



# King Edward Park Master Plan

Prepared for the  
Community of Markdale,  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

2025



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# Executive Summary

Within the heart of Markdale, King Edward Park is a long standing recreational and social hub. As the area evolves, there is a growing need to enhance and formalize this key green space into a central, multi-functional community destination, that reflects both the heritage and future of Markdale.

Recognizing the growing demand, the Municipality initiated a review of King Edward Park to explore its current and potential uses, identify opportunities for improvement and ensure the park continues to meet the needs of residents. This review is part of a broader commitment to thoughtful, strategic community planning.

The direction of this master plan has been informed by extensive community engagement and is aligned with the Municipality's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Feedback emphasized the value of King Edward Park as a gathering space and underlined the importance of preparing for future residential and recreational growth in Markdale.

This document provides a comprehensive vision and planning framework for the future of King Edward Park. It focuses on maximizing the potential of existing spaces, responding to the evolving needs of a growing population and modernizing park amenities to enhance overall user experience. Through this plan, King Edward Park is positioned to remain a vital and inclusive space for generations to come.

# Background Data 1



# Background Study

## Purpose & Objectives

King Edward Park serves as one of the most significant public spaces within Markdale and the Municipality of Grey Highlands. The park is home to both the Walter Harris Memorial Branch Public Library and the Centre Grey Recreation Complex—one of four public arenas located across the municipality. With the multi-functional space of the arena, the library and various recreational outdoor spaces, King Edward Park is an important anchor for community programs, annual and pop-up events and day-to-day activity.

This master plan report provides a comprehensive review and vision for King Edward Park's future. The focus is on reimagining and improving the current park infrastructure within its existing footprint. By analyzing current uses, identifying underutilized areas and gathering input from the public and stakeholders, the plan outlines a series of strategic improvements. These enhancements aim to modernize facilities, increase usability throughout the park and strengthen the park's role as a central, accessible space for the growing Markdale community.

## Vision

Markdale is community-driven and King Edward Park often plays a pivotal role in the daily lives of residents. Through meaningful community engagement and dialogue, a clear vision for King Edward Park has emerged. A set of guiding principles has been established to ensure that future improvements reflect the values, needs and aspirations of local residents. These principles aim to preserve the park's role as a welcoming, inclusive and vibrant hub for recreation, culture and connection.

King Edward Park is deeply cherished by a wide range of community members and user groups. Its existing features, such as the arena, playground, ball diamond, showering and library, already support a diverse set of recreational, social and cultural activities. The park's future opportunities are rooted in enhancing these amenities, improving accessibility and creating flexible, multi-use spaces that accommodate both current needs and future growth. By building on its strengths and central location, King Edward Park will continue to evolve as a cornerstone of community life in Markdale, supporting a thriving, connected and growing population.



Figure 1: Historic Gates at Cavan Street Park Entrance

## Background Documents

### Municipality of Grey Highlands Strategic Plan, 2024-2027

This planning document outlines the overall vision, mission and values of the Municipality of Grey Highlands as it expands and develops and is meant to be a guide for other plans. The municipality has outlined their desire to serve and engage the community in planning for a sustainable, resilient future while honouring the area's rural and agricultural heritage.

**Values:** Respect, Integrity, Accountability, Excellence, Tradition, Inclusivity

**Strategic Priorities:** Considerate Communities, Healthy Lifestyle, Respected Environment, Responsible Governance, Vibrant Economy.

### Official Plan, 2017

Established as part of Grey Highlands' original Strategic Plan in 2013, the document describes itself as a "policy framework" informed by the visions and values identified in the Strategic Plan. Outlined is the municipality's vision of promoting the communities' agricultural base, natural heritage and environment. Planning themes relevant to King Edward Park are energy conservation and green house gas reduction, protection and enhancement of the rural character of Grey Highlands and building healthy communities through parks and open space. Cultural heritage conservation and preservation is another planning theme. According to the Official Plan, King Edward Park is considered a cultural heritage site as it satisfies the following qualifying characteristics:

**2.3.2.b.ii.** cultural heritage landscapes recognized locally as having historical, cultural or architectural significance;

**2.3.2.b.iv.** any other natural, built, artifact, documentary and intangible heritage resources.

### Community Improvement Plan, 2024

The Municipality of Grey Highland's Community Improvement Plan outlines high level goals of revitalization for "economic development, beautification, quality of life, aesthetic improvements, environmental sustainability and sense of place" including the "Improvement of community infrastructure, open spaces and pedestrian networks". One of the priority development projects is for "increased value-

added agricultural uses, agri-tourism, and facility improvement projects". With King Edward Park's agriculture-rich history, investments in this park with a clear relation to the facilities and existing agricultural uses aligns with this goal.

### Recreation Master Plan, 2022

The purpose of this plan is to ensure investments in parks and recreation services are strategically aligned with community needs.

**Guiding Principles:** A steward of outdoor spaces and places, Municipal-wide and rural emphasis, Intermunicipal and stakeholder collaboration, Financial sustainability, Everyone plays.

This document uses a Parkland Classification System (PCS) and classifies King Edward Park as a "Recreation Facility/Active" parkland. This classification signifies that there are indoor uses in addition to outdoor, user groups are regionally wide, the park is serviced and accessible and parkland coverage is larger than 3 hectares.

General goals for parklands are flexibility for multi-season and multi-use with improvements to existing facilities. Although the plan recommended the reduction of the number of ice pads throughout Grey Highlands, maintaining hall space for various uses is a priority. Markdale was highlighted as an ideal location for a Class A Baseball Diamond – considerations should be made to determine if King Edward Park can support the establishment of such.

### Other Documents of Note

The Downtown Markdale Visioning Report (2021) identified King Edward Park as a destination for a connected pedestrian corridor and "green link" through the downtown area.

The Downtown Markdale Streetscape Design (2019) also highlights the support of the public for more greening of the downtown area and King Edward Park would be an extension of that.

The Climate Change Action Plan (2022) prioritizes "adopt[ing] an environmentally conscious mindset for all Municipal undertakings including procurement, development, and redevelopment of Municipal facilities.". This goal highlights the consideration for clean energy and building techniques and the installation of electric vehicle charge ports to support the goal of 100% EV in Grey County by 2050.

# Inventory & Analysis

## King Edward Park Master Plan Study Area

At just under 4 hectares (9.7 acres), King Edward Park is centrally located within Markdale's Neighbourhood Area. It is bordered by the residential and mixed-use roads of Edith Avenue, Main Street, Walker Street and George Street and is directly adjacent to the Downtown Area at its Southwest junction along Walker Street.

The existing park features include an arena with hall space, a baseball diamond, basketball court, showing, play structure, open grass areas, decommissioned outdoor washroom facilities and a newly installed Bulk Water Filling Station. The Walter Harris Memorial Library also lies within the park at Walker and Cavan Street.

Established in 1905, the park spans a relatively flat terrain, with a high point in the northeast—where the showing is located—and a low point in the south, near the parking lot adjacent to Walker Street. Canopy cover and opportunities for shade are minimal, limited mainly to bordering trees from adjacent residential backyards and trees encircling the showing.

Stormwater runoff and drainage are ongoing concerns, particularly behind the arena and into the neighbouring yards to the west.

Two existing entry points for vehicular and pedestrian access are off Main Street E (through Radford St) and Walker Street (through Cavan St off Toronto St N, a.k.a. Provincial Highway 10). Both entrances are valued by their respective users as access points to the park and see equal use. The perimeter is otherwise inaccessible to the public as it is surrounded by private properties.

### Surrounding Land Use

As the community of Markdale continues to grow, recent and proposed residential developments are increasing demands on existing parks and recreational facilities, highlighting the need for strategic planning and investment in existing infrastructure.

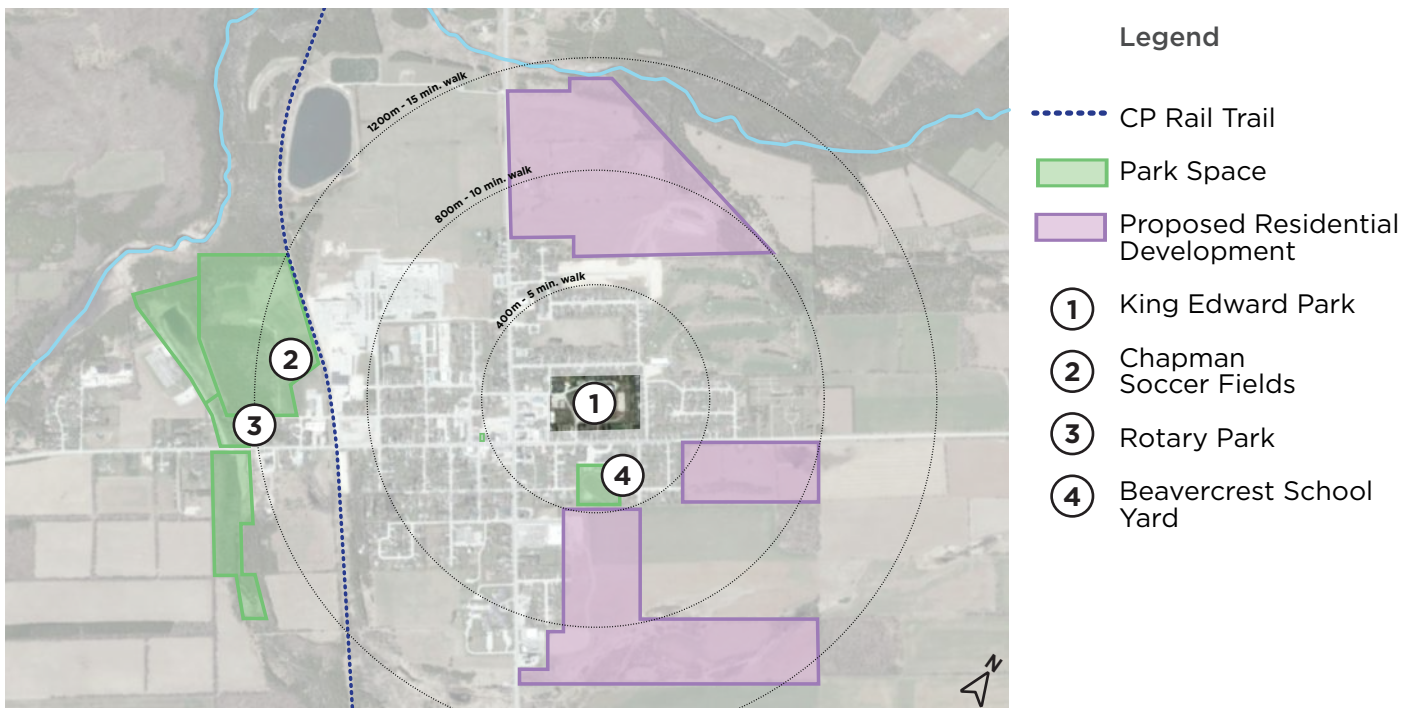


Figure 2: King Edward Park Context Map Showing Existing and Proposed Land Use at a Regional Scale

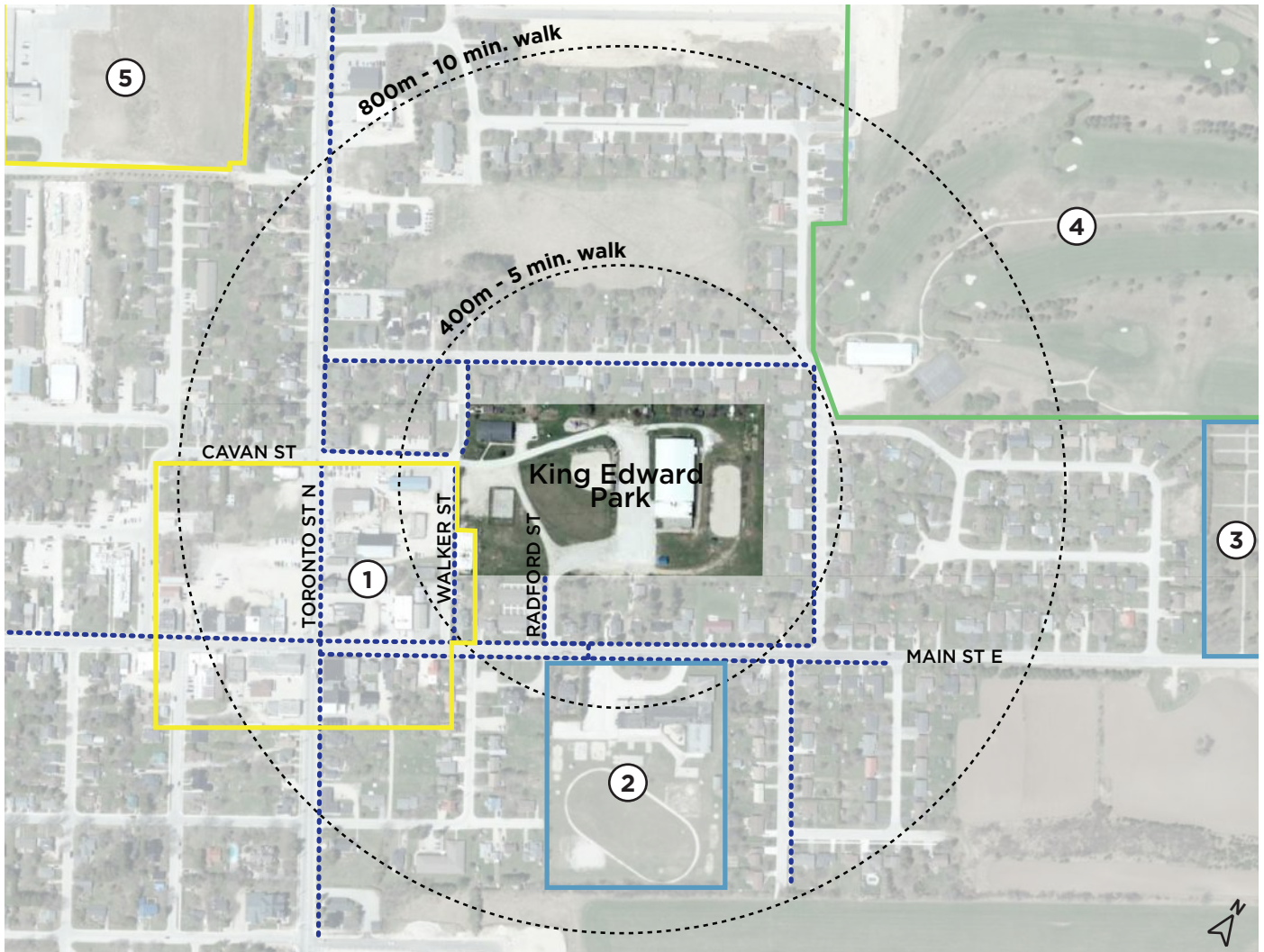


Figure 3: King Edward Park Context Map at a Neighbourhood Scale

### Walkability and Non-motorized Circulation

King Edward Park is accessible on foot or assistive mobility device through sidewalk connections at Walker Street and Radford Street, though the sidewalk ends at the park entrances and does not connect to any formal walking paths. There are no dedicated bike paths on municipal streets nor are there any existing bike paths in the park. Currently, there are bike racks in front of the library. The trailhead for the CP Rail Trail is, approximately, a 13 minute walk in a southwesterly direction down Main Street West from the park entrances. The Markdale Rotary Club Park and Chapman Soccer Fields is an additional three minute walk along the same route (see Figure 2 on the previous page).

