

From: Clerks@vaughan.ca
To: Bellisario, Adelina
Subject: FW: [External] NMRP OFF-LEASH DOG PARK DEPUTATION
Date: May-31-21 8:30:32 AM
Attachments: [Off-Leash Dog Park - North Maple Regional Park.pdf](#)
[NMRP Dog Park Petition Signatures.pdf](#)
[Off-Leash Dog Park Poster.pdf](#)
[NMRP Dog Park Petition Comments.pdf](#)
[Map - Zoom Out.png](#)
[Map - Zoom In.png](#)

From: Gloria Beresford-Last [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2021 5:26 AM
To: Council@vaughan.ca; Clerks@vaughan.ca; Leung, Isabel <Isabel.Leung@vaughan.ca>
Cc: lafrate, Marilyn <Marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca>; Mackenzie Ridge Rate Payers Association <Mackenzieridgerpa@gmail.com>; Robert A Kenedy <rkenedy@yorku.ca>; Ciampa, Gina <Gina.Ciampa@vaughan.ca>; Amato, Christina <Christina.Amato@vaughan.ca>; Tavares, Martin <Martin.Tavares@vaughan.ca>; Habib, Michael <Michael.Habib@vaughan.ca>; Bronsema, Jamie <Jamie.Bronsema@vaughan.ca>; Kyte, Johanna <Johanna.Kyte@vaughan.ca>; Heidi Last [REDACTED] >
Subject: [External] NMRP OFF-LEASH DOG PARK DEPUTATION

Dear Mayor, Vaughan Councillors, and Clerks,

We would like to make a deputation to be included at the upcoming Committee of the Whole (Working Session) council meeting on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at 9:30am. This deputation will address *Item #5 (Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion), Section 3: **Local Off-Leash Dog Area Strategy***. In particular, we will be addressing the **PROMPT** development of an **Off-Leash Dog Park** at **North Maple Regional Park**.

Please see below for a synopsis of our deputation that we will be presenting at the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) council meeting:

AGENDA:

PROMPT development of an **Off-Leash Dog Park** at **North Maple Regional Park**

SUBMISSIONS:

1. Original **PDF letter** to Councillor Marilyn lafrate sent on May 5, 2021 titled, **Off-**

Leash Dog Park - North Maple Regional Park (letter attached)

2. Ongoing Change.org **Petition** with 280+ signatures (and counting) at link: <https://www.change.org/NMRPDogPark>
3. **List** of petition signatures (attached in PDF format)
4. **List** of petition comments (attached in PDF format)
5. **2 Maps** (one zoomed in, one zoomed out—both in .png format) indicating ALTERNATE locations on TRCA lands for Pilot Project Off-Leash Dog Parks (maps attached)
6. **Poster** posted on some community mailboxes (attached in PDF format)

KEY POINTS:

1. Since the onset of Covid-19, Humane Canada has reported a 30% to 70% increase in adoptions and fostering of dogs in Canada (this statistic does **NOT** include purchases).
2. The City of Vaughan currently only has **ONE** Off-Leash Dog Park, located at Concord Thornhill Regional Park.
3. NMRP is a central and up-and-coming location in Vaughan for outdoor recreation.
4. NMRP is easily accessible via walking trails and public transit.
5. In the City of Vaughan's May 2018 ATMP Review & Update, under 'Analysis & Recommendations,' it states that, "the City of Vaughan should provide primary Off-Leash Dog Parks in **all four** quadrants of the city." It specifies the Northeast quadrant as one of the **required** sites. NMRP **is** a primary location in the Northeast quadrant.
6. Delayed plans to develop other facilities/services in NMRP due to Covid-19 creates a GREAT opportunity to put a **permanent** Off-Leash Dog Park **immediately**.
7. Not In My Backyard (NIMBY): Other Ratepayer Associations in Vaughan, such as the South Maple Ratepayers Association (SMRA) are opposed to pilot project dog parks in their areas but are in FULL support of an Off-Leash Dog Park at NMRP.
8. NMRP already has the infrastructure for the following facilities and services:
 - a. Ample parking
 - b. Plumbing (Restrooms and Hydration for Dogs & People)
 - c. Electrical (Lighting and Cameras)

- d. Disposal Facilities & Collection
 - e. Plenty of Space
9. NMRP will have no negative impact in the surrounding neighbourhoods regarding the following:
- a. Local Traffic
 - b. Noise (i.e. traffic, people, dogs barking, etc.)
 - c. Obstruction of Views
 - d. Litter
 - e. Dog Excrement
10. An Off-Leash Dog Park is conducive to the physical, social, and mental wellbeing of both dogs and people.
11. An Off-Leash Dog Park easily allows for physical distancing protocols to be maintained.
12. **MANY** residents of Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association (MRRRA) are in full support of an Off-Leash Dog Park at North Maple Regional Park.

