MD of Lesser Slave River

RECREATION & OPEN SPACES MASTER PLAN

Lesser Slave River

rcs+

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge we situated on Treaty 8 Territory, the traditional lands of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples. We offer this acknowledgement as an act of reconciliation and in recognition of the Indigenous histories, knowledge, and cultures that continue to influence our regional community.

Executive Summary

The Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 (MDLSR) provides recreation opportunities for residents and visitors to the region. It provides these services through a combination of direct delivery of services and through investments in services provided by regional municipalities and not-for-profit partners. These opportunities are valued, and important services that contribute to providing a high quality of life for all residents. Recreation opportunities contribute to the attraction and retention of residents, business and visitors.

To guide the provision of these important services, the MDLSR developed this Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan. It provides a roadmap to guide the provision of recreation and parks opportunities, which:

- Set a long-term vision and goals to guide the provision (direct and indirect) of recreation and open spaces.
- Assess current facilities & spaces and programming to inform future investment decisions and set priorities.
- Review and enhance the MDLSR's delivery approach to recreation and open spaces services and opportunities.

The Master Plan includes three main components:

1) Strategic Foundations;
2) Service Delivery Strategic Directions; and
3) Infrastructure Strategic Directions.

Strategic Foundations

Vision Statement

MDLSR supports the building of vibrant communities that foster quality of life, wellness, and appeal to residents and visitors.

Goals

Goal 1: Inspire Health and Wellness

Goal 2: Foster Community Vibrancy

Goal 3: Build Recreation Capacity

Goal 4: Encourage Stewardship

Service Delivery Strategic Directions

Recommendation #1: Assist community organizations that provide or contribute to recreation services and open space management with capacity building supports and sustain funding programs.

Recommendation #2: Continue to build on supporting local use of outdoor recreation amenities and responsible tourism initiatives.

Recommendation #3: Enhance awareness and promotion of recreation opportunities and open spaces.

Recommendation #4: Continue to focus on regional responsibility sharing for the provision of recreation facilities and spaces.

Recommendation #5: Focus on supporting lifelong participation for all residents.

Infrastructure Strategic Directions

Infrastructure Development Process

There is a structured process in which infrastructure is developed. The process is sequential and starts with the identification of broader need and progresses through to the design & construction.

Phase 1: Identification of Need

- Identified in the Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan
- Opportunity brought forward by a Partner or community organization
- Existing facility or amenity is nearing the end of its life cycle

Phase 2: Needs Assessment & Prioritization

- Potential Inputs
  - Research and engagement
  - Supply in the market area
  - Demographics and population
  - Utilization and participation trends
  - User demands and trends

Phase 3: Feasibility & Business Case

- Key Considerations
  - Facility program options
  - Capital and operating costs
  - Impacts to existing facilities and spaces
  - Geographic location
  - Site options
  - Partnerships
  - Funding options

Phase 4: Decision Making

- Suggested process:
  - Decision on project viability
  - Finalize funding model
  - Finalize partnerships

Phase 5

- Design & construction

Infrastructure Strategies

Amenity Category	Strategy	10-year Service Level
Ball Diamonds and Sport Fields	• Invest in sustaining existing inventory and completing recommended enhancements as outlined in the Facility Assessment Report in Appendix C.	Sustain (Maximize use of existing spaces)
Boat Launches And Water Access	• Develop a Boat Launch Strategy that focuses on identifying priority sites for enhancement and development to respond to existing gaps and safety issues. • Enhance safe lake access for residents and visitors.	Increase Supply.
Campgrounds And Day Use Areas	• Invest in sustaining MDLSR supported campgrounds at a safe and functional level. • Work with regional and provincial partners in management of campgrounds and day use areas. • Monitor regional campground pricing and supply.	Sustain (Maximize use of existing spaces)
Community Park Spaces	• Consider a recommended Community Service Levels that communities >300 residents should have a multi-purpose paved court surface and community park spaces with a mix of play and gathering amenities. • Evaluate community driven requests for community park investment on a case by case basis. • Ensure future Area Structure Plans protect land for parks and open spaces.	Potentially Increased Supply (Pending further study on options and cost impacts / viability and population analysis)
Ice Arenas	• Adequately reinvest to sustain the Canyon Creek Community Arena for the medium term (at least the next 10 years). • Continue to explore how and support the MRC in Slave Lake can meet the needs of residents.	Sustain (Maximize use of existing spaces)

Amenity Category	Strategy	10-year Service Level
Indoor Activity And Gathering Spaces	• Invest in sustaining existing inventory and completing recommended enhancements as outlined in the Facility Assessment Report in Appendix C. • Continue to support hall and community space operating needs through existing grant programs. • Focus efforts on promoting the activities that take place in these facilities to maximize use. • Consider grant applications for facility improvements that focus on improved accessibility and climate mitigation modifications / energy efficiencies. • Monitor population rates, consider enhancement if population increase occurs.	Sustain (Maximize use of existing spaces)
Outdoor Skating Rinks	• Consider a recommended Community Service Levels that boarded outdoor rinks be provided in all communities with a population >300 and a boarded or non-boarded (snowbank) rink should be provided in communities with a population of 100 – 300. • Focus on including community gathering spaces and a warming hut at boarded outdoor rinks.	Potentially Increased Supply (Pending further study on options and cost impacts / viability and population analysis)
Skateboard And Bike Parks	• Consider a recommended Community Service Level that a skateboard and bike park be provided in all communities with a population >1000. • Consider how existing park spaces could be activated to accommodate activity if demand is identified.	Monitor
Trails	• Over the next 5 years, focus trails investment on enhancing and rehabilitating existing trails, amenity additions / improvements, and trail connectivity. • Target developing a comprehensive Trails Strategy in 5–8 years that can outline a long-term action plan for trail investment. • Work with the provincial government and regional municipalities to identify opportunities to create safe connections across major highways and roadways and leverage regional trail networks.	Potentially Increased Supply (Pending further study on options and cost impacts / viability)

Project Prioritization Framework

This framework assesses potential recreation and open spaces infrastructure projects through a transparent and objective process and determines project priorities.

		Scoring			
Criteria	**Description**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Public Availability	How available is the project for general / public to use?	There is a high likelihood that the project would be available for general use and / or spontaneous use.	There is a moderate likelihood that the project would be available for general use and / or spontaneous use.	There is a low likelihood that the project would be available for general use and / or spontaneous use.	There is a no likelihood that the project would be available for general use and / or spontaneous use.
Community and Economic Development	Does the project primarily serve or attract residents or visitors?	There is a high likelihood that the project will attract residents, business and visitors to the region.	There is a high likelihood that the project will attract residents, business and visitors to the region.	There is a high likelihood that the project will attract residents, business and visitors to the region.	There is a high likelihood that the project will attract residents, business and visitors to the region.
Partnerships	What is the potential of the project to attract partnerships in its development and / or operation?	The project has a high likelihood of partnership potential.	The project has a moderate likelihood partnership potential	The project has a low likelihood partnership potential	The project has no likelihood partnership potential
Public Support	What is the level of local support or demand for the project?	The project has a high likelihood of public support.	The project has a moderate likelihood of public support.	The project has a low likelihood of public support.	The project has a likelihood of no public support.
Service Level	Does the project enhance recreation opportunities and / or services?	The project has a high likelihood of enhancing recreation opportunities And / or series in the MD.	The project has a moderate likelihood of enhancing recreation opportunities And / or series in the MD.	The project has a low likelihood of enhancing recreation opportunities And / or series in the MD.	The project has no likelihood of enhancing recreation opportunities And / or series in the MD.
Equitable Distribution	Does the project support or contribute to recreation opportunities being distributed throughout the MD to provide equitable and inclusion opportunities for the population? (current and expected)	The project contributes to equitable services throughout the MD and inclusive opportunities for current and future populations.	The project contributes to equitable services throughout the MD and inclusive opportunities for current populations.	The project somewhat contributes to equitable services throughout the MD.	The project does not contribute to equitable services throughout the MD.
Asset Life Span	What is the expected life span of the project?	"The project will have a significant life span."	"The project will have a moderate life span."	"The project will have a limited life span."	The project will be a temporary asset/

Site Selection Framework

As infrastructure projects are identified, consideration of the site for these amenities and facilities is important. While there may be some obvious choices, the sites should be identified considering a consistent set of criteria.

Criteria	Description	Scoring		
		2 Points	1 Point	0 Point
Centralized location	The level to which the site is centralized within the geographic boundaries of an identified area of population.	The site is central within the identified area.	The site is somewhat central within the identified area.	The site is not central within the identified area.
Proximity to public outdoor spaces	The location of the site in proximity to public outdoor spaces, especially those that are complimentary to the project.	The site is within walking distance (<500m) to complimentary public outdoor spaces.	The site is nearby (500m-1000m) complimentary public outdoor spaces but not within walking distance.	The site is not nearby complimentary public outdoor spaces (>1000m)
Proximity to public indoor spaces	The location of the site in proximity to public indoor spaces, especially those that are complimentary to the project.	The site is within walking distance (<500m) or attached to complimentary public indoor spaces.	The site is nearby (500m-1000m) complimentary public indoor spaces but not within walking distance.	The site is not nearby complimentary public indoor spaces (>1000m)
Re-use or sharing of existing facilities	The relevance of the site in the reinvestment in or repurposing of existing recreation, parks, and culture facilities (as well as other public amenities).	The development on the site will help to strengthen existing recreation, parks, and culture facilities or spaces.	The development on the site will help to strengthen other existing public services.	The development on the site will not help to strengthen existing recreation, parks, and culture facilities or spaces or other public services.
Parking + traffic impacts	The degree to which the facility will integrate with and compliment availability of adjacent parking and traffic patterns.	There is complimentary parking adjacent to the site and the area can handle excess traffic generated by the facility.	There is complimentary parking adjacent to the site or the area can handle excess traffic generated by the facility.	There is no complimentary parking adjacent to the site and the area cannot handle excess traffic generated by the facility without investment.

Criteria	Description	Scoring		
		2 Points	1 Point	0 Point
Future expansion capability	The degree to which the site will accommodate future expansion and growth of recreation and parks facilities (as well as other public amenities).	The site is large enough to accommodate future indoor and outdoor recreation and parks amenities as well as other public services.	The site is large enough to accommodate future indoor and outdoor recreation and parks amenities.	The site will not accommodate any future indoor and outdoor recreation and parks amenities or other public services.
Proximity to complimentary services and businesses	The location of the site in proximity to complimentary local services and/ or commercial areas (seasonal kiosks, market spaces), especially those that are complimentary to the facility.	The site is within walking distance (<500m) to complimentary services and businesses.	The site is nearby (500m-1000m) complimentary services and businesses but not within walking distance.	The site is not nearby complimentary services and businesses (>1000m).
Site servicing + conditions	The readiness of the site in relation to site servicing and existing physical / environmental site conditions.	The site does not require significant investment in site servicing or preparation.	There are site servicing and preparation costs, but they are not prohibitive.	The site servicing and preparation costs are prohibitive.

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1.0

INTRODUCTION

The Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 (MDLSR) provides recreation opportunities for residents and visitors to the region. These opportunities are valued, and important services that contribute to providing a high quality of life for all residents. Recreation opportunities contribute to the attraction and retention of residents, business and visitors.

The MDLSR currently invests in recreation spaces, including indoor and outdoor, through a combination of direct delivery of services and through investments in services provided by regional municipalities and not-for-profit partners that provide resident with access to indoor recreation spaces, programs, events, and outdoor recreation experiences.

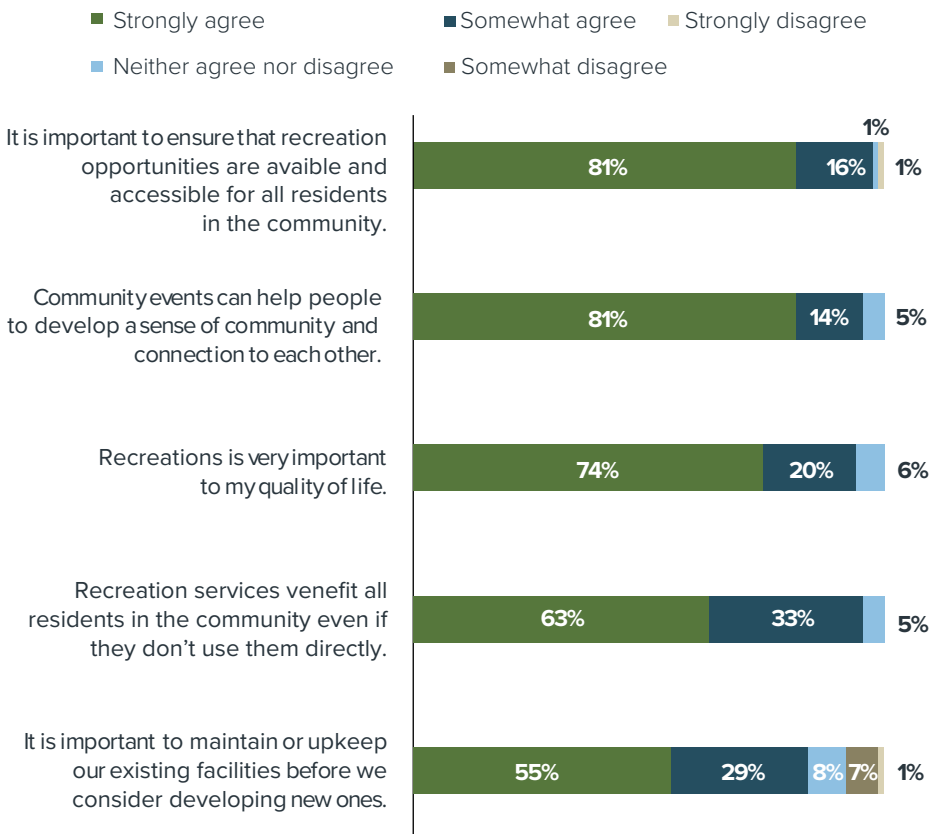
The purpose of the MDLSR Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan (the Master Plan) is to provide the MDLSR Council and Administration with a long-term strategy to be used as a guide in developing parks and recreation programs, events, services and partnerships, which strengthens and builds on the existing delivery structure.

The scope of this planning study is to provide an evaluation of current and projected recreation and parks trends and demographics, assessment of the MDLSR's recreation and parks assets, programs, services and policies, and recommend a strategic direction to support future decision-making and delivery structure.

MDLSR has developed the following Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan to provide a roadmap to guide the provision of recreation and parks opportunities, which:

- Set a long-term vision and goals to guide the provision (direct and indirect) of recreation and open spaces.
- Assess current facilities & spaces and programming to inform future investment decisions and set priorities.
- Review and enhance the MDLSR's delivery approach to recreation and open spaces services and opportunities.

Graph 1: Values and Considerations



1.1 Benefits of Parks & Recreation

Effective planning and service delivery of recreation opportunities will lead to a variety of benefits for a community and its' residents. For example, supporting the promotion of healthy lifestyles can support aging in place for our older adult residents and hosting community events can build a cohesive community that leads to a reduction in anti-social behaviours and actions by youth. Additionally, recreation facilities and spaces, when properly managed, can also bring about positive environmental and economic benefits to a community. Together the myriad of benefits residents derived from community recreation facilities, spaces and places, and the creation of social good justify the public investment in recreation. The following figure illustrates the benefits that recreation may bring to a community.

