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Municipal Special Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 23, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

MODL Council Chambers – 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville

1. Call to Order

1.1 Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement

2. Staff Reports

2.1 Recreation, Parks & Tourism

2.1.1 Development of Parks & Recreation Areas 1-132

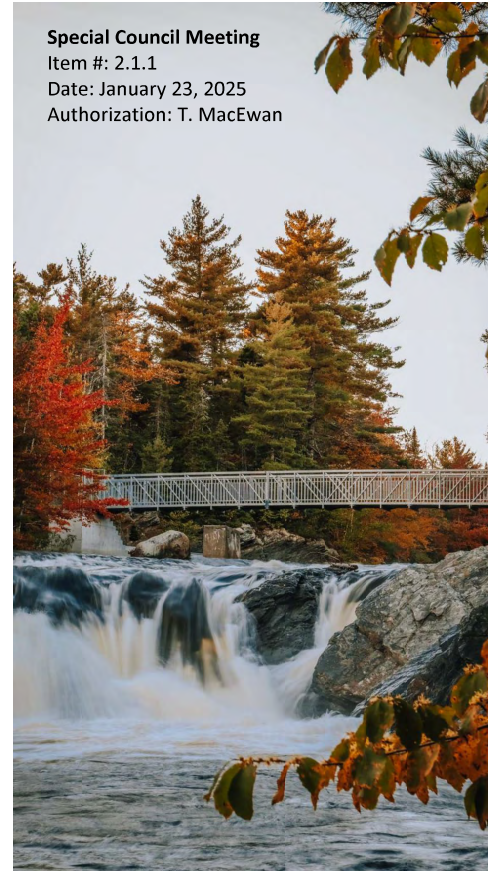
3. Adjournment

Special Council Meeting Parks Strategic Priorities

January 23, 2025



Special Council Meeting
Item #: 2.1.1
Date: January 23, 2025
Authorization: T. MacEwan



Agenda

- Parks & Open Space Standards & Guidelines
- Park Engagement Survey Results
- Accessibility Audit Report
- Re-Crete Parks Strategic Priorities 2023-2025 – Capital Projects Implemented
- Active Transportation – Recommended Priorities
- Capital Projects - Staff Recommendations
- Management Agreements
- Trail and ATV Associations

NOTE: There will be an opportunity for questions following each topic.



Parks & Open Space Standards & Guidelines



PARK STANDARDS

- Classification System
- Defines the intended purpose
- Include the minimum amenity requirements for each category
- Accessibility Considerations





REGIONAL PARK

Large, multiuse park, active and passive rec opportunities; significant built amenities; attracts users from outside immediate neighbourhood.

- AMENITIES**
 Minimum standard for this category:
- Open year-round
 - ✓ • Washroom/outhouse
 - ✓ • Waste receptacles
 - ✓ • Dog waste system
 - 10+ defined parking spaces
 - Accessible park furnishings
 - 1 accessible park
 - 1 accessible playground in this category

- REGIONAL PARKS**
- Municipal Activity & Recreation Complex (MARC)
 - River Ridge Common
 - Wiles Lake Park

- WAYFINDING**
- Park gate
 - Park beacon
 - Vehicular directional
 - Interior kiosk

DESTINATION PARK

A park that highlights an attraction, natural feature or built amenity.

AMENITIES

Minimum standard for this category:

- ✓ • 10% open year-round
- ✓ • Seasonal washroom / outhouse
- ✓ • Waste receptacles
- ✓ • Dog waste system
- 5+ defined parking spaces
- 20% in this category seasonally accessible
- Accessible park furnishings

DESTINATION PARKS

- Church Lake
- Hirtle's Beach
- Indian Falls
- Indian Path Common
- Miller Point Peace Park
- Mushamush Beach Park
- Pinegrove Park
- Sawpit Wharf

WAYFINDING

- Park gate
- Park beacon
- Vehicular



NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

A smaller park that serves the open space needs of local residents; intended to be accessed by active transportation.

AMENITIES

Minimum standard for this category:

- ✓ • 25% open year-round
- ✓ • 25% with seasonal outhouse/ porta-potty
- ✓ • Waste receptacles – seasonal
- ✓ • 10% in this category will provide parking
- ✓ • 20% in this category will provide accessible park furnishings

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS

- LaHave Sunset Park
- Molega Lake Park
- Petite Riviere Community Park*
- Rose Bay Marine Park
- United Communities Marine Park*

WAYFINDING

- Park gate
- Park beacon
- Vehicular directional



PARKETTE

A small park or property that provides passive recreational opportunities. Resting/gathering spaces include landscapes, gardens or access to water.

AMENITIES

Minimum standard for this category:

- ✓ • Seasonal
- ✓ • 10% in this designation will provide parking spaces

PARKETTE

- Indian Point Rest Stop
- Masons Beach Access
- Sand Dollar Beach
- Sucker Lake Park*
- Tancook Island Park
- Westhavers Beach

WAYFINDING

- ID Sign



CONSERVATION LAND

Land purchased or acquired for the purpose of conserving, protecting or restoring a significant ecosystem, habitat and/or species.

AMENITIES

Minimum standard for this category:

- None

CONSERVATION LAND

- Cape LaHave Islands
- Oakland Conservation Area*
- Oxners Beach
- Shaubac Lands

WAYFINDING

- ID Sign



SPORT PARK

Land developed as a venue for athletic or sports teams activities or events.

AMENITIES

Minimum standard for this category:

- ✓ • Parking
- ✓ • Washroom/outhouse/porta-potty

SPORT PARK

- Centre Soccer Field*
- Municipal Activity Recreation Complex – MARC Ballfields
- Pickleball Courts

WAYFINDING

- ID Sign – TBD
- Vehicular directional
- Civic address sign
- Park beacon



Next Steps

- Create an implementation and evaluation strategy
- Develop an asset management strategy – in progress
- Complete life cycle audits for park amenities
- Conduct a recreation use/needs assessment and gap analysis – park survey conducted 2023
- Establish a pest/invasive species control policy
- Establish a commemorative parks program – in progress



QUESTIONS?



Maintenance Standards



Maintenance Standards - Development Considerations

- Align with parks standards
- Reflection of council priorities
- Routine maintenance
- Increase presence in spaces



Maintenance Categories



• Waste



• Sport
Park



• Playground
Inspections



• Washrooms



• Road Access
& Parking Lots



• Signs



• Open Space
Care



• Inspections &
Checks



• Winter
Maintenance



• Trail
Maintenance



• Site Specific
Requirements



Trail Maintenance



Arthur Young Before



Arthur Young After

LaHave Sunset



Sawpit Wharf



Sand Dollar Beach



Risk Management Examples



QUESTIONS?



Park Engagement Survey Results



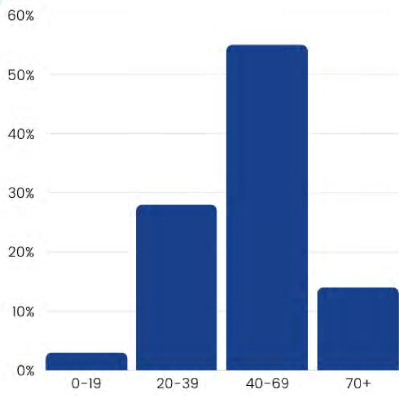
What We Did

- In-person surveys
- Online surveys
- Response - 309 total participants
- Survey Objective
 - Spaces, Amenities, Demographics

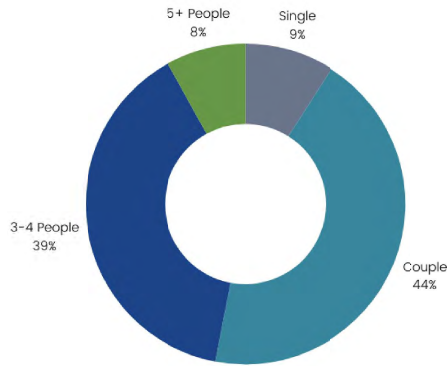


Who Responded

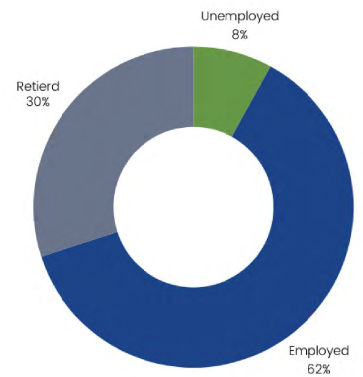
Age Range



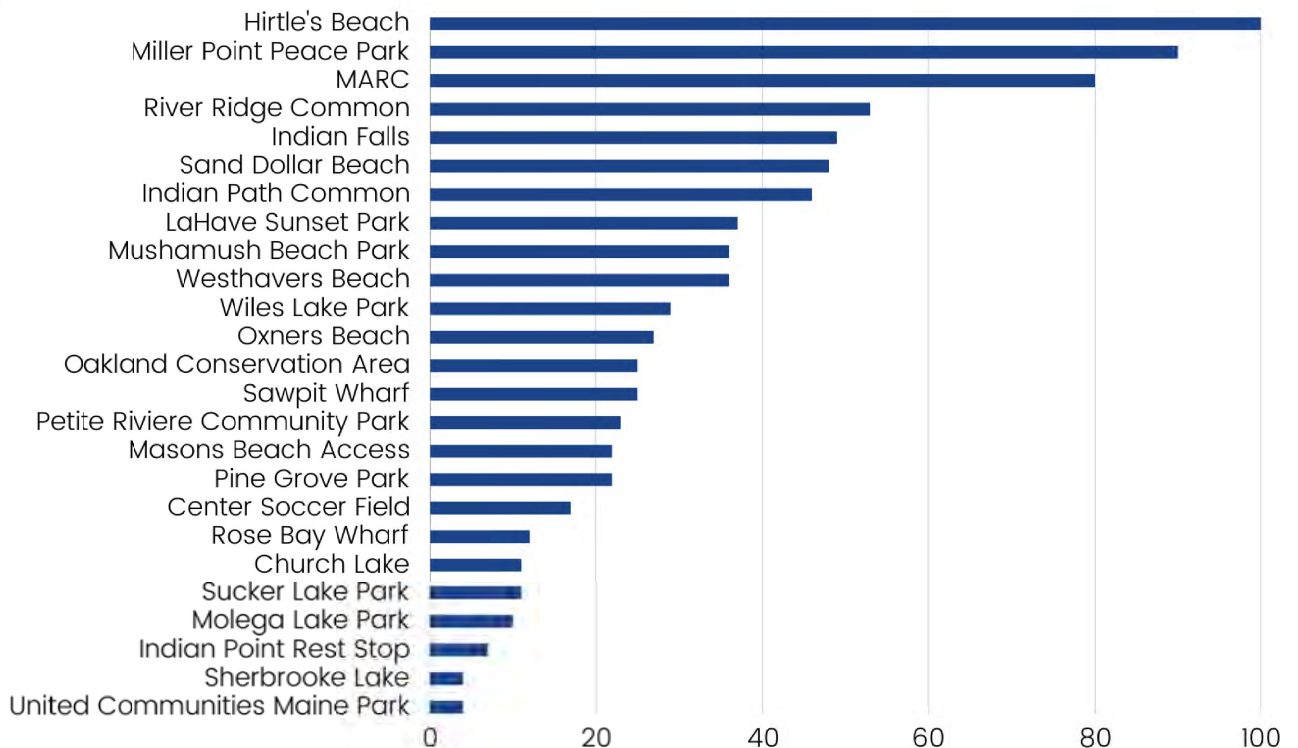
Household Size



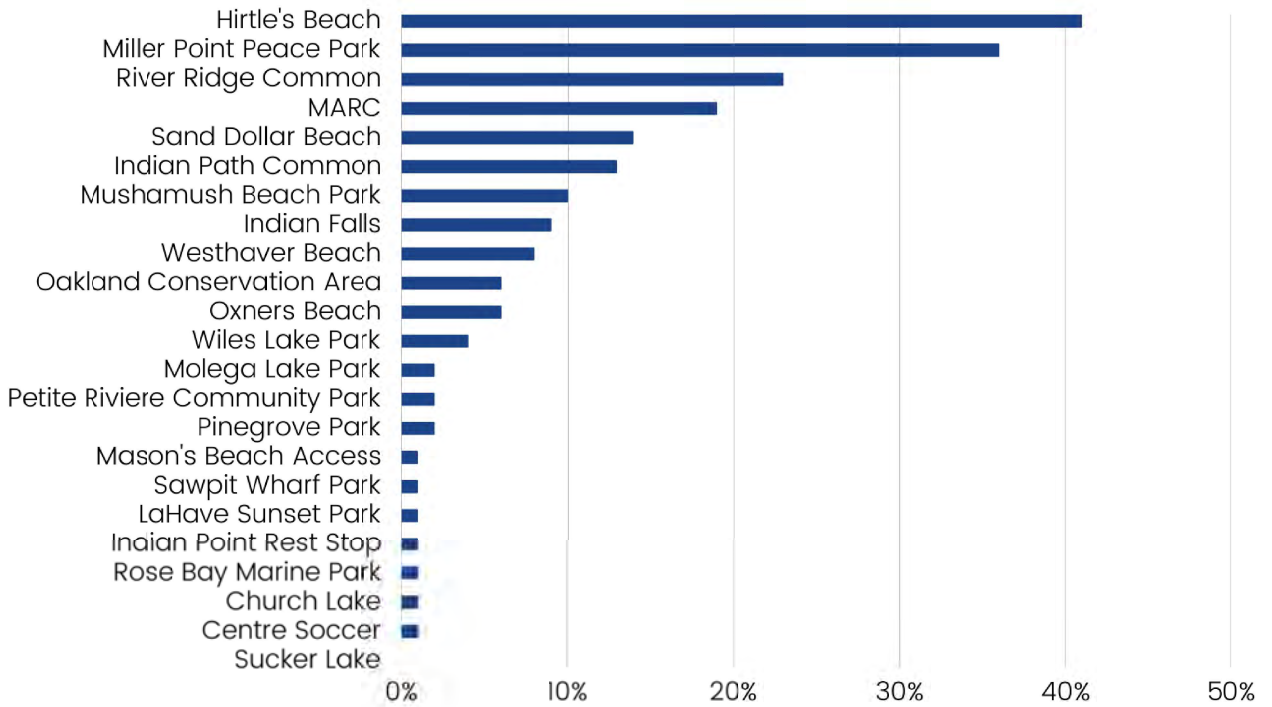
Employment Status



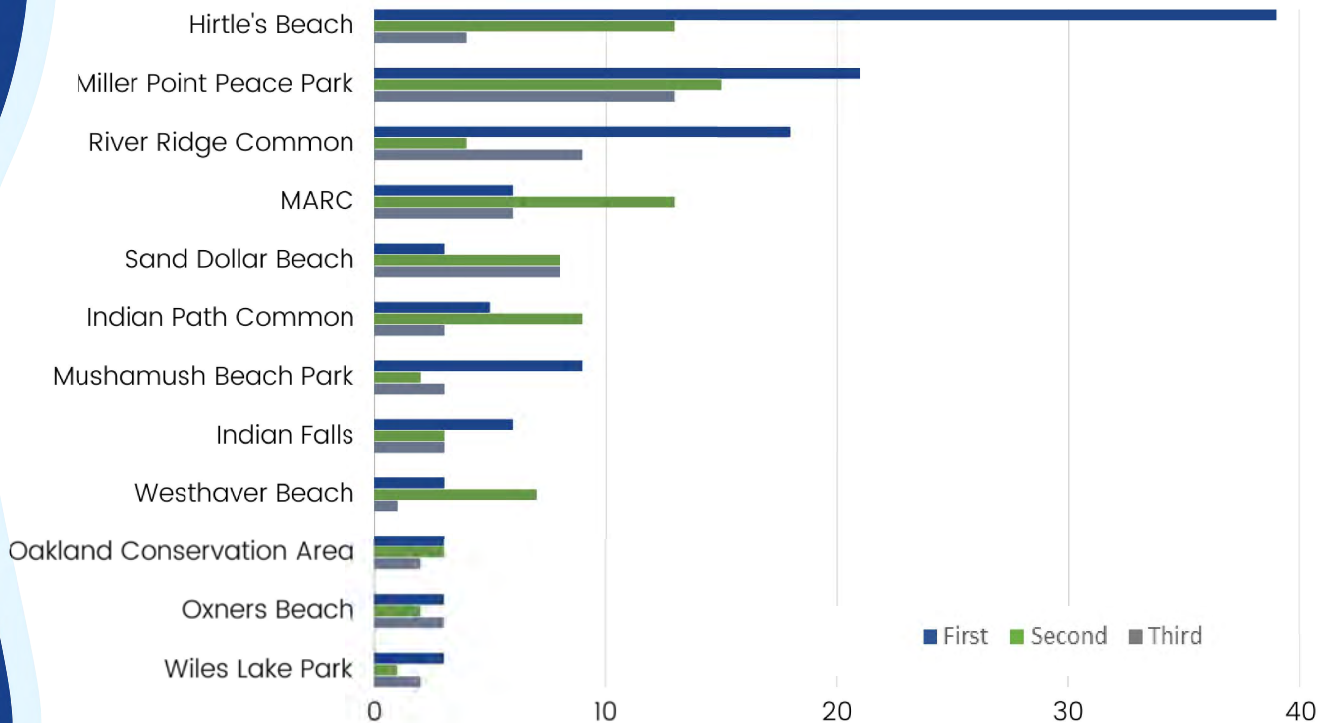
Where They Go



Favourite Places

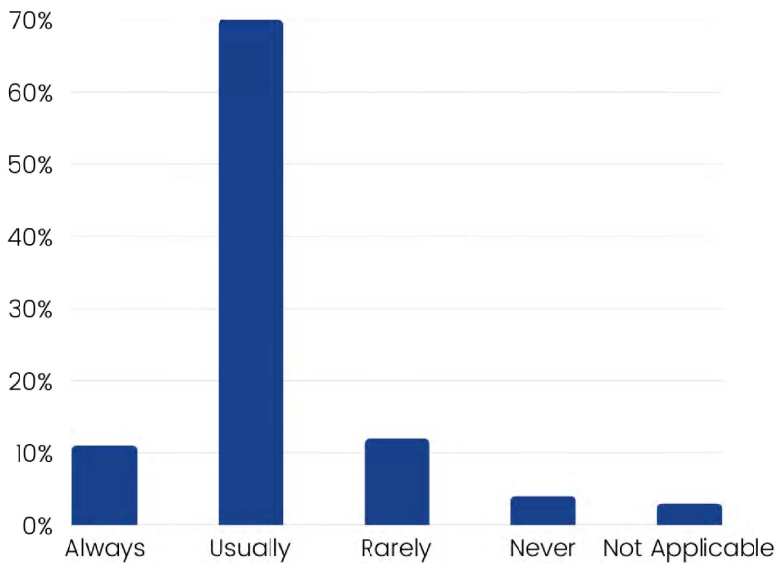


Favourite Places - Ranked

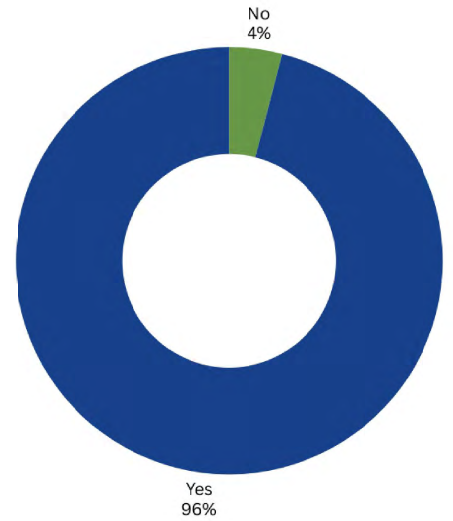




What We Heard - Parking



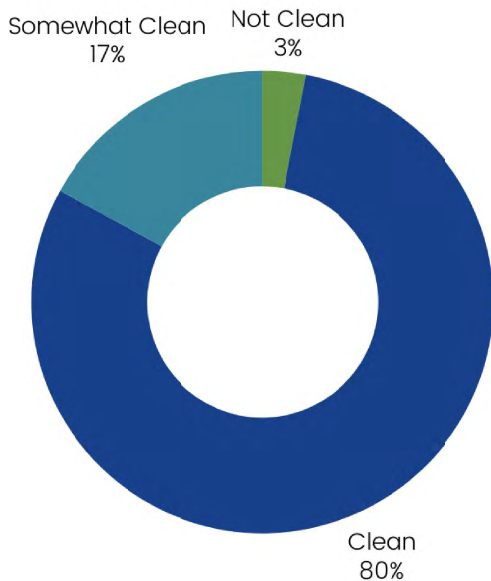
Online



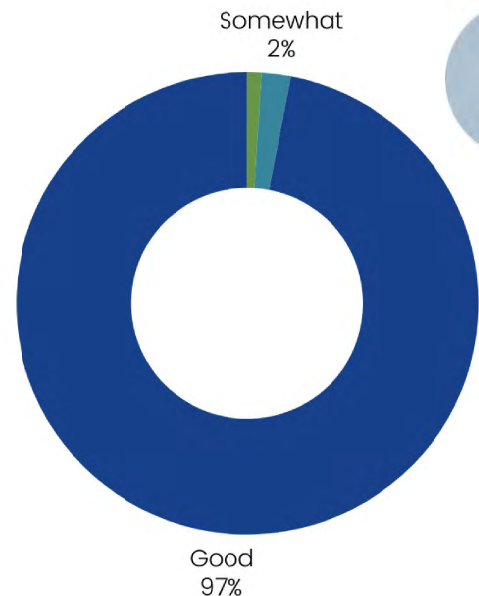
In-Person



What We Heard In-Person Bathrooms & Bins

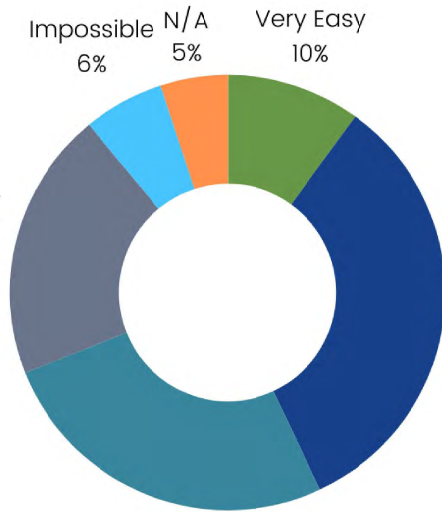


Bathrooms

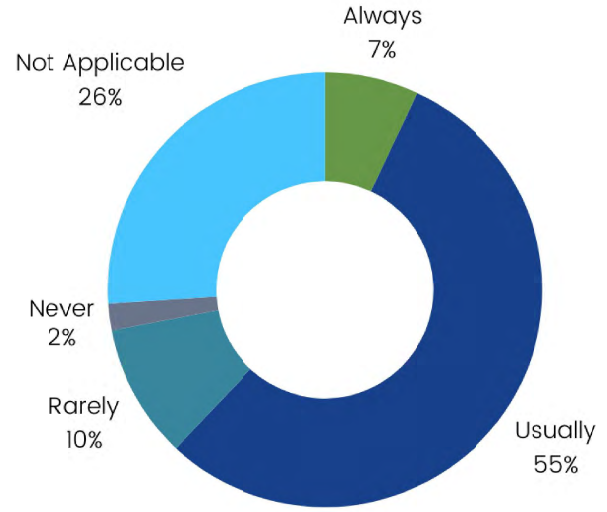


Waste Bins

What We Heard Online Bathrooms



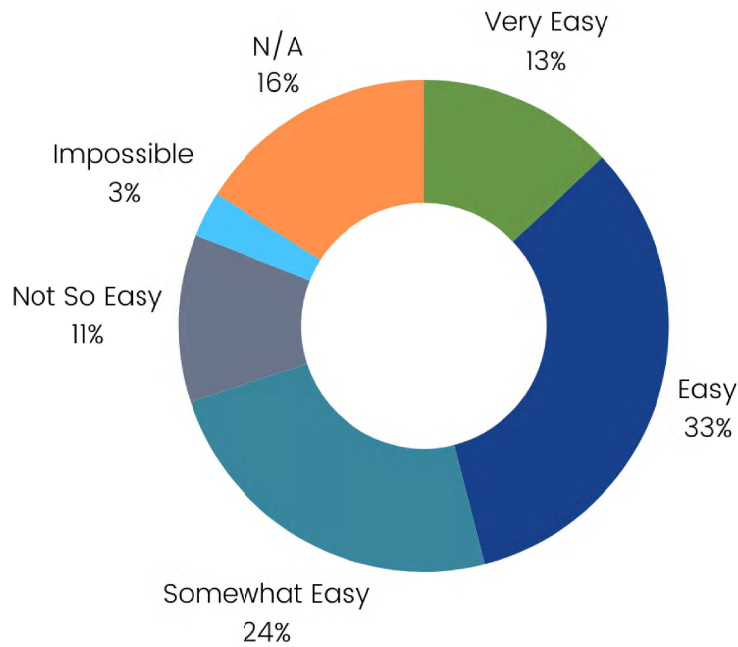
Location



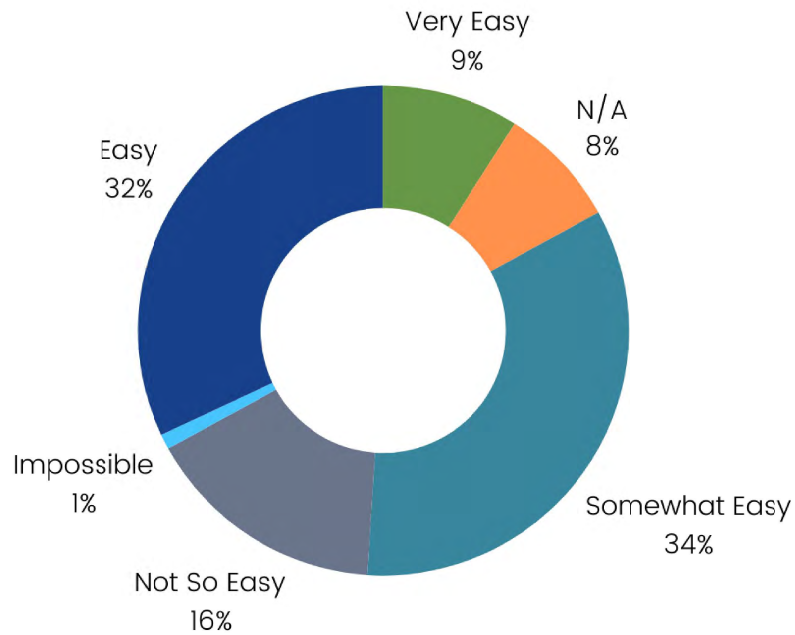
Cleanliness



What We Heard - Online Waste Bins & Dog Waste Bins



What We Heard - Seating



What We Heard Requests & Improvements



15% - bathrooms



11% - seating



10% - wayfinding & signs



9% - parking



9% - waste bins



What We Heard - Accessibility

- 13% reported accessibility challenges within MODL spaces
 - Unsafe and uneven ground
 - Seating/rest areas
 - Signage

QUESTIONS?



