

Ottawa Stand Up Paddle  
Address  
Phone number  
Email

Date

Mayor and City Councillors | City of Ottawa  
110 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Dear Councillors,

Ottawa Stand Up Paddle (Ottawa SUP) has been a local family business making paddling available to Ottawa residents for more than a decade.

As part of a larger long standing family business, we have operated successful paddling rental and lesson locations in Lakefield, Peterborough, Campbellford, Constance Bay, and at the Linda Thom Park, Billings Bridge, Ottawa on the Rideau River. For the past summer, Ottawa SUP has offered rental and lessons on a rotating basis at various parks in Ottawa.

We are writing to you in regards to the underserved use of the City of Ottawa waterways for recreational paddling purposes. We would like you to consider our proposed options for enhanced access to recreational paddling on the City of Ottawa's waterways for City's residents and tourists.

Please find attached our Executive Summary and full proposal.

I look forward to hearing back from you at your earliest opportunity and please do not hesitate to contact me in the meantime should you require any further information on our proposal.

Yours truly

Laura Zak, etc.

# 'Getting Ottawa on the water close to home'

A partnership between the City of Ottawa and Ottawa SUP for a **seasonal paddlecraft rental and lesson service at an existing water access park in the City of Ottawa.**

This proposal is designed to fill a gap in providing walkable access to getting on the water to the people of Old Ottawa East, Old Ottawa South, and The Glebe.

Submitted by:  
Ottawa SUP

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# Introduction

## Who We Are

Ottawa SUP and family owned associated businesses have operated successful paddling rental and lesson locations in Ontario.

From 2014 to 2023, Ottawa SUP operated a seasonal stand up paddleboard and kayak rental and lessons business, in conjunction with the City of Ottawa and Le Paradis at the Linda Thom Park at Billings Bridge on the Rideau River.

In the spring of 2024, Le Paradis changed hands and found they required the small space Ottawa SUP rented to increase their parking. Ottawa SUP contacted the City of Ottawa to inquire about moving the trailer onto the adjoining park property. Ongoing conversations with the ???? assured Ottawa SUP that an arrangement could be made, if not at Linda Thom Park, at one of the other Park locations. However, just before the season opened we were informed that no location would be offered.

For the past summer, Ottawa SUP has offered rental and lessons on a rotating basis at various parks in Ottawa. However, this did not meet the needs of people in Ottawa and is not sustainable.

## Goal: Get people out onto the water where they live through partnership

### Meeting Ottawa's Strategic Directions:

The City of Ottawa's Official Plan and Strategic Directions, Parks and Recreation Master Plans, and the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), which informs such plans, all support the following priorities:

#### 15 minute healthy neighbourhoods (New Official Plan)

- To achieve healthier, more inclusive communities.
- To create locally focused neighbourhoods with more options closer to home to save on transportation costs, enjoy their neighbourhood more, and improve their daily activity
- To promote health and wellbeing
- To fosters social interaction
- To facilitate active transportation and community connectivity
- To provide publicly accessible places such as parks, public spaces, recreational facilities, and places for people to connect that contribute to quality of life and well-being

To support a full range and equitable distribution of publicly accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including water-based resources and to increase opportunities for public access to shorelines. (PPS)

## Why paddling?

Paddling is...

A healthy form of Active Transportation and Recreation that supports City Strategic Priorities and Community Needs

Paddling is...

- An environmentally friendly means of accessing City water resources.
- A sustainable, accessible mode of Active Transportation (As referenced as a mode of active transportation in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Appendix ?)
- A way to promote social interaction and community connectivity

And...

Paddling has health benefits...

*“Spending time in nature is good for you. We feel this every time we step outside to hike, camp, **paddle**, or just be in natural spaces. A wide body of research supports the physical and mental benefits of nature.”*

*Ontario Parks, <https://www.ontarioparks.ca/hphp>*

*“Research shows that spending time in nature is good for our physical and mental health, and **paddling** is just one of the ways to include more nature in our lives. This is why Ontario Parks has embraced the worldwide Healthy Parks, Healthy People movement which encourages everyone to spend more time in nature.”*

*Ontario Parks, <https://www.ontarioparks.ca/parksblog/8-ways-paddling-can-improve-your-health/>*

## Barriers to accessible paddling in Ottawa

Unfortunately, it is difficult for most Ottawa residents to access getting on the water where they live for the following reasons:

- There are only four fixed location waterfront paddlecraft rental services in all of the city of Ottawa. City bylaws have thus far prevented the addition of further rental services at existing parks.
- Paddling was not included specifically by the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as it was considered to be above citywide provision levels. (Pg. 179 Appendix C.) likely because of the existence of canoe clubs. However:
  - Canoe clubs are not open to the public.

- Canoe clubs may not be affordable for individuals or families who want to walk to and get on the water where they live or who want to paddle occasionally. (Membership for the Rideau CAnoe Club is \$440.70 annually.)
- There are no canoe clubs anywhere on the Rideau River above the Hogs's Back.
- Canoe clubs offer limited rental services
- While there are a number of takeaway outfitters in Ottawa, unless one has a vehicle suitable to put a kayak or canoe on top of or in, they cannot get on the water where they live.
- Of course, residents have the option of owning their own paddlecraft. Unfortunately, this is also not an accessible option in that unless they live right on the river, it requires driving the craft to the water. It also requires purchase and storage of the paddlecraft.

## Our Proposal - Introduction

While it would seem obvious that if we are truly committed to the benefits of 15-minute neighbourhoods and to meeting PPS guidelines, that we must also encourage affordable ways to bring accessible paddling to more of our citizens.

Ottawa SUP believes that one way of accomplishing this is through partnerships between the City and the public. There are many precedents in the City for recreational partnerships.(REF)

### **Ottawa SUP proposes:**

- A partnership between the City of Ottawa (**at no cost to the City**) and Ottawa SUP (a long standing family business in Ottawa) to undertake an initial model for a **seasonal paddlecraft rental and lesson service at an existing water access park in the City of Ottawa.**
- An initial service be located in the central Lower Urban transect, in the neighbourhood of Old Ottawa East or Old Ottawa South, giving **walkable access of under ½ hour to a population of over 28,000.**

## Services

In keeping with the services provided between 2014 and 2023 at the Linda Thom Park, Billings Bridge, Rideau River, Ottawa, Ottawa SUP would provide the following services:

- Rental at the water of stand up paddleboards
- Rental at the water of kayaks
- Private,semi-private and group lessons
- Guided social events
- Takeaway rentals of stand up paddleboards and kayaks
- Support from qualified, experienced personnel.
- Free introductory instruction as required and guidance on safety on the water

- High quality paddlecraft and all required and advisable safety equipment provided.

## Requirements

### From City

1. Permission for Ottawa SUP to seasonally locate a small storage container, small kayak rack, and a 10 x 10 tent on a small footprint of a waterfront park in Old Ottawa East.
2. Permission for Ottawa SUP to run a daily rental and lesson operation at the park seasonally.
3. Cost to city: none

### From Ottawa SUP

1. To provide opportunities to residents, workers, visitors and students in and around the Old Ottawa East and Glebe neighbourhoods and beyond to rent stand up paddleboards and kayaks on the water, learn to paddle, and have paddlecraft to take away to other locations.
2. Cost: Ottawa SUP proposes to undertake the full cost of setup, equipment, staffing, maintenance, insurance and other costs.

