

# Town of South Bruce Peninsula



## Parks, Recreation & Culture

MASTER PLAN | November 2019





**Town of South Bruce Peninsula**

**Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan**

**November 12, 2019**

**FINAL**



## Acknowledgements

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula wishes to thank the permanent and seasonal residents, community stakeholders, Town Council and Town Staff that participated in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan. Through their contributions, a strong foundation has been established through which future decisions will be made to improve our community through parks, recreation and culture.

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# Executive Summary

In May 2019, the Town of South Bruce Peninsula in conjunction with Monteith Brown Planning Consultants Ltd. initiated the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan (the “Master Plan”). The Master Plan provides guidance to Town Council, Staff and community stakeholders that deliver leisure services in South Bruce Peninsula.

The Master Plan was developed with the input of South Bruce Peninsula permanent and seasonal residents, Town Council and Staff, and partners within the community. Consultations emphasized the Town’s natural beauty, the commitment and strength of local organizations to deliver programs, and the inspiration that people draw from their surroundings to be active and creative. The input received from residents and local stakeholders helped to create the following Vision for the Master Plan:

**“Inspired by our Natural Beauty and the Strong Capacity of our Community to collectively be an Active and Creative Town.”**

The Master Plan contains 30 Recommendations that guide the Town of South Bruce Peninsula to the year 2029. The following five themes represent the highest priorities arising out of the Master Plan’s Recommendations (listed in no particular order of importance).



## **Be a “Facilitator” of Parks, Recreation & Culture Services**

The Town should continue its approach of being a provider of space and encourage community and private sector partners to leverage that space to the greatest extent possible for their programs and activities. By adopting a “community development” mindset, the Town recognizes the vast expertise that already exists among local organizations and makes efforts to help them over the long term. By supporting, coordinating and facilitating others to deliver valuable services, the Town can move towards an integrated, comprehensive, cost-effective and sustainable parks, recreation and culture system.

## **Begin Planning for a Multi-Service Community Hub**

The Town has reinvested over the years into the Warton District Community Centre & Arena to ensure a quality experience for residents, the facility is well advanced into its lifecycle. Although the community centre is expected to remain viable over the ten year master planning period, it will have approached and exceeded 60 years of operation after this time.

Accordingly, the Town should begin to assess potential sites that are capable of accommodating a replacement community centre. By “land banking” within this master planning period, the Town can capitalize on available lands at current market rates but just as importantly have a plan in place in the event of a major structural or mechanical failure of the existing community centre.

In addition to the recreation focus of this future facility, the Town should contemplate a “community hub” model that consolidates multiple civic services onsite as well as space for agency, community and private sector providers to also deliver their services. Therefore, a Community Hub Feasibility Study should be undertaken that explores the appropriateness of including an arena, gymnasium, aquatic, library, arts and cultural, administrative office, and flexible program space (and other needs that may emerge over the next ten years).

## **Make Greater Use of Indoor & Outdoor Spaces for Pickleball**

Requests for pickleball featured prominently in Master Plan consultations. Recommendations have been made to explore greater use of the arena floor for the sport, as well

as working with community tennis clubs to find times to integrate pickleball programming on municipally-owned tennis/pickleball combination courts throughout the week.

## **Strengthen Municipal Supports for the Arts & Culture Sector**

The Town has enabled the delivery of community-based arts and cultural opportunities largely through provision of community centres and supports delivered to festivals. An overarching Arts & Culture Policy supported by funding has been recommended as part of the community development approach of facilitating community-based delivery of these services.

Further investments in infrastructure for parks to accommodate “Movies under the Stars” or “Art in the Park” that community organizations can put on are recommended, while the idea of bringing together arts and cultural sector representatives to discuss a new space have been advanced. Animating parks, adapting existing facilities to host a broader range of programs, and exploring a purpose-built facility of arts and culture are hoped to stimulate the sector and bring about benefits.

## **Promoting Marine Heritage & Water-Based Recreation**

A recommended emphasis on promoting the Town’s marine heritage has been brought forward to complement the natural and recreational appeal of surrounding waterbodies. Doing so provides an opportunity to educate residents and visitors about the origins of the Town while creating memorable leisure experiences that could be a boon to tourism and other local economic development initiatives.

The Town should also explore enhancements to existing and future waterfront parks that can facilitate beach and marine sport activities (e.g. docks, ramps, parking). To improve revenue generation potential and offset system-wide costs, as well as to build upon the beachgoer experience, the Town should explore dockage or rental agreements with commercial operators wishing to access Sauble Beach (and others) for amenities that could range from simple rentals of shade umbrellas to more sophisticated experiences such as watercraft or inflatables.

## The Action Plan for Parks, Recreation & Culture in South Bruce Peninsula

The following is a summary of all Recommendations contained in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan.

- #1 The Town's role should continue to be a "Facilitator" of parks, recreation and cultural services. In support of this role, the Town should encourage a Community Development Model through engagement and provision of appropriate supports (e.g., financial, logistical, expertise, etc.) to empower its volunteers and community organizations, develop their internal capacity, and enhance their ability to deliver services over time.
- #2 Undertake a comprehensive Staffing Review for the Community Services Department to develop appropriate staffing standards that reflect desired service levels. Part of this Review should confirm the addition of a staff position focused on community development tasks, trend tracking and festival coordination (at a minimum).
- #3 Organize regular forums for volunteer and community organizations delivering parks, recreation and culture services in South Bruce Peninsula to allow information/idea sharing and networking opportunities to take place. Such forums could be tied in with new or existing volunteer recognition events.
- #4 Proactively seek partnerships with parks, recreation and cultural service providers including, but not limited to, educational and healthcare institutions, non-profit agencies, sport organizations, and arts and cultural collectives. A standardized framework to evaluate partnerships should be developed to guide decisions.
- #5 Engage representatives of persons with disabilities, First Nations and diverse ethno-cultural groups, low income populations, LGBTQ+ communities and other marginalized groups to understand their parks, recreation and cultural needs so that services result in these populations becoming active, connected and welcomed.
- #6 Pursue the Playworks Partnership's "Youth-Friendly Community" designation in collaboration with community partners such as the Grey Bruce Health Unit, Bluewater District School Board, OPP, and other interested agencies.
- #7 Work with the Sandpipers Seniors Club and other older adult service partners to better understand how older adults are using the Town of South Bruce Peninsula's parks, recreation and culture services, and collectively find ways to increase participation rates in response to emerging trends and issues.
- #8 To keep pace with residential development, acquire 2 hectares of new parkland in future development areas, at a minimum, to retain the Town's current service level of 4.0 hectares per 1,000 permanent and seasonal residents (excluding woodlots). Acquisition should primarily consist of requiring parkland dedications under the Ontario Planning Act, and through municipal purchase or securing agreements with other landholders where necessary.
- #9 Prepare a park-specific master plan and concept design for Bluewater Park that engages the community and stakeholders to establish a vision and future direction for the lands (including the campground).
- #10 Park and trail development/redevelopment projects should integrate convenience and comfort elements to encourage public use. At a minimum, elements may include shade, seating, lighting and/or washrooms where appropriate. A focus should also be placed on providing consistent entrance signage, interpretive signage, and wayfinding signage, potentially aligned with RTO7 design specifications for Bruce County.
- #11 Promote marine and water-based activities within South Bruce Peninsula parks by enhancing amenities for boating, canoe/kayaking, wind and paddle sports, etc. through facilities to access the water (docks, ramps), temporary storage, parking, etc. Exploration of dockage agreements to facilitate private sector rentals and programs in municipal waterfront properties may also be explored.

- #12 Per Section 5.6 of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula Official Plan, undertake a Trails Master Plan to confirm the feasibility, costs and potential to work with public and private landowners in order to implement the conceptual trails map contained in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan.
- #13 Engage the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and Ontario Parks to seek ways to strengthen existing relationships, work collaboratively in the planning and delivery of programs and facilities, and coordinate promotional efforts to residents (at a minimum).
- #14 Develop and publish a reader-friendly Trails Map that clearly identifies trail routes (for motorized and non-motorized activities) throughout South Bruce Peninsula, potentially working in concert with Bruce County and area municipalities.
- #15 Undertake a Community Hub Feasibility Study towards the end of the current master planning period to reconfirm arena needs along with other needed components relating to recreation, culture, library, or other space. In the interim, the Town should investigate sites and potentially purchase land that is sufficiently sized to accommodate a future community centre, while also engaging area municipalities in discussions regarding potential opportunities to collaboratively address regional arena needs through joint facility development and/or service delivery practices.
- #16 Make greater use of the Wiarton District Community Centre & Arena for pickleball during the spring and summer months in response. Outdoor pickleball times should be dedicated at times throughout the week at selected tennis courts in Sauble Beach and Wiarton, working in concert with local tennis clubs and organized pickleball clubs (to explore scheduling and encouraging discounted memberships for players playing tennis and pickleball, at a minimum).
- #17 Explore potential sites and operating models to establish sand volleyball courts capable of hosting tournaments and organized play in conjunction with regional beach volleyball organizations and/or the private sector.
- #18 New and redeveloped playgrounds should consider natural play and barrier-free play components, where appropriate.
- #19 Develop an Arts & Culture Policy to guide to provide a framework for the planning, provision, and support of arts and culture services in the Town of South Bruce Peninsula.
- #20 Create a Public Art Fund within the Department's annual operating budget to encourage new public art projects and the restoration/rejuvenation of existing public art works. The works of local artists should also be showcased at Town of South Bruce facilities such as Town Hall and within the Community Centres.
- #21 Establish an arts and cultural space, potentially in downtown Wiarton or Sauble Beach. The Town should engage local organizations and/or businesses to discuss prospective partnerships along with the funding/governance model prior to investing in the facility.
- #22 Work with community organizations and volunteers to animate parks with arts and cultural activities including (but not limited to) movies under the stars, Art in the Park, artisan markets, etc. by investing in park-based infrastructure such as hydro, program equipment, and operations and maintenance supports as appropriate.
- #23 Engage the Bruce County Public Library to coordinate program planning and delivery, share expertise, deliver joint-programs, and minimize service duplication.
- #24 Showcase the Town's marine heritage through coordinating efforts with historical societies, upper-level agencies and governments, and the private sector. At a minimum, this may include a focus upon interpretive signage, space for artifacts and exhibits, and promoting shipwrecks/scuba activities through a broad tourism campaign. Align this initiative with other efforts to encourage marine recreation per Recommendation #11 of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan.
- #25 Prepare a set of guidelines that clearly defines the role and responsibilities of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula in delivering and facilitating festivals and

special events. The guidelines should articulate funding and staffing requirements, promotional and awareness strategies targeted to local residents and tourists across the region, and identify how existing and future physical infrastructure can be better leveraged to deliver quality experiences.

#26 Allocate the funding and staffing resources required to deliver upon the existing arts and cultural opportunities along with those articulated in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Plan such as an arts and cultural resource centre, public art and festivals/events.

#27 Update the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan in the year 2024 to capture changes in population, trends, corporate objectives, inventories, etc. Progress in implementing the Master Plan should be tracked annually with results (and other related corporate achievements) regularly communicated to Town Council and the general public.

#28 Requests for parks, recreation and cultural facilities/services that presently fall outside of the Town's core mandate should be evaluated based on anticipated municipal role, quantifiable measures of demand and costs to the Town, and other long-term implications prior to decision whether or not to partner in the public interest.

#29 Continue to promote sound and strategic asset management practices to maintain the Town's parks, recreation and cultural infrastructure over the long-term through sustainable fiscal planning.

#30 Review the implications of Ontario Bill 108 and other relevant legislation on the Recommendations contained in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan given the new provincial legislative planning and funding framework.

# Section 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Parks, Recreation and Culture in South Bruce Peninsula

With shorelines spanning Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, the Town of South Bruce Peninsula offers residents and visitors a year-round experience to enjoy nature, interact with urban and rural communities, and be a part of a growing arts and cultural sector. The Town was formed in 1999, through the amalgamation of the former town of Wiarton, the former village of Hepworth, and the former townships of Albemarle and Amabel; the historical roots of each of these communities, along with their respective rural settlements, date back decades to the late 1800s while Indigenous populations have lived in area for hundreds of years.

The Town has many notable parks, trails and facilities. **Bluewater Park** is one of the most recognizable destinations in South Bruce Peninsula, providing residents with stunning views of, and access to Colpoy's Bay via a federal boat launch. Bluewater Park concentrates many recreational facilities of active play and social gatherings, and is located adjacent to the **Wiarion Community Centre & Arena**.

**Sauble Beach** is a unique recreational area and an important economic driver for the Town, while the **Sauble Beach Community Centre/Bannister Park** complex serve residents of all ages, particularly an active older adult community. The **Bruce Trail** runs along the eastern side of the municipality, providing multi-seasonal recreational opportunities and connecting to a broader network that brings trail enthusiasts from other parts of the province.

Distinct arts and cultural clusters are emerging in downtown Wiarton and in proximity to Sauble Beach's Main Street corridor. The weekly **Wiarion Farmer's Market** is entering its 12<sup>th</sup> year and sets up in the Berford Street Parkette. There are a number of community halls that have historically serviced the smaller settlement areas and **Bruce County Public Library** operates branches in Wiarton and Sauble Beach.



### PARK SNAPSHOT: Bluewater Park

**Settlement:** Wiarton  
**Park Size:** 12.5 ha (31 acres)

Bluewater Park is a true community destination. It is designed for many interests and age groups where the beautiful natural setting is complemented by a boardwalk and boat launch that provide access to Colpoy's Bay, a pavilion and seating areas throughout the park, gardens, ball diamond, tennis courts, outdoor pool, splash pad, skateboard park, playground, fish cleaning station and a campground.

Food is available at a restaurant that sits adjacent to the park, while the Wiarton Community Centre & Arena and the Wiarton Public Library are located across the street, creating a strong community hub throughout the year.

## 1.2 A Vision for Parks, Recreation & Culture

The PRC Master Plan's vision describes the intent of how parks, recreation and culture services are provided in 10 years from now, at the end of the master planning period. Over the next 10 years, the Town will have aspired towards developing its parks, recreation and cultural sector through the following vision:

### Inspired by our Natural Beauty and the Strong Capacity of our Community to collectively be an Active and Creative Town.

The Master Plan's vision originates out of the themes heard through consultations with the community. The key words of the vision are described as follows.

#### Natural Beauty

The Town, its residents and visitors to the area are inspired by and proud of the **Natural Beauty** in South Bruce Peninsula. People choose to live in and visit the Town because of its unique natural features, with many parks being situated in proximity to assets such as the Niagara Escarpment, the Bruce Trail, and local conservation areas.

#### Active & Creative

The Town's parks, recreation and cultural infrastructure provide **Active & Creative** space in the physical and social sense. Residents and visitors make use of the Town's services for a wide range individual and community activities.

#### Community Capacity

The delivery of parks, recreation and cultural services is a collaborative effort between the Town, community providers and volunteers. Consultations reinforced the need to build and sustain **Community Capacity** in order for a future vision to be realized.



## 1.3 The Benefits of Investing in Parks, Recreation & Culture

There is ample support for the benefits of parks, recreation and culture including through evidence-based national/provincial charters such as Parks for All, the Framework for Recreation in Canada, The Ontario Culture Strategy, and documents prepared by industry bodies (e.g. Parks and Recreation Ontario, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association, Ontario Parks Association, etc.). These services directly or indirectly benefit residents and business in the Town of South Bruce Peninsula. Recreation and culture facilities, parks and related programs provide many physical, health, psychological, economic and environmental benefits. Participation in parks, recreation and cultural activities allows individuals to lead a healthy lifestyle, facilitates cognitive development and delays cognitive deterioration (e.g. onset of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, ALS, etc.), encourages self-esteem, heightens social interaction, promotes economic spending and community vibrancy, can reduce negative behaviours and crime, and conserves natural lands and open spaces.

The **Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan** (referred to as the "PRC Master Plan" or "the Master Plan") identifies the Town of South Bruce Peninsula's high level needs and priorities. Doing so will help the Town and community partners to provide the needed mix of parks, recreation and cultural facilities, programs and services for residents to engage in meaningful social and physical activities while positioning the Town to attract visitors and tourists to the community.

Parks and facilities have served local residents prior to and following amalgamation. This has resulted in a model where major parks and facilities are now concentrated in Wiarton and Sauble Beach (the two largest population centres) with community halls, their supporting lands and other parks serving smaller and rural settlements. Accordingly, most South Bruce Peninsula residents have access to some form of community space (Figure 1) while schools, conservation areas and other non-municipal providers further augment service distribution.

### Parks, Recreation & Culture System Highlights

- 1 Arena
- 1 Outdoor Ice Skating Rink
- 4 Community Halls
- 1 Gymnasium
  
- 6 Beaches & Waterfront Parks
- 4 Public Boat Ramps
- 1 Outdoor Pool
- 1 Splash Pad
  
- 6 Natural Grass Soccer Fields
- 4 Ball Diamonds
  
- 4 Outdoor Tennis Courts
- 1 Tennis/Pickleball Combo Court
- 8 Basketball Courts
  
- 1 Skateboard Park
- 2 Off-Leash Parks
- 9 Playgrounds
- 2 Outdoor Fitness Locations
  
- 1 Farmer's Market (Warton)
- 1 Mobile Stage
- 1 Community Garden



#### PARK SNAPSHOT:

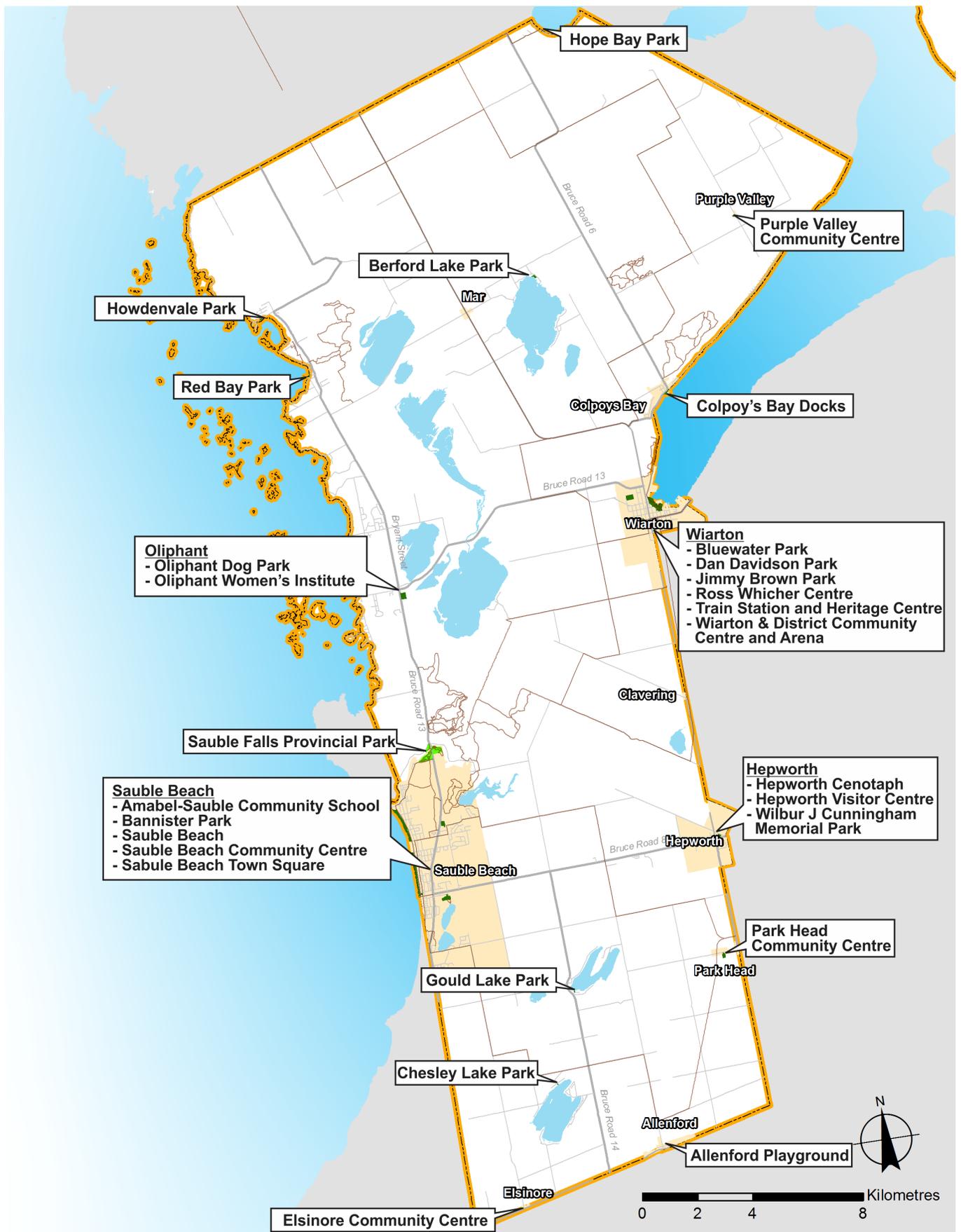
#### Colpoys Bay Dock

**Settlement:** Colpoys Bay

**Park Size:** 1.0 ha (2.5 acres)

The Town's open space provides a few seating areas that offer a spectacular view of Colpoys Bay, in addition to the dock. It is a popular spot for fishing among area residents.

**Figure 1: Major Parks & Facilities in South Bruce Peninsula**



## 1.4 Selected Trends Influencing Parks, Recreation & Culture

### Physical Inactivity

The 2018 ParticipACTION report card on physical activity for children and youth graded overall physical activity levels a “D+”, which is a marginal improvement compared to previous years. This result suggests that there has been limited progress in improving physical activity at the national level. The Canadian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines for Children and Youth (age 5 to 7) recommends a minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity per day, however, the report card found that only 35% of children and youth are meeting this requirement. The report card also found that 62% of children (age 3 to 4) are attaining the recommended 180 minutes of physical activity under the same guideline.<sup>1</sup> This highlights the importance of having a variety of recreational opportunities being made available so that residents have options to engage in as many forms of physical activity as possible.

### Population & Community Demographics

The changing demographics of South Bruce Peninsula will influence needs for parks, recreation and culture. While the permanent population remained relatively unchanged at 8,400 residents between the 2006 and 2016 Census periods, new residential areas planned in areas such as south Wiarton along with growing numbers of seasonal residents and retirees have the potential to place additional pressures on the parks, recreation and cultural system while creating new demands based on factors such as their age, income and cultural composition.

Bruce County is an internationally known tourist destination that also attracts seasonal residents who live in the County for an extended period of time, but have a primary home elsewhere. An influx of approximately 29,000 seasonal residents each year are estimated to come back to Bruce County, adding 44% to its permanent population.<sup>2</sup> The 2016 Census identified approximately 6,950 private dwellings in South Bruce Peninsula, of which 3,750 are private households occupied by usual residents. Roughly calculated, this indicates that there are approximately 3,200 households in which permanent residents do not reside (i.e. dwellings occupied by seasonal residents). There could be similar numbers of non-permanent residents as permanent residents in the Town, supporting estimates from Town Staff that suggest the population doubles in the peak season to nearly 15,000 persons, and reinforces the impact that seasonal residents have in South Bruce Peninsula.

The permanent population of South Bruce Peninsula is approximately 8,400 persons, growing to an estimated 15,000 persons when factoring seasonal residents. By 2029, it is estimated that there will be close to 17,000 permanent and seasonal residents living in the Town.

Population projections specific to the Town of South Bruce Peninsula over the master planning period were not available at time of writing, apart from the County of Bruce Official Plan that projects the population to reach 9,800 persons by the year 2021. Since the Town has seen little population change over the past 15 years, it is assumed that the population in 2029 (the end of this Master Plan horizon) will be close to the 9,800 persons based on designated residential lands identified in the Official Plan that may not yet have been developed.

<sup>1</sup> The ParticipACTION report card on physical activity for children and youth. 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Bruce County. 2011. Population projections for Bruce County by municipality to 2021.

The median age of South Bruce Peninsula residents increased by almost five years between 2006 and 2016.

The median age in 2006 was 49.9 years old, and according to the 2016 Census, the Town's median age was 54.5 years old.



**50%** of South Bruce Peninsula's population consists of residents 55 years of age or older



## Population Distribution

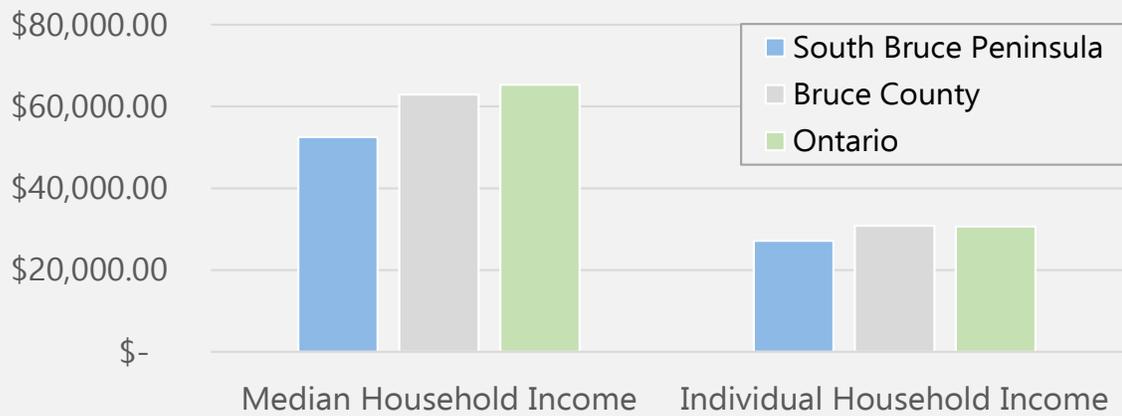
South Bruce Peninsula's population is estimated to double during the summer months

**1/4** of residents live within the Wiarton population centre



## Income

Household and individual income levels in South Bruce Peninsula are lower than median rates in both the county and province.



16.7% of South Bruce Peninsula residents live at or below the low-income measure (after-tax).

That rate is 3.4% higher than the Bruce County average.

South Bruce Peninsula's  
Employment Rate in 2015 was

**51%**

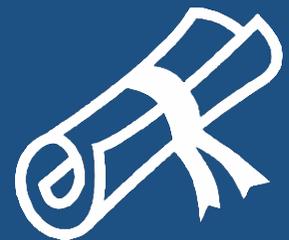
## Employment

The unemployment rate in  
the Town was 5.8% in 2015.



More than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of South  
Bruce Peninsula's workforce  
is employed by the sales  
and service sector

## Education



50% of South Bruce  
Peninsula residents  
have a postsecondary  
certificate, diploma or  
degree

28% of South Bruce  
Peninsula Residents  
have obtained a high  
school diploma or  
equivalent

## Aging Infrastructure

The 2016 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card rated Canada's sports and recreation facilities as "Fair", which was the lowest ranking out of all municipal assets that were evaluated.<sup>3</sup> This suggests that municipal sports and recreation facilities require attention, show signs of deterioration, or have deteriorating components. Provincially, many municipal facilities were constructed between the 1950s and 1980s. Since this period, infrastructure province-wide has been underfunded, although these pressures have been somewhat alleviated through various provincial and federal stimulus plans. More recently, the federal government demonstrated its commitment to renewing municipal infrastructure with over \$1.8 Billion in funding directed towards renewing parks and recreation assets, in addition to accessibility and trail improvements.<sup>4</sup>

## Multi-Use Recreation Facilities and Community Hubs

There is a growing expectation that facilities contain something for everyone, rather than being designed for singular uses. With a focus on user convenience and cost recovery, municipalities are centralizing multiple recreation facilities across fewer sites. This co-location of complementary facility components creates convenient, centralized activity centres and generates operating efficiencies. The approach has evolved in recent years with some municipalities combining multi-use recreation facilities with other civic or community uses (with non-municipal organizations). This 'community hub' concept has gained traction by offering strong social benefits, strengthening community cohesion, and fostering enhanced quality of life in a central location to deliver multiple civic services. Not only can a community hub be a community or recreation centre, it can also integrate a school, library, or another type of public and private sector service (e.g. healthcare). The Amabel-Sauble School is an excellent example of a municipality partnering with a school board to address mutually-beneficial needs, and in fact is a progressive example that dates back to the mid-1990s.



### PARK & FACILITY SNAPSHOT: Amabel-Sauble Community School

The gymnasium and multi-purpose program room are operated by the Town for public use after school hours and throughout the summer months.

The Town and school also share use of outdoor soccer fields, a newly installed playground, and other open space (the municipality is responsible for maintaining these outdoor amenities).

## Lack of Free Time

A lack of time is often identified as the primary barrier to participating in parks, recreation and culture. This is generally driven by busy lifestyles at home, work, and school, as well as competing social interests. To combat this trend, municipalities and other service providers have employed strategies such as extending facility hours of operation and offering programs at different times of the day and week to accommodate the busy schedules of residents. As people become increasingly busy, they are less able to commit to regularly scheduled programs. As a result, demands are growing for spontaneous/unstructured programs without registering in advance. Service

<sup>3</sup> Canada Infrastructure. 2016 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card.

<sup>4</sup> Canadian Parks and Recreation Association. Press Release, March 22, 2017. CPRA applauds federal government commitment to parks and recreation opportunities for Canadians.

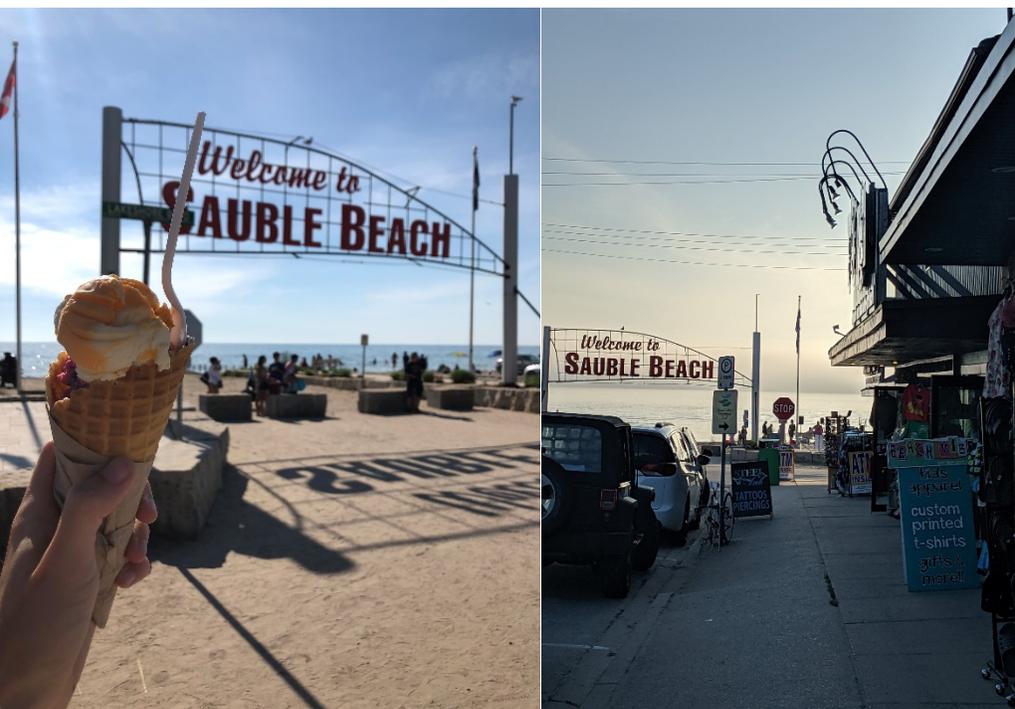
providers have responded to this trend through drop-in and self-scheduled programs, with some of these programs identified in the Town of South Bruce Peninsula's Recreation Guide.

## Local Tourism

The economic impact of tourism in Bruce County is sizeable, generating \$299 million from over 2.5 million visitors in 2018. Of this, \$31 million is attributable to recreation and entertainment. An online survey conducted by the County found that the reason for 22% of personal trips was to participate in an outdoor sport or recreational activity which made it the second highest draw behind visiting family or friends; in addition, 2% reported coming to the County to attend an event, concert or show.<sup>5</sup>

A high-quality parks, recreation and culture system is an effective way to draw visitors through sports and tournaments, festivals, special events, and cultural heritage. In particular, festivals and events generate "multiplier effects" from tourism spending (depending upon their scale and catchment), while also promoting a sense of local pride and community spirit. Examples of local events and opportunities include the Wiarton Willie Festival, Purple Valley Maple Syrup Festival, Wiarton Fall Fair, Sauble Sandfest, Sauble Beach Guitar Festival and more. The coordination, promoting and logistics involved can come at a cost to municipalities in terms of municipal staff support (organization, set-up, maintenance, clean-up, etc.). However, it is understood that such costs are offset – to varying degrees – through aforementioned community benefits that result from putting on the events.

While parks may not generate significant revenue or profit, they are often destinations for visitors. Paid parking at Sauble Beach has generated some revenue that is reinvested back into municipal operations, though it is the spending at local businesses that generates the most economic impact. Parks and services provided by others such as Ontario Parks, the Conservation Authority, Bruce Trail Conservancy, private campgrounds, etc. are also part of the local tourism infrastructure that relies heavily upon the natural beauty of the area. As one of only 19 UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve's in Canada, the region is also a major draw for national and international nature-based tourism.



### Main Street, Sauble Beach

Anchored by Sauble Beach at its western terminus, Main Street is an important part of South Bruce Peninsula's economic development and tourism infrastructure. Businesses along Main Street benefit from thousands of visitors to the beach and contribute to the overall vibrancy of the community through their eclectic mix of products and services.

The result is a Main Street that is used for recreational and cultural purposes while generating economic spinoffs that benefit South Bruce Peninsula as a whole.

<sup>5</sup> County of Bruce. 2019. Economic Impact of Tourism Report, 2018.

## Section 2. Input from Residents & Partners

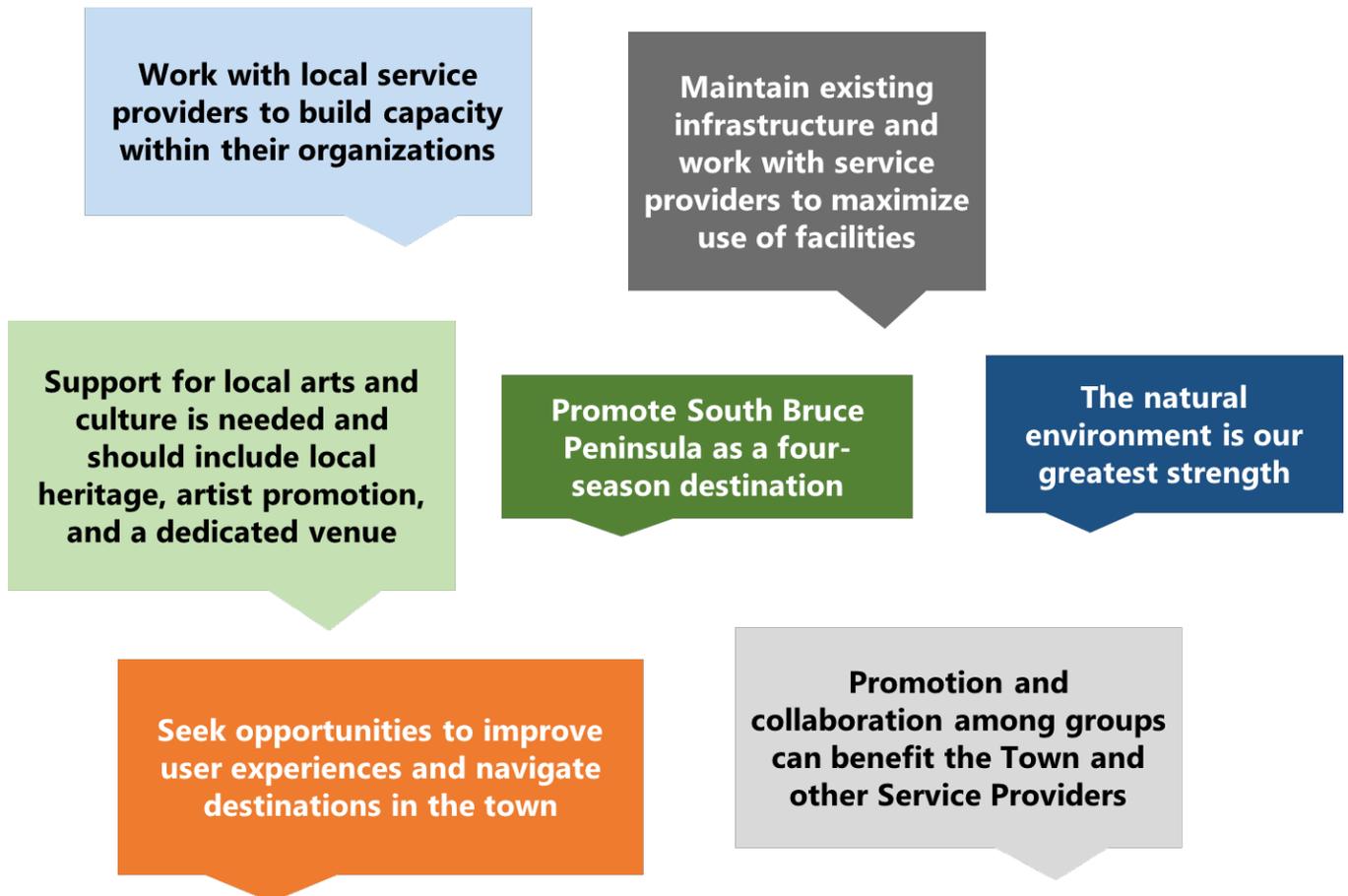
### 2.1 Overview of Consultations & Common Themes

Consultation with residents, stakeholders, existing and prospective partners, and Town representatives underlies much of Master Plan. Consultations provided a point of departure to explore ideas along with community demographics and trends in the parks, recreation and culture system.

A variety of tools were used to promote the Master Plan and consult with residents and stakeholders to ensure that they had many opportunities to provide input. These techniques were chosen based upon their ability to be effective, accessible, and efficient means of communication. Methods of engaging the community included use of the Open Mic South Bruce Peninsula communications platform, a Council input session, open houses, a community survey, stakeholder input sessions, and more. The Master Plan was promoted through posters, social media, news articles, and word of mouth. In total, the Master Plan engaged over 900 participants, the majority of whom were engaged through the Open Mic South Bruce Peninsula which attracted over 800 visitors to the project webpage.

Figure 2 summarizes the common themes expressed by residents and stakeholders throughout the PRC Master Plan consultation process (not listed in any particular order of importance or priority).

**Figure 2: Common Themes Expressed through Consultations**



## 2.2 Open Mic South Bruce Peninsula

A project portal established within the Town's "Open Mic South Bruce Peninsula" platform was used to:

- Communicate the purpose of the Master Plan ;
- Advertise meetings and events;
- Allow residents to submit questions and written comments;
- Administer the Community Survey and Interactive Mapping Tool;
- Show project timelines and progress; and
- Provide public reports relating to the Master Plan.

Additionally, posters were displayed at community centres, libraries, Town Hall, and advertised through social media.

### Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula is preparing a Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan. It will establish strategies for the next 10 years that are aimed at improving physical health, community vibrancy, economic development, and environmental sustainability in South Bruce Peninsula.



