an east-west route from County Road 10 (north of Park Head), through Shallow Lake and Benallen, before terminating at Grey Road 1 in Brooke. The trail allows non-motorized and motorized forms of recreational travel, the latter of which requires a permit.
- There is also a small Multi-Use Trail located on the **Kemble Mountain** that ties into a side trail of the Bruce Trail. Formerly part of Kemble Rock Road and known as the Dodd's Hill (or W-Hill), this section of Multi-Use Trail is completely separate from the Multi-Use Trail noted above.
- The **Bruce Trail** runs through the Niagara Escarpment which relegates activities to non-motorized forms such as walking and hiking. The Bruce Trail traverses 73 kilometres through Georgian Bluffs, linking to the Bruce Peninsula in the north and extending south to connect to dozens of municipalities throughout the province. It is thus an important regional and provincial trail connection.
- The **Great Lakes Waterfront Trail** that connects 140 municipalities and First Nations communities across Ontario. In Georgian Bluffs, the trail is an on-road route largely following Grey Road 1 along the waterfront in between the Township borders with Warton and Owen Sound.

In total, there are over 165 kilometres of trail routes located within the Township of Georgian Bluffs after also factoring recreational trails in the Conservation Authority properties, Grey County Managed Forests, Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry lands, side trails to the Bruce Trail, and trails on other privately owned lands such as the Doug Wardell Memorial Walking Trail owned by the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy. Major publically accessible trails are illustrated in Figure 3.

5.2 Grey County Trails Planning

The County of Grey has engaged in two separate but concurrent master planning exercises for its trails systems over the past year. This is being done through the County's Recreational Trails Master Plan and a Cycling & Trails Master Plan.

Recreational Trails Master Plan

The Recreational Trails Master Plan was finalized in November 2019. The Master Plan applies to recreational trail networks contained solely within County-owned forests and thus does not encompass private lands, municipal or Conservation Authority trail networks, or other regional trails (e.g. Bruce Trail) unless it falls on County property. It also bears noting that the County's forests are not parkland but are in fact working forests intended for sustainable timber harvesting, through which recreational uses are considered to be a secondary function.

Like the Township of Georgian Bluffs, Grey County forest trails permit non-motorized users as well as motorized uses, the latter in specific instances; the County's CP Rail Trail functions similar to the

Township's Multi-Use Trail in that it spans a great distance and permits multiple motorized and non-motorized recreational users to access it.

Grey County's Recreational Trails Master Plan identifies three classifications of trails that are differentiated between intended function, types of permitted uses, surfacing and maintenance activities:

1. Forest Trail (Simple/Minor Development Trails)
2. CP Rail Trail (Developed/Improved Trails)
3. Urban Trail (Highly Developed Trails)

The Forest Trail classification is primarily surfaced with natural materials and priority is given to natural environment protection over trail use where the two functions cannot co-exist. Within the context of working forests, these trails are single-lane intended for non-motorized and motorized users to allow for forestry, emergency access, and maintenance in addition to recreational use.

While recreational snowmobiling is permitted in all three classifications, ATV use is more limited. ATVs are not permitted in Forest Trails, with the exception of one property, and are also not an identified use on Urban Trails that are paved surface networks located predominantly near urban areas. ATV use is allowed on the County's CP Rail Trail by permit with the exception of a stretch near Owen Sound during the spring, summer and fall.

The County's Master Plan specifies initiatives and recommendations related to trail development, maintenance, promotion, etiquette and enforcement. As etiquette and enforcement were common themes in the Georgian Bluffs RTMP, the following is an excerpt of notable points from the County's Master Plan.

The County will involve local law enforcement when criminal acts occur on its properties as the County itself does not have a mandate to police or enforce the law; the County intends to work closely with law enforcement on trespass and property damage issues, and intends to address undesirable and illegal activities by also providing:

- signage and documentation about what is and what is not permitted on the CP Rail Trail and County Forests;
- additional educational and etiquette information for all trail users;
- criteria for how and when new user types are considered for access to County Trails;
- dedicated trail improvements or new trail development for some user types, where feasible;
- improvements to existing infrastructure (e.g. gates) and signage; and
- updated agreements with trail groups including ATV and snowmobile clubs, Friends of the Forests, etc.¹⁷

¹⁷ Grey County, 2019. Recreational Trails Master Plan

Cycling & Trails Master Plan

Grey County's Cycling and Trails Master Plan is supported by funding secured through the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling (OMCC) Program and RTO7, thus the network development process is largely focused on commuter cycling and tourism / recreation cycling. Grey County and its consultants are presently developing a Draft Master Plan (not publically available at time of writing) that will identify a cycling and trails network with recommended facility types based on the Ontario Traffic Manual. Discussions with the County and its consultants suggest that facilities will be a mix of predominantly on-road routes, with a few in-boulevard multi-use pathways and off-road trails; Though there are only a few routes that may be proposed for off-road connectivity, the network is intended to enhance connections to existing off-road trails and destinations where recreational / off-road biking is popular.

5.3 Trail Hierarchy

A trail hierarchy is a system of classification that recognizes that there are different types of trails, trail users and intended functions. The trails hierarchy designates permitted uses to specific types of trails and identifies surface types, widths, amenities and other design considerations to guide implementation of the trail network.

Based upon RTMP consultations, existing trails in Georgian Bluffs, and the goal statement and principles established earlier in this section, three classifications of trails are proposed for the Township of Georgian Bluffs:

- Primary Multi-Use Trail
- Secondary Multi-Use Trail
- Recreational Trail

The hierarchy is intended to apply to trails under ownership or direct management of the Township of Georgian Bluffs, and complements trail designations established in the Grey County Cycling & Trails Master Plan¹⁸ and the Recreational Trails Master Plan. The hierarchy and Action Plans contained in this RTMP should not be construed as directing the management of trails owned by non-municipal entities that operate locally.

¹⁸ The County's Cycling & Trails Master Plan is DRAFT at time of writing.

Table 2: Trail Hierarchy for Georgian Bluffs

Classification	Description	Typical Uses	Location, Surface & Width
<p>Primary Multi-Use Trail</p>	<p>Primary Multi-use Trails are major off-road corridors that connect multiple settlement areas across the Township. They support the widest range of users for recreational and utilitarian forms of travel throughout all four seasons.</p> <p>Designs should meet minimum accessibility requirements and allow for safe two-way directional travel.</p> <p><i>Local Example: Georgian Bluffs Multi-Use Trail (Rail Trail), Multi-Use Trail (Dodd's Hill)</i></p>	<p>Walking, hiking, cycling, cross-county skiing, and other non-motorized forms of transportation.</p> <p>All-Terrain Vehicles (with the noted exception of "side-by-side vehicles"), snowmobiles and other motorized recreational vehicles by Township-issued permit, and where demonstrated that impacts to the natural environment are satisfactorily managed.</p>	<p>Location: These off-road trails may be located adjacent to arterial and collector roads as well as highways (particularly designated cycling and active transportation routes identified through the Grey County Cycling & Trails Master Plan). On-road connections may be permitted where necessary to maintain trail continuity.</p> <p>Surface: Asphalt, concrete, compacted granular or other firm and stable surface.</p> <p>Width: 3.0 metres (minimum)</p>
<p>Secondary Multi-Use Trail</p>	<p>Secondary Multi-Use Trails are off-road pathways oriented to recreational use, serving as feeders to Primary Multi-Use Trails. These trails provide access to and within the overall parks system.</p> <p><i>Local Example: Multi-Use Trail (Dodd's Hill)</i></p>	<p>Walking, hiking, cycling, cross-county skiing, and other non-motorized forms of transportation.</p> <p>Motorized recreational vehicles may be permitted in certain sections where required to ensure connectivity to the Primary Multi-Use Trail, provided that impacts to the natural environment and adjacent land uses are satisfactorily managed.</p>	<p>Location: Typically located within open spaces, including valley lands, river corridors, and utility/hydro corridors</p> <p>Surface: Asphalt, compacted granular, or mulch (surface treatment should be responsive to site conditions).</p> <p>Width: 1.8 metres to 3.0 metres</p>

Classification	Description	Typical Uses	Location, Surface & Width
Recreational Trail	<p>Recreational Trails are off-road, soft paved pathways oriented to recreational (non-motorized) use and offer varying degrees of difficulty dependent upon site conditions. They serve to enhance pedestrian circulation at the neighbourhood level, though cycling may be permitted.</p> <p>Recreational Trails may be located within and external to Township parks. They can be looping and/or form side trails to the Multi-Use Trails, providing opportunities for short term hikes, scenic experiences, and access to historic, cultural or ecological points of interest.</p> <p><i>Local Examples: Cobble Beach Trail and certain unopened road allowances</i></p>	Walking, cycling, cross-county skiing, and other non-motorized forms of transportation.	<p>Location: The location of Recreational Trails should be determined through the development application process and pursuant studies to ensure appropriate neighbourhood circulation and connections to other trail routes are achieved.</p> <p>Surface: Asphalt, compacted granular, or mulch (surface treatment should be responsive to site conditions).</p> <p>Width: 0.75 metres to 1.5 metres</p>

Note: The proposed trail hierarchy is intended to supplement the Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan (2020) and Recreational Trails Master Plan (2020) to represent the local trail system in Georgian Bluffs. This table is intended to provide a general description for each trail classification, and should be used as a point of departure when developing new Official Plan policies, technical specifications, or by-laws.