# Proposal Details

## Equipment & Safety

1. Initially, Ottawa SUP proposes to offer 20 - 30 stand up paddleboards for rent and 10 kayaks. The stand up paddleboards would likely be Rideau Paddleboards, a local family brand.
2. Ongoing due diligence would be provided by experienced staff for safety and paddling conditions oversight, instruction in and knowledge of safety regulations and best practices.
3. Rules would be posted or shared online that meet or exceed regulations.
4. Selection of equipment would meet or exceed safety standards and be appropriate for the size, age, experience and fitness of the participant. This requires a variety of equipment for different needs be made available.
5. Monitoring of equipment for condition and repairs would be undertaken regularly.
6. Fibreglass paddles for safety, lighter weight, and better performance.



## Proposed Scope of Service

The options proposed for enhanced access to recreational paddling on the City of Ottawa's waterways will serve all Ottawa demographics and will include both residents of the City of Ottawa and tourists. However, based on the proposed locations, our primary target groups will be within a short driving distance of Old Ottawa East and the Glebe.

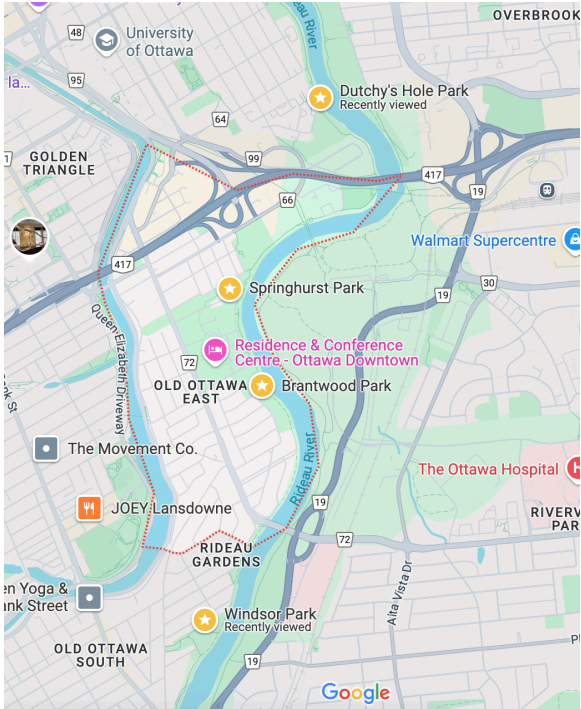
## Location

Ottawa SUP is proposing an initial location in Old Ottawa East, which is located south of Nicholas Street and between the Rideau Canal and the Rideau River, with Avenue Road marking the southern border. To the south is the neighbourhood of Old Ottawa South and to the northeast is Sandy Hill. Old Ottawa East includes the Lees Avenue area. The Flora Footbridge, which opened to pedestrians in 2019, connects the community to The Glebe. (*Wikipedia*)

There are four Rideau River accesses in existing parks in Old Ottawa East that could be potential locations for a rental and lesson service:

Windsor Park, Brantwood Park, Springhurst Park. Each has features to recommend it and all four would be suitable. Brantwood Park and Springhurst Park have the advantage of being most central within Old Ottawa East and would best serve the City's commitment to 15-minute healthy neighbourhoods.

Red dotted line showing Old Ottawa East. Suggested possible locations marked with stars.



## Demographics of primary neighbourhoods within ½ hour walk of proposed locations

Statistic	Old Ottawa East	Ottawa	Ontario
Population	8,663	1,058,126	14,804,681
Population density (sq km)	4,319	365	15
Median age	33.2	39.2	40.9
Male/Female ratio	1.01	1.01	1.01
Married couples	67%	70%	71%
Families w/ kids at home	38%	45%	46%
Speak English only	55.5%	59.3%	86.1%
Speak French only	0.6%	1.4%	0.3%

Statistic	The Glebe	Ottawa	Ontario
Population	12,954	1,058,126	14,804,681
Population density (sq km)	4,913	365	15
Median age	41.6	39.2	40.9
Male/Female ratio	1.11	1.01	1.01
Married couples	70%	70%	71%
Families w/ kids at home	42%	45%	46%
Speak English only	80.7%	59.3%	86.1%
Speak French only	0.3%	1.4%	0.3%

Statistic	Old Ottawa South	Ottawa	Ontario
Population	6,743	1,058,126	14,804,681
Population density (sq km)	4,181	365	15
Median age	41.5	39.2	40.9
Male/Female ratio	1.11	1.01	1.01
Married couples	71%	70%	71%
Families w/ kids at home	51%	45%	46%
Speak English only	48.6%	59.3%	86.1%
Speak French only	0.3%	1.4%	0.3%

[AreaVibes](#)

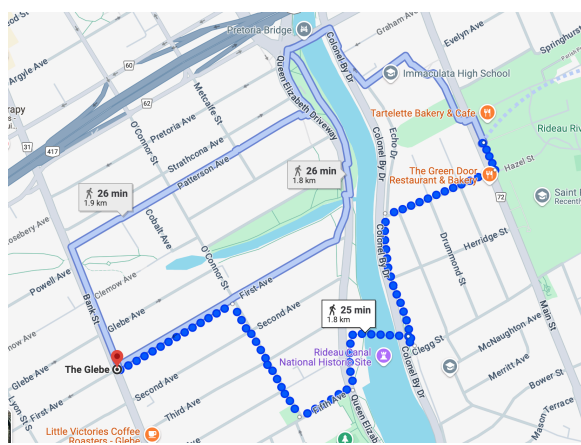
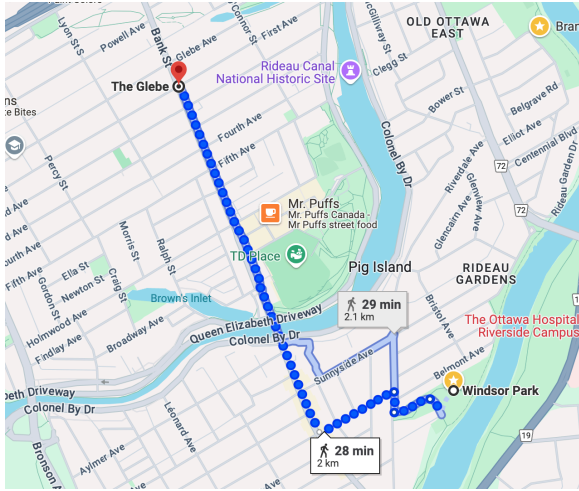
(Locations: 1 = Windsor Park, 2 = Brantwood Park, 3 = Springhurst Park)

Location Features	1	2	3
Under ½ hour walk to Old East Ottawa, Old South Ottawa, and central The Glebe, supporting healthy <b>15-minute neighbourhood</b> priorities.	✓	✓	✓
Connects neighbourhoods, parks and water accesses in the central Upper Urban Transect of Ottawa, via the Rideau River, supporting sustainable, healthy <b>Active Transportation</b> .	✓	✓	✓
Under ½ hour walk to 100s of	✓	✓	✓