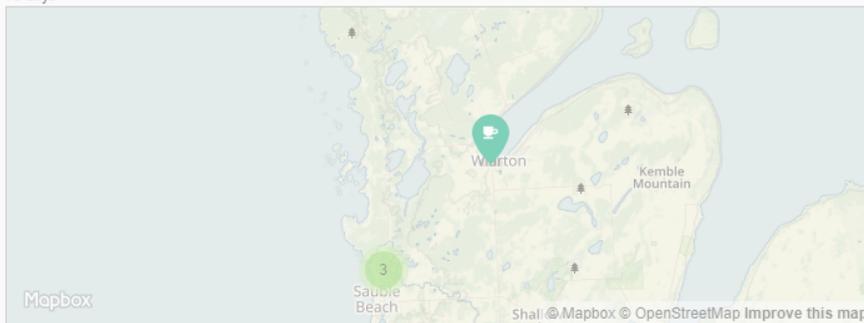
SURVEYS & FORMS

PLACES

IDEAS

#### Show Us Where...

13 days



Show us Where you like to exercise, swim, bike, read, etc. in South Bruce Peninsula!

Drag and drop a pin on the map and write a brief note about what you like (and why) about that specific place. For example, let us know if it is fun, accessible, convenient to visit, etc.

Feel free to add a photo of your favourite spot. You can zoom in to your favourite locations with the + and - icons, or the mouse wheel to pin-point Town facilities and hot spots.

"I love the new playground at the Community School - more playgrounds should be accessible as this one."

~ Open Mic Comment



#### STAY INFORMED

Subscribe for project updates

Subscribe

11 members of your community are following this project

#### Who's listening

##### Bill Klingenberg

Director of Community Services  
South Bruce Peninsula

Phone (519) 534-1400 Ext 145

Email bill.klingenberg@southbrucepeninsula.com



#### Key Dates

Community Launch Event #1 (Warton & Surrounding Area)  
**June 20 2019**

Community Launch Event #2 (Sauble Beach & Surrounding Area)  
**July 02 2019**

Complete our Community Survey by July 7th, 2019  
**July 07 2019**

## 2.3 Community Open Houses

Community Open Houses in Wiarion and Sauble Beach introduced the Master Plan to the public and encouraged residents to contribute their ideas and opinions related to parks, recreation and culture in South Bruce Peninsula. The following is a summary of common themes heard from the Open Houses.

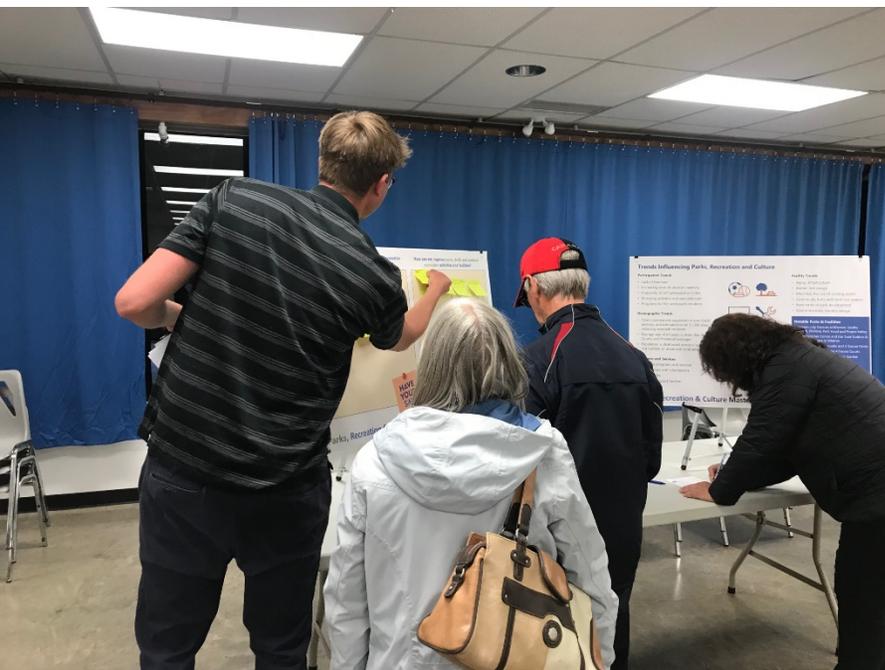
### Arts and Culture

A need to improve the promotion of arts, culture and heritage in the community was emphasized. Some residents and visitors may not be aware of the local history in South Bruce Peninsula or the historical significance of structures and buildings in the Town. Some of the suggestions expressed included preparing publications that promote various arts and cultural opportunities in Town such as markets, festivals, events, libraries, bookstores, and more. The creation of arts and cultural signage in the Town should be considered, particularly for buildings with historical significance. Holding guided walking tours to these buildings was also suggested. Working with the Town's arts and cultural groups to promote events and opportunities was also suggested, as well as working towards designating buildings as heritage buildings.

### Parks, Trails and Outdoor Recreation

A number of attendees expressed a desire to clean up Sauble Beach, largely relating to debris that could become a hazard. Suggestions included community clean-up events, installing water fountains and Town-branded shade umbrellas for comfort. The promotion of water and beach-based activities was suggested including volleyball, canoeing, sailing, and dragon boating.

Requests were received for enhanced walking and cycling trails in South Bruce Peninsula. Supporting amenities such as signage was also expressed, as well as the potential to work with community groups to build trails or hosting biking competitions. Park-related improvements included a focus being placed upon maintaining established infrastructure while pickleball courts, ball diamonds, signage, drinking fountains, bike racks, and improved tree cover were mentioned.



### Launching the Master Plan

Community Open Houses were held on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Wiarion & District Community Centre and Arena and on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at the Sauble Beach Community Centre.

Display boards highlighted information about South Bruce Peninsula and attendees were asked to provide input on how local parks, recreation and culture can be improved. Approximately 40 people attended the two Open Houses.

## Indoor Recreation

A strong desire was expressed for additional indoor pickleball opportunities in South Bruce Peninsula, driven by growing interest and participation that has resulted in the local pickleball organization outgrowing the Amabel-Sauble gymnasium. Attendees mentioned that many retirees that return to South Bruce Peninsula after spending the winter months in the southern United States where they play pickleball, are looking to keep playing throughout the summer (indoors and outdoors). A number of people suggested that the Town install temporary pickleball court lines on the arena dry-floor once the ice is taken out, and certain other individuals stated that they did not think a fee should be charged to make use of space for pickleball.

Indoor aquatic facilities were also a point of discussion at both Open Houses. Most people that were in favour of indoor aquatics stated that they would use it for aquatic fitness, but believed that young families would also benefit from having access to learn to swim programs. People expressing a desire for an indoor pool stated that it is presently cumbersome for residents to travel to Port Elgin or Owen Sound for these activities.

Conversely, there were residents that also expressed strong concerns about the Town's ability to sustain an indoor pool given its relatively small and highly geographically dispersed population base. Instead, some suggested that the Town would be better off establishing public transportation to access pools located in area municipalities. Such individuals believed that the tax burden of operating an indoor pool would not be appropriate, while certain others stated that they simply did not have an interest in swimming indoors.

Affordability was a common theme that was heard with respect to improving indoor recreation activities. Keeping activities at a low cost was identified as being important to encourage people to be active and use the Town's facilities. It was suggested that the Town seek grant programs and offer rentable equipment so families do not have to purchase equipment.



### **FACILITY SNAPSHOT:** **Elsinore Community Centre**

**Settlement:** Allenford  
**Year Built:** Unknown

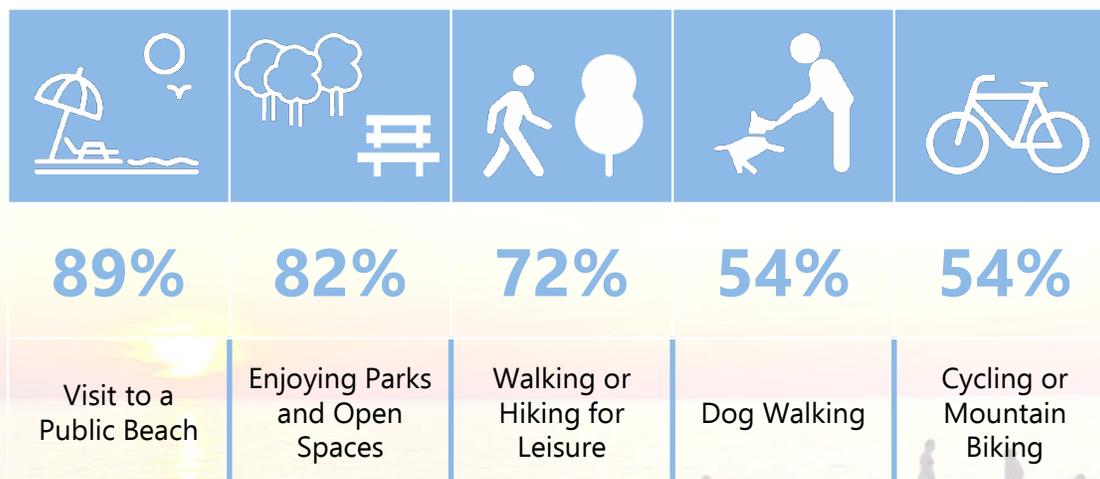
The Elsinore Community Centre is owned by the Town of South Bruce Peninsula and independently operated by a volunteer board. It accommodates selected meetings and gatherings, certain recreation and cultural activities.

The Hall is situated along Highway 21 on a 0.2 hectare property (0.5 acres) that provides parking, a newer playground, a half basketball court, and picnic tables.

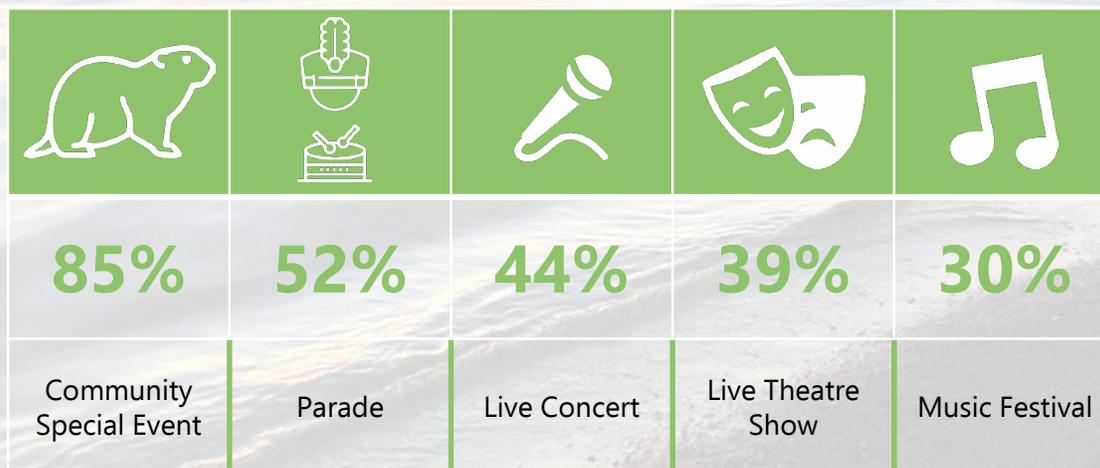
## 2.4 Community Survey

A Community Survey was prepared for members of the public to provide feedback regarding their participation, preferences and priorities to inform the PRC Master Plan. The Survey was active between June 19 and July 14, 2019 during which a total of 259 online and hard copy surveys were received; survey respondents represented a total of 729 individuals living within their respective households.

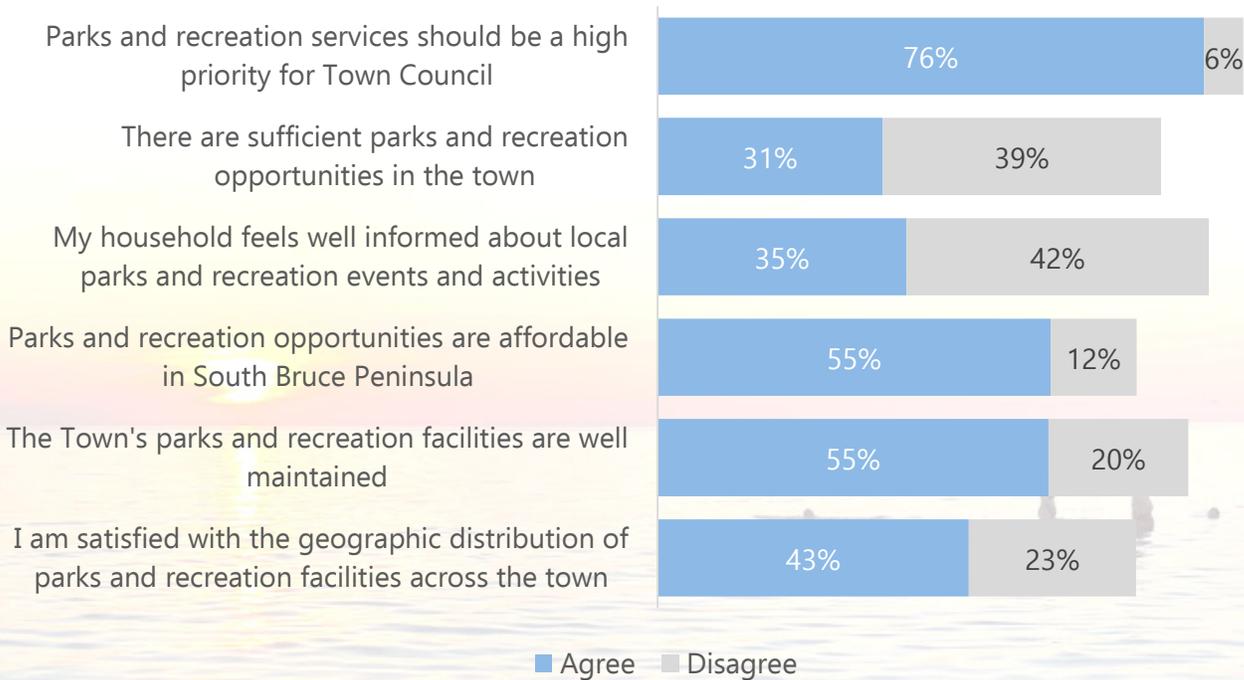
### Top 5 Parks & Recreation Activities



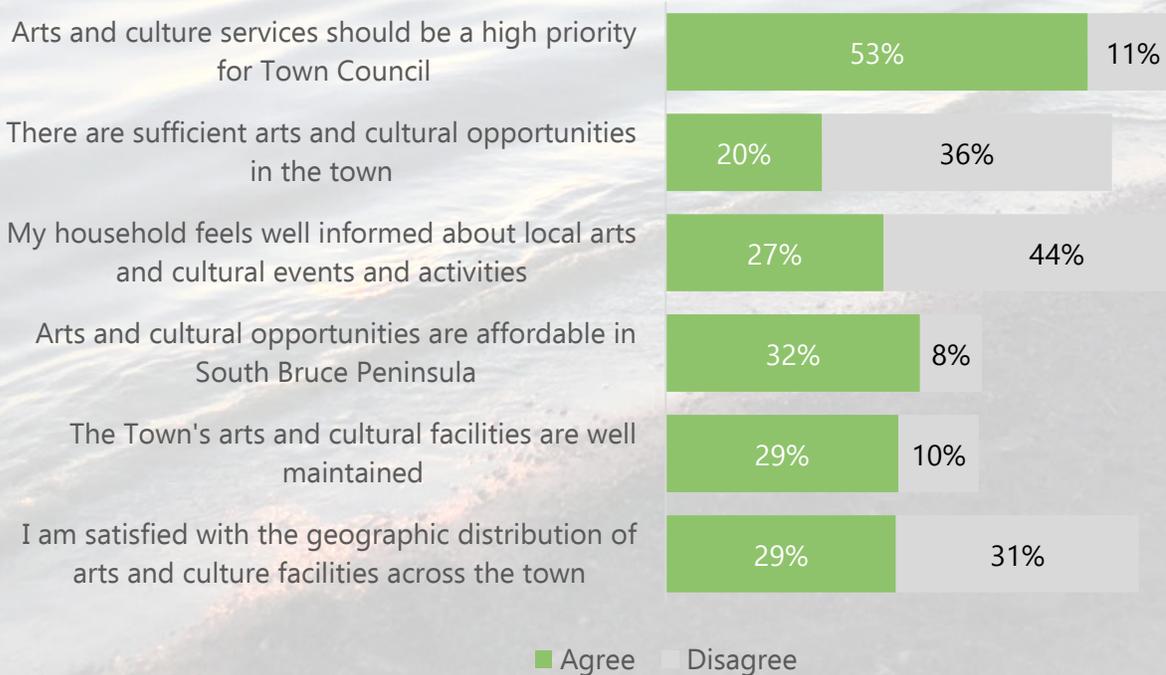
### Top 5 Arts & Cultural Activities



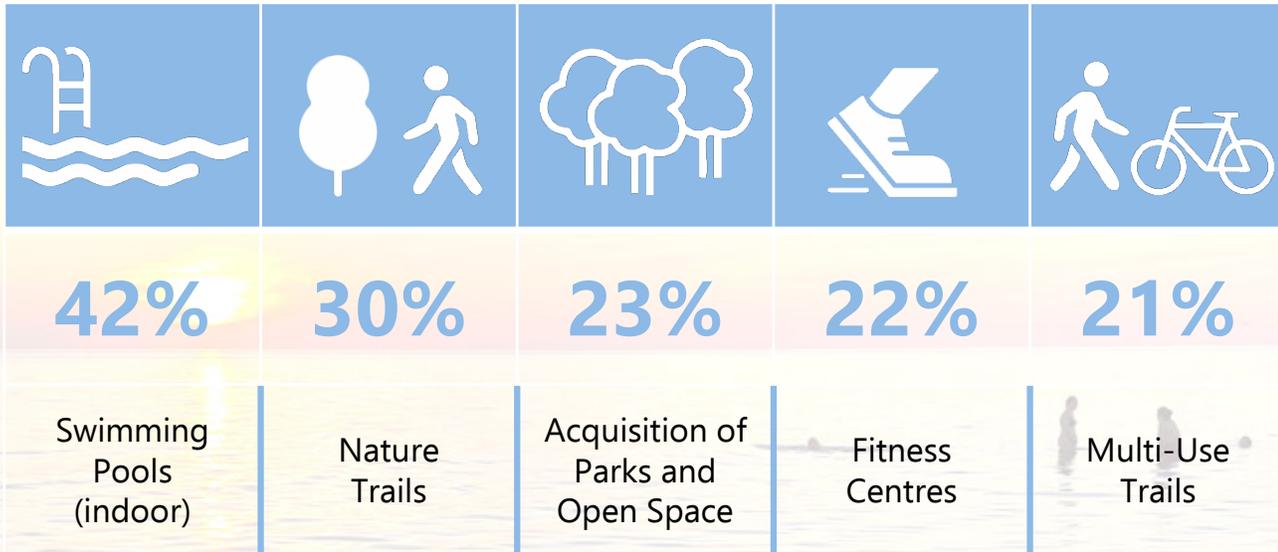
## Agreement with statements about parks and recreation in South Bruce Peninsula



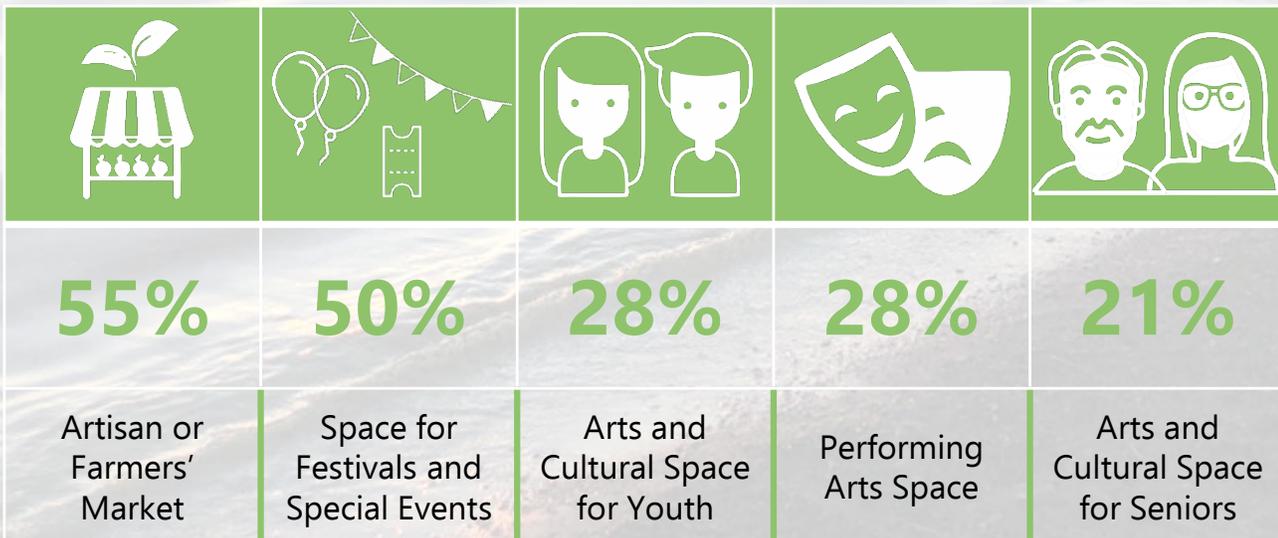
## Agreement with statements about arts and culture in South Bruce Peninsula



## Top 5 Parks & Recreation Priorities for Additional Public Spending

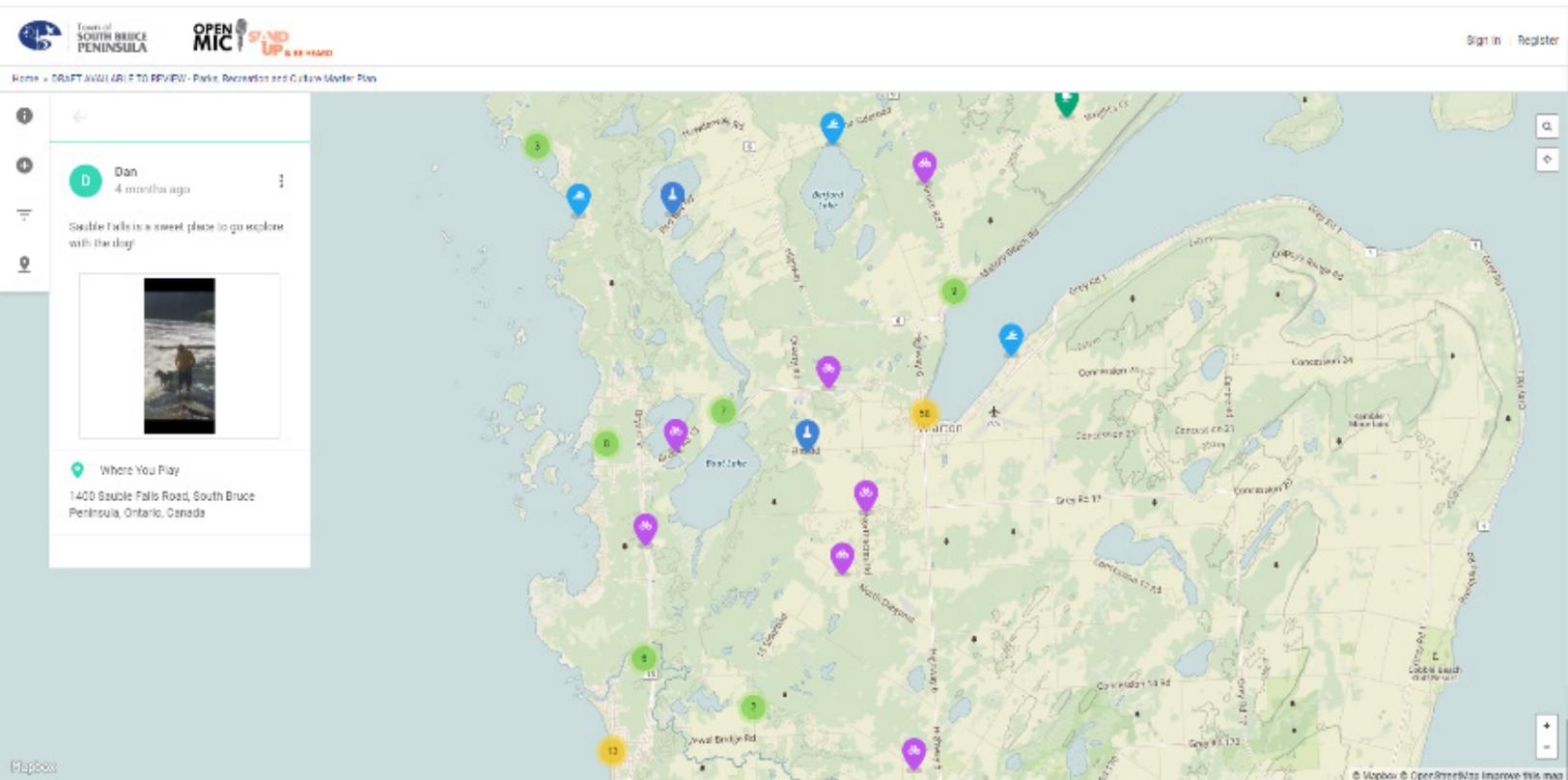


## Top 5 Arts & Cultural Priorities for Additional Public Spending



## 2.5 Place-Based Mapping Input

The public were provided with an opportunity to map where they participate in parks, recreation and cultural activities in South Bruce Peninsula. Using Open Mic South Bruce Peninsula, residents and visitors placed a total of 112 markers on a Town map and shared stories about things they did at each location. The majority of markers were placed within or near the Wiarton and Sauble Beach settlements while other locations included Howdenville and Red Bay. Most markers reported outdoor activities (primarily water-based) but also referenced cultural activities (festivals and concerts), playgrounds, and an ability to bike to certain destinations (e.g. food, retail, entertainment).



**PARK SNAPSHOT:**  
**Berford Lake Park**  
**Settlement: Berford Lake**  
**Park Size: 1.1 ha (2.7 acres)**

Berford Lake Park is a passive area providing a pavilion, small playground, beach and woodlot, and washroom. The park primarily serves residents living in the north-eastern rural settlements and offers access to Berford Lake.

## 2.6 Stakeholder Input Sessions

Four sessions were held on July 3 and July 9, 2019 to discuss parks, recreation and culture system with community stakeholders. Each session was organized based on the type of services provided, which were made up of community organizations and service clubs, recreation and sports stakeholders, and arts and culture groups. In total, 26 local organizations participated in the Stakeholder Input Sessions which were held in Wiaraton and Sauble Beach. The following is a summary of the main points of discussion at each session.

### Parks, Trails & Recreation Stakeholder Sessions

- Overall, attendees are very pleased with work being done by the Town, especially the Recreation Guide and commitment to working with groups. However, many felt that **staff are currently working at capacity** and that additional resources and investment in the Department would be beneficial.
- Groups would like the Town to take a lead in promotion and coordination of local activities / events / programs by acting as a **central information hub** (i.e., groups provide information to the Town regarding their services and all details are stored at one location – the municipal webpage or recreation guide).
- **Rates and fees** were discussed by certain participants. In particular, some attendees felt that the elimination of the non-resident charge could attract visitors and residents from neighbouring municipalities to their programs.
- Management of **traffic volumes** and **site navigation** was identified as an issue during busy summer weekends. Stakeholders suggested that additional signage and promotion of alternate parking areas would help with flow of pedestrians and traffic.
- **Volunteers** that oversee many of the local parks and recreation organizations are experiencing burnout and are seeking additional support from the Town for things like booking, management, registration, etc.
- Some **sports organizations** requested additional access to existing and new facilities. For example, one group expressed interest in beach volleyball courts in Wiaraton, while another would like to see development of dedicated pickleball courts.
- Many groups experience a surge in participation during the summer and struggle to retain users / members in the off-season. Most would like to promote the Town as a **four-season destination** for recreation activities.



### Stakeholders Represented

1. Allenford Curling Club
2. Bluewater Education Centre
3. Co-Ed Volleyball
4. Colpoys Bay Women's Institute
5. Friends of Sauble Beach
6. Grey-Bruce Sustainability Network
7. Hepworth Anglers Club
8. Peninsula Adventure Sports Assoc.
9. Royal Canadian Legion
10. Sauble Beach & District Lions Club
11. Sauble Chamber of Commerce
12. Sauble Sandpipers
13. Sauble Lawn Bowling
14. Sauble Beach Pickleball Club
15. Sauble Ski Club
16. Sauble Snowriders
17. South Bruce Peninsula ATV Club
18. SBP Community Improvement Committee
19. Visual Artist (Independent)
20. Wiaraton Agricultural Society
21. Wiaraton District Chamber of Commerce
22. Wiaraton District Optimist Club
23. Wiaraton Minor Softball
24. Wiaraton Revitalization Committee
25. Wiaraton Rotary Club
26. William W. Campbell Appreciation Society

## Arts & Culture Stakeholder Session

- Arts and cultural representatives requested that the Town work with local organizations to facilitate use of space or assist with establishing an **exhibition / studio space**. It was noted that many artists are interested in working in South Bruce Peninsula but that a viable site does not currently exist (at an affordable rate).
- Celebrating **local history and heritage** are integral to supporting arts and culture in South Bruce Peninsula. Stakeholders discussed options for highlighting the works of local historic figures, promoting the Town's unique marine heritage, and identifying historical homes and heritages buildings with walking tours and/or interpretive signage.
- Discussion also focused on a desire for the Town to take on a greater role in **coordination of programs and events**. For example, the Town could host an annual gathering which enables various arts and cultural bodies to share their stories, promote their trades and benefit from shared experiences.
- General **promotion of, and support for the arts** was very important to stakeholder representatives; they requested that the Town facilitate opportunities to create, sell and share pieces of work through pop-up galleries, art in the park, or other local events.
- Attendees spent time discussing local **indigenous** issues and experiences to highlight the importance of parks, recreation and cultural opportunities to members of those communities.
- **Funding** was identified as a critical issue for attracting and retaining talent in South Bruce Peninsula. Groups appreciate the work being done by the Town's Economic Development Officer, but would like more guidance on grant writing or even assistance navigating funding opportunities as they are made available.

## Community Partners & Other Interests Session

- Across all Stakeholder Input Sessions, the Town's **natural beauty and environmental significance** was identified as South Bruce Peninsula's greatest strength. Many groups discussed the importance of environmental preservation promotion and protection through environmental education and proper management of natural heritage assets (e.g., native species, protect habitat, local sands, etc.).
- A lack of **signage, wayfinding and navigation** was discussed as a potential hindrance for visitors. Workshop attendees suggested that off-site parking with a shuttle service may help alleviate traffic train and increase flow to and from destination sites (e.g., Bluewater Park and Sauble Beach).
- **Demographic changes** were also discussed as a trend influencing participation in parks, recreation and culture services. Stakeholder identified that many Wiarton residents live at or below the poverty line in relation to the effect that may have on access to parks and recreation services. Groups suggested factors that may bolster participation / address social issues in the Town may include: better geographic distribution of programs and services to minimize transportation barriers; subsidy programs for those with limited financial means; and provision of community food gardens where proceeds can be directed to persons in need.
- **Volunteer burnout** was also discussed at this session with many organizations describing a similar phenomenon; the same dedicated residents are committed to their cause(s) but without support from fellow organizers and / or the Town, the strain becomes too much. One solution discussed was expansion of the volunteer program to include recruitment, training, retention and appreciation events and opportunities for the Town to work with local organizations to facilitate training or build capacity support.
- The **Warton Fall Fair** is facing encroachment from new facilities in the park that limit available space for the fair and safety / setback distances between dedicated areas such as the ball diamond and midway attractions.

## 2.7 Staff Roundtable

A roundtable was held on July 3, 2019 with Town Staff representing the Department's parks, recreation, culture and economic development portfolios. Staff shared their thoughts regarding the state of parks, recreation and culture in South Bruce Peninsula. The following is a summary of the main points of discussion.

- Staff discussed a desire to become a **four-season tourism destination**. They believe that South Bruce Peninsula can build upon existing branding and attract visitors through promotion, signage and highlighting the features that the Town has to offer (e.g., Willie Fest, natural beauty, snowmobiling, eco-tourism, water / adventure sports, etc.).
- **Collaboration and capacity building** with local clubs, organizations and agencies was also discussed. Staff agree that many groups are working in silos and that coordination of events, programs and activities could positively influence all parties and provide efficiencies in scheduling, maintenance and promotion.
- **Indoor Recreation (specifically, aquatics)** was discussed not only by staff but also stakeholder organizations. Many agree that there is public demand for an indoor pool (as well as a gymnasium, walking track and fitness centre) but all recognize that this is a significant burden on taxpayers and that any future development would require partnership with a private agency or neighbouring municipality.
- **Increasing expectations and demands** from the public were identified by staff. Many noted that the influx of populations from larger centres strains financial, operational and management capacity under the Town's existing service model.

## 2.8 Input from Town Council

A special meeting of Town Council was held on June 14, 2019 for the purpose of informing the Master Plan. Councillors shared their initial perspectives about parks, recreation and culture in South Bruce Peninsula. The following is a summary of the main points of discussion.

- The natural settings and the commitment of community members/volunteers was a documented strength of South Bruce Peninsula. In particular, noted community assets included Bluewater Park, the bodies of water in and adjacent to the Town, the trails system (including the Bruce Trail), all of which benefit residents and attract tourists to the community.
- Participation in parks, recreation and cultural activities is regional in nature, spanning multiple municipalities in Grey and Bruce Counties. This has the potential to affect how services are planned and delivered, as well as the benefits and costs that are incurred by the Town.
- Councillors indicated that expectations for facilities and services are changing, particularly with new residents and visitors to the community looking for increased levels of service. They note that it can be difficult for a community of this size to keep up with such demands.

"It is the recreational goal of [the] Official Plan to optimize the recreational potential of the Town by ensuring sufficient lands are preserved for recreational purposes and by optimizing existing recreational resources."

~ Town of South Bruce Peninsula  
Official Plan, Section 3.9.1

- The point of better utilizing existing parks was raised, before considering the development of new parks, so as to differentiate between “necessity versus luxury.” Bluewater Park was cited as an example of a park that has benefitted from recent investments but there is still work to be done (including improvements to the beach area, adding a stage, and a broader range of programming).
- Consideration of grants and collaboration with partners was noted as a way to increase service levels to the public. In particular, the promotion of Town facilities and parks to people wishing to deliver their own programs was discussed.
- Arts and cultural programs/services were perceived to be a gap area.
- Funding and cost recovery of facilities and programs was discussed, something that is a difficult balance when trying to be fiscally-responsible but also trying to maximize participation/use. Also discussed was the concept of user fees, surcharges or fees being applied to non-residents, as well as finding ways to quantify indirect and non-financial benefits that are generated by parks, recreation and culture services.

Town Council was formally re-engaged to provide comment regarding the first draft of the Master Plan on September 17, 2019. At that meeting, Council authorized the draft Master Plan to be released to the public for input prior to the Master Plan’s finalization.

## 2.9 Draft Master Plan Open House

An Open House was held on October 17, 2019 at Peninsula Shores District School while a virtual Open House was open for a two-week commenting period for residents that were unable to attend in-person. Feedback included general agreement with respect to the Master Plan’s proposed directions, including a letter of support provided by the Grey-Bruce Public Health Unit (the latter of whom emphasized healthy community development principles) along with stated desires to reimagine Bluewater Park and surrounding areas, and access to more cultural events in parks. Some residents also mentioned that a local church in Sauble Beach is planning to construct a double gymnasium and suggested that the Town work with the Carson’s Camp and Woodland Campground to access two indoor aquatic facilities that already exist in South Bruce Peninsula. These and other comments from that Open House were considered as part of the Master Plan’s finalization process and subsequent presentation to Town Council for consideration as a guiding document.



**PARK SNAPSHOT:**  
**Dan Davidson Park**  
**Settlement: Wiarton**  
**Park Size: 4.9 ha (12 acres)**

The Town reclaimed a decommissioned landfill as open space to serve all of South Bruce Peninsula with a quality softball diamond and an off-leash dog park dedicated to the memory of a local resident. The park is accessed from Watson Street.

## Section 3. Service Delivery Objectives

### 3.1 The Town's Role

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula's primary responsibility is currently to provide physical infrastructure through which parks, recreation and cultural services can be delivered. The 2018 Operating Budget levy for Town-funded parks, recreation and culture services amounted to approximately \$1 million<sup>6</sup> or \$68 per capita (including seasonal populations). Approximately \$35,000 is directed to parks operations and \$500,000 towards recreation facilities (e.g. arena, pool, community centre, and the community school).

The Town offers limited programs as its core focus is to indirectly support the delivery of similar services and programs by community groups, volunteer organizations and the private sector who make use of Town-owned properties - such as community halls, arenas, sports fields, tennis courts and more - as part of their respective mandates.

Although primarily a facilitator of services, the Town has a greater degree of enabling/delivering selected programs including the following:

- Pickleball
- Badminton
- Karate
- Family Programming
- March Break Programming
- Tennis lessons
- Senior games
- Power Skating
- Swimming lessons
- Aquatic fitness
- Skating / hockey
- Senior's workshops

In certain instances such as pickleball, the Town provides logistical support through the collection of membership dues and relies on the Sauble Pickleball Club to organize/administer the programs while in other cases such as outdoor aquatics programs, the Town is the direct provider that staffs and delivers the programs.

Parks, recreation and culture opportunities in South Bruce Peninsula are provided through an "integrated service delivery system" that involves multiple community-based providers and various Town Departments. For an integrated service delivery system to be successful, the community must have a strong internal capacity to sustainably provide programs and services over the long term. It is in the Town's interest to facilitate a community development approach so that organizations and volunteers grow to a point where they can function autonomously and with minimal support from external agencies. "Asset Based Community Development" is an approach that focuses on capacities of organizations, rather than their deficiencies, to address their needs; a relevant analogy is as simple as viewing the "glass being half full" or "half empty." The intended result of community development is to empower the community to create positive outcomes for themselves.

**Asset-Based Community Development** focuses on the strengths and capacities of groups, not on their deficiencies, to identify and address their needs.

While the Town supports the community development approach in principle, a formalized community development model is not in place. A standardized community development initiative would offer a structured method of involving community groups to develop and deliver recreation services and programs. Typically, a community development approach stimulates partnerships, networks and collaboration at all levels of program design and delivery. Furthermore, shared decision-making between municipal staff and key stakeholders helps to foster a degree of ownership and empowerment amongst community partners. As South Bruce Peninsula

<sup>6</sup> Excludes operating levy requirements for libraries in Sauble Beach and Wiarton, Wiarton Willie, Hepworth Information Centre, the Wiarton Information Centre & Campground, and cemetery operations.

grows and the demand for increased programming expands, community organizations could assume a more significant role in certain aspects of the Town’s community services system.

Applying the principles of a community development approach would strengthen the Community Services Department’s relationship with its partners and increase community capacity. For the community development approach to be effective, appropriate Town resources (e.g. financial, staffing, services in-kind, etc.) need to be devoted in order to maximize relationships that will be developed with groups.

