



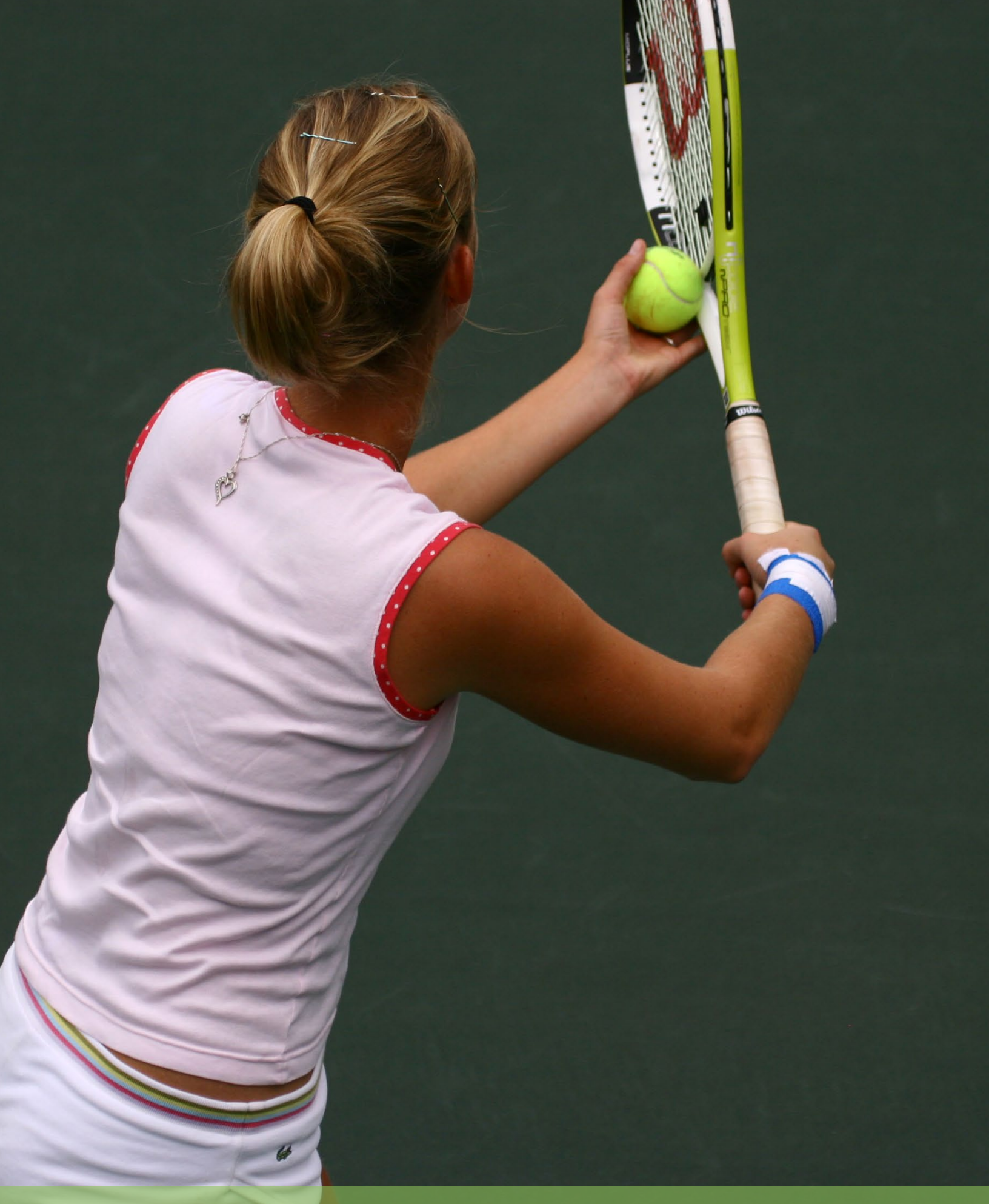
City of Abbotsford **SPORT FIELD & SPORT COURT STRATEGY**

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SUMMARY REPORT

May 2025







Key Research Findings & Highlights





Abbotsford needs to plan for growth. Population projections from BC Stats anticipate a 2035 population of 185,960 residents (approximate growth of 13,000 residents from current). As some existing fields and diamonds are at capacity, incremental supply and / or a distribution of use to lesser used locations will be required to accommodate future growth (assuming participation trends remain relatively similar).



Resident access to sport field and sport court opportunities via active transportation modes varies across the city. Up to 41% of residents can access a City sport field within a typical 15-minute walk, 36% can access a City ball diamond within a 15-minute walk, and up to 15% can access a City sport court within a 15-minute walk. However, approximately 82% can access a school with a sport field and/or sport court within a 15-minute walk. In general, Immel-McMillan and Fairfield area neighbourhoods have easier walkable access to outdoor sport amenities while the Sumas Mountain, Sumas Prairie, Aberdeen, Peardonville, Sumas Way, and South Poplar areas have the least walkable access to these amenities.



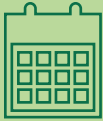
The cost structures of providing different types of outdoor sport amenities varies significantly. As an example, synthetic turf fields operate at a cost recovery plus position (profit) while natural surface sport fields and most sport courts recover between 3% and 36% of their annual expenditures.



Continued investment will be required to sustain outdoor sport facilities and support amenities. Facility assessments indicate that most sport field and diamond components (surfaces and fencing) have a 'moderate' condition. Most sport court surfaces have a 'good' or 'very good' condition with most sport court fencing rated as in 'moderate condition'.



Overall sport field and ball diamond bookings have increased over the past two years. Analysis of available bookings data reflects that total hours booked by groups spiked sharply in 2023 and 2024, exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Potential reasons for this increase could include participant growth, implementation of the new allocations model, and increased access to joint use fields.



A relatively small proportion of the sport field and ball diamond inventory accommodates the majority of booked use.

As is the case in many jurisdictions, higher quality natural surface fields and diamonds (Class A) and synthetic turf accommodate the majority of program-based use. As natural field and diamond surfaces are at higher risk of wear and tear (and associated damage) some sites that are at capacity may require further investigation to determine if some use can be shifted elsewhere or if upgrades are needed to improve durability.



Benchmarking reflects that Abbotsford provides most outdoor recreation and sport facilities and spaces at similar levels to comparators. However, without additional development these services levels will fall behind comparators in the short to medium term based on projected growth. **Note: the benchmarking analysis only looked at the quantity of provision not quality of amenity.*



Additional data is needed to better understand casual and spontaneous use of outdoor sport facilities and amenities.

The City has a strong historical database of booked facility use, but like many municipalities does not have a great handle on casual and unstructured “drop-in” types of use. New technologies and data sources (e.g. movement data) and an investment in spot counts, counters, and other tools may help the City better understand how and when its portfolio of outdoor spaces are being used.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Project Overview

The City of Abbotsford is developing a Sport Field and Sport Court Strategy that will guide how the City invests in and provides these valued assets over the next 15+ years. The Strategy additionally presents an opportunity to revisit and refresh sport field and sport court priorities identified in the City's Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan (2018) & Strategies and other subsequent planning.

Outdoor Sport Facilities Included in this Strategy:



Sport fields



Ball diamonds



Games courts



Pickleball courts



Tennis courts



Sand volleyball courts



Skate parks



Bike parks



Disc golf courses

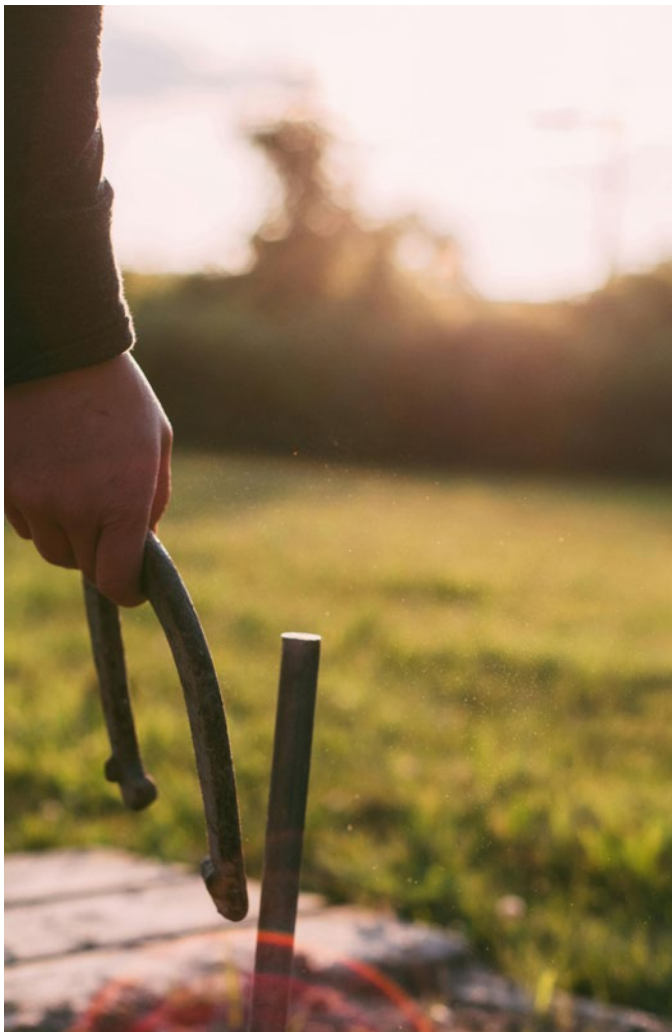


Lawn bowling



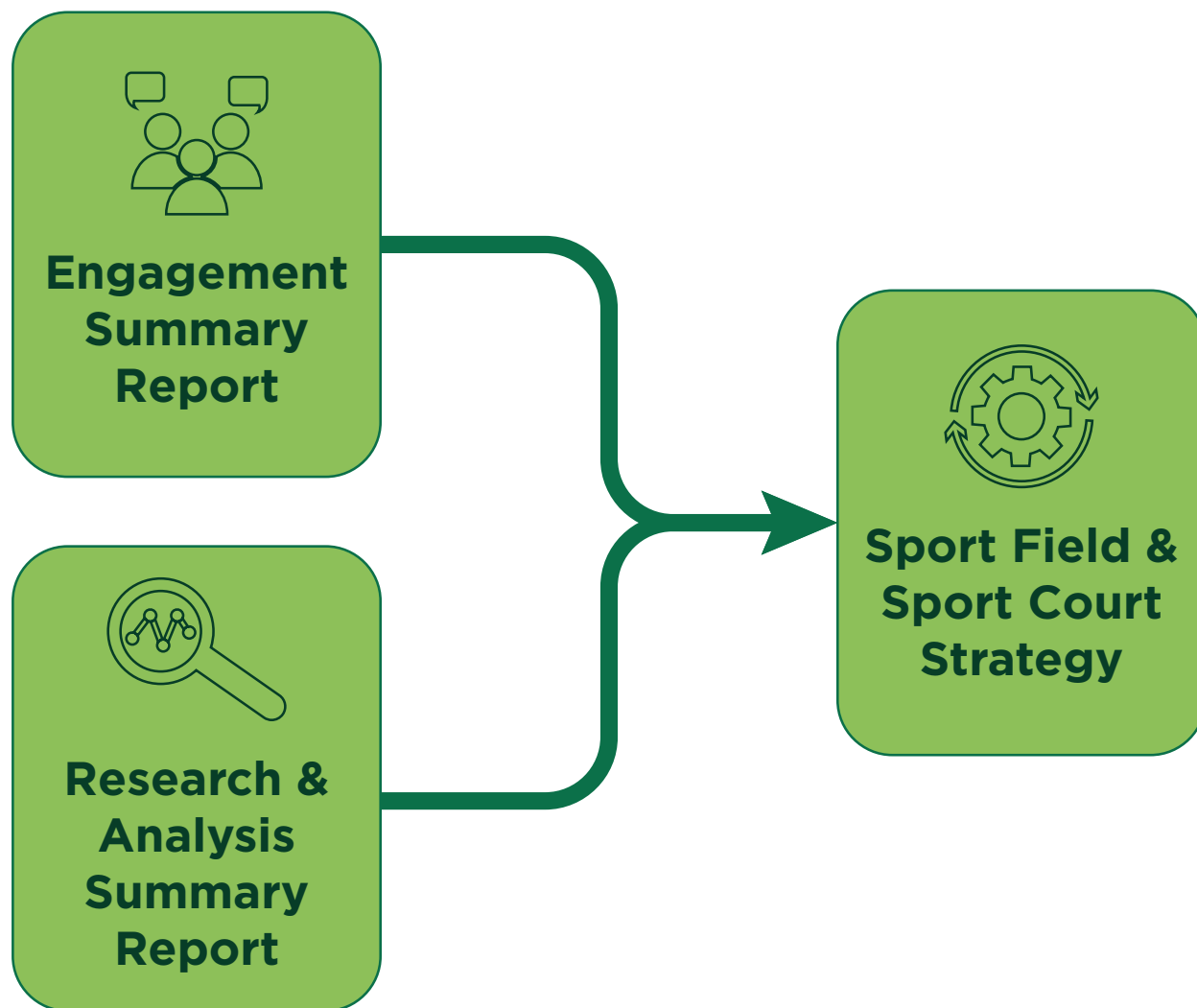
Horseshoes

Note: The focus of this study is outdoor amenities, however it is recognized that several types of activities and groups utilize both indoor and outdoor amenities.



The following graphic illustrates the process being used to develop the Strategy. As reflected in the graphic, research and engagement inputs provide a basis of information that informs the study. This *Research and Analysis Summary Report* contains the detailed findings from the non-engagement and research and analysis and the *Engagement Summary Report* (separate background report) contains the engagement findings.

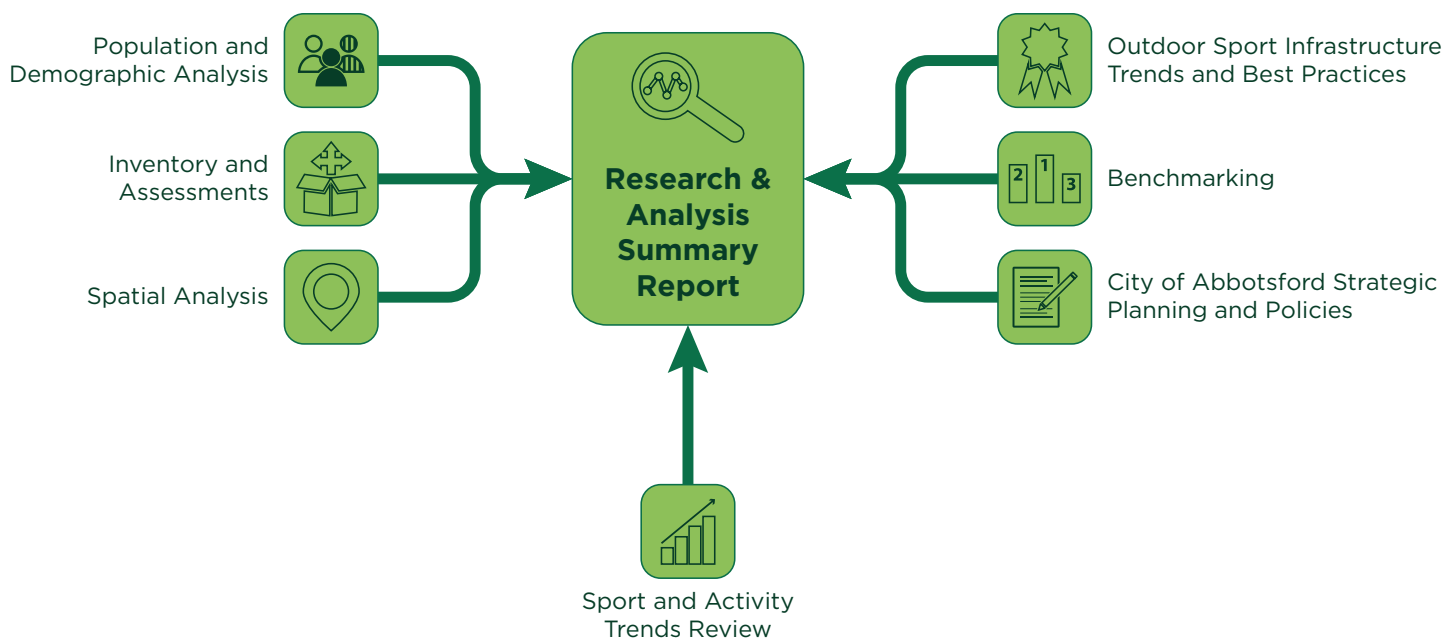
Figure 1. The Strategy Process



1.2. Overview and Purpose of this Report

Research, engagement, and analysis is a critical aspect of developing the Sport Field and Sport Court Strategy. This background document compiles the non-engagement research findings and analysis that helped the project team better understand the strengths and gaps of the current outdoor sport inventory. Along with the engagement findings (as presented in the *Engagement Summary Report*), this background information will guide the recommendations contained in the Strategy aimed at optimization of the inventory, planning for the future, and ensuring maximum public benefit through the City’s investment in outdoor sport infrastructure.

Figure 2. Research and Analysis Summary Report Inputs



1.3. Planning Influences

Various policy and planning documents were reviewed at the municipal, provincial, and national level. These documents contain important strategic objectives, directions and insights that may inform the Sport Field and Sport Court Strategy and speak to the provisions of outdoor sport facilities. The municipal, provincial, and national plans and policies reviewed are listed below along with key takeaways.

Municipal Policies and Plans

- Official Community Plan Bylaw (2016)
 - » McKee Neighbourhood Plan (2023)
 - » UDistrict (2018), Historic Downtown (2019)
 - » City Centre (2019)
- City's Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan & Strategies (2018)
- Asset Management Strategy (2021)
- City of Abbotsford 2022- 2026 Strategic Plan (2025)
- City of Abbotsford Culture Connect Strategy (2022)
- City of Abbotsford Allocation Policy Framework (2023)
- City of Abbotsford PRC Fees & Charges Bylaw and Policy Framework (2021)
- Community Sustainability Strategy (2013)
- Customer Culture Strategy 2019 – 2022
- Abbotsford Crime Reduction & Community Safety Strategy (2009)
- Child and Youth Friendly Abbotsford Community Strategy (2009)
- *Abbotsford School District Long Range Facilities Plan (2024)*





Key Takeaways (City Planning and Policy):

- Reinforces the value of recreation and support facilities, amenities and activities that connect residents.
- Recognizes the importance of community facilities which contribute to a high quality of life and supports the continued development of a dynamic system of parks, recreation facilities, and trails.
- Acknowledges that parks, recreation, and cultural facilities are essential for fostering a sense of place and community identity. These facilities are crucial in developing the City Centre as a community and cultural hub and destination. Notably, Mill Lake Park and the civic precinct are defining elements of the City Centre.
- Reflects a commitment to allocating parks and facilities to align the right activities with the right spaces in order to maximize user experience and make the most effective use of parks, recreation and culture infrastructure.
- Supports co-location of areas for active and passive recreation use that accommodates indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and discourages small, isolated, single purpose parks.
- Considers the needs of older adults to promote active aging, aging in place, and providing a continuum of care to ensure they remain socially connected, active, and supported in their homes and community.
- Recognizes the importance of land use planning at a neighbourhood level.
- Recognizes the role that staff play in improving residents quality of life by focusing processes, policies and services on achieving community member's desire outcomes.
- Highlights the role of community development in crime reduction and develops and delivers neighbourhood-based recreation, programming for children, youth and families, and civic beautification projects that improve neighbourhoods.

Provincial and National Policies and Frameworks

- Framework for Recreation in Canada (2024)
- Building Safe Sport in Canada (2023)
- Canada at a Glance (2023)
- Canadian Sport for Life Long Term Development (2021)
- Indigenous Sport For Life: Long-Term Participant Development Pathway 1.2
- The Price of Inactivity: Measuring the Powerful Impact of Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation in Canada (2024)
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Final Report (2015)



Key Takeaways (Provincial and National Policies and Frameworks):

- Provides rationale for investment in recreation including fostering active lifestyles, fostering inclusion and accessibility in recreation, connecting people to nature, and building capacity in the sector.
- Outlines the provincial approach to supporting sport organizations.
- Educates about Indigenous sport history and participation.
- Articulates the pathway for Indigenous athlete participation and development in the sport system while appreciating and accommodating cultural differences.
- Reiterates the importance of increasing physical activity and to reducing sedentary behaviours among all Canadians across their lifetime.
- Understanding that creating inclusive opportunities for newcomers and providing solutions and opportunities to improve the barriers is important when considering planning and development.
- The parks and recreation sector can play a role in ensuring policies, the design of facilities and utilization of facilities aligns with Safe Sport in Canada.
- Fees, charges and the allocation of space (e.g. priority access) needs to be aligned with community benefits and occur in a rationale based manner.

2. Key Community Characteristics & Considerations



2.1. Population and Demographics

The population and demographics information presented in this section of the report is mainly sourced from Statistics Canada Census of the Population and BC Stats population projections. The Abbotsford 2050 OCP Update Stage 1 Background Research Report is used when referencing specific neighbourhood information, and in some cases charts and graphs are sourced directly from that report.

Abbotsford is comprised of 22 unique neighbourhoods. These communities are illustrated on the [Planning Area Map](#), which can be found in the next section of this report. Listed as follows are the individual neighbourhoods within Abbotsford that were used for the analysis.

- West Abbotsford
- Hazelwood
- Aberdeen
- Historical Downtown
- Bradner-Mt. Lehman
- Marshall-McCallum
- Matsqui Prairie
- UDistrict
- Fairfield
- Sumas Way
- Townline
- Whatcom
- Peardonville
- Clayburn
- South Poplar
- Immel-McMillan
- Clearbrook
- McKee
- South Clearbrook
- Sumas Mountain
- City Centre
- Sumas Prairie
- Fairfield



Population & Age Demographics

Table 1 indicates the population, change in population (growth), and the average size of a census family in Abbotsford over the last 4 census periods. Population has grown by approximately 24% over the last four census periods in Abbotsford. Family size has remained consistent, while change in population increased from 2016 to 2021.

Table 1. Historical Population Growth and Income Demographics

	2006	2011	2016	2021
Population	124,258	133,497	141,397	153,520
Population Percentage Change	7.2%	7.4%	5.9%	8.6%
Average Size of Census Families	3	2.8	2.8	3

Table 2 shows the breakdown by age group in Abbotsford compared to the province. Abbotsford has a slightly higher proportion of residents under the age of 30 than that of the province as a whole. The median age in Abbotsford has also steadily increased to 39.2 years but is lower than that of the province as a whole (42.4 years).

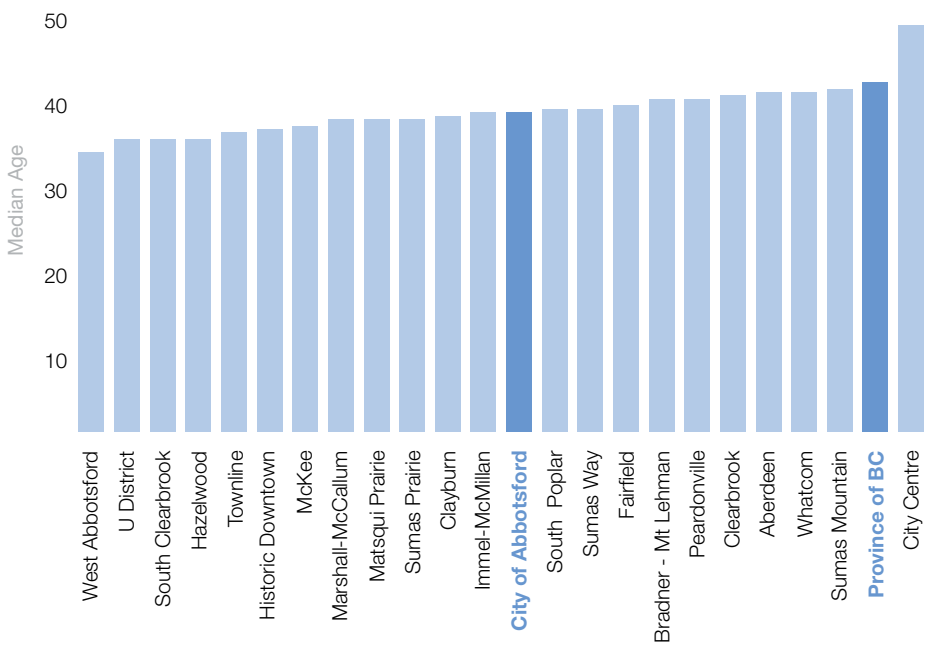
Table 2. Proportion of the Population by Age Group

Age Demographic Proportions	Abbotsford	B.C.
0-14 years	17%	14%
15-19 years	6%	5%
20 -29 years	14%	13%
30-39 years	14%	14%
40-49 years	13%	13%
50-59 years	12%	14%
60-69 years	12%	14%
70-79 years	8%	9%
80 years and older	5%	5%
Median Age	39.2	42.4

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

The adjacent chart illustrates the median age for each neighbourhood alongside the median age of the City of Abbotsford. As previously indicated the City of Abbotsford’s median age is 39.2, while the provincial median age is 42.4. The OCP Background report also highlights that the youngest community in Abbotsford is West Abbotsford with a median age of 34 years, while the City Centre is Abbotsford’s oldest, with a median age of 49.2 years.

Figure 3. Median Age by Community



Source: Abbotsford 2050 OCP Update Stage 1 Background Research Report (2024)

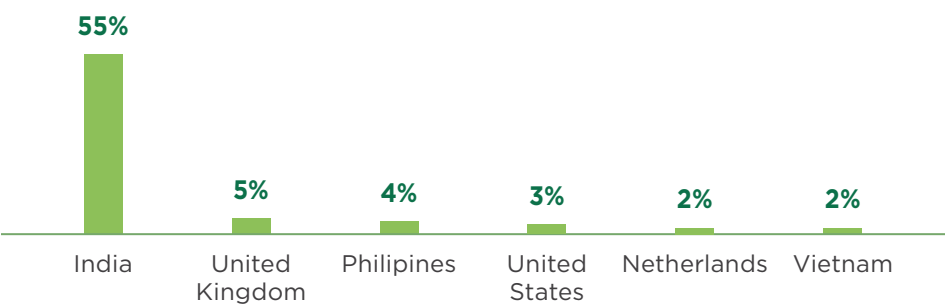


Immigration

29% of Abbotsford residents are immigrants. The top 5 countries of origin are outlined in the graph to the right. The largest group of immigrants comes from India (55%), followed by the United Kingdom (5%), and the Philippines (4%).

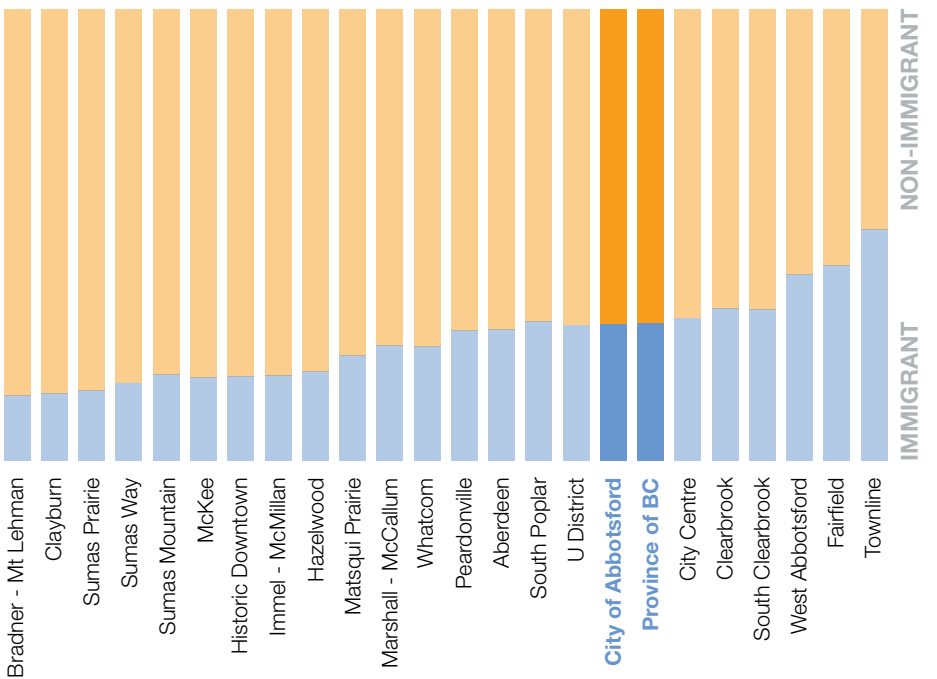
The OCP Background report also highlights that the community with the highest proportion of immigrants is Townline (51%), and the community with the fewest immigrants is Bradner - Mt Lehman (14%).

Figure 4. Top 5 Immigrant Countries of Origin



Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Figure 5. Proportion of Immigrant Residents by Community (2021)

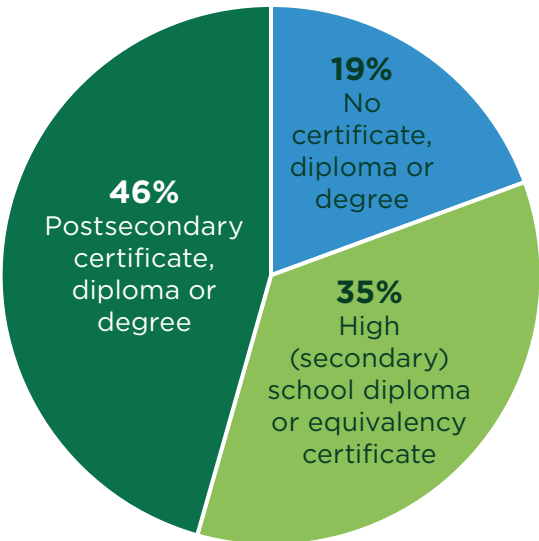


Source: Abbotsford 2050 OCP Update Stage 1 Background Research Report (2024)

Income & Education

Most Abbotsford residents have at least a high school diploma (81%), and 46% have some level of post secondary education. 19% of residents have no certificate, diploma or degree.

Figure 6. Education Level



Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

The median household income after tax in Abbotsford increased by 24% between 2016 and 2021, from \$64,112 to \$81,000.

