



Municipality of Huron Shores

Recreation Master Plan

June 2025



Contents

Land Acknowledgement	3	5	A Distinctive Portfolio of Indoor Assets	32
1 Master Plan Framework	4	5.1 Overview of Indoor Assets	33	
1.1 Plan Development Process	5	5.2 What We Heard: Indoor Assets	35	
1.2 Aligning with Strategic Objectives	6	5.3 Iron Bridge Recreation Centre (Arena)	36	
1.3 Master Plan Guiding Principles	8	5.4 Little Rapids Community Centre	40	
2 Community Profile	9	5.5 Sowerby Heritage Community Centre	42	
2.1 Locational Context	10	5.6 Historic 12-Sided Barn	43	
2.2 The Broader Recreation Offer	11	5.7 Thompson Recreation Centre	44	
2.3 Population Dynamics	12	5.8 Iron Bridge Historical Museum	45	
2.4 Visitor Profile	14	5.9 Indoor Assets Recommendations	46	
3 What We Heard	16	6 A Complementary Inventory of Outdoor Assets	50	
3.1 Engagement Activities	17	6.1 Overview of Outdoor Assets	51	
3.2 Public Survey Outcomes	18	6.2 What We Heard: Outdoor Assets	53	
4 Delivering Recreation Services	23	6.3 Accessing the Water	54	
4.1 Current Delivery Model	24	6.4 Land-Based Assets	60	
4.2 Internal Organization & Resources	25	6.5 Trail Network	64	
4.3 Investing in Recreation	26	6.6 Outdoor Assets Recommendations	65	
4.4 Operational Recommendations	28	7 Implementation Priorities	67	
		7.1 Overview of Implementation	68	
		7.2 Implementation Strategy	69	
		7.3 Phasing Priorities	70	

Appendix A: Design Options for Iron Bridge Recreation Centre

Land Acknowledgement

The Municipality of Huron Shores is located in the Robinson-Huron Treaty territory and the traditional land of the Anishnaabeg people dating back countless generations. The Municipality makes this statement as a way to demonstrate respect for their contributions and recognize the role of treaty-making in what is now Ontario. Hundreds of years after the first treaties were signed, they are still relevant today.





1 Master Plan Framework

1.1 Plan Development Process

This Master Plan was developed over a comprehensive three-phase process and premised on strong involvement of the community. Public engagement, stakeholder outreach, and municipal staff and Council engagement included one public online survey, individual meetings with the Recreation Committees, as well as interviews with key external stakeholders, and two workshops with the Mayor and members of Council. These internal workshops were combined with the work for the Corporate Strategic Plan, which was undertaken concurrently.

The project also involved the following:

- Review of existing recreation facilities, including condition and utilization analysis. This included a series of on-the-ground site visits to municipal recreation facilities and parks.
- Local, regional, and provincial demographic and leisure trends analysis, as well as best practices in other communities, and the impacts of these changes on the delivery of recreation.
- Review of relevant strategic documents, policies, and priorities (local, regional, and provincial) to develop long-term recreation recommendations.
- Evaluation of the Municipality's current municipal delivery model for recreation including levels of investment in the sector.
- The identification of gaps and opportunities for the provision of facilities, services, and programs that may be addressed through the recommendations of the Master Plan.

Exhibit 1: Master Plan Process & Timeline



1.2 Aligning with Strategic Objectives

The following provides an overview of the key goals and objectives as identified in the relevant strategic documents, at the provincial, regional, and municipal level. The Recreation Master Plan recognizes these goals and objectives and aims to integrate them into the strategy for recreation in Huron Shores going forward.

Enabling Opportunity: Ontario's Rural Economic Development Strategy (2025)

Recent changes in rural areas of the province have been influenced by factors such as a growing population, investment in key sectors, and increased need and funding for infrastructure and housing. With 96% of the province's land area being rural in nature, the importance of these areas can not be overlooked.

Ontario's Rural Economic Development Strategy sets out a vision and goals for thriving rural communities, focused within three pillars:

- **Safe and Strong Rural Communities** - supporting foundational elements so rural communities are places where people want to live, work and play. One of the key goals of which is to "Help to rehabilitate rural community infrastructure." This includes recreation infrastructure.
- **Business Development and Attraction** – developing, growing and attracting business.
- **Growing the Rural Workforce** – attracting, retaining and growing the workforce.

Official Plan (Draft, 2023)

The Municipality is in the process of developing a new Official Plan (OP) (currently in draft form), to update the existing OP which dates to 2011. Council launched the Comprehensive Review process in August 2021, with the Background Report for the new OP being completed in January 2023. The draft OP was subsequently developed in December 2023. The key goals identified in the draft OP, as relevant to the RMP, include:

- a. Achieving a land use pattern that optimizes the use of available or planned infrastructure, and facilitates the efficient, cost-effective delivery of services.
- b. Facilitating a balanced approach to development by encouraging new business development and business retention, building upon rural and recreational assets, while at the same time balancing a desire to maintain a rural, recreational and resource-based character of the Municipality.
- c. Planning for a community that is welcoming and accessible to all people regardless of age, ability and cultural background.
- d. Working with neighbouring communities, including indigenous communities to provide coordinated services and seek out mutually beneficial economic development opportunities.
- e. Recognizing the natural environment as a critical social and economic asset to the long-term well-being of the community, by appropriately managing the sustainable development of renewable and non-renewable resources and supporting outdoor recreational activities.

Service Delivery Review (2024)

A review of the Municipality's services was undertaken in 2024 with the aim to identify potential opportunities to maximize value for money, minimize the burden on the tax base, and contribute to the Municipality's long-term sustainability.

The review resulted in thirteen specific opportunities related to operating efficiencies and revenue generation beyond the tax base. In addition, a series of improvements were identified related to the internal processes of the Municipality.

Opportunities with relevance to the RMP include:

- Review the current approach to the provision of access to community facilities by community groups;
- Establish a facility maintenance service within the organization;
- Identify and pursue formal shared services with neighbouring municipalities;
- Explore the establishment of a capital levy for the purpose of creating another revenue stream for the Municipality's capital needs;
- Review the Municipality's approach to user fee; and
- Establish a Standard Operating Procedure for the identification and pursuit of grant opportunities.

Corporate Strategic Plan (2025)

The Municipality's Corporate Strategic Plan was developed in conjunction with but prior to the RMP, acting as a precursor to guide the strategy for the RMP and ensure alignment with the priorities identified for the corporation. The priorities and associated goals included in the Strategic Plan are identified as follows:



1.3 Master Plan Guiding Principles

The Recreation Master Plan is centered on six key principles to help guide the planning of recreation services and facilities in Huron Shores over the next 10 years, as detailed below. The guiding principles are intentionally all-encompassing to achieve maximum impact in achieving desired outcomes over the course of the Plan period.





2 Community Profile

2.1 Locational Context

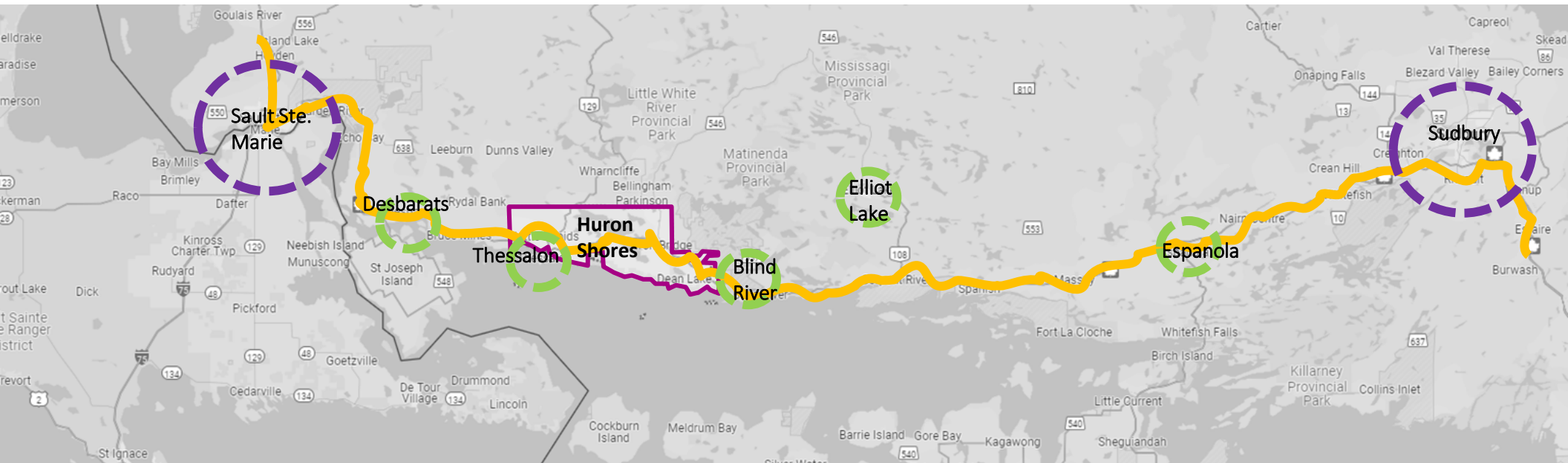
The Municipality of Huron Shores spans 457 km², located in the Algoma District of Northeastern Ontario. Strategically located along Highway 17 between Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury, it serves as a gateway municipality to the Mississagi River Valley and the North Channel of Lake Huron, connecting the region's natural and cultural landscapes.

The municipality's character is defined by its diverse landscapes—extensive shoreline, small residential clusters, and expansive rural and agricultural areas—that reflect the interconnectedness of its communities.

Exhibit 2: Location within Ontario



Exhibit 3: Location along North Channel



2.2 The Broader Recreation Offer

Huron Shores is located between two local service hubs – Thessalon and Blind River. These towns provide significant services, including recreation assets, to not only their residents, but also residents within the broader region, including Huron Shores. This includes but is not limited to grocery and drug stores, schools, health care facilities, and long-term care facilities.

Within these two service hubs there are recreational facilities that are not found in Huron Shores that serve the regional population. This includes indoor arenas with mechanical ice, marinas, outdoor sport courts, skate parks, and outdoor ice rinks, to name a few.

In addition, the Thessalon First Nation operates a recreation centre with an outdoor rink and ball diamond. Programming for seniors is currently provided once a week as well as tutoring programs. Through discussion with the Thessalon First Nation, it was identified that there was a need for youth programming, but nothing is offered in this regard at present. Regular cultural ceremonies are held at the healing lodge and at the Pow Wow grounds near the water's edge. All programs and events offered in this community are open to the public for all to attend.

There are also plenty of opportunities for unstructured recreational activities, such as walking and hiking, hunting, fishing, ATVing, among others. Going forward, it will be important for Huron Shores not to duplicate what is provided in neighbouring communities but complement these recreation facilities with its own unique offering and work with these communities to create a localized network of recreation assets.

Exhibit 4: Recreation Facilities in Neighbouring Community

Blind River



Thessalon



2.3 Population Dynamics

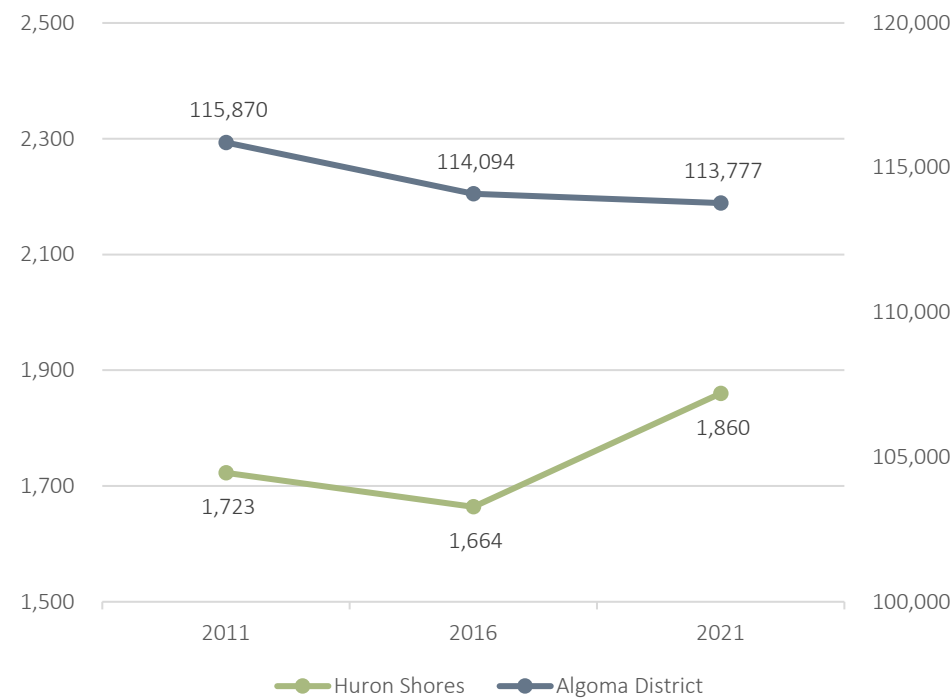
The Municipality of Huron Shores has grown slightly over the past 10 years, increasing its population by 137 residents (7.95%) to 1,860. In contrast, Algoma District has seen a slight decrease in population by approximately 2,100 residents (1.81%).

Within Huron Shores there are several other populations that must also be considered, including but not limited to:

- The significant seasonal population, which is estimated to be in the range of 650 to 850 people;
- Residents of the Thessalon First Nations (based on 2021 Census data, there were 151 residents), which is enveloped by the Municipality; and
- The Amish population, which is estimated to be around 250 people.

Future planning for Huron Shores, as per the Official Plan, is based on a stable population of 2,000 permanent residents.

Exhibit 5: Historic Population Change Comparison, 2011-2021



Municipality	2011	2016	2021	% Change 2011-2021
Huron Shores	1,723	1,664	1,860	7.95%
Algoma District	115,870	114,094	113,777	-1.81%

Source: SPM based on Statistics Canada Census Data, 2021.

Age Profile

Based on Census data, Huron Shore's median age is 54 (2021). The share of residents over the age of 65+ years account for 30% of the population (compared to 21% for the province). This is in line with other northern and rural communities, where the median age tends to be slightly higher than that found in more urban communities.

Income Profile

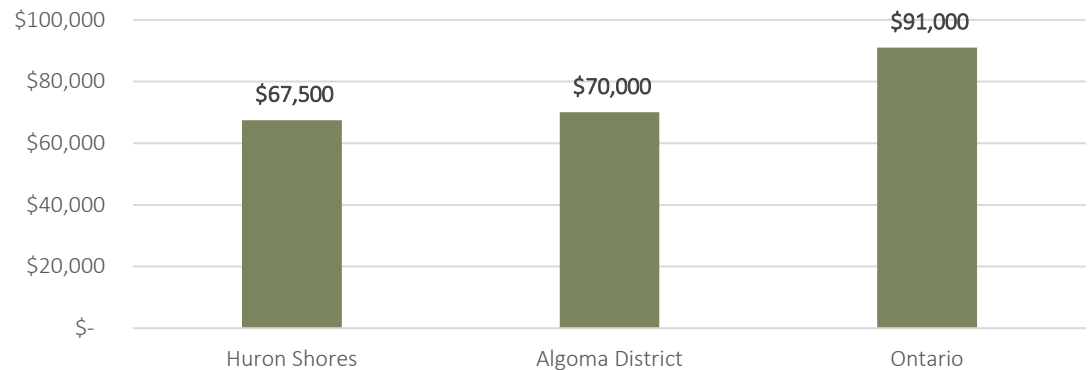
The median income in Huron Shores is comparable to Algoma District, and lower than the province (by about 25%). Statistics Canada measures the prevalence of low-income households by way of low income cut-offs after tax (LICO-AT). These are income thresholds below which a family will likely devote a larger share of its after-tax income on the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than the average family. In Huron Shores, 19% of the population falls under the LICO-AT. This is higher than the District (13.3%) and the province (10.1%).

Exhibit 6: Age Profile Comparison, 2011 - 2021

Age Cohort	2011 Pop.	% Share	2021 Pop.	% Share	Trend
Children (0-9)	115	7%	145	8%	Stable
Youth (10-19)	210	12%	155	8%	Decreasing
Young Adults (20-39)	240	14%	285	15%	Stable
Adults (40-64)	790	46%	705	38%	Decreasing
Older Adults (65+)	380	22%	560	30%	Increasing
Total	1,735	100%	1,850	100%	

Source: SPM based on Statistics Canada Census Data, 2021.

Exhibit 7: Median Household Income Comparison, 2021



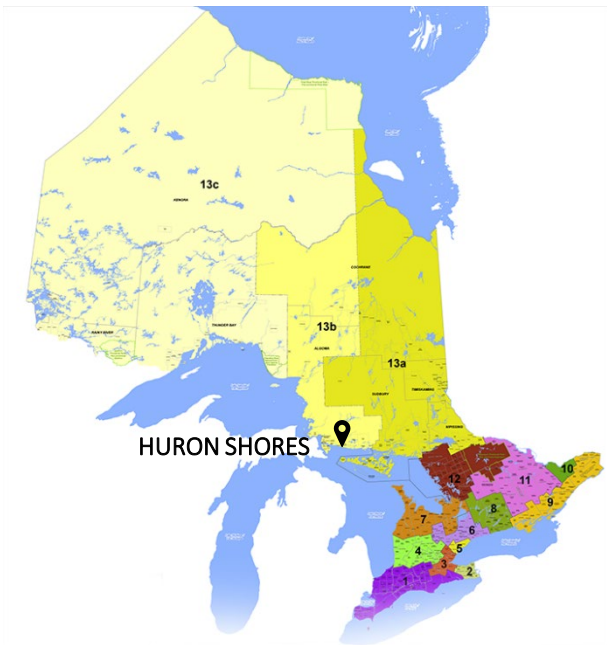
Source: SPM based on Statistics Canada Census Data, 2021.

2.4 Visitor Profile

In addition to the permanent and seasonal populations that call Huron Shores home, there are a considerable number of people that travel to and/or through the municipality on a regular or seasonal basis.

To understand the profile of visitors to the region, provincial tourism data has been assessed. The province of Ontario is divided into 13 Regional Tourism Organizations (RTOs). The Municipality of Huron Shores falls within RTO 13b, generally comprising Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma region.

Exhibit 8: Location within RTO 13b

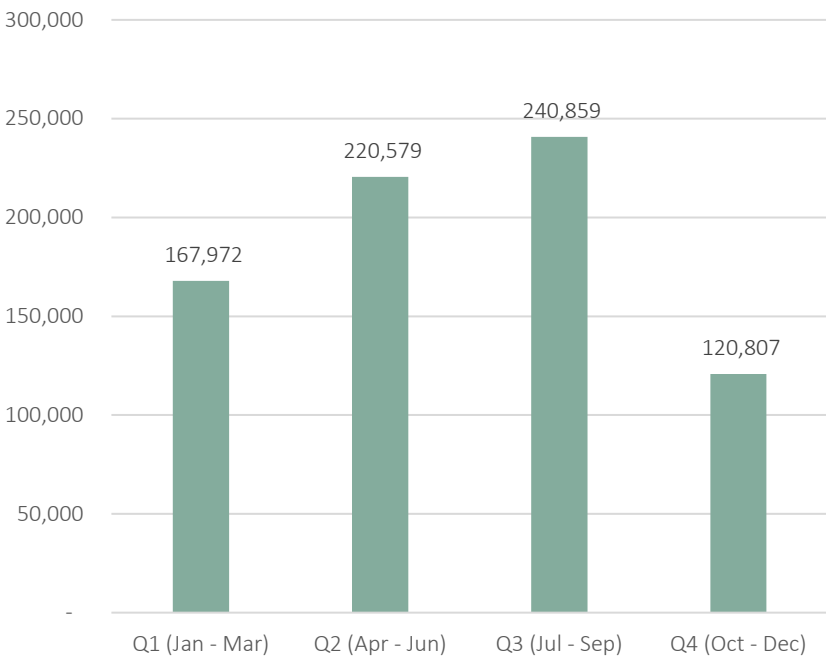


Source: SPM based on Province of Ontario (RTO) map.

The latest visitor profile for RTO 13b includes data collected from 2022. There were a total of 750,218 person visits to the region in 2022, with 93% originating from within the province and the remaining 7% from other parts of Canada. Visitor trip characteristics that are of note include:

- 3.2 nights average for overnight visits
- 61% of trips occurred in Spring/Summer

Exhibit 9: RTO 13b Visitor Profile - Season Trip Started, 2022



Source: SPM based on RTO13b Visitor Profile, 2022.

Most visitors to RTO13b are coming to Visit Friends and Relatives (VFR, 45%) and for other Pleasure purposes (34%), including outdoor and/or sports activity, restaurant or bar, sightseeing, or shopping.

Another metric to assess the visitation to the Municipality are provided by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) through traffic count data. The most recent published data dates to 2019 and indicates that there are approximately 3,500 to 4,000 vehicles in both directions per day travelling through the Municipality.

