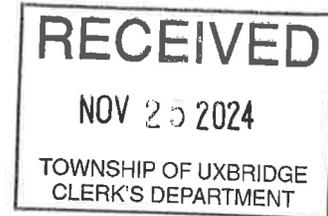


November 25, 2024

Debbie Leroux, Clerk
Township of Uxbridge
51 Toronto St. S., Box 190
Uxbridge, Ontario L9P1T1



Dear Debbie Leroux:

Re: Proposed Zoning By-Law Amendment
King Street Parkette
ZBA 2024-08

We would like to specifically state that the process Council has used in determining that the parkette as surplus to the Town's recreation needs has been completely outside the provisions of the Township's Official Plan and the Uxbridge Parks and Recreational Plan.

The Townships Official Plan requires under Section 2.3.6 that:

"The Township provides a high standard of parks and open space, and associated sports and recreation facilities. The Parks, Recreation and Culture Strategic Master Plan establishes a development strategy for parks and recreation facilities. The intent of the Park and Open Space Area designation is to provide for a full range of active and passive recreation facilities, . . . The Township will **build on this existing system to maximize opportunities for leisure participation.**"

Further Section 2.3.11.2 states:

"i) The Township shall as a **priority** seek to preserve areas with significant trees and other natural vegetation which occur in and adjacent to the Natural Hazard Area, Environmental Constraint Area, Environmental Potential Area, **Park and Open Space Area**, Institutional Area and Private Open Space Area designations, and to encourage the planting of additional trees and other natural vegetation in these designations, particularly native trees and vegetation where appropriate."

The Park and Open Space Area designation recognizes existing public parks and open space areas which provide a full range of active and passive recreation facilities **to serve the residents** of the Urban Area and the Township.

The permitted uses, and related buildings and structures are recreation and open space including related buildings and structures such as **playground equipment, . . .**"

The Official Plan for the Township of Uxbridge also provides for the following:

“2.5.9.3 Land Use Policies

i) The Township shall continue **to maintain and enhance** the recreation and open space facilities in the **existing parks** in accordance with the standards established in Section 2.3.6.2 of this Plan, **the Township’s Cultural and Recreation Master Plan** and the master plans for specific parks.

The Township’s Cultural and Recreation Master Plan also demonstrates in its Background Study that the King Street Parkette performs a significant role in the geographic distribution of local parks within the Urban Area particularly within a 400m walking distance of each resource. Refer to Appendix 1 attached.

The Township’s Cultural and Recreation Master Plan also demonstrates in its Background Study that the King Street Parkette has demonstrated the same level of use as per the other Parkettes in the Urban Area. Refer to Appendix 2 attached.

Appendix 3 attached provides a list of the parks in Uxbridge Township.

Over the past 10 years the Council has developed and improved all of the Parkettes in the Township with the exception of the King Street Parkette, despite requests by the local residents to do so. Over the past 5 years Council in its wisdom has decided not to update or provide improvements to the King Street Parkette despite its continued use by local residents. Our neighbourhood is and has changed its demographic profile as more families with children have moved into the neighbourhood. The council has not provided any evidence that the parkette is not used but simply state that it is underused. As a result, over the past year Council has removed the swings that were there but left the swing structure and closed the park to the public. The council has continued to cut the lawn every year. No monies have been spent by Council to upgrade or improve the parkette as required by the Township’s Official Plan and Cultural and Recreation Master Plan.

The recommendations contained in the Township’s Cultural and Recreation Master Plan provide that the Township Council:

“Undertake a detailed evaluation and review of identified parkland properties owned by the Township to determine whether they are surplus to parkland supply and the recreation needs of the community based on the criteria identified within this plan.

Subject to evaluation, consultation and confirmation of demand, the Township may seek to decommission parkland properties and opt to dispose of parkland via the sale for other uses considering the existing supply of total parkland in the Township (see Section 5.2 Provision of Parkland). By doing so, the Township will consolidate its park locations as well as its maintenance efforts and costs. The proceeds from any sale of parkland properties should be directed to a reserve for Township-wide parkland improvements.”

We submit that the Council for the Township of Uxbridge has failed to meet its own requirements as per the Township’s Official Plan and the Cultural and Recreation and Master Plan in declaring the King Street Parkette as surplus to the community’s needs.

