



*investing in a healthy, active  
and green community*

# Strathcona County Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan

Final

December 8, 2009

walkable community



team sports



special purpose



gathering places



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT  
WELLNESS INFRASTRUCTURE



December 8, 2009

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**RE: ARDROSSAN COMMUNITY RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

Ms. Laing,

Please accept this document as the final version of the aforementioned Master Plan. At this point in time we consider this a working document that will provide guidance for Strathcona County in the provision of public spaces and outdoor facilities in Ardrossan for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with Strathcona County and the Ardrossan community on this unique and exciting project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Roma', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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## Acknowledgements and Credits

Great communities are built through active citizen involvement and engagement in community planning. The Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan was built upon invaluable citizen engagement.

This Plan could not have been completed without the involvement and engagement of:

- Residents of the Ardrossan Community for attending focus group meetings, answering surveys and attending public open houses;
- Key representatives of volunteer groups who answered surveys and attended meetings to discuss their needs; and
- Strathcona County, in particular the Project Manager, Leslee Laing.

Last but not least thanks to the Consulting Team:

- Mike Roma, RC Strategies
- Rob Parks, RC Strategies
- Randall Conrad, RC Strategies
- Ted Muller, EDA Collaborative
- Daniel Jackson, EDA Collaborative

## Summary

The 2009 Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan has been developed to help guide Strathcona County Council and administration in the future provision of community facilities, parks, and open spaces in Ardrossan. It has been developed based upon a community needs assessment that included review and recognition of:

- Numerous municipal planning documents. Some of which included:
  - Strathcona County Strategic Plan;
  - Municipal Development Plan;
  - Ardrossan Area Structure Plan; and
  - The Open Space and Recreation Facilities Strategy.
- A myriad of community projects and initiatives. Some of which included:
  - Ardrossan Recreation Complex Infrastructure Reinvestment;
  - Ardrossan Community Hall Expansion Project;
  - Ardrossan Community Trails Program; and
  - Ardrossan Youth Park.

An analysis of the demographics of the community was undertaken as was research into community service trends and the provision of leisure, recreation, and cultural services.

Stakeholder consultation played a significant role in the development of this Community Recreation Master Plan. Visioning sessions were convened with community stakeholder groups and the public. The output from these sessions was instrumental in the development of the strategic themes that are integral components of this Master Plan.

The Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan is presented in four separate themes. These themes have been developed based upon public engagement, data collected and constraints inherent within the hamlet of Ardrossan (i.e. roadways, environmental reserve, etceteras). The four separate themes are as follows:

1. The creation of a walkable community;
2. Places for community gathering;
3. Places for specialized activities and youth: and
4. Teams sports.

Upon review, community stakeholder groups and residents were very supportive of the aforementioned themes and the development concepts for each.



Implementation of all elements of the four strategic themes will be require estimated capital expenditures in the Immediate Phase (2010-2013) of \$2.82M and Emerging Phases (2014-2023) of \$4.5M.

The four Master Plan themes have been based upon sounds research and community engagement. The implementation and ultimate build out of each theme considers a balanced capital expenditure approach and promotes social, environmental, and economic sustainability. Although the Plan implementation schedule and associated costs are presented, it is important to note that actual development in the hamlet with be facilitated through strong and fruitful relationships between Strathcona County and other community stakeholders such as local non-profit program groups, the local school authorities, and other levels of government. By fostering both existing and new relationships in the provision of public recreation opportunities Strathcona County will be able to: optimize the use of public funds; ensure that public investment meets majority community need; and guarantee that all aspects of community sustainability are considered in decision related to recreation and public spaces.



# Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan

Walkable Communities • Community Gathering • Specialized Activities for Youth • Play Team Sports



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## 1.0 Introduction

The Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan will be used by Strathcona County to guide the long term planning, design and development of all public spaces and outdoor recreational facilities within the Ardrossan community. The Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan is based upon other Strathcona County policies and plans including the Strathcona County Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and the Open Space and Recreational Facility Strategy (OSRFS). While integrated with the myriad of other Strathcona County plans, this Community Recreation Master Plan is limited to the boundaries of the Ardrossan hamlet proper, as illustrated in the accompanying graphic. The time period for this Master Plan is to 2023.

## 2.0 Purpose and Methodology

The purpose of the Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan is to provide a strategic document to guide the orderly provision, enhancement and development of parks and open space facilities in the hamlet of Ardrossan.

In essence there were five main phases in the development of the Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan. See the graphic on the following page. The **first phase, Data Gathering**, included a site visit to Ardrossan to familiarize the study team with the physical context for the Master Plan. The site visit was important to augment the information presented on maps provided by Strathcona County. Secondary research was also conducted in this Phase; it is further described below.

**Community Visioning was the second phase.** Representatives from community stakeholder groups and residents of the community attended one of two visioning workshops. Participants in the sessions described recreational opportunities in Ardrossan in twenty years. Further, they described the outdoor facilities necessary to enable the opportunities. This may have included new facilities or refurbished / rehabilitated facilities.

In the **third phase, a draft of the Master Plan** was developed based upon an analysis of the information gathered in Phases I and II. The **fourth phase was the review stage.** During this phase the draft Master Plan was reviewed by participants of the visioning sessions and then by the general public in a review open house. Feedback about the draft Master Plan was collected using a questionnaire. The **fifth phase saw the Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan finalized.**



Project Phase	Task Overview
Phase I: Data Gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project start-up meeting</li> <li>• Site visit</li> <li>• Planning document review</li> <li>• Population analysis</li> <li>• Trends analysis</li> <li>• Stakeholder identification</li> </ul>
Phase II: Visioning Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing package development</li> <li>• Stakeholder visioning workshop identification and invitation</li> <li>• Briefing package distribution</li> <li>• Visioning session facilitation (2): group representatives and general public</li> </ul>
Phase III: Prepare Preliminary Master Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan</li> <li>• Plan Vision</li> <li>• Plan goals</li> <li>• Plan Strategic Themes (4)</li> <li>• Plan development concepts and graphics</li> </ul>
Phase IV: Public and User Groups Review Phase Gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Plan presentation to stakeholders</li> <li>• Draft Plan public review open house</li> <li>• Internal review</li> </ul>
Phase V: Final Master Plan Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan implementation and priorities</li> <li>• Plan financial implications</li> <li>• Internal review</li> <li>• Council presentation</li> </ul>

Primary research undertaken in the completion of this Master Plan included:

- Two community visioning sessions;
- A stakeholder group review session;
- A public review open house, and;
- Various telephone and personal interviews and / or meetings with municipal administration, elected officials and community group stakeholder representatives.

Secondary research reviewed in the completion of this Master Plan included:

- Municipal planning documents (i.e. Open Space and Recreation Facilities Strategy, Area Structure Plans, etcetera);
- Statistics Canada information;
- Recreation and leisure industry publications, and;
- Municipal publications including, but not limited to, municipal census data, Strathcona County descriptions, facility inventories, mapping information, etceteras (where available).



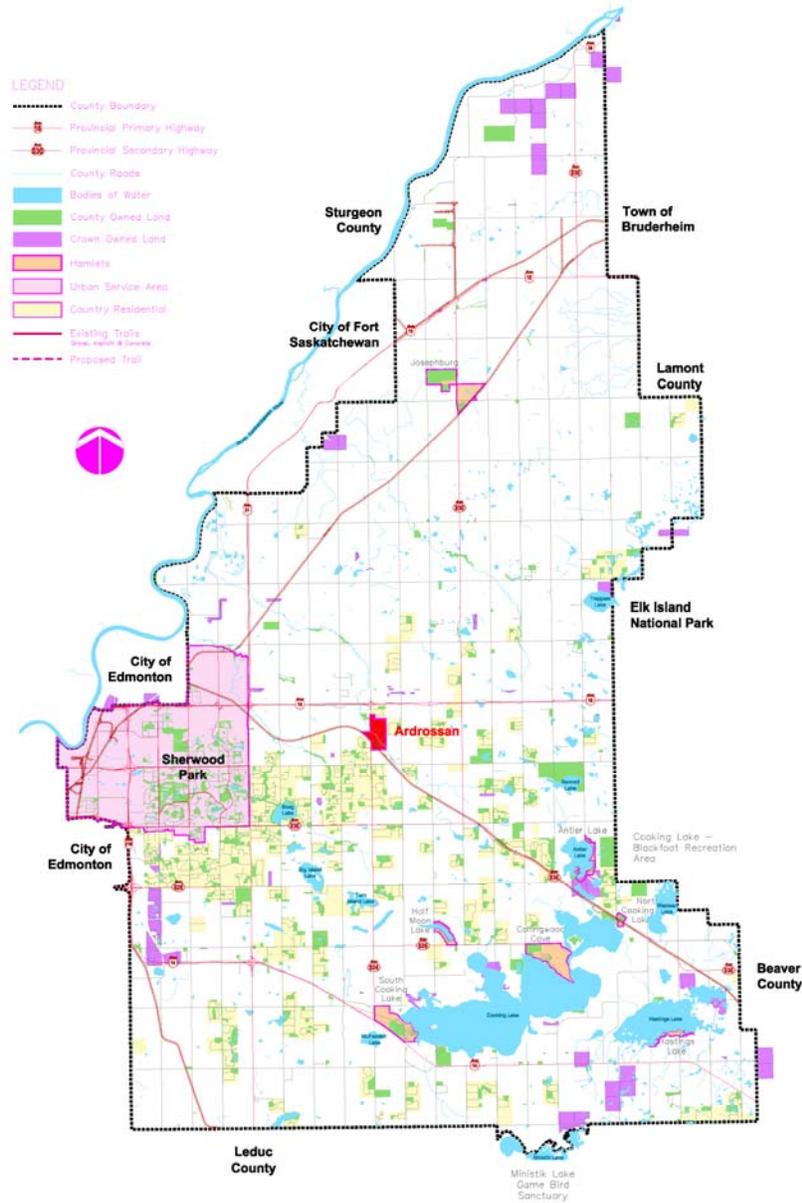
### 3.0 Community Profile

The hamlet of Ardrossan has a rich history; it was originally known as East Clover Bar as part of the North West Territories. Though the earliest homesteaders were recorded as staking claims in the 1880s, the name Ardrossan was not given until almost 30 years later. The hamlet got this “new” name over a century ago when the townsite was surveyed in 1908 and registered in the Land Titles Office in Winnipeg that year. Ardrossan was never incorporated.

The land for the townsite was once homesteaded by Angus Matheson in 1887, and was purchased from Mr. Matheson in 1906 by the Grand Trunk Railroad. The steel for the railroad was laid through Ardrossan in 1908 and 1909, and soon the trains brought many new settlers during the area’s first boom. The name Ardrossan was given by a Miss Jane Edmiston, named after a popular seaside resort in her homeland of Scotland.

Situated approximately seven kilometers east of Sherwood Park, Ardrossan is a hamlet of 382 residents<sup>1</sup>. While very close to Sherwood Park the urban centre of Strathcona County, Ardrossan is a recreation, culture, and education centre for the surrounding farms and rural residential areas.

The hamlet includes schools in the Elk Island Public School Division [Ardrossan Junior Senior High School (7-12) and Ecole Elementaire Ardrossan Elementary School (K-6)] as well as the Elk Island Catholic School Division [Holy Redeemer Catholic School (K-9)]. It is also home to a charter school, New Horizons (K-9). Ardrossan also offers a variety of municipal services including indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities.

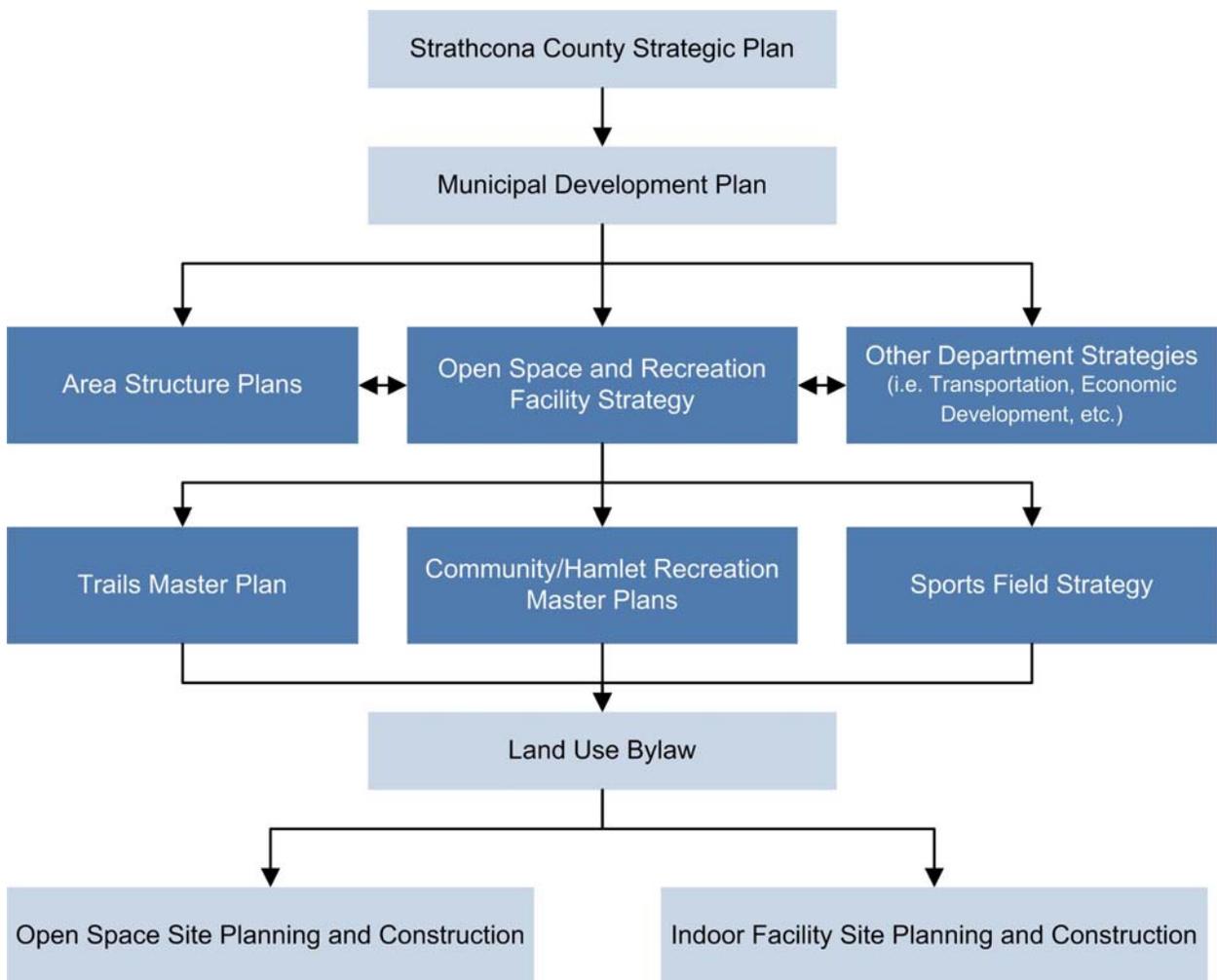


<sup>1</sup> Strathcona County 2008 Municipal Census



## 4.0 Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan Background

The intent of the Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan is to build upon the goals, policies and standards presented in existing Strathcona County planning documentation. Information provided in existing studies and plans has been developed based upon sound research and thorough public input and as such, the intent of this Master Plan is to build upon existing information as opposed to “reinventing the wheel”. The following diagram illustrates the hierarchy and connection of a variety of municipal plans. The Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan is a more detailed plan that would further support the Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy (OSRFS).



