



MUNICIPALITY OF  
**GREENSTONE**

RECREATION & PLAYGROUND MASTER PLAN

# WHAT WE LEARNED REPORT

AUGUST 2024

**SCATLIFF + MILLER + MURRAY**  
visionary urban design + landscapes



We respectfully acknowledge that the Municipality of Greenstone is situated on the traditional territory of Robinson Superior Treaty and James Bay Treaty No 9. To do so recognizes and respects Indigenous People's long-standing presence in the territory, which is a key step towards reconciliation. The Municipality is committed to its relationships and partnerships with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit people and their communities.



# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

- ♦ The Municipality of Greenstone is one of Canada's largest municipalities with population centres distributed throughout.
- ♦ The population centres include Beardmore, Jellicoe, Geraldton, Longlac, Caramat, and Nakina.
- ♦ There are significant indigenous populations around Greenstone including Rocky Bay and Sand Point First Nation, Lake Nipigon Ojibway First Nation, Long Lake No. 58 First Nation, and the Aroland First Nation.
- ♦ The population of Greenstone has been declining between 2006 and 2021. However, the proportion of the population of residents 55 years and older is shown increases.
- ♦ Approximately one-third of the population identify as Indigenous.
- ♦ Approximately one-third of the population speak French.
- ♦ The operation of the new mine will add approximately 470 permanent jobs.

## RECREATION AND PLAYGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE

- ♦ There is a range of indoor and outdoor recreation amenities spread across the six communities of Greenstone. This includes four indoor arenas and four curling clubs.
- ♦ Greenstone has over 20 playgrounds (school and municipal) that are available for community use including six in both Geraldton and Longlac.
- ♦ Over the next 20 years an investment in excess of \$41 million is needed to perform repairs on all recreation facilities in Greenstone.
- ♦ In the next five years, over \$24 million of investment is required in the Community Complexes in Beardmore, Geraldton, Longlac, and Nakina.

- ♦ Playgrounds in Greenstone appear to be in satisfactory condition, with playgrounds ranging between 68% - 94% compliance.
- ♦ The ice arenas at the community centres in Beardmore, Geraldton, Longlac and Nakina all allocate significant proportions of ice time to public skate and shinny. Shinny has low participation rates at all arenas.
- ♦ Public skate and shinny occupy the majority of the weekly scheduled time at the ice arena (84% combined)
- ♦ Shinny occupies 45% of the weekly available time at the ice arena, yet there appears to be low participation rates in shinny (zero participants for the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 seasons).
- ♦ Participation in public skate appears to be increasing over time.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

- ♦ The Manager of Parks and Recreation reports to the Director of Public Services. The Manager's staff consists of facility operators and maintenance staff.
- ♦ The Municipality of Greenstone provides some programming but relies on volunteers for their delivery.
- ♦ There is an array of organizations that provide recreation opportunities to the community such as, seniors programming, youth sports, culture/heritage events and activities.
- ♦ Organizations also hold a variety of events throughout the year including hockey tournaments, fishing and hunting events and concerts.

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

- ♦ On average, the recreation expenses comprised approximately 11% of the overall municipal budget.
- ♦ Over \$1million dollars is allocated annually to maintain their major indoor facilities. This equated to 51-54% of the recreation budget.
- ♦ Considering program revenues compared to expenditures, recovery is less

than 34%.

- ♦ Greenstone provided groups and organizations with \$105,400 (total) in grant funding in 2023.

## POLICY AND PLAN REVIEW

- ♦ Recreation is recognized as an important service to provide in Greenstone for quality of life reasons but also economic development ones.
- ♦ Greenstone has undertaken service delivery reviews for their recreational services and playgrounds.
- ♦ The Asset Management Plan for Greenstone provides important direction for the management of Greenstone’s ageing infrastructure.
- ♦ The Growth Plan for Northern Ontario (2011) provides important context for understanding how industry growth in the region (mining, forestry, mineral extraction) may impact population growth in Greenstone and bring demand for recreation services and infrastructure.
- ♦ The 2023 Strategic Plan outlines that the provision of quality of life needs to be provided in an “economically sustainable way”. As well, needs and expectations will reflect “economic realities”.

## TRENDS AND LEADING PRACTICES

- ♦ The Canadian Infrastructure Report Card recommends that municipalities reinvest between 1.7% and 2.5% of a facility’s capital value each year.
- ♦ Smart design and technology can reduce energy use in recreation facilities.
- ♦ There is increased pressure on indoor recreation facilities to provide more year-round opportunities due to climate change. (Ex. Outdoor soccer season may have to shift indoors).
- ♦ There is a high demand for unstructured / drop-in play opportunities.
- ♦ In recent years the playground landscape has seen significant expansion in the types of equipment and structures that are available. Leading this trend are “natural play spaces”, which are intended to replicate aspects of natural environments such as forests, rocks, crevices, slopes and other outdoor elements.



# CONTENTS

<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 About the Municipality of Greenstone	5
2.2 Population & Demographics	7
2.3 Growth	11
2.4 Economy	12
2.6 Additional Community Attributes	13
<b>3.0 RECREATION AND PLAYGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>14</b>
3.1 Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Amenity Inventory	25
3.2 Playground Inventory	23
3.3 Infrastructure Assessment	30
3.4 Utilization	35
<b>4.0 SERVICE DELIVERY</b>	<b>43</b>
4.1 Municipality of Greenstone Service Delivery	44
4.2 Community Organizations	47
4.3 Programming & Events	49
<b>5.0 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>6.0 POLICY AND PLAN REVIEW</b>	<b>64</b>

<b>7.0 TRENDS AND LEADING PRACTICES</b>	<b>73</b>
7.1 Infrastructure Trends	74
7.2 Trends in Equity and Inclusion	75
7.3 Trends in Sustainability and Climate Change	76
7.4 Recreation Programming Trends	76
7.5 Playground Trends	78
<b>APPENDIX – CENSUS DISSEMINATION AREAS</b>	<b>82</b>




**1**

# **INTRODUCTION**




The Municipality of Greenstone (Greenstone) Council and administration understand the value vibrant and diverse recreation and playground opportunities provide for residents and visitors. Greenstone currently invests in recreation and playgrounds through a combination of direct delivery services and through support of regional and not-for-profit partners that provide residents with access to recreation spaces, programs and events.

Recreation and playgrounds are key contributors to people's quality of life. These services help attract and retain people and businesses in the community. They contribute to the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and the overall community. When people are able to recreate together, they form bonds which helps strengthen the identity of the community and build stronger relationships with their neighbours.




**ENVIRONMENTAL**

- Build a culture of stewardship
- Protect & restore biodiversity
- Provide essential ecological service (e.g., water filtration, pollination, climate regulation)
- Enhance our resilience and mitigation of climate events
- Mitigate risk from extreme weather events



**HEALTH**

- Improve physical health, including supporting rehabilitation post illness or injury
- Improve wellbeing, support mental health and positive self-esteem
- Provide safe environments for re-engaging individuals with physical activity
- Develop fundamental physical literacy skills



**SOCIAL & CULTURE**

- Increase social interaction and cohesion for individuals and families
- Build community pride
- Offer welcoming, universal experiences to support inclusive communities
- Support reconciliation with Indigenous communities
- Reduce anti-social and risk behaviours of youth
- Provide leadership experiences and training
- Enhance appreciation of an areas' history & culture



**ECONOMIC**

- Support growth of the sport, culture, tourism and event economies
- Create new direct and indirect jobs
- Attract new and retain existing skilled labour and businesses
- Increase land values and local government revenues
- Serve as important assets to deliver core government services and programs.

Recreation services are subjective - there is no guide or legislation that outlines how many playgrounds a community should have or what recreation services should be provided. Due to this, there is an array of strong opinions and expectations on the subject. Additionally, there are limited funds and the investment into recreation services must be done strategically. It is because of these dynamics that the Municipality of Greenstone is developing a Recreation and Playgrounds Master Plan.

The Recreation & Playgrounds Master Plan will provide a roadmap to guide the provision of playgrounds, recreation facilities, community programs, services and events. More specifically, the Master Plan will:

- ♦ Define the long-term vision and goals for Greenstone recreation provision (including playgrounds).
- ♦ Examine the current inventory of facilities and playgrounds and identify appropriate service levels.
- ♦ Solicit opinions of the community and reflect these opinions in the future for service delivery.
- ♦ Provide tools to enable the Municipality to chart a path for the delivery of recreation and playground services in a sustainable manner.

In order to produce a Master Plan that reflects the context of Greenstone, an understanding of the current state of recreation and playgrounds in the Municipality needs to occur. Research and engagement are critical phases of the project process that help identify strengths, gaps and

key focus areas. **This “What We Learned” report contains research and analysis findings.** The engagement findings (including input from community meetings, a resident survey, a group survey, a youth survey, and group meetings) are found under a separate cover (**What We Heard Report**). Together, these research and engagement findings provide a fulsome understanding of recreation and playgrounds provision in Greenstone.

### ABOUT THE “WHAT WE LEARNED” REPORT

This report includes the findings from the secondary research undertaken. The research findings enable a fulsome understanding of the context of recreation and playgrounds in Greenstone. The components of the document include the following.

Community Description. An examination into the demographics of Greenstone is included in this section. This includes population, historical growth, and projected growth. An analysis of population composition is also included.

Recreation and Playground Infrastructure Provision. An inventory of the indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and amenities is presented. This section includes an examination of utilization and presents information related to facility sustainability and investments needed to sustain the facilities and amenities.

Service Delivery. The programs and events available in Greenstone are identified in this section. This includes those that are directly provided by the Municipality as well as different entities that deliver these services.

Financial Impact. An overall financial analysis is presented in this section, with a focus on the costs to provide recreation (and playground) services to residents. Where it exists, revenue sources are identified.

Policy and Plan Review. An examination of Greenstone’s pertinent planning documents and policies was undertaken. This section sheds light on the importance of recreation and playgrounds, as well as noting specific policies and procedures employed by the Municipality in the delivery of these services. A review of some particularly applicable provincial and national policies and plans is included as well.

Trends and Leading Practices. A review of current trends and practices in the provision of recreation and playgrounds is undertaken. These trends and practices can offer some possibilities for Greenstone; they also identify approaches that are currently guiding the sector.



**2**

# COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION



Understanding the makeup of a community is essential to ensuring decisions about recreation and playgrounds reflect the community's identity. Age, gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status are all important factors to consider. Whether a community has a high newcomer's population or growing senior's cohort (for example), it is important to understand the context in order to best make subjective decisions about the provision of services. The sections below outline the history, demographic makeup, economic and educational indicators for the Municipality.

## 2.1 ABOUT THE MUNICIPALITY OF GREENSTONE

The Municipality of Greenstone is located along the Trans-Canada Highway 11 within the District of Thunder Bay, Ontario. Greenstone was incorporated in 2001 after the amalgamation of the communities of Geraldton, Longlac, Nakina and Beardmore.

Greenstone spans 3,172 square kilometers, making it one of Canada's largest municipalities. The communities in the area include: Geraldton, Longlac, Nakina, Beardmore, Jellicoe, and Caramat. - Greenstone is home to six distinct Nations including Biinjitiwaabek Zaaging Anishinaabek (Rocky Bay First Nation), Bingwi Neyasshi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation), Animbiigoo Zaagi igan Anishinaabek (Lake Nipigon First Nation), Long Lake 58 First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation and Aroland First Nation.

A brief description of each of the communities within the Municipality is noted below<sup>1</sup>.

**About Beardmore** – Beardmore was initially established as a flag station along the Canadian Northern Ontario Railway. The community saw a boost in its economy and population in 1934 and 1935 during the Sturgeon River Gold Rush. The area relies on commercial fishing, charter boat operations and tourism to support the economy.

**About Jellicoe** – Jellicoe is named after British Admiral John Rushworth Jellicoe and was a divisional point along the Canadian Northern Ontario Railway. The community also grew due to the goldrush. In 1939 a fire devastated the community.

**About Geraldton** – Geraldton was discovered on the gold shores of Kenogamisis Lake in the 1930s. Geraldton benefited from gold mining, in fact at one time there were ten gold mines in the area. None of these mines are currently operational however a new mine is expected to be operational in mid 2024. Incorporated in 1937, forestry was an important economic driver for the community. Geraldton is the largest community in the Municipality and has a relatively central location geographically.

**About Longlac** – Longlac's history back to the 1600s began with the fur trade, later turning to forestry. Situated on the shores of Long Lake, the community draws visitors for its fishing.

**About Caramat** – Caramat began as a flag station along the Canadian Northern Railway, with limited amenities and infrastructure. Today, the area has paved roads connecting the community and connecting to the surrounding areas in Greenstone.

**About Nakina** – Nakina was also a flag station along the Canadian Northern Railway, connecting Cochrane, ON to Winnipeg. In 1978, the community was incorporated as a Township, with the area connecting to Nakina and Geraldton on highway 584.

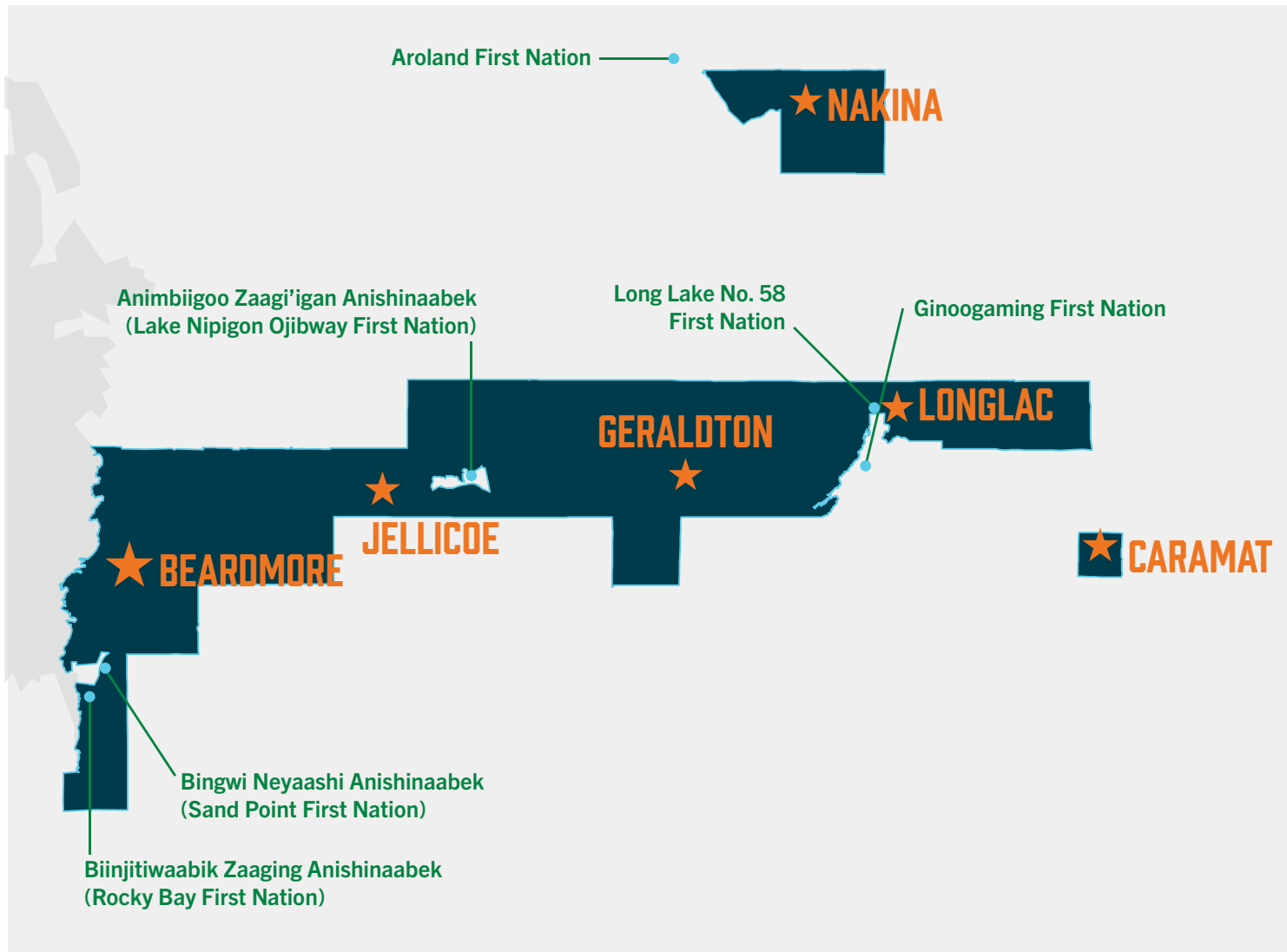
### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ♦ The Municipality of Greenstone is one of Canada's largest municipalities with population centres distributed throughout.
- ♦ The population centres include Beardmore, Jellicoe, Geraldton, Longlac, Caramat, and Nakina.
- ♦ The population of Greenstone has been declining between 2006 and 2021. However, the proportion of the population of residents 55 years and older is shown increases.
- ♦ Approximately one-third of the population identify as Indigenous.
- ♦ Approximately one-third of the population speak French.
- ♦ The operation of the new mine will add approximately 470 permanent jobs.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.greenstone.ca/en/recreation-and-leisure/history>

There is a sizeable First Nations population in the Greenstone area. As highlighted on the following map (and the previously presented one), there are six distinct Nations including Biinjitiwaabek Zaaging Anishinaabek (Rocky Bay First Nation), Bingwi Neyasshi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation), Animbiigoo Zaagi igan Anishinaabek (Lake Nipigon First Nation), Long Lake 58 First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation and Aroland First Nation.

Map 1: The Communities of Greenstone



## 2.2 POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS

Understanding the demographics and socioeconomic characteristics of the Municipality of Greenstone is crucial for tailoring the Recreation and Playground Master Plan to the community's needs. This section will analyze population trends, age distribution, income levels, and cultural diversity.

Greenstone has a population of 4,309 residents.<sup>2</sup> These residents are spread out across the Municipality with the majority living in the six primary communities. Table 1 shows how Greenstone's population is distributed across those different communities. The largest population centres are Geraldton and Longlac. It is important to note that the populations presented in Table 1 are estimated as the Census does not capture the population by community in Greenstone.

**Table 1: Population In the Communities of Greenstone<sup>3</sup>**

Community	Population (estimated)
Beardmore (incl. Jellicoe, MacDiarmid)	347
Geraldton	1,761
Longlac	1,316
Caramat	45
Nakina	336

Table 2 below illustrates the age breakdown for the Municipality of Greenstone. The proportion of the population 0-9 years is slightly higher in Greenstone than for the province (11.3% vs 10.2) while the proportion of adults 20-44 is lower in Greenstone than provincially (24.6% vs. 33.1%). Greenstone has a greater proportion of its population 45 years and older than the provincial distribution (52.4% vs 45.6%). The median age of Greenstone residents is higher than the provincial median age (47.2 vs 41.8).<sup>4</sup>

**Table 2: Population by Age (2021 Census)**

Age Groups	Municipality of Greenstone	Province of Ontario
0-4	5.6%	4.8%
5-9	5.7%	5.4%
10-14	5.6%	5.7%
15-19	5.8%	5.6%
20-24	4.4%	6.3%
25-34	10.2%	13.8%
35-44	10.0%	13.0%
45-54	13.7%	12.9%
55-64	17.6%	14.1%
65-74	13.9%	10.6%
75-84	5.2%	5.6%
85+	2.0%	2.4%

Approximately one third (31%) of Greenstone's resident population (1,390 residents) identify as Indigenous. Greenstone is also home to Métis people represented by the Métis Nation of Ontario and Red Sky Métis Independent Nation.

**Table 3: Demographic Indicators for the Population of Greenstone<sup>4</sup>**

Population	4,309 residents
Number of households	1,920
Average Household composition	2.2
Median Age	47.2
Median income	\$62,000
Unemployment Rate	8.7%
Aboriginal Identity	33.1%
Visible Minority	2.1%

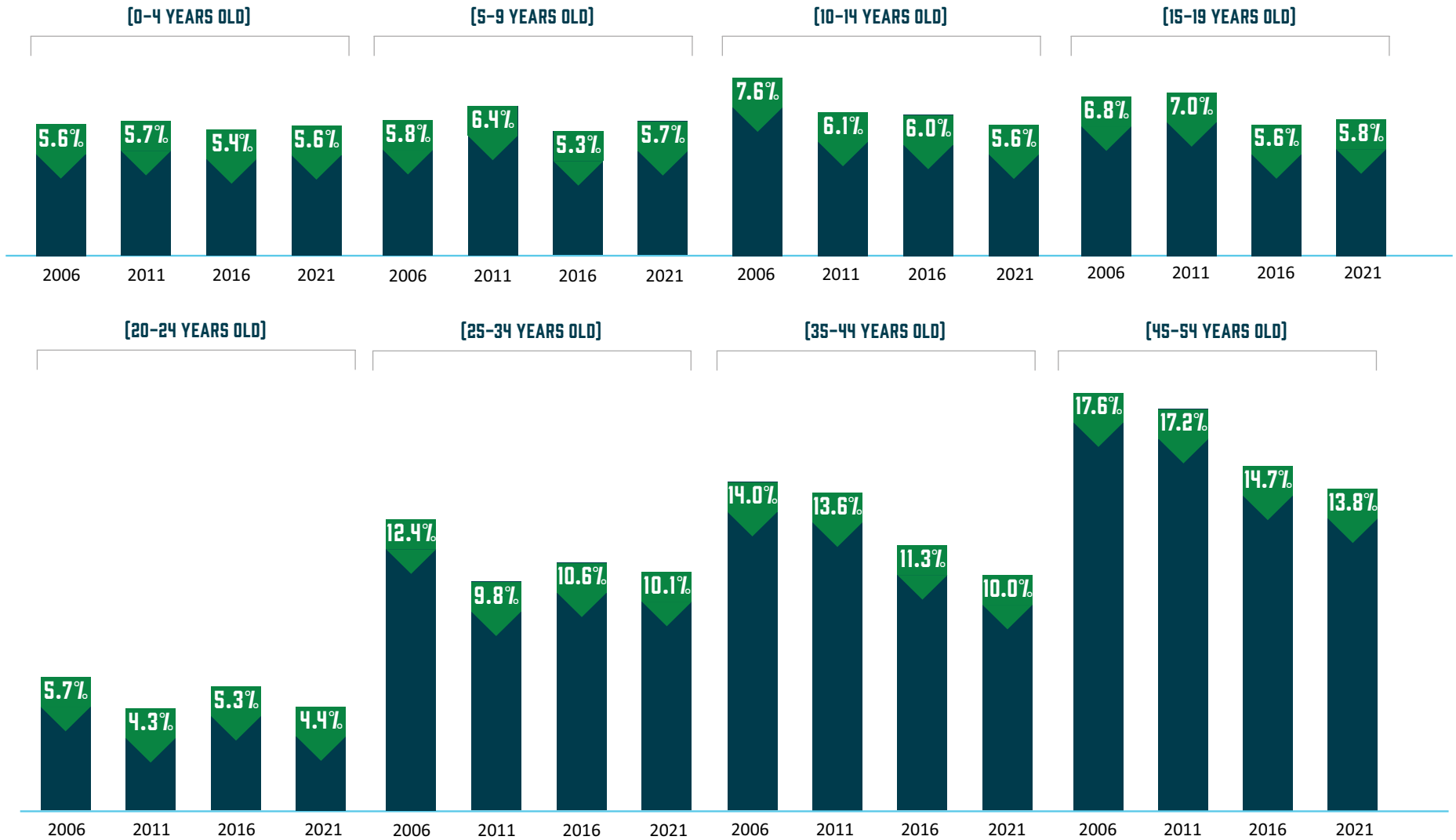
When looking at population distribution, there appears to be growth in older aged residents (aged between 65-85+ years) over time. Graph 1 shows a shift over time whereby the proportion of the population that is 55 years and older is increasing while the proportion of the population 35-54 is declining.

