



Parks and Recreation Master Plan



FINAL REPORT

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Appendix B: Parkland Inventory By Classification

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

A Recreation Service Delivery Model

Recommendation 1: The Township of Springwater should adopt the preferred Recreation Service Delivery Model to guide decision-making regarding capital investments for major recreation facilities and the provision of recreation services.

Indoor Recreation Facilities

Recommendation 2: The Recreation Services Department should monitor the level of Springwater use of City of Barrie ice facilities.

Recommendation 3: The Township should provide a second single pad ice facility by 2010 to accommodate population-based demand for ice facilities in the South Service Area.

Recommendation 4: The Township should retain the Minesing, Anten Mills, Grenfel and Hillsdale Community Centres over the term on the Master Plan providing ongoing support is demonstrated by the respective communities and facility users.

Recommendation 5: The Township should prioritize required community centre capital conservation projects and develop a capital improvement plan to guide implementation over the next 15 years. The cost should be confirmed annually and the investment only made if justified by continued community support and use. If use and community support is not sufficient to justify the investment, the Township should close the halls or transfer ownership and operation to another organization.

Recommendation 6: The Township should replace the Midhurst Community Centre with multi-purpose program space at a new recreation facility located at the Tree Nursery Sport Complex.

Recommendation 7: The Township should co-locate a new public library at the Tree Nursery Sport Complex. In addition, if the Township wishes to proceed with the development of municipal offices at this site, this would be compatible with community recreation uses.

Recommendation 8: The Township should prepare a detailed feasibility study to confirm the required components, address the need for future major indoor facilities at this location, and confirm capital and operating costs.

Recommendation 9: The Township should proceed with the development of programming space in the Elmvale Library's basement. This space should be designed for general community as well as library use.

Recommendation 10: The Township should explore alternative uses for the Elmvale Community Centre to maximize the use of the facility and offset on-going capital conservation costs. The Community Centre is not required for recreational purposes due to the availability of similar space at other municipal facilities in Elmvale.

Recommendation 11: The Township should retain the Knox Building for Council Chamber meeting purposes in the North Service Area. The need for this facility should be re-evaluated prior to the development of a new recreation facility and possible Township Office in the South Service Area.

Outdoor Recreation Facilities

- Recommendation 12:** The Township of Springwater does not require additional ball diamonds over the life of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Recommendation 13:** The Township of Springwater should not develop additional ball diamonds at the Tree Nursery Sports Park during the period of the master plan unless supported by a new information indicating renewed demand.
- Recommendation 14:** The Township of Springwater should plan for two additional soccer fields over the life of the Master Plan.
- Recommendation 15:** The Recreation Services Department should facilitate efforts to establish competitive youth and adult soccer programs to maximize the utilization of the Township's existing facilities.
- Recommendation 16:** The Township of Springwater should support one public natural rink in an appropriate size public park within each major settlement area providing a volunteer group maintains the ice surface.
- Recommendation 17:** The Recreation Service Department should ensure playgrounds structures are regularly inspected and maintained to CSA standards. The Municipality should replace those that do not meet CSA standards and where there is a demonstrate need for these facilities.
- Recommendation 18:** In the future playgrounds should only be provided in new development areas in response to demonstrated demand and in local or community municipal parks designed and developed in accordance with the recommended park classification system.
- Recommendation 19:** The Township of Springwater should not provide additional tennis courts during the life of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Future capital improvement projects at the Doran Park Tennis Facility should be user financed.
- Recommendation 20:** The Recreation Services Department should continue to support the mobile skate park project as long as levels of use justify the service.
- Recommendation 21:** Subject to continued demand for skateboarding, the Township should develop a permanent skateboard park at the Tree Nursery Sports Complex when the multi-purpose facility is developed.

Parks and Open Space

- Recommendation 22:** The Township should adopt a three-tier classification system as outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the purposes of future parks planning and development.
- Recommendation 23:** The proposed park classification system should be used as a guideline for future park development. In particular, if new parkland is considered in the future, the guidelines should be used to evaluate minimum park size, connectivity, functions, design requirements, etc.
- Recommendation 24:** The Township's current supply of parkland will meet the community's needs for the period of the Master Plan and no additional parkland should be acquired except in cases where new residential developments are not served by existing park and open space resources.

- Recommendation 25:** The Township should only acquire Local parks as required to meet the needs of proposed new subdivisions and of an appropriate size and design to conform to the Park Classification System. If this is not possible, or new subdivisions are appropriately served with existing parkland, cash should be taken in lieu of parkland dedications.
- Recommendation 26:** The Township of Springwater should reduce its overall supply of parkland. By 2021, the Township of Springwater should provide a total of 7.0 acres of parkland (excluding Special Open Space) per 1,000 respectively.
- Recommendation 27:** The Township of Springwater should identify and dispose of surplus parkland parcels based on the criteria suggested in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Recommendation 28:** The Township should sell parcels that are not required for other municipal purposes at full market value and invest the funds from the disposed parkland in park and open space improvements.
- Recommendation 29:** The Township should adopt a comprehensive policy statement governing the assembly of parkland in new residential developments. The policy should indicate when parkland will be taken and the general conditions surrounding the type and condition of parkland to be assembled.
- Recommendation 30:** The Township should demonstrate environmental responsibility through the development and adoption of environmentally sound policies and practices for use in the planning, development and management of parks and recreation facilities, wherever possible and practicable.
- Recommendation 31:** The Township should continue to collaborate with Conservation Authorities and other agencies and environmental and community groups to identify priorities and implement a program for restoration of degraded natural areas.
- Recommendation 32:** The Township should investigate and develop programs, strategies and materials for promoting public awareness and education on the values of urban ecological practices, responsible use of natural areas, public accountability and environmental stewardship, in collaboration with other departments and agencies.
- Recommendation 33:** The Township of Springwater should undertake a Recreational Trails Master Plan which examines opportunities for and feasibility of an interconnected system of valley land, greenway walking, multi-use trails, road-based cycling routes, and neighbourhood walkways.
- Recommendation 34:** The Township of Springwater should establish a Trail Development Committee to assist in the development and implementation of the Recreational Trails Master Plan.

Recreation Programming

- Recommendation 35:** The Township should increase the supply of programming available to community residents through expanded facilitation efforts with the Recreation Service Boards and municipal wide community organizations.
- Recommendation 36:** The Recreation Coordinator should assist Recreation Service Boards to increase the utilization of municipal recreation facilities.
- Recommendation 37:** The Township should assist interested community sport and recreation organizations to amalgamate into municipal-wide organizations, where appropriate. With larger membership bases, these groups may become sustainable over the longer-term.

- Recommendation 38:** The Township should plan for one full-time Recreation Coordinator position to handle increased responsibilities and to accommodate the needs and support requirements of volunteer community organizations.
- Recommendation 39:** The Township should encourage the Recreation Service Boards to routinely meet to share program ideas, coordinate leadership and training programs for current and future members and to assist in the joint-marketing of various programs and services.
- Recommendation 40:** The Township should include program development and delivery as a designated responsibility of existing Recreation Service Boards and program development support as a general responsibility of the Township.
- Recommendation 41:** The Recreation Coordinator should assist Recreation Service Boards to recruit members with the appropriate range of interests and expertise to effectively fulfill the program delivery objective/mandate.
- Recommendation 42:** The Township should assume responsibility for major repairs and improvements, and necessary safety and accessibility retrofits of all municipally owned community halls.

The Recreation Delivery System

- Recommendation 43:** The Township should expand marketing and communication efforts in conjunction with the Recreation Service Boards to inform local residents about upcoming program opportunities and events.
- Recommendation 44:** The Department should undertake initiatives to guide its relationship with and support to the volunteer sector.
- Recommendation 45:** The Recreation Advisory Committee should be involved in the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and assisting the Recreation Services Department implement recommendations that have broad implications for increasing the level of public involvement in the Townships leisure system.
- Recommendation 46:** The Township should maintain a simple database of facility use statistics for planning and decision-making.
- Recommendation 47:** The Township of Springwater should negotiate a renewal of the non-resident user fee agreement with the City of Barrie in 2008.
- Recommendation 48:** The Township of Springwater should monitor Springwater residents' participation in leisure programs in Barrie by requesting quarterly statistic reports from the City.
- Recommendation 49:** The Township of Springwater should negotiate an arena user fee agreement with the Tiny Township whereby Tiny Township would contribute operating costs proportionate to use.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Study

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a comprehensive analysis of recreation and park needs to be addressed over the next 15 years. The Master Plan will help guide municipal staff and Council when making decisions about how to provide recreation, cultural, and parks facilities and services. Anticipated population growth, emerging leisure expectations, and aging facilities are major drivers of change that have influenced the directions of this long-term plan.

This report is organized by the following Chapters:

- 2.0 Planning Context Overview
- 3.0 A Preferred Recreation Service Model for Springwater
- 4.0 Indoor Recreation Facility Needs Assessment and Provision Strategy
- 5.0 Outdoor Recreation Facility Needs Assessment and Provision Strategy
- 6.0 Parks and Open Space
- 7.0 Recreation Programming
- 8.0 The Recreation Delivery System
- 9.0 Implementation Plan

Two background reports prepared for this study were submitted under separate cover:

- Final Parks and Recreation Master Plan Planning Context Report (November 2004) prepared by dmA Planning & Management Services.
- Assessment of Community Halls for the Township of Springwater (February 2005) prepared by Trow Associates Inc. in association with dmA Planning & Management Services.

1.2 Study Process

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed in Four Phases. Phase One involved preparing a detailed profile of the existing community context, including an inventory of recreation, parks and culture facilities and services, population and demographic data, and leisure trends and best practices.

Phase One also included the following consultation activities: interviews with representatives of community organizations, public agencies, municipal staff and members of council; 6 public forums; and a detailed user group questionnaire.

Phase Two involved developing a culture and recreation Service Provision Model to guide the facility and service needs assessment. Senior municipal staff and members of Council participated in a workshop during the development of the service delivery framework.

A detailed needs assessment was completed during Phase Three. Strategies to address identified needs over the next 15 years were developed, including strategies: to provide future recreation facilities; to further develop the Municipality's parks and open space system; and, to support community organizations and

Recreation Service Boards (RSBs) that deliver a wide range of recreation and social activities to residents of Springwater.

An implementation strategy was prepared in Phase Four that considered timing and order of magnitude capital costs, where appropriate, associated with each recommendation.

2.0 PLANNING CONTEXT OVERVIEW

This Chapter summarizes relevant population and demographic characteristics of the Township of Springwater and important features of the Municipality's recreation facilities and services. Key issues that emerged from various consultation activities are also highlighted. Detailed information is provided in the Planning Context Report, which was submitted under separate cover.

2.1 Community Profile

Springwater's population is projected to increase by approximately 42% over the next 25 years, from 16,104 in 2001 to 22,800 in 2026. The Township's recently adopted Growth Management Strategy indicates the majority of new residential development will be accommodated in Midhurst and Hillsdale, the proportions of total growth which will be considered by Township Council in the near future.

Midhurst and Elmvale currently contain slightly more than one-third of Springwater's total population. The remaining population is situated in smaller hamlets or in rural areas. The continued urban-rural mix of population will be an important consideration for the delivery of recreation services. So too will the significant population growth expected in the City of Barrie over the next 20 years that may affect the supply of and demand for recreation services in Springwater.

Roughly 50% of the households in Springwater contain a couple with children, indicating continued demand for child and family-orientated leisure activities. Average family income in Springwater (\$70,697) was higher than the Provincial average (\$66,476) and Springwater is not as multi-cultural as many other Ontario communities. These considerations suggest growing demand for traditional recreation activities.

2.2 Consultation Activities

Consultation activities with the general public, representatives of sport and recreation user groups, public institutions, municipal staff and Members of Township Council were undertaken to identify issues to be addressed in the Master Plan. This section documents issues that emerged. Additional information is provided in the Planning Context Report.

2.2.1 Comments and Suggestions from the Public

Comments from residents and representatives of sport and recreation user groups that attended the community forums were generally positive and supportive of the Recreation Services Department's efforts to support community organizations. Broad support for multi-purpose recreation space for community programming was identified, as the size and features of the Township's community halls could not accommodate all desired uses.

Frequent suggestions for parkland improvements included providing larger playgrounds in neighbourhood and community parks. Recreation Service Board representatives commented on the difficulty some of their regular renters have recruiting and retaining volunteers to deliver community programs.

An over-riding theme that emerged from discussions with forum participants was a continued willingness to travel outside of Springwater to use larger recreation facilities or to use leisure programs and facilities provided by the City of Barrie or commercial service providers.

