



**Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools Pupil
Accommodation Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 4
March 30, 2010 - 4:30 pm**

The fourth meeting of the Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Sunnyside P.S., on March 30th, 2010.

Committee Members Present:

Jeff Lovell, Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Dayle Buller-Power, Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Julie Lobsinger, Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Jane McVeigh, Principal of Sheppard P.S., Rebecca Jutzi, Vice Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Darren Batt, Vice Principal of Franklin, Al Watt, Vice Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Katie Anderl, Municipal Rep – City of Kitchener. Stuart Gallacher, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Naz Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Christine Lassel, parent – Rockway P.S., Jennifer Childs, parent – Sheppard P.S., Diane Kewley, parent – Sheppard P.S., Richard Briston, parent – Franklin P.S., Robert Dean, parent – Wilson Avenue P.S., Edda Kerr, parent – Sunnyside P.S., Bonnie Heimbecker, parent – Wilson Avenue P.S., Charlene Rushmere, parent – Howard Robertson P.S., Mary Hingley, recording secretary, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, Lauren Manske, Planner and Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Regrets:

Heather Preddie, Principal of Rockway P.S., Maria Lotimer, Principal of Howard Robertson P.S., Andrea Michelutti, Vice Principal of Howard Robertson P.S., Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects, Facility Services, Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent, Jonathan Blake, parent – Rockway P.S., Kelly Kempel, parent – Sunnyside P.S.

1. Welcome/Introductions

Chris Smith, Manager of Planning opened the meeting at 4:35 p.m. and welcomed the ARC.

- Mr. Smith introduced and welcomed Katie Anderl, Planner for the City of Kitchener who will make a presentation to the group regarding plans for development in the review area.

2. ARC Meeting # 3 – Draft Minutes approval

- Mr. Smith asked the group if there were any corrections/concerns with the minutes from the March 4th ARC meeting.
 - No concerns or corrections were raised.
 - Minutes from the March 4th meeting were approved.
 - Mover: Diane Kewley
 - Seconded: Robert Dean

3. Draft Review Objectives

Mr. Smith asked the ARC if there were any comments/concerns/changes they might have with the draft review objectives that were updated at the last meeting.

- No comments, concerns or changes were proposed.

4. School Information Profiles

Mr. Hercanuck noted that the School Information Profiles are almost complete. Planning has received all of the administrator information and we are just waiting for a Facility Services piece to be done. A consultant has been retained by Facilities to do a facility condition report on all of the schools in the review. Once that information has been supplied and input, the profiles will be posted to the Board's Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC webpage.

Q – Will the consultants be coming to our schools?

R – Yes, and they will be completing a Condition Assessment Report.

Q – Will that include asbestos information?

R – Yes, as well as the overall condition of each of the facilities.

5. Municipal Planning Presentation (Katie Anderl)

Mr. Hercanuck welcomed Katie Anderl, Planner for the City of Kitchener who will present to the ARC the City's perspective on development and growth in the review area.

Ms. Anderl led the ARC through a presentation outlining proposed development in the Grand River South review area. The presentation can be viewed on the website by visiting:

www.wrdsb.ca and searching for "Grand River South/Sunnyside accommodation review".

- The area around Lackner Woods P.S. is a greenfield growth area, with development to come over the next several years (1,000 units including singles, townhomes and apartments).
- There is a small development area at River Road (Hidden Valley)
- Vanier area – some select infield development – where houses are being replaced by low rise apartments and semi detached units/townhomes.
- The Fairway Road extension is going forward and will be a major new 4 lane artery from west of Zeller Drive, with a bridge crossing the Grand River and reaching Fountain Street in Cambridge, with a large roundabout at Zeller and Fairway Roads.
- Some potential new development at Ottawa Street and Lackner Blvd.

Q – What is the timeframe for the Fairway Road extension?

R – Will be any time now, could be started within the year. The lands are in the process of being secured. The EA (Environmental Assessment) has been done and construction will go ahead. (The Region of Waterloo's website states that construction will start summer 2010 and will continue through to 2012).

Q – How far into the future can you project population growth?

R – Usually 10 – 20 years, it does depend on shifts in the market. We can tell you what we know as of today.

C – There does not seem to be much area left in Kitchener to develop.

R – The Southwest area of Kitchener does still have some greenfield area left to develop, then you have intensification (older areas in the inner city that can be revitalized).

- There is a large Environmentally Sensitive Policy Area (ESPA) around Lackner Woods P.S. with 3 pockets that could be developed (total approx. 500 – 600 apartments). There are no approvals or access yet, however, zoning is in place.

Q – Out of those projected numbers, how many would be school aged children?

R – Mr. Hercanuck noted that long-term elementary projections are based on .3 per unit (so a 100 unit housing development could represent 30 children). Apartment projections are .03 per unit. Most enrolment will come from the newly developed areas; there will be a surge in the numbers, then will level out over time.

C – The established area around Sheppard P.S. for example, is ready to flip, younger families are moving in.

R – Yes, there will always be some turnover, but it won't be the same as when that area first developed nor as much yield as a new development, the average still works out the same at .3 per unit.

- There is an area immediately around Lackner Woods P.S. that will see the addition of 400 units. The Waterloo Region Catholic Board is opening a new school in the area in September 2010 called Pope John Paul II.
- Lackner Blvd. and Fairway Road area is zoned as mixed node use, meaning commercial and residential uses.
- The Region is still proposing to extend River Road and connect it to Bleams Road. There are concerns about the road going through the Hidden Valley area, and how busy River Road will become as an arterial road.

Q – There are big numbers proposed for the area around Lackner Woods P.S., what will we do?

R – That is one of the reasons for this accommodation review, and bussing some of those students into Sheppard P.S. helps us with that now.

