

4/8

DISCUSSION PAPER

SEPTEMBER 2019

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SPACES



Discussion Paper 4/8
Recreation and Community Spaces
September 2019

Project Lunenburg
Town of Lunenburg Comprehensive Plan

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This report was prepared by Upland Planning and Design.

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Introduction

Lunenburg has an excellent variety of year-round recreation amenities, and further opportunities in the greater region. Recreation and community spaces are a vital component to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in a community, ensuring the health of families and youth, and contributing to the environmental and economic well-being of the town and greater region.

This discussion paper is the fourth in a series of eight which provide context for the Town of Lunenburg and lays the foundation for the Town's Comprehensive Plan. This paper establishes why community and park spaces are essential to the Town of Lunenburg, before delving into national and provincial recreation trends. This discussion also identifies the existing recreation and community assets in Lunenburg.



RECREATION TRENDS

Recreation and community spaces provide many benefits to building well-rounded communities. However, the trends in participation are in flux, both provincially and nationally. How might these trends impact the future of recreation service delivery in Lunenburg?



The benefits of recreation and community spaces are well documented. Recreation, parks, sports, fitness, leisure, active living, arts, and cultural services are all essential to personal health and well-being, building strong communities, reducing health care, social service, and justice costs as well as being significant economic generators. The links between the built environment and the health of Lunenburg can be divided into four primary areas:

1. **Physical**

The contribution of recreation and community spaces to the physical activity and health of a community is apparent. Physical activity is critical to good health, and these spaces provide venues in which physical activity can occur.

2. **Environmental**

Community and recreation infrastructure and facilities promote conservation and environmental sustainability. Parks facilities and trails can help to conserve natural resources and wildlife habitat, protect air and water quality, and preserve open space for current and future generations. Through stewardship activities, outdoor spaces can involve the public in conservation efforts and increase awareness of environmental needs.

3. **Social**

Community and recreation facilities also provide social and equity benefits for community members. These facilities can foster community pride, bring people together, create destination-oriented places, and connect people to each other and nature.

4. **Economic**

Well-planned recreation systems can serve as a catalyst for economic development. Access to parks and recreation facilities and active transportation infrastructure can increase property values, foster job creation, and provide a foundation for place-based economic development.



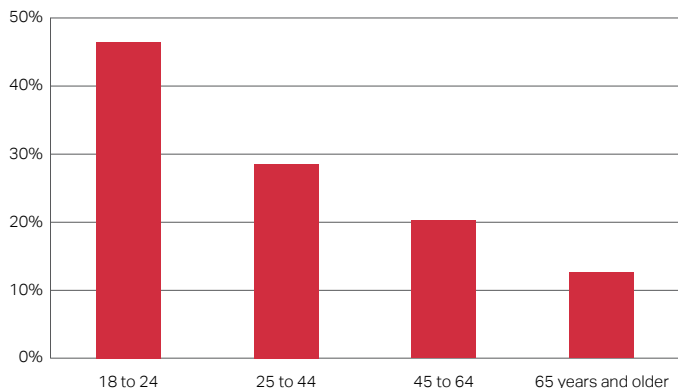
In Canada, participation in sport has continuously declined over the last two decades. In 1998, 34% of Canadians aged 15 and older (8.3 million people) participated in sport and active recreation. That number decreased to 28% of the population in 2005, and by 2010 only 26% of Canadians (7.2 million) reported participating in sport on a regular basis. However, the rate of decline in sport participation appears to be slowing down, with a 11% decrease in Canadians from 1992 to 1998, and a 2.2% decrease from 2005 to 2010. This trend is especially true for male Canadians whose participation rate barely decreased from 2005 to 2010.

The downward trend in sport participation does not mean that Canadians do not engage in physical activities. According to the 2010 Canadian Community Health Survey, 14.8 million people, representing 52% of Canadians age 12 and older, were involved in leisure time physical activity as opposed to an organized sports activity; representing a slight increase from 2006.

The decline in Canada's participation in sport can be attributed to a number of factors. Most importantly, the nation's aging population and the correlation that active participation in sport decreases with age is most relevant. The Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Institute found that this aging population also affects the type of sport Canadians are participating in, with contact sports such as hockey decreasing with age. Interestingly, recent reports have indicated a growing interest in pickleball and ultimate frisbee in Canada. Golf was the most practiced sport in Canada between 1998 and 2010, but 76% of participants were male and popularity amongst younger cohorts has decreased.

Other associated factors that influence participation rates in sports nationwide include gender, household composition, education, and household income. These factors are most notable when participation in sport competes with domestic responsibilities, work-related activities, and participation in other leisure time activities.

Sport Participation Rates by Age, 2018



Source: Canada Fitness and Lifestyle Research, 2018

Provincial and Regional Recreation Trends



Participation in sport declined in all Eastern provinces from 2005 to 2010, but the largest decline was seen in Nova Scotia, where participation fell 11%, meaning only 21% of Nova Scotian's reported that they regularly participated in sports. New Brunswick, PEI, and Newfoundland experienced a 1.1%, 9.3%, and 5.8% decrease respectively. In 2016, 26.7% of Canadians participated in a sport regularly over 12 months, whereas only 19.8% of Nova Scotian's did.

Due to the size of Lunenburg there is little available data on local recreation trends. However, data does exist regionally, and can be inferred from the provincial and national trends when juxtaposed with the town's demographics.

In 2010, the Community Foundations of Canada conducted the Lunenburg County Vital Signs. As part of this study, the use and spending habits of the Southern Nova Scotia Economic Region (SNSER) were quantified. The study found that in 2007 20.2% of the population reported using recreational facilities, 2.0% above the provincial rate. Compared to previous years, the 2007 rate fell from the 2002 and 2006 rates which were both 20.7%. While there is no data that is more recent than 2007, it can be inferred from provincial and national recreation trends that regional recreational participation also continued to decline.

