



**TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA
PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURE
MASTER PLAN**

2017-2022



Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction	3
2.0	Background	3
3.0	Study Objectives	3
4.0	Master Plan Process	4
5.0	History of Recreation in Augusta Township	6
6.0	Community Profile	8
7.0	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources	10
7.1	The Recreation Associations	11
7.2	Township Parks and Recreation Facilities	13
7.3	Limerick Forest	15
7.4	Augusta Township Public Library	15
7.5	Cultural Attractions and Events	17
7.6	Social and Service Organizations	20
7.7	Churches	20
7.8	Services Provided by Neighbouring Municipalities	21
8.0	Financial Support for Parks, Recreation and Culture	22
9.0	Official Plan Commentary on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services	23
10.0	Community Consultation	24
11.0	Mission, Vision & Values	27
12.0	Guiding Principles	29
13.0	Strategic Directions and Recommendations	30
	Appendices	35

1.0 Introduction

Parks, recreation and cultural services are essential components of a vibrant and engaged community. They significantly contribute to quality of life by enhancing relationships, promoting a sense of belonging, providing opportunities to participate in enjoyable activities, promoting fitness and health, developing the local economy, and protecting the environment for both present and future generations.

In the spring of 2016, the Township of Augusta initiated a process to review the Parks and Recreation Services offered to residents of the Township as well as the service delivery model with the objective of developing a multi-year Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan.

The intent of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan is to provide Township of Augusta with long term direction for the provision of parks, recreation and culture services to residents and visitors to the region. The Plan will consider the short and long-term future of current and future services in the context of the changing environment, needs and desires of its citizens and organizational structure and operation. The Plan will serve as a guiding document and provide the principles for recreational and cultural service delivery for both the immediate and longer-term future.

2.0 Background

Currently, parks and recreation service delivery is provided primarily by volunteer associations. The Township provides annual grants to Associations to assist in delivering programs and support facility improvements. The Township also provides funding to the neighbouring municipalities of Prescott, Edwardsburgh-Cardinal and Brockville to help mitigate the costs for the use of recreational facilities in those communities by the residents of Augusta.

Although the current delivery model is effective and relatively inexpensive, it is recognized that it may not necessarily be the optimum approach for the provision of services in the long run.

The Township relies to a large extent on local volunteers to operate and maintain the Township parks and community halls. While the volunteers have done an admirable job, this model may not be sustainable in the long term.

3.0 Study Objectives

The central objective of the Master Plan is to contribute to the quality of life in Augusta Township by developing a community-driven, future focused direction for parks, recreation and culture. The intent of the Plan is to clearly outline a direction for the next 5 years. The value of



PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN

the local associations in delivering services will be acknowledged and supported while considering future delivery models to enhance the delivery of effective and efficient services.

The study will focus on several key areas:

Parks: Documentation of existing, proposed and potential closure of parks and open space as well as the facilities contained within as well as trail systems. Identify current and future needs of Township residents and recommend future strategies to best meet identified requirements.

Recreation: Develop a recreation service delivery framework that enables the Township of Augusta to meet the current and future recreation needs of its residents through the provision of direct, collaborative or partnered services, facilities and programs.

Culture: Develop a culture service delivery framework that enables the Township of Augusta to meet the current and future cultural needs of its residents through the provision of direct, collaborative or partnered services, facilities and programs.

4.0 Master Plan Process

The process to develop the plan has been driven by the community development principle of engaging directly with the citizens of Augusta as well as the Recreation Committees, political representatives and other community stakeholders. The intent is to ensure a community-driven, future focused direction with the community and stakeholders owning the process.

Further, the process was designed to be based on a solid understanding of the current resources, issues, and best practice through a process of gathering data and information that will be needed to help stakeholders make informed decisions. Information related to demographics, trends, opportunities and profile of existing services and resources was developed.

As well, a comprehensive community survey was developed to allow residents of Augusta to contribute their views directly.

While Town staff and outside expertise have been an integral part of the process, they are focused on supporting the community driven process and ensuring robust support and enhancement of volunteer based programming.

The process has been designed to incorporate 10 steps as follows:

The 10-Step Master Plan Process

Create Engagement

- 1. Ignite and invite others to participate:** *Key stakeholders including representatives of the recreation associations and Library Board were invited to participate as a Steering Committee.*
- 2. Share strengths and successes:** *The Associations and other stakeholders were invited to document their story.*
- 3. Research the community:** *Community demographics and profile were documented.*
- 4. Define priorities:** *A comprehensive community survey was developed to solicit community input regarding priorities.*
- 5. Engage others who need to be involved:** *The community survey provided an opportunity for residents to comment on their perspective of services offered as well as needs and gaps.*

Define the Future

- 6. Define Mission, Vision, and Values**
- 7. Identify Strategic Directions.**
- 8. Identify Recommendations.**

Action the Plan

- 9. Seek Consensus and Public Input:** *Various Public Consultation Sessions were provided to solicit feedback on the draft report.*
- 10. Develop Final Report, Seek Approval, Celebrate, and tell the story.**

To assist in the process, outside expertise was engaged. A Steering Committee chaired by Councillor Don Conklin was struck. Background information was compiled, and key stakeholders were identified. In addition to stakeholder participation, direct community engagement was facilitated through a comprehensive survey questionnaire.

The information collected through the above engagement process was brought forward to the Steering Committee with other invited stakeholders at a Planning Day to enable a facilitated workshop discussion and development of preliminary concepts regarding the desired future.

The concepts were then further developed and refined by the Steering Committee and specific recommendations were developed. A Town Hall was held to allow the public to comment on the proposed directions and recommendations. Posters providing a summary of the planning process, survey results and proposed recommendations were developed and displayed at various public locations to enable further public commentary and feedback.



A final report was prepared for review by the Steering Committee prior to submission to Council.

5.0 History of Recreation in Augusta Township

Excerpt from ***“Augusta, Royal Township Number Seven”***¹

“At various times throughout the years, there have been organized ball teams and leagues in Augusta. At one time, it was baseball, known locally as “hard ball”, then softball “fast ball” became more popular. Several teams would form a league, and some prominent man would donate a trophy for which they could compete. Games were played in cow pastures, any field level enough to provide the space needed. Equipment was the minimum, usually a back screen could be arranged, and bases marked with feed bags filled with sand. Volunteer umpires were engaged, and the bats and balls purchased from the collection taken at each game for the purpose. In Maynard, Will Conklin often made bats, and we are assured that they were a good quality product. The games were good fun, largely attended by friends and families to see their local men compete.

As time went on, and competition increased, “imports” were allowed, and teams vied for skilled players from outside their community. There were teams in Domville, Roebuck, Maynard, Maitland, Garretton, North Augusta, South Augusta, Blue Church, Algonquin, and the North Stars from the 2nd concession near Prescott. Some years there were more teams in the league than at other times, depending on the players available. There was much friendly rivalry between the teams and supporters, and the final winning team was given a banquet with presentations and speeches. Sometimes they were lucky enough to have team sweaters proclaiming their allegiance, financed by area industries.

The Bradley Cup, donated by Reeve Isaac Bradley, was won three years consecutively by Maynard, thus it became theirs to keep. George Gibson and Kenneth Polite each provided a trophy, which was eagerly sought after by competing teams.

In Centennial Year, 1967, with funding from the Township Council adding to the revenue, grants were made available from Wintario, and these were used to upgrade facilities and equipment. Educational and Recreational Committees were set up throughout the township, with volunteers forming an executive for each.....Maitland, Algonquin, North Augusta, Domville, Roebuck and Maynard. These committees set to work, and great improvements were forthcoming.

Domville ERC was able to enlarge their grounds, build a clubhouse, level the field, and later install lights for night games. At Centennial Park Maynard exchanged buildings with Augusta School Board and renovated it for meetings and storage of equipment. Lights were installed, bleachers erected, and general improvements made. The rink was used in winter for some years,

¹ Connell, G.A, Augusta, Royal Township Number 7, St. Lawrence Printing, 1985

but there was difficulty in keeping an ice surface on a regular basis and was used for horse shows several times a year. Maitland grounds are at the elementary school, now greatly improved with drainage, lighted and well equipped, much credit due to the very active MERC. Each year this is the centre of various functions for the residents of the village. North Augusta ERC has improved its sports field, and now has lights, too. Each year there is a large Labour Day parade and celebration.

In 1984, the Kemp Subdivision began a playing field on its own initiative, and great progress can be seen there, all done by interested parents and friends. Algonquin ERC has been active, too, recently acquiring a playing field on the former Ralph Dawson farm, just north of the village, along the Maitland-North Augusta Road. Two diamonds have been laid out, the infield gravelled, fencing put in place, and bleachers built. Under Chairman Lawrence Fox and Gordon Cole, representative to Augusta Council, volunteers have put much work into this project. Prior to this, they had no really suitable playing ground, but used that at the elementary school for a time. Now they take great pride in developing a sports centre at this new site for use of the villagers.

In 1985, Domville, always a serious contender for honours in ball games and tournaments, was the only Augusta entry in the 1985 Eastern Ontario Fastball League, in competition with teams from Cardinal, Smiths Falls, Kemptville, Johnstown, Greenbush and Easton's Corners. The schedule runs from May 16 to August 1, when the playoffs begin.

There is a strong entry from Maynard in the league for girls, and there are a number of "blooper ball" teams for the younger children. Each night during the summer, the cries of supporters can be heard from the various recreational fields throughout the township.

There is no lack of activities for Augusta citizens, both in the township and nearby centres. They join golf clubs, dance groups, curling clubs; they drive dirt bikes on the sand hills, and follow the groomed trails throughout the township on their snowmobiles. The Grenville Fish and Game Club, with headquarters at the shooting range on Campbell Road, hosts an annual Groundhog Derby each Spring. In 1985, 45 bowhunting enthusiasts came from all parts of eastern Ontario to participate. Bowhunting award winner was Don Masse, from Carp, with 33 groundhogs accounted for during the hunt, Trophies are awarded for other shooting skills during the summer season.

Hunting season finds many out for deer, especially in Limerick area. Trapping muskrats on the Nation is still carried on by a few trappers with success.

The location of the township provided opportunities for a great variety of pastimes and hobbies, The St, Lawrence at our front door, the Rideau at our back door, and the Nation in between provide for fishing, boating, swimming and all kinds of water sports.

For spectators, good roads lead to games and competitions, educational courses, hobby and craft courses, theatre and entertainment centres in all directions."

6.0 Community Profile

Augusta Township, a community of opportunities, is one of the oldest townships in Ontario with roots dating back to the 1700’s. It is a township in the United Counties of Leeds and



Grenville, located in eastern Ontario, Canada. Augusta is situated along the Saint Lawrence River, and extends back into rural hamlets. The Township is located between the City of Brockville to the west, and the Town of Prescott to the east.

The land area is 315 sq. km.

The hamlets and villages within Augusta were established prior to the 1900s, primarily by the United Empire Loyalists. There are many buildings and homes still standing in the township today that were built by early settlers, many of which are occupied by direct descendants.

Communities include Algonquin, Domville, Maitland, Maynard, North Augusta and Roebuck. A number of large industries are located in Augusta including Ultramar Maitland Terminal, Dyno Nobel, Prax-Air, E.I. du Pont Canada Company, Invista Canada and Evonik Industries. Augusta is also home to many small businesses and agricultural operations. There is a designated Business Park which is located on County Road 2 near Highway 401.

Table 1, 2 and 3 presents a demographic summary of the Township. In 2016, the population was 7,353. There has been a 1% decline in population from the 2011 population of 7,430.

The proportion of elderly is 17.4% significantly higher than the Provincial average of 14.6%. Approximately 6% of the labour force lives and works in the Township.

