



AGENDA
Strategic Priorities Committee

July 18, 2023

9:00 am

Council Chambers, Town Hall

175 Queen Street East, St. Marys

YouTube Link - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzuUpFqxcEI8OG-dOYKteFQ>

Pages

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**
3. **AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the July 18, 2023 Strategic Priorities Committee agenda be accepted as presented.

4. **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REVIEW**

- 4.1 **DEV 38-2023 80 Water St N. (The Flats) Proposed Public Washroom Layout**

4

RECOMMENDATION

THAT DEV 38-2023 80 Water St N. (The Flats) Proposed Public Washroom Layout report be received for information.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COR 42-2023 Milt Dunnell Project report be received; and

THAT the Strategic Priorities Committee recommends to Council:

THAT Council directs staff to proceed with Option #3 as outlined in DEV 38-2023 for the accessible washroom upgrades; and

THAT staff work with the St Marys Lawn Bowl Club to help re-design the existing layout; and

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with the following Milt Dunnell priority items:

- Farmers’ Market paving \$_____
- Farmers’ Market shed / storage \$_____
- Accessible playground upgrades \$_____
- Soccer goals and netting \$_____
- Accessible dock \$_____
- Lawn bowl wooden gutter boards \$_____
- Allocation for site furnishings \$_____
- Trees, conservation and education \$_____

4.3 COR 41-2023 Milt Dunnell Revitalization Project – Engagement Results and Long Term Concept Plan Discussion

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COR 41-2023 Milt Dunnell Revitalization Project – Engagement Results be received; and

THAT the Strategic Priorities Committee recommends to Council:

THAT Council short-lists the following amenities/upgrades to be included in the revised concepts for the long-term master plan for Milt Dunnell Field:

- (list to be created by Council)

THAT the revised concepts (**include/not include**) an option for the elimination of the ring road at Milt Dunnell Field; and

THAT Staff be directed to develop (**three/four**) “final draft” master plans for Milt Dunnell Field for future public consultation as recommended in COR 41-2023.

5. NEXT MEETING

*All meetings are open to the public to attend in person and will be live streamed to the Town's YouTube channel

August 15, 2023 - 9:00 am

6. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATION

THAT this meeting of the Strategic Priorities Committee be adjourned at _____ pm.



FORMAL REPORT

To: Chair Strathdee and Members of Strategic Priorities Committee

Prepared by: Grant Brouwer, Director of Building and Development

Date of Meeting: 18 July 2023

Subject: **DEV 38-2023 80 Water St N. (The Flats) Proposed Public Washroom Layout**

PURPOSE

To provide information to the Strategic Priorities Committee for their consideration in review for proposed options to the Public Washroom/Lawn Bowling facility at 80 Water St N.

Through this report staff are not expecting the Committee to make a decision on which washroom upgrade option to choose. That decision should be made after considering the information and budget impacts related to the other short-term priorities identified by Council as presented in the subsequent staff report on the agenda, COR 42-2023.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT DEV 38-2023 80 Water St N. (The Flats) Proposed Public Washroom Layout report be received for information.

BACKGROUND

The Lawn Bowling building, commonly known as the Flats, is situated at 80 Water St N. It encompasses public washrooms accessible to Flats users, as well as a lounge, kitchen, and washroom area exclusively for the Lawn Bowling Club. Constructed in 1977, the building spans 85 sq.m. (885 sq. ft.) with a ceiling height of 2.3 m. (7'8") and features 2032mm (8") block walls, a backfilled frost wall, concrete floors, and a wooden trussed roof, later replaced with a steel roof in 1999.

The men's public washroom, covering approximately 9.7 sq.m. (105 sq.ft.), includes a painted concrete floor with painted block walls. It comprises one stainless steel sink, two urinals, and a water closet. Steel partitions are installed to ensure privacy for the water closet, and the ceiling is made of aluminum sheeting.

The women's public washroom, measuring around 9.9 sq.m. (107 sq.ft.), has a painted concrete floor and painted block walls. It features one stainless steel sink and two water closets, with steel partitions providing privacy. The ceiling is made of aluminum sheeting. Additionally, the hot water tank for the entire building is located in the corner of this washroom, protected by painted plywood.

The lawn bowling washroom occupies approximately 2 sq.m. (21.5 sq.ft.) and includes a wooden door, vinyl floor, and painted block walls. It consists of one marble vanity, a porcelain sink, and one water closet.

The lounge area comprises a kitchenette and a larger lounge space, both covered with wood paneled walls. The kitchenette, covering approximately 13.8 sq.m. (149 sq.ft.), features laminate flooring and a corner closet. Its amenities include a stove, fridge, and microwave. On the north side of the kitchenette,

there is a 3.6m (12ft.) laminate counter with a double sink. Above the sink, there is a single pane double wooden window. Upper and lower cabinets run along the entire length of the north wall, and there is a 3.6m (12 ft) island with a laminate countertop and lower cabinets.

The lounge area spans approximately 46.6 sq.m. (502 sq.ft.) and features carpet flooring and a wooden entrance door from the outside. A second wooden door leading to the bowling greens is no longer in use due to the absence of steps connecting it to the ground outside. Windows in the lounge area include a single pane double wooden window by the entrance door and a single pane quad wooden window overlooking the bowling greens. Furniture in the lounge area consists of one 1.8m (6ft) harvest table, one 1.2m (4ft) wooden table, nine card tables, 22 stackable plastic chairs, and 24 folding chairs. Currently, there is no dedicated storage area for the Facilities Department to keep cleaning products or paper products. As a result, staff need to bring these items with them every time they clean the space.

The electrical setup of the building comprises a 240amp service with one breaker panel that supplies power to the building, a large shed, and the green lights. T-8 light fixtures illuminate the lounge area, while LED lights are installed in the public washrooms. Additionally, there are four spotlights positioned along the building's perimeter.

The plumbing in the building consists of copper piping throughout, with a water meter located at the point of entry. The water line is a 2-inch black plastic pipe supplied from Emily Street through an easement at 164 Emily St. Similarly, the sanitary line is a 2-inch black plastic pipe connected to Emily Street through the same easement at 164 Emily St. Unfortunately, staff were unable to assess the condition of the sanitary line with a camera due to its 2-inch diameter, rendering its current state unknown.

The property easement for water and sanitary purposes with 164 Emily St is governed by Bylaw No. 36-77, dated Sept 27, 1977. It is described as part of Block H and part of Lot 24 on the west side of Water Street in William Hunter's Survey of Part of Lot 178, Concession 17, formerly in the Township of Blanshard, now in the Town of St. Marys. The description includes reference to it as Part One (1) on a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of the County of Perth under Number 44R-688.

In 2006, the owner of 164 Emily St made a request to the Town to replace their sanitary pump. While it was determined that the pump maintenance was not the Town's responsibility, the Town still covered the repair expenses in good faith. The sanitary line for the lawn bowling area runs adjacent to the 164 Emily St sanitary tank, connecting to the main sanitary line, but it does not enter the 164 Emily St holding tank.

REPORT

After reviewing the space and the structure itself, staff has determined that the current building still has plenty of life, albeit requires some minor upgrades such as painting and windows. Additionally, improvements for park users, including: a universal washroom, water fill station, foot wash, and a dog bowl fill station, as well as improvements for staff such as a storage room for cleaning supplies, have been identified.

It is staff's assessment that investing in a new build would not be a wise use of resources. Consequently, the staff has developed three renovation options that aim to enhance the facility and provide updated services similar to those found in other Town facilities.

Option 1- (sketch attached).

In this option, the proposed plan is to renovate the existing 9.7 sq.m. (105 sq.ft.) male bathroom located in the southwest corner of the building and convert it into a universal washroom. The renovation would involve adding a new power entrance door and installing barrier-free amenities to meet the requirements of the Ontario Building Code. The female washroom would be renovated into a gender-

neutral washroom with floor to ceiling partitions for each water closet. As for the exterior enhancements, a water fill station, a foot wash, and a dog bowl fill station have been added.

By choosing this option, the number of fixture units (toilets or urinal) in the building would be reduced from 6 to 4.

Pros:

1. This option is the most cost-effective.
2. It offers the quickest turnaround time for completion.

Cons:

1. The building would lose two fixture units as a result of the renovation.
2. There would be no designated storage space for the Facilities Department to support the building's needs.

Option 2- (sketch attached).

In this option, the focus remains on creating a universal washroom by renovating the existing male washroom in the north-west corner. The renovation plan includes transforming the existing female washroom space into a gender-neutral washroom with three self-contained toilet stalls. The walls will be constructed to full height and equipped with full-height doors for privacy and accessibility.

To accommodate these changes, the existing washroom in the Lawn Bowling area will be removed, and its square footage will be allocated to the universal and gender-neutral washrooms. Both spaces will have approximately 9.9 sq.m. (107 sq.ft.) of area. An additional 2 sq.m. (21.5 sq.ft.) will be designated for storage in the Lawn Bowling Clubhouse, ensuring the Facilities Department has sufficient storage space to support the building.

As for the exterior enhancements, a water fill station, a foot wash, and a dog bowl fill station have been added. These amenities aim to enhance the convenience and user experience for individuals visiting the area. This option would also reduce the fixture units from 6 to 4.

Pro's

1. Create storage for the Facilities Department to support the building.

Con's

1. Lawn Bowling loses a washroom and square footage from their space.

Option 3- (sketch attached).

In this option, a combination of features from both Option 1 and Option 2 are implemented, allowing for flexibility in the phasing of the project if necessary. The key change is the addition of four individual exterior-facing washrooms and one slightly larger family washroom. Each washroom stall offers ample space, measuring 3.2 sq.m. (35 sq.ft), while the family washroom is 4 sq.m.(43 sq.ft). For comparison, the future washrooms at Town Hall main floor are designed to 1.5 sq.m. (16 sq.ft), while the existing washrooms at the fire hall are 1.30 sq.m. (14 sq.ft), although the washrooms at the fire hall utilize a common sink outside the washroom stall.

To accommodate these new facilities, storage areas have been created for both the Facilities Department and the Lawn Bowling Club. The Lawn Bowling area gives up approximately 9.3 sq.m. (100 sq.ft) of space to accommodate these changes. The kitchen is also relocated within the Club to ensure a more efficient layout.

On the exterior of the building, a water fill station, a foot wash, and a dog bowl fill station have been added, providing convenient amenities for visitors.

This option brings the building's fixture units back to six, offering increased individual access to washroom facilities. The Lawn Bowling Club receives an updated kitchen, while both the Facilities Department and the Lawn Bowling Club benefit from the newly created storage spaces. This option offers enhanced flexibility for users and staff, allowing for the isolation of a washroom undergoing repairs or cleaning while others remain accessible. However, one drawback of this option is the loss of square footage for the Lawn Bowling area.

Pro's

1. Individual use of washroom facilities has been increased by 6.
2. Lawn Bowling receives an updated kitchen.
3. Storage is created for both the Facilities Department and the Lawn Bowling Club.
4. Flexibility for users and staff, allowing for the isolation of a washroom undergoing repairs or cleaning while others remain accessible.

Con's

1. Lawn Bowling loses square footage.

Summary of Options

Option	Fixtures	Club House Sq.Ft./	Pro's	Con's	Pricing
Existing	6	675	1-It works today.	1-no barrier free washroom 2-dated and not keeping with current users needs.	\$0
Option 1	4	675	1.This option is the most cost-effective. 2.It offers the quickest turnaround time for completion.	1.The building would lose two fixture units as a result of the renovation. 2.There would be no designated storage space for the Facilities Department to support the building's needs.	\$20k
Option 2	4	619	1. Create storage for the Facilities Department to support the building.	1- The Building loses two fixture units 2- Lawn Bowling loses a washroom and square footage from their space.	\$50k
Option 3	6	536.5	1-Individual use of washroom facilities have been increased by 6 2-Lawn Bowling receives a renovated kitchen 3-Storage is created for both the Facilities Department and the Lawn Bowling Club. 4-Flexibility for users and staff, allowing for the isolation of a washroom	1-Lawn Bowling loses roughly 136 sq.ft. 2-Lawn Bowling loses a dedicated washroom	\$150k

			undergoing repairs or cleaning while others remain accessible		
--	--	--	---	--	--

Staff have discussed this project with the staff at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (the “UTRCA”), and generally, they were accepting of any of the proposed options, considering that it involves renovating an existing building without increasing the overall footprint of built space in the park. However, they did provide a few suggestions to help mitigate potential future flooding, such as raising the floor (if possible) and installing outswing doors. One requirement they have is that *“the renovation shall sealed by an engineer with experience in floodproofing to ensure any new construction/alteration to the existing building is floodproofed to the extent technically feasible”*. This is a comment that we commonly receive from the UTRCA.

We have also discussed this project with the President and two members of the Lawn Bowling Club, and their letter is attached to this report. They expressed concerns about noise from the washrooms with any of the options. With both Option 2 and Option 3, they are concerned about losing the water closet in the clubhouse and would like to see if the final design could incorporate that option. With Option 3, they are concerned about the loss of floor space, but they believe many of the issues can be mitigated with a better design of the clubhouse and outdoor spaces. Once Council makes a decision, they would like the opportunity to sit down with staff and discuss their wants and needs for the space in order to help develop the final layout.

Occupant Load-The size of the club house today is 62.76 m.sq. (675.5 sq.ft.), and Option # 3 proposes a size of 49.82 m.sq. (536.5 sq.ft).

Based on the number of egress doors (one) the maximum occupant load today is 60 persons, if there was a second suitable egress, we could reach the design numbers listed below. Based on the current design of the space, it will be restricted to 52 persons when the tables are set up and 60 persons based on a single exit for just seats.

Today: Non fixed seats and tables 62.76 / .95 = 66 persons, Non fixed seats 62.76 / .75 = 84 persons

Proposed: Non fixed seats and tables 49.84 / .95 = 52 persons, Non fixed seats 49.84 / .75 = 66 persons

There has been no budget consideration for cosmetic upgrades on the building itself beyond the washroom upgrades and the associated works.

Regarding the project timing for any of the options, once authorization is received from Council to proceed, staff will prioritize completing the construction drawings and releasing the necessary documents for procurement. The planned construction start date would be scheduled for mid-October. This timeline has been selected to allow the physical work to be conducted during the winter months when the washroom is traditionally closed for the season, from Thanksgiving until Easter.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$20k-\$150k

SUMMARY

This report provides information to the Strategic Priorities Committee for their review of proposed options for the Public Washroom/Lawn Bowling facility at 80 Water St N. After reviewing the space, staff have determined that the current building still has potential but requires minor upgrades such as painting and windows. Additionally, improvements for park users and staff have been identified, including a universal washroom, water fill station, foot wash, dog bowl fill station, and a storage room for cleaning supplies.

Staff has presented the following options:

Option 1 focuses on renovating the existing male washroom into a universal washroom, converting the female washroom into a gender-neutral washroom, and adding exterior enhancements. This option is cost-effective and has a quick turnaround time but reduces the number of fixture units in the building.

Option 2 also aims to create a universal washroom by renovating the existing male washroom and transforming the women's washroom into a gender-neutral washroom with three toilet stalls. The existing lawn bowling washroom will be removed to allocate space for the new washrooms. Storage space for the Facilities Department will be added, but the lawn bowling area will lose a washroom and square footage.

Option 3 combines features from both Option 1 and Option 2, offering flexibility in the possible phasing of the project. It includes exterior-facing washroom groups, a family washroom, storage areas, and additional amenities. The Facilities Department and Lawn Bowling Club benefit from the various options, but there may be trade-offs in terms of square footage for the Lawn Bowling area.

The recommended layout is Option 3, which provides improved washroom facilities, updated kitchen, and storage. The duration of the project is essential, with construction planned to start in mid-October during the winter months when the washroom is closed for the season.

STRATEGIC PLAN

- ☒ This initiative is supported by the following priorities, outcomes, and tactics in the Plan.
 - Pillar #4 Culture & Recreation:
 - Outcome: Downtown revitalization plan
 - Tactic(s): Complete final phase of integration of waterfront with downtown core as per waterfront integration plan.
 - Pillar #4 Culture & Recreation:
 - Outcome: A focused parks strategy
 - Tactic(s): Ensure Milt Dunnell Park remains the central focus for community events. Continue to seek opportunities to add to its profile.

OTHERS CONSULTED

Jason Silcox-Building Inspector

Ray Cousineau- Facilities Manager

Andre Morin- Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer

Ben Dafoe- Land Use Regulations Officer, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Lawn Bowling Club President- Dennis Kearney

ATTACHMENTS

1. 80 Water St N, Proposed Washroom Existing
2. 80 Water St N, Proposed Washroom Layout -1
3. 80 Water St N, Proposed Washroom Layout -2
4. 80 Water St N, Proposed Washroom Layout -3
5. Letter to the Town from the Lawn Bowling Club, July 11, 2023

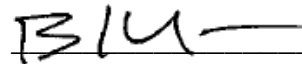
REVIEWED BY

Recommended by:



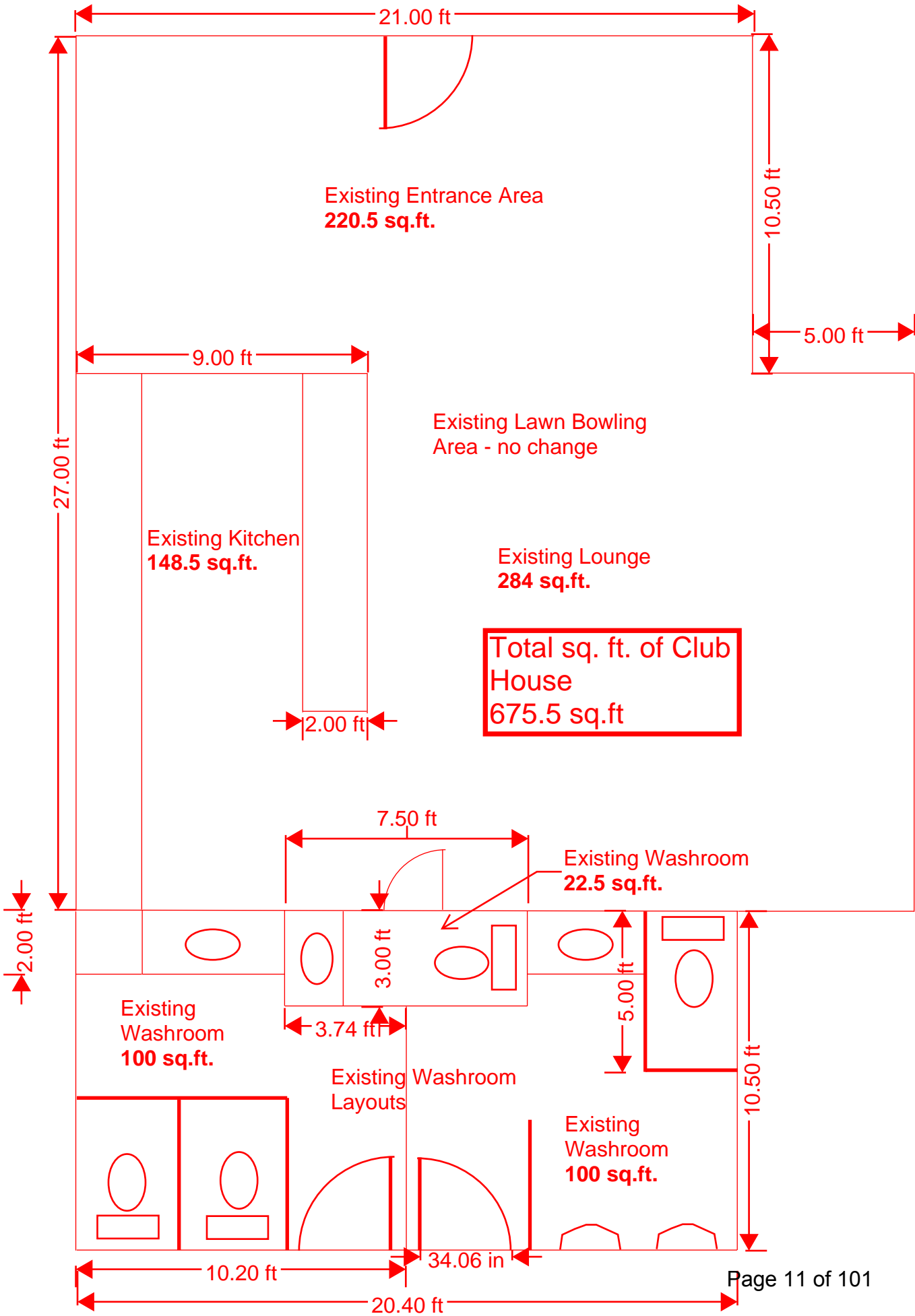
Grant Brouwer
Director of Building and Development

Recommended by the CAO

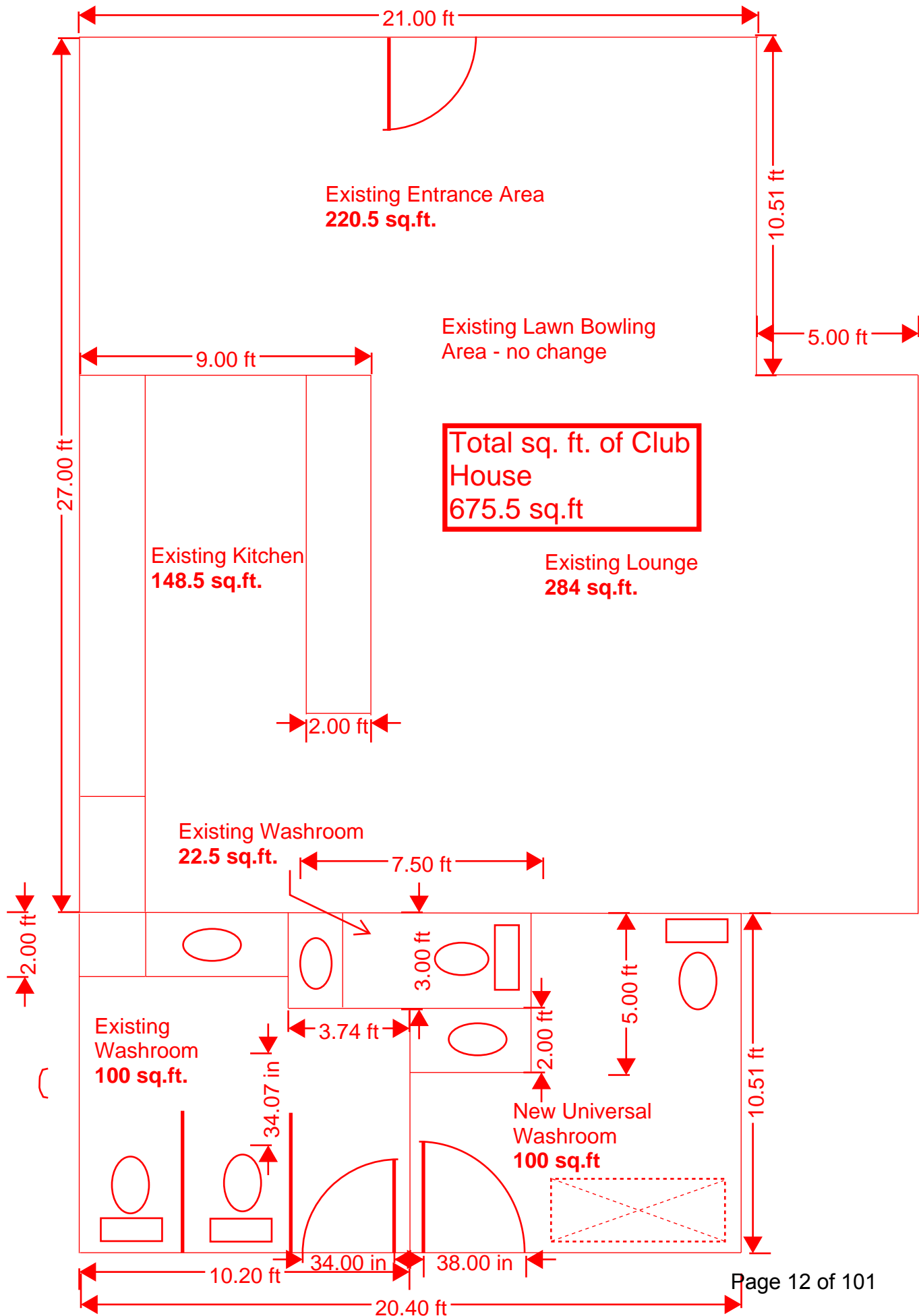


Brent Kittmer
Chief Administrative Officer

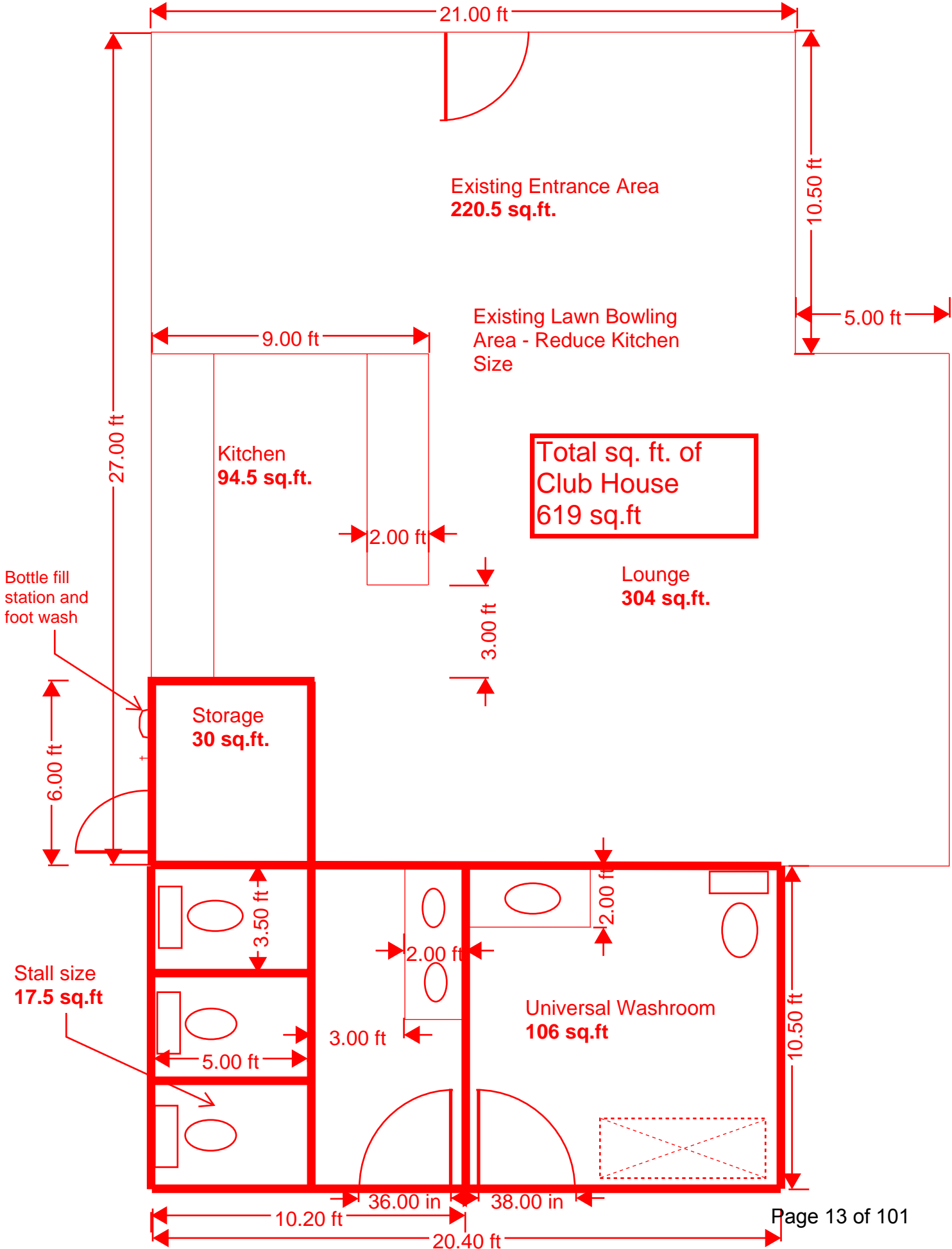
Existing



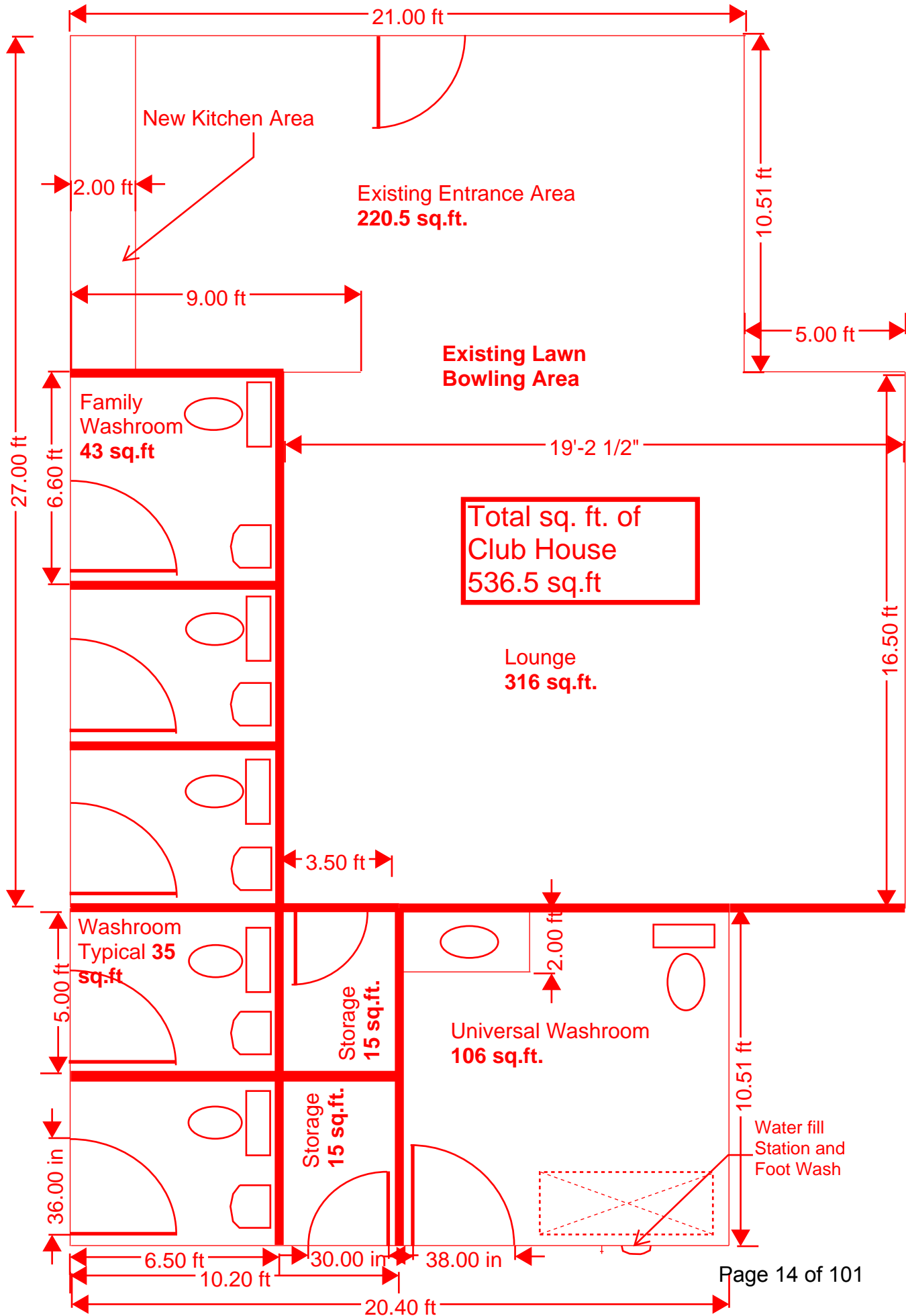
Option # 1



Option # 2



Option # 3



Ref; Meeting with Town Personnel re changes to the Bowls facility.