2.2.2 Key Considerations for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

- Volunteer-based local organizations are experiencing difficulty attracting and retaining volunteers. The Municipality assists local volunteer committees to operate and maintain seasonal facilities in public parks (i.e., natural ice rinks and ball fields). Additional municipal program and administration support to volunteer committees is important to ensure local parks and recreation facilities are appropriately utilized.
- The long-term costs associated with upgrading and operating single purpose municipal buildings will be significant. A long-term perspective for replacing aging community halls with facilities that will provide an ideal supply of multi-purpose community space is required. The size and features of Springwater's community halls do not support a wide range of uses, thereby challenging current efforts to increase use.
- The Township has underdeveloped parkland parcels and does not currently have a policy or a process for evaluating the need for future parkland in new developments. A formal policy and process should be developed.
- Affordable recreation programming is important for children, youth and families. The Recreation Services Department does not currently have a formal mandate to provide or support recreation programming.
- Significant population growth will occur in the South Service Area over the next 15 years. This area is currently served by existing single purpose community halls. The Township's only indoor ice facility is in the north and operates at maximum capacity. Population growth will place additional demand on existing facilities.
- The non-resident user fee agreement between Springwater and Barrie allows Springwater residents to register in or use Barrie leisure services and facilities without paying a non-resident fee. This is a beneficial arrangement for Springwater residents. Barrie's population is projected to significantly increase over the next 15 years, placing new demand on its current and planned facilities. The City of Barrie may not be in a position to negotiate future agreements with Springwater if there is not capacity for the system to meet the needs of the City's residents.

2.3 Facilities Profile

Information provided by staff was used to compile the inventory. Table 2.1 illustrates the following for parks, recreation and culture facilities:

- **Provision levels** for the Township as a whole, expressed as one facility per number of residents. 2001 population figures were used to calculate each ratio.
- **Average utilization levels** were established based on the current use of facilities that are scheduled. Springwater staff supplied current utilization data. A rating of **AC** (at capacity) indicates that, on average, 90% of available timeslots are utilized for the facility type. A rating of **NC** (near capacity) means that between 70-90% of all timeslots are utilized. Finally, a rating of **UC** (under capacity) suggests that fewer than 70% of all timeslots are utilized.

- **Comparable service ratios** have been identified for similar sized municipalities in Ontario. These service ratios are an average from 61 municipalities with populations between 10,000 and 50,000¹. These ratios represent per capita supply levels for the year 2002.

Table 2.1: Municipal Recreation Facilities

Facility Type	Total Municipal Facilities in Springwater	Average Utilization Level (2003-2004)	Springwater's Service Ratio (2001: 16,104 population)	Comparable Service Ratio (10,000–50,000 population)
Indoor Ice Pads	1	AC	1:16,104	1:10,186
Outdoor Ice Pavilions	2	***	1:8,052	N/A
Natural Ice Rinks	7	***	1:2,301	N/A
Major and Minor Ball Diamonds*	13	UC	1:1,238	1:4,750
Major and Minor Soccer Pitches	6	AC	1:2,684	1:2,710
Meeting Rooms	3	UC	1:5,368	1:5,322
Community Centres	6	UC	1:2,684	1:8,038
Skateboard Parks	2	***	1:8,052	N/A
Tennis Courts**	8	***	1:2,013	1:3,763
Playgrounds	24	***	1:671	N/A

* Includes 2 lit diamonds each counted as 1.5 unlit diamonds.

**Includes 4 lit courts each counted as 1.5 unlit courts

*** Undetermined level of use; these facilities are not scheduled

2.4 Parks Profile

Springwater maintains approximately 271 acres of designated parkland and open space. The total supply of parkland and open space is 16.83 acres per 1,000 population² in 2001. Parkland is distributed across the Municipality in major settlement areas, with some differences in coverage resulting from one or two large parcels in one area. A detailed discussion related to the development and management of parks and open space occurs in Chapter 6.

2.5 Recreation Programs and Services Profile

The Recreation Services Department does not directly deliver recreation programs and services, although the Department recently created a part-time Recreation Coordinator position to assist volunteer-based community organizations to promote their recreation programs and services³. The Springwater Public Library provides a range of programs for children and youth and makes rental space available in its facilities when the library is closed.

¹ "Municipal Recreation Facility Inventory Study" dmA Planning & Management Services, 2002.

² This figure includes vacant parkland and open space that is protected because of its important heritage and environmental features.

³ This position was vacant at the time of writing.

3.0 A PREFERRED RECREATION SERVICE PROVISION MODEL FOR SPRINGWATER

The preferred Recreation Service Provision Model for Springwater describes how culture and recreation services should be provided in the Township of Springwater over the next 15 years. It will guide staff and Council's decision-making regarding future capital investments in recreation infrastructure, particularly in designated growth areas identified in the Township of Springwater's Growth Management Strategy (2004), and it highlights the preferred functions for the Recreation Services Department. The preferred Service Provision Model guided recommendations described in subsequent Chapters.

3.1 Purpose of a Service Provision Model

The Service Provision Model describes how facilities and services should be provided in areas where significant population growth is anticipated; where existing recreation facilities must be replaced because they will soon reach the end of their useful service life; or, where improvements are required to ensure facilities better respond to the needs of the population. All of these conditions apply to this study.

The preferred Service Provision Model should identify the size and functions of facilities provided in different geographic service areas. A major recreation centre with a gymnasium and an arena, for example, will require a larger market area to ensure cost-effective operation than a stand-alone community hall that typically serves a single community. The preferred Model must therefore consider both community level facilities and facilities that could serve larger market areas in the future.

It should also describe how recreation and culture services can most effectively justify the Municipality's investment. The Model should describe the Recreation Services Department's relationship with community organizations and response to the needs and interests of these organizations.

Finally, a Service Provision Model provides a rationale for future decision-making regarding significant capital or ongoing operational investment in culture and recreation facilities or services.

3.2 The Preferred Recreation Service Provision Model for Springwater

The preferred Service Provision Model for the Township of Springwater consists of five principles that embrace the Township's desire to provide quality recreation facilities in a cost-effective manner. These principals recognize that population growth is a major driver of change, and that these changes have already influenced residents' expectations for recreation services and the ways in which they participate in recreation activities.

The following five principles are intended to guide decision-making related to the provision of recreation facilities and services in the future:

- (1) Major recreation facilities and services will be provided in two geographic service areas of the Township of Springwater – a northern area and a southern area.**

Springwater Township is the product of municipal amalgamation and the current supply and distribution of facilities has largely been determined by the historic development of the former municipalities. Going

forward, the municipality should plan for all major facilities on the assumption that there will be two service areas. This is reasonable given the extent of the geographical area covered by the Township and the long-standing historic relationship with existing communities. For the purposes of this Plan we have assumed that major facilities – both indoor and outdoor – will be concentrated in Elmvale to serve the north and at the Tree Nursery Sport Field to serve the south. This model should be adopted for future planning purposes. It is a reasonable and cost-effective basis for service provision and is largely consistent with current practices.

- (2) The Township should provide centrally located major recreation facilities in each recreation service area as the need to replace existing facilities emerges while maintaining existing local service centres in the hamlets serving the rural areas.**

Consistent with Principle 1, all major facilities will be located in a centralized manner to serve the north and south service areas. For the purposes of this Plan, most new facilities will be concentrated in the south and will complement major existing facilities in Elmvale. However, while future development will be increasingly centralized, this Plan recognizes and supports the important role played by the existing community halls in the hamlets serving the rural area. These facilities will be retained with the support of local community residents.

- (3) The Township should develop its parks and open space system in a manner that maximizes the use of available resources and avoids the assembly of small parcels of parkland with limited recreational value.**

This Plan recommends limited future park acquisition as the current supply is largely adequate to meet future needs. If parkland is acquired, this will be to serve new residential areas not adequately served by existing parks. In the future, parkland acquisition and development will be guided by a park classification system and policies that maximize the use of available resources.

- (4) The community will continue to play a major role in the delivery of recreation programs and services in Springwater Township and these community efforts will be supported by the Recreation Services Department.**

Community sports groups and Recreation Service Boards have been the mainstay of the parks and recreation system in Springwater in the past and this will continue in the future. However, the Township can and should play a more significant role in support of these community efforts and an appropriate role is recommended in the Master Plan.

- (5) Recreation Service Boards will continue to support community-level recreation programming and events.**

Consistent with Principle 4, the Master Plan envisions a continuing formal role for Recreation Service Boards in the delivery of municipal recreation services. This is the current model in Springwater Township and is reflective of most rural municipalities in Ontario. As new suburban development comes to Springwater, residents will be less prepared to play an active role in service delivery. However, for the period of the Master Plan, we have supported a traditional model that relies on volunteer boards, increasingly supported by the Township, to deliver services in the municipality.

Recommendation 1: The Township of Springwater should adopt the preferred Recreation Service Delivery Model to guide decision-making regarding capital investments for major recreation facilities and the provision of recreation services.

4.0 INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PROVISION STRATEGY

Recommendations and detailed provision strategies to address current and future indoor facilities needs are identified in this Chapter. The analysis is based on information documented in the Planning Context Report and was guided by the preferred Service Provision Model described in Chapter Three.

The indoor facilities of relevance in Springwater are arenas and community centres. We have also discussed library facilities. There was no expressed community demand for other indoor recreation facilities. This can be explained in part, by the relatively limited demand from organized sports groups and by the resident's access to Barrie facilities. Springwater residents have some access to school gymnasias but there are not organized indoor sports leagues using gymnasias in the community. These interests are presumably served in Barrie and likely will be for the term of the Master Plan. While community residents occasionally commented on the desirability of an indoor pool, there was widespread agreement that the facility was not financially viable at this time, and residents would be adequately served during the term of the Master Plan by pools in Barrie and Midland and the new pool opening in the spring of 2006 in Wasaga Beach.

4.1. Indoor Ice Facilities

The history of Elmvale Community Arena demonstrates the long-standing importance of this facility. First built in 1950, the arena has since undergone numerous renovations, the most recent of which occurred in 1994. The arena now includes: one artificial ice pad (88' by 180'), concrete bleachers for 800 spectators, 6+1 dressing rooms, a snack bar, pro-shop, and an upper-level 4,400 square foot banquet room (the Springwater Room) with a kitchen facility and bar. The ice pad is fully utilized, and generates an operating surplus annually. The Springwater Room is used mainly by ice user organizations, and use of this facility is low compared to other multi-purpose facilities.

Burnside Structural and Building Services completed a review of the structural adequacy of the arena in 2001 and determined the facility was in good repair⁴.

Supply Indicators

- Springwater is currently undersupplied with indoor ice facilities compared to similar sized municipalities in Ontario.
- Due to Ontario Hockey Association residency requirements, some Springwater residents are required play on minor hockey teams that utilize City of Barrie ice facilities. The number of Springwater residents that belong to Barrie teams is not known.
- Springwater residents are entitled to participate in all public and instructional skating programs offered by the City of Barrie without paying a non-resident user fee. Springwater does not provide instructional skating lessons and provides a limited window for public skating.

⁴ Burnside Structural and Building Services. (August 16, 2001). Elmvale Community Arena, Review for Structural Adequacy.

- The arena operates from September to April at full capacity. Minor/youth organizations are allocated morning, afternoon, and early evening hours and adult organizations generally rent late evening timeslots (after 9 p.m.).
- Because of the single pad facility design, the Elmvale arena cannot support large tournaments, competitions, or expanded leisure usage.
- The Elmvale Curling Club operates a curling rink in a facility adjoining the arena. The Club utilizes the arena parking lot but operates independent of the Municipality.
- The average travel time between arena user's homes and the arena is twenty minutes, as reported by arena user groups.
- About 17% (87 participants) of the total membership of arena user groups responding to the Sport and Recreation User Group Questionnaire reside outside of Springwater. Approximately 12% reside in Tiny Township.
- The vast majority of minor and adult hockey players are male; there are no minor girl's or adult women's hockey or ringette teams in Springwater.

Demand Indicators

- Participation in recreational skating is expected to increase slowly in areas with increasing population, particularly where no low cost accessible facilities are available at convenient times.
- User group surveys received from 4 major user groups show stable to declining participation rates over the past three years. These groups anticipate stable participation by 2009 due to expected increased participation costs and the current availability of ice time. Trends indicate stable participation in traditional arena activities in the short-term and declining participation as the population grows older.
- The population of Springwater is expected to increase over the next 15 years, with the majority of new growth concentrated in the South Service Area in subdivision developments that will likely attract families with children rather than one or two person dwellings. Population-based demand for ice-time should be anticipated in these areas as a result.
- According to the City of Barrie staff, the non-resident user fee agreement between Springwater and Barrie is mutually beneficial, though future renewals will be dependant on a sufficient supply to meet the needs of Barrie residents, which will result if planned ice facility developments are implemented on schedule.
- The Elmvale Figure Skating Club reported the need for an additional 1-hour per week over a 30-week season. The Elmvale Minor Hockey Association identified the need for 15 additional hours per week over a 23-week season (345 hours total). Both organizations requested additional ice time to improve current programs and for new programs next season.
- Demand for minor hockey and figure skating will likely increase over the next five years as a result of population growth in Hillsdale.

