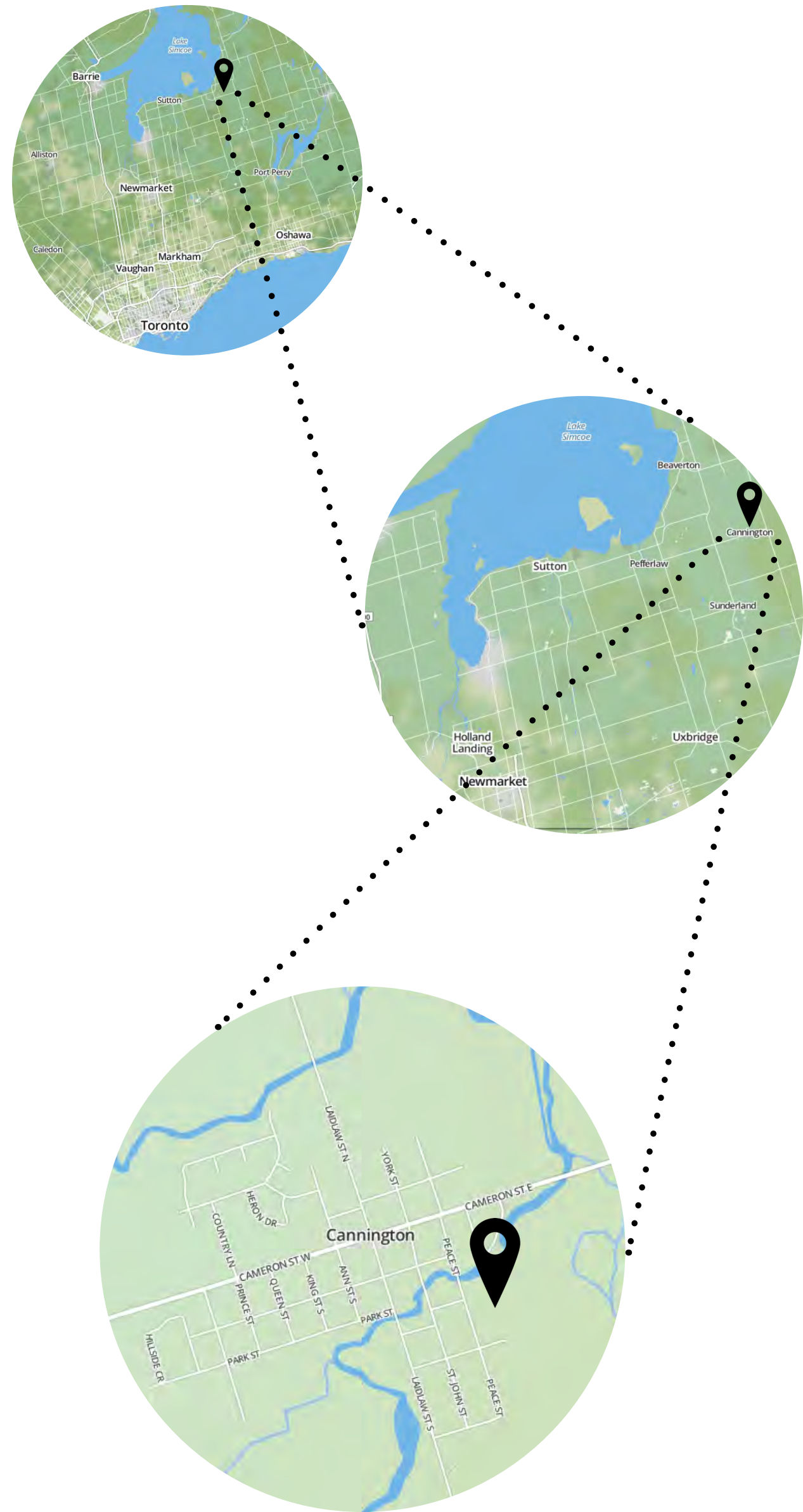




# The Recreational Heart of Cannington - MacLeod & Claire Hardy Parks



## The Township of Brock Recreation Master Plan Vision Statement:

*“The Township of Brock strives to provide fiscally-responsible parks and facilities in a manner that stimulates physical activity and unites our residents, while encouraging our strong community to deliver and access the services required to fulfill their recreational needs.”*



## Inspiration

Parks are community focal points, where people can congregate to interact with each other and with the natural environment. Parks provide access to opportunities for engagement in sporting and fitness activities, social interaction, cultural pursuits and the enjoyment of outdoor green spaces. Communities can utilize parks to establish a sense of place, to provide identifiable points of reference that contribute to community vibrancy and pride.

