



# Neighborhood Parks and Green Spaces

## Management Plan

2015 - 2021

March 2015



## Table of Contents

1.	Introduction.....	2
2.	2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.....	3
3.	Accessibility.....	4
4.	General Recommendations.....	4
5.	Site Specific Recommendations.....	5
6.	Equipment and Amenity Upgrades.....	10
7.	Other Town Green Spaces.....	15
8.	Directional Signage.....	17
9.	Parks and Green Space Maintenance .....	18
10.	Municipal Tree Management.....	18
11.	Financing.....	18
12.	Summary.....	19
13.	Plan Recommendations.....	19
13.	Costing matrix.....	21
14.	Park Inventories.....	Appendix A
15.	Parks and Recreation Master Plan Recommendations .....	Appendix B
16.	Park Aerials.....	Appendix C

## 1. Introduction

The Town of Petawawa currently owns and operates 12 neighborhood parks. Typically these parks are centrally located within the various residential neighborhoods and subdivisions within the municipality. On average, park sizes range from 0.5 to 1.0 hectares with the smallest being 0.07 hectares in size (Briar Patch Park). Usually, each neighborhood park is comprised of one or more play features such as swing sets and composite play structures. Additional amenities usually include park benches, picnic tables and waste receptacles. A handful of the neighborhood parks include small gazebo type structures that provide shade and a place for congregation. One park, Pine Ridge Park, offers a full-size basketball court.

Additionally, the Town of Petawawa owns and maintains a number of parkette's and storm water management ponds (dry and wet). These green spaces, while not recognized as formal parks, offer residents a close-to-home place to recreate. As well, some parkette's offer visitors a welcoming landmark as they enter the Town.

From an overall service perspective, Petawawa residents are well-served with an abundance of available green space throughout the municipality. Petawawa residents benefit from non-municipal park opportunities located at both Garrison Petawawa and Petawawa Terrace Provincial Park. Generally, Petawawa residents enjoy a standard of parks and open space that far surpasses the average Canadian community. However, the current Petawawa standard of municipal-owned and operated parks and open spaces falls slightly short of the standard established in its Official Plan. The majority of Petawawa residents do enjoy the benefit of having a neighborhood park situated relatively close to their residence. The service radius exercise completed as part of the 2011 Master Plan indicates an industry standard of 400m for neighborhood parks. The majority of residential properties in Petawawa meet this established standard. In some cases, particularity in the northwest part of Petawawa, residents benefit from having 2 to 3 parks within their respective service radius. Based on the current service radius standard and taking into consideration municipal parks that are currently planned for future construction, only one area in Petawawa currently falls short of meeting the service standard, that being residents in the Schwanz/Sack/Radtke Rd. neighborhood. Overall, current municipal neighborhood parks provide a basic or satisfactory level of recreational service. All provide play equipment for children ranging in age from 2-5 and/or 5 to 12 years. All include park benches and/or picnic tables. Each park provides a basic entrance sign located at the designated park entrance indicating the name of the park and municipal ownership.

Community identity and spirit are enhanced through beautification of the Town's public spaces. Survey data collected during the 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan indicates that more than three quarters (76.5%) of survey respondents rated the importance of maintaining public green space as "important" or "very important". Together with data collected during the same study indicating a residential priority for trail development and enhancement, redevelopment of municipal parks and green space is clearly established as a public preference and priority within the municipality. A workshop held with Council and senior staff as part of the master

planning study process identified the redevelopment of Town neighborhood parks as a top priority behind increasing and improving the promotion of recreational programs and the expansion and improvement of municipal trails.

Parks and green spaces can play a role in improving the quality of life of Town residents by providing the setting to increase physical and mental health and to forge a strong sense of community. In order to receive the benefits that a park can offer, residents first need to be drawn there and second, need to be encouraged to stay there. Designing and developing parks that have flexibility of use, attractions, destinations, accessibility and an identity will ultimately have a positive impact on the community as a whole. With this in mind, Petawawa neighborhood parks could be improved. While current parks in the portfolio provide basic amenities, most are lacking with respect to overall appearance, landscaping, curb appeal, naturalization, visual stimulation and variety in terms of both recreational and play piece amenities. The 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides a number of observations and recommendations aimed at improving the Petawawa neighborhood park portfolio. The goal of this management plan is to synthesize the recommendations contained within the Parks and Recreation Master Plan into a long term implementation strategy that will allow recommended park improvements to be realized over time.

Community level parks within the Towns park system are not included within the scope of this plan. Petawawa Point, Centennial Park and Civic Centre Park are currently at different stages of development and in some cases have their own development plans or strategies. This being said, implementation of the recommendations in this management plan will in some cases overlap into community level parks. Signage, as an example, should be consistent across all levels of parks within the municipality.

### **2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

The terms of reference for the 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan included a significant amount of study with respect parks and open space. Petawawa has long been known for its natural beauty and outdoor amenities. Its motto after all is “Dynamic by Nature”. Recent recreation and tourism efforts by the municipality have focused on usage and enhancement of existing outdoor recreational opportunities. Many recent event and tourism initiatives and initiatives currently under development are focused on getting both residents and visitors outdoors and active. This focus has become the central driver or “tool” for achieving many of the goals contained within both the abovementioned Master Plan and the Town’s Tourism Strategic Plan.