Table 3. Average and Median Income in Abbotsford 2006 - 2021

	2006	2011	2016	2021
Average Household Income After Tax	\$51,555	\$67,649	\$75,715	\$93,900
Median Household Income After Tax	N/A	\$59,460	\$64,112	\$81,000
Percent Change	7%	15%	8%	24%

2.2. Spatial Analysis of Key Population and Demographic Considerations

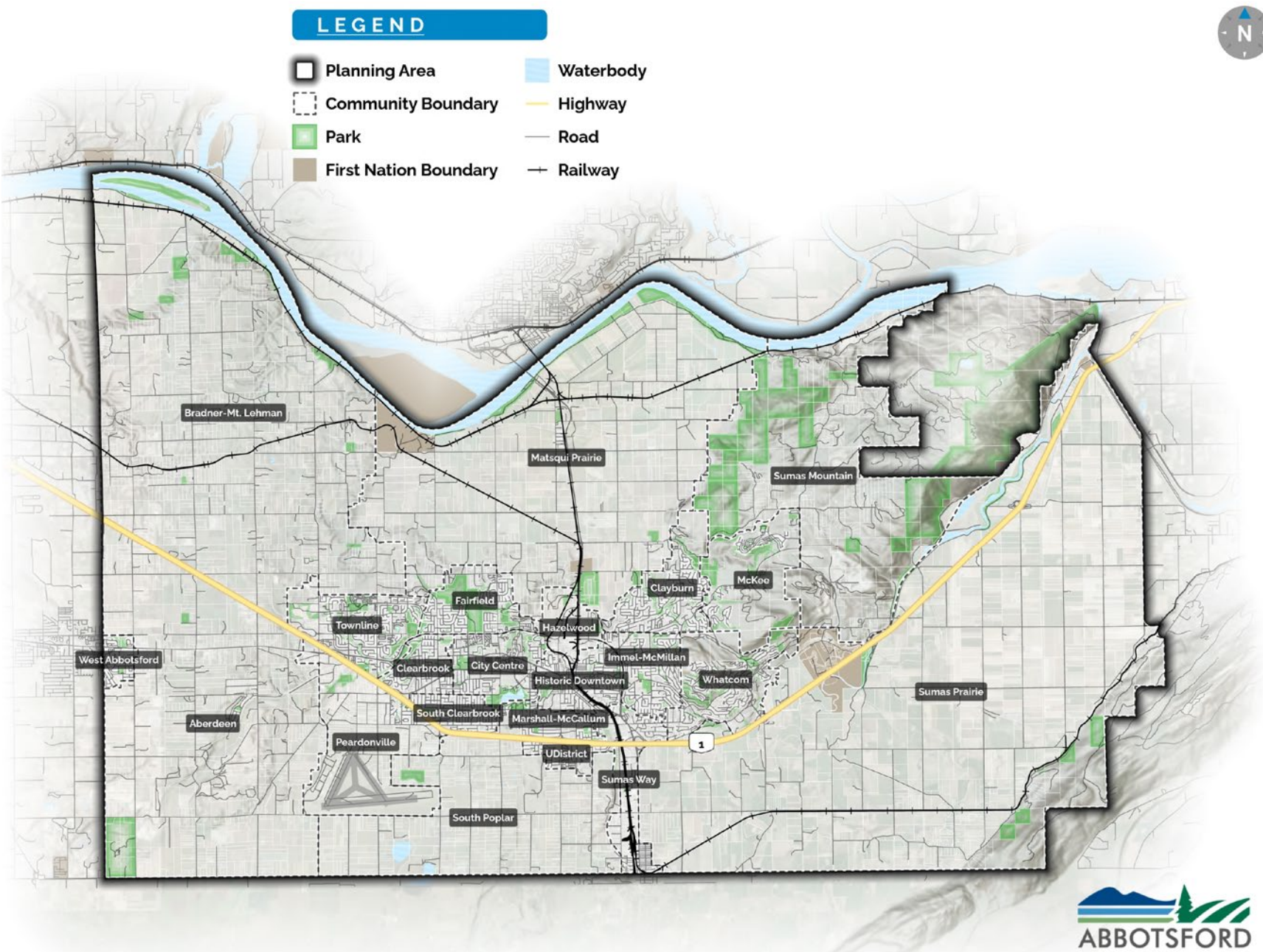
The following sections will illustrate spatially how the population in Abbotsford is distributed by sector areas and neighbourhoods within the city.

Planning Area Map

The following map illustrates the planning area with the 22 neighbourhood areas. **The purpose of this map is to show where each neighbourhood is located spatially.** The maps to follow will zoom in the area with the most population and / or facilities.



Figure 7. Planning Area Map



Population Density by Neighbourhood

The following map illustrates the planning area with the total population counts per dissemination block alongside the neighbourhood areas. A dissemination block is an area bounded on all sides by roads and/or boundaries of Statistics Canada's standard geographic areas for dissemination. The dissemination block is the smallest geographic area for which population and dwelling counts are disseminated.

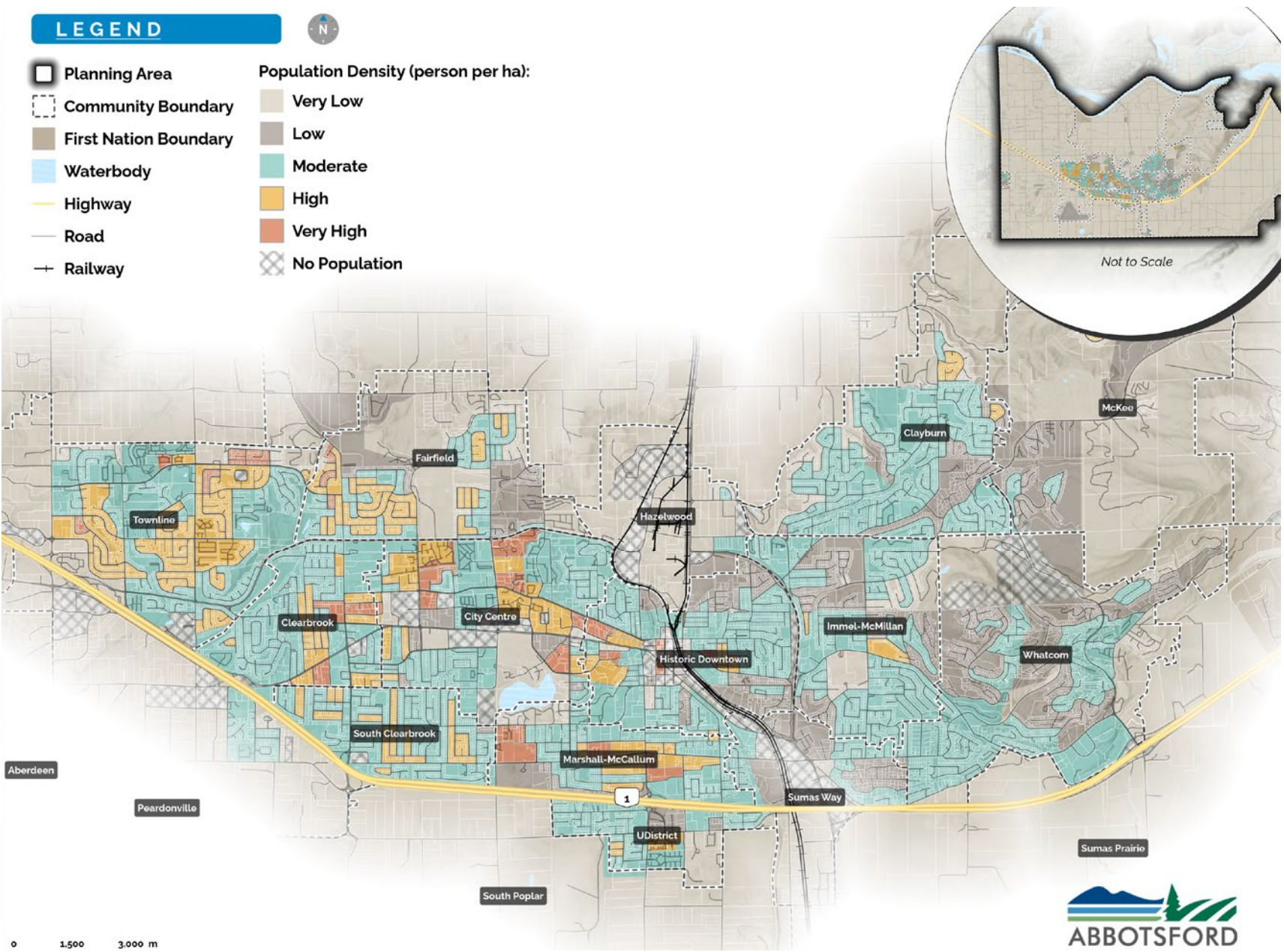


Key Takeaways:

- Townline, City Centre, and Fairfield are the most populated neighbourhoods in the city.
- UDistrict, South Clearbrook and the Historic Downtown have the highest population density (persons per ha).
- Sumas Mountain, Hazelwood and Sumas Prairie have the lowest population density (persons per ha).



Figure 8. Population Density by Neighbourhood Map



Canadian Index of Multiple Deprivation Score

The map on the following page was created using The Canadian Index of Multiple Deprivation (CIMD). The CIMD utilizes various measures of social well-being, including health, education and justice to help understand inequalities. It is created using microdata from the 2021 Census of Population to derive indicators at the Dissemination Area (DA) level. The CIMD considers four dimensions of deprivation; ethno-cultural composition, situational vulnerability, economic dependency and residential instability, characterized by 22 indicators. The figure below is from Statistics Canada's CIMD 2021 and outlines the dimensions and their corresponding indicators.

This purpose of this analysis is to help identify areas of the city that have a higher proportion of residents that may face barriers to participation in recreation and parks opportunities (including the in-scope outdoor facilities and amenities).

Figure 9. The Four Dimensions of Multiple Deprivation and their Corresponding Indicators, British Columbia, 2021

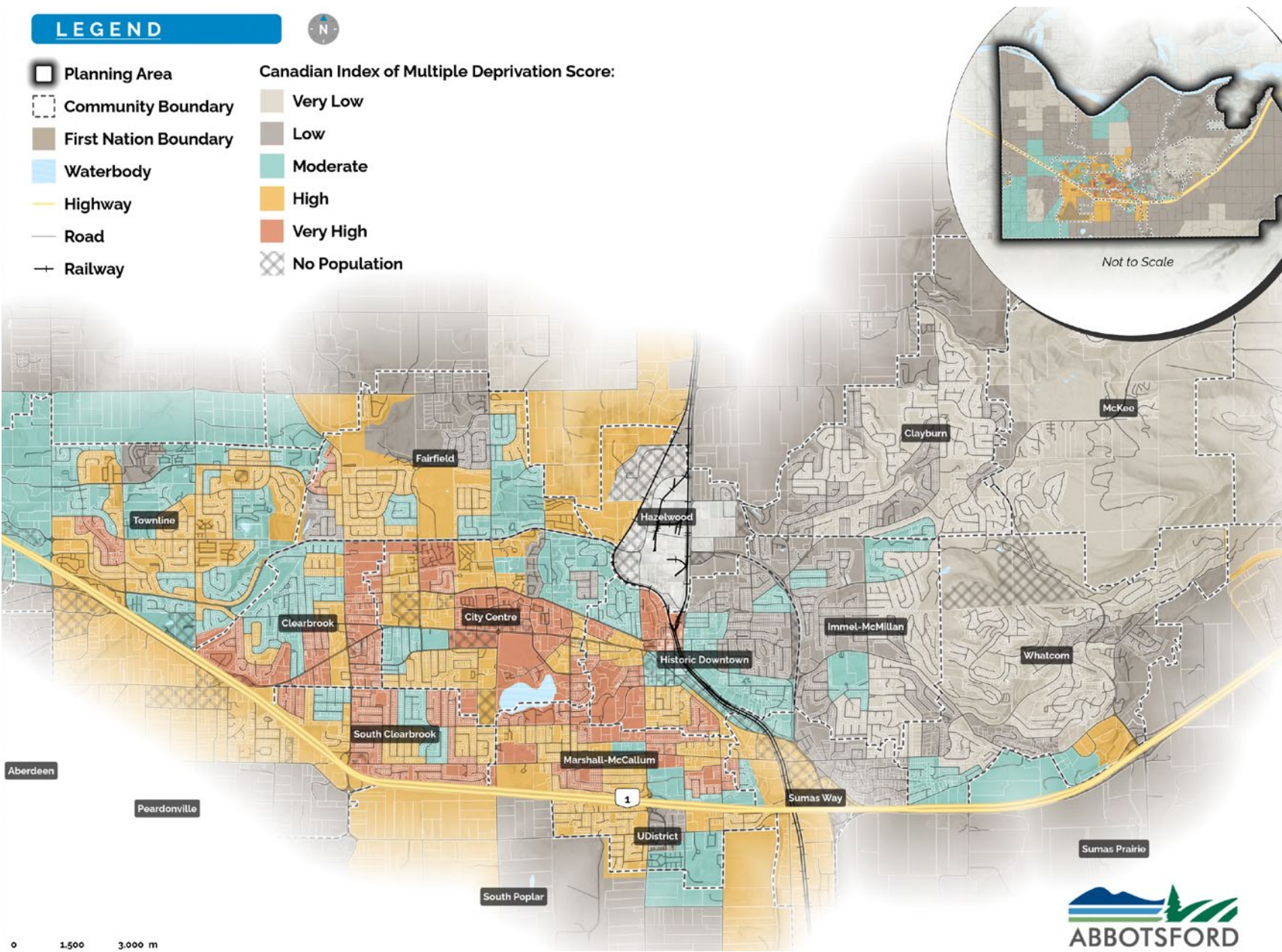
ETHNOCULTURAL COMPOSITION	ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY	SITUATIONAL VULNERABILITY	RESIDENTIAL INSTABILITY
Proportion of the population self-identified as visible minority	Proportion of population who are aged 65 and older	Proportion of the population identified as indigenous	Proportion of dwellings that are apartment buildings
Proportion of population that is foreign-born	Proportion of population participating in the labour force (aged 15 and older) ¹	Proportion of the population aged 25-64 without a high-school diploma	Proportion of persons living alone
Proportion of population with no knowledge of either official language (linguistic isolation)	Ratio of employment to population ¹	Proportion of homes needing major repairs	Proportion of dwellings that are owned ¹
Average number of persons per room	Dependency ratio (population aged 0-12 and population aged 65 and older divided by population aged 15-64)	Proportion of single parent families	Persons per square kilometer
Proportion of population with no religious affiliation	Proportion of children younger than age 6	Median income ¹	Proportion of movers within the past 5 years
		Median dollar value of dwelling ¹	
		Proportion of the population that is self-employed	

1. This indicator was reverse-coded, meaning it was coded opposite of the measure. For example, proportion of the population that is married or common-law becomes proportion of population that is single, divorced, separated or widowed.

Note: The dimensions are ordered such that the dimension on the left explains the highest percentage of the variance of the data and the dimension on the right explains the lowest percentage.

Source: Canadian Index of Multiple Deprivation 2021, based on the 2021 Census of Population Long-Form.

Figure 10. CIMD Map of Abbotsford



The scale of very low to very high is used to categorize how DAs were scored. Very High indicates that there is a high prevalence of deprivation, and Very Low indicates that there is low prevalence of deprivation based on the indicators.

Key Takeaways:

- Three neighbourhoods were considered High on average CIMD Score: City Centre, Clearbrook, and South Clearbrook.
- 10 neighbourhoods had a Moderate on average CIMD Score on average.
- 8 neighbourhoods had a Low on average CIMD Score on average.
- Mckee was the only Neighbourhood with a Very Low average CIMD Score.



Seniors and Youth Bivariate Analysis

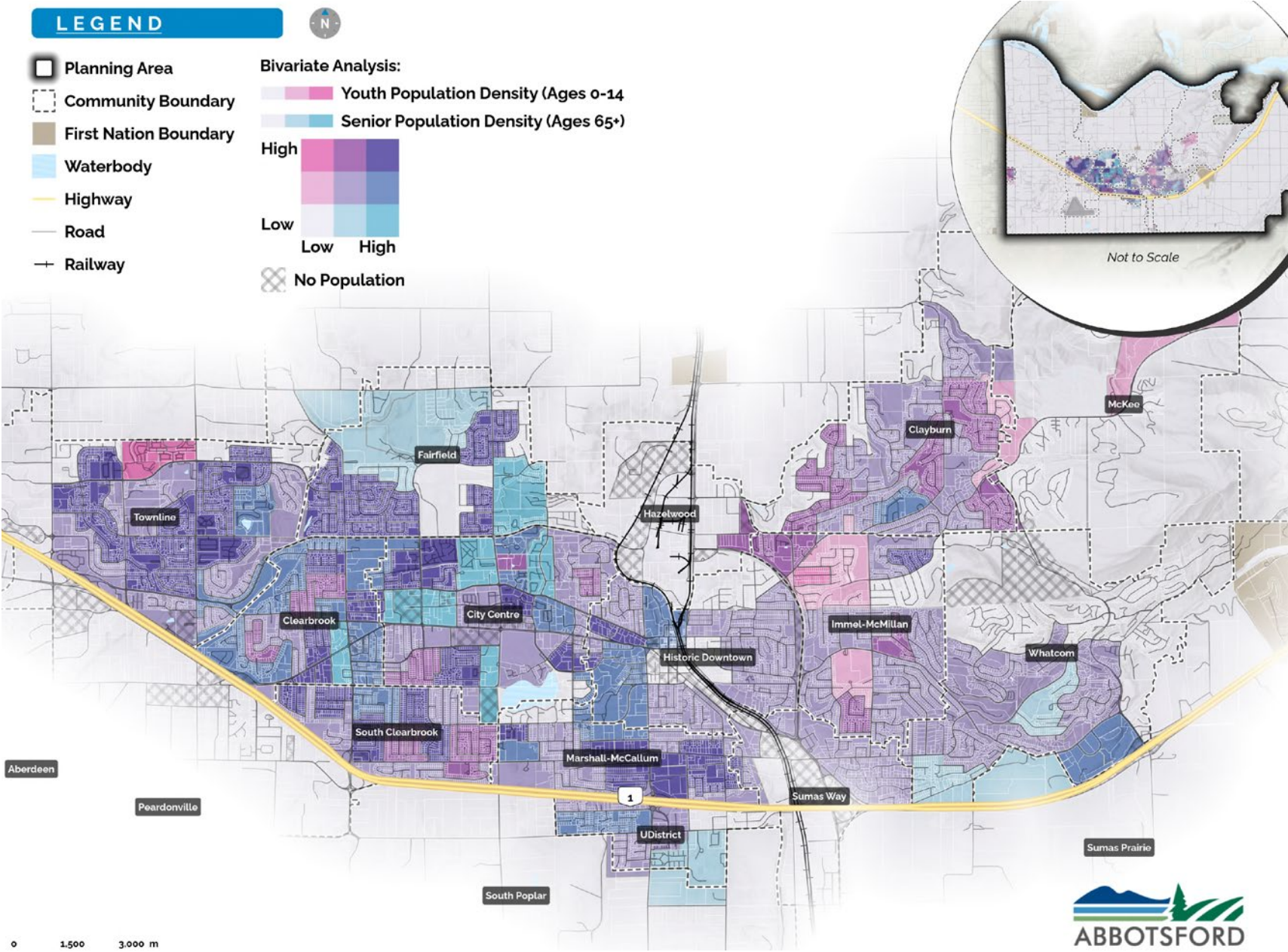
This map helps reflect areas of the city with a lower proportion of children/ youth and higher proportion of older adults, lower proportion of older adults and higher proportion of children / youth, and areas that have relatively low or high proportions of both age cohorts. The areas identified in purpose on the Figure 11 map have both higher proportions of seniors and youth relative to other areas of the city.

Key Takeaways:

- Townline has a number of areas where the population of youth and seniors are both high.
- City Centre, Clearbrook, Fairfield, Marshall- McCallum, and South Clearbrook, also have areas where both youth and seniors populations are more prominent.
- Immol-McMillan, Clayburn and McKee neighbourhoods have areas where the youth population is more dense.



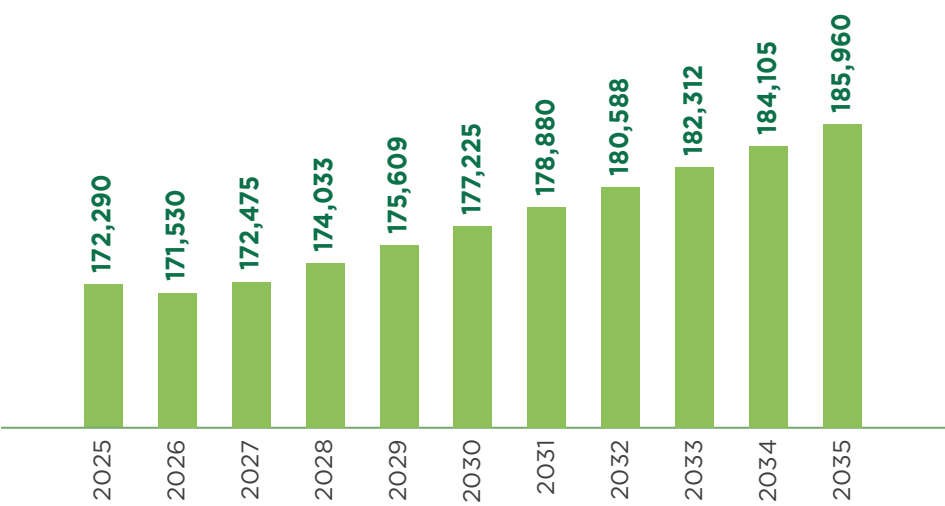
Figure 11. Seniors and Youth Bivariate Analysis Map



2.3. Population Projections

Based on population projections from BC Stats, the population of Abbotsford is expected to grow by approximately 8% between 2025 and 2035. The population proportion by age range is not expected to change drastically, but the most notable changes is that there is expected to be a slight decrease in the proportion of children aged 0- 14 years (-3%), and a slight increase in the population of older adults 70+ years (+3%).

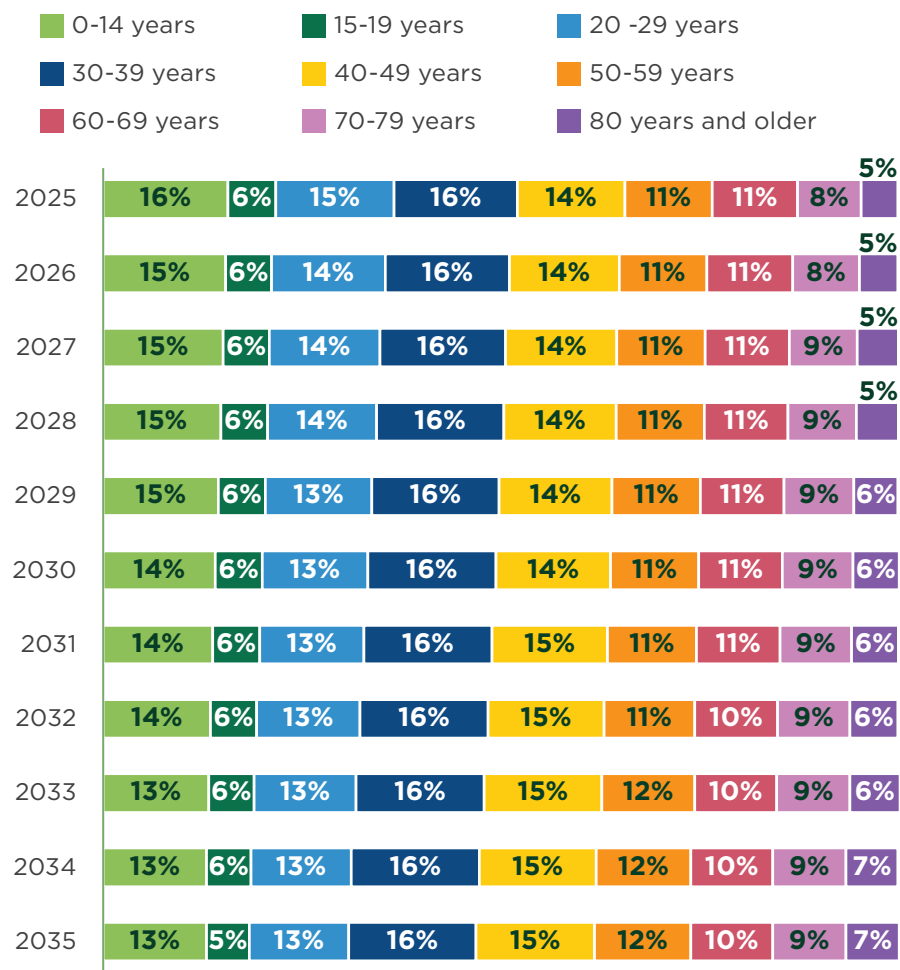
Figure 12. Population Projections 2025 - 2035



Source: Abbotsford 2050 OCP Update Stage 1 Background Research Report (2024)



Figure 13. Proportion of the Population by Age Range 2025 - 2035



Source: Abbotsford 2050 OCP Update Stage 1 Background Research Report (2024)

**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

2.4. Potential Impacts of Population and Demographics on Outdoor Sport Amenity Needs

Noted below are key takeaways from the population and demographic indicators that may have an impact on outdoor sport infrastructure use, access, and future infrastructure needs in Abbotsford.

- Areas like City Centre, Clearbrook, Fairfield, Marshall-McCallum, and South Clearbrook, where both youth and senior populations are more prominent, may require diverse outdoor sports facilities.
 - » Youth: Likely a demand for soccer fields, basketball courts, and skateparks.
 - » Seniors: Likely a demand for pickleball courts, bocce, and lawn bowling.
- Areas of the City that have higher CIMD scores (City Centre, Clearbrook, South Clearbrook), may have higher needs for outdoor facilities that are lower barrier and are more financially accessible.
- As population density is higher in areas such as UDistrict, South Clearbrook, Historic Downtown, there may be more of a need for community spaces where residents are less likely to have spaces at home (e.g. in a driveway or backyard).
- Areas where there are more residents who are immigrants (e.g. Townline) may have unique outdoor sports needs influenced by cultural preferences, like cricket fields or multi-use sports courts for diverse activities. Bradner - Mt. Lehman, with fewer immigrants, may have differing outdoor priorities, potentially focused on traditional sports or community gardens.
- The projected population increase (8%) may impact sport organizations and their registration. If population growth correlates with sport amenity utilization needs, the City will need to plan for that increased need.

A soccer player in a red and white striped jersey and red shorts is dribbling a soccer ball around orange cones on a grass field. The player is wearing red socks and black cleats. The background shows a grassy field with trees and a fence.

3. The Current Outdoor Sport Facility Service Delivery & Inventory Review

This section provides an overview of how the City currently invests in and provides sport fields, sport courts, and other outdoor sport infrastructure. The information and analysis contained in this section helps identify key characteristics of the ‘system’ and important planning considerations for the Strategy to further investigate and/or provide direction on.

3.1. Service Delivery Overview

Abbotsford, the largest municipality in BC by land area, has over 2,000 hectares of park space. The City is actively involved in a wide range of service delivery activities for parks, trails, and outdoor amenities. This includes tasks such as planning, budgeting, design, maintenance, operations, booking, programming, and permitting. Occasionally, amenities are provided through public-private partnerships, regional collaborations, and a Joint Use Agreement with the Abbotsford School District.

As this Strategy specifically focuses on outdoor sport infrastructure, this report will focus on how the City of Abbotsford books, permits, and maintains city-owned outdoor sport infrastructure for community use. While not a focus, this report will also look at the outdoor sport amenities that the Abbotsford School District owns but the City books and in some cases maintains as part of the Joint Use Agreement.

What is a Joint Use Agreement?

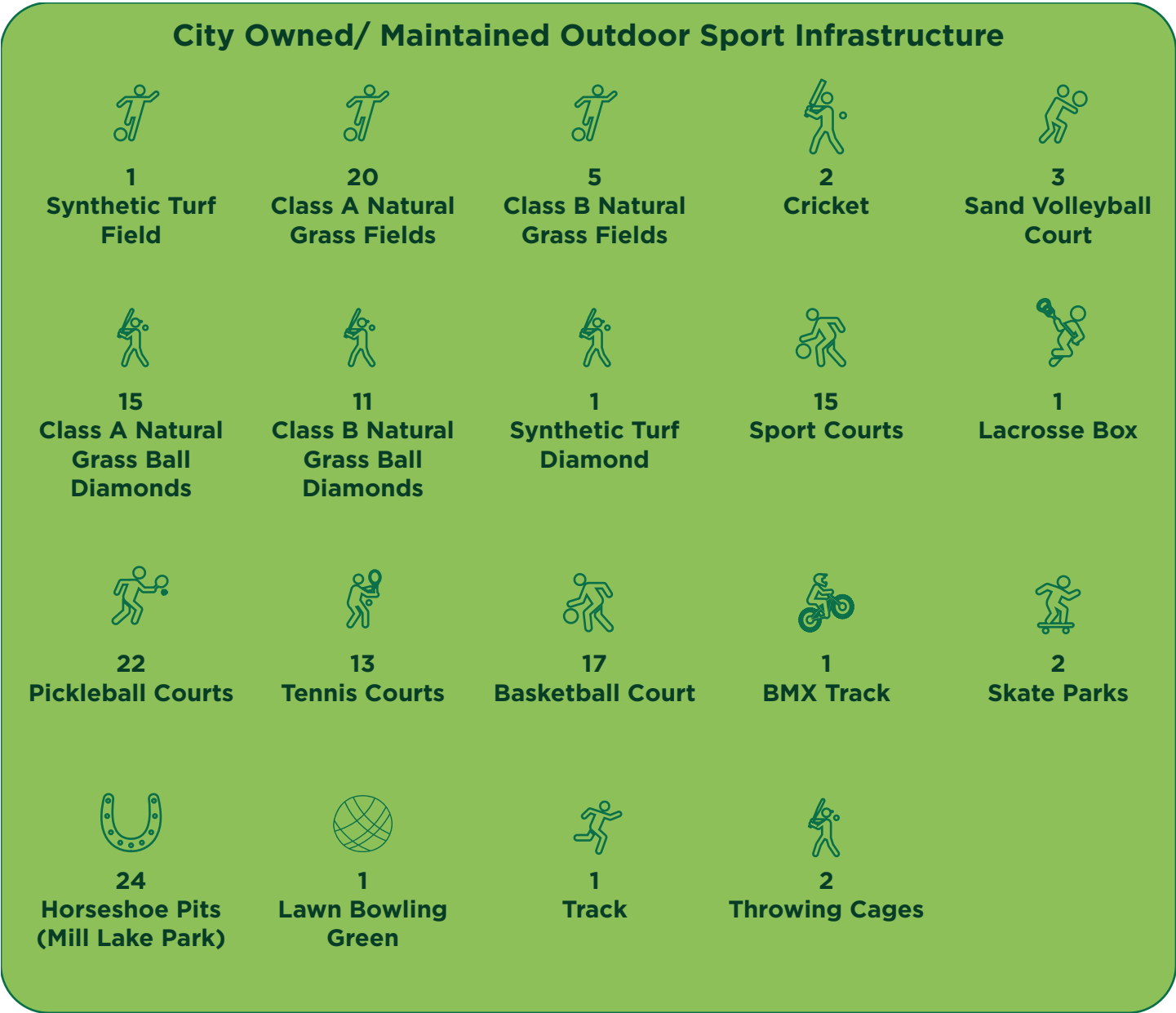
A Joint Use Agreement is a formal arrangement between two or more entities, such as local governments and school districts, to share the use of facilities and resources. In the context of parks and recreation, this type of agreement allows the City and the Abbotsford School District to collaboratively use and manage sports fields, courts, and other outdoor and indoor amenities. This cooperation ensures that both the community and students have access to these facilities, maximizing their usage and benefits for all parties involved.

Updating the Agreement

The City of Abbotsford and the Abbotsford School District (School District #34) first entered a joint use agreement in 1999. The City and School District are currently in the process of modernizing that agreement. The City of Abbotsford and Abbotsford School District have reestablished a new 30-year joint-use agreement for the operations and maintenance of the four synthetic turf fields on the school district’s property and are working towards an updated agreement for other key outdoor sport infrastructure.

3.2. Overview of the Inventory

Figure 14. City Owned/ Maintained Outdoor Sport Infrastructure





Combo Fields:

A combo field is when a rectangular field either overlaps with a ball diamond outfield or created from the outfield.

- 5 Class A Natural Grass Fields are Combo Fields
- 5 Class A Natural Grass Ball Diamonds are Combo Fields
- 2 Class B Natural Grass Fields are Combo Fields
- 1 Class B Natural Grass Ball Diamond is a Combo Fields



Tennis and Pickleball Courts

- There are 7 dedicated tennis courts
- 5 tennis courts have lines for other court sports
- 1 set of tennis lines are painted on a sport court.
- There are 12 dedicated pickleball courts
- There are 10 sets of pickleball lines painted on other courts

Table 4. Field Classification Descriptions

Turf Types	Attributes
Synthetic Turf	Synthetic fibres that resemble grass.
Class A	Natural turf on sand or soil-based fields that are highly maintained. May be built for one purpose or more than one purpose (combo field with field overlapping ball diamond outfield).
Class B	Natural turf on soil-based fields with moderate levels of maintenance. Usually built for more than one purpose (combo field with field overlapping ball diamond outfield).