Table 1: Augusta Township Demographic Profile

Topic	2006	2011	2016	2021*	2031*
Population	7,510	7,430	7,353	7,720	7,820
Occupied Households	2,770	2,860	2909	3,060	3,210
Seasonal Dwellings	3.2%	2.1%			
Employment within Augusta	1,240	1,130			
% live & work within Augusta	6%	6%			

*Forecast

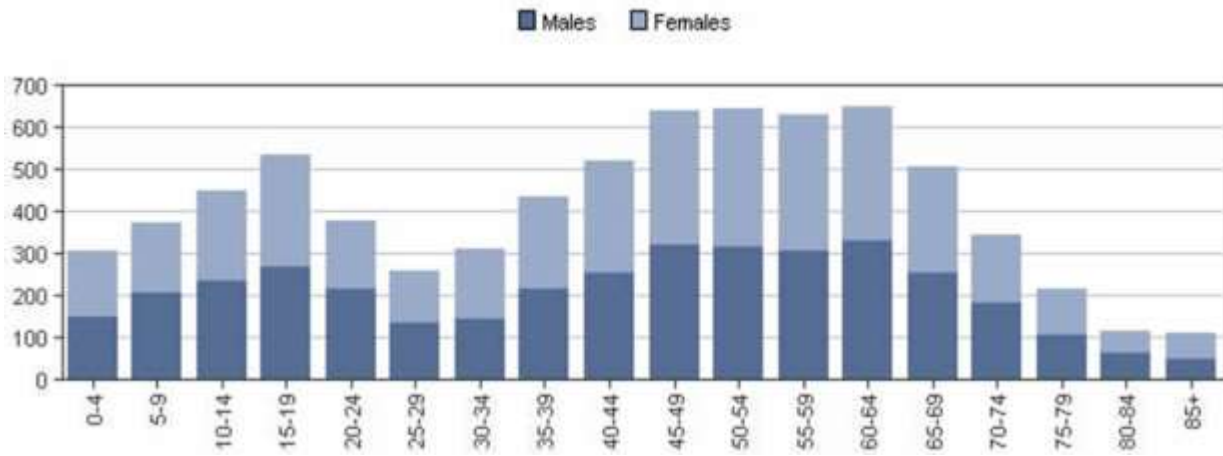
Source: Leeds & Grenville Official Plan Growth & Settlement Analysis 2014

Table 2 Augusta Township Population by Age Groups

Age	2006 Census		2011 Census		2016 Census	
	Number	% of Total Population	Number	% of Total Population	Number	% of Total Population
0 – 14	1365	18.2%	1130	15.2%	1055	14.5%
15 – 64	5090	67.8%	5010	67.4%	4720	63.9%
65 and over	1055	14.0%	1290	17.4%	1575	21.6%
Total	7510	100%	7430	100.0%	7353	100%

Source: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/as-sa/fogs-spg/Facts-csd-eng.cfm?LANG=Eng&GK=CSD&GC=3507006>

Figure 1: Augusta Township Population by five-year age Age Groups (2011 Census)



Source: Statistics Canada <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/as-sa/fogs-spg/Facts-csd-eng.cfm?LANG=Eng&GK=CSD&GC=3507006>

7.0 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources

Augusta Township has numerous parks, recreation, and cultural facilities located within its hamlets and villages. Figure presents a summary of key amenities and their location. The following sections provide specific detail.

Figure 2, Location of the Major Parks, Recreation and Cultural Features of Augusta Township.



7.1 The Recreation Associations

There is a long history of informal recreation activities in the Township including a very active baseball teams and leagues in Augusta. In 1965, the Township enacted By-Laws under the authority of the Community Centres Act, 1961 to establish a Municipal program of Recreation including a Recreation and Education Committee. At this time, the Township also established Community Centres in Maynard, Algonquin, Domville, Roebuck, Maitland and North Augusta. The Community Centres were to be administered by a Board appointed by Council.

In 1974, the Province created the Community Recreation Centres Act which further defined the authority provided to municipalities to create, operate and fund recreation facilities.

Today, the Community Centres continue to provide recreation programs with the leadership and active involvement of volunteer associations. The following sections provide a description of the individual associations and their activities.

Maynard Recreation Association

The Maynard Community Centre was established in 1965 to operate “an athletic field & outdoor rink

Baseball: For the 2017 year, there will be approximately 60 children participating, with one Blast Ball, 2 Mosquito, 1 Mite and 1 Squirt team.

Child Care M.T.J.B.: For several years, the Maynard Recreation Committee also rented the Centre to the *More Than Just Babysitting Child Care Centre Inc.* for use as a licensed, school-aged child care program for up to 15 children from the ages of six to twelve.

Outdoor Rink:

Tennis Courts: The tennis courts are used for tennis, pickle ball and ball hockey.

Euchres:

Christmas Party: This event is very popular & provides seasonal celebrations for members of the community free-of-charge. There are horse-drawn wagon rides, a visit from Santa Claus, goody bags for all the children & a delicious spread of chili, buns, hot dogs, cake, hot chocolate & coffee & tea.

Community Use: The Centre for meetings &/or special events.

School Use: The staff & students from Maynard P.S. use the facilities on a very frequent basis during the school year. Gym classes come to play ball on the diamond & to use the area for other activities.

Breakfast Club:

Nevada: Since 2010, the Maynard Education and Recreation Centre have operated a Nevada program which provides a source of revenue that supplements the annual Township Grant.

Maitland Education and Recreation Corporation (MERC)

The Maitland Education and Recreation Corporation (MERC) is a volunteer run, non-profit, incorporated organization based in Maitland. MERC was formed in 1964 and the hall was built in 1987.

MERC is focused on providing education, recreation and community programs for all ages. These include the Maitland Newsletter, Maitland Ski Trails, an outdoor skating rink, Kid's soccer, Adult Baseball league and an annual bursary program for post-secondary students. MERC also operates a community hall used to offer many programs including Senior Luncheons, Social dance club, Seniors' Exercise class and special events, such as special holiday Children's Parties, an annual Murder Mystery Dinner, SnowFest on Family Day, and a Fundraising BBQ.

MERC facilities include a Hall that can accommodate 171 persons, Ball diamond & dugouts with lights, Soccer fields, Outdoor spring-fed ice rink, Ski & Snowshoe Trails.

Domville Recreation Association

The Domville Association provides sports programs for the park located in the hamlet of Domville. In 2016, there were significant upgrades and repairs to the canteen and ball diamond.

There is a second ball diamond which is in a state of disrepair and is not regularly utilized.

The organization relies on the support and leadership of one individual. A need has been identified for a playground and there are opportunities to further utilize the newly upgraded ball diamond. The second diamond presents an opportunity for an alternative use.

Roebuck Recreation Association

The Roebuck Recreation Association has responsibility for a park including a playground and ball diamond and a community centre. The community centre has been developed and is used frequently for weddings, anniversary and birthday parties fundraising events, dances, meetings and other social events.

Other activities include: seniors club (euchre, carpet bowling, monthly meetings), senior men's fastball team (bi-weekly on Sunday nights) and children's outdoor playground.

North Augusta Recreation Association

The North Augusta Recreation Association is very active with numerous events including:

Annual Labour Day Weekend Festival: This major event has been running successfully for over 85 years. The festival is the highlight of social and recreational activities of the year and includes such things as:

Photo Contest

Euchre Tournament

Kid's Movie night



PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN

Bingo	Baseball	Volleyball
Horseshoes	Street Dance	Car Show
Car Rally	Parade	Kids Games & Crafts
Talent Show	Craft Show'n Sale	Midway
Silent Auction	Pie Booth	Chicken BBQ

Baseball, Soccer, and Horseshoes:

Community Hall: Provides a venue for committee meetings, church meetings, monthly euchres, Children's Christmas and Halloween parties and fitness classes.

Winter Activities: include an ice rink, (weather permitting), snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.

Challenges & Opportunities

The vision of our current committee includes expanding the land for recreation. The decision to build the Fire Station on recreational land then expand it has put severe restrictions on recreational activities.

The children's play structure and location of the horseshoe pits are in foul-ball territory of the ball park which is a safety concern.

There is a large vacant building adjacent to the park which is available for purchase. It includes approximately 1 acre of land. The Association would like to purchase this property, remove the building and develop a plan to move some recreational activities to this property.

The soccer field is located just to the north of the hamlet and includes a large vacant piece of land that could accommodate a new Community Hall. This hall would accommodate wedding receptions, community dances and parties and could handle 200+ people sitting. At present, residents must rent halls in other communities for these events.

With an ageing population, the Association would like to develop more programming for seniors. This could include luncheon meetings, craft meetings, seminars, exercise programs, bus trips, education and training programs.

The village also has a small stream that snakes its way from west to east. A walking trail along this steam could be used 12 months a year with agreements from landowners.

7.2 Augusta Township Parks and Recreational Facilities

Table 3 identifies and provides a summary of the Township owned recreation properties and facilities:

Table 3: Summary of Augusta Township Parks and Recreational Facilities

Facility	Location	Building Size (sq. ft.)	Land Size (acres)	Facilities
Glenmore Hall	Algonquin Rd at Glenmore		0.35	
North Augusta Ball Fields	8112 Mill Street	4125		Washrooms, picnic shelters Canteen , 2 Ball Diamonds, Horseshoes, Playground
North Augusta Community Hall	9150 County Rd 15	5000		Hall, acquired in 1979, Wheel Chair Access, Washrooms (2013
North Augusta Soccer Field	9150 County Rd 15	100	4	Canteen (2008)
Maynard Rec	Robert Rd, Maynard	250	12	Community Hall, Ball Diamond, bleachers, Tennis Courts, Basket Ball/Ball hockey, Washrooms, 2 soccer fields, , Outdoor rink in winter, Playground available at nearby school.
Domville Ballpark	4733 Concession Rd 4	250	6	2 Ball Diamonds, Washrooms, Canteen, Storage Bldg & Dugouts
Roebuck Hall & Ball Park	7024/5 County Rd 18		4.3	Ball Diamond, Playground, Washrooms, Canteen, Storage, Dugouts
MERC Park and Community Centre	120 East McClain Blvd			Ball Diamond, Winter ice rink, Canteen, Community Centre, Bleachers, 14 km Snowshoe/ X-country ski trails
Maitland Look Out Site				Access to the St. Lawrence River
Maitland Crescent Parkland	Corner of Maitland Cres & Cedar St		.97 acres	
Cedar Park	Cedar St. & Meikle Dr., Maitland		1.5 acres	Playground, Shelter, previous uses included soccer field and winter ice rink
Woodlot	Encircled by Oak St. Willow Dr. and Cedar St - Maitland		2.05	Wooded area, no signage, access off Oak St.
Kemp Park	2nd Concession, east of CR 15, north of 401		6.13	1 Baseball Diamond, Playground, small soccer field
Algonquin Ball Park	CR 15, just north of Algonquin			2 Baseball Diamonds

7.3 Limerick Forest

Limerick Forest, Ontario refers to the 8,000-acre section of forest located in the northeast corner of the township. Historically there was a small Irish settlement located in the area known as Limerick populated by Irish settlers arriving shortly after the Loyalists in 1840. As the area was sandy and covered in bogs, it was ideal for agriculture, however, during the Great Depression many of the residents of the community could not afford to hold onto their farms and most of the land and farms which made up the community were sold back to the county of Leeds and Grenville.

In 1939, the county designated 340 acres of the lands surrounding the old settlement of Limerick to be a community forest called Limerick Forest. The plan was to reforest the land which had been cleared and provide jobs to the surrounding townships. By the 1980's, the forest had grown to 8,000 acres. Most of the old homes and building which made up the community were lost when the forest was planted.

Today, Limerick Forest is popular for outdoor recreation activities such as snowmobiling, atv trails and hiking.

7.4 Augusta Township Public Library

“Enhancing our community through Learning, Leisure and Literacy”

HISTORY



The Augusta Township's library service started in 1896. The first library was in the North Augusta Public School. In 1913 the library was moved into the teacher's room in the Continuation School – which was on the 2nd floor of the Public-School building. Many years later a bookmobile was introduced by the Eastern Ontario Library System. This was eventually discontinued due to lack of use.

A Library Board was officially formed in March 1974. The following year it opened the first public library in 62 years. This too was closed in December 1976 due to lack of use.

