



F: Recreation Facility Assessments

This Appendix contains the comprehensive needs assessments of recreational facilities provided by the Town of Milton. The assessments are based on a methodology that considers the existing (and anticipated, where applicable) supply in relation to current and forecasted socio-demographic information, trends and market conditions, feedback from community engagement activities, and appropriate service level standards. Needs and associated action plans have been developed in accordance with a three to five year planning time frame through which the Town's population is anticipated to grow from 92,860 in 2013 to 139,500 by the year 2018.

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Multi-Use Community Centres

Supply

The Town of Milton operates three multi-use community recreation centres (Milton Leisure Centre, Mattamy National Cycling Centre and Milton Sports Centre) and one multi-use cultural centre (Milton Centre for the Arts). The Mattamy National Cycling Centre (M.N.C.C.), opened in Winter 2015, contains a number of recreational facilities that were available for community use in advance of the 2015 Pan Am Games and will be broadly open to the public once the Games have concluded. There are a number of singular-focused indoor facilities operated by the Town that are discussed in the stand-alone community hall and integrated multi-purpose activity room assessments found later in this Appendix.

Market Conditions

Multi-use community centres continue to play a vital role in Milton, functioning as hubs of community activity that serves a broad spectrum of the population through the availability of many recreational and cultural services. Such facilities are often designed to provide welcoming, aesthetically pleasing and interesting spaces that encourage both programmed and spontaneous usage, including provision of quality common seating and lounge areas aimed at promoting social inclusion and informal gathering. In addition to indoor recreation opportunities, these multi-use community centres are typically complemented with a variety of outdoor recreation facilities such as sports fields, splash pads and playgrounds. Milton's multi-use facilities are optimized to promote convenience and efficiency to the general public; they are places where time-pressed households can access individual or family-oriented activities simultaneously (e.g. a caregiver can utilize a walking track while a child uses an arena), allows the Town to provide enhanced services through cross-programming (e.g. seniors programs can leverage an active living studio followed by a swim in a pool), and the building can generate economies of scale through its operation (e.g. staffing and utilities costs tend to be lower compared to operating two stand-alone single-use locations). The provision of both indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities, particularly when co-located, can effectively contribute to establishing complete communities and enhancing quality of life for residents living around them.

Community Feedback

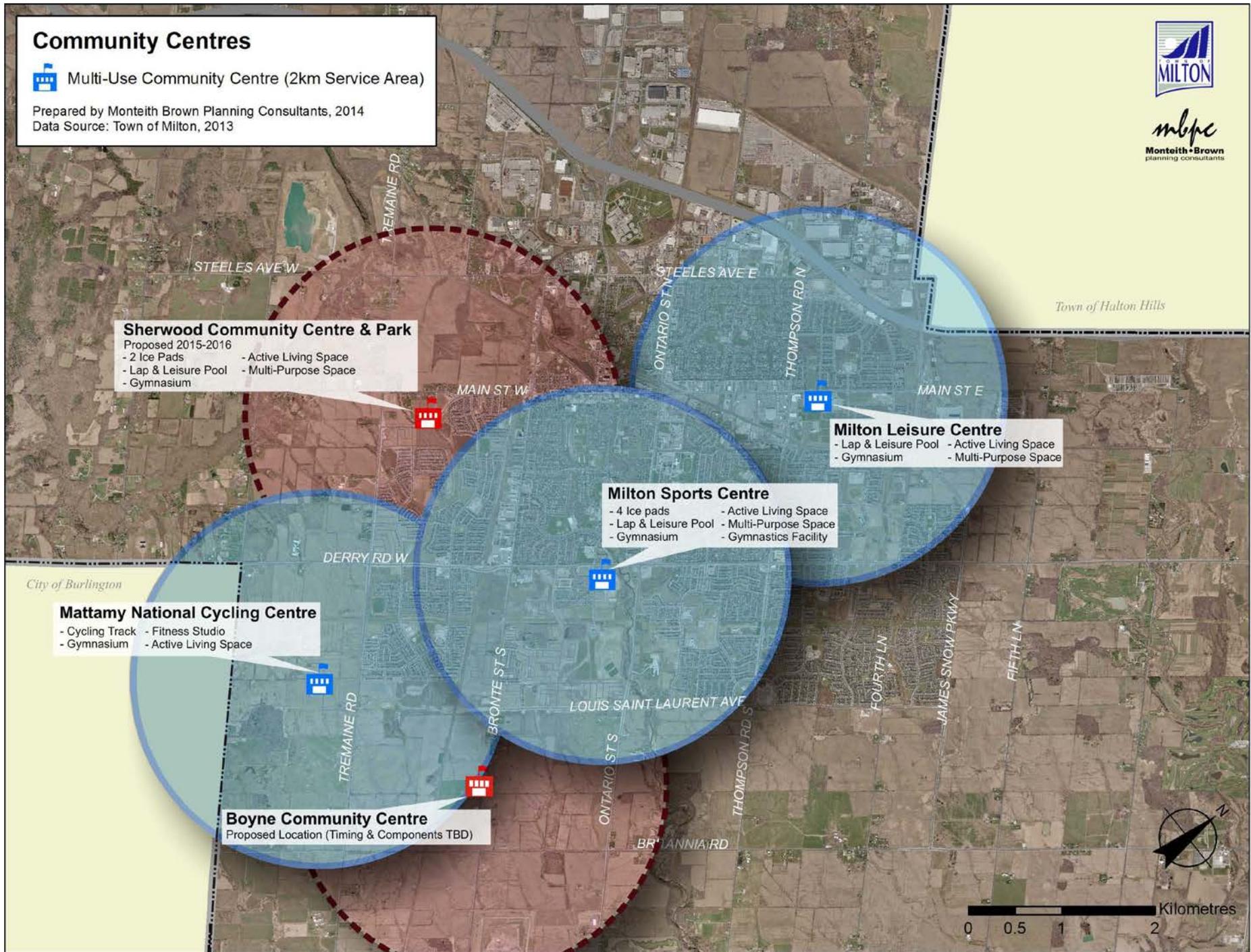
Community input received throughout the C.S.M.P. Update process revealed overall satisfaction with the complement of facilities located under one roof, particularly at the Milton Sports Centre. It appears residents appreciate the cross-programming opportunities while user groups are benefitting from centralized facilities where dry-land training opportunities complement their core uses. Additionally, the Town's *Community Profile Survey (2013)* found the following with respect to municipal community centres:

- The M.S.C. was used by 63% of the sample, followed by 59% at the M.L.C. and 37% at the M.C.A. Newer residents to Milton, particularly those living in the Town between five and ten years, were more likely to use drop-in recreation programs and facilities such as the M.L.C. and the M.S.C. Additionally, residents who feel like they are part of the community are significantly more likely to use the M.L.C. and the M.S.C.
- Overall satisfaction levels were 98% for the M.S.C., 96% for the M.C.A., and 88% for the M.L.C. For the M.S.C. and M.L.C., the highest priority items for increasing satisfaction included conducting improvements to rental booking process, food concessions (at M.S.C.) and washroom cleanliness (M.L.C.).
- Among those offering recommendations for improving the recreation services system as a whole, 5% suggested building more facilities or expanding existing facilities which represented the third most common response (excluding 'do nothing').

Community Centres

 Multi-Use Community Centre (2km Service Area)

Prepared by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2014
Data Source: Town of Milton, 2013



Sherwood Community Centre & Park
Proposed 2015-2016

- 2 Ice Pads	- Active Living Space
- Lap & Leisure Pool	- Multi-Purpose Space
- Gymnasium	

Milton Leisure Centre

- Lap & Leisure Pool	- Active Living Space
- Gymnasium	- Multi-Purpose Space

Milton Sports Centre

- 4 Ice pads	- Active Living Space
- Lap & Leisure Pool	- Multi-Purpose Space
- Gymnasium	- Gymnastics Facility

Mattamy National Cycling Centre

- Cycling Track	- Fitness Studio
- Gymnasium	- Active Living Space

Boyne Community Centre
Proposed Location (Timing & Components TBD)

Needs Assessments

Needs assessments undertaken for the C.S.M.P. Update (as documented throughout the rest of this Appendix) confirm the need for the following facilities, all of which should be considered within what will be referred to as the 'Sherwood Community Centre' herein and located at the Sherwood District Park along Main Street (east of Tremaine Road).

- Twin-Pad Arena;
- Indoor Aquatics Centre containing a 25 metre lane pool with separate leisure tank;
- Active Living / Activity Studio; and
- Multi-Purpose Activity Space including a satellite facility for the Milton Seniors Activity Centre.

The facility is optimally designed in a manner that permits subsequent phase(s) of construction, possibly for a future fitness centre and/or ice pads if warranted by future demand noting, however, that the limited size of the site may constrain the extent of future expansion potential after factoring additional vehicular parking requirements and outdoor park elements that are ultimately implemented. Design flexibility considering future conversion or adaptive re-use potential should be integrated in the design process to allow the recreation spaces to respond to future participation and demographic trends. As part of the Terms of Reference for the C.S.M.P. Update, a feasibility study complete with architectural concepts and supporting business plan will be developed under separate cover.

Longer-Term Considerations beyond the C.S.M.P. Update Planning Period

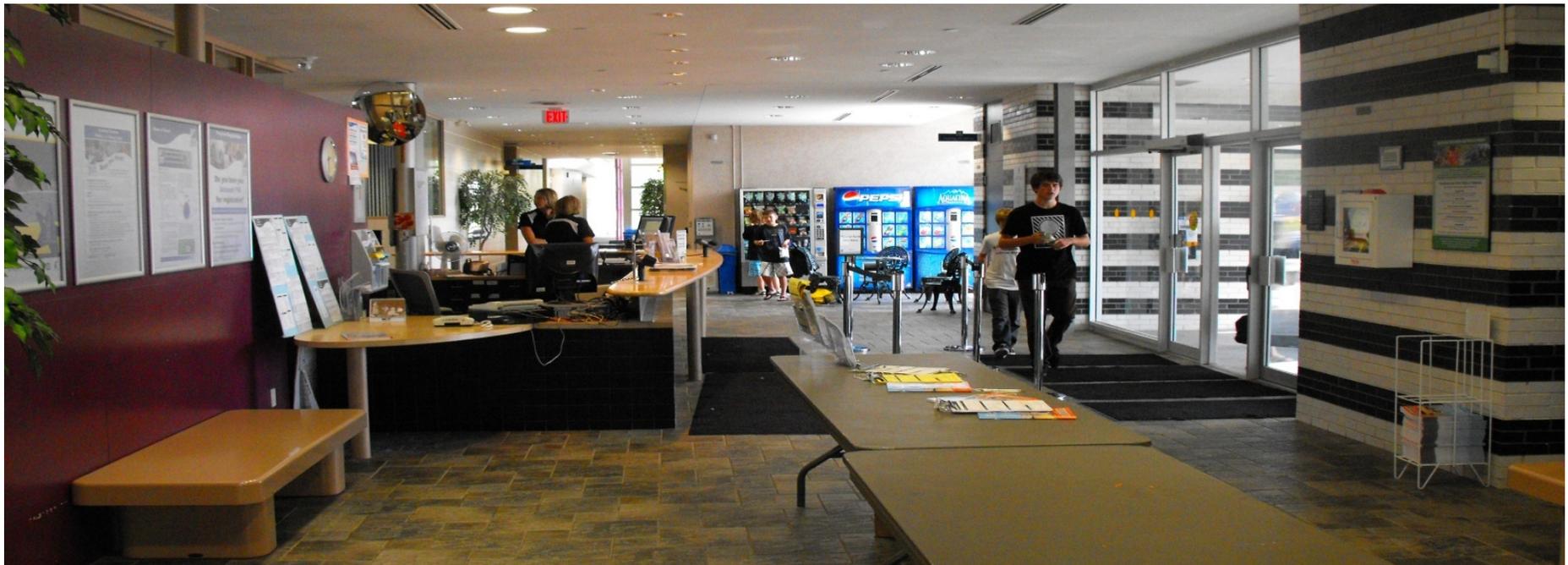
A second new multi-use community centre is anticipated to be required in the Boyne Secondary Plan area, however, the need generated for this facility places its timing shortly after the C.S.M.P. Update planning period (i.e. beyond 2018). That said, the Town will have to be proactive and strategic in its efforts during the short-term to inform planning for this facility thus the Town should begin initially considering potential locations, potential partnership(s), and possible facility components for a Boyne community centre. In doing so, there are two District Parks established through the Boyne Secondary Plan which have policies permitting inclusion of indoor recreation facilities.

The Boyne District Park West, located in the Walker neighbourhood (west of First Line) is the most plausible candidate for a new Boyne Community Centre based on present concepts and phasing plans. The western portion of the Boyne Secondary Plan is scheduled for the first phase of development, creating the critical mass and infrastructure servicing requirements necessary to support the future community centre at the time in which it is anticipated to be needed. The District Park West is also the larger of the two District Parks in Boyne, thus is better suited to integrating the community centre and associated servicing (e.g. parking) within its boundaries.

At this point in time and subject to confirmation toward the end of the C.S.M.P. Update period, it is envisioned that the Boyne community centre would be an ideal location for a twin pad arena, indoor aquatics centre, an active living studio and community activity spaces (similar in scale to the facility being proposed for Sherwood). The Boyne District Park West should also consider provision of sports fields, hard surface courts, playgrounds, skateboard/BMX park, and a major splash pad. Opportunities to develop institutional lands (e.g. a secondary school) immediately adjacent to the District Park parcel should be explored to potentially co-locate indoor and/or outdoor facilities with a non-municipal partner. Preliminary concepts envision the District Park West sitting adjacent to a secondary school site, creating joint-development opportunities for a community centre and high school through a strategic partnership with a school board (a notable recent example is the successful partnership between the City of Burlington, Halton District School Board and Burlington Public Library that resulted in the new Haber Recreation Centre).

Action Plans

- F1. Proceed with the development of a 'Sherwood Community Centre' at the Sherwood District Park, targeting opening in the year 2018. Subject to confirmation through the Sherwood Community Centre's feasibility study and business plan, this facility should contain a twin pad arena, indoor aquatics centre, active living studio, older adult activity space, and multi-purpose activity areas as discussed throughout the C.S.M.P. Update.
- F2. Design future community centres in a manner that permits future facility expansions and conversions that respond to future trends, conforms to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, integrates principles of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), considers green building designs integrating energy and water conservation measures, and seeks creative partnership opportunities in their construction and/or operation. New multi-use community centres should be located within reasonable proximity to major transportation spines including arterial roads, transit routes, and active transportation infrastructure.
- F3. In anticipation of the need for a Boyne Community Centre to address the growth-related needs of that area beyond the C.S.M.P. Update timeframe (i.e. post 2018), the Town should proactively commence a number of pre-planning considerations including: identifying and securing a potential site for the facility; and initiating preliminary discussions with potential partners including but not limited to the Milton Public Library, secondary and post-secondary institutions, and/or non-profit agencies.



Ice Rinks

a) Arenas

Supply

There are currently a total of six ice rinks operated by the Town of Milton, located at the John Tonelli Sports Centre, the Milton Memorial Arena and the Milton Sports Centre (containing a quad-pad). The Town has invested heavily in its arenas in recent years, constructing two new ice pads at the Milton Sports Centre as well as replacing the concrete slabs and conducting other interior improvements at both the Tonelli and Memorial Arenas.

Market Conditions

While arena participation remains fairly strong, trends in many G.T.A. communities are showing signs of stagnation or decline in organized hockey and figure skating driven largely by a lack of time, escalating costs (from ice rentals, equipment and travel), concerns about health and safety of players, and shifting interests to other sports (such as soccer). In Milton, however, arena users appear to be in a growth stage and are bucking regional trends largely due to the significant population growth, particularly among younger families who tend to generate arena-related demands (minor users tend to utilize the majority of arena time). Town data suggests that there are an estimated 5,400 participants registered with various community organizations and pick-up groups, of which about 70% (3,700) are affiliated with Milton Minor Hockey and the Milton Skating Club.

Looking at communities in the western G.T.A., Milton is providing a service level of approximately 1 ice rink per 17,000 residents.

Municipality	Service Level	Total Ice Rinks	Target Service Level
1. Halton Hills	1 : 12,000	5	1 : 750 registrants
2. Oakville	1 : 14,000	13	1 : 650 youth registrants
3. Burlington	1 : 16,000	11	unspecified
4. Milton	1 : 17,000	6	1 : 800 registrants
5. Vaughan	1 : 36,000	8	1 : 500 youth registrants
Benchmark Average	1 : 19,000	9	

Note: Service level rounded to the nearest 500 residents

Regionally, very few single pad arenas have been constructed. Instead, the current design trend is to construct multi-pad arena complexes with the most common template being the twin-pad arena. There are also examples of quad-pad arenas, with the Milton Sports Centre and Mold-Masters Sportsplex (Georgetown) being two notable developments that recently added two ice pads onto existing twin pad facilities while Oakville constructed a quad pad about four years ago while Mississauga and Brampton have had quad-pad arenas in their supply for a number of years.

Community Feedback

Milton Minor Hockey, Milton Skating Club, North Halton Girls Hockey Association and Milton Speed Skating Club responded to the Community Group Survey. The latter also participated in the Recreation & Sport Roundtable. These groups note that continued membership growth may result in additional ice time needs, particularly during convenient ice times, with the Speed Skating Club also articulating a desire for an Olympic size rink. The Town's *Community Profile Survey* (2013) did not ask specific questions about satisfaction or use of Milton's arenas.

Arenas



Arenas (2km Service Area)

Prepared by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2014
Data Source: Town of Milton, 2013



Monteith • Brown
planning consultants

Town of Halton Hills

City of Burlington

Sherwood Community Centre & Park
Proposed 2015-2016
- Twin Pad

John Tonelli Sports Centre
- Single Pad

Milton Sports Centre
- Quad Pad

Milton Memorial Arena
- Single Pad



0 0.5 1 2 Kilometres

Local
Utilization
Rates

Prior to construction of the two new rinks at the M.S.C. (Rinks C and D), prime time utilization in Milton was very strong at 95% of prime hours being used and very little opportunity for rental and program growth. Addition of the new rinks has resulted in a healthy 91% prime utilization rate for the 2014/15 season, providing users with greater choice in availability of their desired time slots, opportunity to accommodate additional growth, and has resulted in an additional 3,565 hours being booked since 2010/11, including over 763 hours for the Community Services Department to grow and deliver its highly desired drop-in skating programs. The number of drop-in skates (which consist of a variety of recreational skates, shinny, Stick 'N Puck, and drop-in figure skating) increased to over 66,000 visits in 2014, up over 21,000 visits (39%) from two years prior.

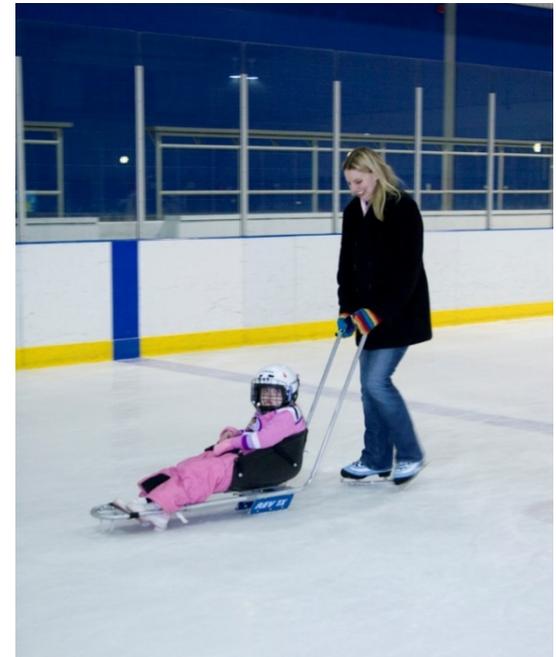
All of this suggests that Milton's arenas are being booked more often by community service providers and for municipal programming, including in non-prime hours, which is indicative of strong demand for ice rinks. This is unsurprising given the youthful nature of the Town, the additional opportunities afforded by the new M.S.C. rinks, along with the fact that registrations among arena groups have been trending upwards. It also provides indications that demand will continue to grow in line with population and development trends in Milton.

Needs
Assessments

Ice pad needs in Ontario are typically evaluated based on a per capita or per participant basis. A per participant standard is able to reflect at market penetration rates whereas a per capita rate is simply a measure of providing a specified number of facilities based upon overall population growth or decline. Regionally, most communities plan arena facilities based on a participant basis (as noted earlier in the market conditions subsection) though Mississauga and Brampton are examples of communities that use a per capita measure. For the latter two municipalities, it is important to recognize that they are in a mature development stage where populations are aging and are under less pressure to construct new arenas than young and rapidly growing communities.

Milton's growing population, particularly in younger age cohorts, is well suited for a per participant standard. Understanding local penetration/capture rates and applying it to the Town's forecasted age structure is an evidence-based approach to rationalizing future demand. Milton's 2008 C.S.M.P. utilized a market-based standard of 1 ice rink per 800 registered players to determine the required number of arenas and ice pads. While there have been regional arena developments in recent years, notably in Halton Hills and Oakville that have increased the regional availability of ice, these do not appear to have eroded utilization and booking rates in Milton as evidenced by the increased arena bookings locally. This and the fact that Milton's young and rapidly growing population is expected to sustain short to medium-term demand for ice, a downward adjustment to the service level standard is not warranted. Similarly, it would also not be wise to increase the service level standard, remaining cognisant that many communities in Canada and G.T.A. are experiencing stable to declining take up of ice, particularly in maturing communities (i.e. Mississauga, Brampton, and to a lesser degree Oakville).