With this in mind, the Master Plan provides a detailed park by park assessment of current neighborhood park designs, conditions and recommendations for improvements aimed at increasing usage, improving service and optimizing operational costs. The park improvement recommendations were completed by landscape architects at Planex Consultants under authority and direction of Clem Pelot Consulting, the plans author. The Master Plan recommendations are included in this report in Appendix B.

## **2. Accessibility**

Currently, accessibility within the Town's parks portfolio consists of accessible play equipment in the form of individual swings in a number of neighborhood parks. A new accessibility standard was recently enacted under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). In December 2012, the Ontario Government enacted the Public Spaces Accessibility Regulation. The Public Spaces Accessibility Regulation was enacted as a new part of the Integrated Accessibility Regulation that the Ontario Government passed in June 2011 to address barriers in transportation, employment, information and communication. This new regulation impacts municipal parks by requiring park amenities such as signs, paths, play areas, benches and trails to meet minimum accessibility standards. As the municipality works towards improving accessibility across all service levels, it would be appropriate at this time to begin implementation of required legislative standards within the municipal park system. The 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommended consideration of a holistic approach towards universal access in one or more designated locations as a means of providing effective service to children and families with special needs. Immediate consideration of this recommendation would provide Town residents a fully accessible option while other municipal parks are brought up to standard over the next few years. Civitan Playland, located at Petawawa Civic Centre Park, certainly is the most suitable candidate for development of this type of park. This location has a number of accessible features currently in place and would require the least amount of renewal to achieve a standard of universal accessibility. Additionally, the Civic Centre Splashpad is located on site. This new aquatic facility provides additional accessible play options within the play park.

With respect to park improvements and accessibility, all renovations and retrofits must meet or exceed legislated accessible standards. In lieu of formally adopted Town of Petawawa design standards for outdoor parks and amenities, it is recommended that Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS) be adopted or developed (through the Petawawa Accessibility Advisory Committee – PAAC) to guide the design and construction process associated with the improvement projects. Additionally, as per the AODA Public Spaces Accessibility Regulation, all park improvement projects must incorporate consultation with the PAAC.

## **3. General Neighborhood Park Recommendations**

Many commonalities in terms of recommended improvements exist across all of the Town's 12 neighborhood parks. Items such as improved entry features and park signage are needed at all locations. Increased tree canopy, improved landscaping and park equipment are common recommendations at most locations. Many locations would greatly benefit from the installation of pathways and additional amenities such as play courts, shade structures and trail linkages. The current play equipment inventory across all neighborhood parks could benefit from diversification and specialization based on park size and location. Currently, the play equipment offerings at each neighborhood park are similar to what you will find across all of the other parks. Replacing existing play pieces with different styles and types via the current lifecycle

replacement program will ensure the desired diversification over time. Additionally, most play equipment pieces across the neighborhood park system do not include any accessibility options. Items such as accessible play surfaces, transfer stations, ramps and paths from entrance to play area would increase the level of accessibility in each park and allow the municipality to meet AODA requirements.

#### **4. Site Specific Recommendations**

For the most part, each neighborhood park in Petawawa has its own character. Typically, the land conditions at time of dedication have influenced the end-design of each park. Without a formal park development standard, tree preservation policy or use of professional design services in the planning and construction process, neighborhood parks in Petawawa provide only a basic level of service. Additionally, parks appear to fall into two categories, those that were inherited fully-treed and those that were inherited fully-cleared. As a result, parks such as Kramer’s Korner, Nature’s Acre and Turtle are comprised of an open space surrounded by a large forested area and parks such as Briar Patch, Lakeview and Pine Ridge are wide open with little to no tree cover within the park boundary.

Site specific recommendations below are intended to enhance the aesthetics, usage, accessibility and functionality of each park. The recommendations are based on the 2002 and 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plans, AODA regulations for public spaces as well as staff input and feedback.

##### **Briar Patch Park**

- Install new entrance and playground signs.
- Reposition no smoking sign.
- Remove the remaining beam and post structure from the former park signage.
- Rehabilitate existing and install new grass perimeter.
- Prune trees along east fence line.
- Install new modern waste receptacle.
- Replace old play equipment with new modern equipment and a wood-fibre base.
- Complete (accessible standard) pathway addition along east fence line.
- Plant 3-4 trees on site to provide shade to park users.
- Replace one and add two modern park benches for parental use.
- Continue path installed in 2014 through to Spruce St.



*Briar Patch Park*

##### **Enchanted Forest**

- Install new entrance and playground signs.
- Reposition no smoking sign.

- Remove old highway barrier and replace with modern steel bollards or boulders.
- Replace one and add two modern park benches for parental use.
- Add picnic table.
- Plant 3-4 trees on site to provide shade to park users.
- Install new modern waste receptacle.



Enchanted Forest Park

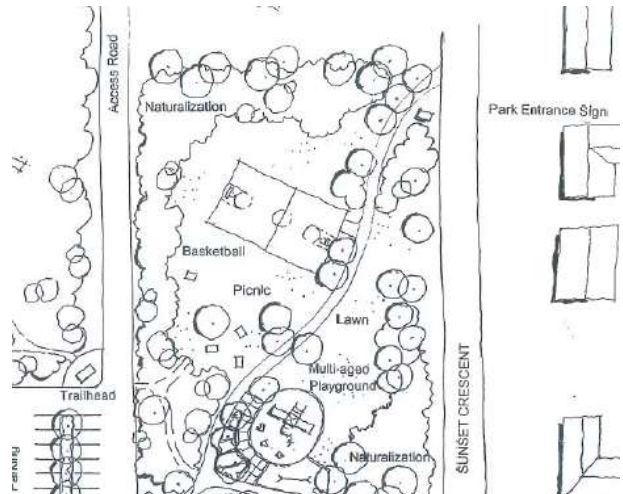
### Fish Hatchery

- Install new entrance and playground signs.
- Reposition no smoking sign.
- Replace existing chain link fence with cedar post and rail fence
- Add a pathway from exiting entrance to entrance on Sunset St.
- Naturalize 0.2 ha of existing green space.
- Extensive turf restoration to 0.5 ha existing greenspace.
- Add ½ court basketball court.
- Ad bike repair station.
- Install new modern waste receptacle.
- Ad two additional park benches.
- Plant 20 trees throughout the park.