7/7/23

Present

Andre, Jason and Grant, from the town.

Denis President Bill Treasurer and Larry Past President, Parks Bowls

Discussions were held on changes to the Bowls pavilion and the subsequent loss of space, to accommodate the proposed changes, to the building and the surrounding environment. Although we are not naive to the fact that we are not the owners of the building, we are the trustees of the building and are one of the great features of the park. We do attract visitors to watch us play.

The loss of space, as we are growing in membership, puts limits, on where and what we can do as a Club. A Club that provides exercise, enjoyment, comradeship, and community to over sixty members. A Club that in a normal season brings nearly two hundred, out of towners to St Marys, through our tournament schedule.

Each season we have four full members "potluck" suppers and six open tournaments where food is part of the enjoyment, distributed to more than forty people and on two nights a week we serve Coffee, Tea and desert, post Club activities. We hold meetings and fun nights in the Pavilion.

We are an expanding Club, although restricted by space to achieve our full potential. We are increasingly getting younger. Now having seven members under twenty-five and we are actively looking for that number to increase. We now use the facility on a Sunday evening, Monday night now sees up to forty people bowl, Tuesday afternoon and evening, Thursday afternoon and evening all other time is used to maintain the greens and Pavilion. One toilet in the building used by the ladies of the Club!

Sorry to be longwinded about this, but taking away space, although we can see the goals, hurts us. Andre, Jason and Grant were more than cognisant of our problems and needs and helpful with suggestions. We wish to be good citizens and recognise the needs of the Community, so can we ask for some help in making this more palatable? The outside space between our buildings could that be converted from grass, leveled and we would have a useable space to catch the overflow, somewhere we could have more seating to allow people to enjoy the open air, which would allow for temporary (removeable) shelter and convenience?

We are grateful for what is being done for us and would like to thank you for further considerations, that will I am sure, enhance the park and make us the jewel in the parks crown. We are on the flats 100 years next season, what a great way to celebrate the changing of the park and the health and happiness of the community of St Marys.

Denis Kearney

President

Parks Lawn Bowls Club

FORMAL REPORT

To: Chair Stratthdee and Members of Strategic Priorities Committee

Prepared by: André Morin, Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer

Date of Meeting: 18 July 2023

Subject: **COR 42-2023 Milt Dunnell Project – Short-Term Priorities Update**

PURPOSE

This report outlines implementation options for Council to consider utilizing the federal grant for the Milt Dunnell Revitalization project.

Through this report staff is seeking direction from Council regarding which of the short-term priorities are to be funded through the Federal grant. The resolution below is structured in such a way that Council can fill in the funding amounts to be allocated for each short-term priority identified in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COR 42-2023 Milt Dunnell Project report be received; and

THAT the Strategic Priorities Committee recommends to Council:

THAT Council directs staff to proceed with Option #3 as outlined in DEV 38-2023 for the accessible washroom upgrades; and

THAT staff work with the St Marys Lawn Bowl Club to help re-design the existing layout; and

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with the following Milt Dunnell priority items:

- Farmers' Market paving \$ _____
- Farmers' Market shed / storage \$ _____
- Accessible playground upgrades \$ _____
- Soccer goals and netting \$ _____
- Accessible dock \$ _____
- Lawn bowl wooden gutter boards \$ _____
- Allocation for site furnishings \$ _____
- Trees, conservation and education \$ _____

BACKGROUND

Staff provided an update to Council on June 13, 2023. The following resolution was passed:

THAT COR 37-2023 Milt Dunnell Field Project Update report be received; and

THAT staff be directed to bring a detailed report back to Council in July 2023 on implementation options to satisfy the use of the federal grant with an immediate focus on the following:

- upgrades to the washroom and lawn bowling facility;
- creating a soccer field;
- playground upgrades to improve accessibility; and
- improvements that would support the Farmers Market continued use of the space; and

THAT staff be directed to bring a report back to Council summarizing the public engagement results and options to consider for the master plan; and

THAT staff be directed to continue to work with UTRCA staff by providing some preliminary engineering due diligence on the installation of an accessible dock and provide Council with an update in July 2023 to consider any further next steps.

Staff have performed some preliminary work and this report will discuss the information and recommendations for proceeding.

REPORT

Council Priority Short Term Items:

1. **Accessible Washroom** – the details are contained in a separate report DEV 38-2023 80 Water St. N Proposed Washroom Layouts
2. **Farmers Market** – In discussing priorities with the Farmers Market board, the following is a summarized list in general priority order:
 - a. Hard surface for the Farmers Market area
 - Accessibility is a concern and some users/clients of the market have not attended due to this issue.
 - Dust and vermin are a health and safety concern for food vendors.
 - b. Storage
 - Small storage (about 8'X10')
 - Would help with general equipment storage and would assist some vendors to store tents.
 - c. Washroom
 - Enhancing the washroom accessibility for patrons
 - Important for both guests and vendors
 - d. Shade structure
 - that can be used for some vendors with possibility of sides that can block the elements for prepared food vendors
 - e. More seating for guests to sit and enjoy food, etc.
 - f. Parking
 - General parameters used by Farmers markets are 2-3 parking spaces per vendor
 - Currently 20 – 25 vendors during peak season
 - g. Keep shade top of mind (trees)

For the priority items, it is recommended that following be considered immediately, with the balance to be considered as part of the long-term master plan;

- Hard surface - Staff have had an initial meeting with UTRCA to discuss this option. To mitigate the loss of permeability of the current gravel parking lot, staff can remove some other non-permeable surfaces on the site or mitigate using LID (low impact development) options. LIDs are engineered stormwater infiltration and storage techniques to control water where it is generated. The alternative is to use a permeable pavement surface; however, those that would be applicable in our environment would not be conducive to a farmers' market type application. Staff would work with UTRCA staff to develop the best

approach. The hard surface would be asphalt. The cost would be approximately \$80,000; that includes a contingency for water mitigation – final estimates will be determined as the solution is finalized. It is expected that the work could reasonably be completed before the end of the year.

- Storage and shade -- The purchase of 3 or 4 temporary market structures/sheds would assist with this need and add further multi-use opportunities. They could be utilized for storage, shaded vendor market sheds, information shed for tourism/Yak Shack rentals, Christmas market events. A possible example is below. The cost is approximately \$3,500 per unit and the completed procurement process could be completed before March 31, 2024.



3. **Playground** – The current children’s playground was built in 2006 and has an estimated life of 20 years. A review of the current playground suggests that it is in good condition, and we can expect to extend the useful life to 25 years. This would mean we can expect approximately 7.5 more years of use, with continued annual maintenance. The cost to replace this entire playground has been quoted at \$111,000. To improve accessibility, staff recommend replacing the current pea stone base with an engineered wood fiber base and the addition of an accessible swing. This would add value by making the current park more accessible and not losing the value of the estimated remaining useful life. The estimated cost to perform this work is \$29,000 and it can be completed prior to the end of the year.
4. **Soccer** – 2023 has seen a drastic increase in youth soccer. Community Services staff will be reviewing their recreation amenities and partnerships to best address the current needs of the community. Community Services is considering completing a new recreation master plan in 2024. Milt Dunnell Field may not be the best location for a permanent soccer pitch due to the water retention within the green space and the use of the green space by local birds (in particular their droppings). However, it can be used as a temporary field or pop-up soccer pitch for overflow and practices of our younger soccer players. In discussion with our soccer groups, the field may not be suitable for older or adult play as the field would likely be torn up substantially and require much more maintenance. The purchase of soccer nets and line painting equipment would be approximately \$9,000. In the future, this equipment could be utilized at a different location if determined to be more suitable. This would not include any extra work to the turf or land improvements.
5. **Accessible Dock** – Since the last meeting, staff have engaged GRIT Engineering to perform some technical work as discussed at the June 13, 2023 Council meeting. This technical work, along with a Town contingency plan will be shared with UTRCA staff for comment. The Mayor, CAO, and Director of Corporate Services also had a meeting with UTRCA senior management to discuss our approach. Through these conversations we are encouraged that by providing UTRCA staff with technical information and an emergency contingency plan we can receive UTRCA staff support, which would increase our chances of success at a UTRCA hearing. We

also discussed the formality of the hearing process and believe that the Town could manage that process using internal resources and our engineering expertise. While not definitive, there is a chance that the dock could be approved this year, allowing for the purchase to take place, with installation for next spring. The estimated cost of the dock and accessory work is \$81,283. The Town has a donation from Community Living to cover \$35,000; net remaining being \$46,283.

Other Potential Priority Short Term Items:

6. **Lawn Bowl** – ditch board repairs. The Lawn Bowling club approached the Town to assist with a Trillium grant application to assist with the repairs of the outer perimeter of the lawn bowl – ditch boards. These repairs are necessary as the current ditch board system is severely degraded to the point where the outer two lawn bowls are not being utilized. Performing this work would allow the club to continue to grow its membership. The club is not eligible on their own to apply to Trillium; as such, they requested assistance on the application from the Town. The Town cannot have two Trillium applications at the same time and the Town had already committed to assisting the Skate Park fundraising group for an application for the skate park upgrades. As this project is within Milt Dunnell Field and aligns with the Canada Revitalization Fund parameters, it is being suggested as an option to include in the grant scoping exercise. The Lawn Bowling Club has received a quote for \$7,825 plus taxes for the repairs.
7. **Site furnishings** – The current site includes 7 benches, 8 large picnic tables, 13 regular picnic tables, and 13 garbage receptacles. In the Milt Dunnell plan development, the addition/replacement of some tables, benches, and garbage receptacles with newer equipment was contemplated – made of high-quality composite or metal. Adding bicycle locks would also be a benefit to the site. This equipment is expensive - from \$1,000 - \$3,000 per unit. An allocation of \$30,000 would allow for the purchase of 12 – 15 units (specifics to be determined). These items can be sourced relatively quickly, and we would have the advantage of increasing or decreasing the volume based on where the exact budget is later in the year.
8. **Allocation for native trees, natural plantings, and conservation education** - Staff have had preliminary conversations with UTRCA, and they would be willing to work with the Town on planting native trees and other plants, as well as providing some opportunities for conservation education within the area. Exact costs are not yet complete, but if supported, allocating a dollar amount to achieve this would be a beneficial partnership – staff estimate \$5,000 - \$10,000 would be reasonable. This budget can be flexible.

Staff will describe each option with Council and work through which priorities to proceed with immediately as part of the Federal grant funding project.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Town has received a grant for 75% funding up to \$250,000 for the Milt Dunnell Revitalization program. A portion of the project has been or is committed for the master plan development, project management, and survey/engineering work. The balance of the funds is to be spent based on the priorities of Council.

Through this report, staff is seeking direction from Council regarding how much budget to allocate to each of the short-term priorities. It is staff's recommendation that Council first decide on which option they prefer for the washroom upgrades. The option chosen for the washroom renovation will determine the amount of funds available for the other priorities.

The charts below will display the estimated budget impacts of each of the amenities:

	Incurred to	Estimate		
	May 31/23	Remaining	Total	
Current Activities:				
Project Management	11,343	1,000	12,343	
Master Plan Development	16,916	10,000	26,916	
Survey/Elevation Engineering	4,650	5,000	9,650	
	32,909	16,000	48,909	48,909

Potential Activities:	Option #2	Option #3	Option #4
1 Accessible Washroom Renovation	20,000	50,000	150,000
2 Parking Lot treatment + LID (Farmers' Market)	80,000	80,000	80,000
2 (a) (3) Portable market sheds (storage)	10,500	10,500	10,500
Playground - add accessible swing, change base to			
3 engineered wood fibre	29,000	29,000	29,000
4 Soccer goals, netting, lining equipment	9,000	9,000	9,000
5 Accessible Dock (net of Donation for Town portion)	61,283	61,283	61,283
6 Lawn Bowl wooden gutter boards	8,000	8,000	8,000
Allocation tables, benches, garbage receptacles,			
7 bike locks, etc.	30,000	30,000	30,000
8 Trees, Conservation, Education	10,000	10,000	10,000
	257,783	287,783	387,783
TOTAL:	306,692	336,692	436,692
TOTAL FUNDING ENVELOPE	333,333	333,333	333,333
DIFFERENCE	-26,641	3,359	103,359

If washroom option #1 is chosen, there may be an opportunity to allocate further funds to other priorities. Some options may include:

- Add 1 market shed \$3,500
- Increase playground allocation \$5,000 - \$10,000
- Add 1 set of soccer goals \$7,000
- Increase allocation to site furnishings \$5,000 - \$10,000
- Increase allocation to trees and plantings \$2,500 - \$5,000

If washroom option #2 is chosen, the budget is relatively balanced based on what is presented in this report. There is still an opportunity for Council to re-allocate the priorities.

Lastly, **if the washroom option #3 is chosen**, there will be a need to either increase the total project budget or adjust the priority items presented in this report. Some options that could be considered include:

- i. Increase project budget \$50,000 - \$100,000
- ii. Removal of market sheds \$3,500 - \$10,500
- iii. Removal of soccer goal \$9,000
- iv. Adjust the allocation of the dock funding \$15,000
- v. Remove the lawn bowl gutter boards \$8,000
- vi. Reduce the allocation for site furnishings \$10,000 - \$30,000
- vii. Reduce the allocation for trees/conservation \$2,500 - \$10,000

SUMMARY

The Town has an opportunity to perform priority improvements to Milt Dunnell Field utilizing the funds from a federal grant. Council will consider the following priority options:

- Accessible Washroom
- Farmers' market paving
- Farmers' market shed/storage
- Accessible playground upgrade
- Soccer goal
- Accessible dock
- Lawn Bowl wooden gutter repairs
- Adding tables, benches, garbage receptacles, and bike locks
- Adding trees and conservation education

STRATEGIC PLAN

This initiative is supported by the following priorities, outcomes, and tactics in the Plan.

- Pillar #4: Culture and Recreation
 - A focused Park Strategy
 - Re-Profile Milt Dunnell Park

OTHERS CONSULTED

Grant Brouwer, Director of Building and Development

Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works

Jeff Wolfe, Infrastructure Services Manager

Stephanie Ische, Director of Community Services

Kelly Deeks-Johnson, Tourism and Economic Development Manager

St. Marys Farmers Market Board

St. Marys Lawn Bowl Board

ATTACHMENTS

n/a

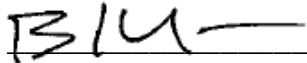
REVIEWED BY

Recommended by:



André Morin
Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer

Recommended by the CAO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BK", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Brent Kittmer

Chief Administrative Officer

FORMAL REPORT

To:	Chair Stratthdee and Members of Strategic Priorities Committee
Prepared by:	André Morin, Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer
Date of Meeting:	18 July 2023
Subject:	COR 41-2023 Milt Dunnell Revitalization Project – Engagement Results and Long Term Concept Plan Discussion

PURPOSE

This report is intended to provide Council with the results of the public survey on the Milt Dunnell Revitalization project and seek direction on next steps.

Through this report staff are asking Council to consider the public feedback on the project, and to provide direction on: if the master planning concepts should be updated; and if yes, which amenities to short list and include in revised concepts for final public feedback.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COR 41-2023 Milt Dunnell Revitalization Project – Engagement Results be received; and

THAT the Strategic Priorities Committee recommends to Council:

THAT Council short-lists the following amenities/upgrades to be included in the revised concepts for the long-term master plan for Milt Dunnell Field:

- (list to be created by Council)

THAT the revised concepts (include/not include) an option for the elimination of the ring road at Milt Dunnell Field; and

THAT Staff be directed to develop (three/four) “final draft” master plans for Milt Dunnell Field for future public consultation as recommended in COR 41-2023.

BACKGROUND

The Milt Dunnell Field Revitalization survey was open for three weeks, launching May 27 and closing June 16, 2023. It was available online through the Town’s website and in hard copy at all Town facilities.

The survey received 1,350 responses. 1,331 individuals completed the survey online; 19 people submitted a paper copy of the survey.

The survey had a 66% completion rate, which is comparable to other surveys run by the municipality. For example, the recent Downtown Service Location Review survey had a completion rate of 69%, and the Skate Park survey had a completion rate of 79%.

Most respondents were St. Marys residents (87% versus 13% non-residents). The largest age group represented in the survey is 35 – 44 (25% or 332 respondents); the smallest age group was 85+ (0.4% or 5 respondents).

The survey was promoted in several ways, including:

- A dedicated project webpage on the Discover St. Marys website (www.discoverstmarys.ca/miltunnell)
- A homepage banner on the Town of St. Marys website (www.townofstmarys.com)
- A press release that was sent to Town staff, Council and local media, and posted to the Town website (mentioned in stories by the St. Marys Independent, Beacon Herald, Blackburn News, The Ranch 100.1 and others)
- Multiple social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- Wording/imagery on Town-owned outdoor signs
- Two Town hosted booths at St. Marys Farmers' Market, located in Milt Dunnell Field

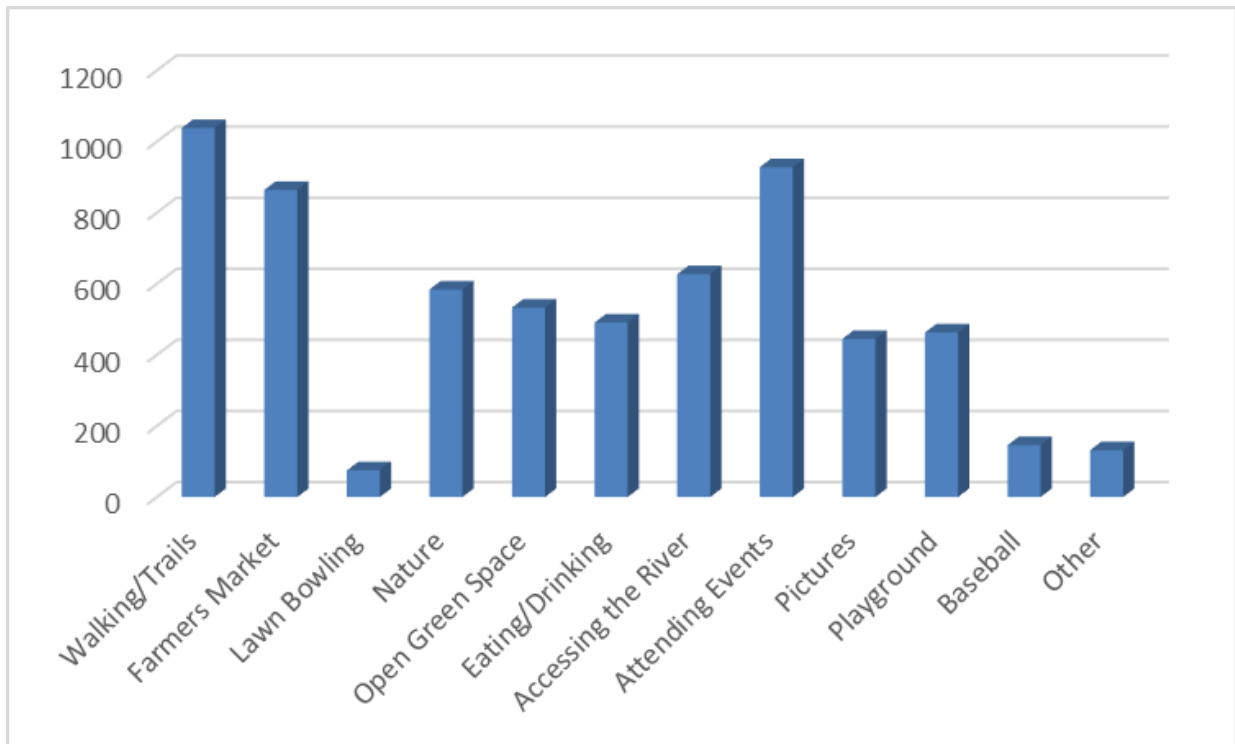
Most respondents discovered the survey through social media (68%) and newspapers (14%).

REPORT

This report summarizes the survey data, with an appendix to the full survey results. The community is passionate about Milt Dunnell Field as the engagement on the project has been tremendous. It is clear the park is being utilized by many members of the community, all of which have diverse wants and needs for the park.

Question 4 – What Type of Activities/Amenities do you enjoy at Milt Dunnell Field?

This question was to obtain a sense from those currently using the Milt Dunnell Field and gauge how they are using it. Below is a chart summarizing the results:



Walking/Trails, Attending Events, and Farmers Market were the top three.

The sporting amenities of lawn bowling and baseball were lowest.

The “Other” category included the following:

"Other" Categories	
Driving/parking on the ring road by the river	32
Enjoy the surroundings/relaxation	10
Group gatherings (meetings, birthdays, weddings, etc.)	9

Fishing	7
Biking	4
Use washrooms	4
Feeding/watching ducks	3
Viewing river	3
Programs (art classes, Scouts, etc.)	2
Soccer	2
Flying kites	1
Frisbee	1
Pickleball	1
Sightseeing	1
Watching sports	1

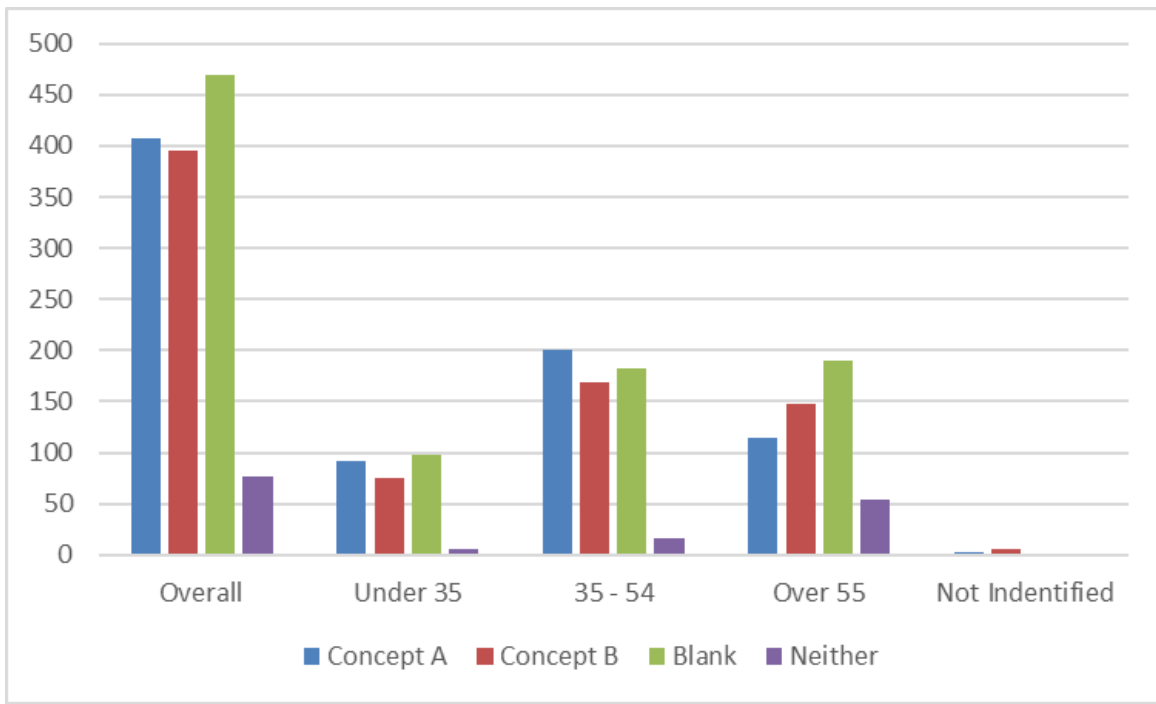
In some cases, the comments in “Other” repeated the already chosen option – those were not included in the summary above.

Question #5 - Which of the two concepts do you prefer overall? Why?

This question was meant to identify what general feel and group of amenities the public would resonate with. The raw data suggests a mixed view:

Age	Concept		Blank	Neither	Total
	A	B			
Overall	408	395	470	76	1349
Under 35	91	75	98	5	269
35 - 54	201	168	182	16	567
Over 55	114	147	190	54	505
Not Identified	2	5	0	0	7

Age	Concept		Blank	Neither	Total
	A	B			
Overall	408	395	470	76	1349
Under 18	4	5	0	0	9
18-24	14	7	17	3	41
25-34	73	63	81	2	219
35-44	126	95	105	6	332
45-54	75	73	77	10	235
55-64	46	68	95	26	235
65-74	41	65	66	20	192
75-84	26	13	26	8	73
85+	1	1	3	0	5
Not Identified	2	5	0	1	8



Where the participant did not provide an answer but provided a comment relating to “neither” – that has been reflected in the data above. Approximately 35% of respondents did not provide a response.

Those respondents that responded “Neither” mostly were concerned with the elimination of the “ring road” to vehicular traffic. Some others were concerned with too much development and/or paving.

