

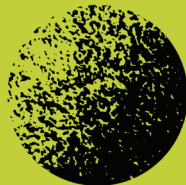


# Strathcona County

- Brentwood Park
- Kinsmen / Westboro Park
- Heritage Hills Park
- South Cooking Lake Park

## Park Master Plans Final Report

March 23, 2010



EIDOS

**EIDOS Consultants Incorporated**  
Suite 600 Empire Building 10080 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton Alberta Canada T5J 1V0

(t) 780.428.5050 (f) 780.428.5051  
Toll Free : 1.877.813.5050  
[www.eidosconsultants.com](http://www.eidosconsultants.com)

# Table of Contents



Acknowledgements

Executive Summary

List of Figures

1.0	Introduction .....	1
2.0	The Planning Process.....	3
3.0	Guiding Principles.....	12
4.0	Brentwood Park .....	16
5.0	Kinsmen / Westboro Park .....	18
6.0	Heritage Hills Park .....	20
7.0	South Cooking Lake Park.....	22
8.0	Implementation .....	36



Sources

Appendices



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **STRATHCONA COUNTY PARK REVITALIZATION PLAN**

This master plan responds directly to the Strathcona County Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy (OSRFS) approved by Council and adopted by the County in June 2008. Phase I is focused on improvements in existing parks. This master plan provides strategic direction on the revitalization of four open spaces in Strathcona County: Brentwood, Kinsmen/Westboro and Heritage Hills, located in Sherwood Park, and South Cooking Lake Park, located in the rural hamlet of South Cooking Lake.

In April 2009, Strathcona County retained EIDOS Consultants Incorporated to undertake this master planning exercise. A key component of the exercise was the direct engagement of residents through a series of community visioning workshops. The workshops, coupled with site reconnaissance and data collection and analysis, led to the articulation of a number of key guiding principles: ensuring the safety of park users; ensuring facilities are accessible by all; providing a full range of recreational and leisure opportunities; ensuring comfort, enjoyment and convenience for users; protecting and celebrating nature; creating vibrant places for community life; encouraging community animation, expression and ownership; and investing wisely.

The revitalization strategies for each open space will be accompanied by order of magnitude costing. Strategies are grouped by program (as identified in the OSRFS), and likewise, priority is given to immediate needs - enhancing existing facilities and assets, maintaining service levels, ensuring basic accessibility and safety, and addressing ongoing maintenance issues. While it is expected that the revitalization of the four open spaces will primarily be funded by Strathcona County, other potential sources, including capital grant programs and corporate sponsorship opportunities, should be explored.

The next steps in the revitalization of these four open spaces is the commencement of the detailed design phase, in which the scope of work is further refined, informed by concurrent studies (i.e., Sportsfield and Aquatic Strategies), data collection and ongoing consultation. In the meantime, the County has an opportunity to reach out to affected residents and continue to build relationships which will strengthen community ownership of open spaces and ensure participation in the future revitalization endeavors.

# Table of Contents



Acknowledgements

Executive Summary

List of Figures

1.0	Introduction .....	1
2.0	The Planning Process.....	3
3.0	Guiding Principles.....	12
4.0	Brentwood Park .....	16
5.0	Kinsmen / Westboro Park .....	18
6.0	Heritage Hills Park .....	20
7.0	South Cooking Lake Park.....	22
8.0	Implementation .....	36



Sources

Appendices



# Acknowledgements

In addition to the numerous residents who attended workshops and open houses, the following individuals within Strathcona County administration and Council are acknowledged for their special contribution to this project:

- *Mayor Cathy Olesen*
- *Councillor Vic Bidzinski, Ward 1*
- *Councillor Linda Osinchuk, Ward 3*
- *Leslee Laing, Infrastructure Research Analyst, Environmental + Open Space Planning*
- *Cindy Hanson, Coordinator, Outdoor Community Services Programs + Liaison*
- *Don Polinski, Coordinator, Park Maintenance + Infrastructure*
- *Doug Davidson, Foreman, Turf Development*
- *Dave Boe, Foreman, Turf Maintenance*
- *Sheila Flint, Foreman, Horticulture + Forestry*
- *Jim Salazar, Foreman, Feature Sports Fields + Winter Operations*



# List of Figures

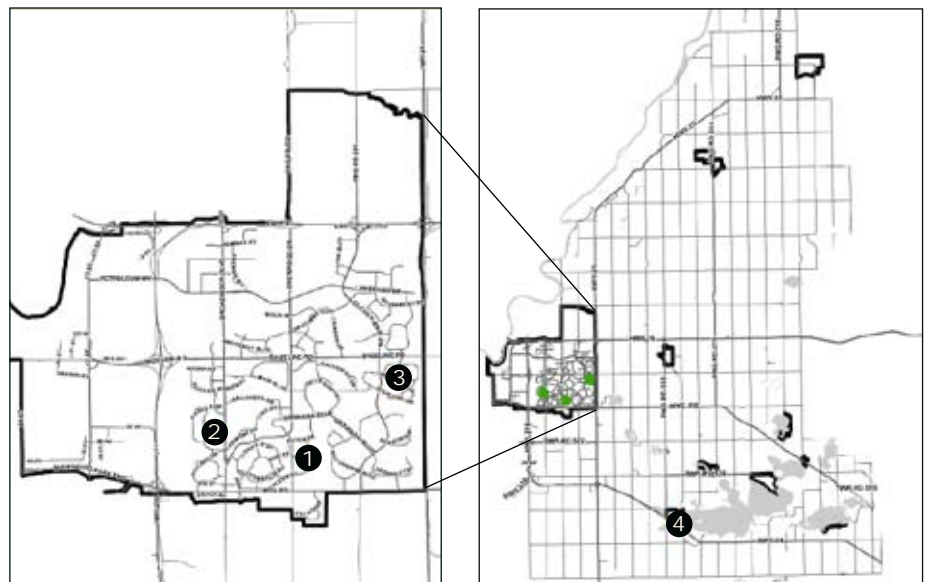
- Figure 1 Park Locations and Context
- Figure 2 Master Planning Process
- Figure 3 Strathcona County Capstone Policies / Key OSRFS Strategies
- Figure 4 Guiding Principles
- Figure 5 Brentwood Park - Existing Conditions
- Figure 6 Brentwood Park - Master Plan
- Figure 7 Brentwood Park - Capital Improvement Summary
- Figure 8 Kinsmen / Westboro Park - Existing Conditions
- Figure 9 Kinsmen / Westboro Park - Master Plan
- Figure 10 Kinsmen / Westboro Park - Capital Improvement Summary
- Figure 11 Heritage Hills Park - Existing Conditions
- Figure 12 Heritage Hills Park - Master Plan
- Figure 13 Heritage Hills Park - Capital Improvement Summary
- Figure 14 South Cooking Lake Park - Existing Conditions
- Figure 15 South Cooking Lake Park - Master Plan
- Figure 16 South Cooking Lake Park - Capital Improvement Summary



# 1.0 Introduction

This master plan exercise is the first step in the thoughtful and systematic upgrading and revitalization of parks within Strathcona County, as envisioned and outlined in the Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy (OSRFS) adopted by the County in 2008. This exercise provides specific direction on the upgrading and revitalization of Brentwood, Kinsmen / Westboro and Heritage Hills Parks, located in Sherwood Park, and South Cooking Lake Park, located in the rural hamlet of South Cooking Lake. These parks are some of the oldest such facilities in the county, and have been identified as most in need of upgrading and revitalization, in order to bring them more in line with the needs and expectations of residents, as well as the service levels and standards of Strathcona County.

Figure 1: Park Locations and Context



Urban Service Area

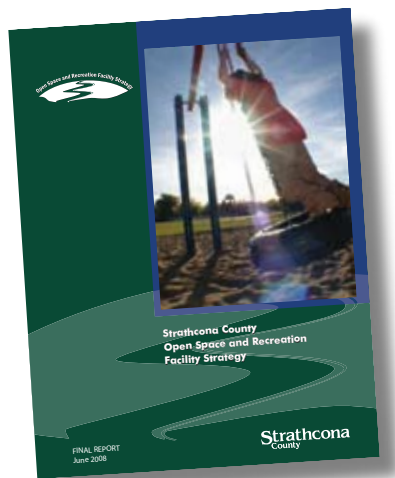
Rural Service Area

- 1) Brentwood Park
- 2) Kinsmen / Westboro Park
- 3) Heritage Hills Park

- 4) South Cooking Lake Park

## 1.1 Master Planning Objectives

A master plan is a long term vision, and in the context of this exercise, not a blueprint to construct park and open space facilities. A master plan is the outcome of a process that generates a set of principles that lead to attainable goals and objectives, that in this context, translate into specific revitalization strategies suitable to direct more detailed design and implementation processes.



The master plans for these four parks will become an important tool for Strathcona County decision makers. Whether undertaken as a single initiative or incrementally over many years, these master plans are intended to provide clear direction on detailed revitalization strategies which meet the needs and expectations of residents, and reflect County service levels and standards. Depending on timeframes, these master plans may require regular monitoring and updating to remain in line with these objectives, and align (or realign) with various opportunities for funding and implementation.

## 1.2 The Strathcona County Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy (OSRFS)

The four parks in this study were identified by Strathcona County for revitalization as one of the first steps in the implementation of the Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy (OSRFS).

The County adopted the OSRFS in June 2008 to guide ongoing investment and reinvestment in open spaces and recreation facilities in the County. A key component of this strategy is the revitalization of existing outdoor community gathering spaces.

The OSRFS and other key planning documents are discussed in detail in Section 2.2.



## 2.0 The Planning Process

In April 2009, Strathcona County retained EIDOS Consultants Incorporated to undertake this master planning exercise. In broad terms, the master planning process included the following strategic steps:

1. Site reconnaissance and inventory
2. Background data collection and analysis
3. Community input – visioning workshops and follow up open houses
4. Stakeholder and key informant consultation
5. Preliminary plan and final Master Plan report preparation

### 2.1 Site Reconnaissance and Inventory

Each of the four parks were visited in order to record and understand their existing conditions, opportunities and constraints. Existing conditions of each park is discussed in Parts 4.0 -7.0. Opportunities and constraints were considered together with public and stakeholder input to inform the articulation of guiding principles, and ultimately, revitalization strategies.

### 2.2 Background Data Collection and Analysis

Background data was collected and considered by the Consultant to provide a general frame of reference and benchmark for planning decisions specific to each park setting. Background data collected and considered included relevant Strathcona County planning documents, recreation and leisure trends, as well as demographic data for each affected neighbourhood.

#### ***Planning Context***

A number of planning documents, described below, have informed this master planning exercise in both a direct and indirect way. Figure 2 illustrates how this master planning exercise (illustrated in dark green) fits within this larger context of Strathcona County planning and decision making.

#### ***Strathcona County Strategic Plan (2003)***

The Strategic Plan is the highest level plan which guides governance, community development and service delivery within the County. The Strategic Plan contains a number of Capstone Policies of relevance to this master planning

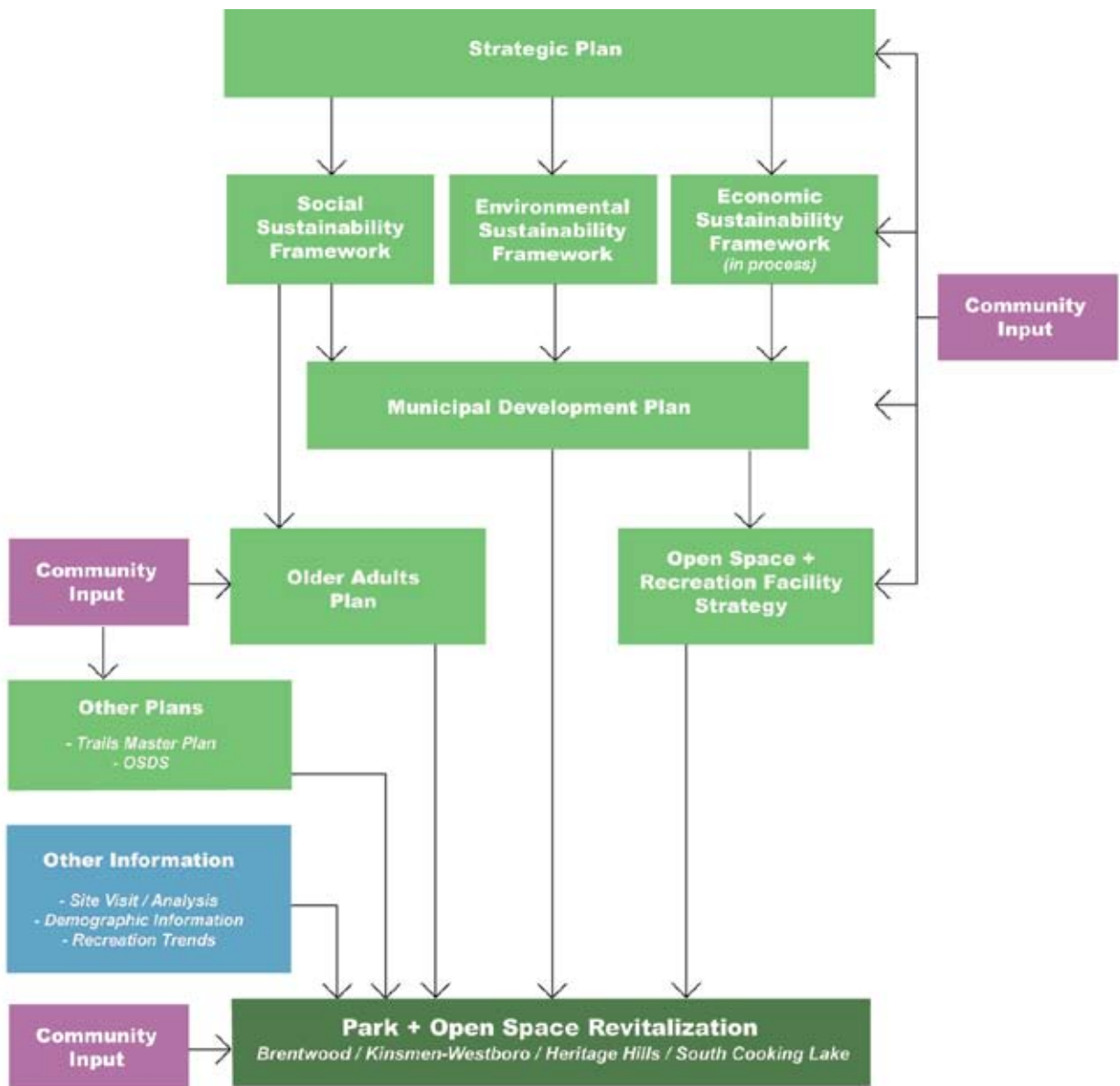


Figure 2: Master Planning Process

exercise, relating to social, environmental and economic sustainability. These Capstone policies directly influence all other County planning endeavors. A more detailed discussion of the relationship between these Capstone Policies and the Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy is illustrated in Figure 3.