**Note:** Although not included in this plan, consideration of a fitness park concept would align well with Fish Hatchery Park given its location and proximity to Petawawa Terrace P.P.



Fish Hatchery Park



2002 Parks and Recreation Master Plan redevelopment recommendations for Fish Hatchery Park

### Indian Diamond

- New entrance signs.
- Parking bollards.

### Jack Pine

- Install new entrance and playground signs.
- Reposition no smoking sign.
- Install new playground sign.
- Install and relocate new bench.
- Install new garbage receptacle.
- Install new play piece.
- Install new basketball ½ court.
- Complete turf restoration to 0.3 ha.
- Plant new trees throughout site.
- Install a trailhead to identify linkage to hydro corridor.



*Jack Pine Park*

### Kramer's Korner

- Install new entrance sign (2).
- Complete turf restoration throughout.
- Install new playground sign.
- Relocate no smoking sign.
- Install pathways (180 m).
- Install new garbage receptacle.



*Kramer's Korner Park*

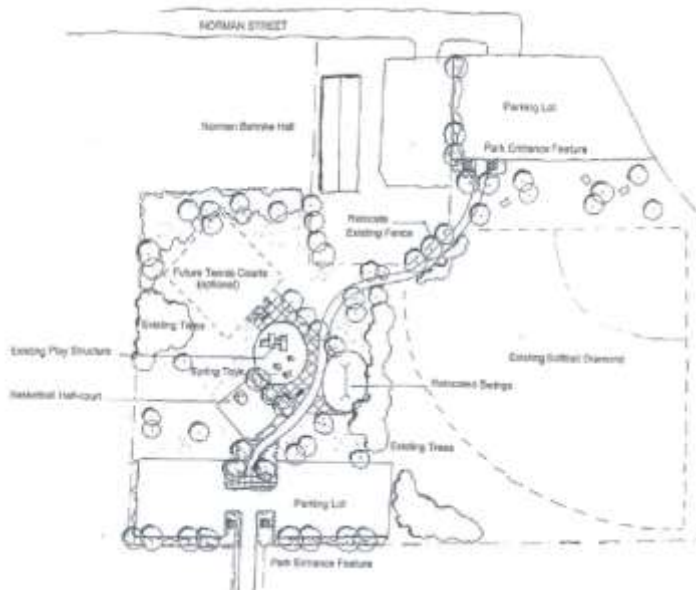
### Kiddyland

- Install new entrance signs (2).
- Complete turf restoration.
- Install new playground sign.
- Relocate no smoking sign.
- Install new pathways (110 m).
- Install new trees.
- Paint washroom facility.
- Remove highway barrier at entrance (110 m).
- Install garbage receptacle.
- Install new post and pole fencing (110 m).
- Refurbish existing basketball ½ court.



*Kiddyland Park*





2002 Parks and Recreation Master Plan redevelopment recommendations for Kiddyland Park

Lakeview

- Install new entrance sign.
- Install new playground sign.
- Relocate no smoking sign.
- Install pathways (120 m).
- Install new garbage receptacles (2).
- Install new bench.



Lakeview Park

Nature's Acre

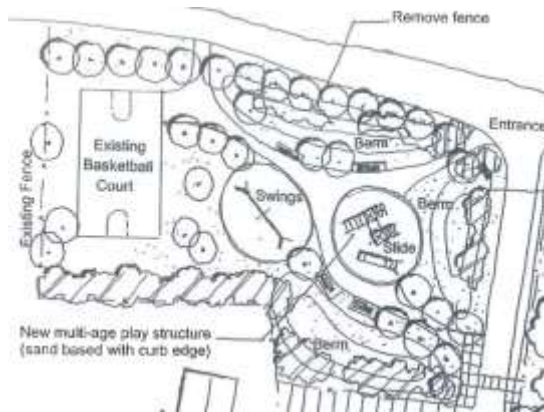
- Install new entrance sign.
- Install new playground sign.
- Relocate no smoking sign.
- Install new garbage receptacles(2).



Nature's Acre Park

### Pine Ridge

- Install new entrance sign.
- Install new playground sign.
- Relocate no smoking sign.
- Install garbage receptacles(2).
- Remove chain link fence.
- Install combination berm/vegetation/playful style fence at front of park.
- Install a vegetative screen along back parking lot.
- Install new pathway (150 m).
- Tree planting throughout park.
- Install new benches (3).



*Pine Ridge Park*

*2002 Parks and Recreation Master Plan redevelopment recommendations for Pine Ridge Park*

### Turtle

- Install new entrance sign.
- Install new playground sign.
- Relocate no smoking sign.
- Install new garbage receptacles (2).
- Install new benches (2).