Concept A respondent comments summarized:

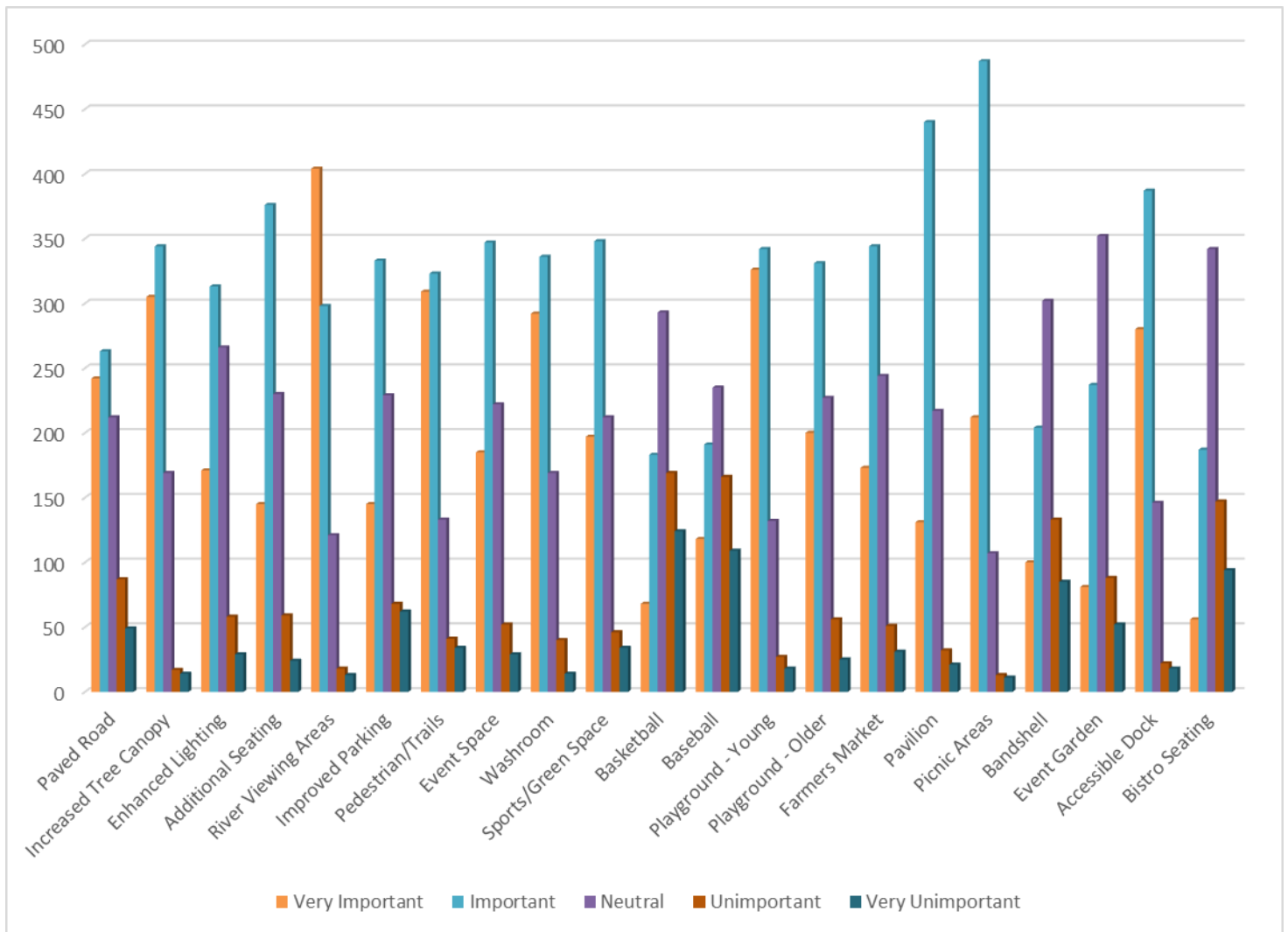
- 325 comments
- 18 respondents chose Concept A but their comments suggest “Neither”
- More amenities for everyone, all ages
- More sports amenities

Concept B respondent comments summarized:

- 322 comments
- 10 respondents chose Concept B but their comments suggest “Neither”
- More nature and green space
- Like bandshell and garden concept
- No need for baseball diamond in this location

Question #7: Below is a list of amenities that are proposed. How important are each of these amenities to you?

This question was meant to help gauge which potential amenities within the park are important or not important to the respondents. Each area received between 800 and 900 respondents. The results have been summarized in the chart below:



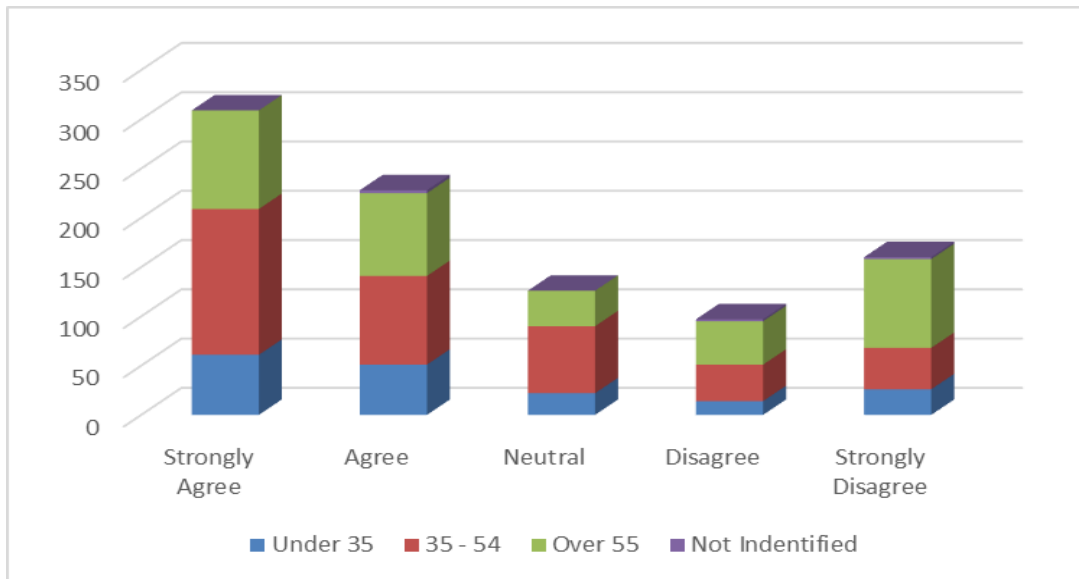
Most of the proposed amenities have been identified as “important”. The sports related amenities (basketball and baseball) showed fairly neutral results; as well as the bandshell, event garden, and bistro seating.

The areas where respondents feel are most important were increased tree canopy, river viewing areas, pedestrian trails, washroom, youth playground, picnic areas, and accessible dock. Of the total responses for each of these amenities, they all received 70% or more very important and important. River Viewing areas was the only option that received “very important” as the dominant choice.

Question #8: Do you agree with creating a pedestrian only portion of the ring road?

To address the concept of a pedestrian only portion of the ring road, the survey requested respondents to identify one of five categories: Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree. 920 respondents provided their feedback on this question:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Under 35	61	51	22	14	26
35 - 54	148	90	68	37	42
Over 55	100	84	36	44	90
Not Identified	0	3	0	2	2
Total	309	228	126	97	160



Of the 920 respondents, 58% strongly agree or agree in changing a portion of the ring road to pedestrian only, 14% are neutral, and 28% strongly disagree or disagree.

Question #9: What other features or amenities would you like to see in the park; keeping in mind that any changes should be practical, achievable, and sustainable?

This question was open ended, staff have categorized the comments into the following general themes, with the full comments provided in the appendix.

Theme	# of Comments related to the Theme
Ring Road	99
Nature/Green Space	48
No/Minimal Changes	34
Seating	34
Washrooms	34
Watersports/Boat Launch	34
Water Fountains	30
Ice Rink/Skating Loop	28
Food/Dining	25
Pavilions/Shaded Areas	22
Bandshell	18
Events	16
Flooding/Drainage	16
Parking	15
Pickleball	15
Trails/Walkways	15
Exercise Equipment	14
Soccer	14

Biking/Cycling	13
Pool/Splash Pad	13
Baseball	13
Playground	12
Miscellaneous Sports Facilities	12
Miscellaneous	12
Garbage/Recycling	11
Park/River maintenance	10
Signage	9
Basketball	8
Dog Park/Pet Features	8
Accessibility	8
Lighting	8
Multi-Use Facilities/Flexibility	8
Volleyball	7
Public Art	6
Technology	6
Community Garden	5
River Lookouts	5
Features for Kids	4
Security/Enforcement	4
Lawn Bowling	3
Tennis	3
Litter Free Libraries	2

Booth at the St. Marys Farmers Market two consecutive Saturdays:

The Town hosted a booth at the Farmers’ Market to launch the survey on May 27th and June 3rd. At both Saturdays in Milt Dunnell Field, two other separate community events were held at the same time as the market which helped with foot traffic to the Town’s engagement booth. Both were very busy mornings and the opportunity to talk to attendees in person was very helpful. Overall, the conversations were extremely positive and generally people expressed excitement that the park was being improved. Comments ranged from the interest in improving the washroom facility, the playground, adding some other recreational elements to the park, more seating for picnics, enhance the tree canopy and lastly to ensure we can still host our beloved WinterLights. Staff did hear some concerns about closing any portion of the ring road to vehicular traffic. The engagement gave us the opportunity to hear from the community and visitors about what would improve their experience. We also had a community member expressing the need for improvements to the accessibility of the park for our events such as the Farmers Market for wheelchair usage.

Emails received outside of the survey:

Staff have received several emails and phone calls outside of the survey. Many of them were in relation to the ring road. The comments are summarized below and have been highlighted in blue where the respondent expressed wanting to keep the ring road as is.

Date	Source	Keep Ring Road as is	Comments
19-Jun	email		<p>* Concept A is my hands-down choice as I feel strongly that the perimeter track/walkway should remain close to the water</p> <p>* planting more trees in the centre area is a welcome addition</p>
02-Jul	email		<p>I would like to put a formal complaint about the new plans for the flats. The new plans are ridiculous and down right stupid , the loop has been a part of this town for a very long time.e and us enjoyed bh many. I strongly recommend holding a town meeting to hear other suggestions,complaints and recommendations fellow residents may want to have heard.</p>
02-Jul	email		<p>please read todays comments on St M's Life.. Did you receive my Concept C? (delivered to Andre MOrin b4 June 16..)....ConceptsA and B just wrong!! Were any "real people" consulted about the use of The Flats? Thx for reading</p>
02-Jul	email		<p>I like the ring road just as it is. The playground is in a great spot. Repairs and a bit of sprucing up to the pavilion and bleachers would be good. But I'd like to see my tax money spent elsewhere. Please advise when this issue will be discussed at council so that I may address the matter.</p>
04-Jul	email		<p>Revamp the washrooms, refresh the white pavilion, put in a floating dock for fishing, and put in more benches and picnic tables along the water</p>
04-Jul	email		<p>I know I lot of people are concerned regards the lost of the circle road, one thing that has not been brought up is that the address for the flats is 1 Veterans' Circle, I assume that relates to the fact that the drive through is a circle and its in honor of the veterans. If the circular road is kept Perhaps one thing that could be achieved the available grants, funds, is to actually honor the veterans, ie celebrate the many achievements in WW1 and WW2 plus other conflicts that would be somehow honoured at the flats, one only has to think about Battle of Vimy Ridge being a Canadian success, the D Day landing at Juno Beach, the use of plagues, banners etc would be a fitting tribute. One could have a story of the Canadian involvement in many of the conflicts, perhaps a project with the Legion and schools</p>
04-Jul	email		<p>I think it is a Big mistake to take out the ring road at Milt Dunnell Field.</p> <p>So many people go there for Piece and Quiet! and to Relax</p>

05-Jul	email		I have lived in St. Mary's for 40 yrs. My wife and children have lived here their entire lives. We probably drive the ring road at least twice a week, and enjoy it every time we do the tour. We think it would be crazy to close it down.
05-Jul	phone		
06-Jul	email		What a wonderful job you and your Team have done on the Concept drawings for Milt Dunnell Field. The thoughts and ideas you have considered for this project are amazing with the kids play area, the junior ball diamond and the basketball courts that will give a place for our children and our grandchildren to go and be active. For us 'seniors' the concept of the Walkway along the River is #1 for us (along with the market). The vistas along the walkway are 'stunning' and will attract tourism for sure; the Grand Truck Walkway/bridge, the Falls, the Opera House Building, Queen Street Bridge and the towers of both Churches and the Town Hall plus so much more. The Walkway becomes another key component of our wonderful trail system. [And plenty of parking, considering the space.] I know this is early on in the process, but our family would consider sponsoring an area of the new Milt Dunnell field; likely over a five-year pledge system like we did with the Pyramid Recreation Centre.
06-Jul	email		Regarding the revitalization project survey, please consider the addition of a outdoor Performing Arts Ctr/Band Shell, in partnership with one or more Service Clubs... for "Canada Day- Victoria Day- New Years Eve Concerts"; summer Concerts etc., , used also as a focal point for the Farmers Mkt, Visual Arts displays...similar to Stratford's Upper Queen's Park Kiwanis Bandshell. Food concessions could also be added behind or at the sides. Regarding vehicular traffic, one way traffic flow has considerable merit.
06-Jul	email		I live towards lakeside and work towards wellburn I don't Live in Stmarys...but I do want to say that I use that round circle road a lot. I meet friends there I walk and have many a time had a nice lunch there on the edge or sat to pass time while waiting an appointment .The riverside is so nice and there I days I just don't want to get out of my car. I haven't fully followed but do hope they keep the circle at least.
06-Jul	phone		Further comments included: worried about not being to view all xmas lights, include amentites for the children, and many seniors cannot walk long distances and would not be able to enjoy the river

06-Jul	email		<p>just wanted to contact the council in St.Marys in regards to the discussion & survey for planning around The Flats & specifically the ring road. It's very obvious that a high majority of people want the "ring road" left intact, with access to the river side. Without being able to drive around the ring road and get to the river, it will really limit the accessibility of the shoreline, especially for folks who have mobility challenges. It would take away the enjoyment & quality of life for many people, old & young. One way traffic is probably still the safest option for people driving, walking, or crossing the ring road with all the activities there. I have many family members that use that area to enjoy the relaxing environment & river view (myself & family included). We have had many picnics with our children & grandchildren there. I am not against improving the Flats, but the ring road seems to work there and the majority of the towns tax payers like it and want it to stay. It's always in use for picnics along the river or coffee breaks for seniors, ball games, the market, canoeing, fishing, connecting to the trail for all the walkers & the winter drive through for the Christmas Lights. It's a unique feature for St. Marys. I know there is always some resistance to change, but maybe some consideration could be taken to leave the ring road intact. Just voicing my opinion and for others that I have talked with</p>
06-Jul	email		<p>There must be a way to incorporate most the changes planned with out removing the circle drive that many use including seniors ,people enjoying lunches on work days and all the people that enjoy canoeing and kayaking.</p>
07-Jul	email		<p>Why modify the ring road? Why add this additional cost to the taxpayers? To satisfy the pedestrians, simply add a pedestrian walkway (sidewalk) parallel and on the inside of the ring road. To accomodate participating vehicles (food trucks, vendors, etc.) during activities, add a driveway accross both the ring road and the pedestrian walkway, near the park entrance, leading to the centre of the field. One final input, I believe the field is large enough to accomodate a plain building, where vendors would have the option of being set up outside or inside. With good planning for the future, this building can be built to have utilies (heat, water, toilets, etc.) and accomodate a second floor at a later date. This would also allow for a winter farmer's marketplace. Please consider these inputs and Thank You for the opportunity to share them with you and the July 18th Council meeting.</p>
08-Jul	email		<p>As I'm sure you are aware, there have been years when almost the whole are has been flooded and much of the proposed new areas would be underwater unless this is addressed somehow.</p>

Next Steps:

The survey results provide us some important information, but also is not conclusive. The Town will be finalizing the short-term priorities in the park to utilize the grant funding available – these will be priority upgrades to be completed in the park over the next year.

The Town does not need to rush the master plan finalization, as such staff recommend that over the next several months, staff work on using the data collected to complete four (4) master plan concepts:

1. Status Quo – include only the priority changes approved by Council
2. Option 1 – keep ring road as one-way vehicular traffic, add changes/amenities from engagement
3. Option 2 – keep ring road as one-way vehicular traffic, add changes/amenities from engagement (variations from Option 1)
4. Option 3 – Iteration of Concept “A” and “B” (eliminating the ring road) using engagement information as guidance to changes

Using these revised master plan concepts, further public engagement can be conducted for feedback prior to Council finalizing the master plan.

Some further items for Council to consider and discuss:

- Should 1 or 2 more Councilors be added to the steering committee to assist in development the revised concepts
- If Council does not have the desire to consider closing the ring road to vehicular traffic, Option #3 can be removed

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The scope of work with our landscape architect is to provide 1 final master plan concept. If more concepts are wanted, there will need to be a change in scope in the contract.

The master plan for Milt Dunnell Revitalization is meant to be used as a long-term strategy to apply for potential government funding in the future. At this time, the long-term budget has not been set. Once the master plan is finalized, staff will provide financial updates to Council as part of future budget deliberations.

SUMMARY

The Town of St. Marys conducted public engagement on the Milt Dunnell Revitalization project. The Town received a tremendous response and Council will be discussing the results, along with providing staff with direction on next steps in developing the master plan.

STRATEGIC PLAN

- ☒ This initiative is supported by the following priorities, outcomes, and tactics in the Plan.
 - Pillar #4: Culture and Recreation
 - A focused Park Strategy
 - Re-Profile Milt Dunnell Park

OTHERS CONSULTED

Stacey Frayne, Marketing and Communications Specialist

Kelly Deeks-Johnson, Tourism and Economic Development Manager

Denise Feeney, Finance Manager/Deputy Treasurer

ATTACHMENTS

Report Appendix – Survey Results

REVIEWED BY

Recommended by:

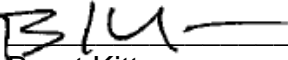


André Morin
Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer



Brett O'Reilly
Corporate Communications Manager

Recommended by the CAO



Brent Kittmer
Chief Administrative Officer

SUMMARY

The Milt Dunnell Field Revitalization survey was open for three weeks, launching May 27 and closing June 16, 2023. It was available online through the Town's website and in hard copy at all Town facilities.

The survey received 1,350 responses. 1,331 individuals completed the survey online; 19 people submitted a paper copy of the survey.

The survey had a 66% completion rate, which is comparable to other surveys run by the municipality. For example, the recent Downtown Service Location Review survey had a completion rate of 69%, and the Skate Park survey had a completion rate of 79%.

Most respondents were St. Marys residents (87% versus 13% non-residents). The largest age group represented in the survey is 35 – 44 (25% or 332 respondents); the smallest age group was 85+ (0.4% or 4 5 respondents).

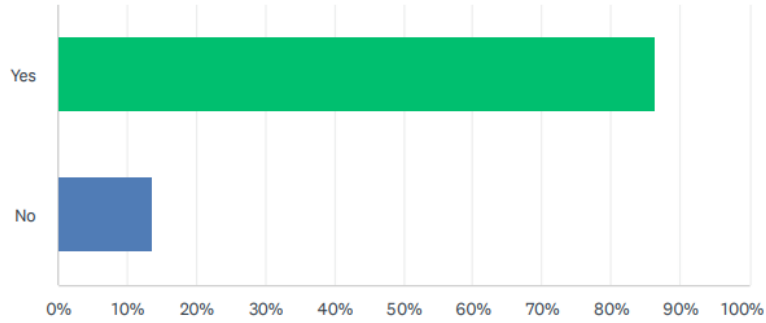
The survey was promoted in several ways, including:

- A dedicated project webpage on the Discover St. Marys website (www.discoverstmarys.ca/miltdunnell)
- A homepage banner on the Town of St. Marys website (www.townofstmarys.com)
- A press release that was sent to Town staff, Council and local media, and posted to the Town website (mentioned in stories by the St. Marys Independent, Beacon Herald, Blackburn News, The Ranch 100.1 and others)
- Multiple social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- Wording/imagery on Town-owned outdoor signs
- Two staff visits to the St. Marys Farmers' Market, located in Milt Dunnell Field

Most respondents discovered the survey through social media (68%) and newspapers (14%).

Q1 Are you a resident of St. Marys?

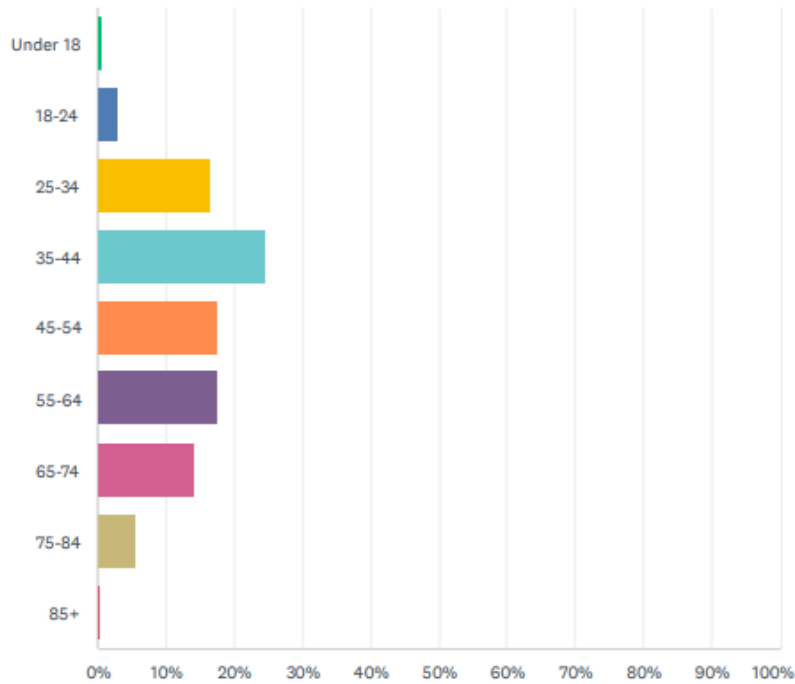
Answered: 1,335 Skipped: 15



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	86.44%	1,154
No	13.56%	181
TOTAL		1,335

Q2 What is your age?

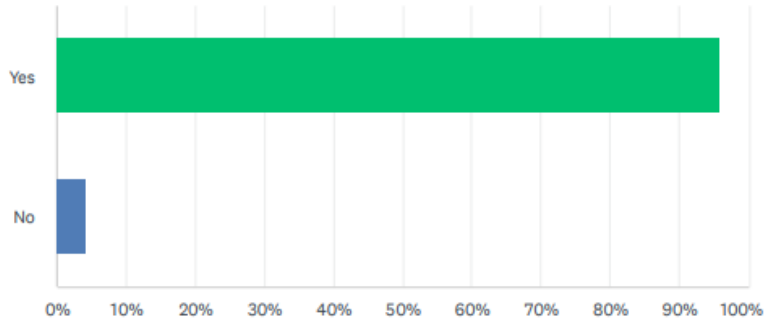
Answered: 1,341 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.67%	9
18-24	3.06%	41
25-34	16.33%	219
35-44	24.76%	332
45-54	17.52%	235
55-64	17.52%	235
65-74	14.32%	192
75-84	5.44%	73
85+	0.37%	5
TOTAL		1,341

Q3 Do you currently use Milt Dunnell Field?

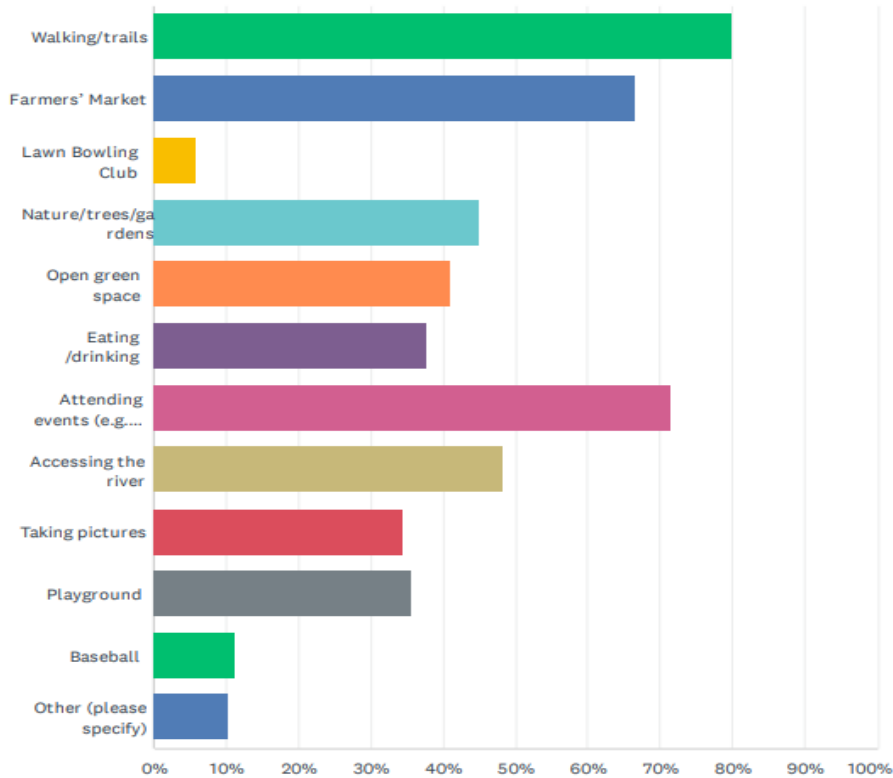
Answered: 1,338 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		95.67%	1,280
No		4.33%	58
TOTAL			1,338

Q4 If yes, what types of activities/amenities do you enjoy at Milt Dunnell Field? Select all that apply.

Answered: 1,299 Skipped: 51



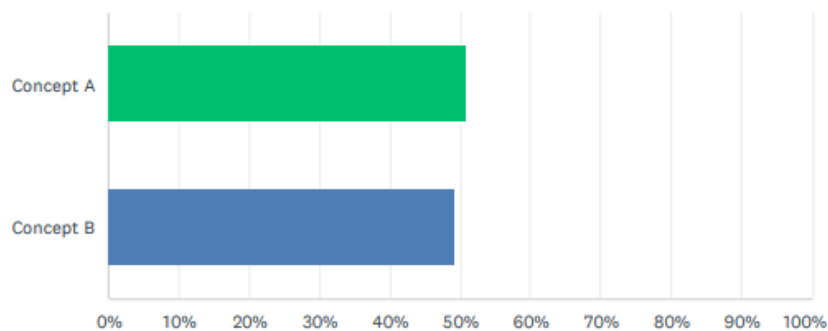
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking/trails	79.91%	1,038
Farmers' Market	66.51%	864
Lawn Bowling Club	5.77%	75
Nature/trees/gardens	44.96%	584
Open green space	41.03%	533
Eating /drinking	37.80%	491
Attending events (e.g., Kinsmen Summerfest, Horticultural Fair, Winter Lights)	71.44%	928
Accessing the river	48.27%	627
Taking pictures	34.26%	445
Playground	35.64%	463
Baseball	11.24%	146
Other (please specify)	10.16%	132
Total Respondents: 1,299		

Q4 If yes, what types of activities/amenities do you enjoy at Milt Dunnell Field. Select all that apply.

"Other" Categories (added by respondents)	
Driving/parking on the ring road by the river	32
Enjoy the surroundings/relaxation	10
Group gatherings (meetings, birthdays, weddings, etc.)	9
Fishing	7
Use washrooms	4
Biking	4
Feeding/watching ducks	3
Viewing river	3
Soccer	2
Programs (art classes, Scouts, etc.)	2
Pickleball	1
Watching sports	1
Frisbee	1
Flying kites	1
Sightseeing	1
Total:	81

Q5 Which of the two concepts do you prefer overall?

Answered: 803 Skipped: 547



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Concept A	50.81%	408
Concept B	49.19%	395
TOTAL		803

Q6 Please explain why you prefer the concept you selected in the previous question.

Comments from respondents who selected CONCEPT A

(Blue comments represent "neither"; green comments represent "both")

Since St. Marys has the Baseball Hall of Fame, a ball diamond should be added into this plan.

