



**RECREATION  
PROGRAM &  
FACILITIES REVIEW  
2024  
RECREATION MASTER PLAN**



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# 1 Purpose of Report

In 2024, the Township of Ramara retained a consulting firm to update the 2012 existing Master Recreation Plan to reflect the current and future needs of the community. This document is intended to serve as a framework for the Township's future recreation service provisions over the next 10 years and to act as a visionary roadmap that directs recreational priorities in terms of programming, facilities and service delivery into the future.

The program and facilities review report is intended to catalogue the existing facilities and programming available in the Township of Ramara in a comprehensive manner to inform recreational recommendations and priorities in the Recreation Master Plan, 2024.

## 2 Program and Facilities Inventory

The following inventory of programs and facilities has been compiled to demonstrate the full suite of programs and services available within a reasonable driving distance to residents in Ramara. The abutting municipality of the City of Kawartha Lakes has been left out of the inventory as even though they are an abutting municipality, the programs and services offered are outside of the area that would reasonably be considered convenient for most Ramara residents.

### 2.1 Township of Ramara Recreation Programming

The Township of Ramara offers a variety of recreational activities and services that are generally concentrated at the Ramara Recreation Centre. Opportunities are available for residents from pre-school children to adults and seniors. The Recreation staff offer some organized sports opportunities and continue to experiment and diversify options, however like most rural communities organized and competitive sports are maintained by external associations. Additionally, many Ramara residents travel to neighbouring municipalities to access their facilities.

Table 1 below shows the programming currently offered as part of the 2024 calendar year in the Township of Ramara<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 1: Township of Ramara Recreational Programming**

Facility	Program	Description	Schedule	Age
Ramara Recreation Centre	Tee Ball	Sport	Tuesday Evenings May – June	Child & Youth (4 – 6Y)
Ramara Recreation Centre	Recreation Nation	Sports & Games	Weekly Evenings Jan-June	Child & Youth (5Y – 10Y)
Ramara Recreation Centre	Kinder Dance	Dance & Exercise	Weekly Jan- Nov	Child & Youth (4Y-7Y)
Ramara Recreation Centre	Puppet Masters	Puppet-making & Storytelling	Evenings Sep-Oct	Child & Youth (8Y-12Y)
Ramara Recreation Centre	Ramara Youth Dances	Dance & Social	Evenings (monthly)	Child & Youth (Gr. 4 to 6)

<sup>1</sup> [Recreation and Registration - Township of Ramara](#)

Facility	Program	Description	Schedule	Age
Udney Community Centre	Family Dance Fitness	Exercise & Dance	Weekly Evenings Jan – June	Child & Youth (3Y – 9Y)
Ramara Recreation Centre	ARTventure	Art	Weekly Evenings Jan – June	Child & Youth (8Y – 14Y)
Ramara Recreation Centre	Cardio & Cuddle	Exercise, Explore & Social	Weekly – PM Jan - June	Child & Youth (0Y – 2Y)
Various Outdoor Trails	Bear Hunt	Outdoor Adventure and engagement	Mornings (bi-monthly) Sept- Oct	(Child & Youth (0Y-6Y)
Udney Community Centre	Mom & Baby	Postpartum Rehab & Fitness	Thursday Mornings Sept – Oct	Child & Youth/Adult
Ramara Recreation Centre	*Thursday Night Lights	Flag Football	Evenings Sept-Oct	Child & Youth (12Y -14Y)
Ramara Recreation Centre	Teeball	Sports	Weekly Evenings May – June	Child & Youth (4Y – 6Y)
Ramara Recreation Centre	Little Adventures (Library Partnerships)	Exercise, Explore & Social	Friday Mornings	Child & Youth (Toddlers)
Ramara Recreation Centre	Pajamapalooza (Library Partnerships)	Stories, Games & Crafts	Evenings (monthly)	Child & Youth (Y4-Y12)
Ramara Recreation Centre	Ramara PA Day Camps	Themes Based Camps during School Board PA Days	ALL Day	Child & Youth (4Y-10Y)
Ramara Recreation Centre	Ramara Winter Break Camp	Theme Based Week camp during holidays	ALL Day (Dec/Jan)	Child & Youth (4Y – 12Y)
Ramara Recreation Centre	Ramara March Break Camp	Theme Based Week camp during holidays	ALL Day (March)	Child & Youth (4Y – 12Y)
Ramara Recreation Centre	Ramara Summer Camp	Theme Based Weely Programming	ALL Day July - Aug	Child & Youth (4Y - 6Y)

Facility	Program	Description	Schedule	Age
Udney Community Centre	Sizzle & Stir	Cooking	Weekly Jan – Mar	Child & Youth (8Y - 14Y)
Ramara Recreation Centre	Nerf Wars	Exercise & Games	Weekly Jan – Mar	Child & Youth (8Y – 12Y)
Atherley Fire Station 2	Babysitter Training Course	Education	Annually	Child & Youth (12Y - 15Y)
Atherley Fire Station 2	Home Alone Course	Education	Annually	Child & Youth (9Y – 12Y)
Ramara Recreation Centre	Outdoor Boot Camp	Fitness	Monday Mornings Sept – Oct	Adult & Actively Aging
Ramara Recreation Centre	Pilates	Fitness	Monday Afternoons	Adult & Actively Aging
Ramara Recreation Centre	Line Dancing	Dancing & Fitness	Monday Evenings	Adult & Actively Aging
Ramara Recreation Centre	Senior Social	Education & Social	Mornings (Monthly)	Adult & Actively Aging
Ramara Recreation Centre	Guitar Heroes	Education & Music	Tuesday Evenings Sept-Oct	Adult & Actively Aging
Ramara Recreation Centre	Stretch & Strength Fusion	Fitness & Motion	Wed/Thursday Afternoons Sept-Oct	Adult & Actively Aging
Ramara Recreation Centre	Yoga	Fitness & Motion	Thursday Mornings Sept – Oct	Adult & Actively Aging
Ramara Recreation Centre	Zumba	Fitness & Motion	Thursday Evenings Sept - Oct	Adult & Actively Aging
Ramara Recreation Centre	Meditation	Fitness & Motion	Thursday PM Jan – Mar	Adult & Actively Aging
Ramara Recreation Centre	Pickleball	Fitness, Sport & Social	Daily Mon-Fri Sept – Oct	Adult & Actively Aging
Udney Community Centre	Acrylics Painting	Art	Monthly Jan - Feb	Adult & Actively Aging



Facility	Program	Description	Schedule	Age
Ramara Recreation Centre	Pottery	Art	Wednesday Evening (May)	Adult & Actively Aging
Ramara Recreation Centre	Quillin by Dillon	Art	Wednesday Evenings (May)	Adult & Actively Aging
Atherley Fire Station 2	Photography Workshop	Art	Saturday AM	Adult & Actively Aging

## 2.2 Program Planning

The Township of Ramara program planning is based on a Winter, Spring and Fall Schedule. July and August programs are dedicated to child and youth summer camps. A week-long child and youth camp is offered during the December holidays and on March Break, creating a break or pause to adult programming. In 2025, recreation programming will pilot a summer session of adult programs to be offered in evenings or at alternative locations that include Udney Community Centre.