Figure 1: Individual Benefits of Recreation

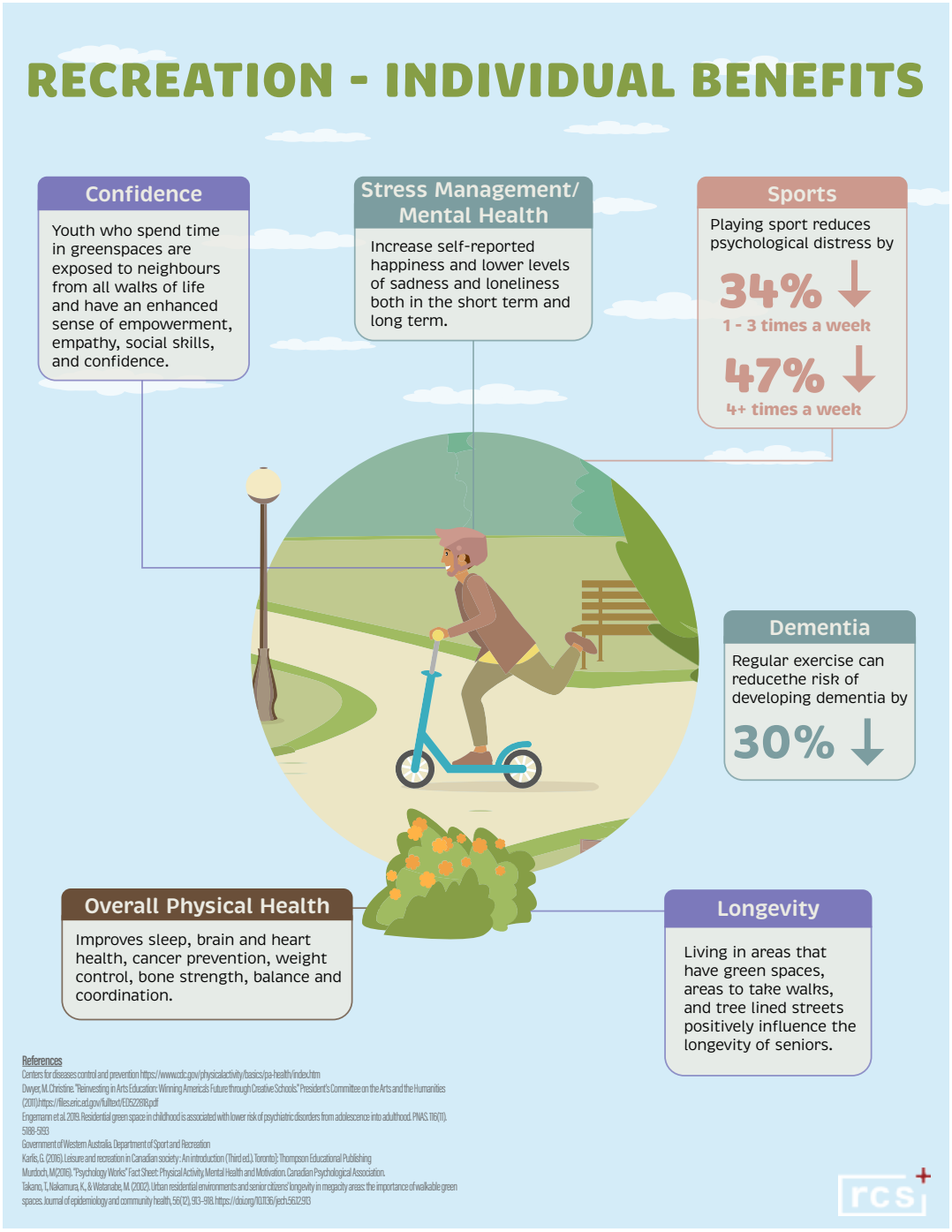
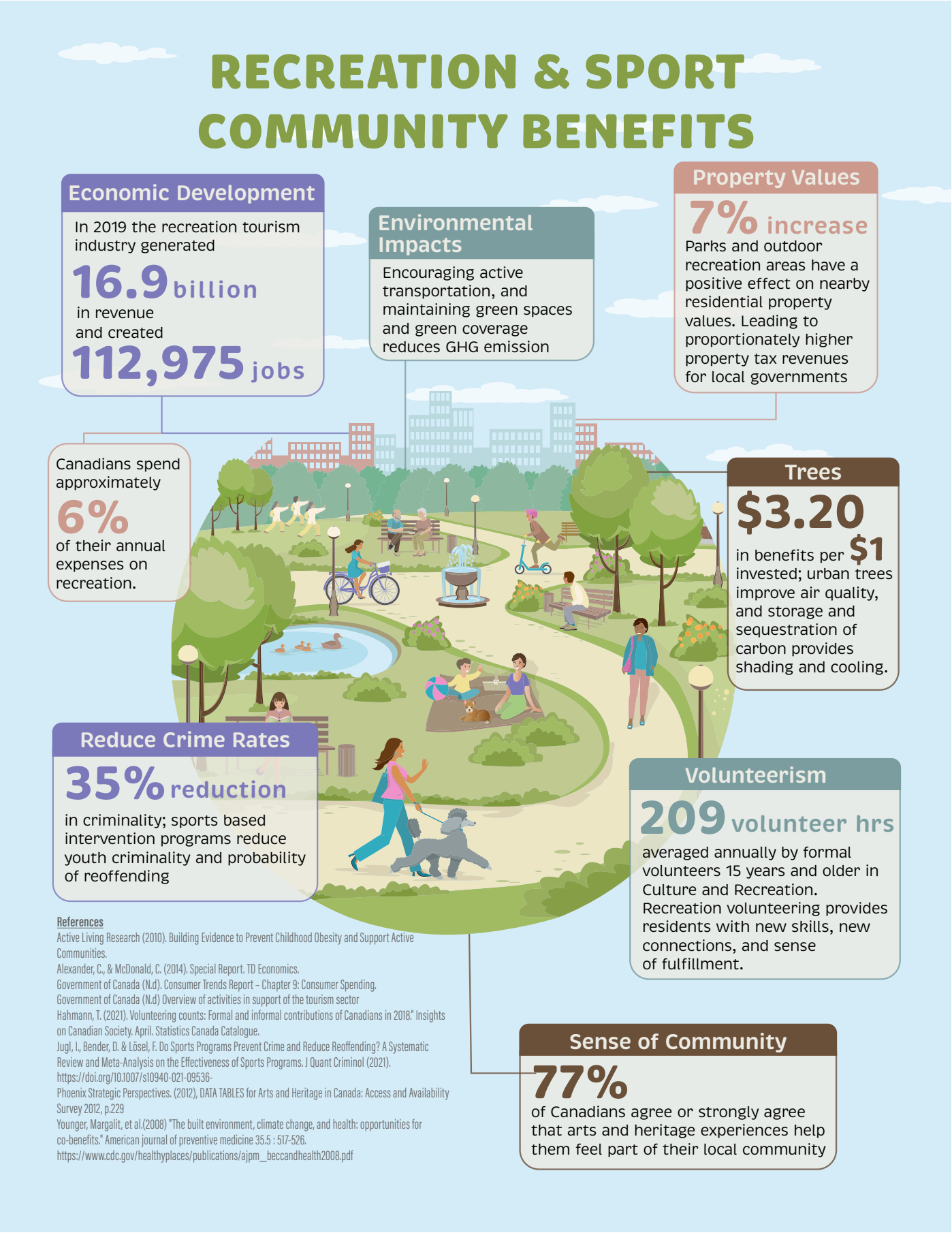


Figure 2: Community Benefits of Recreation



1.2 Planning Process

Figure 3: Planning Process

Figure 4: Planning Inputs

The Plan provides a foundation to guide the future delivery of recreation in the MDLSR, which is articulated in a vision statement and set of values that will guide service delivery. Anchored in these strategic foundations, the Plan is organized around four goals and supporting recommendations to enhance the current state of recreation spaces throughout the MDLSR

The Plan's recommendations relate to the following two planning areas:

- Service Delivery
- Infrastructure

1.3 About this Plan

2.0

[illegible]

The history of the MDLSR in Alberta is characterized by its development from a small settlement into a thriving community. The Municipal District takes its name from Lesser Slave River, which drains Lesser Slave Lake into the Athabasca River. The Municipal District was originally established in the late 18th century as a settlement named Sawridge at the mouth of the Lesser Slave River. At the turn of the century, Sawridge became a trading and transport centre, relying on the rivers and lakes of Northern Alberta to bring goods and people from Edmonton to the Peace Country. As the Sawridge townsite grew, the name changed to Slave Lake in 1923. The Town of Slave Lake, as it is known today, is just one of many settlements within the MMDLSR. The MDLSR was incorporated as a district in January 1995 and encompasses various rural settlements (refer to Table 1 for the full list).

2.1 Who Are We Planning For?

The MDLSR is located in north-central Alberta, Canada. The MDLSR covers an area of about 10,042 km2 and is located in Northern Alberta, about 260 kilometres north of the City of Edmonton. The Municipal District encompasses several communities as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Communities within the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River

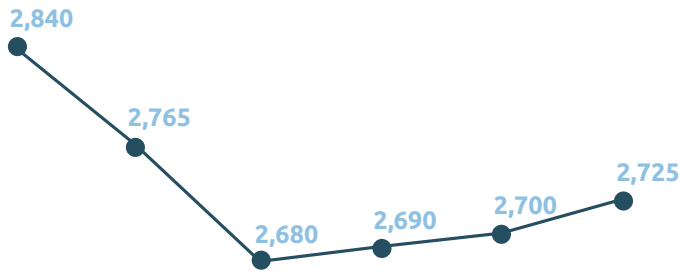
Towns	Hamlets	Other communities
Town of Slave Lake	• Canyon Creek • Chisholm • Flatbush • Marten Beach • Smith • Wagner • Widewater	• Assineau • Decrene • Hondo • Kilsyth • Mitsue • Moose Portage • Old Town • Overlea • Ranch • Saulteaux • Spurfield • Tieland • Port Cornwall

Demographics

Understanding the demographics and socioeconomic characteristics of the MDLSR is crucial for tailoring the Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan to the community's needs. This section will analyze population trends, age distribution, income levels, and cultural diversity.

The population of the MDLSR declined over time between 2017 and 2021. However, the population has experienced slight growth since then (refer to Graph 1). According to ESRI[1], the population of the MDLSR is predicted to continue to increase over time. Through reviewing growth, the MDLSR can better prepare for infrastructure, capacity, and expected use to ensure facilities, parks and trails can accommodate the changing population.

Graph 2 Population Growth in the MD of Lesser Slave River



Data in this graph is based on population projections by the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI).

[1] ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute) is a global company that specializes in geographic information systems (GIS) software. ESRI partners with numerous organizations and government agencies to access and integrate their geospatial data, as well as publicly available and user-contributed data. This information is developed to provide an accurate and detailed representation of the local population, economic, and housing characteristics.

The table below demonstrates the age breakdown for the MDLSR. The population of MDLSR is older, with predominant age groups being 55-64 years, 45-54 years and 65-74 years. Understanding the age composition of the population helps to provide guidance on potential age-friendly programming. The percentages are based on ESRI 2022 DEP Market profile.

2,688
Population

46.6
Median Age

1,007
Households

CA$99,329
Median Household Income

2.7
Avg Number of Persons

85.5%
Households Owned

Table 2 Population by Age

Age Groups	Percentage of Total Population
0-4	5.5%
5-9	5.4%
10-14	6.5%
15-19	6.5%
20-24	5.1%
25-34	8.8%
35-44	10.3%
45-54	13.5%
55-64	18.0%
65-74	13.0%
75-84	6.0%
85+	1.2%

The figure below outlines local demographic characteristics of the MDLSR.

Table 3 Demographic Indicators (percentages are based on ESRI 2022 DEP Market profile)

Population	2,688
Number of households	1,007
Average Household composition	2.7
Median Age	46.4
Median income	$99,329
Unemployment Rate	10.0%
Aboriginal Identity	16.9%
Visible Minority	1.1%

The MDLSR has a population of 2,688 and 1,007 households. Households contain an average of 2.7 occupants. The Municipal District is predominately made up of married couples (14,132 residents) and there is an average of 0.7 children per household. The majority of residents (85.5%) own the homes they reside in and 14.5% of residents rent the homes they live in.

Economy

The local economy of the MDLSR is diverse, with key industries including oil and gas, mining, agriculture, construction, public administration, and manufacturing. The oil, gas and agricultural industries thrive on the abundant resources of the area and play a significant role in the local economy.

The MDLSR has a daytime population of 1,949 which is slightly less than the residential population of 2,688. The Municipal District has a strong workforce, with a 66.5% labour force participation rate. In 2022, the employment rate in the MDLSR was 90%. The median household income is $99,329.

Key Employment Industries

- Trades, Transport/Equipment Operators – 30%
- Business, Finance and Administration – 19%
- Management Occupations – 13%
- Sales and Service – 11%

Understanding the workforce in the MDLSR is important in understanding residents' recreation habits and preferences. Hours worked, seasonality of work etc. will impact the time available for residents to recreate and will also influence where and how they choose to recreate.

Education

There are two main school divisions within the MDLSR, The High Prairie and Aspen View regional school divisions. The school divisions are responsible for providing educational services to the public-school students living in the urban and rural areas across the Municipal District. Smith School within the Aspen View regional school division is situated within the MDLSR. Smith School offers Kindergarten to Grade 9 programming, as well as high school courses through Aspen View Public Schools' Centre for Alternative & Virtual Education. The Living Waters Catholic Regional Division # 42 provides services to those in the MDLSR seeking a Catholic educational environment. The division offers five schools, one within the Municipality's boundaries. The impact of education levels on participation in recreation can vary depending on several factors, including socioeconomic status, cultural background, geographic location, and personal preferences. However, research suggests that higher education levels generally correlate positively with participation in recreational activities.

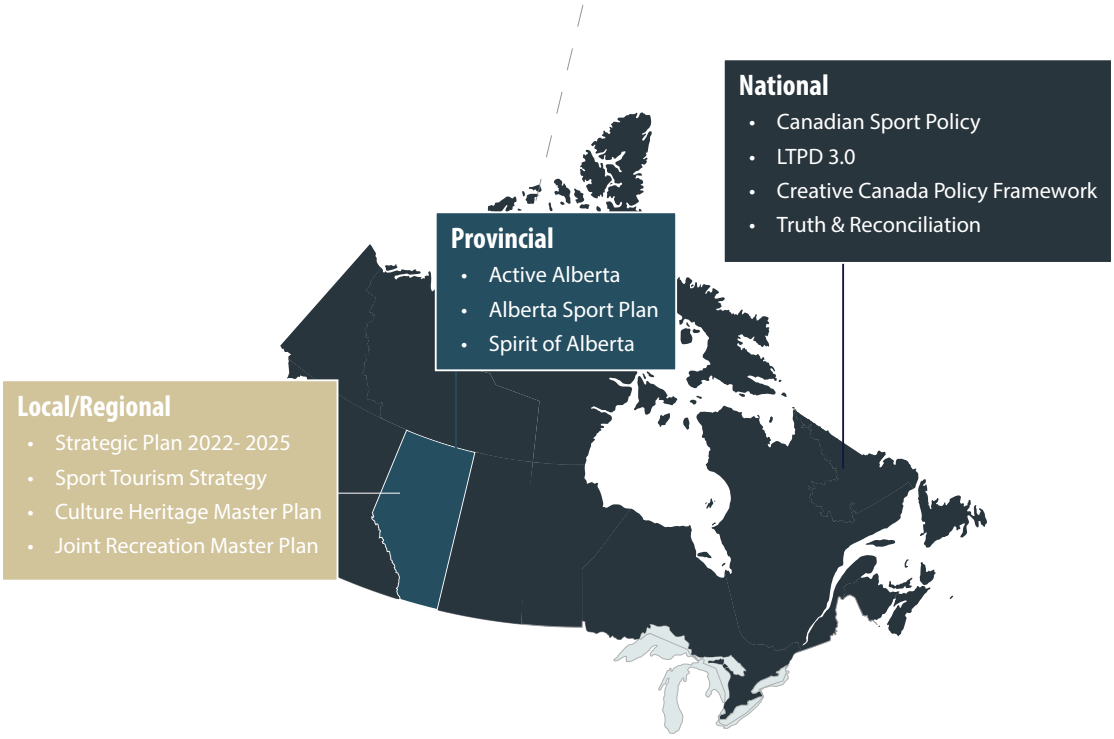
2.2 Policy and Planning Review

The Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan must be rooted in the experience and knowledge of previous local and regional planning exercises such as the Municipal Development Plan (2013) and Tri-Council Regional Growth Plan (2015). The Plan must also incorporate and align with the foundations set within national and provincial planning documents such as the Framework for Recreation in Canada, Parks for All, and the Active Alberta Policy[2]. Figure 5 illustrates select policy and planning documents that are influential to this Master Plan.