Parks Accessibility Audit



Accessibility Audits

- Accessibility Audits completed for 5 parks
 - Hirtle's Beach
 - Mushamush Beach Park
 - Miller Point Peace Park
 - River Ridge Common
 - Indian Falls Park
- Report & recommendations with Class D estimates (+35%, - 25%) accepted by Council on June 11, 2024





Hirtles Beach Recommendations

Low/Medium Cost Projects

• Designated accessible parking (x 3)	\$30,000	}	\$210,000
• Accessible picnic area	\$30,000		
• Amenity upgrades (bins, bike racks)	\$15,000		
• Accessible interpretive signage	\$15,000		
• Gravel walkway to the toilets	\$15,000		
• Toilet accessibility upgrades	\$50,000		
• Delineate Parking	\$30,000		
• Beach overlook design options	\$25,000		

High Cost Projects

• Rebuild beach boardwalk to be accessible	\$80,000	}	\$610,000
• Paved parking lot	\$350,000		
• New beach look-off	\$80,000		
• Accessible ramp to beach	\$100,000		



Miller Point Recommendations

Low/Medium Cost Projects

• Designated accessible parking	\$10,000	}	\$225,000
• Parking lot upgrades	\$20,000		
• Pathway upgrades	\$30,000		
• Seating along trail*	\$25,000		
• Picnic area accessibility upgrades	\$10,000		
• Toilets accessibility upgrades	\$45,000		
• Internal wayfinding	\$20,000		
• Accessible interpretive signs	\$15,000		
• Accessible canoe/kayak launch	\$50,000		

High Cost Projects

• Accessible pit toilets front parking lot	\$100,000	}	\$530,000
• Accessible loop trail	\$90,000		
• Trail between parking lots	\$90,000		
• Pave parking lots	\$250,000		

River Ridge Recommendations

Low/Medium Cost Projects

• Designated accessible parking	\$10,000	}	\$60,000
• Accessible upgrades to access trail	\$25,000		
• Toilet relocation to playground	\$5,000		
• Internal wayfinding upgrades	\$20,000		

High Cost Projects

• Convert access road for public entry to playground	\$250,000	}	\$500,000
• Accessible trail from upper parking to falls trail	\$100,000		
• Pit toilets x 3	\$150,000		



Indian Falls Recommendations

Low/Medium Cost Projects

• Designated accessible parking	\$10,000	}	\$97,000
• Parking lot upgrades	\$10,000		
• Accessible path to viewing area	\$5,000		
• Accessible picnic area	\$25,000		
• Accessible path upgrade	\$12,000		
• Internal wayfinding upgrades	\$20,000		
• Accessible picnic area by river	\$15,000		

High Cost Projects

• Pave parking lot	\$130,000	}	\$290,000
• Upgrade entry road for emergency vehicles	\$100,000		
• Limited mobility river access	\$60,000		



Mushamush Recommendations

Low/Medium Cost Projects

• Designated accessible parking	\$10,000	}	\$88,000
• Parking area upgrades	\$15,000		
• Pathway upgrades	\$23,000		
• Restrict OHV access to site	\$8,000		
• Accessible beach access	\$12,000		
• Accessible furnishings	\$20,000		

High Cost Projects

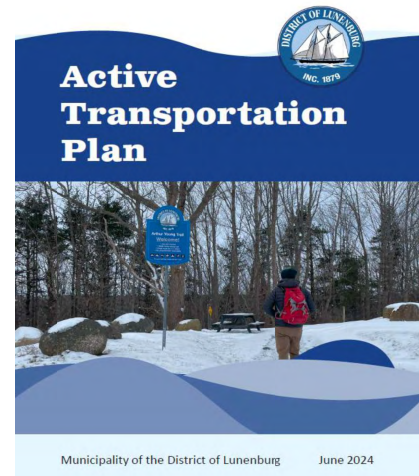
• Park layout accessibility upgrades	\$200,000	}	\$880,000
• Paved parking lot	\$100,000		
• Accessible changerooms & beach viewing deck	\$80,000		
• Accessible flush washrooms	\$500,000		

QUESTIONS?



Active Transportation (AT) Plan

Prepared June 2024



AT Plan Recommendations

Recommended priority projects over the next 5 years, based on community consultation and consulting experts:

Phase 1 (Short Term, 1 to 2 years)

The estimated capital cost of the Phase 1 Active Transportation Network expansion is \$6.3 to \$9.9 Million.

Corridor Name	Facility Type	Length (km)	Estimated Capital Cost
Cookville (Nathan Cirillo Road, Pine Grove Road, Hwy 10)	Sidewalk	3.1	\$2,697,000
	Multi-use Path (new)		\$1,550,000
	Multi-use Path (utility relocation/ drainage required)		\$3,100,000
LaHave River Trail	Multi-use Path (new)	3.94	\$1,970,000
	Multi-use Path (utility relocation/ drainage required)		\$3,940,000
MARC Connector (Leary Fraser Road)	Multi-use Path (new)	0.16	\$80,000
	Multi-use Path (utility relocation/ drainage required)		\$160,000
	Neighbourhood Greenway		\$6,400
Estimated Total Cost			\$6.3M to \$9.9M



AT Plan Recommendations

Phase 2 (Medium Term, 2 to 5 years)

The estimated total cost of the Phase 2 Active Transportation Network expansion is \$4.9 to 7.9 Million.

Corridor Name	Facility Type	Length (km)	Estimated Capital Cost
New Germany (Hwy 10, Route 208, school Street)	Neighbourhood Greenway	3.1	\$124,000
	Multi-use Path (new)		\$1,550,000
	Multi-use Path (utility relocation/ drainage required)		\$3,100,000
LaHave Route 331, Fort Point Road)	Sidewalk	1.8	\$1,566,000
	Multi-use Path (new)		\$900,000
	Multi-use Path (utility relocation/ drainage required)		\$1,800,000
	Neighbourhood Greenway		\$72,000
Blockhouse (School road, Route 325, Cornwall Road, new connector)	Neighbourhood Greenway	1.2	\$48,000
	Multi-use Path (new)		\$600,000
	Multi-use Path (utility relocation/ drainage required)		\$1,200,000
Estimated Total Cost			\$4.9M to \$7.9M

QUESTIONS?



Re-Create Parks Capital Projects 2023- 2025



Capital Projects 2023-2025

- MARC Playground
- Park Trail Development at Indian Falls
- Furnishing Installations (park benches, picnic tables, waste receptacles)
- MARC Trail Upgrades
- Arthur Young Trail Upgrades



Capital Projects 2023-2025

- Park Accessibility Audits
- Active Transportation Plan Updated – Received *
- Sawpit Wharf Park Concept and Implementation Plan
- Mobi Mat at MushaMush Park



Capital Projects 2023-2025

- E-bike Loan Program*
- Parasport wheelchairs and trailer
- Vault toilet designs and change rooms – MushaMush*
- Park gates*
- MARC Ballfield grub infestation



Capital Projects 2023-2025

- Public Moorings – in partnership with MICA ☑
- Wayfinding (Park gates, beacons, kiosk, ID, directional)*
- Art on the Trails/In Parks *
- Osprey Connector Trail ☑



Capital Projects 2023-2025

- Indian Falls Stairs Design and Installation ☑
- Wharf Assessments – Sawpit, Rose Bay ☑
- Pickleball Court Design – Osprey, Centre
- Park Road upgrades – Mush, Indian Falls, Wiles Lake ☑



Capital Projects 2023-2025

- Paved Shoulders – Martins River to Mahone Bay
- Design for AT Connector – Highway 10
- Stairs and handrail, brush clearing for visibility – Oakland Conservation Area



Capital Project Recommendations



Capital Project Recommendations 2025-2026

- Re-Imagine the MARC/Wiles Lake Park Public Consultation and Implementation Plan
- Miller Point Peace Park – accessible trail connect from outer to inner parking lot; upgrade a current trail to be accessible; accessible canoe/kayak launch
- Indian Falls – make picnic and viewing area accessible; accessible vault washroom
- Internal park wayfinding strategy



Capital Project Recommendations 2025-2026

- MARC Ballfields – fencing; repairs to current fencing; re-install two dugouts
- Add an accessible portion to the MARC playground
- Begin implementation of the Sawpit Wharf Park Concept Plan – year one engineering plans
- Art on the Trail/In the Park
- Special Capital requests from trail groups



Capital Project – Things to Think About – 5 Year Capital Plan

- Pickleball Courts
- Active Transportation infrastructure
- Public consultation recommended for Hirtles Beach; the MARC; Wiles Lake; Mushamush; and Pine Grove.
- Refresh of the Open Space Strategic Plan – over 20 years old
- Art on the Trail/In the Park



Current Management/Stewardship Agreements

- United Communities Marine Park
- Petite Riviere Community Park
- Sucker Lake
- Oakland Conservation Area
- Riverport and Area Park (RCC)
- Centre Soccer Field – West Nova Fuels Soccer Association
- Lunenburg County Mountain Bike Association



Annual Contributions to the Rail to Trail Organizations

- Bull Run
- Bay to Bay
- LaHave River
- Adventure Trail
- Central Nova ATV Club
- Dynamite
- Brookfield Mines
- South Shore Annapolis Valley



QUESTIONS?





PARKS & OPEN SPACE

STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

creating space for everyone



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG - 2023

Glossary

Accessible for the purpose of this document refers to reducing and removing barriers to improve accessibility in outdoor public spaces. It does not infer spaces will be fully accessible without barriers.

Active Recreation is participation in activities that require the expenditure of energy. It can also be associated with activities that require constructed amenities or infrastructure.

Asset Management is a planned, integrated, lifecycle approach for managing and investing in infrastructure to maximize benefits, manage risk and provide sustainable, satisfactory levels of service to the public.

Destination Park is a park that highlights an attraction, natural feature or built amenity.

Conservation Land refers to land purchased or acquired for the purpose of conserving, protecting, or restoring a significant ecosystem, habitat and/or species.

Level of Service refers to the service level delivered to the public. This can include the selection of services provided, the standard of infrastructure or the standard to which an asset is maintained.

Management Agreement refers to a legal agreement between the Municipality and an Association for the development, maintenance and operation of municipally owned land.

Neighbourhood Park is a smaller, strategically located park within a neighbourhood that serves the open space needs of local residents; amenities often include playgrounds, greenscapes (large unprogrammed lawn) and natural areas.

Open Space refers to undeveloped publicly owned or publicly accessible land; can include green space and municipal parks.

Outhouse for the purpose of this document refers to a vault privy defined as a self-contained waterless toilet.

Park refers to an area of natural, semi-natural or planted space set aside for human enjoyment and recreation or for the protection of wildlife or natural habitats.

Park Amenities means what improvements can be found in a park or open space.

Parkette is a small property or park that provides passive recreational opportunities. These sites are resting/gathering spaces that may include landscapes, gardens or provide access to water.

Passive Recreation refers to recreational activities that require minimal alteration to the landscape; passive recreational activities generally require minimal resources as a result they are highly compatible with natural resource protection.

Porta-Potty for the purpose of this document refers to a portable or mobile waterless toilet.

Recreation is the experience that results from freely-chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.

Regional Park refers to a large, multi-use park that provides both active and passive recreational opportunities; generally, has a significant built environment with amenities that attract users from outside the immediate neighbourhood.

Sport Park refers to land developed as a venue for athletic or sports teams activities or events.

Washroom for the purpose of this document refers to an inclusive enclosed washroom providing a barrier-free toilet and sink and turning space to accommodate a wheeled mobility device.

Wayfinding refers to the identification of assets and provides information for navigation.

1.0 Introduction

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg is located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kma'ki People. The Municipality acknowledges and honours the spiritual, cultural and economic connection the Mi'kma'ki had and continue to have, as the traditional keepers of the land, waters and resources in which we have the privilege to live.

Located on the South Shore of Nova Scotia, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL) borders the Districts of Chester and Queens and surrounds the Towns of Bridgewater, Mahone Bay and Lunenburg. The geographical region, a relatively rural landscapes of shorelines, lakes, rivers, wetlands and forests, spans over 1,700 square kilometers. It is the richness and diversity of culture, history and ecology that has attracted and continues to attract people to the region.

MODL spaces provide both active and passive recreation opportunities, some spaces are left undeveloped to allow natural processes to occur and others protect environmentally significant areas and wildlife habitat. Intentional planning creates a park and open space system that delivers the outcomes established by council, community feedback and the planning documents.

MODL's Vision, Mission, and Values statements guide the overall direction for municipal management; the Active Transportation Plan provides direction on the support and development of connections between our local communities; the Active Living Strategic Plan sets goals for public education and removing barriers for including active living in daily routines and the Strategic Priorities, set by council, help guide the budget and focus the work of the Municipality. Most recently, council adopted the Local Climate Change Action Plan 2030, that will guide the municipality "toward achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and support a climate-resilient, healthier, and sustainable future."^[1]

In 2002-03, MODL undertook an extensive planning process that resulted in the creation of the Open Space Strategic Plan. The Plan directs the development, purchase and sale of Municipal properties. The Open Space Plan was reviewed 2010 and amended to reflect the status of identified goals. "Developing minimum parks standards according to use" is identified as an area to be considered for policy development and implementation within the Open Space Strategic Plan.

[1] Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, 2022. Local Climate Change Action Plan 2030.

Many of the goals and recommendations set forth in Open Space Strategic Plan have been achieved. A few recommendations remain outstanding and relevant even though the community has grown and changed considerably since the creation of the original plan and subsequent review.

The demographics of our communities and how people recreate is changing. National trends demonstrate individuals preferring passive recreation opportunities moving away from organized sports and activities. Highlighted by the pandemic, parks, trails and open space has seen a significant increase in use. Evolving with the needs of the community, Council has set a strategic priority to upgrade MODL spaces to accommodate the current and future needs of residents.

2.0 Community Benefit

Recreation is defined as “the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing”.^[2] MODLs investment in parks, trails and open spaces has tangible benefits for the individual and the community. Parks support community and individual well-being by providing space that encourages participation in recreation. Not only do these spaces contribute to the health and resiliency of the community by promoting the pursuit of recreational and leisure activities, they simultaneously preserve the ecological health of the natural environment. The National Benefits Hub, a source for evidence-based research that supports the necessity of providing recreation spaces, groups the benefits into four categories which are summarized below.

PERSONAL

- Extends life expectancy
- Prolongs independent living
- Reduces risk of heart disease & stroke
- Prevents/reduces risk for diabetes & arthritis
- Contributes to mental health & well-being
- Enhances physical & emotional health
- Improves quality of life

BENEFITS OF PARKS & OPEN SPACES

SOCIAL

- Leisure activities & parks enhance perceived/actual quality of life and place/infrastructure
- Reduces self-destructive behaviour & crime
- Reduces isolation & loneliness
- Contributes to building strong, self-sufficient & sustainable communities
- Creates a sense of belonging within a community
- Builds pride in communities

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Protects habitat & biodiversity
- Improves air quality
- Encourages active transportation
- Provides space for environmental & personal health education
- Mitigates potential environmental disaster
- Encourages stewardship
- Essential to overall good health, quality of life & well-being

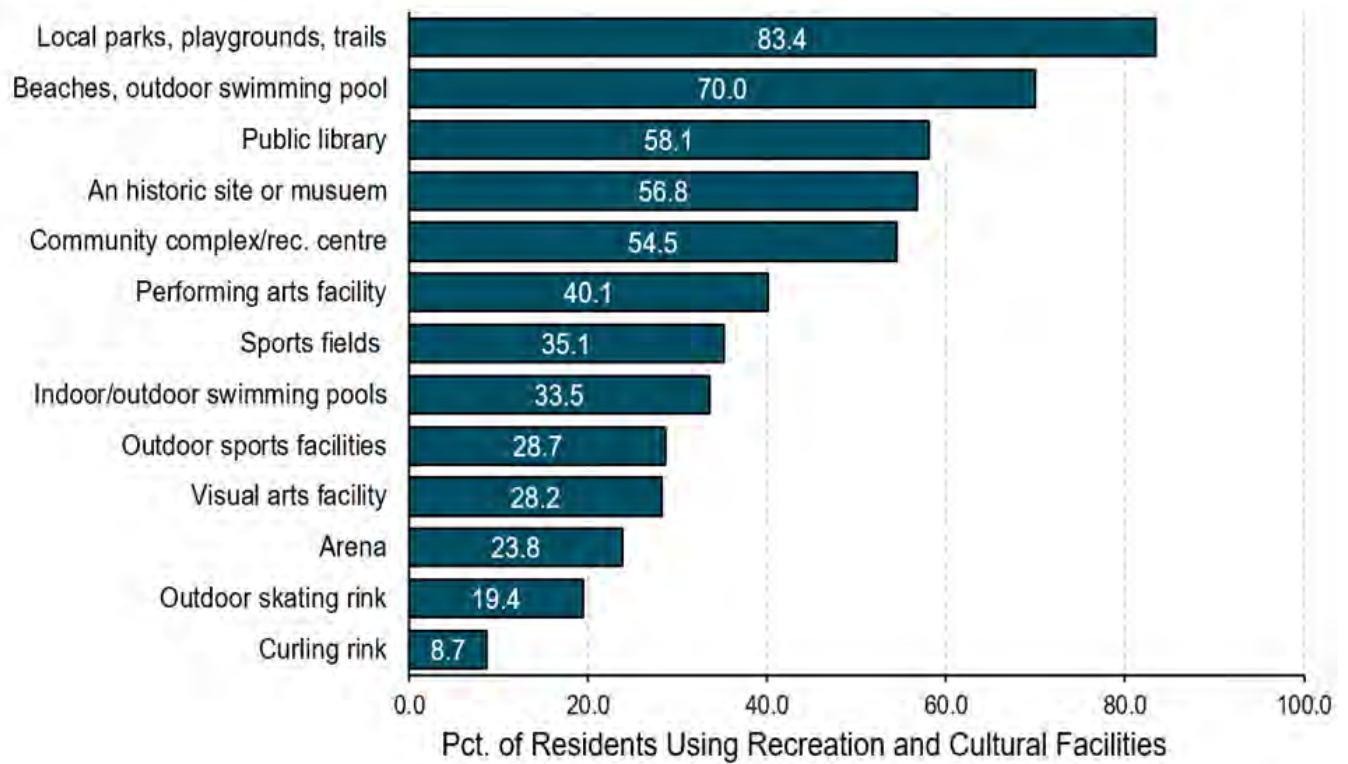
ECONOMIC

- Reduces healthcare costs related to illness &/or disability
- Reduces social services costs
- Improve work performance & productivity
- Attract businesses & tourism to the community
- Excellent for storm water retention
- Increase property values
- Increase tax revenue

[2] Interprovincial Sports and Recreation Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, 2015. Framework for Recreation in Canada: Pathways to Wellbeing.

The Nova Scotia Quality of Life Initiative aims to measure the lives and wellbeing of residents by looking beyond economic indicators and examining the perceived quality of life. Over 12,000 individuals from across the province participated in the Engage Nova Scotia 230-question survey. Part of the research focused on how residents are spending their leisure time and accessing recreational opportunities, see graph below [3]. These results are indicative of the intrinsic value parks, playgrounds and trails have on quality of life and the necessity for local government to ensure all residents have the opportunity to access these services.

Use of Recreation and Cultural Facilities

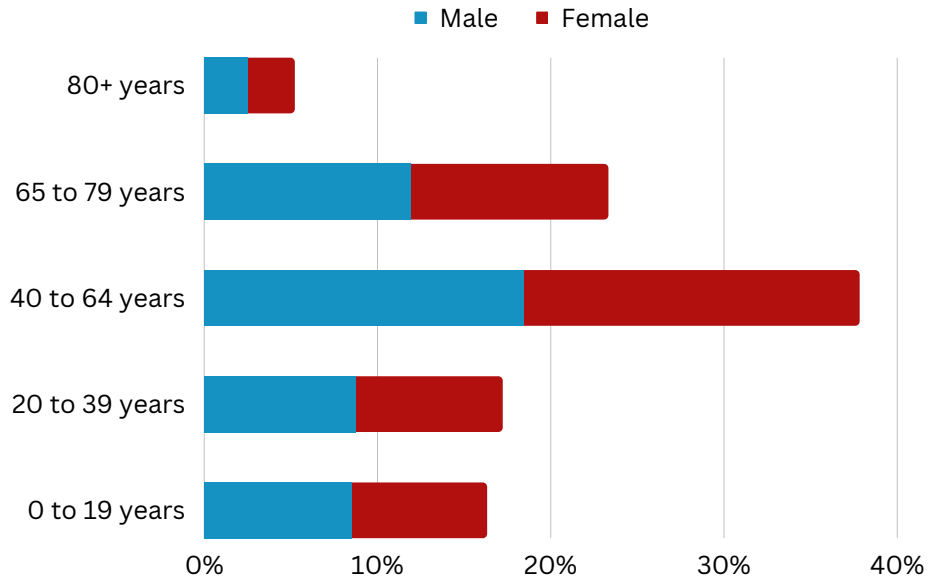


[3] Supplementary Analysis, prepared by the Canadian Index of Wellbeing, using the Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey March, 2020.
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3.0 Community Information

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg has a population of 25,545 (Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population) an increase of 2.7% from the 2016 census.

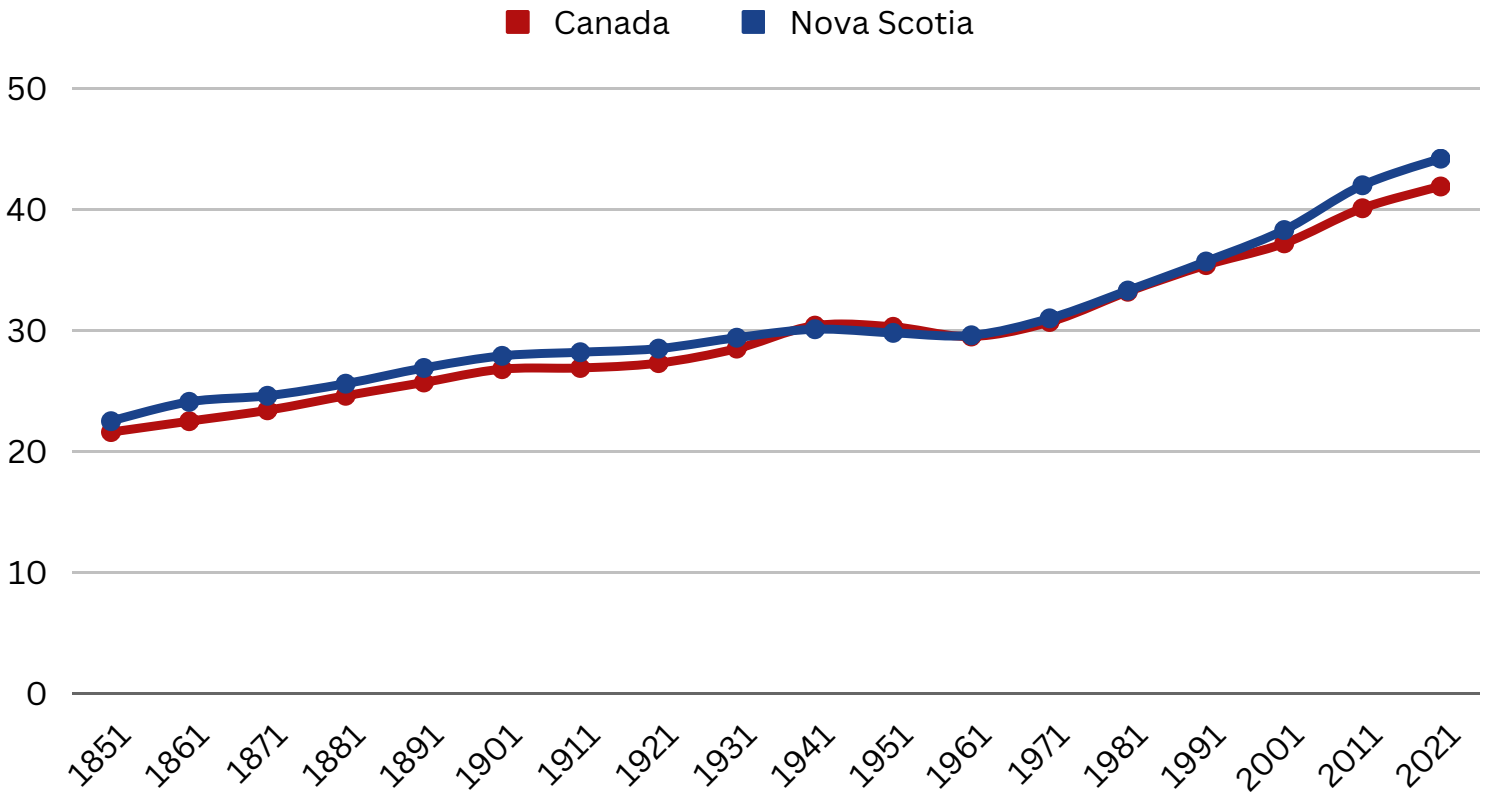
Almost 30% of the population is over 65 years of age in comparison to the rest of the country, where seniors make up 19% of the total population.



The census data indicates that in Nova Scotia the:

- average age is increasing
- population is growing
- average age is higher than the rest of the country

The changing demographics can provide challenges for aging recreation facilities and spaces.



4.0 Guidance, Vision & Principles

In 2015, A Framework for Recreation in Canada was released; this document provided a new vision for the provision of recreational services. An initiative that was led by provincial and territorial governments, the Framework consists of five pillars referred to as the calls to actions to assist with decision-making, management and delivery of recreation policies and practices. The Framework is nationally regarded as a guide for public recreation providers and has been adopted by Nova Scotia Government.

The five pillars of the Framework for Recreation:



Goal 1 Active Living

Foster active living through physical recreation.



Goal 2 Inclusion and Access

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



Goal 3 Connecting People and Nature

Help people connect to nature through recreation.



Goal 4 Supportive Environments

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



Goal 5 Recreation Capacity

Ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation field.

The vision, mission and values statements for MODL provide direction for current and future municipal operations. These statements are intended to communicate and inform the public the guiding principles to how the stated goals and objectives will be achieved.

Vision

The breathtaking, natural beauty of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg is home to thriving communities with unique cultural identities. Growth centres support our diversified economies, driven by our residents' passion for the place they call home.

With our strong economy, we can live, work and raise families here. We are a destination for visitors, attracted to our vibrant parks, beaches, and hiking trails. As leaders in sustainability, we passionately protect our natural environment.

Mission

We are:

- Responsible financial managers
- Strategic planners
- Sustainable community builders
- Collaborative engagers

Values

- Thriving Communities: We encourage meaningful connections.
- Act with Integrity: We are accountable and strive to provide exceptional leadership within our municipality.
- Respect and Kindness: We value the uniqueness and diversity of our communities, welcoming everyone with respect and kindness.
- Equity and Inclusion: We take action to change and grow to be a truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive municipality.
- Ready for Action!: We are innovators, economic leaders, and collaborative partners.

This Park Standards and Guideline (PSG) document provides a clear and principle-focused approach to park maintenance and planning. In alignment with MODLs Vision, Mission and Values and with consideration to the five pillars outlined in *A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015*, the classification system clearly articulates the goals and priorities MODL has regarding the provisions of parks and open spaces.

The PSG is comprised of two components:

1. Parks and Open Space Classifications

The classifications define the types of parks within the municipality that contribute to a well-balanced, cohesive parks and open space system.

2. Park Amenities

The park amenities provide direction on what features/components are to be provided with each park. The amenities are defined by park classification and are the **minimum standard** for the park classification

This document does not include budgetary implications or an assessment of current staff capacity or requirements for the implementation of the standards set forth. This process did not include a gap analysis.

The park standards

- clearly define the intended purpose and uses
- ensures consistency in standards and service delivery
- provides an intentional spectrum of opportunities across the district
- accounts for the needs and abilities of all community members
- ensures the minimum standards set for municipalities in the NS Accessibility Legislation are met*
- include the minimum amenity requirements for each category

Levels of service will include the selection of services provided, the standard of infrastructure and/or the standard to which an asset is maintained. The levels of service for each category shall be determined at the operational level based on priorities set by council and in alignment with this standards document. The financial implications of service levels shall be included in the annual operating budget.

MODL shall endeavour to create a cohesive uniform look across the municipality within parks and outdoor spaces. In practice, consistent wording and designs will be used on all signage. Recognition and uniformity shall be created with amenities and park furnishings as replaced. The ultimate goal is cohesion and brand recognition as an MODL park.

*At the time of this document, only interim guidelines are in place for Nova Scotia

5.0 Park Categories

REGIONAL PARK

Large, multi-use park that meets the needs of a large geographical area; provides both active and passive recreational opportunities; generally, has a significant built environment with amenities that attract users from outside the immediate neighbourhood. The focus of a regional park is meeting community-based needs and serving a broader purpose than neighbourhood parks and parkettes

DESTINATION PARK

A park that highlights an attraction, natural feature or built amenity.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

A park strategically located within a neighbourhood intended to be accessed by active transportation means. Typically, a smaller, local park that serves the open space needs of local residents. Often include amenities such as playgrounds, greenscapes (large unprogrammed lawn) and natural areas.