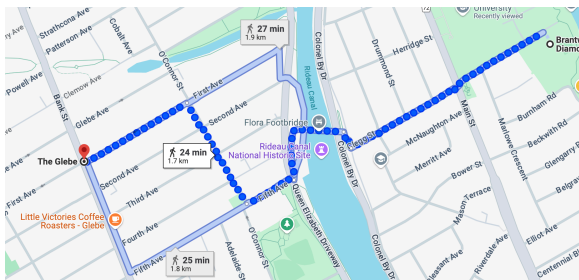
small businesses in The Glebe, Old Ottawa East & Old Ottawa South.			
Under ½ hour walk to to Saint Paul University with 1,200 students and under 1 hr walk to Ottawa Hospital	✓	✓	✓
Close to water to minimise distance to carry paddlecraft	✓	✓	✓
Easy access into the water with minimal environmental impact	✓	✓	✓
Existing dock (new dock recently added at Springhurst)	✓	✓	✓
Calm, safe, scenic waterway of appropriate depth - ie not too shallow and not too deep	✓	✓	✓
Close parking in parking lot and on street parking	✓	✓	✓
Dogs allowed in park, so that they can paddle with their owners	✓	✓	✓
Variable distance available for different levels of paddling fitness, time restrictions, experience, etc.	✓	✓	✓
Support by phone by Ottawa SUP near water in emergencies.	✓	✓	✓
Fixed location (as opposed to roaming rental, which due to City regulations requires pre-booking and paying, which is a deterrent because of weather, concerns about refunds, and requires accommodating different distances to use service.)	✓	✓	✓
Multiple possible kiosk site locations available with low possibility of disruption to park environment or neighbours' quiet enjoyment of area.	✓	✓	✓
Expressed acceptance of service	✓	✓	✓

in area by neighbours

Walking Distances from central Glebe to three proposed locations. (All under ½ hr walk)



Walking distance from central Glebe to Springhurst Park (Under ½ hour)



Walking distance from Old Ottawa South to Brantwood Park (Under ½ hour)



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Statistic	Old Ottawa East	Ottawa	Ontario
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## Target Groups

We will particularly focus on the following target groups:

1. First time or inexperienced paddlers or
2. Paddlers of any level of experience who do not have their own paddlecraft or
3. Paddlers who own paddlecraft but who find it difficult to access local waterway because of transportation or
4. Paddlers who own paddlecraft but who wish to introduce their family members or friends to paddling or who wish to have the safety and added fun of company while they paddle and
5. Tourists, newcomers, and business visitors who want to enjoy one of Ottawa's prime attractions - its beautiful waterways and the unique views from the water.
6. Students of the local university located in the target area (Saint ??? University) to encourage them to remain in the City during the summer months.
7. Employees of City services and businesses to encourage working on location in the City rather than from home.
8. Patrons of the more than 60 small businesses in the area.

## Hours of operation of the proposal

Ottawa SUP believes that based on conversations with clients and other residents, the more days and hours that paddling can be offered, the more accessible it will be to all residents and tourists. However, since Safety First is our motto, this has to be based on water conditions and temperature, as well as weather.

1. Ottawa SUP proposes being open from the long weekend in May through September, subject to weather and water temperature and levels.
2. We propose being open Tuesdays through Sundays, subject to weather and water conditions. Safety first.

3. Hours of operation may vary depending on time of season and on weather and water conditions. Safety first.

## Staffing

Ottawa SUP believes that based on client conversations, industry standards and on many years of experience, that staff is critical both to safety of our clients but also to success of the business.

We believe it is incumbent on us to provide qualified staff to supervise all operations to include:

1. Access to formal lessons from a qualified instructor
2. Free introduction on how to paddle before going on the water. (For inexperienced paddlers or those who wish to improve their knowledge.)
3. Advice on safety equipment and paddling regulations
4. Assistance with use of safety equipment
5. Guidance on the specific characteristics of a particular waterway including how to safely enter the waterway, current, prevailing winds and waves, sandbanks and obstacles, rapids, shallow areas, changes in levels such as waterfalls.
6. Matching type of paddlecraft to be use, including size, volume, safe openings, stability, etc. with the body weight, level of experience, and mobility of the client.(For example, too small a volume may result in tipping).
7. Staff awareness of when the paddler has embarked and when they are expected to return in the event of an unexpected problem on the water, so that help can be provided.
8. Staff awareness of weather forecasts but also rapid or unexpected changes in water conditions to contact the paddler to advise returning immediately.
9. Be available by phone to respond to a need for rescue or retrieval. (Ottawa SUP will also provide a floating waterproof phone pouch.)

Ottawa SUP's staff includes (but is not limited to) the following:

- Laura (bio
- Heather bio
- Mark bio
- Sarah bio



## Communication

1. Responsive communications - prompt answering of emails, messages, phone calls 7 days a week.
2. A strong social media presence, kept up to date and informative, on Facebook, Instagram, X, Google.
3. A good, well established website <https://www.ottawasup.ca/> that has up to date information and provides guidance on safety.

# Rationale For Partnership

## Precedents for Recreational Partnerships

Current precedents exist in both policy and practice of community partnerships to meet City recreational strategic objectives including:

- City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, Final Draft: October 2021, Page 23

*“ 2.11 Partners in the Provision of Sport and Recreation*

*Through numerous partnerships, the City is able to broaden the amount and variety of sport and recreation programs available to residents.*

*The City has several collaborative partnerships with both private and public recreational facility operators.*

*These partnerships open a tremendous number of opportunities to offer additional space for programs, as well as a direct option for residents to book these private sports and recreation facilities.*

*These partnerships bring innovative solutions by providing several additional facilities for recreational sport and community programs.*

*For example... (See link)*

*The programs and facilities offered by this large range of partners, greatly expands and supplements what the City has on offer. The City remains open to new and additional partnerships with communities, registered charities, public, not-for-profit and private organizations to augment all residents' additional access to recreation.*

<https://pub-ottawa.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?documentid=80278>

- In the City of Ottawa New Official Plan Pg 100 it states:  
4.6.3 Ensure capital investments enhance the City's streets, sidewalks, and other **public spaces supporting a healthy lifestyle** ...  
4) **The City will explore partnerships** with development proponents, and other groups (such as BusinessImprovement Associations, other levels of government and community groups) **to enhance the public realm** through means such as the coordination and development of capital improvements in conjunction with development on adjacent properties as well as the maintenance, management and stewardship of existing or future public spaces.

Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) are contracts between government and private-sector partners that use creative approaches to enable the design, building, financing, operation and/or maintenance of facilities that serve the public.

P3 approaches enable the City to offer residents new or better facilities that it could not afford to undertake on its own, or that it does not have the specialized skills to undertake.

**There are many types of Public-Private Partnerships. The “right” Public-Private Partnership is the one that best meets the needs of the partners in the local context. One size does not fit all.**

## Benefits to the City - Summary

1. No cost to City
2. Minimal city resources to undertake the planning, design, procurement or monitoring processes under P3 arrangement because of small scope of the project and work already undertaken by Ottawa SUP.
3. Assumption of all risk, insurance and liability by service provider, with City as additional insured. Insurance for paddling business requires specialized certification.
4. Addresses City Strategic Directions and compliance with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), by:
  - Supporting 15-minute neighbourhoods by offering residents more options closer to home to save on transportation costs, enjoy their neighbourhood more, and improve their daily activity.
  - Making paddling truly accessible within a community of over 28,000 Ottawa residents, within less than a ½ hour walk.
  - Promote a healthy community. Paddling is identified as good for physical and mental health by Ontario Parks (Appendix I)
  - Fostering social interaction and improving social cohesion through planned social paddles and other group events, lessons, yoga, etc.
  - Facilitating active transportation and community connectivity. (Paddling is referenced as a mode of active transportation in the Master Plan Appendix ?) To connect neighbourhoods, parks, and water accesses in the central Upper Urban Transect of Ottawa, via the Rideau River.
  - Promoting use of existing neighbourhood public parks and thus contribute to quality of life and well-being.
  - Supporting equitable distribution of publicly accessible natural settings for recreation, including water-based resources and increasing opportunities for public access to shorelines.

# Benefits to Participants - Summary

## Needs Assessment

Addresses stated community needs as per Ottawa SUP community needs assessment including (highlights):

- Preferred fixed location (close to water, easy access, calm, safe, scenic, parking, support for emergencies)
- Preferred Services
- Experienced Staff on site at all times for paddling instruction, safety instruction, knowledge of waterway, oversight of paddlers activities, availability in emergency
- Safe, high quality,
- Communication
- Availability

## Health Benefits

After 15 years professional involvement in paddling, the Ottawa SUP family can testify to the health benefits of paddling. For example, two of our World Paddle Associated certified instructors are in their 70s and still going strong.