An analysis of local and regional policy along with a review of the provincial and national policy and planning documents identified the following key themes as relevant to the future provision of recreation spaces and opportunities within the MDLSR.

- The public provision of recreation and park facilities, spaces and services are essential to public health and wellness; it also supports fundamental lifelong sport and physical activity participation.
- Multi-sector partnerships to deliver recreation services and programming are essential to foster healthy, active communities and support the well-being of communities and citizens.
- A value-based approach to regional partnership management will ensure intended outcomes are met.
- A focus on evidence-driven decision making will support the efficient and responsible use of resources.
- Recreation has unique role to play in fostering a diversified, strengthened regional economy through tourism, and attracting and retaining a skilled workforce.

Figure 5



[2] Please see Appendix A for an overview of policies and planning documents review as part of this Study.

Pathways to Wellbeing: A Framework for Recreation in Canada

This foundational document provides a new vision for recreation and parks in Canada. It provides direction for some common ways of thinking about this renewed vision of recreation that is based key values and principles. The Framework is a call to action for all Canadians, and encourages all sectors to collaborate in the pursuit of five goals and priorities for action:

Connected Canadian park lands and waters that support healthy nature and healthy people in harmony for generations to come, backed by an active, diverse parks community that cultivates shared goals, mutual respect, and collective action.

(Parks for All, 2017)

Why does policy and planning matter?

By integrating and considering recommendations presented in various policies and plans into recreation and parks decision-making, the MDLSR can demonstrate both leadership and alignment internally and with other levels of government and major organizations, helping to strengthen funding applications and partnership proposals.

3.0

LEADING PRACTICES IN RECREATION, PARKS AND TRAILS

Strategic planning for the long-term future of recreation spaces and opportunities must account for how current sector trends will influence the provision of opportunities and resident demand in the MDLSR. Though there are many trends to be aware of, the following provides an overview of the essential sector trends and leading practices that have been considered in the creation of the Plan[3].

General Trends Influencing Recreation

- A general aging of the population; longer periods of retirement.
- Changing employment structures and work hours.
- Economic instability.
- Growing recognition of the importance of physical health and wellness activities in managing chronic disease and supporting mental health.
- Expectations of equity and accessibility throughout daily lives and activities.
- Technology developments and impacts.
- More sustainable and eco-friendly infrastructure.
- Multi-sector partnerships to leverage funding and expertise.

Trends in Recreation Facility Development

- Integration of physical literacy in programming.
- Need to facilitate lifelong participation.
- Multi-use spaces that are community hubs and allow for multiple activities and user groups.
- Blending indoor and outdoor spaces.
- Leverage event hosting to support recreation facility development.
- Supporting active living for older adults.
- Relevant and engaging programming for youth, including leadership development opportunities.
- Co-participation and multigenerational programming.

Trends in Parks and Trails Development

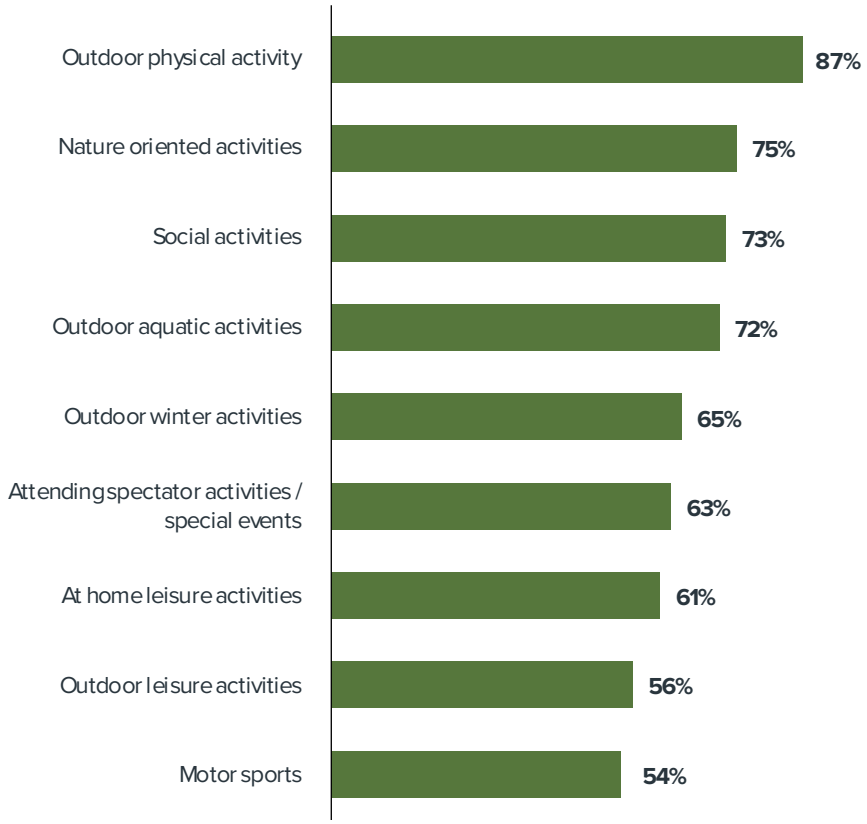
- Accessible trails and parks.
- Unstructured recreational opportunities in parks.
- Connected multi-use trail systems to support active transportation.
- Asset management strategies for parks.
- Support amenities to allow for year-round use.
- Inclusion of naturalized areas to support wildlife movement and habitats.
- Increased signage.
- Use of technology to support park and trail use and planning.

[3] For a more fulsome discussion of relevant trends please see Appendix B for broader societal factors that will influence the future delivery of recreation and parks opportunities.

Trends in Municipal Recreation and Parks Planning and Service Delivery

- Measuring outcomes (benefits) versus outputs (financial return) to determine performance.
- Flexibility in the times when people seek out recreational opportunities.
- Greater demand for outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Regional collaboration to provide recreation and parks opportunities and leverage resources.
- Managing aging infrastructure is a key concern for most municipalities.
- Indigenous placemaking[4].
- Implications of climate change on the delivery of recreation programming and services.
- Supporting accessible and inclusive environments.
- Planning for future expansion capability.
- Event hosting and the tourism industry as a means of economic development.
- Desire for activities to be affordable.
- Growing popularity of unstructured activities.

Graph 3: Recreation Activities in Which Respondents Participate



[4] Indigenous placemaking refers to creating space – physically, and in process and policy – for ceremony, teaching, and community.

4.0

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES IN MDLSR

The MDLSR boasts various recreational facilities and green spaces catering to the community's active and outdoor-oriented lifestyle. The Municipal District is home to numerous parks scattered throughout the district, from small resting areas containing play and picnic amenities, sports fields, and baseball diamonds, to larger scale provincial parks and reserves. The Municipal District is also home to several beaches and campgrounds such as Devonshire Beach and Marten River Campground Beach. The Town of Slave Lake offers a multi-recreation centre which includes a field house, ice surfaces, a running track, indoor play areas and a concession. The Town of Slave Lake also offers an aquatic centre which includes a 25m swimming pool, a zero-depth pool, a diving board, a slide, a whirlpool, inflatable water toys and a Tarzan rope. Figure 6 shows a map of community facilities.

Graph 4: Are There Adequate Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Amenities to Satisfy Recreation need?

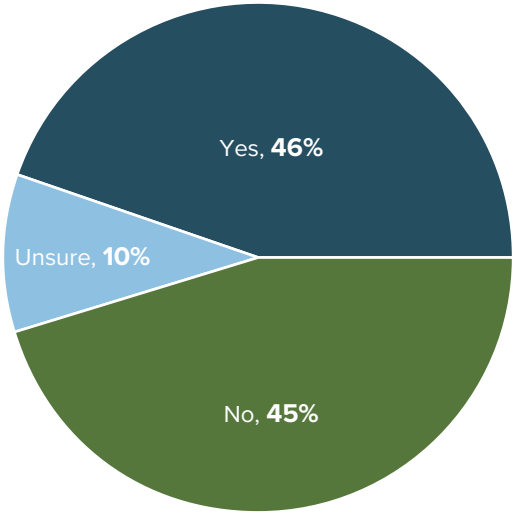
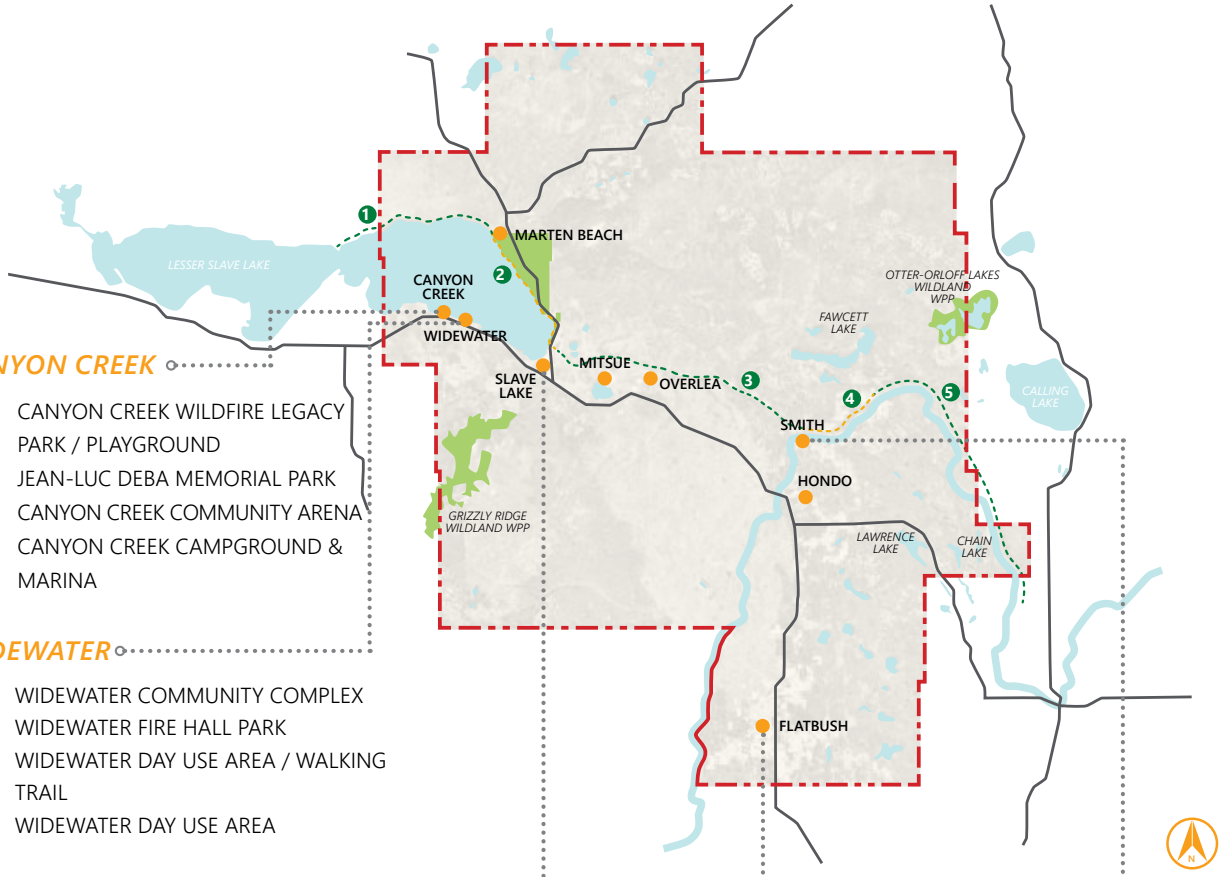


Figure 6: Map of Facilities



CANYON CREEK

- CANYON CREEK WILDFIRE LEGACY PARK / PLAYGROUND
- JEAN-LUC DEBA MEMORIAL PARK
- CANYON CREEK COMMUNITY ARENA
- CANYON CREEK CAMPGROUND & MARINA

WIDEWATER

- WIDEWATER COMMUNITY COMPLEX
- WIDEWATER FIRE HALL PARK
- WIDEWATER DAY USE AREA / WALKING TRAIL
- WIDEWATER DAY USE AREA

SLAVE LAKE

- SLAVE LAKE MUNICIPAL BOAT LAUNCH

FLATBUSH

- FLATBUSH COMMUNITY COMPLEX
- FLATBUSH COMPLEX PLAYGROUND
- FLATBUSH GOLF COURSE

SMITH

- SMITH COMMUNITY COMPLEX
- SMITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PARK
- SMITH EQUINE ARENA
- SMITH OUTDOOR MULTI-USE SURFACE & GYMKHANA GROUNDS

TRANS CANADA TRAIL

1. NORTHSHORE TRAIL
2. FREIGHTER LAKESHORE TRAIL
3. LESSER SLAVE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL
4. MOOSE PORTAGE TO SMITH TRAIL
5. PEACE RIVER TRAIL

Spontaneous Recreation

- Canyon Creek
- Widewater
- Town of Slave Lake

Organized Sport

- Flatbush
- Town of Slave Lake
- Smith
- Canyon Creek

Culture/Art

- Smith
- Chisholm
- Flatbush

Recreation Education

- Wagner
- Smith
- Town of Slave Lake

4.1 Recreation Facility Assessments

TBD Architecture + Urban Planning conducted a facilities assessment of municipal facilities and outdoor recreation sites in the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River, Alberta. The assessment was conducted via on-site visual and photographic review of the facilities. Site visits were accompanied by an MDLSR Representative to acquire relevant facility history and an understanding of the desired or anticipated operational needs. The purpose of the Facilities Assessment is to review and report on the condition of existing facilities and to outline immediate and ongoing maintenance needs. The following section provides a summary of the facilities assessment completed, the full report is included in Appendix C.

Flatbush Community Complex

General Construction

- The shallow barrel vault of the pre-engineered structure requires further review to assess compliance with requirements for increased snow loading in the current Alberta Building Code.

Building Envelope

- Thermal performance of the exterior wall assembly and the roof assembly is compromised by the exclusion of a vapour barrier. Significant reconstruction would be required to incorporate a vapour barrier.
- Regrading should be prioritized to achieve positive drainage away from the building.

Barrier-free Accommodations

- While provisions have been made to provide access to the second floor for persons with limited mobility, the facility does not meet current barrier-free accessibility requirements. Spatial constraints will make it difficult to incorporate some accessibility accommodations.

Mechanical & Electrical

- A new well needs to be drilled.
- The original cast iron piping is starting to fail, and the sanitary system requires further evaluation for replacement.
- The primary electrical breaker panel is at capacity.

Smith Community Complex

Few deficiencies were noted. Continued investment in ongoing regular maintenance is encouraged to reduce the likelihood of replacement of assemblies or systems prior to the end of their expected lifespan.

Smith Arena

General Construction

- The shallow barrel vault of the pre-engineered structure requires further review to assess compliance with requirements for increased snow loading in the current Alberta Building Code.
- Any room in which a vehicle is stored is required to be separated from the remainder of the facility by a rated separation.

Building Envelope

- Noticeable ponding is occurring adjacent to the building, where existing downspouts splash to grade. Regrading should be prioritized to achieve positive drainage away from the building.

Barrier-free Accommodations

- The facility does not meet current barrier-free accessibility requirements and has spatial constraints making this difficult to accommodate.