As the trends show a decrease in sport participation, Nova Scotia's provincial government supports expanding other recreation opportunities and active living across the province. The Province adopted the 2015 national framework for recreation and its five strategic goals, and established a set of priorities and actions specific to Nova Scotia in the *Shared Strategy for Advancing Recreation in Nova Scotia*. The priorities established in this strategy, among other plans including *Let's Get Moving Nova Scotia* and *SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population* represent guiding documents for the future of recreation in the town. The Provincial government also supports sport and recreation in local communities through grant and funding opportunities for facilities, programming, among others.

Canada Participation in Sports, 2016



Nova Scotia Participation in Sports, 2016



■ Did not regularly participate in sports in the past 12 months
■ Regularly participated in sports in the past 12 months



Spending time outdoors is very popular in Nova Scotia. Regardless of the type of activity, in 2013 almost three out of four Canadian households (72%) reported that someone in the household had participated in outdoor activities close to home. Households in Nova Scotia were most likely to have done so (84%). The most frequently reported activity done close to home was walking, with 54% of households in Canada reporting this. Households in Prince Edward Island (71%) and Nova Scotia (70%) were most likely to have reported going for walks close to home.

Parks, trails, and open spaces take on a variety of forms and designs across urban and rural areas. While single-use assets such as mountain biking trails and dog parks are still widely valued and developed, movement towards flexible, interpretive spaces have become increasingly popular. Interaction with nature and the value that is derived from spending time outdoors and the impact it has on promoting a healthy lifestyle are increasingly emphasized in outdoor spaces.

In the design of outdoor spaces such as parks, trails, and open spaces, greater emphasis is being placed on environmental sustainability. These spaces are being designed for climate change resiliency and to enable nature to flourish, all the while benefiting human users and surrounding areas. Open spaces can provide habitats for plant and animal species while creating pleasant spaces for humans and managing microclimate conditions by blocking wind and providing shade on warm days.

There has also been a movement towards distributing parks and open spaces throughout developed areas instead of having singular, centralized assets. People are looking for more to do in their parks: more opportunities to be active, to connect with nature, to experience cultural programming, and to just hang out with friends and family. This includes a shift away from single-use sport fields to more inclusive and adaptable landscapes. Pocket parks and linear parks are two examples of outdoor space designs that apply multi-functional, flexible design principles that enables users to interpret and use the space as they desire by providing seating, trails, and greenspaces.



As trends in recreational activity have evolved, the design of facilities and users' needs have also changed. Generally, choice in recreational activity has shifted from formally organized, group activities, to informal, individual or small group activities. Trends in recreational activities also indicate a movement towards less competitive and more spontaneous activities, such as drop-in yoga or swimming. Due to these changing trends and choices, multipurpose recreation facilities that support greater recreation options and flexibility have begun to replace more prescriptive spaces that serve only one-use or user group. Spaces, activities and programs that do not require scheduling or bookings are appealing to many individuals, families and friend groups as they require less planning.

Despite a trend that has seen a decrease in traditional recreation activities, there has been greater focus placed on the physical and mental health benefits of sport, leisure, and play. As a result, many recreation facilities are ensuring adequate space to offer health and wellness programs, which are also strongly supported by provincial and federal governments.

Increasing participation in non-tradition recreation activities coincides with trends that indicate a growth in experiential and educational recreation. Programs such as outdoor recreation, cultural learning, and more extensive education programs are increasingly popular and will likely need to be expanded in the future. Finally, despite greater emphasis on individual activities, greater value is being placed on the social aspect of recreation



In sport and recreation, many groups face challenges and barriers to participate in active living. While any types of disadvantage require attention and action, addressing gender and financial equity issues continue to be a key component of recreation planning.

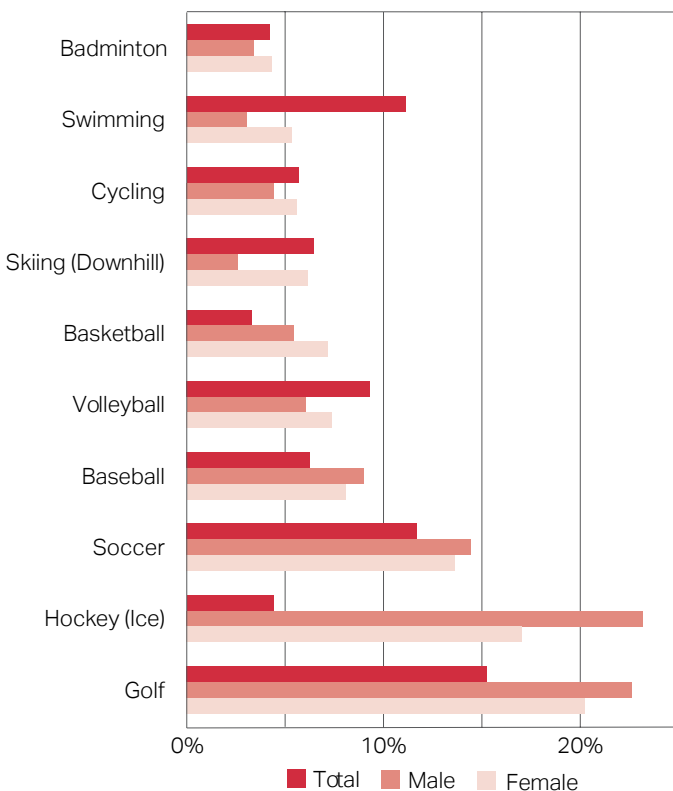
Gender equity is a principle and practice of fair and balanced allocation of resources and opportunities to individuals regardless of gender identity or expression. In the context of recreation and community spaces, it includes providing reasonable accommodations or measures to improve any program, service, and infrastructure which prevents full participation due to gender. It can also include ensuring that a range of facilities and programs are offered that meet the interests of different gender segments.