### ***Social Sustainability Framework (2007)***

This is one of three framework documents developed as a series of tools to determine the impact of decision making on environmental, social and economic sustainability within Strathcona County.

Of relevance to this master planning assignment, this framework document establishes high level objectives related to social inclusion (including equal access to amenities and consideration of the needs of older adults); community connectedness (including the promotion of community events to avoid cocooning); social responsibility (including collective decision making); and health and well-being (including providing amenities for children and youth, and working together to address crime). These objectives are further addressed in the Guiding Principles (Section 3.0).

A key outcome of the Social Sustainability Framework was the development of an Older Adults Plan (discussed below).

### ***Environmental Sustainability Framework (2009)***

This framework document, establishes a number of high level objectives related to environmental sustainability. Of relevance to this master planning assignment, the framework underscores the need to preserve natural landscapes; to develop integrated, multi-modal transportation networks; to conserve water and other resources; and to adopt procurement processes which promote sustainability. These objectives are further addressed in the Guiding Principles (Section 3.0).

### ***Economic Sustainability Framework (2010)***

This framework document, currently in draft form, establishes a number of high level objectives related to fostering a healthy, sustainable economy for

residents, business and industry. The Economic Sustainability Framework is anticipated to be complete in 2010.

### ***Strathcona County Municipal Development Plan (2007)***

The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) provides strategic direction on the growth and development of the County over a twenty year period. The MDP is intended to be an integrated, community-wide plan for sustainable decision making, and is therefore informed by the social, environmental and economic framework documents.

Part 9.0 of the MDP addresses parks and recreation and contains a number of general objectives of relevance to this master planning exercise: strengthening community pride; contributing to physical fitness and well-being of residents; bringing communities together through sports / arts / cultural activities; conserving and enhancing natural areas; increasing trail connectivity; ensuring safety of park users; and creating multi-purpose park areas. These objectives are further addressed in the Guiding Principles (Section 3.0).

### ***Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy (2008)***

The Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy (OSRFS) was adopted in 2008 as a tool to guide ongoing investment and reinvestment in open spaces and recreation facilities in the County. The OSRFS builds upon Strathcona County's Strategic and Municipal Development Plan to meet the needs of residents within a framework of community and corporate needs, values and expectations. The OSRFS makes direct reference to a number of the Capstone Policies contained within the Strategic Plan; these policies are highlighted in Figure 3.

The OSRFS addresses the full range of indoor and outdoor facilities and amenities provided and managed by the County. In addition to the acquisition and development of new outdoor community gathering places, the OSRFS articulates three revitalization programs relating to:

- Outdoor community gathering places (eg. parks, natural areas);
- Walkable communities (eg. trails); and
- Streetscapes (eg. landscaping, signage).

In terms of implementation, the OSRFS establishes two phases: Phase 1 -

which addresses immediate needs in years 1 to 5, and Phase 2 - which addresses emerging requirements in years 6 to 1. Phase 1 focuses on protecting existing assets; reinvesting in the oldest facilities and amenities, addressing overcrowding and maintaining service levels in the face of continued growth. Phase 2 focuses on emerging needs that, as identified, will be evaluated against those already articulated in the OSRFS to more fully understand an appropriate course of action.

The revitalization strategies articulated within this master planning exercise, and in particular, the potential funding sources, are based on the programs and implementation framework of the OSRFS.

### ***Trails Master Plan (1998)***

The Trails Master Plan was prepared as a 20 - year plan to create an integrated network of multi-use trails within the urban and rural areas of Strathcona County. The only information of interest to this master planning assignment is the identification of a potential year-round, multi-use trail linking Sherwood Park / Boag Lake with South Cooking Lake, Ministik and Hastings Lake via Highway 14. The County has allocated funding to update the Trails Master Plan in 2010.

### ***Older Adults Plan (2009)***

The Older Adults Plan is a direct outgrowth of the Social Sustainability Framework, and provides a number of high level objectives of relevance to this master planning exercise, including the creation of intergenerational gathering spaces and the provision of disabled parking areas and application of universal design principles at community facilities. These objectives are further addressed in the Guiding Principles (Section 3.0).

### ***Strathcona County Open Space Development Standards (2006)***

The Open Space Development Standards (OSDS) typically guide the development of new park facilities by both the county and private developers, but also serve as a useful benchmark for the work of this master planning assignment. Specifically, the standards provide a guideline for the type of facilities and amenities to be provided within parks and open spaces, which in turn provide direction on estimated capital costs. The County has allocated funds to update the OSDS in 2010.

Figure 3: Strathcona County Capstone Policies / Key OSRFS Strategies.

---

<b>Capstone Policy:</b>	<b>Community Wellbeing</b>
OSRFS Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage park usage by providing accessible facilities</li><li>• Create diverse recreational opportunities for a wide range of users</li></ul>
<b>Capstone Policy:</b>	<b>Community Sustainability</b>
OSRFS Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conserving natural and cultural heritage for sustainable community growth</li><li>• Preserve existing green infrastructure to protect natural lands</li><li>• Implement new technologies to improve existing facility environmental performance</li></ul>
<b>Capstone Policy:</b>	<b>Economic Viability</b>
OSRFS Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reinvesting in existing facilities to meet the ever changing community recreational needs to enhance community quality of life</li><li>• Integrating parks into the community to enhance property values</li></ul>
<b>Capstone Policy:</b>	<b>Service Delivery</b>
OSRFS Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address community recreational needs with emphasis on flexible, spontaneous uses</li><li>• Develop park improvement projects through community and local business collaboration and partnerships</li></ul>
<b>Capstone Policy:</b>	<b>Community Involvement</b>
OSRFS Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish a community based consultation process</li><li>• Encourage partnership development with community organizations, interest groups and the public</li></ul>
<b>Capstone Policy:</b>	<b>Resource Management</b>
OSRFS Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reinvesting in and revitalizing existing parks to minimize capital funding needs</li><li>• Establish incremental re-development strategies to bench-mark the community recreational needs before adding new facilities</li><li>• Formation of community partnerships to identify additional funding sources</li></ul>

---

### ***Sportsfield Strategy (2010)***

This strategy, currently in progress, is a 15-year plan that will predict future sportsfield requirements and provide a process to quantify current and future sportsfield surpluses or shortfalls. The strategy will also identify amenity requirements and determine future capital costs. The strategy is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

### ***Aquatic Strategy (2010)***

This strategy, currently in progress, will include an assessment of both present and future aquatic options to best meet community needs, for both indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities. The strategy is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

### ***Recreation and Leisure Trends***

Understanding current recreation and leisure trends provides insight into the provision of facilities and amenities which effectively meet the changing needs and expectations of users. Key trends in sports and recreation of relevance to this master planning exercise include:

- *Adults and older adults embracing an 'active living' lifestyle, with municipalities in turn aligning their programming to in order to respond to their needs;*
- *Continued demand for trails (both natural and paved) for walking, cycling, in-line skating, etc. - both for leisure and active transportation;*
- *With the exception of hockey and soccer, a continued decrease in children and youth participating in organized sports; children are instead choosing to pursue casual activities on their own schedule; and*
- *Continued demand for arena sports (eg. hockey), with shortages in prime time ice hours observed across the province.*

Key trends in the provision of parks and open spaces include:

- *People wanting to live near parks and open spaces, as parks are viewed positively and associated with a higher quality of life;*
- *Parks increasingly viewed as a venue for cultural activities;*
- *Parks increasingly seen as a providing opportunities for non-programmed*

- recreational opportunities (eg. community barbeques); and*
- *Increasing public awareness of environmental issues, and a corresponding alignment of resource management strategies in parks.*

(sources)

### ***Neighbourhood Demographics***

Demographic information was obtained for Sherwood Park and each of the three neighbourhood areas, as well as the hamlet of South Cooking Lake.

In Sherwood Park, the population increased to 59,409 in 2008 from 55,063 in 2005 (7.9% increase). The median household size is 3 people, and the average age increased to 36.7 from 36 in the same period.

In South Cooking Lake, the population decreased to 263 in 2008 from 279 in 2005 (5.7% decrease). The median household size is 2 people, and the average age increased to 37.4 from 36.8 in the same period.

Neighbourhood specific demographics are discussed in Parts 4.0 – 7.0.

*(Source: 2008 Municipal Census Report)*

## 2.4 Community Input

Opportunities for community input into this master planning process included a series of community visioning workshops prior to the preparation of preliminary park revitalization plans, as well as a series of follow-up open houses to review the preliminary plans and provide input prior to the preparation of the final master plan.



*Brentwood Park Visioning Workshop*

Community Visioning Workshops were held in the Summer and early Fall of 2009, and provided first hand information of value to both the County and the Consultant. Residents' ideas and comments were documented to serve as a framework for the master plan. In addition, at each workshop residents were provided an opportunity to break into smaller groups, and with the assistance of the Consultants and County staff, record comments and sketch ideas on base drawings provided.

Following the preparation of preliminary revitalization drawings for each park,



residents were invited in the Fall of 2009 to review the submissions and provide input prior to the preparation of the final master plan report.

The results of these Community Visioning Workshops are provided in the Appendix.

## 2.5 Stakeholder and Key Informant Input

In addition to broad community input, the master planning exercise included opportunities for input from groups with more specific and formalized relationships to park management. These groups included Strathcona County park maintenance and arboriculture staff, Elk Island Public School (eg. Brentwood Park) representatives, as well as volunteers from the football clubs, softball groups and soccer associations which use the parks on a regular basis.

Conversations with these groups yielded valuable information regarding the ongoing use and management of each park, which was given due consideration in light of proposed capital improvements.

## 2.6 Preliminary and Final Master Plan Preparation

Following the review of the preliminary revitalization drawings by the public in the Fall of 2009, preliminary and final master plan reports were prepared with the continued input of Strathcona County staff.

Master plans are illustrated in Parts 4.0 - 7.0.

Accompanying each master plan is a summary of the proposed capital investments, based on a Class 'D' order of magnitude cost. This summary is provided in a format consistent with the OSRFS, in which specific items are classified by both program (eg. community gathering places / walkable communities / streetscaping) and priority (eg. immediate / emerging need). Consistent with the OSRFS, priority is given to immediate needs - enhancing existing facilities and assets, maintaining service levels, ensuring basic accessibility and safety, and addressing ongoing maintenance issues.

## 3.0 Guiding Principles

As previously discussed, the Strathcona County OSRFS provides high-level, strategic guidance on the planning of parks and open spaces within the county. At the same time, there is an innate desire to respond directly to stakeholder input and generate responsive planning solutions for the four parks. To provide direction and balance to this planning exercise, and to ensure continuity within the higher level context of the OSRFS, a number of goals and guiding principles have been considered:

### ***Ensure the safety of park users***

The safety of users should be of the utmost importance to park designers and managers.

- *To fully understand site specific safety issues and possible solutions, community-based safety audits should be undertaken for each of the four parks. While a safety audit is a useful tool in moving forward to more detailed implementation steps (See 8.1), even in the immediate term an audit can be a valuable exercise in park management and community animation.*
- *Park redevelopment should take into account basic principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), tailored to local realities as identified through a safety audit. Basic principles include improving sightlines and natural surveillance, and eliminating entrapment areas.*
- *More advanced principles of CPTED include maximizing activity generation and increasing community ownership in parks and open spaces (eg. encouraging community involvement in park beautification and maintenance). Both of these principles ensure parks are well used, and that users become active in surveillance and park management.*
- *To support capital reinvestment, the county should strive to respond promptly to resident inquiries and concerns. All park signage should include municipal contact information, and refuse collection, overall park maintenance and graffiti removal should be done in a timely manner.*
- *Ensure appropriate access for emergency and maintenance vehicles.*



*Active spaces tend to be safe places*

### ***Ensure facilities are accessible by all***

Accessibility is a basic right and as such should be a fundamental consideration in park planning and design.



