

2.7 SPECIALTY RECREATION (Refer to Map 1F, Page 55)

Specialty Recreation combines: Skateboarding, Snowboarding, and BMX Riding. All of these recreation types have specific facility requirements that in the absence of a formal facility are being performed in areas potentially unsafe, if not illegal for the user. As the motto for the organization “Skaters for Public Skateparks” suggests: *“If your City does not have a skatepark, it IS a skatepark”*, the demand around the world for these facilities is now stronger than ever.

Participation in each of these activities is hard to measure as they are not regulated, or conducive to membership or registration. Despite this fact the demand for facilities has become apparent both in Brandon and in every municipality in Canada in order to provide both safe and affordable opportunities for our youth to be active.

1. SKATEBOARD FACILITIES (SK)

User Groups

- Wheat City Skateboard Association
- Recreation Use

Future Growth

- There is some increase anticipated in this sport. Due to the low cost of entry associated with it, there will continue to be a demand for community facilities and when not provided, informal areas will be used

Facility Requirements

- 1 – Multi-skill Level Park
 - Lighting
- 2 Recreation Parks / Opportunities

Present Facility Locations / Amenities

- 1 – Modular Skateboard Park – Queen Elizabeth Park
- 1 – Skateboard Modules (for young children) - Keystone Habitat for Humanity Playground site (by Brandon General Hospital)
- Numerous informal public and private sites

Existing Partnerships

- Land provided by the City for development of the modular skateboard park by the Wheat City Skateboard Association at Queen Elizabeth Park

Challenges

- There is currently a request by the Wheat City Skateboard Association to expand the size of the land that is currently available at the modular park
- To find formal locations throughout the City that will accept this type of recreation opportunity

RECOMMENDATION

- **Develop skateboard park downtown at 9th and Princess Avenue**
- **Develop additional smaller scale skateboard opportunities to support the recreation hub strategy:**
 - 1 Park – Sir Winston Churchill Park
 - 1 Park – Rideau Park
- **Incorporate skateboard elements into the existing pathway network to encourage the use of path systems between more formal locations in order to improve safety to both the riders and general citizens.**

2. BMX FACILITY (BMX)

User Groups

- Recreation Use

Future Growth

- There is some increase anticipated in this sport. Due to the low cost of entry associated with it, there will continue to be a demand for community facilities and when not provided informal areas will be used

Facility Requirements

- 1 – BMX Park

Present Facility Locations / Amenities

- Small informal hills located at Coronation Park
- Larger informal hills located at North End Community Centre

Challenges

- To find formal locations throughout the City that will accept this type of recreation opportunity

RECOMMENDATION

- **Provide additional formal development to the BMX facility at the North End Community Centre**
- **Develop additional informal BMX hills to support the recreation hub strategy:**
 - 3rd and Aberdeen
 - Sir Winston Churchill Park

3. SNOWBOARDING (SN)

User Groups

- Recreation Use

Future Growth

- There is some increase anticipated in this sport. Due to the low cost of entry associated with it, there will continue to be a demand for community facilities

Facility Requirements

- Sculptured snow facilities

Present Facility Locations / Amenities

- For the 2007 season, attempt to create a snowboarding opportunity at Riverbank Discovery Centre

Challenges

- To find formal locations throughout the City that will accept this type of recreation opportunity

RECOMMENDATION

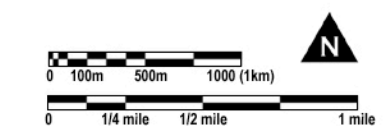
- **Develop additional small informal hills to support the recreation hub strategy:**
 - 1 – Riverbank Discovery Centre
 - 1 – Sir Winston Churchill Park



**THE CITY OF BRANDON
RECREATION FACILITIES
MASTER PLAN**

LEGEND

- CITY OF BRANDON LIMITS
- MAJOR EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES
 - 1 CANADA GAMES SPORTSPLEX
 - 2 WHEAT CITY RECREATION CENTRE
 - 3 BRANDON UNIVERSITY (GYM) and KINSMEN STADIUM
 - 4 YMCA
 - 5 ASSINIBOINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (GYM)
 - 6 KEYSTONE CENTRE
- SCHOOL / COMMUNITY CENTRE GROUNDS
- SCHOOLS
- COMMUNITY CENTRES
- DEVELOPED GREEN / PARK SPACE
- NATURAL GREENSPACE
- EXISTING MULTI-USE TRAILS - PAVED / CONCRETE
- EXISTING MULTI-USE TRAILS - UNPAVED
- EXISTING SKI TRAILS - RECREATIONAL