In 1978 a new Library Board was formed. This board, with the co-operation of the Leads & Grenville County Board of Education, opened a Public Library in Algonquin School. Both the school and the public library shared a common room. Within 5 years this new library proved so



PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN

successful that it had outgrown its space and had to be moved to a portable classroom on the Algonquin School Grounds. After a few years it became obvious that the library was going to run out of space. The portable building had no running water and the maintenance costs were very high. As well, patrons were asking for more modern services, which could not be provided in the out-dated facility.

At this time, the Library Board embarked on a detailed Needs Assessment Survey in Augusta Township. The results indicated that the residents of the township wanted and needed a library building. The Library Board's intentions were to construct a completely new library building, and they also wanted to preserve the old Algonquin School which had been built in 1833. This stone building had a unique charm with wide window ledges, chalkboards, wainscoting and high ceiling. To accomplish this, it was decided that the old school house would become a meeting room connected to a new library building.

Ground breaking took place on December 19, 1994. The new building was completed in July 1995. The library now offers modern service including high speed internet with WIFI access, public access computers, fax machine and photocopying. The old schoolhouse meeting room includes a projector and screen, and WIFI, and fully equipped kitchen, which can be rented by the public.

The library and schoolhouse were designed and built to EQA standards and provide accessible doors, washrooms, and emergency exits.

PRESENTLY

The Augusta Township Public Library offers a range of programs and services including LEGO club, a needlework group, senior's computer classes, TD Summer Reading Program, Read to Every Kid Every Day, and the Dreamers and Doers Award program.

Free Access to downloadable e-books, ancestry library, Global Road Warrior and other databases are available through the library website. The Library collection includes juvenile, young adult and adult books, magazines, DVD's, as well as a selection of Large Print Books and books on CD. The library participates in two pooled collections of Large Print Books and DVD's. Interlibrary Loan is available. Young patrons can enjoy our two Early Literacy Stations which proved numeracy and literacy games and activities.

ISSUES

The Augusta Township Public Library faces challenges regarding funding for programs and special projects. In recent years the Federal Government eliminated the Community Access Program which provided funding for equipment to bring high speed internet to rural and remote areas, and in 2016, the Provincial Government suspended the Connectivity Grant program which provided funding for internet access.



The Library has issues with visibility in the community. Many Township residents seem unaware of the services the library provides.

The Augusta Township Public Library is located in a village in a rural area. Transportation to the library is difficult for many of our patrons. Library Board and Staff have tried to address this when planning open hours and programming, but it remains an issue.

FUTURE

In 2015 the Augusta Township Public Library participated in a `Pre-Audit for Accreditation` performed by a Southern Ontario Library facilitator. The audit identified areas where the library could improve services and increase visibility. Accordingly, the library has developed a strategic and media plan including improvements to our webpage, and development of a Facebook page. We are pleased to provide space on our webpage to promote community events and activities. The library is in the process of improving exterior and interior signage. The recent addition of a Library Clerk to our staff has enabled us to plan for more community outreach and programming.

In 2017, (Canada 150), the library is planning to digitize our local history collection. The software has been purchased and training for volunteers to scan the material is planned for spring 2017. This initiative will make our unique collection available on-line.

The library`s goal is to provide resources to the residents of Augusta Township that will help to address their learning, leisure and literacy needs, staying relevant through an evolving collection, programming and current technology.

7.5 Cultural Attractions and Events:

HOMEWOOD MUSEUM

Located on Hwy #2 just east of Maitland, it was home to six generations of the Jones family. In the early 1900's, Harold Jones, a great grandson of Dr. Jones, received international recognition for developing the Jones Red Famous apple.

In 1965 Justus Jones sold the property to the Dupont Corporation who later developed an 11 acre portion of the plant property along with Homewood and donated the site to the Ontario Heritage Trust in 1974.

The Trust restored the site with the help of the Grenville Historical Society and the Canadian Parks Service.



Blue Church

On the north-west corner of County Road 2 and County Road 31 between the village of Maitland and town of Prescott.

On January 1, 1790, inhabitants of Augusta and Elizabethtown townships agreed to build a church in the burying yard of the proposed town of New Oswegatchie. Subscriptions were inadequate and nothing was built by 1804 when Barbara Heck, the founder of Methodism in Upper Canada, was buried there.

In 1809, Anglicans of Augusta and Elizabethtown built a frame chapel, now known as the Blue Church, to serve the parish's spiritual needs until the St. James Anglican Church in Maitland, was opened in 1826. The Blue Church was rarely used for services, fell into bad repair, was partially destroyed by fire and taken down in 1840. It was rebuilt in 1847 and serves as a memorial to the memory of our earliest township pioneers.

Point Au Baril, Maitland

The Battle of the Thousand Islands was fought August 16-24, 1760, in the upper St. Lawrence River, amongst the Thousand Islands, along the present-day Canada-United States border, by British and French forces during the closing phases of the French and Indian War.

The engagement took place at Fort Lévis (About one mile downstream from the present Ogdensburg – Prescott International Bridge), Point au Baril (present-day Maitland, Ontario), and in and around the mighty St. Lawrence river. The small French garrison at Fort Lévis held the much larger British army at bay for over a week, managing to sink two British warships and to cripple a third. Their resistance delayed the British advance to Montréal from the west.

Antique Wheels in Motion, Roebuck

Held on County Rd 18 near Roebuck, Antique Wheels in Motion is a display of working antique equipment, vehicles, and farming techniques from past generations. The event in August is both interesting and entertaining for young and old, with lots of food, music, and demonstrations for all to enjoy over the two-day weekend.

North Augusta Labour Day Festival

The annual Labour Day Festival is a four-day event comprising of parades, various amusements, baseball tournaments, photo contests, chicken barbeque, bingo, and many other fun activities.

Wheels a Churnin'

Wheels a Churnin' is a weekend motorsports event in North Augusta which hosts mud drags, truck/tractor pulls, ATV and sled drags, wheel to wheel racing, a mud bog, and live musical entertainment 3 times a year.

Antique Wheels in Motion

Antique Wheels in Motion was formed in 1996 by a group of Leeds, Grenville and Lanark antique farm machinery enthusiasts and collectors with the goal of demonstrating the ways crops were grown and harvested 50-plus years ago."

The event which takes place annually in Roebuck features antique tractors, reapers, grinders, plows, small engines, threshing machines binders and horse-powered equipment. There is a plowing school, harvest demonstrations, craft show, musical entertainment and an old-style farmers' breakfast.

Longley Mill Tower

Erected in 1827 on the shore of the St Lawrence in Maitland, the tower remains of a once thriving wind driven grist mill owned and operated by George Longley of Maitland (1787-1842).

Rothesay Dive Site

The Rothesay is a 19th Century wooden twin side wheeler built in 1867. Referred to as the "Greyhound of the St. Lawrence", she was carrying passengers on the Montreal Brockville run in September 1889, when she collided with the tugboat Myra and sank at her present resting place in the waters off County Road #2 at Merwin Lane in Augusta Township. Now one of Eastern Ontario's most famous wreck sites, the Rothesay has become a very popular dive site.

The Dive Site has a change facility with a sign indicating the site. The adjoining grass strip can accommodate about a dozen cars. Picnic tables, viewing benches and a diver's bench, as well as a latrine encourage divers and tourists to park and spend the day.

A staircase down to the river's edge allows for entry from the shore. The wreck is approximately 300 feet out. Today, the bow and stern of *Rothesay* is still very much intact, including the paddle wheels, the rocker arm and the twin boilers.

1000 Islands and Rideau Canal Garden Trail

The 1000 Islands and Rideau Canal Garden Trail is a mix of private, public, and garden centre displays which features many unique gardens with flowers and experiences that include native butterflies, honeybees and birds, fountains, ponds, and contemporary art exhibits and statues.

There are 2 gardens located in Augusta Township including the Maitland Garden of Hope located at 1 Jones Court in Maitland, Ontario and Van Berlo Gardens located at 1357 County Road 2 in Maitland, Ontario. All tours of the property must be pre-booked.

7.6 Social and Service Organizations

Service and social organizations including Independent Order of Oddfellows, Kinsmen Club, Lions Club, Masonic Lodge, Rotary Club, and Royal Canadian Legion are located in the neighbouring municipalities of Brockville and Prescott. The Prescott Lions Club is located just north of the Town in Augusta.

There is a Seniors Diners Club that meets at the Maitland Recreation Centre.

Grenville Fish and Game Club: The Grenville Fish and Game Club is a 61-acre facility which offers skeet, range and trap shooting, archery and fishing.

Johnston ATV Club: The Johnston All-Terrain-Vehicle (ATV) club has an extensive 200kms trail system extending from Johnstown to the Limerick Forest with a purpose built tunnel under highway 416, which allows access to trails on both the east and west sides of the highway.

Grenville Snowmobile Association: The Grenville Snowmobile Association is one of four Eastern Ontario snowmobile clubs grooming 700 km of trails within Leeds & Grenville. Its clubhouse is located at 4602-5100 Charleville Rd, Augusta

7.7 Churches

Algonquin United Church: Algonquin had at one point three churches to serve its community; A Baptist church built in 1849 components of which remain as a converted garage, the Union Grove church built in 1892 which has been converted into a private dwelling and a the Algonquin United Church built in 1858 which is still in use today.

Blue Church: First built in circa 1809, was severely damaged by fire and rebuilt in 1847. The church is still sometimes used for memorial services. The burial ground at Blue Church is considered historically significant, as many prominent settlers are buried here.

Domville: The village of Domville at one time had two churches, the Domville United Church and Knapp's Church, both constructed in 1876. The Knapp Church no longer remains. The former United Church is still standing, however, it is rarely used.

Victoria United Church, Maynard: This small stone church built in 1833, was originally a Methodist Episcopal church. In 1859, the church was rebuilt to accommodate a larger congregation using the stones from the old church, and new brick. This church is still in use today

Maynard United Pentecostal Church: Located at the southern end of Charleville Road in Maynard, this church was built in 1971 and remains in use

Roebuck United Church: In 1914, a Methodist church was built within the community of Roebuck. It continues to serve the community as Roebuck United Church.

St. George's Anglican Church: Constructed in 1887, St. George's was the second church in South Augusta. St. George's church has been closed for approximately 15 years and has now been converted into a house.

St. James Anglican Church: located in Maitland and was built in 1827. It is the oldest church in the township.

St. James Anglican Church: Located in Maitland and was built in 1827.

St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church: Located at 8351 County Road 15 in North Augusta.

North Augusta United Church: Located on Main Street in North Augusta.

St Peter's Anglican: Located in North Augusta, the cemetery associated with this Church dates to 1796. The church currently has services on the 5th Sunday of the month and on Christmas and Easter Eve.

St. Andrew's Anglican Church: Located on Garretton Road, which holds a Memorial service annually, and regular services every other Sunday.

7.8 Services Provided by other Municipalities

Augusta Township provides financial assistance to its resident to access recreation facilities in the neighbouring municipalities of Brockville, Prescott, Edwardsburg-Cardinal and Athens.

The City of Brockville operates two arena facilities including the Brockville Memorial Civic Centre and the Centennial Youth Arena. The Memorial Centre ice surface is in operation from September until April of each year. During the summer months, the ice pad is used by community groups for such activities as trade fairs, multi-cultural fairs, dog shows, etc.

Aquatic programs are offered by the Brockville YMCA.

The Town of Prescott offers the Leo Boivin Community Centre, and an outdoor pool as well as a beach area on the St Lawrence River.

The Township of Edwardsburgh-Cardinal has the Johnstown Community Centre which has a community pool (summer only), softball diamonds, beach volleyball courts, tennis courts, and a soccer field. The Ingridion Centre in Cardinal offers an ice surface from September to April, offering free adult skating, as well as an outdoor pool.

8.0 Financial Support for Parks, Recreation & Culture

In 2017, the Township has budgeted operating expenses in the range of \$150,000-\$160,000 (2016-\$147,555) offset by many grants. The Associations received up to \$6,000 for a total of \$31,312 to offset insurance and other operating costs. The remainder of the funds were used to support a part-time coordinator, summer student, minor capital projects, funding to neighbouring municipalities and insurance.