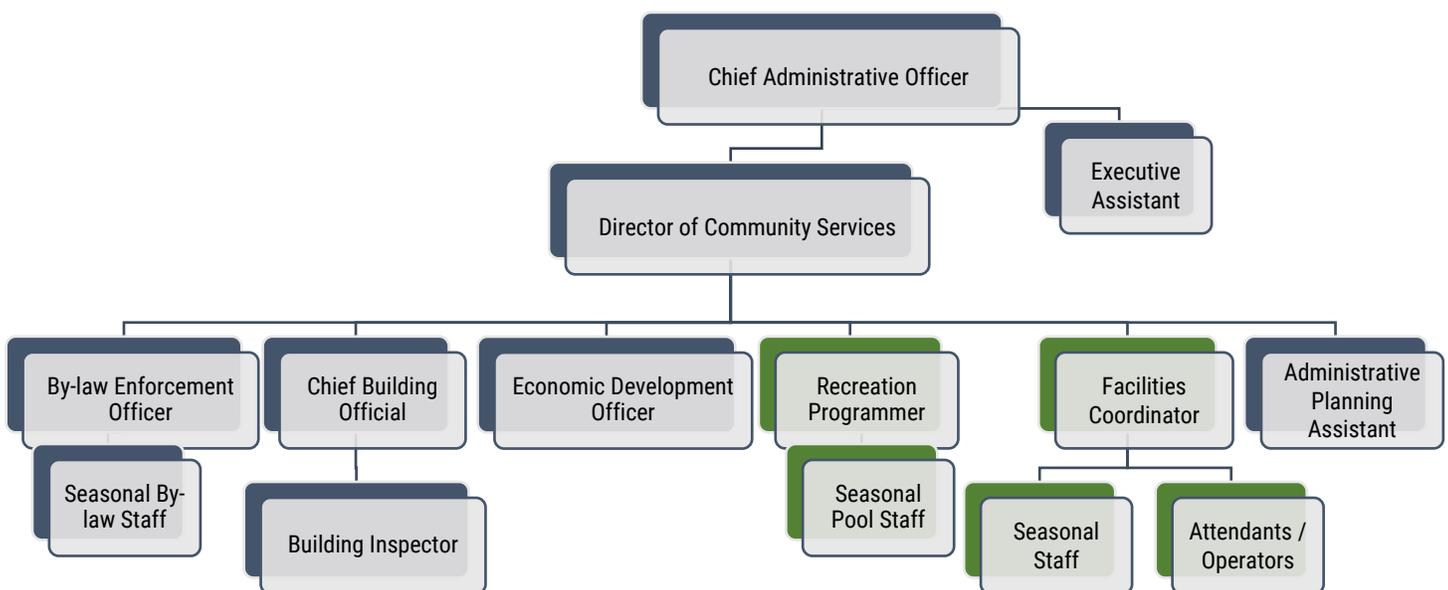
The Community Services Department is responsible for implementing the majority of recommendations contained in this Master Plan. Other municipal departments also have a role in matters such as finance, public works, marketing, and economic development. Strong communication between Departments will ensure that a coordinated and integrated approach to service delivery can take place.

## 3.2 Organizational Structure

Like most municipalities, the organizational structure within the Town of South Bruce Peninsula is centralized, whereby Community Services and other Departments report to the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, through which key decisions are considered for approval by the elected Town Council. The municipality’s parks, recreation and culture operations fall under the responsibility of the Community Services Department although other Departments also have an influence in certain aspects (e.g. finance, public works, capital planning and budget development, etc.).

Within the Community Services Department, the Parks and Facilities Division is responsible for the majority of leisure services. The Parks and Facilities Division is presently comprised of 6 Full-Time staff consisting of a Facilities Coordinator and a Recreation Programmer in administrative roles, along with three permanent and two part staff responsible for operations. The Economic Development Officer and Executive Assistant to the CAO also lend support to certain tasks such as marketing/branding, engaging community groups, attracting and coordinating events/festivals, etc. Seasonal staff are also employed for Sauble Beach operations, horticultural activities, campground and outdoor pool operations, and tourist information.

**Figure 3: Community Services Department Organizational Structure, 2019**



Adoption of a community development model noted in the previous section requires a considerable amount of staff time to meaningfully engage groups. With Parks and Facilities Division staff expending greater amounts of time communicating with the public and community groups on top of their core responsibilities, it will be difficult for them to meaningfully build relationships and address non-operational customer service requests without additional resourcing.

For this reason, the creation of a new staff position within the Community Services Department is recommended to allow the Town to effectively facilitate community-based delivery of programs through a community development model. While there is a cost to hiring a new staff person, it is believed that this cost would be recouped in instances where the Town would otherwise be relieved of direct program delivery; discussions with staff indicate that there have been cases where a community organization ceases operations and pressures are subsequently placed on the municipality to take over the service. Accordingly, the Town has a strong interest in the long-term organizational and operating sustainability of community service providers.

In addition to finding and continually engaging local organizations, a Recreation & Culture Liaison would also be responsible for the development and promotion of recreation and wellness, global and regional recreational trend tracking, maximizing facility utilization, and assisting festival groups with their operations (e.g. account tracking, grant writing, etc.).

Prior to hiring any new permanent staff, it is recommended that the Town undertake a comprehensive Staffing Review for the Community Services Department in order to ensure that it is optimally positioned to deliver services effectively. This Review would rationalize the costs of adding new staff versus re-assigning responsibilities (recognizing that expertise for certain tasks may require new positions), while planning for future staffing needs in anticipation of future trends, service approaches, retirements, etc.

### **3.3 Building the Capacity of Local Volunteers**

Recognizing the important contributions of its dedicated volunteer base, the Town works with local volunteer organizations to ensure their efforts can be sustained over time. In January 2015, Statistics Canada published a Spotlight on Canadians: Results from the General Social Survey whose section focused on volunteering and charitable giving found that 12.7 million people in Canada volunteered nearly 2 billion hours in 2013. However, the research found that volunteers are aging and despite high reports of hours volunteered, the general volunteer rate was lower than recorded in previous surveys. This echoes the sentiments expressed by most of the local stakeholder groups that participated in the Master Plan's Input Sessions

Local volunteers help community groups deliver programs and services in South Bruce Peninsula and are the backbone of critically important pieces of the Town's parks, recreation and culture service delivery system. Volunteers in South Bruce Peninsula are seeking reciprocity in their relationship with service provider organizations, including the Town. As many parks, recreation and culture service providers are volunteer-based or not-for-profit agencies, it can be difficult to find resources to support volunteer training and development. In response to this, there are examples of multiple service providers collectively pooling resources and sharing in training sessions that would be beneficial to all organizations (e.g., accessibility, harassment, or customer service training).

Ultimately, volunteers are more likely to continue to contribute if they feel comfortable, knowledgeable, and supported in their roles. Community Services Department Staff are committed to engaging with volunteers and promote a sense of belonging and appreciation; the desired outcome is to increase retention of valuable and well-trained participants in the groups that they volunteer with. The Town and local service providers have an opportunity to recognize the value of volunteerism through participation in events such as National Volunteer Week, host internal volunteer appreciation events, or provide small tokens of thanks as appropriate.

## 3.4 Partnerships

The Town proactively seeks out strategic partnerships that represent the interests of the public in order to ensure unique, cost-effective and quality services are available in South Bruce Peninsula. Examples of partnerships range from informal relationships with community organizations (minor sports, festival organizers, etc.) to formalized agreements with the Bluewater District School Board.

Partners are an integral part of the local parks, recreation and culture system. Given the Town's indirect service delivery model, access to facilities and services provided in South Bruce Peninsula would be much more limited if it were not for the willingness of organizations to collaborate. Examples of potential partners (and expansion/continuation of existing partnerships) in South Bruce Peninsula include, but are not limited to:

- Upper tiers of government (e.g. Bruce County), adjacent municipalities and First Nations communities;
- Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Bruce Trail Conservancy and environmentally-focused organizations;
- Bluewater District School Board and other educational institutions;
- Non-profit organizations such as the YMCA, local/regional Community Health Centres, United Way, etc.;
- Local stakeholders such as service clubs, minor sports and recreation providers, arts and cultural groups, community associations, and BIAs; and/or
- The private sector (e.g. fitness providers, sporting groups, local artist studios, etc.) and local land owners.

There are a number of criteria to consider prior to establishing a relationship/partnership with a third party wishing to introduce a new level of service with municipal assistance. First and foremost, any proposed partnership must be consistent with the municipal mandate and philosophies, and that the Town would have a meaningful role to play in meeting a demonstrable community need. Due diligence relating to funding and operating responsibilities of each party, the organization/fiscal sustainability of the potential partner, and risk would need to be determined prior to proceeding. In addition, a standardized approach to evaluating partnerships should be in place to allow for consistent and transparent decision-making that considers criteria (and others) noted in this paragraph.

"The Grey Bruce Health Unit is keen to work in partnership and collaboration with [Town] staff and council to identify evidence-based policies that will best meet local needs for creating environments that support the health of their residents and visitors."

**~ Letter of Support submitted by  
Grey Bruce Public Health Unit**

## 3.5 Marketing & Communications

Improving awareness of parks, recreation and culture activities that exist in South Bruce Peninsula was a theme heard through the Master Plan consultations. In particular, people noted that the Town has many natural assets and events/festivals that residents and visitors are not fully aware of. However, the Town's recent efforts to improve its Recreation Guide was noted a number of times as being an excellent step forward, particularly in terms of its comprehensiveness in listing community organizations that operate in South Bruce Peninsula. The Recreation Guide is available in both hard printed copy and digital format to maximize its reach.

Providers of parks, recreation and culture services (public, private, and non-profit) educate the public and influence the degree of participation. As a result of this, mutual benefits can be obtained through a coordinated approach to service provision. Simple tasks such as allowing for display of brochures and posters within facilities and promotion of local events help to build strong, healthy, and engaged citizens.

## 3.6 Providing Inclusive Choices

Most Parks, Recreation and Culture Departments across Canada recognize the importance of taking a multi-faceted approach to including all segments of the population, particularly those populations that face above-average levels of marginalization or vulnerability. Populations that commonly experience barriers to participation include persons from low income backgrounds, persons with disabilities, the LGBTQ+ community, and the aboriginal community.

### Low Income

Master Plan consultations identified that affordable programs should be available, recognizing that there are households in South Bruce Peninsula with limited financial means. Research bears this out with ample evidence that correlates a person's level of income with their frequency of participation; households with more income available to spend on parks, recreation and culture pursuits are more likely to be engaged than households where cost to participation is a barrier.

The median after-tax income for all private households in South Bruce Peninsula was approximately \$52,500 for 2015, which is below median incomes for Bruce County and Ontario (\$62,900 and \$65,300, respectively). South Bruce Peninsula also has a higher proportion of low-income residents with nearly 17% of the population living below the low-income measure, after-tax. By comparison, approximately 13% of residents in the County and 14% in the Province live below the low-income measure.<sup>7</sup>

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula does not have a formal financial assistance policy in place, largely because it is not heavily involved in the direct delivery of programs. It is up to individual service providers to address financial constraints through their own policies and practices, with Stakeholder Input Sessions noting that groups as a whole try not to turn individuals away if they cannot afford to participate. Some organizations will leverage programs through Canadian Tire Jumpstart or direct people to the Bruce County Child Activity Assistance Program (also known as CAAP). Other organizations have more informal approaches that typically involve individual discussions with people to see how they can be accommodated within their means, and some stakeholder groups strive to keep their registration/program rates as low as possible.

### Persons with Disabilities

The 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability found that 6.2 million people reported living with some form of disability, most commonly identified as pain-related, flexibility, mobility and mental health-related. This amounts to 22% of the population, a substantial increase from the 13% of the population (3.8 million people) reporting living with a disability in the 2012 Survey on Disability.

Assuming that the national average of 22% is applied to the population in South Bruce Peninsula, there could be over 3,000 permanent and seasonal residents living with have some form of disability. The Town is committed to making its facilities and programs accessible where possible. It has ongoing work plans to identify and remove physical barriers to built spaces and provides training to Council members, Town employees and volunteers undertaking work on behalf of the municipality when required to do so. Annual Reports specific to the removal of barriers to accessibility are published annually in addition to accessibility compliance reports. The Town also has an "Access to Community Recreation Facilities and Programs for Persons with Disabilities" Policy in place (Policy Number AD.7.2).

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<sup>7</sup> Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Canada.

## Persons from Diverse Cultural Backgrounds

According to the 2016 Census, 7% of permanent residents in South Bruce Peninsula were born outside of Canada and most have been established in the country for well over a decade (seasonal residents are not captured in Census data); less than 1% of the permanent population immigrated after 2006 which is much lower than the provincial rate.

Persons of European descent make up the largest cultural groups, primarily those from the United Kingdom but also of German and Dutch heritage and persons from the United States. Visible minorities make up just 1% of the Town's permanent residents while Indigenous persons constitute 5% of the population (noting that the Town shares borders with the Nawash Unceded First Nation and the Saugeen First Nation).



*Truth & Reconciliation Garden at the Amabel-Sauble Community School*

A number of municipalities are exploring ways to attract newcomers and diverse cultural groups to their communities as part of broader economic development and business expansion/retention strategies. With immigrants constituting a major share of population growth province-wide, municipalities are seeking to understand the types of incentives and quality of life factors that draw culturally diverse groups. Parks, recreation and culture is part of the mix of services that most people, including culturally diverse individuals, consider when deciding whether to settle in a community; municipalities and community service providers often look at broadening the types of services that they offer to respond to the needs of individuals with “non-traditional” interests and activity preferences through programs, services and facilities.

As South Bruce Peninsula can be expected to diversify further in the years to come based upon provincial trends, its efforts to embrace cultural diversity through programs and festivals remain relevant. In communities that are experiencing, or have already experienced strong rates of ethno-cultural diversity, one of the most promising practices is to build relationships with diverse cultural individuals and groups that are active in the community. Initial discussions centre on understanding parks, recreation and arts/culture needs, how to provide access, and ways to navigate municipal government. Program related initiatives include the introduction of traditional Canadian sports and activities, and introducing all residents to diverse activities, sports and leisure pursuits.

## LGBTQ+ Community

There is no data that quantifies how many persons belong to the LGBTQ+ community, though polls and studies conducted elsewhere estimate the percentage to be in the range of 3.5% to 5%. The LGBTQ+ community often faces barriers to participation in parks, recreation and cultural programs as a result of exclusion and bullying; however, their participation is critical as the LGBTQ+ advocacy groups often attribute exclusionary attitudes with mental health issues, homelessness, suicide and harmful practices in their communities. The role of the Town is to ensure that these residents are welcomed, included and can participate freely from harassment, hatred or bias within safe public spaces and welcoming programs.

## 3.7 Addressing the Needs of Youth & Older Adults

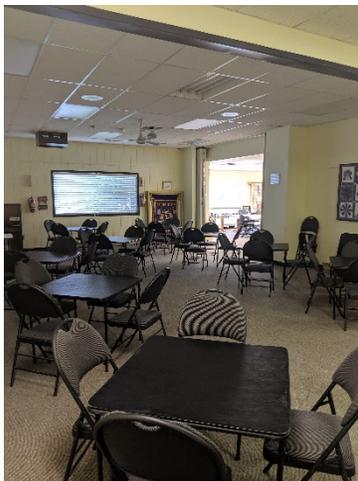
### Youth (Ages 10-19)

The 2016 Census recorded 725 youth between the ages of 10 and 19 that resided permanently in South Bruce Peninsula in addition to hundreds more that live in the Town on a seasonal basis. Engaging local youth/teens with safe and interesting opportunities is essential for their healthy development; recognizing this, the Town has invested in facilities such as the skateboard park at Bluewater Park, sports fields, basketball courts, and has gained access to gymnasiums and the Performing Arts Theatre at the two local schools. The Town also engages community providers to understand youth-focused programs and services that are being delivered locally.

Many communities across Ontario have attained a “Youth-Friendly Community” designation from the Play Works Partnership. A Youth Coalition that includes representation from the Town of South Bruce Peninsula, the Grey Bruce Health Unit, Bluewater District School Board, and the Grey Bruce OPP recently held a series of workshops with local youth in Spring 2019 to gain insights and inform them of the 10 criteria used to evaluate the Youth-Friendly Community designations.

### Older Adults (Ages 55+)

The Town’s ability to meet the needs of a growing population of older adults was a recurring theme during the Master Plan process. Many Ontario municipalities commonly define 55+ as the age to be considered an “older adult” through which to access recreation and cultural services; there were more than 4,100 permanent residents that are ages 55 years and over recorded by the 2016 Census while the number of seasonal older adults could also number in the thousands. Older adults make strong use of local facilities such as the Sauble Beach Community Centre (which is a designated “Active Living Centre” and thus eligible for approximately \$50,000 annually in senior government funding) and the Amabel-Sauble Community School gymnasium. The Sauble Sandpipers are the primary users of the Community Centre during weekday daytime hours and deliver many programs for their 300 members through the facility’s multi-purpose rooms, games room, hall and kitchen. The Community School gymnasium is used for certain older adult activities including pickleball.



#### **FACILITY SNAPSHOT:**

**Sauble Beach Community Centre**

**Settlement: Sauble Beach**

**Year Built: 1977 (Expanded in 1994)**

Sauble Beach Community Centre is a place for social gathering, arts and cultural activity, and active living. The Sauble Sandpipers Club delivers a number of programs for seniors throughout the week, using the Community Centre’s hall, commercial kitchen, multi-purpose rooms, and games room.

A prevailing trend in older adult service provision is the desire for soon-to-be older adults and “younger” generations – particularly Baby Boomers – to resist the label of being a “senior citizen.” While some view the term as a source of pride, it would appear that many 55+ individuals want to participate in parks, recreation and cultural activities within intergenerational settings. As a result, fewer seniors’ centres have been constructed in the province in the past decade compared to years prior. Instead, the trend has shifted to dedicating or assigning priority to rooms/spaces for older adult programming within multi-generational, multi-use community centres (similar to the Sauble Beach Community Centre model). In such multi-use settings, older adults have the ability to participate in both physically active programs, arts and culture, as well as more socially-oriented activities.

The physical activity and cognitive stimulation afforded by the local community centres and parks is highly beneficial for the elderly of whom research shows strong benefit from having “healthy aging” opportunities in place to prevent chronic illness and pain. Moving forward, it will be important for the Town and older adult service providers to recognize that their programs must be designed to meet the different abilities within the cohort as some older adults are able to remain physically active longer in their lives compared to others. Continual dialogue between the Town and organizations such as the Sauble Sandpipers, Grey Bruce Health Services, and others focused on the 55+ population to discuss how best to deliver a holistic and integrated programs that promote healthy aging and minimize social isolation among South Bruce Peninsula older adults.

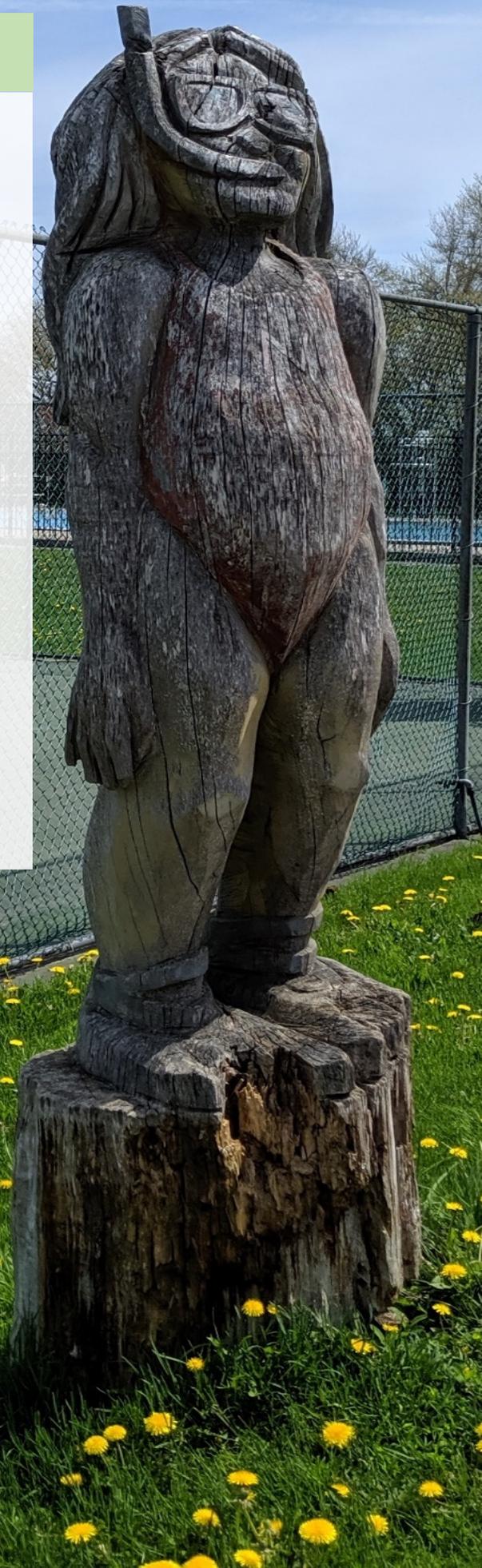
### 3.8 Recommendations Related to Departmental Objectives

The following Recommendations are made to guide broad objectives for the Community Services Department to the year 2029.

- #1. The Town’s role should continue to be a “Facilitator” of parks, recreation and cultural services. In support of this role, the Town should encourage a Community Development Model through engagement and provision of appropriate supports (e.g., financial, logistical, expertise, etc.) to empower its volunteers and community organizations, develop their internal capacity, and enhance their ability to deliver services over time.
- #2. Undertake a comprehensive Staffing Review for the Community Services Department to develop appropriate staffing standards that reflect desired service levels. Part of this Review should confirm the addition of a staff position focused on community development tasks, trend tracking and festival coordination (at a minimum).
- #3. Organize regular forums for volunteer and community organizations delivering parks, recreation and culture services in South Bruce Peninsula to allow information/idea sharing and networking opportunities to take place. Such forums could be tied in with new or existing volunteer recognition events.

## Departmental Objectives Recommendations (continued)

- #4. Proactively seek partnerships with parks, recreation and cultural service providers including, but not limited to, educational and healthcare institutions, non-profit agencies, sport organizations, and arts and cultural collectives. A standardized framework to evaluate partnerships should be developed to guide decisions.
- #5. Engage representatives of persons with disabilities, First Nations and diverse ethno-cultural groups, low income populations, LGBTQ+ communities and other marginalized groups to understand their parks, recreation and cultural needs so that services result in these populations becoming active, connected and welcomed.
- #6. Pursue the Playworks Partnership's "Youth-Friendly Community" designation in collaboration with community partners such as the Grey Bruce Health Unit, Bluewater District School Board, OPP, and other interested agencies.
- #7. Work with the Sandpipers Seniors Club and other older adult service partners to better understand how older adults are using the Town of South Bruce Peninsula's parks, recreation and culture services, and collectively find ways to increase participation rates in response to emerging trends and issues.



# Section 4. Parks & Trails in South Bruce Peninsula

## 4.1 Parks in South Bruce Peninsula

The natural beauty of South Bruce Peninsula is one of the Town’s defining features and one of the most valued aspects of living in the community based on what residents communicated throughout the planning process. The Town’s parks showcase natural beauty found locally but also are places for people to connect with each other, be physically active and simply get fresh air. Four out of five Master Plan survey respondents reported visiting a park in the past year.

A well-designed parks system offers social, environmental, health, and economic benefits, and have the potential to bring people together. As noted in a national charter entitled Parks For All, parks are defined as “any land and water that exists on the parks continuum” which could be located on public or privately held lands. As outdoor spaces, parks provide an important connection to nature which is required for our survival as well as personal, community and societal enrichment.<sup>8</sup>

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula’s parks system plays an important role locally as well as globally. Located in a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, the Town’s 90.8 hectares (225 acres) of active, passive and naturalized parkland contributes to a broader open space system and surrounding watersheds that include conservation areas, Provincial Parks, nature preserves and privately held greenspaces. South Bruce Peninsula’s parks serve recreational and cultural needs of individuals while forming an integral component of the Niagara Escarpment ecosystem.

Section 4.2 of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula Official Plan distinguishes parkland by ‘neighbourhood’ and ‘community’ level functions and catchment area that a park is intended to serve.

<b>Neighbourhood Park</b>	Situated within walking distance of the residents they are intended to serve, primarily located in areas of concentrated residential development.
<b>Community Park</b>	Tend to serve the general population of the municipality.

The Official Plan permits both Neighbourhood and Community Parks to be used for active and passive activities, and they may also be focused towards preservation of the natural environment. The Town also classifies its cemeteries as ‘passive’ parks as permitted by the Official Plan’s Recreation and Open Space designation. The inventory of parkland owned by the Town is summarized in Table 1.

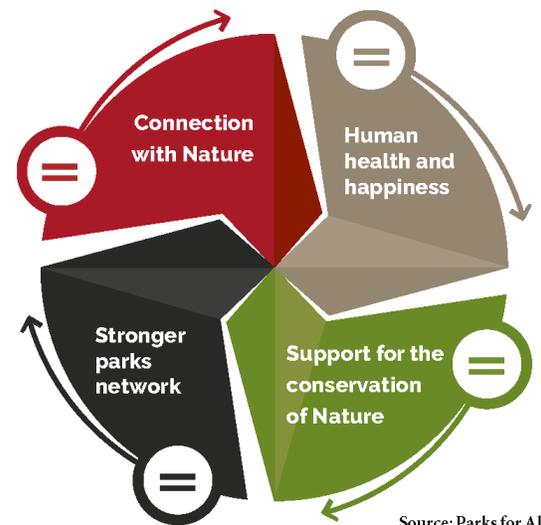
<sup>8</sup> Parks Canada Agency. 2017. Parks for All: An Action Plan for Canada’s Parks Community.

### A Vision for Canada’s Parks

Connected Canadian Park Lands and Waters that support healthy Nature and healthy people in harmony for generations to come, backed by an active, diverse parks community that cultivates shared goals, mutual respect, and collective action.

~ Parks for All. Parks Canada, 2017

#### THE BENEFITS OF NATURE



Source: Parks for All. Parks Canada Agency, 2017

**Table 1: Parkland Inventory by Classification and Location**

	Park Size (hectares)	Settlement Area
<b>Community Parkland</b>		
Amabel-Sauble Community School	2.9	Sauble Beach
Bannister Park	4.8	Sauble Beach
Bluewater Park	12.5	Wiaraton
Sauble Beach	20.2	Sauble Beach
Sauble Beach Town Square	0.4	Sauble Beach
Oliphant Dog Park	4.7	Oliphant
<b>Neighbourhood Parkland</b>		
Allenford Playground	0.1	Allenford
Berford Lake Park	1.1	Berford Lake
Chesley Lake Park	0.2	Allenford
Colpoy's Bay Dock	1.0	Colpoy's Bay
Dan Davidson Park	4.9	Wiaraton
Elsinore Community Centre Park	0.2	Elsinore
Gould Lake Park	0.2	Park Head
Hepworth Park	1.4	Hepworth
Hepworth Cenotaph	0.2	Hepworth
Hope Bay Parkette	0.1	Hope Bay
Howdenvale Park	0.5	Howdenvale
Jimmy Brown Rotary Park	0.4	Wiaraton
Park Head Community Centre Park	1.9	Park Head
Purple Valley Community Centre Lands	0.5	Purple Valley
Red Bay Park	0.7	Red Bay
<b>Woodlots in Parks</b>		
Bannister Park Woodlot	16.1	Sauble Beach
Berford Lake Park Woodlot	9.1	Berford Lake
<b>Cemeteries</b>		
Bayview Cemetery	4.0	Wiaraton
Colpoys/Edgehill Cemetery	1.8	Colpoy's Bay
Oliphant Cemetery	0.4	Oliphant
Red Bay Cemetery	0.5	Red Bay

Notes: Parkland classifications were applied to existing inventory by Monteith Brown based on observations gleaned through field tours. The Amabel-Sauble Community School playground and sports fields are accessed under agreement with the Bluewater District School Board. Excludes non-municipal parks and open spaces.

Source: Town of South Bruce Peninsula, 2019

South Bruce Peninsula provides a strong level of service for parkland, amounting to **6.0 hectares per 1,000 residents** (assuming a population of 15,000 including seasonal residents).

### Existing Parkland Supplies

Community Parks – 45.5 hectares  
 Neighbourhood Parks - 13.4 hectares  
 Cemeteries – 6.7 hectares  
Woodlots in Parks – 25.2 hectares

**TOTAL Parkland –90.8 hectares**

## 4.2 Parkland Needs for the Next 10 Years

The strong value that residents place on parks, the physical and social benefits created through these spaces, and the economic spinoffs that are generated lend support for continued investment in parkland. Future parkland needs are largely met through the acquisition of new parkland, revitalization of existing parks, and investing in certain amenities for the parks system as a whole.

### Acquisition of New Parkland

The Town is entitled to receive parkland through the land development process as prescribed by the Ontario Planning Act, amounting to 2% of developed industrial and commercial lands and 5% of all other developable lands (or cash-in-lieu of the physical parkland). The Town can supplement parklands received through the land development process by purchasing additional lands, securing leases or access agreements, and other means to add parkland to the supply.

With a park supply over 90 hectares, the Town is servicing residents at a rate of 6.0 hectares per 1,000 population (based upon an assumed peak season population of 15,000 persons, as seasonal residents can be reasonably expected to make use of local parks during the warmer months). When excluding Berford Lake Park and Bannister Park woodlots along with the four cemeteries to focus on active park uses, the service level is nearly 4.0 hectares per 1,000 population. This is considered a healthy level of parkland supply, particularly when factoring publically accessible lands held by other government agencies and private sector park/recreation providers (e.g. Province of Ontario and Bruce County).

Understanding that the Town is experiencing some residential growth pressures in certain geographic locations (e.g. Wiarton), it will be important to ensure that the active supply of parkland in particular is augmented to keep service levels similar to the existing rate. Based upon population growth to 17,000 peak season residents (roughly assumed based on an assumed 9,800 permanent residents by 2029), a total of 2 hectares of active parkland would need to be added to the supply if keeping a service level of 4.0 hectares per 1,000 (excluding the woodlots) through a combination of Planning Act dedications and other means.

Focusing upon the active supply of parkland is not meant to diminish the importance of naturalized parks, however, the Town will want to ensure that any lands conveyed through the development process are unencumbered by natural constraints; This is to maximize cost-efficiencies so that the Town minimizes its expenses related to site development (grading, clearing, etc.) to address population growth-related demands. Acquisition of naturalized lands can be pursued by other means as previously noted.

The Town generally provides at least one park in most major residential settlements as shown earlier in this Master Plan through Figure 1. The two largest settlements, Wiarton and Sauble Beach are serviced by multiple parks, including the Town's two largest parks (Bluewater Park and Sauble Beach) that serve residents and visitors alike. Supplementing municipal parkland are open spaces that are frequently used for recreational purposes such as Sauble Falls Provincial Park, Spirit Rock Conservation Area, ski trails in Sauble Beach and Hepworth, the Albemarle Tract mountain bike trails and a number of private campgrounds.

"[The] New Town Square in Sauble [is a] great place to connect with neighbours and tourists, especially during special/live events."

~ Open Mic Comment

## **Revitalization of Existing Parks**

The park experience is tied to its design, intended function, and the quality of facilities/amenities found within. These factors are often influenced by the era of original construction. A park built decades prior can impart positive feelings of history, sentiment, and pride; however, older parks may also be in need of rejuvenation if deterioration is apparent or if the intended functions no longer respond to modern and/or local area interests and demographics.

Parkland revitalization is thus an important part of attracting continued use over time. Rejuvenation efforts can be major in scale, ranging from complete park redevelopments to renewal of major amenities or adding new facilities where space permits.

Rejuvenation can also take more basic or minor forms as will be discussed in subsequent pages. Often, redevelopment of a park is initiated because of population growth pressures or an evolution that has occurred in demographics of surrounding areas (e.g. a greater proportion of older adults and fewer children), in response to volunteer initiatives (e.g. fundraising or service club contributions), or multiple park-based facilities approaching the end of their lifecycle. Recent reinvestments in Bluewater Park (playground, splash pad, skateboard park, etc.) is an example of major renewal effort.

## **Strengthening Park Experiences with Amenities**

The Town can attract greater use of parks and further “animate” them through smaller-scale investments that are commonly focused on drop-in use, comfort, accessibility, and functionality. Through community consultations, desires were expressed for more shade, seating and washrooms within parks and along trails. Comfort features benefit everyone, but especially families with young children as well as older adults. There is a trend towards greater informal gatherings within parks such as picnics, community gatherings, or simply meeting up with friends.

### ***Reconfirming a Vision for Bluewater Park***

Throughout consultations, Bluewater Park was affirmed as one of the crown jewels of South Bruce Peninsula’s parks, recreation and culture system. However, the pressures being placed on the park were noticed with recent investments in the splash pad, skateboard park in particular leading to the loss of previously open areas and more impacts on parking. For the most part, consultations revealed support for investments but also highlighted some concerns that Bluewater Park is approaching a point where over-intensifying activities could result in deterioration to the park user’s experience.

For this reason, some participating residents questioned whether existing open spaces could be better leveraged for structured or unstructured opportunities such as event space (e.g. amphitheatre, festival area, etc.), additional recreational areas, and more parking. This included a suggestion by some as to whether the campground lands could be reclaimed for public park uses. Although Section 4.5 of this Master Plan finds no reason to discontinue operation of the Bluewater Park Campground, no further outdoor recreation/cultural facility additions have been proposed in this document, and recently investments in the splash pad and skateboard park would not be repurposed in the near future, there is merit in further evaluating whether certain areas of Bluewater Park are being used to its full potential. For this reason, it is recommended that the Town prepare a park-specific master plan and/or conceptual design for Bluewater Park that engages the community and stakeholders to establish a vision and future direction for the lands (including the campground).

### *Welcoming, Comfortable Designs*

Accessibility and inclusivity is an important part of park design. Parks are typically a place for all, thus facilitating access for persons with disabilities and special needs is something to strive towards. Not all parks or areas within them are appropriate for universally accessible infrastructure (e.g. ecologically sensitive or naturalized zones), however, community-focused spaces should consider the ability of all residents to access them. The Town can increase the likelihood of residents and tourists regularly visiting its parks and trails by making them comfortable, welcoming and safe. As noted at the start of this section, the more connected that people become with the outdoors, the better the outcomes for individuals and the community.



**PARK SNAPSHOT:**  
**Howdenvale Park**  
**Settlement: Howdenvale**  
**Park Size: 0.5 ha (1.25 acres)**

Howdenvale Park is a recent addition to the Town's park supply that is designed to serve the settlement area. Located off Howdenvale Road, the park contains open space, small beach area, and parking.

### *Multi-Generational, Multi-Seasonal Usage*

The ability to attract the broadest range of people into a park throughout the year is central to many park design philosophies. Although not all parks can or should be everything to everybody, a good park makes sure there is at least something that a person can do regardless of their age. Whether it is a family activity such as use a playground or fly a kite, the ability for adults to congregate with friends around a checkerboard table for a coffee, or simply a place for somebody to sit on a shaded bench and relax, parks should be a destination within the catchment area they are intended to serve.

### *Opportunities for Outdoor Fitness*

Outdoor fitness equipment has been installed at Bluewater Park and Sauble Beach, a progressive approach that is in line with leading municipalities across North America. There is evidence that outdoor fitness experiences are growing in popularity, particularly as they pertain to long distance endurance; many residents pursue personal goals for full/half marathon or biathlon/triathlon activities.

The design scale of outdoor fitness areas varies but is commonly exemplified through "fitness stations" that consolidate multiple pieces of exercise equipment in a specific part of a park as the Town has done (four stations are located at Sauble Beach and five stations are contained in Bluewater Park). Other approaches include "fitness trails" to allow interval training and a mix of cardio and strength training, while other approaches involve use of the landscape to create berms/hills to run on or circular open spaces surrounded by gardens through which to participate in outdoor yoga or tai chi.

As relatively new investments, results from observation and monitoring of the two outdoor fitness stations over the next few years will inform the Town as to whether these stations should be expanded or consideration of installing equipment in new locations is warranted.

## Signage in Parks

Signage is an essential design feature that plays an important role in identifying publicly accessible outdoor spaces, as well as establishing a visual identity or brand for a municipality. In fact, alignment with corporate branding objectives, either at the Town-wide or Departmental level, has been undertaken elsewhere in the province as a means to effectively communicate the availability of municipally-delivered services. Consultations revealed that some residents are not aware of whether they are on public or private property where signs do not exist or are not clearly marked.

For example, Howdenvale Park is not yet signed nor is the Allenford Playground while the Dan Davidson Park employs a unique design for the off-leash area that differs from signs found at other parks. As such, a more consistent approach to identifying Town-owned parks would be beneficial so that residents and visitors are not deterred from using a park if they otherwise think it is a private or commercial property. The Town could follow RTO7 standards<sup>9</sup> in this regard.

The Town has done an excellent job with installing educational signage in some parks, notably by identifying invasive species. There are also plaques and monuments located in certain parks that provide a sense of history and local context to the park user. Wayfinding signage is also prevalent in Wiarton and Sauble Beach that point out major parks and facilities by name particularly from the main streets. The Town's implementation of interpretive and wayfinding signage is considered a best practice.



Examples of Different Signs found in the Town's Parks

## Community Gardens

The Gateway Haven Community Garden, located on Mary Street in Wiarton, has been well received since its opening in 2012. Also known as square foot or allotment gardens (e.g., community garden plots, "Plant a Row – Grow a Row" programs, etc.), these spaces are being embraced by municipalities seeking to beautify their communities and supplement a growing reliance on the public realm for personal use. The community garden in Wiarton involves community members directly maintaining their own individual plots which encourages social interaction, horticultural education and awareness of the benefits of healthy diets. The community garden fits well with the Town's agricultural heritage, broader objectives surrounding food security, and its aging population as older residents tend to be more inclined to participate in such activities. Community gardens have become a place for interaction, socialization, intergenerational learning, and neighbourhood pride. No input was received through consultations for additional community allotment gardens, though the Gateway Haven model provides a strong template for addressing future requests if/when received.

<sup>9</sup> Regional Tourism Organization 7. 2011. Wayfinding Signage Standards & Specifications Manual. pp. A2-6.1.

## Off-Leash Areas

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula has a by-law in place that requires dogs to be leashed in public spaces with the exception of a “Dogs Off-Leash Recreation Area (DOLRA).” Also known as off-leash areas or dog parks, the dog park in Oliphant and Tayja’s Doggy Park (Dan Davidson Park) in Wiarton provide a good distribution of off-leash areas available to local residents wishing to exercise their pets and socialize with other pet owners. While not a specific indication of off-leash park usage, 54% of Master Plan survey respondents reported walking their dog and reinforcing the importance of facilities for pet owners. With the two off-leash areas serving the two largest settlement areas, the Town is well positioned to address the needs of dog owners for the next 10 years.



### PARK SNAPSHOT:

#### Oliphant Dog Park

Settlement: Oliphant

Park Size: 4.7 ha (11.5 acres)

The Town provides a gated and fenced off-leash area within a former ball diamond. Outside of the fenced area is a playground, rectangular field that now functions as open space, a washroom and parking.

Located along Sauble Falls Parkway in Oliphant, the park is intended to serve all residents of South Bruce Peninsula.