While it is not feasible to evaluate the extent to which participation in the town's recreation network, facilities, and programs are gender balanced, national and provincial statistics indicates there are gaps in recreation participation between gender. Whereas 25.6% of Nova Scotian men participated in a sport in the past 12 months, only 14.3% of women did. Nationwide 33.9% of men and 19.7% of women participated in sport in the past 12 months. These statistics show the large gender gap in sports participation across the province.

The Town takes part in the PRO Kids (Positive Recreation Opportunities for Kids) program which provides financial assistance to children and youth under the age of 18 and living in the Town. Within the Town, the child and youth (0-17 years old) poverty rate is 24.6%. Through the program, 50% of program registration costs (to a maximum of \$500) can be covered by the Town for those not able to participate in sport, recreation, or cultural activities due to lack of funds. The United Way in Lunenburg County also offers a free equipment exchange where local families have access to used equipment to further reduce participation costs.

Regardless of participant age, very-low-cost activities are highly desirable for eliminating financial barriers to participation. This includes walking trails, playgrounds, and visits to the library or farmers' market.

Top 10 Sports in Canada, Participation Rates by Gender, 2010



Source: Canadian Heritage, 2013



Nationally, about 44% of Canadians 15 years and older volunteered in 2013, a reduction of 3% when the survey was last conducted in 2010. This translates to 13.2 million volunteers in 2010, and 12.7 in 2003.

Along with participation in volunteer activities, information was collected on the total number of volunteer hours. In 2013, volunteers devoted about 1.96 billion hours to their volunteer activities, a volume of work that is equivalent to about 1 million full-time jobs. Volunteers contributed 154 hours on average in 2013, unchanged from 2010, but a decrease from the 168 hours recorded in 2004.

In terms of trends over time, the volunteer rate did not change uniformly across all age groups. People aged 35 to 44 had the sharpest decline in volunteering, decreasing 6 percentage points from 2010 to 2013 (from 54% to 48%). In older Canadians the proportion of volunteers has remained virtually unchanged between 2010 and 2013 - for example, 41% of people aged 55 to 64 volunteered their time in 2013, the same as 2010.

Lunenburg has strong commitment to community through involvement in their many organizations. Children can become involved in the Boy Scouts and Girl Guide movement, Sea Cadets, swimming teams and minor sports. Opportunities for developing music and artistic skills as well as sailing and scuba diving are also available.

With a large number of organizations in the town, a lengthy list of organizations that are seeking volunteers is featured on Lunenburg's Town website. These organizations range from the Bluenose Academy, to museums, crime stoppers, heritage, hockey, and the Royal Canadian Legion.

In addition to volunteering within the Town of Lunenburg there is also opportunity to volunteer in the greater region. The Lunenburg Queens Volunteer Partnership (LQVP) promotes volunteerism, recruits volunteers, and supports not-for-profit organizations and community groups throughout Lunenburg and Queens Counties.



The Recreation Department of the Town of Lunenburg issues a recreation guide every season to offer a variety of programs, giving residents an opportunity to embrace a physically active lifestyle, take part in educational workshops, volunteer, and discover what is going on in the town. The guide also includes important dates throughout the season and information on rentals in the Community Centre. The guide features a variety of activities such as badminton, morning walks, swimming, pickleball, and community events such as the raising of the pride flag, Lunenburg's birthday, and concerts.

Many of the activities featured in the recreation guide appear throughout the year; however, as the ice hockey arena is not open during the summer months, greater emphasis is placed on outdoor walking trails and parks during warmer months. The surrounding region features sandy beaches and scenic waters allowing for relatively easy access to summer recreation. Facilities, events, programs and outdoor areas are also busier due to the presence of seasonal residents and visitors. While Lunenburg takes on a slower pace in the winter months, there is still ample opportunity to be active or participate in community events, and participate in snowshoeing and cross country skiing on nearby trails.

Within Lunenburg and the greater region, cycling has emerged as a popular recreation activity for residents and visitors in the warmer months. Local bicycle shops, community groups, and bicycle tourism companies offer formal cycling tours and bicycle rentals within Lunenburg and the greater region. Half-day, full-day, and multi-day tours are available to locals and visitors to Lunenburg. Lunenburg has been showcased by Tourism Nova Scotia and Bicycle Nova Scotia for the cycling routes within and around the town, especially along quiet coastal roads. Lunenburg also sits at one end of the Rum Runners Trail, a 112 km trail from Halifax to Lunenburg which is also part of the Blue Route Cycling Network. The Blue Route is a province-wide project to create a continuous bicycling network.



Due to Lunenburg's aging population, it can be assumed that there has been an overall decline in participation in traditional sports and that this decline will continue in the future. Despite this, local and regional trends may allow Lunenburg to capitalize on emerging trends in the types of activities residents are interested in. Recreation programming has already begun to shift from traditional sports to less risky and less coordinated activities including hiking, walking and pickleball. The Town has also seen interest grow in educational workshops such as recycling and waste reduction, coffee tasting, and clean energy production.

Lunenburg has a history of dedication to arts and culture, with high participation rates in creative pursuits such as music and theatre, to which some residents dedicate their leisure time. From art exhibits to weekend classes, arts play a crucial role in recreation and leisure. Arts and Culture will be explored in an upcoming Discussion Paper.