Historically, the operating budget is a continually growing and variable due to timing of matching grants related to minor capital projects.

There is no present rolling budget. The Township reverts to zero base budgeting for all departments each year thus no departmental bottom line is guaranteed. Rather Department needs are assessed each year line by line with required adjustments made to achieve a balanced budget.

Although there has been increased funding allocation over the years, there is recognition that an increase of funding transfers to reserves for Recreation capital projects as well as programming increases is required.

Funding in the amount of \$125/child/year for Non-Resident fees for local skating and hockey participation offered in Brockville, Prescott and Edwardsburgh-Cardinal is provided. In 2017, a budget allocation addition was added to pay neighbouring municipalities directly for their facilities in addition to the amounts sent to the skating and hockey Associations.

Insurance is paid for by the Township and includes both property insurance on all the halls and basic liability coverage for the Associations who are Committees of Council. A temporary part-time Recreation Co-ordinator and a summer student was hired for the summer of 2016, offset by an SEP program grant and two Canada 150 minor capital grants.

Capital expenditures are funded through a combination of matching government grants, a reserve for in lieu of park lands and a separate reserve for recreation initiated in 2013 and expanded in 2015.

9.0 Township of Augusta Official Plan Commentary on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services.

The Township's 2012 Official Plan sets out land use policies to achieve the long-term vision and guiding principles of the municipality.

The Township's Vision as it relates to land use planning as stated in the Official Plan is:

"Augusta Township will manage land use to ensure a balanced, sustainable environment and communities which provide a sense of place respectful of Augusta's unique historical, cultural and natural heritage where citizens can enjoy an unparalleled quality of life."

The Official Plan also identified seven guiding principles that are at the core of the Official Plan's policies.

1. **Where we live:** We will ensure that growth and development occurs through sustainable and economically viable land use development patterns which will include a broad range of uses and a balanced mix of appropriate residential densities including appropriately serviced development in the Township's Village and Hamlet settlement areas.
2. **Where we do business:** We will help maintain and increase the Township's employment base through clear and transparent land use policies which support the development of commercial, institutional and industrial opportunities.
3. **Our Rural and Agricultural Spaces:** We will continue to protect and value our agricultural lands and provide for appropriate use of rural lands in a manner which is respectful of private and public property rights.
4. **Our Environment:** We will protect and enhance our natural environment in accordance with provincial policy and in a manner which is respectful of land owner concerns and recognizes the need for long term sustainability.
5. **Our Heritage:** We are committed to the preservation of our cultural heritage including historical connections to First Nations and early settlers and to our natural heritage including the St Lawrence River and the traditional thoroughfares of the waterways.
6. **Public Health and Safety:** We will ensure appropriate development which will not pose a danger to public safety or health or result in negative property or environmental impacts.
7. **Our Infrastructure:** We will ensure that effective infrastructure services will be provided by the appropriate level of government or the private sector in a cost-efficient manner which recognizes development priorities and which ensures the protection of our environment.

Section 6.0 of the Official Plan addresses environmental policies in more depth including planning for sustainability. This section of the Official Plan states that:

“The Township’s natural heritage features shall be conserved and rehabilitated for the benefit of future generations according to best management practices undertaken today and as they evolve.” It comments that *“The landscape of Augusta is an assortment of rural settlements, agricultural and forestry operations, and natural lands including wetlands, woodlands and watercourses. This diversity defines the character of the Township. The rural landscape includes wildlife and their habitats within both the terrestrial and water ecosystems and may include areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSI’s) and portions of the habitat of endangered and threatened species.”*

The Plan notes that although all-natural heritage features are important to the Township, there are certain natural heritage features have been identified as having special significance to the Province of Ontario including wildlife and fish habitats as well as wetlands and woodlands which are specifically identified. The Official Plan comments that it is especially important to Augusta that the characteristics that made these significant features be retained for the benefit of future generations.

10.0 Community Consultation

To facilitate direct community engagement in the Master Plan, process a survey was developed by the Steering Committee. SurveyMonkey®, an on-line survey tool was used to facilitate convenient response and tabulation. The survey was available on-line from February 9th until May 27th, 2017. Paper copies were made available at the Township Offices and Library.

There were 249 respondents.

A total of 15 questions were presented as follows:

- Q1 How old are you?
- Q2 Please indicate the community within Augusta Township that you reside?
- Q3 How important are parks, recreation services, and open space to Augusta Township's quality of life?
- Q4 Which of the following benefits of parks, recreation services and open space are most important to you?
- Q5 If you seldom use or do not use the parks in Augusta Township, what are your reasons?
- Q6 How can the Augusta Township’s park system be improved?
- Q7 What type of park is most needed in Augusta Township?

- Q8 What type of trails/pathways should have the highest priority in Augusta Township?
- Q9 What type of recreation or sports programs should be offered for youth?
- Q10 Which groups do you think are underserved by current recreation services?
- Q11 How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the level of park, open space, and facility maintenance in Augusta Township?
- Q12 In general, would you support a tax measure to maintain and improve existing parks and trails, acquire more parks and natural areas, or develop more trails, parks, and recreation facilities?
- Q13 How often do you use the following types of parks and community facilities, both in the Township as well as neighbouring municipalities, when they are in season?
- Q14 What are the recreation facilities you would most like to see added in Augusta Township?
- Q15 What are the programs, classes, or activities would you most like to see in Augusta Township?

The survey results are presented in Appendix I. A summary of the key findings is presented below.

- There was equal representation amongst the 36 – 65-year group. The 15 – 25-year group participated at a lower rate and there was little response under 15 as would be expected.
- The geographic location of the respondents appears to be proportional to the known population distribution within the Township.
- Augusta Residents appear to consider their Parks, Recreation and open spaces as important. The response was 57% “Very Important”, 97% Important and only 3% not important.
- The following key benefits of parks, recreation services and open space were defined as most important, building stronger families and neighbourhoods
 - Provide opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors
 - Connect people together
 - Improve health and wellness
 - Promote youth development
 - Protect the natural environment
- There were 89 reasons cited for not using the Township parks can be grouped into three broad categories:
 - Not aware of facilities available

- Lack of time.
- Poor maintenance
- There were three dominant responses to the question *How can the Augusta Township's park system be improved?*
 - Providing Recreation Opportunities
 - Maintaining Existing Parks
 - Upgrading Existing Parks
- Respondents indicated that the following types of parks are most needed in the Township:
 - Trail Systems
 - Large Multi-Use Park
 - Park with Rivers, Creek
 - Natural Areas

Only 6% of respondents indicated that no additional parks or natural areas are needed.

- Nature Trails, Paved Trails for walking, Trails that link with other trails and Exercise Trails were indicated as the top choices for what type of trails/pathways should have the highest priority.
- Preferred Recreation or Sports Programs that should be offered for youth included:
 - Outdoor environmental programs
 - Sports
 - Aquatic Programs
 - Special events
 - Drop in activities
 - Job Related activities
- Groups that were identified as underserved by current recreation programs include:
 - High School Youth
 - Seniors
 - Families
- Very few residents (2.3%) indicated that they were very satisfied with the level of park and recreation facility maintenance. 38.7% were satisfied, 35.5 % were neutral and 16.3% were unsatisfied or very unsatisfied.
- 87% of Respondents indicated that they would support a tax increase to support a tax measure to maintain and improve existing parks and trails, acquire more parks and

natural areas, or develop more trails, parks, and recreation facilities depending on the cost and projects proposed. 13% indicated they would not.

- Neighbourhood Park, followed by Natural Areas, Multi-purpose trails and Regional Parks were identified by respondents as most frequently used.
- Bike Paths and Trails, Picnic and Group Facilities followed by a Fitness Centre and Seniors Facilities were identified as the recreation facilities respondents would most like to see added.
- Holiday/seasonal celebrations or fairs followed by Camps for school aged children, Aerobics, spinning, or fitness instruction or classes, and Dance /Drama /Gymnastics/Martial Arts/Yoga instruction or classes were identified most frequently as the programs, classes, or activities would you most like to see in Augusta Township

Once the draft Mission Vision, Values, Strategic Directions and Recommendations were developed by the Steering Committee, they were presented at an open community forum held at the Town Hall in Maynard on June 1, 2017. The materials presented at the forum were made available at many community locations subsequently as well as on-line to generate further feedback.

11.0 Mission, Vision and Values

Great organizations share a common understanding regarding their purpose, what they want for their future and their values that drive service excellence. This common understanding is fundamental to a positive, constructive organizational culture where exceptional performance thrives. Clear articulation of a compelling, inspirational Mission, Vision and Values that genuinely reflects the aspirations and beliefs of the organization is fundamental to this goal.

MISSION (*What we do*)

We strive to encourage rural community values and culture by providing recreation and cultural opportunities for all to participate, celebrate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment.

VISION (*What we aspire to do*)

Enhancing and Integrating our Communities through Health & Wellness, Learning, Culture and Accessibility.



VALUES

Our Values provide the guiding principles as to how we work together to deliver our mission and achieve our vision. Our Values include:

- Excellence:** We are committed to continuous improvement, high standards, learning and innovation.

- Partnerships:** We are dedicated to supporting our partners and associations, continuing to encourage cooperation and working together, valuing the contribution of each other and recognizing the value of diversity.

- Respect:** We are respectful of each other and those we serve.

- Safety:** In all we do, our first priority is the safety of the Public, our community and ourselves.

- Committed Stewardship:** We are dedicated to sustaining and further developing our rich natural and cultural resources for future generations.

- Strong Community:** We recognize value and commit to further support our parks recreation and cultural services as essential to the wellbeing of our community.

- Visionary:** Respect the leadership that built the Township’s parks, recreation and cultural amenities and recognize the need for ongoing leadership to sustain and further develop.

12.0 Guiding Principles

To support the mission and realization of the desired Vision and Values, the Steering Committee developed the following guiding principles:

Principle	Description
Identified Community Need:	<i>Emphasis will be placed on responding to identified community needs and demographics when considering program and facility delivery.</i>
Quality versus Quantity:	<i>The amenities provided to meet the park and recreation needs of communities will be high quality and provided at a sustainable level. Amenities that have completed their useful life-cycle, especially those with a blighted appearance, will be removed and, as funding becomes available, replaced.</i>
Fostering Partnerships:	<i>Need to support the Associations and continue to build partnerships with the County, Neighbouring Municipalities and Private Sector.</i>
Focus on the Activity not the Infrastructure:	<i>After evaluation of what is currently provided locally, what is provided by other nearby municipalities, and existing infrastructure, infrastructure will be provided to meet the service goals for that activity. Service goals for an activity will be based on demographics of an area, identified community need, and the identified target group for the activity.</i>

13.0 Strategic Directions and Recommendations:

The following Strategic Directions and Recommendations have been developed to respond to the priorities identified by the Community and Steering Committee as well as provide a framework to guide the achievement of the Department's Vision over the next 5 years.

Strategic Direction #1: Preserve and Strengthen the Recreation Associations

For over 50 years, the Recreation Associations have provided a superb service to the community. In recent years, the ability to rely on volunteerism has become a challenge. It is evident that although volunteer recruitment should remain a responsibility of the community associations, support is required to recruit and retain volunteers.

Volunteer recruitment screening is a particular concern. An excellent guide to risk assessment and best practice options is provided by Public Safety Canada²

Further, there are certain common activities that can be significantly enhanced with modest professional support.

Recommendations:

- 1.1 Develop a business case, including return on investment, for dedicated staff resources to provide professional competence and oversight, support volunteer activities including assistance with screening and training of recreation and parks staff and volunteers, preparation of position descriptions for volunteer staff, preparation of a volunteer handbook, promotion of local events, and assist the Associations with activities such as event booking, financials, communication, directory of volunteers, volunteer recruitment and common registration.
- 1.2 Support a common "open house" registration day and systems to market programs, answer questions and facilitate registration.
- 1.3 Publish a Community Recreation and Information Brochure that informs residents and is self-funded through advertising.
- 1.4 Encourage and facilitate the concept of sport programs of excellence to be pursued by the recreation associations to avoid duplication and ensure a range as well as depth of available recreational opportunities.
- 1.5 Regular (at least biannual) liaison meetings with Township & Associations to discuss budget requests, activity reports, future capital and operating priorities and other mutual concerns. (Note: This recommendation is aligned and complementary to

² <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/bpg-scrng-vls/index-en.aspx>

Recommendation 5.1)

- 1.6 Develop specific short, intermediate and long-term plans to address safety issues and routine maintenance as well as longer term land acquisition and facilities matters. Such plans should be integrated with Township capital investment planning and budgeting.
- 1.7 Provide assistance to the Associations to facilitate reporting at least annually to Council.
- 1.8 Continue to actively encourage other community groups that express interest in developing recreational and cultural activities in the community.

