

**Background:**

The County of Brant initiated a Recreation Master Plan in 2016 as a basis to plan, prioritize, and build community capacity for future parks and recreation facilities, programs and services. The plan identifies what services are required, where they should be provided and at what levels of quality, and the timing and priority of their development over ten to fifteen years.

**Strategy:**

The following services emerged from the background research, consultation and review completed through the Situational Analysis Report prepared in support of the Master Plan, providing a basis for the plan and shaping its recommendations:

- Additional parkland has or will be acquired through mandatory land dedications under the Planning Act, as a requirement of new developments.
- There are opportunities to increase sports field capacities through improvements to existing fields and through new facility development, as well as through potential partnerships.
- Review of the current playground locations indicates that the majority of households in Burford, Paris and St. George are within 400m to 800m of one or more existing playgrounds. Four potential gap areas were identified, three in Paris and one in Burford.
- Additional playground developments are planned in new residential development areas in Paris and St. George, while on-going playground maintenance, renewal and replacement will continue to be required to manage these assets, address accessibility and safety standards, and respond to evolving trends in playground design, materials and equipment.
- The 2009 Aquatic Needs Assessment recommended the replacement of the Paris Community Pool and a new outdoor facility has since been completed. As the population ages, an ever-growing cohort of seniors with limited mobility, particularly during the winter months, may benefit from regularly scheduled transportation to the Wayne Gretzky Centre to access aquatic programming targeted to this group.
- The indoor turf field at Syl Apps will remain viable in the short-term. A business case for replacement and expansion of turf facilities has since been completed. Future plans contemplate a larger facility on County owned lands acquired on Pottruff Road.
- There are seven (7) community halls owned by the County. Periodic review and investment will be required to sustain these facilities as well as ongoing community usage, programming and services delivery review. The Cainsville Community Centre is being replaced in 2022 with a larger facility on Ewart Ave.
- The County has identified a municipal gymnasium in its capital forecast. A community gym would not replace the community use of school gyms, but rather would provide more capacity with expanded availability, particularly during school hours, to add to the range of programs that could be offered to the community, accommodating additional segments of the population and in particular the growing population of older adults and seniors. Continued use of school gyms will still be needed to provide geographic access in each of the settlement areas and throughout the County. A business case recommends that a triple gymnasium be constructed as an addition to the Brant Sports Complex.

## Executive Summary Recreation Master Plan

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- A need for flexible indoor and outdoor spaces and supporting facilities with capacity for a range of special events has been identified to support continued growth in community events and tourism.
- Consideration should be given to opportunities to further develop unorganized and extreme sport recreation opportunities (e.g. BMX, mountain biking) at Destination or Community Park locations, and/or as part of the trail system.
- County-owned natural areas and acquisition of additional natural areas provides opportunities to formalize existing informal trails and expand the overall trail offering in Brant. The County has acquired approximately 116 acres of open space including Barker's Bush and lands adjacent to the trail in Glen Morris.

### **Timeline and Implementation:**

In 2017, Council approved the Recreation Master Plan.

The Implementation Schedule is broad and is subject to further deliberations and approvals by Council. The Implementation Schedule will continue to serve as a guide for staff to bring forward initiatives to Committee and Council through reports to Committee and through the annual budget process.

In addition, this detailed document will serve as a guide for the County and its residents to make the appropriate policy and infrastructure investments to maintain and improve recreational opportunities for residents of and visitors to the County.

For more information regarding the Recreation Master Plan and to review the full report, please visit [www.Brant.ca/Plans](http://www.Brant.ca/Plans).

# Executive Summary Recreation Master Plan

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