

June 25, 2004

Mayor Black and Council
Township of King
2075 King Road
King City, Ontario
L7B 1A1

Dear Mayor Black and Council:

It is our pleasure to submit this Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Township of King. The document represents the culmination of over a year of extensive analysis and collaborative work involving the staff of the Township parks and recreation operation, the Planning Department, the Finance Department, the CAO, community organizations, leisure service providers, King Township residents and our consulting team.

The ten year plan reflects the unique nature of your community and the parks and recreation system, and offers a wide-ranging and complete assessment of leisure services. It belongs to the community and presents a straightforward series of recommendations for consideration and action by the Township and other key leisure service and open space providers. It is a document that reflects the strong and very positive role that leisure services can play in the lives of King Township residents, the local economy and the natural environment. Your community has a great opportunity to build upon the awareness and momentum that this project has initiated, and the considerable strides that the Municipality has recently taken to improve leisure services for all citizens.

We are enthused by the prospects and possibilities ahead of you and look forward to the successful implementation of this Master Plan. It is challenging, but achievable, if everyone works together and shares in realizing the long term vision of the community for parks, recreation and the arts in King Township.

We are privileged to have been part of this process, and especially to liaise so closely with Township residents and community leaders and to understand your unique needs, views, opportunities and challenges. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Respectfully submitted,
The RETHINK GROUP

Bourrie and Associates

Robert Lockhart, MES
Partner and Project Director

Andrea Bourrie, MCIP, RPP
Principal

Summary

Township of King *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*

The following is a summary of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Township of King. Please refer to the full document for more details, especially Chapter Two which reports on the analysis of existing conditions and provides the planning context.

Introduction

In the Spring of 2003, the Municipality approved the preparation of this township-wide master plan for leisure services, which comprises parks and open space, leisure facilities, programming for recreation and the arts, and the way leisure services are provided. The plan provides a list of phased recommendations covering the period from 2004 to 2013, and indicates how they may be implemented and funded. In the fall of 2002, the four Lions clubs of King Township initiated a feasibility study to examine the need for a multi-use community facility. Once the master plan was initiated, both projects moved forward together, sharing much of the research, consultation and analysis.

As the Township's leisure services plan neared completion, a list of high priority facility needs emerged. At that time, the Lions clubs identified the proposed township-wide Leisure Centre as the facility to be the focus of their feasibility study. That study has provided additional detail about facility components and character, location criteria, phasing, cost to build and operate, and how it could be managed and funded. The feasibility study report has been prepared as a separate document.

Assumptions, Findings and Conclusions

The following is a brief listing of the key assumptions, findings and conclusions from the research and analysis conducted for the Township leisure services plan and the Lions feasibility study.

Community Profile and Population Growth and Change

- 2001 population 18,533
- projected 2013 population 25,000
- projected 2021 population 31,000
- projected 2026 population 35,000
- The 2001 population was slightly older than the provincial average, with income, education and employment levels above the provincial average.

Leisure Trends

Provincial and national trends in leisure interests were examined and adapted to the current and anticipated future characteristics of King Township.

Parks, Recreation and Arts Resources

- Most of the community-level activity parks such as Nobleton Community Park are quite well developed, although very sports-oriented.
- Other **top facility assets** include:
 - The Nobleton outdoor swimming pool;
 - The number of ball diamonds (although some require upgrading);
 - The number of tennis courts (although some enhancement would be beneficial); and