<sup>2</sup> Population based on 2021 Census <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/search-recherche/productresults-resultatsproduits-eng.cfm?Lang=E&GEOCODE=2021A00053558075>

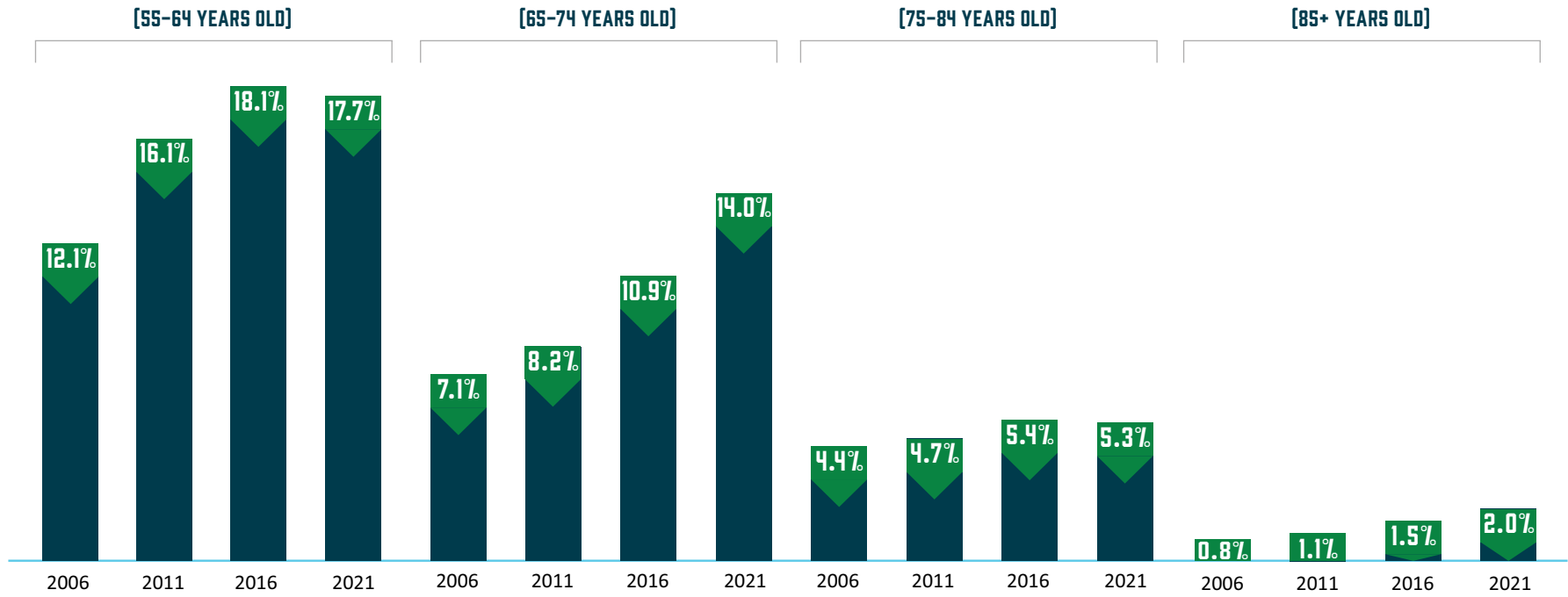
<sup>3</sup> Population figures are from Greenstone Economic Development

<sup>4</sup> Data sourced from the 2021 Census.

## CHANGE IN RESIDENT POPULATION AGES OVER TIME [% OF TOTAL POPULATION]



## CHANGE IN RESIDENT POPULATION AGES OVER TIME [% OF TOTAL POPULATION]





When looking at the immigrant population of Greenstone, in 2021, 3% of Greenstone’s population was comprised of migrants from other areas of Ontario, and 4% of the population was comprised of migrants from other areas of Canada (Table 4).

**Table 4: Migrant Populations in Greenstone<sup>5</sup>**

Mover status	Population of Greenstone in 2021	Percentage of Greenstone population in 2021 (%)	Percentage of Ontario population in 2021 (%)
Total migrants	170	4.0%	5.0%
Migrants within Canada	170	4.0%	4.1%
Migrants from outside of Canada	0	0%	0.9%
Migrants within Ontario	130	3.1%	3.7%
Migrants from outside of Ontario	40	1.0%	0.4%

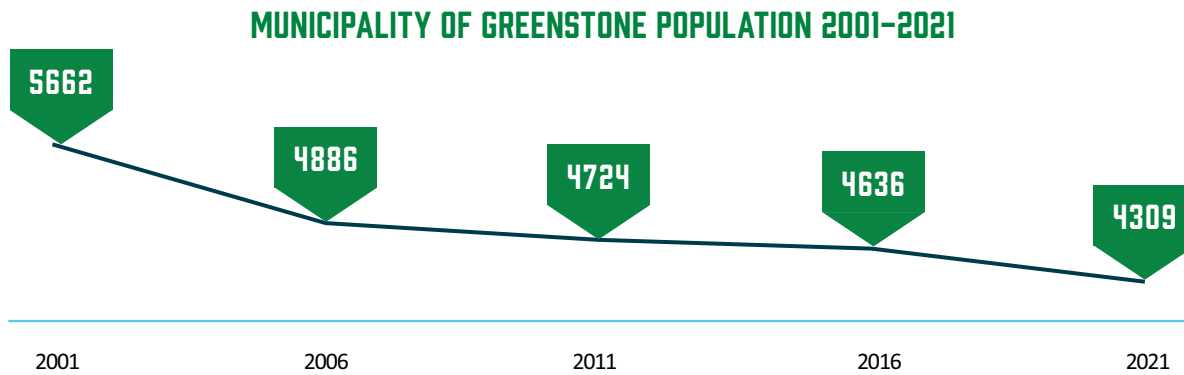
In 2021, 85% of the resident population (3,837 residents) identify as third generation immigrants. Nine (9) per cent of the resident population (400 residents) identify as second-generation immigrants, and just four (4) per cent of residents (189 residents) identify as first-generation immigrants. Of those residents who identify as first-generation immigrants, the earliest they immigrated to Canada was 2017. Just 1.1% of Greenstone’s population (47 residents) belong to visible minority ethnic groups including South Asian, Chinese, Latin American and Filipino. Diversity in the ethnic make up of Greenstone’s population brings demand for recreation facilities and amenities that cater for differing sport participation preferences.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.greenstone.ca/en/business-and-development/demographics-and-labour-force.aspx>



## 2.3 GROWTH

As illustrated in the following graph, the population of Greenstone has shown declines in population in each of the previous four census periods (2001-2021). Between 2001 and 2021, the population declined 23.9% equating to an average annual decline of 1.4%. From 2016-2021 the 7.1% decline in population averaged 1.4% annually.



## 2.3.1 GROWTH IN THE COMMUNITIES OF GREENSTONE

Examining growth at a more granular level requires the utilization of census dissemination areas. While the communities within Greenstone are recognizable to residents, from a census perspective, their boundaries do not align with the generally accepted boundaries. As such the use of census dissemination areas are utilized. Census dissemination areas are small geographic units for which census figures are gathered. While these areas include some of the rural areas outside the community population centres, they can be used to examine the change in population over time. Refer to the appendix for the identification of the census dissemination areas that were used to consider the change in population for each of the Greenstone communities (Beardmore, Jellicoe, Geraldton, Longlac, Caramat, and Nakina). As can be seen in the table below, each community area has experienced a an average annual population decline from 2011 to 2021.

**Table 5: Average Annual Change in Population Over Time Across the Communities of Greenstone\***

(considering Census Dissemination Areas)

	2011-2016	2016-2021	2010-2021
Beardmore area	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.2%
Jellicoe area	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.2%
Geraldton area	0.7%	-1.8%	-0.6%
Longlac area	-0.7%	-1.5%	-1.1%
Caramat area	-2.8%	-2.0%	-2.2%
Nakina area	-5.5%	2.0%	-2.0%



\*These population numbers are based on data derived from Dissemination Areas. Dissemination Areas do not perfectly align with geographical boundaries of the individual communities.

## 2.4 ECONOMY

Mining has been a prominent industry in the communities of Greenstone since gold was first discovered in the in the area between 1916 and 1918.<sup>6</sup> Greenstone now has an established gold mine located in the Geraldton-Beardmore Greenstone Belt in Ontario.<sup>7</sup> Greenstone has seen an influx of workers due to the development of the gold mine in Geraldton. As the mine progressed to operations from development there is a desire to see the non resident mining population move permanently to the area. Currently there are many mine workers living in temporary accommodations (work camps) at the south end of Geraldton. The opening of the mine in 2024 is estimated to generate approximately 470 permanent positions during the first year of operation.<sup>8</sup>

Other key industries in Greenstone include including educational services, tourism, health care and social assistance, public administration, retail trade and construction.

**Table 6: Top Industries and Occupations in Greenstone**

 Industries	 Occupations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Educational Services – 16%</li> <li>♦ Health Care and Social Assistance – 14%</li> <li>♦ Public Administration – 11%</li> <li>♦ Retail Trade – 9.5%</li> <li>♦ Construction – 7%</li> <li>♦ Mining Quarrying, Oil and Gas Extraction – 3%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Trades, Transport/Equipment Operators – 22%</li> <li>♦ Education, Law and Social, Community and Government Services – 20%</li> <li>♦ Sales and Service – 15.5%</li> <li>♦ Business, Finance and Administration – 12%</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.greenstone.ca/en/business-and-development/key-industries.aspx>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.greenstonegoldmines.com/about>

<sup>8</sup> Greenstone Official Plan 2022

Participation in the labour force in Greenstone is 55.4% compared to 62.8% provincially. The employment rate is also lower than the provinces (50.6% vs 55.1%). The unemployment rate is significantly lower in Greenstone (8.7%) compared to the provincial figure (12.2%)<sup>9</sup>.

As shown in Table 7, nearly 90% of Greenstone’s population commute to work within the census subdivision, with only small percentages of the population commuting to different census subdivisions or a different province or territory. Furthermore, 67% of Greenstone’s population have a less than 15-minute commute to their place of work.<sup>10</sup>

**Table 7: Greenstone Population Workforce Location 2017<sup>11</sup>**

Place of Work	Percentage of Greenstone population (%)	Percentage of Ontario population (%)
Commute within census subdivision	89.6%	58.7%
Commute to a different census subdivision within district	5.7%	17.3%
Commute to a different census subdivision within province or territory	3.6%	23.5%
Commute to a different province or territory	1.1%	0.5%

## 2.6 ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY ATTRIBUTES

The following figures were sourced from Greenstone’s municipal website .

### Housing

- ♦ 32.6% of private households are one person households.

### Education

- ♦ No certificate, diploma or degree 17.6%
- ♦ High school diploma or equivalent 32.2%
- ♦ Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma 6.8%
- ♦ College or other non university certificate of diploma 27.3%
- ♦ University certificate or diploma below bachelor level 9.2%
- ♦ Bachelors degree or higher (bachelors degree, university certificate, degree in medicine, dentistry, masters degree, doctorate) 12%

### Language

- ♦ English only 68.9%
- ♦ French only 1.8%
- ♦ English and French 29.4%

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.greenstone.ca/en/business-and-development/demographics-and-labour-force.aspx>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.greenstone.ca/en/business-and-development/demographics-and-labour-force.aspx>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.greenstone.ca/en/business-and-development/demographics-and-labour-force.aspx>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.greenstone.ca/en/business-and-development/demographics-and-labour-force.aspx>



**3**



**RECREATION AND  
PLAYGROUND  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

This section provides an inventory of the indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and amenities that are within the community of Greenstone. It also includes an analysis of the current condition and estimated capital costs for the main recreation facilities and playgrounds in Greenstone and an analysis of how these recreation facilities are being utilized.

### 3.1 INDOOR AND OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITY INVENTORY

Across Greenstone there is a significant inventory of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and amenities. Greenstone also has several schools that provide recreation amenities to the community. In addition to the playgrounds, there are opportunities for the public to gain access to school gymnasiums for recreation activities. The inventory below includes amenities that are accessible to the public and does include school assets.

**Table 8: Outdoor Amenities**

Outdoor Amenities	
Playgrounds	20
Baseball diamonds	10
Outdoor basketball courts	6
Rectangular fields	5
Tennis courts	1
Skate parks	2
Track and field facility	2
Trails	18 km

**Table 9: Indoor Amenities**

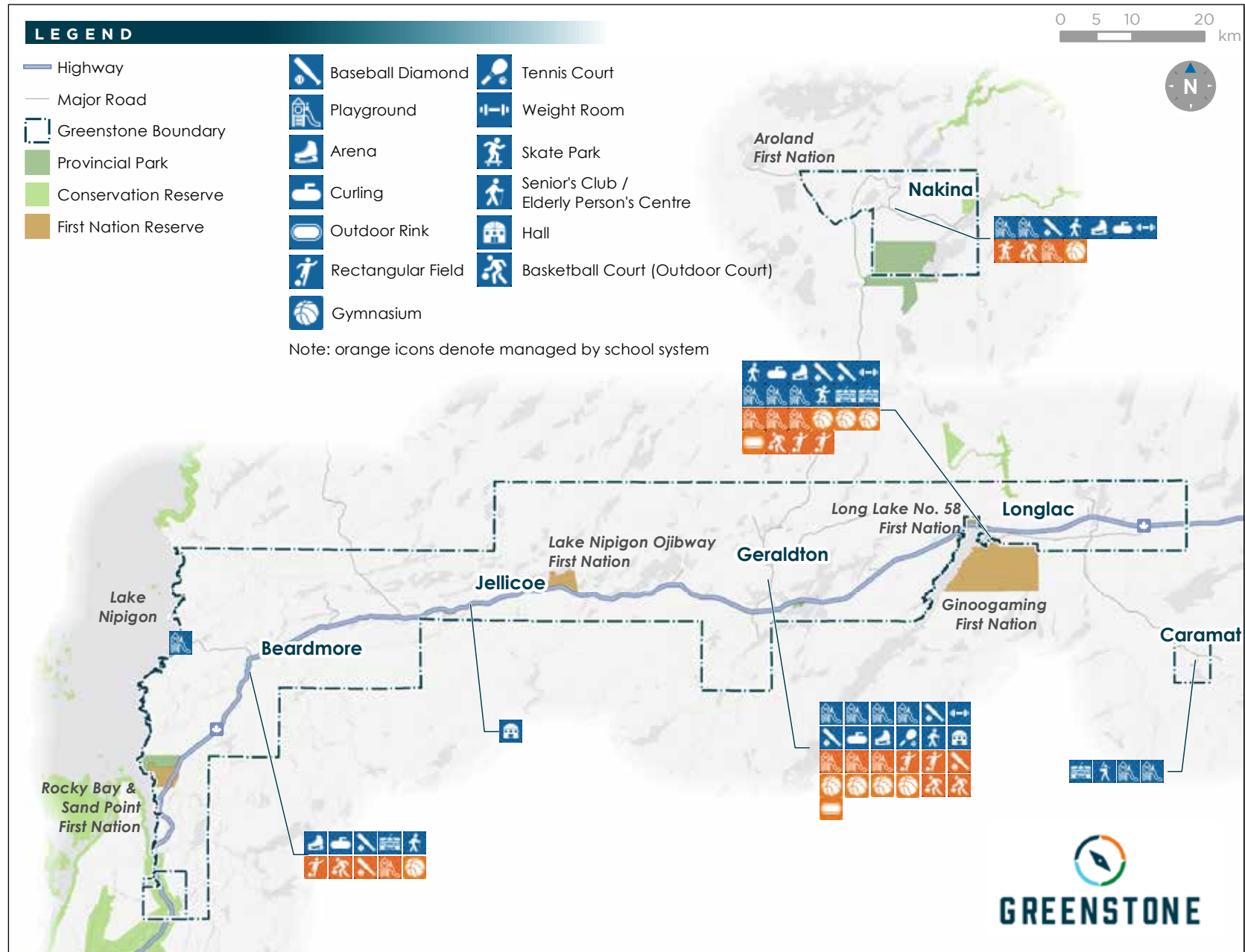
Indoor Amenities	
Community halls / gathering spaces	7
Gymnasiums	9
Arenas	4
Senior's / Elderly persons centre	4
Curling rinks	4
Weight rooms	2

This inventory is shown on the following map. The municipal and school amenities are differentiated from each other with icons in blue identifying municipal amenities and orange school amenities.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

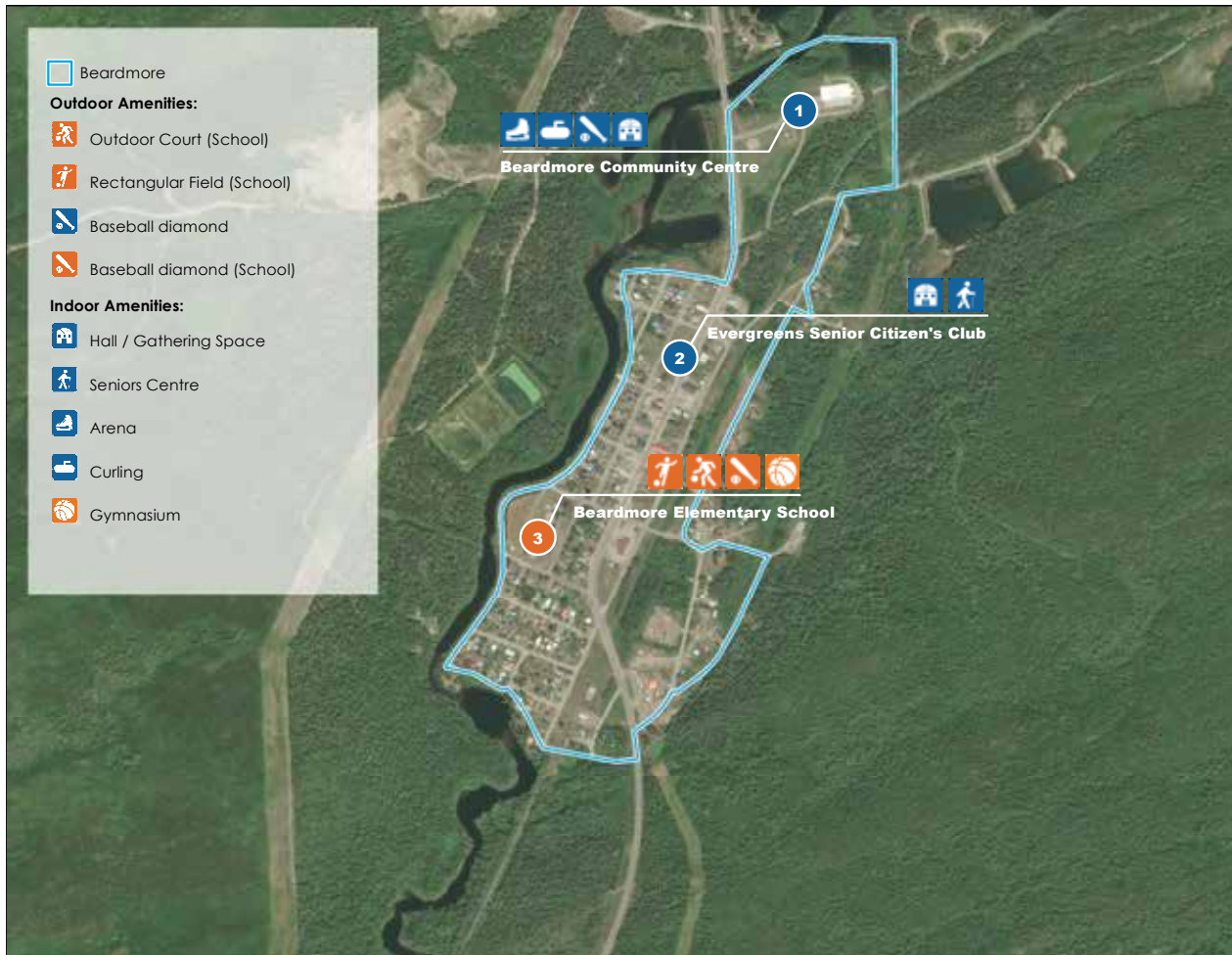
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- ♦ Over the next 20 years an investment in excess of \$41 million is needed to perform repairs on all recreation facilities in Greenstone.
- ♦ In the next five years, over \$24 million of investment is required in the Community Complexes in Beardmore, Geraldton, Longlac, and Nakina.
- ♦ Playgrounds in Greenstone appear to be in satisfactory condition, with playgrounds ranging between 68% - 94% compliance.
- ♦ The ice arenas at the community centres in Beardmore, Geraldton, Longlac and Nakina all allocate significant proportions of ice time to public skate and shinny. Shinny has low participation rates at all arenas.

Map 2: Distribution of Recreation Amenities across Greenstone



The following maps are for each of the six communities in Greenstone. They show the locations of the amenities in the communities.

**Map 3: Recreation Amenities in Beardmore**



**Table 10: Recreation Amenities in Beardmore**

Indoor Recreation Amenities	
Beardmore Community Centre <sup>12</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Arena with ice surface</li> <li>◆ Four change rooms</li> <li>◆ Curling lounge</li> <li>◆ Curling rink with three sheets of curling ice</li> <li>◆ Kitchen</li> </ul>
Beardmore Evergreens Inc. Seniors' Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Hall / gathering space</li> </ul>
Outdoor Recreation Amenities	
Beardmore Community Centre <sup>14</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Baseball diamond</li> </ul>
School Recreation Amenities	
Beardmore Elementary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Gymnasium</li> <li>◆ Rectangular field</li> <li>◆ Baseball diamond</li> <li>◆ Outdoor basketball court</li> </ul>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.greenstone.ca/en/recreation-and-leisure/community-centres.aspx#Amenities\\_1](https://www.greenstone.ca/en/recreation-and-leisure/community-centres.aspx#Amenities_1)

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.greenstone.ca/en/recreation-and-leisure/community-centres.aspx#Amenities\\_1](https://www.greenstone.ca/en/recreation-and-leisure/community-centres.aspx#Amenities_1)



Map 4: Recreation Amenities in Jellicoe

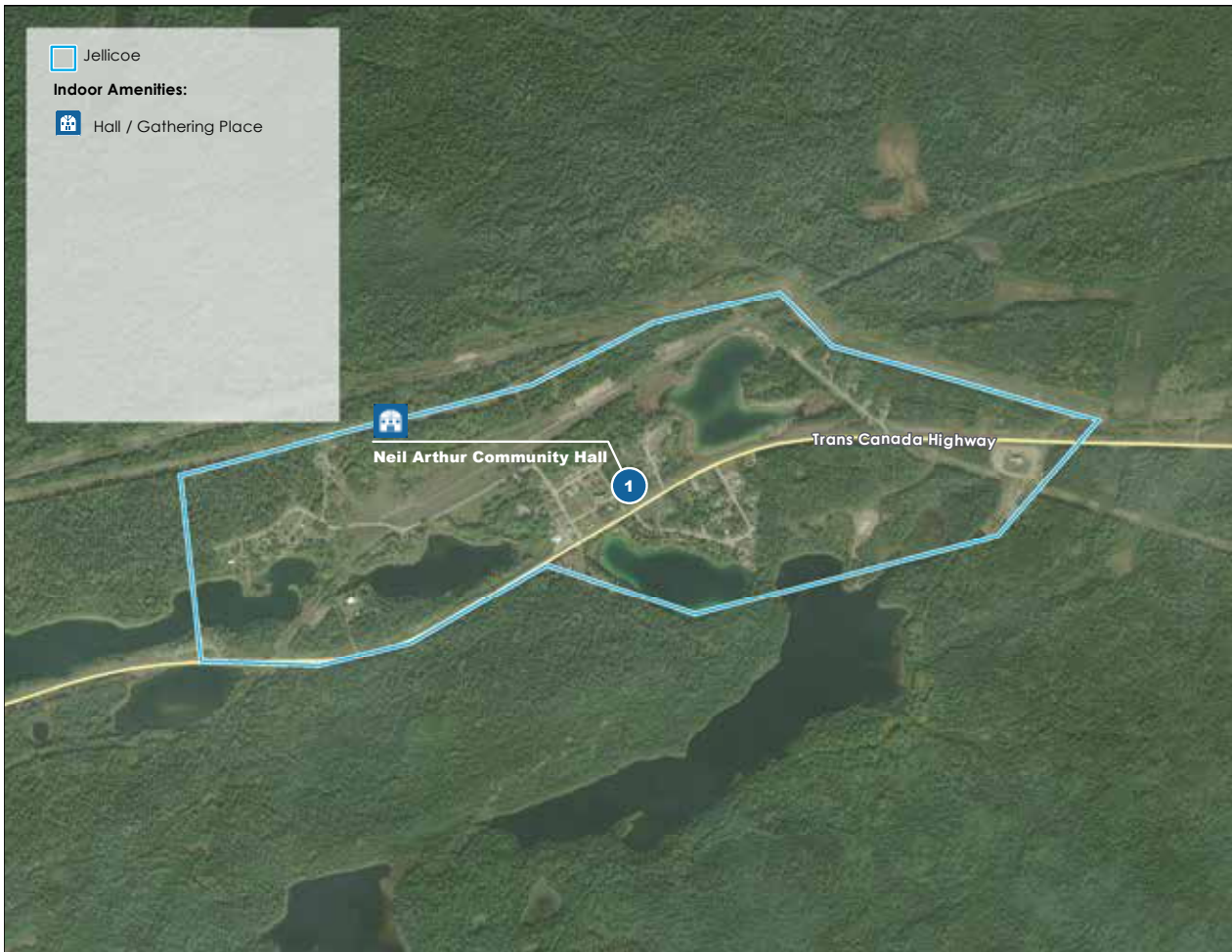


Table 11: Recreation Amenities in Jellicoe

Indoor Recreation Amenities	
Jellicoe Neil Arthur Community Centre	♦ Hall / gathering space
Outdoor Recreation Amenities	