Accordingly, the C.S.M.P. Update maintains the previously endorsed service level standard of 1 ice rink per 800 registered participants. By this standard, the current estimated registration of between 5,400 and 5,600 participants translates into the need for approximately 7 ice pads. By the end of the C.S.M.P. Update planning period in 2018, approximately 6,200 registered ice participants are forecasted using existing capture rates among



youth and adult market segments. Such registration would warrant the capacity equivalent of 7.75 ice pads in total, or two more ice pads than currently provided, largely attributable to continued population growth. Most notably the children and youth cohorts are expected to generate new pressures on prime time ice at current, or even slightly diminishing, capture rates. The increase in supply is further supported by strong utilization rates, increasing number of rentals, growing participation in Town programs, and growth in the number of participants associated with local arena user groups.

Projection models indicate that at a forecasted year 2025 population of 159,240 (per the Draft Development Charges Background Study), the Town of Milton may require a total of 10 ice pads representing another two ice pads over and above needs identified in the C.S.M.P. Update period (i.e. four ice pads more than the current supply). The preferred approach to addressing arena-related needs is to provide two ice pads by 2018 in order to observe the arena's take-up and subsequently reassess the need for these additional ice pads. Ice pad needs could continue to increase after that time and may result in some latent demand occurring between 2019 and 2025, subsequent paragraphs discuss the challenges and constraints of constructing a quad pad arena in the short-term (given the degree of risk that exists with regional uncertainty in ice sport participation and potential overbuilding the supply to meet peak demands) and the fact that such a strategy may result in unbalanced geographic distribution (i.e. ice pads would not likely be located in Boyne).

The arena distribution map illustrates that there is excellent service coverage within most of the urban area located within 2 kilometres of an arena (about a five minute drive). Distribution in the urban area is particularly comprehensive, with the exception of segments in the Harrison and Beaty neighbourhoods. In terms of opportunity, the preferred design template is to develop multi-pad arena complexes within multi-use community centres as per current municipal practice. This is the most operationally efficient and user-preferred approach (as opposed to constructing any more single pad arenas), resulting in the need to look at District Park parcels that have the necessary land mass in which to build multi-use facilities. The most plausible arena site available in the short-term is at the proposed Sherwood Community Centre near Main Street and Tremaine Road, a site that will also benefit from proximity to Highway 401 (particularly if a highway interchange is constructed at Tremaine Road) since it may provide supplemental opportunities through access to the regional market.

Accordingly, a twin pad arena is the preferred template to be provided at the Sherwood Community Centre to meet needs within the C.S.M.P. Update period while a second twin pad arena is recommended to service the Boyne Community. To meet arena needs beyond 2021, second phase expansions to the proposed twin pad arenas in Sherwood and Boyne should be considered at that future time. While the proposed strategy will place pressures on the existing arenas and the future Sherwood twin pad arena until a Boyne facility is constructed (likely around the year 2019), the merits of this approach include the Town:

- achieving excellent spatial distribution in its north and south, particularly in Boyne where 50,000 persons are forecasted to reside;
- approaching arena development cautiously in light of the present uncertainty in arena demand across the G.T.A. (where many communities are experiencing declining registrations, utilization and rentals, and increasing subsidy requirements);
- employing a fiscally sustainable approach whereby it reduces the risk of building to “peak” needs rather than achieving more desirable “ultimate” requirements after demand eventually tapers off (due to eventual aging of the population and possible shifts in interests).

While not recommended at this time, subsequent paragraphs discuss the potential consideration of a quad-pad arena to meet long-term needs. Given land development restrictions and low population density outside of the urban area, along with the fact that the C.S.M.P. Update discourages construction of single-purpose facilities, an arena is not deemed to be a feasible level of service in Milton's designated rural and hamlet areas.

Design Options

The twin pad arena proposed at the Sherwood Community Centre should be NHL size regulation (200' x 85') at a minimum and be supported with a minimum of six change rooms per pad, referee room, first aid room, concession area, spectator viewing/seating areas, and washrooms. While demands for an Olympic size ice rink (200' x 100') were expressed by local figure skating and speed skating groups, the uptake on these larger pads tends to be lower since hockey users tend to favour NHL regulation pads (particularly minor and adult players). With 160 figure skaters registered with the Milton Skating Club and 67 members registered with the Milton Speed Skating Club, the Town does not yet have a critical mass to support sustainable bookings for an Olympic size pad.

Some communities have constructed small "shooter" or "leisure" pads that can facilitate some skills development (e.g. goalie practice) or three-on-three play, though such small rinks have been met with mixed results across Ontario. In some communities, such as Acton, the leisure pad is large enough to facilitate three-on-three play which offers a unique experience. In others, such as Tillsonburg and St. Catharines, undersized shooter pads are so specialized (e.g. suitable for goalie practices) that their utilization/bookings are not as strong as originally envisioned. Minimal demand was expressed through consultations for such small pads in Milton.

In terms of spectator seating capacities, there are presently no indications that a bowl or event-type arena is necessary although that may change if a large spectator area can be supported through financial planning (e.g. through varsity or Junior A attendance and/or contributions). For options such as Olympic size pads, leisure pads or larger spectator areas, it is also important to recognize that in the absence of a strong case rationalizing their inclusion, the valuable community centre square footage that would be consumed by such uses may be better allocated to another needed recreational component.

Longer-Term Considerations beyond the C.S.M.P. Update Planning Period

Should the Town confirm continued arena-related growth after the opening of the proposed twin pad arena in Sherwood and beyond the C.S.M.P. Update period, there are presently two logical options for the Town to evaluate. The first option, and most plausible approach is to develop a twin pad arena as part of a future multi-use community centre in the Boyne Secondary Plan area to service that community's growth-related needs. Development of a twin pad in Boyne is the presently the preferred approach since its projected 50,000 new residents will generate the majority of long-term arena demands, and also continue create geographical balance across urban Milton.

A second option that may be considered would be to undertake a second phase expansion to the proposed arena in Sherwood, essentially creating a quad pad complex. While there may be additional operational efficiencies to be gained through a quad-pad template (e.g. economies of scale in staffing, utilities, equipment, etc.), revenue generating potential only tends to be maximized if refocusing on adult and commercial opportunities (e.g. hockey schools), something which would deviate from the Town's existing allocation philosophies centred around prioritizing access for community programming and minor users. Furthermore, creating a quad pad at the Sherwood Community Centre would likely come at the expense of other needed indoor and outdoor community facilities given the need to manage the building's footprint within the seven hectare District Park, while leaving a considerable gap in the Boyne community through a less balanced distribution of facilities.

If supported by a business case and architectural feasibility studies, the Town may consider relocating ice pads from single purpose arenas (i.e. Tonelli and Memorial Arenas) into the existing multi-pad arenas (i.e. M.S.C., the proposed Sherwood arena) or construct a new twin pad. The business case to do so would certainly have to be strong given the Town’s recent multi-million dollar investments in replacing arena floors at both of its single pad arenas as well as the fact that Tonelli and Memorial are performing relatively well with 2013 operating subsidies of \$42,000 and \$74,000, respectively (most single pad arena tend to run a deficit in the range of \$100,000, depending upon market conditions and operating parameters). While relocation and repurposing of the two single pad arenas is not envisioned as happening based on present circumstances, unforeseen changes in participation rates or operational capacities may result in a need to consolidate the number of arenas (e.g. as possibly caused by declines in hockey or figure skating due to increases in indoor field sports or other emerging winter activities, greater constraints to funding future infrastructure deficits, etc.).

A few communities with aging populations and declining ice utilization rates have already converted arenas while others are now beginning to consider such possibilities as their arena rentals stagnate. Examples of adaptive re-uses of arenas include storage for public works vehicles and equipment, indoor tennis, indoor soccer, indoor cricket, box lacrosse, indoor skateboarding, community space for recreation, arts and cultural pursuits, etc.

- The Syl Apps Community Centre in Paris, Ontario recently was converted from an arena into an indoor turf field, which is now used for soccer, flag football, lacrosse and as space for seniors to walk during the winter (also, two of the change rooms were renovated and are now home to a Museum and Historical Society).
- Another unique example of a repurposed ice arena is the Kingsdale Community Centre in Kitchener, which is located in the old Patrick J. Doherty Arena.
- During the summer, Vancouver provides indoor playgrounds at a local arena (on a seasonal basis, using temporary equipment such as inflatable castles, simple climbers, ping-pong tables, etc.).
- Ridley College Field House in St. Catharines (repurposed to gymnasium and fitness space) and the Loblaw/Ryerson University re-development at the old Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto offer other useful examples of arena repurposing.

Most communities refocus marketing efforts and allocation procedures in hopes of reversing declining usage at their arenas prior to committing to removing ice pads from the supply. Again, it must be emphasized that removal of the single pad rinks is not something that is expected in Milton over the foreseeable future based upon the arena provision strategy advanced herein. Nonetheless, Milton’s future arena designs should be flexible to allow long-term conversion possibilities if need be (recognizing that if they are constructed, they would most likely operate as arenas for more than a decade otherwise the investment risk would likely be too great to justify construction of the arena facilities in the first place).

Action Plans

- F4. Construct a twin-pad arena as part of the proposed Sherwood Community Centre, subject to confirmation through the feasibility study and business plan that re-evaluates prime and shoulder time utilization rates. Future ice pads should be NHL regulation size (200’ x 85’) and be supported with a minimum of six change rooms per pad, referee rooms, first aid room, concession area, spectator viewing/seating areas, and washrooms.
- F5. Monitor arena utilization, subsequent to the construction of the proposed twin-pad arena at the Sherwood Community Centre, to inform the need for additional arenas including those that may be required to serve the Boyne Secondary Plan Area.

b) Curling Rinks

Supply	As is common practice in many municipalities across Ontario, the Town of Milton does not own or operate any municipal curling facilities. The Milton Curling Club operates its own facility to provide curling opportunities to the public.
Market Conditions	The survey of benchmarked municipalities does not reveal the existence of any municipally owned or operated curling facilities, but rather a number of community-based operations that service the public. Milton residents access curling programs, leagues and bonspiels through the Milton Curling Club. Many private/non-profit curling clubs in the G.T.A. offer a range of leagues for all age groups as a way to help sustain membership, however, participation in Ontario suggests curling largely appeals to an older segment of the community. The proportion of Canadians that curl has been declining for the past two decades, as evidenced by the number of curling clubs that have folded in certain jurisdictions and the fact that very few new curling facilities have been built in Ontario in recent years. It is anticipated that the outlook for curling at the national level is one of very slow growth, although the case may vary in each community.
Community Feedback	Consultations did not yield significant input with respect to the need for municipally-operated curling rinks.
Needs Assessments	The delivery of curling facilities and services has not historically formed part of the core service mandate of Milton's Community Services Department. The Milton Curling Club (and the Acton Curling Club in nearby Halton Hills, to a lesser degree) is the primary service provider to local residents. The availability of community-based curling opportunities and limited emphasis through community engagements suggests that the Town of Milton does not need to engage directly in the delivery of curling facilities and services at this time. Accordingly, no recommendations have been made with respect to municipal curling facilities and services.
Action Plans	<i>No recommendations have been made with respect to municipal curling facilities and services.</i>

c) Outdoor Ice Rinks

Supply	While the Town of Milton does not provide any permanent outdoor ice skating locations, it has historically constructed temporary and small-scale natural ice surfaces on certain softball diamonds. Presently, temporary outdoor skating rinks are flooded at the Campbellville Old Ball Park and Rotary Park diamonds.
Market Conditions	While once a Canadian tradition, it would appear that outdoor 'natural' ice skating opportunities are becoming increasingly difficult to provide due to global climate change. Uncertain and warming weather conditions have greatly impacted the provision of outdoor ice, with many municipalities (who

are choosing to provide outdoor skating opportunities) looking at artificial refrigeration or synthetic ice surfaces that are typically able to operate for a longer season but come at a very high cost to build and operate compared to natural ice.

Municipality	Service Level	Natural Ice Rinks	Artificial Rinks
1. Burlington	1 : 14,500	11	1
2. Halton Hills	1 : 20,000	3	0
3. Oakville	1 : 20,500	8	1
4. Vaughan	1 : 45,000	0	7
5. Milton	1 : 50,500	2	0
Benchmark Average	1 : 30,000	5	2

Notes: Service Level includes both natural and artificial ice surfaces, rounded to the nearest 500 residents. Benchmarks do not define a set provision standard for outdoor rinks, choosing to provide them where opportunity and feasibility permit.

Community Feedback

Consultations did not yield significant input with respect to outdoor ice skating rinks.

Needs Assessments

Consistent with themes from the 2008 C.S.M.P., provision of outdoor ice rinks should be evaluated if faced with community demand in the future. The C.S.M.P. Update’s consultation program did not reveal significant demand in this respect, though based on demands observed elsewhere in the G.T.A. and the rest of the Province, it is believed that a strategically located outdoor rink in Milton could be well utilized. The use of hard surface courts or neighbourhood-level sports fields continue to pose as potential venues for ice rinks due to their size and the relative simplicity of framing them to create the ice surface.

Artificial ice rinks can counteract the effects of the warming climate on operating capabilities as they employ mechanical and refrigeration systems similar to those found within arenas. This, however, comes at much more significant cost than their natural counterparts and accordingly fewer artificial ice rinks are being constructed province-wide unless tying into a broader economic development strategy or providing a municipally-wide level of service (as opposed to servicing a community or neighbourhood catchment). Depending upon their size and configuration, the capital and operating cost of artificial rinks ranges widely varies; common rinks can cost between \$100,000 to over \$1 million to build, while annual operating costs range from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars per year depending on the level of maintenance and the length of the operating season. Costs can be further inflated with common support elements such as roof structures, and washroom/change room facilities which is why many artificial rinks are located adjacent to community centres. Skating paths constructed in some communities are essentially artificial rinks of a different configuration and require similar capital and operational resources, though their function is largely relegated to pleasure skates (whereas rinks can accommodate both pleasure skating and pickup ice sports, depending on size).

The operating season for artificial rinks is typically December to March although the actual number of weeks varies greatly with climate conditions and municipal operating capabilities. Their refrigeration systems allow a municipality to ensure a more consistent operating season compared to natural ice surfaces since the latter is difficult to maintain above the freezing mark (recognizing the warmer the temperature gets, the greater becomes the

operating cost of running an artificial pad). Depending upon design, artificial pads can also be used in the non-winter months for ball hockey, basketball and tennis while larger artificial pads may be used for community events, again tying into their viability as economic development tools.

As mentioned, fewer artificial rinks are being constructed compared to the past. Research conducted across Ontario suggests that there is little consistency in how municipalities approach the provision of artificial rinks in the absence of generally accepted service level standards. Most municipalities view artificial rinks using an opportunity-based approach to create distinctive recreational experiences that cannot be offered within an arena. Accordingly, pursuit of an artificial rink should be rationalized through planning and economic development studies in conjunction with the principles of this C.S.M.P. Update, and be subjected to a cost-benefit analysis. An artificial rink in Milton should only be constructed with the view of creating a Town-wide ‘destination’, thereby suggesting location options consist of a Community or District Park, or a major civic node.

Action Plans

F6. Only consider outdoor artificial rinks in conjunction with other civic planning, urban design and/or economic development analyses given the sizeable costs to construct and operate refrigerated rinks.

Indoor & Outdoor Aquatics

a) Indoor Aquatic Centres

Supply

The Town of Milton operates two indoor aquatics centres, as shown on the map on the following page. The Milton Leisure Centre contains a 25 metre six-lane competition pool, a 30 metre leisure pool, and a teaching tank. The Milton Sports Centre contains a 25 metre eight-lane competition pool, and a leisure tank with waterplay elements. The pool located within the EC Drury School continues to be available to the community, however, the continued availability of this pool is uncertain as it is an aging non-municipal facility.

Market Conditions

Participation in swimming remains strong since it can be pursued from childhood through adulthood, either in a structured or drop-in format. In Milton, there were over 71,000 drop-in swims in 2014 at the M.L.C. and the M.S.C., which although was about 2,500 fewer swims from the year before, represents a 73% increase (over 30,000 more drop-in swims) since 2010 due to the opening of the M.S.C.’s indoor aquatic centre. The Town offered over 3,300 drop-in swimming opportunities during the past year, over 1,000 more than before the M.S.C. expansion. There were over 20,000 participants registered in the Town’s indoor aquatic programs in 2014, nearly three times the amount from 2010. The number of aqua-fit programs run by the Town, generally pursued by adults and older adults, has also almost doubled to nearly 500 opportunities since 2010 demonstrating that the pools are in demand by a wide range of ages and abilities.

The availability of the M.S.C. pool also significantly reduced the Town’s program waiting list from about 1,800 people in 2010 to about 370 this past year. While the M.S.C. has addressed a great deal of needs, the remaining wait list indicates that a degree of latent demand may still exist and is likely associated with continued population growth (and in particular increasing number of children) in the community. However, waiting lists should not be used as a sole indicator of latent demand as individuals may add themselves to a variety of timeslots at different pools in the hopes of being accepted into their preferred time (but are still served at another time/location if their top choice is not available) – in fact, Town data suggests that just 82 residents were not able to register for a program suited for their ability and that all other timeslots for their program choice were full and there were

no alternatives to accommodate these persons. With respect to community groups, the Milton Marlins Swim Team has 300 members (up 66% over three years) and the Milton Mighty Tritons Aquatic Club has about 80 members (double the registration from three years ago).

With three indoor aquatic centres available for community use (including the EC Drury pool), Milton is providing one aquatic centre per 33,750 residents. Regional service levels should be interpreted cautiously as municipalities have different arrangements in facility provision. For example, one pool in Milton (EC Drury) and two pools in Halton Hills are co-located with high schools and thus community access may be more limited relative to a dedicated municipal facility due to the nature of the joint-use agreement.

Municipality	Service Level	Total Indoor Aquatic Centres	Target Service Level
1. Halton Hills	1 : 20,000	3	1 : 40,000
2. Vaughan	1 : 24,000	13	1 : 30,000
3. Milton	1 : 33,500	3	1 : 35,000
4. Oakville	1 : 36,500	5	1 : 32,000
5. Burlington	1 : 44,000	4	unspecified
Benchmark Average	1 : 31,500	6	

Note: Service level rounded to the nearest 500 residents.

Community Feedback

The Sports & Recreation Roundtable and Community Group Surveys (with participation from the Milton Marlins Swim Team, Milton Mighty Tritons Aquatic Club and the Milton Masters Aquatic Club) emphasized a continued need for access to affordable and additional pool time in prime hours, along with the request that the Town consider aquatic facilities geared to higher level sport such as a 50 metre pool. The Marlins noted that their feeder program is heavily dependent upon the aging pool at the EC Drury school, posing a risk to their operations if the pool fails or its access is reduced.

On a broader note, the Town's *Community Profile Survey* (2013) noted the following with respect to aquatic services:

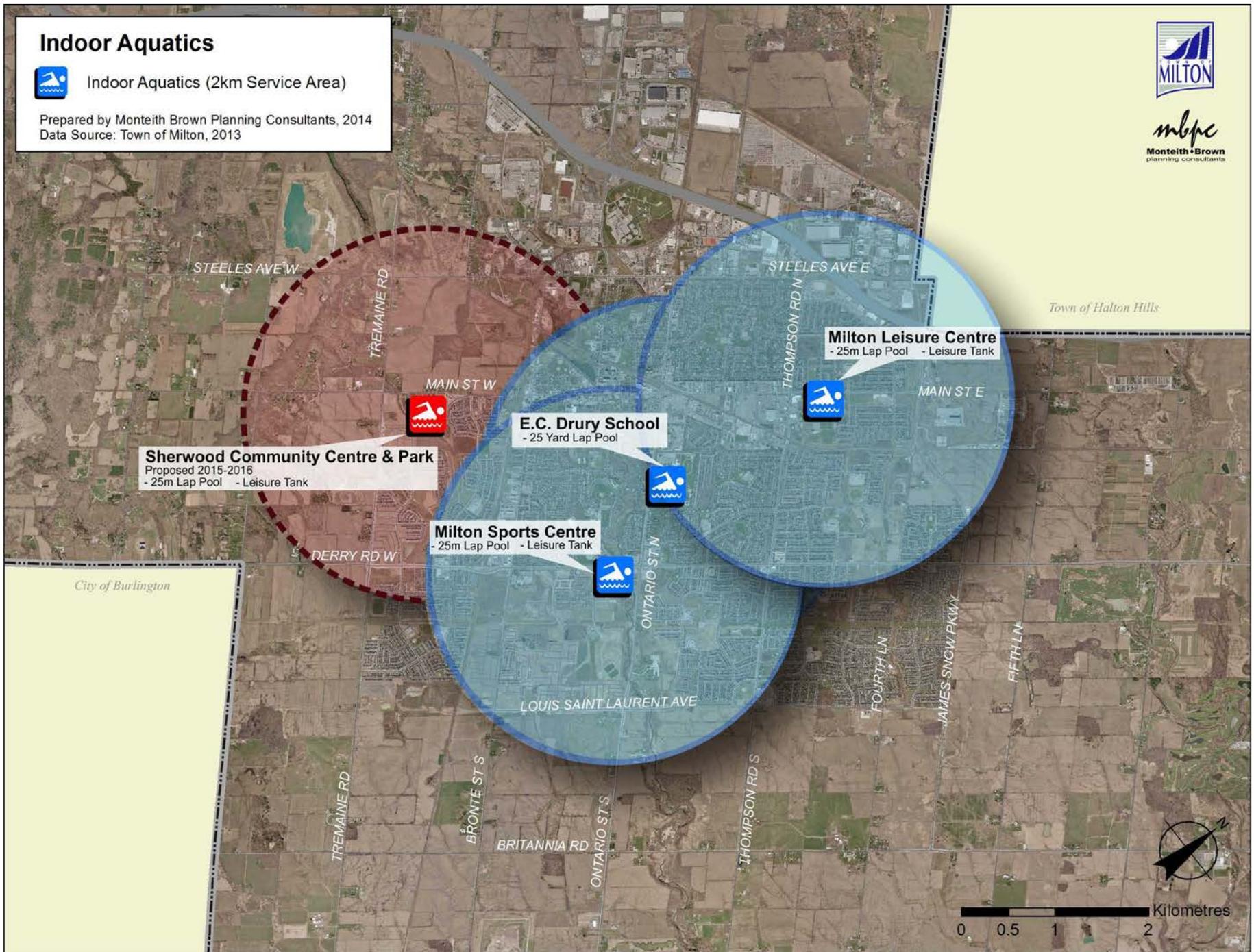
- About one-fifth (20%) of its sample reported participation in learn-to-swim programs during the past year, the most likely of whom resided in suburban areas of Milton. Another 13% reported participation in aqua-fit classes offered by the Town. The Survey recorded 97% satisfaction with aqua-fit programs and 89% satisfaction with learn-to-swim.
- Among those who did not use aqua-fit, most were uninterested (46%), too busy (20%), preferred to do these activities elsewhere (15%), or were unaware of these offerings (7%). For learn-to-swim, the same top three responses were given in the same order (though percentages were 45%, 12% and 10%, respectively) with lack of awareness being the sixth-most reported barrier (4%).
- Among those offering recommendations for improving the recreation services system as a whole, 3% suggested providing more drop-in swims which represented the fifth most common response (excluding 'do nothing'), followed by building more pools (1%).

