

CITY OF MONCTON

# RECREATION MASTER PLAN

PHASE 2 | FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

FINAL DRAFT | MARCH 2023





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.0 MONCTON'S RECREATION MASTER PLAN .....</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>3.0 RECREATION FRAMEWORK.....</b>	<b>33</b>
1.1 MASTER PLAN FOUNDATIONS.....	02	3.1 GMA RECREATION FACILITIES - INDOOR.....	34
1.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES .....	03	3.2 GMA RECREATION FACILITIES - OUTDOOR .....	49
1.3 LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM.....	08	3.3 COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITIES - INDOOR.....	67
1.4 MASTER PLAN PROCESS.....	09	3.4 COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITIES - OUTDOOR .....	75
1.4 MONCTON'S RECREATION SETTING .....	11	3.5 INCLUSIVE RECREATION .....	84
1.5 RECREATION BENEFITS & TRENDS.....	16	3.6 RECREATION ADMINISTRATION.....	86
<b>2.0 CONSULTATION AND CONCEPTS.....</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4.0 IMPLEMENTATION .....</b>	<b>89</b>
2.1 92 BIG IDEAS.....	23	4.1 PRESENT-DAY POPULATION STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS.	90
2.2 RECREATION MASTER PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES.....	27	4.2 EVOLUTION STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS.....	94
2.3 A VISION FOR MONCTON'S RECREATION MASTER PLAN .....	31	4.3 GROWTH STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS .....	97
		<b>5.0 APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>101</b>
		ACTIONS SUMMARY .....	102
		ENDNOTES.....	114







# 1.0 MONCTON'S RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The City of Moncton is a rapidly evolving provincial economic and cultural hub. The continued growth of commercial, retail and residential sectors supported by a blend of immigration and visitation fuels New Brunswick's largest growing economy. Moncton's Urban Growth Strategy forecasts the city's population will grow by 1.5%<sup>1</sup> annually in the next 24 years, while the economy is expected to continue to grow by 1.9% through 2024.<sup>2</sup> Moncton must continue to attract permanent residents to support all components of the city economy to sustain this growth.

As the city grows, its cultural profile diversifies. Annual immigration now accounts for the bulk of population growth in Moncton. Therefore, Moncton's recreation

programs and activities must grow and diversify to ensure all residents can access the lifestyle amenities that engage and retain existing and new residents.

Although immigration attracts younger residents and families, the city's existing adults will grow Moncton's senior population. This population will not simply become walkers or event spectators. Emerging activities for seniors discussed during the creation of this master plan include pickleball, hiking and e-biking. Therefore, this highly-motivated demographic requires all-season environments for varied personal and group activities. As heard during this master plan's public consultations, 60 is the new 40; get ready for it!

The challenge of considering these aspects of community evolution—within the context of a stable team-based regional environment, increased interest in personal and programmed independent recreation activities such as cycling, walking and running, and increased interest in other nature and outdoor-based activities—is the foundation of this document. The City of Moncton commissioned the creation of this master plan to identify and plan for the evolution of its existing recreation facilities and activity products to meet the future needs of a growing and changing population in a manner that supports equitable access to desired activities.

## 1.1 MASTER PLAN FOUNDATIONS

This document, The City of Moncton Recreation Master Plan, Phase 2 - Facilities and Programs, guides city council and staff in delivering recreational facilities and programming in Moncton while reflecting the values and needs of the community. The plan provides a framework for managing and developing recreation facilities and programs, infrastructure, resources and investment for a ten-year period.

The vision for this master plan is based on maintaining existing programs and facilities where participation supports sustainability. The vision also explores programming and facility support for emerging recreational activities based on demographic and cultural evolution, needs and/or interests. Because Moncton is a regional component of several rural and urban settings, programs and facilities are evaluated within this context where relevant. Thus, facilities such as large parks, arenas and pools are evaluated at both the city and regional levels, while community parks and centres are evaluated based on their support of Moncton residents' lifestyle.

Therefore, the master plan addresses the following three questions:

1. Over the next ten years, how will recreational activity evolve within Moncton's various physical and cultural communities?
2. How will Moncton's recreational facilities provide contemporary physical assets that support evolving uses?
3. As an organization that uses a facilitative community development model to deliver recreation services, how will the City of Moncton support activity programmers that seek to meet community recreational needs?

## 1.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The development of the Recreation Master Plan II - “Programs and Facilities” is an action listed under the “Social” pillar of the *City of Moncton’s Strategic Plan (2023)*. The goal of this pillar is for Moncton “To be a healthy community,” and the vision for this pillar is as follows: “We are a healthy and safe community. We provide active living opportunities for all residents, proactively address social challenges by adopting policies and taking actions that ensure equitable access to all services.” The elements included in this goal and vision—health, safety, active living opportunities, and equitable access—will be promoted through the recommendations of this master plan.

Similarly, the vision of the city’s Social Inclusion Plan, “that all citizens enjoy a great quality of life,” is directly related to recreation. The plan’s priority areas, such as mental health, education and training (i.e., integrated school and community collaborations) and inclusion and diversity, can be addressed through actions that enhance the ways in which recreation facilities and programming are provided throughout the city.

Additionally, *A Framework for Recreation in Canada: Pathways to Wellbeing*<sup>3</sup>, a joint initiative between the Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, provides a lens for considering recreation in Moncton. Recreation in its many forms should be available to and promoted among all, which the Framework outlines in its five goals:



### ACTIVE LIVING

Foster active living through physical recreation.



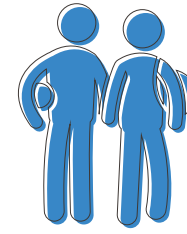
### INCLUSION AND ACCESS

Increase inclusion and access to recreation for populations that face constraints to participation.



### CONNECTING PEOPLE AND NATURE

Help people connect to nature through recreation.



### SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

Ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and build strong, caring communities.



### RECREATION CAPACITY

Ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation field.

These five goals foster the recreation objectives of the Strategic and Social Inclusion Plans and provide positive outcomes for health, community vitality and the economy. As such, the recommendations of this master plan will support these goals.

## PREVIOUS WORKS

The following studies and plans were reviewed to provide important context and lessons learned to be considered during the master plan process.

- » *Active Transportation Plan* (2002)
- » *Active Transportation Plan - Trails* (2017)
- » *A vision for Moncton Riverfront* (2016)
- » *Social Inclusion Plan* (2016)
- » *A Framework for Recreation in Canada — Pathways to Wellbeing* (2015)
- » *City of Moncton reciprocal agreement with Anglophone East School District*
- » *Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Management Strategy* (2013)
- » *Corporate Energy and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan* (2016)
- » *Cultural Plan* (2016-2026)
- » *Designation 2040 Regional Sustainable Transportation Master Plan* (2015)
- » *Downtown Core Community Improvement Plan* (2018)
- » *Moncton Skate Amenities Master Plan and Site Selection Report* (2020)
- » *NB Recreation Infrastructure Planning Tool* (2011)
- » *Recreation Master Plan — Phase 1 — Land and Parks* (2010)
- » *Southeast Regional Service Commission Recreation Assets and Connectivity Study* (2016)
- » *Southeast Regional Service Commission Recreation Master Plan* (2017)
- » *Strategic Plan 2023*
- » *Greater Moncton Immigration Strategy 2020-2024*
- » *Active Transportation Plan Phase Two Report* (2022)

The review examined themes such as recreation, social well-being, environmental sustainability, active transportation, and regional roles and reinforced that a framework for planning for recreation in Moncton has the potential to benefit the community by:

1. Strengthening the city’s social well-being;
2. Improving the resilience and sustainability of physical recreation environments;
3. Supporting the enhancement of the city’s active transportation network; and,
4. Collectively providing robust recreation facilities and programs for all.

Additionally, the following previous works directly influence master plan development.

1. The *City of Moncton Municipal Plan* projects physical and cultural city evolution to which this master plan must conform.

2. The City of Moncton's *Recreation Master Plan Phase 1* (2010) describes a physical distribution model for parks to which the master plan must conform. It is important to note that the phase one plan addresses the spatial distribution of neighbourhood, community and regional parks. This master plan - phase two - does not propose any changes to the phase one distribution model; however, phase two will amend the amenities offered within these park spaces where community desire and statistical requirement influences change.
3. The *Southeast Regional Service Commission Recreation Master Plan* (2017) provides a regional context for facilities such as arenas, ballparks, etc., that are used by residents from within and outside the city.
4. The *Action Sports Park Strategy* (2020) provides a 10-year vision for existing and future action sports park infrastructure and a proposed implementation schedule. Action sports accommodate a wide variety of wheeled action activities such as skateboarders, scooters, BMX and inline skaters, and bridge gender, age, social background and skill levels.

5. The City of Moncton's phase two *Active Transportation Plan* (2022) examines existing trail facilities, cycling and pedestrian networks, and programs and policies.

The plan recommends the cycling network use physically separated bikeways, multi-use trails and visually separated bikeways, neighbourhood bikeways with traffic-calming measures, grade-separated crossings to cross major barriers, like a highway or waterbody, and appropriate intersection treatments to improve the user experience and fill identified gaps and needs.

For the pedestrian network, the plan recommends future and replacement sidewalks be a minimum of 1.8 m wide, where possible. On busier streets, sidewalks are recommended to be 2.25-3 m wide and buffers such as boulevards or furnishing zones are recommended. The plan also recommends that streets be furnished with at least one sidewalk along local roadways and sidewalks on both sides of arterial and collector roadways, or multi-use paths where both pedestrians and cyclists can be accommodated, and new and improved crossing locations. The plan highlights that crossing locations should be located to provide direct access to destinations like schools and recreation centres.

The plan also recommends year-round bike parking at destinations and shared micromobility —publicly available shared bikes, e-bikes, scooters, etc.—to be used as part of the city-wide multi-modal mobility system.

Active transportation is an important component of accessing recreation and directly impacts the guiding principles of this plan (see section 2.2), specifically encouraging active living and supporting inclusion and access. Participating in active transportation increases physical activity, but more importantly, it is one of the strongest ways to benefit a community by providing connectivity, both physically and socially. By stimulating participation in community life and fostering community pride, active transportation serves as a key catalyst for building equitable, self-sufficient, and attractive communities.

Recent Canadian research, supported by a considerable body of international data, associates the built environment, including active transportation and physical activity infrastructure, with more physically active lifestyles.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, the most vulnerable people in society have the most to gain from public investment in pedestrian

and cycling networks. For example, people who are not drivers, such as children, people with lower incomes, people with disabilities, and the elderly, can face challenges with accessing jobs, schools, health care, and community facilities.<sup>5</sup> Near-universal reliance on the automobile for transportation leaves many people out of the equation. Children, the elderly, the visually impaired or otherwise physically challenged, those with lower incomes, those who do not have full-time access to a car, or those who do not drive for other personal reasons, are among the groups that benefit most when opportunities to safely walk or bicycle are improved.<sup>6</sup>

The active transportation master plan provides a physical, cultural and administrative framework for modifying Moncton's street and trail network. The city should ensure that the active transportation network components link the regional and community recreational assets identified in this recreation master plan, and are prioritized to provide linkage between residents and their community assets as part of short-term implementation.

## 1.3 LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM

In 2023, changes to the provincial local governance system are scheduled to be implemented. The reform will reduce the number of local governments and local service districts from 340 entities to 89 entities. As part of this reform, a portion of the local service district of Moncton will be annexed to the City of Moncton, increasing the city's population by an estimated 730 individuals.

Local governance reform will strengthen regional service commissions with an expanded role and mandate, which will extend to include economic development, community development, tourism promotion, regional transportation, social focus, and recreational infrastructure cost-sharing.

New provincial guidelines will provide regional service commissions with direction for identifying regional and sub-regional cost-sharing opportunities for sport, recreation and cultural infrastructure, determining respective catchment areas and developing cost-sharing agreements. Shared infrastructure costs will be calculated according to a tax base and population formula and will only be introduced if the host community assumes an oversight role to a committee representing all entities involved in the financial arrangement.

For the City of Moncton, this creates two opportunities. First, the city will instantly expand by approximately 730 residents who will directly contribute to regional and community recreation assets within the city while immediately influencing the service delivery models. Thus, arenas and pool quantities receive additional use pressure, and will require new or expanded facilities in a shorter time frame. This impact is reflected in this master plan document.

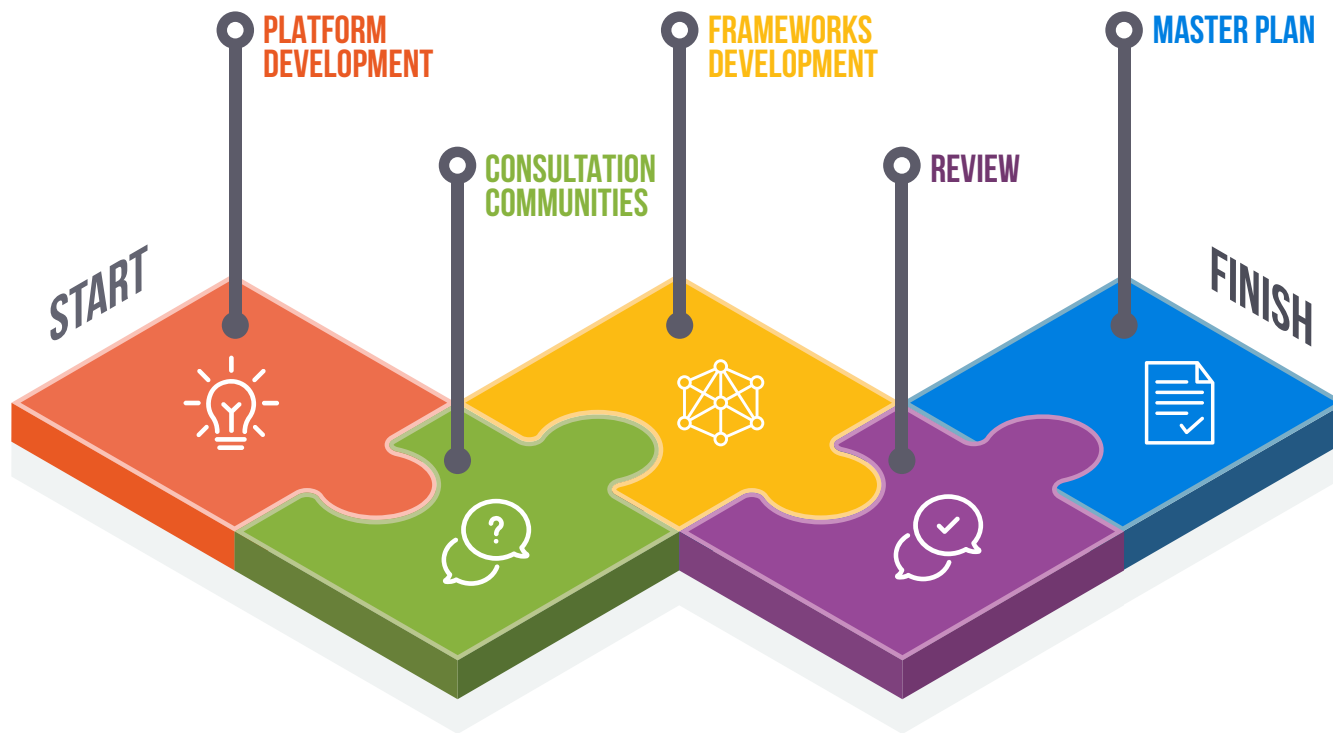
Second, the City of Moncton can work with the service district to develop joint-use facilities that serve expanded populations while ensuring service delivery for city residents within the context of broadened service districts. Thus, the city can work collectively with the service commission and adjacent communities to realize fiscal 'economies of scale' while meeting the demand benchmarks described in this master plan.



## 1.4 MASTER PLAN PROCESS

Creating this master plan required significant input from residents, recreation providers, key stakeholders and the city's steering committee. The enthusiasm of those who participated in the consultation process is directly reflected in the list of 92 Big Ideas, which express the desires and needs of residents, recreation providers, and stakeholders and forms the foundation of this master plan. The following figure describes the plan development process. Each phase is explained in more detail in the following sections.

FIGURE 1 | MASTER PLAN PROCESS



## PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT

To begin, the consultation team established a comprehensive understanding of Moncton's present recreation position to provide a platform upon which this project could build. This exercise was based on interviews with city staff, demographic data, past studies and plans, an inventory and analysis of recreation facilities and programs, mapping, and site visits.

## CONSULTATION COMMUNITIES

A unique and comprehensive public engagement process encouraged widespread participation and gathering of feedback from Moncton's recreation program and facility users and recreation providers, despite COVID-19 restrictions. More than 3000 people visited the city's engagement platform, *Let's Chat Moncton - Jason Moncton!*, to learn about the project, with many people joining the conversation by using the provided engagement tools. At the time, a record number of community members participated in the community user survey (460+). Additional social media polls received 600 responses. Several stakeholder working sessions were conducted online and provided thoughtful and visionary lenses through which this plan considers recreation facilities and programs.

## FRAMEWORKS DEVELOPMENT

The community and stakeholder feedback gathered during consultation provided a futuristic framework, or vision, for both recreation facilities and activities based on the needs and desires of users and recreation providers. Delivering sustainable and accessible recreation at the community level in a manner that ensures equitable access to recreation in all areas of Moncton is essential.

## REVIEW

Residents and staff were invited to review and refine the recreation facility and activities frameworks, the big ideas and the project vision to provide final direction on recreation needs in the city. Five community pop-up sessions were held at a variety of indoor and outdoor locations to capture feedback from a wide range of recreation users' perspectives. Residents who could not attend were encouraged to provide feedback on the city's engagement platform, *Let's Chat Moncton - Jason Moncton!*.

## MASTER PLAN

This master plan assembles the components of the previous four phases into a single document by finalizing the recreation facilities and activities frameworks and developing key recommendations and an implementation strategy.

## 1.4 MONCTON'S RECREATION SETTING

### EXTERNAL CONTEXTS

Moncton is the economic engine of the province, and the statistical and corporate heart of the Dieppe, Moncton and Riverview region. Thus, these two contexts must be considered when developing a recreation model.

### PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John host facilities capable of delivering national-level sports events. For example, all three cities host national-level arena venues:

- » Saint John hosts a national-level 50-meter pool facility;
- » Moncton hosts a national and international-level turf and track stadium and the national-level multi-use Avenir Centre;
- » Fredericton hosts a national-level cross-country ski park; and
- » All three host national-level curling facilities.

At a minimum, retaining the status quo ensures that Moncton continues to play an important event-attraction role within New Brunswick and Canada. Where possible, existing or future assets should expand this role where strong local use sustains facilities.

### TRI-COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Dieppe, Moncton and Riverview each host facilities that provide recreational amenities to their combined residents. Assessing the local need for facilities such as arenas, pools and bike parks requires regional statistical evaluation to ensure the three cities are not struggling to sustain duplicate facilities. Additionally, this thinking ensures that the three municipalities are seeking to provide unique recreational products that combine to present the tri-community as a recreationally diverse urban centre.

### CITY CONTEXT

As with all cities, Moncton is a series of neighbourhoods that come together to form physical communities. Community boundaries are delineated by natural spaces, transportation corridors with supporting services, and development typologies that share physical/cultural characteristics. Each is unique and important to the city and region's cultural and economic health. Residents' love of their city is founded on their love of neighbourhood and community.

Generally, Moncton's 79,740 residents live within five community zones, or districts, that the master plan addresses as recreational communities. Figure 2 illustrates the community delineations and provides resident statistical and demographic annotation for each.

