

2010

Village of New Maryland Recreation Master Plan



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SECTION 1 – BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Recreation has been defined as the refreshment of one's mind or body through activity that amuses or stimulates and as such it is an important aspect of one's life. It is also important to a community because it develops community wellness, social interaction, business stability, and community pride. The Village of New Maryland's 2010 'Strategic and Operational Plan' proposes a short-term action of developing a Recreation Master Plan as a step toward furthering the recreation goal of the 2006 Municipal Plan (Section 7). The goal is "to provide a full range of recreation facilities and programs that are well integrated into both individual neighbourhoods and the overall community". The objectives of the Municipal Plan (Section 7.2) provide additional elaboration. The objectives are:

- 1) To provide neighbourhood recreation facilities throughout the Village to serve as many residents as possible.
- 2) To provide recreation services and facilities for all age groups in the community.
- 3) To provide and protect open spaces for the enjoyment of all residents and promote health and wellness by providing opportunities for active lifestyles.

Students in the Recreation and Sport Studies Program of the Faculty of Kinesiology at the University of New Brunswick were retained to assist with the development of the Master Plan. The intent of the planning process was to produce a document, based on research and resident input that would guide future decisions pertaining to the health, wellness and vibrancy of the Village of New Maryland over the next seven to ten year period. It was also intended to provide students with a valuable learning experience.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Master Plan is to provide a framework which will help direct the Recreation Committee of Council and the Recreation and Leisure Services Department in both their short and long-term planning over the next several years. The Master Plan provides an overview and analysis of current issues relating to recreation programs, facilities, services, and open space in the Village of New Maryland and offers recommendations for the future. This document should be used as a reference when implementing changes to recreation services in New Maryland, and should be consistently monitored and adapted as the Village and its residents change over time. The following are core objectives of this Recreation Master Plan:

- To identify public needs, thoughts, and opinions pertaining to leisure and recreation.
- To identify special interest group needs, thoughts, and opinions pertaining to leisure and recreation.
- To identify current facilities, programs and services available to the residents of the Village.
- To identify current leisure behaviour trends within the community, where possible.
- To determine aspects of recreation and leisure delivery in need of change or development in the short and in the long-term.
- To consider opinions and needs in relation to the financial and human resources available.
- To prepare recommendations that will guide the Village in the provision of a full range of recreation facilities and services for all residents.

PLAN PREPARATION

In order to achieve the objectives as presented, a five phased approach was followed. This included project initiation and scoping, secondary research review, primary data collection, data synthesis and analysis, and development of a draft and final report.

Phase One: Project Initiation and Scoping

Phase one provided the opportunity for members of the UNB planning team to meet with the members of the Recreation Committee of Council. The meeting was used to gain direction for the planning exercise and to glean ideas and opinions from the Committee members concerning the future direction of leisure and recreation for the Village.

Phase Two: Secondary Research Review

During this phase three specific tasks were involved. The first task involved a review of Statistics Canada material pertaining to the Village of New Maryland as well as the City of Fredericton and the Province of New Brunswick for contextual understanding. From this review socio-demographic profiles were developed for the area's population. The second task included an examination of current and projected trends in parks and recreation in Canada. The third task involved working with the Recreation Coordinator for the Village to gain an understanding of past recreation programs, services and facilities. Key findings from this phase are summarized and reported in this document.

Phase Three: Primary Data Collection

This phase was concerned with obtaining information about current recreation opportunities and programs offered by and in the Village. The data was gathered from the following sources:

- Local sport and recreation special interest groups in the Village
- Recreation Committee of Council
- Recreation staff of the Village
- Village Council
- General public living in the New Maryland area
- Local Service District (LSD) Representatives

Interviews were conducted with the special interest groups and the staff. Information gathered from these discussions included descriptions of the programs and services offered, problems and concerns each group had with the state of recreation in the area, and opinions on strategies that could improve the programs and services offered in the Village. This information was then synthesized and presented as a discussion document at a public meeting open to all residents of the area. At these meetings participants were encouraged to discuss the services offered by the Village, the strengths and weaknesses of recreation services and possible solutions for improvements.

Phase Four: Data Synthesis and Analysis

The planning team compiled, synthesized, analyzed and interpreted the information collected in Phases Two and Three. This was done to identify issues and opportunities and these then formed the foundation for the formulation of recommendations to guide the future development of recreation and leisure services in the Village.

Phase Five: Draft and Final Report

A draft version of the report developed by the planning team was prepared and a presentation of the report was given to the Recreation Committee of Council and Council for review and discussion. Revisions were incorporated prior to release of this report.

INFLUENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS

In addition to local characteristics and context, there are a number of lifestyle and socio-economic trends that influence recreation opportunity, choice and participation. As these have an effect on the delivery of public recreation several are summarized below and are considered in the development of the recommendations for the Village.

- **Increased profile of healthy eating and active living** – This has come about due to rising concerns about obesity and related diseases, and rising health care costs. It has led to a general focus on overall wellness. Evidence is the fact that greater attention is being given to such areas as healthy food in recreation settings, the development of trails and walking facilities, active transportation plans, workplace wellness strategies and health promotion campaigns.
- **Increased attention to inclusive recreation** – This has come about due to changing family structures, work situations, ethnic diversity and perceptions of disabilities. It has led to policies and practices with a focus on reducing physical, financial, language and cultural barriers to participation.
- **Increased demand for value added recreation opportunities** – This has come about due to such factors as a scarcity of leisure time, increased leisure options such as screen time, increased equipment and program fees and changing employment situations. This has led to higher expectations for programs and facilities, the provision of more opportunities for spontaneous recreation and the provision of centralized facilities offering opportunities for simultaneous recreation experiences as well as other services such as retail, libraries and health services for all members of a family.
- **Increased attention to the environment** – This is having an effect on activity choice, facility design and operation, and park and open space provision and maintenance. It has led to such areas as the growth in nature-based recreation, the ‘greening’ of public spaces, community gardens, energy reduction technology in pools and arenas, and turf maintenance products and approaches.
- **Increased acceptance of partnership arrangements** – Concerns with cost and duplication in services, programs and facilities have led to a variety of formal and informal collaborative arrangements among public, commercial and not-for-profit organizations in the planning, development, maintenance and delivery of recreation opportunities.

- **Changes in life-stage requirements** – Due to factors such as increased concern for childhood health, the non-engagement of youth, low activity levels of young adults and families, and the growing segment of older adults, there is greater recognition that not all those in each stage segment have the same needs, interests and fitness and health levels. This has led to an increased need for program diversity, multi-use facilities, participation monitoring, and leisure education.
- **Changes in activity preferences** – As stated in previous examples there are a number of factors that influence recreation choices; however, there are trends worthy of note. Examples include: a move to more unstructured opportunities for some segments of the population while other segments such as youth prefer programmed opportunities; a move from team sports to more individual and life-long activities; growth in gardening, in-line skating, cycling, skateboarding, ultimate frisbee, BMX biking and beach volleyball; greater attention to arts, crafts, music, dance and drama; and, increased interest in 'learn-to' programs.
- **Changes in facility focus** – Similar to changes in activity preferences, there are trends influencing facility needs, design, and use. For example, increased attention is being given to the centralization of facilities into 'facility hubs' and 'leisure malls', more biking and walking trail development that connects community features and neighborhoods, more family oriented outdoor spaces that provide a variety of opportunities, the development of more energy saving and cost effective facilities, a move to artificial turf fields and splash pads, provision of shaded areas in parks and play areas and the growth of indoor spaces for year round physical activity such as walking, golf, tennis and soccer.
- **Decline in volunteers** – Evidence suggests a decrease in volunteerism which has led to the necessity for greater recognition of the needs and interests of volunteers and the provision of greater support and leadership for volunteers.

SECTION 2 – CURRENT STRUCTURES AND SERVICES

LOCATION

The Village of New Maryland is located on the southern border of Fredericton, New Brunswick. The Village is made up of eight subdivisions and Peterson's Mini Home Park.

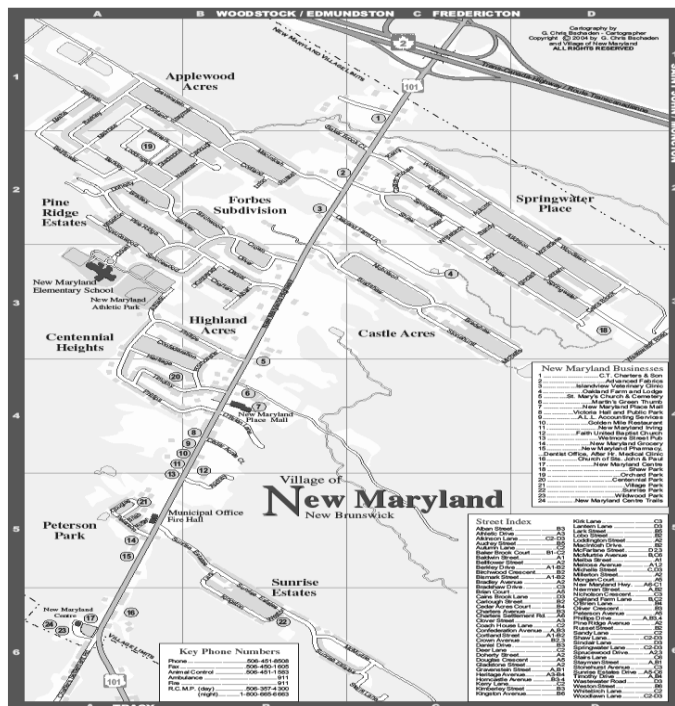


Figure 1 – Map of New Maryland

ADMINISTRATION

Recreation and leisure services in the Village of New Maryland are guided by an eight member Recreation Committee of the Village Council comprised of two Village Councillors, five Village residents nominated by the Mayor and one non-voting member. The non-voting member is the Recreation Coordinator. The day-to-day operation of recreation in the Village is the responsibility of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. The Recreation Coordinator of this Department reports directly to the Chief Administrative Officer for the Village. The Recreation and Leisure Services Department is comprised of two full-time employees and one part-time employee. The full-time staff

members are the Recreation Coordinator and the Recreation Foreman. The part-time staff member is the Recreation Programmer. In addition, the department employs five gym supervisor staff members who are students. During the winter, the department hires an outdoor rink attendant who is also a student. During the summer, the department hires approximately 15 summer students who participate in running summer youth programs, and serve as maintenance personnel. The department also relies heavily on numerous volunteers who help make their programs successful. In addition to the full and part-time staff of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department there is also a full-time Community Facilities Manager responsible for the New Maryland Centre and Victoria Hall and a part-time Facilities Custodian. The Community Facilities Manager reports directly to the Village Chief Administrative Officer and operates somewhat independently from the Recreation & Leisure Services Department although the staff, operations, and capital budgets are included within the general recreation budgets.