Assessment and Provision Strategy

The need for additional indoor ice capacity is supported by the following factors:

- Springwater's supply of indoor ice (1:16,104) is limited relative similar sized municipalities in Ontario that provide one arena for, on average, every 10,000 population.
- The Elmvale Community Arena is operating a full capacity.
- Population growth in Hillsdale will increase demand on primetime ice at the Elmvale Community Arena to accommodate minor hockey and figure skating.
- Springwater's population is expected to increase because of new residential development in the South Service Area, generating population-based demand for indoor ice facilities in this area in Midhurst.
- Springwater currently relies on the City of Barrie to address the needs of ice users in the South Service Area.
- Springwater does not currently provide instructional skating lessons because of its limited ice capacity and offer no hockey programs for females. Girls and women's hockey is a popular and rapidly growing sport in most municipalities.

The Township should monitor youth organization's demand for ice time at the Elmvale Community Arena as a result of population growth in Hillsdale. Additional late night capacity could be added to the weekly ice schedule for adult use, thereby freeing some evening timeslots for minor use.

A new single pad ice facility in the southern part of Springwater will be required to address anticipated demand for additional ice capacity in the Municipality caused by population growth in Midhurst over the next 10 years. The non-resident user-fee agreement between Springwater and Barrie will accommodate demand for at least the next 3 years, providing a 3-5 year period for planning and construction. During this time, the Recreation Services Department should monitor Springwater residents' use of Barrie ice facilities by requesting annual utilization statistics from the City of Barrie.

While a site assessment for a new arena was not undertaken in this study, the Tree Nursery Sport Field Complex site would a suitable location. It has excellent transportation access for both residents in the southern part of Springwater and Barrie, and has space to accommodate this development. It would also complement outdoor facilities provided at the same location. These features are consistent with best practices that suggest new facilities should be co-located with other types of facilities to ensure user convenience and cost-effective operations.

Recommendation 2: The Recreation Services Department should monitor the level of Springwater use of City of Barrie ice facilities.

Recommendation 3: The Township should provide a second single pad ice facility by 2010 to accommodate population-based demand for ice facilities in the South Service Area at the Tree Nursery Sports Complex site.

4.2. Multi-Purpose Community Space

The following multi-purpose space assessment was undertaken in three parts to develop separate strategies for maintaining and developing multi-purpose space in different areas of the Township. These parts include:

1. Community Centres in settlement areas (Minesing, Anten Mills, Hillsdale, and Grenfel)
2. Multi-purpose space in the South Service Area (Midhurst)
3. Multi-purpose space in the North Service Area (Elmvale)

4.2.1 Community Centres in Settlement Areas

The Minesing, Anten Mills, Grenfel and Hillsdale Community Centres provide multi-purpose space suitable for community gatherings including: public meetings, community festivals, weddings and dances, and nightly recreation and social activities. Community Centres in Midhurst and Elmvale serve a similar purpose but have been discussed separately in sections 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 respectively to fully consider the future role of these facilities as they relate to recommendations in this plan. Notwithstanding the overall declining use and aging condition of these facilities, the absence of other publicly accessible indoor multi-purpose space in or near to these communities suggest these 4 facilities should be retained over the term of this Master Plan. However, in our view, continued community support, as demonstrated by the volunteer commitment of Recreation Service Board (RSB) members, increasing the use of the facility by developing local programs (discussed separately in Chapter 7), and the success of local fundraising efforts in support of non-essential capital improvements, are essential requirements for ongoing municipal support to retain each facility.

Larger multi-purpose community space and recreation services in Elmvale and Midhurst will supplement generally stable demand from Minesing, Anten Mills, and Grenfel. Increasing demand for multi-purpose space as a result of anticipated population growth in Hillsdale will be accommodated in part at the existing Hillsdale community centre but, for some activities, these residents will also be served by larger community recreation facilities in Elmvale and Midhurst.

The Township's major contribution to these halls should be to address basic capital conservation requirements that ensure the facility meets all regulatory codes and safety requirements and that it is barrier free for persons with physical disabilities. Improvement projects such as installing new lighting, a sound system, a dishwasher, etc. are not essential to the basic functioning of the facility and should be financed by RSB generated revenue.

An assessment of each community centre was undertaken to identify capital conservation costs that should be anticipated over the next 15 years. The report, which is submitted under a separate cover, recommended various projects to which estimated costs were assigned. A detailed description is provided in Appendix A. The costs are minimal for Anten Mills and Minesing, but more significant for Hillsdale and Grenfel (\$85,000 and \$66,000-\$81,000 respectively). Some of the more substantial costs are associated with full access (providing ramps and accessible washroom amenities) and water and sewage treatment upgrades. The extent and timing of these expenditures is not entirely clear and additional investigation may be required to confirm the costs noted in Appendix A. The Township should prepare a capital conservation schedule for the life of the Master Plan indicating when major expenditures will be required and, if necessary, confirming the costs. These cost calculations and the schedule should be reviewed annually relative to the continuing community involvement, commitment and use of the small halls. If at any point in

the future, the use of the halls and the level of ongoing community support does not justify the continued capital investment, the Township should close the halls or, if a willing candidate is identified, turn over their operation and ownership to another community group or agency.

Recommendation 4: The Township should retain the Minesing, Anten Mills, Grenfel and Hillsdale Community Centres over the term on the Master Plan providing ongoing support is demonstrated by the respective communities and facility users.

Recommendation 5: The Township should prioritize required community centre capital conservation projects and develop a capital improvement plan to guide implementation over the next 15 years. The cost should be confirmed annually and the investment only made if justified by continued community support and use. If use and community support is not sufficient to justify the investment, the Township should close the halls or transfer ownership and operation to another organization.

4.2.2 A New Multi Purpose Recreation Facility in the South Service Area

The Midhurst Community Centre is the major multi-purpose community space available in the Southern Service Area of Springwater and is nearing the end of its useful service life. In addition to an estimated \$63,000 in capital conservation costs required to ensure the facility's structural integrity, the findings for the Community Centre assessment suggest that it is not feasible to make critical accessibility/access upgrades. A replacement for this facility is therefore required over the term of this Plan.

Options to replace the Midhurst Community Centre include:

- constructing a new community centre on the existing site
- renovating the former Midhurst Fire Station to be used as a community centre
- locating multi-purpose community space at the Tree Nursery Sports Complex property in conjunction with the development of the recommended indoor ice arena.

Our preferred option is to provide new multi-purpose community space at the Tree Nursery Sports Complex property in conjunction with the development of the recommended indoor ice arena. The advantages include: long-term capital and operating cost savings by co-locating recreation facilities at a single site, more convenient public access, and the possibility of providing a larger indoor facility that would not be possible with the other options. It would also complement the operation of the Township's major outdoor sports fields, by allowing joint use of snack bar, washroom/change room, and hall amenities. Outdoor facility users will contribute to the use of indoor facilities for league and club activities such as meetings, banquets etc. Most importantly, this option is compatible with the preferred recreation Service Provision Model.

The cost to renovate the former Midhurst Fire Station is estimated at between \$185,000 and \$280,000. The replacement cost of a single purpose facility at the existing site would range between \$1-2 million. Aside from capital cost, there is insufficient space at either site to provide a suitably sized facility with parking.

We also support the co-location of a public library at the Tree Nursery site.

The Springwater Public Library currently provides a total of 0.47 sq.ft per capita (total of 7,700 sq.ft.) among all three libraries in the system, compared to the commonly recognized 0.6 sq.ft. per capita library space planning standard. Adjusting for population growth to 2021, approximately 0.36 sq.ft. per capita will be

available assuming no additional library space is provided. An additional 5,100 sq.ft. is therefore required to meet the future library space needs based on the 0.6 sq.ft. per capita standard. A library in south Springwater should become the major service point in the library system, complemented by the existing branches in Elmvale and Minesing. The library should at minimum be 5,000 sq. ft., to be confirmed as part of the detailed feasibility study for the multi-use complex and arena.

The Township has also considered the possibility of relocating its office space and Council Chambers in conjunction with a major recreation complex. While a detailed assessment of Municipal Building office space requirements was not within the scope of this study, a Municipal Building/Township Office is sited in the Tree Nursery Sports Complex preliminary concept plan. From a recreation planning perspective, there is no disadvantage of locating the municipal offices with the proposed major recreation complex. Co-locating this facility will make ideal use of ancillary features, including parking, servicing, etc., and may result in operating and capital cost savings depending of the scale of development. In addition, residents will be well served by a single major complex where they can conduct their business with the Township, participate in recreation programs, and use the library. Additional study is required to determine the major facility components required in a new municipal office building and consider site development and planning issues. However, the development in our view is compatible with the recommended recreation and library functions at this location.

4.2.2.1 Proposed Space Program for Community Centre in the South Service Area

This section describes a general space program and an estimate of capital costs for the facilities recommended for a community centre in the South Service Area. This is a very general estimate to provide order of magnitude costs and a sense of the scale and type of building being proposed. The details will need to be confirmed with a feasibility study.

Space Program

Figure 4.1 outlines a space program for the major components of the indoor complex: a single pad arena, a public library, multipurpose space, and common areas that will serve the entire facility. A future development allowance of 60,000-70,000 square feet should also be set aside for a second ice surface, an indoor aquatic facility and gymnasium should the Township's population support these facilities beyond the term on this plan. Municipal Building office space was not considered in the development of this space program.

In total, a facility with a gross floor area of approximately 54,400 square feet is envisioned. Of course, a building concept must be developed through the detailed design process.

Table 4.1: Preliminary Space Program for a New Recreation Facility	
	Net Square Feet
ICE SURFACE AND SUPPORT SPACE	
Rink (200x85)	17,000
Change rooms (6 @ 545 sq.ft.)	3,270
Seating for 1,000 (6 sq.ft. / seat)	6,000
Players bench/penalty box/timer	300
Referees/First Aid	600
Refrigeration, Equipment and Resurfacer	1,600
Storage	1,000
Program Offices (Skating/Hockey)	300
Staff room/wc/Workroom/Maintenance	700
Music Room/Press Box	350
<i>Subtotal Net Floor Area 75%</i>	<i>31,120</i>
<i>Subtotal Gross Floor Area 100%</i>	<i>38,900</i>
MULTI PURPOSE PROGRAM SPACE	
Multi-purpose Activity Room (Divisible into 2)	4,000
Meeting Rooms (2)	1,000
Program Storage (Divisible for programs)	400
Kitchen Facility/Bar	600
<i>Subtotal Net Floor Area 75%</i>	<i>6,000</i>
<i>Subtotal Gross Floor Area 100%</i>	<i>7,500</i>
PUBLIC LIBRARY SPACE	
Collection	4,000
Lounge/Reading/Computer Space	1,000
Administration/Check-out	500
<i>Subtotal Net Floor Area 75%</i>	<i>4,500</i>
<i>Subtotal Gross Floor Area 100%</i>	<i>5,625</i>
COMMON AREA	
Reception/general office	800
Lobby/ viewing area/ food service	2,000
Seating area	300
Public washroom 1	200
Public washroom 2	200
<i>Subtotal Net Floor Area 75%</i>	<i>3,500</i>
<i>Subtotal Gross Floor Area 100%</i>	<i>4,374</i>
<i>Total Net Floor Area 75%</i>	<i>45,120</i>
<i>Total Gross Floor Area 100%</i>	<i>56,399</i>

Building Cost Estimate

Table 4.2 presents a building cost estimate for the proposed facility based on the space program identified for the four major components shown in the previous section. Based on the space program, a preliminary building cost estimate is in the order of \$7 million.

The cost estimate should be considered as order of magnitude costs for a high quality institutional facility. The cost projection provided below does not include furniture and equipment costs, site development costs, extraordinary costs related to poor soil bearing capacity and unusual site conditions, soft costs including: permits, inspections, signage, security systems, survey costs, architect and engineering fees, legal cost, administration cost, and GST, if applicable. These costs could add between 30%-40% to total building cost.

Table 4.2 Building Costs for a New Multi-Purpose Facility

	Single Pad Arena	Public Library	Multipurpose Space	Common Areas	Total
Gross Square Feet Required	38,900	5,625	7,500	4,374	56,399
Building Cost (Per Gross Square Foot)	\$110.00	\$180.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	-
TOTAL	\$4,279,000	\$1,012,500	\$1,125,000	\$656,100	\$7,072,600

The capital cost estimate assumes all of the components are built as a single complex. If the facilities were built on separate sites these costs might increase by 5% or more due to less efficient use of common areas such as the lobby and parking; the possible need to duplicate some common areas (meeting/multipurpose space, custodian storage and work areas); service connections and the inability to take advantage of economies of scale for a more competitive construction cost. If the facility was developed in phases, the costs could be marginally higher. However, the additional costs would not be significant assuming that the building was designed and servicing established for the second phase when the initial complex was developed. This should be a consideration relative to the possible long-term need for an aquatic facility in Springwater.

Recommendation 6: The Township should replace the Midhurst Community Centre with multi-purpose program space at a new recreation facility located at the Tree Nursery Sport Complex.

