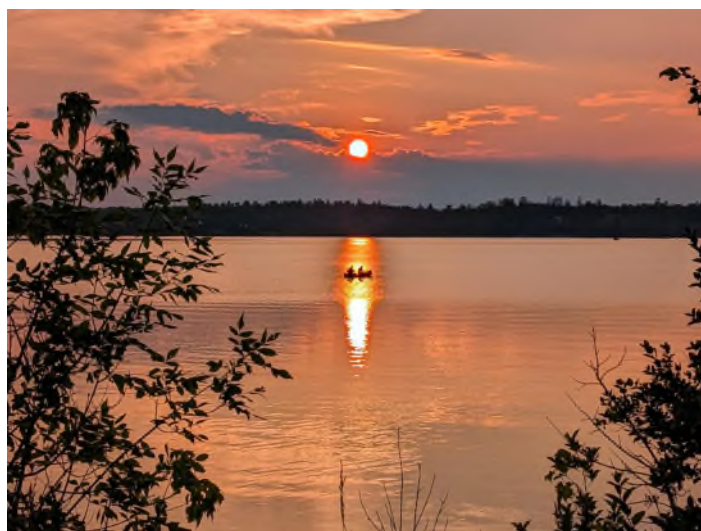




Township of McNab/Braeside Recreation Master Plan 2026–2031



Community Profile

The Township of McNab/Braeside is a rural municipality located in Renfrew County, characterized by its natural landscapes, waterfront access, and strong sense of community. The Township includes a mix of established rural residents, waterfront properties, and growing residential areas, contributing to a diverse and evolving population.

With a population of approximately 8,000 residents, McNab/Braeside is primarily a low-density community where recreation is closely tied to the natural environment. Residents rely heavily on outdoor amenities such as parks, beaches, and trail systems for both active and passive recreation. Seasonal population increases, particularly in waterfront areas, place additional pressure on key recreational assets during peak periods.

The Township's demographic profile reflects a balance of families, working-age adults, and a growing senior population. This diversity creates a need for multi-generational recreation opportunities, including youth programming, accessible outdoor spaces, and community-based activities that support aging in place.

Recreation in McNab/Braeside is largely informal and self-directed, with residents placing a high value on accessible, well-maintained public spaces rather than large-scale or highly programmed facilities. Community centres such as the John A. Gillies Recreation Centre and the Murray Yantha Community Centre serve as important hubs for gatherings, events, and local programming.

The Township's geographic size and rural road network present unique challenges in service delivery, requiring a distributed approach to recreation planning. Rather than concentrating investment in a single location, the Township maintains a network of parks, trails, and facilities across multiple communities to ensure equitable access for residents.

This Recreation Master Plan reflects these realities by prioritizing the maintenance and enhancement of existing assets, improving usability and accessibility, and addressing high-demand locations while maintaining a fiscally responsible approach to future investment.

This plan is grounded in direct resident feedback and is intended to guide decision-making over the next five years, ensuring that recreation investments align with community needs and priorities.

What We Heard

Community engagement for the Recreation Master Plan included a resident survey and direct feedback from across the Township. Responses were consistent and provided clear direction for recreation priorities in McNab/Braeside.

Overall, residents expressed a strong appreciation for the Township's existing parks, beaches, trails, and natural spaces. The rural character of the community and access to outdoor recreation were identified as key strengths that should be preserved and enhanced.

Key Themes

Maintenance First

Residents consistently emphasized that maintaining existing parks, trails, and facilities should be the Township's top priority. Cleanliness, regular upkeep, and timely repairs were identified as more important than developing new infrastructure.

High-Use Areas Require Management

Burnstown Beach and other waterfront locations were identified as experiencing increased pressure, particularly during peak seasons. Residents highlighted concerns related to overcrowding, traffic, parking, and safety, along with a desire to ensure fair access for local residents.

Comfort and Usability Improvements

Across multiple parks, residents identified a need for:

- Additional shade (trees or structures)
- Seating and picnic areas
- Improved washroom facilities at high-use locations

These relatively low-cost improvements were seen as having a significant impact on user experience.

Trail System Improvements

The Township's trail network, including the McNab Recreation Trail and Russett Trail, is highly valued but requires:

- Ongoing maintenance

- Better signage and wayfinding
- Management of unauthorized motorized use

Residents expressed strong support for maintaining and improving existing trails rather than expanding them significantly.

Balanced and Fair Investment

Feedback indicated a desire for recreation investment to be distributed fairly across the Township. Residents want to see improvements in all communities, while also recognizing that higher-use areas may require greater attention.

Programming and Community Use

There is interest in expanding community programming, particularly for youth and seniors, as well as increasing the use of existing facilities such as the John A. Gillies Recreation Centre and the Murray Yantha Community Centre. Residents support modest, community-focused programming rather than large-scale expansion.

Communication and Transparency

Residents indicated a preference for clear, accessible communication regarding recreation initiatives, events, and investments. Digital communication methods were preferred over traditional print materials.