Accessible parks and open spaces are a fundamental priority



Facilities planned for evening use should be lit



Year-round use

- *Ensure a basic network of accessible (eg. paved) trails into and through park facilities. This network should be integrated into the larger community. Because trails should provide access into and through parks during dark winter months, lighting should be considered (subject to a safety audit).*
- *Ensure facilities and amenities (eg. picnic tables) are fully accessible. In conjunction with County standards, parking areas need to include designated spaces for persons with disabilities.*
- *Provide convenient and secure bike racks for cyclists, to support active transportation choices within Strathcona County.*

### **Provide a full range of recreational and leisure opportunities**

Providing a full range of opportunities not only meets the community's recreational and leisure needs, but increasing park activity can contribute to increased safety and community building efforts.

- *Facilities should be provided for a range of users, regardless of age or ability.*
- *Facilities should be provided which allow year-round use. To encourage winter use, a range of activities should be accommodated (eg. hockey, leisure skating and tobogganing), as well as supporting facilities (eg. warming shelters).*
- *Consideration should be given to providing a range of facilities which appeal to families and different generations. Playgrounds should include a wide age range, and facilities should appeal to different family members. For example, while one child is playing soccer, another can be playing on a playground.*

### **Ensure the comfort, enjoyment and convenience of users**

Spaces which are comfortable and pleasant will receive greater use and contribute to a higher degree of community ownership.

- *Careful site planning and landscape treatments (eg. tree planting) can create spaces protected from summer sun and winter winds, and break up / provide scale in larger, undefined areas.*
- *Complementary amenities (eg. benches, picnic tables, garbage receptacles, etc) should be provided to enhance the park experience. For example, providing attractive open areas, picnic tables, etc., adjacent to a spray*



As an element of 'green infrastructure', a bioswale mitigates issues related to stormwater rates and quality



Whether intended or not, parks and open spaces are a venue in which the life of a community plays out



Public art



Community clean-up effort

deck provides an opportunity for parents to relax and visit with neighbours while their children play.

### **Protect and celebrate nature**

Preserving environmental integrity and ecological function is increasingly becoming a basic requirement of park planning in municipal settings. In addition, there is an opportunity to celebrate nature as part of an experience combining leisure and education.

- *Protect the integrity of existing tree stands, wetlands and other sensitive areas. Limit access to these areas.*
- *Develop interpretive signage and similar features which communicate the value and importance of wildlife, natural systems, etc.*
- *Integrate 'green' infrastructure, such as rainwater gardens, permeable paving, etc. Demonstrate leadership in sustainability by supporting Low-Impact Design (LID) and similar initiatives, while at the same time contributing positively to park aesthetics.*
- *Ensure lighting reduces light pollution and trespass, in accordance with 'dark sky' principles.*

### **Create vibrant places for community life**

Parks are can become 'third places' within neighbourhoods and contribute to community connectedness.

- *Provide both hard surfaced areas and unencumbered open spaces to allow for both programmed and impromptu community events to occur.*
- *Consolidate functions to maximize activity generation, and incorporate benches, picnic tables and open spaces to provide informal gathering and viewing opportunities.*

### **Encourage community animation, expression and ownership**

An important complement to community gathering spaces (as described above) is the opportunity for residents to become directly involved in, and ultimately become responsible for, ongoing park management.

- *Provide opportunities for public art by directing community programs and funding to support this goal.*



*Benches and landscaping make for a pleasant place to watch children and visit with other parents*

- *Engage residents in the design of park signage and similar features, and involve residents in ongoing park maintenance.*

### ***Invest wisely***

Park planning and management decision making should give due consideration to economic sustainability.

- *Within existing park areas, emphasis should be placed on reinvesting in existing facilities and amenities over new construction.*
- *New park revitalization initiatives should respect established park uses and users.*
- *Incorporate practices and technologies (eg. 'green' infrastructure) that minimize long term management costs.*
- *Seek meaningful and sustainable community partnerships to build and maintain park facilities.*

A summary of these guiding principles, within the continuum of planning decision making, is illustrated in Figure 4.

STRATEGIC PLAN CAPSTONE POLICIES	RELEVANT OSRFS GOALS	PARK PLANNING PRINCIPLES
COMMUNITY WELLBEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provide well connected facilities</i></li> <li>• <i>Encourage park usage by providing accessible facilities</i></li> <li>• <i>Create diverse recreational opportunities for a wide range of users</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ensure the safety of park users</i></li> <li>• <i>Provide a full range of recreational and leisure opportunities</i></li> <li>• <i>Ensure the comfort, enjoyment and convenience of users</i></li> <li>• <i>Ensure facilities are accessible by all</i></li> </ul>
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Conserving natural and cultural heritage for sustainable community growth</i></li> <li>• <i>Preserve existing green infrastructure to protect natural lands</i></li> <li>• <i>Implement new technologies to improve existing facility environmental performance</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Protect and celebrate nature</i></li> </ul>
ECONOMIC VIABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reinvesting in existing facilities to meet the ever changing community recreational needs to enhance community quality of life</i></li> <li>• <i>Integrating parks into the community to enhance property values</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Encourage community animation, expression and ownership</i></li> <li>• <i>Invest wisely</i></li> </ul>
SERVICE DELIVERY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Address community recreational needs with emphasis on flexible, spontaneous uses</i></li> <li>• <i>Develop park improvement projects through community and local business collaboration and partnerships</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Create vibrant places for community life</i></li> <li>• <i>Encourage community animation, expression and ownership</i></li> <li>• <i>Invest wisely</i></li> </ul>
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Establish a community based consultation process</i></li> <li>• <i>Encourage partnership development with community organization, interest groups and the public</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Encourage community animation, expression and ownership</i></li> </ul>
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reinvesting in and revitalizing existing parks to minimize capital funding needs</i></li> <li>• <i>Establish incremental re-development strategies to bench-mark the community recreational needs before adding new facilities developments</i></li> <li>• <i>Formation of community partnership to identify additional funding sources</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Protect and celebrate nature</i></li> <li>• <i>Encourage community animation, expression and ownership</i></li> <li>• <i>Invest wisely</i></li> </ul>

Figure 4: Guiding Principles

## 4.0 Brentwood Park

Brentwood Park has been serving the Sherwood Park community for 45-years; making it one of the oldest neighbourhood parks in the community. It is located off Heron Drive, and is the home of Brentwood Elementary School and Northstars Football Club. Because of the long history of Brentwood Park, it has gone through many changes through the years. This park has served a variety of sports groups, school groups, and other passive recreation users. This park includes ball diamonds, playing fields, two playgrounds, a spray deck, an outdoor ice rink, tennis courts, parking areas and two remnant woodlot areas. Existing conditions are illustrated in Figure 5.

### 4.1 Key Planning Issues

Key planning issues for Brentwood Park were identified through site reconnaissance and community input. From the Community Visioning Workshop held on September 24th, 2009, a number of issues, needs and opportunities were identified for consideration:

- *Perception of lack of parking. Residents identified preferred locations along the west side of the park, near the existing boarded rink and playground area, as well as at the southeast corner of the park, to provide access to the soccer pitch.*
- *Perception of excessive vehicle speeds on Falcon Drive and Heron Road.*
- *Trails for greater access into and through the park, with consideration given to accommodating emergency and maintenance vehicle access.*
- *Increased range of all-season recreational opportunities in the park, for a broad range of users.*
- *Additional ice surfaces.*
- *Replacement of the spray deck with an updated facility requiring less maintenance and supervision. Presently, the spray deck requires operation and supervision by community volunteers.*
- *Potential expansion of the tennis courts, to provide greater recreational opportunities for residents and schoolchildren.*
- *Incorporation of gathering places into the park to host community events.*
- *Drainage issues on site, which create maintenance and safety concerns.*
- *Introducing art into the park. Specific ideas included spaces and structures for the creation and display of art by residents.*

The complete results of the Community Visioning Workshop, including sketches and diagrams prepared by residents, are provided in the Appendix.

## 4.2 Revitalization Strategy

The revitalization strategy for Brentwood Park responds to the key planning issues identified through resident input, County feedback and background information analysis. Key elements of the strategy include:

- *Additional off-street parking;*
- *Trail development;*
- *Relocated boarded rink and snowbank rink enhancement;*
- *Site grading to address drainage issues and create sliding area;*
- *New spray deck;*
- *New multi-purpose pad;*
- *Art garden; and*
- *Tree and shrub planting, entry signage and floral displays.*

The revitalization strategy for Brentwood Park is visualized and described in detail in Figures 6 and 7.

## 4.3 Next Steps

Implementation in general terms is discussed in Part 8.0; specific requirements related to Brentwood Park include:

- *The collection of traffic data to fully understand issues related to traffic speed, volume and safety. Based on the data collected, recommendations may include improved enforcement and / or the introduction of traffic calming measures.*
- *The collection of data to determine parking patterns and demands. Data collected will help determine the appropriate number of off-site parking spaces.*
- *The collection of data to determine future demand for additional tennis courts.*



## 5.0 Kinsmen / Westboro Park

Kinsmen / Westboro Park is a 40-year old neighbourhood park, located in the Westboro Neighbourhood on Strathcona Drive. The park consists of ball diamonds, football field, picnic areas, playgrounds, spray deck, tennis courts, and outdoor ice rink. This park is also the home of the Rams Football Club, where they practice regularly. There is a stand of mature trees located on the north half of the site. During the preparation of the Strathcona County OSRFS, adjacent residents raised concerns regarding poor maintenance, graffiti, and vandalism in the area. As a result, a preliminary safety audit was prepared which outlined a number of recommendations. Existing conditions are illustrated in Figure 8.

### 5.1 Key Planning Issues

Key planning issues for Kinsmen / Westboro Park were identified through site reconnaissance and community input. From the Community Visioning Workshop held on September 30th, 2009, a number of issues, needs and opportunities were identified for consideration by the Project Team:

- *Perception of safety issues in the park, based on vandalism, loitering and illicit activities observed in the park, particularly in the playground area. Residents felt these activities negatively impacted their use of the park and their opinion of the park. Lighting was suggested as means to combat the situation.*
- *Replacement of the spray deck with an updated facility requiring less maintenance and supervision. Presently, the spray deck requires operation and supervision by community volunteers.*
- *Improved trails into the park for greater accessibility, with consideration given to emergency and maintenance vehicle access. At the same time, residents identified that park entries require improvement to improve access.*
- *Better maintenance of the wooded area. Residents identified a specific desire for the County to regularly remove refuse and deadfall from the internal areas of the wooded area, and at the same time maintain a continuous, cleared buffer around the northern perimeter of the park. At present, the Strathcona County OSDS identifies a 1.8m mowing strip required for this condition.*
- *Increasing the range of all-season recreational opportunities in the park, for a broad range of users.*

- *Improved ice surfaces, mainly for leisure skating.*
- *Incorporating gathering places into the park to host events for the community as well as the football club.*

The complete results of the Community Visioning Workshop, including sketches and diagrams prepared by residents, are provided in the Appendix.

## 5.2 Revitalization Strategy

The revitalization strategy for Kinsmen / Westboro Park responds to the key planning issues identified through resident input, County feedback and background information analysis. Key elements of the strategy include:

- *Lighting in key activity areas;*
- *Trail development;*
- *Relocated playground and new spray deck;*
- *Site grading to create sliding area;*
- *Enhanced snowbank rink;*
- *New multi-purpose pad;*
- *Tree and shrub planting, entry signage and floral displays;*
- *Improved maintenance - reintroduction of mowed strip along perimeter.*

The revitalization strategy for Kinsmen / Westboro Park is visualized and described in detail in Figures 9 and 10.

## 5.3 Next Steps

Implementation in general terms is discussed in Part 8.0; specific requirements related to Kinsmen / Westboro Park include:

- *Discussions with the owners and residents of Greenwood Village (which is private property) to determine the feasibility of a north-south pathway connection into Kinsmen / Westboro park. This connection was identified by neighbourhood residents as a positive opportunity during the Community Visioning Workshop.*

## 6.0 Heritage Hills Park

Heritage Hills Park is a developer-built park with approximately 20 years of service to the community. This park consists of two distinctive areas, divided by a Heritage Drive. The north side of the park includes active recreational facilities, such as baseball diamonds, soccer fields, playgrounds, outdoor ice rink, and play structures. The south portion of the park is passive in nature, with a trail system that connects to the Heritage Parkway Trail. Existing conditions are illustrated in Figure 11.

### 6.1 Key Planning Issues

Key planning issues for Heritage Hills Park were identified through site reconnaissance and community input. From the Community Visioning Workshop held on October 5th, 2009, a number of issues, needs and opportunities were identified for consideration by the Project Team:

- *Perception of a lack of parking, particularly during regular league and tournament soccer games. Residents identified an opportunity to introduce angled parking as a means to provide additional parking.*
- *Perception of excessive vehicle speeds and concerns regarding pedestrian safety on Heritage Drive.*
- *Poorly maintained gravel trails south of Heritage Drive.*
- *Better access into and through the wooded area south of Heritage Drive. Residents identified an opportunity to better utilize this wooded area as a leisure and interpretive resource. There was also a desire for better maintenance of the existing natural trails in this area.*
- *Drainage issues on the site, which create maintenance and safety concerns.*
- *Increased range of all-season recreational opportunities in the park, including the potential for a spray deck, for a broad range of users.*
- *Improved ice surfaces, particularly for leisure skating.*
- *Better utilization of the open space south of Heritage Drive for either informal or formal activities (eg. soccer practice).*
- *Incorporating gathering places into the park to host community events.*
- *Introduction of additional entry signage features and landscaping, particularly at the east end of the park.*
- *Introduction of art into the park.*

The complete results of the Community Visioning Workshop, including

sketches and diagrams prepared by residents, is provided in the Appendix.