5.4 Proposed Trail Network

The proposed trail network (Figure 3) builds upon existing municipal and County-wide active transportation systems to achieve the goal of connecting people with points of interest such as civic/institutional destinations and sites with historical, cultural and environmental significance. Guided by the trail principles established in this RTMP and the Township's Official Plan, the proposed trail network strives to strengthen trail connectivity, safety, and accessibility throughout Georgian Bluffs, while providing opportunities for multi-modal forms of travel.

The Township's trails and active transportation system are anchored by the Georgian Bluffs Multi-Use Recreational Trail and the Bruce Trail that collectively form major east-west and north-south spines, albeit the Bruce Trail is relegated to non-motorized means of travel. The proposed trail network builds upon these two major corridors along with Grey County's preliminary active transportation network as identified in its DRAFT Cycling & Trails Master Plan; discussions with the County at this time suggest that paved on-road shoulders are being proposed in Georgian Bluffs that can be used for both walking and cycling. The resulting concept aims to build a multi-directional trail system that focuses on enhancing north and south connections, as well as east and west routes.

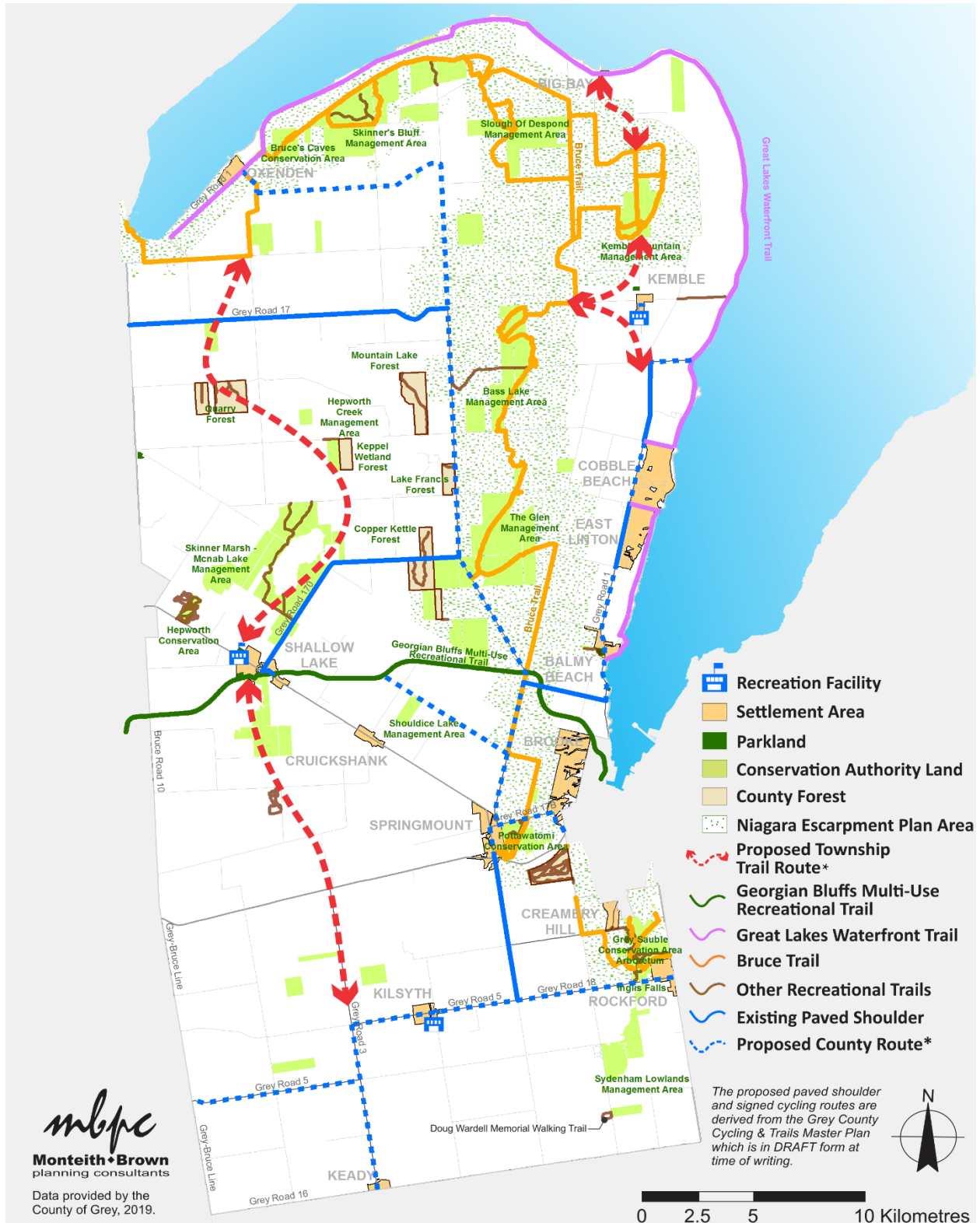
The conceptualized trail network recognizes the importance of connecting to the Shallow Lake Community Centre and the Kemble & District Arena, with proposed primary and/or secondary multi-use trail routes (additional study will be required to determine whether these will be Primary or Secondary Multi-Use Trails under the RTMP's trails hierarchy). For the Shallow Lake Community Centre, this is achieved through a route proposed between Oxenden and Shallow Lake, while the Kemble & District Arena would connect to the Bruce Trail and two points along the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail. To the south, the Derby Community Centre will have connections to the County's planned active transportation network through paved on-road shoulders but a municipal connection is recommended north of Highway 21 to the existing Georgian Bluffs Multi-use Trail.

In addition to on-road and off-road connections that exist or are contemplated in the County's DRAFT Cycling & Trails Master Plan, the conceptual trails network seeks connections with County Forests and lands managed by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority to the greatest degree possible. Recreational Trails established under the RTMP trails hierarchy (e.g., side trails or looped trails) are not shown in the concept but should be considered where they can complement the proposed Primary and Secondary Multi-Use Trails. Recreational Trails located internally within new and existing parks should also be considered including at the Clavering Ball Diamond (see Section 3.7), Balmy Beach Park and any other parks deemed appropriate by the Township (especially when redeveloping or enhancing parks).

"Proposed plans of subdivision are to be...designed with consideration given to connectivity with such adjacent lands and linkages for parks, trails and infrastructure."

***Township of Georgian Bluffs Official Plan,
Section 5.5.1b***

Figure 3: Existing & Proposed Public Trails in Georgian Bluffs



Note: trail routes illustrated through the Grey County DRAFT Cycling & Trails Master Plan are to be considered as preliminary and subject to change pending finalization of the County's separate but concurrent master planning process.

**Proposed Township Trail Routes are for illustrative purposes only. Land use planning, environment, accessibility, and other factors must be considered during the planning process.*

Recognizing the conceptual nature of the proposed trail network, the Township will be required to confirm development feasibility and specific routing at the time of implementation. Due to unique terrain characteristics and other land constraints, modifications to the proposed routes may be required while ensuring the guiding principles and general intent are maintained. Revisions to the conceptual trail network should be made, as necessary, to recognize missing linkages and new opportunities during the life of the RTMP.

