



RECREATION AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

for the Rural Municipality of North Shore

— December 9th, 2022

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1.0 Executive Summary

This report on parks and recreation has reviewed current facilities and explored existing gaps, including an approach to asset management and the potential for new or expanded programming and facilities. A survey has provided insight into the community's clear desire to expand recreational activities. If parks and recreation programming is to be expanded to meet the needs of existing and future residents, then additional space will be needed. This space should be obtained as soon as possible. Results from the survey will inform recommendations and potential next steps for the Rural Municipality of North Shore. A summary of the survey responses and a copy of the survey data is provided in the appendices at the end of this report.

2.0 Inventory of current facilities

The Rural Municipality of North Shore has invested in significant recreation facilities. Table 1 includes a list of Municipally owned or operated recreation assets, including both buildings and outdoor facilities. A conservative investment of the value of current recreation facilities, including the promenade, sits at over \$3.5 million dollars. This level of investment in recreation communicates that the municipality supports and encourages recreation, public open space as well as community meeting spaces. Support for parks and recreation may continue to attract residents, development and investment. As noted in the survey responses, residents expect that these recreation facilities will continue to be operated and maintained, as well as expanded to meet expectations.

Table 1 Recreation and Parks Inventory

FACILITY & LOCATION	YEAR (updated)	AGE	SERVICE	VALUE	CURRENT STATE (condition)	GAPS
North Shore Community Centre (NSCC)	1996 (2010)	26	Meeting Offices Gym	\$1,680,000	Good	needs more outdoor storage space

Stanhope Place	1851 (2015)	171	Meeting Offices	\$437,700	Good	needs maintenance
The Grand Tracadie School Centre	1960 (2020)	62	Day-Care	\$836,000	Good	needs maintenance
The Grand Tracadie outdoor rink	(2020)		skating	\$45,000	Poor asphalt, new side boards	needs repair to base
The Grand Tracadie Ball Field	(2019)		ball	\$70,000	Poor fence needs a dugout	very tight fit on the park site
NSCC Ball Field	(2019)		ball	\$70,000	Fair needs upkeep & repair to dugout/backstop	not regulation size more space is needed for programming
NSCC Soccer Field 1			soccer		Good	more space is needed for programming
NSCC Soccer Field 2			soccer		Good	land is not owned by the municipality
Promenade	2004	18	walking	\$377,000	Good	more connections
Tracadie Commons			Natural area			quieting of title is required access to be developed
Total value				\$3,585,700		

3.0 Asset Management

Asset Management is an approach to delivering municipal services, including parks programming. Based on information provided, it appears that there is no formal asset management policy in place to guide council decision making or to inform budget allocations to support parks and recreation. Asset management is an integrated business approach involving planning, finance, and operations to effectively manage infrastructure to maximize benefits, reduce risk and to continue to provide expected levels of service to community users. In a municipal setting, asset management equals consistent service delivery.

As the Rural Municipality of North Shore continues to invest in facilities, it is important to consider a typical asset life cycle. Initial stages would include to plan, procure, and build a facility, such as an arena or a sports field. This is followed by a period to use, operate and maintain the facility. After some time, the municipality must decide whether to rehabilitate or renew the facility, or to dispose, reconstruct or replace the structure. As is evident from recent investments, the Municipality has chosen to renew the North Shore Community Centre, Stanhope Place, as well as the Grand Tracadie School Centre. Given the age of these three buildings, it is imperative that they are well maintained in order to support programming at all three buildings. Given the age of these structures, and the age of outdoor recreation facilities, maintenance is key to ongoing service delivery.

The municipality should budget for an appropriate level of maintenance. In addition, the municipality should ensure stable long term funding to maintain, replace, renew or to de-commission facilities. The municipal budget should report annually on asset management. The following statements should be considered when making decisions to support continued asset management of parks and recreation spaces:

- *Current participation in existing programming is high.*
- *Gaps exist between current and desired levels of service.*
- *Some facilities, such as the ball and soccer fields, are reported to be at capacity.*
- *It has been noted that increasingly, children play soccer and ball in other communities due to lack of adequate facilities, and programming.*

- *More physical space and facilities and more programming would be supported, according to survey results.*
- *Comments from residents and user groups indicate that expectations are not in line with current service delivery; improvements are needed to ball fields, including upgrades to the dugouts and the surface areas.*
- *Soccer and softball are both regulated sports. Different age and skill levels have minimum requirements for fields and facilities.*
- *In order to be sanctioned to deliver tournaments, facilities and sports fields must meet minimum standards, including field sizes and number of fields available for play. Current facilities may not meet requirements for tournaments, primarily due to lack of adequate space and lack of facilities.*
- *Lack of sufficient space to support desired programming is a risk to ongoing programming delivery.*
- *Lack of budgeting consistent funds for maintenance is the largest risk to ongoing programming. The current practice of applying for external funding to maintain existing structures is haphazard.*