*Turtle Park*

### Woodland

- Install new entrance sign.
- Install new playground sign.
- Relocate no smoking sign.
- Install new garbage receptacles (2).
- Install new benches (2).
- Add trailhead and directional signage.



*Woodland Park*

### 5. Equipment and Amenity Upgrades



Petawawa municipal parks are fairly well equipped with a variety of basic amenities. All parks have benches, waste receptacles, play equipment, swing sets, signage signifying ownership and a park name. Most parks have one or more picnic tables. Some have gravel parking lots. Play equipment is inspected monthly with annual inspection and testing keeping all play pieces safe by ensuring compliance with provincial requirements.

What is evident by inspection across all of the parks within the system is that there are elements in every park that could be improved. Across the board, signage is dated, faded and inconsistent in style and location. Play equipment does not vary much in design or style from park to park. Benches vary in style, type, design and location. All parks lack curb appeal, entrance features and pathways – all design features that invite residents into the park. As a municipality focused on improving overall community health and getting residents outdoors and active, use of community parks becomes a critical piece in achieving strategic community leisure lifestyle goals. Improving the curb appeal, quality and quantity of amenities in each park will add value and neighborhood pride to the municipal park system. It will also increase usage which in turn will assist in achieving the strategic goals noted above.

#### Park Signs

All municipal parks should have consistent, stylish, identifiable signs that welcome users and visitors alike into the park. They should identify the property location, name and ownership. They provide an opportunity for branding and in many cases are the first thing park users see when visiting the park. They should be bright, fresh and emit a sense of pride of ownership. The signs should be consistent with other municipal signs/ corporate branding and identifiable to users. Current park signs at the Civic Centre Bike Park and Civitan Playland provide an existing modern template for consideration. The current sign package at the Civic Centre Bike Park also provides for three levels of signage for each park.



Sign example in garden



Petawawa Bike Park



Level One



Level Two



Level Three

### Benches



Older wood style benches vs. new powder-coated steel



Petawawa Cenotaph



Island View Drive

Benches throughout the Town’s park system vary in style, appeal and condition. Most consist of a steel frame and wood seating. While inexpensive to purchase, these benches require a higher level of maintenance over the long term. As benches are purchased and/or replaced, it would be recommended that a powder-coated steel bench be considered. While more expensive up front, these types of benches will hold their appearance much longer and require less in terms of maintenance over the long-term. Additionally, it is easier to match styles as new parks come on board or existing benches require lifecycle replacement.

### Picnic Tables

Picnic tables across the parks system are for the most part consistent in style and condition. As with park benches, a powder-coated steel table or recycled plastic design should be considered. Again, while more expensive up front, these types of tables will hold their appearance much longer and require less in terms of maintenance over the long-term. Additionally, it is easier to match styles as new parks come on board or existing tables require lifecycle replacement.



Accessible options



Use of recycled plastic

### Garbage Receptacles

The current town inventory of garbage receptacles designated for park use mainly consists of oil drums painted blue with yellow plastic lids. While these units are very inexpensive to purchase, they remain difficult to anchor and certainly do not add any aesthetic value to the park. A design consistent with the recommended bench and picnic table styles would be appropriate and lend aesthetic value to each park. Additionally, functionality is important when selecting a waste receptacle. A receptacle that is easy to mount to a concrete slab and allows for ease of use and bag changing is preferred. As many Town parks are used throughout 4 seasons, lids will be required.



Steel w/ concrete base



Lids prevent rain and snow



Recycle stations – environmental responsibility

### Play Equipment

Play equipment currently installed in Petawawa neighborhood parks remains consistent. For the most part, each park incorporates a small to medium sized composite structure adjacent to a swing set. Often, a stand-alone play piece is included in the mix. What is currently provided provides a basic level of service, but falls behind with respect to diversity, accessibility and overall appeal. It is recommended that moving forward, play pieces, as they require lifecycle replacement, be replaced with a variety of play amenities such as climbing walls, climbing rocks, space-nets, natural playgrounds and outdoor fitness equipment. Additionally, new pieces will be required to be accessible. This will require specification of things like transfer stations, ramps, rubber or engineered mulch play surfaces, accessible curbing and pathways accessing the play area.



Climbing rock and tunnel



Space net



“Natural” play features



Transfer station



Engineered wood mulch base with concrete curb



Ramp features provide accessibility

Pathways provide a number of benefits to park properties. They welcome visitors. They guide park visitors into the park from the entrance. They provide a hard surface. They provide an accessible surface to park features and amenities. They help to keep park users away from areas of sensitivity. They provide a linkage to adjacent trail systems. They play an integral role in the use and overall functioning of the park. In many modern municipal neighborhood park designs, park pathways flow from the park entrance(s) to various park features. In many cases the pathway wraps around the feature and continues to other features in the park before returning to the entrance/egress part of the park. This provides an opportunity to walk throughout the park. For senior aged park users, benches are typically located at designated

intervals along and adjacent to the pathway that allows for sitting/resting and enjoyment of the park surroundings.



Path from park entrance to gazebo



Sharon Hills Park – East Gwillimbury

Paths link each park amenity to the others. Also, walking loop around soccer field and toboggan hill.

### Shade and Shade Structures

Many of the Town’s neighborhood parks were built on wide open property parcels. While many trees have been planted over the past few years within these parks, the parks provide little in the way of shade. As tree planting and tree relocation (spade) continues from year to year as part of ongoing beautification initiatives, it would be appropriate for some of the municipal parks to be considered for manufactured shade structures or gazebo’s to buffer the years it will take for newly planted trees to reach maturity and a stage where a suitable standard of natural shade is provided.