### Legend

- ..... Sidewalks
- ① Downtown Area:
  - Ice Cream, Cafes & Restaurants
  - Bed & Breakfasts
  - Shops & Services
- ② Beavercrest Community School:
  - Proposed Soccer Field
- ③ Markdale Cemetery
- ④ Markdale Golf & Country Club
- ⑤ Chapman's Ice Cream

## Existing Park Features

### Arena & Hall

The Centre Grey Recreation Complex, also known as Markdale Arena, is a two-storey facility constructed in 1974 with a floor area of approximately 2,300 square metres. A comprehensive Building Condition Assessment, commissioned by the Municipality, was completed in April 2023. The complex includes one ice rink, accessible washroom facilities, a heated viewing space and an elevator-serviced multi-use hall and warming kitchen on the second floor. Numerous groups make use of the complex year-round, adapting the rink to floor space in the summer and hosting recreational, social and community events in the hall and rink space in addition to private event rentals.

Zamboni ice removal storage occurs behind the arena at the north corner where a small drainage pipe connects the melted ice to the municipal stormwater pipe at Walker Street. A cattle washing station is situated outdoors along the northwest wall of the arena for use during the annual fall fair. The roller door adjacent to the cattle wash is largely non-functional.

### Showring & Fairgrounds

Located behind the recreation complex on the park's plateaued high point, the sand showing is approximately 30 x 65 metres. It is enclosed by a wooden rail and post fence and surrounded by one of the few treed areas in the park. The showing is used eight to nine times per year—always during the warmer seasons—for horseback riding related activities. The adjacent open space, intended for trailer access and parking, remains largely unused otherwise. During the annual fall fair, the entire park is activated, including the recreation complex's indoor space, the baseball diamond, showing and the open space adjacent to the showing. A new announcer's box, funded by the Markdale Agricultural Society, was recently installed at the south corner, adjacent to a set of wooden bleachers, also provided by the Agricultural Society.

Stormwater runoff from this elevated area flows along the rear of the recreation complex, splitting off in two directions: east, toward the recreation complex parking lot, and west, toward the play structure and neighbouring residential yards, contributing to existing drainage challenges in those areas.



Figure 4: Centre Grey Recreation Complex



Figure 5: Walking Group Utilizing the Second Floor Hall Space



Figure 6: Showing Bleachers and Announcer's Booth



Figure 7: Open area Between the NE Park Boundary and Showing



Figure 8: Behind Home Plate Looking Towards the Library



Figure 9: Outdoor Ice Rink Inside the Baseball Diamond, January 2025



Figure 10: View of Basketball Court, Gravel Laneway, Library and Outfield



Figure 11: Basketball Court

## Baseball Diamond

The baseball diamond is centrally located within King Edward Park, encircled by vehicular access roads (formerly a horse track) and a chain-link fence affixed with local advertisements. Wooden bleachers and cinder block dugouts flank the foul lines, along with decommissioned washroom facilities, which have been replaced with portable toilets, and a newly installed Bulk Water Filling Station on the northeast side.

The lighting around the diamond is insufficient, particularly in the outfield, which remains poorly illuminated. The outfield is also uneven, with a noticeable low point at the southwest corner. Community-led efforts to improve the ball diamond are ongoing, including reseeded completed in the spring of 2025, and plans for a new concession stand behind the pitcher's mound where an existing 5x5m aggregate pad currently lies. A Building Condition Assessment for the ball diamond was completed in April 2023.

In addition to baseball, the ball diamond and outfield is utilized during community run events and is flooded in winter months to serve as an outdoor skating rink (weather permitting).

## Basketball Court

The basketball court, located in the southern section of King Edward Park adjacent to the gravel parking area, is a fully fenced facility. Thanks to community-led funding and support, new basketball nets were recently installed. While the court is actively used, it presents a notable challenge due to a significant slope across its surface, which limits its suitability for competitive or structured play. The grading condition reduces overall playability and may pose safety concerns, making the space less ideal for regular recreational use or organized sports.

Formerly, this site was a skate park that fell out of favour resulting in efforts led by community youth 15+ years ago to convert it to the basketball court seen today.

## Library & Pavilion

The Grey Highlands Public Library - Walter Harris Memorial Branch has served as a municipal resource for over 125 years and was built in this location in the year 2000-01. The building is approximately 950 square metres with an adjacent parking lot and new outdoor pavilion space as of 2023. A Building Condition Assessment was also completed in April 2023, and consideration has been given to a potential addition to the building off the northeast wall into the existing parking lot as current demands have exceeded capacity. One of many interpretive signs throughout Grey Highlands sharing the history of Markdale resides between the library and play structure.

## Play structure

The play structure to the northeast of the library is over 15 years old and is enclosed by a wooden barrier from ground level. The woodchip surfacing and perimeter grass is level at the wooden barrier in front of the play structure's ramp but accessibility remains a concern. The adjacent road is less than two metres from the play structure, however it is closed off to vehicles during the warmer seasons. Note that when the gates are closed, there is no accessible path for strollers or mobility devices to travel along the west side of the baseball diamond. The play area is not enclosed and neighbouring yards are open to the space with no clearly defined boundary. The pavilion between the play structure and library provides the only available shade. Waste receptacles and non-fixed seating elements and tables are found nearby.



Figure 12: Library Main Entrance



Figure 13: Play Structure with Pavilion and Library in Background



Figure 14: Closing off Vehicular Route at Play Area

## Existing Park Facilities

### Vehicular Circulation

There are two main access points into King Edward Park: one at Walter/Cavan Street off Toronto Street North (Highway 10), the other at Radford Street off Main Street East (Grey Road 12), both accommodating two-way traffic. Seasonal circulation patterns within the park may affect the preferred access points for users however both remain equally valued.

As seen in Figure 14 on the previous page, the extension of Cavan Street beyond the library is gated off during the warmer months to enhance safety for users of the play structure and baseball diamond. Parking lots for the library and recreation complex, along with the main internal routes, are paved with asphalt, while the remaining vehicular areas consist of patches of asphalt or gravel. Overall, surface conditions are poor, with issues such as pooling water, uneven grades, cracking, and deteriorating and undefined edges.

During the fall fair, large vehicles and trailers access the grassy northern area of the park. Remnants of historic uses, including the horse pull area (east of the Radford Street connection to the recreation complex parking lot) and the former horse track (a gravel loop south of the ball diamond, passing through the horse pull area and around the back of the showring), remain visible in aerial imagery.

### Parking & Snow Storage

King Edward Park offers three public parking areas. The parking facilities serving the library and recreation complex/baseball diamond both consist of unmarked asphalt stalls. Spill-over library parking also occurs on the gravel lot adjacent to the basketball court, which similarly lacks formal parking stall markings. Lack of line painting sometimes results in blocked waste bin access at the recreation complex (see Figure 18).

During snowy seasons, snow storage at the southeast edge of the recreation complex parking lot can accumulate, narrowing the access road from Radford Street and reducing the available parking for winter use. Additionally, the sediment and salt from melted snow negatively impacts the programming and overall use of this area throughout the year.



Figure 15: Aerial Image of Vehicular Circulation in King Edward Park



Figure 16: Snow Storage Area Near Radford Street Entrance



Figure 17: Overflow Parking in front of Library and Basketball Court



Figure 18: Non-organized Parking in front of Recreation Complex



Figure 19: Bulk Water Filling and Dump Station



Figure 20: Electricity Hookups

### Bulk Water Filling Station

Installed in 2024, the pay-per-use bulk water pump and sewage (black and grey water) dump station is located on the northeast side of the baseball diamond adjacent to the open parking lot in front of the recreation complex. Its location was selected to ensure accessibility for large vehicles and to meet the necessary utility service requirements. Water bottle refill is free of charge and water access is available through Victoria Day to Thanksgiving weekend.

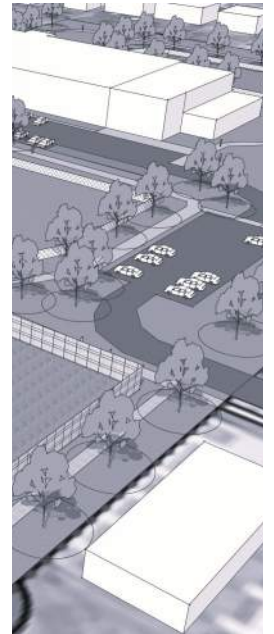
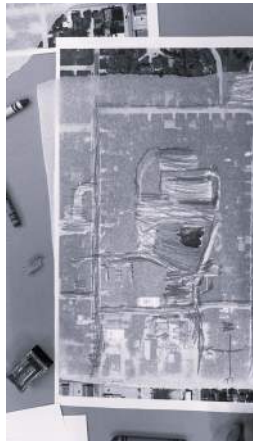
### Outdoor Washrooms

The washroom facilities adjacent to the baseball diamond have been decommissioned for over 10 years. In their place, the municipality provides year-round portable toilets, though snow removal is not maintained, limiting winter accessibility to these facilities.

### Servicing

Electrical services are established for the recreation complex, library, baseball diamond and Bulk Water Filling Station. The storage building east of the complex is not serviced but an electrical hook up is available in the grassy area to the northeast. Users generally run extension cords to this power supply but report challenges to access and suitability of power throughout the park. One sewage pipe runs under the baseball diamond from the municipal hook up at Walker Street to the recreation complex. Stormwater drains are limited to the Walker Street entrance.

# Community Engagement 2



# Community Engagement

## Purpose & Objectives

Community engagement played a central role in shaping the King Edward Park Master Plan. Understanding how residents and stakeholders use the park—and what they envision for its future—was critical in ensuring the plan reflects the values, needs and aspirations of the Markdale community. The following section outlines how community feedback directly informed the design direction and project priorities for King Edward Park.

To gather a wide range of input, the Municipality conducted an online community survey and supported GSP Group in a three-day design charrette and a series of stakeholder interviews. Each of these engagement methods offered unique insights into the current use of the park and priorities for future improvements.

The online survey provided residents with an accessible platform to share their perspectives on the park's existing features, highlight concerns and suggest enhancements. Key themes that emerged include a desire to maintain open green space, upgrade aging infrastructure, improve accessibility and create more opportunities for multi-generational programming.

The three-day charrette served as an in-depth, collaborative workshop where community members could engage directly with the project team through design activities, group discussions, and interactive mapping. Participants emphasized the importance of enhancing connectivity within the park, providing flexible multi-use spaces and creating areas that accommodate a wide range of ages and activities from casual gathering to organized recreation.

Additionally, stakeholder interviews were conducted with local user groups, municipal staff and community organizations who have a direct relationship with the space and facilities within King Edward Park. These conversations provided a deeper understanding of how the park operationally functions, challenges faced in maintaining and programming the space and how it can better serve organized sports, events and recreational needs.

Together, this multi-faceted engagement process has laid a strong foundation to develop a set of guiding principles to inform future design decisions. The feedback received has helped define a clear vision for King Edward Park—one that supports the park's continued role as a central, inclusive and vibrant community hub.

## Online Survey Engagement Summary

Between April 17th and May 20th, 2025, the Municipality of Grey Highlands encouraged community members to engage in an online survey to share their experience with and vision for King Edward Park. The survey asked community members the following questions:

1. How do you currently use the park?
2. What do you like most about the park?
3. What do you dislike or think could be improved in the park?
4. What is your vision for the park in the future?
5. How do you see the park serving as a community hub?
6. Do you have any other comments, ideas or suggestions you'd like to share?

### Engagement Ratings:

**Online Visitors:** 669

**Survey Contributors:** 102

### Question Engagement Percentage:

**Q1:** 99%      **Q4:** 95%

**Q2:** 91%      **Q5:** 76%

**Q3:** 89%      **Q6:** 47%



Figure 21: King Edward Park Survey - Contribution Activity - Municipality of Grey Highlands

## Online Survey Results

The GSP team reviewed all survey responses in detail, noting each suggestion and organizing them into common themes, categories, and overall sentiments. Since the municipality-led survey featured open-ended questions, it was necessary to assign keywords and identify patterns to distill clear insights and present the data effectively.

The graphic data results in Appendix A collectively demonstrates the trending talking points from the community when asked about King Edward Park.

Input from the community was generally positive with a clear desire for the park to remain an enjoyable space for the whole family. There was ample support for general improvements to existing features and common suggestions for additions to the park. The following pie chart demonstrates the top five most popular requests to be considered in the redesign of King Edward Park. The value under each category is the number of individuals who mentioned the feature in their survey response.

Survey responses submitted before May 13th—which consisted of the majority of total responses—were utilized for a workshop in the public engagement charrette described on the following page and the synthesized results helped inform priorities within the design concepts.

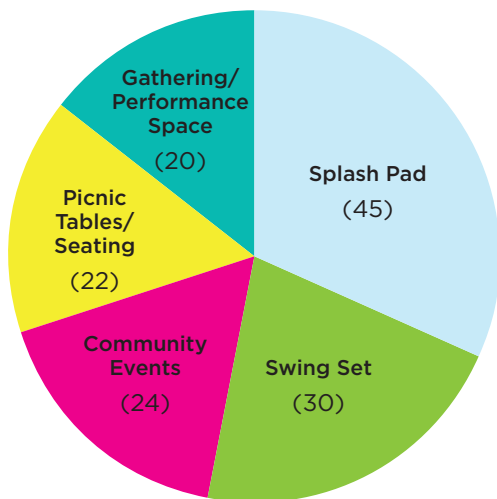


Figure 22: Question 4: What is Your Vision for the Park in the Future?

## Stakeholder Interviews Summary

The Municipality provided a list of interest groups to engage with as part of the research and outreach efforts for the development of the master plan. Between April 29th and May 12th, 2025, the GSP team met with eight stakeholder groups and attempted to engage with four others. Online meetings were offered and conducted during preferred evening hours to best accommodate stakeholder members per the Municipality's recommendation.

The stakeholder consultations gave the team insight into the history of the park, how its most frequent users value and see the space, common shortcomings and challenges faced by user groups, and ideas for improvement. Major takeaways from each meeting can be found in Appendix C.

The eight stakeholder groups who engaged with the team are as follows:

- South East Grey Community Health Centre
- Splash Pad Committee
- Agricultural Society
- Grey County Riders
- Grey Highlands Public Library - Walter Harris Memorial Branch
- Recreation Committee
- Minor Softball
- Shooting Stars Hockey

A new brewery and patio is planned for development on Walker Street along the south corner of the park. The GSP team was unable to connect with this interest group to determine more information about the potential expectations in this area of the park as agreed upon by The Municipality. Considerations about this agreement should be made when progressing a design concept.

## Public Engagement Charrette Summary

The public engagement Charrette took place in the Markdale Arena Hall (upstairs of the Recreation Complex) over May 13, 14 and 15, 2025.

**Day One:** GSP Group presented the Master Plan Project along with an overview of the design charrette. Participants took part in public brainstorming workshops where feedback related to the online survey was gathered. An enlarged site map was displayed on the wall for community members to provide comments directly on the existing park layout.

**Day Two:** The GSP team started drafting concept plans based on online responses and Day One feedback. Participants dropped in for an informal visit to further contribute to the brainstorming workshop and make comments on the proposed concepts informed by community desires.

**Day Three:** The GSP team refined the park design concepts based on feedback received during Day Two and presented a “community-supported design.” This design was accompanied by a set of guiding principles that had been developed and refined throughout the engagement sessions.

