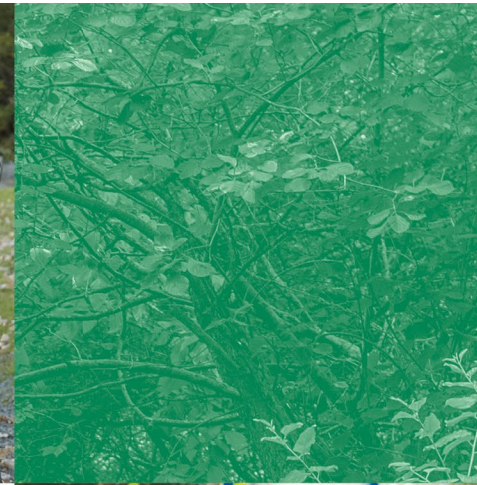
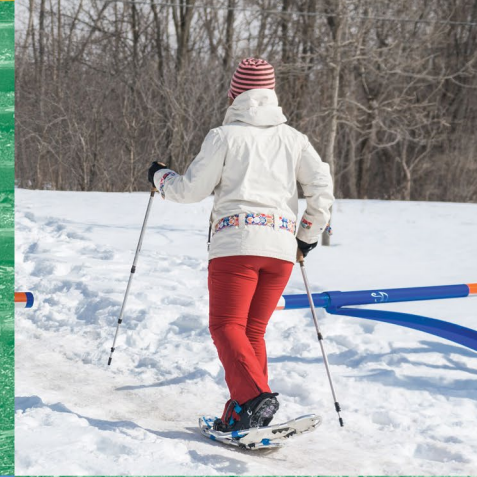


# Plan Parks and Green Spaces

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2023









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# 01

## Context

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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of parks and other outdoor public spaces, particularly in terms of their contribution to public hygiene, mental health, maintaining social ties, etc. In fact, there is no doubt whatsoever that access to a well-organized network of parks contributes directly to a community's quality of life. Moreover, in a context of climate change where heat episodes will be increasingly intense and frequent, shaded parks and public spaces create cool areas in urban and peri-urban environments. Green spaces therefore play a key role in the strategy for developing a city's resilience to climate change.

This is the context in which the City of Pointe-Claire decided to adopt a *Park and Green Spaces Master Plan*. It is a strategic planning tool for municipal managers to plan the required investments within its network of parks and green spaces over the short, medium and long term.

## 1.2. THE PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Developing the City's parks and green spaces master plan includes a participatory component that aims to gather contributions from the community. Residents really are the ones who know their needs best since they are the users of the City's parks and green spaces. Several tools were used to improve knowledge of the needs and challenges associated with parks, green spaces and outdoor sports and recreational facilities:

- A virtual survey of the population;
- A questionnaire was completed with the various sports and leisure organizations and educational institutions in the City.

The highlights of this process are outlined in section 7 of the diagnostic.



Antoine-Pilon Park





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02

## Geographic portrait and inventory of parks

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The purpose of this portrait is to situate the parks and green spaces network in the urban and demographic context specific to Pointe-Claire. It is not intended as a comprehensive portrait of the territory, but rather to highlight the characteristics that influence the planning of the network of parks and green spaces.

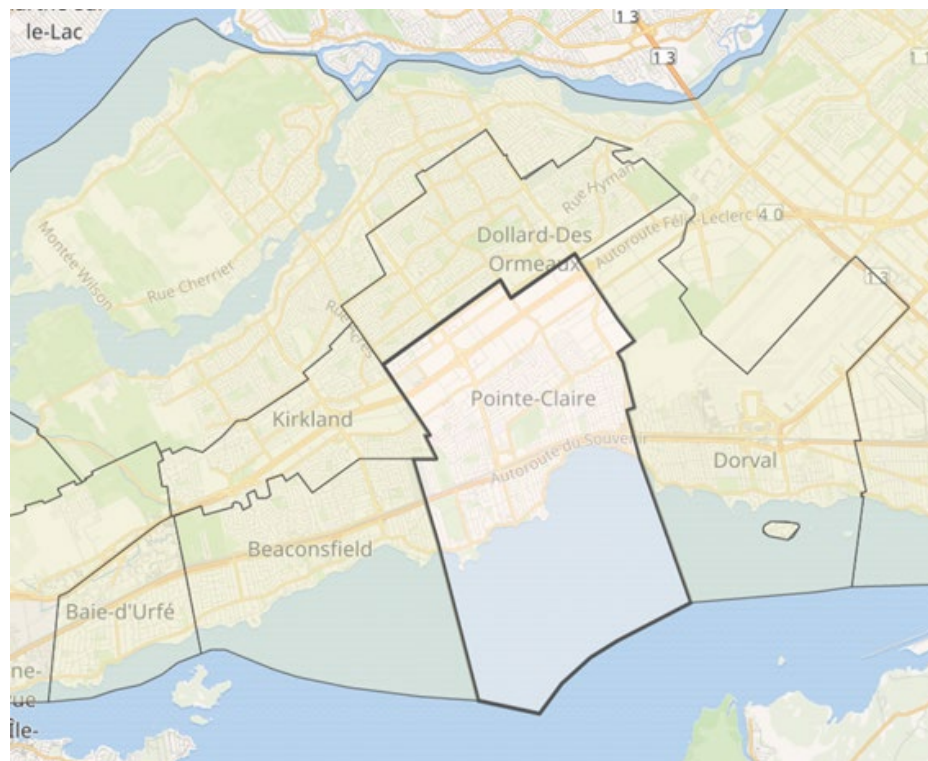




## 2.1 LOCATION

The City of Pointe-Claire covers a territory of 18.9 km<sup>2</sup> in the West Island of Montréal, between Highway 40 and Lac Saint-Louis. It is delineated on the north by Dollard-des-Ormeaux, in the east by Dorval, in the south by Lac Saint-Louis and in the west by Beaconsfield and Kirkland.

Figure 1 — Pointe-Claire location map



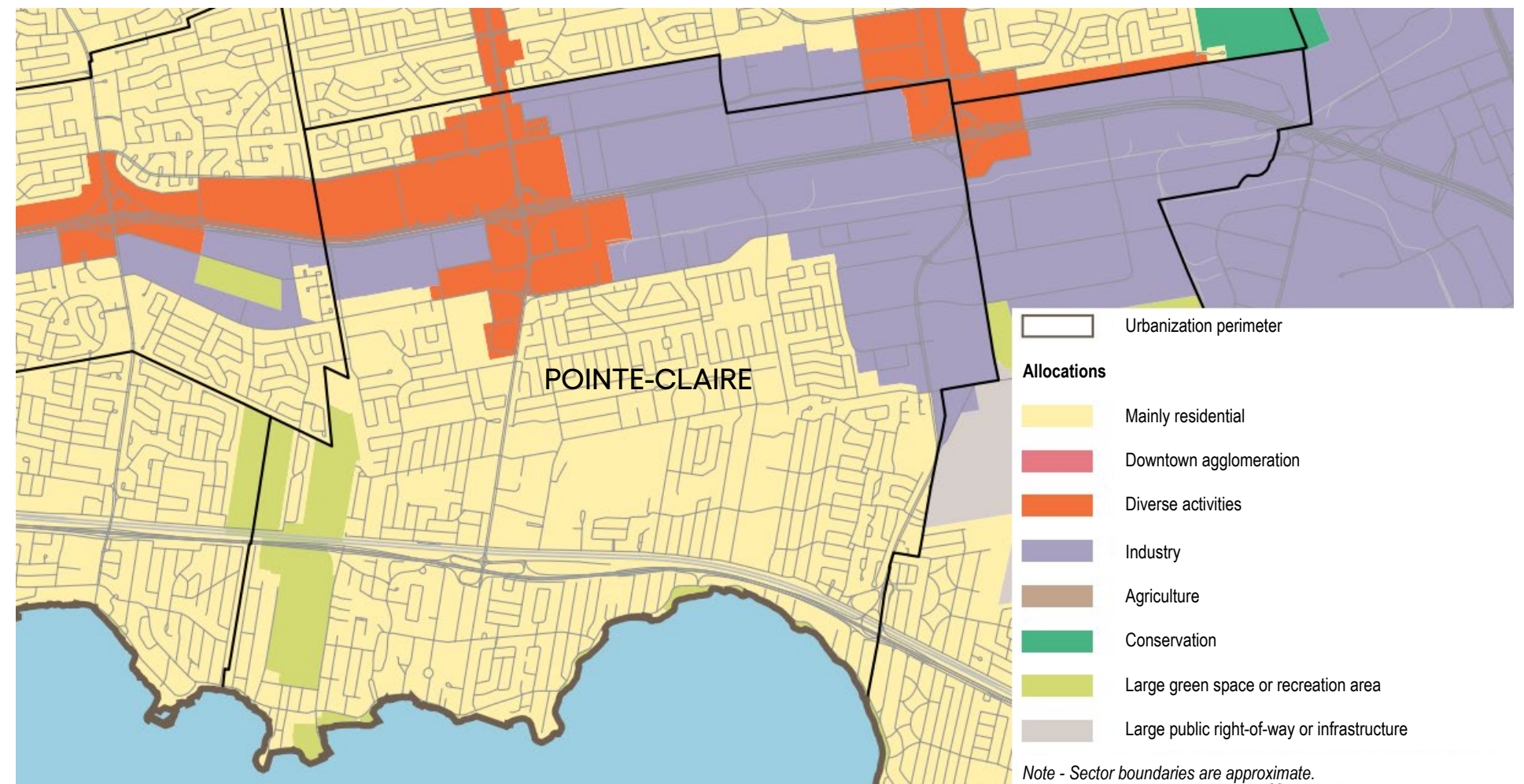
## 2.2 TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

### 2.2.1 Land use

The residential function dominates the urban fabric, while a commercial centre and a regional industrial park occupy a prime location on the edge of Félix-Leclerc Highway (A-40), north of the City<sup>1</sup>. The residential, commercial and industrial areas are developed. There are few open spaces left for the development of a network of parks.

The southern sector of the City is bordered by Lac Saint-Louis, over a distance of 4.3 km. This area benefits from many waterfront parks and green spaces that contribute directly to the quality of life and sense of belonging to the city. In summer, the many waterfront parks enhance the physical and visual connection with the banks. The historic and heritage character of Pointe-Claire makes this part of the city very attractive, which is already very appealing due to the presence of Lac Saint-Louis.

Figure 2 — Large allocations of the territory on the Agglomeration Plan for the City of Pointe-Claire



Note - Sector boundaries are approximate.

Source: Planning and development diagram for the agglomeration of Montréal. January 2015. Excerpt from Map 20. Large land allocations

<sup>1</sup> Draft urban planning program 2022, preliminary version



### 2.2.2 Major transportation infrastructures

Two major motorways and two railways that cross the city from east to west divide it into separate entities.

On the north-south axis, only the Saint-Jean and Des Sources boulevards and the pedestrian crossings at the three train stations, cross the highways and railways, connecting the whole territory. The two main boulevards also form major barriers inside the municipality, constraining movement between neighbourhoods. Saint-Louis Boulevard, which crosses the city from west to east, is an additional physical barrier.

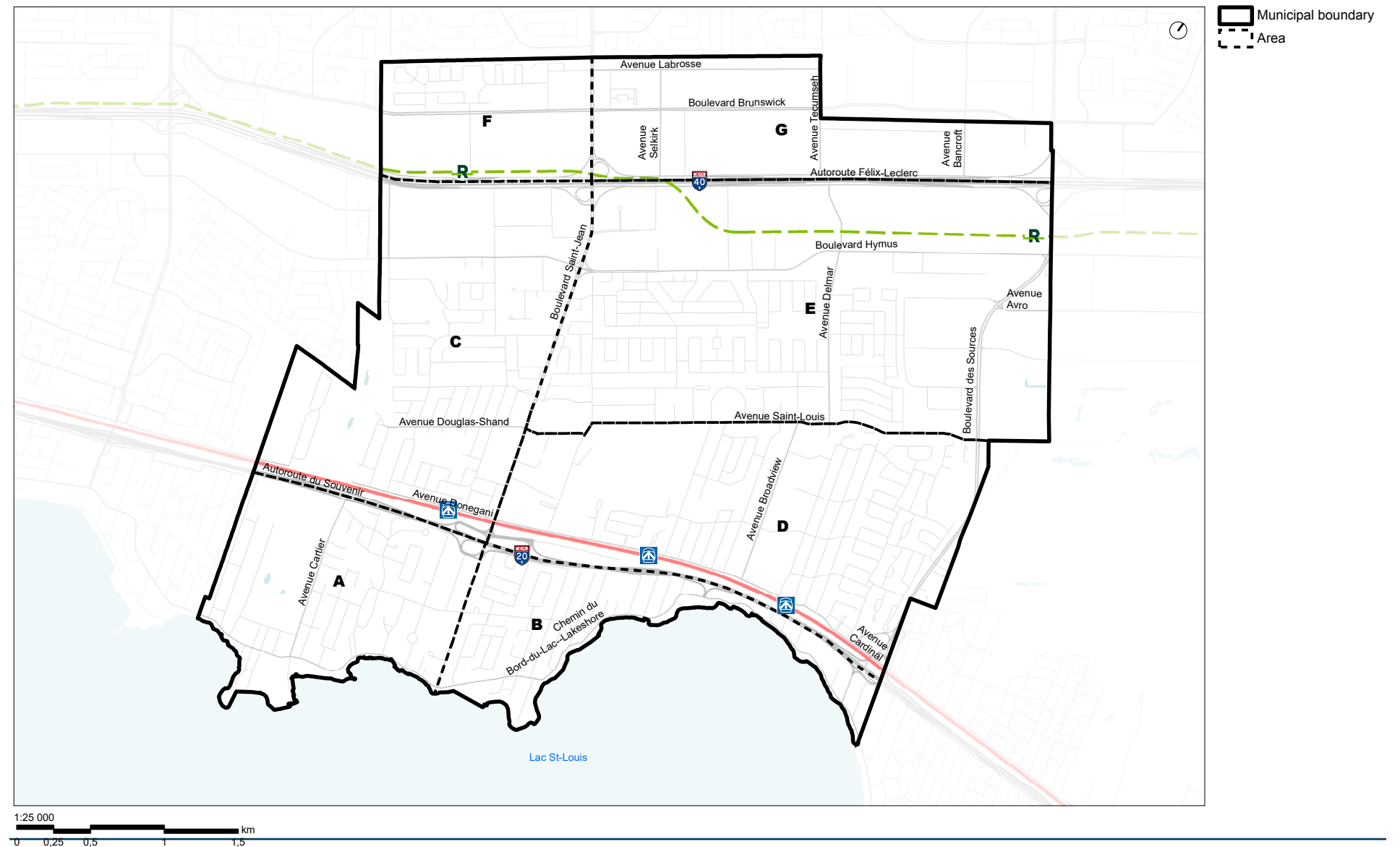
The above mentioned infrastructures serve as the basis for dividing the analysis sectors of the master plan. A more detailed analysis of each of these sectors is provided in Section 4.2.

### 2.2.3 Dividing the territory into sectors

For the purposes of this study, the Pointe-Claire territory has been divided into geographically defined sectors based on several contextual elements including the different highways that structure and segment the territory and Statistics Canada's census boundaries.

This led to the identification of seven distinct sectors on the territory as shown in the following figure. Each sector is subject to a representative analysis of its population and park services.

Figure 3 — Division of the territory into sectors



#### Sector A: South-West

This sector is located south of Highway 20 and west of Saint-Jean Boulevard. It is bordered on the south by Lac Saint-Louis and includes the historic area of Pointe-Claire Village.

#### Sector B: South-East

This sector is located south of Highway 20, to the east of Saint-Jean Boulevard. This sector is also bordered to the south by Valois Bay of Lac Saint-Louis.

#### Sector C: Centre-West

This sector lies to the west of the city, between Highway 20 to the south and Highway 40 to the north. It is bounded on the east by Saint-Jean Boulevard and includes Lakeshore General Hospital among others.

#### Sector D: Civic Hub

This sector is located to the east of the city, north of Highway 20, south of Saint-Louis Avenue and just east of Saint-Jean Boulevard, and is marked by Terra-Cotta Park and the municipal civic hub.

#### Sector E: Centre-East

This sector is located to the east of the city. It is bounded on the west by Saint-Jean Boulevard, on the north by Highway 40 and on the south by Saint-Louis Avenue.

#### Sector F: North-West

This sector represents the northwestern portion of the city. It is bordered to the south by Highway 40 and to the east by Saint-Jean Boulevard and includes the Fairview Pointe-Claire shopping centre.

#### Sector G: North-East

This sector represents the northeastern portion of the city. This commercial and industrial hub is bounded to the south by Highway 40 and to the west by Saint-Jean Boulevard.

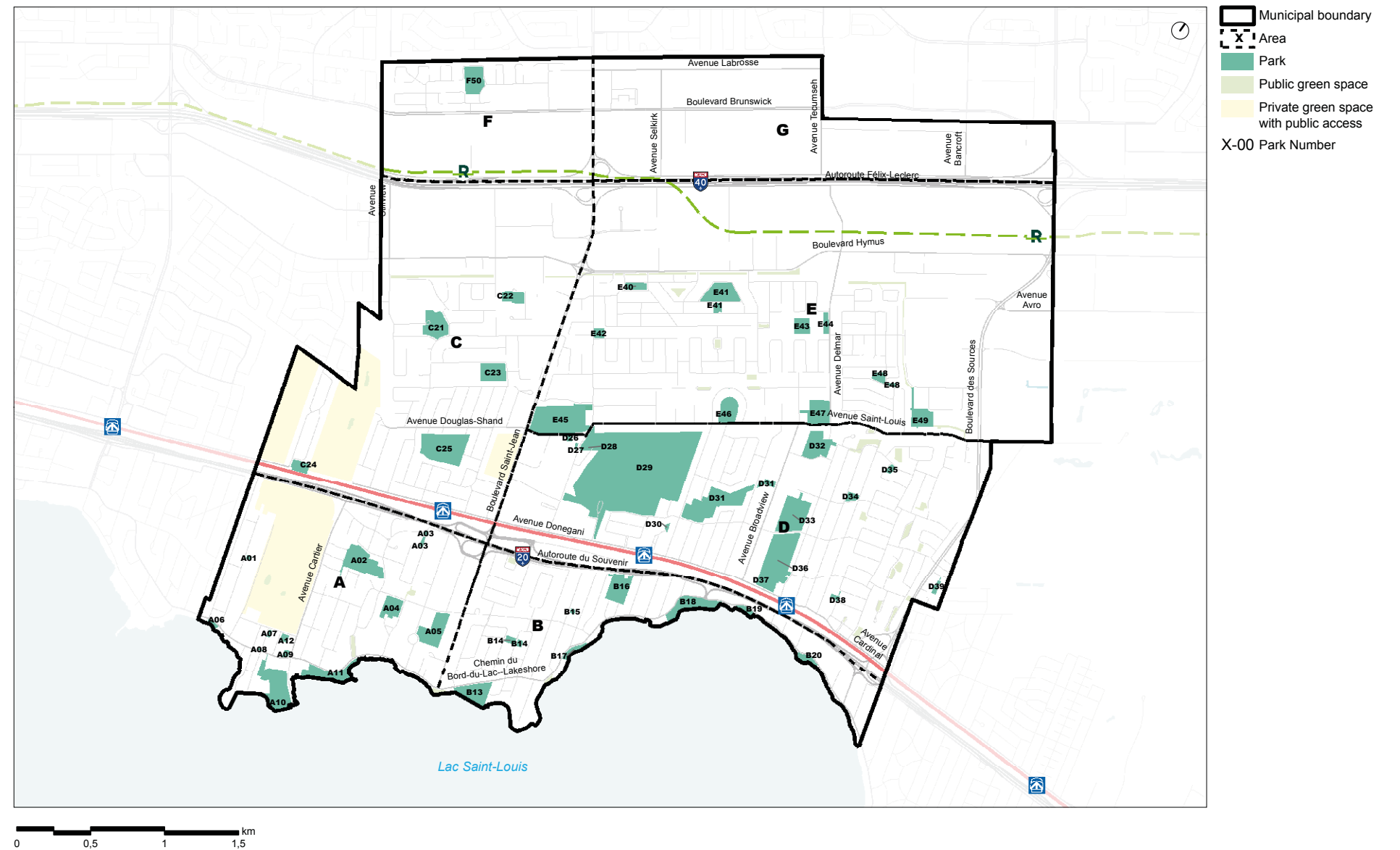


### 2.3 PARK INVENTORY

An inventory of the City’s parks was created based on an in-depth analysis of the territory and its residents to ensure that the master plan meets the current and future needs of the community. This inventory was completed by making a detailed visit to all the parks on the territory making it possible to analyze the quantity and quality of facilities and developments for each of the parks. This inventory was created between August 23, 2021 and September 2, 2021.

The inventory includes information for each park on tables, summarizing the programming, but also a general assessment of the locations. This made it possible to identify all the furniture, facilities and related amenities for all the parks. As a result, it was possible to count all of the recreational and sports equipment, while adding a specific description and assessment for each. These visits also made it possible to identify opportunities for developing and enhancing existing parks.

