

Recreational Service Agreements Update

Presented to:

Livable Community Committee | April 7, 2026

Presented by:

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Fredericton

Highlights

- Expiring Recreational Service Agreements (RSAs) creates the opportunity for a solution that achieves affordable access for everyone in the Capital Region.
- Access to recreation facilities: a shared problem requiring a shared solution.
- Current RSAs not meeting anyone's needs:
 - Not affordable or sustainable for Fredericton taxpayers.
 - Administrative hassle.
 - Pay-to-play scenario is cost-prohibitive for some regional residents.
- Need to determine how nearby communities want to access Fredericton recreation facilities.



Affordable and Sustainable Solution

- The City partners with neighbouring communities to provide non-residents with access to City recreation facilities through RSAs that expire in 2027.
- Councils of nearby communities determine how their residents access Fredericton's recreation facilities. Some have chosen RSAs. Others determined their residents pay the 'outside user fee'.
- Residents of other communities pay less than Fredericton residents for the same level of access. This isn't affordable or sustainable.
- Fredericton and Oromocto staff collaboratively created shared cost models to extend access to everyone in the Capital Region.
- A region-wide approach could create an affordable and sustainable solution for Fredericton residents.
- The Capital Region Service Commission (CRSC) is well positioned to facilitate a new regional agreement. Staff are seeking direction on proposing options to the CRSC.














Background on RSAs

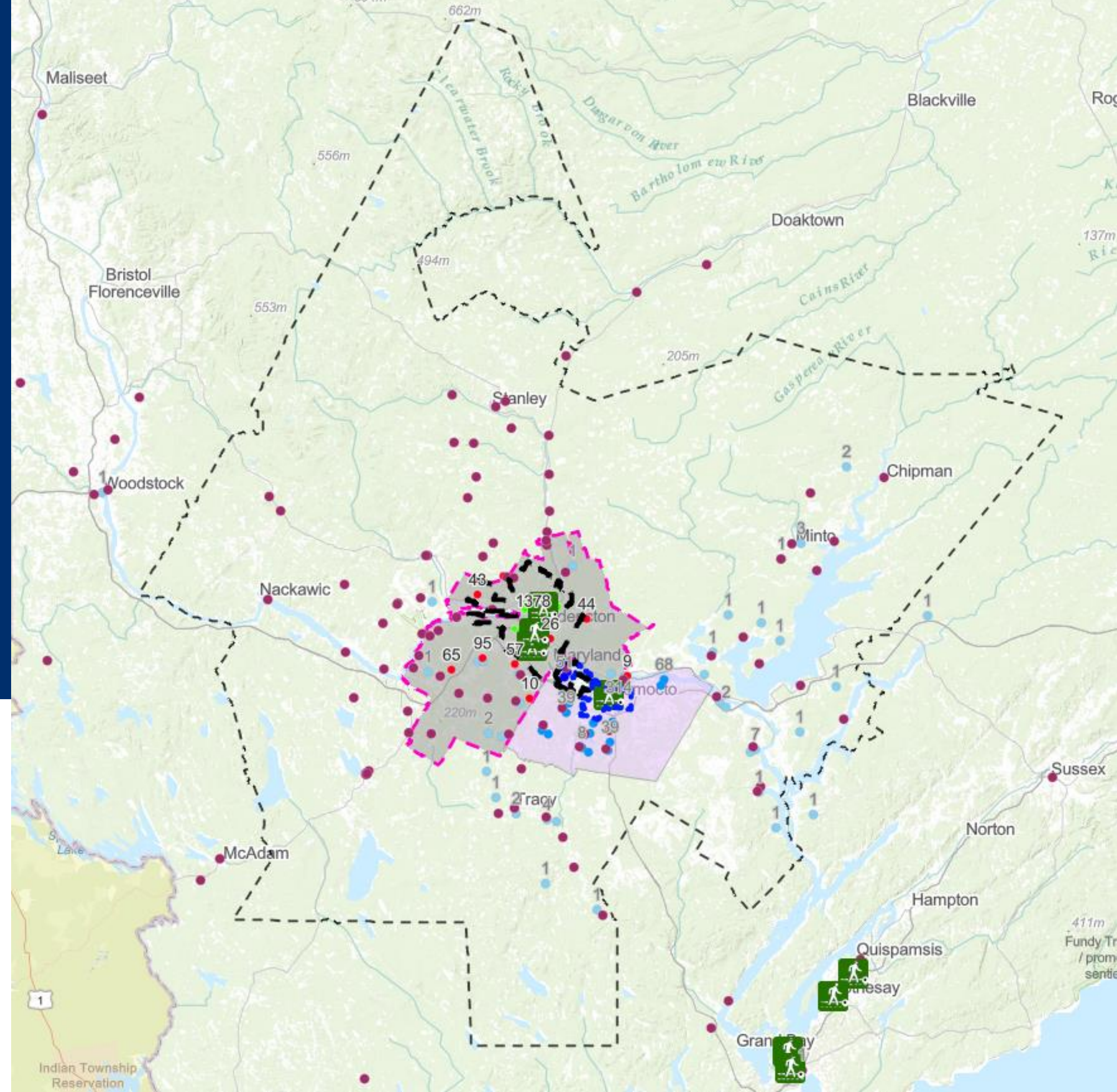
- RSAs were established in 2008.
- RSAs provide residents of participating communities access to Fredericton's recreation facilities in return for a tax rate contribution.
- Agreements currently in effect: Central York, Sunbury-York South, Hanwell, New Maryland, Nashwaak, and portions of the Rural District (Noonan, Maugerville areas).
- Residents of communities that do not participate in the RSA must pay an 'outside user fee' (currently \$977.85 winter / \$21.53 summer) to access City facilities.