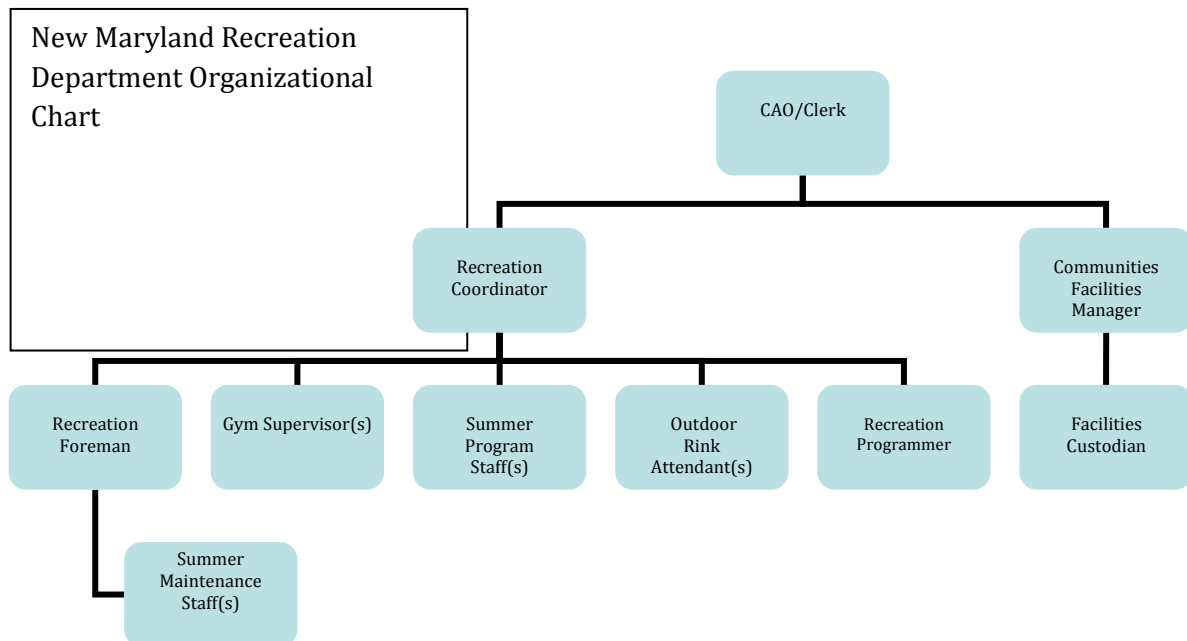


Figure 2 - Organizational Chart

DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics play an important role in determining the needs for recreation services in a community. This section presents a demographic profile for the Village of New Maryland. Included is information pertaining to population, family characteristics, migration, mobility status, language, and minority population characteristics. It should be noted that the data used are from Statistics Canada and in some cases the total values may not match the individual values. According to Statistics Canada, to ensure confidentiality, the values, including totals, are randomly rounded either up or down to a multiple of '5' or '10'. To understand this data, users must be aware that each individual value is rounded. As a result, when these data are summed or grouped, the total value may not match the individual values since totals and sub-totals are independently rounded. Similarly, percentages, which are calculated on rounded data, may not add up to 100%.

In the most recent census period (2001 to 2006) the Village of New Maryland's population decreased by 0.8% from 4,284 people to 4,248 people. During this same period the population of the Province of New Brunswick increased slightly from 729, 498 people to 729, 997 people, an increase of approximately 0.1%. The table below outlines the population change from the Village of New Maryland and the Province of New Brunswick over the past 10 years.

Table 1.1 - Population

	New Maryland, Village Total	New Brunswick Total
Population in 2006	4,248	729,997
Population in 2001	4,284	729,498
2001 to 2006 population change (%)	-0.8	0.1

Source: Statistics Canada 2001-2006

POPULATION AGE COHORT

This section discusses the population age groups for the Village of New Maryland and the Province. While overall population contributes to demand for services, age-based data influences the nature of the demand. Age groups are analyzed using data from two Canadian Censuses (2001 and 2006).

The 0 – 4 age group showed a slight increase but this does not suggest a significant influence on future recreation demand. In 2001, the population of children aged 5 – 14 was 725 compared to the 2006 Census results of 660. This age group is a prime user of recreation facilities and services and a slight decrease has been observed over the past five years. Similarly, there was a slight decrease in the number of youth in the 15-19 age group.

From 2001 to 2006 this age group decreased from 390 to 355. The 20 – 24 age group also showed a very minor decrease in population during the last two census periods. In 2001, there were 275 individuals who were a part of this age group and in 2006, the number dropped to 270. For the same periods the 25 - 44 age group showed an 11% decrease and the 45 – 54 age group decreased by 90 people from 840 in 2001 to 750 in 2006.

Conversely, the 55 – 64 age group showed a significant increase in population from 420 in 2001 to 635 people. Within these age groups are the baby boomer demographic and the data indicates that there is an increase in the population. The services and programs will need to reflect this population because they make up a large portion of the population. Also, in the latter years of this age group, retirement will become a substantial issue because the leisure needs of these individuals will increase. The 65 – 74 age group also exhibited a population increase from 155 people in 2001 to 225 in 2006. Similarly, the 75 – 84 age group showed an increase from 70 in 2001 and 75 in 2006. The 85 and above age group had a decrease of five people from 15 in 2001 to 10 in 2006.

These changes in age cohort data mirror the general changes taking place within the Province. During the last census period the Province has seen declines in the younger populations and increases in the 50 Plus age groups. However, the neighboring City of Fredericton is counter to the Provincial situation and has experienced increases in almost all age groups during the 2001-2006 periods.

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

In 2006, Statistics Canada recorded 1, 265 census families in the Village of New Maryland. The number of married-couple families comprised 85% of the total census families. The number of lone-parent families comprised approximately 8.3% of the total census families and the number of common-law-couple families comprised 6.3% of the total census families in the Village of New Maryland.

For the Province of New Brunswick, Statistics Canada recorded 217, 790 census families where the total number of married-couple families was approximately 69.4% of the total. In addition, the number of lone-parent families comprised approximately 16.3% of the total census families in the Province and the number of common-law-couple families comprises approximately 14.2% of the total population of New Brunswick.

The average number of persons in all census families for the Village of New Maryland is 3.1 people. This is marginally higher than the Province's average of 2.8 persons per household.

The median income in 2005 (according to the 2006 Canadian Census) for all census families in the Village of New Maryland was \$87, 982 compared to the Province of New Brunswick's median income for 2005 which was \$52, 878. The median income in 2005 for married-couple families in the Village of New Maryland was \$92, 062, whereas the median income in 2005 for married-couple families in the Province of New Brunswick was \$60, 726.

Table 1.2 - Selected Family Characteristics

	New Maryland, Village Total	New Brunswick Total
Total number of census families	1,265	217,790
Number of married-couple families	1,075	151,210
Number of common-law-couple families	80	31,000
Number of lone-parent families	105	35,585
Number of female lone-parent families	95	29,150
Number of male lone-parent families	0	6,435
Average number of persons in all census families	3.1	2.8

Table 1.2 - Selected Family Characteristics

	New Maryland, Village Total	New Brunswick Total
Average number of persons in married-couple families	3.2	2.9
Average number of persons in common-law-couple families	3.2	2.7
Average number of persons in lone-parent families	2.5	2.4
Average number of persons in female lone-parent families	2.5	2.5
Average number of persons in male lone-parent families	0.0	2.3
Median income in 2005 - All census families (\$)	87,982	52,878
Median income in 2005 - Married-couple families (\$)	92,062	60,726
Median income in 2005 - Common-law-couple families (\$)	84,061	49,137
Median income in 2005 - Lone-parent families (\$)	47,799	28,416
Median income in 2005 - Female lone-parent families (\$)	47,789	26,810
Median income in 2005 - Male lone-parent families (\$)	0	35,859
Median after-tax income in 2005 - All census families (\$)	71,840	46,198
Median after-tax income in 2005 - Married-couple families (\$)	75,671	52,000

Table 1.2 - Selected Family Characteristics

	New Maryland, Village Total	New Brunswick Total
Median after-tax income in 2005 - Common-law-couple families (\$)	69,436	43,211
Median after-tax income in 2005 – Lone-parent families (\$)	43,959	27,375
Median after-tax income in 2005 - Female lone-parent families (\$)	43,949	26,152
Median after-tax income in 2005 - Male lone-parent families (\$)	0	32,559

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles 2006

MIGRATION

Between 2001 and 2006, approximately 69% of the Village of New Maryland's population continued to live at the same address. Approximately 8% of the population was comprised of individuals who migrated to the Village of New Maryland from another province, territory, or country during this five year period. Between 2001 and 2006, the Province of New Brunswick had approximately 67% of the total population live at the same address for this five year period. Approximately 6% of New Brunswick's population was comprised of individuals who migrated to the Province during this five year period. The Village of New Maryland shows a slightly higher migration rate between 2001 and 2006 when compared to the Province of New Brunswick and also shows that the individuals living at the same address over this five year period was slightly higher in the Village of New Maryland.