Recommendation 7: The Township should co-locate a new public library at the Tree Nursery Sport Complex. In addition, if the Township wishes to proceed with the development of municipal offices at this site, this would be compatible with community recreation uses.

Recommendation 8: The Township should prepare a detailed feasibility study to confirm the required components, address the need for future major indoor facilities at the Tree Farm Nursery Sports Complex site, and confirm capital and operating costs.

4.2.3 Multi-Purpose Space Needs in the North Service Area

Compared to other urban and rural settlements areas within the Township, Elmvale has a generous supply of municipal multi-purpose space. In addition to the Springwater Room at the arena, the Elmvale Community Centre and the Knox Building, the Township also owns the Springwater Public Library's Elmvale branch. The need for multi-purpose recreation and culture space to serve Elmvale and the North Service Area over the term of this Plan considered options related to these 4 facilities, which are described in detail below. No new multi-purpose facilities are required to meet future needs in the North Service Area.

The Springwater Room: This facility was added in 1994 during the Elmvale Community Arena expansion and renovation and is currently in a good state of repair. This facility should be retained as multi-purpose recreation and culture space for community groups, arena users, and special events. The facility's limited

current use suggests the Springwater Room has capacity to address demand for multi-purpose space over the life of this plan, including accommodating relocated demand for other facilities the Township may close.

The Elmvale Library: In addition to existing library space on the upper floor, the new Elmvale library has a fully accessible (dedicated elevator and washrooms) but largely unfinished basement that library staff would like to develop as programmable library space. Libraries typically provide quiet programming space to offer children and youth programs, special-topic classes, and community lectures in keeping with library trends and best practices which encourage public libraries to increase community-centred functions. Currently the Library is a major community programmer and if this space is finished, programming by the Library and other community interests can be significantly expanded.

The basement should be retained and developed as programming space for the Library and other community organizations and interests. It is essential that the space be available to community groups and other organizations to maximize its use at all times, including during library operating hours. The extent of library and community use of this space is not expected to impact demand for other municipally owned multi-purpose space in Elmvale because its design and size will cater to different program interests.

The Elmvale Community Centre: The Elmvale Community Centre is a two-story building. The Seniors Card Club and the Sunshine Club (cards and shuffleboard) use the main floor for a total of 8 hours per week. A major fire code retrofit was completed in 1998 and other minor exterior and interior retrofits have been made since. Identified capital conservation costs total \$70,000 to replace the furnace, add air conditioning and make accessibility upgrades. A complete hydro inspection for electrical safety was also recommended (this work was not priced). A new roof is required at an estimated cost of \$20,000.

The upper floor of the Community Centre is not used. Possible future uses could include community meeting space, or a Council Chamber. However, the order-of magnitude construction cost estimate to retro-fit the upper floor for public use is approximately \$407,000, inclusive of a new roof, elevator equipment, interior partitioning, an HVAC system, construction contingencies and GST. At roughly \$163.00 per square foot, the cost appears greater than the cost to build new space elsewhere and consequently is not recommended.

Ongoing capital conservation requirements on the main floor and a costly upper floor retrofit cost, coupled with the availability of similar multi-purpose space at the Springwater Room and future community-meeting space at the Elmvale library suggests that the Elmvale Community Centre is not required as municipally operated multi-purpose space for recreation, culture, or social activities. We recognize that the Hall has a very significant place in the life of the Elmvale community. There is a great deal of local history associated with the Hall and strong community attachments. The Hall is also an important part of the community's history. For these reasons, and to help offset the ongoing capital conservation and other financial costs of the Hall, Council should explore alternative uses. If there are no other non-recreational uses for the building, disposal would be an option. We understand utilities and services to the building are separate from the abutting Knox Building, indicating it could be sold independent of Knox Building.

The Knox Building: The Knox Building consists of a Council Chamber and a public gallery, which according to staff, has sufficient public space for most meetings. The building also contains four offices and a meeting room for 10-12 persons. Council meetings currently alternate between the Knox Building and the Township Office in Midhurst. The Recreation Services Manager also utilizes office space because of limited space at the arena.

Public demand for the type of space available in the Knox Building was not identified during the study. As long as the Township continues to hold Council meetings in Elmvale and Midhurst, we understand the Knox Building will continue to be required because it is the most suitable facility in the North Service Area to meet the Township's needs. Accessibility upgrades estimated at \$52,000 may be required to meet barrier free code-requirements.

If the Knox Building is retained for this purpose, the use of available office space for the Recreation Services Department is desirable, and certainly more ideal than the limited office space available at the arena for staff use. Most importantly, Recreation Services staff should occupy office and working space that encourages a great deal of public-staff interaction, particularly given the recommended Community Development role and functions for the Recreation Services Department that are described in Chapter 8. When the new major recreation complex is developed in south Springwater, consideration should be given to moving Recreation Department offices to this location, particularly if the municipal offices are relocated.

The need to retain the Knox Building should be re-evaluated prior to development of the recommended multi-purpose recreation facility in the South Service Area, and possibly the co-location of a Municipal Office with a new council chamber at the same site.

Recommendation 9: The Township should proceed with the development of programming space in the Elmvale Library's basement. This space should be designed for general community as well as library use.

Recommendation 10: The Township should explore alternative uses for the Elmvale Community Centre to maximize the use of the facility and offset on-going capital conservation costs. The Community Centre is not required for recreational purposes due to the availability of similar space at other municipal facilities in Elmvale.

Recommendation 11: The Township should retain the Knox Building for Council Chamber meeting purposes in the North Service Area. The need for this facility should be re-evaluated prior to the development of a new recreation facility and possible Township Office in the South Service Area.

5.0 OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PROVISION STRATEGY

The need for ball diamonds, soccer fields, outdoor rinks, playgrounds, tennis courts and specialized recreation facilities is assessed in this Chapter. The preferred Service Provision Model guided each assessment.

5.1 Ball Diamonds

The Township of Springwater maintains a total of 13 ball diamonds⁵ distributed across the Municipality, including the Elmvale Ball Field located on Flos Agricultural Society property. According to municipal staff, the Elmvale Ball Field and the lit diamonds at Doran Park and Hillsdale Community Park are maintained to a high standard due to high utilization levels; lower maintenance standards are in place for diamonds that are used less frequently. Recreation Service Boards are responsible for scheduling the majority of the facilities.

The City of Barrie provides 14 ball diamonds at the Barrie Sports Complex located in Midhurst. The number of Springwater residents that regularly use diamonds at this location is not known, but it is reasonable to assume Springwater residents are participating on teams using these facilities and this likely reduces the local demand.

Supply Indicators

- Ball diamonds are provided in all major settlement areas. Residents enjoy a high level of access to these facilities compared to other recreation facilities provided by the Municipality.
- Springwater's supply of ball diamonds to total population (1:1,238) is noticeably higher than similar sized municipalities in Ontario provide (1:4,750).
- Springwater residents play on ball teams that use diamonds at the Barrie Sports Complex.
- The Township of Springwater's *Preliminary Concept Design* for the Tree Nursery Sports Park illustrates a space provision for 4 slow-pitch diamonds.
- Simcoe County School Board diamonds are provided at most elementary and secondary schools and are available for public use.

Demand Indicators

- National and provincial minor baseball participation trends indicate declining demand for baseball facilities over the next 15 years. Softball/slow-pitch participation trends suggest demand will remain stable as these activities remain popular with adults.
- Hillsdale Minor Ball reported a membership decline from 80 players in 2002 to 20 players in 2004. Springwater Masters Slow-Pitch reported a stable membership of 180 players for the same period and expects that participation will increase over the next 5 years due to population growth in the Municipality.

⁵ Two lit diamonds are counted as 1.5 unlit diamonds to reflect their additional capacity.

- Responses to the sport and recreation user group survey indicate there is no unmet demand for ball facilities in Springwater at this time.

Assessment and Provision Strategy

Indicators of supply and demand suggest that Springwater's existing supply of ball diamonds will meet the Municipality's needs over the next 15 years. No additional ball diamonds will be required in future residential developments in the South Service Area. Currently, there is no need for the four diamonds represented in the preliminary concept design for the Tree Nursery Sports Park. These facilities should not be developed until such time that demonstrated demand for ball exceeds the supply of available diamonds. This is not anticipated in the Master Plan's timeframe.

Recommendation 12: The Township of Springwater does not require additional ball diamonds over the life of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Recommendation 13: The Township of Springwater should not develop additional ball diamonds at the Tree Nursery Sports Park during the period of the master plan unless supported by a new information indicating renewed demand.

5.2 Soccer Fields

Springwater's 5 major soccer/athletic fields are concentrated at the Tree Nursery Sports Park, representing a departure from dispersing active sport facilities among major settlement areas. A sixth municipal field is provided at Homer Barrett Park for minor level use and the Elmvale Soccer Association regularly uses an athletic field at Elmvale District High School. Seven major soccer pitches are provided at the Barrie Sports Complex.

There are two soccer associations in Springwater, the Elmvale Soccer Association and the South Springwater Soccer Association. Both coordinate house leagues for children and youth and do not provide competitive level programs.

Supply Indicators

- Springwater overall supply of soccer fields (1: 2,684) is consistent with similar sized municipalities (1:2,710).
- According to municipal staff, the 5 fields at the Tree Nursery Sports Park will be fully utilized⁶ by the South Springwater Soccer Association 5 nights per week between May and August. These fields are divided into mini fields based on the level of play.
- Springwater residents may be members of soccer clubs that use the 7 Barrie Sports Complex soccer fields.
- The Township of Springwater's Preliminary Concept Design for the Tree Nursery Sports Park illustrates a space provision 6 major soccer pitches and 4 mini soccer pitches. To date, only 5 major pitches have been provided.

⁶ The Township has not adopted a prime time definition.

Demand Indicators

- Considering only clubs affiliated with the Ontario Soccer Association, participation rates in Ontario doubled between 1998 and 2002 to over 332,000 players. Introductory house-leagues are common in many municipalities, nurturing the next generation of soccer players.
- South Springwater Soccer Association's membership increased from 570 players in 2002 to 881 players in 2004; future increases of 5-10% are anticipated over the next 5 years. In 2004, approximately 40% of total members were female. All players are under 14 years of age.
- South Springwater Soccer Association reports that approximately 20% of its members (176 players) live in the City of Barrie.
- The South Springwater Soccer Association does not require additional field time at the Tree Nursery Sports Park.
- According to municipal staff, approximately 200 members belong to the Elmvale Soccer Association. This group uses the High School field one evening a week over an 8-week season.
- According to municipal staff, a few soccer groups rent Tree Nursery Sport Park field timeslots on an occasional basis. The Township rents fields to non-resident user groups.

Assessment and Provision Strategy

Springwater's current supply of 5 major and 1 minor soccer pitches is adequately addressing soccer needs at this time and has some capacity for expanded use to serve the needs of a growing population and anticipated continued growth in the sport. The existing 5 pitches can be configured to accommodate different age levels (including dividing major fields into 4-6 mini fields) and different sports. The Elmvale District High School field used by the Elmvale Soccer Association is not a full size field comparable to those at the Tree Nursery Sports Park; however, based on the overall level of use and play-level, this field will accommodate local demand for soccer programming over the term of the plan.

Soccer pitch utilization may be influenced by the following recommended actions to be undertaken by the Recreation Services Department:

- As younger players mature, a local option to progress to competitive levels should be available to Springwater residents. The Recreation Services Department should facilitate the development of a Township-wide Club that coordinates competitive soccer programs for youth and adults. This will increase the demand for soccer in the future.
- Market excess timeslots to soccer clubs in Barrie and other municipalities to increase field utilization during the evening and on weekends.

Field lighting can be installed to increase field capacity if demand increases as a result of population growth. Field lighting is generally more capital cost intensive than developing additional fields on available tableland, but offers the following benefits (1) increased convenience for adult soccer players, (2) no added maintenance costs to the Township, and (3) the ability to recover utility costs through a user fee premium.

The near capacity use of the existing facilities combined with population growth and continued interest in the sport, suggests additional fields will be required in the future. Maintaining the existing per capita level of supply would suggest two new fields would be required over the term of the Master Plan based on population growth alone. These fields should be reflected in the Township's long-range plans.

The Recreation Services Department should monitor changes in demand for soccer field use. It is not anticipated that additional tableland for soccer field development will be required over the Master Plan's timeframe. The remaining undeveloped major soccer field and 4 mini fields indicated in the Preliminary concept plan for the Tree Nursery Sports Park should accommodate increased demand.

Recommendation 14: The Township of Springwater should plan for two additional soccer fields over the life of the Master Plan at the Tree Nursery Sports Complex.

Recommendation 15: The Recreation Services Department should facilitate efforts to establish competitive youth and adult soccer programs to maximize the utilization of the Township's existing facilities.

