Enclosure 1

Strathcona County
OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Strathcona County Council
November 26, 2024

STRATHCONA
COUNTY

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction

2. Strathcona County Open Space Master Plan
    - Overview
    - Timeline
    - Progress

3. Key takeaways

4. What we heard in Phase 1a

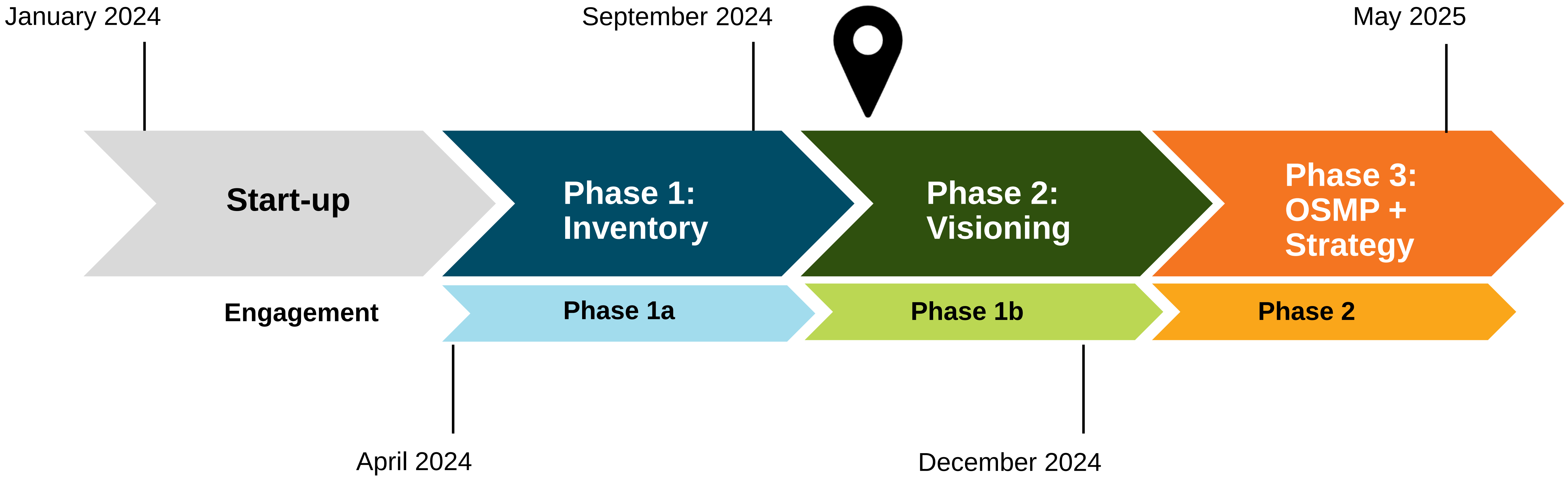
5. Next steps

Project overview

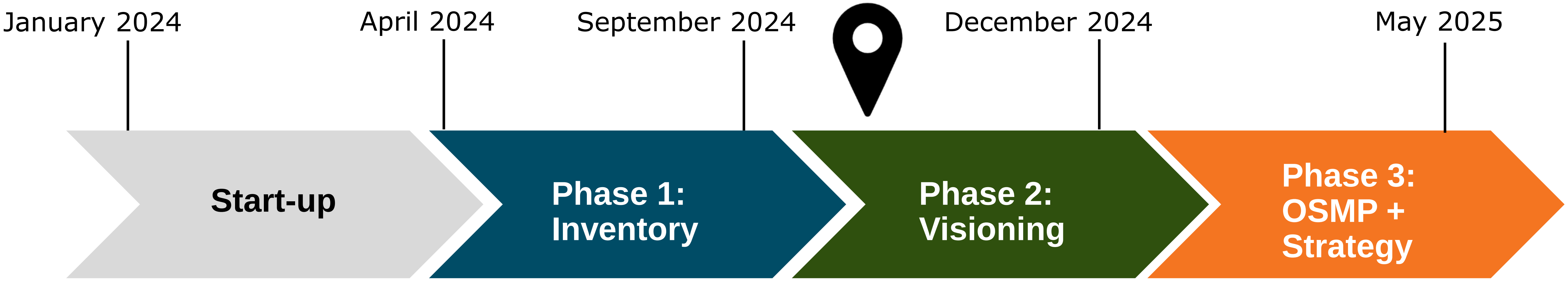
The creation of Strathcona's Open Space Master Plan will help shape and guide the planning, design, implementation, management, and operations of an integrated open space network. This work includes:

- An **inventory of the County's existing designated public open spaces**, including its park system, the amenities it contains and other open spaces such as stormwater ponds, boulevards, and medians.
- An **assessment of park provisioning and amenity access** using a walkable catchment lens.
- An **assessment of Ecological Value** throughout the County to provide a lens to value these open spaces for the ecosystem services they provide.
- A **review of the County's existing policy framework** will be compared with other municipalities to identify other opportunities or approaches to the acquisition and management of the open space system.
- A **review of recreational trends across Canada** will highlight shifting practices and help to identify the changing needs of the County's residents

Project timeline


January 2024
September 2024
May 2025
Start-up
Phase 1:
Inventory
Phase 2:
Visioning
Phase 3:
OSMP +
Strategy
Engagement
Phase 1a
Phase 1b
Phase 2
April 2024
December 2024

Project progress



January 2024

April 2024

September 2024

December 2024

May 2025

Start-up

Phase 1: Inventory

Phase 2: Visioning

Phase 3: OSMP + Strategy

Key tasks

Define open space values

Review of recreational trends

Review of existing policy framework

Analysis of existing conditions
- Current demographics
- Growth areas
- Open space provisioning
- Amenity provisioning
- Environmentally Significant Areas

Up Next

Interested parties and public engagement to confirm and supplement inventory and trends research

Confirm project vision

Establish key objectives of the Open Space Master Plan

STRATHCONA COUNTY

Value of municipal open spaces

Strathcona County’s open space system provides benefits to the well-being of both people and the environment which are a key component of urban and rural life.

- Improved quality of life and societal benefits
  - Physical and mental health
  - Social connection and community building
  - Connection to nature
- Social isolation
  - Addressing loneliness and social disconnection
- Equity
  - Ensuring equitable access can support equity-denied communities with lower crime rates, economic growth and better educational outcomes

Key takeaways

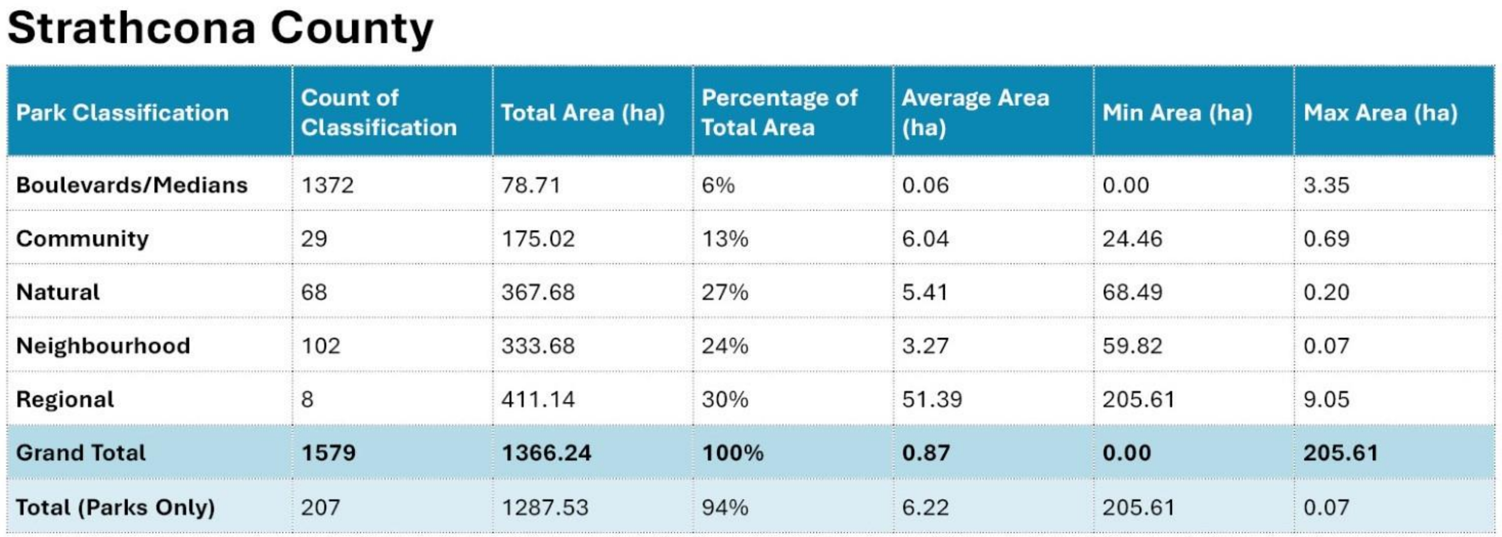
Strathcona County’s open space system:

1. Provides adequate supply for the current population.
2. Must provide adequate functional parkland to support new developments.
3. Should consider functionality and suitability of amenities.