Map 5: Recreation Amenities in Geraldton

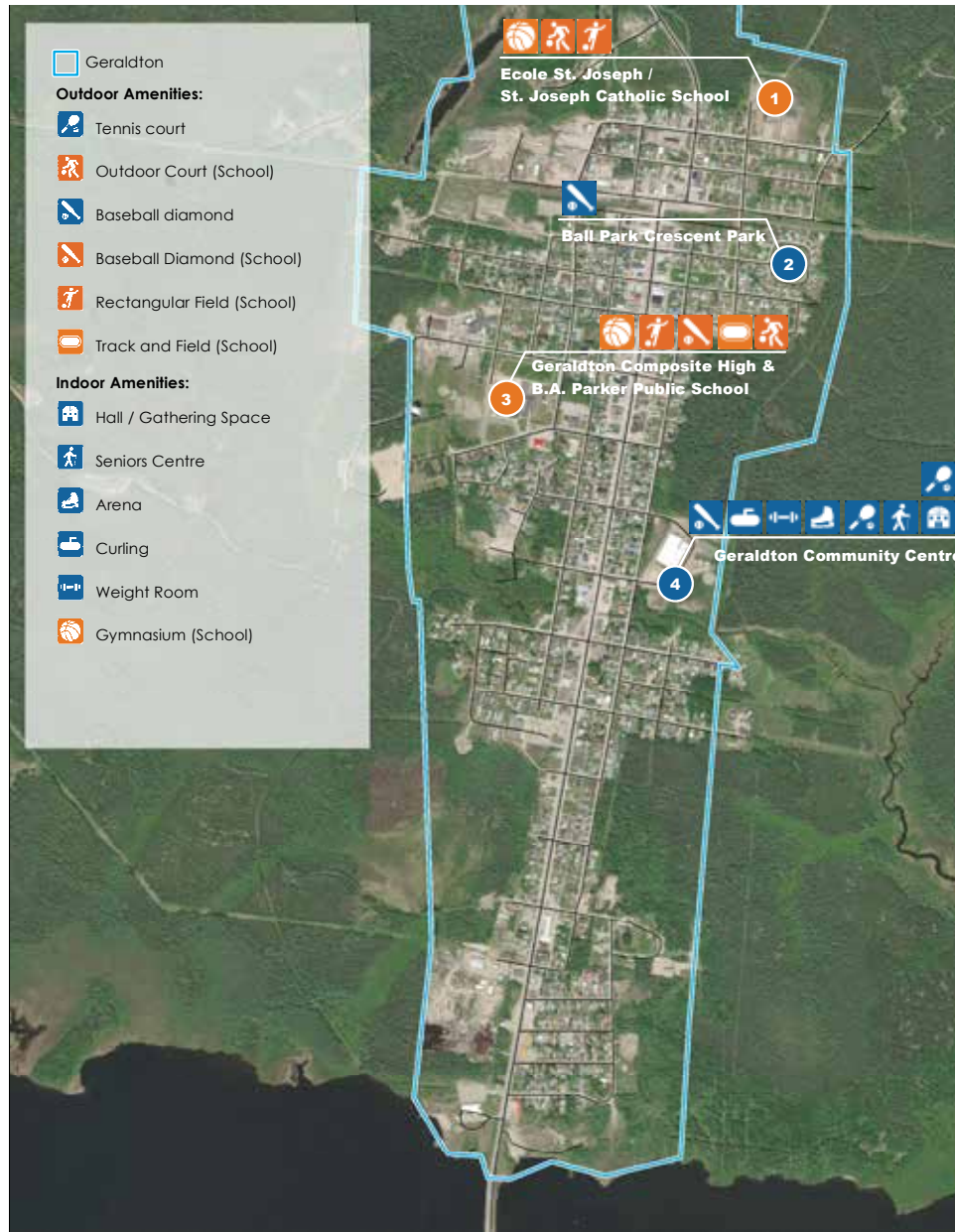


Table 12: Recreation Amenities in Geraldton

Indoor Recreation Amenities	
Geraldton Community Centre <sup>15</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Arena with ice surface</li> <li>◆ Five change rooms</li> <li>◆ Curling rink with four sheets of curling ice</li> <li>◆ Lounge</li> <li>◆ Weight room</li> <li>◆ Kitchen</li> <li>◆ Hall / gathering space</li> <li>◆ Elderly Person's Centre</li> </ul>
Outdoor Recreation Amenities	
Ball Park Crescent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Baseball diamond</li> </ul>
Geraldton Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Tennis court</li> <li>◆ Baseball diamond</li> </ul>
School Recreation Amenities	
B.A. Parker Public School / Geraldton Composite High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Gymnasium</li> <li>◆ Rectangular field</li> <li>◆ Track and field facility</li> <li>◆ Baseball diamond</li> <li>◆ Outdoor basketball court</li> </ul>
St. Joseph Catholic School / École St-Joseph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Gymnasium</li> <li>◆ Outdoor basketball court</li> <li>◆ Rectangular field</li> </ul>

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.greenstone.ca/en/recreation-and-leisure/community-centres.aspx#Amenities\\_1](https://www.greenstone.ca/en/recreation-and-leisure/community-centres.aspx#Amenities_1)

Map 6: Recreation Amenities in Longlac



Table 13: Recreation Amenities in Longlac

Indoor Recreation Amenities	
Longlac Sportsplex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Arena with ice surface</li> <li>♦ Five change rooms</li> <li>♦ Curling rink with four sheets of curling ice</li> <li>♦ Lounge</li> <li>♦ Kitchen</li> </ul> Upstairs the facility has a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Hall / gathering space</li> <li>♦ Bar</li> <li>♦ Washrooms</li> </ul>
Longlac Seniors Club <sup>17</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Kitchen</li> <li>♦ Pool table</li> <li>♦ Hall / gathering space</li> </ul>
Longlac Cross Country Ski Club and Snowmobile Club <sup>18</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Ski rentals</li> <li>♦ Lockers</li> <li>♦ Maps of the trails</li> <li>♦ Kitchen facilities</li> <li>♦ Wood stove</li> <li>♦ Washrooms</li> </ul>
Outdoor Recreation Amenities	
Jeff Gauthier Memorial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Baseball diamond</li> </ul>
Ron Bealieu Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Baseball diamond</li> </ul>
Tourist Information Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Skatepark</li> </ul>
School Recreation Amenities	
Marjorie Mills Public School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Gymnasium</li> <li>♦ Baseball diamond</li> <li>♦ Outdoor basketball court</li> </ul>
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School / Ecole Notre Dame-de-Fatima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Rectangular Field</li> <li>♦ Gymnasium</li> <li>♦ Outdoor basketball court</li> </ul>
École Secondaire Château-Jeunesse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Gymnasium</li> <li>♦ Track and field facility</li> <li>♦ Rectangular field</li> </ul>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.greenstone.ca/en/recreation-and-leisure/cross-country-skiing.aspx#The-Longlac-Cross-Country-Ski-Club>

Map 7: Recreation Amenities in Caramat

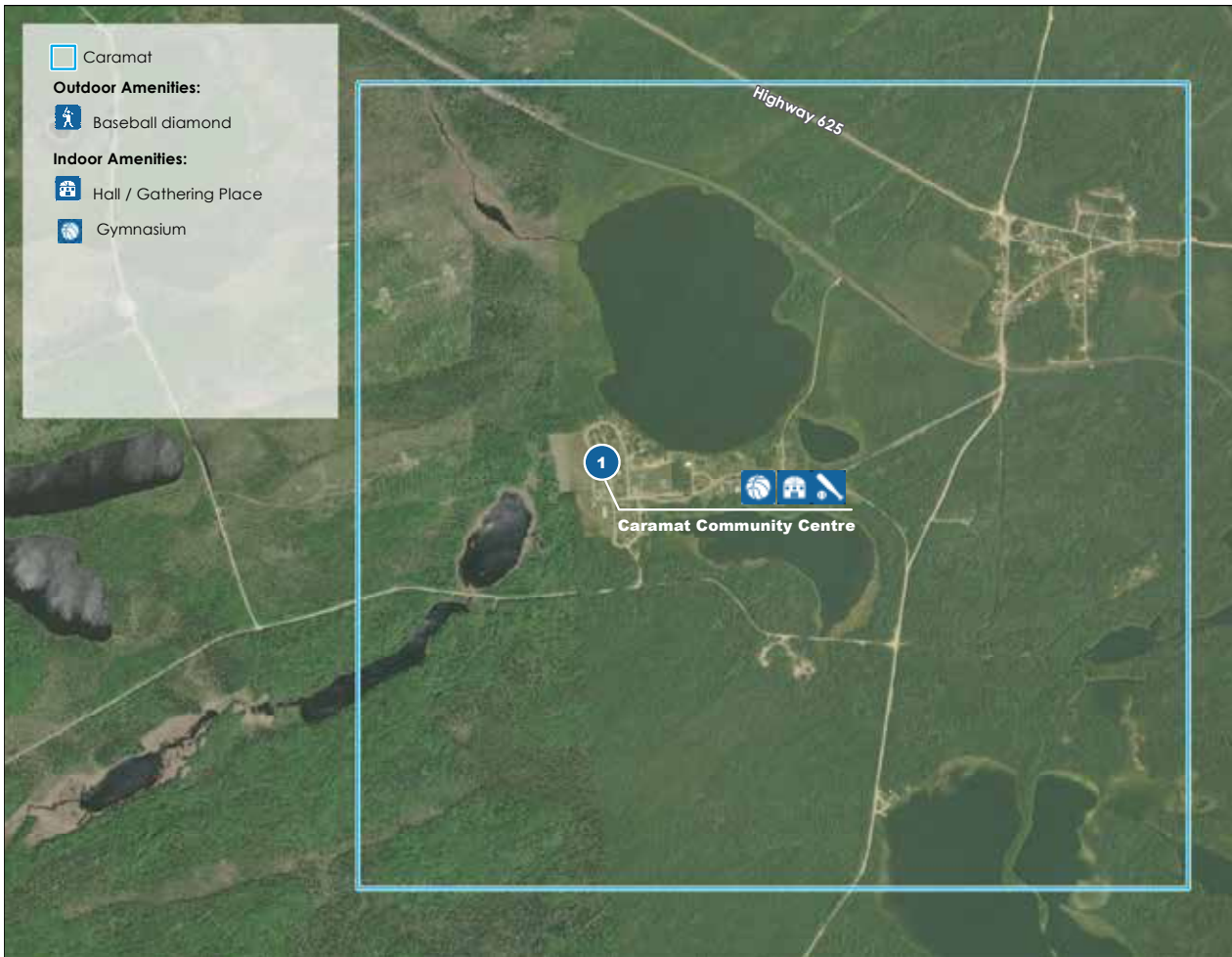


Table 14: Recreation Amenities in Caramat

Indoor Recreation Amenities	
Caramat Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Hall / gathering space</li> <li>◆ Indoor gym space</li> <li>◆ Indoor basketball nets</li> </ul>
Outdoor Recreation Amenities	
Caramat Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Baseball diamond</li> </ul>

Map 8: Recreation Amenities in Nakina



Table 15: Recreation Amenities in Nakina

Indoor Recreation Amenities	
Nakina Senior Citizen's Sunrise Club <sup>19</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Hall / gathering space</li> <li>◆ Kitchen</li> </ul>
Nakina Community Centre <sup>20</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Arena with ice surface</li> <li>◆ Four change rooms</li> <li>◆ Public lounge with a bar</li> <li>◆ Curling rink with three sheets of curling ice</li> <li>◆ Kitchen</li> <li>◆ Weights room</li> </ul>
Outdoor Recreation Amenities	
Nakina Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Baseball diamond</li> </ul>
School Recreation Amenities	
Nakina Public School / Notre-Dame-des-Ecoles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Gymnasium x2</li> <li>◆ Outdoor basketball court</li> <li>◆ Skatepark</li> </ul>

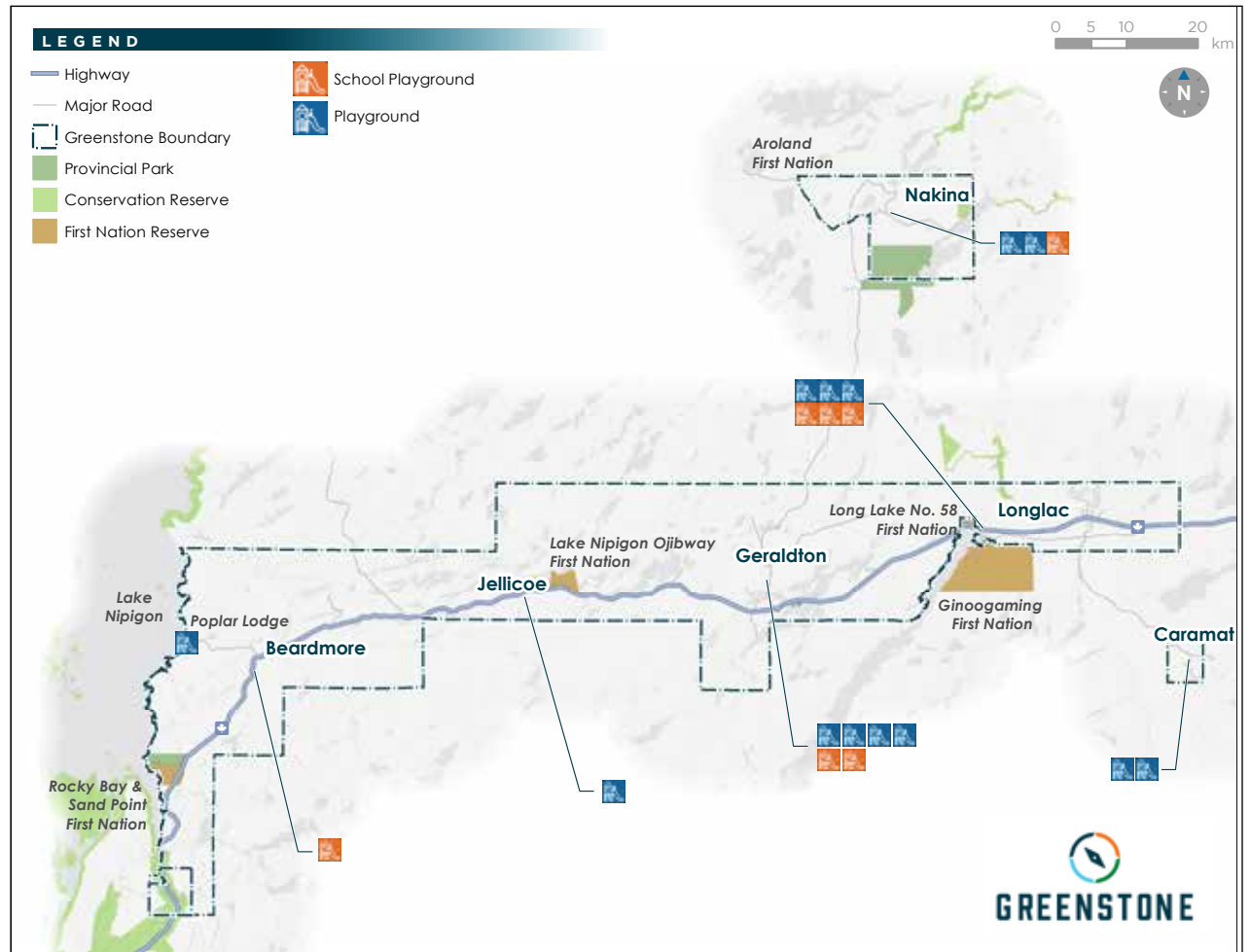
<sup>19</sup> <https://www.northwesthealthline.ca/display/service.aspx?id=159854>

<sup>20</sup> [https://www.greenstone.ca/en/recreation-and-leisure/community-centres.aspx#Amenities\\_1](https://www.greenstone.ca/en/recreation-and-leisure/community-centres.aspx#Amenities_1)

## 3.2 PLAYGROUND INVENTORY

Playgrounds are important recreation amenities for residents and visitors of Greenstone. There are twenty playgrounds across the municipality when considering those provided by schools and those provided by the Municipality of Greenstone. The accompanying map shows the numbers of playgrounds in each Greenstone community.

Map 9: Distribution of Playgrounds in Greenstone

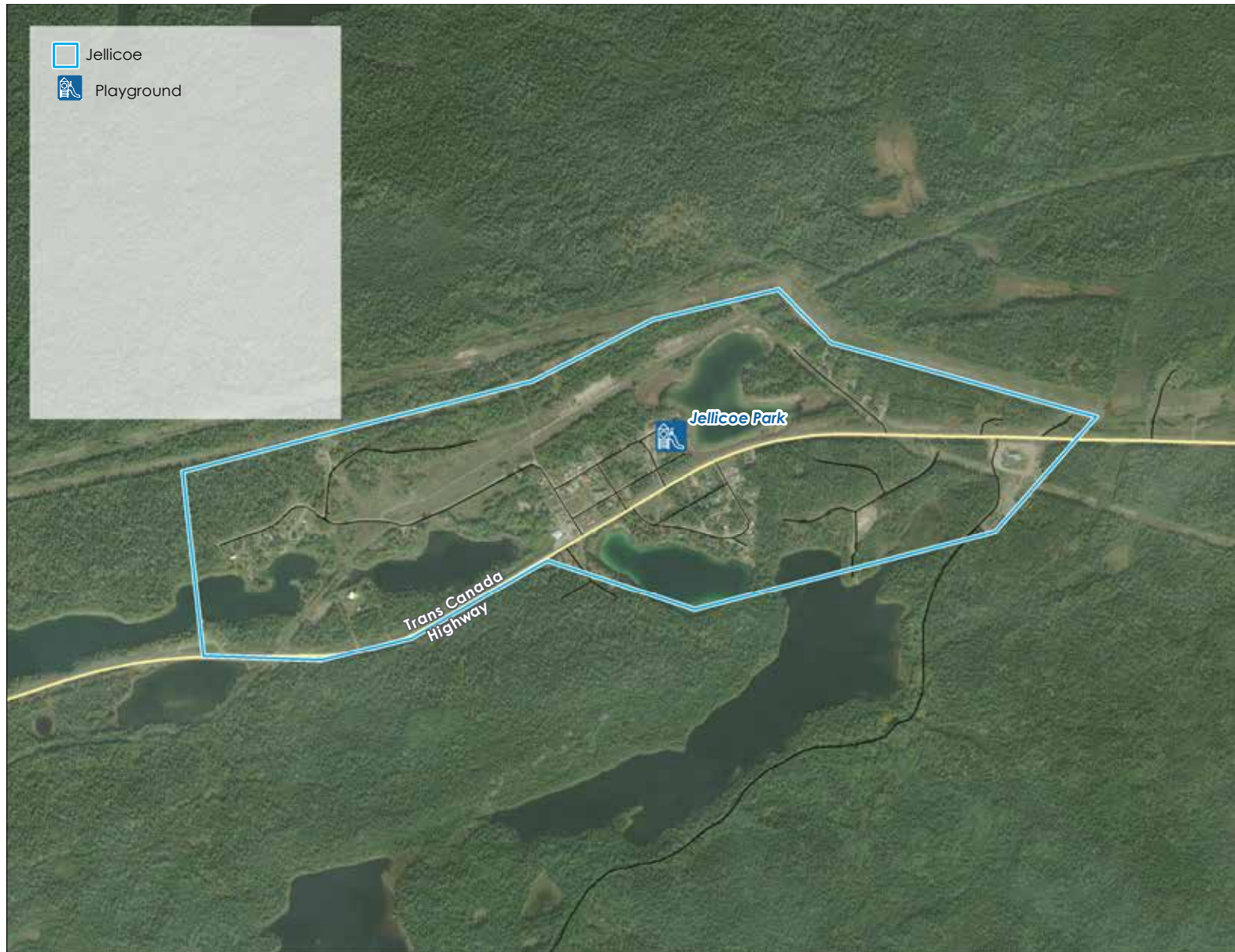


The spatial distribution of the playgrounds in each community are shown on the following map. The map also show walking catchments for the school playgrounds. The Municipality of Greenstone is able to make decisions about the playgrounds it provides but not for schools. As such illustrating the walking distance from the school playgrounds can be helpful as the Municipality makes decisions about its provision of playgrounds. The catchment areas are shown for a 5 minute, 10 minute, and 15 minute walk.

