

Parks and Green Spaces Master Plan 2025-2035

PUBLIC WORKSHOP
July 16, 2025



Evening Schedule

Opening Remarks

01 — Overview of the Master Plan

Analysis and Diagnostic
Strategic Planning
Action Plan

02 — Workshop

03 — Plenary Session

End of the Evening



What Is a Parks and Green Spaces Master Plan ?

A Snapshot of the Parks and Green Spaces Network

Park Users

- Users of the parks are surveyed to understand their visitation habits, needs, and preferences.
- Sports, recreational, and community organizations are also consulted.

Inventory

- All parks and green spaces in the Town are visited.
- All play structures and outdoor sports facilities are counted.
- Their condition is assessed.

Statistical Data

- The population distribution and growth projections are analyzed.
- The age group distribution within the population is examined.
- Sociodemographic indicators are reviewed to understand population dynamics.
- Bicycle paths, trails, and other infrastructure are mapped.

Identification of Findings and Issues

Vision and Main Action Areas

- A shared vision is defined.
- Main action areas are identified to help achieve that vision.

Trends

- Best practices and innovations from other municipalities are reviewed.
- The trends best suited to the Town's context are selected.

Action Plan

- Based on the vision, the main guiding principles, and the identified trends, specific actions are proposed for each park.
- These actions are prioritized according to their level of urgency and importance.

A guide for the development of parks and green spaces

Participatory Approach



Identifying Residents' Needs and Perceptions

- > Consultation Session – October 23, 2024
- > Online Survey – 642 respondents – conducted from September 11 to October 1, 2024



Identifying Stakeholders' Needs and Issues

- > Online Survey for Organizations – conducted from September 11 to October 1, 2024
- > Workshop with School, Community, Cultural, and Sports Organizations – October 2, 2024
- > Workshop with Municipal Services – October 8, 2024



Validation of the Proposed Actions

- > Participatory Workshop on Park Development Scenarios – July 16, 2025
- > Survey on Park Development Scenarios – to be launched on July 17, 2025