- The three arena/community halls (although, due to age, a good deal of costly repair lies ahead for all three).
- There is excellent potential to extend the recreational trail system within each of the urban areas and out into the countryside (although existing trails would benefit from upgrading).
- There is good potential to add neighbourhood and valley/natural heritage parks (through new development and the conversion into parkland of a good number of Township-owned open space lands).
- Although the Township owns an above average amount of parks, there is a shortage of neighbourhood parkland, especially in King City and Nobleton.
- Throughout the Township, there is also a shortage of parkland suitable for the development of additional outdoor sports facilities.
- **Other key assets** include:
 - The legion of volunteers that contribute to the provision of leisure facilities and programs, although greater investment on behalf of the Township and others will be required in future to grow this resource.
 - The positive direction the Township has taken in recent years in the development of public leisure services.
 - The amount of open space provided by the two school boards, Seneca College, and the two conservation authorities.
- The following areas of **leisure programming** have emerged as the top priorities that should influence future program planning.
 - More quantity, variety, levels and times
 - Swimming (more instruction, recreation/leisure, fitness, therapeutic/rehabilitation programs)
 - Performing arts (from drama to music)
 - Fitness (aquatic and other)
- Youth (more soccer, rock climbing, skateboarding, roller blading, basketball, football, bike trails, girls hockey, curling, paint ball, lacrosse, arts/dance/drama, video games, movies, equestrian, badminton, squash, kick boxing, karate, tennis, Yoga, dirt biking/BMX)
- Childrens programming, including pre-school
- Adult education
- Curling (all ages)
- Seniors programs and activities, particularly outside of King City - increasingly, there is interest in a larger Municipal role
- Linear recreation (indoor and outdoor walking and running, hiking, cycling)
- Although affordability will strongly influence timing, the research and trends indicate that the **top facility priorities** for now and the near future are:
 - An indoor aquatic facility (instruction, fitness, leisure, therapeutic/rehab.)
 - Improvements to parks - overall look/aesthetic appeal, landscaping, more and better playgrounds, floral displays, washrooms, change rooms (at major sport venues), internal pathways, aesthetic and security lighting, etc.
 - Soccer fields - improved maintenance of existing fields, plus at least three more full size fields and one more intermediate size field are required to meet current needs. Growth in demand has not yet peaked for this sport, regardless of population growth.
 - Recreational trails (pedestrian and cycling) - improved surfacing and overall maintenance of existing trails, additional trails and links, expanded trail marketing
 - Improvements to some existing ball diamonds
 - Youth-oriented indoor facilities
 - Skateboard facility

- Improved and expanded seniors facilities (three population centres)
- Curling rink - dedicated facility
- Indoor multi-purpose programmable space (gymnasium and small to large rooms - adequate and flexible)
- Fitness facilities (weight training and aerobic exercise)
- Arenas:
 - significant upgrade/repairs to all three
 - Schomberg arena has issues (small ice surface, change rooms, compressor room)
 - Nobleton arena would benefit from two more dressing rooms
- Visual/creative arts and hand craft facilities - suitable spaces for programs are needed
- Performing arts facility - a suitable venue will be required to foster growth in this sector where demand is increasing

Three Significant Issues will Influence the Recommendations and Timing

1. The widely disbursed nature of the population and the three main population centres.
2. The relatively small size of each of the population centres which are not large enough on their own to support some of the facility types and scales that the community has identified as high priority.
3. The limited ability of the Township to invest in new and upgraded leisure facilities and parks in the next five years.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The details of the master plan are founded upon the Guiding Principles, the Planning Guidelines and Provision Standards and the broad vision of what leisure services could be like in ten or so years.

The Guiding Principles

These twelve guiding principles are intended to define the broad policy and planning direction for the Master Plan and the role of the Municipality and others in this crucial area of municipal service. These principles provide the foundation for the detailed recommendations.

1. Three-Tiered Hierarchy

Parks, associated open space and leisure facilities should be provided on three levels:

- i) Neighbourhood,
- ii) Community, and
- iii) Township-wide.

In most cases, the scale of facilities should match the level of parks/open space (e.g., lighted outdoor facilities in Community and Township-wide parks and associated open spaces).

2. Township-wide and Local Roles

A township-wide view must be taken for the purposes of planning, marketing, setting policy and pricing, working with volunteers, providing high level facilities, and other similar matters. However, the main population areas should remain the focus/location for most parks, facilities and program offerings.

3. Well Serviced

When locating parks and clustering leisure facilities, ensure that the entire Township

is well serviced. For some types of facilities, there will be a need for only one of each in the Township, sited in a location that is accessible to all residents.

- 4. Quality, Affordable and Accessible**
Ensure that leisure services are affordable, accessible and of high quality.
- 5. Consistency in Pricing and Scheduling**
Ensure that there is consistency in pricing for Township programs and facilities across the Municipality and a consistent scheduling/access policy.
- 6. Optimize Use**
Ensure optimal use of available resources, and ensure that facilities are scheduled to maximize use in a manner that balances the cost of facility development and maintenance with the preferences of users. Facilities at the Community and Township-wide level of provision should always be programmed for the highest and best use in prime time.
- 7. Cluster Facilities**
When and where appropriate, new indoor and outdoor facilities (or combinations of facilities) should be clustered to optimize efficiency and programming potential. Where appropriate, consideration should be given to including education, library and other complimentary facilities with leisure facilities.
- 8. Strong Relationship Among Providers**
The relationship between the various leisure service providers should continue to be strengthened, and for some providers, an increased role should be encouraged.