Indoor Aquatics



Indoor Aquatics (2km Service Area)

Prepared by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2014
Data Source: Town of Milton, 2013



Sherwood Community Centre & Park
Proposed 2015-2016
- 25m Lap Pool - Leisure Tank

E.C. Drury School
- 25 Yard Lap Pool

Milton Leisure Centre
- 25m Lap Pool - Leisure Tank

Milton Sports Centre
- 25m Lap Pool - Leisure Tank

Needs Assessments

Consistent with the previous C.S.M.P., this Update utilizes a standard of 1 indoor aquatic facility per 35,000 residents to calculate the required number of aquatic centres given strong utilization of existing facilities, continued waiting lists, and an expectation of continued growth in younger population cohorts throughout the planning period. For the purposes of this assessment, EC Drury is counted as the capacity equivalent of half a pool (0.5) given its shared-use agreement as a school facility that is in an advanced lifecycle stage. With the capacity equivalent of 2.5 aquatic centres available at present, application of the provision standard to the current population results in aquatic needs being modestly underserved and it is expected that a new facility would be fully required, based on the provision standard alone, by the year 2018 shortly after a population of 105,000 is reached.

The new indoor aquatic facility should form part of the proposed Sherwood Community Centre along Main Street, thereby positioning the Town to service the majority of the Milton urban area within two kilometres of an aquatic centre (about a five minute drive) when factoring the other aquatic centres. The aquatic centre proposed for the Sherwood Community Centre should contain a 25 metre rectangular pool along with a separate leisure or therapeutic pool with pods for teaching areas and waterplay amenities. The aquatic centre should be designed primarily for community-level programming that integrates learn-to-swim capabilities along with a range of fun, interactive elements (potentially including a waterslide, bubble area, spray jets, etc.). The pool should also consider the needs of competitive swimming by providing a sufficient number of lanes with appropriate depth to support training and/or competitions (provided that the net increase in square footage associated with the requisite number of lanes does not come at the expense of provision of an adequately sized leisure pool and waterplay area). The pools should be supported with change rooms (including family change rooms), accessible features to ensure barrier-free opportunities for persons with disabilities, and pool viewing/seating areas.

Given land development restrictions and low population density outside of the urban area, along with the fact that the C.S.M.P. Update discourages single-purpose facilities, an indoor aquatics centre is not deemed to be a feasible level of service in Milton's designated rural and hamlet areas.

To Build or Not To Build? The 50 metre Question

In Milton and many municipalities across the G.T.A., the question of whether to build a 25 metre or a 50 metre pool is often asked. In 2008, the municipalities of Milton, Oakville, and Mississauga (M.O.M.) undertook a joint study for a Regional High Performance Facility with a 50 metre pool in response to demands expressed by swim clubs for the development of long course competitive facilities and serve regional aquatic requirements. The study process involved community and stakeholder consultation, a national trend review, concept development, capital cost estimates and operating cost analysis. The joint study concluded that there was insufficient community benefit to be derived from the shared pool concept to justify the significant capital cost and operating expense associated with the facility. A subsequent presentation to Town Council revealed that if three municipalities with a combined population of nearly one million people could not justify a 50 metre pool, it would be very unlikely that Milton could support such a significant facility on its own. A separate business case prepared in 2009 for the expansion of the Milton Sports Centre (that also evaluated the feasibility for a 50 metre pool) estimated that the annual net cost of operating a 50 metre pool facility would be over \$730,000 per year, nearly three times more than a 25 metre pool facility.

The M.O.M. findings, along with Milton's decision to not pursue a 50 metre tank at the Milton Sports Centre, have been validated across the G.T.A. over the past six years with most area municipalities conducting their own business cases that have resulted in them providing the traditional 25 metre rectangular pool or leisure tank to serve community-level recreational needs. The Town of Oakville commissioned a study⁹ in 2013 that determined

⁹Town of Oakville. June 2013. *OAK 50 M Pool Proposal: Business Case Review - Final Report*.

that a 50 metre pool in that community could cost between \$26 million and \$47 million to build, and run an annual operating deficit of between \$1.9 million and \$2.7 million per year. A recent submission to Town Council has indicated that a basic 35,000 square foot steel structure could be built at \$20 per square foot.¹⁰ This square footage is around one-sixteenth of the cost that has been typically observed in municipal facility construction (upwards of \$300 per square foot, noting the M.S.C. expansion was significantly higher than even this estimate). In addition, the Town must ensure that the facility would afford the degree of quality or integration with other multi-use facility components (i.e. pursuit of a single purpose pool is strongly discouraged as there would be no potential for cross-programming or cross-subsidization, or the ability to create multi-purpose community hubs as has been the Town's historical design philosophy).

Not only has the substantial cost of building and operating 50 metre pool facilities been a factor, but the construction of three new Olympic-sized tanks in Markham and Toronto for the Pan Am Games (that received considerable funding from senior levels government) has further saturated the competitive swim meet market by doubling the G.T.A. supply of 50 metre pools and thus challenges the financial viability of a 50 metre tank in Milton (especially without the support of regional municipal partners). Some international cities provide long courses at a greater rate per population since they receive funding support from their senior governments who place a great value on sport and sport achievement (e.g. United States, Australia, China, Great Britain are good examples of countries aspiring to be highly competitive at the international level). However, the funding model is quite different in those countries whereas senior levels of government in Canada have not tended to allocate as much ongoing funding towards sport and recreation facilities beyond legacy projects associated with Olympics, Pan Am, etc.

Consistent with the 2008 C.S.M.P., the 2008 M.O.M. study, and the 2009 Concept Design & Business Plan for the Milton Sports Centre Expansion, an elite-level competition tank (e.g. 50 metre pool) is not recommended to be built and operated solely by the Town of Milton though this type of pool may be explored if an appropriate public-public or public-private partnership can be formed. While swimming ranked as the third most popular activity pursued by surveyed households (similar to what is experienced in other Ontario communities), the vast majority of these swims are recreational and does not differentiate between indoor versus outdoor, and public facility versus private pool (including backyard) swims. Recreational swims (e.g. lessons, leadership programs, therapeutic programs, etc.) are expected to constitute the majority of use for new public pools constructed within and beyond the C.S.M.P. Update period while it is believed that local swim club "needs" are adequately and cost-effectively served through satisfactory training space (as opposed to Olympic regulation competition space that are constructed to consciously respond to "wants" or economic objectives in communities choosing to operate these). Therefore, a new aquatic centre (regardless of a 25m or 50m tank design) requires a leisure tank of some form to ensure warmer temperatures, shallower depths, and integration of barrier-free and waterplay components. The M.O.M. study recommended that the three municipalities continue to monitor the aquatic needs arising from within their jurisdictions to determine if and when market conditions might improve to the extent that the viability of a 50 metre pool project could be re-addressed. The final report also suggested that the municipalities work with and support their swim clubs and where possible reasonably accommodate their facility and program requirements in new or reconfigured aquatic facilities.

¹⁰ Milton Aquatic Sports Committee. Presentation to Council entitled Aquatic Training Facility Proposal. January 11, 2015.

Longer-Term Considerations beyond the C.S.M.P. Update Planning Period

A fourth municipal indoor aquatic centre is anticipated to be needed after the Sherwood pool is constructed, and its feasibility should be evaluated through the preparation of the next Community Services Master Plan Update (anticipated for 2018). This fourth indoor aquatic centre should be located in the Boyne Secondary Plan area subject to a community centre being provided in that community.

Action Plans

- F7. Construct an indoor aquatics centre as part of the proposed Sherwood Community Centre, subject to confirmation through the feasibility study and business plan. The aquatic facility should be designed to accommodate all ages and abilities and contain a 25 metre rectangular tank, a separate therapeutic/leisure tank with teaching areas, and also consider the provision of fun waterplay components, and pool viewing/seating areas.
- F8. Upon construction of the proposed indoor aquatic centre at the Sherwood Community Centre, monitor utilization of all aquatic facilities to better position the Town to determine the need for an aquatic facility in the Boyne Secondary Plan Area.

b) Spray Pads

Supply

The Town of Milton operates thirteen spray pads, of which there are ‘major’ and ‘minor’ facilities. Major spray pads are of larger size, greater level of amenity, higher cost and service a Town-wide catchment area relative to their minor counterparts. Minor spray pads are designed to largely service a neighbourhood-level catchment area to provide localized ‘cooling stations’.

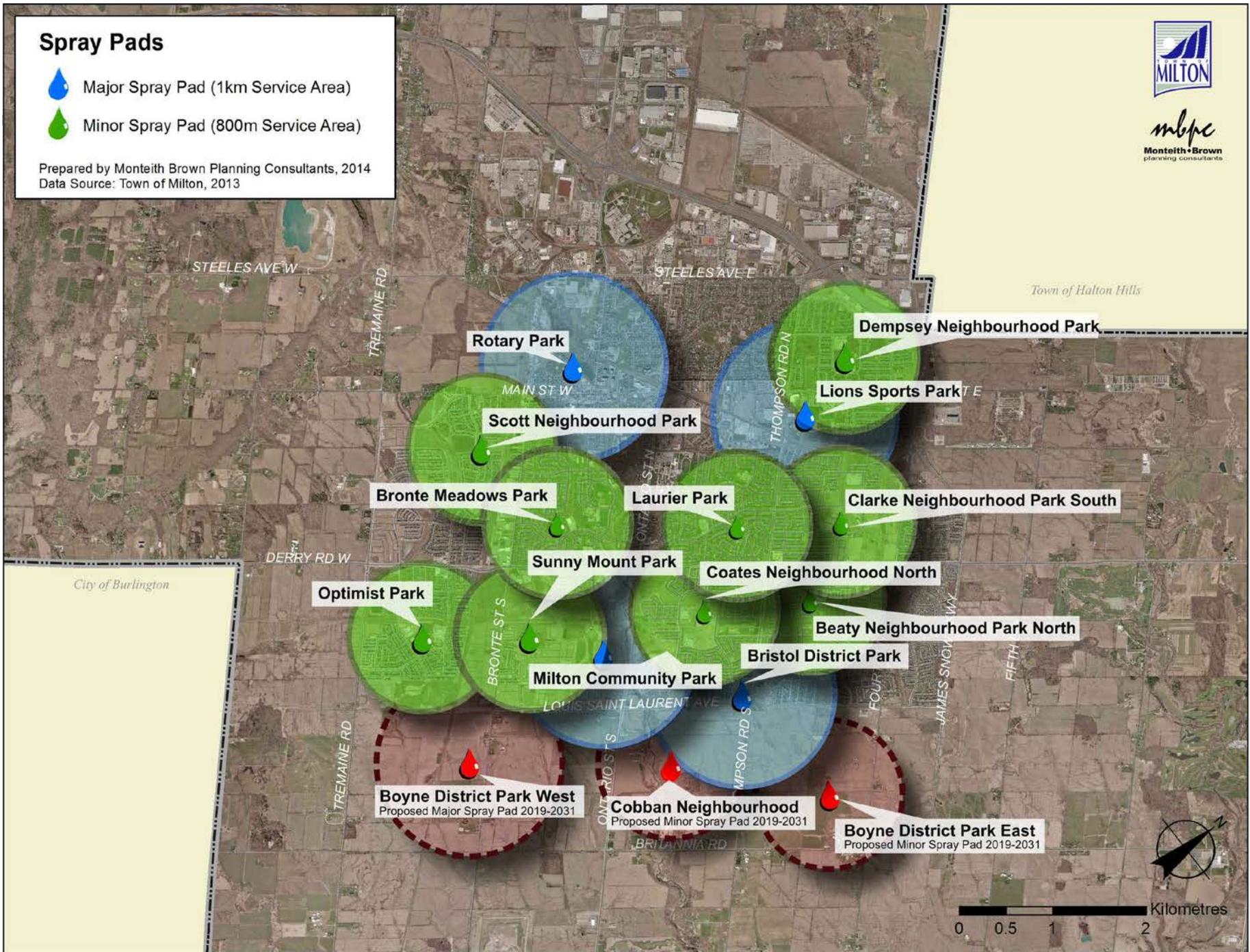
- **Major Spray Pads (4):** Lions Sports Park, Rotary Park, Bristol District Park, and Milton Community Park.
- **Minor Spray Pads (9):** Beaty Neighbourhood Park North, Clarke Neighbourhood Park South, Coates Neighbourhood Park North, Dempsey Neighbourhood Park, Optimist Park, and Scott Neighbourhood Park. New minor spray pads at *Bronte Meadows Park*, *Laurier Park*, and *Sunny Mount* are expected to open in 2014 and are thus considered as part of the existing supply.



Spray Pads

-  Major Spray Pad (1km Service Area)
-  Minor Spray Pad (800m Service Area)

Prepared by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2014
 Data Source: Town of Milton, 2013



Market Conditions

Spray pads are a cost-effective and fun component of the parks system. They are more affordable to build and operate than outdoor pools and they can attract large numbers of children and youth looking to cool off on a warm day. As exemplified through Milton’s District, Community and Neighbourhood-level water play facilities, spray pads can be large or small and designed using many different apparatuses, thereby providing unique experiences throughout the Town’s parks system.

With its supply of thirteen spray pads, Milton is currently providing one spray pad per 7,800 residents (or one spray pad per 857 children between the ages of 0 and 9, who are the primary users of these facilities). This level of service ranks first among the benchmarked municipalities, noting that targeted service levels vary across each community.

Municipality	Service Level	Total Spray Pads	Target Service Level
1. Milton	1 : 7,800	13	1 (major) : 4,000 children (0-14)
2. Oakville	1 : 12,000	15	1km radius in residential areas
3. Vaughan	1 : 17,500	18	1 per residential block
4. Halton Hills	1 : 20,000	3	1 : 4,000 children (0-14)
5. Burlington	1 : 35,000	5	unspecified
Benchmark Average	1 : 18,500	11	

Note: Service level rounded to the nearest 500 residents. Includes major and minor spray pads.

Community Feedback

Through the Community Input Event, a number of participants expressed their appreciation for the number and distribution of spray pads located in proximity to their neighbourhoods. Some of the younger participants in the Youth Summit also reported using these facilities.

Needs Assessments

The service coverage between 800 metres and 1 kilometre, as set in the Spray Pad distribution map, provides an excellent degree of walkability for parents, older children and toddlers in strollers (though one kilometre is acknowledged as potentially limiting for some with young children). Based on this coverage, spray pad distribution is excellent throughout the urban area with a spray pad provided in nearly every neighbourhood block. Service overlaps are not considered to be redundant as basic minor facilities have been designed as ‘walk-to’ destinations, and their location within the neighbourhood reduces the need for children to cross major arterial roads.

Given the availability of spray pads within Old Milton, Bristol and Sherwood, the Town should strive to ensure each residential neighbourhood area of the Boyne Planning District has reasonable access to a spray pad. Provision of a new major spray pad should be pursued at Boyne District Park West to take advantage of the proposed facility buildings, change rooms, washrooms and/or servicing infrastructure. Additional minor spray pads could be considered at the Boyne District Park East and the neighbourhood parks in the Boyne Secondary Plan area with incorporation of differentiated spray pad designs, where feasible, to contribute to overall thematic elements of the parks in which they reside. Beyond traditional waterplay elements, this may include non-traditional designs that contribute to public art objectives.

Rural settlements may be considered to be a gap in the absence of spray pads, however, this is due to lower population densities and aging demographic characteristics relative to the urban areas. Given that Nassagaweya (rural area) represents a planning district, construction of a minor spray pad within one of the rural settlement areas could be explored. However, provision of a rural spray pad (regardless of chosen location) is

dependent upon the ability to develop the necessary servicing infrastructure in a manner that is neither cost-prohibitive nor detrimental to the environment.

Action Plans	F9. Provide a major spray pad at Boyne District Park West. Additional minor spray pads could be considered at Boyne District Park East and the neighbourhood parks within the Boyne Secondary Plan area.
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Gymnasiums

Supply	<p>The Town of Milton operates three gymnasiums at the Milton Leisure Centre, Milton Sports Centre and the Mattamy National Cycling Centre, the latter of which contains a ‘multi-purpose infield’ roughly the floor size of a triple gymnasium, which will be capable of holding recreational activities and special events such as basketball, volleyball, badminton, soccer and trade shows. The M.N.C.C. infield contributes towards meeting gymnasium-related demands, however, it is anticipated that its gym-related functions will not be as great as other Town gyms due to its multi-purpose nature and thus it is factored into the supply as the capacity equivalent of 2.0 gymnasiums.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Town provides an effective supply of four gymnasiums. Although not included in the supply, a number of school gymnasiums alleviate pressures for community rentals including the recent development of triple gymnasiums at Craig Kielburger Secondary School and Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School.</p>
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Market Conditions	<p>Gymnasiums experience high levels of demand as they are flexible venues that accommodate all age groups and allow for a broad range of indoor activities and programs. The supply of municipal gyms is typically bolstered by school boards that provide access to gyms after school hours through the Province’s Community Use of Schools initiative, thus the utilization of school gyms provides a number of benefits. However, school-owned gyms generally have usage and time restrictions, and lower scheduling priority for community access compared to municipal gyms, the latter whose utilization is established directly by the Town in response to community and stakeholder input. Gymnasiums are expected to continue to be in high demand into the future as these facilities provide opportunities for both registered and drop-in activities of varying interests and age groups.</p> <p>Milton is currently providing one municipal gymnasium per 25,300 residents. In comparing with other communities, actual service levels should be compared cautiously as they are dictated by the nature of agreements and access to school gymnasiums.</p>
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Municipality	Service Level	Gymnasiums	Target Service Level
1. Vaughan	1 : 24,000	13	1 : 30,000
1. Milton	1 : 25,500	4	1 : 40,000
3. Burlington	1 : 44,000	4	unspecified
4. Oakville	1 : 61,000	3	1 : 50,000
5. Halton Hills	n/a	0	1 : 50,000
Benchmark Average	1 : 38,500	6	

Note: Service level rounded to the nearest 500 residents. Average excludes Town of Halton Hills as service is not provided in its municipal facilities.

A total of 9,000 prime hours were booked at Milton’s gymnasiums during 2012, representing an increase of nearly 2,400 rented prime hours since 2010 (pre-M.S.C. expansion). Although the prime utilization rate has dropped from 75% to 65%, this is associated with a considerable increase in hours available resulting from the new gym and must be considered in tandem with the increase in total number of hours rented. It is common for gyms to have utilization rates below 75% in prime time given the way that they tend to be programmed (e.g. in six to eight week program blocks). Another good indication of strong gym utilization is the fact that there were over 3,500 more non-prime hours booked in 2012 compared to 2010.

Community Feedback

The Community Group Survey shows that a wide range of recreation, cultural and community groups utilize municipal and school gyms for sport, dry-land training, and gathering activities. Groups have different opinions on the rental fees charged with some suggesting that school rates are cost prohibitive while a local basketball group states that it leverages cheaper rental rates at the school which leads them to use Town gyms less. Other groups note that restrictions placed by the schools on the types of activities permitted in the gyms is problematic (e.g. the Milton Special Olympics Sports Club indicates that one of the school gyms they use for ball hockey will no longer be available to them).