Map 10: Playgrounds in Beardmore



Map 11: Playgrounds in Jellicoe

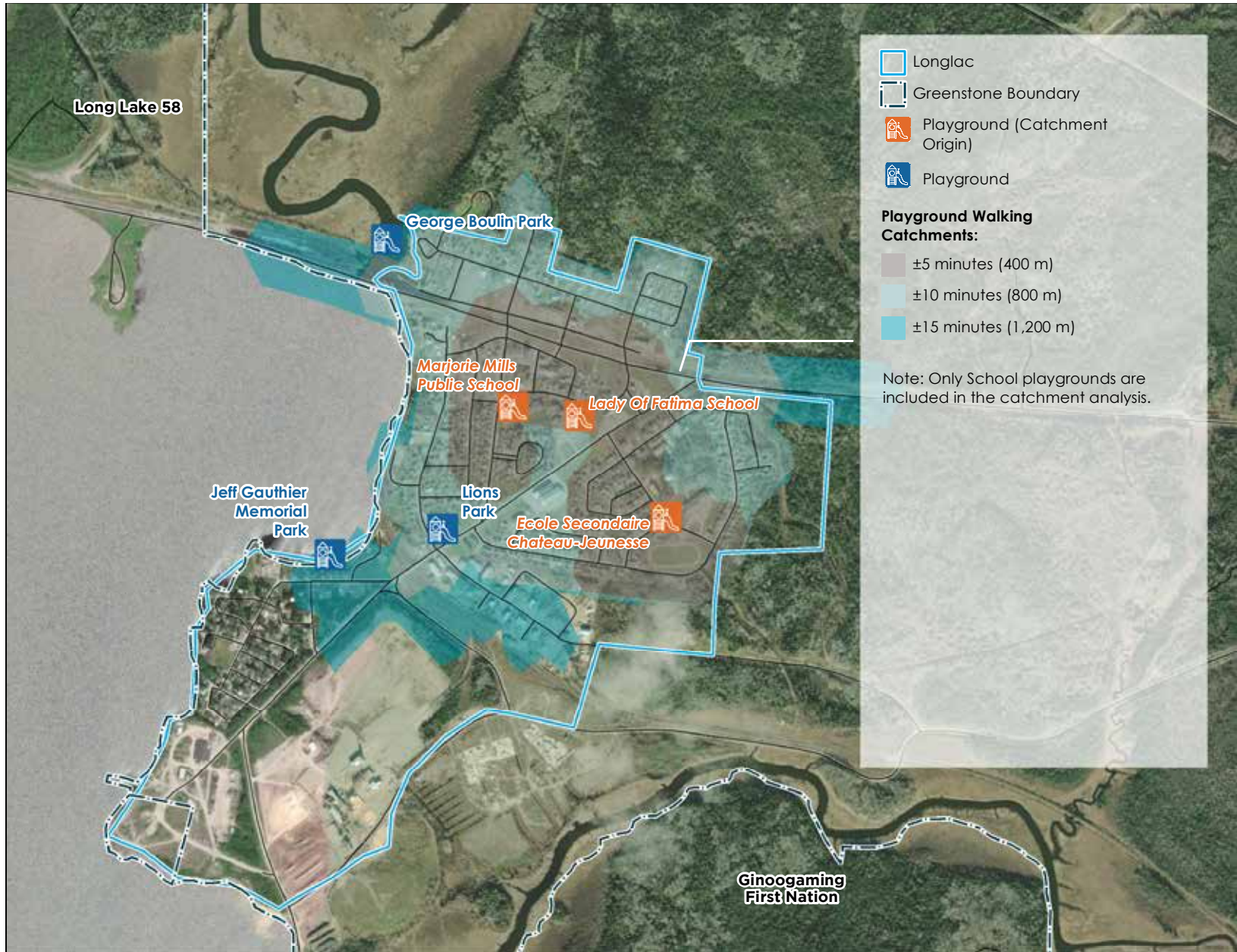




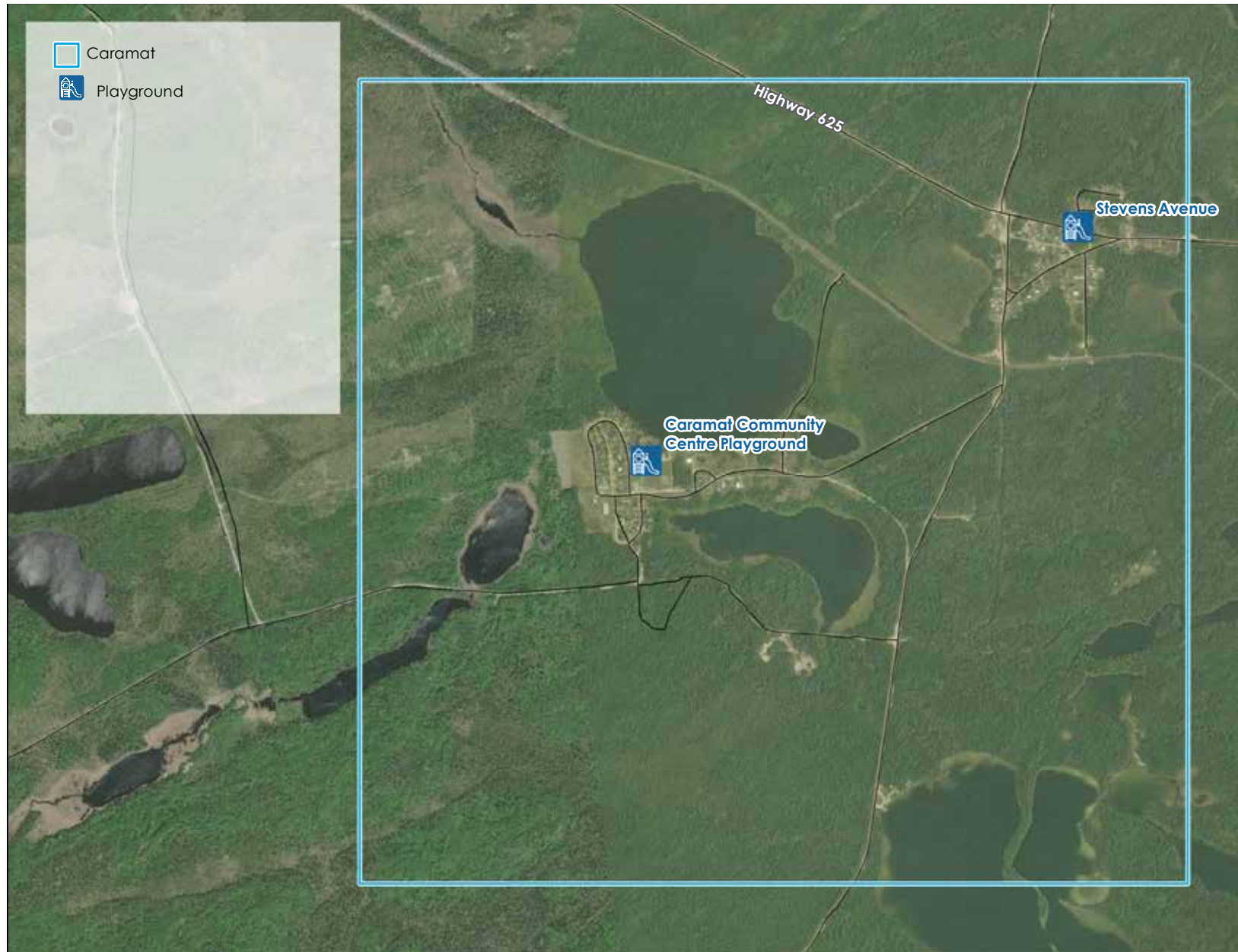
Map 12: Playgrounds in Geraldton



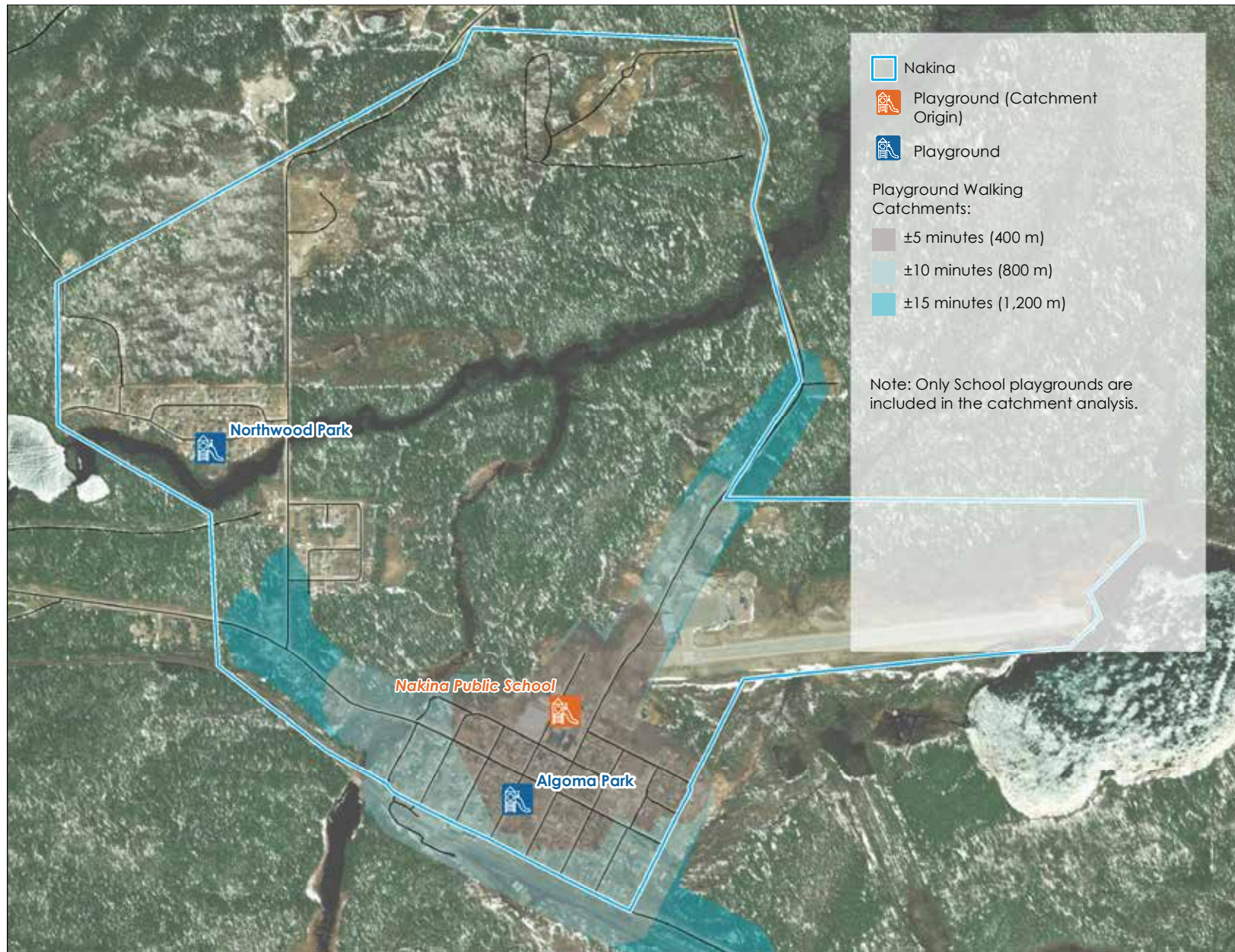
Map 13: Playgrounds in Longlac



Map 14: Playgrounds in Caramat



Map 15: Playgrounds in Nakina



### 3.3 INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

The previous sections presented the inventory of recreation and playground amenities. They did not, however, reference the condition of those amenities. This section includes an examination of these amenities considering the condition they are in through a review of the facility assessments that the Municipality completed. These assessments describe the condition of the facilities and identify significant capital investments necessary. As well, the Municipality has also completed inspections of its playgrounds. An overview of these assessments and inspections is presented in this section.

#### Indoor Recreation Facilities

The Municipality of Greenstone commissioned physical assessments of its primary community facilities. Table 14 below summarizes the recommended capital investments over the next 5-20 years.

#### Summary of Indoor Recreation Facility Conditions:

- ♦ Over the next 20 years an investment of \$41,348,390 is needed to perform repairs on all recreation facilities in Greenstone.
- ♦ The most significant capital costs across all facilities are attributed to repairs to roofing and building exteriors, electrical systems, and ice arena slabs, piping, and dashboards.
- ♦ In the next five years, an investment of \$22,329,464 is needed to perform repairs on all recreation facilities in Greenstone.
- ♦ Repairs on the Beardmore Community Centre and the Longlac Sportsplex make up a significant proportion of this cost. An investment of \$15,988,306 is needed to perform repairs on these two facilities in the next five years.

Table 16: Recommended Capital Investments for Indoor Recreation Facilities in Greenstone

	5 years (2024- 2029)	10 years (2030- 2034)	15 years (2035- 2039)	20+ years (2040 onwards)	Total
Beardmore Community Centre	\$7,784,599	\$259,812	\$360,199	\$1,964,463	\$10,369,073
Caramat Recreation Centre	\$1,120,258	\$175,833	\$98,371	\$218,401	\$1,612,863
Geraldton Community Centre	\$3,875,031	\$1,515,058	\$771,922	1,337,833	\$7,499,844
Jellicoe Neil Arthur Community Centre	\$575,718	\$6,788	\$11,630	\$27,255	\$621,391
Longlac Sportsplex	\$8,203,707	\$902,377	\$775,772	\$1,995,623	\$11,877,479
Longlac Seniors Drop-In Center	\$286,635	\$172,530	\$20,262	\$153,342	\$632,769
Nakina Community Complex	\$4,873,516	\$2,403,902	\$574,088	\$883,465	\$8,734,971
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,719,464</b>	<b>\$5,436,300</b>	<b>\$2,612,244</b>	<b>\$6,580,382</b>	<b>\$41,348,390</b>

Information was sourced from the Greenstone Facility Condition Assessment Reports prepared by Roth IAMS Ltd.

The significant investments needed for each facility are noted below.

### **Beardmore Community Centre**

Over \$7 million worth of repairs are recommended for the Beardmore Community Centre within the next five years. Some of the costliest repairs include the replacement of the Ice Rink Slab and Piping (approximately \$950,000), metal roofing replacement (over \$700,000), ice rink dasher board replacements (approximately \$450,000) and upgrades to the electrical distribution system (approximately \$400,000).

### **Jellicoe Neil Arthur Community Hall**

The Neil Arthur Community Centre in Jellicoe has minimal recommended repairs compared to the other facilities. The most significant repair is the replacement of the metal roof (approximately \$140,000) which is currently ongoing.

### **Geraldton Community Centre**

Significant repairs for the Geraldton Community Centre include metal cladding replacement on the building exterior (approximately \$850,000), roofing replacements (approximately \$800,000) and ice rink dashboard replacements (approximately \$525,000). It is recommended that all these repairs are completed in the next five years. An ice rink slab and piping replacement is recommended to be completed within the next ten years (approximately \$475,000).

### **Longlac Seniors Drop-In Center**

The Longlac Seniors Drop-In Center has minimal recommended repairs compared to the other facilities. The costliest repairs include washroom fixture repairs (approximately \$50,000), roofing repairs (approximately \$50,000), and building exterior repairs (approximately \$40,000).

### **Longlac Sportsplex**

The Longlac Sportsplex has over \$8 million worth of recommended repairs to be completed within the next five years. Some of the costliest recommended repairs include ice rink slab and piping replacement (approximately \$1 million), replacement of the metal cladding on the building exterior (approximately \$725,000) and replacement of the stone veneer on the building exterior (approximately \$675,000).

### **Caramat Recreation Centre**

Significant repairs for the Caramat Recreation Centre include the replacement of the metal roofing by the year 2025 (approximately \$400,000) and metal cladding on the building's exterior by the year 2040 (just under \$200,000). Replacement of the Wood Wall Finish on the walls within the facility has been identified as being needed by the year 2029 (approximately \$175,000).

### **Nakina Community Complex**

Major repairs for the Nakina Community Complex include a recommended replacement of the roof (approximately \$1.5 million), ice rink dashboard replacements (approximately \$650,000), interior lighting replacements (over \$600,000), fire alarm replacements (approximately \$400,000), and metal cladding replacement on the building exterior (approximately \$300,000).

### 3.3.1 OUTDOOR RECREATION AND PLAYGROUND FACILITIES

The Municipality of Greenstone has completed inspections of its playgrounds. An overview of these inspections is presented below.

#### Summary of Outdoor Recreation and Playground Amenity Conditions:

In November 2023, the Municipality of Greenstone undertook a service delivery review of its’ playgrounds and outdoor recreation infrastructure. The review found that:

- ♦ No capital infrastructure replacements have been made since the installation of Greenstone’s playground infrastructure in 2003.
- ♦ There is a funding shortfall for the replacement, and maintenance of Greenstone’s playground assets over time.

The Municipality of Greenstone commissioned Playground Inspection Reports that were prepared by Active Recreation. These playground inspections found that:

- ♦ Playgrounds in Greenstone appear to be in satisfactory condition, with playgrounds ranging between 68% - 94% compliance.
- ♦ The main issues identified at the playgrounds include inadequate surfacing depths, inadequate heights swings, slides and spring toys, and sharp and protruding playground elements creating safety hazards.

Table 17: Condition of Playgrounds in Greenstone

Playground	Condition Report
<b>Beardmore</b>	
Beardmore Elementary Playground – Beardmore	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (93% compliance)</p> <p>3 out of the 44 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies include compact playground surfacing, sharp edges and trip hazards posing safety risks.</p>
Poplar Lodge Park – Beardmore	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (82% compliance)</p> <p>10 out of the 59 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies include inadequate surfacing depth at the playground, inadequate protective surfacing at the swings, entanglement protrusions at the swings and drawstring entanglements at the slides.</p> <p>There are hazards relating to the design of the playground such as slide exit height and swing seating heights that pose safety risks.</p>
<b>Jellicoe</b>	
Jellicoe Park Playground – Jellicoe	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (94% compliance)</p> <p>3 out of the 56 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies include bolt protrusions, inadequate swing seating height and inadequate spring toy height posing safety risks.</p>

Playground	Condition Report
<b>Geraldton</b>	
Ball Park Crescent Park Playground – Geraldton	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (89% compliance)</p> <p>6 out of the 58 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies include entanglement protrusions at the swings and in inadequate swing and slide seating heights.</p>
Geraldton Community Centre Playground – Geraldton	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (89% compliance)</p> <p>6 out of the 59 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies include inadequate protective surfacing at the swings, uncapped tubing on poles, protruding bolts on the swing structures and inadequate swing seating heights.</p>
Geraldton Shelter Playground – Geraldton	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (91% compliance)</p> <p>3 out of the 35 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies include inadequate protective surfacing at the swings, and missing owner / operator and manufacturer signage.</p>
Rotary Park – Geraldton	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (93% compliance)</p> <p>3 out of the 45 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies include sharp edges, protruding bolts and uncapped tubing posing safety risks.</p>

Playground	Condition Report
Trailer Park – Geraldton	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (85% compliance)</p> <p>8 out of the 56 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies include entanglement protrusions at the swings and drawstring entanglements at the slide, uncapped tubing, and protruding bolts on the playground structure.</p>
<b>Longlac</b>	
Bayview Park Playground – Longlac	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (78% compliance)</p> <p>13 out of the 60 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies include inadequate protective surfacing at the swings, entanglement protrusions at the swings and drawstring entanglements at the slides, rusting and decay, bolt protrusions, missing owner / operator, and manufacturer signage.</p> <p>There are hazards relating to the design of the playground such as slide exit height and swing seating heights that pose safety risks.</p>
Lion's Park Playground – Longlac	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (77% compliance)</p> <p>14 out of the 62 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies include inadequate surfacing depth at the playground, inadequate protective surfacing at the swings, contaminated surfacing material (mixture of grass, rocks and sand), bolt protrusions, entanglement protrusions at the swings and drawstring entanglements at the slides.</p> <p>There are hazards relating to the design of the playground such as slide exit height and swing seating heights that pose safety risks.</p>



Playground	Condition Report
Riverview Waterfront Park – Longlac	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (87% compliance)</p> <p>7 out of the 54 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies include inadequate surfacing depth at the playground, inadequate swing seat heights, missing owner / operator, and manufacturer signage. Also, inadequate protective surfacing at the swings, entanglement protrusions, bolt protrusions and uncapped tubing posing safety risks.</p>
<b>Caramat</b>	
Aspen Crescent Areas 1 & 2 – Caramat	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (Area 1 85% compliance, Area 2 68% compliance).</p> <p>Area 1</p> <p>8 out of the 56 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Area 2</p> <p>9 out of the 30 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies at this playground include inadequate protective surfacing, hazards relating to the design of the playground that pose safety risks.</p>
Stevens Avenue Playground – Caramat	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (92% compliance)</p> <p>4 out of the 52 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies include entanglement protrusions at the swings and in inadequate swing and spring toy seating heights.</p>

Playground	Condition Report
<b>Nakina</b>	
Agloma Street Playground – Nakina	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (70% compliance)</p> <p>17 out of the 54 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies include inadequate protective surfacing, hazards relating to the design of the playground that pose safety risks.</p>
Northwood Drive Playground – Nakina	<p>Overall condition: satisfactory (76% compliance)</p> <p>11 out of the 57 playground elements that were assessed were found to be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Main deficiencies include inadequate surfacing depth for the playground, hazards relating to the design of the playground that pose safety risks.</p>

*Information was sourced from the Playground Inspection Reports prepared by Active Recreation.*

### Condition of Outdoor Recreation Amenities in Greenstone

In November 2023, the Municipality of Greenstone undertook a service delivery review of its' outdoor recreation infrastructure. The review found that outdoor recreation amenities in Greenstone are in good condition overall, except for the Geraldton Ball Field fence was replaced in the first quarter of 2024 (estimated capital cost of replacement \$100,000).

## 3.4 UTILIZATION

The recreation facilities and amenities within the Municipality of Greenstone are used for various recreation and sport activities by various user groups. This section provides an analysis of how recreation facilities and amenities in Greenstone are being used.

### 3.4.1 INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

#### BEARDMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE

##### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ♦ Public skate and shinny occupy the majority of the weekly scheduled time at the ice arena (84% combined)
- ♦ Shinny occupies 45% of the weekly available time at the ice arena, yet there appears to be low participation rates in shinny (zero participants for the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 seasons).
- ♦ Participation in public skate appears to be increasing over time.

The ice arena at Beardmore Community Centre is available for use for approximately 31 hours per week (7 hours per day Tuesday – Saturday)

Weekly available time at the ice arena is allocated as followed.

Table 18 Arena Programming Hours

Activity	Scheduled Hours	Percentage of Available Time
Shinny	14 hours	45%
Public skate	12 hours	39%
Open facility	5 hours	16%

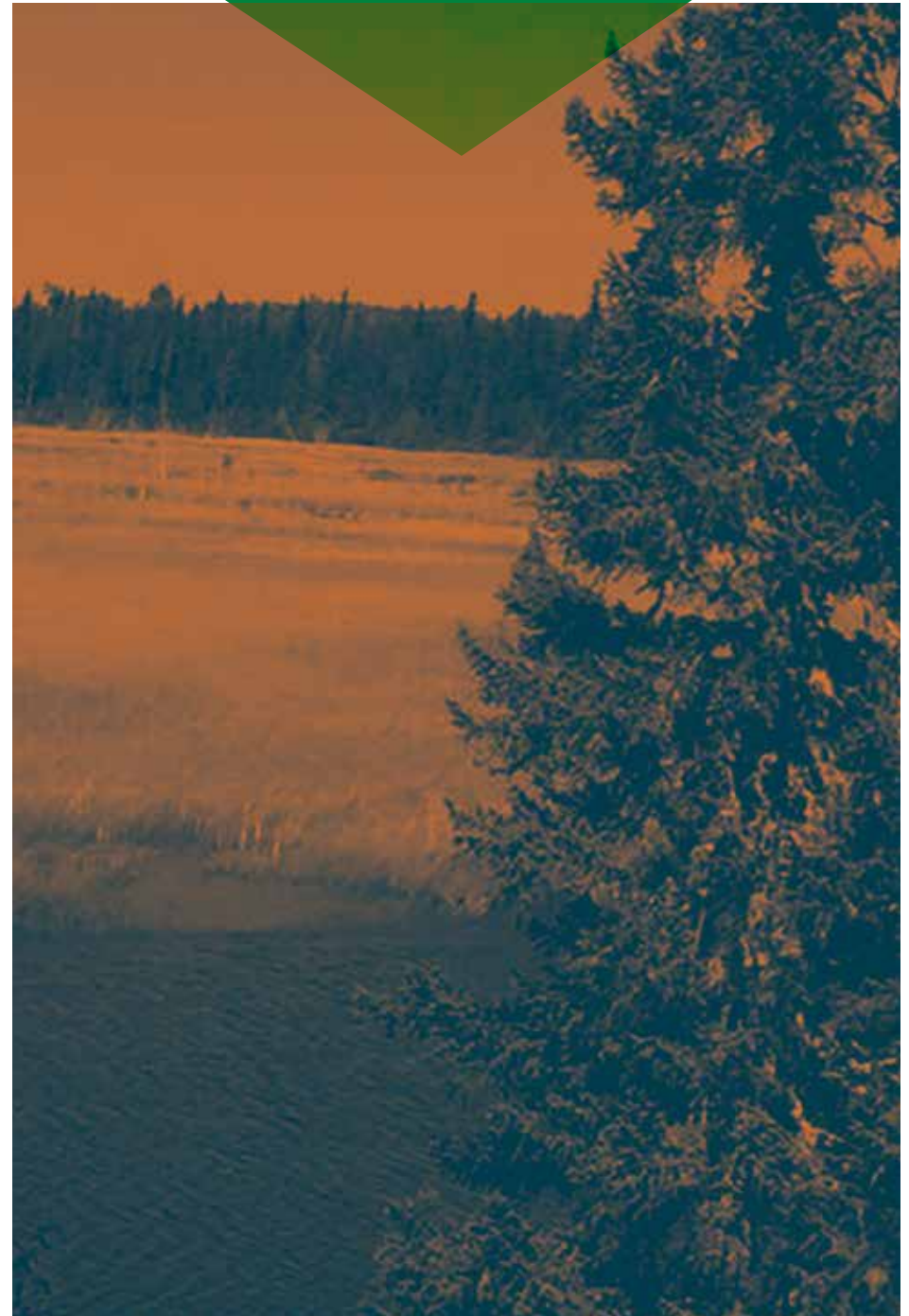


Table 6 below provides an overview of how many people participate in the programs offered at the ice arena over the 2022/2023 season and 2023/2024 season.

**Table 19: Program Participation at the Beardmore Community Centre Ice Arena**

2022/2023 Season	
Public skate	105 participants
Shinny	0 participants
Private ice rentals	0 rentals
Local school rentals	6 rentals
2023/2024 Season	
Public skate	168 participants
Shinny	0 participants
Private ice rentals	0 rentals
Local school rentals	4 rentals

*\*The shinny figures are memberships only and do not include daily passes.*

### Curling Rink and Lounge

The curling rink and lounge at the Beardmore Community Centre is used by the men’s, ladies, mixed, juniors and seniors’ leagues. Programs, events and tournaments are co-ordinated by the Beardmore Curling Club.

## GERALDTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ♦ The greatest use of the arena appears to be for unscheduled activities including shinny and public skate. Approximately 38% of weekly available time is dedicated to these activities.
- ♦ Public skating shows sizeable participation compared to shinny.
- ♦ Utilization of the fitness center at the Geraldton Community Centre appears to be low.
- ♦ The curling rink is well utilised by the Geraldton Curling Club.
- ♦ The men’s curling league appears to receive more scheduled time at the rink compared to the ladies and junior leagues.

### Operating Hours

Geraldton Community Centre is open to the public for 49 hours a week during the winter season. During the summer, the facility is open for 40 hours a week for gym users and rentals.

### Ice Arena

The ice arena at Geraldton Community Centre is available for use approximately 37 hours per week. Breakdown of available time at the Geraldton Community Centre ice arena:

**Table 20 Arena Schedule**

Day	Hours Available
Monday	5.5 hours
Tuesday	6 hours
Wednesday	6.5 hours
Thursday	6.5 hours
Friday	5 hours
Saturday	7.5 hours

Weekly available time at the ice arena is allocated as follows.

**Table 21: Arena Allocation**

Activity	Scheduled Hours	Percentage of Available Time
Shinny	8 hours	22%
Public skate	6 hours	16%
Minor hockey	7 hours	19%
House league	2 hours	5%
Old Timers	1 hour	3%
Adult skate	4 hours	11%
Open facility	4.5 hours	12%
Greenstone Gold Mines	2 hours	5%
Parents and tots skate	2.5 hours	7%

Table 15 below provides an overview of how many people participate in the programs offered at the ice arena over the 2022/2023 season and 2023/2024 season.

**Table 22: Program Participation Numbers at the Geraldton Community Centre Ice Arena**

2022/2023 Season	
Public skate	1,156 participants
Shinny	4 annual pass holders
Parents and Tots	98 participants
Private ice rentals	90 rentals
Local school rentals	0 rentals
Minor Hockey	98 hours rented
Learn to Skate	8 participants
2023/2024 Season	
Public skate	1,617 participants
Shinny	23 annual pass holders
Parents and Tots	261 participants
Private ice rentals	143 rentals
Local school rentals	0 rentals
Minor Hockey	141 hours rented

*\*The shinny figures are memberships only and do not include daily passes.*

### Fitness Centre

Utilization of the fitness center at the Geraldton Community Centre appears to be low. The fitness centre had two paid memberships in 2023 and so far only one paid membership in 2024.

## Curling Rink and Lounge

The curling rink and lounge at the Geraldton Community Centre is used by the men's, ladies and juniors' leagues. Programs, events and tournaments are co-ordinated by the Geraldton Curling Club.