- 9. Increase Strategic Alliances**
Additional strategic alliances should be developed with other public agencies, and the commercial, non-profit and voluntary sectors to assist in the provision of leisure opportunities (including open space lands, facilities, programming, planning and marketing).
- 10. Complement Rather than Compete**
When needs are adequately met for a particular leisure interest, the Municipality should not engage in or increase competition with other providers. However, where there is sufficient unmet demand and/or other providers are not adequately meeting the leisure needs of a particular market segment, the Municipality should consider providing or expanding service in that area.
- 11. Well Promoted**
Ensure that the community is always fully aware of available leisure opportunities.
- 12. Leadership in Planning**
The Municipality, in co-operation with others, should continue to take the lead in researching and planning for leisure services - including tracking trends, identifying gaps and advancing strategies to address needs and issues.

Planning Guidelines and Provision Standards

Planning guidelines and provision standards have been recommended to assist in planning for and acquiring future parkland, site design, and decision making about when to add new facilities to the system as the Township gradually grows in population.

The following listing is not inclusive of all recommendations, but is intended to summarize particularly the facility-oriented ones.

Timing has been grouped into four time frames. (2004-2006) (2007-2008) (2009-2013) (2013+)

Arenas and Community Centres

☐ Schomberg Community and Agricultural Arena

- various repairs, upgrades and component replacements - see main document (2004-2013+)
- as one option to provide a curling facility, consider converting the existing ice surface into five dedicated sheets of curling ice (2009-2013)
- this renovation/expansion project should also consider the following:
 - convert the arena lobby into appropriate social/program space to support curling and other programming (2009-2013)
 - add a new arena to the south side of the structure (6 dressing rooms and multi-purpose rooms to support youth, seniors and other community uses/programming) (2009-2013)
 - upgrade the upstairs hall or convert into smaller rooms (2004-2006)
 - ensure that a community hall is included in the enlarged/renovated building
 - create a new entrance and lobby to integrate the existing and new components (2009-2013)
- explore the potential for partnerships with the Agricultural Society, the Lions Club and others
- conduct a feasibility study (to fine-tune facility needs/components, determine best layout and design, and estimate capital and operating costs) (2004-2006)

☐ Nobleton Community Arena

- various repairs, upgrades & component replacements (including a new arena floor) - see main document (2004-2013+)
- add two new dressing rooms and upgrade and enlarge existing dressing rooms via a south side expansion (2004-2006)
- incorporate a tennis club house into the south side expansion (2004-2006)
- utilize part of the proposed south side expansion or convert part of the ambulance building into a workshop, storage and possibly office or multi-purpose program space (2004-2006)
- consider adding (in phases) modern and accessible medium size multi-purpose space(s) to the arena/community centre (probably on the north side) to meet the medium to long term needs for general community programming, seniors, youth, dedicated pre-school programs, the Lions Club and others (2007-2013+)
- conduct a feasibility study (to fine-tune facility needs/components, determine best layout and design, and estimate capital and operating costs) (2007-2008)

☐ King City Community Recreation Centre and Arena, and King City Seniors Centre

- various repairs, upgrades and component replacements to the arena (including a new arena floor) - see main document (2004-2013+)
- when looking at expansion of the seniors centre and possible future expansion of the arena complex, explore ways to possibly link the two facilities and create indoor space for youth activities (2004-2008)
- possible location for a fourth ice surface (as the population reaches 30,000, after 2013)

Soccer Fields

- ☐ Incorporate two full size fields (one lighted) in the expanded Osin-Lions Park. (2004-2006)

- Add one intermediate size field in Nobleton Community Park. (2007-2008)
- In co-operation with the boards of education, try to convert some school fields into higher level, larger facilities to support community use - e.g., Eva L. Dennis Elem. School (starting in 2005).
- Include two lighted and up to five unlighted full size soccer fields and up to three unlighted intermediate soccer fields at the proposed Township-wide sports park(s). (see below) (2009-2013 and beyond)

Ball Diamonds

- Replace the intermediate diamond at Osin-Lions Park with a new intermediate diamond. (2004-2006)
- Upgrade other diamonds throughout the Township that are in need (2004-2006), and light the largest diamond at Ansnorveldt Park. (2009-2013)
- Upgrade the diamond behind the Nobleton arena when the septic system is removed (2009-2013)
- By 2013, add one more lighted softball diamond somewhere in the Township.