The Recreational staff at Ramara plan programming based on current trends in the profession and on-going discussions with residents and various user groups. They intentionally try to divide programming between sports, art and music when creating seasonal line-ups. In the past, staff have used different forms of media and surveys to reach out to the public to target recreational wants or needs. This has often proved problematic as interest in a sport or program does not equate to residents registering or participating.

Programs offered are typically focused on children and youth, and adults and actively aging. Adults programming is predominantly directed to senior residents. Senior-aged residents make up the majority of Ramara’s population and have displayed more flexibility in terms of program scheduling.

Working aged adults are less able to attend day-time scheduled programs. Older adults are less likely to come out after dark or because of inclement weather and prior experience has shown that offering programs in the evening does not necessarily attract more working-aged adults to register and attend.

### 2.2.1 Assessing Program Success

The decision threshold for trying a new program, or continuing a program, is covering the cost of the instructor or associated costs of supplies. The current funding strategy is to use Recreation staff to lead programming to avoid the budget implication of bringing



in an outside instructor. The success of programs is based on registration numbers as opposed to any formal evaluation of user satisfaction. Pickleball is an example of a successful program as it has a high turnout, and consequently is offered frequently in the Ramara Centre timetable.

## 2.2.2 Programming Constraints

There are several factors that limit the programming available in the Township.

- Limited Indoor facilities
  - Ramara Recreation Centre is not a properly sized gymnasium as it has limited ceiling height and other design constraints (glass and floor area)
  - Other facilities are Community Centres – intended as “halls”
  - No Space available in public spaces in Brechin
  - High-demand for Pickleball – equals limited space for alternative sports or programming
- Limited Outdoor Facilities
  - Amenities required maintenance or improvements to support hosting of programming
- Location (Ramara Centre)
  - After School programming is complex as Ramara Centre is not in proximity to school aged children (bused home and then require a ride to the facility)
  - Not in walking distance to Atherley-Uptergrove population
- Age-Appropriate Programs
  - Difficulty in developing “working-aged” sports or programming
  - Sports and activities are cyclical
- Affordability
  - Finding instructors at a reasonable cost to work minimum and sometime flexible shifts can be problematic
  - Providing affordable user fees is contentious
  - Programming budgets are limited

## 2.3 Township of Ramara Facilities and Parks

The Township of Ramara has an expansive geographic area with an extensive shoreline on both Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching. Outdoor leisure activities include access to multiple open space parks, beaches and a long-committed township wide trail system.

The Township of Ramara Asset Management Plan (AMP) identifies 75 assets as part of Parkland and Outdoor Recreation profile and identifies a total of 17 buildings and structures that include the Ramara Recreation Centre, Community Halls and accessory structures.

Identifying all properties and assets relevant to the broader scope of Parks and Recreation in Township of Ramara proved to be slightly difficult. Not all properties are listed specifically under the Parkland and Outdoor Recreation, and many are correctly categorized as part of core assets. Core assets include roads, sidewalks, paths, and trails. There are many lake access points at the end of roadways. These access points provide opportunities for lake access that include the use of boat launch sites, swimming opportunities and many become heavily used during the winter months for recreational use of the lakes for fishing, snowmobiling and other outdoor activities. Through staff discussions and a township wide tour, access points were identified as well as properties that are currently used or partially used for township servicing by the Department of Infrastructure.

Table 2 below lists identified assets and are organized by Township Ward with a general description and condition of each. The table includes properties or locations identified by staff that could be considered a resource related to parks and recreation or may have future recreational potential. An asterisk (\*) identifies properties or locations not included as part of the “parkland” assets.

**Table 2: Township of Ramara Programs and Facilities**

	<b>Asset Location</b>	<b>Asset/Amenity</b>	<b>Description/Conditions</b>
<b>WARD 1</b>	Longford Mills Community Centre  3854 Longford Mills Road, Longford Mills	Park Land (Village Residential)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacant Open Space, playground removed, asphalt pad remains.</li> <li>• Future paving planned for accessible parking</li> <li>• Increased Parking Options Available for Hall and overflow to Lake St. John Access</li> </ul>
		Community Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100+ year old original structure (1919)</li> <li>• Asset Plan includes addition (1991) and other renovations</li> <li>• AODO upgrades suggested</li> </ul>
		Outdoor Lights & Fixtures	
	*Longford Mills Boat Launch (Lake St. John)	Public Road Allowance/Boat Launch & Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased Parking, needs grading</li> <li>• Possible overflow parking at Longford Mills C.C.</li> </ul>
	*Shelba Drive Lake Access (Lake St. John)	Public Road Allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacant, no maintenance operations in place</li> </ul>
	Bluebird Park  6314 Blue Bird Street	Parkland (Active Recreation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent Increased Parking</li> <li>• Boat launch</li> </ul>
		Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Playground (YEAR)</li> <li>• Future Plans for a small trail loop and natural plantings</li> </ul>
	Unnamed Parkland 8003 County Rd. 169 @ Riverleigh	Parkland (Active Recreation) Wetland features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainly wetlands</li> <li>• Community led “Naturalization” area</li> <li>• Opportunity for trails/loop</li> <li>• Difficult to develop</li> </ul>
	Unnamed Parkland	Parkland (Active Recreation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Trail</li> </ul>