Now Council wishes to rezone the King Street Parkette for residential use despite the fact that no water and sanitary services exist along this portion of the King Street frontage.

We do not object to the rezoning of the mentioned parcel but do ask that the proposed rezoning include a Holding Provision (H) to require that a qualified professional arborist be retained to confirm the drip line for the very large silver maple located on the parcel in order to identify the area to be restricted for any development and that no development is to take place until the Holding Provision (H) is removed in accordance with the Planning Act.

We respectfully thank the Council for the opportunity to respond to the Township's rezoning proposal and ask that we be provided an opportunity to address Council at the public meeting scheduled for Monday December 2, 2024.

Sincerely

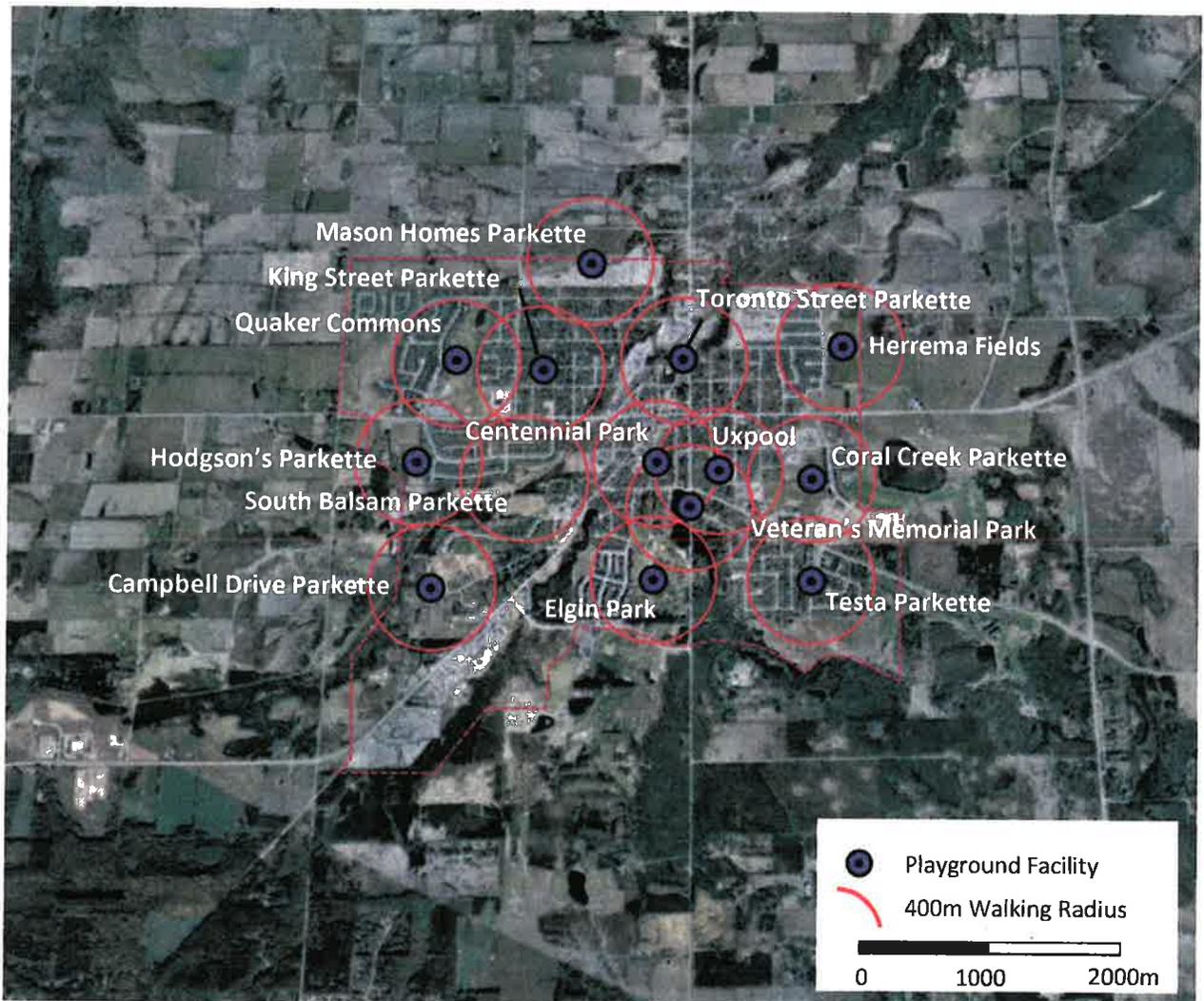
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kennedy Self', written in a cursive style.