Exhibit 10: Top 10 Activities Participated In by Visitors

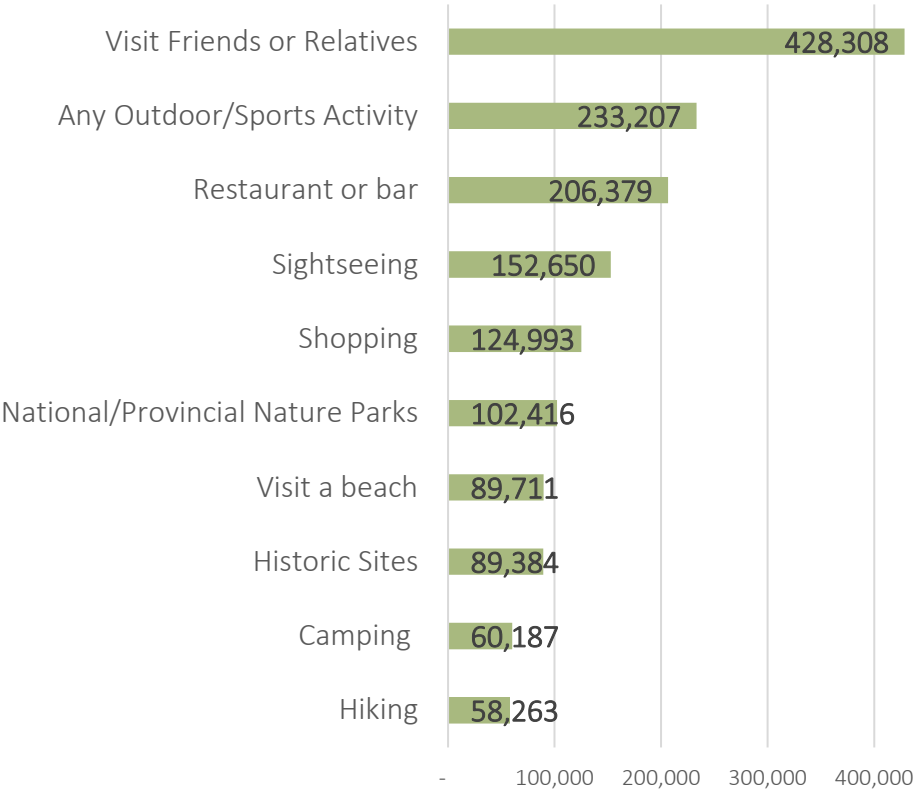


Photo: Highway 17 along the Mississauga River

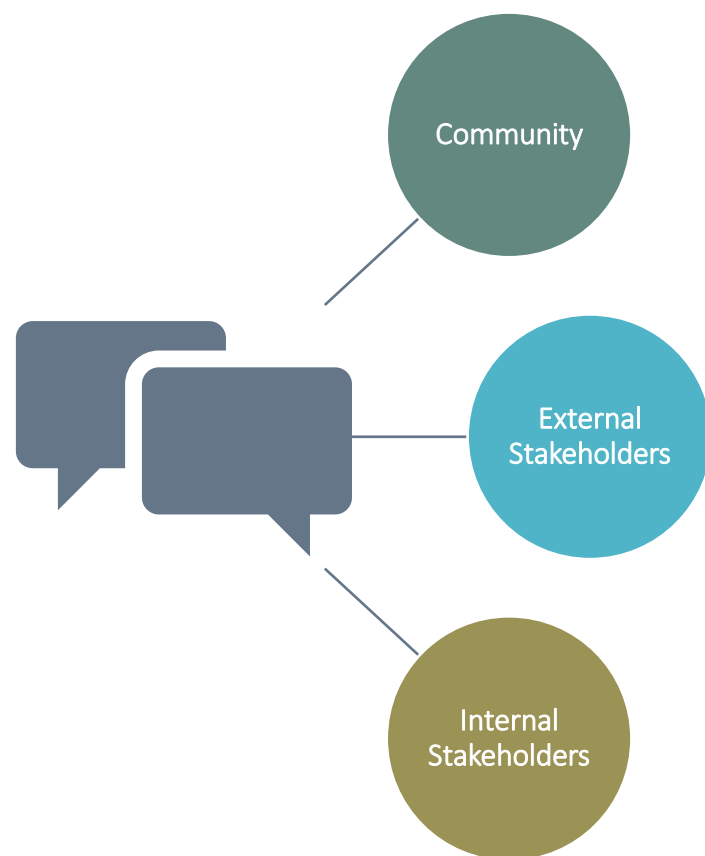
Source: SPM based on RTO13b Visitor Profile, 2022.



3 What We Heard

3.1 Engagement Activities

The Master Plan has been developed within an engagement framework consisting of several important activities. These activities were undertaken between May and September 2024 and garnered significant and meaningful input.



187 responses to the online public survey



In-person Meetings with the Recreation Committees



Virtual Interview with external stakeholders



Strategic planning workshops with the Mayor and Council

3.2 Public Survey Outcomes

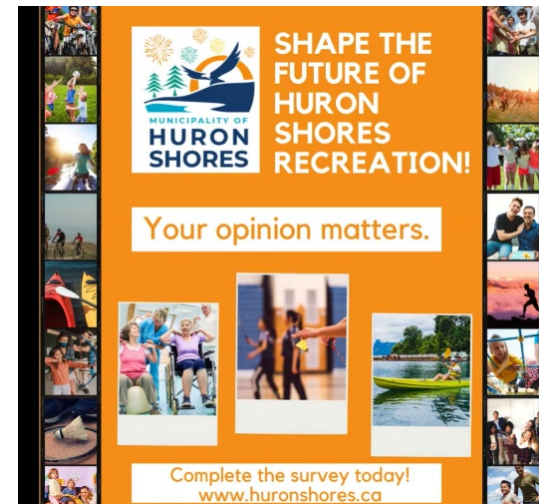
Overview of the Public Survey

A public survey was available from July 1st to August 7th, 2024; it was provided both online and in hard copy format available for pick-up from the municipal offices in Iron Bridge.

The survey was advertised on the municipal website, through all its regular social media channels, and through posters put up at visible community locations (e.g., post office, community bulletin boards, etc.).

The aim of the public survey was to gain insight into the recreation and leisure activities that residents and visitors currently undertake, their level of satisfaction with existing facilities, and their priorities for the future.

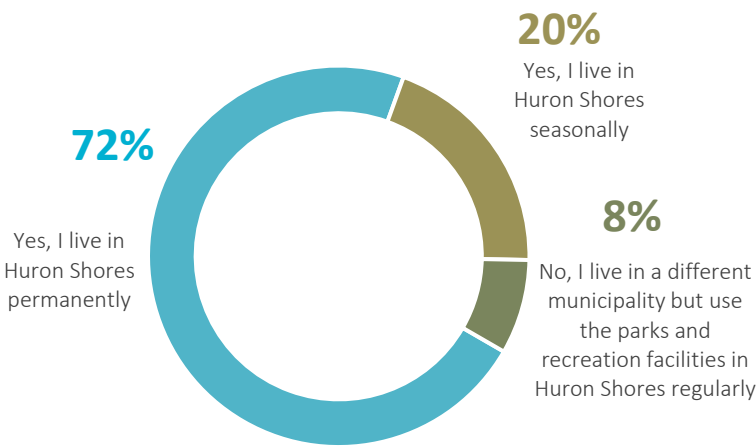
Exhibit 11: Survey Advertising Posted on Huron Shores Social Media



Respondent Profile

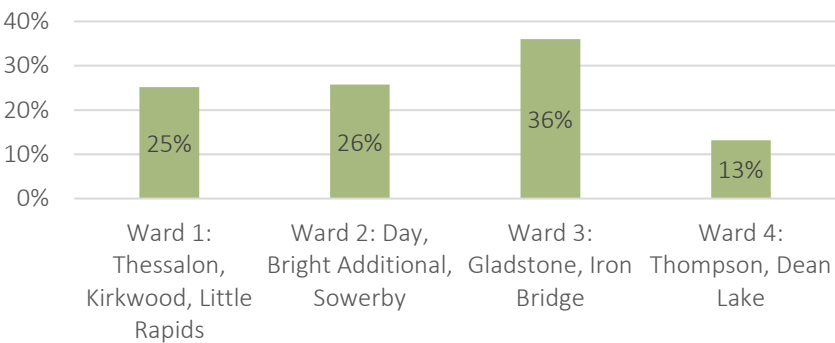
Approximately three-quarters (72%) of survey respondents live in Huron Shores on a year-round basis, while 20% are seasonal residents. The remainder (8%) indicated that they live elsewhere (mostly Blind River and Thessalon) but use Huron Shores parks and facilities on a regular basis.

Public Survey Results: Do you live in the Municipality of Huron Shores? (n=187)



Of those respondents that live in the Municipality on a permanent or seasonal basis, over one-third reside in Ward 3 (36%), which includes the village of Iron Bridge. This is generally representative of the populations within each of the wards.

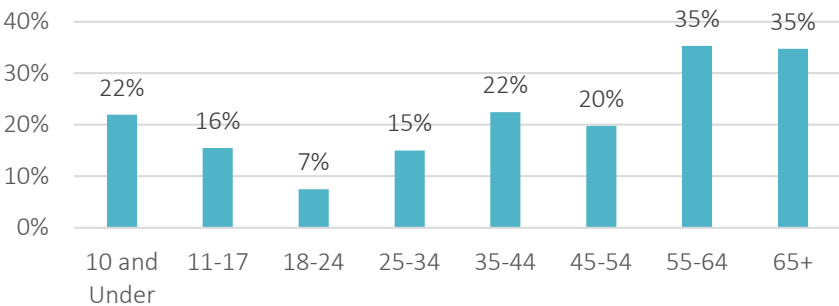
Public Survey Results: If you reside in Huron Shores permanently or seasonally, in which area do you live? (n=175)



Household Composition

Survey respondents were asked to consider the needs of all members of their household and respond on their behalf. Responses represent a range of age cohorts, from households with young children to those that include older adults.

Public Survey Results: What are the ages of the people in your household? Check all that apply. (n=187)



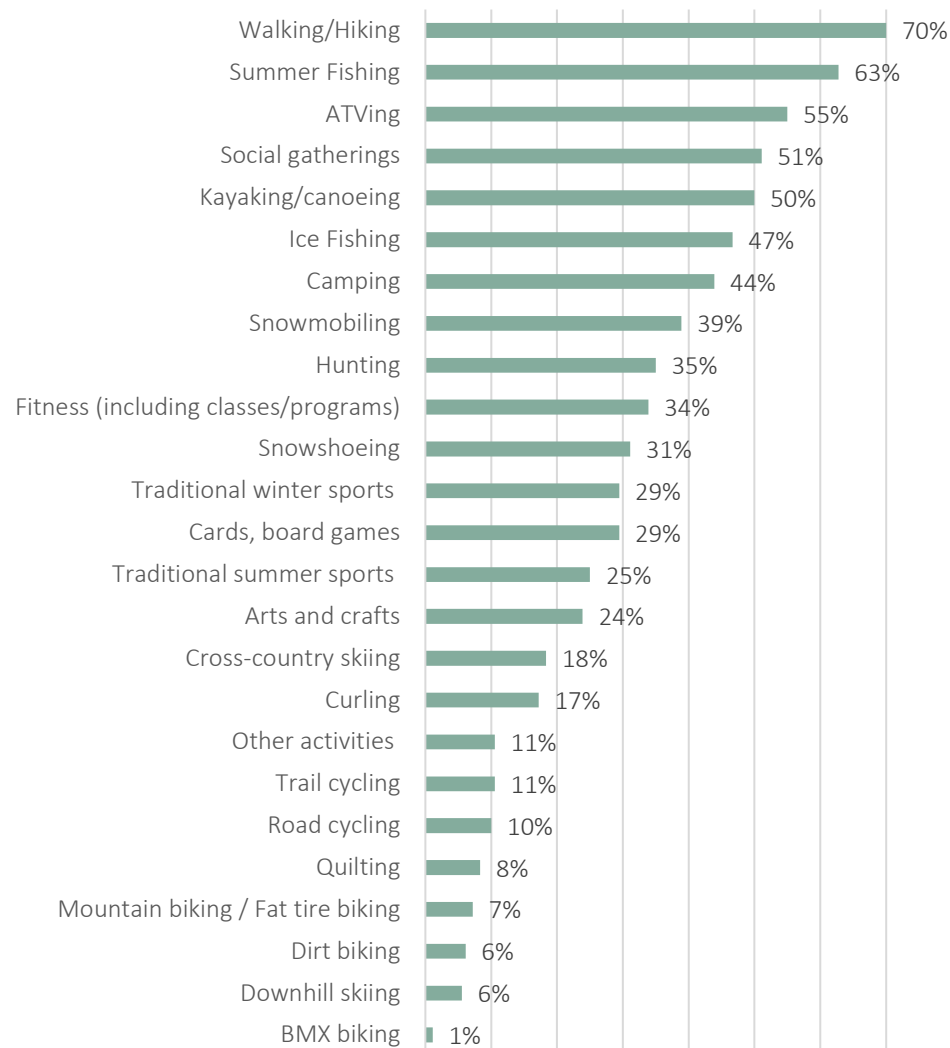
Current Recreational and Leisure Pursuits

The most popular recreational and leisure activities in Huron Shores are largely centred on being outdoors. Walking/hiking was the top recreational or leisure pursuit undertaken by a majority (70%) of survey respondents/households. This was followed by summer fishing, which was followed by summer fishing, ATVing, social gatherings, and kayaking / canoeing rounding out the top 5 activities, each with more than 50% of respondents participating on a regular basis. Ice fishing, camping, snowmobiling, hunting and fitness (including classes and programs) were also popular among respondents, with between one-third (34%) and half of respondents (47%) participating.



Photo: Trail Signage at Veteran's Bridge, Tally-Ho Park

Public Survey Results: Which of the following recreational and leisure pursuits do you and/or your household undertake on a regular basis (either in Huron Shores or elsewhere)? (n=180)



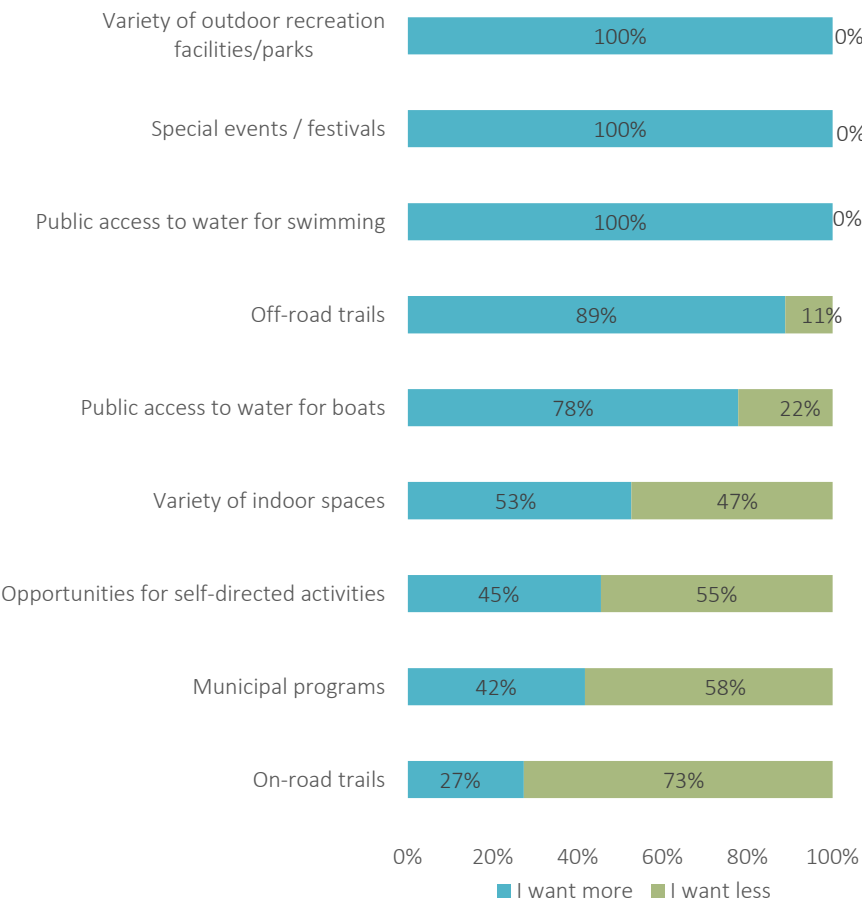
What People Would Like to See In the Future

The public survey asked respondents whether they would like to see more or less of certain indoor and recreation facilities/pursuits in the future. All respondents to this question would like to see more variety of outdoor parks and facilities offered in these parks, more special events and festivals, and more public access to the water for swimming. This was followed by most respondents indicating they would also like to see more off-road trails (89%) and public access to water for boats (78%).



Photo: Little Basswood Boat Dock

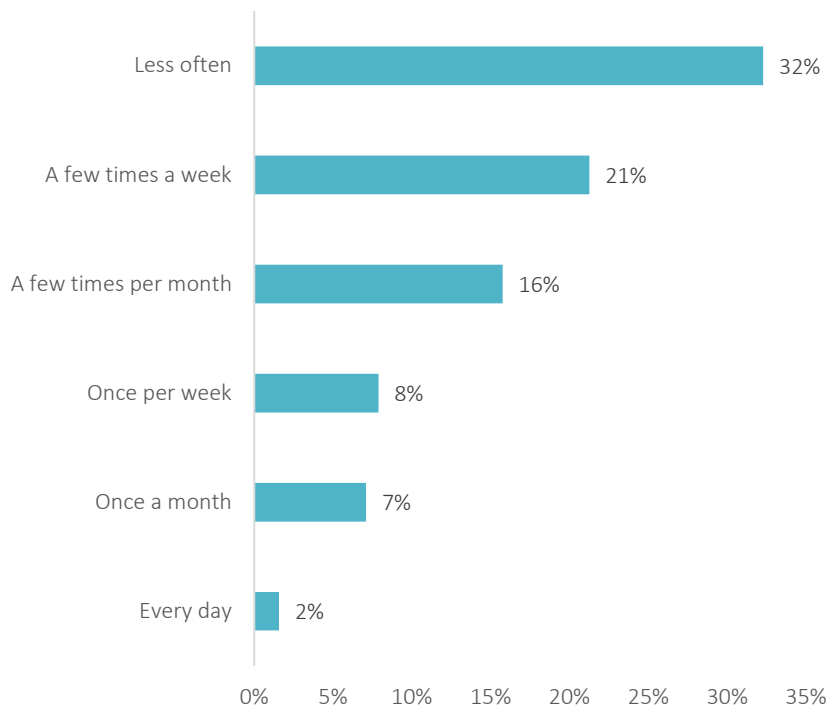
Public Survey Results: As it relates to other indoor and outdoor recreation facilities/pursuits what would you like to see more or less of in the future? (n=126)



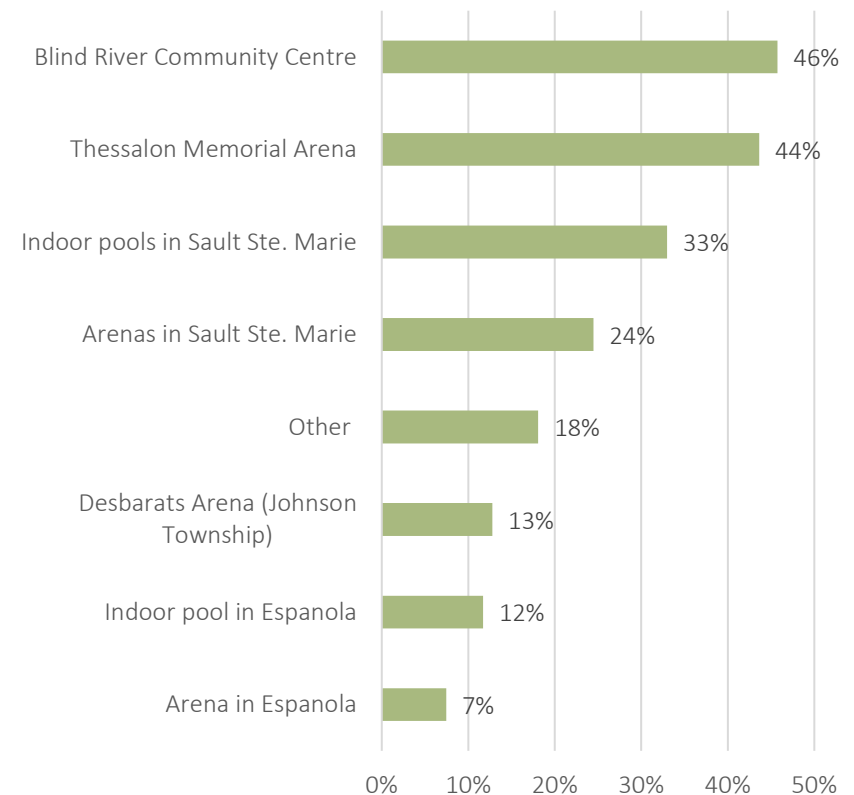
Use of Facilities Outside of Huron Shores

The public survey asked respondents whether they use indoor recreation or sports facilities (i.e., community recreation centres or arenas) outside the Municipality of Huron Shores. Most respondents (n=163) indicated that they do not use indoor facilities outside the Municipality, while 44% do use these types of facilities in other jurisdictions. The details of how often and which facilities they use are provided below.

Public Survey Results: How often do you or members of your household use recreation or sports facilities outside the Municipality? (n=109)



Public Survey Results: Which of the following major facilities do you use in other municipalities? (n=94)



Respondents who chose 'other' facilities identified curling clubs in Thessalon (5) and Blind River (2), facilities in Elliot Lake, Thessalon Fitness Centre, among others.



4 Delivering Recreation Services

4.1 Current Delivery Model

Community Development Model

The Municipality of Huron Shores provides recreation services based on a facilities-first model, where the main function of the Municipality is to provide high-quality indoor and outdoor facilities that can be used by the community in a variety of ways. This largely includes programs and activities provided by third parties (e.g., user groups, Recreation Committees) with a limited level of direct programming by the municipality – in Huron Shores, this is mainly special events and camps. This generally represents a community development model of service delivery at its most basic level.

Recreation Committees

Traditionally, local groups (now Recreation Committees) oversaw all aspects of these facilities in the past including the operation, maintenance, capital improvements, bookings, fee collection, etc. The Municipality now oversees most bookings, and some rental fee collection, while the operation and maintenance remains solely with the Committees and is undertaken in an ad-hoc manner as issues arise). The Committees are still heavily involved in capital improvements (which represents a liability concern for the Municipality), as well as overseeing some bookings and collection of payment.

There are three (3) volunteer-based Recreation Committees that deliver the programs, activities, and events that occur at each facility, oversee access control of the respective facility within the municipality, and undertake day-to-day maintenance of these municipal assets. The Committees and the facilities they oversee include:

- **Huron Shores Recreation Committee**
 - Iron Bridge Recreation Centre
 - Little Rapids Community Centre
 - Little Rapids Outdoor Pavilion & Ball Park
- **Sowerby Heritage Committee**
 - Sowerby Heritage Community Centre
 - Historic 12-Sided (Round) Barn
- **Thompson Fitness Recreation Committee**
 - Thompson Fitness Recreational Centre

Details of the programs, activities and events that occur at each facility are detailed in the relevant subsections of Section 5 where each facility is further described.