Figure 4 — Location of parks and green spaces







Village community garden

## 2.4 TYPOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION OF THE PARKS

According to their size and composition of their facilities, parks are classified into different categories including municipal parks, community parks, neighbourhood parks, etc. (see the park typology table). The City of Pointe-Claire offers its residents a large number of parks, including community and neighbourhood parks.

Throughout its territory, the City of Pointe-Claire has a total of 50 parks, arranged and divided into seven main categories:

- Nature park (1);
- Municipal park (4);
- Community park (16);
- Neighbourhood park (22);
- School park (4);
- Sports area (2);
- Community garden (2);
- Green space (excluded from the list of existing parks).



Table 1 — Park typology

TYOLOGY	DEFINITION <sup>2</sup>	SURFACE AREA	SERVICE AREA
Nature park	Conservation, development of natural environments and cultural heritage, and recreation.	30 to 100 ha (300,000 to 1,000,000 m <sup>2</sup> )	Regional
Municipal park	Very versatile and attractive often serving several sectors and highly frequented. They also have a variety of recreational and sports equipment as well as multi-functional spaces.	30 to 100 ha (300,000 to 1,000,000 m <sup>2</sup> )	1200 m
Community park	Green park that offers a variety of sports and recreational equipment, as well as free areas for leisure, socializing or free play.	3 to 30 ha (30,000 to 300,000 m <sup>2</sup> )	800 m
Neighbourhood park	Green park that is intended primarily for the purposes of relaxation and daily recreation as an extension of the family home. Space that can offer areas for relaxation, games and leisure.	Up to 3 ha* (*up to 30,000 m <sup>2</sup> )	400 m
School park	Land on school property used for soccer and football and maintained by the City. Land also used by residents who live or work nearby.	N/A	800 m
Sports area	Publicly owned park intended for a specific sport with controlled access.	5 000 to 30 000 m <sup>2</sup>	800 m
Community garden	Land divided into plots intended for vegetable, fruit and ornamental gardens.	N/A	N/A
Public green space	Publicly owned space landscaped mainly with lawns, green areas, plants and trees, to help beautify the territory and improve the quality of the environment.	N/A	N/A
Private green spaces	Privately owned green spaces that help improve the quality of the living environment and may or may not provide access to the population (golf, cemetery, private woodlands).	N/A	N/A
Waterfront space*	All parks and green spaces designed to offer proximity to Lac Saint-Louis. *The waterfront area represents a typology of parks in addition to the main typology of parks located on the shore, one of the other typologies presented in the table	N/A	N/A

Source: Ville de Montréal and National Recreation and Park Association, and adapted to the context of the City of Pointe-Claire

<sup>2</sup> Note that the «definition» and «surface area» categories are to be nuanced in the sense that they provide generally applicable parameters for the different types of parks.























Our analysis includes all green spaces identified as such in the City of Pointe-Claire's database. Some of these spaces are private properties, such as the golf course and cemeteries, but provide ecological and recreational services that are accessible to the population and can be included in the creation of ecological corridors.

#### 2.4.1 Classification of outdoor equipment and facilities according to age group and park typologies

The table on the next page lists the equipment and facilities by type of user and the types of parks in which they are mainly located. Icons specific to each piece of equipment or facility are also included on the inventory sheets, making it easy to locate the equipment and facilities throughout the document.



Table 2 — Classification of outdoor equipment and facilities according to age group and park typologies

		MAIN USERS					TYPE OF PARK		
		18 months to 5 years	5 to 12 years	Adolescents	Adults	Elderly people	Neighbourhood	Area	Municipal and urban
 Pool	Artificial basin for swimming	x	x	x	x	x		•	•
 Splash pads	Series of water jets arranged on a rigid surface with no water accumulation.	x	x	x			•	•	•
 Beach	Clear area of a shoreline, with a slight slope, consisting of sand or pebbles.	x	x	x	x	x			•
 Basketball court	Rectangular court of variable dimensions covered with asphalt and equipped with a basket at each end.		x	x	x			•	•
 Tennis court	Hard surface separated in two by a net used to play tennis. The playing surfaces are fenced.		x	x	x	x		•	•
 Soccer field	Natural or synthetic surface with two nets at the ends used to play soccer.		x	x	x			•	•
 Ball field	Natural grass surface with a clay surface including baseball or softball goals.		x	x	x			•	•
 Football field	Natural or synthetic surface with two goals at the ends used to play football.		x	x	x			•	•
 Running track	Flat and oval surface with distinctive lanes for the practice of sports, generally running. Can also be used for other athletics-related activities, including throwing and jumping.		x	x	x				•
 Pump track	Space with various facilities for BMX activities.		x	x	x			•	•
 Skate park	Surface for skateboarding, inline skating and BMX activities. Space with various modules on which users can roll, slide, jump, etc.		x	x	x			•	•
 Play area for 18 months to 5 years	Play area with modules designed to develop balance and motor skills in children from the age of 18 months to 5 years and whose levels are generally less than 1.2 m.	x					•	•	•
 Play area for 5 to 12 years	Play area with modules designed to develop balance and motor skills in children from 5 to 12 years of age (swings, rocking swings, slides, spring-loaded games, geodesic domes, etc.).		x				•	•	•
 Exercise module (trekfit)	Series of modules designed to develop the motor skills of users.			x	x	x		•	•
 Bocce and lawn bowling	Flat surface, formed by one or more alleys, on which two teams of players throw metal balls trying to get as close as possible to a small ball that serves as the target.				x	x		•	•
 Dog park	Fenced area reserved for dogs and their owners or guardians, for the socialization and free exercise of dogs. They may include park furniture and/or dog training equipment.				x	x		•	•
 Walking path	Paved or unpaved trail for walking, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, etc.	x	x	x	x	x			•
 Bicycle or multipurpose track	Off-road path with solid coating for easy movement on foot, by bike, etc.	x	x	x	x	x			•
 Rink without boards	Frozen water surface on which you can skate or play ice hockey.	x	x	x	x	x		•	•
 Rink with boards	Frozen water surface on a hard surface on which you can skate or play ice hockey in the winter or use inline skates in the summer.	x	x	x	x	x		•	•
 Sliding hill	Slope designed for sliding. Variable clientele depending on the height and inclination of the slope.	x	x	x	x		•	•	•
 Ice ring	Frozen water surface on a hard surface on which you can skate in winter.	x	x	x	x	x		•	•



### 2.4.2 Typology of Pointe-Claire parks

The typology of Pointe-Claire parks was determined following the inventory visits, based on the equipment they contain and their surface area.

Table 3 — Classification of existing parks by typology

SECTOR	PARK	SURFACE AREA (M <sup>2</sup> )	TYOLOGY	WATERFRONT SPACE	SECTOR	PARK	SURFACE AREA (M <sup>2</sup> )	TYOLOGY	WATERFRONT SPACE
A	Breslay Park	996	Neighbourhood park		D	Skate park	1324	Community park	
A	Kinsmen Park	34 862	Community park		D	Outdoor training park at the Aquatic Centre	858	Community park	
A	Penhurst Park	2 372	Neighbourhood park		D	Solidarity Orchard	5 483	Neighbourhood park	
A	Clearpoint Park	16 345	Community park		D	Terra-Cotta Park	381 827	Nature park / Municipal park	
A	Clearpoint Elementary School soccer field	28 550	School park		D	Ashgroove Park	1 344	Neighbourhood park	
A	Antoine-Pilon Park	1 908	Neighbourhood park	X	D	Belmont Park	58 332	Neighbourhood park	
A	Village community garden	1 156	Community garden		D	John Fisher Park	27 206	Community park	
A	Édouard-Paiement Park	311	Neighbourhood park		D	Lindsay Place lower soccer field	40 627	School park	
A	Place Cartier	2 014	Neighbourhood park		D	Summerhill chalet	4 142	Sports area	
A	Alexandre-Bourgeau Park	43 282	Municipal park	X	D	Jack Robinson Park	2 444	Neighbourhood park	
A	Edgewater Park	25 055	Community park	X	D	Valois Park	66 250	Municipal park	
A	Lawn bowling	2 445	Sports area		D	Valois community garden	1 276	Community garden	
B	Stewart Hall Park	25 265	Community park	X	D	Lucerne Park	2 200	Neighbourhood park	
B	Lansdowne Gardens Park	4 943	Neighbourhood park		D	Tudor Park	2 659	Neighbourhood park	
B	Fifth Park	1 014	Neighbourhood park		E	Newton Square Park	6 673	Neighbourhood park	
B	Ovide Park	25 168	Community park		E	Northview Park	29 711	Community park	
B	Maples Park	6 293	Neighbourhood park	X	E	Empress Park	4 509	Neighbourhood park	
B	Grande-Anse Park	27 264	Municipal park	X	E	Jubilee soccer fields	10 910	School park	
B	Dog park	4 949	Neighbourhood park	X	E	Augusta Park	5 104	Neighbourhood park	
B	Bayview Park	6 584	Neighbourhood park	X	E	John Rennie High School soccer field	67 582	School park	
C	Seignior Park	25 355	Community park		E	Arthur-E.-Séguin Park	18 985	Community park	
C	Tony-Proudfoot Park	10 418	Neighbourhood park		E	David W.-Beck Park	23 747	Community park	
C	Ambassador Park	20 334	Community park		E	Stockwell Park	6 230	Neighbourhood park	
C	Amberley Park	8 314	Neighbourhood park		E	Voyageur Park	20 086	Community park	
C	Cedar Park Heights Park	55 588	Community park		F	Hermitage Park	22 760	Community park	



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# 03

## Demographic profile

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Population change data makes it possible to assess the consistency with the current supply of equipment and activities in the parks and green spaces network. The most current database available to us is from the 2020 demographic estimate of the Institut de la statistique du Québec.

Below we present the main conclusions for the entire territory. Data specific to the different analysis sectors will be provided in the description of each sector.





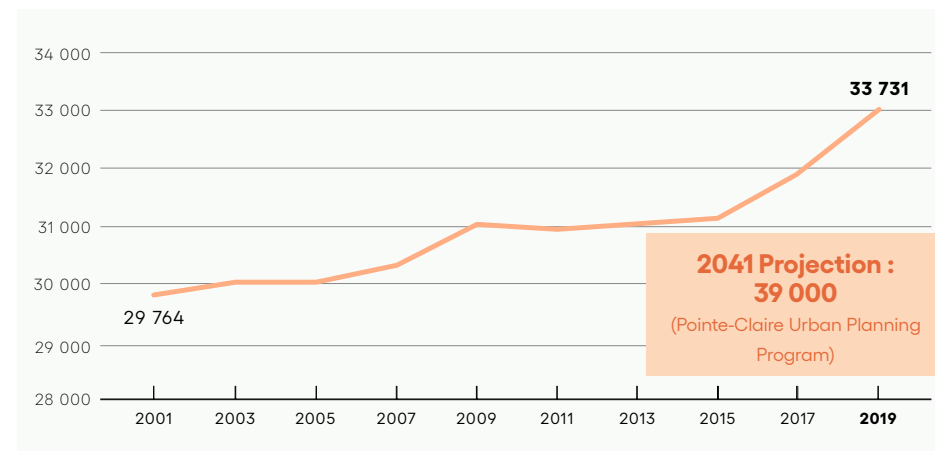
### 3.1 POPULATION GROWTH

The population of the City of Pointe-Claire grew between 2006 and 2020 by 11.7%, from 30,195 to 33,731 inhabitants. In particular, there was a stable period from 2009 to 2015, followed by a significant increase since 2015.

This growth represents a variation over the period almost identical to that observed for the Montréal agglomeration (11.8%), but less significant than what was observed for the Montréal census metropolitan area (CMA) (20.1%) and for Québec as a whole (13.7%).

According to the data in the draft urban planning program<sup>3</sup>, the City of Pointe-Claire expects to reach a population of nearly 39,000 inhabitants by 2041, mainly concentrated in the northern sectors of the city, near the REM stations. This represents a population growth of nearly 15% between 2019 and 2041.

Figure 5 — Change in the population of the City of Pointe-Claire, 2001 to 2020



### 3.2 CHANGES IN AGE GROUPS

An analysis of the change in age groups is an element that feeds the development of a master plan for parks and green spaces in order to ensure consistency between users and facilities. The most important phenomenon is the ageing of the population. Although this phenomenon is observed throughout Québec, the relative weight of the population aged 65 and over in the City of Pointe-Claire (23.3%) is greater than that of the Montréal agglomeration (16.4%), and for Québec as a whole (19.7%). There is also a decrease in the relative percentage of children under the age of 19 in the population, but an increase in the 20 to 44 age group.

Table 4 — Change in the population of the City of Pointe-Claire by age group, 2006 to 2020

GROUPES D'ÂGES	2006	2011	2016	2020*	VARIATION 2006 to 2020
0 to 4 years	1400	1320	1370	1364	-2,6 %
5 to 14 years	3855	3375	3375	3387	-12,1 %
15 to 19 years	2165	2235	1915	1962	-9,4 %
20 to 24 years	1785	1780	1910	2300	28,9 %
25 to 44 years	6880	6130	6065	7953	15,6 %
45 to 64 years	8690	9495	9265	8917	2,6 %
65 years et over	5420	6455	7480	7848	44,8 %
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>30195</b>	<b>30790</b>	<b>31380</b>	<b>33731</b>	<b>11,7 %</b>

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006, 2011 and 2016 census surveys, Institut de la statistique du Québec, annual demographic estimates.

\*Annual demographic estimate from the Institut de la statistique du Québec, based on Statistics Canada census data.

This general profile illustrates the change in composition of the population. This will affect the need for parks and green spaces and will have to be taken into consideration when planning future investments.

The immigrant population increased by 16.3% in the City of Pointe-Claire between 2006 and 2016. This increase is slightly higher than that observed for the Montréal agglomeration (15.5%), but lower than that for the Montréal CMA (26.5%) and for Québec as a whole (28.2%). The relative percentage of the population with an immigrant background represents 25% of the total population of Pointe-Claire. The increase in the immigrant population can have an impact on the type of activities wanted by the population, with some activities being more popular with these populations, such as rugby and cricket

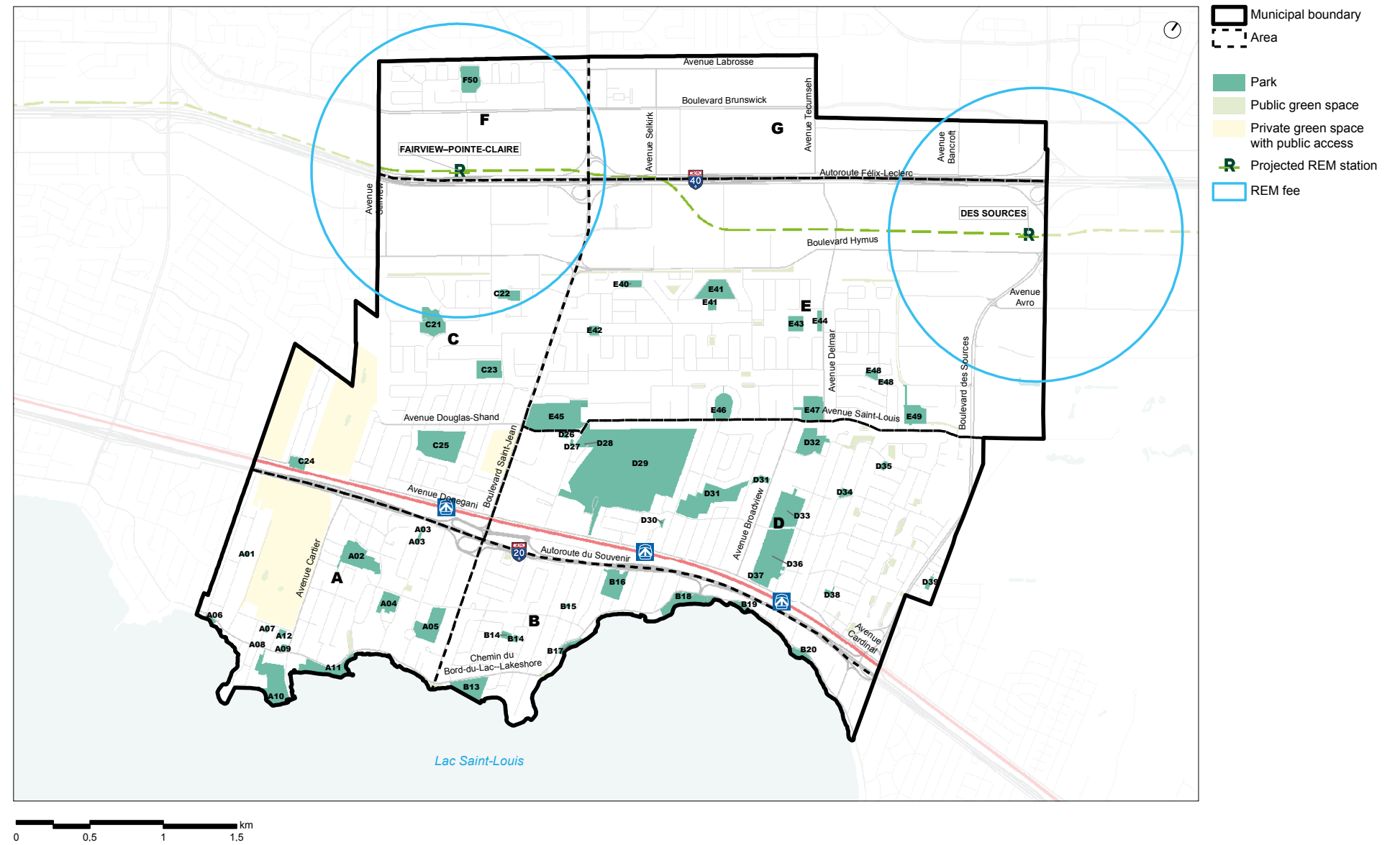
<sup>3</sup> 2002 Pointe-Claire Urban Planning Program Preliminary version.



### 3.3 IMPACT OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE REM

Two REM stations are being built in Pointe-Claire and their commissioning is expected to start in 2024. These stations are located in the heart of major employment hubs, but their presence results in significant development pressure near them. The redesign of the current urban plan will serve to define the main orientations resulting from this new reality, among other things. Since the demographic projections are not known at the time of writing this study, the analysis and recommendations will be based on current demographic data.

Figure 6 — New REM stations





# 04 Service analysis

The service analysis is carried out based on the actual walking distance from the existing road network. This makes it possible to develop an overview of park access based on standards established for each type of park.

## 4.1 OVERALL SERVICE ANALYSIS

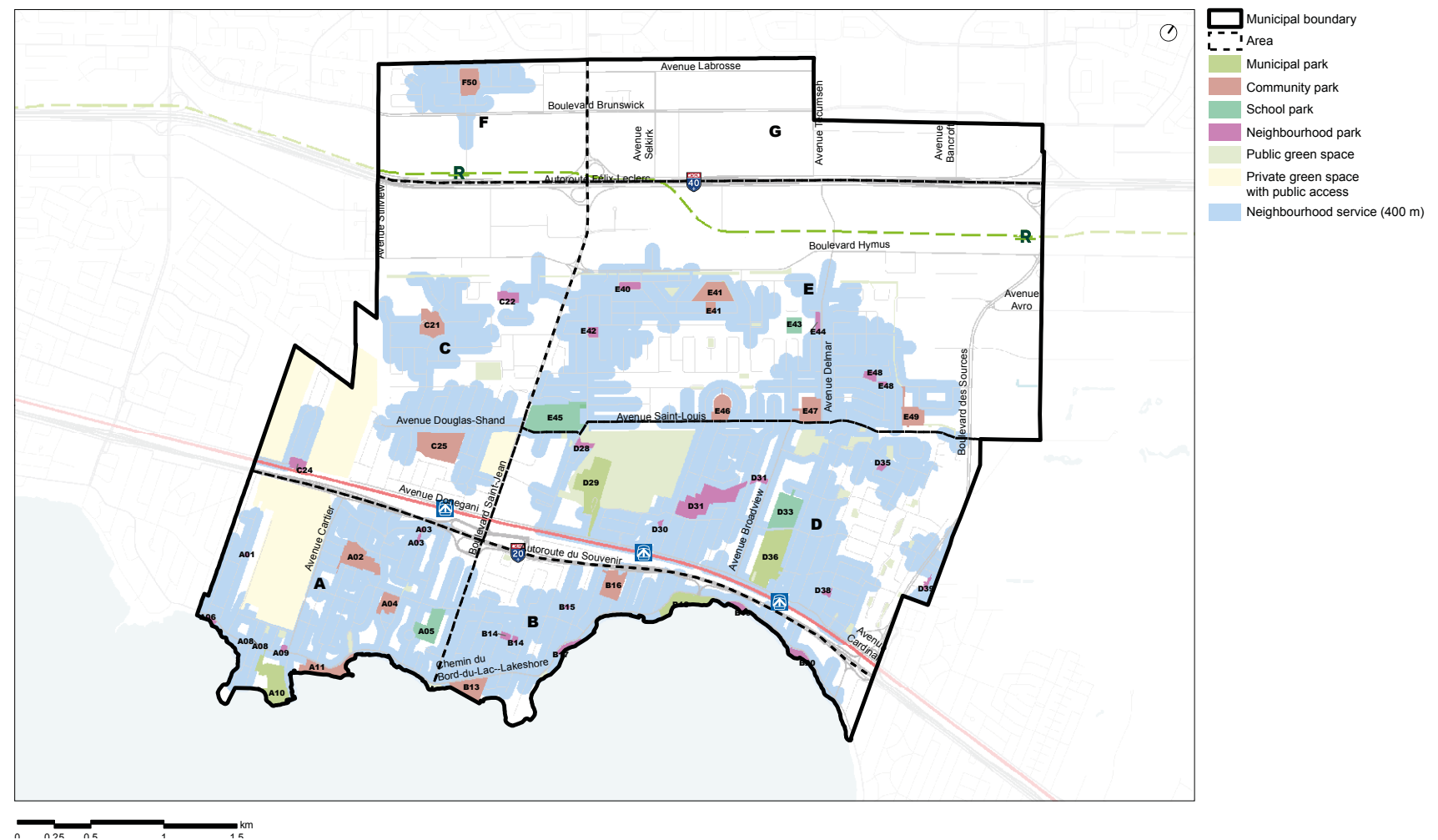
The service is first analyzed at the city level to assess the distribution of the different types of parks on the territory. A detailed analysis by sector connects the demographic changes within each sector and the supply of parks in relation to the specific characteristics of each sector.