Township-wide Sports Park(s)

Acquire one or two large sites (likely outside of the urban areas where land costs are lower) that are suitable for sports field development (e.g., two full size lighted, up to five full size unlighted soccer fields, up to three intermediate soccer fields, possibly an intermediate level ball diamond, and appropriate support facilities) Approximately 80 acres of quality parkland will be required for the sports parks and the proposed leisure centre noted below. The leisure centre will not necessarily be located in one of these parks. (2009- 2013+)

Township-wide Leisure Centre

There are some types of facilities for which only one of each will be required in the Township for the foreseeable future. As introduced in Guiding Principle Seven, there is often merit in clustering compatible facilities into one complex or site. If located on a highly visible, accessible and neutral site, such a facility could contribute to Township unity. A key goal is to create a signature community facility that has wide appeal and is not entirely sports-focussed - one that provides an enhanced range of benefits to the community.

Although there is currently sufficient demand for some of the components that could comprise this facility, the Municipality is not in a financial position to begin to develop even the first phase of such a project for at least five years, and probably longer.

It may be desirable, depending on location, to combine one of the proposed sports parks and the leisure centre. It may also be desirable to combine the leisure centre with a new municipal office, main library and/or a volunteer and information centre. Another possibility is a joint venture with Seneca College. It will be necessary for the leisure centre to have access to municipal services and natural gas.

The following list of facilities are recommended for consideration in the leisure centre. The suggested timing reflects priorities driven by demand but tempered by affordability. If no date is indicated, the component is targeted for *after* 2013. See the feasibility study report for more detail

on the facility, its components, location considerations, proposed timing, the estimate of capital cost, the business plan and the financing strategy.

- aquatic centre (instructional, fitness/lane, recreational/leisure, and therapeutic/rehab swimming programs) (2009-2013)
- fitness facility (weight training gym and aerobic/dance studio) (2009-2013)
- indoor running/walking track (2009-2013)
- gymnasium/auditorium (2009-2013)
- change rooms for pool, fitness facilities and gymnasium (2009-2013)
- flexible, multi-purpose program space (2009-2013)
- visual/creative arts and hand craft facility(s)
- dedicated older adult activity space
- youth centre (only if public transportation becomes available or the facility is located within one of the urban areas)
- rock climbing wall and arcade court
- dedicated child care facility
- food court (2009-2013)
- general washrooms (2009-2013)
- attached public green house
- indoor and outdoor gardens and places of quiet reflection
- a four sheet curling rink (if the Schomberg arena option is not chosen) (2009-2013)
- performance space (specifications to be determined)
- a large entrance/lobby/public assembly feature (2009-2013)
- circulation space, general storage, office space (both phases)
- an outdoor civic square/assembly space
- main branch library (only a possibility)
- site development, including parking and landscaping (Phase One - 2009-2013)

Pottageville-Kettleby Hall

- Implement recommendations of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. (2004-2006)
- Pave the parking lot. (2007-2008)
- Landscape the site. (2007-2008)

Laskay Hall

- Minor repairs (2004-2008)
- Parking lot repairs (2004-2006)
- Implement recommendations of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. (2004-2006)

Schomberg Community Hall

- If the Schomberg arena is reconfigured for curling and enlarged to include a new hockey ice pad, consideration should be given to including a large multi-purpose hall with the new arena and retiring the Schomberg Community Hall on Main Street as a public facility. Because of its historic value, the facade should be maintained as it is transformed into another use.
- Otherwise, the following must be completed as a minimum:
 - Ceiling repairs (2004-2006)
 - New tables and chairs (2004-2006)
 - Exterior wall painting and landscaping (2004-2006)
 - Implement the recommendations of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. (2004-2006)

Nobleton Lions/Womens Institute Hall

- If a multi-purpose facility is added to the Nobleton Community Centre/Arena in future,

consideration should be given to retiring the Nobleton Lions/Womens Institute Hall as a public use facility and demolishing it to allow for a wider and more appealing entrance to the park, and increased visibility and parking.