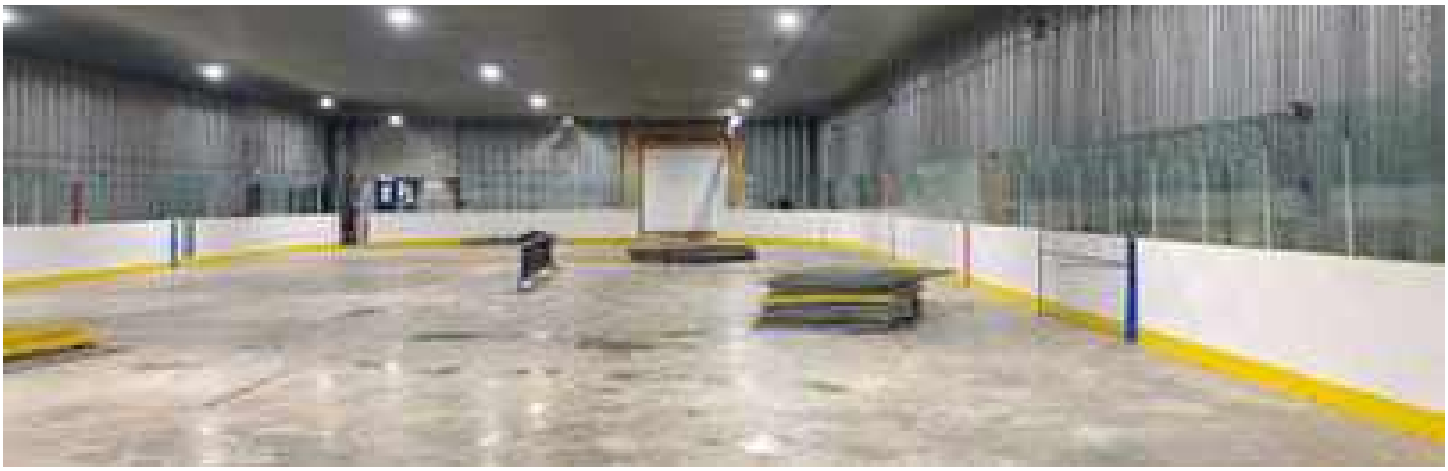
Mechanical & Electrical

- The existing furnace is undersized for the space that it serves and does not adequately heat the insulated portion of the arena building.
- Radiant in-floor heating does not work as there is not a sufficient gas supply.
- Ventilation within main arena space is undersized

Widewater Community Complex

Few deficiencies were noted. Continued investment in ongoing regular maintenance is encouraged to reduce the likelihood of replacement of assemblies or systems prior to the end of their expected lifespan.

Canyon Creek Community Arena



General Construction

- The shallow barrel vault of the pre-engineered structure requires further review to assess compliance with requirements for increased snow loading in the current Alberta Building Code.

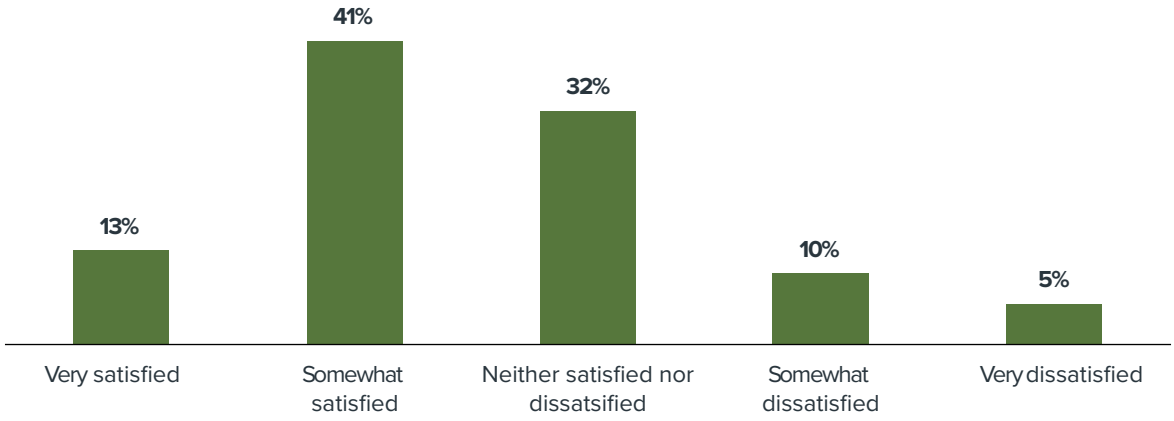
Building Envelope

- It is recommended that eavestroughs and downspouts be added to the arena's barrel roof to control water and divert it away from the building structure.

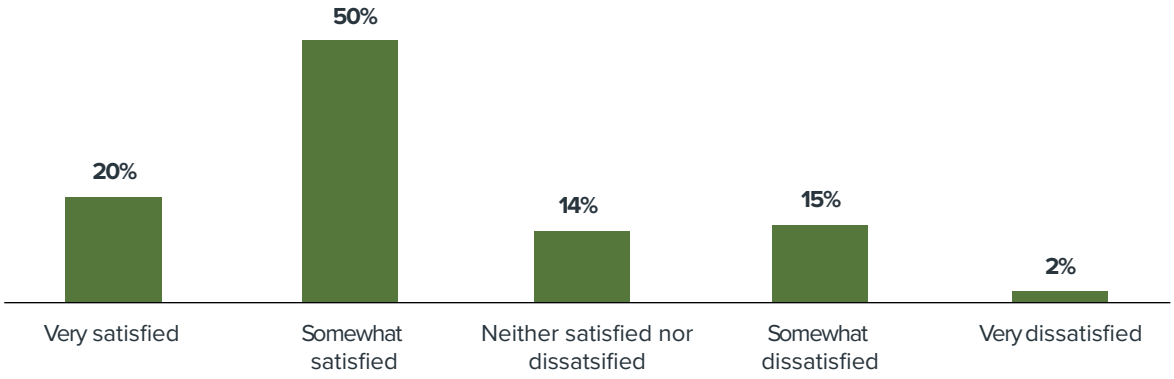
Barrier-free Accommodations

- The facility does not meet current barrier-free accessibility requirements and has spatial constraints making this difficult to accommodate.

Graphic 5: Satisfaction with Indoor Recreation Facilities and Spaces in the M.D.



Graph 6: Satisfaction with Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Spaces in the M.D.



5.0

SERVICE DELIVERY

Recreation and parks facilities, spaces, and services within the MDLSR are managed, supported and provided by a myriad of organizations. The MDLSR supports facility development and management, park management, land acquisition, services and programs. Additionally, the MDLSR plays a role as the regulator through the creation and implementation of policies and by-laws. As a public service provider, the role of the MDLSR in providing recreation and parks typically aligns with one of three categories:

Currently the MDLSR employs a variety of service delivery approaches. Determining the appropriate service delivery approach is a key dimension to providing high quality recreation spaces and opportunities in the MDLSR. There are a variety of recreation programs delivered throughout the MDLSR[5]. Most of these programs are delivered by community organizations and associations throughout the region. The delivery of these programs is supported by the MDLSR through two main grants, the Community Assistance Board fund, and the Family & Community Support Services fund. The same community groups appear to be applying for and receiving funding year on year. This suggests that the program and services they offer are well received and utilized by the community to warrant the continual funding and delivery of these programs. There appears to be a balance of spontaneous recreation, organized sport, culture/art, and recreation education programs spread throughout the MD.

Figure 7: Service Delivery Spectrum

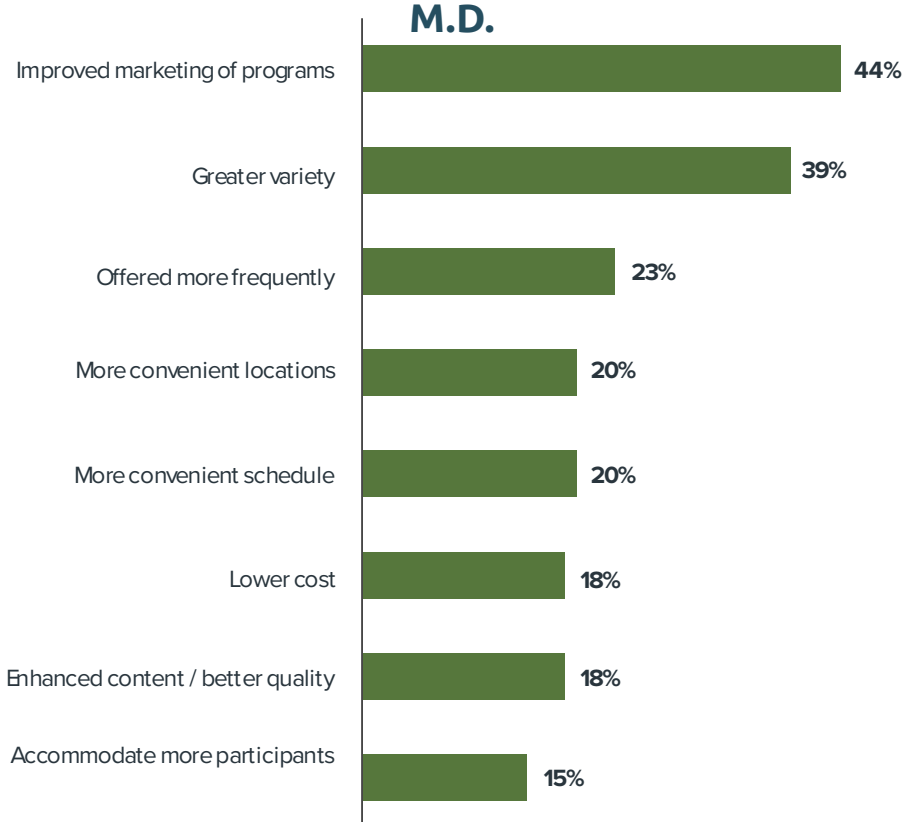
[5] Please see Appendix D for a complete review of current programs and services offered.

The following chart overview the current service delivery approach used for various facets within the scope of the Community Services Department. It should be noted that given the diverse nature of recreation it is unreasonable to believe that a single service delivery approach would be applied in each service area.

Figure 9: Recreation Service Delivery in MDLSR

	Direct Provider	Indirect Provision / Partnership	Cost Share
Open Spaces (Parks and Trails)			
Development	✓		✓
Operations	✓		✓
Maintenance	✓		✓
Programming	✓	✓	✓
Recreation			
Development		✓	✓
Operations	✓	✓	✓
Maintenance	✓	✓	✓
Programming		✓	✓

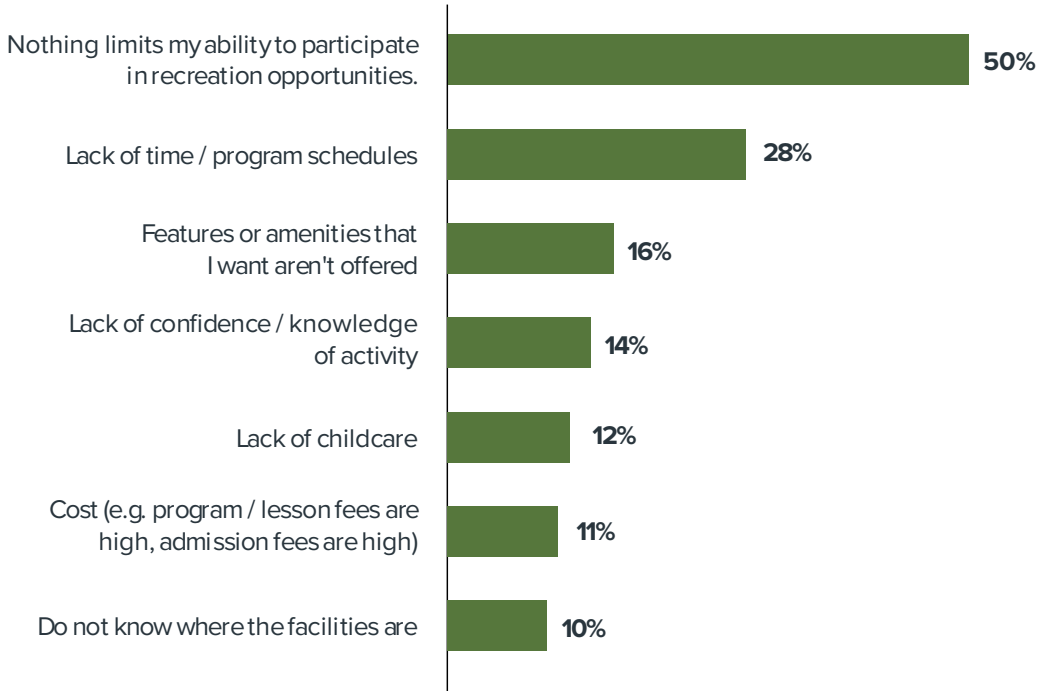
Graph 7: Improvements or Changes Needed Regarding Programs and Opportunities in the M.D.



Service Delivery Challenges in Recreation

- High consumer expectations – low cost/ long operating hours.
- Changing population demographics.
- Competition for participants.
- Maintaining and upgrading ageing and outdated facilities.
- Need for new facilities to accommodate population growth.
- Well-trained personnel – volunteers and paid staff.
- Keeping 'pace' with technology development.
- Environmental sustainability operations and facility/space management.
- Competing priorities on Council budget.

Graph 8: Barriers to Participation



6.0

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Key Learnings Related to Recreation Services

- Residents are **generally satisfied** with recreation opportunities currently available in the MDLSR
- Community organizations are **valued partners** in the delivery of recreation programs and events.
- **Agreements** to deliver recreation and open space opportunities.
- Growing popularity and demand for **spontaneous and unstructured** activities for all ages.
- Attracting and retaining **volunteers is a key concern** in the delivery of recreation opportunities.
- **Communication** regarding recreation in the MDLSR has been identified as a key area of needed improvement.
- MDLSR **policies and procedures** that guide the delivery of recreation need to be reflective of current operating realties and relationships.

Opportunities for Future Enhancement

- Enhanced **marketing and communications** efforts.
- Leadership role in **volunteer management** and coordination.
- Explore further **coordination and collaboration with regional partners** and organizations to provide recreation and parks services and opportunities.
- Increased **support for community organizations.**
- Work with community associations to **maintain facilities** and respond to shifting expectations.
- Increase opportunity for special events through partnerships and alternative locations **/ balance of opportunities throughout the MDLSR**

Key Learnings Related to Open Spaces

- Parks, trails and open spaces are **highly valued** by residents.
- There is **increasing demand** for outdoor recreation spaces and safe access to waterways.
- Outdoor spaces can be used to **attract people** to the MDLSR to live and to play.
- Recreation and **conservation** can be and should be complementary, key considerations in planning outdoor recreation spaces is fire smart planning.
- Need to enhance **responsible visitor management** resources and guidelines to ensure complementary use of spaces.
- **Additional support infrastructure** needed for safe participation in outdoor activities.
- Promotion of **year around activity** should be a focus of future planning.

Opportunities for Future Enhancement

- Preservation of open spaces and **conservation** lands.
- Increase **connectivity** and trail network.
- Enhance **support amenities for parks** and trails.
- Increase **access to waterways.**
- Educate on **conservation and land stewardship.**
- Provide more **nature-based programming.**

In considering these key findings and based on the MDLSR's desire to sustain and enhance the benefits of its investment in recreation and open spaces that are currently enjoyed by residents, visitors, and partners, the following section of the Master Plan outlines the Strategic Foundations and Recommendations to guide future decision making and action.

7.0

THE FUTURE OF RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES IN MDLSR

7.1 Strategic Foundations

Recreation spaces and opportunities are highly valued services by residents, community groups and visitors of the MDLSR. Significant investment has been made by the MDLSR in providing recreation opportunities. It is important to note that the provision of recreation and parks is not formally legislated in Alberta by the Province; there are no guidelines or parameters municipalities must adhere to related to investment in facilities, spaces, or programs. To ensure the MDLSR is getting the most out of its investment in recreation and parks, it is important to state strategic intentions such as what outcomes an investment should lead to and guiding values that will direct and shape the action of Council and Administration. The following vision statement and values have been developed to explain what the MDLSR is trying to achieve with its investment, either directly or indirectly through partnerships.

The vision helps to shape organizational culture and provides direction on how to best move recreation and open spaces into the future. It is meant to answer the question, *Why does the MDLSR invest in recreation and open spaces?*

> "We manage and develop the infrastructure of our M.D. to protect the inherent beauty of our landscape. We provide stability and opportunities for growth, for the M.D. and the individuals who live here."
>
> MDLSR Mission Statement (2010)

Vision Statement

MDLSR supports the building of vibrant communities that foster quality of life, wellness, and appeal to residents and visitors.

Goal 1: Inspire Health and Wellness

MDLSR strives to support a variety of recreation spaces and opportunities for residents to benefit from a physically and socially active lifestyle.

Goal 2: Foster Community Vibrancy

MDLSR supports the provision of community spaces and open spaces for recreation, gathering and communicating.

Goal 3: Build Recreation Capacity

MDLSR will strengthen the recreation system to support the delivery of services through complementary policies, practices and systems for volunteers and organizations.