Table 1.3 - Mobility Status Place of residence 5 years ago

	New Maryland, Village			New Brunswick		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total population 5 years and over	3,995	1,965	2,040	685,145	333,585	351,565
Lived at the same address 5 years ago	2,740	1,345	1,400	462,160	226,775	235,385
Lived within the same province or territory 5 years ago, but changed addresses within the same census subdivision (municipality)	510	245	265	116,530	55,655	60,870
Lived within the same province or territory 5 years ago, but changed addresses from another census subdivision (municipality)	2,740	1,345	1,400	462,160	226,775	235,385

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles 2006

ETHNIC DIVERSITY

The number of Village of New Maryland residents self-identifying as from a visible minority group in the 2006 census is about the same as the Provincial average which is approximately 1.8%. There are, however, areas of the Province such as the City of Fredericton where the percent has increased by approximately 3% over the last five years. The visible minority population in the City of Fredericton was 6.7% in 2006.

Table 1. 4 - Visible minority population characteristics

	New Maryland, Village			New Brunswick		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total population	4,245	2,080	2,165	719,650	351,145	368,505
Total visible minority population	75	30	40	13,345	6,745	6,595
Chinese	0	0	0	2,450	1,160	1,285
South Asian	0	0	0	1,960	1,060	895
Black	55	25	25	4,455	2,290	2,165
Filipino	10	0	0	530	210	320
Latin American	0	0	0	720	365	350
Southeast Asian	0	0	0	445	165	275
Arab	0	0	0	840	525	315
West Asian	0	0	0	550	275	275
Korean	10	0	10	625	310	315
Japanese	0	0	0	170	65	100
Visible minority, n.i.e.*	0	0	0	150	90	65
Multiple visible minority	0	0	0	455	215	240
Not a visible minority	4,175	2,050	2,125	706,305	344,400	361,900

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles 2006

* n.i.e.: not included elsewhere. 'Includes respondents who reported a write-in response such as 'Guyanese', 'West Indian', 'Kurd', 'Tibetan', 'Polynesia', 'Pacific Islander', etc.

In 2006, approximately 92% of the total population of the Village of New Maryland spoke English most often at home. About 6% spoke French most often at home and approximately 1% of the total population of the Village of New Maryland spoke English and French at home. About 1% of the total population in the Village of New Maryland spoke a language other than English and French at home. In 2006 in the Province of New Brunswick approximately 69% of the population spoke English most often at home, whereas, approximately 29% of the population spoke French most often at home. Also, in New Brunswick in 2006 about 1% of the population spoke a language other than English or French at home. In 2006 in the Province of New Brunswick 0.6% of the population spoke both English and French at home.

Table 1.5 – Language spoken most often at home

	New Maryland, Village			New Brunswick		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total population	4,245	2,080	2,165	719,650	351,145	368,505
English	3,930	1,930	2,005	494,210	241,270	252,940
French	285	135	145	211,665	103,240	108,420
Non-official language	15	10	10	8,355	4,210	4,145
English and French	10	0	0	4,295	1,875	2,420
English and non-official language	0	0	0	965	455	510
French and non-official language	0	0	0	130	90	40
English, French and non-official language	0	0	0	30	10	20

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles 2006

Approximately 0.2% of the total population of the Village of New Maryland classified themselves as Aboriginal in the 2006 Canadian Census compared to 2.4% for the Province as a whole.

Table 1.6 – Aboriginal population

	New Maryland, Village			New Brunswick		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal identity population	4,245	2,080	2,165	719,650	351,150	368,500
Aboriginal identity population	10	10	10	17,655	8,645	9,005
Non-Aboriginal identity population	4,235	2,075	2,160	701,995	342,505	359,490

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles 2006

In both the 2001 as well as the 2006 census, the unemployment rate in the Village of New Maryland was 3.6%. These unemployment rates are considerably lower than the Provincial rates of 12.5% and 10% in 2001 and 2006 respectively. In 2006 approximately 71% of the New Maryland population who were at least fifteen years of age or older indicated labor force experience which is higher than the Provincial rate of about 64%.

The median income in 2005 for all private households (according to the 2006 Canadian Census) in the Village of New Maryland was \$83, 856 whereas the median income for the Province of New Brunswick in 2005 was \$45, 194. The Village has a much higher median income than the Province as a whole.

Table 1.7 – Labor force activity

	New Maryland, Village			New Brunswick		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total population 15 years and over	3,365	1,630	1,730	601,420	290,500	310,925
In the labor force	2,385	1,215	1,170	382,970	199,945	183,020
Employed	2,295	1,165	1,130	344,770	177,585	167,185

Table 1.7 – Labor force activity

Unemployed	85	45	40	38,195	22,355	15,835
Not in the labor force	980	420	560	218,455	90,555	127,900
Participation rate	70.9	74.5	67.6	63.7	68.8	58.9
Employment rate	68.2	71.5	65.3	57.3	61.1	53.8
Unemployment rate	3.6	3.7	3.4	10.0	11.2	8.7

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles 2006

Table 1.8 - Selected household characteristics

	New Maryland, Village Total	New Brunswick Total
Total private households	1,440	295,960
Households containing a couple (married or common-law) with children	650	79,580
Households containing a couple (married or common-law) without children	485	97,290
One-person households	145	71,940
Other household types	165	47,145
Average household size	2.9	2.4
Median income in 2005 – All private households (\$)	83,856	45,194
Median income in 2005 – Couple households with children (\$)	110,750	69,945
Median income in 2005 – Couple households without children (\$)	78,378	52,132

Table 1.8 - Selected household characteristics

Median income in 2005 – One-person households (\$)	37,084	21,294
Median income in 2005 – Other household types (\$)	82,978	36,130
Median after-tax income in 2005 – All private households (\$)	67,346	39,984
Median after-tax income in 2005 – Couple households with children (\$)	89,938	59,630
Median after-tax income in 2005 – Couple households without children (\$)	63,110	45,524
Median after-tax income in 2005 – One-person households (\$)	30,940	19,580
Median after-tax income in 2005 – Other household types (\$)	67,106	33,809
Median monthly payments for rented dwellings (\$)	692	558
Median monthly payments for owner-occupied dwellings (\$)	884	551

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles 2006

In summary, the socio-demographics for the Village show a community with a slight decrease in the young and middle age cohorts, but an increase in the older population cohorts. The number of married-couple families is higher than the provincial average and the majority of the families tend to live at the same address for more than five years. The number of people speaking mainly English at home is higher than for the Province and the number of self-identified visible minorities is lower than for the City of Fredericton or the Province. Further, the unemployment rate is lower than that of the Provincial and the median income for families is slightly less than twice the Provincial average.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The following table is a snapshot of programs that have been or are currently available to residents through the Village Recreation and Leisure Services Department and other community organizations and groups throughout the Village. While programs are not static and may change throughout the seasons, the table below presents a wide range of programs that were available to the community mainly between 2005- 2009.

Category	Program	Years Operated	Facility Used
First Aid & CPR, Babysitting Course	Babysitter Course (20)*	2009, 2008	NMC
	WHIMS Course	2008	NMC
	First Aid Course (9)	2009,2008	NMC
Fitness	Aerobics	2007, 2006, 2005	Victoria Hall
	Walking Club (7)	2007, 2006, 2005	Athletic Park
Children's Programs	Day Camp (241)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	NMES/NMC
	Little Fingers Program (26)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	NMES
	Rotating Playground Program (149)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	Various Parks
	*Increase from 69 in 2008		
	Tennis Lessons (19)	2009, 2008, 2005	Athletic Park
Teen Programs	Teen Centre	2006, 2005	NMC
	Much Music Dance	2005	NMC
	LIT Program (4)	2009, 2008, 2007	-
Adult Programs	Volleyball	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	NMES
	Golf Tournament (97)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	Gage Golf Club/NMC
	Tennis Lessons (10)	2009, 2008	Athletic Park