Current open space system

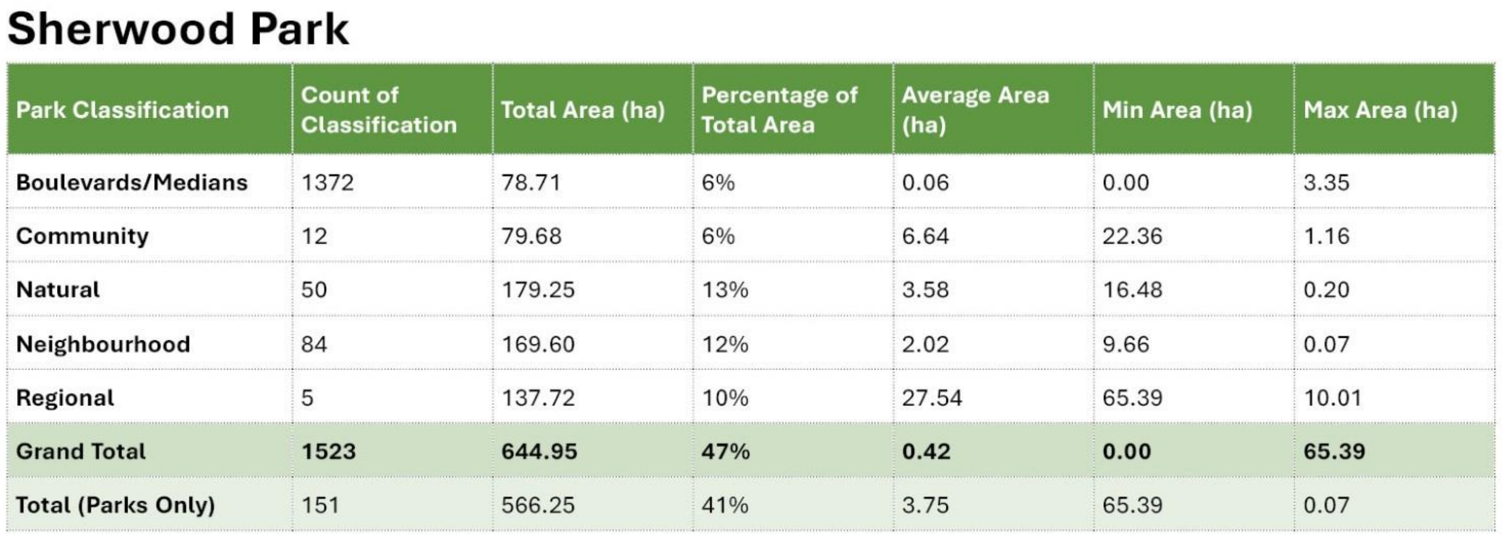
1,287.5 ha of total Municipal Parkland across:

- **207** individual parks
- **78.71 ha** of boulevards/medians
- **1,366.24 ha** of public open space



Strathcona County

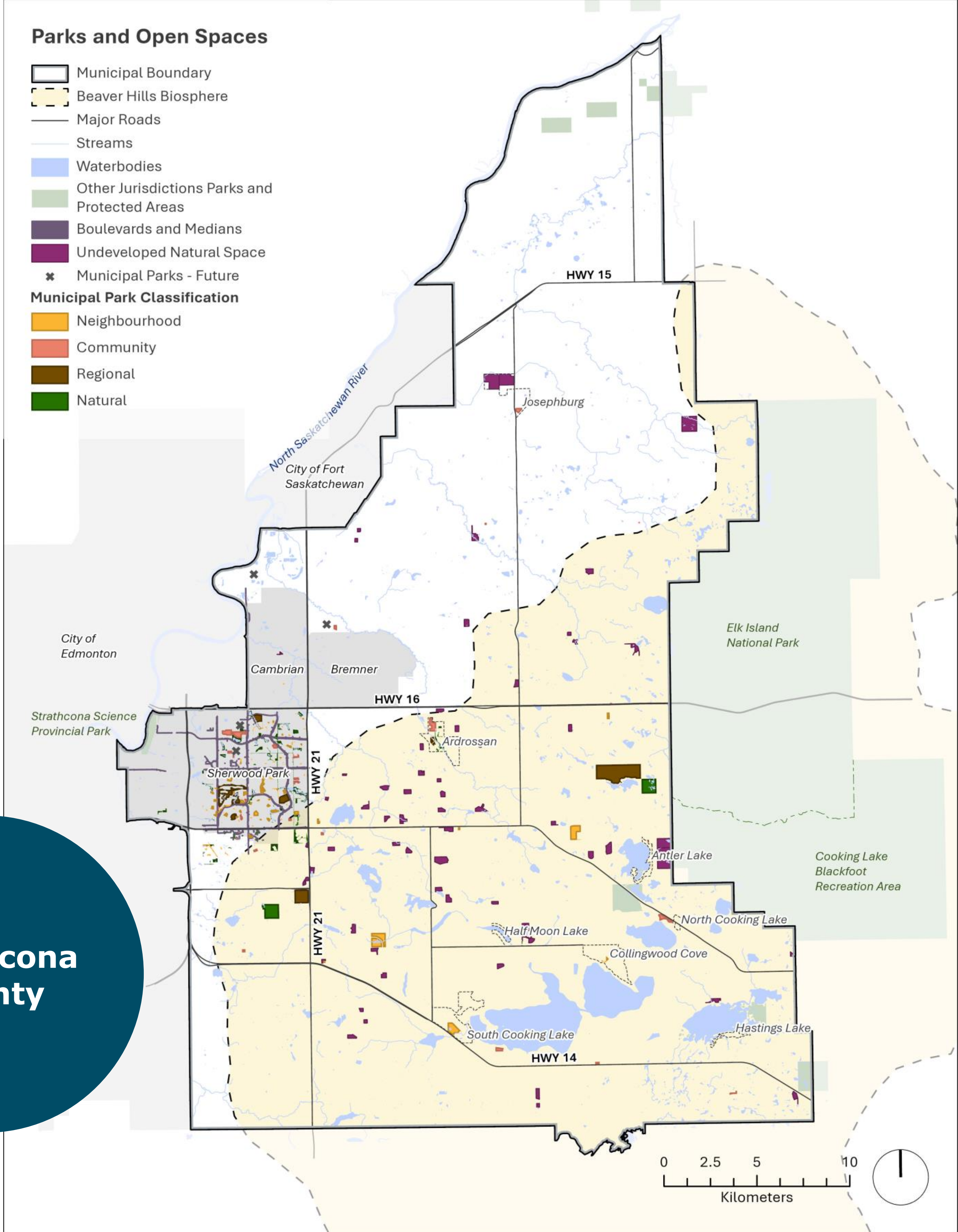
Park Classification	Count of Classification	Total Area (ha)	Percentage of Total Area	Average Area (ha)	Min Area (ha)	Max Area (ha)
Boulevards/Medians	1372	78.71	6%	0.06	0.00	3.35
Community	29	175.02	13%	6.04	24.46	0.69
Natural	68	367.68	27%	5.41	68.49	0.20
Neighbourhood	102	333.68	24%	3.27	59.82	0.07
Regional	8	411.14	30%	51.39	205.61	9.05
Grand Total	**1579**	**1366.24**	**100%**	**0.87**	**0.00**	**205.61**
Total (Parks Only)	207	1287.53	94%	6.22	205.61	0.07