The Geraldton Curling Club currently schedules 15.25 hours per week at the curling rink. Weekly scheduled time at the curling rink is allocated as follows:

- ♦ Men's league games are offered weekly on Tuesdays (3 hours) and Thursdays (3 hours)
- ♦ Ladies league games are offered weekly on Wednesdays (3 hours)
- ♦ Junior league games are offered weekly on Fridays (1 hour and 15 minutes)
- ♦ Drop-in curling is offered on Tuesdays (2 hours)
- ♦ Mixed social nights (3 hours)

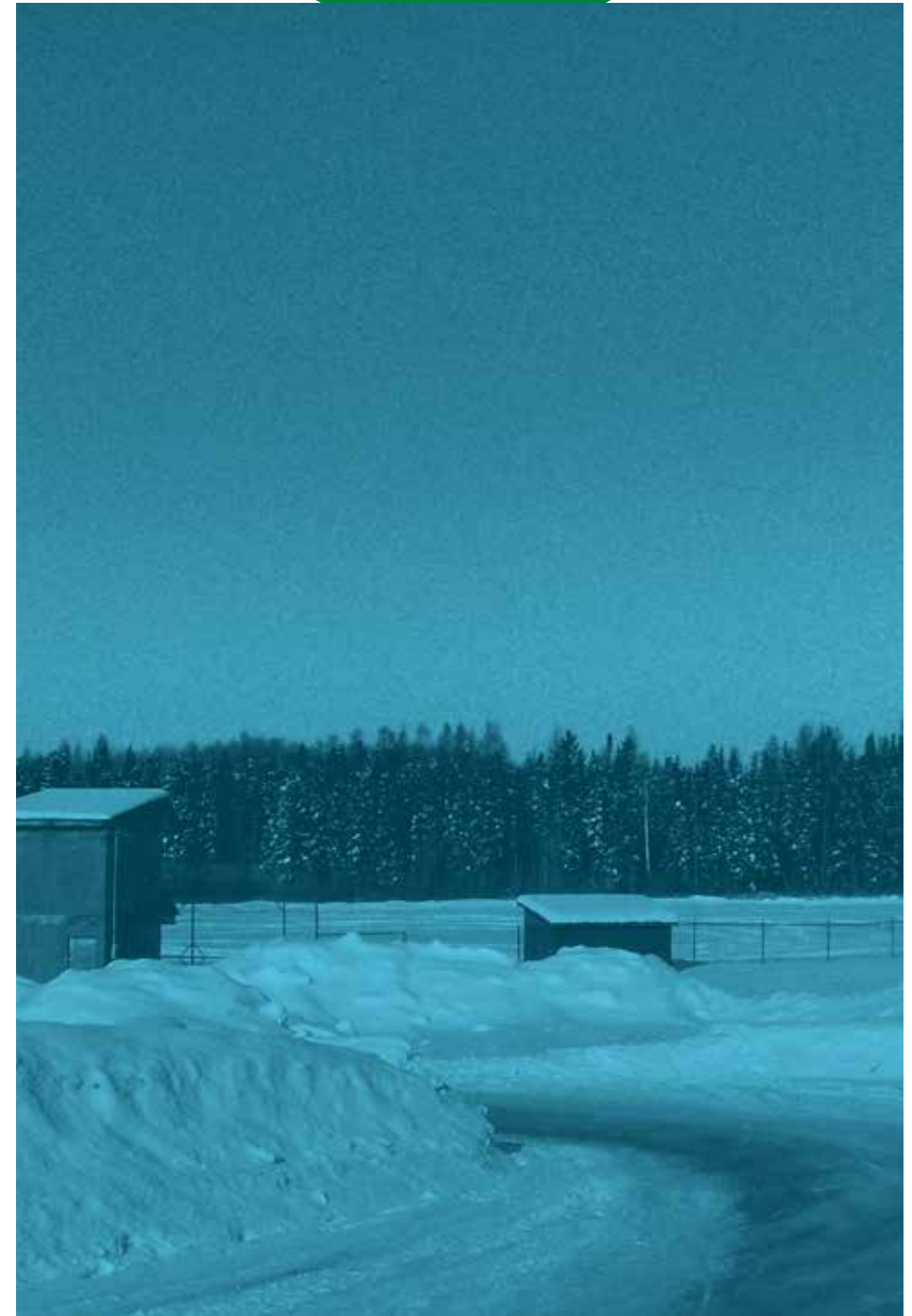
Table 23: User Group Usage

User Group	Scheduled Hours	Percentage of Available Time
Men's league	6 hours	39%
Ladies league	3 hours	20%
Junior league	1.25 hours	8%
Mixed league	5 hours	33%

*\*Note that the exact hours are estimated based on the assumption that curling games are typically three hours long.*

## Elderly Person's Centre

The senior's activity centre at Geraldton Community Centre offers exercise and social programs for seniors.



<sup>21</sup> <https://www.geraldtoncurlingclub.ca/leagues>

## LONGLAC SPORTSPLEX

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ♦ Minor hockey receives most of the weekly available time at the ice arena. Minor hockey is scheduled for 15 hours per week (42% of weekly available time).
- ♦ Shinny receives 25% (9 hours) of the weekly available hours at the ice arena and public skate receives 7% of weekly available time (2.5 hours).
- ♦ Public skate has significantly more participants than shinny. In the 2022/2023 season 528 people participated in public skate and just 24 people participated in shinny.
- ♦ Participation in public skate appears to be increasing over time.

### Operating Hours

Longlac Sportsplex is open to the public for 49 hours a week during the winter season. During the summer, the facility is open for 40 hours a week for rentals.

### Ice Arena

The ice arena at Longlac Sportsplex is available for use 36 hours per week. Breakdown of available time at the Longlac Sportsplex ice arena:

**Table 24 Arena Hours of Operation**

Day	Hours Available
Monday	5.5 hours
Tuesday	5.5 hours
Wednesday	5.5 hours
Thursday	5.5 hours
Friday	6 hours
Saturday	8 hours

Weekly available time at the ice arena is allocated as follows.

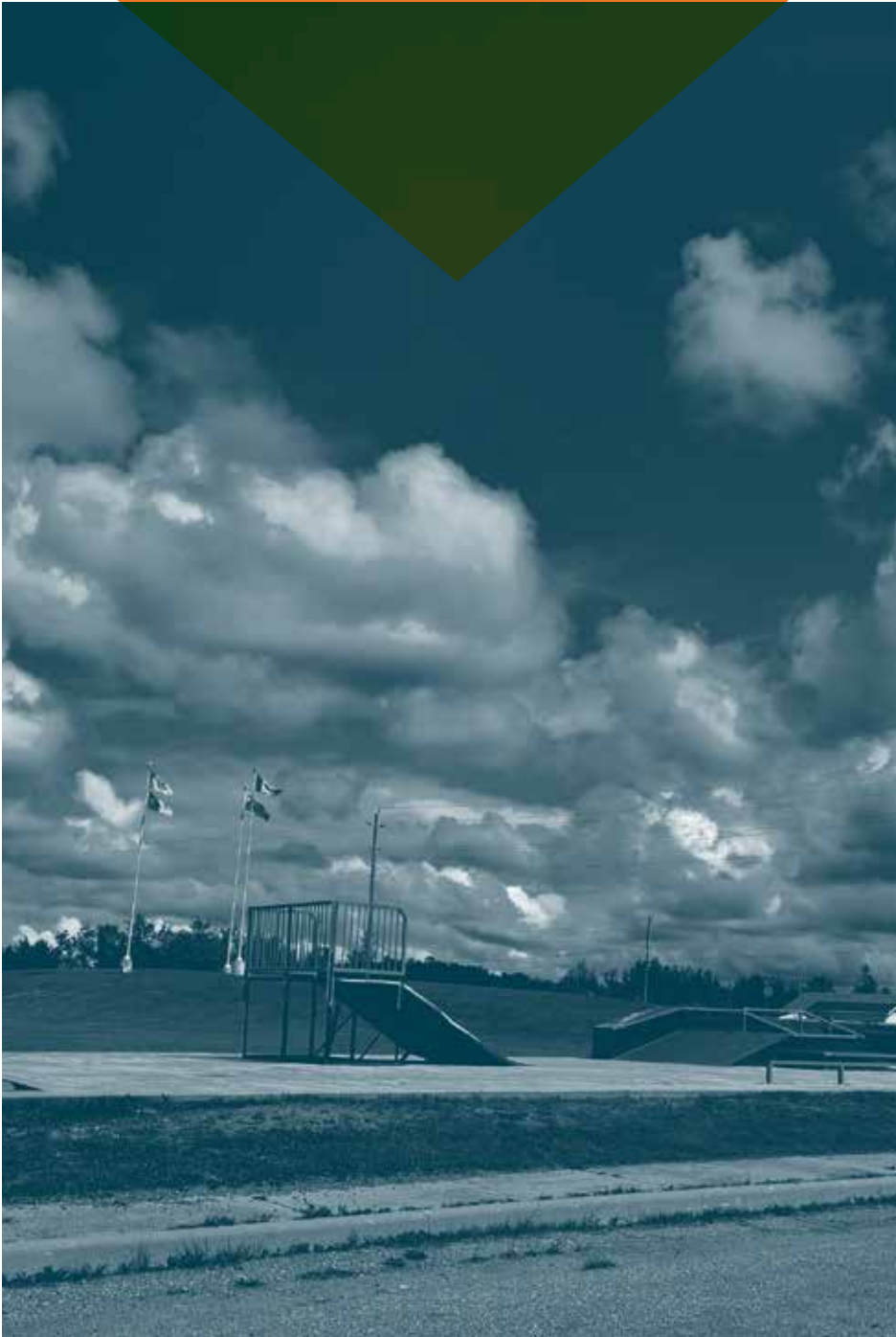
**Table 25 Arena Allocation**

Activity	Scheduled Hours	Percentage of Available Time
Shinny	9 hours	25%
Public skate	2.5 hours	7%
Minor hockey	15 hours	42%
Ginoogaming First Nation - Adult	1 hour	3%
Ginoogaming First Nation - Youth	2	6%
Long Lake No. 58 First Nation - Adult	1 hour	3%
Long Lake No. 58 First Nation - Youth	2 hours	6%
Longlac Men's hockey	1 hour	3%
Open facility	1 hour	3%
Parents and tots skate	1.5 hours	4%

Table 8 below provides an overview of how many people participate in the programs offered at the Longlac Sportsplex ice arena over the 2022/2023 season and 2023/2024 season.

**Table 26: Program Participation Numbers at the Longlac Sportsplex Ice Arena.**

2022/2023 Season	
Public skate	528 participants
Shinny	24 annual pass holders
Parents and Tots	109 participants



Private ice rentals	156 rentals
Local school rentals	7 rentals
Minor Hockey	240 hours rented
Learn to Skate	26 participants
<b>2023/2024 Season</b>	
Public skate	670 participants
Shinny	24 annual pass holders
Parents and Tots	76 participants
Private ice rentals	236 rentals
Local school rentals	7 rentals
Minor Hockey	264 hours rented

*\*The shinny figures are memberships only and do not include daily passes.*

### **Curling Rink and Lounge**

The curling rink and lounge at the Longlac Sportsplex is used by the men’s, ladies, juniors’ and seniors’ leagues. Programs, events, and tournaments are coordinated by the Longlac Curling Club.<sup>22</sup>

### **LOGLAC SENIORS CLUB**

The municipality of Greenstone provides hall space in Longlac for the Longlac Seniors Club. The building contains a kitchen, a pool table, and a hall space. The building is used by the Longlac Seniors Club to host events and gatherings such as Bingo and Carpet Bowling.

<sup>22</sup> <https://longlaccurling.wordpress.com/about/>

## NAKINA COMMUNITY CENTRE

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ♦ Public skate and shinny receive most of the scheduled time at the ice arena per week (58% of weekly available time). Both activities are scheduled for 9 hours per week (29% of available time).
- ♦ Public skate has significantly higher participation numbers than shinny. In the 2023/2024 season, 582 people participated in public skate and five people participated in shinny. There were no participants in Shinny during the 2022/2023 season.
- ♦ Use of the fitness center at the Nakina Community Centre appears to be fairly consistent over time.

### Operating Hours

The Nakina Community Centre is open to the public for 40 hours a week during the winter season. During the summer, the facility is open for 40 hours a week for gym users and rentals.

### Ice Arena

The ice arena at Nakina Community Centre is available for use 31 hours per week. Breakdown of available time at the ice arena.

**Table 27 Arena Hours of Operation**

Day	Hours Available
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	6 hours
Wednesday	6 hours
Thursday	6 hours
Friday	6 hours
Saturday	7 hours

Weekly available time at the ice arena is allocated as follows.

**Table 28 Arena Allocation**

Activity	Scheduled Hours	Percentage of Available Time
Shinny	9 hours	29%
Public skate	9 hours	29%
Aroland First Nation	2.5 hours	8%
Open facility	5 hours	16%

Table 29 below provides an overview of how many people participate in the programs offered at the Nakina Community Centre ice arena over the 2022/2023 season and 2023/2024 season.

**Table 29: Program Participation Numbers at the Nakina Community Centre Ice Arena.**

2022/2023 Season	
Public skate	274 participants
Shinny	0 annual pass holders
Private ice rentals	1 rental
Local school rentals	15 rentals
Local school rentals	7 rentals
2023/2024 Season	
Public skate	582 participants
Shinny	5 annual pass holders
Private ice rentals	4 rentals
Local school rentals	11 rentals

*\*The shinny figures are memberships only and do not include daily passes.*



## Fitness Centre

Use of the fitness center at the Nakina Community Centre appears to be fairly consistent over time. The fitness centre had 12 paid memberships in 2023 and 11 paid memberships in 2024.

## Curling Rink and Lounge

The curling rink and lounge at the Nakina Community Centre is used by the men's, ladies, juniors' and seniors' leagues. Programs, events, and tournaments are co-ordinated by the Nakina Curling Club.<sup>23</sup>

### Nakina Curling Club runs:

- ♦ Tournaments (3-5 hours)
- ♦ Scheduled practice sessions (1.5 hours)
- ♦ Drop-in curling (2 hours)

## NAKINA SENIOR CITIZEN'S SUNRISE CLUB

The municipality of Greenstone provides hall space in Nakina for the Nakina Senior Citizen's Sunrise Club. The building contains a kitchen and hall space and is used by the Nakina Senior Citizen's Sunrise Club to host events and gatherings.

## 3.4.2 OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES AND PLAYGROUNDS

Outdoor amenities such as parks, playgrounds and ball diamonds in Greenstone are used by the public for casual recreation activities such as play and exercise. Specific utilization information is not available for the outdoor amenities and playgrounds. These facilities are primarily utilized by the community for unscheduled and spontaneous activities and play. Some examples of programs and activities that do make use of them include:

- ♦ Summer Day Camps in Geraldton, Longlac and Nakina
- ♦ Summerfest in Longlac
- ♦ Longlac Walleye Masters Annual Fishing Tournament
- ♦ Longlac Paddle and Bugs Camp
- ♦ Nakina Bass Derby Fishing Tournament
- ♦ Kenogamisis Fish and Game Conservation



<sup>23</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/479994062024569>



**4**

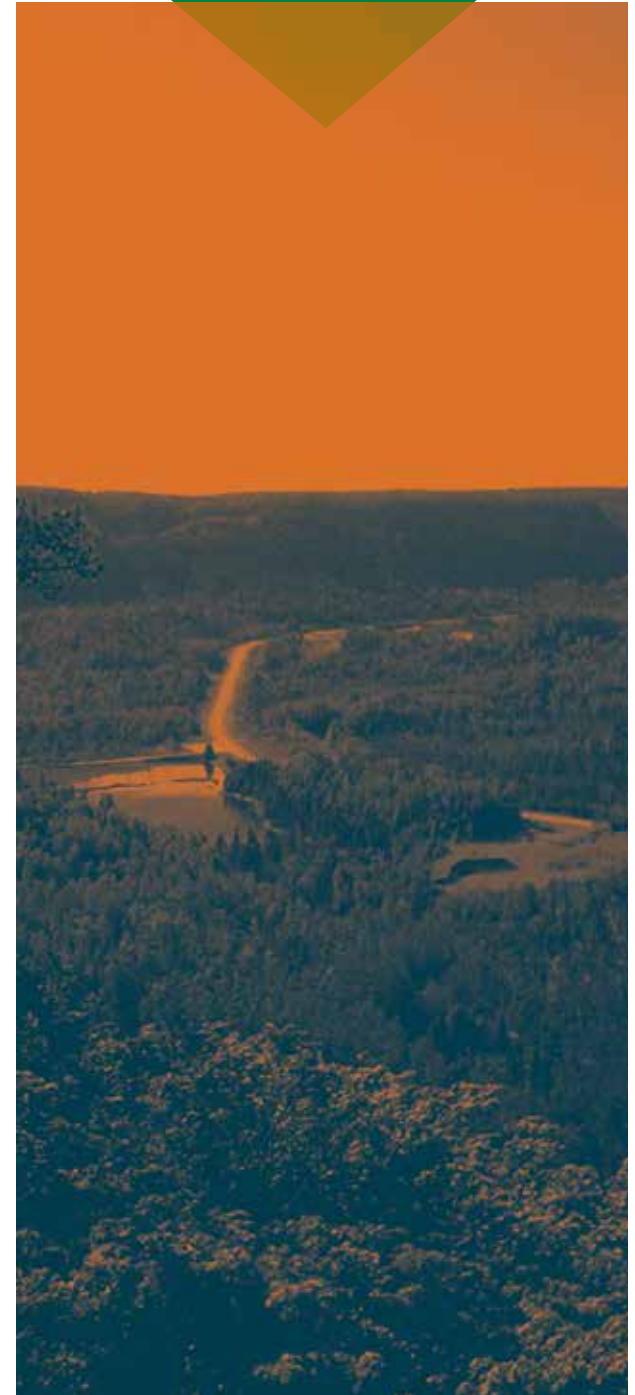
# **SERVICE DELIVERY**

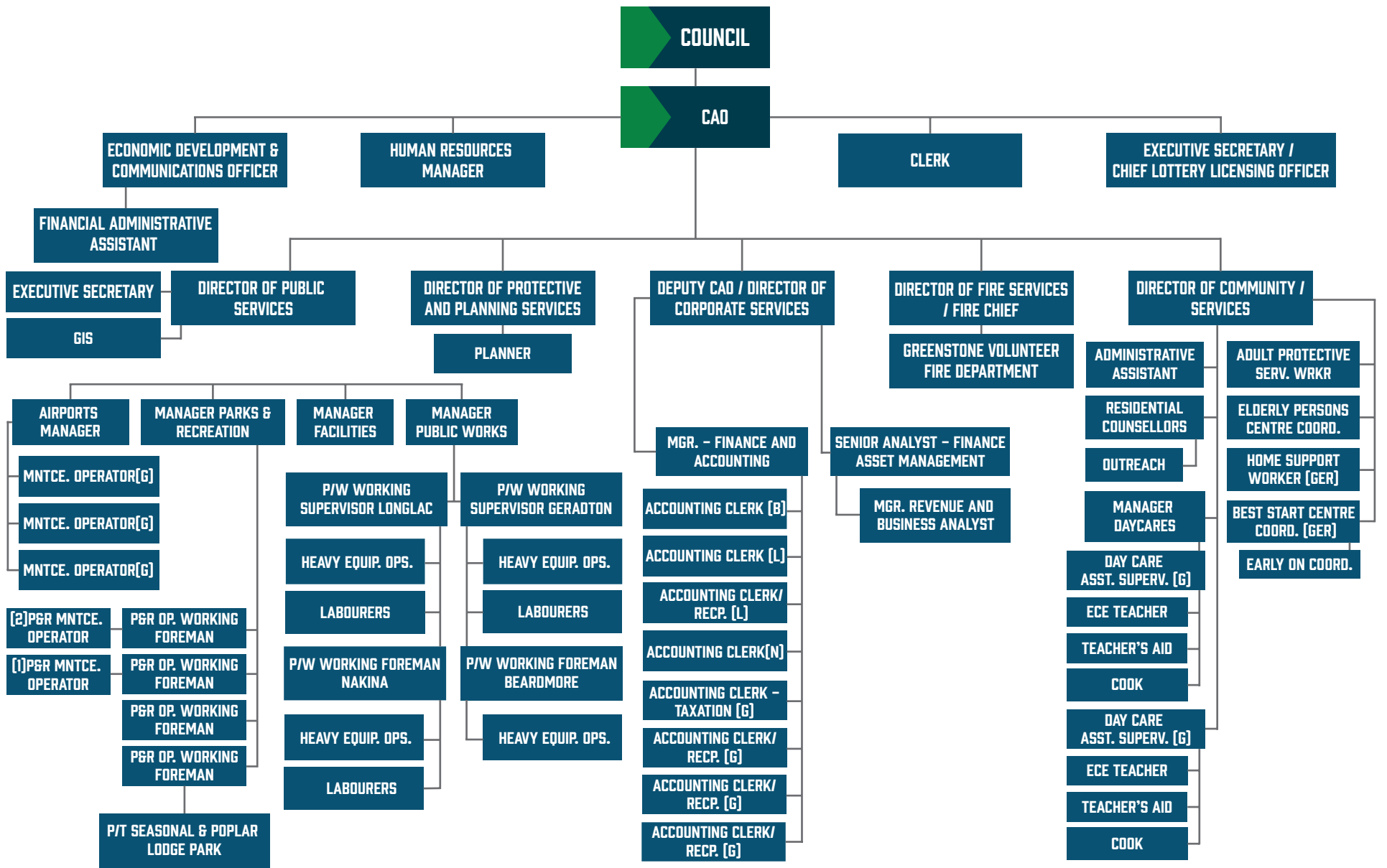
## 4.1 MUNICIPALITY OF GREENSTONE SERVICE DELIVERY

As shown in the organizational chart, the Parks and Recreation branch of the Municipality is part of the Public Services department. The Manager of this section has as a primary responsibility the operation of the community centres in four communities (i.e. Longlac, Geraldton, Nakina, and Beardmore). While situated in the Public Services Department, the Manager of Parks & Recreation does liaise with community organizations and community volunteers in efforts related to recreation programming.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ♦ The Manager of Parks and Recreation reports to the Director of Public Services. The Manager's staff consists of facility operators and maintenance staff.
- ♦ The Municipality of Greenstone provides some programming but relies on volunteers for their delivery.
- ♦ There is an array of organizations that provide recreation opportunities to the community such as, seniors programming, youth sports, culture/heritage events and activities.
- ♦ Organizations also hold a variety of events throughout the year including hockey tournaments, fishing and hunting events and concerts.

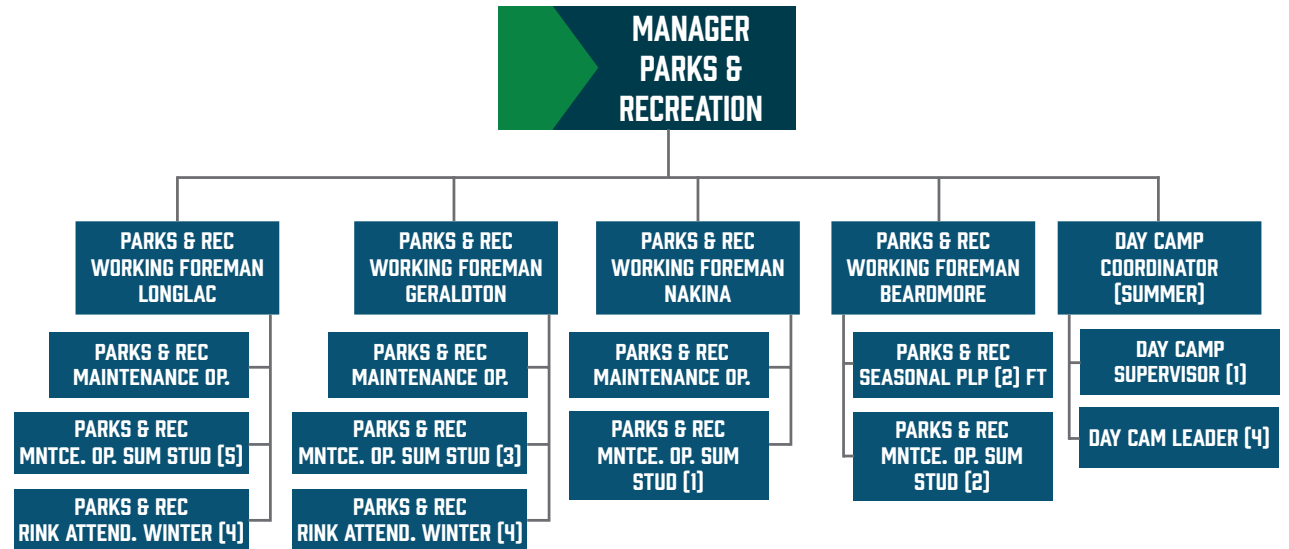




PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT PART TIME STAFF  
1 P/T LABOURER - 16 HRS/WEEK - BEARDMORE

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT PART TIME STAFF  
1 P/T OUTREACH WORKER - 21 HRS/WK

The Municipality of Greenstone looks to the community in its delivery of programs. With its single position of Manager of Recreation and Parks, Greenstone works to recruit community volunteers to do the actual program delivery. Each winter, spring, and summer the Municipality does a call out for volunteers to assist with the Learn to Skate Program, Baseball and Soccer programming. The fate of the program is based on the number of volunteers that step forward. Additionally, there are groups in the area that provide and promote recreation opportunities in the Municipality. Descriptions of these groups are presented below.



## 4.2 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

**The Beardmore Recreation Association** delivers community programming to residents of Beardmore. It uses the Community Complex in Beardmore for some of its programs but also delivers programming at other sites in the community. The Association has delivered baseball and soccer programs as well as a variety of community events such as a family bonspiel (the Beardmore Curling Club allows the Association to use the curling ice), winter carnival, holiday events, and Canada Day.

**The Beardmore Curling Club** operates the Beardmore Curling Rink from January 1st to the last day of March annually (until 2025). The association leases the curling rink and enclosure, the curling club locker, storage room and a portion of the community hall from the Municipality of Greenstone. During the lease period the association has curling programming, bonspiels and events occur in the facility. During the lease period (and outside) the space is available for rent.

**The Nakina Heritage Corporation** operates the Nakina Curling Rink from November 1st to the last day in February annually (until 2025). The corporation leases the curling rink and enclosure, curling club locker and bar storage room and a portion of the community hall. These spaces are used for curling programming, both adult and youth, bonspiels and community events.