	<b>Asset Location</b>	<b>Asset/Amenity</b>	<b>Description/Conditions</b>
	7885 County Rd. 169 @ Birch Dr	Wetland features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible Highway location for trail head; access to Howlyn Pines Trail</li> </ul>
	*Poplar Lane Water Access (Green River)	Public Road Allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intended use of canoe and kayak access</li> <li>• Signage and mapping for trails and waterways</li> </ul>
	Unnamed Parkland 2505 Coopers Falls Rd.	Parkland (Rural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small vacant parcel, no maintenance operations in place</li> </ul>
	Walter Wicks Native Walkway 3531 Southwood Beach Blvd.	Parkland (Passive Recreation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous Community led “Naturalized” Trail loop with access to Lake St. John</li> <li>• Vacant, tree lot, no maintenance operation in place</li> </ul>
	Floral Park Dock (end of Dock Rd.)	Parkland (Active Recreation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterfront lot</li> </ul>
Dock		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned 65K investment to upgrade failing dock</li> </ul>	
	*2612 Concession D-E	Infrastructure Site (Rural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former Wayside Pit</li> <li>• Infrastructure Dept using for ditching material</li> <li>• Possible future multi-purpose Township Use</li> </ul>
	*Davy Drive Watermain 7230 Davy Drive	Infrastructure Site (Active Recreation) Small lot on Switch Road (Shoreline Residential)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current location of local wellhead</li> <li>• Vacant portion of land treed wetland</li> <li>• Possible location of local trail loop</li> </ul>

	Asset Location	Asset/Amenity	Description/Conditions
<b>WARD 2</b>	Udney Community Centre  2347 Concession Road 10, Udney	Parkland (Agriculture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Green Space, Baseball Diamond</li> </ul>
		Udney Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>68-year-old hall with multiple upgrades</li> <li>AODA upgrades required</li> </ul>
		Storage Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pole Barn Storage (2015)</li> </ul>
		Backstop (baseball)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently not in use, infield maintenance and upgrades required</li> </ul>
		Playground (multiple)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only Basketball post exist – essentially no longer an asset</li> </ul>
		Outdoor Lights & Fixtures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Light posts have shown areas of rot and will need replacement or removal</li> </ul>
		Park Fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In decent shape (fencing is for Baseball diamond)</li> </ul>
	Sandy Point, Lake Dalrymple  4011 Dalrymple Dr.	Parkland (Active Recreation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remote location, provides local access to Lake Dalrymple</li> <li>Higher use for Winter</li> <li>Limited parking</li> </ul>
	Val Harbour Park  3758 Harrys Lane, Atherley	Parkland (Passive Recreation & Natural Area Protection) Wetland features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Space parkland</li> <li>Limited Access Park and water access</li> <li>Limited parking available</li> </ul>
	Joyland Beach Area  4159 Bayview Ave.  *4154 Bayview	Parkland (Passive Recreation) Wetland feature not noted but present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vacant land with no maintenance operation in place</li> <li>Both properties have water on property at time of site visit</li> <li>Limited ability to use sites with natural features present</li> </ul>

	<p>*Bayview Water Treatment Plant Extension</p> <p>3700 Concession Road 8</p>	<p>New Infrastructure Lands (Rural, Natural Area Protection) Wetland features</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property purchased for future expansion of Bayshore Wastewater Treatment Plant (100 + ha)</li> <li>• Extensive frontage and island on Lake Simcoe (1100 m +)</li> <li>• Possible future multi-use conveyable property and access to passive recreation</li> </ul>
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	Asset Location	Asset/Amenity	Description/Conditions
<b>WARD 3</b>	<p>Ramara Recreation Centre</p> <p>5482 Highway 12 South, Atherley</p>	Parkland (Village Institutional)	<p>Main outdoor sports and recreation fields in township; baseball &amp; soccer fields</p> <p>Potential replanting plan in progress with LSRCA</p> <p>Limited/functional parking issues</p> <p>New Sunshade in Budget</p>
		Recreation Building	20+ year-old Facility (2001); Library, Meeting Space and Gymnasium
		Garage Building	Storage
		Generator Building	
		Bleachers	4 Sets pf Bleachers 20+ years-old
		Paving	
		Park Fencing Outdoor Lights & Fixtures	Plans to upgrade one field (fencing and lights in good shape)
		Backstops (2 – Baseball)	Plans to upgrade one field
	<p>Atherley Community Park/ Lovely Day Park</p> <p>3 Winchester Street, Atherley</p>	Parkland (Active Recreation)	Many recent installs and upgrades, including beachfront, Boat Launch/Lake Access closed
		Playground	2022 Install
Sports Court		Brand New Install (2024)	

	Kurtis Drive Park 4682 Kurtis Drive, Atherley	Parkland (Passive Recreation) Fencing	Open Green Space; area of regular grass cutting but no infrastructure unknown
	Prophet Park (Sandy Beach) 4671 Orkney Beach Road (linked to 234 Courtland Road)	Parkland (Active Recreation- P, H)	Vacant Land (wetland) Would be an ideal site for parking to nearby boat launch and beach access – but potential parking limited due to wetland/floodplain
	Courtland/Orkney Beach Rd. (Sandy Beach) 234 Courtland Rd. (linked to 4670 Orkney Beach Rd.)	Parkland (Rural)	Vacant Land (wetland) Would be an ideal site for parking to nearby boat launch and beach access – but potential parking limited due to wetland/floodplain
	*Unnamed Park 4291 Orkney Beach Road.	Parkland (Active Recreation)	Not identified in Parkland Asset Management Plan (identified by staff)
	Fern Resort Rd. 4501 Fern Resort Rd.	Parkland (Active Recreation)	Boat Launch and Dock (infrastructure) Mainland access to Couchiching Islands Ample nearby parking

	Asset Location	Asset/Amenity	Description/Conditions
<b>WARD 4</b>	Brechin Community Park 3227 Ramara Road 47, Brechin	Parkland (Active Recreation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Green Space, Baseball Diamond, playground, pavilion, basketball court and dog-park</li> <li>Used on Saturdays for Vendor's Market</li> </ul>
		Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>45 years-old building used by OPP and Library with Washrooms</li> </ul>
		Playground Equipment (Multiple Assets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In disrepair with safety concerns</li> </ul>
		Outdoor Lights and Fixtures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unknown condition</li> </ul>



Asset Location	Asset/Amenity	Description/Conditions
	Paving	
	Park Fencing	
	Dog Park Fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively new</li> </ul>
	Bleachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Sets pf Bleachers 20+ years-old</li> </ul>
Brechin Library/Medical Centre (former)  3242 Ramara Road 47	Building (Village Commercial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former Site of Brechin Library and Medical Centre</li> <li>• Home to the “Good Doctors”</li> <li>• Unused open green space and basement</li> </ul>
*St. Andrews Hall/Standard Bank  2287/2291 Highway 12	Buildings (Village Commercial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unknown plan or scope</li> <li>• Opportunity for multiuse space that includes recreation and library uses</li> </ul>
Bayshore Drive Park  166A Bayshore Drive	Parkland (Active Recreation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Green Space, regular grass cutting, Waterfront access</li> <li>• Limited Parking</li> </ul>
Thicketwood Place Park/McGuinnis Point  44 Thicketwood Place,	Parkland (Active Recreation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Green Space, regular grass cutting, Waterfront access</li> <li>• Limited Parking</li> </ul>
Unnamed Bayshore Park  128 Bayshore Dr.	Parkland (Active Recreation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Green Space, regular grass cutting, Waterfront access</li> <li>• Private Parking available at Bayshore Community Centre; potential improved on-street parking</li> </ul>
*Glenrest Drive Boat Launch  Glenrest Drive	Unknown Asset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not Listed as Parland Asset and not park or Road System</li> </ul>
Heritage Farms Parkland  2958/2961 Suntrac Dr. (backlot and lake front)	Parkland (Active Recreation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future Plans for a small trail loop and natural plantings (back lot)</li> </ul>
	Boat Ramp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No parking, launch only</li> </ul>