FIGURE 2 | MONCTON'S RECREATIONAL COMMUNITIES

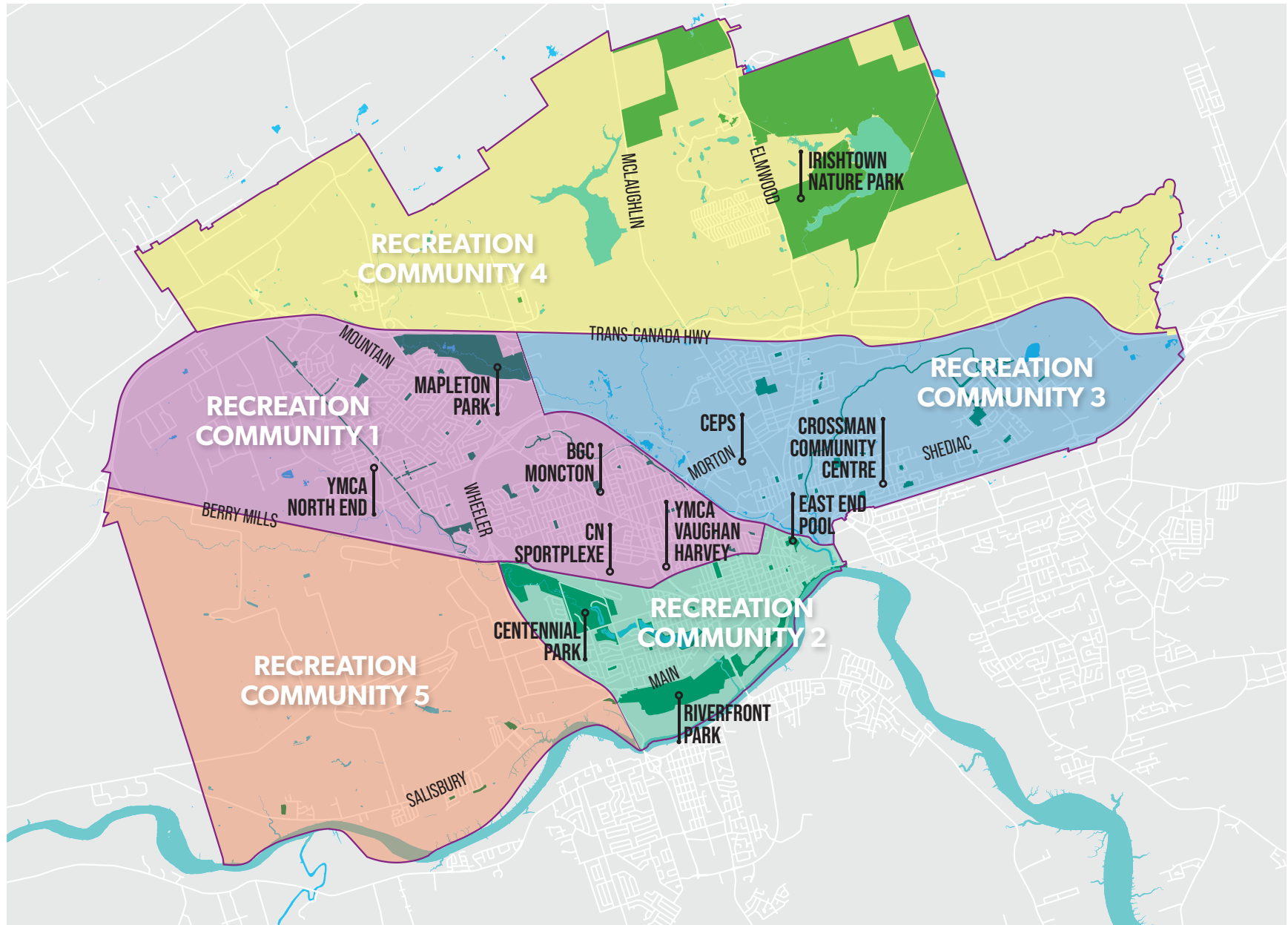
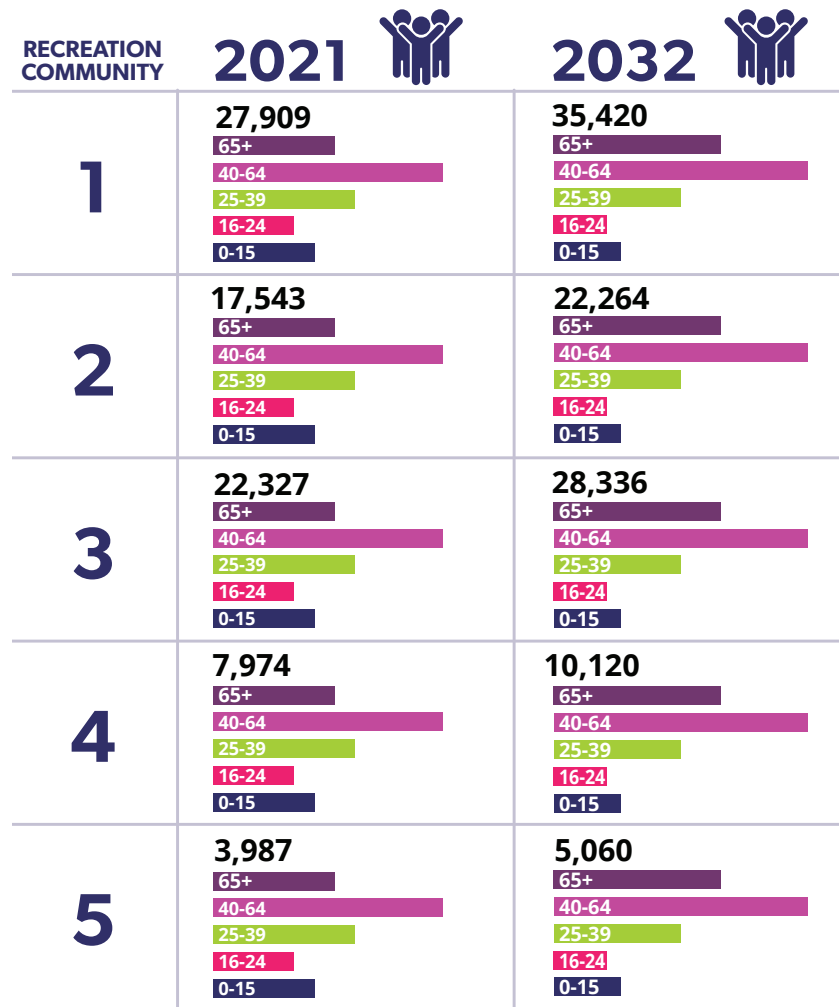


FIGURE 3 | RECREATIONAL COMMUNITIES ESTIMATED POPULATIONS



This delineation is important for two reasons. First, decision-making that influences the geographic distribution of existing and future assets is based on locational criteria that ensure residents’ recreational equality and equity.

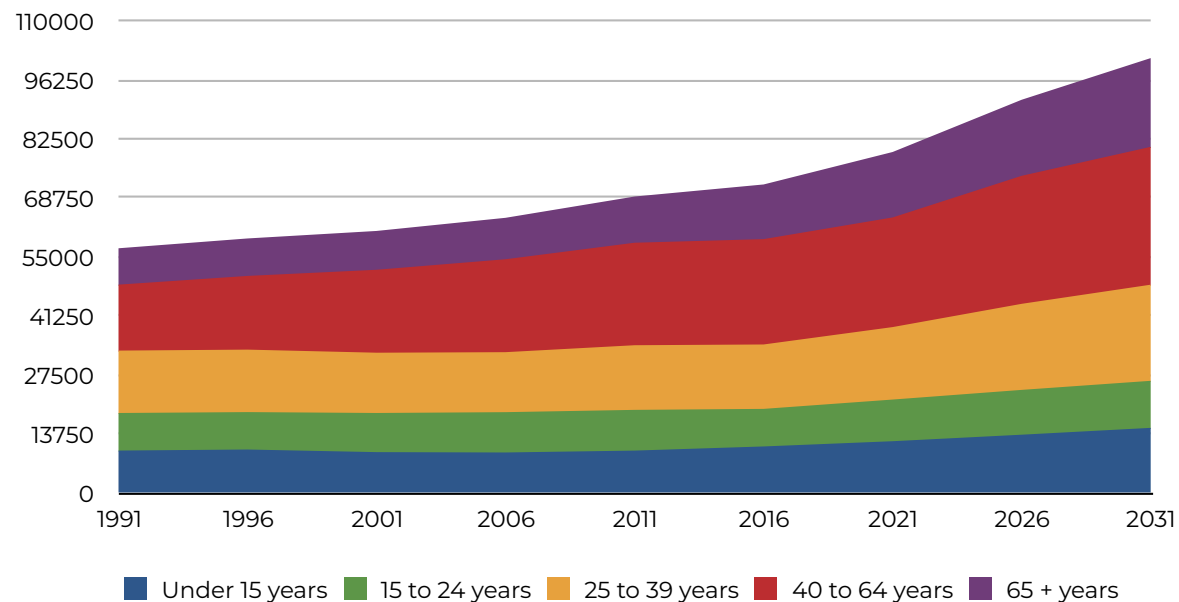
Second, assets can be located based on spatial distribution and refined based on population densities and resident demographics within each community. Thus, community assets can support daily recreational life while assets located at the city and regional level service special activity participation that may not occur on a daily basis, as well as the economic development health of the city and region. Thus, with proper asset locational strategies that support the creation of walkable communities, daily recreational life can occur without a car.

## PRESENT CHARACTER

The 2021 Census reports that the City of Moncton is home to 79,740 residents, with continuing growth in its population. Between 2011 and 2016, Moncton’s population grew by 4%,<sup>7</sup> and between 2016 and 2021, Moncton’s population grew from 71,889 to 79,740, a change of 10.5%.<sup>8</sup> This latest period’s rate of growth is significantly higher than the provincial average of 3.8% and the national average of 5.2%.<sup>9</sup>

Plan Moncton’s Urban Growth Strategy predicts growth will continue, in part, due to the city’s growing importance as a regional centre, its geographic location, and the quality of life offered. Using the Urban Growth Strategy’s forecast of an annual population growth rate of 2.3% between 2021 and 2026 and 1.7% between 2026 and 2031, including an estimated 730 residents added to the population through the annexation of new lands via Local Governance Reform in 2023, Moncton’s population in 2032 is estimated to be 101,200.

FIGURE 4 | POPULATION FORECAST BY AGE GROUP, CITY OF MONCTON



## INCREASING MATURE ADULT AND SENIOR POPULATIONS

The proportion of the population aged 40 and up has outpaced population growth overall (figure 3). Between 1991 and 2016, the population of people ages 40 to 64 grew on average by 10% during each Census period. The population of people ages 65+ has grown by increasing margins during Census periods, by 4% between 1996 and 2001, 7% between 2001 and 2006, 12% between 2006 and 2011, 18% between 2011 and 2016 and 20% between 2016 and 2021. Growth in these age groups is expected to continue into the next census period.<sup>10</sup>

## RECENT INCREASE IN YOUTH POPULATION

The proportion of children under 15 has lagged behind city population growth; in 2021, it represented 15% of the total population, compared to 17% in 1991. Though this age group has proportionately decreased, in the last census period, it experienced strong growth. Between 2016 and 2021, the number of children under 15 grew by 9%.

## TRI-COMMUNITY GROWTH

The neighbouring communities of Dieppe and Riverview also experienced growth between 2016 and 2021; Dieppe's population grew from 25,384 to 28,114, a change of 10.8%, and Riverview's population grew from 19,667 to 20,584, a change of 4.7%. Together, the tri-community, or Greater Moncton Area (GMA), experienced a change in population of 9.8%, with the total population growing from 116,940 to 128,438. Using the Conference Board of Canada's forecast of an annual population growth rate of 1.2% for the Moncton CMA, Greater Moncton's population in 2032 is estimated to be 148,810.

## INCREASING IMMIGRATION

*The Greater Moncton Immigration Strategy 2020-2024* reports that 1,450 newcomers settled in the GMA in 2018, and seeks to attract between 2,750 and 3,500 newcomers annually by 2024.<sup>11</sup> The strategy highlights that the source of population growth in the GMA is now primarily driven by immigration rather than the previous patterns of growth resulting from births and deaths and other New Brunswickers moving to the area.

## 1.5 RECREATION BENEFITS & TRENDS

Recreation and the people who engage in it are constantly changing. Historically, recreation focused on outreach to vulnerable populations, but today the focus has shifted toward an individual-based, facility-focused, user-pay model.<sup>12</sup> As new needs emerge from the rapid social, demographic, technological, environmental, and economic changes in our world, recreation, too, must change and adapt.

*A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing* highlights recreation's potential to be a collaborative leader in addressing major issues of the day. In doing so, the framework has devised a renewed definition of recreation: "Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community well-being."<sup>13</sup> This revitalized definition of recreation speaks to the contemporary role recreation plays for people of all ages and abilities, throughout any stage of life.

In order to serve communities in an equitable and meaningful way, recreation must be fostered through governmental and non-governmental organizations. The broader and more inclusive the reach of recreation, the more sectors of these organizations must be involved in its growth, such as environmental, indigenous affairs, tourism, heritage, arts and culture, sports and fitness, and education. As many of these sectors share similar goals and initiatives, recreation offers the perfect common ground for them to come together and collaborate.

### YOUTH SPORTS

Youth sports participation has been on a decline in Canada. In 2011, 74% of Canadian children participated in sports, a number which has fallen to under 60% as of 2020.<sup>14</sup> A large Ontario study found that less than half of youth who played a team sport before the pandemic are engaged in their sport now. Despite the reported uptick in youth engagement in individual sports and physical activities such as running, strength training or conditioning, this growth is marginal relative to the much larger declines in team and facility-based sports such as soccer, basketball, hockey, swimming, and baseball.<sup>15</sup>

This decline is especially prevalent in girls. While a similar number of boys and girls start out in sport, more boys are involved in sport as of ages 9-12 and stay involved through to late adolescence and the



duration of their lives.<sup>16</sup> This is particularly concerning given that if a girl has yet to participate in sports by the age of 10, there is only a 10% chance she will be physically active as an adult.<sup>17</sup>

Overall, the physical activity of Canadian youth is steadily declining. In the fall of 2018, 50.8% of youth aged 12-17 met the Canadian physical activity recommendations, whereas, in the fall of 2020, only 37.2% met the recommendations.<sup>18</sup> Interestingly, over the same period, there was no change in adults aged 18-64. This suggests the means through which youth engage in physical activity were more disrupted by the impacts of COVID-19. For example, the average time spent on physical activity at school fell from 24.7 minutes a day in 2018 to a mere 13 minutes a day in 2020.<sup>19</sup>

## PANDEMIC YEAR

The calamity and disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic were felt across the world; however, the hardships it produced were not equally distributed across demographics. This reality has highlighted the pervasive and systemic issues that plagued society long before the outbreak of this virus. With renewed public interest and attention to equity, access, and inclusion issues, lessons have begun to emerge from the pandemic years that can reshape community priorities and alter community practices for the better now and in years to come.

Parks and recreation are often prided on the narrative of being “for everyone.” However, this stance can obscure the racism, inequitable enforcement, historical underinvestment, unequal access to amenities, and social judgement that exclude many from

enjoying and benefiting from parks and recreation.<sup>20</sup> The pandemic has highlighted these systemic inequalities and discrimination. For example, over the course of the pandemic, Canadians who identify as Black, Indigenous, or a person of colour were more likely to report experiencing barriers to park use, such as fear of ticketing and harassment.<sup>21</sup>

These issues must be kept in mind when examining statistics of parks and recreation use over the course of the pandemic. Impressively, 94% of cities reported that park use had increased during the pandemic, while two-thirds of Canadians said they had spent more time in parks compared to before the pandemic, and 39% reported their park use had doubled during the pandemic.<sup>22</sup> However, although 69% of White Canadians reported visiting green spaces more often throughout the pandemic, only 59% of Canadians who identify as BIPOC reported the same. Additionally, 25% of BIPOC Canadians reported spending less time in parks due to the pandemic as opposed to only 17% of White Canadians.<sup>23</sup>

With the general uptick in park use over the course of the pandemic, more people are now invested in the future of parks and programming. Currently, 85% of Canadians have said they want to see more public funding invested in parks, 76% of Canadians have said they want to see more community programming in parks, 71% of Canadians have said that local and neighbourhood parks are where they prefer to visit, 58% of Canadians became more interested in stewardship activities in natural spaces, and 89% of Canadians have said that they tried a new activity in a park in 2020.<sup>24</sup>

One accessibility feature that was brought to attention through the pandemic was access to washrooms in public spaces. With private businesses' washrooms closed, and more people with various needs frequenting public spaces, a lack of access to washrooms makes visiting these spaces less appealing.

## IMMIGRATION AND RECREATION

In the past 15 years, immigration in Atlantic Canada has more than doubled. The larger provinces of Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia no longer draw newcomers at the same rates as they have historically. In 1997, only about 1 in 10 immigrants settled outside these three provinces, but by 2017, this number grew to nearly 4 in 10.<sup>25</sup> These changing demographics and increasing cultural diversity impact Canada's recreation trends, practices, and priorities in significant ways, and offer the opportunity to improve Canadian recreation now and in the future.

For newcomers to Canada, recreation offers many supports, benefits, and opportunities; however, in order for these benefits and opportunities to be accessible, developing an understanding of the meanings and relationships newcomers have with recreation when they come to Canada is essential. Many newcomers to Canada arrive "with a unique inventory of sport and fundamental movement skills and, like all Canadians, require an individualized approach to enhance their own level of physical literacy through quality,

stage-appropriate experiences."<sup>26</sup> When considering recreational opportunities for newcomers, it is important to also consider how some newcomers may wish to try new recreational activities and activities that are popular and heavily mainstreamed in Canada, while others may arrive with a desire to continue the kinds of recreation they already know and love. Recreational programming and infrastructure should reflect the opportunities for both to be possible for newcomers.

In addition to this understanding, an awareness of the barriers which dissuade or exclude many newcomers from joining recreation programs in their new communities is vital. On the surface, these barriers include issues of accessibility of activities, spaces, and information; language; familiarity with technology to access online information and registration; competing demands on time, such as shift work; and the availability of social supports.<sup>27</sup> Then on a deeper level, political and cultural barriers may also affect newcomers' experience of recreation in Canada. These can include such things as cultural perceptions of certain sports and activities, access to dedicated women-and-girl-only environments, programming that fails to accommodate cultural and religious differences, political and cultural clashes from countries of origin or between countries of origin that may follow newcomers to Canada and influence who they are willing to play with and against, as well as prejudice and racism.<sup>28, 29</sup>

The City of Fredericton is an excellent example of how addressing these barriers can improve recreational participation for newcomers. To address the language and access barriers, the Multicultural Association of Fredericton targeted newcomer language classes. They displayed program information in different languages on computer screens in the classes and produced multilingual posters to share with community partners and various cultural groups.<sup>30</sup> Another initiative by the Multicultural Association of Fredericton, in partnership with the city and local businesses, is the Newcomer Youth Bike Project. This project combats the barriers to transportation and access by aiming to provide young immigrants with donated bicycles and cycling equipment to help newcomers explore and move throughout their new city.<sup>31</sup>

Another strong barrier, particularly for newcomer girls and women, is physical literacy. While one in five women in Canada today was born outside of the country, newcomer girls and women are the most under-represented population in the sport and physical activity system.<sup>32</sup> The District of Saanich combats this issue by offering a variety of sports and fitness-related equipment in an unstructured and familiar setting. The district prepared a box for the local mosque, which contained such things as skipping ropes, hand weights, balls and bands that allowed the girls and women, following a gathering at the mosque, to gather together at the park across the street and enjoy time together.<sup>33</sup>

This example from The District of Saanich highlights how environments of comfort and familiarity can impact newcomers' recreation experience. In many cases, due to comfort levels and familiarity, newcomers may choose to play on teams or be involved in programs with others from their country of origin instead of joining mainstream leagues. One of the most effective ways to draw and include newcomers in recreational activities is through the established networks of previous newcomers in communities. Today, more than 16,000 immigrants earn their living as program leaders and instructors in recreation, sports, and fitness. In fact, immigrants make up 20% of people working as sports coaches in the country.<sup>34</sup> Research has shown that the value of peer support from people with lived experience of immigration can help and enhance the recreation experience of newcomers.<sup>35</sup> Ottawa's Soccer and Settlement project is a keen example of this. The project offered an opportunity for newcomer coaches trained in the Ontario Soccer Associations Long Term Player development model to lead sessions such as Play n' Learn Soccer, a program that combined learning of Canadian heritage with learning soccer.<sup>36</sup>

Collaboration with these aforementioned networks can also be done through established organizations offering settlement services. For example, the Soccer and Settlement project achieved this by connecting soccer associations and clubs with organizations such as the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization, Jewish Family Services of Ottawa, the Lebanese & Arab Social Services Agency of Ottawa-Carleton, and more. Numerous other programs across Canada are working towards dissolving the recreational barriers for newcomers. Park-Extension Youth Organization in Montreal runs its SLAP hockey development program on Friday evenings at 6 pm and Sunday mornings at 10 am to address the difficulty the erratic times of federated hockey practices and games pose for many families. Sport Calgary offers an All Sport One Day event to allow kids between the ages of 6 and 12 to try different sports for free. In Halifax, the Winter by the Sea event is a celebration for newcomers, families, and friends. It offers education on how

to be active in the winter months, how to dress for the winter months, and provides information about local sports and recreation organizations.<sup>37</sup> In addition to these organized initiatives, small and informal recreational experiences woven into every life and routine are highly valuable. Given that every newcomer's experience and resettlement journey is different, the flexibility of these kinds of recreational opportunities is a manageable, welcoming, and sustainable option.