Gymnasiums



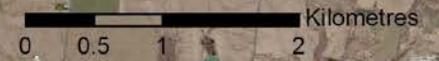
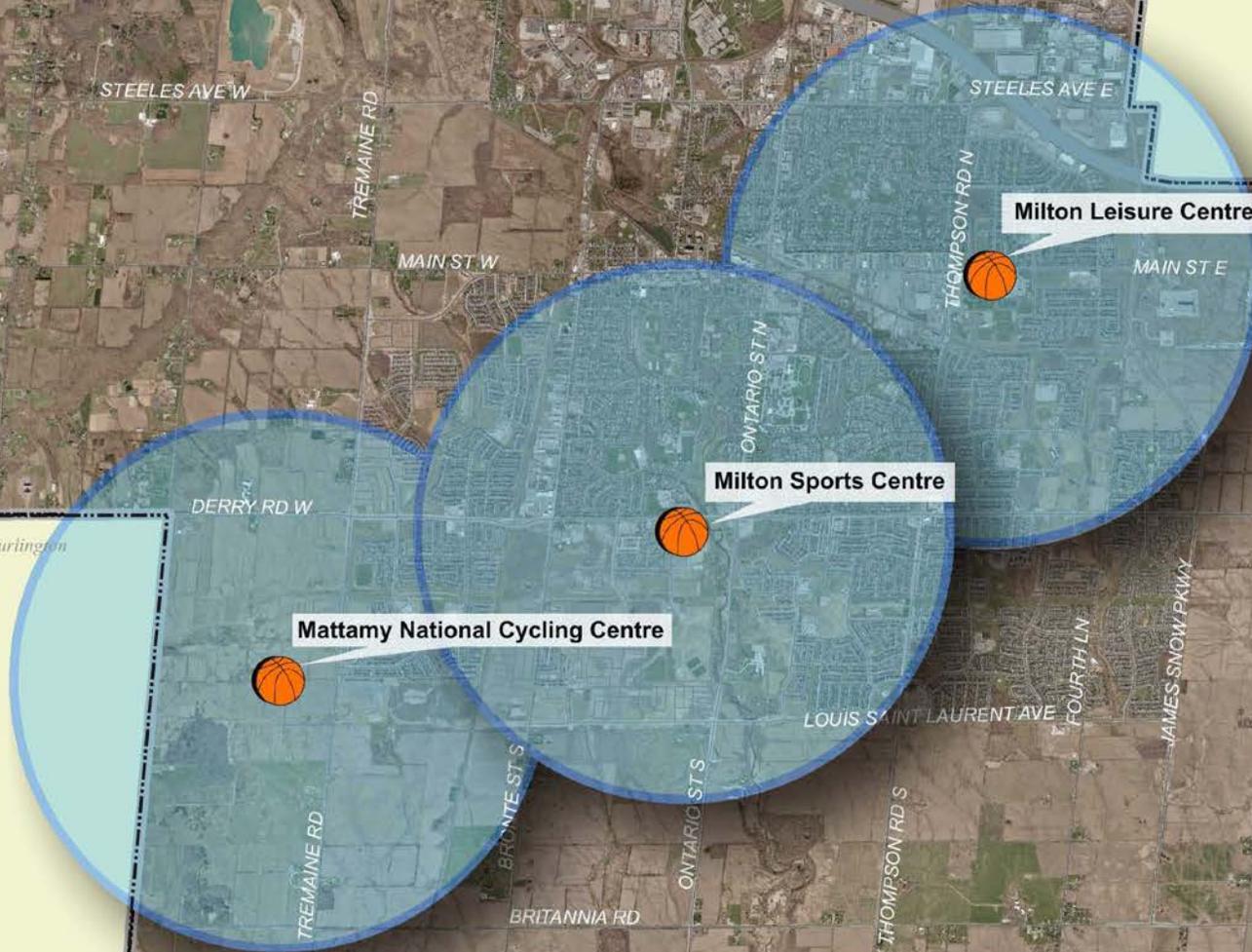
Gymnasiums (2km Service Area)

Prepared by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2014
Data Source: Town of Milton, 2013



Town of Halton Hills

City of Burlington



Needs Assessments

Consistent with the previous C.S.M.P., this Update utilizes a standard of 1 gymnasium per 40,000 residents to calculate the required number of facilities given that demand for these spaces remains strong. By this standard, the Town's four gyms provide sufficient capacity to accommodate current population needs through to the end of the master planning period.

Although gymnasium needs will be satisfied over the C.S.M.P. Update period based on application of the service level standard, some sort of flexible and programmable recreational space would greatly benefit components proposed for the Sherwood Community Centre. There are complementary benefits for dry-land training and community use to be gained, along with operational and cross-programming efficiencies, if providing a smaller-scale activity space in conjunction with arena and aquatics facilities, and potential older adult and/or youth priority space. While the proposed Sherwood Community Centre may not incorporate a gymnasium designed to the Town's historical development standards, it may contain a smaller or unique recreational space representative of a flexible hall or studio design that would be conducive to dry-land training and age-specific program opportunities. If land availability permits, consideration should be provided to designing the community centre in a manner that permits future expansion for a gymnasium through a second phase.

Of note, the discussion regarding squash courts and fitness space identifies that if the Town were to construct and operate squash courts, one of the potential options to do so could involve repurposing the M.L.C. gymnasium (consuming about half of the current floor area). Doing so would result in an inability to provide certain program opportunities (e.g. drop-in basketball, volleyball and some youth-oriented activities) and leave a significant gap in the north as there would be no longer be any municipal gym located north of Derry Road (only school gyms accessible through the Community Use of Schools initiative would be available and subject to school board scheduling and fee policies).

Given land development restrictions and low population density outside of the urban area, along with the fact that the C.S.M.P. Update discourages single-purpose facilities, a gymnasium is not deemed to be a feasible level of service in Milton's designated rural and hamlet areas. Through the next five year update to the C.S.M.P., gymnasium needs should be re-evaluated in the Boyne community.

Action Plans

- F10. Construct a large multi-purpose activity space with capacity for at least 100 persons, capable of flexibly offering a range of recreational activities and supported with a kitchen, as part of the proposed Sherwood Community Centre (*also see Recommendation F15*).
- F11. Monitor the programming capacity and utilization rate of the gymnasiums at the Mattamy National Cycling Centre and local schools in order to determine the need for an additional gymnasium(s) in the Boyne and/or Sherwood Secondary Plan Areas.

Active Living & Wellness Space

a) Full Service Fitness Centres

Supply Equipment-based (full service) fitness centres are contained within the Milton Leisure Centre and the Mattamy National Cycling Centre.

Please refer to Appendix D of the C.S.M.P. Update for comprehensive analysis and future action plans pertaining to full service fitness centres. Additionally, assessments pertaining to squash courts are

b) Active Living / Activity Studios

Supply Active living studios are integrated within the Milton Leisure Centre, Mattamy National Cycling Centre and the Milton Sports Centre.

Market Conditions The emphasis being placed on personal health is resulting in growing participation across Ontario for physical fitness activities. This is translating into increasing use of private and public sector fitness services oriented to health and wellness, including active living programming centred on cardiovascular and stretching activities (e.g. aerobics, yoga, pilates, etc.). Such active living programs and classes appear to be the fastest growing segment of fitness, more so than traditional weight-training, given they are being designed as fun, social activities ('Zumba' is a notable example). Most urban municipalities who have recently constructed multi-use community centres offer some form of studio-based active living programs in those facilities.

Community Feedback Through the Community Input Event and Focus Groups, peripheral commentary was provided regarding the general appreciation for the active living programs offered by the Town.

Needs Assessments The Town of Milton should continue its practice of integrating activity studios through new multi-use community centre developments given these spaces facilitate a range of programs, many of which are complementary to aquatic centres, older adult and youth spaces, gymnasiums, etc. that may be co-located within a centralized facility. Active living studios are relatively cost effective additions to a community centre (both from a capital and operational standpoint as they do not involve weight-training equipment) that can be programmed in a variety of ways and re-purposed if necessary in the future should demand wane. Accordingly, the provision of active living and activity studios should be considered within future multi-use community centres in Milton.

Action Plans F12. An active living studio should be integrated into the design of the proposed Sherwood Community Centre, subject to confirmation through the feasibility study and business plan, through which municipal active living and other floor-based fitness activities can be delivered.

c) Indoor Walking Tracks

Supply

The Town’s first indoor walking track was constructed as part of the Milton Sports Centre expansion. A 300 metre walking track opened in 2015 as part of the Mattamy National Cycling Centre.

Market Conditions

Across the province, indoor walking is becoming more common. Walking, which was identified as the most popular recreational activity in Milton’s 2013 *Community Profile Survey*, becomes increasingly challenging during the winter due to colder temperatures along with barriers created by snow and ice. People are looking for venues in which to safely and comfortably walk during the winter, and are viewing large buildings such as shopping malls or community centres as places in which to engage in their routine.

The following table illustrates that three of the five benchmarked communities, including Milton, provide indoor walking tracks. These facilities do not tend to have set service level targets but rather have been developed by opportunity through construction of new multi-use community centres.

Municipality	Service Level	Walking Tracks
1. Milton	1 : 50,500	2
2. Vaughan	1 : 104,500	3
3. Oakville	1 : 182,500	1
4. Halton Hills	n/a	0
5. Burlington	n/a	0
Benchmark Average	1 : 112,500	2

Notes: Service level rounded to the nearest 500 residents. Average excludes Halton Hills and Burlington as service is not provided in municipal facilities. Benchmarks do not define a set provision standard, choosing to provide walking tracks where opportunity and feasibility permit.

Community Feedback

Through the Community Input Event, certain participants expressed their satisfaction with having indoor walking opportunities available to them during the winter. Certain sport and recreation groups also noted that the track benefits some of their dry-land training needs.

Needs Assessments

Many new community centre templates in the G.T.A., including the Milton Sports Centre and M.N.C.C., are integrating indoor walking tracks that typically encircle an arena, gymnasium or indoor turf field. The tracks tend to be between two and three lanes with a rubberized surface, the length of which is dependent upon design and use intended (e.g. a running track may be 200 metres whereas a track geared only to walking may be smaller). Observations suggest that while many communities with such facilities do not view them as cost-recovery features (a nominal charge as is the case in Milton, if any at all, may be applied), the steady volume of use is typically viewed as achieving the intent of promoting physical activity while increasing the ‘foot traffic’ of a community centre as a whole.

The observed popularity of the new walking track at the M.S.C. suggests that local residents and user groups have benefitted from indoor walking and jogging space, and it has become part of the multi-purpose experience afforded by the community centre. A new walking track at the M.N.C.C. will be available to the community within the C.S.M.P. Update period.

In addition to accommodating general community use for casual purposes, the M.N.C.C.'s indoor track provides a unique opportunity and experience to sport groups due to the nature of the M.N.C.C. as a whole, including its equipment-based fitness centre. Recognizing that the M.N.C.C. and its track will be popular among sports groups, there is opportunity to develop targeted running programs oriented to sport groups on this high calibre track. Doing so may also shift sport users from the M.S.C., where the Town can re-orient the M.S.C. walking track specifically for community-level use thereby minimizing incompatible/uncomfortable experiences between casual walkers and athletes. Discussions with Town staff suggest that based on current demand, these two existing indoor tracks will be sufficient for planning period and do not warrant a third indoor track to be included at the Sherwood Community Centre though this does not necessarily preclude investigating the feasibility of a walking circuit within common areas to be considered through architectural concepts (e.g. as part of hallways).

Action Plans

F13. Explore the development of athlete-centred running programs at the M.N.C.C. indoor track and encourage a greater degree of casual usage at the Milton Sports Centre track.

Community Activity Space

a) Stand-Alone Community Halls

Supply

The Town provides four stand-alone halls throughout Milton. The Nassagaweya Tennis Centre and Community Hall is an example of a new hall, providing the opportunity for satellite programming in the rural areas while also leasing space to the Nassagaweya Tennis Club. The Nassagaweya Community Centre (formerly known as Brookville Hall) and existing Boyne Community Centre are older facilities that contain a large meeting hall with warming kitchen and washroom facilities. Hugh Foster Hall is another stand-alone facility forming part of Milton's Town Hall complex and is largely used by arts and cultural groups, as well as for smaller-scale gatherings. The Campbellville Lions Hall, while still under municipal ownership, is not included in the supply. This is a result of a recent staff report¹¹ declaring the facility as surplus due to deterioration of mechanical and structural systems that are deemed cost prohibitive in relation to utilization levels.

Market Conditions

Historically, stand-alone community and banquet halls were provided as single-purpose facilities within which passive activities could be held (private gatherings and meetings). Since that time, the co-location of multi-purpose and meeting spaces at multi-use community centres has become the norm as the provision of multi-purpose activity spaces enhance cross-programming opportunities for public and private functions, and achieve economies

¹¹ Town of Milton. Staff Report COMS-028-13: Declaration of Surplus Land - Campbellville Lions Club Hall (42 Main Street, South, Campbellville). September 9, 2013.

	<p>of scale for the municipality regarding facility construction, maintenance and management. Due to the nature of this type of facility, no comparable benchmarking data was collected for the provision of stand-alone community halls.</p> <p>The number of municipal programs delivered out of stand-alone halls is limited with six in total, five of which are at the Nassagaweya Tennis Centre and Community Hall. Instead, the Town has been programming its integrated multi-purpose rooms (within community centres) to a much greater extent as will be discussed in the following pages. In total, 2,900 prime time hours were rented at the halls in 2014 which is a decline of 16% (about 560 hours) from 2012 while non-prime hours have declined by 9% (127 hours) to just under 1,250 hours used in 2014.</p>
<p>Community Feedback</p>	<p>Through the Community Group Survey, the Nassagaweya Historical Society was the only group to report use of stand-alone halls. The group occasionally utilizes the Nassagaweya Community Centre (due to its large capacity but find it is not always available when they need it), the Nassagaweya Tennis Centre (the limited capacity and cost is a barrier for them) and used the Campbellville Lions Hall prior to its recent closure.</p>
<p>Needs Assessments</p>	<p>No new stand-alone halls are recommended in the next five years, as per common practice across urbanized areas in the G.T.A., and the fact that the Town has transitioned the vast majority of its programming to integrated rooms within its multi-use community centres. Instead, the focus should be on conducting strategic improvements to key facilities that are of value to the community and allow the Town to provide its full complement of programming and rental opportunities.</p> <p>As new facilities, the Nassagaweya Tennis Centre and Hugh Foster Hall do not require any major alterations or major investments within the next five years due to the high quality experience offered to their respective target audiences. The Town recently undertook planned interior and exterior improvements at the Nassagaweya Community Centre to maintain its rural presence in the north of Milton.</p> <p>With respect to the Boyne Community Hall, the Town does not provide any programs at this location as it offers very limited amenity or architectural value that does not appeal to most users, and the fact that the Milton Sports Centre banquet hall and activity rooms are much more desirable. In fact, the Boyne Community Hall is probably better suited for another indoor or outdoor use as the urbanized area of Milton extends around it. The Boyne Secondary Plan designates the parcel currently occupied by the Hall as a 'Major Node Area' with the intersection of Regional Road 25 and Britannia identified as a 'Gateway' node. For these reasons, the Boyne Hall property has strategic value to the Town in that it could be used, with or without a built structure, to provide parkland opportunities over and above those identified in the Boyne Secondary Plan (parkland assessments show that Milton will be challenged in obtaining a sufficient quantum of suitable park space in the future). Such a park could be a traditional green space or could function as a high quality civic open space located in the Gateway node. Alternatively, the Town could divest itself of this parcel provided that the financial proceeds are appropriate and can be re-invested into other parks in Boyne and/or Boyne Community Centre (the timing of the latter is expected beyond the planning period of this C.S.M.P. Update).</p>
<p>Action Plans</p>	<p>F14. Consider divestment of the property associated with the Boyne Community Hall as development proceeds in this area. Park opportunities for this area to be provided as per the Boyne Tertiary plan.</p>

Halls & Multi-Purpose Rooms

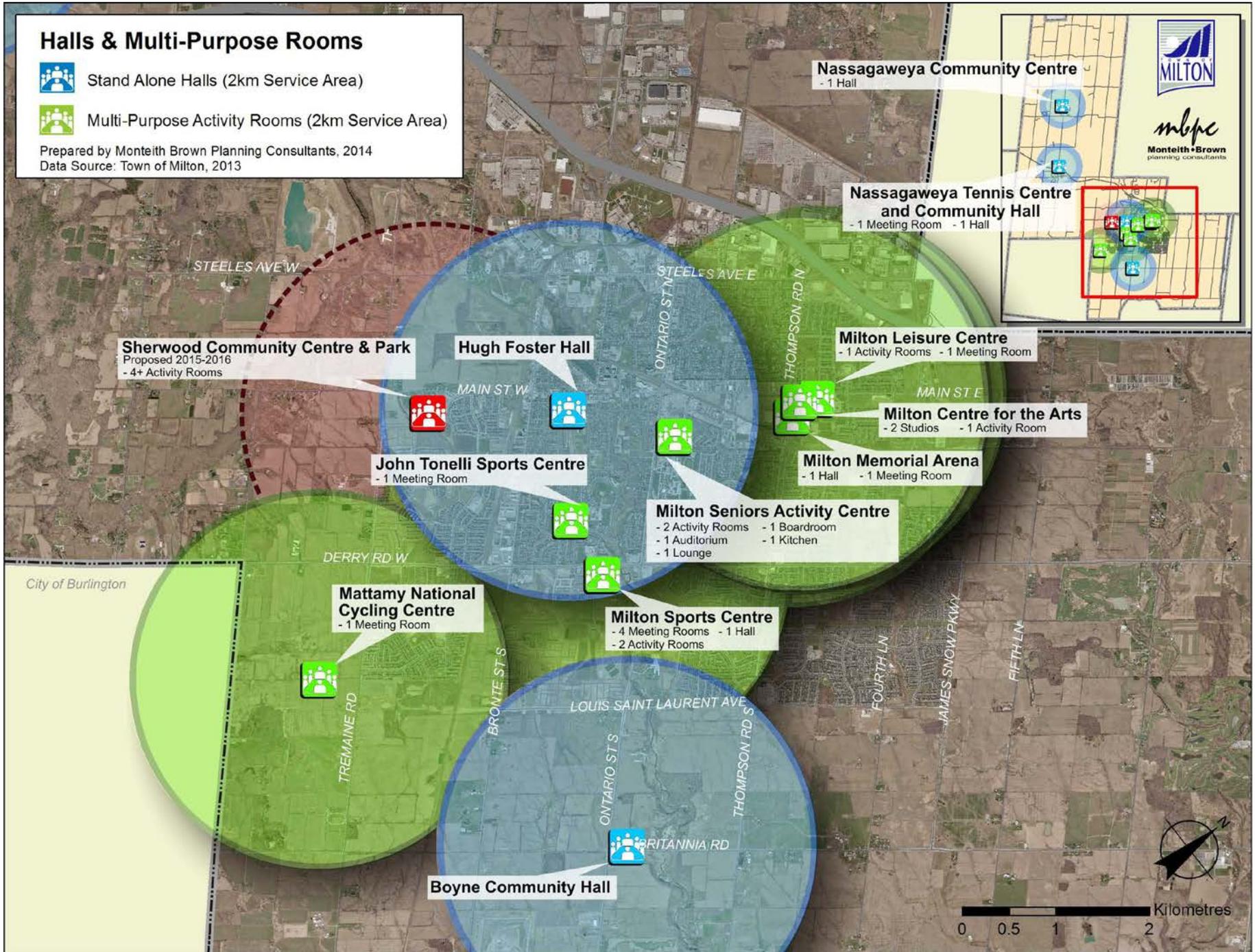


Stand Alone Halls (2km Service Area)



Multi-Purpose Activity Rooms (2km Service Area)

Prepared by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2014
Data Source: Town of Milton, 2013



b) Multi-Purpose Activity Rooms

Supply

Integrated activity rooms under the purview of the Community Services Department are located within the Milton Leisure Centre, Milton Sports Centre, Milton Centre for the Arts, Mattamy National Cycling Centre, the Milton Seniors Activity Centre, Tonelli Arena, and Milton Memorial Arena. These rooms span different sizes and offer different levels of amenity to provide for a diverse range of functions from large events to small gatherings, for both recreational and cultural activities. There are 23 multi-purpose activity rooms, as follows:

- Mattamy National Cycling Centre (2) – multi-purpose meeting rooms
- Milton Centre for the Arts (3) – 2 studios, 1 activity room;
- Milton Leisure Centre (2) – 1 activity room, 1 meeting room;
- Milton Seniors Activity Centre (6) – 1 auditorium, 2 activity rooms, 1 lounge, 1 board room and 1 kitchen;
- Milton Sports Centre (7) – 1 banquet hall, 2 activity rooms, 4 meeting rooms; and
- Arenas (3) – 1 hall (Lions Club Hall at Memorial Arena), 2 meeting rooms (Tonelli and Memorial Arenas).

These facilities are illustrated on the preceding map.

Market Conditions

The community as a whole benefits from having well distributed multi-purpose program spaces as they provide residents with flexible facilities for a variety of programs and meetings. These spaces consist of meeting rooms, halls, activity and crafts rooms, age-specific rooms, and general-purpose program rooms. The spaces are typically used by the Town to deliver a wide range of recreation programming, or are booked by the community for various meetings. With a few exceptions, most facilities come equipped with two or more multi-purpose rooms. Coupling program rooms within a multi-use community centre assists with achieving economies of scale and provides a range of cross-programming opportunities. These spaces are typically equipped with a variety of supporting amenities such as storage cupboards, countertops and sinks although this is not always the case.

For Milton, its 23 rooms represent a service level of about one multi-purpose activity room per 4,200 residents. Program and meeting rooms tend to be viewed as complementary to community facilities and vary substantially in size and, in addition, some larger rooms can be subdivided creating additional room space. As such, benchmarking data was not collected for the assessment of integrated community program spaces.

Over 20,100 prime hours were programmed within the Town's multi-use activity rooms in 2012, up 5,350 hours (36%) from 2010; however, 2,900 hours were booked in non-prime times, down about 90 hours (3%) from three years ago. Of these, community rentals accounted for about 10,000 hours (up 12%) with the balance associated with Town programming. The majority of use occurred at the M.S.C. and the M.S.A.C. with about 7,000 hours each of prime usage, for both Town programming and community rentals. The M.C.A. booked over 2,000 hours of use in its first year of operation (the majority of which was for internal municipal program delivery), indicating that cultural users were supportive of the space though likely shifting a degree of time away from their previous facilities that may not have been as conducive to their needs.