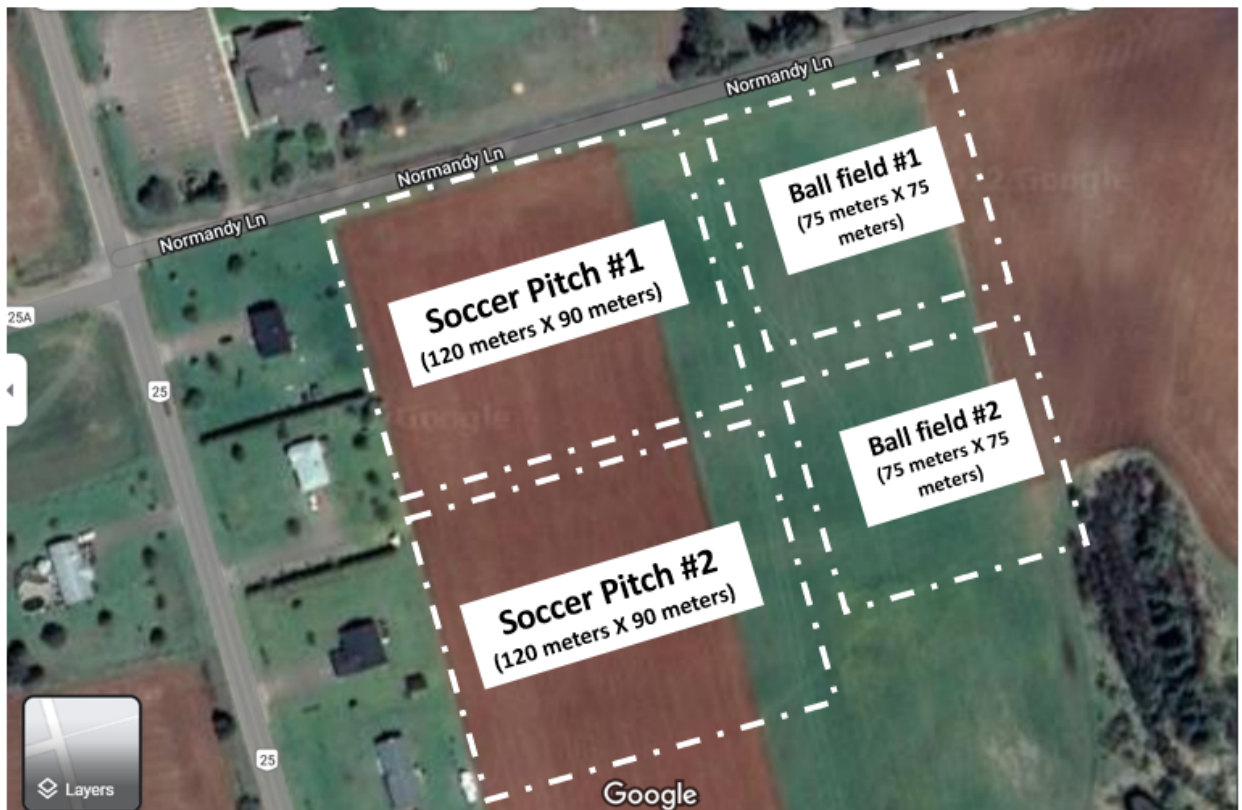
Photos of Grand Tracadie Ball Field and Outdoor Arena

4.0 Priorities


Based on interviews and survey responses, a list of high, medium and low priorities has been developed.

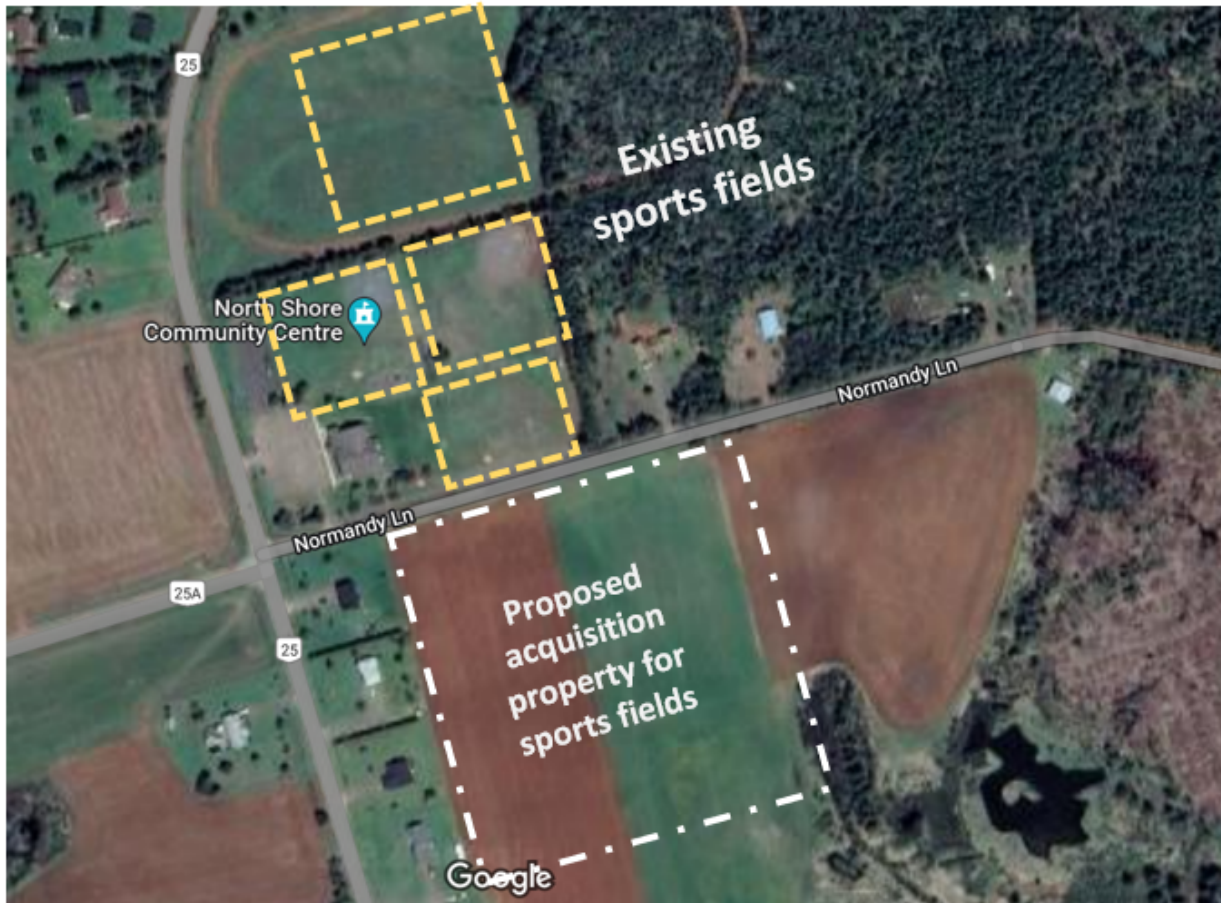
4.1 High Priorities:

1. Maintain existing 3 buildings, including the North Shore Community Centre (NSCC), Stanhope Place and the Grand Tracadie School Centre to current standards.
2. Maintain existing baseball/softball fields. Expand ball facilities around North Shore Community Center. Estimates will be noted later in this document.
 - There are 2 existing baseball/softball fields at the North Shore Community Centre site, which is owned and maintained by the Rural Municipality of North Shore. This is a valuable, well-used space and leveraging the existing facilities (including washrooms, changerooms, parking) at this site has the potential to create a recreation space to better meet the community's needs.
 - Expand baseball/softball fields by acquiring land and adding two regulation sized fields on lands adjacent to the North Shore Community Centre. See graphics: photo and map of potential extensions below.



Potential extensions of ball fields and soccer pitches next to North Shore Community Center

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3. Maintain existing soccer fields. Expand soccer facilities around North Shore Community Center. Estimates will be noted later in this document.
 - Maintain the existing soccer field at the North Shore Community Centre.
 - Maintain the existing soccer field adjacent to the North Shore Community Centre (north side). Myron's Field is private property that is currently used as a soccer pitch. The site is accessible by foot to the washrooms/change rooms and parking at the North Shore Community Center. For this reason, Myron's Field should be acquired (leased or purchased) to ensure continued programming.
 - Expand soccer fields by acquiring land and adding two regulation sized fields on lands adjacent to the North Shore Community Centre. See a photo and map of this space above.
 4. Create new dugouts at the ball field near Grand Tracadie Day Care. Estimated cost to install a new, metal dugout is \$6,000. Two dugouts would cost \$12,000.
 5. Continue to invest in the outdoor arena at Grand Tracadie; repair asphalt base. Estimated cost to repair asphalt for 60'x 120' surface would cost 30,000. There is potential to more fully utilise this space in the summer, with installation of pickleball nets or basketball nets. Estimated cost of 2 basketball nets would range from about \$5000 to \$7000.



Existing and proposed land for sports fields near North Shore Community Center

4.2 Medium Priorities:

1. Add a park to the new subdivision development at the Mary Land Subdivision (consider swings/ basketball court, walking space). Land has been set aside as space for recreation. The estimated cost to excavate, prepare and install asphalt for a basketball court measuring 40 by 60 feet would cost about \$20,000.
2. Update official plan and future land use map to identify prime sites for recreation, parks and open space. This could include policy and an approach to promote forested areas and natural areas. Update the zoning and subdivision bylaw to require open space and parks dedication for new subdivisions, in keeping with the Official Plan. Update the zoning and subdivision bylaw to require review and consideration for parks and open space as part of any bylaw amendment/ rezoning application review.

3. Consider upgrading the walking track at Grand Tracadie, consider potential to develop future trails and connections toward public access to the beach or to the wharf. (Survey responses noted walking track as a highly desired type of recreation facility).
4. Purchase high-quality basketball nets for the public basketball court at Grand Tracadie Daycare Center, or for an area close by, such as the outdoor arena. Estimated cost of 2 basketball nets would range from about \$5000 to \$7000.



Current basketball court at Grand Tracadie Daycare Center has no nets.

4.3 Low Priorities

1. Create programming space for teens in Stanhope place basement (underused space).
2. Formally clarify ownership of Tracadie Commons Lands. It was reported that the former community of Grand Tracadie had been paying taxes and maintenance of this property, which was apparently a common pasture which had been donated to surrounding farmers several decades ago. A petition to quiet a title can be submitted to the province, under the *Quieting Titles Act*. Sufficient funds should be set aside or budgeted to cover legal fees and administrative costs. Development of a walking trail or a hiking trail at Tracadie Commons could be considered in future.
3. Collaborate with the wharf authority to create signage at Stanhope Wharf/Boat Launch. Conflict or confusion between recreational boat users and commercial fishermen have been reported. Signage that clearly states the activities permitted at the wharf would help to guide users of the space.