01 —

Analysis et diagnostic



Territorial Breakdown by District

District 6 –
OUE: West End

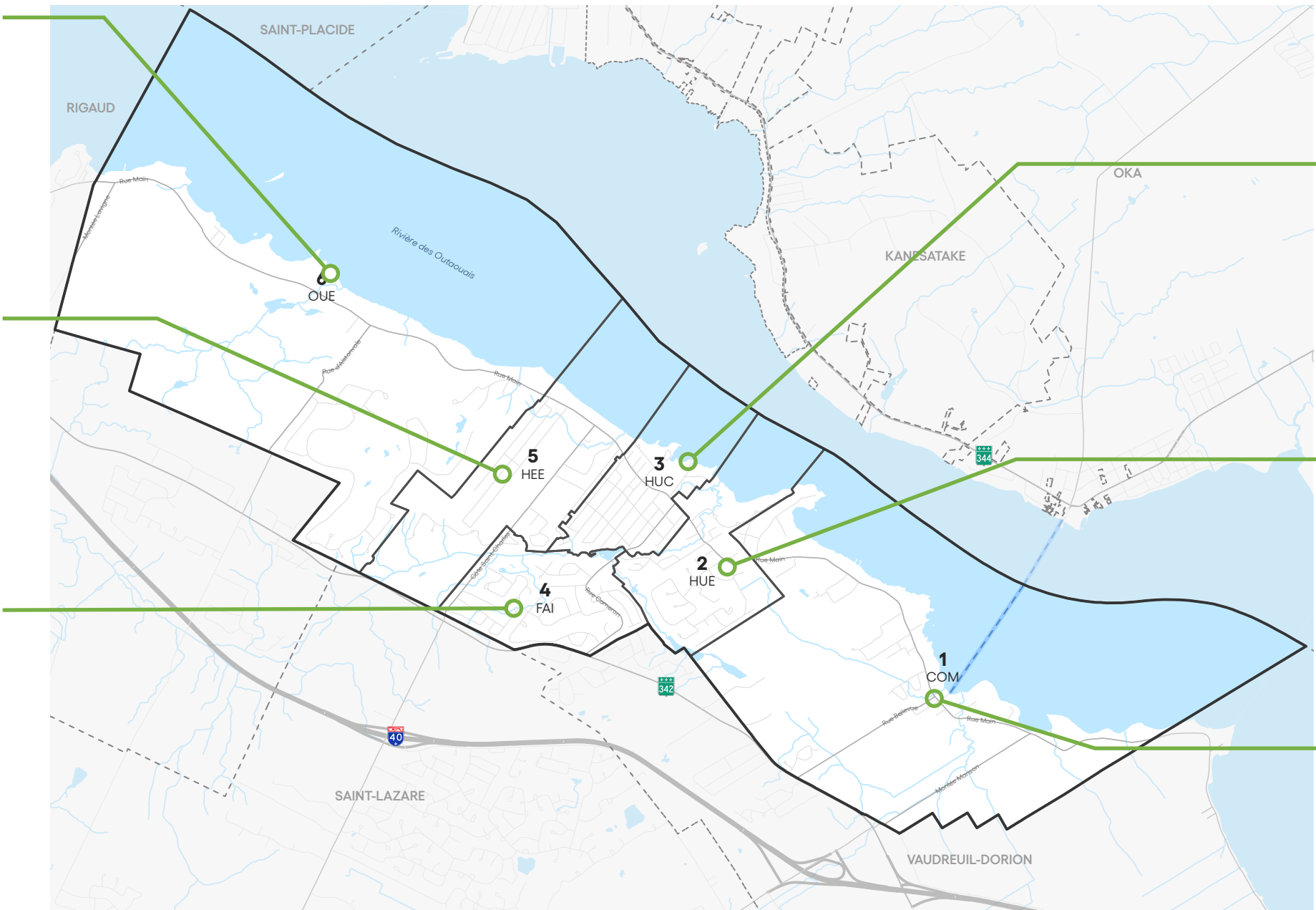
District 5 –
HEE: Eastern Heights

District 4 –
FAI: Fairhaven

District 3 –
HUC: Central Hudson

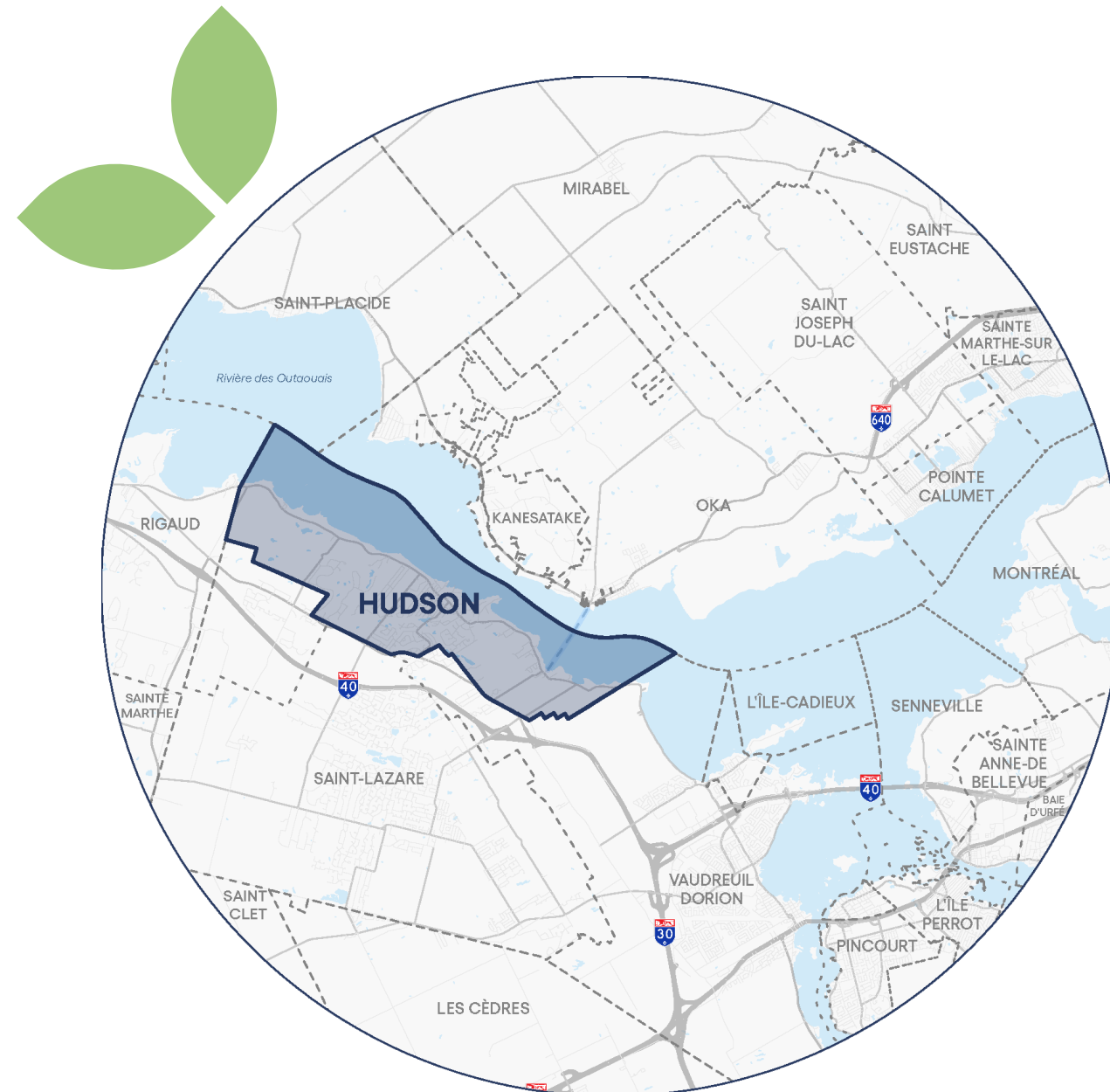
District 2 –
HUE: Eastern Hudson

Planning Unit 1 –
COM: Como



Territory Profile

- > Diverse natural environments (woodlands, waterways, wetlands, etc.) and areas of patrimonial interest
- > 37% of the territory is zoned for agriculture
- > 42% of the territory is covered by forest
- > Bordered by the Ottawa River
- > Strategically located between Montréal and Ottawa

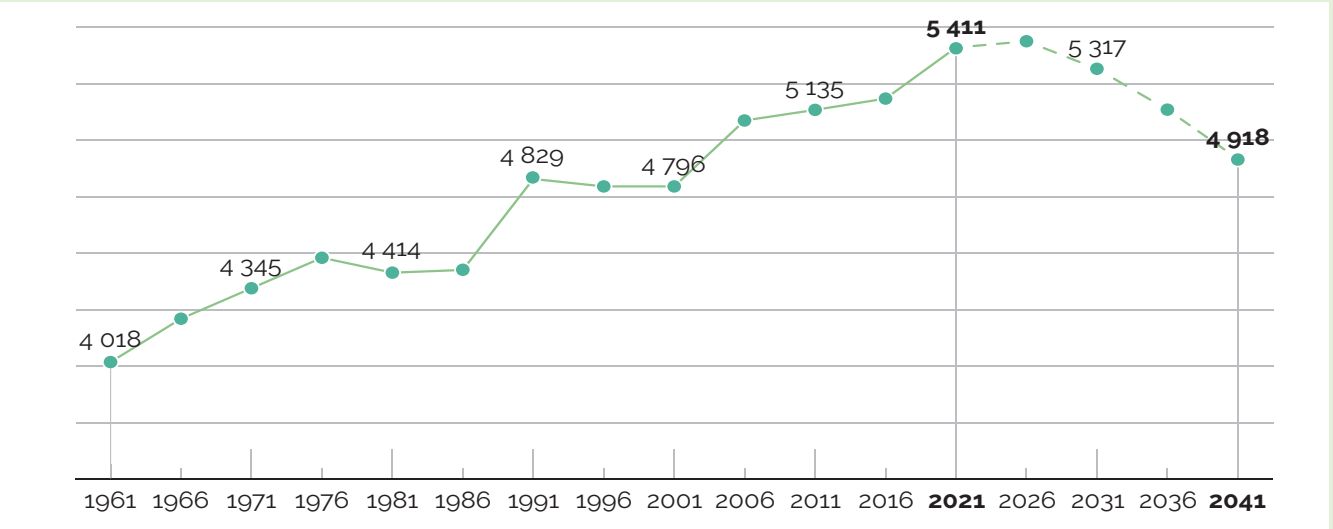


Sociodemographic Profile

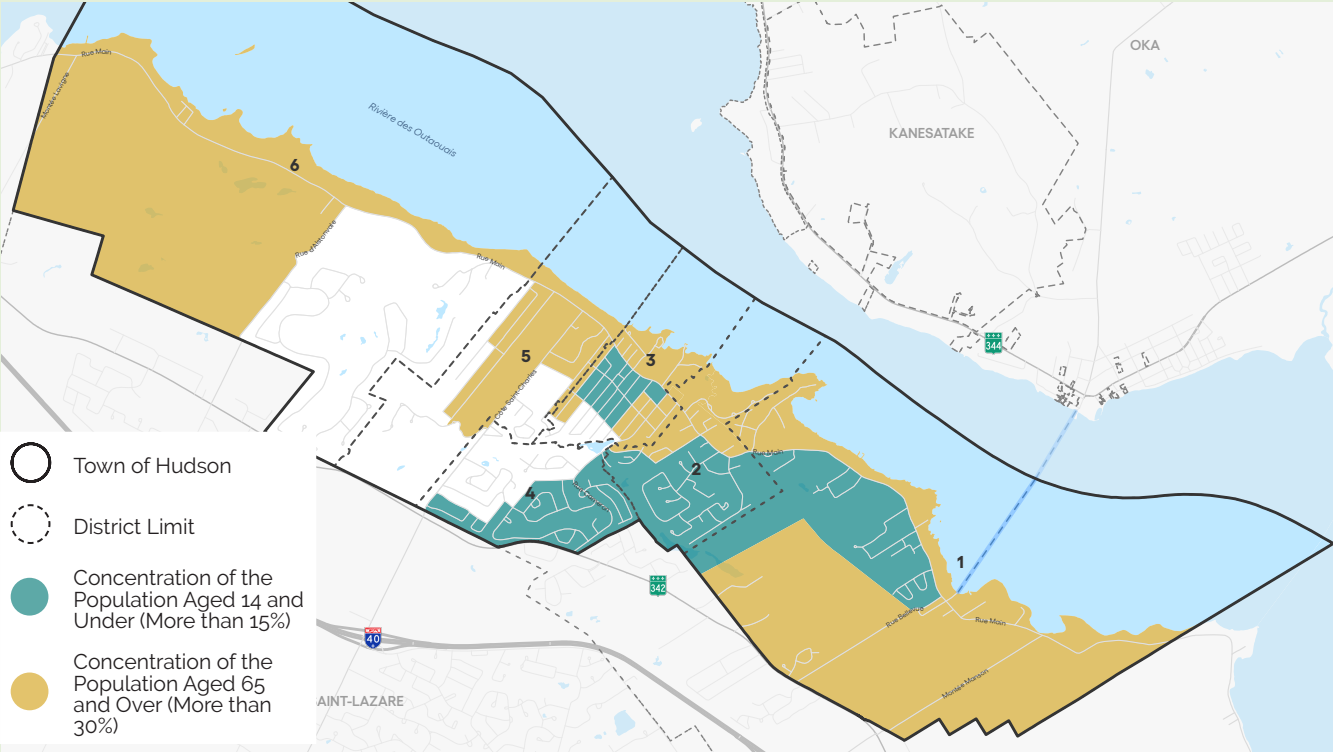
- > Strong community engagement
- > A diverse social fabric
- > Services that must be adapted to the realities of each group