## 6.2 Revitalization Strategy

The revitalization strategy for Heritage Hills Park responds to the key planning issues identified through resident input, County feedback and background information analysis. Key elements of the strategy include:

- *Off-street parking;*
- *Trail development and redevelopment, including interpretive signage;*
- *Site grading to address drainage issues and create sliding area;*
- *Enhanced snowbank rink;*
- *New multi-purpose pad;*
- *Potential spray deck;*
- *Tree and shrub planting, entry signage and floral displays; and*
- *Operational changes - designate area south of Heritage Drive for passive recreation / informal practices.*

The revitalization strategy for Heritage Hills Park is visualized and described in detail in Figures 12 and 13.

## 6.3 Next Steps

Implementation in general terms is discussed in Part 8.0; specific requirements related to Heritage Park include:

- *The collection of traffic data to fully understand issues related to traffic speed, volume and safety. Based on the data collected, recommendations may include improved enforcement and / or the introduction of traffic calming measures.*
- *The collection of data to determine parking patterns and demands. Data collected will help determine the appropriate number of off-site parking spaces and may lead to a reconfiguration of on-street parking.*
- *Determination through the Strathcona County Aquatic Strategy of the suitability of a spray deck at the Heritage Hills Park location.*

## 7.0 South Cooking Lake Park

South Cooking Lake Park is located in the rural hamlet of South Cooking Lake. The 35-year old park consists of two areas - a day use area adjacent to the lakeshore, and a small park space adjacent to the Community Hall. The day use area includes a picnic area, cook shack and vault toilet facilities, and the park space includes two playgrounds, horseshoe pits, basketball nets and picnic tables. Existing conditions are illustrated in Figure 14.

### 7.1 Key Planning Issues

Key planning issues for South Cooking Lake Park were identified through site reconnaissance and community input. From the Community Visioning Workshop held on June 16th, 2009, a number of issues, needs and opportunities were identified for consideration by the Project Team:

- *Better trail connections within and between the day use area and the community hall. Residents identified a specific concern with the roadway connecting the two park areas and the lack of separated, safe trail connection – particularly for children.*
- *Opportunities for non-motorized trails along the lakeshore which provide leisure and interpretive potential. Residents identified the opportunity to develop such trails as part of a regional network. This opportunity was also identified in the 1998 Trails Plan.*
- *Upgrading and refurbishing facilities (eg. the cookshack) to attract new use. Residents indicated a strong desire to work in partnership with the County to undertake simple enhancement projects to contribute to this objective.*
- *Increased range of all-season recreational opportunities in the park, for a broad range of users.*
- *Replacement of playgrounds within the park area.*
- *Development of a hard surface area for multiple uses, eg. basketball and tennis.*
- *An opportunity to expand the park area adjacent to the Community Hall through roadway closure.*
- *Incorporating gathering places and venues into the park to host community events, informal performances, etc.*
- *Additional parking adjacent to the Community Hall for recreational vehicles.*
- *Better maintenance by the County, and better response to neighbourhood concerns. Residents indicated a strong desire to work in partnership with*

*the County to undertake simple, routine maintenance to contribute to this objective.*

The complete results of the Community Visioning Workshop, including sketches and diagrams prepared by residents, is provided in the Appendix.

## 7.2 Revitalization Strategy

The revitalization strategy for South Cooking Lake Park responds to the key planning issues identified through resident input, County feedback and background information analysis. Key elements of the strategy include:

- *Trail development and redevelopment, including designated on-street routes, interpretive signage and seating nodes / outlooks;*
- *Roadway closure and park area expansion / improvement, including new shelters, park amenities, landscaping, etc.*
- *Additional parking for RVs;*
- *New playground;*
- *New multi-purpose pad;*
- *Repairs and upgrades to cook shack;*
- *Tree and shrub planting, entry signage and floral displays; and*
- *Operational improvements - develop snowbank rink for leisure skating.*

The revitalization strategy for South Cooking Lake Park is visualized and described in detail in Figures 15 and 16.

## 7.3 Next Steps

Implementation in general terms is discussed in Part 8.0; specific requirements related to South Cooking Lake Park include:

- *Monitoring of snowbank rink usage to determine the future suitability of a formal, boarded rink.*



E. Tennis court and playground.



F. Playground with spray deck in background.



G. Brentwood Elementary School.



H. Playing fields and school.



D. Boarded rink



C. Clubhouse and parking lot.



B. Typical interface between park and adjacent residential area.



A. Informal access at southwest corner of park.



I. East end of park with ball diamond and woodlot in background.



J. Low lying area at southwest corner of school.



K. Informal trail through woodlot.



L. Access point at southeast corner of park.

# Fig. 5 Brentwood Park - Existing Conditions



**D. PARKING**  
Expand the existing parking lot to increase parking capacity and minimize on-street conflicts. Introduce landscaping and stormwater management measures (as appropriate) and ensure adequate maintenance access and snow storage.



**E. TRAFFIC CALMING**  
In conjunction with the Engineering and Environmental Planning Department, explore traffic calming techniques such as bump-outs and median refuges to increase pedestrian safety.



**F. POTENTIAL TENNIS COURT EXPANSION**  
Based on a detailed review of user information, explore the construction of additional tennis courts.



**G. TRAIL SYSTEM**  
Establish both paved and unpaved trails within the park area. Paved trails should provide primary, year round access into and through the park; whereas natural, unpaved trails should provide secondary connections, as well as opportunities for nature observation and interpretation.



**H. SPRAY DECK**  
Construct a new spray deck, oriented to neighbourhood use.



**C. RELOCATED EXISTING BOARDED RINK**  
Realign existing boarded rink to be parallel with Falcon Drive for more efficient use of park space.



**B. ENHANCED SNOW-BANKED LEISURE SKATING RINK**  
Relocate snow-banked ice rink and enhance with landscaping to encourage leisure use. Utilize informal and curvilinear shapes to discourage hockey.



**A. IMPROVED SITE DRAINAGE**  
Improve drainage at problem locations within the site. At the Southeast corner of Brentwood School, coordinate site grading with the construction of a sculpted berm for tobogganing and informal gathering (K).



**I. MULTI-USE COMMUNITY PLAZA**  
Develop a hard surfaced community plaza to provide opportunities for community gatherings, and serve as a potential outdoor classroom for Brentwood School.



**J. ART GARDEN AND DISPLAY AREA**  
In conjunction with local artists and students, explore the development of an art garden with tables, benches and frames for the making and sharing of art.



**K. INFORMAL TOBOGGAN HILL / GATHERING AREA**  
In conjunction with improved site drainage (A), create a sloped area for year-round recreation and educational opportunities.

Fig. 6 Brentwood Park - Master Plan



RECOMMENDATIONS- IMMEDIATE NEEDS (1-5 yr)	RECOMMENDATIONS- EMERGING NEEDS (6-15yr)	ESTIMATED COSTS
<b>WALKABLE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM</b>		
• Establish paved trails which provide year-round accessibility into and through the park		\$ 110,000.00
• Ensure all park entrances are fully accessible while limiting vehicle traffic		\$ 7,000.00
	• Establish unpaved trails which provide informal connections and interpretive opportunities within natural areas	\$ 80,000.00
<b>COMMUNITY GATHERING PLACES REVITALIZATION PROGRAM</b>		
• Enhance leisure skating area		\$ 15,000.00
• Relocate existing boarded rink, lighting, to new location for increased functionality		\$ 175,000.00
• Site grading to address drainage issues / develop berm for year-round recreational opportunities; eg. informal gathering (summer) and tobogganing (winter)		\$ 40,000.00
	• New spray deck	\$ 308,000.00
	• Construct hard surface, multi-purpose plaza space for recreational use (eg. basketball) and impromptu community functions	\$ 150,000.00
	• Enhance playground and spray deck with site furnishings	\$ 7,000.00
	• Expand existing off-street parking lot	\$ 15,000.00
<b>STREETSCAPE REVITALIZATION PROGRAM</b>		
• In collaboration with the community, design and construct new park signage with floral displays		\$ 7,000.00
	• Develop an art garden and display area	\$ 26,000.00
	• Enhance overall park aesthetic with general tree planting	\$ 15,000.00
	<b>Estimated total</b>	<b>\$ 955,000.00</b>

Fig. 7 Brentwood Park - Capital Improvement Summary



E. Playing fields with boarded rink and playground in background.



F. Informal pathway through woodlot.



G. Park edge abutting Greenwood Village.



H. Playground and spray deck. Low berm and trees to right of playground limit visibility from other areas of the park.



D. Informal pathway through woodlot.



C. Typical interface between woodlot and adjacent properties.



B. Typical interface between park and adjacent residential area, with baseball diamond in background.



A. Park edge along Strathcona Drive. Existing trees limit sightlines into the park.



I. Spray deck with playground in background.



J. Informal seating area.



K. Tennis courts and clubhouse.



L. Parking area.

Fig. 8 Kinsmen / Westboro Park - Existing Conditions



**C / D. PLAYGROUND AND SPRAY DECK RELOCATION**

The playground and spray deck will be moved to the area west of the clubhouse near Strathcona Drive. This new location will provide 'eyes on the street' to give users a sense of security while enjoying the park experience. As needed, remove and / or relocate existing trees to maximize sightlines into the park area from the adjacent roadway.



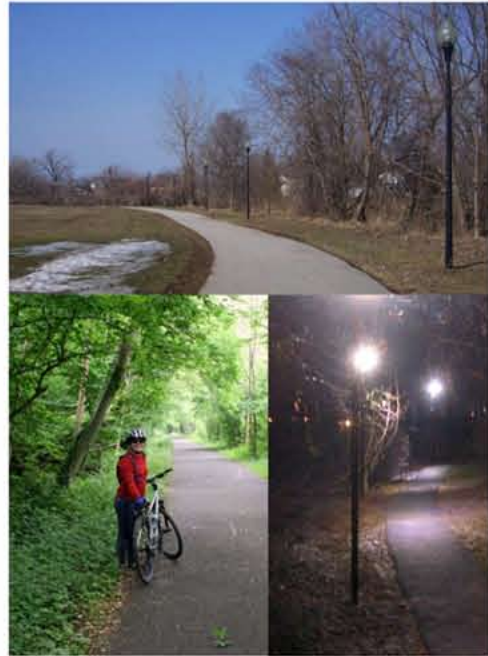
**E. SNOW-BANKED LEISURE SKATING RINK**

Establish a snow-banked ice rink south of the tennis courts and enhance with landscaping to encourage leisure use. Utilize informal and curvilinear shapes to discourage hockey.



**F. CLUBHOUSE AREA IMPROVEMENTS**

The clubhouse shows signs of aging and should be evaluated for upgrading and improvements. Introducing a hard surface area north of the clubhouse provides a flexible multi-use space for community functions and informal leisure play.



**B. TRAIL SYSTEM**

Establish paved trails into the park area, providing primary, year round access to park amenities. Based on future consultation with residents, there is an opportunity to extend the trail north to the Greenwood Village property. Existing pathways through the treed area should be maintained to provide informal connections and opportunities for interpretive study.



**A. SITE LIGHTING**

As identified in a previous safety assessment, there is an opportunity to introduce additional lighting to ensure night time usability address safety and security concerns.



**G. PARK ENTRANCES**

The entrances to the park will be relocated and aligned with street intersection crossings. Enhanced landscaping will be added to create visually pleasing entrances with appropriate signage. Additional signage may be added to document community background and history.



**H. INFORMAL TOBOGGAN HILL / GATHERING AREA**

Create a bermed area for year-round recreation and educational opportunities.



**I. TREE PLANTING**

Tree planting should be undertaken to enhance the overall aesthetic quality of the park, and to replace dead and/or dying trees. In certain areas of the park area, naturalization may be undertaken to reduce long term maintenance.



Fig. 9 Kinsmen / Westboro Park - Master Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS- IMMEDIATE NEEDS (1-5 yr)	RECOMMENDATIONS- EMERGING NEEDS (6-15yr)	ESTIMATED COSTS
<b>WALKABLE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish paved trails which provide year-round accessibility into and through the park and enhance natural surveillance.</li> </ul>		\$ 59,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all park entrances are fully accessible while limiting vehicular access.</li> </ul>		\$ 7,000.00
<b>COMMUNITY GATHERING PLACES REVITALIZATION PROGRAM</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install new lighting along trail</li> </ul>		\$ 60,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relocate existing playground and construct new spray deck at more visible location along Strathcona Drive and near the existing clubhouse. Enhance playground and spray deck with shade trees and site furnishings.</li> </ul>		\$ 440,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance leisure skating area</li> </ul>		\$ 15,000.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance playground and spray deck with site furnishings</li> </ul>	\$ 7,000.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct grassed berm for year-round recreational opportunities; eg. informal gathering (summer) and tobogganing (winter).</li> </ul>	\$ 5,000.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct hard surface, multi-purpose plaza space for recreational use (eg. basketball) and impromptu community functions. Locate near other amenities to maximize site activity.</li> </ul>	\$ 90,000.00
<b>STREETSCAPE REVITALIZATION PROGRAM</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In collaboration with the community, design and construct new signage with floral displays.</li> </ul>		\$ 7,000.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance overall park aesthetic with general tree planting</li> </ul>	\$ 15,000.00
	<b>Estimated total</b>	<b>\$ 705,000.00</b>

Fig. 10 Kinsmen / Westboro Park - Capital Improvement Summary



E. Western park entry and roadway crossing.



F. Main playing field area with boarded rink in background.



G. Informal open space east of boarded rink, typically used for football practice in fall and leisure skating in winter. Note baseball diamond and playground in background.