Sherwood Park

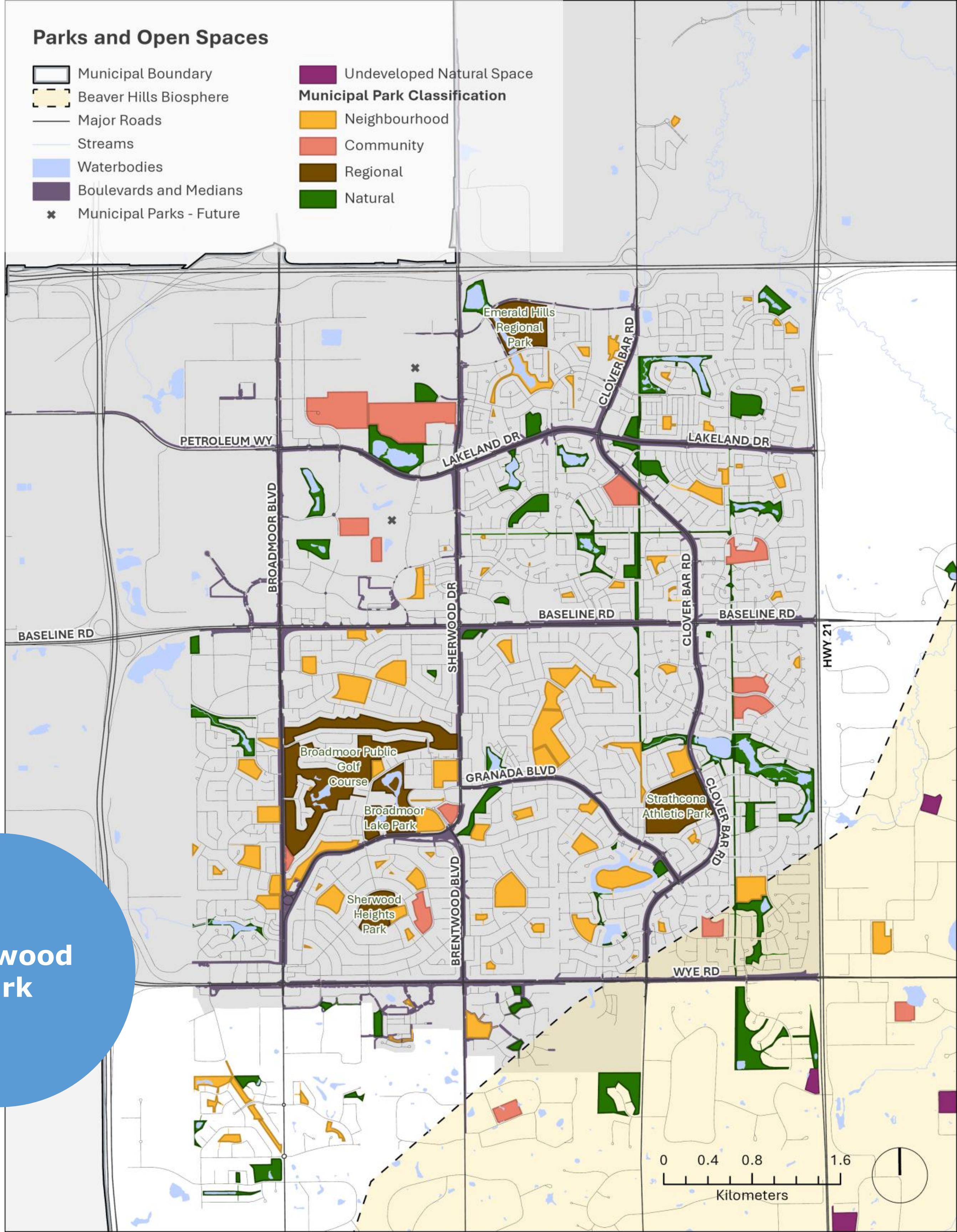
Park Classification	Count of Classification	Total Area (ha)	Percentage of Total Area	Average Area (ha)	Min Area (ha)	Max Area (ha)
Boulevards/Medians	1372	78.71	6%	0.06	0.00	3.35
Community	12	79.68	6%	6.64	22.36	1.16
Natural	50	179.25	13%	3.58	16.48	0.20
Neighbourhood	84	169.60	12%	2.02	9.66	0.07
Regional	5	137.72	10%	27.54	65.39	10.01
Grand Total	**1523**	**644.95**	**47%**	**0.42**	**0.00**	**65.39**
Total (Parks Only)	151	566.25	41%	3.75	65.39	0.07

Current open space system


Parks and Open Spaces
Municipal Boundary
Beaver Hills Biosphere
Major Roads
Streams
Waterbodies
Other Jurisdictions Parks and Protected Areas
Boulevards and Medians
Undeveloped Natural Space
Municipal Parks - Future
Municipal Park Classification
Neighbourhood
Community
Regional
Natural
HWY 15
North Saskatchewan River
Josephburg
City of Fort Saskatchewan
City of Edmonton
Cambrian
Bremner
Elk Island National Park
HWY 16
Strathcona Science Provincial Park
Ardrossan
Sherwood Park
HWY 21
Antler Lake
Cooking Lake Blackfoot Recreation Area
North Cooking Lake
Half Moon Lake
Collingwood Cove
South Cooking Lake
Hastings Lake
HWY 14
0
2.5
5
10
Kilometers

Strathcona County

Current open space system


Parks and Open Spaces
Municipal Boundary
Beaver Hills Biosphere
Major Roads
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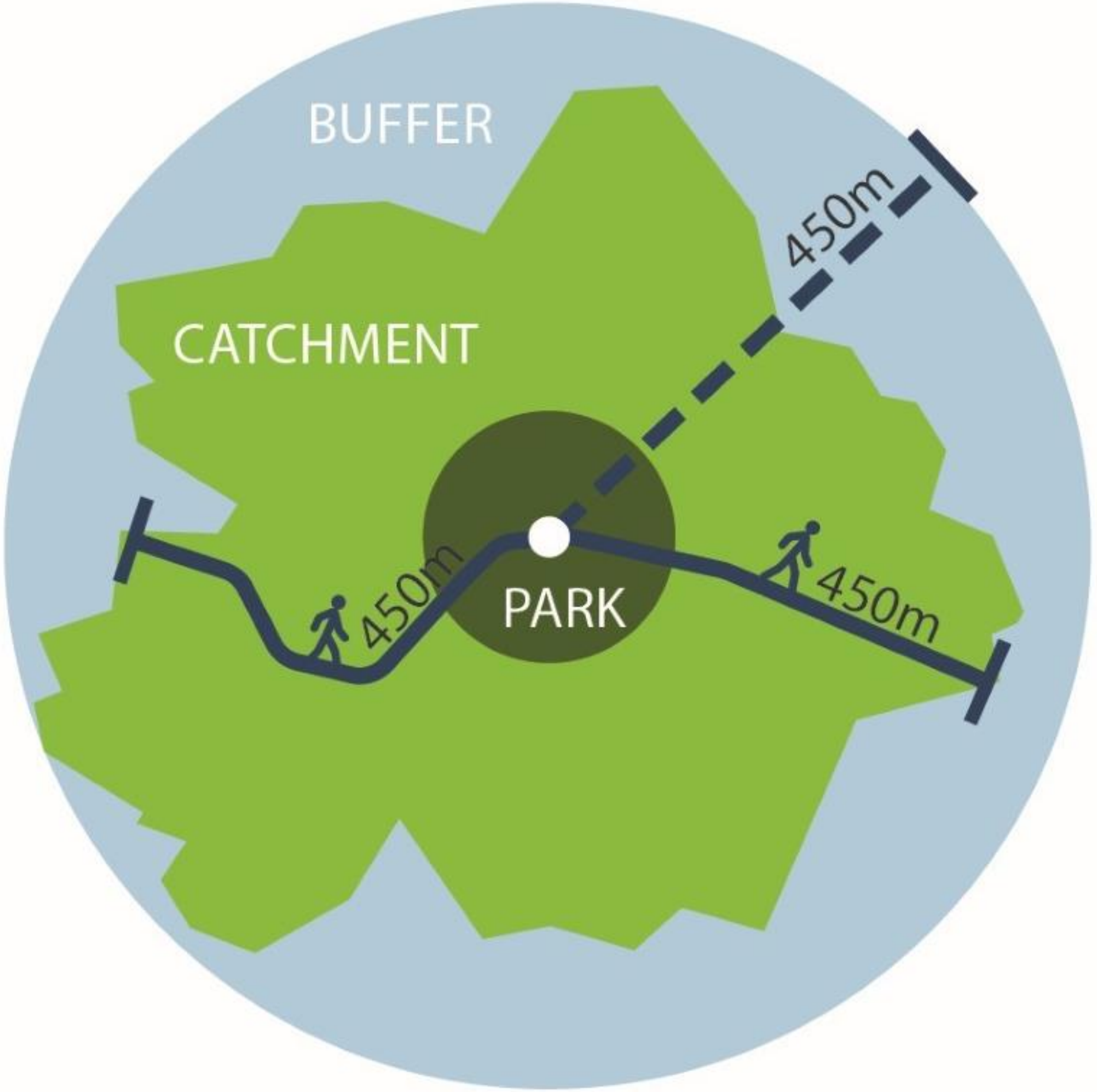
Waterbodies
Boulevards and Medians
✖ Municipal Parks - Future
Undeveloped Natural Space
Municipal Park Classification
Neighbourhood
Community
Regional
Natural
Emerald Hills Regional Park
CLOVER BAR RD
PETROLEUM WY
LAKELAND DR
LAKELAND DR
BROADMOOR BLVD
SHERWOOD DR
BASELINE RD
BASELINE RD
BASELINE RD
CLOVER BAR RD
HWY 21
Broadmoor Public Golf Course
Broadmoor Lake Park
GRANADA BLVD
Strathcona Athletic Park
CLOVER BAR RD
Sherwood Heights Park
BRENTWOOD BLVD
WYE RD
0
0.4
0.8
1.6
Kilometers