Category	Program	Years Operated	Facility Used
Senior Programs	Bridge (6-8 per session)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	Victoria Hall
	Line Dancing (70)	2009, 2007	Victoria Hall
	Cards (20 per night)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	Victoria Hall
	Monthly Dances (343- approx. 34 per dance)	2009	NMC
	Open House (35)	2009, 2008	NMC
	Day Trip	2008	Various
	Garden Club	2008	Various
	Bowling Trip	2007	Various
	PNM Zoomers Club (20) (50 Plus Club Established)	2009	Various
	Epsilon Games (80)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	NMC
Family/Community Activities	Open Gym	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	NMES
	Community Skate- March (150)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	Aitken Centre
	Community Skate- December (100)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	Aitken Centre
	NB Merit Awards (6)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	-
	New Maryland Days	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006	Athletic Park
	Winter Fun Days (100)	2009, 2008, 2007	Various
	Summer Concert Series (1200)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	Victoria Park/NMC
	Strawberry Social (250)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	Victoria Park/NMC
	Blueberry Social (250)	2009, 2008, 2007	Victoria Park/NMC
	Corn Boil (600)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	Victoria Park/NMC
	Communities in Bloom (95)	2008	Various

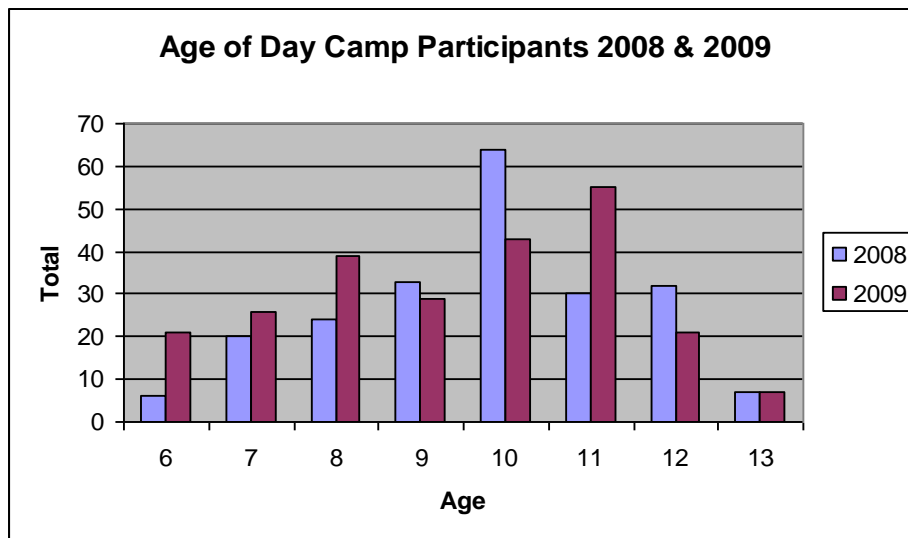
Category	Program	Years Operated	Facility Used
	Community Garden (12)	2009, 2008	Forbes Property
	Move this way to Beijing (8)	2008	-
	Stanley Cup Viewing (350)	2008	NMES
	Nordic Walking Session (7)	2008	NMC
	Crokinole	2007	Victoria Hall
	Mayor Activity Award (16)	2009, 2006, 2005	NMC
	Morning Market	2005	NMC
	Scrap Booking	2005	NMC
	Recycling Challenge	2005	Various
	Access Challenge	2005	NMES
Holiday Activities	Haunted Walk (120)	2009, 2008, 2007	Nature Trail/NMC
	Pumpkin Carving (160)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	NMES
	Halloween Party (120)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	NMC
	Remembrance Day (600)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	Victoria Park/NMC
	Tree Lighting (300)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	Victoria Hall/Faith Baptist Church
	Wreath Making Seminar (47)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	NMC
	Village Christmas Cards (180)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	Various
	Christmas Party (107)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	NMC
	Easter Egg Hunt	2007, 2006, 2005	NMES
Community Groups	Karate Club (45)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	NMES
	Girl Guides (99)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	-
	Scouting (98)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	NMC
	Baseball (96)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	Sport Fields

Category	Program	Years Operated	Facility Used
	Go-Go Gymnastics (996)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	NMES
	Sea Cadets (14)	2009, 2008, 2007	NMES
	Soccer (356)	2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005	Sport Fields
	Lions Club (30)		NMC
	YMCA		NMES
	Astronomy Club		-
	Model Air Craft Club		NMES
	Community Support Group		-
	Women's Institute (10)	2009	Victoria Hall

*Note that * indicates the estimated number of participants for the most recent date when such information was available.*

Summer Day Camp:

Total Participants per year :	
2004	154 (119 residents, 35 non-residents)
2005	172 (all residents)
2006	177 (125 residents, 52 non-residents)
2007	231 (178 residents, 53 non-residents)
2008	216 (150 residents, 66 non-residents)
2009	241 (175 residents, 66 non-residents)

Figure 3 – Day Camp Participation Totals**Figure 4 - Age of Day Camp Participants 2008 & 2009**

FACILITIES

The following provides an overview of the Village of New Maryland facilities that are under the guidance of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department and the Community Facilities Manager. Also, included in the listing are other facilities often used for recreational purposes, but are owned and maintained by other institutions in the community. Brief comments concerning the general condition of the facilities are offered.

Athletic Park – Located adjacent to the elementary school, this park is comprised of the following elements:

- **Bantam Ball Field:** The Bantam Ball Field was built in 1994 and renovated in 2008. It is fully fenced with two dugouts, a batting cage, two sets of bleachers and is not lighted. The field is in good condition with minor maintenance to be done.
- **Peewee Ball Field:** The Peewee Ball Field was built in 1994 and renovated in 2008. It is fully fenced with two dugouts, bleachers and is lighted. The field is in good condition with minor maintenance to be done.
- **Outdoor Volleyball Court:** Built in 2006, standard size and in good condition.
- **Tennis Courts:** The courts were built in 1994 and renovated in 2006. They are fenced and gate controlled. There are two courts with an asphalt surface and three sets of dusk to dawn lighting. The courts are in good/fair condition; repairs will be needed soon to repair cracks in the courts.
- **Basketball Court:** The court was built in 1994 and renovated in 2006. There are two nets, dusk to dawn lighting, and they are fenced and gate controlled. The court is in good to fair condition but the asphalt should be repaired or resurfaced in the near future.

- **Skateboard Park:** The skate park was built in 1995. Equipment includes: 2 ¼ pipes (large), 1 ¼ pipe (medium), 1 curved grind rail, 1 6" grind rail, 1 fun box. Size of asphalt surface: 5,200 sq. Feet (40 X 130) – in good condition.
- **Outdoor Skating Rinks:** The outdoor skating rinks are located over the tennis courts and basketball court in the winter.
- **Green Space (Plato):** This area is used for special events like the New Maryland Days. There are two portable washrooms placed at the site from May to September that are serviced by Ready John weekly.

Sunrise Park: The Park was built in 2005 and a second phase of development started in 2009. When completed, the second phase will consist of a full soccer field and additional parking. Currently, the area contains playground equipment, a ½ basketball court with one net, one shelter and one picnic table. There is no lighting and one parking lot. A swing set was installed in 2010.

New Maryland Nature Trail: This trail was built in 2005 and contains benches, garbage cans, signage, sponsor/donor and map kiosk, 3 bridges, and 1 suspension bridge that was completed in October 2009. There are three forested trails (Fletcher's Walk, Charter's Way, and Cameron's Loop). The distance is under 2km; in good condition.

Orchard Park: The Park was built in 1999 and contains two playground sets, four swings, one picnic shelter, two park benches, one picnic table, and is partially fenced. There is pathway-access on one side and a parking lot. A second playground set was added in 2006. The green space is used for mini soccer. The space is in good condition.

Centennial Park: The Park was built in 1992 and contains a playground apparatus, 4 swings, picnic table, and bench. There is no shelter or lights and it is the smallest neighborhood park. It is in good condition.

Village Park: The Park was built in 1999 and has playground apparatus, rocking swing, one shelter, picnic table, bleachers, and ½ ball field. It is partially fenced, with a walking bridge to the mini home park. There are no lights and it is in good condition.

Wildwood Park: The Park was built in 2005 and is in good condition. It has playground equipment, a wheelchair accessible swing, one swing set with four swings, one sheltered picnic table, two benches, a bicycle rack, a climbing wall, and one light on the edge of the parking lot.

Shaw Park: The Park was built in 1996 and is used as a soccer field. There are two permanent nets, a soccer storage shed, two basketball nets (½ court), playground equipment, one shelter, one picnic table, and one bench. The space is partially fenced with parking, a water box, a climbing apparatus, and a dusk to dawn light. The space is in good condition.

Victoria Hall/Park: The main hall has a 71 person capacity. It contains a small kitchen, and two washrooms. The Veteran's Memorial Cenotaph, park and garden located adjacent to the Hall were repaired and upgraded in 2007. The hardwood floor was replaced in the spring of 2009. Repairs are underway that include repairing minor damages to the wall and ceiling and painting, as well as replacing the roof. Programs offered at the hall include: Senior cards (approx. 20 players per evening), the Bridge Club (average 6-8 members per session), and the Women's Institute (10 members).

The Hall is also used for private rentals and community wide special events such as Remembrance Day Services and Christmas Tree Lighting Celebrations. The limited size of the Hall, surrounding area and parking facilities are not well suited to meet the needs of the large community events.

New Maryland Centre Ball Field: The field was built in the 1980's with renovations done to the infield in 2006 and in 2008 two new dugouts were added. The field is fully fenced with no lighting. It is in fairly good condition.

New Maryland Centre: This centre has a large main hall on the upper level with a standing capacity of 300 that can be divided into two smaller rooms. There is also a stocked kitchen, large reception area, and washrooms on the upper level. The lower level contains a kitchen, boardroom, lounge area, and washrooms. There is a playground with an accessible swing, walking trails, and a barbeque and side garden.