Strategic Direction #2: Further Develop Partnerships with the Private Sector, School Boards, Health Unit, County and Surrounding Municipalities

Augusta Township is a lower tier municipality within the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. The residents of Augusta enjoy the proximity of recreation and cultural services available in the nearby City of Brockville and Town of Prescott. There are opportunities of mutual benefit as Augusta can offer open spaces, trails and sports venues that can supplement or be additional to service offered in neighbouring municipalities.

Further, there may be opportunities to share specialized staff other resources such as program directories that can be of mutual benefit.

Recommendations:

- 2.1 Explore Limerick Forest potential with the County and neighbouring Townships
- 2.2 Facilitate annual or as needed formal meetings with neighbouring municipalities to ensure ongoing access for Augusta Residents to hockey, aquatics and specialized athletics at a reasonable fee with support for those where access may be restricted for financial or other reasons
- 2.3 In partnership with Federal, Provincial and local governments as well as private sector partners, explore opportunities to develop or access property on the St. Lawrence to facilitate water access, boat launch and other recreational uses.
- 2.4 Support active transportation and an integrated trail system including potential for waterfront trail
- 2.5 Initiate and support local and regional sport and cultural tourism opportunities
- 2.6 Work with the County to develop dedicated bike lanes on County Roads
- 2.7 Work with County and Leeds & Grenville Municipalities to identify niche opportunities for development (i.e. Olympic Calibre Equestrian Park, Sports Dome, Multi-use Activity Centre).

- 2.8 Support Private Sector efforts to develop recreation and cultural services and events such as an aquatic centre or gym facilities.
- 2.9 Work with the County to develop an integrated plan for the Dive Site located on County Road #2.

Strategic Direction #3: Safe, Accessible and Vibrant Parks

The Township needs to ensure that its properties and facilities are well maintained, safe, accessible and compliant with applicable codes and standards. Building and playground safety is of particular concern and the Township has a due diligence responsibility to require periodic inspection by qualified personnel and corrective action as required.

Recommendations:

- 3.1 Township to assume direct responsibility through staff or contract services to inspect, maintain and develop Township owned playgrounds and parks according to prescribed standards and regulations.
- 3.2 Township Staff to provide an annual report to Council to report on playground and other recreational facilities inspection, accessibility and compliance with safety standards.

Strategic Direction #4: Enhance Heritage and Cultural Assets

Augusta Township has many unique cultural and historic features that could benefit from greater awareness. There is also a significant potential to explore opportunities for festivals, fairs and other events. Thousands of people travel through Augusta every day on the 401. It is within a few hours drive from Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto. The resulting economic benefits to increased tourism can be significant!

Augusta takes pride in being a “community of communities”. While there are many positive features associated with this vision, it is also important to build a Township identity and sense of belonging as a whole. Thus, the Township should continue to seek and develop opportunities that bring the community together as well as continuing to support local resources.

Recommendations:

- 4.1 Explore partnerships/sponsorship of cultural events such as farmers markets, summer/fall fairs, music festivals/concerts, equestrian events and Snowfest
- 4.2 Support the Library’s planning and development efforts.
- 4.3 Develop specific plans to support heritage assets such as Homewood museum, Blue Church and Maitland Tower.
- 4.4 Develop a plan to re-purpose of Algonquin Field as a Fair Ground with activities such as

a children's playground that would be compatible with potential future residential development. This proposed planning process should incorporate consideration of activities and resources that could facilitate events ³ that bring the Township together as well as meet local community needs.

- 4.5 Explore the potential and benefits of formally designating historical assets under relevant Federal or Provincial statutes.
- 4.6 Identify and review Township properties such as the Municipal Office lands, to determine if there are opportunities for Parks, Recreation or Culture Uses. Lands that are deemed surplus could be sold and associated revenues utilized for Parks, Recreation and Culture investment.

Strategic Direction #5: Ongoing Planning, Development and Community Engagement

The Master Plan represents advice and information at a point in time. Circumstances change and unforeseen opportunities present. Further, implementation of many of recommendations and directions provided in this report will require significant time and investments to realise.

Ongoing effort, accountability and community engagement is required to ensure that the planning process continues, remains dynamic and results are achieved.

Appendix II provides a list of work completed in 2016. Appendix III provides an inventory of work known to be required.

Recommendations:

- 5.1 Strike a Committee of Council to implement the Master Plan, consider on-going Parks, Recreation and Cultural priorities and needs, support the Associations and facilitate accountability of the Associations to Council and the Community
- 5.2 Ensure a sustainable recreation and parks system through continued capital and operating investment in cooperation with the public and private sectors (i.e. municipal, not-for-profit, foundations, and industry).
- 5.3 Provide regular updates and communication to Council and to the Community including at least one community open house each year to report on the master plan implementation progress and discuss new opportunities, issues or concerns.
- 5.4 Develop a multi-use Trail and Open Space Plan for the Township.
- 5.5 Ensure future Official Plan development reflect enhanced provision of parks and open spaces and opportunities via partnerships, joint ventures, and innovative site development to develop linked trails and open spaces with emphasis on developing a linked waterfront trail.

³ see Recommendation 4.1 for examples



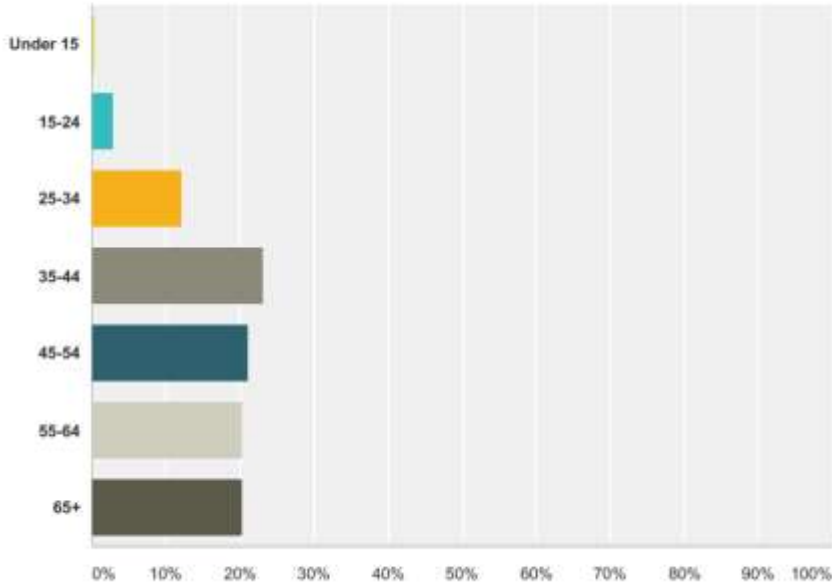
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN

- 5.6 Support efforts to further develop and enhance recreation and culture tourism efforts including attracting major theme park development opportunities.
- 5.7 Continue to improve public awareness of the importance and benefits of parks, recreation and culture in the community as well as the services available and create opportunities for ongoing feedback and conversations.
- 5.8 Continue to pursue grants and other innovative funding sources including donations to support parks, recreation and culture opportunities.
- 5.9 Continue to support recreation and cultural programs such as youth summer day camps that enhance the quality of life for Augusta Township residents.

Appendix I: Results of the Community Questionnaire

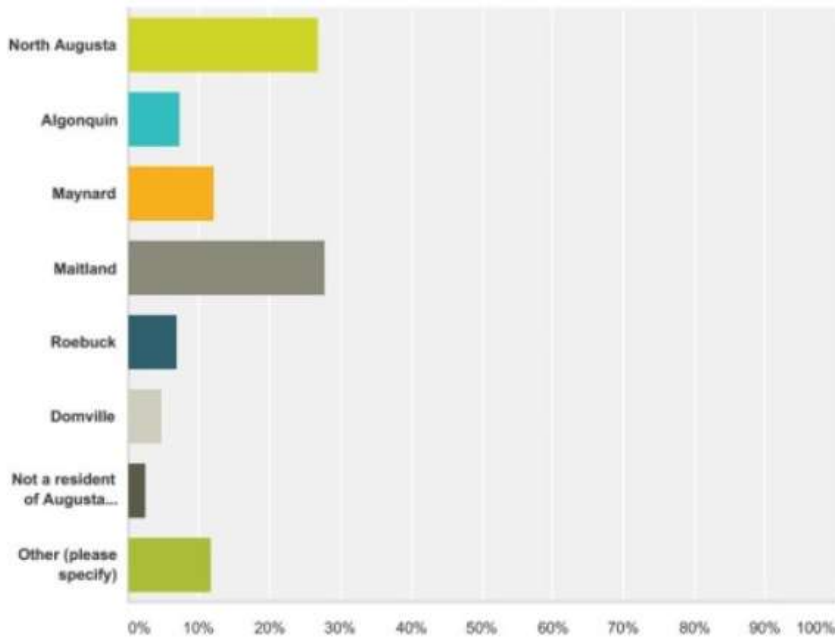
Q1 How old are you?

Answered: 247 Skipped: 2



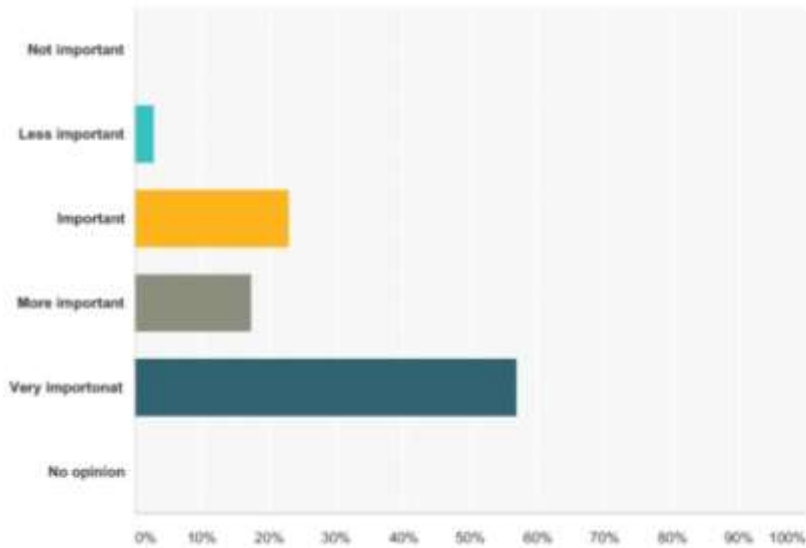
Q2 Please indicate the community within Augusta Township that you reside?