**MAP #1F
EXISTING
SPECIALTY
RECREATION
FACILITIES**

DEVELOPED BY:
**THE CITY OF BRANDON
OPERATIONAL SERVICES**

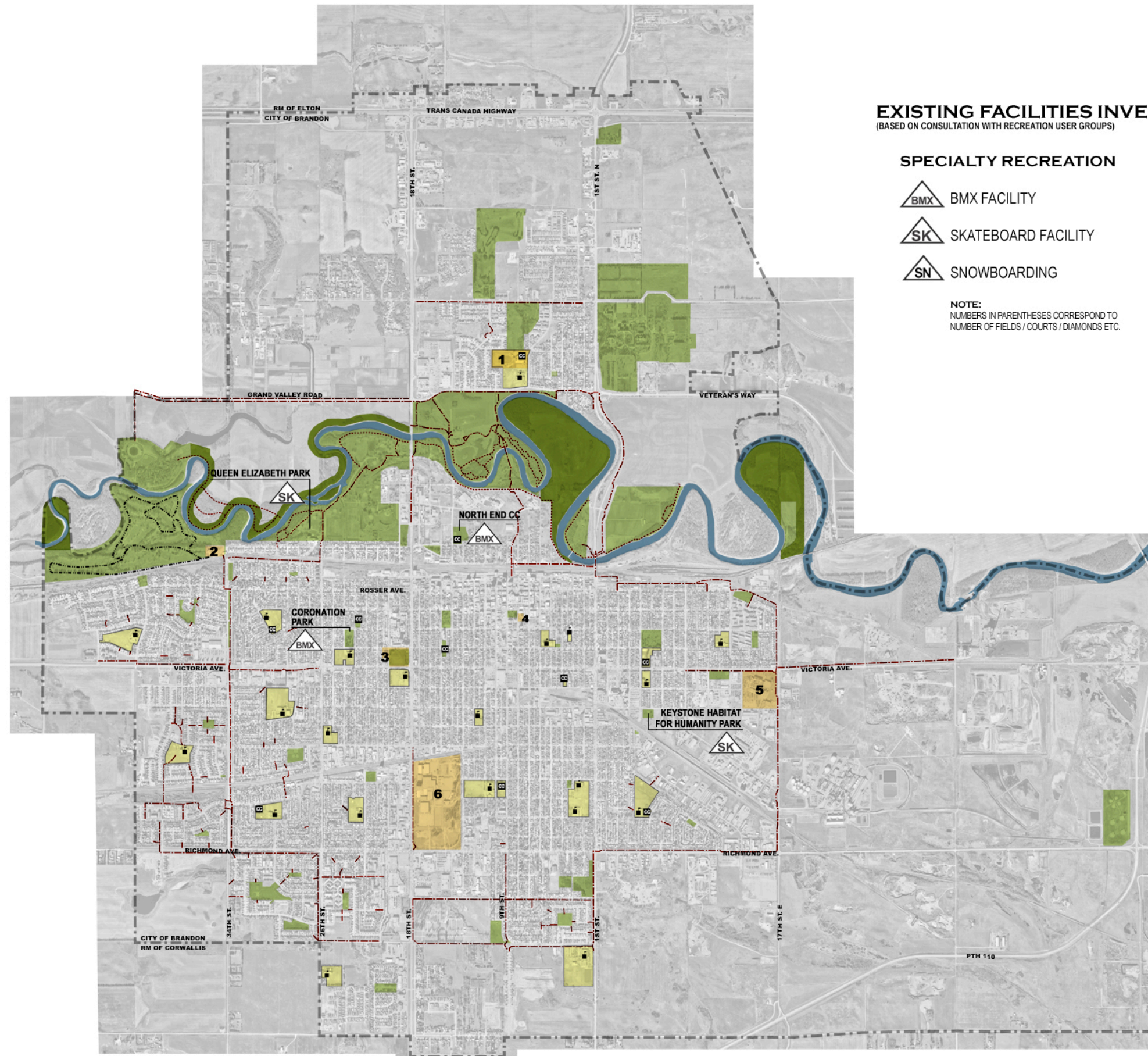
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EXISTING FACILITIES INVENTORY
(BASED ON CONSULTATION WITH RECREATION USER GROUPS)

SPECIALTY RECREATION

- BMX FACILITY
- SKATEBOARD FACILITY
- SNOWBOARDING

NOTE:
NUMBERS IN PARENTHESES CORRESPOND TO
NUMBER OF FIELDS / COURTS / DIAMONDS ETC.



