



What We Learned Report

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

May 2023





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1.0 Introduction



1.0 Introduction

Situated in the south-eastern portion of the province, Yorkton is home to 16,000¹ residents making it the 6th largest city in the province. The city's population is expected to surpass 25,000 by the year of 2040².

The City, along with many community organizations and partners offer parks and recreation opportunities to residents and visitors alike. These services provide multiple ways for residents and visitors to maintain their overall well-being. People who participate in recreation are healthier, more connected to their communities and less likely to participate in negative behaviours. Recreational spaces and parks in communities also enhance residents' sense of pride and can in turn have positive effects on the environment.

It is for all of these reasons and more that the City of Yorkton invests in parks and recreation services. Residents have come to expect a high level of provision whether it is facilities and spaces or programs. The desires and preferences from residents are diverse and shift over time. This is reflected in the use of facilities and spaces as well as the demands from residents. As well, infrastructure ages and is costly. It is because of these dynamics and the importance of parks and recreation services, that the City is undertaking a planning process. This process results in a Parks and Recreation Master Plan which provides a deliberate and evidence-based plan for the provision of these key services.

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to provide an overall framework to guide the delivery and continuous improvement of parks and recreation programs, services, and facilities. The Plan recognizes the position of the City in the parks and recreation delivery system and acknowledges the costs (both financial and non) to provide these important services. While these services are critical they may also be costly so their provision needs to be sustainable.

¹- <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/search-recherche/productresults-resultatsproduits-eng.cfm?LANG=E&GEOCODE=2021A00054709012>

² <https://www.yorkton.ca/en/build-invest-and-grow/community-profile-demographics-and-statistics.aspx>



Photo from City of Yorkton Facebook

2.0 Report Structure

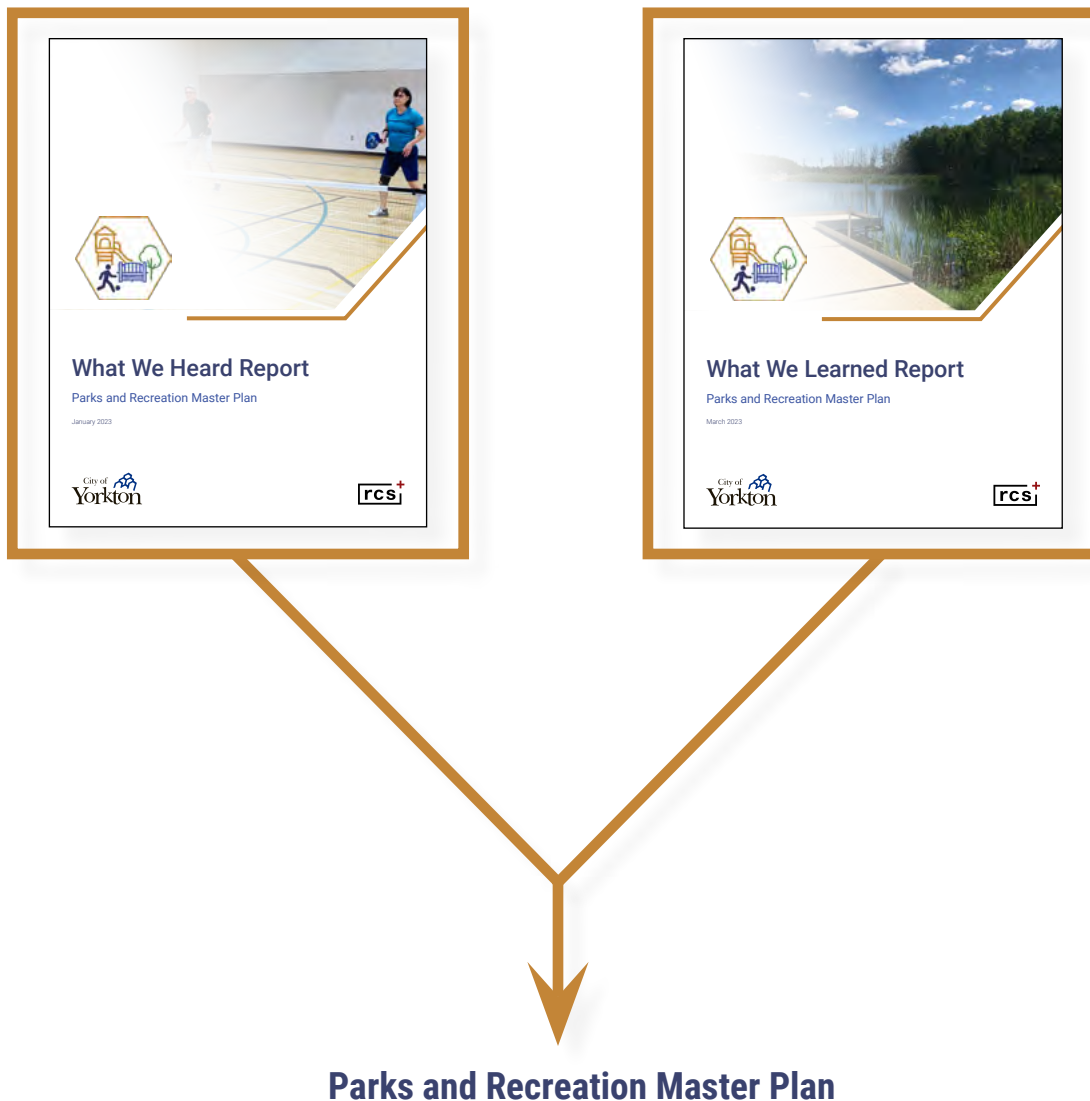


2.0 Report Structure

The Plan is built upon a thorough program of research that includes the following components:

- Community demographics;
- Trends and leading practices in parks and recreation provision;
- Policy and planning review;
- Inventory and utilization assessment;
- Benchmarking; and
- Service review.

These components are included in this “What We Learned” report. Community engagement is also a critical input in the development of the Master Plan. A thorough program of engagement was implemented through this process as well. The findings from it are presented under a separate cover, “What We Heard”.



3.0 Benefits of Recreation



Photo from City of Yorkton

A key question when undertaking a parks and recreation master plan is... why?

The strongest argument for investing in parks and recreation in a community is that it benefits almost everyone. There is an abundance of research around the importance of parks and recreation that can answer the 'why'. Research demonstrates the many benefits that communities may experience by investing in parks and recreation. Some of those benefits include:

- Improved health outcomes for all ages
- Longer life expectancies
- Improved mental health
- Deeper sense of community connection
- Economic and environmental impacts

Benefits of Parks and Recreation



4.0 Community Profile



Photo from City of Yorkton

4.0 Community Profile

The City of Yorkton is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Cree, Saulteux, Dakota, Lakota, Nakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis, and home to over 16,000 residents in southeastern Saskatchewan. Indigenous people have inhabited the land for generations and will continue to positively impact the community. The city was founded in 1882 when settlers received a charter and received their first post office in 1884. The 1891 railway expansion westward from Manitoba facilitated the growing population to Yorkton, as many people from Eastern Canada, British Isles, Ukraine, and Russia moved to the area to begin homesteading³. Yorkton became an official city in 1928⁴.

Yorkton is the 6th largest city within Saskatchewan and is located along Highway 16 between Saskatoon and Winnipeg, which helps act as a central hub for the area. Furthermore, Yorkton is strongly connected to the rest of the province, the country, and the world by two main train lines, an airport, and highways 10, 52, and 9, which have helped to create a robust trading area for its size, which is an estimated 113,000⁵ people. Additionally, there are eight elementary schools and three high schools in the Good Spirit School Division and Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools. There is also one college (Parkland College), and combined these schools provide strong education opportunities for residents of Yorkton.

The city boasts a strong network of recreation opportunities which is a major draw to both its residents and people interested in moving to Yorkton. The city is home to more than just physical recreation amenities, and includes two-disc golf courses, cross country ski trails, golf course, cultural centre, community centre, library, and a walking trail system. There are also over 150 recreation and culture groups.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Yorkton is the 6th largest City in Saskatchewan.
- Yorkton has a robust trading area which is estimated to service 113,000 people
- There is an abundance of education opportunities for Youth in Yorkton.
- The City has a strong network of indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- The City is projecting a growth of 25,000 residents by 2040.
- Yorkton has the third highest Indigenous population in the province with a population of 1,935.
- The largest sector of employment within Yorkton is sales and service, employing 30% of the workforce.

YORKTON RECREATION AMENITIES



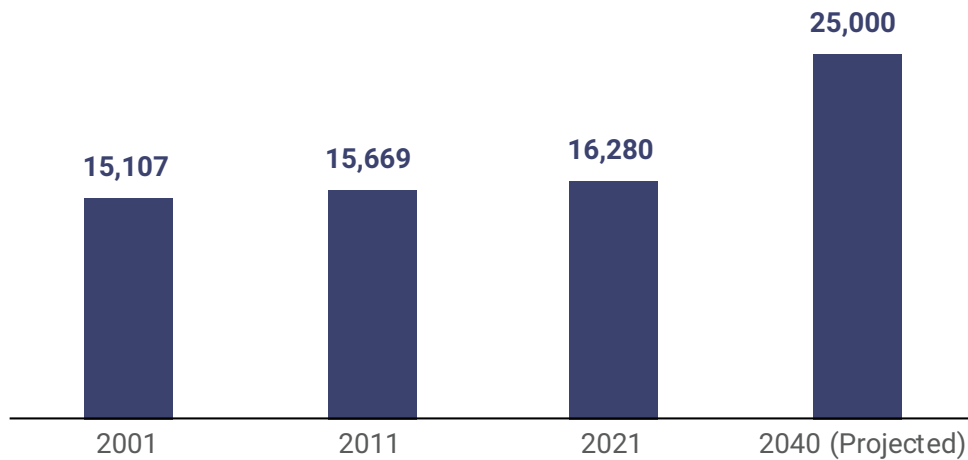
³ Yorkton Official Community Plan. (2014)

⁴ Yorkton Community Profile. (2015)

⁵ <https://www.yorkton.ca/en/build-invest-and-grow/commercial-and-retail.aspx>

The 2021 census data highlighted a population of 16,280 residents⁶. Looking forward to the year 2040 the population is anticipated to be 25,000 which is a growth of 54%. Refer to the graph.

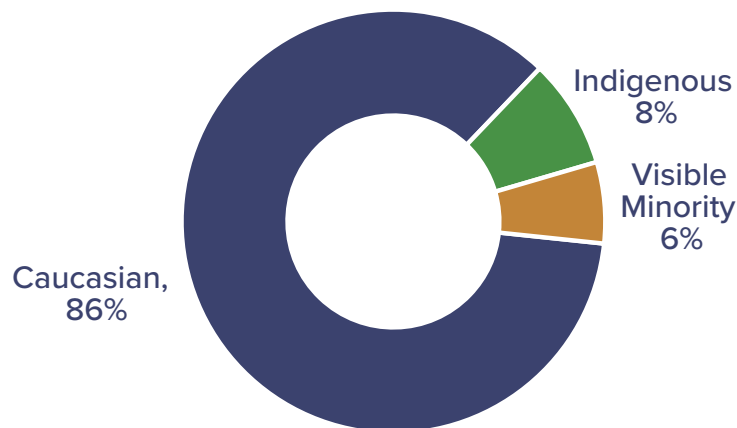
Yorkton City Population



4.1 Demographics of Population

Of the cities in Saskatchewan, Yorkton has the third highest concentration of Indigenous residents (a population of 1,935), trailing only behind Prince Albert and North Battleford⁴. In 2016, there were 1,440 visible minorities, not including Indigenous residents. The majority of this group were from the Filipino community, as there was 615 people who identified with this ethnic group⁴. Yorkton has 6 surrounding Indigenous communities that include the Key First Nation, Keeseekoose First Nation, Cote First Nation, Zagime Anishinabek First Nations, and the Ocean Man First Nation. These communities are represented by the Yorkton Tribal Council in which they work with each community to provide programs and services that enrich the well being and health of their people. The city expects the immigration numbers to grow as the city continues expanding in future years.