The following sections provide an overview of pertinent Strathcona County Plans / documents as well as plans of other stakeholders that compliment this Master Plan.

#### 4.1. Strathcona County Strategic Plan

Strathcona County's Strategic Plan is the primary guiding document for service delivery, community development, and governance in Strathcona County. The Plan is the basis from which the other municipal plans are developed. Under "Social Sustainability" the capstone policy states:

*Strathcona County is a safe and caring community whose residents enjoy opportunities for healthy lifestyles.*

An underlying goal speaks to Strathcona County offering a broad range of opportunities for healthy lifestyles. Some of the specific strategies to achieve this goal include:

- Invest in both indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, in accordance with the Open Space and Recreational Facility Strategy.
- Promote the benefits of participating in recreational, cultural, and educational activities.
- Increase trail linkages throughout Strathcona County.

#### 4.2. Municipal Development Plan (MDP)

The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is a tool utilized by Strathcona County Council, administration, and the public to make decisions pertaining to growth and development over the next twenty years. The MDP describes a vision for Strathcona County and also provides a strategy by which long term goals can be achieved. The MDP Bylaw 1-2007 was approved in May 2007.

The Municipal Government Act (Provincial Statute) guides the development of the MDP, stating what the MDP must include the provision of municipal services and facilities, and future land use within the municipality. The following excerpts provide some context within which this Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan was developed.

In Section 8, the MDP explains Strathcona County's environmental management objectives. In regards to recreation and open space, the following applies:

*General*

*Strathcona County will:*

*8.6 Ensure no development is allowed on hazard lands except for extensive agricultural uses, passive recreational uses, or interim resource extraction, approved on a site by site basis;*

*8.8 Ensure that no permanent structures are allowed within the 1:100 year flood plain of Strathcona County's rivers, streams, lakes and natural watercourses. Consideration may be given to non-residential developments, such as boat houses, proposed in the 1:100 year flood plain, subject to appropriate flood proofing and the proponent demonstrating to the municipality's satisfaction, the precise boundary of the flood plain;*

*8.11 Encourage the rehabilitation and restoration of disturbed natural areas;*

*8.12 Identify, conserve and protect to the greatest extent possible, environmentally sensitive lands such as the North Saskatchewan River Valley, the Beaver Hills Moraine and all water bodies;*

*Water*

*Strathcona County will:*

*8.18 Ensure no development is permitted adjacent to the North Saskatchewan River Valley, lakes or other watercourses which would:*

- a) Reduce water quality or impede the flow of water;*
- b) Lead to soil erosion or shoreline damage;*
- c) Adversely affect the natural amenity;*
- d) Adversely affect appropriate recreational potential;*
- e) Restrict access to the water unless safety factors dictate otherwise;*
- f) Adversely impact the visual quality of the natural amenity;*
- g) Adversely affect fish and wildlife habitat; or*
- h) Increase the quantity of flow or decrease water retention.*

*8.19 Create development guidelines to protect lands and riparian corridors adjacent to watercourses and water bodies;*

*8.20 Ensure development on parcels where wetlands, water bodies and/or watercourses are located within or adjacent to the subject property, are developed in accordance with Strathcona County's "Wetland Policy" by ensuring:*

- a) Wetlands/low areas are not filled in, drained or altered to accommodate development, except where sanctioned by the Approving Authority;*
- b) A professional biophysical and/or geotechnical assessment is completed and confirms that there are no environmental issues and the potential for hazards such as flooding or instability of land are eliminated;*
- c) Sufficient setbacks are identified and incorporated into the site design; and*
- d) Mitigative measures such as replanting and naturalization are incorporated into the site design.*

*8.21 Protect watersheds to maintain the water quality and quantity of surface and ground water systems;*

*8.24 Ensure lands classified as environmental reserve as defined by the Municipal Government Act, are identified and protected as such;*

8.25 Maintain a buffer to protect lands and water resources adjacent to watercourses for:

- a) *The North Saskatchewan River, a minimum 50 metre (164 feet) buffer from the top of bank must be maintained. No buildings or structures will be allowed within the minimum setback requirement, except under unique and appropriate circumstances as determined by the Approving Authority;*
- b) *Old Man Creek and its tributaries, a minimum 36 metre (118 feet) buffer from the top of bank must be maintained for properties within the North of Yellowhead Area Concept Plan (See Bylaw #51-2003, as amended). No buildings or structures will be allowed within the minimum setback requirement, except under unique and appropriate circumstances as determined by the Approving Authority; and*
- c) *All other lakes, waterbodies and watercourses, a minimum 30 metre (98 feet) buffer from the top of bank must be maintained. No buildings or structures will be allowed within the minimum setback requirement, except under unique and appropriate circumstances as determined by the Approving Authority.*

#### *Land*

*Strathcona County will:*

- 8.31 *Educate the public about alternative forms of landscaping which minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides and reduce water consumption by supporting the development of ecoscape (xeriscape) yards by utilizing native plants in the landscape;*
- 8.32 *Encourage land uses and forms of development that conserve natural habitat;*
- 8.33 *Support the implementation of the Legacy Lands Policy to:*
  - a) *Acquire lands of historical, cultural and environmental significance to the community; and*
  - b) *Provide access to significant natural and heritage lands.*
- 8.37 *Ensure areas with significant environmental features which are proposed for future urban growth, hamlet or country residential development, are protected through the provisions of an area structure plan, area redevelopment plan, conceptual scheme, a Land Use Bylaw designation or conservation easement;*

In Section 9, the MDP speaks to the provision of parks and recreation in Strathcona County. Specifically it states:

*Strathcona County will:*

- 9.1 *Encourage a variety of recreational opportunities in the County*
- 9.2 *Provide public open space, to accommodate present and future leisure needs of County residents;*

- 9.3 Consider the following criteria in the design and development of open space within the County:
- b) Community profiles and future population growth projections;
  - c) Connectivity within and between neighbourhoods;
  - f) Accessibility to the space, based on proposed use;
  - g) Opportunities for private or joint ventures; and
- 9.4 Support the identification and protection of corridors to link the open space network;
- 9.5 Encourage the development of multi-purpose and joint use park and recreational areas;
- 9.6 Ensure trail systems are developed to create linkages between neighbourhoods;
- 9.8 Promote the development of a variety of recreational programs;
- 9.9 Continue supporting the development of specialized parks, such as dog parks and skate parks, as well as recreational areas, such as multi purpose trails; and

Section 11 addresses Institutional and Community Facilities. In part it states,

*Strathcona County will:*

- 11.18 Continue to assess, maintain, and where appropriate, enhance the facility infrastructure that supports the delivery of recreation services and where delivery can be accomplished in an economical manner; and
- 11.19 Encourage the expansion of the range of community recreation services, in an effective and efficient manner through alliances with private, non-government and public sectors and by sharing the provision of services with voluntary organizations.

Section 12 addresses Social Development. In part it states:

*Strathcona County will:*

- 12.12 Promote healthy, self-reliant, sustainable communities by seeking to provide accessible, social services;
- 12.13 Encourage the development of public parkland, recreational and cultural facilities that are distributed in a suitable manner throughout the community;

#### **4.3. Ardrossan Area Structure Plan (ASP)**

The Ardrossan Area Structure Plan (ASP) was approved as Bylaw 3-97 in February 1997. The primary purpose of the ASP is to identify a framework for the future development and growth within Ardrossan. The development concept plan identifies the



proposed land use pattern, the general location of major transportation routes, water/sewer lines, utilities, the sequence of development within the plan area, and projected population densities.

There are a number of goals of the ASP, many of which are directly applicable to this Master Plan. These include:

- Encourage greater interconnectivity within the plan area; and
- Ensure that new land development occurs in an orderly manner and is sensitive to the natural area.

The ASP supports the development of passive recreational facilities that will help create a pedestrian circulation network. Related, the ASP also refers to the integration of the schools, the existing services, the hamlet itself, and future residential areas.

**Of note is that a revision to the ASP in regards to the hamlet boundaries has been proposed and is in progress. As of September 30, 2009, the hamlet boundaries presented herein are accurate.**

#### **4.4. Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy (OSRFS)**

The Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy (OSRFS), which received Strathcona County Council approval on June 24, 2008, is a guiding document and plan for future open space and indoor recreation facilities in Strathcona County.

The strategy sets the path for investment in the Strathcona County community's health and wellness to address needs in parks, natural areas and recreation facility requirements from 2009 through to 2024

Expanding safe, affordable and accessible opportunities that promote healthy lifestyle choices for all ages is the focus of the strategy. Needs of the individual spontaneous user, activity program participant, and organized sports groups will be addressed as the Strategy is implemented. Needs in urban, country residential and agricultural areas will be dealt with as well.

##### **4.4.1. OSRFS Background**

Key concepts of the new vision for open space and recreation facilities

An investment in people - The creation of a system of indoor and outdoor natural and man-made community gathering places provide residents of all ages with a high quality of life and the opportunity for improved health and wellness, now and in the future.

A carefully planned infrastructure investment strategy built with the community - The focus is to invest in revitalizing our existing infrastructure before new facilities are built. Strathcona County will work with a variety of partners (not-for-profit groups, for-profit

groups, health care, school boards, other municipalities, etc.) to develop facilities and amenities in a timely fashion while at the same time building community involvement.

An investment in a healthier environment - Conserving and maintaining natural heritages, and ensuring that man-made redevelopment and development has a reduced ecological footprint will show Strathcona County's commitment to a more sustainable community.

#### 4.4.2. Open Space and Recreation Facilities Program Categories

##### Outdoor

- Walkable Community Revitalization Program
- Outdoor Community Gathering Places Revitalization Program
- Streetscape Revitalization Program

##### Indoor

- Wellness & health
- Ice
- Aquatics
- Dry surface – for example gymnasiums and indoor soccer fields
- Culture
- Special purpose – for example Millennium Place

Indoor and outdoor activities are deeply connected, work together, affect the other and operate toward the common purpose of providing healthy lifestyle choices.

More specifically in relation to the Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan, there are a number of key initiatives originating in the OSRFS that may impact future recreation resources in the hamlet. These initiatives are mentioned through this Master Plan and include:

- Sports Field Strategy – To be completed in 2010 and including:
  - Identify and map existing sites where field sports currently take place
  - Identify maintenance status of existing infrastructure and need for repairs
  - Quantify how existing fields are currently booked/utilized using Strathcona County and group records
  - Identify group needs in consultation with groups
  - Project future demand for field sports
  - Identify future field sport network and associated upgrades (as required)
- Community Hall Revitalization – To be completed in 2010, a system wide study of community halls undertaken with the community to better understand the long term future

- Aquatic Feasibility Study – To be initiated in 2010 and including an assessment of current and new aquatic options to address overcrowding in learn to swim programs and to meet other indoor and outdoor water based community needs.

Although these initiatives include a much broader perspective than this Master Plan, elements of each will impact recreation facility, parks and open space provision in the Hamlet.

#### **4.5. Capital Region Board (CRB)**

On April 15, 2008, the Government of Alberta established the Capital Region Board (CRB) by adopting the Capital Region Board Regulation AR 49/2008. The Regulation identified the twenty five participating municipalities of the Capital Region, including Strathcona County, and directed the CRB to prepare a Capital Region Growth Plan by March 31, 2009.

The Regulation required that the Board complete a Growth Plan with four key components: land use; inter-municipal transit; housing; and geographic information services.

The Growth Plan fulfills the requirements of the Regulation, and provides a vision for the future of the Capital Region. The plan also contains implementation strategies for each of the four key components. The implementation of the Growth Plan will occur over a number of years.

Specifically, the plan:

- Provides an integrated and strategic approach to planning for future growth in the Capital Region;
- Identifies the overall development patterns and key future infrastructure investments that would best complement existing infrastructure, services and land uses in the Capital Region, and which would also maximize benefits to the Capital Region; and
- Coordinates decisions in the Capital Region to sustain economic growth and ensure strong communities and a healthy environment.

The plan is a framework to guide and coordinate planning and development decisions of municipalities in the Region.