- Otherwise, the following must be completed as a minimum:
 - Exterior maintenance/aesthetics (2004-2006)

Pottageville Pavilion

- Replace the shingle roof at the Pottageville pavilion with a steel roof. (2004-2006)
- Implement the recommendations of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. (2004-2006)

Holland Marsh District Christian School in Ansnorveldt

Investigate the feasibility of Township acquisition of this facility and site, which may be vacated in the next five years or so (e.g., consolidate seniors centre, youth centre, branch library, multi-purpose space, outdoor facilities, public open space, etc.).

Performance Space

- Interest in the performing arts should continue to be monitored by the Parks and Recreation Division, and the Municipality should continue to expand programming and encourage others to respond.
- The Parks and Recreation Division should investigate if there is interest in establishing a King Township Arts Council that would encompass interests in the performing and visual arts and dance. (2004-2006)
- The Township should have discussions with the Country Day School about the possibility of some community use of their facility.
- Encourage the York Region District School Board to consider adding an auditorium to King City Secondary School. If there is interest at any time in the future, the Township may want to consider partnering with the Board to create a school/community-based performance space, or consider performance space in the proposed leisure centre (2013+).

Art and Handcraft Activity Space

- Interest in the visual arts should continue to be monitored by the Parks and Recreation Division, and continue to expand programming and encourage others to respond.
- Consider including a flexible and suitable space in the proposed leisure complex to accommodate a wide variety of visual arts programs and related activities. (2009-2013 and 2013+)
- When designing the main entrance and public assembly area of the proposed leisure centre, incorporate suitable wall/display space for hanging art and sculpture. (2009-2013)

Tennis Facilities

- Incorporate a club house into the proposed south side expansion of the Nobleton Community Centre. Negotiate with the tennis club to establish a fundraising target. (2004-2006)
- Light the Schomberg tennis courts. (2007-2008)
- If the renovation and expansion of the Schomberg arena/community centre takes place, it may be necessary to move the tennis courts into Osin-Lions Park to allow for parking lot expansion.

Seniors

- Ensure Township and professional input into the King City Seniors Centre Feasibility Study.

(2004)

- King City Seniors Centre - replace shingles and complete work on soffit fascia (2004-2006), and expand the facility, possibly including a physical link to the arena (2004-2006)
- Schomberg/Lloydton/Pottageville - include a seniors activity centre as part of the redeveloped arena/community centre in Schomberg (2009-2013)
- Nobleton - include a seniors activity centre as part of a redeveloped arena/community centre (2009-2013)
- The Parks and Recreation Division, in co-operation with King Township Public Library and health and social service groups, should work with older adults and existing groups/organizations in the Township to establish the King Township Older Adult Council to knit the various current and future seniors groups and services together.

Youth Facilities

It is recommended that a dedicated indoor space for youth be provided in each of the three major population centres (King City, Nobleton and Schomberg), as well as in Ansnorveldt.

Specifically, the following is recommended:

- If the Schomberg arena/community centre is redeveloped as proposed, incorporate a room dedicated to youth. Try to incorporate it into the reconfigured foyer/front end of the building. (2009-2013)
- Incorporate a room dedicated to youth into an expanded Nobleton arena/community centre. (2009-2013)
- Incorporate a room dedicated to youth at the King City arena/community centre. Possibly, this space can be designed into the link that is proposed to tie the seniors centre to the arena. (2007-2008)
- If public transit is available, consider providing a youth room in the proposed leisure centre. (2013+)
- Include an arcade court and a climbing wall in the proposed leisure complex. (2013+)
- Establish a committee of youth and adults to investigate the best location for a permanent **skateboard facility** and begin fundraising. (2004)

Gymnasia

The Municipality should assist one of the school boards to provide an enhanced, securable gymnasia at a strategically located future school with the objective of permitting easier and more affordable community access during the school day and after hours. A full size single gym should be included in Phase One of the proposed leisure centre. (2009-2013)

Recreational Trails

- Improve the maintenance of existing trails. (beginning in 2004)
- Improve the township-wide marketing of trails. (beginning in 2004)
- Systematically extend the trail networks in each of the urban areas and into the countryside - see Section 4.4.18 in the main master plan document for details. (beginning in 2004)
- Establish a township-wide trail development committee. (2007-2008)

Childrens' Playgrounds

- A standard of one playground per 1,000 residents has been recommended. This covers parks

and school properties. Based on that standard, an additional seven playgrounds will be required as the population reaches 25,000 by about 2013 (including any new ones listed below).