Answered: 248 Skipped: 1



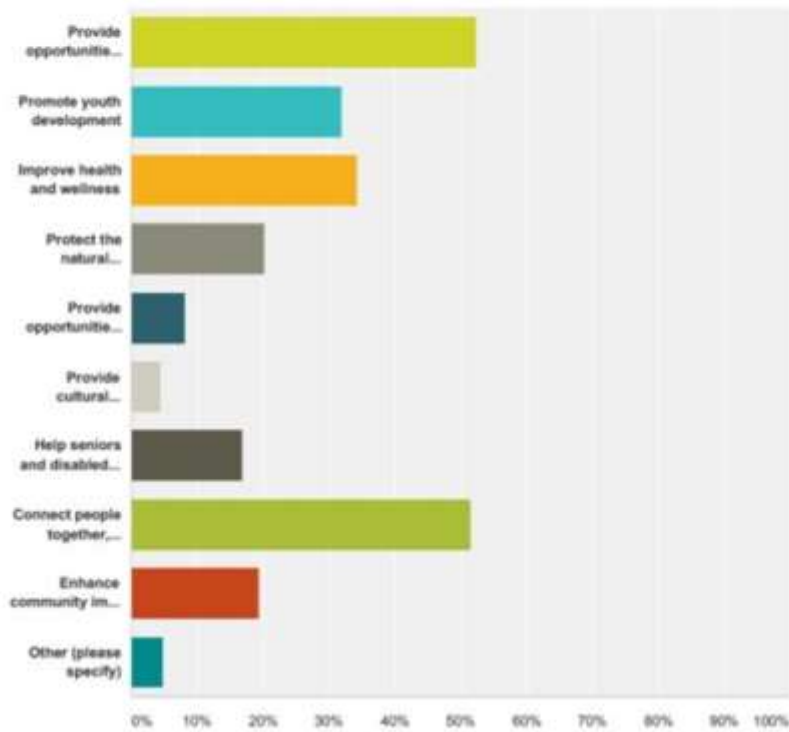
Q3 How important are parks, recreation services, and open space to Augusta Township's quality of life?

Answered: 248 Skipped: 1



Q4 Which of the following benefits of parks, recreation services and open space are most important to you? Please check your top TWO choices.

Answered: 248 Skipped: 1



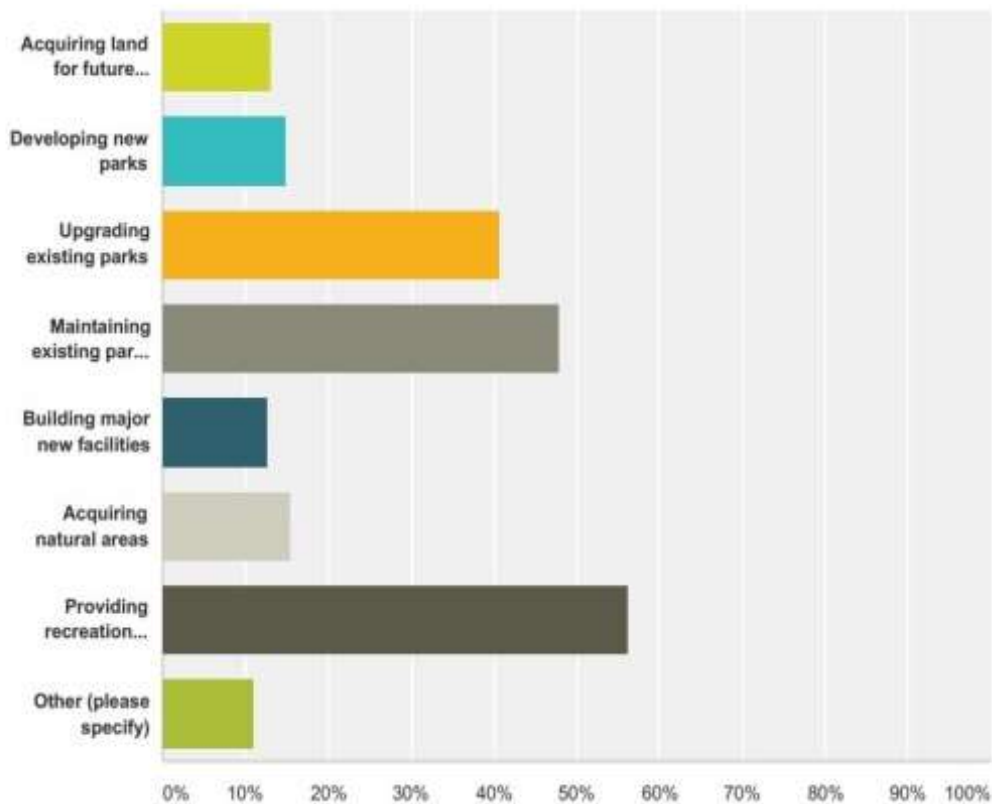
Q5 If you seldom use or do not use the parks in Augusta Township, what are your reasons?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 160

- 1) Not Aware of Facilities Available
- 2) Lack of Time
- 3) Poor Maintenance

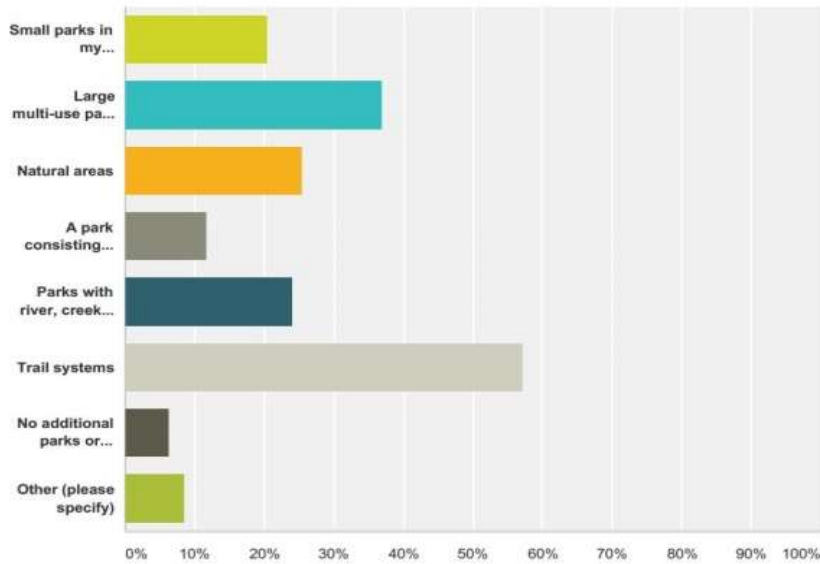
Q6 How can the Augusta Township’s park system be improved? Please check your top TWO choices.

Answered: 228 Skipped: 21



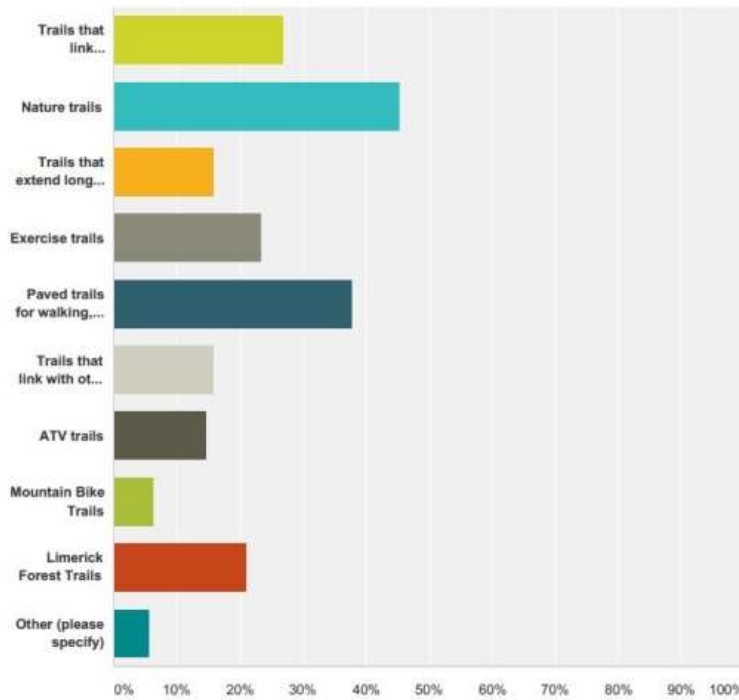
Q7 What type of park is most needed in Augusta Township? Please check your top TWO choices.

Answered: 224 Skipped: 25



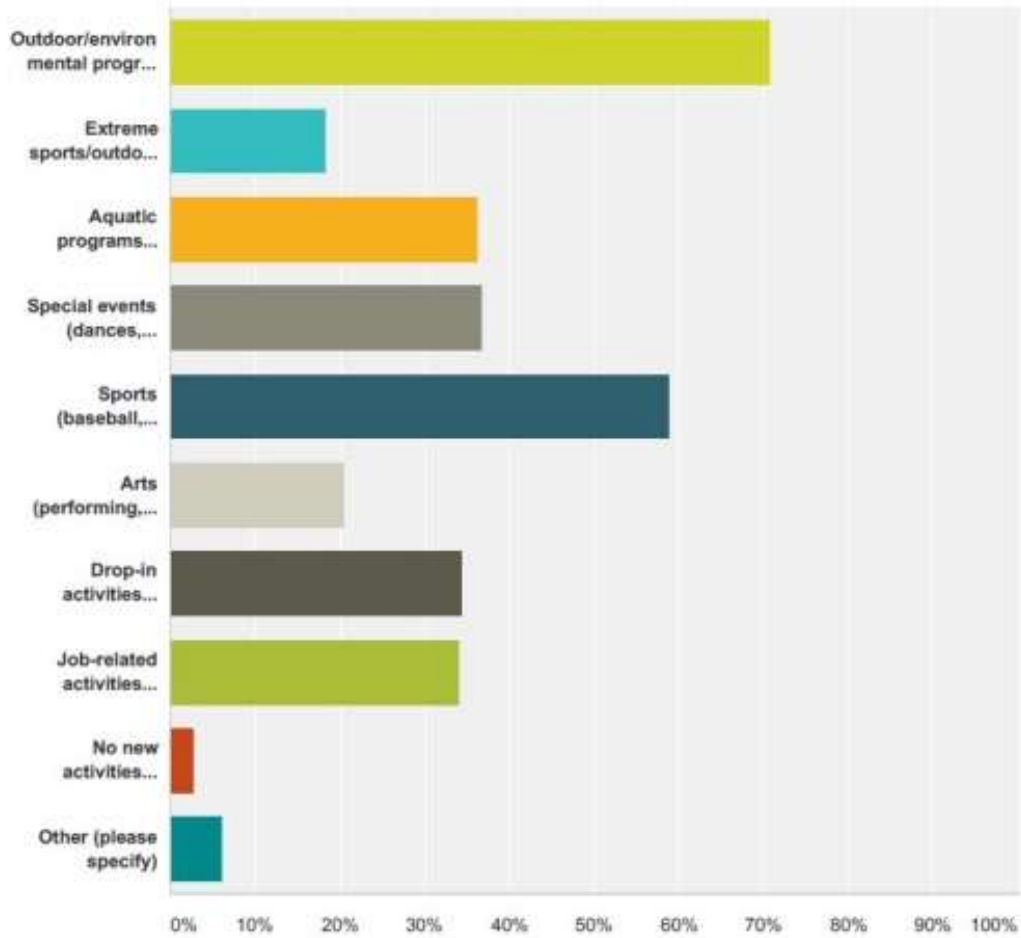
Q8 What type of trails/pathways should have the highest priority in Augusta Township? Please check your top TWO choices.