**Participants:** 36 individuals and families attended one or more of the 3-Day Charrette.



Figure 23: Community Members Discuss in front of the Existing Park Map

## Charrette Workshop Overview

The first brainstorming workshop station involved common community suggestions obtained from the online engagement survey submissions prior to May 13. Community members were able to observe these trending points and were asked to demonstrate support for, progress ideas or make alternative comments under each feature. See Appendix C for a comprehensive graphic summary of the community suggestions wall seen in Figure 24 to the right.

Through this particular exercise, constructive feedback was collected and objectives started to evolve. For example, the support for tree planting was evident and was further refined to clarify the preference for native species. Pickleball and basketball were specified for consideration within the suggested mixed-use courts. Specific safety concerns were illuminated, most often related to traffic speed and overlap of vehicular and pedestrian spaces. Conversations with the community also allowed for new themes and ideas to emerge, such as the consideration of honouring King Edward Park’s heritage while modernizing the space to support Markdale’s growing needs and whether the park’s character should differ from surrounding ones.

The second brainstorming workshop station—the enlarged site map in Figure 25—can be viewed in full size in Appendix B and concludes the in-person public engagement information that helped inform the subsequent design development portion of the charrette.

Community members used sticky notes with suggested features, improvements and alterations within the existing spatial context of the park. Participants began to imagine new or altered use for the spaces, highlighted the desire for improved vehicular flow and safety and showed support for or against some of the existing features. Multiple comments were made about the Recreation Complex, which does not fall within the scope of the park master plan, but highlights the importance of the space for the community and how it might be prioritized within the Municipality’s Recreation Master Plan (2022).

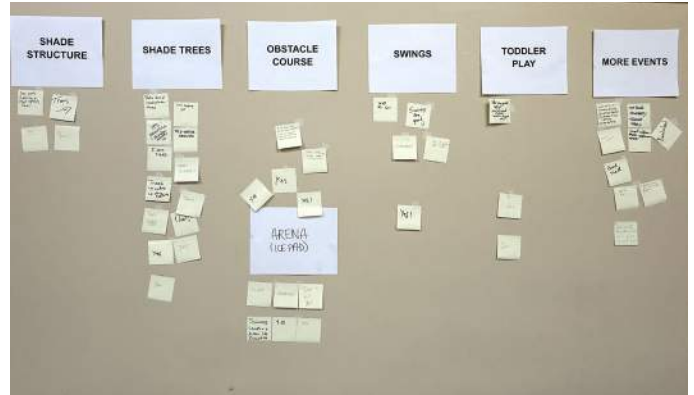


Figure 24: Community Suggestions with Charrette Participant Feedback



Figure 25: Charrette Participant Comments on Enlarged Site Map

## Park Concept Design Development

On Day Two of the charrette, multiple workstations were set up for community members to sketch their vision for the park, laying out an arrangement of existing or desired features. The kids in attendance submitted some great concept plans while the adults tended to keep to the sticky notes and open dialogue with each other and the GSP team.

With all of the engagement feedback under consideration, the GSP team began sketching multiple iterations of concept design and layout options, adding and removing various features to demonstrate the park's potential and stimulate more conversation.

### What we heard:

- Keep existing amenities until new ones are established elsewhere
- Arena, ice pad and hall space are valued by user groups
- Baseball facilities are valued by user groups
- Increase use behind rec. complex - showering is valued by user groups
- More green space & shaded areas
- Support for the idea of combined community space (library within expanded recreation complex) but did not believe to be realistic
- Support for the idea of amenities for everyone

Discussions with stakeholder groups who met with the team in the weeks preceding the charrette were also put into consideration when developing concept iterations. Feedback from these meetings were generally aligned with other community responses and were characterized by a tendency for more emphasis on function and park services and utilities.

As the community-informed design iterations were evaluated by charrette participants, a clearer vision for King Edward Park began to emerge. See page 22 for a 3D illustration of the refined community supported design that was presented to the public on the final day of the charrette.



Figure 26: Participants Making Comments on Park Concept Design Iterations (1)



Figure 27: Participants Making Comments on Park Concept Design Iterations (2)



Figure 28: Concept Sketching Work Stations

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The preliminary set of guiding principles put forward by the GSP team were established based on insight gained from the online survey submissions prior to the commencement of the charrette. After the opening presentation on Day One, public feedback helped clarify and expand upon these principles to determine the final version seen below. The design concept presented on Day Three was a direct reflection of these guiding principles in addition to the collective engagement input previously described.

### Community

Continue using King Edward Park as a place for community events, gathering and involvement

### Health & Wellness

Promote a range of recreational and passive programming which contribute to the well-being of park users

Consider users of all ages and needs, enhance or establish amenities for all user groups, protect King Edward Park as a park space

### Growth & Accessibility

Provide programming layouts which complements proposed uses while making each area comfortable to be within; uses should also connect people of all ages and abilities

### Connectivity & Comfort

### Cultural Heritage & History

Preserve what King Edward Park currently offers, add more amenities and ensure adequate maintenance for a variety of uses (theming, public art displays, or interactive discovery)

### A Downtown Destination

Explore opportunities to make King Edward Park a destination, with a range of programming including experiences not offered in other nearby community spaces

Plant more trees and gardens and maintain adequate greenspace (native species, pollinators, low maintenance)

### Nature & Environmental Contribution

Park enhancements offer flexibility, in use or scale, for day-to-day & annual events or changes in recreational trends

### Flexibility

## Community Supported Concept

A refined concept that best accommodated the general vision of the public at the time of this report was presented on Day Three of the charrette.

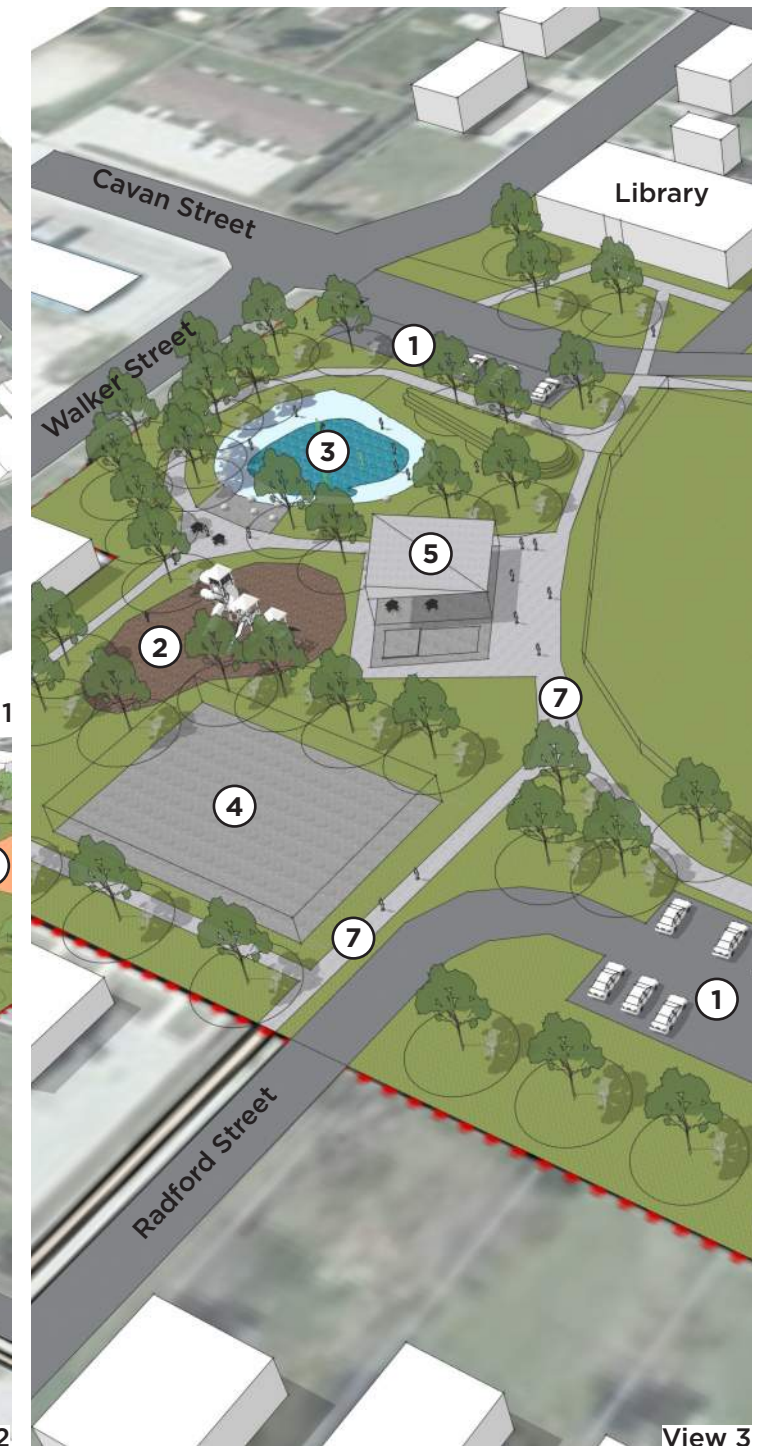
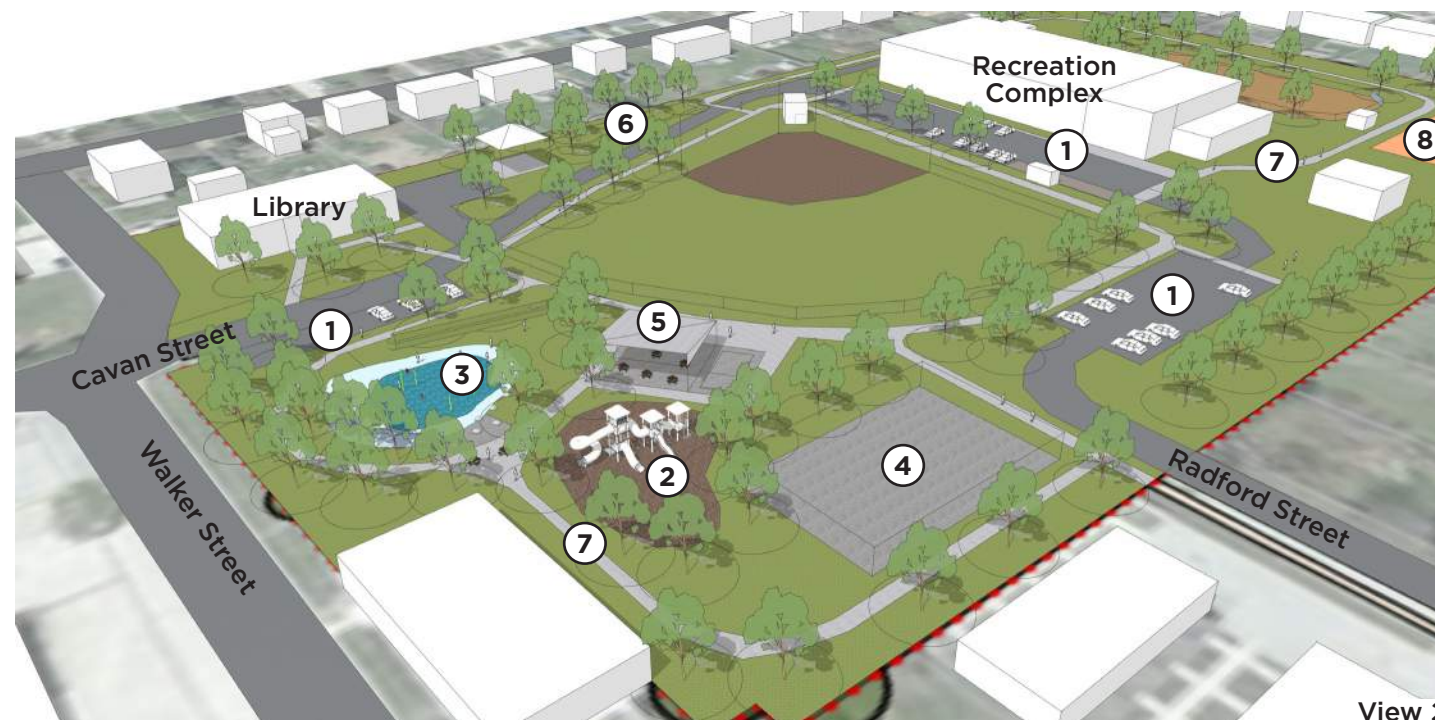
Major takeaways in developing the community supported concept:

- Organize Parking and Improve Pedestrian Safety
- Keep Existing Features
- Utilize Whole Park
- Incorporate Top Requested New Features:
  - Splash Pad
  - Improved Play Structure
  - Shade Structure/Gathering + Performance Space
  - Walking/Biking Path Throughout Park

The community supported concept is designed to make the most of available space within the existing park layout and amenities. Formalized parking through line-painting of parking stalls and reducing overflow parking in front of the library to maximize the function of that space is an early priority. Additionally, correcting the width of the two-way vehicular laneways and eliminating the connection adjacent to the outfield is a major factor of the early park redesign. By relocating the existing basketball court and constructing a new one, opportunities within that existing space include a new play structure, shade structure and the possibility of a splash pad while incorporating branches of a looped pedestrian pathway for nearby residents and other park visitors to enjoy.

The community supported concept plan is illustrated in a 3D rendered approximation. For clarity in this diagram, potential overflow parking and access to the existing shed southeast of the arena are not depicted.

Features, like the splash pad and playground, have been intentionally exaggerated in scale to demonstrate the maximum space that may be allocated to each.

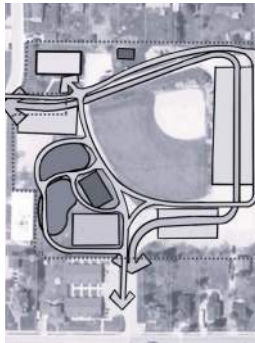
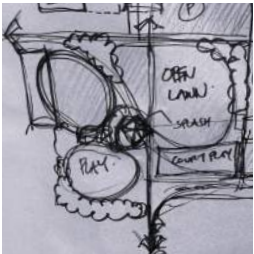


### LEGEND

- |              |                      |                       |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ① Parking    | ④ Fenced Court       | ⑦ Walking/Biking Path |
| ② Playground | ⑤ Pavilion & Seating | ⑧ Mixed-Use Courts    |
| ③ Splash Pad | ⑥ Rain Garden        |                       |

Figure 30: Community Supported Concept: 3D Model

# Design & Costing 3



# Community Design

## Purpose and Organization

The following section outlines how community feedback directly informed the design direction and project priorities for King Edward Park. As a central gathering place in Markdale, it was essential that local voices were prioritized in influencing and establishing a comprehensive vision for future improvements.

A series of community engagement activities including a survey, stakeholder meetings, and a design charrette were conducted to better understand how the park is currently used, what features are most valued and where opportunities for enhancement lie. The responses revealed a strong desire to maintain the park's existing qualities while introducing upgrades that increase functionality, accessibility and safety.

To help organize and prioritize this feedback, a series of project profiles have been developed. Each profile summarizes a proposed improvement or feature, referencing both the technical feasibility and community demand. These profiles serve as a flexible framework to guide future design decisions and ensure that each element aligns with community priorities and the overarching goals of the master plan.

By grounding the park's evolution in community input, the design process will be more responsive, inclusive and successful in meeting the long-term needs of Markdale's growing population.

## General Site Improvements

**Barrier Free Access/Access for All** has been prioritized in the community supported concept design. Enhancing accessibility for all ages and abilities is a top priority for the community, therefore, new additions to the park should always consider how accessibility can be achieved.