Goal 4: Encourage Stewardship

MDLSR supports the sustainable operation of recreation facilities and spaces and implements sustainable practices in the management of parks, trails and open spaces.

7.2 Service Delivery Strategic Directions

This section focuses on providing recommendations to optimize how the MDLSR invests in recreation and open spaces. It is important to note that while some of the recommendations provided suggest a change or adaptation to current practices, other strategies have been included to re-embed current practices that work well. The contained recommendations are related to different aspects of service delivery including, but not limited to, policy development, volunteer support and community development, programming, and communications.

Recommendation #1: Assist community organizations that provide or contribute to recreation services and open space management with capacity building supports and sustain funding programs.

Supporting Evidence

- ✓ Engagement
- ✓ Research
- ✓ Planning / Policy Review
- ✓ Consultant Experience

Recommendation Rational:

- Funding provided by the MDLSR to community organizations is most effective, and can be best leveraged, when those organizations are robust and sustainable.
- Community organizations expressed that they are struggling with volunteerism, fund development, and other sustainability issues.
- Fostering community group capacity building can help ensure sustainability and mitigate the risk of a recreational opportunity no longer being available.

The MDLSR's ongoing support of community organizations is significant and effective. Because of grant funding, many community organizations can offer more opportunities and sustain and improve their facilities and spaces. The MDLSR should ensure the existing granting programs are effectively serving the groups as they are intended to provide relevant support. This requires ongoing dialog with community organizations who receive funding, identifying areas of improvement for both the MDLSR and its partners to better achieve their goals, and adjusting programs accordingly.

Furthermore, the MDLSR helps many community organizations through the Community Services department. Although this assistance is both warranted and effective, broadening the scope of support services to groups, formalizing them, and making sure that everyone who could benefit from these supports know about them would ensure that more groups are able to access, and use supports. These supports could include things such as grant writing assistance, strategic planning, volunteer attraction and retention and board governance, and could be delivered by MDLSR staff or contractors as required. By offering supports in a more formal way, there may even be an opportunity to bring different groups together for training, creating relationships that may extend beyond the subject matter being discussed.

Lastly, there is immense value in bringing all stakeholders together in a planned and structured manner. These types of interactions can invigorate volunteers, connect the MDLSR staff to the communities it serves and inform everyone about the challenges and opportunities facing recreation and parks in the region. An annual event for recreation and parks partners that aims to create connections, inform participants about what's happening within the MDLSR and the broader sector, and celebrate successes is one way that this could happen. Creating an online community or information sharing mechanism could also help to connect groups. This concept would be best confirmed by asking groups what would work best for them and then having the MDLSR take leadership in delivering the event or initiative.

Implementation Tactics:

- Review grant programs to ensure they are achieving MDLSR objectives, are relevant and are responsive to shifting needs of community organizations.
- Create capacity-building programs for community organizations related to strategic planning, fundraising, and volunteer management.
- Facilitate the sharing and coordination of resources between community organizations through workshops, events, and other means.

Recommendation #2: Continue to build on supporting local use of outdoor recreation amenities and responsible tourism initiatives.

Supporting Evidence

- ✓ Engagement
- ✓ Research
- ✓ Planning / Policy Review
- ✓ Consultant Experience

Recommendation Rational:

- The region offers a diverse array of natural and outdoor recreation amenities that are valued by residents and attract visitors year-round.
- The MDLSR is a leading provider and facilitator of outdoor and passive recreation in the region (e.g. parks, campgrounds, and other natural spaces) and, as such, is well positioned to help encourage sustainable and responsible use.
- While recreation investment is primarily focused on serving the needs of local residents, the rationale for investment in amenities such as campgrounds, trails and boat launches is also based on helping support local economic vibrancy.
- Opportunities exist to further leverage the benefits of recreation tourism.

There are many benefits that come from promoting local use and attracting visitors to use the parks, open spaces and trails located throughout the MDLSR These include, but not limited to, generating economic activity from non-local spending and promotion of the region, promotion of healthy living, and capacity building of local volunteers.

A common barrier to participation in outdoor activities is a lack of activity support amenities, such as washrooms, parking, lighting, signage, physical barriers and other experiential elements.

Understanding what constitutes modern user expectations takes an ongoing commitment to engaging with current users, monitoring what is happening in adjacent or other regional spaces (such as other municipal parks, or provincial and national parks), and trends in parks and open space development. Again, sources of trends for parks and open spaces can include organizations such as the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, Parks People, as well as provincial organizations such as the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA). As well, guiding policy documents, such as Parks for All can provide valuable insight as can having staff attend events such as the ARPA Parks Forum and Parks School events. A deliberate investment in professional development of staff and a recognition that scanning leading practices is part of department positions is vital in ensuring modern user expectations are known and met.

While encouraging visitation to outdoor open spaces there is a need to also be aware of the potential harmful effects that irresponsible use of parks and trails can have on the environment. As part of its efforts to educate users on the appropriate use of parks, open spaces and trails, the MDLSR should educate patrons on how to best behave while participating outdoors. In terms of content related to this education, the MDLSR could develop its own materials, or it could build on existing program materials, such as Leave No Trace that have already been established and provide leading practice for responsible park, open space and trail use that minimizes the human footprint in nature.

Implementation Tactics:

- Develop visitor management guidelines to manage trail and open spaces access.
- Focus future investment to meet modern user expectations (considering functionality, safety, accessibility, and support amenities) through enhancement of parks, trails, and open space experiences and provision of support amenities.
- Consider trail accessibility when planning enhancements and future new trails.
- Plan for year-round use of parks, open spaces and trails ensure maintenance procedures and policies support safe and accessible year-round use.
- Establish protocols and procedures for park and trail naming where appropriate.

Recommendation #3: Enhance awareness and promotion of recreation opportunities and open spaces.

Supporting Evidence

Engagement

- ✓ **Research**
- ✓ **Planning / Policy Review**
- ✓ **Consultant Experience**

Recommendation Rational:

- There are various recreation programs that are delivered at community halls and other available space in hamlets, and other smaller rural communities. Promotion of these programs can help increase resident health and wellness and community connectiveness.
- Communication methods need to be unique and tailored to each community, approaches should be reviewed and revised periodically to ensure they are relevant and appropriate.
- Residents indicated that improved marketing of programs was needed.

There is an opportunity to enhance promotions and marketing efforts ensure that residents and visitors know about as many of the recreation and open space opportunities they have in the region as possible. This involves the MDLSR understanding this vast offering and using its resources and channels to connect potential user markets to them.

The MDLSR already actively promotes and markets recreation opportunities that exist throughout the region. The MDLSR should build on their current communication initiatives, by focusing on the following key topics:

1) Inclusion of all opportunities the MDLSR supports (through grants) and delivers throughout the region.
2) Identification of programs available for residents to overcome barriers to participation (financial access programs as an example).
3) Explaining the MDLSR's efforts to minimize the recreation and parks impact on the environment and how to be good land stewards.
4) Highlighting the physical health, mental health and overall wellness benefits of participating in recreation and parks opportunities.

The tools and tactics used by the MDLSR should constantly be monitored and measured for success. They should change with resident and societal trends and should balance cost with effectiveness when decided what mechanisms to use.

Implementation Tactics:

- Develop a page on the MDLSR website that identifies the daily and weekly programs taking place at community facilities across the region.
- Include additional information on rural programming and activities.
- Enhance social media promotions of programs and activities considering targeted promotion to youth.
- Create an interactive online open spaces and trails map that identifies the support amenities available.

Recommendation #4: Continue to focus on regional responsibility sharing for the provision of recreation facilities and spaces.

Supporting Evidence

- ✓ Engagement
- ✓ Research
- ✓ Planning / Policy Review
- ✓ Consultant Experience

Recommendation Rational:

- MDLSR support enables the continued operation of many longstanding and valued community facilities that support a variety of recreation, leisure, cultural, and social events throughout the region, including in neighbouring municipalities.
- Residents are supportive of regional agreements to deliver recreation and open space opportunities.

The MDLSR's Council and Administration are able to take a unique regional perspective in the planning and provision of recreation and open spaces. For this reason, the MDLSR may have a role to play in ensuring a regional supply and demand perspective is represented in partner-project planning. The current cost sharing relationships are overseen by committees with representatives from all partners. The formulas have evolved over time and are accepted by all parties. The level of support the MDLSR provides to partners is at or above averages in many respects. The MDLSR should continue to use the current approach to cost sharing if it satisfies all partners. Should the MDLSR wish to see more of its strategic intentions met through cost sharing agreements, including some of the ideas outlined in this Plan such as encouraging more environmentally friendly design in new or renovated facilities, it should be prepared to invest more if its requests have cost implications for partners.

Therefore the following principles should guide the setting of regional responsibility sharing agreements:

- The MDLSR will continue to work closely with the urban municipalities within its' boundaries collaboratively and efficiently.
- The MDLSR will focus support of future infrastructure projects to those that provide demonstrated benefit to MDLSR residents and align with the vision and mandate set out within this Master Plan.
- The MDLSR is provided with meaningful opportunity to inform the proposed project and ensure resident needs are considered in the planning process.

Implementation Tactics:

- Provide a regional perspective on infrastructure provision (supply and demand) that can inform local area planning initiatives.
- Continue to pursue partnerships as the preferred method for indoor recreation infrastructure provision.
- Continue to monitor resident use and value of investment in supported facilities in neighbouring municipalities.

Recommendation #5: Focus on supporting lifelong participation for all residents.

Supporting Evidence

- ✓ Engagement
- ✓ Research
- ✓ Planning / Policy Review
- ✓ Consultant Experience

Recommendation Rational:

- Recreation is a key mechanism that helps prevent social isolation and encourages wellbeing; ensuring that all residents have access to sufficient recreation opportunities helps achieve these desired outcomes.
- There is no formal program to assist individuals facing barriers to accessing recreation programs and facilities.

The MDLSR invests in recreation programming directly and supports partners in the delivery of recreation opportunities (facilities, programs and events). As the MDLSR works with several partners whose main focus is their own members, the MDLSR could have a role to play in ensuring that partner efforts aren't duplicated and that broader regional investment in programming is optimised. This coordinating role could be achieved through the MDLSR hosting regional programming meetings to share information amongst the organizations to identify and highlight any duplication. This could also involve the MDLSR sharing leading practices and other program-related preferences of its residents to help shape or influence the programming efforts of its partners.

Program Delivery Approach Tool

Implementation Tactics:

- Continue to provide, promote, and encourage financial accessibility programs.
- Continue to work closely with community organizations to support recreations programs and regional partners coordination to avoid duplication of events and service offerings.
- Work with regional institutions, such as libraries and schools, to host events and activities will support community-wide involvement for all ages and abilities.
- Use the recommended Program Delivery Approach Tool (see next page) to inform decision making on when direct or indirect delivery is most appropriate.

7.3 Infrastructure Strategic Directions

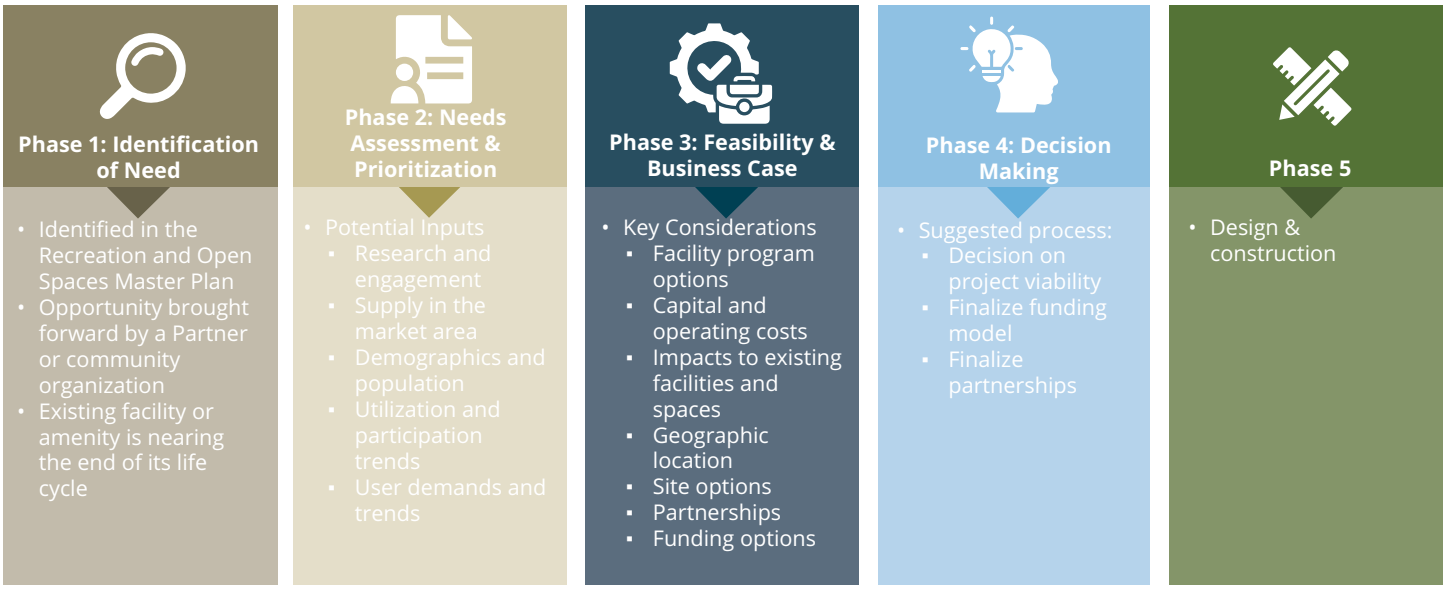
Provided in this section are strategies to help prioritize and guide MDLSR investment in recreation and parks infrastructure over the next 10+ years. The strategies are informed by using the following information that was gathered as part of this planning process:

- Resident Demand
- User Group Demand
- Facility Assessment
- Regional Provision
- Accessibility
- Financial Viability (Capital + Operating)
- Economic Benefits
- Trends

In addition to the infrastructure strategies provided, two frameworks, a project prioritization and site selection, are provided to help guide the decision making of the MDLSR Council and Administration.

It is important to consider the infrastructure strategies and supporting frameworks in the boarder context of infrastructure development.

Figure 8: Infrastructure Development Phases



Infrastructure Strategies

As an overarching strategy across all facility types, it will be crucial for the MDLSR to place an emphasis on asset management through conducting regular facility assessments and adequate capital and lifecycle reserve budgeting. This is especially important for indoor facilities given the costs associated with capital repair, renewal, and replacement.

Amenity Category	Strategy	10-year Service Level
Ball Diamonds and Sport Fields	• Invest in sustaining existing inventory and completing recommended enhancements as outlined in the Facility Assessment Report in Appendix C.	Sustain (Maximize use of existing spaces)
Boat Launches And Water Access	• Develop a Boat Launch Strategy that focuses on identifying priority sites for enhancement and development to respond to existing gaps and safety issues. • Enhance safe lake access for residents and visitors.	Increase Supply.
Campgrounds And Day Use Areas	• Invest in sustaining MDLSR supported campgrounds at a safe and functional level. • Work with regional and provincial partners in management of campgrounds and day use areas. • Monitor regional campground pricing and supply.	Sustain (Maximize use of existing spaces)
Community Park Spaces	• Consider a recommended Community Service Levels that communities >300 residents should have a multi-purpose paved court surface and community park spaces with a mix of play and gathering amenities. • Evaluate community driven requests for community park investment on a case by case basis. • Ensure future Area Structure Plans protect land for parks and open spaces.	Potentially Increased Supply (Pending further study on options and cost impacts / viability and population analysis)
Ice Arenas	• Adequately reinvest to sustain the Canyon Creek Community Arena for the medium term (at least the next 10 years). • Continue to explore how and support the MRC in Slave Lake can meet the needs of residents.	Sustain (Maximize use of existing spaces)

Amenity Category	Strategy	10-year Service Level
Indoor Activity And Gathering Spaces	• Invest in sustaining existing inventory and completing recommended enhancements as outlined in the Facility Assessment Report in Appendix C. • Continue to support hall and community space operating needs through existing grant programs. • Focus efforts on promoting the activities that take place in these facilities to maximize use. • Consider grant applications for facility improvements that focus on improved accessibility and climate mitigation modifications / energy efficiencies. • Monitor population rates, consider enhancement if population increase occurs.	Sustain (Maximize use of existing spaces)
Outdoor Skating Rinks	• Consider a recommended Community Service Levels that boarded outdoor rinks be provided in all communities with a population >300 and a boarded or non-boarded (snowbank) rink should be provided in communities with a population of 100 – 300. • Focus on including community gathering spaces and a warming hut at boarded outdoor rinks.	Potentially Increased Supply (Pending further study on options and cost impacts / viability and population analysis)
Skateboard And Bike Parks	• Consider a recommended Community Service Level that a skateboard and bike park be provided in all communities with a population >1000. • Consider how existing park spaces could be activated to accommodate activity if demand is identified.	Monitor
Trails	• Over the next 5 years, focus trails investment on enhancing and rehabilitating existing trails, amenity additions / improvements, and trail connectivity. • Target developing a comprehensive Trails Strategy in 5–8 years that can outline a long-term action plan for trail investment. • Work with the provincial government and regional municipalities to identify opportunities to create safe connections across major highways and roadways and leverage regional trail networks.	Potentially Increased Supply (Pending further study on options and cost impacts / viability)

Project Prioritization Framework

The MDLSR will need to prioritize its investment in recreation and open spaces projects based on sound data driven and transparent rationale guided by this Master Plan. Doing so will ensure that available resources are allocated in such a manner that achieves the highest possible degree of community benefit.