Norista Park – Whitby, Ont.



Cache Park – Whitby, Ont.

### Turf Restoration and Naturalization

Every Town of Petawawa neighborhood park includes open green space. In 2009, the Province of Ontario enacted legislation that prohibits the cosmetic use of pesticides on municipal property (Ont. Reg. 63/09). The “banning” of the use operational tools such as “weed and feed products” and other weed control chemicals changed the game for parks managers across the province. Suggested operational alternatives are for the most part labour intensive and in many cases much more expensive than previous weed control practices. As a result, parks managers have had to turn to “cultural practices” to maintain healthy turf across their park portfolios. While these legislative changes forced immediate impacts on the golf and sports turf industries (Town of Petawawa included), the reality is that the ban includes all green spaces. What this

means for municipal parks is that if is the desire of the municipality to maintain green spaces within their parks system, cultural practices and turf sciences currently applied to specialized facilities such as soccer fields will have to be applied across the board to some extent. In Petawawa, the effects of not having turf management practices applied to its park system are becoming quite evident. Parks such as Fish Hatchery and Jack Pine are turf deficient. Maintaining current maintenance practices each summer will result in complete turf loss over time in some of our municipal parks. In order to appropriately manage these operational challenges, it is recommended that a multi-pronged approach be implemented that includes turf management in priority areas (Aeration, topdressing, fertilizing, overseeding and irrigation), naturalization where appropriate and the development of grass cutting standards to guide service levels and manage annual operational budgets.

### Cultural Practices

1. **Aeration** – compaction relief, nutrient access to the root zone.
2. **Topdressing** – topsoil, peat, compost mixture, nutrients to turf, increase water holding capacities.
3. **Fertilization** – nutrients to soil.
4. **Overseeding** – rejuvenation with new grass. Species to be site specific to conditional need.



Fish Hatchery Park



Notice turf quality difference from ball diamond to park

Naturalization is the process of developing and maintaining landscapes that are ecologically sound and sustainable. By maintaining selected areas of the landscape through naturalization, the need for frequent watering and mowing can be decreased. The need for fertilizer and pesticides (where permitted by law) can be reduced as well. Although areas maintained through naturalization require the same amount of maintenance as traditional parks at the beginning, as the naturalized areas mature there is a reduced need for mowing, watering, fertilizer, and pesticides. Cutting grass in naturalized areas is done when the seed heads of the plants have fully ripened and have produced seed for next year. Typically the grass is cut once a year, in July or early August depending on the weather and when the grass seed is ready. Waiting for the seed to ripen before cutting provides new seed for next year that will create a fuller, thicker stand of grass that eventually will crowd out dandelions and other weeds.

Neighborhood park redevelopment will come at a cost. As a result, seeking efficiencies in service delivery becomes an important operational objective as a means of meeting financial

goals associated with the long term initiative. Because mowing has a significant impact on budget, consideration of mowing patterns and/or frequency can be modified without impacting park use. Additionally, the reintroduction of naturalized plants will create visual diversity in the landscape. Wildflowers and ornamental shrubs and trees will add colour and variety to the landscape.

## **7. Other Town Green Spaces**

The Town of Petawawa currently maintains 40 small greenspaces throughout the municipality. Many of these would be classified as parkette's, green areas or gardens that offer a bench, waste receptacle etc. along a road or sidewalk. These small pieces of municipal green space are for the most part located in high profile areas of town and serve as resting/relaxation areas and/or showcase the town's rich history. The most notable of these spaces is the Coureur de Bois Parkette located at the corner of Laurentian Dr. & Petawawa Blvd.

While much smaller in size, these micro-parks require the same, if not a higher level of regular and ongoing maintenance in terms of frequency and overall aesthetics. Their high profile and central location force them into the public eye and in turn require precise and frequent maintenance. Town parkette's would benefit from the addition of signs that are in keeping with sign styles used across the municipal park system. Additionally, Town maps and other promotional/ way finding materials should include many of these properties.

### Examples of Town Parkette Locations

1. Coureur de Bois Parkette (Laurentian Dr. & Petawawa Blvd.)
2. EXPO 150 Parkette – Murphy Rd. and Petawawa Blvd.)
3. Petawawa Point Parkette - Victoria St and Albert St.
4. Petawawa Town Clock (video boards, flags, pond)
5. Petawawa Legion Cenotaph (maintained by Town)

Additionally, the Town owns and maintains a number (approx. 30) of greenspaces that fall into categories such as road allowances, easements, wood lots, memorials, municipal gardens and properties adjacent to below/above ground infrastructure. All of these properties require varying levels of maintenance to maintain aesthetics, weed control, tree management, risk management and overall appeal.

### Storm Water Management Ponds

The recent growth of residential development in the Town of Petawawa has increased its portfolio of storm water management ponds. Both the dry and wet versions offer local recreational opportunities to residents. While design and construction of these outdoor facilities is required from an engineering perspective, the fact remains that a clear secondary usage evolves once constructed – that being recreational. The dry version of these green spaces provides an area for active recreational pursuits. The wet versions offer a naturalized area for passive recreational pursuits including the observation of many species of animals,



plants and insects. These facilities serve an engineering purpose and as a result, cannot incorporate the installation of recreational structures like play equipment or goal frames etc.. However, they do provide neighborhood level recreational opportunities and can facilitate active play and outdoor enjoyment. As a result, the incorporation of regular and ongoing maintenance practices at these locations will be required in order to effectively manage the risk associated with public use.