Demographics of Yorkton



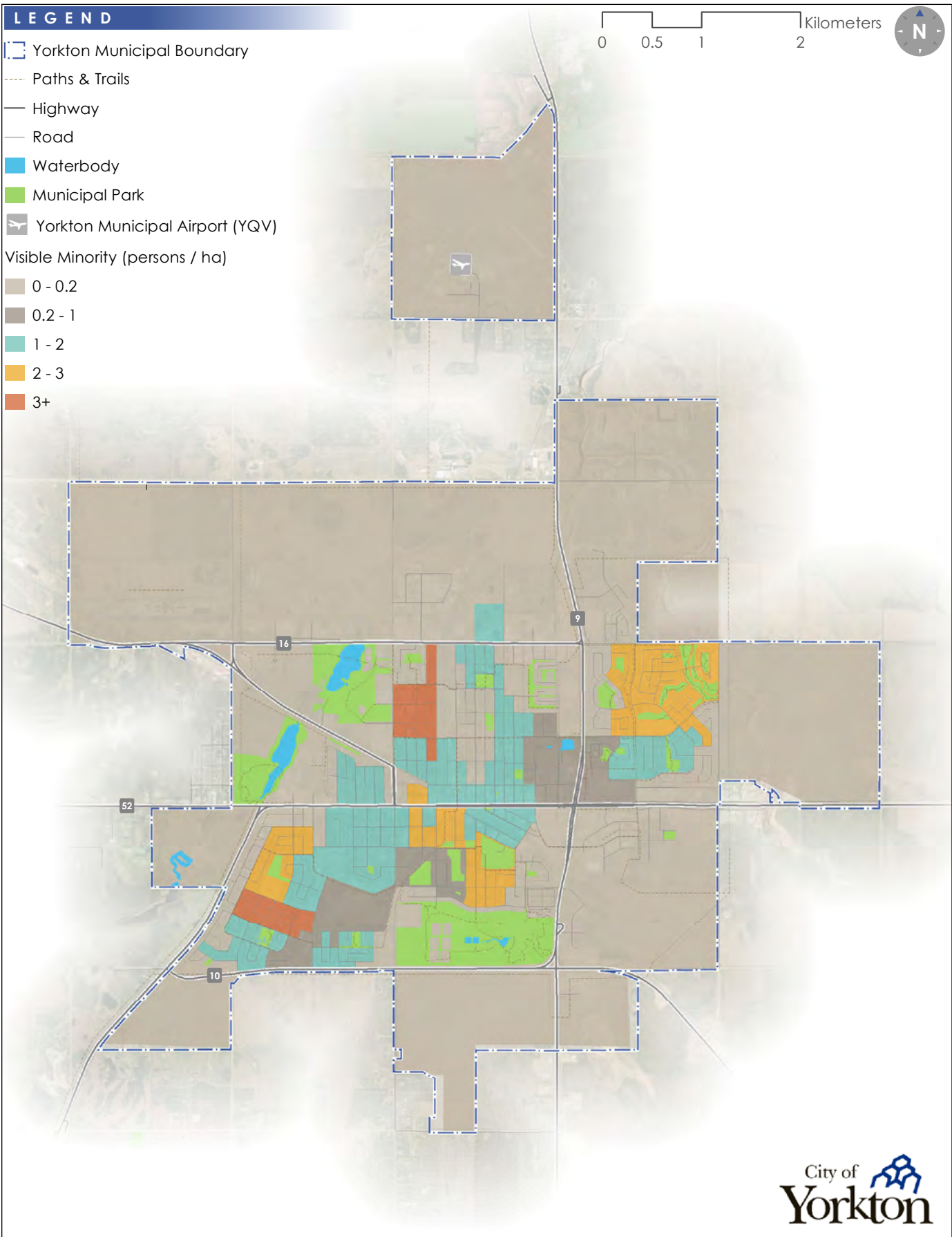
⁶ <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/search-recherche/productresults-resultatsproduits-eng.cfm?LANG=E&GEOCODE=2021A00054709012>

LEGEND

-  Yorkton Municipal Boundary
-  Paths & Trails
-  Highway
-  Road
-  Waterbody
-  Municipal Park
-  Yorkton Municipal Airport (YQV)

Visible Minority (persons / ha)

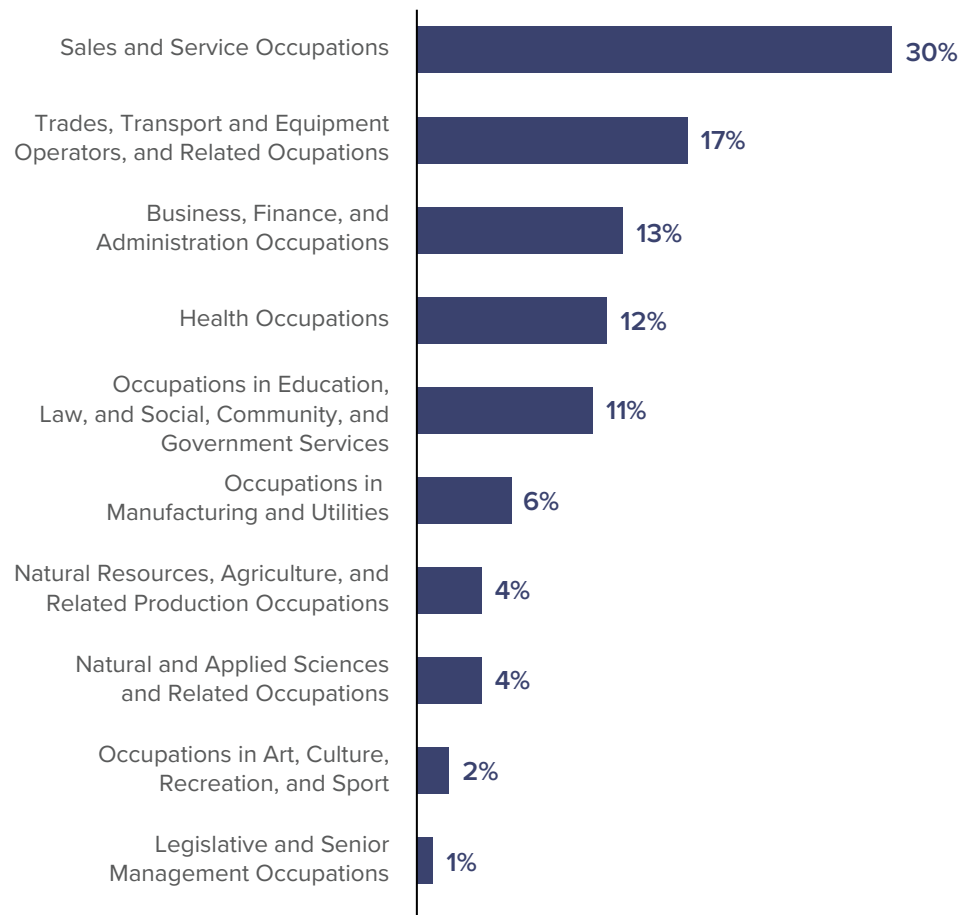
-  0 - 0.2
-  0.2 - 1
-  1 - 2
-  2 - 3
-  3+



4.2 Education and Employment

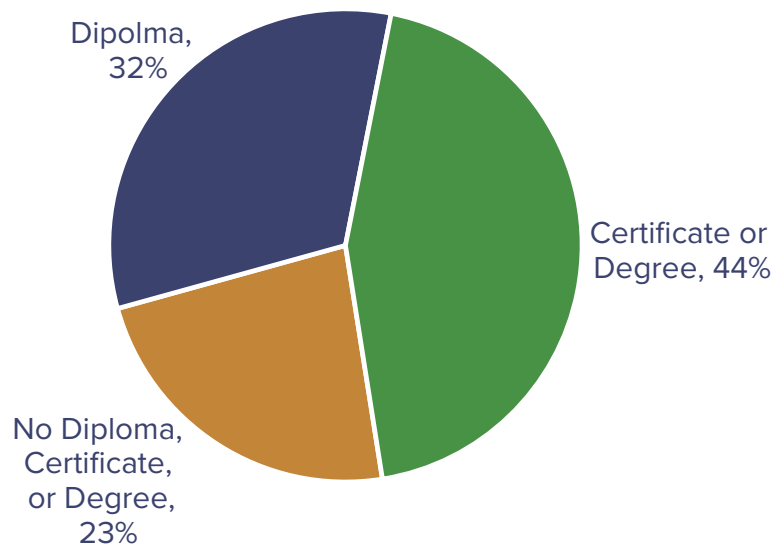
The largest sector of employment within Yorkton is sales and service, employing 30% of the workforce. This is followed by 16% who work in the trades, and 12% in business and finance. In addition, 88% of the population work within the municipality and 12% work outside of the metropolitan area.

Employment Sector in Yorkton



Regarding education attainment in Yorkton, approximately half of residents have a certificate or degree (44%), while approximately one third of residents have attained a diploma.

Education Attainment 15+



4.3 Housing and Family

The residential home price benchmark rose to \$213,600 in 2021, and the average home was on the market for 59 days, which is lower than both last year and the 5-year market average, indicating a possible higher interest in Yorkton as a place of residence⁷. The 2016 census highlighted an average household income of \$81,915, which is lower than the provincial average of \$93,942⁸.

⁷ Yorkton. Yorkton Demographic Statistics. (2022). <https://www.yorkton.ca/en/build-invest-and-grow/community-profile-demographics-and-statistics.aspx>

⁸ The Canadian Real Estate Association. Yorkton. (2022). <https://creastats.crea.ca/board/sra-yton>

5.0 Trends and Leading Practices in Parks and Recreation



5.0 Trends and Leading Practices in Parks and Recreation

This section presents a summary review of service delivery, participation, and infrastructure trends related to both parks and recreation. These trends are broadly affecting the sector but have also been selected in consideration of the Yorkton context.

5.1 Data Collection

Parks and recreation departments are increasingly utilizing data to understand user behaviors, needs, preferences, and desires.

According to the National Parks and Recreation Association's Survey⁹ of parks and recreation professionals, more than 90% of respondents (in leadership roles) identified data collection and analysis as important or very important for activities such as master planning, capital investments, programming, and to support staff. However, not every municipality is collecting data and no two municipalities collect data using the same methods. Respondents identified facility usage data, program utilization data, demographic trends, crime data, and school enrollment as important data sources for decision-making.

In terms of methods for collecting data, surveying residents and users is the most common approach. For facility usage, some municipalities have staff manually count visitors and others use automated methods such as scanning user cards. Other departments that may be collecting useful data include public works or utilities, police and fire departments, and transportation departments. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are also becoming frequently used within the sector to understand where users live, what amenities are available to whom, and to identify gaps and opportunities geospatially.



Photo from City of Yorkton Facebook

KEY TAKEAWAYS -

- Data collection is an important tactic municipalities are utilizing to understand needs, preferences, and desires of users.
- Recognizing the role of recreation in Truth and Reconciliation efforts and how the sector can continue moving forward in a positive way.
- Reiterating the importance of belonging in community and the role parks and recreation can play in creating safe and welcoming spaces.
- There is an increased demand for older adult participation in parks and recreation activities. Older adults are steering away from the traditional activities and are taking part in trending activities such as pickleball. Ensuring there is space for this generation of people to participate is important.
- Spontaneous recreation has increased postpandemic and there is increased demand in facilities to have time scheduled for drop-in and spontaneous activities.

⁹ <https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/f768428a39aa4035ae55b2aaff372617/data-analysis-park-and-recreation.pdf>

5.2 Equality and Inclusion

There is increasing cultural awareness regarding the systemic nature of racism and the structural inequalities that exist within society. In Canada, the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was fundamental in highlighting and exposing historical and ongoing structural flaws within society that perpetuate racism and harm towards Indigenous populations.

Like most sectors, municipalities and other public entities that provide recreation services are in the midst of evaluating their own history in perpetuating historical inequalities and future solutions that can address these issues. The recreation sector is uniquely positioned to foster inclusiveness and provide a platform to help blunt racism, prejudice, and inequality. Identified below are initiatives that are being undertaken by leading organizations in the sector.

viaSport

has identified inclusion as a key focus area and has developed a number of free or low cost resources focused on fostering increased diversity and opportunity for women and girls, persons with disabilities, the LGBTQI2S Community, marginalized youth, Indigenous people, individuals that are socio-economically disadvantaged, newcomers to Canada, individuals from rural / remote / isolated regions, and older adults.¹⁰

SPARC BC (The Social Planning and Research Council of B.C.)

has published or co-developed a wealth of resources on inclusion and access. One of these documents, *Everybody's Welcome: A Social Inclusion Approach to Program Planning and Development for Parks and Recreation Services* was developed in conjunction with the British Columbia Parks and Recreation Association and provided the sector with a formative resource that helped generate a greater understanding of what inclusion means and how to undertake actions that can foster it within public facilities and spaces.⁹

Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (Parks and Recreation Create a Sense of Belonging and Connection Survey)

surveyed the province in March 2022 on inclusive gathering and feeling a sense of belonging in parks and recreation in their communities. Respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with two statements. The first statement was "Parks and recreation create opportunities and spaces for inclusive gathering". Almost all respondents (88%) agreed with the statement, while half of respondents strongly agreed with the statement. The second statement presented was "Recreation opportunities and spaces create a sense of belonging in our communities". Again, almost all respondents (89%) agreed with the statement, while half (50%) strongly agreed. The survey gave SPRA insight into the importance of parks and recreation to communities in the province and how they bring communities together through programs, events, and socialization.¹¹

¹⁰ www.viasport.ca/inclusion

¹¹ <https://www.spra.sk.ca/Blog/create-belonging-connection-Mar2022/>

5.3 Older Adult Participation in Recreation Activities

There is an increase of aging population who are retiring and thus we are seeing longer periods of retirement. The many “traditional” activities such as swimming, fitness classes, and low impact activities are still very popular amongst the older adult population. However, there has been an increase in demand for moderately vigorous forms of physical activity and multigenerational programs. The emergence of pickleball and aqua fitness classes are examples of activities where popularity is driven by older adult populations. More over, due to the increase in retirees, recreation facilities have seen an increase in demand by these groups.

5.4 Spontaneous Recreation

There is growing demand for flexibility in activities and timing for leisure activities amongst the population. People are seeking individual activities that can be done alone or in small group settings at flexible times and usually near home. This trend does not completely eliminate the need for structured activities but may suggest that planning for the general population is as important as planning structured programs. Spontaneous recreation is described as physical activities in which the activities, nature of participation, and timing of participation are freely chosen and do not require registration for structured programs and/or leagues.



Photo from City of Yorkton

6.0

Policy and Planning Foundations



6.0 Policy and Planning Foundations

This section provides a review of planning and policy documents that influence the provision of parks and recreation service delivery in Yorkton. These documents serve as the foundation for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The documents have been categorized by topic area. Key findings from each area are highlighted and summaries are provided below.

6.1 Strategic Policy

Key Takeaways

Strategic policy refers to documents that pertain to overarching long-term planning documents. These provide high level direction to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and help depict how recreation fits with other municipal services. Key takeaways from these that relate to recreation services include the importance of a healthy city, the population growth and requirements to expand recreation service capacity, and emphasis of green space such as walking trails.