	Asset Location	Asset/Amenity	Description/Conditions
	Florida Ave./Concession B Suntrac Dr. – Trail between Heritage Farms and Florida Ave. 1415 Florida Ave. Back Lot 1418 Florida Ave. Lake front 2886 Con. Rd. B vacant lot	Parkland (Active Recreation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple connected properties with trail to Heritage Farms and water access</li> <li>Unused back lot and Concession B property</li> </ul>
	Furniss Crescent Park  2820 Furniss Crescent, Brechin	Parkland (Active Recreation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vacant Open Green Space back lot parkland</li> </ul>
	Gamebridge  1636 Ethel Dr. Gamebridge	Parkland (Hamlet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unknown planned use in residential neighbourhood, small frontage on Talbot River</li> </ul>
	Ramara Road 51 Parkland – Gamebridge 1659 Ramara Rd. 51	Parkland (Hamlet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small vacant Open Space Parkette</li> </ul>

	Asset Location	Asset/Amenity	Description/Conditions
<b>WARD 5</b>	Lagoon City Park  116 Lake Avenue, Brechin	Parkland (Active Recreation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Open Space Park with beach</li> <li>Limited parking</li> </ul>
		Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Playground (2024)</li> </ul>
	Laguna Parkway Park  3 Laguna Parkway, Brechin	Parkland (Active Recreation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future lans for a small trail loop and natural plantings</li> </ul>

	<b>Asset Location</b>	<b>Asset/Amenity</b>	<b>Description/Conditions</b>
	<p>The Steps Ridge Avenue, Brechin</p>	<p>Parkland (Village Residential)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Water access beach with limited parking</li> </ul>
	<p>Brechin Beach 2641/2648 Lakeshore Drive, Brechin</p>	<p>Parkland (Active Recreation)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Water access beach with limited parking</li> <li>• Potential for increased parking on backlot</li> </ul>
	<p>Prophet Beach 2464 Lakeshore Dr.</p>	<p>Parkland (Passive Residential)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Water access beach with limited parking</li> </ul>
	<p>Coral Beach 1784 Lakeshore Dr</p>	<p>Parkland (Passive Residential)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Water access beach with limited parking</li> </ul>
	<p>Lakeshore Drive Parkland 1658 Lakeshore Dr</p>	<p>Parkland (Passive Residential)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Water access beach with limited parking</li> <li>• Beside Concession A Right of Way, with potential to increase parking area</li> </ul>

## 2.4 Ramara Trails

The trail system stretches across publicly owned property and often run along the side of local roadways or is incorporated into existing sidewalks and include:

**The Ramara Trail:** The Ramara trail is 6 km long and part of the Trans Canada Trail. It starts at the Mnjikaning Fishing Weirs National Historic Site and continues north, following the abandoned CN rail line to Casino Rama. View the Ramara Trail Map to plan your route, including parking locations and trail access points.

**The Lagoon City Trail:** The Lagoon City trail is approximately 2.5 km long and runs off Laguna Parkway. Adventure on the trail and check out the various wildlife, including a heron rookery. From March 15 to August 15, the township has established a Quiet Zone area to help protect the herons from excessive or loud sounds during the heron's mating and nesting season.

**The Washago Trail:** The Washago Trail is part of the Trans Canada Trail - the world's largest network of recreational multi-use trails. The Washago Trail starts in Washago and ends at Coopers Falls Road to connect to the Town of Gravenhurst trails. It is over 13 km long and consists of off-road and on the road trails.<sup>2</sup>

## 3 Partnership Opportunities

Partnerships allow municipalities to provide their residents with access to more extensive facilities in cooperation with adjoining municipalities. The Township of Ramara, while abundant with parkland, generally lacks functional indoor facilities for sports and athletics. Ramara residents benefit from the abutting municipal facilities. In the north, the City of Orillia has a full suite of recreational programming and state of the art indoor and outdoor facilities. Orillia offers a high level of competitive sporting leagues and is near Atherley-Uptergrove community. In the south, the rural Township of Brock offers an indoor Arena and Curling Club near Brechin and Lagoon City residents.

Successful partnerships should have a give and take approach and the Township of Ramara could look at opportunities to provide facilities or services that are not offered

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<sup>2</sup> [Trails - Township of Ramara](#)

by neighbouring municipalities or look at ways to compliment or support existing infrastructure.

Table 6 indicates the future possible partnerships the Township of Ramara could pursue to provide residents with a wider variety of programming and facilities. The partnerships are ranked in terms of assumed level of priority for the Township. Green cells are high priority for the Township, orange is medium, and red are low priority.

Note that in the table, high priority represents an opportunity that is both actionable in the short term and financially possible (i.e. requires less than \$25,000 investment to begin). Low priority are partnerships that are possible but have a level of difficulty to achieve and / or are greater than \$25,000 investment to begin. Medium priorities are those that may be actionable but expensive, or less expensive but difficult to achieve.

Sections 3.1 to 3.4 list the available facilities and programs offered by neighbouring municipalities. Section 3.5 list area businesses and community associations that offer programming and competitive sports leagues.