D. Boarded rink.



C. Large informal open space south of Heritage Drive.



B. Typical asphalt trail.



A. Typical gravel trail, illustrating maintenance concern. Note also interface with adjacent residential area.



H. Park access connection.



I. Playground.



J. Baseball diamond with shale infield.



K. Natural area south of Heritage Drive.

# Fig. 11 Heritage Hills Park - Existing Conditions



**D. MULTI-USE OPEN SPACES**  
 Areas north and south of Heritage Drive will be designated and enhanced to accommodate a range of leisure uses. Both open spaces will be designed to be flexible to accommodate a wide range of passive and active recreation opportunities without interference.



**E. IMPROVED SITE DRAINAGE**  
 Regrade and reroute drainage channels to minimize standing water that impedes the movement of trail users and other pedestrians.



**F. POTENTIAL SPRAY DECK**  
 Based on direction from the upcoming Strathcona County Aquatic Strategy, construct a new spray deck, oriented to neighbourhood use. Introduce benches, trash receptacles and shade trees to maximize the comfort and convenience of children and caregivers.



**G. COMMUNITY PLAZA AND SHELTER**  
 Construct a hard surfaced area and shelter for a range of community functions. The shelter should be designed for uses ranging from impromptu performances to skate changing.



**H. TRAIL SYSTEM**  
 Improve both paved and unpaved trails within the park area. Paved trails should provide primary, year round access into the park, particularly from the regional trail network. Natural, unpaved trails south of Heritage Drive should be retained and enhanced as needed provide secondary connections, as well as opportunities for nature observation and interpretation.



**C. SNOW-BANKED LEISURE SKATING RINK**  
 Establish a snow-banked ice rink east of the existing boarded rink, and enhance with landscaping to encourage leisure use. Utilize informal and curvilinear shapes to discourage hockey.



**B. ADDRESS TRAFFIC ON HERITAGE DRIVE**  
 In conjunction with the Engineering and Environmental Planning Department, explore traffic calming techniques such as bump-outs and median refuges to increase pedestrian safety.



**A. PARKING**  
 Introduce a small off-street parking area to serve park users and relieve parking demands on Heritage Drive. Introduce landscaping and stormwater management measures (as appropriate) and ensure adequate maintenance access and snow storage.



**I. PARK SIGNAGE**  
 Install new park signage at strategic locations to reinforce and define the park, and strength the sense of community.



**J. INFORMAL TOBOGGAN HILL / GATHERING AREA**  
 In conjunction with improved site drainage (E), create a sloped area for year-round recreation and educational opportunities.



**K. TREE PLANTING**  
 Tree planting should be undertaken to enhance the overall aesthetic quality of the park, and to replace dead and/or dying trees.

Fig. 12 Heritage Hills Park - Master Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS- IMMEDIATE NEEDS (1-5 yr)	RECOMMENDATIONS- EMERGING NEEDS (6-15yr)	ESTIMATED COSTS
<b>WALKABLE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM</b>		
• Site grading to address drainage issues along walkway		\$ 3,000.00
	• Paved trail realignment	\$ 25,000.00
	• Rehabilitate unpaved trails, introduce site furnishings and interpretive signage	\$ 60,000.00
<b>COMMUNITY GATHERING PLACES REVITALIZATION PROGRAM</b>		
• Site grading to address drainage issues / develop berm for year-round recreational opportunities; eg. informal gathering (summer) and tobogganing (winter)		\$ 40,000.00
• Enhance leisure skating area		\$ 15,000.00
• Construct hard surface, multi-purpose plaza space for recreational use (eg. basketball) and impromptu community functions		\$ 150,000.00
	• Construct an off-street parking lot for convenient access to park facilities.	\$ 60,000.00
	• Potential spray deck near existing playground area. Enhance playground and spray deck with shade trees and site furnishings.	\$ 338,000.00
	• Enhance playground and spray deck with site furnishings	\$ 7,000.00
<b>STREETSCAPE REVITALIZATION PROGRAM</b>		
• In collaboration with the community, design and construct new signage with floral displays.		\$ 7,000.00
	• Enhance overall park aesthetic with general tree planting	\$ 15,000.00
	<b>Estimated total</b>	<b>\$ 720,000.00</b>

Fig. 13 Heritage Hills Park - Capital Improvement Summary



E. Open space and playgrounds. Note Community Hall at far right.



F. Boat launch and lakeshore.



G. Informal trail along lakeshore.



D. 1st Avenue, providing access to the day use area. The road right of way offers limited potential for a safe off-street trail connection.



C. Multi-use play surface and treed picnic area adjacent to Community Hall.



B. Horseshoe pitches adjacent to Community Hall, illustrating lack of maintenance.



A. Existing playground



H. Day use parking area, with cookshack in background.



I. Cookshack and day use entry signage.



J. Typical gravel trail.



K. Amenity space along lakeshore.

Fig. 14 South Cooking Lake Park - Existing Conditions





**E. OPEN SPACE**  
Existing open spaces will be preserved and managed to encourage a range of community uses. There is an opportunity to expand the open space adjacent to the Community Hall through the closure of a local roadway (B)



**D. LOOKOUT PLATFORM**  
Construct a lookout platform with seating to provide a comfortable and attractive vantage point to view the lake. Introducing interpretive signage provides insight into the natural and cultural history of the area.



**C. MULTI-USE PLAY SURFACE**  
Construct a multi-use play surface to provide a wide range of active recreation opportunities for year-round use. Careful tree planting and buffering will be required to minimize land use conflicts with adjacent land owners.



**A. PLAYGROUNDS**  
In consultation with hamlet residents, construct new playgrounds which meet community needs and maximize play value. Benches, garbage receptacles and community notice boards should also be added for the comfort and convenience of children and caregivers.



**F. TRAIL SYSTEM**  
Establish a network of unmotORIZED, paved and unpaved off-street trails that provide safe and convenient access to community amenities, as well as leisure opportunities within the larger region. Trails should incorporate access control and amenities, such as benches and garbage receptacles, and incorporate signage that regulates use and enforces trail etiquette, facilitates wayfinding, and enriches the interpretive experience of users.



**G. ON-STREET TRAIL CONNECTIONS**  
Where the construction of off-street trails is not possible, designate on-street pedestrian zones to ensure safe passage for users.



**H. INFORMAL LEISURE SKATING RINK**  
Establish a snow-banked ice rink east of the cookshack for both leisure skating and hockey. Based on community use, in the future this facility may be upgraded to a boarded structure.



**I. ADDITIONAL PARKING**  
Additional parking is required adjacent to the Community Hall to accommodate recreational vehicles staying for community events and hall rentals.



**J. SHELTER**  
Construct shelters for a range of community uses, including informal gathering, picnics, as well as a stage for performances or meetings.



**K. COMMUNITY PLAZA**  
Introduce a community plaza to provide opportunities for both programmed and impromptu community gatherings to reinforce the community spirit of South Cooking Lake.



**L. ENHANCE EXISTING COOK SHACK**  
The existing cook shack is in poor condition, and as a result is rarely used. There is an opportunity to engage the community in the clean up of this facility.



**M. TREE PLANTING**  
In partnership with hamlet residents, undertake tree planting to enhance existing open spaces and buffer potential land use incompatibilities.



**N. PARK ENTRANCES AND FLORAL DISPLAYS**  
In partnership with hamlet residents, design and construct new park entry signs with attractive yet low maintenance shrub and flower beds. This partnership builds community pride and a sense of ownership in the park and its open spaces.

Fig. 15 South Cooking Lake Park - Master Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS- IMMEDIATE NEEDS (1-5 yr)	RECOMMENDATIONS- EMERGING NEEDS (6-15yr)	ESTIMATED COSTS
<b>WALKABLE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish paved off-street trails which provide year-round accessibility into and through park areas.</li> </ul>		\$ 85,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within road rights-of-way, designate safe zones for active transportation movement.</li> </ul>		\$ 21,000.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish unpaved off-street trails for walkers, cyclists and skiers along the lakeshore as part of a future regional network, ensure trails are appropriately signed and incorporate access control measures to limit OHV use</li> </ul>	\$ 143,000.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce lookout area to enhance users' experience</li> </ul>	\$ 7,000.00
<b>COMMUNITY GATHERING PLACES REVITALIZATION PROGRAM</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace playgrounds</li> </ul>		\$ 265,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand parking area for RVs adjacent to Community Hall</li> </ul>		\$ 60,000.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance park area with site furnishings.</li> </ul>	\$ 15,000.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct picnic shelters/gazebos for community gatherings, performances, etc.</li> </ul>	\$ 88,000.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repairs and improvements to cook shack</li> </ul>	\$ 15,000.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct community plaza</li> </ul>	\$ 48,000.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct multi-use play surface.</li> </ul>	\$ 72,000.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close roadway and expand open space adjacent to community hall.</li> </ul>	\$ 20,000.00
<b>STREETSCAPE REVITALIZATION PROGRAM</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In collaboration with the community, design and construct new signage with floral displays.</li> </ul>		\$ 7,000.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake tree planting to enhance open spaces and buffer land use incompatibilities.</li> </ul>	\$ 10,000.00
	<b>Estimated total</b>	<b>\$ 856,000.00</b>

Fig. 16 South Cooking Lake Park - Capital Improvement Summary

## 8.0 Implementation

With the master planning process complete, the next steps in the revitalization of the four parks would typically focus on the detailed design process.

### 8.1 Detailed Design

The detailed design phase defines a specific scope of work in order to advance towards construction, and would typically involve:

- *Engagement of design and engineering services, and acquisition of topographic, survey and servicing data, etc.*
- *Refinement of work scope, based on additional community and stakeholder consultation, user surveys, etc., as required. The County's upcoming Sportsfield and Aquatic Strategies, and updated Trail Master Plan, will also provide key direction on more detailed project scopes.*
- *Close collaboration with maintenance staff and a review of existing standards as policies as appropriate.*
- *Formal agreements as required with open space partners; eg. Elk Island Public Schools.*
- *Coordination with other departments / initiatives; eg. traffic calming initiatives (as appropriate)*
- *In conjunction with trained County staff (eg. RCMP), the development and delivery of community-based safety audits to identify specific safety issues and possible solutions.*
- *Identification of specific public art processes.*

### 8.2 Funding

It is expected that the redevelopment of the four parks will primarily be funded by Strathcona County. Other funding sources may include:

- *Capital grant programs funded by the Alberta Lottery Fund through Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture; such as the Community Facility Enhancement Program, the Major Community Facilities Program, and the Community Initiative Program.*
- *Grant programs accessible by partners such as the Rams and Northstar Football clubs. These opportunities include the Development Initiative Program coordinated by the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation.*
- *Corporate sponsorship opportunities, logically tied to individual and well*

*defined revitalization initiatives.*

Current programs such as Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Bench should also be used to contribute to ongoing park redevelopment.

### 8.3 Other Steps

While the objective of this master planning exercise has primarily focused on the identification of capital improvements, the Community Visioning Workshops identified a strong feeling by residents for improved park maintenance, better communication with the County, and in the case of South Cooking Lake, a desire to work directly with the County to undertake improvements, both small and large.

In terms of maintenance, it is important that the County allocate operating dollars on a yearly basis to ensure that the amenities identified in this strategy are maintained to County standards. The order of magnitude costs provided in Sections 4.0 - 7.0 provide some guidance on the determination of these costs, but ultimately, County maintenance staff should be thoroughly consulted with to determine a reasonable allocation of funds.

In terms of communication, strategies can include the development of appropriate programs and media campaigns, as well as the introduction of modest signage with municipal contact information (eg. 3-1-1).

Finally, there is an opportunity to strengthen and expand existing 'Adopt-a' programs in order to engage residents more directly in the ongoing maintenance, management and improvement of open spaces.