Policy or Plan	Summary of Important Information
Yorkton 2020 Strategic Plan (2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic plan that was developed through consultation with residences providing a 10-year vision for the municipality • Outlined important policy goals including the cultivation of a healthy city, assessment of critical infrastructure, promotion of economic development, encourage EDI practices, sustainability, increase access to technology, improve lifelong education opportunities, and engage the community through future policy development
City of Yorkton Official Community Plan Background Report (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzed existing conditions pertaining to the physical environment, economy, population, infrastructure, land development, and policies • Outlined community cultural spaces within the municipality • Highlighted local recreation opportunities such as the campground, golf courses, casino, Gallagher Centre, art gallery, film festival, and airport
City of Yorkton Master Plan (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning document outlining the goals, objectives, and policies that the municipality should align with for service delivery and future development • Yorkton was to be viewed as a trade hub in Eastern Saskatchewan supporting up to 150,000 in the trade area • It was predicted that the population would double by 2036 and greater investment into housing, recreation, and cultural amenities would be required to support the growth • Mixed use developments were considered an important feature of future infrastructure to integrate workplaces and housing • There was an emphasize on healthy communities, green space, and the development of a continuous walking path within the city • 7 opportunities and challenges emerged including: available serviced land for housing and businesses, affordable housing, improvements to transportation infrastructure, flood mitigation, inter-municipal relationships, aquifer protection, and environmental sustainability

6.2 Socio-Demographic and Housing

Key Takeaways

Socio-demographic and housing includes documents pertaining to understanding the population trends and issues of those who live in Yorkton. These influence the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as they identify segments of the population that may be currently underserved in the short and long term. Highlights from these documents include an aging population, the presence of Indigenous communities, the need for investment in housing, and the importance of partnerships that bridge stakeholder groups.

Policy or Plan	Summary of Important Information
Yorkton Municipal Culture Plan (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan developed by Yorkton and Saskculture aimed to increase the social conviviality of city spaces while also embracing distinct cultural elements • Identified Strengths: Quality of life, regional hub, diversity, quantity and quality of attractions, volunteerism, municipal support for various groups • Identified Weaknesses: Lack of recognition of attractions, lack of coordination between stakeholders, aging volunteers, lack of cultural policy • Identified Opportunities: Increase partnerships between various stakeholders, develop a cultural policy, momentum for improved quality of life, communication and marketing for attractions, develop greater community support • Identified Constraints: Complacency, competition between groups for funding, event coordination between stakeholders, lacking a long-term vision • Action items: Develop partnerships between stakeholders, strategic communication, engage youth, build bridges with Indigenous groups, improve space utilization, continue to cultivate events and local attractions
Yorkton Area Demographic Market Segments Supplement Report (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified population trends such as a higher concentration of seniors and people who identify as aboriginal than both provincial and national averages • Immigrants only represent 3.6% of the population • The smallest population segments reported were 0-14- and 15-24 years old
Yorkton Community Housing Plan (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined strategies for addressing housing infrastructure gaps based on community demographics including enhancing the range of affordable housing • Highlights need to address housing for the growing senior population • Proposed capitalizing on Yorkton’s recreational spaces to attract newcomers to the city



Photo from City of Yorkton Facebook

6.3 Recreation Infrastructure

Key Takeaways

Recreation infrastructure refers to both the physical infrastructure and recreation services delivered by the municipality. These documents provide an understanding of the current state of recreation service delivery. Within the documents, it was evident that new recreation infrastructure should be planned with multifunction capabilities to allow for more programming options.

Policy or Plan	Summary of Important Information
Yorkton Kinsmen Arena Facility Assessment and Feasibility Study (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical condition of the arena built in the 1970s was good Utility updates were recommended such as the installation of a sprinkler system, improved ventilation, electrical and others that were not code compliant Limited ability to retrofit or repurpose due to the low roof Potential activities included cheer, dance, gymnastics, wrestling, martial arts, archery, soccer (U11), lacrosse (U10), baseball training – pitching or a batting cage
Yorkton Recreation Planning Study City Council Presentation (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examined indoor recreation infrastructure, future needs, and community consultation Feedback suggested the city needed another ice surface, renovations to the current rinks change rooms, indoor turf, and increased partnerships among sport stakeholders New rink was projected to cost \$14.5 million at the Gallagher Center
Gallagher Center Renewal Project Council Presentation (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported findings from internal and external stakeholder consultation aimed to develop solutions in response to the Yorkton Recreation – Planning Study City Council Presentation 2019 Primary solutions to improve the user experience were lockers for figure skating and more functional stair space
Pump Bike Park Development Review (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended that a pump bike park and two basketball courts replace the existing BMX track that was already in poor condition
Community Development, Parks, and Recreation Fees (2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports the fees for each recreation service such as day pass or facility rental.



Photo from City of Yorkton Facebook

6.4 Community Partners

Key Takeaways

Many reports from community partners were reviewed. These showed the importance of nonprofits for the delivery of recreation services within Yorkton. It will be important to consider these organizations when developing the future vision for recreation in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Policy or Plan	Summary of Important Information
Parkland Valley Sport, Culture, and Recreation District Annual Report (2019-2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District network that supports community development and individual wellbeing through sport, culture, and recreation • Reports financial, partnership, and community development data within parkland • This year highlighted 19 workshops and over 500 participants
Parkland Valley Sport, Culture, and Recreation District Annual Report (2021-2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports financial, partnership, and community development data within parkland • This year highlighted 32 workshops and over 248 participants • Outlines various partnering communities and stakeholders
Big Brother Big Sister Annual Report (2019-2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides support to young children and youth who face societal barriers through a volunteer-based mentorship program • Reports financial, programming, participation, and organizational data for this year • Youth report many benefits from the program such as mental health, optimism, reduced anxiety and depression, and overall improvements to well-being • 133 volunteers and 206 youth mentored through the program • Working towards a strategic plan for the Yorkton area
Boys and Girls Club Annual Report (2020-2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports financials, partners, funders, and community assistance • 9,346 children were involved in the program with 94 volunteers
Western Development Museum Report (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves communities through exhibitions, educational programs, special events, and research about Saskatchewan • Report providing financial statement, utilization data, and other attraction information • 511 visitors to the Yorkton location

6.5 Transit and Transportation

Key Takeaways

Transit and transportation refer to documents that support the planning of roads, highways, and cycling infrastructure. Along with roads that allow people to travel to and from recreation services, these documents also highlighted the importance of cycling to residents of Yorkton and the necessity to consider people who also live in the trade area surrounding Yorkton when developing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Policy or Plan	Summary of Important Information
Yorkton Cycling Report (2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report was conducted to understand cycling trends • Found that city residents walked or cycled to work more than the average Canadian • Over 50% of the survey respondents biked at least twice a week • Indicated that the city should invest in future cycling infrastructure
City of Yorkton Transportation Master Plan (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined transportation needs for anticipated population growth of up to 36,000 people • Recommended pertinent traffic issues including calming measures on King Street and the development of a truck bypass route • Proposed new cycling infrastructure based on the 2008 Yorkton Cycling Report
Yorkton Regional Transportation Study (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided recommendations for long term transportation infrastructure plan to meet the needs of local and regional partners • Projected that the city may also serve the 150,000 people who live in the 150km area surrounding the city
Yorkton Transit Bylaw (N.D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaw outlining the responsibilities regarding transit within the City of Yorkton that is updated on a continual basis



Photo from City of Yorkton

6.6 Land Use, Buildings, and Economic Development

Key Takeaways

This section captured documents pertaining to land use and economic development. The documents outlined policy requirements for new parks and recreation services, flood mitigation plans, and concept plans as population grows. It should be noted that not all concept plans included recreation services. The documents that included requirements for park and recreation service delivery can help inform baselines for service delivery in the overarching the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Policy or Plan	Summary of Important Information
Roundhouse Concept Plan (2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed 80-acre commercial subdivision in the southeast end of the city No reference to recreation, greenspace, tourism, walkability, parks or sidewalks
Broadwalk Concept Plan (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed a multi-lot residential subdivision for 700 people in the northeast end of the city Included is a 1.61 kms trail system to satisfy recreation requirements in land use bylaw
Willow Creek Concept Plan (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed 267-acre mixed use development east of Husky Road Local creeks and greenspace to satisfy recreation requirements No playgrounds, pools, or other recreation infrastructure included in proposal
Jim Pattison Concept Plan (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed 96-acre commercial area in the north west end of the city Required rezoning land from highway and recreation into commercial zones No reference to recreation or greenspace
Yorkton Regional Planning District Plan (2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines a regional planning process to address land use, economic development, environmental responsibilities, and strategies to improve the quality of life of residents Provides policy to ensure the longevity and usability of walking trails and park systems Identified flood plains to prevent development on those lands Policy directions for recreation suggested to review recreation funding and prepare a regional recreation plan
City of Yorkton Flood Mitigation Presentation (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified areas of concern for flood risks Suggested that water retention ponds may serve to mitigate flood and provide recreation in the form of trail systems
Crowesses Concept Plan (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed a mixed-use development of 19-acres of land owned by Crowesses First Nation in the south east end of the city No reference to recreation or parks and only walkability through sidewalk on the road
Yorkton Zoning Bylaw (N.D.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bylaw regulating the use of land, locations of buildings, and other infrastructure that is continuously updated Outlined that new major subdivisions must provide opportunities for active and passive forms of recreation Provides requirements for new parks corresponding to the number of families in new developments
Yorkton City Engineering Guidelines (N.D.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline engineering standards for new and retrofitting infrastructure projects Standards are continuously updated Includes recreation amenities and sidewalks to facilitate pedestrian flow and physical activity

6.7 Municipal, Provincial, and National Policy

Key Takeaways

This section captures framework and policies that are being developed on a municipal, provincial, and national level to help move the parks and recreation sector forward. The documents outlined provide insight into inclusive recreation, best utilizing park space and some insight into the future of grassroots sport and the implication that may have on municipalities.

Policy or Plan	Summary of Important Information
SaskAbilities Annual Report (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fosters inclusive communities by providing programs and services for people experiencing disabilities in Saskatchewan • Reports financials, partnerships, donors, and programs • Specific to Yorkton, 288 were helped finding employment, 200+ hours of virtual programming were provided, and an accessibility bus was added • The Snowarama fundraising documentary raised \$121,000
Special Olympics Saskatchewan Annual Report (2020-2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides sport and recreational opportunities to children, youth, and adults with intellectual disabilities • Reports fundraising, financials, and athlete performance • Featured inaugural Special Olympics Invitational with 292 athletes • Hosted virtual volunteer and coaches' summit
Parks for All (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) and the Canadian Parks Council (CPC) • Vision is to connect Canadian park lands and waters that support healthy nature and healthy people in harmony for generations. • Collaborate with and build partnerships with the Indigenous communities • Connect and raise awareness of parks • Conserve and expand Canada's park system • Lead and help build capacity, develop, and maintain systems and resources to support leaders.
The Framework For Recreation In Canada (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the framework is to guide coordinated policies and practices in the recreation sector in Canada. The document is split up into three sections as summarized below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting the context: provides a new definition of recreation and explores the challenges and benefits of recreation. - The framework: outlines five goals and priorities that foster individual wellbeing, community well-being, and the well-being of our natural and built environments. - Moving forward: provides steps to implement the framework.
Canada Sport Policy Review (Ongoing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initiative intended to guide the actions of all contributors to competitive and recreational sport in Canada • May have significant implications at a community level as municipalities provide the environments for grassroots sports

7.0 Inventory of Indoor and Outdoor Facilities and Spaces



7.0 Inventory of Indoor and Outdoor Facilities and Spaces

Below is a table that lists the key indoor recreation infrastructure in Yorkton along with the amenities located at those facilities.