5.5 Policy Development

The Township of Georgian Bluffs Official Plan lends support to trail development in a number of sections, recognizing the importance of trails in terms of recreation, health and walkability in community design, natural heritage, tourism and economic development. For example, the Official Plan encourages or emphasizes:

- the integration of all public facilities (including trails) to improve the quality of life of residents in Georgian Bluffs (Section 2.3.4);
- the development of passive recreation/leisure opportunities such as a linked trail system and the Bruce Trail, natural environment conservation areas, etc. to promote opportunities for tourism and recreation (Section 2.7.3b);
- the development of active and passive recreation areas, trails, parks, green spaces, and social gathering areas within walkable distances from residential areas is also encouraged (Section 2.7.3e).
- a well-balanced transportation system that includes a pedestrian movement system that includes sidewalks, walkways and trails that link major commercial, residential, community facilities and open space areas (Section 2.9.2b); and
- the consideration of connectivity by way of reviewing potential trail linkages through the review of proposed plans of subdivisions (Section 5.5.1, 3b).

These policies should continue to be supported and applied in order to enhance the Township's trail network over the foreseeable future. Further guidance can be provided to strengthen support for the development of trails and other active transportation infrastructure. With the completion of this Master Plan, it will be important for the Official Plan to recognize and reference the directions for trail development, particularly the goals and principles for trails in Georgian Bluffs, as well as the trail hierarchy. Recognition of County-level documents including the Cycling & Trails Master Plan and Recreational Trails Master Plan is also recommended.

Creating awareness is crucial to achieve community support and buy-in as the provision of trails can often generate cause for concern. It is recommended that the proposed trail network contained in this Master Plan be included on an Official Plan Schedule to serve as a guide for Township staff, developers, planners, and the public. Engaging the public in the trail planning and design process prior to construction is also encouraged to solicit public input and further generate support for active transportation connectivity in the community.

5.6 Trail Action Plans

- #10 Long-range and short-term planning of the Georgian Bluffs trails system should have regard for the goal statement, guiding principles and conceptual trail network articulated in this Recreation & Trails Master Plan.
- #11 Undertake studies of municipally-owned side trails and unopened road allowances that are located adjacent to or have the potential to connect to municipal trail routes for their suitability to be formally designated as trailways under the hierarchy established in this Recreation & Trails Master Plan. At a minimum, give considerations to the type of trail that may be required based on an evaluation of impacts on environmental areas, adjacent land uses, costs required to develop a trail, and the ability to create a safe trail experience for users.
- #12 Coordinate trail development planning, funding and the potential to link trail systems with partners including, but not limited to, the County of Grey and the County of Bruce, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Bruce Trail Conservancy, and the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority.
- #13 Work with local law enforcement agencies, municipal by-law enforcement staff and local motorized and non-motorized trail clubs to develop a strategy aimed at discouraging non-permitted uses and illegal activities from occurring within municipal trails.
- #14 At the time of an Update or Review of the Township of Georgian Bluffs Official Plan, consider incorporating the proposed trail network identified in the Recreation Trails Master Plan by way of incorporating the network into a new or existing Schedule.

Section 6. Service Delivery Considerations

6.1 The Township's Role in Delivering Recreation & Trails

The Township of Georgian Bluffs provides physical infrastructure through its parks, recreation and trails system. Assets include community centres and halls, parks and outdoor recreation facilities, and lands that encompass trail routes. The Township is not engaged in the delivery of programs at present time, relying upon external providers, including volunteers, to offer such services using municipal facilities and other spaces available in the community.

This model is known as an “indirect” model of service delivery whereby community-led programming is enabled by way of the Township providing physical space. At the other end of the spectrum is a “direct” model of service delivery whereby a municipality designs and administers its own complement of programs. While many municipalities employ a hybrid model that enables a combination of community-driven and municipally-offered programs, the Township's indirect service delivery model is commonly employed by smaller/rural municipalities that attain fewer benefits from economies of scale (e.g. program costs per person) due to smaller populations or low population density.

The “business” of delivering parks, recreation and trails is rapidly evolving, which means that progressive municipalities and their Departments must be flexible in adopting methods to manage and control their day-to-day activities. To be successful over time, the Township will need to be aware of shifts in corporate culture or changes in market conditions, and revise its management and operating techniques accordingly.

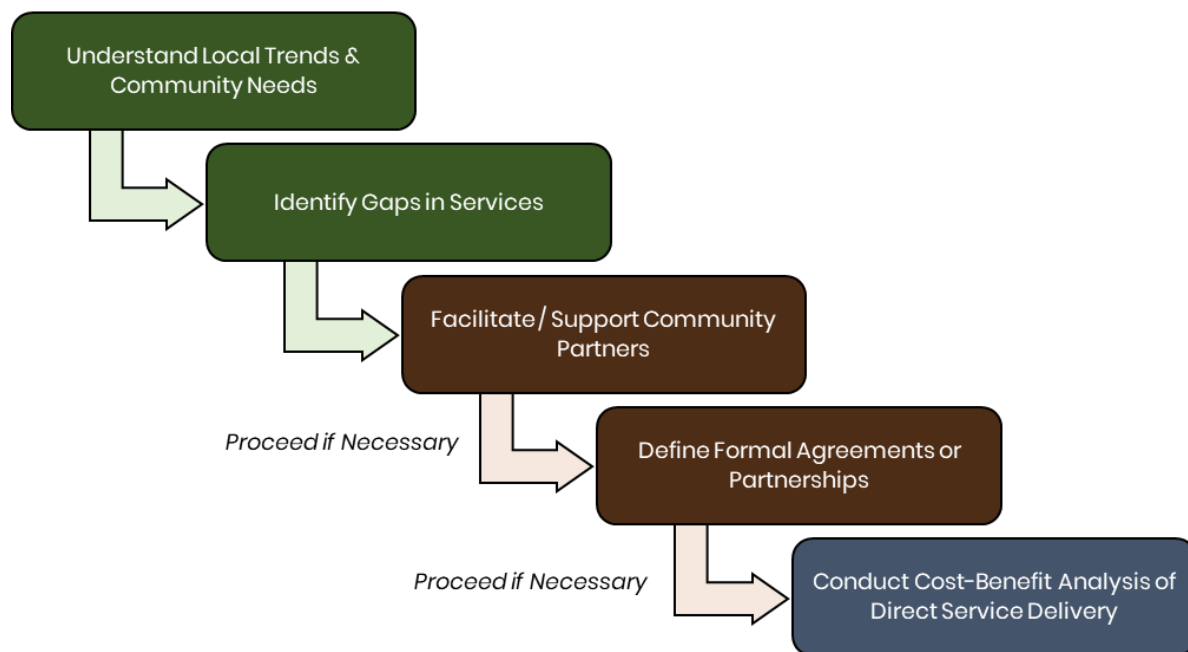
Success originates with the ability to align with the Township's vision and goals that it sets out for delivering parks, recreation and trails services. Since amalgamation in 2001, the Township of Georgian Bluffs has taken a business-oriented stance with regard to its services and facilities by acting as a facilitator of space. This has been a cost effective approach where rental revenues are allocated against facility operations and maintenance, and the Township has been able to be leaner in terms of staffing.

While this approach has minimized operating subsidies relative to other business models oriented to municipal delivery of programs, the approach generates a heavy reliance on community providers and area municipalities to provide needed services to Georgian Bluffs residents. This is common across the province for certain facility types (e.g. sports fields and arenas) although certain municipalities choose to deliver programs in specific program areas (e.g. gymnasium activities) while others municipalities also facilitate programming using strategic partnerships.

In many ways, the Vision Statement articulated early in this RTMP represents the desired role of the Township in providing parks, recreation and trails. The ultimate objective is to facilitate healthy lifestyles through meaningful physical and social activity, and through the continued availability of sustainable opportunities for sport and recreation; the Township's corporate Mission Statement “To balance growth, natural assets and a healthy lifestyle through sustainable planning and responsible management” is a way to achieve this.