C – Mr. Hercanuck and the Planning Department has access to the Region's development plans, and can see where the needs are going to be.

C – It looks like we might need a new school in that area.

R – Yes, that is why we are here, to make decisions like that. The questions being asked are: do we need another facility or two? Would one of those be a JK-8? That is why we had the City come in and show us the development plans.

- Ms. Anderl noted that from a City perspective – promoting walkability (neighbourhood schools) would be a good thing for the ARC to look at.

Q – With the plans for redoing the Kitchener Auditorium, could it spill over into the park adjacent to Sheppard P.S. (Knollwood Park)?

R – Can't see that happening. This park serves the community. The Aud does not serve as a local community-level park.

Q – How many students are bussed out of the Lackner Woods P.S. area to Sheppard P.S.?

R – Currently, 30 students. Mr. Hercanuck added that with the change to the Transportation Distance Policy this September, that number could change.

Q – Why was a change made to add more students to busses?

R – The Ministry of Education performed an Efficiency and Effectiveness Study. If you improve the efficiency rating (by doing a better job transporting students) the more funding you get. The changes will also match our Board's transportation distances to the Catholic Board's current distance policy, providing eligibility equity.

C – Adding more students to the bus is the opposite of promoting walkability, which is something we are trying to encourage.

R – Mr. Smith stated that is true; however, you are not required to put your student on the bus. It really does come down to what distance parents feel comfortable with their students walking. The transportation consortium is owned by the 2 school boards, and we needed to match the transportation distances. We are hoping that this policy change will reduce car traffic and the resulting pollution caused by parents driving their children, when they feel the walk distances are too great. There are dangerous situations involving car traffic at the schools occurring every day.

Transportation Distances – 2009/10

WRDSB	JK- 3	1.6 km
	4, 5, 6	2.0 km
	7, 8	3.5 km
	9 – 12	4.8 km
WCDSB	JK-8	1.6 km
	9-12	3.2 km

Transportation Distances – 2010/11

WRDSB	JK – SK	0.8 km
	1 – 8	1.6 km
	9 – 12	3.2 km
WCDSB	JK – SK	0.8 km
	1 – 8	1.6 km
	9 – 12	3.2 km

Q – What school(s) does Rockway P.S. feed to?

R – The majority go to Courtland P.S., some go to Sunnyside P.S.

- Ms. Anderl brought up aerial photos of each of the schools in the review area.
- It was noted that there is some infill development singles being converted to semis/duplexes, etc, happening in Wilson Avenue P.S.'s boundary.
- The area around Howard Robertson P.S. would require upgrading of existing services for any development to happen.
- The area around Sunnyside P.S. (off Weber St) is zoned commercial.

6. Roundtable

Q – What is the timeframe for the development in the Lackner Woods P.S. area discussed tonight? We are looking for a long-term 10 year solution with this review process.

R – Ms. Anderl felt that the areas discussed tonight would be built out within the next 10 years.

Q – Can we see the specific projected unit numbers over the different planned development areas?

R – Those details are in the draft approved subdivision plans that Mr. Hercanuck creates his enrolment projections from.

o Mr. Hercanuck will bring some detailed subdivision numbers to the ARC.

Q – How long will it be until Lackner Woods P.S. is bursting at the seams? The playground area is being reduced with the portables; site lines for supervision are becoming an issue around the portables and washroom facilities must be strained.

R – We are perhaps 1 to 2 years away from that. This is a key issue however, and one that the ARC is here to address.

Q – If it's decided a new school is needed, are there any sites available?

R – Yes, Planning will bring a map with some possible sites. We did have a school site in the Lackner Woods area, but did abandon it because of safety concerns. The site was located under the immediate flight path of the Waterloo Regional Airport.

C – It was noted by a member of the ARC that currently sits on a committee discussing the airport that they are working on changing some protocols to make it safer and quieter for people living in the area.

Q – Looking at walkability and what is in the child's best interest, what about a JK-3 school model?

R – Neighbourhood schools/walkability is one of our review objectives. Regarding a JK-3 school model, we likely would not get the Board to go there, based on discussions of the Good Schools Standing Committee.

C – A school site at Fairway and Lackner Blvd. would not be a good idea; it would be extremely busy traffic wise.

R – We will look at all of those issues in a site selection.

A discussion ensued around the recent decision by the Board of Trustees to demolish and rebuild Grand View P.S. on its current site in Cambridge. The decision sparked the City of Cambridge's Heritage Committee to step in with a desire to designate the school a heritage site, thereby trying to halt the buildings demolition.

C – When we begin to create scenarios, we should position ourselves to be ready in case a similar situation happens here, for example with Sheppard and Sunnyside schools.

- Ms. Anderl advised that she would provide written comments from the Municipality on any scenarios developed by the ARC.

Q – Is the Deeridge subdivision part of Kitchener or Cambridge? And why is that area not a part of this accommodation review?

R – Deeridge is in the City of Kitchener, but has historically been accommodated in Preston, for two reasons: Preston schools had room for them and the close proximity.

Q – What is the role of the City in our review?

R – The ARC has municipal representation so that we don't miss any development activity in developing long-term solutions. They are also a voting member of the ARC.

C – We may be faced with a bigger issue here, implications on where schools will be in the future, and we only have 1 representative from the City. We have seen schools like Driftwood, Westheights, Meadowlane and John Darling being built to handle increasing enrolment in their neighbourhoods during the peak and now face a decline in their numbers.

R – The thrust of enrolment does come in the newly developed areas; however, we do try to keep a presence in the older, established areas. This is one of the pieces we will need to have regard for. Until the greenfield areas run out and new home buyer's perceptions change, intensification of the City's core will take time to happen. It would be difficult to get families to move into those areas, when they don't offer what the new subdivisions can.