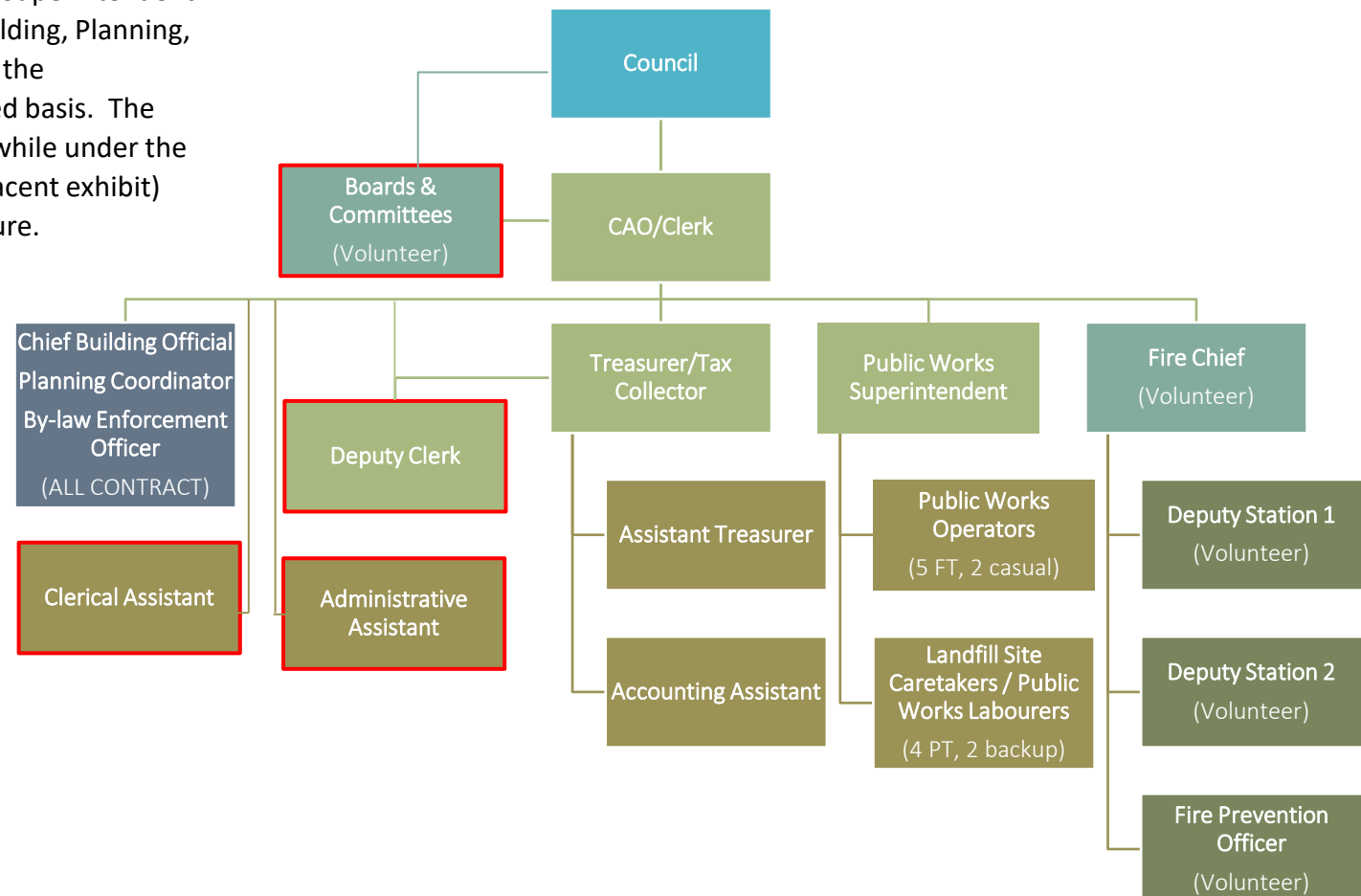
4.2 Internal Organization & Resources

The Municipality of Huron Shores is organized with the Deputy Clerk, Treasurer and Public Works Superintendent under the direction of the CAO/Clerk. Building, Planning, and By-law Enforcement are services that the Municipality contracts out on an as needed basis. The Fire Department is volunteer-based, and while under the direction of the CAO (as shown in the adjacent exhibit) has its own detailed organizational structure.

The delivery of recreation facilities, services and programs is mostly shared among the following positions within the Municipality's organizational structure:

- **CAO/Clerk** - formal liaison between the Recreation Committees and Council/staff;
- **Deputy Clerk** – day-to-day liaison between the Recreation Committees and Council/staff;
- **Clerical / Administrative Assistant** - oversees and manages the recreation facility bookings and rentals process;
- **Boards & Committees** – the three Recreation Committees generally oversee the day-to-day maintenance of the recreation facilities.

Exhibit 12: Municipal Organizational Structure



Positions involved in the delivery of recreation facilities, services and programs

Note: All positions represent 1 full-time (FT) employee unless noted otherwise.

4.3 Investing in Recreation

Based on the 2024 budget for Huron Shores, the Municipality's budget in 2023 was \$7,632,959 (actual). This includes both capital and operating expenses.

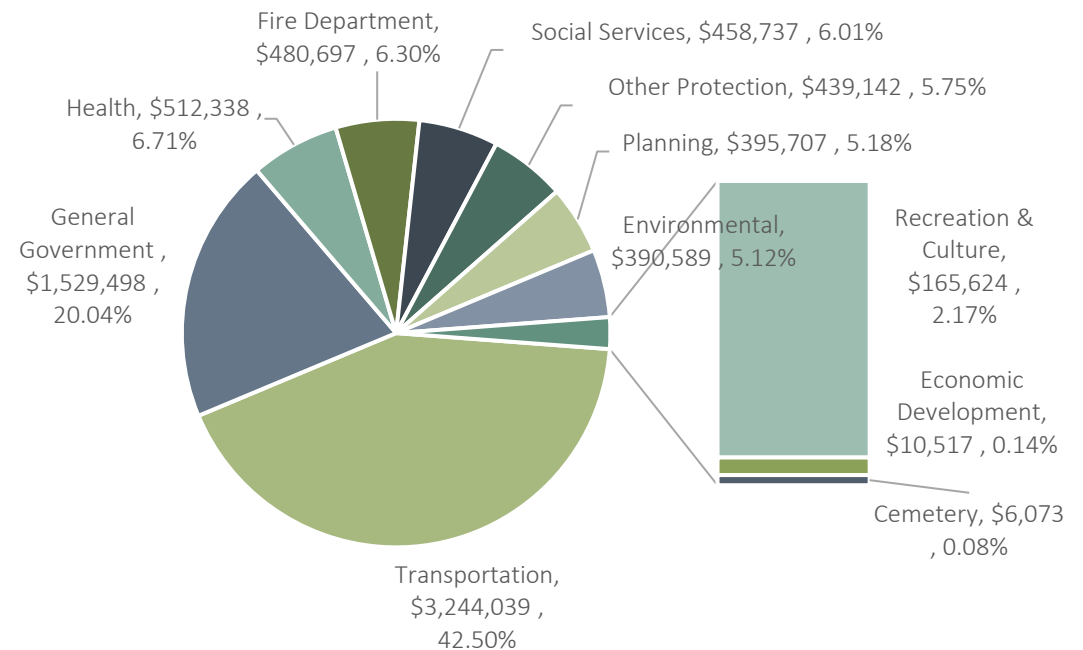
Spending on recreation and culture represented 2.17% of the total budget in 2023 and equates to \$89 per capita spend. The Recreation and Culture category, as represented in the adjacent exhibit, includes the following components:

- Parks;
- Halls/Community Centres and associated outdoor elements;
- Heritage Museum;
- Library;
- Other miscellaneous recreation and culture items (e.g., student wages, grants, education, etc.).

In 2023, revenues for Recreation and Culture-related components totaled \$37,239, resulting in a cost recovery rate of 22.5%. This is on the lower end when considering what is observed in comparable communities.

A breakdown of the operating performance (analysis of revenues and expenses) of the Municipality's recreation assets over the past 2 years is provided on the following page.

Exhibit 13: 2023 Budget Breakdown by Unit of Spending (Actuals)



Source: SPM based on Municipality's 2024 Budget (using actuals for 2023)

Operating Performance of Recreation Facilities

Review of the operating revenues and expenses of the Municipality's Recreation Centres, Community Centres, Museum, and Parks indicates that the Sowerby Community Centre/Barn is the only recreation facility that had a positive Net Operating Income (NOI) in both 2022 and 2023. This is because the 12-sided Barn is rented primarily for private events such as weddings.

The Iron Bridge Recreation Centre and Thompson Fitness Centre had the lowest average cost recovery rates (34% and 35% respectively) over the last two years (apart from Parks).

Parks, while shown for information in the adjacent exhibit, differ significantly from indoor facilities as there are typically fewer rentals (if any; in Huron Shores case it would only relate to the Little Rapids Ball Park) and the operating requirements, especially expenses related to staff travel time, can be onerous when a large geographic area is involved. This often results in a lower cost recovery rate.

Based on booking data and revenues for each of the recreation facilities for 2023, two thirds of all bookings (69%) are fully subsidized by the Municipality, meaning the groups do not pay anything for use of the facility (when considering Iron Bridge Recreation Centre, Sowerby Community Centre, and Little Rapids Community Centre). Further details of paid versus free use of each facility is provided in the relevant subsections of Section 5.

Exhibit 14: Recreation Facilities - Operating Expenses and Revenues (2022-2023)

Facility	2022 (Actuals)	2023 (Actuals)	2-Year Avg.
Little Rapids CC / Gazebo			
Expenses	\$5,309	\$4,024	\$4,667
Revenues	\$2,455	\$3,872	\$3,164
Net Operating Income (NOI)	-\$2,854	-\$152	-\$1,503
% Cost Recovery	46%	96%	71%
Sowerby CC/Barn			
Expenses	\$9,103	\$10,246	\$9,675
Revenues	\$38,662	\$13,877	\$26,270
Net Operating Income (NOI)	\$29,559	\$3,631	\$16,595
% Cost Recovery	425%	135%	280%
Iron Bridge Recreation Centre			
Expenses	\$14,247	\$15,236	\$14,742
Revenues	\$6,893	\$920	\$3,907
Net Operating Income (NOI)	-\$7,354	-\$12,276	-\$9,815
% Cost Recovery	48%	19%	34%
Thompson Fitness Centre			
Expenses	\$5,445	\$6,707	\$6,076
Revenues	\$1,380	\$2,960	\$2,170
Net Operating Income (NOI)	-\$4,065	-\$3,747	-\$3,906
% Cost Recovery	25%	44%	35%
Iron Bridge Heritage Museum			
Expenses	\$16,614	\$17,055	\$16,835
Revenues	\$28,033	\$1,338	\$14,686
Net Operating Income (NOI)	\$11,419	-\$15,717	-\$2,149
% Cost Recovery	169%	8%	88%
Parks			
Expenses	\$31,165	\$20,262	\$25,714
Revenues	\$91	\$93	\$92
Net Operating Income (NOI)	-\$31,074	-\$20,169	-\$25,622
% Cost Recovery	0%	0%	0.4%

Source: SPM based on Huron Shores Annual Budgets for 2023 and 2024.

4.4 Operational Recommendations

As it relates to service delivery, this Master Plan guides the Municipality to ‘provide residents with access to high quality recreation and leisure opportunities’, ‘partner to promote and deliver recreation and leisure’, and provide ‘equitable and inclusive services for all members of the community’. The following recommendations supports these principles.

Successful Service Delivery

The existing service delivery model in Huron Shores reflects the historical development of recreation and community hall facilities within each of the former villages that now comprise the municipality. This traditional approach is favourable for the Municipality as the provider of facilities and should be continued.

With programs and events mainly provided by the three Recreation Committees, the significance of these groups within the community must not be overlooked but should be maintained and strengthened. It will be important for the Municipality to continue to support the efforts of the local groups in programming, activities, and event development over the Plan period.

The Committees should work with the Municipality to program the recreation facilities, while the Municipality would book the facilities, collect the fees, and manage facility asset management and life cycle planning. This will reduce potential liability on the Municipality’s part associated with fee collection, facility access, and capital investments.

Recommendations:

- 1. Maintain a Community Development Model of service delivery, by continuing strong collaboration with user groups, service clubs, and community organizations to provide programming.**
- 2. Maintain the three Recreation Committees, leveraging the community aspect of what has been established over time, and develop a terms of reference and mandate for the Recreation Committees that clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of the Committees and of the Municipality.**
- 3. Move towards a centralized system for facility booking, rental and user fee collection, etc. This would include adjusting the process for user fee payments to be made either electronically via the Municipality’s website, or in person at the Municipal Office only.**

Strengthening the Recreation Committees

The Committees were initially formed by a strong and active volunteer base. Volunteerism has decreased over time as priorities and household dynamics shift. This is the experience across the country, not only in Huron Shores. This Master Plan recognizes the need for a proactive recruitment strategy for recreation-related/Committee volunteer positions.

Municipalities that offer a range of volunteer opportunities, enabling people to get involved in ways that fits into their schedule and meet their personal needs, are often more successful with recruiting and retaining volunteers. Attracting long-term volunteers should consider, but is not limited to, the following:

- Focusing on residents with young children - as their children participate in programs, they are motivated to continue volunteering their time and contributing to their community; and/or
- Creating skills-based volunteer opportunities (i.e., free skills development/training). This also has the benefit of creating stronger relationships between staff and volunteers.

The Municipality should consider undertaking a scan of volunteer recruitment programs in a range of municipal settings, including urban and rural. The decline in volunteerism over a number of decades, which was exacerbated by the Pandemic, has meant that many municipalities are facing similar issues regardless of their size and extent of recreation programming.

All volunteer recruitment programs are designed to maximize the motivation for people to donate their time, which in turn, necessitates clear lines of roles and responsibilities between paid municipal staff and the volunteers. The recommendations in this Master Plan pertaining to the Recreation Committees versus the Municipality reflect the need to maintain and grow volunteers through positive procedural, administrative, and training supports.

Recommendations:

- 4. Continue to support and prioritize the sustained involvement of the Recreation Committees. The Municipality should focus on supporting the recruitment of volunteers and programs of outreach to meet the needs of residents for a range of recreation pursuits.**

Internal Resource Requirements

A long-term objective of this Master Plan is for the Municipality to be fully responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and operation of the recreation facilities, not volunteers. While this would mitigate any liability concerns on the Municipality's part result, it would also result in additional resource requirements for the Public Works (or other) department to provide these services.

This Master Plan also supports the Municipality to have greater oversight of usage and associated revenues. This extends to use and membership at the Thompson Fitness Facility, which should be carefully monitored by staff. As members pay their monthly dues, the new facility access code (changed monthly) would be provided at that time. Eventually, any fitness-related fees should be collected through the centralized system by the Municipality, as per Recommendation 3 above.

At present, it is understood that most of the advertising for events occurring in the local community centres is by way of hard copy posters being put up at the facility itself. This limits awareness as residents within the broader community may not be aware of what programs and events are occurring in other villages. The Municipality should strive to advertise all programs and events that are open to the public, reaching the broader community within Huron Shores and beyond.

Recommendations:

5. **Gradually take more municipal control of building maintenance and facility asset management/life cycle planning of the indoor recreation facilities and the outdoor facilities associated with these assets.**
6. **Provide digital advertising of all public events that are taking place in recreation facilities across the Municipality to foster a stronger sense of the "One Municipality" approach.**

The Cost of Recreation

The need to establish appropriate levels of subsidization and cost recovery for facility operations is apparent, as a high percentage of rentals are provided for free or low cost to the user resulting in a loss of revenue for the Municipality (which can help to offset the facility operating costs). This Master Plan recommends that the Municipality develop a rationalized approach to the continued delivery of recreation and culture facilities.

The approach that a municipality takes related to cost recovery (i.e., the balance between tax support versus user pay) directly impacts the future capacity of the municipality to justify renewed capital investment and expansion of recreation programming and/or facility use. Therefore, it is essential that the Municipality commission an assessment of its philosophical approach to the management and execution of subsidization in recreation services and the development of appropriate policy documents, which, with council approval, will create certainty regarding fees and the implications of investment for different activities. This should be an immediate priority.

The Master Plan principle to ‘maintain the quality of existing recreation assets and enhance as feasible’ recognizes the importance of the assets for the community at large. To do this effectively, the Municipality would benefit by developing a capital reserve fund. This should include consideration for an annual capital reserve contribution from facility operations as well as development of a capital reserve surcharge on user fees (in coordination with the User Fee Study). Beyond a capital reserve fund, the Municipality should continue to pursue funding from a variety of other sources.

Recommendations:

- 7. Undertake a User Fee Study to determine the appropriate level of cost recovery and subsidization for use of facilities. This should be accompanied by a formal User Fee Policy for the Municipality.**
- 8. Establish and build up a capital reserve fund to help fund improvement and/or renovation projects related to indoor and outdoor recreation facilities.**
- 9. Continue to identify and pursue grants and other financial supports from all levels of government/other sources. This should be done in collaboration with the Finance and other departments (as relevant).**

The Importance of Partnerships

Partnerships continue to be important in providing a variety of recreational (and other) opportunities for residents of Huron Shores. With a unique recreation offer provided in Huron Shores and a comprehensive suite of recreational assets and services provided in the broader region, there are significant opportunities to partner and collaborate to cross-promote program opportunities and complement the existing offer in neighbouring communities, not duplicate what others have.

As a key action identified in the Strategic Plan, the Municipality should collaborate with other municipalities and neighbouring communities for mutual support and benefit. This may require some outreach and relationship building on the Municipality’s behalf.

Recommendations:

- 10. Maintain existing partnerships and seek out new opportunities for partnerships to enhance recreation service levels and leverage public funds. This may include the provision of shared transportation services to access recreation, operation of spaces, program delivery, etc.**
- 11. Strive to develop and maintain strong relationships with neighbouring communities, including but not limited to Thessalon First Nations, Town of Blind River, and Town of Thessalon.**



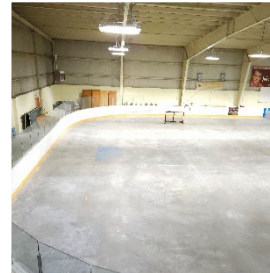
5 A Distinctive Portfolio of Indoor Assets

5.1 Overview of Indoor Assets

The Municipality of Huron Shores owns and operates a unique portfolio of indoor recreation assets, which are located across the municipality. These assets are focused within the historical settlement areas that now comprise the municipality.

This section provides details for each facility, including amenities provided, how the facility is used and by whom, as well as the condition based on Building Condition Assessments (BCAs) completed by the Municipality.

**Iron Bridge
Recreation Centre
(Arena)**



**Historic 12-sided
Round Barn**



**Little Rapids
Community Centre**



**Thompson
Recreation Centre**



**Sowerby Heritage
Community Centre**



**Iron Bridge
Historical Museum**



INDOOR FACILITIES

1. Little Rapids (Thessalon) Community Centre

Community Meeting Space
Kitchen
Gazebo
Horseshoe Pit
Community Gardens

2. Sowerby Heritage Community Centre

Community Meeting Space
Kitchen
Lending Library

3. Historic 12-sided Round Barn

Event Space
Farmers Market
Museum Space

4. Thompson Recreation Centre

Fitness Centre

Inset: Iron Bridge

5. Lions Club Hall

Community Meeting Space

7. Huron Shores Public Library

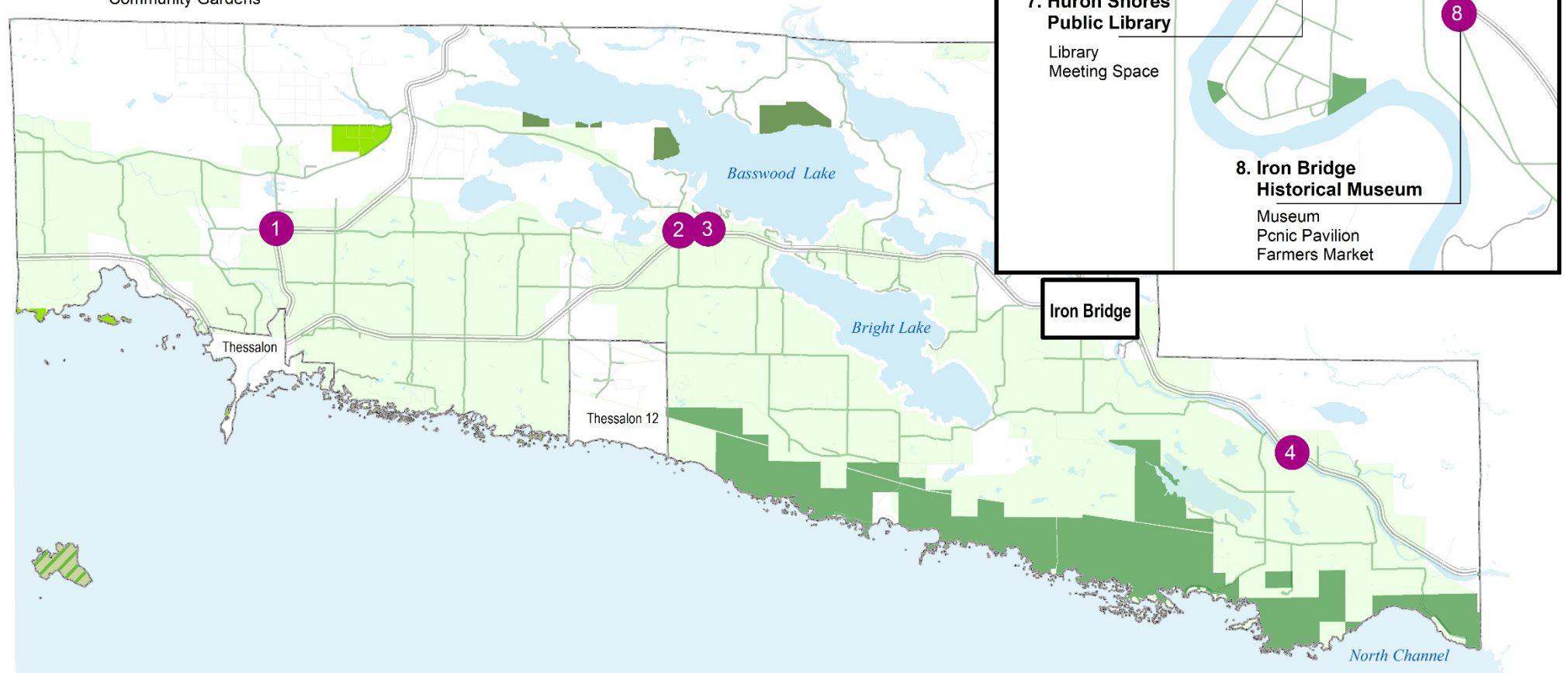
Library Meeting Space

6. Iron Bridge (Arena) Recreation Centre

Arena
Community Meeting Space
Full-served Kitchen

8. Iron Bridge Historical Museum

Museum
Picnic Pavilion
Farmers Market



Municipality of Huron Shores Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Legend

● Municipal Facility

● Non-Municipal Facility

Agricultural Land

Conservation Reserve

Provincial Park

Recommended Provincial Park

Enhanced Management Area



1:180,000

5.2 What We Heard: Indoor Assets

The Iron Bridge Recreation Centre was used by the most respondents over the past year (33%). This was followed by the Round Barn (20%), Sowerby Heritage Community Centre (16%), and Little Rapids Community Centre (15%).