5.0 Discussion & Recommendations

Table 2

FACILITY & LOCATION	SERVICE	ESTIMATED COST	GAPS TO BE ADDRESSED
North Shore Community Centre (NSCC)	Meeting Offices Gym		Needs more outdoor storage space/annual maintenance- budget about 2% of building value annually
Stanhope Place	Meeting Offices		Needs annual maintenance-budget about 2% of building value annually
The Grand Tracadie School Centre	Day-Care Basketball	\$5000- \$7000	Upgrade basketball nets
The Grand Tracadie Outdoor Rink	Skating Basketball Pickleball	\$ 30,000- \$50,000	Needs repair to base
The Grand Tracadie Ball Field	Ball Dugouts	\$6000 x 2= \$12,000	Ball field is a tight fit on the park site,
Develop 2 Additional Ball Fields	Softball Baseball	\$100,000	Develop 2 Regulation Size Ball Fields
Develop 2 Additional Soccer Fields	Soccer nets	\$2099- \$2235	Develop 2 Regulation Size Soccer Fields

Purchase land to develop Ball and Soccer Fields	Ball/ Soccer sports fields	\$60,000-\$100,000	Land is not owned by the municipality
Promenade	Walking track		Explore funding opportunities to expand, develop connections
Tracadie Commons	Natural area	\$20,000	quieting of title is required

5.1 Sports Fields (Soccer and Ball)

In studying the existing sports fields in the Rural Municipality of North Shore, the space around the North Shore Community Center site is the most convenient and safe option for expansion and future development of additional sports fields, including both ball fields and soccer fields. A major deficiency of current ball fields is the inability to expand programming or to host tournaments due to lack of space and number of ball fields. Survey responses noted that children are playing soccer in other communities due to lack of programming and facilities within the municipality. Comments from the survey consistently supported the concept that if better facilities were available, they would be utilised. It appears that both ball and soccer programs could be expanded.

The North Shore Community Center has parking and washroom/change room facilities. The survey noted the most valued feature at recreation facilities was access to washroom/change room facilities. It would be most economical to leverage the existing parking and washrooms/change room facilities at the North Shore Community Center, and build more sports fields around this site, preferably within safe walking distance.

Survey responses indicate that programming cannot be delivered to meet community expectations due to lack of space and lack of facilities. More sports fields could be developed. It is the recommendation of this report that the municipality should explore options to acquire land to expand facilities to support both softball and soccer fields within safe walking distance of the North Shore Community Centre. A more proactive approach to parkland acquisition would signal the importance of parks and recreation to




residents and to the local community. There are options for potential land acquisitions around the North Shore Community Centre.

One option to consider is to lease or purchase property which is considerably set back into a wooded and undeveloped area at the end of Normandy Lane. This site is not preferred because any development of sports facilities would require significant roadbuilding and electricity brought to the site. Any development would need to address crossing the watercourse and wetland area, as well as required buffers, which would be addressed to meet provincial buffer regulations. A site located so far from the community centre would not be accessible by foot to the washrooms/change rooms and parking at the North Shore Community Center.

A second option would be to lease “Myron’s Field”, land that is currently used for a youth soccer field. Although this field is located just north of the North Shore this site lacks space for expansion. This land is currently zoned for agricultural use. Parks and active recreational uses are permitted under Agricultural Zoning. No rezoning process would be needed to establish a park or an active recreational use. The municipality could formally indicate its desire to lease or possibly purchase the field with the owner, perhaps by exploring a right of first refusal between the municipality and the property owner.

A third, and preferred, option is to purchase the land to the south and adjacent to the North Shore Community Center (Property Identification Number 575910). The municipality could offer to purchase this property outright. Ball fields and soccer fields could be developed on this plot of land, which would allow users to park and access the bathrooms/change rooms and parking at the North Shore Community Center. Lighting could be added over time to any new facilities to allow the field to be used during nighttime hours and for tournaments.

This property (Property Identification Number 575910) is privately owned and is zoned for agricultural use. This land is currently in agricultural use. As noted, under the current land use bylaw, parks and active recreational uses are permitted under Agricultural Zoning. No rezoning process would be needed to establish a park or a recreational use on this site. Although, as discussed below, changes could be made in future to update the Official Plan and Bylaw.



For discussion purposes, a minimum of 10 acres or 4 hectares should be purchased to build on existing facilities and infrastructure at the North Shore Community Centre. If possible, the entire parcel should be purchased to accommodate potential for growth and expansion of municipal facilities, and to ensure circulation space is sufficient. The municipality could initiate a process to purchase this land and develop sports facilities, including soccer and ball fields.

A tax assessment and a formal land appraisal would estimate current land value. For the purposes of this report, farmland values can be used as a baseline for discussion. As this land is currently farmed, and is un-serviced, farmland values are relevant in discussing current worth. According to the FCC Farmland Values Report for 2021, farmland in Queen's County, Prince Edward Island was on average sold for \$5,300 per acre in 2021. In Queen's County in 2021, 10 acres of farmland land would have been sold for an average of \$53,000. Farmland continues to rise in value. The average value of Canadian farmland increased 8.3% in 2021. <https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/knowledge/economics/farmland-values-report.html>

As noted, the vacant parcel on Normandy Lane, and adjacent to the North Shore Community Center is currently zoned as agricultural land, which is consistent with the draft future land use map. Given the current location of the NSCC and the existing sports fields and supporting facilities, it is recommended that this site could be identified for sports use on the future land use plan. The official plan should be amended to identify this site and the proposed use.