Answered: 227 Skipped: 22



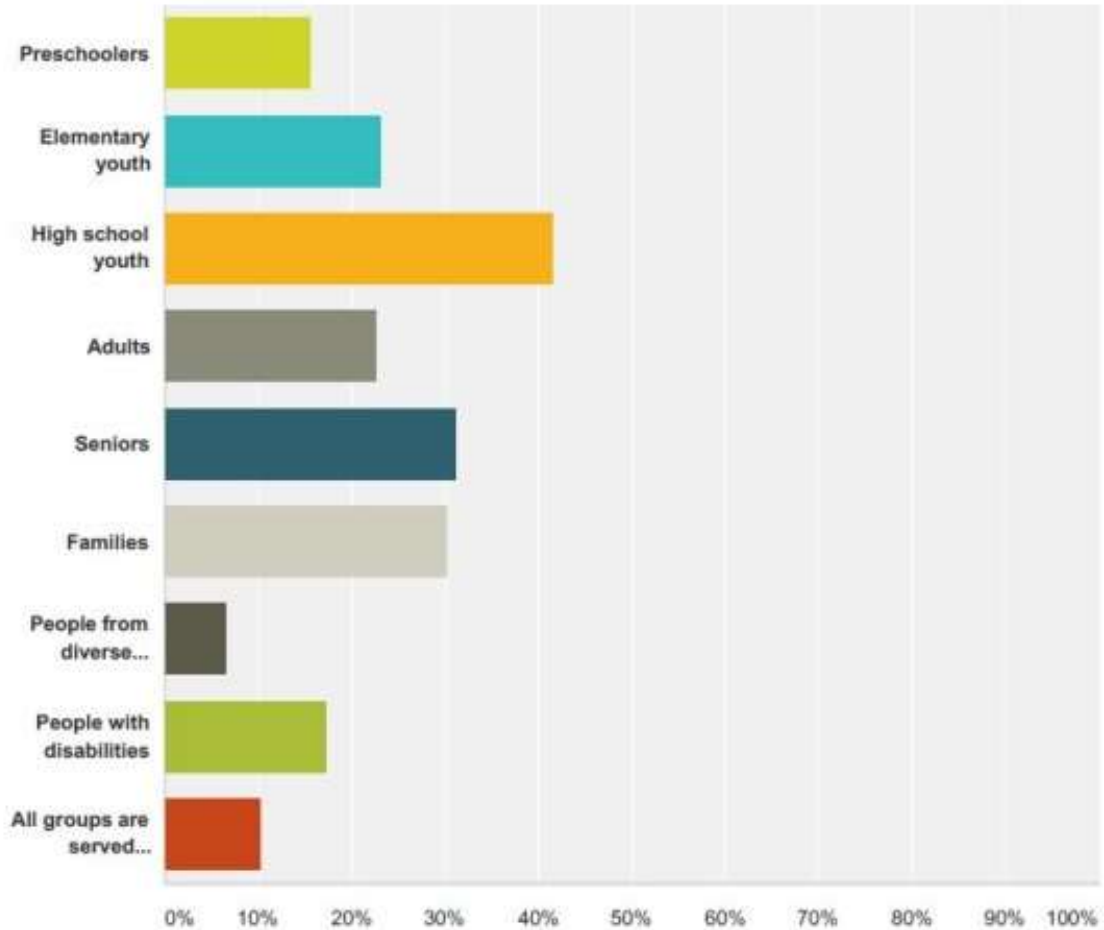
**Q9 What type of recreation or sports programs should be offered for youth?
Please check ALL that apply.**

Answered: 229 Skipped: 20



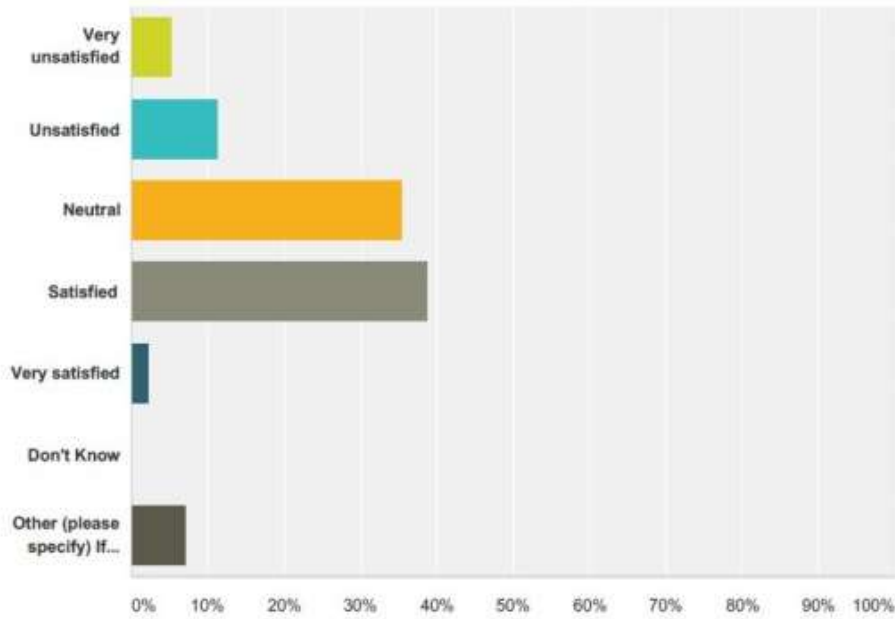
Q10 Which groups do you think are underserved by current recreation services? Please check your top TWO choices.

Answered: 224 Skipped: 25



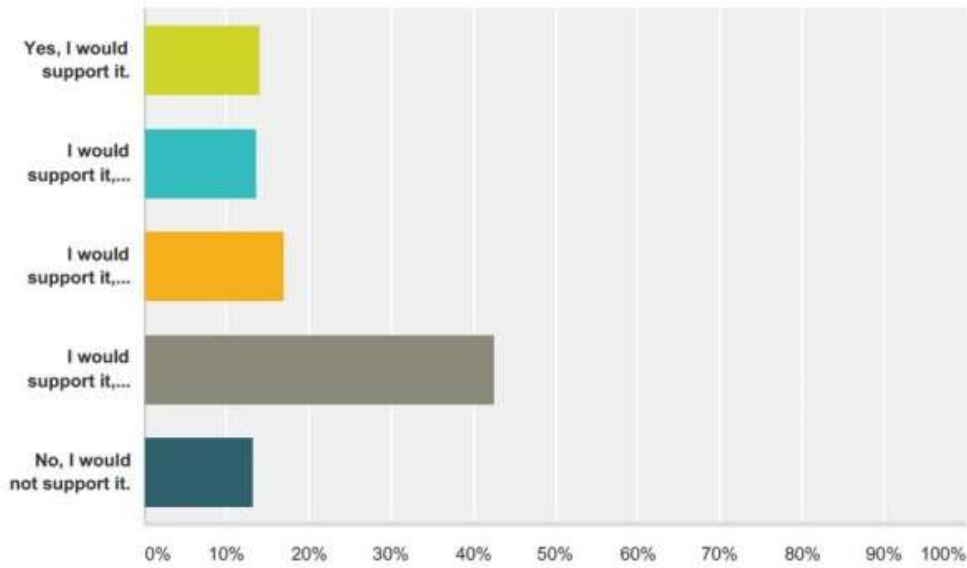
Q11 How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the level of park, open space, and facility maintenance in Augusta Township?

Answered: 214 Skipped: 35



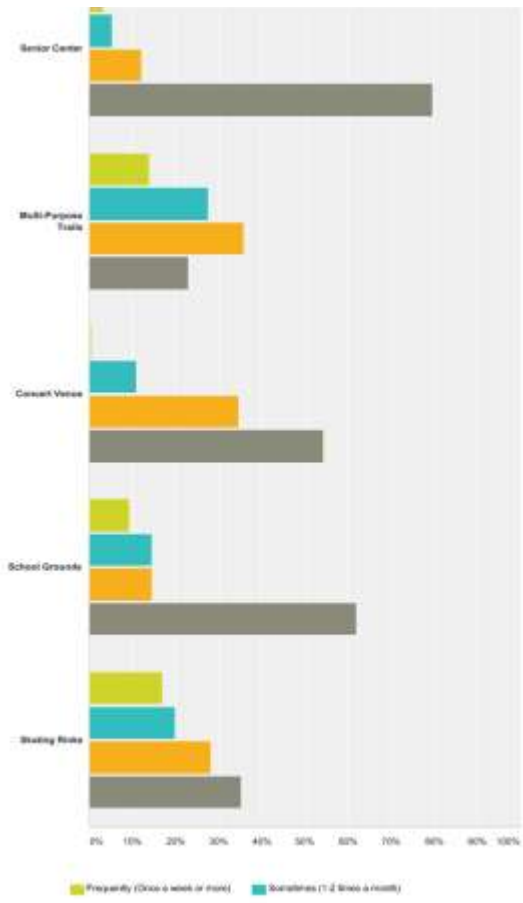
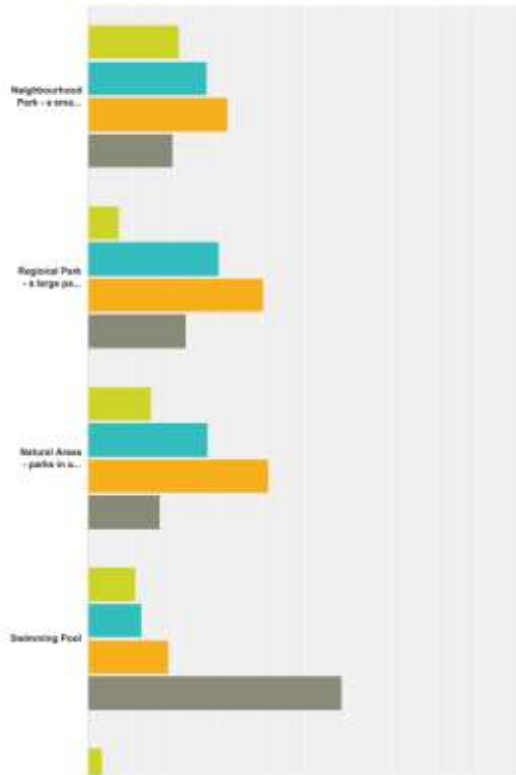
Q12 In general, would you support a tax measure to maintain and improve existing parks and trails, acquire more parks and natural areas, or develop more trails, parks, and recreation facilities?

Answered: 214 Skipped: 35



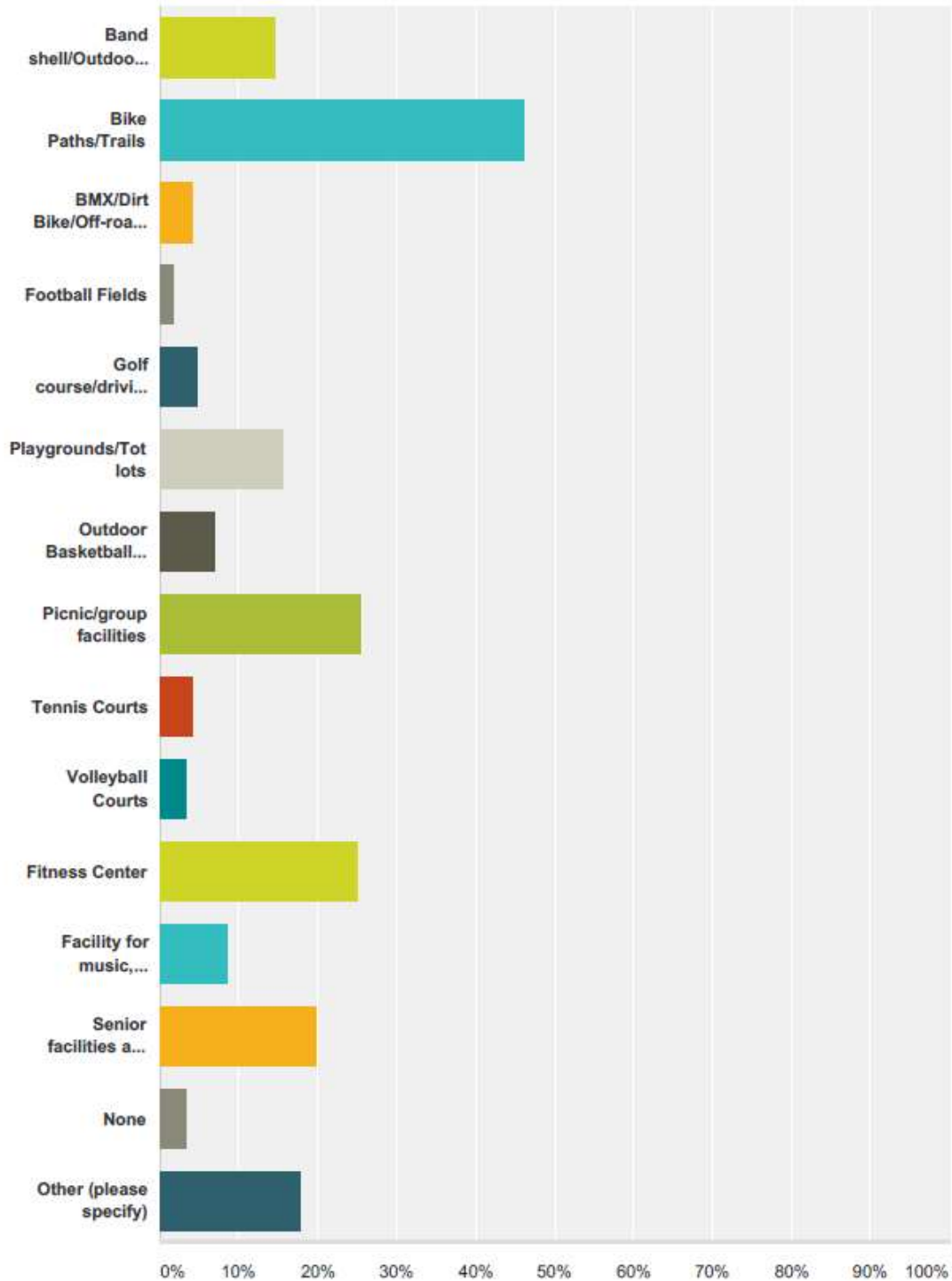
Q13 How often do you use the following types of parks and community facilities, both in the Township as well as neighbouring municipalities, when they are in season?