### 4.1.1 Neighbourhood parks

The purpose of neighbourhood parks is to provide local services for the population of surrounding streets. They primarily include relaxation areas, children’s play areas and small sports facilities (basketball, bocce, etc.). The target service area for this type of park is 400 metres, or a 10-minute walk. It should be noted that municipal and community parks can also serve as neighbourhood parks for residents of nearby streets to the extent that they offer the type of amenities that are available in a neighbourhood park. School parks are also included in this category because they offer outdoor play areas that meet the criteria of local parks. Neighbourhood park services are illustrated in the figure below.

The number of neighbourhood parks in residential areas is generally good on the territory. Areas not covered are mainly industrial, institutional and commercial spaces. In Sector E, service in the central portion is adequate, because the analysis method did not consider pedestrian crossings to Arthur-Séguin Park. The same phenomenon explains the lack of access in the Cedar Heights sector, where a pedestrian crossing provides access to Cedar Heights Park from the neighbourhood to the south. The only area with a real deficit in neighbourhood parks is the western portion of Sector D.

Figure 7 — Neighbourhood park service (400 m)



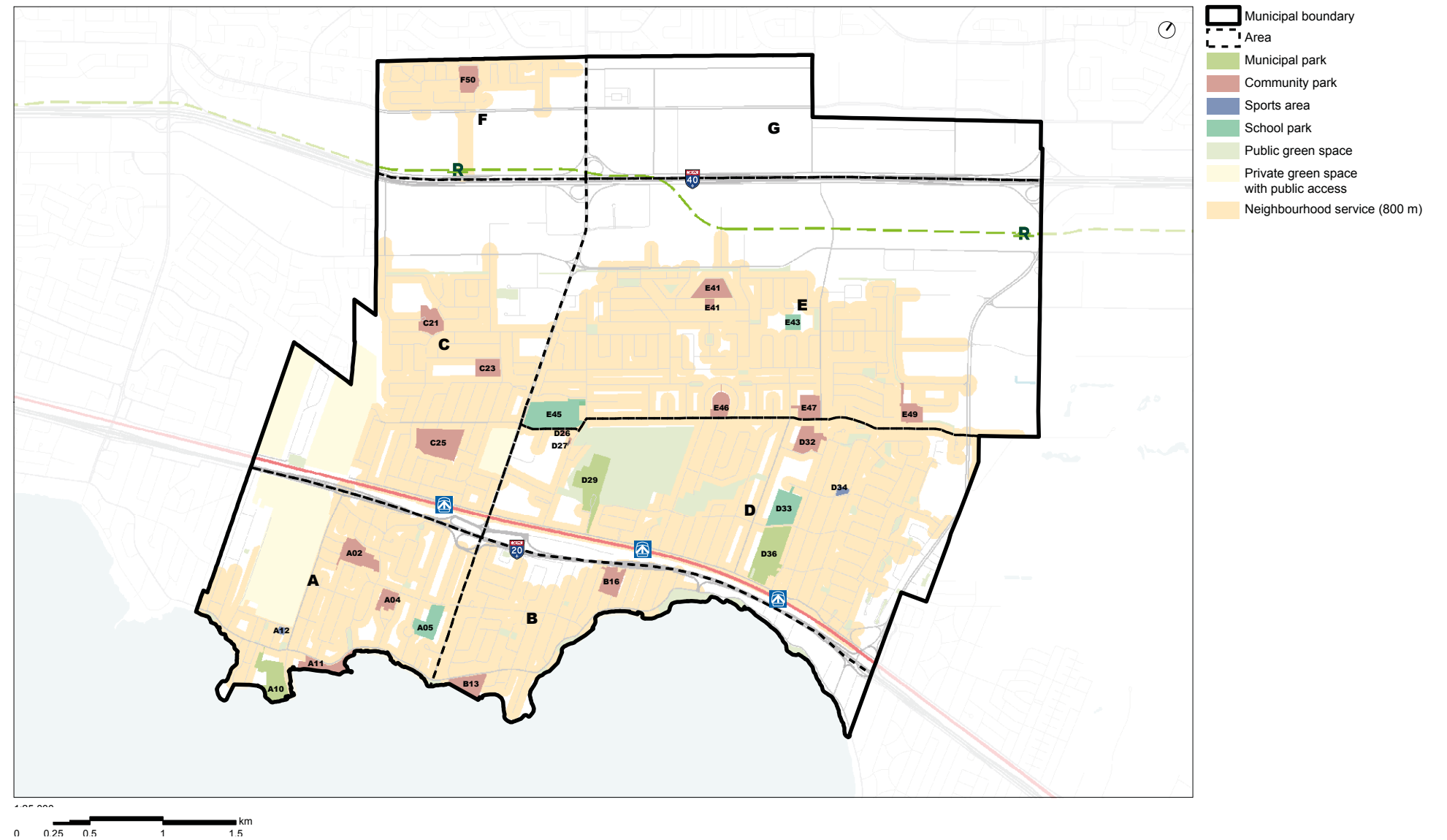


#### 4.1.2 Community parks

In addition to the amenities of nearby park services, neighbourhood parks usually have one or more large sports facilities (ice rink, soccer, baseball), or small sports facilities (tennis, basketball, etc.) making them attractive to the neighbourhood. The target service area for this type of park is 800 metres, or a 20-minute walk. Municipal parks can also act as neighbourhood parks for residents of the affected areas depending on their level of equipment. Community park services are illustrated in the figure below.

There is excellent coverage in terms of community parks. There are a total of 16 community parks on the territory covering the vast majority of residential areas. This analysis is valid notwithstanding the 800 m coverage area allocated to sports areas and the four school parks that are shown on the service map. Although the facilities in these spaces are attractive to those within 800 m, the diversity of their services is not comparable to that of community parks and they do not meet the same needs in terms of recreation.

Figure 8 — Service to community parks (800 m)



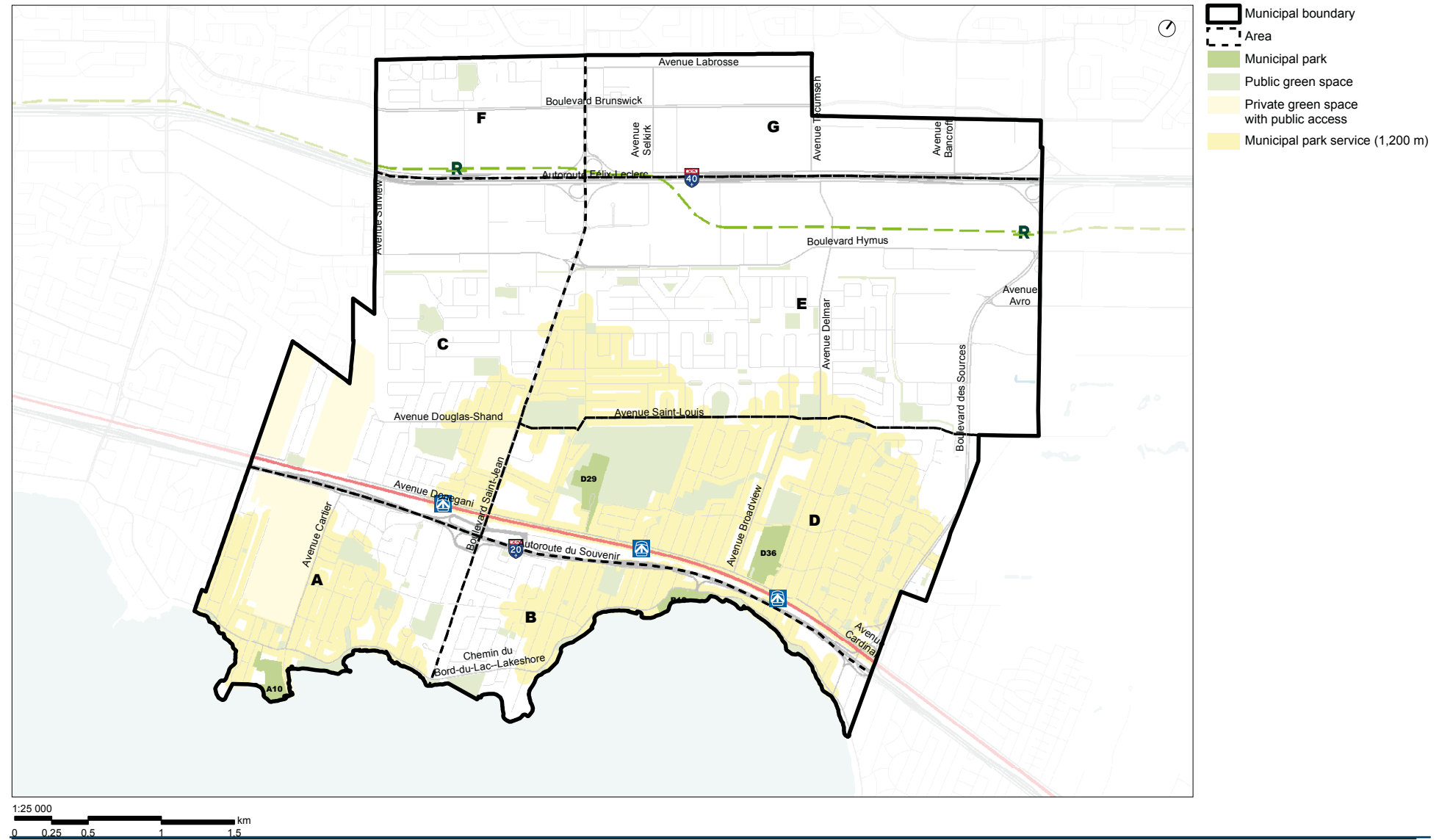


### 4.1.3 Municipal parks

Municipal parks have a large number of high-profile facilities that are attractive throughout the municipality, either because of their unique nature or because of the concentration of a large number of these facilities. The target service area for this type of park is 1,200 metres, or a 30-minute walk. Although nature parks do not offer equipment like large sports facilities, the network of trails offers the potential for many physical activities. They are generally considered regional parks and can also be considered municipal parks for the residents of the city in which they are located.

We note that the services provided by municipal parks cover Sector D (Civic-Hub), the western portion of Sector A and the eastern portion of Sector B very well.

Figure 9 — Municipal park service (1,200 m)





#### 4.1.4 Highlights of the overall service

The main findings of the land inventory are as follows:

- The parks are of good quality. They are well maintained and the equipment is in good condition;
- There is a balanced distribution of various types of equipment throughout the sectors;
- Most of the parks have lighting and several offer accessible paths to the various pieces of equipment and an adequate quantity of furniture;
- Substantial mature tree cover in a large portion of the parks offer shade and green surroundings (except for sports parks);
- The majority of the community and municipal parks are developed to their full capacity. There is very little room for new large pieces of equipment;
- The north-west portion of the city is less well served with parks even though this is where the population increase will most likely be concentrated in the coming years;
- Some green spaces offer good potential for the development of facilities on a small to medium scale;
- Park signs are inadequate in some places;
- There are few washrooms in the parks and access to them is limited and based on the opening hours of park chalets.

- 
- The Pointe-Claire park system offers access to at least one park within walking distance of 1,200 m to the vast majority of the population;
  - The territory's coverage in terms of neighbourhood and community parks is excellent;
  - The main deficit is at the level of municipal parks. The central-west sector does not have equipment within a municipal parks radius.
- 



Kinsmen Park





Stockwell Park

#### 4.2 DIAGNOSTIC BY SECTOR

This analysis connects the demographic data and the characteristics of each sector and their services in terms of parks to highlight the main issues with parks and green spaces at this scale.

As explained earlier, the most current database available was from the 2020 demographic estimate of the Institut de la statistique du Québec. However, this database does not allow us to estimate the demographic distribution of the population of Pointe-Claire according to the sectors established as part of this parks and green spaces master plan. Therefore, several of the statistics presented in this chapter include information from the more accurate databases of the 2006 and 2016 census surveys.



4.2.1

## Sector A South-West sector

### THE POPULATION

- The total population of the sector (2022: 3,425 inhabitants) represents 10.2% of Pointe-Claire's population. It has changed very little over the last 10 years with the addition of only 15 housing units between 2016 and 2022. Despite slight variations, the demographic profile remains substantially the same. However, there was an 18% decrease in the 25 to 44 age group and an increase in the 65+ age group of 9.5%.

Table 5 — Population trend in Sector A

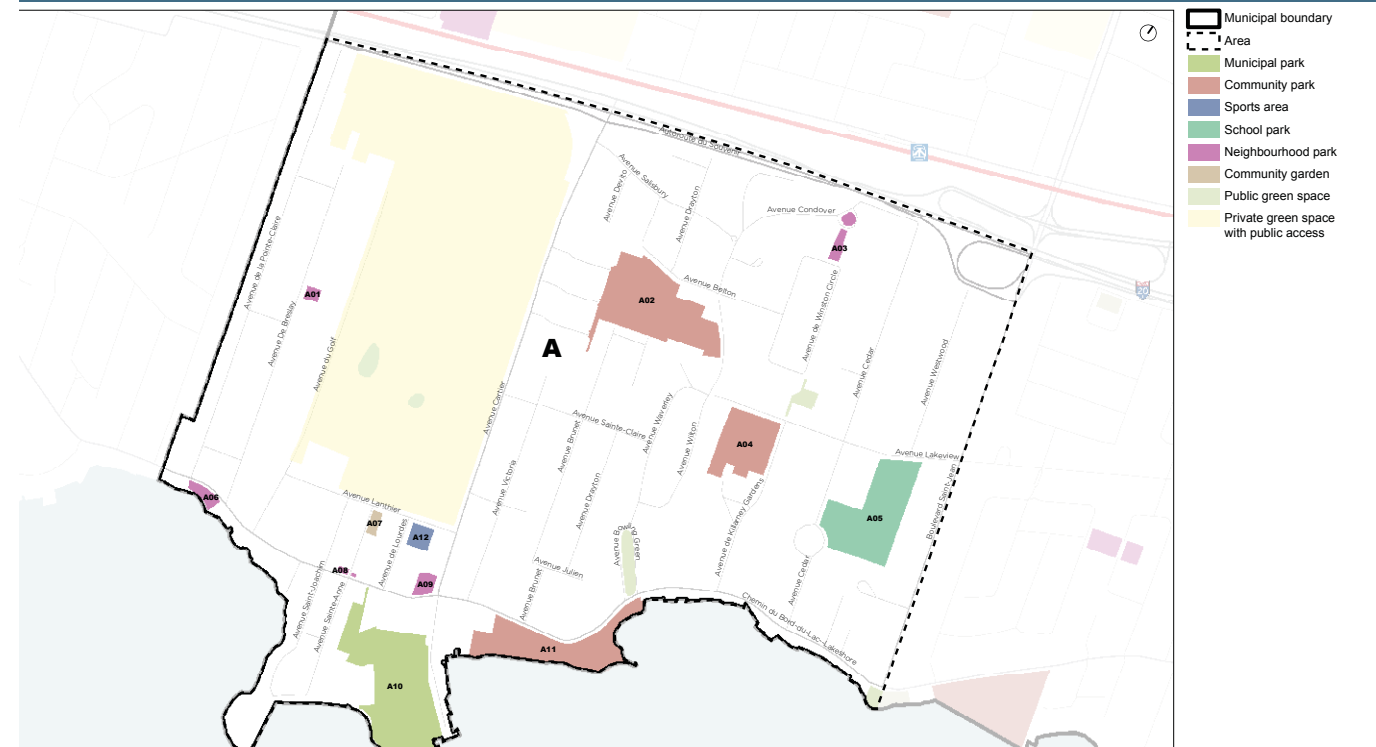
AGE GROUPS	2006	2016	2022 (approx.)*
0 to 4 years	143	141	
5 to 14 years	387	361	
15 to 19 years	197	216	
20 to 24 years	175	155	
25 to 44 years	653	534	
45 to 64 years	1000	1041	
65 years and over	865	947	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3420</b>	<b>3395</b>	<b>3425</b>

\* Data for 2022 was provided by the borough on an aggregate basis only.

### THE TERRITORY

- Surface area: 1.98 km<sup>2</sup> or 10.7% of the surface area of the Pointe-Claire territory;
- This area is mainly residential, but there are functions other than residential with, among others, the commercial part of Bord-du-Lac-Lakeshore Road in Old Pointe-Claire and the Beaconsfield Golf Club, which occupies approximately 20% of the area;
- The built environment consists mainly of single-family homes, but there are also other forms of housing in the western portion of the area. Most of the streets are lined with tall trees. The relationship with the other neighbourhoods of Pointe-Claire (other than Sector B) is limited by the presence of Highway 20. A pedestrian tunnel provides a connection with Sector C (Centre-West) at Cedar Street toward the Cedar Park commuter train station. To the west, the golfers tunnel also provides a north-south connection for cyclists and pedestrians;
- An elementary school adds to the dynamics of neighbourhood life;
- The many waterfront parks, as well as the heritage area of the Pointe-Claire peninsula, and its windmill make this area one of the preferred destinations in Pointe-Claire as well as on a metropolitan scale;
- The current cycling network does not specifically serve the different parks in the area, but the peaceful nature of local streets mean cyclists can use them safely.

Figure 10 — Map of Sector A



### Summary of the offer and service

**12 parks** 

**Including 2 large waterfront parks** 

**129 640 m<sup>2</sup>**  **> 38 m<sup>2</sup>/inhabitant**

The area has very good park services with the entire area being covered by a service radius of one of the typologies. In addition, the radii of municipal and neighbourhood parks overlap in several places. The area is particularly well served by neighbourhood parks. It should also be noted that following an agreement between the City of Pointe-Claire and the Beaconsfield Golf Club, a cross-country ski trail and a path are open to residents of the city in winter. This network has two parallel trails over a length of two kilometres, one for walking and the other for cross-country skiing.

The water connection is well developed with a sailing school, a launching ramp and a dock for nautical activities.

4.2.2

## Sector B South-East sector

### THE POPULATION

- The total population was 3,795 inhabitants in 2016. It experienced a significant increase between 2016 and 2022 with the construction of 328 housing units and now has 4,451 inhabitants, or 13.3% of the population of Pointe-Claire on a territory representing 7% of the total area of the municipality. There is a more pronounced trend of ageing population in this sector compared to Sector A, the contiguous sector that contains Pointe-Claire Village, with a 21.4% increase in this age group.

AGE GROUPS	2006	2016	2022 (approx.)*
0 to 4 years	132	104	
5 to 14 years	383	339	
15 to 19 years	218	199	
20 to 24 years	175	195	
25 to 44 years	728	606	
45 to 64 years	1090	1144	
65 years and over	995	1208	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3721</b>	<b>3795</b>	<b>4451</b>

\* Data for 2022 was provided by the borough on an aggregate basis only.

### THE TERRITORY

- Surface area: 1.33 km<sup>2</sup> or 7% of the surface area of the Pointe-Claire territory;
- This peaceful residential area is composed of a consistent built environment, with single-family residences located on average sized lots (approximately 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup> or 900 m<sup>2</sup>);
- Residential towers were built recently (less than 5 years ago), bringing a new population to the area;
- This neighbourhood dates from the 1950s and 1960s, which allowed the vegetation to mature, creating an enveloping and fresh atmosphere thanks to the presence of many large trees;
- Lac Saint-Louis is a dominant element in this sector and it is particularly visible from Bord-du-Lac-Lakeshore Road and the many waterfront parks;
- Cut off from the rest of Pointe-Claire by Highway 20, this sector is mainly linked to Sector A of Pointe-Claire and to the bordering district of Dorval, located east of Des Sources Boulevard. Two pedestrian and cycling tunnels provide a link to the north near the two commuter train stations;
- The current cycling network is not very well developed, but the peaceful nature of local streets allows cyclists to use them safely.