Any future application for rezoning or bylaw amendments should address that it is in the best interests of the municipality to expand sporting facilities to this preferred location. This report strongly recommends no further expansion of residential use at this site. Given the prime location adjacent to the existing North Shore Community Center, land should be purchased as soon as possible and should be set aside for municipal uses. If possible, purchase the entire parcel.

5.2 Estimates for development of Sports Facilities

For discussion purposes, the following estimates have been gathered:

1. **Purchase of land for sports fields could range from \$60,000 to \$100,000.** Both soccer field and ball field surfaces would need to be prepared, which would involve excavation and surface

preparation, including seeding for grass; costs would depend on soil type, site slope and drainage.

2. In-ground soccer nets range in price from \$2099 per net for junior nets, to \$2335 for senior nets. If two new senior regulation size soccer fields were developed, **4 senior nets could be purchased for under \$10,000.**
3. Sanctioned or regulation ball fields have more extensive equipment, ranging from backstops, dugouts and outfield fencing with gates. **Ball field backstops** measuring 60 feet from end to end **cost about \$14,000, dugouts cost \$6000 each.** Fencing for ball field sidelines and outfield would measure about 800 linear feet. **Fencing** measuring from 4 to 5 feet high, **complete with gates, surrounding the ball field would cost about \$24,000. Total cost to develop two (additional) senior regulation size ball fields could be developed,** complete with fences, gates, backstops and dugouts **for about \$100,000.**
4. **In summary, the total estimated cost of infrastructure including nets, backstops, dugouts and fencing for 4 additional playing fields (2 soccer and 2 ball) would be about \$110,000.** As noted, site preparation costs are not included, and would depend on soil type, site slope and surface drainage. A fenced in field could have other uses, including concerts or dog parks. The benefits of installing commercial grade fencing and dugouts to meet current regulations would include long life span and minimal maintenance after installation.
5. Maryland Subdivision continues to be expanded, and land has been set aside for a park. The cost to develop a swing set would range from \$2,400 to 3,700 for the base unit. Belt swings cost \$284 per swing. Top swings (for toddlers) cost \$384 each, and fully accessible swings cost \$1,600 each. **The cost to install four swings would range from \$3,536 to \$5,224,** depending on types of swings purchased. The cost to develop a basketball court would involve excavation and preparation, then installing an asphalt surface at an estimated cost of \$20,000. Swing arm basketball poles, complete with backboards, hoops and nets cost \$3698 each; a set of two would amount to \$7,396. **Total estimated cost to purchase and install swing sets and a basketball court would be about \$30,000.** A neighbourhood park complete with a swing set, a basketball court and a few benches would serve as a gathering space for many age groups.
6. The Grand Tracadie Park could be upgraded with higher quality basketball nets. **Swing arm basketball poles,** complete with backboards, hoops and nets cost \$3698 each; **a set of two would amount to \$7,396.** As previously noted, the **asphalt surface to the outdoor arena could be repaired, options for repair range from \$30,000 to \$50,000.**
- 7.

6.0 Budget, Revenue and Funding

Current annual budget for recreation events and programming: \$13,000

Current funding for Capital Investment/ GasTax up to 2024: \$71,000

The municipality currently budgets to support programming, and some facility management. The municipality could explore a variety of sources beyond property taxes for maintaining operations and facilities such as user fees and rental fees that reflect the cost of operating and maintaining facilities, in keeping with asset management principles. The municipality could develop income streams including food and beverage options.

As of April 2023, all areas of the RMNS will have one consistent municipal tax rate: 0.18 per \$100 of assessment. At this time there are no differing commercial rates, according to the provincial tax information page. The municipality does not currently provide municipal water or sewerage services. Some lighting is provided at some facilities, including along the Promenade. This tax rate should be reviewed and compared to other tax rates levied on Prince Edward Island.

Municipalities on Prince Edward Island have few options for generating revenue. Municipal taxes for the Rural Municipality of North Shore are low. The RMNS has the option to raise commercial and/or residential tax rates to fund services including recreation.

Buildings, parks and fields are all physical recreation assets which are used to deliver current services. The ongoing process of asset management would ensure sustainable and long term service delivery. Industry standards recommend that sport and recreation facilities should be maintained at 1.7-2.5% re-investment annually. If current facilities are valued at \$3,585,700, then a minimum of \$61,000 should be budgeted for maintenance and upkeep annually. Failing to maintain recreation facilities will lead to more costly repairs in future, or an inability to deliver expected programming.