These facilities host regular events; while recurring programs are offered in some locations. When asked “What activities do you pursue at these indoor recreation facilities?”, Most respondents (50%, n=82) attend events (including, music festivals, shows, Fire Fighters Challenge, Fall Fair, and the farmers market).

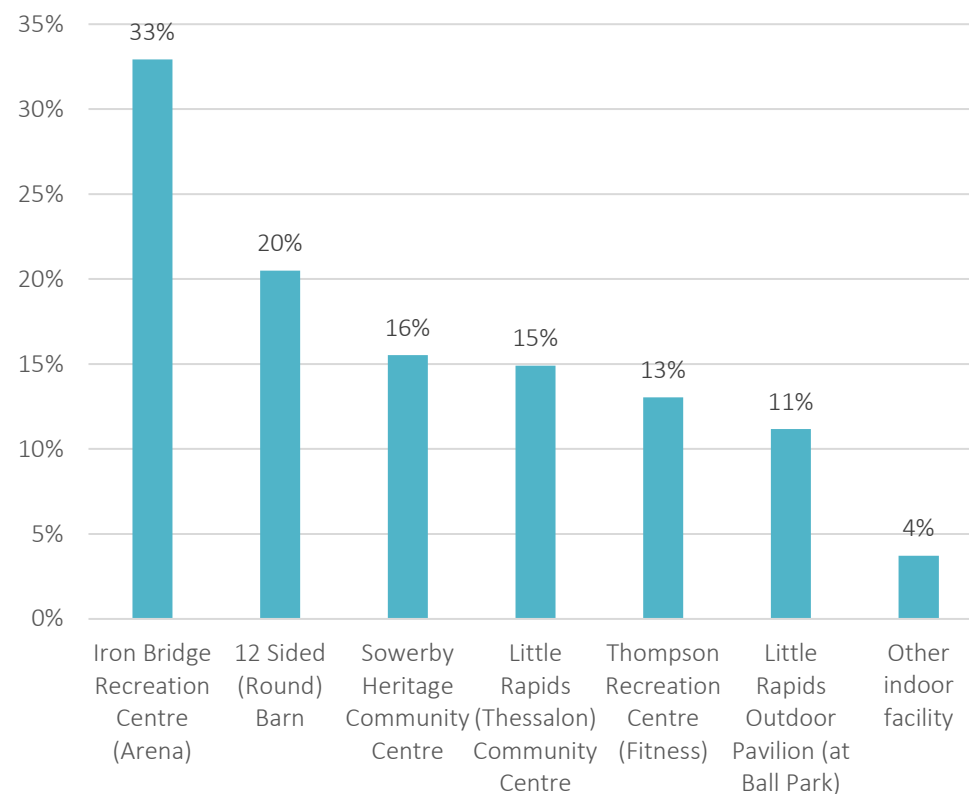
37% (30 respondents) use indoor facilities for private functions including weddings, family gathering, small get togethers, birthday parties and life celebrations, events, Christmas and family functions, and family reunions.

33% (27 respondents) participate and volunteer at community and local events and activities, such as games nights, ball games, social events and meetings (e.g., pancake breakfasts), quilting, cards, knitting, book club, and fundraising events.

20% (16 respondents) use indoor facilities for exercise, training and fitness activities, including workout, cardio exercises activities, weightlifting and yoga. Several participants participate in sports, including pickleball, ice skating, and ball hockey, etc.

Other activities include church services at Little Rapids Community Centre.

Public Survey Results: In the past year, have you or members of your household used indoor community recreation centres in the Municipality of Huron Shores? (n=161)



5.3 Iron Bridge Recreation Centre (Arena)

1 Chiblow Lake Road, Iron Bridge

Description The Iron Bridge Recreation Centre was built in 1976 as an indoor ice arena. The facility comprises 25,372 sq. ft. of space. Traditionally, ice at the arena was made naturally by flooding the rink and letting it freeze as there is minimal insulation in the building. This is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain due to the changing climate (fewer cold days on average).

- Amenities**
- Non-mechanical ice rink
 - Full commercial kitchen facility
 - Concession area
 - Multi-Purpose room
 - Zamboni Room
 - Washrooms
 - Changerooms
 - Lobby and ticket booth
 - Upper floor spectator area

Utilization Booked by the Iron Bridge Agricultural Society and the Huron Shores Recreation Committee for various events, in addition to private rentals. The arena is also used for the Fall Fair.

In 2019, the facility was being used for weekly children's programs throughout the year. This has not continued post-Pandemic.

Exhibit 15: Iron Bridge Recreation Centre Site



Iron Bridge Recreation Centre (Arena) (Cont'd)

1 Chiblow Lake Road, Iron Bridge

Utilization (cont'd)

Iron Bridge Recreation Centre: Usage Data								
	2019		2022		2023		3 Year Avg.	
	No.	% total	No.	% total	No.	% total	No.	% total
Paid Events	3	5%	1	20%	4	25%	2.7	10%
Free Events	59	95%	4	80%	12	75%	25	90%
Total Events	62	100%	5	100%	16	100%	28	100%

Condition The BCA identified that the roof system is at its end of useful service life - estimated at 50 years for this type of roofing system – and highlighted the need to repair or replace the roof. Additionally, replacement of the rink slab will be required by 2036 at a cost of over \$750,000. The remainder of the required investment is comprised of relatively minor capital projects.

Iron Bridge Recreation Centre	Deficiency Repair	Next 5 Years (2024 - 2028)	Longer Term (2029 - 2048)	Total
Required Capital Investments	\$ 379,800	\$ 501,795	\$ 3,057,505	\$3,939,100

In January 2025, the Municipality commissioned Kresin Engineering Corporation (KEC) to perform an assessment the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre roof condition and provide recommendations. The roof was assessed to have a severely weathered finish with signs of corrosion.

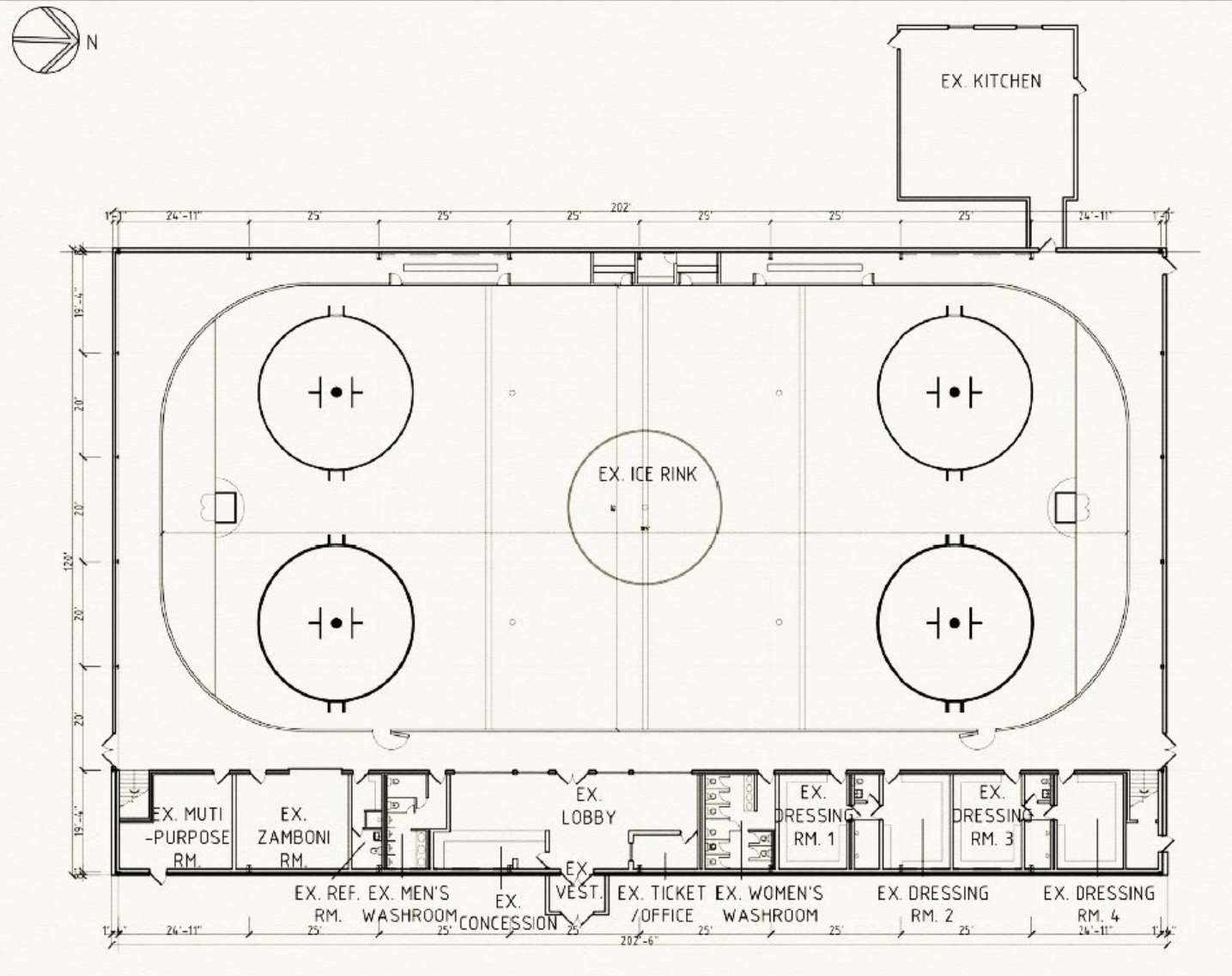
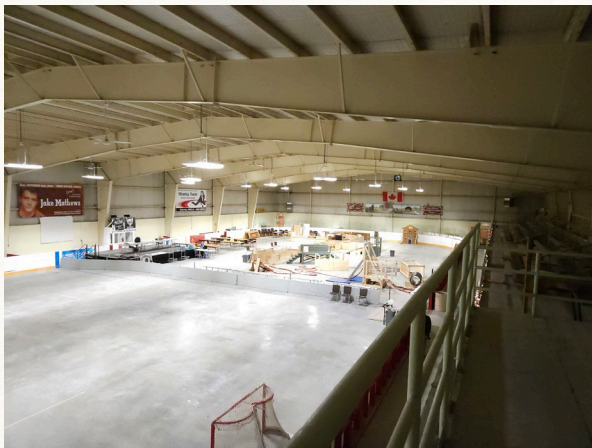
The assessment concluded that without action, corrosion can be expected to continue to spread and the roof condition to deteriorate at an accelerating rate. The Municipality should consider replacement of the roof to provide long term protection to the structure and interior finishes.

The roof assessment recommended that replacement of the roof cladding should precede or coincide with interior improvements. An estimated total budget for the replacement of the existing metal roof sheeting with a similar product was estimated at \$892,440 (plus HST). Additionally, the KEC report recommended improvements to roof insulation and vapor barrier to enhance building energy efficiency and user comfort.

Site Photos



EXISTING PLAN



IRON BRIDGE RECREATION CENTER
Iron Bridge, Ontario



WGD ARCHITECTS INC.

EXISTING PLAN
3/64"=1'-0" Oct. 2024

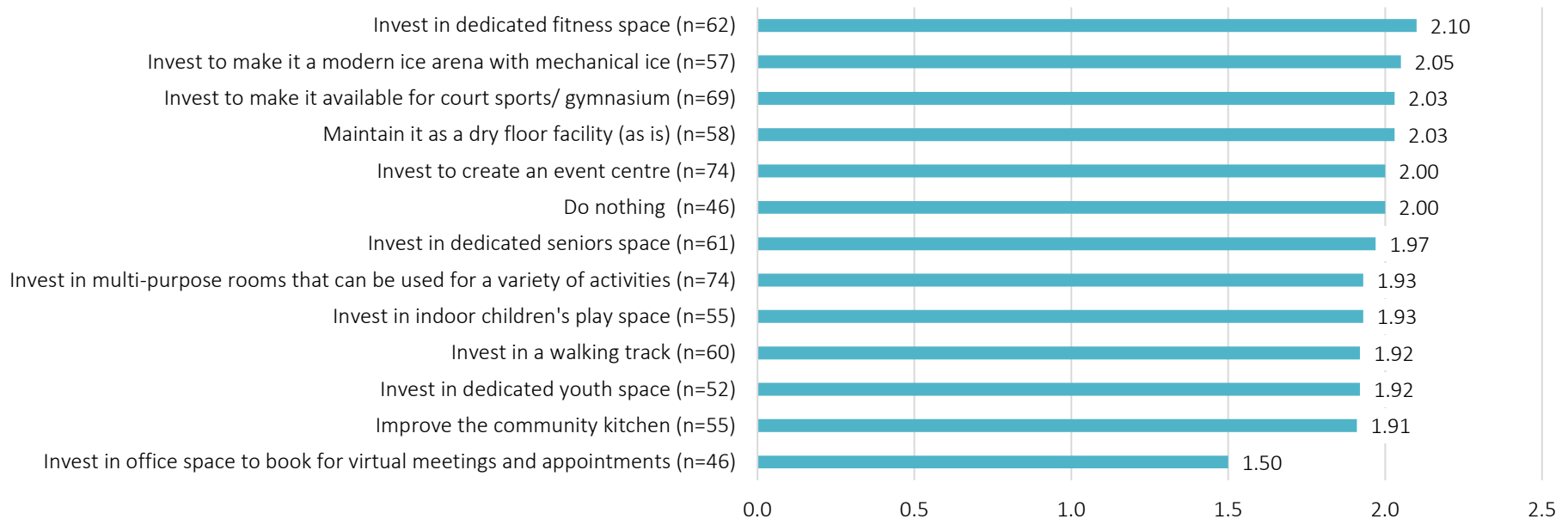
What We Heard: The Importance of the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre as a Community Venue

As identified previously, the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre (Arena) was used by the most survey respondents in the past year (48 respondents or 33%). The survey asked about future priorities for the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre. The priorities in rank order were:

1. Invest to make a modern ice arena and a dedicated fitness space;
2. Maintain as dry floor facility and invest to make it available for court sports/gymnasium; and
3. Invest to create an event centre.

*Note: The survey question asked to identify **top three (3) priorities** for investment. The exhibit shows responses ranked by weighted average calculated as follows: (# of Priority 1 responses x 3 + # of Priority 2 responses x 2 + # of Priority 3 responses x 1) / Total number of responses per response option. The higher the weighted average, the greater the overall priority.*

Public Survey Results: What is your vision for the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre in the future? Tell us what you would like to see by indicating your top 3 priorities.



5.4 Little Rapids Community Centre

Little Rapids Road (at Collver Road), Thessalon

Description The Little Rapids Community Centre is in the former Little Rapids school house building and located next to the Heritage Park Museum (owned by the Town of Thessalon). The 1,773 sq. ft. facility was originally built in 1880 and underwent significant renovations in 1977.

Amenities Building amenities include a large kitchen, washrooms, hall with small stage, and accessible ramp to building entrance. Site amenities include community gardens, swing set, small gazebo with bench, horseshoe pits, and open lawn area.

Utilization The facility is used mostly for private rentals (e.g., baby showers, birthday parties, etc.), with some Municipality meetings held occasionally. It is also used by the Thessalon Heritage Association.

Little Rapids Community Centre: Usage Data

	2019		2022		2023		3 Year Avg.	
	No.	% total	No.	% total	No.	% total	No.	% total
Paid Events	15	71%	9	31%	15	63%	13.0	53%
Free Events	6	29%	20	69%	9	38%	12	47%
Total Events	21	100%	29	100%	24	100%	25	100%

Exhibit 16: Little Rapids Community Centre Site



Little Rapids Community Centre (cont'd)

Little Rapids Road (at Collver Road), Thessalon

Condition The BCA identified several deficiency repairs, including but not limited to repairing and repainting damaged sections of the siding for immediate attention. Eventual replacement of the siding is one of the more major capital expenditures required over the long term (2030).

Accessibility improvements are included in the BCA, including upgrading the washrooms to be AODA compliant. These are recommended to occur in the short-term.

Little Rapids Community Centre	Deficiency Repair	Next 5 Years (2024 - 2028)	Longer Term (2029 - 2048)	Total
Required Capital Investments	\$ 28,850	\$ 132,040	\$ 358,753	\$ 519,643

Site Photos



5.5 Sowerby Heritage Community Centre

1410 Basswood Lake Road, Thessalon

- Description** The Sowerby Heritage Community Centre, built in 1986, is 2 storeys with an elevator. A utility area is provided in basement.
- Amenities** Includes a lending library/book exchange, two hall spaces (one on the first floor and one on the upper floor which includes a small stage), washrooms, and a spacious kitchen.
- Utilization** Used once a week by the Quilters and the Euchre Club. Other occasional renters including the Agricultural Society, Fire Department, and private rentals (renters of the Barn also get access to the Community Centre).

Sowerby Heritage Community Centre: Usage Data								
	2019		2022		2023		3 Year Avg.	
	No.	% total	No.	% total	No.	% total	No.	% total
Paid Events	15	9%	4	8%	5	5%	8	8%
Free Events	154	91%	44	92%	96	95%	98	92%
Total Events	169	100%	48	100%	101	100%	106	100%

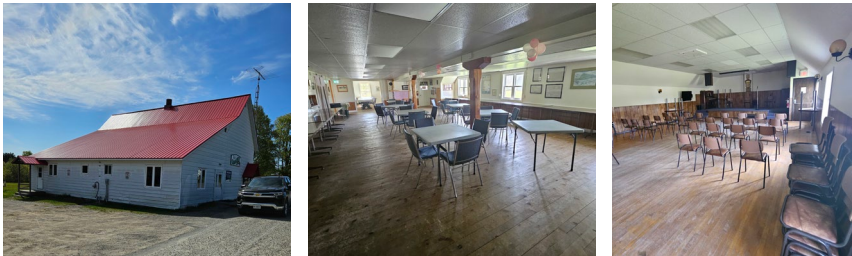
- Condition** The BCA identified several deficiencies that should be addressed immediately, including accessibility issues. Major items that are identified for replacement over the longer term include metal siding replacement and interior wood panelling replacement.

Sowerby Hall Community Centre	Deficiency Repair	Next 5 Years (2024 - 2028)	Longer Term (2029 - 2048)	Total
Required Capital Investments	\$ 40,100	\$ 247,310	\$ 544,040	\$ 831,450

Exhibit 17: Sowerby Site



Site Photos



5.6 Historic 12-Sided Barn

1410 Basswood Lake Road, Thessalon

Description The historic Cordukes/Weber 12 Sided Barn was originally built in 1919. In 2007 it was dismantled, moved from its original location, and restored next to Sowerby Heritage Community Centre by dedicated volunteers.

Amenities

- Prep kitchen
- Washrooms
- Large, open event space
- Basement

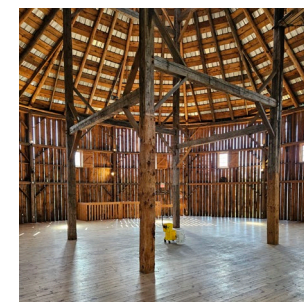
Utilization The main floor of the Barn is rented occasionally for special events meetings, and private functions (i.e., weddings, proms, gatherings, etc.). The basement hosts a Farmers Market on Saturdays from June to mid-October. There is also a small museum in the basement.

12 Sided Barn: Usage Data								
	2019		2022		2023		3 Year Avg.	
	No.	% total	No.	% total	No.	% total	No.	% total
Paid Events	10	77%	6	86%	10	83%	8.7	81%
Free Events	3	23%	1	14%	2	17%	2	19%
Total Events	13	100%	7	100%	12	100%	10.7	100%

Condition The BCA identified the building elements are generally in good condition. Most of the required investments over the next 25 are for end-of-life replacements. A structural review was recommended as an immediate item to be addressed (to secure any unstable components in the short term).

12 Sided Barn	Deficiency Repair	Next 5 Years (2024 - 2028)	Longer Term (2029 - 2048)	Total
Required Capital Investments	\$ 40,000	\$ 26,550	\$ 115,400	\$ 181,950

Site Photos



5.7 Thompson Recreation Centre

23802 Highway 17, Dean Lake

Description The Thompson Recreation Centre is 916 sq. ft. in size with an unfinished basement that is currently used for storage. It was built in 1897 as the Town Hall for Thompson Township and renovated in 2017.

- Amenities**
- Fitness equipment
 - Washroom
 - Ramp access entry

Utilization The facility offers residents with access for a \$10/month membership fee. Based on annual revenues collected by the Municipality, this equates to a low membership level of no more than 25 members per month.