Sherwood Park

Park provisioning

Catchment-based assessments
of local open space provisioning

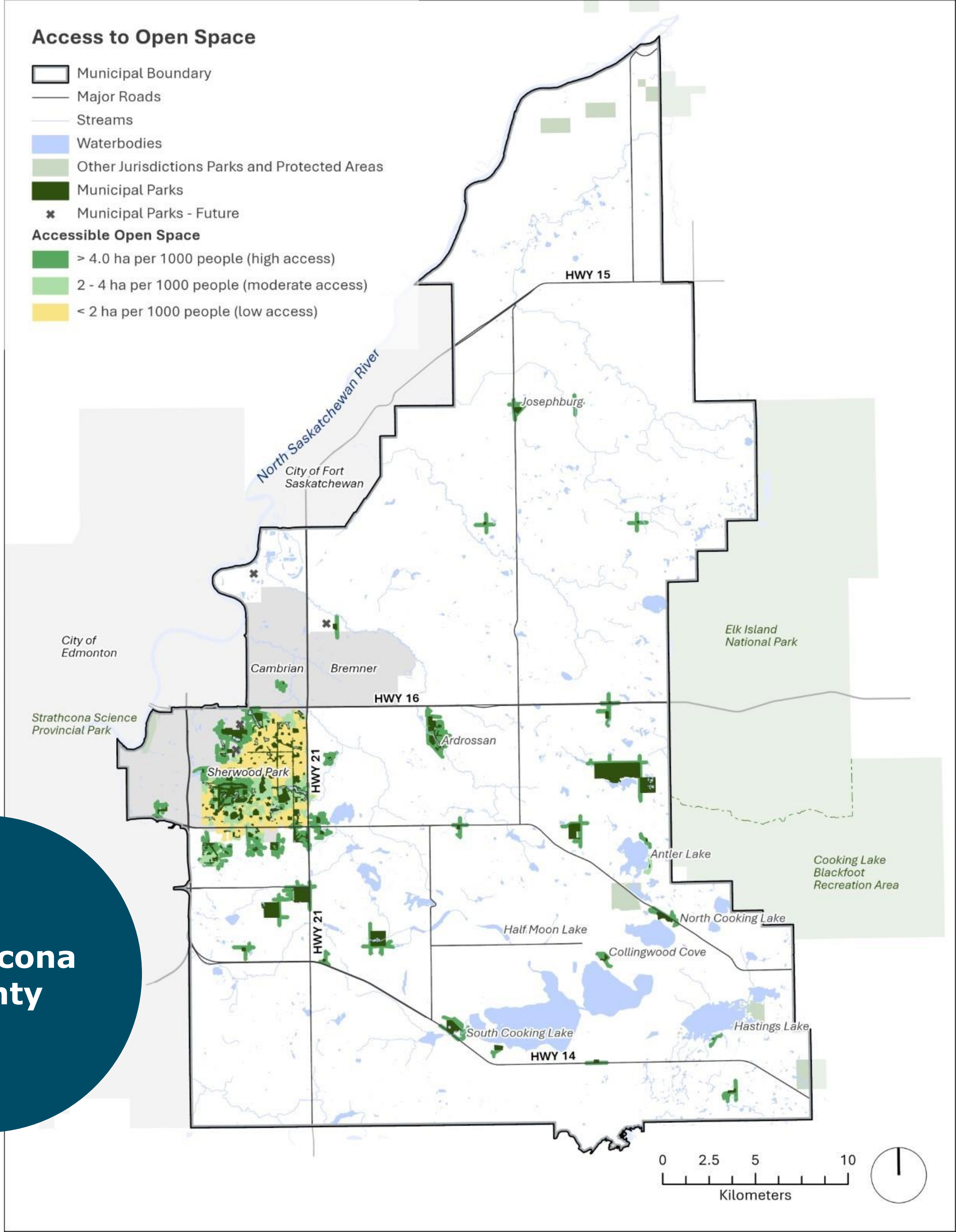


Walkable catchment analysis uses the network of roads, sidewalks, and trails to calculate walking routes to determine the lands within a 5 minute / 450m walking distance from each public open space.

More useful analysis than a typical “buffer” or “birds’ eye” catchment.

- Considers on the ground pathways and existing terrain barriers
- More accurate assessment of the accessibility of the current parkland supply.

Open space provisioning


Access to Open Space
Municipal Boundary
Major Roads
Streams
Waterbodies
Other Jurisdictions Parks and Protected Areas
Municipal Parks
✖ Municipal Parks - Future
Accessible Open Space
> 4.0 ha per 1000 people (high access)
2 - 4 ha per 1000 people (moderate access)
< 2 ha per 1000 people (low access)
HWY 15
North Saskatchewan River
Josephburg
City of Fort Saskatchewan
City of Edmonton
Cambrian
Bremner
Elk Island National Park
HWY 16
Strathcona Science Provincial Park
Ardrossan
Sherwood Park
HWY 21
Antler Lake
Cooking Lake Blackfoot Recreation Area
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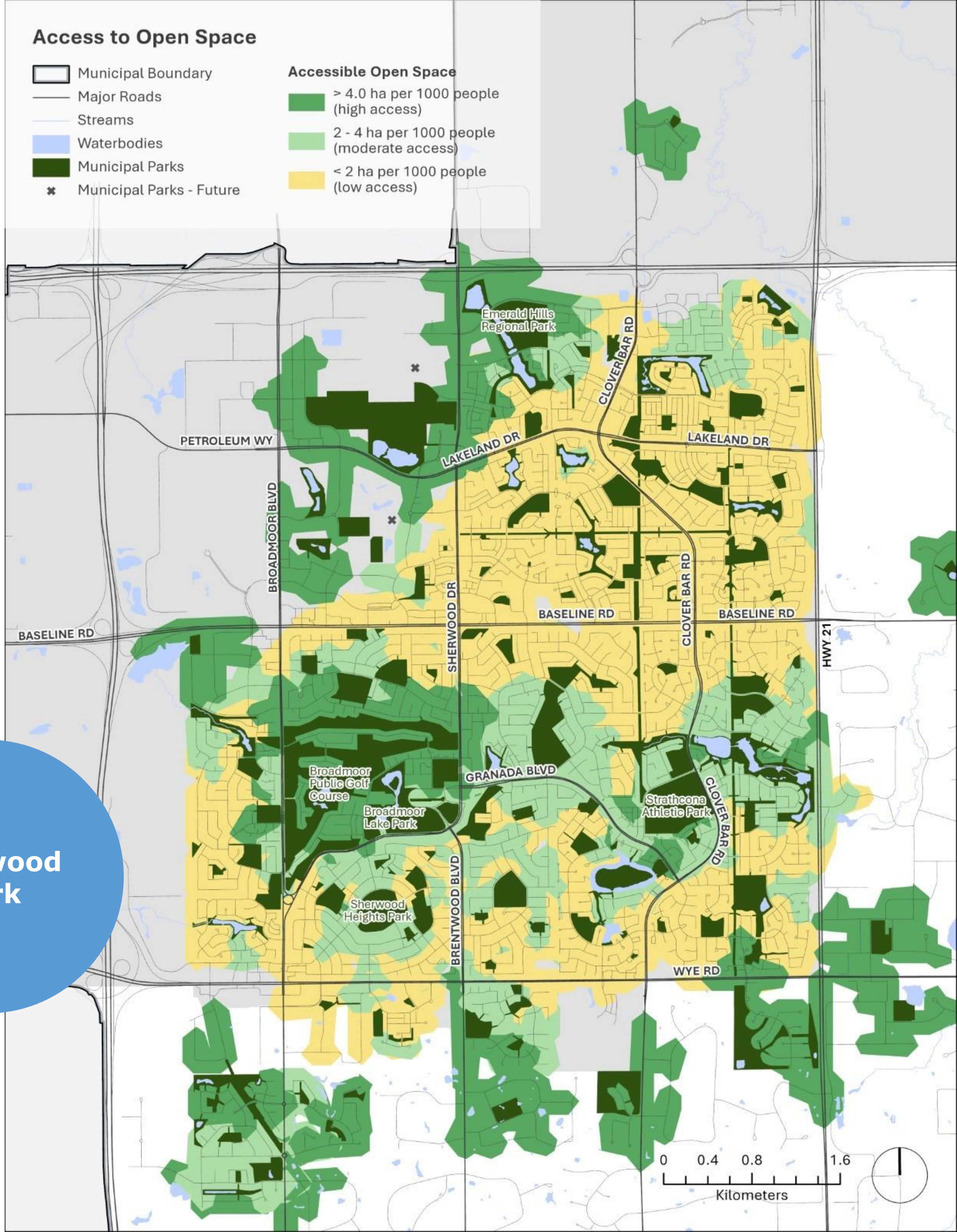
Hastings Lake
HWY 14
0
2.5
5
10
Kilometers