## 4.3 Beaches & Waterfront Areas

South Bruce Peninsula’s waterfront along Lake Huron, Colpoys’s Bay, Georgian Bay and dozens of in-land waterbodies, is one of the Town’s most valuable assets and an important part of the parks system. The Town owns and maintains Sauble Beach, which is by far the busiest location and a major economic driver for the entire municipality. Other Town-owned beaches are found at Red Bay Park and Howdenvale Park, while a small beach area is contained within Bluewater Park. Residents and visitors are also able to access water through the Sauble Falls Provincial Park and several private beaches. For recreational boating and swimming, there are municipal and federal docks and boat launches located at many of the aforementioned municipal parks, while there are private marinas in Wiarton and Sauble Beach. As a waterfront community, boating, swimming and other outdoor aquatic leisure activities are popular, particularly during peak tourism season in July and August. 89% of the Master Plan survey respondents visited a beach in the past year, making it the most popular recreational activity in the sample.

A Project for Public Spaces blog identified the following 10 qualities that can make for a successful and vibrant waterfront destination when:

1. Surrounding Buildings Enhance Public Space
2. Limits Are Placed on Residential Development
3. Activities Go On Round-the-Clock and Throughout the Year
4. Flexible Design Fosters Adaptability
5. Creative Amenities Boost Everyone’s Enjoyment
6. Access is Made Easy By Boat, Bike And Foot
7. Local Identity is Showcased
8. The Water Itself Draws Attention
9. Iconic Buildings Serve a Variety of Functions
10. Good Management Maintains Community Vision<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Project for Public Spaces. January 2009. 10 Qualities of a Great Waterfront Destination. Accessed in July 2019

In addition, sound environmental management of waterfront areas and beaches is an important consideration alongside many of the above noted points. A sound strategy needs to be in place and thus the Town is currently in the process of preparing of an updated Sauble Beach Management Plan. In tandem with that document, the Town should also consider how to responsibly address a greater emphasis being placed on promoting the Town as a quality destination for water-based recreational experiences as will be discussed in the paragraphs that follow.

With active outdoor recreational pursuits becoming increasingly popular, especially in municipalities with seasonal populations such as South Bruce Peninsula, there is growing demand for waterfront recreational activities such as parasailing, stand up paddle-boarding and boating. The Town provides residents and visitors with access to scenic waterfront and beach areas as noted above, with observations and input from consultations observing increasing levels of demand/use for water sports and aquatic programming.

In the past, the Town has supported private enterprise for a floating waterpark through a letter of support for Ministry approval but there may be opportunity to take commercial activities further to provide more direct revenue benefits to the Town. There are dozens of example municipalities that have entered into rental or dockage agreements with commercial operators to deliver services for fairly basic amenities such as shade umbrellas and snorkel equipment to more sophisticated services such as jet-ski and kayak rentals, parasailing, and inflatable entertainment equipment. The Town should assess the merit of such services within Sauble Beach and/or other waterfront areas on the basis of improving the beachgoer experience, tourism development and revenue generation potential (in line with municipal paid parking initiative). Revenues could be reinvested back into the parks, recreation and culture system through capital improvements or offset ongoing maintenance costs, thereby bringing a greater degree of financial sustainability to the Community Services Department budget. Consultation will be required with the BIA and established commercial operator as part of that investigation.



**PARK SNAPSHOT:**

**Red Bay Park**

**Settlement:** Red Bay

**Park Size:** 0.7 ha (1.75 acres)

Red Bay Park is a neighbourhood-serving park located on Symon Avenue. The park contains open space, playground, a small beach area, washroom and a boat launch.

## 4.4 Other Major Parks

There are a number of parks and natural areas located in South Bruce Peninsula that are owned by other parties such as provincial parks, conservation areas and private landowners. Some of these open spaces provide public access and opportunity for recreational activity, while also playing a role in the protection of important ecosystems. Sauble Falls Provincial Park and Spirit Rock Conservation Area are two of the more significant non-municipal parks located within the Town.

Although Ontario Parks and the Grey-Sauble Conservation Authority maintain jurisdiction over their respective properties, as government agencies they contribute parks and open spaces along with associated programming to the general public. The Town of South Bruce Peninsula does not have control over parks planning or program delivery in the Provincial Park or conservation area, however, it recognizes the contribution of these agencies. For example, these lands allow for hiking, swimming, mountain biking, camping and picnicking as well as

programming related to conservation and nature. The Sawmill Nordic Centre in Georgian Bluffs (near Hepworth), owned by the Bruce Ski Club, is another example of a significant non-municipal land holding that facilitates year-round recreational activity for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and walking/hiking. There are other lands of varying sizes, amenities and ownership arrangements that contribute towards the collection of open spaces found in South Bruce Peninsula.

In order to maximize use of parks and services of all parties, the Town should explore ways to strengthen its relationship with the Grey-Sable Conservation Authority and representatives from Ontario Parks. Areas of focus should include coordinated facility and/or program delivery opportunities to minimize duplications, cross-programming and promotional efforts, joint planning and/or development of facilities and programs, and keeping apprised of each other's offerings. For example, opportunities to connect municipal trail routes to those within conservation lands or the provincial parks is encouraged with a common goal of created the interconnected trail system described in Section 4.6 of this Master Plan. Collaboration on other initiatives such as phragmites, environmental stewardship, natural education, and other related programs is also recommended.

## 4.5 Campground Operations

Campgrounds do not tend to be a core level of service commonly found in municipalities as these facilities tend to be operated by the private sector, conservation authorities or through Provincial and National Parks system. There are some municipalities (e.g. Saugeen Shores, Centre Wellington, South Huron,) who have limited camp sites located within municipal parks and other municipalities (e.g. Selwyn) that lease municipally-owned lands to campground operators.

The Bluewater Park Campground is an enterprise-based operation meaning that it is intended to recover its costs and generate a net operating profit for the Town. In 2018, campground operations (including the Wiarion Information Centre and Train Station as there are some shared costs) generated \$238,000 in revenues that resulted in \$127,000 net operating profit. Many campground users would have contributed indirect benefits to the local economy through spending within the Town. It is understood that there is a waiting list for the seasonal sites and that there is generally strong bookings for the transient sites.



### **PARK & FACILITY SNAPSHOT: Bluewater Park Campground**

**Settlement: Wiarion**

**No. of Sites: 54 Transient Sites & 40 Seasonal Sites**

The Bluewater Park Campground in Wiarion offers seasonal, overnight, and tent camping. Campsites are supported by the campground administration building (located within the historical Train Station), washrooms and showers, hydro servicing, Wi-Fi, a dump station, winter storage facilities, and the various amenities found within Bluewater Park including the boat launch.

Community consultations demonstrated mixed opinions about the campground. On one hand, certain individuals noted the economic benefits to local business resulting from having the campground and an appreciation from selected campsite users queried during site tours of the quality of the operation. Other individuals expressed a belief that the area occupied by the campground would be better served as parkland available for community enjoyment, citing the importance of being able to access as public waterfront areas.

At present time, there is no strong justification for the Town to cease campground operations given the strong overall parkland service level across South Bruce Peninsula and the fact that the campground is operating on a profit-generating basis with latent demand apparent through waiting lists. Unless there is a future strategic vision developed for Bluewater Park that would need to reclaim those lands for public use, there is merit in continuing to operate the campground so long as it remains financially sustainable to do so.

## 4.6 Trails System

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula is fortunate to have public access to 235 kilometres of trails owned by the Town itself, Ontario Parks, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Bruce County, Bruce Trail Conservancy, and private landholders. These allow for many motorized and non-motorized activities including walking, cycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and ATVs.

The 62 kilometre stretch of the Bruce Trail that spans the eastern side of the Town, generally following the Colpoy's Bay shoreline before veering west along the municipal border with the Nawash Unceded First Nation, is an important regional connection to other municipalities. The municipal inventory also identifies nearly 3 kilometres of walking/cycling trails within parks and the Oliphant Fen, 16 kilometres of unmaintained natural/wilderness trails for cross-country skiing (over and above the Sawmill Nordic Centre in Hepworth), and 154 kilometres of ATV and snowmobile trails (the majority of which are on or run alongside roads). Bruce County's Albemarle Tract (Mountain Bike Adventure Park) has 15 kilometres of double and single track trails while there are 19 kilometres of cross-country ski trails and 14 kilometres of snowshoe trails at the Sauble Beach Cross-Country Ski Club (there are also trails in Hepworth, though technically sit outside of the municipal boundary). In addition, sidewalks found in Warton and Sauble Beach along with shoulders alongside certain roads in smaller settlements contribute to the Town's broader active transportation system.

Section 4.2.8 of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula Official Plan encourages the development of a regional trail system which focuses on the interconnection of urban settlement areas and the linkage of municipal and regional recreational destinations. In-person consultations and the Master Plan survey both highlighted the continued need for investments in on and off-road trail routes. At a conceptual level, the Master Plan investigated opportunities for new trail routes and linkages to supplement the existing network, with consideration given to connecting destinations. A conceptualized trails network is illustrated in Figure 4, which is intended to be used as a guide to develop new route opportunities.

"The Town supports the establishment of an interconnected system of non-motorized...and motorized (snowmobile) trails to facilitate interconnection of settlement areas, and the linkage of municipal and regional destinations."

"The continuous movement of people across the municipality will benefit the Town's commercial sectors and will advance the Town's tourism objectives."

**~ Town of South Bruce Peninsula  
Official Plan, Sections 4.2.8 and 5.6**

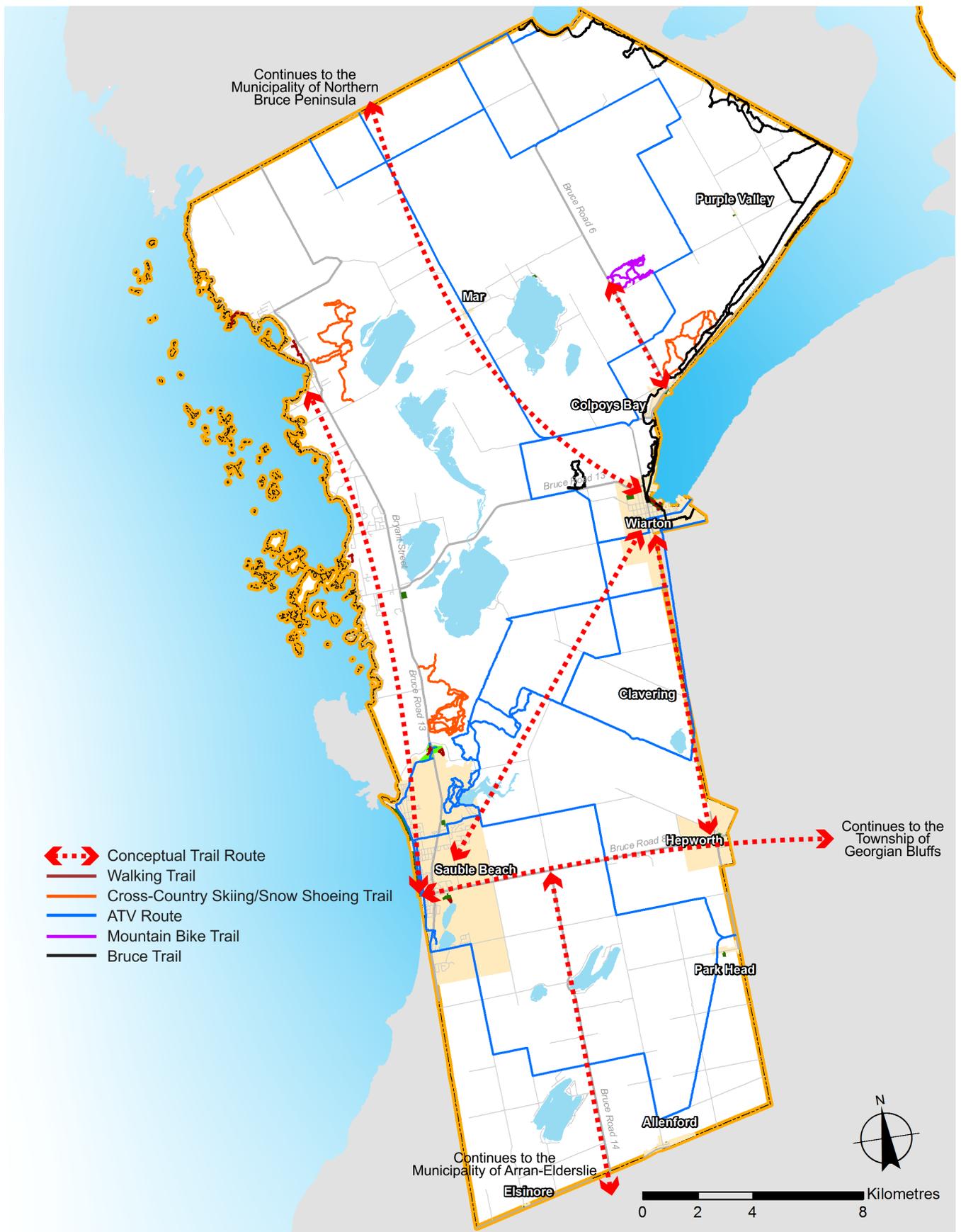
The key to the continued development of an effective and robust trail network will be to ensure that safe, accessible, and convenient linkages exist between users and key destinations (e.g., civic and institutional facilities, parks, residential and commercial areas, etc.). With walking, hiking and cycling activities noted as popular recreational pursuits through the survey and in-person consultations, there appears to be strong public support for investing in on-road and off-road trail routes. With a diverse range of municipal and non-municipal trail routes already in place for a variety of activities, the Town and its partners (such as the County, Conservation Authority, and others) are in a position to build upon the existing network and to strengthen linkages. Connections to the Bruce Trail and key trails to adjacent municipalities should also be explored.

The Town should explore ways to leverage parks and open spaces to increase walking (and cycling) opportunities within established areas. As a best practice, the Town should endeavour to ensure that there is a safe and accessible pathway within appropriate parks to ensure that there is a direct point of entry from the edge of the park to park facilities. The ability to make use of utility corridors or easements, as well as the Town's sidewalk/roadway system should also be considered where opportunities exist and where surrounding land uses are not adversely impacted.

In addition to promoting connectivity within South Bruce Peninsula, the conceptual network illustrates potential connections to adjacent municipalities within Bruce County such as North Bruce Peninsula and Arran-Elderslie. Grey County is currently in the process of finalizing a Recreational Trails Master Plan, and while the recommended trail route for Grey County is not yet been released, the development of South Bruce Peninsula's trail system should have regard for any potential connections to this network(s). Establishing external connections would benefit the local economy, while promoting active living among residents and tourists.

The conceptual trail network put forth in this Master Plan is intended to be viewed as a point of departure through which additional work should be initiated. For example, this Master Plan does not go into detail regarding property ownership, design, engineering, environmental impacts, and compatibility with the broader transportation system. As a community proud of its many ways to enjoy the outdoors, building upon the Town's cross-country skiing and ATV routes should also be further investigated as these routes often transcend privately held lands. More detailed trail investigations could be undertaken through the preparation of a trail-specific master planning initiative, consistent with Section 5.6 of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula Official Plan (or as part of a Transportation Master Plan through which active transportation needs would be specifically addressed), which would involve design standards and an estimate of implementation-related costs. Impacts on Emergency Services resourcing will also need to be considered as that Department responds to a number of calls within trailways, waterways and naturalized terrain each year.

**Figure 4: Existing & Conceptualized Trail Network**



## 4.7 Parks & Trails System Recommendations

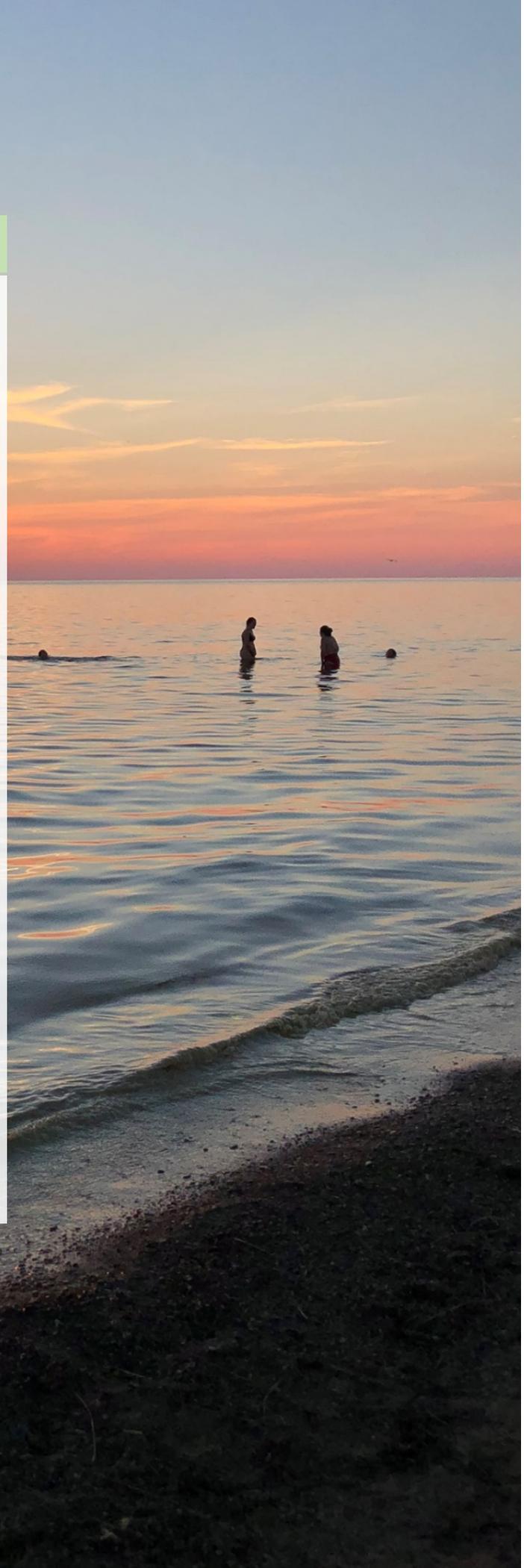
The following Recommendations are made to guide parks and trails in the Town of South Bruce Peninsula to the year 2029.

- #8. To keep pace with residential development, acquire 2 hectares of new parkland in future development areas, at a minimum, to retain the Town's current service level of 4.0 hectares per 1,000 permanent and seasonal residents (excluding woodlots). Acquisition should primarily consist of requiring parkland dedications under the Ontario Planning Act, and through municipal purchase or securing agreements with other landholders where necessary.
- #9. Prepare a park-specific master plan and concept design for Bluewater Park that engages the community and stakeholders to establish a vision and future direction for the lands (including the campground).
- #10. Park and trail development/redevelopment projects should integrate convenience and comfort elements to encourage public use. At a minimum, elements may include shade, seating, lighting and/or washrooms where appropriate. A focus should also be placed on providing consistent entrance signage, interpretive signage, and wayfinding signage, potentially aligned with RT07 design specifications for Bruce County.



## Parks & Trails Recommendations (continued)

- #11. Promote marine and water-based activities within South Bruce Peninsula parks by enhancing amenities for boating, canoe/kayaking, wind and paddle sports, etc. through facilities to access the water (docks, ramps), temporary storage, parking, etc. Exploration of dockage agreements to facilitate private sector rentals and programs in municipal waterfront properties may also be explored.
- #12. Per Section 5.6 of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula Official Plan, undertake a Trails Master Plan to confirm the feasibility, costs and potential to work with public and private landowners in order to implement the conceptual trails map contained in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan. Emphasis should be placed on establishing a multi-modal, multi-seasonal system of integrated on-road and off-road active transportation opportunities for recreational and utilitarian travel choices.
- #13. Engage the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and Ontario Parks to seek ways to strengthen existing relationships, work collaboratively in the planning and delivery of programs and facilities, and coordinate promotional efforts to residents (at a minimum).
- #14. Develop and publish a reader-friendly Trails Map that clearly identifies trail routes (for motorized and non-motorized activities) throughout South Bruce Peninsula, potentially working in concert with Bruce County and area municipalities.



## Section 5. Recreation in South Bruce Peninsula

### 5.1 Recreation Facilities in South Bruce Peninsula

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula's recreation facilities allow residents to pursue a wide range of recreational activities that keep them active and connected with others in the community. Notable destinations for recreation in the Town include:

- The **Warton District Community Centre & Arena** that contains a single pad arena and second floor community hall.
- The **Sauble Beach Community Centre** that houses a community hall, several multi-purpose program rooms, games room, and commercial kitchen features. The Community Centre is part of the Bannister Park campus that features a stand-alone library branch.
- The **Amabel-Sauble Community School** which is accessible through a joint-use agreement with the Bluewater District School Board and includes a gymnasium, multi-purpose community room, rectangular field complex, and large playground.
- Three **Community Halls** located in Park Head, Purple Valley and Elsinore that are operated on behalf of the municipality by volunteer boards and associations.

Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative, and spiritual pursuits that enhance individuals and community wellbeing.

~ A Framework for Recreation  
in Canada, 2015



#### PARK SNAPSHOT:

##### Bannister Park

Settlement: Sauble Beach

Park Size: 4.8 ha (12 acres)

Bannister Park is located in Sauble Beach but serves a Town-wide purpose by concentrating multiple indoor and outdoor facilities onsite. Facilities include the Sauble Beach Community Centre, a Bruce County Public Library Branch, the Sauble Sandpipers Lawn Bowling Club, a lit softball diamond, a horseshoe pit, playground, tennis court, and a hoop to shoot a basketball.

With such a range of recreation and cultural activities possible, Bannister Park is a true community hub for residents of many ages and interests.

## 5.2 Exploring a Future Community Hub for the Town

The Master Plan's arena assessment (see Section 5.3) identifies that the Warton District Community Centre & Arena is approaching the end of its useful life. Although the Town has reinvested in the facility and makes transfers to a capital reserve, it is conceivable that structural, mechanical, and electrical systems will approach at a point where costs of renewal may be similar to rebuilding new; this could necessitate its replacement or redevelopment project near the end or shortly after the master planning period.

Most new community centres that have been built in Ontario over the past decade are designed as multi-use, multi-generational facilities. From a recreation perspective, this means that a prospective replacement or redeveloped community centre also consider gymnasium, multi-purpose program rooms and a community hall. The Master Plan also articulates considerations for the Town to explore in the event that it rationalizes further evaluation of an indoor aquatic facility (see Section 5.5) as well as arts and cultural space (see Section 6.5).

Best practices also dictate that a future community facility in Warton could also be designed to function as a multi-service "community hub" that integrates other civic and/or private sector spaces, thereby creating a single point of service for residents. Recent community centre developments across the province have integrated library branches as part of their community hub model; other potential community hub components that may be considered included spaces leased to private sector (e.g. to fitness and childcare providers, etc.), agency partners (e.g. health and employment services), office space for Town employees, and more. In doing so, there may be financial efficiencies resulting from joint development or operation of the facility, cost-certainty from medium to long-term leases, cross-programming benefits using shared spaces such as program or meeting rooms, potential for energy efficient systems, etc.

A new community hub could form part of the Town's overall economic development strategy, particularly in terms of attracting new residents and businesses to locate in South Bruce Peninsula; often times, municipalities choose to invest in high quality facilities that appeal to professional or high-demand labour forces so that individuals and their families are encouraged to live and work in communities with strong quality of life amenities. A community hub could potentially service both local and regional populations (certain residents from area municipalities may be willing to travel to South Bruce Peninsula in order access services not available in their home communities), and could respond to growth in the regional retirement living sector if the facility contains services geared to older adults.

Whether a recreational-focused or multi-service hub, a new facility could address space demands created when the Warton District Community Centre & Arena is deemed to be at the end of its life. Therefore, the Town should prepare a Community Hub Feasibility Study that defines the facility components, investigates sites, and explores partnership opportunities to fund construction and/or operation of the hub with area municipalities, local/regional agencies and institutions, and the private sector.

The Feasibility Study should also involve a site selection exercise as it bears noting that retaining the Bluewater Park site may present challenges unless the existing arena could remain in operation while the replacement arena is being constructed. While a new community hub facility may fit within a new vision that arises out of the recommended conceptual plan for Bluewater Park (see Recommendation #9 and Section 4.2), the Town should also look to other sites and potentially secure the land in advance of construction (i.e. land bank).

## 5.3 Arenas & Ice Rinks

The Warton District Community Centre & Arena has been operating for nearly 50 years. With the arena serving approximately 8,500 residents (seasonal residents are not included given the facility's primary function is for wintertime activity) and an understanding that some ice time is available during weekday evenings and on weekends, the Town presently has arena capacity as measured by per capita and performance measurement metrics (there were close to 15 prime time hours that were not scheduled each week). The majority of ice time is used by Bruce Peninsula Minor Hockey, the Warton Figure Skating Club, adult rentals and Town-run skating programs. In 2018, the arena required a \$190,000 operating levy (including the hall) which is slightly higher than observed elsewhere in southern Ontario. Little input was received from the public specific to the arena apart from 26% of Master Plan survey households reporting that they play an ice sport, and the Warton Agricultural Society emphasizing the importance of the arena floor to their operations.

South Bruce Peninsula's higher than average age along with declining ice sport participation trends across Ontario lessen the likelihood of current and future pressures being placed on the existing arena supply. No additional arenas are anticipated to be required over the master planning period, particularly as forecasted population growth is insufficient to warrant another ice pad. Furthermore, a shift towards the amalgamation of a number of ice sport associations in Grey and Bruce Counties (e.g. Kincardine, Saugeen Shores, South and North Bruce Peninsula, etc.) is leading to players making use of arenas across municipal borders. In addition to Warton, arenas within driving distance in South Bruce Peninsula are found in Owen Sound, Lion's Head, Shallow Lake, Southampton, Port Elgin, Chesley, and Paisley.

Beyond the Master Plan's ten year planning period, the arena will likely be close to the end of its useful life (most arenas have a lifespan of 45 to 60 years). Prior to constructing the replacement arena, the Town should re-assess arena needs in the next five to ten years - by way of an Update to this Master Plan or through the Community Hub Feasibility Study discussed in Section 5.2 - to determine if the supply of ice pads is still appropriate given aging of the population, arena developments in area municipalities (including potential consolidation of arenas among area municipalities to combine resources and centralize arena operations), participation trends, the arena's operating performance, and other recreational components that may be co-located with an arena.

Curling in the Town is addressed through the privately-owned and operated Allenford Curling Club and the Warton Curling Club, the latter of whom have reinvested in their ice surface. Both clubs also allow community events and programs to take place in their facilities, including dry-floor uses (e.g. Allenford Curling Club is sometimes used for pickleball and is a designated emergency reception centre). There is no need for the Town to enter into the curling market given the presence of these two community providers.



### **FACILITY SNAPSHOT:**

#### **Warton District Community Centre & Arena**

**Settlement: Warton**

**Year Built: 1970s (Renovated in 2011)**

Over the past decade, the Town has reinvested in arena components including an expanded and updated lobby, renewal of the concrete slab, the addition of a new dressing room (there are now five in total), and LED lighting. In addition to arena sports and rentals/programs taking place in the second floor hall, the arena is an important part of the annual Warton Rotary Village Fair.

## 5.4 Gymnasiums & Program Rooms

The Town has regular access to the gymnasium in the Amabel-Sauble Community School, with public access available outside of school hours and throughout the summer holidays; a program room with a warming kitchen is fully dedicated to the Town as well. The gymnasium is consistently rented on weekdays for pickleball and badminton, while other sporadic bookings occur for birthday parties, community meetings, etc. throughout the year. The administration and availability of the Town's rooms within the school are governed by an agreement with the Bluewater District School Board that was originally developed based upon the joint-funding model between the two parties when the school was constructed.



*Amabel-Sauble Community School Gymnasium*

The community is also able to book the gymnasium at Peninsula Shores District School. Access to this gymnasium is unique in the sense that provincial funding is specifically directed to providing free access for non-profit organizations (with priority given to groups serving children and youth and low income groups in the immediate Wiarton area) due to its designation as a "Priority School" by the Ministry of Education. As part of the Community Use of Schools program, the Ontario Ministry of Education has selected schools throughout the province to provide enhanced access to its facilities during non-school hours. The Town has a reciprocal agreement with the School Board to deliver programs in the gym in exchange for use of the Town's arena, outdoor pool and portions of Bluewater Park.

Gymnasium-related input received through the Master Plan process largely revolved around the need for additional times for pickleball. Pickleball players expressed a desire to line the arena floor for pickleball when the ice is removed; this is a growing practice in Ontario although not all arenas offer a comfortable climate in the summer (humidity and condensation on the arena floor can be issues). With 36 pickleball players registered through the Town (9 more players than 2016 levels, and drop-in players trending towards becoming members), growth in the sport is placing pressures on the school gymnasium that accommodates three courts. Consideration should be given to dedicating times on the arena dry-floor to meet the needs of indoor pickleball players, as well as exploring additional opportunities such as discussing reciprocal use potential for the Peninsula Shores school gymnasium (which could include activities beyond pickleball). Looking beyond the ten year master planning period, the Town should consider gymnasium space at the time if or when the Wiarton District Community Centre & Arena is replaced with a new facility (as discussed in the arena assessment).

Multi-purpose rooms at the Ross Whicher Centre in Wiarton and the Sauble Beach Community Centre also receive varying levels of use throughout the year, though the latter is bolstered by regular use by the Sauble Sandpipers as noted in the older adult assessment contained in Section 3.7. Usage data is not available for the volunteer-run halls in Purple Valley, Park Head and Elsinore though it bears noting that one or more of these spaces may be negatively affected in the event multi-purpose space is ultimately added in the long-term to a replacement community centre/arena in Wiarton; therefore, the Town will have to conduct cost-benefit analyses of further capital renewal in the smaller community halls as all three are older structures.

## 5.5 Indoor & Outdoor Aquatics

The Town provides an outdoor pool and separate splash pad at Bluewater Park; public access to Lake Huron and Colpoy's Bay is also available in certain areas via beaches and waterfront park parcels as discussed in the Parks Section.

### Indoor Aquatic Centres

There are no indoor aquatic facilities in the Town, with the two nearest indoor pools being located within a 20 to 40 kilometre drive (up to 35 minutes) from the centre of South Bruce Peninsula. There are another two pools located slightly beyond the 40 kilometre threshold, though these would begin to exceed the tolerable distance for most residents seeking community-level programming (competitive swimmers are sometimes willing to travel further).

**Table 2: Regional Supply of Indoor Aquatic Centres**

Indoor Aquatic Centre	Driving Distance*	Pool Type
<b>YMCA of Owen Sound</b> Owen Sound	20 km (25 minutes)	25 metre, 8 lane rectangular pool plus warm water leisure pool
<b>Centennial Pool</b> Saugeen Shores (Port Elgin)	40 km (35 minutes)	25 metre, 5 lane rectangular pool (studies are underway for a new aquatic centre)
<b>P &amp; H Centre</b> Hanover	55 km (45 minutes)	25 metre, 5 lane rectangular pool with waterslide and separate wading pool with splash features and swirl pool
<b>Davidson Centre</b> Kincardine	75 km (60 minutes)	25 metre, 6 lane rectangular pool

\* Driving distance and time derived from Google Maps, using Hepworth as the approximate centre of South Bruce Peninsula

Indoor aquatic centres can offer a community the ability to provide a popular recreational activity that can be pursued by residents of many ages, abilities and income levels, either through structured programming or informal drop-in opportunities. They are beneficial in waterfront communities by providing controlled environments for learn-to-swim to lifeguarding skills, benefits also afforded by outdoor pools but only during the summer. With 42% of the Master Plan survey sample ranking investment in an indoor aquatic centre as their highest priority for future investment along with similar comments received at the Launch Events, it is clear that there is a portion of the resident base seeking such a facility; as noted in the consultation section, however, there were also a number of residents that were engaged through this process that expressed concerns about whether the Town could financially support a pool and whether the investment would be justified by a meaningful level of use in relation to the small population base. It also bears noting that 44% of survey respondents reported swimming indoors during the past year (presumably in some of the municipalities noted above).

Provincially, indoor aquatic facilities are generally provided at a rate of anywhere between one for every 20,000 to 50,000 population. This population threshold often includes both primary and secondary markets. In South Bruce Peninsula, the permanent population would generate the majority of use given indoor aquatic participation tends to drop off in the summer months though there may be usage from certain seasonal residents. In considering a potential regionalized service catchment, a percentage of households in Northern Bruce Peninsula, Arran-Elderslie and Georgian Bluffs may be willing to travel into South Bruce Peninsula. Inclusion of the regional market could bring the service population closer to the minimum threshold noting, however, that a sizeable proportion of that regional market is presently served by pools in Saugeen Shores and Owen Sound.

There are municipalities whose populations are below the noted range that have chosen to provide indoor aquatic centres, although often using alternative operating models (e.g. partnerships with schools or YMCAs) and to varying results; some have found success or accept the implications on the municipal tax rate while others have struggled financially to sustain their operations. The decision to construct indoor aquatic facilities in communities is generally made from the perspective that intrinsic value (i.e., community benefit that everyone should have the opportunity to learn to swim), will outweigh financial losses. Table 3 identifies selected considerations for the Town to investigate more fulsomely if it were to contemplate an indoor aquatic centre in the future.

**Table 3: Selected Considerations if Evaluating the Need for Indoor Aquatics in South Bruce Peninsula**

Benefits	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Promote physical activity among many age, ability, and income groups depending upon the design and programming of the indoor pool.</li> <li>– Economic development potential of attracting new residents and families, new businesses and high value labour force, and non-resident spending in the community.</li> <li>– Potential to draw some usage from regional markets not served by an indoor pool (Northern Bruce Peninsula, Arran-Elderslie and Georgian Bluffs).</li> <li>– Potential to partner in the construction and/or operation of an indoor pool with above noted area municipalities subject to further discussions.</li> <li>– Ability to complement other recreational and civic amenities if co-located as part of a multi-use community hub.</li> <li>– Potential to respond to needs resulting from growth in retirement living developments throughout the region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Most municipal aquatic centres carry operating deficits in the range of \$200,000 to \$500,000+ per year depending upon pool design, in addition to cost of construction and debt servicing.</li> <li>– Competition for regional market share from pools in Saugeen Shores, Kincardine, Hanover and Owen Sound.</li> <li>– Strong reliance on permanent residents to make use of the pool as seasonality plays a part in indoor pool usage.</li> <li>– Primary source of revenue for most pools tends to come from swimming lessons, however, the local and regional market of 0 to 19 year olds is limited.</li> <li>– It may be difficult for the Town to operate an indoor aquatic facility without external funding support from one or more partners.</li> </ul>

Further cost-benefit analyses regarding an indoor aquatic centre could be undertaken shortly before or as part of the Community Hub Feasibility Study (see Recommendation #15 and Section 5.2). Certain other area municipalities have received requests for an indoor pool from their respective residents and are likely facing similar constraints as the Town of South Bruce Peninsula. For this reason, if the Town were to consider pursuing an indoor pool facility, then the Town should reach out to its counterparts in Northern Bruce Peninsula, Georgian Bluffs, Arran-Elderslie and any other prospective partners (e.g. YMCA) to discuss interest in jointly pursuing an indoor aquatic centre, including prospective locations, design features and funding models.

## Outdoor Pools

The Bluewater Park outdoor swimming pool contains five lanes that span 25 metres in length, providing valuable water safety programs which are critical in South Bruce Peninsula given the amount of open water and in-land lakes and rivers. The Town also offers aquatic fitness programs that are growing in popularity, particularly among older adults given the low-impact nature of the exercises. The Town has recently undertaken a number of improvements to the pool's structural and mechanical systems, while the bath house has been recently refurbished. Certain barrier-free accessibility issues remain, particularly to enter the pool, and the fact that there is no family/caregiver changeroom.

There are examples of outdoor pool renewals though the construction of new outdoor pools has diminished over the last 15 years, reflecting trends where a number of municipalities have chosen to invest in splash pads. Splash pads do not carry the same level of operating costs (lifeguarding is not necessary if there is no standing water), are less prone to mosquitoes or water-breeding insects, and are more interactive for young children. Outdoor pools have been impacted where municipalities have invested in year-round indoor aquatic centres as well as the growing number of options/affordability of backyard pools.

In the absence of an indoor aquatic centre, the Bluewater Park pool will continue to play an important part in the community by way of its programming that would not otherwise be possible. It will be important to retain a pool of some sort in South Bruce Peninsula (whether it be indoor or outdoor) but no new or additional outdoor pools are required.



*Bluewater Park Outdoor Pool & Splash Pad*

## Splash Pads

Splash pads are one of the most highly sought after amenities for young families seeking affordable and accessible opportunities to cool down on a hot summer day. Splash pads can be developed in a wide variety of stimulating designs with a range of apparatuses that provide an enhanced aquatic experience for residents and visitors of all ages. The Bluewater Park splash pad is designed with a Warton Willie theme, illustrating how these facilities can be customized to reflect local characteristics, specific park themes, and other creative designs.

Splash pads are frequently targeted at a rate of one per 3,000 to 5,000 children under the age of 10 though geographic distribution should also be considered in a large, urban-rural community such as South Bruce Peninsula. In a community such as Sauble Beach, there is precedent that suggests a splash pad could be successful based on works undertaken in other Lake Huron communities who also view these facilities as part of their tourism infrastructure; however, the feasibility of splash pads in Sauble Beach is challenged in the absence of water and sewer services (along with its limited population of children).

## 5.6 Sports Fields

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula maintains all rectangular fields at the Amabel-Sauble Community School and in turn has the authority to permit them for community use outside of school hours. The fields are large enough to allow simultaneous games for younger age divisions to be played across its width, making them highly effective in addressing needs. The Sauble Soccer Club is the primary provider of soccer programs in South Bruce Peninsula; their membership numbers are not presently known but it is understood that the Community School fields are used on Wednesday evenings; the Master Plan survey found low participation in soccer with less than 10% of its sample reporting that a household member had played during the past year.

Most communities plan their soccer fields based on a metric of approximately one field per 80 registered players (or sometimes one field per 3,000 population). With a total of five fields at the Community School combined with the flexibility afforded in their configuration and the limited growth probabilities in the Town's 5 to 19 year age group (primary target market for majority of soccer players), rectangular field needs generated by South Bruce Peninsula residents are expected to be addressed by the current supply over the next ten years. In the event that any unforeseen demand generated by registration growth cannot be accommodated at the Amabel-Sauble Community School – including after encouraging use on weekends – there is a non-scheduled rectangular field located at the Oliphant Dog Park (outside of the fenced off-leash area) that could be upgraded in the event a permitted field needs to be added to the supply (this would be confirmed through a future analysis).

The Town's four ball diamonds in Wiarton, Sauble Beach and Hepworth provide good distribution for South Bruce Peninsula residents (there is also a neighbourhood diamond located in Park Head that is not scheduled). Wiarton Minor Softball reports approximately 200 players whose needs would be addressed by the Dan Davidson and Bluewater Park diamonds (noting this league also plays in other municipalities) using a commonly accepted metric of approximately one ball diamond per 100 players. The lit diamond at Bannister Park and the Bluewater Park diamond are also popular for adult games, while the Town has recently upgraded the Hepworth diamond.