#### **4.6. Alberta Land Use Framework**

The Province of Alberta Land Use Framework is,  
*“a comprehensive strategy to better manage public and private lands and natural resources to achieve Alberta’s long-term economic, environmental and social*

*goals. The framework provides a blueprint for land use management and decision-making that addresses Alberta's growth pressures.*<sup>2</sup>

The framework is meant to promote regional cooperation in land use planning and ensure the efficient use of lands throughout the Province. The framework outlines seven regional areas geographically covering the province and requires that land use in each of the seven regions be guided by a Land Use Secretariat and Regional Advisory Council.

The overall intent of the framework, as it pertains to the scope of this Master Plan, is to, "...develop regional plans that will:

- integrate provincial policies at the regional level;
- set out regional land-use objectives;
- provide direction and context for land-use decision-making in the region; and
- reflect the uniqueness of the landscape and priorities of each region within a planning context."<sup>3</sup>

Strathcona County is located in the North Saskatchewan Region and will have the opportunity to get involved in the development of the regional land use plan for the North Saskatchewan Region. It is important to note that this regional plan will have direct implications to current Strathcona County land use as it will require, at the very least, Strathcona County to relate how existing land use is compliant with strategies outlined in the regional context.

#### **4.7. Strathcona County Sustainability Frameworks**

Through direction from Strathcona County's Capstone Policies, three Sustainability Frameworks either have been, or are being, developed by Strathcona County Administration. These three Sustainability Frameworks outline how Strathcona County and its many stakeholders can assess, promote, and achieve sustainability within each of the three pillars (environment, social, and economic).

Of the three, the Social Sustainability Framework has been in practice the longest (2004). The Social Sustainability Framework explains the role of Strathcona County in assessing, promoting and achieving social sustainability. The framework acts:

- *To serve as a foundation for responding to social issues.*
- *To provide opportunities for the assessment of the impact of demographic, social, and economic changes on residents.*

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.landuse.alberta.ca/documents/Land\\_use\\_Framework\\_QAs.doc](http://www.landuse.alberta.ca/documents/Land_use_Framework_QAs.doc)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.landuse.alberta.ca/documents/Land\\_use\\_Framework\\_QAs.doc](http://www.landuse.alberta.ca/documents/Land_use_Framework_QAs.doc)

- *To provide for the assessment of the social impact of municipal decisions on the quality of life of residents.*
- *To facilitate the prioritization and planning for current and future social needs.*
- *To aid in monitoring key socio-demographic indicators to address issues as they emerge.*
- *To clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the County and other sectors.*
- *To guide the development of policies to address community and social issues.*
- *To strengthen the County's commitment to integrated planning for all people services.*

The other two frameworks, Economic (development to commence in the autumn of 2009) and Environment (recently completed) have similar goals and objectives in each respective area. Together with the Social Sustainability Framework, these two frameworks will ensure that balanced municipal sustainability is achieved in future decision making and operations.

#### **4.7.1. The Strathcona County Older Adult Plan**

The Strathcona County Older Adult Plan (OAP) was identified as a recommendation of the Social Sustainability Framework. The OAP includes a number of strategic goals, one of which states that Strathcona County should "...maximize opportunities for older adults to contribute to their families, community and economy". Although the OAP addressing much broader issues facing the older adult population in Strathcona County, its pertinence to this Master Plan is likely most apparent in its recommendation that Strathcona County "follow the 'Principles of Universal Design' in the design and construction of new or renovated buildings." These principles are applicable to all indoor and outdoor development projects and should be considered in any future recreation, parks and open space provision in the hamlet.

#### **4.8. Other Related Plans and Projects**

There are a number of projects planned or underway in Strathcona County that are related to the Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan.

##### **4.8.1. Ardrossan Recreation Complex Infrastructure Reinvestment**

The Ardrossan Recreation Complex Infrastructure Reinvestment focuses on improving the quality of existing ice functions and examines the potential for improved wellness and spontaneous recreation opportunities.

The concept for the facility's revitalization looks at maximizing the potential based on funding to introduce wellness and health opportunities as well as accommodating other spontaneous uses.

The ice component identifies building a new arena to replace the 42 year old aging portion of the complex.

The work occurring in Phase 1A at the Ardrossan Recreation Complex forms an integrated subset of the overall Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan, being undertaken in 2009. Ardrossan community trails and the outdoor ice surface are also being addressed as part of Open Space and Recreation Facilities Strategy (OSRFS) walkable communities and outdoor community gathering places.

What is the new vision for open spaces and recreation facilities in our community?

To invest in a healthy and active community for today and into the future by

- focusing on revitalizing existing infrastructure by growing in place before building new facilities;
- presenting an integrated system of indoor and outdoor places and facilities to meet multiple recreations needs across multiple locations; and
- creating opportunities for community partners to contribute to project design outcomes consistent with the approved OSRFS and capital budget.

The revitalization of the Ardrossan Recreation Complex will encourage and entice the neighbourhood, the community and Strathcona County residents to come together for various recreation reasons to participate and enjoy this newly developed community gathering place.

A site plan of the revitalization project, as at September 14, 2009, is presented as follows.



#### **4.8.2. Strathcona County Trails Master Plan**

Strathcona County is looking at updating the existing Trails Master Plan, which was originally approved in June 1998, as identified in the OSRFS. There are a number of tasks that comprise this strategy, they include:

- Identify and map the existing trail linkages by type of trail (i.e. gravel, paved, etc).
- Identify a County wide system of trails in urban and rural areas, and hamlets. The trail system should consider the potential for snowmobile trail(s), major trunk trail systems linking urban and rural areas, and hamlets. It should also consider trail systems within urban and rural areas, and hamlets.
- Identify criteria to recommend trail surfaces throughout the County. This will include identifying a hierarchy of trails within the County. It also involves establishing standards and guidelines for the development and maintenance of each level of the hierarchy.
- Develop a priority ranking system and identify a list of sites and a proposed construction program for each trail site and link.
- Exploration of construction and maintenance partnership/sharing opportunities where available.

#### **4.8.3. Ardrossan Community Trail Upgrades – Strathcona County Approved 2009 Capital Projects**

This program involved two upgrades. One upgrade included the construction of an asphalt trail to connect north of Main Street into the school/park site. The second included having the existing gravel trail in the Ardrossan Heights Subdivision surfaced with asphalt. Both of these upgrades form part of the Master Plan.

#### **4.8.4. Ardrossan Outdoor Rink**

As part of the Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy (OSRFS) Community Gathering Places Revitalization Program, the Ardrossan Outdoor Rink project was been identified to proceed in 2009/2010. This project will see a new outdoor rink located adjacent to the Recreation Centre. Consideration for the placement of the outdoor rink has been included in the Community Master Plan. The timing of this project has been altered to coincide with the completion of the Ardrossan Recreation Complex Infrastructure Reinvestment (described earlier) and as such will not occur until that project is underway and/or complete.

#### **4.8.5. Sportsfield Strategy**

Strathcona County is moving ahead with a Sportsfield Strategy as identified in the OSRFS. There are a number of tasks that comprise this strategy, they include:

- Identify and map the existing sites where field sports currently take place.

- Identify maintenance status of existing infrastructure and need for repairs.
- Quantify how existing fields are currently booked/utilized using the records provided by those organizations responsible for booking the fields including Strathcona County and others.
- Identify group needs in consultation with those groups.
- Project demand for field sports over some future fixed term.
- Identify future field sport network and associated upgrades (as required).

The Sportsfield Strategy is in the public input stage, with open houses and public surveys facilitated in fall of 2009. The study is expected to be completed by winter 2010.

#### **4.8.6. Ardrossan Youth Park**

The need for a dedicated youth park has been identified by a number of people within the Ardrossan community and a community support group/network has been formed. The community group has dedicated itself to the development of a permanent youth skateboard park in Ardrossan. Towards that end the group has:

- Raised capital funds;
- Discussed its ideas with Strathcona County; and
- Met with a private design consultant to discuss the facility development process and development a park concept plan (with assistance from Strathcona County).

The group can now, under the auspices of this Master Plan, move forward with capital fundraising and ultimately, concept development once funding is in place.

#### **4.8.7. Ardrossan Memorial Hall Expansion**

The Ardrossan Memorial Hall is owned and operated by the Ardrossan Recreation and Agricultural Society (ARAS). The Hall amenities include a dance floor and bar on the upper level with a basic kitchen in the basement. The basement also has a meeting area. The Hall is suitable for meetings and social events for up to 100 people. There are plans underway to expand the Memorial Hall, funding for planning and expansion has already been partially secured.

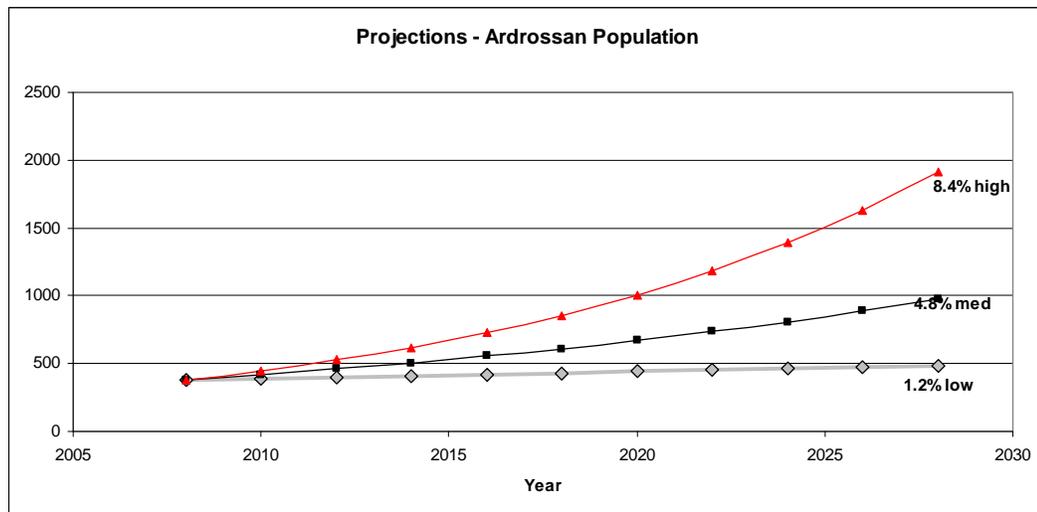


## 5.0 Trends and Research

### 5.1. Population and Demographics

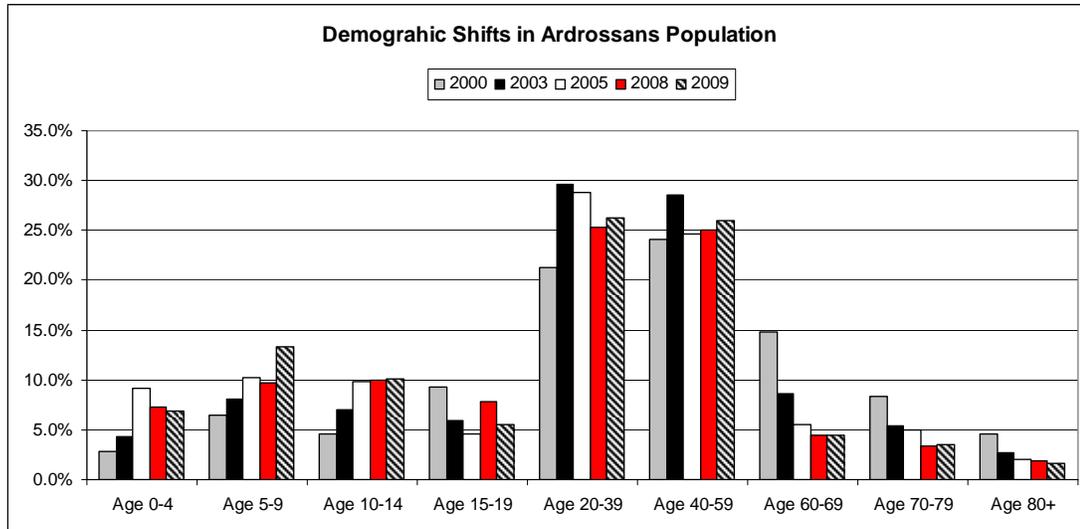
The hamlet of Ardrossan has experienced significant growth over the last number of years. Ardrossan’s population of 382 has more than doubled from the 2003 population of 186. On average, Ardrossan’s population grew by about 21% each year from 2003 to 2008. This growth rate has moderated however more recently. From 2005 to 2008 the average yearly growth rate was 8.4%.

The following graph shows projections for the population of Ardrossan using three different rates of growth. According to these projections, in 2028 Adrossan’s population could range from 485 to 1,917. Growth rates of 1.2%, 4.8%, and 8.4% are used<sup>4</sup>.



The following figure illustrates the changes in the composition of Ardrossan’s population since 2000. The proportion of the population sixty years of age and older has declined dramatically from 28% of the population in 2000 to 9% of the population in 2008. Looking at the proportions of the population 20-39 years and up to 14 years, one could conclude that much of growth in the hamlet is within families with children.

<sup>4</sup> The low annual growth rate of 1.2% is Strathcona County’s projected growth rate for the rural service area. The high growth rate of 8.4% reflects the annual growth rate of Ardrossan from 2005 to 2008, while the mid rate of 4.8% represents the mid point between the two rates.



## 5.2. Recreation Trends and Participation

Trends indicate that there are decreases in structured and organized activities such as team sport and increases in spontaneous activity participation such as walking / jogging and fitness / wellness activities. As well, an increasing number of activity choices for all ages suggest there is a need to provide multi-use spaces that accommodate as many different types of activities as possible.