Figure 11 — Map of Sector B



### Summary of the offer and service

**8 parks**

**With 4 large waterfront parks**

**89 631 m<sup>2</sup>** > **20 m<sup>2</sup>/inhabitant**

The western portion is very well served by neighbourhood and community parks, as is the eastern portion of the area which is served by two neighbourhood parks and a municipal park. In addition, other waterfront spaces maintained with public benches are available to the east of the sector, on the edge of Lac Saint-Louis. They are excluded from the list of parks, but provide many places to relax.

It should also be noted that a significant number of sports and recreational activities are carried out in the waterfront portion of Sector B. There are many water activities such as canoeing, small sailboats, kayaking, and even anchoring areas for boats and other watercraft. The Pointe-Claire Canoe Kayak Club in this sector also offers a wide variety of services (courses, boat rentals, day camp, etc.).



4.2.3

## Sector C Centre-West

### THE POPULATION

— The population of this sector represents 29% of the overall population of the municipality (9,755 inhabitants). This is the most populated sector in Pointe-Claire. This sector experienced a major increase (54.8%) in its population between 2006 and 2022. Here again, it is the 65 and older age group that has increased the most with an increase of just over 134%, while the population under 45 has decreased and the population aged 45 to 54 has remained stable. Development in the Hymus sector in the late 2000s explains the significant increase in the population, especially since this sector includes several retirement homes.

Table 7 — Population trend in Sector C

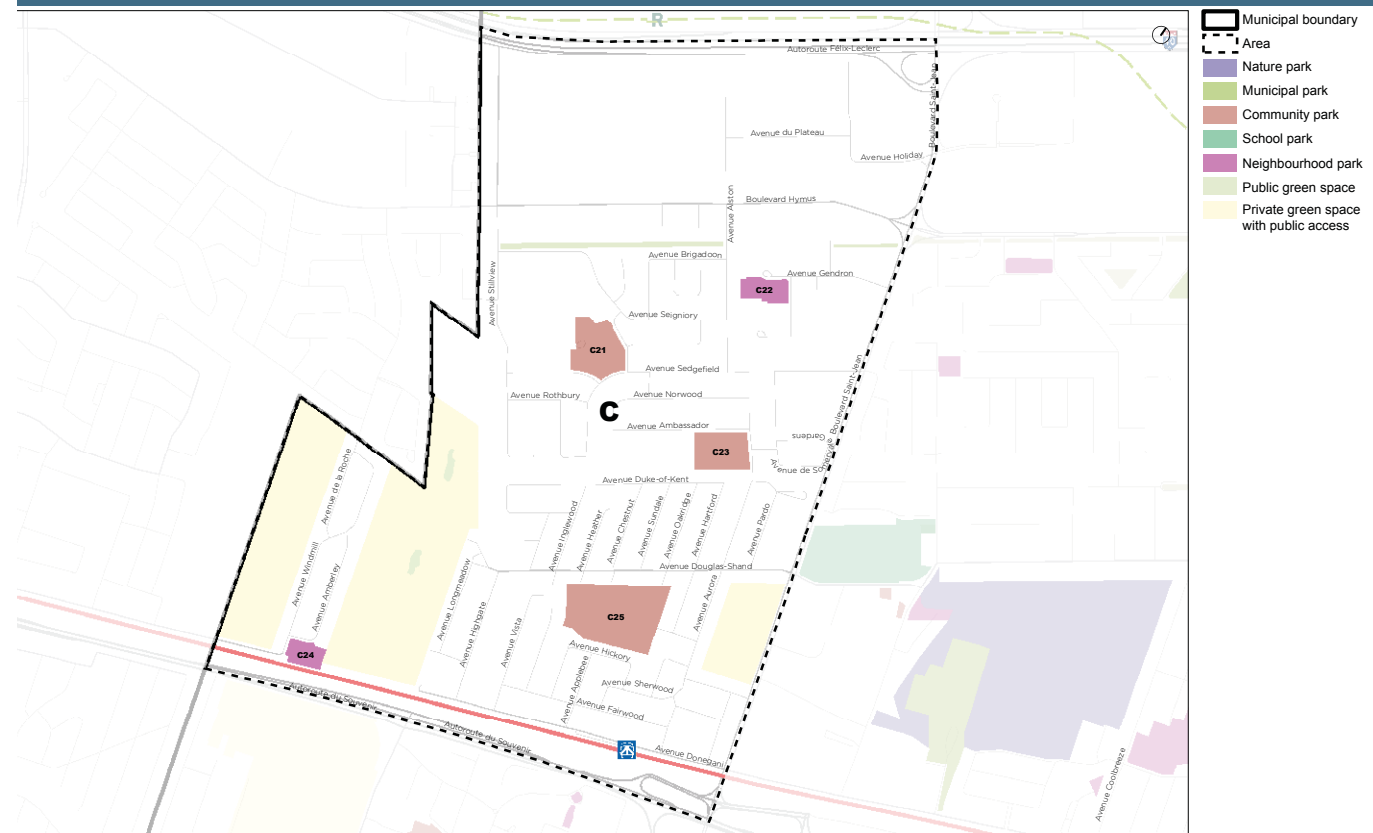
AGE GROUPS	2006	2016	2022 (approx.)*
0 to 4 years	255	280	
5 to 14 years	825	715	
15 to 19 years	505	405	
20 to 24 years	445	465	
25 to 44 years	1530	1430	
45 to 64 years	1830	1830	
65 years and over	910	2130	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6300</b>	<b>7255</b>	<b>9755</b>

\* Data for 2022 was provided by the borough on an aggregate basis only.

### THE TERRITORY

- Surface area: 3.37 km<sup>2</sup> or nearly 18% of the surface area of the Pointe-Claire territory;
- The built environment of the sector is diversified with a clear split between the residential sector, located between the railway line along Highway 20 and Hymus Boulevard, and the commercial and industrial sectors north of Hymus Boulevard. The built environment of the northern portion of the area mainly consists of large buildings, surrounded by parking lots, and forms a large heat island. However, these buildings create a buffer zone between Highway 40 and the residential area;
- The residential sector is composed of a mix of residential typologies with single-family homes in the centre and denser forms along major traffic routes;
- The presence of Lakeshore General Hospital in the residential area leads to significant traffic in this portion of the sector. Félix-Leclerc High School is also in this sector;
- The cycling network is mainly developed along the east-west axis in the southern portion of the sector. There are few north-south links. The tunnels from the train station and golf course create links to Sector A.

Figure 12 — Map of Sector C



### Summary of the offer and service

5 parks



Large private green spaces such as the golf course and the two cemeteries create green lungs in the sector.

107 275 m<sup>2</sup>



11 m<sup>2</sup>/inhabitant

down compared to 2016 when the proportion was 17 m<sup>2</sup>/inhabitants

Although this area only has three community parks and two neighbourhood parks, they are distributed evenly. The whole surface area has very good park services with the entire area being covered by a service radius of one of at least the typologies. However, this area is not served by any municipal parks, but Cedar Park is very diverse with large sports facilities (ball, tennis and basketball courts, and a swimming pool).

4.2.4

## Sector D Civic Hub

### THE POPULATION

— Sector D represents 21% of Pointe-Claire’s population. It experienced a slight decrease in its population between 2006 and 2016. In this context, a decrease in most of the age groups was observed while the 45 to 64 and 65 and over age groups increased by 8.4% and 12.7% respectively. The demographic dynamics of this older sector of the city are similar to those of sectors A and B.

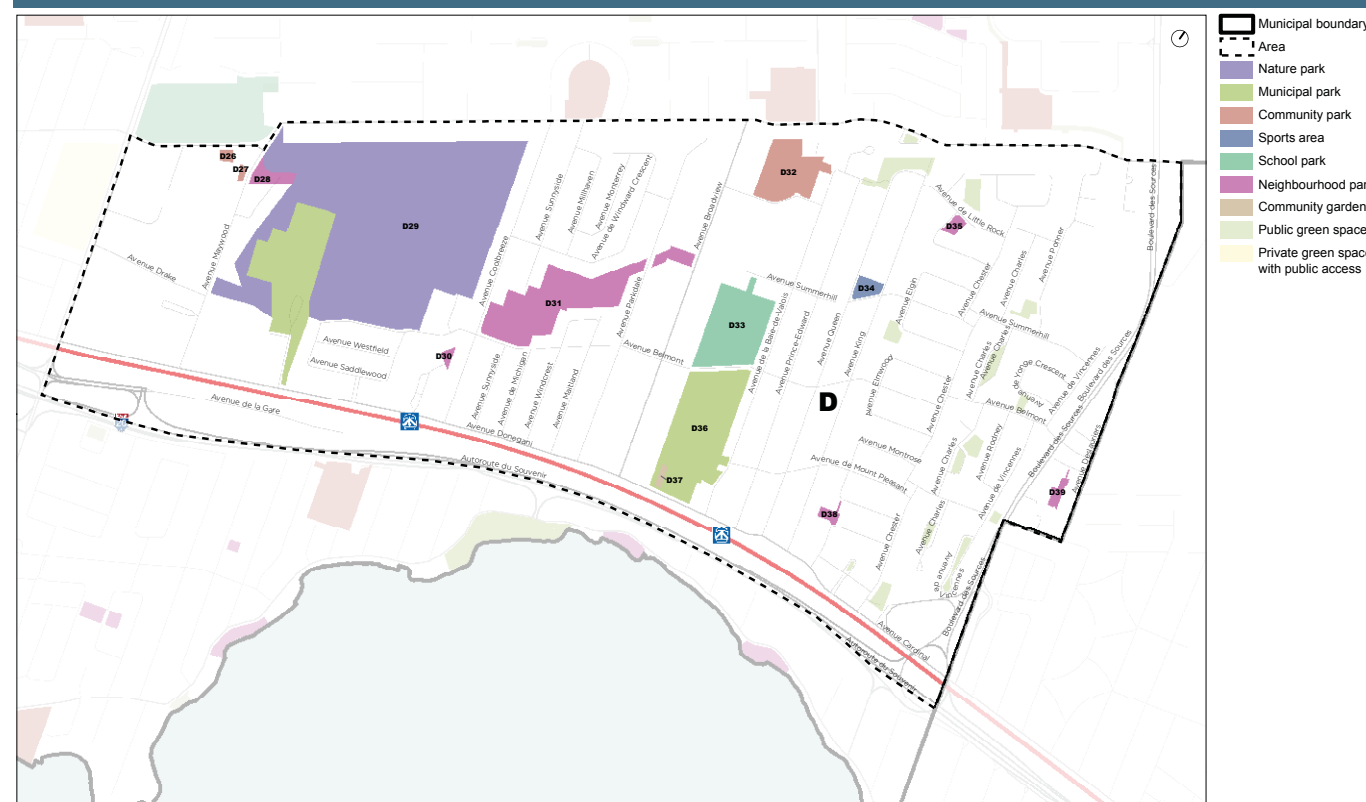
AGE GROUPS	2006	2016	2022 (approx.)*
0 to 4 years	345	300	
5 to 14 years	760	720	
15 to 19 years	420	390	
20 to 24 years	405	400	
25 to 44 years	1420	1205	
45 to 64 years	1790	1940	
65 years and over	1145	1290	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6285</b>	<b>6245</b>	<b>6971</b>

\* Data for 2022 was provided by the borough on an aggregate basis only.

### THE TERRITORY

- Surface area: 3.63 km<sup>2</sup> or 19.2% of the surface area of Pointe-Claire’s territory;
- This sector is the civic and cultural hub of Pointe-Claire. It includes the main municipal facilities (city hall, library, aquatic centre, arena, etc.) as well as many elementary and high schools;
- The Valois Village, located in Sector D, is covered by a Special Planning Program (SPP) to guide its development;
- With the exception of the civic and commercial hubs along Saint-Jean Boulevard, the built environment is similar to that of the other residential areas described above where local streets are lined with large trees and most have no sidewalks;
- The cycling network is mainly developed along the east-west axis, in the southern portion of the sector with links to the civic hub and Terra-Cotta Park to the north. The pedestrian and cycling tunnels near the two train stations create links to Sector B.

Figure 13 — Map of Sector D



### Summary of the offer and service

**14 parks**

**This is the sector with the largest area of public parks and green spaces.**

**556 083 m<sup>2</sup>** > **80 m<sup>2</sup>/inhabitant**

The area is a vast residential complex with many parks.

The Terra-Cotta nature and municipal park is over 300,000 m<sup>2</sup> and much of it is wooded. There is also another municipal park, three community parks, a school park, a sports area, a community garden and six neighbourhood parks in the area. A skate park is also located in the area.

This great diversity of parks means the area is well served with community and neighbourhood parks.

In addition, Valois Park, one of the two municipal parks in the sector, adequately serves the entire eastern portion of the area while the western portion is served by the Terra-Cotta nature and municipal park. Note that there are also several small green spaces to the east of the sector.



4.2.5

## Sector E Des Sources or Centre-East

### THE POPULATION

— This sector is the second most populous with 9,364 inhabitants or 28% of the population on nearly 30% of the territory. Considering that a large part of the territory is occupied by businesses and industries, the density of residential occupation is the highest in Pointe-Claire. There was a slight increase in the population between 2006 and 2016 of approximately 3.1%. This increase is characterized by a decrease in inhabitants under the age of 19 and from 25 to 44, as well as a significant increase in the population aged 65 and over (75.1%). A significant increase of 11% in the population was observed between 2016 and 2022. This demographic trend could change with the arrival of the REM and the potential urban development that would result.

AGE GROUPS	2006	2016	2022 (approx.)*
0 to 4 years	445	415	
5 to 14 years	1195	990	
15 to 19 years	665	575	
20 to 24 years	485	535	
25 to 44 years	2055	1715	
45 to 64 years	2375	2565	
65 years and over	905	1585	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8125</b>	<b>8380</b>	<b>9364</b>

\* Data for 2022 was provided by the borough on an aggregate basis only.

### THE TERRITORY

- Surface area: 5.53 km<sup>2</sup> or 29.2% of the surface area of Pointe-Claire's territory;
- The sector is similar in composition to Sector C with a residential composition south of Hymus Boulevard and a residential and industrial sector between Hymus and Highway 40. This commercial area extends south along Des Sources Boulevard and isolates the residential area from the nuisances associated with the highway;
- A REM station is planned at the south-west intersection of Des Sources Boulevard and Highway 20. This new transportation infrastructure results in significant development pressures for this sector;
- The current residential sector is mainly made up of single-family homes;
- The cycling network is mainly developed along the east-west axis with some north-south axis. It is divided into separate sections with no particular links to the park network.

Figure 14 — Map of Sector E



### Summary of the offer and service

**10 parks**

3,6 % of the territory

**123 194 m<sup>2</sup>** > **13 m<sup>2</sup>/inhabitant**

The area has adequate park services and its entire residential area is covered by a service radius of one of the typologies. In addition to Northview park, which offers a variety of sports, recreational and water facilities, Sector E benefits from the proximity of the Terra-Cotta nature and municipal park. This park is relatively accessible via the local arteries that cross Saint-Louis Avenue.

4.2.6

## Sector F North-West sector

### THE POPULATION

- Other than Sector G, Sector F is the least populated sector in Pointe-Claire with 2,508 inhabitants in 2022. The population in this sector is concentrated in the northwestern part of the territory. We note a marked increase of 14% in its population between 2006 and 2016 and 40% between 2016 and 2022. Meanwhile, age groups generally increased over the period, especially those from 0 to 4 years of age (69.2%) and 65 years and older (112.5%);
- The new REM station in this sector could have a significant impact on the transformation of this sector over the next few years.

Table 10 — Population trend in Sector F

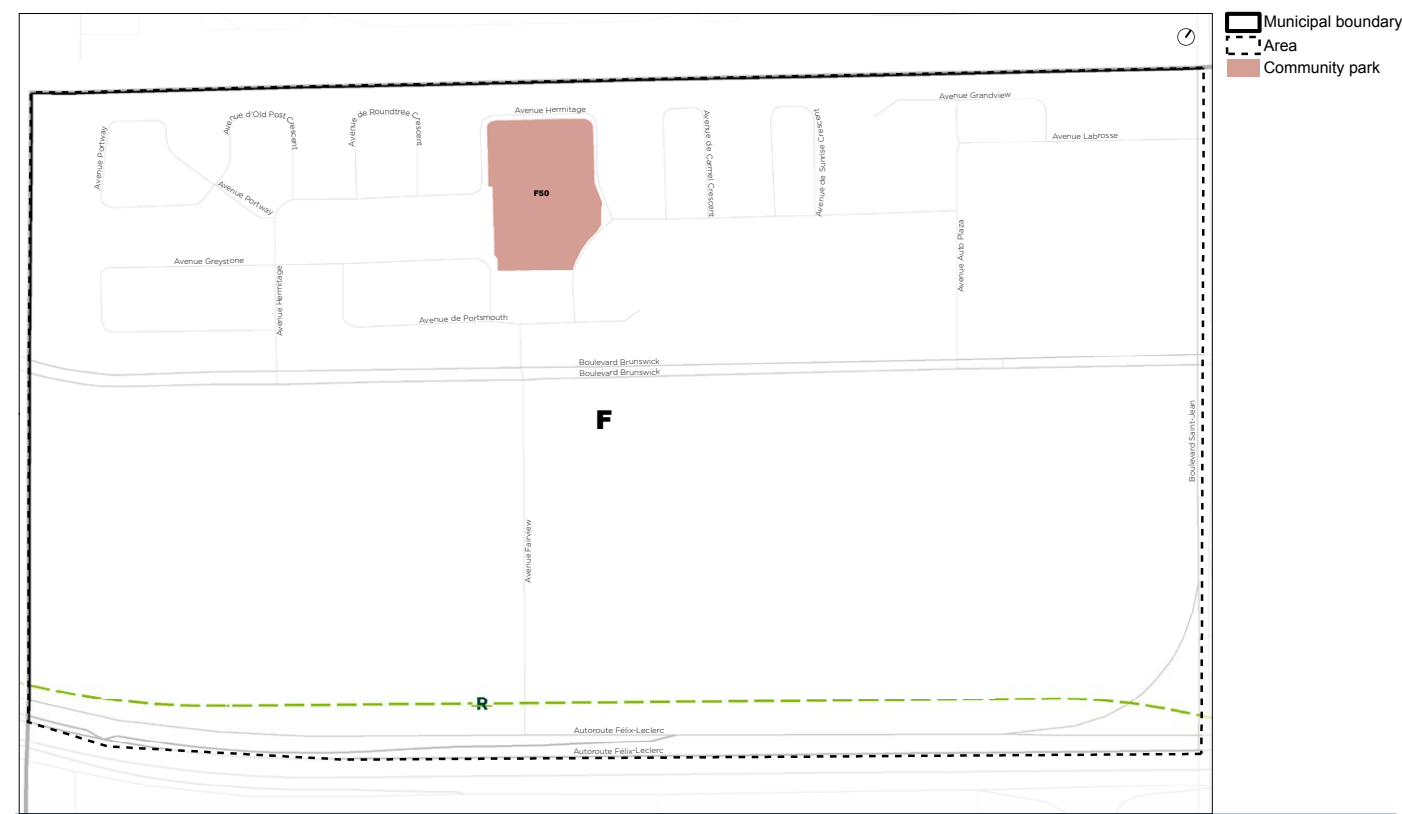
AGE GROUPS	2006	2016	2022 (approx.)*
0 to 4 years	65	110	
5 to 14 years	210	195	
15 to 19 years	135	105	
20 to 24 years	110	125	
25 to 44 years	410	435	
45 to 64 years	520	565	
65 years and over	120	255	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1570</b>	<b>1790</b>	<b>2508</b>

\* Data for 2022 was provided by the borough on an aggregate basis only.

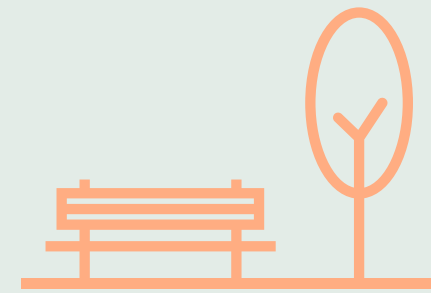
### THE TERRITORY

- Surface area: 1.17 km<sup>2</sup> or 6.2% of the surface area of Pointe-Claire's territory;
- This area is the smallest and includes a large proportion of commercial and industrial space between Highway 40 and Brunswick Boulevard;
- The small residential area north of the commercial area is isolated from the rest of Pointe-Claire and is linked to the neighbouring cities of Dollard-des-Ormeaux and Kirkland. The built environment is mainly made up of semi-detached single-family houses;
- A REM station is planned at the north-east intersection of Saint-Jean Boulevard and Highway 40. Its implementation could lead to urban development;
- This area does not have any bike paths. However, there is a multipurpose path directly north of the sector on the territory of Dollard-des-Ormeaux.

Figure 15 — Map of Sector F



### Summary of the offer and service



21 124 m<sup>2</sup> > 8 m<sup>2</sup>/inhabitant

a decrease from 13 m<sup>2</sup> of parks per capita in 2016

The only park in the area, Hermitage Park, is in the middle of the residential area. It is a community park. Although there are no accessible neighbourhood parks in Sector F, Hermitage Park offers some of the facilities representative of what is offered in neighbourhood parks, such as children's play areas and spaces for relaxation.

The south-west portion of the sector is undeveloped and includes the private wooded area of the Fairview forest. This space could experience urban pressures due to the arrival of the REM. The need for parks and green spaces in the sector will therefore be strongly linked to the urban development associated with the arrival of the REM.