Kennedy Self (Retired RPP)

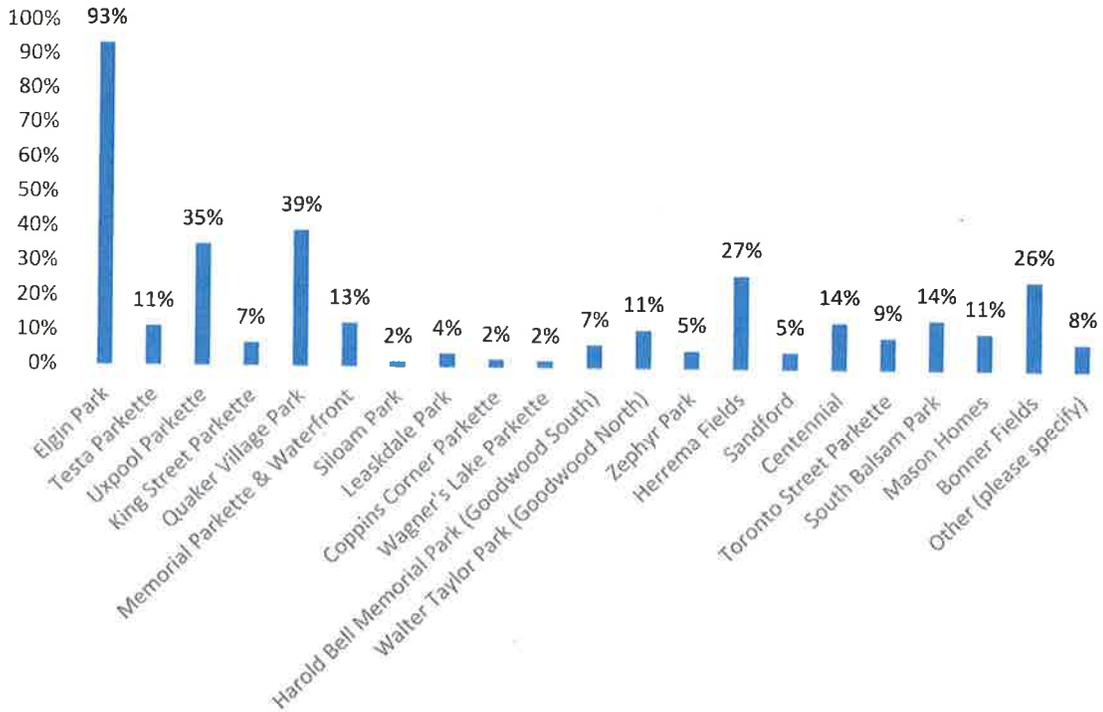
As illustrated on Exhibit 14, urban Uxbridge has good geographic coverage for these assets. When applying a 400m (5 minute) walking distance to each playground / local park the Town is well-served.

It should be noted that the playground equipment at South Balsam Parkette is due for replacement in 2019, and with the current location considered to be unsafe (near the train tracks, not visible from the street, etc.), staff has indicated that this equipment will be replaced within Hodgson's Parkette near the corner of South Balsam Street and Meadows End Crescent (south end).