It seems less busy and there's more parking

I'd like to see a baseball diamond; food truck would be a good addition

I chose A because it seems more practical

I like the set up better

more youth access, as well as adult

walkway is near river, WASHROOMS< though , need to be near playground

I appreciate the peace and quiet of this beautiful park...plus many citizens of this town park their cars by the river and read..enjoy a picnic...sit on lawn chairs and enjoy the serenity of the current vistas

To be honest, I do NOT like either! To remove the loop road around the river is the BIGGEST MISTAKE you could possibly make!! This is a retirement town, with lots of seniors--who cannot or will not walk the trail around the river. Whereas they can and will and do use the road to park and sit and enjoy as well as drive around to see the scenic beauty. By removing the road you will be not be 'progressing' but 'regressing' hugely. Removing the road will destroy the beauty of this town and the Flats. You better seriously reconsider your plans because both of these are a huge 'fail'!! Not just my opinion but literally EVERYONE I've talked to about this agrees that that is the worst decision possible!

Really neither! Our family feels that the lack of the ring road restricts usage to those with accessibility issues. We also enjoy driving "The Flats" throughout all seasons and weather. My elderly parents would be unable to enjoy their drives around the park. This is a very important part for many of our older residents and those with mobility issues.

Its more for kids and young Families. We already have a band shell at Cadzow Park

I like the park location being close to the market pavilion similar to how it is now

Plan A provides better access to group events and sport activities.

Seems like more green space/sport use

I like the baseball and basketball, however, I feel the parking should be as concept B, so there would be room for the playground to be at that same end. This would allow parents to be able to watch their children who are participating in both close by. This should allow for the bandshell and event garden to be closer to the existing parking. Also the market Pavillion in concept B is the best location.

Softball field and basketball court included, and the fact the vehicle access is around the area.

Of the small court - maybe pickel ball?

It Keeps the ball diamond

If I had to choose one I would prefer concept A. I like the road the way it goes around the site now travelling one way because people who are not mobile can drive and park by the river or have lunch down there and return to work. I think the road should stay as it is.

has a little bit for everyone

We already have a band shell at cadzow

Concept A has more opportunities for kids ie. basketball court, ball diamond

There's more open green space and new features that are necessary for youth in our area (new basketball court)

Prefer the junior and senior park is together further from the water front

Peace and quiet surroundings...I strongly agree with the prospect of a band shell and events Centre Many citizens enjoy the riverside parking and picnic areas by the river...please retain this unique setting. Thank You

Basketball Court

Better commitment to athletics and youth activities.

But without the two way road, you would be driving the wild life away.

Separate walking trail, upgraded bathroom and more parking

I think both have good options and could be put together to make one better idea. The ball park could be added to concept B with along with a playground

We need more playgrounds and fields for children and young people to use during the day. We do not need more band venues, and band are currently capable of playing at the flats, yet don't. It is not a lack of facilities stopping bands, it is a lack of interest

I think both are great and we could benefit from features from both. I think the first one because of the basketball court and the junior/senior play. I don't think we would use an event area from B very often.

Rather the ball diamond vs open play

I was torn but I like the idea that there would be a basketball court and still a diamond. On the other side it's nice having an event garden and bandshell in concept B - wondering if that could still fit in concept A closer to the park area? The nice part about part B is the playground was close to the bathrooms! But I'm assuming the bathrooms by the lawn bowling would still be there?

Looks nice

Concept A seems geared more for families

I don't like either. I only picked A because it maintains one ball diamond.

Like both,

I actually like both.

I would like to see one baseball diamond left at the flats for people to play baseball.

I like the road along the river in concept A. Does the flats need this baseball diamond? I'm neutral on if there are sports courts or more open play areas.

I don't really like either option, but A is the bestest

The focus remains the river - in B the road way is moved away from the river. I often observe people pulling their cars in by the river and eating in them while watching. This will be lost in both plans - why not keep the road as a circle - who wants a two way road anyway? And how much parking do we need? this seems like excessive amounts - even if it is permeable pavement it is not very environmentally sound. HINT: mark the diagrams - to figure out which one I am looking at, I have to go back to this page and click again

Only because I have to select one or the other.

To be 100% fair I really don't like either but because you won't let me choose neither I guess I have to pick the better of the worst

There is no walking path by the river for concept B. I don't like either concept as I don't believe that it the best use of the green space that is available.

I'm not a fan of either concept but if you're making me pick one then "A" is the best of the worst.

Seems to have all same spaces with addition of baseball and other sports court option. Town needs option for sports with food vendors for tournaments huge income potential. I Like that there is still a loop shape for walking.

Area needs this added attention to it - to make it more appealing, safer and more thought-through as both a civic and a natural space

Love the idea of more activities for my growing family

More people can enjoy the space for a variety of purposes

Seems like the right concept

The diversity and layout speak to my sensibilities and it's a great vision that will carry at Mary's recreational areas into future decades

I feel as though it will bring far more positive benefit to the space as opposed to maintaining a status quo that has been fine but overall ineffective over many years.

Better

More activities and games for kids. St Mary's needs a basketball court.

More options for recreational enjoyment. More directed towards youth programs.

Town already has a band shell type facility

I don't like either concept. Why are you destroying the ring road? Why are you forcing me to pick?

Big field

More sports based with basketball and baseball

I like the idea of having the outdoor activities such as a baseball diamond and basketball area for the kids to play

I like the idea of a baseball diamond and a basketball diamond.

Need the ball Diamond!!! And basketball

I like the sports options for the kids and teens

Baseball diamond

Prefer the junior and senior play playground, open green space and river views

The pathway beside the water is nice. The ball diamond is pointless because of the ball of fame. But other than that it's just nicer looking.

Like the inclusion of sporting fields/courts

Location of playgrounds away from streets. Retention of ball field which leaves open space and less development. Concerned about the removal of trees west of the market though in Concept A and prefer the smaller parking lot at the south end in Concept B.

Eliminate the band shell. We have one now down at Trout Creek and it's never used. A Male & Female washroom is needed at the north end as well.

The basketball court is the decision maker for my family. We don't have many in town, the one located at DCVI is used all the time, I think it would be amazing to have another one. Personally, a two way driving area seems like a waste. One way makes it easy to navigate as a walker and keeps traffic slower

Baseball Diamond

This is very exciting! A new baseball field would be greatly appreciated and help enhance our baseball program and facilities. Maybe St Marys could even host a tournament one year! The fields at the flats are very out dated. Love the two way street and walking path. Love the large playground in concept A. Junior and Senior always intermingle so I like that concept A is large and has both. Lots of parking! Bathrooms should we close to the playground, even a small bathroom. A new park will bring not only at Mary's families but out of towners as well. Young families need bathrooms close to the park! This is beautiful.

Looks more like the existing.

Better use of space

We need more baseball diamonds, not less.

Ball diamond

Liked the ball diamond and basketball court.

Likey more usage with a baseball field and basketball court. Not sure if there is a need for event spacw

I like the overall layout but would replace the baseball diamond with the event space from concept B and would move the Farmers' Market to the south side (for either concept).

I just want to keep a place to park and be be able to access the trestle from the park and be able to walk in the park.. It's great peaceful place to just appreciate the peace and tranquility of St.Marys

Addition of Basketball court, specific pavilion for farmers market, kayak launch,

I like that it incorporates a baseball diamond

Having a baseball diamond.

We are sooo short on baseball fields in St Marys we must keep the flats.....or build diamonds elsewhere to make up

The longer walking area for the river.

Seems to fit everyone's preferences

A is better than B, but would still be nice to have an area to drive seniors by the falls. Also losing a close access to put boats in water. Dock appears to be long wall from parking in both options. Baseball and basketball fields very important.

path closer to water actually don't prefer either dislike loss of ring road

I think it offers more variety.

More activity areas for families to be active with

Like the paved trail along the river, the basketball court. Overall total layout.

I picked A because of the Basketball court , to be honest.

Prefer walkway at river's edge.

Greater use of space for activities and future activities

Baseball field, more things for more people

More activities that will be used more often

Ball field

Market pavilion location

Nice to still have baseball and sport areas down town

I think Concept A utilizes/maximizes the green space better by increasing the amount of activity spaces present.

Don't like either of the concepts, we need more natural areas not pavement. No need for a bandshell, we have one. No need for parking spots on the south end, it is flood plain, no need for buildings. Repair the existing building add an accessible washroom to the washrooms at the lawn bowling area and keep the ball diamonds in good order so they can be used by every league.

More trail areas. How would this affect the Christmas display. Seems to spoil the drive around.

Still includes the baseball diamond

Keep the road to drive thru

I don't think we need another bandshell. Not convinced about getting rid of the ring road.

Concerned about the Rotary Christmas light display.

Walkway around the park

It feels like there are more options for activities like baseball and basketball

Having a basketball court would be phenomenal.

Walkway along the river, Trees along both sides of that walkway, Vendor truck parking, South parking lot

Basketball play

A contains a ball diamond, something the town promised years ago, but never fulfilled.

If a bandshell is installed, who would make use of it? Are there bands in the area to provide concerts like Stratford concert band does? If not, why a bandshell?

Activities areas provide for more use by younger crowd. Missing a younger childrens large play area Missing a large Pavillion

It offers more.

More room for sports, designed activities

Food trucks

Closest to existing layout particularly when it comes to riverside ring, open central space, and pavillion.

The only thing I don't like about either concept is the 2 way pavement, it should still be kept one way.

Because it would keep it how it down there

I picked it as there appears to be more green space at the centre flats, there is still a baseball diamond and the play ground appears to be further away from the water.

Visit any other town/city with a bandshell and look at how often it's used. At least the softball field will get used. You can still use the field for other activities.

keeps a baseball field

prefer the walking path along the river

It's Milt Dunnell field! Sports spaces need to be at the focus. I do not like that the ring round is gone. Many people enjoy the waterways from the car. You are limiting accessibility rather than increasing.

The layout looks cleaner, more convenient and slightly easier accessibility.

The ball diamond has been there a long time and revitalized it should help draw more to the area!

Basketball nets

The walking path is all along the river The design will suit all ages of kids

LOOKS GOOD

Always a need in our community to have an extra baseball diamond

More family oriented

Various activities for families to promote physical activities as well as community space for larger events. Looks like a fun place to find people for my kids coming in from rural areas.

A two way street is a bad idea it's already an attraction to people but vamping it up is great but it's nickname is the flats for a reason and the roundabout is why and you can understand how by using it adding things is a great idea though

Layout is better, I like the basketball court

Hate armour storm seating. Very uncomfortable

I like how there is a basketball net, as not many parks have this. It makes sense to have a baseball diamond considering we are home to the Baseball Hall of Fame. It like how the market pavillion is closer to the water. It seems to maximize the space more.

It is more family friendly.

It still has a ball field which has been the focus of that area for years.

Concept A looks closest to what it is now.

Baseball diamond and similarities to what is there now, but with improvements

It appears that there is more walking trail. Basketball court might be a good addition.

- seems to fill the space - parking lot near entrance appears to have retained a bit more space at the river bank - basketball court seems like a great idea I had never considered - farmer's market has a friendlier looking layout (though I'm not sure why) - I do like the bandshell in concept b, though, but I'm wondering if its smallish size will limit how much it gets used.

I like the idea of the ball field to encourage summer use of the space

I appreciate the walking trail right near the water.

Having the ball diamond and basketball court makes more sense to me than a band stand.

I think the less done to disrupt this area - the better... It's wonderful; just the way it is but it would be nice to see some food trucks :)

It keeps to the original design and just improves it a little. I don't think we need a complete overhaul, we really enjoy the simple layout

More open green space

Path provides more access along the river. Use of current activities (market, lawn bowling, baseball diamond and play areas).

Keep at least 1 ball diamond

Nice design, spaced out well.

Closest to original and road goes along the river

its nice to have the ball diamond and the area for the food trucks

Don't think you need 2 play grounds and instead you added the basketball court

Better flow, better use of green space, better options for delivery of existing events.

The lookout area for concept B seemed too much. It's visible already from all areas of the road. We already have a bandshell in town. It seemed like there was less green space.

There is something for everyone. Young and old. I also like that there is still a ball diamond there

Most child friendly. Our town can't lose anymore baseball diamonds. We have a space for concerts/entertainment at Cadzow (which should have been a pool replacement)....

Larger playground, more open green, bathrooms

We need baseball fields.

Becomes an all age space. Keeps the ball diamond and continues to allow out of town visitors a place to park and enjoy the green space.

Basketball court will get more regular daily use than bandshell only used occasionally. Better layout in general.

prefer walkway to be right along the river

I think it would be great to have another functional ball Diamond in town. I am also a big proponent of having a basketball court outside of the ones at our schools. I think the space is functional and very inviting!

I think concept A will bring in more people and will likely be used for its full potential.

Walking paths

Looks more inexpensive

Keep ball diamonds, path along the river.

More ball diamonds.

Food truck area and basketball court

The walkway seems closer to the river

Being a sports-minded person, I like the softball diamond and basketball courts to encourage exercise for children.

I like the fact that JR & Sr play areas are closer. Having children playing in both areas makes it challenging when they are in different areas, even if only slightly separated.

More sensible but not sure if circle road should be taken out especially for winter lights displays is to continue

I love what you are adding while keeping ball diamond etc the same

I like keeping #8 & adding #9.

I think we need ball diamonds. I hear we have never replaced the diamond we lost up at the school so keeping this one might be nice. We also have a bandshell that is underutilized at cadzow.

I prefer concept A because I think it would be great to have basketball courts! I also think tennis/pickleball courts would be a great addition!

It would be great to keep the sports activities associated with the field ie. baseball. The addition of the basketball court would be great for families/youth to play at. An accessible dock is a welcome bonus for canoeists & kayakers.

A band shell would be a poor way to spend money. Vendor trucks appeal to me.

Less drastic change but still not impressed with the concept

Better organized

I like the paved walkway along the river.

baseball diamonds are still used.

I like the walkway along the water, but I like the bandshell in option B

The layout seems to flow better

It has a ball field, it's not the flats without a ball diamond

You have to have the walkway along the river because we need to keep it like the original road which would tribute it as it was before.Plus walking along the river is more interesting to see life in the river. Could add the lookout to this as well.

I like the longer walking path along waters edge. It would provide nice walking stretch and perhaps more river access for fishing opportunities.

It has both walk and drive accessibility. Many seniors would not be able be able to navigate the entire circle for exercise.

It keeps the park as is

Less crowded and congested Like the basketball court

I like the walkway along the river

I hate to see us loose any more baseball fields.

Layout. Leaves at much green space in the middle still as possible.

Basketball court

Tough as I ask do we need a baseball diamond - cause if we need one, then we should have one there. There is still room for other event space down at the flats with it in place. If we don't need one, and the space can be better utilized then it could go. Same question with a basket ball court, do we need one in town - where else would kids go?

Baseball diamond

A is a more simplistic design B is too busy!

Seems to be removing the ball diamonds more and more. Keep the ball diamond. However, take your 9,10 playgrounds in B and replace the 5,6. The "curve" of 9,10 can follow 'curve' of the pathway. As for a 'viewing' area for the river. Get's pretty 'rank' down there and the water low level so really not much to see as the weather gets warmer and warmer.

Concept A seems to flow better than the other option.

I like the separation of pedestrian and car paths. Will provide a quieter more peaceful boardwalk type experience. But still provides close waterfront access to the parking lot as well.

I like that they layout still includes a baseball diamond. Seems important to keep at least one diamond since MD is well known for its past as a ball park.

The set up / design has more flow

I like the idea of having the basketball court

I hope they don't get rid of the drive circle people with mobility issues love to drive around and look at everything and by blocking that they are u able to

Layout and variety

Location of pavilions away from housing re Emily Street.

Seems to have more recreational space for children and other remaining space used wisely while still maintaining small town green space feel

Better position of market pavilion. A vendor I talked to liked being able to position truck near stall. Please keep a ball diamond. In both options, I miss the ring road. It's a drive my family likes to take.

I like the baseball diamond and basketball courts. I think a place for kids to play organized sports, like ball will bring parents to the park and the courts will allow for more pickup kinds of sports will also bring good fun to the area.

Love the basketball courts!!

Better use of the space with the baseball field and basketball court, would be nice for the walking track to go all the way around in a circle though like where the numbers 6 and 8 for the track to connect

More opportunities for day use vs special occasions. Would suggest adding pickleball courts

More sports related use, and we already kind of have a music/performance place at cadzow

I like the walkway along the river. I do like the idea of a bandshell in Concept B though

I like the basketball courts, the walking path along the river, accessibility.

To me, concept A has a greater variety and options for active recreation- this is what is of interest to me- I don't see myself using an amphitheatre esp when there is already one at Kadzo

I believe it suits a wider range of people

Walking trail is closer to river, better location for farmers market !

I like Jr and Sr parks together

I feel like the band shell is a great idea however we have one at the museum and the addition may just make them underutilized. The basketball/baseball diamonds although not something I use I feel will be better utilized by the community as a whole

Like the flow, basketball court, food truck area, but would welcome either ♡♡

More activity for kids

It includes more of what I think would benefit our family.

More activity to offer

We can't lose anymore baseball diamonds.

Leave the ball diamond for the kids.

I chose concept A only because it includes the "loop" walking path that so many people use. Otherwise, I prefer B.

I don't like either. Keep the ring road for driving and add a parallel walking/biking path

The layout is more cohesive and the space of the park is better utilized. However, the washrooms are too far away from the kids play area, and I do like concept Bs idea for a Bandshell.

We can't lose 2 baseball diamonds - they are used and this would impact our town teams

I like the added basketball park and the idea of a space for food vendors to park.

I believe it has more ideas that our town would benefit from for example basketball court and baseball field, the playground with lots to do, shade pavilion and kayak launch. I do like the lookout from concept B and would love to see it added. The bandshell, garden and open area are okay but not what our town would get as much use out of.

Accessible dock is actually accessible from parking area, unlike concept B-the path is not direct in concept B. The walking trail covers the entire length of the water unlike concept B.

People want to see the water as much as possible, at least I do! 😊

Cannot access the concepts

Concept A seems like less change to what is currently there.

Important to include the baseball diamond and the basketball court to promote physical activity.

Lots of good ideas in both, but I'd love a basketball court!

Keeps the baseball diamond for sports leagues and events

Kept ball/light display field. And the park is further away from busy street.

I chose A because of the paved walkway and yak shack looks closer to the water but the plan B is fairly good too.

I like the food truck area and the baseball area

Like the ball diamond and basketball court and the fact that the market pavilion is not right behind my house

Leave it as natural as possible. No bandshell Why do we need a 2 way road? What greenspace are we losing for lane of extra roadway? Not necessary. Don't over commercialize this natural green space.

Keep a ball diamond. A bandshell will prob nit get utilized to it's full potential

Basketball court and baseball field for people to have fun while playing.

Basketball court

More options for activity

Sports are growing fast in this town. I think sports fields is a great idea. Preference would be for soccer fields as the sport is growing in town and new facilities are required.

I'm leaning toward a because of all the different stations for ages and variety but the love the garden meeting area in the b concept. Lots of trees and garden space is great. Playgrounds both look great. A calls me a bit more

Like the flow and list of amenities

If creating a two way road at the Flats removes any grass or trees then it's unnecessary. For possibly decades, it has served just fine as a one way style road and there's absolutely no need to make it a two way road if it removes any greenery etc. It would be a waste of tax payers money and time.

That much parking and two different parks aren't needed and also a bandshell isn't necessary, there's already a setting for that at Cadzow which barely gets used

Basketball courts are a great thing

I think youth in town would benefit from this layout with the ball diamond and basketball court. I would add a soccer field since my kids and their friends love to play soccer.

We already have a band shell at Cadzow Park. This park floods regularly and putting in too many structures will just require more long term repairs after all the floods.

The town needs the ball diamond. Something decent with lights would be very beneficial!!

There has to be a baseball diamond at Milt Dunnell field I will oppose any idea that is otherwise

Still a ball Diamond

Baseball diamond

I like the layout

We need more baseball diamonds for younger age groups!

There's still use down there for sports. Removing one of the ball diamonds is surprising.

Soccer needs more soccer fields, could space be made for that?

Most amenities are needed. It is unfortunate you are not paying attention to the millrace park which is in a sad state of repair for years

Walkway along the river. Baseball field and basketball court.

We need the baseball diamonds. Our kids use them weekly for ball practice.

Ball diamond and basketball court

The baseball diamond. Space is at a premium, and we don't have enough space as it is.

More options for various age groups

Baseball field and basketball courts for youth Utilized more existing facilities and space more effectively. Not as pretty but more functional than plan B.

Keep the ball diamond. Although hate the massive conversion to parking. Detest the addition of more parking at a time when you should be reducing parking. It isn't 1990.

Baseball and basketball for the children

More amenities and better layout

Band shell already accommodated at another park. No need for two in St. Marys

More that families will use.

Still maintaining 1 baseball diamond though you really should maintain both

I like the idea of basketball being offered in town. Another option would be beach volleyball. Most importantly the town is out of soccer fields. Our town needs to expand green space to allow this. Why are we revamping a ball diamond that doesn't get used when this could be a prime soccer field that could be used almost daily!! St Marys Minor Soccer expects to grow again and we've already outgrown our town facilities.

I like that the paved walkway is along the river path. I also prefer the layout over concept B because I don't value the bandshell or bistro seating as much as other proposed uses of the space.

Similar to what we have now but improved upon

In concept B the playground is moved far away from the little wooded area, creek and stairs to the bridge.

Lots of green space, trail closer to the water to walk along - a major attraction of the park (and less work than moving it to the middle of the current green space).

- walking trail along the river is a big plus - softball diamond (if used for league play) will draw people to the park and encourage return visits once they realize the variety of park uses

We need to maintain at least one of the ball diamonds

It's more streamlined and maintains some of the simplicity that makes Milt Dunnell so appealing. Option 2 tries to do too much all in one space.

A combination of the two concepts might be nice. What is the reasoning for a bandshell. Will you be providing programming? If not, then the bandshell is likely not necessary.

Preserves the ball diamond and road along levee as a walking trail.

Having a basketball and softball field will get more use than what's presented in concept B.

I believe the activity focus will get more use than the event focus of concept B. You can play basketball/softball every day but you'll only throw events a few times a year. It also promotes an active lifestyle.

I like the baseball diamond - think it important to keep it and can be used as multipurpose space

Less pavement More green space Like one way traffic Don't put parking on water edge. Don't like stuff like separate play areas, bistro, Lookout.

I like the layout better and the fact it increases parking and maintains a ball diamond.

Baseball diamonds

Basket ball court, also a cool idea would be a hockey court or make the basket ball court both hockey and basketball

I actually like both concepts, I do worry somewhat about repetition with facilities, for example St Marys already has wonderful baseball facilities in other areas of town, also they recently built another bandshell, the question is how would these facilities compliment the others, for example would this bandshell bring in larger performers or create multiple performance areas for better festivals etc. that being said both designs look great!

More usable than option B

Bandstand unnecessary, rebuilt Cadzow to be the bandstand/concert area and it already sits completely unused 90% of the time.

I like the idea of a space for food trucks and a place to eat.

Keeps the ball diamond which has long been a feature but still adds new features reflecting the current & future uses of the space.

Includes sport activities like basketball and baseball so greater variety of activities for families and children. I believe the bandshell at cadzow park is providing that service and a second one is not needed.

It preserves the history of the flats. I find it disappointing to see both plans involve putting a lot of the park under blacktop. People come to St Mary's to see the quaint beauty of a small town, not because we have lots of parking. I realize that it is a necessary evil and perhaps like myself, the existing flats will be just a relic of the past.

so you would not be able to drive round to see the lights for the light fest? there will no longer be driving thru the park. A because its less cluttered.

Still keeps one baseball diamond which in turn allows more space for the winter lights set up every winter

Better utilization of the space

Do not like in either one where the drive loop is taken out. Many people like to sit in cars by the water and eat/read/relax

I wish it included a bandshell. There's enough space to include it all, for all age groups. Removing the road along the river for vehicle use I don't like at ALL! My family and so many others love to go and park there and just sit in the car with windows open and view the river. Removing the road and having it pedestrian only would be a REAL shame!!

As someone who plays baseball, I really like the additional ball diamond. Buy also just like the general vibe of A. I could see a combo of A without the diamond being really nice too.

The sports options

I like that there is still a baseball field and it feels like there's less pavement everywhere!

I prefer the walkway that borders the river .

I like this design with the softball diamond and basketball court.

The look out in plan b is a great idea but space for food trucks in plan a is wonderful. It would be nice to have more food trucks and planned days with different trucks. The basketball court on this side of town would be great for kids.

It would be so sad to see the baseball diamonds go with concept B! A combo between the garden space and the baseball diamonds would be the perfect happy medium between both designs.

More trail space at the water front, the town needs a baseball diamond and a basketball court more than it needs another band shell, the overall layout is better, it leaves more open space in the middle of the field for larger events like the Christmas lights, Summerfest, touch a truck etc

More things for the area youth to do. I would argue there's no longer a need for the ball diamond as there plenty up at the ball hall including a Jr diamond. But the basketball court is great!

I like the fact you are keeping the ball diamond

I like both. But feel that a water accessible launch is what is most needed. I would love to rent the kayaks but not comfortable getting in and out of them without a proper assist.

We need baseball diamonds, could also use space for soccer field.

Whichever concept is best for any areas that can have extreme flooding - sustainability, upkeep, lastibility, etc.

Basketball court, shade area

Keeps the ball diamond

I have always enjoyed the park closest to the trails. You can park, go on the trails and the kids can go to the park all in close proximity.

I like the idea of food truck parking and a kayak launch

Comments from respondents who preferred CONCEPT B

(Blue comments represent "neither"; green comments represent "both")

More shade, flows better, more space for seating

Seems to have more green undesignated space

I feel like there is more benefit to a bandshell and an event garden than another baseball field in St Marys

I like the bandshell and garden idea.

I am excited that the town is upgrading a much under utilized space. I chose B because it has less hardscaping. We have several ball diamonds already. The basketball court is interesting but would need programming to be fully utilized. I believe in keeping this more park like green space, perhaps along the lines of Victoria Park in London.

Prefer Concept B with modifications, but do not prefer either as shown. One way traffic all the way around as it is now.

It's the better one of the two but I really don't like either. Have you considered another concept that keeps the ring road?

more natural spaces

I like the idea of the bandshell, river lookout & event garden.

Bandshell, play areas for younger and older still a good area, still Washrooms, parking, creativity

Rather than a dedicated ball diamond, I like the fact the open area with a bandshell leaves the green space multi purpose for the local fair, movie nights, school field days, etc.

I like the idea of event venue / bandshell areas..?

Can the covered farmers market and the pavilion be the same space? I like the dock, I'm not sure what a kayak launch is if you can't get in should you be kayaking? But if it's not a huge expense maybe its a nice convenience. Its hard to pick one concept. I think the junior and senior play areas can be one together. I would love some low monkey bars for smaller kids to

reach. Most playgrounds have them too high, parents always have to pick kids up. Or its too high when they fall. I have been to a few with low bars and my kids get so excited. There are none in town. I would prefer soccer field to ball diamond, or just open green space, the bandshell with stone seating is nice. I like the idea of a dock, look out not necessary since we have the tussle and other bridges.

The bandshell is included

I like the separate jr and SR playground and open play area which is a safe distance from the river

I like the basketball area, the big park for both JR and SR kiddos Don't think we need another bandshell love the walking trails and open spaces

the lookout onto water and 2 seperate playgrounds

Seems more focused on community and family gathering.

Promotes tourism and culture with the bandshell. Believe that using the pathway routing from concept A that running from the North Parking Lot to the bandshell area would create an open space between the 2 spots that could be used for recreation, ie the b-ball court from concept A or a small tyke sized soccer area.

Washrooms should be close to the playground. I also like that there will be two levels of playground for different age groups

There was NO option for neither? Why does the park have to change? Waste of taxpayer money. There is nothing wrong with the current playground or park in general.

Seems to provide more options for a variety of uses and interests.

Open multi use space Lookout Larger playground for kids

Enough ball diamonds in town

I liked the lookout on the water and would prefer a bandshell to a baseball diamond. I also wanted the playground option for the younger and older kids.

I like the band shell, lookout, and the bigger playground

Garden space great for outdoor seating for elderly , however the basket ball court and dock is good feels more out door the second option . Separate Junior and senior play ground as sometimes the older kids don't watch out for the younger children

Addition of a bandshell. Grounds are not suitable for a baseball Diamond. More for everyone.

Bandshell and more places to sit

I like the idea of two distinct playgrounds, and also the band shell which would great for summer concerts or plays. However like the idea of a basketball court from concept A - not aware of any basketball courts currently in town.