**Community Events** is a staple programming consideration. King Edward Park is currently home to numerous community events such as the Downtown Classic Cruise Night and Markdale Fall Fair, and there is ample support for this to continue and expand. The community supported concept design looks to enhance the existing space while ensuring adaptability for future functions and celebrations held within the park grounds.

**Furnishing, Accessories and Utilities** were popular requests made by the community. Providing various group and other seating elements is an important addition to a park space and can be implemented in phases throughout the design and construction process. Where possible, donation partnerships should be pursued.

Improvements in this category would also include the provision of waste receptacles, bicycle racks, appropriate signage and access to shade. Additionally, community members and stakeholder groups have consistently described the need for improved lighting within the park and enhanced access to utilities such as water and washroom facilities.

**Park Beautification** would be achieved through tree planting—which also eventually provides shade—enhancing or replacing existing features and the inclusion of public art. Other community suggestions, such as the consideration of the park's designed character, would be decided upon once the preferred design concept is progressed into actual design development.

## Community Supported Concept

An initial draft of costing and phasing based on the concept design presented to the public was shared with the Municipality. The plan was further scrutinized to maximize user benefits in the earliest phases, ensuring that priority work areas were compatible with both user enjoyment and strategic installation.

### Priority One Work Areas, 0-5 Years:

- Reducing vehicular circulation by eliminating the connection behind the outfield is a necessary first step in addressing many top priority improvements.
- Relocating the play structure and installing a rain garden or detention pond in its place (and associated drainage channel) will manage drainage issues in the northwestern part of the park and resolve the safety concerns of the proximity of moving vehicles and children's play. Baseball safety netting is to be installed in the outfield prior to the opening of the new play structure.
- The splash pad is installed with associated seating and tree planting. Change rooms and/or washrooms are not depicted on this plan but could be considered as a possible addition to the splash pad work area.
- The installation of the pavilion will provide access to shade for those using the play area and splash pad and invites recreation groups to move their activities outdoors. Performances and existing events can also make use of the shade structure and pad.
- Pedestrian pathway connections to the perimeter of the park and around proposed amenities begins at this time in addition to the planting of trees as an investment in environmental wellness, aesthetics and future shade.

Following the installation of the above features, the fenced court is to be relocated and formalized parking is to take shape in front of the library. The remaining space is to be re-sodded as an open greenspace for flexible use. More pedestrian pathways and tree planting is to coincide with this part of the construction process.



### LEGEND

- |              |                      |                    |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| ① Parking    | ④ Fenced Court       | ⑦ Multi-Use Path   |
| ② Greenspace | ⑤ Pavilion & Seating | ⑧ Drainage Channel |
| ③ Playground | ⑥ Rain Garden        | ⑨ Splash Pad       |

Figure 31: Community Supported Concept Plan: Priority One Projects

Development is still predominantly localized to the southern half of the park but the pedestrian path is expanded upon to make better use of the area behind the recreation complex. This completes the proposed amenities and enhancements of the initial priority items without removing existing features and impeding current uses of the park.

**Priority Two Work Areas, 5-10 Years:**

- Roads and parking lots are to be re-paved with formalized stalls to achieve organized parking and vehicular zones. Accessible stalls, access to the bulk water filling station and consideration for snow storage and waste removal is completed at this time as well as addressing related drainage issues.
- The pedestrian path completes the loop to engage the whole park.
- More tree planting along the pedestrian path and parking lots help buffer surrounding neighbours and enhance user experience.

The community supported concept plan is designed to include the greatest number of desirable features as revealed through the engagement process. Images on the following pages are conceptual to show intent, not detail design or themes, and elements are flexible for inclusion or exclusion. The various man-made and natural features are intended to serve the community's needs and interests while enhancing the park's appeal and function.



**LEGEND**

- |              |                      |                    |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| ① Parking    | ④ Fenced Court       | ⑦ Multi-Use Path   |
| ② Greenspace | ⑤ Pavilion & Seating | ⑧ Drainage Channel |
| ③ Playground | ⑥ Rain Garden        | ⑨ Splash Pad       |

Figure 32: Community Supported Concept Plan: Priority Two Projects

# Multi-Use Path

## Project Scope

- Vehicular Grade Asphalt Surfacing
- Connections at Park Entries/Exits and all Existing Amenities
- Connections for Future Amenities
- Lighting
- Sod Repairs
- Tree Planting
- Wayfinding and Informative Plaques

## Park Project Relationships

**Dependent Projects (D)** are best constructed at the same time. **Support Projects (S)** will support the function of the space but can be constructed at a later date without impact.

- All Other Proposed Features (**S**)
- Drainage Improvements (**D**)
- Organize and Enhance Roads & Parking (**D**)

## Programming Opportunities

- Interactive Discovery
- Recreation and Fitness Stations Along Route
- Winter Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing
- Pop-Up Markets
- Seasonal Events/Festivals (Downtown Classic Cruise Night, Markdale Fall Fair, etc.)

## Design Considerations

The multi-use path is to maintain a width of three metres where possible to ensure adequate emergency access, flexibility throughout the park during annual events and accommodate space for pedestrians, with or without mobility devices, and casual, non-motorized uses. Heavy grade asphalt paving is recommended for accessibility, ease of maintenance and occasional vehicular load.

Installation of the path as an early priority satisfies every guiding principle and appeases a large number of community suggestions by uniting the whole park, promoting health and wellness for users of all ages and abilities, supporting many existing and proposed programming opportunities and will establish a network for future amenities to find their place in their respective nodes.

Some community members further developed the path idea to include exercise equipment stations or “story book” plaques along the route. Seasonally, users may choose to snowshoe or cross country ski along the same route.



Figure 33: Cyclist on Multi-Use Asphalt Path

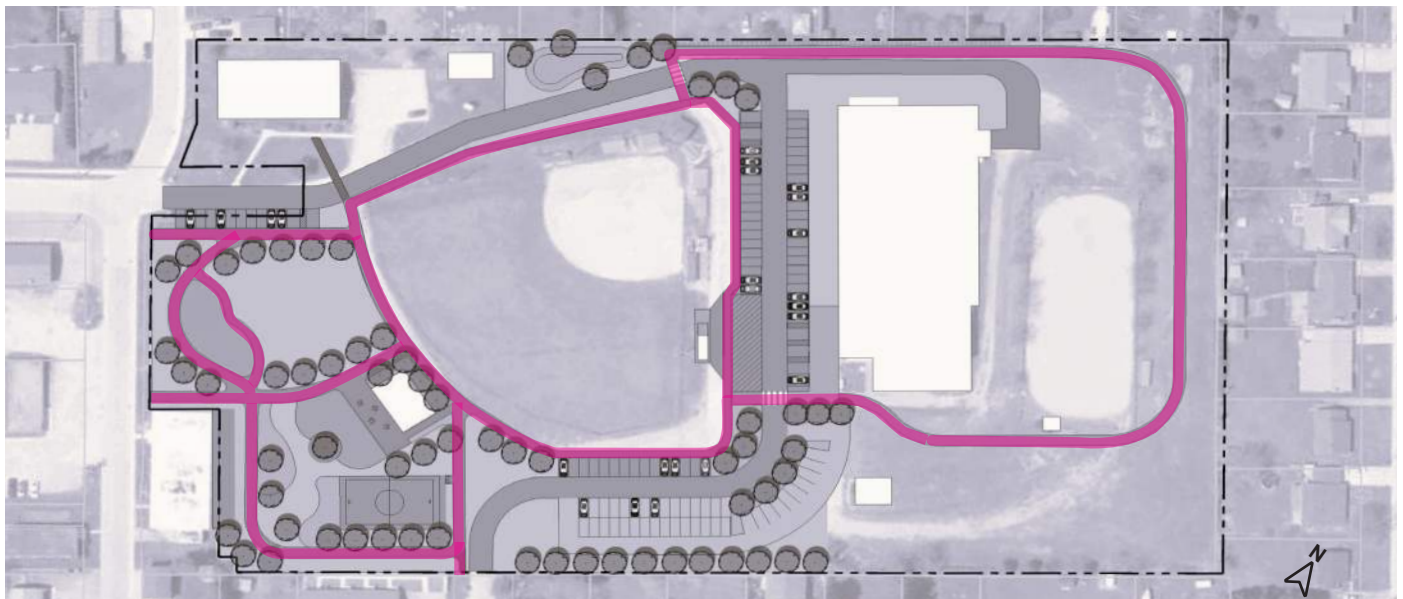


Figure 34: Master Plan Concept Design for Pedestrian Path  
King Edward Park Master Plan

# Playground and Rain Garden

## Project Scope

- Removal of Existing Playground
- Removal of Vehicular Connection At Outfield
- Pedestrian Path Connections
- Seating
- Tree Planting
- Access to Shade
- Play Structure and All Ages Play Features
- Barrier Free and Inclusive Design
- Drainage Channel and Rain Garden/Detention Pond

## Park Project Relationships

**Dependent Projects (D)** are best constructed at the same time. **Support Projects (S)** will support the function of the space but can be constructed at a later date without impact.

- Pavilion and Seating (**S**)
- Fenced Court (**S**)
- Splash Pad (**S**)
- Pedestrian Circulation & Drainage Improvements (**D**)
- Organize and Enhance Roads & Parking (**D**)
- Baseball Field Safety Enhancements (Netting) (**D**)

## Design Considerations

The lifespan of a play structure ranges from eight to twenty years depending on factors such as materiality, maintenance and weather. Given the age of the existing play structure in King Edward Park, it is appropriate to consider replacement. This also presents an opportunity for relocation to an area that provides greater accessibility and safety for its users. In place of the existing playground, a rain garden or detention pond shall be installed to manage necessary runoff fed by a drainage channel or pipe from behind the arena.

Considerations for an all-ages playground (including swings) that is universally designed for inclusivity and multi-generational play such as cornhole, bocce ball or other games should be made. To reduce costs while maximizing accessibility, a combination of rubber and engineered wood fiber surfacing is recommended for the play area. Tree planting and furnishings, such as benches, would coincide with the installation at the new location and access to shade should be strategically prioritized.



Figure 35: Combined Rubberized and Engineered Wood Fiber Play Area Surfacing

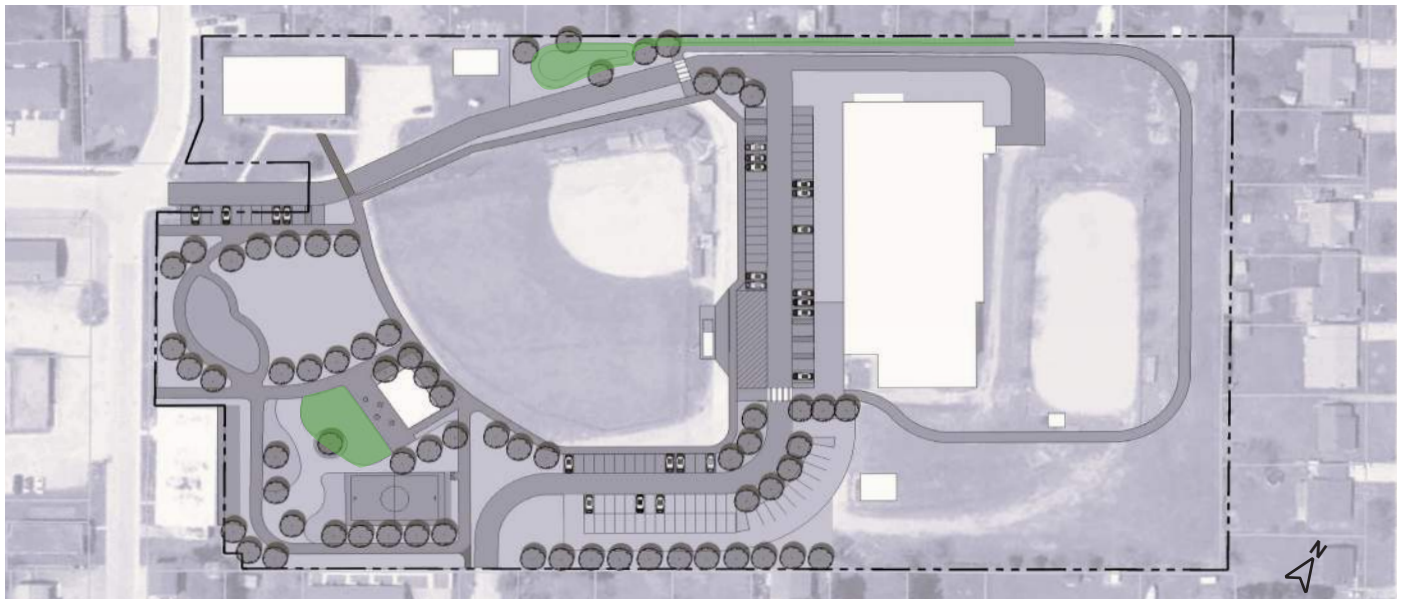


Figure 36: Master Plan Concept Design for Play Area, Rain Garden and Pedestrian Path Connection

# Pavilion and Seating

## Project Scope

- Concrete Pad
- Linear Shade Structure
- Portable Group Seating
- Electricity Hook Ups
- Lighting

## Park Project Relationships

**Dependent Projects (D)** are best constructed at the same time. **Support Projects (S)** will support the function of the space but can be constructed at a later date without impact.

- Pedestrian Circulation & Drainage Improvements (**D**)
- Organize and Enhance Roads and Parking (**D**)
- Baseball Field Safety Enhancements (Netting) (**D**)

## Programming Opportunities

- Recreation and Fitness
- Live Music and Performances
- Pop-Up Markets
- Seasonal Events/Festivals

## Design Considerations

A popular request through the online survey, residents of Markdale would enjoy an outdoor space for music and entertainment and group activities such as yoga and art groups.

The initial design suggests a dual-use shade structure/gathering space with portable seating elements to be relocated as needed during performances or events. The proximity of the structure to the proposed play area, fenced court and splash pad allows users to conveniently seek shade while using this part of the park. During performances, there is ample space surrounding the pavilion and throughout the amenities to set up lawn chairs or blankets.

Similar to the pavilion recently installed beside the library, support through donor partnerships or sponsorships should be pursued.



Figure 37: Custom Pavilion and Transportable Group Seating on Concrete Pad



Figure 38: Master Plan Concept Design for Pavilion + Group Seating and Pedestrian Path Connection

# Fenced Court

## Project Scope

- Removal of Old Court
- Paved Surfacing
- Chain Link Fencing + Gates
- Basketball Equipment and Line Painting
- Lighting
- Seating
- Tree Planting
- Access to Shade

## Park Project Relationships

**Dependent Projects (D)** are best constructed at the same time. **Support Projects (S)** will support the function of the space but can be constructed at a later date without impact.

- Playground (**S**)
- Pedestrian Circulation & Drainage Improvements (**D**)
- Organize and Enhance Roads & Parking (**D**)
- Baseball Field Safety Enhancements (Netting) (**D**)

## Design Considerations

The existing fenced basketball court is a valued component of King Edward Park with newly donated nets that should be considered for re-use along with other equipment that may be salvageable. The inclusion of lighting is a priority

for maximal use of the court and consideration should be made for durable surfacing materials and treatments.

The combination of activities with conflicting needs in a mixed-use court setting may result in suboptimal design and less enjoyable experiences for users. Basketball is an existing feature that successfully supports the patronage of older kids and youth in King Edward Park. Future reassessment of the additional courts, currently designated as mixed-use courts, planned in part 2 of the community supported design can address the uses and relevant needs of park users at that time.