But don't take our word for the health benefits, physically, mentally, emotionally and socially... read what Ontario Parks has to say:

### Healthy Parks, Healthy People

*"Spending time in nature is good for you. We feel this every time we step outside to hike, camp, **paddle**, or just be in natural spaces. A wide body of research supports the physical and mental benefits of nature."*

Ontario Parks, <https://www.ontarioparks.ca/hphp>

*"Research shows that spending time in nature is good for our physical and mental health, and **paddling** is just one of the ways to include more nature in our lives. This is why Ontario Parks has embraced the worldwide Healthy Parks, Healthy People movement which encourages everyone to spend more time in nature."*

Ontario Parks,  
<https://www.ontarioparks.ca/parksblog/8-ways-paddling-can-improve-your-health/>

### Benefits for your brain

- Lowers stress levels: Being out on the water has a calming effect on the brain and can help lower stress levels.
- Boosts your mood: Regular paddling can help lower levels of depression and anxiety.

- Builds confidence: Set paddling goals! Overcoming challenges builds confidence, whether you are a beginner tuning up your j-stroke, or a paddling pro on a backcountry dream trip.

### **Benefits for your body**

- Works the upper body: Increase muscle strength, particularly in the back, arms, shoulders and chest, from moving the paddle against the natural resistance of the water.
- Increases core strength: With each paddle stroke forward you rotate your torso, which really engages the core muscles. These muscles also help to balance your canoe/kayak.
- Increases leg strength: Kayakers receive the additional benefit of increased leg strength through isometric contractions. You apply pressure with your legs as you turn and balance your kayak which causes these muscles to tighten and, over time, builds strength.
- Protects your joints: Paddling is a low-impact activity, which reduces the risk of wear and tear on joints compared to many other activities.
- Improves cardiovascular health: Paddling is a great exercise to elevate the heart rate and improve cardiovascular health.

<https://www.ontarioparks.ca/parksblog/8-ways-paddling-can-improve-your-health/>

# Meeting City Needs & Priorities

## Ottawa's provision level of water access for residents.

### Provision level of beaches falling to 1 per 306,300 by 2031

There is obvious demand for waterfront access in the City of Ottawa, (Swimming use for example at Mooney's Bay is 211,000 people annually, Westboro: 48,000, Britannia: 100,500, Petrie: 79,000 in 2019 )

Compare Ottawa's four beaches to other Municipal Benchmark Cities. Kingston 10 beaches, Halifax 19 beaches, Vancouver 11 beaches, Hamilton 8 beaches, Montreal 8 beaches, Toronto 11 beaches.

The City of Ottawa has no plans to increase the number of beaches and expects population and demand to increase.

Citywide current provision level of supervised beaches of 1:266,700 residents is forecast by the city to **drop to 1 beach per 306,300** residents by 2031. If levels are maintained in the other cities listed, this will be the worst level of provision of beach to resident among the Municipal Benchmark Cities.

*(Pg 89 City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan Final Draft: October 2021  
<https://pub-ottawa.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?documentid=80278> )*

### Provision level of docks & launches falling to 1 per 76,600 by 2031

Likewise, municipal recreational boat launches and docks in Ottawa citywide provision level of 1:71,100 residents is estimated to **drop to 1:76,600** residents by 2031. However the Master Plan also states: *Facilities may also be considered if they are identified as a community and transect priority and can fall within existing operating budgets.*

*(Pg 40 and Pg 139 City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan Final Draft: October 2021  
<https://pub-ottawa.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?documentid=80278> )*

### Provision level of paddlecraft rental at water 1 per 306,300 by 2031

Although there are currently 28 docks or boat launches listed in Ottawa, with only one planned to be added by 2031, (this may be one recently added in Springhurst Park, one of Ottawa SUP's suggested locations for a rental partnership) there is very limited and falling availability of waterfront rental of paddlecraft in the City of Ottawa. In the past there were outlets on the water in addition to the ones below to rent paddlecraft, but these have been removed by the City. No explanation has been provided except "policy".

- Dow's Lake Pavillion at Dow's Lake
- Constance Bay Paddle, Constance Bay Beach, Dunrobin (founded by Ottawa SUP and family operated).
- Escape Tours and Rentals (Sir-George-Étienne-Cartier Pkwy, Ottawa)
- Ottawa Stand Up Paddle (previously located at Linda Thom Park, Ottawa, now only operating on a rotating basis because of city policies.)

Paddling was not included specifically by the City of Ottawa Official Plan - Parks and Recreation Master Plan **as it was considered to be above Recreation Culture and Facility Services' base citywide provision levels.** (Pg. 179 Appendix C.)

Undoubtedly, paddling was judged to be above Recreation Culture and Facility Services' base citywide provision levels because of the existence of canoe clubs.

- However, the canoe clubs are not open to the public.
- Membership for the Rideau CAnoe Club is **\$440.70 annually**. This is not affordable for individuals or families who want to walk to and **get on the water where they live** or who want to paddle occasionally.
- There are no canoe clubs anywhere on the Rideau River above the Hogs's Back.
- Canoe clubs offer limited rental services

While there are a number of takeaway outfitters in Ottawa, unless one has a vehicle suitable to put a kayak or canoe on top of or in, they cannot **get on the water where they live.**

Of course, residents have the option of owning their own paddlecraft. Unfortunately, this is also not an accessible option in that unless they live right on the river, it requires driving the craft to the water. It also requires purchase and storage of the paddlecraft.

**Currently there are only four at the water paddlecraft rental services in Ottawa.** (There were five, including Ottawa SUP, however as of summer of 2023 their service became remote due to City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation policies prohibiting them from operating on a fixed basis.)

**This means that the current citywide provision level of "accessible paddling" is one on-the-water rental service per 266,700 residents AND is forecast to drop to 1 service per 306,300 residents by 2031, based on estimated population increase.**

*(Based on a comparable City forecast for four beaches per total population.)*

This level is definitely not above Recreation Culture and Facility Services' base citywide provision levels.

Further, the lack of accessible paddling is not in keeping with the City's Strategic Priorities concerning 15-minute neighbourhoods. For example, there is nowhere within central Lower Urban transect to rent any kind of paddlecraft.

**Solution: Provide accessible paddling through partnership**

“The City remains open and flexible to address new sports and new recreation trends that emerge, as well as to consider opportunities for sport specific partnerships as they present themselves.”

(Pg 39 City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Ottawa SUP is offering a no-cost opportunity to the City of Ottawa to provide paddling rental services to make paddling accessible by under a ½ hour walk to a population of over 28,000 in The Glebe, Old Ottawa East & Old Ottawa South alone.

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## Strategic Directions - New Official Plan

### 1. Sustainable active transportation

Big Policy Move 2: By 2046, the majority of trips in the city will be made by sustainable transportation.

“Increasing the share of trips by sustainable modes of transportation is urgently needed to meet the City’s climate change goals...”

“Supporting **active transportation** and transit is also crucial to creating a healthier and more **equitable and inclusive city**, where anyone can get to work, to school and to daily activities without needing a car. As a result, safe and convenient sustainable transportation options are fundamental to 15-minute neighbourhoods and vibrant communities that **support economic activity and social interaction** throughout the day and evening.”