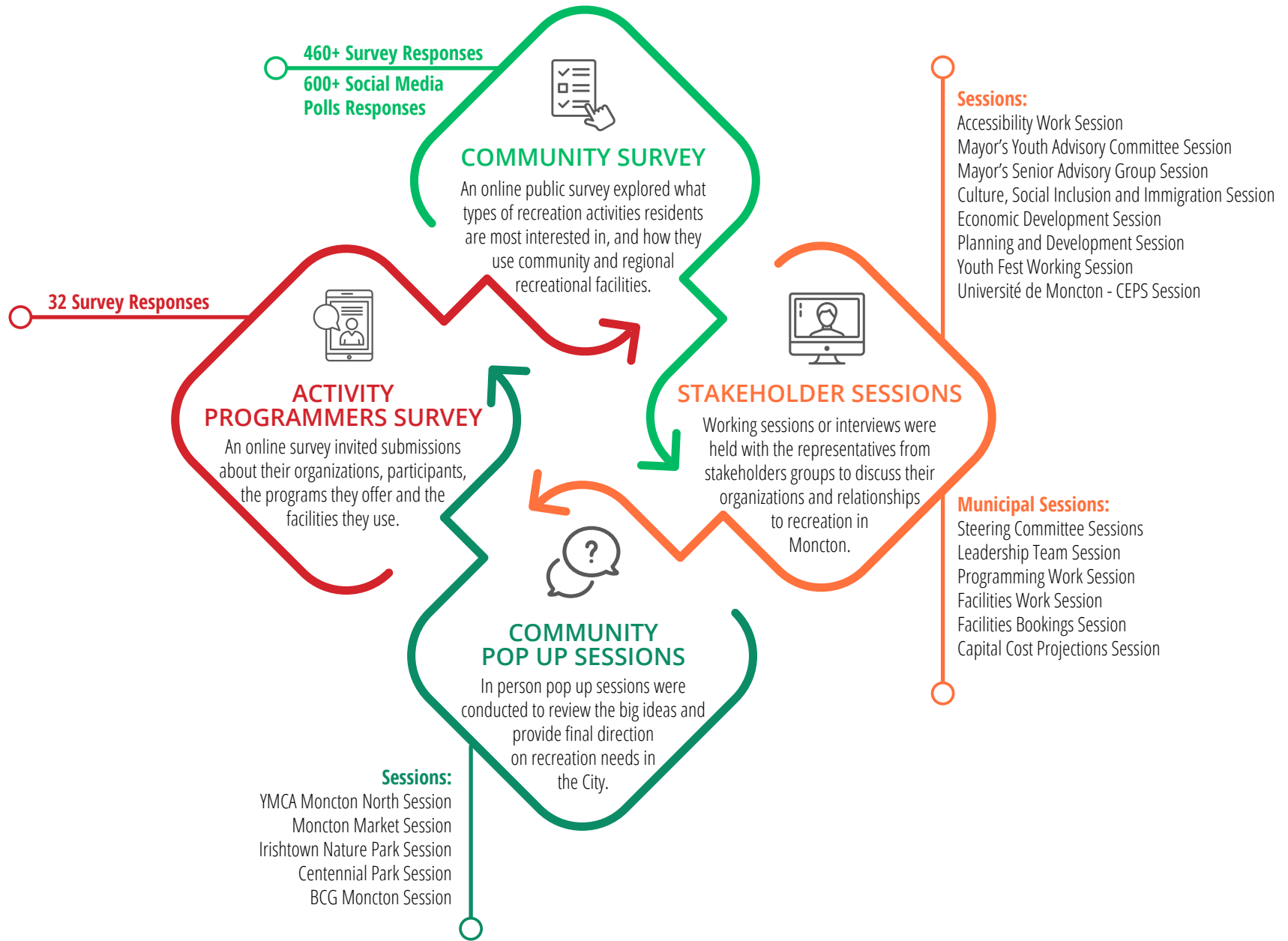
Recreation can contribute to a sense of belonging for newcomers throughout the resettlement process. When recreation functions as a "universal language," connecting with others without sharing a common language or direct interaction becomes possible. Recreation can serve as a common element to bring diverse people together and afford the opportunity to learn from others about new cultures or skills in a safe, non-judgemental context.

## 2.0 CONSULTATION AND CONCEPTS

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This chapter provides an overview of the various public, user group and stakeholder consultations conducted during the development of this master plan. A summary of stakeholder engagement is illustrated in figure 4, with key findings detailed in the following sections. The chapter ends with the master plan guiding principles and vision that inform the results articulated throughout the remainder of the plan.

FIGURE 5 | STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION





## 2.1 92 BIG IDEAS

The following two pages summarize the findings of this master plan's consultation sessions under the 'Big Idea' categories. The ideas form the foundation used to build the master plan and implementation actions.



FIGURE 6 | 92 BIG IDEAS

## Active Living

- Create a well-developed and all-season, interconnected active transportation network for people to get to recreation facilities, for both recreation and commuting
- Consider lighting on primary trails
- Program new activity days
- Create family and youth programming to help develop life-long healthy lifestyles
- Provide low-cost entry activities to get kids moving and socializing
- Provide non-competitive organized recreation activities for kids
- Provide dog-friendly options (i.e. indoor dog walking, groomed ski trail, winter harness dog sports)
- Consider accessible and available recreation opportunities for work from home people
- Create community amenities for young professionals and families with access to recreation- trails, parks, dog parks within walking distance; playground for kids



## Supportive Environments

- Promote what is available
- Foster open house days to try new activities
- Create a centralized website with available programming
- Make concrete actions promoting the health of the city (i.e. planting more trees, reducing parking lots, integrating the riverfront with recreational sports facilities)
- Create opportunities for older youth, single people, couples without children, empty nesters, senior widows and widowers in one place
- Foster women-led sports
- Provide entry-level programming to rekindle childhood activities, reduce intimidation (i.e. beginner figure skating for adults)
- Consider daycare/drop-in centres so parents can participate in activities
- Create coordinated and overlapping scheduling so people can participate in more activities (i.e. don't schedule all the senior activities in the mornings)
- Provide trail access to washrooms and water-filling stations
- Create opportunities to foster mutual respect and courtesy when sharing recreational assets
- Examine providing recreation services when hearing of a need
- Find solutions when people can not afford to participate
- Celebrate the diversity in the City
- Serve communities where people are living; neighbourhood-focussed
- Remember facilities are needed, but programming has to bring people together; Programming is essential to fostering diversity instead of silos
- Provide more gatherings spaces and programming for non-traditional groups and newcomer groups
- Remember access to public transportation is essential
- Consider recreation amenities with cultural remediation and place-making programs to have groups create spaces to help foster a sense of belonging
- Consider the downtown as a neighbourhood and provide recreation amenities to support growing numbers of residents, especially newcomers and young professionals
- Loosen up facilities—make them more flexible and active; encourage users of all ages, abilities, backgrounds—focus on inclusion





FIGURE 7 | 92 BIG IDEAS, CONTINUED

## Recreation Capacity

- Provide options that are family-inclusive/all ages and lifelong activities
- Celebrate healthy living with a culture of community activity
- Consider sharing spaces for activities with smaller clubs (i.e. a dedicated multi-use field for rugby, ultimate frisbee, cricket to share)
- Provide free programming for families to develop healthy lifestyles in childhood (reduce obesity, improve mental health, instil a sense of community along the way)
- Expand community use of school facilities, especially gyms
- Make facility bookings equitable for smaller groups to have access to facilities; avoid monopoly bookings
- Foster coaching opportunities for recreational activities at schools, especially activities where large numbers can participate (i.e. track and field)
- Develop year-round use for parks and facilities (i.e. grooming to open trails for varied activities)
- Explore a sports and social club organization where members form teams that play a range of sports that rotate weekly for a seasonal or annual fee
- Provide best in class facilities to encourage newcomers to stay instead of moving or returning to larger cities
- Consider academic communities when planning for recreation; place activities near schools (which is usually where your friend groups are)
- Remember new facilities need to be fun, inclusive, social, and include food, pop-up shops, food trucks, etc.



## Inclusion and Access

- Make facilities available during the day/off-peak hours (i.e. public swim times and UdeM track)
- Ensure physically accessible facilities - everywhere
- Provide financially accessible, affordable options
- Ensure equitable recreation resources across the city
- Provide accessible activity through active transportation and public transportation
- Ensure facilities are integrated into the community; keep sports facilities in neighbourhoods
- Create accessible seniors' programming in nearby locations
- Provide a pass system to access recreational facilities in greater Moncton
- Ensure access to free walking tracks, open gym time for youth, etc.
- Maintain an equipment library
- Create opportunities for casual and spontaneous activities/pickup sports
- Make accessible design inherent in new recreation facilities
- Use recreation opportunities to help address the feeling of isolation that senior residents can often experience
- Consider youth-led technology to bring recreation opportunities to seniors that are not mobile (i.e. exercise class or social groups over zoom)



FIGURE 8 | 92 BIG IDEAS, CONTINUED

## Connecting to Nature

- Create more multi-use trail connections
- Consider groomed trails in winter for skiing, snowshoeing; riverfront ski trails
- Establish programming in parks and outdoor spaces
- Create green space in business districts
- Add benches/seating in the shade
- Consider community gardens
- Provide trails that permit off-leash dogs
- Provide access to nature for people in high-density residential buildings, especially newcomers
- Consider that people continuing to work from home will seek outdoor activities
- Make better use of the Riverfront (i.e. beach volleyball, rock climbing, playground)
- Encourage more winter outdoor activities, like sledding parks



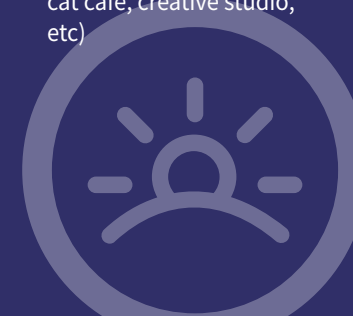
## Things to work on

- Safety in parks and trails
- Affordability
- Convenient schedules
- Celebrate bilingualism
- Inviting outreach
- Available information
- Quality facilities
- Community activity options
- Quality water (lakes)
- Paving for people; gravel for dogs
- Make biking part of the city - everywhere



## Emerging Facilities and Programs

- Multi-use outdoor surfaces (ball hockey/roller skating/ice skating)
- Beach volleyball on Riverfront
- Indoor and outdoor pickleball
- Winter skating trails
- Disc golf
- Cricket
- Multi-use indoor and outdoor courts
- Community multi-use and adaptable recreational facilities (including aquatic centre, fitness centre, ice rink, gymnasium, indoor cycling, multi-purpose rooms, a games room, dance studio, playgrounds, childcare centre, café)
- Elite and adventure sports facilities
- Indoor and outdoor outdoor tracks
- Mountain/Fatbike trails and pump tracks
- Arts and crafts programming
- Community outdoor pool
- Competitive indoor pool
- Community libraries
- Nautical facility for rowing kayaking, paddle board, canoeing
- Senior activity in community/neighbourhood centres
- Social gathering in centres (board game cafe, cat cafe, creative studio, etc)



## 2.2 RECREATION MASTER PLAN

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following recreation delivery principles are synthesized from the big ideas and direct the distribution of facilities and programs throughout the city and region. Each principle includes a list of community-proposed actions that express the principle in ‘action’, and inform this master plan’s vision.

#### PRINCIPLE NO.1 - ENCOURAGE ACTIVE LIVING

1. Create well-developed, equitable and safe active transportation and transit systems that link neighbourhoods to recreation designations throughout the city;
2. Create facilities that are multi-use, open, adaptable, responsive to immediate needs, and socially responsive to ensure they can function as a recreation centre;
3. Establish informal gateways to physical and social activities through facilities and parks; and,
4. Focus on contemporary recreational activities for indoor and outdoor spaces (i.e. walking, running, mountain and fat biking, hiking, trail running, climbing, and other adventure-based sports facilities that can be delivered without programming).

#### PRINCIPLE NO.2 - SUPPORTING INCLUSION AND ACCESS

1. Ensure facilities and parks include adaptable spaces, so multiple user groups experience an inclusive environment where spaces are adapted to specific needs;
2. Bring private and public facilities together to participate in a city-pass system that ensures equitable access to activities;
3. Create equipment libraries that utilize a city-pass system to ensure access to equipment within flexible, versatile spaces;
4. Ensure recreation assets are located across the city to ensure an equitable spatial distribution of activity and assets;
5. Refine park and facility locations that ensure assets bring multiple communities together in a manner that dissolves social, cultural and racial boundaries; and,
6. Work with community active program delivery partners to ensure all residents have access to activities and facilities. Thus, equality expands to equity through partnership.

## PRINCIPLE NO.3 - CREATE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND NATURE

1. Develop all city-wide trails as multi-use to ensure equitable access to natural spaces, activity corridors and recreation centres;
2. Provide maintenance that supports active transportation as part of daily lifestyles;
3. Explore facility and program delivery within park spaces that 'gets people in nature';
4. Explore the waterfront as an active green space within the heart of the Moncton region to provide amenities for an expanding resident population, multi-modal visitors, or those working within the downtown; and,
5. Explore an urban-rural exchange that celebrates the natural environments found in rural areas with activities that attract visitation from urban areas. The Irishtown Nature Park is a good example of this exchange.

## PRINCIPLE NO.4 - FOSTER SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

1. Understand in addition to youth and seniors, facilities provide activities for older youth, to ensure young adults are active and healthy;
2. Recognize parks and facilities provide gateway activities that lead to focused participation. For example, informal use of multi-use courts leads to programmed participation in tennis, hockey, pickleball, etc.;
3. Explore opportunities for facilities to include supportive services for single-purchase visits;
4. Ensure parks and facilities are designed and programmed as multi-use assets that serve multi-community, multi-generational and multi-cultural populations; and,
5. Ensure single-use and single-age facilities are no longer created; instead, multi-use recreation centres provide social and physical activity for all ages, helping to build strong and active communities.

## PRINCIPLE NO.5 - INCREASE RECREATION CAPACITY

1. Plan for recreational growth within existing or expanding communities relative to demographic and cultural evolution and emerging activity trends;
2. Plan maintenance within growth models;
3. Make assets big, adaptable and available;
4. Position the City of Moncton Recreation Department as the lead of recreation; and,
5. Explore making the City of Moncton Recreation Department the central source of programming information/availability and event/facility booking, thus reducing the administrative space between the recreation department, user groups and activity enthusiasts.

## PRINCIPLE NO.6 - CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN A CITY-TRI-COMMUNITY MODEL

1. Understand that Moncton is part of a regional network of recreational assets (i.e. pools, rinks, etc.) that serve the tri-community and the province. The city will continue to deliver assets at this level; however, where possible, these facilities will be delivered within Moncton's communities to ensure city equity while meeting regional needs;
2. Work with tri-community partners to create and deliver regional events that fill facilities and regional economic assets (hotels, shopping, restaurants);
3. Ensure physical legacy assets remain for tri-community and community use following event delivery;
4. Deliver regional lifestyle facilities to support increased commercial and industrial development; and,
5. Ensure transportation networks are designed to link tri-community assets throughout the region.

## PRINCIPLE NO.7 - DELIVERING AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

1. Ensure recreation amenities are delivered in one of five recreation community zones spanning the city, each with a unique demographic profile and current recreation inventory. Facilities are located to ensure all residents have access to activities within their recreational community;
2. Ensure future community facilities are multi-use, multi-generational and multicultural. All residents will find a place within new or modified facilities;
3. Ensure facilities and parks are large, open and adaptable to respond to needs as the need emerges;
4. Ensure community-centre facilities support social, academic and physical activity;
5. Understand strong and loyal communities establish around community-centre assets as a sense of ownership emerges;
6. Understand community-level walkability is strengthened as the city encourages shopping, services and educational assets to locate within close proximity to community-centre assets;

7. Ensure community assets are distributed based on a spatial model that is geographically refined to ensure an equitable distribution of activity; and,
8. Ensure active transportation and transit systems are refined to ensure comfortable multi-modal access between homes and community destinations.

## PRINCIPLE NO.8 - LEADING ADMINISTRATION

1. Take the administrative lead in working with local, provincial and federal partners to deliver the recreation assets described in this master plan;
2. Take a leadership role in the support of delivery of recreational activity to its residents;
3. Provide a distribution model based on equality and equity for all, as the notion of community is significant in this master plan; and,
4. Implement this master plan based on a strategic timeline to predict when new facilities and new programs will be required based on demographic evolution and population change within each one of the city's five recreation communities.

## 2.3 A VISION FOR MONCTON'S RECREATION MASTER PLAN







## 3.0 RECREATION FRAMEWORK

The recreation master plan framework blends together the needs of Moncton's residents and recreation-based activity groups for indoor and outdoor facilities and associated programs within regional and community contexts, as well as within statistical contexts.

Framework component benchmarks are provided based on a facility per 1000 resident basis. These benchmarks result from a nationwide analysis of facility provision within municipalities that share a similar cultural profile with Moncton, that have implemented and evaluated the results of recreation master plans, and actively seek to provide lifestyle amenities to their residents within highly competitive Canadian business landscapes.

The primary facility framework components include indoor regional facilities, outdoor regional facilities, indoor community facilities and outdoor community facilities. Previous recreation master planning identified needs for neighbourhood and community facilities and activities. This master plan will update community-level facilities, and address regional facilities such as pools, arenas, etc.

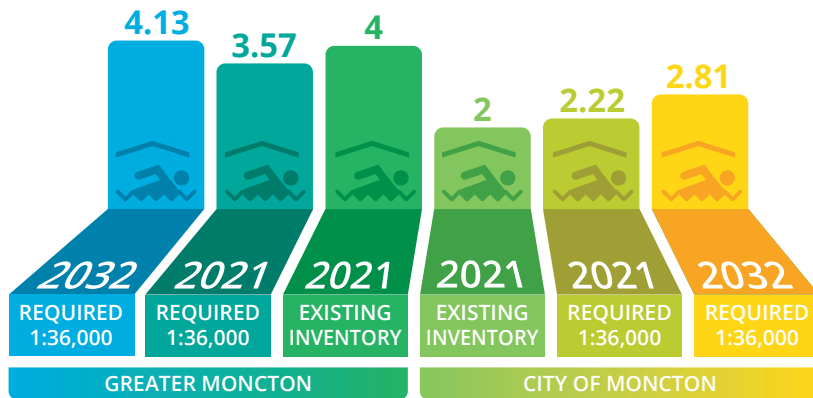
It is important to note that the previous City of Moncton Recreation Master Plan (phase 1) proposed the placement of parks and trails across the city based on a time-based geographic distribution model. For example, neighbourhood parks should be located no more than a 10-minute walk from any residential front door. This master plan (phase 2) proposes a statistical distribution based on population and the previously described recreation districts. Due to the complicated nature of site selection, partnership requirements, etc., this plan provides a numeric benchmark at the regional and city levels, and discusses an approach to the implementation of each facility and activity type.