Figure 39: Fenced Basketball Courts with Light Posts

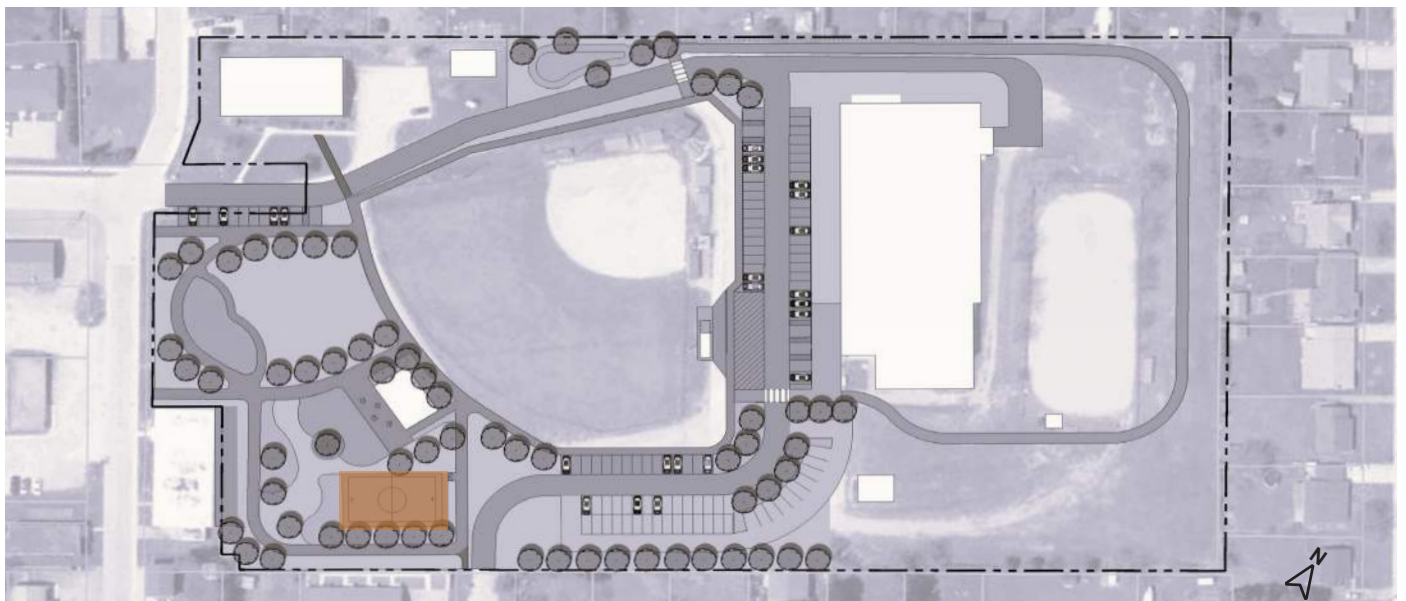


Figure 40: Master Plan Concept Design for Fenced Court and Pedestrian Path Connection  
King Edward Park Master Plan

# Splash Pad

## Project Scope

- Utilities Upgrades and New Connections (cost varies based on splash pad location)
- Mechanical Room
- Changing Room and/or Washrooms
- Splash Pad Features and Surfacing
- Lighting
- Seating
- Tree Planting and Access to Shade

## Park Project Relationships

**Dependent Projects (D)** are best constructed at the same time. **Support Projects (S)** will support the function of the space but can be constructed at a later date without impact.

- Pavilion and Seating (**S**)
- Playground (**S**)
- Fenced Court (**S**)
- Pedestrian Circulation & Drainage Improvements (**D**)
- Organize and Enhance Roads & Parking (**S**)
- Baseball Field Safety Enhancements (Netting) (**D**)

## Design Considerations

Residents of Markdale face a 40 to 50 kilometre drive to access the nearest splash pad in surrounding communities. With the growing heat of Ontario summers and strong public support,

water play in the form of a splash pad would be a significant asset to a central community park that would service the larger area. A proposal outlining a design and initial financial requirements has been underway since 2019 and is expected to be utilized if a splash pad is to be pursued. There would be opportunity for the public to vote on some features within the all-ages design. In addition to successful fundraising, the project has obtained the support of local trades to lower the cost of installation. Maintenance and health risks make recirculation of water an impractical choice for King Edward Park, therefore, in an effort to help offset environmental impacts, a grey water tank should be considered for access by the municipality and horticultural society for watering needs in the park and downtown area. Costs associated with connection to stormwater infrastructure vary greatly respective to installation location within the park.

More consideration for grants, on-going fundraising and support of long-term financial demands to run and maintain a splash pad must be made. Annual operating costs are estimated to fall between \$15,000-50,000.



Figure 41: Public Splash Pad

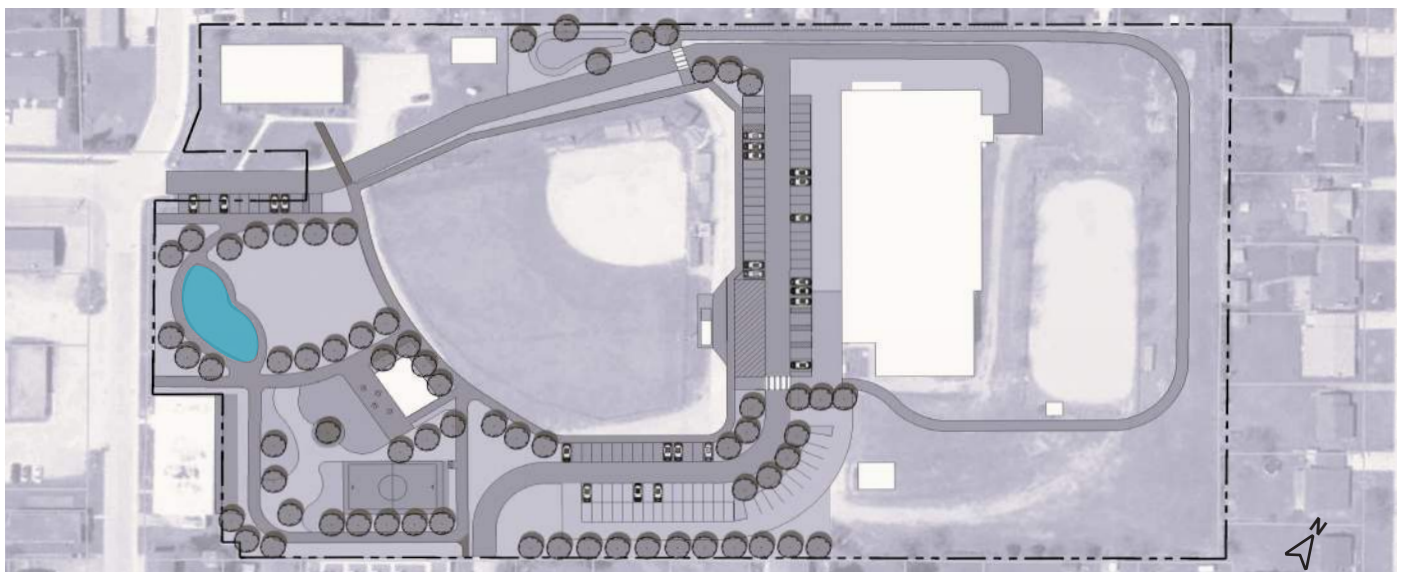


Figure 42: Master Plan Concept Design for Splash Pad and Pedestrian Path Connection

### Long Term Concept Plan

As Markdale and the Municipality of Grey Highlands continues to grow, the long-term future vision for King Edward Park according to community desires and values at the time of writing this master plan is as follows:

- Baseball Field is Established Elsewhere in Markdale
- Performance Space is Formalized
- Area Behind Recreation Complex is Programmed for Greater Utilization
- Addition of Amenity for Older Kids & Youth

This vision allows for existing features such as the bulk water fill station and library pavilion to remain. Space is flexible for use by remaining stakeholder and user groups including the annual Fall Fair. Efforts would be made to accommodate both neighbourhood dogs and larger animals (cows, horses) within the proposed enclosure and pedestrian paths are to be wide enough to allow trailer access to all parts of the park. The concept plan also supports detail design considerations that arose during the public engagement such as opportunities for seating, shade and buffering neighbouring yards.



#### LEGEND

- |              |                      |                    |                     |                       |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ① Parking    | ④ Fenced Court       | ⑦ Multi-Use Path   | ⑩ Skate Park        | ⑬ Dog Enclosure       |
| ② Greenspace | ⑤ Pavilion & Seating | ⑧ Drainage Channel | ⑪ Performance Stage | ⑭ Shared Storage Shed |
| ③ Playground | ⑥ Rain Garden        | ⑨ Splash Pad       | ⑫ Community Garden  | ⑮ Mixed-Use Courts    |

Figure 43: Community Supported Concept Plan: Long Term Vision

# Future Features

## Mixed-Use Courts

At the time of writing this report, the interest and demand for pickleball courts is very high. A paved pad with sports-conscious surfacing can serve a variety of uses including net sports like pickleball, tennis and volleyball and support outdoor fitness activities such as an off-season training ground for hockey players. The proposed location for the courts requires additional tree planting as a vegetated buffer and considerations for shade and seating. The new shared storage shed should coincide with the installation of the courts and appropriate electrical and lighting services installed for both.



Figure 44: Outdoor Pickleball Courts

## Skate Park

A skate park and/or pump track is a favourable addition for attracting and engaging more youth in the park. The extent and complexity of the feature can be variable but depends on the relocation of the baseball diamond. Shade and seating should accompany the installation with a consideration for lighting to ensure adequate use during seasons with limited daylight hours.

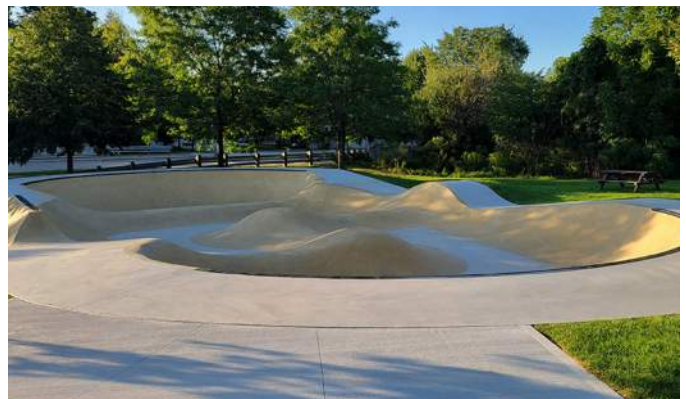


Figure 45: Skate Park and Partial Pump Track

## Performance Stage

A formal performance area and stage fulfils numerous guiding principles, such as Community, A Downtown Destination, Connectivity & Comfort, and more. Opportunities for concerts, performances, festivals and events like outdoor movie nights, craft shows, fundraising and beyond become an obvious programming feature within the park. It is presumed that the baseball diamond has found a new home in Markdale to allow for the demolition of the existing facilities and replacement with the stage and open lawn/greenspace. Associated investments include electricity hook ups and appropriate lighting.



Figure 46: Covered, Raised Stage with Lighting

## Community Garden

With proposed development of higher density living, access to fertile garden space may be limited. Offering community garden plots with the relevant facilities, such as a storage shed and water access, supports many programming opportunities. Gardening and food preservation workshops, youth mentorship and community food sharing programs, farmers market collaboration and environmental stewardship efforts are but a few of these potential community-forward endeavours.



Figure 47: Community Garden with Raised Plots

## Dog Enclosure

The inclusion of an enclosed dog park enhances owner responsibility, increases park usership, contributes to community building and encourages health and wellness (for people, too!). The existing fence around the showring can be retrofitted to securely manage dogs and the sand is to be resurfaced with sod for more flexible use. The large gates should remain for access during agricultural events, which was said to be compatible with their limited needs.



Figure 48: Sodded Dog Enclosure with Rail and Post Fencing

## A Note for the Future

It is intended that future park improvements reconsider the needs and wants of the community and should seek to engage the public to evaluate whether the proposed features in this master plan are still applicable.

The flexibility of the current community supported design allows features to be adapted to future trends and compatibility of current park uses.

# Phasing Strategy

## Introduction

The community supported concept for King Edward Park proposes a wide range of improvements to both existing features and site servicing while also introducing new amenities that will transform the park into a vibrant, multi-functional community destination at the heart of Markdale. The design reflects a strong response to community feedback, prioritizing inclusivity, accessibility and flexible space for recreation, events and everyday use.

This Master Plan report will serve as a blueprint for implementation, guiding the Municipality in planning and executing future park improvements. It is understood that not all enhancements will be completed simultaneously; rather, the plan recommends a phased approach, allowing the Municipality to strategically focus on the most desired, feasible, and impactful projects first. Over time, this approach will ensure the park continues to evolve in alignment with community needs and long-term growth in Markdale.

## Phase 1 - Priority Improvement Projects (0 – 5 Years)

The Phase 1 priority improvement projects focus on addressing current safety, accessibility and functional concerns within the park. These priorities were informed by the community consultation process, existing park conditions and the overarching goals of the master plan. The full community supported concept design can be found on page 32 and the work areas for Phase One are illustrated on page 25.

### Phase 1 Priority Improvements include:

- New playground;
- A pavilion for community gatherings;
- Installation of a splash pad;
- Multi-use path improvements;
- Safety enhancements across key areas;
- A dedicated basketball court;
- Vehicular improvements for parking and

circulation;

- Park beautification through landscaping and amenities; and
- Critical drainage improvements.
- General Enhancements (furnishings, tree planting, etc.)

These improvements aim to resolve ongoing drainage and accessibility issues, introduce new recreational features and enhance the park's overall usability and appearance, ensuring it remains safe and welcoming for all users.

## Phase 2 - Priority Improvement Projects (0 – 10 Years)

Phase 2 improvements are designed to complement and build on Phase 1 with minimal disruption to ongoing park use. These projects may be implemented concurrently with or immediately following Phase 1, depending on available funding and municipal priorities.

### Phase 2 Priority Improvements Include:

- Continued expansion of the multi-use path network;
- Additional park beautification features; and
- Further vehicular access and parking improvements.

While each component of Phase 2 is planned to function independently, opportunities may arise to combine projects if funding allows, optimizing efficiency and reducing duplication of work.

# Phasing Strategy

## Phase 3 - Future Improvement Projects (10 - 20 Years)

Phase 3 improvements are long-term initiatives that depend on the relocation of the existing showing and baseball diamond to alternate locations within Markdale. These future projects aim to reimagine the park's available space and expand its offerings to meet the evolving needs of the growing community.

### Phase 3 Future Improvements include:

- A skatepark for youth and active recreation;
- An open-air performance area for events;
- Mixed-use sport courts for flexible programming;
- A fenced dog run;
- A community garden; and
- Ongoing park beautification.

The implementation of Phase 3 elements should be community-driven, with future decisions guided by resident feedback and emerging recreational needs.

## Preliminary Budget Planning

Preliminary budget estimates have been prepared for each phase of the preferred concept design. These cost estimates are intended for high-level planning purposes only and reflect the information available at the time of this report. Detailed costings should be developed during future detailed design and engineering phases, where more accurate pricing will be possible.

It is also important for the Municipality to consider the ongoing operational impacts of park expansion and new amenities. Additional facilities and programming will result in increased staffing, maintenance and operational costs, which should be incorporated into the Municipality's annual budgets and long-term financial planning.