**Table 6: Prioritized Partnership Opportunities**

Partnership Opportunity	Description	Priority
Rama First Nations	Continue building relationship with Chippewas of Rama First Nation and look for mutually beneficial projects. (i.e. joint use agreement for Mnjikaning Arena)	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>
Township of Severn	Seek partnership with the Township of Severn for joint use agreement opportunities for the Washago Outdoor Rink. The Rink is used as an ice surface in the winter and for pickleball in spring to fall	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>
Township of Brock	Seek partnership with the Township of Brock for joint access to facilities, such as arenas, curling club and baseball facilities. There could be an opportunity to provide programming to residents of the north part Brock in Ramara.	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>
City of Orillia	Seek partnership with the City of Orillia for joint use of indoor and outdoor facilities such as arenas, aquatic facilities and sports fields.	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>
Township of Oro-Medonte	Oro-Medonte has several facilities and offers a wide range of programming like Ramara. The proximity of the two townships makes potential partnerships difficult.	<b>LOW PRIORITY</b>
Joyland Beach	Seek partnership with Joyland Beach to allow access to the waterfront.	
School boards in Ramara	Seek partnership with both School boards (Simcoe County District School Board & Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board) in Ramara to improve	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>

	soccer and baseball fields and allow residents in Ramara to use facilities such as indoor gymnasiums and outdoor fields.	
Library	Maintain the relationship between the Township of Ramara and Library Board and staff to allow for shared use of facilities in the Ramara Centre and explore options in Brechin.	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>
Community Centre Boards	Re-establish relationship with Ramara’s Community Centre Boards of Management to allow shared use for recreation programming. Currently it is difficult to schedule programming at any of the community halls because the Township does not manage the halls or have access to their schedules.	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>

### 3.1 City of Orillia Programs and Facilities

The City of Orillia offers a multitude of facilities and programming to their residents. The city is home to 2 arenas, a curling club, an indoor recreation centre with a gymnasium, fitness centre and advertises 30 km of trails and 445 acres of parkland<sup>3</sup>. The City of Orillia also offers a full complement of recreational programming. The proximity to Ramara makes the amenities beneficial to the Township’s residents and pay a non-resident fee to participate or access various facilities. It is also noted that Orillia is home to both the public and catholic high schools that all Ramara students attend. Table 2 below shows the complete current list of programs and facilities available in Orillia.

**Table 2: City of Orillia Programs and Facilities**

Facility or Program	Location	Users Served
Barnfield Point Recreation Centre	500 Atherley Road	Residents of Orillia
Bayview Park	335 Hilda Street	Residents of Orillia
Brant Street Park	26-30 Brant Street	Residents of Orillia
Brian Orser Arena	433 Gill Street	Residents of Orillia
Centennial Park	50 Centennial Drive	Residents of Orillia
Christine Place Park	21-23 Christine Place	Residents of Orillia
Clayt French Dog Park	114 Atlantis Drive	Residents of Orillia
Clayt French Park (Outdoor Ice Rink)	975-983 Atlantis Drive	Residents of Orillia
Cliff Yeo Diamond	295 Park Street	Residents of Orillia
Couchiching Beach/Park (Outdoor Ice Rink)	140 Canice Street	Residents of Orillia

<sup>3</sup> [Orillia Parks - City of Orillia](#)

Dancy Drive Park	15-19 Dancy Drive	Residents of Orillia
Dorset Park	27 Dorset Drive	Residents of Orillia
Edna/Adair Park	50 Adair Street	Residents of Orillia
Forest Home Park	995 Memorial Avenue	Residents of Orillia
Franklin Carmichael Park	295 Park Street	Residents of Orillia
Frontier Park	50 Frontier Avenue	Residents of Orillia
Gander Ross & Dean Heliotis Ball Diamonds	135 Dunedin Street	Residents of Orillia
Grenville Park	389 Grenville Avenue	Residents of Orillia
High Street Park	482 High Street	Residents of Orillia
Hillcrest Park (Outdoor Ice Rink)	255 Matchedash Street North	Residents of Orillia
Homewood Park (Outdoor Ice Rink)	68 Woodside Drive	Residents of Orillia
J.B. Tudhope Memorial Park	450 Atherley Road	Residents of Orillia
Jerry Udell & Tudhope Ball Diamonds	450 Atherley Road	Residents of Orillia
Kaneff Park	435 Barrie Road	Residents of Orillia
Kitchener Park (Dog Park, Ball Diamonds, Sports Fields, Outdoor Ice Rink)	25 Kitchener Street	Residents of Orillia
Lakeview Park	33 Lakeview Avenue	Residents of Orillia
Lankinwood Park	20 Lankin Boulevard	Residents of Orillia
Lawrence Park	225 Lawrence Avenue	Residents of Orillia
Mac Carter Park	121 Fittons Road	Residents of Orillia
Maple Leaf Park	113A Maple Leaf Avenue	Residents of Orillia
Mariposa Park	27 Mariposa Avenue	Residents of Orillia
McKinnell Square Park (Outdoor Ice Rink)	135 Dunedin Street	Residents of Orillia
Millennium Trail	Forest Avenue	Residents of Orillia
Moose Beach	450 Atherley Road	Residents of Orillia
Morningstar Park	1125 Mississaga Street West	Residents of Orillia
Murray Street Park (Outdoor Ice Rink)	21 Murray Street	Residents of Orillia
North Street Park	24 Dalton Crescent North	Residents of Orillia
Orma Drive Park	20 Orma Drive	Residents of Orillia
Orillia Recreation Centre	255 West Street South	Residents of Orillia
Orillia Waterfront Centre	50 Centennial Drive	Residents of Orillia
Rotary Aqua Theatre	Bay Street & Jarvis Street	Residents of Orillia
Rotary Place	100 University Avenue	Residents of Orillia
Scout Valley	Old Barrie Road	Residents of Orillia
Victoria Park	75 Coldwater Road West	Residents of Orillia
Veteran's Memorial Park	154 Elgin Street	Residents of Orillia
West Orillia Sports Complex	100 University Avenue	Residents of Orillia



West Ridge Park	900 West Ridge Boulevard	Residents of Orillia
York Street Park	120 York Street	Residents of Orillia
Programs <sup>4</sup>		
Play Group	Orillia Recreation Centre	Ages 0-5
Lane Swim	Orillia Recreation Centre	Youth & Adults
Leisure & Open Swim	Orillia Recreation Centre	All ages
Aqua Fit	Orillia Recreation Centre	Youth & Adults
Basketball	Orillia Recreation Centre, Gymnasium B	Ages 10+
Pickleball	Orillia Recreation Centre, Gymnasium A & B	Adults
Badminton	Orillia Recreation Centre, Gymnasium A & B	Adults
Table Tennis	Orillia Recreation Centre	All ages
Open Gym	Orillia Recreation Centre	Ages 10+
Open Gym for Kids	Orillia Recreation Centre	Children
Open Gym for Youth	Orillia Recreation Centre	Youth
H.I.I.T	Orillia Recreation Centre	Adults
Step Class	Orillia Recreation Centre	Adults
Cardio Pump	Orillia Recreation Centre	Adults
Core Galore	Orillia Recreation Centre	Adults
Yoga	Orillia Recreation Centre	Adults
Zumba	Orillia Recreation Centre	Adults
Spin	Orillia Recreation Centre	Adults
Advanced Aquatics	Orillia Recreation Centre, Aquatic Centre	Youth & Adults
Swim Lessons	Orillia Recreation Centre, Aquatic Centre & Couchiching Beach	All ages
Summer Day Camp	Various Recreation Centres	Children & Youth 4- 16 years old
Hip Hop	Orillia Recreation Centre, Multi-Purpose Room	Children & Youth
Gymnastics	Orillia Recreation Centre, Gymnasium B	Children & Youth
Taekwondo	Orillia Recreation Centre, Multi-Purpose Room	Kids/Teens/Adults
Volleyball	Orillia Recreation Centre, Gymnasium B	Children & Youth
CrossFit	Homewood Park, Field	Children & Youth
Line Dancing	Orillia Recreation Centre, Gymnasium B	Adults & Older Adults