5.3 Outdoor Rinks/Pavilions

Recreation Service Boards and other community groups maintain 2 covered natural ice rinks and 7 uncovered rinks during the winter. The 2 covered rinks in Grenfel and Minesing were financed by community fundraising efforts. All 9 facilities are located in municipal parks and are distributed among major settlement areas. According to staff, these facilities are well utilized by local residents and visitors from neighbouring communities.

For future planning purposes, Springwater should support one public natural rink in each major settlement area. In consideration of ensuring appropriate access, (e.g. parking, lighting, etc.) these facilities should be provided in Community parks that accommodate a higher level of activity (as discussed in Chapter 6).

Future capital improvement projects should be community driven and financed through local fundraising; however, based on past practices, the Municipality may want to offer a loan to an established community organization overseeing the development effort.

Outstanding demand for a covered outdoor rink was identified in Hillsdale. The Recreation Services Department should support community efforts to fundraise for this project and ensure the planned facility complements existing design features at Hillsdale Community Park.

Recommendation 16: The Township of Springwater should support one public natural rink in an appropriate size public park within each major settlement area providing a volunteer group maintains the ice surface.

5.4 Playground Structures

The Township of Springwater provides 25 playground structures in Local and Community parks. According to data supplied by staff, the majority of these facilities meet CSA standards and are maintained accordingly. Older playground structures are being replaced on an as required basis. Playground structures have also been provided in many new parks acquired by the Township through the development process. The public also has access to public school playground structures.

Municipalities typically provide two types of playground structures. Smaller playground structures for children aged 1-6 years are commonly provided in Local parks within walking distance the majority of households in a given catchment area. The majority of the Township playground structures would be of this nature. Larger playground structures that accommodate children aged 1-12 years are characteristic of

larger community-serving parks that serve a larger geographic area. This provision model ensures a reasonable level of neighbourhood access to a basic playground structure that is cost effective to provide and maintain, while also making it possible for the municipality re-direct resources to a single, more costly facility that meets a wider range of community needs and interests.

The Township of Springwater should adopt a similar strategy for providing different sized playgrounds depending on the size and function of the park they are provided in. Only small playground structures should be provided in Local parks when there is demonstrated neighbourhood demand. Demonstrated demand might be measured by (1) socio-demographics indicators suggesting a sufficient number of young children to support a playground structure (2) no reasonable access to another playground structure – playgrounds within 800 metres of the residence is a planning standard sometimes adopted in urban areas and could be used as a guideline, and (3) expressed demand by local residents. In addition, our recommendations concerning local park development suggest that small park parcels (e.g. the size of one or two building lots) should not be taken as dedications in situations where a small sub-division is being constructed. In this situation, immediate access to a local park will not be provided and consequently, local playgrounds may not be within walking distance. Large playgrounds structures should be provided in Community parks in all major settlement areas of Springwater.

The Township of Springwater should provide small or large playground structures in future residential developments based on the classification of parkland that is acquired. A detailed parkland classification system is described in Chapter 6.

The Township should cost-share the development of large playground structures with the Simcoe County School Board in recognition of the shared community-school use of the facility when there is a demonstrated need for municipal playground structure in a public school catchment area.

Recommendation 17: The Recreation Service Department should ensure playgrounds structures are regularly inspected and maintained to CSA standards. The Municipality should replace those that do not meet CSA standards and where there is a demonstrate need for these facilities.

Recommendation 18: In the future playgrounds should only be provided in new development areas in response to demonstrated demand and in local or community municipal parks designed and developed in accordance with the recommended park classification system.

5.5 Tennis Courts

The Township of Springwater provides 4 tennis courts at the Doran Park Tennis Facility. These courts are covered from October 1 until April 31 and are rented to the North Barrie Tennis Club. The Midhurst Tennis Club, through an agreement with the Township of Springwater, rents three courts between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. during the evening (May to August). The fourth court remains open to the public at all times during operating hours. The Township also provides 2 public tennis courts in Elmvale.

The Midhurst Tennis Club reported a decline in adult membership recently, a pattern found in other Ontario municipalities and across Canada. The Club's junior membership, however, reportedly increased to upwards of 80-90 youth and is supported by two tennis professionals.

Tennis is not expected to grow in popularity over the next 5-10 years. Many municipalities in Ontario have opted to support the provision of tennis court facilities only in response to demonstrated localized demand and an ongoing commitment of a member-based club to develop the facility. The Township Springwater has adopted this model, which based on information provided by the Midhurst Tennis Club, is mutually beneficial and satisfies known demand for tennis facilities. Additional courts are therefore not required over the life of this Master Plan unless a community based tennis organization comes forward that is prepared to operate a club and contribute to costs in a similar manner as the existing Midhurst club.

Future capital improvement projects at the facility, such as additional court lighting, should be user financed. The Municipality has adopted a similar approach for capital improvements for the Elmvale Community Arena, and for most community centres. Ongoing operating costs should be partially recovered by user fees.

Recommendation 19: The Township of Springwater should not provide additional tennis courts during the life of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Future capital improvement projects at the Doran Park Tennis Facility should be user financed.

5.6 Skateboarding Facilities

Skateboarding is an increasingly popular recreational activity for youth. Municipalities across Canada have responded by providing permanent or mobile skateboarding parks. We understand that the permanent skateboarding facility in Elmvale originated as a community-driven project that was supported by a grant from the Trillium Foundation. It is well used during the summer.

The Recreation Services Department also operates a mobile skateboard park between mid-June to the end of August. This facility is rotated among 5 parks with hardtop surfaces and is supervised by two summer students. Continued operation of this facility should be planned for during the short-term (5-8 years) as long as the skateboard parks continued to be well used by residents.

In the long term, opportunities to develop a permanent skateboard park in the South Service Area should be investigated to reduce the cost of providing the mobile program and to provide a higher-level facility in this service area in response to population-based demand. The Tree Nursery Sports Complex would be an ideal location for this facility.

Recommendation 20: The Recreation Services Department should continue to support the mobile skate park project as long as levels of use justify the service.

Recommendation 21: Subject to continued demand for skateboarding, the Township should develop a permanent skateboard park at the Tree Nursery Sports Complex when the multi-purpose facility is developed.

6.0 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Six major issues are addressed in the parks and open space analysis. These are: (1) a parkland classification system (2) parkland supply and distribution (3) a parkland and open space supply strategy, (4) disposal of surplus parkland, (5) parks and open space policies, and (6) recreational trail development.

We were guided by the following principles when conducting our analysis and making recommendations for the parks and open space system.

1. To the greatest extent possible, parks should be fully developed and provide opportunities for multiple activities, i.e. picnicking, play structures, passive play areas, active play areas, to encourage maximum use and enjoyment of these resources by community residents.
2. Parks and open space areas should be developed and maintained in a manner that is safe for users and protects the interests of the Township.
3. In planning for the overall parks system, a number of considerations must be balanced – including the quality of park development, maintenance costs, and accessibility. To achieve this balance, the number of park properties may be reduced so that resources are available to upgrade and improve the remaining parks.
4. All major parks should be developed in accordance with a Master Plan that clearly indicates appropriate uses, functional areas of the park, natural and environmentally sensitive areas, and relationships among park activity areas. A Master Plan is required to ensure the park is developed in the most cost effective manner to serve the broadest range of community needs.
5. To the extent possible, trails and paths should link parkland and open spaces to promote healthy living, encourage tourism, and protect significant natural features.

6.1 Parkland Classification System and Standards of Supply

The Township of Springwater does not have a classification system that describes types of parks and open space areas. A classification system would aid the Township in setting standards of park provision, as it forms the foundation for building the community's park system. It is a basis for entering into negotiations with developers regarding parkland provision. It also ensures that the park system is developed in a consistent manner and that it meets the community's needs in the safest and most efficient manner possible. These are standard planning tools in most Ontario municipalities and should be adopted in Springwater.

Table 6.1 suggests a classification system with three types of parks with different descriptions and functions.

Table 6.1 Proposed Park Classification System

Park Classification	Size (acres)	Description and Function (Guidelines)
Local Parks	1.5-2.0 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provided in residential neighborhoods where population is sufficient to warrant a local serving park and where other open space resources cannot fulfill needs ▪ intended to be located within a 800m. walking distance without crossing any arterial roads (unless a pedestrian road crossing can be provided) ▪ should have frontage on a local or collector road, with a minimum 60m. of continuous frontage ▪ generally equipped with recreation facilities to serve pre-school and school-aged children ▪ landscaped areas for passive recreation
Community Parks	Ideally a site of 6-7 acres, but larger if possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ intended for general community use and special functions ▪ should be developed to include senior level recreation facilities to meet the needs of organized sports and recreation groups for programmed use, as outlined in the Recreation and Culture Master Plan ▪ may contain major indoor and outdoor recreation facilities ▪ may contain illuminated facilities ▪ may be integrated with an elementary or secondary school ▪ will also provide space for passive recreation and should contribute to enhancing the natural environment of the community ▪ off street parking should be provided ▪ long-term development of major parks should be guided by concept master plan
Special Open Space Areas	Not specified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ may feature civic, historic, cultural and heritage resources an area of parkland in its natural state used for conservation and/or preservation ▪ educational or restricted recreational activities may be permitted depending on the carrying capacity of the site – pedestrian access may be provided if compatible with the biological and physical resources ▪ special resources may include waterfront lands, valley lands, wetlands, forested areas and woodlots, conservation areas, passive waterfront lands and areas of natural or scientific significance, woodlots, ravine lands, natural surface trail systems, areas of special scenic or natural interest, lands in public ownership, abandoned or surplus rail corridors and utility easements and linear open space corridors

While existing parks have been placed in the recommended classification system (see Appendix A) many do not meet the design and functional requirements described above. Most of the local parks, for example, are too small and many do not have the park features described in the park classification system. For the purposes of discussion we have somewhat arbitrarily classified existing parks based on total acreage and current level of development.

Recommendation 22: The Township should adopt a three-tier classification system as outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the purposes of future parks planning and development.

Recommendation 23: The proposed park classification system should be used as a guideline for future park development. In particular, if new parkland is considered in the future, the guidelines should be used to evaluate minimum park size, connectivity, functions, design requirements, etc.

6.2 Parkland Supply and Distribution

Table 6.3 indicates the supply of different types of parkland per 1,000 population in 2001 and 2021, assuming no additional parks come online during this period and all existing parks are retained. While there is no commonly recognized standard for parkland per 1,000 population, many similar sized municipalities plan to acquire and manage 6-10 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 population. This would provide a reasonable level of supply in most communities to meet a wide range of needs. The Township clearly exceeds this level of supply and will continue to do so even with population growth to 2021. While many of the Township's parks are not fulfilling a useful function (as described in the classification system) and some of the parkland is not developed, there is every indication that the municipality is very well supplied with parks.

Park Classification	Provision Level in	Provision Level in
	2001	2021
Local	4.11	3.11
Community	8.40	6.26
Special Open Space	4.32	3.25
Total	16.83	12.71

The current supply and distribution of parks and open space throughout the Township is generous; no parkland deficiencies were identified in major settlement or rural areas. Consequently, the Township should only be assembling new parkland in the future if it is required to serve new residential development. However, this parkland should only be assembled in developments that are large enough to ensure local parks meeting the proposed classification in Table 6.1 can be developed. These will be large residential developments where dedications will yield parks of the minimum size and function described in Table 6.1. In other cases, the municipality should be taking cash in lieu of parkland.

Recommendation 24: The Township's current supply of parkland will meet the community's needs for the period of the Master Plan and no additional parkland should be acquired except in cases where new residential developments are not served by existing park and open space resources.

6.3 Parkland and Open Space Development Strategy

As noted above, Springwater should plan to acquire and develop **only** Local parks in new residential developments. These parcels should conform to the Parkland Classification System above, and where possible, they should be sited to meet future parkland needs in adjacent residential developments. For example, a 2-acre Local park could be sited along the outer boundary of a development bordering adjacent land zoned as residential. The Local park will then serve both developments and cash-in-lieu of parkland can be negotiated by the Township during the approval process for the second development. Cash-in-lieu will support the continued development and renewal of existing parks and open spaces.

Information provided by staff indicates a number of large, mostly single detached residential unit developments have been proposed in the North and South Service Areas. When this analysis was undertaken negotiations for parkland dedication were not finalized, but included:

- Stollar Development – 246 proposed residential lots
- Elmvale Meadows – 125 designate residential lots
- Hillsdale Subdivision – 348 designated residential lots
- Snow Valley Secondary Plan – 370 designated residential lots

Local parkland dedications (1.5-2.0 acres) should be taken in these developments in the manner described above. Cash-in-lieu should be taken for any outstanding balance, if applicable. Where the Township decides existing parkland will serve the proposed development, cash-in-lieu should be taken.

The Township should also take advantage of opportunities to acquire Special Open Spaces. Special Open Space and natural areas should not be take as parkland dedications but may be negotiated for separately.