PARKETTE

A small park or property that provides passive recreational opportunities. These sites are resting/gathering spaces that may include landscapes, gardens or provide access to water.

CONSERVATION LAND

Land purchased or acquired for the purpose of conserving, protecting, or restoring a significant ecosystem, habitat and/or species. This designation is intended to minimize disturbance of the lands, use shall be limited to low-impact (passive) recreational uses and non-invasive scientific research.

SPORT PARK

Land developed as a venue for athletic or sports teams activities or events.

REGIONAL PARK



Large, multiuse park, active and passive rec opportunities; significant built amenities; attracts users from outside immediate neighbourhood.

REGIONAL PARKS

- Municipal Activity & Recreation Complex (MARC)
- River Ridge Common
- Wiles Lake Park*

AMENITIES

Minimum standard for this category:

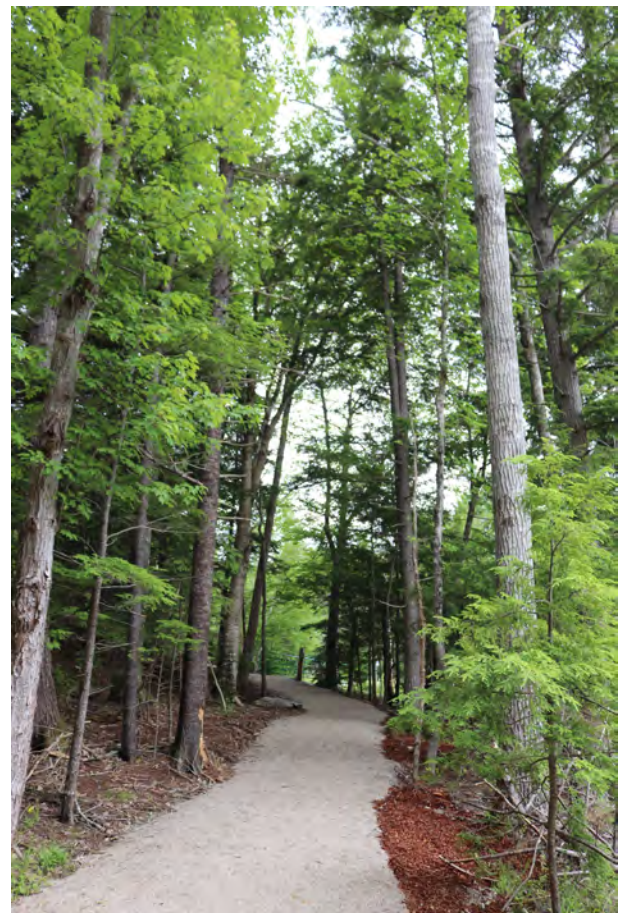
- Open year-round
- Washroom/outhouse
- Waste receptacles
- Dog waste system
- 10+ defined parking spaces
- Accessible park furnishings
- 1 accessible park
- 1 accessible playground in this category

WAYFINDING

- Park gate
- Park beacon
- Vehicular directional
- Interior kiosk



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* Development timeline will be determined in the implementation strategy

DESTINATION PARK



A park that highlights an attraction, natural feature or built amenity.

DESTINATION PARKS

- Church Lake
- Hirtle's Beach
- Indian Falls
- Indian Path Common
- Miller Point Peace Park
- Mushamush Beach Park
- Pinegrove Park
- Sawpit Wharf

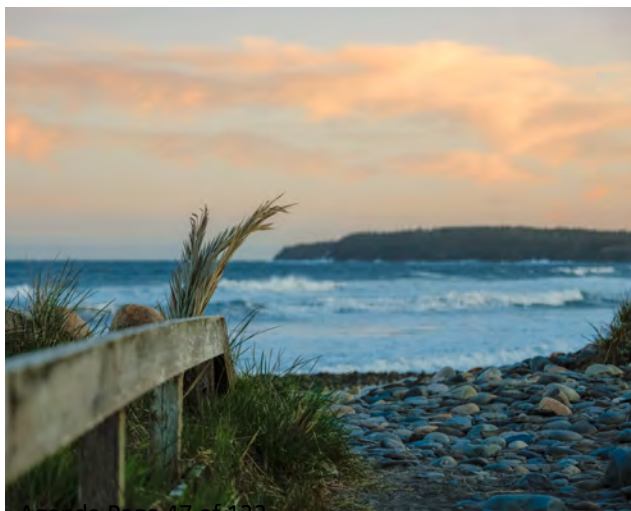
WAYFINDING

- Park gate
- Park beacon
- Vehicular directional

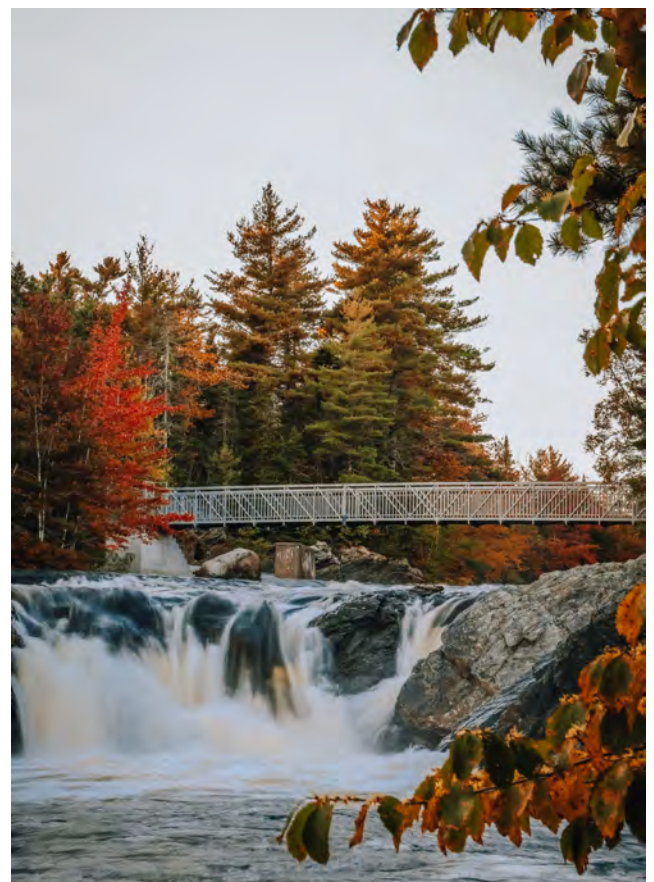
AMENITIES

Minimum standard for this category:

- 10% open year-round
- Washroom/outhouse/porta-potty seasonally
- Waste receptacles
- Dog waste system
- 5+ defined parking spaces
- 20% in this category seasonally accessible
- Accessible park furnishings



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Photos by Maritime River Photography

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK



Strategically located within a neighbourhood, typically smaller, local park.

- ### NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS
- LaHave Sunset Park
 - Molega Lake Park
 - Petite Riviere Community Park**
 - Rose Bay Marine Park**
 - United Communities Marine Park**

- ### WAYFINDING
- Park gate
 - Park beacon
 - Vehicular directional?

- ### AMENITIES
- Minimum standard for this category:
- 25% open year-round
 - 25% with seasonal outhouse/porta-potty
 - Waste receptacles - seasonal
 - 10% in this category will provide parking
 - Park furnishings
 - 20% in this category will provide accessible features



Photo by Kas Stone



Photo by Chasity Zwicker

** Denotes a management agreement in place

PARKETTE



A small park or property that provides passive rec opportunities. Resting/gathering spaces – provide access to water.

AMENITIES

Minimum standard for this category:

- Seasonal
- 10% in this designation will provide parking

PARKETTES

- Indian Point Rest Stop
- Masons Beach Access
- Sand Dollar Beach
- Sucker Lake Park**
- Old Southeast Cove Wharf Day Park
- Westhavers Beach

WAYFINDING

- ID Sign – TBD



CONSERVATION LAND



Land purchased or acquired for the purpose of conserving, protecting or restoring a significant ecosystem, habitat and/or species.

AMENITIES

Minimum standard for this category:

- None

CONSERVATION LAND

- Cape LaHave Islands
- Oakland Conservation Area
- Oxners Beach
- Shaubac Lands

WAYFINDING

- ID Sign - TBD



SPORT PARK



Land developed as a venue for athletic or sports teams activities or events.

SPORT FACILITIES

- Municipal Activity Recreation Complex – MARC Ballfields
- Centre Soccer Field
- Pickleball Courts

AMENITIES

Minimum standard for this category include:

- parking
- Washroom/outhouse/porta-potty

WAYFINDING

- Vehicular directional
- ID sign – TBD
- Park beacon



6.0 Accessibility

Accessible, for the purpose of this document, refers to reducing and removing barriers to improve access to outdoor public spaces. It does not infer spaces will provide universal access.

MODL is committed to employing the core principles from the Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate, Interim Accessibility Guidelines for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces, 2022 and any subsequent legislation. The municipality will provide access to a variety of outdoor spaces across the district and the categories to people with diverse abilities.

- An accessibility lens shall be applied for all new park development and upgrades.
- Where universal accessibility is not possible, MODL shall ensure meaningful opportunities for participation within the overall park design.
- Universal design concepts shall be applied where and when practical when upgrading and/or replacing park amenities.
- Park and open space written material shall be updated to include more detailed information about sites and amenities.

7.0 Next Steps

- Create an implementation and evaluation strategy
- Develop an asset management strategy, identifying costs to maintain spaces
- Complete life cycle audits for park amenities
 - Include playgrounds in asset management/replacement plan
- Conduct a recreation use/needs assessment and gap analysis
 - identify opportunities for redevelopment, renovation or decommissioning
- Establish a pest control policy
- Establish a Commemorative Parks Program



MODL Parks

Park Category

- Regional
- Destination
- Neighbourhood
- Parkette
- Conservation
- Sport

- Provincial Road
- Municipal Road
- Private Road
- Rail-Trail Network (with agreements)
- Municipal/Town Boundary
- Council Districts 2016

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Kilometers



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG

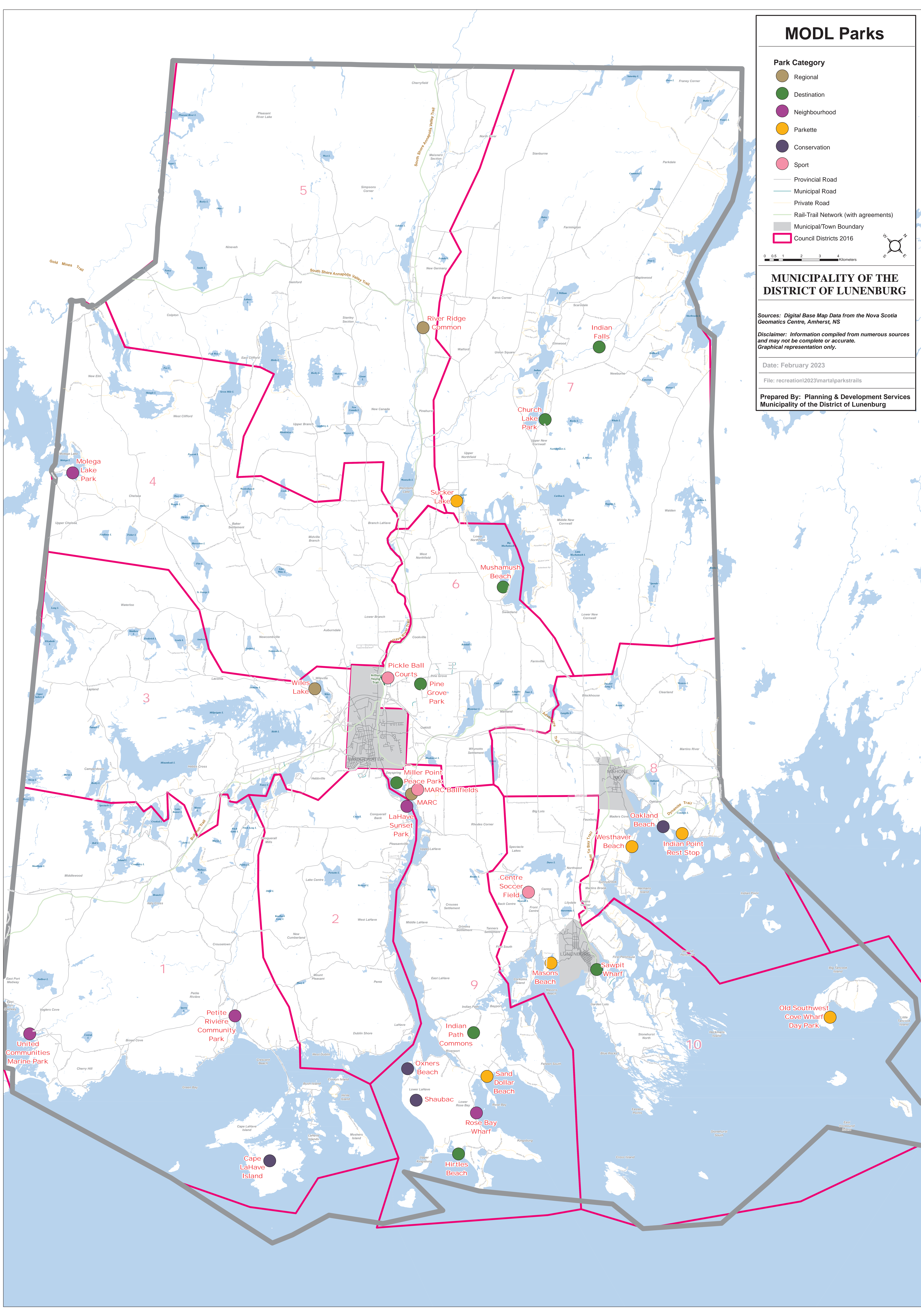
Sources: Digital Base Map Data from the Nova Scotia Geomatics Centre, Amherst, NS

Disclaimer: Information compiled from numerous sources and may not be complete or accurate. Graphical representation only.

Date: February 2023

File: recreation\2023\marta\parkstrails

Prepared By: Planning & Development Services
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

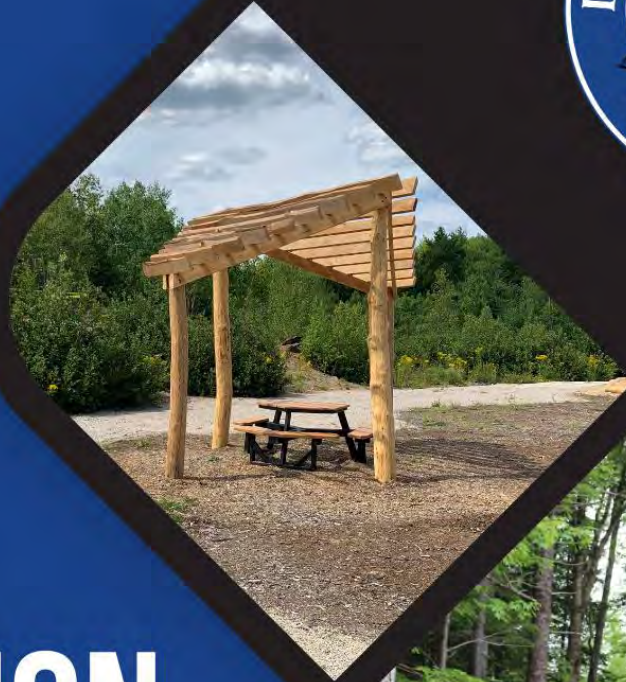




SUMMER
2023

PARKS & RECREATION

ENGAGEMENT
PROJECT



1. Introduction

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL) resides on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kma'ki Peoples. The Municipality acknowledges and honours the deep spiritual, cultural, and economic ties that the Mi'kma'ki hold as traditional guardians of the land, water, and resources upon which we live.

The 2022 Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL) **Active Living Strategy** outlines a goal to increase the level of physical activity in the municipality. As part of this strategy, the municipality committed to improving opportunities and fostering environments conducive for physical activity and movement.

In February 2023, council approved the Parks and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. In alignment with MODLs Vision, Mission and Values, Active Living Strategy and with consideration to the five pillars outlined in **A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015**, the document provides a clear and principle-focused approach to park maintenance and planning. The park standards document includes a classification system that defines the type of park in MODL and the minimum amenities provided within. It also identified the need to conduct a recreation use/needs assessment and gap analysis.

The 2023-25 Strategic Priorities of council includes a commitment to Re-Create Parks. This includes a commitment to a multiyear investment to provide significant upgrades to existing parks and recreation facilities. These upgrades aim to enhance the quality, accessibility, and functionality of parks to better serve the community. This priority emphasises the importance of community engagement in guiding the redevelopment and maintenance priorities which reflects council's dedication to informed decision-making.

To fulfill a goal identified in the Parks Standards and align with the Re-Create Parks Priority, MODL launched a Parks and Recreation Engagement Project. This project provided community members an opportunity to provide input, share feedback and contribute ideas for improvement through both in-person and online survey methods. The objective of the survey was to gather community feedback on MODL spaces and identify any gaps, deficiencies or areas for improvement with the ultimate goal of enhancing the visitor experience, reducing barriers and encourage participation in recreation. The data collected offers valuable insights to inform decision-making processes.

2. Methods and Data Collection

Over a ten-week period, surveys were conducted both online and in-person to obtain user feedback. Primarily, these surveys were created to answer the questions:

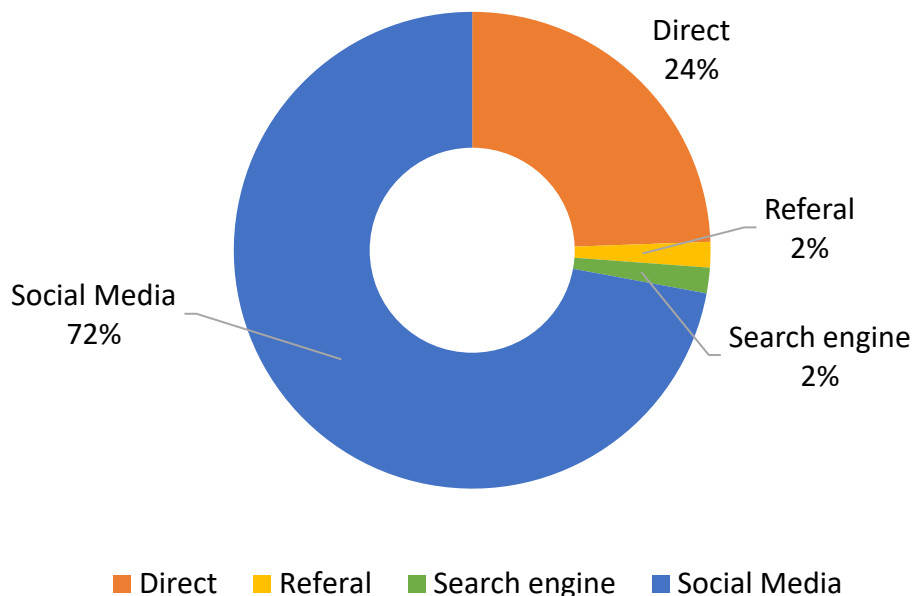
1. How are the spaces utilized?
2. What is needed to improve the visitor experience across all MODL spaces?

While questions were designed to be generalized across all spaces, during the in-person surveys respondents tended to focus on the specific space where the survey was being conducted.

The online survey was actively promoted on MODL social media accounts, as well as local newspapers and radio ads. This promotional effort significantly increased the level of participation in the survey. The project concluded with 309 responses between in-person and online surveys.

The primary source of traffic to the MODL Engage site was through social media, followed by 'direct' traffic, which represents the individuals who accessed the site directly through the URL. This data suggests that the outreach efforts on social media as well as radio and newspaper ads were extremely effective as these methods of outreach evidentially served as the primary means participants were made aware of the project.

How Engage Site Was Accessed



2.1 In-person Surveys

All developed MODL spaces were visited to conduct in-person surveys except for Indian Point Rest Stop and Old Southeast Cove Wharf Day Park on Tancook Island. Early in the project it became apparent that some spaces were not conducive to in-person engagement; given the size of the park (large trail network) or use patterns (smaller, passive spaces). It was then decided to focus in-person survey efforts on higher-use spaces and parks without management agreements to ensure sufficient information was collected for analysis. The spaces, number of visits, number of surveys collected within the space and park category are depicted in the chart below.

In-Person Survey Locations			
Site	# of Visits	# of Surveys Collected	Category
River Ridge Common	6	14	Regional Park
MARC	4	8	Regional Park
Wiles Lake Park	3	5	Regional Park
Miller Point Peace Park	8	35	Destination Park
Hirtle's Beach Park	7	43	Destination Park
Mushamush Beach Park	5	19	Destination Park
Indian Falls Park	4	10	Destination Park
Indian Path Common	3	4	Destination Park
Sawpit Wharf Park	2	11	Destination Park
Church Lake	1	0	Destination Park
Molega Lake Park	3	3	Neighbourhood Park
LaHave Sunset Park	2	1	Neighbourhood Park
Petite Riviere Community Park	2	0	Neighbourhood Park
Rose Bay Marine Park	1	0	Neighbourhood Park
United Communities Marine Park	2	3	Neighbourhood Park
Sand Dollar Beach	3	6	Parkette
Westhaver Beach	2	4	Parkette
Mason's Beach Access	1	0	Parkette
Sucker Lake	1	0	Parkette
Oakland Conservation Area	2	9	Conservation Land
Oxners Beach	1	0	Conservation Land

The in-person surveys were broken down into three sections: park, amenities and user information.

Section 1 asked the following questions:

1. What brought you to the park or trail today?
2. Was there any particular reason you choose this park or trail?
3. How often do you visit the park or trail?
4. What are key features or facilities that would draw you to go to a park or trail?
5. Are there any features or facilities that could be added to enhance the space?

Section 2 asked the following questions:

1. Did you find it easy to find your way here using the signs we have?
2. Were you able to park in a designated parking space?
3. While in the space do you tend to use the facilities?
4. Are there enough clean bathrooms?
5. Are there enough clean garbage cans?
6. Have you ever experienced any accessibility issues in this park?

Section 3 asked the following questions:

1. Which age category do you fit into?
 - a. 0-19
 - b. 20-39
 - c. 40-69
 - d. 70+
2. Do you live within the municipality of Lunenburg?
3. How far would you drive for a park or a trail?
4. Are you currently employed?
5. What is your highest level of education?
6. How many people live in your household?
 - a. Are any of them your dependants?
7. Are you a member of an under-represented community?

The answers to these questions were recorded onto a survey sheet. Reception to the survey varied from location to location and was generally well received by the public. In the end, a total of 174 in-person surveys were completed.

2.2 Online Surveys

Similar to the in-person survey, the online survey was divided into 3 sections: spaces, amenities and user demographics. The online survey was more general and asked questions regarding all MODL spaces.

Section 1 asked the following questions:

1. Which of the following parks and/or trails have you visited in the last year?
2. Of those spaces which would you say are your favourites (list up to 3?)
3. Are there any parks or trails you visit more frequently than the ones listed above?
 - a. If so, for what reasons do you typically visit these parks or trails?
4. For what reason do you typically visit our parks or trails?
 - a. Recreation (team sports, organized events)
 - b. The scenery (Hiking, fresh air)
 - c. Beach
 - d. Physical activity (Run, swim, walk)
 - e. Social event (to meet up with friends, market, or event)
5. How do you usually hear about what is happening in our parks or trails?

In section 2, participants were asked to rank the facilities in the top three spaces they selected in section 1 on a scale ranging from very good to very bad, or not applicable.

1. Park signage (road signs, directions)
2. Parking spaces
3. Bathrooms (or Porta-Potty)
4. Cleanliness of Bathroom
5. Waste Bins/ Dog waste Bins
6. Cleanliness of spaces
7. Picnic tables/ benches

This section also asked the following question regarding accessibility and whether there are any necessary facilities missing from MODL spaces.

8. Do you feel there are facilities missing from our parks?
 - a. Which parks are missing facilities?
 - b. Please tell us more about the facilities you would like to see within our parks.
9. Have you ever found it difficult to physically access our parks? (For example; there is something that stops you from enjoying the park. Such as, you can not get into the park, you don't feel comfortable in the space, there aren't enough places to rest etc.)

- a. If you have experienced accessibility issues in any of our parks or trails, please describe further below.
- b. Do you have any specific needs that would help you to take part in/enjoy recreation activities or the parks? Especially ones that are not being met.
- c. If you have any other comments on our park's accessibility, please leave them below.

10. Is there anything you feel is missing, that would enhance your over all experience in our parks?

Section 3 asked the following questions:

1. Which age category do you fit into?
 - a. 0-19
 - b. 20-39
 - c. 40-69
 - d. 70+
2. Do you live in the municipality of Lunenburg?
 - a. If not, which municipality do you live in?
3. How far would you drive to visit a park or trail?
4. Are you currently employed?
5. What is your highest level of education?
6. How many people live in your household?
 - a. How many of them are your dependents?
7. Are you a member of an under-represented community?

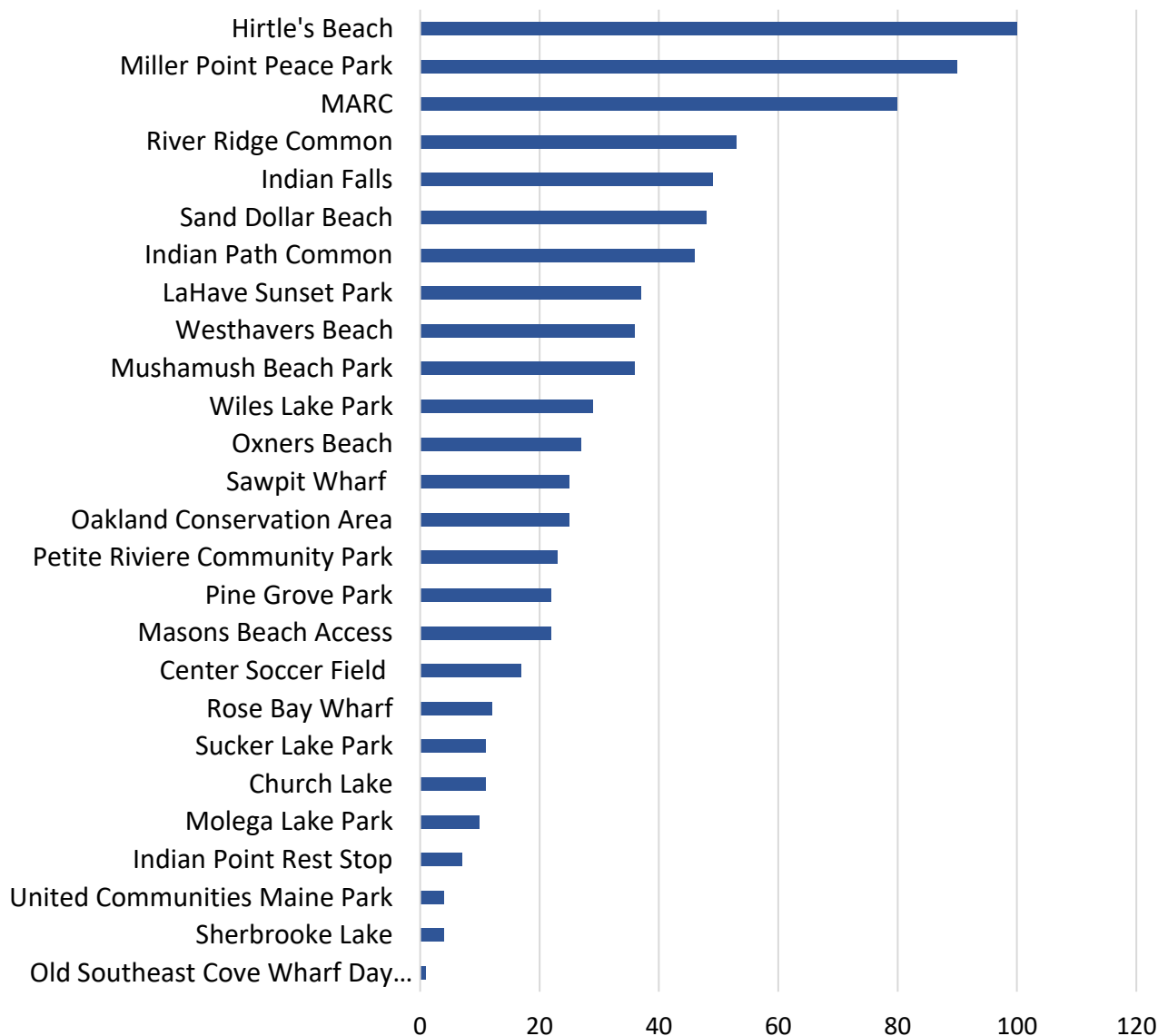
3. What We Heard- Use

3.1 Most Visited Spaces: Online Surveys

The first question in the online survey asked respondents “Which of the following spaces have you visited in the last year?”