**Solution: Connectivity By Water**

- On Pg 121 of City of Ottawa Official Plan, paragraph d) **The City includes canoe/kayak rental facilities as “Active Transportation”**. Quote: Activities and uses along permanent waterbodies (rivers and lakes) that support active transportation (including canoe/kayak rental facilities, docks for non-motorized watercraft, pathways) and are approved by the City and the conservation authority.



- The rental services proposed by Ottawa SUP will connect by walking distance neighbourhoods, parks and water accesses in the central Upper Urban Transect of Ottawa, via the Rideau River, supporting sustainable, healthy Active Transportation.
- Under ½ hour walk to a population of over 28,000 in The Glebe, Old Ottawa East & Old Ottawa South alone.
- Paddling is identified as good for physical and mental health by Ontario Parks (Appendix I) and is a sustainable, accessible mode of active transportation.

## 2. Improved Livability of our city

Big Policy Move 4: Embed environmental, climate and health resiliency and energy into the framework of our planning policies.

The future liveability of Ottawa—its economic vitality, its social cohesion and the health and well-being of its residents—depends upon a healthy natural and built environment.

### **Solution: Walking distance access to getting on the water**

- Support access to a healthy environment in 15 minute neighbourhoods by providing walking distance availability of a paddlecraft rental service. improve access to healthy natural environment
  - Ottawa SUP's proposal will provide this to a population of over 28,000 in The Glebe, Old Ottawa East & Old Ottawa South alone.
- Improve social cohesion through planned social paddles and other group events, lessons, yoga, etc.

## 3. Attracting Workers

**Big Policy Move 5: Embed economic development into the framework of our planning Policies.**

Ottawa's economic success continues to be based on maintaining a liveable city and having affordable market-based housing options in relation to larger cities. We need to attract skilled workers to support growing and new enterprises in Ottawa and be a choice destination for new Canadians. Becoming more liveable and affordable relative to other cities is a key to Ottawa's success.

### **Solution: Offer a popular activity to encourage living in Ottawa**

- Paddling, particularly Stand Up Paddleboarding is one of the fastest growing sports in world. Besides the great workout, it is also perfect to enjoy the nature and the calmness the water can give you.

- Access in under ½ hour walk to be able to get on the water is a attraction to employees.
- It can increase the available employee market,
- It encourages employees to want to live and work in Ottawa rather than remotely from home from an outlying area, which helps stimulate City business and reduces unsustainable transportation methods.

#### 4. Cross Cutting Issues

Creating healthy and inclusive communities requires policy direction related to areas such as mobility, housing, urban design, parks and growth management.

##### **Solution: Healthy, inclusive communities through paddling**

- Paddling is both healthy and inclusive. There are no cultural or age barriers to paddling... it is a sport enjoyed from childhood to senior years.
- Offering paddlecraft rental at a local park supports City priorities to manage parks with a goal of creating healthy and inclusive communities.

#### 5. Intensification and Diversifying Housing Options

“Intensification is about guiding the evolution of neighbourhoods into complete 15-minute neighbourhoods, which includes ensuring that the services, parks, recreational facilities, public spaces, infrastructure and other elements of a complete neighbourhood, are keeping up with the increases in population.”

“What We Want To Achieve:

- Direct residential growth within the built-up urban area to support an evolution towards 15-minute neighbourhoods
- Improve public amenities and services”

“3) Improve public amenities and services

The supportive policies for growth management, housing, transportation, urban design and parks and greenspace throughout this Plan will provide some of the necessary elements to facilitate achieving a 60 per cent intensification target.

- ... Provide equitable access to greenspace that will provide shade and opportunities to promote mental and physical health and well-being;
- Ensure that the development and redevelopment of transit, road and active transportation infrastructure supports the City’s intensification targets;”

One Solution: Offer paddlecraft rental at a local park to support 15-minute neighbourhoods

- Improve public amenities and services
- Support equitable access to greenspace to promote mental and physical health and well-being
- Connect people along the Rideau River, supporting sustainable, healthy Active Transportation.
- Provide under ½ hour walk to on the water access to a population of over 28,000 in The Glebe, Old Ottawa East & Old Ottawa South alone. It is a 15 minute walk from Brantwood Park to the Glebe.
- Paddling is identified as good for physical and mental health by Ontario Parks (Appendix I) and is a sustainable, accessible mode of active transportation.

## 6. Economic Development

Policy Intent:

1) Enhance Ottawa's high quality of life to attract a skilled workforce and businesses

Ottawa's ability to compete in the knowledge economy relies on its ability to develop local businesses and talent, attract and retain highly skilled labour and new businesses,

**The work force is looking for liveable cities ... with access to greenspace and cultural life and social harmony**

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

1) Enhance Ottawa's high **quality of life** to attract a skilled workforce and businesses

4) Integrate economic activities with residential and other land uses

- Today's knowledge-based employers typically do not prefer segregated locations, but seek vibrant, mixed-use environments where their workforce can enjoy a range of services, activities, amenities and residential opportunities in the context of a 15-minute neighbourhood.
- Commercial and community uses within Neighbourhoods are generally service oriented and are limited in size or area. These uses tend to be schools, community centres, recreational facilities, libraries and smaller scale commercial uses including limited retail, restaurants and personal service businesses. These uses are part of achieving 15-minute neighbourhoods.

5) Create conditions for small-business growth

Small and start-up businesses in a range of sectors, from retail to small-scale manufacturing, creative and cultural industries, consulting and **people services**, where they do not create incompatibilities or nuisances, need to be nurtured and supported through regulations that provide **opportunities to use a variety of spaces** in a way that minimizes initial start-up costs and ongoing overhead. Through this Official Plan and the implementing Zoning By-law, the City will be simplifying the rules that apply to small businesses so that more are permitted as of right.

**Commercial services are an important element for 15-minute neighbourhoods that provide residents, workers and tourists with their daily and weekly needs.** These areas are ideal for small-businesses and **this Plan intends to promote their growth through land use permissions, increasing viable transportation options and enhancing and animating the public realm to improve overall user experiences.**

**One Solution: Offer paddlecraft rental at a local park to support 15-minute neighbourhoods**

- The rental services proposed by Ottawa SUP will connect over 28,000 people in The Glebe, Old Ottawa East & Old Ottawa South within under ½ hour walk to a **people service** that will support health, access to greenspace and water, provide connectivity, physical exercise,
- It will not create any incompatibility of nuisance, as has been demonstrated by previous services offered by Ottawa SUP.
- **Will use an existing public space** in a way that minimizes initial start-up costs and ongoing overhead and creates **no-cost to the City**.
- Is a win-win-win opportunity for the people of Ottawa, the City of Ottawa, and Ottawa SUP.

## 7. Energy and Climate Change

Ottawa will be much warmer year-round and could have four times (~43 days) as many very hot days (over 30o C) by the 2050s as during the 2010s.

1) Plan a compact and connected city

2) Apply sustainable and resilient site and building design as part of development

Site design also influences healthy communities and sustainable transportation choices.

- Protect health by reducing the urban heat island effect and improving access to shade and other **cooling amenities**;

- **Enable active transportation, transit use and outdoor recreation** in all weather conditions.

7) Protect, and enhance tree canopy and protect wetlands and other natural areas and use nature-based solutions

**Nature builds resilience to the impacts of climate change** through flood protection, **heat mitigation**, stormwater management, biodiversity and **improved mental, social and physical health**. Natural resilience to climate change can be enhanced by:

- Protecting, enhancing and managing trees, **shorelines**, wetlands and other natural areas **for the climate services they provide**;

**One Solution: Offer paddlecraft rental to support a compact & connected city**

And...

- Protect health by reducing the urban heat island effect and improving access to shade and other **cooling amenities**;
- **Enable active transportation, transit use and outdoor recreation** in summer
- **Build resilience to the impacts of climate change** through **heat mitigation**, and **improved mental, social and physical health and access to nature**.

