



Meeting Date: August 6, 2025

Submitted by: Scott Mairs, Director of Community Services

Report No: CMS-05-2025

Subject: Community Services Master Plan Update

Recommendation:

THAT Report CMS-05-2025 re: Community Services Master Plan Update be received for information.

Purpose:

To provide Council with an update on the progress made toward the goals and recommendations of the 2023–2027 Community Services Master Plan, highlighting key accomplishments, current initiatives, and emerging priorities.

Background:

The Community Services Master Plan (CSMP), adopted in 2023, provides a strategic framework for the development, enhancement, and delivery of recreation programs, facility services, parks, and culture services in Middlesex Centre. Structured around five key goals, Active Living, Inclusion and Access, Connecting People and Nature, Supportive Environments, and Recreation Capacity, the plan includes 38 recommendations aimed at improving service quality, accessibility, infrastructure, and community well-being.

This implementation update reflects the municipality's ongoing commitment to the principles outlined in the CSMP, ensuring alignment with Middlesex Centre's Strategic Plan and responsiveness to community needs.

Analysis:

The 2023–2027 Community Services Master Plan (CSMP) includes 38 recommendations across five goal areas. As of mid-2025, significant progress has been made, with numerous recommendations either completed or actively underway. This update provides Council and the community with a comprehensive overview of implementation status and highlights key achievements and ongoing priorities.

1. Active Living

Middlesex Centre continues to expand its recreation and fitness offerings with a focus on inclusion, accessibility, and participation across all age groups. Since late 2022, over 250 pre-registered programs have been delivered for children, youth, adults, and seniors, with current projections targeting nearly 200 programs per year. Drop-in opportunities have also grown, particularly for youth and seniors. Notable partnerships include:

- The Ilderton Youth Centre, operated by the Boys and Girls Club of London.
- The newly opened Komoka Youth Centre, developed in partnership with the YMCA and funded through the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative.

These efforts promote accessible, low-barrier recreation, aligned with the Canadian Sport Policy and broader goals of health and social well-being.

2. Inclusion and Access

The municipality has demonstrated a strong commitment to inclusion and equity through several initiatives:

- Adoption of the Affordable Access to Recreation & Culture Policy in Fall 2023, enabling greater access for low-income households.
- Recognition as a Dementia Friendly Community™ Supporter by the Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners, with over 75% of front-line staff trained and community workshops delivered.
- Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ awarded to the Komoka Wellness Centre, with a 5-year accessibility improvement plan underway.
- Installation of inclusive play structures at:
 - Poplar Hill Park (wheelchair-accessible swing, supported by Poplar Hill Lions),
 - Timberwalk Lions Park (with support from the Ilderton Lions),
 - Komoka Community Park (funded by Optimist Club of Komoka-Kilworth and Middlesex Paving & Maintenance).

Staff continue to engage residents to identify barriers to access and embed the principles of the municipality's DEI Policy in service planning and delivery.

3. Connecting People and Nature

Significant progress has been made in trail development and connectivity:

- New trail connections in Deerhaven and Timberwalk Lions Park have been completed.

- Future connections in the Clear Skies and Timberwalk subdivisions are planned as development proceeds, with a long-term goal of completing the trail loop in Ilderton.
- The Public Works & Engineering Department is leading an Active Transportation Plan, currently underway, which will result in a new Trails Master Plan guiding future trail expansion and infrastructure planning.

Other nature-based initiatives include:

- Ongoing evaluation of potential pollinator garden locations, with consideration for proximity to playgrounds, entrances, and splash pads.
- Climate adaptation strategies (e.g., rainwater harvesting, solar energy) are being explored on a project-by-project basis, though implementation is challenged by upfront costs and the need for a reasonable payback period (targeting no more than six years).

4. Supportive Environments

Key capital and facility investments include:

- Council's direction to extend the life of the Ilderton Arena and Curling Centre by 10–15 years, with a \$4 million renovation budget including:
 - Refrigeration and electrical upgrades;
 - New boards and glass for player safety; and
 - Renovated lobby and dressing rooms with a focus on accessibility.
 This project has received an additional \$1 million in CSRIF funding from the Province.
- Opening of the Douglas B. Weldon Park Disc Golf Course, a new recreation amenity for the community.
- Completion of the Timberwalk Lions Park, Komoka Community Park playground, and new trails in multiple subdivisions.
- Implementation of paid parking at Weldon Park, which began July 1, 2024, to support sustainable park operations and enforcement.

Some initiatives remain on hold or are in early planning stages, including:

- A Civic Square at Unity Square, where three design concepts have been developed but implementation is paused due to slowed development in the area.
- A proposed off-leash dog park, which has not yet advanced beyond preliminary budget discussions and has received mixed public feedback.
- Development of a Bryanston Community Centre Park is on hold pending the long-term use of the adjacent Bryanston School property and the OPP lease ending in 2029.

5. Recreation Capacity

Administrative improvements continue to strengthen internal capacity and planning:

- A cost-benefit analysis for a potential indoor aquatic facility was completed in 2023. While recognizing the community interest, the report highlighted significant capital and operating costs, with a recommendation to reassess in the longer term.
- A land use agreement with the Komoka Railway Museum was renewed in 2024 to provide continued community benefit and clarity on responsibilities.
- A comprehensive cost recovery analysis was conducted with Finance staff, resulting in an update to the 2025 Fee By-law and an increase in cost recovery for sports fields from 20% to 40%, following consultation with the Community Services Advisory Committee.
- The Univerus registration system is now fully implemented for all recreational programming. Facility booking remains within the financial software system for accounting integration.
- The municipality continues to partner with service clubs and local businesses to support public recreation, including:
 - Annual sponsorship of public skating by multiple clubs.
 - Ongoing collaboration on playgrounds and facility enhancements.

The Community Services Advisory Committee remains active, with new members joining in the third quarter of 2025. However, efforts to expand the Youth Advisory Committee have been unsuccessful despite multiple recruitment attempts.

Information about the Community Services Master Plan is located on the municipal website at: www.middlesexcentre.ca/csmp and this update will be posted to this site following council acceptance.

Financial Implications:

N.A.

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Engaged Community
- Sustainable Infrastructure and Services
- Responsive Municipal Government

Attachments:

A1 – Community Services Master Plan Update