# Sources

1. Strathcona County 2008 Municipal Census Report
2. Strathcona County Open Space and Recreation Facilities Strategy – Strathcona County, AB June 2008
3. Strathcona County Sustainable Framework – Strathcona County, AB, June 2009
4. Urban Parks Master Plan Leisure and Recreation Trends Analysis - City of Edmonton October 2002
5. Strategic Plan for the Parks and recreation Sector in BC – 2006 BC Recreation and Parks Association
6. The changing recreational spending patterns of Canadian families – Frances Kemerik, Statistics Canada, Canada Social Trends, spring 2002
7. A family affair: Children's participation in sports – Statistics Canada, Canada Social Trends, Autumn 2000
8. Who participates in active leisure? – Statistics Canada, February, 2009
9. Kids' sports – by Warren Clark, Statistics Canada, Canada Social Trends, June, 2008



# Sources

1. Strathcona County 2008 Municipal Census Report
2. Strathcona County Open Space and Recreation Facilities Strategy – Strathcona County, AB June 2008
3. Strathcona County Sustainable Framework – Strathcona County, AB, June 2009
4. Urban Parks Master Plan Leisure and Recreation Trends Analysis - City of Edmonton October 2002
5. Strategic Plan for the Parks and recreation Sector in BC – 2006 BC Recreation and Parks Association
6. The changing recreational spending patterns of Canadian families – Frances Kemerik, Statistics Canada, Canada Social Trends, spring 2002
7. A family affair: Children's participation in sports – Statistics Canada, Canada Social Trends, Autumn 2000
8. Who participates in active leisure? – Statistics Canada, February, 2009
9. Kids' sports – by Warren Clark, Statistics Canada, Canada Social Trends, June, 2008



# Appendices

- A Strathcona County Open Space Standards
- B Brentwood Park Community Visioning Workshop Results
- C Kinsmen / Westboro Park Community Visioning Workshop Results
- D Heritage Hills Park Community Visioning Workshop Results
- E South Cooking Lake Park Community Visioning Workshop Results
- F Fall 2009 Open House Results - Urban Parks
- G Fall 2009 Open House Results - South Cooking Lake Park



# Appendix A Strathcona County Open Space Standards

Appropriate Development Activities	Neighbourhood Parks	Community Parks	District Parks	Linear Parks	Constructed SWMF	PUL
Sizes	Minimum 0.8 ha	Minimum 4 ha	Minimum 8 ha			
Grade/Loam	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Seed/Sod	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shrubs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
T-Bollards	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Benches	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Garbage Receptacles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bike Rack	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Picnic Tables	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Bleachers	No	If suited	If suited	No	No	No
Backstop, Sideline or Outfield Fence Chain link	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Trails/ Walkways	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trail Signs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Play Equipment & Age Signs	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Thin Ice Signs/No Swimming	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Park Name Sign	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
SWMF sign/Educational signage	If suited	If suited	If suited	No	Yes	If suited
Basketball/Sand Volleyball	No	If suited	If suited	No	No	No
Shale Ball Field	No	If suited	If suited	No	No	No
Soccer/Football Fields	No	If suited	If suited	No	No	No
Ice Rinks	No	If suited	If suited	No	No	No
Parking	If suited	Yes	Yes	No	No	No







## **Brentwood Park Community Visioning Workshop**

**Brentwood Elementary School  
28 Heron Road; Sherwood Park AB  
Thursday, September 24, 2009 @ 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

---

### **General Observations**

- About 25 residents attended the visioning workshop, including Councilor Linda Osinchuck, who attend the first half of the meeting
- Attendants generally fall into two categories: those that are older long time residents without active children, and those more recent residents with school age children
- Some residents want minimal additional facilities, and others want to provide more leisure recreation opportunities for the younger residents and adjacent school kids

### **General Comments and Concerns**

- There are both good and bad aspects of the park
- Concern about the next generations
- Cost associated with park facility improvements
- Strathcona County's use of tax dollars
- Server off part of park to lot off property to generate revenue for park
- The woodlots are important part of the park
- Community's vision of the park mixed
  - Is it a park with recreation facilities or it is an open green space
  - Appropriate use of park is important for the community
  - All the park needs is a fine 'tune up'
  - Breathing room with not too much activities
  - Activity area for kids to play (residents and school)
  - Lots of parks around within short distance
- General problems with park
  - Speeding-Traffic calming would be desirable
  - Not enough parking, in particular near the skating rink
  - Expand the parking lots or provide angled parking along selective area of the street



- Drainage-water ponds near the school
- Drainage-water overflows up to the sidewalk and across Falcon near the skating area
- Needs better drainage strategies
- Role of organized sports in the park (Northstars Football Club Arrangements)
- The park seems to be well used
- Desire for "one stop shopping" for all sport facilities in park
- Skating rink is well used
- The skating area outside the rink is too small
- Additional rink and larger oval for 'no stick' skating
- More winter activities-tobogganing
- No more 'wall to wall' kids in the neighbourhood
- More tennis courts-especially for the school kids/long line ups
- Approximate 400 kids in the school
- Kids from other neighbourhood come here to play as well
- Spay deck is good-consideration for expansion to a spay park
- Problem with spay deck operation-who turns it on
- Automated spray system within the operating hours to save water
- Trail system-connect one side of the park to the other side
- Trail system-take advantage of the wood stands
- Clean up/trim bushes in woodlot
- Provide picnic areas-tables and chairs, possibly bbq but fire problem
- Existing foot path in wood stands-possibly upgrading with shale trails
- Incorporate bollard lighting and other surveillance device for safety but don't light up the entire park
- Provide opportunity for block party and other similar 'block events'
- More activities near school
- Needs for teens-skate board pad, bike paths
- Art display area
- Graffiti wall for kids to do their arts
- Statues to be staged near street-Falcon, Lark etc.
- Rail needs fixing near school
- Incorporate security and vandalism considerations in park design
- Vandalism problem is minimal-kids hanging out in woods, climbing up roofs, damaging fences near park entrances

### **The Hands on break-out Session**

Four groups were assembled: the Old Folks, the Artists, the Brazens, and the Falcon Flyers. Each group prepared a diagram of their priorities for reinvesting in and revitalizing the park (see attached sketches)

The members within each group have general similarities (age, family etc.)



## **The Exit Survey**

Very few comments were noted on the exit surveys, they are listed as follow:

- Public washroom
- Parking
- More ice skate park
- Hill
- Art displays
- Spray Deck-water park
- Drainage
- Walk/Run Path



**BRENTWOOD PARK**  
VISIONING WORKSHOP

**Falcon Flyers**

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009



**BRENTWOOD PARK**  
VISIONING WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009





**BRENTWOOD PARK**  
VISIONING WORKSHOP

*Parks should not try to be all things.  
Each park should have a focus such as a spray park,  
water slide pond, amphitheater, etc.*

*NO EXHAUST LIGHTS*  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009



**BRENTWOOD PARK**  
VISIONING WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009





## **Kinsmen / Westboro Park Community Visioning Workshop**

**St. Theresa Catholic School Library  
1000 Strathcona Drive; Sherwood Park AB  
Wednesday, September 30, 2009 @ 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

---

### **General Observations**

- About 18 residents attended the visioning workshop; including Ward Councilor Vic Bidzinski, who attended the first half of the workshop.
- Most attendants appeared to be long time residents that live close to the park with serious concerns about security, safety and maintenance.
- Operation and maintenance issues of the park steered the planned workshop format and agenda away from the charrette to more discussion and input from the audiences.

### **General Comments and Concerns**

- Residents in the area love the park
- Concerns about the spray deck
  - Maintenance – sand and glass got mixed in on the deck
  - Volunteer frustration in taking care of the spray deck - too many restrictions on what the volunteer should or should not do
  - Operating hours of the park – the park should be automated for convenience and water conservation
  - The spray deck is well used and old, upgrading is appropriate
  - Spray deck location is somewhat hidden from direct sightline and is prone to vandalism and graffiti
  - Existing water holding tank to collect spray deck run-offs, water should be used for irrigation
- Security and safety concerns
  - Vandalism – graffiti, drinking, drugs, stealing and fire hazard
  - The woodlot is a great asset but it also created security problem – trim understorey to create better sightlines, but keep the trees the way they are
  - Strongly consider the use of surveillance cameras to discourage vandalism and criminal activities



- Surveillance camera should be located close to the north side of the ice rink to cover the 'active' area of the park, including the ball field
- If wanted, the surveillance can be connected to the internet
- The camera can be used to identify and prosecute the perpetrator
- Better lighting should be installed to help combat vandalism and criminal activities
- Patrol of the park by RCMP stopped
- Complaints to the authorities yield little action and result
- Woodlot separation from houses required for fire safety
- Minors curfew was introduced a few years back, but with questionable result
- General comments about the park
  - Garbage in the park is a problem
  - Most garbage generated by the kids from adjacent school kids
  - The school kids should be responsible for picking up the garbage
  - Complaints were made to the school, but the school authorities did not do anything (outside of school, not their control)
  - Garbage clean-up days should be organized and all users should participate (School kids, football club and adjacent residents)
  - Rams football club waters and pays for the maintenance of the football field
  - Rams get along with the community, invitations were given out to residents for bbq
  - The Rams' clubhouse' should be open up for public use, may benefit from separate entrances for the public
  - Washroom/change room facilities are desirable but security and vandalism could be problematic – cleaning, maintenance, users smashing mirrors etc.
  - Surveillance camera would help to solve vandalism
  - Art works/murals and similar program may help graffiti/vandalism issues
  - Graffiti wall
  - Weeds-thistle, purple loose strife not cleaned up by the County
  - Residents recall there was a 20' mowing strip between woods and fence, (currently, mow strip is 6' for mower to run through)
  - Accessibility – poor accessibility, park entrances or uneven, muddy when wet, and poor connection to the rest of the park
- Other desired park improvements
  - Lots of hockey players using the rink
  - Ice rink could be paved for activities such as: roller hockey, roller blade, skateboard, and scooter
  - No parking issue
  - Provide seating/change facilities
  - Area between tennis courts and parking lot could be paved to make surfaces for basketball, ball hockey etc.
  - Better lighting near the hockey rink/tennis courts
  - Playground is in good shape (CSA Standards inspected)

Near more seating/bench areas and options for parents, shade covered by trees or structure would be nice, current benches orientation is not good in the summer

Install low fence on the back side of the playground to make the smaller kids feel safer, a perception of being protected

- Should consider expanding parking lot
- Consider lawn bowling play area (high maintenance, should organize a club and be responsible for upkeep)
- Consider parking at the north end of the park (outside park property)
- Install horse shoe pit (inexpensive, bring your own horse shoe)
- Example in Vernon, park with nice landscaping and vegetables for visitors to take
- Add trails (use existing path in woodlot and entry from the rental complex)
- Gazebo or shade structure would be nice and add character to the park  
Concern with vandalism and graffiti (but it could be locked up/use with permit)  
Good alternative with movable soft shade tents)
- Signage
  - Park signs- better identification; add sense of ownership to the community
  - Incorporate history and unique attributes of the neighbourhood close proximity to heritage mile)
  - Interpretive signs along walking trails
  - Sign for dog walking (on-leash sign, with bags dispenser for dog poop)
  - Signs with contact information from county for maintenance and other issues
- Tree planting – to replace older and dying trees in advance, add colours to the park, more attractive (SC tree arborist to inspect existing woodlot conditions and SC to look into the current County tree planting program)
- Adopt a park program, add planting to the back of property in the park
- During site visit, residents at the north east corner adjacent to the open meadow area voiced the displeasure about the open storage/maintenance yard and would like to see the area with tree planting for screening the area

### **The Hands-on break-out Session**

The originally scheduled hands-on sketching exercise was not conducted because the facilitators felt that more can be learned by prompting more questions and listening to the participants.

### **The Exit Survey**

The comments noted on the exit survey are very similar to the issues raised during the workshop. The comments on the exit survey are:

- Surveillance to stop graffiti, drinking, drugs, fires, etc.





- Upgrade maintenance for fire safety, e.g. clearing fire break
- More evergreen trees to replace dead deciduous ones
- Improved security to increase safety
- Improved lighting (especially near small ice rink)
- Public washroom
- Replacement of trees along Strathcona Drive
- Enclosure around playground area to make it more user friendly with seats and more space
- Better use of the skating rink to make it user friendly in summer
- Paved trails
- Make the park more aesthetically pleasing
- Identify the park's history
- We have a beautiful park as it is
- Keep the trees natural-keep it all natural-trees +rough grass as it is
- Take away the dead trees and let the young ones grow
- Make path for older people to walk and may be add one or two benches to sit
- Leave it natural-a chain link fence on two sides(north and east) of the play area allowing for parents to set blankets
- Gazebo not needed
- More garbage cans
- Maybe cubs/scouts could be encouraged to clean parks for projects
- RCMP should come if drinking, drugs or noise reported
- Maybe check with patrol car a few times a night in summer
- The people we have mowing the park did a good job






- road signs reading "school zone" in playground, closed
- playground equipment to be replaced with great variety
- sport/club seats will cost when it has been turned on.
- sign identifying center name & phone # for all maintenance issues

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009  EIDOS



SEPTEMBER 30, 2009  EIDOS



SEPTEMBER 31, 2009  FIDOS





## Heritage Hills Park Community Visioning Workshop

Strathcona County Hall, Room L3  
2001 Sherwood Drive; Sherwood Park AB  
Monday, October 5, 2009 @ 7:00 – 9:00 PM

---

### General Observations

- The meeting started later than the scheduled time in anticipation of more attendants. 12 residents showed up at the time the workshop started; about 17 residents participated by the time it was about half an hour into the discussion. Mayor Cathy Olesen was in attendance; she raised and answered some of the issues about the park and its surrounding neighbourhood.
- The attendants seem to be well represented with a wide range of age groups, and the issues raised are also more general with less age group specific concerns.
- Traffic/pedestrian safety and parking congestions were the major concerns. Residents enjoy the use of the park in general in spite of the issues raised.