Community parks are important public assets that can assist municipalities in their mandate to provide residents of varying age groups and interests with facilities for a broad range of recreational, social and cultural opportunities. It is recognized that parks work best when they function in this multi-faceted and multi-purpose fashion.

## The Importance of Park Renewal to Small Towns

Revitalization initiatives are key components in the sustainable survival of small towns throughout Ontario. This strategy can effectively deliver reinvigorated pride and boost economic development in a small urban centre. Enhanced recreational opportunities draw people to the park and encourage them to spend time and money in their communities because they find pleasure in experiencing a renewed space.

Recreational endeavours provide numerous benefits to both individuals and communities and the presence of these opportunities within a neighbourhood is typically associated with a higher, more enhanced quality of life. Access to natural settings encourages elevated activity levels that promote psychological and physical wellbeing. Including natural environments in communities contributes to biodiversity and increased animal / plant habitats as well as inspiring concern for the ecological health of the surrounding areas.

The development of the Recreation Master Plan involved a significant level of public participation. Stakeholder questionnaires, household surveys and public open houses contributed to a good understanding of various public positions. It is generally accepted that a community will be more invested in a project if the members of that community have opportunities to inject meaningful input that is integrated into the process.

In small towns and communities, recreational pursuits are often associated with park spaces. Recognizing that parks are a valuable community resource, the Township of Brock embarked on a process to create a Recreation Master Plan that identifies the recreational needs of its municipality, determines recommendations to effectively satisfy those needs and establishes long-term strategies to successfully implement projected goals and objectives.



## Goals

- To utilize the recently completed Recreational Master Plan recommendations for municipal parkland use to address the recreational needs of Cannington residents and guide future development of parkland in order to achieve a larger, more cohesive park experience that offers maximum benefit for the well-being of both individuals and the community.
- To create a site that has the capacity to provide recreational, leisure and entertainment opportunities for various age groups and ability levels within the community.

## The Site

Claire Hardy Park and MacLeod Park are both located within the community of Cannington on opposing shorelines of the Beaver River and are accessible to each other by a footbridge spanning the river.

Cannington is a village of approximately 2,000 residents situated on the Beaver River in the center of the Township of Brock which is located about an hour northeast of Toronto on the eastern shores of Lake Simcoe and is part of the Regional Municipality of Durham. Cannington, along with Beaverton and Sunderland, make up the three urban centres among numerous small hamlets and surrounding rural countryside that comprise the Township of Brock.



## The Problem

Recent investments in recreation infrastructure within Cannington's Claire Hardy Park, combined with pending decisions on new arena construction and existing community centre repurposing, have highlighted additional park facilities within both this site and adjoining MacLeod Park that require replacing, upgrading or constructing. Baseball diamond revitalization, existing park trail system expansion, accessible playground equipment and washroom facilities upgrades, development of a BMX bike course to complement the new skateboard park, installation of a splash-pad and event stage, implementation of park signage and improvements to the museum, picnic shelter and seating areas have all been identified via community input as either existing or desired park features in need of attention.

## The Solution

A municipal Recreation Master Plan completed in 2012, recommends the adoption of a park-specific master plan to guide future development in a community-focused manner that addresses the recreational needs of all community residents by providing a wide range of recreational opportunities. Claire Hardy Park and MacLeod Park are important social gathering venues for the community of Cannington and function as the heart of community recreational opportunities. Revitalization of key facilities and the addition of new amenities as listed above will act in unison to create an enriched, more varied park experience for community residents and encourage increased usage of this valuable resource.