Air Photo and Base Map Information Courtesy of The City of Brandon. Information Regarding Existing Recreation Facilities Courtesy of The City of Brandon and Greenspace Master Plan (2002)

2.8 GENERAL LEISURE RECREATION (Refer to Map 1G, page 64)

General Leisure Recreation combines: Walking/Running, Fitness Stations, Tobogganing, Volleyball (Outdoor), Basketball (Outdoor), Playground Structures, Lawn Bowling, Ski Trails, Golfing, and Picnic Areas. The following recommendations identify additions and improvements to an already well-established set of general leisure activities. There are many successes within these activity facilities that shall continue to be built upon while maintaining sufficient resources to maintain and operate that which is existing.

Of these, one of the local Golf facilities, the Brandon Recreation Centre or Wheat City Golf Course, is in need of major renovations to alleviate poor site drainage, insufficient dyking and deteriorating overall playing quality to meet current trends and needs in the golf course industry. The last five years have seen a lease of operations that indicates a decrease in rounds played; the decline is relatively consistent when compared with golf courses throughout Manitoba.

Despite a number of years when rains and flooding have significantly shortened the golf season, the course has managed to maintain a profit on operations. Capital improvements over this time have been simply emergency measures to patch larger issues. To be consistent with its control over riverbank land, it is important for the City to retain ownership of the land, where taxes on the land (according to present zoning) would spin off very little economic input. Further, the course is used significantly for other community-based uses (Ski Trails, Tennis, Tobogganing) proving itself to be a significant community asset.

1. WALKING / RUNNING (WR)

User Groups

- Brandon Running Club
- Recreation Use

Future Growth

- There is an ever increasing demand for walking / running opportunities as users become more aware of the health benefits of partaking in this type of recreation. Due to the low cost of entry associated with it, there will continue to be a demand for community facilities

Facility Requirements

- Walking paths located throughout the community
- Outdoor walking / running track
- Indoor walking / running track

Present Facility Locations / Amenities

- Walking paths located throughout the community
- Outdoor walking / running track located at the Sportsplex
- Varying indoor walking opportunities at the Brandon Shoppers Mall and the Keystone Centre

Government Funding

- City owned facility – Sportsplex / walking trails

Challenges

- To find the funding to expand the pathways throughout the City at a rate that is being demanded by the community
- To find an indoor walking / running facility that will meet the actual needs of the user, rather than by convenience

RECOMMENDATION

- Expand the existing pathways as per the Greenspace Master Plan and to connect the various recreation hubs to the neighbouring communities
- Convert the pool portion of the Sportsplex to a multi-use recreation floor incorporating running and walking opportunities for the public for a minimal user fee
- Create visitor information boards throughout the City illustrating layout, attractions and activities

2. FITNESS STATIONS (FS)

User Groups

- Recreation Use

Future Growth

- There is an ever increasing desire to have fitness stations located along the pathways that provide both direction and equipment for stretching of arms and legs.

Facility Requirements

- Modular stretching equipment and pads
- Signage

Present Facility Locations / Amenities

- None

RECOMMENDATION

- To consider the introduction of this type of leisure equipment for adults along the pathways in the community

3. TOBOGGANING (TB)

User Groups

- Recreation Use

Future Growth

- This will continue to be a strong winter activity for families

Facility Requirements

- A large hill with no obstacles along its run or near the bottom that is accessible by both vehicle and foot traffic

Present Facility Locations / Amenities

- Wheat City Recreation Centre – trees located along the side and near the bottom
- Rideau Park – trees located at the bottom of the run
- 34th Street – small run for little children
- Parkdale Park – medium run

Challenges

- The location of the current hills limits the amount of users due to the need for vehicle transportation

Government Funding

- City owned facilities
- City installs snow fencing at the Wheat City Recreation Centre at the bottom of the toboggan hill

RECOMMENDATION

- **Develop additional toboggan hills to support the Recreation Hub strategy:**
 - Sir Winston Churchill Park
 - 3rd & Aberdeen
- **Reconfigure and remove some of the trees at the bottom of the hill at in Rideau Park**

4. VOLLEYBALL – OUTDOOR (V)

User Groups

- Outdoor Volleyball League
- Recreation Use

Future Growth

- Beach volleyball is a growing sport in Brandon and is expected to continue to be strong based on the low cost of entry.