A Regional View of Fredericton and Oromocto Field Usage

Legend:

-  CRSC
-  Oromocto
-  Fredericton
-  Fredericton – Current RSA
-  Oromocto – Current RSA
-  Turf Field
-  Sport Complex
-  Ballfield
-  Fredericton RSA All Users
-  Fredericton – Outside Users
-  Oromocto – Residents
-  Oromocto RSA – Inside Users
-  Oromocto – Outside Users



A Regional View of Fredericton and Oromocto Ice Usage

Legend:



CRSC

Oromocto

Fredericton

Fredericton - Current RSA

Oromocto - Current RSA

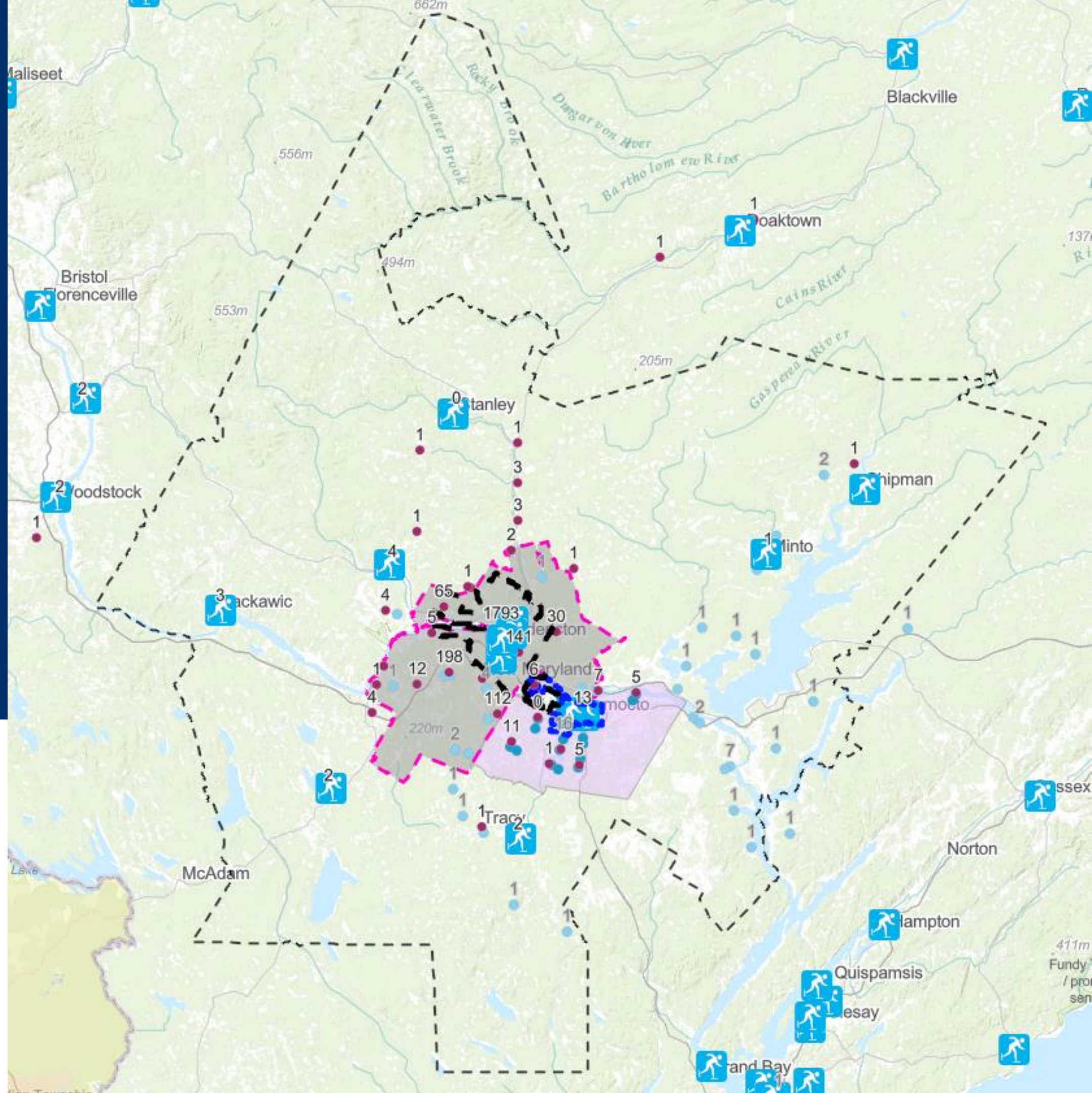
Arena

Fredericton RSA and Outside Users

Oromocto - Residents

Oromocto RSA - Inside Users

Oromocto - Outside Users



Challenges with Status Quo

- ✓ **Current agreements do not reflect true operational or maintenance costs.**
 - Fredericton residents pay substantially more for the same level of programming access as non-residents.
 - This means Fredericton residents are subsidizing residents of participating communities.
 - This is not affordable or sustainable.
- ✓ **Recreation Cards are an administrative hassle for everyone: City residents, non-City residents, Fredericton Recreation and Finance staff, local sports organizations, etc.**
 - They are costly, time consuming and lead to conflicts.
 - A region-wide agreement would be more efficient to administer.
- ✓ **Councils of some communities chose not to participate in the RSAs. That requires residents of those communities to pay an 'outside user fee' – but this fee is still less than Fredericton residents pay.**
 - Outside user fees are often cost-prohibitive for individuals and families.
 - Those who can't afford to pay don't get to play.
 - This means the current approach is not affordable for Fredericton residents or others in the region.

An 'access for everyone' Solution

Non-residents (those living outside the City):

- Comprise 27% of total participants
- Pay for 10% of total costs
- Closing this 17% gap would allow for a 1 cent reduction off the City's tax rate

Outside users currently pay: \$978/winter and \$22/summer

Actual cost per user: \$2664/winter and \$321/summer

Without a new agreement all non-residents would need to pay \$2664/winter and \$321/summer to fully cover costs.

Opportunity: Fredericton and Oromocto staff have identified a shared-cost concept that would allow access for everyone in the region.

Why explore a regional agreement?

Share the cost burden:

- Building, operating and maintaining recreation facilities is expensive.