C – We need to be aware as a City with our decisions, not just as a neighbourhood or school board.

C – There has been a sociological shift in that people are staying in their homes longer, and we may not see the turnover of school aged children in those neighbourhoods, that we anticipated in the past.

C – Maybe you close a school but don't get rid of it, find another use for it until you need it again.

Q – Is it feasible or a desire within the Board to use those facilities for administration purposes pending that neighbourhood turnover and use as a school facility again?

R – That is an option we can explore, but to reiterate the bulk of our enrolment comes from new development – that is the reality.

- Mr. Hercanuck advised that we will begin some scenario development at the next ARC meeting.

Q – Will this ARC overlap with the Breslau/Stanley Park ARC?

R – That could happen and we might have a need to combine an ARC meeting in the future to look at scenarios. The other ARC is one meeting ahead of this group and has already started some scenario development. As a result, we have adjusted some future meeting dates, so please note the changes and the tentative date for Public Meeting # 2.

Q – Will we have another joint Public Meeting with both ARC's?

R – No, each ARC will have their Draft Review Objectives and some scenarios to bring to the public for the public meeting.

- The public meeting dates are still tentative at this time, however.

Q – What is happening with the East K-W ARC?

R – We hope to bring a recommendation to the Board by April 23, 2010. The focus in that review was on finding a permanent solution for Lexington P.S., the lack of a 7/8 program in the north and addressing the growth in north Waterloo. There should not be much affect on this ARC with their decisions.

Q – Will tonight's presentation be posted on the website?

R – Yes, it will be posted on the website with tonight's minutes when they have been approved at the next meeting.

7. Future Meeting Dates:

- Mr. Hercanuck posted the future meeting dates for the ARC and noted the changes.
 - The ARC meeting scheduled for May 4, 2010 will take place at a JK-8 school, so that the ARC can view a purpose built JK-8 facility. Planning will check if Edna Staebler P.S. is available that night.
 - Public Meeting # 2 is tentatively scheduled for May 26, 2010 with the location to be determined.
 - Mr. Smith thanked all for coming and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.
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Future Meeting Dates:

Tuesday April 27 @ Sunnyside P.S. – 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Tuesday May 4 @ JK-8 facility (Edna Staebler possibly) – 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Tuesday May 18 @ Sunnyside P.S. – 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Public Meeting # 2 – Wednesday May 26 (tentative) location TBD

Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review

Planning Policy & Projected Growth Patterns
in the City of Kitchener

March 30, 2009

KITCHENER GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

January 2009 - August 2010

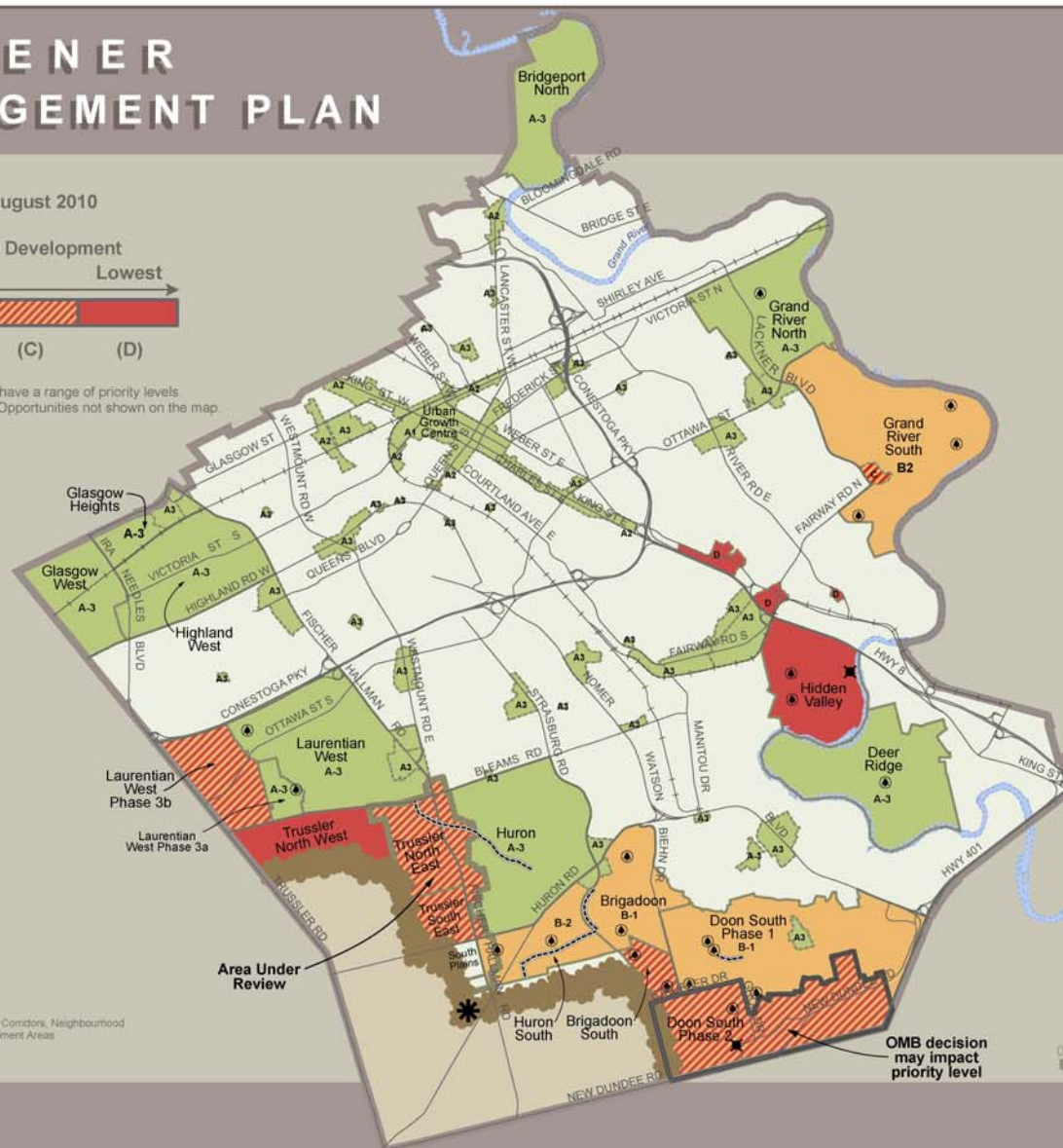


NOTE:
Initiatives in each Growth District may have a range of priority levels.
There are Site Specific Intensification Opportunities not shown on the map.