Figure 15. School Board Owned Outdoor Sport Infrastructure*



*This only includes amenities booked by the City of Abbotsford within the last 5 years.



Combo Fields:

A combo field is when a rectangular field either overlaps with a ball diamond outfield or created from the outfield.

- 18 Class B Natural Grass Fields are Combo Fields
- 14 Class B Natural Grass Ball Diamonds are Combo Fields



Outdoor Sport Inventory by Neighbourhood

To understand what neighbourhoods have more or less outdoor sport infrastructure than others. Included in Table 5 – Table 8 are the counts of each amenity type in each neighbourhood. School owned facilities are limited to those that have been booked in the last 5 years for community use. See Appendix A for the list of locations of amenities.

Table 5. Rectangular Field Inventory by Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood	Population	Synthetic Turf Rectangular Fields		Mini Synthetic Turf Fields		Class A Natural Grass Fields	
		City Owned	School Owned	City Owned	School Owned	City Owned	School Owned
Aberdeen	4,238						
Bradner-Mt. Lehman	5,610						
City Centre	15,433					1	
Clayburn	9,237						2
Clearbrook	10,558	1	3		3		
Fairfield	9,232					6	
Hazelwood	91						
Historic Downtown	10,787		1				
Immel-McMillan	9,418					3	1
Marshall-McCallum	10,435					1	
Matsqui Prairie	6,674					3	
McKee	5,453						1
Peardonville	1,316						
South Clearbrook	7,562						
South Poplar	3,443						
Sumas Mountain	1,241						
Sumas Prairie	2,969					2	
Sumas Way	2,845						
Townline	19,983					2	1
UDistrict	3,726						
West Abbotsford	4,286					1	
Whatcom	9,728					1	
Grand Total	154,265	1	4	0	3	20	5

Table 5. (Continued) Rectangular Field Inventory by Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood	Population	Class B Natural Grass Fields		Cricket Fields	
		City Owned	School Owned	City Owned	School Owned
Aberdeen	4,238		2		
Bradner-Mt. Lehman	5,610	1	1		
City Centre	15,433		4		
Clayburn	9,237		7		
Clearbrook	10,558				
Fairfield	9,232		4	1	
Hazelwood	91				
Historic Downtown	10,787		3		
Immel-McMillan	9,418	1	2	1	
Marshall-McCallum	10,435		1		
Matsqui Prairie	6,674	1	2		
McKee	5,453				
Peardonville	1,316		1		
South Clearbrook	7,562		1		1
South Poplar	3,443		1		
Sumas Mountain	1,241				
Sumas Prairie	2,969		1		
Sumas Way	2,845	1			
Townline	19,983	1	5		
UDistrict	3,726		1		
West Abbotsford	4,286				
Whatcom	9,728		2		
Grand Total	154,265	5	38	2	1

Table 6. Ball Diamond Inventory by Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood	Population	Synthetic Turf Ball Diamonds	Class A Natural Grass Diamonds		Class B Natural Grass Diamonds	
		City Owned	City Owned	School Owned	City Owned	School Owned
Aberdeen	4,238					1
Bradner-Mt. Lehman	5,610				1	
City Centre	15,433		1	1	3	1
Clayburn	9,237			1		3
Clearbrook	10,558					
Fairfield	9,232		4		2	2
Hazelwood	91					
Historic Downtown	10,787					1
Immel-McMillan	9,418		1		1	1
Marshall-McCallum	10,435		1			1
Matsqui Prairie	6,674				1	
McKee	5,453				1	1
Peardonville	1,316					
South Clearbrook	7,562	1	2			1
South Poplar	3,443				1	1
Sumas Mountain	1,241					
Sumas Prairie	2,969		1	2	1	
Sumas Way	2,845					
Townline	19,983		4			2
UDistrict	3,726					
West Abbotsford	4,286		1			
Whatcom	9,728					1
Grand Total	154,265	1	15	4	11	16

Table 7. Court Inventory by Neighbourhood

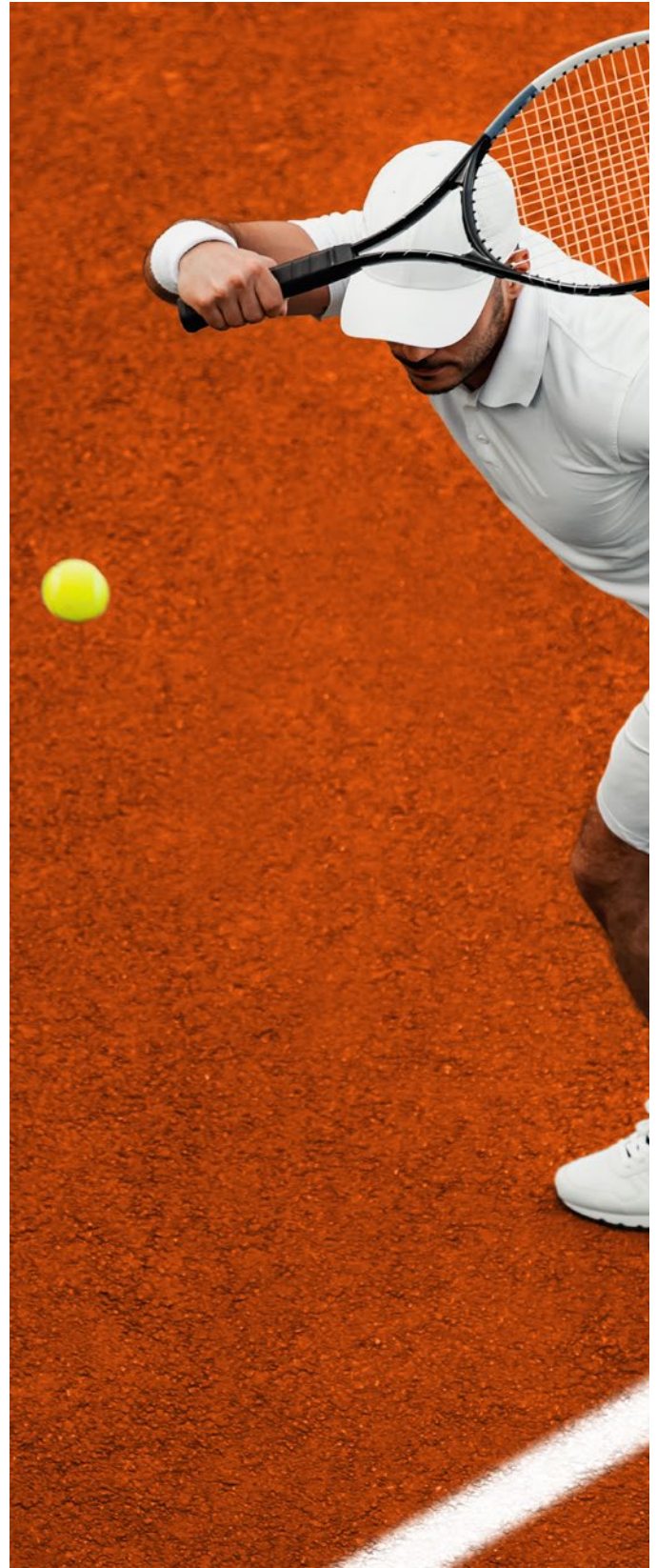
Neighbourhood	Population	Sport Courts	Lacrosse Box	Basketball Courts	Pickleball Courts	Tennis Courts	Sand Volleyball Courts
Aberdeen	4,238	1		1			
Bradner-Mt. Lehman	5,610			1	5	1	
City Centre	15,433			1		4	1
Clayburn	9,237						
Clearbrook	10,558						
Fairfield	9,232	1		1			
Hazelwood	91						
Historic Downtown	10,787				9	1	
Immel-McMillan	9,418	4	1	3	6	1	
Marshall-McCallum	10,435			1			
Matsqui Prairie	6,674	1				1	
McKee	5,453	2		2			
Peardonville	1,316						
South Clearbrook	7,562						
South Poplar	3,443						2
Sumas Mountain	1,241						
Sumas Prairie	2,969				1	2	
Sumas Way	2,845						
Townline	19,983	2		3			
UDistrict	3,726			1			
West Abbotsford	4,286	2		2		1	
Whatcom	9,728	1		1		2	
Grand Total	154,265	15	1	17	22	13	3

Table 8. Wheeled Sports and Other Amenities by Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood	Population	BMX Track	Skate Parks	Track	Throwing Cage	Horseshoe Pits	Lawn Bowling
Aberdeen	4,238						
Bradner-Mt. Lehman	5,610						
City Centre	15,433						
Clayburn	9,237						
Clearbrook	10,558		1		1		
Fairfield	9,232	1		1	1		
Hazelwood	91						
Historic Downtown	10,787						
Immel-McMillan	9,418		1				
Marshall-McCallum	10,435					24	1
Matsqui Prairie	6,674						
McKee	5,453						
Peardonville	1,316						
South Clearbrook	7,562						
South Poplar	3,443						
Sumas Mountain	1,241						
Sumas Prairie	2,969						
Sumas Way	2,845						
Townline	19,983						
UDistrict	3,726						
West Abbotsford	4,286						
Whatcom	9,728						
Grand Total	154,265	1	2	1	2	24	1

Key Takeaways from Inventory Distribution:

- There are a few neighbourhoods that do not have any City owned outdoor sport infrastructure that are supplied with school owned infrastructure (e.g. Aberdeen, Historic Downtown and Clayburn).
- Skateboard parks are an amenity that many associate with a younger demographic. One of the two skateboard parks is located in Immel-McMillan; a neighbourhood that was noted earlier in this report as an area where the youth population is more dense. This shows that there is some alignment with the infrastructure available and the demographics present.
- Some of the less populated neighbourhoods do not have sport infrastructure (e.g. Hazelwood and Sumas Mountain), population growth in these neighbourhoods should be monitored.



3.3. Spatial Overview of the Inventory and Access

The maps on the following pages provide a spatial overview of the outdoor sport infrastructure in Abbotsford alongside key geographic access characteristics, using a typical 5,10, and 15-minute walkability radius.

Sport Field Map

This map shows where Class A, Class B and Cricket fields are located within the City of Abbotsford and provides an overview of key geographic access characteristics. This map does not include school sites.

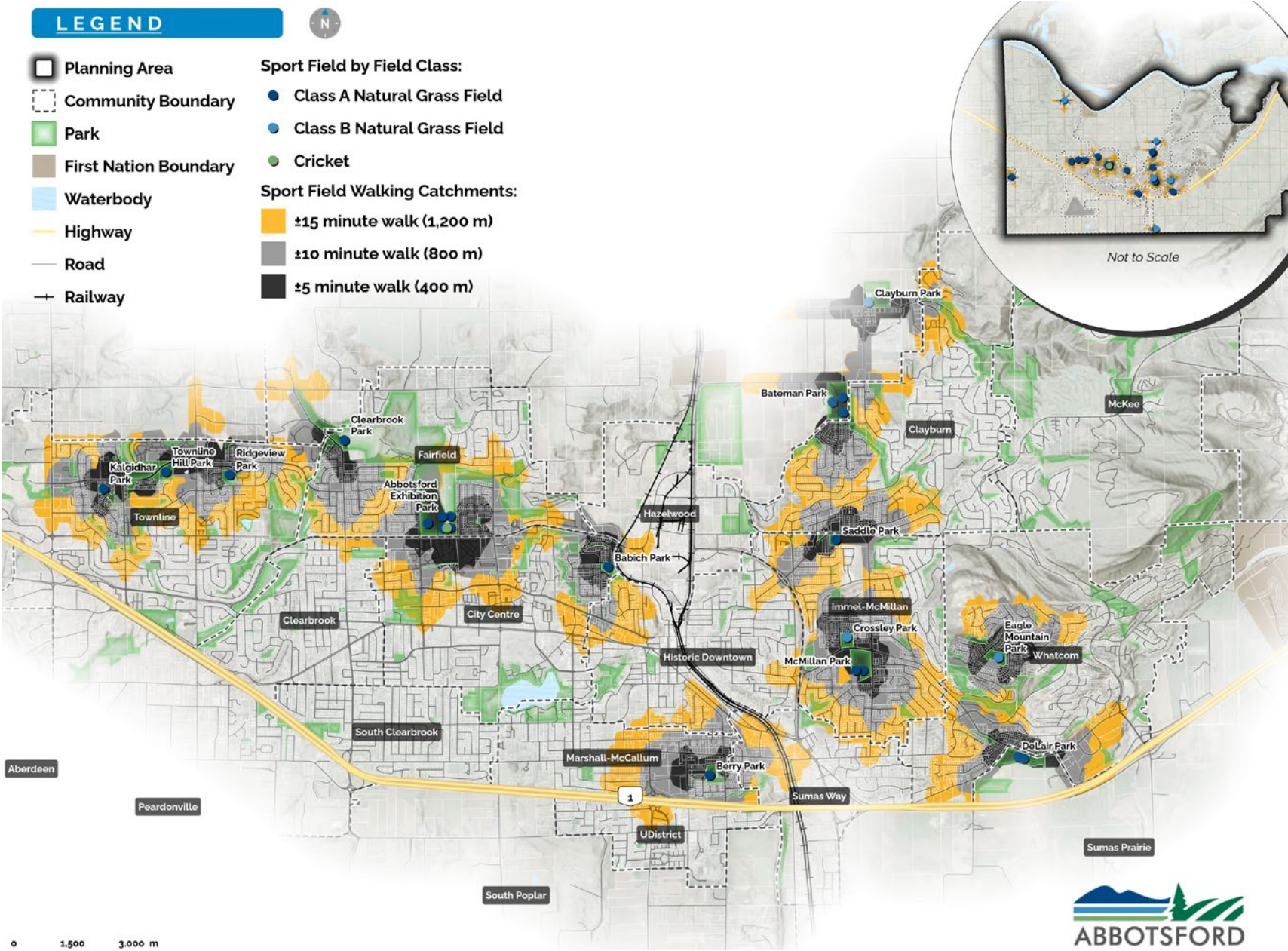


Key Takeaways:

- 59% of Abbotsford residents can access a Class A field within a 15-minute walk, 43% can access within a 10-minute walk and 25% can access within a 5- minute walk.
- 12% of Abbotsford residents can access a Class B field within a 15-minute walk, 8% can access within a 10-minute walk and 6% can access within a 5- minute walk.
- 5% of Abbotsford residents can access a Cricket pitch within a 15-minute walk.



Figure 17. Sport Field Map



Synthetic Sport Field Map

This map shows where rectangular synthetic fields are located within the City of Abbotsford and provides an overview of key geographic access characteristics. This map includes school sites, as they are offered in partnership with the School Board.

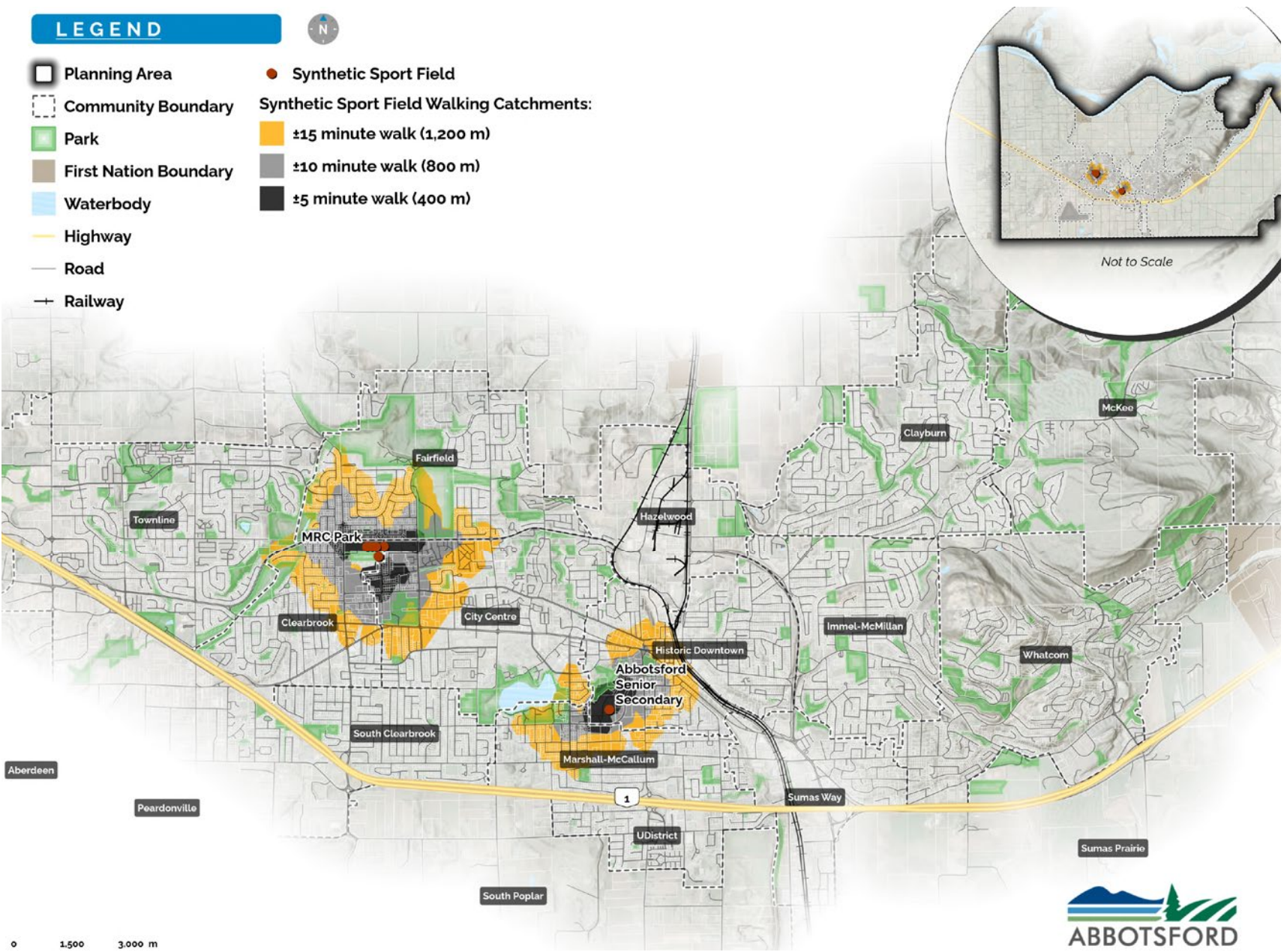


Key Takeaways:

- 11% of Abbotsford residents can access a rectangular synthetic turf field within a 15-minute walk, 4% can access within 10-minutes and 1% can access within a 5-minutes.



Figure 18. Synthetic Sport Field Map



Ball Diamond Map

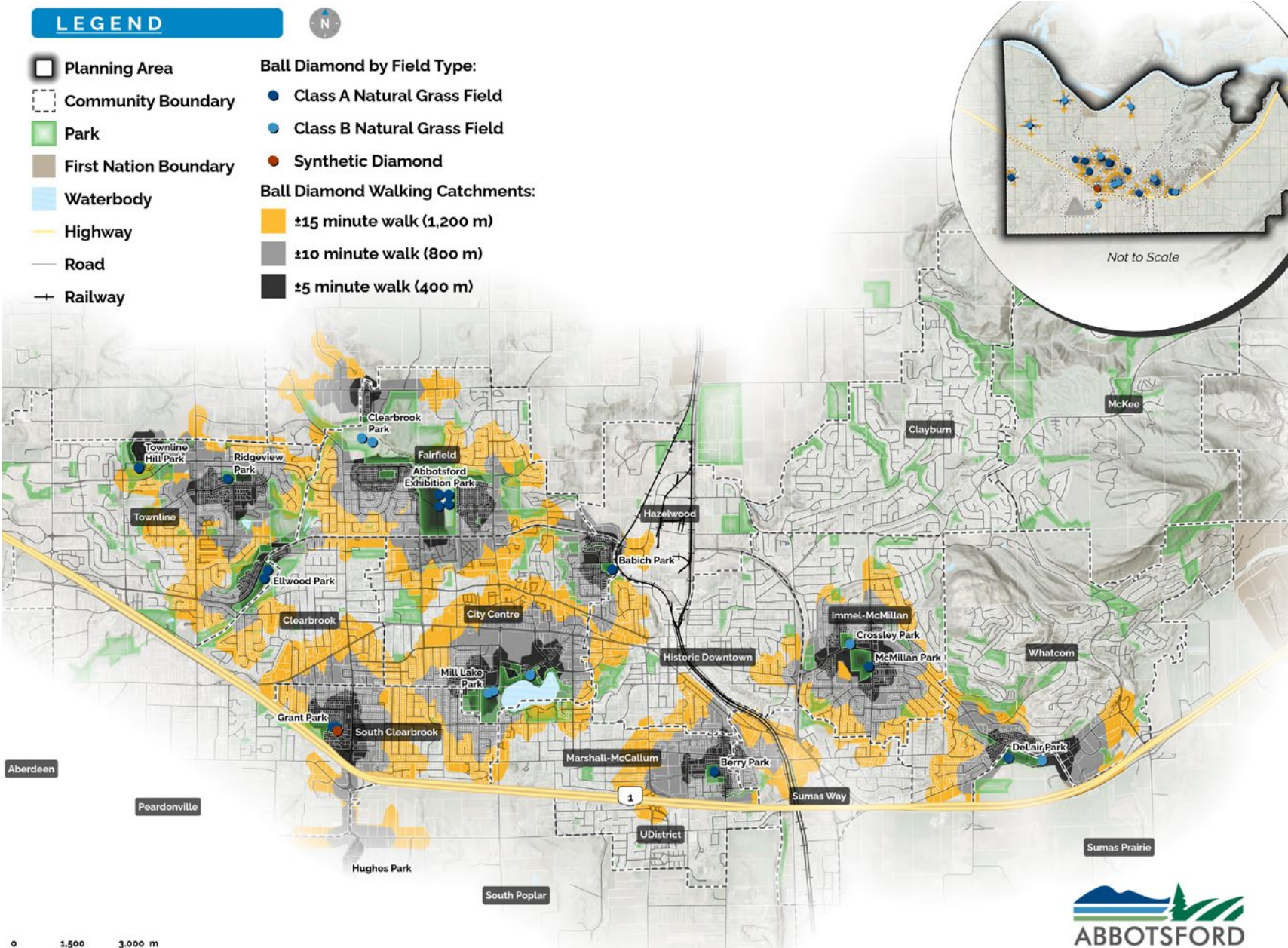
This map shows where Class A, Class B and synthetic ball diamonds are located within the City of Abbotsford and provides an overview of key geographic access characteristics. This map does not include school sites.

Key Takeaways:

- 57% of Abbotsford residents can access a Class A diamond within a 15-minute walk, 40% can access within a 10-minute walk and 19% can access within a 5- minute walk.
- 34% of Abbotsford residents can access a Class B diamond within a 15-minute walk, 22% can access within a 10-minute walk and 9% can access within a 5- minute walk.
- 5% of Abbotsford residents can access a synthetic diamond within a 15-minute walk.



Figure 19. Ball Diamond Map



Bookable School Sites

This map shows where School Board natural grass sport fields, diamonds tennis and pickleball courts and other courts that are booked by the City of Abbotsford for community use are located within the City of Abbotsford and provides an overview of key geographic access characteristics. If a school site had not been booked in the last 5 years, it is not included on this map.

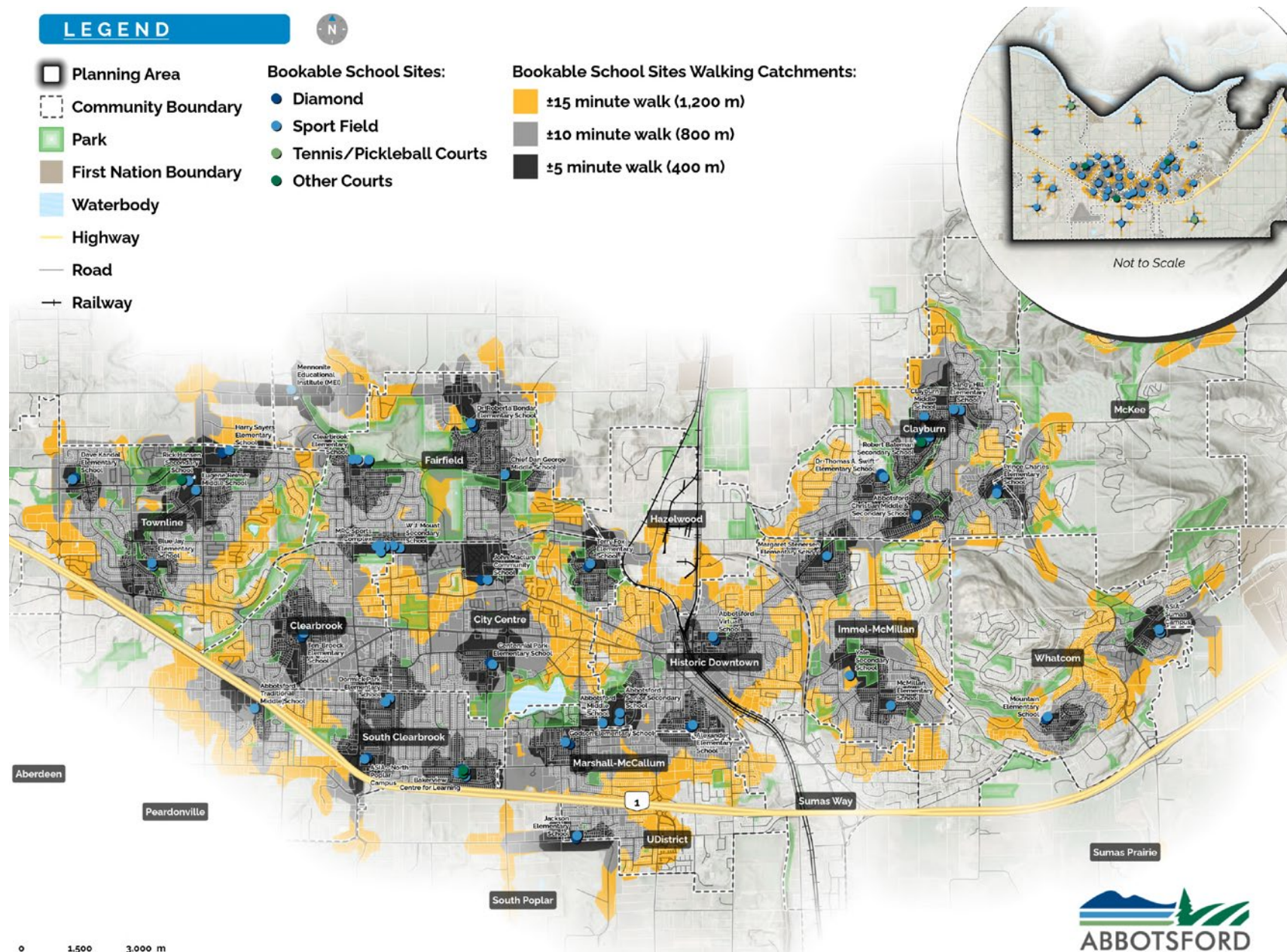


Key Takeaways:

- 82% of Abbotsford residents can access a school with a bookable amenity within 15- minute walk, 65% can access within a 10-minute walk, and 28% can access within a 5-minute walk.



Figure 20. Bookable School Sites



Court Sports Map

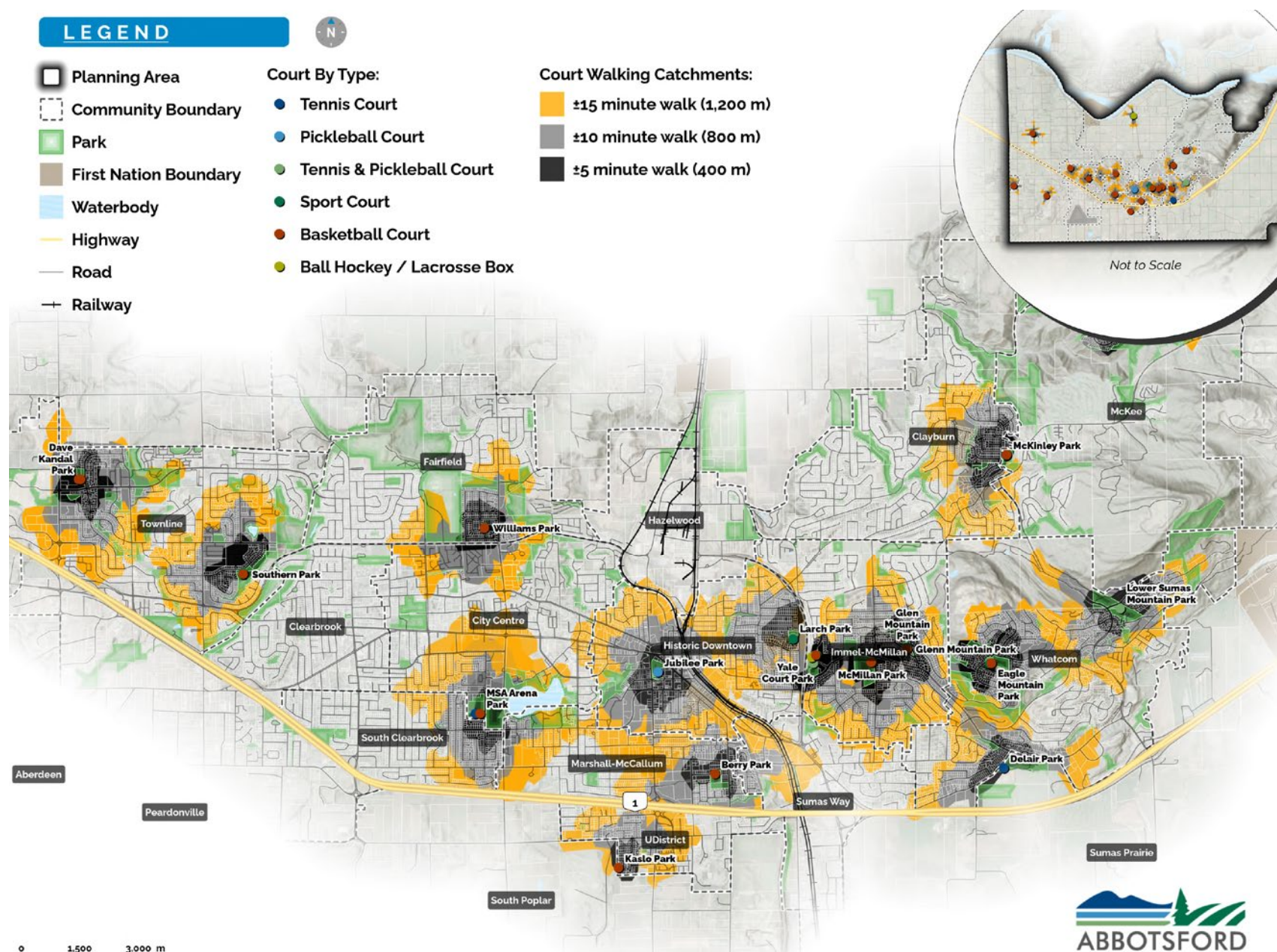
This map shows where the different courts by type of activity that is playable there (there are lines for) are located within the City of Abbotsford and provides an overview of key geographic access characteristics. This map does not include school sites.