**The Nakina Heritage Association** is a non-profit organization that operates the Nakina Heritage Museum. The Museum is home to historical items from the area. Many of these historical items were donated by residents and pioneers of the community.

**Geraldton Elderly Persons Centre** is located in the Geraldton Community Centre and offers free programming for seniors in the area. Programs include, bridge, euchre, cards, carpet bowling, exercise programs and much more.

**Longlac Seniors Centre** is a stand alone building located at 121 Indian Road, in Longlac. The club offers residents, over the age of 55 an array of recreation and educational programs and services. The space is also available for private rentals.

Additionally, there are independent groups in the Greenstone area that provide programming opportunities to seniors.

**The Beardmore Evergreens Inc.** is a seniors group that provides fitness and recreational activities for seniors in Beardmore. Additionally, the provide supports such as snow removal.

**The Nakina Seniors Citizens Sunrise Club** is a seniors club located in Nakina that provides recreation activities and social events for seniors in the area. Additionally, they have a space that can be rented out by the public.

**Geraldton La Joie De Vivre** is a French seniors group that aims to do a variety of social, fitness and recreational activities. They also participate in community events and have a political voice on issues involving the French speaking community.

## 4.2.1 GREENSTONE LIBRARY SYSTEM

The Municipality of Greenstone is also home to the Greenstone Public Library system that includes four branches. The branches are located in Beardmore, Geraldton, Longlac and Nakina. Libraries are important community assets, and these branches provide a space for all to learn and play. The below tables outline the available programs and events available at each branch.

**Table 30: Library Programming**

### Beardmore Branch

Program	Description
After School Crafts	After school programming for youth.
Bunny Hop Dance	Spring dance event for youth.

### Geraldton Branch

Program	Description
Adult Book Club	An adult group that meets every 6 weeks to discuss a new book.
Youth Book Club	A youth group that meets every 6 weeks to discuss a new book.
Adult Scrabble	Adult board game drop – in.
March Break Lego	Lego crafts for youth.

### Longlac Branch

Program	Description
March Break Activities	A different activity each day, including crafts, board games and movies catered to youth.
After School Crafts	After school programming for youth.

### Nakina Branch

Program	Description
Adult Book Club	An adult group that meets every 6 weeks to discuss a new book.
Craft Hour	Different crafts on a rotating schedule for youth.



## 4.3 PROGRAMMING & EVENTS

Recreation programs, events and opportunities are essential to the wellbeing and retainment of individuals in a community. They provide residents with a sense of purpose, a way to meet new people and to stay active. These programs and services are delivered directly through the Municipality and indirectly through non-profit organizations.

The Municipality of Greenstone does directly provide some programming, including drop – in shinny, parent and tot skating in Geraldton, Beardmore, Longlac and Nakina. The accompanying charts illustrates the programs available to residents that are directly provided by the municipality.





## 4.3.1 GREENSTONE DIRECT PROGRAM DELIVERY

Table 31: Direct Program Delivery

Programs	
Program	Description
<b>Beardmore</b>	
Shinny	A paid program to improve hockey skills outside of scheduled programming.
Public Skating	Free programming to practice skating skills.
<b>Geraldton</b>	
Summer Day Camps	8 week summer programming with different themes each week. For youth aged 6-13.
Learn to Skate	Paid skating programming to learn how to skate and transition into ice sports.
Shinny	A paid program to improve hockey skills outside of scheduled programming.
Parent and Tot	Free programming for parents to teach their children how to skate.
Public Skating	Free programming to practice skating skills.
Drop-in Badminton, Pickleball, Volleyball	Drop-in court sports for all ages.
Youth Drop-In	Drop-in sport activities that change on a rotating basis.

Programs	
Program	Description
<b>Longlac</b>	
Summer Day Camps	8 week summer programming with different themes each week. For youth aged 6-13.
Shinny	A paid program to improve hockey skills outside of scheduled programming.
Parent and Tot Skating	Free programming for parents to teach their children how to skate.
Public Skating	Free programming to practice skating skills.
Drop-In Badminton, Basketball and Pickleball	Drop-in sports for all ages.
Drop-In Soccer	Drop-in soccer for those aged 18 years and older.
<b>Nakina</b>	
Summer Day Camps	8 week summer programming with different themes each week. For youth aged 6-13.
Shinny	A program to improve hockey skills outside of scheduled programming.
Public Skating	Free programming to practice skating skills.

## 4.3.2 INDIRECT PROGRAM AND EVENT DELIVERY ACROSS THE MUNICIPALITY

There is a large number of community organizations that offer programs to residents of Greenstone.

The value of these organization is unmeasurable, as they have a role in contributing to the quality of life of residents in Greenstone. The programs and organizations vary, including sports organizations, drop-in programs, seniors programming, snowmobiling and fishing clubs and events.

Additionally, the programs and events illustrated in the chart cater to a variety of age groups, however there are higher levels of youth and seniors programming.

The following organizations and groups have a lease space or are provided space by the Municipality to provide their programming.

**The Beardmore Recreation Association**, operates the Beardmore Curling Rink from January 1st to the last day of March annually (until 2025). The association leases the curling rink and enclosure, the curling club locker, storage room and a portion of the community hall from the Municipality of Greenstone. During the lease period the association has curling programming, bonspiels and events occur in the facility. During the lease period (and outside) the space is available for rent.

**The Nakina Heritage Corporation** operates the Nakina Curling Rink from November 1st to the last day in February annually (until 2025). The corporation leases the curling rink and enclosure, curling club locker and bar storage room and a portion of the community hall. These spaces are used for curling programming, both adult and youth, bonspiels and community events.

**The Nakina Heritage Association** is a non-profit organization that operates the Nakina Heritage Museum. The Museum is home to historical items from the area. Many of these historical items were donated by residents and pioneers of the community.

**Geraldton Elderly Persons Centre** is located in the Geraldton Community Centre and offers free programming for seniors in the area. Programs include, bridge, euchre, cards, carpet bowling, exercise programs and much more.

**Longlac Seniors Centre** is a stand alone building located at 121 Indian Road, in Longlac. The club offers residents, over the age of 55 an array of recreation and educational programs and services. The space is also available for private rentals.

The Rural Transportation Program in Greenstone helps seniors gain access to recreation programs, social events and to assist with doctors appointments and grocery store visits.

**Table 2: Indirect Program Delivery**

Programs	
Organization	Description
<b>Beardmore</b>	
Beardmore Curling Club	Curling programming, leagues and tournaments for all ages.
Beardmore Evergreens	A seniors group that provides fitness and recreational activities for seniors in Beardmore. Additionally, the provide supports such as snow removal.
Beardmore Rec Committee	Provides and oversees recreation opportunities in Beardmore.
Canada Day Festivities	Annual Canada Day celebrations.
Lake Nipigon Trout Hunt	A fishing tournament that is hosted annually on the first weekend in July.
Royal Canadian Legion Beardmore Branch #148	The Legion is an organization that supports and advocates for veterans in the community. The space is used to host events for the community while also raising money to support the veterans in their community.
<b>Jellicoe</b>	
Jellicoe Recreation Club - Crib Tournaments	Friendly crib tournaments for all ages.
Jellicoe Recreation Club - Pot Lucks	Christmas, mothers day and holiday community pot luck events for all ages.
<b>Geraldton</b>	
Geraldton Minor Hockey	Organized youth hockey for aged 5 to 18.
Geraldton Curling Club	Curling programming, leagues and tournaments for all ages.

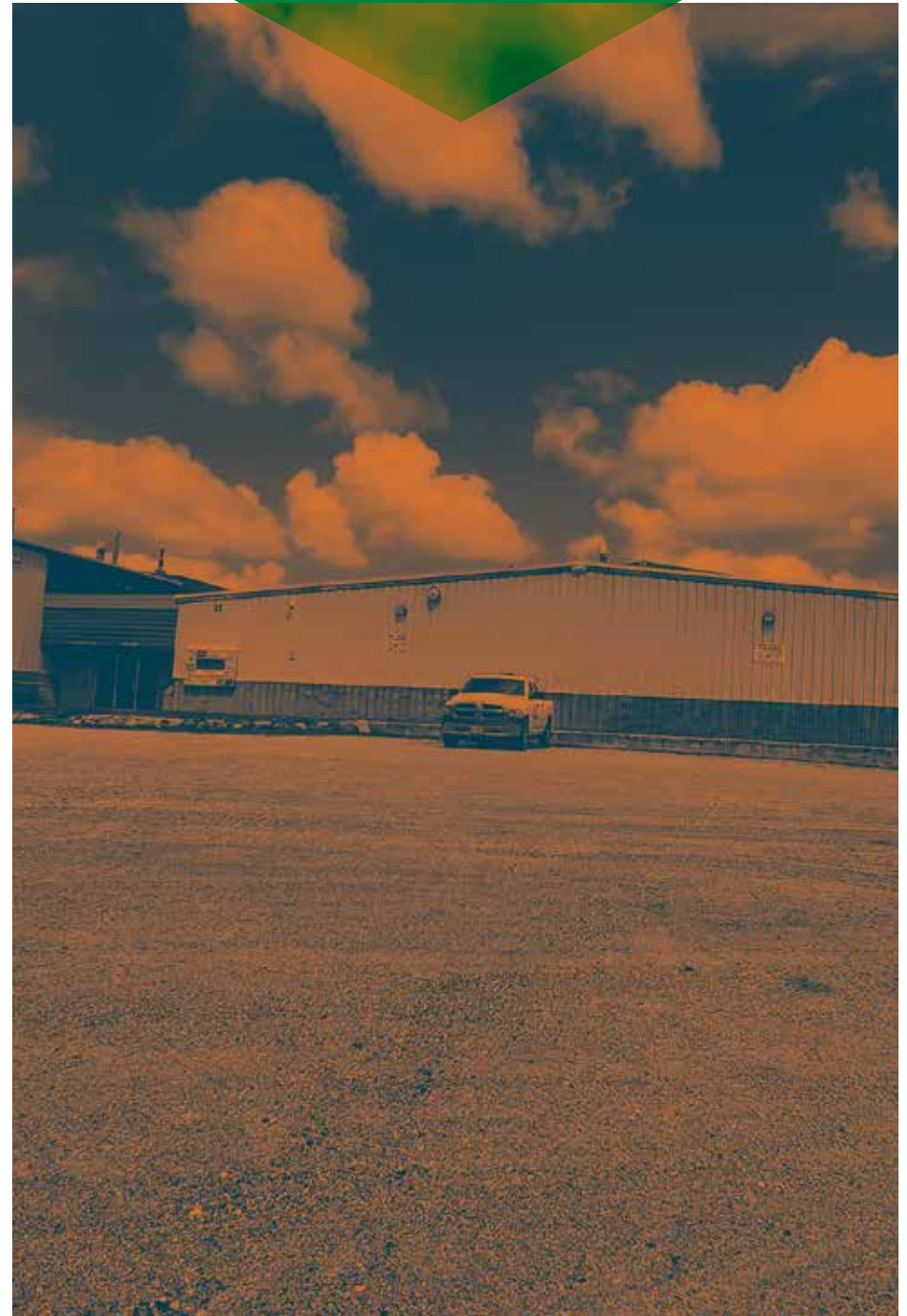
Programs	
Organization	Description
Geraldton Nordic Ski Club	The Geraldton Ski Club is home to 5.1 km of trails at MacLeod Provincial Park. Ski rentals (available at Marino Hardware), day passes and memberships are available.
Early ON – Parent and Tot Play Time	Structured creative play and discovery for parents with childre aged 0-6 years old.
Early ON – Indoor Walking	Indoor walking for new parents.
Geraldton Elderly Persons Centre	Provides programming for senior aged 55 and older. Programming may include darts, shuffleboard, board games, card, creative art programming, carpet bowling, bingo nights, socialization events, cooking classes and movie nights.
Geraldton La Joie De Vivre	French seniors group that aims to do a variety of social, fitness and recreational activities. They also participate in community events and have a political voice on issues involving the French speaking community.
Royal Canadian Legion Geraldton Branch #133	The Legion is an organization that supports and advocates for veterans in the community. The space is used to host events for the community while also raising money to support the veterans in their community.
Geraldton Walleye Classic	Walleye competition held annually on the third weekend of June.
Canada Day Festivities	Annual Canada Day celebrations.
Easter Weekend Hockey Tournament	Annual adult hockey tournament.
Concert Series	A variety of concerts throughout the year
Super Bowl Party	Super Bowl watch party.

Programs	
Organization	Description
<b>Longlac</b>	
Longlac Minor Hockey	Organized youth hockey for youth aged 5 to 18.
Longlac Curling Club	Curling programming, leagues and tournaments for all ages.
Longlac Paddle and Bugs Camp	Kayak, canoe and paddling camps for youth.
Longlac Cross Country Ski Club	Maintains a cross country ski trail on the north side of highway 11.
Longlac Senior Centre	Seniors programming and events in Longlac.
Longlac Walleye Masters	Annual fishing tournament held on Long Lake on the third weekend of July.
Summerfest	An community event with baseball and softball tournaments, fish fry, kid activities, a parade, bike decorating and known for its world famous beef on a bun. The event is held annually on the third weekend in July at the Lakeside Centre.
Moosecalac Winter Festival	Annual adult hockey tournament and community event that is held over Family Day weekend.
Royal Canadian Legion Longlac Branch #213	The Legion is an organization that supports and advocates for veterans in the community. The space is used to host events for the community while also raising money to support the veterans in their community.

Programs	
Organization	Description
<b>Caramat</b>	
Caramat Curling Club	Curling programming, leagues and tournaments for all ages.
Moose Hunter Ball	Fundraising event for the Moose Hunters
<b>Nakina</b>	
Nakina Curling Club	Curling programming, leagues and tournaments for all ages.
Nakina Sunrise Club	Seniors recreation and education programs and events for those aged 55 years and older.
Active Play – Volunteer Ran	Drop-in play time for parents and young children.
Youth Drop-In	Drop-in sport activities for youth that change on a rotating basis.
Royal Canadian Legion Nakina Branch #116	The Legion is an organization that supports and advocates for veterans in the community. The space is used to host events for the community while also raising money to support the veterans in their community.
Nakina Bass Derby	A 60 boat fishing tournament held on Cordingley Lake for small mouth bass.
Super Bowl Events – Nakina Legion	Super Bowl watch party.
Canada Day Festivities	Annual Canada Day celebrations.
Nakina Spring Revival – Nakina Curling Club / Various Local Areas	A variety of events for different age groups to celebrate the beginning of spring. An event for the entire family.
Nakina Christmas Parade of Lights	Christmas Parade.

Programs	
Organization	Description
<b>Other</b>	
Midori Ishi Kai Martial Arts	Karate programming, competitive and recreational opportunities for all ages in Geraldton, Longlac and Nakina.
Greenstone Snowmobile Club	Recreational snowmobiling around the Municipality for all ages.
Kenogamisis Fish and Game Conservation	Fishing tournaments and events. Promotion of fish and game conservation in the area for all ages.
Kenogamisis Golf Club	9 hole, Stanley Thompson golf course.

*\* The Municipality of Greenstone does not directly provide events; however they do support organizations that put-on events in the community.*



**5**

# FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The Municipality of Greenstone invests in recreation programs, services and facilities for a variety of reasons. According to the Framework for Recreation in Canada, investing in recreation creates jobs, fosters tourism and makes communities more attractive to live, learn, work and play. To better understand the investments Greenstone makes in recreation, the below section breaks down the operating budgets from the previous four years.

An analysis of the previous three budget years was (2020-2022) conducted related to the financial allocation (investment) in recreation. The amount Greenstone spends on recreation has been consistently at approximately 12% of all municipal expenditures for each of the three years examined.

**Table 33: Recreation and Municipal Expenditures**

	Recreation Expenses	Total Municipal Expenses	% of Total
2022	\$3,210,712	\$27,130,240	11.8%
2021	\$3,125,558	\$26,318,387	11.8%
2020	\$2,574,426	\$24,323,782	10.6%

*\*The figures were taken from the annual audited financial statements, using Recreation and Cultural Services.*

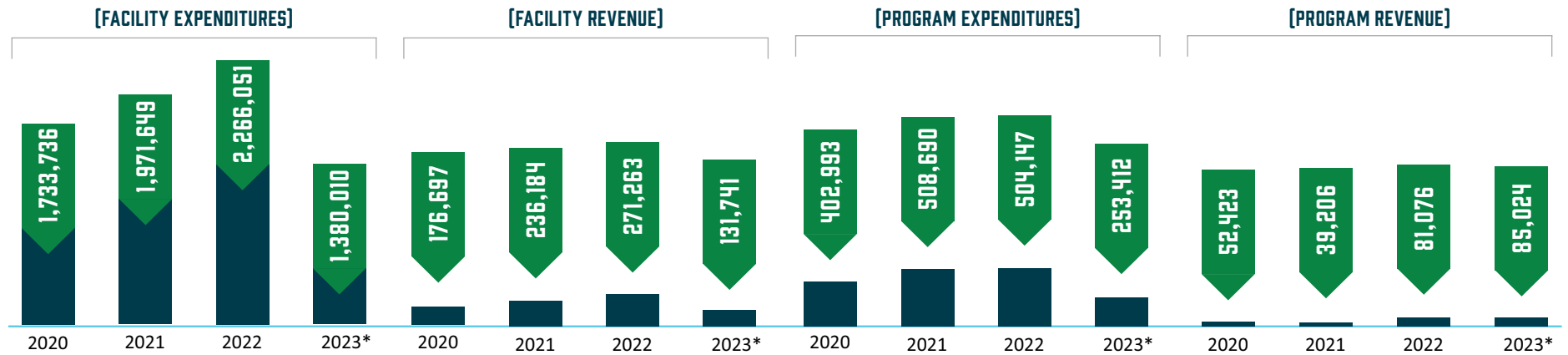
## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ♦ On average, the recreation expenses comprised approximately 11% of the overall municipal budget.
- ♦ Over \$1million dollars is allocated annually to maintain their major indoor facilities. This equated to 51-54% of the recreation budget.
- ♦ Considering program revenues compared to expenditures, recovery is less than 34%.
- ♦ Greenstone provided groups and organizations with \$105,400 (total) in grant funding in 2023.

## Recreation Financials

The Municipality saw a large increase in program revenue from 2021 to 2022. The increase in revenue shows there is some demand for programming in the area. Additionally, facility expenditures decreased \$886,014 due to changes in facility operations and an amortization period coming to an end in 2022. However, the Municipality is spending a considerable amount of dollars to run recreation facilities in the area.

### RECREATION FINANCIALS



\*Note: the 2023 figures do not encompass the entire year.



### Playground and Baseball Diamonds Financial Impact

Greenstone has several playgrounds and baseball diamonds that are maintained by Municipal Staff. These amenities are valuable to the community and provide accessible and no cost recreation opportunities for residents. Specifically, playgrounds in Greenstone are used often and are considered assets to the community. Based on the workplan for staff, playground inspections and maintenance (including ball diamonds) the Municipality incurs \$51,636 annually on playground and baseball diamond inspections. These figures do not include annual contracted inspections, which are estimated at \$5,000 annually.

**Table 34: Playground and Baseball Diamond Financial Impact**

Playground	Annual Inspection Cost
Beardmore (Baseball Field and Poplar Lodge Playground)	\$4,628
Caramat (Baseball Field and 2 Playgrounds)	\$7,332
Jellicoe (Main Street Playground)	\$2,080
Geraldton (Ballpark Crescent Playground, Baseball Field & Playground at Community Centre, Rotary Park Playground and the Trailer Park Playground)	\$12,220
Longlac (Skate Park, Lions Park, Longlac Waterfront – George Blouin Park, Jeff Gauthier Park, Ron Beaulieu Baseball Field)	\$17,056
Nakina (Northwood Park Playground, Algoma Park, Ball Diamond)	\$8,320
	\$51,636



The accompanying chart outlines the indoor recreation operating budgets from the previous four years for each area in Greenstone. Geraldton, Longlac, Beardmore and Nakina account for the majority of the operating budget due to the significant facilities and amenities located in their facilities.

**Table 35: Indoor Recreation Operating Budget Figures**

	Indoor Recreation Operating Budget			
	2023	2022	2021	2020
Admin (Facilities Manager & Admin)	\$99,608	\$161,024	\$130,801	\$123,717
Beardmore	\$126,876	\$221,210	\$200,820	\$178,222
Geraldton	\$313,221	\$512,326	\$439,109	\$308,516
Longlac	\$266,328	\$432,191	\$357,336	\$411,035
Nakina	\$184,449	\$260,016	\$218,179	\$211,373
Caramat	\$20,299	\$22,745	\$14,396	\$24,396
Jellicoe	\$8,745	\$21,064	\$24,998	\$16,017
Jellicoe Storage	\$3,349	\$10,007	\$6,405	\$8,714
Greenstone Complex	\$4,656	\$10,389	\$17,931	\$13,976
	\$1,027,531	\$1,650,972	\$1,409,975	\$1,295,966

Regarding outdoor facilities and amenities in Greenstone, Poplar Lodge park requires significant operating funding due to the array of facilities and amenities located at the site (playground, campground, picnic areas, toilets). Capital investments in parks also impact the operating budget, with MacLeod parking seeing significant improvements in 2022.

**Table 36: Outdoor Recreation Operating Budget Figures**

	Indoor Recreation Operating Budget			
	2023	2022	2021	2020
High Hill Harbour Marina	\$45,098	\$50,050	\$30,936	\$25,715
Poplar Lodge Park	\$238,354	\$256,459	\$255,507	\$170,816
MacLeod Park	\$28,365	\$341,640	\$267,656	\$202,085
Riverview Campground / Lakeside Centre	\$40,193	\$42,441	\$33,709	\$27,521
Cordingley Lake Park	\$11,967	\$21,660	\$22,467	\$9,355
Beardmore Greenspace	\$18,045	\$9,916	\$11,929	\$3,546
Geraldton Greenspace	\$42,040	\$42,392	\$43,172	\$45,214
Longlac Greenspace	\$69,472	\$98,932	\$91,927	\$87,464
Nakina Greenspace	\$14,865	\$16,943	\$21,585	\$23,924
Greenstone Greenspace	\$7,213	\$5,588	\$14,607	\$15,381
Caramat Greenspace	\$69	\$370	\$4,356	\$0
	\$515,681	\$886,391	\$797,851	\$611,021

*\*As of 2024, the Municipality of Greenstone no longer owns MacLeod Park*

The Municipality of Greenstone relies heavily on volunteer support for programs to run. This model can be a challenge, however with strong volunteer support programs such as soccer and baseball are able to be available to residents. Due to this model, investment in programs is minimal, however the investment in events in the community is sizeably larger. The Municipality does not directly host events, however they have annual funding groups can apply for to host community events. Additionally, as presented later in this document, the Municipality provides in-kind donations to these events, which include equipment borrowing, staff time etc.

**Table 37: Program Expenditure Figures**

	Program Expenditures			
	2023	2022	2021	2020
Admin	\$179,352	\$422,612	\$411,879	\$345,836
Pool	\$570	\$1,255	\$644	\$1,486
Beardmore	\$0	\$297	\$0	\$0
Geraldton	\$308	\$0	\$0	\$0
Longlac	\$976	\$0	\$0	\$0
Nakina	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200
Greenstone	\$2,712	\$5,107	\$2,282	\$1,348
Cultural Services - Greenstone (Events)	\$69,491	\$75,172	\$75,565	\$54,116
	\$253,403	\$504,443	\$490,370	\$402,986

The majority of program revenue in Greenstone stems from facility rentals such as ice rentals, lease agreements and event rentals. Recreation fees, such as fitness centre memberships, youth soccer and baseball registrations have increased significantly since 2020 and 2021.