In November 2019, the Government of Prince Edward Island announced the five-year, \$5M/year Active Transportation (AT) Fund. The AT Fund will accept applications from municipalities, Indigenous communities, and community groups across the province and will run from April 1st, 2020 to the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year. The AT Fund aims to promote and facilitate active transportation for the residents of PEI by making walking, cycling and other forms of AT safer and more connected and convenient to use. By increasing the number of Islanders using active transportation, there will be an

increase in physical activity levels, fewer car trips taken, a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and traffic congestion. For more information consult the link below:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/publication/active-transportation-fund-guidelines-and-criteria>

As of June 29, 2021, the Gas Tax Fund has been renamed the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF). The Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) is a permanent source of funding provided up front, twice-a-year, to provinces and territories, who in turn flow this funding to their municipalities to support local infrastructure priorities. Municipalities can pool, bank and borrow against this funding, providing significant financial flexibility. Communities select how best to direct the funds with the flexibility to make strategic investments across the following 19 different project categories, including sport and recreation. As noted earlier in this report, funding is available up until 2024 for the amount of \$71,000. More information on community building funds allocations and top up amounts is available at the following link:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/08/backgroundunderprince-edward-islands-202122-canada-community-building-fund-allocations-and-top-up-amounts.html>

Appendix

Appendix 1

Notes on relevant sections from the Planning Act, Official Plan and Land Use Bylaw

The Planning Act governs the regulation of planning at provincial and municipal levels. It is in place to regulate land-related activities, including subdivision and development, as well as permitted land uses and structures within zones. The Planning Act enables municipalities to require the subdivider of land to convey up to 10 per cent of the land being subdivided for open space, recreation, park or other public use. See bolded wording within the italicized section below:

Planning Act

*8. Provincial planning regulations (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make provincial planning regulations applicable to any area except a municipality with an official plan and bylaws
subdivision*

(d) with respect to the subdivision of land and in particular
 (i) governing, restricting and prohibiting subdivision of land,
 (ii) setting out procedures for subdivision application, (iii) empowering and governing
 subdivision agreements between the Minister and subdividers and between vendors and
 purchasers, (iv) **requiring a subdivider to convey to the Crown or a non-profit corporation, for
 open space, recreation, park or other public use, for the benefit and enjoyment of landowners
 and residents in the neighbourhood, up to 10 per cent of the land being subdivided** or to
 apply the equivalent value thereof to be held in a fund for those purposes;


Rural Municipality of North Shore Land Use Bylaw

Currently the Rural Municipality of North Shore requires 7.5 % of the total lot area to be dedicated for parks and open space. This dedication is limited to subdivisions of 5 or more lots, at the discretion of Council. See bolded wording below.

16.7 PARKLAND DEDICATION

A person seeking **subdivision of a lot into five (5) or more new lots**, exclusive of the parent parcel as it existed on the effective date of this bylaw, **shall be required to dedicate and convey to the Municipality seven point five percent (7.5%) of the total lot area of all newly created lots for recreation and public open space purposes**. The subdivision of the five (5) lots do not need to be approved as part of one subdivision application; rather once four (4) lots have been subdivided from the parent parcel, seven point five percent (7.5%) of the area of the five (5) lots must be dedicated or conveyed to the Municipality prior to the approval of any lots in excess of the first four (4) lots, notwithstanding that the ownership of the parent parcel may have changed. The lands dedicated and conveyed to the Municipality in accordance with subsection 16.7(1) above shall be subject to the following conditions: a. **The location of the land to be conveyed shall be in the discretion of and shall be subject of the approval of Council**; b. The land shall be free of all encumbrances. c. Council may apply the dedication and conveyance of seven point five percent (7.5%) of the lot area to active transportation routes and/or trail systems within or between subdivisions, or where valued natural assets such as forest cover can be protected.

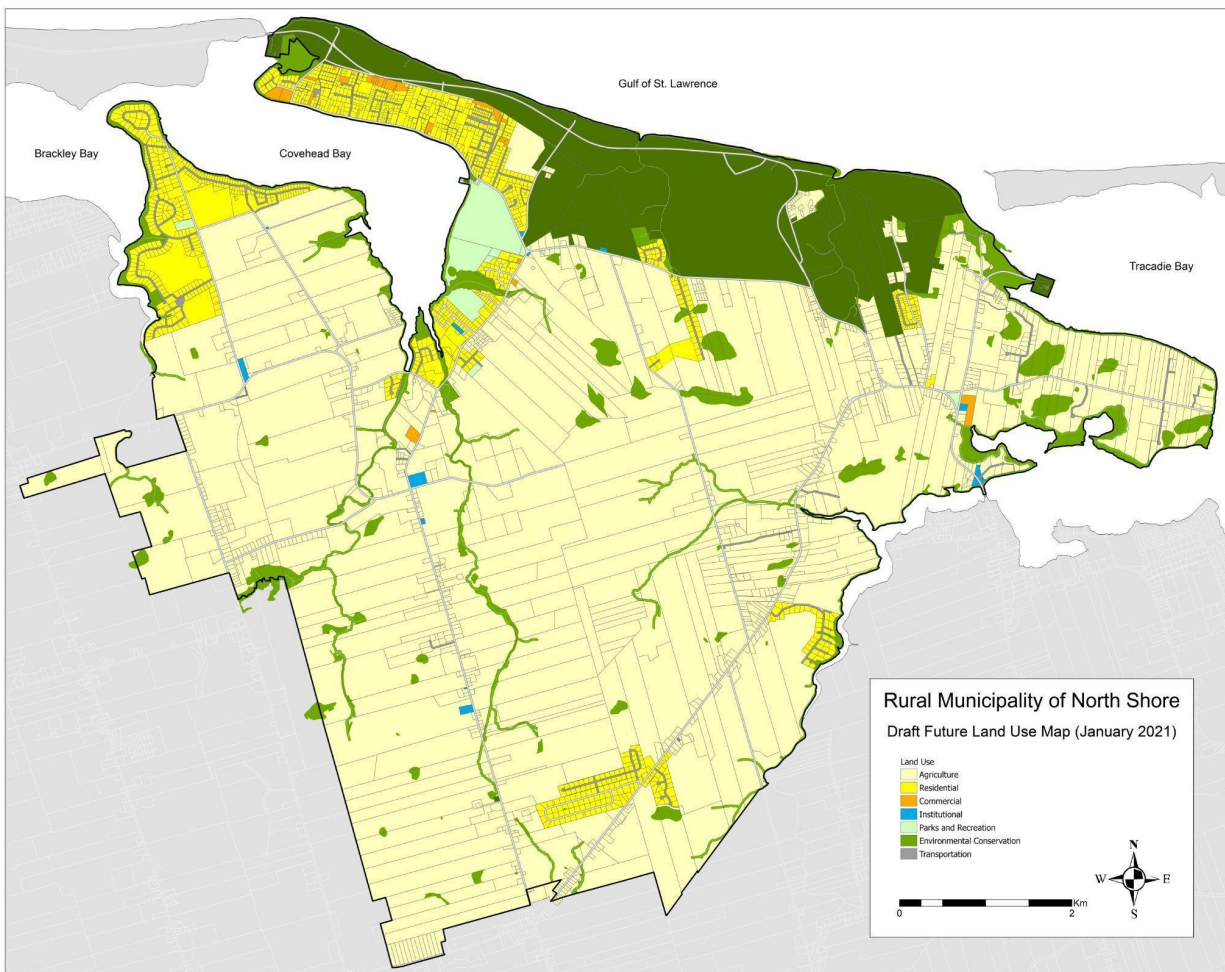
Please see copies of the Official Plan Future Land Use Map and the Land Use Bylaw Zoning Map below. Please note that the majority of the land base within the Municipality is listed as Agriculture and is zoned for Agriculture respectively. Also note that Agricultural Zoning permits park use. This is an important distinction. Planning for parks, recreation and open space is supported in the long term.