### 5.2.1. From Structured Participation to Unstructured Pursuits

In a 2005 research document produced by Statistics Canada titled “Sport Participation in Canada, 2005”, between 1992 and 2005 participation rates in organized sport dropped from 45% to 28% of the population. People want more flexibility in timing and activity choice, moving away from structured team sports to spontaneous activities such as fitness / wellness, leisure swimming, walking, and open gymnasiums for spontaneous activities. People are seeking individualized, informal pursuits that can be done alone or in small groups, at flexible times, often near or at home.

### 5.2.2. Children’s Participation in Sports

In its Summer 2008 edition of Canadian Social Trends, Statistics Canada examines trends in regular sports participation of children aged 5 to 14 from 1992 to 2005. In the article entitled, “Kids’ sports”, 24% of children participated in sports if their parents were not involved in sports in any way. If parents were involved, even just as spectators of amateur sports, children’s participation rates more than doubled (62%).

### 5.2.3. The Alberta Recreation Survey

The 2008 Alberta Recreation Survey<sup>5</sup> identifies the top activities undertaken by households:

- Walking for pleasure;
- Gardening;
- Attending a fair or festival;
- Attending a sporting event as a spectator;
- Doing a craft or hobby;
- Bicycling; and
- Swimming (in pools).

#### Notable Participation Rates Decreasing

The 2008 Alberta Recreation Survey provides some insight as to changing levels of participation in the Province of Alberta over the past 20 years. The most notable decreases since 1988 included:

- Fishing (50% to 28%);
- Softball / baseball (34% to 12%);
- Ice skating (not hockey) (46% to 23%);
- Attending live theatre (65% to 45%); and
- Dancing (47% to 27%).

While some of the decreases are a result of an actual decrease in interest in those activities, some of the reduction is a result of access to a greater variety of activities, in other words there are more choices available.

As well, Albertans felt that they had less time available and switched to those activities which were easier to fit into already busy schedules, or they stopped participating in those activities which required more structured environments, such as court sports, team sports, or special playing areas.

#### Notable Participation Rates Increasing

Increases in household participation were noted as well in a number of activities from 1988 to 2008. These included:

- Playing video games (37% in 1988 to 54% in 2008);
- Attending a fair or festival (50% to 62%);
- Aerobics / fitness (30% to 45%);
- Weightlifting / body building (27% to 34%); and

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<sup>5</sup> Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation. [www.tpr.alberta.ca/recreation.ars/default.aspx](http://www.tpr.alberta.ca/recreation.ars/default.aspx)

- Day hiking (31% to 38%).

### **Barriers to Participation**

The top barriers to participation in recreational pursuits were (not presented in rank order):

- 1) Economic barriers including entrance or registration fees, and equipment costs;
- 2) Time commitments associated with work, other activities, and family;
- 3) The condition of the recreation facilities – older, poorly maintained facilities limit the amount of participation;
- 4) Overcrowded recreation facilities or areas; and
- 5) No opportunity near their home / cost of transportation.

### **5.3. Other Trends Impacting Recreation**

#### **5.3.1. Aging Society**

The provincial population is aging. The next twenty year period will result in a greater number of middle aged and senior adults that will seek recreation activities that will keep them healthy and involved. This may mean providing more adult oriented low impact sports such as walking trails (inc. indoor tracks); low impact fitness / wellness outlets; increased social activities; cultural / performing arts activities; and nature activities.

Strathcona County has been proactive in supporting its “aging” population through the development of the Strathcona County Older Adult Plan (currently underway) as well as through the offering of recreation and leisure programming for older adults.

#### **5.3.2. Forming Community Partnerships**

Governments at all levels have been clear that they cannot fund all the demands for constructing and operating recreation resources. Because of this, governments prefer to provide funding when community groups with common interests work together. That helps ensure that government funding helps as many groups and participants as possible. For example, a municipal government would be more likely to provide funding to help develop an activity room if a drama club and a youth organization would share the space compared with a situation in which the drama club and youth organization each asked for funds to develop their own separate room.

### **5.4. Inventory and Assessment of Existing Facilities**

Ardrossan is the focal point for developed recreation facilities in the area east of Sherwood Park. These facilities are identified and described in the following sections. The map following Section 5.4.4 is labelled with each of the existing facilities.

### 5.4.1. Sports Fields

Ardrossan has a significant number of sports fields. The inventory includes:

- eight (8) soccer fields,
- four (4) baseball diamonds,
- one (1) football field,
- one (1) track,
- four (4) tennis courts,
- four (4) outdoor basketball courts,
- one (1) outdoor skating rink, and
- one (1) lawn bowling green.



The majority of the fields are located near the schools while the remainder are situated near the Ardrossan Recreation Complex. Many of the existing sports fields require repairs and upgrading in order to better accommodate players and spectators. Some fields have inadequate playing surfaces. Only the football field and track are equipped with lighting, bleachers, and a field house/change facility. Through the Sports Field Strategy, the need for artificial, fully serviced sports field throughout the Country is being reviewed. Ardrossan may, or may not, be a potential site for an artificial turf field.

Parking for the sports fields is shared with the school and community theatre lots which are inadequate to serve both functions. Cars are usually parked along Range Road 222 due to the lots being full. There is also a lack of a defined entry to the sports fields behind the school as the access is located between the High School gymnasium and the bottle depot.

### 5.4.2. Trails

There are two trails located in the municipal reserve lands along the Pointe-aux-pins Creek. The paved trail, which runs along the east side of the creek adjacent to the new residential development, is 600m in length. The granular trail, located on the west side of the creek near the historic community, is 325m in length.



The two trails are not linked and do not connect residents with the schools, sports fields, or recreation complex. As a result, the majority of pedestrian traffic through the community takes place on the shoulders of Range Road 222 and along the streets which creates an unsafe environment for non-motorized transportation through the study area.

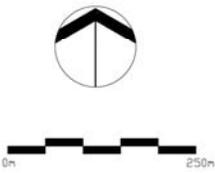
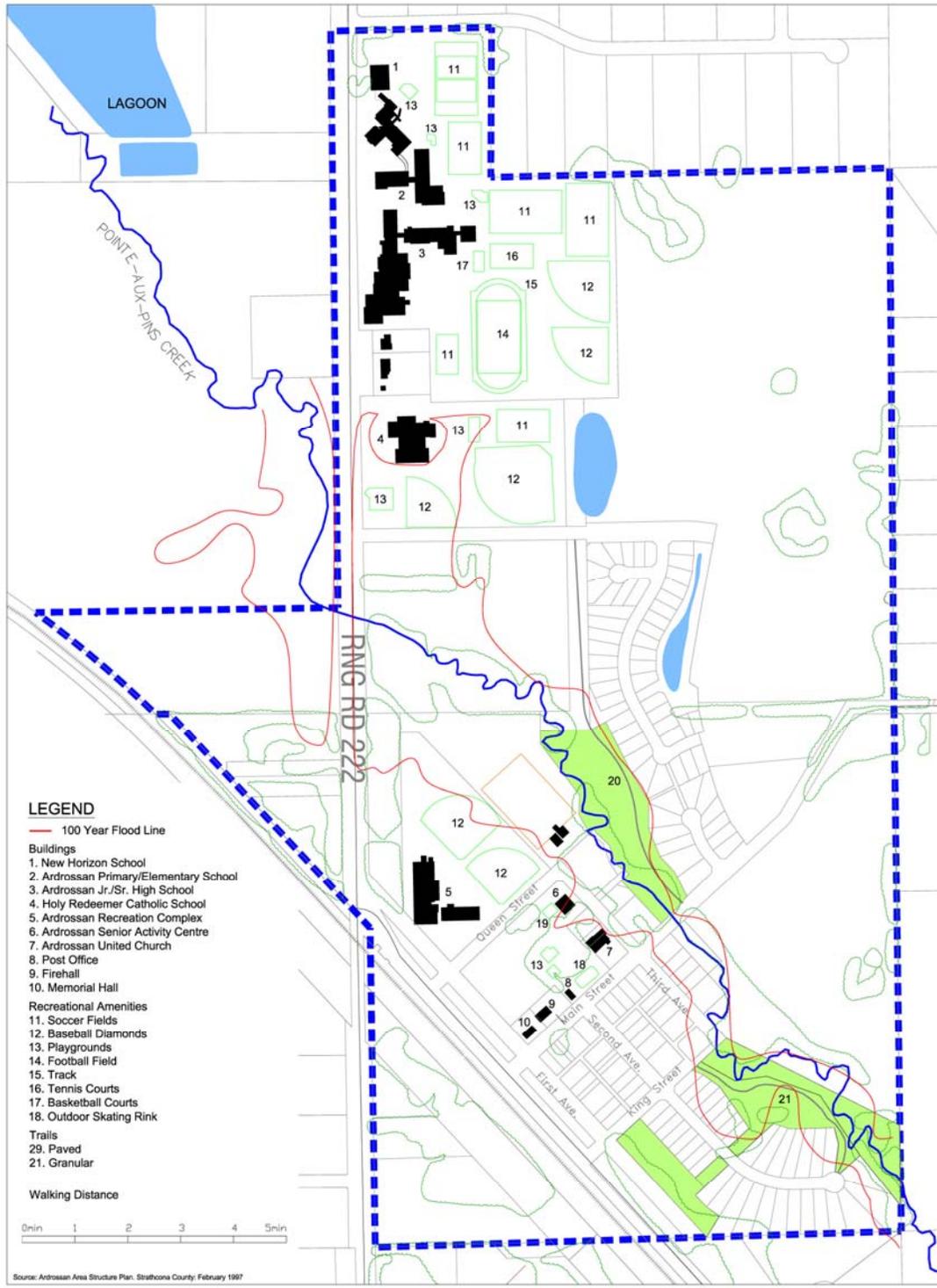
### 5.4.3. Open Space/Parks

There is a large, level grass area south of the Recreation Complex which currently provides flexible open/event space for the community. During the winter, an outdoor skating rink is created in this area which is used for free skating without sticks and pucks. The open space is centrally located in the community, within a five minute walk of most residents, but it is not linked to the residential areas by trails. It is also in close proximity to the Recreation Complex and can therefore make use of its services. As of right now, this area is not accessible by foot from the schools site. In addition to the open space, there are five playgrounds located at the schools and an additional two located in the central park near the Senior Centre. Snowbank rinks and leisure skating areas are provided at various parks and open spaces within the hamlet. The location of these rinks and leisure ice surfaces is typically determined in the fall and varies from year to year.

### 5.4.4. Ardrossan Recreation Complex

The Recreation Complex is a significant indoor recreational asset in the community. Located near the hamlet centre, the Complex includes an ice arena, curling rink and lounge, a multipurpose room, and two offices. There is also a full size gymnasium that serves as a large community hall able to accommodate banquet seating for 400 people. The hall comes with a fully equipped kitchen and bar. There are two ball diamonds adjacent to the Recreation Complex as well which will be relocated upon the development of the Ardrossan Recreation Complex Infrastructure Reinvestment Project.





**Strathcona**  
County



**EXISTING CONDITIONS**  
ARDROSSAN COMMUNITY RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
ARDROSSAN, AB

Scale: 1:2500  
Date: 2009-09-29

L01



## **5.5. Public Lands Profile (Description & Infrastructure)**

The Ardrossan community is experiencing significant growth and as a result, a large portion of the area is zoned for residential development. However, there is a large amount of public land within the study boundary which provides opportunities for recreational amenities.

The large area adjacent to the schools as well as the land surrounding the Recreation Complex provides ample space for recreational opportunities and community gathering/events. Reserve lands created in the proposed developments as well as through Public Utility Lots (PULs), easements and utility Right of Ways (ROWs) can be utilized for trail linkages between residents and recreational amenities.

There is also a significant amount of land within the 1:100 year flood limit of the Pointe-aux-pins Creek which restricts development and will therefore be designated as municipal or environmental reserve. Trails are permitted throughout these areas and can potentially be used to provide opportunities for residents to experience nature and wildlife.

## **5.6. Site Assessment**

As part of the creation of the Community Recreation Master Plan, a physical assessment of the community was undertaken to evaluate the site's developmental opportunities and constraints. The assessment addressed the environmental, spatial, amenities, and circulation related issues of the Ardrossan community. This physical assessment influenced the Master Plan as it highlighted the community's recreational assets as well as issues which needed to be addressed in the development of the Master Plan.

The numerous sports fields within the study area present a great opportunity for recreation for residents of the Ardrossan community. An upgrade to the surface conditions, services, and spectator accommodation would create a premier recreation destination within Strathcona County. Consideration will be given to sports fields in Ardrossan in the overall Strathcona County context through the Sports Field Strategy (currently underway).

The current parking and entry to the sports fields is an issue and needs to be addressed to improve public access to the amenities. Currently, parking is shared between the sports fields and schools which is insufficient as vehicles often park along Range Road 222 when the lots are full. The current capacity of the parking around the schools is 235 stalls. Additional parking should be integrated near the sports fields in order to improve access to the amenities.

Pedestrian circulation throughout the study area is in need of improvement. The existing trail system is insufficient to accommodate non-motorized transportation throughout the community and therefore poses a constraint for access to recreational

amenities. Existing Municipal Reserve and Environmental Reserve lands (MR/ER), PULs, ROWs, and reserve lands set aside in future developments provide opportunities to enhance the connectivity between the recreational facilities, schools, and residents. By improving the trail network, pedestrian traffic could be drawn off Range Road 222 and community streets and directed along a system of paved and granular trails. As a result, a safer and more accessible community could be provided.

The existing environmental reserve lands situated within the 1:100 year flood line of Pointe-aux-pins Creek pose a constraint as development within is restricted. However, these lands can be used for trails development and to provide opportunities for residents to interact with wildlife and nature.

### 5.7. Facility Usage Assessment

The usage information gathered relates to scheduled use of the rectangular fields in Ardrossan as well as one of the ball diamonds<sup>6</sup>.