## 8. Healthy and Inclusive Communities

“Liveable communities shall foster health, inclusivity and sustainability to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The City’s physical layout and design play an important role in shaping health and well-being by enabling Ottawa’s diverse population to thrive and live their lives to the fullest.” pg 27.

Ottawa, like the rest of Canada, is facing growing health challenges with accompanying rising health-related and societal costs that cannot be addressed by the health care sector alone. ...

The built and natural environment can influence all these conditions, with significant effects on quality of life and well-being. The Official Plan requires the development of healthy and resilient communities through establishing the built and natural environment conditions that are needed to sustain long-term health. The Official Plan is one tool to promote positive health outcomes, while other City strategies and initiatives can help advance population health in matters beyond land use.

...Where the conditions for, and components of, 15-minute neighbourhoods exist, the intent of this Plan is to maintain and strengthen them. Where conditions for, and

components of, 15-minute neighbourhoods are not all present, the intent of this Plan is to seed them and permit them so that they can materialize over time.

### **1) Encourage development of healthy, walkable, 15-minute neighbourhoods that feature a range of housing options, supporting services and amenities**

Components:

- Public service facilities such as parks and public spaces ... recreational facilities... . Publicly accessible places for people to connect that contribute to quality of life and well-being are especially important as neighbourhoods continue to intensify;
- Neighbourhood retail and commercial services in order to reduce travel time for daily needs and provide jobs and other economic opportunities for residents;

### **4) Advance human health through decision-making on the built environment**

Land-use practices should be conducive to good health. Policies, plans, guidelines and decision-making that flow from this Official Plan shall recognize the interdependencies between health and the built environment. They enable positive health outcomes and are sensitive to the trade-offs needed to achieve healthy and inclusive communities overall. This includes considering the health and equity implications associated with housing, transportation, parks and public spaces, urban design and the natural environment.

Policies are embedded throughout this Official Plan to advance healthy and inclusive communities' goals through development, the preparation of local plans, other City master plans and design guidelines.

Mental health can be promoted through exposure to trees, parks and greenspace and natural environments. Mental health is also supported through creating spaces that enable social connections, fostering community involvement, supporting access to community resources and encouraging a sense of belonging. Regular physical activity, with all the positive health co-benefits, can be encouraged through designing safe, all-season and convenient active transportation infrastructure for walking, cycling and transit, as well as trail systems in all communities. Health hazards can be mitigated through protective practices. Sustainable environments have wide-ranging positive health impacts. The basic conditions needed to sustain health, such as housing and access to daily amenities such as food, are fostered through a supportive surrounding built environment. Overall, community resiliency and a healthy population can be supported through all-season active transportation networks, access to local amenities and healthy and green urban design.

The City of Ottawa's New Official Plan provides us with a blueprint for building healthier and more inclusive neighbourhoods. This includes :

- a. A healthy built environment can:
  - i. Make the healthy choice the easy choice
  - ii. Encourage being physically active through active transportation and improve mobility options for those not driving
  - iii. Foster social interactions and connections
  - iv. Provide access to natural and green spaces and reduce urban heat islands
  - v. Support equitable opportunities for all people to thrive and be healthy
- b. Foster green and sustainable design
- c. Prioritize a shift to energy efficient transportation modes
- d. ... use nature-based solutions for resilience
- e. Ensure planning decisions promote health and well-being:
- f. All land-use and transportation planning decisions need to support health and well-being, leading to more resilient communities
- g. City master plans, zoning bylaws, local plans such as secondary plans and community design plans, guidelines, must integrate health and equity considerations
- h. Design parks that contribute to quality of life and respond to climate change
- i. Provide residents with equitable access to an inclusive urban greenspace network

### **One Solution: Support 15-Minute Neighbourhoods & Healthy Communities**

The rental services proposed by Ottawa SUP will

- Help providing for a full range and equitable distribution of publicly accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including water-based resources
- Provide the central Upper Urban transect of Ottawa with increased public access to shoreline by encouraging increased usage of an existing access at no cost to the city.
- Increase community connectivity via the Rideau River in the central Upper Urban Transect of Ottawa,, supporting sustainable, healthy Active Transportation.
- Increase community connectivity and foster social interaction by offering Guided Social Paddles, SUP Yoga classes, Group SUP lessons. Under ½ hour walk to a population of over 28,000 in The Glebe, Old Ottawa East & Old Ottawa South alone. 15 minute walk from Brantwood Park to the Glebe. *Appendix J*
- Promote a Healthy Active Community. Paddling is identified as good for physical and mental health by Ontario Parks (Appendix I)
- Provide a sustainable, accessible mode of active transportation.

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## Other City Priorities in Official Plan

### Protect water features with appropriate exemptions

The City of Ottawa's Official Plan calls for the protection of surface water features.

*Appendix A*

It also recognizes the value of recreational amenities in nature and **provides for rental of kayaks, etc.** as an exception to minimum setback policies on waterfront as follows:

- "i) **Water-based recreation** (including yacht clubs, marinas and beaches);
- ii) Active transportation (including **canoe/kayak rental facilities** and pathways);
- iii) Water-based transportation services (including ferry and water taxi services, boat launch facilities or tourist-related activities such as scenic cruises); and
- iv) Small-scale commercial services that contribute to or are ancillary to a use permitted in i), ii) or iii) above (including concession stands and restaurants); and

**Solution: Protect water while offering active transportation such as paddlecraft rental**

- Healthy watersheds provide numerous human, ecological and health benefits from safe drinking water for residents, to **recreational amenities in nature**.
- Ottawa SUP has a long history of leaving a low footprint. Historically, paddling was a primary source of water access and transportation, which left

### Equitable Access to inclusive high-quality greenspace

4.8.3 Provide residents with equitable access to an inclusive urban greenspace network

1) The City shall protect all of its various types of greenspaces as described in Section 7 for their ecosystem services and their contributions to healthy, active communities.



2) In general, and to support health, climate resiliency, accessibility and gender and social equity, the City shall seek to provide all urban residents with the following minimum access to high-quality greenspace:

- a) Within a 5-minute safe walking distance (400 metres), a public greenspace providing space for passive or active recreation;
- b) Within a 10-minute safe walking distance (800 metres), two green public spaces; and
- c) Within a 15-minute trip by transit, a publicly-owned natural area.

Official Plan Pg 118 Appendix F

**Solution: Support 15-Minute Neighbourhoods & Healthy Communities**

The rental services proposed by Ottawa SUP will

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Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) *Appendix B*

The PPP provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development in Ontario...The PPS 2020 applies to all municipal planning matter decisions made or after May 1, 2020.

*Subsection 1.5 of the PPS contains policies for public spaces, recreation, parks, trails and open space as described below:*

**1.5.1 Healthy, active communities should be promoted by:**

- a) *planning public streets, spaces and facilities to be safe, meet the needs of pedestrians, foster social interaction and facilitate active transportation and community connectivity;*
- b) ***planning and providing for a full range and equitable distribution of publicly accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including facilities, parklands, public spaces, open space areas, trails and linkages, and, where practical, water-based resources;***
- c) ***providing opportunities for public access to shorelines...***

**Solution:**

The rental services proposed by Ottawa SUP will

- Help providing for a full range and equitable distribution of publicly accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including water-based resources
- Provide the central Upper Urban transect of Ottawa with increased public access to shoreline by encouraging increased usage of an existing access at no cost to the city.
- Increase community connectivity via the Rideau River in the central Upper Urban Transect of Ottawa,, supporting sustainable, healthy Active Transportation.
- Increase community connectivity and foster social interaction by offering Guided Social Paddles, SUP Yoga classes, Group SUP lessons. Under ½ hour walk to a population of over 28,000 in The Glebe, Old Ottawa East & Old Ottawa South alone.
- Promote a Healthy Active Community. Paddling is identified as good for physical and mental health by Ontario Parks (Appendix I)
- Provide a sustainable, accessible mode of active transportation.