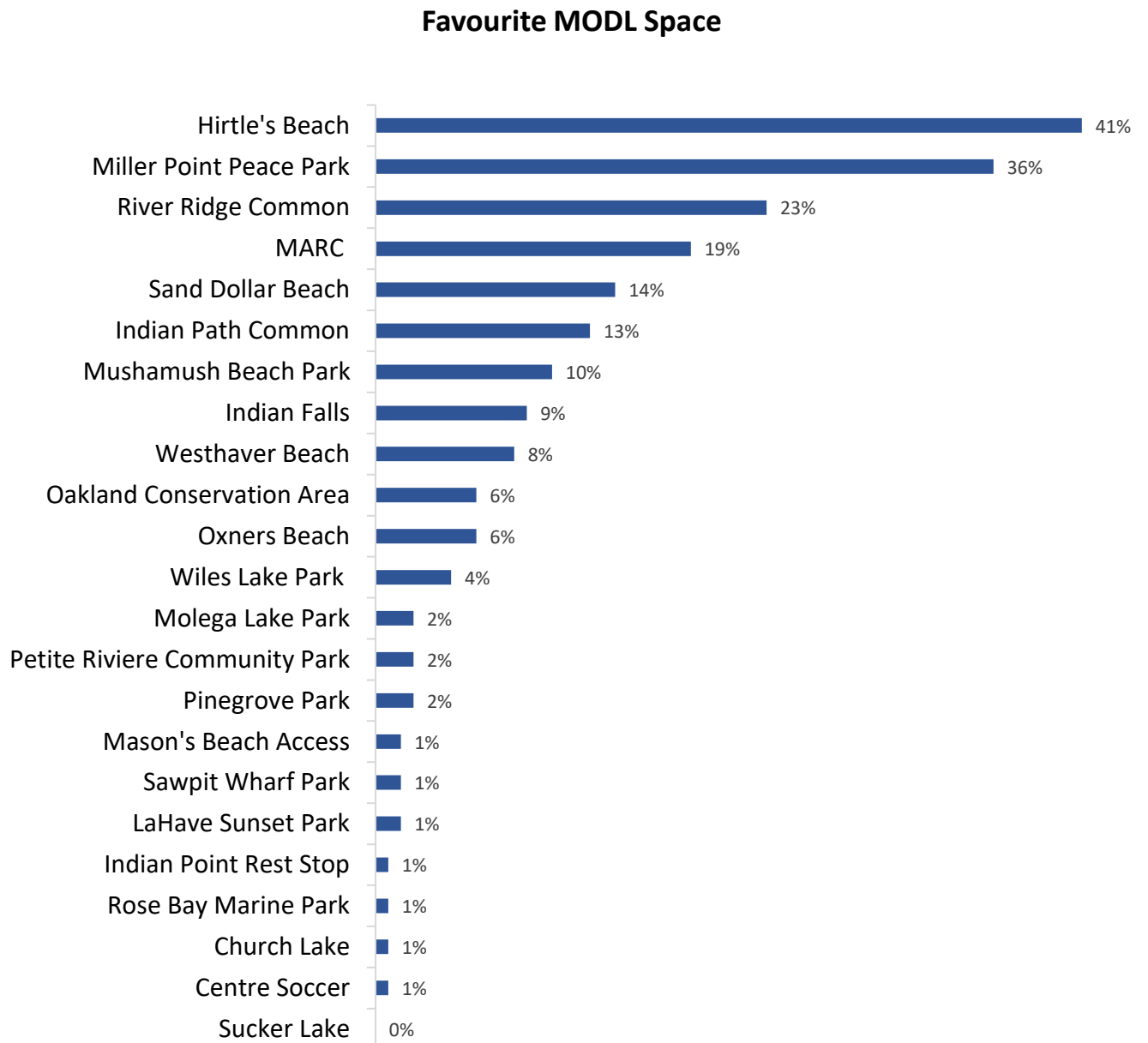
As the graph indicates, Hirtle’s Beach and Miller Point Peace Park Point Peace Park are the most visited MODL spaces. The in-person data collection supports these findings, as they were the most common place surveys were collected from.

Most Frequently Visited Spaces: Online Survey Results



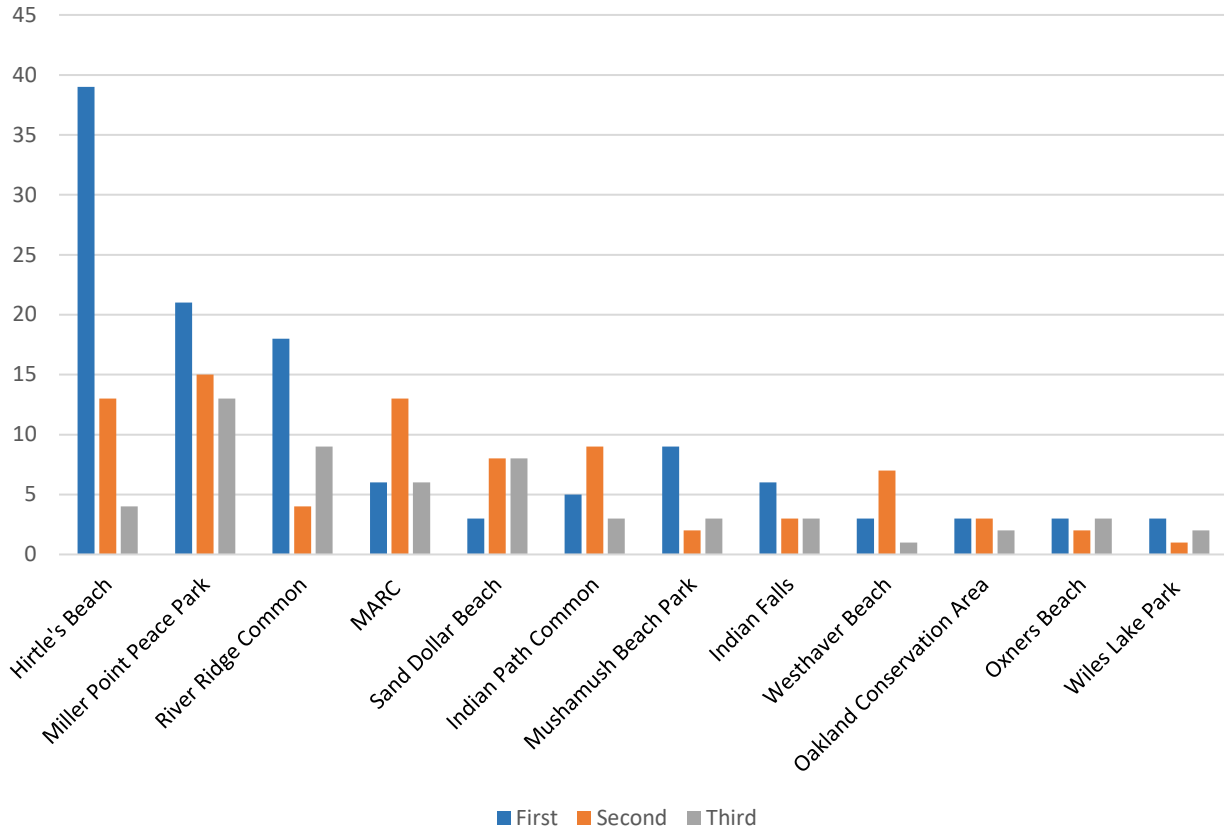
3.2 Favourite Spaces: Online Surveys

Participants were then asked to list their three favourite MODL spaces. Of the 135 online responses, 41% selected Hirtle’s Beach, 36% chose Miller Point Peace Park and 23% selected River Ridge Common in their top three favourite spaces.



The following chart breaks this information down even further and depicts the number of times each space was selected as either first, second or third.

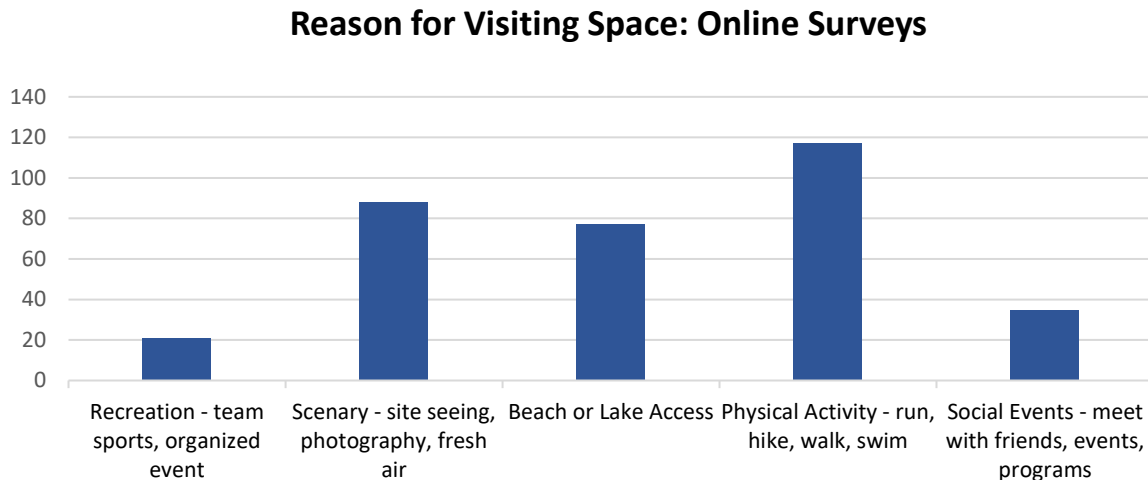
Favourite MODL Spaces Breakdown



Based on this data the most frequently visited and favourite MODL spaces are Hirtle’s Beach, Miller Point Peace Park, River Ridge Common and the MARC. Following these, Sand Dollar Beach, Indian Path Common, Indian Falls Park and Mushamush Beach Park all closely rank for fifth place.

3.3 Reasons for Use: Online Surveys

The primary reason cited for visiting a MODL space, is engaging in physical activity, followed by scenery and then beach or lake access as depicted by the chart below.

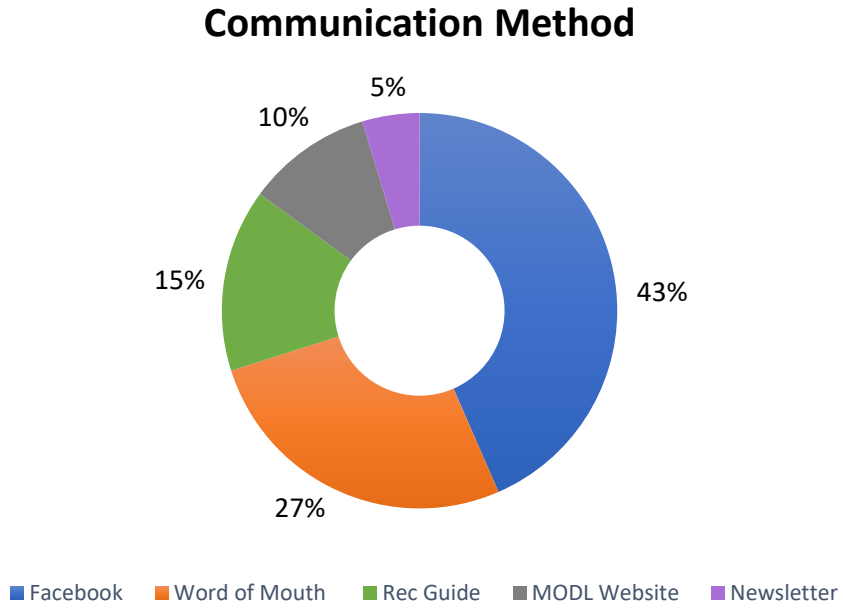


The first question for each in-person survey was “what brought you to the park today”, these ‘reasons’ were then tallied to show the primary reason why someone would visit each individual park. In total, 17 different reasons that the public had to visit one of MODL’s spaces or trails. These reasons ranged from physical activities such as: walking, swimming, surfing, or kayaking to social event such as: picnics, photoshoots and play dates. The chart below shows some of the most common reasons listed by space.

Reason for Visiting Space: In-Person Surveys					
Hirtle’s Beach Park	Walk	26	Miller Point Peace Park	Walk	21
	Beach	5		Picnic	9
	Surfing	3		Birding	3
River Ridge Common	Walk	6	Mushamush Beach Park	Swim	7
	Play Equipment	6		Relax	3
	Biking	2		Beach	3
MARC	Walk	6	Sawpit Wharf Park	Picnic	5
	Art	1		Kayaking	5
	Ultimate Frisbee	1	Indian Falls Park	Walk	6
Oakland Conservation Area	Beach	4		Swim	2
	Relax	2			
	Quite	2			

3.4 Communication Methods: Online Surveys

The majority of respondents (43%), obtain their information about parks and trails from Facebook. The next highest response was word of mouth (27%) with very few visiting MODL's website or referring to the newsletters for information.



4. What We Heard – Facilities

Ensuring the availability of adequate facilities is crucial for the overall enjoyment of a space. Both in-person and online surveys prompted participants to provide feedback on park amenities. The questions specifically focused on park signage and wayfinding (both internal and external to the space), parking, bathrooms, waste bins, picnic tables and benches.

The following section is separated into in-person and online data, illustrating how participants perceive amenities in MODL spaces.

The in-person survey asked participants to provide comments on the space they were in. The questions were structured in a manner to foster a discussion, aiming to maintain a conversational flow. Participants were asked questions such as “were the park signs, useful in finding your way here, were the bathrooms clean, were you able to park in the parking lot?”.

The online survey utilized ranking questions on scale ranging from “very good” to “very bad”. Online participants were asked to evaluate amenities based on the top three spaces they had chosen in question 2.

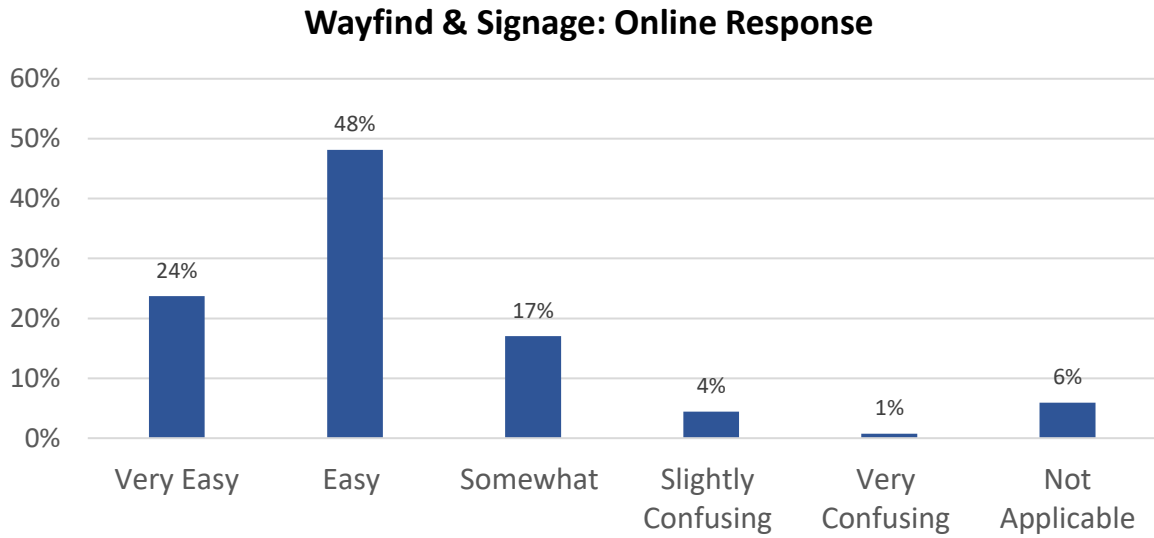
4.1 Wayfinding and Signs: In-person Surveys

More than 80% of all participants reported the park wayfinding signs were well placed and easy to comprehend. Among the in-person respondents, 85% indicated they had utilized the signs to locate the park, finding them to be highly useful.

Some participants acknowledged positive improvements to park signage over the past year. However, a few complaints were raised regarding vegetation covering signs.

4.2 Wayfinding and Signs: Online Surveys

Of the 135 online participants, 72% of people find the park signage easy to very easy to understand.

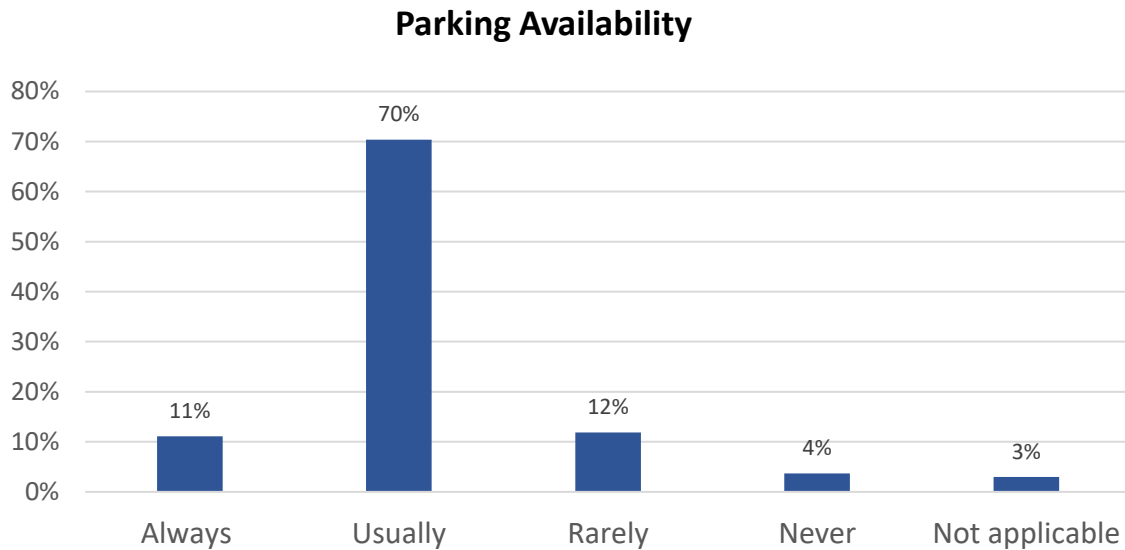


4.3 Parking: In-person Surveys

Of the 174 in-person responses, 96% stated they were able to park in a designated parking lot if provided. Only six people had not been able to park in a designated space, five of these participants had been surveyed at Sand Dollar Beach.

4.4 Parking: Online

70% of people reported usually being able to find a parking space at their favorite spaces.

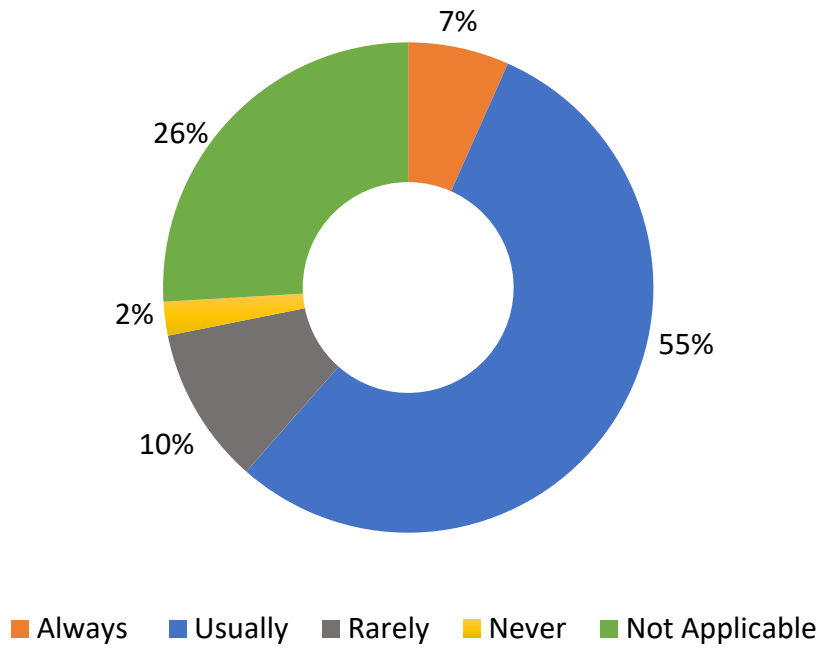


4.5 Bathrooms and Waste Bins: In-person Surveys

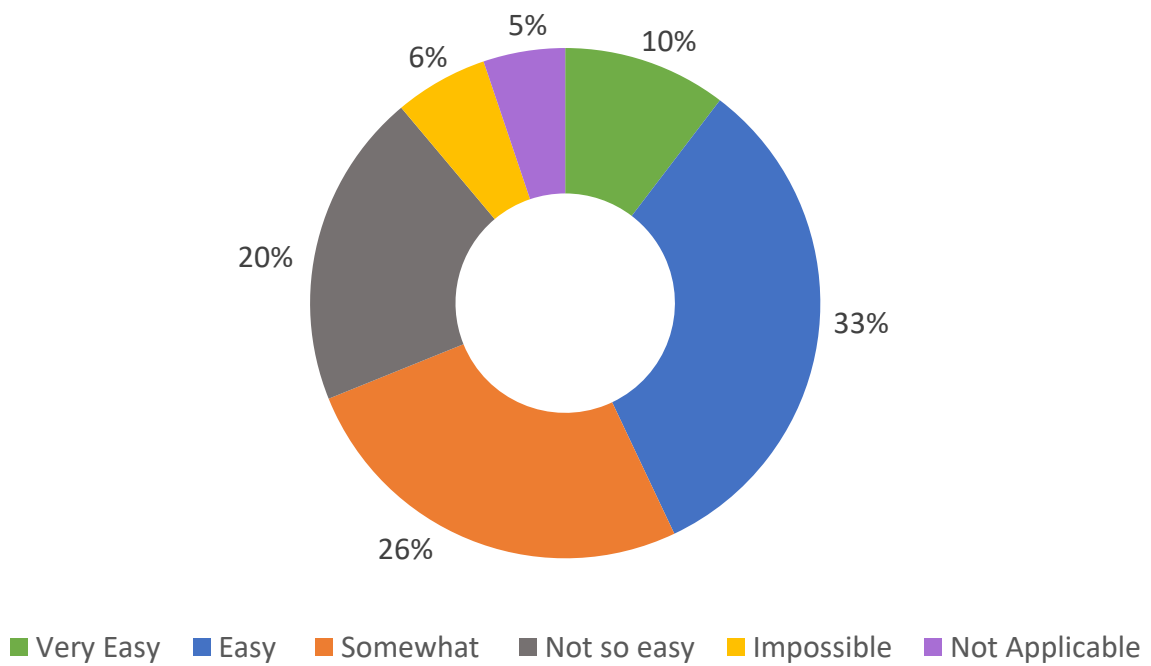
Before asking their opinions on the bathrooms and waste bins, participants were initially asked if they use these amenities. Among the 174 in-person participants, 55% reported using these amenities provided in MODL spaces.

Of the 55% that utilize the amenities, 80% reported the bathrooms were well maintained and 97% reported that the waste bins were well-kept. Overall, there were very few complaints across all spaces regarding both bathrooms and waste bins.

Bathroom Cleanliness: In-Person Survey



Bathroom Location: In-Person Surveys

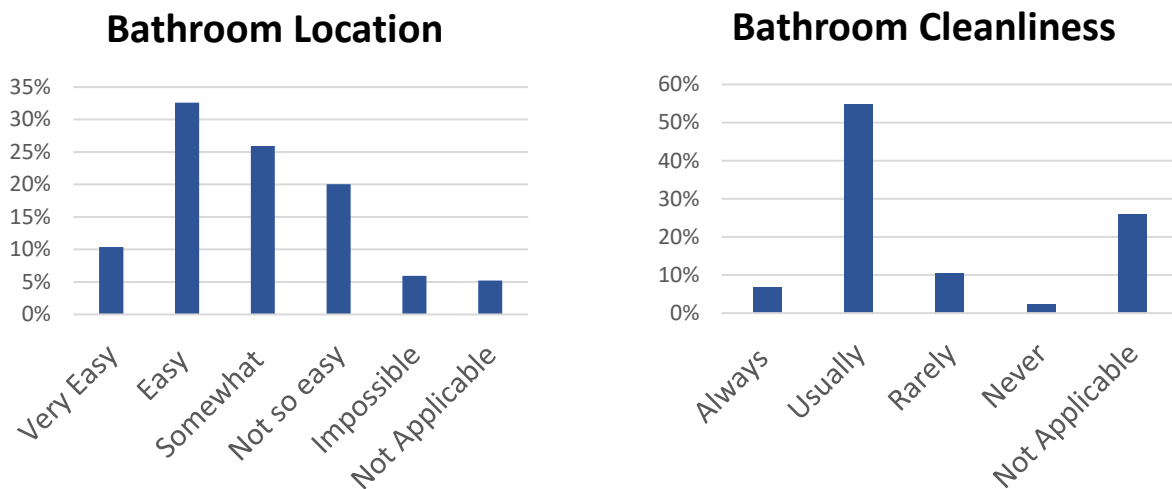


4.6 Bathrooms: Online Surveys

In the online survey, participants were asked to rank both the location and cleanliness of bathrooms or porta-potties based on the top three spaces they had chosen earlier in the survey. When questioned about the ease of finding a bathroom, responses varied from ‘easy to find’ to ‘not so easy to find’ (see graph below). Of those that reported ‘impossible to find’, five had listed Hirtle’s as their top location.

In response to the question about bathroom cleanliness, over 60% of participants reported the bathrooms were either ‘always’ or ‘usually clean’.

Interestingly, when asked about bathroom location 5% responded with ‘not applicable’ compared to the 26% who responded ‘not applicable’ when asked about cleanliness. This suggests that participants are aware of the bathroom location but do not use them.



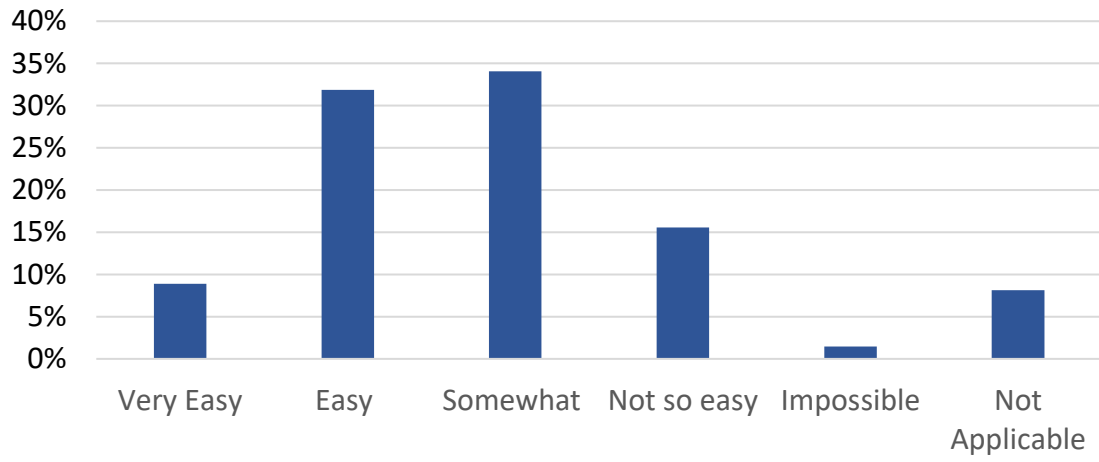
4.7 Waste Bins and Dog Waste Stations: Online Surveys

Online participants indicated that the locations of the waste bins were either ‘easy to find’ or ‘somewhat easy to find’. This contrasts slightly with the in-person data, where the majority reported the waste bins were effective in their current locations.