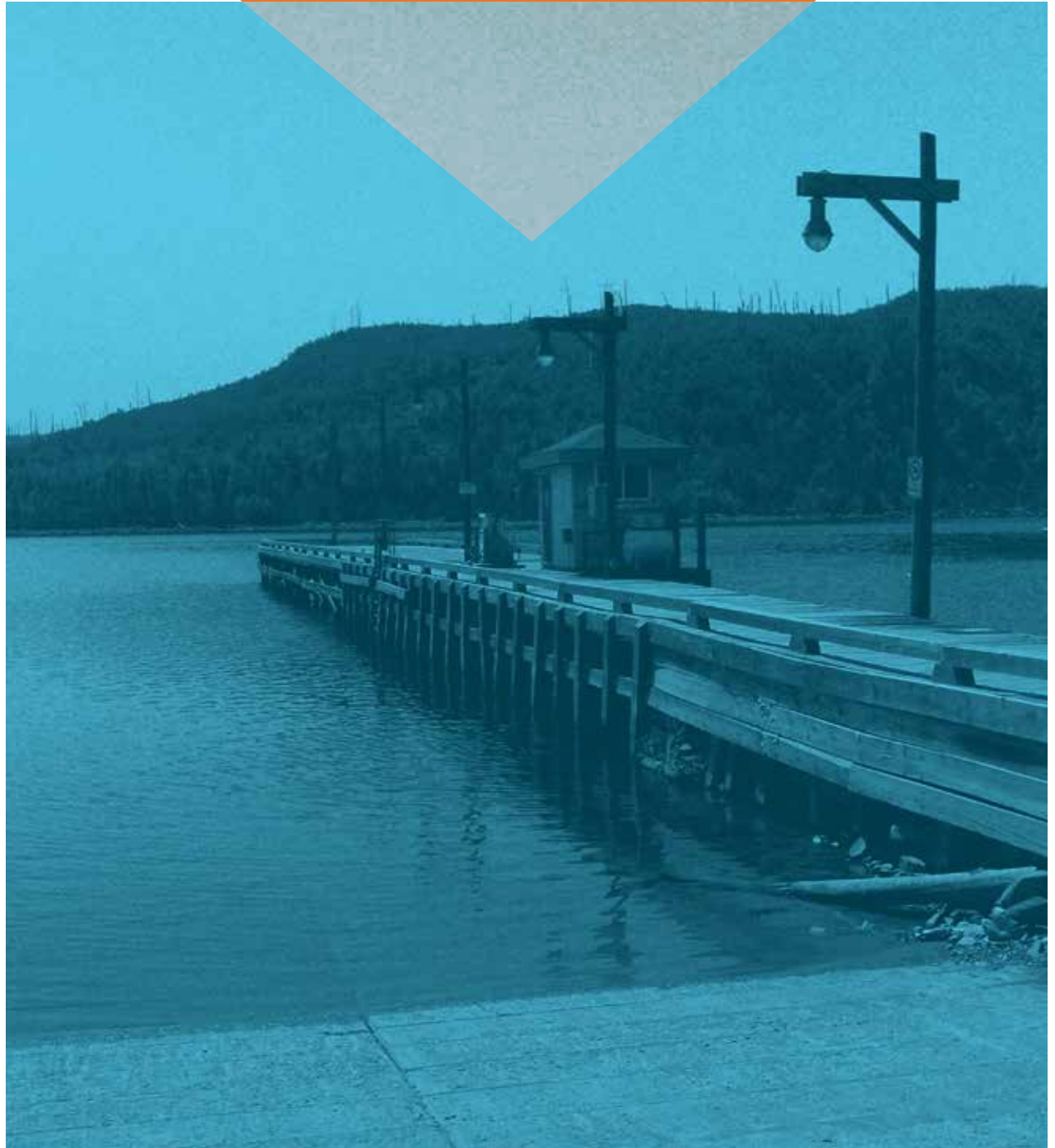
**Table 38: Program Revenue Figures**

	Program Revenue			
	2023	2022	2021	2020
Recreation Fees	\$15,424	\$13,992	\$5,383	\$6,614
Beardmore Complex Rentals	\$50	\$1,369	\$0	\$2,132
Geraldton Complex Rentals	\$30,172	\$35,444	\$16,910	\$3,649
Longlac Complex Rentals	\$33,498	\$28,436	\$13,420	\$36,763
Nakina Complex Rentals	\$4,994	\$1,416	\$2,934	\$3,453
Nakina Vending Machine	\$40	\$0	\$125	\$0
Insurance	\$842	\$416	\$432	\$190
	\$85,020	\$81,073	\$39,204	\$52,801

## Grants

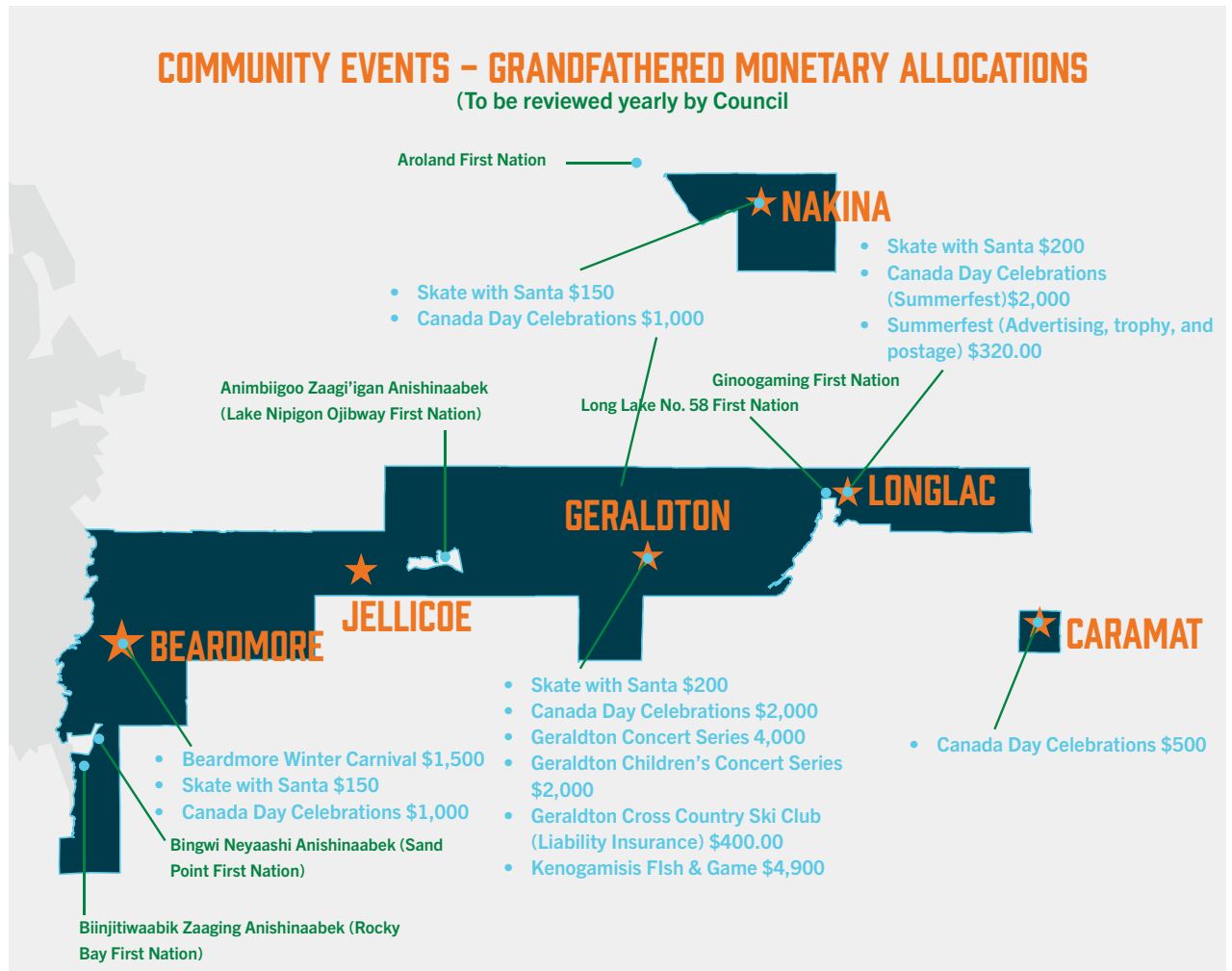
The Municipality of Greenstone provides granting opportunities for a variety of organization in the area. Greenstone has a Municipal Grant Resource Allocation Policy. The policy outlines a process for organizations to request money from the municipality. The policy provides a clear and consistent manner to which money is distributed annually. There are three grant streams considered through the policy which include, community sponsorship grants which are one-time funding to assist with the start-up of an organization, an in-kind contribution which are non-financial contributions such as the use of municipal equipment (tents etc), park space, staff and facilities and the community event grant which funding will be provided for an event that is of cultural, social and recreational significance to the community. The below chart outlines the grant funding distributed in 2023.

	Grant Programs (2023)
Annual Municipal Grant - Beardmore	\$6,000
Annual Municipal Grant - Nakina	\$6,000
Beardmore Evergreen Seniors Grant	\$6,000
Community Grants	\$43,000
Greenstone Harvest Centre	\$8,400
Kenogamisis Golf Course	\$30,000
Longlac Snow Club Grant	0
Nakina Seniors Sunrise Club Grant	\$6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$105,400</b>

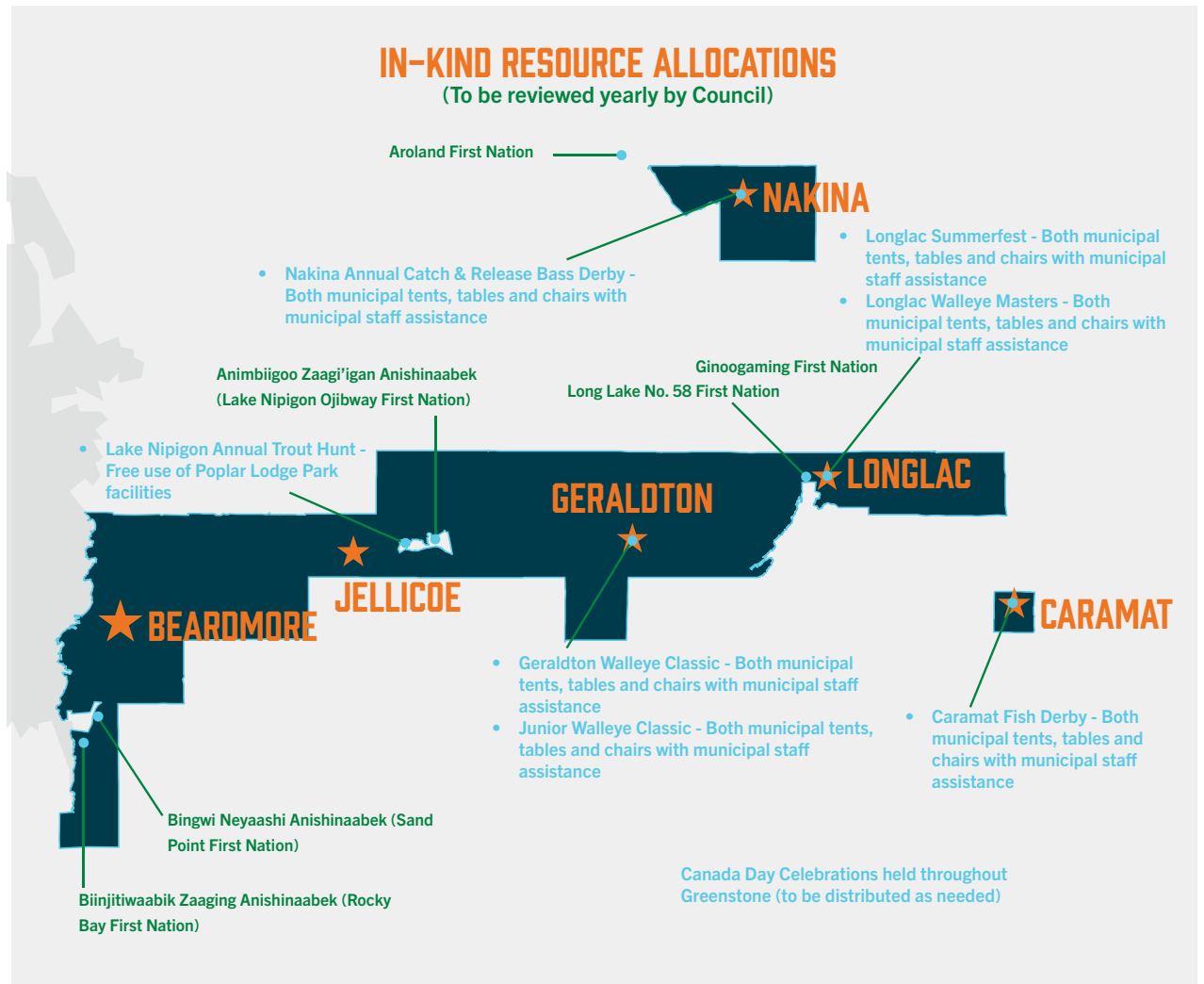


Additionally, Greenstone has annual grants that go towards community events. This funding is reviewed annually by Council. These funds enable organizations to plan their annual community events, knowing funding is available. The annual, grandfathered funding is presented in the accompanying map.

Moreover, Council has committed to contribute \$500 for the nearby Indigenous communities to host Pow Wows.



Moreover, Greenstone also has annual in-kind donations for community events. These include the use of tents, tables, chair and other materials that are owned by the Municipality. These in-kind donations are also reviewed annually by council. Refer to the accompanying map.





**6**

**POLICY AND PLAN REVIEW**

Various policy and planning documents were reviewed at the municipal, provincial, and national level. These documents contain important strategic objectives, directions and insights that may be helpful in informing the Greenstone Recreation and Playground Master Plan. The tables below do not present an exhaustive review of documents that may be important for the Municipality of Greenstone to consider, but rather, summarize and highlight those most relevant to recreation planning.

#### Areas of Focus in Municipal Strategies and Plans and Policies Relating to Parks and Recreation:

- ♦ Outlining the Municipality’s approach asset management with specific guidance for recreation assets.
- ♦ Assessing the past and future recreation needs for the Greenstone region.
- ♦ Outlining the Municipality’s approach to setting fees relating to recreation facilities and services.
- ♦ Outlining the Municipality’s approach to offering grants to community and volunteer organizations that offer programs and services to the community.

#### Areas of Focus in Municipal Policies and Plans:

- ♦ Recognizing the value recreation facilities, services, and amenities to building community and attracting workers/service providers and their families into the region.
- ♦ Recognizing the need for improvements in recreation programs for youth and young adults.

- ♦ Highlighting the specific needs of senior residents when it comes to recreation planning, highlighting factors to consider such as accessibility and affordability.
- ♦ Recognizing the value of incorporating the provision of parks and recreation amenities and facilities in land use planning.

#### Areas of Focus in Provincial and National Policies and Plans:

- ♦ Outlining the provincial approach to supporting sport organizations.
- ♦ Strategic overview of the direction of parks and recreation planning and provision in Ontario.
- ♦ Providing rationale for investment Parks and Recreation including fostering active lifestyles, fostering inclusion and accessibility in recreation, connecting people to nature, and building capacity in the sector.
- ♦ Educating about indigenous sport history and participation.
- ♦ Reducing barriers and improving service delivery.
- ♦ Collaboration, partnership and expanding efforts in new sectors.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ♦ Recreation is recognized as an important service to provide in Greenstone for quality of life reasons but also economic development ones.
- ♦ Greenstone has undertaken service delivery reviews for their recreational services and playgrounds.
- ♦ The Asset Management Plan for Greenstone provides important direction for the management of Greenstone’s ageing infrastructure.
- ♦ The Growth Plan for Northern Ontario (2011) provides important context for understanding how industry growth in the region (mining, forestry, mineral extraction) may impact population growth in Greenstone and bring demand for recreation services and infrastructure.



**Table 40: Municipal Policies and Plans**

Policy or Plan	Purpose	Relevance
<p><b>Municipality of Greenstone Strategic Plan (2023).</b></p>	<p>This plan is the overarching strategic document for Greenstone. It sets out the overall goals and objectives that guide the municipality. All other municipal plans and policies should align with these goals and objectives.</p>	<p>The plan makes specific mention of insights relating to parks and recreation including:</p> <p>Recreational programming for youth and young adults is recognized as a socioeconomic challenge in Greenstone.</p> <p>The fiscal challenges facing the Municipality are reflected in Greenstone’s vision and mission. The provision of quality of life needs to be provided in an “economically sustainable way”. As well, needs and expectations will reflect “economic realities”.</p> <p>Recreational programs and facilities are recognized as important to the economic development of Greenstone as they attract new workers and service providers to the area.</p>
<p><b>Municipality of Greenstone Service Delivery Review: Recreation Programming (2023).</b></p>	<p>The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of the current state of recreation service delivery in Greenstone.</p> <p>The report provides a series of recommendations to the Council of the Municipality of Greenstone to improve recreation program service delivery in Greenstone.</p>	<p>The plan provides recommendations related to improving recreation program service delivery in Greenstone. These recommendations may influence the direction of the Recreation and Playground Master Plan for Greenstone.</p> <p>The report also provides program participation statistics, information on the current recreation budget, recreation staffing structures and insight into the current recreation service delivery model for Greenstone. All this information is useful in understanding the current state of recreation provision in Greenstone and identifying areas for change.</p>
<p><b>Municipality of Greenstone Service Delivery Review: Playgrounds and Outdoor Recreational Facilities (2023).</b></p>	<p>The report provides a series of recommendations to the Council of the Municipality of Greenstone to improve the delivery of playgrounds and outdoor recreation infrastructure in Greenstone.</p>	<p>The report provides a comprehensive review of the current provision of outdoor recreation infrastructure (playgrounds, parks, ball diamonds, and outdoor rinks) in Greenstone relating to budget, capital and operational costs, and service catchments. It provides recommendations to the Council of the Municipality of Greenstone for how to improve the service delivery of outdoor recreation infrastructure in Greenstone.</p>

Policy or Plan	Purpose	Relevance
<p><b>Municipality of Greenstone Official Plan (2022).</b></p>	<p>This plan is a key document that guides land use planning in Greenstone. The plan sets out goals, objectives, and policies to guide growth and development within the Municipality of Greenstone within the next 25 years (2021-2046).</p> <p>The purpose of the plan is to identify the opportunities and constraints to enhance the stewardship of the municipality’s land, culture, and natural environment.</p>	<p>The plan has an overall goal of developing a strong, liveable, healthy community. The provision of recreation services, facilities and amenities helps to meet this goal by providing opportunities for people to be physically active and connect with each other.</p> <p>The plan promotes a land use pattern that builds thriving residential neighbourhoods that incorporate places for recreation.</p> <p>Recreation recognized as important to quality of life. The plan states that new development is only permitted in areas where existing recreation infrastructure exists.</p> <p>The plan provides insight into the patterns of growth occurring in Greenstone and key industries such as forestry, mining, and tourism. The recognizes the importance of preserving land for future housing developments that may be needed if population growth occurs due to growth in the mining industry in Greenstone.</p> <p>The plan also highlights the importance of sustaining the economic base of Greenstone through the provision of high-quality public services and spaces as well as recreational and tourism opportunities that attract people to Greenstone.</p>
<p><b>Municipality of Greenstone Seniors’ Services Review (2020).</b></p>	<p>This document provides a review of senior services provided by various communities within Greenstone. It includes an analysis of gaps in service provision and equity of service provision across throughout the Greenstone region.</p>	<p>The report includes insights from consultation with senior residents relating to the current provision of parks and recreation amenities and services in Greenstone. It also highlights opportunities for improvement including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ More walkways and sidewalks and better maintenance of these.</li> <li>◆ More bike and scooter lanes.</li> <li>◆ More accessible washrooms in parks.</li> <li>◆ Community gardening opportunities.</li> <li>◆ Enhance public awareness of municipal facilities, parks, and recreation programs that are available to seniors.</li> <li>◆ Consider the affordability of recreation programs for seniors.</li> </ul>

**Table 41: Municipality of Greenstone Strategies and Plans Relating to Parks and Recreation.**

Policy or Plan	Purpose	Relevance
<p><b>Municipality of Greenstone Bylaw 23-86. Fees and Charges Bylaw (2024).</b></p>	<p>The purpose of the Bylaw is to establish General Fees and Charges and Conditions for the Corporation of the Municipality of Greenstone (2024).</p>	<p>The policy includes a specific fee schedule relating to community centres which outlines ice rental fees and facility rental fees.</p>
<p><b>Municipality of Greenstone Asset Management Plan (2022).</b></p>	<p>Given the ageing infrastructure in Greenstone, this plan serves a core planning function for the municipality. The plan outlines the current state of asset management planning in Greenstone. It identifies current practices and strategies that are in place to manage public infrastructure.</p>	<p>The plan provides an overview assessment of the current condition of assets (including recreation buildings) and an assessment of their remaining service life and forecasted capital requirements.</p> <p>Policy provides insight into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The quantity of recreation and culture buildings, parks, and playground structures in Greenstone.</li> <li>◆ The average condition rating of these assets.</li> <li>◆ The estimated useful life and the total estimated replacement cost of these assets.</li> <li>◆ Long term capital requirements of these assets.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Municipality of Greenstone Municipal Grant and Sponsorship Policy (2020)</b></p>	<p>The policy establishes eligibility requirements, identifies types of funding available and outlines application and monitoring requirements.</p>	<p>The policy outlines the municipality’s approach to offering grants to volunteer groups and community organizations that provide beneficial programs and services to the community which could include recreation programs and services.</p>

Policy or Plan	Purpose	Relevance
<p><b>Municipality of Greenstone By-Law 19-22 Adopt Strategic Asset Management Policy (2019).</b></p>	<p>Purpose is to provide endorsement for the development and implementation of the Municipality's asset management program. The bylaw helps to facilitate logical and evidence-based decision making for the management of municipal infrastructure assets.</p>	<p>The bylaw provides insight into the principles that guide the Municipality's approach to asset management such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Understanding the inventory of assets.</li> <li>◆ Cost efficiency.</li> <li>◆ Developing an asset management plan for all municipal assets (including recreation assets).</li> <li>◆ Incorporating asset management into financial planning.</li> </ul> <p>The bylaw also provides guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Approaches to funding and partnerships.</li> <li>◆ Climate change risks that affect assets.</li> <li>◆ Aligning asset management with the province of Ontario's land-use planning framework.</li> <li>◆ Co-ordinating asset management with neighbouring municipalities where appropriate.</li> </ul>

Policy or Plan	Purpose	Relevance
<p><b>Town Of Geraldton Recreation Master Plan (1987).</b></p>	<p>Goals of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Identify and evaluate the cultural and recreation opportunities in the Town of Geraldton.</li> <li>◆ Assess the future needs of the population of the Town of Geraldton.</li> <li>◆ Analyse existing recreation facilities and recommend ways to improve operational efficiencies.</li> </ul>	<p>This plan is outdated and was written for the town of Geraldton before it was amalgamated into Greenstone. However, it still provides useful insight into the strategic approach to recreation planning and provision in the area at the time.</p> <p>This plan provides the following insights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Provides an inventory of recreation facilities in the town of Geraldton and who they were provided by.</li> <li>◆ Provides insight into community views on the current provision of recreation facilities and which amenities they want more of (bowling alley, squash/ racquet ball courts).</li> <li>◆ Assessments of key recreation facilities and amenities, assessment of demand and whether demand can be met with current provision or if future provision is needed.</li> <li>◆ Inventory of park spaces in Geraldton and assessment of whether current supply meets demand. Conclusion that current supply does meet demand. Recommendation to improve the quality of parks. Recommendation to form joint-use agreements with schools and maximise public use of school grounds.</li> <li>◆ Assessment of leisure program provision which was found to be satisfactory. Recommendation to tailor future provision to emerging interests.</li> <li>◆ Review of the municipal leisure delivery system including roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>◆ Outlines leisure providers in the region – Geraldton recreation Department, Geraldton Board of Education, Geraldton Schol Board, Ministry of Natural Resources. The municipality had two joint use agreements, one with the Board of Education and one with the Curling Club.</li> <li>◆ Provides guidance on recreation policy development. Recommends the development of key policies – grant policies, joint-use agreements, user fee policy.</li> <li>◆ Provides an implementation program for key recommended improvements relating to facilities, parks and open space, leisure programs and the recreation delivery system.</li> <li>◆ Appendices include inventories of parks and open space, recreation facilities and programs.</li> </ul>

**Table 42: Provincial and National Policies and Plans**

Policy or Plan	Purpose	Relevance
<b>Ontario Sport Recognition Policy for Provincial and Multi-sport Organizations (2022).</b>	This policy sets out the mandatory requirements provincial sport and multi-sport organizations must meet to be recognized by the province of Ontario. Demonstrates the provincial commitment to aligning with national sport guidelines	The policy ensures that values such as equity in sport, safe sport and ethics in sport are upheld by sport organizations. The policy could be important for the Municipality of Greenstone to consider in relation to sport organizations and user groups in its community.
<b>Canadian Sport for Life Long Term Development (2021).</b>	Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) promotes quality sport and physical activity by focusing on Long-Term Athlete Development and Physical Literacy in Canadian communities.	Long-Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity is about ensuring that all people can access quality opportunities that are safe and inclusive, well-run, and developmentally appropriate. Physical Literacy is about motivation, physical confidence, knowledge, and understanding needed to take responsibility for engaging in physical activity for life.
<b>Parks and Recreation Ontario 2020-2024 Strategic Plan (2020).</b>	The plan sets out the mission of Parks and Recreation Ontario which is to lead, connect and inspire Ontario's parks and recreation sector.	Represents the provincial perspective on recreation and parks in Ontario. Useful strategic overview to inform local municipal approaches.
<b>Let's Get Moving (2018).</b>	Federal strategy focused on building on existing efforts to get Canadians moving more and presents topics to address sedentary behavior challenges.	Topics identified include creating spaces and places that are supportive and accessible for physical activity to be part of daily life, expanding public engagement efforts, and on developing multi-sectoral partnerships to achieve shared outcomes.
<b>Parks for All (2017).</b>	Developed by the CPRA, this document presents a vision for parks in Canada to support healthy environments and people, as well as four strategic directions to support service providers.	Strategic directions include collaboration (partnerships, expanding efforts in new sectors, strategizing beyond parks boundaries), connecting (raise awareness, facilitate experiences, share stories), conservation (expand and enhance parks and ecosystem services), and leadership (set examples for others, build capacity, maintain systems and resources to support leaders).
<b>Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015).</b>	Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) Guiding document that establishes a vision for the delivery of recreation in Canada and five goals to guide recreation providers.	Provides an excellent starting point for recreation planning and a foundation for alignment with other communities and levels of government, bolstering the case for provincial and federal investments in recreation. Goals include supporting active living, inclusion, and access, connecting people with nature, creating supportive environments, and building sector capacity.