Recommendation 25: The Township should only acquire Local parks as required to meet the needs of proposed new subdivisions and of an appropriate size and design to conform to the Park Classification System. If this is not possible, or new subdivisions are appropriately served with existing parkland, cash should be taken in lieu of parkland dedications.

6.4 Disposal of Surplus Parkland

As noted earlier, Springwater is well supplied with parkland and the following factors indicate the Township should reduce the overall supply of parkland per 1,000 population by 2021:

- The supply of parkland per 1,000 population is higher than many similar sized municipalities in Ontario.
- Undeveloped parkland represents an ongoing maintenance cost for the Township.
- Tableland for sport field development is not required because needed facilities can be fully accommodated in existing parks.
- There was no indication through the public consultation process that inadequate park supply was a concern in any part of the Township.
- Most residents have access to unstructured open space and these resources, as well as significant regional open space areas provided by Conservation Authorities and Provincial Parks offset the need for parkland.

As a guideline for future planning purposes, the Township of Springwater should adopt the following provision levels for Local and Community parks. These adjustments will result in an overall parkland provision level, excluding Special Open Space Parkland, of 7.0 acres per 1,000 population in 2021. This would be a generous level of supply and with special open space areas and non-municipal resources should be more than adequate to meet future needs.

Local Parks: 2.0 acres per 1,000 population

- The supply of Local parks could be reduced. Many of these parks are underdeveloped and underutilized and the future population base will not support making improvements in all underdeveloped parks to increase utilization.

Community Parks: 5.0 acres per 1,000 population

- This provision level anticipates no new Community parks will be required in existing major settlement areas. The Tree Nursery Sport Park will meet demand for active parkland in new resident development expected in the South Service Area.
- Only a small proportion of Tree Nursery Sport Park has been developed for active sport field use and no additional ball and only two additional soccer fields are recommended in the Master Plan.

Special Parkland and Open Space: No Provision Level

- Special Parkland and Open Space Areas were not reflected in the supply level analysis because these areas are not provided on a population basis but rather to preserve and protect unique community resources, including areas of environmental or heritage significance. Woodlots are also included in this classification. Their maintenance costs are typically lower than parkland developed for leisure and recreation uses. The Township should take advantage of these unique opportunities to improve the parks system and acquire special open space areas when possible. These may be acquired through purchase or, particularly in new development areas, negotiation during the planning approvals process.

Recommendation 26: For purposes of future planning, the Township of Springwater should adopt a guideline of 7.0 acres of parkland (excluding Special Open Space) per 1,000 population.

6.4.1 Criteria for Disposing of Surplus Parkland

The Township should assess all existing parks, both developed and undeveloped, as well as other municipal properties that may not be officially designated as parks, such as road endings, to determine if they should be placed on the market or otherwise disposed of.

In many cases, the existing park inventory includes small underdeveloped park parcels. We understand that there may be other similar municipal properties not identified as parks. The park parcels were likely taken as dedications, but have little functional value. Furthermore, these "parks" are frequently undeveloped and are not identified or used as parks. The following criteria should be used to assess existing park parcels and identify candidates for disposal.

- **Current Use:** A central consideration in identifying parks for possible disposal is the extent of use. Parks that are being used by the community would clearly not be eliminated.
- **Development Potential:** Properties, if developed, that could play a role in meeting current or future park needs would generally be retained. The size of the property, the potential to link open space systems, and the presence of unique features determine development potential.

- **Future Demand:** Park properties in areas of the Township that will accommodate future projected population would not be recommended for disposal unless the current supply of parkland was adequate to meet both current and future needs.
- **Size:** Parks that might serve a local function should be a minimum of 2 acres, as described in the recommended park classification system. Larger parks (more than 6 acres) typically have a broader range of potential future uses and are more difficult to assemble. While during the period of this Plan the Township's requirements for active outdoor recreation facilities will be fully accommodated by the existing parks, in the longer term there may be requirements for large park parcels with the potential to be developed for major sports fields of indoor recreation facilities. Consequently, this should be a consideration before disposing of large parcels (generally greater than 6 acres of tableland that is suitable for development) that may meet long term needs.
- **Linkage Potential:** Some park parcels may be positioned to link open space or park areas or to greatly improve residents' access to existing parks or county forests. These properties would generally be retained.
- **Unique Features:** Available background information should be used to determine if a property has a unique feature that could only be protected if the park was retained. (i.e. rare habitat, site of historic significance).
- **Role in Meeting Future Needs:** The availability of parkland in the vicinity of the site considered for disposal is an important factor. All major settlement areas are generously supplied with parkland. In many cases another park property could adequately serve residents' needs.

Fully operationalized, these criteria will identify parks that do not fully contribute to the Township's desired park system. For example, 13 Local parks, the majority of which have only a playground structure, are smaller than 1.5 acres. According to staff, some vacant parkland parcels have insufficient frontage or road access to permit further development for public use. The Municipality has also acquired currently undeveloped parkland parcels that may be developable in a manner that is consistent with the parkland classification system. While a detailed analysis of each park is necessary, there appear to be many opportunities to dispose of surplus parks. Parks should be offered for sale at market value to maximize the revenue realized from these sales. Funds from the sale of these parcels should be reinvested in the parks system for future improvements/development.

Recommendation 27: The Township of Springwater should identify and dispose of surplus parkland parcels based on the criteria suggested in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Recommendation 28: The Township should sell parcels that are not required for other municipal purposes at full market value and invest the funds from the disposed parkland in park and open space improvements.

6.5 Parks and Open Space Policies

The Township should adopt policies to guide decision making regarding parkland assembled in new residential developments and naturalization/environmental policies related to the development and maintenance of parks and open space. Relevant policies are recommended below.

6.5.1 Parkland Assembly in New Residential Developments

Policies that deal with parkland dedication through the development process should be adopted. These policies clarify when the Township should take land dedications for Local parks versus cash in lieu and the conditions under which properties will be transferred to the Township. The policies ensure that the Township receives functional pieces of property that are consistent with the parkland classifications described earlier, and guidelines for the condition of the land at the point of conveyance. Providing a number of small parks increases park maintenance costs and does not allow for a full range of park features to be developed. The proposed guidelines would address this problem.

The following considerations should be incorporated in a comprehensive policy statement related to the strategy for parkland assembly in new developments:

- The Township will favour the conveyance of Local parks that are consistent with the classification guidelines in proposed plans of subdivision if the Township determines parkland elsewhere in the vicinity is not suitable to address Local parkland needs in the proposed development.
- Cash-in-lieu should be accepted when the Township determines that adequate parkland and other recreational facilities being provided for households in proposed development in a satisfactory manner elsewhere in the vicinity.
- Land conveyed to the Township, for parks purposes, under the Planning Act, should be accepted only when the Township of Springwater is satisfied that the land is suitable for park purposes and is situated in a location that is appropriate for the manner in which it is to be used. Further, the Township's Recreation Service Department staff should work with planning staff to determine appropriate parkland to be dedicated, including location.
- Land must be conveyed in a condition satisfactory to the Township. At minimum, this should be in a condition with basic grading, seeding/sodding is completed, and building materials and rubble removed.
- Public open space that responds to passive recreation interests including hiking, trails, river access, woodlots, etc. should be acquired, where possible, through partnership agreements, agreements with conservation authorities, bequests, sponsorships, expenditures of cash-in-lieu, etc. These lands are over and above lands required for active recreation and should not be acquired through the park dedication process except where it is determined that additional parkland for local and community parks is not required in a specific community. Every effort should be made to acquire these lands to augment and enhance the active recreation parklands in the Township.

Recommendation 29: The Township should adopt a comprehensive policy statement governing the assembly of parkland in new residential developments. The policy should indicate when parkland will be taken and the general conditions surrounding the type and condition of parkland to be assembled.

6.5.2 Naturalization/Environmental Policies

The Township of Springwater should demonstrate environmental responsibility through their planning, management and maintenance practices. The maintenance and management of the municipal parks and open space system could incorporate ecological practices, such as naturalization and reforestation programs, reduced mowing, use of native plant species, and employment of environmentally sound park maintenance techniques that will contribute to the enhancement of the natural heritage system. Some of these strategies may also result in cost savings that can be transferred to other aspects of parks and open space development and operations.

The success of these initiatives will be largely dependent on fostering public awareness and support. While environmental projects are widely understood and accepted within the natural environment areas, public perceptions of neglect and abandonment may prevail when traditionally manicured lands are left to naturalize and regenerate. It will be important to identify and implement a program of education using literature, signage, and community volunteerism to promote the benefits of ecological practices and environmental enhancement initiatives. In this regard, the support and involvement of other agencies and environmental interest groups should be sought.

Recommendation 30: The Township should demonstrate environmental responsibility through the development and adoption of environmentally sound policies and practices for use in the planning, development and management of parks and recreation facilities, wherever possible and practicable.

Recommendation 31: The Township should continue to collaborate with Conservation Authorities and other agencies and environmental and community groups to identify priorities and implement a program for restoration of degraded natural areas.

Recommendation 32: The Township should investigate and develop programs, strategies and materials for promoting public awareness and education on the values of urban ecological practices, responsible use of natural areas, public accountability and environmental stewardship, in collaboration with other departments and agencies.

6.6 Recreational Trails

Municipalities across North America are supporting the development recreational trail networks in cooperation with government agencies, private land owners and conservation authorities to promote alternative means of transportation, encourage physical activity, promote tourism and economic development, demonstrate environmental stewardship and develop safe and liveable communities. In recognition of these benefits, local organizations, the conservation authority, residents and Township staff have indicated an interest in further developing recreational trails.

The Municipality's existing inventory of trails includes:

- North Simcoe Rail Trail, a 33km section of Trans Canada Trail that is municipally owned;
- Ganaraska Trail, consisting of both municipal and privately owned lands;
- Hunter Russell Trail that parallels Willow Creek on municipally-owned land;
- Heritage Park Trail that connects to the North Simcoe Rail Trail and Bishop Park in Elmvale; and

- Nine Mile Portage Recreational Trail, that links Fort Willow to Kempenfelt Bay (some sections cross privately owned land)

The Municipality has been supportive of community-driven efforts to take advantage of emerging trail opportunities such as the North Simcoe Rail Trail; however, these efforts have not been guided by a detailed Recreational Trail Development strategy that addresses a complete range of long-term trail development opportunities and priorities, operating costs, liabilities, design and development standards as they relate to possible community impacts and the role that will be played by other stakeholders in development, operation and management of the future trails.

The Township of Springwater should prepare a Recreation Trails Master Plan which examines opportunities for and feasibility of an interconnected system of valley land, greenway walking, multi-use trails, road-based cycling routes, and neighbourhood walkways. Future investments should be guided by a detailed plan that addresses the challenges and takes advantage of all opportunities (e.g. grants, promotion of healthy living, and tourism). The implementation of a Recreation Trails Master Plan will undoubtedly require the Township of Springwater to collaborate with stakeholder groups to create and manage a comprehensive system of trail loops offering variety in trip experiences, length, terrain, character, and scenic qualities and oriented to a variety of users.

The Recreational Trail Master Plan should inventory and map existing open space system and routes as a framework for the plan. Other activities to be completed during the planning process include:

- Investigate opportunities for smaller local loop trails within communities, such as a loop around Elmvale, and building of loops and circuits linking parks and other recreation/cultural destinations (i.e. link from the Grenfel Community Centre to Vespra Downs);
- Investigate opportunities for broader 'park to park' connections that would integrate and potentially expand on the existing regional network. The opportunities would include both on-road bicycle routes, snowmobile routes, and off-road trails utilizing publicly owned lands, utility corridors, abandoned rail corridors, and easements;
- Recommend key areas for acquisition and/or access to open space to accommodate the proposed network;
- Recommend a program of implementation based on phasing and timing, infrastructure changes (e.g., road reconstruction), and capital costs.
- The Trails Master Plan should also cover the following issues:
 - Official Plan amendments that may be required
 - Planning and zoning related issues
 - The feasibility of networking existing and future trails
 - Assessment of public interest in trail development
 - Identification and protection of archeological and environmental features
 - Development and maintenance standards
 - Legal liability/risk management concerns
 - Partnership opportunities
 - Funding opportunities
 - Municipal staff resources and organization structure
 - Marketing and promotion

The Recreational Trails Master Plan has recreation benefits but can also support tourism, transportation and environmental objectives. Consequently, it should be developed with the input of a variety of community interests, but driven by municipal staff and its current trail development partners. When the Township proceeds with a Trails Master Plan, they should establish a Trail Development Committee to assist in the development and implementation of the Plan. The Committee's members should represent key stakeholders, including Township of Springwater, Simcoe County and Nottawasaga Conservation Area officials, private landowners, and existing trail users and trail organizations.

Recommendation 33: The Township of Springwater should undertake a Recreational Trails Master Plan which examines opportunities for and feasibility of an interconnected system of valley land, greenway walking, multi-use trails, road-based cycling routes, and neighbourhood walkways.