<sup>4</sup> [Recreation and Youth Services Information - City of Orillia](#)

Aqua Yoga	Orillia Recreation Centre, Therapy Pool	Adults & Older Adults
Pilates	Orillia Recreation Centre, Fitness Studio	Adults
Beach Spikeball	J.B. Tudhope Memorial Park, Beach Volleyball Courts	Adults
Yoga	Orillia Recreation Centre, Fitness Studio	Adults
Karate	Couchiching Beach Park, Open Grass Area	Adults
Beach Volleyball	J.B. Tudhope Memorial Park, Beach Volleyball Courts	Adults
Pickleball	Homewood Park, Pickleball Courts	Adults & Older Adults
Tennis	West Orillia Sports Complex, Tennis Courts	Adults & Older Adults
Kayaking	J.B. Tudhope Memorial Park, Portage Bay	Adults & Older Adults
Home Alone Course	Rotary Place, Orillia Room	Children & Youth
Jr. Chef	Orillia Christian Reformed Church, Kitchen	Children & Youth
Babysitting Course	Rotary Place, Orillia Room	Children & Youth
Youth Basketball	Orillia Recreation Centre, Gymnasiums	Children & Youth

### 3.2 Township of Severn Programs and Facilities

The Township of Severn is very similar to Ramara and has limited facilities and offers several options of outdoor green spaces and lake access. The proximity of Severn residents to the City of Orillia makes for a similar relationship shared by Ramara. The Washago Community Centre is the closest facility that residents of Ramara can utilize. The Community Centre is home to an outdoor rink used for pickleball and floor hockey from spring to fall. Table 3 below lists the available facilities and programs offered across the township<sup>5</sup>.

**Table 3: Township of Severn Programs and Facilities**

Facility or Program	Location	Users Served
Coldwater and District Community Centre	11 Michael Anne Drive, Coldwater	Residents of Severn

<sup>5</sup> [Recreation Programs - Township of Severn](#)

Washago Community Centre	4361 Hamilton St, Washago	Residents of Severn
Ardtree Park	2375 Couchiching Avenue	Residents of Severn
Bass Lake Woodlands Park	1956 Pine Avenue	Residents of Severn
Coldwater Fairgrounds	11 Michael Anne Drive	Residents of Severn
Ian Crichton Memorial Park	2055 Birkeshire Woods Lane	Residents of Severn
Marchmont Community Park	2049 Avery Lane	Residents of Severn
Matchedash Community Heritage Centre	2095 North River Drive	Residents of Severn
Mill Street Parkette	Corner of Mill Street and Coldwater Road	Residents of Severn
Shoreview Park	3183 Shoreview Drive	Residents of Severn
Timberline Creek Park	3581 Timberline Avenue	Residents of Severn
Village Green Parkette	3 River Street	Residents of Severn
Washago Centennial Park	3398 Quetton Street	Residents of Severn
Washago Centennial Park Beach	3398 Quetton Street	Residents of Severn
Uhthoff Trail	From downtown Orillia through Coldwater	Residents of Severn
Simcoe County Loop Trail		Residents of Severn
The Trans Canada Trail		Residents of Severn
Severn/Ramara Trail Network		Residents of Severn
Washago Community Centre Outdoor Ice Rink	4361 Hamilton Street	Residents of Severn
Bass Lake Woodlands Park Outdoor Ice Rink	1956 Pine Avenue	Residents of Severn
Lake St. George Community Centre	3239 S Sparrow Lake Road	Residents of Severn
Public Skating	Coldwater CC	All ages
Teeball	Coldwater Ball Diamond 2	Children
Zumba	Coldwater CC & PS	All ages
Soccer	Washago Centennial Park, Marchmont PS	Children
Curling Club	Coldwater Curling Club	Children to Adults
Minor Ball	Coldwater Fairgrounds	Ages 5-20
Ball Hockey	Coldwater CC	Children & Youth 4-13 years old
Drop-In Pickleball	Coldwater CC & Washago CC	Adults & Seniors
Karate	Washago CC	Children & Youth
Gymnastics	Washago CC	Children & Youth

Babysitter's Course	Coldwater CC & Washago CC	Youth 11-15 years old
Home Alone Course	Washago CC	Youth 9-12 years old
Yoga	Lake St. George CC, Washago CC & Coldwater CC	Adults
Ball Hockey	Coldwater Arena & Washago CC	Youth & Adults
Basketball	Washago Community Centre	Youth & Adults

### 3.3 Township of Brock Programs and Facilities

The Township of Brock is another rural community like Ramara. The Township of Brock has 3 Arenas, a curling club and multiple urban area parks in the 3 main centres of Beaverton, Cannington and Sunderland. The town of Beaverton is the most norther community and provides opportunity for Ramara residents in Brechin and Lagoon City. The town of Beaverton is home to an Arena and a Curling Club and offers 2 main beaches and access to Lake Simcoe. The programming offered by the municipality is less comprehensive than what is being offered by Ramara, with a focus on day and summer camps for children. Organized leagues and sports are generally offered by private associations and leagues. Table 4 below lists the facilities and activities offered by Brock<sup>6</sup>.