- Intensification Area Boundary**
- Planning Community/ Growth District Boundary
- Agricultural Area/ Countryside (Subject to ROP review)
- Area Under Review
- Countryside Line/ City Urban Boundary (Subject to ROP review)

- Required Infrastructure (conceptual location)
- Proposed Park Location
 - Pumping Station
 - Trunk Sanitary Sewer

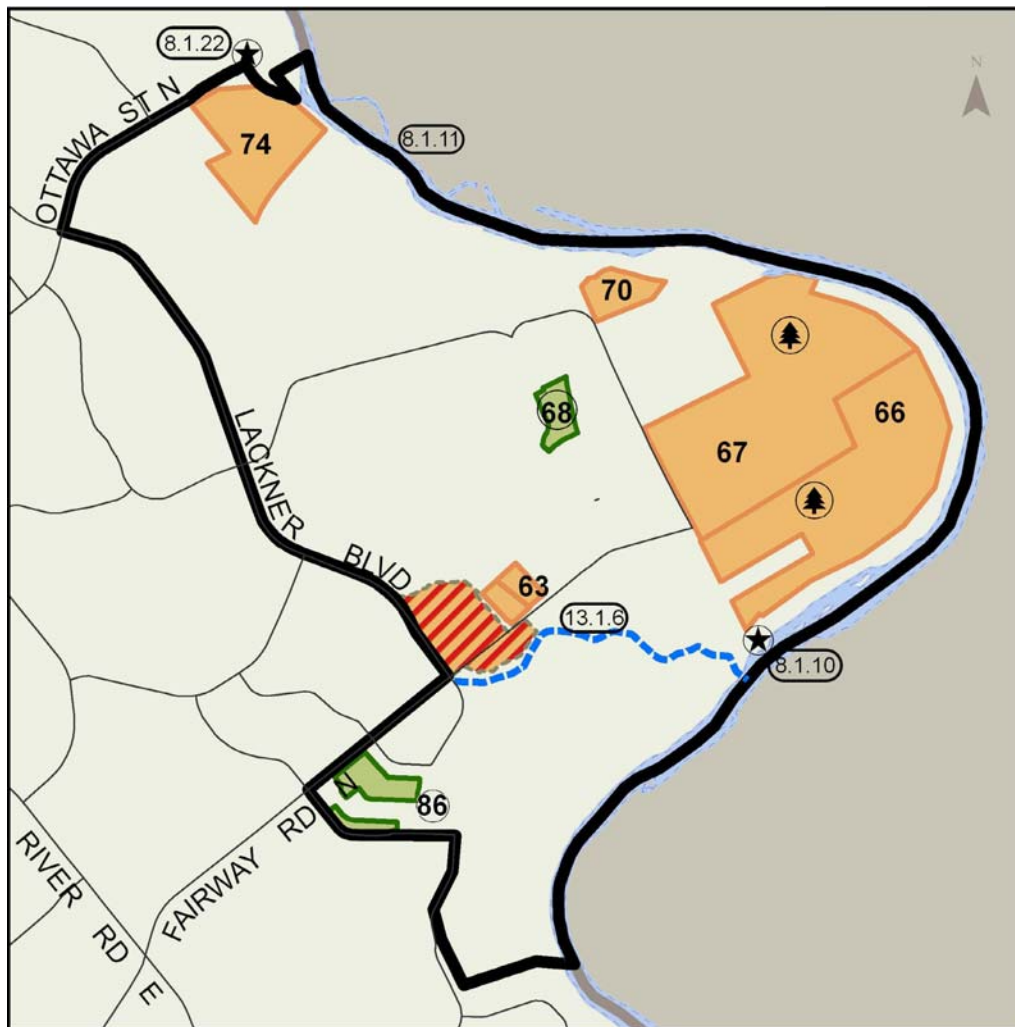
**Includes Primary Nodes, Mixed Use Nodes and Corridors, Neighbourhood Mixed Use Centres, and Comprehensive Development Areas