Answered: 213 Skipped: 0



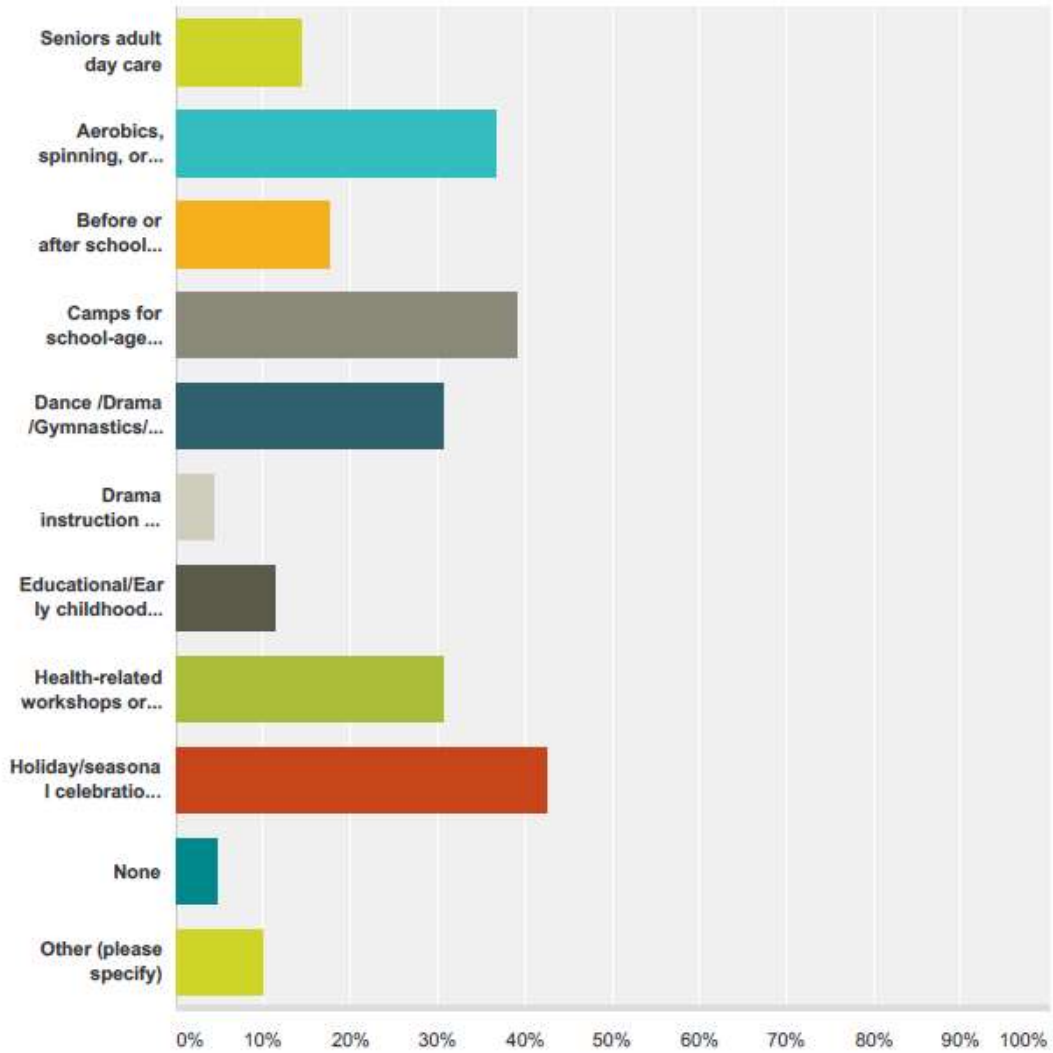
Q14 What are the recreation facilities you would MOST like to see added in Augusta Township? Please check your top TWO choices.

Answered: 212 Skipped: 37



Q15 What are the programs, classes, or activities would you MOST like to see in Augusta Township? Please check your top THREE choices.

Answered: 209 Skipped: 40



Appendix II Augusta Township Parks Work Completed in 2016

Cedar Park (Maitland)

- Shelter roof removed
- Removed fence
- Weeded playground surface

Domville

- North Field and Pavilion improvements utilizing Canada 150 grants. New fence, bleachers, dugouts repaired, painted
- Accessible bathroom constructed and inside painted
- Replaced roof
- Re-pointed blocks on canteen building
- Painted all doors, door frames, posts, gates, foul poles, ceiling and dugout frames
- Stained and painted picnic tables
- Replaced boards in bleachers, tightened bolts, painted and stained
- Spread topsoil around canteen and planted grass
- Removed old swing set
- Caulked doors and windows
- Fence retied and replaced
- Backstop fixed and replaced

Kemp Park

- Swings and climber poles removed
- Replace boards on decks and stairs, Add one more step at bottom
- Wood fill top of posts which are otherwise smooth and strong
- The play structure was dug up and levelled
- Protruding screws were driven back into the posts to prevent injuries
- Rotten wooden bench was disposed of
- Broken chains and were removed/replaced
- Placed a protective guard between slide rails and posts
- Replaced sign and levelled frame
- Added sand to play structure surface
- Filled in all holes
- Painted flag pole
- Placed a protective guard between slide rails and posts

MERC (Maitland)

- Picnic tables repaired and painted
- Repaired vinyl siding on corner of garage
- Relocated basketball pole
- Removed railroad ties with rebar's protruding
- Painted park bench, storage building doors and trim and garbage cans

- Repaired electrical box and constructed a new one
- Installed 6-foot fence in front of dugout
- Constructed new dugouts and shelter for ski trails
- Designed signs for ski trails
- Installed new roof on storage building
- Weeded play structure

Roebuck

- Playground repaired (Tighten bolts and screws on all playground equipment)

Riverview Heights

- Picnic table at bottom of steps replaced
- Repaired picnic tables
- Swept leaves and cob webs

Maynard

- Replaced boards in picnic table
- Weeded tennis and ball hockey courts
- Repaired railing
- Installed signs on batting cage

Appendix III Augusta Township Parks Future Work Required

North Augusta: Ball Fields

- Playground equipment is in good repair, properly fenced. Pea stone should be replaced.
- Playground and horseshoe pits are in foul-ball territory of the ball park; should be relocated (acquire property to the north).
- Volleyball court needs more sand.
- Bleachers should be replaced (steel).
- Washrooms require upgrading (septic system)- replacing in summer 2017
- Ongoing painting.

North Augusta Soccer Fields

- Fence needs repair
- Continued utilization could justify Canteen/washrooms and storage facility Opportunity to expand – New Community Hall
- Goal posts need repair, base is a hazard.

Algonquin Park

- Two ball diamonds, not used, not maintained, poor condition.
- No washrooms, canteen or other facilities.
- Need to decide future use.

Cedar Street Park – Maitland

- A well head on the property is enclosed by a small building. There should be a lock on it or the door should be put back on the building with new hinges and a padlock. It appears that this building may be used for questionable purposes.
- In the same building are 2 electrical panels that are not locked.
- Culverts that run under the street are large enough for a child or small person to climb through. A grate would be an easy solution to prevent access. The smaller culvert has its end somewhat crushed.
- On the playground set there is a wooden bench that is not attached.
- There is some peeling paint and rust on the playground structure.
- A basketball net has undergone a bad repair. It is not secure.
- The fence for the ball field has brush growing through it and is very crooked.
- Replace swings, not legal.
- Shelter post need to be removed.
- Basketball nets too high, need priority repairs to posts or removal.
- Could have an outdoor rink –well present.
- Need playground inspection/repairs.

- Replace pea stone with engineered wood fibre

Domville

- Infield - till up to discourage weeds, bring in new stone dust
- Consider brick dust "ball diamond mix" from Sweets near Kingston
- Need hot water for washroom and canteen.
- Well cap needs to be locked.
- Question re: future use of south ball diamond (lacrosse, lawn bowling, football, pickle ball)
- Middle area for parking?

Kemp Park

- One Ball diamond, fence not safe –trip hazard. Suggest removal
- Small soccer field should be maintained to encourage use
- Replace lag bolts with through bolts
- Put slats down the side of the stairs and decks - 2 inches apart
- Drop slides 1/2" reducing crack between them and deck, add caulking
- Cement slides into ground, add pebble stone (wood chips preferred)
- Sell/remove flagpole
- There are missing wooden climbing attachments to the rope steps. They should be replaced or removed entirely. If removed the area at the top of the rope steps should be blocked off
- Trees growing through and in the fence, should be cut if the fence is going to remain
- Install rope ladder on play structure
- Install new play structure
- Add engineered wood fiber to play structure surface
- Install new set of swings
- Add garbage cans and picnic tables
- Make playground handicap accessible
- Clean up brush along perimeter of park

MERC (Maitland)

- Reinstall basketball net, new post, new hoop, new netting
- Raise level of gravel at right field entrance gate above fence post base
- Bleachers – ongoing inspection, repairs, painting. Inspect for tipping hazard
- Winter rink is in a wooded area not visible to street – security issue. Suggest tree/bush removal to increase visibility. Need drainage to control water level

- Higher fence (4m) suggested for ball diamond to protect spectators
- Bulldoze area for outdoor rink and apply stone
- Construct new parking lot
- Install side railings on all bleachers
- Replace all boards on all bleachers
- Repair siding on storage building
- Install recycling cans

Roebuck

- Need 20 feet of big O on right field fence
- Playground Inspection and repair (Tighten bolts and screws on all playground equipment)
- Park bench and tables Inspection and repair (Tighten bolts and screws on all park benches/tables)
- Replace stones beneath playground with woodchips.
- Whirlybird safe? Need Removal?

Riverview Heights

- Picnic table in poor shape – replace.
- Stairs to River in poor shape – repair/replace

Maynard

- Tennis Court – resurface
- Need safety barrier/fence between tennis & basketball courts.
- Ball park needs higher fence (4m)
- Universal Toilet, ramp & associated renovations (Completed June 16, 2017)



Appendix IV Identified Capital Needs

The following Table provides a summary of potential capital projects that have been identified by the Associations:

Capital Requests/Wish List

Location	Description
Algonquin	Paint and repair backstop and fencing
Domville	Repair/replace lighting - 2 currently out Level front diamond, address drainage Level and resurface back diamond, cut regular Small addition to perimeter fence Interior facelift - painting, lighting, new chairs
Maitland	Water line to rink (approx. 100 ft) Small garden tractor or ATV for grading of ball diamond Create an addition to parking lot for Saturday soccer Update old, tired trails equipment/groomer
Maynard	Second Diamond Parking Lot - needs grading, resurfacing Lawn Tractor Rink of Dreams Install drainage and/or additional fill at ball diamond
North Augusta	New storage shed at North Augusta Hall Install drainage and/or additional fill at soccer field Purchase of land behind soccer field for expansion Build a new community hall Steel door in basement per FD requirement
Roebuck	Facelift - ceiling lighting, windows, West wall Floor resurfacing Forgiveness of loan balance Elevator/Lift Parking lot resurface
General	Investigate developing waterfront in front of Dyno Nobel, Lemon Point for swimming