7.1 Indoor Facilities and Spaces

Facility	Location	Amenities
The Gallagher Centre	455 Broadway Street West, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water park (Access Communications Water Park) • Convention centre (National Bank Convention Place) • Flexihall with four lane walking track (Gallagher Centre Flexihall) • Meeting and multipurpose rooms • Arena with one sheet of ice (Westland Insurance Arena) • Curling rink (Yorkton Curling Rink managed by the Yorkton Curling Club) • Grandstand • Exhibition Grounds
The Kinsmen Arena	227 Prystai Way, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arena with one sheet of ice • Meeting room
Gloria Hayden Community Centre	279 Morrison Drive, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gymnasium • Indoor walking track • Racquetball court • Squash court
Yorkton Public Library	93 Broadway Street West, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library • Meeting rooms
Godfrey Dean Cultural Centre	49 Smith Street East, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting rooms • Art gallery • Small event centre






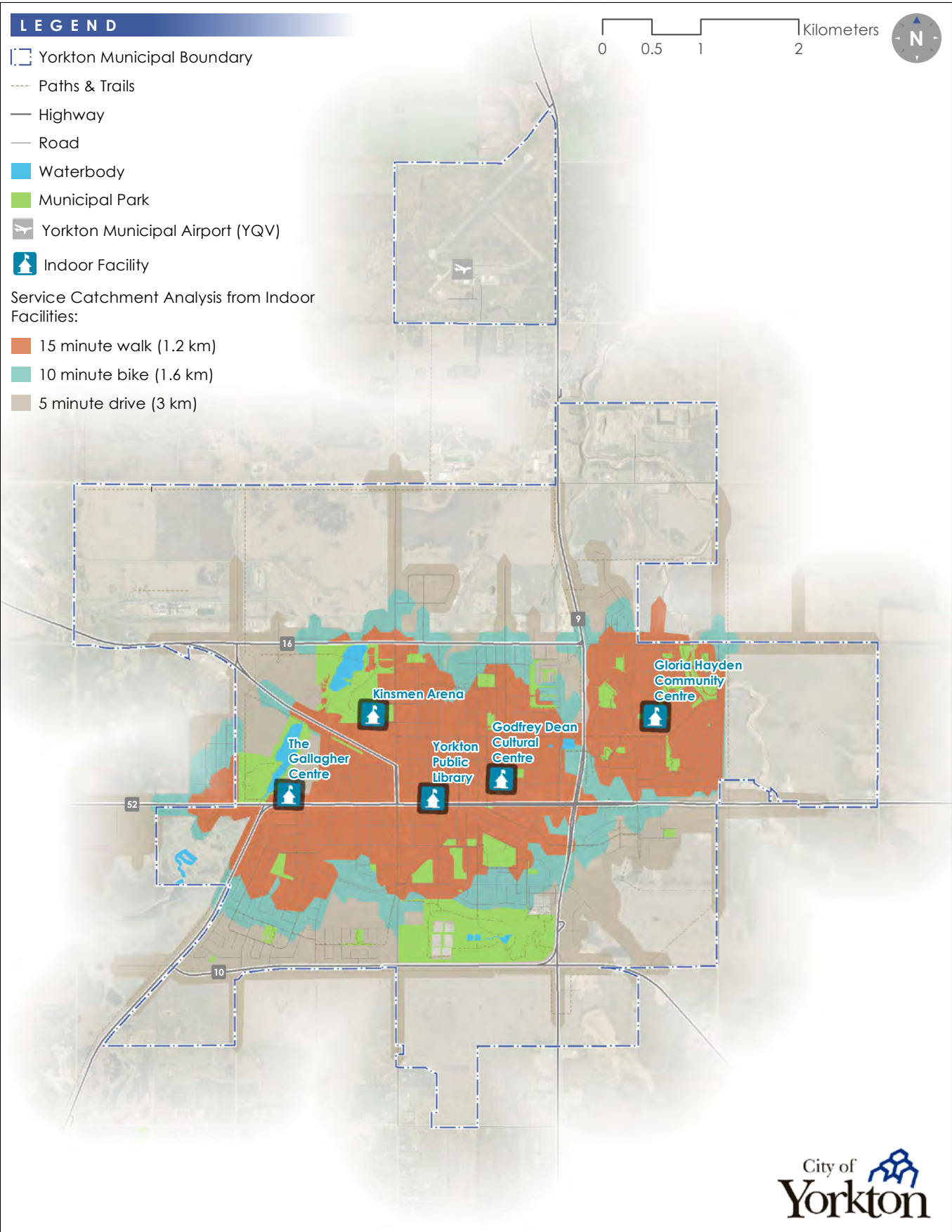
Photo from City of Yorkton

LEGEND

-  Yorkton Municipal Boundary
-  Paths & Trails
-  Highway
-  Road
-  Waterbody
-  Municipal Park
-  Yorkton Municipal Airport (YQV)
-  Indoor Facility

Service Catchment Analysis from Indoor Facilities:

-  15 minute walk (1.2 km)
-  10 minute bike (1.6 km)
-  5 minute drive (3 km)



7.2 Outdoor Facilities and Spaces

Yorkton boasts a variety of outdoor facilities and amenities. Maintaining these areas are crucial to the community and therefore the City has a grass maintenance standard policy that aims to ensure the community has access to outdoor sport, culture, parks, and recreation opportunities. Below defines the difference between sport fields, parks and play areas, and beautification areas. Along with these definitions is the priority classification system which is used to categorize the different spaces based on maintenance.

Sports Fields

Areas that have been designated for sport use. These lands typically require a higher level of maintenance, including regular mowing, fertilizing, aerating, irrigation, etc, and a fee is associated with their use.

Parks and Play Areas

Public land specifically designed or reserved for the general public for active or passive recreational use and includes all natural and man-made landscaping, facilities, playing fields, buildings, and other structures.

Beautification Areas

Areas that are deemed to be highly visible in nature, and require regular maintenance to ensure the visual attractiveness is maintained at an appropriate level.

Priority Classification	Land Category	Examples
A	Sports Fields	Ball Diamonds, Soccer Pitches
B	Parks & Play Areas	Neighborhood Parks, Destination Parks
C	Beautification Areas	Medians, Boulevards, Cemetery, Landscapes

Priority Classification	Cut Frequency	Cut Height	Whipping/Trimming	Maintained By
A-1	2.5 per week	1 7/8"	Weekly	City
A-2	Twice per week	3"	Weekly	City
B-1	Twice per week	3 1/2"	Weekly	City
B-2	Once per week	3 1/2"	On Rotation	City
B-3	Two week rotation	3 1/2"	On Rotation	City
C-1	Twice per week	3 1/2"	Weekly	City
C-2	Once per week	3 1/2"	On Rotation	City
C-3	Two week rotation	3 1/2"	On Rotation	City
C-4	Monthly	3 1/2"	Monthly	City
D-1	Two week rotation	3 1/2"	Monthly	City
D-2	Monthly	3 1/2"	Monthly	City
D-3	4 cuts per year	4 - 5"	Monthly	Contractor
D-4	2 cuts per year	4 - 5"	Monthly	Contractor
E-1	As required	3"	As required	City

Below is a table that lists key outdoor recreation infrastructure in Yorkton along with the amenities located at those facilities.

Facility	Location	Amenities
Jubilee Park	Foster Street, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 level 1 (A-1) lit ball diamond • 3 level (A-2) ball diamonds • Washrooms and concession facilities
Jaycee Beach Ball Diamonds	York Rd West, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 level 2 (A-2) ball diamonds • Washrooms and concession facilities
Lion's Ball Diamond	Prystai Way, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 level 1 (A-1) lit ball diamond
Croswaithe Park	Dalebrooke Drive, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green space
Logan Green	Queen Street, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 level 1 sport fields • Walking paths • Trout pond • Logan Green Memorial Tree Park • City of Yorkton Tree nursery • Botanical Gardens
Ukrainian Pioneer Park	1st Avenue North, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 lit outdoor rink with basketball nets • Outdoor Spray Park • Picnic tables with chess/checkerboard
Drake Field	1st Avenue North, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green space
Heritage Heights Park	McBurney Dr, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 lit outdoor rink with basketball nets • Benches • Outdoor rink • Playground • 2 lit tennis courts
Waterloo Park	Waterloo Rd, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground • Green space
Knights of Columbus Park	Circlebrooke Drive, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball backstop • 1 lit outdoor rink with basketball nets • Benches • Picnic tables with chess/checker board • Green Space • Outdoor Rinks • 2 lit pickleball/tennis courts • Picnic Tables • Playgrounds • Tennis Courts • Toboggan Hills • Walking Paths
Western Development Museum Tennis Courts	Highway 16A West, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 lit tennis courts
Silver Heights Park	Sunset Drive North, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 lit outdoor rink with basketball nets • Benches • Crokicurl • Green Space • Outdoor Rinks • Outdoor Spray Park • Playgrounds • Walking Paths
Weinmaster Park	Morrison Drive, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 lit outdoor rink with basketball nets • Benches • Picnic tables with chess/checker board • Green Space • Outdoor Rinks • Outdoor Spray Park • Toboggan Hills • Walking Paths • Wheelchair accessible playground












Facility	Location	Amenities
Patrick Park	King Street West, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches • Picnic tables with chess/checker board • Disc Golf Courses • Ice Skating Pathway • Picnic Tables • Porta Potties
Rodney Ridge	Rosalyn Avenue, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches • Disc Golf Courses • Green Space • Toboggan Hills
BMX Park	Independent Street, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMX Park • Green Space
City Centre Park	Broadway Street West, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches • Picnic tables with chess/checker board • Outdoor Stage • Picnic Tables
Deer Park Golf Course	670 Broadway Street West, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Country Ski Trails • Golf Course • Toboggan Hills
Erichsen Park	Franko Drive, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches • Outdoor Fitness Stations • Walking Paths
Jackson Park	Second Avenue North, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches • Green Space • Playgrounds • Sun Shelters • Walking Paths
Sign Park	North Street, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches • Green Space • Playgrounds
Tupper Park	Tupper Avenue, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic tables with chess/checker board • Green Space • Picnic Tables • Playgrounds
Skateboard Park	Brodie Avenue, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches • Skateboard Park
Wiggly Field Dog Park	Park Rd, Yorkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches • Off Leash Dog Park • Picnic Tables

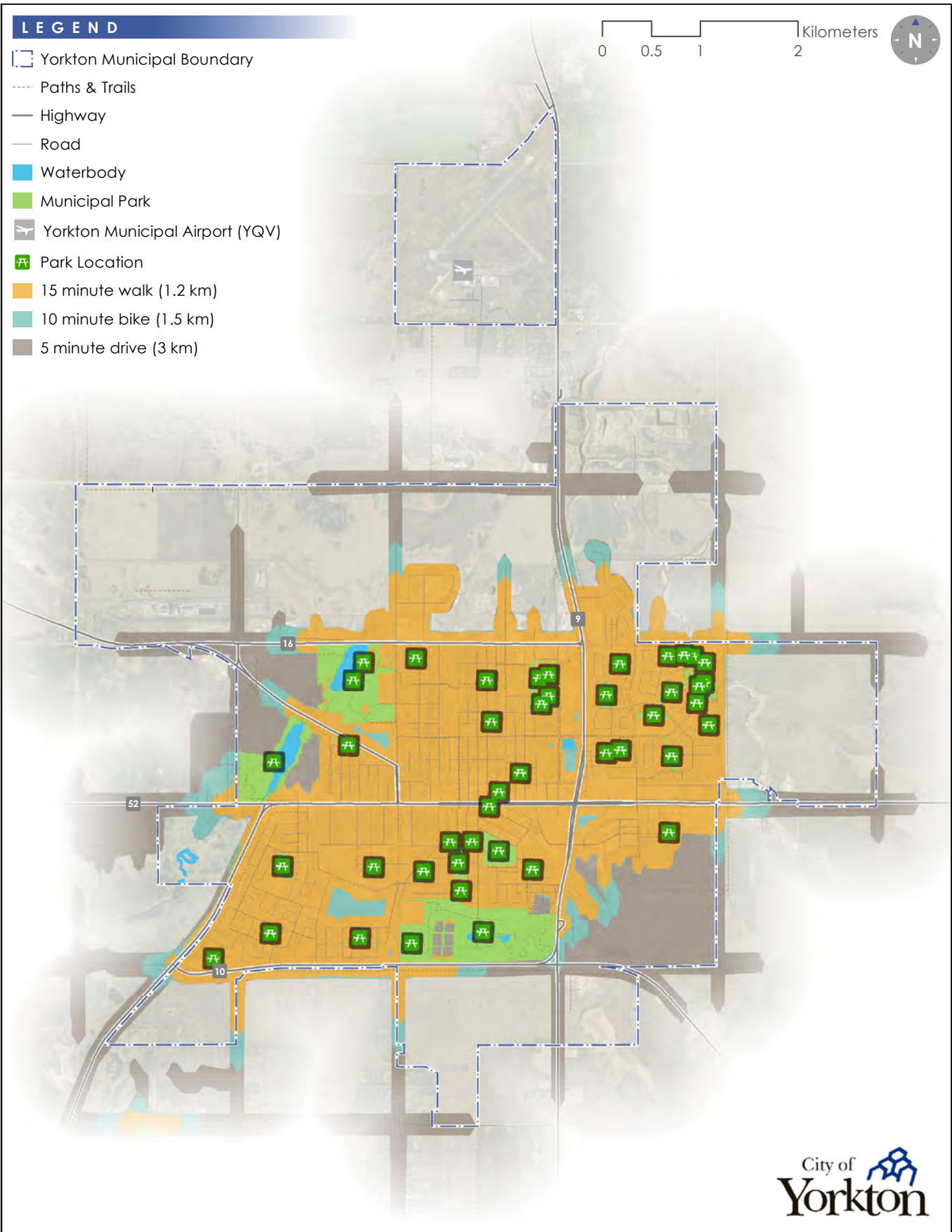
This list not a comprehensive list of all parks but rather all parks with significant recreation infrastructure.