Regarding the rectangular fields, the bookings were limited to the late spring / early summer. While Fields E, F, and Vic Chemelyk Field were booked for a single Saturday in late May for football, typically the fields (B, E, F, G, H) were booked during the weekdays – mainly Monday through Thursday by the Soccer Association. As might be expected the Soccer Association had the fields booked during the evenings. Fields E, F and Vic Chemelyk field are all utilized on a spontaneous basis throughout the summer for a variety of field sports and as practice and game venues for football during the fall.

Diamond 1 was booked by Minor Baseball in a similar manner as were the rectangular fields. See the following table.

<b>Rectangular Field</b>	<b>Months</b>	<b>No. Bookings</b>	<b>Time</b>
B	May - June	32	6:30 – 7:30 pm
E	May – July	23	7:30 – 9:00 pm
F	May – July	16	7:30 – 9:00 pm
G	May – June	32	6:30 – 9:00 pm
H	May – June	32	6:30 – 7:30 pm
<b>Diamond</b>	<b>Months</b>	<b>No. Bookings</b>	<b>Time</b>
1	May – June	29	6:00 – 8:00 pm

It is important to note that the Sports Field Strategy will assess usage levels at the various sports fields throughout the County and will recommend upgrades to existing, as well as development of new, sports fields where required. This will have an impact on the use, and future development/upgrade of sports fields in Ardrossan as well as other areas throughout Strathcona County.

<sup>6</sup> The information relating to sport field usage was provided by Strathcona County's facility bookings service.



The Ardrossan Recreation Complex is utilized by the Strathcona Minor Hockey Association and other ice user groups. It is also used by recreational hockey players. The Ardrossan Strathcona Figures Skating Club provides programming out of the arena weekly throughout the season. Also weekly, the Ardrossan Recreational and Agricultural Society hosts public skating in the arena. The gymnasium in the Recreation Complex is used by the Ardrossan Yatran Dancers. As well it hosts numerous community events and meetings throughout the year.

## **5.8. Community Engagement**

A number of community engagement activities were convened in the development of this Master Plan. Two community visioning sessions were held early in the process in order to help identify the key elements of this Master Plan. These two sessions are described in the following section.

Once a draft Community Recreation Master Plan had been developed, community stakeholders were provided with formal opportunities to provide feedback. This community engagement activity is described in Section 6.5.4 Public Review Open House.

### **5.8.1. Community Visioning Sessions**

Two community visioning sessions were held to give local volunteers and the general public opportunity to provide valuable direction for the development of this Community Recreation Master Plan. These sessions were held at the Ardrossan Recreation Complex on May 12 and 13, 2009.

Participants started the session by describing their vision of recreation in Ardrossan over the next twenty years. They identified recreation programs and activities that they would like to see in the community in 2029. For the outdoor activities they identified a list of necessary outdoor facilities and amenities that would support these activities and programs. Some of these outdoor facilities and amenities currently exist in the community and participants provided an assessment of their condition and identified any necessary improvements. Descriptions were provided for any new facility or amenity. Finally, participants prioritized the facility development and redevelopment necessary to achieve their vision.

The first session convened on May 12, 2009 included representatives from active community groups. Twenty-two groups were represented at this session are noted as follows:

- Scouts
- Ardrossan Elementary School
- Ardrossan Recreation & Agriculture Society
- Ardrossan Volunteer Fire Fighters Alumni
- Elk Island Catholic Schools
- Outcast Theatre
- Ardrossan 4H Creative Hands
- Strathcona Pony Club
- Bisons High School Football
- Ardrossan French Playschool Association
- Ardrossan Strathcona Figure Skating Club
- Ardrossan Yatran Ukrainian Dance Association
- OverActing Imaginations Youth Theatre
- Strathcona Rein Riders
- Strathcona Curling Club
- Ardrossan Curling Club
- Ardrossan Junior/Senior High School
- Ardrossan Junior/Senior High School Parent Advisory Council
- Ardrossan Youth Park Initiative
- Parent Link
- Strathcona 4H
- Strathcona Minor Hockey Association

The second session was convened on May 13th with members of the Ardrossan community. Affiliation with any community group was unnecessary. Three community members participated in this session.

### Community Assets

Participants began the session by discussing and listing the positive attributes of the Ardrossan community. People spoke about those attributes that are often typically associated with a small town: quiet, safe, sense of community, feeling of belonging, and peaceful. Other things mentioned included:

- Proximity to city services,
- Variety of community groups/organizations and activities,
- Schools and their variety of programs,
- Strong volunteerism,
- Accessible facilities both inside and outside, and
- The open space.

### Primary Interest Areas for Open Spaces

A number of main themes/priorities emerged from the output of the two sessions.

**1) Community Trails:** This theme was raised throughout the sessions by participants even when



discussing other outdoor facilities or amenities. Participants spoke of a trail system that was integrated throughout the hamlet connecting community amenities and facilities, schools, and the residential areas. The existing trail system was described by one participant as, "...going nowhere." The existing system relied heavily on the roads and the highway in the community.

The trails would accommodate numerous forms of non motorized transportation including pedestrians, cyclists, roller bladers, and wheel chairs / scooters. **Paved trails were preferred** because they better accommodated wheeled transportation however it was recognized that the development of a connected trail system, even if it was gravel to start, would be a significant addition to Ardrossan.

Interconnected routes were desired to ensure the system was used. This may necessitate bridge crossings over the creek. The availability of benches and garbage/recycling receptacles along the trail system was also suggested.

### 2) Skateboard Park / Youth Park:

The temporary skateboard ramps situated at the Recreation Complex were deemed unsafe due to their location and their structural integrity. Significant support was expressed

for a permanent park that would provide a safe facility for the community's youth. **A permanent in-ground concrete structure** would also allow the use of BMX bicycles. This initiative has been identified in the community in the recent past and planning for a new skatepark has been initiated by local groups.



### 3) Sports Fields / Diamonds:

There was general consensus that the community was endowed with a sufficient number of sports fields however the quality of the fields was called into question. The fields were generally seen as in need of repair to address bare spots and gopher holes. While the football field is well equipped with washrooms, change rooms, and lights, participants felt that these amenities would be important additions for field and diamond users as well.



**Access** to these fields / diamonds was seen as in need of improvement. A number of session participants spoke about few access points through fences to get to the facilities. Fences were described as being pushed over to facilitate access. Ensuring these community facilities are accessible from any trail system is paramount. Throughout the meeting reference was made to the upcoming Sports Field Strategy and how it may impact the provision of sports fields in the community and broader Strathcona County.

**4) Social / Event Space:** A fair amount of discussion took place about a **central space for the community to convene events**. The field area adjacent to Memorial Hall and the Seniors' Centre was identified as a current area that enables these kinds of activities, however a number of improvements were articulated. For the most part these improvements would see the current field area transform into a more manicured park with more amenities.

Suggested improvements included: benches, picnic tables, a gazebo, amphitheatre, fire pits, landscaping (trees), water and electrical source, garbage and recycling bins, and public art.



**5) Spontaneous Use Open Space:** While the Social / Event Space would provide for spontaneous use, suggestions were offered that would see spontaneous use open space integrated throughout the community. In particular, tobogganing was mentioned as a specific spontaneous activity that required development of a site. Provision should also be made in any of these areas for observation/supervision opportunities, for example benches.



**6) Change Rooms & Washrooms:** What ever the facility within the community, a need was expressed that users of a facility have access to suitable change and washroom facilities. This certainly does not imply that each outdoor facility or cluster of facilities would have their own dedicated change rooms and washrooms, but rather that access is available to these amenities be made available in nearby facilities (i.e. the Recreation Complex) where available.

### Secondary Interest Areas for Open Spaces

A variety of other areas were addressed in the sessions.

**1) Equestrian / Rodeo Facility:** Situated on the edge of the hamlet, this facility would have a grand stand, corrals, holding pens, chutes, jumping, and horse trails. There was some suggestion that camping would be available on the site as well. The Green Hectares Business Plan (2008), which was developed based on recommendation from the OSRFS, was mentioned as a current initiative addressing the need for equine/rodeo facilities from a County-wide perspective.

**2) Spray Park:** A facility with a focus on children. Aside from the playful water elements, change rooms and a concession were necessary elements. The upcoming Aquatics Strategy, originating from the OSRFS, was identified as having an impact on future outdoor spray parks in Ardrossan.



**3) Leisure Skating Ice:** The outdoor rink is currently available but could be improved with lighting, a concrete floor, and change and washroom access. As well a temporary snow bank rink is constructed during the winter. The addition of some seating and lighting in addition to the change and washroom access was considered sufficient.

### 5.9. Trends and Research Summary

The priorities identified by session participants, along with broad recreation trends, and the Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy (OSRFS) present some implications for the planning of outdoor facilities and amenities in Ardrossan. The following table identifies the most requested outdoor recreation facilities. For each facility a check mark indicates if the development of that facility is recognized in the broad recreation trends. A check mark in the last column indicates if the particular facility is recognized in the OSRFS.



Outdoor Facilities, Parks and Open Space Priorities	Visioning Priorities	Industry Trends	OSRFS: Rural
Community Trails	✓	✓	✓
Skateboard Park	✓	✓	✓
Sports Fields / Diamonds	✓	✓	✓
Green Field Spaces	✓	✓	✓
Spray Park	✓	✓	✓
Social / Event Spaces	✓		✓
BMX Bicycle Parks	✓		✓
Leisure Skating	✓	✓	
Equestrian / Rodeo Facility	✓		

## 6.0 The Future of Recreation in Ardrossan

### 6.1. Vision

The following vision statement for recreation in Ardrossan involves providing opportunities to enhance the quality of life for all residents, from children to seniors. Healthy lifestyles are encouraged through the provision of spontaneous and structured recreation amenities.

***Public recreation opportunities in Ardrossan are safe, accessible, affordable, and interconnected. These opportunities are provided in partnership with active community groups and individuals, so as to optimize the use of public funds, and in such a way that impact upon the natural environment is minimized.***

### 6.2. Goals

The following goals have been prepared as a foundation for the recommendations contained in this Master Plan as well as to provide direction for future Strathcona County decision making in relation to future recreation, parks and open spaces.

- The development of **new outdoor recreation facilities and amenities should leverage existing facilities and community assets** when and where possible. The school site has a myriad of recreation assets as does the hamlet centre (i.e. Recreation Complex, Memorial Hall, Seniors' Centre, etc...). Development should foster the continued use of these hubs as gathering areas in the community.
- The various existing **community hubs in the hamlet should be fostered and should be interconnected**. The school/community theatre hub, hamlet centre, and residential areas should be connected in a manner to both facilitate and encourage non vehicular traffic flow. Community members should be able to travel around the community on an integrated trail system.
- **Safety should be a primary factor** when assessing new outdoor recreation facility development opportunities. Consideration should be given to overall



- visibility of facilities as well as to the separation of vehicular traffic from non motorized traffic (i.e. pedestrian, bicycle, roller blades, scooters, etceteras).
- A **multi-use approach should be taken** whenever possible. This refers to the avoidance of single, dedicated use facilities or amenities in terms of activity type or user. This approach helps leverage the value of the assets to the entire community. This can also be reflected when the community uses school facilities and visa versa.
  - Any development should **respect existing land designation, be it Municipal or Environmental Reserve or Conservation Easement**. This means that development will not encroach upon but will both respect and enhance the reserve lands and natural areas within the community.



### 6.3. Master Plan Strategic Themes

The Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan is presented in four separate themes. These themes have been developed based upon data collected and constraints inherent within the hamlet of Ardrossan (i.e. roadways, environmental reserve, etc...). The four separate themes are:

1. The creation of a walkable community;
2. Places for community gathering;
3. Places for specialized activities and youth: and
4. Teams sports

The following hamlet of Ardrossan Site Master Plan represents the compilation of ideas and components that best meet the needs of the community as a whole.



# Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan

Walkable Communities • Community Gathering • Specialized Activities for Youth • Play Team Sports