Strathcona County

Open space provisioning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Municipal Boundary
Major Roads
Streams
Waterbodies
Municipal Parks
✖ Municipal Parks - Future
Accessible Open Space
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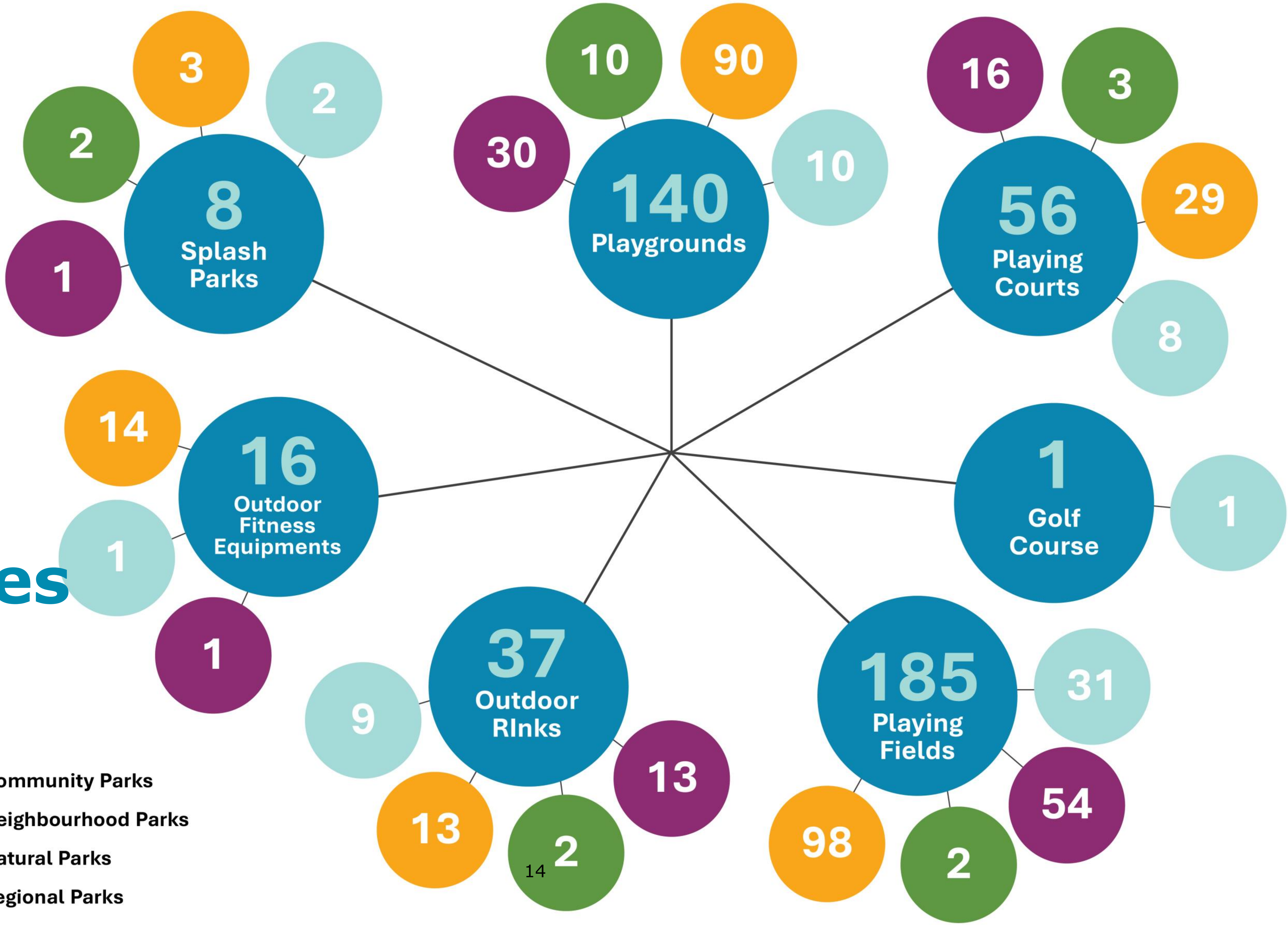
CLOVER BAR RD
LAKELAND DR
PETROLEUM WY
BROADMOOR BLVD
SHERWOOD DR
BASELINE RD
HWY 21
GRANADA BLVD
Broadmoor Public Golf Course
Broadmoor Lake Park
Strathcona Athletic Park
Sherwood Heights Park
BRENTWOOD BLVD
WYE RD
0 0.4 0.8 1.6
Kilometers

Sherwood Park

Open space amenities



8 Splash Parks: 🟪 1, 🟩 2, 🟧 3, 🟦 2

140 Playgrounds: 🟪 30, 🟩 10, 🟧 90, 🟦 10

56 Playing Courts: 🟪 16, 🟩 3, 🟧 29, 🟦 8

16 Outdoor Fitness Equipments: 🟧 14, 🟦 1, 🟪 1

1 Golf Course: 🟦 1

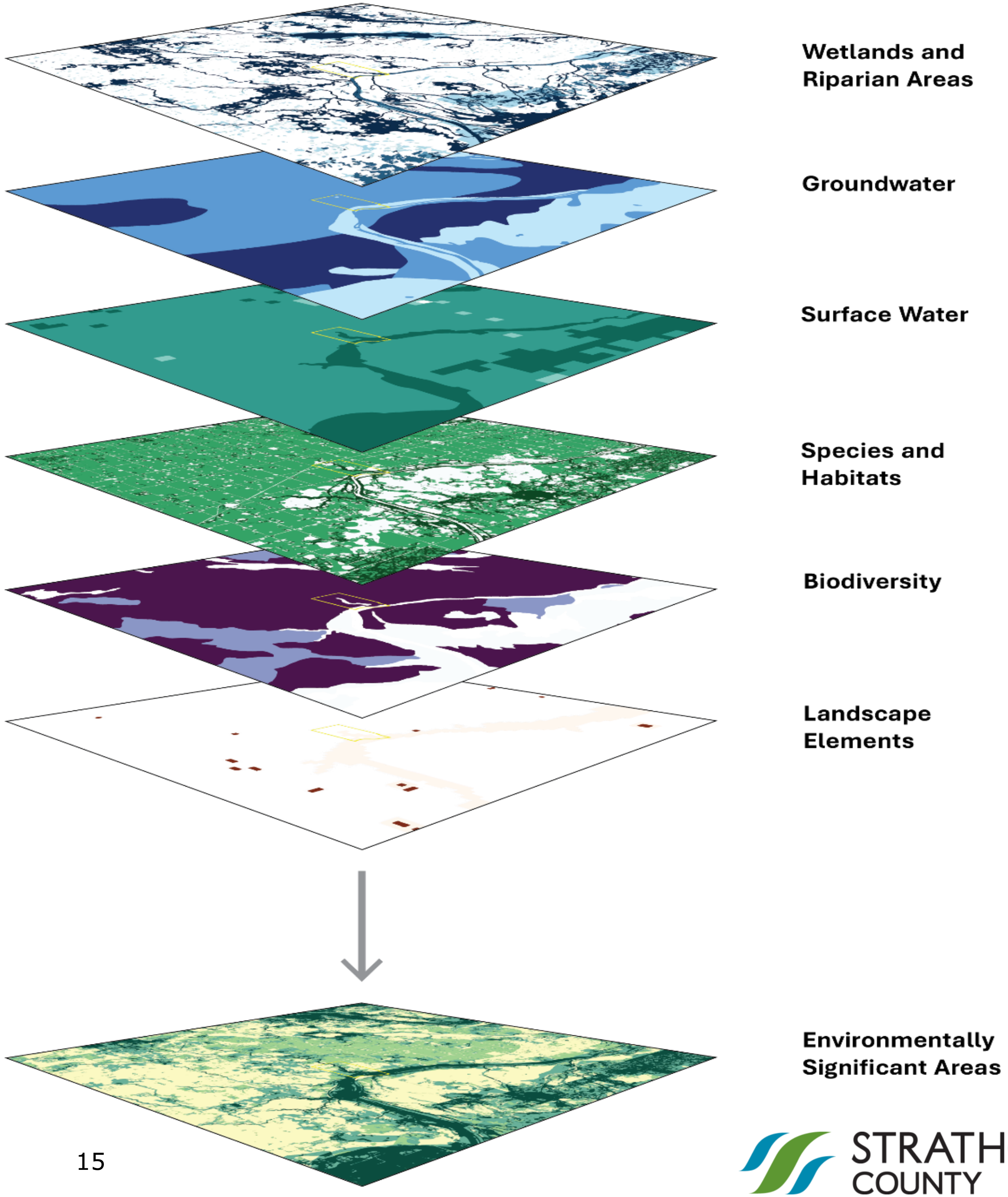
37 Outdoor RInks: 🟦 9, 🟧 13, 🟩 2, 🟪 13

185 Playing Fields: 🟦 31, 🟪 54, 🟩 2, 🟧 98

🟪 Community Parks
🟧 Neighbourhood Parks
🟩 Natural Parks
🟦 Regional Parks

Ecological value of the open space system

The relative value of lands throughout the county were defined using an overlay model which took individual data inputs for six themes