WE WANT AN OFF-LEASH DOG PARK AT NMRP NOW!

Should the development of an Off-Leash Dog Park at NMRP not be feasible for the IMMEDIATE future, many residents of the MRRRA are in support of a pilot project on TRCA lands as an ALTERNATE location to NMRP in the interim. Several of these potential pilot project locations have been indicated in the attached maps (as mentioned above). The most preferential location, however, is the one indicated as a star inside of a circle.

Whether an Off-Leash Dog Park is developed at NMRP or on TRCA lands (or both), we are willing to assist in the creation and development of a Stewardship Program under the Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association.

On behalf of the dogs and dog owners of Vaughan, we thank you for your attention regarding this very important matter.

—Gloria Beresford-Last & Heidi Last



■ Glacier Court

Maple, ON



Off-Leash Dog Park – North Maple Regional Park (NMRP)

Hello Councillor Iafrate,

April 26, 2021

We are reaching out to you today on behalf of many dog owners from the Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association and the surrounding communities.

Based on information shared at the City of Vaughan's meetings that our family attended back in 2019 focusing on the development of Off-Leash Dog Parks throughout the city of Vaughan, we are aware that plans to develop an Off-Leash Dog Park at North Maple Regional Park are in the works. That being said, it is to our understanding (based on a previous conversation with you) that such a Dog Park may not be constructed for another 8 to 10 years as other plans for development in the park are taking priority.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we can only assume that many of those plans have been set back due to ongoing social restrictions and the uncertainty that the future currently holds. With such plans being set back or even put on hold, we think that this serves as an opportune time to place more focus, time, and resources on the development of the Off-Leash Dog Park at NMRP.

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Humane Canada has reported a 30% to 70% increase in pet adoptions and fostering in Canada (this statistic does not account for the increase in pet purchases, only fostering and adoptions) (Pruden). Given this recent boom in pet ownership, it is fair to assume that there is/will also be a MAJOR increase in the need/demand for an Off-Leash Dog Park, especially one that is within close proximity to downtown Maple.

People need to get out with their pets, and while walks are, of course, a healthy and safe way of achieving exercise, proper socialization of pets is also of the utmost importance to their development (Tudor). Not only is proper socialization essential to both the physical and mental health of a pet, but it is also paramount to human physical activity and mental health as well (Tudor). An Off-Leash Dog Park is a great way for both pets and their owners to socialize in a healthy and safe manner while allowing people to maintain proper physical distancing protocols.

As such, we kindly urge the City of Vaughan to reconsider building the NMRP Off-Leash Dog Park AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Taking into account the above-mentioned points, NOW is the time that we need this Off-Leash Dog Park more than ever!

While the establishment of an Off-Leash Dog Park in NMRP would by far be preferential in terms of location (it is a very central point in Maple), if, for whatever reason, it is simply not possible to achieve within a reasonable timeframe, we have attached a map at the bottom

of this letter indicating other possible sites/locations (indicated in red) where an Off-Leash Dog Park can be built in the interim on Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) lands. Please keep in mind that it is very important that any potential site for an Off-Leash Dog Park be easy to find and easily accessible. This includes being within a short walking distance to a parking lot (NMRP) or on-street parking where visitors to the Off-Leash Dog Park can park.

In addition, perhaps acquiring sponsorships could help to expedite the development and construction of this very-much-needed Off-Leash Dog Park (preferably in NMRP).

Please note that along with this letter, we will be putting together a petition which will be signed by fellow pet owners who are in support of this letter. We will also be forwarding a copy of this letter and petition to our Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association president, Robert Kenedy.