While prime utilization rates range from 17% (arenas) to 28% (M.S.C.) and non-prime utilization ranges from 8% (M.C.A.) to 21% (M.L.C.), it is not uncommon for multi-use activity spaces to have a large amount of unbooked hours. This is due to the fact that they are usually oriented to specific uses that may not have volume demand, or some are under-utilized due to their location within single purpose facilities (e.g. arenas) which tend to have a lower level of demand. For example, the Banquet room, Optimist and Lions Rooms are well utilized while smaller integrated meeting rooms and the Memorial Arena meeting room are not. Multi-purpose rooms should be viewed as 'opportunity-based' spaces that cannot be expected recover

costs (which are negligible compared to arenas and pool costs) but instead provide a great deal of value to those who need access to such space. The fact that the number of hours being booked at these rooms has increased significantly over the past three years indicates that the spaces are in demand by the core users who require them, and have facilitated additional growth within the Community Services Department’s programming portfolio.

Note: through data collection undertaken for the C.S.M.P. Update, Community Services Staff indicate that there is a need to revisit definitions of prime and non-prime hours. The above utilization data will be recalculated once new definitions of prime and non-prime times is established.

Community Feedback

Participants in the Community Interests Focus Group and Cultural Forum noted a preference to make use of the Town’s multi-purpose spaces for gatherings, workshops and other small events. Some groups, however, noted difficulties in utilizing the spaces for various reasons though they primarily cited scheduling difficulties (sometimes being bumped by other groups or lack of availability of desired rooms at desired times). *These comments contradict actual usage trends as articulated by the low utilization rates, likely due to the way in which prime hours have been calculated.*

Needs Assessments

Given that the Town achieves excellent spatial distribution of facilities, available capacity in existing spaces in prime times, and the fact that future community centre developments will be limited in number due to increasing land scarcity, Milton’s existing service level (one room per 4,200 residents) has been slightly adjusted downward to target a service level of 1 multi-purpose activity room per 5,000 residents. By the year 2018, this will result in a total supply requirement of 28 multi-purpose rooms (5 more than provided) to meet the needs of 139,500 residents.

Program attendance for both registered and drop-in activities has been steadily increasing over the past three years indicating a growing demand will be placed on community program spaces. With a growing demand for integrated community program spaces for both Town run programs, partnered programs and community rentals, combined with the trends toward increasing demands by an aging population placing demands on a wide range of programming, the Town should explore the provision of at least three multi-purpose activity rooms as part of the proposed Sherwood Community Centre (which is fairly consistent with the number of such rooms in similar facilities such as the M.S.C. and M.L.C.), one of which is large enough to be divisible in two with capacity for at least 100 persons with a kitchen. Furthermore, integration of youth, older adult, arts and cultural programming into the proposed Community Centre could assist in improving the utilization of multi-purpose spaces. While the addition of three activity rooms will continue to leave a deficit in the number of facilities when applying the service level target, the provision of stand-alone halls is not recommended and sufficient geographic distribution exists suggesting that a future Boyne Community Centre (anticipated after the C.S.M.P. Update period) could further address any unmet multi-purpose space requirements.

Action Plans

F15. Integrate a minimum of three multi-use activity spaces, one of which is sufficiently large enough to be divisible in two (*see Recommendation F10*), within the proposed Sherwood Community Centre (subject to confirmation through the feasibility study and business plan), each flexibly designed to accommodate a range of program and rental opportunities for community, recreation, cultural and library uses. Additional spaces may be considered through new facility developments (whether part of, or outside of the purview of the Community Services Department), including as part of a future Boyne Community Centre.

c) Older Adult Activity Rooms

Supply

The Milton Seniors Activity Centre (SAC) is a 24,000 square foot dedicated seniors centre that the Town of Milton leases from the Region of Halton's at the Allendale long-term care complex. Older Adult (i.e. ages 55+) and seniors programming, offered through the Town and community-based providers, is also available within a variety of other municipal facilities such as the Milton Leisure Centre, Milton Sports Centre, the Milton Centre for the Arts, and stand-alone halls.

Market Conditions

The SAC has 818 members (as of June 2015), and provides a wide variety of registered and drop-in program opportunities, including those in the areas of active living, general interest, and workshops. Older adults and seniors comprise nearly one-fifth (17%) of Milton's population, creating demands for spaces such as the SAC and areas within municipal facilities. Older adult spaces provide venues for individuals to gather, share common interests, hold events and programs, and provide older adults with a means of social support, the latter of which is becoming increasingly important due to the growing number of residents who have social ties outside of Milton. Although Milton has not experienced the degree of aging as other communities, the number of older adults and seniors can be expected to increase in the future, particularly in the Town's rural and established urban areas.

Community Feedback

Representatives from the Milton Seniors Activity Centre provided feedback through the Groups Survey and the Community Interests Focus Group, stating that they were pleased with the directions contained in Milton's Older Adult Strategy and expressed their desire for the Town to continue to implement that strategy. They express a desire to expand and improve the SAC, and anticipate that a new older adult's centre (with active living areas, computer labs, multi-purpose rooms, etc.) may be required at some point in the future to attract Baby Boomers in the community.

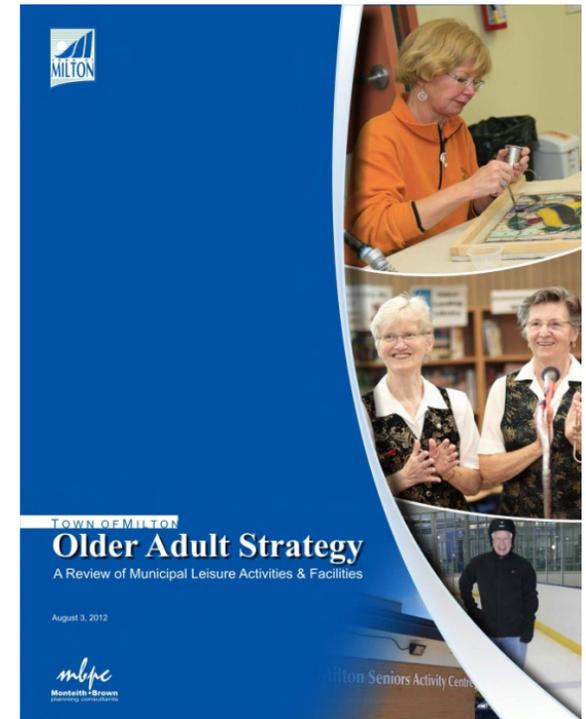
The Town's 2013 *Community Profile* Survey found the following with respect to the SAC:

- The SAC was used by 11% of the sample. Residents living in Milton for more than ten years, particularly those living in the established urban area, were more likely to attend activities at the SAC than newer residents.
- Those who did not use the SAC reported being uninterested (53%), not being a senior (29%), being too busy (8%), or not being aware of opportunities (5%).
- The SAC received an overall satisfaction rating of 90%. The highest priority items for increasing satisfaction included conducting improvements to the rental booking process, quality of amenities, and hours of operation.

Needs Assessments

The Milton Older Adults Strategy, completed in 2012, provides a comprehensive assessment of needs associated with Milton’s older adult population. It contains over 40 recommendations pertaining to programming, facilities, fees, staffing and volunteers, partnerships, and outreach. For the C.S.M.P. Update’s facility assessment, the following recommendations are deemed to be the most relevant to older adult activity spaces:

- If a long-term agreement can be established between the Town and Region, **expand the Milton Seniors’ Activity Centre on its current site** within the next 5 to 7 years. This expansion would add approximately 5,000 to 10,000 square feet (for a total of 20,000 to 25,000 square feet of ‘usable’ space) in order to improve the lobby/entryway, add an active living studio (with sprung wood floor) and additional activity rooms, and to accommodate a cafeteria expansion. An **activity room with a sprung wood floor** should also be considered as part of an expansion to the SAC, as well as active living studio(s) in future community centres.
- **A smaller satellite facility should be established within the future Sherwood Community Centre (and considered as part of all subsequent community centre developments in the future).** This option could include dedicated space for older adults (such as a lounge, activity space, small kitchen, etc.) and access to shared spaces within the centre.
- Regularly identify and assess **program gaps and preferences** through a variety of methods.
- Continue to work in partnership with community groups, Halton Healthcare, Region of Halton, etc. to provide **workshops** of interest to older adults.
- To better serve older adults living in the Town’s **rural area**, the Town and/or its partners should be encouraged to use Milton’s rural community centres for programs and workshops focused on health and wellness (e.g., low impact aerobics, health clinics, etc.) and topics of special local interest.



Action Plans

- F16. Establish an Older Adult Activity Area within the Sherwood Community Centre, subject to confirmation through the feasibility study and business plan, potentially containing lounge, activity room and/or small kitchen along with access to shared spaces within the community centre.
- F17. Explore expansion and/or relocation potential of the existing Milton Seniors Activity Centre in conjunction with the Region of Halton towards the end of the C.S.M.P. Update period.

d) Youth Activity Rooms

Supply

The Town of Milton does not operate any dedicated youth facilities. A regional organization known as the Our Kids Network operates one of its three hubs in Milton at Our Lady of Victory School (located near the Milton Sports Centre).

Market Conditions

According to Statistics Canada, the number of youth ages 10 to 19 increased by more than 3,200 persons (50%) between the 2006 and 2011 Census periods, with youth accounting for 12% of the Town's total population. Furthermore, the number of children ages 0 to 9 nearly doubled in Milton (growth of about 7,500 persons) between 2006 and 2011, with over 15,700 children accounting for 18% of the total population as recorded by the 2011 Census.

The implications of such growth are significant. With three out of ten residents under the age of 20, there is a significant market to be served through the Community Services Department and its child/youth-serving partners. Another major implication is that children of today will eventually become the youth of tomorrow, meaning there could be well over 15,000 youth over the next decade (plus youth additions from net in-migration) who will be looking for activities to occupy their time. The provision of parks, facilities and services offering positive youth experiences is thus critical.

While there are no dedicated municipal youth spaces, the Community Services Department offers a number of programs oriented to those between the ages of 13 and 19 at parks and community centres. Community-based providers, including minor sports and service clubs, are also involved in providing youth-specific services out of Town-owned parks and facilities. The Town of Milton achieves a Youth-Friendly Community 'Silver' designation under the Play Works recognition program that acknowledges high quality efforts among municipalities striving to ensure their youth have continuous access to a diversity of 'play' (play being anything a young person does in his/her free time which could include: sport, recreation, drama, dance, music, the arts, volunteerism, leadership development, service leadership and/or civic engagement).

Drop-in programs for youth include basketball (at the M.L.C. and M.S.C.), recreational skating at various arenas, and most recently indoor turf programs at the Milton Indoor Turf Centre. Funtastic Fridays at the M.L.C. for those ages 9-13 also provides theme-based drop-ins. Registered programs include the youth art studio offered at the M.C.A., a number of active programs (e.g. youth bootcamp, dodgeball/tchoukball, personal training sessions, yoga and zumba), and general interest programs centred around leadership.

Community Feedback

The Youth Summit identified that the ideal youth centre would be a welcoming, fun, and safe place to hang out and study. Youth participants liked the idea of having dedicated space within a multi-use setting so that they could benefit from other services such as food, recreation and cultural programs, and access to transit. Their desired youth space would contain entertainment areas with TVs and multimedia equipment, a music studio, wireless internet and areas to conduct a variety of casual activities. A youth space would also be a place to obtain volunteer hours, do homework or get tutored. Input provided by youth-serving agencies participating in the Community Interests Focus Group also echoed the aforementioned themes about providing safe and welcoming spaces, with an added emphasis on ensuring inclusive youth-friendly services offered by municipal and community-based providers.

Needs Assessments

As discussed above, support for a multi-faceted youth oriented space was noted through the Youth Summit. There are no generally accepted service level standards in determining the required rate of provision as youth specific centres are often constructed on the basis of opportunity, co-location and cross-programming potential with other recreational facilities, involvement of community-based providers and schools in delivering afterschool services, etc.

Youth spaces are provided in a variety of ways. Dedicated municipal spaces solely for youth-oriented programming and use are common in many municipalities, either as stand-alone buildings or integrated within community centres. Certain municipalities also assign “youth priority” spaces that are multi-purpose rooms available for use by the entire community but youth-oriented activities take precedence over other uses when booking the space. Each model has its benefits and challenges.

Whether dedicated or prioritized, integration of youth space within a multi-use community centre brings a number of operational efficiencies in that cross-programming opportunities exist, especially if the facility contains a gymnasium or is co-located with outdoor facilities such as skateboard parks or hard surface courts. Integrating youth space into a larger facility allows a municipality to reduce staffing redundancies as the facility can benefit from onsite supervision and maintenance staff (although a trained Youth Coordinator is usually required regardless). Co-location also is fiscally-efficient when considering facilities such as gymnasiums do not need to be constructed elsewhere. Furthermore, multi-use community centres tend to be planned in a manner that maximizes their accessibility (e.g. situating them along transit routes and sometimes trail networks) often resulting in youth being able to travel to such facilities with relative ease.

Stand-alone facilities often consist of retail-format “storefront” spaces that are adapted for youth program delivery. Many non-profit or community-based providers tend to employ this model. These facilities can foster a sense of ownership among their users as youth, though integrated spaces can achieve the same effect with careful planning through design and responsive program delivery.

Regardless of the space format ultimately chosen, the success of a youth centre will amount to the level of comfort that it exudes through design and the way in which staff and users interact amongst each other. Youth facilities, first and foremost, should be inclusive areas where users feel safe and welcome. Design of the facility and its program delivery should involve youth at every critical planning stage so that their voices are reflected, and in turn the youth become engaged and empowered in a manner that creates buy-in for the facility while also developing positive leadership traits that they will carry on into adulthood. Where feasible, creative partnerships with non-municipal agencies can result in the creation of a holistic service hub that can meet recreational, cultural, educational and/or social service needs that most youth seek.



From the municipal perspective, the strength of the Community Services Department is in the delivery of recreation and cultural programs, while the Town as a whole is a progressive organization whose commitment to addressing youth needs is exemplified through its “Youth-Friendly Community” designation. With a great deal of program development and delivery expertise channelled through its community centres, an integrated youth space approach is the preferred option to pursue. This is consistent with past direction from the 2008 C.S.M.P. and aligns with the Town’s current practice of offering youth programming at the M.L.C. and M.S.C. through common spaces oriented to broad community use such as gyms and fitness centres.

Within the next five years, the Sherwood Community Centre is deemed to be a suitable candidate for integrated youth space. While a gymnasium has not been proposed as part of its initial construction phase, the recommended large multi-purpose hall should be designed in a manner that can facilitate certain youth-activities such as ball hockey, dance, or other recreational/cultural pursuits suitable in a hall-type space. Longer-term, a similar approach makes sense if constructing a multi-use community centre in Boyne (particularly if that facility has a gymnasium and/or is potentially developed adjacent to or in partnership with a local school, as theorized in the Multi-Use Community Centre assessment earlier in this Appendix). Additionally, youth in Milton’s established urban and/or rural areas could be serviced through integrated or priority-based use of program rooms that currently have capacity, with the added benefit of bolstering utilization rates (although cost recovery thresholds at such facilities may not change since youth programs tend to be low to no cost, however, the true gain is exposing youth to positive activities).

Prior to constructing any dedicated youth facilities, however, the Town should reconfirm directions pertaining to youth space after first undertaking a Youth Strategy that reinforces the municipal commitment to engaging and empowering local youth in decision-making. A Youth Strategy would be able to rationalize space requirements based on input from youth regarding the types of spaces and services they require across Milton, ultimately resulting in a comprehensive implementation strategy that builds on research, studies and results of previous work undertaken for and by youth, by various agencies and the Region of Halton.

While it would be premature for the C.S.M.P. Update to make comprehensive recommendations on youth needs prior to the Town undertaking a Youth Strategy, emphasis on high level topic areas applicable to youth services is encouraged. For example, acceptance and application of principles centred around inclusion, empowerment, and collaboration with youth and youth-focused organizations continues to be strongly encouraged. Milton’s should continue to develop its portfolio of youth-specific programs and service delivery practices so that it continues to achieve a ‘Silver’ or higher Youth-Friendly designation when the certification is up for renewal in 2016. Subject to confirmation through the proposed Youth Strategy, consideration should be given to including a dedicated or youth-priority rooms, whereby youth programming has principal priority, in existing or future multi-use community centres (e.g. the M.L.C. or the proposed Sherwood Community Centre).

Action Plans

- F18. Undertake a Youth Strategy that comprehensively assesses collaborative approaches to facility and service delivery specific to the needs of residents falling between the ages of 13 and 17 years. One of the outcomes of such a Youth Strategy should be to confirm the need for dedicated youth spaces that are integrated in existing and/or future multi-use community centres.

Indoor & Outdoor Sports Fields

a) Indoor Turf

Supply

The Milton Indoor Turf Centre (M.I.T.C.) recently completed its second season of operations. The M.I.T.C. is co-located with Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School, providing a seasonal indoor playing experience through use of an air-supported structure in the fall and winter (the bubble is removed for the summer months). The artificial turf measures 105m x 64m (345' x 210'), divisible into two half-fields or four quarter-fields to allow for simultaneous programming.

There is also a private sector provider that owns and operates the Milton Soccer Centre. Built in 2011, the Milton Soccer Academy is the anchor tenant at this facility, using the 130' x 80' field. The Milton Soccer Academy has expanded their programming into the M.I.T.C. (while retaining its programs at the Milton Soccer Centre). Private sector operations are common throughout the G.T.A. including in regional communities such as Oakville.

Market Conditions

The demand for indoor turf facilities has been driven by soccer's continued appeal plus an increased emphasis on year-round training and competition, combined with considerable demand from other sports such as Ultimate Frisbee, football and baseball. While only a segment of the overall soccer market play indoors (about 1 indoor player for every 4 outdoor players), more players are looking for year round soccer opportunities and resulting in elevated registrations in indoor programs. Indoor soccer is largely driven by adult participation, however, youth involvement is also growing (in Milton, however, youth bookings constitute the majority of use).

Milton's service level is 1 indoor turf field per 101,270 residents with the addition of the M.I.T.C. The benchmarking indicates that communities are not setting provision standards for indoor turf facilities but rather providing them where feasible and supported through sound business planning. Caution should be exercised in the literal interpretation of the benchmarking table given different operating environments among municipalities. For example, like Milton with the Milton Soccer Centre, Burlington, Oakville and Vaughan have private sector operators which has reduced or negated the need for municipal involvement, while the Halton Hills facility is situated on Town land but is operated independently by a community organization. As an example of yet another funding arrangement, Burlington and Whitby have debentured the cost of bubbles and are being paid back by their respective Soccer Clubs. Furthermore, the size of indoor turf fields varies as Milton and Oakville's full size fields can be split into four simultaneously programmed fields while others may only be able to be split in two.

Municipality	Service Level	Indoor Turf Centres
1. Halton Hills	1 : 60,500	1
2. Milton	1 : 101,000	1
3. Oakville	1 : 182,500	1
4. Vaughan	n/a	0
5. Burlington	n/a	0
Benchmark Average	1 : 114,500	1

Note: Service level rounded to the nearest 500 residents. Average excludes Vaughan and Burlington as service is not provided in municipal facilities.

	<p>For the M.I.T.C.'s 2014 operation (January to March and the month of December), over 2,200 prime hours were utilized, split fairly evenly between weekday and weekend bookings. Over this sixteen week span, utilization averaged approximately 140 hours booked per week out of a possible 192 hours, or 69%.¹² About 95% of prime hours were allocated for user rentals with the remainder dedicated for Town of Milton programming. The first quarter of 2015 had 2,250 booked prime hours, averaging 180 hours per week or 94% utilization of available hours. Anecdotal observations from area municipalities suggests that the M.I.T.C. is drawing considerable regional interest, particularly from communities such as Mississauga and Oakville, with the Town indicating 12% of all users are non-residents.</p>
<p>Community Feedback</p>	<p>Some groups indicated that the inability to access affordable local indoor turf opportunities was presently a concern. Apart from that, there was limited feedback pertaining to indoor turf apart from sport and recreation groups indicating that they were eagerly awaiting the opening of the M.I.T.C. (as consultations were held prior to the facility's opening date).</p>
<p>Needs Assessments</p>	<p>The M.I.T.C.'s 2015 first quarter schedule resulted in 1,800 of a possible 2,400 hours rented, there is about 600 hours of capacity available translating into about 50 hours per week, or about 12 hours per week per quarter field that is presently unbooked. It is difficult to rationalize the need for another indoor turf field without first undertaking a business plan or an update to the Town of Milton's Indoor Turf Study (2012) that originally provided the basis for proceeding with the M.I.T.C. That 2012 Study stated that demand exists for four 100' x 180' fields by the year 2021 (which is what the M.I.T.C. provides now) and thus the M.I.T.C. was anticipated to fully satisfy the long-term need by 2021. It is recognized that the M.I.T.C. has exceeded expectations, though it does attract a degree of non-resident use from communities such as Mississauga and Oakville. It is important to note that Mississauga has identified the construction of an indoor turf facility along its western boundary with Milton as one of its short term priorities (could be as soon as 2017), while the feasibility of building another indoor turf facility in north Oakville is presently being studied. The development of one or both of these facilities will have an effect on usage of the M.I.T.C.'s utilization profile depending upon the extent of its non-resident usage.</p> <p>Despite strong utilization at the M.I.T.C. at present, it would be premature for the Town of Milton to construct a second indoor turf facility prior to collecting market-specific data on the regional indoor soccer market (with a focus on users that are playing in Milton), and monitoring usage at the M.I.T.C. in relation to the impact of any planned or existing indoor soccer facilities in Halton and Peel Regions. Accordingly, indoor turf requirements will need to be evaluated on an ongoing basis with the need for additional facilities likely be confirmed through business planning.</p>
<p>Action Plans</p>	<p>F19. Undertake a business plan quantifying the need for municipal investment in a second indoor turf facility, considering regional supply and demand attributable to area municipalities (notably Mississauga and Oakville) as well as the private sector. Through this exercise, partnership discussions should also be initiated with school boards, other educational institutions, local sports organizations and/or the private sector to determine co-location and resource sharing potential associated with a new indoor turf facility, including the feasibility of installing an air-supported structure over an existing outdoor artificial turf field.</p>

¹² Prime time defined as weekdays from 5pm to 11pm and on weekends from 8am to 5pm, and is applied to each of the four 'quarter' fields in recognition that the field can be subdivided and used simultaneously if needed. M.I.T.C. Q1 schedule spans January 1st to March 31st (approximately 12.5 weeks).

b) Outdoor Soccer Fields

Supply

The Town permits three artificial turf fields (each under a joint-use agreement with the School Boards), fifteen major natural fields, thirteen minor fields, and twelve mini fields. Additionally, nine fields are permitted at schools and the Croatian Club. Seven of the natural turf fields are lit, each of which is considered to be the equivalent of 1.5 unlit fields due to the additional playing hours afforded during the evening. Artificial turf fields are commonly considered to be the equivalent of three unlit natural fields as they can accommodate a greater degree of wear and tear throughout an extended playing season. For the purposes of this assessment, each artificial turf is counted as the equivalent of 2.0 unlit soccer fields recognizing there would be additional capacity over and above as these function as a multi-use fields for other field sports benefitting from the turf in the spring and fall.