**Table 4: Township of Brock Programs and Facilities**

Facility or Program	Location	Users Served
Foster Hewitt Memorial Community Centre	176 Main Street	Residents of Brock
Rick Macleish Memorial Community Centre	91 Elliot Street	Residents of Brock
Sunderland Memorial Area	20 Park Street	Residents of Brock
Manilla Community Hall	16990 Simcoe Street	Residents of Brock
Wilfrid Hall	20915 Brock Road	Residents of Brock
Sunderland Town Hall	120 River Street	Residents of Brock
Beaverton Town Hall	397 Simcoe Street	Residents of Brock
Beaverton Harbour Park	1 Harbour Park Crescent	Residents of Brock
Beaverton Ball Park	176 Main Street	Residents of Brock
Thorah Centennial Park	B32000 Shoreline Road	Residents of Brock

<sup>6</sup> [Recreation Programs - Township of Brock](#)

Beaverton King Street Park	297 King Street	Residents of Brock
Mill Gateway Park	204 Simcoe Street	Residents of Brock
Beaverton Walking Trail	176 Main Street	Residents of Brock
Beaver River Wetland Conservation Area and Trail	From Blackwater to Cannington	Residents of Brock
Cannington Macleod Park	50 Peace Street & 110 Elliot Street	Residents of Brock
Cannington Claire Hardy Baseball Fields	105 Elliot Street	Residents of Brock
Manilla Park	C2370 Brock Street	Residents of Brock
Port Bolster Park and Brock Soccer Park	B23955 Thorah Park Boulevard	Residents of Brock
Sunderland Park & Trail	18 Church Street	Residents of Brock
Lagoon Reserve Walk	Beaverton Harbour	Residents of Brock
Trans Canada Trail		Residents of Brock
Line Dancing	Cannington Legion	Adults
Pole Walking		Adults
Yoga	St. Paul's Anglican Church Beaverton	Adults
Guided Meditation	Virtual on Zoom	Adults
Drumming	St. Paul's Anglican Church, Beaverton	Adults
Gentle Fit	Various	Adults
Indoor Walking	Fishers Your Independent Grocer, Beaverton	All ages
Cooking lessons	Beaverton, Cannington & Manilla	Children & Youth 8-14 years old
Tai Chi Practice	St. Paul's Anglican Church, Beaverton	All ages
Summer Day Camp	Various	Children & Youth 4-12 years old
Musical Theatre Classes	354 Simcoe Street, Beaverton	Youth
March Break Camps	Foster Hewitt Memorial CC	Children & Youth
PA Day Camps	16 York Street, Cannington	Children & Youth 7-12 years old

<sup>5</sup>[Recreation Programs - Township of Brock](#)

### 3.4 Township of Oro-Medonte Programs and Facilities

The Township of Oro-Medonte is not an abutting municipality located southwest of the City of Orillia. They have one main Community Centre and Arena, 5 community halls and several outdoor winter rinks, 6 pickleball courts. The programming offered by Oro-Medonte is very similar to what is currently being offered by the Township of Ramara

with considerably higher fees. Table 5 below shows the available facilities and programs offered<sup>7</sup>.

**Table 5: Township of Oro-Medonte Programs and Facilities**

Facility or Program	Location	Users Served
Arena & Community Banquet Hall	71 Line 4 North (Corner of Highway 11 South & Line 4 North)	Residents of Oro Medonte
Danny McHugh Memorial Park	1885 Warminster Sideroad	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Guthrie Lions	71 Line 4 North	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Shanty Bay Memorial Park	1950 Ridge Road W	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Vasey Park	4851 Vasey Road	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Carley Community Hall	396 Warminster Sideroad	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Eady Community Hall	73 Eady Station Road	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Edgar Community Hall	1167 Old Barrie Road West	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Hawkestone Community Hall	3 Allen Street	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Jarratt Community Hall	837 Horseshoe Valley Road	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Bayview Memorial Park	687 Lakeshore Road East	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Ravines of Oro-Medonte	8 Blackcomb Drive, Medonte Side Road 2	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Barillia Park	118 Lakeshore Road East, Oro-Station	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Simcoe Side Park	10 Lakeshore Promenade	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Ramey Memorial Park	5464 Line 8 North	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Shelswell Park	118 Lakeshore Road West	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park	3387 Line 4 North	Residents of Oro-Medonte

<sup>7</sup> [Recreational Programs | Township of Oro-Medonte](#)

El Crawford Park	Line 7	Residents of Oro-Medonte
James Clayton Park	Old Barrie Road, Edgar	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Sweetwater Park	3353 Line 6 North	Residents of Oro-Medonte
Public Skates	Oro-Medonte Community Arena	Youth & Adults
Dance Classes	Oro-Medonte Community Arena	Children
Basketball Basics	Guthrie Public School	Children & Youth
Running Club	7 <sup>th</sup> Line at Rail Trail Entrance	Children & Youth
PA Day Camps	Oro-Medonte Community Arena	Children & Youth
Multi-sport classes	Sweetwater Park	Children & Youth
Art Classes	Carley Community Hall	Children
Knitting Circle	Oro-Medonte Community Arena	Adults
Pickleball	W.R. Best Public School	Adults
Yoga	Oro-Medonte Community Arena	Adults
Zumba	Oro-Medonte Community Arena	Adults
Fitness Classes	Oro-Medonte Community Arena	Adults
March Break Camp	Oro-Medonte Community Arena	Children & Youth 4-12 years old
Summer Camps	Various	Children & Youth 4-12 years old

### 3.5 Private Businesses

Private businesses play a role in supporting the overall recreational viability of an area. Below is a list of private businesses that are either a recreational destination or support in some way a recreational destination, facility or activity.

#### 3.5.1 Ramara Township Private Businesses Offering Recreational Opportunities

- Lagoon City Community Association
- Lagoon City Racquet Club
- Ramara Soccer Club



- Ramara Library Quilt Club
- Joyland Beach, Community Centre
- Bayshore Village
- Maplehaven Equestrian Centre, Horseback riding service
- Celestial Rose Yoga
- Monarch Wellness & Yoga Services

### 3.5.2 Surrounding Areas Private Businesses Offering Recreational Opportunities

- Horseshoe Valley Pickleball Club, Oro-Medonte
- Beaverton Minor Baseball, Township of Brock
- Sunderland Minor Baseball, Township of Brock
- Brock Soccer Club, Township of Brock
- Cannington Lawn Bowling Club, Township of Brock
- Brock Rugby Club, Township of Brock
- South Simcoe Rebel Rollers, Township of Severn
- Coldwater Minor Baseball League, Township of Severn
- Coldwater Ball Hockey League, Township of Severn
- Green River & Co., Township of Severn, Yoga studio
- Minor Hockey, Orillia
- Minor Baseball, Orillia
- Curling Club, Orillia
- Orillia Rowing Club, Orillia
- Beaverton Figure Skating Club, Township of Brock
- Orillia Minor Lacrosse, Orillia
- Orillia SloPitch, Orillia
- Orillia Figure Skating Club, Orillia
- Oro-Medonte Minor Baseball, Oro-Medonte
- Braestone Club, Oro-Medonte, Golf
- Oro-Medonte Tennis Club, Oro-Medonte
- Forks In the Trail Yoga Studio, Oro-Medonte

## 4 Recreational Investment Overview

According to the Township's 2024 Asset Management Plan (AMP) for Non-Core Assets, the average condition for Parkland and Outdoor Recreation Facilities is poor.