In order to provide a broad range of choice, however, the Township must continually evaluate where the community sector is unable to address market demands. Figure 4 articulates the steps in implementing and executing the municipal role with regard to the provision of programs and services; it bears noting that the RTMP has not identified a need for the Township to deviate from its current “indirect” model of service delivery (i.e. a provider of space) nor engage in the direct delivery of recreational programming at this time.

Figure 4: Executing the Township’s Role in Parks, Recreation & Trails



Community Development Approach

The Township’s role as identified above relies on the capacities of external organizations to address local needs through programming. In order to continue along this path, a community development approach needs to be formally supported if community groups are to be sustainable and for the Township to continue with its focus on space.

Through a community development model, the Township would provide supporting resources aimed at sustaining the organizational capacity of groups and proactively seeking partnerships. The Township would also play a central role in connecting providers with one another with the aim of maximizing efficiency/reducing duplication in the system as a whole. The principle of community development was one that was strongly supported by local organizations attending in the RTMP Stakeholder Forums; participants made it clear that they are willing to put in the effort required to create positive outcomes for themselves and the community and hope that the Township can be a coordinating, unifying and supportive force in the local parks, recreation and trails system.

While the Township supports the community development approach in principle, largely through efforts of the Facilities Coordinator and relationships developed by other staff, a formalized community development model is not in place. A standardized community development initiative

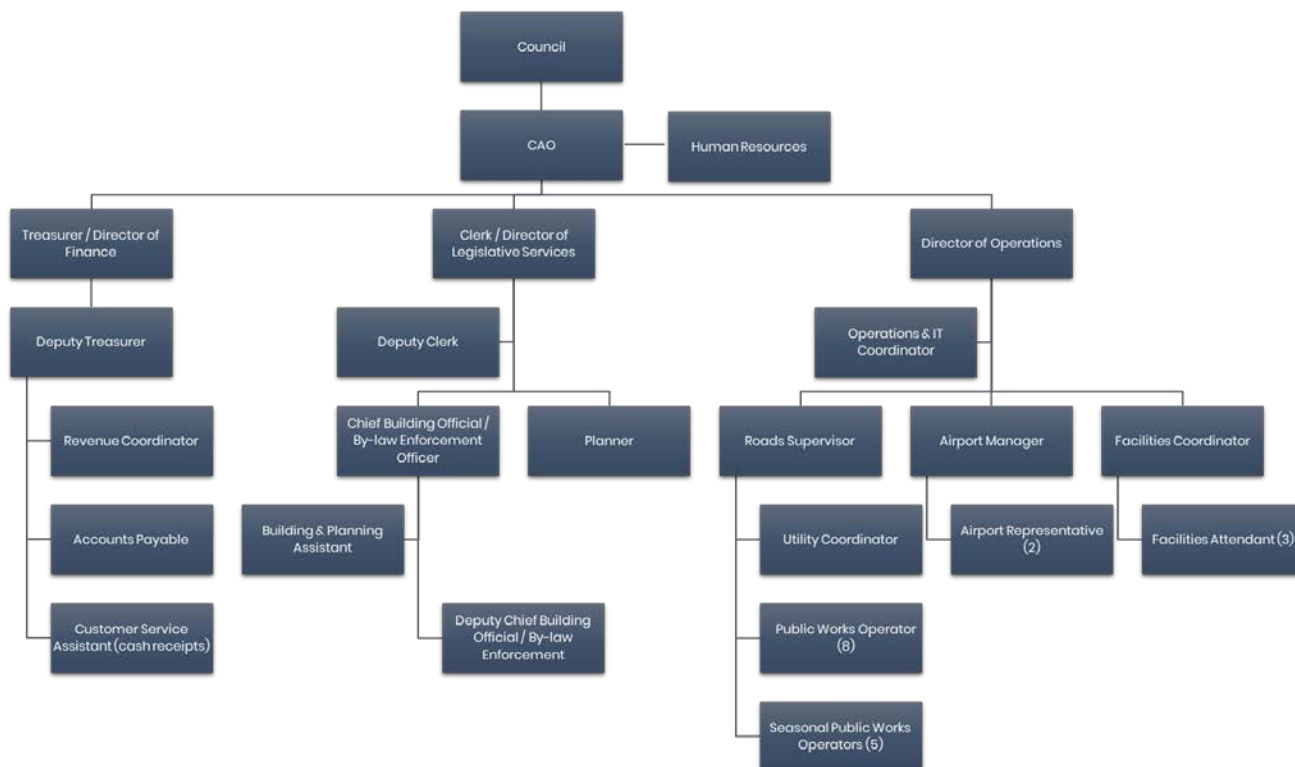
would offer a structured method of involving community groups to develop and deliver recreation services and programs. Typically, a community development approach stimulates partnerships, networks and collaboration at all levels of program design and delivery. Furthermore, shared decision-making between Township staff and key stakeholders can foster a sense of ownership and empowerment amongst community partners. For the community development approach to be effective, appropriate Township resources (e.g. financial, staffing, services in-kind, etc.) need to be devoted in order to maximize relationships that will be developed with groups.

6.2 Organizational Structure

Township Council is responsible for all significant decisions with respect to the planning and implementation of the parks, recreation and trails system; Township staff support Council by providing information and advice. The Township has recently dissolved its Standing Committees, which previously included a Recreation & Property Committee, in favour of relegating these responsibilities to the Committee of the Whole where Departmental matters are discussed/deliberated before being addressed at Council. In addition, there is no parks, recreation and/or trails advisory committee or board in the Township.

The Township does not have a Department dedicated to parks, recreation and trails; staff within the Operations Department are assigned to oversee operations and maintenance of facilities such as the community centres and parks. Rentals and other bookings occur through the Facilities Coordinator who also oversees staff tasked with day-to-day operations and maintenance. Other Departments have certain responsibilities as well such as parks and trail planning, land acquisitions and finance.

Figure 5: Township Organizational Structure, 2019



Adoption of the community development model requires a considerable amount of staff time to meaningfully engage groups, residents and prospective partners. With the Facilities Coordinator and Facilities Attendants spending greater amounts of time communicating with the public and community groups on top of their core responsibilities, it will be difficult for them to meaningfully build relationships and address non-operational customer service requests without additional resourcing.

For this reason, the creation of a new staff position within the Operations Department is recommended to allow the Township to effectively facilitate community-based delivery of programs through a community development model. Potentially titled as a “Recreation Services Facilitator”, this position would be responsible for executing the Township’s community development objectives, liaising with community and agency service providers, and finding new program and rental opportunities. The staff person would also track trends, best practices and gaps while coordinating communication amongst service providers by acting as a centralized resource within the Township. One of the major benefits of this position will be to increase utilization of currently under-utilized spaces within community centres and halls; this would help to improve fiscal performance and enhance community physical and social activity.

6.3 Providing Inclusive Parks, Recreation & Trails Services

Level of Income

Households with more income available to spend on parks, recreation and trail pursuits are more likely to be engaged than households where cost to participation is a barrier. The median after-tax income for all private households in Georgian Bluffs was nearly \$78,000 in 2015, which is above median incomes for Grey County and Ontario (\$62,900 and \$65,300, respectively).

Despite higher than average incomes in the Township, there are individuals living within limited financial means whose participation in recreational activity could be impacted as a result. For 11% of RTMP Community Survey respondents, unaffordability or expense of recreation services was a reported barrier to participation. Residents in Georgian Bluffs living below the low-income measure, after-tax, amount to 9% of the population; by comparison, approximately 15.5% of residents in the County and 14% in the Province live below the low-income measure.¹⁹ As the Township does not directly provide recreation programs, it is up to individual service providers to address financial constraints through their own fee assistance policies and practices.

The Township, however, has a program in place to make the cost of participation in adjacent municipalities more affordable for all individuals. Through its Non-Resident Fee Subsidy Request program that is administered annually, Georgian Bluffs’ residents can apply for a 75% offset of the City of Owen Sound’s non-resident fee. The Township assisted an average of 340 residents between 2015 and 2018 at an average subsidy cost of \$32,000 per year (approximately \$94 per applicant per year). Program uptake dropped to 245 individuals in 2019 due to the number of soccer applicants, who historically account for the majority of non-resident fee offset requests, dropping in half although the total subsidy offered by the Township remained near \$30,000.

¹⁹ Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Canada.