- Ability to deliver some recreation services necessitates 'everyone contributes'.
- Region-wide solution ensures access to recreation facilities for everyone.
- Fredericton taxpayers absorb recreation costs through shared taxes. Councils of other communities will determine how their residents access Fredericton recreation facilities.
- The CRSC has a provincial mandate to enhance regional collaboration and service delivery – including recreation services.



What could this look like?

A new agreement should:

- Establish adequate levels of revenue affordable to our taxpayers.
- Be efficient to administer.
- Remove 'outside user fees'.
- Bring all residents in the Capital Region into one agreement.
- Include all programmed (i.e. scheduled) facilities.
- Apply to existing facilities only. New facilities would require separate consideration.
- Consider population, tax base and participation rates.



Summary

- Fredericton recognizes the importance of programmed recreation facilities for residents throughout the region.
- There is an opportunity for the CRSC to deliver a region-wide solution in alignment with their provincial mandate.
- Fredericton and Oromocto staff agree there is a cost-sharing model that would achieve affordability for our taxpayers and allow everyone to participate.
- It will be the decision of councils in regional communities to participate in a new agreement that is sustainable and improves access for everyone.
- Staff are seeking Council direction on presenting options to the CRSC.
- Council will be kept informed of ongoing discussions and any final agreement would be subject to City Council approval.

Request for Council Direction

Option 1

City Council adopt the following resolution directing staff to present new regional agreement options to the CRSC:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the City of Fredericton hereby directs the Chief Administrative Officer, or designee, to propose options to the Capital Region Service Commission for the Commission's facilitation of a new regional recreational service agreement focused on programmed facilities that removes outside user fees, is administratively efficient, establishes adequate levels of revenue, and ensures affordability for Fredericton's taxpayers.

Option 2

City Council may wish to provide other direction to staff.



Thank you!

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