

2.6 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE POLICIES

The provision of parks and open space, the conservation of open space and the development of recreational opportunities are municipal investments that yield physical, social and economic benefits to the community.

The Municipality's role within the area of open space and recreation has been to acquire parkland under the mandate of legislative bylaw and to maintain an effective recreation delivery service. The Municipality provides assistance to communities regarding leadership, program and facility development. A community funding assistance program has also been set up to help offset the cost of leadership development and programs operated by community recreation associations.

The development and maintenance for parks and recreation facilities are generally expected to be provided by the residents of the community in conjunction with recreation associations and/or local service clubs.

At the present time, there is one community park in New Minas and two neighbourhood parks. The Lockhart-Ryan Community Park consists of approximately 27 acres and offers a wide range of facilities including ball fields, barbeque/picnic area, children's playground and activity centre. The Lonnie Milne Memorial Park is a neighbourhood park consisting of approximately 3 acres and was officially opened in 1979. This park offers playground facilities to the residents of Minas Heights, Bishop and Hillside Park Subdivisions.

In addition to the two above-mentioned parks, a 1.2 acre parcel of land has been acquired by the Municipality in the Meadow Terrace Subdivision for future neighbourhood park development.

The purpose of the policies of the Parks and Open Space section is to provide opportunities to meet the recreational and leisure needs of the residents of New Minas and to protect and conserve the environmental and historical resources of the community.

POLICIES

- 1. It shall be the policy of Council to designate the Kings County Planning and Recreation Advisory Committee to be responsible for coordinating the process of site selection and development of parks involving the joint efforts of community recreation interests and the Village Commission.*
- 2. It shall be the policy of Council to require through the Subdivision Bylaw a subdivider to deed to the Municipality for park, playground, or other public purposes, an area not exceeding five percent (5%) of the area being subdivided in the final plan, or in lieu of the land requirements, a sum of money equal to five percent (5%) of the assessed value of the lots for which final approval is requested in the final plan of subdivision.*
- 3. It shall be the policy of Council to classify parks and open space into the following categories and establish standards for each within the appropriate zone:*

- i. *PARKS including all public or privately owned areas developed or left in their natural state for the use and enjoyment of the general public. Considered within this category are federal, provincial, municipal and community parks, private parks, picnic parks, public and private beaches, historic sites, golf courses, cemeteries, and any other designated public park area.*
 - ii. *ENVIRONMENTAL OPEN SPACE including areas containing unique ecological or environmental features to be retained in their natural state. Only limited development shall be permitted where it is clearly demonstrated that such development will not be detrimental to the environment by creating excessive flooding, erosion, or other detrimental consequences. Considered within this category are floodplains and dykelands.*
4. *It shall be the policy of Council to designate areas Parks and Open Space on the Future Land Use Map # 1 in accordance with the Parks and Open Space Map # 5.*
5. *It shall be the policy of Council to designate the Lockhart-Ryan Community Park as a community park on the Parks and Open Space Map # 5. It is intended that this will accommodate all major recreational facilities for the residents of New Minas.*
6. *It shall be the policy of Council that, in facility development, the role of the Municipality will be one of assisting the community in determining the need for new facilities; provide information on facility development, operation and maintenance; and assist with applications for grants from senior levels of government.*
7. *It shall be the policy of Council to provide lands for neighbourhood parks as a part of residential neighbourhoods. These neighbourhood parks shall serve the local neighbourhood needs and will provide areas to accommodate several activities that may include tot lots, playgrounds and field sports.*
8. *It shall be the policy of Council that a community volunteer recreation association, incorporated under the Societies Act and recognized as part of the Municipal Leisure Delivery System, or the Village Commission, shall be responsible for the development and maintenance of parks.*
9. *It shall be the policy of Council that those lands owned by the Municipality, located in New Minas, shall be developed and maintained, as per agreement with the Municipal Council, by the community recreation association or the Village Commission, and for the primary use by the residents of the Village.*
10. *It shall be the policy of Council that the minimum standard for neighbourhood parks will be 1 acre per 300 persons within each neighbourhood.*
11. *It shall be the policy of Council to consider acquiring land for neighbourhood parks prior to an area being developed or subdivided.*

12. *It shall be the policy of Council to cooperate with the Village of New Minas in the protection and restoration of significant historical sites.*
13. *It shall be the policy of Council to consider entering into a program of identification and registration of sites having historical significance under the "Act to Provide for the Identification, Preservation and Protection of Heritage Property".*
14. *It shall be the policy of Council to identify the following sites on the Parks and Open Space Map # 5 as being of historical importance:*
 - i. *Acadian Cellar*
 - ii. *Cellar of Acadian's Priest Home and Chapel*
 - iii. *Old Blacksmith Shop*
 - iv. *Old Schoolhouse*
 - v. *Site of Acadian Graveyard*
 - vi. *Site of Acadian Mill*
 - vii. *Old French Orchards*
15. *It shall be the policy of Council to examine the value and feasibility of developing an historical park on the lands situated north of the New Minas Elementary School.*
16. *It shall be the policy of Council to designate natural water courses and portions of adjacent land as open space where such systems serve as natural storm drainage systems, and where disruption or alteration of the course could result in, or contribute to, increased flooding or erosion problems.*
17. *It shall be the policy of Council to designate dykelands as open space restricted to agricultural or open space uses that do not require permanent buildings or other installations, with the exception of sewage treatment facilities.*
18. *It is not Council's intent to promote permanent development on dykelands or along natural watercourses. However, Council acknowledges there may be circumstances under which such development could occur with little or no impact from flooding and on natural storm drainage systems. In allowing for permanent development on dykelands it is Council's intention that flood proofing measures be taken including, but not limited to, alteration of site grades to ensure that the building grade is raised to an appropriate height relative to the dyke; and that the filled area is appropriately landscaped to prevent erosion. Similarly, development along watercourses should not increase flooding or erosion problems.*

Therefore, notwithstanding Policy 4 of Section 2.2 GENERAL POLICIES, and Policy 16 and 17, it shall be the policy of Council to consider permitting minor Environmental Open Space (O1) Zone boundary adjustments by an amendment to the Land Use Bylaw provided that:

- a. *The site of the proposed use is located contiguous to similarly zoned and developed land which is compatible with the proposed use; and*

- b. *Municipal services and facilities are capable of supporting the development.*
 - c. *The permitted uses will not increase the potential to pollute surface or ground water resources.*
 - d. *The site is above the elevation of any nearby dykes.*
 - e. *The proposal meets all applicable policies regarding amendments to the Land Use Bylaw contained in Part 3 of this Strategy.*
 - f. *In considering such rezoning, the developer may be required to:*
 - i. *conduct a hydrotechnical and topographical study*
 - ii. *submit a report by a professional engineer stating that the development of the lands will not negatively impact adjacent properties, roads or downstream watercourses*
 - iii. *submit a letter to the Municipality acknowledging that the lands are susceptible to flooding*
19. *Council shall consider including lands, which in accordance with the requirements of Policy 18, above, are suitable to be rezoned from the Environmental Open Space (O1) Zone to an adjacent residential zone, as part of multi-unit residential development agreement applications pursuant to Section 2.3, Policy 10 of this Strategy.*
- a. *meet all the criteria and requirements contained in Policy 18, above*
 - b. *submit a storm water management plan that is certified by a professional engineer*
 - c. *meet all applicable provincial regulations regarding watercourses*

PART 2	AMENDED DATE	SECTION
	November 30, 1982	2.6 – 14
	May 14, 1990	2.6 – 18
	January 25, 2007	2.6 – 18, 19