Wetlands and Riparian Areas
Groundwater
Surface Water
Species and Habitats
Biodiversity
Landscape Elements
Environmentally Significant Areas

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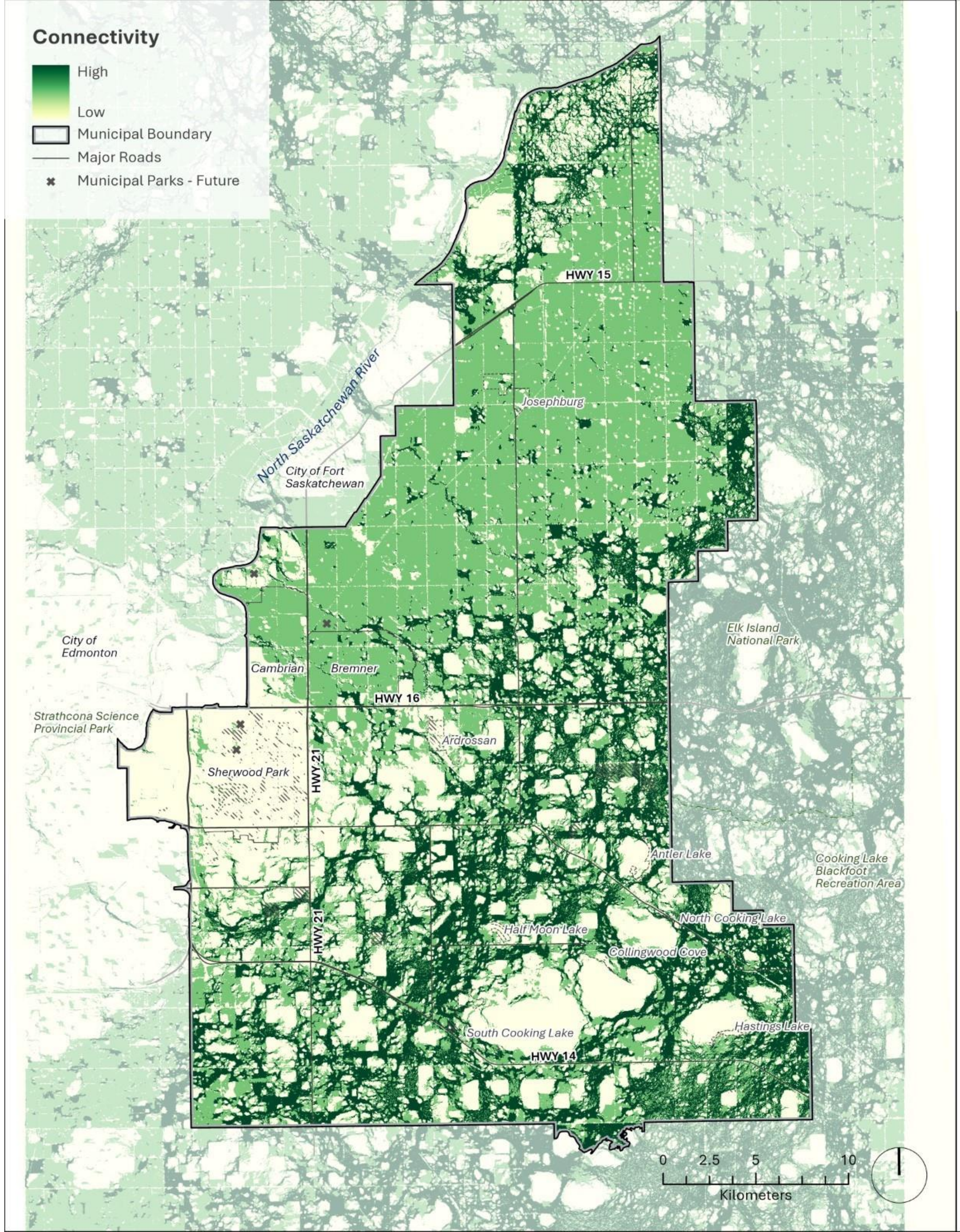
Connectivity
High
Low
Municipal Boundary
Major Roads
Municipal Parks - Future
HWY 15
North Saskatchewan River
City of Fort Saskatchewan
Josephburg
City of Edmonton
Elk Island National Park
Cambrian
Bremner
HWY 16
Strathcona Science Provincial Park
Ardrossan
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Collingwood Cove
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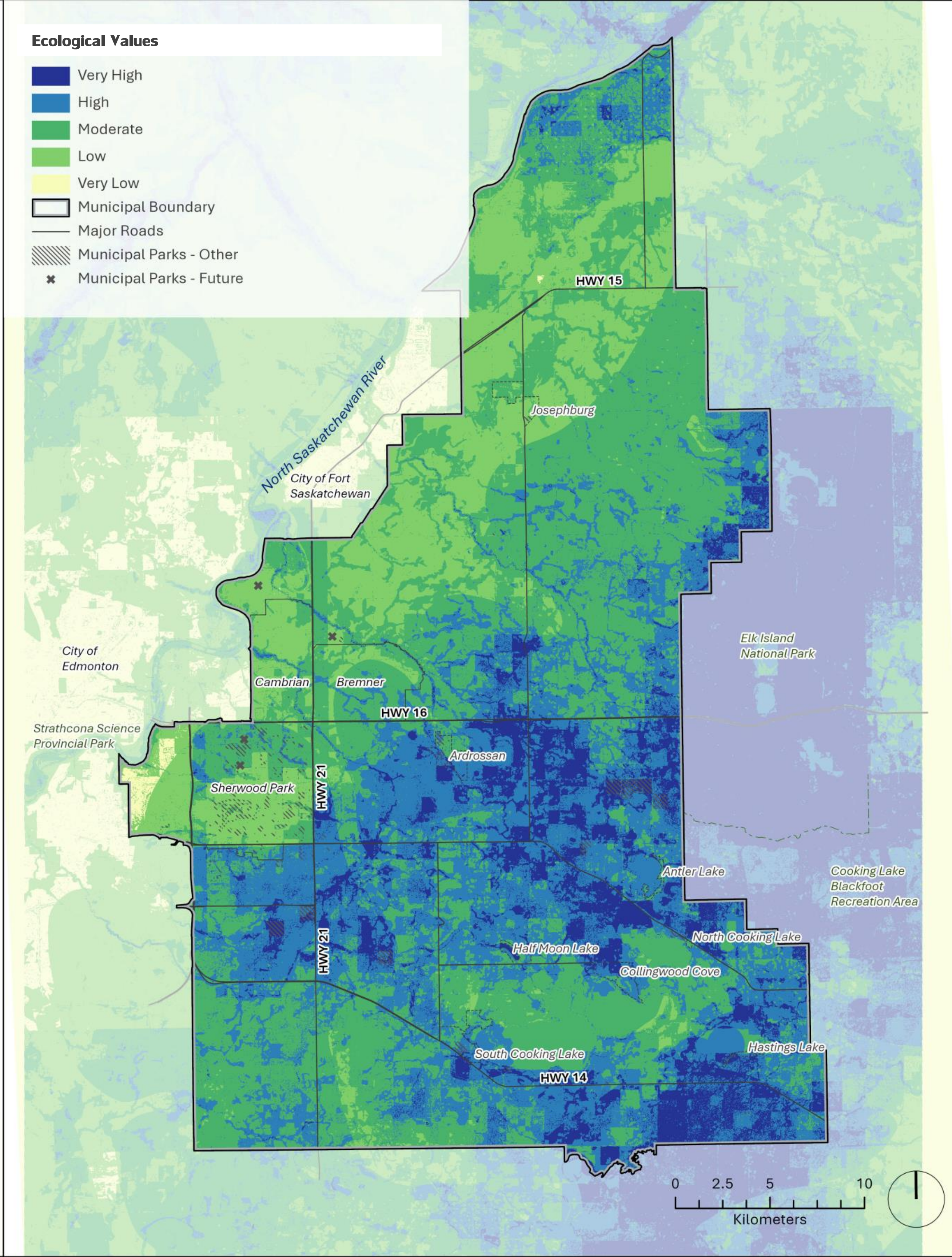
Hastings Lake
HWY 14
0 2.5 5 10
Kilometers