#### SWM Pond Locations

1. Limestone Trail Subdivision
2. Highland Park Subdivision # 1 and 2
3. Victoria St. (Shared asset with County – Town maintained)
4. Laurentian Highlands Subdivision # 1 and 2
5. Petawawa Town Centre # 1, 2 and 3
6. Portage Landing (to be constructed)
7. Radtke Estates

#### Water Access Points

The Town of Petawawa currently advertises and promotes a number of river access points related to both whitewater and flatwater paddling opportunities. Each of these municipally-owned pieces of property is used by recreational paddlers each and every summer. While they are advertised as areas where paddlers can access points along both the Petawawa and Ottawa Rivers, the sites themselves are not well identified or maintained. These access points would benefit from increased levels of maintenance, modest signage identifying the location, creation of transition areas to the water etc. With both the Town's tourism and recreation strategies focused so intensely on outdoor recreation, management of these access points should be a priority moving forward.

#### River Access Points

1. Parkette at the end of Wilson Ave. by the railway bridge.
2. Centennial Park at downstream side of Catwalk.
3. Golf Course rapids at end of tall Pines Rd.
4. Lookout at the end of Islandview Dr.
5. Petawawa Point Beach.
6. Boat launch at Black Bay (Rantz Rd.)
7. Boat launch at Radtke Rd. (end of road)

#### Trails In Petawawa

The Town's current trails portfolio consists of a number of very formalized trails including the Millennium Trail consisting of a paved hard surface, trailheads, directional signage, interpretive signage, women's monument, fitness equipment, play equipment etc. all

packaged nicely by Centennial Park. As the jewel of the Emerald Necklace Trail System, the Millennium Trail is well known and used by residents of Petawawa. Other trails included in the Emerald Necklace include the Trillium Trail and Terrace Trail. The Petawawa Terrace Provincial Park features 12 km of marked trails that provide users an opportunity to enjoy many significant flora and fauna that call this park home. This ANSI (Area of Natural and Scientific Importance) has a rich history, central location and offers four season recreational opportunities to the community.

Petawawa's Emerald Necklace trail system was constructed at the turn of the century (2000) and is now 15 years old. With growth experienced in the municipality since that time, the Emerald Necklace now requires expansion in order to provide a consistent level of service across the municipality. Capacity building projects currently underway include the Greater Petawawa and Area Trails Association, an incorporated entity formed to develop and implement mountain bike trails within the municipality and its surrounding area and the CP rail corridor, a rail-to-trail initiative led by the County of Renfrew and currently in the land acquisition stage.

Petawawa's trail system in general requires upgrades. While the Millennium Trail is well marked, has trailhead markers at start areas, interpretive signage and wayfinding, the majority of other well used trails in the Town are not well marked and really only know to neighboring residents. The Woodland Trail is a prime example of this. The majority of trails in this system are socially worn and have no way finding or trail head signage. This trail system is adjacent to new residential development and has not been developed to the level of the Millennium Trail. The Town, at this stage in its development, would benefit from the development of a Trail Planning and Construction Standard to drive consistency in the planning, development and construction of current and future trails within the municipality.

## **8. Directional Signage**

The discussion surrounding the improvement of municipal green space opens up further discussion regarding way-finding, directional and trail signage. This plan recognizes the need for improved directional signage throughout the municipality and recommends the improvement of park signage across the board. It would make sense at this time to also include a discussion regarding the above-noted signage throughout the Town. From a customer service perspective, municipal signage should be consistent in look, appeal and style. In many cases, current municipal directional signage directs residents and visitors to the existing parks and trails within town. A professionally designed and modern approach to both park and directional signage on a town-wide basis would provide for a fresh new look throughout the municipality as well as re-enforce the Town's commitment to its green spaces and motto of being "Dynamic by Nature". The conversion of existing directional signage to a new and improved way-finding program would also create an opportunity to assess service gaps and areas for improvement. At the same time, trail signage could be developed for existing trails as well as new trails coming on board in future years (rail trail and hydro corridor etc.). The tie-in of these various signage programs would ensure consistency in style and design at all levels throughout the municipality.

## **9. Park and Green Space Maintenance**

While the majority of this plan focuses on the capital needs of neighborhood parks and other green spaces in Petawawa as a means of improving the quality of the Town's parks portfolio, the operational aspects of maintaining these areas cannot be overlooked. Municipal parks, like any other public asset, require adequate levels of management, care and resources. The implementation of the recommendations in this plan will need to be dovetailed with an operational system that has the ability to maintain municipal parks and green spaces to a pre-determined standard of care.

The beautification of municipal neighborhood parks and other greens spaces portfolio will combine two elements – capital retrofit and effective operational oversight. As the capital retrofit recommendations of this report are implemented over time, changes to the current approach to operational management must also be modified and/or expanded to ensure adequate oversight to the Town's sizeable investment.

## **10. Municipal Tree Management**

The study component completed as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan clearly shows that municipal parks and trails are not only well used by residents but are a residential priority as far as improvement and development of recreational opportunities is concerned. All municipal greenspaces contain trees that are an integral part of the greenspace and the experiences had by all park users. While this plan includes the planting of trees throughout the neighborhood park system as a means of increasing services and experiences enjoyed by users of municipal parks, it does not address the clear need for the development of policies and procedures aimed at preserving the existing municipal tree canopy and enhancing tree maintenance guidelines and practices. Both of these needs are identified in the plan (Rec. # 15/16) and should be addressed in concert with recommendations contained within this plan.