Recommendation 34: The Township of Springwater should establish a Trail Development Committee to assist in the development and implementation of the Recreational Trails Master Plan.

7.0 RECREATION PROGRAMMING

The Culture and Recreation Master provides direction for the delivery of recreation programs and services, and develops relationships to community organizations and volunteer committees over the next 15 years. This Chapter develops a broad framework for facilitating recreation program delivery and supporting the efforts of other organizations working to achieve the same goals – a healthy, active community.

7.1 A Recreation Programming Function for the Township of Springwater

The Township of Springwater historically performed limited direct recreation programming, relying instead on volunteer organizations to develop and coordinate recreation programming for children, youth, adults and seniors. However, demands on volunteers' time, fundraising requirements, program safety and risk management concerns, new types of leisure activities for people of all ages, and the burnout of long-time volunteers are concerns most volunteer organizations reported during this study. The role of the volunteer and the Municipality's reliance on volunteers must be re-examined.

Acting on a recommendation from an earlier municipal organization study, the Township created a part-time Recreation Coordinator position responsible for community development and liaising with the volunteer sector. In our view, this function is appropriate for Springwater. It strikes a balance between available resources for program staff and a desire to continue to expand program opportunities for residents. Opportunities to gradually improve programming will be most readily achieved through the development of partnerships with established providers and strengthening the organizations and program services of community groups.

Given the history of municipal recreation program provision in Springwater, arrangements with non-municipal service providers and limited staff resources, we have recommended a role that broadens the range of support offered to local groups. The Department's primary programming focus should be on **facilitating service delivery**. Even in these areas, the Department will have to make choices concerning priority activities.

As a facilitator, the Township's role will involve the following activities:

- Work with the Recreation Service Boards to increase the utilization of community halls with new programs and events;
- Provide support and systems for groups to offer high quality, consistent, cost-effective programs and services across the Municipality;
- Foster the development of new community groups; working with new and existing groups to expand programming to respond to trends and needs;
- Encourage, support and provide training programs to improve the quality of leadership in recreation activities by staff and volunteers;
- Serve as a liaison between the School Boards, Springwater Public Library and other community organizations;
- Expand marketing and improve community awareness of parks, recreation and culture services;

- Develop ways to help groups recruit, recognize and retain volunteers; and
- Assist groups with grant applications or fundraising efforts.

It was apparent during our discussions with residents and established organizations that there is demand for accessible local programs for children, youth, families and seniors. When asked about the general interest of existing groups and their capacity to provide additional local programs in the future, some groups indicated they required support to identify needs and conduct market research, recruit and train volunteers, and market programs. The Recreation Coordinator should provide this support.

To prioritize request for support, the Recreation Coordinator's primary interests should be to support Recreation Service Boards (whose role will be discussed in greater detail in subsequent sections of the report) and municipal-wide sport and recreation organizations. South Springwater Soccer Association (SSSA), for example, provides soccer programs for children and youth who come from a larger geographic area (the South Service Area). Due in part to the fact that the Tree Nursery Sport Park soccer fields are centrally located, the SSSA has established a large enough membership base to provide different levels of competition and a strong volunteer base and organizational structure. The duplicated volunteer effort required to run any number of smaller community organizations, and a limited market partially explain why many of these groups are folding.

Providing this level of support will require a full-time Recreation Coordinator who has sufficient time to meet with community organization and boards and handle administrative matters. The existing part-time position is too restrictive to ensure meaningful and productive relationships and outcomes.

We believe the Township can significantly expand and improve programming through the facilitation and coordination of strategies noted above.

Recommendation 35: The Township should increase the supply of programming available to community residents through expanded facilitation efforts with the Recreation Service Boards and municipal wide community organizations.

Recommendation 36: The Recreation Coordinator should assist Recreation Service Boards to increase the utilization of municipal recreation facilities.

Recommendation 37: The Township should assist interested community sport and recreation organizations to amalgamate into municipal-wide organizations, where appropriate. With larger membership bases, these groups may become sustainable over the longer-term.

Recommendation 38: The Township should support one full-time Recreation Coordinator position to handle increased responsibilities and to accommodate the needs and support requirements of volunteer community organizations.

7.2. Recreation Service Boards

RSBs currently play an important role in facilitating recreation program delivery. Attentive to the pulse of their community, each Board maintains contact with local sport, recreation and leisure groups and strives to

serve their needs by providing affordable access to a locally accessible facility. Many Boards also organize special events and fundraisers for capital improvements.

However, RSBs do not currently have a mandate to coordinate recreation programming at a local level. A mandate of this nature would assist each Board to increase the overall utilization of the facilities they manage and would address the need for youth recreation and social programming, including: summer camps and programs; arts and crafts classes; creative cooking classes; dance classes; drawing and painting classes; fitness classes; music and drama classes; and general interest classes (chess, interior design and decorating, first aid, scrap booking).

The Recreation Services Department should provide staff support to assist RSBs to undertake this mandate. A key staff function will be to establish and support an informal *Recreation Service Board Network*. Its purpose would be to provide opportunities for RSBs representatives to share program success stories and exchange ideas. The network may also serve as a vehicle to coordinate and promote leadership and volunteer development and training programs.

RSB representatives indicated that a substantial amount of their volunteer effort is committed to facility planning, maintenance and operations. While RSBs should remain involved in these activities, in our view, the Municipality should assume responsibility for major repairs, cleaning, snow-removal, etc. This will help to ensure a standard level of service among all the Township's community centres. It will also allow volunteer effort to be directed towards recreation program expansion that meets the needs and interests of residents, in addition to attending to the daily upkeep of the facility.

Of course, the design, age, location, and general accessibility of a number of facilities that fall within the mandate of RSBs create barriers for increasing overall utilization. These issues and specific recommendations related to facility improvements and maintenance have been addressed in Chapter Three.

Recommendation 39: The Township should encourage the Recreation Service Boards to routinely meet to share program ideas, coordinate leadership and training programs for current and future members and to assist in the joint-marketing of various programs and services.

Recommendation 40: The Township should include program development and delivery as a designated responsibility of existing Recreation Service Boards and program development support as a general responsibility of the Township.

Recommendation 41: The Recreation Programmer should assist Recreation Service Boards to recruit members with the appropriate range of interests and expertise to effectively fulfill the program delivery objective/mandate.

Recommendation 42: The Township should assume responsibility for major repairs and improvements, and necessary safety and accessibility retrofits of all municipally owned community halls.

8.0 THE RECREATION DELIVERY SYSTEM

The key components of Springwater's recreation and leisure delivery system include: marketing and communications, volunteer development, public oversight, and planning and research. This Chapter describes strategies for further developing each of these components.

8.1 Marketing and Communications

The Recreation Service Department and community-based sport, recreation and social organizations do not currently have a joint method of promoting their facilities and services to residents of Springwater. A coordinated promotion effort such as an annual or semi-annual community guide is a common way municipalities promote recreation and leisure programs and services. The Recreation Services Department should dedicate resources, as available, to coordinate and publish an annual or semi-annual recreation guide. RSBs and services and community organizations (soccer/ball/hockey/figure skating/seniors clubs, etc.) interested in promoting their programs should be required to make significant contributions to this publication. Other information to publish in the guide may include:

- Opportunities to become involved with the RSBs and any of its special committees;
- Opportunities and encouragement to volunteer for recreation programs;
- Information on special events and other community activities;
- Key contacts for information, etc.; and

Recommendation 43: The Township should expand marketing and communication efforts in conjunction with the Recreation Service Boards to inform local residents about upcoming program opportunities and events.

8.2 Volunteer Development

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan should address the way in which the Township will support volunteer-based community organizations that provide recreation, sport and leisure services, as well as the extent and specific nature of the support to be provided, and the purpose or goals of the Department's volunteer development initiatives.

The Township should identify initiatives to support the volunteer sector. Some possible approaches are noted in Table 8.1. Subject to available staff time and resources, these initiatives should be pursued.

Table 8.1: Volunteer Development and Support

Municipal Responsibilities	Approach/Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Standardize procedures for maintaining regular contact with voluntary organizations and for providing administrative and operational assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assistance might involve providing guidance for establishing new groups, helping with promotion and publicity; identifying grants, and preparing funding applications; making arrangements for the use of facilities, etc. ▪ The following mechanisms could ensure communication and contact between the Municipality and volunteer organizations/facility users: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publicize all Recreation Service Board Meetings ▪ Ongoing informal contact through the promotion of the liaison role of the Recreation Programmer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help volunteers to get established in new program areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Find suitable facilities for programs ▪ Assist getting coverage in proposed Recreation Service Board newsletters ▪ Provide "seed money" for initial program development expenses (e.g., to contribute to equipment costs, publicity and organizations costs). This funding would be limited, and volunteers would be expected to match municipal funds. It should be understood that the group is expected to become self-sufficient in an agreed-upon timeframe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage other sectors of the community to support volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage business and service clubs to sponsor volunteer groups to provide specific services (e.g., secretarial, printing, equipment).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage volunteers to participate in training programs to improve effectiveness of their activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investigate the availability of appropriate programs ▪ Investigate interest in training programs among voluntary organizations ▪ Identify other organizations (e.g., the Boards of Education, Library Board) interested in offering joint programs

Recommendation 44: The Department should undertake initiatives to guide its relationship with and support to the volunteer sector.

8.3 The Recreation Advisory Committee

The Recreation Advisory Committee has responsibility of advising Council on all recreation and culture matters. In addition to its existing activities, the Recreation Advisory Committee should be involved in the implementation of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan and assisting the Recreation Services Department implement recommendations that have broad implications for increasing the level of public involvement in the Township's leisure system. This should include the proposed establishment of the Recreation Service Board Network and the suggested volunteer development initiatives.

Recommendation 45: The Recreation Advisory Committee should be involved in the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and assisting the Recreation Services Department implement recommendations that have broad implications for increasing the level of public involvement in the Townships leisure system.

8.4 Planning and Research

Currently, the Township has limited capability to monitor existing operations or anticipate future needs because information is not compiled and updated on a regular basis. A solid information base is a pre-requisite for informed and constructive decision-making both by staff and Council. In view of the limited staff resources that will be available for this function, we recognize that simple procedures must be put in place for compiling information. The following activities would appear appropriate:

- Annually update the inventory of recreation facilities and parkland;
- Implement a standard reporting system for RSBs to provide their “vital statistics”, including number of program registrations, permit hours, etc;
- Receive annual program usage statistics from the City of Barrie to assess the cost-benefit of the existing agreement; and
- Keep up-to-date mailing and email lists of all known community organizations that deliver or coordinate recreation and leisure programs.

These tasks will contribute to an ongoing database useful for planning and decision-making. It would also be valuable to occasionally (every 3 years) attempt to collect more broadly based community input on parks and recreation needs. Community meetings hosted by the Township and/or a short questionnaire (similar to those used for the Master Plan) for community groups are vehicles that could be used for this purpose.

Recommendation 46: The Township should maintain a simple database of facility use statistics for planning and decision-making.

8.5 Partnerships

Partnerships represent opportunities to maximize the value of recreation services through the efficient use of resources. In addition to supporting major sport and recreation organizations, the Recreation Services Department also manages two formal partnership agreements, each of which are discussed below.

8.5.1 Non-Resident User Fee Agreement with the City of Barrie

The non-resident user fee agreement between Springwater and Barrie demonstrates a mutually-beneficial partnership that provides Springwater residents access to aquatic, arena and general leisure services at facilities in Barrie that the Municipality would otherwise be unable to provide. Springwater residents also receive the City of Barrie's Recreation and Leisure Community Guide bi-annually. Springwater contributes directly to the cost of these services and presumably Springwater residents are ensuring capacity use of Barrie facilities and providing user fees. This has been a mutually beneficial partnership and the agreement should be renewed and the possibility of extending the agreement to 2010 should be explored to maximize residents' access to recreational facilities and services.

Recommendation 47: The Township of Springwater should negotiate a renewal of the non-resident user fee agreement with the City of Barrie in 2008.

Recommendation 48: The Township of Springwater should monitor Springwater residents' participation in leisure programs in Barrie by requesting quarterly statistic reports from the City.

8.5.2 Springwater-Tiny Township Joint-use Agreement Regarding the Elmvale Community Arena

In 1994, The Township of Springwater and the Township of Tiny agreed to a 10-year capital arrangement to renovate the Elmvale Community Arena. Tiny Township contributed \$100,000 for initial arena capital upgrades and \$2,750 per year over 10 years for ongoing capital maintenance. The agreement entitled Tiny residents to the same user rights as Springwater residents. Tiny Township is also entitled to appoint a full voting member to the Arena Advisory Committee. The agreement expired in 2004.

Approximately 12% of the total membership of arena user groups, as reported by respondents to the Sport and Recreation User Group Questionnaire, were Tiny Township residents. Actual use by Tiny Township residents is more likely between 15-20% of total use when considering groups that did not respond to the questionnaire.