## 3.1 GMA RECREATION FACILITIES - INDOOR

These facilities serve both city and regional populations and are distributed across the city relative to transportation networks, relationships to natural or built environments, or within specific recreation districts when combined with community assets, or when local populations are capable of sustaining a regional facility. For example, a future city pool facility can be located with recreation centre components such as libraries, multi-use courts, and other spaces that support active, healthy daily lives. This creates a quality family experience for those living within Moncton or visiting the community.

Additionally, present and future facility requirements are based on the chapter one population projections. It is important to note that estimates for population and demographic profile projections are highly fluid; however, the statistical benchmarks described in this document provide the City of Moncton with a clear statement of need relative to volume rather than time. Therefore, recreation administrators can monitor population growth and prepare for new builds or renovations as the population approaches the benchmark for any specific facility.

# INDOOR POOLS



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton is presently served by two indoor aquatic facilities; the Greater Moncton YMCA and the Université de Moncton CEPS. The Moncton YMCA provides a five-lane by 25-meter basin with an adjacent therapeutic and tots pool. The UdeM CEPS provides a seven-lane by 37.5-meter basin with a bulkhead that creates a 25-meter pool and diving platforms (into a 5-meter deep end).

Additional regional facilities include the Dieppe Aquatic and Sports Centre and Riverview’s Pat Crossman Memorial Aquatic Centre. Riverview provides a 6-lane by 25-meter lane swimming basin, while the Dieppe facility is designed as a contemporary community facility that hosts both a 6-lane basin and family aquatic play.

**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** The YMCA pool is a community-based facility designed to meet the day-to-day use of members and guests. A second North-End facility includes an indoor family-based splashpad. Improved water play and splash events, similar to the North End YMCA components, within an improved tot’s area at the YMCA pool will improve the facility’s magnitude as a family facility.

Because of its relationship to the university, the UdeM CEPS pool is designed as a competitive facility; however, the present deck space is not sized to host contemporary meets. Additionally, this pool is in end-of-life condition and will require replacement within the next five years.

The Dieppe Aquatic and Sports Centre is a contemporary facility and an ideal model for a community-based pool designed to provide both fitness and family pool amenities. Moncton's YMCA offers a tot-play basin; however, Moncton lacks a contemporary integrated fitness and family aquatic facility.

Riverview's Pat Crossman Memorial Aquatic Centre and the UdeM CEPS are the region's best event-hosting facilities; however, both are in end-of-life condition. Riverview plans to replace its pool with a contemporary community-based facility capable of hosting events while providing both fitness and family-based activities.

**FACILITY DEMAND.** Statistically speaking, the City of Moncton presently requires 2.22 pools and is projected to require 2.81 pools by 2032 (under conservative population projections), while the Greater Moncton region presently requires 3.57 pools and will require 4.13 pools by 2032. Thus, the City of Dieppe and the Town of Riverview both require Moncton's population to support their pool facilities, while Moncton requires external facilities to meet its needs.

Given the age of the UdeM pool, consideration must be given to its potential decommissioning at the end of its life. This closure will impact pool availability, moving the city to a 1.22 present-day pool deficit and the tri-community to a 0.57 pool deficit. Thus, the city will require a replacement pool if the UdeM facility closes. Additionally, although outdated, both the UdeM and Riverview pools are the only facilities designed to host regional-level aquatic events. Neither facility is designed to host contemporary events beyond the regional level. Although Riverview plans to replace its facility, the existing pool will be permanently decommissioned; therefore, the statistical status quo is retained.

If the UdeM pool were to be decommissioned, the city would have an opportunity to explore the creation of a facility that simultaneously provides family play space as well as sufficient deck, hosting and viewing space for regional-level events. Additionally, considering this master plan's development themes, the aquatic facility should be part of a multi-use complex that functions as a significant recreation, social and economic development tool within the city, region and Atlantic Canada. This approach ensures that Moncton meets statistical needs relative to the city's regional economic and cultural hub role while providing a much-needed contemporary aquatic amenity that enhances resident lifestyle.

The replacement of the UdeM and Riverview pools ensure that regional statistical need is met; however, the replacement of the UdeM facility still leaves Moncton in a 0.81 facility deficit by 2032. This is not a critical issue; however, continued city growth may accelerate this need at the city level and should be considered when exploring the feasibility and facility modelling of new multi-use complexes.

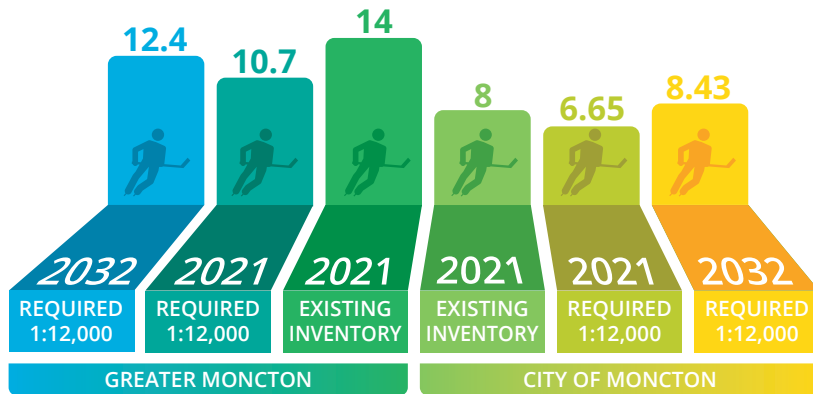
**ACTION.** The City of Moncton should explore the feasibility of an aquatic and recreation centre complex that replaces the statistical need met by the aging UdeM CEPS. It is important to note that pools are deficit facilities. Generally speaking, revenues from membership and day-visit fees do not cover pool operational costs; therefore, the city should explore the development and operational partnerships that support mutually beneficial outcomes within contemporary complexes that attract local and regional populations on a daily basis. Therefore, at a minimum, exploration should include the following:

- » An exploration of Moncton’s local, regional, and national role as a national and regional economic centre to clarify the city’s level of service role as an event and cultural hub;
- » An exploration of the type of integrated aquatics, activity and social facility that expresses the city’s role as an event and cultural hub;
- » An exploration of the type of aquatics facility that can function as both an event-based (with sufficient storage, staging and viewing spaces) and a daily recreation asset for those in the local and regional area;
- » An analysis of the regional market to identify the level of day-to-day and event-based financial support required to sustain the appropriate facility type;
- » An analysis of all potential facility users, including groups such as scouts, to ensure pool facilities are available for groups beyond swim clubs;
- » An analysis of the type of mutually-beneficial partnerships that provide the highest level of support relative to required funding;
- » An analysis and definition of a capital and operational master plan for an ideal facility type within the proposed level-of-service and partnership models;
- » An analysis of the existing and future recreational district populations to identify where the local community has the greatest need for an aquatics facility; and,
- » An analysis of the regional vehicle and active transportation network to identify the ideal location for facility placement relative to mobility networks.

**THE 50-METER QUESTION.** Several individuals and groups consulted during the preparation of this master plan commented on the regional need for a 50-meter training-based and events-hosting aquatics facility. Presently, the City of Saint John Canada Games Complex provides the only 50-meter pool in New Brunswick. This event-created complex is designed for hosting regional and national-level events and includes family amenities within the pool building. This aging facility will require an upgrade or replacement and is unlikely to be replaced outside of a strong university or fitness-based partnership that sees the pool move from 50-meter to 25-meter. City-owned and operated 50-meter pools built outside of strong and mutually-beneficial partnerships statistically require approximately 500,000 residents to support sustained operation.

Additionally, national-level events that require 50-meter pools can be hosted from rented basins that can be placed within field houses or large conference centre spaces. The need to build and operate a 50-meter pool to host national-level events within populations below 500,000 residents is no longer an issue for municipalities with large and available building space. Thus, aquatic centres in regions with less than 500,000 residents should focus on creating aquatic centres for their communities and region first, and as a national destination where partnerships and supporting populations exist.

# INDOOR ICE ARENAS



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton is presently served by eight ice sheets at 5 facilities. All facilities function as provincial-level ice destinations due to seating capacity and available event-hosting space. These include:

**The Avenir Centre** is a 9,000 (+/-) seat arena and cultural events centre that hosts a national-level CHL junior hockey team as the primary tenant and many of Moncton’s indoor concerts. The facility is located within the heart of Moncton’s Downtown and is a significant catalyst for urban core development.

**The Superior Propane Centre** is a four-pad facility with one pad dedicated to events requiring 1500 seats. Because the facility hosts four ice sheets under one roof, the ‘Four Ice’ is the region’s strongest tournament facility, and hosts central staging, food services, and a large parking area.

**The Moncton Coliseum Complex** is a regional-level facility capable of hosting ice and performance events with up to 7,000 visitors. This facility hosted Moncton’s CHL hockey team prior to Avenir Centre construction. The adjoining Agrena provides a venue for large trade shows and floor-based tournaments on a temporary floor system.

**The Crossman Community Centre / Kay Arena** is a community-level minor hockey facility with an NHL-size rink and 500 seats. This facility also hosts a multi-use gymnasium, walking track and meeting spaces.

**The Université de Moncton Aréna Jean-Louis Levesque Arena** is a 1,300 (+/-) seat arena that hosts the university's male and female hockey teams and regional minor hockey groups.

**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** The Avenir Centre's development provides the City of Moncton with a diverse inventory of rink facilities for all applications. Relocating the Coliseum's major event hosting to the Avenir Centre increased major event capacity by over 2,000 seats, and provided Moncton with a city-centre events venue that directly supports the downtown economy.

This provides the city with a significant opportunity to re-imagine the long-term role of the Coliseum relative to hosting significant regional recreation and sporting events within the ice and Agrena Complex.

The Superior Propane Centre is a very important city and regional facility that must be retained in its present form and location. Minor hockey, hockey schools, high schools, skating clubs, etc. all have a home in the facility, and can expand or shrink within the complex. This facility has a very detailed ten-year life cycle plan.

The Kay-Crossman Community Centre is an ideal model for an ice-based community complex and will continue to function within this present role. The gymnasium and meeting spaces enhance the notion of 'community' within this complex and should be retained in their current form.

The Université de Moncton Aréna Jean-Louis Levesque Arena is an aging facility that the university significantly invested in to ensure the academic campus retained a rink for its national-class male and female hockey programs. This facility will reach an end-of-life condition within the next 20 years. Although this timeframe is outside of this master plan's exploratory timeframe, the city and the UdeM should begin to discuss ice provision options to ensure both the university and minor hockey players have access to future ice.



**FACILITY DEMAND.** Statistically speaking, the City of Moncton presently requires 6.65 indoor ice surfaces and is projected to require 8.43 by 2032. This falls within the eight ice surfaces currently available within Moncton. Although it appears Moncton is retaining supply beyond its need, it is not. This master plan’s regional and city ice supply benchmark (1:12,000) is a number projected to meet demand in or around 2032. Many small Canadian cities require one ice sheet per 10,000 residents due to high hockey participation (resulting from hockey’s importance to national culture). At the 1:10,000 rate, Moncton requires 7.97 surfaces today, and 10.12 in 2032. The benchmark number is projected to move to 1:12,000 by 2032 due to a growing and increasingly diverse population. Minor hockey groups project stable participation numbers over the next ten years; however, regional participation rates will drop relative to population increase. The only expected growth in hockey over the next ten years is within women’s programs.

It is important to note that this is not a weakness in minor hockey programs. Instead, it is an indication that Moncton is moving from a provincial to a national-class city as population and cultural diversity expand. Minor hockey programs must find approaches to capitalizing on diversity where growth is desired.

Regionally, Moncton, Riverview and Dieppe presently require 10.7 ice surfaces and are projected to require 12.4 surfaces in 2032. This also falls within existing inventories. Thus, no additional ice surfaces are required within the next ten years. In fact, retaining the Coliseum ensures excess ice is available where careful and collective regional scheduling ensures ice time equity.

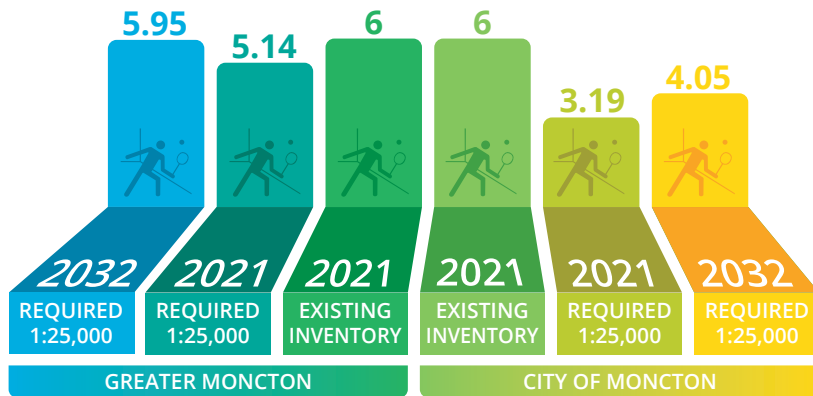
Finally, all minor sports groups are concerned with ice rental fees while simultaneously expressing concern with facility conditions. Like all cities, the City of Moncton works hard to provide quality facilities at the best possible rate to its user groups and residents. Rinks are not an exception to this.

Moncton presently provides prime-time ice for youth at a subsidized rate comparable to other regional ice rates. Moncton’s sustained contribution to minor sports groups may jeopardize its ability to provide the type of facilities user groups are looking for; therefore, the city should evaluate minor sports subsidies to ensure facility quality expectations are met.

**ACTION.** Given that the City of Moncton and the region presently host sufficient indoor ice supply over the 10-year window of this master plan, proposed actions seek to stabilize existing facilities and programs. These proposed actions are:

- » Explore a clarified role of the Coliseum as a regional activity hub; for example, increasing hourly ice rentals to make full use of the facility around the trade and consumer show season.
  - » A continued equity analysis of all minor sport ice-based groups to ensure that all programs are receiving ice time relative to their membership numbers. This includes equity relative to total ice time, preferred ice times; and
  - » Commence discussions with Université de Moncton about the future of their arena for both campus and regional use. Should the facility become financially unsustainable, discuss possible in-city arenas that could host the university programs in tenant positions.
- » Commence discussions with the regional service commission about developing a regional network of rink facilities designated to meet community and regional needs. Thus, the placement of regional-level facilities that provide venues for hosting large single or tournament events can be located within regional economic centres such as downtowns or shopping areas. This ensures reciprocal benefit that strengthens both the facility and the hosting centre while meeting regional needs.
  - » Additionally, the city should test the expansion of informal day-to-day activity in arenas. For example, community skating is identified as an important resident activity and can be offered at arenas that retain ice surfaces for all 12 months of the year. This action expands the existing summer arena use beyond tournament and camp use and further supports the hosting centres.

# SQUASH COURTS



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** Squash Moncton presently operates the 6-court Dud James facility for city and regional users.

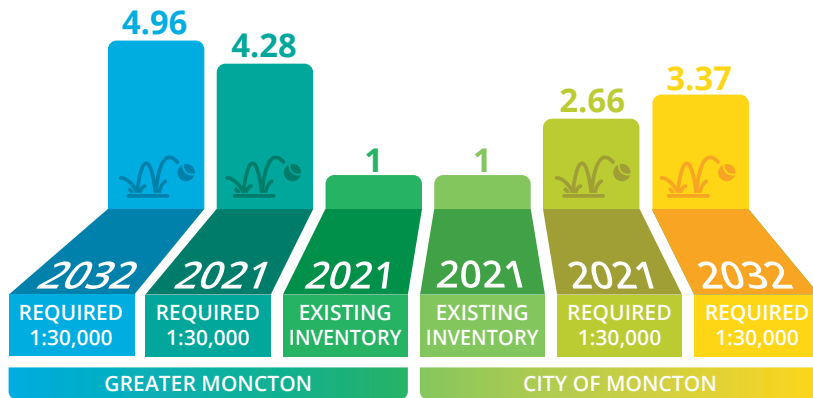
**FACILITY DEMAND.** The City of Moncton presently requires 3.19 squash courts and is projected to require 4.05 courts by 2032. This falls well within the six courts currently available within Moncton.

Regionally, 5.14 courts are presently required, and 5.95 courts are required by 2032. Moncton’s squash courts will meet regional and city demand within the 10-year master plan window.

**ACTION.** The City of Moncton presently hosts 100% of the region’s squash court requirements. Additionally, the facility hosts more courts than the city or region requires. Therefore, the club will face capital and operational challenges. Thus, the following is proposed;

- » The City of Moncton should work with Squash Moncton to establish a long-term capital and operational cost plan, and express a willingness to invest in this plan relative to the regional population percentage. The club can then approach adjacent municipalities to acquire additional funding relative to their population percentages.

# MULTI-USE FIELD HOUSES



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The Université de Moncton CEPS Complex hosts the only multi-use and adaptable field house within the city and region. This facility includes a large multi-use court space, 220-meter track, viewing area and other supporting amenities available within the university’s sport and recreation complex.

**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** For the purposes of this master plan, as defined through public consultation, a field house is a large, open and high-ceiling building space that is adaptable using portable flooring and equipment systems and is capable of hosting several programmed indoor and outdoor sports activities on a year-round basis.

UdeM’s field house is an ideal model for this purpose; however, it lacks the portable systems to function relative to community desire. Public consultation indicated that this type of adaptable field house could become a facility for soccer, basketball, pickleball, roller skating, volleyball, walking, running, lacrosse, field hockey, ball hockey, etc., with minimal conversion effort or time. This is probably the most sought-after new facility by those consulted through this master planning process, including multicultural and outdoor activity communities.



The City of Moncton's Agrena at the Coliseum Complex can also function as a field house. This facility currently provides hourly ice rentals and hosts volleyball and badminton tournament events; however, this facility has the potential to be further used as a regional recreation facility around the trade and consumer show season.

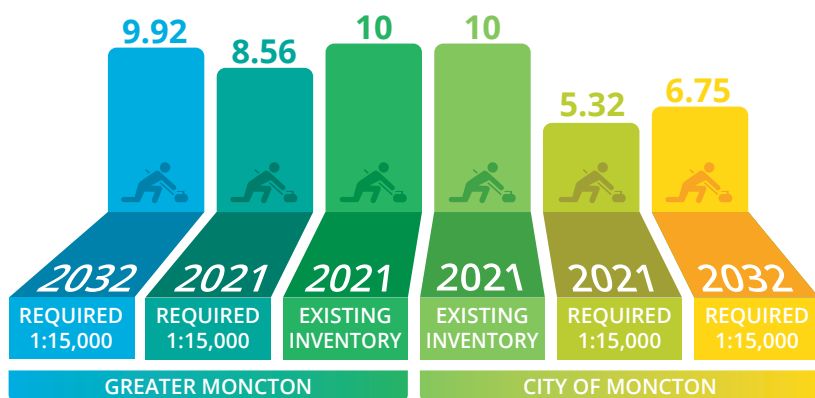
Facility Demand. Statistically speaking, the City of Moncton presently requires 2.66 open and adaptable field houses and is projected to require 3.37 by 2032. Moncton and the UdeM presently host 100% of the region's field house capacity within one complex; however, the region statistically requires 4.28 facilities today, and 4.96 in 2032.