The fields are located as follows:

- **Artificial Turf (6.0 equivalents):** Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School, Craig Kielberger Secondary School, Jean Vanier Secondary School
- **Major Lit (15 equivalents):** Bristol District Park, Lions Park (5), Milton Community Park (4)
- **Major Unlit (5 equivalents):** Bennett Park, Bronte Meadows Park, Boyne Park, Laurier Park, Scott Neighbourhood Park East
- **Minor (13 equivalents):** Beaty Neighbourhood Park North & South (3), Brian Best Park (2), Bristol District Park, Clarke Neighbourhood Park South, Coates Neighbourhood Park North, Dempsey Neighbourhood Park, Laurier Park, Lions Park, Optimist Park (2)
- **Mini (12 equivalents):** Baldwin Park (2), Coates Neighbourhood Park South (4), Clarke Neighbourhood Parks North & South (4), Kinsmen Park (2)
- **Non-Municipal (9 equivalents):** Croatian Club (4), EC Drury Secondary School, Milton District High School, Percy Merry School, Our Lady of Victory School (2)

Based on the above, Milton's 52 soccer fields are considered to provide the equivalent of 60.0 unlit natural fields. The following map illustrates the distribution of Milton's soccer fields, differentiating the supply into 'Premier' (including artificial turf), 'A' and 'B' fields as per the Town's sports field classification system. Service radii are differentiated by field classification in recognition that the highest order fields serve a larger catchment area than would a lower order field that provides a lesser quality of play experience.

The supply does *not* include the Cricket Commons proposed for the Sherwood District Park nor the lit multi-use field under development at Milton Community Park, as their focus is primarily on other field sports though they may facilitate some soccer programming (refer to subsequent pages for more information on other rectangular fields).

Soccer Fields



Soccer Fields



Premier (1km Service Area)



Class A (800m Service Area)



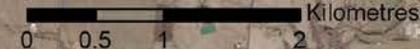
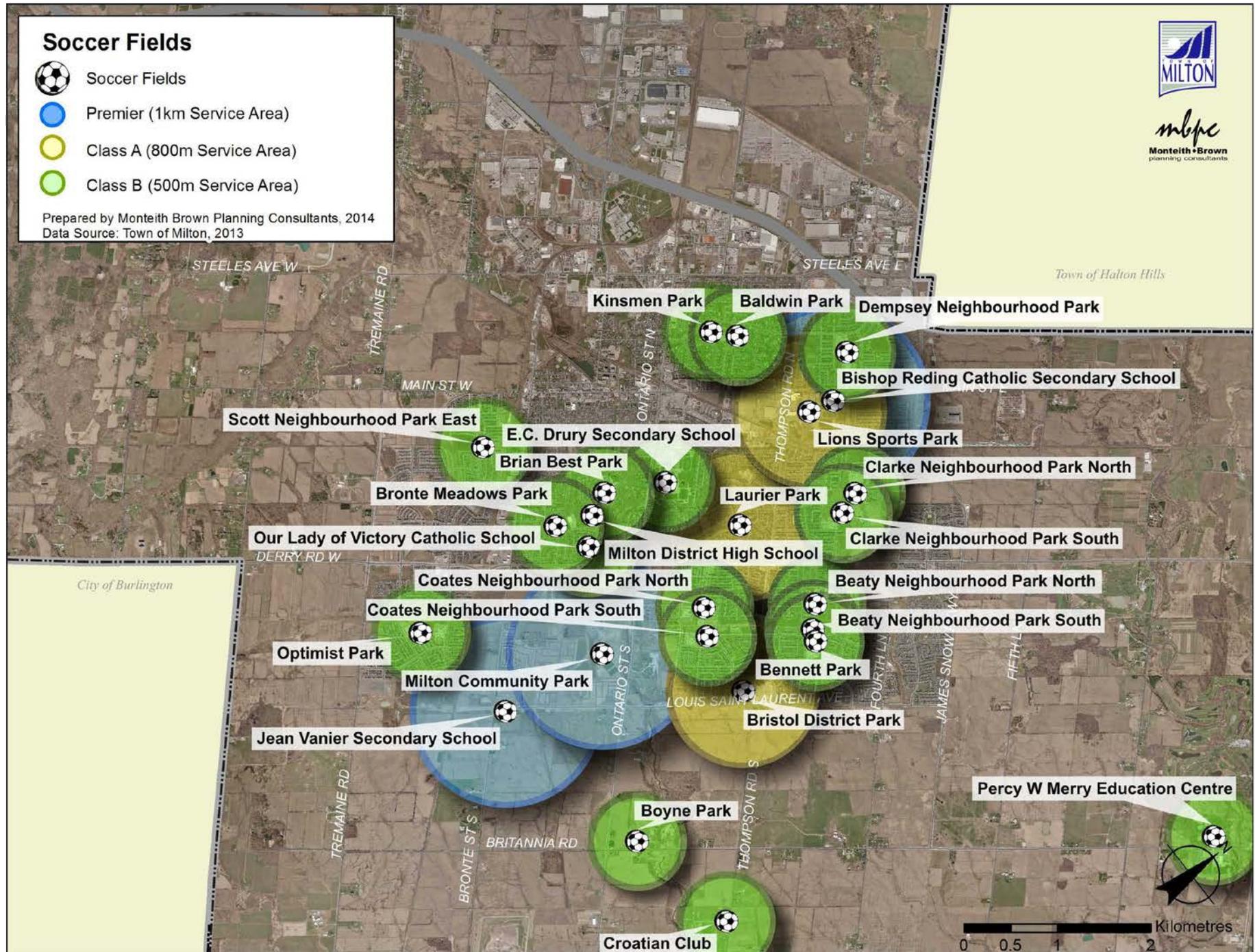
Class B (500m Service Area)

Prepared by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2014
Data Source: Town of Milton, 2013



Town of Halton Hills

City of Burlington



Market Conditions

During the 1990s, soccer underwent enormous growth and replaced baseball and hockey as the most popular team sport among Canadian youth although participation growth rates have since stabilized. According to the Ontario Soccer Association, enrolment in outdoor soccer activities peaked in 2007 and has slightly declined in each year since. While the sport remains popular, participation reductions are most apparent in younger age cohorts. According to data contained in Milton’s 2012 Indoor Turf Study, registrations in the Peel Halton Soccer Association have risen by 6,326 players in the past ten years, representing a 12% increase in the number of outdoor players (though well below the population growth rate of the Region as a whole). Data provided by the Town of Milton indicates there were about 5,000 players registered with local soccer organizations, the majority of whom are associated with the Milton Youth Soccer Club and Milton Soccer Academy.

Milton’s 60 unlit equivalent soccer fields results in a service level of one field per 1,690 residents, slightly above the benchmark average.

Municipality	Service Level	Soccer Fields	Target Service Level
1. Vaughan	1 : 1,600	148.0	1 : 60 youth registrants
1. Oakville	1 : 1,600	125.0	1 : 100 youth registrants
1. Milton	1 : 1,700	60.0	1 : 80 registrants
4. Halton Hills	1 : 1,700	39.0	1 : 90 registrants
5. Burlington	1 : 3,900	52.0	unspecified
Benchmark Average	1 : 2,100	85.0	

Notes: Service level rounded to the nearest 100 residents. Sites include municipal and school facilities, with the exception of Burlington due to lack of available school information. Unlit equivalent supply is reflected.

Nearly 6,900 prime time hours¹³ were booked at Milton’s soccer fields in 2014, translating into a prime utilization rate of 75%. Although this represents about 600 fewer hours booked from the year before (partially attributable to field resting and turf regeneration efforts), the number of hours rented has been trending upwards since 2010. The following provide some insights into the utilization profile of Milton’s soccer fields:

- Overall, 2,250 prime hours went unbooked during the 2014 season across all the fields amounting to about 110 hours available per week over an assumed 20 week season.
- Lit major fields were booked 66% of prime time, with 1,080 unused hours over the course of the season averaging 5 available hours per week per field;
- Unlit major fields were booked 80% of prime times, with 272 unused hours averaging 2.5 available hours per week per field;
- Minor fields were booked 75% of prime times, with 770 unused hours averaging 3 available hours per week per field; and
- Mini fields were booked 91% of prime times, by far the strongest utilization rates of all fields with 135 unused hours averaging half an hour of available time per week.

¹³ Prime times defined as 6pm to 8pm for unlit fields and 6:30pm to 11pm for lit fields, scheduled across six days per week (Sunday to Friday).

Community Feedback

Milton Youth Soccer Club and Milton Soccer Academy participated in the Sport & Recreation Roundtable (the latter group also submitted a group survey). They suggested additional fields would likely be required with population growth, but particularly emphasized the need to maintain or improve the quality of existing fields through turf management.

Needs Assessments

In recognition of the Town's considerable efforts in increasing its soccer field supply, stabilizing soccer demands evidenced by nearly 2,250 unbooked prime time hours in 2014 and diminishing supplies of large open space tracts capable of hosting new fields, the standard contained in the previous C.S.M.P. Update has been slightly reduced to 1 soccer field per 90 registrants (which includes both youth and adult participants).

Assuming capture rates remain constant, application of the standard results in a total supply of 63.5 unlit field equivalents being required by the end of the master planning period based on a forecast of 5,700 registered players in 2018. This amounts to a need for 3.5 new unlit equivalents to be provided over and above the current supply. Distribution of soccer fields, as shown in the map, is excellent with a slight gap in the northwest portion of the urban area (and is expected to be reconciled upon the eventual development of the Milton Heights Community Park given that park is no longer envisioned for a future community centre).

Looking beyond the C.S.M.P. Update planning period, *a cautious approach is required* to ensure that Milton does not overbuild its soccer field supply to peak demands, particularly since these facilities require a very large quantum of land. Careful monitoring of field usage and user needs is important in the context of stabilizing participation trends at the regional level, surplus capacity observed through local utilization data (some of which is attributable to field turf regeneration efforts), and a revamping of the Ontario Soccer Association's Long Term Player Development model that shifts the emphasis away from games in favour of teaching. The preferred strategy moving forward is to intensify existing soccer fields (where appropriate) and to provide single soccer fields within future neighbourhood parks (there are six neighbourhood parks identified in the Boyne Secondary Plan). Accordingly, a sports field development strategy will be required whereby the ability of existing soccer fields to be intensified (through lighting, irrigation/drainage, or artificial turf improvements) needs to be considered in addition to new field development.

The above noted actions are heavily reliant upon artificial turf to address growth-related demands of the future and could come at a multi-million dollar cost (and a degree of risk due to higher rental rates relative to natural grass, which may affect end usage). As a result, the Town needs a contingency plan should any of the above actions not be able to meet ongoing needs. The most plausible action in this respect is to develop a sports field complex containing multiple fields as well as to continue discussions with local school boards to potentially intensify their fields given the Town's history of successful collaboration with the schools. Similarly, discussions to create artificial turf fields with any post-secondary institutions should form part of any campus master planning activities should such an institution(s) be developed in the future, with any shared-use fields involving supporting allocation policies are also established that guarantee a desired level of community access in exchange for municipal investment.

Provision of a sports field complex within the urban boundary will be especially challenging given that two of the three District Park parcels remaining are unlikely to have sufficient space within them (i.e. Sherwood District Park will be largely consumed by the proposed community centre, softball diamond, and cricket commons while the Boyne District Park West is the proposed site of a future-term multi-use community centre thereby limiting the number of fields at that location). At present, the only assured opportunity for a multi-field complex lies at the 8 hectare Boyne District Park East and possibly at a Derry Green Community Park (where lands still need to be obtained using the cash-in-lieu contribution). The Town also negotiated acquisition of a 64 hectare site known as the Escarpment View Lands that is located at the foot of the Niagara Escarpment, and while that parcel has

the greatest potential for a sports field complex due to its size, at this time it is unknown whether sports fields (particularly lit ones) will conform to Niagara Escarpment Plan policies and legislation.

To further alleviate capital investment pressures associated with developing new soccer fields, the Town should engage its soccer field users to determine potential ways in which to enhance scheduling practices and maximize all available field times (e.g. encouraging earlier start times to fit in an extra game or practice per day).

Action Plans

- F20. Revise the soccer field provision standard to one field per 90 registered participants.
- F21. Provide the unlit equivalent capacity of 3.5 soccer fields over the master planning period, with careful monitoring to discern improvements in soccer field utilization and bookings and requirements associated with the Ontario Soccer Association’s player development model. Field provision should be targeted through intensification of existing sports fields, integration of fields in new Neighbourhood and District Parks, partnerships to intensify school fields, and creation of sports field complexes where possible.
- F22. Continue discussions with the Niagara Escarpment Commission to develop policies permitting lit sports fields for soccer, ball, etc. within the Escarpment View Lands.

c) Ball Diamonds

Supply

The Town permits three hardball diamonds, seventeen softball diamonds, and six minor diamonds. Additionally, three fields are permitted at schools. A total of thirteen of the diamonds are lit, each of which is considered to be the equivalent of 1.5 unlit fields due to the additional playing hours afforded during the evening. The fields are located as follows:

- **Hardball Lit (3 equivalents):** Milton Community Park (2)
- **Hardball Unlit (1 equivalent):** New Campbellville Park
- **Softball Lit (15 equivalents):** Brookville Park (2), Drumquin Park (2), Lions Park (3), Maplehurst, Omagh Park, Sherwood District Park
- **Softball Unlit (7 equivalents):** Beaty Neighbourhood Park, Brian Best (2), Bronte Meadows, Old Campbellville Park, Kinsmen Park, Moffat Park
- **Minor Unlit (6 equivalents):** Rotary Park (3), Sam Sherratt Park (3)
- **Non-Municipal (3 equivalents):** EW Foster Public School, Martin Street Public School, WI Dick Public School

Based on the above, Milton’s 29 ball diamonds are considered to provide the equivalent of 35 unlit natural fields. Of note, the Martin Street Public School diamond could be removed from the supply pending a planned expansion to the school building.

Market
Conditions

Prime utilization rates of Milton’s hardball and softball diamonds sit at 77%, with a total of 3,800 prime time hours booked during the 2014 season (amounting to 100 fewer hours than booked in 2012, noting that the Brookville diamonds reduce the percentage of use – excluding these diamonds, utilization would be 80%). Further examination into the utilization profile of ball diamonds reveals:

- Overall, about 1,150 hours went unbooked during the 2014 season, amounting to about 57 hours available per week over an assumed 20 week season (or about 2 hours per week per diamond, which is fairly common due to the way diamonds are scheduled);
- Lit hardball diamonds were used 79%, with 205 hours unused over the course of the season and averaging 10 available hours per week;
- Unlit hardball diamonds are very well subscribed at 93% of prime hours being booked;
- Lit softball diamonds were used 75% of prime hours, reflecting unused capacity of 540 hours averaging 27 available hours per week;
- Unlit softball diamonds were used 83%, with 83 hours unused averaging 4 hours per week; and
- Minor diamonds were used 75% of prime hours, with 310 hours unused averaging 15 hours per week.

Milton is bucking the national trend of declining ball participation as demonstrated by growth in bookings, partially driven by population increases but also possibly by growth in adult leagues that may be thriving as newcomers to Milton are looking to meet persons with common interests. Data provided by the Town indicates that softball registrations total about 1,760 players while there are another 850 hardball players affiliated with Milton organizations. In fact, hardball has grown significantly with Baseball Milton reporting a growing waiting list (over 40 players this year, though this is partially attributable to lack of volunteers) along with 17% growth in its membership over the past three seasons.

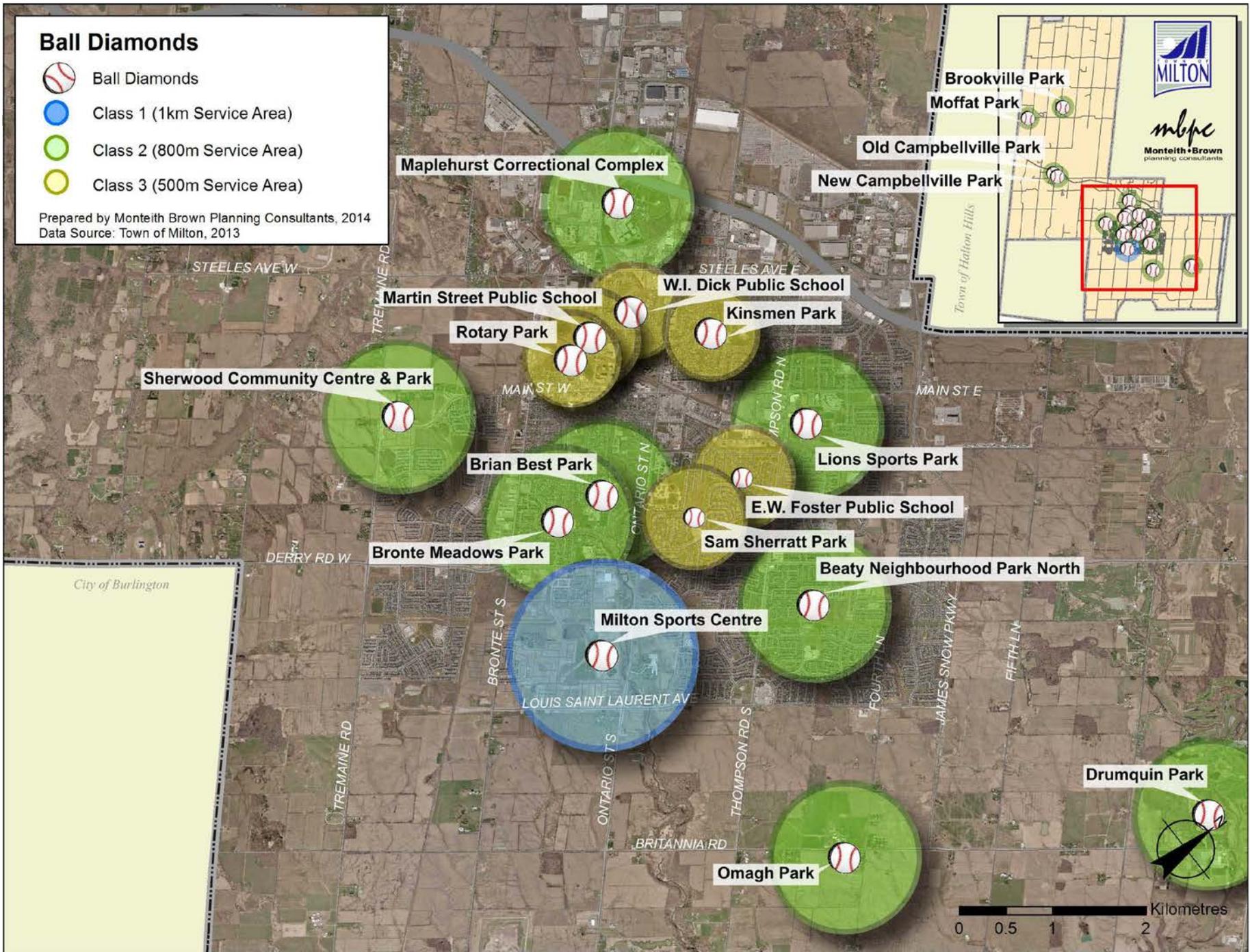
With 35 unlit equivalent ball diamonds, Milton provides one diamond for every 2,900 residents, representing the average of the regional benchmarks.

Municipality	Service Level	Ball Diamonds	Target Service Level
1. Oakville	1 : 1,900	97	1 : 5,000 pop. (area-specific)
2. Halton Hills	1 : 2,000	35	1 : 100 registrants
3. Burlington	1 : 2,300	78	unspecified
4. Milton	1 : 2,900	35	1 : 100 registrants
5. Vaughan	1 : 4,400	71	1 : 50 minor participants
Benchmark Average	1 : 2,700	63	

Notes: Service level rounded to the nearest 100 residents. Sites include municipal and school facilities, with the exception of Burlington due to lack of available school information. Unlit equivalent supply is reflected.

Community
Feedback

Baseball Milton indicates that it requires additional diamonds (particularly lit fields) to address growth, suggesting they could book an additional 40 hours per week (though it is unclear if this takes into account the temporary loss of Bronte Meadows last season due to field reconstruction). They also have concerns about drainage at certain fields and lack of batting cages (to practice hitting). Milton Senior Baseball Club echoes similar concerns, and emphasized a need to improve maintenance and scheduling practices through their completed Community Group Survey.