This decision-making framework will allow for the transparent and objective assessment of potential recreation and open spaces projects. The framework should be reviewed every four to six years, however the framework is designed in a manner that will allow for decision making to be adaptable and responsive to changes in trends in the community, shifts in demographics and to the strategic goals of the MDLSR By inputting reliable community data into the framework, the MDLSR can assess the best strategic direction of future investments in recreation and open space projects.

		Scoring			
Criteria	**Description**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Public Availability	How available is the project for general / public to use?	There is a high likelihood that the project would be available for general use and / or spontaneous use.	There is a moderate likelihood that the project would be available for general use and / or spontaneous use.	There is a low likelihood that the project would be available for general use and / or spontaneous use.	There is a no likelihood that the project would be available for general use and / or spontaneous use.
Community and Economic Development	Does the project primarily serve or attract residents or visitors?	There is a high likelihood that the project will attract residents, business and visitors to the region.	There is a high likelihood that the project will attract residents, business and visitors to the region.	There is a high likelihood that the project will attract residents, business and visitors to the region.	There is a high likelihood that the project will attract residents, business and visitors to the region.
Partnerships	What is the potential of the project to attract partnerships in its development and / or operation?	The project has a high likelihood of partnership potential.	The project has a moderate likelihood partnership potential	The project has a low likelihood partnership potential	The project has no likelihood partnership potential
Public Support	What is the level of local support or demand for the project?	The project has a high likelihood of public support.	The project has a moderate likelihood of public support.	The project has a low likelihood of public support.	The project has a likelihood of no public support.
Service Level	Does the project enhance recreation opportunities and / or services?	The project has a high likelihood of enhancing recreation opportunities And / or series in the MD.	The project has a moderate likelihood of enhancing recreation opportunities And / or series in the MD.	The project has a low likelihood of enhancing recreation opportunities And / or series in the MD.	The project has no likelihood of enhancing recreation opportunities And / or series in the MD.
Equitable Distribution	Does the project support or contribute to recreation opportunities being distributed throughout the MD to provide equitable and inclusion opportunities for the population? (current and expected)	The project contributes to equitable services throughout the MD and inclusive opportunities for current and future populations.	The project contributes to equitable services throughout the MD and inclusive opportunities for current populations.	The project somewhat contributes to equitable services throughout the MD.	The project does not contribute to equitable services throughout the MD.
Asset Life Span	What is the expected life span of the project?	"The project will have a significant life span."	"The project will have a moderate life span."	"The project will have a limited life span."	The project will be a temporary asset/

Site Selection Framework

Recreation facilities and spaces are unique community assets, which contribute significant health and social benefits for residents and visitors and contribute economic benefits for the MDLSR Therefore, the MDLSR must not only strategically consider project investment priorities but must also consider the location of potential facilities and spaces in order to meet the needs of the region. The following site selection framework provides a transparent and objective assessment of potential locations for facilities and amenities that will best serve residents, visitors, and contribute to meeting Council objectives.

Criteria	Description	Scoring		
		2 Points	1 Point	0 Point
Centralized location	The level to which the site is centralized within the geographic boundaries of an identified area of population.	The site is central within the identified area.	The site is somewhat central within the identified area.	The site is not central within the identified area.
Proximity to public outdoor spaces	The location of the site in proximity to public outdoor spaces, especially those that are complimentary to the project.	The site is within walking distance (<500m) to complimentary public outdoor spaces.	The site is nearby (500m-1000m) complimentary public outdoor spaces but not within walking distance.	The site is not nearby complimentary public outdoor spaces (>1000m)
Proximity to public indoor spaces	The location of the site in proximity to public indoor spaces, especially those that are complimentary to the project.	The site is within walking distance (<500m) or attached to complimentary public indoor spaces.	The site is nearby (500m-1000m) complimentary public indoor spaces but not within walking distance.	The site is not nearby complimentary public indoor spaces (>1000m)
Re-use or sharing of existing facilities	The relevance of the site in the reinvestment in or repurposing of existing recreation, parks, and culture facilities (as well as other public amenities).	The development on the site will help to strengthen existing recreation, parks, and culture facilities or spaces.	The development on the site will help to strengthen other existing public services.	The development on the site will not help to strengthen existing recreation, parks, and culture facilities or spaces or other public services.
Parking + traffic impacts	The degree to which the facility will integrate with and compliment availability of adjacent parking and traffic patterns.	There is complimentary parking adjacent to the site and the area can handle excess traffic generated by the facility.	There is complimentary parking adjacent to the site or the area can handle excess traffic generated by the facility.	There is no complimentary parking adjacent to the site and the area cannot handle excess traffic generated by the facility without investment.

Criteria	Description	Scoring		
		2 Points	1 Point	0 Point
Future expansion capability	The degree to which the site will accommodate future expansion and growth of recreation and parks facilities (as well as other public amenities).	The site is large enough to accommodate future indoor and outdoor recreation and parks amenities as well as other public services.	The site is large enough to accommodate future indoor and outdoor recreation and parks amenities.	The site will not accommodate any future indoor and outdoor recreation and parks amenities or other public services.
Proximity to complimentary services and businesses	The location of the site in proximity to complimentary local services and/ or commercial areas (seasonal kiosks, market spaces), especially those that are complimentary to the facility.	The site is within walking distance (<500m) to complimentary services and businesses.	The site is nearby (500m-1000m) complimentary services and businesses but not within walking distance.	The site is not nearby complimentary services and businesses (>1000m).
Site servicing + conditions	The readiness of the site in relation to site servicing and existing physical / environmental site conditions.	The site does not require significant investment in site servicing or preparation.	There are site servicing and preparation costs, but they are not prohibitive.	The site servicing and preparation costs are prohibitive.

8.0

IMPLEMENTATION, MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATIONS

In today's economic climate municipal governments are tasked with delivering more services with less resources. As such determining the value or performance of assets and services is often critical as it can be tied to funding and budgetary considerations. Furthermore, it is increasing important that governments are accountable to their taxpayers, as well as higher levels of government, to show progression to stated strategic goals and priorities. 8.1 Implementation

8.1 Implementation

It is anticipated that the MDLSR Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan will be implemented in phases based on the identified needs of the community, the priorities of Council, and available funding. As stated at the beginning of the Plan, this Master Plan is designed to be a guiding document for Administration, Council and recreation partners. The aim is to guide the provision of services and facilities to meet the needs of the community; it does not commit the MDLSR to any specific action outlined in the document. It is a living document that will most importantly provide direction and strategic foundations to guide future decisions, however the objectives and actions contained within will need to be situated within the current realities of the MDLSR before acted upon.

To support the implementation of the Master Plan, an Implementation Guide has been developed and provided under a separate cover.

8.2 Measurement and Evaluation

There are various methods to measure the performance of parks and recreation facilities and services. While traditional approaches to measuring success have focused on financial performance and registration and utilization data, these measurements do not capture the full value of parks and recreation. As parks and recreation facilities and services play a significant role in the quality of life of the communities in which they are located and serve. To fully measure the performance of parks and recreation facilities and services the focus needs to shift from outputs (such as revenue or registration numbers) to broader outcomes such as healthy residents, connected communities and sustainable environments.

While measuring outputs may focus on measurements of activity and efficiency, the measuring outcomes focuses on measuring the accomplishment and effectiveness of actions. A shift to measuring outcomes will capture the full benefits of the public good created by the provision of recreation spaces and opportunities within the MDLSR Measuring outcomes can be a challenging proposition as the units of measurement are often subjective in nature. To overcome this challenge, measurement should focus on a small number of key metrics and focus on change within the community over time versus comparisons with other neighbouring communities.

Evaluating the implementation of the Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan will be a necessary and important first step in future years to understanding and capturing the benefits investing in recreation conveys to the region.

To support the efforts of the MDLSR to engage in the evaluation process a logic model has been created (please see Appendix E). A logic model is a graphic representation of the activities and desired outcomes presented within this Master Plan. It is intended to illustrate the desired change that can take place with the implementation of recommended actions.

This logic model is just a first step, the MDLSR should **develop an evaluation plan** to create a structured and accountable approach to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of their efforts.

APPENDIX A

POLICY AND PLANNING REVIEW

Various policy and planning documents were reviewed that may offer a framework for seeking funding and other support from potential partners. The table below does not present an exhaustive review of documents that may be important for the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River to consider, but rather, summarizes and highlights those most relevant to recreation and parks planning.

Key themes within Municipal Recreation and Parks Related Policies:

- Highlighting the Municipal District's role in operating and maintaining community and recreation facilities and amenities and outlining expectations of the user groups who hire these spaces and facilities.
- Recognizing the value of outdoor recreation amenities and highlighting how municipal owned trails, baseball diamonds and playgrounds are maintained.
- Providing insight into how funding allocation decisions are made for the various recreation and social initiatives and how the Municipal District partners with the community groups in the provision of recreation programs and services.
- Outlining the rules and regulations that apply when using outdoor open spaces.

Key themes within Municipal Policies and Plans:

- Emphasising the importance of recreation provision that is accessible to all and aligned across the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River, the Town of Lesser Slave Lake and the Sawridge First Nation.
- Approaches for the management and operation of facilities and amenities that are co-located within the boundaries of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River and the Town of Slave Lake.

Key themes within Regional and Provincial Policies and Plans:

- Outlining the overarching goals of the Province of Alberta relating to recreation which include increased participation and engagement in recreation through sports, activities and volunteerism, integration and collaboration between municipalities, private recreation providers/organisations and key partners.
- Land-use and development goals – making sure recreation is incorporated and provided for in new developments, designating land for recreation.

Key themes within National Policies and Plans:

- Providing rationale for investment recreation including fostering active lifestyles, fostering inclusion and accessibility in recreation, connecting people to nature, and building capacity in the sector.
- Educating about indigenous sport history and participation.
- Reducing barriers and improving service delivery.
- Collaboration, partnership and expanding efforts in new sectors.

Municipal Relating to Recreation

Policy or Plan	Purpose	Relevance
REC-72-01 Municipally Owned Community Facilities	Defines the Municipal District's responsibility for the operation and maintenance of owned and operated community facilities.	Provides insight into the Municipal District's responsibilities regarding operation, maintenance and repair for utilities and services relating to municipal-owned community facilities. Outlines the role of the Municipal District in the provision of community facilities and the role of tenants who rent the facilities/spaces.
REC-72-02 Community Assistance Board	Define the roles and responsibilities of the Municipal District Community Assistance Board and outlines the process for community groups/organizations to access programming funds.	Provides insight into how funding allocation decisions are made, and which community members/groups qualify for this funding. Community assistance funding is focused on the provision of opportunities, initiatives and programming relating to recreation, social, culture, education, and athletics.
REC-72-03 Municipally Owned Community Hall Utilization Process	Defines the various procedures/ processes for renting Town owned community halls.	Outlines the role of the Municipal District in facilitating community access to town owned community halls. Overviews the process of renting a hall for varying event types and outlines the expectations and responsibilities of user groups who rent the halls.
REC-72-05 Maintenance of Walking Trails and Facility Parking Lots	Establishes expectations around inspections, maintenance and repairs on walking trails and community complex parking lots.	Policy recognizes the value of recreation and active living which is facilitated through the provision of multi-use trials. Outlines the method for trail inspection and maintenance provided by the Municipal District and the frequency of service, which varies seasonally.
REC-72-06 Playground, Park and Baseball Diamond Maintenance, Inspection and Repair	Establishes expectations around inspections, maintenance and repairs of playgrounds, baseball diamonds and other park infrastructure	Policy recognizes the opportunities that playgrounds, parks, and baseball diamonds offer to facilitate active living. Outlines the method for playground and baseball diamond inspection and maintenance provided by the Municipal District and the frequency of service, which varies seasonally.
REC-72-08 Community Sustainability Initiatives program policy	To establish a formal partnership with local not-for-profit community organizations to manage, operate and maintain community programming for municipally owned community facilities/spaces.	Outlines the towns commitment to partnering with community groups to assist them in running programs at municipal owned community facilities/spaces. Outlines the legal responsibilities of both the Municipal District and community groups in these partnership arrangements.

Policy or Plan	Purpose	Relevance
REC-72-09 Cemetery Grant Funding	Defines the process by which the Municipal District provides funding towards the capital and operational costs of maintaining cemeteries located within the Municipal District.	Provides a list of cemeteries within the Municipal District. Outlines the application process for community groups to apply for funding to assist with cemetery maintenance costs.
Open Spaces Regulations Bylaw 2022-03	Outlines rules and regulations that park users must adhere to when using or recreating on Municipal owned parks and open spaces.	Provides insight into the rules and regulations that govern the parks, reserves and open spaces that are owned and run by the Municipal District.

Municipal Policies and Plans

Policy or Plan	Purpose	Relevance
Municipal Development Plan – Bylaw 2012-09 (2013)	Is the overarching development plan for the Municipal District that guides the physical development and improvement of the community.	Encourages the provision of public recreation opportunities that are compatible with the capabilities and characteristics of the natural environment. Encourages diversity in recreation provision and the provision of high-quality recreation experiences to promote tourism. Promotes the protection of natural areas from recreational activities and recreational development which may harm natural areas. Encourages the development of a Recreation and Open Space Master Plan to guide future recreation, park, and trail planning.
Inter Municipal Development Plan (2015)	Outlines a co-operative framework for the co-ordination of planning and development that is of joint interest between the Town of Slave Lake (the Town) and the	Provides insight into how funding allocation decisions are made, and which community members/groups qualify for this funding. Community assistance funding is focused on the provision of opportunities, initiatives and programming relating to recreation, social, culture, education, and athletics.

Policy or Plan	Purpose	Relevance
Tri-Council Regional Growth Plan (2015)	To collaboratively coordinate environmental stewardship, infrastructure expansion, growth and development opportunities on land that falls between areas governed by the Lesser Slave Lake Region Tri-Council. The Tri-Council is the combined Councils of the Sawridge First Nation, the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River, and the Town of Slave Lake. The plan provides a guide for making decisions that contribute to the development of a sustainable region.	A core objective of the plan is to provide parks and recreational facilities that encompass a variety of scales are accessible to all. This is to be achieved through joint planning initiatives that establish regional priorities and shared responsibilities for implementation which includes funding and staff support. The plan also mentions the desire for the establishment of regional parks.
Public Participation Policy (2018)	To provide direction to administration on how to involve stakeholders in decision making that affects community.	Provides insight into the Municipal District's approach to public engagement. Outlines various methodologies for public engagement.