4.2.7

## Sector G North-East commercial

### THE POPULATION

- There are 506 inhabitants.

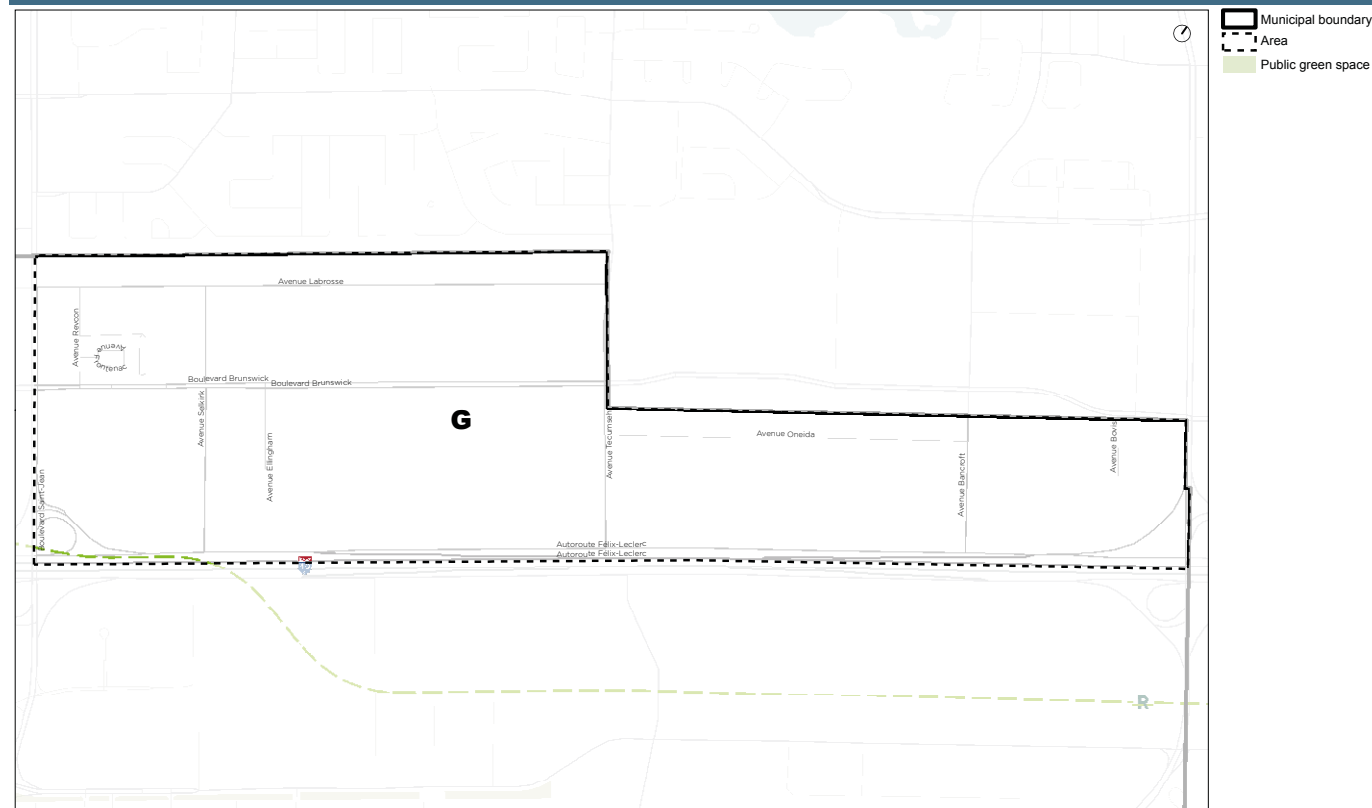
### THE TERRITORY

- Surface area: 1.93 km<sup>2</sup> or 10.2% of the surface area of Pointe-Claire's territory;
- The sector consists mainly of businesses and industries. A small residential enclave was recently created;
- The arrival of the Fairview REM station could lead to the transformation of part of this sector;
- The territory is currently fully developed and paved with large commercial and industrial buildings and parking lots. There is very little vegetation and the tree canopy is minimal;
- This area does not have any bike paths. However, there is a multipurpose path directly north of the sector on the territory of Dollard-des-Ormeaux.

### Summary of the offer and service

Sector G is almost exclusively industrial. It is therefore normal for the area not to have any parks. That being said, redevelopment with public areas and green spaces would be appropriate for the area and could serve neighbourhood residents as well as workers.

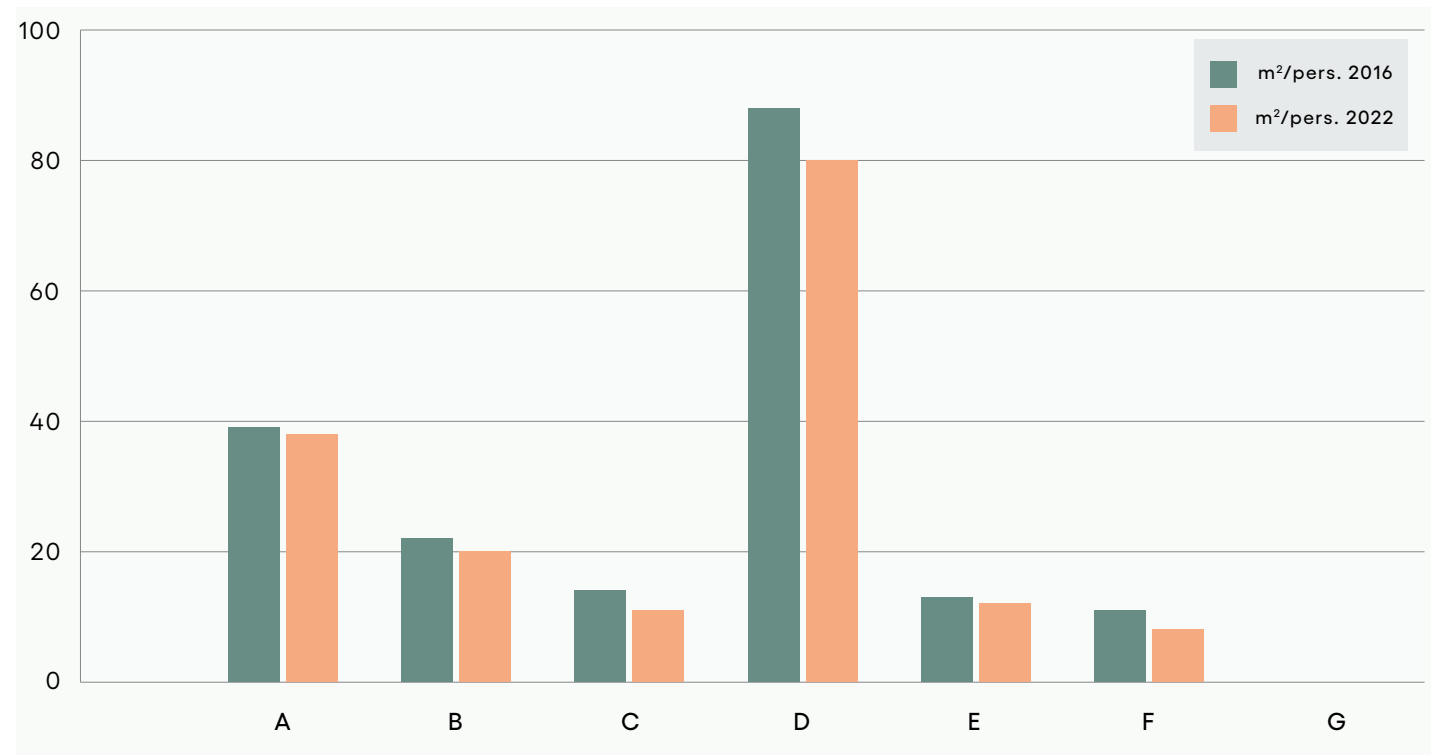
Figure 16 — Map of Sector G



4.2.8 Impact of population growth

The recent growth in Pointe-Claire's population has not been accompanied by a similar growth in surface area for parks, which is why there has been a decrease in the surface area of parks per capita in the areas that have experienced the greatest population growth. We note that the densest neighbourhoods (C, E, F) where private green spaces are smaller, are the same as areas where the ratio of public green spaces per capita is the lowest.

Figure 17 — Change in the ratio of park space per capita between 2016 and 2022



This dynamic is likely to increase if development pressures continue and if new parks are not added in the coming years. This is a major challenge for an almost entirely developed municipality such as Pointe-Claire, where land available for the construction of new parks is rare and very expensive.



Tony Proudfoot Park



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# 05

## Portrait of sports and leisure facilities

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The purpose of this section is to assess the gap between supply and demand for outdoor sports fields and facilities in the City of Pointe-Claire. The following sports facilities are presented and analyzed in greater detail :

- Soccer and football fields;
- Ball sport fields;
- Tennis/pickleball courts;
- Outdoor basketball courts;
- Outdoor aquatic facilities;
- Outdoor skating rinks and paths.

For some facilities, such as skateboarding, bocce or dog parks, the data was not available to conduct a detailed analysis. However, a summary assessment has been carried out to evaluate the supply and distribution of these facilities on the territory.



## 5.1 LARGE SPORTS FACILITIES

Large sports facilities such as soccer, football and ball fields play an important role in a municipality’s outdoor sports programming. Since these sports are played in teams, the large sports facilities are also drivers of community life. A detailed analysis of the offering for each of these sports and an assessment of the condition of the different facilities are presented in this section.

### 5.1.1 Soccer and football fields

The City of Pointe-Claire has 26 soccer and football fields of different sizes on its territory:

- Eight soccer fields that can accommodate 11 players, two of which can also accommodate football<sup>4</sup>;
- Two 9-player soccer fields;
- Eight 7-player soccer fields;
- Nine 5-player soccer fields.

Three of the fields have a synthetic surface. These are the three 11-player fields in Terra-Cotta Park. The synthetic surface of Terra-Cotta field no. 1 was installed in 2021. The synthetic surfaces on the other two fields was replaced in 2022.

It also has two drained natural areas with an automatic watering system to ensure better surface quality. These are the 11-player field at Voyageur Park and the 7-player field at Hermitage Park.

The city has eight fields with lighting for extended use in the evening. These are three synthetic and two natural drained fields mentioned above as well as two 11-player soccer fields and a 9-player soccer field.

The city has two football fields for practicing sports. These are Terra-Cotta Park synthetic field no. 2 and the natural field at Lindsay Place Lower Park. The first is municipal property and the second belongs to the Lester B. Pearson School Board. Synthetic field no. 2 at Terra-Cotta Park should also be able to accommodate lacrosse due to the new surface installed in 2022.

### Usage parameters

In terms of using natural surface fields, we know they should not be used when the snow melts during periods of heavy rain or in the fall, to ensure that their ability to regenerate is not compromised. Furthermore, even if they are well maintained, their use should not exceed 15 hours per week for fields equipped with drainage and irrigation devices and 10 hours per week for others.

Considering this information, four natural fields are being used at or beyond their capacity. These are the 9-player field at Alexandre-Bourgeau Park and the three 11-player fields at Ambassador Park, Judge-Lindsay-H.-Place Park at John Fisher Park, and Lindsay Place Lower Park.

Synthetic fields do not have physical limitations that restrict their use. Considering normal periods of use for users, a synthetic field can generally be used for up to 85 or 100 hours per week. The two synthetic fields available in the City in 2021 were used approximately 50 hours per week. The new synthetic surface of Terra-Cotta field no. 1 should have a similar use to the other two synthetic surfaces.



### Summary

The City of Pointe-Claire has a good number of fields that are generally well distributed throughout the territory, with a concentration of synthetic fields at Terra-Cotta Park that are used for tournaments. The synthetic surface fields are recent and were resurfaced in 2022. In addition, synthetic fields and drained natural fields with irrigation systems, that allow for increased use, all having lighting.



Tony Proudfoot Park

Table 11 — Comparison of the soccer field offering

CITY	INHABITANTS BY FIELD	QTY	F	S-5	S-7	S-9	S-11	SYNTHETIC	LIGHTING
Pointe-Claire	1124	30	2	9	8	2	8	3	8
Beaconsfield	1518	13	0	0	6	0	7	0	2
Vaudreuil-Dorion	1588	24	3	10	6	3	4	1	5
Pierrefonds-Roxboro	2165	32	3	13	8	3	8	2	8

<sup>4</sup> Several 11-player or 9-player fields can be split into smaller fields. However, to avoid duplication in the number of fields, only the maximum size of the field is calculated.



**5.1.2 Ball sport fields**

The City of Pointe-Claire has six ball sport fields on its territory. Four of these fields have lighting to provide extended access in the evening. Two fields, Valois and Cedar Park Heights, host softball teams exclusively while two other fields (Arthur-Séguin and Northview) are reserved for baseball practice only. The two other fields can be used for baseball and softball. The City does not have any fields with adequate technical characteristics for midget and higher level baseball. Details for the entire offering are provided in the table below.

In terms of demand, the fields serve the minor baseball association Baseball West Island (BWI) which had 210 players in 2019 and seven adult softball leagues with a total of 444 players. Participation in baseball and softball leagues remained fairly constant between 2019 and 2020. During the summer of 2019, the City recorded 2,221 hours of play on its fields divided equally between baseball and softball teams.

**Summary**

With a ratio of 5,621 residents per ball field, the City of Pointe-Claire is advantageously positioned compared to the average for Ville de Montréal (one field per 33,731 residents).

The two fields designed for softball are small, which limits access for men’s teams at higher levels.



Cedar Park Heights Park

**Table 14 — Comparison of the ball field offering**

CITY	INHABITANTS BY FIELD	QUANTITY	BEGINNER	INTERMEDIATE AND SOFTBALL	ADVANCED	LIGHTING
Pointe-Claire	5 621	6	1	5	0	4
Beaconsfield	2 819	7	2	4	1	2
Vaudreuil-Dorion	6 354	6	3	2	1	3
Pierrefonds-Roxboro	8 662	8	2	3	3	5

### 5.1.3 Distribution on the territory

Analyzing the distribution of large sports facilities on the territory allows us to assess the population's access to these facilities and to determine whether certain sectors are less well served than others.

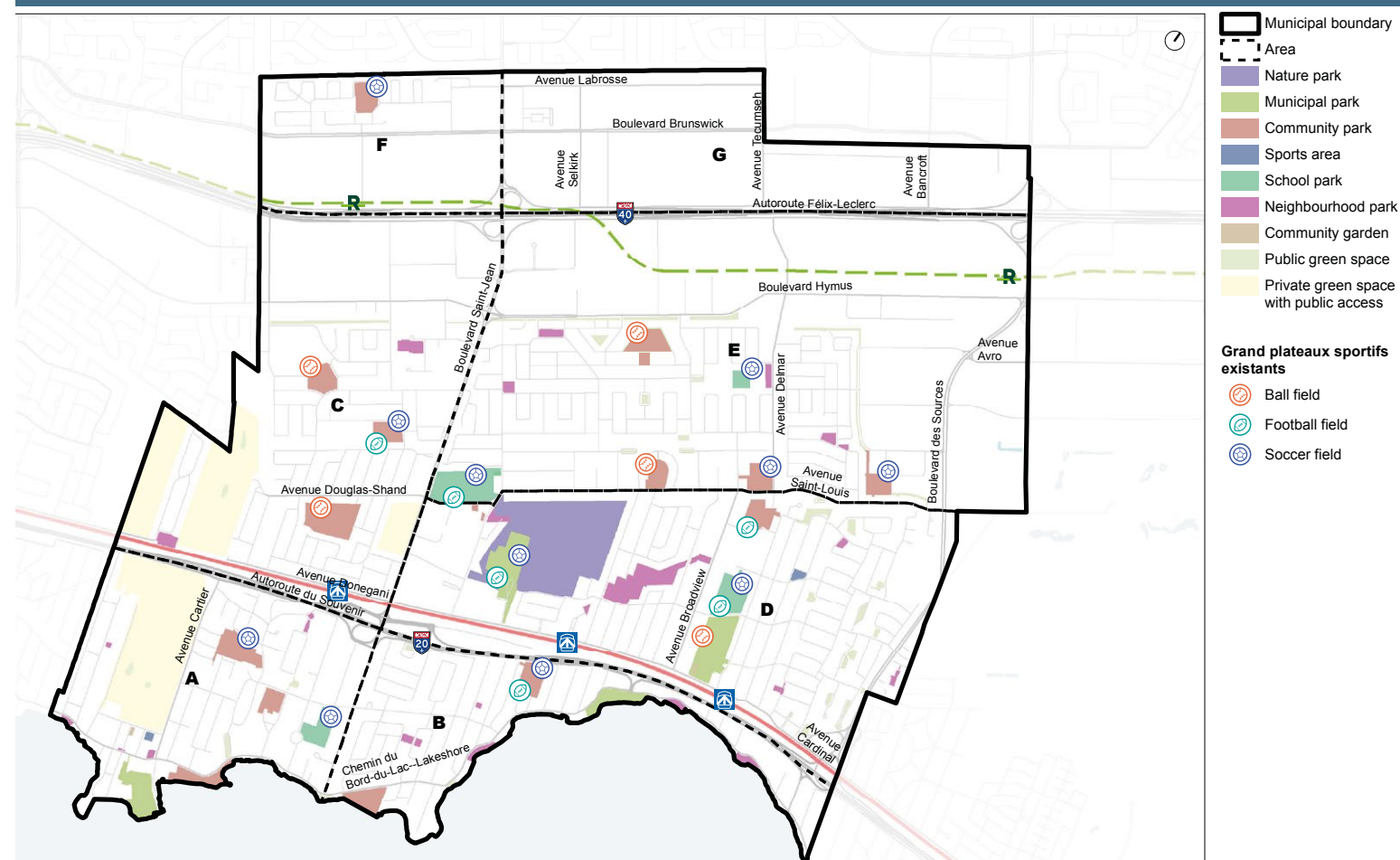
Sector D has the highest concentration of soccer fields with five 11-player soccer fields, including three with synthetic surfaces, and two 7-player fields. Synthetic fields also offer availabilities for football, rugby and lacrosse, resulting in a high concentration of team sports in this sector. Most of the soccer fields in other sectors, except for one in sectors C and E, are smaller for 5, 7 or 9 players. The field inventories made it possible to identify four informal football fields that have goal posts, but that have no markings making it impossible to hold «official» games. These fields are mainly in school parks at different locations on the territory and are not used by clubs, but are used for informal practices.

The six ball fields are distributed in sectors A, C, D and E. There are none in sectors B and F. There is no particular concentration of ball fields in any of the sectors other than the high concentration of soccer fields in Sector D.

### Highlights in the distribution of large facilities

- Concentration of full-size soccer fields in Sector C;
- Terra-Cotta Park is very attractive thanks to the three synthetic fields and the facilities that can be used to organize regional sporting events;
- There is little space available to create new large facilities on Pointe-Claire's territory.

Figure 18 — Large sports facilities (soccer, football, ball fields)







## 5.2 SMALL SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

These smaller facilities are generally suitable for individual or small group sports. They are used informally and spontaneously with the exception of racket sports that require reservations or club participation.

This category includes sports like regular tennis and light tennis (pickleball), volleyball and basketball, as well as other leisure facilities such as bocce and lawn bowling, skateboarding, dog parks and community gardens. This provides an overview of the informal leisure activities available on the territory.

### 5.2.1 Tennis and light tennis (pickleball)

There are 24 tennis courts on the territory, ten of which are managed by private clubs. The courts are divided into groups of two or three and lines have also been added to several of them making it possible to play pickleball on them.

The City of Pointe-Claire has one tennis court per 1,308 inhabitants (31,380 inhabitants divided by 24 courts). In comparison, the cities of Repentigny, Drummondville and Blainville, which are generally recognized for the quality of their tennis court offering per capita, have respective ratios of one court for every 2,478 inhabitants, one per 2,586 and one per 2,806 inhabitants. The City of Pointe-Claire is therefore very well served in terms of the number of courts.

CITY	NUMBER OF COURTS	POPULATION	RATIO
Pointe-Claire	24	31380	1308
Repentigny	34	84258	2478
Blainville	20	56117	2806
Pierrefonds-Roxboro	30	69290	2310
Vaudreuil-Dorion	10	38129	3813
Beaconsfield	18	19116	1062



### 5.2.2 Outdoor basketball courts

The City of Pointe-Claire has 4 outdoor basketball courts. An additional practice area is located at Northview Park (E39). The following table provides an inventory of these courts.

The Northview Park practice area is the least popular of all the outdoor basketball courts. The four full basketball courts have lighting. The court at Ovide Park has an asphalt surface and is moderately popular. Since 2021, the courts at Cedar Park Heights and Valois parks have a new acrylic surface and are very popular. The last court at Voyageur Park is also very popular, but it has an acrylic surface that needs to be replaced.



#### Summary

The City of Pointe-Claire has an interesting number of outdoor basketball courts that are generally very popular. The two least used courts in the City have lower quality surfaces.

### 5.2.3 Skate parks and pump tracks

Pointe-Claire recently acquired a concrete skate park that meets current standards for this sport. Located in the heart of the Civic-Hub, near the aquatic centre, this skate park meets the needs of skateboarders in the municipality.