Persons with Disabilities

The 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability found that 6.2 million people reported living with some form of disability, most commonly identified as pain-related, flexibility, mobility and mental health-related. This amounts to 22% of the population, a substantial increase from the 13% of the population (3.8 million people) reporting living with a disability in the 2012 Survey on Disability. Assuming that the national average of 22% is applied to the population in Georgian Bluffs, there could be 2,100 residents living with some form of disability in Georgian Bluffs. It bears noting that only 23% of RTMP Community Survey respondents view parks and trails as being accessible for persons with disabilities, receiving the lowest level of agreement among a series of statements presented to them.

The Township is committed to making its facilities and programs accessible where possible. Guided by its Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee and a newly developed multi-year Accessibility Plan spanning 2019 to 2023, the Township's accessibility efforts include barrier-free improvements through the design of its public spaces. Examples include investments such as installation of an elevator at the Shallow Lake Community Centre, barrier-free components being included as part of a recent replacement of the Shouldice Park playground, and ongoing improvements to Sarawack Family Park's washroom building and circulation within park. In addition, training is provided to Council members and Township employees under the Accessibility Plan's customer service standard. The Multi-year Accessibility Plan will be reviewed annually with progress reports presented to Council and published on the Township website for public review, comment and input.

Persons from Diverse Cultural Backgrounds

According to the 2016 Census, 7% of Georgian Bluffs residents were born outside of Canada, and the vast majority of immigrants arrived prior to 1981 making them well-established in the country; less than 0.5% of the population are recent immigrants (arriving after 2006) which is much lower than the provincial rate. Persons of European descent make up the largest cultural groups, primarily those from the United Kingdom but also of German and Dutch heritage. Visible minorities make up just 1% of the Township's residents while Indigenous persons constitute 2% of the population.

With immigrants constituting a major share of population growth province-wide, municipalities are seeking to understand the types of incentives and quality of life factors that draw culturally diverse groups. Parks, recreation and trails are part of the mix of services that many people, including culturally diverse individuals, consider when deciding whether to settle in a community and thus form part of economic development strategies aimed at attracting new residents and businesses. Municipalities and community service providers often look at broadening the types of services that they offer to respond to the needs of individuals with "non-traditional" interests, but also recognize that many newcomers are willing to participate in "traditionally" Canadian pursuits. The Township should monitor population growth and socio-economic characteristics to ensure that there are opportunities for all residents.

LGBTQ+ Community

There is no data that quantifies how many persons belong to the LGBTQ+ community, though polls and studies conducted elsewhere estimate the percentage to be in the range of 3.5% to 5%. The LGBTQ+ community often faces barriers to participation in recreation programs as a result of

exclusion and bullying; however, their participation is critical as the LGBTQ+ advocacy groups attribute exclusionary attitudes with mental health issues, homelessness, suicide and harmful practices in their communities. The role of municipalities is to ensure that LGBTQ+ residents are welcomed, included and can participate freely from harassment, hatred or bias within safe public spaces and welcoming programs.

6.4 Communications

Providers of parks, recreation and trail services (public, private, and non-profit) educate the public and can influence the degree of participation depending upon the success of their outreach and awareness efforts. With an overwhelming amount of information being directed to people in their day-to-day lives combined with limited skills and financial resources of community providers, the ability to effectively message local parks, recreation and trails services can get lost.

Experiences across Ontario demonstrate that people find it difficult to know what services are offered by the municipality and community providers. This is borne out through in-person discussions with stakeholders and the public through the RTMP process, along with 19% and 26% of Community Survey respondents respectively indicating that they are unaware of recreation and trail opportunities in Georgian Bluffs. Compounding challenges are the different forms of communication that are used by different market segments; for example, social media advertising may be more effective for younger generations while print and word-of-mouth may be more accessible for older generations, and digital marketing may be less effective for lower income households without internet access. Communications to engage community groups and better promote opportunities should be a focus in the future, including by embracing use of social media and enhancing the Township's Facilities & Recreation webpage (found on the georgianbluffs.ca website) to supplement the Township's traditional methods of communication.

Based on conversations with Township staff during the RTMP workshop, internal communications seem to be strong. As a smaller municipality, the lean staff complement and largely centralized operations lend to opportunities for frequent interaction. There may be more opportunities for joint planning and training sessions that arise out of RTMP Action Plans to enhance internal communication and coordination, with the proposed Recreation Services Facilitator being a logical internal liaison between different Departments that are responsible for implementing parks, recreation and trail initiatives.

6.5 Volunteers & Partners

Volunteers are critical in parks, recreation and trails systems, especially in municipalities engaged in indirect service delivery where community providers are responsible for delivering programs. In January 2015, Statistics Canada published a Spotlight on Canadians: Results from the General Social Survey whose section focused on volunteering and charitable giving found that 12.7 million people in Canada volunteered nearly 2 billion hours in 2013. However, the research found that volunteers are aging and despite high reports of hours volunteered, the general volunteer rate was lower than recorded in previous surveys. This echoes the sentiments expressed by most of the local stakeholders that participated in the Master Plan's focus groups.

As many parks, recreation and trail providers are volunteer-based or not-for-profit agencies, it can be difficult to find resources to support volunteer training and development. In response to this, there are examples of multiple service providers collectively pooling resources and sharing in training sessions that would be beneficial to all organizations (e.g., accessibility, harassment, or customer service training).

Examples of partnerships range from informal relationships with community organizations (minor sports, festival organizers, etc.) to formalized agreements with the local school boards. Given the indirect service delivery model, access to facilities and services would be much more limited if it were not for the willingness of local organizations to collaborate with the Township. Examples of potential partners (and expansion/continuation of existing partnerships) in Georgian Bluffs include, but are not limited to:

- Upper tiers of government (e.g. Grey County), adjacent municipalities and First Nations communities;
- Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Bruce Trail Conservancy and environmentally-focused organizations;
- Bluewater District School Board, Bruce-Grey District Catholic School Board and other educational institutions;
- Non-profit organizations such as the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce, local/regional Community Health Centres, the United Way, etc.;
- Local stakeholders such as service clubs, minor sports and recreation providers, trail user groups, community associations, and BIAs.; and/or
- The private sector (e.g. fitness providers, sporting groups, local artist studios, etc.) and local land owners.

RTMP consultations yielded support for continued partnerships, particularly for trail-related infrastructure where volunteers expressed a willingness to assist the Township in building and maintaining networks. Continued partnerships was supported by 87% of Community Survey respondents which had the highest level of agreement among a series of statements presented to them. A number of partner-centred Action Plans are contained within the RTMP in support of a community development model articulated herein, including trail-related coordination and development of recreational infrastructure.

6.6 Rates & Fees

Establishing Rates & Fees for Recreation Services

In accordance with provincial legislation, the Township of Georgian establishes and levies fees for certain municipal services and identifies these charges through by-law. For parks and recreation services, fees are primarily associated with facility rentals such as the ice pads, halls and meeting rooms, sports fields and tennis courts, boat ramps, and trail permits; also included are advertising rates and room setup.

The Township largely sets its rates and fees based upon historical pricing, with some charges indexed to inflation and periodic comparisons to the surrounding market. While this is a common approach throughout the province due to the relative ease of annually adjusting fees based on an escalation factor, the methodology does not necessarily consider a municipality's true cost of delivering the service.

Best practices in pricing recreation services are to understand the direct and indirect costs to deliver a particular service. With knowledge of the true costs of delivery, Township staff are in strong position to set defensible cost-recovery targets, plan future budgets, track and measure financial performance over time, and ultimately determine where efficiencies can be made. Cost information can also inform regular Pricing Policies or Studies that help a municipality ensure its financial sustainability objectives are attained.

By understanding its costs, the Township puts itself in a position to make business decisions that are aligned with its corporate strategic objectives. Not all facilities or services are required to cover all or most of their delivery costs; however, there is a generally accepted philosophical continuum where services that benefit the most number of people are subsidized to the greatest amount whereas services that benefit only a few are charged more. Parks, recreation facilities and trails are typically viewed as a community service and some of their benefits are not easily be quantified in financial terms; for example, it is difficult to quantify how financial costs are offset by improving an individual's physical health, a municipality's economic development potential and ability to recruit/retain residents by having the infrastructure in place, contributions to quality of life and environmental sustainability, and other intrinsic factors.