## Objectives

- Expand the Claire Hardy Park Trail System to form a continuous loop
- Build a covered seating shelter for skateboard park patrons in Claire Hardy Park
- Construct a BMX bike course adjacent to the skateboard park as a complementary amenity to that facility
- Install new accessible playground equipment with barrier-free features in MacLeod Park
- Construct a new splash-pad in Claire Hardy Park
- Rejuvenate the aging picnic pavilion in MacLeod Park
- Build a stage in MacLeod Park to accommodate outdoor entertainment
- Install consistently designed wayfinding signage throughout both parks
- Construct new washrooms in Claire Hardy Park
- Revitalization initiatives must accommodate existing park festivals and celebrations

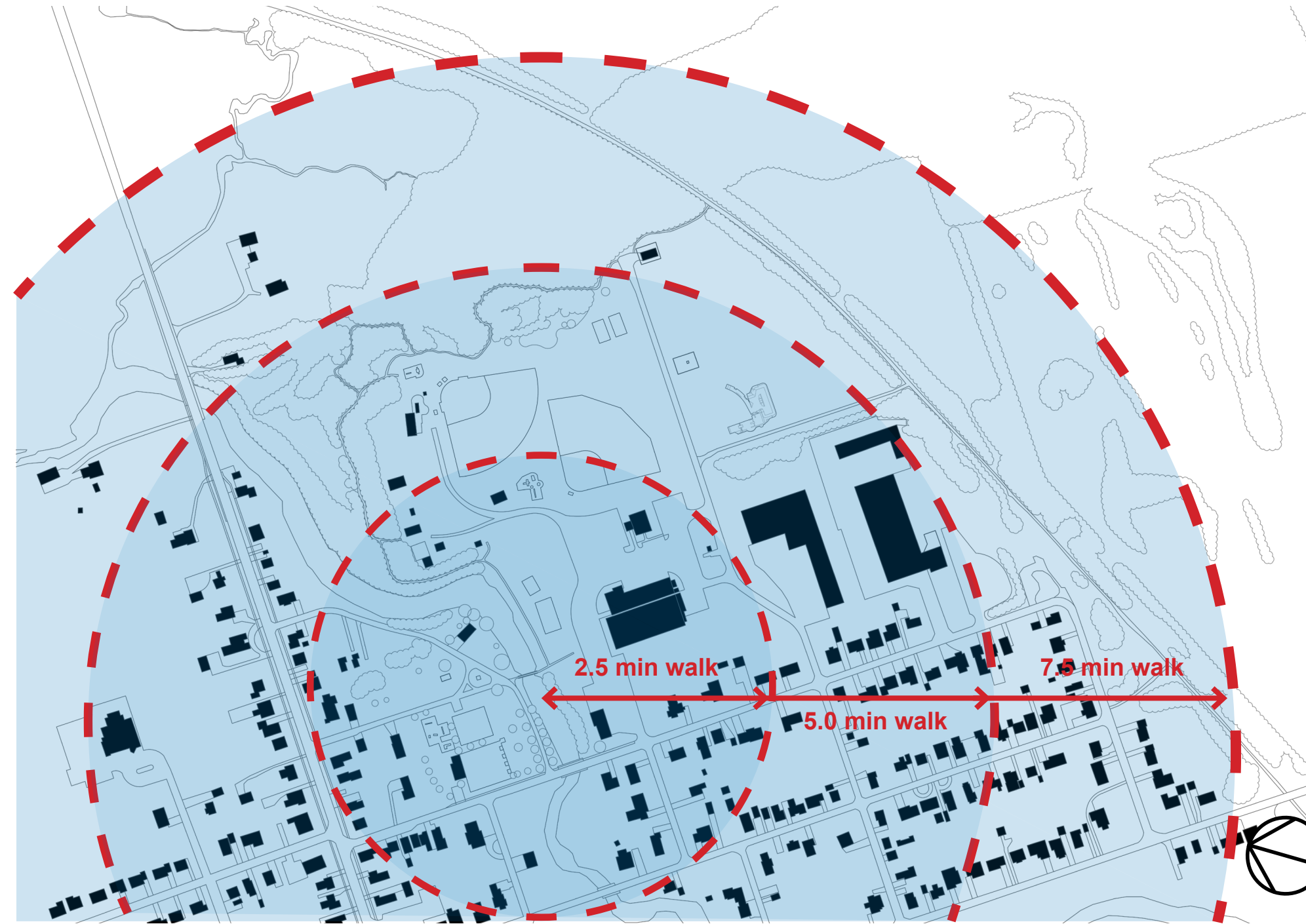




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Site Boundary



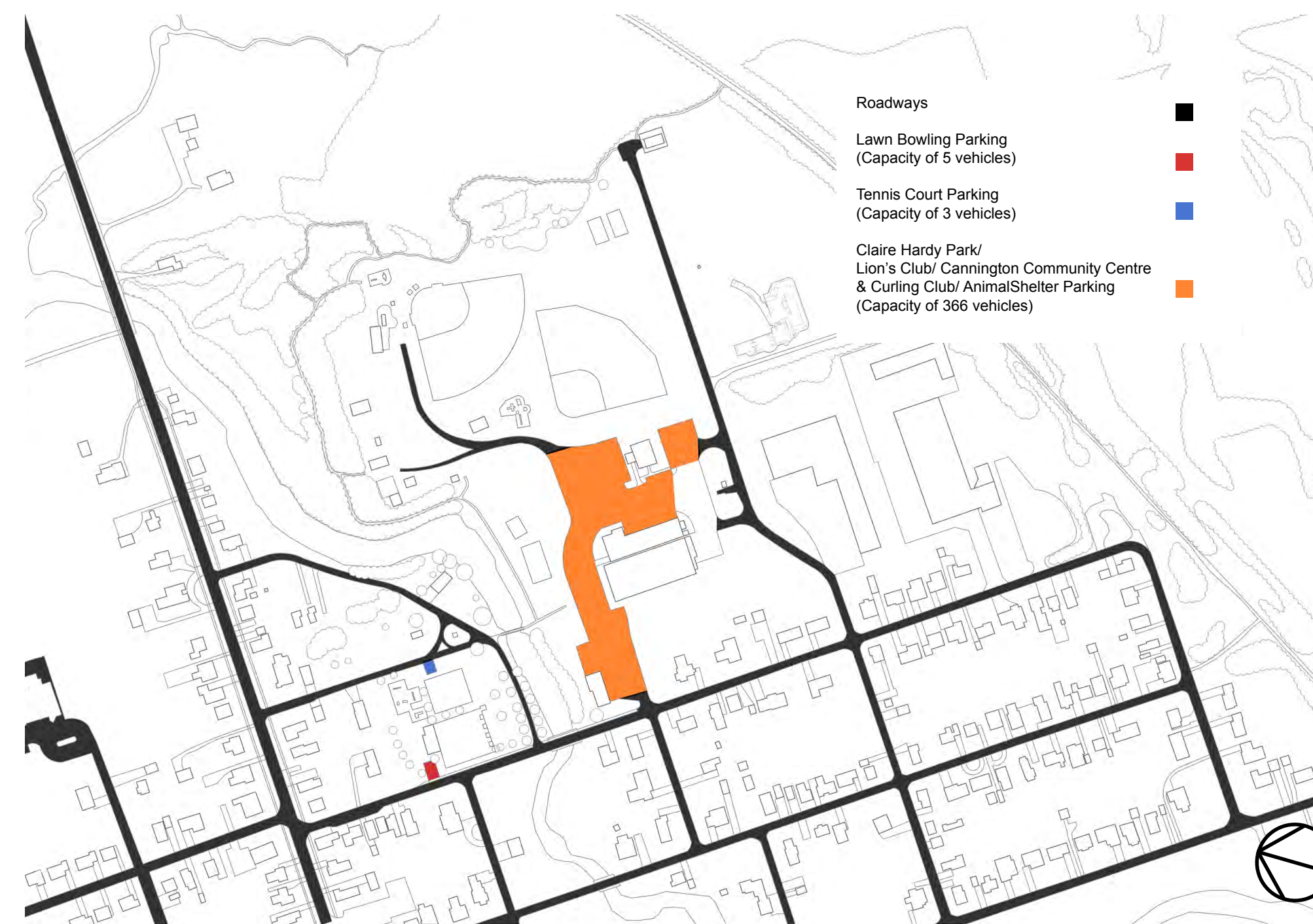
Walkability



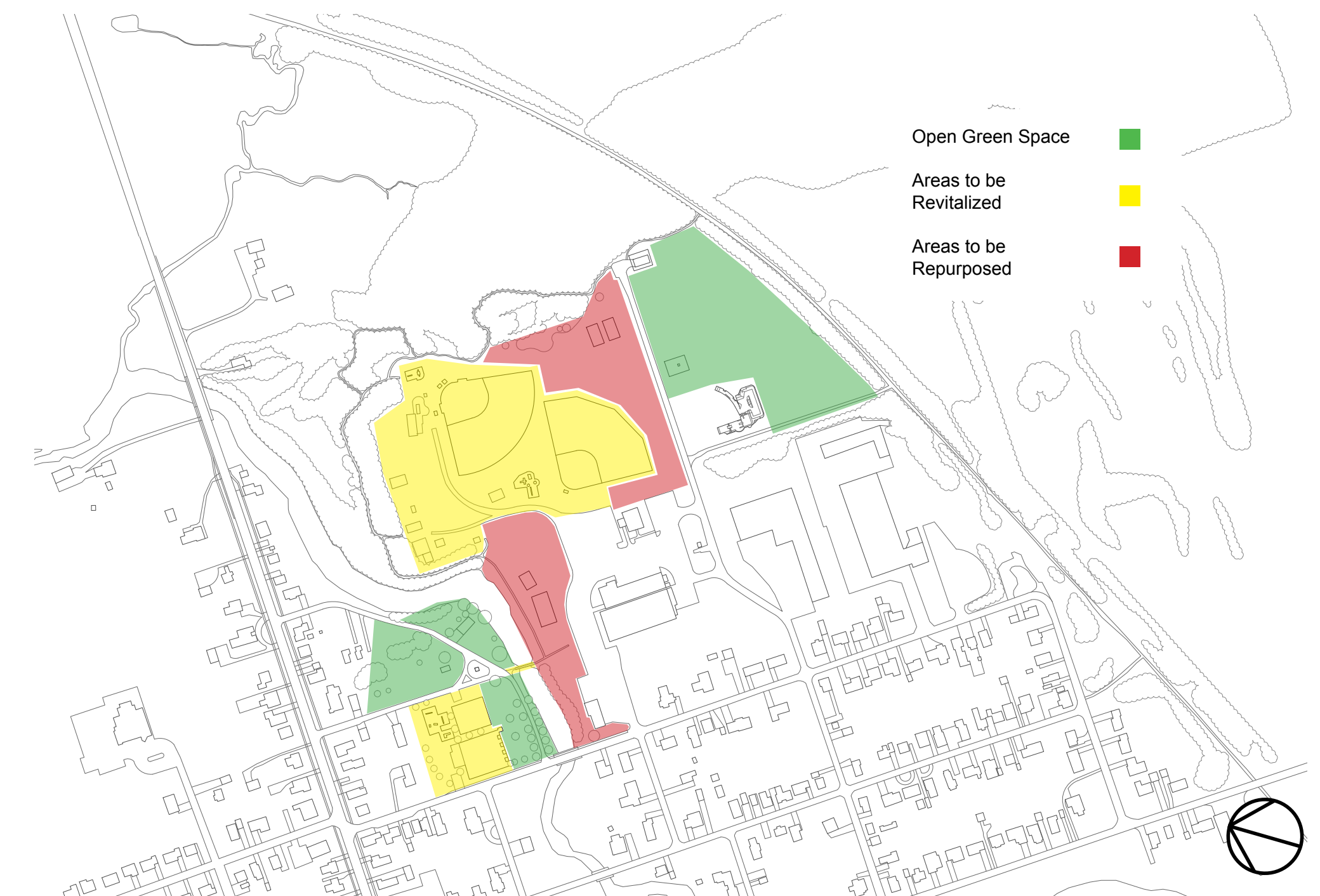
Areas of Activity



Used Park Space



Roadways and Parking



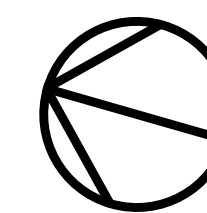
Areas of Opportunity







# The Recreational Heart of Cannington - MacLeod & Claire Hardy Parks







# *The Recreational Heart of Cannington - MacLeod & Claire Hardy Parks*



*Cannington Historical Society's Train Station showcasing new pathways, signage and vegetation*



*Updated Accessible Playground in MacLeod Park*



*BMX / Mountain Bike Skills Course*



*Splash Pad with Shelter in Claire Hardy Park*



*Event Area in MacLeod Park showcasing new performance stage for festivals such as Canada Day*





# The Recreational Heart of Cannington - MacLeod & Claire Hardy Parks



Entry / Gateway into MacLeod Park



Entry / Gateway into Claire Hardy Park



Perspective Showcasing MacLeod and Claire Hardy Parks Entry / Gateways



MacLeod Park Wayfinding Signage

Wayfinding Signage found in MacLeod and Claire Hardy Parks share the same design to establish park cohesiveness. Park users are provided with information about the features each space has to offer and a map to navigate the site.

Map of both MacLeod and Claire Hardy Park



Claire Hardy Park Wayfinding Signage