Demographic Trends and Projections, 1961 to 2041



Population Distribution by Age Group



Source: Statistics Canada, 1961 to 2021 Censuses; ISQ, Municipal Demographic Projection 2021–2041

Inventory

- > Conducted in May 2024
- > Type and number of **sports and recreational facilities**, site furnishings, and related infrastructure
- > **Condition** of equipment, furnishings, and signage elements
- > Qualitative assessment of the **overall user experience** in the parks
 - > Universal Accessibility
 - > Rest Areas
 - > Canopy Coverage
 - > Shaded Areas
 - > Nuisances
 - > Vandalism



Typologies

| CATEGORY | TYOLOGY | DEFINITION |
|--------------|-------------------------|---|
| Parks | Nature Park | A natural and developed area for conservation, education, and the enhancement of natural, cultural, and recreational heritage. |
| | Municipal Park | Highly versatile and attractive, often serving multiple planning units and experiencing high levels of use. These parks also feature a variety of recreational and sports facilities, as well as multifunctional and cultural spaces. |
| | Community Park | A green space designed to offer a variety of sports and recreational facilities, along with unstructured areas for leisure, socializing, and free play. |
| | Neighbourhood Park | A green space primarily intended for relaxation and everyday recreation as an extension of the family living environment. Can include a play area and/or a rest area. |
| | School Park | Located adjacent to a school, established through an agreement between the Town and the school service centre. It is assigned either a community or neighbourhood service level based on its size and the facilities it offers. |
| Green Spaces | Official Green Space | A green space intended for relaxation and landscaping purposes. Facilities and services are very limited, but the space is nonetheless maintained on a regular basis. |
| | Undeveloped Green Space | A green space that is either difficult to access or designated for conservation purposes. |

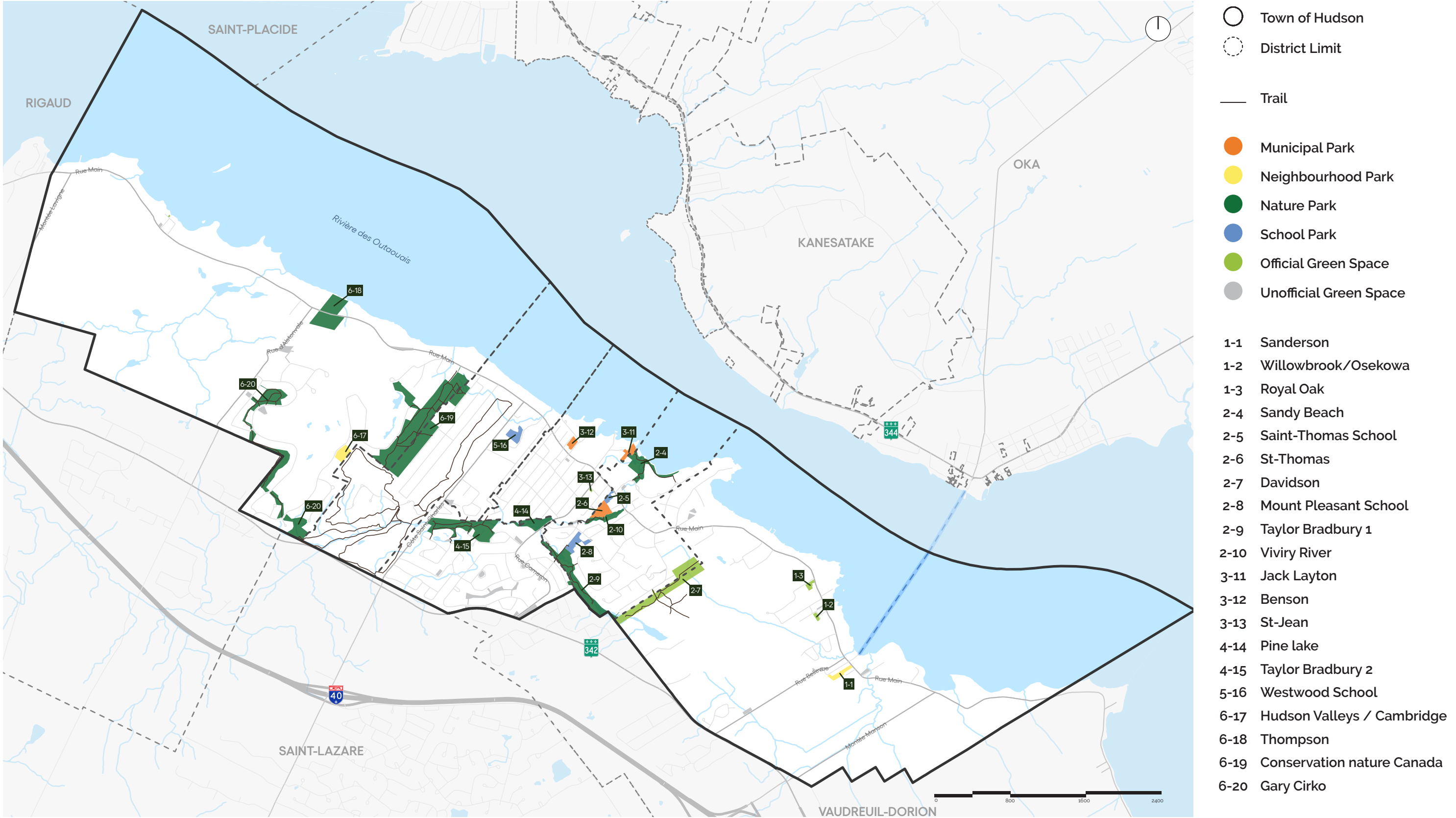
Hudson has **17 parks and green spaces**, half of which are nature parks, along with **3 school parks** managed by the school service centre.

Inventory of Analyzed Parks and Green Spaces

| CODE | PARK NAME | TPOLOGY | AREA (HA) | CODE | PARK NAME | TPOLOGY | AREA (HA) |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1-1 | Sanderson | ● Neighbourhood Park | 1.2 | 2-5 | Saint-Thomas School | ● School Park | 0.6 |
| 1-2 | Willowbrook/Osekowa | ● Official Green Space | 0.3 | 2-8 | Mount Pleasant School | ● School Park | 2.0 |
| 1-3 | Royal Oak | ● Official Green Space | 0.5 | 5-16 | Westwood School | ● School Park | 1.7 |
| 2-4 | Sandy Beach | ● Nature Park | 4.5 | TOTAL: 3 school parks | | | 4.3 ha |
| 2-6 | St-Thomas | ● Municipal Park | 2.1 | | | | |
| 2-7 | Davidson | ● Nature Park | 10.7 | | | | |
| 2-9 | Taylor Bradbury 1 | ● Nature Park | 9.2 | | | | |
| 2-10 | Viviry River | ● Nature Park | 1.9 | | | | |
| 3-11 | Jack Layton | ● Municipal Park | 1.2 | | | | |
| 3-12 | Benson | ● Municipal Park | 0.8 | | | | |
| 3-13 | St-Jean | ● Official Green Space | 0.1 | | | | |
| 4-14 | Pine lake | ● Nature Park | 2.9 | | | | |
| 4-15 | Taylor Bradbury 2 | ● Nature Park | 9.9 | | | | |
| 6-17 | Hudson Valleys/ Cambridge | ● Neighbourhood Park | 1.7 | | | | |
| 6-18 | Thompson | ● Nature Park | 7.6 | | | | |
| 6-19 | Conservation nature Canada | ● Nature Park | 33.4 | | | | |
| 6-20 | Gary Cirko | ● Nature Park | 14.9 | | | | |
| TOTAL: Town's 17 official parks and green spaces | | | 107.2 ha | | | | |

Nature parks represent 95 hectares, accounting for 85% of the total area of inventoried parks.