This type of equipment is also used by riders of BMX-type bikes and scooters.

### 5.2.4 Dog parks

There are three dog parks on the territory of Pointe-Claire. They are in Terra-Cotta Park, Ovide Park, and in a green space on the shore (the only function of the shore) green space is that of a dog park. Despite the presence of these three parks, there is strong demand for the development of additional exercise areas for dogs. The existing dog parks are very small in comparison to established best practices for developing these spaces.

Dog parks are local facilities that are often used on a daily basis. A service radius of 20 minutes (1,200 m) walking distance is desirable to allow users to access it on foot. However, the current parks are concentrated in the south of the territory. The addition of dog parks in unserved areas should be considered.

### 5.2.5 Bocce and lawn bowling

All of the bocce and lawn bowling courts are located in Sector A, namely:

- 7 bocce courts at Alexandre-Bourgeau Park;
- 6 lawn bowling courts.

In both cases, these sites are only accessible during the clubs' planned activities since the sites are fenced and locked.

### 5.2.6 Community gardens

The two community garden spaces in Pointe-Claire are located in the Civic-Hub Community Garden of the City (680 m<sup>2</sup>) and at Valois Community Gardens (1,200 m<sup>2</sup>).

These spaces are located in areas where most of the households own private land and potentially have the space to garden at home. There are no community gardens in the areas further north where there is a denser built environment and where households do not have access to outdoor spaces to grow their food. Since gardening is a local activity, it would be preferable that the facilities be located close to the targeted sectors.



5.2.7 Distribution on the territory

Figure 19 — Tennis, basketball, bocce, skateboarding and dog parks







### 5.3 AQUATIC AND NAUTICAL ACTIVITIES

As a waterfront city, Pointe-Claire offers its residents a wide range of nautical and aquatic activities. The swimming pools and splash pads throughout the territory are very popular and access to water activities on Lac Saint-Louis allows Pointe-Claire residents to take full advantage of the summer season.

#### 5.3.1 Outdoor aquatic facilities

The City of Pointe-Claire has seven parks with an outdoor aquatic facility. Generally, each of the facilities has a swimming pool, a wading pool and a chalet. In addition to its swimming and wading pools, Valois Park has a splash pad that is also very popular. In addition to these splash pads, a refreshment area has been created at Augusta Park in 2023.



Valois Park

The City of Pointe-Claire owns all eight outdoor aquatic facilities and maintains the facilities and water, but delegates their management to six specialized non-profit organizations (Lakeshore Pool, PVPC, Lakeside Pool, Cedar Park Heights Pool, Valois Pool and LHRA).

Pointe-Claire’s outdoor pools, like those in other West Island cities, are organized in a unique way with a strong focus on scheduled activities. The six associations are members of an outdoor pool league (ALPS) and participate in weekly water sports competitions. In addition to offering practices for these sports, outdoor pools offer swimming, diving, lifeguarding and aqua fitness classes. Pool membership includes access to all activities.

Pointe-Claire also has an indoor aquatic centre in the civic hub of Sector D which, although not part of this analysis, further enhances the supply of public swimming pools on the territory.

The quality of the supply of outdoor aquatic facilities can be assessed by observing the number of facilities per capita. The figures used to calculate this ratio and the ratios of cities of comparable sizes are presented in the following table.

In terms of wading pools, the City has a ratio of 1.5 wading pools per 1,000 young people. Since these facilities are mainly used by very young children, only the population from 0 to 14 years old was considered to calculate this indicator. As with swimming pools, this ratio indicates that the City has a high number of wading pools in relation to the number of users.

In terms of splash pads, the City of Pointe-Claire has a ratio of 0.2 splash pads per 1,000 young people. This ratio is much lower than the ratio for comparable cities. However, the splash pad parks are very large. The ratio of the number of splash pads per 1,000 young people is therefore to be qualified.

#### Summary

The City of Pointe-Claire has a high number of swimming and wading pools. A summary assessment of the condition of the pools was carried out in May 2022 by the Operations Manager - Public Works, for the City of Pointe-Claire. Based on analysis we have learned that the Alexandre-Bourgeois Park pool is obsolete and requires major investments. The Arthur-Séguin Park pool also received a fair rating and requires significant investments in the short or medium term.

Table 19 — Comparison of the number of outdoor aquatic facilities

	POINTE-CLAIRE	VAUDREUIL-DORION	PIERREFONDS-ROXBORO	BEACONSFIELD
Total population in 2016	31 380	38 129	69 297	19 324
Population aged 0 to 14 in 2016	4 745	7 790	12 510	3 435
Number of outdoor pools	7	2	6	4
Number of wading pools	7	2	3	4
Number of splash pads	1	11	4	0
<b>INDICATORS</b>				
Number of inhabitants per outdoor pool	4 483	19 065	11 549	4 800
Number of wading pools per 1,000 young people (0 to 14 years of age)	1,5	0,3	0,3	1,16
Number of splash pads per 1,000 young people (0 to 14 years old)	0,2	1,4	0,4	na

### 5.3.2 Nautical activities

Access to water for water activities is available at Alexandre-Bourgeau Park and Grande-Anse Park. Canoeing and kayaking activities are primarily at Grande-Anse Park, in a protected cove, while sailing activities are mainly at Alexandre-Bourgeau Park, where the wind conditions are more favourable. There is also a launching ramp for small motorized boats.

#### Summary

The recent development of the Grande-Anse Park chalet has made it possible to improve services to residents on this site and meets the needs of light boat users (canoe, kayak, paddle board).



Ovide Park Swimming Pool

### 5.3.3 Distribution on the territory

Figure 20 — Aquatic and nautical activities



5 Summary assessment of the condition of swimming pools and outdoor swimming pool chalets in the City of Pointe-Claire, Manager of Operations - Public Spaces, Public Works 2022-05-19.



## 5.4 WINTER ACTIVITIES

### 5.4.1 Outdoor skating rinks and ice paths

During the winter, the City of Pointe-Claire has 19 outdoor skating rinks and 2 ice paths for skating and hockey. Of the 18 rinks, 9 are reserved for hockey, while 9 rinks and 2 paths are reserved for skating. These facilities are distributed within 11 parks. Each sector of the city has at least one park with one rink. The outdoor rinks are listed in the following table.

Overall, the City of Pointe-Claire has one rink for every 1,874 inhabitants (33,731 inhabitants divided by 18 rinks). This ratio is more advantageous than those of the cities of comparable sizes studied<sup>6</sup>. The city of Montréal offers one rink for every 6,505 inhabitants.

Table 22 — Ratio of the number of residents per outdoor rink

CITY	NUMBER OF RINKS	TOTAL RATIO
Pointe-Claire	19	1874
Ville de Montréal	255	6505
Vaudreuil-Dorion	16	2383
Pierrefonds-Roxboro	14	4949
Beaconsfield	19	1017

As presented in the inventory of outdoor rinks table, in the winter of 2019-2020, the sites recorded an average of 48 days of operation. In the winter of 2018 to 2019, it was 50 days of operation.

<sup>6</sup> Le ratio pour l'ensemble de la ville de Montréal a également été ajouté malgré sa taille plus importante.

### 5.4.3 Cross-country skiing and winter walking

We should also note the presence of two winter trails, one for walking and the other for cross-country skiing, at the Beaconsfield Golf Club. These trails total two kilometres in length and increase the City's winter sports and recreational offerings.

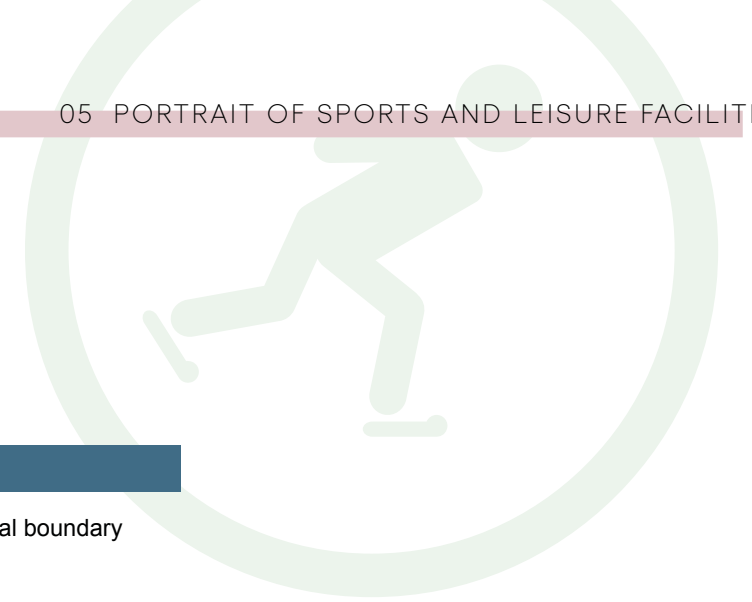
### 5.4.4 Sliding hill

Sliding is a winter activity enjoyed by young families. This inexpensive activity is a simple and fun way to enjoy winter. There are no officially developed sliding hills on the territory. There are a few small hills in different parks, but no special arrangements are made to promote their use. Developing large sliding areas entails the risk of accidents when there is a lot of traffic on beautiful winter weekends. This involves monitoring and, in the current context, snow-making equipment to offer as many days of activities as possible. The addition of equipment of this type, although potentially appreciated by the population, requires reflection by the municipality about the resources that will be needed to operate them.

## Summary

The City of Pointe-Claire has a very high number of outdoor rinks. Considering the temperature variations during the winter that make it increasingly difficult to continuously operate outdoor rinks, municipalities in Québec are turning to developing skating rinks equipped with a refrigeration system or roof. In addition to offering continuous operation over a longer period, they make it possible to offer better quality ice conditions. As a result, the City of Pointe-Claire has equipped itself with two refrigerated skating rinks in the winter of 2021 to 2022 as pilot projects.





5.4.4 Distribution on the territory

Figure 21 — Distribution of skating rinks and ice paths



- Municipal boundary
  - Area
  - Nature park
  - Municipal park
  - Community park
  - Sports area
  - School park
  - Neighbourhood park
  - Community garden
  - Public green space
  - Private green space with public access
- Sports d'hiver existants**
- Skating rink
  - Skate path





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06

## Profile of current trends in sports and recreational planning and practice

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The purpose of this chapter is to provide an overview of the current trends in planning and in sports and recreational infrastructures in connection with the main findings of the diagnostic.

These trends aim to inspire future approaches with respect to implementation of the intervention plan.



## 6.1 SOCIAL TRENDS

Several studies carried out in recent years show that the participation rate in active leisure activities remains fairly constant in Québec, but there is a decrease in the practice of organized sports activities in favour of free activities. According to the Observatoire québécois du loisirs, this trend is partly explained by the social phenomenon of reduced free time among the working population. The ageing of the population also contributes to this phenomenon, as we observe that the participation rate in organized sports decreases steadily with increasing age.

In this context, where time spent on leisure activities is limited among the working population, there is now a tendency to value family leisure more. Whether an activity is shared with the parent and child participating together or by making social contacts with the family members present during an activity, the main interest is in enjoying the experience of the activity. The park then becomes a place for socializing and living together.

The appeal of electronic games competes with outdoor games. They must therefore be even more attractive and offer a quality experience to be able to lure people outside.

The most common physical activities among Quebecers aged 15 and over are those that are not formally organized (56%) and that are inexpensive. Therefore, the popularity of free, unsupervised and unscheduled activities with a flexible framework and schedule is growing. According to a 2014 survey by the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute, walking (84%), gardening or horticulture (74%), exercising at home (65%), swimming (58%), jogging or running (49%), and cycling (49%) are the most popular activities.

### 6.1.1 Children

Increased sedentary behaviour among children is a public health concern. The use of electronic devices is starting at a younger age due to the availability of intuitive devices like tablets and smart phones.

Public Health Canada recommends that children have at least one hour of structured physical activity and at least one hour of free play every day. It is therefore important to offer young children a wide range of outdoor activities to encourage them to develop a healthy and active lifestyle at an early age to prevent health problems such as excess weight, hypertension and diabetes. Access to stimulating play equipment adapted to their needs located near the living environment can help ensure that children move more on a daily basis.

### 6.1.2 Young people

In recent years, a growing demand for soccer as well as for various recreational activities such as cycling and swimming have been observed. These activities are practiced in all young age groups, from 6 to 24 years of age. For the youngest, play structures remain the most popular recreational activities in parks. Playing in splash pads and swimming also remain activities that young people enjoy very much.

The most popular activities practiced in the parks by young people from 12 to 19 years of age include walking, cycling, swimming, basketball, running, in-line skating, volleyball, baseball and hockey. Basketball also has a large following, not only among teenagers but also among younger groups. Baseball has experienced a certain resurgence in popularity in recent years and this trend is expected to continue over the next few years. Moreover, skateboarding, scooters and in-line skating have also gained in popularity among teenagers. In the specific context of a waterfront city like Pointe-Claire, nautical activities are also popular with this group.

For the most popular winter activities, there is a clear trend toward ice skating, although this activity has significant constraints due to the climate.

Beyond sports activities, spaces for gathering and resting are generally very popular. Facilities should be able to meet their needs to be alone or in a group, to practice activities, and to have space for spontaneous activities (e.g. frisbee, slackline, roundnet, study). The notion of a smart park also combines several factors that encourage the use of outdoor spaces by adolescents, such as access to the Internet.



Bicycle path from Edgewater Park to Pointe-Claire



### 6.1.3 Adults

Walking, cycling and swimming are the main activities practiced by adults. Gardening, exercising at home and social dancing are also very popular activities.

In terms of park activities, adults also participate, although to a lesser extent, in running, ice skating, baseball, volleyball, tennis, hockey and basketball. Fitness also remains a popular activity with a growing trend for exercise or stretching modules in parks. Note that yoga and tai chi seem to be popular in Pointe-Claire where small groups are often observed in parks practicing these activities.

### 6.1.4 Seniors

People over the age of 65 are a fast-growing age group in Pointe-Claire as in the rest of Québec. From active retirees to seniors, the group aged 65 and older is not a homogeneous sector. Physical abilities vary greatly from one person to another and activities and facilities must be adapted according to the varied needs of this group. However, they usually have more time to devote to one or more recreational or sporting activities.

In addition, unlike other age groups, people over the age of 65 are less likely to engage in new activities. The activities chosen by those who are still active in this group remain non-competitive activities such as walking, cycling, and swimming, although the rise in popularity of light tennis, a new racquet sport, is notable. Low-impact sports such as tai chi, yoga, bocce, shuffleboard, or social dancing are suitable for this group while serving as an opportunity for socializing.

Finally, it is important to mention the importance of parks for seniors as an informal gathering place to break social isolation. The development of gathering spaces with suitable urban furniture, in the shade, and with drinking water fountains and adequate sanitary facilities nearby allows people to get together and offers a space for exchange and sharing.



## 6.2 TRENDS IN MAJOR PLANNING PRINCIPLES

### 6.2.1 Varied offering within the parks network

The integration of green networks into current urban planning facilitates active travel in the city and increases the ability of residents, even children, to access several parks in their neighbourhood, not only the one closest to the house, unless there is a significant physical barrier (large boulevard, highway, railroad, etc.). This new dynamic makes it interesting to vary the facilities from one park to another, so as to offer different activities or experiences depending on the park visited.

It is therefore important to design parks and facilities in a complementary way within the same access sector. The facilities can be complementary in various ways: by using them for various activities, offering special challenges, integrating special themes, etc. In doing so, we create a unique experience within each park and encourage users to use different parks according to the activity they want to practice or the atmosphere they want.

### 6.2.2 Universal access and inclusive design

In recent years, the notion of accessibility has resulted in inclusive designs for children's play equipment. First, wood chip and rubber surfaces can be used to make the equipment easier to access for everyone. Next, games can be adapted according to each person's level of ability rather than offering specific equipment for children with motor or other deficits. This rule can be adapted to other facilities such as exercisers, park chalets, pools (beach entry), etc.

It is recommended to design a few fully accessible parks rather than provide for small one-off interventions in a larger number of parks. The goal here is to offer full universal access for people with reduced mobility from the parking lot to the access point of the various facilities in the park.

### 6.2.3 Open spaces and open activities

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us how important parks and other public spaces are as gathering spaces. In this regard, parks offering large open spaces and allowing a variety of free activities become ideal places to meet (birthday gatherings, picnics, practice of an informal sport, yoga, sliding in the winter, etc.).

The use of parks as a gathering space, which was mainly observed among the migrant population previously, has now spread to the entire population. They have rediscovered the potential for socializing offered by parks and green spaces in the context of the pandemic.

We also note that several cities offer equipment for free play (balls, frisbee, etc.) by installing self-service game boxes in parks. These boxes encourage spontaneous play and make it possible to diversify the use of space.

### 6.2.4 Versatility

The development of a park is an important investment for a municipality. One way to optimize these investments is to focus on versatile equipment that can be used in different ways or for several groups of users according to their needs and the seasons. For example, some facilities, such as a multisport surface or an indoor refrigerated skating rink, can be used for hockey in the winter, dancing or roller-hockey, or cultural events in the summer, even when it rains. This reduces the investment required to create separate facilities for each of these activities and reduces the space required for park development.

Several groups of users can also be targeted when choosing the equipment or facilities to be offered. Some facilities, such as training stations, hiking trails or bike paths, are aimed at a large portion of the population and not at a specific segment of the population. Multi-purpose areas make it possible to meet the demand for emerging activities and sports by promoting the initiation activities related to them. Other spaces such as relaxation and socializing areas located near playgrounds, for example, also make it possible to include a larger portion of the population.

By maximizing the number of potential users of the different developments, we respond more comprehensively to the leisure needs of the population and promote interaction between the different age groups rather than isolating them within separate activities.



### 6.2.5 Sustainable development

No other trend has been more prevalent in the last five years in park planning than the adoption of an approach based on sustainable development. Now, more than ever, municipalities are more aware of the impact of parks and green spaces on the environment, quality of civic life and social cohesion.

#### VEGETATION TREATMENT

The conservation of woodlands and existing vegetation as well as the addition of vegetation to a site is a major asset offering multiple environmental benefits. In addition to creating a distinctive atmosphere with contrasting trees and plantings, vegetation limits the effect of heat islands linked to the presence of large paved areas. Sufficient conservation and the addition of plant areas on the territory through parks and green spaces make it possible to maintain a temperate urban climate.



Ruisseau de Feu regional park in Terrebonne: Former agricultural lands in flood zones developed to accommodate several wildlife habitats.

#### MANAGEMENT OF RUNOFF WATER AND RETENTION BASINS

Storm water management is a crucial step when designing a park. In fact, this requires thoughtful planning, particularly when you want to prioritize developments using plants for this purpose. In the context of a project, this consideration must therefore be present from the beginning when designing a park. The goal is to promote on site water management and thus minimize the environmental impacts associated with changing the hydrological cycle while promoting interesting socializing spaces using vegetation.

In this perspective, green storm water management structures ultimately control accelerated erosion in waterways and recharge the water table by regulating the water released into receiving environments.

The retention basin is one of the storm water management structures often used to capture water that recurs frequently. In conjunction with the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MELCC), several policies exist on the development of the type of basins and describe the functions they must perform.

The City of Pointe-Claire is following suit by using this method to manage water. The creation of a rain garden in Sunnyside Park is a good example.



Example of successful integration of retention basins in Frédéric-Back Park (Saint-Michel district, Ville de Montréal).



## ECO-FRIENDLY PARKING

Parking lots located adjacent to parks are also an opportunity for including several concepts of sustainable development. More than ever, municipalities are interested in alternative developments to reduce the environmental impact of certain parking lots (heat island struggles, reduction of biodiversity, storm water interception, etc.).

Whether by reducing the size of parking spaces, contributing to biodiversity and canopy or by integrating alternative methods for capturing runoff water (honeycomb paving, draining projections, etc.), eco-responsible parking is increasingly visible in the urban landscape. These spaces can also help raise residents' awareness of various environmental issues.