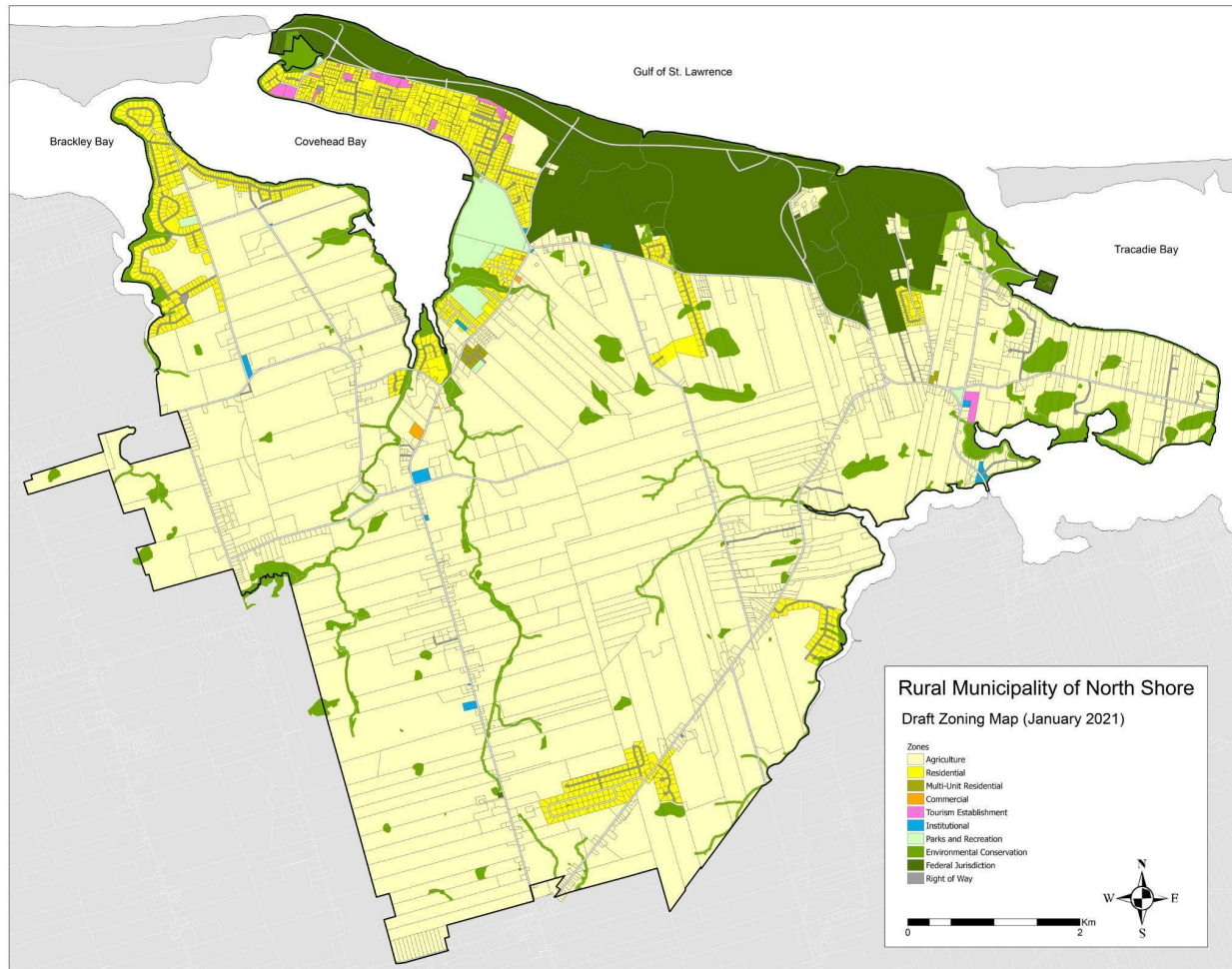


Council could take a more proactive approach in acquiring land and in developing land for parks, recreation and open space use under the current zoning.