Although there has been a resurgence in hardball and softball provincially in the last few years, participation rates have yet to rebound to historical levels. Capacity appears to exist in the local diamond system (particularly Friday through Sunday) though bookings are strong throughout the weekdays with approximately five leagues booking time locally. Combined with the fact that diamonds are distributed across the north, central and southern parts of South Bruce Peninsula, no additional ball diamonds are required over the next ten years. This is reinforced by the Town's service level which is in the range of one diamond per 3,000-3,500 population, consistent with provincial benchmarks (factoring in the additional evening capacity of the lit diamond and applying the permanent and seasonal resident base).



### **PARK SNAPSHOT:**

#### **Hepworth Park**

**Settlement:** Hepworth

**Park Size:** 1.4 ha (3.5 acres)

Featuring a recently upgraded softball diamond along with a playground and a seasonal Visitor Centre, Hepworth Park is centrally located within South Bruce Peninsula near the intersection of Highway 6 and County Road 8.

Also known as Wilbur J. Cunningham Memorial Park, other amenities are available including parking, a garbage and recycling station, and a washroom building.

## 5.7 Sports Courts

The Town provides sport courts for tennis, basketball, beach volleyball, pickleball, and ball hockey. In total there are 4 tennis courts, one combination tennis/pickleball court, basketball courts at five parks, and sand volleyball courts at Sauble Beach. Purpose-built courts for tennis and basketball are also sometimes used for other activities such as ball hockey or unstructured play using the open court area.

### Tennis Courts

The five tennis courts (4 dedicated and 1 dual-use) available in South Bruce Peninsula results in a strong level of provision when measured by population (one court per 3,000 permanent and seasonal residents) whereas provincial benchmarks target courts at a rate between one per 4,000 and 5,000 population. South Bruce Peninsula exceeds this service level in response to its large geographic land base and centralizes play in the two major settlement areas. The tennis courts are also designed to a high standard of quality given they are dedicated for the exclusive use of the Warton Tennis Club and the Sauble Tennis Club (apart from some municipal lesson programs). Tennis participation has been growing throughout the province due in part to success of Canadians on the professional tours as well as cultural diversification; the number of members presently registered with the two local Tennis Clubs is unknown. Industry rule of thumb dictates that one club tennis court can support between 75 and 100 frequent tennis players, which the Town can apply to better understand its needs upon collecting membership numbers from the local clubs.

### Pickleball Courts

Pickleball has been played at the Sauble Beach tennis court since the Town installed lining that allows both tennis and pickleball to be played. This is considered to be best practice for neighbourhood-based (i.e. non-competitive) play and represents a cost-effective approach that maximizes the use of space. In There is merit in also lining the Bluewater Park tennis courts to also allow pickleball as a means to alleviate future demands. South Bruce Peninsula, outdoor pickleball players must remit membership dues or court fees to the Sauble Tennis Club in addition to fees payable for a pickleball membership through the Town (this is a barrier for some). To minimize costs of having separate memberships for tennis and pickleball, two possible approaches for the existing court in Sauble Beach and potential Bluewater Park courts would be to:

- a) schedule specific times for pickleball during the week that can be overseen by a Pickleball Club, and/or;
- b) engaging local Tennis Clubs to charge discounted rates for those holding an annual pickleball membership with the Town.

As municipally owned and maintained facilities, the Town has an interest in ensuring that hard courts are accessible to a broad range of residents and that the courts are well utilized throughout the playing season. Accordingly, further discussions are required with organized pickleball and tennis clubs to determine scheduling, pricing and other logistical matters. Experience in some Ontario municipalities finds that collaboration between tennis and pickleball clubs is resulting in a more sustainable operations over time as a number of tennis players are transitioning to pickleball (or playing both sports), particularly as they age.

While a more costly approach, the Town could look to constructing dedicated pickleball courts in the event that the combination court model cannot be made to work. However, there is limited ability of existing parks to integrate new courts without removing another recreational/open space feature which means that the Town may have to purchase new land to do so. That said, there may be potential to add dedicated courts in the open space to the east of the Sauble Beach Community Centre, though this option should be considered as a last resort in order to retain as much future flexibility as possible (noting that the Master Plan has identified that open space as a potential location to consider for a future splash pad).

## Basketball Courts

The Town employs different design standards for its basketball courts ranging from full court templates found at Jimmy Brown Rotary Park and Park Head Community Centre, half court template behind the Elsinore Community Centre, to a basic hoop in Bannister Park's parking lot. There are also hoops located at local schools.

Basketball courts are typically provided in areas with large concentrations of children and youth who are the target market. As such, geographic distribution is an important factor to consider in locating these courts given that many children and youth are impacted by a lack of transportation choices to cover long distances. With two courts in Wiarton and one in Sauble Beach, the majority of local youth are within walking or biking distance. The rural and smaller settlements could be considered gap areas, with the exception of Elsinore/Allenford, though their small youth populations and the fact that no existing parks are deemed to be a strong fit to add a court make it unlikely that future courts would be developed there. As such, the supply of basketball courts is deemed to be sufficient to address needs over the planning period given the existing geographic distribution.



### **PARK SNAPSHOT:**

#### **Jimmy Brown Rotary Park**

**Settlement: Wiarton**

**Park Size: 0.4 ha (1 acre)**

Located at the north-east corner of McNaughton Street and Frank Street in Wiarton, Jimmy Brown Park contains a playground and full basketball court funded in part by the Rotary Club and Optimist Club, respectively.

This park has a neighbourhood-level catchment, predominantly serving the southwestern residential areas of Wiarton.

## Sand Volleyball Courts

Beach/sand volleyball is a popular beach activity, and many waterfront communities include volleyball courts in their recreation facility inventories. In some cases, organizations may rent these facilities to provide league and/or tournament play. In others, the nets are there in the event that a group of beach users are interested in playing a casual pick-up game. The Town's volleyball courts at Sauble Beach and the Amabel-Sauble School are utilized for casual games and tournaments, though the high lake levels and endangered species at the beach may affect future use.

There is no standard provision target for beach volleyball court as these facilities are generally provided based on local needs. No information was received that the Sauble Beach sand courts are constraining organized play, however, some resident feedback suggested that they are not conducive for high level play either and that the establishment of two to three sand courts could be attractive from a sport tourism and athlete development perspective. Given the strong waterfront focus of the Town, sand volleyball courts are a natural fit and worthy of consideration. Accordingly, a site selection process (Sauble Beach or Bluewater Park are potential considerations) and business plan should be undertaken to determine the extent of municipal or community/private sector involvement in providing sand courts intended for organized play and tournaments.

## 5.8 Playgrounds

The Town provides playgrounds at 9 parks across South Bruce Peninsula; the playground at the Amabel-Sauble Community School was recently enhanced and is an excellent model for future playground renewals (albeit at a scale appropriate to whether a park serves a neighbourhood or community-wide catchment area).

At least one municipal or school playground is available in each of the designated settlement areas, however the scale of their design varies widely from basic individual elements (e.g. swings, older style merry-go-rounds, etc.) such as those found at Berford Lake Park to more comprehensive structures at Bluewater Park and the Community School. Within urban settlements, playgrounds are typically provided within walking distance of major residential areas (5 to 10 minute walk), without having to cross major pedestrian barriers such as arterial roads, highways, railways, and waterbodies. This standard would not apply to the smaller/rural settlements where a minimum of one playground is usually sufficient.

As an alternative to the traditional and creative playground model, natural and adventure playgrounds are popular around the world. These playgrounds encourage the use of the existing landscape and materials such as wood, logs, ropes, stones, and boulders to allow users to create more daring opportunities. Still designed in compliance with CSA Z614 standard, natural/adventure playgrounds have been proven to stimulate greater sensory and imaginative play compared to traditional plastic structures; research also shows that children's immune health can benefit from exposure to natural materials.

As part of future playground developments (e.g. in parks built for new subdivisions in south Warton) or playground redevelopment projects, the Town should consider natural playground components where appropriate. This would reinforce the values placed by the community on nature and represent an innovative approach to engaging local children. Additionally, new or redeveloped playgrounds should also consider barrier-free components – as has been incorporated into playground designs at Bluewater Park and the Amabel-Sauble Community School – to allow children/caregivers with disabilities to make use of the playground and further promote inclusion within the parks system.

## 5.9 Skateboard Parks

The skateboard park at Bluewater Park is a quality concrete facility designed with a number of features that provide a good experience for introductory and advanced level skateboarders. It can also be used by BMX and mountain bike riders, inline skaters, and children using scooters. Based upon the number of youth between the ages of 10 and 19 in South Bruce Peninsula, the one skateboard park is a good level of service though it bears noting that it would be difficult for youth living outside of Warton to regularly access the skatepark given mobility-related challenges of this segment of the population (particularly with no public transit in the Town). However, the small number of youth living in each of the other smaller/rural settlements would be insufficient to warrant provision of similarly scaled skateparks on the basis of geographic distribution. As a result, no further additions to the skateboard supply are proposed through the Master Plan.



*Bluewater Park Skateboard Park*

## 5.10 Recreation System Recommendations

The following Recommendations are intended to guide investments in recreation for the Town of South Bruce Peninsula to the year 2029.

- #15. Undertake a Community Hub Feasibility Study towards the end of the current master planning period to reconfirm arena needs along with other needed components relating to recreation, culture, library, or other space. In the interim, the Town should investigate sites and potentially purchase land that is sufficiently sized to accommodate a future community centre, while also engaging area municipalities in discussions regarding potential opportunities to collaboratively address regional arena needs through joint facility development and/or service delivery practices.
- #16. Make greater use of the Warton District Community Centre & Arena for pickleball during the spring and summer months in response. Outdoor pickleball times should be dedicated at times throughout the week at selected tennis courts in Sauble Beach and Warton, working in concert with local tennis clubs and organized pickleball clubs (to explore scheduling and encouraging discounted memberships for players playing tennis and pickleball, at a minimum).
- #17. Explore potential sites and operating models to establish sand volleyball courts capable of hosting tournaments and organized play in conjunction with regional beach volleyball organizations and/or the private sector.
- #18. New and redeveloped playgrounds should consider natural play and barrier-free play components, where appropriate.



## Section 6. Culture in South Bruce Peninsula

### 6.1 Arts & Culture System

Like much of Canada, Indigenous persons were the original inhabitants of the lands that now form the Town of South Bruce Peninsula. In the early to mid-1800s, European settlers and explorers arrived and the Town of Wiarton's origins are traced back to 1855 when the town plot was laid after acquisition from First Nations in the area. Settlement began in 1866 followed by the construction of a post office, and the community emerged as an important industrial centre within the Great Lakes basin due to the Grand Trunk Railway, harbour, sawmills and strong agricultural operations. The Village of Wiarton was incorporated in 1880 and became a Town in 1894. Other former townships that now make up South Bruce Peninsula have similar historical roots. Amabel and Albemarle were originally surveyed in the early 1800s and incorporated in 1870.

“Culture shapes and profoundly enriches our lives and communities. Engagement in cultural activities strengthens empathy, cross-cultural understanding, and sense of community.”

~ Ontario Culture Strategy: Telling Our Stories, Growing Our Economy Discussion Paper

Today, South Bruce Peninsula's arts and cultural sector is commonly associated with built assets such as the Wiarton Post Office, two library branches, Farmers' Market, and buildings in the historic downtown and main streets. At its core, arts and culture is about the shared experiences between people that connects a community. The availability of arts and culture opportunities are very desirable, fostering vibrant and liveable neighbourhoods, contributing to local knowledge and supporting the local economy. South Bruce Peninsula's arts and cultural community benefits the Town in a number of ways such as:

- Lending itself to developing a “creative economy” that attracts labour through the creative class (artists, architects, designers, chefs, etc.)
- Sharing a willingness to form a collective and create incubators; and
- Generating tourism/cultural tourism benefits using cultural individuals, assets, and events found here.



#### **PARK & FACILITY SNAPSHOT:** **South Bruce Peninsula Portable Stage**

**Settlement: Not Applicable**

**Year Acquired: 2019**

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula invested in a \$200,000 portable stage as part of the Sauble Beach Town Square redevelopment. The “rolling stage” is housed in a mobile trailer that can be transported to other settlements in South Bruce Peninsula.

## 6.2 Providing a Foundation for Arts and Culture

In 2006, a landmark document for culture was prepared for the Government of Canada that identified culture as being one of four pillars of community sustainability.<sup>11</sup> Across Canada and around the world, demonstrates that a thriving arts, culture and heritage system brings multi-faceted benefits to a community. Ontario's arts and culture industry generated \$22 billion in GDP in 2010, representing nearly 4% of the total economy as well as employing 4% of the provincial workforce.<sup>12</sup>

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula recognizes that there are contributions and talents within the creative collective living here; over the years, the Town has facilitated arts and cultural programs and festivals/events through physical infrastructure and community development.

Most municipalities that have made strong commitments to their arts and cultural sector have an Arts and Cultural Policy in place that provides a framework for planning and supporting related services by identifying guiding principles, goals, as well as responsibilities of the municipalities, committees, and community partners. Municipal policies and investments provide the foundation through which the arts and cultural community can grow. The Town has actively developed partnerships in the community such as local businesses and volunteer groups that run theatre productions, festivals and special events.

The provision of arts and cultural programs is important for people of all ages, but is particularly critical for younger children and older adults. Involvement in the arts facilitates self-expression which in turn can develop feelings of confidence and self-worth for children and youth. Participation in the arts at an early age can lead to life-long involvement, something that is also important during older adulthood as there is ample research linking participation to the prevention of cognitive deterioration and dementia, and minimizing social isolation. In the current day and age, more people are tapping into their creative sides using technology available through their smartphones and tablets (e.g. writing/blogging, photography, music and video creation), meaning that there is upside for participation in arts and culture activities.

## 6.3 Cultural Diversity in South Bruce Peninsula

A community's ethno-cultural diversity can play a prominent role in shaping local arts and culture system, often contributing to a community's identity and traditions that have carried over time. Ethno-cultural background is also part of establishing new traditions and offerings, part of the reason that a community's cultural identity is dynamic and constantly evolving.

Despite modest increase in the immigrant population over the past decade, historical immigration continues to play part of the sustained identity of many ethno-cultural groups. Immigration patterns can be expected to change and the Town's cultural diversity may increase, particularly when new residential lands are developed and as South Bruce Peninsula's seasonal and retiree populations grow, as a number of these individuals can be expected to come from diverse cultural backgrounds. Since 93% of the Town's permanent population are non-immigrants, barriers to participation (e.g. religious, cultural or language-related reasons) are less likely to be significant in South Bruce Peninsula but nevertheless need to be considered in the delivery of services.

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<sup>11</sup> Government of Canada. From Restless Communities to Resilient Places: Building a Stronger Future for All Canadians. (2006). Final Report of the External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities.

<sup>12</sup> Statistics Canada. June 2015. Provincial and Territorial Culture Satellite Account, 2010.

Consideration of indigenous populations will also be important as, although the percentage of persons from aboriginal descent is relatively low within the Town, the municipality shares borders with two First Nations communities. There is an opportunity to showcase indigenous culture through community services in recognition of the historical contributions of those communities (e.g. through public art and design of public spaces).

## 6.4 Heritage

Heritage sites and buildings are often positive attributes in a community. They provide opportunities for regeneration through community revitalization efforts, economic development and tourism, interpretation and education, housing or commercial/employment uses, and can be venues for municipal programming/rentals. The Ontario Heritage Act and the Ontario Planning Act are the principal pieces of legislation guiding historical preservation and conservation efforts. As such, the Town of South Bruce Peninsula Official Plan is the primary implementing document for heritage planning at the local level, providing policy direction to Town Council and Staff. There are a number of structures and sites that represent South Bruce Peninsula's early history some of which are designated heritage properties or denoted by historical plaques (e.g. the Founding of Wiarton, the Bruce Peninsula Portage, and the Allenford Pow-Wow).



*War Memorial & Mural in Downtown Wiarton*

The Town's Heritage Committee – formed in 2007 and operating in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act - has been instrumental in guiding Council and Staff, and have helped advance preservation and promotion of local history. In addition to its core mandate of advising the Town on properties of historical value and designation, the Heritage Committee has helped organize the Doors Open events, developed a heritage signage program, and hosts educational heritage speakers events for the community.

The marine heritage of South Bruce Peninsula was noted in the consultations as something of unique interest/opportunity. Many visitors to the Town are intrigued by the natural and recreational elements of the surrounding waters but may not realize the importance of the surrounding lakes in shaping the Town's history. By promoting the historical/cultural side of the lake and bays alongside the natural and recreational draw, the Town can create an integrated visitor experience that also can educate local residents and strengthen community identity. Accordingly, the Town should showcase its marine heritage by working with local historians and historical societies, upper-level agencies and governments, and the private sector. The envisioned end result is a coordinated strategy focused on spaces and services that, at a minimum, may include a focus upon interpretive signage, space for artifacts and exhibits, and promoting shipwrecks/scuba diving activities through a broad tourism campaign. This strategy also closely aligns with Recommendation #11 of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan speaking to promote marine recreation as an economic development initiative.

## 6.5 Arts & Cultural Space

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula's does not own or operate purpose-built arts and cultural space. Instead, it has adapted certain facilities such as the Sauble Beach Community Centre to accommodate selected activities such as crafts, quilting, etc. while leveraging its community halls such as Purple Valley Community Centre and the Wiarton District Community Centre & Arena for festivals, fairs and gatherings. The Bruce County Libraries are co-located with municipal facilities in Wiarton and Sauble Beach, offering a place to access programs and services.

### Indoor & Outdoor Performance Space

The Town has an agreement in place with the local school board that allows community access to performing arts space at the secondary school in Wiarton. The school puts on productions every year that the community is invited to attend while selected community groups make use of the auditorium for their theatre programs. In the past few months, the Town has also acquired a mobile stage for outdoor events which can be transported where needed between the various settlements in South Bruce Peninsula.

### Visual Arts & Exhibition Space

There are no purpose-built visual arts spaces operated by the Town, though certain multi-purpose rooms in the community centres and halls can be used for painting, craft work, and certain other visual arts activities. It is understood from stakeholders participating in the Master Plan's Input Sessions that most visual arts are taking place in home-based or private studios, and exhibited in private galleries. Many municipalities exhibit works of their local artists within civic facilities such as town halls, community centres, libraries, etc. to support the visual arts sector; displaying paintings or art work within hallways or on walls is the most common approach while others will carve out a small display space in a high traffic corridor or room.

"It would be great if our parks could be used more for arts and culture. Showing movies in the park would be something I'd be interested in."

~ Comment from a Public Open House Attendee



#### FACILITY SNAPSHOT:

#### Peninsula Shores District School Performing Arts Centre

**Settlement:** Wiarton

**Year Built:** Unknown

The Town has a reciprocal agreement with the Bluewater District School through which the community has access to a 400 seat auditorium and theatre at the school.

The stage is equipped with a lighting and sound system accessed from a control booth while seating is in a roll-out tiered bleacher system which provides flexibility to make use of the auditorium floor for large gatherings when not in use for performances.

## Bruce County Public Library

Bruce County Public Library operates two branches. One branch is located within the Ross Whicher Centre in Warton while the other is a stand-alone building that is part of the Bannister Park/Sauble Beach Community Centre campus. Like many progressive library systems, Bruce County Public Library is guided by a Strategic Plan that speaks to its desire to be an innovative, multi-faceted destination serving the various communities.

The Strategic Plan guides the Library to go beyond its historical mandate and take a greater role in delivering community services, thus making it an important part of the Town's model of community development and indirect service delivery. Therefore, there is merit in pursuing greater coordination between Bruce County Public Library and the Town's Community Services Department to collaboratively plan and delivery programs using indoor and outdoor municipal spaces.



*Bruce County Public Library branch in Sauble Beach*

## Exploring an Arts & Cultural Space

With Master Plan consultations expressing desires for additional space for the arts, there is merit in exploring the creation of a space that can centralize programming and potentially serve as an incubator for the creative individuals/entrepreneurs. Such as "hub" for arts and culture could integrate studio space and workshops, performance space, exhibition space, program rooms, and administrative areas as examples.

An arts and culture space is envisioned to be scaled as a grassroots-level facility oriented to community programming rather than a large performing arts centre or art gallery found in larger municipalities. It would serve as a multi-disciplinary space where creative individuals can gather, share ideas, and support each other. The multi-disciplinary philosophy also responds to current trends in the sector that show artists – particularly Generation X and Millennials – transcending their arts across many disciplines/forms of expression as opposed to focusing on single media as tended to be in the past. The size and configuration of the space would need to be confirmed through further discussions with the local arts and culture representatives but could take the form of a basic storefront space to a more comprehensive dedicated facility that potentially makes adaptive re-use of an existing building with historical/cultural significance. A more cost-effective interim space could also be secured if the Town wishes to integrate purpose-built arts and cultural facility into a potential future multi-use community centre as discussed in Section 5.3 and Recommendation #15 of this Master Plan or if making use of an existing Town-owned building (e.g. built space at Bluewater Park that is presently leased to others).

Prior to pursuing an arts and cultural resource centre or hub facility, a number of items relating to funding, governance, partnership potential, etc. will need to be confirmed. The Southampton Arts Centre space and governance model could serve as a starting point for examples to consider. As such, the Town should initiate a consultation, feasibility study and site selection process.

## 6.6 Public Art in South Bruce Peninsula

There are a few installations of public art throughout South Bruce Peninsula (primarily in Wiarton and Sauble Beach) including murals on the side of buildings, art installations found within some parks and in front of civic buildings, wood/tree trunk carvings, statues and monuments, and more recently through brightly coloured park benches in Sauble Town Square and Bluewater Park.

Public art is often a symbol of a progressive municipality, showcasing a level of maturity and inspiration that many prospective residents and employers may base a decision to relocate upon. Public art needs to be funded, both for initial installations but also for ongoing maintenance. Public art could be addressed in the Arts & Culture Policy recommended through this Master Plan but could also be subject of its own policy; furthermore, a reserve or maintenance fund should be established so that the Town can ensure money is available for new installations but arguably more importantly to prevent existing investments in public art from falling into disrepair.



*Display of Antique Equipment as Public Art in front of the Wiarton Fire Hall*



*War Memorial & Mural in Downtown Wiarton*



*Park bench in Sauble Beach*



*Warton Willie Statue along Highway 6*

## 6.7 Festivals & Events

Festivals and events have several positive impacts on life in South Bruce Peninsula. They provide an opportunity for residents to gather while serving as important platforms to celebrate local culture, heritage, talent, and achievements. The Town's commitment to supporting festivals and special events is demonstrated through its support for the internationally acclaimed Warton Willie Festival to more local events by providing indoor and outdoor venues that offer support through funding and logistical resources, and facilitating the planning and delivery of the events themselves.

Festivals or events are each unique in terms of their target audience, type of activities taking place, their complexities to plan and execute, and ultimately their size. The number of Departments involved and the permits required depends on the type of event, whether it uses a facility or outdoor space (or both), whether road closures are needed, if the event is licensed for alcohol consumption, and any other approvals from municipal or other governmental agencies. Town staff work together when an event includes programs/services that fall within their responsibilities. While the ability to dedicate sufficient time can be constrained due to other departmental responsibilities of staff, the festivals and events season peaks between May and November (in terms of number of events – the Warton Willie Festival is the largest event in terms of attendance but occurs in February). The new staff position advanced in Recommendation #2 (see Section 3.2) would alleviate some pressures on existing staff by being a first point of contact with festival/event organizers, coordinating internal staff resources, assisting with advertising and promotions, and potentially other duties.

The Town should formalize a set of guidelines/policies specific to festivals and events in order to define the collective responsibilities of the Town and community partners along with an understanding of the resources required to deliver upon them. This guidelines would provide direction to decision-makers and festival/event organizers by developing:

- A long-term vision for festivals and events in South Bruce Peninsula;
- Strategic directions, initiatives and recommendations alongside a timeline for implementation;
- An understanding of gaps in service along with how existing infrastructure (streets, community centres, parks, etc.) can be leveraged as well as any new infrastructure that may be required;
- Strategies for marketing, promoting and funding festivals/events;
- Opportunities for collaboration between community stakeholders, Town Departments and the County of Bruce; and
- Funding and staffing requirements associated with implementing the vision and recommended actions to bolster festivals/events.

**Figure 5: Spectrum of Festivals and Events**

**Private  
Festivals & Events**

Restricted to a limited, invited group of patrons.

**Local  
Festivals & Events**

Geared to a specific neighbourhood or stakeholder group. The Sauble Beach Classic Car Show would be an example of such an event.

**Major  
Festivals & Events**

Originates from within the local community and often produced by local residents, and the event is typically promoted to the Community at large. Canada Day, and the Sauble Beach Guitar Festival are examples of this category.

**Signature  
Festivals & Events**

A public one-time or recurring festival or event that possesses significance, tradition, attractiveness or publicity that provides the host community with a competitive advantage. The William Wilfred Campbell Poetry Festival is an example of this category.

**Mega  
Festivals & Events**

A public one-time or recurring festival or event that is distinguished by its focus on international participation and visitation, level of public funding, infrastructure, legacy development and economic impact. The Warton Willie Festival is an example of this category.

Source: Town of Richmond Hill, Festival & Events Resources Manual, 2019 with local examples provided under each category of the spectrum by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants.



**PARK SNAPSHOT:  
Sauble Beach Town Square  
Settlement: Sauble Beach  
Park Size: 0.4 ha (1 acre)**

Opened in June 2019, the Town Square features an updated washroom building (including a family washroom) and landscaping to function as an open space and event area across from the beach. The Town Square is accessible from Lakeshore Boulevard and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

## 6.8 Resourcing Arts & Culture in South Bruce Peninsula

Implementation of cultural policies and initiatives identified in the Master Plan must be accompanied by appropriate resources; ensuring that funding and staffing are sufficiently allocated will increase the likelihood of success. Arts and culture items do not presently have a dedicated line item in the municipal operating budget as they are typically rolled into facility and Department-wide operations. Local non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for Bruce County Not-For-Profit Community Grants while there may also be some ability to leverage the County's marketing, business development and façade improvement grants for some in the sector.

Building capacity in the arts and culture sector goes beyond dollars and cents. The Town's role is multi-faceted with funding being but one component; in support of the community development articulated in Section 3 of the Master Plan, the Town will need to continue to act in a planning, coordination and facilitation capacity if to be successful. In Ontario, many municipal Departments and Divisions face resourcing challenges where multiple responsibilities are often combined when in fact certain portfolios require full-time attention. Staffing challenges are common in many municipalities and while it would be ideal to direct necessary resources to addressing such challenges through the recommended staff position in Section 3.2 (or others), the community development approach advanced in the Master Plan along with a commitment to a corporate culture of integrated and coordinated departmental communications will be important.



### **FACILITY SNAPSHOT:**

#### **Park Head Community & Memorial Hall**

**Settlement:** Park Head

**Year Built:** 1952

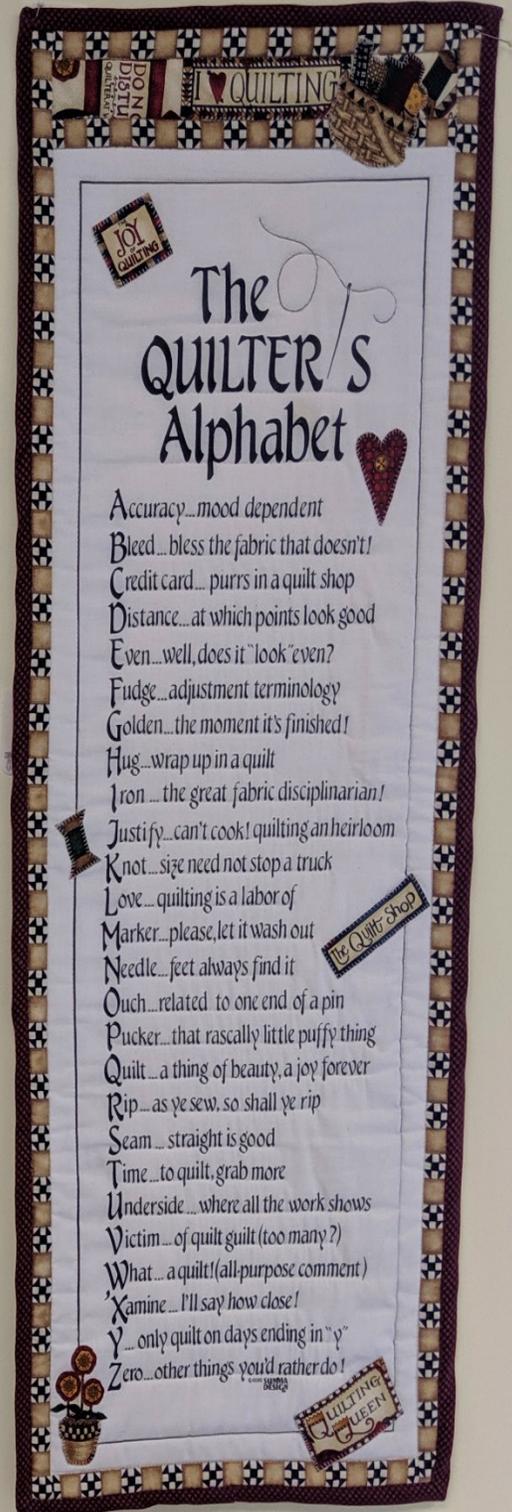
The Park Head Community Hall accommodates selected meeting and gathering functions, and certain recreation and cultural activities. It is owned by the Town of South Bruce Peninsula and independently operated by a volunteer board that schedules, rents and programs the facility. The Park Head Women's Institute also makes use of the Hall.

The Hall is situated on a 1.9 hectare property (4.5 acres) that includes a playground, full basketball court, and parking.

## 6.9 Arts & Culture System Recommendations

The following Recommendations guide arts and culture in the Town of South Bruce Peninsula to the year 2029.

- #19. Develop an Arts & Culture Policy to guide to provide a framework for the planning, provision, and support of arts and culture services in the Town of South Bruce Peninsula.
- #20. Create a Public Art Fund within the Department's annual operating budget to encourage new public art projects and the restoration/rejuvenation of existing public art works. The works of local artists should also be showcased at Town of South Bruce facilities such as Town Hall and within the Community Centres.
- #21. Establish an arts and cultural space, potentially in downtown Wiarton or Sauble Beach. The Town should engage local organizations and/or businesses to discuss prospective partnerships along with the funding/governance model prior to investing in the facility.
- #22. Work with community organizations and volunteers to animate parks with arts and cultural activities including (but not limited to) movies under the stars, Art in the Park, artisan markets, etc. by investing in park-based infrastructure such as hydro, program equipment, and operations and maintenance supports as appropriate.
- #23. Engage the Bruce County Public Library to coordinate program planning and delivery, share expertise, deliver joint-programs, and minimize service duplication.



## Arts & Culture Recommendations (continued)

- #24. Showcase the Town's marine heritage through coordinating efforts with historical societies, upper-level agencies and governments, and the private sector. At a minimum, this may include a focus upon interpretive signage, space for artifacts and exhibits, and promoting shipwrecks/scuba activities through a broad tourism campaign. Align this initiative with other efforts to encourage marine recreation per Recommendation #11 of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan.
- #25. Prepare a set of guidelines that clearly defines the role and responsibilities of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula in delivering and facilitating festivals and special events. The guidelines should articulate funding and staffing requirements, promotional and awareness strategies targeted to local residents and tourists across the region, and identify how existing and future physical infrastructure can be better leveraged to deliver quality experiences.
- #26. Allocate the funding and staffing resources required to deliver upon the existing arts and cultural opportunities along with those articulated in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Plan such as an arts and cultural resource centre, public art and festivals/events.



## Section 7. Implementing the Master Plan

### 7.1 Monitoring & Updating the Master Plan

The Town should periodically review, assess, and revise the recommendations of the Master Plan in order to ensure that they remain reflective of community needs. This may require monitoring activity levels, utilization, demographics, and continuing dialogue with community organizations. The development of annual work plans and year-end reporting should be undertaken to track achievements and lessons learned in order to determine the success of the Master Plan. Through these mechanisms – or as a result of internal or external factors – adjustment in resource allocations and priorities may be required.

The Master Plan contains recommendations regarding the delivery of services for the Town to pursue. However, the Town may be pressed for additional parks, recreation and cultural services that are not currently of sufficient demand to warrant a specific recommendation in the Master Plan or whose popularity becomes stronger at a future time. Therefore, the Town must be prepared to appropriately respond to future requests. Requests brought forward for non-traditional, emerging and/or non-core municipal services should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by considering (at a minimum):

- local/regional/provincial trends pertaining to usage and popularity of the activity/facility;
- examples of delivery models in other municipalities;
- local demand for the activity/program/facility;
- the ability of the Town's existing parks, recreation and culture facilities to accommodate the new service;
- the feasibility for the Town to reasonably provide the service / facility as a core service and in a cost-effective manner; and
- the willingness and ability of the requesting organization to provide the service / facility if provided with appropriate municipal supports.



**FACILITY SNAPSHOT:**  
**Purple Valley Community Centre**  
**Settlement: Purple Valley**  
**Year Built: 1936**

The Purple Valley Community Centre is owned by the Town of South Bruce Peninsula and independently operated by a volunteer board that schedules, rents and programs the facility. It accommodates selected meetings and gatherings, certain recreation and cultural activities, and is the home of the annual Purple Valley Maple Syrup Festival.

The Hall is situated on a 0.5 hectare (1.25 acres) property that includes other structures that support the Maple Syrup Festival including a pavilion and ancillary building. There is an open space at the back of the lot and limited parking onsite.

## 7.2 Financial Considerations

The Master Plan's recommendations reflect that the Town has been proactive in delivering, distributing and maintaining its parks and facilities in a proactive manner that has resulted in few major capital investments being required. The most capittally intensive expenditures are related to the following:

- Potential cost of acquiring property (a figure yet to be determined) for a future multi-use community hub to replace the Warton District Community Centre & Arena, noting that actual construction is envisioned to occur after the current master planning period.
- Prospective arts and culture space and sand volleyball court facility in Sauble Beach and/or Warton, of which the capital and operating costs would be determined after governance models and prospective partnership discussions have been completed for both facilities.
- Consulting Fees associated with preparing a Community Hub Feasibility Study, a Trails Master Plan/Implementation Strategy and an Update to this Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan (collectively in the range of \$125,000 to \$175,000 depending upon scope of work).
- Contributions to a Public Art Fund through the annual operating budget, suggested to be a minimum of \$10,000 annually to receive meaningful benefit.

The Town should also continue to employ strategic asset management practices for its existing (and future) infrastructure through its fiscal planning. Whereas capital construction of facilities can leverage non-tax base funding sources such as development charges, stimulus or grant programs from seniors levels of government and agencies, etc., the long-term operation and maintenance of infrastructure is often funded by the tax base (including reserve fund contributions) and user fees. Proactive fiscal planning and operational sustainability need to be considered in line with other corporate asset management practices. While a number of recommendations will have capital and operational implications directly related to the Community Services Department portfolio, the financial and staffing implications on other Departments such as Emergency Services also needs to be considered prior to implementation.

All recommendations that have a capital requirement would be brought forward on an annual basis through the budgeting process once the Town has the information it needs to develop costs (e.g. amount of parkland being conveyed, site selection, design characteristics, financial contributions from non-municipal sources, etc.). Similarly, it is envisioned that a number of service-delivery focused recommendations centred upon community development and volunteer supports can be worked into existing staff workloads. Certain others can be assumed into the new Recreation & Culture Liaison position being recommended whose salary will depend upon FTE status and municipal pay structure if/when approved to be added.

Recent legislation introduced by the Government of Ontario through Bill 108 alters the way that the Town has historically funded many of the parks, recreation and cultural services articulated in the Master Plan. Bill 108 proposes changes to the growth-related charges and has identified a "Community Benefit Charge"; the Bill has received Royal Assent, however, a number of its implementing regulations have not been identified at the time of writing thereby requiring municipalities to remain apprised of the Bill's implications in the coming months. The Town needs to monitor this legislation and should review its implications on the Master Plan.

## 7.3 Implementation-Related Recommendations

These Recommendations guide broad implementation of the Master Plan:

- #27. Update the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan in the year 2024 to capture changes in population, trends, corporate objectives, inventories, etc. Progress in implementing the Master Plan should be tracked annually with results (and other related corporate achievements) regularly communicated to Town Council and the general public.
- #28. Requests for parks, recreation and cultural facilities/services that presently fall outside of the Town's core mandate should be evaluated based on anticipated municipal role, quantifiable measures of demand and costs to the Town, and other long-term implications prior to decision whether or not to partner in the public interest.
- #29. Continue to promote sound and strategic asset management practices to maintain the Town's parks, recreation and cultural infrastructure over the long-term through sustainable fiscal planning.
- #30. Review the implications of Ontario Bill 108 and other relevant legislation on the Recommendations contained in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan given the new provincial legislative planning and funding framework.

## 7.4 Parks, Recreation & Culture Action Plan

The following pages summarize Recommendations contained within the Master Plan. Timing is generally synonymous with priority, although it also corresponds to the best estimate based on information available as to when needs will emerge (considering demographics, trends, etc.). Timing is organized into:

Short-Term Actions	2020 to 2023
Medium-Term Actions	2024 to 2026
Long-Term Actions	2027 to 2029

Timing assigned to individual recommendations should be considered as a preliminary estimate as it largely relies upon the Town achieving forecasted population thresholds identified in the Master Plan. It is not the intent of this Master Plan to provide a definitive timing for Recommendations but rather to provide a general indication of when the need to implement the actions should be considered along with other future variables. The Town should use a combination of service level targets, historical demand indicators and adherence to fiscally responsible business practices prior to determining the type and timing of recommended facilities and services.