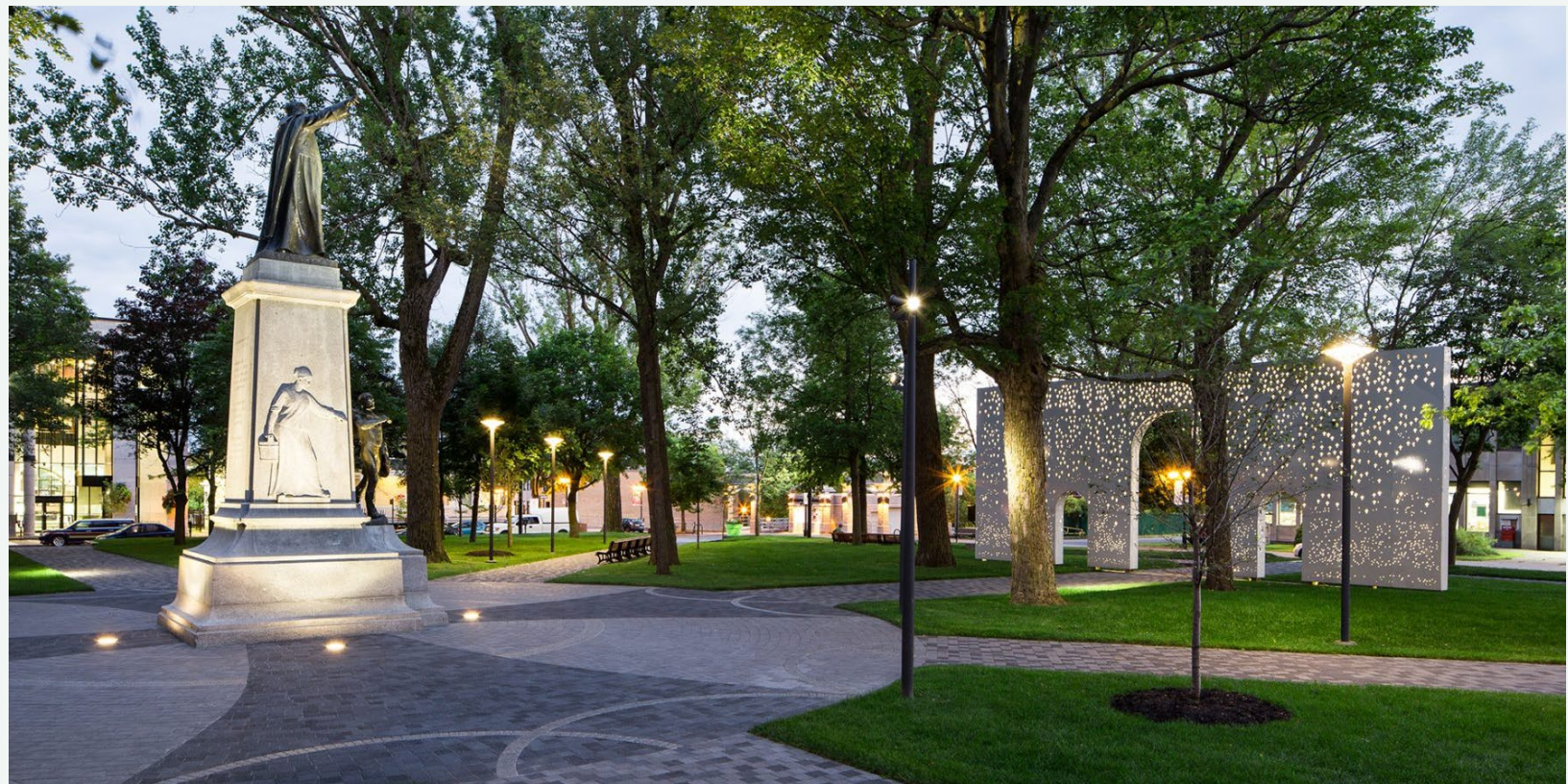
## LIGHTING

Trends in lighting above sidewalks, bike paths and in parks are now moving toward human-scale lighting. In the past, lighting was mainly suitable for vehicle transportation. The Dark-Sky movement helped to raise awareness of the need to see a starry sky. This movement, dedicated to controlling light pollution, proposes to reduce the effects of artificial lighting on the environment and to reduce energy consumption.

The lighting of outdoor spaces is now designed for humans and differs from that provided for roads and paths. Smaller and more compact, new technology lighting systems provide more efficient light while generally reducing energy consumption. In addition, with a wider range of models and dimensions, this equipment integrates better into their environment. Solar-powered street lights can also be used, programmed with different lighting intensities or with a motion detector.

Research results are starting to show that ambient lighting not only provides a calming effect for the observer, but also increases the safety of a site while reducing the risk of vandalism. Ambient lighting has therefore quickly become a standard for most outdoor projects.

The evolution of lighting equipment is also reflected in the development of sports facilities.



Lighting that highlights Place du Curé-Labelle in Saint-Jérôme



### 6.2.6 Urban art

Urban art is increasingly used by municipalities to enhance the aesthetic qualities of urban spaces while helping to increase their distinctiveness, uniqueness and attractiveness. In this context, it should be noted that the Politique d'intégration des arts à l'architecture et à l'environnement des bâtiments et des sites gouvernementaux et publics, overseen by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec, encourages the integration of works of art into the interior of each building construction, or into the development of a public site.

Usually found in transitional or meeting places, such as public squares and parks, urban art serves as a landmark, dialogue, symbols of identity and meeting points for these places. Québec municipalities often define themselves, or at least their city centres, tourist districts or city entrances and large natural spaces by installing public works of art.



Sculpture «Les ombres claires», ville de Pointe-Claire

Considered a cultural, economic, social and community driver, urban art allows artists, who are often local, to freely express their creativity and use public spaces as open-air art galleries. Urban art can also be a formidable lever to redevelop or re-qualify underutilized or even abandoned spaces.

### 6.2.7 Active design and shared streets

Active design is an urban concept that aims to intersect and use different urban planning strategies to enhance the mobility of communities and, more specifically, to encourage healthy habits and an active lifestyle. By inviting all professionals and stakeholders directly or indirectly affected by the urban space to work together, the options for interventions are numerous and can be applied both at the neighbourhood level and on a much wider scale. They can even provide solutions to the health problems caused by sedentary life in the city. Whether through the development of a walkway to connect several points of interest or the creation of a market in the heart of a district, active design initiatives are increasing in number in Québec and elsewhere in the world.

### 6.2.8 Flooding and shoreline development

Several hydraulic behaviours such as spring floods, the accumulation of frazil ice or ice jams have a direct impact on the riparian area by causing floods. The interventions proposed in these areas must therefore be appropriate and consistent with these hydraulic phenomena.

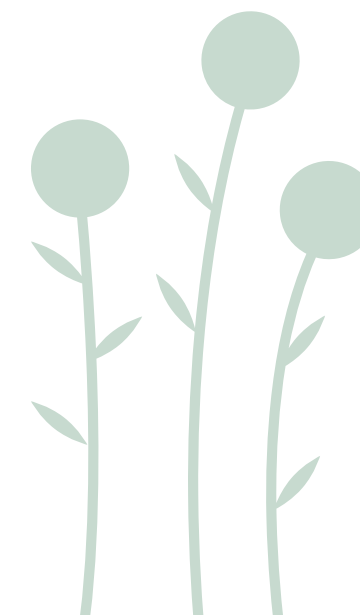
In the context of Pointe-Claire, in the spring, Lac Saint-Louis sometimes overflows onto the lowest waterfront areas. Strong waves hitting the riparian strip can also be observed during strong storms. Over time, they can degrade existing vegetation, uproot new plantings, deposit coarse materials on the banks or create furrows in the soil.

Aujourd'hui, tous s'entendent pour dire que la préservation des berges est très importante. En effet, ces dernières remplissent plusieurs services écologiques très importants: Today, everyone agrees that preserving the banks is very important. They fulfil several very important ecological services:

- **Hydrological:** Infiltration of water into the soil;
- **Physico-chemical:** Filtration of pollutants and other sediments contained in the water;
- **Biodiversity:** Very high ecological diversity;
- **Landscape:** Natural landscape and visual diversity.

It is in this context that the Politique de protection des rives, du littoral et des plaines inondables (PPRLPI) was developed by the government of Québec to provide certain development guidelines to the various municipalities in Québec. The PPRLPI is a framework for the minimum standards to be respected for work conducted on the shoreline.

The policy also indicates prohibited work, such as shoreline backfilling, as well as works that may be permitted and that may be subject to prior authorization. Examples include the planting and sowing of native plants adapted to the banks, shoreline stabilization work, the construction of certain types of docks or the development of an opening with a maximum width of five meters on a body of water.



### 6.2.9 Waterfront parks and nautical activities

In all major waterfront cities in the world, and in the Montréal area specifically, there is an increasing demand for better access to shores and the water. Privatization of the banks and poor water quality have limited the use of bodies of water for extended periods. A return to better water quality in recent decades has made people want to take advantage of the recreational and landscape potential offered by bodies of water.

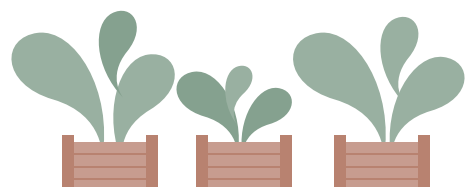
The specific context of Pointe-Claire allows residents to enjoy easily accessible water activities within the municipality. The size of Lac Saint-Louis provides opportunities to enjoy many water activities. Sailing sports are particularly well adapted to Lac Saint-Louis in the Pointe-Claire area due to the width of the lake and the depth of the water. Sailing lessons are offered by the Yacht Club of Pointe-Claire, among other activities.

### 6.2.10 Urban agriculture

Urban agriculture is defined by the cultivation, processing and distribution of food products in urban areas. It also includes citizen involvement in the process. From a social point of view, urban agriculture contributes to inclusion and food security, while promoting healthy lifestyles and sustainable use of resources and land.

Urban agriculture has grown significantly in the last decade with some diversification. This includes urban greenhouses on rooftops, in bins, beehives, edible landscapes, community and group gardens, etc. The growing presence of these different cultivation methods in the public and private space demonstrates the enthusiasm for urban agriculture.

To meet this demand, more and more municipalities are adopting policies to guide their practice, because although urban agriculture has many benefits, it also presents certain challenges, particularly in terms of the commitment and sustained maintenance required by these facilities. Particularly in private and residential spaces where maintenance is left to individuals, the development of agricultural spaces should meet resident demand to ensure the sustainability of developments.



## 6.3 TRENDS IN SPORTS, RECREATIONAL AND CREATIVE EQUIPMENT

### 6.3.1 Splash pads

Splash pads first arrived in Québec in the 1990s, and their popularity has continued to grow since then. They are particularly popular with young people. Splash pads offer many advantages for municipalities, as the absence of a pool eliminates the risk of drowning and means that constant monitoring, as would be required with a swimming pool, is not necessary. This allows free access to equipment rather than having to wait until monitoring is available. This also makes it possible to extend the season of use in the spring and fall. Furthermore, splash pads offer universal access for all users.

The trends in the development of splash pads are :

- Creation of areas with facilities suitable for toddlers away from heavy traffic;
- Use of game modules with an abstract style whose design is less likely to go out of fashion and which integrates with the rest of the park in a more sculptured manner;
- Creation of play equipment with low water consumption and a lost water system, without requiring water treatment equipment;
- Creation of aquatic complexes that link the swimming pool area and that of the splash pads during the opening hours of the pool, but leaving the splash pads accessible after the pool is closed;
- Implementation of splash pad devices aimed at a multi-generational clientele, not just for young people. For example, sprayers or water basins integrated into the development and accessible to all could be used by all users of a park.



### 6.3.2 Dog parks

Dog parks meet certain dog needs (allowing them to run, release their energy, etc.), while channelling these activities in a safe environment and away from other park users. Dog parks also provide opportunities for social exchanges not only between dogs, but also between dog owners. Various facilities for dog owners such as shelters, benches, tables or other socializing spaces allow owners to stay longer and socialize with each other. Dog parks are therefore an opportunity to attract customers who do not necessarily use the parks on a regular basis, including older visitors.

There seems to be an increase in resident requests for the development of new dog parks in recent years. These increasing requests are partly due to the new provincial law adopted in 2019 to define the responsibilities of dog owners. The law restricts places where dogs can roam off leash to specific areas.

While there are currently no standards for the overall planning and development of dog parks, an increasing number of municipalities are taking an interest in meeting the needs expressed by residents about the development of dog parks in general.

Similar to master plans for parks and green spaces, plans for managing dog parks can help guide the development of planned dog parks using various analytical tools.

With respect to trends in the development of dog parks, the most recent projects share several similarities:

- True integration of the dog park into the surrounding context;
- Presence of an access lock to the dog park;
- Screen and plants around the perimeter of the dog park;
- Use of suitable materials (gravel, large decorative stones, game modules, etc.);
- Implementation of diverse experiences for dogs;
- Furniture for owners to facilitate socialization (shelters, benches, tables, waste baskets, poop scoopers and bag dispensers, etc.).

In addition, the management plans for available dog parks often distinguish between the notion of local and destination dog parks. This notion usually determines their accessibility, size and the offered equipment.

- **Local parks:** Refers to parks integrated into the living environment and generally accessible by foot. According to some dog park management plans, services vary from 1.2 to 1.6 km, or 15 to 20 minutes of walking. Local parks usually offer basic furniture (benches, tables, bins);
- **Destination dog park:** Refers to specialized parks (nature or agility for example) or parks that offer more attractive equipment or design. The park's appeal is dependant on its purpose or offered facilities, which in turn justifies travelling there by foot or by car. For example, dog park management plans establish service of 3 km for this type of park. Parking is usually available. Since they are not part of a regular routine, these parks can be visited on a weekly basis.



Play module and dogs in a dog park





Place Saint-Sacrement in Terrebonne

### 6.3.3 Street plaza type concrete skate park

Initially considered a passing trend, the sport of skateboarding is growing quickly and its popularity continues to increase, especially for age groups from 12 to 19 years of age. The Institut national de santé publique du Québec reported that in 2004, 348,000 people had claimed to have practiced this sport compared to 432,000 people who played baseball in the same year. This statistic therefore confirms that skateboarding is now a popular and widespread practice.

Today, new trends in site development are moving away from the old principles of installing simple modules and modular skate parks. The planning standards of large cities no longer includes these type of facilities. Skate parks are no longer considered marginal, but are now real recreational infrastructure. The arrival of the street plaza skate park is a good example of the evolution and progression of this sport. These new skate parks combine an urban look with the structural elements necessary for the sport. Long relegated to peripheral spaces and fenced in parks, the skate park is increasingly used as an element of animation in public spaces and a thoughtful integration throughout a park with rest areas, benches or bleachers nearby as well as plantings in the vicinity.

Skate parks have recently become more popular by also welcoming scooter users. Some BMX users, as well as some in-line skating enthusiasts, also use these spaces. This dynamic ensures that the skate park has the potential to bring together a wide range of users who practice similar activities together and where the youngest learn by observing older users. These new ways of using them also provide opportunities to combine this space with new emerging facilities, such as pump trackss.



### 6.3.4 Pump trackss

A pump tracks bike track is a continuous loop of rounded bumps and angled bends that you ride not by pedalling, but by pumping. Originally designed to be used by bikes of all kinds (road, gravel, BMX, cyclocross), these tracks now accommodate a variety of riders, including those on scooters, skateboards and in-line skates. Pump trackss are appealing because they are accessible to users of all skill levels, from beginners to experts. This infrastructure can be developed as permanent facilities by excavating or can be temporary by the installing a modular infrastructure. These tracks are enjoying growing popularity with young people.



Pump tracks in Saint-Bernard



### 6.3.5 Outdoor training

There is an increase in outdoor training activities, both through specifically designed infrastructures such as outdoor cardio, yoga, tai chi, dance or autonomous training using new equipment found within parks. This equipment can be used by everyone, except young children, and is often complementary to other activities such as jogging or walking. Their location on the site affects their popularity. These facilities should be located in fairly peaceful areas, without being isolated, away from vehicular traffic. The proximity of play areas for children can be an asset that would allow parents to train while accompanying their children to the park.



Jean-Drapeau Park in Montréal

### 6.3.6 Refrigerated and / or covered outdoor skating rinks

The climate changes observed in recent years have a direct impact on outdoor ice skating in winter. The many thaw periods during the winter make it very difficult to maintain adequate ice conditions for more than a few weeks per year and cause more maintenance than before.

In recent years, however, refrigerated outdoor ice systems have been available to increase the quality and extend the season for icy surfaces (mid-November to mid-March), even in poor weather conditions. These outdoor refrigerated skating rinks can meet the high demands of residents while reducing long-term surface maintenance operations. This type of infrastructure also makes it possible to rationalize the number of skating rinks on the territory without reducing the quantity available to residents.

Surfaces may or may not be covered. This choice must be made from the start because adding a roof onto an existing surface has an impact on related amenities such as lighting, bleachers, etc., which entails significant additional costs compared to installing the roof at the time of the initial construction.

The advantages of a covered surface in winter are:

- Protection from the sun that melts or softens the ice;
- Protection from snow. Reduced snow removal requirements;
- Overall: Increase in potential hours of use.

In summer, the benefits are:

- Protection from the sun and intense heat;
- Protection from the rain;
- Creation of a protected multi-purpose space;
- Overall: Increase in potential hours of use.

Disadvantages of refrigerated ice systems:

- Significant investment \$3 million+;
- Ideally maintained with specialized machinery to obtain high quality ice.



Covered outdoor skating rink concept

### 6.3.7 Other winter activities

While weather changes have negative impacts on some winter activities such as skating and hockey, the smallest amount of snow cover makes other activities easier, such as winter cycling. More and more cyclists are using their bicycles to get around all year. The arrival of the fat bike or bikes with oversized tires (especially the electric versions) make this sport even more suitable for winter.

Trail walking in the winter often replaces cross-country skiing, for which conditions are often difficult when there is little snow or when it thaws. This very accessible sport can be practiced by everyone.

Sliding remains feasible even with little snow and requires very little equipment. A small hill is often enough to entertain young children. This is particularly effective in local parks because children can go to them on their own.

### 6.3.8 Synthetic fields: a management tool

Large sports fields, such as soccer, football or rugby are typically made of natural grass and are subject to heavy use. This limits their potential for use if you want to maintain quality surfaces, since they must be able to regenerate between periods of use. Furthermore, grass surfaces are likely to degrade even faster if they are used when wet. In general, to keep natural grass sports fields in good condition, they should not be used more than 10 to 15 hours per week.

Synthetic surfaces do not have the same constraints and can be used without interruption throughout the season. The addition of a synthetic field within a network of sports facilities becomes a management tool that makes it possible to meet the demands of users while reducing the pressure on natural surfaces. This also eliminates the need to build several new natural surfaces to meet requirements, which is often more expensive, or impossible because of the lack of space for new sports facilities.

Ideally, these synthetic surfaces are in the form of a multi-sport complex, meaning that the markings and configuration of the space make it possible to accommodate more than one sport. The benefits of synthetic surfaces are therefore all the more exploited, while optimizing the space for sports facilities.

Note that at the environmental level, synthetic fields store the heat caused by the sun in summer, which contributes to the creation of heat islands in urban environments. In fact, in periods of extreme heat, the ground temperature of synthetic fields can exceed the ground temperature of natural fields by up to 15° C. In this context, synthetic fields should be installed with equipment that can mitigate this rise in ground temperature, both for players and for other visitors (covered players' benches, shelters, drinking fountains, tree plantings, sprinklers, etc.).

### 6.3.9 Smart parks

Connected technologies are becoming part of our daily lives and there is a growing demand for them in our outdoor hobbies. Infrastructure to provide Wi-Fi and charging stations in parks is part of the equipment regularly installed in outdoor public spaces. Beyond technology for users, smart parks can also make use of cutting-edge technologies to improve park management and operations in today's cities.

### 6.3.10 Emerging activities

New activities appear every year. It is very difficult to identify which of these novelties will remain popular over the long term and which will only be passing fads. Among others, emerging activities include :

- **Light tennis/pickleball** : This new racquet sport has made its appearance in Québec in recent years and is gaining popularity. Hybrid between tennis, ping pong and badminton, light tennis/pickleball is played on a badminton and/or tennis court with a perforated plastic ball the size of a tennis ball and a full racket, similar to a ping pong racket, but larger. This sport has the advantage of being slower and requiring less strength than tennis or badminton. It allows young children to become familiar with racket sports or people who are less agile or older to play a sport that is less demanding than other racket sports. It can also be played both indoors and outdoors. The Fédération québécoise de pickleball, founded in 2011, has some twenty clubs and associations in Québec, with over 3,000 members.
- **Disk golf** : This sport combines the principles of a golf course, but using a frisbee instead of balls and baskets instead of holes. There is a disk-golf association in Québec and there are nearly twenty official courses in the different regions of Québec, including seven in the greater Montréal area and Montérégie. This sport has the advantage of being very inexpensive to practice and accessible to all ages.
- **Parkour** : This high-intensity sport uses the body exclusively to overcome various obstacles. Parkour has developed as an outdoor sport, using the obstacles found in the environment as a basis for the development of the circuit. This sport is developing quietly and is taught indoors in a few places in Québec, but there is currently no official parkour circuit outside of Québec. Although often practiced by young adults, this sport may be accessible to a larger population depending on the difficulty of the obstacles and the circuits chosen.



- **The electric bike, skateboard and scooter:** Adding electricity to this type of equipment offers the possibility of increasing the distances travelled and reducing the effort required, allowing more users to use bike paths and improve their mobility instead of depending on their car. Among other things, it allows older people to continue these activities after their physical capabilities decrease.
- **Deck hockey:** This sport has grown immensely in Québec in recent years. Unlike floor hockey, which is more common and is played in a gymnasium, deck hockey is played outside, on a surface formed of small plastic tiles that provide several advantages for players, such as lateral movements that reduce pressure on muscles and joints, better control over ball rebounds, etc.
- **Speed badminton:** This is a variant of badminton in which the equipment has been modified for outdoor play. It can be played informally, on any type of surface (tennis court, grass, sand or even snow). There is also a version with rules. The court consists of two squares of 5.5 m on the side spaced 12.8 m. This sport is open to all, depending on the intensity with which it is played.
- **Dog agility course:** Contrary to popular belief, these courses do not only get the dogs moving, but also allow their owner/guardian to get some exercise as well. Dog agility circuit equipment is now available for outdoor installation from some game module manufacturers.
- **Slackline and hammock:** It is increasingly common to see this type of equipment installed between two trees, or even directly on park equipment provided for this purpose. In recent years, several suppliers have also developed slackline devices and hammocks that can be permanently installed in parks.