The Rural Municipality of North Shore Land Use Bylaw could be updated to require that applications for subdivision be reviewed by the committee responsible for parks and recreation as well as the committee responsible for planning. In addition, the Bylaw could be updated to require that Council consider parks dedication of up to 10 per cent of land being subdivided for all subdivisions. This latter provision would be consistent with what is enabled under the Planning Act.

The Rural Municipality of North Shore Land Use Bylaw could be updated, as noted above, to allow for up to 10 per cent of land being subdivided to be dedicated to natural assets, such as forest cover to be protected. Current wording limits land dedication for natural assets to 7.5%: “Council may apply the dedication and conveyance of seven point five percent (7.5%) of the lot area to active transportation routes and/or trail systems within or between subdivisions, or where valued natural assets such as forest cover can be protected.”





Appendix 2

Summary of Survey Results

Consultation with the public is an essential part of developing a Parks and Open Space Strategy for long-term community planning. The evidence and responses gathered from public feedback help to guide the Strategy's key recommendations. These recommendations directly reflect the priorities that the public is most concerned about.

In an effort to create a widely accessible format for collecting public feedback concerning the future development of public space and recreation in The Rural Municipality of North Shore, a 10 question survey was developed. This short survey intended to give the residents of The Rural Municipality of North Shore a space to share their thoughts, concerns and opinions on public space and recreation in their community. The survey was distributed through facebook groups, email lists, and posters in the North Shore Community Center. Responses were collected from both residents of the Rural Municipality of North Shore, as well as users of the recreational facilities from outside of the community. The full set of responses to all of the survey questions can be found in the Appendix.

Key Takeaways from Survey

- This survey remained open for 3 weeks and 170 responses were collected. Of the 170 responses, 147 were responses from residents of The Rural Municipality of North Shore.
- The facility that is used by the highest number of respondents is the North Shore Community Center, with 85% of respondents noting that they use this facility. The facility used by the second highest number of respondents is the Grand Tracadie Softball field, with 36% of respondents noted they use the facility.
- The top 3 types of facilities that respondents would like to see added to their community is “multi-use trails” (52% of respondents), outdoor walking track (48% of respondents) and new softball/baseball field (32%)
- The top 3 activities that respondents noted regularly participating in were “outdoor skating”(35% of respondents), “softball”(34% of respondents) and “special events”(26% of respondents)
- Respondents were much more likely to choose Weekends (all day) and Weekday evenings as their preferred time for programming start times. Less than 10 percent of respondents chose weekday mornings and afternoons as their preferred start time.


- The top 3 features that respondents value at their facilities are “Washrooms” (95% of respondents), benches (73% of respondents) and outdoor lighting (64%)
- 52% percent of respondents would rather see increased programming, whereas 48% of respondents would rather see new public recreation facilities.
- Facebook pages are where the large majority of respondents (86%) hear about events and activities happening at the public recreation facilities in the North Shore.

Many respondents took the time to leave comments about their concerns regarding public recreation facilities in The Rural Municipality of North Shore. Many of the comments mentioned improvements needed to the existing softball/baseball fields. One respondent noted “Would love to see the softball fields upgraded! We have beautiful fields- but they need washrooms, fencing, and better dugouts!”. Another noted “The ball field at Grand Tracadie could use new dugouts, bathrooms and the garbage changed”. Another respondent noted that “more and more community children are having to play soccer and softball with other organisations because of poor facilities”. These concerns illustrate the lack of maintenance of the ball fields, and the need for upgrades of current facilities. These upgrades would better serve the many users of the field and allow residents to play softball/baseball within Rural Municipality of North Shore, instead of leaving the community to play organised sports.

Other respondents noted the lack of recreation spaces in the community, and the competition for space. One responded noted a greater need for, “equality between the various sports that use the limited fields”. Another respondent suggested that “the community work... to put a park in the Maryland Subdivision as we are the largest community in the area with the largest number of young families”.

Other respondents requested certain facilities be available for year round use, specifically the walking trails. One respondent noted, “The walking paths in Stanhope are a real community asset. Making them all season accessible would be a great addition to the community.” Another noted that there was a need for a “Walking trail for year round use as we have no sidewalks on our roads and it is very dangerous walking on them.”

Some respondents brought attention to the lack of space for active transportation to access recreational spaces. One respondent noted they “Would love to see sidewalks created in communities as well as street lights”. Another noted, “My preferred form of activity is biking and walking and I try to bike to work which is quite dangerous on the Pleasant Grove road.. My wish is that this road would be a priority for paved shoulders”. These concerns demonstrate the need to work with the Province and other



departments in the Municipality to create transportation networks that encourage active transportation within the community.

Appendix 3

Survey Data

Full survey results can be found at the link below

[survey data.pdf](#)

[survey data.pdf](#)