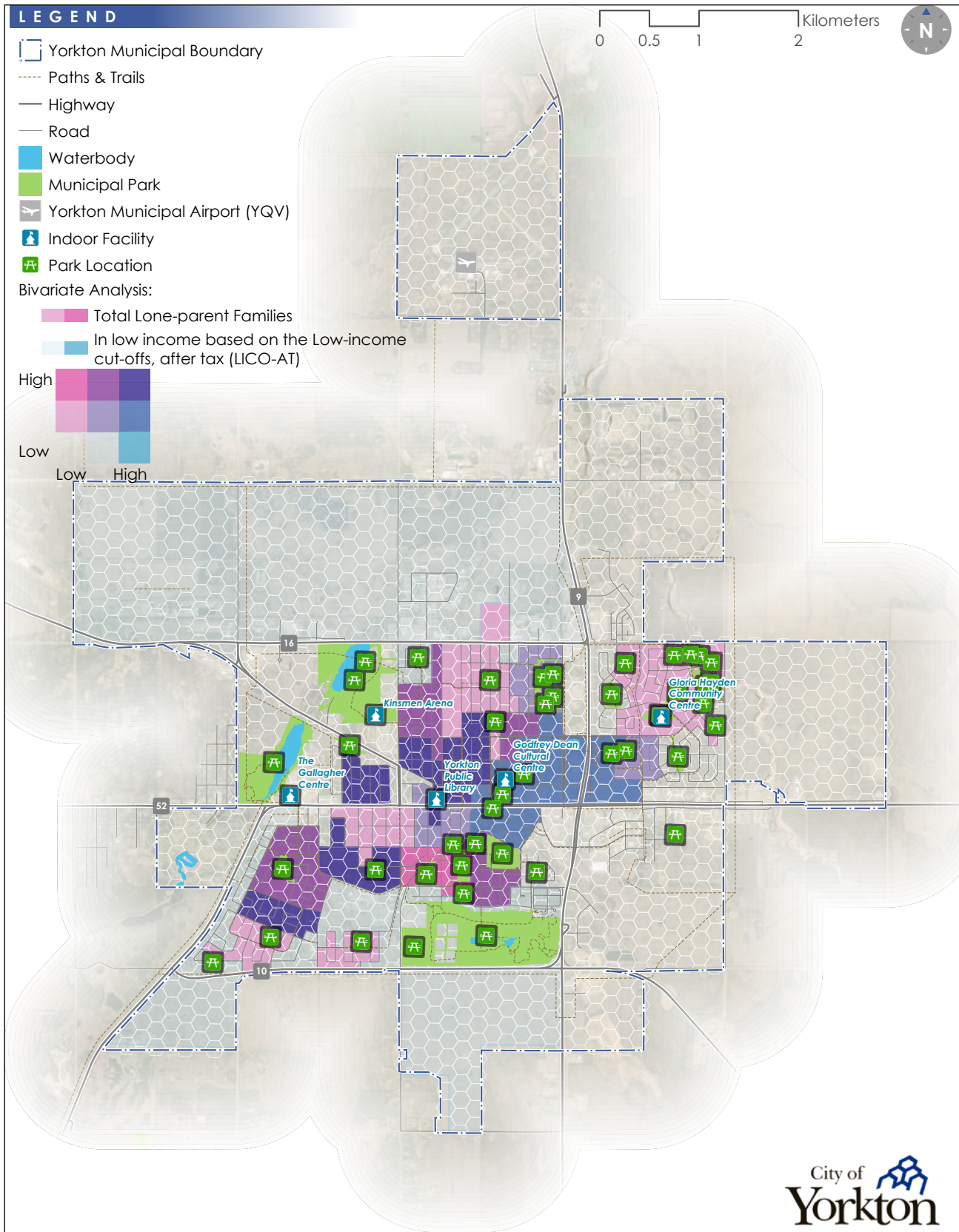
Photo from City of Yorkton Facebook

LEGEND

-  Yorkton Municipal Boundary
-  Paths & Trails
-  Highway
-  Road
-  Waterbody
-  Municipal Park
-  Yorkton Municipal Airport (YQV)
-  Park Location
-  15 minute walk (1.2 km)
-  10 minute bike (1.5 km)
-  5 minute drive (3 km)



There were 890 lone-parent households in 2021, which identified challenges to recreation during the survey and feedback period. As seen in the accompanying map, there is a high proportion of low income cut-off (LICO) and single-family households in the southwest area of the city. The below map can be understood by referencing the colour coded legend. The light pink section, identifies areas in Yorkton with high lone-parent families, while the light blue identifies areas with high low-income households. The purple colours represented on the map identify areas of the City that have high areas of both lone-parent families and low-income families.



8.0

Utilization of Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Spaces in Yorkton



Photo from City of Yorkton

8.0 Utilization of Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Spaces in Yorkton

Utilization and participation data were gathered for both indoor and outdoor recreation spaces in Yorkton – where the information was available. Most data contained herein is from 2019-2022 in attempt to reflect typical levels of use before the COVID-19 pandemic, but to also provide insight into how some amenities dealt with the pandemic, how some spaces rebounded, and to possibly show insight into changes in peoples’ behaviour. The approximate utilization rate of each facility is presented in the table below.

Utilization rates presented in the chart below are based on the best data available. Rates have been extrapolated for each facility based on calendar information provided, with the number of prime hours booked per week for that month divided by total number of prime hours available for bookings (utilization percentage). Utilization percentages are presented as a range, as there are monthly/seasonal variabilities (e.g. greater booking of ice times in certain months). Categories based on work completed in previous communities have been developed to help compare utilization rates across facilities. These categories are outlined below.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Both arena facilities have increased their bookings in 2021-2022 from prior to the pandemic.
- Youth sport makes up 40% of the bookings at Westland Arena.
- The Westland Insurance Arena is booked very close to the total available hours during prime time (95%) while the Kinsmen Arena could be considered moderately booked during prime time (59%).
- Drop-in walking track passes are the most popular passes by far.
- Most ball diamonds in Yorkton are not well utilized.

Utilization Rate Categories

Level of Use	Description
Overused >100%	The amenity is used beyond recommended full capacity. Potential damage to the amenity is occurring or user safety issues exist due to overuse.
Fully Used 90-100%	The amenity is used to full capacity. There is no ability to increase utilization.
Well Used 70-89%	The amenity is well used and is nearing full capacity. The ability to increase utilization is limited.
Moderately Used 50-69%	The amenity is used but lots of capacity still exists to accommodate more usage.
Underused 1-49%	The amenity is not regularly used.
Not used 0%	The amenity is not currently being used.
Unknown	Utilization of the amenity is unknown. No potential indicators exist at this time.

8.1 Booking Analysis of Key Indoor Recreation Infrastructure

The following analysis looks at the use of key indoor recreation infrastructure in Yorkton including the arenas, community recreation centres, and the water park. The Yorkton Public Library and Godfrey Dean Cultural Centre are important pieces of the recreation infrastructure and play a role in supplying meeting and programming room space for the community. The primary uses of these spaces are not specifically to provide meeting rooms and as there is no indication of lack of meeting space in the community an analysis has not been included in this report on the percentage of use of these secondary spaces.

8.1.1 Arenas

There are two arenas in Yorkton, the Kinsmen Arena and the Westland Arena. The Westland Insurance Arena is located in the Gallagher Centre, while the Kinsmen Arena is a stand-alone facility. The two tables below indicate the hours booked at each facility for the last five years (2017 – 2022) by booking type. The 2019 -2020 season, was cut short due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (facility closures began on March 17, 2020), and the following 2020- 2021 season operated with COVID-19 restrictions on capacities, activities, and other public health safety precautions. Both facilities have increased their bookings in 2021-2022 from prior to the pandemic.

Westland Insurance Arena

Booking Types	2017-2018 Season	2018-1019 Season	2019-2020 Season	2020-2021 Season	2021-2022 Season	Trend Line
Jr. Hockey (Terriers)	515	500	405	145	475	
AAA Hockey (Maulers)*	0	0	175	150	215	
Minor Hockey	730	690	410	500	455	
Figure Skating	325	340	330	475	450	
School Use	0	0	0	0	9	
Other / Rec Hockey	385	405	310	275	380	
Public Skating	175	175	225	35	295	
Total Booked Hours	2,130	2,110	1,850	1,580	2,279	

*The AAA Hockey team booked with Minor Hockey prior to the 2019- 2020 season.

Kinsmen Arena

Booking Types	2017-2018 Season	2018-1019 Season	2019-2020 Season	2020-2021 Season	2021-2022 Season	Trend Line
Minor Hockey	1,115	1,120	1,090	770	1,105	
School Use	45	105	60	130	320	
Other / Rec Hockey	140	120	75	15	165	
Public Skating	130	195	80	0	0	
Total Booked Hours	1,470	1,540	1,305	915	1,590	

During the last full season of ice (2021-2022), the largest ice user group was the Junior Hockey Team (21% of booked time) at Westland Arena, and Minor Hockey at Kinsmen Arena (69% of booked time). Minor hockey is the largest user group in the community. Youth sport makes up 40% of the bookings at Westland Arena as well.

Booking Type	Westland Insurance Arena	Kinsmen Arena
Jr. Hockey (Terriers)	21%	0%
Minor Hockey	20%	69%
Figure Skating	20%	0%
Other/Rec Hockey	17%	10%
Public Skating	13%	0%
AAA Hockey (Maulers)*	9%	0%
School Use	0%	20%



Photo from City of Yorkton

Booked Capacity

The two tables below compare the hours booked at both arenas with the available ice time. The percentage of booked time was calculated for both total available ice time and the available prime ice time. Prime ice time is defined as ice time between 4:00 PM – 11:00 PM on week nights and 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM on weekends. Prime ice represents ice time that is the most desirable as it is when the most amount of people want and are available to use the ice. As was mentioned earlier in this section, the 2019 – 2020 season was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the subsequent season, 2020 - 2021, operated with capacity changes, and restrictions on activities as part of the public health measures associated with the ongoing pandemic. The 2021 – 2022 season saw an increase in booked hours at both facilities. The Westland Insurance Arena is booked very close to the total available hours during prime time (95%) while the Kinsmen Arena could be considered moderately booked during prime time (59%).

Westland Insurance Arena	2017-2018 Season	2018-2019 Season	2019-2020 Season	2020-2021 Season	2021-2022 Season
Total Hours Booked	2,130	2,110	1,850	1,580	2,279
Total Available Ice	4,368	4,368	4,368	4,368	4,368
% Booked of Total Available Ice	49%	48%	42%	36%	52%
Prime Hours Booked	1,878	1,860	1,562	1,451	1,909
Prime Hours Available	2,010	2,010	2,010	2,010	2,010
% Booked of Prime Hours	93%	93%	78%	72%	95%

Kinsmen Arena	2017-2018 Season	2018-2019 Season	2019-2020 Season	2020-2021 Season	2021-2021 Season
Total Booked Hours	1,470	1,540	1,305	915	1,590
Total Available Ice	3,136	3,136	3,136	3,136	3,136
% Booked of Total Available Ice	47%	49%	42%	29%	51%
Prime Hours Booked	1,155	1,120	1,090	770	1,105
Prime Hours Available	1,876	1,876	1,876	1,876	1,876
% Booked of Prime Hours	62%	60%	58%	41%	59%

8.1.2 The Gallagher Centre & The Gloria Hayden Community Centre

The Gallagher Centre is eastern Saskatchewan's sports, recreation, entertainment, and convention hub and the Gloria Hayden Community Centre is its sister facility. While the Gallagher Centre offers pickleball, soccer, tennis, and volleyball, the Gloria Hayden Community Centre offers racquetball, squash, basketball, volleyball, and pickleball. Admission to the facilities is tracked by the type of pass purchased; there are drop-in sports, drop-in walking track, racquetball, and squash passes. The table below indicates the number of passes sold of each type over the last 3 years. Drop-in walking track passes are the most popular passes by far. Historically, total pass sales increase during the winter months and decrease in the spring and summer as the weather improves outdoors.

Types of Pass	2019	2020	2021	Trend Line
Drop in Sports	79	80	50	
Drop in Walking Track	224	182	135	
Racquetball	9	7	2	
Squash	14	4	3	
Total	326	273	190	

8.1.3 Access Communications Water Park

The Access Communications Water Park is located within the Gallagher Centre and is the only indoor aquatic facility in East-Central Saskatchewan. Like the other sport amenities, passes are sold for the Water Park specifically. The table below lists the pass type and the amount sold from 2019 – 2021.

Types of Pass	2019	2020	2021	Trend Line
Water Park Student	254	80	50	
Water Park Adult Punch Pass	126	182	135	
Water Park Youth Punch Pass	6	7	19	
Water Park Child Punch Pass	2	4	4	
Water Park Combo Pass	1	2	3	
Water Park Adult Pass*	535	341	87	
Water Park Youth Pass*	35	21	6	
Water Park Family Pass*	35	13	1	
Total	994	540	553	

* These types of passes had been discontinued at the time this report was generated, however it is noted that monthly passes of each type have since been re-introduced.

The table below indicates the types of swim visits that occurred for 2019 – 2021 as well as the total swims per capita. Leisure swims make up an average of 49% of all swim visits, followed by private rentals at 16% and lessons at 12% of all visits. The average amount of swims per capita is approximately three swims.

Breakdown of Swim Visits	2019	2020	2021
Lessons	8,345	3,882	6,240
Recreational Aquatics Programming (e.g. aqua-fit)	4,795	4,456	7,225
Lane Swimming	4,795	4,456	7,225
Leisure (drop-in, casual)	31,341	20,255	20,909
Private Rentals (e.g. birthday parties)	9,860	7,747	6,582
Total Annual Swim Visits	59,136	40,796	48,181
Swim Visits Per Capita*	3.6	2.5	3.0

* Swim visits per capita was based on Stats Canada Census Profile information for the appropriate year. For 2019 & 2020 the population for Yorkton is listed as 16,343 and for 2021 is listed as 16,280.



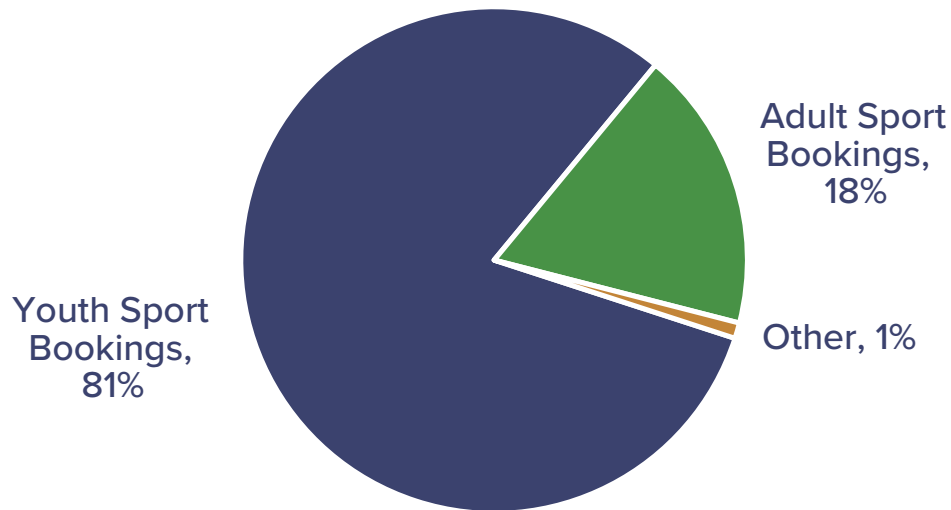
Photo from City of Yorkton

8.2 Booking Analysis of Key Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure

The following analysis looks at the use of key outdoor recreation infrastructure in Yorkton including ball diamonds, sport fields, and parks.