Other facilities in the Community:

New Maryland Elementary School: There is a soccer field that was built in 2009. It is regulation size, fully fenced and has 2 access gates and bleachers. There are also four play areas owned by the school district and a gymnasium available for use through a Community Schools agreement. Parking is available at the school and the facilities at the school are in good condition.

Churches: There are two churches within the Village limits, the Faith Baptist Church and Sts John And Paul Roman Catholic Church. Both have gymnasium facilities used by groups in the community.

Trails: There are various logging roads and trails primarily on private land which are used for recreational purposes by the residents of the community.

Other services outside the Village:

The Village entered into a Shared Recreation Service Agreement with the City of Fredericton in 2007 so that New Maryland residents could have access to the City of Fredericton Recreation Services without having to pay an outside user fee on top of regular registration fees. The Village contributes four cents per \$100 assessment to the City of Fredericton to meet the terms and conditions of the agreement.

SECTION 3 – CONSULTATION

A variety of special interest groups, individuals, the community at large, the Recreation Coordinator, the Recreation Committee of Council, and Council were involved in providing input to the development of the Master Plan for the Village. This section presents a summary of the findings from the consultation process. Where possible, information has been grouped to avoid duplication and to maintain some degree of confidentiality. The input is organized according to several central themes. These include: general strengths and challenges facing the Village, general strengths and challenges pertaining to recreation, and specific comments related to recreation facilities, programs and operations. It should be noted that no attempt has been made to verify or pass judgment on the information presented and some items appear in more than one list.

General Strengths of the Village

- strong sense of place
- knowing neighbors
- very safe
- a lot of young families
- good school
- community events
- community leadership
- recreational facilities

General Challenges Facing the Village

- traffic on main road
- condition of roads
- lack of water
- perceived lack of RCMP presence
- fees paid to the City of Fredericton for use of recreation facilities and programs
- not enough tax revenue to do what they would like
- not big enough to support major recreation facilities like a rink
- isolation of subdivisions
- not a walking or biking friendly place

General Strengths of Recreation in the Village

- strong support by Council and residents for recreation
- a variety of facilities
- the New Maryland Centre
- the soccer, martial arts and baseball programs
- participation by a wide range of age groups
- a large number of volunteers
- hard work of staff
- variety of special events
- strong community leadership
- generally good relation between community groups and recreation personnel
- opportunities for outdoor recreation
- neighborhood parks
- facilities in basically good condition

General Challenges Facing Recreation in the Village

- insufficient number of staff so reliance on volunteers
- lack of Village owned land for recreation development
- inadequate maintenance of sport fields
- no clear recreation land use plan
- insufficient facilities for senior programs
- insufficient tax base to support major recreation facilities
- difficulty communicating programs to general public due a lack of local media
- no neighborhood park in one subdivision
- no trail system linking subdivisions
- the level of expectation is high considering the proximity to the City of Fredericton

Recreation Facility Specific Comments

In support of:

- walking trails that link the subdivisions
- a senior centre
- Forbes property developed
- a public library

- an indoor sport field and event facility
- a splash pad
- adult softball field
- dog park
- 9 hole golf course
- community garden(s)
- landing strip for Model Airplane Club
- signage on logging, biking and ski trails
- teen centre
- Village arena
- shooting range for Cadets
- one more soccer field
- a shelter for BBQ at Athletic Park
- fix the school ball field
- more storage space for sport clubs adjacent to the school
- gym facility other than the school
- BMX and off- road biking facility
- dogs off sport fields
- better lining and maintenance of sport fields
- a 'real' outdoor rink
- better maintenance of tennis courts so properly drained and water cleared after rain
- an outdoor fitness trail with exercise stations
- a neighborhood park in Castle Acres Subdivision
- washroom and drinking water station at Athletic Park
- swings in Sunrise Subdivision
- a biking trail along highway to link New Maryland to Fredericton
- expand beach volleyball courts
- expand the opportunities at the skate park
- outdoor amphitheatre/bandstand

Against:

- a shooting range for Cadets
- an indoor arena
- a teen centre
- an additional gym facility
- an indoor sport field and event facility
- an outdoor pool
- a 9 hole golf course

Recreation Program Specific Comments

In support of:

- more recreation programs during Christmas and March Break periods
- programs for Seniors (50 Plus) of all ages and stages
- outdoor movies and concerts
- more programs for the 9 to 13 age group
- dances for the middle school age group
- fitness programs
- video game tournaments such as halo
- outdoor rink 'pond hockey' type tournaments
- sliding parties
- tennis lessons
- movie nights in the winter
- open gym nights
- youth (14-18) dances
- more ways that youth groups such as Guides and Scouts can help with programs and service to Village Recreation Department
- rotating neighborhood playground programs on Saturdays throughout the year
- sports camps during Christmas and March Break
- more 'arts and culture' type programming
- more 'learn to-do' type programming
- increase number of sport related special events
- recreation staff to provide programming assistance to community groups requiring guidance

Against:

- recreation programming (such as soccer) in neighborhood parks due to the increased number of people, parking, activity level and noise associated

Recreation Operation Specific Comments

Communications:

- improve means of communicating with residents concerning recreation events and opportunities such as publishing a Village Newsletter
- communicate with the youth via Facebook
- initiate a communications blitz aimed at keeping dogs off of sports fields
- improved advertising and promotion of recreation programs and events
- provide information and some programs in French

Staffing:

- after two years of volunteering with the Summer Camp program youth should be given some type of financial reward or payment for subsequent years that they work for the program
- increase recreation staff presence at sporting events
- realign organizational structure so all recreation facilities fall within the Recreation and Leisure Services Department to ensure clarity of purpose

Staff Training:

- adequate training should be given to summer staff responsible for sport field lining and maintenance and their work should be monitored with retraining given if needed

Registration:

- common registration day should be established to include all recreation programs offered by the Village or other groups in the community such as soccer and baseball

Collaboration:

- the Village Recreation Department should serve as the 'central clearing house' for all recreation opportunities in the community
- efforts to develop partnerships and seek sponsorship for programs and facilities should be increased
- contact should be maintained with the Lions Club should an opportunity arise for them to assist with programs, fundraising or facility development
- the Recreation Department should facilitate annual meetings for all sport groups and well as for other community organizations

Policies and Procedures:

- standard procedures should be established for reporting and addressing concerns about facility maintenance and vandalism
- procedures should be established for regular program review
- a community wide recreation need assessment should be conducted every three to five years
- better procedures for prioritizing community use of the school gym is needed

SECTION 4 – ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of recreation and leisure services for the Village reflects the current situation, objectives as presented in the 2006 Municipal Plan, population and demographics, trends, and input from the community. The analysis is organized according to operations, facilities and programs. Each of the three areas is discussed and a series of recommendations are presented. The suggested timing of each recommendation is noted as either **immediate** (2010), **ongoing** (over the entire course of the planning period), **short-term** (2010-2012), **medium-term** (2013-2016) or **long-term** (2017-2020). A summary of recommendations and timelines are presented in Annex 1 at the end of the document.

The analysis and recommendations are guided by several underlying aims. The aims are:

- To provide recreation services directly when no other group is available or doing so.

- To provide recreation services in a manner that is financially sustainable, that supports capacity use and is within the capability of the human resources available.
- To provide programs and facilities that support inclusion and participation opportunities for all residents.
- To provide opportunities for increased participation in active recreation for all residents.
- To provide recreation opportunities of a non-sport nature in the community.
- To provide efficient and effective recreation services through monitoring performance, community needs and trends.
- To provide recreation services mindful of reducing environmental impact.

Operations

Operations include such elements as the Department's role, staff functions, policies and procedures, collaboration and communications, and service direction. As the consultation process revealed, there is an expectation that the Village Recreation and Leisure Services Department should be all things to all people. This expectation is reasonable given the all inclusive and expansive nature of recreation at the municipal level but it makes it difficult to clearly define the municipal role. Managing resources and community expectations is assisted by a clear purpose, role definition and a common understanding of these within the community. Once in place; staffing, budgeting, policies and procedures, and service direction are more easily focused.

Recommendation #1

Establish a clear mission statement and define the role of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. The appropriate consultation approaches should be incorporated in this process. (Immediate)

The commitment to support active healthy living as well as creative and social recreation for all residents of the Village should be the primary focus of the Department.

Population, proximity of the City of Fredericton, current financial commitments to the City

for recreational services (Shared Recreation Service Agreement), and financial resources of the Village are also influencing factors in the determination of the mission and roles. Responsibility for heritage, culture and tourism activities are further issues to address in discussions. Finally, what is included within the realm of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department should be considered. Currently community facilities (the New Maryland Centre and Victoria Hall) are not part of the Recreation Department.

Recommendation # 2

Clearly establish the relationship between “Community Facilities” and the Recreation Department in terms of reporting, budgeting, usage and other matters. It is suggested that the New Maryland Centre and Victoria Hall are components of the recreation infrastructure of the Village and should be treated as such in all respects. This does not suggest the need to eliminate the facility management function or staff, but rather, a clarification in relation to the mission and role of the Department. (Short-term)

The following analysis and recommendations pertaining to operations hinge on the completion of Recommendation #1 and are presented in the broad categories of communications and collaboration, policies and procedures and staffing.

Communications and Collaboration

The consultation process identified the need for increased communication and this is recognized as an important issue by staff and the Recreation Committee of Council.

The first level of communication involves ensuring that the role of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department is known by Village staff, community groups and residents.