**ACTION.** Moncton presently hosts the two potential functioning recreation/activity 'shell buildings' that are adaptable to host field house activities. The adaptation of the CEPS meets the needs of Moncton's east-side residents. The adaptation of the Agrena at the Moncton Coliseum Complex meets the needs of Moncton's west-side residents. Both can function as significant regional and weekend hosting facilities.

- » Work with the Université de Moncton to explore the reassignment of the CEPS from a university complex to a regional sports and recreation facility. This moves the complex from an academic facility with community use to a regional complex with university use;

- » Explore increased recreational activity at the Moncton Coliseum Complex without impacting existing or expanded trade and consumer show events, which is the priority use of this facility. While trade shows require significant setup and tear-down time beyond scheduled events, there is an opportunity to increase recreation use, especially in the off-season. With the addition/upgrade of portable floor systems, the Agrena has the opportunity to evolve into a significant sports and recreation facility to host recreation events, and for destination tournament use around the trade show schedule. With the addition of activity-associated equipment, there are opportunities for Moncton residents to use the facility for day-to-day use when available.

# CURLING SHEETS



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** Curl Moncton Inc. presently operates the 10-rink facility for city and regional users.

**FACILITY DEMAND.** The City of Moncton presently requires 5.32 curling rinks and is projected to require 6.75 courts by 2032 if participation rates are retained under present population growth projections. The region requires 8.56 rinks today, and is projected to require 9.92 rinks in 2032.

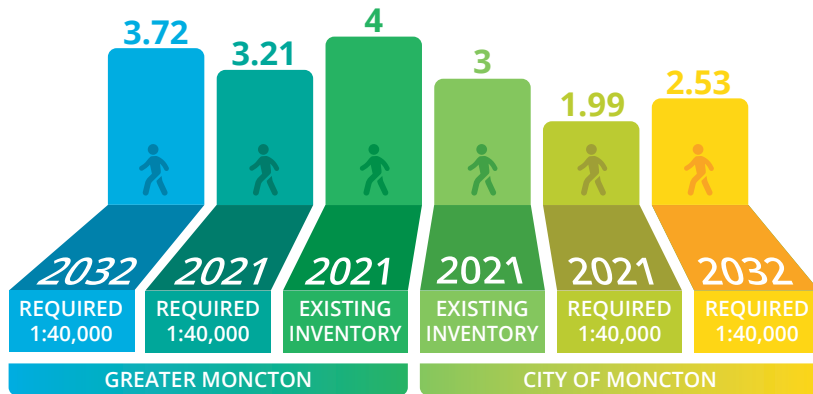
Many clubs in Canada are struggling financially under the pressure of reduced interest in curling, and participants not returning to the sport following the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the club operates at a rink supply level beyond the city and region’s capacity to sustain the facility.

**ACTION.** Curling has a rich place in Canadian culture. Curl Moncton Inc. and the previous member clubs that combined to create Curl Moncton Inc. have a long and storied history within Moncton and the region. Given this importance, the following is proposed:

- » Work with Curl Moncton Inc. to explore options to reduce the number of ice surfaces with adaptive reuse options that create a revenue stream for the club.



# INDOOR WALKING TRACK



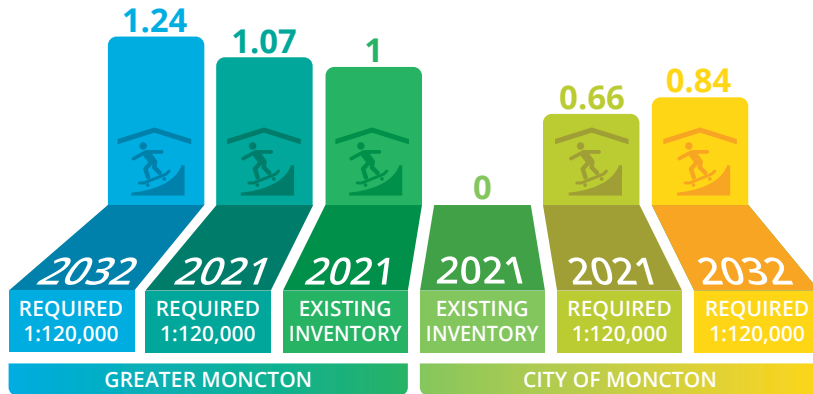
**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton hosts three well-positioned indoor walking facilities within three multi-use centres. Relative to delivery benchmarks, Moncton is well-served.

**FACILITY DEMAND.** Any future multi-use centres should include a walking/running surface.

**ACTION.** No action is required; however, any future multi-use facilities should also include indoor walking/running surfaces.



# INDOOR SKATE PARK



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The Town of Riverview hosts the only regional indoor skatepark and fulfills the regional requirement from this facility.

**ACTION.** No action is required.



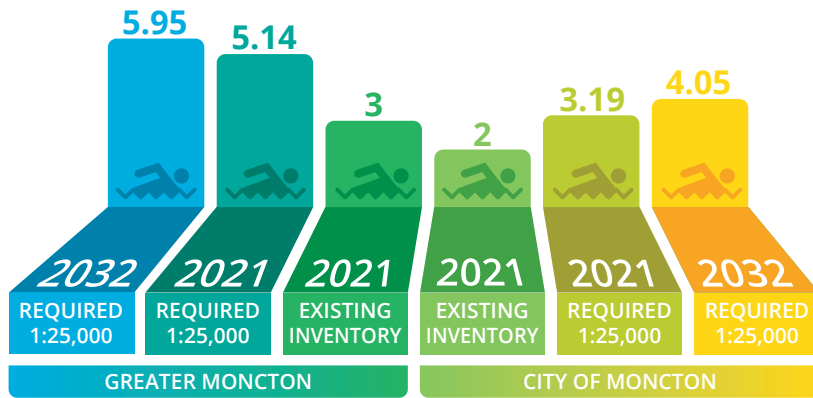




## 3.2 GMA RECREATION FACILITIES - OUTDOOR

These outdoor facilities serve both city and tri-community populations and are distributed across the city relative to natural or built environments, or within specific recreation districts where local populations are capable of sustaining a tri-community facility.

# OUTDOOR POOLS



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton is served by two outdoor pools; the Centennial Park Pool and the Moncton East End Pool. Both pools blend lane swimming and family play amenities.

**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** Because of its size and its location within a regional park, the Centennial Park Pool functions exclusively as a regional pool. The East End Pool primarily functions as a community pool for residents within Moncton’s Recreation District Number 3. Moncton’s west districts lack local access to a community pool.

**FACILITY DEMAND.** Statistically speaking, the City of Moncton presently requires 3.19 outdoor pools and is projected to require 4.05 pools by 2032; the region presently requires 5.14 outdoor pools and will require 5.95 pools by 2032. The City of Moncton is at a present-day deficit of 1.19 facilities.

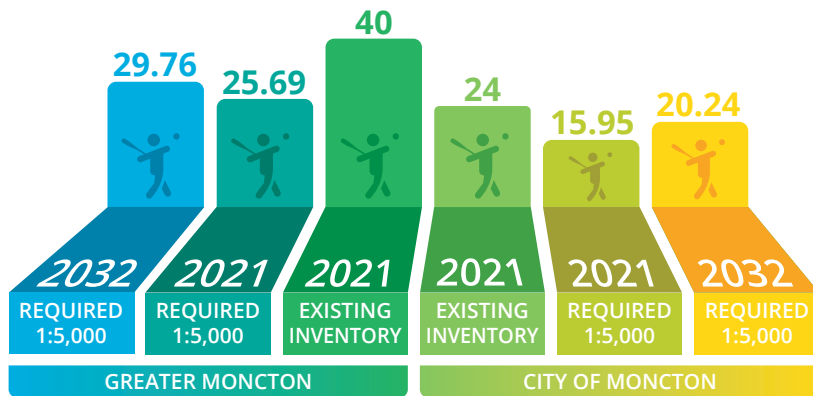


**ACTION.** The combination of a city facility deficit and a lack of access to an outdoor pool within the western part of the city suggests the following actions:

- » The city should work with a recreation district one community centre to explore the creation of a community-sized outdoor pool that can be operated by the community centre; and,
- » The City of Moncton should conduct a feasibility study relative to a community centre partnership to determine capital and operational costs, and to determine the appropriate management structure and cost-sharing agreements required to ensure facility sustainability.

It is important to note that a pool in the western part of the city will be located based on community use; however, it will also function as a regional facility. Thus, the city should explore a partnership that places the pool within close proximity of regional transportation networks.

# BALL FIELDS



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The tri-community presently hosts 40 fields; however, projections predict a lesser need. Additionally, the projected benchmark is only 1:5,000, while precedent research identified relative need at approximately 1:8000. This adjustment is made for two reasons.

First, the City of Moncton has an active ball community and a strong youth and women’s softball community. Second, the facilities to meet today’s and future demands exist in good form.

**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** The ball facilities are in good condition. Requests from groups using the fields relate to including amenities to support robust program offerings and upgrades related to safety.

**FACILITY DEMAND.** The City of Moncton presently requires 15.95 fields and is projected to require 20.24 fields by 2032. The region presently requires 25.69 fields and will require 29.76 fields by 2032. The region’s 40 fields and the City of Moncton’s 24 fields provide a sufficient supply until 2051 (projected).

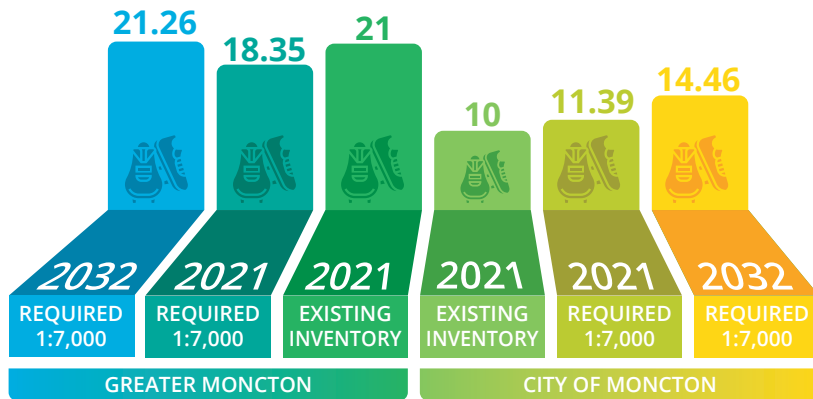


**ACTION.** With sufficient field resources secured for the next 30 years, the City of Moncton should consider the following:

- » Work with ball user groups to determine the type of amenities that will grow the sport, and to provide locations for user groups to locate pitching machines, batting cages and off-season rental field house space;
- » Develop a long-term field revitalization strategy that ensures turf and infield surfaces are safe and high-quality play surfaces; and,
- » Work with softball user groups to evaluate the need for a softball stadium similar to the Hal Betts facility.

As with all facility user groups, the City of Moncton can provide space for additional field amenities or equipment; however, user groups are responsible for purchasing and maintaining their equipment.

# RECTANGLE FIELDS - NATURAL TURF



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton’s 10 natural fields combined with 11 fields from Dieppe and Riverview exceed the projected 18.35 regional field requirement.

**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** At first glance, the numbers suggest that the City of Moncton is under-supplied with turf fields; however, the shortfall is covered by an over-supply of artificial turf fields and a lack of diversity in field types. Rugby and cricket (1:45,000 and 1:70,000, respectively) presently lack dedicated facilities and can share the same facilities if developed together. Two new fields dedicated to these uses, in combination with the artificial turf over-supply, resolve the city shortfall.

**FACILITY DEMAND.** Statistically speaking, the City of Moncton presently hosts 10 rectangle natural turf fields and currently requires 11.39 fields. Statistically speaking, the city is projected to require 14.46 fields by 2032. The addition of a single facility for rugby and cricket resolves this shortage while providing a venue for emerging sports that attract culturally diverse participants. Additionally, including ultimate frisbee with this facility ensures sufficient use to ensure full peak period bookings and provides another activity to support any adjoining use club facilities financially.

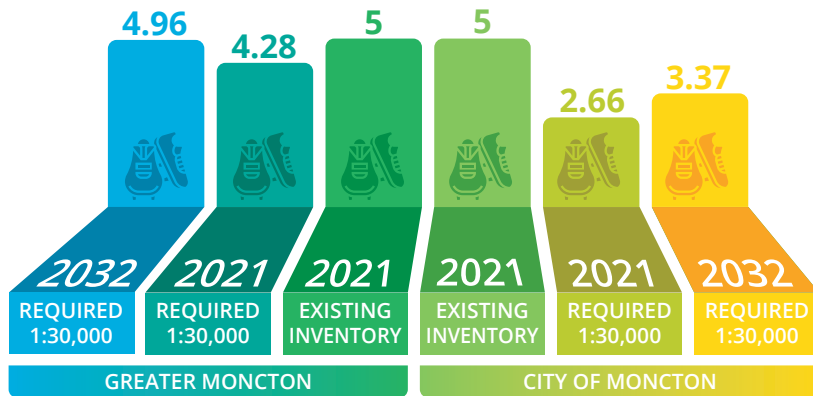


The addition of additional natural turf fields for the above-mentioned sports will also make time available at sites such as the CN Sportplexe for activities such as lacrosse.

**ACTION.** New sport-specific fields created primarily for adult users provide an opportunity for revenue creation beyond facility rental. In this case, rugby, cricket and ultimate frisbee can come together with the City of Moncton to explore a field and associated washrooms and change/storage/food and refreshment building that expands the field from a regional to an Atlantic Canadian destination. The following are proposed:

- » The city should work with rugby, cricket and ultimate frisbee organizations to commission a feasibility study that identifies all capital and operational costs, and revenue opportunities for a two-field complex complete with a clubhouse. The study's analysis should also propose cost and operational-sharing agreements between the city and the clubs.
- » Consider adding a playground at the CN Sportplexe to provide an alternative activity for children when other members of their groups are participating in organized activities at this location.

# RECTANGLE FIELDS - ARTIFICIAL TURF



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton’s five facilities statistically fulfills the regional and city requirement for artificial turf fields.

**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** Moncton’s artificial fields are built upon partnerships with provincial and university academic complexes. Although field numbers exceed statistical requirements, the fields are well-used during the fall and spring school-use seasons. The summer season sees less use, while groups such as soccer support increased use at Moncton’s CN Sportplex’s field collection.

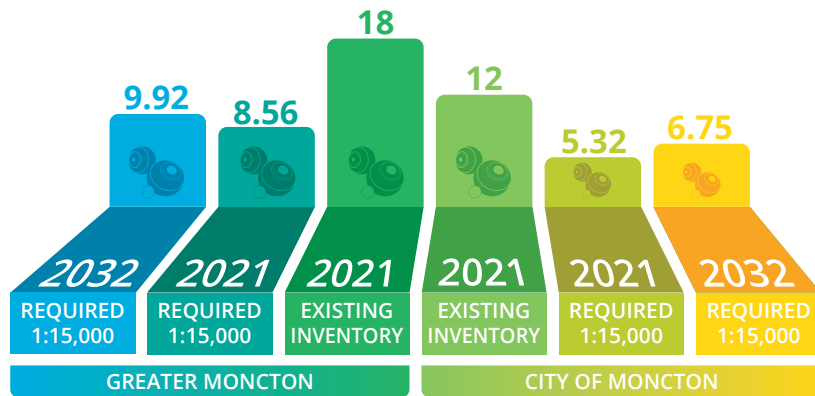
**FACILITY DEMAND.** Statistically speaking, no additional artificial fields are required within the City of Moncton.

**ACTION.** No action is proposed.





# LAWN BOWLING



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton’s Centennial Park hosts a majority of the region’s 18 greens, while Riverview’s Manchester Bowling Club hosts six greens.

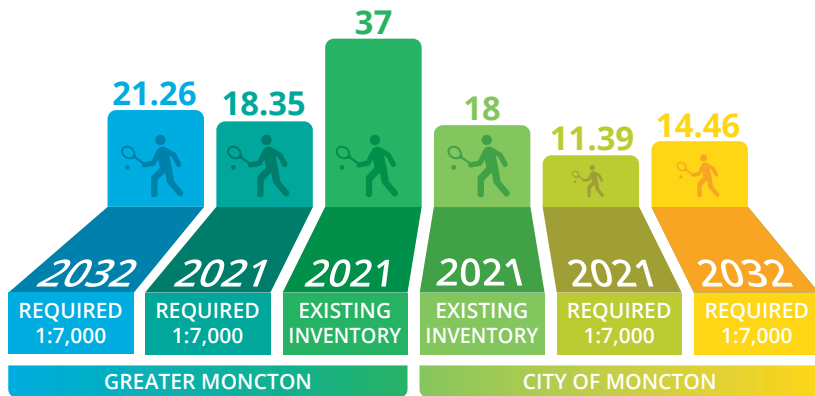
**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** Both facilities are in good condition; however, no indoor facilities are available. Additionally, lawn bowling is facing declining participant numbers, creating difficulty in delivering facilities beyond statistical capability.

**FACILITY DEMAND.** Statistically, the region requires 8.56 greens. The City of Moncton requires 5.32 greens. The numbers suggest a regional oversupply of 9.44 greens and a city oversupply of 6.68 greens. The regional and city 2032 projections suggest an oversupply of 8.08 and 5.25 greens, respectively. Even if activity numbers expand relative to population growth, the region and city are over-supplied and will probably face operational cost issues in the future.

**ACTION.** Lawn bowling is a great social and physical activity that brings residents together from across the region for fun, friendship and fitness. The city should support lawn bowling organizers in finding a sustainable go-forward model. Therefore, the following is proposed:

- » The City of Moncton and the Town of Riverview should collectively work with their lawn bowling executives to explore a sustainable go-forward model that may include bringing the model together within one facility; and,
- » The City of Moncton should explore the cost-benefit of rented time and portable lawn bowling flooring and equipment for a field house analysis.

# TENNIS COURTS



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** Moncton’s Centennial Park hosts the city’s primary tennis complex, with various courts spread around the city. Courts outside Centennial Park often provide a venue for ball hockey and other hard surface games.

**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** Tennis clubs across Canada are embracing pickleball as an approach to grow membership and sustain funds required to operate facilities as expenses rise. Given that tennis courts exist in sufficient supply for both Moncton and the region, this master plan explores club sustainability.

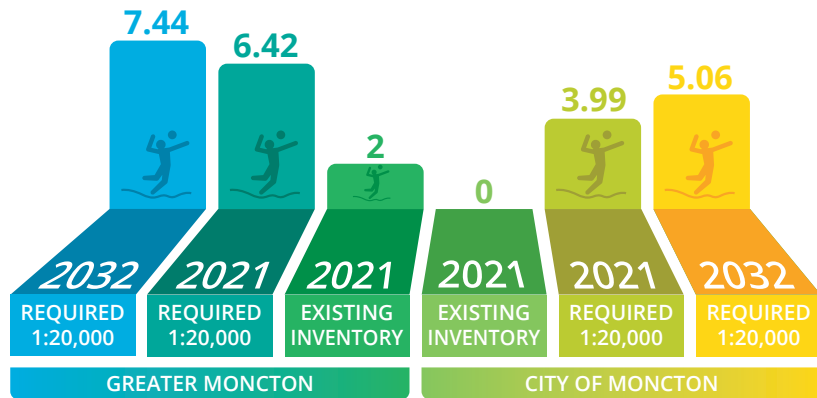
**FACILITY DEMAND.** At first glance, as mentioned, Moncton and regional inventory appear excessive relative to population; however, courts not located within an organized club facility are often used for other activities.

Pickleball utilizes tennis courts when properly lined and provided with nets. Up to two pickleball courts are possible on a single tennis court; however, adding another use to existing courts when not consistently administered can cause use conflict. Thus, pickleball requires an organized club setting.