## **11. Financing**

The 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan established that the Town of Petawawa was well within the range of other larger County of Renfrew municipalities with respect to the net cost of parks and recreation services. Additionally, the statistically significant survey data that was collected during the study portion of the plan indicated that residents (83.9%) were in favour of investing in the Town's outdoor spaces. As well, two-thirds (63.3%) of residents were in favour of at least a 1% increase to their property taxes or rent in order to "help build and/or operate new and improved recreation spaces".

As stated above, enhancement of the Town's recreational outdoor spaces will require an investment of both capital and operating funds. Improvement of this level of service will not be viable without increasing the annual provision for reserves in the operating budget. This increase will provide the annual capital to ensure completion of the multi-year redevelopment

of parks and other green spaces. Additionally, other sources of capital revenue can be sought through funding programs such as the Enabling Accessibility Fund offered by Employment and Social Development Canada.

## **12. Summary**

Petawawa has long been recognized for its natural beauty and abundance of outdoor recreational spaces. Current and past military personnel who have lived in Petawawa frequently talk about the area's outdoor recreational opportunities. Many who retire from the municipality and make Petawawa their permanent home often state that their reason for settling in the area is because of its natural beauty and surroundings.

Recent strategic planning initiatives completed by the Town such as the 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the 2012 Tourism Strategic Plan focus their attention on using the natural amenities available in Petawawa to achieve long-term recreational and economic development goals. The municipal motto is "Dynamic by Nature". Municipal logo(s) contain images that display trees, waterways, deer etc.

Municipal parks play an integral role in the achievement of many recreational and economic development strategic goals. They provide local outdoor places for residents and visitors to recreate. They create a system of municipal greenspaces that can be linked to provide active transportation opportunities. They provide neighborhood spaces where residents of all ages can play outdoors, a factor that science has recently established as critical to childhood development (Richard Louv). They provide young children places for exploration and cognitive learning. They provide spaces for the development of physical literacy. They also provide community/neighborhood pride and a gathering place for local groups and clubs/associations. They are a key municipal asset in each and every neighborhood.

## **13. Plan Recommendations**

- A. Complete site specific neighborhood park improvements as identified in the plan and costing matrix. \$61,200.00 to be allocated in the draft Parks and Recreation Department 2015 annual operating budget for consideration.
  1. Adopt/develop accessibility design standards for public parks and greenspaces to guide the design and construction process associated with the improvement projects. Additionally, as per the AODA Public Spaces Accessibility Regulation, all park improvement projects must incorporate consultation with the PAAC.
  2. Develop a comprehensive municipal sign program to include street, park and trail way-finding signage throughout the municipality. The program would dovetail with municipal park signage in order to establish and maintain a consistent municipal brand. The design stage of this project would occur in 2015 with sign purchases and implementation to occur in 2016.

- B.** Complete an internal efficiency review of the management of municipal greenspaces in the Town of Petawawa. The results of the review will assist in understanding current and future organizational needs and establishing a corporate direction with respect to ensuring sustainability of the municipal parks system.
- C.** Develop a Municipal Tree Management Plan which includes preservation, protection, maintenance, new tree planting and long term planning. The plan should be all encompassing and include municipal street trees.
- D.** Develop a Pathway/Trail Planning and Construction Standard to drive consistency in the planning, development and construction of current and future trails within the municipality.
- E.** Develop and approve a financing strategy that will ensure adequate parks reserves needed to meet the goals, objectives and recommendations as outlined in this plan.

The recommendations in this plan are aimed at improving the overall condition of the Petawawa municipal park inventory in a systematic and cost-effective manner. They go hand-in-hand with municipal beautification efforts as a whole. Achieving the goals set forth in the plan will improve park appearance and functionality. Doing so will ultimately improve service levels and assist the municipality in achieving long-term strategic goals aimed at improving quality of life standards within the community.

<b>1 Briar Patch</b>	Briarwood Dr./ Patricia St.	New entrance sign		✓		2,000		2,000					
		Existing sign structure			✓	-	-						
		Grass perimeter (0.5 ha)	✓			1,000	1,000						
		Bench (2)	✓	✓		2,500	2,500						
		Playground sign			✓	600	600						
		No smoking sign				✓	100	100					
		Tree pruning along fenceline					✓	-	-				
		Garbage receptacle	✓			800			800				
		Composite play equipment/ alternative & base	✓			50,000			50,000				
		Pathway extension (40 m)			✓	6,400			6,400				
<b>Total</b>						<b>63,400</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>57,200</b>	-	-	-	
<b>2 Enchanted Forest</b>	Bayshore Dr./ Earl St.	New entrance sign	✓			2,000		2,000					
		Boulder parking boundary	✓			1,000		1,000					
		Bench	✓			1,250			1,250				
		Picnic Table			✓	1,000					1,000		
		Playground sign			✓	600		600					
		No smoking sign				✓	100		100				
		Garbage receptacle	✓			800			800				
		<b>Total</b>					<b>6,750</b>	-	<b>3,700</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>1,000</b>	-
<b>3 Fish Hatchery</b>	Laurentian Dr./ Sunset Cres.	New entrance sign	✓			2,000		2,000					
		Chain link fence (180 m)				✓	2,500			2,500			
		Wood post fence (120m/400ft)			✓	7,500					7,500		
		Bench (2)			✓	1,250	2,500						
		Pathways (150 x 1.83m)			✓	24,000					24,000		
		Naturalized areas (0.2 ha)			✓	250			250				
		Turf restoration (0.5 ha)				9,000	5,000	2,500	1,500				
		Trees (20)			✓	10,000			5,000			5,000	
		Portable lavatory enclosure			✓			15,000					
		Basketball 1/2 court			✓	17,000					17,000		
		Bike repair station				1,500	1,500						
		<b>Total</b>					<b>75,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>6,750</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>48,500</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>4 Indian Diamond</b>	Victoria St.	New entrance sign (2)	✓			4,000		4,000					
		Parking bollards			✓	5,000			5,000				
		<b>Total</b>				<b>9,000</b>	-	<b>4,000</b>	-	<b>5,000</b>	-	-	
<b>5 Jack Pine</b>	Carla St./ Derek Dr.	New entrance sign		✓		2,000		2,000					
		Turf restoration (0.3 ha)			✓	5,000	2,500	1,500	500				
		Bench			✓	1,250			1,250				
		Playground sign			✓	600	600						
		No smoking sign				✓	100	100					
		Garbage receptacle	✓			800			800				
		Play equipment			✓	60,000						60,000	