Recommendation	Suggested Timing	2020 to 2023	2024 to 2026	2027 to 2029	Resource Implications
<b>Department-Wide Objectives</b>					
#1 The Town's role should continue to be a "Facilitator" of parks, recreation and cultural services. In support of this role, the Town should encourage a Community Development Model through engagement and provision of appropriate supports (e.g., financial, logistical, expertise, etc.) to empower its volunteers and community organizations, develop their internal capacity, and enhance their ability to deliver services over time.		•	•	•	Staff Time dedicated to building relationships with the community, facilitating community programs, etc.
#2 Undertake a comprehensive Staffing Review for the Community Services Department to develop appropriate staffing standards that reflect desired service levels. Part of this Review should confirm the addition of a staff position focused on community development tasks, trend tracking and festival coordination (at a minimum).		•			Staff Time (and/or Consulting Fees)
#3 Organize regular forums for volunteer and community organizations delivering parks, recreation and culture services in South Bruce Peninsula to allow information/idea sharing and networking opportunities to take place. Such forums could be tied in with new or existing volunteer recognition events.		•	•	•	Staff Time to organize and facilitate events
#4 Proactively seek partnerships with parks, recreation and cultural service providers including, but not limited to, educational and healthcare institutions, non-profit agencies, sport organizations, and arts and cultural collectives. A standardized framework to evaluate partnerships should be developed to guide decisions.		•	•	•	Staff Time to seek and sustain partnerships
#5 Engage representatives of persons with disabilities, First Nations and diverse ethno-cultural groups, low income populations, LGBTQ+ communities and other marginalized groups to understand their parks, recreation and cultural needs so that services result in these populations becoming active, connected and welcomed.		•	•	•	Staff Time to engage representatives
#6 Pursue the Playworks Partnership's "Youth-Friendly Community" designation in collaboration with community partners such as the Grey Bruce Health Unit, Bluewater District School Board, OPP, and other interested agencies.		•			Staff Time to prepare Youth-Friendly application

Recommendation	Suggested Timing	2020 to 2023	2024 to 2026	2027 to 2029	Resource Implications
#7 Work with the Sandpipers Seniors Club and other older adult service partners to better understand how older adults are using the Town of South Bruce Peninsula's parks, recreation and culture services, and collectively find ways to increase participation rates in response to emerging trends and issues.		•	•		Staff Time to engage representatives
<b>Parks</b>					
#8 To keep pace with residential development, acquire 2 hectares of new parkland in future development areas, at a minimum, to retain the Town's current service level of 4.0 hectares per 1,000 permanent and seasonal residents (excluding woodlots). Acquisition should primarily consist of requiring parkland dedications under the Ontario Planning Act, and through municipal purchase or securing agreements with other landholders where necessary.		•	•	•	Parkland acquisition and maintenance costs (TBD)
#9 Prepare a park-specific master plan and concept design for Bluewater Park that engages the community and stakeholders to establish a vision and future direction for the lands (including the campground).			•		Staff Time (and/or Consulting Fees)
#10 Park and trail development/redevelopment projects should integrate convenience and comfort elements to encourage public use. At a minimum, elements may include shade, seating, lighting and/or washrooms where appropriate. A focus should also be placed on providing consistent entrance signage, interpretive signage, and wayfinding signage, potentially aligned with RTO7 design specifications for Bruce County.		•	•	•	Capital and maintenance costs depending upon extent of future investment
#11 Promote marine and water-based activities within South Bruce Peninsula parks by enhancing amenities for boating, canoe/kayaking, wind and paddle sports, etc. through facilities to access the water (docks, ramps), temporary storage, parking, etc. Exploration of dockage agreements to facilitate private sector rentals and programs in municipal waterfront properties may also be explored.		•	•	•	To Be Determined depending upon extent of future investment and initiatives undertaken
#12 Per Section 5.6 of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula Official Plan, undertake a Trails Master Plan to confirm the feasibility, costs and potential to work with public and private landowners in order to implement the conceptual trails map contained in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan.		•			Consulting Fees (\$25,000 to \$40,000)

Recommendation	Suggested Timing	2020 to 2023	2024 to 2026	2027 to 2029	Resource Implications
#13 Engage the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and Ontario Parks to seek ways to strengthen existing relationships, work collaboratively in the planning and delivery of programs and facilities, and coordinate promotional efforts to residents (at a minimum).		•	•	•	Staff Time to engage representatives
#14 Develop and publish a reader-friendly Trails Map that clearly identifies trail routes (for motorized and non-motorized activities) throughout South Bruce Peninsula, potentially working in concert with Bruce County and area municipalities.			•		Staff Time (and/or design fees) to create map, costs of publishing and distribution
<b>Recreation</b>					
#15 Undertake a Community Hub Feasibility Study towards the end of the current master planning period to reconfirm arena needs along with other needed components relating to recreation, culture, library, or other space. In the interim, the Town should investigate sites and potentially purchase land that is sufficiently sized to accommodate a future community centre, while also engaging area municipalities in discussions regarding potential opportunities to collaboratively address regional arena needs through joint facility development and/or service delivery practices.				•	Consulting Fees (\$40,000 to \$50,000)  Staff time to engage area municipalities
#16 Make greater use of the Warton District Community Centre & Arena for pickleball during the spring and summer months in response. Outdoor pickleball times should be dedicated at times throughout the week at selected tennis courts in Sauble Beach and Warton, working in concert with local tennis clubs and organized pickleball clubs (to explore scheduling and encouraging discounted memberships for players playing tennis and pickleball, at a minimum).		•	•	•	Staff Time to supervise arena in off-season as well as to engage tennis and pickleball representatives
#17 Explore potential sites and operating models to establish sand volleyball courts capable of hosting tournaments and organized play in conjunction with regional beach volleyball organizations and/or the private sector.				•	To Be Determined based on discussions with third party operators
#18 New and redeveloped playgrounds should consider natural play and barrier-free play components, where appropriate.		•	•	•	Dependent upon design

Recommendation	Suggested Timing	2020 to 2023	2024 to 2026	2027 to 2029	Resource Implications
<b>Arts &amp; Culture</b>					
#19 Develop an Arts & Culture Policy to guide to provide a framework for the planning, provision, and support of arts and culture services in the Town of South Bruce Peninsula.		•			Staff Time
#20 Create a Public Art Fund within the Department’s annual operating budget to encourage new public art projects and the restoration/rejuvenation of existing public art works.			•	•	Dependent upon approved budget allocation (suggest min. \$10,000 per annum)
#21 Establish an arts and cultural space, potentially in downtown Warton or Sauble Beach. The Town should engage local organizations and/or businesses to discuss prospective partnerships along with the funding/governance model prior to investing in the facility.				•	To Be Determined based on discussions with sector representatives
#22 Work with community organizations and volunteers to animate parks with arts and cultural activities including (but not limited to) movies under the stars, Art in the Park, artisan markets, etc. by investing in park-based infrastructure such as hydro, program equipment, and operations and maintenance supports as appropriate.	•	•	•		To Be Determined depending upon extent of future investment and initiatives undertaken
#23 Engage the Bruce County Public Library to coordinate program planning and delivery, share expertise, deliver joint-programs, and minimize service duplication.	•	•	•		Staff Time
#24 Showcase the Town’s marine heritage through coordinating efforts with historical societies, upper-level agencies and governments, and the private sector. At a minimum, this may include a focus upon interpretive signage, space for artifacts and exhibits, and promoting shipwrecks/scuba activities through a broad tourism campaign. Align this initiative with other efforts to encourage marine recreation per Recommendation #11 of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan.	•	•	•		To Be Determined depending upon extent of future investment and initiatives undertaken
#25 Prepare a set of guidelines that clearly defines the role and responsibilities of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula in delivering and facilitating festivals and special events. The guidelines should articulate funding and staffing requirements, promotional and awareness strategies targeted to local residents and tourists across the region, and identify how existing and future physical infrastructure can be better leveraged to deliver quality experiences.			•		Staff Time and/or Consulting Fees to prepare guidelines

Recommendation	Suggested Timing	2020 to 2023	2024 to 2026	2027 to 2029	Resource Implications
#26 Allocate the funding and staffing resources required to deliver upon the existing arts and cultural opportunities along with those articulated in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Plan such as an arts and cultural resource centre, public art and festivals/events.		•	•	•	To Be Determined depending upon extent of initiatives undertaken
<b>Implementation</b>					
#27 Update the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan in the year 2024 to capture changes in population, trends, corporate objectives, inventories, etc. Progress in implementing the Master Plan should be tracked annually with results (and other related corporate achievements) regularly communicated to Town Council and the general public.			•		Consulting Fees (\$60,000)
#28 Requests for parks, recreation and cultural facilities/services that presently fall outside of the Town's core mandate should be evaluated based on anticipated municipal role, quantifiable measures of demand and costs to the Town, and other long-term implications prior to decision whether or not to partner in the public interest.		•	•	•	Staff Time to engage in discussions and evaluate proposals
#30 Review the implications of Ontario Bill 108 and other relevant legislation on the Recommendations contained in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan given the new provincial legislative planning and funding framework.		•			Staff Time to review implications

# Appendix A: Facility Inventories

## Town of South Bruce Peninsula

Recreation Facility Supply	Locations
<b>Outdoor Aquatic Facilities: 8</b> 1 Outdoor Pool 1 Splash Pad 6 Public Beaches/Outdoor Swimming	<u>Outdoor Pool</u> : Bluewater Park <u>Splash Pad</u> : Bluewater Park <u>Public Beach/Outdoor Swimming Areas</u> : Berford Lake Park, Bluewater Park, Colpoy's Bay Dock, Red Bay Park, Howdenvale Park, Sauble Beach
<b>Ice Pads: 1</b>	Warton District Community Centre & Arena
<b>Community Halls: 4</b>	Elsinore Community Centre, Park Head Community Centre, Purple Valley Community Centre, Warton District Community Centre & Arena
<b>Gymnasium: 1</b>	Amabel-Sauble School (operated in partnership with Bluewater District School Board)
<b>Older Adult / Seniors' Space</b>	Sauble Beach Community Centre / Active Living Centre
<b>Soccer Fields: 5</b> 1 full field 1 intermediate field 3 mini fields	Amabel-Sauble School (5)  Note: a non-permitted rectangular field is located outside of the fenced area at the Oliphant Dog Park
<b>Ball Diamonds: 3</b> 1 lit and 3 unlit slo-pitch diamonds	<u>Lit Slo-Pitch</u> : Bannister Park <u>Unlit Slo-Pitch</u> : Amabel-Sauble Community School, Dan Davidson Park, Hepworth Park  Note: a non-permitted diamond is located at Park Head Community Centre
<b>Public Boat Ramps: 4</b>	Municipal: Bluewater Park, Sauble Beach, Red Bay Park Note: there is a Federal launch in Howdenvale and at several private marinas
<b>Tennis and Pickleball Courts: 5</b> 4 tennis courts 1 tennis/pickleball courts	<u>Tennis Court</u> : Bannister Park, Bluewater Park (3) <u>Tennis/Pickleball Combination Court</u> : Sauble Beach
<b>Outdoor Basketball Courts: 4</b> 2 full courts 1 half courts 1 hoop and key	<u>Full Court</u> : Jimmy Brown Rotary Park, Park Head Community Centre <u>Half Court</u> : Elsinore Community Centre <u>Hoop and Key</u> : Bannister Park
<b>Skateboard Parks: 1</b>	Bluewater Park
<b>Outdoor Fitness Equipment: 2 locations</b>	Bluewater Park, Sauble Beach
<b>Playgrounds: 9 locations</b>	<u>Play Structure</u> : Allenford Curling Club, Bannister Park, Berford Lake Park, Elsinore Community Centre, Hepworth Park, Jim Brown Rotary Park, Oliphant Dog Park, Park Head Community Centre, Red Bay Park
<b>Outdoor Skating Rinks: 1 location</b>	Bluewater Park diamond (maintained by Fire Department)
<b>Dog Parks: 2</b>	Tayja's Doggy Park (Dan Davidson Park), Oliphant Dog Park
<b>Community Garden: 1</b>	Gateway Haven Community Garden (Mary Street, Warton)

## Non-Municipal Providers

Non-Municipal Recreation Facilities and Organizations	Amenities / Services Provided
Allenford Curling Club	League play and curling lessons
Bruce Peninsula ATV Club	Access to ATV trails and related programs
Bruce Peninsula Minor Hockey Association	House league hockey for children and youth
Bruce Peninsula Rowing Club	Guided sessions and rowing lessons
Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association	Hunting, angling, firearm range
Fung Loy Kok Taoist Tai Chi	Tai Chi classes
Grey Bruce Roller Derby	Roller derby league
Outdoor Education Centre	Focused on environmental protection and sustainability
Sauble Anglers and Hunters	Hunting and angling
Sauble Beach Pickleball Club	Indoor pickleball league
Sauble Cross Country Ski Club	Cross country skiing
Sauble Beach Minor Soccer	House league soccer for children and youth
Sauble Beach Yoga	Yoga classes
Sauble Lawn Bowling	Lawn Bowling
Sauble Tennis Club	Tennis league and drop-in play
Terry Fox Run	Outdoor sports and recreation
Peninsula Adventure Sports Association	Adult curling league and events
Wiarion District Curling Club	Group fitness, weight lifting, cardio equipment, etc.
Wiarion Fitness Centre	Wiarion Yacht Club, Services and Sales
Wiarion Marina	Adult hockey league
Wiarion Old Timers Hockey	Adult hockey league
Wiarion Pick-up Hockey	Tennis league and drop-in play
Wiarion Tennis Club	Figure skating lessons and annual show
Wiarion Skating Club	Youth curling program
Wiarion Youth Curling	

### Local Service Clubs and Agencies

Beta Sigma Phi Sorority (Wiarion)	Sauble Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
Bruce Peninsula Health Services Foundation	Wiarion & District Agricultural Society
Colpoy's Bay Women's Institute	Wiarion Keppel International Airport
Friends of Sauble Beach	Wiarion Legion Ladies Auxiliary
Friends of Oliphant	Wiarion Oddfellows
Bruce Peninsula Community Living	Wiarion Parks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders & Commissioners
Bruce Peninsula Hospice	Wiarion Hospital Volunteers
Gateway Haven Auxiliary	Wiarion Hospital Auxiliary
Home & Community Support	Wiarion Kinsmen
The Meeting Place / Propeller Club	Wiarion Lions Club
Royal Canadian Legion Br. 208 & 256	Wiarion Optimist Club
Salvation Army Family Services	Wiarion Rotary Club
Sauble Lions Club	Wiarion Sandpipers
Sauble Sandpipers Club	White Cloud IODE

### Non-Municipal Arts and Culture Facilities and Services

Friends of the Sauble Beach Library	Peninsula Shores Camera Club
Friends of the Wiarion Library	Wiarion Children's Chorus
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club	Wiarion Concert Choir
McLaren Pipe & Drum Band	

*Note: all non-municipal providers listed herein reflect the best understanding of the local market based upon available research at time of writing*

# Appendix B: Master Plan Survey Report

# Survey Report

27 December 2018 - 14 July 2019

# Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan Survey

PROJECT: Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan  
**South Bruce Peninsula**

engagement   
by Bang the Table



**Q2** | Please Specify:

ANSWER

Red Bay

6/19/2019 12:28 PM

ANSWER

Chesley Lake

7/02/2019 07:42 AM

ANSWER

Address is Allenford but I live at Gould Lake.

7/03/2019 08:49 AM

ANSWER

Red Bay

7/03/2019 08:54 AM

ANSWER

Red Bay

7/03/2019 09:21 AM

**Optional question** (5 responses, 254 skipped)

**Q3** Please Specify:

**ANSWER**

6/21/2019 11:47 AM

Owen Sound

**ANSWER**

6/27/2019 07:04 AM

Shallow Lake

**ANSWER**

6/29/2019 07:14 AM

Georgian Bluffs - Oxenden

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:06 AM

Georgian Bluffs

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:47 AM

Wellington County

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 08:08 AM

Hagersville Ont

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:50 AM

Chatsworth

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 02:19 PM

Owen Sound

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 05:37 PM

Mississauga, Ont.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 08:19 PM

I live at Pike Bay, in Northern Bruce Peninsula

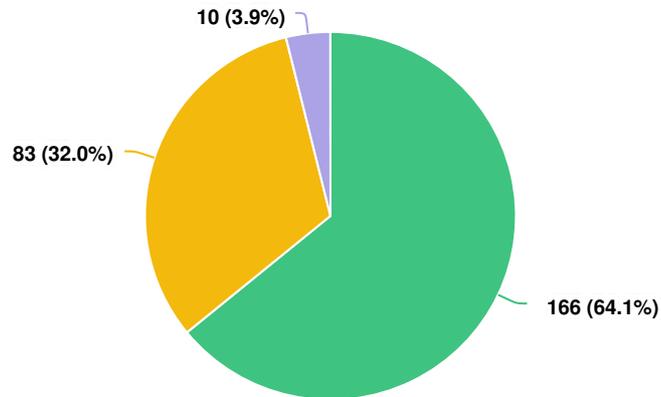
**ANSWER**

7/04/2019 06:07 AM

Shallow Lake

**Optional question** (11 responses, 248 skipped)

**Q4 | 2. Are you a permanent or seasonal resident of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula?**

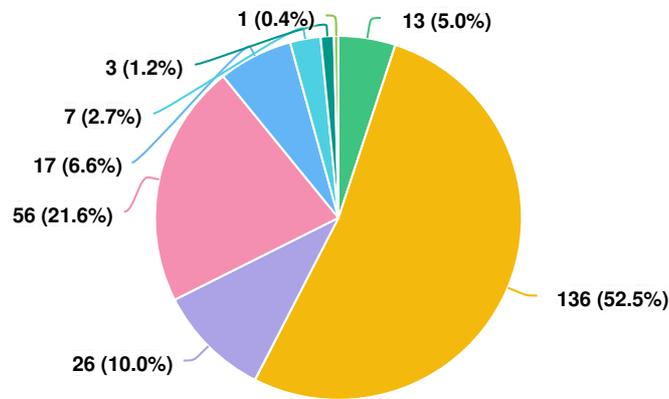


**Question options**

- Permanent
- Seasonal
- I do not live in South Bruce Peninsula

(259 responses, 0 skipped)

**Q5 | 3. How many people, including yourself, live in your household?**

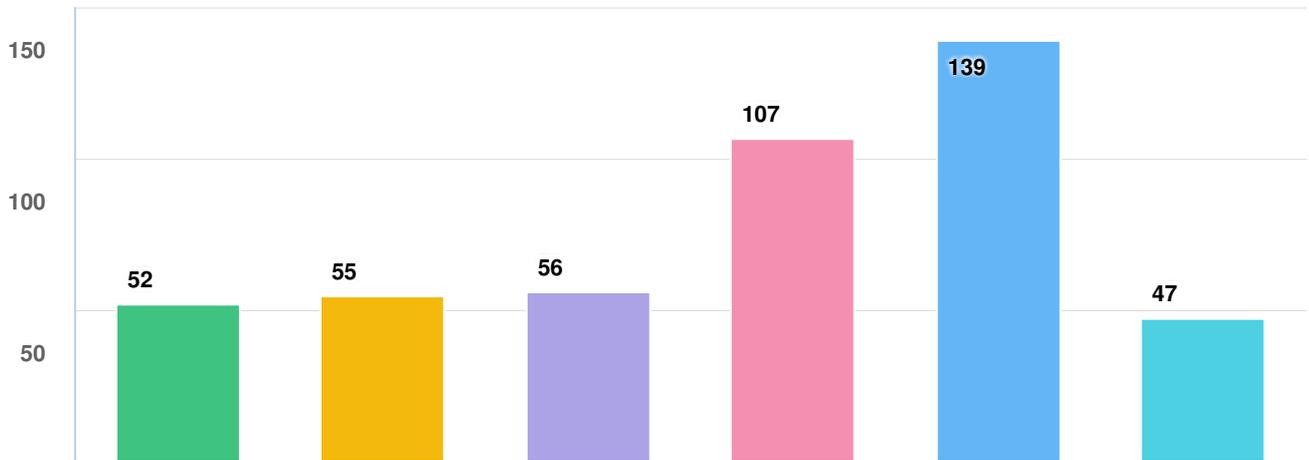


**Question options**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 10+

(259 responses, 0 skipped)

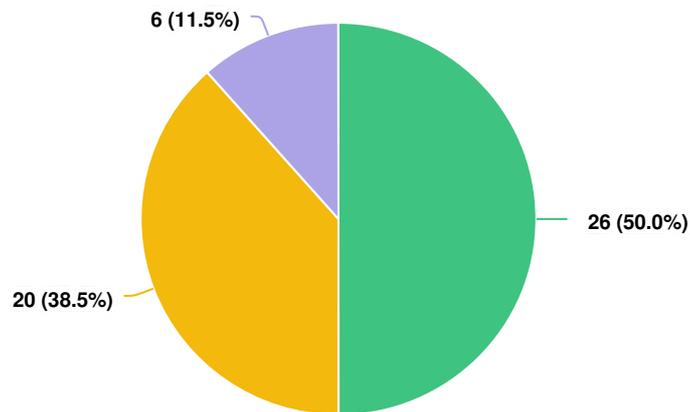
**Q6** 4. Please indicate the total number of persons within your household that fall into the following age categories.



**Question options**

● Under 10 years   
 ● 10 – 19 years   
 ● 20 – 34 years   
 ● 35 – 54 years   
 ● 55 – 69 years   
 ● 70 years and over  
 (259 responses, 0 skipped)

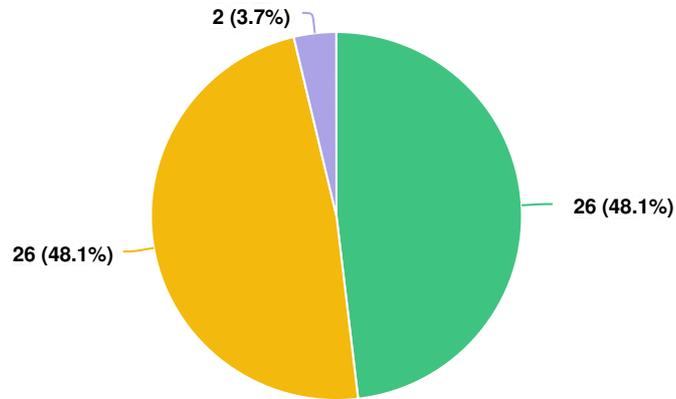
**Q7** Total number of persons within your household that fall into age category Under 10 years old:



**Question options**

● 1   
 ● 2   
 ● 3  
 Optional question (52 responses, 207 skipped)

**Q8** Total number of persons within your household that fall into age category 10-19 years old:

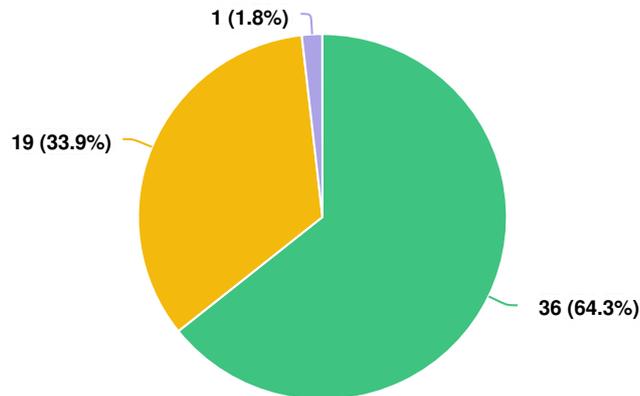


**Question options**

- 1
- 2
- 3

Optional question (54 responses, 205 skipped)

**Q9** Total number of persons within your household that fall into age category 20-34 years old:

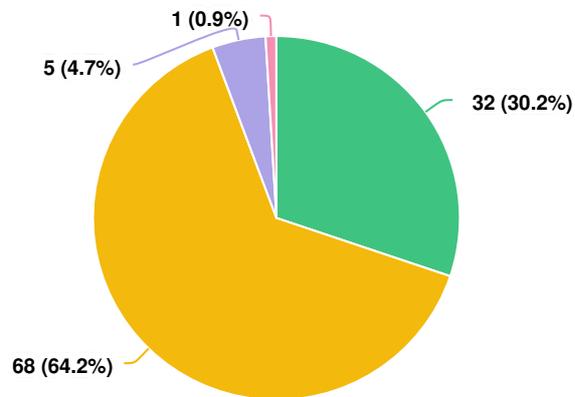


**Question options**

- 1
- 2
- 4

Optional question (56 responses, 203 skipped)

**Q10** Total number of persons within your household that fall into age category 35-54 years old:

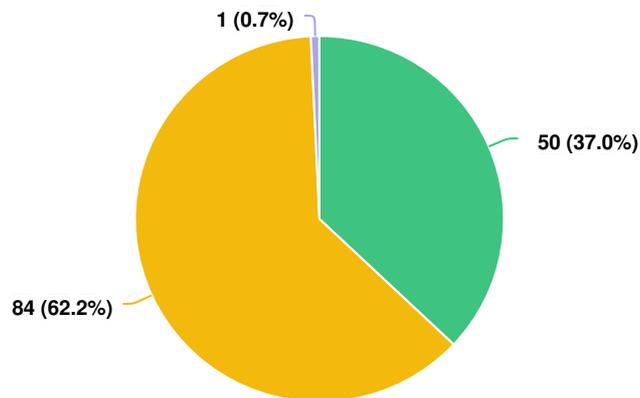


**Question options**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 8

Optional question (106 responses, 153 skipped)

**Q11** Total number of persons within your household that fall into age category 55-69 years old:

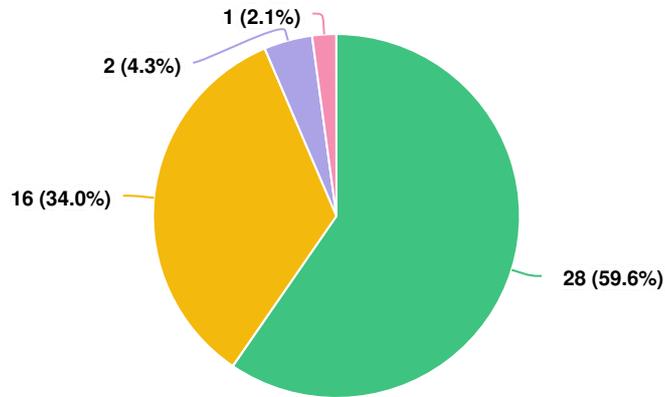


**Question options**

- 1
- 2
- 3

Optional question (135 responses, 124 skipped)

**Q12** Total number of persons within your household that fall into age category 70 years and over:

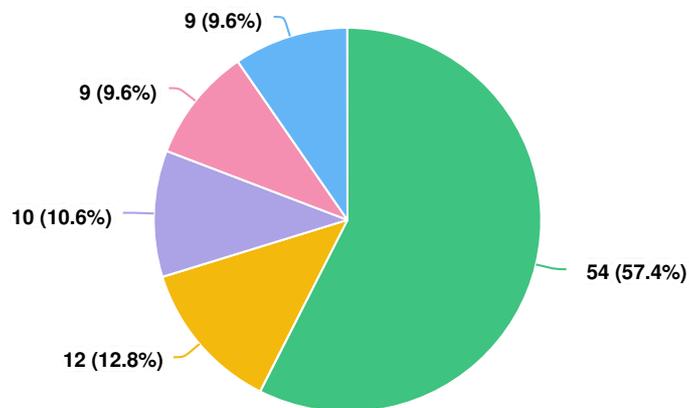


**Question options**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 5

Optional question (47 responses, 212 skipped)

**Q13** 5. In what year were you born?

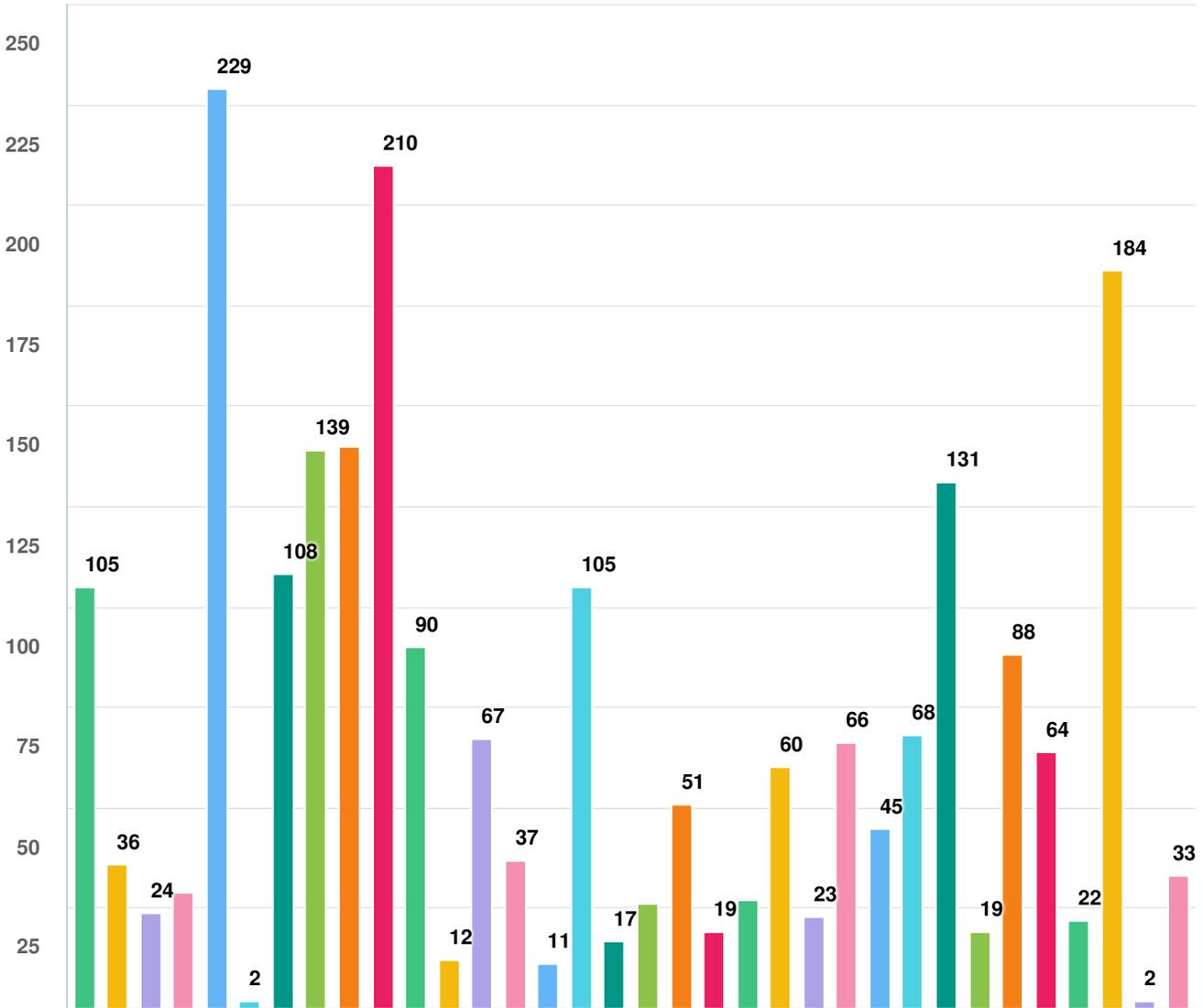


**Question options**

- Slice
- 1955
- 1958
- 1956
- 1950

Optional question (205 responses, 54 skipped)

**Q14 6. Please select any of the following activities and/or facilities that you or anyone in your household has participated in during the past 12 months.**



**Question options**

- Aerobics, Yoga, Fitness, or Weight-Training    ● Baseball or Softball (or other forms)    ● Badminton    ● Basketball
- Visit to a Public Beach    ● Cricket    ● Boating – Motorized (e.g. powercraft, jet ski)    ● Cycling or Mountain Biking
- Dog Walking (on or off leash)    ● Enjoying Parks and Open Spaces    ● Fishing    ● Gymnastics
- Hockey, Ringette, Figure Skating, or Ice Skating
- Organized Seniors Programs (e.g. luncheons, cards, special interest courses, etc.)    ● Organized Teen Programs
- Paddlesports (e.g. canoe, kayak, rowing, paddleboarding)    ● Pickleball    ● Preschool or Children’s Programs
- Running or Jogging    ● Skateboarding/Bike Park    ● Soccer    ● Skiing - Cross-Country    ● Skiing - Downhill
- Snowshoeing    ● Indoor Swimming (Instructional or Aquafit)    ● Indoor Swimming (Recreational)    ● Outdoor Swimming
- Tennis    ● Use of Playground Equipment    ● Use of Splash Pad    ● Volleyball    ● Walking or Hiking for Leisure
- Lawn Bowling    ● Other (please specify):

Optional question (257 responses, 2 skipped)

**Q15 Please Specify:**

<b>ANSWER</b> 6/19/2019 10:04 AM	Atv
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/19/2019 10:59 AM	sailing at Warton Marina / Horseback riding both trail and in arena / Geocaching/ splash pad in Southampton/ barrier free playground in southampton & Shallow lake
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/19/2019 11:29 AM	ATV'ing
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/19/2019 11:37 AM	geocaching
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/19/2019 12:14 PM	Curling
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/19/2019 12:21 PM	Snowmobiling
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/19/2019 01:43 PM	Gardening, metal detecting
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/19/2019 05:22 PM	Broomball
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/20/2019 10:58 AM	Bruce Trail
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/24/2019 06:17 AM	horseback riding on trail
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/24/2019 07:45 AM	Curling
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/25/2019 05:33 PM	Golf Gardening
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/26/2019 06:10 AM	Golf
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/27/2019 03:31 PM	outdoor gym equipment at the park
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/02/2019 09:46 AM	Birdwatching, nature photography
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 07:20 AM	Lacrosse
<b>ANSWER</b>	Snowmobile

7/03/2019 07:34 AM

**ANSWER** Gardening, Sightseeing

7/03/2019 07:52 AM

**ANSWER** Curling

7/03/2019 07:57 AM

**ANSWER** None

7/03/2019 08:03 AM

**ANSWER** Sailing

7/03/2019 08:08 AM

**ANSWER** Curling, Dance - Highland, Cheer

7/03/2019 08:49 AM

**ANSWER** Trampoline

7/03/2019 09:13 AM

**ANSWER** Kayaking paddleboard

7/03/2019 09:56 AM

**ANSWER** golf

7/03/2019 10:32 AM

**ANSWER** 7/03/2019 Curling

12:44 PM

**ANSWER** Sailing

7/03/2019 05:11 PM

**ANSWER** Curling, golf

7/04/2019 05:41 AM

**ANSWER** Birding

7/04/2019 08:02 AM

**ANSWER** Golf

7/04/2019 01:29 PM

**ANSWER** Curling and Golf

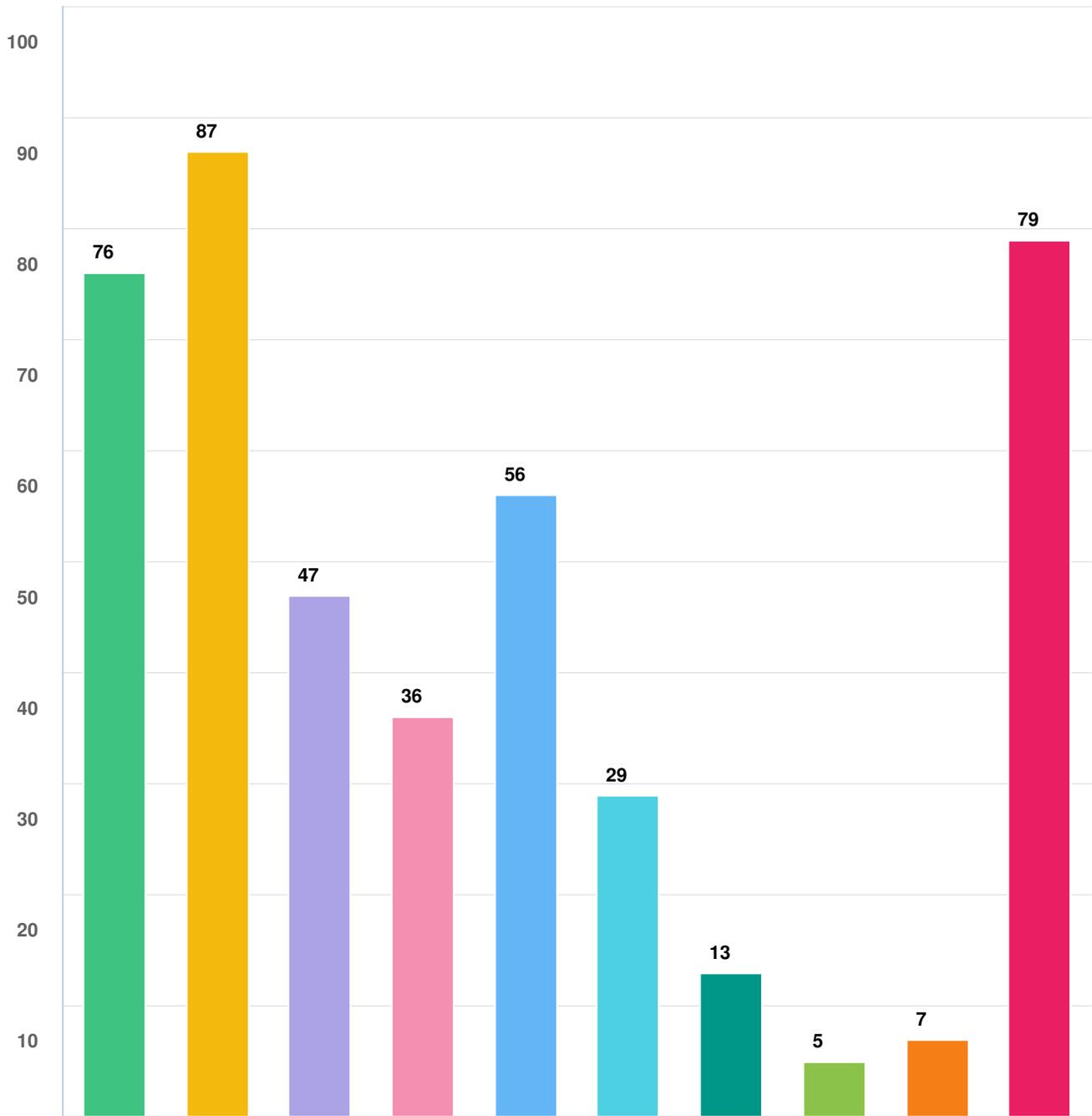
7/07/2019 09:27 AM

**ANSWER** New here: Planning to get into ATVing & snowmobiling, among other new activities

7/08/2019 04:20 PM

**Optional question** (32 responses, 227 skipped)

**Q16** 7. If you and/or members of your household are not able to participate in parks and recreation activities as often as you would like, please indicate why (select up to 3 responses).



**Question options**

- Lack of personal time / Too busy    
 ● Lack of desired facilities or programs    
 ● Program not offered at a convenient time
- Lack of money / Too expensive    
 ● Lack of information / Unaware of opportunities
- Lack of transportation / Facility too far away    
 ● Accessibility / Disability / Age    
 ● Lack of Child Care
- Other (please specify):    
 ● No Barriers - We are able to participate as often as we would like

*Optional question (245 responses, 14 skipped)*

**Q17** | Please Specify:

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 01:01 AM

Winter driving

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:03 AM

Dogs not leashed

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:34 AM

We would love to snowmobile more to restaurants and gas in Wiarton but the town makes it impossible due to excessive salt use

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 08:03 AM

Distance

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 10:32 AM

uninterested/lazy sometimes..