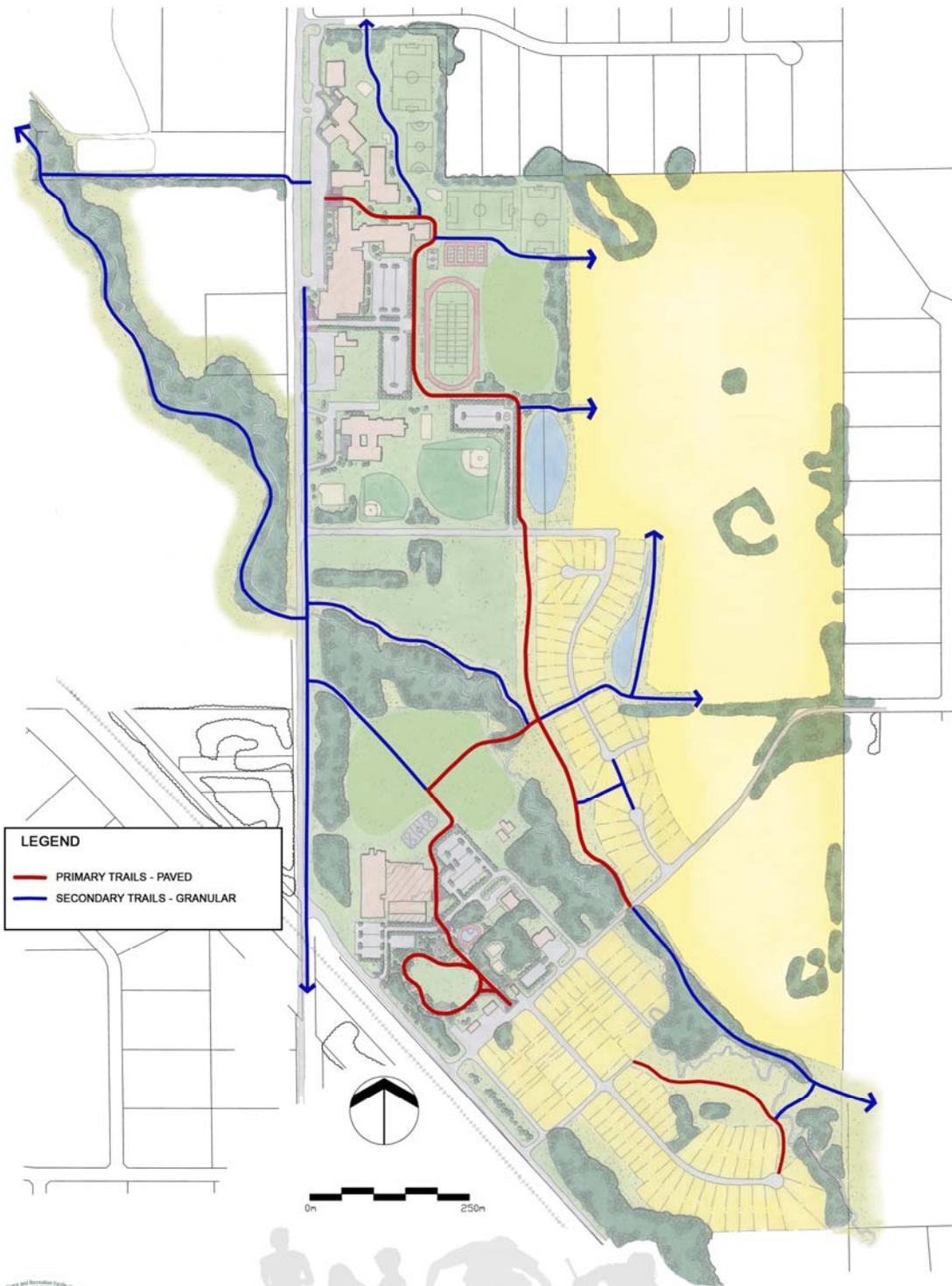
### 6.3.1. Walkable Community

A primary goal of the Recreation Master Plan is to create a walkable community by connecting residents with community amenities, facilities, and schools. A network of paved and granular trails is used to draw pedestrian traffic off the highways and roads and to provide safe and accessible connections between residents of both existing and future residential areas and the community amenities.

The trails accommodate various forms of non-motorized transportation including pedestrians, cyclists, inline skaters, and wheelchairs/scooters. As development continues, granular trails can be upgraded and paved in order to meet the growing needs of Ardrossan. These trails should be developed not only to provide access and connectivity to community resources but also to divert traffic away from sensitive and/or inappropriate areas (i.e. preventing trails through sports fields, etc...). Asphalt trails will be most appropriate in some areas while granular in others. The decision as to whether or not to have asphalt trails versus granular trails in certain areas should be based upon existing and expected trail use, land designation, expected operational/maintenance impacts and public input. The County's existing Trails Master Plan outlines certain trails standards for different types of uses and land designations. The following proposed trails are indicative of the existing standards as outlined in Strathcona County's Trails Master Plan (1998). Benches and receptacles will be strategically placed along trails to provide places to rest and dispose of litter. As identified in the Strathcona County Older Adult Plan (2009) designing walking trails considering the "Principles of Universal Design" is important as it will ensure that older adults will be able to access and utilize existing and new trail systems. The Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan also provides regional Strathcona County trails, as outlined in the Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy, which run alongside Pointe-Aux-Pins Creek outside the hamlet boundary.



# The Creation of a Walkable Community



## Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan

Walkable Communities • Community Gathering • Specialized Activities for Youth • Play Team Sports

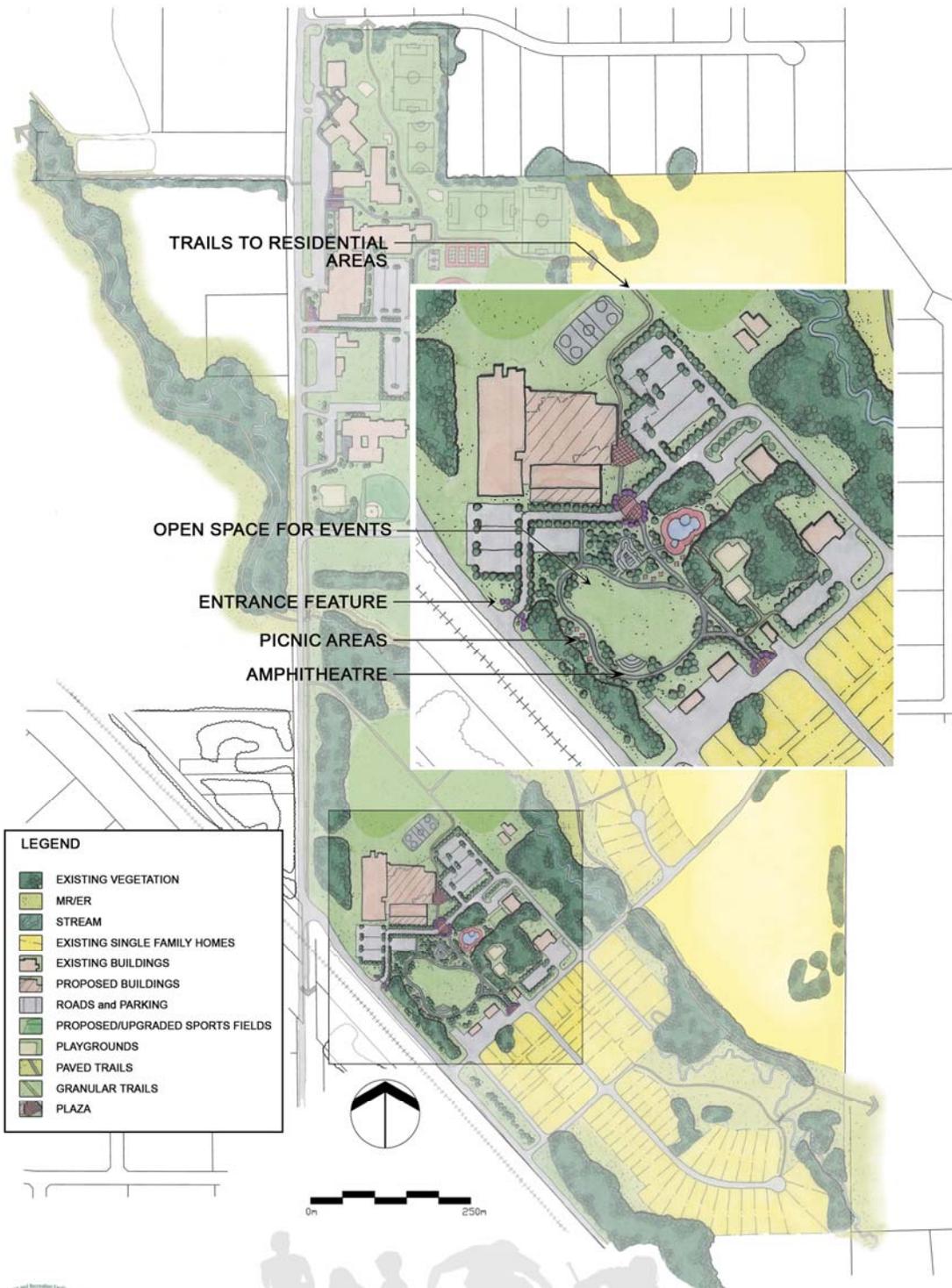


### 6.3.2. Community Gathering

To accommodate the community's desire for spontaneous use and open space, the existing grounds adjacent to Memorial Hall and the Seniors Centre will continue to be utilized as an area for community gatherings and events. A large open grassed space allows for flexible recreational use as well as an area to set up tents and staging areas to accommodate events. Park amenities such as benches, picnic tables, and an amphitheatre are proposed around the central open space to facilitate passive recreation and day use as well as to provide opportunities for cultural events to be staged. Native vegetation and plantings are incorporated throughout the open space to enhance the aesthetics of the park and to provide a buffer between the adjacent railroad and county roads. A paved trail through the open space would be used to connect to the community trail system and to ensure residents have safe and accessible access to the green space and playgrounds. Community gathering spaces are congruent with recommendations in other plans, including the OSRFS and the Older Adults Plan which identifies the provision of "opportunities for social connection" and a goal.



# Places for Community Gathering



## Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan

Walkable Communities • Community Gathering • Specialized Activities for Youth • Play Team Sports

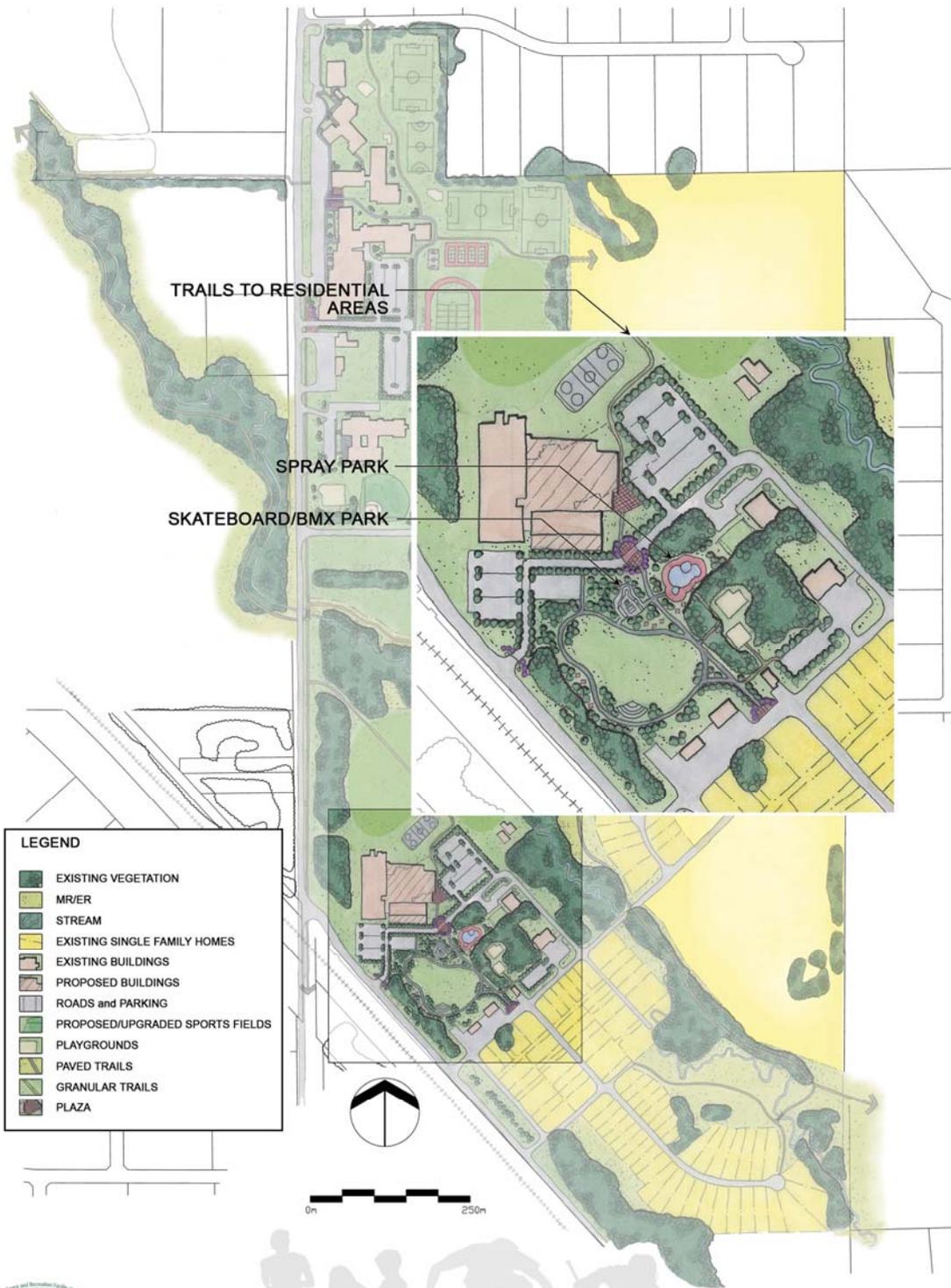


### 6.3.3. Specialized Activities and Youth

During the visioning sessions, community residents expressed an interest in providing specialized activities for youth. As a result, a permanent skateboard/BMX park and a spray park (to be further discussed in the Aquatics Strategy – 2010) are proposed for the open space adjacent to Memorial Hall and the Seniors Centre. These two parks are located in the community space near the Recreation Complex to make use of its services and to be centrally located in the hamlet with close proximity to other community amenities and youth activities. Together with the playgrounds, the skateboard/BMX and spray parks provide opportunities for active recreation for children of all ages. These parks are also well connected to residential areas by the trail network to ensure children have safe access.