Recommendation # 3

Develop a consistent message about the role and focus of recreation services in the Village and communicate this to Village staff, community groups and residents through a variety of means such as personal meetings, presentations, recreation publications, and the Village website. (Immediate and ongoing)

A subsequent level of communications is associated with promotion and information distribution. This is a challenge for the Village given the absence of traditional local media, limited financial resources for communication and ever changing and expanding technology based means of communicating.

Recommendation # 4

Continue to use all current means of communications but through consultation determine the impact of making the Village's website the main media portal to the Department's information about programs, policies, facilities, bookings, registration, special events, etc. (Short-term)

Recommendation # 5

Consider moving toward making the Village's website the main media portal to the Department's information and work toward ensuring the majority of the Department's print material is moved to the website. (Short to medium-term)

Recommendation # 6

Promote the established New Maryland Facebook User Group primarily for the purpose of communicating with the youth of the Village. (Short-term)

Recommendation # 7

Designate one central location within the Village such as the Village Office for a dedicated information display and notice board pertaining to recreation. (Short-term and ongoing)

Recommendation # 8

Locate a Community Message Sign in a prominent location. Once established it will become routine for residents to check for information. (Short-term and ongoing)

Included in this category, as well, is collaboration. This entails working with the community as a whole, groups within the community, and other Village Departments. It also involves relations with partner organizations, sponsors and formal external agreements.

Recommendation # 9

Establish annual or bi-annual meetings with community groups such as sport groups to provide opportunities to identify and discuss issues and obtain input. (Short-term and ongoing)

Recommendation # 10

Establish appropriate consultation processes to assess satisfaction and demand, clarify issues and determine community values pertaining to recreation in the Village. This may be done on a regular basis such as every two years or as the need arises and can be in the form of public meetings, community surveys, user group surveys, focus groups or a combination. (Short-term and ongoing)

Recommendation # 11

In light of the clarified role of the Department, encourage opportunities for collaboration and partnerships in the delivery of recreation services from both within and outside of the community. (Ongoing)

Policies and Procedures

Clarification of the role of the Department will have an effect on the policies and procedures of the Department. A number may need to be altered, some may need to be eliminated and some may need to be created.

Recommendation # 12

A review of all policies and procedures pertaining to recreation services in the Village must take place and changes made as appropriate. These then must be communicated to all affected parties. (Short-term)

Staffing

Consultation revealed the desire for a number of new recreation initiatives for the Village and raised concerns about communications, facility maintenance, visibility of staff, and staff training. Contributing to these concerns are the added responsibilities to emerge from the Master Plan. While it was not the primary purpose of the Master Plan process to review staffing, based on the level of assessment consistent with plan development, some staffing recommendations are warranted.

Recommendation # 13

Upon review it appears that the existing Recreation Department staff is insufficient to respond to existing demands and the directions of this plan so consideration should be given to employing additional staff member(s) with a programming and communications function. (Short-term)

Recommendation # 14

Identify staff training needs, especially in the area of sport facility maintenance, and take steps to ensure these needs are met. (Short-term and ongoing)

Recommendation # 15

Increase the level of support given to volunteer groups and individuals involved in the provision of recreation opportunities in the Village. While not direct employees of the Village, they are a vital component of the delivery system. This support could be in the form of technical assistance or in-service training and workshops on topics such as fundraising, event planning and sponsorship. (Short to medium-term and ongoing when required)

Recommendation # 16

On an annual basis conduct a review to assess the degree to which existing staff can respond to development and service requirements. (Ongoing)

PROGRAMS

Programs include activities provided and/or directly supported by the Village. These can be activities for which participants register or those of a more spontaneous nature. Programs also included special events, special interest groups, and sport teams and leagues that use the facilities and services of the Village. Evidence suggests that there are a number of programs available in the Village through the Department as well as through other organizations in the community or surrounding area; however, there is a strong focus on children and youth and physical activity.

As with the previous discussion, it is the areas of challenge that require attention. Program related needs include variety in programming, senior programming, non-traditional youth programming, active living opportunities and unstructured activity options.

While a focus on sport and active recreation is important and consistent with the community interests, an increased interest in creative and social focused activities was expressed. This follows the growing focus on life balance and the expanding recreation tastes of the public. Also emerging is an interest in low/no cost and unstructured activities.

General Programming**Recommendation # 17**

Through various means such as focus groups, tracking inquiries, comment cards and online surveys, determine the type and level of interest in a variety of new program options. (Short-term)

Recommendation # 18

Review current programs to assess the variety and availability of age appropriate programs and opportunities and, where gaps are identified, work to develop appropriate program options. (Short-term and ongoing)

Recommendation # 19

Consider expanding the variety of programming by introducing new program options with a focus on creative and social activities. This could be done directly by the Department or through community partners. (Short to medium-term)

Recommendation # 20

Consider the creation of programs which encourage opportunities for simultaneous recreation activities such as combining after school programs with adult fitness classes or providing adult art class with children's gym time. Also included in this category is family programming. (Medium-term)

Recommendation # 21

Review all current programs to assess the availability of low/no cost and unstructured opportunities, identify where such options are missing, and where appropriate develop strategies to improve this aspect of program delivery. Where existing or developed, communicate these opportunities to the public. (Short to medium-term)

Recommendation # 22

Secure alternative locations for the major community events such as the Christmas Tree Lighting. The New Maryland Centre is an option for such events. (Short-term)

Seniors (50 Plus)

Also expressed was a request for programming support for senior adults (50 Plus). This is a growing trend across North America. As this segment of the population of the Village of New Maryland is increasing there will be a continued need for recreational services and leadership for the senior sector. It should be recognized that senior adults are not a homogeneous group and therefore, will require a variety of approaches. While there will continue to be a need for programs and spaces designated as 'older adult' centres, there are also adults and 'early Seniors (50 Plus)' who indicate a preference to be part of mainstream programming within facilities that are not separate.

Recommendation # 23

Through consultation with the newly formed Seniors (50 Plus) Group, prepare a strategy for the delivery and/or the facilitation of programs for this age cohort. It is anticipated that much of the program planning and delivery will be done by the Seniors (50 Plus) and the primary role of the Department will be technical support and, if possible, financial support. (Short-term and ongoing review)

Recommendation # 24

Review current mainstream programs to determine adult and senior adult participation numbers and patterns, and consider consultation with these participants to assess satisfaction and demand. (Short to medium-term)

Youth

Youth is another group that expressed opinions about program needs currently not being met in the community. While this group was satisfied with the sport opportunities

available and the existing facilities, they identified issues worthy of consideration. Among these opinions were interests in non-traditional and less structured opportunities for physical activity such as BMX/ bike jumping sites, open gym time, and marked bike trails. At the same time they were not supportive of the 'Teen Centre' concept as a place to 'hang out' and be spontaneous, but rather, expressed interest in scheduled and structured special events such as sliding parties, 'pond hockey' type tournaments, tennis lessons, music programs, outdoor concerts and movies and video game tournaments. Much like the Seniors (50 Plus), youth are not a homogenous group and strong representation was made to separate programs and events by age. The groupings suggested were 9-13 and 14-18.

Recommendation # 25

Create youth advisory committees based on two age groupings (9-13 and 14-18) to provide ongoing guidance to the Department concerning programming needs.
(Ongoing)

Recommendation # 26

Abandon the concept of a Teen Centre in the New Maryland Centre and concentrate effort on planning and delivering youth focused special events through the year.(Short-term and ongoing)

Recommendation # 27

Investigate the needs of youth involved in or wanting to become involved in fringe recreation activities to determine program possibilities that are safe for the participants and the environment. (Short to medium-term)

Active Living

Active living is based on the recognition that regular physical activity has many lifelong health benefits and should be an established part of daily living in addition to participation in organized activities. Active living strategies are often accompanied by

other elements such as healthy eating and the reduction of health risk behaviors such as smoking. Growing awareness of the importance of active living and the role recreation can play is shaping the programs of many communities. Consultation revealed that the Village Recreation Department and residents of the community are supportive of active living initiatives.

Recommendation # 28

New Maryland should continue its involvement with the *in motion* program and strive to make active living a point of pride for the Village. (Ongoing)

Facilities

There is considerable satisfaction with the recreation facilities in the Village and the Village should be proud of the number, variety, distribution and general condition of its recreational facilities. The Village has also followed the hierarchy of facilities presented in Section 7.3.3 of the Municipal Plan, although given the size of the subdivisions and the recreation facilities located in them, there is less focus on the pocket park classification and more on the concept of a neighborhood park.

Inherent to the Master Planning process is the perception that it is an opportunity to suggest major capital developments and such was the case with this process. Some of the major projects suggested were an arena, a pool, a golf course and an indoor sports field/event complex. Most of these will not, however, be considered in this plan as they are considered to be beyond the financial means of the Village.

In terms of facilities much of the focus for the duration of this plan period should be on maintaining and improving existing facilities. The exceptions have to do with trail development, land acquisition for future recreational use, the creation of a conceptual plan for a 'recreation hub' and various smaller projects.

The discussion of facilities is organized around the central themes of facility organization, facility supply, existing facilities, future facilities, and land acquisition.

Facility Organization

While the distribution and organization of facilities follows the model presented in the 2006 Municipal Plan, there are signs that fragmentation could be a problem in the future. The current model for facilities focuses on more multi-purpose and centralized facility development. For example, in addition to the necessary ‘walk to’ neighborhood parks and specialty facilities, the development of recreation hubs and sport hubs are emerging in many communities. To some extent the concept of a sport hub has been developed in Athletic Park.

