

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

SAULT STE. MARIE

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RFA
Oraclepoll

2024



Purpose of a Master Plan

- Guides the planning and provision of parks and recreation services, resources and investment over the **next 10 years**
- **Develops recommendations** using data from: surveys, interviews, facility use, budget considerations, trends in the parks & recreation sector, local opportunities, concurrent projects, etc.
- **Viewed as a living document** to be updated and adjusted through the annual budget planning process
- Recommendations may be advanced, delayed or amended to respond to changing circumstances
- Some initiatives will require additional community consultation to arrive at detailed plans and designs
- Council, in consultation with municipal staff, will determine when and how initiatives are implemented (e.g., specific type/number of amenities)
- **As an accompaniment to this Master Plan, a Parkland Dedication By-law was also drafted**

Programs & Events

General Program and Event Recommendations

Free and Low Cost Options

- Continue to seek and offer low cost options

Accessibility

- Employ an inclusivity lens to ensure services are accessible

Age Specific Recommendations

Youth: Add drop-in youth space

Adults: Add full-time Recreation Programmer

Seniors: Seek new spaces to hold programs

Recreation Based Recommendations

Aquatics

Arts, Culture, and Heritage

- Work with Indigenous organizations to increase inclusion of Indigenous culture



Recreation Facilities

General Facility Considerations

Accessibility

Assessment and improvement plans

Facility Scheduling

Indoor Recreation Facilities

Ice pads

- Continue to monitor and evaluate use of ice pads to confirm sufficiency of supply

Aquatic facility and pool

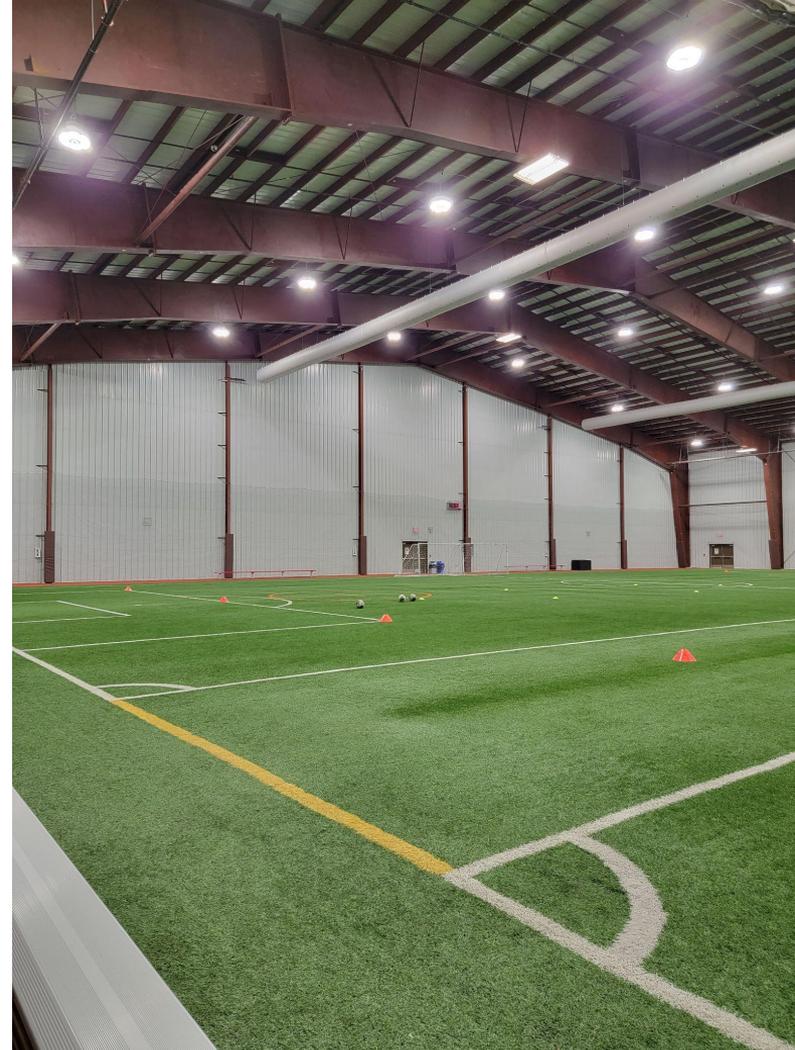
- Consult with pool user groups to clarify need for improvements