Key Takeaways:

- 16% of Abbotsford residents can access a tennis court within a 15-minute walk.
- 18% of Abbotsford residents can access a pickleball court within a 15-minute walk.
- 49% of Abbotsford residents can access a sport court within a 15-minute walk.
- 61% of Abbotsford residents can access a basketball court within a 15-minute walk.
- 6% of Abbotsford residents can access a ball hockey/ lacrosse box within a 15-minute walk.



Figure 21. Court Sports Map



Wheeled Sports Map

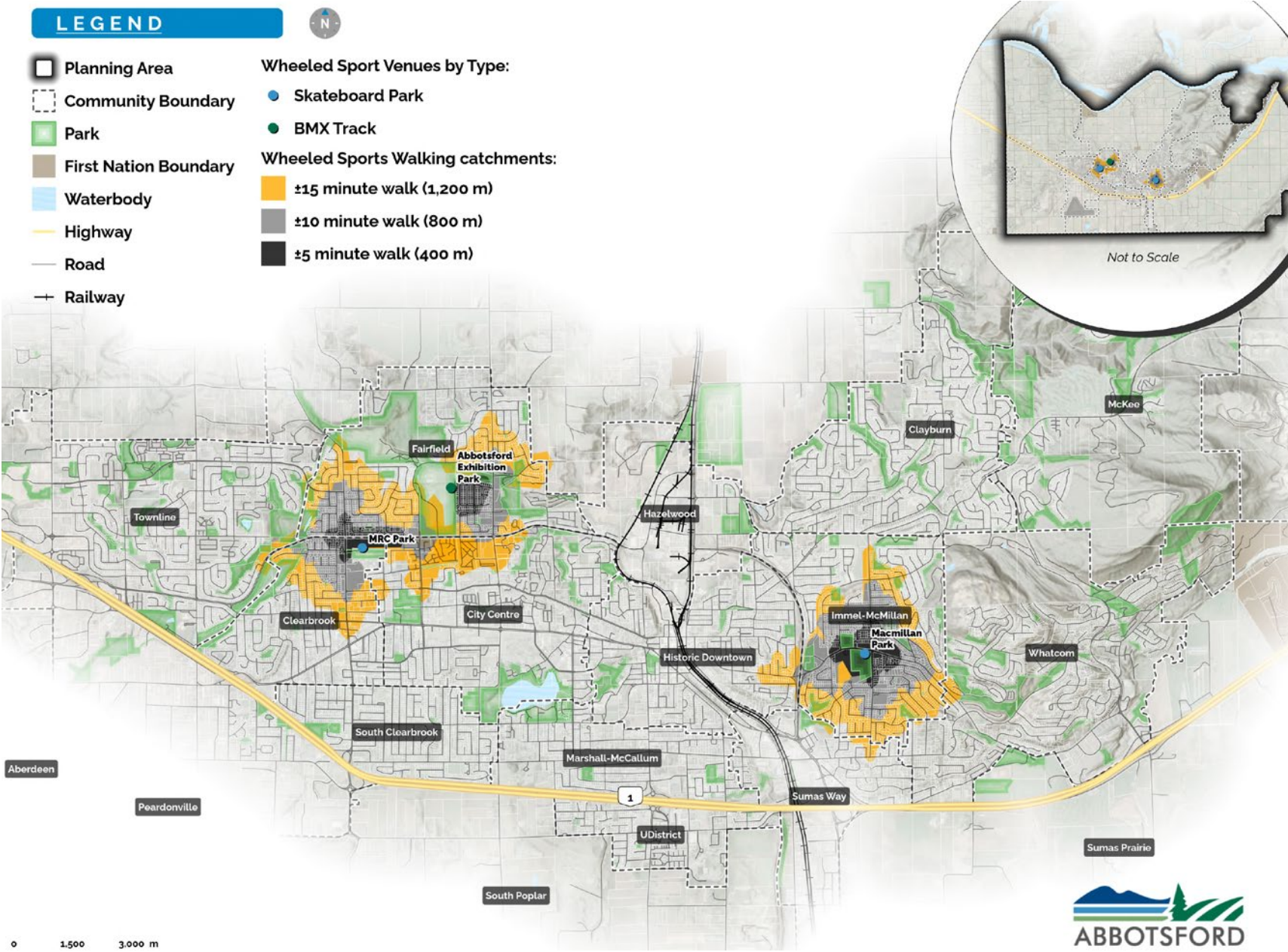
This map shows where wheeled sport amenities are located within the City of Abbotsford and provides an overview of key geographic access characteristics.

Key Takeaways:

- 16% of Abbotsford residents can access a skateboard park within a 15-minute walk, and 8 % can access within a 10 minute walk.
- 4% of Abbotsford residents can access a BMX track within a 15-minute walk.



Figure 22. Wheeled Sports Map



Other Amenities Map

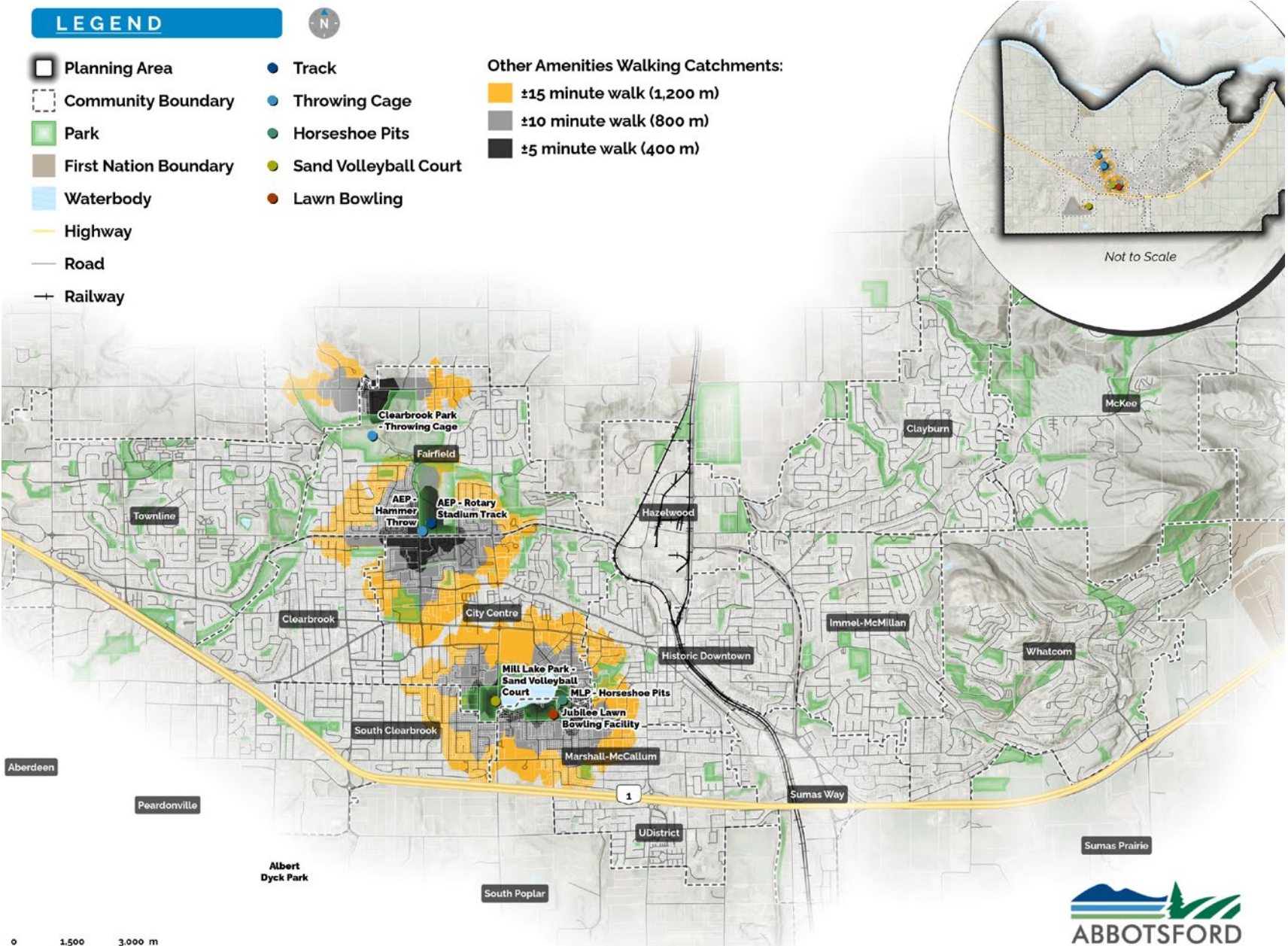
This map shows where the other outdoor sport amenities are located within the City of Abbotsford and provides an overview of key geographic access characteristics. This map does not include school sites.

Key Takeaways:

- 4% of Abbotsford residents can access a sand volleyball court within a 15-minute walk.
- 3% of Abbotsford residents can access a lawn bowling green within a 15-minute walk.
- 3% of Abbotsford residents can access a horseshoe pit within a 15-minute walk.
- 10% of Abbotsford residents can access a throwing cage or track within a 15-minute walk.



Figure 23. Other Amenities Map



Recreation Diversity Map

The following map illustrates where there are very low – very high diversity of outdoor sport opportunities. Areas highlighted in red are areas where residents have access to 5 or more amenities (very high) within a 15-minute walk. Whereas areas that are highlighted light grey (very low) have access to one type of amenity within a 15- minute walk.



Key Takeaways:

- Immel-McMilan and Fairfield are neighbourhoods where residents have access to a higher variety of amenities.
- Sumas Mountain, Sumas Prairie, Aberdeen, Peardonville, Sumas Way, and South Poplar are areas where there is less access to a variety of amenities.

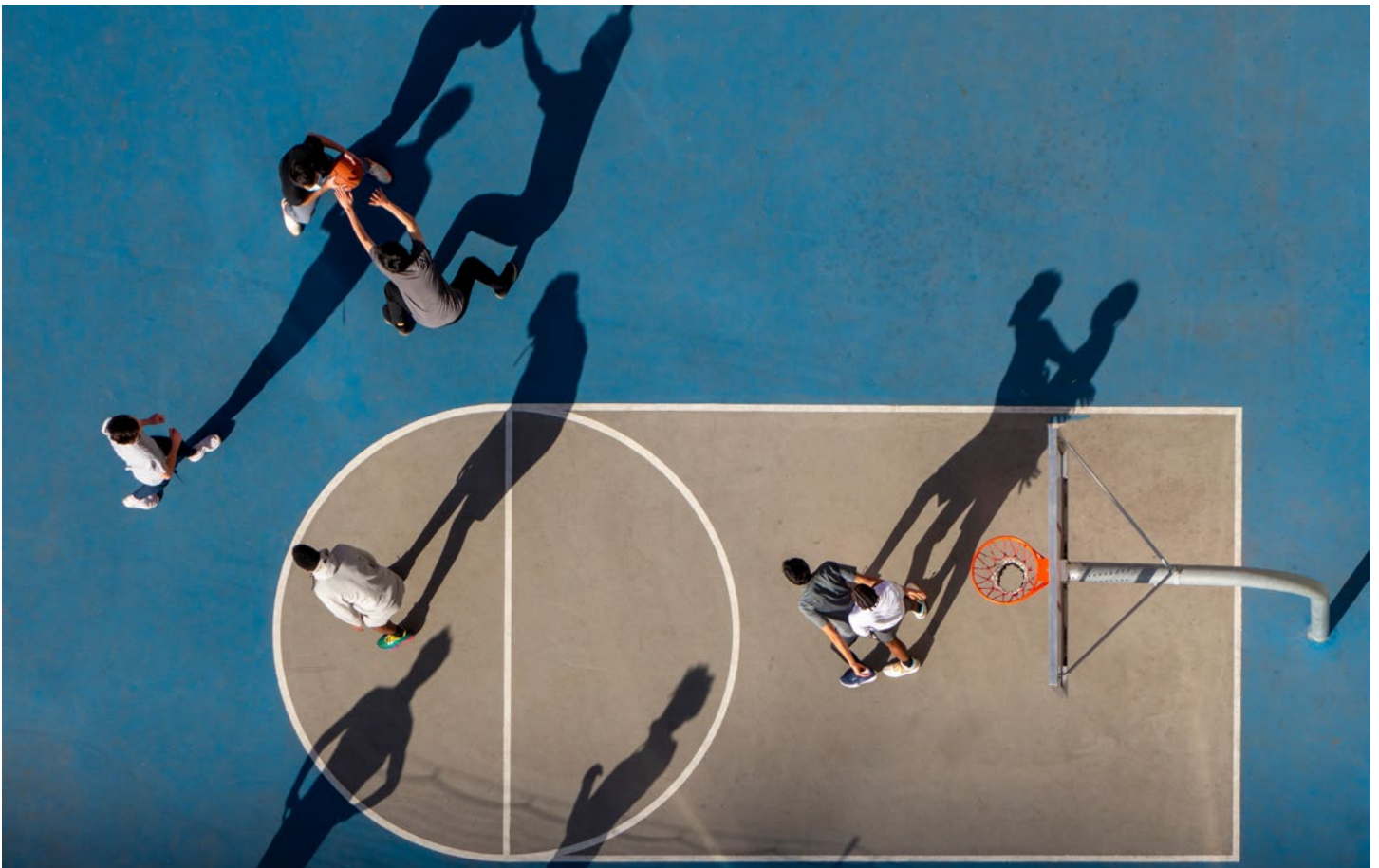
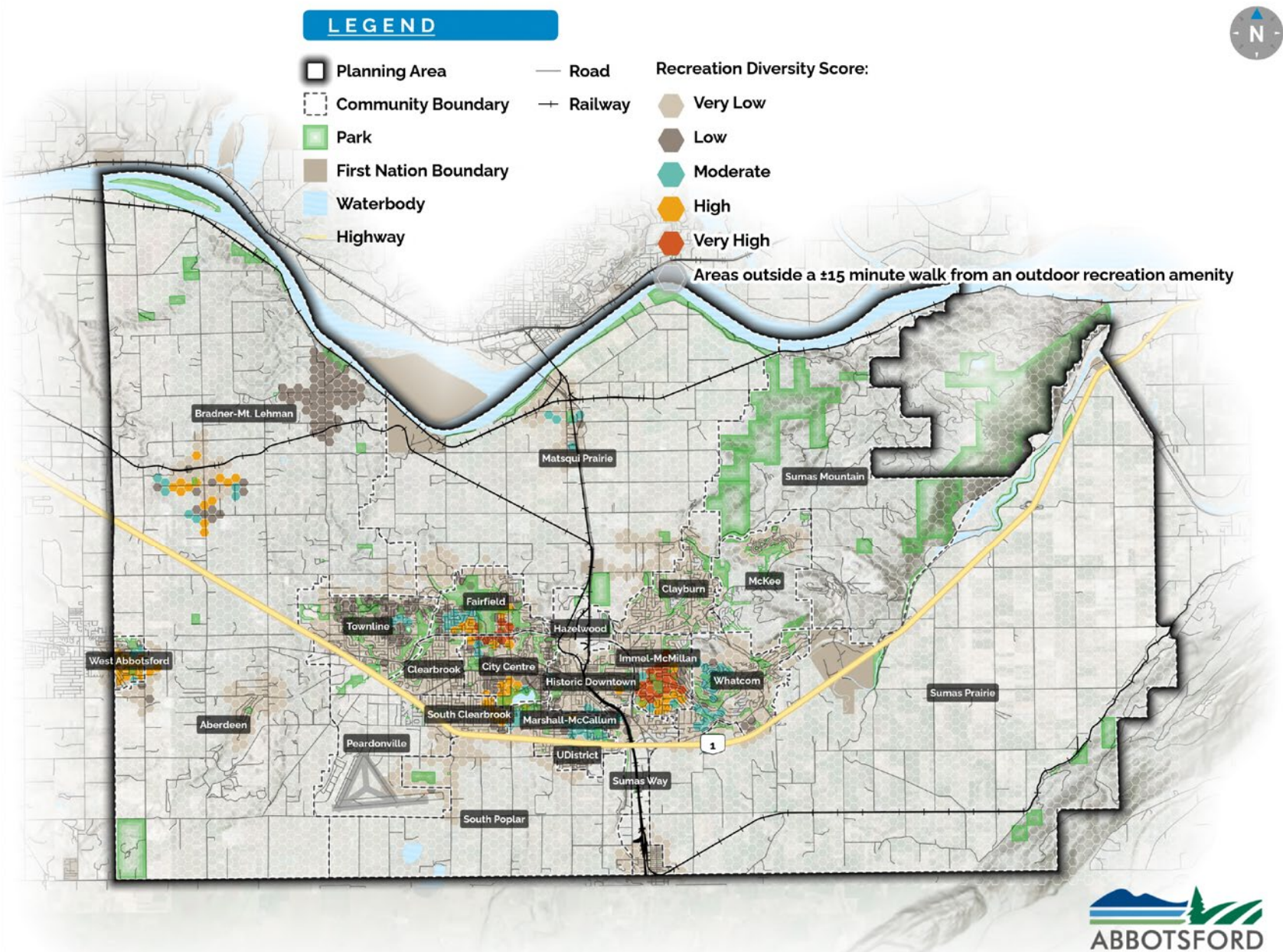


Figure 24. Recreation Diversity Map



3.4. Financial Impacts

Outdoor sport amenities, like most types of publicly provided recreation amenities, require a subsidy to sustain ongoing operations. This section outlines the annual costs to provide these amenities in 2024.

Court Operations Financial Impacts

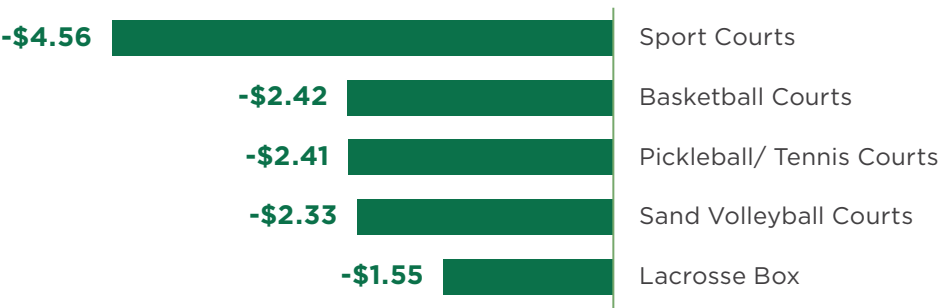
The total net cost of providing courts in Abbotsford is approximately \$204,901 annually. Most court use is spontaneous, and thus no revenue is collected. The Lacrosse Box has the best cost recovery; however the focus of court provision is a service to the community. The table below shows how much it costs to operate a court space per hour available (assuming all courts are available 3,000 hours annually). Courts with lines painted for both activities were only counted once.

Table 9. Court Expenses & Revenues 2024

	Pickleball/ Tennis Courts*	Basketball Courts	Lacrosse Box	Sport Courts	Sand Volleyball Courts
Expenses	\$50,600.00	\$25,300.00	\$6,325.00	\$94,875.00	\$18,975.00
Revenues (Bookings)	\$621.00	\$123.53	\$2,304.80	\$-	\$774.40
Net	-\$49,979.00	-\$25,174.47	-\$4,020.20	-\$94,875.00	-\$18,200.60
Cost Recovery	1.2%	0.5%	36%	0%	4%

*Court locations were counted as one court, and courts where lines were painted on sport courts were not included as tennis/pickleball court.

Figure 16. Hourly Cost of Providing Courts



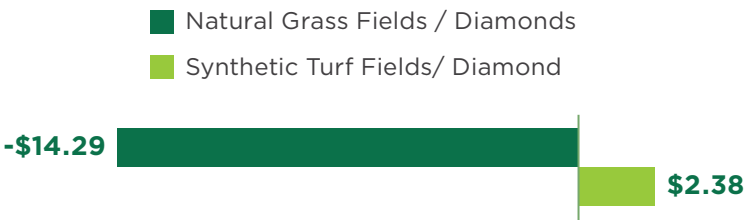
Sport Fields Operations Financial Impacts

Cost recovery varies significantly from synthetic turf fields to natural turf grass fields. Notably, synthetic turf fields account for approximately 41% of the sport field revenue but only 9% of total expenses. Synthetic turf fields make \$2.38 per hour available for bookings, while natural grass turf fields cost approximately \$14.29 per hour available for booking. **These figures do not include lifecycle costs for synthetic turf replacement (typically required every 10-15 years).*

Table 10. Sport Field/ Diamond Expenses

	Synthetic Turf Field/ Diamond	Natural Grass Fields / Diamonds
Expenses	-\$115,732	-\$1,200,211
Revenues (Field Bookings)	\$147,337	\$224,416
Revenues (Lighting)	\$25,548	\$99,001
Net	\$57,153	-\$876,793
Cost Recovery	150%	3%

Figure 25. Hourly Cost of Synthetic and Natural Grass Turf



3.5. Potential Impacts of Population Growth on Outdoor Sport Infrastructure Provision

The following tables (Table 11-Table 13) present the long-term supply needs for each amenity type if the City were to build new facilities based solely on maintaining current facility service levels in lockstep with population growth. It is important to note that typically as urban communities grow it becomes challenging to maintain current service levels. Additionally, facility supply needs must consider a multitude of other factors such as trends, access and geographic distribution, etc. Some facility use may suggest that the current supply does not meet the needs of residents currently, and thus basing provision solely on maintaining provision would be inappropriate. As such, the analysis presented in the following tables should be considered simply as a reference point and is not intended to suggest future amenity supply needs (which will be further guided by the Sport Field and Sport Court Strategy).

Population Growth

	2021	2026	2030	2034
Population	153,520	172,290	177,225	185,960
Approximate Growth Rate Over Current		12%	3%	5%

Source: Population Estimates & Projections for British Columbia



Table 11. Long Term Outlook for Sport Field and Ball Diamonds

Sport Field/ Diamond Type	Current Provision in Abbotsford	Current Number in Abbotsford 2025	Total Facilities Needed by 2030	Total Facilities Needed by 2035	Total Additional Facilities Needed by 2035
Class A Natural Turf Rectangular Fields	7,676	20	23	24	+4
Class B Natural Turf Rectangular Fields	30,704	5	6	6	+1
Synthetic Turf Fields*	30,704	5	6	6	+1
Mini Synthetic Turf Fields*	51,173	3	3	4	+1
Cricket Fields	153,520	1	1	1	0
Class A Natural Turf Ball Diamonds	10,235	15	17	18	+3
Class B Natural Turf Ball Diamonds	13,956	11	13	13	+3
Synthetic Turf Diamonds	153,520	1	1	1	0

**Includes School District inventory*

Table 12. Long Term Outlook for Courts

Court Type	Current Provision in Abbotsford	Current Number in Abbotsford 2025	Total Facilities Needed by 2030	Total Facilities Needed by 2035	Total Additional Facilities Needed by 2035
Pickleball Courts	6,978	22	25	27	+5
Tennis Courts	11,809	13	15	16	+3
Basketball Courts	13,956	11	13	13	+2
Sports Courts	10,235	15	17	18	+3
Sand Volleyball Court	51,173	3	3	4	+1
Basketball Courts	9,031	17	20	21	+4
Lacrosse Box	153,520	1	1	1	0

Table 13. Long Term Outlook for Other Outdoor Sport Infrastructure

Facility Type	Current Provision in Abbotsford	Current Number in Abbotsford 2025	2030 Total Facilities Needed	2035 Total Facilities Needed	Total Additional Facilities Needed by 2035
Skatepark	76,760	2	2	2	0
Bike Park / Pump Track	153,520	1	1	1	0
Lawn Bowling Green	153,520	1	1	1	0
Track	153,520	1	1	1	0
Throwing Cage	76,760	2	2	2	0

**To review how Abbotsford's service levels contrast with regional comparators, please see the Section 4 Benchmarking.*

3.6. Facility Assessments

Site assessments were conducted to determine the existing conditions of each outdoor sport facility. Site assessments were completed in two parts—a desktop review of the GIS data provided by the City and in-person site visits. The GIS data provided the basis for the inventory and was cross-checked with the latest available Google earth imagery to identify discrepancies between the data and aerial imagery. The GIS data did not outline individual fields within a park, just the area where the fields were located, when site assessments were conducted a point was created for that amenity for mapping purposes.

The site visits were conducted from November 2024 to December 2024. The outdoor sport infrastructure assessments are summarized in the following section by type of facility. The detailed assessment tables can be found in Appendix B. The following table outlines a few key terms and definitions that are used in the assessments.



Table 14. Key Terms and Definitions

Term	Definition
Planarity	Flatness of the playing surface.
Drainage	The process of removing excess water from the field.
Turf	Turf refers to the surface layer of a field, usually made of grass or grass-like material.
Cricket pitch	A cricket pitch is a rectangular strip of prepared ground located at the center of a cricket field.
Goal posts	Goal posts are structures used in various sports like soccer, rugby, American football, and hockey to mark the area where players score points or goals. Typically, they consist of two vertical posts connected by a horizontal bar, forming a rectangular or square shape. In sports like football and rugby, there are additional elements like uprights and a crossbar.
Base cut outs	Refer to the areas around the bases on a field, where the grass transitions to dirt.
Skinned infield	Refers to a field where the entire infield area is made up of dirt or another non-grass material.
Pitching rubbers	A small rectangular plate located on the pitcher's mound in baseball or softball. It's where the pitcher places their foot to deliver pitches, ensuring consistency and regulation in gameplay.
Pitcher's mounds	A raised, circular area in the center of a baseball field where the pitcher stands to throw pitches to the batter.
Base anchors	the fixtures installed into the ground to hold the bases securely in place. These anchors are usually made of metal or durable plastic and are embedded below the playing surface.

Rectangular Fields

The evaluation of rectangular fields examined several aspects including turf quality, flatness of the playing surface (planarity), drainage, and weed infestation for grass fields. Because of the different levels of wear around goal areas in field sports, an additional evaluation of the turf in these areas was carried out alongside the overall turf assessment.

Most rectangular fields in parks are in moderate condition. Turf quality is generally good, with a few fields rated as poor or very good. Weeds are mostly well-managed, and drainage issues are minimal, affecting only three sites. Goalposts are mostly in good condition, though some have tape remnants or damaged netting, and the rugby posts at Delair Park are non-functional. Ball control fencing is uncommon and typically in moderate condition. Seven fields have sports lighting, though functionality is unconfirmed. Most fields have irrigation systems, either hydraulic or older electric systems. Player benches are largely absent.



Swensson Park: Example of goal posts and typical deterioration patterns around them



Abbotsford Exhibition Park: Example of a cricket pitch with good planarity.

Figure 26. Turf Quality

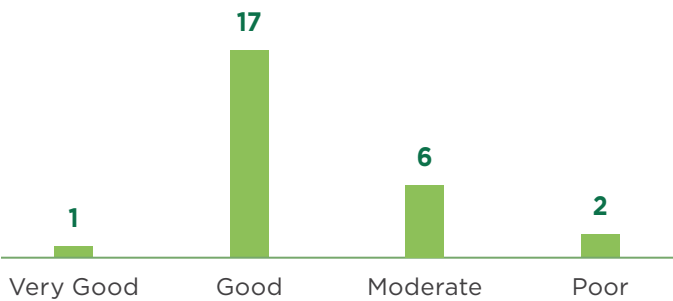
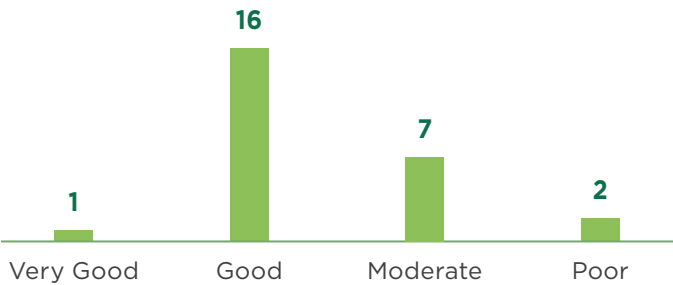


Figure 27. Field Planarity



Ball Diamonds

Baseball and softball diamonds varied significantly in size, backstop height, and dugout quality. The availability of scorekeeper boxes, dugouts (along with features like gates and benches), bases, home plate, and the pitching rubber also differed.

Most baseball and softball diamonds are in good or moderate condition. Outfield fences and field lighting are about evenly split between present and not having them. Warping is the most common issue with outfield fencing and backstops. Most infields are made of sand and generally in good condition, though some have uneven surfaces. Most diamonds have dugouts with covers and bleachers for spectator seating, while about half have scorekeeper boxes in the form of towers. Scoreboards are largely absent. Base cutouts or completely skinned in-fields are the majority. In-infield pitching rubbers, pitcher’s mounds, and base anchors are not consistently present.



Berry Park Ball Diamond: Example of a skinned infield

Figure 28. Outfield Condition

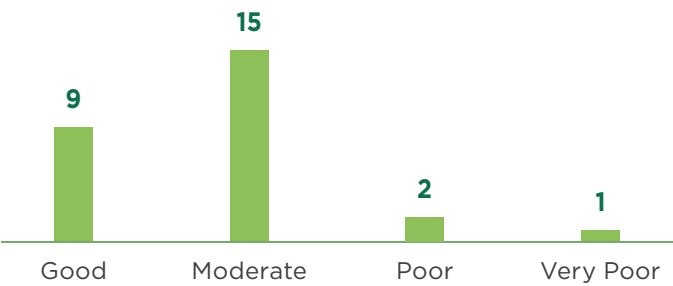


Figure 29. Backstop Condition

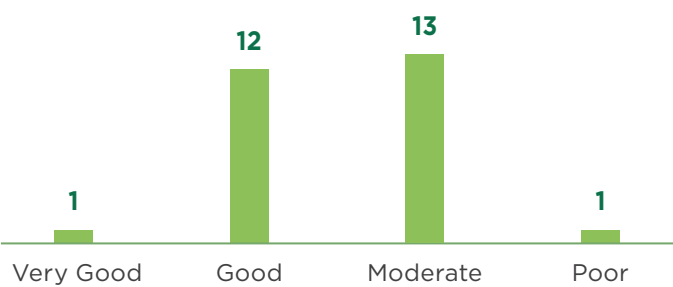
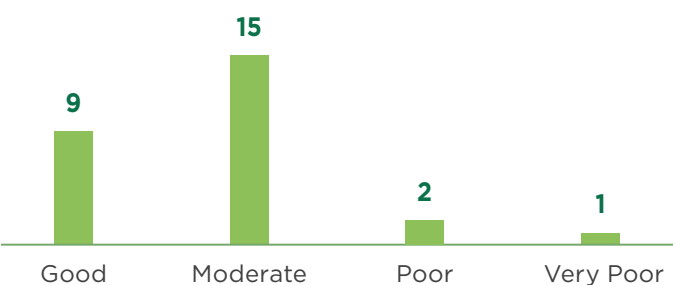


Figure 30. Infield Condition



Pickleball and Tennis Courts

The surfacing and fence conditions of the pickleball and tennis courts were carefully evaluated. Some facilities feature overlapping markings for pickleball, tennis, and even basketball. Overall, most of these courts are rated as good or very good, with most having permanent net structures in place. However, fence conditions were mostly moderate, with loose mesh being a frequent issue. Notably, the courts at Larch Park and Jubilee Park stood out: Larch Park Court is in poor condition and unsuitable for play, whereas Jubilee Park is well maintained and serves as a hub for pickleball with complete amenities.