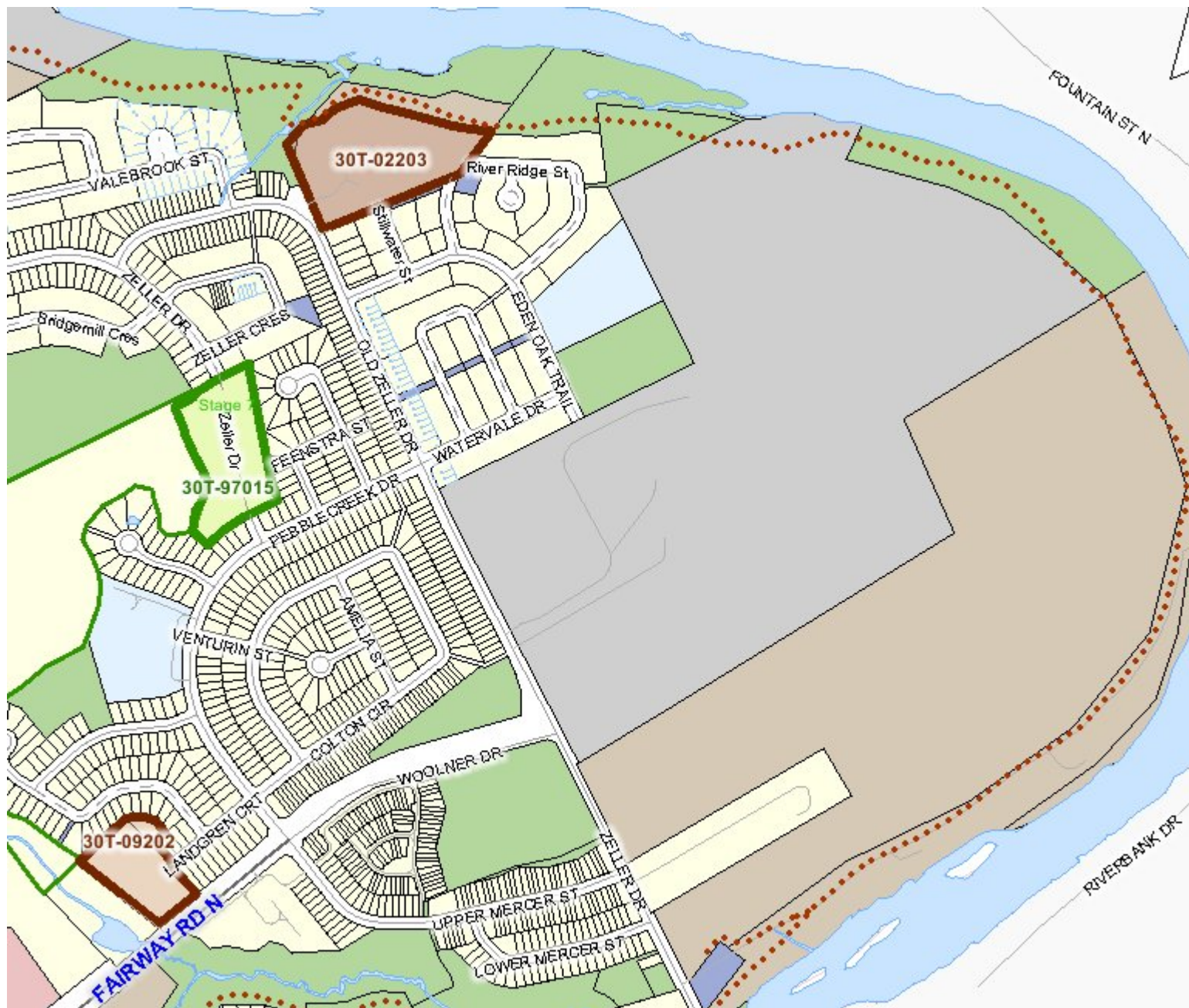


OMB decision
may impact
priority level

Other Ongoing Studies

- Transportation Master Plan
 - Overall transportation system
- Cycling Master Plan
 - On and off-street cycling plan, trails links etc
- Parks Master Plan
 - All facilities including natural areas, district sports fields, community centers, neighbourhood parks, parkettes etc.