Recommendation # 29

Develop a facility organizational structure to guide in the location of future land acquisition for sport and recreation as well as the development and redevelopment of recreation and sport facilities. (Medium-term)

Facility Supply

The appropriate level of facility supply is very dependent on local characteristics and circumstances including demographic, competing opportunities, population, recreation and sport trends, and available resources. Because of this there is no single level of supply that fits for each facility or each location despite attempts to develop and follow facility provision standards. A key indicator to determine supply needs is ‘capacity’. For example, if a facility is “under capacity” this generally means that not only is the current level of supply appropriate, but it might be too high. Conversely, a situation of “near” or “at capacity” suggests the current supply is too low.

Recommendation # 30

Determine use levels for the recreation and sport facilities in the Village and assess capacity use for the facilities. (Medium-term)

Recommendation # 31

For facilities determined to be operating at capacity initiate discussions to determine supply needs and location. (Long-term)

Existing Facilities

As previously stated, the Village has a good variety of well maintained facilities and care should be taken to ensure they endure. The following recommendations are made to enhance the recreation opportunities provided.

Recommendation # 32

Assess infrastructure in neighborhood parks to determine its appropriateness for the neighborhood and develop a strategy and budget projections to update the parks to meet the needs of the residents. (Medium to long-term)

Recommendation # 33

Assess the condition of the tennis courts and make repairs to ensure proper drainage and playing surface. It is suggested the courts not be used as an outdoor rink and the curbs be removed to facilitate drainage. Should this be done an alternative location for an outdoor rink would have to be found. (Short-term)

Recommendation # 34

All needed repairs be made to Victoria Hall to ensure the longevity of the facility for small to medium sized events. (Short-term)

Recommendation # 35

Continue the work begun on the parking area and soccer field in Sunrise Park. Completion of these projects will reduce the pressure on the field at Orchard Park and provide a much better field experience for the users and spectators. (Short-term)

Recommendation # 36

Seriously assess the impact that the expansion of the Village Office building and parking lot will have on the facilities and user experience in the adjacent Park and if deemed necessary eliminate or move the park amenities. (Short-term)

Recommendation # 37

Assess the feasibility and costs of creating a sports equipment storage facility and a picnic shelter with water and power at the Athletic Park location. (Medium-term)

Future Facilities

In addition to the results that may emerge from the facility capacity assessment, there are several recommendations that can be made to supplement the existing recreation and sport facilities in the Village. The first five are considered priorities should resources be available.

Recommendation # 38

Develop a pocket/neighborhood park facility in the Castle Acres Subdivision. Amenities should be determined through consultation with the residents. (Short-term)

Recommendation # 39

Initiate the development of a Trails and Bikeways Master Plan for the Village. (Short-term)

Recommendation # 40

Upon completion of the Trails and Bikeways Plan, begin the process of implementing the plan. The importance of an active transportation network and

the community connections established through such a system once it is complete cannot be over stated. (Medium to long-term)

Recommendation # 41

In consultation with the Seniors (50 Plus) Club, investigate the options available for a suitable Seniors (50 Plus) Centre for both the short-term and the long-term. A possible solution for the short-term and perhaps the long-term would be the former Teen Centre or some portion of the lower level of the New Maryland Centre. (Short-term)

Recommendation # 42

Assess the opportunity and community support to develop a multi-purpose, multi-generational 'recreation hub' to be centrally located. It is suggested that the Forbes property be given first consideration. This is Village owned property, central, has an existing unique structure and is an appropriate size. (Medium to long-term)

Recommendation # 43

Should the Forbes property or another suitable central location be found, steps should be taken to have a conceptual design developed for a 'recreation hub' for the Village. (Long-term)

Recommendation # 44

Explore the feasibility of creating a BMX (mountain) bike type facility. This is a growing activity and popular among youth who are often not drawn to more organized sports. One suggested location is the back of Applewood Subdivision on Village owned property. (Short to medium-term)

Recommendation # 45

Investigate the development of an outdoor fitness trail with exercise stations. Possible locations should be explored but it is suggested that this not be placed on the existing nature trail. (Medium-term)

Recommendation # 46

Where permissible and practical, place trail markers on commonly used logging and ski trails. Pocket maps of some of these routes could also be developed. (Medium-term)

Recommendation # 47

Assess the support and location options for the development of an outdoor amphitheater to be used for concerts, movies speakers and productions. The ideal location for such a facility would be the 'recreation hub'. (Long-term)

Recommendation # 48

Assess the support and location options for the development of a splash pad in the Village. Again the ideal location would be in the suggested 'recreation hub'. (Long-term)

Recommendation # 49

Initiate discussions with agencies and organizations in the area, such as the Soccer and Tennis Associations, regarding the opportunity to partner on the development of an indoor sport field/event facility. (Long-term)

Land Acquisition

While analyzing the development potential and future plans for the Village is somewhat beyond the scope of this plan, it is important to stress the need to acquire land for future recreation use. This helps ensure land is available in the required locations and in the required amounts. It also helps ensure that sites are not sold for residential or other development.

Recommendation # 50

Expand land holdings around the current Athletic Park area to allow for future development and to ensure a buffer for the surrounding homes. (Medium to long-term)

Recommendation # 51

Identify sites of potential interest for future recreation and sport use and maintain and inventory of these sites. (Ongoing)

Recommendation # 52

Work with the Village to develop land acquisition practices that support the assembly of appropriate public use land in the Village. (Ongoing)

SECTION 5 – MONITORING & CONCLUSIONS

Since its incorporation in 1991 the Village of New Maryland has had substantial growth and maturity and should be commended for its leadership in recreation and leisure services. It has developed an impressive variety of facilities and has contributed to the strong sense of community through its programming.

Along with successes, recreation in the Village faces challenges. A new Recreation Master Plan is the first step in the necessary ongoing process of continued planning, evaluating, and updating of recreational services. Over the course of the plan new opportunities and needs will arise which must be addressed. An annual review in combination with the budget process is an appropriate way to monitor progress and identify next steps. It is also suggested that Village staff, Council, and residents be updated annually through a progress/status report of the strategic actions. A complete review of the plan should be done after each three year period to update direction and timing for the more long-term actions. As with all plans, the Recreation Master Plan is a guiding framework and may be altered as circumstances change.

Key - Implementation Plan

Timing			Costs	
Immediate	2010		\$	\$5,000 and under
Short-term	2010-2012		\$\$	\$6,000- \$50,000
Medium-term	2013-2016		\$\$\$	\$51,000-\$100,000
Long-term	2017-2010		\$\$\$\$	Over \$100,000
Ongoing	Over the entire course of the planning period.		?	Unknown
			Time	Staff (Human Resources)

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Action Step		Timing	Costs	Comments
Service Directions – Operations				
Recommendation #1	Establish a clear mission statement and define the role of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. The appropriate consultation approaches should be incorporated in this process.	Immediate	Time	Staff and Recreation Committee

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Action Step		Timing	Costs	Comments
Recommendation # 2	Clearly establish the relationship between “Community Facilities” and the Recreation Department in terms of reporting, budgeting, usage and other matters. It is suggested that the New Maryland Centre and Victoria Hall are components of the recreation infrastructure of the Village and should be treated as such in all respects. This does not suggest the need to eliminate the facility management function or staff, but rather, a clarification in relation to the mission and role of the Department.	Short-term	Time	Staff and Recreation Committee
Service Directions - Communications and Collaboration				
Recommendation # 3	Develop a consistent message about the role and focus of recreation services in the Village and communicate this to Village staff, community groups and residents through a variety of means such as personal meetings, presentations, recreation publications, and the Village website.	Immediate and ongoing	Time	Staff and Recreation Committee
Recommendation # 4	Continue to use all current means of communications but through consultation	Short-term	Time	Staff

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Action Step		Timing	Costs	Comments
	determine the impact of making the Village's website the main media portal to the Department's information about programs, policies, facilities, bookings, registration, special events, etc.			
Recommendation # 5	Consider moving toward making the Village's website the main media portal to the Department's information and work toward ensuring the majority of the Department's print material is moved to the website.	Short to medium-term	Time	Staff
Recommendation # 6	Promote the established New Maryland Facebook User Group primarily for the purpose of communicating with the youth of the Village.	Short- term	Time	Staff
Recommendation # 7	Designate one central location within the Village such as the Village Office for a dedicated information display and notice board pertaining to recreation.	Short-term and ongoing	\$	Cost of display and staff to maintain
Recommendation # 8	Locate a Community Message Sign in a prominent location. Once established it will become routine for residents to check for information.	Short-term and ongoing	\$	Cost of display and staff to maintain

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Action Step		Timing	Costs	Comments
Recommendation # 9	Establish annual or bi-annual meetings with community groups such as sport groups to provide opportunities to identify and discuss issues and obtain input.	Short-term and ongoing	Time	Staff
Recommendation # 10	Establish appropriate consultation processes to assess satisfaction and demand, clarify issues and determine community values pertaining to recreation in the Village. This may be done on a regular basis such as every two years or as the need arises and can be in the form of public meetings, community surveys, user group surveys, focus groups or a combination.	Short-term and ongoing	Time	Staff
Recommendation # 11	In light of the clarified role of the Department, encourage opportunities for collaboration and partnerships in the delivery of recreation services from both within and outside of the community.	Ongoing	Time	Staff and Recreation Committee
Service Directions - Policies and Procedures				
Recommendation # 12	A review of all policies and procedures pertaining to recreation services in the	Short-term	Time	Staff and Recreation Committee