Jubilee Park: Example of pickleball courts with very good surface condition



Brandner Park: Example of what is considered moderate fence condition

Figure 31. Surface Condition

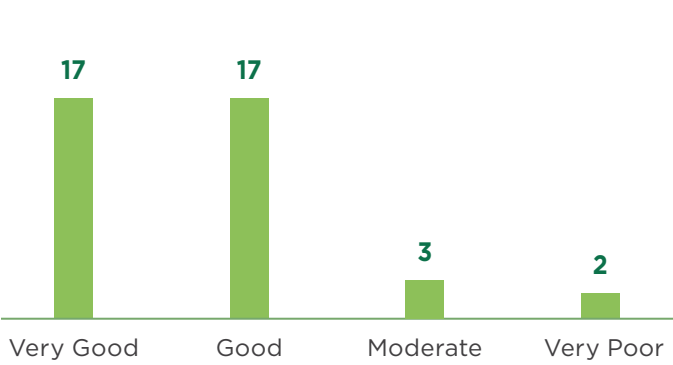
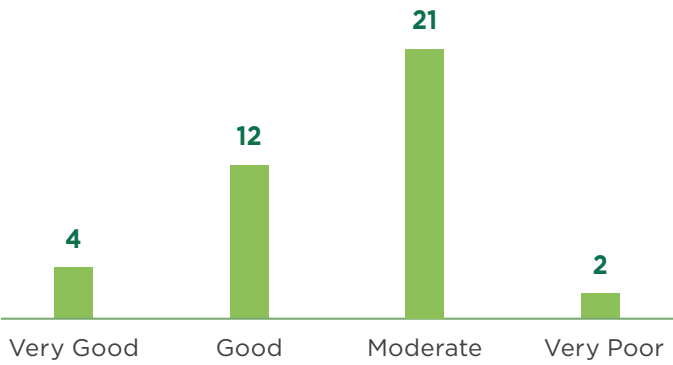


Figure 32. Fence Condition



The court counts used in the graphs above may be duplicates as courts were counted by lines for each activity.

Basketball & Sport Courts

Basketball courts in Abbotsford vary in size, with some being half courts for 3x3, courts that deviated from full court line dimensions and one with an encroachment on the safety zone. There are instances where basketball courts overlap with pickleball or other sports. Issues include mismatched or missing hoops and some courts being difficult to access by foot. About one-third of the courts lack fencing, while the remaining have fences in moderate to good condition, with warped mesh being a common issue. Most court surfaces are in good or moderate condition. Dasher boards are mostly absent, except for four courts where they are in good shape.



Pepin Brook Park: Example of a sport court without fencing



Glenn Mountain Park: Example of a court where lines/equipment overlap

Figure 33. Surface Condition

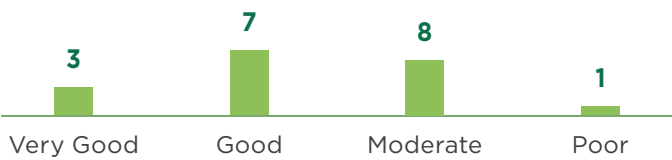
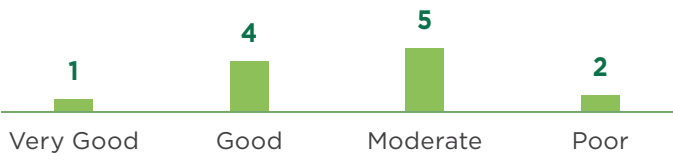


Figure 34. Fence Condition



Ball Hockey & Lacrosse

Abbotsford has two outdoor facilities for ball hockey and lacrosse. Matsqui Village Park features a small, paved surface with scaled-down ball hockey lines, but its condition is poor due to significant cracking. In contrast, Yale Court Park appears to have been recently upgraded with new asphalt and freshly painted lacrosse lines. According to parks operations, ball hockey is also played at Yale Court. Yale Court's ball hockey and lacrosse box facility is enclosed with fencing, dasher boards and has space for spectator seating and storage.



Matsqui Village Park: Example of cracking paved surface and water pooling



Yale Park: Example of the lacrosse box

Sand Volleyball

Abbotsford has two sand volleyball courts, one at Mill Lake Park and the other at Albert Dyck Park. The sand quality was rated as moderate at Mill Lake Park and good at Albert Dyck Park. Both locations had well-maintained posts. However, during the evaluation, the sand pit at Mill Lake Park was waterlogged and showed signs of poor drainage.



Mill Lake Park: Example of poor drainage at sand volleyball courts

Skate Parks

There are 2 skate parks Abbotsford's inventory. MRC and McMillan Park. Both were actively being used at the time of evaluation. MRC concrete appeared to be in good condition, whereas McMillan was deemed moderate. Since the assessment, resurfacing upgrades have been completed at McMillan Park.



McMillan Park: Example of skatepark with some minor surface cracks

BMX Track

The BMX Track in Abbotsford Exhibition Park appears to be in good condition, with spectator seating and BMX towers also available.



Abbotsford Exhibition Park: Example of the BMX track

Lawn Bowling

There is one lawn bowling facility in Abbotsford, it appears to be in good condition. The lawn bowling facility has plenty of benches and a portable trailer as a support building/club house.



Mill Lake Park: Jubilee Lawn Bowling Green

3.7. Utilization Indicators

In this section **booked use** of outdoor sport amenities is analyzed for the past five years. The City of Abbotsford books both City amenities and School District surfaces for community use. The number of amenities noted includes facilities that were booked that year. It can be difficult to understand use of outdoor spaces, as when facilities are not formally booked spontaneous / casual-use of the space occurs. **Note: The sport field classifications used for this analysis are based on the field categories used for permitting, which differ in some cases from the classification used for the inventory analysis in the previous section.*

The analysis presented on the following pages focused in on the following key characteristics of booked use:

- The overall booked time of each field type.
- The amount of time booked on specific days of the week for each field type.
- The amount of booked time by time of day for each field type.
- The amount of time booked by different types of activities (e.g., soccer youth, soccer adult, football, etc.) for each field type.



Capacity Assumptions

Outdoor sport fields and diamonds have recommendations from maintenance providers and field manufacturers regarding maximum use. The following table (Table 15) outlines the maximum permitted hours that were used to calculate field use of the capacity and the rationale. For a definition of the turf types see Section 3.2. Overview of the Inventory

Table 15. Recommended Maximum Permitted Hours

Field Surface Type	Recommended Maximum Permitted Hours	Rationale
Synthetic Turf	3,000 (1,828 Hours Prime)	Synthetic turf maximum hours are based on Manufacturer's Warranty Standard, Sports Turf Canada. Prime hours for synthetic turf fields are 5pm – 10pm on weekdays and 8 am - 8 pm on weekends. This is based on the hours that are most in demand for community use and the fact that school fields are not open for community use until 5 pm on weekdays. A 5% reduction in hours was applied to account for closures for holidays / inclement weather.
Class A Natural Grass Turf – Rectangular Fields	450	425-450 hours represents the industry standard of annual hours of use before field / turf deterioration begins to occur. However, a few other factors are often considered: • The type of soil (e.g. sand, soil, mix, etc.) • The likelihood of bookings that did not actually use the field
Class B Natural Grass Turf - Rectangular Fields	450	285-450 hours represents the industry standard of annual hours of use before field / turf deterioration begins to occur. However, a few other factors are often considered: • The type of soil (e.g. sand, soil, mix, etc.) • The likelihood of bookings that did not actually use the field • Irrigation
Class A Natural Grass Turf – Ball Diamond	600	Ball diamond use patterns are different; primary wear occurs along base lines, bases, and pitchers' area with relatively minimal wear and damage in the outfield turf areas compared to other sports.
Class B Natural Grass Turf – Ball Diamonds	600	Ball diamond use patterns are different; primary wear occurs along base lines, bases, and pitchers' area with relatively minimal wear and damage in the outfield turf areas compared to other sports.

Overview of Total Booked Hours on Rectangular Fields

The following table shows the average annual hours booked over the last 2 years (2023 & 2024), average the number of fields booked and average percentage of total capacity booked of each field type. Subsequent analysis looks at the last 6 years of data, for Table 16. the last two years is used as it represents the most recent picture of use that have not been impacted by public health related disruptions. As reflected in Table 16, there is a significant difference between the booking levels for the different types of fields in the inventory.

Table 16. Overview of the Average Booked Hours on Rectangular Fields (2023 & 2024)

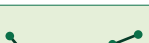
Rectangular Fields	Synthetic Turf Fields*	Mini Synthetic Turf Fields	Class A Natural Grass Fields	Class B Natural Grass Fields	Cricket
Number of Fields	3.5	3	22	25	1.5
Hours Available	6,398	9,000	9,900	11,250	900
Hours Booked	5,308	1,881	9,072	3,127	501
Percentage Booked of Capacity	84%	21%	92%	28%	55%

**Prime hours is used for synthetic turf only.*

Synthetic Turf Rectangular Fields

The City manages community use of both the City and the School Districts owned synthetic turf fields. Four of the five synthetic turf fields are owned by the School District. The following table provides the total and prime hours available, hours booked, and the percentage of capacity booked of the synthetic turf fields from 2019 – 2024. Over the last two years, approximately 60% of available time on synthetic turf fields was booked, suggested that there is capacity for more bookings. However, when looking more closely at bookings during prime time hours, the majority of synthetic field time has been consumed in recent years.

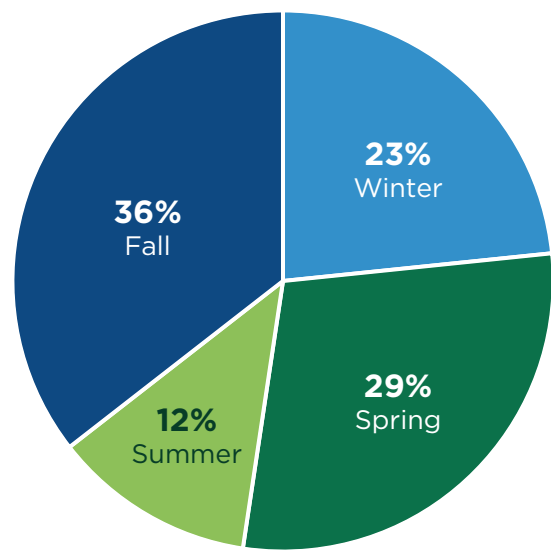
Table 17. Booked Use of the Synthetic Turf Rectangular Fields 2019 - 2024

Synthetic Turf Fields	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend Line
Number of Fields	5	5	4	4	3	4	
Maximum Hours Available	15,000	15,000	12,000	12,000	9,000	12,000	
Prime Hours Available	9,140	9,140	7,312	7,312	5,484	7,312	
Hours Booked	6,297	3,502	4,906	4,963	5,527	7,071	
Prime Hours Booked	5,638	3,219	4,229	4,557	4,946	5,670	
Percentage Booked of Total Capacity	42%	23%	41%	41%	61%	59%	
Percentage Booked of Prime Capacity	62%	35%	58%	62%	90%	78%	

Bookings by Season

On average, synthetic turf fields are booked most often in the shoulder seasons (e.g. spring and fall).

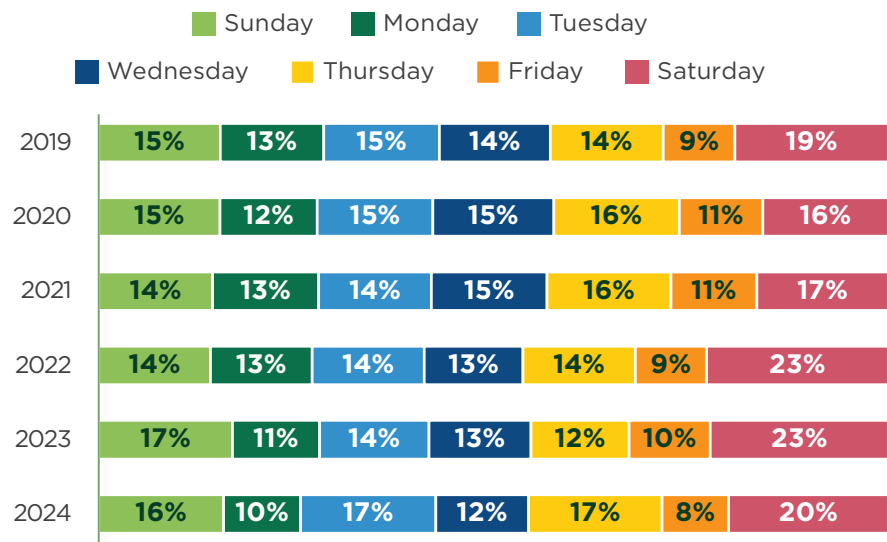
Figure 35. Proportion of Synthetic Field Bookings By Season



Bookings by Day of the Week

Synthetic turf field bookings are well distributed throughout the week with Saturdays accommodating the most bookings.

Figure 36. Proportion of Synthetic Field Bookings by Day of the Week

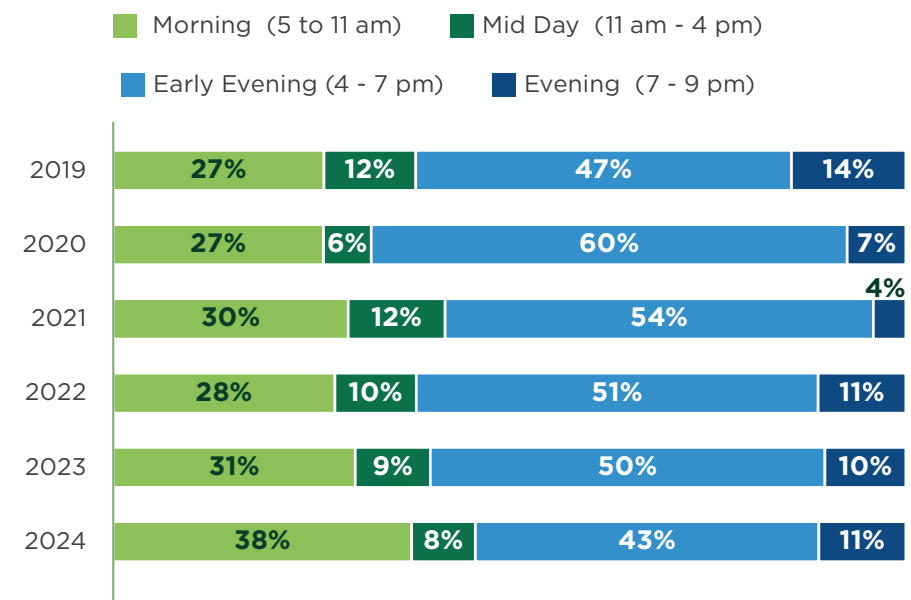


**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Bookings by Time of Day

The majority of bookings on synthetic turf fields start in the early evening (4 – 7 pm). Morning bookings have increase over the last several years and are the second most popular bookings time. All synthetic turf fields are lit; however, bookings after 7 pm only accounted for 10 – 14% of bookings over the last several years.

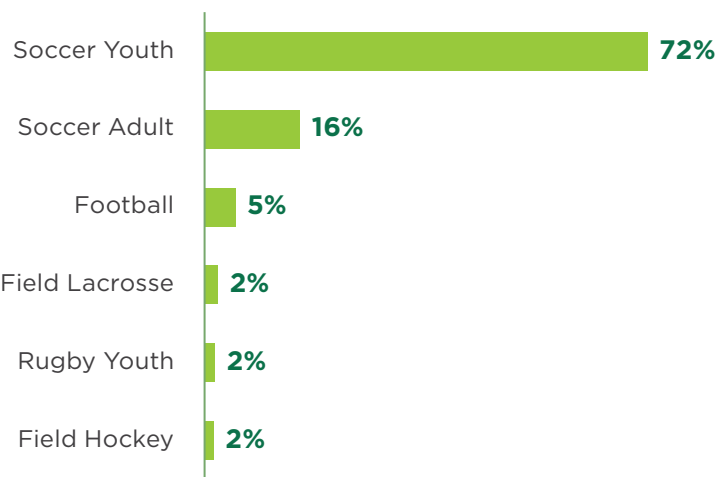
Figure 37. Proportion of Synthetic Turf Bookings by Start Time



Types of Activities Booked

A variety of activities are played on synthetic turf fields, however on average soccer (youth and adult) books the most time by activity type (88%).

Figure 38. Proportion of Bookings on Synthetic Turf By Activity



Mini Synthetic Turf Fields

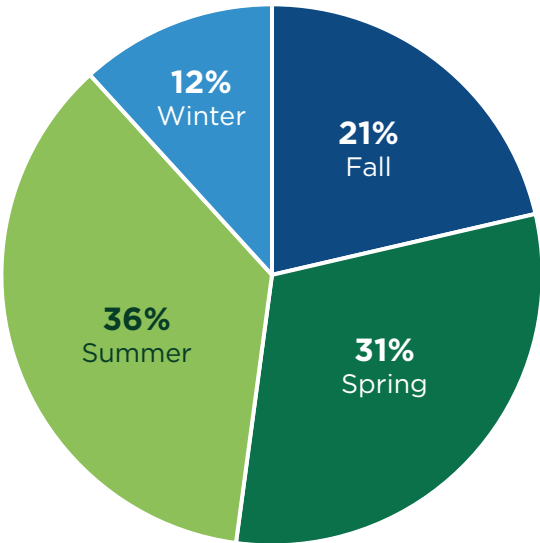
The mini synthetic turf fields are located at the same location as three of the five synthetic turf fields. These fields are primarily booked in conjunction with full size fields. The following table provides the hours available, hours booked, and the percentage of capacity booked of the mini synthetic turf fields from 2019 – 2024. Over the last two years, approximately 20-25% of available time on mini synthetic turf fields were booked, suggested that there is capacity for more bookings.

Mini Synthetic Turf Fields	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend Line
Number of Fields	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Hours Available	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	
Hours Booked	200	45	257	1,881	1,579	2,183	
Percentage Booked of Capacity	2%	1%	3%	21%	18%	24%	

Bookings by Season

On average mini synthetic turf fields are booked most often in the spring (31%) and summer (36%).

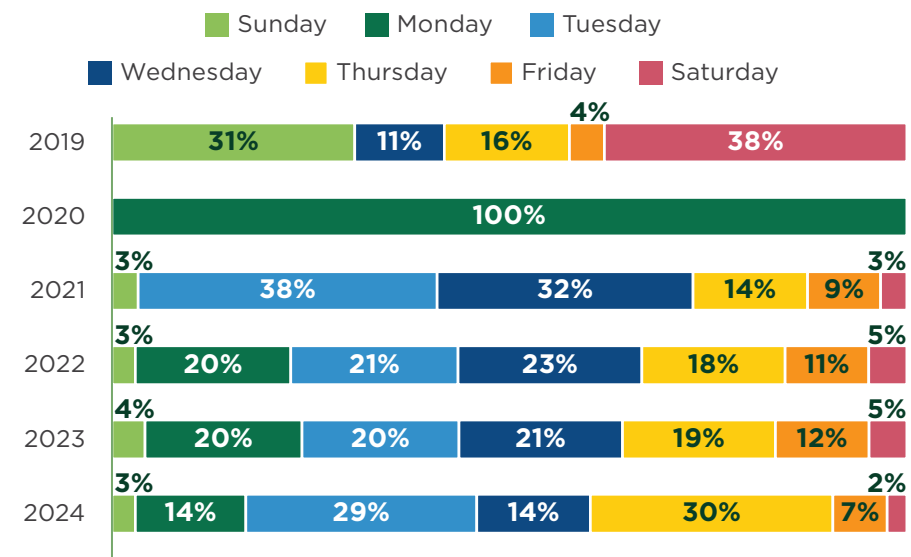
Figure 39. Proportion of Mini Synthetic Field Bookings By Season



Bookings by Day of the Week

Bookings on mini-fields by day of the week appear to vary from year to year. In 2024, Tuesdays and Thursdays represented the most used days of the week for this field type.

Figure 40. Proportion of Bookings by Day of the Week on Mini Synthetic Fields

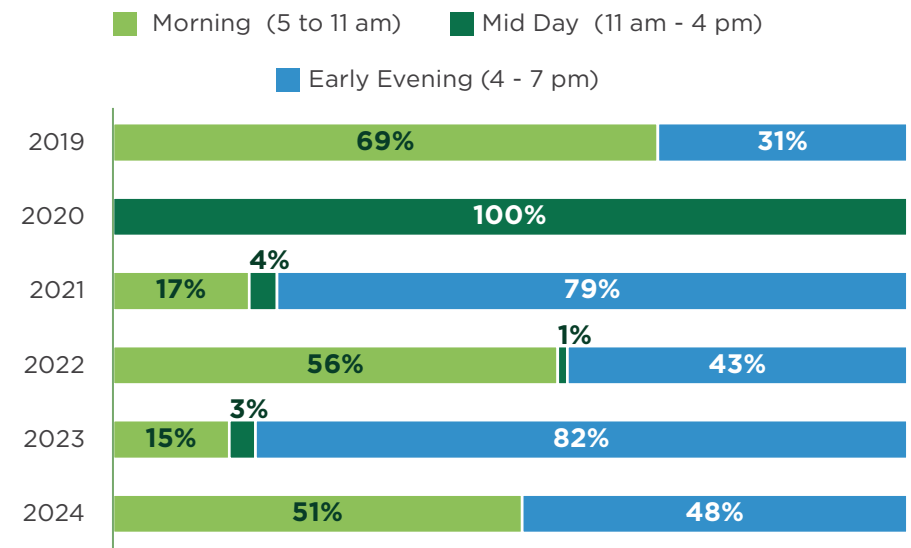


**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Bookings by Time of Day

In recent years, bookings on mini synthetic turf fields start in the morning (5 - 11 am) (51%). However, in years prior (2019-2023) the early evening bookings have been more prevalent (2023 & 2021).

Figure 41. Proportion of Mini Synthetic Turf Bookings by Start Time

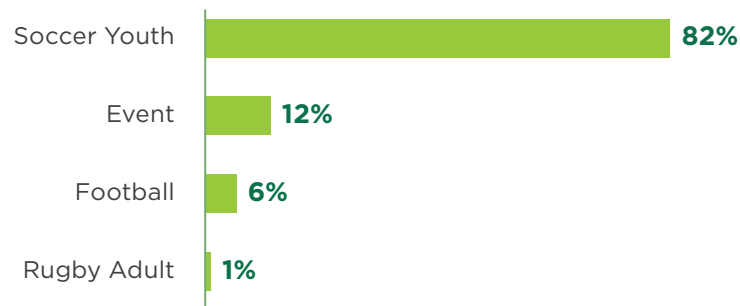


**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Types of Activities Booked

On average youth soccer (82%), events (12%) and football (6%) are the most booked activities on the mini synthetic turf.

Figure 42. Proportion of Activity Bookings on Mini Synthetic Turf



Class A Grass Natural Turf Rectangular Fields

The City manages community use of both the City and the School Districts owned Class A fields. The following table provides the hours available, hours booked, and the percentage of capacity booked on the Class A fields from 2019 – 2024. This table includes both city and school owned fields. Class A fields are highly used, and in 2024 were booked beyond the recommended capacity which impacts the condition of the turf and may result in additional maintenance procedures that could impact the following season of play.

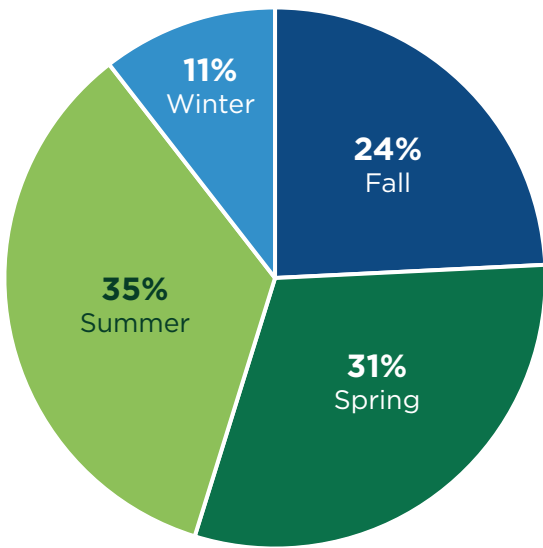
Table 18. Booked Use of Class A Rectangular Fields 2019 - 2024

Class A Rectangular Fields	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend Line
Number of Fields	19	18	20	21	22	22	
Hours Available	8,550	8,100	9,000	9,450	9,900	9,900	
Hours Booked	7,322	2,708	4,589	7,855	8,417	9,973	
Percentage Booked of Capacity	86%	33%	51%	83%	85%	101%	

Bookings by Season

Class A fields are booked most often in spring (31%) and summer (35%).

Figure 43. Proportion of Class A Rectangular Field Bookings By Season

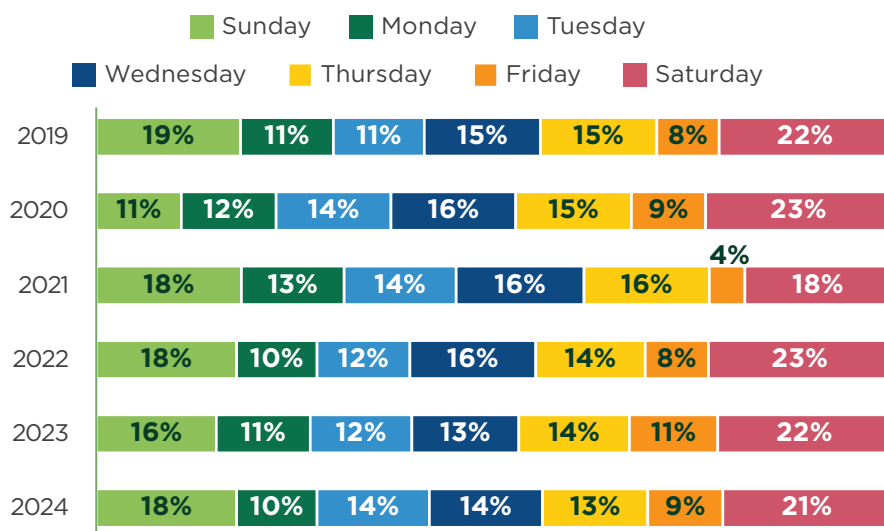


**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Bookings by Day of the Week

Class A field bookings are well distributed throughout the week with Saturdays and Sundays accommodating the most bookings.

Figure 44. Proportion of Bookings by Day of the Week on Class A Rectangular Fields

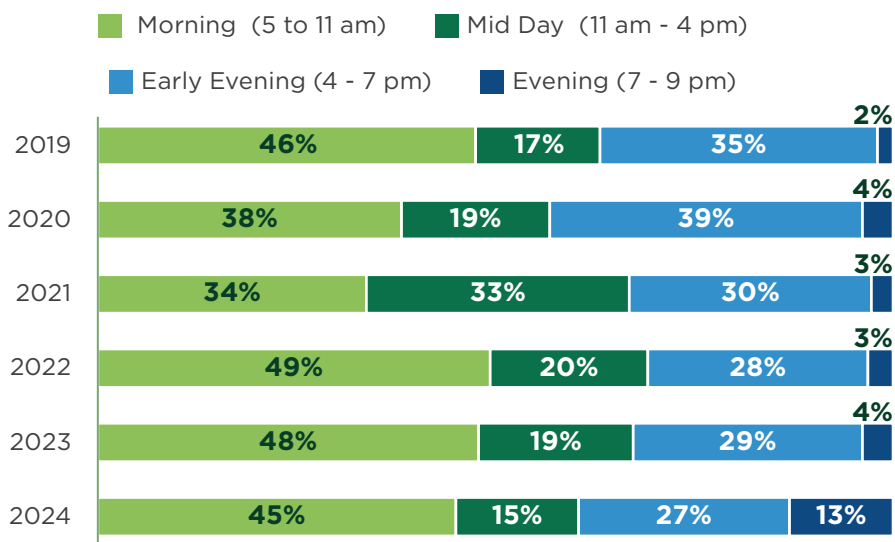


**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Bookings by Time of Day

Bookings on Class A fields start in the mornings the most often followed by the early evening. Recently, evening bookings have increased as a proportion of all bookings.

Figure 45. Proportion of Class A Rectangular Field Bookings by Start Time

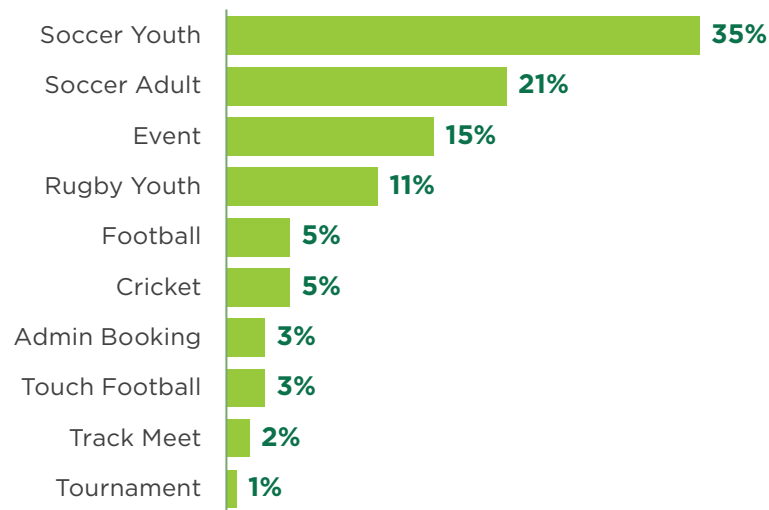


**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Types of Activities Booked

Class A fields are booked for soccer the most often. Youth soccer (36%), adults soccer (21%) and events (16%) account for the highest proportions of bookings on this field type.

Figure 46. Proportion of Activity Bookings on Class A Rectangular Fields



Bookings on City vs. School Class A Fields

The majority of Class A fields booked by the City are for City owned fields. In 2024, 15 City fields and 3 School fields were booked. City owned fields were booked beyond the recommended capacity (133% of capacity), while school owned fields were booked less than a quarter of their total capacity (23%).

Table 19. City vs School Fields Bookings 2024

Class A Rectangular Fields	City Owned	School Owned
Number of Fields	15	3
Hours Available	6,750	1,350
Hours Booked	8,970	311
Percentage Booked of Capacity	133%	23%

Class B Grass Natural Turf Rectangular Fields

The City manages community use of both the City and the School Districts owned Class B fields. The following table provides the hours available, hours booked, and the percentage of capacity booked on the Class B fields from 2019 – 2024. This table includes both city and school owned fields. There is considerable capacity for additional bookings on Class B fields, on average 28% of capacity is booked (post COVID 19 pandemic).

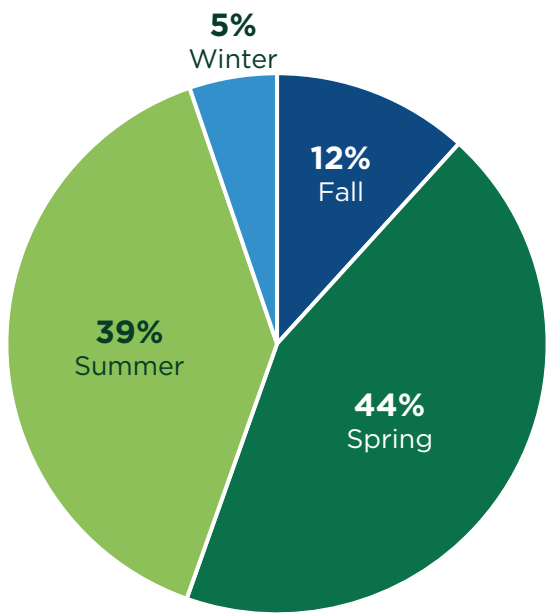
Table 20. Booked Use of Class B Rectangular Fields 2019 - 2024

Class B Rectangular Fields	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend Line
Number of Fields	24	10	15	18	26	24	
Hours Available	10,800	4,500	6,750	8,100	11,700	10,800	
Hours Booked	1,544	367	1,786	3,391	3,477	2,778	
Percentage Booked of Capacity	14%	8%	26%	42%	30%	26%	

Bookings by Season

Class B Fields are booked most often in the spring (44%) and summer (39%) months.