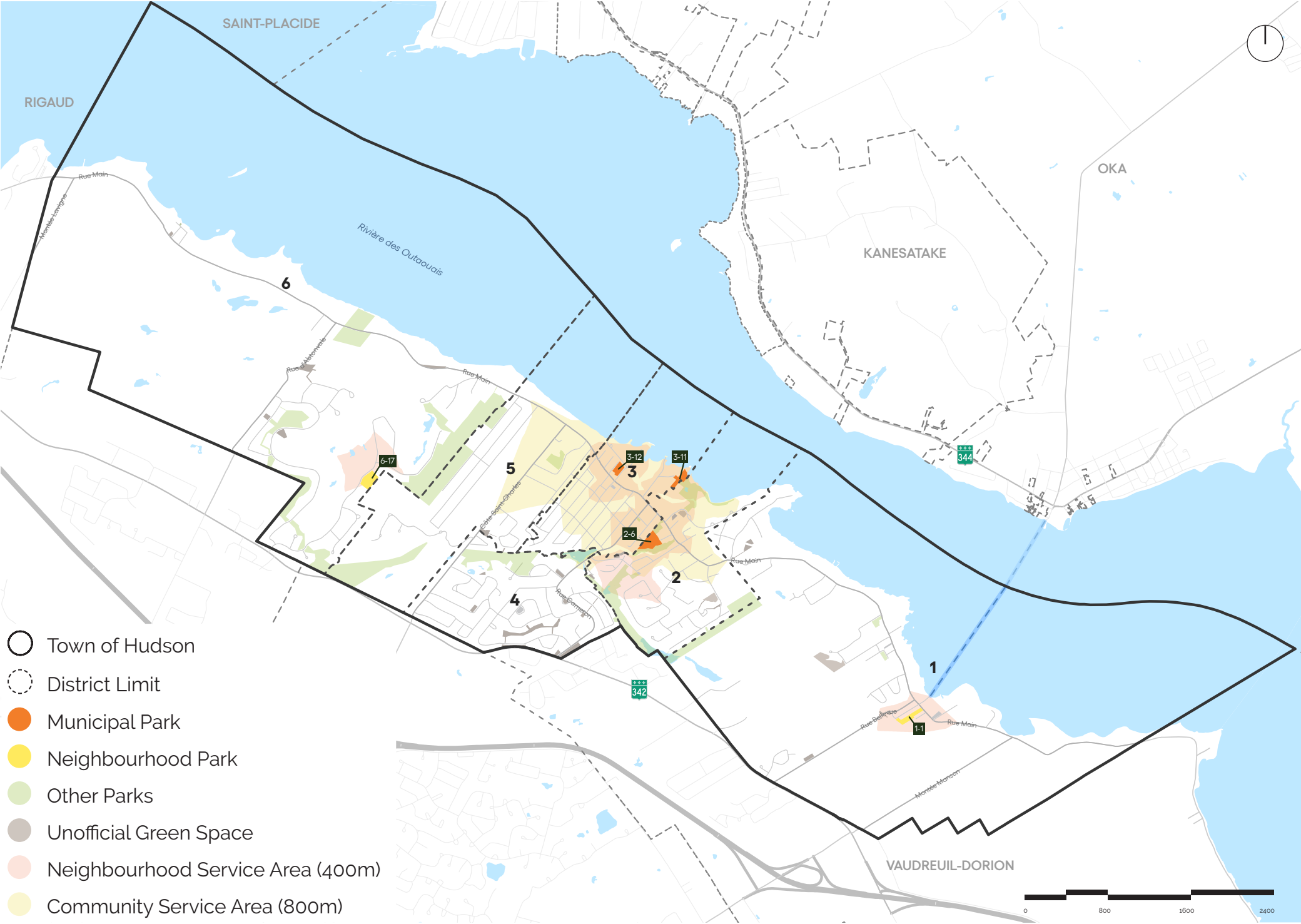
Location and Typology of Parks and Green Spaces



Service Area Coverage

- > Good coverage in the central districts
- > **School parks** that enhance accessibility
- > **Opportunities for targeted improvement:** Fairhaven, Hudson East, and Heights East districts
- > Widespread access to nature and **proximity to nature parks**

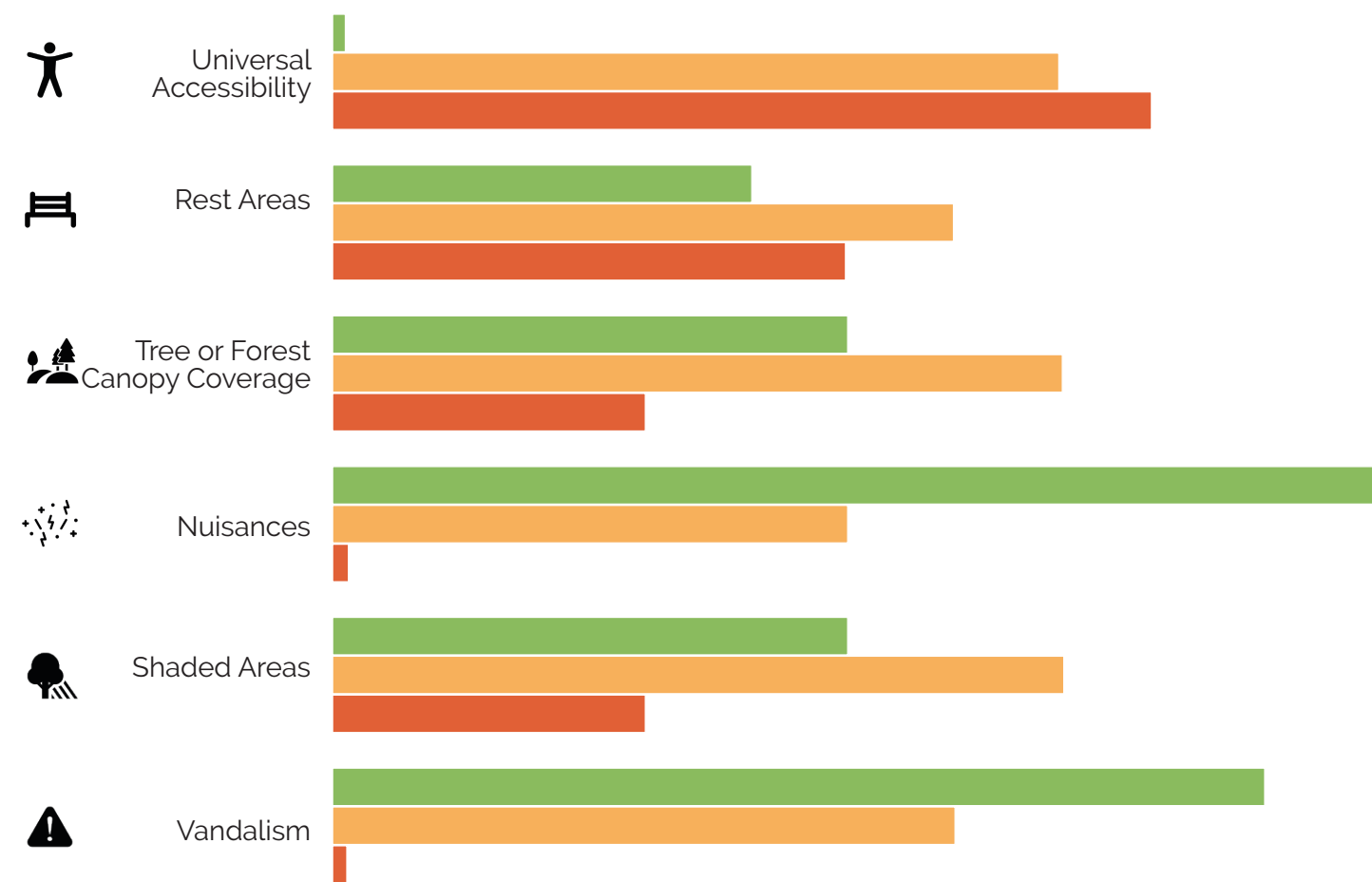
Park Service Areas by Typology



User Experience in Parks

- > **Good natural lighting**, but limited shaded areas and shelters
- > **Peaceful setting** with minimal noise and visual disturbances
- > Underdeveloped **cultural** and **community** offerings
- > **Rest areas** need improvement (furnishings and weather protection)
- > **Off-leash dogs** are a source of discomfort for some users
- > **Few amenities:** washrooms and drinking fountains are rare
- > Ongoing challenges: **vandalism** and waste management