# Costing

## Phase 1 - Priority Improvements Projects

### Costing

Part 1 – Barrier-Free Multi-Use Path Network	\$	184,000
Part 2 – Playground	\$	250,000
Part 3 – Pavilion	\$	180,000
Part 4 – Splash Pad	\$	320,000
Part 5 – Drainage and Beautification	\$	64,000
Part 6 – Basketball Court	\$	80,000
Part 7 – Vehicular Circulation Improvements	\$	20,000
Part 8 – General Enhancements	\$	57,000
Subtotal	\$	1,155,000
20% Contingency	\$	231,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,386,000</b>

## Phase 2 - Priority Improvements Projects

### Costing

Part 1 – Barrier-Free Multi-Use Path Network	\$	205,000
Part 2 – Vehicular Circulation	\$	422,000
Part 3 – Beautification	\$	31,000
Part 4 – General Enhancements	\$	150,000
Subtotal	\$	808,000
20% Contingency	\$	161,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>969,600</b>

# Costing

## Phase 3 - Future Improvements Projects

### Costing

Part 1 - Central Greenspace and Stage	\$	188,000
Part 2 - Skatepark	\$	150,000
Part 3 - Multi-Use Court + Storage	\$	325,000
Part 4 - Dog Run	\$	50,000
Part 5 - Community Garden	\$	37,000
Part 6 - Beautification	\$	75,000
Part 7 - General Enhancements	\$	40,000
Subtotal	\$	865,000
20% Contingency	\$	173,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,038,000</b>

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**King Edward Park Master Plan Grand Total**      **\$ 3,393,600**

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# Funding Opportunities

## Introduction

Implementing the phased improvements outlined earlier in this section will require a strategic and diversified funding approach. While park operating costs would need to form part of the operating budget funded by the tax base, there are a variety of potential funding sources available to municipalities, allowing them to balance fiscal responsibility with meaningful investment in public spaces. The following are several methods the Municipality can use to acquire funding to serve the development of King Edward Park:

**Government Grant Funding** – Available through both provincial and federal programs. Grants from organizations such as the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE), and Infrastructure and Communities Canada are well-suited for recreation infrastructure, community revitalization, and accessibility improvements. These funding programs can help offset capital costs while supporting long-term municipal goals related to health, sustainability and inclusiveness.

**Developer Contributions** – A key funding tool through mechanisms such as development charges, parkland dedications (or cash-in-lieu) and community benefits charges, the Municipality can ensure that new developments contribute fairly to the enhancement of local parks and recreational facilities. Those funds are especially valuable for supporting infrastructure that serves current and future residents.

**Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)** – Collaborating with local businesses, service clubs and community organizations can bring additional financial resources, in-kind support or sponsorship opportunities for specific park elements, such as naming rights for playgrounds, pavilions or furnishings. These partnerships can also enhance community ownership and stewardship of the park.

**Community Initiatives** – The Municipality may consider launching community fundraising initiatives, applying for corporate sponsorships and philanthropic grants from foundations or local employers. These local efforts can help build community pride and directly involve residents in the park’s transformation.

## Conclusion

By combining these various funding strategies—grants, developer contributions, partnerships, sponsorships and funding—the Municipality can create a flexible and sustainable funding model. This will ensure the successful implementation of the King Edward Park Master Plan while minimizing the financial burden on municipal budgets.

# APPENDIX

# APPENDIX A - SURVEY RESULTS

## Survey Question Summaries

Responses to Questions 1 through 3 are displayed as bar graphs, illustrating the number of mentions per category. Question 4 provides a breakdown of the specific suggestions that informed each category, offering a closer look at the language and ideas shared by the community. Question 5 is represented through a visual wheel that highlights community sentiments by category, while newly introduced ideas from Question 6 are showcased in a word cloud.

The following graphics collectively demonstrate the trending talking points from the community when asked about King Edward Park.

### 1. How do you currently use the park?

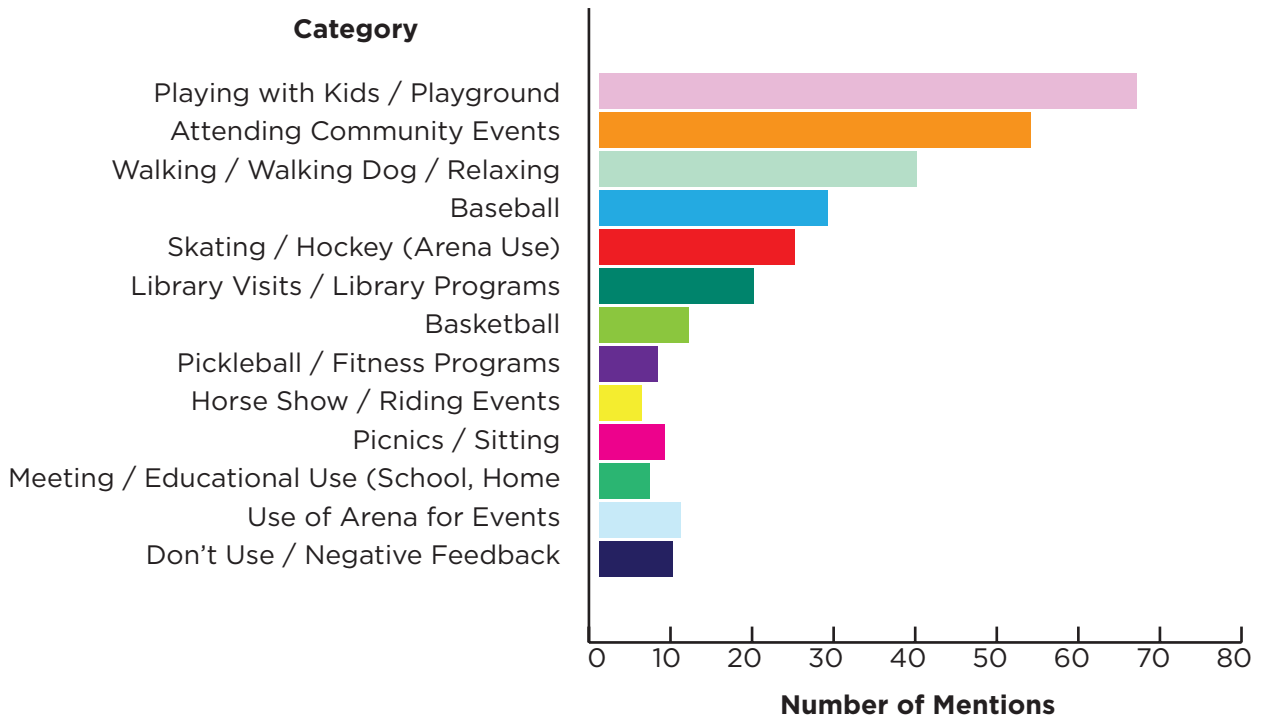


Figure 49: Online Survey Results: Bar Graph, Question 1

## 2. What do you like most about the park?

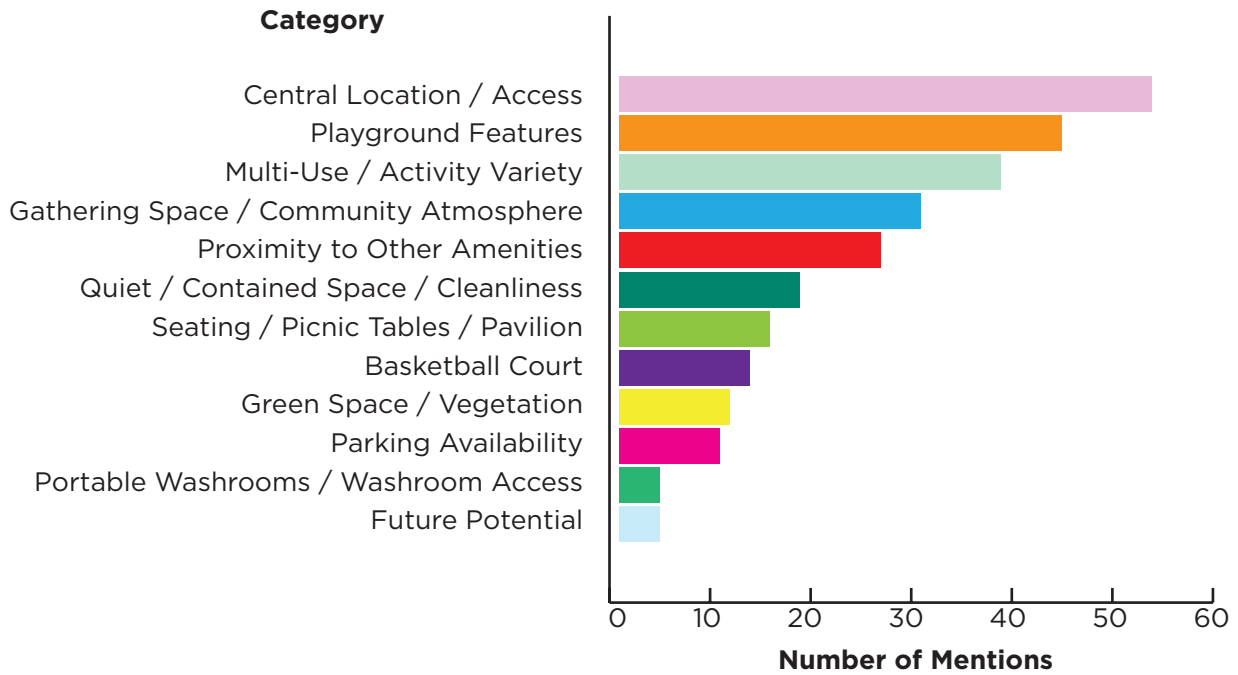


Figure 50: Online Survey Results: Bar Graph, Question 2

## 3. What do you dislike or think could be improved in the park?

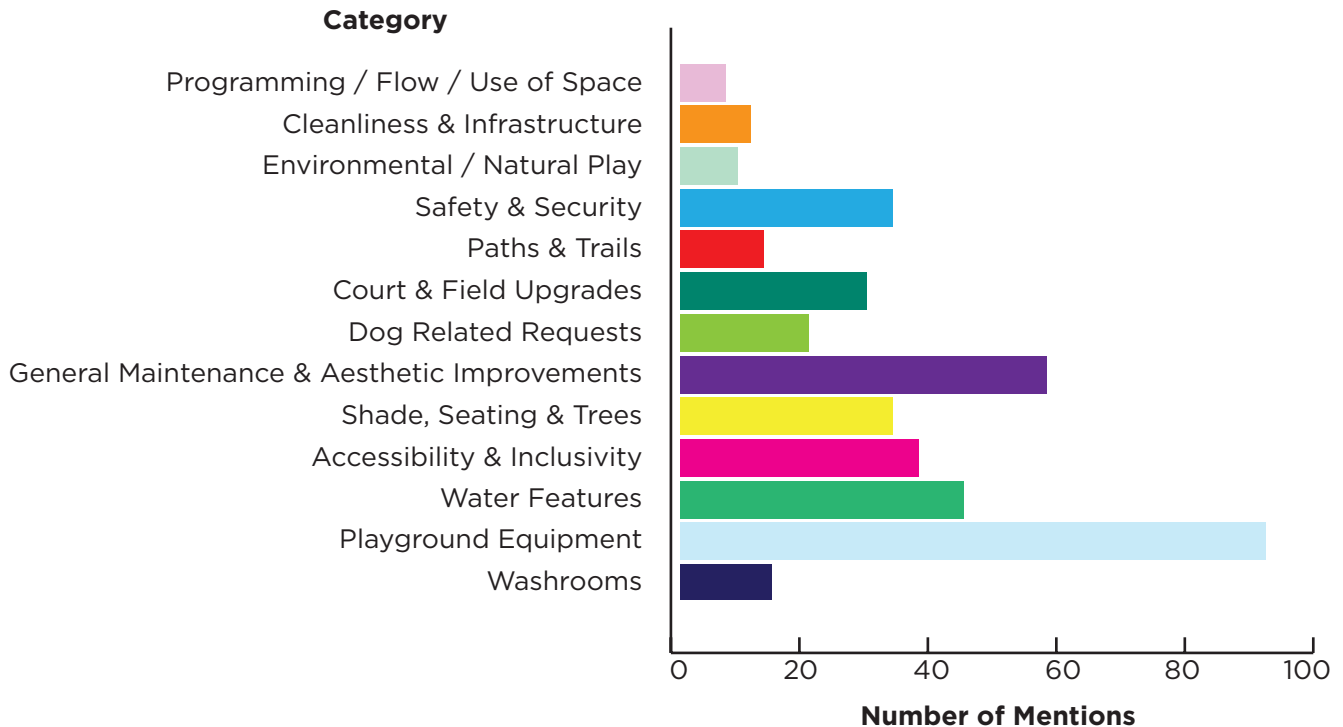


Figure 51: Online Survey Results: Bar Graph, Question 3

#### 4. What is your vision for the park in the future?

Upon the closing of the online survey on May 20, the single most requested community suggestion was a splash pad with 45 participants. The top 5 suggestions are shown in Figure 53:

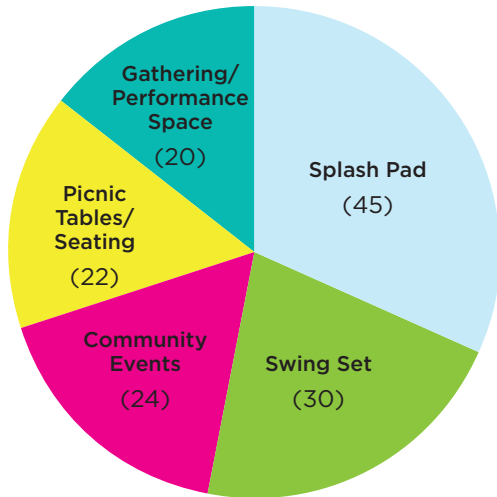


Figure 52: Online Survey Results: Pie Chart, Top 5 Community Suggestions

The following groups were developed based on the 468 community suggestions received, with each point categorized accordingly. The community showed the strongest support for general park improvements, followed by enhancements to children’s play areas and recreation opportunities. The most frequently mentioned suggestions within these top three categories were seating and picnic tables (general park improvements), an all-ages swing set (kids play), and a walking/bike path (recreation).