4.8 Picnic Tables and Benches: Online Surveys

Participants were asked to rank “how easy is it to find a place to sit”, on scale of ‘very easy, easy, somewhat easy, not so easy, impossible, not applicable’. The majority of the responses were in the middle at ‘easy’ (32%) and ‘somewhat easy’ (34%) and 16% state it was ‘not so easy’ to find a place to sit. This indicates that in some locations there is not enough benches and picnic tables or the seating options are not well dispersed throughout the space.

Seating: Online Surveys



5. Demographics

5.1 Population Profile

According to the Statistics Canada Census taken in 2021 the total population of MODL has risen by 2.7% from 2016 to 2021; increasing from 24,863 to 25,545. The census data indicates that average population age within MODL is 49 years old, with 65% of the population being over the age of 40. The table below shows the distribution of ages within the district.

Age Distribution in MODL		
Age Categories	Number Reported	Percentage of Pop.
0-14	3,100	12.1%
15-29	2,970	11.6%
30-44	3,825	15%
45-59	5,760	22.5%
60+	9,900	38.8%

MODL has a total number of 11,500 private households, 46.9% of which are 2 person households. The table below shows the distribution of household sizes.

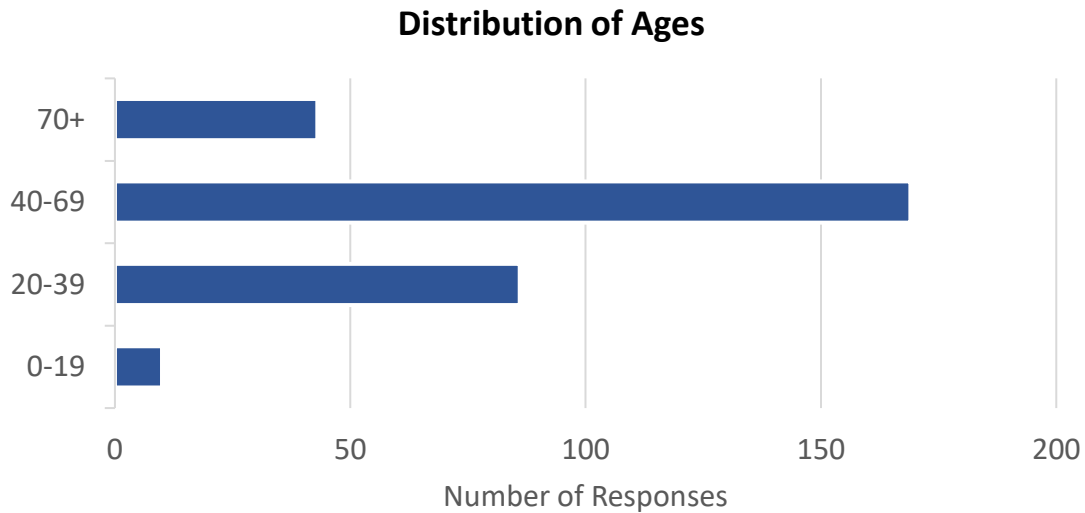
Household Size in MODL		
Household size	Number Reported	Percentage of Pop.
1 person	2,995	26%
2 person	5,395	46.9%
3 person	1,545	13.4%
4 person	1,080	9.4%
5 + Person	480	4.2%

More than 65% of MODL residents have received education at the post secondary level, according to the Municipal Profile completed by the Nova Scotia Government the employment rate is 52%¹.

¹ Municipal Report and Financial Indicators Results for The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, 2020-21.

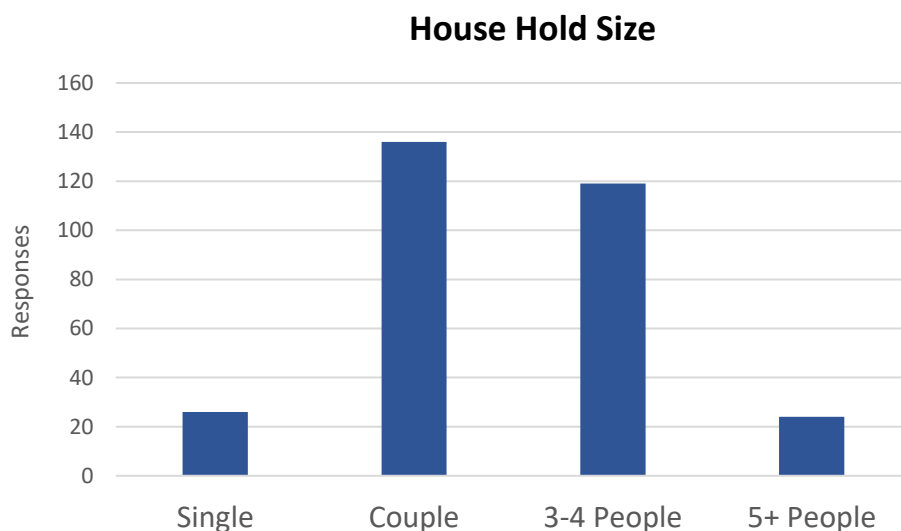
5.2 Survey Respondent Demographics

Among the 309 survey respondents, 77% of respondents indicated they live in MODL. Within this group 55% are in the 40-69 age category, followed by the 20-39 age category at 28%. The graph below, illustrates the distribution of ages across all 309 surveys.



5.2.1 Household

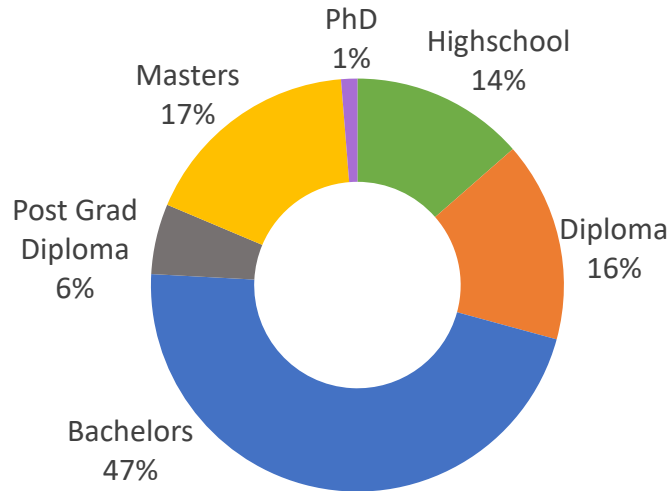
Household size was divided into, single, couple, small and large. A small household consists of 3-4 people and a large consists of 5 or more people. Based on these statistics the average person to complete the survey was between the ages of 40-69, currently employed with a bachelor's degree and living in a two-person household.



5.2.2 Education

The levels of education vary from High School to PhD. However, the most common level of education for respondents was bachelor's at 46%.

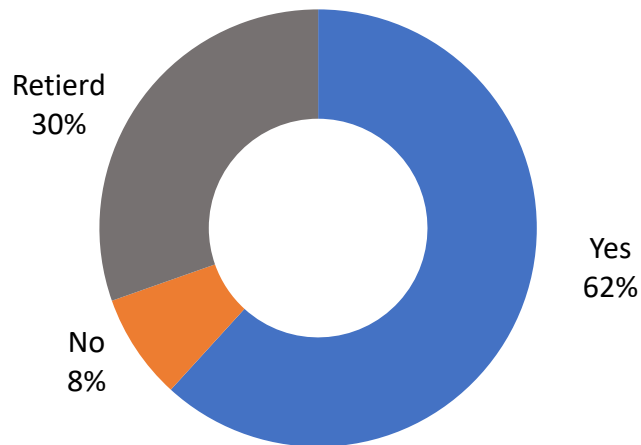
Highest Education Level



5.2.3 Employment

Among the respondents, 62% reported being employed, which included both full-time and part-time work. While 38% reported being unemployed. Among the unemployed respondents, 30% remarked that they were retired.

Employment Status



The demographics of the survey respondents aligns with the data from the Canada Census. This alignment suggests that the survey sample is representative of the broader population, which enhances the reliability and validity of the survey findings. Having congruence between survey results and official census data strengthens the credibility of any conclusions drawn from the survey.

5.3 Demographics and Use

5.3.1 Distribution of Age and Location

Comparing the location of each survey respondent to the background information collected, we can discern the preferences of different groups for specific spaces. This allows us to analysis demographic preferences, providing valuable insights for future planning and development initiatives.

Spaces	0-19	20-39	40-69	70+	Total
Hirtle’s Beach Park	3	24	46	12	85
Miller Point Peace Park	1	10	26	20	57
River Ridge Common	2	12	17	3	34
Mushamush Beach Park	1	14	13		28
Indian Falls Park		4	12		16
MARC		5	10	1	16
Oakland Conservation Area		5	7		12
Sawpit Wharf Park	2		8	1	11
Indian Path Common		2	7		9
Sand Dollar Beach		3	3	3	9
Wiles Lake Park		3	4	1	8
Westhavers Beach	1	1	5		7
Molega Lake Park		1	4	1	6
United Communities Marine Park		1	2		3
Oxners Beach			2	1	3
Indian Point Rest Stop			1		1
Petite Riviere Community Park			1		1
Pine Grove Park		1			1
Mason's Beach Access			1		1
LaHave Sunset Park					
Total	10	86	169	43	308

Analyzing this table reveals that Hirtle’s Beach and Miller Point Peace Park are predominantly preferred across all age groups.

Among the different age groups:

- In the 20-39 age group, preferences are for Hirtle’s, Mushamush and River Ridge
- In the 40-69 age group, preferences are for Hirtle’s, Miller and River Ridge
- In the 70+ age group, preferences tend towards Miller then Hirtle’s

5.3.2 Distribution of Household and Space

Similar patterns can be seen when examining household size. Hirtle’s Beach, Miller Point Peace Park and River Ridge Common are particularly popular among couples and small households of 3-4 people.

This aligns with the overall trend that Hirtle’s Beach, Miller Point Peace Park and River Ridge Common are the favoured spaces within MODL.

Spaces	Single	Couple	Small	Large	Total
Hirtle’s Beach Park	8	39	30	4	81
Miller Point Peace Park	7	26	23	2	58
River Ridge Common	3	12	16	3	34
Mushamush Beach Park	1	8	15	4	28
Indian Falls Park	3	5	6	2	16
MARC	1	10	5		16
Oakland Conservation Area	1	8	2	1	12
Sawpit Wharf Park	1	4	1	5	11
Indian Path Common	1	3	5		9
Sand Dollar Beach		5	4		9
Wiles Lake Park		3	5		8
Westhavers Beach		2	3	2	7
Molega Lake Park		5	1		6
United Communities Marine Park		2	1		3
Oxners Beach		3			3
Indian Point Rest Stop				1	1
Petite Riviere Community Park		1			1
Pine Grove Park			1		1
Mason's Beach Access			1		1
LaHave Sunset Park					0
Total	26	136	119	24	305

6. What We Heard – Improvements

In both surveys, participants were provided with the opportunity to offer suggestions for amenities they feel would enhance MODL spaces. When asked, 36% of online survey participants responded ‘yes’ there are necessary amenities missing from MODL spaces. The top 10 suggested improvements from both surveys have been compiled below. The list shows the number of times the request was made and the percentage based on the total number of surveys.

Participant Requests

In-Person

Washrooms	27	16%
Wayfinding/Signs	25	14%
Seating	21	12%
Parking	18	10%
Waste Bins	14	8%
Changing Rooms	11	6%
Flush Toilets	6	3%
Shaded Areas	4	2%
Accessible Paths	4	2%
Foot Rinsing Station	3	2%

On-Line

Washrooms	20	15%
Waste Bins	15	11%
Seating	14	10%
Parking	10	7%
Accessibility	8	6%
Wayfinding/Signs	7	5%
Trails - Connections, Upgrades	8	6%
Porta-Potty/Pit Toilets	5	4%
Drinking Water	5	4%
Off-Leash Areas	4	3%

Overall Requests

Washrooms	47	15%
Seating	35	11%
Wayfinding/Signs	32	10%
Parking	28	9%
Waste Bins	29	9%
Accessibility	12	4%
Flush Toilets	10	3%
Trails - Connections, Upgrades	12	4%
Shaded Area	6	2%
Off-Leash Areas	5	2%

The most commonly requested improvements from both groups include bathrooms, waste bins, parking and seating. Seating requests ranged from increased seating in spaces, rest areas along trails, more picnic tables and shaded seating options. Requests were also made for improved wayfinding, trail markers and rule signage within spaces.

Other concerns identified include the lack of safe places to walk within the municipality, particularly regarding walking along the road and/or on the rail-to-trails. Participants expressed feeling unsafe due to limited or unmaintained shoulders on the sides of roads, making it uncomfortable to walk along the road. Similarly, on the rail-to-trails, the presence of motorized vehicles such as dirt bikes and ATVs made some participants feel unsafe while walking the trail. These concerns highlight the importance of addressing infrastructure, signage and safety measures to ensure the well-being of pedestrians and trail users within the municipality.

7. What We Heard – Accessibility

To gain a better understanding on accessibility challenges or barriers to participation within municipal spaces survey participants were asked if they have ever been faced with such experiences. Of the 309 people surveyed, 87% reported not encountering accessibility issues related to municipal spaces, while 13% indicated they have encountered accessibility challenges within MODL spaces. This information suggests that while a significant portion of participants find municipal spaces accessible, there is a noteworthy segment that encounter specific challenges.

The main issues identified by participants include concerns about unsafe and uneven ground, a need for more seating and insufficient signage. There was a common theme for improved accessibility across all spaces, specifically around trail surfaces and access to the beach. Addressing these concerns would contribute to a more inclusive and accessible environment for community members.

“Everyone, whether with mild or severe physical disabilities, deserves to enjoy our outdoor spaces—in fact it’s even more important for our mental and physical health. I just need a safe surface to get to the actual beach part, not trip over uneven trail surface. Also, just as important are clear pathways of vegetation for trail surface visibility and tick prevention, clearer marked parking spaces to avoid blocked off traffic routes in a parking lot.”

“The MARC has lovely trails but they're not easily accessible from the parking lot. Anyone with mobility issues finds these trails too aggressive to access. I find the MARC facility and trails is very underutilized.”

The most common request related to accessibility was for improved access to Hirtle’s and Sand Dollar Beach. The rocks, boardwalk and stairs at these locations prevent those with mobility challenges from accessing and experiencing the beach.

8. What We Heard – Requests by Location

Due to the nature of the in-person surveys, participants often required prompting when asked what could be added to enhance a space. Many of the in-person survey requests are based on prompts rather than arising from participants’ direct experiences.

The following table represents the top suggestions gathered from the in-person surveys distributed across each individual space. The table has been organized in order of the favourite parks. It highlights the most frequent request made for a space and identifies suggestions that were common across multiple locations.

In-Person Requests: Location					
Hirtle’s Beach Park	Seating	7	Mushamush Beach Park	Changing Rooms	9
	Bathrooms	5		Flush Toilets	6
	Bins	4		Seating	3
	Accessible Paths	4		Bathrooms	2
Miller Point Peace Park	Bathrooms	10	Indian Falls Park	Wayfinding	3
	Seating	9	Westhavers Beach	Parking	4
	Trail Markers	3		Bathrooms	3
River Ridge Common	Trail Markers	4		Bins	3
	Shaded Areas	4	Oakland Conservation Area	Bathrooms	3
	Play Equipment	2		Bins	3
MARC	Wayfinding	1		Seating	1
Sand Dollar Beach	Parking	6	Wiles Lake Park	Bathrooms	2
	Wayfinding	2		Bins	2
	Bathrooms	2		Seating	1
Indian Point Rest Stop	Wayfinding	4	Sawpit Wharf Park	Parking	5
	Parking	1			

Seventy-one suggestions were received through the online surveys on how to improve MODL spaces, the chart below shows the breakdown of which spaces requests for improvements were made.

Online Requests: Location		
Parks	# of people who made requests	Percentage
Hirtle’s Beach Park	34	25%
Miller Point Peace Park	28	21%
River Ridge Common	15	11%
Sand Dollar Beach	14	10%
MARC	9	7%
Indian Falls Park	8	6%
Indian Path Common	7	5%
Westhavers Beach	7	5%
Wiles Lake Park	4	3%
Mushamush Beach Park	4	3%
Oakland Conservation Area	2	1%
Molega Lake Park	2	1%
Sawpit Wharf Park	2	1%

The above information shows the top five MODL spaces consistently receive requests for improvements in key areas such as washrooms, seating, signs, parking, and waste bins. Users across these spaces emphasize the need for increased availability of accessible washroom facilities, as well as additional seating options like picnic tables and benches. Wayfinding signage and trail markings are also identified as essential for improving navigation within the spaces. Furthermore, concerns regarding parking conditions and an increase waste bins and dog waste stations, are commonly voiced by users.

These concerns could be addressed by ensuring accessible facilities are strategically placed in areas where they are most needed or desired by users. Additionally, visitor experience can be enhanced by installing adequate signage to improve the visibility of amenities and ensure users can effectively locate them.

A few suggestions made by the public that were not specific to any space:

“Alternate place to communicate about the trails and spaces for those not on Facebook or twitter.”

“Posted sign confusion... entrance says no smoking park. Inner parking lot says no smoking in woods, implying smoking in open areas such as the parking lot is OK.”

“It would be lovely to have a fenced off leash park for dogs...”

“More washrooms facilities at spaces. Some of our outings are extended and washrooms are much appreciated. Picnic facilities as well. Once we were to river ridge and found the facilities were locked”

8.1 Hirtle’s Beach

The engagement surveys identified Hirtle’s Beach as the most visited and the most favourite space. A common request for Hirtle’s Beach was to provide safe access over the rocks, replace and/or repair the aging boardwalk, increase the number of washrooms and waste receptacles and improve and enforce rule signage.

“There used to be a ramp to access the beach, now people have to walk on rocks to get to the beach. Very dangerous for older people.”

“Hirtle’s beach—broken/rotten wood on boardwalks, nails sticking up, people parking weird/blocking access.”

“It’s difficult to get over the rocks to get to the sand so something that would make the beach more accessible. Benches from which you can actually see the sea.”

“Without the clear signs more people are breaking these rules. Especially visitors in campervans who park for a few days taking up several parking spaces and over-loading the waste bins and bathrooms, exacerbating the issues in the space.”

8.2 Miller Point Peace Park

Similarly, to Hirtle’s, a common request for Miller Point Peace Park was to provide safe access to the park especially from the outer parking lot and comments about the accessibility at Miller. The concise comment left on the online survey effectively describes the issue:

“I find it very disturbing to walk at Miller Peace Park due to continuous vehicle traffic on a road where we are walking with dogs, children, bicycles, wheelchairs etc. It seems the ability to drive a vehicle through the middle of the park is more important to MODL than the pedestrians who are looking are for a quiet uninterrupted walk where you don't need to keep watching for vehicles speeding up from behind and driving towards you. If vehicle traffic is to continue to be accommodated, then walking paths must be made available for walkers to get away from the dust and mudholes made by vehicles. Potholes are continually being filled on the well-maintained road, while walking paths (not all, but some) are full of exposed tree roots making it impossible for a child's tricycle or a wheelchair to get off the road. Therefore, the needs for walkers and those not in vehicles are not being met. Miller Point Peace Park Peace Park is one of the most popular areas for walkers, and is used in all seasons, in all weather conditions. One reason for its popularity with seniors is

that the parking lot is close to the park and the landscape is reasonably flat for walking.”

Another common request made regarding Miller Point Peace Park, is to provide more basic facilities such as bathrooms, waste receptacles and seating.

8.3 River Ridge Common

River Ridge Common was the third most common space to receive feedback by the online participants. The most frequent request was for more bathrooms and shade.

“A few clean porta-potties would be appreciated.”

“I know this would not be easy, but I think there should be a few more toilets available and some are closed in the winter which is not so good!”

9. Next Steps

The previous section provided an overall synopsis of suggested improvements with a focus on the top 3 parks. Based on the data collected and analyzed in this report, it is recommended future planning and development initiatives focus on three main areas:

1. **Increasing Accessibility:** address issues related to accessibility, reducing barriers and focus on the user experience. This includes improving infrastructure to accommodate individuals with disabilities, enhancing pathways and trails, and ensure amenities are located in convenient and accessible locations.
2. **Standardizing Information:** there is a need to improve how information is communicated to the public about MODL spaces. This includes creating consistent signage, internal/external wayfinding systems and updating online content. Providing concise information about amenities, features and conditions in different locations will provide users with the necessary information to determine if a place is suitable for their individual needs.
3. **Improving Amenities:** increase the quantity and improve the location of basic amenities throughout MODL spaces, such as bathrooms, waste bins, parking and seating.

9.1 Future Survey Considerations

Both survey methods provided valuable information. The in-person surveys provided site specific data and provided an opportunity for staff to connect directly with users. However, staff felt participants often required prompting. Whereas the online surveys offered anonymity allowing participants to openly voice their concerns and opinions.

The online survey allowed respondents to genuinely reflect on their experiences and provide honest feedback. During in-person surveys, staff are of the opinion, participants may have felt more compelled to answer positively out of politeness leading to a more biased response.

Weather conditions had a substantial impact on the feasibility of conducting in-person surveys. The adverse weather conditions this past summer significantly impacted staff's ability to visit spaces to engage users. The rain reduced the number of onsite survey days and decreased people's willingness to participate if out on such days.

There is value in offering both options for obtaining feedback. If repeating this study in the future:

- ensure questions are open-ended
- avoid prompting with specific suggestions
- allocate specific times and locations for in-person surveys
- advertise both survey options through multiple communication methods

In 3-5 years, it is recommended to repeat the data collection process to assess the impact of implemented changes on user feedback. This approach will allow the municipality to track trends, measure the effectiveness of interventions and identify any new challenges or opportunities that may arise. Regular reassessment and adjusting priorities, will ensure MODL spaces continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of the community.

10. Conclusion

Based on the comprehensive analysis of the collected data, several conclusions can be drawn. Hirtle's Beach, Miller Point Peace Park, River Ridge Common and the MARC emerge as the most visited and favored MODL spaces among users, reflecting their popularity and significance within the community.

Overall, survey participants expressed satisfaction with municipal spaces; however, common themes for improvement and increased accessibility were identified across all parks. These include the need to enhance and increase the number of washrooms, provide more seating options such as picnic tables and benches, improve internal and external wayfinding systems, upgrade parking conditions, and provide more waste receptacles, including dog waste bins.

Notably, most of these improvement areas align with ongoing projects or identified priorities, such as the accessibility audits being completed for five parks, development of maintenance standards, implementation of the wayfinding strategy, procurement of park furnishings, Sawpit Wharf planning and re-imagining the MARC.

The information collected from the surveys provides a solid foundation for informed decision-making regarding the ongoing maintenance and redevelopment of MODL spaces. By identifying the areas to focus efforts and aligning them with ongoing projects and priorities, the municipality can allocate resources effectively to address community needs.

The information contained within the parks standards document, maintenance standards and levels of service, accessibility audits and wayfinding strategies, all contribute to fulfilling the RE-Create Parks strategic priority. With this, MODL can make informed decisions and strategic choices that promote community health and well-being, enhance user experiences by meeting the diverse needs of residents and ensure the sustainable management of park and open spaces for current and future generations.



Parks Accessibility Audit

Hirtle's Beach
Mushamush Beach Park
Miller Point
River Ridge Common
Indian Falls

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

February 16, 2024

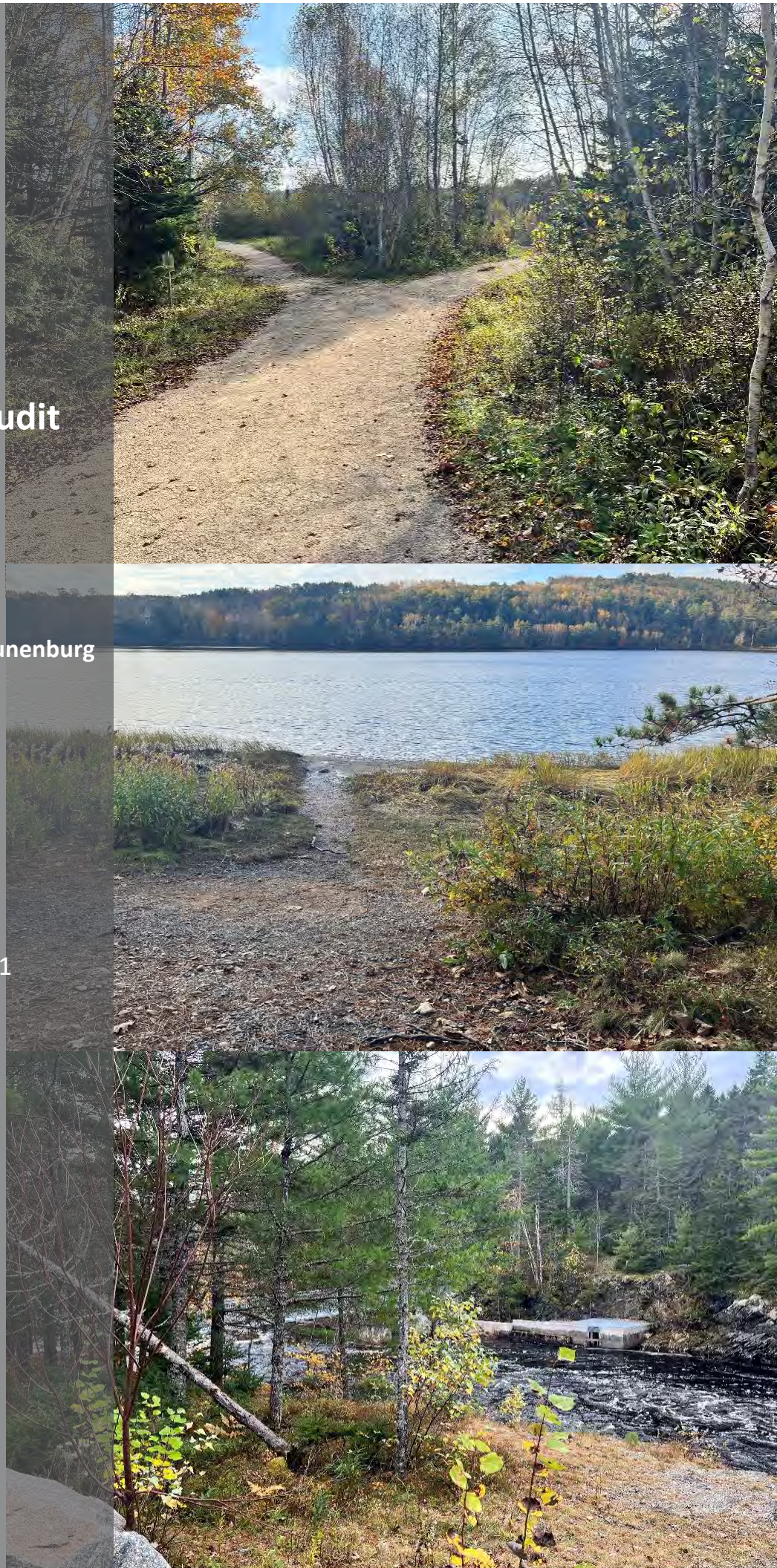
FINAL REPORT

Submitted by

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February 16th, 2024

Trudy Payne
Director Recreation, Parks & Tourism
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
10 Allee Champlain Drive
Cookville, Nova Scotia, B4V 9E4

**Re: MODL – Parks Accessibility Audit
Final Report – Revision #1**

Dear Trudy:

We are pleased to provide the final report summarizing existing conditions, results of the Rick Hansen Audit, and improvement Recommendations for:

- Hirtle's Beach
- Mushamush Beach Park
- Miller Point Peace Park
- River Ridge Common
- Indian Falls Park

The associated costs for the improvements are considered Class'D' level, given that this exercise was to determine where these parks lacked in accessibility standards and not detailed design. These costs are indicative of the 2023 construction season, based on other tendered projects throughout the year and research from local contractors. There could be some economy of scale with some items such as larger orders typically incur lower unit rates and a dual structure could easily be placed on one tank in the case of vault toilets.