8.2.1 Ball Diamonds

Average Ball Diamond Use by Booking Types



There are nine ball diamonds in Yorkton located at three park locations. There are four diamonds located at Jubilee Park, four diamonds located at Jaycee Beach Ball Diamonds and one ball diamond located at Lion's Ball Diamond. In the table below the number of hours booked from 2019 – 2022 are listed with the hours available. The percentage booked of capacity indicates how much the ball diamonds are used related to their availability. The Lion's Ball Diamond was not included in the analysis as booking information was not provided for the diamond. Most ball diamonds in Yorkton are not well utilized. The industry standard for annual capacity of ball diamonds is approximately 600 hours per field before diamond deterioration begins to occur. The annual hours available for ball diamonds in Yorkton was calculated by multiplying the number of diamonds by the annual capacity per field.

Baseball Diamond Bookings	2019	2020	2021	2022	Trend Line
Hours Booked	1,066	366	930	952	
# of Diamonds	9	5	9	9	
Hours Available	4,800	3,000	4,800	4,800	
% Booked of Capacity	22%	12%	19%	20%	

The most common type of booking at ball diamonds in Yorkton was a youth sport group booking. The average breakdown of hours booked from 2019 – 2022 indicated that 81% of all bookings were made for youth sport groups, 18% for adult sport groups, and 1% for other types of user groups (private users or community organizations).

8.2.2 Rectangular Sport Field Bookings

Rectangular sport fields are broken down into two classifications: Level 1 and Level 2. The classifications help determine fees, level of maintenance required, and the level of play that can occur. The only fields that are booked and charged a fee for use are the fields located at Logan Green. These fields are classified as Level 1 fields. There are seven other spaces available for use that could be considered level 2 fields. These are located at Croswaithe Park, Drake Field, Heritage Heights, Park and Waterloo Park.

The Table below lists the number of hours booked at Logan Green fields from 2019 – 2022 with the hours available. The percentage booked of capacity indicates how much the fields are used related to their availability. The only user group that booked fields from 2019 – 2021 was the Yorkton United F.C. Soccer Club. In 2022, Yorkton United F.C. Soccer Club and the Yorkton Regional High School booked field time.

Rectangular Sport Fields Bookings	2019	2020	2021	2022	Trend Line
Hours Booked	354	258	754.5	658	
# of Fields	4	4	4	4	
Hours Available	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	
% Booked of Capacity	15%	11%	31%	27%	

*The industry standard for annual capacity of a sport fields is approximately 600 hours per field before field/turf deterioration begins to occur. The annual hours available for fields in Yorkton was calculated by multiplying the number of fields by the annual capacity per field.

8.2.3 Park and Outdoor Space Bookings

Parks, outdoor spaces, and walking trails are typically used for spontaneous activities and casual visits that are not booked. This makes actual utilization of these spaces hard to quantify, but they certainly provide value to the residents. The importance of these spaces was emphasized in many of the documents outlined in the Strategic Foundation section as many pointed to the importance of outdoor spaces and the creation of a continuous walking trail through the municipality. Some of these spaces also serve as part of the City's flood mitigation plan.

The quantifiable data for parks and outdoor spaces is in the form of contractual agreements. These spaces are booked <1% of the time, however, they are likely important spaces of gathering. The total number of hours booked each year has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, in 2019 there were 389.75 booked hours, whereas more recently in 2021 there were 707.25 hours booked. This may highlight the important role that parks played throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as people tended to increase their usage of parks and outdoor spaces. It should be noted that the City Centre Park and the tennis courts are the most frequently booked spaces.

9.0 Comparative Benchmarking



Photo from City of Yorkton

9.0 Comparative Benchmarking

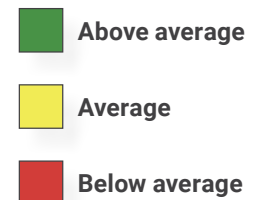
Benchmarking comparison research was conducted to compare infrastructure provision in Yorkton to other municipalities of similar size or context in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Additionally, some specific policies and practices were reviewed to provide some insight into how these other communities provide services. Comparing municipalities directly in this way must be done carefully, as all communities are unique. However, this comparison research does provide a general picture as to how Yorkton compares to other municipalities. Working with the Project Steering Committee, five different municipalities were selected for comparison. These included:¹²

- North Battleford SK (13,836)
- Swift Current SK (16,750)
- Brandon MB (51,313)
- Brooks AB (14,924)
- Cold Lake AB (15,661)

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Yorkton is above average for amenity provision for approximately one quarter of the amenities examined.
- Yorkton is below average in less than a quarter of the amenities examined.
- Yorkton is most deficient in outdoor recreation amenities, and this could be due to low demand for the spaces.

The accompanying table displays the number of similar indoor and outdoor amenities in other communities. The amenities and facilities presented in the following tables include the recreation services that are directly provided, or are supported, by the municipality. All data has been gathered from online public sources, with three of the municipalities confirming the data. It is important to note that Yorkton utilizes their wave pool as a teaching pool, however the facility does not physically have a teaching/tot pool, therefore it is not represented in the accompanying chart. The data highlighted in green represents Yorkton being above average, yellow represents average, and red represents below average.



9.1 Facility Benchmarking

Indoor Recreation Amenities and Facilities								Amenity Provision Breakdown
Municipality	North Battleford	Swift Current	Brandon	Brooks	Cold Lake	Average	Yorkton	
Population	13,836	16,750	51,313	14,924	15,661		16,280	
Indoor Facilities								
25m pools (# lanes)	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	16,280
50m pools (# lanes)	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Arena sheets	2	3	4	2	3	3	2	8,140
Community gymnasiums (school)	0	0	22	5	4	6	12	1,356
Large multipurpose gymnasium space	3	1	3	3	3	3	2	8,140
Curling sheets	6	6	12	6	6	7	8	2,035
Dedicated seniors centre	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Dedicated youth centre	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0

¹² North Battleford, Swift Current, Brandon, Brooks, and Cold Lake population data is sourced from the most recent (2021) census.

Indoor Recreation Amenities and Facilities								Amenity Provision Breakdown
Municipality	North Battleford	Swift Current	Brandon	Brooks	Cold Lake	Average	Yorkton	
Population	13,836	16,750	51,313	14,924	15,661		16,280	
Fitness centre / weight room	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
Gymnastics facilities	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16,280
Indoor climbing wall	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	16,280
Indoor walking track	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	8,140
Performing Arts Theatre	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	8,140
Leisure aquatics	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	16,280
# of water slides	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	16,280
# hotubs	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	16,280
Spray features	yes	n/a	yes	Yes	0		Yes	16,280
Wave pool	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	16,280
Tot pool	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

*The amenity provision calculation is the population divided by the number of amenities in Yorkton to understand how many residents the amenity is serving in the community.

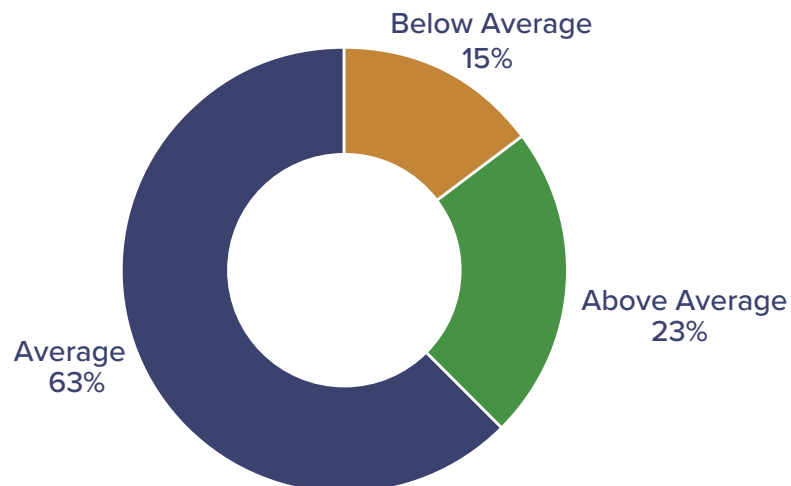
Outdoor Recreation Amenities and Facilities								Amenity Provision Breakdown
Municipality	North Battleford	Swift Current	Brandon	Brooks	Cold Lake	Average	Yorkton	
Population	13,836	16,750	51,313	14,924	15,661		16,280	
400m track	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16,280
Amphitheatres	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ball diamonds	7	9	20	7	8	10	8	2,035
Beach volleyball courts	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Bike parks (BMX)	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	16,280
Bike parks (pump track)	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Disc golf	3	1	0	1	1	1	2	8,140
Golf courses	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	16,280
Multisport courts	2	6	0	1	2	2	5	3,256
Off leash parks / areas	1	1	3	3	1	2	1	16,280
Outdoor boarded rinks	2	6	2	1	2	3	5	3,256

Outdoor Recreation Amenities and Facilities								Amenity Provision Breakdown
Municipality	North Battleford	Swift Current	Brandon	Brooks	Cold Lake	Average	Yorkton	
Population	13,836	16,750	51,313	14,924	15,661		16,280	
Outdoor fitness equipment (# locations)	0	1	5	1	0	1	1	16,280
Outdoor pickleball courts – dedicated	0	3	6	2	8	4	0	0
Outdoor tennis courts – dedicated	3	8	4	6	2	5	4	4,070
Outdoor tennis / pickleball courts	8	11	10	4	10	9	4	4,070
Paved trail system (km)	52km	18km	20km	12km	22km	25km	10km	n/a
Pool	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rectangular sport fields	4	7	16	2	7	7	4	4,070
Skate parks	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	16,280
Spray parks	3	4	5	1	2	3	3	5,426
Artificial Turf fields	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0

*The amenity provision calculation is the population divided by the number of amenities in Yorkton to understand how many residents the amenity is serving in the community.

As the tables above illustrate, Yorkton is above average or average for amenity provision 86% of the time (34 of 40 of the amenity categories researched). These assessments were based on the average facility provision in the above chart and how those averaged numbers compared to Yorkton’s facilities and amenities.

Amenity Provision Breakdown



9.2 Policy Benchmarking

Benchmarking research also examined policies and procedures in place in other municipalities related to parks and recreation. Interviews were conducted with staff in three municipalities (North Battleford, Swift Current and Brooks). Responses were not received from the other two municipalities. The following table outlines the findings.

Policy Area	North Battleford	Swift Current	Brooks	Key Takeaway
What cost recovery targets are in place for parks and recreation programs?	The CUplex requires between 35-50% cost recovery and the parks department has no set requirement.	This varies based on the programs. Aquatic lessons and courses are run on a cost recovery. Most of our recreational programs are grant funded and are offered at minimal cost to the participant and tax payer. The City of SC often provides the facility, marketing as In Kind Contributions. Our programming budget for 2023 is a 49% recovery rate and includes 1.5 permanent full-time staff. The full-time staff are not grant funded. Each program varies between a 70-90% recovery rate.	Ensuring program fee's cover the overall cost of running the program (supplies, staff etc.). Utilizing grant opportunities to help with operating costs. Breaking even on programs is the goal (revenue is not the priority).	All municipalities have some targets set for cost recovery.
What cost recovery targets are in place for individual parks and recreation amenities and facilities (e.g. arenas)	There is no set requirement for parks and open spaces. The recreation centre (CUplex) requires between 35-50%.	We are required a 40% recovery rate but Council has asked us to aim for 50%.	30-50%	All municipalities have some targets set for cost recovery.
What is the cost recovery target for the overall parks and recreation portfolio?	38%	There is not one set in place at this time.	50%	Two of the three responding municipalities have cost recovery targets set for the overall parks and recreation portfolio.
What process is used to allocate time in parks and recreation facilities?	They have a central booking office for all facility bookings. Bookings are prioritized based on the type of booking. Contracts and leases are considered first, followed by usage level and history is considered last.	Booking and allocation policy.	Booking and allocation policy. Submissions must be into the administrative assistant before May. Conflicts in bookings are based on historical booking data.	All responding municipalities have a process in place when allocating facility space. Two of the three municipalities have a dedicated staff person to book facilities.
Do you have joint use agreements with your local school jurisdictions?	N/A	N/A	Yes - the schools have priority over day time bookings at the JBS Canada Centre. City events and or programs have priority of booking gym space at the schools.	One of three municipalities have a joint use agreement with the local school boards.
What process do you use to set user fees and facility admission fees.	Determine a break even point and also consider other similar facilities and what they are charging. All fees are approved by council during the budget process.	They do a complete rate review. This includes a comparison of costs of other cities, other competitors in the city and where our Recovery Rate projections are sitting.	Compare user fees and facility fees to communities that are similar in size. While also considering revenue generation and cost recovery.	All municipalities compare user and admission fees to surrounding and similar communities when setting new fees.