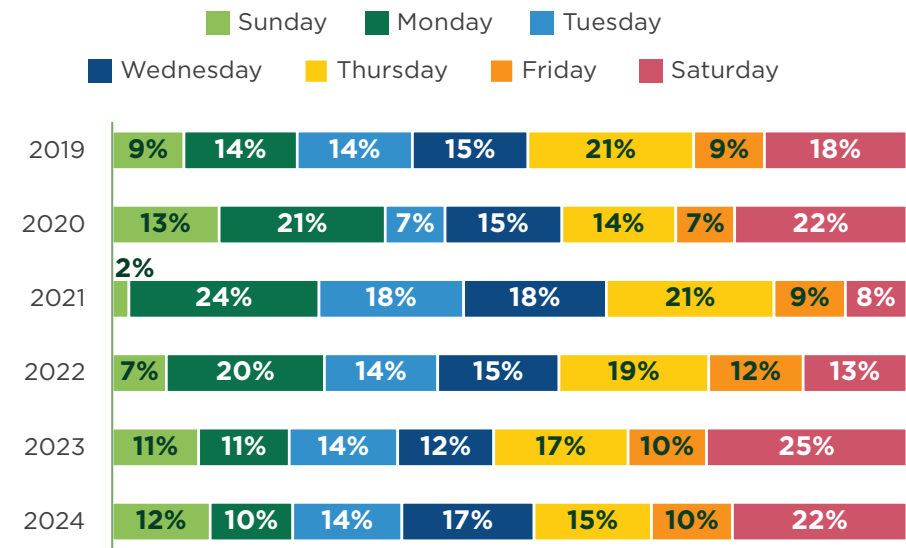
Figure 47. Proportion of Class B Rectangular Fields Bookings By Season



Bookings by Day of the Week

The proportion of Class B field bookings on specific days a week have varied year to year but generally are balanced throughout the week, with more bookings on Saturdays.

Figure 48. Proportion of Bookings by Day of the Week on Class B Rectangular Fields

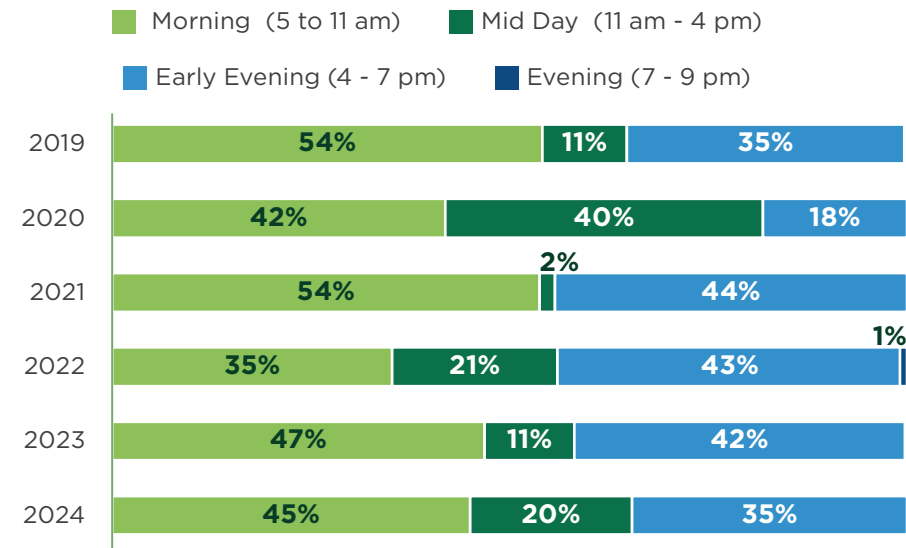


**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Bookings by Time of Day

Class B field bookings start most often in the morning. The early evening bookings make the up the next highest proportion of bookings.

Figure 49. Proportion of Class B Rectangular Fields Bookings by Start Time

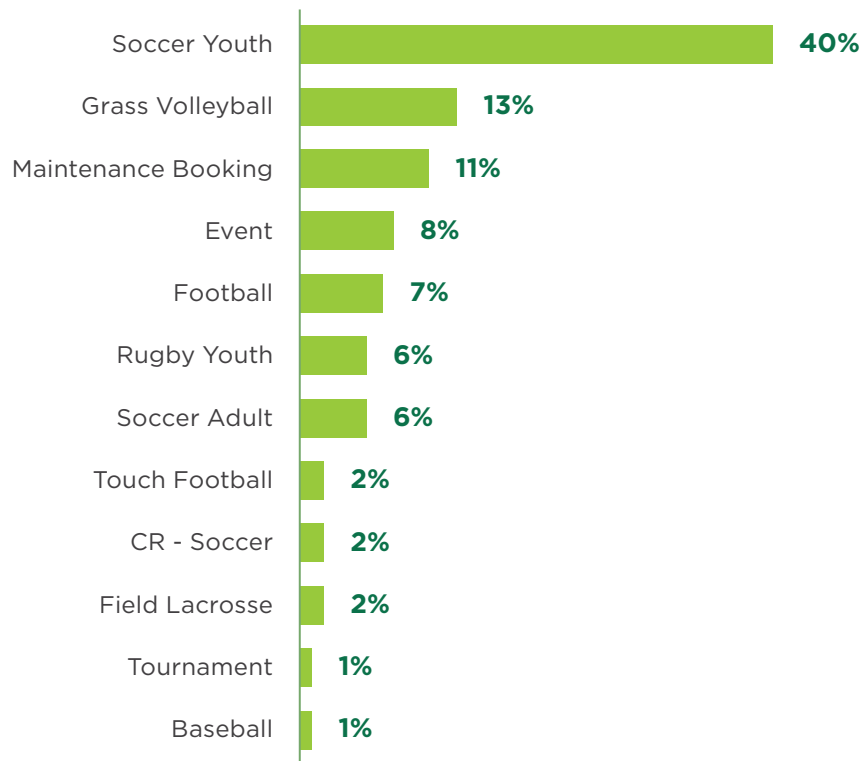


**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Types of Activities Booked

Class B fields are booked for soccer the most often. Youth soccer (40%), grass volleyball (13%) and maintenance bookings (11%) account for the highest proportions of bookings.

Figure 50. Proportion of Activity Bookings on Class B Rectangular Fields



Bookings on City vs. School Class B Fields

The majority of Class B fields booked by the City are school owned fields. In 2024, 4 City fields and 20 School fields were booked. City owned fields are booked more often than school fields; the four City owned fields account for 50% of the total bookings.

Table 21. City vs School Fields Bookings 2024

Class B Rectangular Fields	City Owned	School Owned
Number of Fields	4	20
Hours Available	1,800	9,000
Hours Booked	1,375	1,403
Percentage Booked of Capacity	76%	16%

Cricket Fields

The following table provides the hours available, hours booked, and the percentage of capacity booked on the Cricket fields from 2019 - 2024. One field is owned by the City and the other the school district. This table includes both city and school owned fields. There is capacity for additional bookings on cricket fields, however both of these fields overlap with rectangular fields which may impact when they are booked. All of the bookings were for cricket.

Table 22. Booked Use of Cricket Fields 2019 - 2024

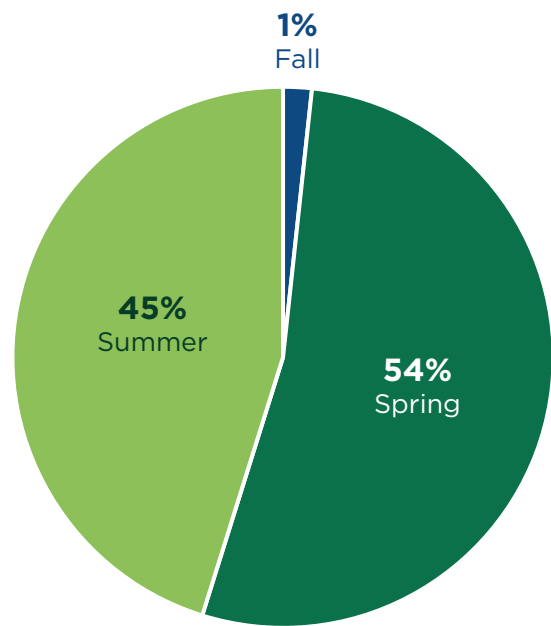
Cricket	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend Line
Number of Fields	2	2	2	2	2	
Hours Available	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	
Hours Booked	661	603	966	686	808	
Percentage Booked of Capacity	55%	50%	81%	57%	67%	



Bookings by Season

Cricket fields are booked most often in spring (53%) and summer (45%).

Figure 51. Proportion of Cricket Field Bookings By Season

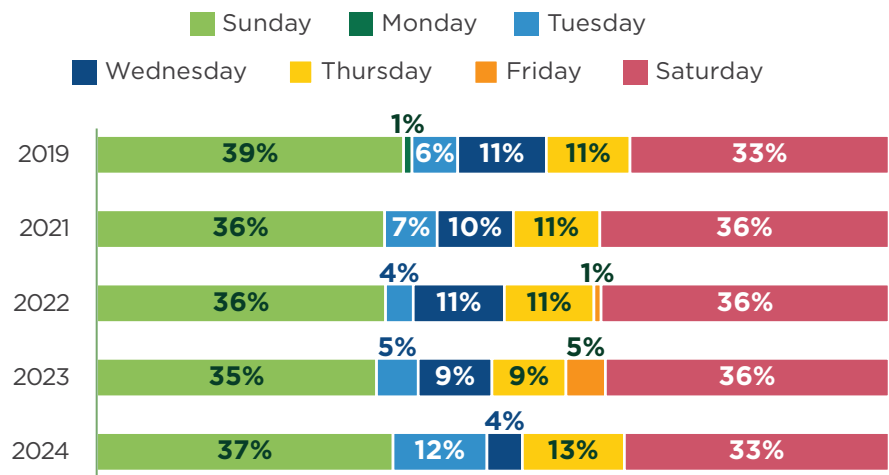


**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Bookings by Day of the Week

The majority of bookings on cricket fields take place on the weekends (66%).

Figure 52. Proportion of Cricket Field Bookings by Day of the Week



**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Key Findings from the Rectangular Field Analysis

The following table summarizes the key findings from the bookings analysis of rectangular fields.

Field Type	Utilization Ranking	Rational and Other Key Findings
Synthetic Turf Fields	Highly Booked (75 - 100%+ booked of prime capacity)	- On average over the last two years (2023 & 2024) synthetic turf fields were booked to 60% of their total capacity and 84% of prime capacity. - The highest proportions of bookings take place during the spring (29%) and fall (36%). - Most bookings take place in the evenings (50 - 60%). - Soccer bookings make up the majority of the activities booked on synthetic turf fields.
Mini Synthetic Turf Fields	Low Bookings (0 - 25% booked of capacity)	- On average over the last two years (2023 & 2024) the mini synthetic turf fields were booked to 21% of their total capacity. - On average mini synthetic turf fields are booked most often in the spring (31%) and summer (36%). - Mini synthetic turf fields are booked most often by youth soccer organizations (82%).
Class A Natural Grass Fields	Highly Booked (75 - 100%+ booked of capacity)	- In 2024 Class A fields were booked beyond their recommended capacity (101%). - City owned fields were booked beyond the recommended capacity (133% of capacity), while school owned fields were booked less than a quarter of their total capacity (23%). - Recently, evening bookings have accommodated a higher proportion of bookings, however the majority of bookings begin in the mornings.
Class B Natural Grass Fields	Low - Moderately Booked (25 - 50%)	- There is capacity for additional bookings on Class B fields, on average 28% of capacity is booked (post COVID-19 pandemic). 4 City fields and 20 School fields were booked. City owned fields are booked more often than school fields; the four City owned fields account for 50% of the total bookings. The four City owned fields were booked to 76% of their capacity.
Cricket Fields	Moderately Booked (50 - 75% booked of capacity)	- There is capacity for additional bookings on Cricket fields, however both of the fields overlap with rectangular fields which may impact booking those spaces. - All of the bookings were for Cricket activities. - Majority of the bookings took place on the weekends (72%).

Overview of Total Booked Hours on Ball Diamonds

The following table shows the average annual hours booked over the last 2 years (2023 & 2024), average the number of diamonds booked and average percentage of total capacity booked of each surface type. As reflected in Table 23, there is a significant difference between the booking levels for the different types of fields in the inventory.

Table 23. Overview of the Average Booked Hours on Rectangular Fields (2023 & 2024)

Ball Diamonds	Synthetic Turf Diamond	Class A Natural Turf Ball Diamond	Class B Natural Turf Ball Diamond
Number of Diamonds	1	15	16
Hours Available	3,000	9,000	9,600
Hours Booked	566	9,449	3,127
Percentage Booked of Capacity	19%	105%	33%

Synthetic Turf Ball Diamond

The following table provides the hours available, hours booked, and the percentage of capacity booked of on the synthetic turf ball diamond located at Grant Park from 2021 - 2024. Over the last two years, approximately 19% of available time on the synthetic turf diamond was booked, suggested that there is capacity for more bookings.

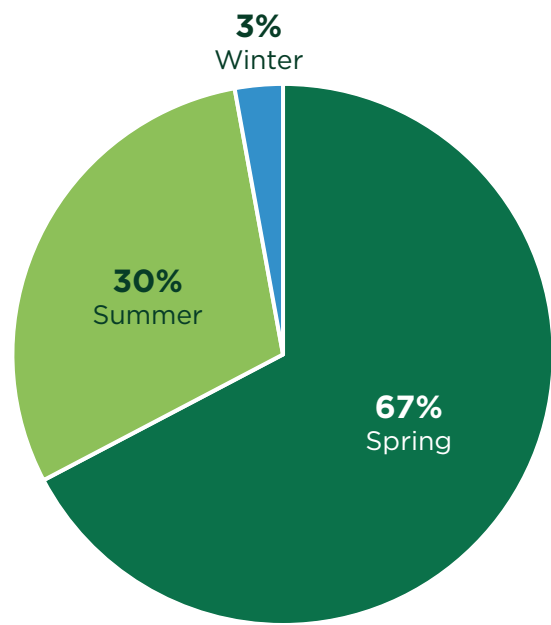
Table 24. Booked Use of the Synthetic Turf Ball Diamond 2021 - 2024

Synthetic Turf Diamond	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend Line
Number of Diamonds	1	1	1	1	
Hours Available	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Hours Booked	253	467	732	400	
Percentage Booked of Capacity	8%	16%	24%	13%	

Bookings by Season

The majority of bookings occurred during the winter months (67%).

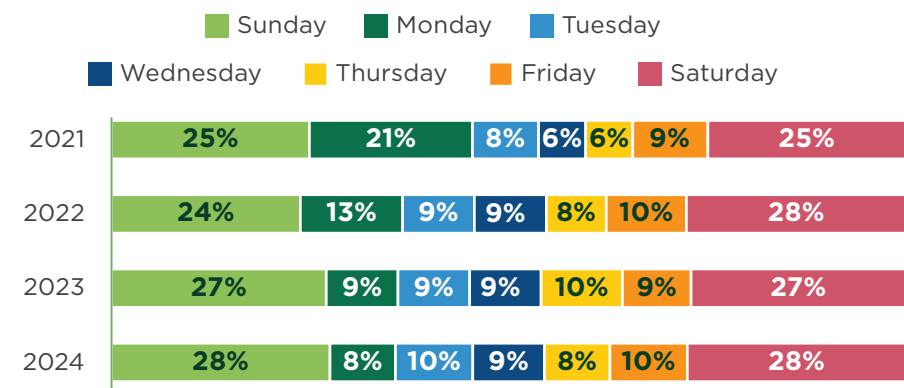
Figure 53. Proportion of Synthetic Diamond Bookings By Season



Bookings by Day of the Week

The majority bookings took place on the weekends (56% in 2024).

Figure 54. Proportion of Bookings by Day of the Week on Synthetic Turf Ball Diamonds



**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Time of Day & Types of Activities Booked

In 2024, the Abbotsford Angels Hardball Association was the only group to book the diamond. Weekend bookings began in the morning and weekday books began in the early evening.

Class A Grass Natural Turf Ball Diamonds

The following table provides the hours available, hours booked, and the percentage of capacity booked on the Class A fields from 2019 – 2024. This table does not include school owned diamonds. Class A diamonds are highly used, and in 2024 were booked close to capacity.

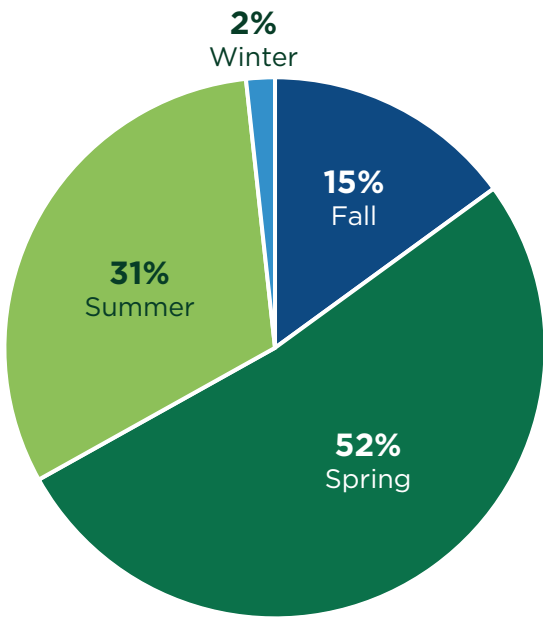
Table 25. Booked Use of Class A Ball Diamonds 2019 - 2024

Class A Ball Diamonds	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend Line
Number of Diamonds	15	9	15	15	15	15	
Hours Available	9,000	5,400	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	
Hours Booked	6,742	2,990	6,805	8,065	10,665	8,232	
Percentage Booked of Capacity	75%	55%	76%	90%	119%	91%	

Bookings by Season

Over half of the bookings take place during the spring months (52%). 31% of bookings take place during the summer. 15% of bookings take place during the fall. 2% of bookings take place during the winter.

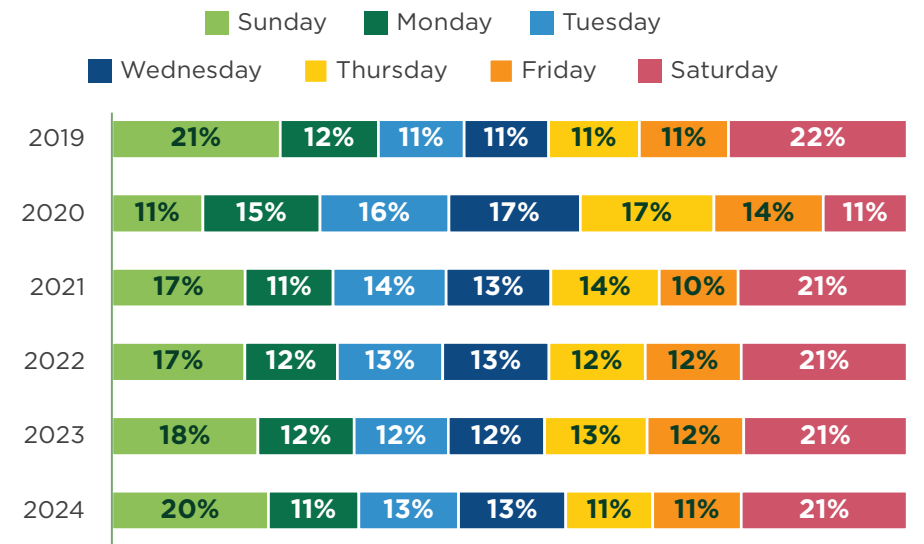
Figure 55. Proportion of Class A Ball Diamonds Bookings By Season



Bookings by Day of the Week

In 2024, 41% of bookings took place on the weekend.

Figure 56. Proportion of Bookings by Day of the Week on Class A Ball Diamonds

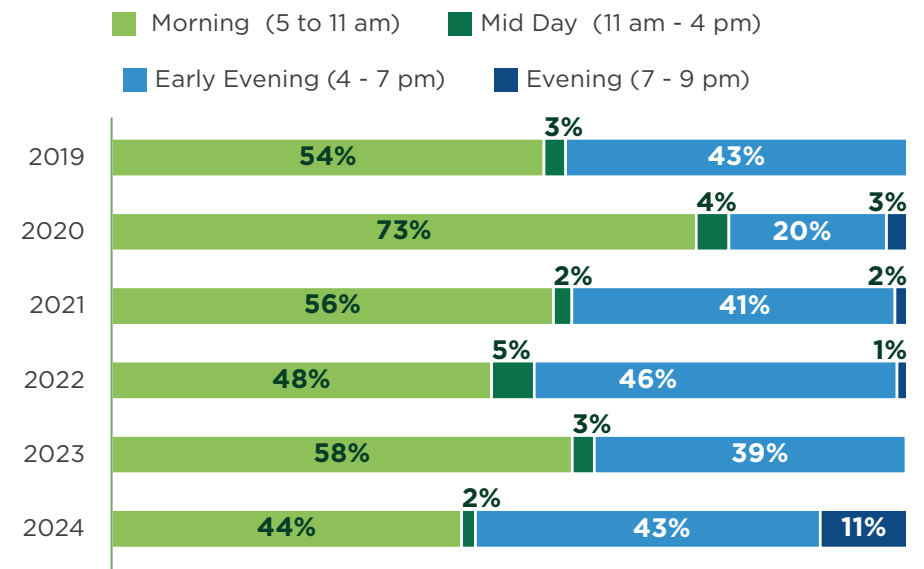


**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Bookings by Time of Day

Majority of bookings started in the evening (54%) or the mornings (44%).

Figure 57. Proportion of Class A Ball Diamonds Bookings by Start Time

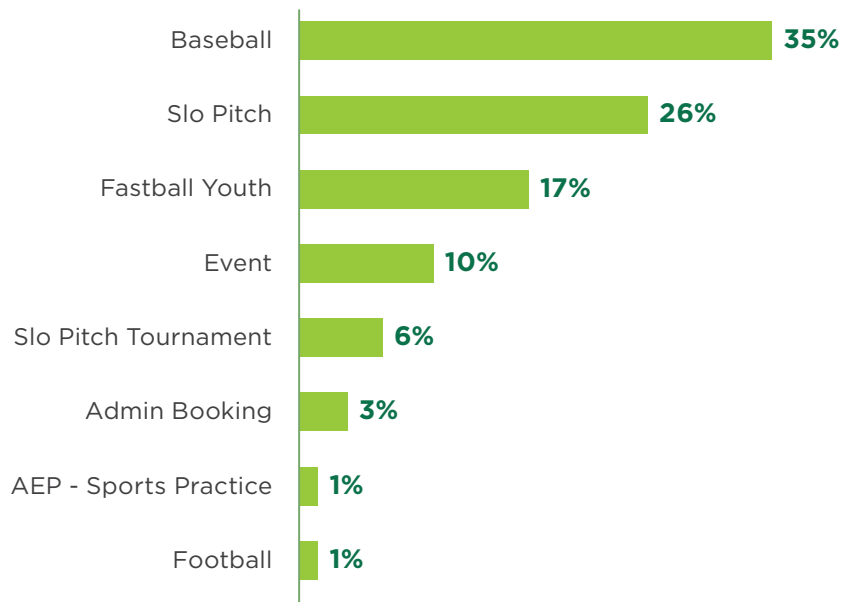


**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Types of Activities Booked

The top types of activities booked on Class A diamonds include baseball (35%), slo-pitch (26%) and youth fastball (17%).

Figure 58. Proportion of Activity Bookings on Class A Ball Diamonds



Class B Grass Natural Turf Ball Diamonds

The City manages community use of both the City and the School Districts owned Class B diamonds. The following table provides the hours available, hours booked, and the percentage of capacity booked on the Class B diamonds from 2019 – 2024. This table includes both city and school owned fields. There is considerable capacity for additional bookings on Class B diamonds, on average 33% of capacity is booked (2023 & 2024).

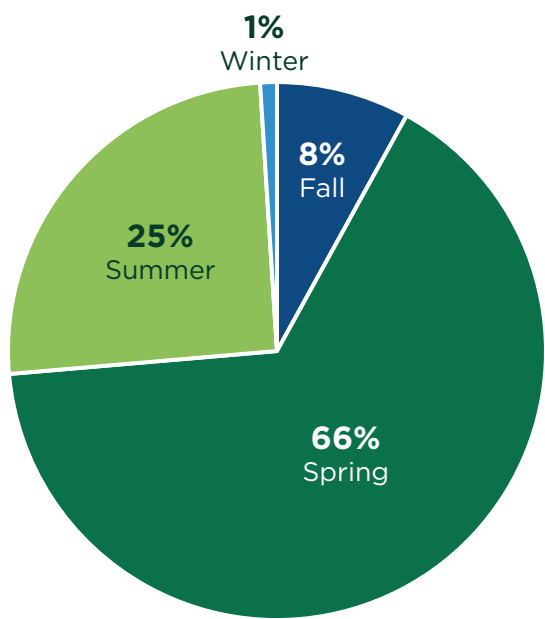
Table 26. Booked Use of Class B Ball Diamonds 2019 - 2024

Class B Ball Diamonds	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend Line
Number of Diamonds	14	8	12	14	15	17	
Hours Available	8,400	4,800	7,200	8,400	9,000	10,200	
Hours Booked	1,544	367	1,786	3,391	3,477	2,778	
Percentage Booked of Capacity	18%	8%	25%	40%	39%	27%	

Bookings by Season

Class B diamonds are booked most often in the spring (66%), followed by the summer (25%)

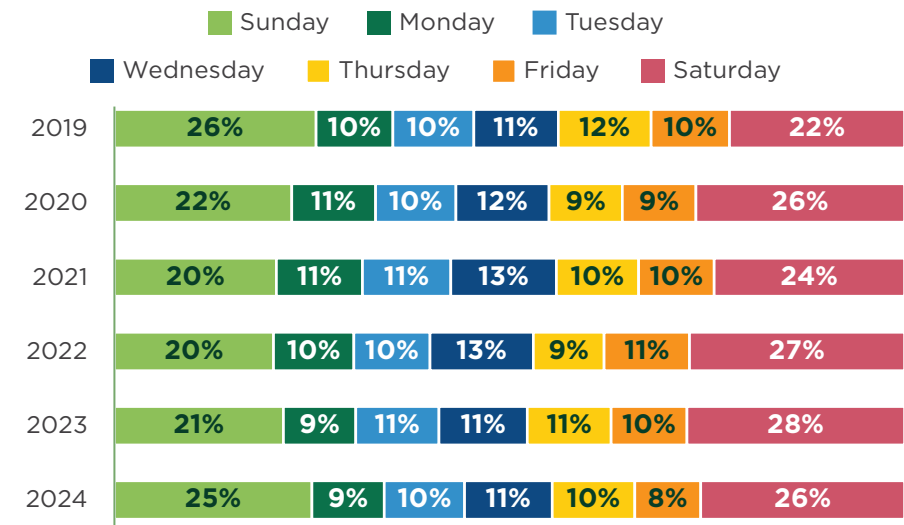
Figure 59. Proportion of Class B Ball Diamonds Bookings By Season



Bookings by Day of the Week

About half of bookings took place on the weekends (51%). While the other ~50% of bookings were evenly distributed among the weekdays.

Figure 60. Proportion of Bookings by Day of the Week on Class B Ball Diamonds

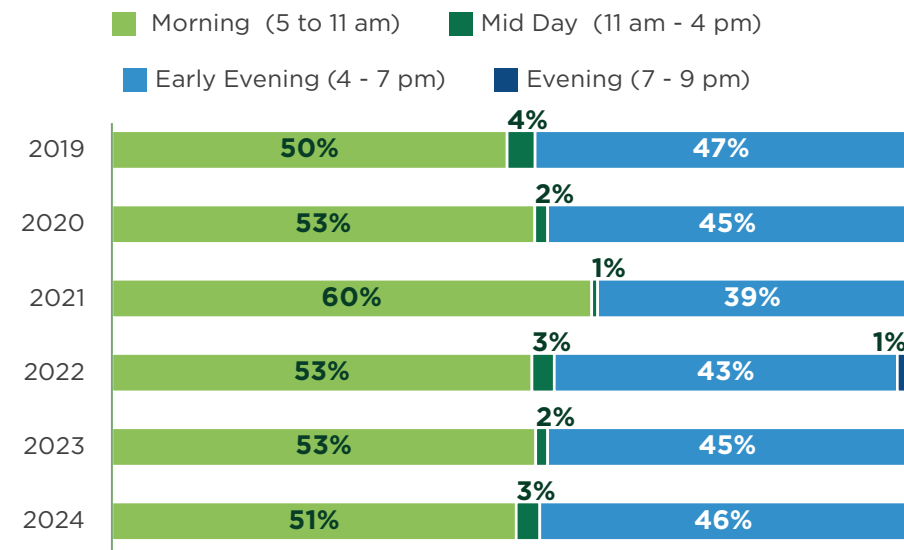


**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Bookings by Time of Day

In 2024, just over half of bookings start in the morning (51%), while evening bookings are not far behind (46%).

Figure 61. Proportion of Class B Ball Diamonds Bookings by Start Time

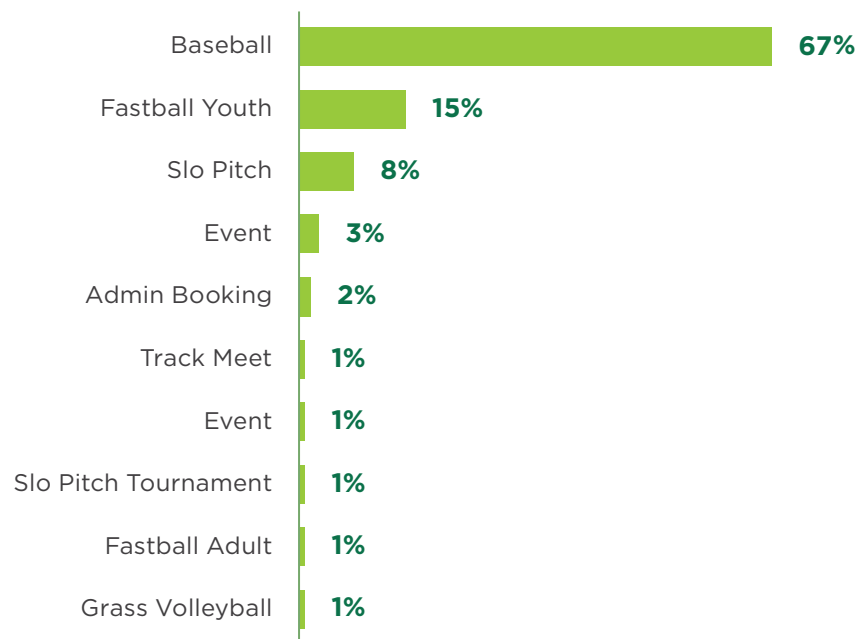


**The percentages in the above graph do not add to 100% as a result of decimal values <0.5%.*

Types of Activities Booked

Baseball (67%), youth fastball (15%),and slo- pitch (8%) are on average the most booked activities on Class B ball diamonds.

Figure 62. Proportion of Activity Bookings on Class B Ball Diamonds



Bookings on City vs. School Class B Ball Diamonds

The majority of Class B fields booked by the City are City owned diamonds. In 2024,9 City diamonds and 8 School fields were booked. City owned diamonds were booked more often than school owned diamonds. 93% of all bookings took place on City diamond. City owned diamonds were booked to 73% of the available capacity while school owned diamonds were booked only 6% of their available capacity.