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 12:46 PM

Disabled

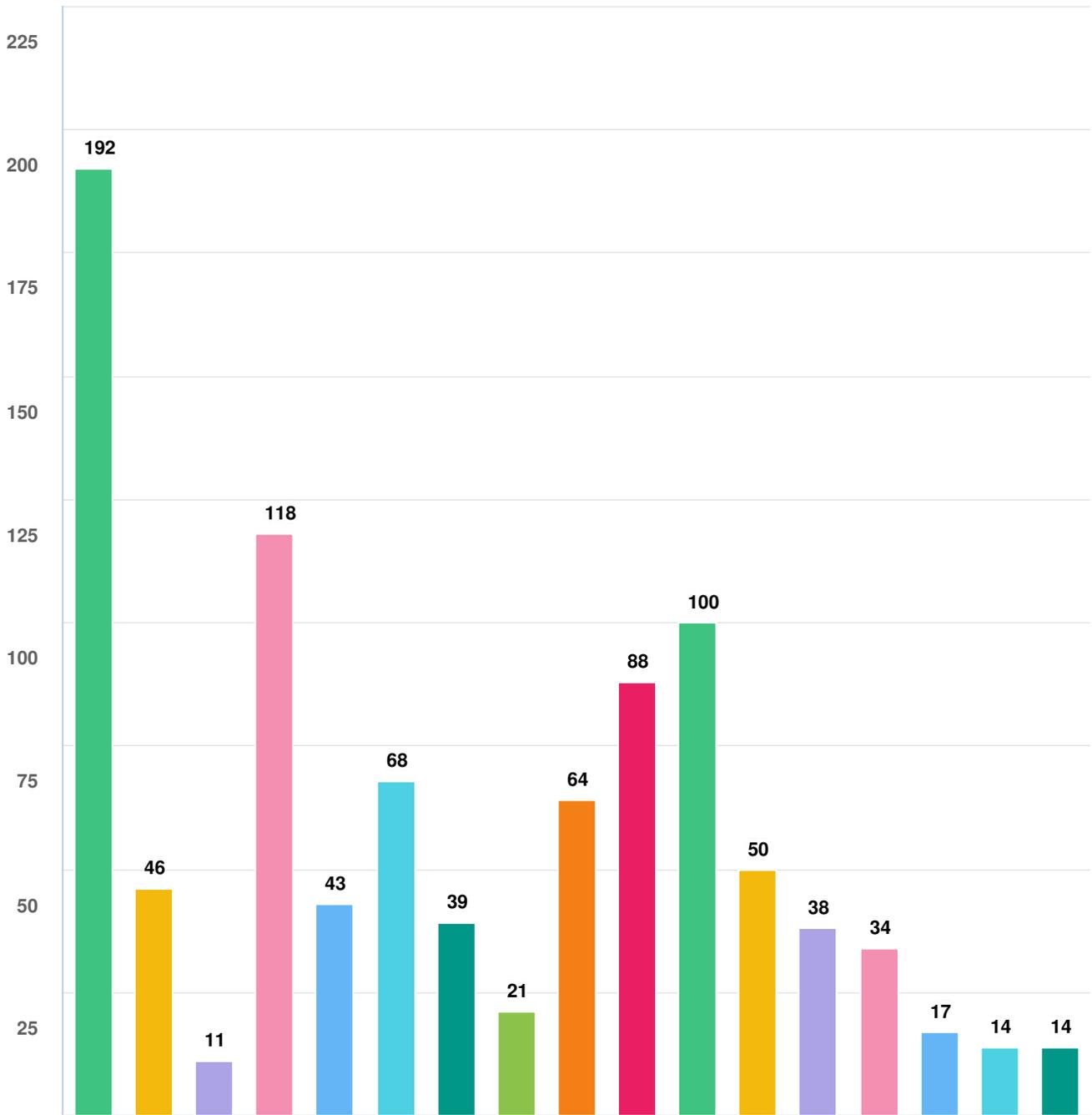
**ANSWER**

7/04/2019 04:40 AM

Too far away

**Optional question** (7 responses, 252 skipped)

**Q18 8. Please select any of the following arts and cultural activities that you or anyone in your household has attended or participated in during the past 12 months.**



**Question options**

- Community Special Event (e.g. Canada Day Celebration, etc.)    ● Culture Days    ● Doors Open South Bruce Peninsula
- Parade (e.g. Santa Claus Parade, etc.)    ● Art Festival    ● Music Festival    ● Food or Wine Festival
- Ethnic Festival or Event    ● Museum Visit    ● Live Theatre Show    ● Live Concert    ● Painting or Drawing    ● Crafts
- Dance    ● Drama    ● Cooking Class    ● Other (please specify):

*Optional question (226 responses, 33 skipped)*

**Q19** | Please Specify:

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 10:59 AM

Pow Wow

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 11:42 AM

literary readings, panels and talks.

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 03:53 PM

Photography

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 04:49 PM

woodworking, art class

**ANSWER**

6/26/2019 07:21 PM

Photography

**ANSWER**

7/02/2019 09:46 AM

art displays, studio tours

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:20 AM

(Professional) Sports events - Basketball, Hockey, Lacrosse games

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:34 AM

Fishing tournament

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 08:03 AM

None of the above

**ANSWER** 7/03/2019

12:44 PM

Pow-wows, school events, nature demos, library

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 12:44 PM

Touch a truck

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 08:27 PM

Stand-up or improv comedy

**ANSWER** 7/05/2019

01:44 PM

Sandfest

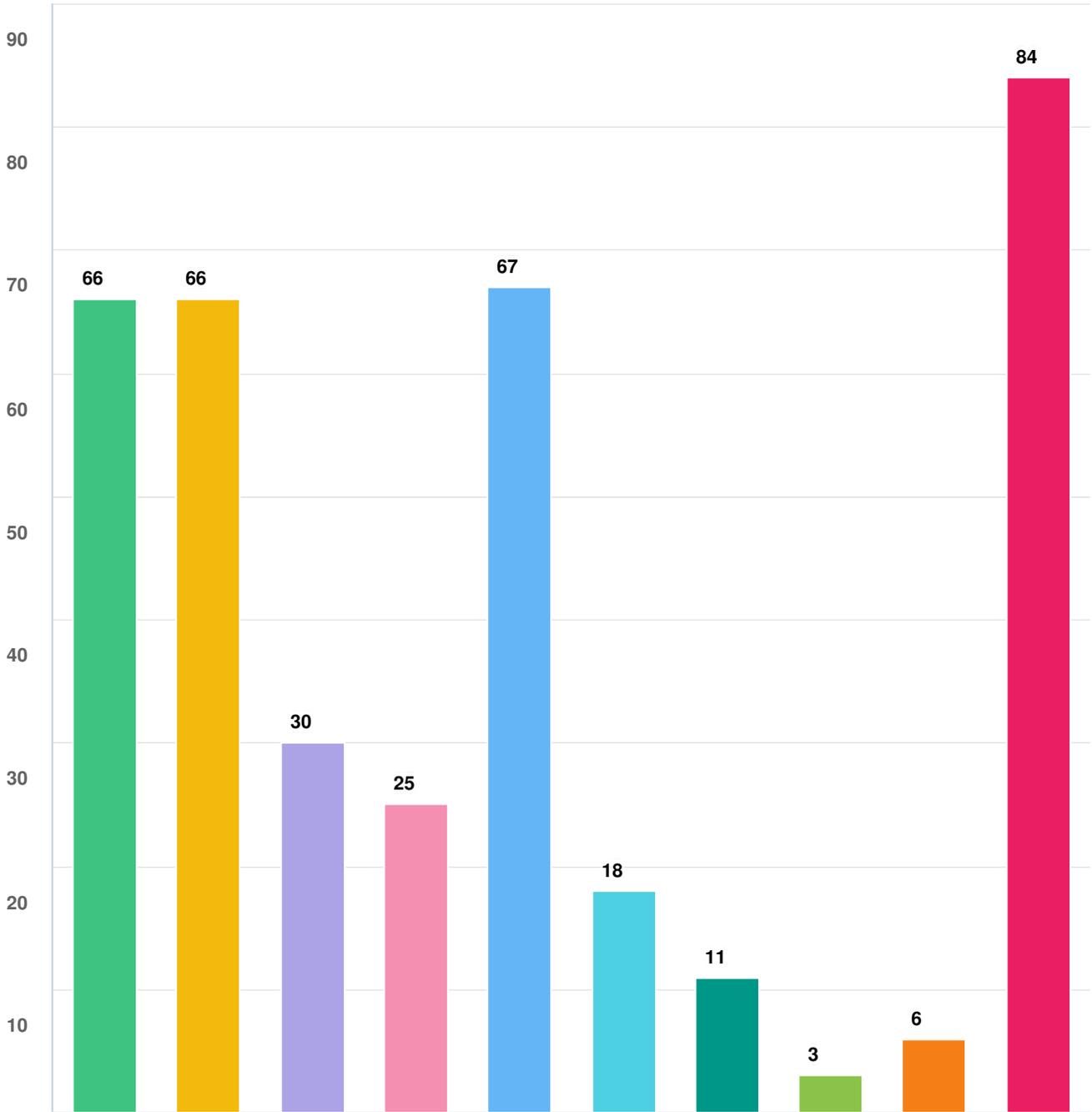
**ANSWER**

7/08/2019 04:20 PM

New here: I haven't yet, but plan to attend various hobby and craft events that are of interest, and maybe even host such events.

**Optional question** (14 responses, 245 skipped)

**Q20** 9. If you and/or members of your household are not able to participate in arts and culture activities as often as you would like, please indicate why (select up to 3 responses).



**Question options**

- Lack of personal time / Too busy    
 ● Lack of desired facilities or programs    
 ● Program not offered at a convenient time
- Lack of money / Too expensive    
 ● Lack of information / Unaware of opportunities
- Lack of transportation / Facility too far away    
 ● Accessibility / Disability / Age    
 ● Lack of Child Care
- Other (please specify):    
 ● No Barriers - We are able to participate as often as we would like

*Optional question (235 responses, 24 skipped)*

**Q21** | **Please Specify**

**ANSWER**

6/23/2019 06:03 PM

Lack of interest

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:57 AM

Too many activities are geared for retired people. I am working when they are taking place

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 08:03 AM

Distance

**ANSWER**

7/04/2019 04:40 AM

Lack of taxi and safe drive home

**ANSWER**

7/04/2019 12:22 PM

Too much traffic no place to park especially in the nicer weather

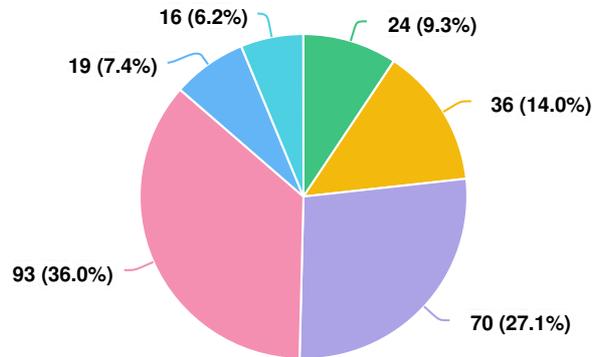
**ANSWER**

7/08/2019 05:39 PM

Very little culture is offered in South Bruce

**Optional question** (6 responses, 253 skipped)

**Q22 | A) I am satisfied with the geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities across the Town**

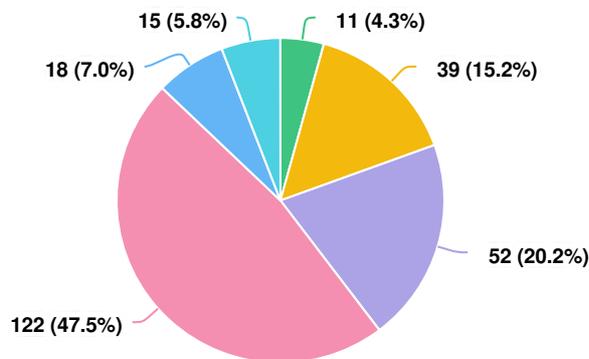


**Question options**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Don't Know / Don't Use

Optional question (258 responses, 1 skipped)

**Q23 | B) The Town's parks and recreation facilities are well maintained.**

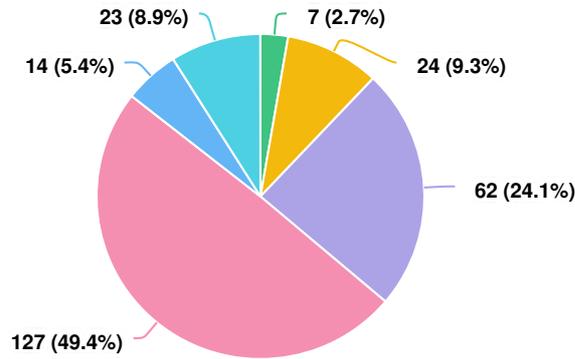


**Question options**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Don't Know / Don't Use

Optional question (257 responses, 2 skipped)

**Q24 C) Parks and recreation opportunities are affordable in South Bruce Peninsula.**

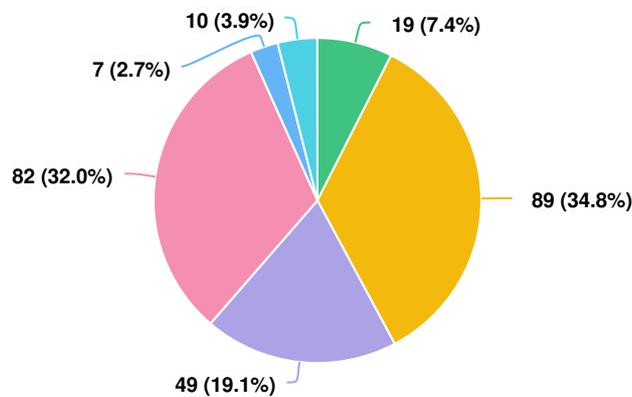


**Question options**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Don't Know / Don't Use

Optional question (257 responses, 2 skipped)

**Q25 D) My household feels well informed about local parks and recreation events and activities.**

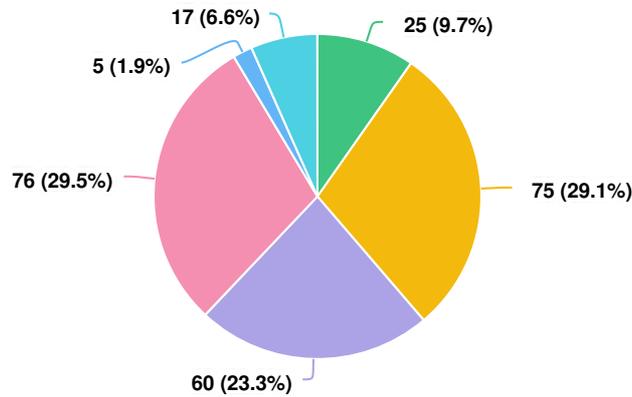


**Question options**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Don't Know / Don't Use

Optional question (256 responses, 3 skipped)

**Q26 E) There are sufficient parks and recreation opportunities in the Town.**

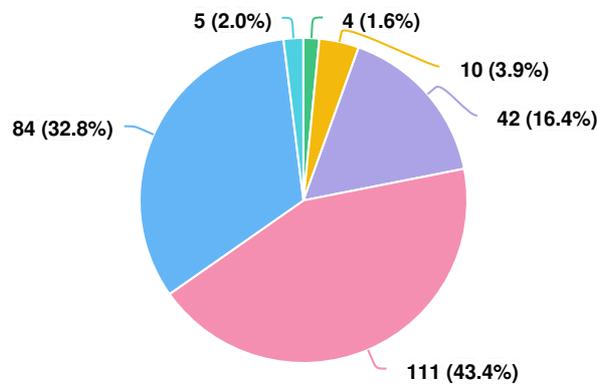


**Question options**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Don't Know / Don't Use

*Optional question (258 responses, 1 skipped)*

**Q27 F) Parks and recreation services should be a high priority for Town Council.**

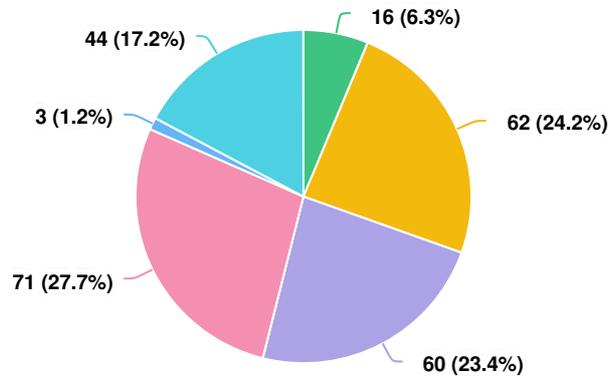


**Question options**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Don't Know / Don't Use

*Optional question (256 responses, 3 skipped)*

**Q28 A) I am satisfied with the geographic distribution of arts and culture facilities across the Town.**

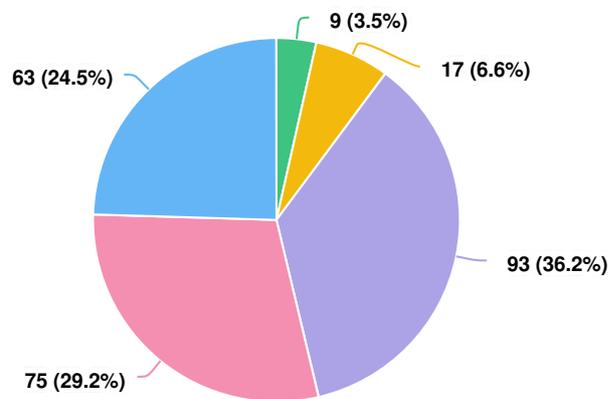


**Question options**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Don't Know / Don't Use

Optional question (256 responses, 3 skipped)

**Q29 B) The Town's arts and cultural facilities are well maintained.**

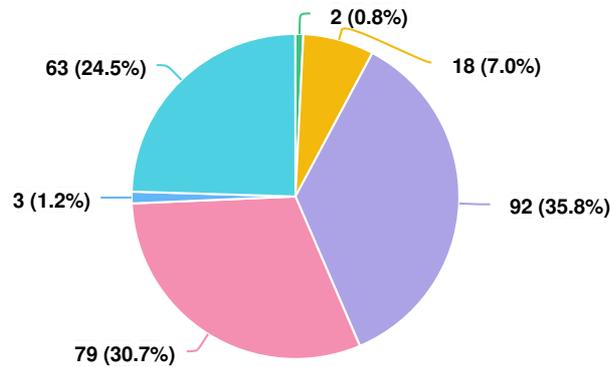


**Question options**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Agree
- Don't Know / Don't Use

Optional question (257 responses, 2 skipped)

**Q30 C) Arts and cultural opportunities are affordable in South Bruce Peninsula.**

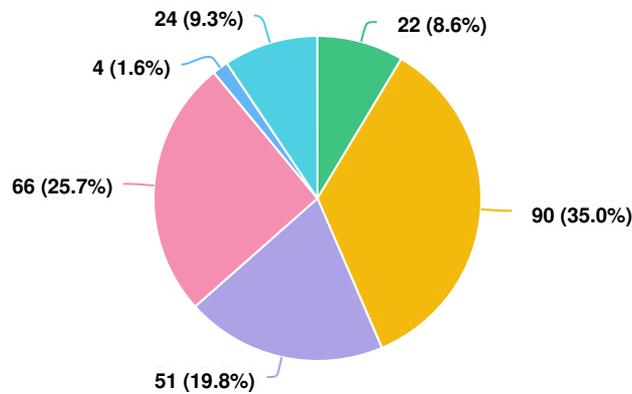


**Question options**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Don't Know / Don't Use

Optional question (257 responses, 2 skipped)

**Q31 D) My household feels well informed about local arts and cultural events and activities.**

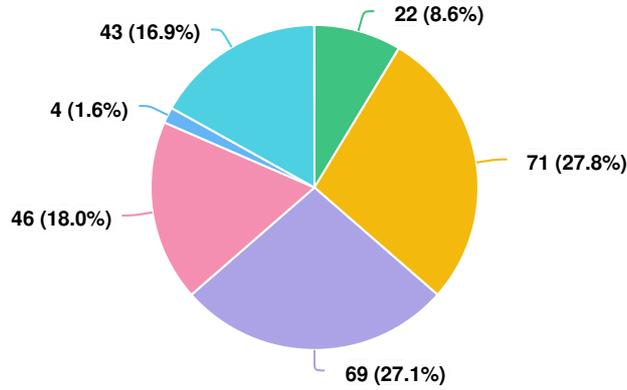


**Question options**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Don't Know / Don't Use

Optional question (257 responses, 2 skipped)

**Q32 E) There are sufficient arts and cultural opportunities in the Town.**

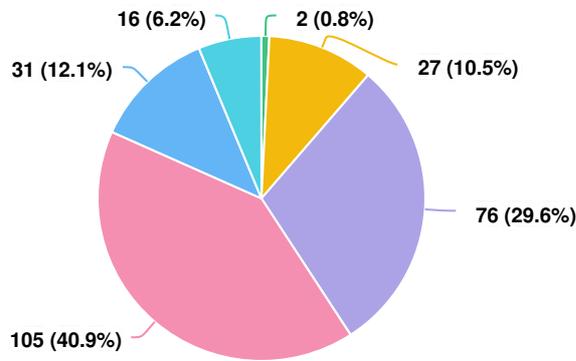


**Question options**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Don't Know / Don't Use

Optional question (255 responses, 4 skipped)

**Q33 F) Arts and culture services should be a high priority for Town Council.**



**Question options**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Don't Know / Don't Use

Optional question (257 responses, 2 skipped)

**Q34 | 12. If you or members of your household frequently participate in a parks, recreation or cultural activities outside of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula, please indicate said activity below.**

**ANSWER** 6/19/2019

09:57 AM

Camping in North Bruce Peninsula

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 10:51 AM

fitness centre

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 10:55 AM

Bruce County Museum in Southampton , Junior hockey in Shallow Lake, and Owen Sound.

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 10:59 AM

we are members at the Y in OS / we go to the Roxy theatre reg. / we attend museum in southampton and OS

**ANSWER** 6/19/2019

11:37 AM

Competitive and Recreations Team Sports, Live Outdoor Concerts

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 11:37 AM

live music concerts

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 11:42 AM

We participate in a host of activities in our year round municipality.

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 11:46 AM

Attending outdoor concerts in Port Elgin with family

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 12:23 PM

Museums, The Y

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 01:41 PM

Swimming lessons

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 03:09 PM

Gymnastics, swimming, parks

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 03:17 PM

Swimming, hockey, and gym in Owen Sound...a lot closer than where it is to our home in Allenford.

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 03:53 PM

Hiking Bruce trail

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 04:12 PM

Blue Mountain-downhill skiing ; mountain bike; paddle; gymnastics; exercise class; art and drama programs

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 04:19 PM

Most of the parks and rec activities i responded to above are done at home in Waterloo, not here.

**ANSWER**

Broomball, Roxy Theatre, concerts, gym

6/19/2019 05:22 PM

**ANSWER**

Art classes in Owen Sound.

6/19/2019 05:46 PM

**ANSWER**

We have been to museums in Owen Sound, theatre in Owen Sound, Museum in Southampton, Church in Owen Sound for Family History, Playground in Harrison Park Owen Sound

6/19/2019 06:16 PM

**ANSWER**

Toronto & Stratford theatres. Niagara wine tours/festivals

6/19/2019 06:20 PM

**ANSWER**

Day camp, cultural events, food truck challenges, live theatre

6/19/2019 06:55 PM

**ANSWER**

Swimming and fitness centres

6/19/2019 08:28 PM

**ANSWER**

Foxy theatre

6/20/2019 05:04 AM

**ANSWER**

We loved the art show at the Sauble Community Centre but they stopped hosting it there a number of years ago, which was a terrible blow.

6/20/2019 06:14 AM

**ANSWER** 6/20/2019

Baseball

06:30 AM

**ANSWER**

yoga, art studio tours, concerts, food festivals

6/20/2019 12:11 PM

**ANSWER**

Indoor swimming, gymnastics, gym (weights), dance, skating, hockey, ball hockey, trampoline, violin lessons, Pow Wow, art school lessons...

6/20/2019 04:58 PM

**ANSWER**

Baseball tournaments, theatre, hockey, fishing, Harrison park

6/20/2019 06:58 PM

**ANSWER**

fitness facility membership, concerts, music festivals, live theatre, fitness classes, broomball

6/20/2019 07:08 PM

**ANSWER**

Park attendance

6/21/2019 11:47 AM

**ANSWER**

Live Theatre, Concerts

6/23/2019 05:58 AM

**ANSWER**

camping, fishing, boating

6/23/2019 07:35 AM

**ANSWER**

I go to many cultural events in Toronto. All my family is in the GTA and SBP has nothing like it. I love the cultural festivals.

6/23/2019 02:05 PM

**ANSWER**

Swimming, Fitness

6/23/2019 06:03 PM

<b>ANSWER</b> 6/24/2019 04:54 AM	Theatre
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/24/2019 06:17 AM	Owen Sound is close. Museums, Library, Art Gallery
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/24/2019 06:36 AM	Farmers markets, arts and craft fairs,
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/24/2019 06:36 AM	Occasional use of YMCA indoor pool in Owen Sound, use of Harrison Park and other recreational facilities in Owen Sound
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/25/2019 05:33 PM	Attend theatre in OS, attend music events in OS, golf, attend sporting and major events outside TSBP, t
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/26/2019 06:10 AM	Summerfolk, Kincadine Scottish Festival, Paisley and Goderich Blues Fests, Southampton Jazz Club, Blyth ,Drayton, Owen Sound & Meaford Theatre.tre
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/27/2019 07:04 AM	Owen Sound YMCA - running, weight training, swimming, fitness classes
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/27/2019 03:31 PM	cross country skiing, mountain biking, swimming
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/29/2019 07:14 AM	Live theatre, symphony concerts, fishing, lecture series, indoor winter walking
<b>ANSWER</b> 6/29/2019 08:11 AM	theatre, lectures, parks in Owen Sound
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/01/2019 07:21 AM	Fitness programs
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/02/2019 07:42 AM	With the exception of hiking, kayaking on Chesley Lake or watching tv or listening to podcasts, all our recreational and cultural activities have to happen outside the Town in Owen Sound, Toronto, KW, Saugeen ...anywhere that we can so far drive to.
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/02/2019 09:46 AM	artist studio tours, hiking on Bruce Trail
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/02/2019 10:43 AM	Use Bruce County Museum
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/02/2019 01:42 PM	We attend & love the Summerfolk Festival in Owen Sound. Attend Cineplex movies in owen Sound & Port Elgin. Utilize biking trails in Port Elgin & Southampton.
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/02/2019 09:31 PM	Roxy Theater
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 01:01 AM	Swimming lessons in Port Elgin, kids day camp at Grey Roots Museum

<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 07:05 AM	Owen Sound
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 07:06 AM	All
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 07:09 AM	Indoor swimming
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 07:13 AM	Work out, indoor swimming
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 07:18 AM	Indoor swimming, fitness gym
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 07:20 AM	Seasonal resident in Sauble Beach. Not a lot offered throughout the summer.
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 07:34 AM	My kids play competitive hockey out of town and also lacrosse
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 07:36 AM	Yoga
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 07:52 AM	Cross-country skiing, Hiking, Outdoor swimming, Biking, Yoga
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 07:57 AM	We need a decent pub and better transportation. I had to wait 2 hours for a cab last week
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 08:03 AM	Swimming, exercise, hot tub, sauna,
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 08:08 AM	Owen Sound
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 08:12 AM	Not available in SBP
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 08:34 AM	Concerts/theatre - Owen Sound Kitchener
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 08:37 AM	Aquatics
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 08:40 AM	festivals, food shows, farmer's markets, fireworks, concerts, museums
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 08:49 AM	Yes, we leave South Bruce Peninsula & drive for 100% of our organized paid activities (dance, cheer, theatre, art classes, indoor swimming). The free things are available eg. hiking, running, swimming outdoors. We do have to drive to the closest playground.
<b>ANSWER</b>	We golf. Fish and boat in the area. Taken art lessons in South Hampton.

7/03/2019 08:53 AM

Scuba dived in Tobermory. Taken the dinner cruise on Chichimaun. Camped at Cuprus Lake. Swim ay Sauble beach.

**ANSWER**

Music festivals, art shows, sporting events

7/03/2019 08:54 AM

**ANSWER**

All sports indicated above plus camps.

7/03/2019 09:13 AM

**ANSWER**

Indoor swimming, gymnastics, camping, theatre performances, craft shows,

7/03/2019 09:16 AM

**ANSWER**

Live Theatre, Cooking Classes, Work out in gym

7/03/2019 09:21 AM

**ANSWER**

YMCA swimming

7/03/2019 09:26 AM

**ANSWER**

YMCA member in Owen Sound

7/03/2019 09:45 AM

**ANSWER**

Roxy theatre in Owen Sound, concerts at Casino Rama, shows in Toronto

7/03/2019 09:50 AM

**ANSWER**

Live theatre

7/03/2019 09:52 AM

**ANSWER**

Summer hockey in Owen Sound

7/03/2019 10:00 AM

**ANSWER**

Water aerobics live music singing and musical instrument lessons , live theatre ,social gatherings

7/03/2019 10:11 AM

**ANSWER**

I participate in indoor aquafit, but due to the cost of travelling I am limited to the number of times I can participate a week. We also attend little theater but travelling to these events due to cost and weather related activities limit attendance.

7/03/2019 10:20 AM

**ANSWER**

Figure Skating in Shallow Lake, Art Class in Owen Sound

7/03/2019 10:31 AM

**ANSWER**

museums, out door concerts, flower gardens/maintained areas to sit and enjoy the outdoors/vegetation, areas for markets that has parking and easy access (crafts, homemade food, cultural foods, arts, info nights from authors of books that allows questions

7/03/2019 10:38 AM

**ANSWER**

Music and musicals

7/03/2019 10:45 AM

**ANSWER**

Hiking, bike trails, concerts, live theatre

7/03/2019 10:54 AM

**ANSWER**

Local museum, Southampton splash pad and park.

7/03/2019 11:19 AM

<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 12:44 PM	YMCA,, lacrosse and volleyball, concerts, museums, all cultural events, for the most part, all in Owen Sound or further
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 01:38 PM	Performing Arts (Theatre, Concerts)
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 01:48 PM	CrossFit
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 02:00 PM	Slo-pitch
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 03:32 PM	Gym workouts
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 05:11 PM	hiking
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 05:17 PM	Summerfolk, Roxy Theatre, Restaurants, Pubs/ Bars/ Wineries,
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 05:41 PM	Gymnastics in Owen Sound
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 06:32 PM	Public swimming and swimming lessons
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 07:29 PM	Use of the Owen Sound Family Y for swimming
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 08:23 PM	Music, fitness and movies
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 08:39 PM	walking and hiking
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 09:02 PM	Hiking boating
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 09:04 PM	Rotary involved events, Toronto events (concerts, plays, restaurants, sporting events).
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 10:45 PM	Gymnastics
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 10:55 PM	Owen sound6, Shallow Lake
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 04:40 AM	Parks, beaches, pools, gymnastics
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 05:41 AM	Live theater, curling

<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 05:59 AM	Most extra curricular sport are played in Owen Sound, wine tasing and cooking I have not seen in town. Nor have I seen painting classes unless it's a fundraiser. Most events are due to fundraising .
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 06:07 AM	Keystone event at Kelso Park, lacrosse at the Bayshore arena, Harrison park summer and winter fun festival days, Bruce and Grey museum events.
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 06:19 AM	Painting exhibitions
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 08:02 AM	Indoor swimming
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 10:29 AM	hockey, fitness
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 11:40 AM	quality dining; concert venues; wine tasting events; craft breweries; food festivals; art galleries; live theatre; museums...some eg's.
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 12:41 PM	Indoor swimming/aquafit only available in Owen Sound, women's hockey Shallow Lake and Owen Sound
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 01:11 PM	jodo
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 03:45 PM	Pickleball is needed outside Sauble. It is to far for people living in Wiarton and north of Wiarton to go to Sauble. Everything is concentrated on the Sauble area. All of us pay taxes so start thinking about Wiarton north.
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 05:18 PM	bowling
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/05/2019 10:44 AM	New Horizons Band in Guelph
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/06/2019 06:56 AM	Harrison Park. Lots of nice picnic tables in the shade. Nice shaded walking trails in good repair. The Town in missing the boat in not keeping the Carson Lake Trail in repair and promoted. Folks love walking thru the Carson Lake Cres to the Com. Cen.
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/06/2019 07:21 AM	We visit all parks in Grey Bruce counties
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/06/2019 01:27 PM	Aqua fit programs in HAMILTON Rex centres or YMCA for rehab, gym at YMCA for rehab
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/06/2019 01:42 PM	Indoor swimming lessons, dance lessons, trampoline lessons, power skating, sandcastle theatre productions, ball hockey, crossfit
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/06/2019 02:35 PM	YMCA in Owen Sound swimming and gym facilities
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/06/2019 03:22 PM	Play baseball in another center that has more to offer

**ANSWER**

golf

7/07/2019 09:27 AM

**ANSWER**

hockey

7/07/2019 06:41 PM

**ANSWER**

Concerts and outdoor festivals

7/07/2019 08:18 PM

**ANSWER**

music festivals, parades, celebrations

7/08/2019 12:03 PM

**ANSWER**

Swim at the YMCA

7/08/2019 05:34 PM

**ANSWER**

Roxy, concerts, museums, events

7/08/2019 05:39 PM

**ANSWER**

Explore the Bruce

7/08/2019 05:43 PM

**ANSWER**

Swimming, kayaking

VM

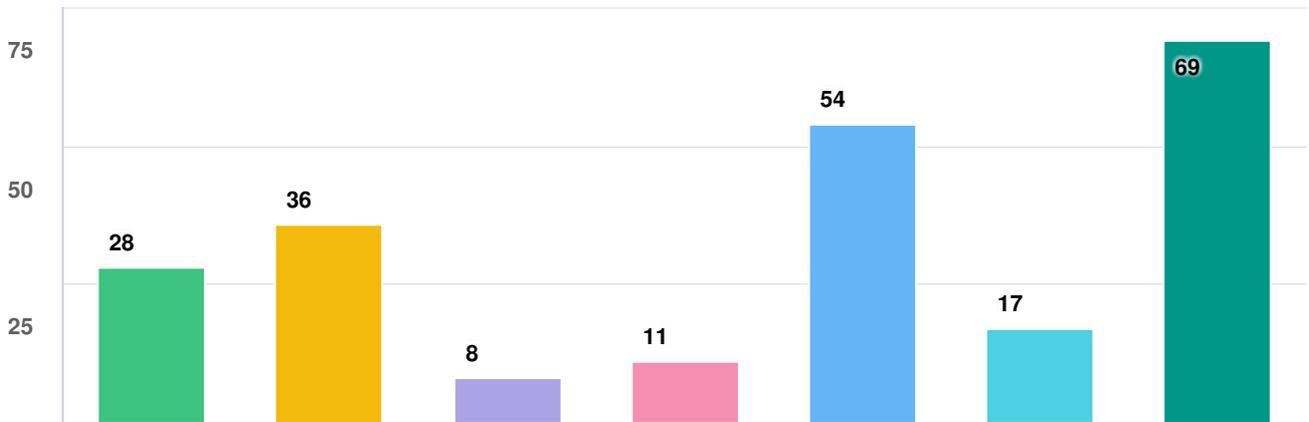
**ANSWER**

Museums, Art Galleries

7/11/2019 01:06 PM

**Optional question** (128 responses, 131 skipped)

**Q35** For the activity or activities you noted in Question 12, why does your household participate in them outside of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula? (select up to 3 responses).



**Question options**

- "Connected" to other community/used to live there
- Closer to home
- Closer to work or school
- Less expensive
- Quality of facility/program is superior
- Tournaments/Special events/Travel team
- Other (please specify):

*Optional question (150 responses, 109 skipped)*

**Q36 | Please Specify:**

**ANSWER** 6/19/2019  
09:57 AM

Change of scenery

**ANSWER**  
6/19/2019 10:55 AM

Limited organized hockey within the town. Bruce County Museum is main museum for the area

**ANSWER**  
6/19/2019 10:59 AM

these are not options in SBP - we have no choice but to go outside of SBP to enjoy these activities

**ANSWER**  
6/19/2019 11:37 AM

not offered in SBP

**ANSWER**  
6/19/2019 12:23 PM

There are no museums in South Bruce, and Im a member at the Y so I go to the gym in Owen Sound.

**ANSWER**  
6/19/2019 03:09 PM

Swimming is indoors in owen sound, gymnastics is only offered in other towns, parks for new and different ones

**ANSWER**  
6/19/2019 03:53 PM

Because the trail extends beyond the Town

**ANSWER**  
6/19/2019 04:12 PM

Variety; unavailable

**ANSWER**  
6/19/2019 05:22 PM

Not available in Wiarton

**ANSWER**  
6/19/2019 05:46 PM

Availability of classes

**ANSWER**  
6/19/2019 06:16 PM

No museums in SBP, no indoor swimming pool in SBP, limited park palygrund settings with a variety of equipment

**ANSWER**  
6/19/2019 06:55 PM

There is more available in other areas not too far

**ANSWER**  
6/19/2019 08:28 PM

Nowhere in town to swim fall, winter & spring.

**ANSWER**  
6/20/2019 05:04 AM

Just enjoy live theatre. Have also attended Southampton little theatre. Not as professional

**ANSWER** 6/20/2019  
06:30 AM

No paid parking

**ANSWER**  
6/20/2019 12:11 PM

These activities are not to be found in SBP

**ANSWER**

Most of these programs are not available in TSBP.

6/20/2019 04:58 PM

**ANSWER** Do not know of any

6/20/2019 07:07 PM

**ANSWER** Unavailable within South Bruce Peninsula

6/20/2019 07:08 PM

**ANSWER** Not available in SBP

6/23/2019 05:58 AM

**ANSWER** For change of scenery and to diversify opportunities for my children. We travel to Owen Sound about once a week and often combine errands with some use of the recreational areas

6/24/2019 06:36 AM

**ANSWER** Activities not available is TSBP

6/25/2019 05:33 PM

**ANSWER** We Volunteer at Summerfolk. Other events I have personal interest in due to my career before retirement.

6/26/2019 06:10 AM

**ANSWER** Not offered locally

6/29/2019 07:14 AM

**ANSWER** Not available here

7/01/2019 07:21 AM

**ANSWER** Not available within a 30 minute drive to get to them.....especially during winter with respect to snow ploughing..