RECREATION FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

A vibrant and healthy community has a variety of recreation and community assets. What facilities and amenities are available in the Town and surrounding region? What is their condition?



Residents and visitors to the Town of Lunenburg are fortunate to be able to utilize a variety of amenities in the Town and its surroundings. In order to identify potential gaps in the available assets to the Town, an inventory of major municipal recreation, service, infrastructure, and educational facilities was prepared using sources from both the Town and the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

Within the area of Lunenburg assets were inventoried by the following categories:

- ▶ Parks and Open Spaces
- ▶ Trails
- ▶ Recreation and Community Facilities
- ▶ Educational Facilities

Coupled with community engagement, this Discussion Paper and its analysis and inventory will guide discussions of the adequacy of the existing assets in Lunenburg to establish any gaps in the existing network.

Since conclusions about the adequate supply of facilities should not be made in isolation from the regional context, larger facilities in the region that are located within close proximity were also inventoried.



Open spaces are important assets of the recreation and community space network. An open space network can include green spaces and corridors, trails and linkages (such as streets and plazas), parks, playgrounds, fields and environmental features such as reservoirs, flood barriers, watersheds, waterways and wetlands. Other spaces include school grounds, cemeteries and underdeveloped lands.

Open spaces and trails need not be “natural” in a sense of being untouched by human intervention. They can include areas occupied by structures as well as the spaces that surround those structures.

In order to plan for the recreation and community spaces in Lunenburg, assets within the open space and trail network were assessed. To complete the assessment, matrices were developed to evaluate the qualitative characteristics of the open spaces and trails. Through site visits, each open space and trail was evaluated on a Likert-type numerical rating system of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) to rank each site characteristics. On the following pages, the qualitative characteristics and partial assessment for the open spaces and trails are presented. Full assessments for each of the open spaces and trails is located in the Appendix.



Table 1. Parks, Open Space and Outdoor Amenities Assessment Rating Criteria

Criteria	Rating	
	1 (poor)	5 (excellent)
Physical Condition	Site features exhibit significant signs of wear, deterioration and should be maintained or replaced	Site features in excellent condition, clean and well-maintained. No safety hazards or deterioration noted.
Features and Interests	No significant ecological features on site	Significant ecological features on site such as stream, pond, wetland, native vegetation, treed hilltop, coastline
Topography	Significant topography on site (sloping)	No significant topography on site (flat)
Pedestrian Circulation	Pedestrian circulation is confusing, unclear, unsafe or non-existent	Pedestrian circulation is logical, well-integrated, connects site amenities and offers a variety of routes and recreation opportunities
Vehicular Circulation	Vehicular circulation is confusing, unclear, unsafe or non-existent	Site access and vehicular circulation is clearly-defined, free of obstructions and intuitive
Connectivity	No connectivity to the broader community	Site is very well connected to broader community and other open spaces.
Accessibility	Site is not currently accessible	Site is very accessible, incorporating inclusive design principles (curb ramps, paved trails, handrails, rubber play surfacing)
Parking	No parking on site	Ample parking on site in excellent condition, such as paved with clear markings and regulatory signage
Signage	No signage on site	Intuitive and consistent signage clearly identifying wayfinding and amenities on site
Seasonal Interest / Use	No anticipated use outside of peak season	Significant seasonal interest, such as pedestrian lighting, changing foliage, winter activity, community event space





Table 2. Parks and Open Space Summary - Description and Physical Condition Score

Name	Description	Physical Condition				
		1	2	3	4	5
Lunenburg Academy Grounds	The Lunenburg Academy Grounds contain a large grassed area with seating and tables. The southeast corner of the grounds are landscaped with interpretive boards and plaques.	[Yellow bar]				
Townsend Block	Located between Townsend and Cumberland Streets, this area contains a unique set of pathways, monuments, and plaques commemorating Lunenburg's history.	[Yellow bar]				
Lunenburg Dog Park	Off-leash dog park with sections for small and big dogs, parking, a fountain, and bag dispensers on Starr Street.	[Yellow bar]				
Old French Cemetery	Was used as a burial-ground by local Acadians and possibly the Mi'kmaq in the 1800s. These burial grounds closed in 1896.	[Yellow bar]				
Waterfront Hillcrest Cemetery	This cemetery is large and still operational with the earliest known marker from 1761.	[Yellow bar]				

Average Physical Condition Score **4**



Table 3. Outdoor Amenities Summary - Description and Physical Condition Score

Name	Description	Physical Condition				
		1	2	3	4	5
250th Anniversary Playground	Outdoor playground featuring a variety of equipment designed for children of all ages.	[Yellow bar from 1 to 4]				
Lunenburg Academy Playground	Situated on the Lunenburg Academy grounds and surrounded by green space, this playground contains swings and information signage on the Academy's history.	[Yellow bar from 1 to 3]				
Lunenburg Bandstand	Rentable bandstand that can be used for community events, weddings, and concerts. When not rented, the bandstand offers a seating and viewing platform for residents and visitors.	[Yellow bar from 1 to 4]				
Lunenburg Community Garden	Run by a dedicated group of volunteers that aim to make an inclusive and sustainable green space for the community to learn, share, and grow food.	[Yellow bar from 1 to 5]				
Soccer Field	A grass soccer field located next to the Community Centre.	[Yellow bar from 1 to 4]				
Townsend Playground	A wooden playground with slides, swings, and see-saws designed for all ages.	[Yellow bar from 1 to 5]				
Tennis Courts	Located a short distance from the Community Centre and Hockey Arena, there are three tennis courts that are operated by the Lunenburg Tennis Club.	[Yellow bar from 1 to 4]				
Victoria Street Playground	This playground features an outhouse, parking facilities, and picnic tables.	[Yellow bar from 1 to 5]				
Baseball Field	A baseball diamond and field with backstop fencing and bleachers.	[Yellow bar from 1 to 3]				
Skatepark	An array of ramps, jumps, and obstacles for skateboarders, scooterers, and bicyclists located next to the Lunenburg Community Centre.	[Yellow bar from 1 to 4]				