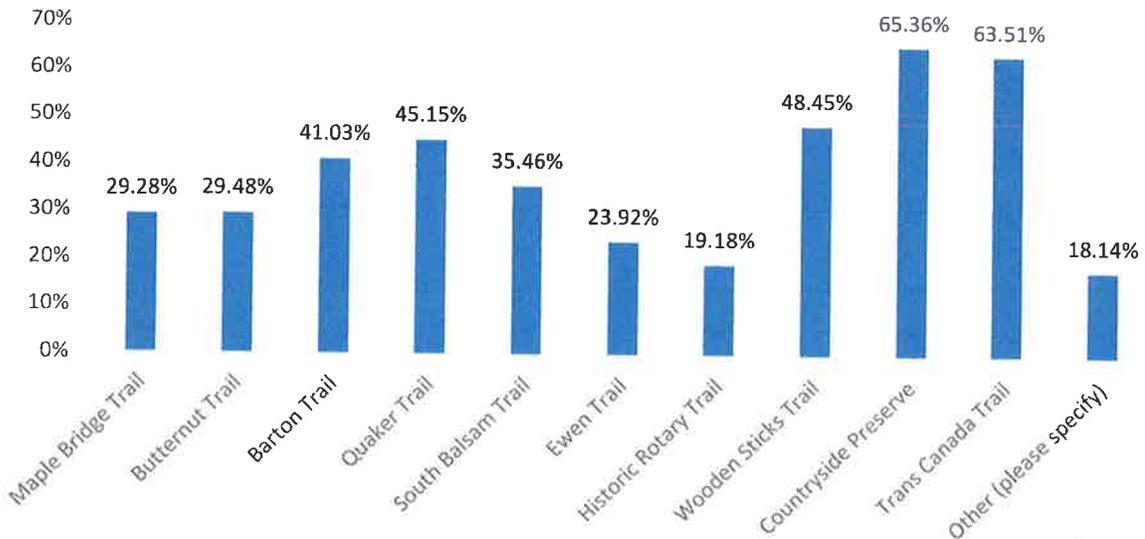
Exhibit 14: Geographic Distribution of Playground Facilities / Local Parks within Urban Uxbridge



Which parks have you and/or your family used in the past year?



Which Trails have you and/or your family used in the last year?



Trail use seems to be more concentrated in the south end of urban Uxbridge. Of the trails, 65% of respondents reported they use the Countryside Preserve Trail the most, followed by the Trans Canada Trail (64%) and the Wooden Sticks Trail (48%).

- **Natural Open Space Areas:** are located throughout the Township, and typically include trails, picnic areas, and other conservation and educational features.
- **Design Features:** are located at key gateways, intersections, neighbourhood entrances, or at important focal points within the Township’s Urban Area.

The following exhibit provides a current list of the Township’s parks and preliminary classification of the park types, based on a field review and the criteria provided in the *Official Plan*, as a foundation for assessing the existing inventory. While not identified in the exhibit below, the Township also owns a considerable amount of Natural Open Space, providing spaces for trail linkages, resting and gathering, and environmental protection throughout Uxbridge.

Detailed inventory sheets for each of the Township’s park assets are provided in the Appendix.

Exhibit 26: Township of Uxbridge Parks – Area and Classification¹¹

Park	Size		Classification
	Acres	Hectares	
Bonner Fields	7.91	3.20	Community Park
Campbell Drive Parkette	2.10	0.85	Local Park
Centennial Park	4.97	2.01	Local Park
Coppins Corners Parkette	1.71	0.69	Local Park
Coral Creek Parkette	4.39	1.78	Local Park
Elgin Park	21.92	8.87	Community Park
Fields of Uxbridge	112.16	45.39	Community Park
Goodwood Park (Hwy 47)	4.74	1.92	Local Park
Harold Bell Memorial Park	12.12	4.90	Community Park
Herrema Fields	33.82	13.69	Community Park
Hodgson Parkette (South Balsam)	1.39	0.56	Local Park
King Street Parkette	0.21	0.08	Local Park
Leaskdale Park	4.34	1.76	Local Park
Mason Homes Parkette	1.26	0.51	Local Park
Quaker Village Park	14.90	6.03	Community Park
Sandford Park	5.49	2.22	Local Park
Siloam Park	4.24	1.72	Local Park
Testa Parkette	0.98	0.40	Local Park
Toronto Street Parkette	0.11	0.04	Local Park
Uxbridge Arena Grounds	12.52	5.07	Community Park
Uxpool Park	4.37	1.77	Local Park
Veterans Memorial Park	0.74	0.30	Local Park
Wagner's Park	0.97	0.39	Local Park
Zephyr Park	14.04	5.68	Local Park
Total	271.40	109.83	

Based on the preliminary classifications identified above, the exhibit below summarizes the parkland inventory and population-based parkland provision levels (note: this does not include Natural Open Space).

¹¹ Size (acreage) of Campbell Drive Parkette and Mason Homes Parkette are estimated.