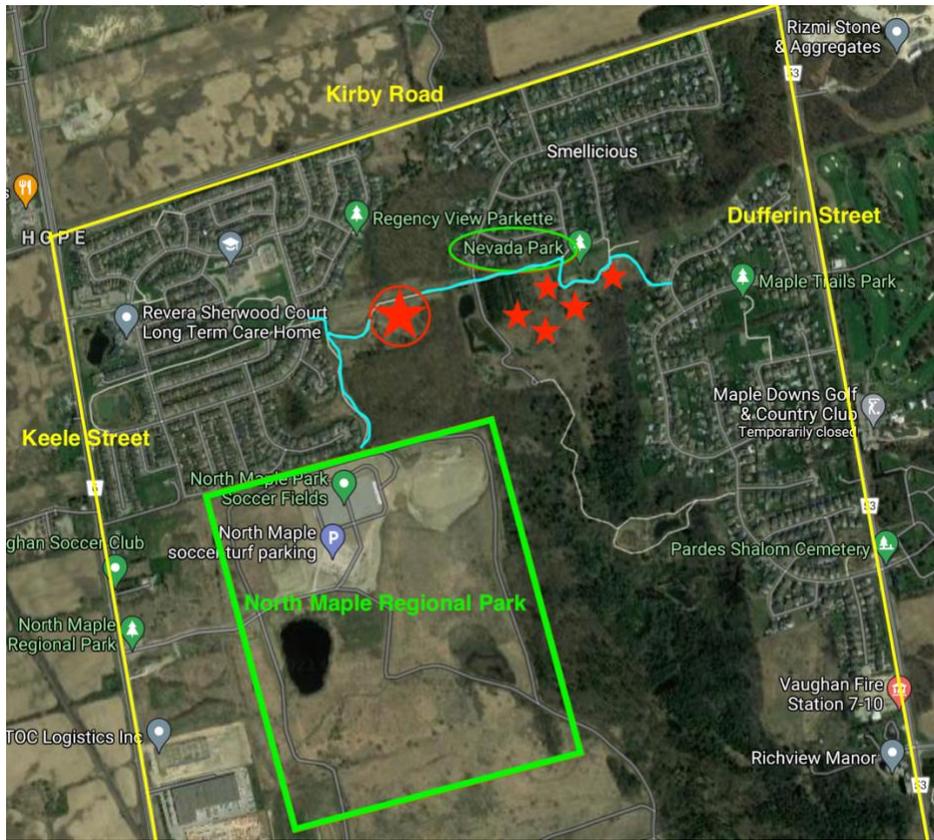
On behalf of our fellow residents of the Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association, the surrounding communities, AND our pets, we thank you for taking the time to read this, for your consideration, and for your immediate action.

Kindest Regards,

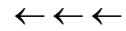
—The residents of the
Mackenzie Ridge
Ratepayers Association and
surrounding communities
AND our pets.



Alternative Sites/Locations for an Off-Leash Dog Park



Zoomed Out



Zoomed In



Sources

Evans, Pete. "Pandemic Isolation Sees Booming Demand for Pets — And for Business That Cater to Them." *CBC*, 27 December 2020, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/pandemic-pet-business-1.5850051>
Accessed 27 April 2021.

Pruden, Jana G. "Dogs in High Demand as Canadians Crave Companionship During COVID-19 Lockdown." *The Globe and Mail*, 17 May 2020, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-dogs-in-high-demand-as-canadians-crave-companionship-during-covid-1/>
Accessed 27 April 2021.

Tudor, Ken. "4 Reasons Why Socialization is Important for Your Dog's Health." *PetMD*, 13 August 2014, <https://www.petmd.com/blogs/thedailyvet/ken-tudor/2014/august/4-reasons-why-socialization-important-your-dogs-health-31938>
Accessed 27 April 2021.



NOTICE OF PETITION

A petition has been submitted with respect to the following matter and a copy is on file in the Office of the City Clerk:

Meeting & Date: Committee of the Whole (Working Session)
June 2, 2021

Agenda/Report No.: Item 3

Item: LOCAL OFF LEASH DOG AREA STRATEGY

Particulars of the Petition:

No. of Signatures: 284

Pages: 15

Comments page: 3 additional page (ncludes 10 comments)

Subject: Local Off-Leash Dog Park (NMRP)

For a copy of the petition contact:

**City of Vaughan, City Clerk's Office, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, L6A 1T1
Tel: (905) 832-8504 Fax: (905) 832-8535**

Would you like to see a local **Off-Leash Dog Park?**

The City of Vaughan is considering plans for a local Off-Leash Dog Park at
North Maple Regional Park (NMRP) in 8 to 10 years.

We need YOUR help to set these plans in motion and expedite the process!

We want this Dog Park NOW!