Current Fee Structure

A review of facility rental rates was undertaken for selected area municipalities and is summarized below. The RTMP scope of work does not include the setting of rates specific to the Township of Georgian Bluffs thus Table 3 is presented for solely for informational purposes. As noted above, rate-setting typically involves an understanding of the true costs of delivery within a specific municipality along with a determination of desired cost-recovery targets and consideration of the regional market. The following points are observed through the benchmarking:

- Georgian Bluffs fees for arena are between 14% and 27% lower than the comparator average.
- Although Georgian Bluffs hall rental rate is substantially higher than average, this may be due to assumptions that had to be made to standardize an hourly rate based upon many differences that exist in the number, quality and pricing of hall facilities. The Township's meeting room rates are 25% less expensive than the
- Owen Sound is the only benchmarked municipality to apply a rental rate to its rectangular fields (the City has different rates fees for youth and adult users).
- Georgian Bluffs ball diamond rates are 34% and 59% less expensive than the benchmarks averages for lit and unlit diamonds, respectively.

Table 3: Summary of Indoor Facility Rental Rates in Selected Area Municipalities

Municipality	Arena Rentals				Room Rentals	
	Prime Time	Affiliate / Minor Prime	Non-Prime	Dry Pad	Meeting Room	Community Hall
Arran-Elderslie	\$135.40	\$98.56	\$79.65	\$61.95	\$24.59	Not applicable
South Bruce Peninsula	\$123.08	Not applicable	\$82.05	\$35.40	\$20.02	\$23.70
Chatsworth	\$160.00	\$115.00	\$105.00	\$45.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
Owen Sound	\$183.80	\$114.95	\$131.21	\$50.76	\$15.35	\$74.77
Benchmark Average	\$150.57	\$123.26	\$99.48	\$53.45	\$19.99	\$44.49
Georgian Bluffs	\$130.00	\$90.00	\$80.00	\$40.00	\$20.00	\$125.00
GB Deviation from Avg.	- 14%	-27%	-20%	-25%	-25%	181%

Notes: rental rates exclude HST and are assumed current as of time of writing based on posted rates/fees by-laws and/or discussions with staff in the benchmark municipalities. Comparisons among hall and meeting room rates should be cautiously interpreted due to differences in room sizes, rate structures and rates for uses within individual municipalities. Effort has been made to standardize rates into a blended average for the purposes of comparison among benchmarks.

Table 4: Summary of Outdoor Facility Rental Rates in Selected Area Municipalities

Municipality	Ball Diamonds			Park Pavilions
	Lit	Unlit	Minor	
Arran-Elderslie	\$56.97	\$46.64	\$28.53	\$48.36
South Bruce Peninsula	\$40.12	\$20.05	\$17.51	\$38.30
Chatsworth	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$10.00	Not applicable
Owen Sound	\$48.72	\$48.72	\$33.39	Not applicable
Benchmark Average	\$45.20	\$36.35	\$22.36	\$43.33
Georgian Bluffs	\$30.00	\$15.00	Not applicable	Not applicable
GB Deviation from Avg.	-34%	-59%		

Notes: rental rates exclude HST and are assumed current as of time of writing based on posted rates/fees by-laws and/or discussions with staff in the benchmark municipalities. Rectangular field rates are not included as only the City of Owen Sound applies fees for these facilities. Owen Sound does not differentiate between lit and unlit diamonds in its fee structure, thus rates for its "Class A" diamonds are applied to both.

Non-Resident Fees

Certain municipalities levy a surcharge upon individuals from outside their communities wishing to make use of local programs and rental opportunities using a philosophy that local residents bear the majority of operating costs/deficits through their taxes. Other municipalities, such as Georgian Bluffs, consciously choose not to administer non-resident fees in order to encourage greater utilization of their programs and facilities recognizing price sensitivity among consumers, whether they are local ratepayers or not. Among the benchmarked municipalities, only Owen Sound and South Bruce Peninsula applied a non-resident fee to selected services (e.g. sports field, ice pad, and/or outdoor aquatic programs).

The Township previously had an agreement in place with the City of Owen Sound for Georgian Bluffs residents to access City programs at no additional charge above stated rates. Since expiry of that agreement, Georgian Bluffs residents are required to pay a 'Non-Resident Fee' to the City of Owen Sound if they wish to participate in City-run programs in the amount of \$100 per person for field/floor

sports and \$167 per person for ice sports. The Township allows its residents to apply for a 75% offset of the non-resident fee through its annual Non-Resident Fee Subsidy Request program.

6.7 Funding the RTMP

The RTMP's 19 Action Plans reflect the strong parks, recreation and trail infrastructure already in place which, combined with limited population growth forecasted over the next 10 years, results in few major capital investments being required. Notable expenditures are related to the following:

- Architectural, landscape architectural and/or engineering fees associated with preparing concepts to revitalize the Kemble & District Arena, the Derby Community Centre, and their respective grounds. These studies will subsequently identify the capital costs of implementing the future vision through construction/redevelopment activities.
- Potential cost of acquiring 3.0 of future parkland, a figure yet to be determined but will be offset by conveyance of land from future land developments and transfers from cash-in-lieu of parkland reserves (the Township presently has \$57,000 in its obligatory parkland reserves).
- Costs to build out the conceptual trails network, a figure to be determined based on future analysis of routing opportunities and land ownership status, geotechnical and other engineering assessments, and collaborative efforts with Grey County and other trail partners.
- Park improvements such as redevelopment of the Clavering Ball Diamond (cost to be identified through a visioning and conceptual planning exercise), installation of outdoor fitness equipment, and overlay of pickleball lines at Balmy Beach Park (cost is dependent upon whether painting will suffice or if resurfacing activities are concurrently undertaken).
- Addition of a Recreation Services Facilitator staff person whose salary will be contingent upon responsibilities and number of hours ultimately assigned to the position.
- An Update to the Recreation & Trails Master Plan.

Approximately 4 out of 5 RTMP Community Survey respondents agreed that investment in recreation and trails should be a high priority for Township of Georgian Bluffs Council.

All recommendations that have a capital requirement would be brought forward through annual budgeting processes over the master planning period as the Township compiles information required to develop costs (e.g. amount of parkland being conveyed, site selection, design characteristics, financial contributions from non-municipal sources, etc.). Similarly, it is envisioned that a number of service-delivery focused recommendations centred upon community development and volunteer supports can be worked into existing staff workloads. Certain others can be assumed into the new Recreation Services Facilitator position being recommended.

Recent legislation introduced by the Government of Ontario through Bill 108 alters the way that the Township has historically funded many of the parks, recreation and cultural services articulated in the Master Plan. Bill 108 proposes changes to the growth-related charges and has identified a

“Community Benefit Charge”; the Bill has received Royal Assent, however, a number of its implementing regulations have not been identified at the time of writing thereby requiring municipalities to remain apprised of the Bill’s implications in the coming months. The Township needs to monitor this legislation and should review its implications on the Master Plan.

6.8 Monitoring & Updating the RTMP

The Town should periodically review, assess, and revise the RTMP Action Plans in order to ensure that they remain reflective of community needs. This may require monitoring activity levels, utilization, demographics, and continuing dialogue with community organizations. The development of annual work plans and year-end reporting should be undertaken to track achievements and lessons learned in order to measure the success of the RTMP. Through these mechanisms – or as a result of internal or external factors – adjustment in resource allocations and priorities may be required.

6.9 Service Delivery Action Plans

- #15 The Township should continue to utilize an “indirect” approach to service delivery that focuses on the provision of space. A community development model and supporting set of principles should be formalized as part of ongoing Departmental operations that encourages community-based providers and strategic partners to deliver programs and services in Georgian Bluffs.
- #16 Create a Recreation Services Facilitator staff position to: a) execute the Township’s community development objectives; b) liaise with community and agency service providers; c) find new program, rental and partnership opportunities with providers using parks and community centres; d) track trends, best practices and gaps; and e) coordinate communication amongst service providers by acting as a centralized resource within the local parks, recreation and trails system.
- #17 Strive to reduce barriers to participation and volunteerism by regularly engaging community providers, representatives of marginalized groups, and agency partners to discuss challenges and find ways to improve the dissemination of information relating to parks, recreation and trail opportunities in Georgian Bluffs.
- #18 Review the implications of Ontario Bill 108 and other relevant legislation on the Recommendations contained in the Recreation & Trails Master Plan given the new provincial legislative planning and funding framework.
- #19 Update the Recreation & Trails Master Plan in the year 2025 to capture changes in population, trends, corporate objectives, inventories, etc. Progress in implementing the Master Plan should be tracked annually with results (and other related corporate achievements) regularly communicated to Township Council and the general public.