Facility Requirements

- Proximity to washrooms
- Grass/shaded area to relax in

Present Facility Locations / Amenities

- 1 - Stanley Park
- 1 - Keystone Centre
- 1 - Vincent Massey
- 1 - Harrison Middle School
- 2 - Curran Park

Existing Partnerships

- Some of the courts are maintained by the user groups under an informal arrangement, while others are maintained by the City of Brandon or the School Division

Challenges

- No central multi-court location in close proximity to amenities available for tournament play

Government Funding

- City owned facility at Stanley Park

RECOMMENDATION

- **Develop additional beach volleyball courts to support the Recreation Hub strategy:**
 - 1 - 3rd & Aberdeen
 - 1 - Sir Winston Churchill Park
 - 1 – Westridge Park/Linden Lanes School
 - 4 courts along the Riverbank Corridor

5. BASKETBALL – OUTDOOR (B)

User Groups

- Recreation Use
- School Division Use

Future Growth

- Pickup basketball continues to be a popular recreation opportunity because of its low cost entry into the sport

Facility Requirements

- Asphalt pad and net

Present Facility Locations / Amenities

- School Grounds
- A few neighborhood parks

RECOMMENDATION

- **Develop and / or improve basketball pads to support the Recreation Hub strategy:**
 - 3rd & Aberdeen
 - Valleyview
 - Westridge
 - Stanley Park
 - Rideau Park
 - Sir Winston Churchill Park

6. PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES (PS)

User Groups

- Recreation Use

Future Growth

- There will be a continual demand for these throughout the community in greenspaces. The location of these structures is outlined in the Greenspace Master Plan and will continue to be implemented in support of that plan

Facility Requirements

- Basic equipment will be incorporated in conjunction with the Greenspace Master Plan.
- Expanded and/or larger sized and/or new play components will be incorporated in conjunction with the Recreation Hub strategy

Present Facility Locations / Amenities

- School Grounds
- Greenspaces

Existing Partnerships

- Brandon School Division
- Parent Councils
- Service Groups

Challenges

- There is still a lot of equipment throughout the community that requires upgrading
- There are community groups that want to see their equipment upgraded in the short term even though there is equipment that requires upgrading more urgently

Government Funding

- City owned greenspace

RECOMMENDATION

- **Develop, relocate and / or augment playground structures to support the Recreation Hub strategy:**
 - 3rd & Aberdeen
 - Valleyview
 - Westridge Park
 - Sir Winston Churchill Park
 - Stanley Park
 - Rideau Park
- **Continue to replace playground equipment in support of the Greenspace Master Plan**

7. LAWN BOWLING (LB)

User Groups

- Wheat City Lawn Bowling Association
- Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Association

Future Growth

- Participation rates have remained stable over the past five years and there is no indication that there will be an increase in demand

Facility Requirements

- None

Present Facility Locations / Amenities

- Two facilities;
 - Rideau Park
 - Stanley Park

Existing Partnerships

- Wheat City Lawn Bowling Association
- Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Association

Government Funding

- City owned greenspace

RECOMMENDATION

- **None**

8. SKI TRAILS – RECREATION TRAILS (ST)

User Groups

- Recreational Use
- Westman Wilderness Club

Future Growth

- There is an ongoing desire to have these trails located in the Community
- There is not anticipated to be a large amount of growth in this area

Facility Requirements

- Groomed formal trails

Present Facility Locations / Amenities

- Wheat City Recreation Centre Golf Course
 - Groomed Trail
 - Lighting
- Brandon Hills
 - Groomed Trails

Government Funding

- The trails located at the Recreation Centre are groomed by the City of Brandon

Challenges

- The trails located at the Recreation Centre are groomed by the City of Brandon

RECOMMENDATION

- **Develop groomed trails along the River Corridor in conjunction with the Winter Lights and skating trails so that multiple activities are available in the area**