For more information and to pledge
your support, please scan the QR
Code below:

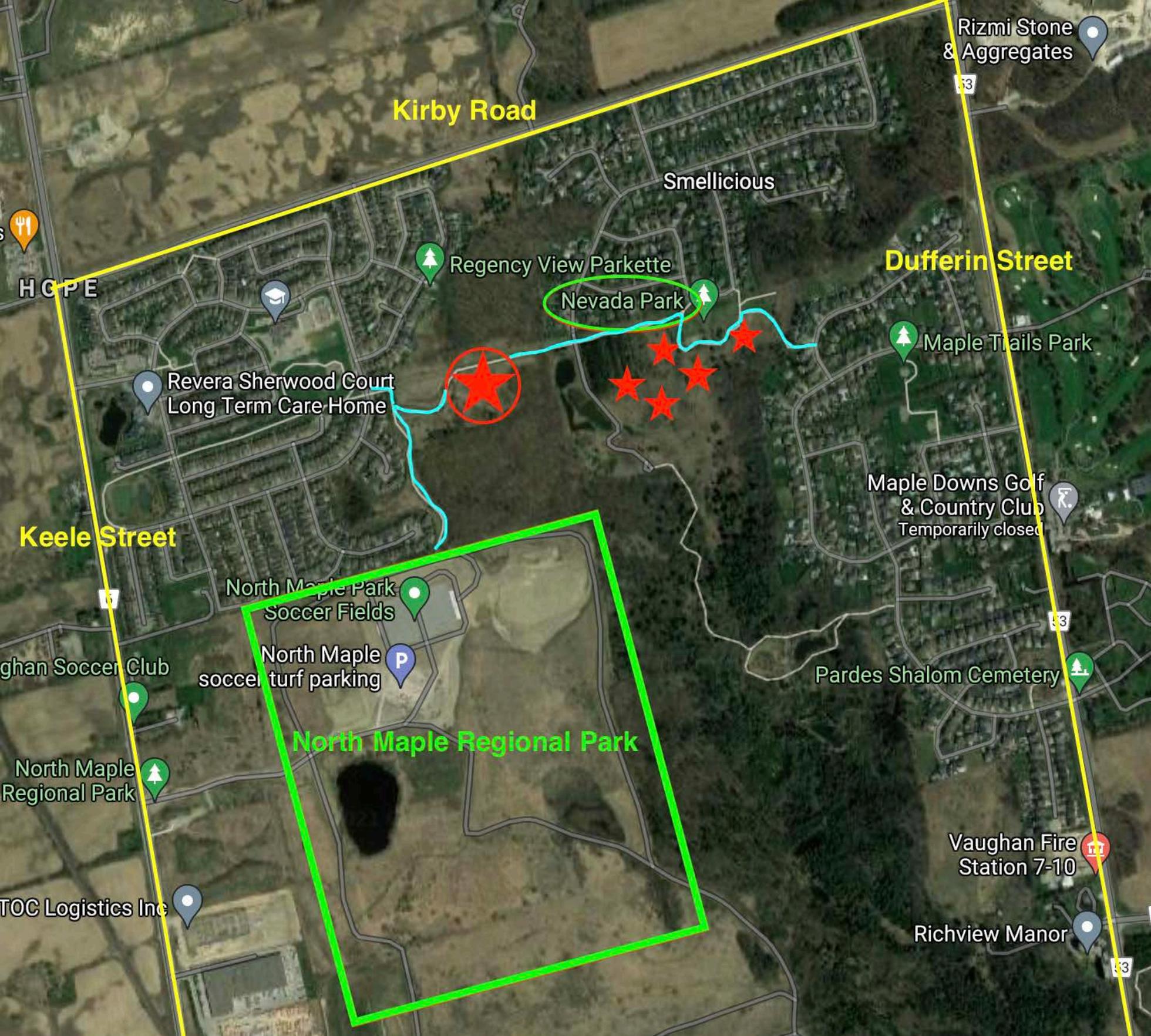


SCAN ME



Or visit the following link:

<https://www.change.org/NMRPDogPark>



Rizmi Stone & Aggregates

Kirby Road

Smellicious

Dufferin Street

HOPE

Regency View Parkette

Nevada Park

Maple Trails Park

Revera Sherwood Court Long Term Care Home

Maple Downs Golf & Country Club Temporarily closed

Keele Street

North Maple Park Soccer Fields

North Maple soccer turf parking

Pardes Shalom Cemetery

ghan Soccer Club

North Maple Regional Park

North Maple Regional Park

Vaughan Fire Station 7-10

TOC Logistics Inc

Richview Manor



Regency View Parkette

Nevada Park



- Easily Accessible (via paths) from all four surrounding neighbourhoods (Maplewood Ravines, Maple Highlands, Northdale, & Mackenzie Ridge) and North Maple Regional Park (NMRP).
- Parking, Recreational Facilities, Restrooms, and Water all available close by at NMRP.