Condition The BCA identified that the building is generally in good condition. Deficiency repairs mostly related to accessibility improvements. Investment required to 2028 consists of minor improvements. Over the longer term, end of life replacement costs include larger items such as structural repairs and siding replacement.

Thompson Recreation Centre	Deficiency Repair	Next 5 Years (2024 - 2028)	Longer Term (2029 - 2048)	Total
Required Capital Investments	\$ 17,000	\$ 14,525	\$ 406,390	\$ 437,915

Site Photos

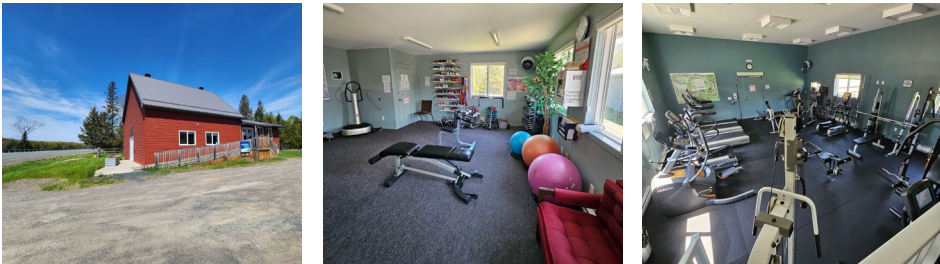


Exhibit 18: Thompson Recreation Centre Site



5.8 Iron Bridge Historical Museum

1 James Street, Iron Bridge

Description The Heritage Museum consists of a log construction main building (772 sq. ft.), and a picnic pavilion. It was built in 1974.

- Amenities**
- Main building with historical displays, information, etc.
 - Washrooms
 - Picnic pavilion

Utilization The Museum is used for Farmers Market on Saturday mornings in the summer months as well as occasional special events hosted by the Municipality.

Condition Based on the BCA conducted for the Museum, the facility is in fair to poor condition. Major elements that will require replacement within the next five years include pedestrian paving stones, building wood siding, and wood window shutters. The facility will require \$85,000 in capital investment over the next 25 years to maintain it in a state of good repair.

Iron Bridge Historical Museum	Deficiency Repair	Next 5 Years (2024 - 2028)	Longer Term (2029 - 2048)	Total
Required Capital Investments	\$ 11,500	\$ 23,550	\$ 50,175	\$ 85,225

Exhibit 19: Iron Bridge Historical Museum Site



Site Photos



5.9 Indoor Assets Recommendations

Take a 'One Municipality' Approach to Recreation Facilities

The portfolio of indoor recreation facilities within the Municipality, including the historic community centres and the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre, is unique. Each facility has a different focus and/or purpose which enables a wide variety of activities, programs, and events to occur across the Municipality.

When considered collectively, these recreation facilities provide a well-rounded inventory of spaces. While each facility does a good job providing access to the local community, they also have municipality-wide attraction. If the facilities are not being used locally (some facilities have low usage), they should be considered for use for other programs to occur.

The governance of these facilities must be more consistently structured to better benefit the community. While this means maintaining and strengthening volunteerism, it also means working better with the Recreation Committees (and vice versa) to maximize use of the facilities for the benefit of all. This ties into the programming offered, which should follow best practices for recreation, and not be limited to those programs the Committees are interested in. In this regard, the Municipality should pursue expansion of the program offer over time.

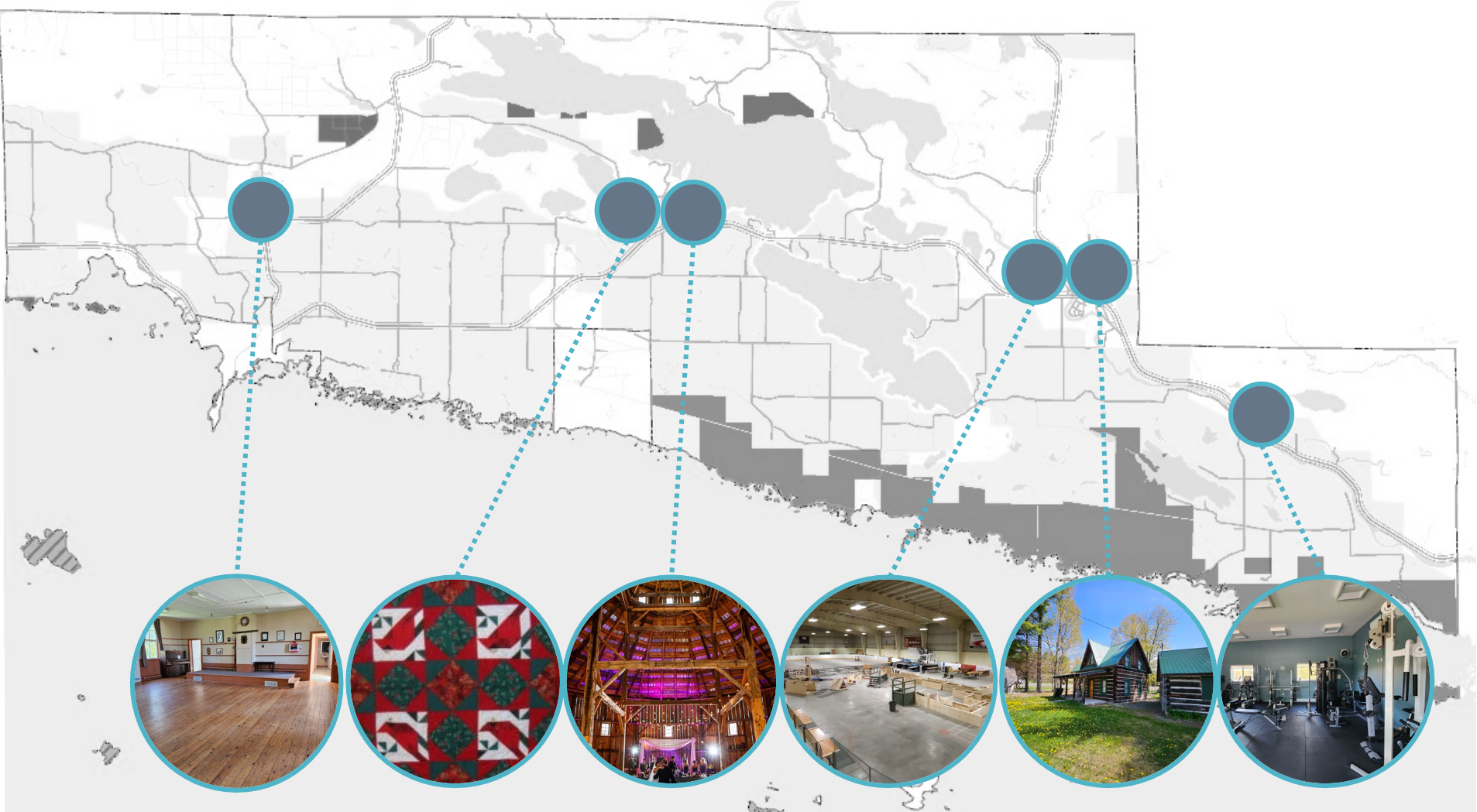
As it relates specifically to the 12-Sided Barn, with such a low level of usage (i.e., average of 11 events per year), the Municipality needs be more actively involved in the booking of the facility and its use as a tourism asset. This will require working closely with the Regional Tourism Organization to effectively market this space to a regional tourist market for a range of events. This means expanding the use of the 12-Sided Barn well beyond community use.

Usage at the Little Rapids Community Centre is also currently heavily focused on community use. Because of this, the Municipality should monitor its use over the next three years, and if it has not been improved, the Municipality should deem the building surplus to the requirements, and therefore susceptible to the Municipality's current or future disposition policy. Subject to this, the Municipality should dispose of the building.

Recommendations:

- 12. Work closely with the Recreation Committees to expand the programming at the Community Centres and bring in other program providers over time, as possible. This could include programming that occurs at various facilities on different days and/or weeks.**
- 13. Celebrate the historical significance of the 12-Sided Barn as an important heritage community asset and event space within not only Huron Shores but also on a provincial and national scale (and advertise it as such).**
- 14. Closely monitor monthly membership at the Thompson Fitness Centre by requiring Committee members to provide receipts for fees paid by members and report to the Municipality monthly. In the long-term, any fitness-related fees should be collected through the centralized system by the Municipality (per Recommendation 3).**

Exhibit 20: One Municipality with Distinctive Recreation Facilities



Facility	Little Rapids Community Centre	Sowerby Heritage Community Centre	12-Sided Barn	Iron Bridge Recreation Centre	Iron Bridge Heritage Museum	Thompson Recreation Centre
Main Focus of Use	Small Special Events	Arts & Culture Programs	Large Special Events	Sporting & Agricultural Events	Heritage Education	Fitness

15. Assess the viability of alternative recreational uses of the Thompson Fitness Centre, contingent on whether a fitness centre is considered as part of the long-term plan for the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre (per Recommendation 22).

16. Continue to promote the Iron Bridge Heritage Museum as a destination for travelers on Highway 17, monitoring visitation over the Plan period.

Maintain Facilities through Progressive Investment

One of the guiding principles of this Plan is to ‘Maintain the quality of the recreation facilities and enhance when feasible.’ Progressive investment by the Municipality, through continued asset management and capital investment, signals a commitment to maintaining the current lifestyle that is well established in the community.

Ensuring that these facilities continue to serve the community over the Plan period will be important. The Municipality has taken the initiative to develop Building Condition Assessments (BCAs) for all indoor recreation facilities. This document provides guidance as to life-cycle requirements and priority items that will need to be addressed in the immediate and/or short-term – it will be an important resource going forward.

Recommendations:

17. Maintain the existing recreation facilities in a state of good repair for continued community use over the Plan period, undertaking general improvements to enhance the use and/or functionality of the facilities, as possible.

18. Improve accessibility at Little Rapids Community Centre and Sowerby Heritage Community Centre by undertaking incremental renovations. This should include washroom upgrades, door widths, automatic door openers, etc.

19. Engage a structural engineer to undertake a structural review and assessment of the 12-Sided Barn, to identify any unstable components that need to be addressed.

20. Work with the Museum Committee to develop a series of rotating exhibits and/or displays to refresh the content and provide visitors with variety and a reason to visit on a recurring basis.

The Future of the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre

The 50-year-old Iron Bridge Recreation Centre is an important recreation facility in the municipality. As can be seen from the level of community interest in the building, with the formulation of an effective multi-year phasing plan, funding plan and business case, the opportunities to create a wide range of recreational, cultural and public service (public health clinical and administrative space) is apparent.

The Municipality has recently submitted an application for grant funding to undertake strategic improvements to the facility. If successful in this endeavour, over time, the re-investment of capital dollars, operating support and a supportive community, will enable the achievement of long-held public policy goals: namely that the existing arena is re-imagined for new, alternative uses. And by so-doing the Municipality will have made high value contributions to community well-being, health and economic development.

Modern recreation facilities provide recreation for residents and users of all ages and abilities. Such facilities are accessible and use more sustainable technologies – providing higher energy efficiency and better user experience and comfort. Today's facilities offer opportunities for flexible uses, feature multi-sport and multi-use spaces, and combine community, recreation and sport functions.

A new modern community centre and arena complex will benefit residents and can be an attractor for future residents. The building has the capacity to be used as a health care locum office, as one example of public services which are much needed in the community. There is a potential to further explore and develop partnerships with schools, sports groups, seniors' and other groups.

The facility has significant potential given that it is a large volume, large span space – with vision, and incremental funding support over time, a field house style of venue can be achieved. This would be one of very few such facilities in the region. An improved multi-use community centre will complement facilities available in neighbouring municipalities and provide distinctive amenities to the broader community.

Recommendations:

- 21. Maintain the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre in good condition so that future opportunities to expand usage of the building are not precluded. This means the Municipality should recognize that a future vision for the arena is important and that maintaining critical systems in a state of good repair is a minimum requirement.**
- 22. Repurpose the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre to be a multi-use community centre through an incremental improvement plan. This should include consideration for a fitness space as part of the long-term plan.**
- 23. Continue to actively advocate for and market the aspiration of a repurposed Iron Bridge Recreation Centre as a major regional recreation resource to potential funders (e.g., public and private sources).**

A series of conceptual design options for the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre have been developed as a sub-component of the Master Plan process. These are provided as Appendix A.



6 A Complementary Inventory of Outdoor Assets

6.1 Overview of Outdoor Assets

A Uniqueness of Place

Huron Shores is a place where outdoor activities are prevalent throughout the year. These activities go beyond the traditional sports activities typically offered by municipalities.

The Municipality's outdoor recreation facilities positively complement these outdoor activities and recreational pursuits, which include but are not limited to:

- A variety of trail options for snowmobiling, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, cycling, horseback riding, walking and hiking, dirt biking, ATVing, etc.;
- Boating and fishing;
- Beaches and swimming;
- Nature and wildlife viewing;
- Hunting; and
- Geo-caching.

Municipal outdoor recreation facilities are located within parks across Huron Shores. The Municipality also operates Beharriell Park & Boat Launch, which is provincially owned, and located within North Channel Islands Provincial Park.

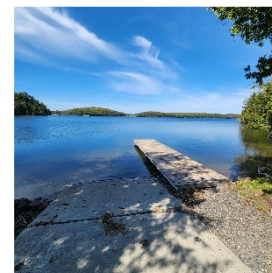
**Little Rapids
Outdoor Pavilion &
Ball Park**



**Centennial Park &
Boat Launch**



**Little Basswood
Beach Park & Boat
Launch**



**Tally Ho Park &
Cenotaph**



**Roe Park & Boat
Launch**



**MacBeth Bay Boat
Launch**



In addition, Iron Bridge is home to the Lions Club Ball Park and District A-5 Memorial Forest. While this park is operated directly by the Iron Bridge Lions Club it is an important component of the outdoor facility/parks inventory.

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

1. MacBeth Bay Boat Launch

Boat Launch
Parking

2. Little Rapids Outdoor Pavilion & Ball Park

Ball Park
Concession / Kitchen
Playground
Washrooms

3. Little Basswood Beach Park & Boat Launch

Boat Launch
Swimming / Beach Area
Picnic Area
Seasonal Washrooms

4. Roe Park & Boat Launch

Boat Launch
Playground
Picnic Area
Seasonal Washrooms

Inset: Iron Bridge

7. Tally Ho Park & Cenopath

8. Lions Club Ball Park

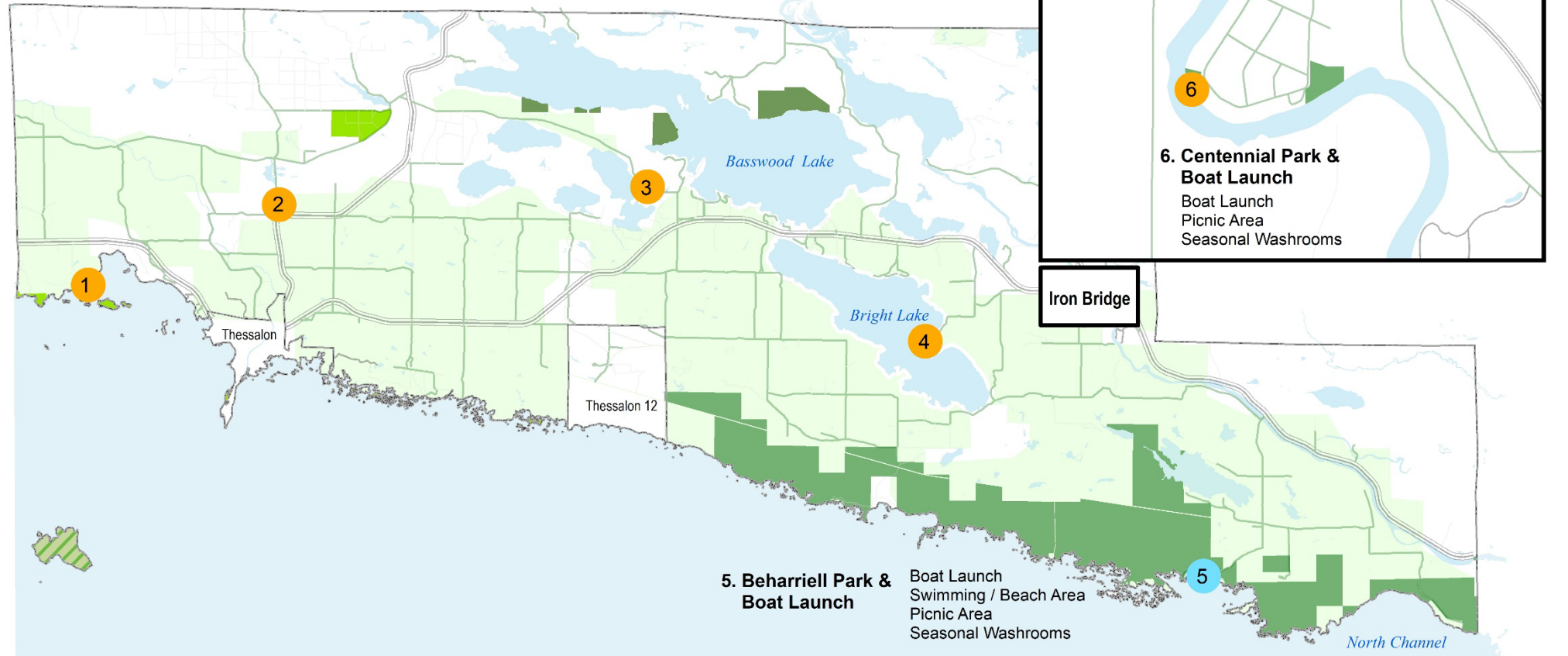
Ball Park
Basketball Court
Playground
Picnic Pavilion
Algoma District
Memorial Forest

6. Centennial Park & Boat Launch

Boat Launch
Picnic Area
Seasonal Washrooms

5. Beharriell Park & Boat Launch

Boat Launch
Swimming / Beach Area
Picnic Area
Seasonal Washrooms



Municipality of Huron Shores Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Legend

● Municipal Facility

● Non-Municipal Facility

■ Agricultural Land

■ Conservation Reserve

■ Provincial Park

■ Recommended Provincial Park

■ Enhanced Management Area



1:180,000

6.2 What We Heard: Outdoor Assets

What We Heard: Outdoor Recreation Assets

The outdoor facilities that are most used by survey respondents are identified below, and detailed as follows:

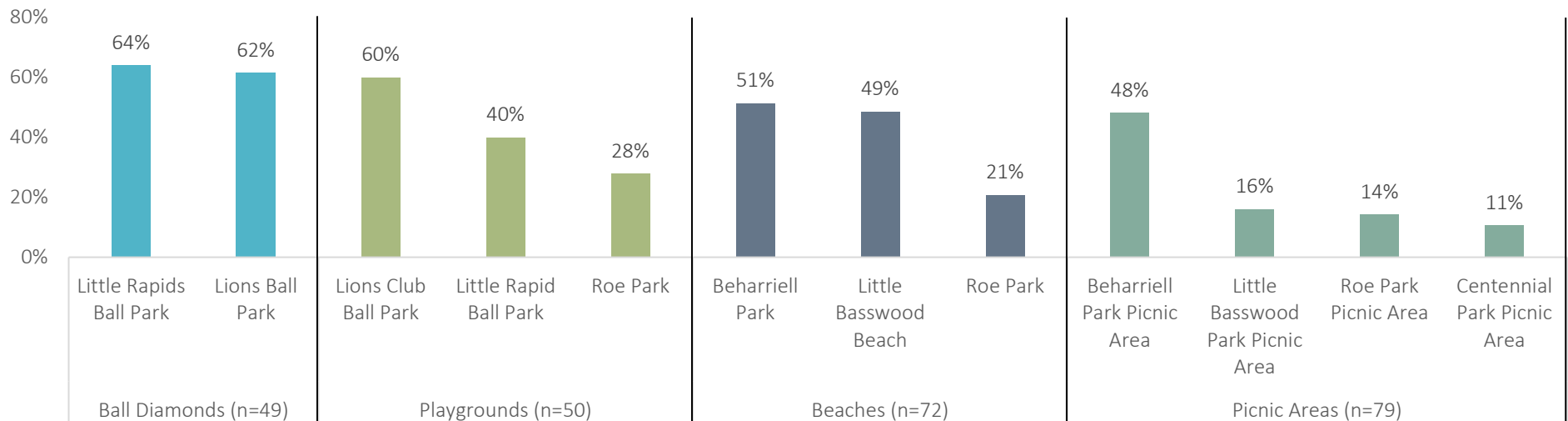
Ball diamonds – Both ball diamonds in Huron Shores are well used by respondents (over 60% have used these diamonds over the past year).

Playgrounds – The playground at Lions Club Ball Park was used by the most respondents (60%), while 40% used the playground at Little Rapid Ball Park, and 28% used the swings at Roe Park.

Beaches – The beaches at Beharriell Park and Little Basswood were used by about 50% of respondents within the past year. The beach at Roe Park was used by fewer respondents (21%).

Picnic Areas – Beharriell Park picnic area was by far the most used by survey respondents, at 48% having used it within the past year. The others were used by between 11% (Centennial Park) and 16% (Little Basswood Park) of survey respondents.

Public Survey Results: In the past year, have you or members of your household used parks and/or outdoor recreation facilities in the Municipality of Huron Shores?