Average Qualitative Assessment – Proportion of Parks by Evaluation Level



Sports and Recreational Facilities












- > **62 recreational facilities and sports areas** distributed throughout the territory
- > **Aquatic facilities :**
 - > One swimming pool and one wading pool at St-Thomas Park
- > **Winter facilities :**
 - > Two temporary skating rinks, including one with boards for hockey and an ice ring
 - > No formally developed sledding hill

Inventory of Sports Facilities

| | Parks | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------|
| SPORTS FACILITIES | BENSON | MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL | SAINT-THOMAS SCHOOL | WESTWOOD SCHOOL | HUDSON VALLEYS/ CAMBRIDGE | SANDERSON | ST-THOMAS | THOMPSON | TOTAL |
|  Ball Field | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
|  Full Basketball Court | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
|  Basketball Half-Court | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 |
|  Individual Basketball Basket | - | 5 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 7 |
|  Soccer Field (mini-soccer) | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
|  Soccer Field (7 players) | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
|  Soccer Field (9 players) | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
|  Soccer Field (11 players)/Football | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
|  Beach Volleyball Court | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 2 |
| TOTAL | 1 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 18 |



Inventory of Children's Play Equipment

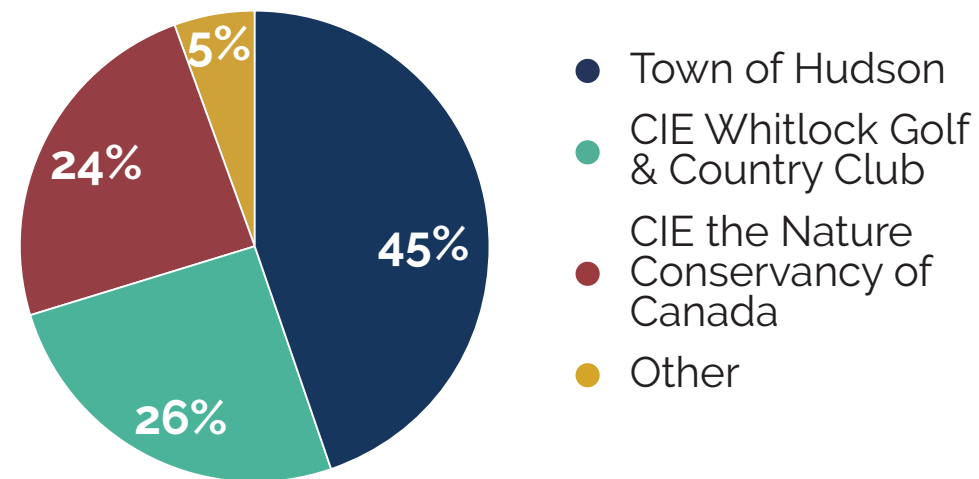
| Parks | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------|
| PLAY EQUIPMENT | BENSON | MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL | SAINT-THOMAS SCHOOL | WESTWOOD SCHOOL | HUDSON VALLEYS/ CAMBRIDGE | SANDERSON | ST-THOMAS | THOMPSON | TOTAL |
|  Sandbox | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
|  Swing | 2 | - | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 7 |
|  Tetherball | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
|  Slide | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
|  Ball Game | 1 | - | 0 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
|  Rocking Play Equipment | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
|  Sand and Water Play | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
|  Balance Play Equipment | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
|  Climbing Structure | - | 1 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | 6 |
|  Tunnel Play | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
|  Integrated Play Structure | 2 | 2 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 10 |
| TOTAL | 4 | 4 | 23 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 37 |



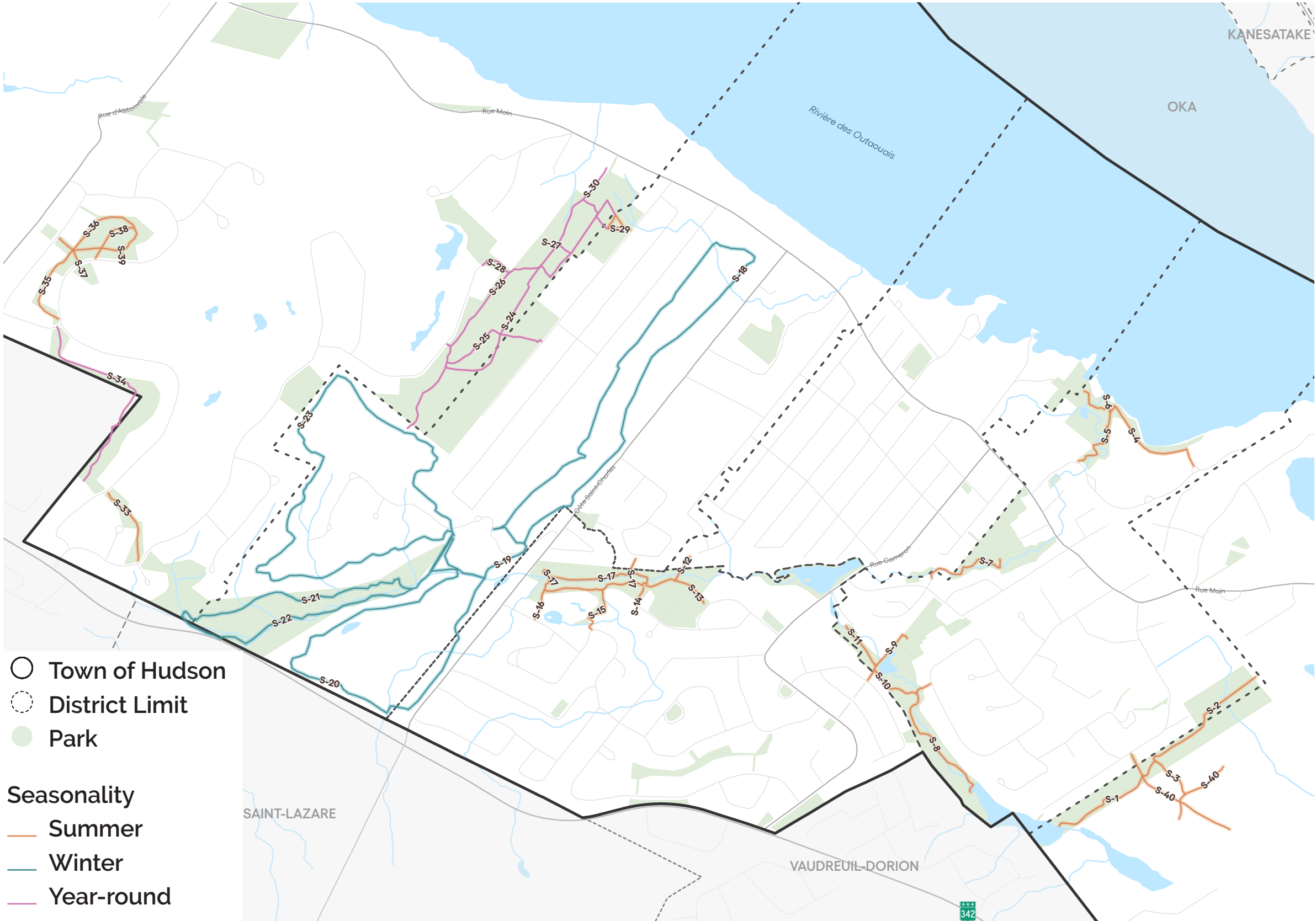
Trails

- › **Extensive trail network** spanning approximately **23 km**
- › Immersion in **rich and diverse natural environments**
- › **High usage** for walking and nature observation
- › **Good accessibility** from several neighbourhoods, but uneven coverage
- › **Limited connectivity** between segments
- › **Trail infrastructure** and **signage** need improvement
- › Accessible to all, but the **routes lack variety**
- › Low **seasonal versatility**
- › Some segments require **repair**