More opportunity with band/entertainment vs. Baseball field

Two entrances for parking, more open areas for different optional activities, which differs from A which has organized sport activity options. I like the amphitheater and the large playgrounds.

Having a baseball field on such a beautiful piece of property would be a waste.

more greenspace

I like the idea of a bandshell

One of the main reasons I visit the park is for the peace and quiet of being able to sit in a shady spot along the river to just "be". This is an amazingly peaceful asset to have in the middle of town. Option A seems to have alot going on with too many potentially noisy area on that would disrupt this peaceful setting. Option B also has play areas, but they are concentrated in the southern end, so hopefully this means the northern end would be quieter.

better use of space. wider appeal

Location of market pavilion

It stays similar to what is now. More senior access. Provides more peace, quite and relaxation for people to my age range or older.

In Concept B the south parking lot is smaller and less obtrusive than in Concept A. I also prefer the Village Green/Open Space area over the ball diamond in Concept A. The town has lots of better ball diamonds and Concept B provides for a less developed/more flexible use of that space.

Bandshell is a great added feature

More multi use, 2 way road and shelter

less congested

Seems more sedate

I don't think it's necessary for the baseball diamond to remain.

I actually prefer neither option. the flats is a flood plain and whatever the town puts in will be damaged but floods. Unless the town builds a tall retaining wall to hold back the water, once every 10 years the flats floods. MY OPINION is to put funds to the royal edward island. half of it collapsed in the mid 20th century and was never restored.

like the bandshell, garden instead of softball diamond

Too much land covered with parking lots in either concept. Don't like parking near the creek at all.

more amenities

As a Lawn Bowler I would like to see the clubhouse renovated. I do not like the idea of a two way road with children Playing in the park as the park does get busy.

I prefer the centre of the 'round about' as shaded and green areas as opposed to a baseball diamond. The diamond being that close to the roadway concerns me with not only balls hitting vehicles but children being close to the roadway.

Better access

The fact that there are two playgrounds for junior and senior

more useful features and open ended options

love the bistro sitting area. More parking is great to keep cars from parking along the perimeter. Bandstand is a great idea. As is the lookout. Junior ball diamond takes up a lot of space. We have multiple diamonds around town.

We have other ball diamonds in town that are able to be used and invested in for upkeep

Band shell

I actually don't enjoy either. I feel it still needs the road all the way around.

Worry is flooding, bathrooms that are open longer, track and field options, lighting for walking at night, pickle ball courts.

More opportunities for all users of the space to enjoy it.

Although I like aspects of both, if I have to choose, I like B because of the emphasis on spaces that encourage quiet(er) interactions--bistro seating, lookout and shade pavilion. I enjoy the existing roadway as it allows proximity to the river and, therefore, sightings of ducks and geese and the vegetation along the river's edge. Having a dedicated 'pedestrian only' pathway is very important to me. I like the idea of the pathway being close to the river for reasons stated previously so maybe #16 on B and #13 on A could be fudged a bit to have at least some of the path close to the water.

I like the Bandshell idea and lookout

Band shelter, more seating areas lookout and bistro area, JR and SR park separate for the kids more event friendly, already have other baseball diamonds in town

If town has enough ball diamonds, I'm good with the bandshell. It's different.

I like the Jr and Sr playground idea. I like the bistro seating for picnics. I really like the idea of adding docks

I like the event garden and bandshell

Eliminate the baseball diamond. Lots of those already in town.

It has more community usable space.

I like the idea of a bandshell. Would like to see a basketball court incorporated in plan B as I think the youth in St. Marys would use it.

Love the idea of the pavilion and dock

I like the bandstand and seating options Like more open play space

Attracts more activities to the park, and more aesthetically pleasing.

I wasn't sure how much a basketball court would be used vs moving the playground to that area.

Concept A effectively turns the park into a sports field of limited use

Better for walkers

I believe there was a greater mix of activities included.

Active sports facilities as shown in concept a are better suited elsewhere rather than impact the passive recreational opportunities offered in this rare piece of downtown greenspace

The idea of having a designated event space will promote the creation of more events to be held there, which will bring more visitors to the town! I also feel that more relaxing and sitting areas are more likely to be used than another playground and ball diamond, as there are already lots of those in town and very few places for people to relax and have a meal or enjoy live entertainment outdoors.

A quieter version for the people who live there and no I do not live there.

better for families

Parking

like more open/multi purpose space; St. Marys already has plenty of ball diamonds. Milt Dunnel would be a good outdoor event space and has plenty of potential. also like that concept b has more walkable/pedestrian friendly paths.

More greenspace

More variety of activities, greater greenspace area

More conducive to host a variety of events; more accessible and friendly to various ages; we honestly have quite enough baseball diamonds in St. Marys, we don't need another

Better options

I like how the space is for young kids and then another space for seniors. Putting a space together for both would suck.

Like paved walking trail, bandstand and lookout.

It has the bandshell to give concerts

Because the washroom is close to the playground.

I honestly don't want the ring road taken away at all. For elderly /disabled, it is such a great drive along the river both in private vehicles and in the mobility busses from the nursing homes ... I prefer the suggestions in concept B except for the loss of the drivable ring road.. PLEASE leave the circle drive along the river alone! Accessibility is everything and it allows the elderly to see both nature views and Christmas lights without leaving a vehicle!!!

The opportunity for music events that it presents. Great opportunity for large gatherings. Although I wish that the greatest view the park has to offer -the falls area wouldn't be used up with parking in both options. I like option A's restriction of vehicle traffic from the water's edge (double the traffic along the rear of residential Property likely is a discussion point but....) and

chance for 90 deg parking facing into the field from the access road to take up some of the requirement from the falls area and perhaps align the road to provide additional screening for the residents if it is an issue? That field was under water within the last few years so permanence is important. A public washroom that can serve the park and the town is terrific. A must. Could there be outdoor exercise equipment in an area with a view of the river? I like the options. I also think that providing for food trucks is i terracing but perhaps challenging for the restaurant trade. Is there a way that a local truck could serve foods from those same establishments ?? Where baseball is concerned at Mary's is well blessed with a . State of the art facility that maybe could Be promoted more for event baseball and practice baseball? Oil not sure I agree with such a large space being given over to that. What is the demographic population of at Mary's and where will it be in 10 years? Just a question because I don't know.

There are aspects of each I prefer. Overall Concept B is my choice mostly because it loses the baseball diamond (seriously we have enough baseball diamonds and not enough culture) and it adds the bandshell. I have no idea what an event garden is. I like that food trucks would be allowed and there is more parking. And adding a proper dock is great and the location seems good. What I don't like is not being able to drive to the edge of the river. Not everyone is going to be able to walk to the edge. So it needs to be accessible to all whether driving, walking, on a scooter, wheelchair etc. Every day all year people like to drive and park by the water to eat a treat or just to take in the view for a few minutes. That is a huge loss with both these designs and I believe a big mistake to change what we want and expect to be able to do. Looking at Concept B please keep the one-way drive loop. Everything else looks good. If you've ever been to the flats during the summer we have a lot of tourists that pack a picnic and sit by the water for the day with family and friends. I don't know who the consultants are on this project but do the town staff and the consultant realize the number of tourists that come to this town because of the beauty of the flats by the water? They bring food and want to cook. So I'm suggesting there are a few spots where you can bbq with charcoal that you'd have to bring. I'm assuming having a bandshell would be available to bring musical acts to town and for local groups to use and the size, design, acoustics, electrical, and technical aspects are all considered. It might start small but let's make sure we've got it covered for the future and larger events. I can see that need and want will grow. Looking at Concept A and I prefer the way the walkway is laid out along the river's edge. Let's not lose the quaintness of this area because a consultant that doesn't know how it is enjoyed, know this town or area or living in a small town and go with a consultant's vision of what HE or SHE wants. That is my fear. You will get carried away with the ideas and lose the quality and feel of this park. Once its changed its changed forever. Remember, every action has an opposite and equal reaction. I ask that you imagine if one of these concepts were to be put into place what is the outcome, what is the reaction, positive and negative. Look down the road and into the future. This is a huge change and lets be sure its done right and done right for the people of today and tomorrow.

While I like the idea of having a ball diamond and basketball court somewhere close to downtown, I'd like to see a minimal amount of pavement.

Seems to have a more broad type of uses so every one can enjoy

1st thing I noticed was a separate park for junior and senior children. I like the idea of parking at either end on both concepts. Please keep the ball diamonds

Bandstand - should allow usage by local artists when not booked

Better layout

Offers more things for the community to enjoy. Like that playgrounds are at the entrance and there is a lookout!

I don't like how in these designs you can no longer drive along the water as well as how are the well known Christmas lights going to be able to be viewed from each side. We have no volleyball courts in town to use but we have plenty of basketball and tennis and soccer and baseball. We do not need another field for that so I believe there should be volleyball courts incorporated into these designs.

We don't need a baseball diamond there. We already have a TON in the town.

I like the band shell idea, we currently don't have a space like that in town.

I like the bandshell, as there is currently no permanent outdoor performance area. I like that there was more garden space too. And that the market had a dedicated area.

Frankly don't like either. The great thing about the Flats has always been it is wide open and adaptable to many large events. Sectioning it off with structures and trees will make large events difficult to manage. And I don't see much point to adding a basketball court. Such courts have gone virtually unused when they were available at Arthur Meighen.

Open to wider range of events (music, games, lectures, casual strolling and meetups with friends), and for use by wider age range (older walkers, mums with young children, tai chi space, etc.) Definitely a more park like setting, and the shade pavilion and water lookout are fantastic features. I would use the park at least twice as often, or more, with Plan B.

Best use of space.

St Marys really needs a good performance space to do outdoor concerts! I think the bandshell is a wonderful idea that aligns with my interests.

Seems more versatile with more green space.

More playground space, and green space

More quiet, natural space near the river.

Better use of space

Not sure how many will use the basketball court?

Band shell could be an interesting addition

Two separate playgrounds so that smaller kids aren't getting pushed around.

Parking will be taken up by parents

There is no ART proposed - YET. A monumental sculpture honouring the "Stonemen of Stonetown" was proposed years ago for this site, and ignored - a major tourist attraction, and giving locals pride in their history. Concept B seems like it would be flexible enough to have a space/place for ART "The Stonemen of Stonetown" in its landscapes - murarart.com (Esteemed Canadian Sculptor)

I like the idea of a band shell

If the baseball field is heavily used now, maybe stick with concept A bit if it's not, concept B will bring citizens together with music, theatre and civic celebrations.

It's nice to still have the open green space for people to use, and having a pedestrian walkway is ideal. An event garden would be lovely and attract more people to the park as well as create an environment for tourist selfies. It would also be lovely to have a lookout over the river so people are encouraged to admire the scenery more. Bistro seating would allow for more people to eat in the park and create a more social space.

Concept B seems to offer more open space for play, providing different options for family time. For our family, that would be optimal.

Like band shell for heritage performer better sound then on main Street. They can play basketball at school courts.

Optimizes the land use, greater # of uses then #1. Appeals to a broader age spectrum.

I like the complete loop trail to walk

Junior baseball diamond can be used/played in many other areas in St Marys. I like the idea of more places for sitting and enjoying the view.

Having the playground close to the road and river in concept A is a major safety issue for children.

Looks like there is more space dedicated to pedestrian use.

I like the concept of a village green and music platform in the middle of the park.

As the town seems to have ample baseball facilities off site concept A does not have as many multiuse options as B. Focusing on utilizing this parkland for as many different recreation opportunities is a better idea for all.

I like this concept because of the walkway pattern, green space, and the bandshell.

I like the garden feature and the band pavilion, I feel those would be very good for public events in the town.

Enhances rather than changes.

Less parking but still enough to accommodate what will likely be used/needed, don't see a need for basketball courts like concept A has, bistro seating/tables will be well used, lookout dock is a nice idea

Concept two is more like a little community in the park, I think it would greatly enhance the town. I love the bandshell area

Already lots of baseball facilities around town, would be nice to provide large spaces for other activities.

I like the bandshell idea

I like parts from both concepts. Concept A - I like the basketball court and having a dedicated area for vending trucks. I like the design of the boat launch parking lot. I like the idea of keeping the waterfront walkway where it currently is. I had an idea about this part of the path, you could make it wide enough for a one way road and have movable gates at the beginning and end of the path. That way you can open the gates during the winter light show and people can drive around the ring road to see the lights from all sides, like always. Then you can close the gates to the path to cars the rest of the year. Concept B - I like the placement of the market pavilion. I like the inclusion of a bandstand with built in seating. I like the idea of having some bistro seating in the shade, however wouldn't it make more sense to have bistro seating nearby the dedicated area for vending trucks? In both concepts I like the inclusion of an accessible dock, an accessible washroom, an accessible playground, shade pavilions, a kayak launch dock and open space. I would like it if there was a second accessible washroom positioned between the market pavilion and the lawn bowling clubhouse.

Don't use basketball & there are other baseball diamond locations.

I don't like the idea of the baseball diamond. That restricts the use for everyone. We have enough ball diamonds already in town.

Having more green space and covered areas is important. I like garden areas to enjoy around the town. Paved pathways are important to my family, we have a daughter with physical challenges and level walking areas will help her enjoy the spaces too.

Not sure we need a ball field at the flats. Rarely used. Like the idea of the bandshell for events. Totally agree we don't need the road to go all the way around the perimeter.

The ball diamond impacts what can be done / used for the Milt Dunnell area.

Better use of space

More symmetrical

General open green space can be used for anything. Road access separate from walking trails

having the market away from river gives more area to sit and watch river and hopefully view from inside a car if they have mobility issues.

More space available for non-sport activities. Appears to have more room by the river to sit and enjoy nature.

There are already enough baseball fields in the town now, and not enough for other activities. Concept B allows more options.

The park seems to have a lot more value as an open green space for passive enjoyment and events than for organized sport. The ball diamond is underutilized and would be better somewhere else so that the fencing didn't interfere with fully utilizing the space for community events.

Love the accessible playground, paved walkway, bandshell, accessible boat launch

Market pavilion is where it is now--the pavilion area in Concept A is totally impractical because that area is almost always too wet; BUT REPLACE THE BANDSHELL WITH THE BASEBALL DIAMOND!!

Seems more versatile

Better use of greenspace

We don't need more baseball diamonds in town

I like the bandshell. There are many sports areas in town.

Don't need baseball diamond

Bistro and garden bring more people to the area. Also should encourage less driving to MD and instead take active transport or walking and provide more seated shading, water fountain, and place to secure bikes.

Concept B offers a wider variety of activities and amenities for different groups of people including seating and a sizeable area for performances or other events. The town already has plenty of baseball diamonds, one of which is huge and there are a lot of options for sports elsewhere.

Town has enough ball parks, I believe a band shell would be a welcome edition to the downtown core.

I like it the way it is

the green space design of the centre is less restrictive and more open to passive use and events when compared to a baseball diamond.

Get rid of ball diamond and replace with better facility elsewhere - terrible diamonds

More room for kids to play

I am not sure there is value in dedicating a large space for a baseball diamond since Saint Marys already has quite a few baseball diamonds elsewhere. Concept B seems to give more options. I also like different. Concept A seems to be close to what we have currently.

More options for all different ages

I like the open play space. Can't do much with a junior sized ball Diamond so I would prefer it to be open space for any activity.

Bandshell, and also more open green space

I prefer B because the size of the actual ball diamond isn't functional for the sports teams. It would be nice to see it utilized more and the greenery looks more appealing.

I like that there's a bandshell for entertainment

I like the bandshell idea.

Love the idea of the bandshell!

Greater flexibility

Suits my uses the best

Concept B is more nature, less sports complex

The area has less space reserved for parking that would often never be used, and puts the parks closer to the entrance. Although the walking paths for both are the best part.

The town has enough ball diamonds and ones currently there some seem to be used much

Great use of green space as opposed to another baseball diamond. Would love the basketball court as st.Mary's doesn't offer anything like that. Love the size of the playgrounds and locations, bandstand would be awesome for outdoor music and theatre.

More open green space

To me, it seems to have more garden/green space, and more usability for the community than a ball diamond.

More green space and quiet activities

Better option for events

Better use of space however I'm not sure what the impact would be removing ball diamond for those who use it

I'm not sure we need more baseball diamonds. However I LOVE the idea of a bandshell.

Seems more logical, nice flow and attractive layout. Also, we don't care about the baseball diamond

Nice use of space The ball fields don't drain well but need relocating

This space should be a gem of the town to support culture, the arts and showcase our remarkable natural heritage. Sporting amenities with defined fields/courts would detract from this vision. Options for sporting spaces in other parts of town are vast and more appropriate. Development of the towns new residential areas can easily accommodate these amenities closer to those that would use them. With the proper leadership driving events here it could easily be a very busy space to appreciate for both locals and visitors.

If this park is to be focused on tourism, I don't think it makes sense to have minor sports fields here. This will fill the parking lots in game nights and leave little room for tourists.

Market building away from the river, lots of big trees there. Miss the driving loop. Is this beneficial to locals or tourists? Seems to me tourists.

I like the open space for a variety of activities and the overall design. If we really need the ball diamond then plan A is okay.

I like the idea of bandshell for more outdoor events

Restaurants have figured out how to do take out. We don't need food trucks

More useful amenities (ie. bandshell, bistro tables, games area). More distinct areas of use.

Seems a little less congested and bit more nature driven

Because of seating, playground and event garden.

Better use of overall space and really appreciate the bandshell given we have so much great local talent

The accessible play ground, look out, bistro seating and event garden are very appealing. I think concept B would be utilized by far more people.

I chose Concept B mostly because I am not a ball player and the ball diamond takes away the option of a more multi purpose space that can be used for hosting events.

I like to bistro seating area

Just more amenities available

I like both but I like certain things from each concept

Love the idea of a band stand!

Better layout and more attractions

Don't feel a baseball diamond is needed in that space. A performance stage area would be great for all events that happen at the flats (like a big bandshell that faces the entire green space)

I like that the junior & senior playgrounds are somewhat separated. I like the bandshell and open area over a junior diamond

I like the layout better.

Better use of space for events and passive recreation, access to river water activities and accessible washroom.

Two different play structures. There are already enough ball diamonds in town. The one down there has always been flooded. Always a very poor place to play ball. Not enough parking for kayaks, boat launch on #1 and then you have to walk to the back of milt funnelled field to launch?

It keeps it closer to what is there

More diversity of activities

I like the bandshell idea, the loop for walking on the paved route, the absence of baseball diamond so don't have to worry about balls being hit out, open green space, bistro seating etc.

The ball diamond doesn't need to be there - better uses for the space. Will miss the ring road though.

Playground options for our niece

Playgrounds are separated, walkway looks nice

Elsewhere to play baseball.

I like the trail along the waterfront, this is a benefits as cars often drive close as you walk along the waterway. I like the additional green space without the ball diamond.

I really like the idea of a bandstand and event garden. Because I live close to the Baseball Hall of Fame, I see plenty of ball diamonds, so it's not a priority to have more. I see this space as a community-building place, and option B allows for more variety of community/groups. That said, activity is important, and I like the seniors activity and basketball components of Option A. Is there a way to combine some of these elements?

Garden event space and band area.

-rather a nature park over a sports park.

Both of these options suck. Why are we paving the flats? How much parking do we need? Maybe people could utilize the stage / band shell that was already built at Kadzow!!! This is a horrific idea.

Like the idea of bandstand and paved walkway.

Events

The bandshell

Parking close to dock

I like the round walking trail - I use the current road for running while my kids play at the park with their dad. I also prefer the open village green area - we've got ball diamonds at lots of other places in town.

We have lots of places in town that, with some planning, could function as sports fields...this area near the river should be park space, doesn't need to be used for sports fields.

There should be a market square at the Flats as they have in Europe.

Baseball diamond takes up alot of space for not being used alot. I like the idea of a play ground for seniors and juniors. Concept B has more use for a wider range of people and a band shelter will help people come together for planned social activities.

We have enough baseball diamonds in town to get rid of them at Milt Dunne would be okay. These diamonds need a lot of work anyway. I would love to see a bandshell and take the music off the downtown streets. Designated parking is a good idea. Less chance of running down a pedestrian on the drive around circle. I think we need to have another washroom down by the market area. The Christmas light display could still be set up in the park however some people do enjoy the circle drive for viewing lights.

I like concept B because I believe it will be able to be used by more members of the community. I don't think that we need more baseball diamonds in town, but I do think it would be nice to include the basketball court in concept B, because there currently isn't a place to play basketball aside from on school properties. Both concepts are very nice and will be a great improvement to the community!

I like the larger playground option, positioning of the Market shelter, and the addition of a band shell. I am not sure if the baseball diamond and basketball court would get as much use, as there are many options for baseball diamonds in town already. I like seeing that the lawn bowling court will remain where it is with an improved clubhouse.

If the paved walkway by the river is open to bikes

Band shell, lookout, better layout

Bandshell area.

The bandshell

More diverse passive recreation options, smaller south parking area - that is a prime spot for views and more seating and green space would be nice

Both options overcrowd and minimize the space of the park. If it isn't broke don't fix it

I like this better for the music and leisure aspects, since we already have other sports areas in town it would be nice to include the bandshell and bistro seating etc

Not as busy.

There are more amenities making it more appealing to all ages and more activities possible with the space.

Like the ability to have 2 way road through there

More user friendly We really don't need another ball diamond

To me, it is less sports oriented and more space for everyone's enjoyment.

Better layout

I like the layout of the trails and amenities. It seems to keep things more "natural" along the river.

Dock to launch kayakes, canoes safely and effectively.

Don't need a ball diamond

Looks nicer

Like to keep it as natural as possible, plus we don't need anymore basketball courts and baseball fields. There are plenty to use around town already. I feel the town has already taken away most of the beautiful natural areas we once had so leave it alone. ie. lovers lane and the trail where they built all those ugly townhouses.

Don't need another baseball diamond. Love the gardens, trees, natural features of option b. It doesn't seem much different from A, except it offers more (but without a basketball court, which I do like the sound of still...)

More green space, less traffic

The two way traffic would make it safer, having a pavilion would allow for more events to happen. Love the idea

Like the idea of a bandshell, don't see the need for another baseball diamond

Better layout. Like the lookout. More green space.

Focal area for large gatherings

More things available

I would really like to see dedicated Pickleball courts down there

More amenities for a larger audience

Band shell

I like the lookout point. I don't really see the need for a baseball diamond here.

I like the entertainment aspect over the sports fields. Feel like we have that else where in town

Because it would be better use of the space not having the ball diamond. More opportunity for events , music in the park , food trucks events etc

Bandshell. Baseball diamond is not of interest Flooding is an issue not sure how this is addressed in concepts But also not sure what senior play represents or or junior play. What is this? A sense of community is needed. Areas for festivals and not using the Main Street cutting off downtown but Main Street as a feed to the area of festivals. Food trucks, family day, local bands of all kinds. Regular summer music played Front porch attracts an older generation

Band shell , bistro seating , more treed park area over wide open space area, instead of the baseball field / basketball court . Outdoor gym equipment as seen in many other parks would be a bonus .

Looks like a great place for community to gather

I think it offers more events and activities.

Just looks better.

Love the bandshell component for live outdoor music, venues, performances and bistro + the idea of 2 way road.

For the most part like the way the park is already but B, isn't so busy looking with parking lots etc. I don't believe you have to pave etc, sometimes simple gravel is just more down to earth. I agree that there is a lot of wasted space in the middle that could better be utilized...gardens, etc, bandshell great idea for summer concerts etc

- more naturalized green space and gardens - no baseball diamond needed - there are other well maintained diamonds - suggest keeping the scenic one way oval drive for cars to pull over for restful views of the river - have a walking/ bike trail between the river and the road - need shoreline stabilization - need water quality improvement - already large mats of floating algae impeding kayaks - a circle drive boat launch might work better - the main attraction for walkers, motorcycles and cars is the one way oval drive through the park - try to keep and incorporate it into the plans

Perfect for everyone. Love the event garden and lookout. The junior and senior park looks great for the kids. What about a smaller splash pad?

Bandshell. I like live music.

It provides more diverse opportunities for recreation and enjoyment to the town; with ball diamonds located elsewhere, it is a fitting idea for this space.

I would like to see concept B but rather than open space to have a soccer field.

Better playground area for kids

The layout looks more natural, more nature vs concept A. I like the bistro seating and event garden idea as well as the band shell

Whatever decision is made there should be as much green space as possible. In my mind, there are three main activities in the Flats 1) event space - fair, plant sale, Christmas lights, 2) playground/trails/open space, and 3) the Farmers' market. More nature is better in this floodplain and play areas, open spaces and trails are the most appropriate uses. Of course,

the Town moved the Farmers' Market and people like this... in my mind if the Market stays there than all of the infrastructure could be in one spot to the south and leave the park more natural in the rest of the area. We have lots of baseball diamonds, we should put a basketball court somewhere else, we have a bandshell, we have a lookout rail bridge. From a "blue sky" perspective the Market with a proper pavillion and indoor space should be out of the floodplain... I like it in this park... but what if there was a flood.... I like the idea of bistro seating and a garden with more trees. So with this in mind I will rank the amenities... but of course if the Market is there it will need pavement... but pavement is not my preference.

Because junior and senior playgrounds are separate

I like the bandshell idea.

Concept B allows for more activities in the main space rather than just baseball. I love the Kayak launch idea in both concepts. Very much needed

Like the idea of the bandshell and dock for canoe and kayak accessibility.

Brett starts with the letter B

It seems a more relaxed area and family/senior friendly -- I don't think that St. Marys needs another ball diamond-there are many others in town

I really think a large area for concerts or outdoor theaterlike an ampitheater....would be beneficial.....

I like Concept B because it doesn't have the ball Diamond. In my time in St. Marys, I've rarely seen the diamond use for baseball; we have several other places for that. On both concepts I love the accessible dock (hopefully with a safe kayak launch pad). The gardens, shade pavilion, seating areas, etc look wonderful! The bandshell gives us a place to hold outdoor music concerts, festivals, etc. Well done!

Like to walk with my grand child and I find the cars concerning.

The space is a flood plane, and typically gets quite a bit of water on it in the spring. Worried about components that would fail with water. Not sure how much a baseball diamond would be used if water is an issue.

Because it allows for a walking loop that cars do not travel on, and has amenities that cater to a wide range of ages (not just kids)

Baseball diamond from concept A is very unnecessary since there are many others in town already, HUGE waste of space. The looped trail in concept B is far nicer for walking. The playground setup in B is far better, especially being closer to the restrooms.

Lots of green space & activity

The ball diamond makes no sense with all the other diamonds around the town. The playgrounds will see much more use.

Better layout and amenities

Having a Bandshell and other features could attract a larger variety of events. Moving the playgrounds to the south side would allow better traffic flow when events are being held. There are more pavilions and shelters in place to picnic with family and hold multiple events. Seems very family friendly while also allowing for a wide variety of activities and events to happen simultaneously. I love the idea of a bistro and its proximity to child friendly areas. I believe we have enough baseball diamonds that we don't need one here.

I don't use the ball diamond and I walk that area a lot. I would prefer more walking trails.

I like the layout better

It looks like it would be used more as an event space and that's the direction I think it should go. Kids already have basketball courts at the schools, they don't need more.

B looks like less paving. I am not a fan of paving over green spaces. I am more concerned about this remaining a safe space for wildlife. I don't like the idea of 2-way traffic. Also keep in mind how it floods every year.

Pavilion and lookout. Baseball diamond is rarely used.

Both are good,,but we think b is better uses

The biggest reason is the lack of a ball diamond in Concept B. This town is so full of baseball diamonds, I really don't see the need to have another one taking up 20% of the usable space. Separated junior/senior playgrounds is better for the kids, and having another outdoor event space would be good for the town, especially if this is supposed to be a cornerstone of the town's tourism promotional strategy. I did like the basketball court in A, as the town really lacks for courts, perhaps consider bringing that into B somewhere.

Bandshell, no ballpark

I think it is a better use of space, the town already has many baseball fields. I would like to see a basketball court in this concept design though.

I appreciate the greater green/open space in concept B

Like the bandshell idea Allows for more variety of uses then baseball

Rather have an events bandshell rather than a ball diamond. BUT I like the walking path in Concept A being closer to river

There are lots of basketball courts, and ball fields currently available and a large, quiet, open green space near the downtown would enhance overall appeal of the Town while providing a convenient location for any future festivals or events that may present themselves.