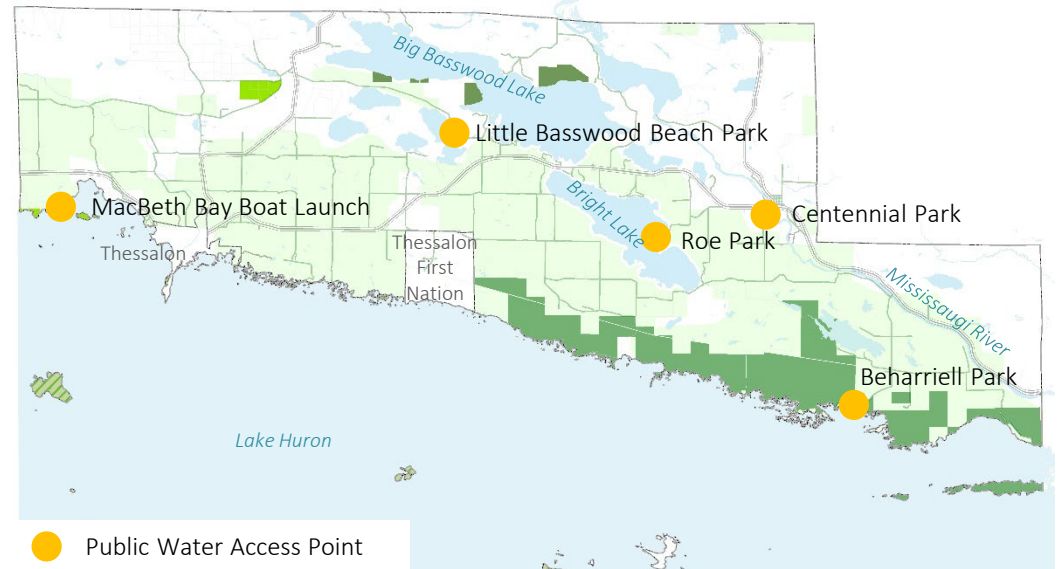


6.3 Accessing the Water

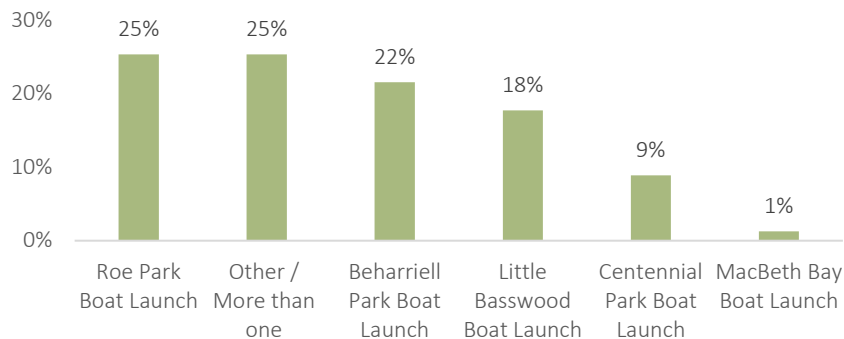
Huron Shores boasts significant Lake Huron shoreline, as well as several inland lakes and rivers within its borders; however, access to these bodies of water by the public is somewhat limited. The Municipality provides five (5) public water access points with boat launches, docks, and/or beach/swimming area. These are located on Lake Huron (2), Bright Lake (1), Little Basswood Lake (1), and the Mississaugi River (1). At present, there is no public access to Big Basswood Lake.

Respondents to the public survey indicated that the use Roe Park and Beharriell Park access points the most, followed closely by Little Basswood Beach Park. Other docks and boat launches used by respondents included the Thessalon Marina and private launch sites across the municipality. Lake Huron was identified as the lake where people would like to see improved access, followed by Basswood Lake.

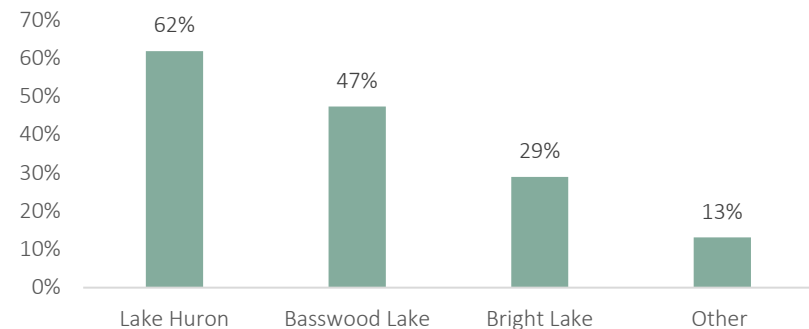
Exhibit 21: Public Water Access Points in Huron Shores



Public Survey Results: Which of the following docks and/or boat launches have you used the most in the past year? (n=79)



Public Survey Results: Which lakes would you like to see improved access to? (n=76)



Little Basswood Beach Park & Boat Launch

Basswood Lake Road, Sowerby

Description Located near Sowerby Hall and the 12-Sided Barn, Little Basswood Beach Park was recently upgraded to include two entrances. This safely separates the access to (a) the boat launch and dock area (to the north), and (b) the beach/swimming area (to the south).

Amenities

- Beach/swimming area
- Concrete boat launch
- Gravel parking area
- Standing dock
- Picnic tables
- Portable washroom facilities (seasonal)

Utilization Understood to be a well used access point to Little Basswood Lake.

Condition Dock and boat launch ramp in good condition (recently refurbished).

Site Photos



Exhibit 22: Little Basswood Beach Park Site



Roe Park & Boat Launch

779 Sunset Beach Road

Description Roe Park is located on the north shore of Bright Lake, accessible from Sunset Beach Road.

Amenities

- Swing set and rocker horse
- Gravel boat launch
- Floating dock
- Park benches
- Picnic table
- Portable washroom facilities (seasonal)

Utilization Roe Park and boat launch is used on a casual basis and is a well-known spot for fishing.

Condition Children's play elements are well beyond their useful life. Boat launch ramp and dock are in fair condition.

Site Photos



Exhibit 23: Roe Park Site



Centennial Park & Boat Launch

52 Mississauga Crescent, Iron Bridge

Description	Centennial Park is in the village of Iron Bridge and provides access to the Mississauga River for both motorized and non-motorized watercraft.
Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gravel boat launch ramp• Picnic tables, park benches• Gravel loop for trailer put-in• Portable washroom facilities (seasonal)
Utilization	Used occasionally for river access and picnicking.
Condition	Boat launch ramp in good condition.

Site Photos



Exhibit 24: Centennial Park Site



MacBeth Boat Launch

41 Emily Court, Nestorville

Description Located in the western portion of the Municipality, MacBeth Boat Launch is the newest location for the public to access Lake Huron between May to October.

- Amenities**
- Concrete boat launch ramp
 - Parking area

Utilization Used occasionally for motorized and non-motorized watercraft launching.

Condition As a newer facility, the launch ramp appears to be in good condition.

Site Photos



Exhibit 25: MacBeth Boat Launch Site



Beharriell Park & Boat Launch

1236A Dean Lake Road, Dean Lake

Description Beharriell Park is located within North Channel Islands Provincial Park (owned by the Province of Ontario). The park is operated and maintained by the Municipality through an operating agreement in place for the site.

The boat launch provides public access to Lake Huron.

Amenities

- Beach/swimming area
- Boat launch
- Picnic tables
- 5+ BBQ pits (raised)
- Portable washroom facilities (seasonal)

Utilization This park is understood to be well used during the summer months as a popular destination for swimming, picnicking and accessing Lake Huron.

Condition BBQ pits appear to be past their useful life (not usable).

Site Photos



Exhibit 26: Beharriell Park Site



6.4 Land-Based Assets

Little Rapids Outdoor Pavilion & Ball Park

34 Little Rapids Road, Little Rapids

Description The property boasts a ball diamond, picnic pavilion (covered gazebo), playground, parking area, and open lawn area. The pavilion is available for rental from June to mid-September.

Amenities

- Senior softball diamond (300 ft. to outfield fence centre)
- Outdoor pavilion (40 x 60 ft.) includes enclosed canteen area with appliances, washrooms, large covered picnic area (with 100 lawn chairs and 12 large wooden tables)
- Playground with sand base

Utilization The Town of Thessalon Men's League uses the ball diamond two evenings per week from May to late August/early September. In addition, this group also books the diamond and the pavilion for their Ball Tournament held in early August.

Little Rapids Ball Field: Usage Data

	2022		2023		2 Year Avg.	
	No.	% total	No.	% total	No.	% total
Paid Events	0	0%	22	85%	11.0	40%
Free Events	29	100%	4	15%	16.5	60%
Total Events	29	100%	26	100%	27.5	100%

The pavilion is used for private rentals/bookings. It is understood that the site is also used in winter as a staging area for snowshoeing, cross country skiing, etc.

Exhibit 27: Little Rapids Outdoor Pavilion & Ball Park Site



Little Rapids Outdoor Pavilion & Ball Park (cont'd)

34 Little Rapids Road, Little Rapids

Utilization (cont'd)

Little Rapids Outdoor Pavilion: Usage Data								
	2019		2022		2023		3 Year Avg.	
	No.	% total	No.	% total	No.	% total	No.	% total
Paid Events	5	100%	5	100%	7	88%	5.7	94%
Free Events	0	0%	0	0%	1	13%	0.3	6%
Total Events	5	100%	5	100%	8	100%	6	100%

Condition

Generally, the field is in good condition. The Men's League lines the field for use, while the Municipality cuts the grass (every two weeks). The playground is aged and in poor condition.

As it relates to the outdoor pavilion, the BCA recommends several items be addressed in the short term to maintain the facility in good condition. Over the longer term, there will be a requirement to replace the roof and the metal ceiling as large ticket items (\$229,000 in 2041).

Little Rapids Outdoor Pavilion	Next 5 Years (2024 - 2028)	Longer Term (2029 - 2048)	Total
Required Capital Investments	\$ 97,000	\$ 327,890	\$ 424,890

Site Photos



Lions Ball Park & District A-5 Memorial Forest

2 Northern Avenue, Iron Bridge

Description This park is owned and administered by the Iron Bridge Lions Club and is available for public use daily. This park is a central feature of Iron Bridge in terms of providing recreation facilities geared towards children and youth.

Amenities

- Senior softball diamond (265 ft. to outfield fence centre)
- Playground
- Picnic pavilion
- Basketball court
- Memorial walk through forested area

Utilization The ball park is used annually for the Iron Bridge Lions Club Community Days and Family baseball Tournament in August. The park is also used as a staging area for the Iron Bridge Fall Fair Parade.

Condition No condition data provided (non-Municipal). Park facilities appear to be in fair condition.

Site Photos



Exhibit 28: Lions Ball Park Site



Tally-Ho Park & Cenotaph

3 Main Street, Iron Bridge

Description Passive park located in central Iron Bridge, close to Highway 17.

Amenities

- Cenotaph
- Interpretive displays
- Pedestrian bridge across Mississaugi River (connects with Richard Avenue on west side)
- Gravel parking area
- Park benches
- Gazebo
- Portable washroom facilities (seasonal)

Utilization Used for passive recreation and enjoyment, and as a staging area for trail users (e.g., ATVing, etc.).

Condition Park features generally in good condition. The decking on Veterans Bridge was recently replaced.

Site Photos



Exhibit 29: Tally-Ho Park Site



6.5 Trail Network

Huron Shores is home to several major trail networks, including the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail, the Trans Canada Trail, Voyageur Trail, and Snowmobile Trails.

The Trans Canada Trail and Great Lakes Waterfront Trail (Lake Huron North Channel: Section 3 and portion of Section 4) follow the same route through Huron Shores. They traverse the municipality using mostly rural roads for routing, of which several kilometers are gravel. Some sections use the paved shoulders on Highway 17 (east of Iron Bridge to Blind River). While the trail does loop into Thessalon, there are approximately 70+ km of this trail system within the municipality. Most trail uses are allowed, apart from ATVs.

The Voyageur Trail runs between Thunder Bay and Sudbury and comprises over 500 km in total. Walking, hiking and cross-country skiing are permitted on the Voyageur Trail. Motorized uses are not permitted. The Desbarats-Huron Shores Section totals 93.4 km.

Snowmobile trails within the municipality are part of the broader North Shore Loop, comprised of over 400 km of terrain. These trails traverse farmland close to the Lake Huron shoreline and loops into Iron Bridge as a re-fueling stop.

Exhibit 30: Huron Shores Trail Network



6.6 Outdoor Assets Recommendations

Recognize the Value of Outdoor Assets

While non-traditional outdoor recreational activities and pursuits prevail, the Municipality's provision of outdoor assets is worth acknowledging. These facilities provide a certain level of service for residents and visitors that should be celebrated and maintained.

The Municipality operates two locations where children's play structures are provided – in Little Rapids and at Roe Park (swing set and rocker horse). Both facilities are aged and likely beyond their useful life. The Lions Ball Park & District A-5 Memorial Forest provides an additional play structure serving the residents of Iron Bridge.

24. Work with the Thessalon Men's League to undertake improvements to the ball diamond at Little Rapids for enhanced playing conditions. This should consider the following:

- Infield and outfield levelling and weeding;
- Player's benches/dugout upgrades; and
- Spectator seating improvements.

25. Maintain the Little Rapids Outdoor Pavilion in good condition for continued community use, undertaking general improvements on an as needed basis (per BCA requirements).

26. Continue to market the Little Rapids Outdoor Pavilion and Ball Diamond as a viable community venue for a variety of activities and events (e.g., family reunions, birthday parties, etc.).

27. Undertake a condition review and safety audit of the Municipality-owned play structures in Little Rapids and at Roe Park to assess the need for removal and/or replacement (to be confirmed through engagement with the community).

28. Promote Tally-Ho Park as a rest stop for visitors and travellers on Highway 17, with consideration for improving the amenities provided. This could include picnic benches and active/interactive elements for all to enjoy (e.g., QR code scavenger hunt, fitness bars for stretching, etc.).

Improving Access to the Water

Since much of the inland lakes' shoreline is currently held in private ownership, this Master Plan emphasises the importance of improving public access to the water from Lake Huron's extensive shoreline within Huron Shores. The Municipality's newest access point, MacBeth Boat Launch, helps to achieve this, developing additional public water access remains a goal.

29. Maintain existing boat launches for continued access to bodies of water, ensuring necessary upgrades to all dock infrastructure and undertaking general improvements as required. The Municipality should consider the addition of complementary amenities (e.g., picnic tables, portable washrooms, etc.), where feasible.
30. Work with Thessalon First Nation to investigate the feasibility of developing a boat launch on their land for public use to improve access to Lake Huron. This could be provided with other complementary uses.
31. Advocate for additional public access to Lake Huron within the North Channel Islands Provincial Park. The existing relationship with Ontario Parks should be embraced and strengthened to allow more of the Park to be used by the public.

Bolster Tourism by Advancing Marketing Efforts

With a vast array of assets within Huron Shores, and beyond, the Municipality should strive to expand advertising and marketing of not only recreation facilities and pursuits (e.g., geo-caching, fishing, hunting, etc.), but also tourism marketing. The Strategic Plan identified developing a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) to promote the community. This ties into the need to attract the right mix of retail (i.e., outfitters, restaurants, general store/trading post, etc.) that would enable Iron Bridge to be a viable service centre for not only trail users but also visitors driving through the area.

32. Expand awareness of local facilities and amenities through improved signage and wayfinding. This includes, but is not limited to, directional signage from Highway 17 and other major routes to public beaches, boat launches, lookouts, wildlife viewing areas, etc.
33. Improve the attraction of Iron Bridge's core area for visitors in all seasons. This should include consideration for beautification of the public and private realm with a focus on attracting a vibrant mix of retail and being "open for business".
34. Build upon the Geographic Information System (GIS) data provided in this Plan and further develop to ensure that the data layers are usable for recreation marketing and tourism marketing. This should be an ongoing initiative to make sure the information is up-to-date and accurate.
35. Make best use of the recreation-based asset inventory included in this Plan to market the Municipality for a variety of recreation- and tourism-related initiatives.



7 Implementation Priorities

7.1 Overview of Implementation

This Master Plan is designed to guide Council and direct municipal decision-making to address priorities for planning and investment in recreation-related services and facilities across Huron Shores. Recommendations related to the revitalization of existing facilities, more specifically the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre, will require continued consideration of how the required changes will be implemented.

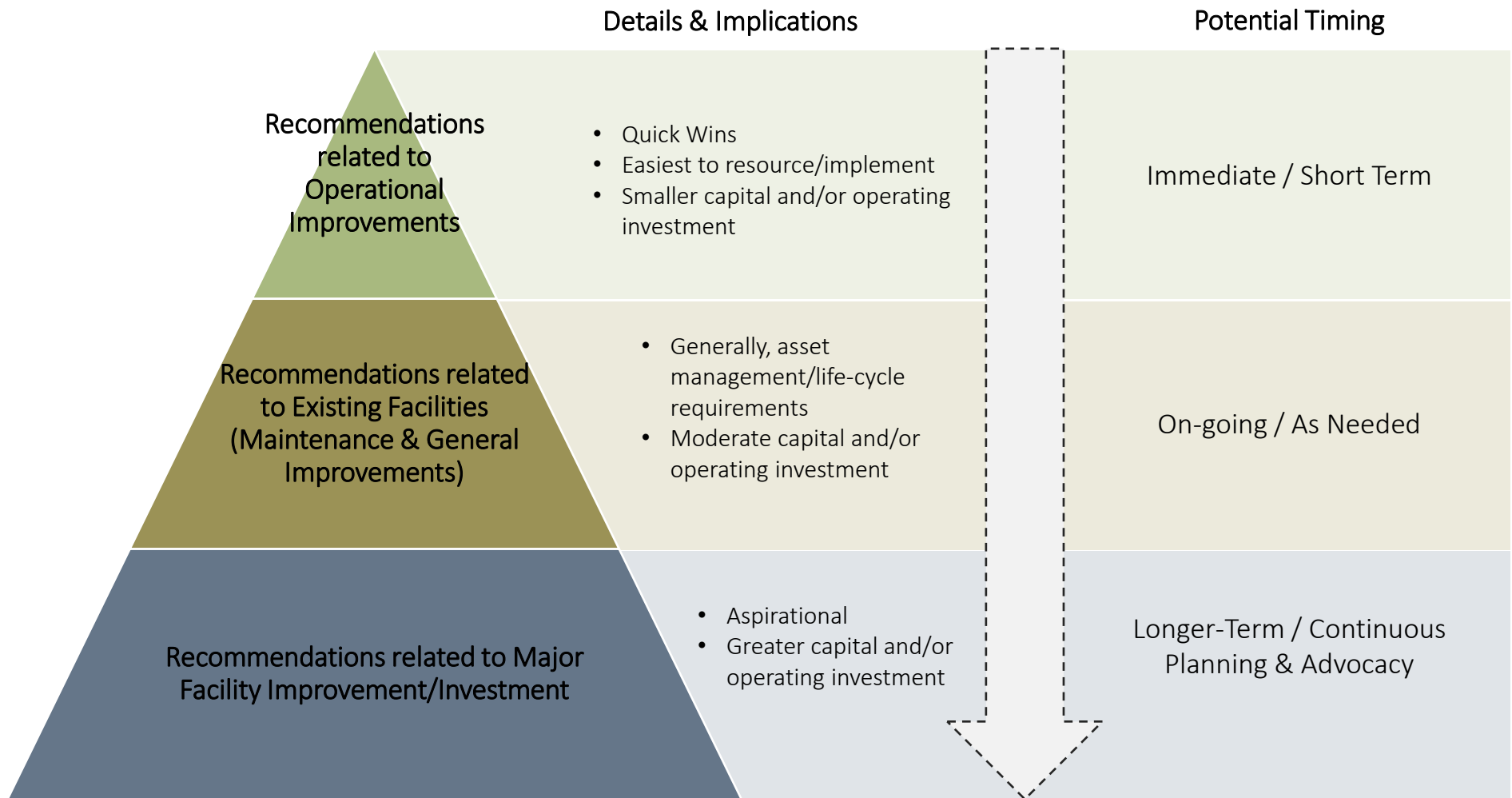
The Municipality will need to further evaluate and investigate the feasibility of implementing individual recommendations on an annual basis as part of the municipal planning and budgetary process. It will also be important to ensure that implementation of this Plan is carried out in alignment with other corporate priorities and strategic plan objectives.

This Master Plan recognizes that the capacity of the Municipality to fund new recreation infrastructure will vary over time in response to economic conditions and competing demands for investment in other infrastructure. The recommendations and the timing of implementation are intentionally left flexible. The Municipality should strive to implement the Plan as it has the capacity and resources available to do so.

The recommendations included in this Plan have been organized into three categories based on the ease of resourcing and achieving implementation. From quick wins related to operational improvements, some of which can be a focus in the short-term, to longer term recommendations that relate to major facility investment and rejuvenation. The exhibit on the following page graphically summarizes the implementation of the Master Plan and how it might be achieved.

7.2 Implementation Strategy

Exhibit 31: Ease of Resourcing/Implementation Summary



7.3 Phasing Priorities

The following provides the suggested timing and priority for implementing each of the recommendations contained within this Master Plan.