**ACTION.** Pickleball popularity is relatively new, and good precedent numbers do not exist yet. The City of Moncton previously dedicated courts to Pickleball use; however, a formal and large facility should be considered for the Centennial Park complex and club while providing an opportunity for the Tennis Moncton Club to capture revenue by playing a leadership role in one of Canada’s largest growing recreational activities. Thus, the following is proposed:

- » The City of Moncton should work with Tennis Moncton to add several pickleball courts at the Centennial Park location; and,
- » Tennis Moncton should work with the Moncton Pickleball Club to expand the existing tennis club to a racket and paddle organization that can benefit from the expanded membership. For this to be successful, the regional pickleball players must be prepared to pay for facility use in the same manner as all other user groups.

# BEACH VOLLEYBALL



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton presently hosts no beach volleyball courts.

**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** Beach volleyball, when well located, provides park spaces with a highly animated activity that can support adjacent refreshment sales and comfort amenities such as washrooms and shade.

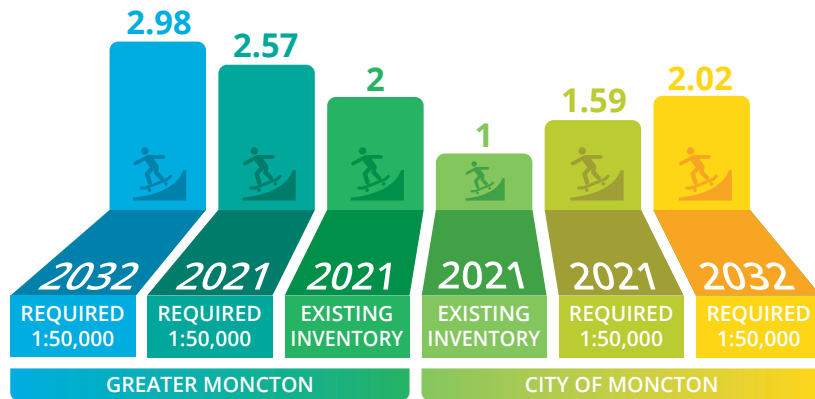
**FACILITY DEMAND.** Statistically, the region currently requires 6.42 courts and will require 7.44 courts by 2032. The City of Moncton requires 3.99 courts and will require 5.06 courts by 2032. The city should start beach volleyball within Moncton from a highly visible and relevant position and monitor court use to determine if a second facility is required in the future.



**ACTION.** Moncton’s riverfront provides a highly visible and relevant location to launch beach volleyball within Moncton. Locating any activity in an important public space requires careful planning; therefore, the following is proposed:

- » The City of Moncton should commission a detailed waterfront master plan that blends beach volleyball and other uses indicated in this plan with appropriate comfort, social, performance space, retail and active amenities along the riverfront; and,
- » The City of Moncton should explore the creation of a beach volleyball club that can administer and operate any new courts within Moncton.

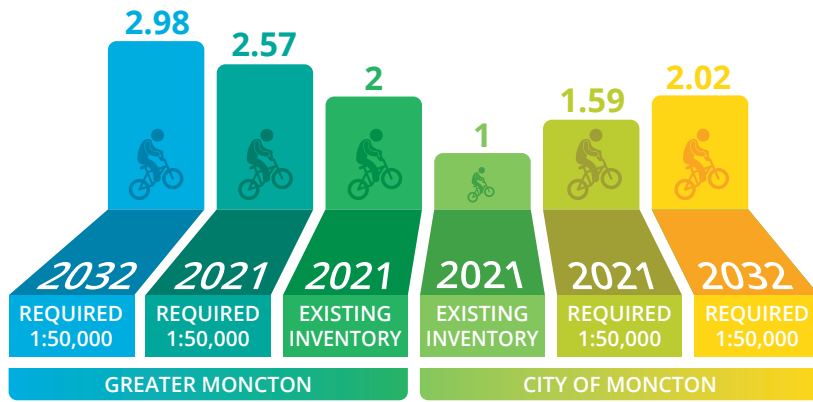
# OUTDOOR ADVENTURE SPORTS



**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** The City of Moncton is guided by a previous study that identified and addressed the need for skate and all-wheel parks. This master plan focuses on the expansion of this activity into pump tracks, as well as mountain and fat biking.

**FACILITY DEMAND.** Statistically, the region requires 2.57 facilities and will require 2.98 by 2032. The City of Moncton requires 1.59 facilities and will require 2.02 by 2032. It is important to note that location and size are more important than statistical relevance when evaluating adventure sports. For example, a centrally located park that hosts approximately 25 kilometres of trails will serve the city and regional populations on a day-to-day basis. Weekend adventures will continue to travel to provincial-level facilities in Hillsborough, Alma, Kouchibouguac, and Sussex.

**ACTION.** Recreation’s national evolution from team to individual-based activity fuels the need and use of outdoor adventure parks across Canada. Within Canada’s towns and cities, these facilities provide daily all-season activity for walking, hiking, biking (i.e. fat bike, pump track cycling, short and long course mountain bike, etc.), snowshoeing, winter hill sliding, cross country skiing and single-track activities. Urban area facilities are not created as provincial tourism destinations; instead, urban adventure parks are created as ‘franchise outlets’ to the provincial facilities. These facilities promote outdoor activity while strengthening local adventure-based retail activities.

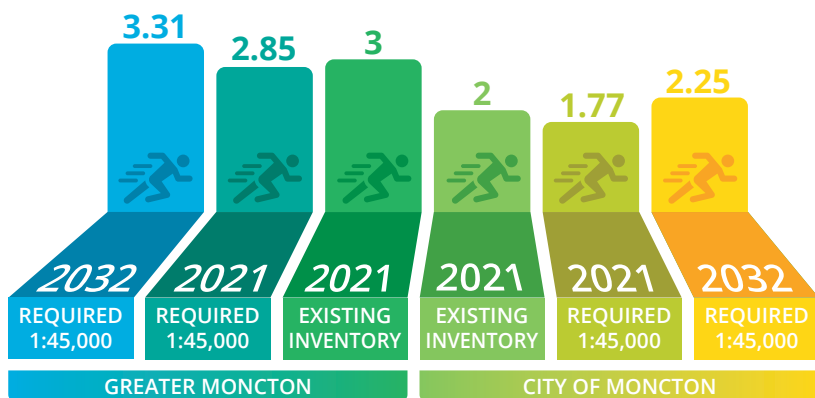


Creating a relevant Moncton facility requires thought about the redistribution of activities within Moncton’s regional park system. For example, a new outdoor adventure park in Moncton can make additional walking space available in Centennial Park by relocating cross-country skate skiing to the new facility (where skate skiers and fat bikers share trails). Therefore, the following is proposed:

- » The City of Moncton should commission a detailed feasibility study for the creation of a multi-use outdoor adventure park that appropriately distributes all adventure-based activity within Moncton’s parks system relative to the creation of a new and significant facility within the heart of the city; and,
- » The City of Moncton should explore the creation of an outdoor adventure club or association that works with the city to manage and operate a new outdoor adventure park.



# OUTDOOR TRACK



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton presently hosts two outdoor track facilities at UdeM and Crandall universities. Dieppe provides an additional facility at École Antonine Maillet.

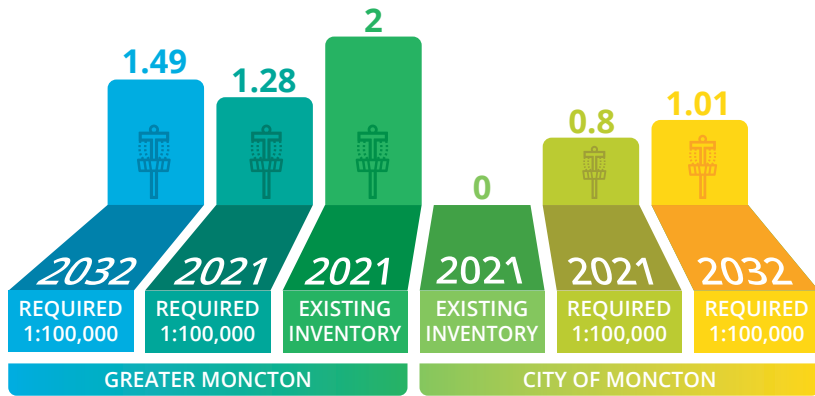
**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** The UdeM and École Antonine Maillet facilities are high-quality tracks that can host training and stage events; however, the Crandall University facility is a granular track that can host training where a high-quality surface is not required.

**FACILITY DEMAND.** Statistically, the numbers suggest that the city and region are well served by the existing facilities, and will be for the life of this master plan. However, Moncton residents do not have full access to the UdeM facility, and the Crandall facility requires renovation to function as a city-track facility.

**ACTION.** The following actions are proposed:

- » The City of Moncton should explore operational options that create access opportunities for Moncton’s residents at the UdeM track on a daily basis; and,
- » The City of Moncton should explore partnership opportunities with Crandall University for future track renovations (within the 10-year master plan window).

# DISC GOLF



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton presently does not have a disc golf facility, but both neighbouring communities of Riverview and Dieppe offer disc golf.

**FACILITY DEMAND.** The City of Moncton is nearing demand for a full facility in the next decade; however, planning is not in place.

**ACTION.** The City of Moncton should work with disc golf representatives to explore the type of facility and location required for Moncton. This should include discussion with adjacent communities to ensure that a new facility is unique and supports increased visitation to the Moncton area for those wanting to play at all regional courses.

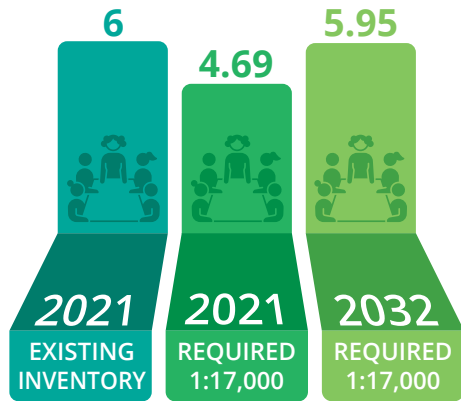




### 3.3 COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITIES - INDOOR

These indoor facilities serve community populations within each of the designated City of Moncton recreation zones. Although city and regional populations access these facilities, they are located and created to serve the day-to-day use of the residents located within their districts.

# ADAPTABLE RECREATION CENTRES



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The Crossman Community Centre, Moncton Lions Community Centre, Moncton Boys’ and Girls’ Club, UdeM CEPS, YMCA Moncton North, and YMCA Vaughan Harvey are facilities that provide residents with multi-use gymnasiums, activity and meeting rooms, and various gathering spaces from within their respective districts. They also provide activity-specific venues for the city and, as such, are great models for how to develop a recreation centre. The City of Moncton is to be congratulated on creating these great facilities.

**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** The centres are very well-used and serve diverse populations. The community-based model of locating and delivering recreation centres should continue as demand is met from within each district. It is important to note that not all five districts will meet the statistical population benchmarks within this master plan’s lifespan; therefore, access to higher population-based centres should be considered when travelling by transit, active transportation or vehicle routes throughout the city.

**FACILITY DEMAND.** Statistically speaking, district one presently requires 1.64 centres and will require 2.08 centres by 2023. The district is presently served by three centres. The existing Boy’s and Girl’s Club facility is aging and requires upgrades to meet the existing and emerging needs.

District two presently requires 1.03 centres and will require 1.31 centres by 2023. The district is presently served by one centre.

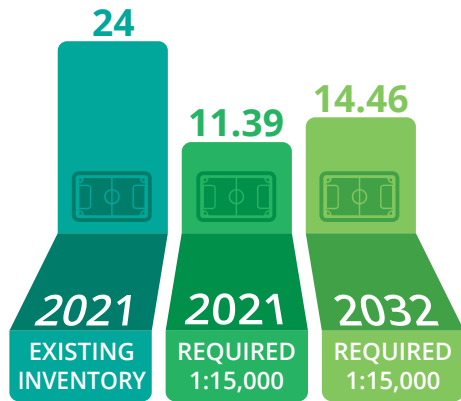
District three presently requires 1.31 centres and will require 1.67 centres by 2023. The district presently hosts two centres.

Recreation communities four and five will not achieve the population benchmarks within the 10-year master planning timeframe; however, residents within these areas will continue to access adjacent centres.

**ACTION.** The following actions are recommended:

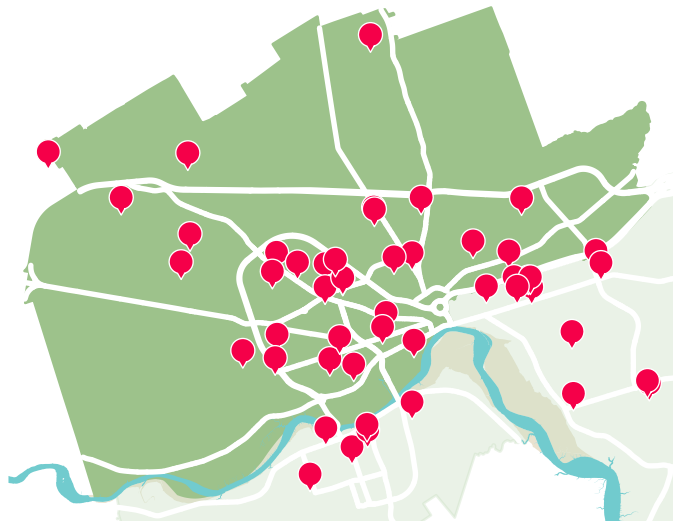
- » The City of Moncton should begin to evaluate the need for a district two multi-use recreation centre in the heart of Moncton’s downtown. This facility should be considered with future library and market planning, and be designed to specifically address the need of urban core gathering, social and recreation populations; and,
- » The city should extend a downtown recreation centre’s interior life into the public realm with the creation of a regional-level public plaza that includes gathering and performance space, integrated splash pad/public art, shade, edge retail activity and other events/activities that are identified throughout a detailed planning initiative; and,
- » The City of Moncton should work with the Boy’s and Girl’s club to understand long-term social and activity needs and to explore an upgrade that ensures the facility is capable of meeting these needs (including a walking track).

# MULTI-USE SCHOOL GYMNASIUMS



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** These school-based facilities provide venues for organized sports such as youth basketball and only deliver needs relative to the benchmark where sufficient recreation centre facilities are delivered. Thus, recreation centres provide a venue for the various day-to-day activities of district residents within multi-use gymnasium settings, while schools provide sufficient day-to-day organized sports venues for youth activities.

**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** Moncton’s schools provide high-quality gymnasiums, washrooms and parking facilities for city residents from within the heart of the recreation districts. These gymnasiums, provided through reciprocal agreements with the Province of New Brunswick, are an important component of the city’s facility delivery program and must be continued.

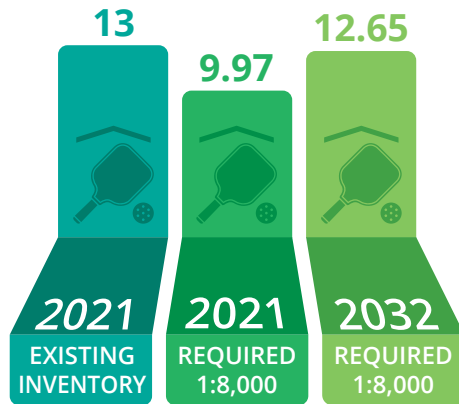


**FACILITY DEMAND.** Although the benchmark figures suggest that Moncton is oversupplied with school gymnasiums, this is not the case. School gyms are delivered within the heart of neighbourhoods and can be easily accessed from residents' homes.

**ACTION.** The City of Moncton should:

- » Continue to work with the Province to deliver multi-use school gymnasiums at present levels relative to population (1:3,000).
- » Explore expanding the use to informal community play spaces that can be accessed on-demand.

# PICKLEBALL COURTS - INTERIOR



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton delivers high-quality interior pickleball courts at the YMCA, Curl Moncton, and Crossman Community Centre. These facilities are located in active multi-use centres and provide an ideal model for activity delivery.

**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** Pickleball is a rapidly growing activity that has not reached a measurable benchmark ceiling. Precedent evaluations suggest that courts should be delivered at the community level to broaden activity at facilities close to residents, and be delivered at a 1:8,000 benchmark. Thus, more facilities are required as Moncton grows over the next ten years.

**FACILITY DEMAND.** Statistically speaking, district one presently requires 3.49 courts and will require 4.43 by 2023. The district is presently served by nine courts at the Moncton YMCA and Curl Moncton.

District two presently requires 2.19 courts and will require 2.78 by 2023. The district is presently served by 0 courts.

District three presently requires 2.79 courts and will require 3.54 by 2023. The district presently hosts four courts at the Kay-Crossman Centre.

District four presently requires 1.0 courts and will require 1.27 by 2023. The district presently hosts 0 courts.



District five will not achieve the population benchmark within the 10-year master planning timeframe.

**ACTION.** The following actions are recommended:

- » The City of Moncton should include indoor pickleball courts as a component of a future downtown multi-use centre (that serves recreation districts two and five residents); and,
- » The City of Moncton should include pickleball courts in any district one Boy's and Girl's Club renovation; and,
- » The City of Moncton should work with pickleball organizers to inform district four residents that pickleball facilities are presently available at the Kay-Crossman Centre.

It is important to note that any gathering activities should, if possible, include social and retail spaces that provide all residents with combined active and social spaces.

# GYMNASTICS



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** Beauséjour Gymnos is a not-for-profit organization offering high-quality gymnastics programs to athletes of all ages and abilities. The board re-invests all profits into purchasing new equipment, improvements or repairs to the facility, or additional training and tools for coaches and staff.

Operating out of a city-owned facility, The group presently provides advanced recreational and competitive programming for 600 youth; however, the club could easily deliver services to over 1000 youth with expanded facilities and additional coaches.

**ACTION.** Continuing demand and the potential for expansion suggest the following proposed action:

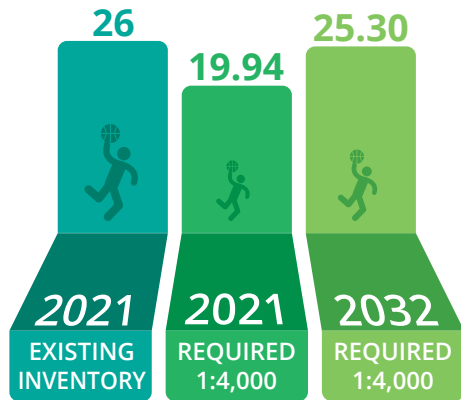
- » The City of Moncton can assist the Gymnos by working with the club to expand facilities at their present location or to identify an existing and under-utilized building that can be adapted to meet club needs. Before doing this, city staff can confirm the club’s ability to expand their coaching numbers to deliver services in an expanded facility.



## 3.4 COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITIES - OUTDOOR

These outdoor facilities serve community populations within each of the designated City of Moncton recreation zones.

# MULTI-USE COURTS

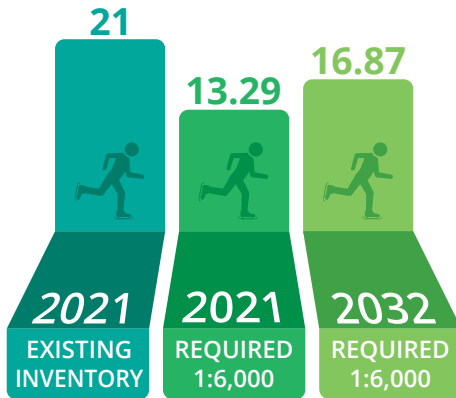


**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton hosts a variety of multi-use courts within its present parks system at levels that slightly exceed present and 2023 benchmark levels.

**ACTION.** No immediate action is required; however, the city may consider ensuring that any new courts placed within parks or adjacent to existing or future recreation centres include court surfaces that provide a venue for, at a minimum, basketball, ball hockey, pickleball and other games relevant to the hosting community.