Average Physical Condition Score **4.1**



Table 4. Trail Assessment Rating Criteria

Criteria	Rating	
	1 (poor)	5 (excellent)
Entry	Lack of formal signage, not accessible, no parking	Trail entrance clearly marked and accessible, space for parking
Navigation	Trail not well-defined and difficult to navigate. No signage/wayfinding available	Trail well-defined, signage/wayfinding available
Construction and Maintenance	Trail not well-maintained, unsafe conditions	Stable surface, clear of debris. infrastructure (benches, stairs, railings) well maintained
Cleanliness	Presence of litter and debris on trail	No presence of litter and debris on trail, garbage receptacles available
Drainage	Significant signs of erosion on site	Generally dry, free of signs of erosion
Topography	Significant topography on site (sloping)	No significant topography on site (flat)
Features and Interests	No significant ecological features on site	Significant ecological features on site such as stream, pond, wetland, native vegetation, treed hilltop, coastline
Connectivity	No connectivity to the broader community	Site is very well connected to broader community and other open spaces.
Accessibility	Site is not currently accessible	Site is very accessible, incorporating inclusive design principles (curb ramps, paved trails, handrails, rubber play surfacing)





Table 5. Trail Summary - Description and Connectivity Score

Name	Description	Connectivity				
		1	2	3	4	5
Back Harbour Trail	Extending 4 km through the Town, connecting to the Bay to Bay trail extension at Sawpit Rd. and running parallel to Highway 332, while also connecting at the end of the back harbor to the Lunenburg Dog Park and Knot Pub. For bicyclists and hikers.	[Yellow bar]				⋮
Bay to Bay Trail	This 10 km trail runs along the "Lunenburg Spur" connecting the Town with Mahone Bay, linking to the greater trail network of the Adventure and Dynamite Trails. This trail is accessible for hikers, bicycles, ATVs, snowmobiles, skiers, and horses.	[Yellow bar]				⋮
Front Harbour Trail	Runs from the foot of Broad St. and Falkland St. along the waterfront to Bluenose Dr., providing a short-cut between Old and New Town, as well as access to the 250 th Anniversary Park.	[Yellow bar]				⋮
Waterfront Boardwalk	Located along the shore which is the home port of Nova Scotia's sailing ambassador, Bluenose II while also providing recreation space in the form of its boardwalk.	[Yellow bar]				⋮

Average Connectivity Score **4.25**



- Open Space
- Trail or Path
- Bay-to-Bay Trail to Mahone Bay 1
- Bay-to-Bay Trail 2
- Bay-to-Bay Trail (Back Harbour Trail) 3
- Hillcrest Cemetary Paths 4
- Cumberland St to Townsend St Connections 5
- Front Harbour Trail 6
- Bluenose Dr to Montague St Connections 7
- Waterfront Boardwalk 8

Recreation and Community Facilities Assessment

In addition to four playgrounds, the Back Harbour Trail, and the Front Harbour Trail, the Town operates and manages two primary recreation and community spaces:

- ▶ Lunenburg Community Centre
- ▶ Lunenburg War Memorial Arena

Lunenburg Community Centre

Description

The Lunenburg Community Centre offers indoor and outdoor recreation and community spaces available to the public. The Community Centre features an auditorium, fitness/meeting rooms and a fully equipped kitchen. The Town facilitates programming out of these spaces but they are also available to the public to rent. The auditorium has a capacity of approximately 340 people. Also in the Community Centre is a weight room and bouldering wall. Outdoor recreation space at the Centre includes a baseball field, soccer field, and a 400 metre track which can be rented. Finally, there is a skate park at the Community Centre for public use.

The Town offers programming out of the Community Centre and hosts many different community led events including craft shows, flea markets, drama productions, and dances.

Condition

The Lunenburg Community Centre structure was built in 1957 and has undergone repairs and renovations in the proceeding years to prolong the lifespan of the structure. The Centre recently had a structural roof repair and window and siding repairs are also needed. Most of the electrical, plumbing, and heating system are original although the boilers have been updated and during the structural roof repairs, new electrical wiring was installed in some areas of the Centre. The building entries and washrooms do not meet accessibility standards but there are plans to complete washroom renovations.





Lunenburg War Memorial Arena

Description

The Lunenburg War Memorial Arena is an indoor ice hockey arena that operates seasonally from October until the end of March. During this period, public skating, hockey, and figuring skating activities all take place within the arena. Ice times at the arena can be booked through the Town's Recreation Department; however, individual ice time holders from the previous year have first refusal for ice time slots previously held. Hockey Nova Scotia hosts many of its minor hockey games at the arena while local community groups are also able to host events including the BURG Classic, an annual charity hockey tournament.

During the remainder of the year, the space is used and rented to various local community groups including the farmers' market.



Condition

The arena was constructed in 1921 and the building has stood the test of time. It has had many renovations and changes over the years with the roof reinforcement and addition of locker rooms, just to name a few. The Arena is in overall fair condition. The building does need some work to the windows and doors, and the siding is in need of replacement as well. The roof and structure are in good shape but in the future these repair costs will be substantial.