9. GOLFING – RECREATION CENTRE (G)

User Groups

- Recreation Use
- Numerous Golf Leagues and Tournaments

Future Growth

- The sport of golf is growing nationally and, locally, there appears to be a strong participant base

Facility Requirements

- There is a need for courses in the community that have:
 - Differing skill levels
 - 9 and 18 hole configurations

Present Facility Locations / Amenities

- The Wheat City Golf Course – 18 Holes – City owned
- Deer Ridge Golf Course – 9 Holes – Privately owned
- Glen Lea Golf Course – 18 Holes – Privately owned
- Sunny Side Golf Course – 18 Holes – Privately owned
- Twin Pines Golf Course – 9 Holes – Privately owned

Government Funding

- The Wheat City Golf Course is City owned and funded

Challenges

- The Wheat City Golf Course will require a substantial amount of capital investment in order to resolve the drainage issues on the course
- The public consultation surrounding the Wheat City Golf Course indicated that many would like to see the facility remain under the ownership of the City but be completely operated and maintained through a long term lease situation
 - In discussions with groups who have entered into long term lease situations for golf courses, they have unanimously advised us that in order to enter in a sustainable agreement, the drainage issue would need to be resolved
- The public consultation clearly indicated that a majority of citizens do not want to see the City operate and maintain the course
- Losses at the course are funded through general revenue of the City
- The public consultation indicated that a majority of citizens want the course to be protected against housing developments and want it to remain a 18 hole golf course
- The Brandon Recreation Centre has other amenities (curling, tennis, tobogganing and cross country ski trails) that need to be considered in the making a decision on the facility

RECOMMENDATION

- **Circulate a call for proposals to operate and maintain the golf course independent of the City of Brandon on a long-term lease. The proposals to lease the facility should include plans for capital improvement, detailed monitoring and reporting of all golf operations and detailed financial considerations**
- **Maintain the agricultural zoning for the Recreation Centre property including the golf course, now and in the long-term. If there is any future consideration for sale of the golf course, it is to be contingent on retaining the existing zoning and maintaining the site as a golf course**

10. PICNIC AREAS (PA)

User Groups

- Recreation Use
- Event Planners

Future Growth

- This continues to be a popular attraction in any community.

Facility Requirements

- Picnic tables and garbage containers

Present Facility Locations / Amenities

- Canada Games Park - Public
- Curran Park - Private
- Dinsdale Park - Public
- Eleanor Kidd Park - Public
- Princess Park - Public
- Queen Elizabeth Park - Public

- Rideau Park - Public
- Stanley Park - Public
- Riverbank Discovery Centre - Public
- Most of the existing facilities are located in publicly owned and operated greenspaces

Challenges

- Picnic tables and garbage containers often face vandalism and damage, so there is an ongoing cost of upkeep and maintenance
- At times these areas are not used due to loitering by groups that are not using the areas for picnicking activities
- Newcomers/visitors often don't know where the picnic areas are and what amenities are available in each one

Government Funding

- City funds public parks

RECOMMENDATION

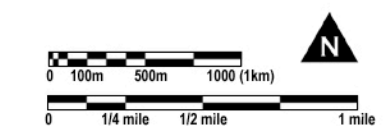
- **Display the names of each park at key entrance locations**
- **Create visitor information boards - setting out the layout, attractions and activities**
- **Complete an analysis of each park as they relate to CPTED principals and implement the necessary improvements to improve visibility in each park**
- **Develop and fund a picnic area equipment replacement plan**
- **Establish picnic areas at all Recreation Hub locations**



THE CITY OF BRANDON RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

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- EXISTING MULTI-USE TRAILS - PAVED / CONCRETE
- EXISTING MULTI-USE TRAILS - UNPAVED
- EXISTING SKI TRAILS - RECREATIONAL