### General Comments and Concerns

- Residents generally think that the park is a good asset to the community and enjoy using it or just watching other people using it
- Traffic and pedestrian cross walks conflicts
  - Traffic on Heritage Drive too fast. It is a collector road with fairly wide cross section
  - Heritage Trail crosses Heritage Drive at a high point creating blind spots for motorists and pedestrians
  - West bound traffic towards Clover Bar Road seems to be faster, lots of park users (soccer players) are from other outside neighbourhoods, and they may be actually slower because they are not sure of the park location
  - Cars park too close to pedestrian crossings
  - Better pedestrian warning/information signage is required
  - Radar monitoring was enforced years back, and should consider to bring them back
  - Consider traffic calming-use of flower pots, narrowed crossing point, flashing signals, signage or other markings
- Parking and traffic congestions at recreation peak summer hours



- Soccer players seem to generate most of the parking problems; especially during teams change and summer hours
- Some residents would avoid the traffic and by-pass the park at summer peak hours (5-6 weeks of the year) and use alternative driving routes
- Consider expanding parking capacity with angled parking
- Install signage to restrict parking too close to pedestrian crossings
- Comments and other improvements about the park
  - Portion of the south side of the park is reserved for school; however, it is not a prime choice for the School Board.
  - If the school was to be built, rezoning is not required, but there will be a public planning process
  - The playground was replaced recently and is in very good condition, but a wider age group equipments should be installed for older kids
  - Most garbage generated by ball field users
  - The soccer fields are well used, irrigated field will put it to a facility classification that requires lighting and other upgrades
  - Better soccer fields will also attract more users and add to the parking and garbage problems
  - There are drainage problems in areas of the park; one wet spot in spring time is an area along the Heritage Trail just north of Heritage Drive, the other area with drainage problem is on the northern portion of the park near the back of the properties along the east side of the park
  - This park is considered a neighbourhood park, and the amount and level of facilities should be kept to the appropriate standards and should be kept at community scale
  - Washroom facility would be a good addition to provide convenience-potable washrooms are brought in during heavy use/tournament time
  - Lots of hockey players using the rink
  - Family ice time and learn to skate hours are required
  - Snow-banked ice rink could be bigger for more interesting experience, but also attracts 'stick' skater
  - Consider designing ice rink with irregular and other shapes that discourages hockey play
  - Considered paving the skating rink for summer uses such as basket ball, roller skating, ball hockey, and skate boarding etc
  - Provide better seating/changing facilities
  - Facilities, such as volley ball courts, tennis courts and spray deck are also desirable to enhanced to park for a wider range of users
  - SC is undertaking an Aquatic Facilities Strategy study, the spray park and spray deck needs will be addressed with that document
  - Tracks for cross country skiing and other winter uses
  - There is a small hill, but cannot be use for tobogganing
  - Better lighting near the hockey rink and play fields
  - The park is generally safe

- Noise problem is minimal, may be the benches can be relocated to areas away from residents
- Teens/youths hang out and create noise at late nights (2-5 A.M.)
- Tree/screen planting may also be used for noise buffering
- Vandalism is not a major problem, but there were incidents of teens setting fires
- The noise and vandalism problems come and go in waves, a few years with the problems and a few years without any incidents at all
- The trail system on the north side of the park needs upgrading
- The trail has a dead end and 'pinch points' that impede the user to enjoy the trail experience
- Consider using paved materials for the main path and other 'loose' materials for the secondary paths
- Weed is a problem in spring time, lack of weed control make the park and the trail not very attractive looking, and discourage property owners to control their own weed problem, as the weed from the park will spread throughout the neighbourhood
- There should be more garbage cans distributing all over the park
- Previously (now defunct), the Heritage Hills Community League had proposed and tried to obtain funding for park improvement projects, but with no results
- The Community League has built the ice rink and the change facilities that is still in use right now
- The latest attempt to acquire improvement funding by the Community League was in 1998, through the Lottery Board, but with no success
- A copy of their previous proposal sketch for park improvement was obtained by the consulting team for revaluation
- Some of the trees are under stress due to the recent dry weather
- There are damaged trees and dead trees are they are not replaced
- Since the County invested in tree planting in the community, a tree watering program should be established to ensure the trees' survival
- The County pays for lighting and water usage of the park
- There should be facilities to encourage community involvements-community events such as garage sale and block parties
- Demographics of the community-steady with more young family moving in

### **The Hands-on break-out Session**

Three groups were assembled to brainstorm for ideas to improve the park. Lots of ideas and discussions were exchanged during the session. The final results were presented and all schemes. The main concerns are very similar if not the same as stated earlier in this document. Participants are in agreement with the issues addressed and happy to be involved in this workshop.

## **The Exit Survey**

The exit surveys mentioned no comments regarding the park improvement, but showed the appreciation of community input for the workshop.





**HERITAGE HILLS PARK**  
VISIONING WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 5, 2009



**HERITAGE HILLS PARK**  
VISIONING WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 5, 2009







## South Cooking Lake Park Community Visioning Workshop

South Cooking Lake Hall,  
South Cooking Lake; Strathcona County, AB  
Tuesday, June 16, 2009 @ 7:00 – 9:00 PM

---

### General Observations

- Approximately 35 residents attended the meeting.
- Major concerns involved vandalism and misuse of the day use area.
- There was a consensus that the County was not responding to the needs of the residents, and there was support for residents becoming directly involved in park revitalization if support from the County was provided.

### General Comments and Concerns

- Poor maintenance and upkeep. There are people who use the day use area overnight and leave garbage
- People have stopped coming to the day use area due to the lack of upkeep
- Residents feel they are stuck with cleanup
- County is responsible for grass cutting and litter collection.
- Residents often cleanup after parties
- Community would like
  - Multi-purpose pad
  - Basketball
  - Skating rink
  - Skateboard park
  - Tennis courts
  - Badminton
  - Soccer area
- Fire Hall site – has potential for uses such as skate park, athletic fields or seniors lodge
- Presently, park and hall are popular for weddings
- Existing facility upgrades needed-
  - New coat of paint on facilities
  - Stove for cook shelter



- Playground – upgraded equipment, splash park, replace sand with recycled rubber
- Day use area – ability to host community / church / family groups and picnics, walking trails.
- Day use area upgrades-
  - Shelter – better stove, awning, improvements to shelter
  - Gazebo
  - More tables and benches
  - Skating rink
  - Accommodate community barbeques and events
  - Shoreline – trail, seating areas
  - General upkeep (coat of paint), beautification (flowers)
- Lion's Park upgrades-
  - Playground upgrades
  - Facilities for older kids
  - Pathways
- Residents are prepared to get involved with improvements if partnership struck with County.
- Lake / Water level-
  - Acknowledged as cyclical
  - An issue
  - There is a sand beach and island – assets
  - People are often shooting off guns at lakeshore
  - Encroachments an issue – realtors often tell people they have access right to shoreline.
- Boat launch-
  - Generates considerable traffic – a concern
  - Lack of public knowledge about the boat launch
  - Take out boat launch / barricade launch
  - Remove sign on highway
  - Reinforce no overnight camping – remove existing sign
- Off Highway Vehicles
  - Well used in rural area
  - Need to be trailered though community to staging area at boat launch
  - ATVs – affecting bird eggs
  - Designated trails an option?
  - Snowmobiles – use on lake common
  - Access control needed
- Winter use
  - Winter use is significant
  - Present activities include snowmobiling.
  - Other ideas include ice golf, cross country skiing, ice fishing, ice races, warming shelter

- Historical recognition
  - History includes 1910 cottages, pier, lumber dock, airplanes and float planes (Wop May)
  - 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary book at Sherwood Park museum
  - Opportunity for heritage walkway with signage
- Other recreational activity ideas
  - Beach volleyball
  - Outdoor pool
  - Grass area for soccer
  - Need recreation opportunities for adults
  - Picnic tables are well used – good
  - Horseshoe pits are well used – good
  - Play equipment needs to be upgraded
- Organizations to assist
  - SCL Community League
  - Lions Club
  - Community members
  - Neighbourhood watch? Patrols?
  - I.O.D.E.
- Better signage needed
  - No fishing
  - No boat launch
  - No overnight camping
  - Historical signs / history book
  - No driving or parking in park
- What's working / needs help
  - Hall – well used (weddings, anniversaries, funerals, seniors events)
  - Park – with improvements / upgrading / clean up
  - Playground – severe upgrade needed
  - Cook shack – needs upgrade and cleanup

### **The Hands-on break-out Session**

Four groups were assembled to brainstorm for ideas to improve the park, as well as general ideas for hamlet at large. Each group presented their ideas to the larger group.

### **The Exit Survey**

- Make the area more appealing, as well as, safe.
- Upgrade and maintain new and existing areas.
- Most ideas were great some seemed to be more focused on that individuals needs, but not necessarily for the good of the community.

- We have moved here from Sherwood Park because of the nature feel and sense of community. Lets keep it that way!
- More access from lake to businesses.
- Seniors assisted living, provincially owned or owned by the municipality.
- Walking and horseback riding trails along lake.
- Beautification of beach – removal of small shrubs and weeds.
- Upgrade toilets and cook shack.
- Addition of gazebo / bandstand.
- Improve signage.
- Respect historically significant items, sites, locations.
- Upgrades to existing facilities
- Improve sanitation day use
- Walking trails
- New facilities for teens, adults
- Larger projects eg splash park etc.
- The community as a whole needs to be updated.
- A park area(s) for all age groups would be ideal.
- Clean up the park.
- Upgrade the playground.
- Re-do to cook shack and stove.
- One item that was missed was a water supply (drinking water) in the day use area.