Summary

The feedback received provides a clear and consistent direction: maintain and improve what exists, address pressure on high-use areas, and make practical, visible enhancements that improve the overall recreation experience.

This Recreation Master Plan reflects those priorities by focusing on maintenance, usability, and responsible, phased investment across all Township assets.

Burnstown Beach



Key Issues (from survey):

- Overcrowding
- Parking
- Shade

Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Rationale	Cost	Timing
HIGH	Parking Management	Manage demand	\$\$	2027
HIGH	Traffic controls	Safety	\$	2027
HIGH	Shade/seating	Comfort	\$	2027–28

Braeside Beach



Key Issues (from survey):

- High use
- Parking
- Amenities

Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Rationale	Cost	Timing
HIGH	Parking mgmt	Demand	\$\$	2027
HIGH	Traffic safety	Safety	\$	2027
HIGH	Shade/seating	Comfort	\$	2027–28
MEDIUM	Washrooms	Demand	\$\$	2029

Red Pine Bay



Key Issues (from survey):

- Underuse
- Amenities
- Maintenance

Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Rationale	Cost	Timing
HIGH	Maintenance	Preserve	\$	2026
HIGH	Seating	Use	\$	2027-28
MEDIUM	Shade	Comfort	\$	2027
LOW	Expansion	Future	\$\$	2029+

Clay Bank Park & Boat Launch



Key Issues (from survey):

- Trail issues
 - Under usage
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Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Rationale	Cost	Timing
HIGH	Maintenance	Access	\$	2026
MEDIUM	Signage	Navigation	\$	2027

McNab Centre Park



Key Issues (from survey):

- Condition
- Lighting

Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Rationale	Cost	Timing
HIGH	Diamonds	Usage	\$	2027
HIGH	Lighting	Usage	\$\$	Ongoing

Dochart Park



Key Issues (from survey):

- Soccer Fields maintenance and upgrades
- Flexibility

Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Rationale	Cost	Timing
HIGH	Upgrades	Usage	\$	2027-2030
MEDIUM	Multi-use	Flexibility	\$\$	2029

Wellington Park



Key Issues (from survey):

- Shade
 - Seating
-

Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Rationale	Cost	Timing
HIGH	Shade	Comfort	\$	2027
MEDIUM	Seating	Use	\$	2027

Sterling Toner Memorial Park



Key Issues (from survey):

- Maintenance
- Amenities

Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Rationale	Cost	Timing
HIGH	Cleanup	Core	\$	2026
HIGH	Shade/seating	Comfort	\$	2027-28
MEDIUM	Amenities	Use	\$	2027-28
LOW	Future features	Planning	\$\$	2029+

White Lake Park



Key Issues (from survey):

- Amenities
- Seating

Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Rationale	Cost	Timing
HIGH	Maintenance	Preserve	\$	2026–ongoing
HIGH	Seating	Use	\$	2027–28
MEDIUM	Shade	Comfort	\$	2027
MEDIUM	Amenities	Growth	\$	2028

Russett Trail



Key Issues (from survey):

- Surface
- Overgrowth
- Signage

Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Rationale	Cost	Timing
HIGH	Maintenance	Core	\$	2026–ongoing
HIGH	Enforcement	Safety	\$	2027
MEDIUM	Wayfinding	Access	\$	2027–28
MEDIUM	Surface	Condition	\$\$	2027–28

McNab/Braeside Recreation Trail



Key Issues (from survey):

- Maintenance
- Access

Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Rationale	Cost	Timing
HIGH	Maintenance	Core	\$	2026–ongoing
HIGH	Enforcement	Safety	\$	2027
MEDIUM	Wayfinding	Access	\$	2026–27

Waba Gardens & Museum



Key Issues (from survey):

- Maintenance
- Engagement

Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Rationale	Cost	Timing
HIGH	Preserve	Heritage	\$	2026
MEDIUM	Programming	Use	\$	2029

JAG Community Centre



Key Issues (from survey):

- Maintenance
- Demand

Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Rationale	Cost	Timing
HIGH	Maintenance	Core	\$	Ongoing
HIGH	Programming	Use	\$	Ongoing

Murray Yantha Community Centre



Key Issues (from survey):

- Aging
- Demand

Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Rationale	Cost	Timing
HIGH	Maintenance	Core	\$	Ongoing
HIGH	Programming	Use	\$	Ongoing

Priority Projects Summary

Project	Location	Priority	Timing
Parking Strategy	Burnstown	HIGH	2027
Waterfront Mgmt	Braeside	HIGH	2027
Trail Maintenance	Township	HIGH	2026–ongoing
Shade/Seating	Multiple	HIGH	2027–28
Washrooms	High-use	MEDIUM	2028

Expanded 5-Year Work Plan

Year	Focus	Key Actions
2027	Immediate	Beach mgmt, trails, maintenance, programs
2027	Stabilization	Upgrades, seating
2028	Enhancement	Amenities, programs
2029	Strategic	Expansion
2031	Review	Adjust