Section 7. Implementation

The Recreation and Trails Master Plan (RTMP) identifies Action Plans at the end of Sections 4 through 7; these Action Plans are not a definitive list of all initiatives for the Township since ongoing capital projects/repairs, operating expenditures, and other case-by-case initiatives outside the scope of this RTMP may be identified by staff and Council. By approving the RTMP as a guiding document, the Township is not bound to implementing any single Action Plan; rather, the RTMP provides guidance on community priorities and sets a general course for meeting community needs as they are presently defined.

RTMP Action Plans are based on what is needed and not what is financially achievable by the Township at present time. However, it does provide a solid understanding of needs and priorities which may assist in developing or strengthening partnerships and in applying for future grant opportunities. The following tables contain the RTMP Action Plans according to a suggested schedule of implementation based upon short, medium and long-term planning horizons over the master planning period.

The proposed priority/timing of each recommendation has been determined based on an assessment of need using feedback from RTMP consultations, trends and demographic variables, and the respective assessment of parks, facilities, trails and services. Budget pressures, changes in participation rates or demographics, availability of volunteer resources, and other factors may impact the implementation of these Action Plans. The pursuit of external funding opportunities (e.g. grants and governmental stimulus programs) and partnership opportunities may also be a contributing factor to the timing of implementation.

Short-Term Action Plans (2020 to 2023)

RTMP Action Plan	RTMP Reference
<p>Initiate architectural, landscape architectural and engineering assessments of the Kemble & District Arena and Derby Community Centre oriented to renewing these community centres and defining the costs of doing so. Further community consultations are recommended in order to inform the conceptual designs and cost-benefit analysis. At a minimum, future recreational components that should be examined include community hall and multi-purpose program space, active living / fitness areas, playgrounds, hard surface courts, gardens, or other ideas brought forward by the community through the respective facility visioning processes.</p>	<p>Section 3 (Recreation)</p>
<p>Together with the Township of Chatsworth, clarify the legal status of the agreement between the former Townships of Sullivan and Derby as it relates to the Keady Arena and Community Hall, and discuss future plans for that facility with the Township of Chatsworth.</p>	<p>Section 3 (Recreation)</p>
<p>Develop parkland design and maintenance standards. Parkland maintenance requirements resulting from new parks and formalized operations standards should be supported by the required staffing complement that, at a minimum, involves adjusting the number of Township staff assigned to such duties and working with community volunteers presently engaged in park maintenance to provide training, materials and succession planning necessary to ensure long-term sustainability in the park-specific volunteer force.</p>	<p>Section 4 (Parks)</p>
<p>Work with local law enforcement agencies, municipal by-law enforcement staff and local motorized and non-motorized trail clubs to develop a strategy aimed at discouraging non-permitted uses and illegal activities from occurring within municipal trails.</p>	<p>Section 5 (Trails)</p>
<p>Create a Recreation Services Facilitator staff position to: a) execute the Township's community development objectives; b) liaise with community and agency service providers; c) find new program, rental and partnership opportunities with providers using parks and community centres; d) track trends, best practices and gaps; and e) coordinate communication amongst service providers by acting as a centralized resource within the local parks, recreation and trails system.</p>	<p>Section 6 (Service Delivery)</p>
<p>Review the implications of Ontario Bill 108 and other relevant legislation on the Recommendations contained in the Recreation & Trails Master Plan given the new provincial legislative planning and funding framework</p>	<p>Section 6 (Service Delivery)</p>

Medium-Term Action Plans (2024 to 2027)

RTMP Action Plan	Section Reference #
<p>In anticipation of emerging demands for pickleball, overlay pickleball court lines on the Balmy Beach Park tennis courts to create a multi-use playing opportunity for pickleball and tennis. Indoor pickleball play can be addressed by installing lining on dry-floor pads at the Shallow Lake Community Centre, Kemble & District Arena, and/or the Derby Community Centre.</p>	<p>Section 3 (Recreation)</p>
<p>Redevelop the Clavering Ball Diamond property with passive recreation facilities including, but not limited to, seating and shade areas, internal pathways, picnic and community gathering space, and/or public art in order to serve area residents and create a quality focal point along the Highway 6 corridor. A conceptual plan should be prepared for the park in advance that involves community consultation and a costing analysis.</p>	<p>Section 3 (Recreation)</p>
<p>Undertake studies of municipally-owned side trails and unopened road allowances that are located adjacent to or have the potential to connect to municipal trail routes for their suitability to be formally designated as trailways under the hierarchy established in this Recreation & Trails Master Plan. At a minimum, give considerations to the type of trail that may be required based on an evaluation of impacts on environmental areas, adjacent land uses, costs required to develop a trail, and the ability to create a safe trail experience for users.</p>	<p>Section 5 (Trails)</p>
<p>Update the Recreation & Trails Master Plan in the year 2025 to capture changes in population, trends, corporate objectives, inventories, etc. Progress in implementing the Master Plan should be tracked annually with results (and other related corporate achievements) regularly communicated to Township Council and the general public.</p>	<p>Section 6 (Service Delivery)</p>

Long-Term Action Plans (2028 to 2031)

RTMP Action Plan	Section Reference #
<p>Implement consistent signage at entrances to all Township parks.</p>	<p>Section 4 (Parks)</p>
<p>Construct outdoor fitness equipment at Shouldice Park, potentially funded and programmed in collaboration with a local fitness club(s) and/or other interested community partners.</p>	<p>Section 4 (Parks)</p>

RTMP Action Plan	Section Reference #
At the time of an Update or Review of the Township of Georgian Bluffs Official Plan, consider incorporating the proposed trail network identified in the Recreation Trails Master Plan by way of incorporating the network into a new or existing Schedule.	Section 5 (Trails)

Ongoing Action Plans (2020 to 2031)

RTMP Action Plan	Section Reference #
Requests for facilities presently not part of the Township of Georgian Bluffs’ core parks and recreation service mandate should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, after first considering the municipality’s role in providing the service in relation to quantified market demand and cost-effectiveness of such services. Potential strategies should also be identified to address the long-term need for such requests should a sufficient level of demand be expressed.	Section 3 (Recreation)
Assemble a minimum of 3 hectares in additional parkland by the year 2031 using a combination of parkland dedications permitted under the Ontario Planning Act, existing funds accrued through cash-in-lieu of parkland reserves, and other means as appropriate.	Section 4 (Parks)
Long-range and short-term planning of the Georgian Bluffs trails system should have regard for the goal statement, guiding principles and conceptual trail network articulated in this Recreation & Trails Master Plan.	Section 5 (Trails)
Coordinate trail development planning, funding and the potential to link trail systems with partners including, but not limited to, the County of Grey and the County of Bruce, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Bruce Trail Conservancy, and the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority.	Section 5 (Trails)
The Township should continue to utilize an “indirect” approach to service delivery that focuses on the provision of space. A community development model and supporting set of principles should be formalized as part of ongoing Departmental operations that encourages community-based providers and strategic partners to deliver programs and services in Georgian Bluffs.	Section 6 (Service Delivery)
Strive to reduce barriers to participation and volunteerism by regularly engaging community providers, representatives of marginalized groups, and agency partners to discuss challenges and find ways to improve the dissemination of information relating to parks, recreation and trail opportunities in Georgian Bluffs.	Section 6 (Service Delivery)

Appendix A: Community Survey Results

1. In the past 12 months, which of the following activities have you or anyone in your household participated in? This can be in Georgian Bluffs or elsewhere.