Table 27. City Diamonds vs School Fields Bookings 2024

Class B Ball Diamonds	City Owned Diamonds 2024	School District Owned Diamonds 2024
Number of Diamonds	9	8
Hours Available	5,400	4,800
Hours Booked	3,924	280
Percentage Booked of Capacity	73%	6%

Key Findings from the Ball Diamonds Analysis

The following table summarizes the key findings from the bookings analysis of ball diamonds.

Table 28. Key Findings from the Ball Diamonds Analysis

Field Type	Utilization Ranking	Rational and Other Key Findings
Synthetic Turf Diamonds	Low Bookings (0 – 25% booked of capacity)	• On average over the last two years (2023 & 2024) synthetic turf fields were booked to 19% of their total capacity. • The highest proportions of bookings take place during the spring (52%) and summer (31%). • Only one user group booked a synthetic diamond in 2024.
Class A Natural Turf Ball Diamonds	Highly Booked (75 – 100%+ booked of capacity)	• On average over the last two years (2023 & 2024) Class A ball diamonds were booked beyond their recommended capacity (105%). • Over half of the bookings take place during the spring months (52%). 31% of bookings take place during the summer. • In 2024, 41% of bookings took place on the weekend.
Class B Natural Turf Ball Diamonds	Low - Moderately Booked (25 – 50%)	• On average over the last two years (2023 & 2024) Class B ball diamonds were booked to 33% of their total capacity. • About half of bookings took place on the weekends (51%). While the other ~50% of bookings were evenly distributed among the weekdays. • 93% of all bookings took place on City diamonds. City owned diamonds were booked to 73% of the available capacity while school owned diamonds were booked only 6% of their available capacity.

Courts and Other Amenity Utilization

Court spaces and other outdoor amenities such as track and field amenities, skateboard parks, BMX tracks can be booked for community use but are often predominantly used on a drop-in/ casual basis by the public (spontaneous use). Courts and other outdoor amenities can be booked anytime during park operating hours, however each court realistically is in demand between 3:00 – 9:00 pm on weekdays (with the exception of pickleball use) and 9:00 am – 9:00 pm on weekends or some similar variation (6 hours a day on weekdays and 12 hours a day on weekends), which is approximately 2,600 hours annually per court space.

The following tables outline the hours booked at courts and other amenities in Abbotsford. When booked use exceeds around 10% of bookable capacity further analysis is provided.

Booked Court Use

Prior to 2020, tennis courts were mainly booked by the Abbotsford Tennis Club, however bookings have decreased post COVID 19 pandemic, and the club no longer books the courts. Pickleball courts experienced an increase in bookings in 2023 due to event bookings at the courts but are not booked anywhere near capacity. The other court spaces identified in table were booked minimally over the last six years.

Table 29. Booked Court Use 2019 - 2024

Booked Court Use	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend Line
Tennis Courts	1,064	774	1,249	6	82	0	
Pickleball Courts	0	125	209	4	690	18	
Sport Courts	0	60	0	0	1	26	
Sand Volleyball Courts	12	0	16	0	0	4	
Basketball Court	8	0	7	43	50	16	

Booked Lacrosse Box Use

The Lacrosse Box located at Yale Court Park, is booked the most often in the spring and summer months and primarily by the City of Abbotsford for events, Abbotsford Minor Lacrosse and the Valley Ball Hockey Association. There is capacity for more bookings, however the court is not lit which may impact evening booking opportunities in the fall and winter months.

Table 30. Lacrosse Box Bookings 2019- 2024

Lacrosse	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend Line
Hours Available	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	
Hours Booked	545	28	97	231	578	1,024	
Percentage Booked of Capacity	21%	1%	4%	9%	22%	39%	



Booked Track Amenity Use

The following table outlines the booked use of the track and hammer throw at Abbotsford Exhibition Park and throwing cage at Clearbrook Park. There was no booked use of the school district track facilities. Most bookings take place during the spring season. The majority of use comes from Track and Field practices and meets. There is room for additional bookings of both facilities but there may be some challenges during peak use periods (spring season, after school hours).

Table 31. Track Bookings 2019- 2024

Track Amenity Bookings	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend Line
Track Hours Available	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	
Track Hours Booked	442	379	439	930	741	453	
Percentage Booked of Capacity	17%	15%	17%	36%	29%	17%	

Table 32. Other Amenities 2019 - 2024

Other Amenities	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend Line
Throwing Cage	189	24	387	245	306	174	
Hammer Throw	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Booked BMX Track Use

The BMX Track at Abbotsford Exhibition Park is well used considering this type of amenity is typically used for casual / non-programmed based use. Cycling Canada BMX National Team and Abbotsford BMX Society accounted for the majority of the booked hours noted in the table below.

Table 33. BMX Track Bookings 2019- 2024

BMX Track	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend Line
BMX Track	206	558	763	1,018	943	415	
Available Hours	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	
Percentage Booked of Capacity	8%	21%	29%	39%	36%	16%	



Key Findings from the Courts and Other Amenity Analysis

The following table summarizes the key findings from the bookings analysis of the court spaces and other amenities.

Table 34. Key Findings from the Courts and Other Amenity Analysis

Field Type	Utilization Ranking	Rational and Other Key Findings
Tennis court	Primarily Drop-In Use Amenity Low Bookings (0 - 25% booked of capacity)	• The tennis courts are primarily used spontaneously. • Prior to 2022 the Abbotsford Tennis Club booked courts regularly but has not done so since.
Pickleball courts	Primarily Drop-In Use Amenity Low Bookings (0 - 25% booked of capacity)	• Pickleball courts are primarily used spontaneously. • The Abbotsford Pickleball Association booked the courts minimally in 2024. • There were limited school and private bookings.
Basketball courts	Primarily Drop-In Use Amenity Low Bookings (0 - 25% booked of capacity)	• Basketball courts are primarily used spontaneously. • City of Abbotsford programs and events used the courts on occasion. • Some private bookings occurred.
Sport Court	Primarily Drop-In Use Amenity Low Bookings (0 - 25% booked of capacity)	• Sport courts are primarily used spontaneously. • Some City of Abbotsford program use occurred.
Sand Volleyball Courts	Primarily Drop-In Use Amenity Low Bookings (0 - 25% booked of capacity)	• Volleyball courts are primarily used spontaneously. • Some school use occurred.
Horseshoe pits	Members Only Amenity	• The Abbotsford Horseshoe Club manages use of the amenity.
Lawn Bowling Green	Members Only Amenity	• Abbotsford Lawn Bowling Club manages use of the amenity.

Field Type	Utilization Ranking	Rational and Other Key Findings
Lacrosse Box	Primarily Drop-In Use Amenity Low - Moderately Booked (25 - 50%)	• Lacrosse box was booked for events and sport use (lacrosse and ball hockey). • Capacity exists for more bookings, lighting this facility may increase the use.
Track	Low - Moderately Booked (25 - 50%)	• The track is primarily booked for track and field meets and practices. • Use is in conjunction with infield use at times. • This facility is used the most during the spring. There is capacity for more bookings annually however, there peak hours (after school) may be more challenging.
Throwing Cage	Low Bookings (0 - 25% booked of capacity)	• This facility is booked by track and athletics user groups. • Likely used more than it is booked.
Hammer Throw	Low Bookings (0 - 25% booked of capacity)	• There was no booked use of this facility. • May be used as part of track bookings.
Skatepark	Primarily Drop-In Use Amenity (0 - 25% booked of capacity)	• This facility is mostly used for drop-in/ spontaneous activities. • There has been some skateboard competitions/ events.
BMX Track	Primarily Drop-In Use Amenity Low - Moderate Bookings (25 - 50% booked of capacity)	• Traditionally BMX Tracks are primarily used spontaneously. • Abbotsford BMX Society uses this facility regularly for events and practices. • Increasingly, BMX, mountain biking and other wheeled sports are included in structured programming.

4. Benchmarking

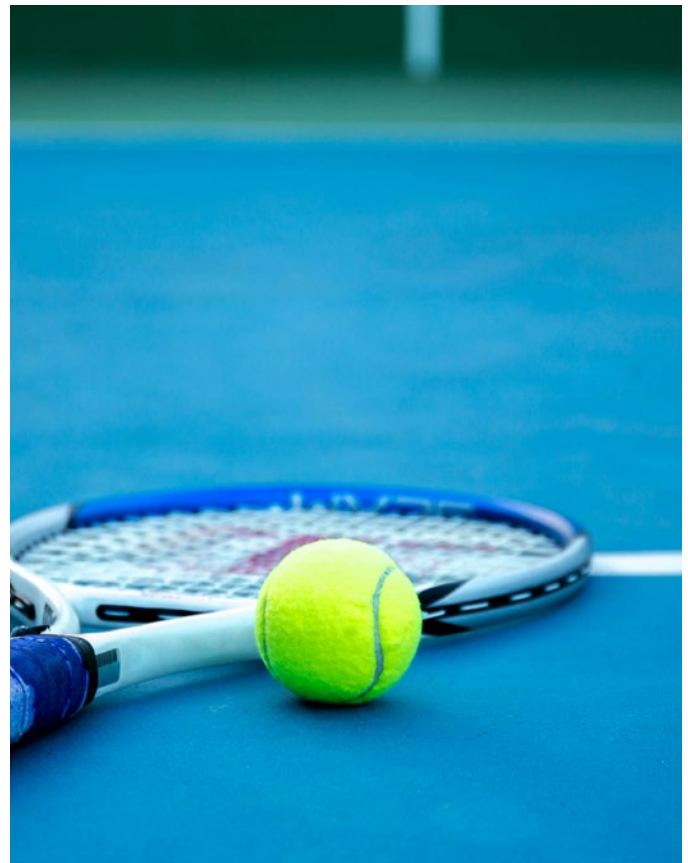


Benchmarking research was undertaken to compare the provision of key outdoor sport amenities in Abbotsford with other jurisdictions. While benchmarking provides a useful input to the broader understanding of service levels, the following contextual factors and limitations also need to be considered.

- Benchmarking looks only at whether an amenity exists in a community and does not capture qualitative factors such as volume of space, age, condition, and functionality.
- Data is gathered from a number of secondary sources, including websites, planning documents (e.g. needs assessments and Master Plans), and local project team contacts. Although efforts are made to ensure accuracy, some margin of error may exist due to a number of factors (e.g. recent additions or subtractions from the inventory, different ways of counting some amenities, etc.).
- A number of different contextual factors impact supply dynamics in every community. These include relationships with the school system, private sector provision (e.g. strength of the private sector fitness market), fundraising capacity, and proximity to other regional centres.

The provision ratio tables (number of residents per unit of provision) reflect a colour coded assessment of service levels relative to comparators:

- **Green** – provided at a higher service level in Abbotsford relative to regional comparators.
- **Red** – provided at a lesser service level in Abbotsford relative to regional comparators. **Only amenities with a significant different in their relative provision ratio (>20%) are categorized as being provided at a “lesser” service level.*
- **Yellow** – provided at a similar service level in Abbotsford relative to regional comparators.



4.1. Sport Field and Ball Diamond Benchmarking

The following two tables show the number of sport field and ball diamonds in regional comparators. The first table notes the number of amenities, and the second table reflects the provision ratio (residents per amenity). **All of the population figures for Tables 35-38 are from Statistics Canada 2021 Census of the Population.*

Table 35. Sport Field and Ball Diamonds Regional Comparison by Amenity Count

Municipality	Population	Rectangular Fields		Ball Diamonds	
		Synthetic Turf	Grass Fields	Synthetic Turf	Grass Diamonds
City of Delta	108,455	5	25	1	41
City of Burnaby	249,125	9	53		60
City of Chilliwack	93,203	3	23		35
City of Coquitlam	148,625	8	35	2	32
City of Port Coquitlam	61,498	2	16		23
City of Richmond	209,937	6	56	1	73
Township of Langley	132,603	13	47	1	54
City of New Westminster	78,916	2	12		16
North Vancouver (City and District fields)	146,288	7	32		39
City of Maple Ridge**	90,990	6	22		22
Average	131,964	6	32	1	40
City of Abbotsford*	153,524	5	25	1	26

**Includes School Synthetic Turf as they are offered in partnership*

***Two synthetic turf fields have ball diamond configurations overlapping with the rectangular fields (Telosky Fields)*

Table 36. Sport Field and Ball Diamonds Regional Comparison by Provision Ratio (Number of Residents per Unit of the Amenity Type)

Municipality	Population	Rectangular Fields		Ball Diamonds	
		Synthetic Turf	Grass Fields	Synthetic Turf	Grass Diamonds
City of Delta	108,455	21,691	4,338	108,455	2,645
City of Burnaby	249,125	27,681	4,700		4,152
City of Chilliwack	93,203	31,068	4,052		2,663
City of Coquitlam	148,625	18,578	4,246	74,313	4,645
City of Port Coquitlam	61,498	30,749	3,844		2,674
City of Richmond	209,937	34,990	3,749	209,937	2,876
Township of Langley	132,603	10,200	2,821	132,603	2,456
City of New Westminister	78,916	39,458	6,576		4,932
North Vancouver (City and District fields)	146,288	20,898	4,572		3,751
City of Maple Ridge	90,990	15,165	4,136		4,136
Average	131,964	25,048	4,303	131,327	3,493
City of Abbotsford*	153,524	30,705	6,141	153,524	5,905

*Includes School Synthetic Turf as they are offered in partnership, does not include school natural grass fields and diamonds.

**Two synthetic turf fields have ball diamond configurations as well (Telosky Fields)

4.2. Courts and Other Amenities

The following two tables show the number of courts and other outdoor sport amenities in regional comparators. The first table notes the number of amenities, and the second table reflects the provision ration (residents per amenity).

Table 37. Courts and Other Sport Amenities Regional Comparison by Amenity Count

Municipality	Population	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Basketball Courts	Sport Courts	Lacrosse Boxes
City of Delta	108,455	37	30		7	2
City of Burnaby	249,125	85	78	23		6
City of Chilliwack	93,203	11	6	4		
City of Coquitlam	148,625	35	35	14	3	1
City of Port Coquitlam	61,498	7	6	2	3	
City of Richmond	209,937	51	9	47		4
Township of Langley	132,603	31	18	9	6	1
City of New Westminster	78,916	22	27	10	1	3
North Vancouver (District and City amenities)	146,288	35	20	39	2	4
City of Maple Ridge	90,990	16	7	19	12	2
Average	131,964	30	21	17	5	3
City of Abbotsford	153,524	13	22	17	15	1

Table 37. (Continued) Courts and Other Sport Amenities Regional Comparison by Amenity Count

Municipality	Population	Sand Volleyball Courts	Horseshoe Pits	BMX Tracks/ Skills Park	Skateboard Parks
City of Delta	108,455	4			3
City of Burnaby	249,125	6	16	1	2
City of Chilliwack	93,203				4
City of Coquitlam	148,625	6			2
City of Port Coquitlam	61,498			1	1
City of Richmond	209,937	2	4	2	3
Township of Langley	132,603	8	2	1	5
City of New Westminster	78,916			2	2
North Vancouver (District and City amenities)	146,288	2		2	5
City of Maple Ridge	90,990	1		3	1
Average	131,964	4	7	2	3
City of Abbotsford	153,524	3	24	1	2



Table 37. (Continued) Courts and Other Sport Amenities Regional Comparison by Amenity Count

Municipality	Population	Lawn Bowling	Pump Track	Track	Disc Golf Course
City of Delta	108,455	1	1	1	1
City of Burnaby	249,125	2		3	2
City of Chilliwack	93,203		1	1	1
City of Coquitlam	148,625	1		1	1
City of Port Coquitlam	61,498				1
City of Richmond	209,937	2		1	
Township of Langley	132,603			1	2
City of New Westminister	78,916			1	
North Vancouver (District and City amenities)	88,168	1	1	2	1
City of Maple Ridge	90,990			1	1
Average	131,964	1	1	1	1
City of Abbotsford	153,524	1		1	



Table 38. Courts and Other Sport Amenities Regional Comparison by Provision

Municipality	Population	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Basketball Courts	Sport Courts	Lacrosse Boxes
City of Delta	108,455	2,931	3,615		15,494	54,228
City of Burnaby	249,125	2,931	3,194	10,832		41,521
City of Chilliwack	93,203	8,473	15,534	23,301		
City of Coquitlam	148,625	4,246	4,246	10,616	49,542	148,625
City of Port Coquitlam	61,498	8,785	10,250	30,749	20,499	
City of Richmond	209,937	4,116	23,326	4,467		52,484
Township of Langley	132,603	4,278	7,367	14,734	22,101	132,603
City of New Westminster	78,916	3,587	2,923	7,892	78,916	26,305
North Vancouver (District and City amenities)	146,288	4,921	7,314	3,751	73,144	36,572
City of Maple Ridge	90,990	5,687	12,999	4,789	7,583	45,495
Average	131,964	4,921	9,077	12,348	38,183	67,229
City of Abbotsford	153,524	11,810	6,978	9,031	10,235	153,524



Table 38. (Continued) Courts and Other Sport Amenities Regional Comparison by Provision

Municipality	Population	Sand Volleyball Courts	Horseshoe Pits	BMX Tracks/ Skills Park	Skateboard Parks
City of Delta	108,455	27,114			36,152
City of Burnaby	249,125	41,521	15,570	249,125	124,563
City of Chilliwack	93,203				23,301
City of Coquitlam	148,625	24,771			74,313
City of Port Coquitlam	61,498			61,498	61,498
City of Richmond	209,937	104,969	52,484	104,969	69,979
Township of Langley	132,603	16,575	66,302	132,603	26,521
City of New Westminster	78,916			39,458	39,458
North Vancouver (District and City amenities)	146,288	73,144		73,144	29,258
City of Maple Ridge	90,990	90,990		30,330	90,990
Average	131,964	54,155	44,785	98,732	57,603
City of Abbotsford	153,524	51,175	6,397	153,524	76,762



Table 38. (Continued) Courts and Other Sport Amenities Regional Comparison by Provision

Municipality	Population	Lawn Bowling	Pump Track	Track	Disc Golf Course
City of Delta	108,455	108,455	108,455	108,455	108,455
City of Burnaby	249,125	124,563		83,042	124,563
City of Chilliwack	93,203		93,203	93,203	93,203
City of Coquitlam	148,625	148,625		148,625	148,625
City of Port Coquitlam	61,498				61,498
City of Richmond	209,937	104,969		209,937	
Township of Langley	132,603			132,603	66,302
City of New Westminster	78,916			78,916	
North Vancouver (District and City amenities)	146,288	146,288	146,288	73,144	146,288
City of Maple Ridge	90,990			90,990	90,990
Average	131,964	126,580	115,982	113,213	104,990
City of Abbotsford	153,524	153,524		153,524	

Key Findings from Benchmarking Analysis

- Abbotsford provides the majority of outdoor sport and recreation amenities at similar levels to comparators.
- Projected growth may result in synthetic turf fields and grass fields being provided at a notably lesser level of provision in the near to mid term if new surfaces are not developed.
- Tennis courts and lacrosse boxes are two amenities provided at significantly lesser levels of provision in contract to regional comparators.
- The majority of regional comparators provide one or more formal disc golf courses (Abbotsford does not currently have this amenity type).

A person wearing a camouflage jacket and a helmet is performing a wheelie on a bicycle. The bicycle is in the air, with the front wheel touching the ground. The background shows a skatepark with concrete ramps and a blue sky. The text "5. Trends and Best Practices" is overlaid on the image in white.

5. Trends and Best Practices

Understanding regional, provincial, and national trends can help municipalities anticipate future demands and opportunities and align with best practices. Identified in this section are several key leading practices relating to recreation that are supported by industry research and/or the consulting teams observed experience.

5.1. Activity and Participation Trends

The following trends speak to the types of activities that are popular and/or are new/ emerging activities, as well as any changing motivations or relevant contexts.

Youth Sport Participation

In April 2024, the Jumpstart State of Play Youth Report was released. The report includes results from the Jumpstart Canadian Tire State of Play Youth Survey, and enrollment data that highlights characteristics of sport organizations that participated in the survey. The following bullets some key findings from the report related to youth sport participation.

- 38% of youth indicated that they participate the same as before COVID-19 and 27% indicated that they play sport more than before the Pandemic.
- For those youth that indicated that they participated more than prior to the Pandemic. 30% of those do so by participating in a sport club, 26% participate through their school, 23% do so as part of an afterschool program, 21% participate at a recreation centre and 25% do so through other means.
- The top 3 reasons that youth are motivated to participate in sport was playing with friends (55%), having fun (38%), and exercising to stay healthy (33%).
- The top 3 reasons that youth do not play sports included that sports are too expensive (47%), no time to play due to schoolwork (28%) and that they do not feel good enough to play (18%). The top reason among high school students was no time to play due to school work, for middle school students and elementary school students it was that sports are too expensive. When looking at where the students live (west coast, prairie or central), youth from the west coast indicated that sports were too expensive the most often of three regions. West coast youth also indicated not being good enough as a reason not to play more than the other regions.

The following table outlines the sport that youth indicated that they played more than once in the last three years.

Table 39. Sports Youth Play More Than Once in the Last Three Years

Primarily Indoor		Primarily Outdoor	
Swimming	44%	Soccer	62%
Basketball	43%	Swimming	44%
Hockey	30%	Basketball	43%
Volleyball	26%	Volleyball	26%
Badminton	24%	Football	22%
Skating	24%	Athletics	17%
Bowling	17%	Tennis	16%
Tennis	16%	Baseball	16%
Climbing	15%	Climbing	15%
Floor/Ball Hockey	14%	Downhill Skiing	15%
Dance	13%	Golf	13%
Martial Arts	12%	Canoe/Kayak	12%
Gymnastics	9%	Cross Country Skiing	6%
Boxing	3%	Snowboarding	6%
Curling	3%	Lacrosse	5%
Figure Skating	2%	Softball	5%
Cheerleading	2%	Equestrian	5%
Ringette	2%	Para Alpine Skiing	1%
Wheelchair Basketball	2%	Para Canoe / Kayak	0.90%
Sitting Volleyball	0.8%	Para Snowboard	0.50%
Para Ice Hockey	0.60%	Wheelchair Tennis	0.40%
Wheelchair Curling	0.20%	Para Athletics	0.40%
		Para Golf	0.40%
		Para Rowing	0.30%

Pickleball and Older Adults

While there is limited research specifically on the mental health benefits of pickleball, there is evidence to suggest that playing pickleball, like other forms of physical activity, can have positive effects on mental health, especially for older adults.

A study published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health in 2021, examined the effects of a 6-week pickleball program on physical function in older adults. The study found that participating in pickleball led to significant improvements in physical ability, including reduced pain and cognitive performance (Wray P 2021).

Additionally, another study published in the Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness in 2023, examined the effects of pickleball on mental health. The study concluded that pickleball provided significant improvements to several psychological variables including, depression, happiness, and stress (Cerezuela 2022).

The improvements in cognitive function, psychological well-being, and quality of life suggest that pickleball can have positive effects on mental health, especially for older adults. Additionally, the social nature of pickleball, which often involves playing with others, may provide additional mental health benefits through increased social support and reduced loneliness.

Overall, while more research is needed to fully understand the mental health benefits of pickleball, the available evidence suggests that playing pickleball can have positive effects on cognitive function, psychological well-being, and quality of life, especially for older adults.



Volleyball on Grass

Traditionally, when people think of playing volleyball outdoors, they think of beach volleyball. However, grass volleyball is gaining momentum with clubs looking to play a game more closely related to the indoor game played on courts in a gymnasium. The format saw increased popularity through the COVID-19 pandemic. Sport equipment manufacturers have recently developed shoes meant for grass play, special balls etc. Some benefits of playing volleyball on grass include:

- Grass areas or fields can usually accommodate several courts.
- Its relatively easy to set up on the grass, with portable nets and line options.
- It can be played with in teams of 2s, 3s, 4s, and 6s, making it highly adaptable for participation numbers (Onatrio Volleyball n.d.).
- Provides another option to get players outside and play.
- Seen as good option for players new to the sport.

Small Sided Sports

Small Sided Sports (SSS) are a growing trend within the Metro Vancouver area, but also across the world. SSS refers to sports with adjusted formats where the field of play, rules, and number of players are manipulated to achieve a desired program outcome. There are many SSS leagues within the Metro Vancouver area, such as soccer, field hockey, and basketball. Many children and sports camps are incorporating SSS into their camps or training (Clemente 2021). There is also growing interest in SSS across the globe as a sport as it takes less space, you can get more games going for the space, and can be deemed more intense than bigger versions. SSS also has many benefits to sport development such as the following:

- Gain more experience as players get more touches and become more confident
- Improved aerobic capacity due to more playing and higher intensity
- Higher neuromuscular adaptations
- Can mimic particular game conditions for higher skill development
- Improved technical skill development and execution

SSG fits into all three levels of the LTD Sport and Physical Activity Model. Due to the higher level of skill development it can help people learn fundamentals at a higher rate to increase physical literacy, but also can be applied to higher levels of LTD models, such that elite players can mimic game scenarios to further their skills.

Climate Impact on Community Sport Participation

The environment and climate that we live in has a huge impact on sports participation. Extreme temperatures, air quality, and damage to infrastructure from natural disasters such as flooding and fires are just a few of the increasingly common factors that impact outdoor sport venues (viaSport n.d.). In [**The Sport Ecology Groups article Sports at risk: Addressing climate change in the Canadian sport sector**](#), author Madeline Orr introduces considerations for strategic sport management for the future. Orr suggests that the first step in adapting to climate change is to identify and learn about potential hazards and make adaptations efforts from there.

Opportunities for sport leaders and municipalities to adapt outlined in the article include:

- Developing weather policies
- Strategic partnerships (sharing space in the event of inclement weather that impacts one location more than the other)
- Follow government leadership (municipal or provincial climate adaption plans)
- Build in Flexibility for multi-use spaces
- Infrastructure and equipment upgrades (adding shaded areas to outdoor sports facilities, adding natural ditches and water drainage on the site to alleviate risks of flooding)



Spontaneous Recreation

There is growing demand for more flexibility in timing and activity for leisure pursuits. People are now seeking individualized informal pursuits that can be done alone or in small groups, at flexible times, often near or at home. This trend does not eliminate the need for structured activities but suggests that planning for the general population is as important as planning for more traditional structured-use environments. Spontaneous recreation is broadly characterized as physical activities in which the activities, nature of participation and timing of participation are freely chosen and do not require registration for programs or leagues.

The following two tables illustrate how children and adults participate in unorganized or unstructured activity or sports. This data is from the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute (CFLRI). The CFLRI monitors changes in rates of physical activity and sport participation among the Canadian population. This is achieved through the Physical Activity and Sport Monitoring Program.

Table 40. Degree of structure and level of competition of sport participation for children aged 5 to 17 (Data from 2022)

Age Group	Primarily Structured	Primarily Unstructured	Both Equally
Children aged 5 to 17	61%	14%	25%
Children living in a household that brings in <\$60,000/ year	51%	21%	27%
Children living in a household that brings in \$60,000 - \$99,999/ year	61%	16%	23%
Children living in a household that brings in >\$100,000 year	64%	10%	25%

Source: Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute

**Table 41. Percentage of adults participating in unorganized physical activity/sport and their level of satisfaction with the amount of opportunities available (Canada)
(Data from 2016 – 2018)**

Age Group	Participated in unorganized physical activity or sport	Participated in organized physical activity or sport	Very satisfied with amount of unorganized activities	Somewhat satisfied with amount of unorganized activities
Total, 18 years and older	68%	26%	51%	41%
18-24 years	83%	33%	52%	44%
25-44 years	75%	31%	52%	39%
45-64 years	68%	24%	51%	42%
65 years and older	49%	19%	49%	43%

Source: Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute



5.2. Service Delivery Trends and Best Practices

The following trends and best practices related to service delivery.

Equality and Inclusion in Recreation and Sport

There is increasing cultural awareness regarding the systemic nature of racism and the structural inequalities that exist within society. In Canada, the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was fundamental in highlighting and exposing historical and ongoing structural flaws within society that perpetuate racism and harm towards Indigenous populations.

Like most sectors, municipalities and other public entities that provide recreation services are in the midst of evaluating their history in perpetuating historical inequalities and future-forward solutions that can address these issues. The recreation sector is uniquely positioned to foster inclusiveness and provide a platform to help blunt racism, prejudice, and inequality. Identified below are initiatives that are being undertaken by leading organizations in the sector:

- **viaSport** has identified inclusion as a key focus area and has developed a number of free or low-cost resources focused on fostering increased diversity and opportunity for women and girls, persons with disabilities, the LGBTQI2S Community, marginalized youth, Indigenous people, socio-economically disadvantaged individuals, newcomers to Canada, individuals from rural/remote/isolated regions, and older adults.
- **Sparc BC (The Social Planning and Research Council of B.C.)** has published or co-developed a wealth of resources on inclusion and access. One of these documents, *Everybody's Welcome: A Social Inclusion Approach to Program Planning and Development for Recreation and Parks Services* was developed in conjunction with the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association and provided the sector with a formative resource that helped generate a greater understanding of what inclusion means and how to undertake actions that can foster it within public facilities and spaces.

- **iSparc BC (Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council)** is aimed at creating elite athletes, healthy living for Indigenous peoples, and provides grants to help do so. iSparc offers regionally specific plans focused on increasing youth participation and building leadership capacity in the areas of coaching and officiating. iSparc is the stewards of the Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Strategy and has begun to address TRC calls to actions 88, and 90 through funding, Indigenous games, team and skill development and through funding and education.
- **The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) “The Bench”** website includes numerous resources on topics and issues related to equity, inclusion and accessibility. CPRA has also launched a grant program for Gender Equity in Recreational Sport among numerous other initiatives focused at levelling the playing field.
- **The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)** in the United States has been a leader in fostering conversations on topics related to inclusion and inequality in parks and recreation. In 2018, NRPA published a Parks and Recreation Inclusion Report (The National Recreation and Park Association (NPRA) 2018). which outlined findings from a comprehensive review of inclusion practices across parks and recreation agencies (service providers) in the United States.



The viaSport Designation Program

The viaSport Designation Program establishes standards to strengthen the quality of amateur sport and manage government investment. There are three categories of designations that set minimum standards depending on the size and reach of the sport and tenure of the organization. These designations hold sport organizations and their board of directors accountable to these standards.

The three ViaSport designation categories are noted below. It is important to note that not all sport organizations apply, meet, or receive a Designation. Once Designation is provided to an organization, they are required to sign an annual agreement accepting their responsibility to uphold the standards. Every three years the organizations undergo a more comprehensive evaluation.

The standards include:

- Upholding the BC Societies Act as a non-profit entity.
- Achieving specific targets for sport participation reach and inclusivity.
- Ensuring Board and operational policies and practices are in place.
- Implementing development programs for coaches and officials as well as high-performance athletes.



A Provincial or Disability Sport Organization that is the authoritative body for a sport as specified by their respective National Sport Organization, sports or group-of-sport disciplines in BC, operating in five or more BC Games Zones, responsible for the oversight, growth and development of the sport.



A Provincial or Disability Sport Organization that is the authoritative body for a sport as specified by their respective National Sport Organization, operating in three or more BC Games Zones, responsible for the oversight, growth and development of the sport.



A sport recognized by the International Olympic Committee or International Paralympic Committee, and the Provincial or Disability Sport Organization specified as the authoritative body by their respective National Sport Organization, that is uniquely limited by region, infrastructure or sport-specific constraint to expand sport opportunities, that another organization cannot fulfill.