Regional and Provincial Policies and Plans

Policy or Plan	Purpose	Relevance
Active Alberta Policy (2011-2021)	Policy to guide investment decisions made by municipalities, private recreation providers and partners that lead to outcomes such as improved health and wellness, stronger communities, and economic benefits through recreation.	Outlines overarching outcomes and strategic priorities for municipalities within Alberta to align to. These include: Creating active individuals, active communities, increased participation in outdoor recreation, increased engagement, and participation in the recreation sector through volunteerism, integration and collaboration between different levels of government and recreation partners, encouraging the pursuit of excellence in sport – fostering athlete level participation.

Policy or Plan	Purpose	Relevance
Town of Slave Lake Municipal Development Plan (2007)	To express the aspirations of the Council and citizens of the Town of Slave Lake with respect to the long-term development and sustainability of their community.	Affirms the land use and development goals, objectives, and policies that are intended to guide future decision making. The plan lays out a policy and regulatory framework for both public and private land use and development within the Town. The plan includes a specific section on community facilities and services including recreation. There is specific mention of a new multi-use recreation/community facility, as well as maintaining outdoor recreation opportunities at local, provincial parks and the Town's trail system.
Slave Lake Sustainability Plan 2035 (2007)	Provide a framework to guide growth and development in the town to ensure that future growth and development occurs in a way that is socially, culturally, economically, and environmentally responsible.	Provides guidance on how to develop recreation areas, facilities and amenities without negatively influencing the surrounding natural environment. Provides metrics for success for new housing developments such as a requirement for new developments to incorporate areas designated for recreation (parks, playing fields, play infrastructure) The development of a new multipurpose recreation facility is listed as a core goal/ outcome in the plan.

National Policies and Plans

Policy or Plan	Purpose	Relevance
Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015)	Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) national level guiding document that establishes a vision for the delivery of recreation in Canada and five goals to guide recreation providers.	Provides an excellent starting point for recreation planning and a foundation for alignment with other communities and levels of government, bolstering the case for provincial and federal investments in recreation. Goals include supporting active living, inclusion and access, connecting people with nature, creating supportive environments, and building sector capacity.
Truth and Reconciliation: Calls to Action Report (2015)	To redress the legacy of the residential school system in Canada, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) developed 94 Calls to Action to support reconciliation in Canada.	Several Calls to Action speak directly to sports and recreation, including promoting education on Indigenous sport history and participation, amending policies and programs to ensure inclusivity, and identifying opportunities to connect health goals and initiatives with efforts to promote reconciliation through recreation.
Let's Get Moving (2018)	Federal strategy focused on building on existing efforts to get Canadians moving more and presents topics to address sedentary behavior challenges.	Topics identified include creating spaces and places that are supportive and accessible for physical activity to be part of daily life, expanding public engagement efforts, and on developing multi-sectoral partnerships to achieve shared outcomes.
Canadian Sport for Life	Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) promotes quality sport and physical activity by focusing on Long-Term Athlete Development and Physical Literacy in Canadian communities.	Long-Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity is about ensuring that all people can access quality opportunities that are safe and inclusive, well-run, and developmentally appropriate. Physical Literacy is about motivation, physical confidence, knowledge, and understanding needed to take responsibility for engaging in physical activity for life.
Parks for All (2017)	Developed by the CPRA, this document presents a vision for parks in Canada to support healthy environments and people, as well as four strategic directions to support service providers.	Strategic directions include collaboration (partnerships, expanding efforts in new sectors, strategizing beyond parks boundaries), connecting (raise awareness, facilitate experiences, share stories), conservation (expand and enhance parks and ecosystem services), and leadership (set examples for others, build capacity, maintain systems and resources to support leaders).
Canada Sport Policy (2012)	Federal policy first developed in 2002 that sets a direction for all levels of government, institutions, and organizations to realize the positive impacts of sport participation.	Underscores the importance and ability of sport systems to deliver benefits to communities and identifies amenities that provide benefits to citizens related to sport participation and physical activity.

APPENDIX B

RECREATION AND PARKS TRENDS

The following provides a review of trends that were deemed relevant to the creation of this Master Plan and considered in the development of the strategies contained within.

Infrastructure Trends and Leading Practices

Aging Infrastructure

Managing aging infrastructure is of key concern for Canadian municipalities, including recreation amenities that are vital to the delivery of important community programming. Many municipalities are facing difficult realities related to sustaining current service levels for their residents. The Canadian Infrastructure Report Card (CIRC) assesses the condition of municipally owned infrastructure; the Report Card (a nationally conducted study) was first released in 2016. A follow-up report was completed in 2019. The Report Card assessed several infrastructure categories, including an analysis of the state of culture, recreation, and sports facilities in Canada.

Both reports reveal several concerns and issues that will impact the delivery of recreation over the next number of years. Approximately 30-35% of facilities are in fair condition or worse and a large proportion is more than 50 years old. While the condition of individual facilities varies, it can be assumed that a collection of facilities many decades old will require significant capital investment (or replacement) compared with much newer facilities. The categories in the worst condition (i.e., more than 30% are in fair, poor or very poor condition) include single-pad ice arenas, outdoor pools and wading pools, indoor 25-metre pools, indoor curling rinks and tennis courts.

Canadian Infrastructure Report Card Key Findings

- The Report Card demonstrates that Canada's infrastructure, including sport and recreation facilities, are at risk of rapid deterioration unless there is an immediate investment.
- The average annual reinvestment rate in sport and recreation facilities is currently 1.3% (of capital value) while the recommended target rate of reinvestment is 1.7% – 2.5%.
- Almost 1 in 2 sport and recreation facilities are in 'very poor', 'poor' or 'fair' condition and need repair or replacement.
- In comparison to other municipal infrastructure assessed in the Report Card, sport and recreation facilities were in the worst state and require immediate attention.
- The Report Card indicated that the extrapolated replacement value of sport and recreation facilities in 'poor' or 'very poor' condition is $9 billion while those in 'fair' condition require $14 billion.

LEED/ Sustainable buildings

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design or LEED® is an international symbol of sustainability excellence and green building leadership. LEED's proven and holistic approach helps virtually all building types to lower carbon emissions, conserve resources, and reduce operating costs by prioritizing sustainable practices. Canada is one of the top Countries in the world for LEED certification. Additional practices for sustainable buildings include building with repurposed materials, utilization of LED lighting, and renewable energy resources such as solar panels, and reducing water use through waterless urinals or rainwater basins.

Planning for Multi-Use Spaces

Recreation facilities are being designed to accommodate multiple activities and to encompass a variety of different components. The benefits of **designing multi-use spaces include the opportunity to create operational efficiencies,** attract various users, and procure multiple sources of revenue.

Providing the opportunity for all family members to take part in different opportunities simultaneously at the same location additionally increases participation levels, convenience, and satisfaction for residents.

Creating spaces within a facility that are easily adaptable and re-configurable is another growing trend observed in many newer and retrofitted facilities. Most sport venues are now being designed and constructed in such a manner that staging, seating, and wall configurations can be easily changed or removed as required to host various community and cultural events.

Integrating Indoor and Outdoor Environments

A relatively new concept in recreation and leisure infrastructure planning is to ensure that the indoor environment interacts seamlessly with the adjacent outdoor environment. This can include ideas such as public event spaces, indoor/outdoor walking trails, indoor/ outdoor child play areas, and indoor/ outdoor public art. Although there are a number of operational issues that need to be considered when planning indoor/outdoor environments (e.g. cleaning, controlled access, etc.) the concept of planning an indoor facility to complement the site it is located on (and associated outdoor amenities included) as well as the broader community parks and trail system is prudent and will ensure the optimization of public spending on both indoor and outdoor recreation and culture infrastructure. Integrating indoor and outdoor environments can be as “simple” as ensuring interiors have good opportunities to view the outdoors.

Activity / Participation Trends

Demand for Spontaneous and Unstructured Recreation

There is growing demand for more flexibility in timing and activity for leisure pursuits. **People are now seeking individualized informal pursuits that can be done alone or in small groups, at flexible times, often near or at home.** This trend does not eliminate the need for structured activities but suggests that planning for the general population is as important as planning for more traditional structured-use environments. Research on teenage activity preferences in Wales suggests that access and lack of opportunity hinder youth activity levels. Creating a voucher-type program where researchers provided teenagers with funds to pay for preferred activities, researchers found that teenagers gravitate towards fun, unstructured and socially oriented activities such as trampolining, laser tag and going to water parks. Top-down policy approaches are likely ineffective when it comes to increasing youth activity levels, as many teenagers prefer more flexible, spontaneous opportunities.

Spontaneous recreation is broadly characterized as physical activities in which the activities, nature of participation and timing of participation are freely chosen and do not require registration for programs or leagues. Examples of spontaneous recreation activities include walking, running, children playing, skateboarding, and other pick-up sports, games, and activities.

Recreation consumers have a greater choice of activity options than ever before. As a result, service providers are now required to ensure that they are approaching **service delivery fluidly** and in such a way so to be able to quickly adapt to meet community needs. Many municipalities have also had to make hard decisions on activities they are able to directly offer or support, versus those that are more appropriate to leave to the private sector to provide.

Parks and Greenspace for Spontaneous Recreation

The **value of the local parks and green spaces should not be understated** in times of crisis. A 2020 study conducted by National Recreation and Parks Association[6] found that 83% percent of adults agree that visiting their local parks, trails and open spaces is essential for their mental and physical wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 60% responded that it is very or extremely essential to exercise in parks and green spaces to relieve stress and remain healthy during the COVID-19 crisis. Given the strong connection communities feel to their local green spaces, recreation and parks will be key to social recovery and in the maintaining of community bonds and relationships.

While structured programming and user groups are often the primary consideration when planning for future parks and field spaces, in recent years there has been a **growing demand for passive or "spontaneous" recreation in community parks year-round.** This demand can only be expected to grow because of the COVID-19 pandemic event and related restrictions to organized play/sport. While designated fields and parks can accommodate spontaneous and "pick up" activities, barriers to using these spaces often exist including residents being unaware if a space is booked by an organized user group, physical barriers such as fencing that restricts access, and seasonal limitations such as snow removal and lacking support amenities (shade, warming hut).

To ensure spontaneous opportunities exist for residents, many municipalities are actively encouraging the use of parks and greenspace for casual and "pick up" activities. In addition to encouraging physical and social activity, encouraging these activities in public greenspaces can result in broader benefits, such as:

- Increased utilization of parks and open spaces.
- Reduction in deviant/anti-social behaviour through increased resident value and regular use.
- Increased opportunities for multi-generational recreation, sport, and physical activity.

Several municipalities have had success encouraging this practice in the following ways:

- Communicate and promote (through traditional and social media platforms) that unstructured activities are permitted in parks and open spaces.
- Installation of washroom facilities, shade barriers and warming stations.
- Regular, year-round maintenance.
- Signage in park spaces which promotes spontaneous recreational and spontaneous sport.

[6] https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/park-pulse/the-essential-need-for-parks/

Community Innovation: City of Edmonton Green Shack Program

The City of Edmonton's (AB) 'Green Shack' program is an innovative approach for activating parks spaces in summer months. 'Green Shacks' (small shipping container-styled structures) are placed at parks and playgrounds throughout the City, with program leaders assigned to each location. Program leaders facilitate a variety of games, sports, crafts, music, drama and special events programs that are free-of-charge for children and youth to attend, blending scheduled and spontaneous activities throughout the summer months. The Green Shack program runs from early July to late-August each year, helping to enhance park safety, encourage spontaneous and guided youth activity and providing free, supervised activities for young Edmontonians.

Physical Literacy as Key to Human Development and Health

Physical literacy has become an increasing prominent concept in the field of sport and recreation in the past few decades. It likens the idea of physical ability to language literacy, in which children, youth and adults follow a development path. The physical literacy model is composed of the basis of knowledge, awareness, **behaviours and understanding needed for healthy active living and lifelong participation in physical activity.**

> Physical literacy can be described as the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities for life (International Physical Literacy Association, 2017)

Canada, along with the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand, pioneered major initiatives in education, community, and public health to increase physical participation and performance using the physical literacy model. The concept of physical literacy was adapted and popularized by the (Canadian) Sport for Life movement, which was included in the Canadian Sport Policy 2012 as a foundation for sport participation. As a result, many Canadian municipalities are now including physical literacy within their own community sport strategies and policies such as the City of Mississauga Sport Plan, 2013 and the Richmond Sport for Life Strategy, 2010.

A 2018 report on the state of children's physical literacy in Canada presented the findings of a national research study of over 10,000 children, aged 8 to 12, from 11 cities across the country participated in the study from 2014 to 2017[7]. The study found that **nearly two-thirds of Canadian children haven't achieved an acceptable level of physical literacy.** The findings were based on daily step counts and questionnaires about physical activities. These findings indicate that more needs to be done to ensure children are physically literate in Canada, and as such the concept of physical literacy will continue to be an important component within the Canadian recreation sector.

[7] https://www.capl-eclp.ca/2018/10/02/canadas-first-state-of-the-nation-report-on-childrens-physical-literacy/

Physical Activity and Older Adults

A major trend within recreation and leisure service delivery is greater focus on providing programs and services for aging populations. The **Canadian population is aging steadily and there will be larger cohorts of Canadians aged 65+ than ever before.** This growing population has created a tremendous demand for unique recreation services to meet the needs of older adults. Regular physical activity contributes to the prevention and management of chronic diseases, as well as a host of other health issues older adults face. It also has been shown to reduce the risk of falling and bone fractures as people age, can help prevent or lessen a variety of physical limitations, stave off depression and improve mental well-being, and can significantly help older adults maintain their independence and enjoy daily life.

The World Health Organization (WHO)'s Global Guidelines of Physical Activity for Adults 65 Years and Older

1) Older adults should achieve at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity aerobic physical activity throughout the week or at least 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity throughout the week or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous-intensity activity.
2) Aerobic activity should be performed in bouts of at least 10 minutes duration.
3) For additional health benefits, older adults should increase their moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity to 300 minutes per week or engage in 150 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity per week, or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous-intensity activity.
4) Older adults, with poor mobility, should perform physical activity to enhance balance and prevent falls on 3 or more days per week.
5) Muscle-strengthening activities, involving major muscle groups, should be done on 2 or more days a week.
6) When older adults cannot achieve the recommended amounts of physical activity due to health conditions, they should be as physically active as their abilities and conditions allow.

Source: https://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/physical-activity-recommendations-65years.pdf

Figure 9: Motivating Factors for Older Adult Physical Activity

Today older adults are expected to live longer and live a move active life the generations past. This will present growing opportunities and user demands for creative, innovative programming for older adults. However, contradictory to these anticipated trends is a 2018 Statistics Canada report[8] that highlighted as older Canadians are becoming less and less physically active over time. The report revealed a slow decline in overall activity levels among older adults. Participation rates of women aged 65 and older in active pursuits declined from 77% in 1986 to 69% in 2015. Over the same period the average time spent by senior men and women on physical activity declined by 35 and 40 minutes per day, respectively. Forty-four percent (44%) of men aged 65 and older participate in physical activities, along with 39% of women. This may indicate a need for recreation programmers to reassess the types of opportunities and experiences they offer older adults.

Service Delivery Leading Practices

Cost Benefit Sharing/ Partnerships

Many communities are partnering with neighbouring rural municipalities to offer accessible recreation services and infrastructure to everyone in the region. This can include benefit-based cost-sharing that takes many forms in the context of local government in this province but the essential ingredients stay the same: those who benefit from a service pay for that service. The sophistication and complexity of cost-sharing arrangements range from the simplest sharing agreement that can be detailed on a single page, to the formation of for-profit corporations that require the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Cost sharing is, by far, the most common means of cooperative financing in use by Alberta's municipalities. Benefit-based cost sharing has served Alberta municipalities well in the past and continues to offer the best solution for sharing the burden of financing both the cost of municipal infrastructure and the operating cost of providing regional services (AAMDC, 2010).