Ecological Values
Very High
High
Moderate
Low
Very Low
Municipal Boundary
Major Roads
Municipal Parks - Other
Municipal Parks - Future
HWY 15
North Saskatchewan River
City of Fort Saskatchewan
Josephburg
City of Edmonton
Elk Island National Park
Cambrian
Bremner
HWY 16
Strathcona Science Provincial Park
Ardrossan
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Antler Lake
Cooking Lake Blackfoot Recreation Area
North Cooking Lake
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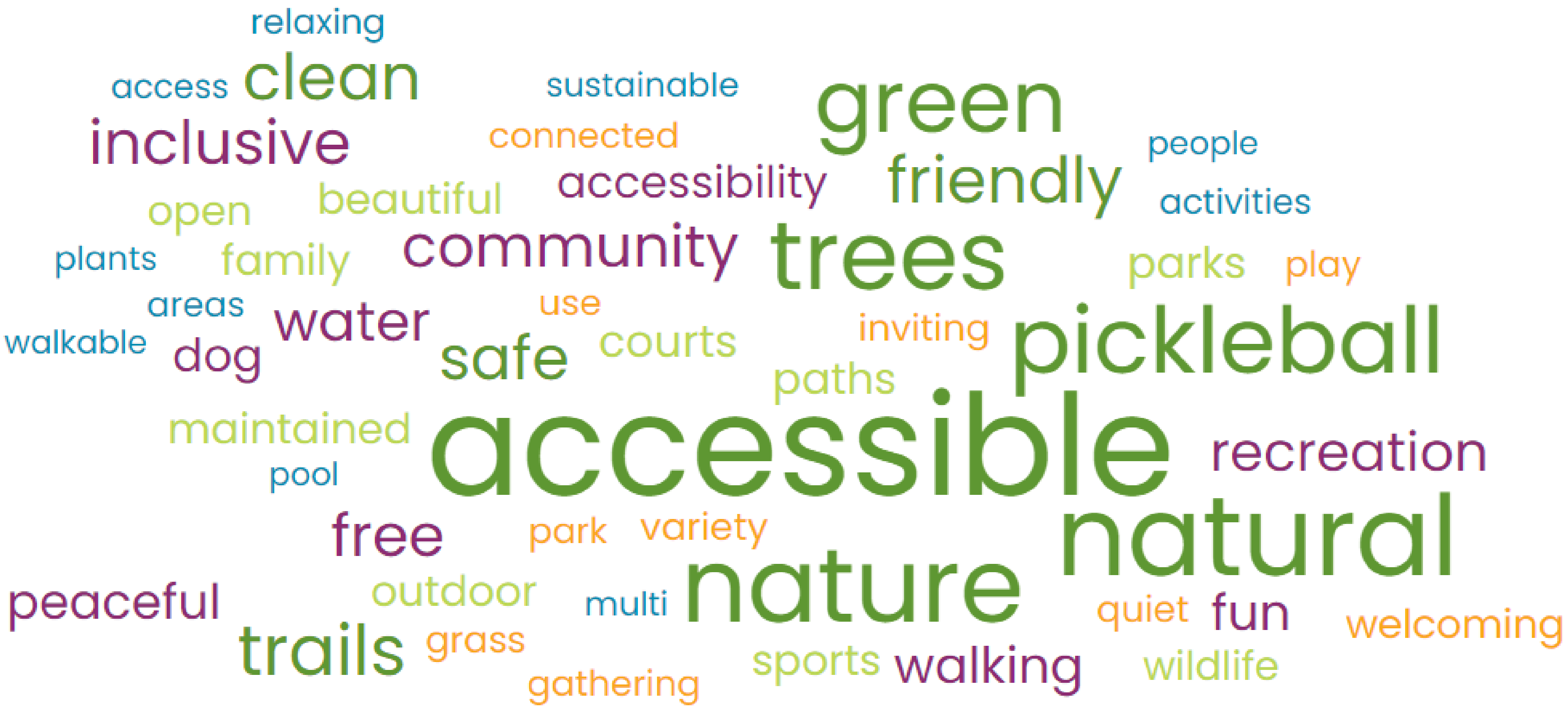
Half Moon Lake
Collingwood Cove
South Cooking Lake
Hastings Lake
HWY 14
0 2.5 5 10
Kilometers

What we heard: Summer 2024 visioning survey

Throughout Phase 1a, a short visioning survey collected public input on values, interests, and needs for open spaces.

The survey was open from July 2 to August 18. We collected a total of 827 responses.

Share your vision for open spaces! Which three words would you use to describe your vision for the future of open spaces in the County?



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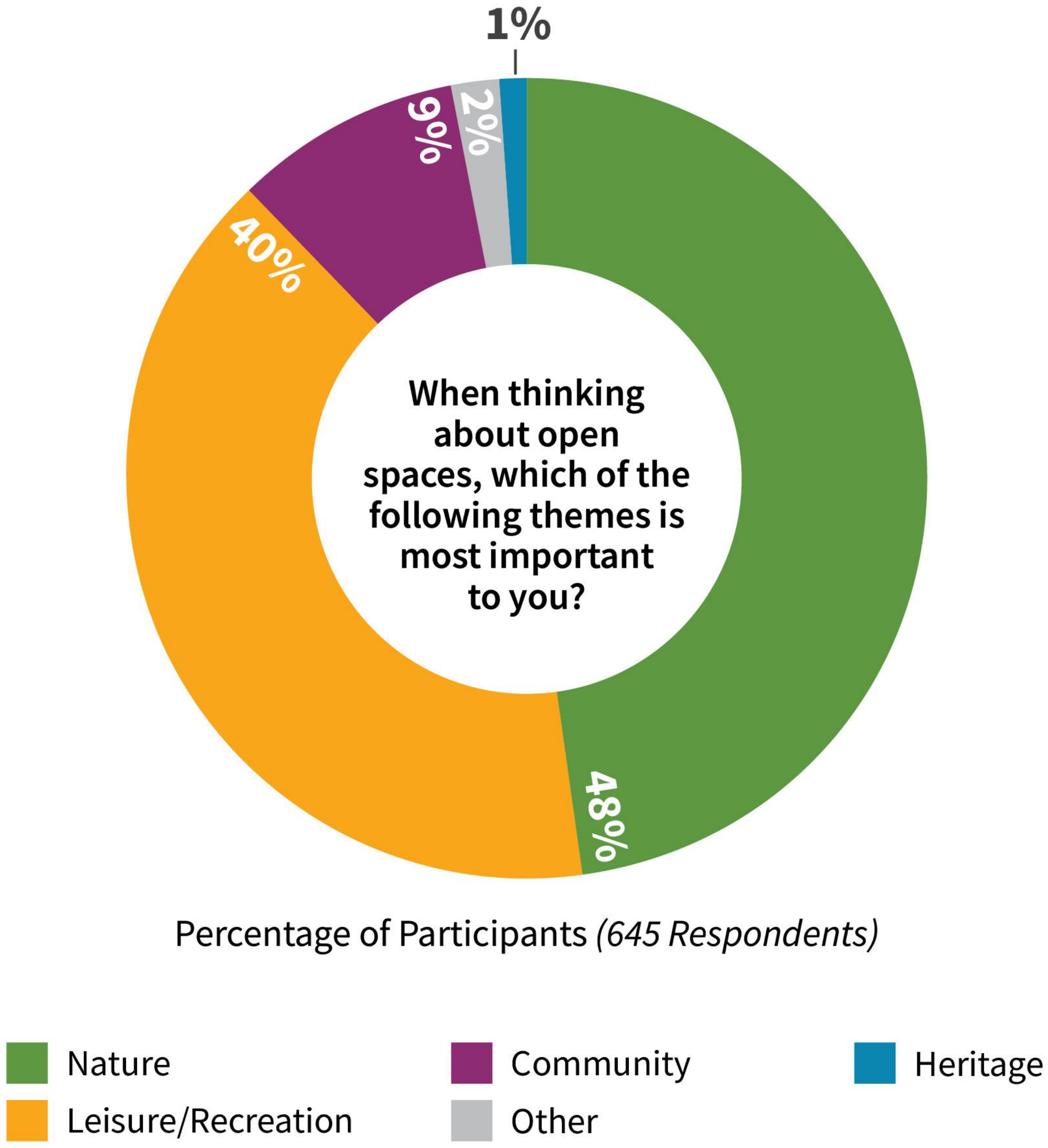
What we heard: summer 2024 visioning survey