<p>Needs Assessments</p>	<p>Consistent with the previous C.S.M.P., this Update utilizes a standard of 1 ball diamond per 100 registrants to calculate the required number of facilities given that demand for these spaces has remained fairly strong over the past few years (as evidenced by strong prime time utilization and waiting lists stated by some groups) and the continued pursuit of achieving good distribution. Assuming capture rates are maintained, 3,000 registered ball players are anticipated within Milton by the end of the master planning period resulting in a need for 30 diamonds in 2018 and a projected surplus of 5 diamonds after factoring the unlit equivalent supply. The existing surplus diamond capacity is rationalized through the Town’s ability to provide these facilities in a manner that will address future demand, along with the fact that Milton is achieving good spatial distribution in both the urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Application of capture rates suggest that registration growth is likely to create demands primarily for softball diamonds, with about two-thirds of registration growth attributable to adults as well as considering the fact that children under the age of 14 predominantly use softball diamonds. Longer-term beyond the C.S.M.P. Update period, the Town may be faced with demands for another hardball diamond as the younger age groups transition to hardball suggesting that any new softball diamonds built in the short-term be designed with the possibility of future conversion in mind, should the need arise to provide hardball in the future (e.g. designing in field expansion potential, factoring in hardball setbacks at the outset, etc.). When planning new diamonds, discussions should be initiated with local ball organizations to reconfirm diamond needs, possible designs and locations, and partnership potential (e.g. for ancillary facilities such as batting cages).</p> <p>Discussions with ball diamond users indicate that the limited number of multi-diamond sites poses constraints particularly with respect to tournament play and adult social leagues. The Town should explore a potential site that is capable of accommodating between three and four diamonds, at least two of which should be designed for hardball, in total thereby addressing the multi-diamond venue concern. However, new diamonds are only recommended during the master planning period on the basis that they are to replace repurposed diamonds (e.g. existing underutilized, lower quality facilities) should the Town deems such an action to be appropriate.</p> <p>Potential locations for a ball diamond complex include one of Boyne’s District Parks, Derry Green Community Park, or as a longer-term development within the Escarpment Lands (if the Town is permitted to provide lit facilities under the Niagara Escarpment policies and legislation). Escarpment View Lands presents an ideal location for a regional ball diamond complex particularly since another six ball diamonds are forecasted to be required between 2018 and 2021, attributable to the rapid growth forecasted for the Boyne community.</p>
<p>Action Plans</p>	<p>F23. Explore the provision of a multi-diamond complex in order to facilitate tournament, skill development and/or sport tourism opportunities. In doing so, the Town may explore the construction of diamonds in the short-term provided that it removes/repurposes an equivalent number of underutilized or low quality diamonds from an existing park(s). Possible locations for a multi-diamond complex include a future District Park within the Boyne Secondary Plan area, at the Derry Green Community Park, or the Escarpment View Lands.</p>

d) Other Outdoor Sports Fields

<p>Supply</p>	<p>Historically, organized sports such as football, lacrosse and rugby have relied upon school fields. The Town permits artificial turf fields at Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School, Craig Kielberger Secondary School and Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School (each considered the equivalent of 0.5</p>
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fields as the majority of their use is attributable to soccer, as discussed in that subsection), while also permitting natural turf school football fields at EC Drury and Milton District High School. A lit multi-use field is anticipated to be ready at the Milton Community Park in 2014 for use by football, Ultimate Frisbee and other field sports. Based on this supply, the equivalent of 4.5 fields oriented to other field sport users is available Milton.

In addition, Sherwood District Park contains a large open green space can be used as a recreational Cricket Commons or for minor soccer upon its expected opening in 2014; this field, however, is not a regulation size cricket pitch and thus would only permit use of a soft tape ball rather than a standard cork ball. Cricket is also played at non-regulation size fields at the Boyne Community Centre Field and at the Drumquin Park ball diamond.

Market Conditions

Tackle Football is a sport with cyclical popularity. There are recent indications that the sport may be again gaining popularity in Ontario, particularly for players in the 7 to 19 age group. Rugby is not seen as a growth-sport in most parts of the province, but remains stable in communities that are home to strong clubs that organize appealing programs. Trends in lacrosse suggest that the vast majority of players prefer box lacrosse, which is played indoors, rather than field lacrosse, which is likely the case for the 355 players registered with the Milton Lacrosse Association (the group notes, however, that they added two field lacrosse divisions in 2013 indicating growth). Benchmarking data was not available for municipally-owned football, lacrosse or rugby fields.

Other field sports that are growing in popularity include Ultimate Frisbee, field hockey, and cricket. Cricket has been found to be extremely popular in the Greater Toronto Area, particularly where newcomers from certain European, South Asian and Caribbean nations (where the sport is commonly played) have located. Brampton and Mississauga, as examples, provide a number of cricket pitches and are open to constructing additional ones to keep up with community needs. Locally, the Milton Marvels Cricket Club reports a 2013 membership of 40 players (about double that from its last year) though it is noted that about 40% of its players are from Milton itself.

Municipality	Service Level	Cricket Sites
1. Milton	1 : 101,270	1
2. Burlington	1 : 156,500	1
3. Vaughan	1 : 144,000	2
4. Oakville	n/a	0
4. Halton Hills	n/a	0
Benchmark Average	1 : 134,000	1

Notes: Service level rounded to the nearest 500 residents. Average excludes Halton Hills and Oakville as service is not provided in municipal facilities. Benchmarks do not define a set provision standard.

Community Feedback

Milton Lacrosse Association participated in the Sport & Recreation Roundtable and completed a Community Group Survey, while the Milton Marvels Cricket Club also submitted a Group Survey. Both groups articulate a need for additional sports fields suited to their respective needs, though Lacrosse emphasized a greater interest in utilizing indoor turf.

Needs Assessments

With the availability of the three artificial turf fields (that also provide opportunity for use prior to and after the soccer season), the two school football fields along with the opening of a multi-use field at Milton Community Park, no further rectangular multi-use fields are recommended over the course of the C.S.M.P. Update period. With respect to cricket, it is recommended that the Town construct a major cricket pitch (preferably with lighting) capable of accommodating hard ball play given the apparent demand for the sport and the lack of a full size pitch. Potential options for a new major cricket pitch include the Derry Green Community Park or the Escarpment View Lands campus if developed. The design of the pitch should engage the local cricket-playing community to discuss options such as field surfaces, lighting, seating areas, and other related amenities.

Action Plans

F24. Provide 1 major hardball cricket pitch after engaging the local cricket-playing community to discuss field location and design.

Hard Surface Courts

a) Tennis Courts

Supply

A total of seven public tennis courts are located at Bronte Meadows Park (2), Optimist Park (3), and Rotary Park (2). In addition another twelve municipal courts, located at the Milton Community Park (8) and to the Nassagaweya Tennis Centre (4), are leased to the respective Tennis Clubs.

Market Conditions

Participation in tennis varies greatly from community to community and province to province. By many accounts, tennis is not considered a growth sport though there is research that suggests club-based play is on the rise, a trend apparent locally with the Milton Tennis Club reporting 10% growth since 2008 (and membership now standing at about 750) and the Nassagaweya Tennis Club reporting 50% growth since that time (with a membership presently at about 290).

The 19 tennis courts owned by the Town results in a service level of one court per 5,330 residents.

Municipality	Service Level	Total Courts	Public Courts	Club Courts
1. Oakville	1 : 2,300	78	64	14
2. Vaughan	1 : 2,600	122	Data not available	
3. Halton Hills	1 : 4,300	14	8	6
4. Burlington	1 : 4,500	39	14	25
5. Milton	1 : 5,300	19	7	12
Benchmark Average	1 : 3,800	54		

Note: Service level rounded to the nearest 100 residents

Tennis Courts



Tennis Courts (800m Service Area)

Prepared by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2014
Data Source: Town of Milton, 2013



Monteith Brown
planning consultants

Nassagaweya Tennis Centre (4)
(Home of the Nassagaweya Tennis Club)

Rotary Park (2)

Bronte Meadows Park (2)

Optimist Park (3)

Milton Community Park (8)
(Home of the Milton Tennis Club)

City of Burlington



0 0.5 1 2 Kilometres

Community Feedback

Through the Sports & Recreation Roundtable, the Milton Tennis Club identified a greater desire to work with the Town in selecting contractors to undertake court and clubhouse maintenance activities (of note, staff confirmed that the Milton Tennis Club did work directly with the Town and selected the contractor that built the original tennis courts at the new location in the Community Park).

Needs Assessments

Consistent with the Town of Milton's 2008 C.S.M.P. and 2009 Tennis Strategy, a provision standard of one tennis court per 10,000 new residents is used to calculate needs. A total of five new tennis courts is required over the longer-term, bringing the total supply to 26 courts. This is a level of service that is generally consistent with the previous assessments. With three high quality tennis courts having recently been constructed at Optimist Park in the Sherwood community (as recommended through the Tennis Strategy), the location of the five new courts should be located in the Boyne Secondary Plan area or an existing park(s) located east of Regional Road 25 given the spatial gap that presently exists there.

With respect to the need for an indoor tennis facility, the recommendations from the 2009 Tennis Strategy remain relevant. The collective membership of the MTC and NTC has not yet reached the threshold determined to be sustainable by the Tennis Strategy, and there is no indication that it will within the C.S.M.P. Update period. Prior to considering provision of an indoor tennis facility, it is a recommendation of the Tennis Strategy *"That clubs provide the Town with agreeable assurances and guarantees regarding their ability to attract an adequate number of indoor players to a Milton tennis bubble. At a minimum the clubs should demonstrate that they are capable of reaching and maintaining adult membership rosters that are equal to the provincial tennis participation average."*

Action Plans

F25. Construct 5 new tennis courts to be located in a manner that considers existing geographic distribution and areas of need, such as east of Regional Road 25 and the Boyne Secondary Plan area.



b) Basketball & Multi-Use Courts

Supply

A total of 18 basketball courts are located at 16 parks in Milton. Many of these courts can be considered to be ‘multi-purpose’ in nature due to their ability to be used for ball hockey or other general activities in addition to basketball.

- **Full Courts (12):** Baldwin Park, Beaty Neighbourhood Park, Bronte Meadows Park, Bristol District Park, Brookville Park, Old Campbellville Park, Coates Neighbourhood Park North, Coates Neighbourhood Park South, Dempsey Park, Kinsmen Park, Optimist Park, Sinclair Park
- **Half Courts (6):** Lions Park, Scott Neighbourhood Park East, Sherwood District Park (2), Sunny Mount Park (2)

Market Conditions

Basketball is generally considered to be a growth sport, especially among youth. Ball hockey has also been observed to be popular among children and youth, with hard surface courts providing an ideal venue due to their dimensions and safety relative to traditional road hockey. Demand for outdoor basketball and multi-use courts has been found to be high in many communities as the courts are easily incorporated into neighbourhood-level parks, thus allowing pedestrian or bicycle access (which are the primary modes of transportation among youth). These facilities also cater to the growing trend towards unscheduled, drop-in recreational activities.

Milton’s 16 basketball/multi-use court sites result in a service level of one site per 6,330 residents. Benchmarking the number of sites, rather than the number of courts themselves, was conducted due to the different configurations of courts (e.g. full court, half court, tri-courts, etc.) between municipalities and the fact that asset accounting practices also differ between the municipalities.

Municipality	Service Level	Basketball Sites
1. Vaughan	1 : 4,500	69
2. Milton	1 : 6,300	16
3. Halton Hills	1 : 15,100	4
4. Oakville	1 : 20,300	9
5. Burlington	unavailable	unavailable
Benchmark Average	1 : 11,600	25

Note: Service level rounded to the nearest 100 residents

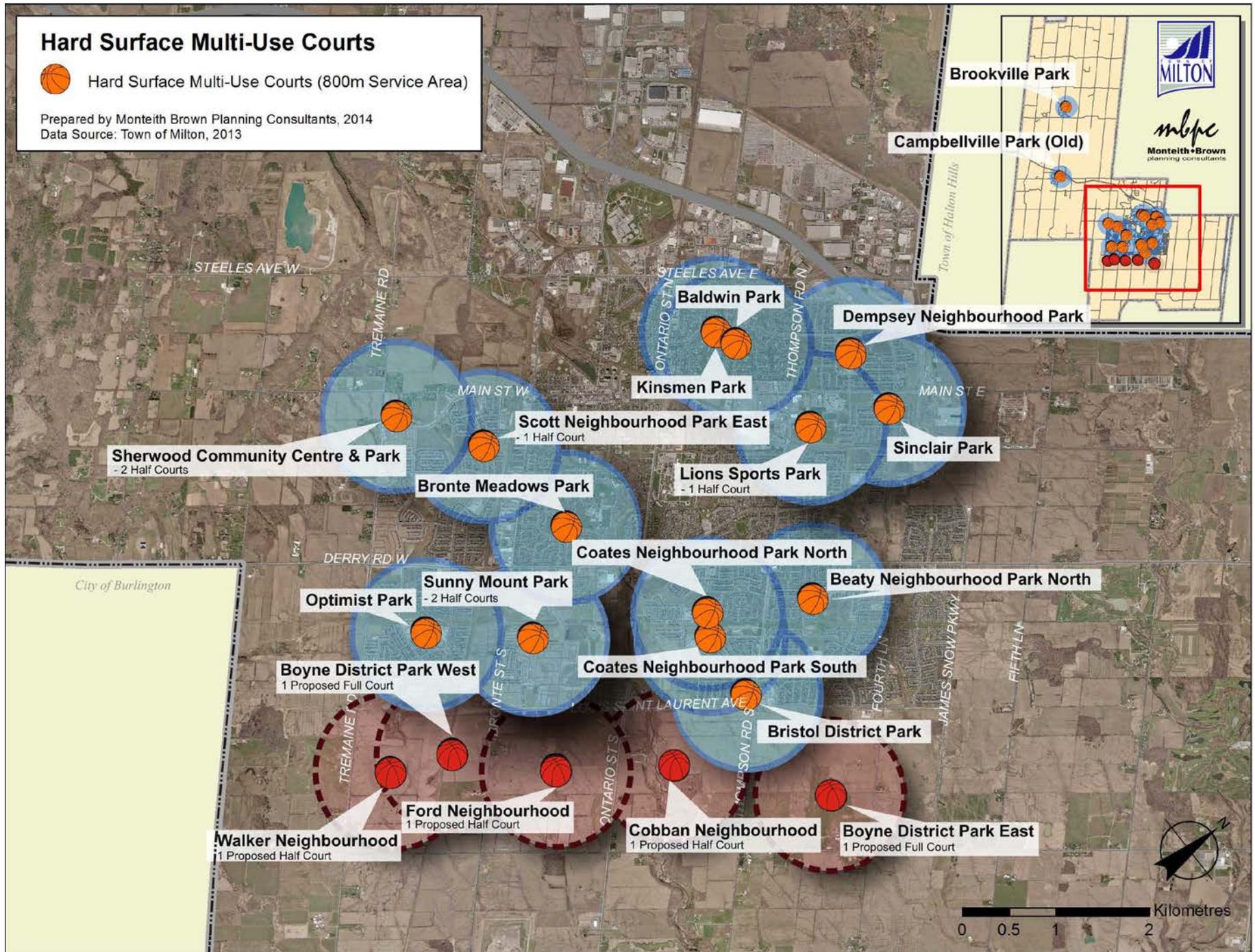
Community Feedback

Some participants in the Youth Summit identified that basketball courts are desirable components of the parks system, particularly if separated from children’s areas in a park (e.g. courts could form part of ‘youth zones’ in parks).

Hard Surface Multi-Use Courts

 Hard Surface Multi-Use Courts (800m Service Area)

Prepared by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2014
Data Source: Town of Milton, 2013



Needs Assessments

The 2008 C.S.M.P. utilized a standard of 1 basketball/multi-use court per 900 youth to calculate needs (as those between the ages of 10 and 19 are the primary users of these courts). With a number of new courts having been constructed in Sherwood and Bristol communities over the past few years, there is merit in moving towards a geographic standard for providing future basketball courts particularly since the success of such facilities (as determined by utilization) are dependent upon their walkability to residential areas (as children and youth often use active transportation to reach their destinations). Furthermore, the preceding map illustrates fairly strong service coverage with most neighbourhood districts having at least one basketball court within them.

Accordingly, it is recommended that the Town's service level standard should be to provide a minimum of one full basketball court within future District and Community Parks, and a minimum of one half basketball court in future Neighbourhood Parks. In addition, each residential neighbourhood district in the urban area should have access to a minimum of one full or half court. Application of this geographic service standard results in the need for two new full courts to be located within two Boyne District Parks (i.e. East and West) as well as considering a minimum of four half courts in Neighbourhood Parks in the Walker, Ford, Cobban and Bowes neighbourhoods as these areas develop their residential lands.

Action Plans

F26. Each major residential planning district (e.g. Old Milton, Bristol, Sherwood and Boyne) should have access to a minimum of one full basketball and/or multi-use court to be located within a District or Community Park. Furthermore, each residential neighbourhood should have access to a minimum of one half basketball and/or multi-use court to be located in Neighbourhood Parks. On this basis, provide full basketball/multi-use courts at the Boyne District Park West and Boyne District Park East along with a minimum of four new half courts within the Walker, Ford, Cobban and Bowes neighbourhoods. The actual number of full and half courts provided shall be determined through parks planning and design processes.



Skateboard Parks

Supply

Lions Sports Park contains a large concrete skateboard and BMX freestyle park, along with a separate pad containing modular elements that is oriented to beginners. The Town also has plans to construct a major skateboard park as part of the Milton Community Park's final phase

Market Conditions

Skateboard and bike parks are increasingly being viewed as venues that respond to the interests of skateboarders, BMX cyclists, and inline skaters. By providing an authorized venue for these activities, skateboard and bike parks can also help to reduce damage to municipal infrastructure as well as private property where skateboarders and BMX users may have previously frequented.

Municipality	Service Level	Skateboard Parks
1. Halton Hills	1 : 30,500	2
2. Oakville	1 : 61,000	3
3. Vaughan	1 : 62,500	5
4. Burlington	1 : 88,000	2
5. Milton	1 : 101,270	1
Benchmark Average	1 : 68,500	3

Note: Service level rounded to the nearest 500 residents.

Community Feedback

Certain participants in the Youth Summit noted that skateboard parks formed part of their 'ideal park.' Apart from this, there was limited input provided with respect to skateboarding.





<p>Needs Assessments</p>	<p>The 2008 C.S.M.P. utilized a provision standard of 1 “minor” skateboard park per 5,000 youth between the ages 10 and 19 as this demographic constitute the primary users of such facilities. The 2008 C.S.M.P. also describes “major” skateboard parks, such as the one at Lions Sports Park, as being a specialized Town-wide facility where a per capita provision standard is not applicable. The difference between minor and major skateboard parks is primarily that the latter are of much greater size and availability of amenities, and accordingly their cost tends to be much higher.</p> <p>By the end of the C.S.M.P. Update period, it is estimated that there will be an estimated 14,400 youth residing in Milton which would amount to a need for three minor skateboard parks based on the provision standard. The preferred strategy is to develop three minor skateboard parks at Sherwood District Park, and both of the Boyne District Parks. These minor skateboarding facilities will supplement the major skateboard park at Lions Park as well as the facility that is envisioned to open by year 2016 at Milton Community Park.</p> <p>These facilities should be designed to address the needs of the skateboarding, BMX and inline skating community, thus consultation with representatives from these and other groups is recommended. By doing so, the provision of additional dedicated BMX or mountain biking courses is not required over the next five years.</p>
<p>Action Plans</p>	<p>F27. Proceed with the construction of a major skateboard park at Milton Community Park (possibly with lights), supplemented by an additional three minor skateboard parks at Sherwood District Park and the Boyne District Parks. All of these facilities should be designed in consultation with the local skateboarding, BMX and inline skating community.</p>

Cycling Facilities

Supply	<p>Milton is poised to build on cycling sports in the community with the opening of the Mattamy National Cycling Centre that provides a national calibre indoor cycling venue. At present, Milton has supported BMX facilities through its BMX freestyle park at Lion's Park (adjacent to the skateboard park) and the dedicated BMX track that exists at Drumquin Park (which is operated by Milton BMX). A mountain bike park, operated under the purview of Conservation Halton, is located within Kelso Conservation Area. The Town also maintains a comprehensive system of on and off-road trails that facilitate cyclists.</p>
Market Conditions	<p>Mountain biking is surging in popularity as a recreational pursuit, providing the thrills and adventure of an extreme sport but is becoming popular enough to be classified as a mainstream activity. Mountain bikers seeking more specialized facilities have begun to create their own facilities throughout the urban area, such as in parks, on private land, the urban core and sometimes on environmentally sensitive land. While significant growth is occurring in large, tourist-oriented mountain bike parks such as Whistler B.C., there has also been an increase in smaller municipal parks, such as the ROC in Georgina and Anchor Park in the Town of East Gwillimbury. These mountain bike parks provide riders of different ages, genders, socio-demographic backgrounds, and capabilities with a convenient means to enjoy the sport and improve their skills. None of the benchmarked municipalities provide dedicated mountain biking parks.</p> <p>BMX (Bicycle Motocross) is another bike sport that has witnessed rapid growth since the 1980's. Drumquin Park is one of a few BMX tracks located in Ontario that are sanctioned by governing bodies. The municipal role in facilitating BMX opportunities has largely been through integration with skateboard park facilities or smaller scale 'challenge' elements integrated into neighbourhood or community-level park designs. Apart from Milton, none of the other benchmarked municipalities provide competition-level BMX tracks.</p>
Needs Assessments	<p>With respect to indoor cycling, the Mattamy National Cycling Centre is expected to satisfy long-term demands for indoor cycling needs. Outdoor cycling needs will be met through the Town's continued efforts to expand its on and off-road trail network, and guided through the Town of Milton Trails & Cycling Master Plan. There are no set standards for dirt jumps or mountain bike parks given their specialized nature and the demand for these facilities remains generally untested. The preferred course of action to address these needs is to co-locate biking elements with skateboarding areas as has been the Town's historical practice to facilitate non-programmed, drop-in biking.</p>
Action Plans	<p><i>The Mattamy National Cycling Centre is expected to satisfy long-term demands for indoor cycling needs. Outdoor cycling needs will be met through the Town's continued efforts to expand its on and off-road trail network. It is anticipated that dirt jumps or mountain biking elements will be rationalized through park design processes in consultation with local youth and extreme sport enthusiasts.</i></p>

Playgrounds

Supply

The Town provides playground equipment at 57 park locations, nearly all of which consist of relatively modern creative play structures. While there are no fully accessible playgrounds, a number of structures incorporate barrier-free components particularly those contained in District and Community level Parks.