7/02/2019 07:42 AM

**ANSWER** just because they are additional interests located outside the Town boundaries

7/02/2019 09:46 AM

**ANSWER** Primarily because they are not available in our immediate area in SBP.

7/02/2019 01:42 PM

**ANSWER** No indoor pool in TSBP, no museum in TSBP

7/03/2019 01:01 AM

**ANSWER** Facility not available in Wiaraton.

7/03/2019 07:09 AM

**ANSWER** No indoor pools here

7/03/2019 07:13 AM

**ANSWER** No indoor pool in the area

7/03/2019 07:18 AM

**ANSWER** Change of pace

7/03/2019 07:52 AM

**ANSWER** facilities do not exist

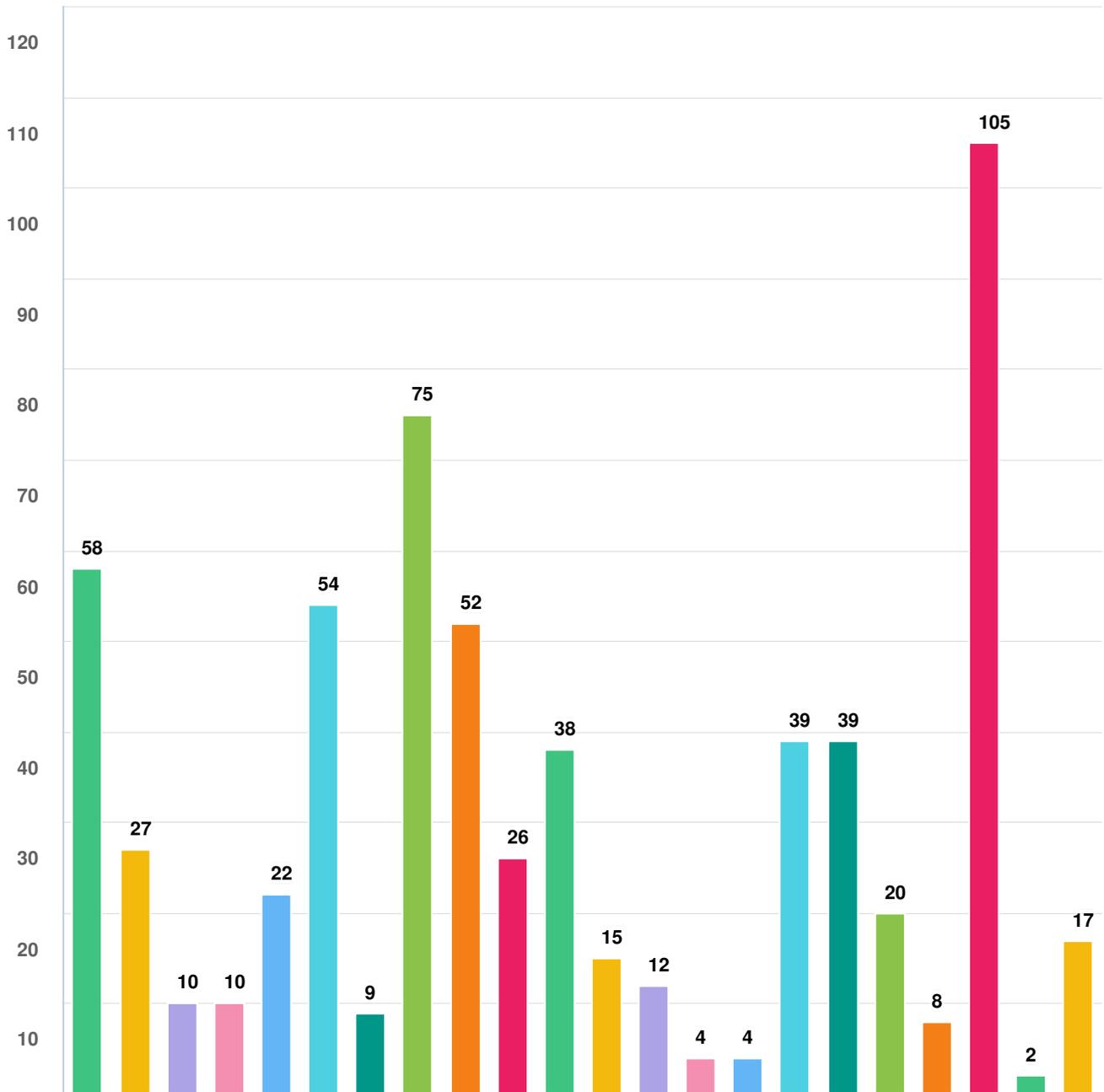
7/03/2019 08:03 AM

<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 08:37 AM	There is no indoor pool in wiarnton
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 08:49 AM	They are not available in SBP at least not that I am aware of.
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 08:53 AM	Not all available here.
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 08:54 AM	Not provided in SBP and our facilities are poorly maintained
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 09:16 AM	These opportunities are offered in other communities, but not in South Bruce Peninsula
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 09:45 AM	Like facility not available in Town of South Bruce Peninsula
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 10:00 AM	Not available in S.B. P
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 10:11 AM	They are not offered locally
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 10:20 AM	Little theater not available in this area ie withib SBP
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 10:38 AM	Being offered in other areas and not here in SBP
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 10:54 AM	Not available in Sauble area
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 12:44 PM	We have precious few cultural events to attend here, and they don't seem to be directed at my or my family's demographic.
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 01:48 PM	There is no program here.
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 02:00 PM	Not available
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 05:11 PM	Bruce trail is found outside the town
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 05:17 PM	Available activities
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 06:32 PM	Not offered year round in the town of south Bruce Peninsula
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 07:29 PM	indoor pool for use during the 10 months the Bluewater pool is not open

<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 09:04 PM	Lack of quality restaurants, large music events not available in SBP, professional sports in big city.
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/03/2019 10:55 PM	Sport not offered in Wiarton
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 04:40 AM	Nicer facilities, available all year round
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 05:59 AM	The team sports are more organized and competitive, not enough people interested to do the same in wiarton. Also lack the skill level looking for to be competitive
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 06:07 AM	I do not hear about what is happening in Town of South Bruce often until after it is done. I have liked the FB page to try and get more info but often miss out and cannot find info on activities happening.
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 08:02 AM	Not available in SBP
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 11:40 AM	Not available in TSBP
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 12:41 PM	Not available in South Bruce Peninsula
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 03:45 PM	Right now where we live permanently has Pickleball and all surrounding areas. It is overtaking tennis because it is good for all ages
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/04/2019 05:18 PM	not offered in wiarton
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/06/2019 06:56 AM	Owen Sound Probus
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/06/2019 01:42 PM	Not offered here...
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/06/2019 02:35 PM	not available in Wiarton
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/08/2019 05:34 PM	Our pool is never open when we want it
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/08/2019 05:39 PM	They are offered. Not much happens in Wiarton that could be classed as 'culture'
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/08/2019 05:43 PM	Exploration
<b>ANSWER</b> 7/11/2019 01:06 PM	There is currently very few cultural activities in South Bruce Peninsula, this is a great opportunity for the town seeing as there are so many talented artists in our municipality

**Optional question** (69 responses, 190 skipped)

**Q37.** Please indicate which of the following parks and recreation facilities you feel the Town should prioritize in terms of additional public funds and/or providing additional access: (select your top 3).



**Question options**

- Acquisition of Parks and Open Space    ● Arenas    ● Baseball or Softball Diamonds    ● Basketball Courts (outdoor)
- Community Halls    ● Fitness Centres    ● Gymnasiums    ● Nature Trails    ● Multi-Use Trails
- Off-Leash Dog Parks    ● Playgrounds    ● Pickleball Courts    ● Sand Volleyball Courts    ● Skateboard Parks
- Soccer Fields    ● Space for Seniors Programs    ● Space for Youth Programs    ● Splash Pads
- Swimming Pools (Outdoor)    ● Swimming Pools (Indoor)    ● Tennis Courts    ● Other High Priorities (please specify):

*Optional question (248 responses, 11 skipped)*

**Q38 | Please Specify:**

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 11:37 AM

downtown green space

**ANSWER**

6/20/2019 10:58 AM

Playground in Oliphant at beach

**ANSWER**

6/20/2019 06:58 PM

Multi use facility, racquetball, badminton, indoor walking track, fitness centre

**ANSWER**

6/27/2019 03:31 PM

non-motorized trails for skiing in winter and cycling/hiking in summer, park amenities at Colpoys Bay Dock

**ANSWER**

7/02/2019 07:42 AM

Inside walking tracks spread around geographical area so that everything does not end up in Wiarton and we cannot access the facility. If we spend tax dollars on a pool or facilities in Wiarton, the Owen Sound facility which is expensive, is closer to us.

**ANSWER**

7/02/2019 09:46 AM

leave Sauble Beach in a more natural state: no more playground equipment + less grooming

**ANSWER**

7/02/2019 09:31 PM

Clean the beach

**ANSWER** 7/03/2019

08:21 AM

Sauble Beach

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 08:54 AM

Just fix up and maintain the ones we have

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:18 AM

Clean/fix the beach

**ANSWER** 7/03/2019

12:44 PM

We already have most things listed. Ask youth. Loose parts playground. Climbing/high ropes facility, mini golf, small trampoline park, rowing/canoe/kayak club in Bluewater Park, interpretive centre about escarpment in Bluewater Park.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 12:44 PM

Fix Sauble Beach!

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:29 PM

No additional funding should be spent---concentrate on keeping our present facilities in good repair for rate payers.

**ANSWER**

7/04/2019 08:02 AM

Eco Tourism centres to allow locals and guests chance to learn about biodiversity, Alvars, micro-climates, plants, planets, wildlife etc—something to serve residents and attract increasing numbers of ecotourists—we are missing important opportunities

**ANSWER**

7/04/2019 05:18 PM

community centre with stage, plus bowling alley and indoor pool

**ANSWER**

Bicycle paths and access to bicycles as they have in large urban centres

7/06/2019 01:27 PM

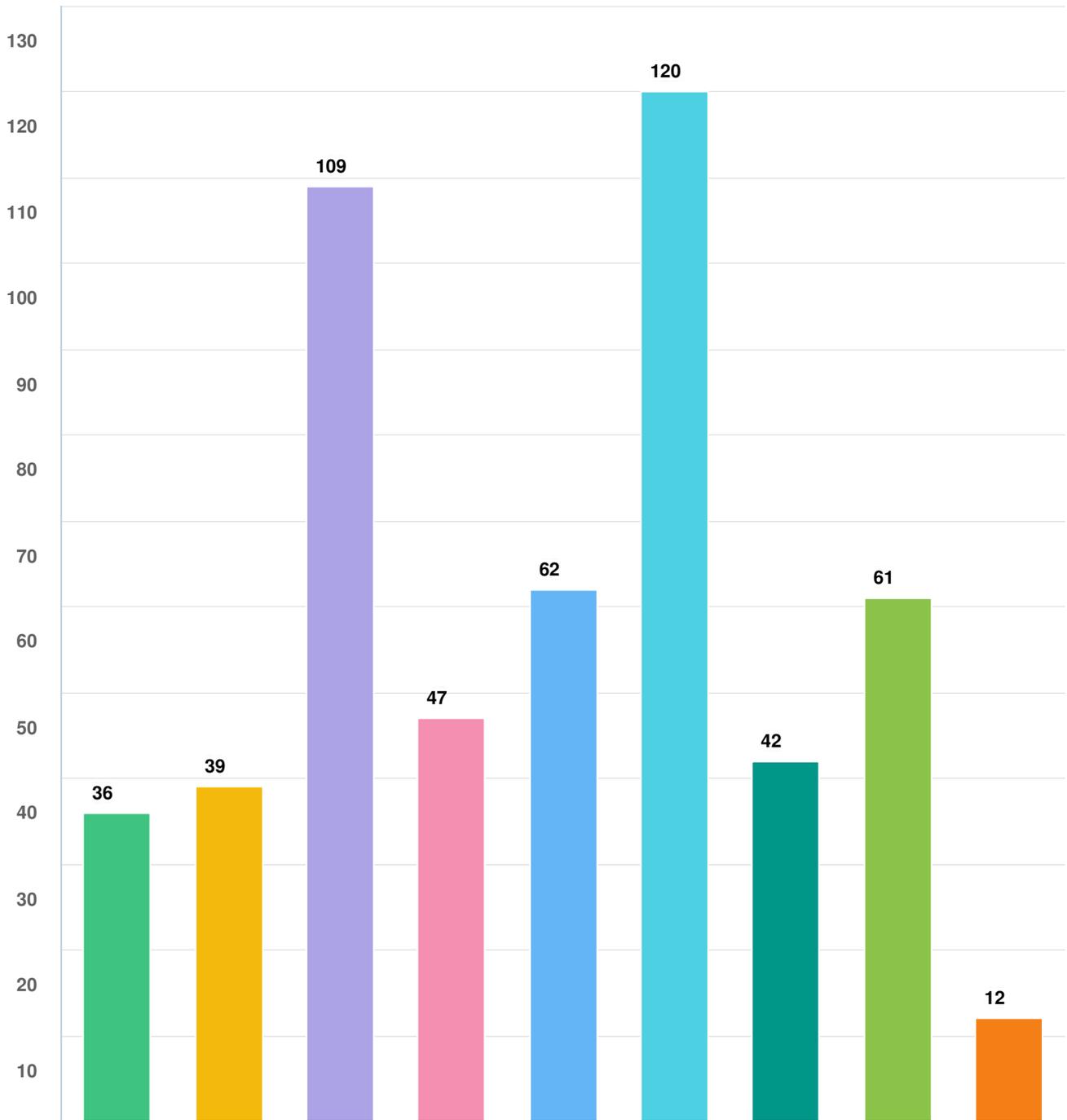
**ANSWER**

Indoor swimming pool at Sauble beach for lessons and senior use.. maybe at new retirement community planned for old amusement park land? Could be multi use? A splash pad at the new twin square in Sauble.

7/06/2019 01:42 PM

**Optional question** (17 responses, 242 skipped)

**Q39** 15. Please indicate which of the following arts and culture facilities you feel the Town should prioritize in terms of additional public funds and/or providing additional access: (select your top 3).



**Question options**

- Museum    
 ● Galleries and Exhibition Space    
 ● Space for Festivals and Special Events
- Arts and Cultural Space for Seniors Programs    
 ● Arts and Cultural Space for Youth Programs    
 ● Artisan or Farmers' Market
- Heritage Preservation Efforts    
 ● Performing Arts Space (e.g., theatre)    
 ● Other High Priorities (please specify):

*Optional question (220 responses, 39 skipped)*

**Q40** | Please Specify:

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 11:42 AM

Multi use space that could be used for gallery shows/exhibition/festivals/events/classes and workshops.

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 12:23 PM

Crafts and Arts programs for kids

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 05:22 PM

Concerts

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 06:05 PM

investment in increased events for Canada Day and summer weekends like SandFest or perhaps new events.

**ANSWER**

6/20/2019 12:11 PM

Arts and cultural space for ALL ages: including seniors and youth - an Art Centre that could house gallery space as well as be used to offer classes.

**ANSWER**

6/25/2019 05:33 PM

Program opportunities in arts and culture

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:26 AM

Indoor pool

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 10:45 AM

Environmental awareness. The community and its visitors need to take a more active role in protecting our environment. Example: phragmites, garbage out days before pick up attracting bears. Plastic use. The Town needs to set the tone.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 12:44 PM

Additional washrooms and vendors along Sauble beach. Cleaning up and repairing the beach given the high water in the current year.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:29 PM

I don't think the town should support any of these non profitable ventures. If they were of value the open independant business market would dictate what was feasible and profitable.

**ANSWER**

7/04/2019 08:02 AM

Better funded libraries and town partnerships in programs using library spaces —fiscally responsible to use spaces we have already. Explore extended access hour that allow card access without staff there —talk to Hamilton Public Library for info

**Optional question** (11 responses, 248 skipped)

**Q41 | 16. Please provide us with any additional comments you'd like to share**

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 10:04 AM

Live in Sauble and do majority of my shopping in Owen sound as there is only the grocery store in Sauble. Would love a department or dollar store near by. I don't find there are much specialty kids youth programs in Sauble. More and more families are moving to the area with young children and the programs outside of town are minimum 30 hour away.

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 10:55 AM

Re question 9b. While most parks and recreational areas are very well maintained, Sauble Beach unfortunately is the exception. Hopefully most are aware this is due to provincial interference. I'm confident our very capable Mayor will soon reach an agreement with the provincial ministry we can all live with.

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 10:59 AM

Mid sized meeting rooms.

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 10:59 AM

We need to see more barrier free/wheelchair accessible playgrouds & splash pads. Our community has a high number of disabled and disadvantaged children (one of the largest groups in the Bluewater district school board is in Wiarton). There is nothing for kids to do. there once was a youth program but it dissolved. The playground at the PSDS school is nill. There is very little organized arts/cultural activities for all ages. I'd also like to see better use of the lands at the Oliphant dog park. there is a washroom/building here and a small playground and a lot of untouched lands. The senior community could also use a waling path / wheelchair accessible path / something indoors in the wintertime.

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 11:42 AM

The signage on the interpretive fen board walk in Oliphant is in terrible state of disrepair and the Town should do more to support and maintain it. It is important for eco-tourism and it shouldn't all be left up to volunteers. It would be great to see a commitment to improving things in Oliphant.

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 12:21 PM

None

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 01:43 PM

Local farmers and crafts market needed and would do really well in Sauble Beach. At community center parking lot?

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 03:09 PM

Even if you opened up indoor swimming or gymnastics I believe most families will still go to owen sound. Gymnastics you need good coaches and competitive programs which is something our area can't do.

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 03:17 PM

With any of these facilities, likely to be located in Wiarton/ Sauble Beach where it seems the majority of our taxes end up going towards, it will not be of much use to our family here in Allenford...

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 04:12 PM

Have greatly appreciated Carson's Camp hosting children swim lessons, it's so close to home

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 04:49 PM

The Town provides good opportunities at present. We simply cannot afford more tax dollars! Building a new facility is normally heavily financed by the Federal and Provincial governments BUT the ongoing maintenance of the

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 06:05 PM

new facilities is something SBP CANNOT afford.

To augment the beaches, parks and events - acquisition or investment in more parking - either close to the beaches or towns that are overrun on many weekends - or further away with shuttles. Example is last year Canada Day at Sauble. Expect this also for Wiarton at times.

**ANSWER**

6/19/2019 06:16 PM

I have been waiting a long time to see an indoor pool come to the area that offers programs and aqua fit for seniors. This could be done in association with NBP and Georgian Bluffs and First Nations as we would all take advantage. It is long overdue. Travelling to Owen Sound is expensive and time consuming. The facility in Owen Sound is expensive for

**ANSWER**

6/20/2019 05:04 AM

Love living in Sauble Beach! Everyone does a fantastic job. All staff are very friendly when dealing with them. Thanks Janice for everything you do for us ! 🍷

**ANSWER**

6/20/2019 07:20 AM

Keep costs down. Like food trucks, slow your roll.

**ANSWER**

6/20/2019 08:43 AM

I am not aware that there are that many cultural events. As for parks, because I live in Red Bay I would like to have a say on beach washrooms. The existing one is set on top of the creek that runs into the lake. That is very environmentally unsafe and should be a chemical toilet to be there at all. Running water is often left on and the holding tank has to be overflowing. That is scary for our small children who play and swim there. No port a potty for long weekends and change what is there to chemical and no running water. Thanks

**ANSWER**

6/20/2019 10:00 AM

Dan Davidson ball diamond needs immediate attention...I realize it has rained consistently this spring..but drainage has ALWAYS been a problem there...it needs fixed ASAP. Bleachers need replaced and need to be moved. Bleachers are basically on the road in to the ball diamond...They need to be moved in closer to the fence and closer to the dug out...This diamond is mainly used for smaller children...and it is only a matter of time until one of them is hit by a car because of the placement of the diamond..We have a full time recreation person and no recreation happening in our municipality....that has always boggled my mind...Thank you Chris Thomas

**ANSWER**

6/20/2019 10:32 AM

Sauble Beach is in need of an Off Leash Dog Park. We shouldn't have to travel to Oliphant, Wiarton, or Owen Sound. There is sufficient space at the Community Center Grounds.

**ANSWER**

6/20/2019 04:58 PM

Would like to see more investment outside of Wiarton. The ShallowLake gym success can serve as a model of what is possible.

**ANSWER**

6/20/2019 07:07 PM

Improve the park around the Comm Ctr. in Sauble Beach

**ANSWER**

6/23/2019 05:58 AM

Hard to fill out the art and culture questions because we have no art and culture programs now. We need to add them to our roster of offerings.

**ANSWER**

6/23/2019 07:35 AM

The town should listen to the scientific community to stop the destruction of Sauble beach by its destructive cultivation that is Accelerating erosion. Best practices could achieve the same clean beach without sand loss and unnecessary charges, satisfying conservation of the beach, protection of the

piping plovers and offering a clean beach for tourism. The towns continued efforts to sanitize the beach in the face of so much evidence to the contrary is appalling, a global embarrassment and damages our image as a tourist destination. The sand at Sauble beach is becoming shallower, courser and wetter due to the erosion caused by cultivation. The area at the north end bulldozed by the mayor, removing the stabilizing vegetation and flattening the beach was all eroded away in one April storm and yet the insanity continues as she seeks permission to remove more vegetation in the north end. I will remind you in closing of Albert Einstein's definition of stupidly. "Doing the same thing twice expecting a different outcome the second time".

**ANSWER**

6/23/2019 03:29 PM

Why are the open houses only offered on weekdays. By not offering them on weekends is exclusionary. Other municipalities offer similar activities on weekends.

**ANSWER** 6/24/2019 06:17 AM

A lot of information about what is happening in the ToF SBP never gets to the mailboxes of Allenford, of which half is in the Town. I often wonder why....when the other town sends out information to all of Allenford on regular basis.

**ANSWER**

6/24/2019 06:36 AM

\*a children's park with splash pad etc would be perfect but away from the busyness of the main beach

**ANSWER**

6/24/2019 06:36 AM

We would participate in more athletic and cultural activities if there were more opportunities available. It should also be noted, however, that simply providing them as daytime programs does not help working families. I am already finding it quite stressful that in order to put my children in swimming lessons (Wiarion pool), I will have to take time off work in order to get them from daycare and take them to their lesson and back, because the only time slot available for their level is during weekdays. Also, I would love to take tai chi or watercolour classes, but if they are offered during weekdays (i.e. catering to the retired or stay-at-home demographics), I would not be able to participate. Having childcare options are also a serious barrier to participating in activities, should they be offered. There is a general lack of childcare available in this area, and much less so RELIABLE childcare, so even if I had the chance to participate in something, I likely couldn't as I would have no one to watch my children. Thank you for your consideration.

**ANSWER**

6/26/2019 07:21 PM

I don't think more money needs to be spent on new facilities, rather making better use of the ones that currently exist. Also, I do feel that a swimming pool in Wiarion is a good idea. Survey is not specific enough.

**ANSWER**

6/27/2019 03:31 PM

Opportunities to build trails around Dan Davidson Ball Diamond Opportunity for shipping containers for kayak storage at west end of park near marina. There is no need for a trailer boat launch facility in Colpoys Bay village - maintain the one in town where people can also spend their money at businesses. encourage enforcement of overnight camper parking in municipal lots ie at colpoys bay dock and oliphant marina

**ANSWER**

6/29/2019 07:14 AM

Condition of community hall (upstairs at arena) is very poor for fitness activities and classes (dirty, cracked concrete, drapes falling down). Area seniors desperately need daytime indoor walking facility in winter. Joint ventures with other facilities such as school, outdoor education centre or

**ANSWER**

6/29/2019 08:11 AM

Meeting Place should be explored. Programs and classes/courses poorly advertised or promoted. Work with Warton Echo to have weekly spaces paper for Town events.

Bluewater Park should eliminate the camping area and open it up for public use. Oliphant has a relatively large population but basically no public facilities such as parks and trails, picnic areas, community hall.....basically no Town maintained facilities to speak of.

**ANSWER**

7/02/2019 07:42 AM

Spread the opportunities across the town. Chesley Lake is not even acknowledged in this survey. Please do not overspend on one big facility that everyone cannot get to. Spread lower priced facilities around evenly. So many airbnb's are using Town supports for their corporate gains, causing bylaw offences and requiring police services.....are the owners from the cities paying their fair share of taxes? Are airbnb's registered with the Town. Do they pay additional taxes to mitigate the high supports needed and the disruptions thrust upon local taxpayers? We use the service worldwide and are used to paying a 17% levy that goes to the municipal coffers.....does out Town collect this? That is a bigger issue I believe than this survey investigates. We are used to self-made cultural and recreational opportunities in Bruce County, but we regret paying taxes to keep our city vacationers happy and fulfilled on our dime. Thanks for asking. \*\*\*\* posts a newsletter every couple months to keep us informed of Warton business. If he had not made this info available and provided an easy link, we would not even have guessed this survey was available for feedback. Kudos to \*\*\*!

**ANSWER**

7/02/2019 09:46 AM

Prioritize, promote and protect the uniqueness and natural beauty of the area! Biodiversity needs to be maintained or there will be drastic consequences. I feel some hard decisions may have to be made to consolidate some of the functions carried out in community halls. Sauble doesn't seem to have many opportunities for unprogrammed play areas for children.

**ANSWER**

7/02/2019 10:43 AM

We feel the old Foodland location would make an excellent location for a multi-use facility. It would contain an indoor pool and also meeting rooms that can be rented out eg. Small to large size meetings for local organizations, or possibly a wedding venue similar to the Waterview that was on Grey Rd 1. Possibly lease space to a few small business such as a coffee shop with a patio facing the amazing Colpoy's Bay.

**ANSWER**

7/02/2019 09:31 PM

Pickleball is a sport that allows seniors to stay active but is easier on the body than other racket sports. The club has about 40 members and about 20 occasional drop-ins. It is a social and caring group which is very important for some who are now alone. If someone doesn't attend for a few times, they are contacted to see if they are ok.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:03 AM

Dogs not leashed is a huge issue in our area. We cannot walk our dog in public places anywhere because she has anxiety if dogs are loose and come to her. I have to walk her on busy roads instead of our beautiful trails. Maybe more off leash space would deter the issue.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:05 AM

Continue to promote the current Sauble Beach town square space for public/vendor or arts and cultural use.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:06 AM

The old grocery store in Wiarton needs to be purchased by the town. Torn down. Should be entrance to park, not an eyesore.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:09 AM

Even though I am listed as seasonal, we spend about equal time, year round, between our 2 homes. I think we need an indoor pool facility/fitness centre in Wiarton. It would serve you young and old.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:34 AM

Our area has the potential to be a great destination for tourists to come and snowmobile but our town does not support it and also our great lakes fishery used to be excellent but our local natives and mnr have ruined it and our town has never spoke up against it.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:52 AM

I would love to improvements in the local roads to allow for safer bicycling. This could include adding marked bike lanes, but it could also mean paving more of the shoulder on roads. It might also mean maintaining dedicated trails like the rail trails in the area.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:57 AM

the biggest barrier for me being involved is constantly worrying about getting home after a couple of beers. I don't drink and drive so if I go to an activity I worry about getting stranded.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:59 AM

Hello, we live in the city but spend the entire summer in the area (and have for almost 50 years). We love Sauble beach and spend a lot of our time there. Any additions would be well used and appreciated. Love the mid week farmer's market idea!

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 07:59 AM

complaint: dogs being permitted on Red Bay park. The park is small and attracts a highly disproportionate number of persons on summer weekends than probably any beach/park. The close proximity of persons and high activity rate causes undue stress on most dogs which results in excessive barking and potential risks. I don't understand the Town's policy of permitting dogs in this environment but not at a large beach like Sauble??

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 08:03 AM

old food-mart property acquired for the community as open space and indoor aquatic, spa, exercise centre..... NOT accommodations for visitors!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 08:03 AM

The municipality offers our household very little support. We send our taxes,.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 08:08 AM

Swimming pool indoor for seniors to use with instructors for those with hip/knee replacements, heart patients etc.

**ANSWER** 7/03/2019

08:12 AM

The lack of bike lanes is embarrassingly absent anywhere in the town other than the water front Sauble. Biking is a main stream activity and a direct tie to tourism. Let's be a bike destination.

**ANSWER** 7/03/2019

08:21 AM

Clean the beach of grasses on sticks

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 08:37 AM

SBP does a good job in many areas but an indoor pool would be a huge draw especially since there are so many retirees.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 08:49 AM

We would love to have a playground close by that we wouldn't have to drive to. Biking distance would be amazing. Closer activities such as dance etc. in SBP would be amazing. This Mom taxi is tired of driving all over and I only have 2 kids in things. Thanks for considering the feedback!

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 08:53 AM

Fireworks should be on the Saturday or Sunday or thr July 1st week end to allow cottages to attend. We pay taxes to support activities so please consider our desire to participate

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 08:54 AM

The maintenance of facilities including the roads to get to these facilities meets no provincial standards. Before you build new maintain what you have. New facilities make for great photo ops but fix what we have and maintain what we have.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:13 AM

Currently our youth in Sauble really don't have a place they can call their own or meet up at in order to make new friends - keeping kids connected is will stimulate a close community for the future.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:16 AM

The outdoor pool in Bluewater park is a good facility that needs to be maintained and repaired, OR replaced with an indoor facility that is available year-round. It would be unacceptable to have no swimming facility available in South Bruce Peninsula, which is a community that has such a close association with water. This community is also home to many cultural programs that do not have a good space for performances and events. The auditorium at PSDS is not conducive to musical events because of poor acoustics and stage space.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:18 AM

Please clean/fix the beach at Sauble. We are losing our treasure.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:26 AM

Finding activities and community events

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:45 AM

Sauble Beach needs some year round activities for youth-a skateboard park would be great. Also a splash pad in the summer in Sauble for the non-beach days.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:47 AM

Something has to done about ATV's destroying the sandunes along the Sauble Falls Parkway. Additional barriers or large rocks would stop this.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:50 AM

I believe heritage buildings and sites should be preserved. Imagine if all the castles in England were demolished and there was only a plaque to show that they were ever there? I love the boardwalks in Port Elgin and Southampton, a definite pleasure to walk along. A walk along the beach is good for the heart and soul of a person and should never be blocked off for private access only.. Vehicles don't need to be on every beach.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:56 AM

Love the beach need more supervision people mostly tourists have no respect for water and beach ! Garbage being buried people not using bathroom s using beach digging holes and deficating very sad! For paying for parking beach needs to be policed better and fines for littering etc!

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:59 AM

Not sure where a raked clean beach category for walking and sports would fall into .

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 10:00 AM

The maintenance of the Beach at Sauble is awful !

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 10:20 AM

We attended the recent Canada Day celebrations at our local waterfront but we watched as many people tried to use the washroom facilities at the area by the splash pad but they were LOCKED before the awesome display was

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 10:38 AM

over. You want families to attend but then lock the facilities so they are not available ,where is the COMMON sense factor utilized in this instance!  
I feel the area has a lot to offer but to get people involved to organize and help is at time a hard thing. I think we need to emphasize several things.....teaching all ages about growing their own food and learning how to can and freeze. To also be able to plan meals, budget.....so getting back to basics. I feel that learning new crafts, like knitting, sewing etc and utilizing the seniors in our community to share their knowledge to others.....have time in the park to sit and do these things while enjoying the scenery of the water, the park and hearing the people enjoying their time in the outdoors. In the winter to have a place to participate in these activities also would be appreciated. I feel we should have a museum...there is so much history here in this area from Colpoys Bay, Wiarton, Clavering, Hepworth and Sauble Beach. (industry, shipping, farming, lumbering, etc) Many have info in their homes and we should share all of this info for everyone to learn and enjoy. Story times from our elders....from our teens...what we can learn from each other. To understand what others have gone thru to get to where they are now. How can we help others in our community? Where is there a need? We have many talented people who just need to know where there is a need that can be met. Yes, we have tremendous groups already in town, Rotary, Womens Institute etc but how can we work in groups but together for each other. In our town we have a full spectrum of income. Some are just trying to pay bills and stay alive where others are blessed with more....how can we work together? How can we help each other so that all of us feel loved, cared for and belong? I dont think that we need to think just about one part of our community but the whole South Bruce Peninsula Community.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 10:45 AM

Continued from #15. In setting the tone, did the Town ensure the 3 food trucks have plans to reduce waste? No straws. No styrofoam. Also, Red Bay beach has seen an influx of people in the summer since Sauble started charging for parking. More traffic. More noise. More garbage. Crowded beach more often. Yet I do not see added staff to clean up the mess. Volunteers should not have to do most of it considering the staff assigned to Sauble Beach.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 11:17 AM

The Town of Wiarton is the year round core of South Bruce Peninsula, and yet it does not have a Community centre which could be used for both youth and senior indoor winter activities. This building should be located close to the school and include an indoor pool, for both health and sports related activities. There should be educational activities for both seniors and youth, where the seniors could be used as tutors for the younger generations to pass along skills.

**ANSWER** 7/03/2019

12:44 PM

Youth need much more offered to them here - e.g., a youth dance on Wiarton Willie weekend, but so much more. It's a sleepy town. We are not large enough to support the performing arts, except concerts or movie event nights. Expand theatre space at park for outdoor venue, there is so much unused space in Bluewater Park. An outdoor screen, amphitheatre, stage, good lights and speakers in Wiarton. Would love to see an interpretive centre about the Niagara Escarpment and natural features, plus shipwreck,

shipping/marine history in Bluewater Park. Lots of glass, look at the view we have there! Need to bring First Nations into this discussion and find out what they can offer and how we can support them in doing so. We have many artists in the area, space for them to show and sell their wares would also be appreciated.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 01:38 PM

None at this time

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 01:48 PM

I feel that in general there is a lack of programs within the Town limits for seniors, youth. Cost is definitely a factor and advertising activities are also lacking. Often the way it is advertised is through the sign outside Town hall or online. Many seniors do not have access to online information. There is a definite lack of things for youth to do. The arena sits empty 6 months of the year.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 01:49 PM

The space around the community centre needs upgrading i.e. flower beds, bbqs for tourists, (preventing them from burning the picnic tables)

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 02:04 PM

Having only one baby swing at the waterfront park is woefully inadequate - toddlers do not understand having to wait or not having the opportunity to use a swing...

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 03:32 PM

Sauble Beach needs to be raked to clean it up. I am tired of being restricted from areas of the beach due to some birds that end up dead due to nature.

**ANSWER** 7/03/2019 05:17 PM

Tourists coming to Sauble Beach need a park to have their BBQ and picnics where there are cans for hot coals and tables and garbage cans to use. \*\*\* and I both feel that sewer and water are needed at the beach, especially the downtown core, so that more facilities can be provided for tourists. We really like the new downtown square and have enjoyed several events there already. We both also would like to see the beach cleared of the invasive grasses so that there is space and a nice beach for tourists. The businesses rely on the tourists for their income and we don't want to see anymore businesses leaving.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 06:35 PM

We should focus on providing a network of bicycle paths throughout and connecting our different communities such as Sauble to Oliphant to Wiarton.

**ANSWER**

7/03/2019 09:29 PM

The wide shoulder on the Sauble Parkway should be continuous.

Let the small portion of our towns population that want to do these things pay for them out of their own pockets. I've never expected anyone to pay for my fun and have paid out of my pocket to do the the things I wish. Taxes are too high now ! This like many other small towns used to be a great place to live before amallagation .You get a minority of people move into an area they are attracted to and the first thing they want to do is change it. If that's what they want let them move on because I sure don't want to pay for it.

**ANSWER**

7/04/2019 04:40 AM

The town needs to fix things that are broken and improve the things that suck, like the splash pad and washrooms. There's also nothing to do indoors on bad weather days except the library. There is no play facility, no gym or pool

**ANSWER**

7/04/2019 06:07 AM

I'd like to be able to find and read information about local events easier. I know that you sometimes post the flyer made for the event to your FB page

but it is not easily readable when you do that. When there is an event going on maybe you could start making an public open event page. I often click on those that I am interested because FB will remind me that event is coming up this weekend and I was interested in it. That way I don't forget about it and miss out on the opportunity.

**ANSWER**

7/04/2019 06:19 AM

We commend you for the efforts to grow and evolve our community. We would to see increased activity to expand the arts and crafts experience in South Bruce.

**ANSWER**

7/04/2019 08:02 AM

Your survey is appreciated. Maintaining smaller beaches and parks is as essential as Sauble. Need to stop destroying beach habitat and get blue flag status back

**ANSWER**

7/04/2019 11:40 AM

Develop plans for a rec. complex with facilities for seniors/youth & a pool. Develop a master plan for Bluewater Park...eliminating the trailer park and creating programming and spaces for cultural and other events. Make it a true 'public' park for everyone.

**ANSWER**

7/04/2019 12:41 PM

The community need a pool you can access all year round.

**ANSWER**

7/04/2019 03:45 PM

Pickleball is the fasted growing sport in North America. Please make it available all through the Bruce not just Sauble

**ANSWER**

7/06/2019 06:56 AM

What is beneficial to permanent residences could also be of interest to tourism. ie: Sauble Main Street sidewalks not plowed consistently in the winter time. More sidewalks on major highways from Sauble lights to respective RV campgrounds. It would make it safer. More street lighting. Charge more for parking. Increase fines for littering (\$1000 to \$2000) in Municipality. Hire summer enforcement officers for weekend and evening enforcement along the whole beach to enforce no shelters, cooking etc. More Beach washrooms. You need more Beach area parking. Buy a farm field beside the United Church and via "display" boards, indicate down Town parking non-availability. A Johnny on the spot in this parking area would be smart. More Benches along the Business area no parking areas would be welcome with NO Portal Johnnys. Thank you

**ANSWER**

7/06/2019 07:21 AM

The facilities we provide for should be to enhance local populations. The tourist facilities and promotion of tourism opportunities have ruined North Bruce. The National Park has drawn to many visitors. Tobermory has been crippled by tourists arriving with no place to go. Cyprus Lake can no longer be visited by local people. I remember discovering the grotto area before signs on the trails. You could picnic and swim by yourself for hours. Now steep entry costs and parking problems have created chaos. The arrival of tourist buses have swamped all facilities in Tobermory. South Bruce is very vulnerable will be overwhelmed by similar situations. Hope Bay has an ungroomed public beach with limited parking. Through the years That beach has had its sand stolen by builders and used by the campground for its private septic system. The beach has had loads of gravel and stone dumped on it To fill the void of the missing sand. The degradation of the Hope Bay shore is hideous. Any more public work on this area will kill all animal populations. We have the oldest cottage on the bay 95 years. We have seen

many changes, natural and man made. The take away is that human intervention and overuse are detrimental to all but especially to residents and local eco systems. It is wrong to bring more commerce to an area with a small population and limited space.

**ANSWER**

7/06/2019 01:27 PM

I go to Red Bay to my cottage to relax and get away from activities in the city so don't want to participate in many of the programs you have listed above. Only time I would seek out information would be if had guests.

**ANSWER**

7/06/2019 01:36 PM

Keep Bruce Peninsula beautifully natural. Clean up beaches. Too much growth has overtaken beach.

**ANSWER**

7/06/2019 01:42 PM

Another Basketball court at Sauble School would get a lot of use. Outdoor skating rink in Sauble.

**ANSWER**

7/06/2019 03:22 PM

Would be great if the Dan Davidson diamond had lights and it would be very beneficial if blue water park diamond had a batting cage

**ANSWER**

7/08/2019 08:03 AM

To council and staff, Please remember that most of the facilities proposed in this survey will require significant capital investment and operation costs for years to come. Please make decisions and bring forth options that are not going to bankrupt the tax base! Remember, over 50 percent of our permanent population is over 55 and incomes are very limited in our town because we have no year round industry. Maybe focusing on expanding our employment opportunities should be a priority before council before we go building galleries, arenas and pools.

**ANSWER**

7/08/2019 12:03 PM

Being a resident of SBP, should offer us some advantages over the tourists, such as parking costs, exclusive days in high season to participate at parks that non-residents would be restricted to.

**ANSWER**

7/08/2019 04:20 PM

I'm new here (less than 12 months), but have interests in Sauble Beach, Hope Bay, Colpoy's Bay, Oliphant/Red Bay & Wiarton.

**ANSWER**

7/08/2019 05:39 PM

We should celebrate our knowledge and skills and try to grow them, instead of focusing on the industry of wiping old/young peoples \*\*\*\* and busting stone. Which pretty much encompasses the 'culutre' of South Bruce Peninsula. A town of old people that young people leave the second they can does not a 'culture' make.

**ANSWER**

7/11/2019 01:06 PM

Our family of 5 live 5min east of Wiarton, and we appreciate great cultural spaces that exist in different communities such as Owen Sound, Port Elgin, Collingwood. There are currently no civic spaces or facilities in TSBP of which we are aware that provide a cultural or art experience. This seems a major gap that could easily boost civic pride and regional tourism, as well as give the cottagers and drive-by traffic something to consider visiting. Natural assets and facilities owned and managed by the town are well maintained, let's promote the stories, history and culture of the peninsula and it's people!

**Optional question** (94 responses, 165 skipped)