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Action Step		Timing	Costs	Comments
	Village must take place and changes made as appropriate. These then must be communicated to all affected parties.			
Service Directions - Staffing				
Recommendation # 13	Upon review it appears that the existing Recreation Department staff is insufficient to respond to existing demands and the directions of this plan so consideration should be given to employing additional staff member(s) with a programming and communications function.	Short-term	\$\$	Demands and future needs require additional staff
Recommendation # 14	Identify staff training needs, especially in the area of sport facility maintenance, and take steps to ensure these needs are met.	Short-term and ongoing	\$	May require attending off site training or bring trainers to the Village
Recommendation # 15	Increase the level of support given to volunteer groups and individuals involved in the provision of recreation opportunities in the Village. While not direct employees of the Village, they are a vital component of the delivery system. This support could be in the form of technical assistance or in-service training and workshops on topics	Short to medium-term and ongoing when required	Time & \$	Staff time and outside trainers may be needed

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Action Step		Timing	Costs	Comments
	such as fundraising, event planning and sponsorship.			
Recommendation # 16	On an annual basis conduct a review to assess the degree to which existing staff can respond to development and service requirements.	Ongoing	Time	Staff and Recreation Committee
Service Directions - Programs				
Recommendation # 17	Through various means such as focus groups, tracking inquiries, comment cards and online surveys, determine the type and level of interest in a variety of new program options.	Short-term	Time and/or \$	Staff or consultant
Recommendation # 18	Review current programs to assess the variety and availability of age appropriate programs and opportunities and, where gaps are identified, work to develop appropriate program options.	Short-term and ongoing	Time and/or \$	Staff or consultant
Recommendation # 19	Consider expanding the variety of programming by introducing new program options with a focus on creative and social activities. This could be done directly by the Department or through community	Short to medium-term	Time	Possible if additional staff are hired

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Action Step		Timing	Costs	Comments
	partners.			
Recommendation # 20	Consider the creation of programs which encourage opportunities for simultaneous recreation activities such as combining after school programs with adult fitness classes or providing adult art class with children's gym time. Also included in this category is family programming.	Medium-term	Time	Possible if additional staff are hired
Recommendation # 21	Review all current programs to assess the availability of low/no cost and unstructured opportunities, identify where such options are missing, and where appropriate develop strategies to improve this aspect of program delivery. Where existing or developed, communicate these opportunities to the public.	Short to medium-term	Time	Staff
Recommendation # 22	Secure alternative locations for the major community events such as the Christmas Tree Lighting. The New Maryland Centre is an option for such events.	Short-term	Time	Staff
Recommendation # 23	Through consultation with the newly formed Seniors (50 Plus) Group, prepare a	Short-term and ongoing	Time	Staff

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Action Step		Timing	Costs	Comments
	strategy for the delivery and/or the facilitation of programs for this age cohort. It is anticipated that much of the program planning and delivery will be done by the Seniors (50 Plus) and the primary role of the Department will be technical support and, if possible, financial support.	review		
Recommendation # 24	Review current mainstream programs to determine adult and senior adult participation numbers and patterns, and consider consultation with these participants to assess satisfaction and demand.	Short to medium-term	Time and/or \$	Staff or consultant
Recommendation # 25	Create youth advisory committees based on two age groupings (9-13 and 14-18) to provide ongoing guidance to the Department concerning programming needs.	Ongoing	Time	Staff
Recommendation # 26	Abandon the concept of a Teen Centre in the New Maryland Centre and concentrate effort on planning and delivering youth focused special events through the year.	Short-term and ongoing	Time	Staff

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Action Step		Timing	Costs	Comments
Recommendation # 27	Investigate the needs of youth involved in or wanting to become involved in fringe recreation activities to determine program possibilities that are safe for the participants and the environment.	Short to medium-term	Time and/or \$	Staff or consultant
Recommendation # 28	New Maryland should continue its involvement with the in motion program and strive to make active living a point of pride for the Village.	Ongoing	Time	Staff and Recreation Committee
Service Directions - Facilities				
Recommendation # 29	Develop a facility organizational structure to guide in the location of future land acquisition for sport and recreation as well as the development and redevelopment of recreation and sport facilities.	Medium-term	Time	Staff and Recreation Committee
Recommendation # 30	Determine use levels for the recreation and sport facilities in the Village and assess capacity use for the facilities.	Medium-term	Time and/or \$	Staff or consultant
Recommendation # 31	For facilities determined to be operating at capacity initiate discussions to determine supply needs and location.	Long-term	Time	Staff

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Action Step		Timing	Costs	Comments
Recommendation # 32	Assess infrastructure in neighborhood parks to determine its appropriateness for the neighborhood and develop a strategy and budget projections to update the parks to meet the needs of the residents.	Medium to long-term	Time	Staff
Recommendation # 33	Assess the condition of the tennis courts and make repairs to ensure proper drainage and playing surface. It is suggested the courts not be used as an outdoor rink and the curbs be removed to facilitate drainage. Should this be done an alternative location for an outdoor rink would have to be found.	Short-term	\$\$ to \$\$\$	Expenses to do work to the tennis courts and further expenses if new outdoor rink is developed
Recommendation # 34	All needed repairs be made to Victoria Hall to ensure the longevity of the facility for small to medium sized events.	Short-term	\$\$\$	Depends on work to be done
Recommendation # 35	Continue the work begun on the parking area and soccer field in Sunrise Park. Completion of these projects will reduce the pressure on the field at Orchard Park and provide a much better field experience for the users and spectators.	Short-term	\$\$\$+	

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Action Step		Timing	Costs	Comments
Recommendation # 36	Seriously assess the impact that the expansion of the Village Office building and parking lot will have on the facilities and user experience in the adjacent Park and if deemed necessary eliminate or move the park amenities.	Short-term	Time and possible \$	Expenses will be incurred if facilities are to be removed
Recommendation # 37	Assess the feasibility and costs of creating a sports equipment storage facility and a picnic shelter with water and power at the Athletic Park location.	Medium-term	\$\$\$	Dependant on requirements
Recommendation # 38	Develop a pocket/neighborhood park facility in the Castle Acres Subdivision. Amenities should be determined through consultation with the residents.	Short-term	\$\$\$	Dependant on amenities to be included
Recommendation # 39	Initiate the development of a Trails and Bikeways Master Plan for the Village.	Short-term	\$\$	Require consultant services
Recommendation # 40	Upon completion of the Trails and Bikeways Plan, begin the process of implementing the plan. The importance of an active transportation network and the community connections established through such a system once it is complete	Medium to long-term	\$\$\$+	Costs dependant on work to be done and the staging of it

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Action Step		Timing	Costs	Comments
	cannot be over stated.			
Recommendation # 41	In consultation with the Seniors (50 Plus) Club, investigate the options available for a suitable Seniors (50 Plus) Centre for both the short term and the long term. A possible solution for the short-term and perhaps the long-term would be the former Teen Centre or some portion of the lower level of the New Maryland Centre.	Short-term	\$ to \$\$\$+	Varies with options identified
Recommendation # 42	Assess the opportunity and community support to develop a multi-purpose, multi-generational 'recreation hub' to be centrally located. It is suggested that the Forbes property be given first consideration. This is Village owned property, central, has an existing unique structure and is an appropriate size.	Medium to long-term	Time and/or \$\$	Depends on whether assessment is done by staff or a consultant
Recommendation # 43	Should the Forbes property or another suitable central location be found, steps should be taken to have a conceptual design developed for a 'recreation hub' for the Village.	Long term	\$\$\$	Depends on terms of reference given to consultant

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Action Step		Timing	Costs	Comments
Recommendation # 44	Explore the feasibility of creating a BMX (mountain) bike type facility. This is a growing activity and popular among youth who are often not drawn to more organized sports. One suggested location is the back of Applewood Subdivision on Village owned property.	Short to medium-term	\$	Depends on the type of courses developed, but this does not have to be costly
Recommendation # 45	Investigate the development of an outdoor fitness trail with exercise stations. Possible locations should be explored but it is suggested that this not be placed on the existing nature trail.	Medium-term	\$\$\$	
Recommendation # 46	Where permissible and practical, place trail markers on commonly used logging and ski trails. Pocket maps of some of these routes could also be developed.	Medium-term	\$	
Recommendation # 47	Assess the support and location options for the development of an outdoor amphitheater to be used for concerts, movies speakers and productions. The ideal location for such a facility would be the 'recreation hub'.	Long-term	?	Dependant on location and design

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Action Step		Timing	Costs	Comments
Recommendation # 48	Assess the support and location options for the development of a splash pad in the Village. Again the ideal location would be in the suggested 'recreation hub'.	Long-term	?	
Recommendation # 49	Initiate discussions with agencies and organizations in the area, such as the Soccer and Tennis Associations, regarding the opportunity to partner on the development of an indoor sport field/event facility.	Long-term	?	Depends on outcomes of discussions
Recommendation # 50	Expand land holdings around the current Athletic Park area to allow for future development and to ensure a buffer for the surrounding homes.	Medium to Long-term	?	Dependant on availability and costs
Recommendation # 51	Identify sites of potential interest for future recreation and sport use and maintain and inventory of these sites.	Ongoing	?	Dependant on availability and costs
Recommendation # 52	Work with the Village to develop land acquisition practices that support the assembly of appropriate public use land in the Village.	Ongoing	?	Dependant on support and sites available