Market Conditions

Play structures typically serve as neighbourhood level amenities that provide opportunities for early childhood leisure and interaction. Playgrounds are often found in areas of residential concentrations and as a result, the provision of playgrounds varies between urban and rural communities. In urban communities, playgrounds are ideally available within walking distance of major residential areas. Conversely, low population densities and aging populations in rural communities results in an undefined service level for playgrounds, usually placing them on a case-by-case basis after considering the number of children and if there is an opportunity to integrate playgrounds into appropriate parks.

With 57 playground locations, Milton provides one playground opportunity per 1,682 residents. The actual number of structures within benchmarked locations varies by municipality (i.e. sometimes more than one playground apparatus is provided in a given park).

Municipality	Service Level	Playground Sites
1. Halton Hills	1 : 1,500	40
2. Oakville	1 : 1,600	115
3. Milton	1 : 1,800	57
4. Vaughan	1 : 2,100	150
5. Burlington	<i>not available</i>	<i>not available</i>
Benchmark Average	1 : 1,800	91

Note: Service level rounded to the nearest 100 residents. Average excludes Burlington due to lack of available data.



Community Feedback

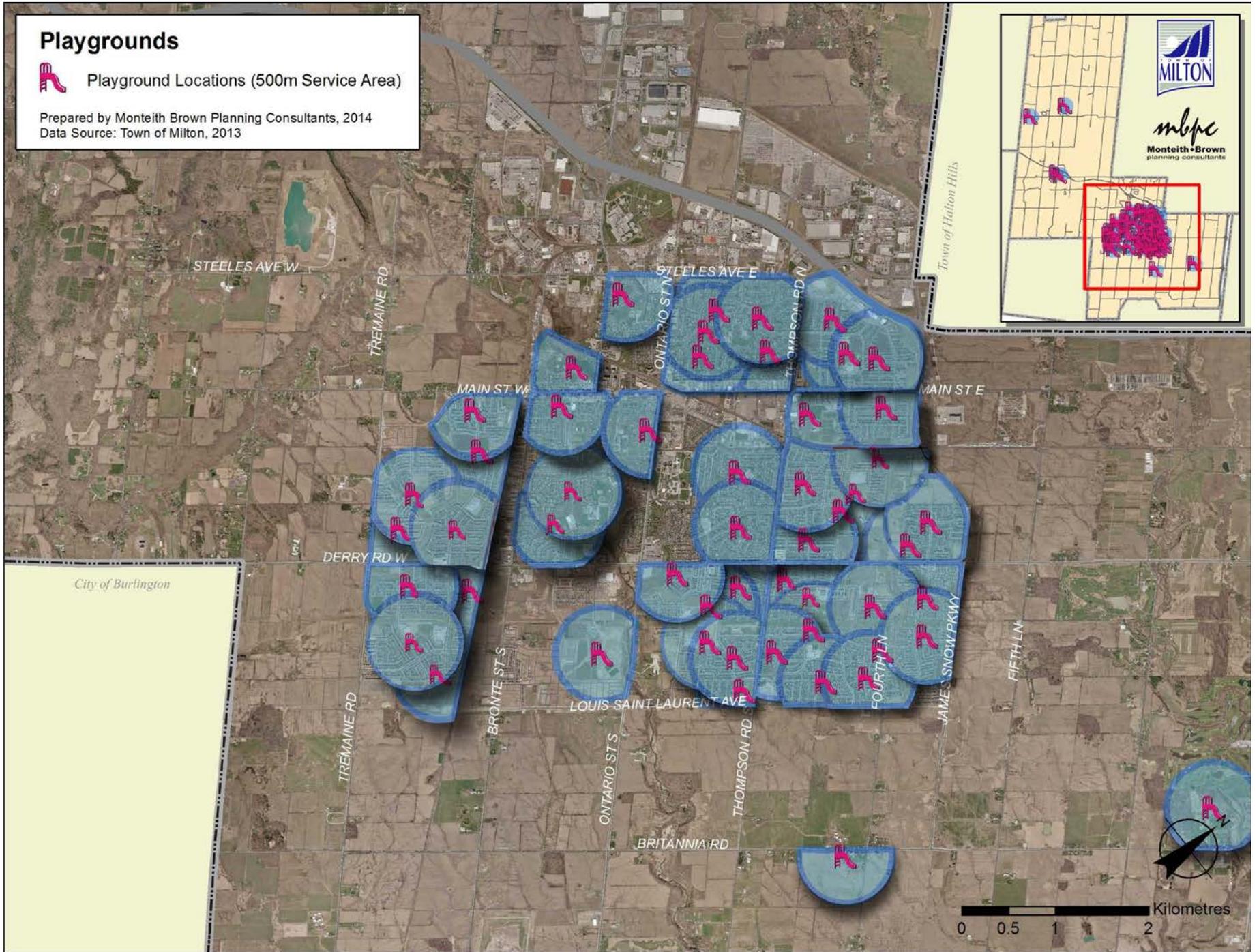
Some participants in the Community Input Event stated their satisfaction with the number and distribution of playgrounds in Milton, indicating that such facilities could be found in very close proximity to their homes. Some participants, however, questioned whether too many playgrounds are being provided, particularly once their children transition into their teenage years and look for other opportunities in the Town's Village Squares.

Playgrounds



Playground Locations (500m Service Area)

Prepared by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, 2014
Data Source: Town of Milton, 2013



<p>Needs Assessments</p>	<p>The 2008 C.S.M.P. set a standard of providing each residential neighbourhood with access to a playground within 500 metres (about a 5-10 minute walk), unobstructed by major pedestrian barriers such as arterial roads, railway lines, and natural environment barriers where no adequate crossings are in place. This geographic standard remains appropriate for determining playground needs over the next five years as well.</p> <p>Based on the Playgrounds distribution map, Milton has excellent playground coverage with very few gaps in developed residential lands. Moving forward as the Sherwood District continues to develop, and as the Boyne community starts to develop, playgrounds should be constructed as required to maintain good distribution/walkability. Integration of barrier-free components within playground structures should be continued as per current practice. The Town should also provide a fully barrier-free playground at a future District Park(s) in Sherwood and/or Boyne.</p> <p>Consideration of available school playgrounds should also play a part in deciding where to locate playgrounds. Based on the Boyne Secondary Plan and historical planning practices, it is envisioned that co-location of schools and parks on abutting parcels will be pursued. In order to reduce service redundancies and minimize costs, the Town and school boards should investigate joint funding models in instances where schools and parks are located immediately beside each. In this way, provision of multiple playgrounds on the abutting school and park lands is not necessary in favour of providing one playground, possibly slightly larger than the traditional template, and maximizing the resources of the school and Town in construction and maintenance costs. Through park renewal processes, a joint funding model for play equipment should also be considered at existing park and school properties where appropriate. While there may be some logistical challenges (e.g. some schools do not allow their students to leave school property even if it is adjacent to parkland, use of playgrounds during school hours by families whose children are not yet in school, etc.), it is envisioned these would be considered during negotiations with the school boards.</p>
<p>Action Plans</p>	<p>F28. Attempt to provide residential neighbourhoods in developing areas of Sherwood and Boyne with playground access within 800 metres, unobstructed by major pedestrian barriers. At least one fully accessible (barrier-free) playground should be installed at a District Park within the Sherwood and/or Boyne community.</p> <p>F29. Continue to explore joint-funding models with the Halton District School Board and the Halton Catholic District School Board to collaboratively construct and maintain playground equipment where park and school properties abut each other.</p>

Off-Leash Areas

<p>Supply</p>	<p>Off-leash dog parks are provided at Cedar Hedge Park and Sunny Mount Park.</p>
<p>Market Conditions</p>	<p>Many urban communities who provide off-leash areas have found that such parks are used extensively, sometimes more so than traditional parks, as people are relying on off-leash areas to exercise their dogs in the context of smaller or no backyards being provided in higher density developments. People also benefit greatly from off-leash areas as they are a place to gather with individuals sharing similar interests and are often a place where newcomers to a community can meet others, and where older adults and seniors can create or maintain social interaction.</p>

Municipality	Service Level	Off-Leash Sites
1. Halton Hills	1 : 30,000	2
2. Oakville	1 : 30,500	6
3. Milton	1 : 50,500	2
4. Burlington	1 : 176,000	1
5. Vaughan	1 : 313,500	1
Benchmark Average	1 : 120,000	2

Note: Service level rounded to the nearest 500 residents

Community Feedback

Town Staff have received strong interest from the community to establish an off-leash park on the west side of Milton, something that has likely since been tempered with the recent opening of Sunny Mount Park. While demands for off-leash areas were not often heard through the C.S.M.P. Update process, this is likely a result of the Town’s active efforts in exploring the need for an off-leash park through previous assessments.

Needs Assessments

In establishing Cedar Hedge Park, the Town of Milton conducted significant research and established a criteria based framework to select the preferred location. This criteria was again utilized to determine a second off-leash park, resulting in the selection of Willmott Neighbourhood Park as articulated in Staff Report No.COMS-021-12 (June 25, 2012). The availability of the two existing off-leash areas is anticipated to meet the needs of the Town over the C.S.M.P. Update period. Beyond this time frame, assessment of the possible need for a third off-leash dog park should be considered.

Action Plans

No recommendations have been made with respect to providing additional off-leash areas within the C.S.M.P Update period.



Other Recreation Facilities

During the research and consultation conducted for the C.S.M.P. Update, requests were received for new or expanded recreation facilities to meet the needs of Milton residents. These facilities are discussed below.

Squash Courts

During the needs assessment phase of this project, the consultants heard comments that Milton should consider the provision of squash courts as part of future fitness centre developments. This suggestion was based on the fact that currently there are no publicly available courts within the municipality. While the provision of indoor racquet facilities would represent a new level of service for Milton, the request would not seem unreasonable given that other neighbouring municipalities provide squash facilities as part of their fitness centre inventories.

Currently, there is a single North American sized squash court in Milton which is privately owned and used exclusively by friends and relatives of the owner. Therefore, the majority of Milton based squash enthusiasts must travel to other jurisdictions to access municipally or commercially available courts – Mississauga, Oakville and Brampton are the most likely locations of these facilities.

The sport of squash grew and flourished in the G.T.A. between 1970 and the mid 1990s when its growth stagnated. Sport officials report that the game remains popular in certain areas of the province but after an initial decline of players in the late nineties, the number of players has remained reasonably flat. There is some growth in the game of doubles squash; however this represents singles players converting to the doubles version of the sport rather than more people taking up the game. Ironically, the game is experiencing significant growth in the U.S. as a result of a robust University program as well as a well-established junior programs implemented in private and commercial clubs.

Squash players tend to be male between 20 and 55 years of age – it is estimated that about 27,500 Milton residents fit this demographic profile in 2014. Between 1% and 2% of the population play squash – the lower number is from the Canadian Sport for Life sport program information and the higher number from the 2006 Statistics Canada Sport Participation Study. For the purposes performing a basis local demand projection, we have used a penetration rate of 1.5%. Based on these assumptions, it is likely that there are slightly more than 400 potential male squash players residing in Milton.

Squash is played on an international size court that is 32 feet long and 21 feet wide. Industry standards suggest that a bank of at least 2 courts is necessary to organize a viable squash section. Furthermore, a squash facility should have a modest amount of spectator seating that is used during competitive events, exhibitions and as a gathering place for clinics and other group instruction purposes. Based on these assumptions and a gross up factor of 35% (for circulation, mechanical, electrical, exiting, etc.) it is assumed that an area of approximately 2,000 square feet would be required to accommodate a two-court squash section.

Most private fitness providers do not provide squash facilities. This decision is based primarily on the economics of space allocation. An industry standard is that a group exercise class participant requires 50 square feet of clear space to safely participate in a class. Based on this standard, the space required for the squash section could accommodate approximately 40 exercise class participants per hour. Two squash courts would accommodate six players over the same hour (a squash session is normally 40 minutes). Many private sector fitness operators understand this participant equation and generally opt for fitness space rather than squash courts. An additional consideration is the capital cost of the squash courts – approximately \$40,000 per court in addition to the capital cost to construct the building.

It is likely that if squash courts were to be added to a fitness facility, the introduction of this new sport opportunity would increase the potential of fitness pass sales. For example, if the Town was successful in attracting 30% of the estimated local male squash market, the squash section would boast a membership roster approximately 120 individuals. If these squash players paid the equivalent of the FIT Max rate, the squash section would generate approximately \$5,000 per month. Assuming that the Town would not require additional staff to operate the squash section, operating costs associated with offering squash would amount to approximately \$1,000 a month for utilities, cleaning, repairs and maintenance.

In view of the foregoing and assuming the Town can reconcile the municipal philosophy regarding the provision of new levels of service including squash, it is recommended that the Town undertake a comprehensive research, feasibility and business plan study to determine the precise local unmet demand for the sport as well as the capital and operating cost implications of a squash section as part of an existing or future fitness centre development. If the study supports municipal entry into the provision of squash courts as a validated level of service, the following table illustrates the potential ways to address provision of courts, along with the advantages and challenges of each option.

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Build a new squash court complex at the Sherwood Community Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potentially accommodated as part of a fitness centre expansion as suggested in Appendix D. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site constraints may result in squash coming at the expense of another needed component.
Repurpose the M.L.C. gymnasium to accommodate a two court squash section.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes use of existing infrastructure Possible complement to the existing fitness centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ineligible for Development Charge funding. Reduces the amount of flexible programming space, particularly for gymnasium sports, a broad range of drop-in activities and youth-oriented programs in order to serve a niche. Results in no municipal gyms being located north of Derry Road, leaving a considerable service gap.

Action Plans

F30. Undertake a comprehensive feasibility study and business plan prior to rationalizing municipal entry into squash courts and associated programming. Through this, the Town should determine capital and operating cost implications of a squash section forming part of an existing or future fitness centre.

Outdoor Fitness Equipment

A growing trend in North American park designs pertains to outdoor fitness infrastructure. While “vita parcours” or outdoor fitness loops have existed for some time in Europe and some southern cities in the United States, more Canadian municipalities are integrating outdoor exercise equipment into their parks that are designed to withstand extreme temperature and inclement weather conditions. Research and site visits to parks across Ontario reveals that Toronto, Newmarket, Pettawawa, Middlesex Centre are examples of municipalities providing outdoor fitness equipment. By all indications, it appears that residents in those communities are making use of those facilities.

	<p>The provision of outdoor fitness equipment is congruent with municipal philosophies centred upon physical activity. The Town’s 2013 Community Profile Survey recorded that 20% of its sample participated in Town-run fitness classes and another 14% used the M.L.C. weight room, providing a general indication of the demand for fitness opportunities as a whole.</p> <p>Through parkland design processes and consultation with the community, the Town should explore the provision of outdoor fitness equipment in a selected park(s) on a trial basis and subsequently monitor successes and challenges prior to constructing additional ones. As a new level of service, the Town may consider installing outdoor fitness equipment at one park in each of the four planning districts (i.e. Bristol, Sherwood, Boyne and the existing urban area) if it deems the initial trial to be a success.</p>
<p>Action Plans</p>	<p>F31. Continue to monitor the impact of outdoor fitness equipment in municipal parks (including risk management) and consider future opportunities.</p>
<p>Sand Volleyball Courts</p>	<p>The Town of Milton provides six sand volleyball courts that are located within Brian Best Park (2) and Milton Community Park (4). A demand has been observed in certain municipalities, particular waterfront communities, for outdoor sand volleyball courts. Beach volleyball is a sport that is particularly popular among youth and younger adults, largely as the sport is played in a flexible, non-structured environment and is low cost, which further adds to its appeal.</p> <p>Although little indication of demand was obtained through the consultation process, Town Staff state that the current courts are almost at capacity. On this basis that there are capacity constraints, the Town should consider a minimum of two new sand volleyball courts that are preferably located integrated with existing courts at Milton Community Park, or alternatively in a future District or Community Park (either in Sherwood and/or Boyne).</p>
<p>Action Plans</p>	<p>F32. Construct a minimum of two sand volleyball courts, possibly with lights, at Milton Community Park or alternatively a future park in Sherwood and/or Boyne.</p>
<p>Climbing Walls</p>	<p>Climbing is an emerging sport and climbing walls provide a controlled environment where novice through professional climbers can hone their skills. The sport is largely unstructured which has contributed to its popularity, though many indoor climbing operators offer supervised programs while climbing clubs also contribute to advancing skills. Climbing walls have been integrated in new community centre designs across the country including Vancouver, Fort McMurray (Alberta) and Truro (Nova Scotia). In the G.T.A., climbing walls within community centres can be found in Caledon, Markham, Oakville and Ajax. While the private sector still maintains a considerable presence in building and operating climbing facilities, municipalities have been able to integrate introductory climbing features into gymnasiums and some lobbies where ceiling height permit. The cost of constructing indoor climbing walls varies greatly depending upon the size, height and amenities associated with the wall.</p> <p>The indoor climbing market generally caters to pay-as-you-go users as well as rentals centred upon birthday parties and corporate team building activities. In terms of operations, municipalities have adopted both direct programming and partnership models. In certain instances, a municipality</p>

leases community centre space to a private operator that is responsible for booking rentals and/or delivering the climbing programs (e.g. Ajax) while other municipalities choose to undertake such functions in-house. As a new level of service, there is no generally accepted provision model as the decision is largely based on internal capabilities and the ability of a third party to cost-effectively deliver the service.

Little feedback was received through community engagement efforts of the C.S.M.P. Update for indoor climbing facilities. Combined with the fact that it is difficult to quantify the demand for climbing facilities and the absence of accepted provision standards, entry into this new level of service is something that the Town will have to rationalize through its internal service delivery and budgeting processes (possibly using a decision-making framework as articulated in subsequent paragraphs).

Action Plans

Due to nominal public feedback received with respect to indoor climbing walls, a recommendation is not made in the C.S.M.P. Update.

Community Gardens

Gardening is one of the most popular forms of leisure activity in Canada and visits to public gardens and historic sites is expected to increase as the population ages and demands more passive types of outdoor leisure activities. Both public gardens (e.g., floral displays, thematic displays, etc.) and allotment gardens (e.g., community garden plots, “Plant a Row – Grow a Row” programs, etc.) are being embraced by a number of municipalities seeking to beautify their communities.

Many principles related to the New Urbanism planning movement involve centering significant residential and commercial areas around key focal points, including public gardens and parks. It is envisioned that by creating such “destinations”, people will be drawn to utilize the public space and, thus, fosters vibrancy and economic prosperity through socialization and the creation of a positive ambiance in the community node. The Town has integrated a number of horticultural displays and gardens into its parkland designs using the expertise of its landscape architects and staff trained in horticultural practices.

Community allotment gardens involve community members directly maintaining their plots – more municipalities are allocating space in municipal parks for allotment gardens. These gardens encourage social interaction, horticultural education and awareness of the benefits of healthy diets, while they can also create enhanced safety due to the presence of gardeners during the early morning and evening hours. Community gardens fit well with the Town’s intensifying land development patterns where some residents (especially those in row home or apartment units) may not have a yard size sufficient to maintain a garden of their desired size. Allotment gardens also bring about a social benefit, as evidenced by Plant a Row / Grow a Row programs across the Province, some of which grow and harvest garden foods for local food banks and soup kitchens.

Milton is presently is involved with the site preparation and water provision for a community garden located on lands owned by the Region of Halton at the Allendale campus. The Town also provides land adjacent to Chris Hadfield Public School and Dempsey Neighbourhood Park for the use of the elementary school’s students and teachers, who use the garden for educational purposes relating to horticulture and healthy eating.

To address requests for community gardens in the future, the Town should facilitate discussions with groups which bring forth an interest in developing an allotment garden program. This approach is consistent with the spirit of partnership and community development that is applied in the existing

community gardens. Potential partners to leverage may include the Milton Horticultural Society and the Halton Food Council, the latter of whom developed an advocacy plan entitled the Community Garden Initiative.¹⁴

Action Plans

Due to nominal public feedback received and the fact that pursuing additional community gardens is predicated on first securing an acceptable partnership agreement, a recommendation is not made in the C.S.M.P. Update.

Other Recreation Facilities

The Town of Milton may be pressed for additional indoor and outdoor facilities that are not currently of sufficient demand to warrant a specific recommendation in the C.S.M.P. Update. These demands may arise for existing activities / facilities or for those that evolve according to future trends and preferences, or new trends in facility designs (e.g. indoor playgrounds, pickleball courts, social spaces, green walls, etc.). The Town, however, must be prepared to appropriately respond to future requests.

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

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

¹⁴ Halton Food Council. 2013. *Community Garden Initiative – Advocacy Plan: A Living Document*.