This report is intended to be a planning tool for the Municipality, to determine short and long term improvements that could be made, in an effort to improve the facilities to approach a more certifiable solution, from an accessibility standpoint.

The sites have been visited, both with and without the Municipality present, and much of the improvements stem from the audit, site visits and from feedback from the Municipality.

Should the Municipality have questions, please feel free to reach out to EXP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacy Muise".

Stacy Muise, P.Eng.
Infrastructure Practice Manager | EXP

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 Appendix – Existing Conditions and Potential Park Improvements	

1. INTRODUCTION

EXP, in conjunction with Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA were asked to complete an accessibility audit for 5 parks within the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL). They conducted site inspections of the sites with members of the MODL staff reviewing the existing conditions and determining potential improvements. These sites included Hirtle's Beach, Mushamush Beach Park, Miller Point Peace Park, River Ridge Commons and Indian Falls Park.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The initial site visit was followed up with an accessibility audit for each site where parking, paths, site furnishings, toilets, and signage were assessed from an accessibility point of view. The CSA/ASC B651-23 standard (Accessible Design for the Built Environment) was followed while evaluating the parks.

The accessibility potential and best accessible opportunities for each site were noted. Existing conditions drawings were completed for each park to highlight the accessible opportunities and constraints in a diagram form. In addition, Potential Site Improvement drawings were completed and attached in Appendix A.

2.1. HIRTLE'S BEACH

Hirtle's Beach is a world class destination beach. It has a high accessibility potential.

The assessment revealed:

- The June 2023 site visit noted significant boardwalk and guardrail damage
- No designated accessible parking
- The boardwalk to the beach is inaccessible
- The benches and picnic tables are inaccessible.
- The interpretive signage is inaccessible.
- The vault toilets are inaccessible

An existing condition drawing and a concept sketch of potential site improvements have been attached – see Appendix A

2.2. MUSHAMUSH BEACH PARK

Mushamush Beach Park as a high potential for accessibility. This park is a very popular destination for families to spend a summer day at the lake.

The assessment revealed:

- No designated accessible parking.
- Many pathways are inaccessible
- The beach is not accessible.
- The picnic area and the playground are not accessible.

An existing condition drawing and a concept sketch of potential site improvements have been attached – see Appendix A

2.3. MILLER POINT PEACE PARK

The Miller Point Peace Park has a high potential for accessibility. The park is very well used by local Bridgewater residents who walk the trails through the woods and along the river.

The assessment revealed:

- No designated accessible parking in either of the two parking areas.
- There is no pedestrian trail between the two parking areas – the route follows the park road.
- There is one existing accessible loop trail through the woods in the park.
- Many trails are not built to an accessible standard.
- The picnic table at the second parking lot is not CSA/ASC B 651-23 compliant.
- The vault toilets within the park are not CSA/ASC B651-23 compliant.
- The portable toilet in the first parking lot is accessible.
- The park lacks wayfinding signage to identify accessible pathways.

An existing condition drawing and a concept sketch has been attached – see Appendix A

2.4. RIVER RIDGE COMMON

River Ridge Commons has a low potential for accessibility. This site is a Regional Park featuring mountain bike trails, a natural playground and a view point at Indian Brook Falls.

The assessment revealed:

- No designated accessible parking.
- The steep and sandy entry trails are not compliant with CSA/ASC B651:23.
- There is currently no accessible access to the upper area of the site.
- The playground is not currently CSA/ASC B651-23 compliant.
- The existing signage is insufficient to help visitors understand the distances and level of effort of the various trails.
- There is an accessible picnic table at the Indian Brook Falls.

An existing condition drawing and a concept sketch has been attached – see appendix A

2.5. INDIAN FALLS PARK

Indian Falls Park has a high potential to become an accessible park. This is a destination park used by groups who go for a hike, a picnic or make their way to the river for a swim.

The assessment revealed:

- No designated accessible parking.
- There is no accessible path between the parking lot and the lookout.
- There is no accessible path between the lookout and the main trail loop.
- The picnic area and the benches are not accessible.
- The vault toilets are accessible.
- There is no wayfinding signage to direct visitors.

An existing condition drawing and a concept sketch has been attached – see appendix A

3. RICK HANSEN AUDIT

The Rick Hansen audit process is designed to identify physical barriers in public spaces and places and improve accessibility in communities across Canada.

3.1. HIRTLE’S BEACH

As can be seen from the summarized Rick Hansen Audit Score card, it illustrates the opportunity to improve the Hirtle’s Beach Park, in an effort to get as close as possible to Accessibility Certified (AC). To achieve AC, the rating must equate to 60% of the available points that are applicable to the park, which translates to a required score of 251 of the available 418 points. Hirtle’s Beach earned a rating score of 107, which falls short by 144 (251 points required less 107 earned).

Rating Scorecard					
		Final Rating Score	26%	MCR/MGCR not completed	
Accessibility Certified (AC), Accessibility Certified Gold (ACG)				AC	ACG
Final Rating Score Required				60%	80%
Total Earned Points Required				251	334
		Total Points	107	418	1971
			Earned	Available	Max. Points
Categories and Elements					
1.0	Vehicular Access	2	55	65	3.6%
1.1	Parking	2	35	45	5.7%
1.2	General Vehicular Access	0	20	20	0.0%
2.0	Exterior Approach and Entrance	0	0	194	n/a
3.0	Interior Circulation	0	0	312	n/a
4.0	Interior Services and Environment	0	0	167	n/a
5.0	Sanitary Facilities	21	82	82	25.6%
5.1	Washrooms	21	82	82	25.6%
6.0	Wayfinding and Signage	25	55	84	45.5%
6.1	General Wayfinding and Signage	25	39	42	64.1%
6.3	Directory Boards and Interactive Information Kiosks	0	16	24	0.0%
7.0	Emergency Systems	0	0	70	n/a
8.0	Additional Use of Space	5	85	517	5.9%
8.5	Outdoor Recreation Areas	1	13	16	7.7%
8.7	Retail Outlets	0	10	36	0.0%
8.15	Garbage Rooms	2	5	13	40.0%
8.16	Viewpoints	2	34	34	5.9%
8.18	Picnic Areas	0	23	26	0.0%
9.0	Residential Units	0	0	330	n/a
10.0	Trails and Pathways	54	141	150	38.3%
10.1	Trail and Pathway Features	14	42	45	33.3%
10.2	Trail and Pathway Ramps	8	29	32	27.6%

10.3	Trail and Pathway Stairs	10	35	38	28.6%
10.4	Trail and Pathway Wayfinding and Signage	22	35	35	62.9%

Based on this scorecard, the opportunities can be summarized as follows:

- 53 points for improved Vehicular Access,
- 61 points for improved washroom facilities,
- 80 points for improved additional space (outdoor rec, garbage, viewpoints and picnic areas), and
- 87 points for improved trails and pathways

So from this list, we will develop improvement recommendations, and associated Class ‘D’ costs, that will serve to gain as many of these opportune points as possible, that can assist the Municipality in achieving AC at the very least.

3.2. MUSHAMUSH BEACH PARK

As can be seen from the summarized Rick Hansen Audit Score card, it illustrates the opportunity to improve the Mushamush Beach Park, in an effort to get as close as possible to Accessibility Certified (AC). To achieve AC, the rating must equate to 60% of the available points that are applicable to the park, which translates to a required score of 197 of the available 328 points. Mushamush Beach Park earned a rating score of 105, which falls short by 92 (197 points required less 105 earned).

Rating Scorecard					
		Final Rating Score	32%	MCR/MGCR not completed	
Accessibility Certified (AC), Accessibility Certified Gold (ACG)				AC	ACG
Final Rating Score Required				60%	80%
Total Earned Points Required				197	262
		Total Points	105	328	1996
Categories and Elements		Earned	Available	Max. Points	
1.0	Vehicular Access	4	28	65	14.3%
1.1	Parking	4	28	45	14.3%
1.2	General Vehicular Access	0	0	20	n/a
2.0	Exterior Approach and Entrance	0	0	194	n/a
3.0	Interior Circulation	0	0	312	n/a
4.0	Interior Services and Environment	0	0	167	n/a
5.0	Sanitary Facilities	28	65	107	43.1%
5.1	Washrooms	28	65	65	43.1%
5.2	Showers	0	0	42	n/a
6.0	Wayfinding and Signage	34	63	84	54.0%
6.1	General Wayfinding and Signage	34	39	42	87.2%
6.3	Directory Boards and Interactive Information Kiosks	0	24	24	0.0%
7.0	Emergency Systems	0	0	70	n/a
8.0	Additional Use of Space	3	80	517	3.8%
8.5	Outdoor Recreation Areas	0	9	16	0.0%

8.8	Playgrounds	0	20	20	0.0%
8.16	Viewpoints	3	28	34	10.7%
8.18	Picnic Areas	0	23	26	0.0%
9.0	Residential Units	0	0	330	n/a
10.0	Trails and Pathways	36	92	150	39.1%
10.1	Trail and Pathway Features	7	39	45	17.9%
10.2	Trail and Pathway Ramps	7	21	32	33.3%
10.4	Trail and Pathway Wayfinding and Signage	22	32	35	68.8%

Based on this scorecard, the opportunities can be summarized as follows:

- 24 points for improved Vehicular Access,
- 37 points for improved washroom facilities,
- 77 points for improved additional space (outdoor rec, garbage, viewpoints and picnic areas), and
- 56 points for improved trails and pathways

So from this list, we will develop improvement recommendations, and associated Class ‘D’ costs, that will serve to gain as many of these opportune points as possible, that can assist the Municipality in achieving AC at the very least.

3.3. MILLER POINT PEACE PARK

As can be seen from the summarized Rick Hansen Audit Score card, it illustrates the opportunity to improve the Miller Point Park, in an effort to get as close as possible to Accessibility Certified (AC). To achieve AC, the rating must equate to 60% of the available points that are applicable to the park, which translates to a required score of 215 of the available 358 points. Miller Point Park earned a rating score of 69, which falls short by 146 (215 points required less 69 earned).

Rating Scorecard					
		Final Rating Score	19%	MCR/MGCR not completed	
Accessibility Certified (AC), Accessibility Certified Gold (ACG)				AC	ACG
Final Rating Score Required				60%	80%
Total Earned Points Required				215	286
		Total Points	69	358	2004
Categories and Elements		Earned	Available	Max. Points	
1.0	Vehicular Access	0	49	65	0.0%
1.1	Parking	0	29	45	0.0%
1.2	General Vehicular Access	0	20	20	0.0%
2.0	Exterior Approach and Entrance	0	0	194	n/a
3.0	Interior Circulation	0	0	312	n/a
4.0	Interior Services and Environment	0	0	167	n/a
5.0	Sanitary Facilities	20	73	115	27.4%
5.1	Washrooms	20	73	73	27.4%

5.2	Showers	0	0	42	n/a
6.0	Wayfinding and Signage	11	63	84	17.5%
6.1	General Wayfinding and Signage	11	39	42	28.2%
6.3	Directory Boards and Interactive Information Kiosks	0	24	24	0.0%
7.0	Emergency Systems	0	0	70	n/a
8.0	Additional Use of Space	5	80	517	6.3%
8.5	Outdoor Recreation Areas	0	13	16	0.0%
8.7	Retail Outlets	0	10	36	0.0%
8.16	Viewpoints	3	34	34	8.8%
8.18	Picnic Areas	2	23	26	8.7%
9.0	Residential Units	0	0	330	n/a
10.0	Trails and Pathways	33	93	150	35.5%
10.1	Trail and Pathway Features	12	42	45	28.6%
10.2	Trail and Pathway Ramps	13	16	32	81.3%
10.4	Trail and Pathway Wayfinding and Signage	8	35	35	22.9%

Based on this scorecard, the opportunities can be summarized as follows:

- 49 points for improved Vehicular Access,
- 53 points for improved washroom facilities,
- 75 points for improved additional space (outdoor rec, garbage, viewpoints and picnic areas), and
- 60 points for improved trails and pathways

So from this list, we will develop improvement recommendations, and associated Class ‘D’ costs, that will serve to gain as many of these opportune points as possible, that can assist the Municipality in achieving AC at the very least.

3.4. RIVER RIDGE COMMON

As can be seen from the summarized Rick Hansen Audit Score card, it illustrates the opportunity to improve the River Ridge Common Park, in an effort to get as close as possible to Accessibility Certified (AC). To achieve AC, the rating must equate to 60% of the available points that are applicable to the park, which translates to a required score of 204 of the available 340 points. River Ridge Common Park earned a rating score of 91, which falls short by 113 (204 points required less 91 earned).

Rating Scorecard										
		Final Rating Score	27%	MCR/MGCR not completed						
Accessibility Certified (AC), Accessibility Certified Gold (ACG)				<table border="1"> <tr> <th>AC</th> <th>ACG</th> </tr> <tr> <td>60%</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>204</td> <td>272</td> </tr> </table>	AC	ACG	60%	80%	204	272
AC	ACG									
60%	80%									
204	272									
Final Rating Score Required										
Total Earned Points Required										
		Total Points								
		91	340	2024						
		Earned	Available	Max. Points						
Categories and Elements										
1.0	Vehicular Access	0	36	65	0.0%					
1.1	Parking	0	26	45	0.0%					

1.2	General Vehicular Access	0	10	20	0.0%
2.0	Exterior Approach and Entrance	0	0	194	n/a
3.0	Interior Circulation	0	0	312	n/a
4.0	Interior Services and Environment	0	0	167	n/a
5.0	Sanitary Facilities	0	93	135	0.0%
5.1	Washrooms	0	93	93	0.0%
5.2	Showers	0	0	42	n/a
6.0	Wayfinding and Signage	25	39	84	64.1%
6.1	General Wayfinding and Signage	25	39	42	64.1%
7.0	Emergency Systems	0	0	70	n/a
8.0	Additional Use of Space	27	66	517	40.9%
8.8	Playgrounds	0	20	20	0.0%
8.16	Viewpoints	16	23	34	69.6%
8.18	Picnic Areas	11	23	26	47.8%
8.1	Innovation	0			
9.0	Residential Units	0	0	330	n/a
10.0	Trails and Pathways	39	106	150	36.8%
10.1	Trail and Pathway Features	10	42	45	23.8%
10.2	Trail and Pathway Ramps	2	29	32	6.9%
10.4	Trail and Pathway Wayfinding and Signage	27	35	35	77.1%

Based on this scorecard, the opportunities can be summarized as follows:

- 36 points for improved Vehicular Access,
- 93 points for improved washroom facilities,
- 39 points for improved additional space (playgrounds, viewpoints and picnic areas), and
- 67 points for improved trails and pathways

So from this list, we will develop improvement recommendations, and associated Class ‘D’ costs, that will serve to gain as many of these opportune points as possible, that can assist the Municipality in achieving AC at the very least.

3.5. INDIAN FALLS PARK

As can be seen from the summarized Rick Hansen Audit Score card, it illustrates the opportunity to improve the Indian Falls Park, in an effort to get as close as possible to Accessibility Certified (AC). To achieve AC, the rating must equate to 60% of the available points that are applicable to the park, which translates to a required score of 191 of the available 318 points. Indian Falls Park earned a rating score of 109, which falls short by 82 (191 points required less 109 earned).

Rating Scorecard					
<p>Final Rating Score 34%</p> <p>Accessibility Certified (AC), Accessibility Certified Gold (ACG)</p> <p>Final Rating Score Required</p>	<p>MCR/MGCR not completed</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">AC</td> <td style="text-align: center;">ACG</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">60%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">80%</td> </tr> </table>	AC	ACG	60%	80%
AC	ACG				
60%	80%				

		Total Earned Points Required		191	254	
		Total Points				
		109	318	1996		
Categories and Elements		Earned	Available	Max. Points		
1.0	Vehicular Access	1	41	65		2.4%
1.1	Parking	1	21	45		4.8%
1.2	General Vehicular Access	0	20	20		0.0%
2.0	Exterior Approach and Entrance	0	0	194		n/a
3.0	Interior Circulation	0	0	312		n/a
4.0	Interior Services and Environment	0	0	167		n/a
5.0	Sanitary Facilities	16	65	107		24.6%
5.1	Washrooms	16	65	65		24.6%
6.0	Wayfinding and Signage	27	60	84		45.0%
6.1	General Wayfinding and Signage	27	39	42		69.2%
6.3	Directory Boards and Interactive Information Kiosks	0	21	24		0.0%
7.0	Emergency Systems	0	0	70		n/a
8.0	Additional Use of Space	11	63	517		17.5%
8.5	Outdoor Recreation Areas	0	9	16		0.0%
8.16	Viewpoints	11	31	34		35.5%
8.18	Picnic Areas	0	23	26		0.0%
9.0	Residential Units	0	0	330		n/a
10.0	Trails and Pathways	54	89	150		60.7%
10.1	Trail and Pathway Features	18	39	45		46.2%
10.2	Trail and Pathway Ramps	12	21	32		57.1%
10.4	Trail and Pathway Wayfinding and Signage	24	29	35		82.8%

Based on this scorecard, the opportunities can be summarized as follows:

- 40 points for improved Vehicular Access,
- 49 points for improved washroom facilities,
- 52 points for improved additional space (playgrounds, viewpoints and picnic areas), and
- 35 points for improved trails and pathways

So from this list, we will develop improvement recommendations, and associated Class 'D' costs, that will serve to gain as many of these opportune points as possible, that can assist the Municipality in achieving AC at the very least.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS AND COSTS

Combining the knowledge gained through the audit process, a number of recommendations have been made for each of the sites. These have been divided into low medium and high-cost projects.

4.1. HIRTLE'S BEACH

Project recommendations are:

Low/Medium Cost Projects

- Create designated accessible parking (hard surface x 3) = \$10,000
- Create an accessible picnic area (pad and roof shelter) = \$30,000
- Rebuild the beach boardwalk to be accessible (maintain supports and replace decking) = \$50,000
- Redesign and install accessible interpretive signage = \$5,000 to \$15,000
- Replace existing boardwalk to the toilets with compacted gravel walkway = \$15,000
- Create reserved food truck parking location (select three parking stalls to sacrifice)
- Create wayfinding signage for the site (allow for wayfinding design \$10,000) = \$500/sign = \$5,000
- Waste Receptacles = \$5,000 each set
- Expand on Vault Toilet Footprint and Install all Accessible Amenities = \$25,000 per Washroom
- Gravel parking lot delineation (guardrails and Boulders) = \$30,000
- Explore design and construction options to create CSA/ASC B651-23 compliant beach overlook and beach access mat location (to be rolled out during good weather summer days) = \$25,000

High Cost Projects

- Install changerooms/new vault toilets near Beach Entry = \$50,000 each (\$100,000 for 2)
- Paved parking lot complete with line painting = \$350,000
- Widened shoulder at the entrance (off MODL property*) = \$90,000
- Accessible Ramp to beach (depends on further design and soil characteristics and also off MODL property*) = \$50,000 to \$100,000

****Off property improvements, albeit come with other challenges, are still worth noting with the potential to partner with the other land owners.***

4.2. MUSHAMUSH BEACH PARK

Project recommendations are:

Low/Medium Cost Projects

- Create designated accessible parking = \$10,000
- Resurface parking areas to drain = \$15,000
- Upgrade pathways to drain and to have smooth surfaces, consistent widths and gentle gradients = \$10,000
- Add accessible picnic tables and benches = \$20,000
- Regrade entry paths at existing portable toilets to be accessible = \$10,000
- Create level landings in front of waste receptacles = \$3,000
- Block motorized access to beach at all times. Block motorized access to the site while the park is closed = \$8,000
- Provide limited mobility beach access = \$12,000
- Create a wayfinding signage system highlighting all the site features = \$5,000

High Cost Projects

- Redesign the park layout to improve accessibility, parking and circulation = \$200,000 (extra \$100,000 to pave)
- Add accessible playground elements = \$150,000 to \$250,000 (depending on size extents)
- Consider replacing vault toilets with full washrooms (includes dug well, septic system and power supply) = \$500,000 **or**
- Construct 2 to 3 proper accessible vault toilets = \$50,000 each (can be sized proper to have change rooms integral with the washrooms)
- Consider adding changerooms and viewing decks above the beach = \$80,000

4.3. MILLER POINT PEACE PARK

Project recommendations are:

Low/Medium Cost Projects

- Create designated accessible parking in both parking lots = \$10,000
- Improve parking lot gravel surfacing, drainage and layout = \$20,000
- Upgrade pathways to have smooth surfaces, consistent widths and gentle gradients = \$30,000
- Add benches along popular trails = \$5,000 each
- Upgrade existing picnic area to meet CSA/ASC B651-23 standards = \$10,000
- Install accessible vault toilet structures to replace non-accessible washroom (increase the footprint over the tank) = \$15,000
- Create and install a wayfinding signage system that identifies where visitors are within the park, trail distances, level of difficulty as well as the locations of benches, toilets, waste receptacles and view points = \$20,000
- Create interpretive signage to an accessible standard = \$5,000 to \$15,000
- Potential accessible kayak/canoe launch = \$50,000

High Cost Projects

- Add accessible vault toilet at entry parking area (say 2) = \$100,000 (\$50,000 each)
- Create a CSA/ASC B651-23 compliant Point Loop Trail = \$90,000
- Add a trail along the route from the upper parking lot to the lower parking lot = \$90,000
- Pave parking lots with line paintings = \$250,000

4.4. RIVER RIDGE COMMON

Project recommendations are:

Low/Medium Cost Projects

- Create designated accessible parking = \$10,000
- The entry trail is steep and with many switchbacks. Provision of benches at many of these corners will allow limited mobility visitors an opportunity to climb the trail at their own pace and resting as required = \$5,000 each
- Add MODL signage at the Highway 10 parking lot site entry area = \$5,000
- Have a certified playground installer complete an assessment of the existing equipment = \$10,000
- The upper toilet location is recommended to be relocated near to the playground / limited mobility parking lot. An additional toilet is required at the lower parking lot = \$5,000 (maintained porta-potties that can be relocated with relocated structure/enclosure).
- Create a wayfinding signage system throughout this large site to show visitors where they are as well as identifying the distance, gradient, elevation gain between features; the level of trail difficulty; benches locations; waste receptacles and toilets sites = \$20,000

High Cost Projects

- Convert the access/maintenance road into an entry and access to the upper playground area (13% gradient on the road and it should be paved due to excessive slopes...gravel will spin due to low friction with tires) = \$250,000
- Create an accessible trail between the new parking area and the Indian Brook Falls lookout = \$100,000
- New vault toilets (two above and one below) = \$150,000

4.5. INDIAN FALLS

Project recommendations are:

Low/Medium Cost Projects

- Create designated accessible parking = \$10,000
- The parking lot surface needs to be re-levelled to remove puddles = \$10,000
- Accessible path construction is required to make the lookout, lawn area and picnic table CSA/ASC B651:23 compliant = \$5,000
- The park requires an accessible picnic area and accessible benches throughout the park = \$25,000
- The connection between the lookout and the main trail requires upgrading to be CSA/ASC B 1-23 compliant = \$12,000
- Wayfinding signage is required to orient visitors and identify the site features. The signage must be clear how accessible the park is by identifying the distance, level of effort, rest opportunities and features on the map = \$20,000

- Add accessible picnic area at the furthest outreach of the new trail system = \$15,000

High Cost Projects

- Explore options to create a limited mobility access to the river’s edge at the end of the new trail = \$60,000
- Upgrade entry road and parking lots to allow emergency response vehicle access = \$100,000
- Pave parking lot with line painting = \$100,000

5. PARK IDENTITY

It is our understanding that the municipality was interested in developing a common feature to all of their parks that becomes an identifier of a Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Park. This would be a feature of all parks that the public would always identify it as a common element to the parks of the region. Much akin to the “Big Red Chair” at federal parks. By example, it is a feature that the public has come to recognize as a common element to all federal parks.

EXP recommends the following be implemented, and it is known as a “Birds Nest Swing”. The following outlines a sample of one fabricated here in Nova Scotia:



Product Name: Cobequid Bird’s Nest Swing

Manufacturer / Supplier: Cobequid Consulting, Economy, NS

Supply and Installation: \$ 28,000.00 plus HST and safety surfacing

Material: logs, hardware and swing

Product information: <https://www.cobequid.ca/swings/cobequid-robin's-nest-on-single-post-log-frame>

This feature would be very identifiable and useful as it serves as a functional element versus simply a monument. It could be easily customizable with a sign of sorts, mounted to the running beam supporting the swing, it the MODL logo. If selected as the “show-piece” for MODL parks, they should be situated on sites in areas that provide full accessibility to and from them including properly graded, sized and surfaced routes and connectivity with parking facilities.

These could easily be incorporated into any detailed design of any of MODL’s parks and EXP would encourage the municipality to coordinate with this manufacturer/supplier if and when the decision is made to take these parks to the design and construction stages.



Other means to obtain park identity would be via customized consistent signage (wayfinding and information) and low impact simple features such as trail markers, much like the one shown in the photo below, that could also be altered to have MODL logo.

These would only apply to the parks that are trail based and they would not identify geolocation or distance travelled, however they could simply be fastened to the vegetation at key intervals along any of the trails. Trail markers with distance identifiers are more suited to long range trails such as the Rail to Trail TransCanada system.

Wayfinding signs are always beneficial to assisting the park users in navigating any of the facilities with directions to beaches, washrooms, parking, and trails. It is a recommendation throughout this report to have wayfinding implemented and this could be consistently carried throughout all parks that help in becoming MODL parks identifiers.

6. CONCLUSION

The MODL has a rich resource of parks within the municipality. Through attention to the provision of designated accessible parking, accessible path construction and provision of toilet, bench and picnic table design to support accessibility, the municipality will much better support all park visitors.