# Places for Specialized Activities and Youth



## Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan

Walkable Communities • Community Gathering • Specialized Activities for Youth • Play Team Sports

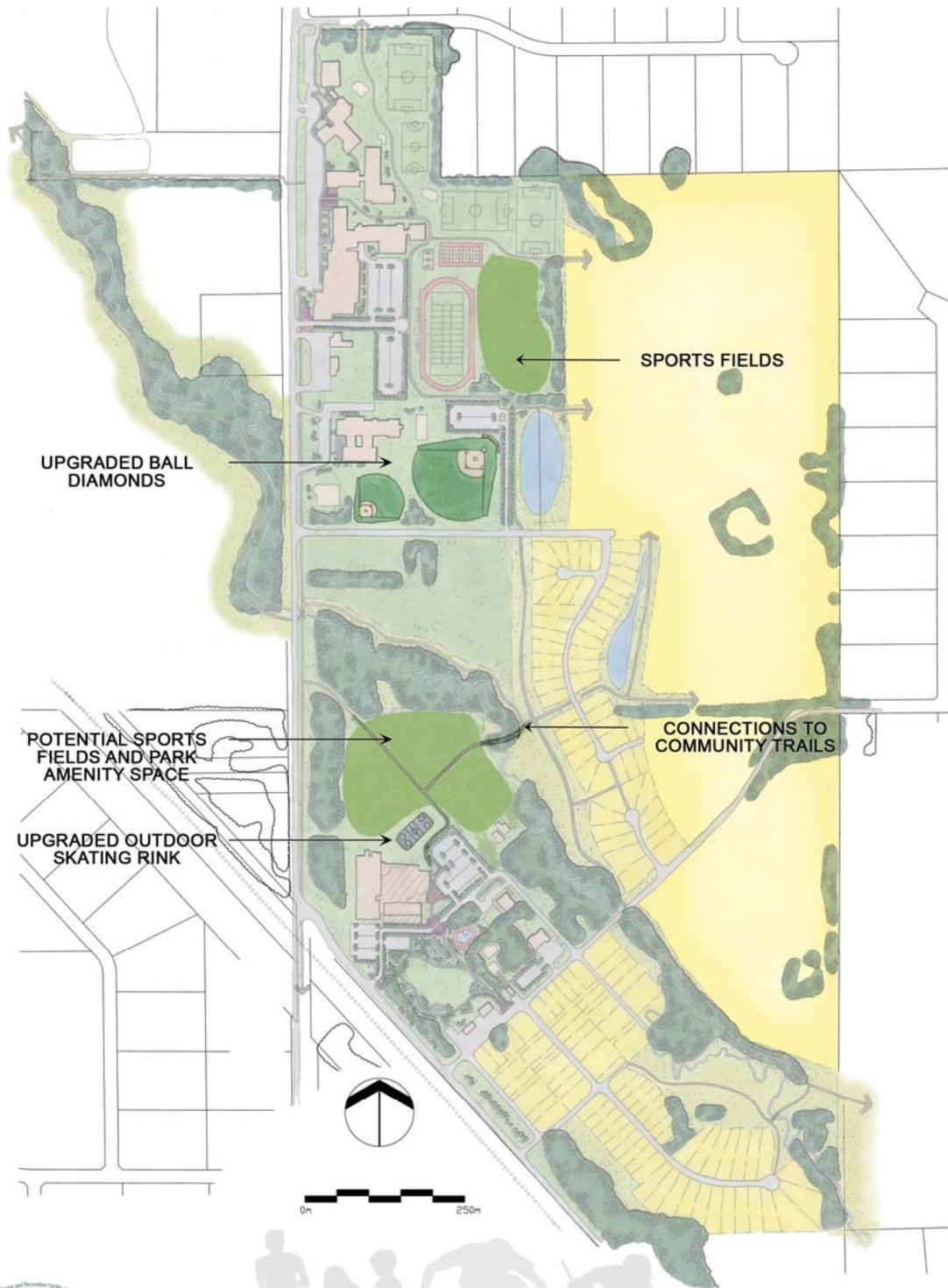


### 6.3.4. Sports Fields

While Ardrossan has many sports fields, residents and groups felt there is a need for upgrading the quality of the fields and access to services. Access to the sports fields will be improved with entry features and plantings and additional parking will be provided to accommodate the needs of users. The trail system will be integrated throughout the grounds adjacent to the four schools in order to ensure residents have safe and accessible access to the sports fields and school amenities. The two baseball diamonds adjacent to Holy Redeemer Catholic School are proposed to be upgraded to accommodate a greater range of play as well as to provide areas for spectators. The existing outdoor skating rink is proposed to be relocated beside the Recreation Complex to make use of its services. It has also been enlarged to accommodate an increase in use, and lighted to further enable use. The addition of irrigation to some fields may be warranted to improve turf quality however recommendations resulting from the upcoming Sport field Strategy will likely deal with this issue. Snowbank rinks and other outdoor leisure ice surfaces will continue to be provided in the community, although now graphically depicted on the following Master Plan. Additional spaces have been identified as areas for new fields to mitigate the loss of the two baseball diamonds from the upcoming expansion to the Recreation Complex. A vegetated buffer is integrated along the east boundary of the school/sports field grounds to screen future residential development from the sports fields.



# Play Team Sports



## Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan

Walkable Communities • Community Gathering • Specialized Activities for Youth • Play Team Sports



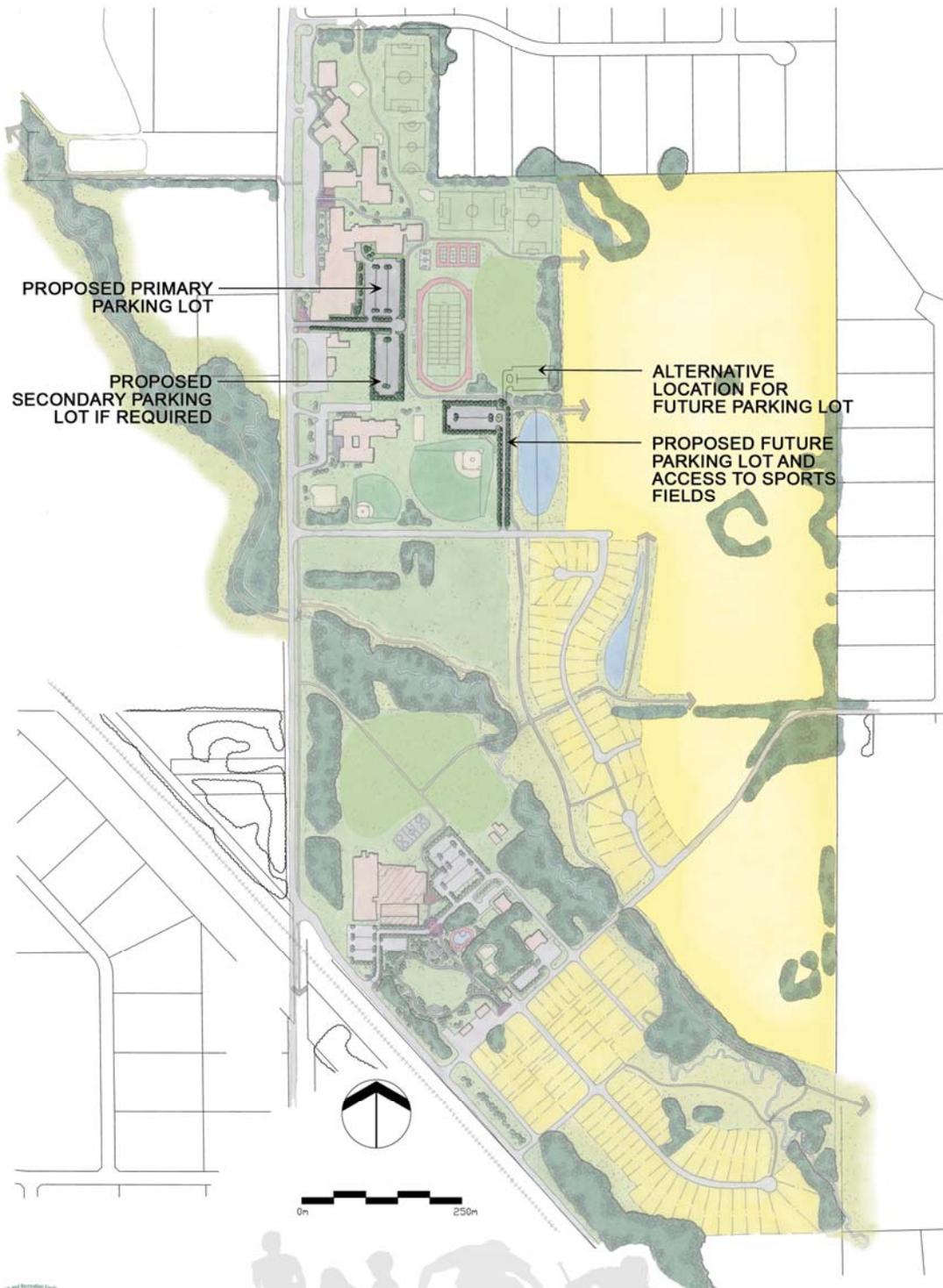
## 6.4. Parking and Access

Parking and access is an important consideration in the future planning of recreation facilities, parks and open spaces in Ardrossan. This is especially apparent at the schools site and in the areas surrounding the Recreation Complex. The following Plan depicts a phased approach to meeting the needs for parking facilities for these two sites while working within the confines of existing spaces and facilities.

It is important to note that although this Master Plan refers to potential future parking areas, further assessment will be necessary and partnerships with school boards, schools, community groups may ultimately be required to see these spaces designed and implemented. The configuration of parking and access surrounding the Recreation Complex is included in the Master Plan and associated cost estimates but final configuration and funding is dependent on the Ardrossan Recreation Complex Infrastructure Reinvestment project.



# Proposed Parking and Access



## Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan

Walkable Communities • Community Gathering • Specialized Activities for Youth • Play Team Sports





## 6.5. Public Review Open House and Stakeholder Presentation

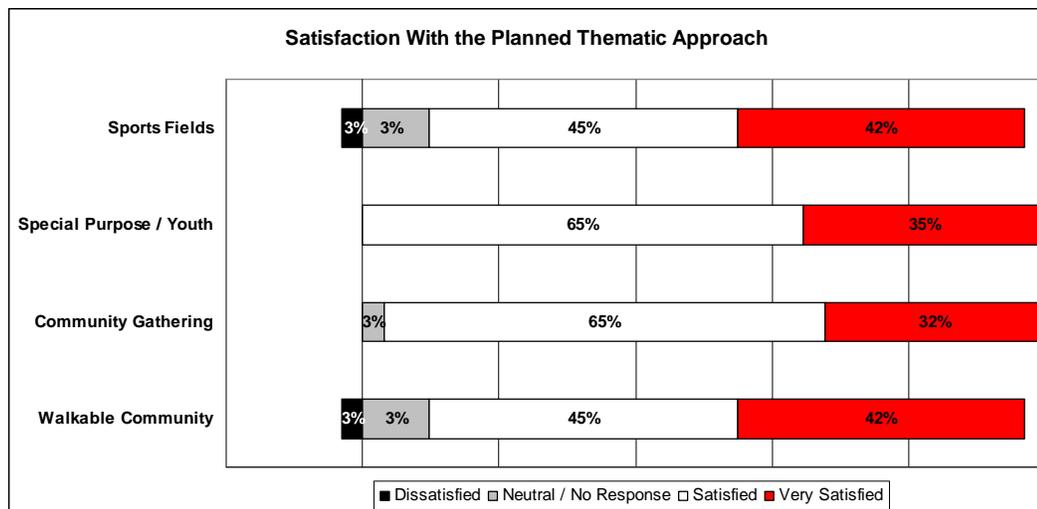
The four draft strategic themes and associated concepts were presented on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to the stakeholders who participated in the community visioning sessions. Immediately following this presentation a public review open house was hosted. This open house enabled members of the community to review the strategic themes and discuss them with the consultants and Strathcona County representatives in attendance. The information was also presented at the Ardrossan annual picnic and emailed directly to group representatives.

Seventeen individuals were in attendance for the stakeholder presentation; the open house saw approximately fifty attendees. In both instances, attendees were provided with a form to provide their feedback regarding the draft strategic themes. In total, thirty-one feedback forms were completed; the findings are presented below.

### Strategic Themes

In overwhelming fashion (94% or 29 respondents) said that the recreation needs of the community are included within the draft four (4) strategic themes. The remaining respondents did not provide a response. One respondent commented that there are other things that could be included like a camping area in the community to support sport tournaments.

As can be seen in the following figure, there was overwhelming support for the four strategic themes. In fact only one respondent (3%) was dissatisfied with the planned approach for Sports Fields and another respondent dissatisfied with Walkable Community.



## 1) Sports Fields

There were a number of comments accompanying the respondents' rating of this theme. These included:

- Well designed fields not only provide for the community but can draw in teams from other communities and can host events. It is important however to ensure all fields are maintained properly – perhaps a maintenance plan should be implemented as well.
- The inclusion of extra parking, particularly around the schools, is a very positive element.
- Improvements are needed with the fields including dugouts, washroom access and improved lighting.
- There is a need for additional fields in the community. The use of the “unused” space behind the existing diamonds near the schools is very positive. Some concern was expressed however about the loss of this practice field.
- There were some comments about the outdoor rink element as well. The need for a rink shack was expressed. Improved lighting, washroom access need to be improved for the outdoor rink. The leisure skating surface (snow bank rink) should be developed in close proximity to the outdoor rink to take advantage of lighting, washroom access and maintenance.

The comment accompanying the dissatisfied rating reflected the loss of the ball diamonds behind the recreation complex. This individual suggested that there needs to be a definite plan to replace these diamonds.

## 2) Special Purpose / Youth

There were a number of comments accompanying the respondents' rating of this theme. These included:

- Very pleased with the skateboard park. There are a lot of youth in the area, and many would come from Sherwood Park, who would utilize this park.
- The skateboard park should be a multi-use facility able to be used for things other than skateboards.
- The community recognition of the importance of providing opportunities for the youth in the community. The development of this theme would help keep the youth in the community “busy”.
- An outdoor swimming pool would be well utilized, by adults in the community as well who would not have to drive to Sherwood Park. It was suggested that the School Board of Ardrossan High School is supportive of a community pool.
- An upgrade of the existing creative playground nearby would be desirable.

There were three respondents who expressed some trepidation with the notion of a spray park. One commented that a wading pool was preferred over a spray park. Another commented a spray park has a limited season and is quite expensive to maintain.

### **3) Community Gathering**

There were a number of comments accompanying the respondents' rating of this theme. These included:

- Some concern about all the elements being able to adequately be accommodated in the available space.
- The use of space is excellent. It is united, flows well, and is aesthetically pleasing and welcoming.
- The space needs to support the arts in the community.