Policy Area	North Battleford	Swift Current	Brooks	Key Takeaway
Describe any sponsorship policies you have.	A naming rights policy as well as memorial policies. They all come with different conditions and all required are applied for consideration to council.	We have sponsorship agreements but no set policies at this time.	Tiered contractual system based on the sponsorship amount. Sponsorship opportunities include arena boards, fieldhouse boards, dressing room TVS, fitness room TVS. Event sponsorships.	Sponsorship policies vary depending on the group, amount of money and the type of business and or group that is providing sponsorship.
Do you publish (hard copy or online) a parks or leisure guide? Do organizations pay to be included in the guide?	PDF is available online. Organizations can pay to be included (charges vary). The guide can also be found at the CUplex.	Online community services guide done annually. Organizations can pay to be included in the guide for no charge for a simple add (org, name, programs and contact info) or can pay a fee of \$26 dollars for a more detailed add with picture and description.	E-newsletter goes out monthly. Organizations can not pay to be involved at the moment.	All municipalities have a parks and recreation leisure guide. They are mostly found online, one municipality emails a monthly newsletter out to recreation members.
What community grant programs are in place?	Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program - the goal is to get people involved in sport, culture and recreation activities by enabling communities to address the needs of the local residents. Portions of the grant must be used for programs aimed at increasing participation for underrepresented populations in the community. They also have a city grant process that has an application via the Finance Department. Groups can apply for assistance from the City in their operational/ capital costs on a yearly basis. The review and approval process is done by a committee of Council and approved at Council each year when the budget is approved.	Community Support Grant. The intent is to provide funds to local, non profit and volunteer based organizations whose purpose is to provide programs and services in the sport, culture or recreation sector.	Recreation user group grant. The intent is to support recreation user groups with facility enhancements, equipment purchases and support on capital projects. Arts culture and heritage board grant. The intent is to support individuals and or groups that offer events, programs and initiatives that relate to arts, culture and heritage.	All municipalities have a grant program in place to support community groups.
What non-financial supports do you offer to community organizations who deliver parks and recreation services?	Picnic tables, chairs, bleachers for special events. Expertise if needed, staffing if needed and can be accommodated.	This is based on the user agreements with each organization. Varies from meeting rooms, to extra amenities for tournaments and events.	Free meeting rooms for annual general meetings. Also based on user agreements with each organization.	The nonfinancial support for community organization varies based on each municipality. However, there is support for capacity building, equipment lending and support for meeting space.
Do you account for facility/capital replacement in operating budgets?	Yes		Yes - the capital budget is included in the operating budget.	Two of three municipalities include facility and capital replacement in their operating budgets.
How much do you set aside for facility / capital replacement?	Varies based on lifecycle and asset management information.	Varies on budget and the lifecycle of equipment each year.	Varies around 30,000 per year is allocated (depending on council and budget cuts etc.).	The amount set aside for facility and capital replacement depends on the lifecycle of equipment and budget deliberations.

10.0 Service Delivery of Parks and recreation



Photo from City of Yorkton

10.0 Service Delivery of Parks and Recreation

This section reviews how the City of Yorkton currently provides parks and recreation programs.

Service Delivery Roles

Parks and recreation opportunities are provided by several departments, boards, and organizations in Yorkton with the City taking a key leadership role. The City actively supports programs, activities, and events offered by community groups and nonprofits in the area.

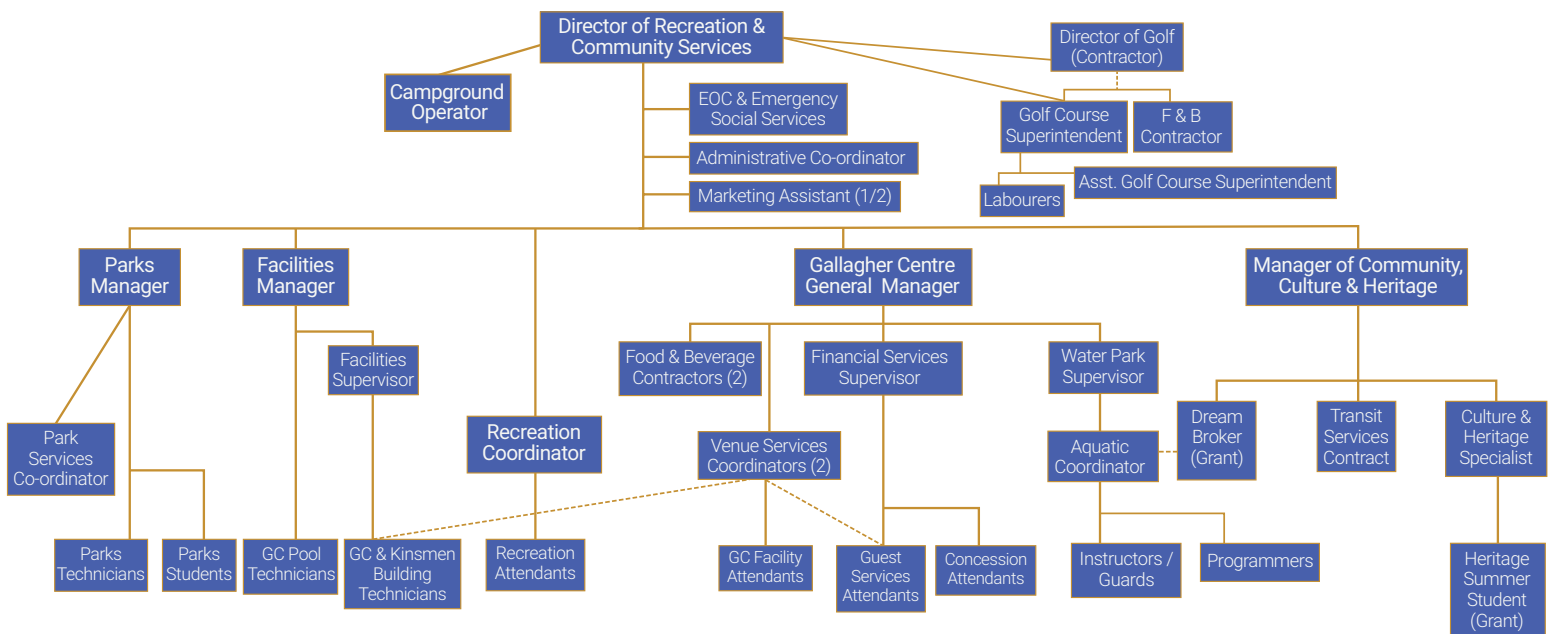
KEY TAKEAWAYS -

- The City of Yorkton has a good array of community groups providing a variety of activities to residents.
- The City provides a variety of swimming and pool programming to the community.

10.1 City of Yorkton Recreation & Community Services Department

The City of Yorkton's Recreation and Community Services Department works to promote health and well-being and assists in strengthening a sense of community pride. The department directly employs a variety of staff, including lifeguards, recreation attendants, guest services attendants, concession attendants, building technicians, and a heritage researcher. The department works with many local clubs and organizations to deliver programs and events in Yorkton. The Parks Department is responsible for the maintenance and safety of outdoor parks, fields, pathways, and greens spaces. The department directly employs a variety of staff including a park services coordinator, parks technicians, and many parks summer students during the summer months.

Recreation & Community Services



10.2 Expenditures and Revenue

The below charts outline the expenditures and revenues from 2022, along with the cost recovery figures for indoor and outdoor amenities in Yorkton. Notably, there was significant investment into the Gallagher Centre ice plant and the Kinsmen Arena in 2022. The City is still recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic and applied \$265,000 of the Covid Safe Restart funds to cover revenue levels to match the targets from pre-pandemic.

Outdoor Facilities and Amenities	2022 Expenditures	2022 Revenue	Per Capita	Net Revenue	Cost Recovery
Deer Park Golf Course (Administration, Golf Course, Clubhouse, Fleet Equipment)	\$852,130	\$576,700	\$52.14	\$255,500	68%
Parks Maintenance (Grass Cutting, Forestry, Horticulture, Pest Control)	\$986,396	\$78,100	\$60.35	\$908,296	8%
Soccer Fields	\$33,325		\$2.03		
Ball Diamonds	\$138,901		\$8.49		
Outdoor Facilities	\$137,207		\$8.39		

- Loss of Cardinals rentals in 2021 and less overall diamond rentals
- Power for pathways, outdoor rink, and skate park, and tennis court lights

Gallagher Centre	2022 Expenditures	2022 Revenues	Per Capita	Net Revenue	Cost Recovery
General Fee's and Admission	N/A	\$362,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Administration	\$527,942	N/A	\$32.30	N/A	N/A
Agri-Pavilion	\$54,626	\$15,500	\$3.34	\$39,126	28%
Arena	\$427,036	\$316,500	\$26.12	\$110,536	74%
Building Maintenance	\$723,818	N/A	\$44.28	N/A	N/A
Janitorial	\$337,922	N/A	\$20.67	N/A	N/A
Convention Centre and Concession	\$214,150	\$343,500	\$13.10	\$129,350	160%
Curling Rink	\$30,003	\$55,000	\$0.79	\$24,997	183%
Flexi-Hall	\$56,105	\$129,000	\$3.43	\$72,895	229%
Grounds and Parking Lot	\$131,457	\$12,000	\$8.04	\$119,457	9%
Waterpark	\$1,312,478	\$640,000	\$80.30	\$672,478	48%
Total Gallagher Centre	\$3,815,536	1,927,500	\$233.46	\$1,888,036	50%

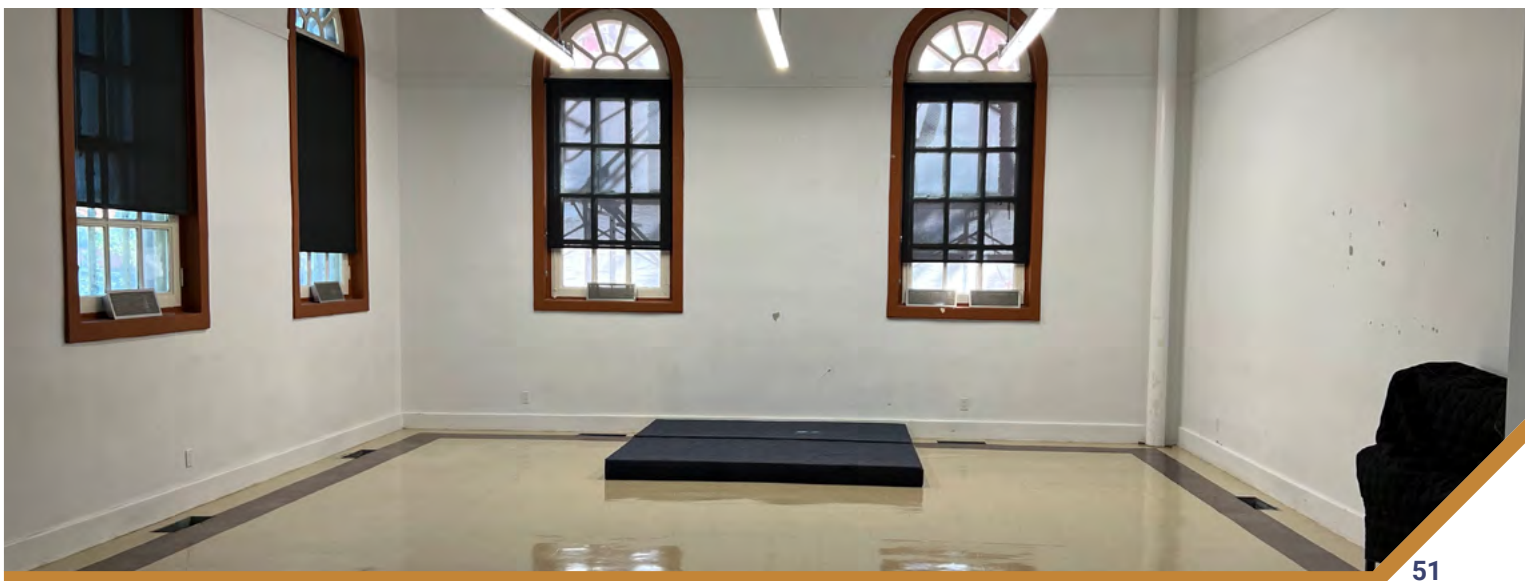
Other Indoor Facilities in Yorkton	2022 Expenditures	2022 Revenues	Per Capita	Net Revenue	Cost Recovery
Godfrey Dean	\$77,280	\$52,000	\$4.27	\$25,280	67%
Kinsmen Arena	\$316,245	\$218,500	\$19.35	\$97,745	69%
Gloria Hayden	\$116,650	\$48,000	\$7.13	\$68,650	41%
Facility Maintenance	\$240,542	N/A	\$14.71	N/A	N/A

10.3 Parks and Recreation Organizations

As the table below illustrates, there are an abundance of organizations, groups, and businesses in Yorkton that deliver parks and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. These organizations are an important part of the overall system of provision.

Organization	Program/Services/Mandate
Dance Innovations	Provides dance classes to youth, children, teens, and adults. Also provides yoga, fitness, music, art, and drama programming.
Extravadance Studio	Offer registered dance classes for all ages. Some classes include tap and jazz, ballet, tiny dance, and hip hop.
Free My Muse Theatre Company	Provide drama and acting classes.
Godfrey Dean Art Gallery	Art gallery with exhibitions, workshops, classes, and events.
Kalyna Ukrainian Dance School	Ukrainian organization established to promote and preserve Ukrainian heritage through dance.
Paper Bag Players	A local community theatre group, puts on different theatre events throughout the year.
Parkland Writers Alliance	Strives to encourage and promote the art of writing for both pleasure and publication.
Treasure Chest Toastmasters Club	An organization that aims to enhance leadership and communication skills for all ages to build self confidence and personal growth.
Yorkton Arts Council	Raise the community's interest in the arts, and establish a place where programs of music, art and craft demonstrations could be developed.
Yorkton Community Concert Band and All That Jazz	Provide an opportunity for the community to pursue musical interests.
Yorkton Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Ensemble	Providing an opportunity for young people to express themselves through dance and establish an appreciation for the Ukrainian tradition.
Yorkton Film Festival	Dedicated to the promotion of the best screen-based media content in Yorkton.
Recreation Groups	Programs/Services/Mandate
Parkland Association of Disc Golf	Dedicated to being a resource for Disc Golf in Yorkton, provide workshops on how to play and overall information about the sport.
Rolling Thunder Cruisers	Car collection group. Annual car rides and shows for antique cars.
Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association – Parkland Valley District	Promote active living, wellness and participation for those over the age of 50.
Yellowhead Flyaway Birding Trail Association Inc	A group engaged in learning about and advocating for birds.
York Lake Golf and Country Club	12 hole golf course in Yorkton.
Yorkton and District Horticultural Society	A group of enthusiastic gardeners that are passionate about planting and horticulture.