I like it better Sometimes ground is an even where the market is. The baseball diamonds are not needed if they are not being used they are wasted space

Have enough baseball diamonds

To be honest not sure I like either more than the other

B - seems to have a beautiful layout and softball can be played anywhere, really. A real community hub not sports specific. I would suggest that the town focus on maintenance of cleaning up trees and over grown grass in all areas of town.

I like the idea of a band shell, especially if there is music ♪♪ being played, maybe a Sunday afternoon etc

I like the open green space and bandshell

I don't feel a basketball court would be good at this location, perhaps better at the skate park or tennis courts. Noise factor

It has a proper lookout and additional green space (no baseball field)

seems more user friendly encompassing more interests

Nature not sports please

Both concepts are good but I'm not sure a baseball diamond is needed. I have not seen the existing diamonds used very much.

I like the bandshell concept, senior play option, lookout and kayak/canoe launch.

Innovative. Inclusive

It just seems like a better use of the space. Love the lookout and the Armour stone seating and I like the playground closer to the entrance

I like a mixture of both but I love the idea of a lookout and games tables as well as the bandshell and event garden. Also like the idea of a separation of junior and senior play areas.

Will benefit a wider variety of age groups

The massive open field for different events and play is one of the best parts of the flats. Keeping the majority of that space untouched is preferred.

Comments from respondents who did not select CONCEPT A or CONCEPT B

Neither. Keep the road open all the way around.

Neither

Neither

Neither. Please keep our Flats the way it is. We are losing tourism in the downtown because of stores closing. The Christmas display lights bring people from far and wide. An idea that Stratford actually copies from us. We will lose tourism dollars. This is not in the best interest of our Town or residents. We will have huge regrets if either of these concepts move forward. We all seem very happy the way our flats are. if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Neither. Not having a Veteran's Parkway road would be a disaster. Dragging a boat from the north parking area to the accessible docking area via a walkway is a bad idea. Accessible washrooms are much needed. Sheltered pavilion is a good idea as well as playgrounds. I think the Town wasted a whole lot of taxpayer money on a consultant when common sense ideas would give you all the answers you need for this area.

Neither because there is no ring road. One way is safer than putting a two way street (winter lights, fireworks, car show, etc.) Maybe overkill on parking unless we know what events or functions will be planned.

Do not like either one, too busy. Don't want to lose the small town feel.

Neither, do not want road loop closed (light display, handicap access, senior access, wagon rides)

Neither one I like driving along the river and walking around

I do not prefer either concept, this a loaded and slanted question. You have removed the ring road - boo. With improved parking and no parking signs along the existing ring road, the UTC should be satisfied. No parking beside the river so no idling. Put in a number of park benches facing the river so that folks can park in designated spots and take their Timmies over to view our river. No one I have spoken with is in favour of a 2 way road and the removal of the ring road.

I believe some changes would be beneficial. But...removing ring road is a huge waste of money. By putting parking at the front it will stop people from going to the farmers market at the back. A proposed pavilion is a good idea. I'm not against change but I'm totally against ring road removal.

Neither. Re-think.

I think the park is fine the way it is for the most part. That being said some changes would be a good idea.

Don't prefer the fact that you are removing the accessible ring road

Neither! I am completely against getting rid of the vehicle ring road as I use it once or twice every day! Very sad! I won't, as many of the older residents, have access to being close to the river at the far end with view of the water and the bridge. Will be too far to walk to!

Neither concept makes any sense. We have a sharp decline in baseball being played in town - soccer fields are in need - A lot of the time I spend in the park is driving older folk in the car along the rivers edge - I would not remove the vehical road. You need a major concept rework - it seems like a first year landscape design project done by someone who doesnt live in St. Marys.

No preference. Both beautiful

Neither concept! Need to keep the road Need lights for ball diamond

Neither...loop road required

Why can you not leave the play ground where it is or put it in the open space area at the front on concept A then to do the concert part of B and not put a fence in the out field?

Neither

Neither, because your not able to drive & park along the river.

I think they are both way too busy. Upgrading the pavilion would be wonderful for the Farmers' Market and events. The ball diamonds could be upgraded too. Upgrading the docks is necessary with all of the water traffic. Cleaning up the river would be the best start. It would be a shame to take the drive away to look at the lights. More is not always better.

To be honest, I'm not a fan of either. As an aside, it would be helpful to show a similar illustration of what it currently is today... to allow like for like comparisons.

Neither: too much development. The magic of that area will be gone. One of the positives of St. Marys is how many peaceful, beautiful places there are. Farmers market area, develop, yes, for accessibility. Keep the magic of the Flats. Maybe bandshell instead of current "covered shed".

Both are unacceptable. Requires ability for people to drive along rivers edge. Elderly do not walk or bike

Neutral on both. Concerned about viewing of Winter Lights.

Neither.....don't agree on the no car access to ring road close to river. Whenever I walk around the road area there are numerous cars parked having lunch or just sitting enjoying the view. Many people are not able to walk close to the river so only can drive to enjoy the view. Keep the road and add a walking path beside. The only time it is an issue is when the market is on.....people and cars together. No need to worry about emissions when everyone will be driving electric in the near future.

I don't like either. There are many seniors who will not be able to access or sit by the water if you remove the circular access road. I use the boat launch often and it is not identified as existing. How do you expect people to carry their kayaks from the parking area to the new launch dock?

Honestly, I don't like either plan. The beauty of this park is how natural it has remained. I believe that people crave natural areas and by paving and creating parking lots, it is no longer an natural area. There are many paved paths in town. There are basketball areas. There is a beautiful bandshell area at the museum. There are playgrounds and splash pads. There is pavement everywhere. The ball diamond was useful at one time, but the towns lack of upkeep deemed it unusable by organized ball. I think it's important to keep river access for all abilities by keeping the road as it is beside the river. The town needs to respect that this is ultimately a flood plain and any work that is done could potentially be damaged by nature at ant time.

Neither concept is conducive to what the citizens of the town want. It sounds like you have already decided to go a head with this project. This space is undeveloped for a reason. People can kick a ball around, hit golf balls, lie in the sun. This is the last thing we need to develop, leave it alone. It is fine like it is, don't change a thing. What about the wild life, geese, ducks, muskrat, and other natural habitat flora and fauna that will be impeded by your new concepts?

I think the softball/basketball areas would attract younger people but I like the open areas of the other concept. Both are amazing but look extremely expensive and would take many years to complete. Good luck with these plans.

Neither

I don't think I prefer either. Too much payment for parking in our beautiful green space.

I dont like A better and vice versa. I very much DISLIKE the two way road and I know a lot of people who feel the same way. Keep the one way road as is and work around it!

I don't like the two way road , it works great now for the Christmas lights display , the elderly can be driven around to see all the lights , they can sit in there cars to watch the birds etc The play grounds shouldn't be close to the roads it is good back where it is A group of us meet down there a couple days a week and walk from there along the river and have no

issues the way it is Two way traffic trying to get in and out at the same spot could be a problem

Did not accept either concept. Do not get rid of the ring road. People will not come down if parking is not accessible.

Neither. DONT TAKE AWAY THE RING ROAD.

Neither. I prefer to have "ring" road kept intact around the outside of the park.

The ring road should stay. Not everyone can walk this area and it is why people come down and sit in their vehicles to enjoy the view at all times of the year. During the winter lights there are lots of seniors that enjoy driving around and seeing the lights as well. I have never felt a safety concern with vehicles and people as long as everyone walks facing traffic and obeys the speed limit. The play equipment is in an ideal location now as it is far enough from the water so you are not having little ones drawn to the water. Losing the ring road will lose the uniqueness of this area. We have a nice walking path from Queen street right to the tennis courts along the river and if a path can be extended to the milt dunel field beside the existing ring road it would be nice but not at the expense of losing the ring road parking.

Neither, why does anything have to change? The Christmas lights were special when we could drive through. In the winter, will the walkways be maintained throughout the season to see the lights, etc. I think that it creates more problems for accessibility options. We often use the open spaces for long leash dog training, and spaces just to let them be and explore - within reason.

Neither. Keep the circle drive for events seniors and handicapped.

neither- we like to drive around and see the river, walking is a problem for us and we enjoy slow drive and relax, stopping and watching water and people

Neither concepts accommodate cars which concerns me for winter and mental health. People need to be able to drive and have access to this beautiful location especially in the winter.

neither

Neither one sketches are confusing .

They are both bad planning and have no real planning for the area People Love this park just do not turn it to. A circus, .

Don't really think it matters, because I don't believe we need a change at all. Will it not still get flooded?

Don't prefer either concept. Leave as it is, as lot of older people like to go down by the river, and may not have access if they have mobility issues.

I like the circle drive

Leave everything the way it is now. We need the road going around the field, don't change it. I bike and walk around the road.

Don't prefer either, the drive around circle should stay

Neither concept works you need to keep the ability to drive around for those people who cannot walk It is their one chance to get close to the river A sidewalk on the river side would be a great option but dont lose the road

NONE

Neither

I like aspects of both designs but not an either or situation. I like the one way traffic around the park. I am also concerned about building in the flood plain.

I walk the roadway at the flats everyday as do a number of others. I walk facing traffic and never worry about vehicles. I see people in their cars enjoying the river. They might be working, eating or just relaxing by the river. I have never noticed idling cars. I often see seniors parked just enjoying the peacefulness of the setting. I really think the flats should be a

destination for the whole town but hope you find a plan where cars can park by the river and enjoy it. Not everyone can walk but everyone should be able to enjoy the river.

Neither. Do not eliminate the circle drive!

I am not impressed with either however it appears that the decision to make this happen has already been made and it is down to who wants which design

I dont like either.

I like the one way paved driving area at the flats the way it is now. I don't like either of these concepts for that reason. Work with the existing driving area and add to the flats based on that. The Christmas lights tour will be negatively affected if we can't drive around the flats to see it. The kayak launch is a great idea.

I didn't make a selection as I like the drive path around. It's great for taking elderly for a drive around the river. It might be kind of congested for the Christmas lights?

Concept A but please please leave road along river

DO NOT TAKE THE RING ROAD AWAY... People drive around there.. have lunch in their cars . park and sit on the river bank... you are not thinking of seniors.. people walk the ring road..

I don't like the idea of taking the road way all around away. If I had to choose I would choose 2 however I'm not in favor of either.

Don't change it

Neither, playground should not be that close to river, road etc. it is much safer at the far end closer to walkway and cement path.

Neither as both remove the circular one-way road which has been great for short drives, access to the river, viewing the Christmas displays. This has been a staple to St. Marys for decades!! If permanent event items such as bandshell and basketball courts are put in the middle of the field is the intention to raise the level substantially as this area is routinely flooded in the spring?

Neither. Use the existing layout and add to enhance it. But do not remove the circle and the play ground. What about the Christmas lights. The enjoyment of driving around looking at the lights and going on the horse drawn carriage rides. Horrible concepts in the pictures. Enhance what we already have!! Add a side walk.

Neither allows for a car to drive by the river. This is important for those who have mobility issues like myself. I love to drive down by the river with a coffee and contemplate It means less transferring from car to scooter etc.

Neither would love to see the road way kept

I don't care for either one.

did not pick either one. don't like either one. Too commercial. Leave the green space as is with minor improvements like a dock, better washrooms and more picnic tables. Improve the pavilion. Dont put a 2 way road in, Leave as is.

Not a fan of either design

Hate both of them.

Neither ..leave the road

Neither, there will be traffic issues at events, and poorer access to the river for those with mobility issues. Plus single direction traffic is safer. Just add a walking path

It's difficult to chose one over the other as both have factors that would benefit a wide variety of our population.

NEITHER! Do not remove the circle drive... people with mobility disabilities won't be able use enjoy the river, pavilion and events there. I have mobility issues that require me to use a cane. I am unable to walk very far so we always park close to events or whatever we want to

enjoy the flats for. The major of residents in st Marys are seniors or children neither who like to walk far.

Keep the one way circle drive. Do not do a 2 way road!

Neither . By taking out the drive around by the river this will limit many seniors from driving over and sitting by the river. Many have trouble walking and I see them sitting in their cars having a coffee or a snack just enjoying sitting by the river. Please consider this we have many seniors in this town .

Neither!!! We are struggling for places to play soccer! Creating fields at DCVI which is not town space. Town doesn't care for the ball diamonds in town spaces as is! Why create new? Improve spaces that already are developed!

In all honesty I don't really like either. I like the simplicity we have now.

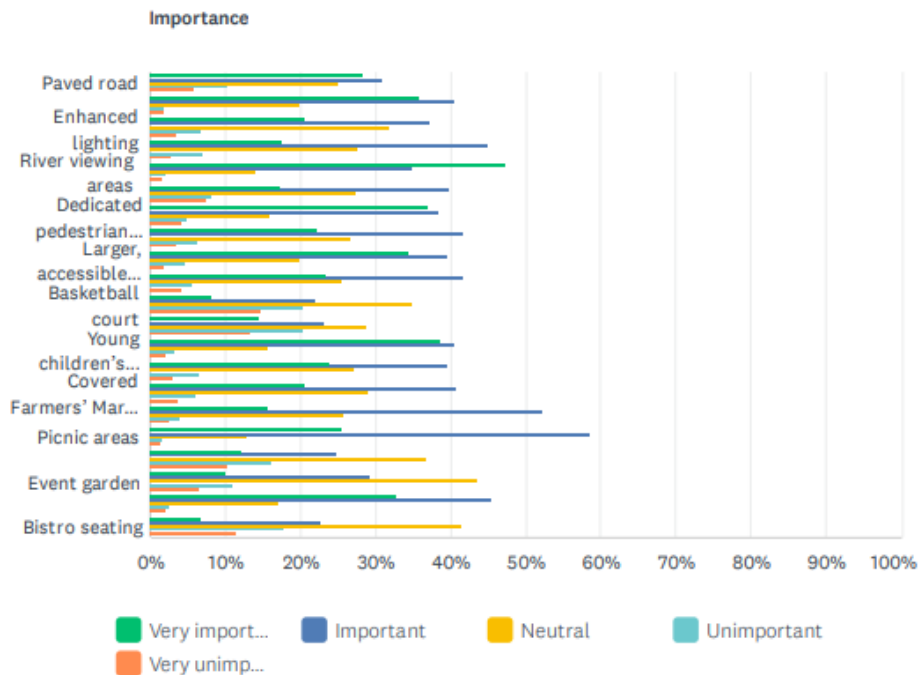
Both concepts destroy The Flats.

Dont like either. Removing green space for parking lots. I like the dock, but don't take away the ball diamond

Neither concept - by removing the road by the river you have cut off access to the river view for most older people, not everyone is able to walk around this distance.

Q7 Below is a list of amenities that are proposed in the concepts. How important are each of these amenities to you?

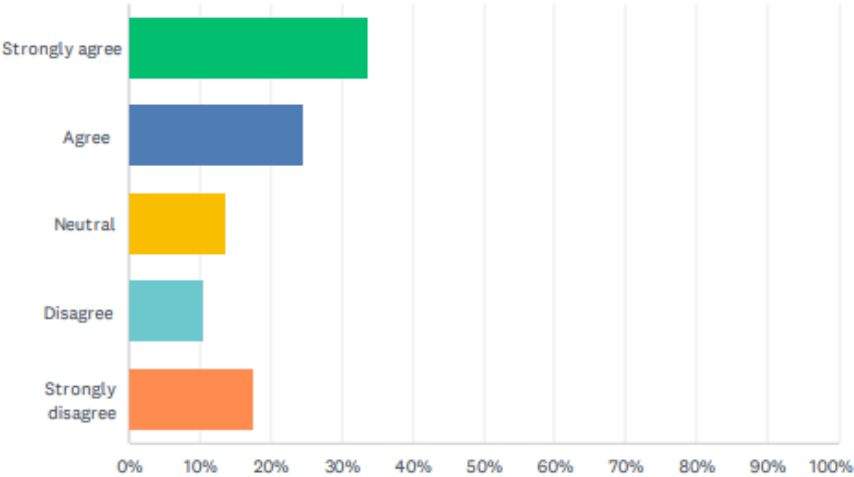
Answered: 891 Skipped: 459



Importance						
	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	UNIMPORTANT	VERY UNIMPORTANT	TOTAL
Paved road	28.37% 242	30.83% 263	24.85% 212	10.20% 87	5.74% 49	853
Increased tree canopy	35.92% 305	40.52% 344	19.91% 169	2.00% 17	1.65% 14	849
Enhanced lighting	20.43% 171	37.40% 313	31.78% 266	6.93% 58	3.46% 29	837
Additional seating	17.39% 145	45.08% 376	27.58% 230	7.07% 59	2.88% 24	834
River viewing areas	47.31% 404	34.89% 298	14.17% 121	2.11% 18	1.52% 13	854
Improved parking	17.32% 145	39.78% 333	27.36% 229	8.12% 68	7.41% 62	837
Dedicated pedestrian sections and links to trails	36.79% 309	38.45% 323	15.83% 133	4.88% 41	4.05% 34	840
Event space	22.16% 185	41.56% 347	26.59% 222	6.23% 52	3.47% 29	835
Larger, accessible family washroom located closer to the park's entrance	34.31% 292	39.48% 336	19.86% 169	4.70% 40	1.65% 14	851
Multi-purpose sports field/open green space	23.54% 197	41.58% 348	25.33% 212	5.50% 46	4.06% 34	837
Basketball court	8.12% 68	21.86% 183	35.01% 293	20.19% 169	14.81% 124	837
Baseball diamond	14.41% 118	23.32% 191	28.69% 235	20.27% 166	13.31% 109	819
Young children's playground space	38.58% 326	40.47% 342	15.62% 132	3.20% 27	2.13% 18	845
Older children's playground space	23.84% 200	39.45% 331	27.06% 227	6.67% 56	2.98% 25	839
Covered Farmers' Market shelter	20.52% 173	40.81% 344	28.94% 244	6.05% 51	3.68% 31	843
Pavilion	15.58% 131	52.32% 440	25.80% 217	3.80% 32	2.50% 21	841
Picnic areas	25.54% 212	58.67% 487	12.89% 107	1.57% 13	1.33% 11	830
Bandshell	12.14% 100	24.76% 204	36.65% 302	16.14% 133	10.32% 85	824
Event garden	10.00% 81	29.26% 237	43.46% 352	10.86% 88	6.42% 52	810
Accessible dock with kayak launch	32.83% 280	45.37% 387	17.12% 146	2.58% 22	2.11% 18	853
Bistro seating	6.78% 56	22.64% 187	41.40% 342	17.80% 147	11.38% 94	826

Q8 The proposed concepts suggest that part of the ring road be used for pedestrian traffic only. A pedestrian-only road would encourage visitors to walk, wheel or bike along the water's edge, reducing emissions from idling cars and safety concerns from moving vehicles. The concepts also include a two-way road would allow cars in and out of the park, with ample parking, including an extended area by the boat launch. Do you agree with creating a pedestrian only portion of the ring road?

Answered: 920 Skipped: 430



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	33.59%	309
Agree	24.78%	228
Neutral	13.70%	126
Disagree	10.54%	97
Strongly disagree	17.39%	160
TOTAL		920

Q9 What other features or amenities would you like to see in the park, keeping in mind that any changes should be practical, achievable and sustainable.

Note: Comments were organized by theme and frequency to help with readability and analysis.

Ring Road (99)

I think people will really miss the ability to drive around the park and enjoy the view as a quick pass-through. It will make the winter lights impossible to loop through.

Many people like to drive around the flats, just to decompress. Many seniors want to stay in the car, but be nice and close to the water.

Not sold on the 2way road. I feel people go slower when it's one way. It's peaceful and would hate for that feeling to go away. A lot of people go there to think, read, listen to the water and if there is more traffic, that feeling will be lost.

Consider a designated walkway beside the traffic ring road. Many seniors and young families drive the flats for the lights and while enjoying icecream in the summer.

The pedestrian walk should be a loop, maybe paralleling the road at points.

Also remember the lights at christmas...it will be hard to drive seniors to see the lights when the road is taken away. What a shame that would be.

Keeping current circular drive around the field.

I would still like to have a place to park next to the water. People love parking and having their lunches there. I do. And there's often a line up of people just wanting to chill, eat, watch the heron before returning to work. And parking on a lot and walking over isn't always an option. Could be weather related or mobility related or just in a rush and needs 15 minutes alone in their car with no one bothering them while they eat and watch ducks. I think there are many people who use it for their mental health and are less likely to eat by the river if they have to walk over. So this would be taking away some people's stress management and a coping skill

I like concept B but could see the walking route being the size of concept A.

definitely do not get rid of the drivable circle road along the river.. weather , mobility issues don't allow many people to access walkable path... they enjoy the views from the road!!!

I think removing the traffic circle is a mistake. But including a well marked walking path and well marked parking with a no idle zone would be excellent.

The road itself needs no change. We don't need a pedestrian only portion nor so we need a two way street. The road itself is fine as it is and has worked well for decades.

Speed bumps to slow traffic around the road.

Keep allowing vehicles on the ring-road, one way traffic along the river side still allowing drivers to park along the river. Keep the driving lane to the inside, add lined Parking spaces to control parking, and add a dedicated pedestrian walking path on the river side of the ring-road so pedestrian have a safe dedicated walking lane beside the river. Don't lose the ring-road, Veterans Circle, what allows our elderly a chance to view the river. They have aged and done a good life's work, don't take away one of the simple joys they can experience. Another reason to keep the vehicle ring-road, when it is removed UTRCA will never allow it back.

as for removing the ring road, my only thoughts are as I am neutral but what about those with mobility issues and they like to drive by the water - I get there are other means to see it, but something to think about, some people just like the nice drive by, even though yes many walk, bike, etc, now.

I've always loved it the way it is. However, after doing this survey I see where there are opportunities to perhaps improve. Like I didn't think of the pedestrian only ring but in some ways it makes sense. Good luck with whatever route you go!

Serpentine two way road or intentional narrowing to slow traffic.

Really really appreciate that both concepts include a paved walkway, especially further from the car traffic. I often push my stroller down to the park and this is safer especially during night time (winter lights many kids walking around and parents pushing strollers). I think it's also a great use of the space close to the river and can be enjoyed by all ages, people walking or sitting on a bench watching the water without having to listen to cars go by behind you.

Why a two way road? It works perfectly fine as is. I don't see the need for these changes.

The roadway as is. We have a lot of seniors who can't walk a huge distance, they enjoy sitting by the river in their cars. Changing that option, would take the accessibility away from them.

People go to the river for their lunch hour and park by the river. They don't have a lot of time. We already have the loop above the flats, more walking trails there are not necessary.

What about the Rotary lights display-people drive around the flats to see this

Existing shared vehicle and pedestrian ring road use ensures those with mobility issues can take in both river and event views and walkers can find space to either side or navigate the crawling one way traffic.

Perhaps add a biking, walking path without eliminating the paved roadway. There are a lot of people who drive along the roadway and pull over and park just to enjoy the river. We will lose this amenity if we go to walking and biking trails.

The road is so important for people to get around the flats...

Keep original one way road

A pedestrian only walkway along the water keeping one way traffic around the ring.

worries about access to viewing the water by the elderly when there are mobility issues if you take away the river-side driving/parking

What will implications be for Xmas light display of the reduced road area?

Don't remove the circle for people to drive around, but add in some type of walkway for pedestrians around the loop as well, so many people from this town go there on the daily to sit in their vehicles and look at the river, there are so many more options to change the flats than eliminating the circle drive, I feel as if there should be another plan that would meet more St.Mary's folks wishes and needs.

Continue with road around the entire area but provide traffic safety barrier along Trout Creek

An outdoor skating rink for the winter Maybe a bike rental program/ electric scooter program

Is there an opportunity to develop a walkway along the bank of the river and maintain the ring road as well?

It needs to be more promoted as a walkable community too. Is there accommodation for bus drop of and pick up for senior tours? But I do very much like the idea of getting vehicular traffic away from the river.

A 2 way road seems like an accident waiting to happen - creating more spaces for families to gather and play is awesome, but also increasing traffic in that same area seems counter intuitive. We don't live in town but visit family every month and one day hope to move back. The Flats is due for an overhaul and these are definitely steps in the right direction :)

I believe that you need to be able to drive to a spot along the edge of the river and park.

People that are unable to walk from the parking lot currently enjoy doing that and it is the only spot in town that is possible. We need to include the ring road in the plan.

I did not choose a concept as I wish there had been a concept created that further enhances what exists already and does not eliminate the driveway around the perimeter. One example of something that makes St Marys so special is our Christmas lights display ... and the ability for anyone to drive around and experience the magic of it. By removing the road, you now eliminate that opportunity to do so.

A ring road should be kept to allow traffic to travel on busier weekends/events, accessibility should be kept in mind throughout

I'll make this comment here, since there's no other place for it. My only concern with making part of the ring road pedestrian only is that it may make the riverside less accessible for people with mobility issues. Many people drive along the river and park to sit on the benches, to fish, or to enjoy the scenery. As beautiful as the pedestrian walkway concepts look, I hate the idea of making the river less accessible.

A running track would be great, but I imagine the paved walkway can be used for that?

Accessing the beautiful waterfront view from a vehicle is how I see people using this location the most, currently. This is currently possible in all seasons, and many people enjoy this view from their vehicle. I believe eliminating a vehicle section of the ring road would be a mistake.

Neither. Use the existing layout and add to enhance it. But do not remove the circle and the play ground. What about the Christmas lights. The enjoyment of driving around looking at the lights and going on the horse drawn carriage rides. Horrible concepts in the pictures. Enhance what we already have!! Add a side walk.

A walking/bike trail could be created between existing road and river bank if that is a must. How many pedestrian and cyclists have been struck in the last 10 years? That should answer the question of any need. Also consider disabled people wishing to drive around to view the river, canoes, ducks and geese, as well as panorama of Christmas lighting.

Keep the ring road. Offers accessibility to seniors. Park on the ring road close to the river

Keep the ring road.

There needs to be vehicular access at least to some part of the riverbank and level areas for lawn chairs for the seniors groups that like to meet there. There could be No Idling signs for motorists.

I like the proposed ideas. If pedestrian only on river side, how would citizens view the winter lights display? Would everyone have to get out and walk it? That could be a problem for many.

Do not close loop, it benefits bikes, handicapped, disabled, strollers, need to have auto access to get to these spaces for physically challenged

For the older people that would like to look the river and can't walk that far

Do not close loop

We can see the park from our home. The use the ring road gets is amazing. The road should continue to go all the way around with the addition of a walkway by the river.

I think getting rid of the ring road would be a big mistake. For the winter lights first of all. And traffic issues when there are a lot of people. Take for example prom pictures the other night. There would have been major traffic issues if there wasn't the ring road. Please consider including a redesign with the ring road.

Any changes should keep in mind of the flooding that takes place almost every spring. Changing ring road would not be a good idea. So I cannot support either proposal. The ring road is part of the uniqueness of the flats

Please keep the ring road

Just opinion explanation above, unfortunately having walking mobility issues for pedestrian only would limit, end my usage of area ?

I like the suggestions. Increased seating will hopefully get people out of idling cars. As a walker, it's not pleasant to walk past several idling cars .

No 2 way road.

I like the road to keep going around the flats. I like the way it is now- roadway

I don't like either one. I feel taking the ring road away is a horrible idea. Many people love to drive around it or sit in their cars and have lunch during the day and enjoy the view, Specially those with mobility issues. I think making a designated sidewalk around it like Stratfords river would make more sense.

You're suggesting paving most of the Flats for parking. That's a terrible idea. If you get rid of the ring road, what happens to the Festive Lights? Or the horse drawn sleigh rides? Idling cars are not a problem. Pedestrians use the ring road and share it with vehicles.

pedestrian only portion of road is a great idea, if its achievable, space allows and cost effective

I think having a road remain near the river would be nice. We go almost every day either on foot and often by auto and see significant use along the river. People fill that area for breaks, refecton and down time. The river is a huge drawing card where people can go, especially during inclement weather when they can remain in their car. I think some designated angle parking along the river would allow a better view of the river, while substantially increasing parking, and better visibility.

keep side of the road parking close to the river - it is well used now. is there room for exercise equipment along the trail? might be a draw for walkers. I think a two way road is much less pedestrian friendly than the current ring. And what about bikes, roller skaters, skate boards etc - will the pedestrian walkway be wide enough for two way plus other wheeled users?

Would like to see vehicles still have access to viewing the river. Many older people and people with mobility challenges sit in their cars to view the river while enjoying a coffee or eating lunch. It would be unfortunate if access to the riverside is reserved for people without mobility challenges.