## 15 Minute neighbourhoods *Appendix C*

27 Sep 2021

“The 15-minute neighbourhood concept provides options for residents to meet their daily or weekly needs within walking distance by bringing destinations closer together. These neighbourhoods are designed to enable easy, safe, and enjoyable connections between destinations. The approach focuses on walking as a viable option for accessing regular needs, as it is the most universally accessible mode of transportation. In 15-minute neighbourhoods, residents ideally spend less time travelling to fulfill their regular needs, by creating locally focused neighbourhoods with more options closer to home. Residents have opportunities to save on transportation costs, enjoy their neighbourhood more, and improve their daily activity.

“Introduced in the ‘Five Big Moves’, the principles of 15-minute neighbourhoods are integral to the strategic directions contained in Ottawa’s Draft New Official Plan. The concept of 15-minute neighbourhoods supports a variety of objectives relating to intensification, economic development, energy and climate change, gender equity, and culture. Additionally, planning for 15-minute neighbourhoods represents a critical means of embedding health resiliency in planning in order to achieve healthier, more inclusive communities.

“15-minute neighbourhoods are compact, well-connected places with a clustering of a diverse mix of land-uses; this includes a range of housing types, shops, services, local

access to food, schools and day care facilities, employment, greenspaces, parks and pathways. They are complete communities that support active transportation and transit, reduce car dependency, and enable people to live car-light or car free, if they so choose.”

<https://engage.ottawa.ca/the-new-official-plan>

15-Minute Neighbourhoods can

1. Make the healthy choice the easy choice
2. Encourage being physically active through active transportation and improve mobility options for those not driving
3. Foster social interactions and connections
4. Provide access to natural and green spaces and reduce urban heat islands
5. Support equitable opportunities for all people to thrive and be healthy
6. Prioritize a shift to energy efficient transportation modes
7. Use nature-based solutions for resilience

The City’s Official Plan states that the City must

8. Ensure planning decisions promote health and well-being and
9. Land-use and transportation planning decisions need to support health and well-being, leading to more resilient communities and
10. City master plans, zoning bylaws, local plans such as secondary plans and community design plans, guidelines, integrate health and equity considerations.
11. Design parks that contribute to quality of life and respond to climate change
12. Provide residents with equitable access to an inclusive urban greenspace network

**Solution:**

The rental services proposed by Ottawa SUP will

- Help providing for a full range and equitable distribution of publicly accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including water-based resources
- Provide the central Upper Urban transect of Ottawa with increased public access to shoreline by encouraging increased usage of an existing access at no cost to the city.
- Increase community connectivity via the Rideau River in the central Upper Urban Transect of Ottawa,, supporting sustainable, healthy Active Transportation.

- Foster social interaction by offering Guided Social Paddles, SUP Yoga classes, Group SUP lessons. Under ½ hour walk to a population of over 28,000 in The Glebe, Old Ottawa East & Old Ottawa South alone. 15 minute walk from Brantwood Park to the Glebe. *Appendix J*
- Promote a Healthy Active Community. Paddling is identified as good for physical and mental health by Ontario Parks. *Appendix I*
- Provide a sustainable, accessible mode of active transportation.

# Community Needs Assessment

## Methodology

Over the many years Ottawa SUP and family have sought and collected feedback from customers, staff, and community. Details of some of our surveys, polls, etc. are attached as Appendix 1.

Feedback to date has revealed themes of what participants want and need from a community based paddlecraft rental and lesson service in the following categories.

## Summary of Results

### Preferred Location of Park/Waterway for Paddlecraft Rental

1. Rental kiosk close to water to minimise distance to carry paddlecraft.
2. Easy access into the water with a minimum of environmental impact. A dock is an added feature, though not essential.
3. Calm, safe waterway of appropriate depth - ie not too shallow such that SUP fins snag on obstacles or rocks risking falls and not too deep (which was a common concern of many participants.)
4. Close parking (parking lot and/or on street)
5. Close to home (walking distance, biking distance, short drive)
6. Dogs allowed in park, so that they can paddle with their owners
7. Scenic waterway
8. Variable distance available for different levels of paddling fitness, time restrictions, experience, etc.
9. Support by phone near water in emergencies.

10. Fixed location (as opposed to roaming rental, which due to City regulations requires pre-booking and paying, which is a deterrent because of weather, concerns about refunds, and requires accommodating different distances to use service.)

### Preferred Services (in order of preference)

1. Rental at the water of stand up paddleboards
2. Rental at the water of kayaks
3. Private, semi-private and group lessons
4. Guided social events
5. Takeaway rentals of stand up paddleboards and kayaks

### Experienced Staff - Safety and Instruction

1. Paddling instruction available before going on the water. (For inexperienced paddlers or those who wish to improve their knowledge.)
2. Guidance on safety equipment and paddling regulations
3. Guidance on the specific characteristics of a particular waterway including how to safely enter the waterway, current, prevailing winds and waves, sandbanks and obstacles, rapids, shallow areas, changes in levels such as waterfalls.
4. Assistance to match body weight, level of experience, and mobility to the type of watercraft to be rented. (For example, too small a volume may result in tipping).
5. Awareness of when the paddler has embarked and when they are expected to return in the event of an unexpected problem on the water, so that help can be provided.
6. Awareness of rapid changes in water conditions to contact the paddler to advise returning immediately.
7. Availability by phone to respond to a need for rescue or retrieval. (Ottawa SUP will also provide a floating waterproof phone pouch.)

### Equipment: Safety Regulations and Paddler Needs

1. Ongoing due diligence by experienced staff in providing safety and paddling conditions oversight, instruction in and knowledge of safety regulations and best practices.
2. Rules in place and shared online or by signage that meet or exceed regulations.
3. Selection of equipment that meets and exceeds safety standards and is appropriate for the size, age, experience and fitness of the participant. This requires a variety of equipment for different needs be made available.

4. Monitoring of equipment for condition and repairs
5. Selection of equipment appropriate for the size, age, experience and fitness of the participant. This requires a variety of equipment for different needs be made available.
6. Fibreglass paddles for safety, lighter weight, and better performance.

## Communication

1. Responsive communications - prompt answering of emails, messages, phone calls 7 days a week.
2. A strong social media presence, kept up to date and informative, on at least Facebook, Instagram and Google.
3. A good website that has up to date information and provides guidance on safety

## Availability

1. Weekend hours available plus at least four days a week (weather permitting)
2. Some evening hours available

# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Official Plan Pg. 119

#### 4.9 Water Resources

[https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents/files/section4\\_op\\_en.pdf](https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents/files/section4_op_en.pdf)

Water is an essential resource that shall be protected. Surface water features, groundwater features and their associated functions make up the water resources system. Healthy watersheds provide numerous human, ecological and health benefits including: safe drinking water for residents, fish and wildlife habitat, climate change resilience, flood and erosion mitigation, **recreational amenities in nature** and support for agriculture, industry and other resource uses.

The City of Ottawa's Official Plan provides for exceptions to minimum setback policies for the purpose of water oriented facilities.

#### 1. Section 4 - City Wide Policies, City of Ottawa Official Plan

##### 1. 4.9.3 Restrict or limit development and site alteration near surface water features

1) The minimum setback from surface water features shall be the development limits as established by a Council-approved watershed, subwatershed or environmental management plan.