**Community Events:** gathering/performance space/pavilion, community events, fall fair, farmer’s and other markets

**Recreation:** basketball, batting cage, beach volleyball, multi-use court, outdoor exercise equipment/outdoor warm up area, outdoor pad/rink, pickleball/tennis, public skating, showring, skateboarding/BMX, softball/baseball, soccer, sports, walking/bike path, zipline

**General Improvements:** accessibility/inclusivity, change name of park, concession stand, crime prevention (CPTED), provide doggy bags, flow/circulation, waste receptacles, garage/storage, lighting around baseball/basketball, organized/enough parking, perimeter fencing, portable and non portable washrooms, safety, seating & picnic tables, shade, sight lines, signage, slow traffic through park, use space behind arena

**Kids Play:** climbing play, natural playscape, change surfacing/remove wood chips, obstacle course, older

kids play, painted lines play (hopscotch, four-square), paved toddler bike area, sand/water play, sensory play, swing set, toddler play, upgrade play structure, more/enhanced kids play

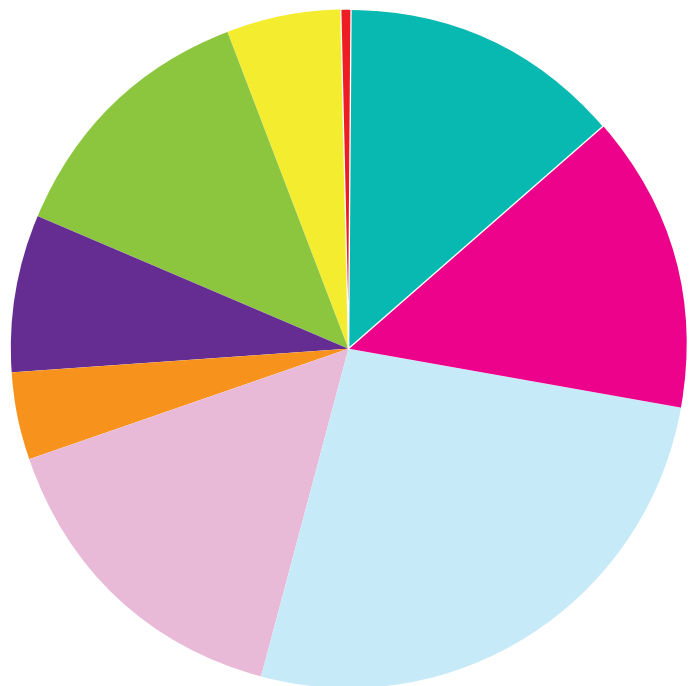
**Upgrade Existing Facilities:** arena/hall upgrades, hire program manager, keep indoor ice rink, move baseball fields out of park, multi-use rec complex, remove arena, remove baseball, upgrade existing amenities

**Nature & Beautification:** beautification, buffer yards, community garden, natural appearance/gardens, public art mural, tree planting, water feature

**Water Amenity:** splash pad, pool, waterplay

**Other Features/Amenities:** firepits, food trucks/ice cream, greenspace/open space, informative plaques along walking path, walking dogs/dog enclosure

**Do Nothing:** maintenance concerns



- Community Events - 13.68% or 64 Participants
- Recreation - 14.32% or 67 Participants
- General Improvements - 26.28% or 123 Participants
- Kids Play - 15.6% or 73 Participants
- Upgrade Existing Facilities - 4.27% or 20 Participants
- Nature & Beautification - 7.26% or 34 Participants
- Water Amenity - 12.82% or 60 Participants
- Other Features/Amenities - 5.56% or 26 Participants
- Do Nothing - 0.21% or 1 Participant

Figure 53: Online Survey Results: Pie Chart, Question 4

5. How do you see the park serving as a community hub?



Figure 54: Online Survey Results: Visual Data Wheel, Question 5

6. Do you have any other comments, ideas or suggestions you'd like to share?



Figure 55: Online Survey Results: Word Cloud, Question 6

## APPENDIX B - STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

### Stakeholder Meetings Overview

#### South East Grey Community Health Centre

- Organized recreational and fitness groups most often meet inside the recreation complex. Groups would move outdoors—into the park—more if large, shaded space was available (like a pavilion for yoga or a tree-lined accessible path with benches for walking groups)
- Highlighted other interest groups who utilize the park and rec. complex for organized fitness and wellness programs such as The Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) and the Recreation Committee
- Supports vehicular safety enhancements and upgrades to rec. complex and ball diamond
- Made note of the benefit of having the play space, shade pavilion and ball diamond in close proximity for families participating in baseball games
- Reports that the park is used at all times of the day from lunch breaks in the parking lot to playing cricket in the ball diamond including other various activities in the greenspace

#### Splash Pad Committee

- Committee formed and has undertaken efforts to reach an agreement with the Municipality regarding the installation of a splash pad in King Edward Park since 2019
- Considered multiple locations in park with drainage and access to utilities the major deciding factors
- Successful fundraising and on-going efforts to obtain grants illustrates community dedication and support for this project
- Has presented to council 3 times since 2019; splash pad design and costing obtained through ABC Recreation in 2024; council raised concerns with operating costs
- In an estimate from April 2024, securing the help of local trades lowered installation costs by almost \$40,000
- Idea has evolved to consider more than just splash pad including a community garden, seating, paths, outdoor games (library

partnership to rent equipment), all-ages programming considerations, and more

- General comments made about current accessibility, overall aesthetics, how the park functions when not being used as a fair ground and the hope for future generations to continue to use and enjoy the space

#### Agricultural Society

- Shared insights on the history of King Edward Park:
  - The land was donated to the Village of Markdale (as it was known prior to the amalgamation with other townships to become Grey Highlands in 2001) by a member of the agricultural society with the expectation of continued use for agricultural and fall fair purposes
  - Fall Fair has been held in Markdale since 1858 and is considered a culturally significant event
  - Historic (centennial) gates at Radford St. have been lost, historic (pioneers of Markdale) gates at Cavan St. still stand, there is interest in restoring both sets of gates
  - Remnants of a former heavy horse pull near Radford Street and horse racetrack around the rec. complex and ball diamond visible through aerial imagery; location selections of existing buildings and features evidently fit within or outside of horse track
- Society has supported the addition of various enhancements to park including the Adam Hill building (garage adjacent to rec. complex) and the announcers booth and bleachers at showring. Efforts have been supported via fundraising, such as chicken sales out of the Adam Hill building, and grants through Farm Credit Canada (FCC)
- Necessary to maintain large vehicular access throughout park (trailer sized)
- Would benefit from improved and additional utility hook ups throughout park including water and electricity and the installation of perimeter fencing around entirety of park
- Mentioned the loss of trees in a tornado in 2012, community intended to replant but has yet to happen

## APPENDIX B - STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

### Grey County Riders

- Sand showring was put in by the club around 40 years ago, the club maintains it and is financially responsible; arranges dust management after concerns raised by neighbours
- Horse show is growing in recent years, requires ample space for trailer parking in north part of park (often dictated by access to shade for horses)
- Showring is used in the warmer months—between May and October—with busiest time being June–September (used at least once per month); neighbours and park visitors often spectate
- Ideally would like bleachers moved to northeast side of ring to avoid conflicts with spectators and animal traffic using southeastern gates (two-way flow; discontinued use of gates at north due to difficulties with flow of traffic)
- Access to storage is main concern; former shed was removed leaving group without storage, open to sharing space; announcers booth is an ideal option for sharing (potentially with expansion for more storage)
- Current electrical hook ups in greenspace behind garage (Adam Hill building) means running an extension cord; hazardous to horses
- Would benefit from additional electrical hook ups, waste receptacles, access to water and washroom facilities
- Fence is due for restoration; in original condition since installation in 1980s
- Values access to space and hopes for continued use, makes do with existing facilities

### Grey Highlands Public Library - Walter Harris Memorial Branch

- Building was constructed by local volunteers in 2000-01; has outgrown available space and would ideally like to double its size; intention is to keep location within park; hope is to construct an addition to existing building (feasibly, addition would extend into parking lot north of the building)
- Has logical partners for building expansion such as the recreation committee, also

suggests centralizing library and municipality needs

- Supports stakeholder agreements and partnerships for park improvements rather than solo efforts
- Existing parking lot overflows into gravel lot by basketball court, no formal accessible parking outlined, concerns about future parking availability as many users are not within walking distance
- Pavilion was funded through grants in recent years and installed in 2024
- Library coordinates events within park including an outdoor movie night within the ball diamond
- Library board member's son was instrumental in the conversion of the basketball court during his youth; stories like this are common within King Edward Park

### Markdale Recreation Committee (MRC)

- Involved with numerous other stakeholder groups in programming and events within the park including fundraising efforts; ex. fundraising for replacement of basketball nets and other upgrades, replacing the score board inside the arena, new snack booth behind home plate, and more.
- Utilizes almost entire park and inside rec. complex and coordinates year round activities such as the outdoor ice rink, Day of Play, Boo-Bash, annual yard sale, and so on with an emphasis on free community events
- Would like to see lighting for basketball court, looking into options for upgrading lighting at baseball
- Would like shaded viewing areas for baseball; reports that those living in retirement homes off Radford Street are known to watch games from their patio; should maintain sight lines
- Would like to see better support for outdoor wellness for seniors and those facing accessibility challenges within the park
- Has known support for bringing back a skate park and/or pump track, adding volleyball nets, organizing dance and yoga groups
- Values basketball court for older kids/youth

## APPENDIX B - STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

### Minor Softball

- Responsible for ongoing improvements to baseball facilities over the years: recently shingled dugouts, filled and leveled infield, leveled and reseeded/aerated outfield (still slopes left to right), larger fences on sides, new netting
- Interested in installing LED lighting/adding more outfield lighting
- Original snack booth removed a few years ago, new one to be installed for fundraising purposes this summer (2025) behind home plate; would ideally have electricity and water/sewage; planning on daylighting existing hook ups to understand options
- Former washrooms attached to dugouts were decommissioned due to vandalism and upkeep; now used as storage
- Dugouts are old and small, replacement is ideal
- Needs enhanced safety (netting); always on the look out for foul balls or home runs entering pedestrian zones
- Drainage issues affects field from parking lot by rec. complex
- Would benefit from addition of batting cage and shaded viewing areas
- Used 6 nights a week in peak season; would like a space to hold tournaments but happy with access to the one diamond in the park
- Suggested signage throughout park for vehicular flow/speed, water refill access, dog etiquette, etc.
- Trouble with lack of organized parking (+ occasionally snow storage) when back-to-back games and parking at its highest density
- Lack of accessible storage is a challenge
- Made note of parking lot drainage issues and lack of basketball court lighting as general park assessments

### Shooting Stars Hockey

- Girls' hockey league in operation for 25 years, highs and lows in registration but hoping for expansion as Markdale grows; need more awareness and suggests signage outside of park alerting passers-by of facilities and user groups available within
- Uses parking lot for warm up, weather permitting, and would benefit from a designated outdoor fitness area; would consider using for spring training if available

# APPENDIX C - CHARRETTE SUMMARY

## Community Suggestions - Charrette Comment Wall Summary

Community Suggestions	Community Comments	Example Images
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Water Play</li> <li>•Water Feature</li> <li>•Splash Pad</li> </ul>	<p>Fountain Art (/in Splash Pad)                      All-Ages Splash Pad                      Water Play                      “Mucky Duck” (Sand + Water)</p>	 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Shade Trees</li> <li>•Community Garden</li> </ul>	<p>Parks Need Trees                      Native Species                      Games in Gardens                      Shade in Gardens                      Volunteer in Garden                      Flower + Vegetable Gardens                      Sell at Farmer’s Market</p>	 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•More Seating</li> <li>•Increased Accessibility</li> <li>•Shade Structure</li> </ul>	<p>Tiered Landscape Seating                      Shaded Seating                      Group Seating                      More Places to Sit                      Government Grants                      Shade Trees                      Structure Near Splash Pad</p>	 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Swings</li> <li>•Toddler Play</li> <li>•Obstacle Course</li> <li>•Sand Play</li> </ul>	<p>Painted Line Games                      All Ages Swings                      Sand + Water Play                      Toddler Playground Equipment                      Obstacle Course with Jumps                      Obstacle Course on Path                      No Obstacles on Walking Path</p>	 

**Community Suggestions**

**Community Comments**

**Example Images**

- Dog Run
- Equestrian

Fenced Dog Run  
Multi-Use Fenced Area  
Dog Obstacle Course  
Dog Waste Disposal  
Protect Showring  
Modify Showring for Multi-Use




Figure 64: Wood Fence with Wire for Multi-Use




Figure 65: Dog Waste Signage and Baggies

- Ice Pad
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Skateboard

Attract Youth/Adolescents  
Keep Ice Pad in Arena  
Fitness Equipment Along Walking Path  
All Seasons Walking Path  
Storybook Trail  
Move & Keep Ball Diamond  
Beach Volleyball & Questioned Popularity  
Mixed-Use Basket/Pickleball  
All Ages for All Recreation




Figure 66: Outdoor Fitness




Figure 67: Basketball Court




Figure 68: Cross Country Skiing on Park Path




Figure 69: Paved Multi-Use Path

- More Events
- Other

Outdoor Performance Space  
Seasonal Fairs  
Festivals  
Portable Sheds  
Electrical Hookups  
Separate Event Space from Baseball  
History-Themed Murals  
Golf Frisbee  
Move Arena Out of Park



Figure 70: Covered Performance Area + Public Art Installation



Figure 71: Portable Event Booth

**King Edward Park Site Map - Charrette Comment Wall Summary**

Participants used sticky notes with suggested features, improvements and alterations within the existing spatial context of the park. Community members began to imagine new or altered use for the spaces, highlighted the desire for improved vehicular flow and safety and showed support for or against some of the existing features. Multiple comments were made about the Recreation Complex, which does not fall within the scope of the park master plan, but highlights the importance of the space for the community and how it might be prioritized within the Municipality's Recreation Master Plan (2022).

**Summary of Comments:**

- Parking/Vehicular: 3
- Recreation: 6
- Outdoor Gathering/Event: 4
- Play (Adults and Kids): 4
- Splash Pad/Water Play: 1
- Improvements/Use of Space: 3
- Equestrian: 1
- Recreation Complex: 5



Figure 72: Public comments and future vision on existing park layout

## Park Concept Design Development

Day Two of the charrette invited members of the public to participate in their own layout sketches of the park. Kids contributed almost entirely, with one concept sketch submitted by an adult community member.