When I go to Milt Dunnell Field, I see it being used mostly by elderly that sit in their cars looking at the river or by working people eating their lunches in their vehicles by the water. Removing the roadway beside the water would take this away from those folks stealing some peaceful moments at the waters edge in their cars. A pickle ball court might be nice.

Seniors enjoy the ring road to allow them to view the river accessibly. And it allows drive around for the lights which is helpful for young kids.

I would not remove the ring road.

Strongly disagree with 2 way traffic. Strongly encourage ability for people (especially elderly) to drive up and enjoy the river- educate about idling. Strongly against most of the development. The magic will be lost. Bye, bye peaceful place which is priceless.

Maintain Ring road with better segmentation of pedestrians and vehicles. All the pavement going to extra parking could be used to enhance existing road. A NO Idle program would solve enviro concern

It is nice to still be able to drive all the way around the circle for many people including the LTC and Residents and nursing homes or just people that have a harder time getting out of vehicles

I agree with the idea of a two-way road and a pedestrian road, but it will be important to make sure kayakers and other water sports enthusiasts can easily trek from parking to the accessible dock. This will be a challenge for some, who have been able to park directly at the river's edge in the past

Don't lose the road

Keep the one way road, safer for kids and drivers. If a piece of the road is walking only how accessible will it be for the Christmas lights?

Only a one way road we have it now and don't need a two way road

Maybe a inner pedestrian ring to walk around?

Really do not like the idea of paving over such a large portion of the park to be parking. It is not a large area, there is loads of parking in the town steps away from the park. Nobody in St. Marys needs to drive to this central location. Losing the round-the-park road means that many kids would no longer get to see the lights, there is very little driving and the speeds are low, so pedestrians can share the road. Also the road allows visitors to park if they need to without paving over half the park.

Town should pay for all of those people whose back yard backs on to the field to have a fence out in because of the two way traffic. That will increase the traffic. I wouldn't want that.

Two way traffic is not needed-it would encourage careless use. Pedestrian traffic successfully slows traffic.

I wonder if cars should be permitted at all, unless they are there to set up an event or market stall etc.

I park along the current ring road with my grandmother to have a coffee. She is not mobile. A place to still enjoy the river view from a car would be nice

Winter lights are a great attraction but walking around them in the winter is not very desirable depending on the age of the children you bring. It would be great if the pedestrian trail could somehow accommodate both walking and a wide enough lane for driving in one direction during winter lights.

Making one 2 way road could cause a safety hazard especially during peak period times. No doubt during busy times people will park along the roadway and thus make it difficult for emergency services to gain access to the northern part of the park

I would prefer the road to continue around the Flats. Many older folk (and there are lots in our town) like to park alongside the river, especially those who are not able to walk far or at all. In #8 above, people are already walking, wheeling and biking along the road and co-existing with traffic. Perhaps the cars could park along the left side of the road by the river with a marked lane for biking, walking, wheeling alongside the river.

Extremely important for elderly and handicapped to have access to river views via road access. Not everyone can walk, wheel, or bike to enjoy the river

Instead of removing the circle drive leave the circle and build a walkway beside it. We drive around the flats every morning with 3 young kids before I take my oldest to school and they enjoy looking for ducks on the river.

If safety is a concern, add a path beside the road for walking, biking etc. Add signage to discourage idling, speed bumps if speed is an issue. (Minor changes to increase safety and accessibility)

I like the idea of keeping the waterfront walkway where it currently is. I had an idea about this part of the path, you could make it wide enough for a one way road and have movable gates at the beginning and end of the path. That way you can open the gates during the winter light show and people can drive around the ring road to see the lights from all sides, like always. Then you can close the gates to the path to cars the rest of the year.

Pedestrian only ring road is vital. Many vehicles travel WAY too fast on the current road.

Do NOT stop driving access to the ring road. It's very important for seniors in particular to access the riverside. Don't ruin something that works perfectly well as it is.

Personally, I like the ring road of one-way traffic, but would LOVE to see a paved pedestrian path along the river bank in addition to it. With increased activities at the park, however, removing the ring road might make for more efficient entry/exit. I am in favour of adding many cultural events and would like the concept chosen that makes the flow of people easiest to manage.

Creating pedestrian only road will impact those with mobility issues from accessing closer to their desired location. Why not keep the ring road & increase to include a bike/pedestrian lane.

Older people enjoy sitting in their car and seeing the river or falls Cars and pedestrians need to share the space

I am happy with the way it is - many people park on the side at all times of the year to enjoy a coffee, lunch or just relax - (even ambulances) if you limit it to pedestrians only - then there will be a (section of the population who possibly are not mobile on foot but can drive) who can't enjoy the view

leave the drive path the way it is, and put in a sidewalk along the edge. Extra parking will not improve it.

Keep road access along river, just add a walking path and maybe more benches

Ring road should stay so seniors and disabled people can drive up and still park by river!!
Keep the river viewing accessible to all!

I like the driving ring. It will make the winter lighting very tricky with 2 way traffic. I don't think either concept really takes the lighting displays into account.

I think many people enjoy the flats that cannot walk and enjoy the drive and sit by the river.
The Winter Lights are a key feature for St Marys. Cars need to be able to drive right around the park, not just part of the park.

So with no ring road does that mean no more winter lights?

Nature/Green Space (48)

More native aquatic and shore plants restored to increase wildlife in the area. (Attracting birders, fishers, and eco tourists)

Trees and keeping it green and natural is great,

Also when planting the gardens/trees ensuring only native plants are planted.

more naturalized spaces with awareness for pollinators and education on habitat sharing with humans

More trees

green space maintained that is free use and not upgraded to the point it needs to be booked for kids to use it

Butterfly or native plant garden?

More trees

Pollinator gardens, bat boxes, birdhouses and nesting boxes

lots of trees, green open space, flowers.

Pollinator/wildflower gardens, lots of birdhouses, etc

Increase of nature added.

The flats is the only spot in town, that is an actual natural green spaces. (sparking bush is nice, however no water there) Let's keep it that way. There are lots of play ground parks in town including basketball nets at all the schools. We have three shelters in town already. Let's keep this a quite spot for both people and the animals.

Also maintaining the natural green space without too much 'construction' and 'built up' areas, trying to keep the small town feel to st Mary's

Lots of trees

more naturalized areas! More trees and native vegetation , pollinator habitat. protected from too much traffic

I would like to see evergreens planted that could be decorated with lights at Christmas time.

I think it is perfect as it is but trees should be planted every time one falls down or has to be taken down.

MORE TREES!

Planted gardens. Although possibly that's what you mean by event garden.

Keep it natural

Keep it natural, put in some trees and nature

Plant lots of new trees and after a couple years clean up the half rotten willows

Improving the canopy cover; and health of the shoreline will contribute towards the overall experience.

Keep in natural.....without too much concrete and asphalt. A real treasure.

perennial gardens along the walkway

Given that the area gets water logged often, consider incorporating things like rain gardens to help manage excess wet conditions. Also consider incorporating native plants/flowers for

pollinators beyond just increasing tree canopy. Maybe also adding some community gardening plots, as I know the ones at the cemetery are at capacity now.

lots of trees surrounding parking lots and two way road to minimize visibility and noise level of cars/pavement, so that people enjoying the park don't have to look at or hear the cars

The reason i enjoy the flats is because it is so very natural keep the nature makit accessible to everyone to enjoy the river and nature

More native plants wherever possible to keep supporting river ecosystem

Important that it remain as natural and green as possible. Use wild flowers and native plants, bushes and trees.

planting should be native species, and not need much maintence

I would like the park to be a place where people can just sit and enjoy nature or gather with family and friends in non-stressful environment and not become another sports field.

Natural elements that reduce mosquitoes.

More trees would be a priority with biodiversity being paramount.

Native plantings for wildlife

Event gardens using native flowers and providing species habitat. Leaving historic trees while considering planting of additional trees

Naturalized spaces with less cut lawn and more native plants

I love the idea of more trees on the interior of the park but caution too many on the rivers edge. 30 years ago Thamesford had a beautiful river running through it and today it's so overgrown that you wouldn't even know the river was there. It's just a wall of trees and brush. I'd love to see this stay a peaceful area and as natural as possible.

Wildlife conservation with the least amount of disturbance to our precious creatures would be my absolute first concern when considering ANY changes - especially if they're not necessary.

More trees planted throughout the centre of the loop if there aren't going to be any more baseball diamonds

more trees

Keep it a green space!

Keep it green & active. Too many communities are replacing trees with pavement & buildings never utilized.

More blossoming trees, flowering gardens

Incorporating the mill race greenspace and falls into this vision a bit.

More trees.

Just needs more trees and grass. Less pavement please.

No/Minimal Changes (34)

I think it's a shame these ideas are being proposed! Why not enhance the area with more trees and more areas to sit and eat and leave the rest alone. There is so much beauty with it being natural and simple. Make these changes are it will rob the quiet town atmosphere. What happens when the ice breaks or the area floods? Stop trying to make the town a city!

Open area is vital at this is the largest public space that can be used asi it has in the past for fairs, circus, hot air balloons. Too many structures and trees will make such events impossible in the future.

I currently as a private citizen. Love and enjoy the peace and tranquility of Milt Donnell field...bearing in mind this location is in a flood plain section of the Thames River...I strongly suggest the town of St Marys council recommend to keep this unique open space as is...

There are a lot of people that come to the park to watch the fireworks and see the Christmas lights and I'm worried that if there are more trees planted those activities will be impaired. It's helpful if the area can stay as open as possible.

I prefer the current approach of minimizing paved areas and using natural materials (e.g., wood, stones by playgrounds). One concern is that adding too many new features will result in the space losing its serene, natural appeal. As an example, I personally prefer the current picnic table setup over the proposed bistro seating (at least based on the example included in the concept B poster) empty lot beside the house at the entrance is underused in both concepts, however there is likely limited use of this space as the neighbours likely will not want any of the features moved to this plot of land - in concept B, the open space and basketball court could swap places so that the activity areas are clustered towards the road and the relaxation/open space areas are placed near the waterfront

I think the list to revitalize the flats could be quite short - improve the building at the north end of the field to make it more multi-purposed (pavilion/ bandstand), add more seating/dining/bistro areas, add some improved lighting, improve at least one ball diamond, add some shade around the playground. From a feedback perspective, it would have been helpful to see a comparison layout of the current park. It would also be interesting to understand how much money the any of these concepts would cost.

Part of the current charm is open character of the space giving rise to a wide variety of uses. Change to cram in dedicated elements and force specific activities to those areas takes away that flexibility.

Stop the destruction of the Flats. Build your carnival space at the ball hall or at the arena. Leave nature alone!

I think the park should mostly be kept the same. This is a beautiful, natural looking area that people of all ages enjoy. It's a busy spot for people to drive and eat in their car along the River. It's a shame most of these ideas presented have even gotten this far. we have so many of these proposed items... the pavilion and seating at Cadzow Park. A large play area at the flats already. Put in more benches and an accessible dock and leave the area. If all the changes go through, where are events like Evan's Touch the Truck or the car show going to be held? The Christmas lights sure won't have the same charm.

I feel the proposed changes add very little benefit or value compared to what already exists. We frequent the park several time a week already. My kids play at the park, my husband and I walk the dog, we go to the farmers' market. I appreciate that the current playground is right beside the parking lot and the bathrooms. It is also off the main "road" and far away from the water so I have never had to worry about young toddlers or children running into traffic, being curious about the water, or not making it to the bathroom. I can keep things close at hand in the car that we may need and not trudge everything back and forth. I feel there is ample space around the loop for people to enjoy the view of the water from their cars, many of them members of our elderly community. I find it interesting that in an effort to make the park more accessible, the proposed concepts appear to make it less accessible to those already enjoying the park. I'm sure those people won't enjoy the same view of the water from any of the proposed parking lots.

I would like to see the park remain as is

Nothing it's perfect the way it is. A lovely natural green space, that is used by many in this town. I great spot for children, who have the opportunity to play on the equipment or just run, play football or what ever they want. Another thing to consider... we walk our dog around the flats, everyday, rain or shine. It is nice in the winter since not all the walk ways in town have snow removal. It's really nice to be able to turn and go the other way if someone else is walking their dog or dogs, and you don't want the dogs to have contact. It is very nice for us joggers would run laps around the flats. Pleasant to run around, but also easy to keep track of

the miles that you have run. There is enough "play grounds" in this town, let's keep the flats the way it is so that those who enjoy the break of the town, can use it and feel like we are in complete nature.

I am ok with what I as a senior can access.

It looks like waaayyyy too much parking and loss of green space to me . Also I thought you couldn't pave anything down there ? Or build any new structures. I wouund rather it stay as is tbh

I would like to see a spruce up while keeping the heritage of the old

Why change it at all, the ring road gives people that can't walk as well an area to look at the river, stop and have lunch etc. The reason people like this park is that it is natural, no extra pavement! The whole idea of concept A or B seems like a big waste of time energy and money. Improve the boat launch, Improve the buildings that are there , make the washrooms up to code add more lighting there and leave the rest alone.

None. Leave it be

honestly don't see anything wrong with the existing park

Best to leave it as a picnic area

Keep it accessible to everyone, not everyone can walk to see the river. Keeping it undeveloped in the centre allows for events like touch the truck. I don't see the need to drastically change the current design.

Keeping the drive around the park as it is

Take care of existing ammenities

I feel like all of these potential "changes" aren't practical, achievable, or sustainable. I feel like most of these changes are making it more difficult for some of the elderly community to enjoy the waterfront and nature.

I personally don't think any of these "potential" changes are practical, achievable or sustainable.

Enhance what is there but don't spoil it. People use it all day every day to walk, to drive round, to park and watch the water. Green space in the middle of Town is a gift, don't clutter it up please.

Open space similar to what is there currently that can be used by everyone

Keep sports field and the views of the river. Keeping the area accessible for all including seniors and disabled.

Leave the land and surroundings as they are. Don't be so quick to spend tax payers money on something we don't need. The Pyramid center is a perfect example of what was a shit storm, and the tax payers still have a bad taste in their mouth. The town doesn't need another cash cow, we are still trying to feed the other one. Tread lightly and listen well. This is not going to practical, achievable or sustainable without raising taxes. Remember the pyramid scam!

No soccer pitches necessary. Use schools for children's sports. Climbers for kids is fine where it is. Skip a lot of the new proposed features. Instead spend time and money on making existing park cleaner and well maintained. It is a good park now in its original form.

Less is better. Less is better.

What a waste of tax payers money it is a practical established area needs to stay like this

Should leave as before it is peaceful as is

It's fine the way it is!

I'd like to see it stay basically the same as it is now.

Seating (34)

With the baby boomers getting older (and less mobile) lots of seating is incredibly important. I know with my Mum, when we are out and about, having enough seats for all is key for her.

There's absolutely no need to clutter the park with bistro seating!

Accessible picnic tables that will allow the elderly to sit down without having to lift their legs over the bench to sit down (as with the traditional models there now)

More seating around the bandshell using natural rocks

Additional picnic tables on flat ground and more benches along walking path and green areas close to river.

Picnic tables by river.

The black metal picnic tables look pretty but they are very hard to sit and eat at. The spaces in the table don't allow you to set anything on the table without falling over or throwing. They are very tall and the bench is awkwardly far from the table to reach anything. Also not great for accessibility.

Wheelchair accessible picnic tables.

more seating along the river

Ample space to stop and sit along walkway

More benches.

more seating close to water concept B seems to be farther from water little water access for limited mobility people

More seating areas that are practical and safe by the river for family picnics etc.. So much of the river is not viewable due to long reeds and grasses by the water's edge.

I love the options for additional seating areas such as bistro seating in option B that option A doesn't have. Additional seating amongst the trees for picnics would be lovely - possibly another picnic table painting initiative would help make it extra visually appealing as well as practical. A few extra benches along the walkway or water would be nice as well

I would like to see some glider swing sets for adults. Swings that face each other.

I have also seen hammocks set up in other urban parks or lounge seating areas

Picnic tables

Picnic tables and benches by the river. Often run out of benches so need more

More places and to sit

Park benches and seating along the River or something to that effect so people don't need to carry chairs

I would like to see more seating at the water. Take the river look out feature from concept B and add it to concept A.

More picnic tables or benches?

Sitting areas are key.

Several more benches along walkway on concrete pads with room on the pad for wheelchair, walker and/or a stroller.

More seating for picnics, relaxing by river

While I want picnic tables, I don't think picnic areas are important.

Seating

Benches and picnic tables along river

I like the idea of having some bistro seating in the shade, however wouldn't it make more sense to have bistro seating nearby the dedicated area for vending trucks?

Picnic areas, picnic tables, seating, shade by trees are covered areas.

benches for seating nice for those who wish to sit; with climate change and sun avoidance, some kind of shade shelter over benches which sit in the sun a good idea.

There should be more places to sit in the river viewing areas

Seating should be naturalistic. For example, chairs and benches hanging from tree limbs.

more seating

Washrooms (34)

washrooms need to be near the playground, We love the flats as it is, and hate to see any paving, as it will disturb the nature of it. the flats are used , now , by all ages. The main thing is to have accessible washrooms, and open many hours of the day.

Washrooms near the playground

Definitely need proper washrooms.

Add an accessible washroom with the other washrooms

A second washroom at the back of the park near the Grand Trunk Trail for those who are already walking along that route, so they don't have to detour through the whole park to reach the one by the entryway.

Bathrooms stocked with emergency diapers and menstrual products. Non-gendered bathrooms.

Lockers in the washroom for personal belongings, especially for boaters.

One washroom near the entrance is not enough. For example, market vendors would find it difficult/time consuming to walk all the way to the opposite side of the area.

as well as a washroom. The location of the washroom might be better somewhere halfway

A 2nd accessible washroom in the Yak Shack area

I also feel that a washroom should be kept at the far end of the park.

Washrooms open in the winter would be nice.

Ensuring the washrooms are clean and making sure there is a change table in all washrooms(even men's washroom)

I believe that washroom at Both ends of park would be preferable

Need a washroom at both ends. A bigger family one at the entrance and a smaller one on the other end of the park by Lions pavilion area.

Why should the washroom be near the entrance? Washrooms are usually not very welcoming and those suggested are farther from activity areas.

Accessible washrooms at both north & south end if the lawn bowling ones will not an option to use.

Wherever the ayvround goes, the washroom needs to be by it. So if you go with plan A, you need to consider keeping the current bathroom. Also, ha ing the bathrooms open during winter would be beneficial.

Two washrooms are needed one at the front and one at the other end of the park. Seniors and little kids won't make it that far to the front of the park only

New bathroom

Accessible washrooms a necessity!

Large accessible bathroom is most important. Fitting a stroller or wheelchair into the bathroom is a must. An adult going to the playground alone with children cannot bring the children inside the washroom at the same time for safety

Maybe a bathroom on both N &S ends for elderly and children

More wash rooms closer to the park.

I would like it if there was a second accessible washroom positioned between the market pavilion and the lawn bowling clubhouse.

new washrooms at the entrance are a good idea.

Bathrooms!

Male/Female washrooms at both ends of park

Possibility of a smaller washroom area at the other end so I wouldn't have to walk all the way back to the entrance each time.

More washrooms

Washroom that is open for families.

Washrooms located at the playground would be very important. Think of a young family who needs to run the youngest to the bathroom but has to bring all of the kids because the bathroom is too far away. Bathrooms by the ball Diamond would also be important.

We need a washroom down by the Farmers Market area. Long walk to the other end for seniors and young children.

It's a big park if you are only going to have one washroom, it should be located in the middle of the park. Or have 2 washrooms with one at either end.

Watersports/Boat Launch (34)

Dockage is needed on the river - maybe several docks - one for kayaks some for seating further south -

Fishing dock

Put kayak canoe lift at existing boat rock.

Make sure the dock is a large size. Or have 2. One for launching kayaks etc. and one that could be used for fishing off of.

There appears to be a small motor boat launch missing from these drawings. Where do people set in when they plan to fish? Open to another location but don't see it marked out or referenced in the plans. I would suggest the south parking lot also have a designated boat launch.

A small dock at the boat launch where most people put canoes and kayaks in the river

I've been researching how to get an accessible dock in town and I'm very pleased to see it on the plans.

With the addition of a dock and land launch to be utilized by boaters and kayak owners...excellent location and would be an asset to continue with the future current plans.

Good Luck D

Also kayak launch like they have at Wildwood.

easy access to water

I like the design of the boat launch parking lot

River access

Nice looking kayak cottages for people to rent then store and lock their own kayaks. Maybe renting one could be a lottery or on a monthly rotation as I'm sure they would be popular.

There are kayak cottages a Binbrook conservation area but they are very ugly. I like that there is a paved trail not a ring road around. Picnic tables along path.

Availability for kayak owners to store their own kayaks instead of try to take back and forth.

I'm concerned about the distance between the parking lot and the kayak launch as there isn't a direct path there. I think this will lead to folks dragging their kayaks on the grass.

Kayak launching is too far from the river; there is already a convenient launch ramp for other vessels

We live close to the park and walk there with our kayaks so I'd like to be able to continue doing that without having to drive there.

Accessible dock - parking lot should be nearer for people who need accessibility.

Natural beach type entry (not sand) and not just dock entry to river

Access to the water

Commitment to non motorized boats on river, pdf loan program, designated fishing area
Accessible dock by the lion's shelter as proposed.

I would like to see the current boat launch still be accessible.

A fishing dock would be awesome!

Def. A larger boat dock. Maybe two? One to launch and one to fish off of? Kids like to fish, but don't want to go into that yucky water. Having a dock go out into the water a bit would get the kids out further into deeper water where they could fish. Not sure though if the fish are any good to eat.

Better spots to put in boats with fishing dock that is good for small kids with older adults

We need safe access to the river below the falls for walking, kayaking, canoeing, fishing ext. People are already walking on the flat rocks but they must climb down.

Boat launch improvements

Do NOT remove the boat launch which is currently accessible from the road. It is used by boaters, kayakers, canoers - all which are transported by car and the current concepts with a dock - make it impossible for many to launch their crafts - too far from vehicles especially for seniors!

Live bait & fishing pole sharing / rentals Canoes - not just kayak borrowing

Fishing areas

More open spaces to access the river to fish.

Some river access (walk to rivers edge) to add fishing opportunities.

A fishing wharf would be of benefit as we have many anglers in town

Water Fountains (30)

Water fountains similar to what is downtown and on the river walk and rail trail

Water fountain

Water refill station if possible.

Water fountains/fill stations

Water fountains. Not sure if those were included anywhere.

Waterfountains with waterbottle filling tap and bowl for dogs
drinking fountain at each end of the park

Water fountains

Will there be a water fountain? With a dog spout, please.

Water refill by the washroom

Water fountains

water fountain

Drinking fountains

water bottle filling station

Water fountain

Another fountain for drinking water would be great too.

Water fountains.

Water fountain

Water station

Hopefully a water fountain/refill station is part of any plan.

A water bottle filling station

Water bottle filling station

Drinking fountain/water refill station

Running water that isn't consistently running.

Water fountains!

Clean water station or water fountain

Drinking water station

A water bottle filling station with a drinking fountain

Working water fountain

Access to drinking water

Ice Rink/Loop (28)

Skating in the winter! (In the open green space)

ice skating option for the winter season

can you make a skating rink/path in the winter?

I think an outdoor rink, like Victoria Park in London, would get lots of use and could be incorporated with winter lights or winter lights could be distributed around the town to encourage people to tour the town. It's never brought much business to town as very little is open in the evening. If there is a Bball court, it could be used as the ice surface in the winter. A cooling system would likely be needed for consistency of use. With climate change skating on our river has become very unreliable.

Outdoor ice rink in the winter would be great for pick up hockey and skating if it could convert easily and if the climate is cold enough

Ice rink

I think an outdoor ice rink would be amazing with the lights

Outdoor ice rink

Outdoor rink

Outdoor hockey rink with skate/boot change building

Cooled from below ice pad for the winter would be glorious with our winter lights festival. Even better if you have a separate side for hockey and one side for free skating. I'm not sure how they work, there is one in Hamilton and a few in Toronto, this could be the basket ball court in the summer.

For winter, an ice pad or pathway that can be skated on (could work with winter lights)

Maybe an area that could be a maintain outdoor rink for the winter?

A flat space to put up a ice rink in the winter for local residents to skate on. I've heard so many people ask about this.

Winter activities such as an outdoor rink on the baseball diamond. Multiseason use.

Skating rink in middle of the green space in the winter. Not enough is done to attract people to town in the "off season". We have the quarry and the market in the summer, and nothing in the winter.

Outdoor ice rink in winter

I like the idea of an outdoor ice rink

I would love to see a skating rink with lightning in the winter.

Large ice rink for public skating. NOT hockey!

A big ice rink in the winter would be amazing with the lights

Skating rink in winter

I would like to see provisions include to concept B for the green space to be an outdoor rink for winter.

I've only lived in St Mary's for 9 years but I LOVE this place and it's winter Christmas display is one thing that makes it different. it's important to capitalize on being different to bring

people here. This is a long shot but I think what it would be like to have some walkways designed so they could be flooded in proper conditions so people could skate through the Christmas light-decorated flats. An active canteen for hot drinks etc (perhaps an extension of the Creamery's services or the Snapping Turtle to eliminate competition) and a place to put on skates. And if weather doesn't permit, people can still walk on those selected paths. If there are trees along the paths they can be lit too for an extended season. Summer nights as well as winter. Perhaps the light festival could be broadly advertised? Winter activities in this area are few. Stratford folds up in winter. It would help with winter trade in town especially since the park is so close to the commercial area. This town is stunning and everyone needs to feel very proud of it.

In winter, have an ability to create an outdoor skating pathway (potentially connected to a small rink within the event space), opportunities to incorporate winter lights into the walking trails and skating pathway.

ice rink in winter

Outdoor rink

Outdoor skating ribbon

Food/Dining (25)

I like the idea that food trucks would have a place there but what about a space for art exhibits or craft exhibits one or two days per week or a space for a pop up dinner, lunch or brunch. I would hate to see this space become overly commercialized.

Vending machine near proposed washroom would be nice.

An ice cream stand would be nice.

I like the food truck idea

Parking for food trucks on weekends

Hotdogs stand

Vending machine(s) (near the pavilion possibly)

dedicated area for vending trucks

Perhaps for space where food trucks could reserve space on rotating basis

I love the idea of a vendor truck area regardless of which plan it chosen, a great draw for people to go visit the park!

Public barbques

BBQ pits for cookouts

Looking into liquor licensing for open spaces. Providing natural boundaries for such.

Love the idea of a spot for food trucks

Would be nice to have a booth open during Sumner for refreshments and snacks for users of the park

intalation of picnic bbqs

Food trucks or coffee stands

Near the shelter at the north end, some hibachi grills would be nice.

I don't think option B has a food truck zone, which I think would be great to include! The town could schedule different trucks to go out on the weekends, or weekdays for workers downtown to have more lunch options.

Food truck would be excellent of one had a permit for there

Bbq area

Designated parking for food trucks.

canteen with snacks similar to Duke's shack in upper Queens park in Stratford

Would love to see a coffee shop or small booth located in the area so people can buy drinks and treats while enjoying the park

Food trucks & access for them

Pavilions/Shaded Areas (22)

I would like to see the Farmers' Market pavilion moved to the south parking area because it would be better to have the Market closer to downtown. (Not so isolated and invisible) The larger parking in concept A would allow Market customers parking close by and, in conjunction with the food truck parking, the pavilion could be used as an eating/sheltered space at all other times of the week.

Not sure what the farmers market pavilion would look like when not in use by the market but it could double as picnic space it should be close to the river. If not, the option further from the river is best so it's not blocking the river.

Better shade/coverage

another Pavillion for families to have picnics

I think upgrade to the shed / pavilion. Nice place to gather with friends from the community and not changing the charm for tourists.

Much larger Pavillion

umbrellas

Covered vendors area so the farmers market could go longer. Vendors area for food trucks for festivals and other events.

A new covered pavilion could be added to replace the older one there

could the farmers market covering be used by others when the market isn't on? We like the idea of having a bigger pavilion for family gatherings, etc

shelter pavilion for market , family use for reunions,

Concept B - I like the placement of the market pavilion

Needs covered areas where people can BE when it rains.

Depending on the size of the shade area - maybe more than one?

Trees for shade options at bandshell and event garden

shade areas

Upgrades to existing covered shelter. Perhaps a second level.

Make sure the covered farmers' market area is expandable in case other types of markets want to use the space.