6) No site alteration or development is permitted within the minimum setback, except as otherwise provided for in this section. **Exceptions** to this policy are:

e) Water-oriented facilities along the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers and the Rideau Canal that are compatible with the designations shown in B-series of schedules, are developed in an environmentally sensitive manner, preserve a waterfront shoreline aesthetic and are approved by the City, the conservation authority and Parks Canada, as applicable, **to support the following:**

i) **Water-based recreation** (including yacht clubs, marinas and beaches);

ii) Active transportation (including **canoe/kayak rental facilities** and pathways);

iii) Water-based transportation services (including ferry and water taxi services, boat launch facilities or tourist-related activities such as scenic cruises); and

iv) Small-scale commercial services that contribute to or are ancillary to a use permitted in i), ii) or iii) above (including concession stands and restaurants); and



## APPENDIX B

### 2.3 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)

<https://www.ontario.ca/files/2024-08/mmah-provincial-planning-statement-en-2024-08-19.pdf>

(Pg 14 - 16 City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan Final Draft: October 2021 <https://pub-ottawa.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?documentid=80278> )

The PPP provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development in Ontario...The PPS 2020 applies to all municipal planning matter decisions made or after May 1, 2020.

Section 3 of the Planning Act requires that decisions affecting planning matters “shall be consistent with” policy statements issued under the Act.

Accordingly, the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan is a supporting document to the City’s Official Plan which must be consistent with the PPS and other applicable policy statements.

Subsection 1.5 of the PPS contains policies for public spaces, recreation, parks, trails and open space as described below:

#### 1.5.1 **Healthy, active communities should be promoted by:**

- a) planning public streets, spaces and facilities to be safe, meet the needs of pedestrians, foster social interaction and facilitate active transportation and community connectivity;
- b) planning and providing for a full range and equitable distribution of publicly accessible built and natural settings for recreation**, including facilities, parklands, public spaces, open space areas, trails and linkages, **and, where practical, water-based resources;**
- c) **providing opportunities for public access to shorelines;** and
- d) recognizing provincial parks, conservation reserves, and other

## Appendix C

### Healthy and Inclusive Communities through the New Official Plan

[https://ehq-production-canada.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/8257067310e90383bdddad5fee43beba2cd0793/original/1649769344/a28a0377246d13e16e768b2a0d475516\\_Healthy\\_and\\_Inclusive\\_Cmtys\\_Infographic\\_01\\_2022\\_final\\_EN-AODA.pdf?X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIA4KKNQAKIOR7VAOP4%2F20240917%2Fca-central-1%2Fs3%2Faws4\\_request&X-Amz-Date=20240917T113133Z&X-Amz-Expires=300&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=d10bc4524c54a0de1562f1d1feed39d07b5d86827b6ae65537b0741a7aaf4f1](https://ehq-production-canada.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/8257067310e90383bdddad5fee43beba2cd0793/original/1649769344/a28a0377246d13e16e768b2a0d475516_Healthy_and_Inclusive_Cmtys_Infographic_01_2022_final_EN-AODA.pdf?X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIA4KKNQAKIOR7VAOP4%2F20240917%2Fca-central-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Date=20240917T113133Z&X-Amz-Expires=300&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=d10bc4524c54a0de1562f1d1feed39d07b5d86827b6ae65537b0741a7aaf4f1)

#### 15 Minute Healthy Communities Appendix C

The City of Ottawa's New Official Plan provides us with a blueprint for building healthier and more inclusive neighbourhoods. This includes :

13. A healthy built environment can:

- a. • Make the healthy choice the easy choice
- b. Encourage being physically active through active transportation and improve mobility options for those not driving
- c. Foster social interactions and connections
- d. Provide access to natural and green spaces and reduce urban heat islands
- e. Support equitable opportunities for all people to thrive and be healthy

14. Foster green and sustainable design

15. Prioritize a shift to energy efficient transportation modes

16. ... use nature-based solutions for resilience

17. Ensure planning decisions promote health and well-being:

18. All land-use and transportation planning decisions need to support health and well-being, leading to more resilient communities

19. City master plans, zoning bylaws, local plans such as secondary plans and community design plans, guidelines, must integrate health and equity considerations

20. Design parks that contribute to quality of life and respond to climate change

Provide residents with equitable access to an inclusive urban greenspace network

## Appendix D, E, F

Official Plan Pg.96 Appendix D

Urban design plays an important role in supporting the City's objectives such as building healthy 15-minute neighbourhoods, growing the urban tree canopy and developing resilience to climate change. **New development should be designed to make healthier, more environmentally sustainable living accessible for people of all ages, genders and social statuses.**

Pg 99 Appendix E

4.6.3 Ensure capital investments enhance the City's streets, sidewalks, and **other public spaces supporting a healthy lifestyle**

Pg 118 Appendix F

4.8.3 Provide residents with equitable access to an inclusive urban greenspace network

1) The City shall protect all of its various types of greenspaces as described in Section 7 for their ecosystem services and their contributions to healthy, active communities.

2) In general, and to support health, climate resiliency, accessibility and gender and social equity, the City shall seek to provide all urban residents with the following minimum access to high-quality greenspace:

- a) Within a 5-minute safe walking distance (400 metres), a public greenspace providing space for passive or active recreation;
- b) Within a 10-minute safe walking distance (800 metres), two green public spaces; and
- c) Within a 15-minute trip by transit, a publicly-owned natural area.

# Appendix G

Pg 140

City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan Final Draft: October 2021 Part of the City of Ottawa New Official Plan

## 18.5 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

Strategy Statements:

b. Additional seasonal docks for non-motorized watercraft and that are funded through partnerships or other programs can be considered.

## Appendix H

### Provision Levels beach, docks Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Pg 89

The citywide provision level of supervised beaches is 1:266,700 residents. No new supervised beaches are planned to be built between 2021 and 2031. As such, the citywide provision level **will drop to 1:306,300 residents.**

Pg 139

There are 15 municipal recreational boat launches and docks in Ottawa. This results in a citywide provision level of 1:71,100 residents. One new recreational boat dock in Riverain Park is currently planned within the next ten years. Given population growth, the citywide provision level will become **1:76,600 residents by 2031.**

## Appendix I

### Healthy Parks, Healthy People

*“Spending time in nature is good for you. We feel this every time we step outside to hike, camp, **paddle**, or just be in natural spaces. A wide body of research supports the physical and mental benefits of nature.”*

*Ontario Parks, <https://www.ontarioparks.ca/hphp>*

*“Research shows that spending time in nature is good for our physical and mental health, and **paddling** is just one of the ways to include more nature in our lives. This is why Ontario Parks has embraced the worldwide Healthy Parks, Healthy People movement which encourages everyone to spend more time in nature.”*

*Ontario Parks, <https://www.ontarioparks.ca/parksblog/8-ways-paddling-can-improve-your-health/>*

# Appendix J



# NOTES:

Committee of Adjustment for Minor Variance

PPS Definition

Surface water feature: means water-related features on the earth's surface, including headwaters, rivers, permanent and intermittent streams, inland lakes, seepage areas, recharge/discharge areas, springs, wetlands, and associated riparian lands that can be defined by their soil moisture, soil type, vegetation or topographic characteristics.

# DEFINITIONS

On Pg 121 of City of Ottawa Official Plan, paragraph d) The City includes canoe/kayak rental facilities as “Active Transportation”. Quote: Activities and uses along permanent waterbodies (rivers and lakes) that support **active transportation (including canoe/kayak rental facilities,** docks for non-motorized watercraft, pathways) and are approved by the City and the conservation authority.