**SOUTH COOKING LAKE PARK**  
VISIONING WORKSHOP

JUNE 16, 2009 EIDOS



**SOUTH COOKING LAKE PARK**  
VISIONING WORKSHOP

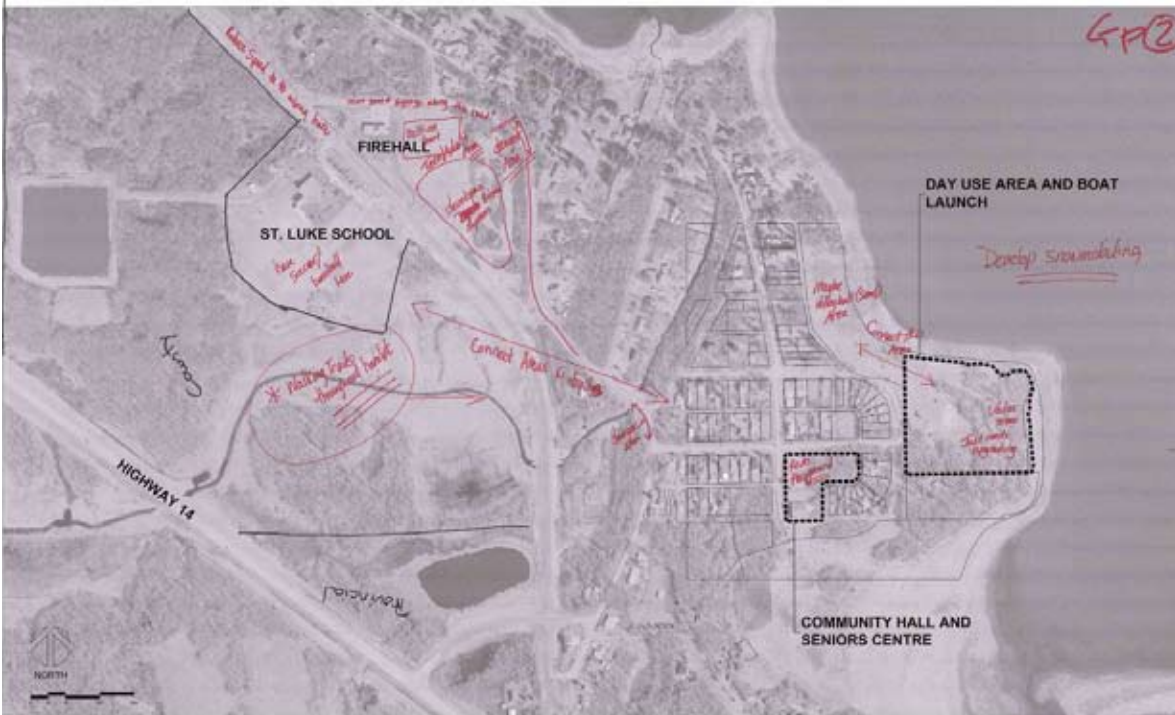
JUNE 16, 2009 EIDOS



**SOUTH COOKING LAKE PARK**

VISIONING WORKSHOP

JUNE 18, 2008



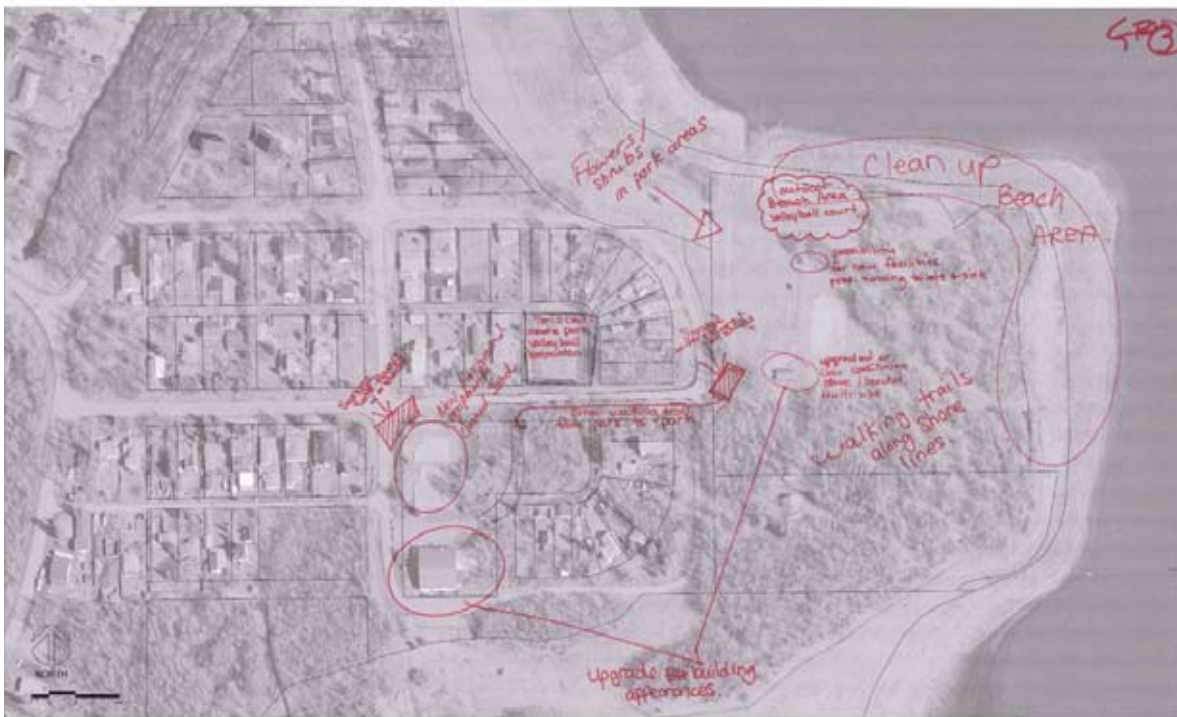
**SOUTH COOKING LAKE PARK**

VISIONING WORKSHOP

JUNE 18, 2008

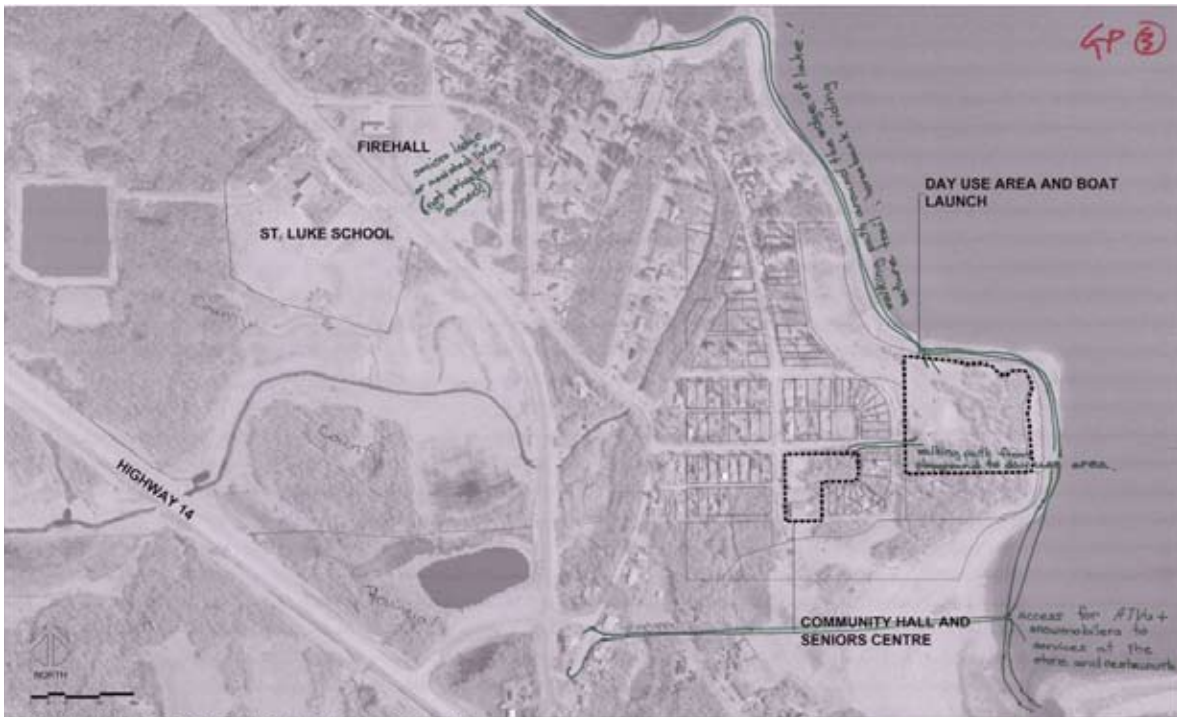


**Strathcona**  
County



**SOUTH COOKING LAKE PARK**  
VISIONING WORKSHOP

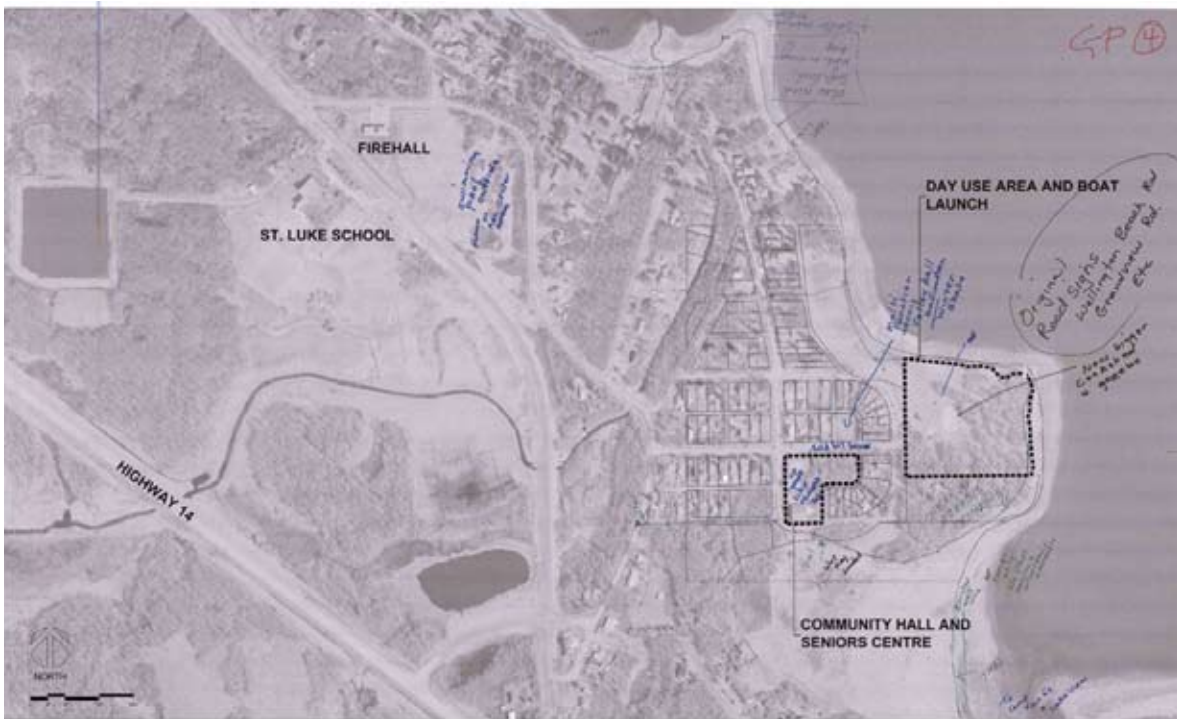
JUNE 16, 2009



**SOUTH COOKING LAKE PARK**  
VISIONING WORKSHOP

JUNE 16, 2009





**SOUTH COOKING LAKE PARK**  
VISIONING WORKSHOP

JUNE 18, 2009







**Brentwood Park  
Heritage Hills Park  
Kinsmen / Westboro Park  
Master Plan Open House Summary**

Strathcona County Hall, Conference Room #1  
2001 Sherwood Drive; Sherwood Park, AB  
Wednesday, November 18, 2009 @ 6:30 – 8:30 PM

---

**General Observations**

- Approximately 30 residents attended the open house.
- Generally residents were pleased and felt that their concerns/input were reflected on the plans.
- Of the three parks being studied, Westboro/Kinsmen Park received the most amounts of comments and concerns.

**Written Comments and Concerns**

**Brentwood Park**

- Reverse B and C to put the rink further from the school and casual skating near the school
- Parking D only used as an overflow from Falcon Drive. Falcon only 1 lane with parking on both sides. Do not restrict parking to one side. Put angled parking from 'E' to 'H' on the east side of the road and allow for two-direction traffic as well.
- Traffic calming not really necessary. Only traffic is drop-off and pick-up for school (essential as number of students come from Nottingham), otherwise it is destination traffic for organized sports at the rink and playfield.
- The problem is passage on the one lane when events are in progress (Falcon Drive)
- Washrooms. Why not some 'Tectonic'? concrete washroom for rink and tennis courts and spray deck
- Tennis courts are a good strategy as an expanding sport across Canada
- 'G' Generally, trails should be lit in some way and wider to improve security
- Washrooms – would still like to see them on the plan



- The rink and skating area should be switched – so the school does not lose too much play area and it (boarded) gives a boundary for students
- The parking area – angle parking on Falcon is very important, the staff parking lot is underutilized currently, probably no need to expand it
- There is little concern for traffic calming but larger concern for parking, particularly on Falcon
- Leave the existing playfields as is i.e. both diamonds, plus football, soccer pitch. The top (furthest from school) diamond has the best drainage.
- Can you move skating rink without big expense of relocating rink shack?
- I am skeptical about use of a community plaza – sounds good but will not be used
- The pathways should include some upgrade nearer school parking lot to reflect natural foot traffic. Probably a reason existing paths are there – ‘use’
- Top three ‘priorities’ – 1. Spray deck, 2. Parking on Falcon Drive, 3. Path upgrading through forest on Heron/ Alder side

#### Heritage Hills Park

- Very pleased to see that our comments were heard. We think that you are doing a good job. Thank you for listening
- Like the narrowing of Heritage Drive for crosswalk(s)
- May be add one more crosswalk near proposed parking
- Parking on Heritage Drive should be confined to the park area on north side
- Would really like to see elm trees on boulevards saved – relocated within park – act fast – they are getting big!
- Like new tree plantings near/next to soccer fields
- Soccer is grossly over-programmed/scheduled in this park. Fields were shredded by fall. Limit scheduling to every other day, four times per week?
- Plant trees by children’s playground for shade (south facing)
- Basketball court is missing – basketball nets could be put up on each end of skating rink for outdoor summer use
- Spray park is great
- Parking is great but we don’t want to lose the trees & parking should not be in residential
- Skating rinks are great & will be used a lot

#### Kinsmen / Westboro Park

- Like all the features
- Would also like trees planted (evergreens) to replace deciduous, ones that have recently become deceased and have been removed
- Angled parking along Strathcona drive possible?
- Re: Dead space north of tennis courts – could rink be moved further north to allow for bigger playground and spray deck?



- Priority for me – spray deck – please put on timer so it can be used more during the day and open on weekends as well, and please put rubber flooring for spray deck and playground
- I really like making playground and spray deck closer to road for safety

## **Other verbal Comments and Concerns**

### **Brentwood Park**

- Expanding existing parking area in front of the school would not be as useful as adding angled parking on Falcon in front of activity area, and on Alder at SE corner of the park for access to the soccer pitches
- Trail rehabilitation – should be widened for better visibility and accessibility
- Lighting on trails would be an asset
- Skateboard facility identified in initial workshop not shown
- Areas used for winter use should be lit – e.g. toboggan hill

### **Heritage Hills Park**

- Existing brick sign on the west side of park near Heritage Park Trail is damaged
- and crumbling, people are taking falling brick pieces away
- On-street angled parking is nice, but may be reduced
- Gravel trail is unsightly with weeds, consider using wood chips or paved, the trail is rarely used
- Picnic table and graffiti on the south side of park near pedestrian crossing, needs to be removed

### **Kinsmen / Westboro Park**

- Spray deck is too close to clubhouse
- Spray deck area is too cramped, no adjacent passive green space for moms.
- Spray deck may be too big
- Can playground components go into SW of SE corner of football area – does the football club use the entire green space?
- Is parking lot large enough?
- Parking on Strathcona is an issue during football practices. There is no parking on the south side, yet people park there.
- Is angled parking on Strathcona an option?
- 'Playground Zone' sign needed at the west end of Strathcona
- Is boarded rink too far from the clubhouse?
- Can clubhouse be moved?
- Pathway from clubhouse to rinks should have rubber surface
- Want to ensure there are amenities for playground and spray park users (eg. benches)

- Garbage and deadfall within wooded area needs to be removed
- The County needs to maintain a buffer strip along the perimeter of the wooded area
- Does the improved access include knockdown bollards for service vehicles?
- Can existing playground be physically relocated to reduce costs?
- Football field – can lights be turned off immediately after practice to conserve energy and reduce light pollution
- Concerns over the 'dead space' adjacent to the berm
- What purpose does the berm serve? At present it blocks views.



## **South Cooking Lake Park Master Plan Open House Summary**

**South Cooking Lake Hall  
South Cooking Lake, AB  
Wednesday, November 25, 2009 @ 6:30 – 8:30PM**

---

### **General Observations**

- Approximately 25 residents attended the open house
- Residents were encouraged to identify revitalization priorities on exit surveys provided.

### **Written Comments and Concerns**

- Likes: G (boarded rink); K (shack with facilities); I (shelter – gazebo style please).
- Dislikes: E – natural trail – too close to residences! Please move close as possible to water.
- Like very much: G (boarded rink & heated bathroom in cook shack open year round (to change skates)); I ('gazebo' shelter for bands and weddings); A (upgrade existing playground)
- In respect to 'E' 'established trails' please move them close to the water (by the historical pier) This is where the 'walkers' naturally and typically go anyways.
- Very happy, especially a rink. My three top priorities from the choices would be a G (boarded rink) K( with heated change shack) and I (shelter for performances)
- #1 (update playground); #2 (ice skating rink); #3 (trails); #4 (warm up shack)

### **Other Verbal Comments and Concerns**

- Residents' understanding was that playground enhancement has been identified with funding- through a separate process. Residents were unsure if this money would be lost or combined with general improvements to the park area.



- There is an opportunity to close the road north of the Community Hall and extend the greenspace into the woodlot to the east. There was differing opinion whether or not the area should be cleared, or retain trees to be incorporated into the park design.
- Structured parking not needed – loses valuable parking spaces
- Additional parking for RVs is needed
- Quad and snow machine use along the lakeshore is an issue. Is there a way to separate machines from people using trails?
- Trail alignment north of boat launch should be modified to provide greater separation from existing homes, and take advantage of interpretive potential of historic pier.
- Shelter in day use area could become a small performance space – there are lots of musicians in the area that could benefit from this venue.