The Asset Management Plan: Non-Core Infrastructure Assets (July 2024)<sup>8</sup> recognizes two components relevant to the Recreation Master Plan. One, in Section 6 of the AMP being the Facilities Inventory, where the AMP identifies the Recreation and Culture Department as having 8 Major Buildings with a replacement value of \$3,651,346 and 9 Minor Buildings having a replacement value of \$573,740.

Secondly, the AMP identifies 75 active assets in Section 7: Parkland and Outdoor Recreation. Of the listed assets, 46 represent parcels of parkland with a replacement value of \$13,738, 000. Unless the Township of Ramara intends to sell parklands, the replacement value is negligible. The AMP also recommends publicly owned parklands be re-evaluated following recent inflation trends of land values. The remaining assets are made up of fencing, paving, bleachers, playground and sports equipment, lights and fixtures and marine infrastructure with a total replacement value of approximately \$712,000.

The Financial Strategy of Section 7.7 in the AMP recommends a capital investment of approximately \$58,000 over the next 10 years to maintain “current” service levels with minimal investment into replacement of recreational asset that does not include parkland or building replacement, nor does the AMP indicate assets relating to indoor programming.

Discussions with staff helped identify that most investment into facilities and parkland occur through the Infrastructure Department rather than the Recreation Department and the small investment of \$58,000 is not a telling story of the maintenance and operations of parks and recreation. The 2024 Infrastructure Budget included the new Lovely Day Outdoor Sports Court of \$110,600.

The Recreation Operating Budget is projected to have 2024 expenses of \$551,100 and revenue of \$211,200. The bulk of the budget covers wages of full-time staff, seasonal camp staff and contracted instructors. The budget also includes the maintenance and utility costs of the Ramara Recreation Centre and Brechin Community Centre. The 2024 Budget included \$500 for new indoor equipment, \$2200 for seasonal programming and \$2800 for camp programming supplies.

The Community Centre’s (Atherley, Longford Mills and Udney) and the Trails budgets run balanced budgets and are managed by community boards. Revenue includes Township reserves and grants.

A weighted risk matrix is used to determine support for any replacement and rehabilitation projects and/or decisions. Assets with a higher risk towards that Corporation and stakeholders should be prioritized in capital planning. 28 facilities for

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<sup>8</sup> [Asset Management Plan - Non-Core Assets \(ramara.ca\)](https://www.ramara.ca/asset-management-plan-non-core-assets)

Outdoor Recreation are rated at a moderate to very low risk for the corporation, and only one facility is rated at a very high risk.

The table below indicates the average age and condition of recreational facilities in Ramara, outlined in the 2024 Asset Management Plan – Non-Core Assets.

**Table 7: Recreational Facilities and Open Space Qualitative Analysis**

Facility	Quality / Investment Assessment
Playground Equipment	Average age: 15 years Average conditions: Poor & Very Good
Outdoor Lighting & Fixtures	Average age: 22 years Average conditions: Poor/Very Poor
Sports Equipment	Average age: 20 years Average conditions: Very Poor/Fair
Bleachers	Average age: 22 years Average conditions: Poor
Parkland	Unevaluated
Outdoor Recreation and Parkland facilities	Average age: 25 years (for all facilities in Ramara) Average conditions: Poor

## 4.1 Future Lands - Surplus and Acquisitions

There are several properties identified that are currently vacant and not used. A few of the undeveloped parcels of land appear to be undevelopable based on the natural features of the site. Where land may be developable, and not used or planned for future parkland, there could be an opportunity for the Township to divest some lands to fund existing recreational facilities and parkland or become part of a strategy to fund new recreational opportunities.

An example of surplus lands might include 1636 Ethel Drive (Gamebridge), zoned Hamlet (H).

Long-range plans should include strategies for the acquisition of land pertaining to parks and recreation. Future growth and development should strategically look at acquiring land that will contribute to linking and expanding existing parkland and recreational facilities.

## 4.2 Building Accessibility Assessment and Investment

A Building Accessibility Assessment was conducted by Workplace Wellbeing (July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024) and several concerns were raised. Future upgrades, repurposing or

redevelopment plans will require investment to address the Report's concerns. Below are some of the highlights of the report:

- Lighting – considerations for indoor and outdoor lighting based on time of day and visual impairments
- Signage – increased signage in general but also need for accessible signage
- Accessible Parking – many locations did not have identified accessible parking, signage or sufficient space or spots
- Fencing (Brechin Dog Park) – accessible latches required
- Recreational Equipment – in disrepair and not accessible
- Multiple trip hazards, unsafe entrances, emergency exits and ramps
- Transitions – moving from concrete/asphalt to gravel or grass can be problematic

## 5 Recommendations

Based on the research and analysis of existing programs and facilities, partnership opportunities and the investment required to make improvements, the following recommendations should be carried forward to the 2024 Recreational Master Plan:

1. **Partnerships with other municipalities** – as a rural community with many small towns spread over a wide geographic area, Ramara faces numerous challenges for the effective delivery of recreation programs and services. Some of these challenges are faced by other neighbouring rural municipalities and, in some cases, neighbouring municipalities can partner to provide the recreation services and programming residents and visitors want.
2. **Partnerships with committees & boards in Ramara** – there is an opportunity for the Township of Ramara to build on relationships with the library board and staff, as well as the volunteer boards that run the community centres to allow the recreation department to run programs and events in a wider range of locations and times with potential support of Library staff and volunteers from the community centres.
3. **Improve the quality of existing indoor & outdoor facilities in Ramara** – Currently in Ramara's Asset Management Plan for Non-Core Assets, most identified Recreation facilities are in poor condition. These existing community centres and outdoor facilities should be updated to utilize the facilities Ramara already has.

4. **Expand Ramara Centre** – the Ramara Centre is a recreational hub for the residents of Ramara that could be expanded or updated to allow more users to enjoy the space.
5. **Develop and maintain safe trails for active transportation** – Trails are accessible, affordable and convenient to most residents and visitors and offer an unstructured opportunity for family outings, fitness, or cycle tours.
6. **Communicate and continue to collaborate with the Infrastructure Department** - to get a comprehensive understanding of long-term plans and associated maintenance and investment costs necessary to manage the entire parks and recreational operation. Explore options to increase parks staffing and equipment to provide increased parks and trails standards.