Other Recreation Facilities



There are many secondary recreation facilities within Lunenburg, provided by the Town, community groups, and local businesses. The variety of options contributes greatly to the overall supply of recreation.

1 Blue Zone Wellness & Fitness

Located in Old Town Lunenburg, this fitness centre offers a variety of classes such as yoga, aerobics, HIIT, and Tabata.

4 Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic

Located on the waterfront of Lunenburg this institution commemorates the fishing heritage of the Atlantic with floating vessels at wharveside, a variety of exhibits, a maritime gift shop, and a restaurant.

2 Bluenose Golf Club

Offering picturesque views of Old Town Lunenburg from across the water, the Bluenose Golf Club is a public golf course and includes 18 holes, a seasonal restaurant, and club memberships.

5 Lunenburg Boat Launch

Situated in the Front Harbour next to the Old French Cemetery this boat launch is public, made of concrete, and has a width of 19.6' - meaning it is suitable for a variety of vessels.

3 emOcean Spa: Salt Water Pool

Two Old Town locations, emOcean Spa offers a gym and salt-water pool in addition to a spa facility.

6 Knaut-Rhutland House Museum

Featuring costumed guides this house/museum shows visitors what life in Lunenburg was like during the late eighteenth and mid-nineteenth centuries. The museum is operated by the Lunenburg Heritage Society.



7 Lunenburg Campground

Located alongside the Visitors Information Centre on Blockhouse Hill, this three-star campground is open May through October and features 55 sites, with 10 un-serviced, 22 with electricity, sewer, and water, and 23 with electricity and water.

11 Lunenburg Curling Club

Featuring four curling rinks the Curling Club has numerous leagues, a “Learn to Curl” program, as well as memberships on top of a plethora of events.

8 Lunenburg Swimming Pool

The Lunenburg Swimming Pool is an outdoor facility located adjacent to the Community Centre. The facility has been open for approximately 40 years and operates seasonally.

12 Lunenburg Library (South Shore Public Library)

One of the six South Shore Library locations, the Lunenburg Library moved to the Academy in 2018, its former location on Pelham Street. The library now works to continue the legacy of learning at the Academy and takes up half of the first floor.

9 Lunenburg Tennis Court

The Lunenburg Tennis Courts are located adjacent to the Victoria Street Playground with a heritage clubhouse, washroom facilities, and three courts.

13 PaJo's Bowling Alley

Offering Candlepin bowling for all ages, PaJo's Bowling Alley is open year-round and includes optional-bumpers, glow in the dark bowling, and several different leagues for a variety of skill-levels.

10 Lunenburg Visitors Information Centre

Located at the Top of Blockhouse Hill within a replica of the original structure, with a second satellite location at the Waterfront. Open from the end of May to late-September.

14 Saw Pit Wharf Boat Launch

A spacious launch area located in the Back Harbour with room for parking. Area contains garbage facilities, picnic tables, and benches in addition to a stony beach and gravel ramp. The wharf is not suitable for canoes or kayaks.



Indoor Recreation Facilities ○

Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Open Spaces ●

Education Facilities

In addition to the public school, several other educational facilities operate in the area at a variety of scales. Educational facilities offer less traditional recreational activities for members of the community of all ages and support the growth of non-traditional and leisure activities.

1 Bluenose Academy

Several regional schools consolidated in 2012 to form this modern school. Ages 4-15 (Primary to Grade 9) are educated here.

4 Eurocentres Atlantic Canada

Eurocentres offers live-in English language programs out of Lunenburg and specializes in small class sizes and social programming for its students.

2 Bright Stars Children Centre

A nursery school in Old Town Lunenburg, Bright Stars Children Centre offers child-directed learning with age-appropriate crafts, activities, songs, games, weather, calendar, and circle.

5 LeHave Weaving Studio

LeHave studio works to encourage students in small class sizes to learn basic art and design principles and time-honoured skills through specialized courses in weaving, textiles, and design.

3 Class Afloat

Operating out of the Lunenburg Academy, Class Afloat offers grade 11, 12, University, and gap year students the opportunity to sail the World's oceans aboard a tall ship.

6 Lunenburg Academy of Musical Performance (LAMP)

LAMP is housed in the Lunenburg Academy and is an international center for advanced studies in musical performance and interpretation. Focusing on young musicians, LAMP strives to achieve personal instruction and focused study.



7 Lunenburg Daycare Centre

Beginning operation in 1973, the Lunenburg Day Care Centre is the largest licensed capacity non-profit centre in Nova Scotia offering care for ages 18 months to 5 years, with a second facility, Bye the Sea Nursery School, also operating in Lunenburg.