# OUTDOOR ICE SURFACES

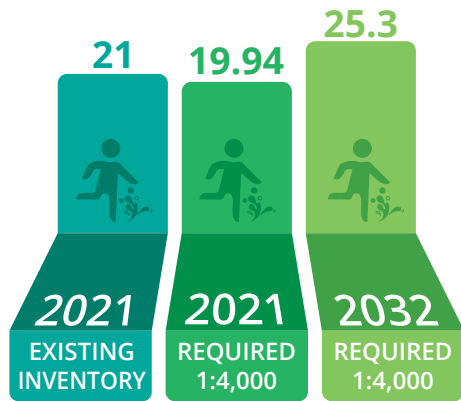


**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton presently hosts 21 outdoor rinks, including regional-level facilities at the Avenir Centre, Centennial Park, Mapleton Park and Victoria Park. All recreation districts are sufficiently supplied; however, the city can respond to community needs where local residents collectively request a community rink.

**ACTION.** No action is required.



# SPLASHPADS



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton presently hosts 21 outdoor splashpads, including regional-level facilities at Centennial Park. All remaining 20 splashpads are delivered at the community level from various parks across the city.

**FACILITY DISCUSSION.** Splashpads are becoming increasingly important to community residents as climate change continues to influence summer temperatures. Any future splashpads should be located at the community level to support access to waterplay equity across the parks network.

**FACILITY DEMAND.** Statistically speaking, district one presently requires 6.98 splashpads and will require 8.86 by 2023. The district is presently served by nine splashpads.

District two presently requires 4.39 splashpads and will require 5.57 by 2023. The district is presently served by three splashpads.

District three presently requires 5.58 splashpads will require 7.08 by 2023. The district is presently served by six splashpads.

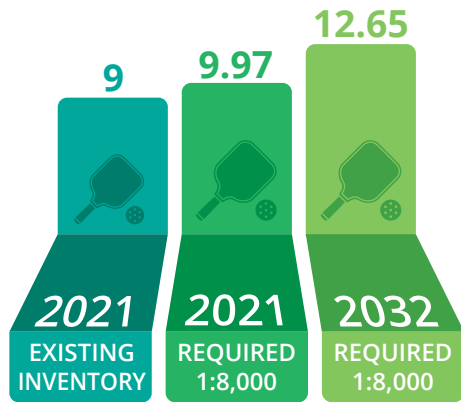
District four presently requires 1.99 splashpads and will require 2.53 by 2023. The district is presently served by one splashpad.

District five presently requires 1.0 splashpads and will require 1.27 by 2023. The district is presently served by two splashpads.

**ACTION.** The City of Moncton has done an amazing job at delivering splashpads to its residents; at both the community and regional levels. Minimal action is required and includes the following:

- » As district one expands to the northwest city boundary, the city should identify a community-level park for a splashpad project; and,
- » The city should monitor district three growth and identify a future splashpad space as this area grows.

# PICKLEBALL COURTS



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton presently hosts nine outdoor venues that serve both city and community needs. This just falls within city-wide requirements and meets the current needs of the individual recreation zones, with the exception of district three. This shortfall is offset by sufficient supply at adjacent zones with downtown population growth covered by a future facility within close proximity to the downtown.

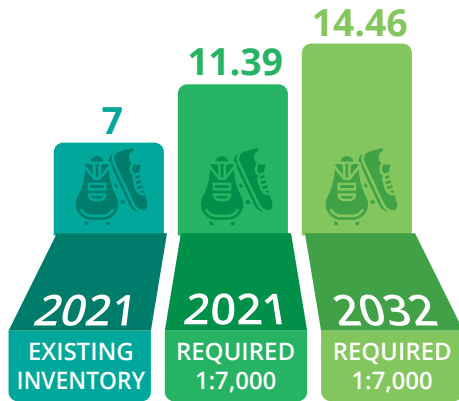
**ACTION.** Pickleball popularity is relatively new, and good precedent numbers do not exist yet. The City of Moncton previously dedicated courts to Pickleball use; however, a formal and large facility should be considered for Centennial Park. Thus, the following is proposed:

- » The City of Moncton should work with Tennis Moncton to add several pickleball courts at the Centennial Park location; and,
- » Moncton Pickleball Club should work with Tennis Moncton to expand the existing tennis club to a racket and paddle organization that can benefit from the expanded membership. For this to be successful, the regional pickleball players must be prepared to pay for facility use in the same manner as all other user groups.





# MULTI-USE RECTANGULAR FIELDS

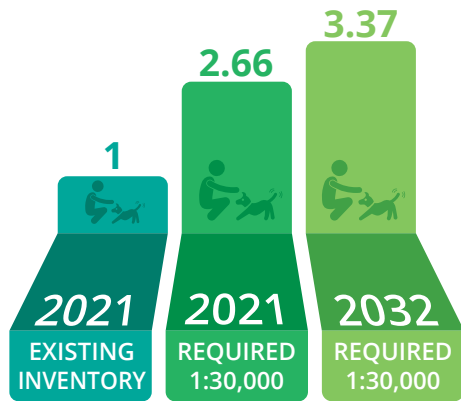


**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton presently has seven fields that, under a reciprocal agreement with the Anglophone East School District, provide a venue for sports programs within Moncton. These and other school fields are accessed by community residents for informal play when available.

**FACILITY DEMAND.** Statistically speaking, the City of Moncton is under-supplied with community-level turf fields; however, access to these play surfaces is available when desired (for the most part). Therefore, no recommendation is required. The city can monitor field requirements with its user groups and expand the available programmable field base if required.

**ACTION.** No action is required.

# DOG-FRIENDLY FACILITIES



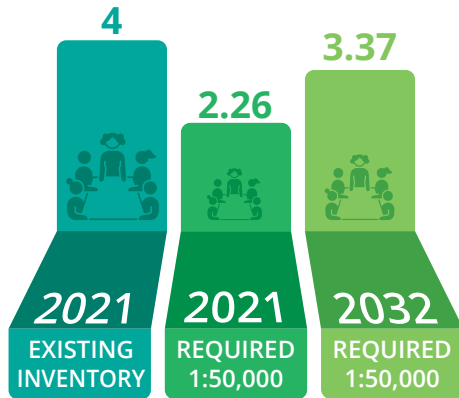
**FACILITY DEMAND.** The City of Moncton is presently undersupplied for dog-specific facilities; however, it has sufficient park supply to meet demand. Contemporary dog facilities avoid the conventional fenced-in park space and are moving to areas of existing nature and/or trail-based parks where dedicated space, for dedicated time periods, is assigned to off-leash use. This format allows both the dog and owner to simultaneously exercise and socialize within the existing parks network.

**ACTION.** The City of Moncton should undertake the following:

- » Identify areas of Centennial and Mapleton Parks that can be periodically assigned to off-leash use; and,
- » Develop, promote, deliver and monitor a pilot project and community engagement for these parks for a designated period, where dogs can go off-leash within the designated space and along the designated trails.



# IN-PARK COMMUNITY-USE BUILDINGS



**EXISTING INVENTORY.** The City of Moncton presently has five community-use buildings that provide a venue for existing user groups and those wishing to access facilities. The Riverfront Park Boardwalk Building is presently unavailable; therefore, four facilities are available. Additionally, larger spaces are desired for Irishtown Nature Park.

**ACTION.** The City of Moncton should undertake the following:

- » Explore the addition of a community-use shelter in Irishtown Nature Park that nature and recreation groups can access for programmed meetings or activities.



## 3.5 INCLUSIVE RECREATION

The following addresses new or emerging activities that will require attention over the life of the recreation master plan. These include the following.

### BARRIERS TO ACTIVITIES

Barriers to recreation are complex issues that arise in different ways for different people. Across Canada, the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way barriers to recreation are perceived while also unearthing and drawing attention to barriers that have long impacted communities. Access to recreation has never been equitable, but the pandemic began to shine a light on where these disparities lie—financial, social, and physical barriers all impact Canadians’ access to recreation. In order to overcome these barriers, recreation facilities and programming must be developed with physical, financial, and social accessibility in mind.

In Moncton, the highest reported barrier to recreation during consultation was location accessibility. Whether the travel distance was too far, or the facility itself was inaccessible for people with mobility issues, people with disabilities, or people with specific religious and cultural needs, the physical accessibility of recreation facilities is the biggest reported barrier faced by the people of Moncton. Of this barrier, specifically highlighted examples are the lack of parking and the conditions from parking spots to recreation facilities, narrow hallways and change rooms for electric wheelchair

users, and the absence of ramps and lifts at pools and aquatic centres.

Other key barriers reported during consultation included scheduling difficulties, expensive registration and membership fees and equipment, and lack of programming information. High demand for recreational facilities can cause program schedules to be erratic and inconsistent, which, as people’s lives are increasingly busy, can make accessing recreation difficult. Additionally, as the makeup of the workforce and families continues to change and evolve, traditional scheduling and “prime” time slots may not accommodate the majority of people they used to. Expensive registration fees, memberships, and equipment can dissuade and exclude interested people from partaking in recreation, as well as discourage them from trying new forms of recreation with fear of spending earnings on an activity they will not enjoy, is not suited for them, or is unsustainable for them. And while many may harbour an interest in trying a new recreational activity, the inaccessibility of program information can make achieving this difficult. By publishing information on recreation programs and associations, who they are for, where they happen, and when they happen, not only can more people begin to be involved, but any perceived exclusivity of the programs can be dismantled, and the programs themselves can grow.

The engagement process also brought forward social barriers that hinder participation in organized recreation, such as feeling intimidated, not knowing anyone participating in an activity, and not feeling confident enough in their skill set. These feelings are important to keep in mind when developing and promoting recreational programming and facilities, as the source of these feelings stems from a variety of places.

Another present barrier for people in Moncton is the lack of a team, association or group in the community. In some cases, the activity may be present but not offer a team for the desired age group. In other cases, the facility may be missing, but the experience and desire to try the activity may be present. Specific gaps in facilities and programs in Moncton that have been identified are beach volleyball courts, a board game cafe, dog parks, indoor tennis courts, a rollerblade rink, and a sledding park.

## PHYSICALLY ACCESSIBLE ACTIVITIES

Analysis of any future fieldhouse, community base gymnasiums or arena facilities should include parasport activities such as goalball and blind hockey. Any new or renovated facility must be designed through an accessibility lens.

## EMERGING ACTIVITIES

Emerging activities and the increase in newcomer populations impact the required gathering, activity and meeting spaces in Moncton. This requirement should be considered when exploring the addition of fieldhouse or community gymnasium facilities.

## SENIOR POPULATIONS

Senior populations are seeking recreation products and meeting spaces within accessible, centralized multi-generational facilities. For seniors unable to access facilities, activity centres must reach into their homes and lives to provide transportation or digital social platforms to connect residents and reduce loneliness among potentially isolated populations.

## SOCIAL CENTRES

Any new or renovated community or regional centre spaces must include multi-use and multi-generational social amenity spaces for activities such as board games, watching movies, pop-up retail activities, refreshments, art and design spaces, and other social interactions, as well as equipment and book libraries.

**ACTION.** The City of Moncton should undertake the following:

- » Moncton recreation representatives should develop and implement a recreation-based social inclusion policy that addresses the above-noted sections. This policy should celebrate the ‘no one is left behind’ approach to recreation planning and delivery.
- » Explore the potential to make Moncton’s Lions Centre into an all-season/all-ages recreation centre that serves its adjacent communities.

## 3.6 RECREATION ADMINISTRATION

The following sections address funding numbers relative to city growth and department mandate with associated actions proposed where appropriate.

### RECREATION FUNDING

**THE NUMBERS.** It is important to note that comparing municipal funding levels is not possible due to the varied ways all departments deliver services. The 2021 Canadian national benchmark for funding municipal recreation departments is 9.13%. Although the city of Moncton funds at a rate below this percentage, this percentage does not consider all of the various agreements that support the city’s non-direct approach to recreation service delivery, nor does it consider new mandate requirements that come without further funding.

**FUNDING DISCUSSION.** Recreation is an essential component of community life and city economic development. The quality of activities and facilities rate highly when companies or individuals consider locating to new municipalities. Thus, recreation and economic development are inherently intertwined.

The City of Moncton should evaluate the recreation department mandate and supporting funding to ensure that council and residents receive services relative to need.

Additionally, this analysis should also evaluate the various roles

of the department relative to this master plan’s discussions. For example, minor sports groups would like to work directly with City of Moncton staff when booking facilities. Thus, an analysis should consider the cost of moving this service back into the City of Moncton and the staff and technology required to deliver this service in a contemporary and cost-effective manner. It is important to note that this is a front-line service that supports effective and direct communications between the city and its residents.

**ACTION.** The City of Moncton should undertake the following:

- » Revisit its mandate to ensure the recreation department is funded and functions as recreation first and non-recreation community service second.
- » Explore the feasibility of bringing scheduling and booking back to an in-house service.

**DEVELOPMENT CHARGES FOR RECREATION FACILITIES.** Under the Municipalities Act, the Province of New Brunswick does not permit the collection of development charges for funds that can be applied to recreation facilities.

**ACTION.** Given that the City of Moncton continues to expand and infill at a rapid rate, and that the city must deliver recreational amenities, specifically at the community level, prior to collecting supporting property revenues, the following should be undertaken.

- » In association with New Brunswick’s municipalities and regional service commissions, the city should explore the expansion of development charges to include the collection of revenues for community-level parks and facilities. Regional-level facilities will continue to be funded in cost-sharing agreements between all governance levels and varied regional activity providers. Community-level facilities include small-capacity facilities and parks designed to meet community needs with the level of service identified in this master plan for community facilities. The municipal entities can establish appropriate revenue benchmarks through detailed precedent research and local capacity to support these charges.





## 4.0 IMPLEMENTATION

This master plan utilizes a consultation, statistical and precedent-based approach to predicting needs over the next ten years. Because these are highly fluid influences, the master plan moves from a ten-year model with specific time-guided actions to a statistical growth model based on modifying the existing recreational environment and the growth of that environment relative to population change, growth planning and recreational evolution. Thus, the city can track facility and activity requirements relative to growth, irrespective of time.

The following strategic directions are the foundation of this master plan's implementation plan. It is important to note that the actions are not intended for implementation on a first, second, third, etc. basis. Instead, these are iterative actions that must be aligned with the evolution of the City of Moncton's Strategic Plan, Municipal Plan and Urban Growth Strategy. Therefore, staff will align the actions with annual reviews of the city's adjacent initiatives based on a collective strategy for growing Moncton.



## 4.1 PRESENT-DAY POPULATION STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION A - SETTING THE ADMINISTRATIVE PLATFORM

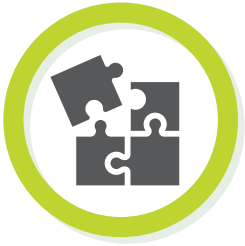
Like all major Canadian cities, the City of Moncton and its residents are evolving from a team/organized sport-dominant recreation and sports culture to a diverse community interested in both formal and informal activities. This contemporary diversification requires new approaches to administering, funding and delivering services and facilities. Before actively moving forward with this evolution, the city should strengthen its recreation delivery platform through the following actions.

**ACTION NO. 1 - ADMINISTRATIVE PLATFORM.** The City of Moncton should commission a detailed analysis of the recreation department's service delivery model relative to this master plan's vision, city evolution, the department's mandate and relative budgeting, and staffing levels. This analysis should understand that the City of Moncton is in a competitive marketplace and must be a leader in residential, recreational, commercial and industrial growth. The recreation department must deliver services relative to mandate to have a leadership role in this growth to ensure Moncton is competitive.

**ACTION NO. 2 - FUNDING AND USE PLATFORM.** Simultaneously with action no.1, the various user group and facility agreements, cost-sharing agreements, subsidies and grants should be carefully assessed to determine if Moncton's recreation spending is equitable, inclusive, and aligned with the department mandate.

Additionally, the analysis should explore user group participant numbers to ensure that groups receive appropriate facility time and are being subsidized relative to their participation numbers.

**ACTION NO. 3 - INCLUSIVE POLICY.** City of Moncton recreation representatives should develop a detailed policy and implementation plan document that addresses recreation-based social inclusion based on the 'no-one is left behind' model. This requires that staff and council confirm that all resident populations are being served in an equitable manner and the needs of all residents are a component of all planning and delivery projects.



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION B - FILLING THE GAPS FOR PRESENT DAY POPULATIONS

Very few actions are required to fill immediate gaps within Moncton's recreation programs and facilities. This master plan primarily focuses on evolution and growth; however, four actions are proposed to complete the platform moving forward. These are:

**ACTION NO. 4 - ENERGIZE THE MONCTON COLISEUM AND AGRENA COMPLEX.** The existing Coliseum and Agrena are powerful regional assets that may support additional activity to support Moncton's evolving and growing sports and recreation community. This, in addition to the active trade and consumer show market, will make the complex one of Atlantic Canada's most attractive multi-use facilities.

Currently, this facility provides hourly ice rentals and hosts volleyball and badminton tournament events around its primary use as a trade and consumer show venue. The City of Moncton should explore creating more opportunities to use the Agrena as a multi-use fieldhouse that utilizes adaptable floor and equipment settings for a variety of indoor and outdoor sports, around the trade and consumer show season. This expands upon the existing adaptable floor and equipment systems used for basketball, volleyball and other court sports to include artificial turf and other sports that can access the facility on a scheduled and daily basis, when available.

Additionally, the Coliseum ice surface is a high-guest capacity seating arena with a large parking area that can be utilized to host additional events on a more frequent basis. The city should explore increasing hourly ice rentals and making the large parking area available for recreation events, such as 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, to make full use of the facility around the trade and consumer show season.

**ACTION NO. 5 - THE DOG CULTURE.** North American cities are seeing increased interest in walking dogs in off-leash settings within park and trail networks instead of fenced spaces. This is no different in Moncton.

The City of Moncton should explore the notion of off-leash dog walking within Centennial and Mapleton Parks at designated times on designated trails. The city can identify these and promote this activity on a test basis. The program can then evolve into a permanent activity with positive results.

**ACTION NO. 6 - TRACK FACILITIES.** The city is home to one of North America's best track facilities; however, residents complain that access is not permitted, and it should be. Activities such as walking, running, throwing a frisbee, informal soccer, etc., are possible within the Moncton Stadium; therefore, the City of Moncton should work with Stadium representatives to enhance public awareness for informal use of the facility for residents located within Moncton's east neighbourhoods.

Additionally, the city should work with Crandall University to upgrade their facility for the same use. Thus, both ends of the city have access to track and field sites for informal uses within the context of this master plan's demand models.

**ACTION NO. 7 - ADDRESSING BARRIERS.** The City of Moncton utilizes an accessibility policy to ensure all new facilities are fully accessible, including activity spaces. All existing facilities require this thinking; therefore, the City of Moncton should ensure full accessibility at all facilities.



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION C - BE THE FACE OF RECREATION

Recreation is an exciting community-building activity that brings diverse participants together for social and physical activities. Three foundational ideas are explored to support this.

**ACTION NO. 8 - COMMUNICATIONS.** Programmers work hard to deliver scheduled activities and events for residents within city facilities. This includes minor sports programs. Facility scheduling is a direct communication link between recreation staff and activity providers; therefore, the City of Moncton should bring scheduling back into the city with the help of contemporary digital scheduling platforms. This interface ensures the city retains a current understanding of program needs and requirements.

**ACTION NO. 9 - INFORMATION.** Moncton has an extensive inventory of activities and assets; however, this is not always communicated across the city. The city should bring together new technologies and programs that simultaneously inform and solicit participation in existing and emerging activities and programs.

## 4.2 EVOLUTION STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

This implementation component describes strategic directions relative to the evolution of Moncton's recreation activities and facilities within the context of this master plan's community consultation. The following is proposed:



### STRATEGIC DIRECTION D - EMERGING AQUATICS

Municipal pools have evolved from traditional 25-meter tubs with diving boards to multi-use aquatic centres with swimming lanes, and associated event hosting space, therapy pools, and family play facilities, and are always associated with assets such as libraries, gymnasiums, fitness centres and other amenities that create a significant regional recreation address. Additionally, these facilities are significant Atlantic Canadian addresses that attract visitors to the region for varied wet and dry events from within a single facility.