Source: viaSport, Understanding Designations

Designation Criteria	Affiliated	Recognized	Accredited
Designated by the NSO as the provincial organizing body.	✓	✓	✓
Integrates Long Term Athlete Development model.	✓	✓	✓
Has a NCCP coaching pathway or equivalent.	✓	✓	✓
Has a verifiable annual membership*.	✓	✓ Minimum 1000 members	✓ Minimum 1000 members
Has members in a minimum number of BC Games Zones*.	✗	✓ Minimum 3 zones	✓ Minimum 5 zones
A registered society in good standing with the BC Societies Act.	✓	✓	✓
Agrees to participate in periodic evaluation and provide annual reporting.	✓	✓	✓
Makes policies publicly available.	✓	✓	✓

*Disability Sport Organizations require an annual membership of only 100 members and participation in at least three BC Games Zones.

** Affiliated, Recognized, and Accredited organizations have different policy requirements:

Affiliated:

Code of Conduct, Complaints & Discipline, Equity & Access, Conflict of Interest, Criminal Record Screening

Recognized:

Code of Conduct, Complaints & Discipline, Equity & Access, Conflict of Interest, Criminal Record Screening

Accredited:

Code of Conduct, Complaints & Discipline, Equity & Access, Conflict of Interest, Criminal Record Screening, Dispute Resolution, Drug-Free, Privacy, Team Selection

Source: <https://viasport.ca/designation-process-and-criteria/>

Data Collection

Parks and recreation departments are increasingly utilizing data to understand user behaviors, needs, preferences, and desires. According to the National Parks and Recreation Associations Survey [NRPA survey](#) of parks and recreation professionals, more than 90% of respondents (in leadership roles) identified data collection and analysis as important or very important for activities such as master planning, capital investments, programming, and support staff. However, not every municipality is collecting data and no two municipalities collect data using the same methods. Respondents identified facility usage data, program utilization data, demographic trends, crime data, and school enrollment as important data sources for decision-making.

In terms of methods for collecting data, surveying residents and users is the most common approach. For facility usage, some municipalities have staff manually count visitors and others use automated methods such as scanning user cards. Other departments that may be collecting useful data include public works or utilities, police and fire departments, and transportation departments. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are also becoming frequently used within the sector to understand where users live, what amenities are available to whom and to identify gaps and opportunities geospatially.

Measuring Impact

The Price of Inactivity, a newly released report produced by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association and the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute is intended to quantify the benefits of sport, physical activity and recreation (SPAR) sector. The report concludes that in total, SPAR generates \$14B in social impact, \$4B in health and \$37B in economic impact (over \$55B in total) annually across Canada ([measuring-impact.ca](#)). Data collection is of utmost importance to supporting linkages between SPAR investment and social, health, economic and environmental impacts, as it provides opportunities to advocate for increased SPAR budget allocations, and make a case for investment.



Safe Sport

Safe Sport is a movement aimed at ensuring that all participants in sports—athletes, coaches, officials, and others—can engage in a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment. It focuses on preventing and addressing issues like abuse, harassment, and discrimination in sports settings.

Key components of Safe Sport include:

- **Education and Training:** Programs like the Safe Sport Training by the Coaching Association of Canada equip individuals with the knowledge to recognize and prevent maltreatment.
- **Policies and Protocols:** Organizations adopt frameworks like the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) to establish clear guidelines and consequences.
- **Support Systems:** Resources such as the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport provide tools and reporting mechanisms to address violations and support affected individuals



5.3. Infrastructure Trends and Best Practices

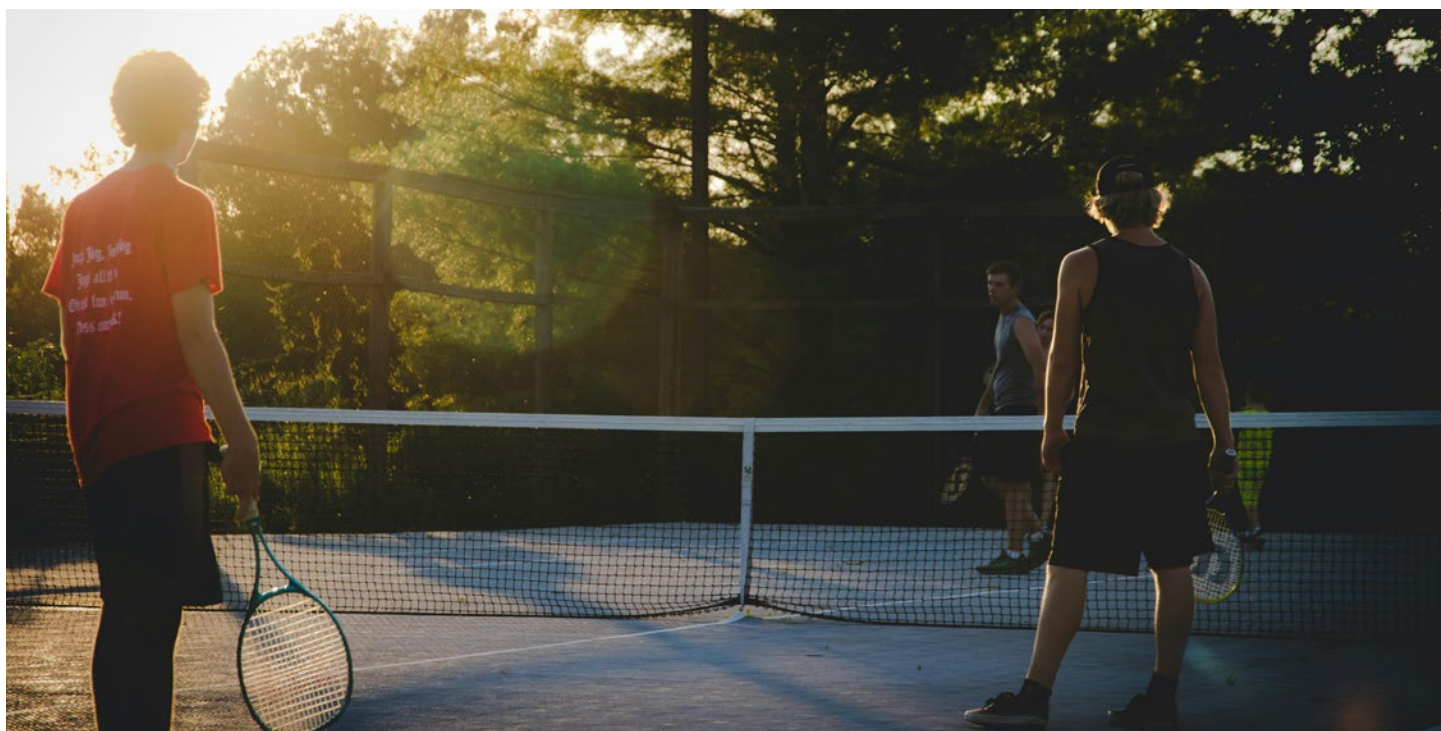
The following section summarizes some key trends and best practices related to outdoor sport infrastructure.

Court Noise Mitigation Impact

Noise mitigation techniques are not the same for all court types. Racket sports and boarded courts (basketball, ball hockey, lacrosse courts), require different design or mitigation methods, and have different noise levels associated with activities played on the courts. Described below are the summarized noise measurements, potential physical/ infrastructure barriers to reduce noise, and other approaches.

Racquet Sports Noise Measurements

In general, pickleball and tennis courts (both have similar noise levels) may experience noise levels between 50-58 dBA. The majority of noise coming from racquet strikes and players communicating.



Noise Barriers for Racquet Sports

Installing noise barriers around the pickleball courts is the most practicable means of engineered noise control. There are noise barrier products available which are dense, heavy sheets that can be attached to the existing chain link fences that surround many pickleball courts (subject to wind loading and structural review).

For a noise barrier to be effective, it should have the following characteristics:

- A minimum surface density of 5kg/m².
- The barrier should extend at least 3m above the court surface and be largely free of gaps or holes.
- The barrier should surround at least three sides of the court. In cases where there are residences located within approximately 70m two or more sides of the court, the barrier should surround all four sides.
- Where three-sided barriers are used, the open side should face away from any residential receptors which are closer than the setback distances. If this is not possible, a sound absorptive barrier should be used. Otherwise, there is potential for reflected sound to impact nearby residences (BAP Acoustics 2021).

Earth-berms can also act as effective sound barriers. Unlike vertical barriers made from common building materials, berms have an angled slope which is beneficial in controlling undesirable reflections. To be effective, an earth berm would typically need to be higher than a corresponding fence-line barrier since the berm would be located further away from the court. Given that berm slopes are typically at least 2:1 (horizontal: vertical), a 4m to 5m earth berm would require approximately 15m to 20m of land. As such, opportunities for their use will be limited by the amount of park area available (BAP Acoustics 2021).

Implementation of the Mitigation Techniques

Results taken from AC2930: Noise Assessment and Guidelines for Outdoor Pickleball Courts in Vancouver Technical Report indicated that when the City of Vancouver Parks Operation teams installed the 3m noise screen to chainlink fencing around the outdoor pickleball courts, they experienced decreases in from 7 – 9 dBA levels. Further, they found that less of setback was required compared to having no noise screen in order to achieve a dBA level of 50 – 55 (BAP Acoustics 2021).

Noise Barriers for Basketball/Ball Hockey/Lacrosse Courts

Sport courts meant for basketball, ball hockey and/or lacrosse are also hot spots for noise in community parks. The nature of boxed in or boarded courts allow for different mitigation techniques that are potentially similarly as effective as heavy sheets on chainlink fencing.

Acoustic Panels

Acoustic panels consist of compressed mineral wool or foam, packed with sound-absorbing pores that deaden and dampen sound. Hang acoustic panels on walls where soundwaves frequently travel and reflect.

Acoustic panels don't have to look like soundproofing equipment. Art acoustic panels are made-to-order, fabric-wrapped panels with a printed image or pattern.

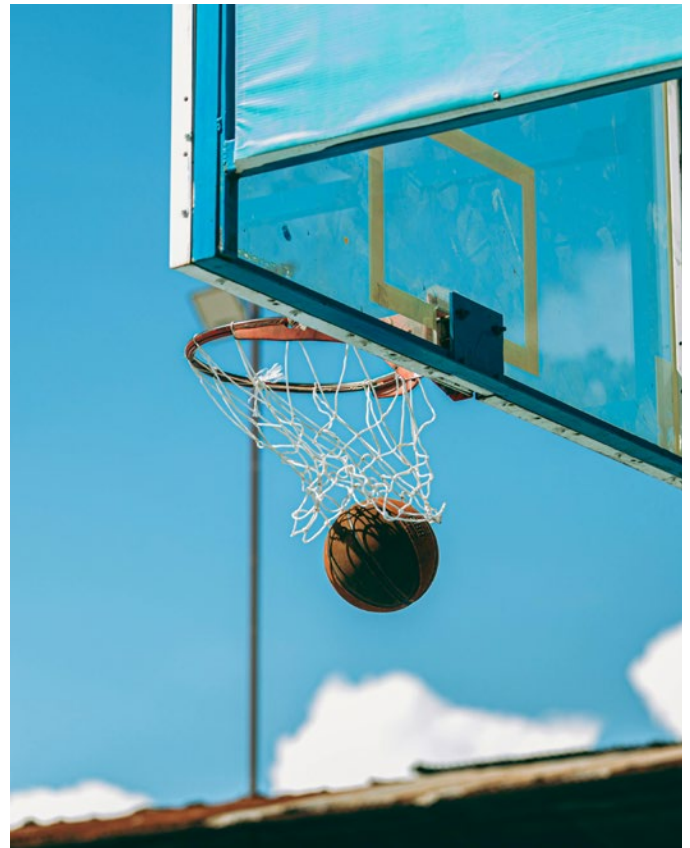
Soundproofing Insulation

High-quality insulation is another soundproofing solution that adds to wall's defenses. Soundproofing insulation is an internal tool that fits snugly into a wall's wood and metal studs. The tight fit creates a friction seal, which decreases sound transfer and absorbs excess soundwaves. This is generally more applicable to indoor/semi-outdoor courts that have walls or barriers that can allow for this.

Landscaping the Sport Court

Making use of planting can help with mitigating noise from the court. Medium to large shrubs are effective for this as well as small to medium trees such as some species of dogwood, crab-apple and maple. Landscaping around the court can also give it a more aesthetic appeal.

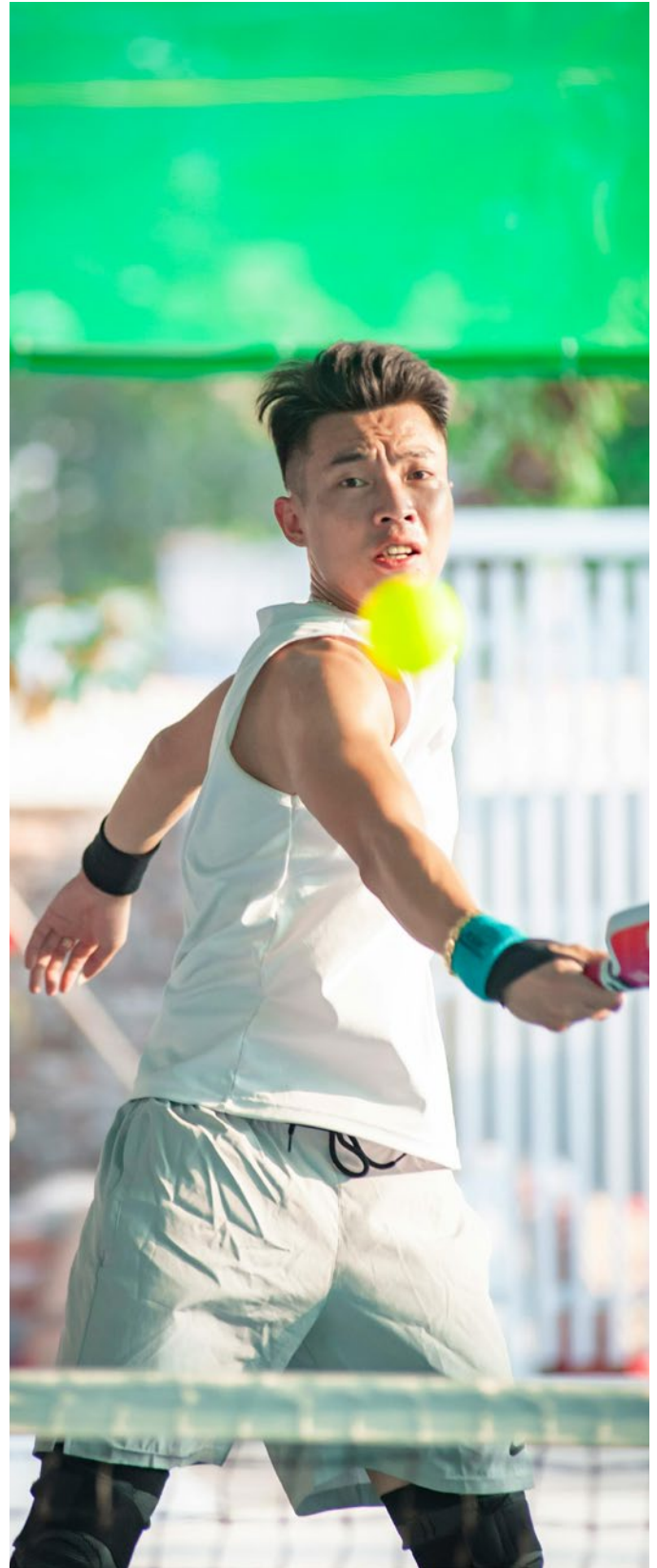
In some cases where you may be dealing with a slope, adding in a retaining wall is also a solution for mitigating (Acoustical Surfaces, Inc 2021).



Site Considerations for All Outdoor Sport Courts

The most recent report regarding noise assessment and guidelines for outdoor pickleball courts noted that when appraising a site for outdoor sport courts, the following should be considered:

- **Setback distance:** The setback distance between the courts and the nearest residential area will typically be the most important determinant of whether the introduction of a court will result in noise complaints.
- **Ground type:** Preference should be given to sites where there is acoustically soft ground (e.g., grass, foliage) between the courts and residential areas.
- **Terrain obstacles:** Wherever possible, outdoor courts should be sited to take advantage of naturally occurring terrain obstacles (e.g., locating the courts behind a berm). Conversely, situations should be avoided where residences or the upper-level dwellings of high-rise buildings will overlook the courts.
- **Foliage:** In certain situations, it may be possible to site the courts to take advantage of the shielding provided by dense foliage. A 50m wide tree belt consisting of tall trees and dense foliage is expected to reduce pickleball noise by approximately 3 to 5dBA (BAP Acoustics 2021).



Dual-Purpose Courts (Tennis & Pickleball)

Some BC municipalities have added pickleball court lines to a number of their tennis courts, expecting pickleball players to use the tennis net. Because a tennis net is higher than a pickleball net, pickleball players will sometimes hang heavy objects on the nets to lower them. Other players bring tools to lower the net. Tennis nets are not designed to be repeatedly lowered and raised. This practice damages the nets, significantly increasing the capital costs for municipalities to maintain these courts. A tennis net is also wider than a pickleball net. Having to play with nets that are too high and too wide are not regulation and unsatisfactory for users. This layout scheme requires pickleball players to spend time during games and practices to retrieve errant balls (Pickleball B.C. 2021).

The best configuration and orientation for pickleball courts should optimize the number of courts to be realized in a given space.



Optimizing Pickleball & Tennis

- Pickleball is played in hubs of four to eight courts and the greater the number of hubs, the greater the likelihood that some tennis courts will not have any pickleball court lines on them.
- Optimizing the number of pickleball courts reduces the frequency of “bumping” players off the courts every 30 minutes. If optimization is not considered, pickleball hubs could “creep” onto the adjacent tennis courts potentially creating unnecessary conflict.
- Optimizing the number of courts will best meet the needs of both tennis and pickleball players.

Optimizing Court Layout

- The existing tennis net can serve as a barrier between pickleball courts.
- Pickleball courts are ideally aligned with the tennis court.
- As much separation of lines as possible is recommended as multiple lines in one area are distracting.
- Leave gaps where lines intersect.
- The need to provide portable pickleball nets and on site storage.

Multi-Sport Courts

The dimensions of a multi-sport court will vary depending on the sport(s) that will be played on it. To accommodate the majority of court sports played outdoors on hard surfaces (e.g. basketball, lacrosse, tennis, pickleball), a court space of at least 94 feet long and 50 feet wide is required. The most common configuration is a full-size tennis court with four pickleball courts and a half-court basketball setup.

Table 42. Hard Surface Outdoor Court Dimensions

Court Activity	Regulation Length	Regulation Width
Tennis	78ft	36ft
Pickleball	44ft	20ft
Basketball	95ft	50ft
3X3 Basketball	47ft	50ft

Jumpstart Inclusive Multi-sports courts

Jumpstart has worked with several communities across Canada to offer inclusive multi-sport court designs that are accessible to all users. These outdoor facilities offer barrier-free access with large gate entrances, wheelchair-accessible seating, and a cushioned surface. The courts feature high-contrast colours with white lines to support those with limited vision, along with ample LED lighting over the courts and adjustable basketball nets. The courts feature adjustable equipment allowing for para sports including basketball, pickleball, sitting volleyball, tennis, wheelchair basketball, and wheelchair tennis. Additionally, their multi-sport courts can allow for a section to be transformed into an outdoor rink during winter months.



The Visual Appeal of Courts

The visual appeal of sports courts can play an important role in enhancing the overall experience for players and spectators alike. A visually appealing court can create a positive and welcoming atmosphere, while a poorly maintained court can detract from the overall experience.

Below are some key factors that can contribute to the visual appeal of sports courts:

Surface colour and design:

A sports court's surface colour and design can greatly impact its visual appeal. Bold and vibrant colours can add a fun and energetic feel, while intricate designs and logos can give the court a professional and personalized touch. Blue court paintings have always tended to be a great color to use for all types of sport courts, the trends certainly point to this continuing as they will always provide one important aspect, a contrast between surface and play equipment (balls).

The use of a contrasting color for the surface against the ball is preferred as tennis balls are yellow, basketballs are orange, volleyballs are white or yellow, lacrosse balls are white, thus these colors are not ideal for playing surfaces because they can easily create confusion between surface and equipment. Good colors for playing surfaces are; Blue, Red, Purple, and Dark Green for all sport courts.

For basketball courts it is appealing and helpful to the players to have more than one colour or shade of colour on the court, i.e dark blue on the surface inside the free throw area and light blue on the outside to distinguish where to stand for free throws and foul zones.



The Steve Nash family court in Vancouver. Not only is this court in a popular location, but it also has a highly aesthetic appeal with the colours and art used to design the court.

Court markings:

The markings on a sports court should be clear, crisp, and visually appealing. Professional markings not only add to the aesthetic of the court but also help players follow the rules and guidelines of the sport. Mixing Tennis and Pickleball court lines is not visually appealing and can confuse players when determining which line is for what sport. It also creates the potential for conflict when deciding which user group gets to use the court and which must sit out and wait.

Surrounding area:

The surrounding area of a sports court can also impact its visual appeal. Landscaping, seating, and fencing can add to the overall look and feel of the court and create an inviting and comfortable environment.

Lighting:

Lighting can also play a critical role in enhancing the visual appeal of a sports court. Proper lighting can not only improve visibility and safety but can also create a dramatic and striking effect, especially during evening games or events.

Maintenance:

Regular maintenance and upkeep of the sports court are critical to maintaining its visual appeal. Cracks, potholes, and other damages can detract from the court's appearance and pose safety hazards to players.

Using a place-making lens when designing a sports court can influence overall community development and a sense of community. Creating spaces that encourage community engagement. Other factors as it relates to the visual appeal of courts include location, and shaded accesses (trees). Overall, the visual appeal of sports courts is an important factor in creating an inviting and enjoyable environment for players and spectators alike. By considering these factors, sports courts can be designed and maintained to provide an optimal experience for all involved.

Retrofitting Courts

Retrofitting sports courts involves making modifications or upgrades to existing court facilities to improve functionality, safety, and aesthetics. Retrofitting can range from minor changes, such as repainting lines or repairing cracks, to major renovations, such as installing new playing surfaces or adding new equipment. It is important to frequently complete sport court assessments every few years to analyze the conditions and playability of a court. Some factors to consider when retrofitting sports courts include:

- Retrofitting sports courts can be costly, so it is essential to establish a budget before starting the project. Consider the scope of work needed and prioritize upgrades that are necessary and most important.
- Consider how the court is currently being used and how it could be used in the future. This can help determine what modifications or upgrades are necessary to improve functionality and safety.
- Safety should be a top priority when retrofitting sports courts. Consider adding safety features such as padding, safety netting, or improved lighting to make the court safer for players and spectators.

- Consider the accessibility of the court for individuals with disabilities. Retrofitting can include adding ramps, handrails, or other features to make the court accessible for all players.
- Retrofitting can also improve the appearance of sports courts. Consider repainting or resurfacing the court, adding new landscaping or installing decorative fencing to enhance the overall look and appeal of the court.
- Consider upgrading the court with materials outlined for noise mitigation.

By considering these factors, sport court retrofitting can be done efficiently and effectively, resulting in a safer, more functional, and aesthetically pleasing facility for players, spectators, and neighbours.

Bike Parks

Community bike parks are increasing in popularity worldwide. The SARIS Foundation in the United States, created a guide to creating community bike parks and outlined four different types of bike parks. They are as follows:

- **Linear** - a naturally surfaced trail with skills development features, co-located alongside a paved path, that ranges from approximately 100 - 1,500 feet in length.
- **Pocket** - a small standalone park, or one that's near a linear facility or within an existing park that caters to multiple ability levels, with a paved, natural, or gravel surface. Its size can be anywhere from 0.25 to one acre.
- **Pump Track** - a pump track is a small standalone park with definitive rolling slopes on an oval or circular paved track. Its size can be anywhere from 0.25 to one acre.
- **Neighbourhood** - a facility with a series of rideable features that is contained within a larger community park area and focused on riding experiences for many ability levels. Its size can be anywhere from one to 15 acres.

Some of the benefits of these spaces include:

- **Space revitalization:** Can revitalize and repurpose an underutilized space.
- **Create a sense of place:** There is a strong biking community that if properly involved in the design and planning around bike parks would serve as advocates of the space.
- **Skill development in a controlled environment:** Bike parks create opportunities for risky play by offering thrilling and challenging environments where riders can test their skills and push their limits.
- **Packs a lot into a small space:** They can be designed to fit into small, underutilized spaces, transforming them into vibrant community hubs.

Demand for Synthetic Turf

A notable trend shaping the availability of sports fields is the growing demand for synthetic turf. In urban areas, diverse user groups are increasingly opting for synthetic turf to extend playing seasons, minimize weather-related cancellations, and enhance the overall playing experience. Advances in synthetic turf technology have further driven this trend, making it a popular upgrade in many communities, particularly when converting gravel or all-weather fields. While premium natural grass remains the preferred choice for some, modern synthetic turf has greatly reduced the difference in feel and performance between synthetic and natural surfaces during play.



Multi Field Sites

Sustaining local neighborhood and community sports fields remains important, but a growing trend is to develop multi-field “hubs” as destination venues for larger training events and tournaments. These hubs offer several advantages, such as improved operational efficiency, increased capacity for hosting tournaments, and the ability to provide shared amenities like washrooms, changing facilities, concessions, social areas, play spaces, and walking paths.

When designing multi-field sites, key considerations include:

- Field spacing
- Transit access
- Incorporating buffer zones between fields and residential areas
- Parking
- Anticipating and planning for future growth and/or repurposing

This approach balances functionality, accessibility, and the potential for growth—creating versatile hubs that meet the needs of diverse user groups.

Multi-sport Fields

Multi-sport fields are versatile spaces designed to accommodate various sports, such as soccer, rugby, lacrosse's, and increasingly ball diamonds. These fields are increasingly popular due to their ability to maximize space and resources, especially in urban areas where land is limited. They often feature adaptable surfaces like synthetic turf, which can handle multiple sports and weather conditions.

Key benefits of multi-sport fields include:

- Cost-effectiveness
- Accessibility
- Flexibility
- Year-round use

Challenges of multi-sport fields include:

- User conflicts may occur, high demand field time can lead to disputes over bookings.
- Maintenance can be challenging due to potentially conflicting needs.
- Wear and tear on the field may increase with the potential increase in use.



Source: FieldTurf Multi-Sport Field at Cypress Park in Woodbridge, New Jersey (<https://fieldturf.com/en/articles/detail/fieldturf-multi-sport-field-cypress-park/>)

Covered Outdoor Sport Infrastructure

Covered outdoor sports infrastructure is becoming increasingly popular as it allows for year-round use and protection from weather conditions. Facility features encompass open-air roofing, lighting, specialized surfacing and flooring, side boards, seating arrangements, and practice walls. These spaces are designed to support a wide range of sports, such as lacrosse, ball hockey, soccer, basketball, futsal, pickleball, badminton, tennis, and volleyball. Beyond sports, these facilities also serve as community hubs, hosting celebrations, youth

camps, outdoor fitness sessions, school fairs, and events like Christmas or farmers' markets. Regional examples illustrate the high standards many communities are adopting to address both current and future needs for sports and community programs.

- Sohen Gill Sports Box at Confederation Park – Burnaby
- Westhill Park Sports Box – Port Moody
- McLeod Athletic Park Lacrosse Box – Langley



Source: Sohen Gill Sports Box (<https://www.burnaby.ca/recreation-and-arts/events/sohen-gill-sports-box-grand-opening>)

Support Amenity Considerations

The expectations for quality in public recreational facilities and spaces continue to rise, and outdoor sport facilities and amenities are no exception. Support amenities play a crucial role in shaping the user experience and boosting overall utilization. Examples of impactful amenities include safe, functional washrooms and changerooms, comfortable seating areas, access to water stations or bottle-filling points, and shaded areas—whether through natural or built structures.

Municipalities are increasingly exploring creative approaches to integrate these amenities, aiming to create inviting spaces that foster a sense of community and generate interest. By prioritizing thoughtful designs, they enhance both functionality and the overall appeal of public sport infrastructure.

An interesting example of a clubhouse facility is the Vestiaires Club House Sport Facility in Dingy – Saint- Clair, France. This facility features locker rooms and a clubhouse designed with sustainable materials like Bois des Alpes and spruce. It also includes photovoltaic panels for energy efficiency.



*Photo Source: ArchDaily, (<https://www.archdaily.com/1023614/vestiaires-and-club-house-sport-facilities-anthony-laffargue>)
Photographer: Vladimir de Moletât du Jeu*

A photograph of soccer players in action on a green field. In the foreground, a black and white soccer ball sits on the grass. Two players are visible: one on the left in a white jersey and black shorts, and one on the right in a blue jersey and black shorts. The player on the right is wearing blue socks and blue cleats with orange laces. The player on the left is wearing black socks and black cleats with green accents. The background is a blurred green field. The word "Appendices" is overlaid in white text on a dark green rectangular background.

Appendices

Appendix A: Detailed Facility Assessments

The detailed facility assessments can be found under separate cover.

Appendix B: Amenity Location Listings

Synthetic Turf Sites	Rectangular Fields	Ball Diamonds
MRC Sports Complex	4	
MRC Mini Fields	3	
Abbotsford Secondary School	1	
Grant Park		1
Total	8	1

Parks with Class A Rectangular Fields	Number of Fields
Abbotsford Exhibition Park	5
Babich Park	1
Bateman Park	3
Berry Park	1
Clearbrook Park	1
DeLair Park	2
Kalgidhar Park	1
Ridgeview Park	1
Saddle Park	1
Swensson Park	1
McMillian Park	2
Townline Hill Park	1
Total	20

Parks with Class B Rectangular Fields	Number of Fields
Clayburn Park	1
Crossley Park	1
Eagle Mountain Park	1
Mt Lehnman Community Park	1
Huntingdon Park	1
Total	5

Parks with Class A Ball Diamonds	Number of Diamonds
Abbotsford Exhibition Park	4
Babich Park	1
Berry Park	1
McMillan Park	1
DeLair Park	1
Ellwood Park	2
Grant Park	2
Ridgeview Park	1
Swensson Park	1
Townline Hill Park	1
Total	15

Parks with Class B Ball Diamonds	Number of Diamonds
Mt Lehnman Community Park	1
Clearbrook Park	2
Crossley Park	1
DeLair Park	1
Hughes Park	1
Matsqui Prairie Park	1
Bradner Park	1
Mill Lake Park	3
Total	11

Parks with Pickleball Courts	Number of Courts	Dedicated
Jubilee Park	8	8
Bradner Park	5	4
Yale Court Park	4	
Larch Park	1	
Glen Mountain Park	2	
Lower Sumas Mountain Park	1	
Eagle Mountain Park	1	
Total	22	12

Parks with Tennis Courts	Number of Courts	Dedicated
Bradner Park	1	
Delair Park	2	2
Glen Mountain Park	1	
Larch Park	1	
Lower Sumas Mountain Park	1	
Matsqui Village Park	1	
MSA Arena Park	4	4
Swensson Park	1	1
Yale Court	1	
Total	13	7

Parks with Basketball Courts	Number of Courts	Dedicated
Berry Park	1	1
Bradner Park	1	1
Callaghan Park	1	
Dave Kandal Park	2	
Eagle Mountain Park	1	
Glenn Mountain Park	1	
Kaslo Park	1	1
McKinley Park	1	
McMillan Park	1	
MSA Arena Park	1	1
Pepin Brook Park	1	
Southern Park	1	
Swensson Park	2	
Williams Park	1	
Yale Court Park	1	
Total	17	4

Parks with Sport Courts	Number of Courts
Callaghan Park	1
Dave Kandal Park	2
Eagle Mountain Park	1
Glenn Mountain Park	1
McKinley Park	1
McMillan Park	1
Pepin Brook Park	1
Southern Park	1
Swensson Park	2
Williams Park	1
Yale Court Park	1
Larch Park	1
Matsqui Villiage Park	1
Total	15

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