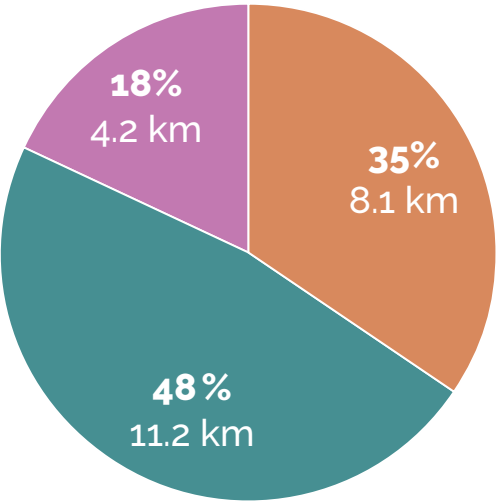
Trail Ownership Distribution



Location and Seasonality of Trails



Trail Distribution by Seasonality



02 —

Strategic Planning



The Vision

By 2035, Hudson's parks, green spaces, and trails will highlight the town's exceptional and distinctive **natural setting** by relying on principles of **sustainability and connectivity** that strengthen the resilience of the environment. A **diverse, inclusive offering**—adapted to the needs of the community—will promote social interaction in **multifunctional, accessible, and welcoming spaces**.



Six Areas of Action

1

Create an Intergenerational Park at Benson Park

- > Provide versatile and inclusive facilities for all ages.
- > Develop a welcoming space with recreational, cultural and social programming.
- > Highlight Hudson's identity.
- > Create an iconic and unifying civic space in Hudson's downtown area.

2

Create Sports Hubs

- > Group sports facilities into hubs to optimize underused spaces.
- > Improve accessibility to facilities across the territory.
- > Ensure better infrastructure coherence and management.
- > Maximize the use of supporting facilities.

3

Adapt and Enhance the Recreational Offer to Meet Diverse Needs

- > Diversify and modernize recreational offerings for all age groups.
- > Encourage a variety of activities through versatile and inclusive equipment.
- > Integrate flexibility and innovation to ensure a scalable offering.
- > Structure a comprehensive and coherent recreational offer across the Town.

4

Strengthen and Sustain the Trail Network

- > Ensure the long-term viability of the trail network through formalization and conservation.
- > Structure key routes to improve accessibility and usability.
- > Add access points, signage, and sustainable amenities.
- > Protect the ecological integrity of the environments the trails pass through.

5

Highlight Hudson's Waterfront Character and Improve Access to Water

- > Improve accessibility to the river and its shoreline.
- > Preserve the ecological integrity of the waterfront environment.
- > Increase opportunities for contact with the water.
- > Showcase the distinctive natural heritage.

6

Improve Neighbourhood Service Area Coverage in Underserved Areas

- > Ensure an equitable distribution of green spaces across the territory.
- > Address gaps in neighbourhood park coverage in underserved areas.
- > Create or improve local spaces tailored to community needs.

03 —

Action Plan



Action Strategy

- › Based on six key action areas aligned with the vision for the parks and green spaces network
- › Guiding principles to inform concrete actions
Integration of public participation results (needs and aspirations)
- › Adaptability and flexibility in response to territorial constraints and opportunities
- › Serves as a consistent decision-making guide over time



Guiding Principles of the Action Plan

01 — Create an Intergenerational Park at Benson Park



Facilities and Amenities

- > Multipurpose public plaza
- > Splash pad with a non-recirculating water system designed to minimize water use, featuring pretreatment through a vegetated basin
- > Skate spot
- > Outdoor fitness area
- > Replacement of children's play equipment with accessible and versatile play structures
- > Renovation of the park chalet and washroom building, including the addition of a covered outdoor area
- > Universally accessible site furnishings
- > Drinking fountain
- > Installation of festive ambient lighting
- > Preservation of space for the skating rink and ice ring
- > Formalization of on-street parking

02 —
Create Sports Hubs

Thompson Park
St-Thomas Park



Aménagements et équipements

- > Addition of at least four pickleball courts to meet growing demand for this rapidly expanding sport
- > Relocation of the ball field from Benson Park, with dimensions adapted for sports leagues
- > Installation of a composting-type restroom facility
- > Implementation of lighting for the sports facilities
- > Creation of shaded and socialization areas
- > Integration of a safe pedestrian crossing and other traffic-calming measures to ensure secure road crossing

03 — Adapt and Enhance the Recreational Offer to Meet Diverse Needs

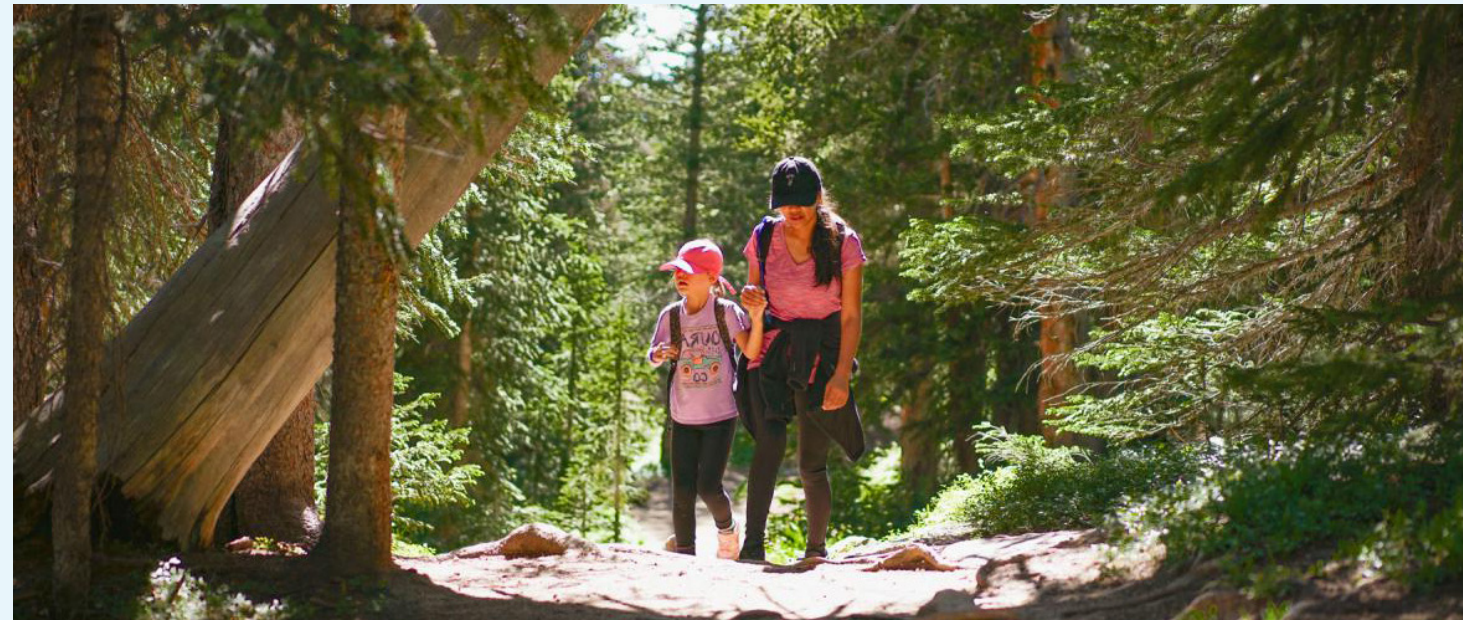


Facilities and Amenities

- > Full-size basketball court
- > Multi-sport surface (includes a rink with permanent boards for hockey and roller hockey, with markings for pickleball and basketball)
- > Formal and safe sledding hill
- > Refurbishment of soccer field surfaces
- > Pickleball courts (currently under development at Hudson Valleys/ Cambridge Park)
- > Rest and social areas with appropriate furnishings
- > Enhancement of the dog park
- > Addition of shade structures or canopies
- > Drinking fountain
- > Park chalet and change room for winter activities