- Replace unsafe play structures in King City Memorial Park. (2004-2006)
- Upgrade the playground in Laskay Park. (2004-2006)
- Upgrade the playground at Pottageville Park. (2004-2006)
- Install a playground at Nieuwland Park in Schomberg. (2004-2006)
- When Osin-Lions Park is designed, include a playground. (2007-2008)
- Encourage both school boards to continue to provide and maintain quality play equipment at existing and new schools.

General Park Upgrading/Aesthetics/Support Facilities in Parks

It is recommended that existing Neighbourhood and Community parks be systematically upgraded over the next ten years to include:

- consistent quality signage;
- an increased level of landscape treatment, including berming, where appropriate;
- increased tree planting to create more shade, especially around playgrounds;
- more benches, especially near playgrounds;
- drinking fountains, where appropriate;
- upgraded playgrounds (in some parks) - see playground recommendations;
- aesthetic and security lighting, where appropriate; and
- internal pathways, where appropriate.

New Neighbourhood parks should set the standard to follow. One example would be the new neighbourhood park (Nieuwland Park) in the Mason subdivision in Schomberg.

Park Site Plans

For each of the Community-level parks that are facility-based (e.g., King City Memorial, Nobleton Community, Pottageville Community, Ansnorveldt, Osin-Lions) and the Township museum site, a park plan should be prepared to evaluate existing conditions, incorporate any site-specific recommendations from this Master Plan, and make recommendations for long term aesthetic and other improvements. Osin-Lions Park should be first, due to the recent expansion in size. Since a number of recommendations have been made for Nobleton Community Park, a plan should be prepared for it next, followed by Ansnorveldt Park.

Complete the development of the **Dufferin Marsh**, based on the management plan. (2004-2008)

Complete a site plan for the **Holland River waterfront park** (recommended in the Master Plan) and initiate development, in co-operation with the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury. (2004-2013)

King Township Museum

- Generally improve the museum and grounds to make better use of the site as a heritage/arts centre, including landscaping, walkways and outdoor respite areas. Prepare a site master plan. (2007-2008)
- Complete various repair/upgrade/restoration projects. (2004-2006)
- New accessible washroom in the main building. (2007-2008)
- New long term exhibit. (2004-2006)
- Improve the parking lot. (2007-2008)

- Utilize the new 211 Community Information and Volunteer Centre - York Region web site (www.civc.ca) as a vehicle to promote the museum and its programs.

Improved Access to Facilities for Persons with Disabilities

The following are general recommendations from the Township of King Accessibility Committee.

- There appear to be a number of small rugs and mats at entrances at many of the facilities which can hamper accessibility and safety.
- The Committee suggests talking to staff at facilities (where appropriate) to ensure that they are knowledgeable about accessibility issues and to gather their input on issues they may face.
- Staff should advise facility renters about the specific accessibility issues at each facility and all rental contracts could provide accessibility information. In some instances, some training of facility staff may be required where they are not cognizant of accessibility problems.

Parks and Open Space Recommendations

Guiding principal number One recommended three categories to organize open space and facilities:

- i) neighbourhood,
- ii) community and
- iii) township-wide.

Over the ten year life of the plan, it is recommended that around 80 acres of tableland be acquired, to create one or more Township-wide parks to accommodate needed sports fields and the proposed leisure centre.

Within the main document are specific recommendations pertaining to the acquisition of 13-14 additional Neighbourhood parks in areas of future development within the King City, Nobleton and Schomberg urban areas.

Parkland acquisition techniques and polices have been recommended in the main document to assist the Municipality to secure the best possible supply of future parkland, and to ensure that the parkland dedication provisions in the Planning Act are utilized to secure tableland-quality sites.