Policy or Plan	Purpose	Relevance
<b>Truth and Reconciliation: Calls to Action Report (2015).</b>	To redress the legacy of the residential school system in Canada, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) developed 94 Calls to Action to support reconciliation in Canada.	Several calls to action speak directly to sports and recreation, including promoting education on Indigenous sport history and participation, amending policies and programs to ensure inclusivity, and identifying opportunities to connect health goals and initiatives with efforts to promote reconciliation through recreation.
<b>Canada Sport Policy (2012).</b>	Federal policy first developed in 2002 that sets a direction for all levels of government, institutions, and organizations to realize the positive impacts of sport participation.	Underscores the importance and ability of sport systems to deliver benefits to communities and identifies amenities that provide benefits to citizens related to sport participation and physical activity.
<b>Growth Plan for Northern Ontario (2011).</b>	The Growth Plan for Northern Ontario is a 25-year plan that provides guidance to align provincial decision making and investment for economic and population growth in Northern Ontario.	<p>The plan sets the vision for economic development and growth in Northern Ontario.</p> <p>The plan references the unique aspects of Northern Ontario that contribute to its economic growth such as the forestry, minerals and agricultural land, as well as the rich history and culture of the region including the Aboriginal culture and French speaking populations, that attract tourists to the area.</p> <p>The plan sets out an economic action plan relating to key economic sectors including:</p> <p>Agriculture, culture, forestry, minerals and mining, tourism, and renewable energy. Each sector has recommended actions.</p> <p>Relevant recommendations for the tourism sector include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Investing in public infrastructure and parks to increase competitiveness in the tourism industry and enhance visitor experience.</li> </ul> <p>The plan outlines a requirement for economic service hubs to maintain up to date official plans and develop land use strategies which accommodate for recreational opportunities.</p> <p>The municipality of Greenstone’s Official Plan was developed in alignment with the Northern Ontario Growth Plan.</p>



**7**

# **TRENDS AND LEADING PRACTICES**



# 7.1 INFRASTRUCTURE TRENDS

## Asset Management Planning

Effective asset management planning requires municipalities to develop an accurate inventory of assets, assess intended and current level of service provided by such assets, and to develop lifecycle maintenance schedules to ensure that assets have the longest functional lifespan possible. For parks and recreation service providers, it is important to both understand existing assets under management as well as to proactively identify needed maintenance well in advance of assets being in urgent need of repair.

The Canadian Infrastructure Report Card recommends that municipalities reinvest between 1.7% and 2.5% of a facility's capital value each year. The average is currently around 1.3%.

In Ontario, around 32% of tourism, culture, and sport infrastructure is rated in 'good' condition – lowest of all municipal asset classes.

It is important that municipalities take a proactive approach to identifying ongoing maintenance, rehabilitation, and other investment requirements via transparent Asset Management plans, particularly for parks and recreation infrastructure.

## Adaptation in Built Infrastructure and Open Spaces

Leveraging technology and smart design can significantly reduce the energy use and environmental impacts of recreation facilities. Utilizing green building design standards for indoor recreation facilities (e.g., LEED) and incorporating leading edge technologies to reduce energy consumption, prevent heat loss, and lower water consumption can help to offset a facility's overall environmental impact. Renewable energy generation technologies can also be incorporated to generate electricity.

Municipalities are also grappling with shifting economic landscapes and ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that have challenged revenues and placed expenditures under greater scrutiny. Integrating sustainable building technologies can help to reduce the ongoing operating costs of recreation facilities. Regularly reviewing user fees can also help to balance the importance of affordable, accessible services with revenues needed to maintain high service standards.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ♦ The Canadian Infrastructure Report Card recommends that municipalities reinvest between 1.7% and 2.5% of a facility's capital value each year.
- ♦ Smart design and technology can reduce energy use in recreation facilities.
- ♦ There is increased pressure on indoor recreation facilities to provide more year-round opportunities due to climate change. (Ex. Outdoor soccer season may have to shift indoors).
- ♦ There is a high demand for unstructured / drop-in play opportunities.
- ♦ In recent years the playground landscape has seen significant expansion in the types of equipment and structures that are available. Leading this trend are "natural play spaces", which are intended to replicate aspects of natural environments such as forests, rocks, crevices, slopes and other outdoor elements.

## Accessibility

To ensure that public spaces and facilities are accessible for all, communities are now developing and adopting holistic design guidelines to be referred to often. For example, the Edmonton, AB has created a robust access design guide<sup>25</sup> that is to be referenced during planning, design, and construction stages of infrastructure development. This Guide helps to clearly identify important accessibility features.

Accessibility is an ongoing concern for service providers within the parks and recreation sector, as well as for municipalities more generally.

The built environment – including parks, trails, and facilities – can be a primary barrier to participation in community life and leading active lifestyles for all residents.

Indoor and outdoor spaces are now being designed to incorporate universal accessibility features, a wider range of participants are being considered in terms of how those with disabilities can participate in parks and recreation programs, and program design is adapting over time to maximize participation for all.

## 7.2 TRENDS IN EQUITY AND INCLUSION

### Centering Equity in Recreation

There is increasing cultural awareness of the systemic nature of racism and the structural inequalities that exist within society. In Canada, the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was fundamental in highlighting and exposing historical and ongoing structural flaws within society that perpetuate racism and harm towards Indigenous populations. Global movements such as Black Lives Matter have resulted in a further level of awareness and discussion on issues of race, privilege, and inequality. Municipalities and other public entities that provide recreation, parks, and culture services are evaluating their historical culpability in perpetuating historical inequalities and moving forward with solutions that can address these issues.

### Staff Training in Equity and Inclusion

Recreation, parks, and culture services are uniquely positioned to foster inclusivity and provide a platform to help blunt racism, prejudice, and inequality. Doing so starts with building awareness and capability among recreation staff to foster inclusivity and participation in recreation among individuals of different backgrounds, identities, ages abilities. There is an increasing shift towards building awareness and competency among recreation professionals so that they can run inclusive and equitable recreation facilities and programs.

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/documents/PDF/AFE-AccessDesignGuide.pdf>

## 7.3 TRENDS IN SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Sustainability is top of mind for many municipalities in Canada, encompassing not only the environmental impacts of decisions, but also the social and economic impacts. Climate change has and will continue to impact the provision of recreation services in Canada, with increased energy and material costs forcing many municipalities to reconsider building design and operations to minimize environmental impacts and increase resiliency to disruption.

### Air Pollution and Major Weather Events

Climate change is altering the way that people recreate outdoors. Increased temperatures mean people are more likely to recreate in the early or late hours of the day outside of peak temperature hours. Furthermore, air pollution due to wildfire smoke or smog from the burning of fossil fuels is increasingly inhibiting people's ability to safely recreate outdoors. Due to increasingly poor air quality, municipalities and sport organisations are having to restrict access to outdoor recreation spaces. Furthermore, more extreme weather means that people will seek out climate-controlled environments more often. This can result in increasing demand for indoor recreation facilities so that people can continue their outdoor activities indoors. This has implications for the design and capacity of indoor recreation facilities as they face pressure to accommodate a wider range of activities and sports. Incorporating social gathering spaces within recreation facilities that can be accessed without paying for admission can provide safe, comfortable environments for all.

### Nature Based Stewardship

Recreation programs focused on connecting people with nature and educating people about environmental stewardship are leading the way in the recreation sector. Educating people about the natural environment and nature conservation is increasingly recognised as an important element of recreation. Programs that aim to get people active outdoors and connect them with nature, while educating them about nature conservation and stewardship are being increasingly offered throughout the sector.

## 7.4 RECREATION PROGRAMMING TRENDS

### Increasing Demand for Spontaneous and Unstructured Recreation

Demand for more unstructured and spontaneous forms of recreation is increasing. This trend is particularly prevalent among younger individuals who are becoming increasingly interested in unstructured sporting activities like swimming, skateboarding, biking, and drop-in gymnasium activities.

Furthermore, there is growing demand for more flexibility in timing and activity for recreational pursuits. More people are seeking individualized and informal pursuits that can be done alone or in small groups, at flexible times, often near or at home, and year-round. This trend does not eliminate the need for structured recreation but suggests that planning for spaces and places that support spontaneous and unstructured recreation is as important as planning for more traditional structured recreation environments that focus on team-based activity.

To ensure spontaneous opportunities exist for residents, many municipalities are actively encouraging the use of parks and greenspace for casual and "pick up" activities. Encouraging these activities in public greenspaces can result in broader benefits, such as:

- ◆ Increased utilization of parks and open spaces.
- ◆ Reduction in deviant/anti-social behaviour through increased resident value and regular use.
- ◆ Increased opportunities for multi-generational recreation, sport, and physical activity.

## Trends in Program Delivery

Program delivery is a resource intensive activity that requires significant capital investment and labour. Municipalities are increasingly seeking out partnership opportunities with volunteer groups, neighbouring municipalities, local schools, and businesses to assist in program delivery. Partnering in this way increases resources and investment available to deliver programs, and in turn gives residents access to more diverse recreational opportunities. It can also expand the user base for programs and facilities.

## Participation Trends in Recreation

youth become overwhelmed or discouraged, especially if cut from a team or separated from friends.

## Jumpstart State of Sport Report (2024)

The Jumpstart State of Sport report outlines youth sport preferences, barriers and trends youth are currently facing when participating or trying to participate in sports. Topline findings include:

- ♦ Playing with friends, having fun and exercising to stay healthy are the top three motivators for youth to participate in sports.
- ♦ Reasons why youth choose not to participate in sports include cost, lack of time and lack of confidence.
- ♦ The majority of youth participate in sports with a school team or local organization.
- ♦ 22% of youth walk to participate in sports.
- ♦ 23% of youth participate in sports less than before COVID-19.
- ♦ Soccer, swimming, basketball, biking and hockey were the top sports youth are participating in.

## Declining Participation Among Women and Young Girls

In July 2021, Canadian Women & Sport published a report on the impact of COVID-19 on girls' participation in sport.<sup>25</sup> The Pandemic Impact on Girls in Sport report found that 1 in 4 girls were not committed to returning to sport post-pandemic. This stat is particularly troubling as the report cites research done previously that found that 1 in 3 girls drop out of sport by age 16 compared to only 1 in 10 boys. According to research published in The Rally Report, the top 5 barriers to girls' participation in sport are:

- ♦ Access to Facilities & Programs
- ♦ Quality of Programs
- ♦ Alternatives to Sport
- ♦ Cost to Participation
- ♦ Confidence

## Healthy and Active Ageing

It is important for municipalities to ensure that the programs and services on offer are reflective of the needs and characteristics of their local communities so that people represented. Greenstone's population is ageing. The municipality must support the needs of this ageing population. Recreation has a key role to play in the health of older individuals. Staying physically active and participating in recreation and leisure activities can help prevent the onset of diseases and disabilities and can help older individuals feel connected and integrated within their communities.

Programs and activities to support the participation of older populations in recreation and sport are emerging. Intergenerational programming is gaining traction within the sector. Intergenerational programming seeks to connect children, youth, adults, and seniors through recreational activities that can be done together. Benefits of these programs include increased participation among all age groups, opportunities for people of different age groups to learn from each other and connect.

<sup>25</sup> <https://womenandsport.ca/resources/research-insights/the-pandemic-impact-on-girls-in-sport/#:~:text=The%20Pandemic%20Impact%20on%20Girls%20in%20Sport%20report%2C%20which%20collected.post%2DCOVID%2D19%20world.>

## 7.5 PLAYGROUND TRENDS

### NATURAL PLAYGROUNDS

In recent years the playground landscape has seen significant expansion in the types of equipment and structures that are available. Leading this trend are “natural play spaces”, which are intended to replicate aspects of natural environments such as forests, rocks, crevices, slopes and other outdoor elements. Societal concerns over children and youth disconnection with nature is leading this new trend. In some instances playgrounds are entirely constructed using natural play equipment while others are a mix of traditional playgrounds with natural aspects. Natural playgrounds are also credited with having significant cognitive benefits to children, forcing them to manage complexity as they maneuver around the play space while traditional playgrounds tend to be more suggestive.

#### Holiday Beach Conservation Area - Amherstburg, Ontario

In 2021, a natural playground was opened at Holiday Beach Conservation Area in Amherstburg, Ontario. Holiday Beach Conservation Area is a popular camping destination that attracts families with young children. The natural playground, made from rocks, boulders, and logs, provides a stimulating setting for children to engage all their senses in play. Outdoor play in natural settings brings proven physical benefits including improvements in motor skills and hand eye co-ordination.<sup>26</sup>



<sup>26</sup> <https://windsor.ctvnews.ca/new-natural-playground-opens-at-holiday-beach-conservation-area-1.5641520>

## Hastings Mills Park - Vancouver, British Columbia

Hastings Mill Park Playground is built from natural wood logs, harvested in British Columbia. Playground features include climbing structures, slides, swings, and a playhouse. The playground also includes stumps and logs for balancing, hopping, and traversing.<sup>27</sup>



<sup>27</sup> <https://playgroundfind.com/places/canada/bc/vancouver/outdoor-play/hastings-mill-park/>

## ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS

Another way to update playground facilities is to add features that make playgrounds more inclusive. Although universal design concepts are not new, several communities have found new and innovative ways to incorporate inclusivity into their playground designs. Examples include:

### Whiskers Point Provincial Park – British Columbia

The playground at Whiskers Point Provincial Park in British Columbia has accessible features such as a sign language alphabet board, and wheelchair accessible swings.<sup>28</sup>



<sup>28</sup> <https://sci-bc.ca/new-accessible-playgrounds-in-northern-bc/>

## Panorama Recreation Centre - North Saanich, British Columbia

The Panorama Recreation Centre in North Saanich, British Columbia has an accessible ramping system so that all children can enjoy recreation activities in their community.<sup>29</sup>



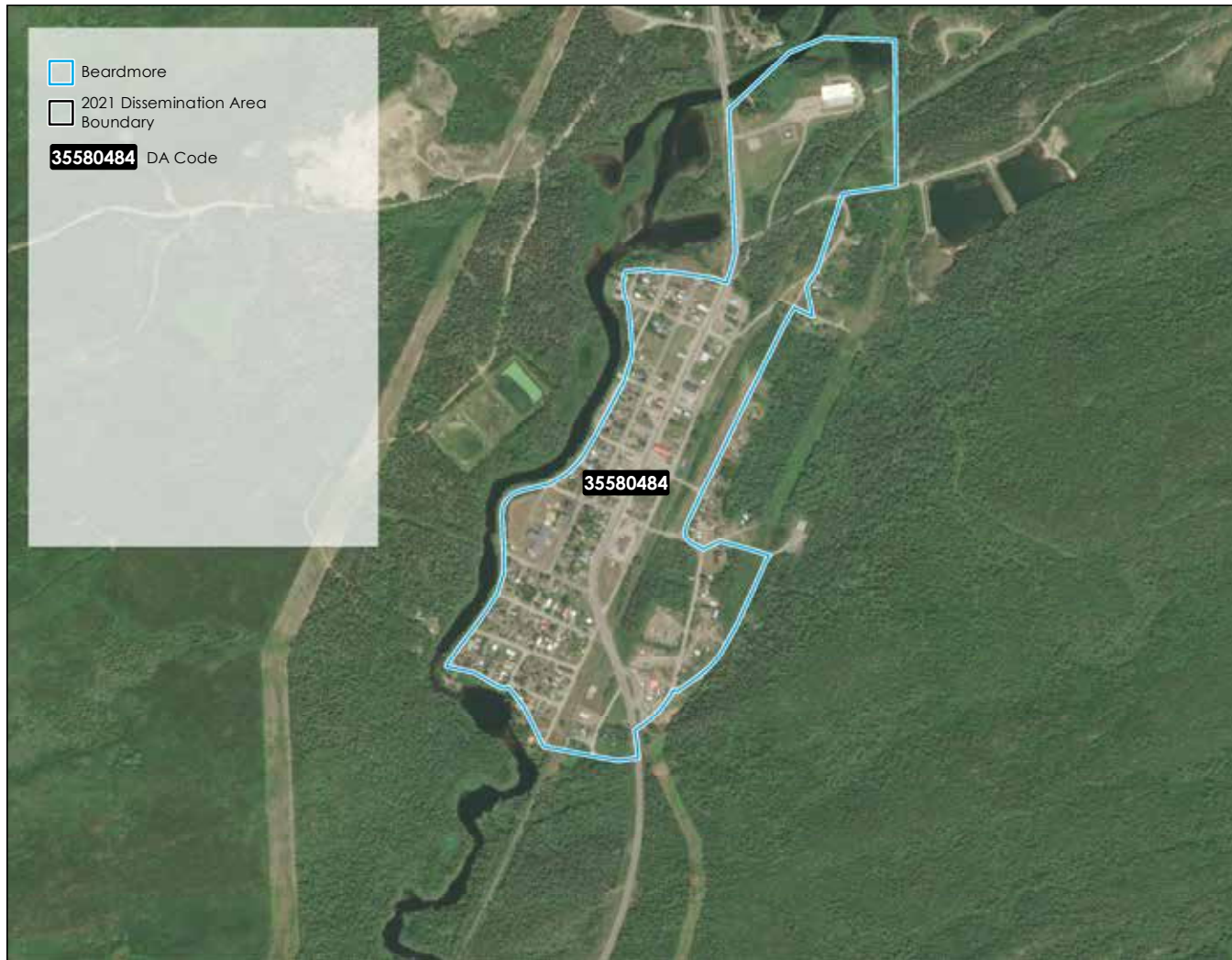
<sup>29</sup> <https://www.habitat-systems.com/project/panorama-recreation-centre/>





# **APPENDIX – CENSUS DISSEMINATION AREAS**

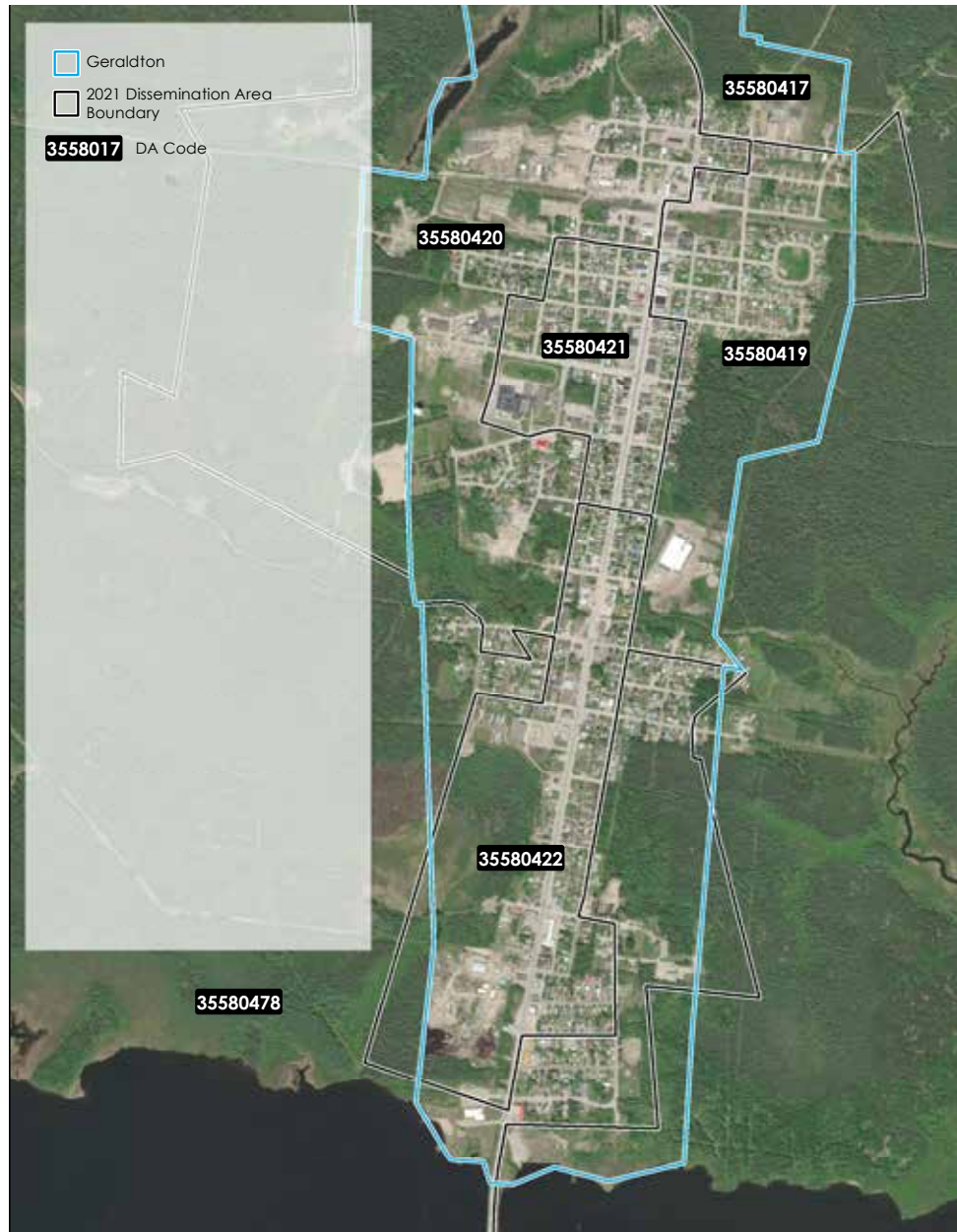
### Census Dissemination Area for Beardmore



### Census Dissemination Area for Jellicoe



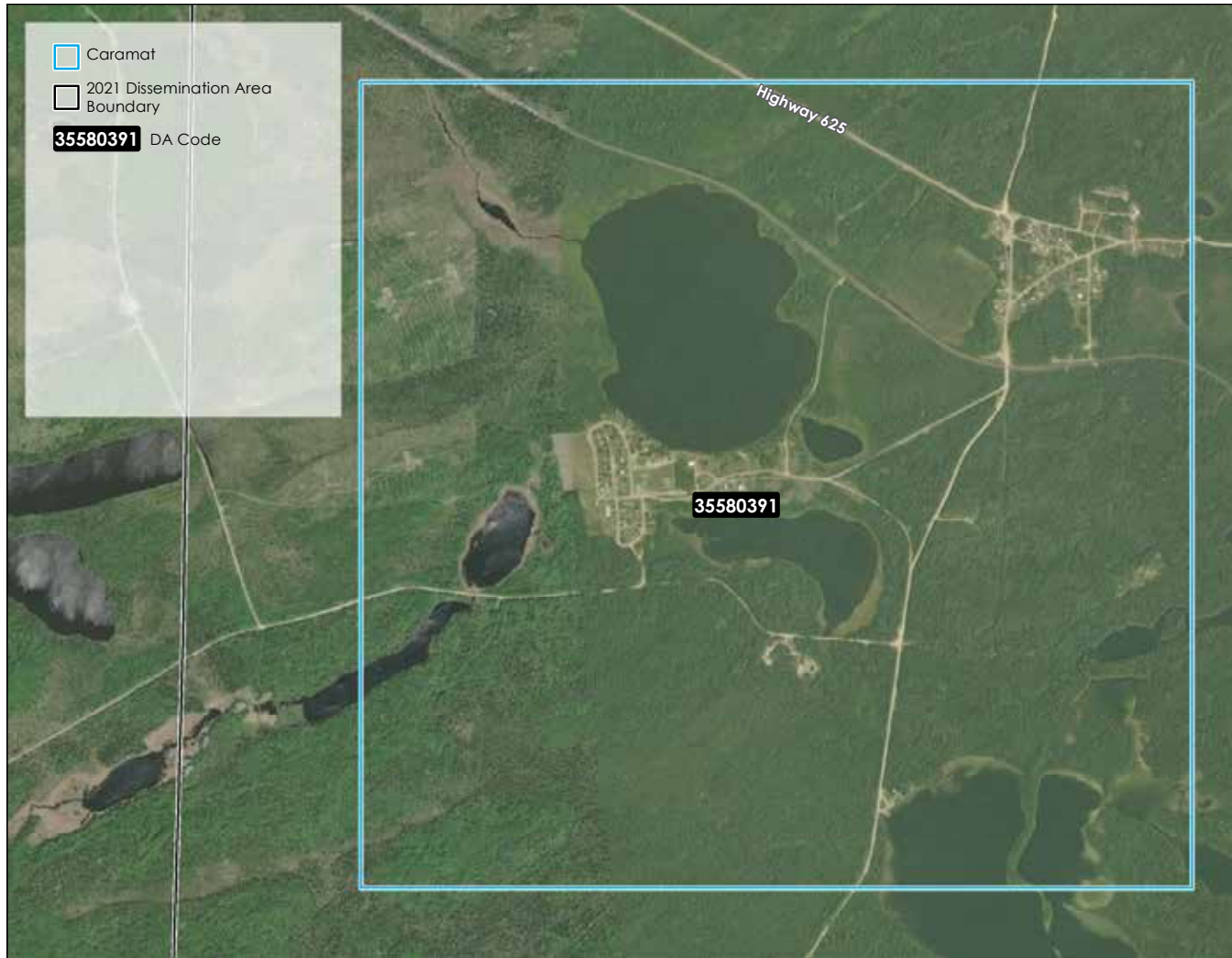
## Census Dissemination Areas for Geraldton



### Census Dissemination Areas for Longlac



### Census Dissemination Area for Caramat



Census Dissemination Area for Nakina





r<sup>+</sup>cs