Exhibit 32: Phasing Priority Matrix

No.	Recommendation	Type	Timing	Priority
Delivering Recreation Assets				
1	Maintain a Community Development Model of service delivery, by continuing strong collaboration with user groups, service clubs, and community organizations to provide programming.	Operational	On-going	High
2	Maintain the three Recreation Committees, leveraging the community aspect of what has been established over time, and develop a terms of reference and mandate for the Recreation Committees that clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of the Committees and of the Municipality.	Operational	On-going	High
3	Move towards a centralized system for facility booking, rental and user fee collection, etc. This would include adjusting the process for user fee payments to be made either electronically via the Municipality's website, or in person at the Municipal Office only.	Operational	Mid-term	Medium
4	Continue to support and prioritize the sustained involvement of the Recreation Committees. The Municipality should focus on supporting the recruitment of volunteers and programs of outreach to meet the needs of residents for a range of recreation pursuits.	Operational	On-going	High

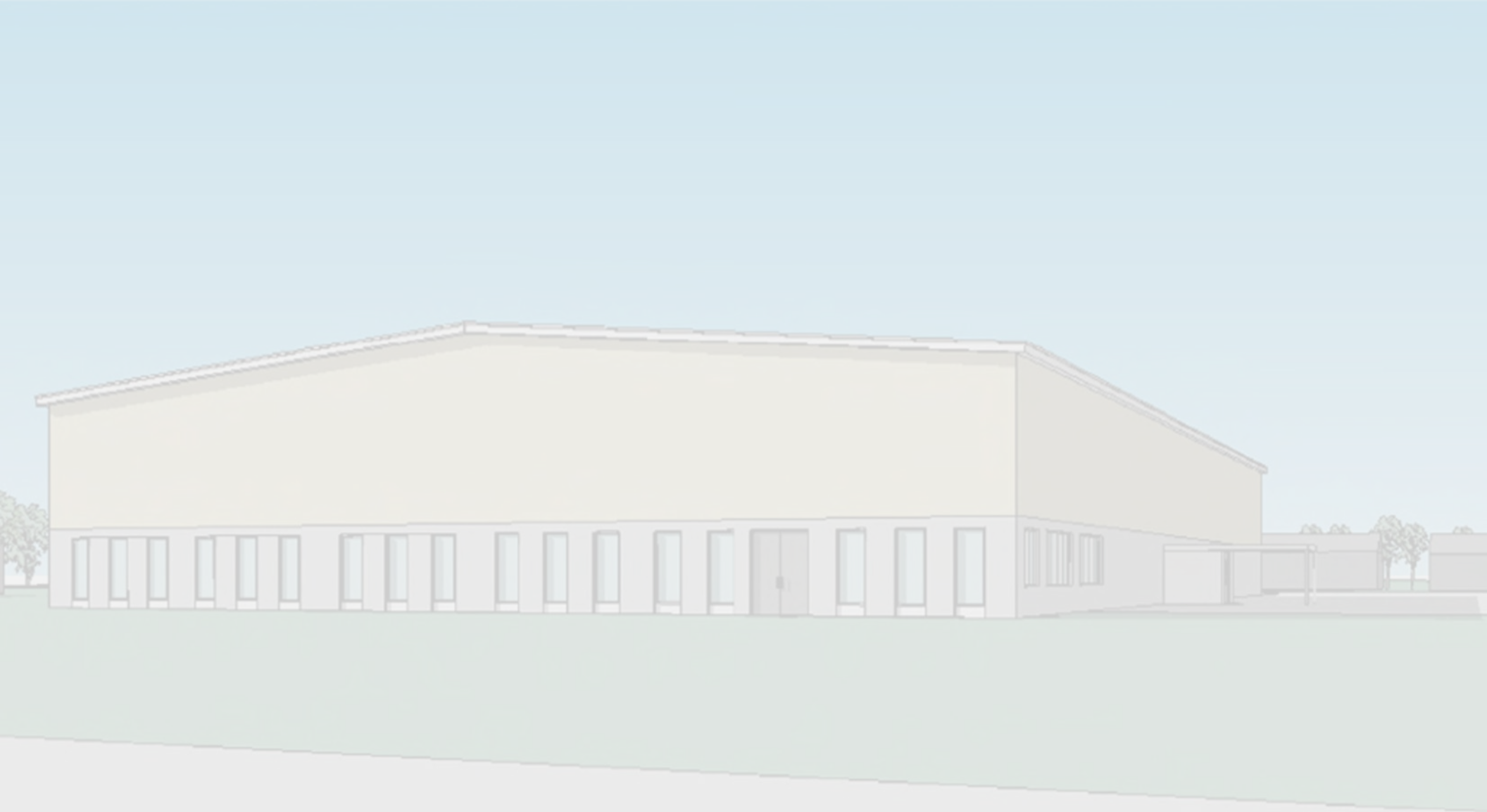
No.	Recommendation	Type	Timing	Priority
Delivering Recreation Assets (Cont'd)				
5	Gradually take more municipal control of building maintenance and facility asset management/life cycle planning of the indoor recreation facilities and the outdoor facilities associated with these assets.	Operational	On-going	Medium
6	Provide digital advertising of all public events that are taking place in recreation facilities across the Municipality to foster a stronger sense of the “One Municipality” approach.	Operational	On-going	Low
7	Undertake a User Fee Study to determine the appropriate level of cost recovery and subsidization for use of facilities. This should be accompanied by a formal User Fee Policy for the Municipality.	Operational	Short-term	High
8	Establish and build up a capital reserve fund to help fund improvement and/or renovation projects related to indoor and outdoor recreation facilities.	Operational	Short-term/On-going	High
9	Continue to identify and pursue grants and other financial supports from all levels of government/other sources. This should be done in collaboration with the Finance and other departments (as relevant).	Operational	On-going	High
10	Maintain existing partnerships and seek out new opportunities for partnerships to enhance recreation service levels and leverage public funds. This may include the provision of shared transportation services to access recreation, operation of spaces, program delivery, etc.	Operational	On-going	High
11	Strive to develop and maintain strong relationships with neighbouring communities, including but not limited to Thessalon First Nations, Town of Blind River, and Town of Thessalon.	Operational	On-going	High

No.	Recommendation	Type	Timing	Priority
A Distinctive Portfolio of Indoor Assets				
12	Work closely with the Recreation Committees to expand the programming at the Community Centres and bring in other program providers over time, as possible. This could include programming that occurs at various facilities on different days and/or weeks.	Operational	On-going	Medium
13	Celebrate the historical significance of the 12-Sided Barn as an important heritage community asset and event space within not only Huron Shores but also on a provincial and national scale (and advertise it as such).	Operational	On-going	High
14	Closely monitor monthly membership at the Thompson Fitness Centre by requiring Committee members to provide receipts for fees paid by members and report to the Municipality monthly. In the long-term, any fitness-related fees should be collected through the centralized system by the Municipality (per Recommendation 3).	Operational	On-going	High
15	Assess the viability of alternative recreational uses of the Thompson Fitness Centre, contingent on whether a fitness centre is considered as part of the long-term plan for the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre (per Recommendation 22).	Existing Facilities	Long-term	Low
16	Continue to promote the Iron Bridge Heritage Museum as a destination for travelers on Highway 17, monitoring visitation over the Plan period.	Operational	On-going	Low
17	Maintain the existing recreation facilities in a state of good repair for continued community use over the Plan period, undertaking general improvements to enhance the use and/or functionality of the facilities, as possible.	Existing Facilities	On-going	Medium

No.	Recommendation	Type	Timing	Priority
A Distinctive Portfolio of Indoor Assets (Cont'd)				
18	Improve accessibility at Little Rapids Community Centre and Sowerby Heritage Community Centre by undertaking incremental renovations. This should include washroom upgrades, door widths, automatic door openers, etc.	Existing Facilities	Long-term	Low
19	Engage a structural engineer to undertake a structural review and assessment of the 12-Sided Barn, to identify any unstable components that need to be addressed.	Existing Facilities	Short-term	Medium
20	Work with the Museum Committee to develop a series of rotating exhibits and/or displays to refresh the content and provide visitors with variety and a reason to visit on a recurring basis.	Operational	Short/Mid-term	Medium
21	Maintain the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre in good condition so that future opportunities to expand usage of the building are not precluded. This means the Municipality should recognize that a future vision for the arena is important and that maintaining critical systems in a state of good repair is a minimum requirement.	Existing Facilities	Short/Mid-term	High
22	Repurpose the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre to be a multi-use community centre through an incremental improvement plan. This should include consideration for a fitness space as part of the long-term plan.	Major Improvement/ Investment	Long-term	High
23	Continue to actively advocate for and market the aspiration of a repurposed Iron Bridge Recreation Centre as a major regional recreation resource to potential funders (e.g., public and private sources).	Operational	On-going	High

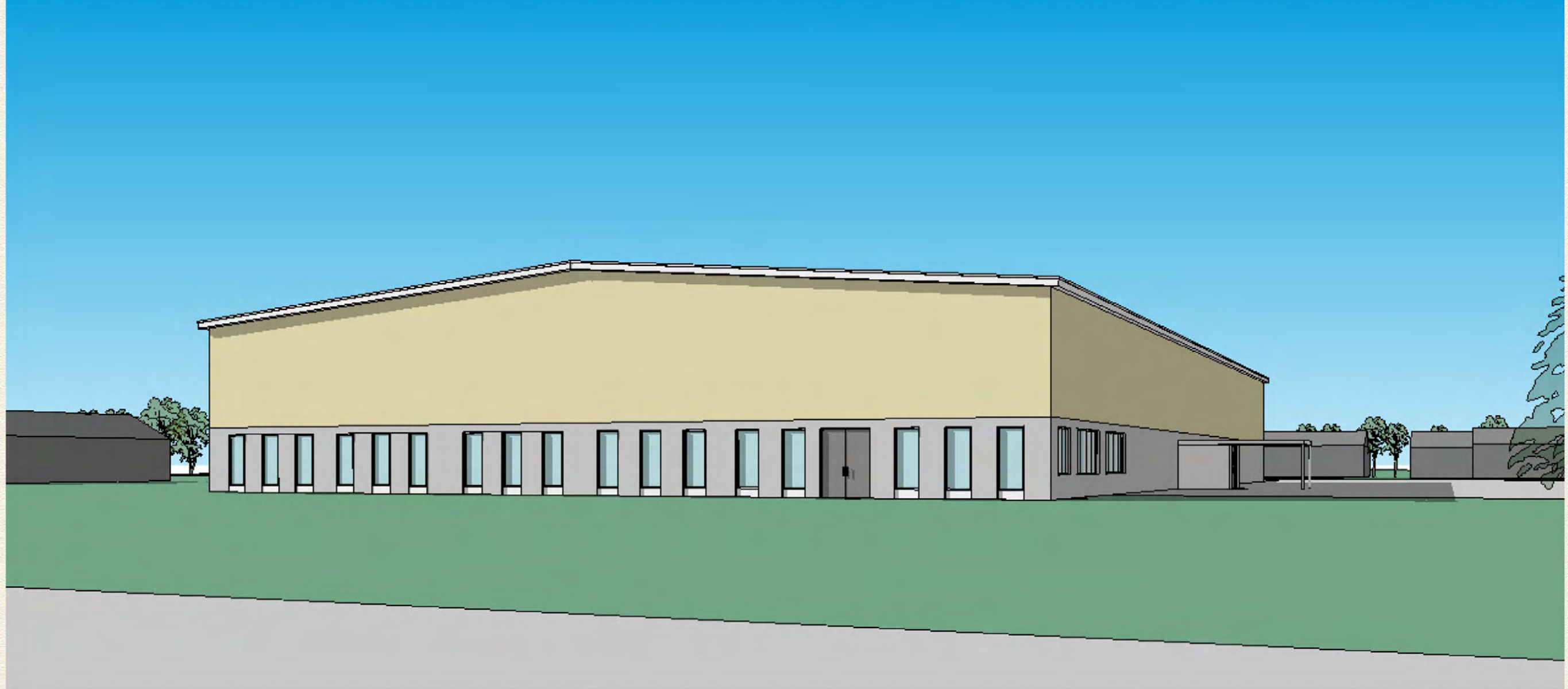
No.	Recommendation	Type	Timing	Priority
A Complementary Inventory of Outdoor Assets				
24	<p>Work with the Thessalon Men's League to undertake improvements to the ball diamond at Little Rapids for enhanced playing conditions. This should consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infield and outfield levelling and weeding; • Player's benches/dugout upgrades; and • Spectator seating improvements. 	Existing Facilities	Short/Mid-term	Medium
25	Maintain the Little Rapids Outdoor Pavilion in good condition for continued community use, undertaking general improvements on an as needed basis (per BCA requirements).	Existing Facilities	On-going	Medium
26	Continue to market the Little Rapids Outdoor Pavilion and Ball Diamond as a viable community venue for a variety of activities and events (e.g., family reunions, birthday parties, etc.).	Operational	On-going	Medium
27	Undertake a condition review and safety audit of the Municipality-owned play structures in Little Rapids and at Roe Park to assess the need for removal and/or replacement (to be confirmed through engagement with the community).	Existing Facilities	Short-term	High
28	Promote Tally-Ho Park as a rest stop for visitors and travellers on Highway 17, with consideration for improving the amenities provided. This could include picnic benches and active/interactive elements for all to enjoy (e.g., QR code scavenger hunt, fitness bars for stretching, etc.).	Existing Facilities	Long-term	Medium
29	Maintain existing boat launches for continued access to bodies of water, ensuring necessary upgrades to all dock infrastructure and undertaking general improvements as required. The Municipality should consider the addition of complementary amenities (e.g., picnic tables, portable washrooms, etc.), where feasible.	Existing Facilities	On-going	Medium

No.	Recommendation	Type	Timing	Priority
A Complementary Inventory of Outdoor Assets (Cont'd)				
30	Work with Thessalon First Nation to investigate the feasibility of developing a boat launch on their land for public use to improve access to Lake Huron. This could be provided with other complementary uses.	Major Improvement/ Investment	Mid-term	Medium
31	Advocate for additional public access to Lake Huron within the North Channel Islands Provincial Park. The existing relationship with Ontario Parks should be embraced and strengthened to allow more of the Park to be used by the public.	Operational	On-going	Low
32	Expand awareness of local facilities and amenities through improved signage and wayfinding. This includes, but is not limited to, directional signage from Highway 17 and other major routes to public beaches, boat launches, lookouts, wildlife viewing areas, etc.	Existing Facilities	Mid/Long-term	Medium
33	Improve the attraction of Iron Bridge's core area for visitors in all seasons. This should include consideration for beautification of the public and private realm with a focus on attracting a vibrant mix of retail and being "open for business".	Major Improvement/ Investment	Mid/Long-term	High
34	Build upon the Geographic Information System (GIS) data provided in this Plan and further develop to ensure that the data layers are usable for recreation marketing and tourism marketing. This should be an ongoing initiative to make sure the information is up-to-date and accurate.	Operational	On-going	Medium
35	Make best use of the recreation-based asset inventory included in this Plan to market the Municipality for a variety of recreation- and tourism-related initiatives.	Operational	On-going	Medium



Appendix A:

Design Options for Iron Bridge Recreation Centre



IRON BRIDGE RECREATION CENTER

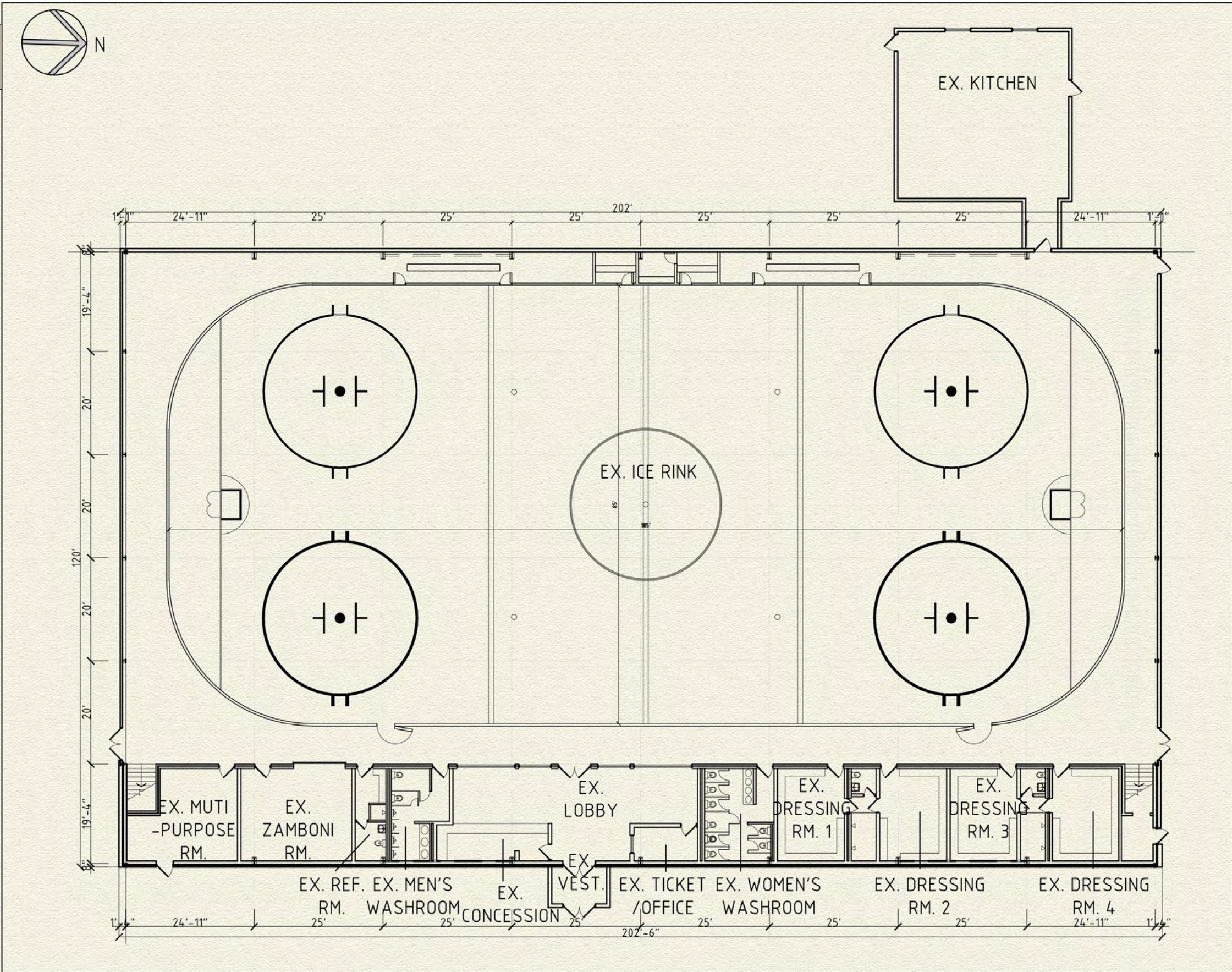
Iron Bridge, Ontario

October 2024



WGD ARCHITECTS INC.

EXISTING PLAN



DEMOLITION

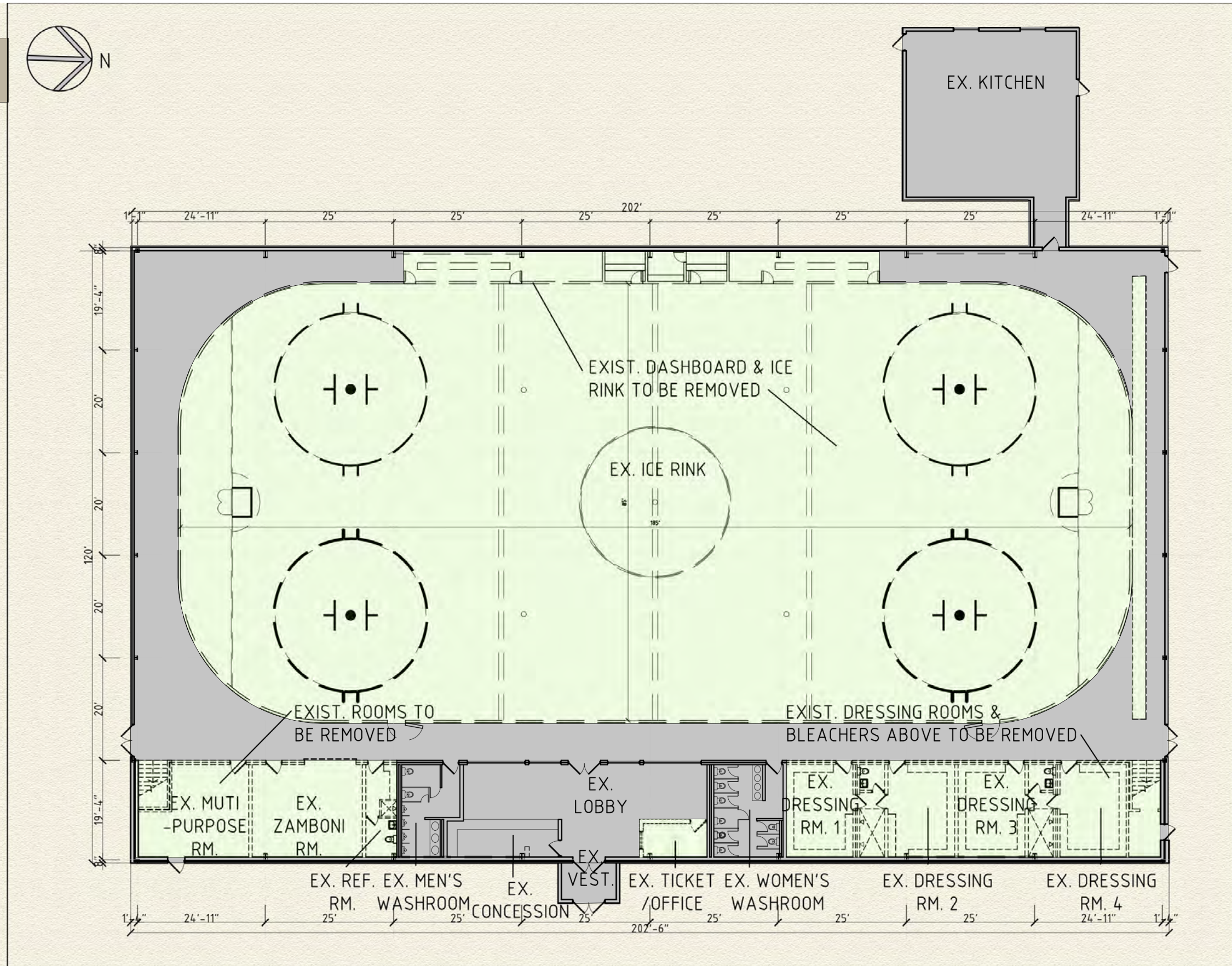
Demolition Notes

- Existing dashboard & ice rink to be removed
- Existing dressing rooms & bleachers above to be removed
- Existing multi-purpose room & zamboni room to be removed
- Existing concession to be removed
- Existing ticket /office to be removed