Costing, Financing and Implementation

Having a strategy for implementation is essential to successfully carry out and work with a parks and recreation master plan over time. To assist with implementation, recommendations have been made regarding **flexibility and timing; co-operation and collaboration; acceptance; on-going review and modification; and financing and affordability**. As well, a general implementation strategy and more detailed action steps have been recommended to give direction and a starting point for the **first few years** of the Master Plan.

The Master Plan must be clear and concrete about what needs to be done, but also **flexible** enough to allow for shifting needs and priorities, and unforeseen changes. The timing for most recommendations has been linked to identified needs and the ability of the Municipality and others to fund programs, services, and new and improved facilities and parks.

As introduced earlier, four time frames have been established for the Master Plan:

- 2004-2006
- 2007-2008
- 2009-2013
- 2013+

The task of implementing the recommendations is a responsibility that must be shared by many. Although the actions of the Township of King will show leadership and leverage other investment, it has been recommended throughout the Master Plan that the Municipality encourage others to take on and/or fund raise for specific projects, and enter into partnerships and other strategic alliances between the Municipality and others to jointly implement a good number of the initiatives. The initiative by the four Lions clubs of King Township to assist with planning for recreation by spearheading the feasibility study for the proposed leisure centre is an excellent example of a joint venture.

In recent years, the Municipality has been gradually and significantly increasing its capital and operating investment in public parks and recreation. Over the past five years, the Township has invested an average of \$200,000 per year in upgrades, repairs, component replacement, new facilities and park development. At the same time, other investments have been made in community facilities. Current Township reserves earmarked for parks and recreation total just over \$1.8 million,

That is in addition to arena/community centre board reserves and the Heritage Fund. As development takes place throughout the Township over the coming years, development fees and an expanded tax base will become available to help fund new facilities, and additional open space will be acquired to create some of the required new parks. Other sources of funding include the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Canadian Volunteerism Initiative, Friends of the Environment, potential future senior government funding programs, and local fund raising initiatives (e.g., service clubs, sports groups, capital campaigns).

The approach is to keep municipal investment reasonable for the next few years since the Township will be faced with other large expenditures, and then begin to gradually increase investment in parks and leisure services in synch with and supported by new development.

The estimate of capital cost for each of the first three time periods is listed below. ***It is important to keep in mind that it is not expected that the Municipality will be solely responsible for all of the funding. A good number of the projects are seen as joint ventures. Grants and community fundraising will also help to off-set some of the cost.***

2004-2006	\$ 2,821,200
2007-2008	\$ 2,064,500
2009-2013	\$24,223,126 (includes the proposed leisure centre and other large projects)

Of the \$2,821,200 projected for 2004-2006, \$1,118,200 (39.6%) is attributed to repairs and upgrades to the three arenas/halls. That leaves \$1,703,000 for other projects or \$567,667 per year.

The approximate breakdown by other broad categories for the 2004-2006 period is as follows:

<input type="checkbox"/> soccer field upgrade and expansion	\$500,000
<input type="checkbox"/> ball diamond replacement and repair	170,000
<input type="checkbox"/> playground upgrade and replacement	90,000
<input type="checkbox"/> minor maintenance to other municipal indoor recreation facilities	66,000
<input type="checkbox"/> recommended expansion and renovation of the King City Seniors Centre	350,000
<input type="checkbox"/> recommended expansion of the Nobleton arena/community centre	\$365,000
<input type="checkbox"/> initial development of some new parks	60,000
<input type="checkbox"/> upgrading of a number of existing parks	75,000
<input type="checkbox"/> upgrading and expansion of trails	40,000

<input type="checkbox"/> two park site plans	22,000
<input type="checkbox"/> upgrading of the Township museum	70,000
<input type="checkbox"/> feasibility study for the proposed expansion of the King City Seniors Centre	25,000
<input type="checkbox"/> feasibility study for the proposed Schomberg arena expansion/renovation project	25,000

When Phase One of the proposed leisure centre, the proposed Schomberg arena expansion/renovation, and Phase One of the proposed sports park are isolated from the ten year capital plan, the remaining smaller and more typical capital projects total \$7,272,700 or \$742,270 per year. Included in that total is an annual investment of \$25,000 into the proposed parkland acquisition fund.

Anticipated Sources of Capital Funding

The following sources of capital funding for parks, recreation and arts initiatives have been identified and estimated for the 2004-2013 period.