Artificial turf

- Track use of artificial turf field to determine need for additional field

Programming Spaces

- Identify opportunities to consolidate programs/uses



Recreation Facilities

Outdoor Facilities

Ball Diamonds

- Consider decommissioning junior diamonds
- Future investment should be focused on potential ball hub

Track and Turf Field

- Consider possible agreements with Sault College for track and field improvements at Jo Forman

Tennis and Pickleball Courts

- Monitor and track use of court use to determine use and capacity and need for future additions

Arts, Culture and Heritage Facilities

Bellevue Park Bandshell

- Consider opportunities to rejuvenate local events and programming at bandshell

Art, Culture and Heritage District

- Initiate concept in the downtown core as a focus for promotion and attraction



Parks

General Recommendations

Parkland Classification and Provision

- Adopt updated parkland classification system

Park Revitalization Plan

- Update Park Revitalization Plan and reassess scores every two to four years

Accessibility and Comfort

- Ensure playgrounds are maintained to CSA standards within AODA

Horticulture and Community Gardens

- Develop a Community Garden Policy

Free, Unstructured Outdoor Activities

- Give preference to projects that will increase opportunities for free, unstructured outdoor recreation activities

Outdoor Ice Rinks

- Assess feasibility of converting Esposito Rink to a multi-season, multi-sport facility

New Dog Park

- Add additional dog park
- Explore adding lights to extend hours of safe operation

Trails

- Encourage parkland dedication in the form of trail networks in new subdivision developments
- Winterize trails that act as connectors between key locations or near to seniors residences, schools, shopping areas



Parks

Site Specific Recommendations

Clergue Park and Bellevue Park and Marina

- Prepare updated Master Plan for both parks

Elliott Outdoor Sports Complex

- Add a playground

Esposito Park

- Add lighting to the pump track

Kinsmen Park, Hiawatha Highlands, and Wishart Park

- Work in partnership with external organizations to encourage visits to these parks

Manzo and Grecco Pools

- Add new amenities including accessible, universal washroom and change room, shade structure



Parks

Site Specific Recommendations

Pointe Des Chenes

- Conduct Market Feasibility Study to determine suitability of campground

Queen Elizabeth Sports Complex

- Resurface Jo Forman Track
- Develop second phase of skateboard park

Roberta Bondar Park and Marina

- Conduct upgrades to park and marina
- Partner with Tourism Sault Ste. Marie on further improvements

Strathclair Sports Complex

- Conduct a lighting audit to identify priority areas
- Investigate possibility of adding potable water tanks
- Provide amenities such as shade and warming shelters with wind protection



Service Delivery

- **Role of Municipality in Service Delivery**
- **Policy Requirements**
- **Revenue Generating Programs**
- **Collaborations and Agreements with Non-Municipal Providers**
- **Service Marketing, Communications and Promotion**
- **Service Planning and Evaluation**



Implementation

Factors Considered:

- 10 year time frame
- Operational and Capital Projects and Studies
- Dependencies and Efficiencies
- Budget Considerations
- Staff Considerations
- Flexibility

Area of Recommendations	Timing		
	Short Term (2024-2026)	Medium Term (2027-2030)	Long Term (2031-2034)
PE: Programs & Events	\$429,615	\$429,615	\$572,820
F: Recreation Facilities	\$10,000	\$40,000	\$80,000
PT: Parks and Trails	\$5,484,600	\$4,599,000	\$4,630,000
SD: Service Delivery	\$165,000	\$0	\$0
Total Cost	\$6,089,215	\$5,068,615	\$5,282,820

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Summary