04 — Strengthen and Sustain the Trail Network

Implementation of a Trail Management Model Led by a Non-Profit Organization



Advantages

- > **Citizen Engagement:** Residents are willing to actively participate in the management and maintenance of the trails.
- > **Extensive Network to Manage:** An NPO would allow for more structured and flexible management of a large network.
- > **Limited Municipal Capacity:** Reduces pressure on the Town's budgets and staff.
- > **Specialized Expertise:** Access to professionals in design, maintenance, and conservation.
- > **Relationships with Private Landowners:** Facilitates negotiations for rights-of-way.
- > **External Funding:** Opportunities for grants, donations, and sponsorships to support operations.

05 — Highlight Hudson's Waterfront Character and Improve Access to Water



Facilities and Amenities

Thompson Park

- > Access for launching non-motorized small watercraft and for fishing
- > Rental support for personal non-motorized watercraft
- > Enhancement of the picnic area, including added furnishings, pathways, and plantings along the shoreline section

Jack Layton Park

- > Assess the repair of the boat launch ramp
- > Partnership for renting small non-motorized watercraft (Currently underway)
- > Covered multipurpose surface with a view of the water
- > Addition of universally accessible furnishings

Sandy Beach

- > Sustain efforts to secure access

06 — Improve Neighbourhood Service Area Coverage in Underserved Areas



Facilities and Amenities

New park (District 4 - Fairhaven, Westwood crescent)

- > Rest area
- > Children's play structures
- > Trails integrated into the wooded area

Willowbrook/Osekowa Park

- > Play areas adapted for children aged 18 months to 5 years and 5 to 12 years
- > Social gathering area
- > Developed pathways
- > Installation of lighting

Davidson Park

- > Social area with furnishings and a swing seat
- > Grading of the ground to create a small sledding area
- > Ornamental plantings and addition of trees

Summary of Interventions on Sports and Recreational Facilities

Three Development Scenarios – Benson, Thompson, and St-Thomas Parks

- A

 - > Relocation of the ball field to Thompson Park
 - > New sports hub, in addition to St-Thomas
 - > Freed-up space at Benson Park to allow for an optimal intergenerational hub and increased civic space
- B

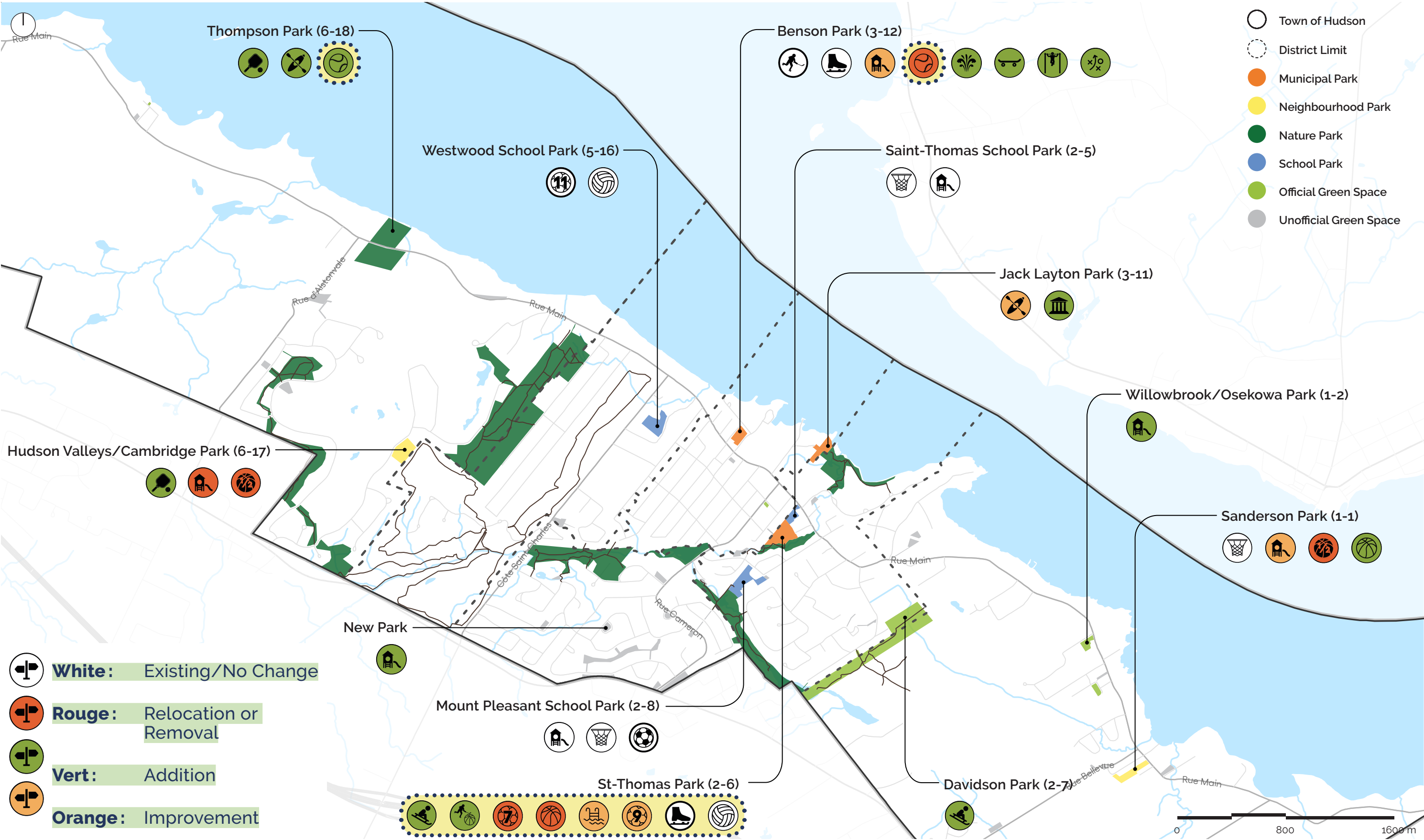
 - > Relocation of the ball field to St-Thomas Park
 - > Strengthening the role of St-Thomas as the primary sports hub
 - > Freed-up space at Benson Park to allow for an optimal intergenerational hub and increased civic space
- C

 - > Ball field stays at Benson Park
 - > Less space available for the intergenerational hub
 - > Consolidation of the existing roles of St-Thomas and Thompson Parks