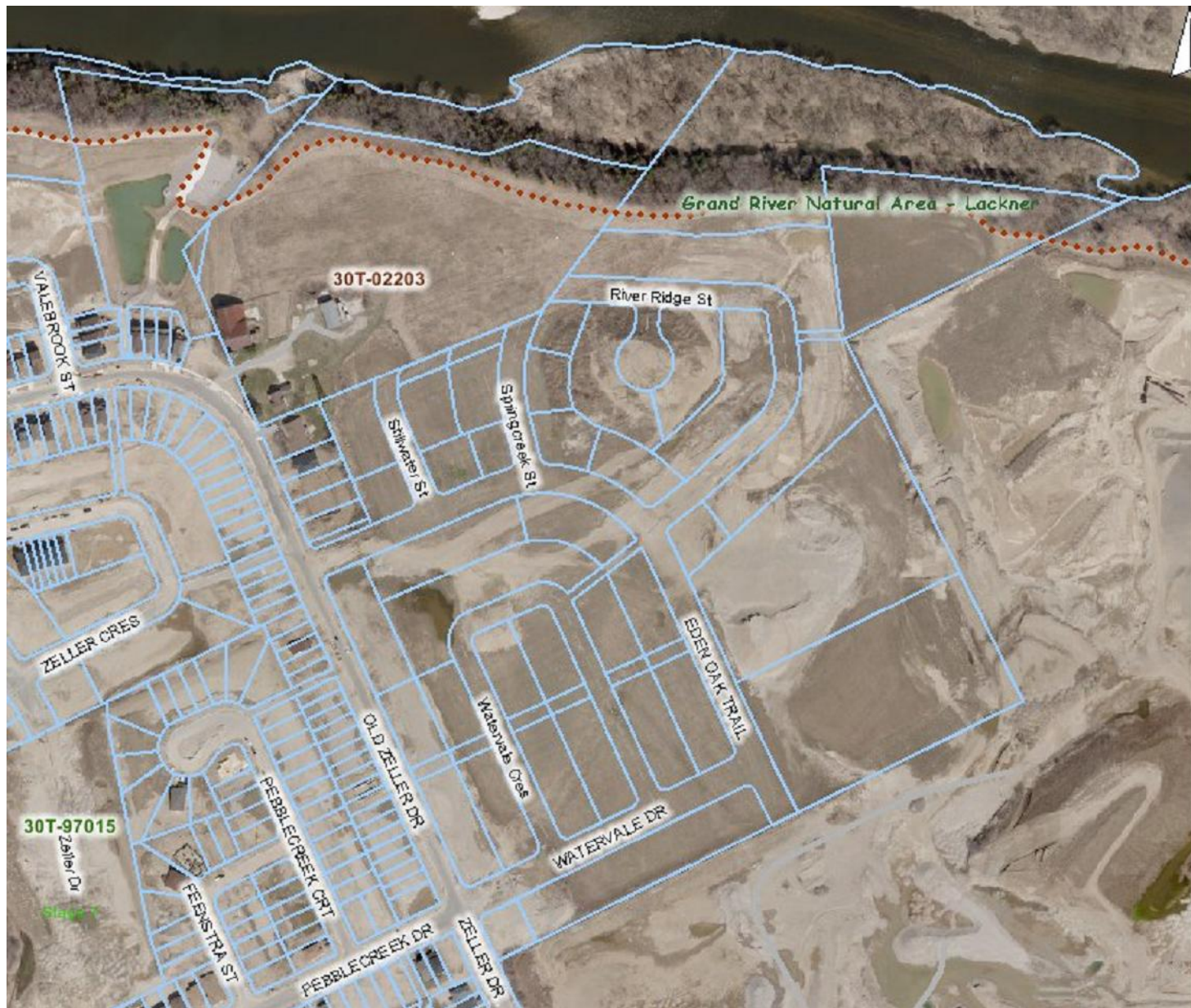




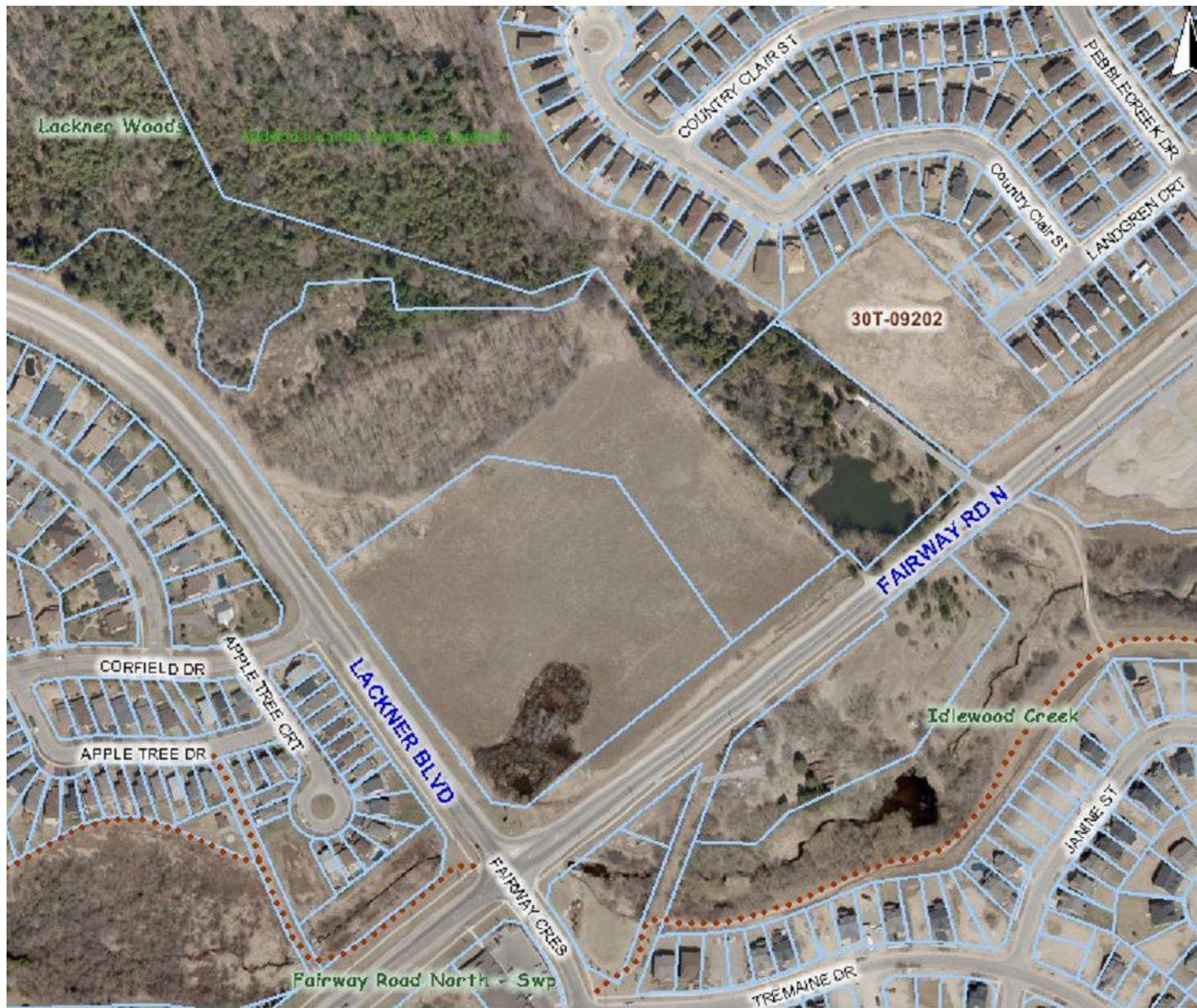


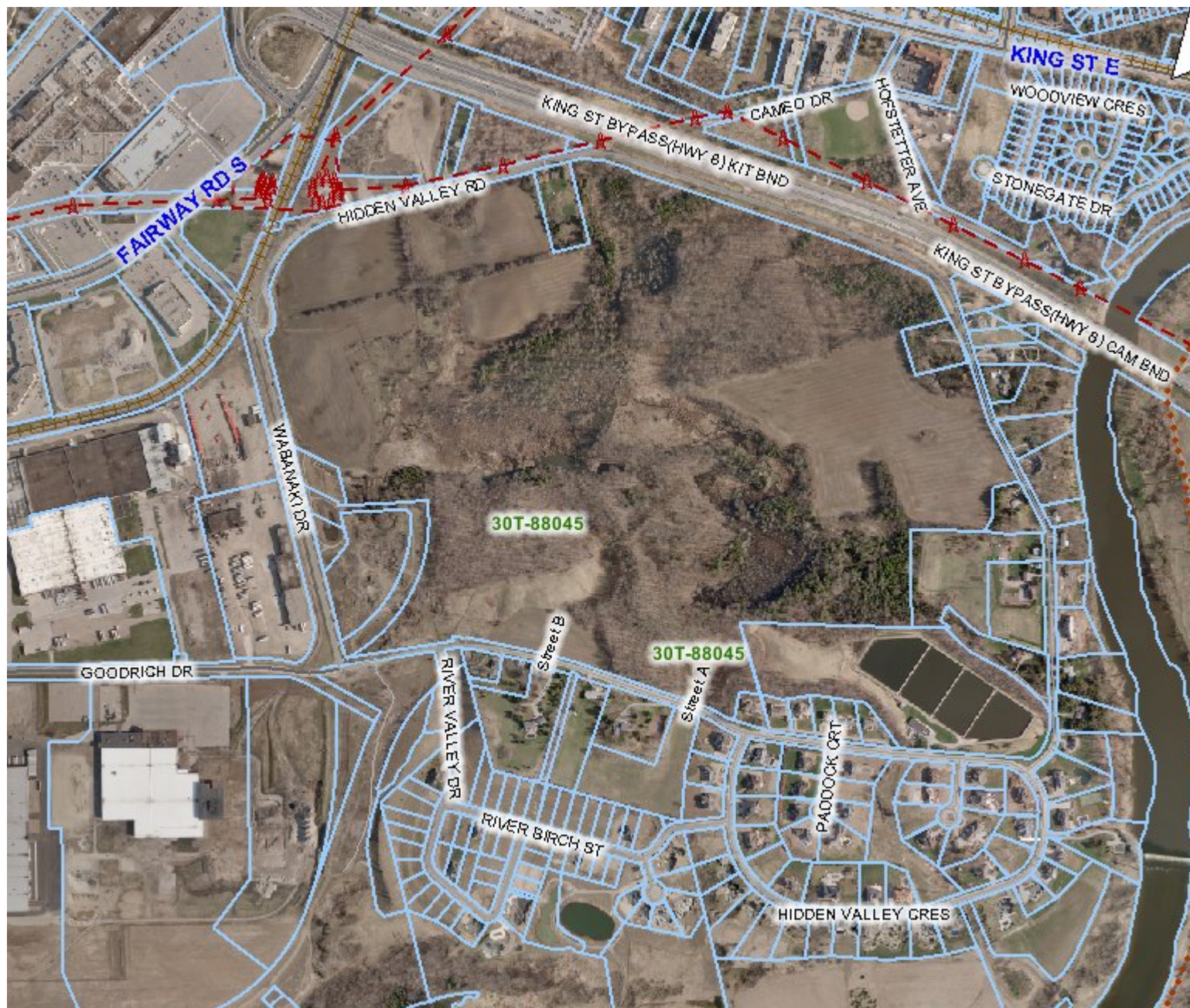












Schools in Neighbourhoods

- Focal point for community (hub)
- Provide greenspace and play space
- Often located next to a public park
- Promote walkability in neighbourhoods
 - Encourage options for children to walk to school whenever possible.