Preferred themes:

1. Nature (48%)
2. Leisure/Rec (40%)
3. Community (9%)

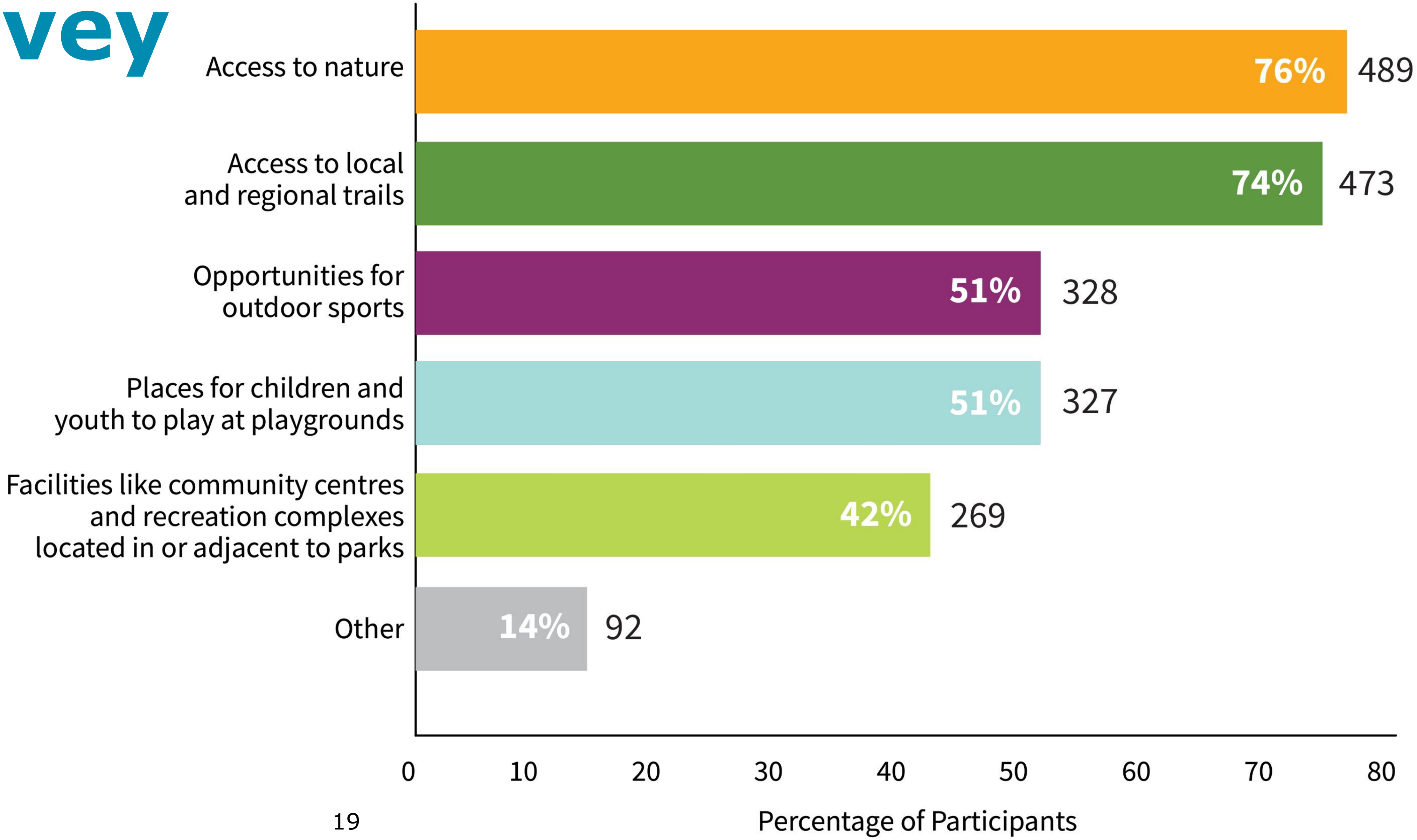
When thinking about open spaces, which of the following themes is most important to you?



What we heard: Summer 2024 visioning survey

Respondents most appreciate access to nature and local/regional trails in Strathcona County.

What do you appreciate about open spaces in the County?

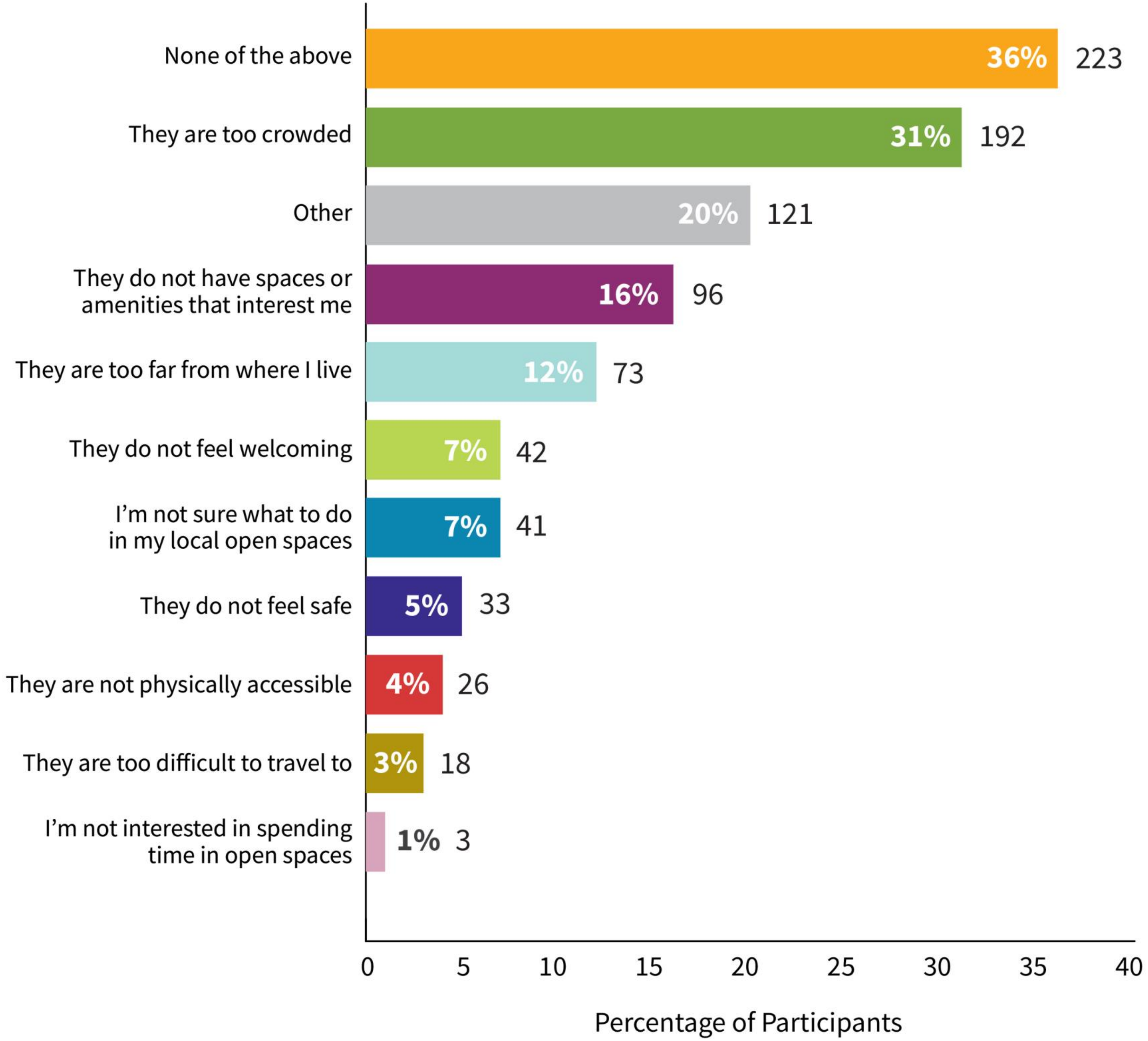


What we heard: Summer 2024 visioning survey

Most common barriers:

1. Too crowded (31%)
2. Spaces / amenities are not interesting (16%)
3. Too far from home (12%)

Which of the following barriers do you experience (if any) when accessing open spaces?



Next Steps

Phase 1 Engagement (Fall 2024)

Completed:
Technical Committee Meeting
Interested Parties Workshop
Public Open Houses
Interactive Map

Forthcoming:
What we heard summary (presented to Council Q1 2025)

Revisions and additions based on internal and external feedback

Phase 2 Visioning (Winter 2024)

Confirm and refine vision for the County’s open space system

Identify key objectives of the Open Space Master Plan

Establish Master Plan outline

Provide clear direction for subsequent development of the Master Plan in Q1 of 2025

Questions