### **4) Walkable Community**

There were a number of comments accompanying the respondents' rating of this theme. These included:

- The desire for the paths to be paved, particularly the one that runs along the highway to the school. Respondents also expressed a need for the trails to be maintained, particularly year round. This would enable their continued use through the winter. The majority of comments provided related to these issues.
- The linkages with the school and the recreation facilities were applauded as was the use of the integration of the trails into the natural areas. One responded requested that there should not be a trail connection on Second Avenue as this is a wildlife corridor.
- Some desire was expressed to see the connections with the trails in the community to the trails in Strathcona County beyond Ardrossan. There was one suggestion that the trails should link specifically to trails that lead to Sherwood Park and /or the Wilderness Centre.

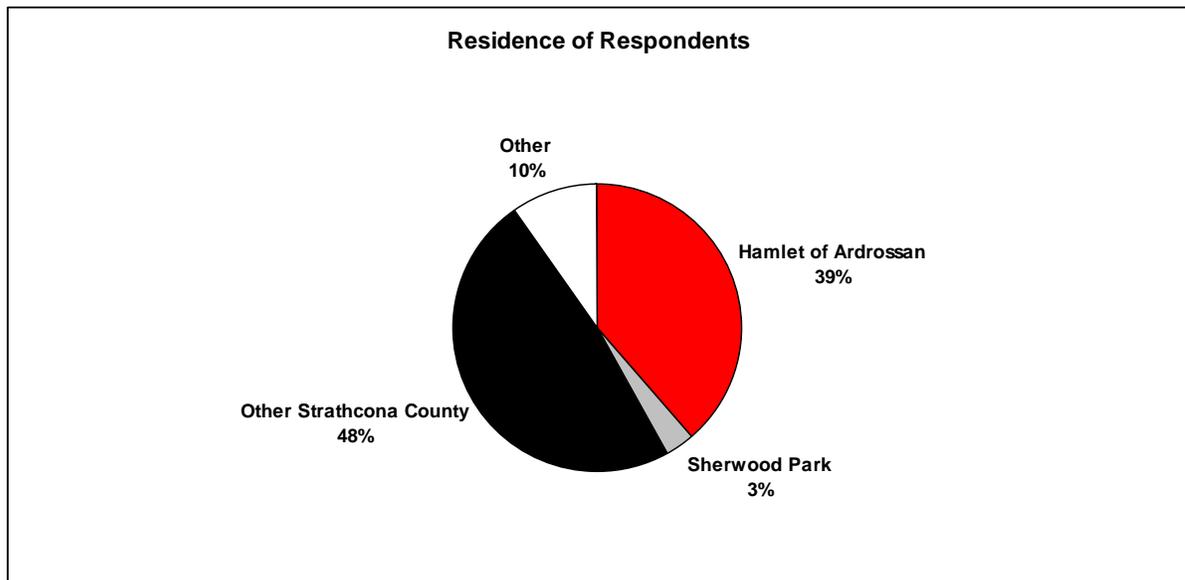
### **Other Comments**

A number of comments were included on the feedback forms by some of the respondents. A few of the comments centred on the issue of timing for the Master Plan. These people encouraged Strathcona County to initiate the implementation of the Master Plan as soon as possible. One respondent expressed some concern that the Master Plan may be shelved. As well a few respondents indicated that the community should be continued to be consulted as the plans are implemented. In fact there was some suggestion that partnerships between Strathcona County and various community organizations could be fostered to aid in the Master Plan's implementation. Other comments included:

- The trail system is central to each of the strategic themes. Because of this the trails should be paved. Paving the trails would, as well, ensure that the trails are better used by a variety of non motorized means and are used throughout the year.
- All parking lots and approaches to the ball diamonds should be paved. As well the approaches should be narrow enough to eliminate people from parking along its edges.
- Commercial space should be included in the Ardrossan Master Plan to provide a store or restaurant to which people could walk.
- Concerns about the impact of the train and its whistle on activity at the amphitheatre. It was suggested that Strathcona County approach CN about stopping this practice, in the same manner that the City of Leduc had.

### Respondent Profile

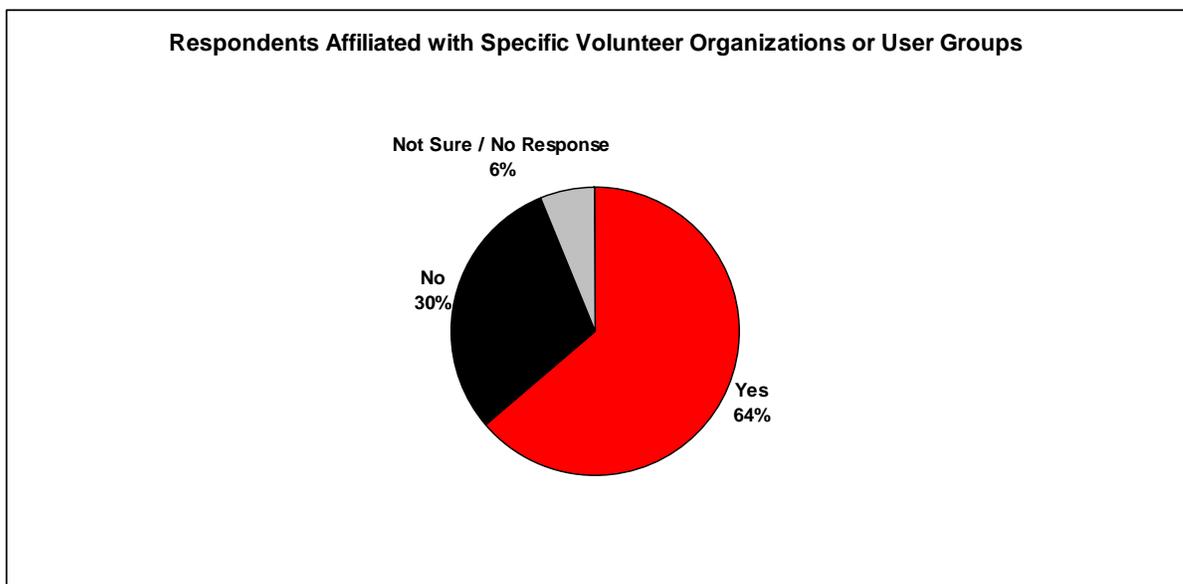
Over one-third (39%) of respondents live in Ardrossan itself, while almost half (48%) live elsewhere in Strathcona County. See the following figure.



Almost two-thirds (64%) of respondents are affiliated with specific volunteer organizations or user groups (following figure). The specific groups which were cited by more than one individual are listed as follows:

- Strathcona Minor Hockey Association,
- Ardrossan Recreation and Agriculture Society,
- Ardrossan Strathcona Minor Hockey Association,
- 4H,
- Ardrossan 55 Plus Club,
- Strathcona Minor Ball,
- Ardrossan Youth Initiative,
- Ardrossan Elementary School and
- Our Little Friends Playschool.

In summary, a broad spectrum of community groups were represented at the review session and in the feedback forms. These groups included educational institutions, sporting groups and arts & culture organizations and represented all ages (youth / adults / seniors).



In general, residents and groups are in agreement with the four strategic themes and associated development concepts. The following section outlines how these development concepts should be implemented as well as the impacts associated with implementation.

## 6.6. Master Plan Implementation

Each of the four strategic themes is important in the overall implementation and effectiveness of the Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan. That being said, there are priorities within each theme that are presented below based upon a logical and optimal approach to achieving the goals outlined herein. The time periods indicated are in line with those referenced in the OSRFS.

### Plan Implementation

Theme	Element	Brief Description	Time Period
<b>Walkable Community</b>			
	Paved Trails	Linkages and associated amenities to Schools and Sports Fields	Immediate Phase I (2010-2013)
	Paved Trails	Linkages and associated amenities to Recreation Complex	Immediate Phase I (2010-2013)
	Granular Trails	Linkages and associated amenities to Future Residential Areas	Immediate Phase I (2010-2013)
	Granular Trails	Linkages and associated amenities to Regional Trail System	Emerging Phases II & III (2014-2023)
	Amenities	Further development of amenities such as benches, trash cans, etc.	Emerging Phases II & III (2014-2023)
<b>Community Gathering</b>			
	Paved Trail	Trail throughout open space	Immediate Phase I (2010-2013)
	Landscaping	Native trees and shrubs throughout space	Immediate Phase I (2010-2013)
	Amenities	Benches, picnic tables, lighting, etc.	Immediate Phase I (2010-2013)
	Amphitheatre	Permanent stage and seating structure	Emerging Phases II & III (2014-2023)
	Plazas	Park entrances and trail linkages	Emerging Phases II & III (2014-2023)
<b>Specialized Activities and Youth</b>			
	Skateboard/BMX Park	Permanent in ground concrete structure	Immediate Phase I (2010-2013)
	Spray Park	Interactive water play area	Emerging Phases II & III (2014-2023)
<b>Team Sports</b>			
	Ball Diamonds	Upgrade existing diamonds (fields, bleachers, lighting, etc.)	Immediate Phase I (2010-2013)
	New Fields	Replace fields displaced by Recreation Complex Expansion and proposed parking lots and access	Immediate Phase I (2010-2013)
	Outdoor Skating Rink	Relocate and upgrade existing outdoor skating rink	Immediate Phase I (2010-2013)
	Parking and Access	New parking lots and entrances to accommodate users	Emerging Phases II & III (2014-2023)
	Landscaping	Native trees and shrubs throughout space	Emerging Phases II & III (2014-2023)



## 6.7. Financial Considerations

### 6.7.1. Capital Implications

The following table presents the capital implications of the Master Plan more clearly according to year. For example, \$600,000 in capital expenditures is necessary in 2010 to implement the Master Plan’s strategic themes.

#### Immediate Phase I 2010-2013

Theme	Element	Capital Cost
Walkable Community		
	Paved Trails - Schools	\$300,000.00
	Paved Trails - Rec Complex	\$180,000.00
	Amenities	\$60,000.00
Community Gathering		
	Paved Trail	\$120,000.00
	Landscaping	\$480,000.00
	Amenities	\$120,000.00
Specialized Activities and Youth		
	Skateboard/BMX Park	\$600,000.00
Team Sports		
	Ball Diamonds	\$840,000.00
	Outdoor Skating Rink	\$120,000.00

**Total Phase I \$2,820,000.00**

#### Emerging Phases II & III 2014-2023

Theme	Element	Capital Cost
Walkable Community		
	Granular Trails - Residential	\$180,000.00
	Granular Trails - Regional	\$300,000.00
Community Gathering		
	Amphitheatre	\$360,000.00
	Plazas	\$300,000.00
Specialized Activities and Youth		
	Spray Park	\$600,000.00
Team Sports		
	New Fields	\$300,000.00
	Parking and Access	\$2,160,000.00
	Landscaping	\$300,000.00

**Total Phases II & III \$4,500,000.00**

**Total Phases I, II & III \$7,320,000.00**

**\*Subject to Council Budget Approval**

### 6.7.2. Operating Implications

It is estimated that annual operating expenses occurred by the spray park and youth skate park are approximately \$60,000/year and \$30,000/year respectively with a recommendation to budget approximately 1% of capital replacement value annually to ensure resource sustainability. Operating implications for other elements of the Master Plan's strategic themes are yet to be determined and will be estimated internally when detailed design of development project is conducted. Annual operating cost estimates for trails maintenance (snow removal, turf maintenance, grooming), community gathering areas, and sports fields are expected to be applied at the same rate as existing like facilities in Strathcona County.

## 7.0 Summary

The 2009 Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan has been developed to help guide Strathcona County Council and administration in the future provision of community facilities, parks, and open spaces in Ardrossan. It has been developed based upon a community needs assessment that included review and recognition of:

- Numerous municipal planning documents. Some of which included:
  - Strathcona County Strategic Plan;
  - Municipal Development Plan;
  - Ardrossan Area Structure Plan; and
  - The Open Space and Recreation Facilities Strategy.
- A myriad of community projects and initiatives. Some of which included:
  - Ardrossan Recreation Complex Infrastructure Reinvestment;
  - Ardrossan Community Hall Expansion Project;
  - Ardrossan Community Trails Program; and
  - Ardrossan Youth Park.

An analysis of the demographics of the community was undertaken as was research into community service trends and the provision of leisure, recreation, and cultural services.

Stakeholder consultation played a significant role in the development of this Community Recreation Master Plan. Visioning sessions were convened with community stakeholder groups and the public. The output from these sessions was instrumental in the development of the strategic themes that are integral components of this Master Plan.

The Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan is presented in four separate themes. These themes have been developed based upon public engagement, data



collected and constraints inherent within the hamlet of Ardrossan (i.e. roadways, environmental reserve, etceteras). The four separate themes are as follows:

1. The creation of a walkable community;
2. Places for community gathering;
3. Places for specialized activities and youth: and
4. Teams sports.

Upon review, community stakeholder groups and residents were very supportive of the aforementioned themes and the development concepts for each.

Implementation of all elements of the four strategic themes will be require estimated capital expenditures in the Immediate Phase (2010-2013) of \$2.82M and Emerging Phases (2014-2023) of \$4.5M.

The four Master Plan themes have been based upon sounds research and community engagement. The implementation and ultimate build out of each theme considers a balanced capital expenditure approach and promotes social, environmental, and economic sustainability. Although the Master Plan implementation schedule and associated costs are presented, it is important to note that actual development in the hamlet with be facilitated through strong and fruitful relationships between Strathcona County and other community stakeholders such as local non-profit program groups, the local school authorities, and other levels of government. By fostering both existing and new relationships in the provision of public recreation opportunities Strathcona County will be able to: optimize the use of public funds; ensure that public investment meets majority community need; and guarantee that all aspects of community sustainability are considered in decision related to recreation and public spaces.