Park Name	Location	Recommended Improvements	Replacement	Addition	Relocation	Removal	Cost (incl installation)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
		Play equipment			✓		2,000	2,000						
		Basketball 1/2 Court		✓			17,000				17,000			
		Trees		✓			5,000	5,000						
		Trailhead		✓			2,500			2,500				
		<b>Total</b>					<b>96,250</b>	<b>10,200</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>5,050</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Kramer's Korner</b>	Heritage Dr./ Gutzman Rd.												
		New entrance sign (2)	✓				4,000		4,000					
		Turf restoration		✓			1,500	1,000	500					
		Playground sign		✓			600		600					
		No smoking sign			✓		100		100					
		Pathways (180 m)		✓			28,000							28,000
		Garbage receptacle	✓				800			800				
		<b>Total</b>					<b>35,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,000</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Kiddyland</b>	Herman St./ John St.												
		New entrance sign (2)	✓				4,000		4,000					
		Turf restoration		✓			5,000	2,500	1,500	1,000				
		Playground sign		✓			600	600						
		No smoking sign			✓		100	100						
		Pathways (110 m)		✓			17,000				17,000			
		Trees					10,000	5,000				5,000		
		Paint washroom facility		✓			500	500						
		Highway barrier at entrance (110 m)				✓	500	500						
		Garbage receptacle	✓				800			800				
		Post and pole fencing (110 m)	✓				6,700				6,700			
		Half court refurbishment					7,500		7,500					
		<b>Total</b>					<b>52,700</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>23,700</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Lakeview</b>	Lakeview Ave./ Centre St.												
		New entrance sign	✓				2,000			2,000				
		Playground sign		✓			600	600						
		No smoking sign			✓		100	100						
		Pathways (120 m)		✓			20,000							20,000
		Garbage receptacle(2)	✓				1,600			1,600				
		Bench(s)	✓				2,500	2,500						
		<b>Total</b>					<b>26,800</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Nature's Acre</b>	Hilda St./ Scott Ave.												
		New entrance sign	✓				2,000		2,000					
		Playground sign		✓			600	600						
		No smoking sign			✓		100	100						
		Garbage receptacle(2)	✓				1,600			1,600				
		<b>Total</b>					<b>4,300</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Pine Ridge</b>	Pineridge Cres./ Garwin St.												
		New entrance sign	✓				2,000		2,000					
		Playground sign		✓			600	600						
		No smoking sign			✓		100	100						
		Garbage receptacle(2)	✓				1,600			1,600				

Park Name	Location	Recommended Improvements	Replacement	Addition	Relocation	Removal	Cost (incl installation)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
		Chain link fence				✓	1,000		1,000					
		Combination fence/berm/vegetation		✓			8,500		8,500					
		Vegatative screen		✓			10,000		10,000					
		Pathway (150 m)		✓			24,000						24,000	
		Tree planting		✓			5,000			5,000				
		Benches	✓				2,500				2,500			
		<b>Total</b>					<b>55,300</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>21,500</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Turtle</b>	Sylvan Dr.												
		New entrance sign	✓				2,000		2,000					
		Playground sign		✓			600	600						
		No smoking sign			✓		100	100						
		Garbage receptacle(2)	✓				1,600			1,600				
		Benches	✓				2,500			2,500				
		<b>Total</b>					<b>6,800</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Woodland</b>	Woodland Cres.												
		New entrance sign	✓				2,000		2,000					
		Playground sign		✓			600	600						
		No smoking sign			✓		100	100						
		Garbage receptacle(2)	✓				1,600	1,600						
		Benches	✓				2,500	2,500						
		Trailhead/directional signage					2,500	2,500						
		<b>Total</b>					<b>9,300</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
		<b>Total Redevelopment Project</b>					<b>456,350</b>							
		<b>Annual Totals 2015 to 2021</b>						<b>61,200</b>	<b>63,400</b>	<b>88,300</b>	<b>51,950</b>	<b>54,500</b>	<b>89,000</b>	<b>48,000</b>



# Appendix A Park Inventories

# Appendix B

## Parks and Recreation Master Plan Recommendations

# Appendix C

## Park Aerial Images