Legend

EXISTING TO BE DEMOLISHED

EXISTING TO REMAIN



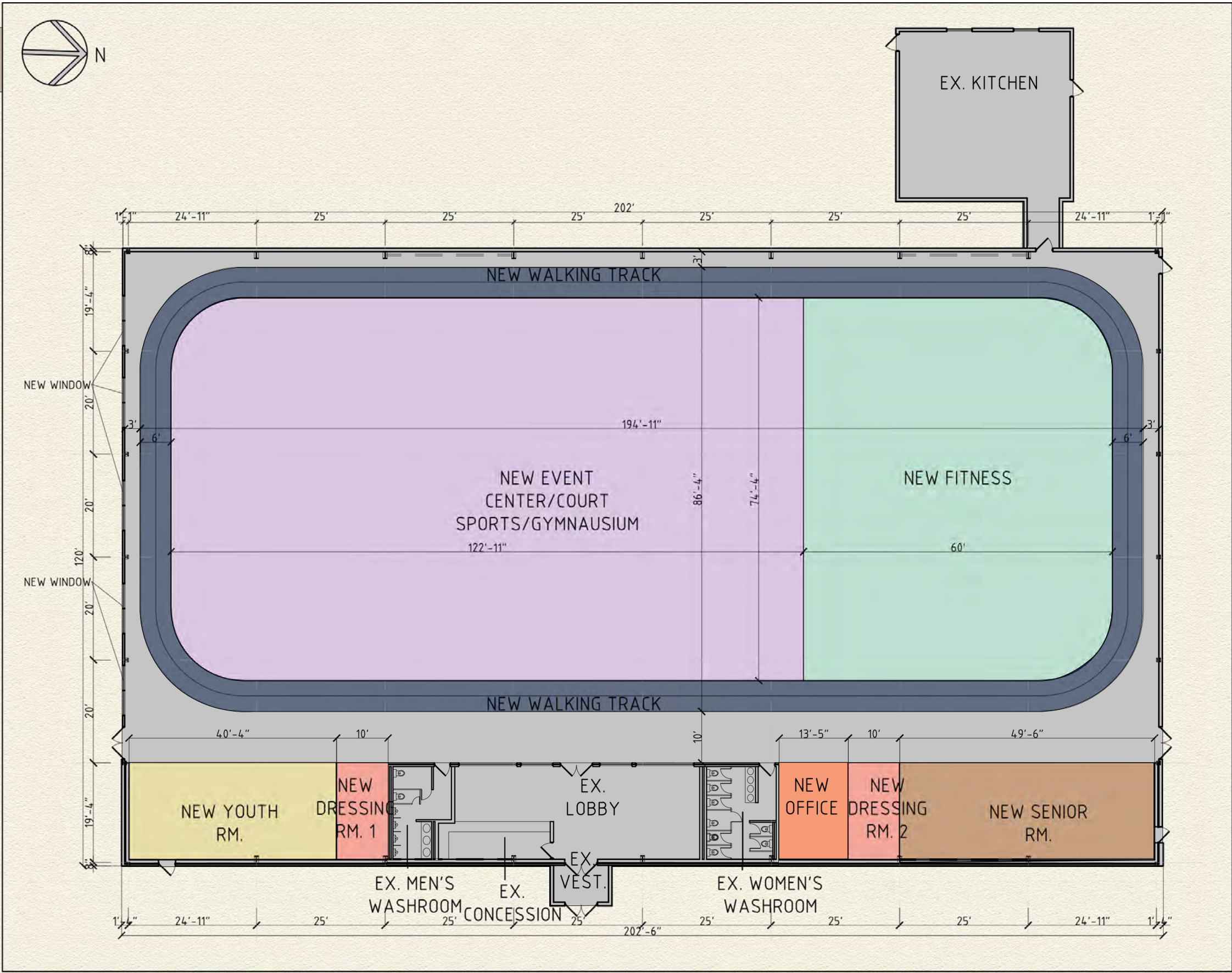
Option 1

Program

- New event center/court sports/gymnasium with resilient flooring
(841.0 sm, 9,053 sf)
- New walking track with resilient flooring
(283.8 sm, 3,055 sf)
- New fitness with resilient flooring
(406.5 sm, 4,376 sf)
- New senior rm.
(87.8 sm, 945 sf)
- New youth rm.
(70.6 sm, 760 sf)
- New dressing rm.
(34.9 sm, 376 sf)
- New office
(23.5 sm, 253 sf)

Legend

NEW EVENT CENTER/COURT SPORTS/GYMNAUSIUM
NEW WALKING TRACK
NEW FITNESS
NEW SENIOR RM.
NEW YOUTH RM.
NEW DRESSING RM.
NEW OFFICE
NEW CHILDREN'S PLAY SPACE
NEW MEDICAL SPACE
EXISTING TO REMAIN
NEW INCUBATION



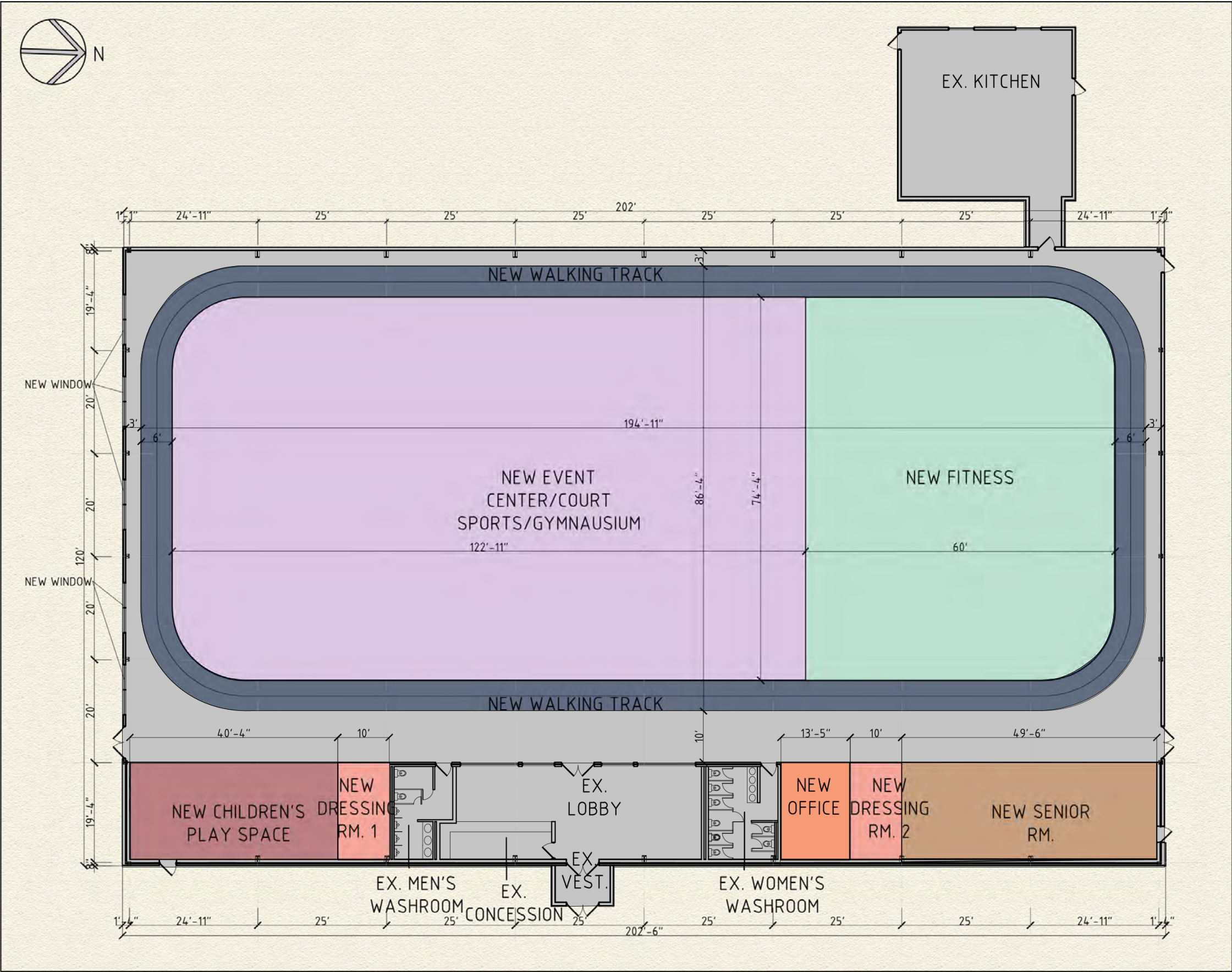
Option 2

Program

- New event center/court sports/gymnasium with resilient flooring
(841.0 sm, 9,053 sf)
- New walking track with resilient flooring
(283.8 sm, 3,055 sf)
- New fitness with resilient flooring
(406.5 sm, 4,376 sf)
- New senior rm.
(87.8 sm, 945 sf)
- New dressing rm.
(34.9 sm, 376 sf)
- New office
(23.5 sm, 253 sf)
- New children's play space
(70.6 sm, 760 sf)

Legend

NEW EVENT CENTER/COURT SPORTS/GYMNAUSIUM
NEW WALKING TRACK
NEW FITNESS
NEW SENIOR RM.
NEW YOUTH RM.
NEW DRESSING RM.
NEW OFFICE
NEW CHILDREN'S PLAY SPACE
NEW MEDICAL SPACE
EXISTING TO REMAIN
NEW INCUBATION



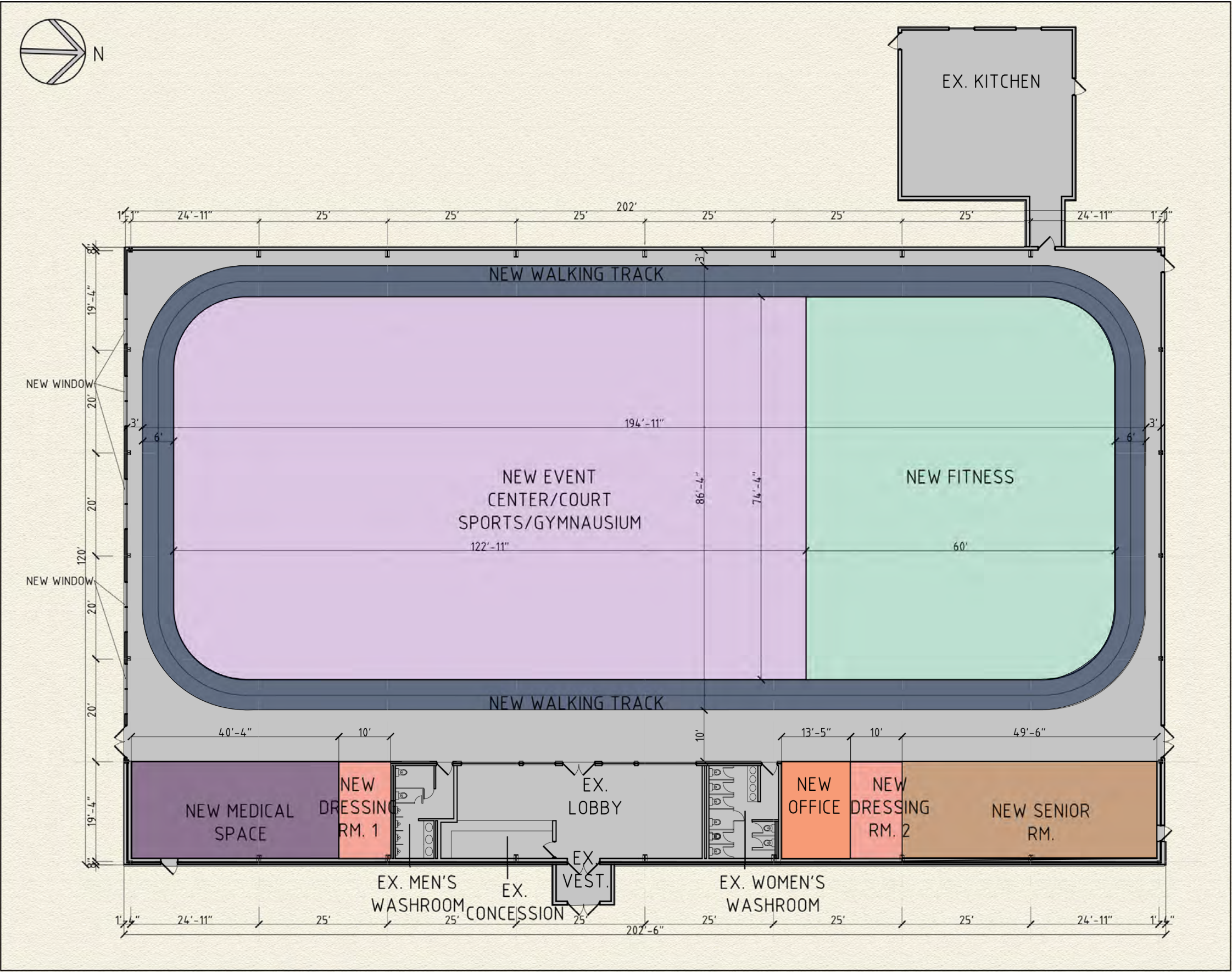
Option 3

Program

- New event center/court sports/gymnasium with resilient flooring (841.0 sm, 9,053 sf)
- New walking track with resilient flooring (283.8 sm, 3,055 sf)
- New fitness with resilient flooring (406.5 sm, 4,376 sf)
- New senior rm. (87.8 sm, 945 sf)
- New dressing rm. (34.9 sm, 376 sf)
- New office (23.5 sm, 253 sf)
- New medical space (70.6 sm, 760 sf)

Legend

NEW EVENT CENTER/COURT SPORTS/GYMNAUSIUM
NEW WALKING TRACK
NEW FITNESS
NEW SENIOR RM.
NEW YOUTH RM.
NEW DRESSING RM.
NEW OFFICE
NEW CHILDREN'S PLAY SPACE
NEW MEDICAL SPACE
EXISTING TO REMAIN
NEW INCUBATION



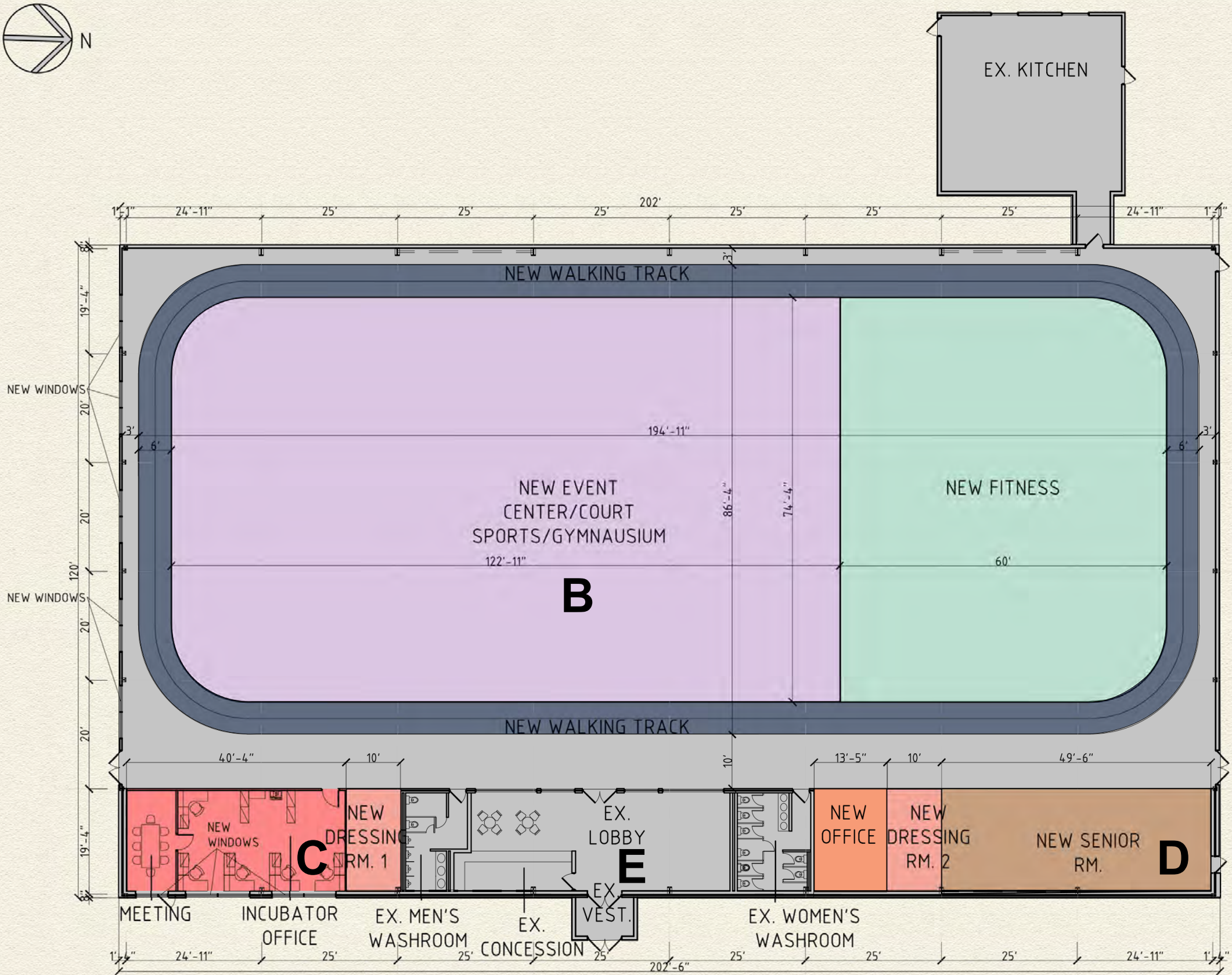
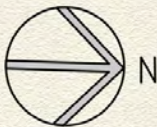
Option 4

Program

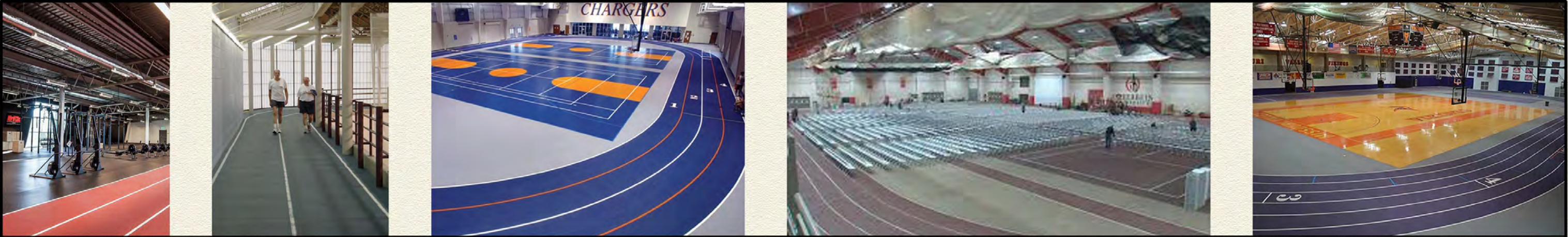
- New event center/court sports/gymnasium with resilient flooring
(841.0 sm, 9,053 sf)
- New walking track with resilient flooring
(283.8 sm, 3,055 sf)
- New fitness with resilient flooring
(406.5 sm, 4,376 sf)
- New senior rm.
(87.8 sm, 945 sf)
- New dressing rm.
(34.9 sm, 376 sf)
- New office
(23.5 sm, 253 sf)
- New incubator office
(70.6 sm, 760 sf)

Legend

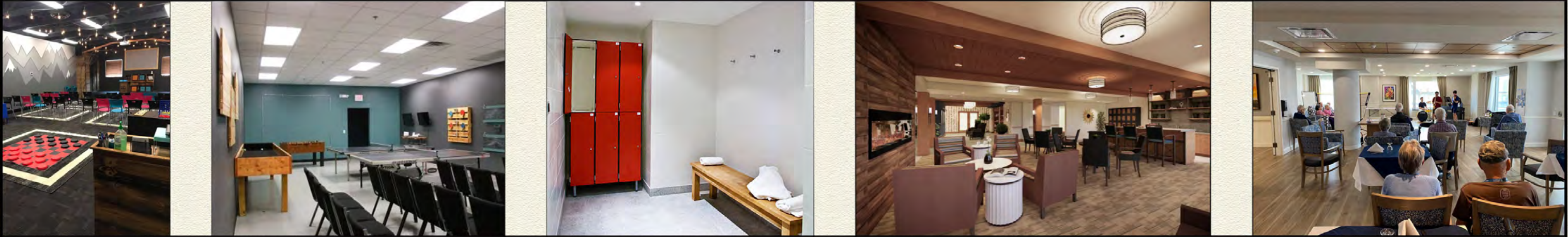
- NEW EVENT CENTER/COURT SPORTS/GYMNAUSIUM - **B**
- NEW WALKING TRACK
- NEW FITNESS
- NEW SENIOR RM.- **D**
- NEW YOUTH RM.
- NEW DRESSING RM.
- NEW OFFICE
- NEW CHILDREN'S PLAY SPACE
- NEW MEDICAL SPACE
- EXISTING TO REMAIN \ EXISTING LOBBY - **E**
- NEW INCUBATOR OFFICE - **C**



Images



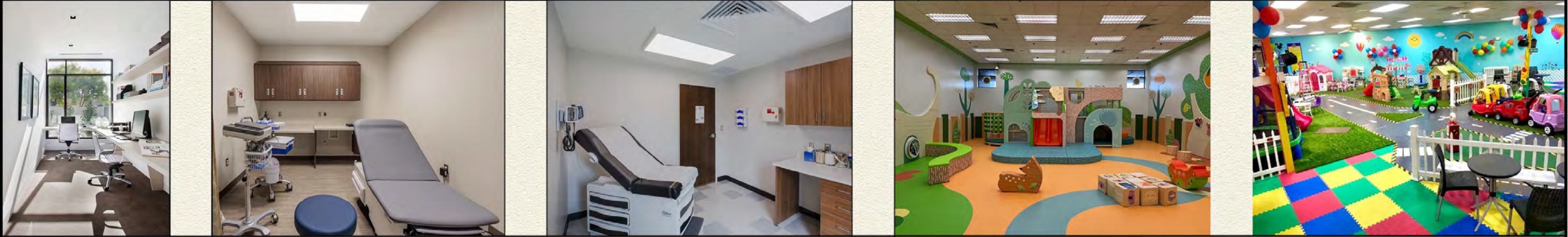
NEW EVENT CENTER/COURT SPORTS/GYMNAUSIUM /NEW WALKING TRACK /NEW FITNESS



NEW YOUTH ROOM

NEW DRESSING ROOM

NEW SENIOR ROOM



NEW OFFICE

NEW MEDICAL ROOM

NEW CHILDREN'S PLAY SPACE

MASS STUDY