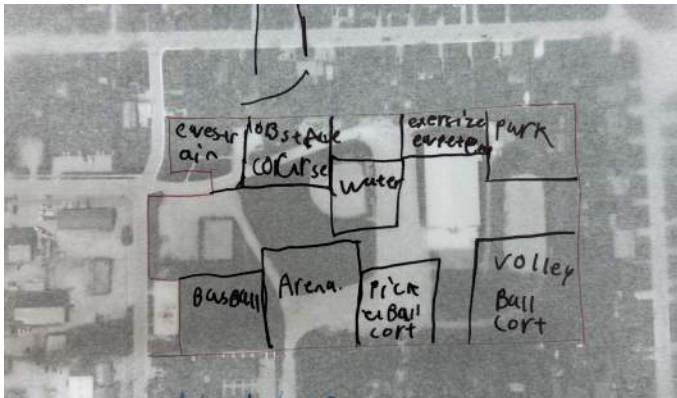


Figure 73: Kids' Concept Plan (1)

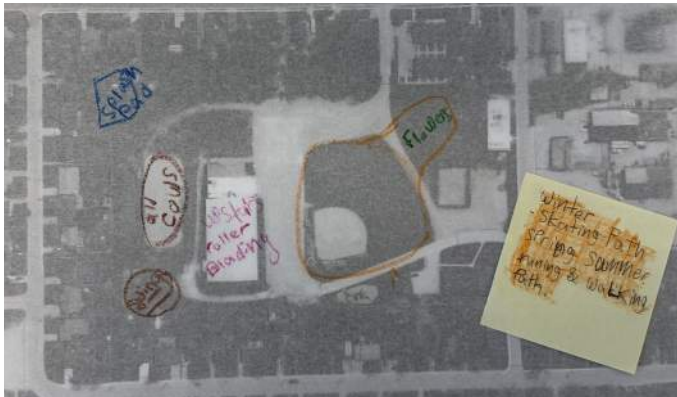


Figure 74: Kids' Concept Plan (2)



Figure 75: Kids' Concept Plan (3)

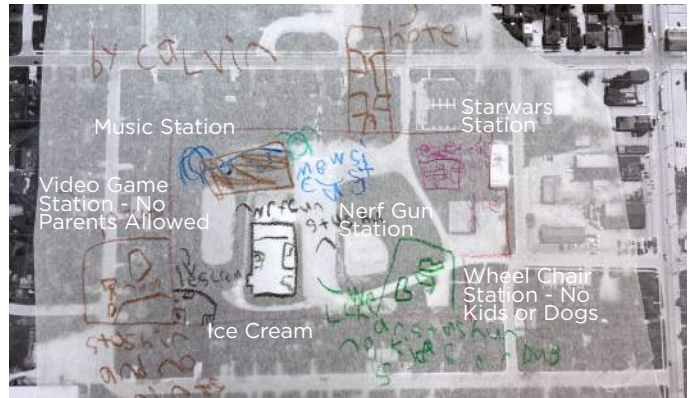


Figure 76: Kids' Concept Plan (4)

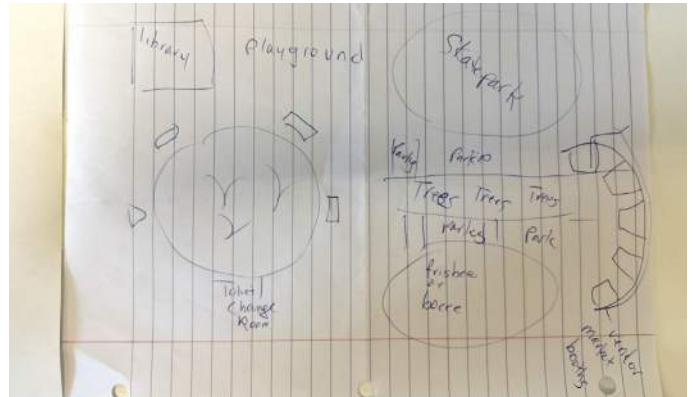


Figure 77: Sketched Concept Plan by Adult Community Member

## Charrette Design Concept Iterations

Spanning just under 4 hectares (9.7 acres), King Edward Park has no shortage of space and could support a vast range of programming and uses. Figure 79 delineates the available space as the park is currently laid out. Some of the following concept changes illustrate how the park space could be used if it were a “blank slate”, re-programmed with elements inspired by community feedback throughout the engagement process.

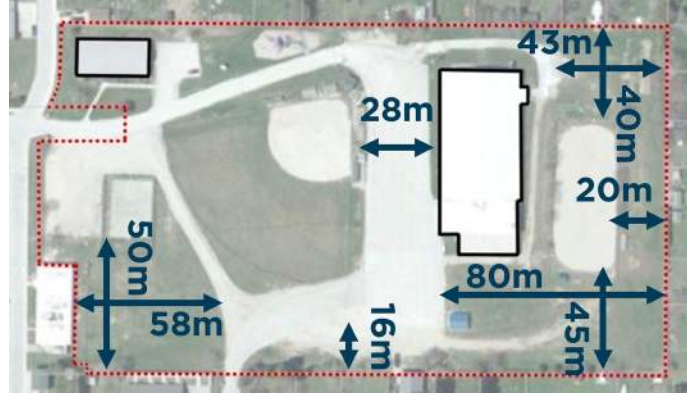


Figure 78: Existing Spatial Layout of King Edward Park

To demonstrate the spatial availability of King Edward Park during the final presentation, the scaled footprint of a pickleball court was laid out and duplicated within the boundaries of the park to a total of 216 courts. This exercise helps frame the perception of how the existing layout uses the space and allowed the public to visualize how proposed features may be accommodated.

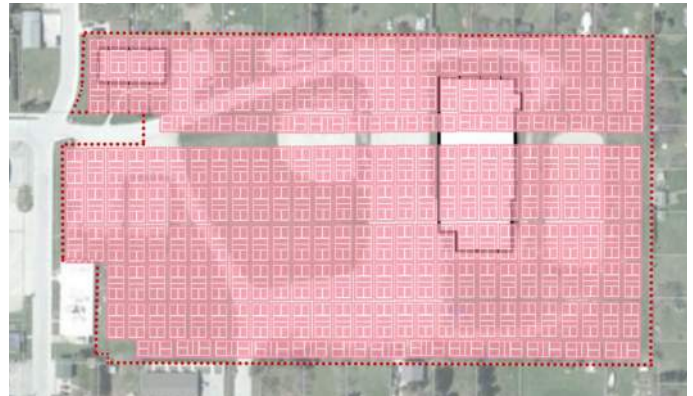


Figure 79: Spatial Context Exercise- 216 Pickleball Courts fit in King Edward Park

### Concept:

- Keep Existing Buildings
- Larger, Cohesive Parking
- Community Focused Activity
- Multi-Use
- Baseball Relocated Outside of Park

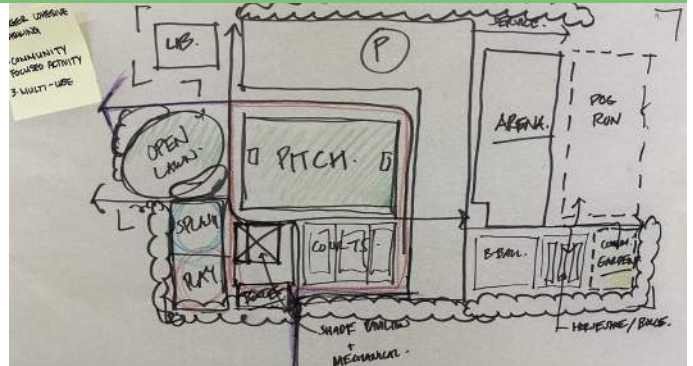


Figure 80: Major Changes Concept Sketching (1)

### Concept:

- Remove Existing Buildings
- New, Expanded Library
- Create User-Focused Spaces
- Reduce Vehicular Access to One Entry/Exit at Cavan Street



Figure 81: Major Changes Concept Sketching (2)

**Concept:**

- Two Upgraded Baseball Diamonds
- No Arena and Hall
- Recreation and Kids Play Features
- No Vehicular Circulation Beyond Parking at Two Entry/Exits



Figure 82: Major Changes Concept Sketching (3)

**Concept:**

- Expanded Recreation Complex + Library and Community Hub
- No Baseball Diamond
- Large Open Green Space + Community Garden
- Recreation and Kids Play Features
- One Vehicular Access Point



Figure 83: Major Changes Concept Sketching (4)

**Concept:**

- Traditional Park Space / No Structural Establishments
- Recreation and Kids Play Features
- Central Open Green Space / Flex Space
- Pedestrian Paths Throughout
- Abundant Planting / Naturalization
- No Vehicular Circulation Beyond Parking at Two Entry/Exits



Figure 84: Major Changes Concept Sketching (5)

**Concept:**

- Maintain Existing Amenities/New Ball Diamond
- Ample, Organized Parking
- Add Splash Pad + Enhanced Playground
- Add Walking/Biking Path Throughout Park
- Restrict Vehicular Flow through Middle of Park

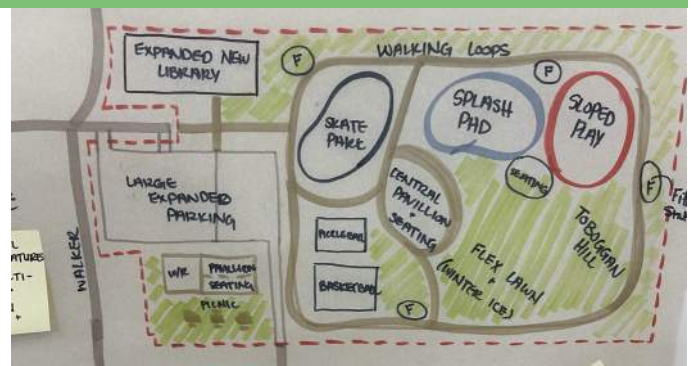


Figure 85: Major Changes Concept Sketching (6)

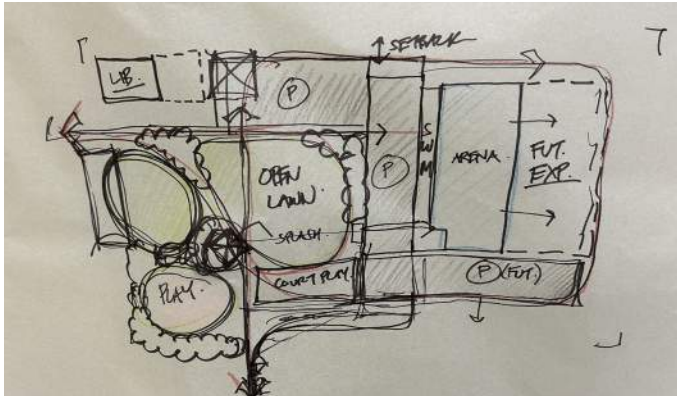


Figure 86: Maintaining Structures Concept Sketching (1)

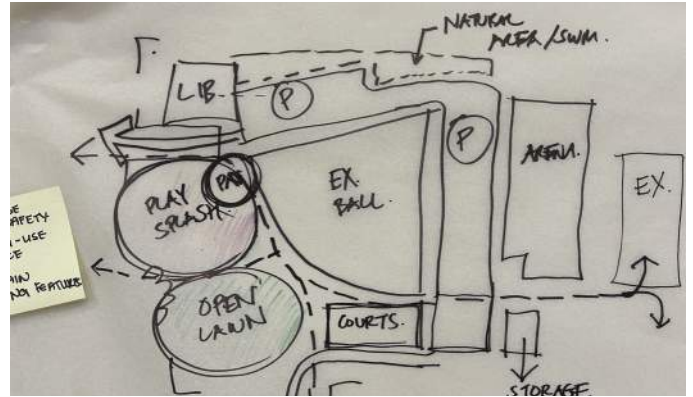


Figure 90: Maintaining Structures Concept Sketching (5)

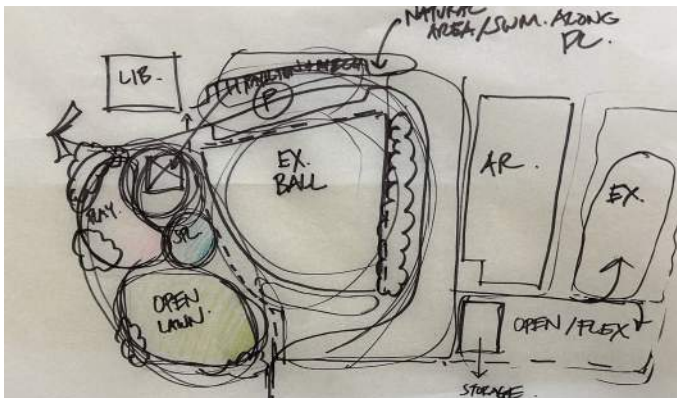


Figure 87: Maintaining Structures Concept Sketching (2)

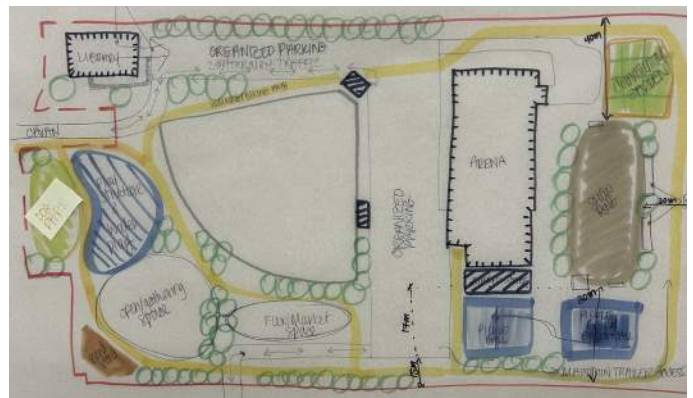


Figure 91: Maintaining Structures Concept Sketching (6)

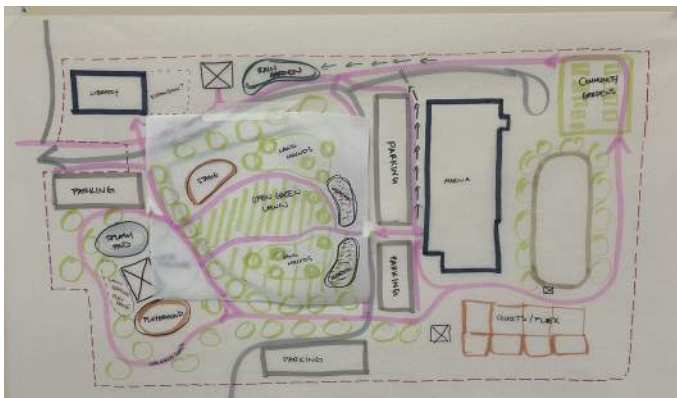


Figure 88: Maintaining Structures Concept Sketching (3)

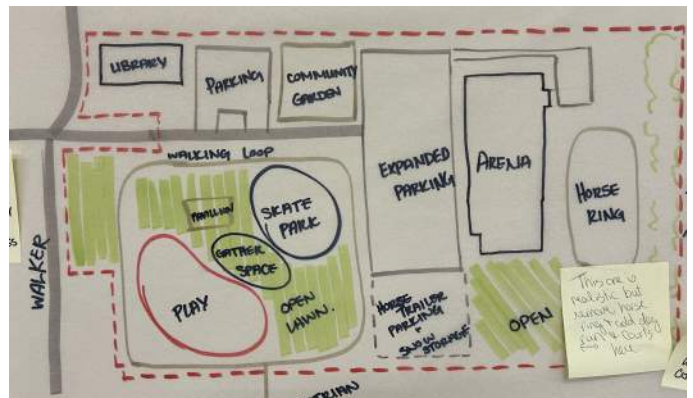


Figure 92: Maintaining Structures Concept Sketching (7)

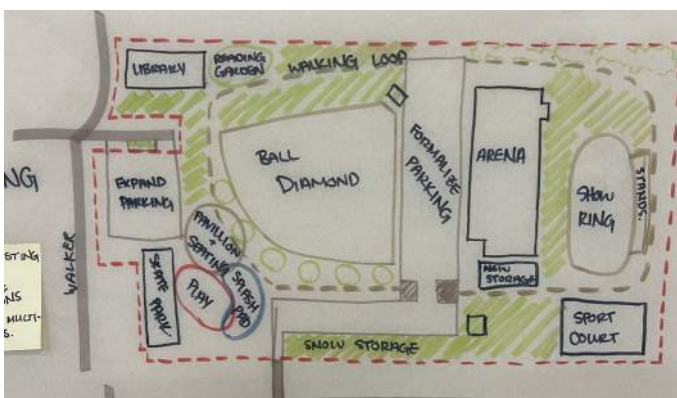


Figure 89: Maintaining Structures Concept Sketching (4)



Figure 93: Maintaining Structures Concept Sketching (8)

## APPENDIX D - OTHER COMMUNITY COMMENTS

### Personal Emails

On a few occasions, community members reached out via email to express their opinions and vision as prompted by the online engagement information. Some of the members also submitted an online survey response, so their suggestions are accounted for in the engagement summaries in this report. Other points that were not mentioned in the survey responses are as follows:

- Relocation of two cenotaphs found in Markdale (one at Grey Gables, 206 Toronto Street South, and the other at the former hospital site, 53 Main Street West) into King Edward Park.
- Replanting the Holiday Tree (currently on the west corner of Toronto Street and Main Street) into King Edward Park to support the annual lighting ceremony.
- Acknowledgement of King Edward Park's 120th year this year, 2025.

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