



IGNACE AREA RECREATION STUDIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY STUDIES

InterGroup Consultants/ Scatliff + Miller + Murray/ WSP. September 2022



1. Study Objectives

Two studies¹ describe existing recreation services and infrastructure in the Ignace Area; determine how these are affected by the Project should it come to the area; and assess options for modifying recreation services and infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population.

Key Planning Assumptions: The projected population growth for Ignace is assumed to increase from just over 1,200 people now to around 1,760 residents in the preconstruction phase (2028-2032) of which 43% (530) residents can be attributed to the Project. In the operations phase (2043-2088), the population is assumed to be around 2,260 residents of which 80% (995) people can be attributed to the Project.

In the Local Study Area (excluding Ignace) the project population growth is assumed to from 15,170 about 15,245 residents in the preconstruction phase (2023-2032) of which about 0.5% (75) people can be attributed to the Project. In the operations phase (2043-2088) the population is assumed to be around 16,330 residents of which 5.4% (830) people might be attributed to the Project.

Ignace's Recreational Aspirations²

- Maintain the 'small-town' charm, identity, culture, and resilience of the Township of Ignace.
- Celebrate the heritage of the Ignace Area, while considering people's connections to the natural surroundings.
- Expand recreation programming in keeping with expected population growth in the Township of Ignace and other area communities.



2. Key Findings

Baseline

- Relying on volunteers, Ignace boasts a rich variety of organized sports, informal activities, and community events; travel is required for some sport activity.
- Ignace recreational facilities are underutilized and require upgrades and/ or maintenance. Other communities' facilities in the area are in similar condition.
- Recreational activities on the land and water are central to northern community life and spirit.

Forecast without the Project: Overall Ignace community needs are met; however, youth and elders have been identified as underserved. Infrastructure asset management and upgrades to outdoor activity infrastructure are opportunities for improvement. Underutilized space (e.g., churches and schools) is available for programs.

Forecast with the Project: Changing demographics (more families with children, increased diversity) may put demands on the types of programs being offered, as well as the use of outdoor spaces. Population growth can provide a larger pool of volunteers and additional revenue. An opportunity to enhance or increase the variety and richness of programs offered in the community and/ or to reopen closed facilities (e.g., curling rink).

¹ Scatliff + Miller + Murray Inc. (2022), *Ignace Area Community and Culture Study*, and WSP (2022), *Ignace Area Infrastructure: Community Recreation Facilities Study*.

² InterGroup Consultations Ltd. (2020), *Ignace Project Visioning Community Conversations*.



3. Next Steps

Recreational services and infrastructure

- To attract and retain a growing population, prepare a Recreation and Culture Master Plan and a Recreational Facility Plan to revitalize indoor and outdoor recreation programs and infrastructure.

Heritage and connections to nature

- Working with others, monitor the impact of the larger number of residents and visitors on the use of the natural environment for selected activities in the Local Study Area, potential conflict among users, and the demand for new or expanded nature/ environment-focused programming.
- Promote programs for environmental stewardship in the context of outdoor recreational activities, in collaboration with the provincial government and user groups.