1. Current Township parks and recreation reserves (December 31, 2003)	\$1,800,000
2. Arena board reserves	\$360,000
3. Heritage Fund	40,000
4. Development charges reserve fund (from additional growth - based on the current formula)	4,500,000
5. Regular community fundraising (average of \$200,000/year from all sources)*	2,000,000
6. Leisure Centre capital campaign	1,500,000
7. Sports park(s) capital campaign	500,000
8. Senior government grants (e.g., Ontario Trillium Foundation)**	600,000
9. Municipal investment (\$500,000 annually)	5,000,000
10. Other (partners, grants, benefactors, etc.)	<u>12,828,826</u>
Total	\$29,108,826

* This does not account for a major fundraising drive that will be required for Phase One of the proposed leisure centre, the proposed Schomberg arena project or the proposed sports park(s). They would be intensive community-wide resident and corporate capital campaigns and could include major fundraising initiatives such as selling naming rights to the entire complex/park and/or individual components.

** This is a conservative estimate and only accounts for potential Trillium Foundation funding that will fund eligible facility *renovation* projects.

Although there are currently no active provincial and federal capital grant programs, conditions are fluid. If the Township has plans in place to support capital projects, the Municipality will be prepared if and when a program is announced.

The emphasis of the first few years of the Master Plan should be on:

- catching-up in a few areas,
- responding to the needs of a growing population, and
- establishing a solid foundation for the provision of parks, recreation and arts services.

Summary of Key Areas of Recommendation for 2004-2006

Provision Strategy (see Chapter Three of the main document)

- Establish the Guiding Principles, Vision 2015, and open space/facility hierarchy and planning guidelines/ standards.

Leisure Delivery System

- Continue to strengthen relationships with other leisure service providers (school boards, Seneca College, conservation authorities, voluntary sector). Initiate a meeting to present and discuss the Master Plan and Feasibility Study, and discuss interest in the proposed *Strategic Planning and Policy Group*.
- Seek new partnerships and other strategic alliances in program and facility provision, as well as marketing, planning and volunteer development.
- Increase the emphasis on nurturing volunteer resources.
- Continue to improve the marketing of leisure opportunities.
- Establish several township-wide councils/groups (e.g., older adult, trails, arts, skateboard facility).
- Consider the future of the community centre/hall boards of management.
- Realign municipal staffing to improve parks maintenance and development functions within the Parks and Recreation operation.
- Establish a separate Parks and Recreation Department.
- Maintain a strong planning role for the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Consider broadening the scope and name of the Parks Advisory Committee to encompass all aspects of recreation/leisure.

Programming

- Expand program offerings (quantity, variety, levels, times, swimming, performing arts, fitness, youth, children, adult education, seniors, linear recreation) - with all providers working co-operatively.

Facilities

- Complete the many priority repairs/renovations/component replacements to indoor and outdoor facilities (this represents 42% of the projected capital investment for the 2004-2006 period).
- Begin to address the most crucial facility needs (e.g., soccer fields and playgrounds).
- Upgrade ball diamonds at Ansnorveldt and Osin-Lions parks.
- Complete the proposed south side expansion to the Nobleton Arena.
- Prepare a site plan for the expanded Osin-Lions Park, and initiate development.
- Initiate discussion and planning for the proposed Holland River waterfront park (with Bradford West Gwillimbury).
- Begin to systematically improve the quality/aesthetic appeal of parks, particularly Neighbourhood parks.
- Initiate trail upgrading and expansion.
- Complete feasibility studies for the proposed Schomberg arena expansion and the proposed King City Seniors Centre expansion.
- Complete the expansion of the King City Seniors Centre.
- Initiate upgrading of the King Township Museum

Parks and Open Space

- Establish up to 12 new parks as well as several open space linkages and one park extension by defining most of the Township's undeveloped/open space lands as parkland. Most sites should be considered Community-level parkland.
- Develop some new Neighbourhood parks (e.g., Nieuwland Park).
- Provide official names for a number of relatively new park sites.
- Explore location opportunities for the proposed leisure centre and the township-wide sports park(s).
- As development takes place, ensure the preservation of natural heritage resources.
- Initiate a Parkland Acquisition Reserve (an annual municipal contribution, beginning in 2005).