	#	%
Walking for Leisure	238	87%
Hiking	214	78%
Visit to a Public Beach	201	73%
Enjoying Parks and Open Spaces	187	68%
Outdoor Swimming	160	58%
Cycling or Mountain Biking	153	56%
Paddlesports (e.g. canoe, kayak, rowing, paddleboarding)	150	55%
Dog Walking (on or off leash)	144	53%
Snowshoeing	124	45%
Aerobics, Yoga, Fitness, or Weight-Training	104	38%
Fishing	99	36%
Use of Playground Equipment	87	32%
Skiing - Cross-Country	86	31%
Hockey, Ringette, Figure Skating, or Ice Skating	84	31%
Boating - Motorized	78	28%
Running or Jogging	64	23%
Indoor Swimming (Recreational)	63	23%
Use of Splash Pad	56	20%
Baseball or Softball	36	13%
Indoor Swimming	35	13%
Preschool or Children's Programs	33	12%
Skiing - Downhill	32	12%
Soccer	29	11%
Wheeled Sports (skateboarding, scootering, etc.)	25	9%
Volleyball	24	9%
Organized Seniors Programs	23	8%
Gymnastics	19	7%
Tennis	19	7%
Pickleball	17	6%
Badminton	15	5%
Basketball	15	5%
Organized Teen Programs	9	3%
Lawn Bowling	6	2%
Cricket	2	1%
Other	87	32%
Total	274	

2. If you and/or members of your household are not able to participate in recreation activities as often as you would like, please indicate why. (select up to 3 responses)

	#	%
Lack of personal time / Too busy	96	35%
Lack of desired facilities or programs	68	25%
Lack of information / Unaware of opportunities	51	19%
Program not offered at a convenient time	35	13%
Lack of money / Too expensive	30	11%
Lack of transportation / Facility too far away	21	8%
Accessibility / Disability / Age	8	3%
Lack of Child Care	8	3%
Language / Cultural Barrier	1	0%
No Barriers - We are able to participate as often as we would like	111	41%
Other	17	6%
Total	272	

3. In the past 12 months, which of the following trail types have you or anyone in your household used in Georgian Bluffs?

	#	%
Any Natural or Stone Trail	215	82%
Any Paved/Hard Surfaced Trail	118	45%
Sidewalk	111	42%
ATV or Snowmobile Trail	104	40%
On-road Trail or Bike Lane	106	40%
Beach Boardwalk	82	31%
Any Nordic Trail	72	27%
Total	262	

4. On average, how often did someone in your household use trails in Georgian Bluffs in the past 12 months?

	#	%
Every day	8	3%
Almost daily	49	18%
Once a week	76	29%
A few times a month	68	26%
Once a month	17	6%
Less than once a month	34	13%
Don't know	6	2%
<hr/>		
Not applicable – don't participate in trail activities	7	3%
<hr/>		
Total	265	100%

5. Where does your household primarily use trails?

	#	%
Mostly on Township Lands	28	11%
Mostly at a Conservation Area or Management Area	55	21%
Both Equally	96	37%
Don't know – not aware of who owns the land	49	19%
Not applicable – don't participate in trail activities	8	3%
<hr/>		
Other	26	10%
<hr/>		
Total	262	100%

6. What are the main reasons your household uses trails in Georgian Bluffs?

	#	%
For fitness or recreation	234	89%
For nature appreciation	215	82%
To access parks	40	15%
To access a beach	31	12%
Not applicable – don't participate in trail activities	8	3%
To go to work	7	3%
To go to the store	7	3%
To go to school	1	0%
<hr/>		
Other	17	6%
<hr/>		
Total	263	

7. If you and/or members of your household are not able to participate in trail-related activities as often as you would like, please indicate why.

	#	%
Lack of personal time/Too busy	85	32%
Unaware of where trails are located	68	26%
Trails do not connect to desired destinations	40	15%
Trails do not have necessary support amenities (seating, washrooms, parking, etc.)	25	10%
Don't feel safe using trails	17	6%
Trails are not well maintained	16	6%
Trail is too far away	11	4%
Trails are too busy	7	3%
Health problems or disability	7	3%
Trails are not accessible to persons with disabilities	6	2%
Don't know	4	2%
Not interested in participating in trail activities	4	2%
No Barriers - We are able to participate as often as we would like	97	37%
Other (please specify)	25	10%
Total	263	

8. Please indicate which of the following parks and recreation facilities you feel the Township should prioritize in terms of additional public funds and/or providing additional access: (select your top 3)

	#	%
Nature Trails	108	42%
Multi-Use/Hard Surface Trails	64	25%
Acquisition of Parks and Open Space	50	20%
Off-Road Signed Cycling Trails	47	18%
Arenas	41	16%
On-Road Bike Routes	36	14%
Washrooms in Parks	36	14%
Canoe/Kayak Launches	32	13%
Playgrounds	31	12%
Community Halls	26	10%
Outdoor Ice Rinks	21	8%
Space for Seniors Programs	21	8%

	#	%
Off-Leash Dog Parks	20	8%
Fitness Centres	17	7%
Swimming Pools (Indoor)	17	7%
Space for Youth Programs	14	5%
Motorized Boat Launches	14	5%
Pickleball Courts	12	5%
Seating/Benches in Parks	10	4%
Baseball or Softball Diamonds	7	3%
Splash Pads	7	3%
Sand Volleyball Courts	6	2%
Tennis Courts	6	2%
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	3	1%
Gymnasiums	3	1%
Soccer/Rectangular Fields	3	1%
Swimming Pools (Outdoor)	3	1%
Cricket Pitches	1	0%
Skateboard Parks	1	0%
Other High Priorities	37	14%
Total	256	

9. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neither Agree Nor Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree		Don't Know		Total #
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Investment in recreation facilities should be a high priority for Township Council.	11	4%	4	2%	37	15%	82	33%	110	45%	3	1%	247
Investment in trails should be a high priority for Township Council.	14	6%	6	2%	27	11%	97	39%	98	40%	4	2%	246
The Township's parks are effective in meeting the needs of all ages.	10	4%	35	14%	76	31%	81	33%	20	8%	23	9%	245
The Township should acquire new parkland to expand the park system.	12	5%	29	12%	70	28%	84	34%	36	15%	15	6%	246

	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neither Agree Nor Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree		Don't Know		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
The Township should invest in additional land for waterfront and beach access.	10	4%	20	8%	77	31%	77	31%	53	22%	9	4%	246
The Township's recreation facilities are well maintained	9	4%	22	9%	69	28%	98	40%	16	7%	31	13%	245
Township-owned trails are well maintained.	14	6%	18	7%	83	34%	87	36%	12	5%	30	12%	244
Continue to partner with others to improve park and trail connectivity.	4	2%	4	2%	13	5%	108	44%	107	43%	10	4%	246
Parks and trails are accessible for persons with disabilities.	5	2%	23	9%	97	40%	45	18%	10	4%	64	26%	244
You are confident that you know where most local parks and trails are located.	13	5%	66	27%	47	19%	85	35%	25	10%	8	3%	244

10. Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you may have regarding parks and trails in the Township of Georgian Bluffs.

These open-ended answers encompassed a wide-ranging set of topics and thus are not summarized herein; however, responses have been considered in developing the RTMP where applicable to the study scope.

11. Please indicate the total number of people within your household that fall into the following age categories.

	#	#	%
	HH	PPL	
Under 10 years	54	95	14%
10-19 years	45	74	11%
20-34 years	64	100	15%
35-54 years	109	184	27%
55-69 years	106	181	27%
70 years or older	31	46	7%
Total		680	

12. How many people including yourself, live in your household?

	#
Average	2.8

13. What year were you born in?

	#	2019
Average	1968	51
Oldest	1937	82
Youngest	2003	16

14. Are you a permanent or seasonal resident of the Township of Georgian Bluffs?

	#	%
Permanent Resident	187	77%
Seasonal Resident	21	9%
I do not live in Georgian Bluffs	35	14%
	243	100%

15. Which Township of Georgian Bluffs community do you live in or are closest to (permanently or seasonally)?

	#	%
Kemble	72	39%
Shallow Lake	29	16%
Balmy Beach	20	11%
Rural Area	17	9%
Springmount	13	7%
Inglis Falls	6	3%
Kilsyth	6	3%
Clavering	5	3%
Big Bay	3	2%
Other (please specify)	15	8%
Total	186	100%