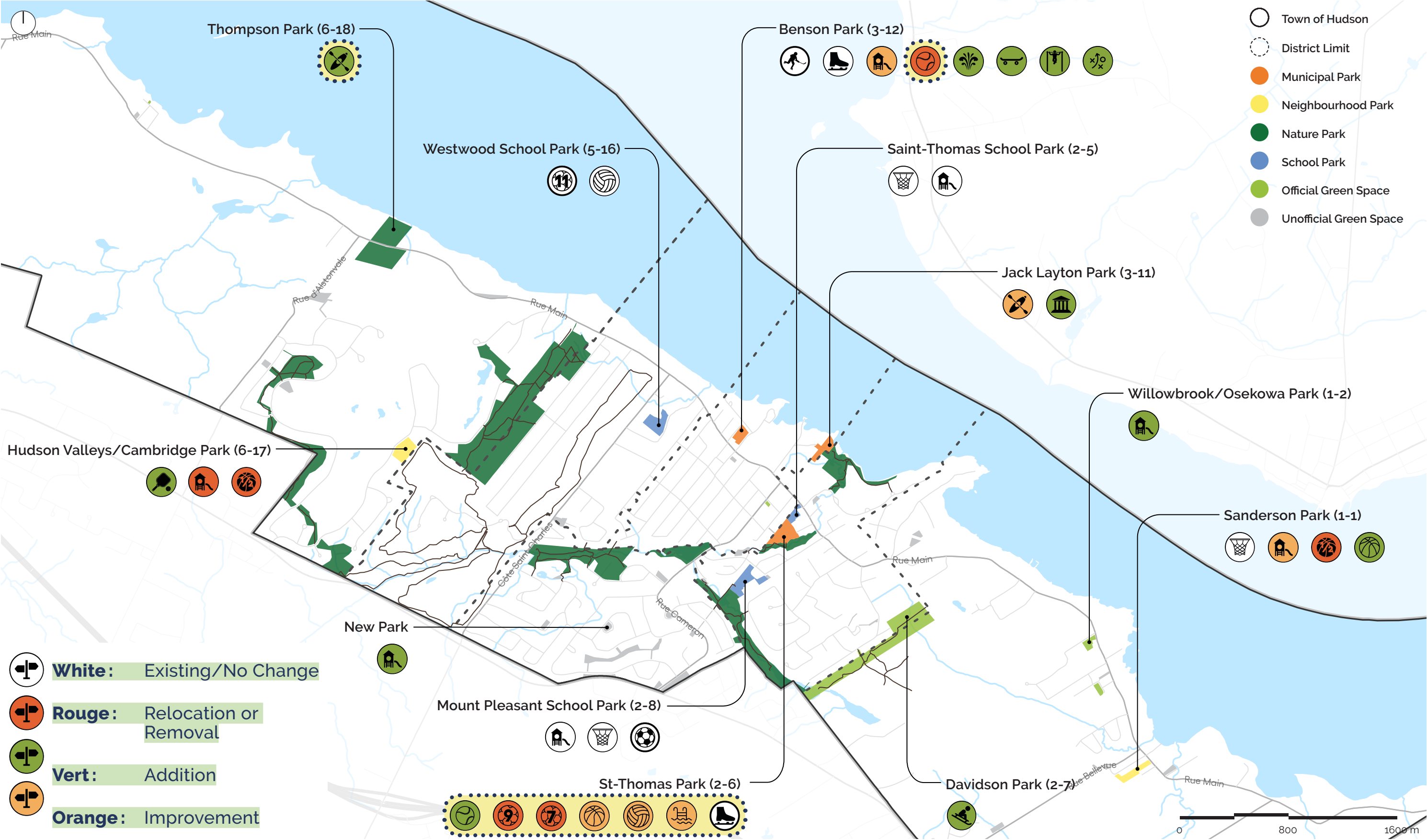
Summary of Interventions on Sports and Recreational Facilities

| EQUIPMENT | Current | Projected | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | SCENARIO A | SCENARIO B | SCENARIO C |
| Ball Field | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Basketball - Full Court | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Basketball - Half Court | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Basketball - Individual Basket | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Soccer Field (mini-soccer) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Soccer Field (7 players) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Soccer Field (9 players) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Soccer Field (11 players)/Football | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Beach Volleyball Court | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Pickleball Court | 0 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Skate Spot | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Fitness Area | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Multi-sports Surface | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Pool and Wading Pool | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Splash Pad | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Non-Motorized Launch | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Rink (hockey) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Rink / Ice Ring | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Sledding Hill | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Kid's Playgrounds | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Public Plaza | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Covered Multipurpose Surface | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

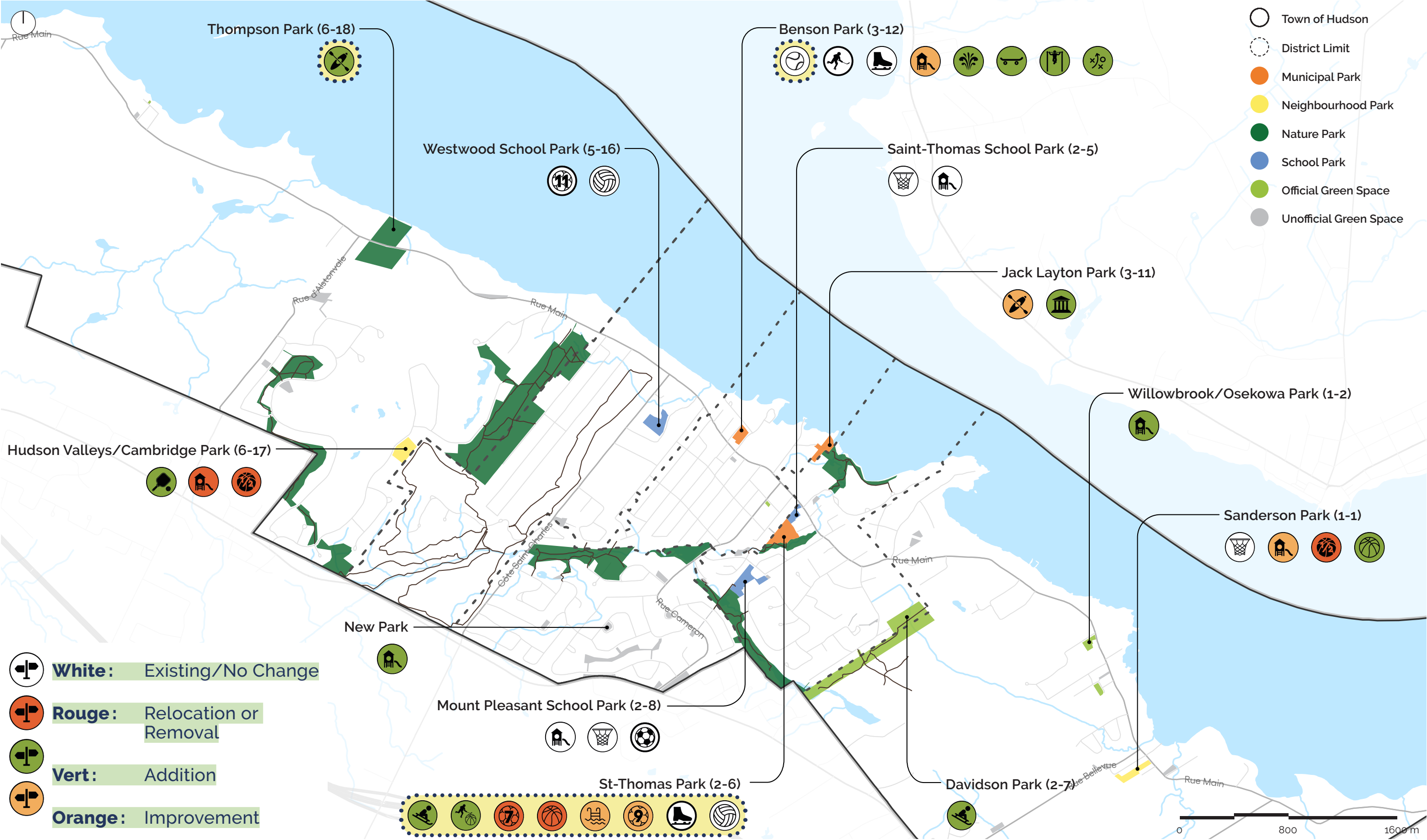
Scenario A



Scenario B



Scenario C



Conclusion

The Town of Hudson's Master Plan for Parks and Green Spaces is an essential tool.

- › A strategic planning framework that helps better coordinate and prioritize actions
- › A guide and decision-making tool for the years to come