9 NSCC Lunenburg Campus

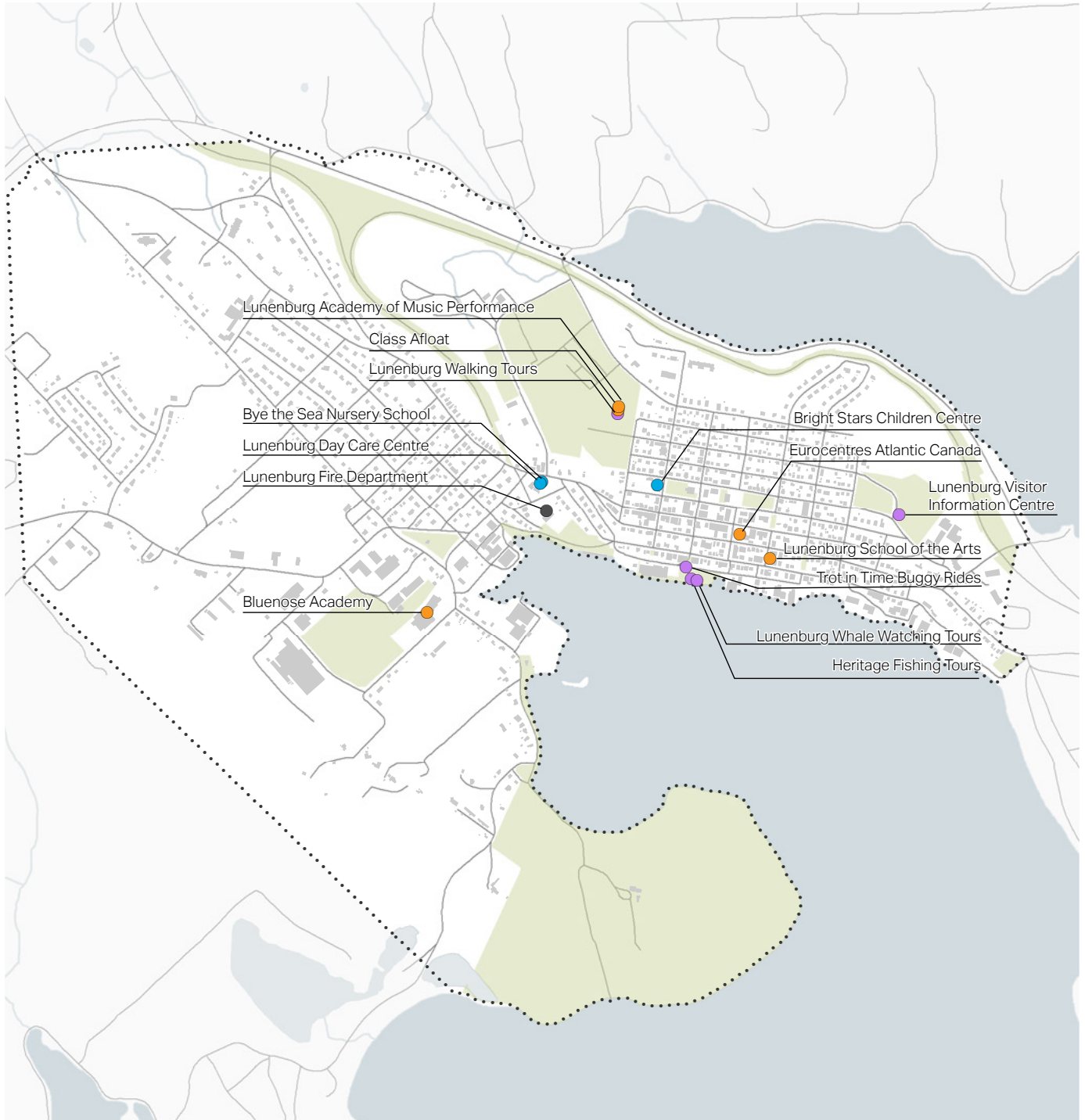
Located in Bridgewater, the Lunenburg Campus of NSCC offers programs in tourism, adult learning, business administration, culinary, nursing, and more a short drive away from the Town.

8 Lunenburg School of the Arts

Lunenburg School of the Arts offers workshops led by professional art educators and working artists. Small class sizes allow students to work closely with instructors and each other, fostering self-expression in a supportive atmosphere.

10 Picton Castle

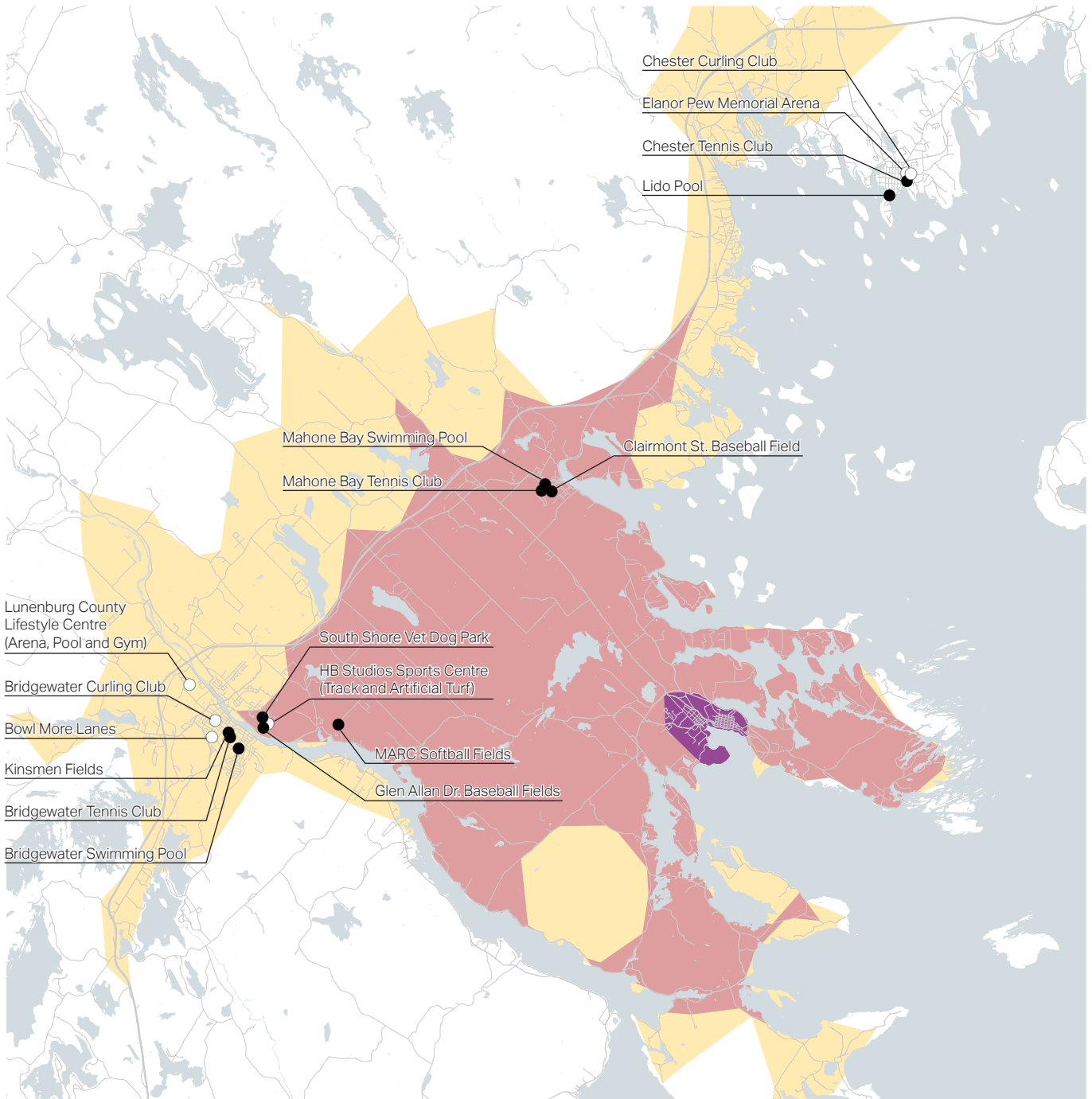
The Barque Picton Castle is a three-masted tall ship based in Lunenburg, best known for its sail training voyages around the world. The ship goes on several additional routes, but continues to call Lunenburg its home port.