Sports Groups	Programs/Services/Mandate
Raider Gridder Cheerleading	Provides a fun environment for kids to learn about cheerleading. Programs also focus on self esteem, participation, sportsmanship, and team building.
Special Olympics Saskatchewan – Yorkton and District	Works with children, youth, and adults with intellectual disabilities for over fifty years and encourage participation in sport as well as a healthy lifestyle.
Yorkton Aqaubatix Synchronized Swimming Club	Synchronized swimming club for all ages.
Yorkton Blitz Volleyball	Competitive volleyball club for females aged 12-18.
Yorkton Canoe Kayak Club	Nonprofit organization dedicated to introducing and developing the sport of sprint canoe and kayak.
Yorkton Crush Softball	Nonprofit youth softball association for ages 4-19.
Yorkton Curling Club	Local curling club for all ages and abilities. A variety of leagues range from men’s league, women league, and family leagues.
Yorkton Lacrosse Association	Youth lacrosse association for kids aged 7-18.
Yorkton Martial Arts Training Centre	Offer different arts and styles such as kung fu, jiu-jitsu, kickboxing, and more!
Yorkton Minor Baseball	Youth baseball association for ages 4-17.
Yorkton Minor Football	Offers flag football and tackle football for both males and females.
Yorkton Minor Hockey	Youth hockey programming for those aged 4-17.
Yorkton Secon Maulers	AAA boys hockey team.
Yorkton Terriers Junior Hockey Club	Local Junior A Hockey Team
Yorkton United Soccer Club	Provides soccer programming for those aged 4-18.



10.4 Notable Programs and Events

The Recreation and Community Services Department provides a variety of programs and events to the community. The table below identifies recreation programs offered by the City of Yorkton.

City Programs

Program	Type	Cost	Notes
Aquatic Fitness Programs	All ages	Access Communications Water Park – Admission Fees (\$5.50-\$7.50)	A variety of aquacise programs are available.
Swimming Lessons	All ages	Variable - \$76.50-\$117.00	A variety of swimming lessons for all ages that are provided by the lifesaving society.
Fitness Classes	All ages	\$60.00	Yoga and fitness classes available.
Summer Programs	Youth	N/A	Summer youth programming.

City Events

Program	Cost	Notes
City Wide Registration Nights	N/A	Local community groups gather to inform residents about upcoming programs.
Holiday Decorating Contest	N/A	In collaboration with the Yorkton Business Improvement District, Yorkton Chamber of Commerce residents are encouraged to decorate their house with the brightest holiday lights.
Noon Years Eve at the Gallagher Centre	N/A	A free family event to celebrate the new year.
Canada Day Fireworks	N/A	A free family event to celebrate Canada Day.
National Indigenous Peoples Day and Urban Treaty Day Celebration	N/A	An event put on by the Yorkton Tribal Council to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day and Urban Treaty Day.



10.5 User Fees

To recover some costs in parks and recreation delivery, the City of Yorkton charges user and facility rental fees. The City reviews its fees annually, with any changes to rates and fees listed below approved by City Council. Fee changes come into effect on September 1st each year for indoor facilities and amenities and January 1st for outdoor facilities and amenities. The following rates were in place beginning September 1st, 2022.

Indoor Recreation Fees

Item	Membership/Fee Type	Cost
Drop-in Sport Prices	Drop-in Fee	\$3.75
	10 pack	\$33.25
	25 pack	\$85.75
	50 pack	\$166.75
Court Fees	Youth	\$6.75
	Adult	\$10.50
	Other court rental	\$20.90
	Wallyball	\$30.40
	Equipment Rental	\$1.90
Court Memberships	Adult Monthly	\$62.00
	Adult Season	\$300.00
	Youth Monthly	\$38.00
	Youth Season	\$190.50
	Family Monthly	\$119.00
	Family Season	\$562.00
Walking Track Prices	Daily Drop-in	\$2.75
	25 Walk Pass	\$55.25
	100 Walk Pass	\$241.25
	200 Walk Pass	\$309.50
Access Communications Water Park	Child (age 3-6)	\$4.25
	Youth (age 7-17)	\$5.50
	Adult (age 18+)	\$7.50
	Combo Pack	\$19.00
	Mega Pack	\$24.75

Item	Membership/Fee Type	Cost
Access Communications Water Park Passes	10 passes	Child (3-6) \$38.00 Youth (7-17) \$42.75 Adult (18+) 68.50
	20 passes	Child (3-6) \$66.75 Youth (7-17) \$81.00 Adult (18+) \$122.50
	50 passes	Child (3-6) \$147.50 Youth (7-17) \$171.50 Adult (18+) \$266.75
	100 passes	Child (3-6) \$252.50 Youth (7-17) \$295.25 Adult (18+) \$457.25

Facility Rental Fees

Item	Membership/Fee Type	Cost
Westland Arena	Price Ice (Mon-Fri 4pm-Close)	\$215.00
	Nonprime Ice (Mon-Fri Open – 4pm)	\$110.00
	Rush Ice (ice that is booked and used within 24 hours)	\$110.00
	Spring/Summer Ice (April, July, August)	\$236.50
Kinsmen Arena	Price Ice (Mon-Fri 4pm-Close)	\$215.00
	Nonprime Ice (Mon-Fri Open – 4pm)	\$105.00
	Rush Ice (ice that is booked and used within 24 hours)	\$105.00
Godfrey Dean Cultural Centre – Land Title Building / Programming Room	Hourly (15% discount for rentals more than 5 but less than 8 hours in length)	\$25.00
	Day rate (rentals 8 hours or more)	\$200.00
	Security Deposit	\$250.00
Yorkton Public Library – Meeting Room / Programming Room	Hourly (15% discount for rentals more than 5 but less than 8 hours in length)	\$25.00
	Day rate (rentals 8 hours or more)	\$200.00
	Security Deposit	\$250.00
Kinsmen Arena – Blue Room	Hourly (15% discount for rentals more than 5 but less than 8 hours in length)	\$25.00
	Day rate (rentals 8 hours or more)	\$200.00
	Security Deposit	\$250.00
Gloria Hayden Gymnasium	Hourly	\$49.00
Gloria Hayden Community Centre – Birthday Party		\$135 (\$30.00 bouncy castle is optional)
National Bank Convention Rooms, Ravine Room, RE/MAX Sports Lounge, Youth Room	Different packages are available based on event needs.	
Grounds and Out Buildings (Agri-Pavilion, Ag arena, Industrial Building)	Different packages are available based on event needs.	

Outdoor Field Rates

Item	Membership/Fee type	Cost
Soccer Fields	Hourly	\$37.50
	Daily/Tournament Rate	\$175.00
	Level 1	\$190.00
	Level 2	\$125.00
Ball Diamonds	Dugout Cleanup	\$65.00
	Lights (Jubilee 1 and Lions)	\$95.00
	Mound Repair	\$115

*The above prices include taxes.



11.0 Key Findings



11.0 Key Findings

Having reviewed and examined several key areas of information that will factor into the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, this section concludes by presenting some key findings from our research. The key findings presented below are summaries, however, give some insight into the state of parks and recreation in Yorkton.

Community Profile

- Yorkton is the 6th largest City in Saskatchewan.
- Yorkton has a robust trading area which is estimated to service 113,000 people
- There is an abundance of education opportunities for Youth in Yorkton.
- The City has a strong network of indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- The City is projecting a growth of 25,000 residents by 2040.
- Yorkton has the third highest Indigenous population in the province with a population of 1,935.
- The largest sector of employment within Yorkton is sales and service employing 30% of the workforce.

Trends and Leading Practices in Parks and Recreation

The trends outlined in this document are broadly affecting the parks and recreation sector and have been selected as they relate to the state of parks and recreation in Yorkton. These trends can help give direction to future planning of parks and recreation in Yorkton.

- Data Collection and the need to understand user behaviours, needs and preferences.
- A focus on equality and inclusion, with a focus on the continuing efforts of truth and reconciliation.
 - » There are a variety of studies and resources available to help with addressing equality and inclusion in the recreation sector. Some are outlined below:
 - viaSport
 - SPARC BC
 - SPRA – Parks and Recreation Create a Sense of Belonging and Connection
- The increase in older adult participation in recreation activities, specifically moving away from the traditional activities this population “normally” participated in previously and how municipalities can deal with this new demand.
 - » The uptake of participation in pickleball is a good example.
- The increased demand for spontaneous recreation postpandemic. People are seeking flexibility in their recreation involvement, but it may be suggested that planning for the general public may be as important as structured programs.

Policy and Planning Foundations

There is a strong planning and policy framework in place in Yorkton that supports the development of parks and recreation services, amenities, and future growth. Policies in Yorkton acknowledge the importance of fostering a healthy community.

Strategic Policy

- The Yorkton Strategic Plan (2020), City of Yorkton Official Community Plan Background Report (2012), and the City of Yorkton Master Plan (2014) provide high level direction and focus on the importance of a healthy city, population growth, and requirements of recreation service capacity.

Socio-Demographic and Housing Policy

- The Yorkton Municipal Culture Plan (2009), Yorkton Area Demographic Market Segments Supplement Report (2015), and the Yorkton Community Housing Plan outline population trends and identify some issues of those who live in Yorkton. These documents highlight aging population, the presence of Indigenous communities, and the need for housing.

Recreation Infrastructure

- The Yorkton Kinsmen Arena Facility Assessment and Feasibility Study (2019), Yorkton Recreation Planning Study City Council Presentation (2019), Gallagher Centre Renewal Project Council Presentation (2020), Pump Bike Park Development Review (2021), and the Community Development, Parks and Recreation Fees (2022) provide understanding of the current state of recreations service delivery and the state of some amenities in Yorkton.

Community Partner Reports

- A variety of reports from local, regional, and national partners were reviewed. The documents show the importance of nonprofits in the community delivering recreation services and programs in the community. Refer to section 6.4 for full detail on which reports were reviewed.

Transit and Transportation

- Transit and transportation refer to documents that support the planning of roads, highways, and cycling infrastructure. Along with roads that allow people to travel to and from recreation services, these documents also highlighted the importance of cycling to residents of Yorkton and the necessity to consider people who also live in the trade area surrounding Yorkton when developing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Land Use, Buildings and Economic Development

- A variety of plans were examined that outlined policy requirements for new parks and recreation services as the population in Yorkton grows. The documents can help inform and support baselines for service delivery.

Municipal, Provincial and National Policy

- These documents capture framework and policies that are being developed on a municipal, provincial and national level to help move the parks and recreation sector forward. Reports examined include, SaskAbilities Annual Report (2021), Special Olympics Annual Report (2021), Parks for All (2017), and the Canada Sport Policy Review (ongoing).

Inventory and Utilization of Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Spaces

While Yorkton provides some programming, the majority is provided by local community groups who are booking time in City facilities. While there has been an increase in arena bookings postpandemic, there is still time available during prime-time hours at the Kinsmen Arena. The ball diamonds and rectangular sports fields are underutilized.

- Both arena facilities have increased their bookings in 2021-2022 from prior to the pandemic.
- Youth sport makes up 40% of the bookings at Westland Arena.
- The Westland Insurance Arena is booked very close to the total available hours during prime time (95%) while the Kinsmen Arena could be considered moderately booked during prime time (59%).
- Drop-in walking track passes are the most popular passes by far.
- Most ball diamonds in Yorkton are not well utilized.

Comparative Benchmarking

Yorkton provides its residents with an array of parks and recreation activities, amenities, and programs. However, compared to communities its size, it is behind in the number of amenities that are available in the community. Areas where Yorkton is above average, however, include community gymnasiums (schools), curling rinks, indoor track, spray features at the water park, golf courses, multisport courts (outdoor), outdoor boarded rinks, outdoor tennis courts, and combined outdoor tennis and pickleball courts.

- Yorkton is above average or average for amenity provision 73% of the time (29 of 40 of the amenity categories researched).
- Yorkton is below average in over half of the amenities analyzed.
- Yorkton is most deficient in outdoor recreation amenities, and this could be due to low demand for the spaces.

Service Delivery of Parks and Recreation

While the City of Yorkton provides some programming to the community (aquatics), the majority of programs are provided by an array of community groups. The City supports the role that these organizations play in providing parks and recreation activities to the community.

Conclusion

This research in many ways validates the excellent work the City of Yorkton has undertaken to date to achieve goals and objectives through a variety of planning tools. The City benefits from having a strong policy foundation, while focussing on a array of broad topics including recreation, parks, inclusion, and continuing to do their part regarding reconciliation efforts within the City.

There is good provision of parks and recreation in Yorkton, however there is room for improvement to stay current with communities that are similar in size. While every community is different, it is recognized that the City of Yorkton is making strides forward to ensure facilities, amenities, and programs are staying current with the trends in the sector.



City of 
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