Franklin Public School



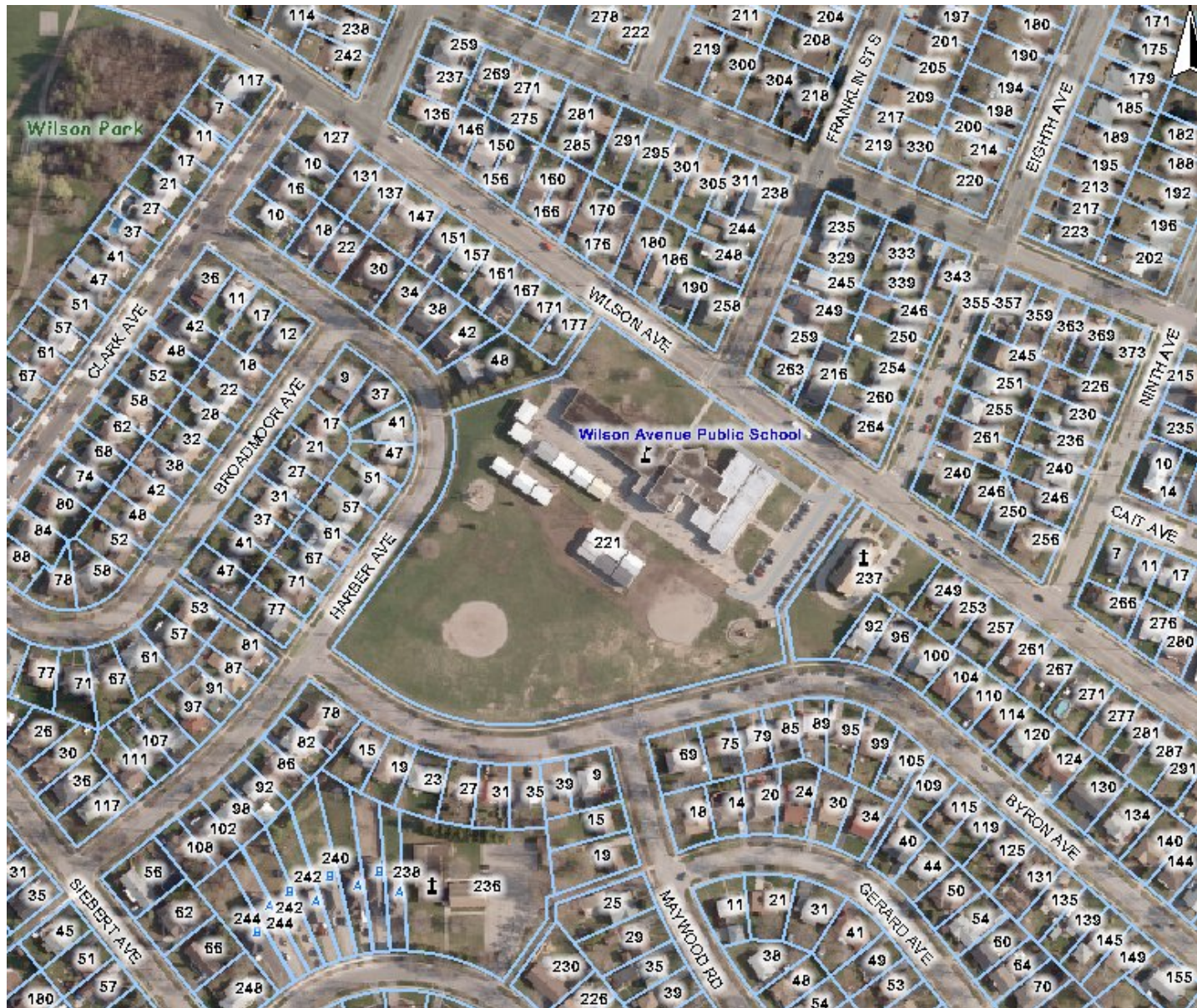
Sheppard Public School



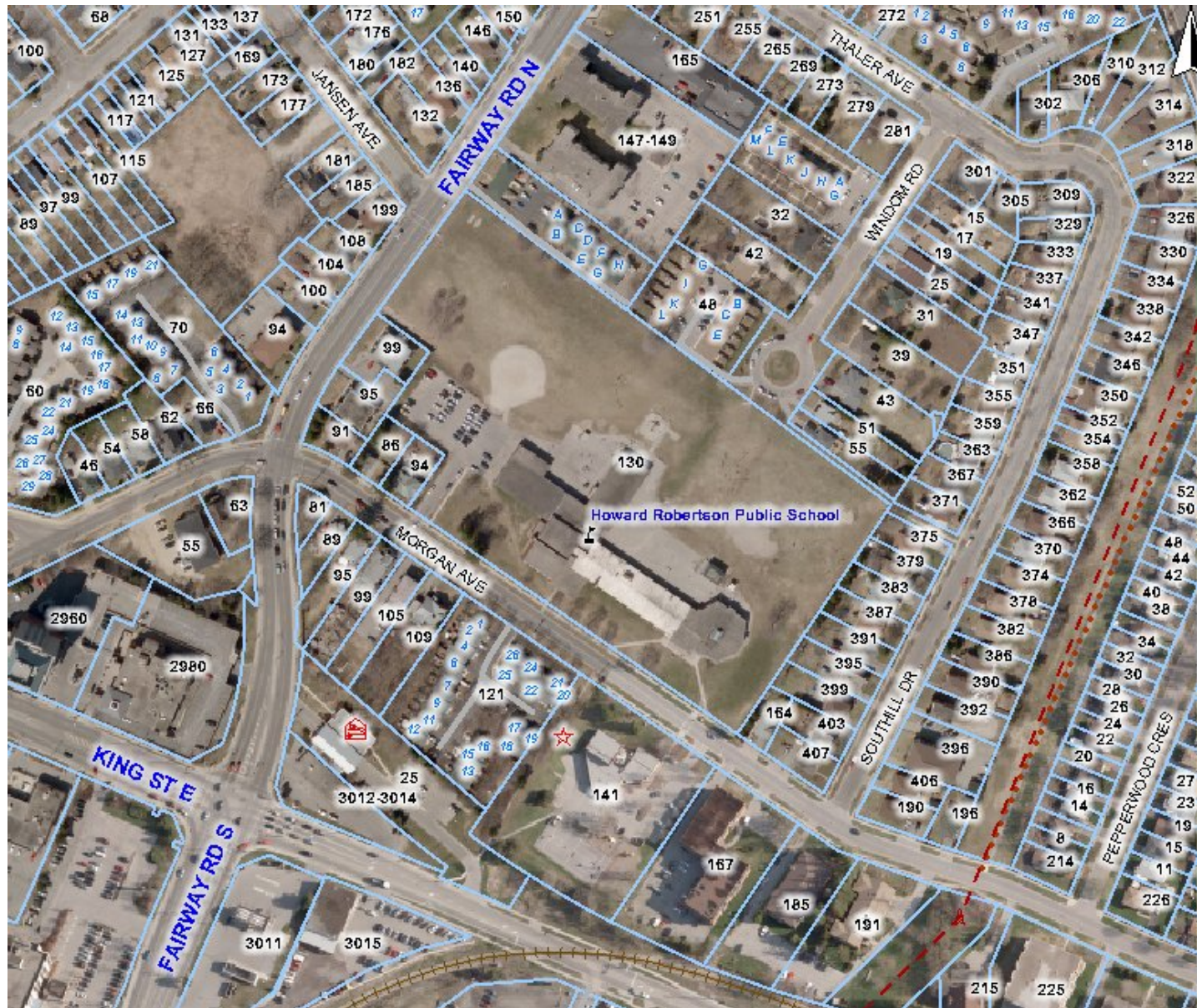
Rockway Public School



Wilson Avenue Public School



Howard Robertson Public School



Lackner Woods Public School



Sunnyside Public School