MAP #1G

EXISTING GENERAL LEISURE RECREATION FACILITIES

DEVELOPED BY:
THE CITY OF BRANDON
OPERATIONAL SERVICES

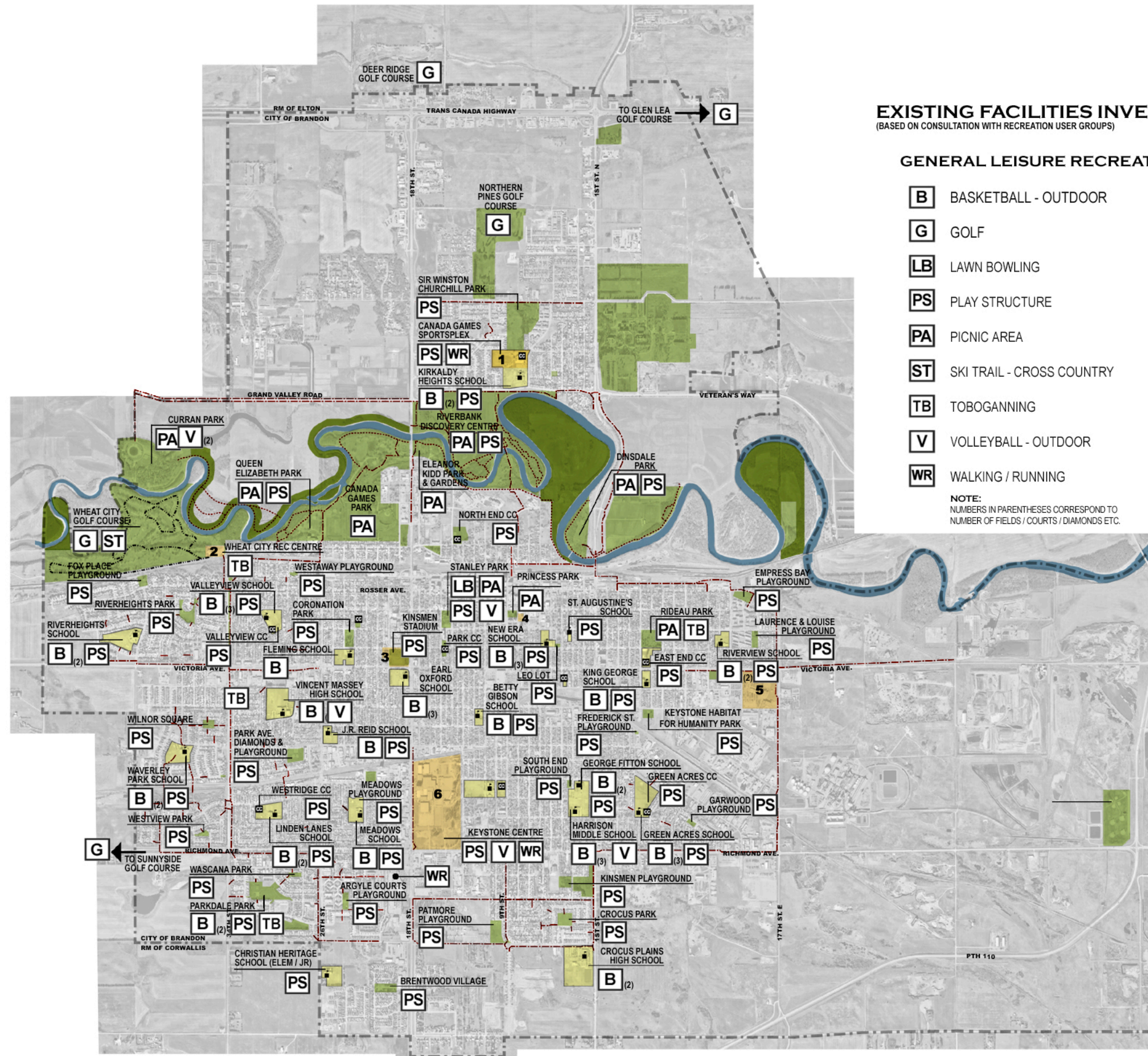
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EXISTING FACILITIES INVENTORY (BASED ON CONSULTATION WITH RECREATION USER GROUPS)

GENERAL LEISURE RECREATION

- B** BASKETBALL - OUTDOOR
- G** GOLF
- LB** LAWN BOWLING
- PS** PLAY STRUCTURE
- PA** PICNIC AREA
- ST** SKI TRAIL - CROSS COUNTRY
- TB** TOBOGANNING
- V** VOLLEYBALL - OUTDOOR
- WR** WALKING / RUNNING

NOTE:
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NUMBER OF FIELDS / COURTS / DIAMONDS ETC.



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