This level of use is significant, particularly given that there is outstanding demand for ice time from Springwater resident user groups. The Township of Springwater should negotiate an arrangement whereby Tiny Township would contribute operating costs proportionate to ice use, with any surplus generated to be directed a designated fund for future arena capital projects.

Recommendation 49: The Township of Springwater should negotiate an arena user fee agreement with the Tiny Township whereby Tiny Township would contribute operating costs proportionate to use.

9.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This chapter describes the timing and possible cost implications of the recommendations in the report.

Table 9.1 indicates a general priority for recommendations. Those that address an immediate need or correct a current problem are high priorities (H) and should be acted upon immediately. Medium (M) priorities should be addressed in the next two to three years. Low (L) priorities deal with long-range needs or are policy issues that can be addressed over time. These recommendations may not be acted upon until the latter stages of the Plan's implementation. In a number of cases, the recommendations support ongoing activities or the status quo. A priority is not assigned in these cases.

The cost estimates are very general estimates to be confirmed with further study. Land acquisition costs are not included in these estimates. All costs exclude grants, community fund-raising or other contributions.

Table 9.1 Timing and Estimated Costs

#	Priority	Estimated Cost (If applicable)	Comments
A Recreation Service Delivery Model			
1	High		Early adoption of the service delivery model will provide a context for implementing the recommendations identified in this long-term plan.
Indoor Recreation Facilities			
2	Medium		Information required for Multi-purpose Centre/Arena feasibility study in Springwater
3	Low	\$4-5M (for ice surface only)	
4			This recommendation suggests the Township should assume responsibility for major repairs and maintenance (i.e., snow ploughing)

Table 9.1 Timing and Estimated Costs

#	Priority	Estimated Cost (If applicable)	Comments
5	High - Medium	\$137,000	Appendix A describes capital conservation projects that should be undertaken at each facility over the next 10 years. These projects were identified through visual assessments. A detailed report was provided. Recommendations that address current code deficiencies, safety issues or building integrity are high priorities.
6	Medium	\$1-2M replacement cost	Proceeds from the sale of this facility/property should be allocated to future recreation facility projects and held in a reserve fund until such time as the funds are required.
7	Low	Library \$1-2M	We did not consider the need for or costs associated with provide a new Township Office. However, if the Township were to provide a new facility, an ideal site would be the Tree Nursery Sport Complex.
8		\$40,000	
9	Medium	\$30-50,000	We understand that resources have been set-aside for this project.
10			

Table 9.1 Timing and Estimated Costs

#	Priority	Estimated Cost (If applicable)	Comments
11			The Township should retain the Knox Building for Council Chamber meeting purposes in the North Service Area. The need for this facility should be re-evaluated prior to the development of a new recreation facility and possible Township Office in the South Service Area.
Outdoor Recreation Facilities			
12			The Township of Springwater does not require additional ball diamonds over the life of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
13	Low		The Township of Springwater should not develop additional ball diamonds at the Tree Nursery Sports Park during the period of the master plan unless supported by a new information indicating renewed demand.
14	Low		The Township of Springwater should plan for two additional soccer fields over the life of the Master Plan. Possible field lighting costs should be user supported but largely municipally financed.
15	High		The Recreation Services Department should facilitate efforts to establish competitive youth and adult soccer programs to maximize the utilization of the Township's existing facilities.
16	High	Financed by community fundraising	The Township of Springwater should support one public natural rink in an appropriate size public park within each major settlement area providing a volunteer group maintains the ice surface.
17	High	\$15-45,000 per structure	The Recreation Service Department should ensure playgrounds structures are regularly inspected and maintained to CSA standards. The Municipality should replace those that do not meet CSA standards and where there is a demonstrate need for these facilities. Park reserve funds should be used to upgrade or provide new playground structures where appropriate. As of November 2004, approximately \$287,000 is available in park reserve funds (Elmvale, Flos, Vespra and Medonte)

Table 9.1 Timing and Estimated Costs

#	Priority	Estimated Cost (If applicable)	Comments
18			In the future playgrounds should only be provided in new development areas in response to demonstrated demand and in local or community municipal parks designed and developed in accordance with the recommended park classification system.
19			The Township of Springwater should not provide additional tennis courts during the life of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Future capital improvement projects at the Doran Park Tennis Facility should be user financed.
20			The Recreation Services Department should continue to support the mobile skate park project as long as levels of use justify the service.
21	Medium	\$150-250,000 for new permanent park	Subject to continued demand for skateboarding, the Township should develop a permanent skateboard park at the Tree Nursery Sports Complex when the multi-purpose facility is developed.
Parks and Open Space			
22	High		The Township should adopt a three-tier classification system as outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the purposes of future parks planning and development.
23	High		The proposed park classification system should be used as a guideline for future park development. In particular, if new parkland is considered in the future, the guidelines should be used to evaluate minimum park size, connectivity, functions, design requirements, etc.
24			The Township's current supply of parkland will meet the community's needs for the period of the Master Plan and no additional parkland should be acquired except in cases where new residential developments are not served by existing park and open space resources.

Table 9.1 Timing and Estimated Costs

#	Priority	Estimated Cost (If applicable)	Comments
25			
<p>The Township should only acquire Local parks as required to meet the needs of proposed new subdivisions and of an appropriate size and design to conform to the Park Classification System. If this is not possible, or new subdivisions are appropriately served with existing parkland, cash should be taken in lieu of parkland dedications.</p>			
26	High		
<p>The Township of Springwater should reduce its overall supply of parkland. By 2021, the Township of Springwater should provide a total of 7.0 acres of parkland (excluding Special Open Space) per 1,000 respectively.</p>			
27	High		
<p>The Township of Springwater should identify and dispose of surplus parkland parcels based on the criteria suggested in the Master Plan.</p>			
28	Medium	Source of Revenue; Amounts to be determined but could be significant	This will generate revenues that can be reinvested in the parks system.
29			
<p>The Township should adopt a comprehensive policy statement governing the assembly of parkland in new residential developments. The policy should indicate when parkland will be taken and the general conditions surrounding the type and condition of parkland to be assembled.</p>			
30	High		
<p>The Township should demonstrate environmental responsibility through the development and adoption of environmentally sound policies and practices for use in the planning, development and management of parks and recreation facilities, wherever possible and practicable.</p>			

Table 9.1 Timing and Estimated Costs

#	Priority	Estimated Cost (If applicable)	Comments
31	High		The Township should continue to collaborate with Conservation Authorities and other agencies and environmental and community groups to identify priorities and implement a program for restoration of degraded natural areas.
32	Medium		The Township should investigate and develop programs, strategies and materials for promoting public awareness and education on the values of urban ecological practices, responsible use of natural areas, public accountability and environmental stewardship, in collaboration with other departments and agencies.
33	High	\$50,000	The Township of Springwater should undertake a Recreational Trails Master Plan which examines opportunities for and feasibility of an interconnected system of valley land, greenway walking, multi-use trails, road-based cycling routes, and neighbourhood walkways. The budget for the study will depend on the Terms of Reference and anticipated scope
34	High		The Township of Springwater should establish a Trail Development Committee to assist in the development and implementation of the Recreational Trails Master Plan.
Recreation Programming			
35	High		The Township should increase the supply of programming available to community residents through expanded facilitation efforts with the Recreation Service Boards and municipal wide community organizations.
36	High		The Recreation Coordinator should assist Recreation Service Boards to increase the utilization of municipal recreation facilities.

Table 9.1 Timing and Estimated Costs

#	Priority	Estimated Cost (If applicable)	Comments
37	High		
The Township should assist interested community sport and recreation organizations to amalgamate into municipal-wide organizations, where appropriate. With larger membership bases, these groups may become sustainable over the longer-term.			
38	High	Increased staff costs	Increased staff time is required to implement the program and service recommendations in the Plan. This investment will be recouped with additional programs; program revenue; community funding and external grants.
The Township should plan for one full-time Recreation Coordinator position to handle increased responsibilities and to accommodate the needs and support requirements of volunteer community organizations.			
39	Medium		
The Township should encourage the Recreation Service Boards to routinely meet to share program ideas, coordinate leadership and training programs for current and future members and to assist in the joint-marketing of various programs and services.			
40	High		
The Township should include program development and delivery as a designated responsibility of existing Recreation Service Boards and program development support as a general responsibility of the Township.			
41	High		
The Recreation Programmer should assist Recreation Service Boards to recruit members with the appropriate range of interests and expertise to effectively fulfill the program delivery objective/mandate.			
42	High-Medium	Total costs for identified projects: \$137,000	Costs described in Appendix A.
The Township should assume responsibility for major repairs and improvements, and necessary safety and accessibility retrofits of all municipally owned community halls.			

Table 9.1 Timing and Estimated Costs

#	Priority	Estimated Cost (If applicable)	Comments
The Recreation Delivery System			
43	High	Ongoing costs \$5-10,000 annually	The Township should expand marketing and communication efforts in conjunction with the Recreation Service Boards to inform local residents about upcoming program opportunities and events.
44	High		The Department should undertake initiatives to guide its relationship with and support to the volunteer sector.
45	High		The Recreation Advisory Committee should be involved in the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and assisting the Recreation Services Department implement recommendations that have broad implications for increasing the level of public involvement in the Townships leisure system.
46	Medium		The Township should maintain a simple database of facility use statistics for planning and decision-making.
47	Low		The Township of Springwater should negotiate a renewal of the non-resident user fee agreement with the City of Barrie in 2008.
48	High		The Township of Springwater should monitor Springwater residents' participation in leisure programs in Barrie by requesting quarterly statistic reports from the City.
49	High		The Township of Springwater should negotiate an arena user fee agreement with the Tiny Township whereby Tiny Township would contribute operating costs proportionate to use.

Appendix A: Community Centre Capital Projects and Estimated Costs

Community Centre Capital Projects and Estimated Costs		
	Estimated Cost	Total
Hillsdale		
Reroofing	\$21,000	
Window replacement	\$4,000	
Possible Enclosed Ramp with Powered Door	\$30,000	\$85,000
Possible Sewage Disposal work	\$30,000	
Anten Mills		
Modify Entry Door Levels to Code	\$1,000	
Ongoing basement work is funded	\$0	\$1,000
Minesing		
Refurbishment of Hall Flooring	\$8,000	\$8,000
Grenfel		
Water System Treatment	\$15-30,000	
Possible Furnace Replacement	\$3,000	
Refinish Wainscotting	\$1,500	
Replace Rear Exit Door to Code	\$1,500	
Refinish Exterior Metal Cladding	\$5,000	\$66-81,000
Possible Sewage Disposal Work	\$15,000	
Exterior Wood Ramp and Unisex Accessible	\$25,000	
Washroom inside existing building		
Total		\$160-175,000

Appendix B: Parkland Inventory by Classification

Table B1. Township of Springwater Inventory by Park Classification

Park Name	Acres	Subtotal/Total (Acres)
Park Classification: Local Parks		
Tower Park	0.20	
Robison Park	0.89	
Bishop Park	1.10	
Homer Barrett Park	5.60	
Orr Lake Park	0.50	
Highlands of Hillsdale	0.82	
Forest of Hillsdale	2.10	
Valender Park	3.12	
O'Neill Park	3.60	
Wagner Park	1.70	
Harry Adams Memorial Park	1.94	
Spruce Grove Park	2.00	
Edenvale Ball Diamond	2.03	
Foyston Park	4.40	
Vespra Downs	1.28	
Glenbrook Subdivision	2.01	
Stonegate Park	3.57	
Paddy Dunn Park	1.00	
Cherry Park	1.40	
Cowdray Park	1.40	
Green Pine Park	4.00	
Marni Lane Park	0.50	
Edenvale Park	0.27	
Holloway Park	6.00	
Hendrie Ridge, Anten Mills (F)	1.20	
Glenbrook Heights (F)	2.02	
Pro-Elm Estates (F)	1.66	
Springwater Country Estates (F)	1.03	
Huronian Equestrian Estates (F)	3.26	
Walton Subdivision (F)	3.50	
	Sub Total	66.33
Park Classification: Community Parks		
Hillsdale Community Park	10.00	
Memorial Park (Minesign)	0.75	
Anten Mills Community Park	4.40	
Snow Valley Park	3.10	
Grenfel Community Park	5.30	
Midhurst Community Park	1.80	
Doran Park	35.00	
Tree Nursery Sports Park	75.00	
	Sub Total	135.35
Park Classification: Special Open Space Areas		

Heritage Park	7.45	
Edenvale Conservation Area	13.00	
Buckley Street, Phelpston	0.84	
Crystal Waters Subdivision	4.64	
Hamelville	2.70	
Jodies Lane, Midhurst	2.10	
North Orr Lake Road	12.83	
Park Trail Hilltop, Midhurst	3.16	
Sherwood Hill, Midhurst	5.18	
Willow Creek Valley	17.50	
	Sub Total	69.40
<hr/>		
	TOTAL	271.08

Note: (F) refers to known 'Future Parks' that have been accepted by the Township and are at various stages of development.