Along Nova Scotia's South Shore, several communities, including Lunenburg, Bridgewater, and Mahone Bay, form a regional network of services and amenities for residents and visitors. An analysis of recreation and community spaces in Lunenburg cannot be made in isolation of its surrounding communities.

Many of the facilities available in Lunenburg are also available within a 20 to 30 minute drive of the town. The recently completed Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre (LCLC) offers a large-scale recreation and cultural facility with an arena, aquatic centre, multi-purpose rooms, library, and other features for Bridgewater and the greater region. As user sheds for recreation facilities often cross municipal boundaries, efficiencies can be created by sharing recreation programming between neighbouring communities and municipalities. Determining the gaps within Lunenburg's recreation and community space network could reduce the potential of redundancies while helping to meet the needs of the community and greater region.



- Indoor Recreation Facility ○
- Outdoor Recreation Facility ●
- 30 minute drive time ■
- 20 minute drive time ■
- Town of Lunenburg ■



THE MONUMENT IS DEDICATED
BY THE OFFICERS OF
THE 10TH REGIMENT OF
THE MASSACHUSETTS
INFANTRY IN THE
MONTH OF MAY 1864
FOR THE BRAVERY AND
VALOR OF THE SOLDIERS
OF THE 10TH REGIMENT
OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
INFANTRY WHO FIGHTED
AT THE BATTLE OF
FRANKFORD SPRING
ON THE 19TH OF MAY
1864.

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Table 1. Parks and Open Space Assessment Sheet

Criteria	Lunenburg Academy Grounds	Townsend Block	Lunenburg Dog Park	Old French Cemetery	Waterfront Hillscrest Cemetery
Rating (out of 5)					
Physical Condition	3	4	5	4	4
Ecological Features	4	3	4	5	3
Topography	4	2	4	3	2
Pedestrian Circulation	3	3	3	4	2
Vehicular Circulation	5	3	5	4	4
Connectivity	4	5	3	4	2
Accessibility	3	1	3	2	2
Parking	4	4	5	4	4
Signage	4	2	4	2	4
Seasonal Interest / Use	3	3	3	3	3
Total Score (/50)	36	30	39	35	30



Table 2. Outdoor Amenities Assessment Sheet

Criteria	250th Anniversary Playground	Lunenburg Academy Playground	Lunenburg Bandstand	Lunenburg Community Garden	Soccer Field	Townsend Playground	Victoria Street Playground	Skatepark	Baseball Field	Tennis Courts
Rating (out of 5)										
Physical Condition	4	3	4	5	4	5	5	4	3	4
Features and Interests	4	4	3	5	2	3	4	2	2	4
Topography	3	4	1	5	5	4	5	5	5	5
Pedestrian Circulation	4	4	2	4	5	2	4	5	5	5
Vehicular Circulation	2	5	5	4	3	4	5	3	3	4
Connectivity	4	2	5	2	5	4	4	5	5	5
Accessibility	1	2	1	3	3	2	2	3	3	3
Parking	4	4	5	4	5	5	5	4	4	4
Signage	4	3	3	5	3	3	5	3	3	3
Seasonal Interest / Use	3	4	3	2	3	4	4	1	4	3
Total Score (/50)	33	35	32	39	38	36	43	35	36	40



Table 3. Trail Assessment Sheet

Criteria	Back Harbour Trail	Bay to Bay Trail	Front Harbour Trail	Waterfront Boardwalk
	Rating (out of 5)			
Entry	4	4	4	4
Navigation	3	3	4	5
Construction and Maintenance	4	4	5	4
Cleanliness	5	5	5	5
Drainage	5	5	5	5
Topography	5	5	4	5
Features and Interests	3	3	5	5
Connectivity	4	4	4	5
Accessibility	3	3	2	3
Total Score (/50)	36	36	38	41



DISCUSSION PAPER 4 / 8

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SPACES

SEPTEMBER 2019

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