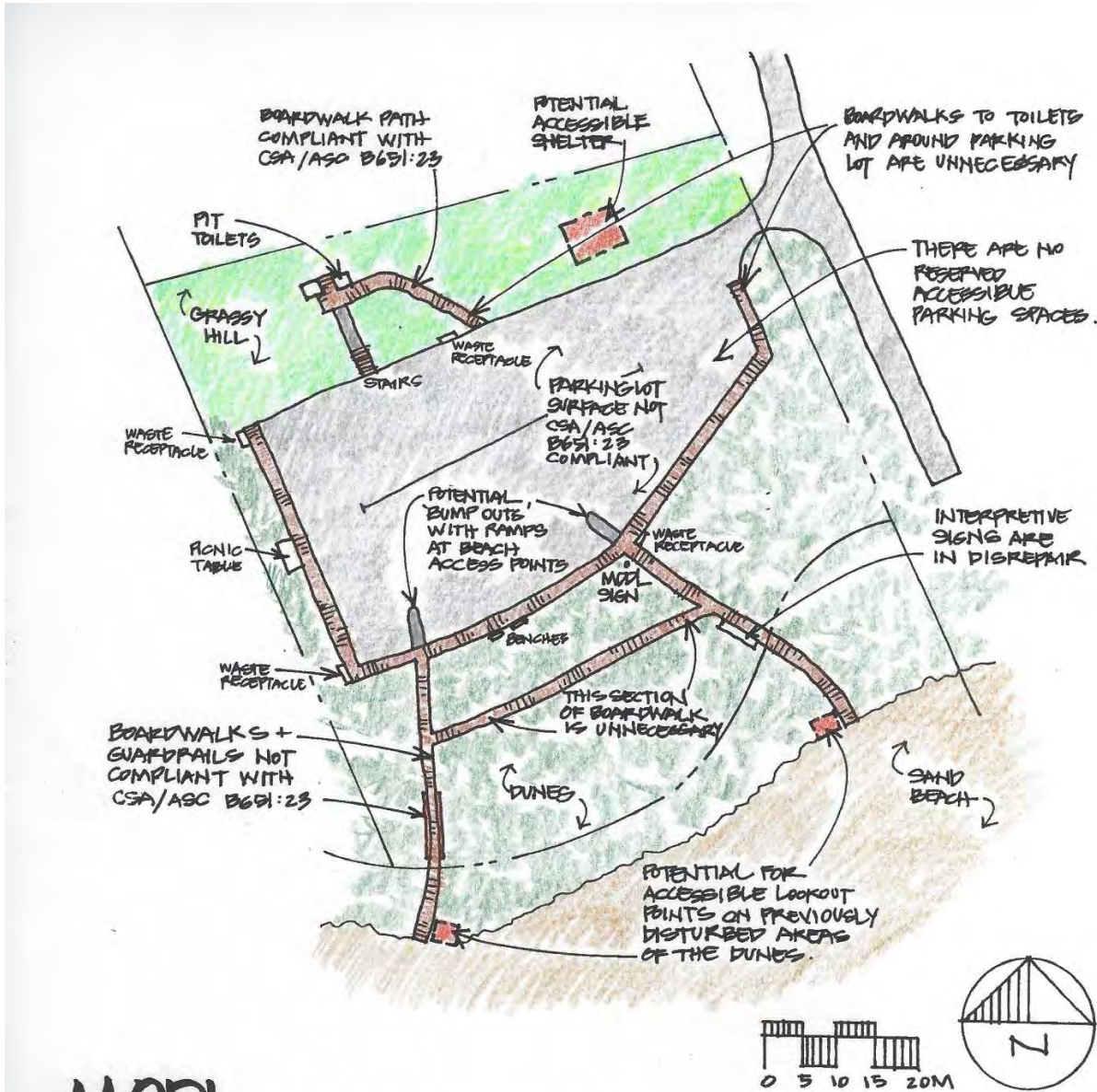
In addition, it is critical that the MODL provide wayfinding information to visitors. A successful park visit involves visitors being able to tailor their visit to the site best suited to their physical capability. If visitors can understand the distance, gradient, elevation gain between features and the level of trail difficulty, they will be able to determine if a visit is right for them. Presenting the wayfinding information at the entry at every park is critical. By presenting this information on the MODL website will allow visitors to select appropriate parks suited to their individual activity level before they even leave home.

Attached in Appendix B is a products list that can help give the municipality guidance when considering furniture and items that could become features of any of the regional municipal parks.



Appendix A –Existing Conditions and Potential Site Improvements

Hirtle's Beach - Existing Conditions



MODL PARKS ACCESSIBILITY AUDITS HIRTLES BEACH

EXISTING CONDITIONS + OPPORTUNITIES
GORDON RATCLIFFE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, CSLA
JOY ELLIOTT DESIGN, CSLA

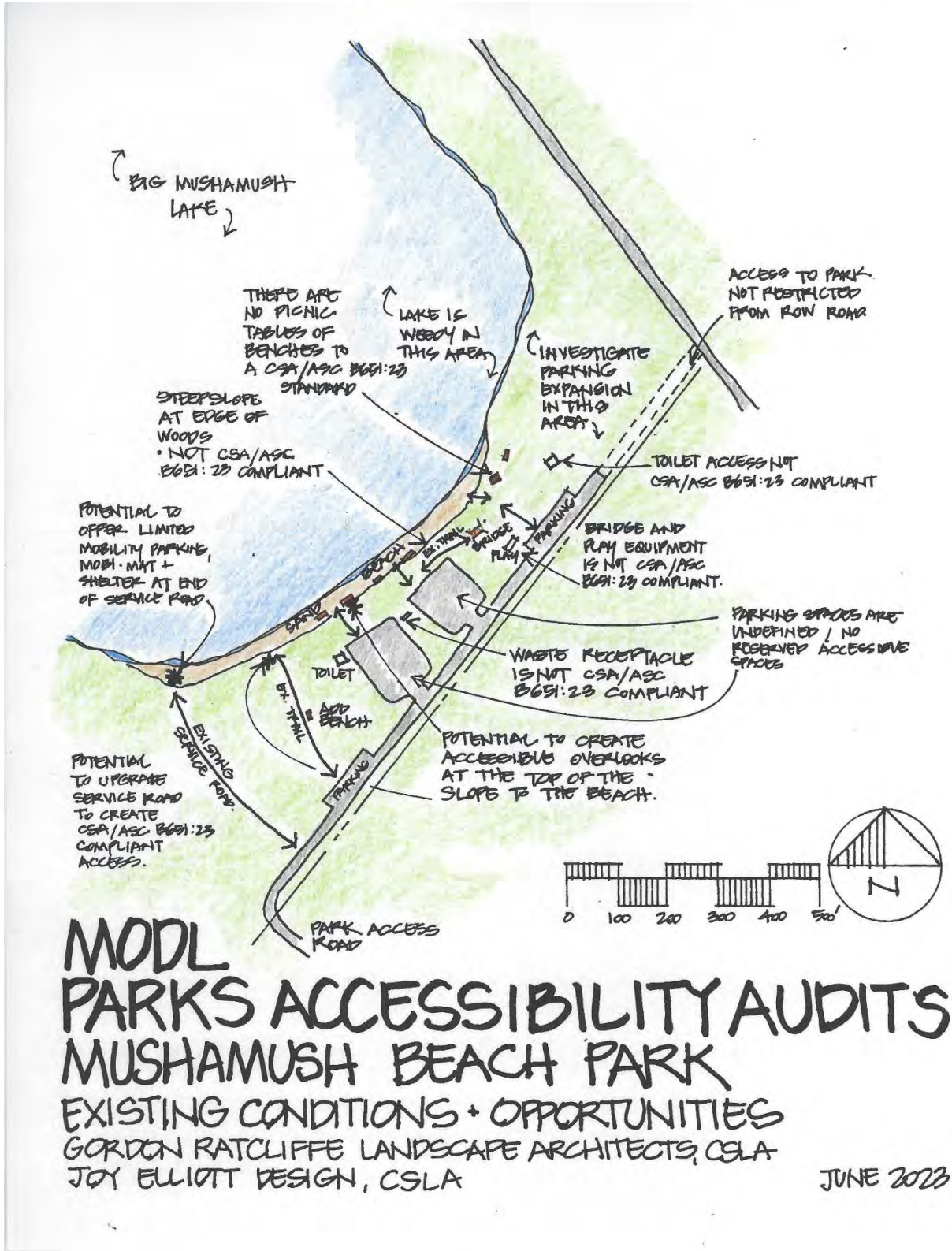
JUNE 2023

Hirtle's Beach - Potential Site Improvements

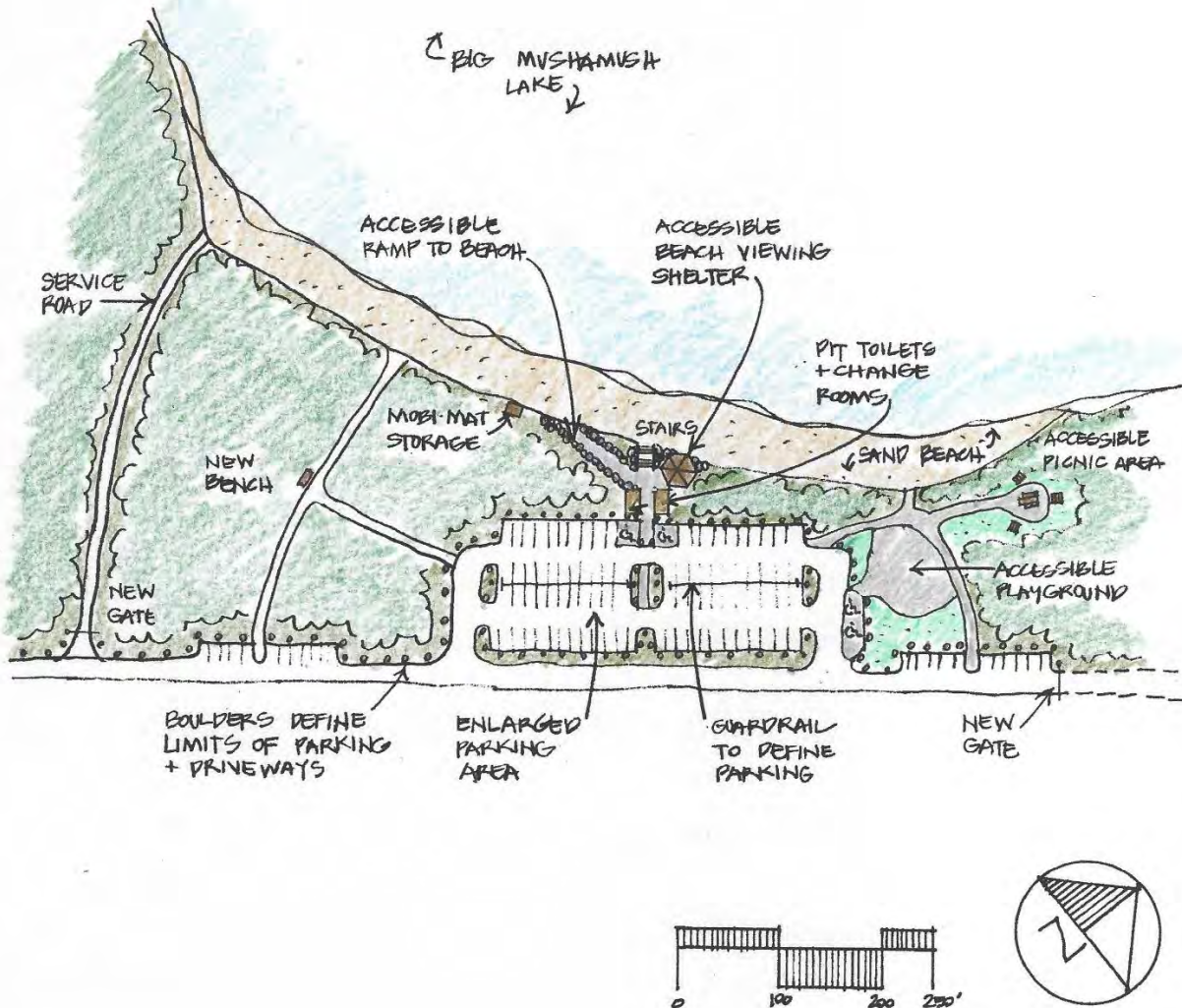


HIRTLE'S BEACH
PARK IMPROVEMENT CONCEPT
 GORDON RATCLIFFE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, CSLA
 JOY ELLIOTT DESIGN, CSLA
 OCTOBER 2023

• Mushamush Beach Park - Existing Conditions

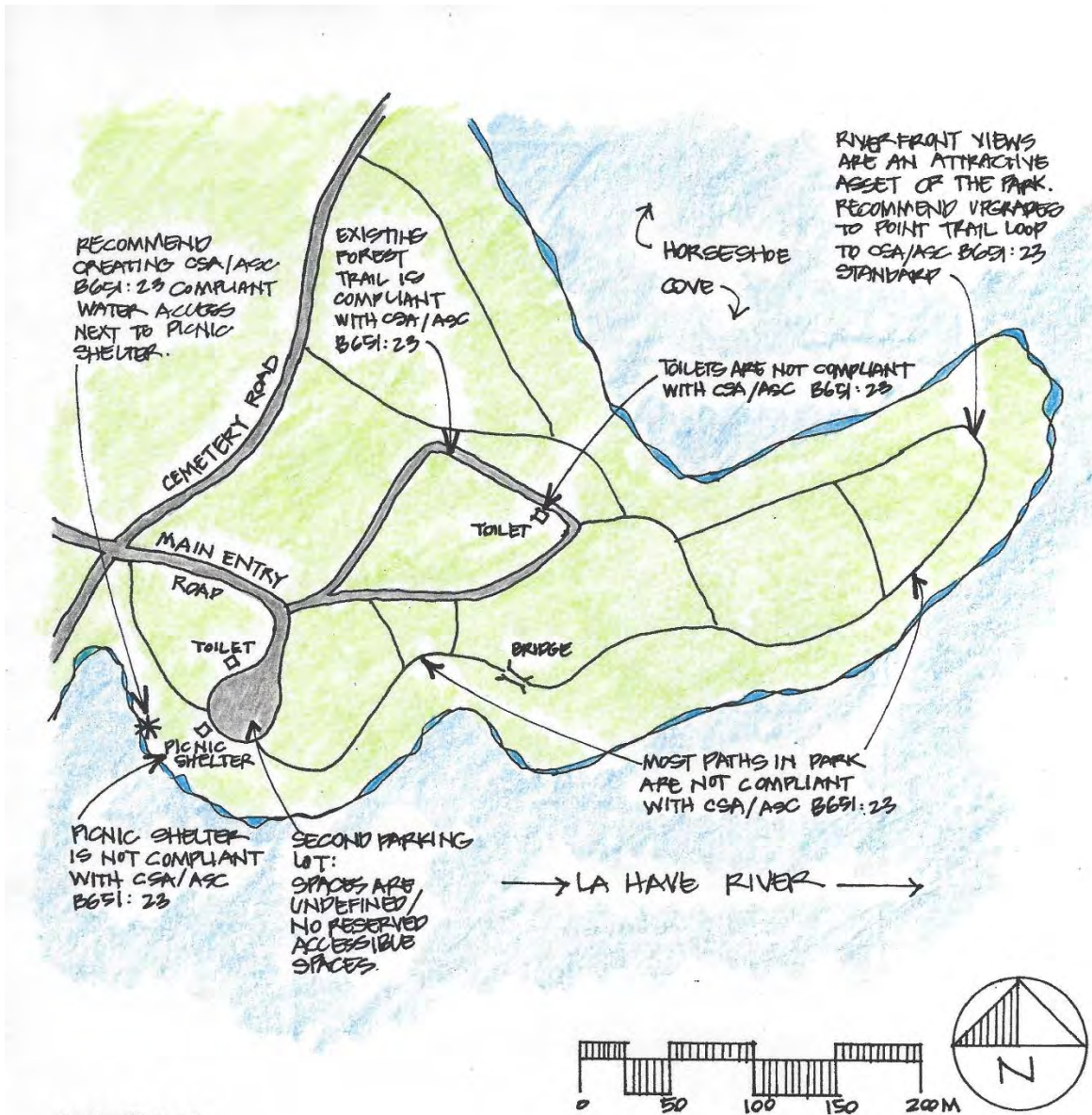


- Mushamush Beach Park - Potential Site Improvements



MUSHAMUSH BEACH PARK
PARK IMPROVEMENT CONCEPT
GORDON RATCLIFFE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, CSLA
JOY ELLIOTT DESIGN, CSLA
OCTOBER 2023

• Miller Point Peace Park - Existing Conditions

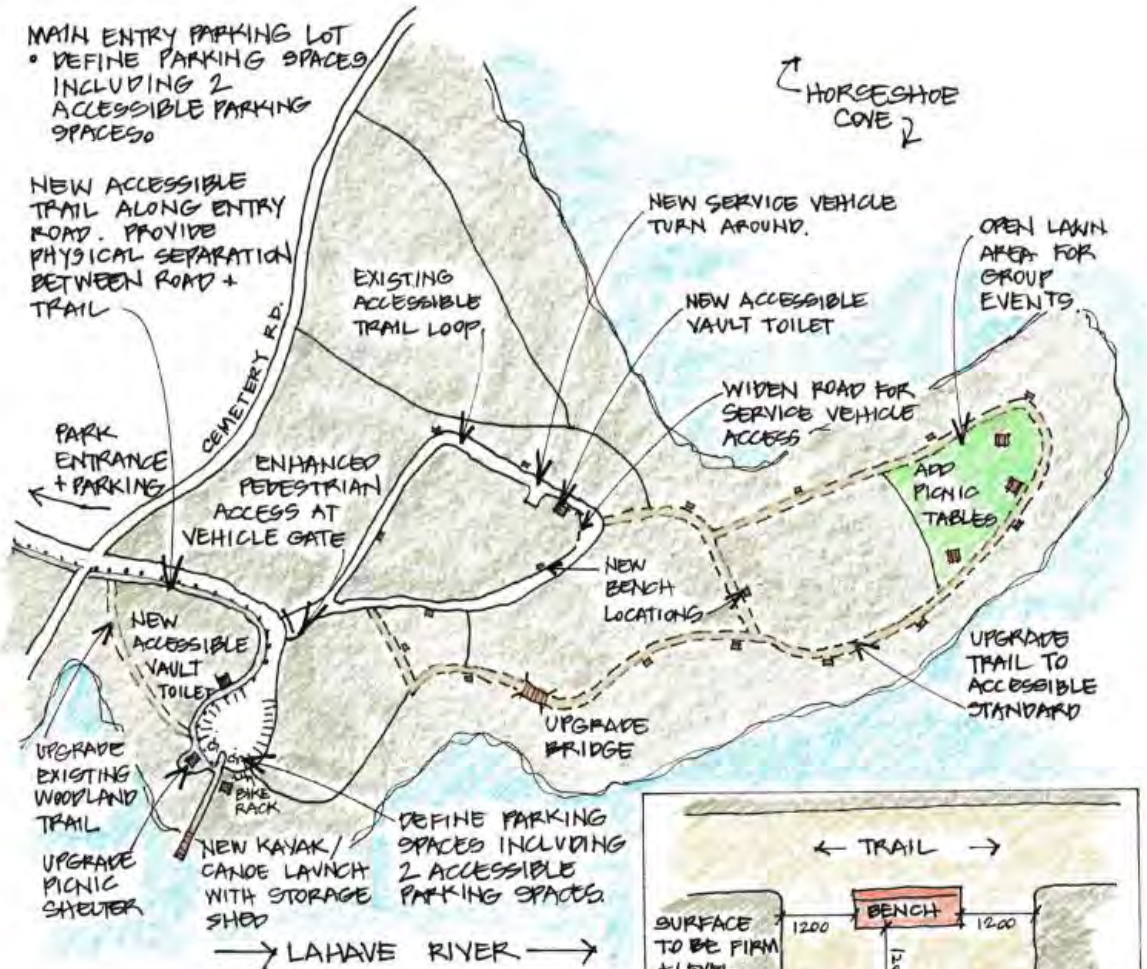


MODL PARKS ACCESSIBILITY AUDITS MILLER POINT PEACE PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS + OPPORTUNITIES
GORDON RATOLIFFE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, CSLA
JOY ELLIOTT DESIGN, CSLA

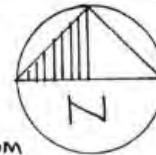
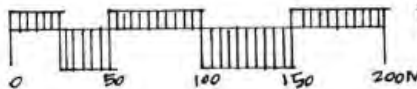
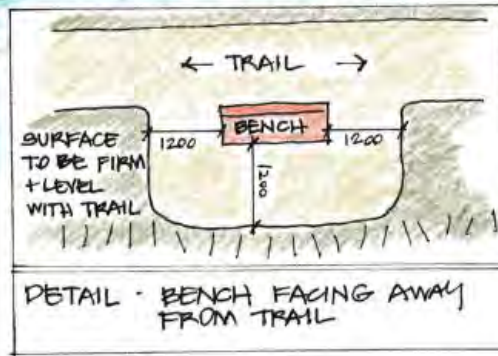
JULY 2023

• Miller Point Peace Park - Potential Site Improvements



NOTES:

- ① ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE
- ② ALL UPGRADES MUST BE CSA/ASC B651-23 COMPLIANT
- ③ CREATE WAYFINDING SIGNAGE THAT INCLUDES REPETITIVE TRAIL MARKERS
- ④ UPGRADE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE TO AN ACCESSIBLE STANDARD.
- ⑤ ENSURE SITE CONFORMS TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS.

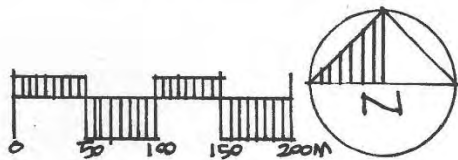
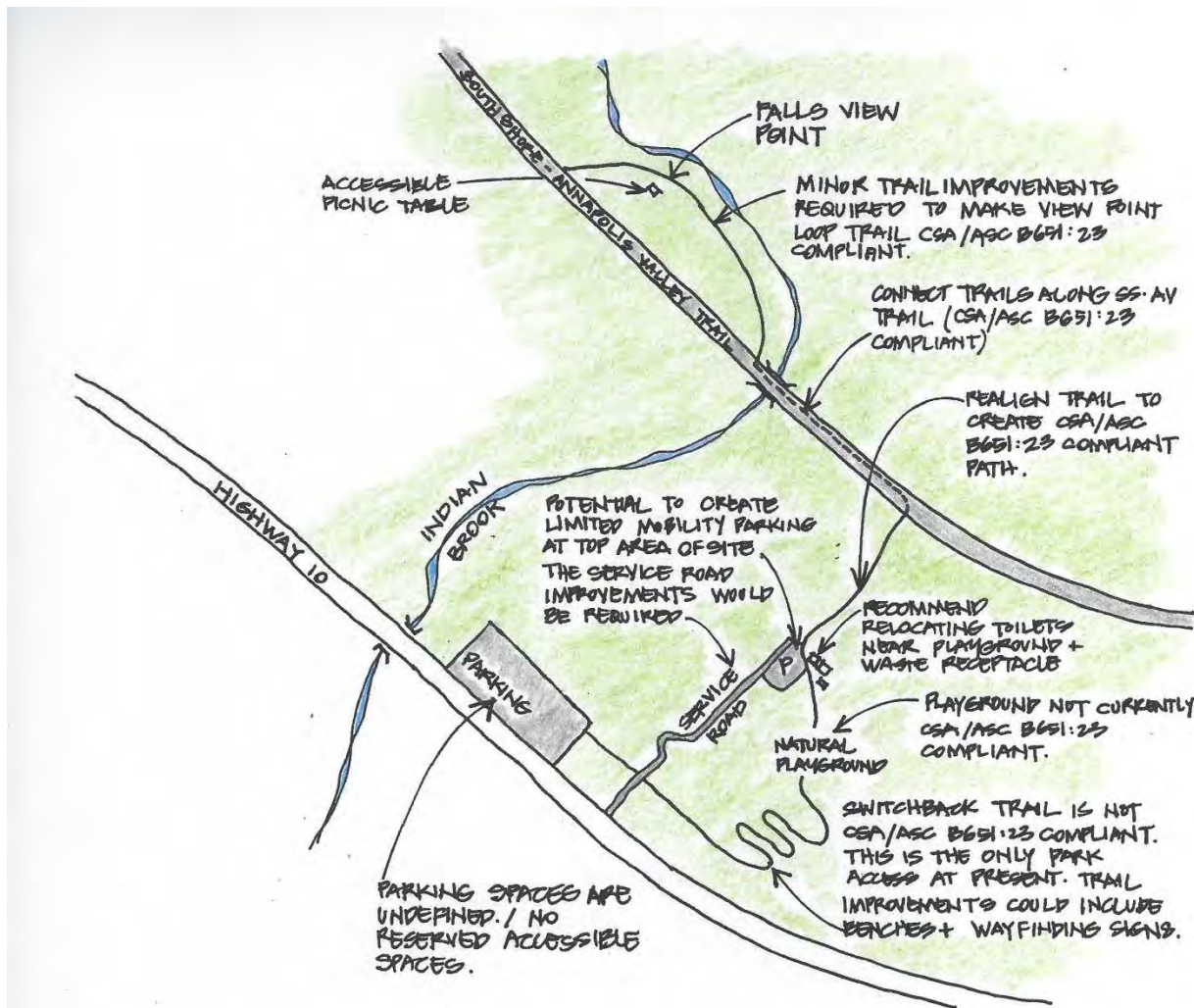


MILLER POINT PEACE PARK PARK IMPROVEMENT CONCEPT

GORDON RATCLIFFE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, CSLA
 JOY ELLIOTT DESIGN, CSLA

FEBRUARY 2024

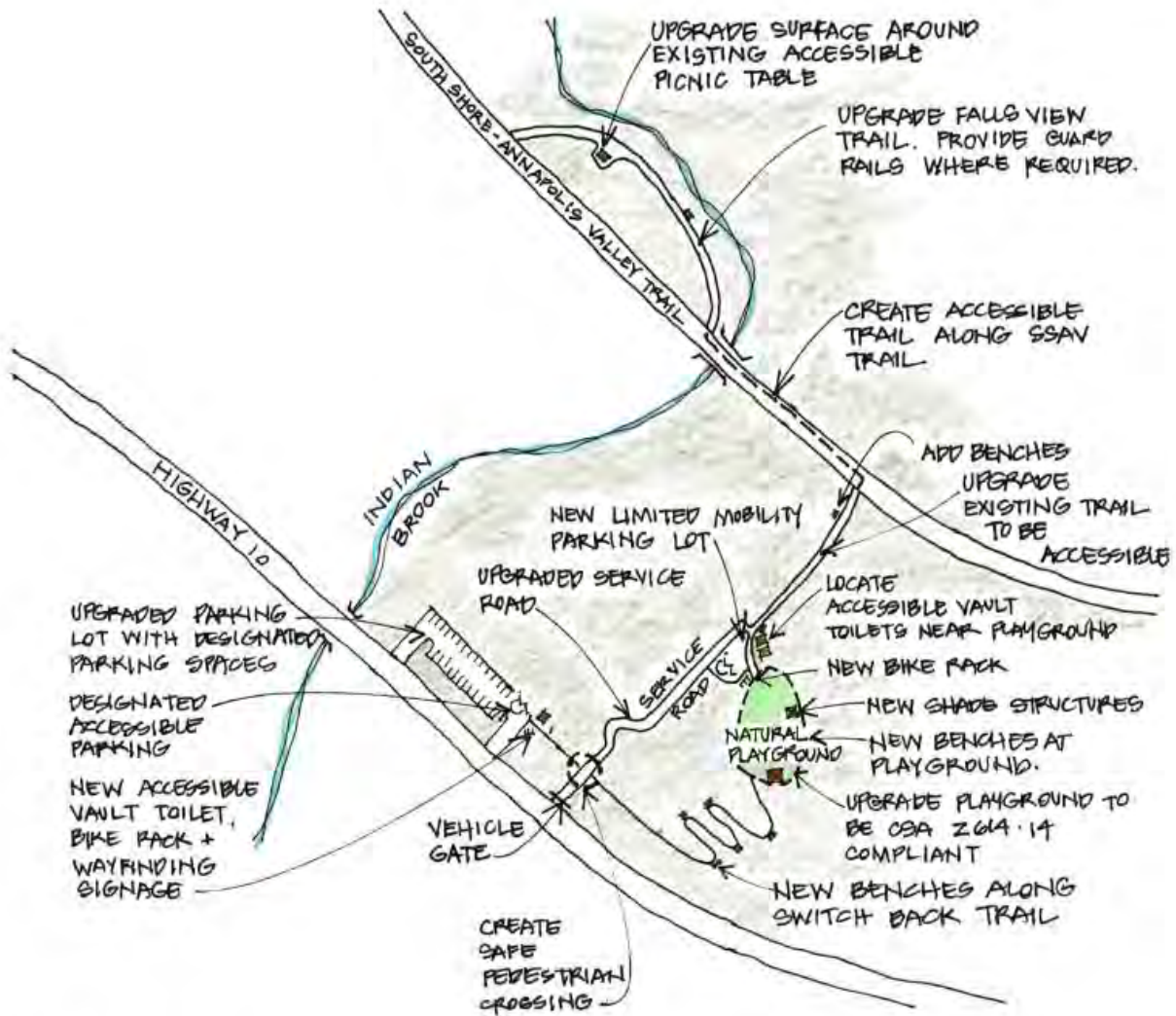
• River Ridge Common - Existing Conditions



MODL
PARKS ACCESSIBILITY AUDITS
RIVER RIDGE COMMON
EXISTING CONDITIONS + OPPORTUNITIES
GORDON RATCLIFFE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, CSLA
JOY ELLIOTT DESIGN, CSLA

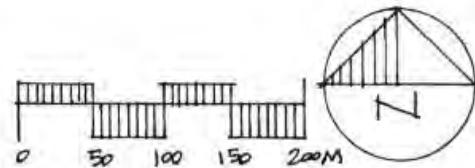
JUNE 2023

• River Ridge Common - Potential Site Improvements



NOTES:

- ① ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.
- ② ALL UPGRADES MUST BE CSA/ASC B651.23 COMPLIANT WHERE POSSIBLE.
- ③ ALL DESIGNATED ACCESSIBLE TRAILS TO BE RESURFACED WITH SUITABLE GRAVEL.
- ④ ENSURE SITE CONFORMS TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS.