I think having some covered shelters is very helpful for the way the park is used.

sheltered space for Bandshell attendees

Pavilions and covered areas so people and groups can use the spaces st anytime of year.

A well equipped picnic/shade shelter is needed

Bandshell (18)

I think Cadzo park offers outdoor stage and seating so I don't know if we need another similar space.

the picture of the bandshell looks like a pavilion, not a band shell? If it would be a true bandshell, then it should face the other way so there is more seating (including on the grass)

If the space is intended to be used for events, a bandstand makes most sense

Music area

band shell stage area

Being a musician the idea of a closed over head space to play music etc for events is important as the town seems to be very artistic. Of course consider it may need to be

multidirectional to meet future higher capacities in larger events which can bring more money into St.Marys.

I love the idea of a bandshell, but it's only useful if more musical acts are booked. I would also love to see more musical acts at Cadzow Park.

Would the bandstand have power for musicians to plug into?

I like the inclusion of a bandstand with built in seating.

a bandshell as well

band shell

if you maintain a bandshell an outdoor theatre would be fun

Do not need bandshell - competes with Cadzow Park

An area for concerts, shows, with seating...

Stage area with seats.

We already have a bandshell at Cadzow park. How many bandshells do we need?

Great with a bandstand giving local talent a venue.

I can't stress enough having a bandshell or something akin to it for events, concerts, etc. St Marys desperately NEEDS more events that cater to adults not just kids and families.

Events (16)

More events for all age groups (not just children or young families, like most of the other events cater to in this town). Why did the Town do away with the car show in August?? The Lion's club car show isn't nearly as big or good. One cannot have too many car shows. How about music nights with different decade themes--the 50s, 60s, etc. Or a band concert (as in orchestral band). Stuff that EVERYONE can enjoy and take part in. What about a food truck fest, or a rib fest, or hot air balloon fest? There's so much more that could be done to bring in tourists and make this town vital to residents too. But whatever you do, DO NOT REMOVE the loop road!!

move the fair and festivals back to the flats.

I would like to see enough space for service clubs to hold events like car shows.

I would also ask planners to keep in mind the types of events that have brought people to the park in the past and consider whether they will still be possible. Kinfest, the holiday lights display, horse drawn wagon rides, food truck festivals, and classic car events all come to mind.

Also incorporate a space for sacred fires and events for Indigenous-led community events along the river. (Consult with Indigenous groups in the community about what is appropriate and needed).

More events to bring people to the space

Regardless of the changes it'd be nice to see the winter lights tradition continue, though I'm not sure how well that'll work if part of the ring is pedestrian only. Also the fair might have to move somewhere else, though I'm not sure how popular it is these days.

A few silly events like rubber ducky race in the river.

Because the walkway would be on the raised berm and if the Town has access to a mobile stage, place the stage up on the walkway then the flats themselves would provide a good view for an audience attending a concert.

An area that still allows people to view the holiday display

Will the pavilion and bandshell take into account for Summerfest/fair type events? Would carnival rides etc have room to set up? If not where would the next ideal spot be to host it?

Any features that promote gathering for live music.

Make it an event place - not a baseball field - a must be place for activity and entertainment

I would like to see cross utilization of facilities for different events ie - event space/market/picnic area could all be done in covered structure

Christmas Market to enhance the light viewing making it an event!

A place for outdoor events is a must, and it appears both concepts have that possibility along with parking

Flooding/Drainage (16)

drainage

the ball diamonds at the flats are poorly maintained and have drainage issues. If a ball Diamond is removed it needs to be replaced somewhere else in town. Additionally, what are your plans for better water drainage?

Better drainage from flooding

I recommend in making and long term decisions the fact The Flats sit on Flood Plain land be upper most in the final drafts

Also keep in mind that whatever is newly built/remodelled at milt dunnell has to be able to stand the potential for flooding as well.

What is being done about the flooding when it occurs?

I think any design should include tiling (similar to a farm field drainage system) of the main field area so that the space is usable more often even if there has been rain.

Love the idea of doing something with this space! Is this not a place though that floods at least once every 5 years? Should this be taken into consideration?

How will flooding be dealt with, if at all?

Would the town have a plan to handle the flooding at the flats each spring - either along the edge well up the bank or into the centre flats? How would that impact the proposed options?

Any changes that are being made should have materials and are designed to withstand flooding. I'd hate to see all this work go to waste.

Any permanent structure is likely to be damaged by flooding in the lower sections. Asphalt anywhere on the flats will be damaged and washed away regularly.

The flats has remained open and relatively undeveloped to retain its key purpose of flood plain. Be careful. What we invest in that gets washed away is waste or added cost.

Have you thought of all the flooding that field gets. Are you going to build up the river banks?

I live on Water St North and my backyard runs to the flats. I am concerned about ELEVATION changes as the wate gathers in the backyards everytime it rains. It seem to be getting worse ever since extra parking has be added already. Hopefully a better drainage system is in the plans also..thanks

Don't know how some of the changes could happen. The land is in the flood plain

Parking (15)

I like it the way it is. But also it would be nice if there was some of a parking lot. It gets crazy when people are parking and not enough room for myself and my stroller to walk down and cars are trying to get down too. Or we could make the cars not allowed to go down so far so people walking don't have to move over each time. I don't think we need another playground since there is already 3 main ones in this town.

Wheelchair parking with access to the river/walkway

South parking space allotment seems larger than it needs to be. Reduce spaces available.

It is also sad to see the parking areas that would be created by taking away valuable green space in a prime real estate area (south entrance). This would be a great area for the bistro tables or bench seating. The million dollar view is the water, and the parking lot is not the highest and best use of this space.

The biggest asset to this park is the river. I don't like that one whole strip of the river on the south end would be an ugly paved parking lot

I am sad to see both concepts have parking right at our pretty little falls. I feel that really takes away from the falls. If you are there to visit the park you would most likely be parking at the back. If you are just wanting to relieve downtown parking with the front lot I think there are better options, along the creek. Across from the LCBO and across from the legion beside the wellness center. If the lot by the falls is going in, there is no reduction in emissions by the river.

continued free parking.

Despite a preference for Concept B over A, I think the south parking lot in Concept B is still too intrusive. You need to also to consider views of the falls from the Water Street bridge and from across Trout Creek. Seeing a parking lot and parked cars will not be attractive and will be less enticing for visitors to come into the Flats.

fewer parking spaces

While St. Marys welcomes visitors and tourism supports the local economy, this space should serve residents - taxpayers - first and foremost. If residents have trouble finding parking, for example, that will hamper our ability to use this space, which is especially true for people with mobility issues such as seniors. If there are more visitors than the space can accommodate, it can cause parking overflow resulting in accidents and general chaos, and potentially damaging the environment.

Parking!!!

Improve existing parking with paving.

Parking should not be in front of the river. It is a waste of waterfront.

Should be careful about making it all about PARKING CARS - Stratford has ruined its South bank of the Avon River, the paved parking lots have polluted the river studies have shown, and acres and acres of parking lots - is NOT considered a park anymore!! Allowing too many cars to change the natural and beautiful areas of a park - like Upper Queen's Park in Stratford, where they put a roadway from the park connecting with Romeo St. is just NOT RIGHT - it destroyed the natural beauty of that parkland, that had existed for many years.

Currently like parking car & unload Kayaks & then drag them on the grass to the river.

Concerned about dragging over paved pathway(s)

Pickleball Courts (15)

Pickleball courts could be in the mix as its the fastest growing sport in North America

Would like to see pickleball courts

I think it would be great to put some outdoor pickleball in this area. It's a sport that is really taking off. I think it's a great use of some of this space.

Pickleball courts! If St Marys wants to bring people to our town they need to build dedicated courts.

Pickleball courts instead of baseball diamond and band shell. We have both elsewhere.

Pickleball in a nice park atmosphere could be destination worthy.

Pickleball courts. Pickleball is becoming something that all ages enjoy

Pickle ball courts

Pickleball courts are a must

Pickleball courts

Dedicated Pickleball courts

Pickell ball

Pickle Ball Court . for seniors or anybody.. more so than another baseball diamond..

Pickle ball

Pickleball

I would love to be able to play pickleball there as well.

Trails/Walkways (15)

rollerblading or running trail in warmer seasons

It would be nice to see the path with the grand trunk trail repaved and railings up for safety.

Would prefer a mixture of asphalt and natural trails/walk areas.

safe walking spaces

Pathway divided for pedestrians side and bike side.

Running track? Can also have lanes for walking only.

pedestrian connection from road to avoid needing to walk on the paved road (or dedicated pedestrian lane / shoulder)

Lighted Walkway

The walkways are too far from the river

Footpath should continue along the water so that there is good flow through to the bridge and downtown. This way you don't cross a parking lot or road when running our biking

Just add a sidewalk

Add side walks

The walking path should be plowed in winter.

Instead of asphalt use concrete.

There is a small loop trail on the other side of the bridge, it's on this side of the flats but just past the bridge, not sure if it's town owned or a property, it would make an excellent hidden garden or hidden outdoor nature art?

Exercise Equipment (14)

Body weight exercise machines. Goderich has them along the beach.

Exercise "playground" for adults

swings/workout equipment for all ages not just children under 12

adult fitness stations

Outdoor exercise equipment in area with view of river.

Exercise area with equipment

Outdoor exercise equipment (used in several other municipalities)

Outdoor "gym" equipment that's part of playground, to promote healthy living. Barrie has something by their waterfront and Stratford is talking about getting some.

<https://www.caloo.co.uk/outdoor-gym-equipment/>

Outdoor fitness equipment

What about a fitness component - just an idea

Outdoor gym(chinup and dip bars)

For adults and older children, a year round physical activity "gym", similar to the one at the soccer fields in Stratford behind Advance Air. Well built, cemented in place♥□

Brantford Ontario has permanent outdoor exercise equipment along their river walking trail. Something like that can be added.

Outdoor exercise equipment cricut for adults. Many communities have these in green spaces to promote healthy living

Soccer (14)

Soccer fields. I heard that soccer has over 550 registrants. Staggering increase in the past could years. Amazing group of volunteer board member developing this program. My

children are involved and the logistics of locating so many different fields is not sustainable. Also, I have concerns about present spaces. I have children who play baseball. I understand the Ball Hall maintains its diamonds and Teddy's. They are beautifully cared for and safe. The diamond at the PRC is a disaster. UNSAFE!!! No stone covering on the field. A large lip between the infield and outfield. The outfield is rough and most of the grass is dead. Huge bare patches in the outfield. This is the diamond the town maintains. Money spent on care and maintenance of existing facilities must be prioritized. I can't imagine the liability costs to our town if a youth ball player was injured on the PRC diamond.

We could use another soccer field.

Turf Soccer field!! Will be used all the time in my view. Need to consider the impact on the winter lights display. Would hate to lose that. Places for food trucks to park for events

soccer

One soccer field added. Possibly just 2 nets added to an already available green space used for events? Beautiful location, and can access the parks and washrooms for soccer families

Soccer field! We are running out of green space for the ever growing sport.

I have never seen anyone using the baseball fields, and there are already all the fields in the other part of town. Soccer might be a better option?

I like the idea of soccer field.

Soccer fields are much needed!!!

A soccer field!

Soccer pitch is needed with refistration rates.

We need a soccer field here or a soccer complex somewhere else in town. There are not enough quality soccer fields in a town where soccer is such a popular sport.

Soccer fields. Leave it be! Take a larger rec plan to the community. Gym space walking track at PRC?

I understand that St. Marys Minor Soccer is in need of more soccer fields. Soccer fields would be dual purpose as they double as open space play areas when not in use.

Biking/Cycling (13)

I often e-bike a loop past Science Hill, down Emily Street, and then can't find a way to get back onto the trail along the river without having to go through downtown. It would be nice to have a bikeable path that takes me from the Flats to the river path on the south side of Queen Street.

A cycling lane on walkway.

bike locking facilities.

Bike storage.

Bike walking path extending the existing path along the river

Also Bike Racks added near entrance or parking lots. And if possible would love to see a bike repair station.

Bike Rack

bike lane separate from walk path

Bike stands.

biking areas

An area for cyclists to lock their bicycles, and perhaps a free repair station (similar to what the Sunset has). While there are bike locks downtown near the Victoria bridge, they're rarely, if ever, used.

bike or roller skate rentals to encourage outdoor activity

a bike repair station. Bike locks.

Pool/Splash Pad (13)

Swimming area

Splash pad?

Another splash pad would be excellent as well as more seating for parents with kids at the park

A bigger splash pad for the kids . It needs to be a lot bigger than the ones we have. Take a look at the one in Leamington Ontario it's for all ages.

Small Splash pad / misting station would be a great addition to the area

Smaller splash pad

Splash pad

Splash pad

Wading pool

Splash pad

Splash pad at the park

Small water / splash area at the playground. Not a huge splash pad but something small would be nice.

Outdoor splash pad.

Baseball (13)

only request is to keep the ball diamond

Really do not need another full blown ball diamond in town. Already have them at the Hall of Fame and Little Falls School.

If both ball diamonds were to be removed, where would those kids who already practice there go? What is the town's plan to create at least another ball diamond to replace the one or two it would be removing?

If the space is intended for baseball the play equipment should be near the ball field for families to enjoy both at the same time.

Baseball diamonds-how many do we need? I think the diamond trumps the bandshell

I would like to see a ball field

more seating for baseball

Keep hall diamond concept

Keep ball Diamond.

I like concept A, I just think we don't need another baseball field in town.

Do not need ballpark there.

Just the ball diamond mostly, giving the kids a new diamond would allow the adults leagues not to get screwed over so much, plus as I said, town promised new diamonds years ago, but never followed through.

It would be nice to have a ball diamond

Playground (12)

Park with recycled rubber flooring! A mix of natural discovery playground - logs, balancing, ropes etc.

Playground equipment

Innovative playground for kids , perhaps a "natural playground" that encourages climbing and fun for multiple ages This revitalization makes the park a place to hangout all day !

I don't think the current playground should be removed.

I believe people who work with children, daycare, supervisors should input the style and pieces that are used in the play ground. Cadzow slides face the wrong direction and are far to steep.

Play equipment is important.

Recycled rubber flooring in playground area

Keeping the play structure away from the water is important especially for younger children park.

Wheelchair playground.. not just accessible playground but able to ride wheelchair up. Look into like playground inclusiveness

Why move the playground? It's sheltered from the sun and away from the water and traffic areas.

Larger young childrens playground

Keeping kids playground equipment farther away from the river is very important.

Miscellaneous Sports Facilities (12)

Pitch that can be used for many different sports - soccer, hockey, basketball.

The town needs more baseball diamonds and soccer fields. Things that will attract young families to the town. If their kids can't participate in recreational activities why would they choose to live here and grow our community?

multi-sports field

Batting Cage with Pitch Machine

Space for sports uses too much valuable room. Our town already has multiple ball diamonds. A hard hit foul softball can cause damage to people sitting there. If you really want an area for sport, how about mini golf?

It would be nice to see a track and field strip for sprints.

Concrete ping pong table

Ball hockey rink! I think people would really want this

A mini putt course would be a great option for all ages

Disc golf "hole"

A couple disc golf holes/baskets placed throughout the park

I don't know, maybe put the All Wheels Park there instead of the ball diamond. Just a thought.

Miscellaneous (12)

With all that extra parking, why not move the library there? The library is old, too small, and has zero parking!

wash station. Farmers market vendors to wash their equipment, paddlers to wash their boat and or gear. Rinse the dog. While the river is beautiful sometimes taking the smell home with you is not.

Tourist info booth in site with trail maps and visitor sight suggestions

Market square

Places to go and smoke

Large sized outdoor games.. Connect 4, tic tac toe, checked/chess board etc.

As a resident of the North end, I have concerns over traffic congestion as the bridge ties traffic up now being one way. A large increase in park use will make bridge crossing slow.

more welcoming entry

majority car-free spaces

I just moved here and would like to see insensitive for revitalization of downtown, maybe \$\$ for business owners to clean, paint and remodeling of the store fronts. A good cleaning, sidewalk repair and cleaning up fallen trees.

A cohesive design story that speaks to a 'modern and progressive' St. Marys
Fencing along the backyards that don't require driveway access.

Garbage/Recycling/Waste (11)

year Around serviced garbage and recycling containers.

garbage bins

Garbage and recycling bins should be easy to spot and access.

dog dirt disposal station

ample garbage cans

Waste and recycling options.

Extra garbage, recycle and doggie doo recepticals.

lots of garbage and recycling cans

garbage containers

compost bins for food and pet waste would be more environmentally friendly than only
garbage cans.

Enough trash cans and dog waste things.

Park/River Maintenance (10)

The water edges cleaned up so that you can sit and enjoy the water as it is looking very
overgrown

More trees planted along the rivers edge and repairs to the river bank to fix areas of erosion.

Take the time to actually clean up the river itself. Most of the banks are often overwhelmed
with green algae and lily pads, which is a breeding ground for mosquitos and the smell is not
pleasant. (The flats) is on a flood plain, and floods every year. Allocating money for these
improvements will not help if the area isn't useable. Clean up the river bank, put more seating
along the edge

A little off topic but Trout Creek should be dredged, there's an awful buildup of farm runoff.

Clean up crew to clean up after the geese.

Dredge the creek from the bridge to the dam. Place 3 floating fountains with coloured lighting
in that area.

There's also the issue of goose poop on the Diamonds.

This area seems overrun by geese and geese poop could be a problem.

What about all the goose poop? If the centre is covered with pavilions, basket ball courts, new
ball diamonds - whatever the outcome - what's the plan to keep those items clean and
useable.

Goose droppings....

Signage (9)

Signage promoting our local businesses and attractions.

passive use plaques along river to provide historic and environmental information regarding
the town/river

More interpretive signage about the river and the history of the Flats.

It is a fitting opportunity for educational & historical signage as well.

SIGNS: no idling. Simple and have a fine if cars are idling

Something giving history of the area and the present name of Milt Dunnell field

While I appreciate it's pricey, an electronic sign at the entrance displaying upcoming events
coming to The Flats

Birding and wildlife interpretive as well as conservation signage.

Signage, and heritage information plaques would be nice.

Basketball (8)

More than one basketball court fenced in and incorporate futsal into the courts as well

Currently, other than behind the high school, there may not be a place for basketball, and we need opportunities for older kid

We could use a basketball court.

I like the basketball court

Putting a basketball court near residential houses will cause increase noise complaints.

basketball is important

I would also like to see a basketball court in B. Basketball is probably the cheapest sport and therefore the most socio-economical choice. Not everyone can afford baseball gear or hockey gear, but most can do shorts and a tshirt with sneakers. It's one of the safer sports. And one that is more likely to have parents play with their kids because it requires the least amount of training and skill to have fun, and requires the least amount of fitness clothing. Jeans and ts are fine. There's nothing coming at your face super fast and parents can play up close and interact with their kid rather and accorss a diamond/court/rink. I'd shoot hoops if I had the option. It would be great to have multiple hoops (or one adjustable one.) 1 at NBA standard (10'), 1 for younger kids at 8', and one for under 6 kids at 4' or 5'. And if you have the standard 10', that's also the standard for wheelchair basketball, which is one of the easier wheelchair sports to start with.

Just curious as basketball was considered and not sure if that was because of interest for a basketball court in St. Marys or just a thought by someone as it would fit in there nicely?

Dog Park/Pet Features (8)

If there is extra green space to add in a small fenced dog run. While the dog park is nice it is far from the dog town core

Dog friendly

Dog park

Dog area? Off leash?

I think the addition of some pet waste bag dispensers and disposal spots, like what is used in Sparling Bush and along the Riverwalk trail would also be a great idea, if there will be increased foot traffic there will also be increased pet traffic and people won't want to sit and eat if there's waste all over. I'm not sure how much those are currently used but in my personal opinion those dispensers have been the only way I've been able to clean up when I've run out of bags part way through a walk.

Fountain for dogs

Small dog dog park. Many small dog owners avoid the dog park because of the big dogs, so a small dog park near the river would be lovely.

Dog/person walking trail to get you off pavement

Accessibility Features (8)

Making sure that no matter the physical situation for someone they can have comfortable access to everything. A bumpy ride is not pleasant.

Continue to ensure that all developments consider those who are less physically abled, allow for the participation of vulnerable populations, and account for seniors needs.

Accessibility is important and should be incorporated into the other activity areas

better access to the Sarnia bridge for strollers

I'd also like to see texture strips on the walking paths for the visually impaired.

Keep areas tidy and walkable for all abilities including walkers and wheelchairs.

Wheelchair/stroller friendly ramp to the bridge walkway would also be of benefit

Number one thing I would love is an accessible path for strollers/ wagons/ wheelchairs down from the trussell to the flats, the new stairs are nice but don't help with stroller or little bikes that want to us the park but not enough energy to go around.

Lighting (8)

Definitely lighting for People's safety

While some additional soft lighting around the loop would be nice, I would not feel comfortable using walkway paths further away from the road at night. I would not use the walking paths, if that were the case. Proposed lighting isn't part of the concept and I am concerned about how well lit the park would need to be at night to feel safe on the walking paths. I would be concerned that in an effort to improve the lighting, it would be too bright and take away the current view of the water - similar to the way the lights under the queen street bridge and Graham's already do.

More lighting

Would love to see a bit or a lightshow on the falls to bring it to life.

Better lighting

Lighting that is not too bright but adequate for evening

Possibly improved lighting to prevent vandalism

Lighting at night for people to enjoy it after 9pm. Keep lights on until 11pm.

Multi-Use Facilities/Flexibility (8)

Multi-purpose facilities that can be used for different things so when shifts in programming happen it's still functional space

I feel that whatever amenities that are purposed for the space are ones that will be used frequently and by a wide age range of ages. Also to keep in mind, who will be responsible for the financial up keep of certain amenities

Concept B seems to provide a good deal of flexibility which is good.

I honestly think either proposed ideas are great. I feel that space should be utilized more then it is now. It has so much protentional and would love to see either option happen.

Whatever is put in the park should be used. I have seen option B in other towns/cities. Learn from their mistakes.

Focus on uses for the center area.

We need to be respectful of home owners but also to be able to utilize the space to attract visitors to our beautiful town....I appreciate the complexity of this task.

Consider winter activities in the space, I don't have any ideas though.

Volleyball (7)

I have done a whole project on proving that the town of St. Mary has a problem with diversity of sports. So I believe the attention should be focused on sport field/courts that aren't known as much for example, Volleyball, I think it would be very Beneficial for both adults and children to have beach, volleyball courts and volleyball courts with out sand for the community.

Therefore Volleyball courts should be an addition to the flats.

Beach volleyball courts by the basketball court

volleyball

Beach volleyball courts

Beach volleyball? Maybe a fishing dock? Bee, butterfly and hummingbird gardens?

beach volleyball courts.

Would you consider a beach volleyball court?

Public Art (6)

public art along the walking paths

Maybe a few sculptures or shaped trees? Fun artsy mural on building(s) for "Instagram" type photos.

A water feature in the park or art installations like sculptures would add to the overall vibe and aesthetic of the park.

Fountain/water feature (decorative/statement piece)

The project you are proposing for the MD Field in St. Marys should NOT ignore ART - people "feel" that it is a meeting place when there is art, it gives people an identity, also it can be used in any amounts of photos to advertise the town, to Canada and the world. ART is CULTURE and should ALWAYS be included in public spaces - it is a great benefit to the present and future history and economic success of a town, or city.

Public art (in form of sculptures, lighting, etc.)

Technology (6)

An area for those to be able to work outside possibly with wifi and charging areas

perhaps the inclusion of enough solar panels that the entire park is 100% green energy.

Phone chargers.

EV charging stations. also partially addresses the emissions concern mentioned above. adding a tesla supercharging station would attract more people to things like the farmers market if there are convenient charging locations in town. Ford and GM have both announced transitioning to the tesla NACS charger so dont install CCS for the love of the EV gods.

EV recharging stations (2)

ATM for getting cash out at the farmer's market would be incredible.

Community Garden (5)

Very big community garden?!

A community garden

Community Garden!!

I think one of the most important additions would be a dedicated community garden space, where locals could sign up through the library or local organization to have a garden plot. This would look good, add participation value, and support the sustainability goals by promoting locally grown food. Good job with the survey!

A community garden

River Lookouts (5)

I love the lookout idea in concept B.

viewpoints are not needed; viewing from the present road/pedestrian ways is constant

There is a large number of senior people in St Marys who cannot walk they can only drive park up and take in the scenery from the road. Small layby's between trees by the river may be the answer so people can stop and turn off their engines.

Put the lookout in Design A as well.

Both locals and visitors need a place to walk, sit, relax and look at the river. The views there was one of the key factors in choosing St Marys as a place to live.

Features for Kids (4)

Safer for smaller children

Looking forward to a child friendly, accessible, safe green space to enjoy!

Amenities for older children to use would be great for this side of town. There isn't a lot of space or things for older children to do without going half way across town.

Activity areas for all ages - including older children

Security/Enforcement (4)

Security cameras with night vision outside of washroom and other areas of interest to prevent vandalism and / or other inappropriate behaviours.

security to reduce vandalism

Enforcement of "no-smoking" rule, with signs, throughout the Flats and on the Grand Trunk walking trail/bridge, keeping radios at a low level to avoid disturbance of patrons in the park, and enforcement of "no climbing of trees" rule to protect tree growth in park. Rules to prevent large speed boats and "seadoos" on the Thames River at Flats. Signs to back up these rules.

Somehow making sure drivers keep to the specified speed limit!!

Lawn Bowling (3)

Enlarge the bowling greens to accommodate extra people and enable us to hold competitions we have no room for right now.

The bowls club has become a feature for people to stop and spend time watching. A flat surface or seating would be an asset.

Making the lawn bowling greens larger. Both of these concepts are impractical, don't take advantage of the green space already in use and are clearly important to the people that use it. I don't believe that the people that live in this town that actually use the space were even asked about any of these changes.

Tennis (3)

Tennis (only) courts

Why not add tennis courts and then revamp the current courts on water st to pickleball, it would a lot of future arguments on pickleball V tennis. Pickleball is growing extremely fast and more courts will be need soon

I think a tennis court/pickleball court would be awesome as well

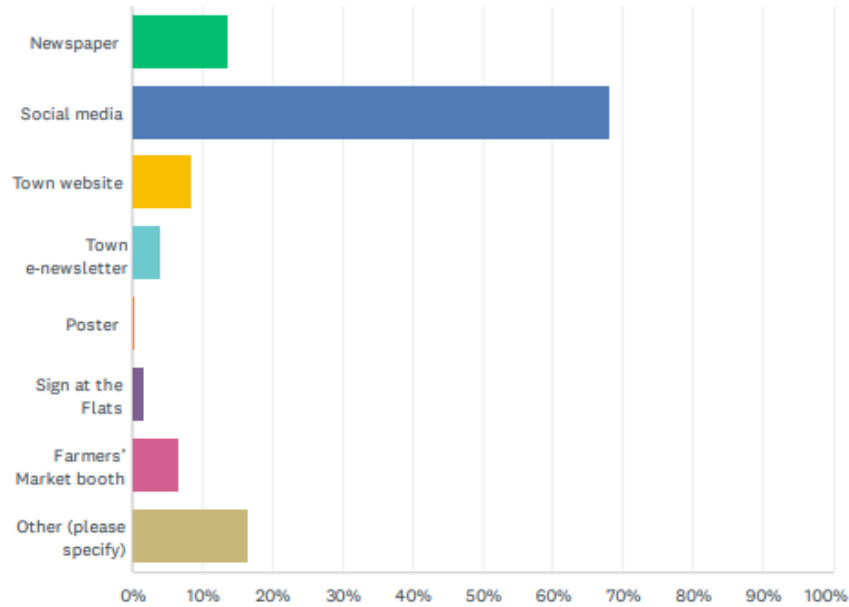
Little Free Libraries (2)

little free library

mini free libraries

Q13 How did you hear about this survey? Check all that apply.

Answered: 794 Skipped: 556



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Newspaper	13.73% 109
Social media	68.14% 541
Town website	8.44% 67
Town e-newsletter	4.03% 32
Poster	0.38% 3
Sign at the Flats	1.64% 13
Farmers' Market booth	6.68% 53
Other (please specify)	16.37% 130
Total Respondents: 794	

"Other" Categories (added by respondents)	
Word of mouth	64
Sports associations	19
Pyramid Centre	7
Online news outlets	5
Internal communications (staff)	3
Total:	98

Note: Questions 10, 11 and 12 were not included in this appendix because they contain personal information about respondents (names, phone numbers and email addresses).