The Moncton Vaughan Harvey YMCA closely approximates this type of facility; however, the city lacks a recreation centre that is fully inclusive, accessible and available for activity training and event hosting, similar to facilities in Halifax and other cities with strong academic institutions with which to partner.

**ACTION NO. 10 - REGIONAL-LEVEL RECREATION CENTRE.** The City of Moncton should work with its academic and recreation communities to explore the feasibility of creating a significant regional-level multi-use recreation centre with contemporary aquatic facilities that support significant event hosting while meeting community needs. This feasibility analysis should include discussions with the Town of Riverview about their replacement for their indoor pool to ensure the facilities are complimentary regional facilities.



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION E - EMERGING FIELD SPORTS

Moncton's rugby, cricket and ultimate frisbee communities lack a facility within the city and are interested in partnering to create a complex that provides simultaneous activity and revenue-earning space within the heart of the city.

**ACTION NO. 11 - FIELD COMPLEX.** The City of Moncton should work with the rugby, cricket and ultimate frisbee communities to develop a joint turf complex for daily and event-hosting purposes. This complex should include washroom facilities, change rooms, storage for complex participants and visitors, and opportunities for the client user groups to earn revenues from refreshment/food services. A potential site to consider is the CN Sportplex.



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION F - EMERGING OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

The nature-based outdoor adventure sports described in this master plan are Canada's fastest\_growing segment of recreation. Facilities that bring together cycling, walking, trail running, hiking, snowshoeing, fat biking, pump track riding, and cross-country skiing are changing the cultural nature and economy of cities and towns that host supporting facilities.

**ACTION NO. 12 - OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PARK.** The City of Moncton should commission a feasibility study that explores the size, location, activity inventory and administrative model for a significant outdoor adventure park. This analysis should also include a detailed cost-benefit analysis that predicts all associated economic, health and cultural benefits associated with the proposed facility.



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION G - RIGHT-SIZING ACTIVITY

Activities evolve and require right-sizing strategies that ensure facilities are sized relative to need. This is common in a growing city and is expected as residents move from formal to informal activities or explore alternative activities. Groups that are delivering over-sized facilities relative to need will struggle with maintaining facilities and paying operational and other costs. For Moncton, as identified earlier in this master plan, this includes groups such as curling, squash and lawn bowling. Inversely, groups such as pickleball are seeking new indoor and outdoor spaces and can utilize under-utilized activity spaces.

**ACTION NO. 13 - REGIONAL RIGHT SIZING.** The City of Moncton should work with Riverview and Dieppe and regional program providers such as lawn bowling, squash and curling to discuss regional needs and develop right-sizing strategies for these regional activities. Additionally, the city should work with emerging activities such as pickleball to determine if these groups have sufficient financial resources to explore development partnerships with existing user groups at under-utilized facilities.





## 4.3 GROWTH STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

The following sections address expanded or new recreation needs as the city grows and are an important component of Moncton's cultural and economic growth. The following is proposed:

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION H - THE HEART OF THE CITY

Downtown Moncton is an Atlantic Canadian, New Brunswick and regional hub and is the heart of a progressive community of highly active residents. Additionally, the downtown is experiencing significant high-density residential growth that will lead to retail and commercial densification and the need for new recreational and cultural space that supports living in and visiting the urban core.

**ACTION NO. 14 - URBAN CORE RECREATION.** Planning recreation and lifestyle infrastructure in the downtown requires careful programming and design thinking. Thus, the City of Moncton should commission a detailed study that clarifies, appropriately locates, conceptualizes and explores the feasibility of a recreation centre that integrates the library, market, recreation centre with retail and social space, adaptive field house, walking track, fitness centre and a significant public gathering plaza with active play spaces (i.e. urban ground sprays, performance and presentation space, integrated public art and family play, such as a splashpad and playground).

**ACTION NO. 15 - RIVERFRONT RECREATION.** As part of action 14, or on its own, the City of Moncton should develop a riverfront master plan that locates, conceptualizes and explores the feasibility of beach volleyball courts, social and performance space, refreshment-based retail spaces, and expanded pedestrian and manicured landscape spaces within the context of a highly resilient waterfront zone.



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION J - OUTDOOR AQUATICS

This master plan identifies the need for an additional outdoor pool within recreation district one, and within the lifespan of this plan.

**ACTION NO. 16 - RECREATION DISTRICT OUTDOOR POOL.** The City of Moncton should explore the appropriate pool type and feasibility of funding and operational sustainability of delivering pool services throughout the city. The city should conduct a detailed needs, operational and funding analysis of all indoor and outdoor pools within Moncton, and within the benchmarks indicated in this master plan.

**ACTION NO. 17 - RECREATION DISTRICT SPLASHPAD.** Again, within the life of this master plan, the City of Moncton will require a splashpad in the area close to the northwest area of district one. Therefore, the city should explore future community park development requirements in this area and plan for a splashpad.

**ACTION NO. 18 - IRISHTOWN NATURE CENTRE.** The City of Moncton should explore the design and feasibility of a nature-based and activity centre that provides nature and recreation groups and enthusiasts with a lake's edge facility for meeting, learning, etc.



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION K - EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY

This master plan proposes several actions that will require expanding the role of the existing city and regional partners to meet future needs and to prepare the city to grow beyond the life of this master plan. The following actions address two of these.

**ACTION NO. 19 - UNIVERSITÉ DE MONCTON.** The university presently hosts several recreation facilities that can expand or be modified to meet city and regional needs while continuing to attract students to the academic campus. The City of Moncton should commence a discussion about the university's field house, gymnasium, pool, and arena and explore opportunities to upgrade these facilities as community recreation centre components.

**ACTION NO. 20 - THE MONCTON BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB.** This club is well-positioned to deliver important equity-based programs from its present location and possibly other sites throughout the city. Thus, the City of Moncton should explore approaches to strengthen the existing facility's gymnasium for expanded community use, complete with activities such as pickleball and a walking track, and explore growth opportunities into adjacent recreation districts within the context of this master plan's needs analysis.



# 5.0 APPENDICES

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# ACTIONS SUMMARY

Section	Page	Action
Indoor Pools	37	Explore the feasibility of an aquatic and recreation centre complex that replaces the statistical need met by the aging UdeM CEPS.
Indoor Ice Arenas	42	Explore a clarified role of the Coliseum as a regional activity hub; for example, increasing hourly ice rentals to make full use of the facility around the trade and consumer show season.
Indoor Ice Arenas	42	Continue an equity analysis of all minor sport ice-based groups to ensure that all programs are receiving ice time relative to their membership numbers. This includes equity relative to total ice time, and preferred ice times
Indoor Ice Arenas	42	Commence discussions with Université de Moncton about the future of their arena for both campus and regional use. Should the facility become financially unsustainable, discuss possible in-city arenas that could host the university programs in tenant positions.
Indoor Ice Arenas	42	Commence discussions with the regional service commission about developing a regional network of rink facilities designated to meet community and regional needs.
Indoor Ice Arenas	42	Test the expansion of informal day-to-day activity in arenas, such as community skating.

Section	Page	Action
Squash Courts	43	Work with Squash Moncton to establish a long-term capital and operational cost plan, and express a willingness to invest in this plan relative to regional population percentage.
Multi-use Field Houses	45	Work with the Université de Moncton to explore the reassignment of the CEPS from university complex to a regional sports and recreation facility with university use.
Multi-use Field Houses	45	Explore increased recreational activity at the Moncton Coliseum Complex without impacting existing or expanded trade and consumer show events.
Curling Sheets	46	Work with Curl Moncton Inc. to explore options to reduce the number of ice surfaces with adaptive reuse options that create a revenue stream for the club.
Indoor Walking Track	47	Include indoor walking/running surfaces in future multi-use facilities.
Outdoor Pools	49	Work with a recreation district one community centre to explore the creation of a community-sized outdoor pool that can be operated by the community centre.
Outdoor Pools	51	Conduct a feasibility study relative to a community centre partnership to determine capital and operational costs, and to determine the appropriate management structure and cost-sharing agreements required to ensure facility sustainability.

Section	Page	Action
Ball Fields	53	Work with ball user groups to determine the type of amenities that will grow the sport, and to provide locations for user groups to locate pitching machines, batting cages and off-season rental field house space.
Ball Fields	53	Develop a long-term field revitalization strategy that ensures turf and infield surfaces are a safe and high quality play surface.
Ball Fields	53	Work with softball user groups to evaluate the need for a softball stadium similar to the Hal Betts facility.
Rectangular Fields-Natural Turf	55	Work with rugby, cricket and ultimate frisbee organizations to commission a feasibility study that identifies all capital and operational costs, and revenue opportunities for a two-field complex complete with clubhouse. The study's analysis should also propose cost and operational-sharing agreements between the city and the clubs.
Rectangular Fields-Natural Turf	55	Consider adding a playground at the CN Sportplexe to provide an alternative activity for children when other members of their groups are participating in organized activities at this location.
Lawn Bowling	58	Collectively work the Town of Riverview and with their lawn bowling executives to explore a sustainable go-forward model that may include bringing the model together within one facility.
Lawn Bowling	58	Explore the cost-benefit of rented time and portable lawn bowling flooring and equipment for a field house analysis.



Section	Page	Action
Tennis Courts	60	Work with Tennis Moncton to add several pickleball courts at the Centennial Park location.
Tennis Courts	60	Encourage Tennis Moncton to work with the Moncton Pickleball Club to expand the existing tennis club to a racket and paddle organization that can benefit from the expanded membership.
Beach Volleyball	62	Commission a detailed waterfront master plan that blends beach volleyball and other uses indicated in this plan with appropriate comfort, social, performance space, retail and active amenities along the riverfront.
Beach Volleyball	62	Explore the creation of a beach volleyball club that can administer and operate any new courts within Moncton.
Outdoor Adventure Sports	64	Commission a detailed feasibility study for the creation of a multi-use outdoor adventure park that appropriately distributes all adventure-based activity within Moncton's parks system relative to the creation of a new and significant facility within the heart of the city.
Outdoor Adventure Sports	64	Explore the creation of an outdoor adventure club or association that works with the city to manage and operate a new outdoor adventure park.
Outdoor Track	65	Explore operational options that create access opportunities for Moncton's residents at the UdeM track on a daily basis.

Section	Page	Action
Outdoor Track	65	Explore partnership opportunities with Crandall University for future track renovations (within the 10-year master plan window).
Disc Golf	66	Work with disc-golf representatives to explore the type of facility and location required for Moncton. This should include discussion with adjacent communities to ensure that a new facility is unique, and supports increased visitation to the Moncton area for those wanting to play at all regional courses.
Adaptable Recreation Centres	69	Begin to evaluate the need for a district two multi-use recreation centre with the heart of Moncton's downtown. This facility should be considered with future library and market planning, and be designed to specifically address the need of urban core gathering, social and recreation populations.
Adaptable Recreation Centres	69	Extend a downtown recreation centre's interior life into the public realm with the creation of a regional-level public plaza that includes gathering and performance space, integrated splash pad/public art, shade, edge retail activity and other events/activities that are identified throughout a detailed planning initiative.
Adaptable Recreation Centres	69	Work with the Boy's and Girl's club to understand long term social and activity needs and to explore an upgrade that ensures the facility is capable of meeting these needs (including a walking track).

Section	Page	Action
Multi-use School Gymnasiums	71	Continue to work with the Province to deliver multi-use school gymnasiums at present levels relative to population.
Multi-use School Gymnasiums	71	Explore expanding the use of school gymnasiums to informal community play spaces that can be accessed on-demand.
Pickleball Courts - Indoor	73	Include indoor pickleball courts as a component of a future downtown multi-use centre (that serves recreation districts two and five residents).
Pickleball Courts - Indoor	73	Include pickleball courts at any district one Boy's and Girl's Club renovation.
Pickleball Courts - Indoor	73	Work with pickleball organizers to inform district four residents that pickleball facilities are presently available at the Kay-Crossman Centre.
Gymnastics	74	Confirm Beauséjour Gymnos' ability to expand their coaching numbers to deliver expanded services, then work with the club to expand facilities at their present location or to identify an existing an under-utilized building that can be adapted to meet club needs.
Multi-use Courts	76	Consider ensuring any new courts placed within parks or adjacent to existing or future recreation centres include court surfaces that provide a venue for, at a minimum, basketball, ball hockey, pickleball and other games relevant to the hosting community.
Splashpads	77	Identify a community-level park for a splashpad project as district one expands to the northwest city boundary.

Section	Page	Action
Splashpads	77	Monitor district three growth, and identify a future splashpad space as this area grows.
Pickleball Courts - Outdoor	80	Work with Tennis Moncton to add several pickleball courts at Centennial Park.
Pickleball Courts - Outdoor	80	Encourage Moncton Pickleball Club to work with Tennis Moncton to expand the existing tennis club to a racket and paddle organization that can benefit from expanded membership.
Dog-Friendly Facilities	82	Identify areas of Centennial and Mapleton Parks that can be periodically assigned to off-leash use.
Dog-Friendly Facilities	82	Develop, promote, deliver and monitor a pilot project and community engagement for these parks for a designated period, where dogs can go off-leash within the designated space and along the designated trails.
In-Park Community Use Buildings	83	Explore the addition of a community-use shelter in Irishtown Nature Park to that nature and recreation groups can access for programmed meetings or activities.
Social Centres	86	Develop and implement a recreation-based social inclusion policy that addresses barriers to activities, physically accessible activities, emerging activities, senior populations and social centres. This policy should celebrate the ‘no one is left behind’ approach to recreation planning and delivery.

Section	Page	Action
Social Centres	86	Explore the potential to make Moncton's Lions Centre into an all-season/all ages recreation centre that serves its adjacent communities.
Recreation Funding	87	Revisit the city's mandate to ensure the recreation department is funded and functions as recreation first and non-recreation community service second.
Recreation Funding	87	Explore the feasibility of bringing scheduling and booking back to an in-house service.
Recreation Funding	87	In association with NB's municipalities and regional service commissions, explore the expansion of development charges to include the collection of revenues for community-level parks and facilities and establish appropriate revenue benchmarks.
Action No. 1 - Administrative Platform	90	Commission a detailed analysis of the recreation department's service delivery model relative to this master plan's vision, city evolution, the department's mandate and relative budgeting, and staffing levels. This analysis should understand that the City of Moncton is in a competitive marketplace, and must be a leader in residential, recreational, commercial and industrial growth. The recreation department must deliver services relative to mandate to have a leadership role in this growth to ensure Moncton is competitive.
Action No. 2 - Funding and Use Platforms	90	Simultaneously with action no.1, the various user group and facility agreements, cost-sharing agreements, subsidies and grants should be carefully assessed to determine if Moncton's recreation spending is equitable, inclusive, and aligned with the department mandate.

Section	Page	Action
Action No. 3 - Inclusive Policy	90	Develop a detailed policy and implementation plan document that addresses recreation-based social inclusion based on the ‘no one is left behind’ model. This requires that staff and council confirm that all resident populations are being served in an equitable manner, and the needs of all residents are a component of all planning and delivery projects.
Action No. 4 - Energize the Moncton Coliseum and Agrena Complex	91	Explore creating more opportunities to use the Agrena as a multi-use fieldhouse that utilizes adaptable floor and equipment settings for a variety of indoor and outdoor sports, around the trade and consumer show season.
Action No. 4 - Energize the Moncton Coliseum and Agrena Complex	91	Explore increasing hourly ice rentals and making the large parking lot available for recreation events, such as 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, to make full use of the facility around the trade and consumer show season.
Action No. 5 - The Dog Culture	91	Explore the notion of off-leash dog walking within Centennial and Mapleton Parks at designated times on designated trails. The city can identify these and promote this activity on a test-basis. The program can then evolve into a permanent activity with positive results.
Action No. 6 - Track Facilities	92	Work with Moncton Stadium representatives to enhance public awareness for informal use of the track facility for residents located within Moncton’s east neighbourhoods.
Action No. 6 - Track Facilities	92	Work with Crandall University to upgrade their facility for informal community use. Thus, both ends of the city have access to track and field sites for informal uses within the context of this master plan’s demand models.

Section	Page	Action
Action No. 7 - Addressing Barriers	92	Ensure full accessibility at all new and existing recreation facilities.
Action No. 8 - Communications	93	Bring scheduling back into the city with the help of contemporary digital scheduling platforms. This interface ensures the city retains a current understanding of program needs and requirements.
Action No. 9 - Information	93	Bring together new technologies and programs that simultaneously inform and solicit participation in existing and emerging activities and programs.
Action No. 10 - Regional-Level Recreation Centre	94	Work with the city's academic and recreation communities to explore the feasibility of creating a significant regional-level multi-use recreation centre with contemporary aquatic facilities that support significant event hosting while meeting community needs. This feasibility analysis should include discussions with the Town of Riverview about their replacement for their indoor pool to ensure the facilities are complimentary regional facilities.
Action No. 11 - Field Complex	95	Work with the rugby, cricket and ultimate frisbee communities to develop a joint turf complex for daily and event hosting purposes, including washroom facilities, change rooms, storage for complex participants and visitors, and opportunities for the client user groups to earn revenues from refreshment/food services. A potential site to consider is the CN Sportplex.

Section	Page	Action
Action No. 12 - Outdoor Adventure Park	95	Commission a feasibility study that explores the size, location, activity inventory and administrative model for a significant outdoor adventure park. This analysis should also include a detailed cost-benefit analysis that predicts all associated economic, health and cultural benefits associated with the proposed facility.
Action No. 13 - Regional Right Sizing	96	Work with Riverview and Dieppe, as well as with regional program providers such as lawn bowling, squash and curling to discuss regional needs, and to develop right-sizing strategies for these regional activities.
Action No. 13 - Regional Right Sizing	96	Work with emerging activities such as pickleball to determine if these groups have sufficient financial resources to explore development partnerships with existing user groups at under-utilized facilities.
Action No. 14 - Urban Core Recreation	97	Commission a detailed study that clarifies, appropriately locates, conceptualizes and explores the feasibility of a recreation centre that integrates the library, market, recreation centre with retail and social space, adaptive field house, walking track, fitness centre and a significant public gathering plaza with active play spaces (i.e. urban ground sprays, performance and presentation space, integrated public art and family play, such as a splashpad and playground).
Action No. 15 - Riverfront Recreation	97	As part of action 14, or on its own, develop a riverfront master plan that locates, conceptualizes and explores the feasibility of beach volleyball courts, social and performance space, refreshment-based retail spaces, and expanded pedestrian and manicured landscape spaces within the context of a highly resilient waterfront zone.



Section	Page	Action
Action No. 16 - Recreation District Outdoor Pool	98	Explore the appropriate pool type and feasibility of funding and operational sustainably delivering pool services throughout the city including a detailed needs, operational and funding analysis of all indoor and outdoor pools within Moncton, and within the benchmarks indicated in this master plan.
Action No. 17 - Recreation District Splashpad	98	Explore future community park development requirements in the northwest area of district one, and plan for a splashpad.
Action No. 18 - Irishtown Aquatic Nature Centre	98	Explore the design and feasibility of a nature-based and activity centre that provides nature and recreation groups and enthusiasts with a lake's edge facility for meeting, learning, etc.
Action No. 19 - Université de Moncton	99	Commence discussion about the university's field house, gymnasium, pool, and arena and explore opportunities to upgrade these facilities as recreation centre components.
Action No. 20 - The Moncton Boys and Girls Club	99	Explore approaches to strengthen the existing facility's gymnasium for expanded community use complete with activities such as pickleball and a walking track, and explore growth opportunities into adjacent recreation districts within the context of this master plan's needs analysis.

# ENDNOTES

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