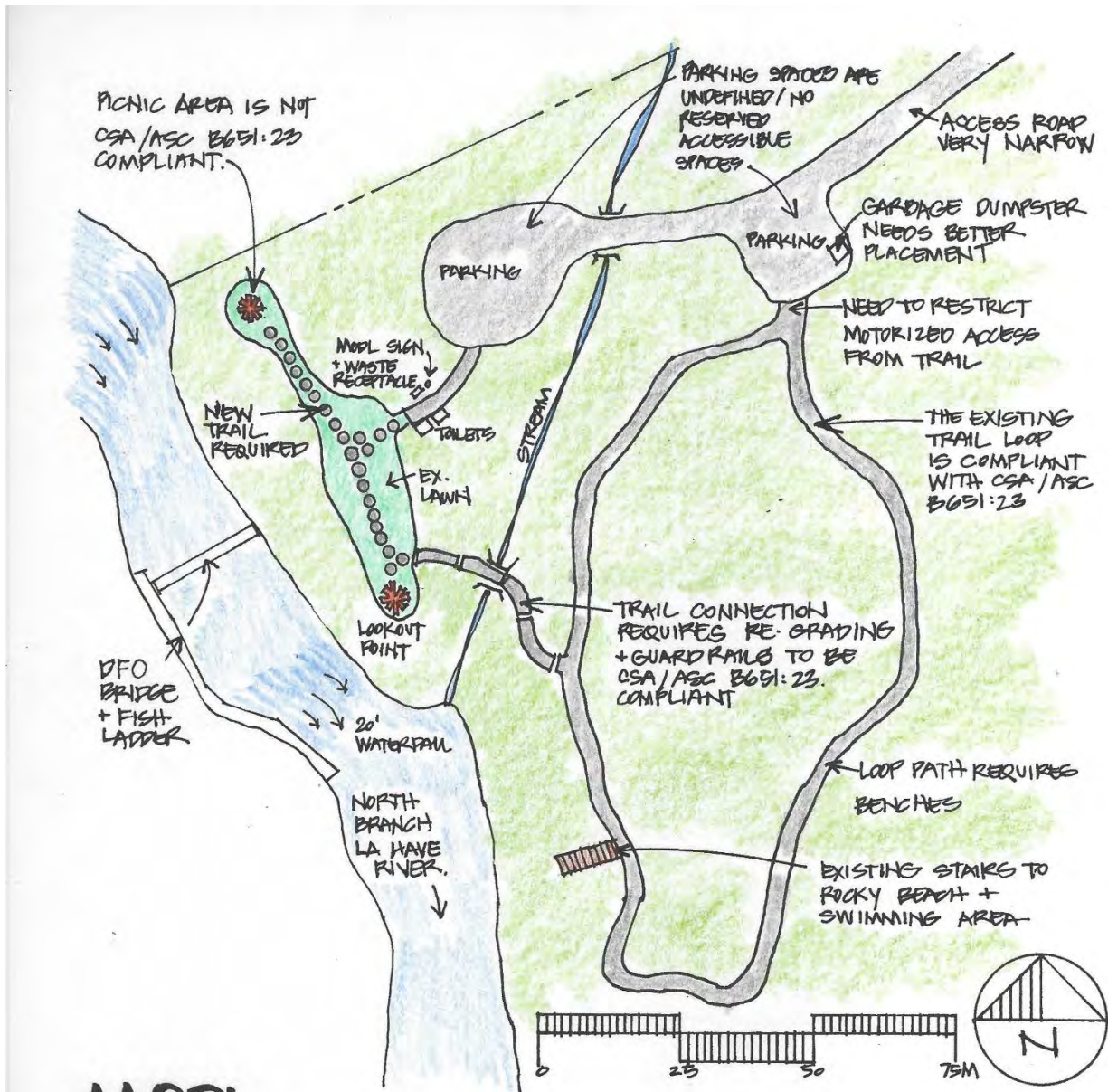


RIVER RIDGE COMMON PARK IMPROVEMENT CONCEPT

GORDON RATCLIFFE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, CSLA
 JOY ELLIOTT DESIGN, CSLA

FEBRUARY 2024

• Indian Falls Park- Existing Conditions

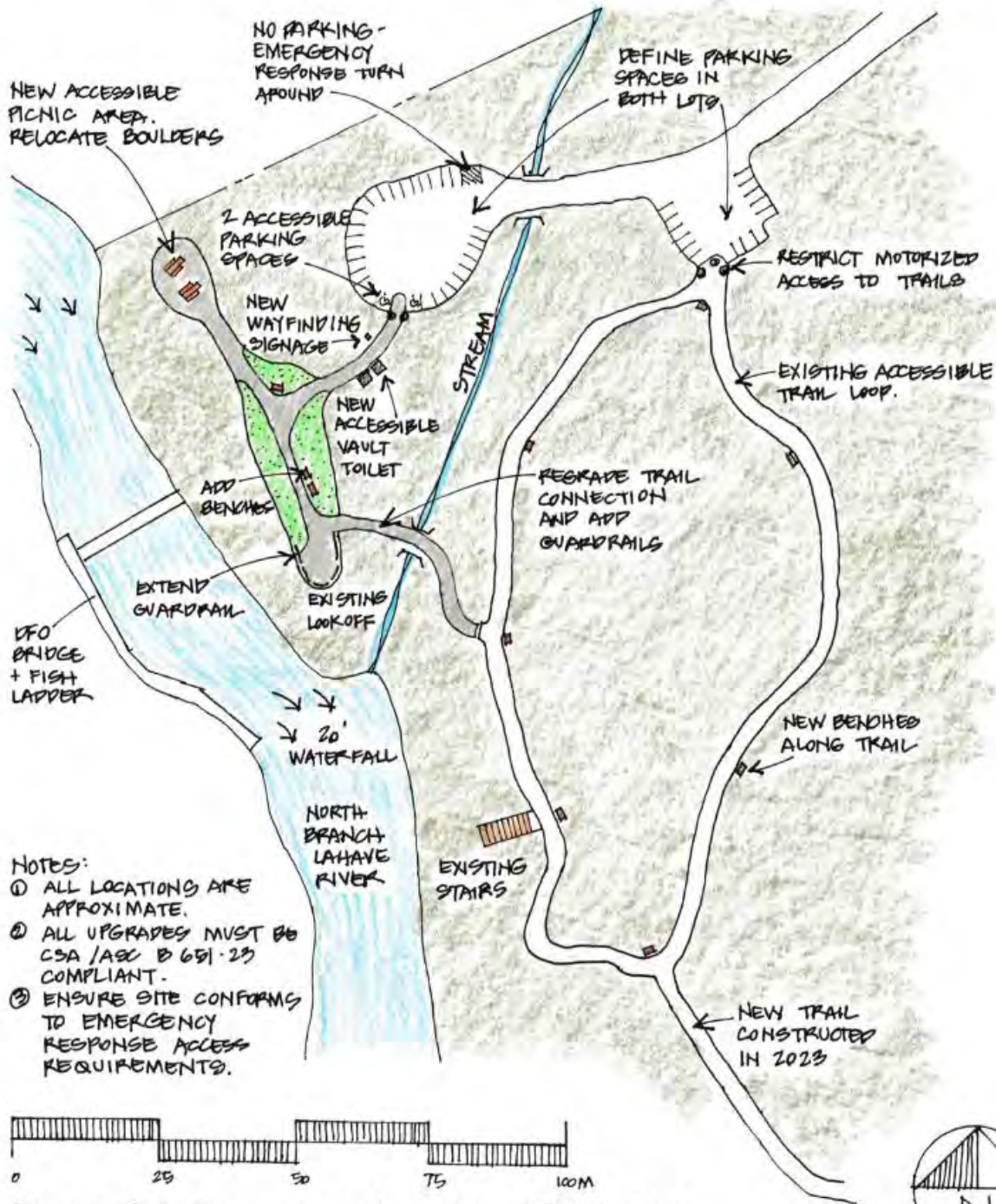


MODL PARKS ACCESSIBILITY AUDITS INDIAN FALLS PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS + OPPORTUNITIES
GORDON RATCLIFFE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, CSLA
JOY ELLIOTT DESIGN, CSLA

JUNE 2023

• Indian Falls Park- Potential Site Improvements



INDIAN FALLS PARK PARK IMPROVEMENT CONCEPT

GORDON RATCLIFFE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, CSLA
 JOY ELLIOTT DESIGN, CSLA

FEBRUARY 2024



Appendix B – Accessible Furniture/Items

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks - Product and Design Recommendations

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

15 February 2024

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects and Joy Elliott Design have completed accessibility audits for five parks within the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg including: Hirtle’s Beach, Indian Falls Park, Miller Point Peace Park, Mushamush Beach Park and River Ridge Commons.

Based on this thorough understanding of the needs for each park, the project now makes suggestions for products suited to the MODL parks and displays design solutions for situations encountered within the park system.

The best method of achieving local content is to buy a locally manufactured product. If this is unavailable, the next best method is to have the product manufactured locally (see below for recommendations). Alternatively, purchasing products from elsewhere in Canada is an option – some product information is included. Where no Canadian manufacturer is available for specialty items, the US products are listed.

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The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks - Product and Design Recommendations

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

15 February 2024

I. PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS:

The product selection is based on a number of criteria:

- Functionality – the product must meet accessibility requirements
- Durability – the product must have a long life, resistance to environmental factors and vandalism
- Affordability – the product must fit with (modest) project budget
- Available Locally - the product must be available from NS suppliers where possible
- Manufactured Locally – if possible (this supports the community)
- A Good Fit – the product must fit well with MODL parks (rural aesthetic)

a. BENCHES



Product Name: Park/Trail Bench with Concrete End Frames

Manufacturer: Lake City Works, 386 Windmill Rd, Dartmouth, NS B3A 1J5

Regular price: \$749.00 plus shipping and HST

Size: 36"H x 68"W x 20"D

Colours: available in gray & brown

Material: Recycled Plastic Lumber and Concrete Frame

Product information: <https://shop.lakecityworks.ca/collections/benches/products/park-trail-bench-with-concrete-end-frames>

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks - Product and Design Recommendations

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

15 February 2024



Product Name: Park/Trail Bench with Galvanized Frames

Manufacturer: Lake City Works, 386 Windmill Rd, Dartmouth, NS B3A 1J5

Regular price: \$1,199.00 plus shipping and HST

Size: 36"H x 68"W x 20"D

Colours: available in gray & brown

Material: Recycled Plastic Lumber and Galvanized Metal Frame

Product information: <https://shop.lakecityworks.ca/collections/benches/products/park-trail-bench-with-galvanized-frames>



Product Name: 450 Bench

Manufacturer: Maglin, Woodstock, Ontario

Regular price: \$1,990.00 plus shipping and HST

Size: ±36"H x 25.5"D x 72"L

Colours: quote is for wood grain finish in cedar or dark brown, multiple options available

Material: steel and recycled plastic lumber

Product information: See cut sheet in appendix

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks - Product and Design Recommendations

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

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Product Name: 100 Bench

Manufacturer: Maglin, Woodstock, Ontario

Regular price: \$1,525.00 plus shipping and HST

Size: ±30"H x 30"D x 70"L

Colours: quote is for wood grain finish in cedar or dark brown, multiple options available

Material: steel and recycled plastic lumber

Product information: See cut sheet in appendix

b. ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLES



Product Name: 7' Accessible Picnic Table

Manufacturer: Lake City Works, 386 Windmill Rd, Dartmouth, NS B3A 1J5

Regular price: \$1,029 plus shipping and HST

Size: 30"H x 67"W x 84"L

Colours: available in gray & brown

Material: Recycled Plastic Lumber

Product information: <https://shop.lakecityworks.ca/collections/tables/products/7-accessible-picnic-table>

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks - Product and Design Recommendations

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

15 February 2024



Product Name: 8' Mid-Accessible Picnic Table

Manufacturer: Lake City Works, 386 Windmill Rd, Dartmouth, NS B3A 1J5

Regular price: \$1,299 plus shipping and HST

Size: 30"H x 67"W x 96"L

Colours: available in gray & brown

Material: Recycled Plastic Lumber

Product information: <https://shop.lakecityworks.ca/collections/tables/products/8-mid-accessible-picnic-table>



Product Name: 210 Accessible Picnic Table Bench

Manufacturer: Maglin, Woodstock, Ontario

Regular price: \$3,485.00 plus shipping and HST

Size: ±30"H x 66.5"D x 70"L

Colours: quote is for wood grain finish in cedar or dark brown, multiple options available

Material: steel and recycled plastic lumber

Product information: See cut sheet in appendix

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks – Product and Design Recommendations

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

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c. WASTE RECEPTACLES



Product Name: I400 Series – I400 Recycle Receptacle

Manufacturer: Maglin, Woodstock, Ontario

Regular price: \$3,175.00 plus shipping and HST

Size: ±44H x 27"D x 44"L

Colours: powder coat, multiple colour options available

Material: aluminum: aluminum frame, metal sides, stainless steel lid, polyethylene liners

Product information: See cut sheet in appendix

d. SHELTERS



Notes:

A source for locally or Canadian made shelters is unknown.

The following method is recommended to ensure local content and a cost-effective product:

1. Prefabricated structures are the most cost effective when manufactured in quantity.
2. Prepare design criteria (e.g. dimensions, materials, structural details, anchoring requirements, concrete pad)
 - a. engage a local architectural drafts person to prepare drawings and specification for quotation
3. solicit quotations for the fabrication of the structures from local tradesperson / artisans
4. prefabricate structure off site
5. solicit quotations for site preparation – prepare concrete pad; deliver, assemble, install structures

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks - Product and Design Recommendations

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

15 February 2024

e. ACCESSIBLE BEACH PRODUCTS



Product Name: AccessMat

Manufacturer: AccessRec, 67 Sand Dollar Park, Suite A, Cedar Grove, New Jersey, 07009, USA

Canadian Supplier: Epical Solutions, Canada

Regular price: \$2,935.97 plus HST and shipping

Size: 5' width mat x 50' length weighs 114 lb

Colours: blue, brown or sand

Material: Polyester roll, permeable wire mat weave provides good traction. Surface does not get hot

In Use at: Cabot Park, PEI

Product information: <https://www.epicalsolutions.com/accessrec-products>



Product Name: Water Wheels (floating beach and pool chair)

Manufacturer: AccessRec, 67 Sand Dollar Park, Suite A, Cedar Grove, New Jersey, 07009, USA

Canadian Supplier: Epical Solutions, Canada

Regular price: \$3,262.40 plus HST and shipping

Size: 300-pound maximum capacity

Colours: blue and yellow

Material: aluminum and stainless steel

In Use at: Cabot Park, PEI

Product information: <https://www.epicalsolutions.com/accessrec-products>

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks - Product and Design Recommendations

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

15 February 2024



Product Name: Wet Mat (Grade 2)

Manufacturer: AccessRec, 67 Sand Dollar Park, Suite A, Cedar Grove, New Jersey, 07009, USA

Canadian Supplier: Epical Solutions, Canada

Regular price: \$2,935.97 plus HST and shipping

Size: 4' width x 33' length

Colours: brown, beige, black and blue

Material: non-porous PVC applied on a dock)

Product information: <https://www.epicalsolutions.com/accessrec-products>

Note: this product is suited to placing over a dock to keep it from becoming slippery when wet.

**The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks
- Product and Design Recommendations**

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

15 February 2024

f. ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT



Product Name: Cobequid Bird's Nest Swing

Manufacturer / Supplier: Cobequid Consulting, Economy, NS

Supply and Installation: \$ 28,000.00 plus HST and safety surfacing

Material: logs

Product information: <https://www.cobequid.ca/swings/cobequid-robin's-nest-on-single-post-log-frame>

Note:

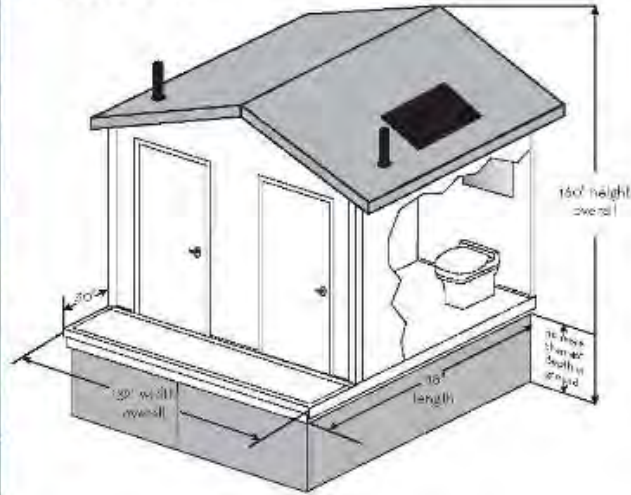
This swing is planned to become the signature piece in all MODL Parks

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks - Product and Design Recommendations

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

15 February 2024

g. ACCESSIBLE VAULT TOILETS



Product: Prefabricated Accessible Vault Toilet

Notes:

A source for locally or Canadian made vault toilets is unknown.

The following method is recommended to ensure local content and a cost-effective product:

1. Prefabricated structures are the most cost effective when manufactured in quantity.
2. Prepare design criteria (e.g. dimensions, materials, structural details, anchoring requirements and siting design considerations for efficient service access.)
 - a. engage a local architectural drafts person to prepare drawings and specification for quotation
 - b. solicit quotations for the fabrication of the structures from local tradesperson / artisans.
3. Prefabricate both toilet structure and concrete vault off site
4. SAolicit quotations for site preparation - deliver, assemble, install structures

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks - Product and Design Recommendations

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

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h. RECYCLED PLASTIC LUMBER

Here are a few reasons to consider composite timber for MODL projects:

Unlike timber (unless carefully looked after), composite timber can last 20-30 years with almost no maintenance.

- There is no need to treat or stain it to prevent moisture and its consequences.
- Composites come in a variety of colors.
- Some composite companies are using recycled materials. This means your synthetic deck can be environmentally friendly.
- The technology is improving. Some manufacturers now produce decking with a hard plastic shell bonded to composite boards to improve durability. This makes the surface less prone to staining, fading, scratching and mold.

Cons of using composite timber:

- Composite timber can cost 10-15% more than pressure treated pine.
- Composite timber does not look like wood.
- Composite decking maintenance involves sweeping up leaves and other debris, as well as conducting a periodic wash down.
- Many composites now come with stain and fade warranties; it is important to check that the material you select has a warranty.

Home Hardware (Annapolis Royal) recommends the Decorators brand of recycled plastic lumber which retails for \$50.05 / 12' length of decking. (price quoted – December 2023)

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks - Product and Design Recommendations

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

15 February 2024

2. DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

a. INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE



Siting considerations:

1. Make sure the sign is easily accessible to wheelchairs and people walking.
 - a. This includes a firm and gently sloped walking surface within a short distance from accessible parking
 - b. Ensure that there are curb cuts to allow access
2. For low-profile exhibits, make sure a wheelchair can pull under while also not confusing cane-using visitors (i.e., use 27" of clearance).



3. Refer to CSA/ASC B651-23 Standard to ensure compliance.

Presentation considerations:

1. Aim for sixth to eighth grade reading level using plain language and active voice.
2. If you want to include more than one language, engage a translator.
3. Use explanatory images with short concise paragraphs of descriptive text.
4. Engage a graphic designer to ensure there is sufficient text size, good contrast and non-reflective surfaces.
5. Consider adding an audio component.
6. Tactile elements help peak visitor interest as well.

Source: <https://106group.com/how-to-create-accessible-wayside-exhibits/>

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks - Product and Design Recommendations

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

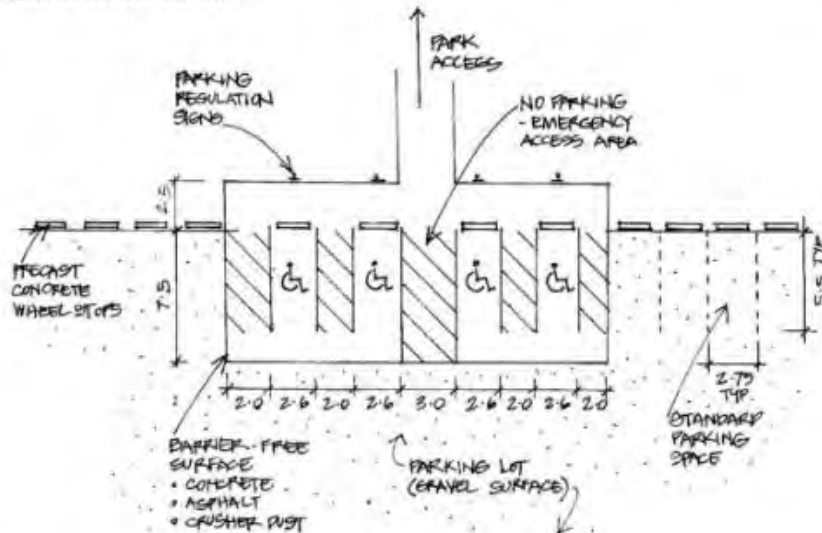
15 February 2024

b. ACCESSIBLE PARKING

We suggest the following parking design be implemented into the MODL parks with gravel parking lots.



The photo above shows a gravel parking lot with an accessible concrete parking space connected to the hard surfaced entry walkway. Visitors with limited mobility do not need to navigate over a gravel surface to access the site.



ACCESSIBLE PARKING DESIGN FOR GRAVEL PARKING LOTS

This detail is compliant with the CSA B651:23 – Accessible Design for the Built Environment

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks - Product and Design Recommendations

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

15 February 2024

3. Appendix – Product Cut Sheets

- Maglin Products
 - 400 Series Bench
 - 100 Series Bench
 - 200 Series Accessible Picnic Table
 - 1400 Series Three Stream Waste Receptacle

**The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks
 - Product and Design Recommendations**

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

15 February 2024

MBE-0450-00006

400 SERIES



MATERIALS:	Bench frame is made from H.S. steel and flat bar. The back and seat is constructed using recycled plastic slats - Cedar color.		
FINISH:	All steel components are protected with E-Coat rust proofing. The Maglin Powdercoat System provides a durable finish on all metal surfaces.		
INSTALLATION:	The bench is delivered pre-assembled. Holes (0.5") are provided in each slat for securing to base.		
TO SPECIFY:	Select MBE-0450-00006 Choose: - Powdercoat Color		

HEIGHT: 36" (91.4mm)	LENGTH: 72" (182.7mm)	DEPTH: 25.6" (64.7mm)	WEIGHT: 465.884 (103.9kg)
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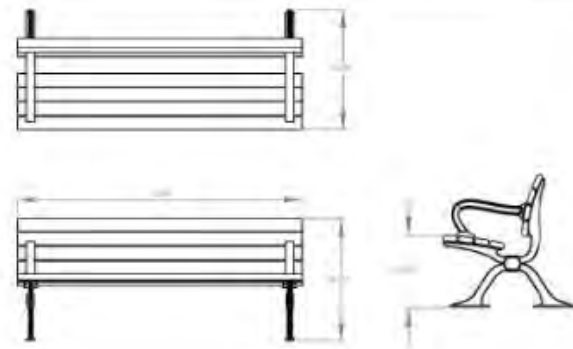

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* All drawings, specifications, design and details are subject to the approval of the governing authority. Dimensions and colors may vary without notice.
 * Certified and tested to meet or exceed all applicable codes and standards.

**The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks
 - Product and Design Recommendations**

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

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		100 SERIES	
<p>MBE-0100-00007 Legacy # MLB100-RC-A</p> 			
<p>DESCRIPTION: 100 Series - 100 Backed Bench: 70in L Cast Aluminum Ends, Wood Grain Texture High Density Polyethylene Seat and Back - Cedar Color, Two End Arms</p> <p>FINISH: All steel components are protected with E-Coat rust proofing. The Maglin Powdercoat System provides a durable finish on all metal surfaces.</p> <p>INSTALLATION: The bench is delivered pre-assembled. Holes (Ø5") are provided in each foot for securing to base.</p> <p>TO SPECIFY: Select MBE-0100-00007 Choice: - Powdercoat Color</p>			
HEIGHT: 30" (76.2cm)	LENGTH: 30" (76.2cm)	DEPTH: 18" (45.7cm)	WEIGHT: 80 lbs (36kg)
			
		Telephone: 506-853-9272 Fax: 506-853-9271 www.maglin.com info@maglin.com	
<p><small>© 2023 Maglin Site Furniture. All rights reserved. This document is the property of Maglin Site Furniture. No part of this document may be reproduced without Maglin Site Furniture's written permission.</small></p>			


The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks - Product and Design Recommendations

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200 SERIES

MTB-0210-00029
Legacy #MLPT210-S-RC-WCA



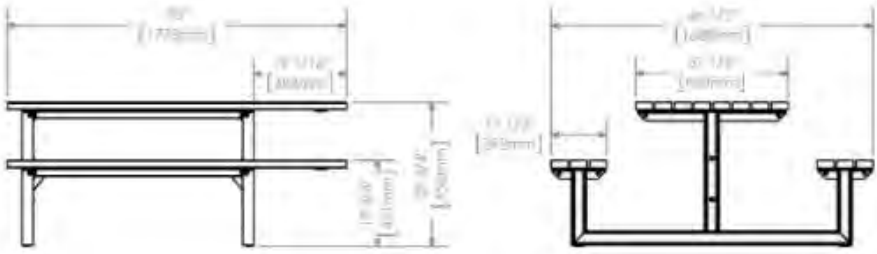
MATERIALS: Table frame is made from 3" x 2-3/8" structural I-beams with mitered corners. Horizontal support beams are used for superior stability and structural integrity. Surface material is recycled plastic - Cedar color.


FINISH: All steel components are protected with E-Coat hot dipping. The Maglin Powdercoat System provides a durable finish on all metal surfaces.

INSTALLATION: The table is delivered pre-assembled. Holes (0.5") are provided for securing to base.

TO SPECIFY: Select MTB-0210-00029
 Phenac
 - Powdercoat Cedar

HEIGHT: 34.15" [876mm]	LENGTH: 27" [686mm]	DEPTH: 26.5" [673mm]	WEIGHT: 104.5 lbs [47.4kg]
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The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Parks
- Product and Design Recommendations

Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects, CSLA and Joy Elliott Design, CSLA

15 February 2024

1400 SERIES

MRR-1400-00008
 Legacy # MRC1403-MS-FB-VG

DESCRIPTION:	1400 Series – 1400 Recycle Receptacle; Aluminium Frame, Metal Sides, Stainless Steel (rd. Free) Opening, 3 Streams, 3 x 23 Gallon Polyethylene Liners, Black Face Plate, Vinyl Graphics
FINISH:	All steel components are protected with E-Coat rust proofing. The Maglin Powdercoat System provides a durable finish on all metal surfaces.
INSTALLATION:	The recycling station is delivered pre-assembled. Holes (3.5") are provided in each mounting foot for securing to base.
TO SPECIFY:	Select MRR-1400-00008 Choose: - Powdercoat finish - Vinyl Graphics (FF not optional item)

HEIGHT: 44" (rd. Free)	LENGTH: 44" (rd. Free)	DEPTH: 27.00" (rd. Free)	WEIGHT: 295lb (rd. Free)
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