- Several more marginal activities are gaining in popularity:
- Circus activities (e.g., urban stilts, juggling);
- Fat bikes or other variations of standard bikes (uni, bikestep, etc.);
- Roundnet (or spikeball);
- Jumping stick (pogo stick).

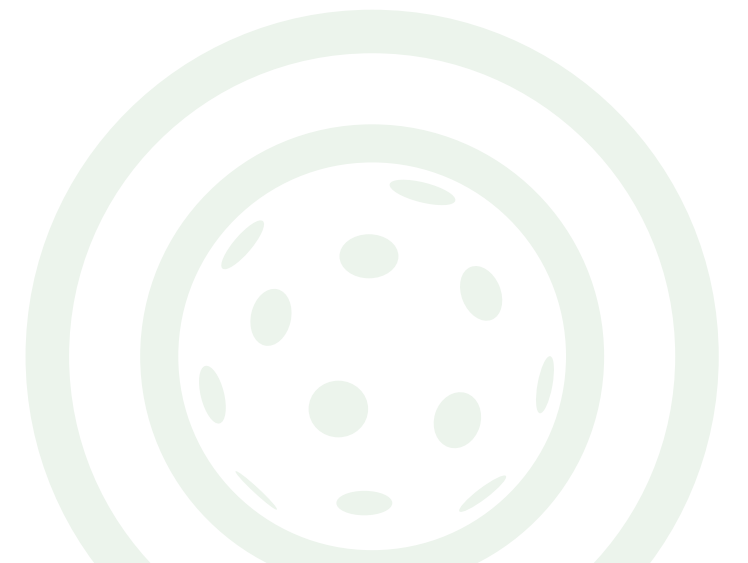
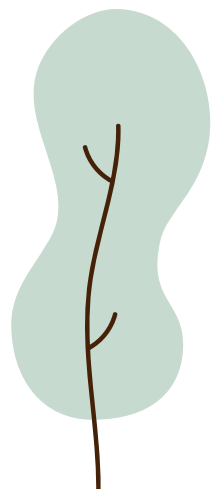
It is currently difficult to establish the impact that the appearance of these new sports will have on the enjoyment of physical activities outside and the development of parks in the future.



Playing pickleball



Playing roundnet



### 6.3.11 Park chalet

Throughout the construction projects of park chalets, the following characteristics were observed:

- Most of the new chalets are designed as community buildings, with a multipurpose room that can accommodate groups ranging from 40 to 50 people and washrooms accessible from the outside.

Other services usually include:

- Sanitary services and indoor and outdoor drinking water fountains;
- Park attendant's office;
- Janitorial services and furniture storage area;
- Wi-Fi and indoor and outdoor sound systems;
- Facilities for caterers, kitchenettes or vending machines;
- Changing rooms (if there is a splash pad or swimming pool).

Under more specific conditions, there are also rental services and maintenance for rental equipment:

- Multipurpose spaces are designed with lots of glass, depending on the external environment;
- The buildings are level with the site and offer barrier-free access;
- These buildings are often of quality architectural design and showcase a signature element within the layout.



Baie-de-Valois chalet at Grande-Anse Park, City of Pointe-Claire



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# 07

## Consultation process

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Developing Pointe-Claire's parks and green spaces master plan includes a participatory component that aims to gather contributions from the population. Residents really are the ones who best know their needs with them being the primary users of the City's parks and green spaces.

An online survey was shared with the population in February and March 2022. A questionnaire was sent to various sports and leisure organizations and educational institutions on the City's territory. There were 284 residents and 17 sports, community or school organization who responded to the survey. The information gathered was used to improve the analysis of needs and challenges associated with parks, green spaces and outdoor sports and recreational facilities in Pointe-Claire.

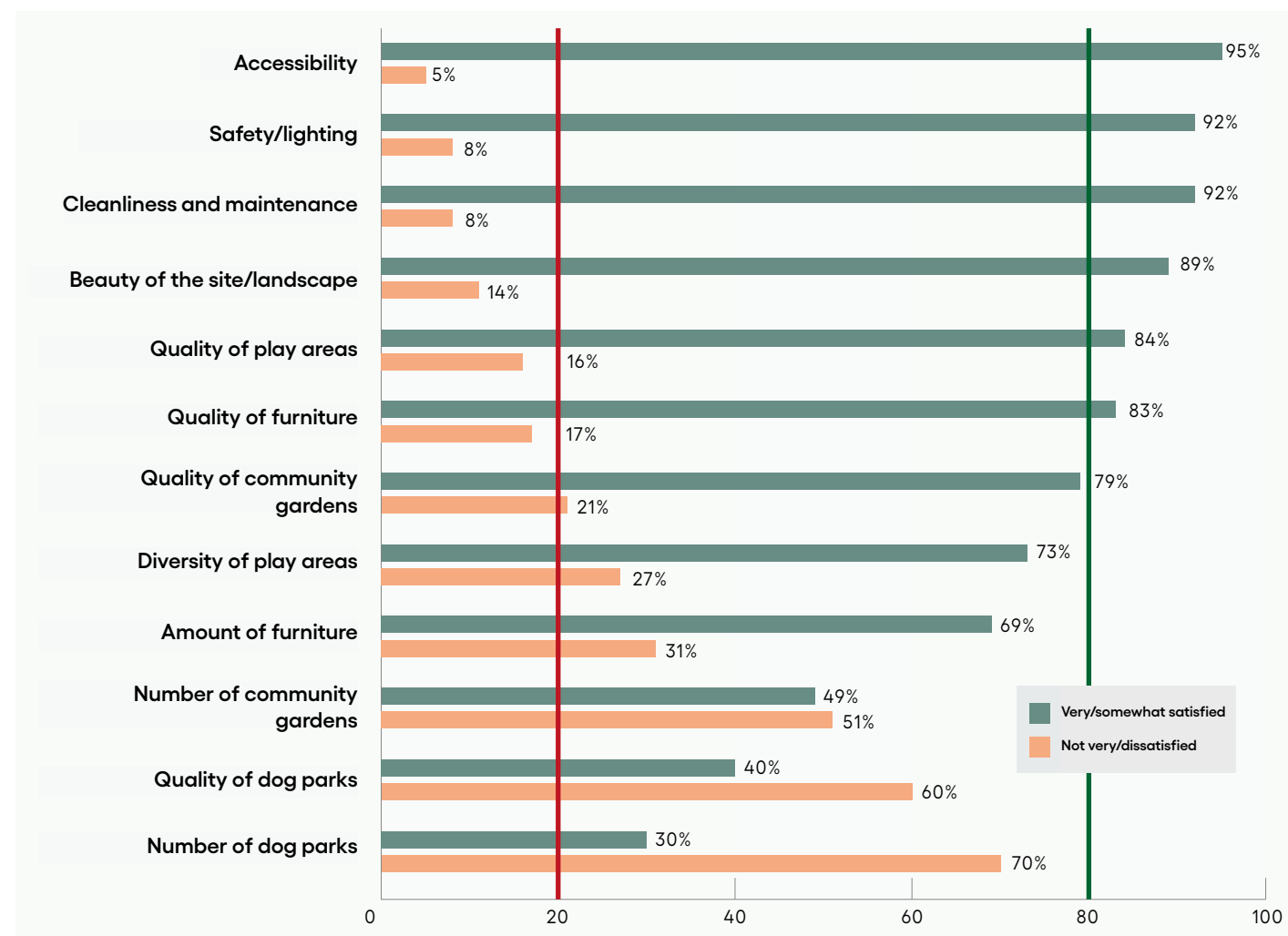


HERE ARE THE MAIN HIGHLIGHTS:

Respondent profile

- Most of the respondents were women (64%);
- Among respondents, the most represented age groups were those from 45 to 64 years of age (43%) and 25 to 44 years of age (30%);
- Seniors (65 years +) make up 24% of respondents;
- Of the respondents, 47% reported having a family income over \$100,000.

Figure 22 — Level of satisfaction with various aspects of the parks



Parks and green spaces

- Park use in winter, although lower than in other seasons, is not negligible. In fact, 69% of survey respondents reported that they visit the parks at least a few times per month in the winter;
- Although a majority of respondents indicated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of elements identified, the satisfaction rate with parks is less than 80% on several elements;
- There are high rates of dissatisfaction with the quality and quantity of dog parks (60% and 70% dissatisfied);
- The dissatisfaction rate is also high with the number of community gardens (51%);
- The dissatisfaction rate with the amount of furniture is also noteworthy (31%);
- Conversely, there is a higher satisfaction rate for accessibility (95% satisfied), cleanliness and maintenance (92%), safety in the parks (92%) and the beauty of the sites (89%).



Most respondents reported going to the park in **ACTIVE MODE (45% walking and 23% cycling)**.

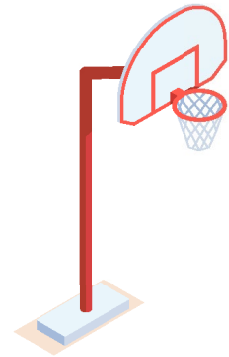
However, nearly one third of respondents use their car (30%).



City parks are used more by residents to **engage in leisure activities (19%)**, to engage **active travel (14%)** or to **socialize or have a picnic (14%)**.



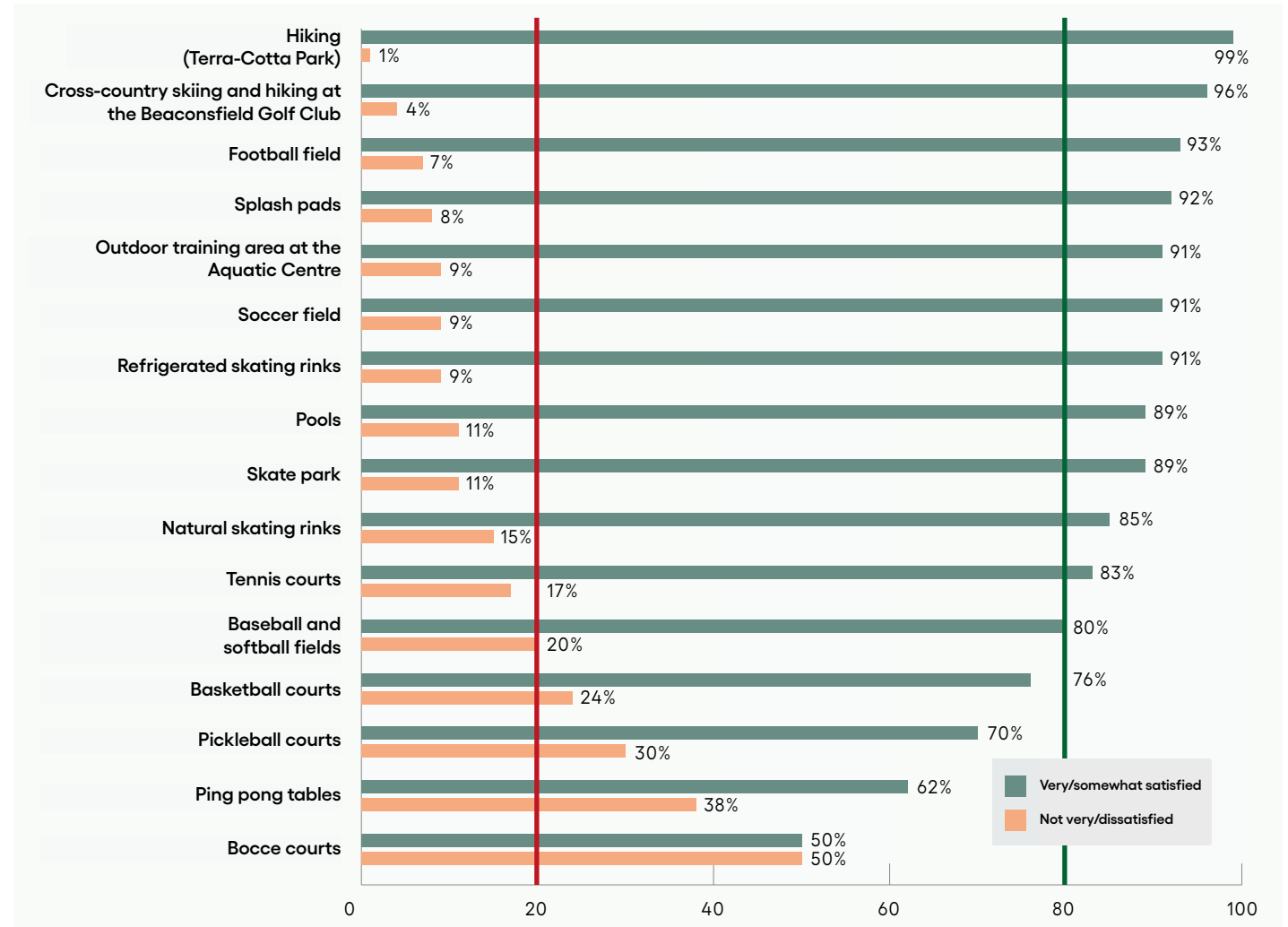
Outdoor sports and recreational facilities



Overall, the **satisfaction rate with the quality of the main sports facilities and recreational equipment is over 80%.**

- Satisfaction rates with hiking (99% satisfied), cross-country skiing and winter hiking (96%), football fields (93%), splash pads (92%), the outdoor training area at the Aquatic Centre (91%), soccer fields (91%), refrigerated skating rinks (91%), swimming pools (89%) and skate parks (89%) are the highest among the facilities offered;
- A significant portion of respondents are dissatisfied with bocce courts (50% dissatisfied), ping pong tables (38% dissatisfied) and pickleball courts (30%);
- The quantity of the main sports facilities and recreational equipment is the main reason for their dissatisfaction;
- Respondents indicated that they were dissatisfied with the number of ping pong tables (68%), pickleball courts (50%), basketball courts (44%), bocce courts (33%) and splash pads (33%) available on the City’s territory;
- Satisfaction rates with the amount of equipment for hiking (96% satisfied), soccer fields (95%), swimming pools (91%), skate parks (89%), cross-country skiing and winter hiking (90%) are the highest among the equipment offered.

Figure 23 — Level of satisfaction with the quality of outdoor sports facilities and recreational equipment



### Nautical activities

- The majority of respondents who participate in an activity on Lac Saint-Louis say they only participate in activities a few times per year (47%) or a few times per month (35%);
- The two main activities practiced by respondents on Lac Saint-Louis are kayaking or canoing (46%) and paddle boarding (18%);
- A minority of respondents (31%) used the Canoe Kayak Club's equipment rental services. However, almost all respondents were very satisfied with the various services and facilities offered by the Canoe Kayak Club.

### Sports and leisure, community and school organizations

Most of the organizations working on the territory are quite satisfied or very satisfied with the facilities offered by the City. The issues identified by respondents include:

- The tennis courts are very busy, there is a lack of pickleball courts and the lack of adapted sports for the aging population;
- Need for renovation of the swimming pools in Alexandre-Bourgeois Park and Ovide Park;
- Lack of 11-player soccer fields. Suggestion to recondition the John Rennie field;
- The soccer field at Alexandre-Bourgeois Park is in poor condition and they hope it will be turned into an 11-player field again;
- Challenge of irrigation of soccer fields during summer drought related to global warming;
- Dissatisfaction with the maintenance and quality of the ball courts at Valois Park and Cedar Park Heights Park;
- Dissatisfaction with the diversity of children's play equipment and the amount of furniture in the parks visited. Obsolete game modules and furniture;
- Obsolete Seigniory Park and poor state of play equipment. Suggestions for splash pads and the reconditioning of the park's basketball court;
- Issue related to dog parks and their development..



Edgewater Park



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08

Vision and orientations

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## 8.1 VISION

The strategic vision expresses a clear and comprehensive image of what the City of Pointe-Claire wants for its parks and green spaces at the end of a 10-year planning outlook.

In 2033, the parks and green spaces of Pointe-Claire are inclusive living environments where residents of all generations can come together and enjoy diverse and versatile facilities, adapted to the evolving needs of the population of all ages. Forming a network that is connected to the different neighbourhoods, they promote an active lifestyle of the population on the one hand, and on the other hand, help to strengthen the biodiversity corridors and protect natural waterfront environments. Pointe-Claire's parks and green spaces play an important role in the City's attractiveness by enhancing its living environment and its waterfront landscape

## 8.2 ORIENTATIONS

The strategic orientations that will be adopted for the development of the parks and green spaces intervention plan will stem from the issues identified.

The interventions recommended for each of the guidelines will be used to prepare the annual intervention plan.

Please note that the order of presentation of the strategic directions below is not the order of priority.

# 01

## Optimize the use of space when upgrading existing parks and in the planning of new ones in developing sectors.

→ This orientation aims to increase the variety of activities offered in the parks within the existing space and to plan for new parks to meet the changing needs of the population.

# 02

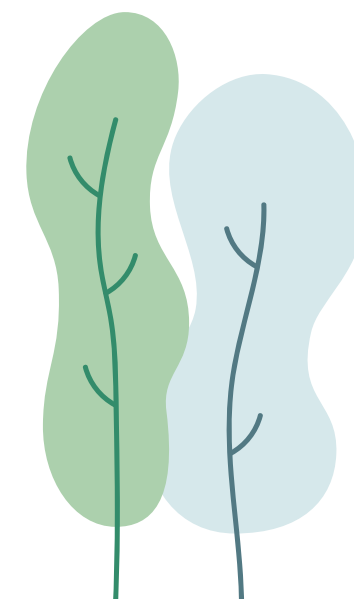
## Diversify the range of services for different age groups.

→ The age groups targeted are active seniors, adolescents and young adults, and young children, through the addition of equipment that is particularly popular among these demographics.

# 03

## Priority areas for major redevelopments.

→ This orientation covers structuring actions that significantly transform certain parks according to their specific use. These projects require preliminary overall planning to ensure the optimal addition of proposed equipment and significant investments (over \$2 million).







8.2 RECOMMENDED ORIENTATIONS AND INTERVENTIONS (CONT.)

# 04

## Improve the offerings in dog parks.

→ This orientation is included in the intervention plan to improve this type of offering. It signifies the type of interventions that meet the criteria for the addition of dog parks identified in the development trends (see 6.3. Trends in sports, recreational and creative equipment.

# 05

## Update the service offering strategy.

→ This orientation is included in the intervention plan primarily to rationalize and reduce the need for maintenance and making certain sports fields and facilities available to all. The City's ability to manage and maintain should also be considered.

# 06

## Increase the contribution of parks to improve the city's resilience to climate change.

→ This orientation aims to prioritize interventions that will be part of a sustainable development and resilience to climate change perspective. The City of Pointe-Claire's network of parks and green spaces is inseparable from its development for the years to come and is central to the creation of complete, sustainable and inclusive living environments for all residents. The orientation is therefore implemented through actions to fight against urban heat islands, protect against erosion of shores, create cooling areas and promote active travel.

# 07

## Enhancement of waterfront parks.

→ Pointe-Claire has a large number of waterfront parks and green spaces that represent a great wealth for the territory. Their enhancement aims to: Remove facilities that are incompatible with the waterfront at Alexandre-Bourgeau Park and Valois Bay dog park; See about Naturalization of banks to help counter erosion and to promote riparian biodiversity; Add facilities that promote access to the waterfront in areas where regulations allows this.

# 08

## Special projects.

→ Special projects are proposed in the intervention plan. Many types of projects are included. They may involve planning policies or planning tools.



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# Conclusion

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**Overall, Pointe-Claire has a exceptional park system, that provides residents with a quality living environment conducive to relaxation and an active lifestyle.**

Within the analysis of Pointe-Claire's network of park and green space, the following strenghts were highlighted:

- The parks are of high quality and are well maintained;
- The distribution of parks on the territory is generally good in residential areas;
- The supply of major amenities is equal to or superior to comparable.

However, the analysis highlighted certain issues that will influence the intervention choices:

- The composition of Pointe-Claire's population is changing according to the observed aging of its residents, but also according to recent developments and with the expected arrival of the two REM stations. The supply of parks and outdoor sports and leisure facilities must be adapted over the next few years according to this reality;
- The existing parks are fully equipped and offer little space for the addition of large sporting infrastructures or other large-scale equipment. The supply enhancement strategy focuses on the addition of small facilities where the main shortcomings have been identified;
- In addition, there are few sites available on the territory for the addition of large new parks (neighbourhood park or municipal park). A land acquisition strategy will have to be put in place for future developments to maintain the current level of supply;
- Major projects require comprehensive planning in advance to successfully optimize developments and require significant investments;
- Resilient parks and green spaces help meet the climate change adaptation needs of cities and improve the comfort and health of residents. Specific greening, naturalization and the additions of splash pads and drinking fountains are identified in several parks to increase the resilience of Pointe-Claire;
- Pointe-Claire benefits from a vast network of waterfront areas that must be developed.

The plan was produced thanks to the contribution of the general management and the management committee, and the participation of all city departments and agencies BC2 et Synergis





Pointe   
Claire

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