[8] https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/180321/dq180321a-eng.htm

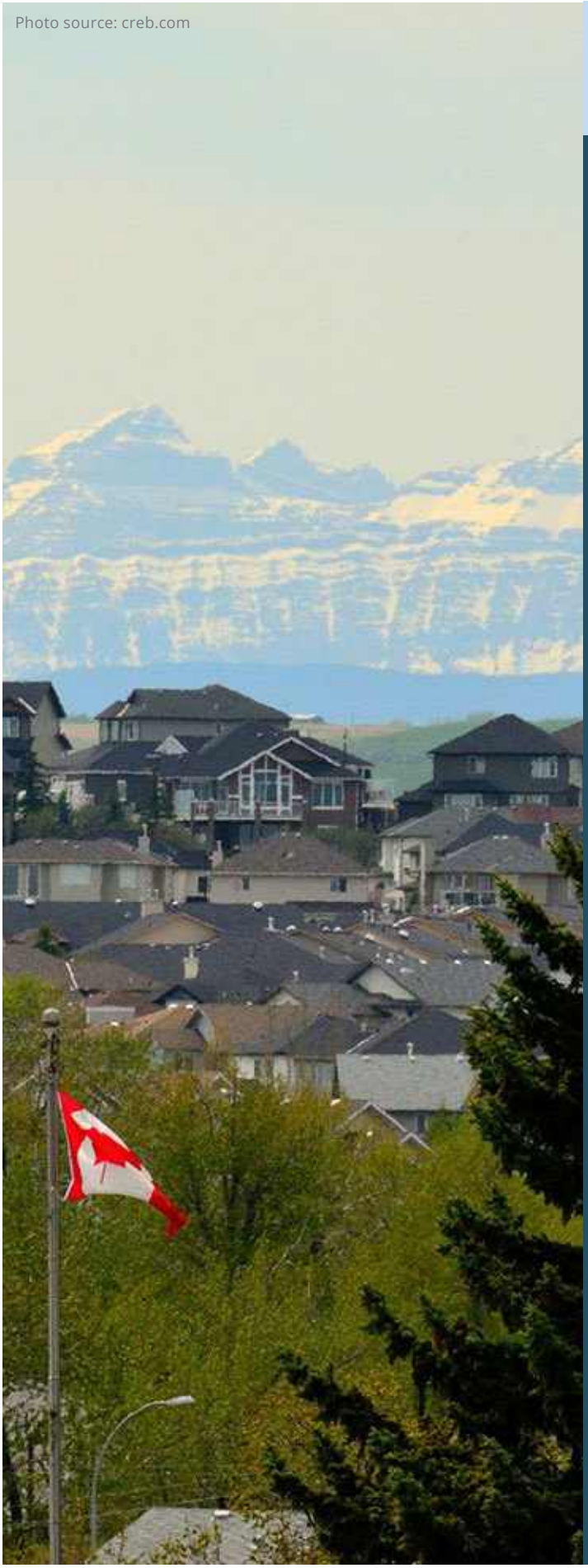


Photo source: creb.com

Case Study: Town of Okotoks and Municipal District of Foothills Shared Services Agreement

Recognizing that population growth was creating a situation in which the Town of Okotoks began to operate as a regional hub for municipal services being utilized by regional residents, the MD of Foothills and Town first adopted a shared services agreement in 2012. This agreement was initiated under the recognition that many Town services, including libraries, recreation facilities, and so forth, are assets that benefit residents of the entire region. The Town and MD renewed its 'Master Shared Services Agreement Bylaw' in 2018. The Agreement defines recreation services, as well as what costs are to be shared. Outdoor recreation facility costs are excluded for the time being.

The Agreement also speaks specifically to the Town, MD, and the Foothills-Okotoks Recreation Society cooperating and collaborating with each other in the financing and operations of the Crescent Point Regional Field House, with the Town and MD sharing operating and capital costs equally. Opened in 2014, the Facility is a model for collaborative partnerships. A third-party (Nustadia Recreation) operates the facility on behalf of the Foothills-Okotoks Recreation Society – itself comprised of representatives from the MD, the Town, and three citizens-at-large.

The Town and MD are taking the innovative approach of utilizing a shared services agreement to establish the right level of detail needed for recreation collaboration to occur, while also outlining limits of such collaboration and specific focus areas that are to be addressed. As such, shared services agreements may allow for iterative recreation collaboration in that the scope of collaboration and cost sharing formulas can be adjusted on a regular basis – either expanded or contracted, depending on what partners deem to be warranted.

This type of inter-municipal collaboration can also result in improved perceptions of rural residents using urban facilities and create fee equity. Along with this inter-municipal collaboration, it is important to set clear expectations for the service-providing municipality, it is important to ask how this collaboration will affect decision-making on capital projects, levels of services, etc. Joint Recreation committees are a helpful resource to ensure all partnering communities are benefiting from their contributions. An important early step is to gather the information and data that demonstrates how all ratepayers, and all municipal partners benefit from a cooperative initiative.

Data Collection

Recreation and parks departments are increasingly utilizing data to understand user behaviors, needs, preferences, and desires. According to the National Parks and Recreation Associations Survey NRPA survey of parks and recreation professionals, more than 90% of respondents (in leadership roles) identified data collection and analysis as important or very important for activities such as master planning, capital investments, programming, and support staff. However, not every municipality is collecting data and no two municipalities collect data using the same methods. Respondents identified facility usage data, program utilization data, demographic trends, crime data, and school enrolment as important data sources for decision-making.

In terms of methods for collecting data, surveying residents and users is the most common approach. For facility usage, some municipalities have staff manually count visitors and others use automated methods such as scanning user cards. Other departments that may be collecting useful data include public works or utilities, police and fire departments, and transportation departments. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are also becoming frequently used within the sector to understand where users live, what amenities are available to whom and to identify gaps and opportunities geospatially.

Summary of Cost Sharing Benefits:

- It would provide the ability to **leverage more support and resources from each other and other sources** and therefore better meet the needs of residents and community members More recreation opportunities contribute to a happier, healthier society.
- It would enable the **sharing of costs, risks, and rewards.** Having impactful community spaces and/or world-class recreation facilities can be better achieved by working together but infrastructure and development can be expensive and risky by working in collaboration with regional partners, member municipalities can achieve greater success with lower risk to each independent partner.
- It would lead to **less duplication, competition, and heightened coordination** of recreation services.
- It would provide a **forum for regional recreation planning that will allow all municipalities to work towards a shared vision** that would be defined collectively.

Equity & Inclusion

Recreation facilities and spaces, parks and trails should be welcoming environments for all peoples – regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, income, age, ability, or sexual identity. Efforts are occurring across Canada to ensure that recreation facilities and parks embrace everyone. Deliberate planning and concrete actions are needed to ensure spaces minimize potential barriers and equity and inclusion challenges. The direction for this deliberate action is set in strategic plans such as this Master Plan.

The diversity of the MDLSR the surrounding region can only be expected to increase in future years; as such, we must consider how policies and practices will contribute to building bridges between socio-cultural and ethnic gaps and address barriers to participation. Equity is about creating fairness, and providing citizens with access to spaces, facilities, services and supports that they require to meet their needs.

Community Innovation: Moose Jaw Rural and Northern Immigration Canada Pilot

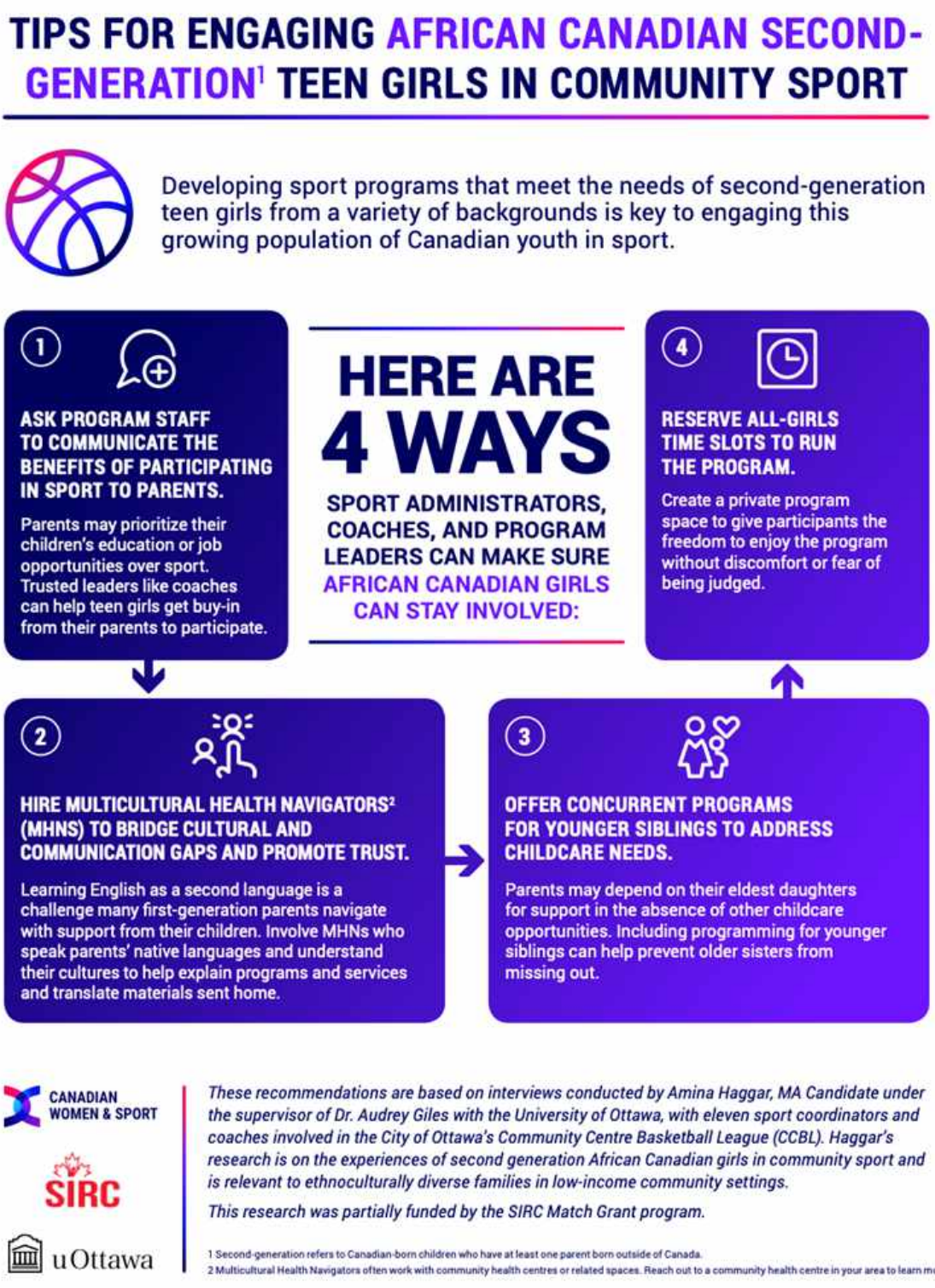
As part of their broader participation in the Government of Canada's Rural and Northern Immigration Canada program, Moose Jaw is actively striving towards creating an opening and welcoming community for new Canadians. A key partner in these efforts is the Moose Jaw Newcomer Welcome Centre, which serves immigrant newcomers to the City and surrounding region by providing guidance, support, resources, and services. An innovative program offered by the Welcome Centre is the Healthy Living Project, which focuses on furthering integration into the Moose Jaw community for women and girls through physical activity, sports programs, and healthy living. The Project offers monthly events such as swimming lessons, canoeing, yoga and so forth to encourage engagement and integration.

Benefits:

- Supports heathy and active living.
- Fosters community connections and relationship building.
- Takes an integrated approach to better understand the unique needs of newcomer women and girls.

Recreation providers are in an excellent position to improve the lives of those who have been oppressed through the delivery of services and **programs that are thoughtfully designed to empower and provide a sense of self-determination.** A first step in creating and fostering equity is to facilitate inclusion. Inclusion is about providing a voice to all; it involves the conscious practice of activity engaging people of different backgrounds and experiences. These processes require the acknowledging of our history and reflections on power and privilege. Such experiences and reflections should result in the valuing differences and recognizing that each person has a valuable contribution to society.

Figure10: Program Innovation to Engage Girls in Physical Activity



When working to build inclusion and equity, it is important to frame the planning of programming and services as working towards collective benefit for all; this can include strategies such as writing policies and procedures in plain language, so they are easy to understand by all communities and creating welcoming facilities that all people feel safe in[9] **Creating fairness within the parks and recreation sector, and our broader society, should be something that motivates all providers and participants.**

[9] https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2015/december/racial-equity-in-parks-and-recreation/

Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

The 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Call to Action Report identified sport and recreation as tools for social development to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples and communities (Calls to Action 87 – 91). The platform of Reconciliation in Canada challenges the recreation sector to do more than an acknowledgment of territorial land or of the Calls to Action within the Truth and Reconciliation Report; it is an opportunity to learn about the land Canadians reside on, the traditional peoples and cultures, and to foster new relationships that will lead to healthier individuals, communities, and balanced partnerships. Reconciliation is an ongoing process that must occur in a respectful manner recognizing Indigenous cultural traditions and protocols to enable a positive move forward with Indigenous communities.

Ensuring that Indigenous peoples have the same opportunities, platforms, and support to tell their own stories in their own way and share their perspectives, traditions and cultures is important, as is ensuring that Indigenous voices are included in planning and development for the future of the cultural sector.

Celebrating and Recognizing Volunteerism

Volunteers play a central role in the development and delivery of recreation opportunities and experiences, including the operations of programs, facilities and the management of parks and trails. Everyday residents offer their time and resources to take action to make their community a better place to live, work and play. They are coaches, officials, and instructors; they serve on boards, event organizers; they are important community leaders. However, with increasing demands on individual's time, there has been a slight decline in volunteerism across Canada.

There has also been a change in how people are willing to volunteer – moving from a willingness to commit long durations to serve on boards towards a desire for much shorter one-off volunteerism (e.g., Canada Day event volunteer, park clean up). As such it is important to continue fostering volunteerism, including facilitating opportunities for youth to volunteer who, according to recent Stats Canada research, had the highest rate of formal volunteerism participation across all generations. Formal recognition of volunteers is a way both of expressing the gratitude of the community and of presenting role models to the people. This could be achieved by profiling volunteers to highlight their contribution and value within the broader community and regional channels, which would support future recruitment and encourage retention of current volunteers, by increasing volunteer satisfaction because of appropriate recognition.

Figure 11: Volunteering in Canada (StatsCanada, 2018)

VOLUNTEERING BY CANADIANS IN 2018

In 2018, **over 24 million people volunteered** formally (i.e., for an organization), informally (on their own), or both formally and informally, accounting for 79% of Canadians aged 15 and older. **They dedicated approximately 5 billion hours to volunteer activities**, equivalent to over 2.5 million full-time year-round jobs.

Among all generations, **iGens were the most likely to engage in formal volunteering, at 52%, but Matures contributed the most average hours** to formal volunteering activities.

FORMAL VOLUNTEERING RATES AND AVERAGE HOURS PER YEAR, POPULATION AGED 15 AND OLDER, BY GENERATION, 2018

52% iGEN	40% MILLENNIALS	44% GENERATION X	39% BABY BOOMERS	32% MATURES
82 hours	115 hours	120 hours	153 hours	222 hours
Born in 1996 and later	Born 1981 to 1995	Born 1966 to 1980	Born 1946 to 1965	Born 1918 to 1945

AVERAGE HOURS OF FORMAL VOLUNTEERING PER YEAR, POPULATION AGED 15 AND OLDER, BY ORGANIZATION TYPE, 2018

Among formal volunteers, more hours were dedicated to hospitals and religious organizations.

Hospitals

Religious organizations

Sports and recreation

Arts and culture

In 2018, more Canadians engaged in informal volunteering activities. Close to 23 million people volunteered on their own, while about half (12.7 million) devoted time to volunteering activities mediated by organizations such as hospitals.

Note: Formal volunteering is when people volunteer for and on behalf of organizations, while informal volunteering is engagement in activities on one's own (e.g., picking up groceries for a neighbour).

Source: Hahmann, Tara. 2021. "Volunteering counts: Formal and informal contributions of Canadians in 2018." *Insights on Canadian Society*. April. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 75-006-X.

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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

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APPENDIX C

ASSESSMENT OF RECREATION FACILITIES AND SPACES

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT #124 LESSER SLAVE RIVER

FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

FLATBUSH | SMITH | WIDEWATER | CANYON CREEK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

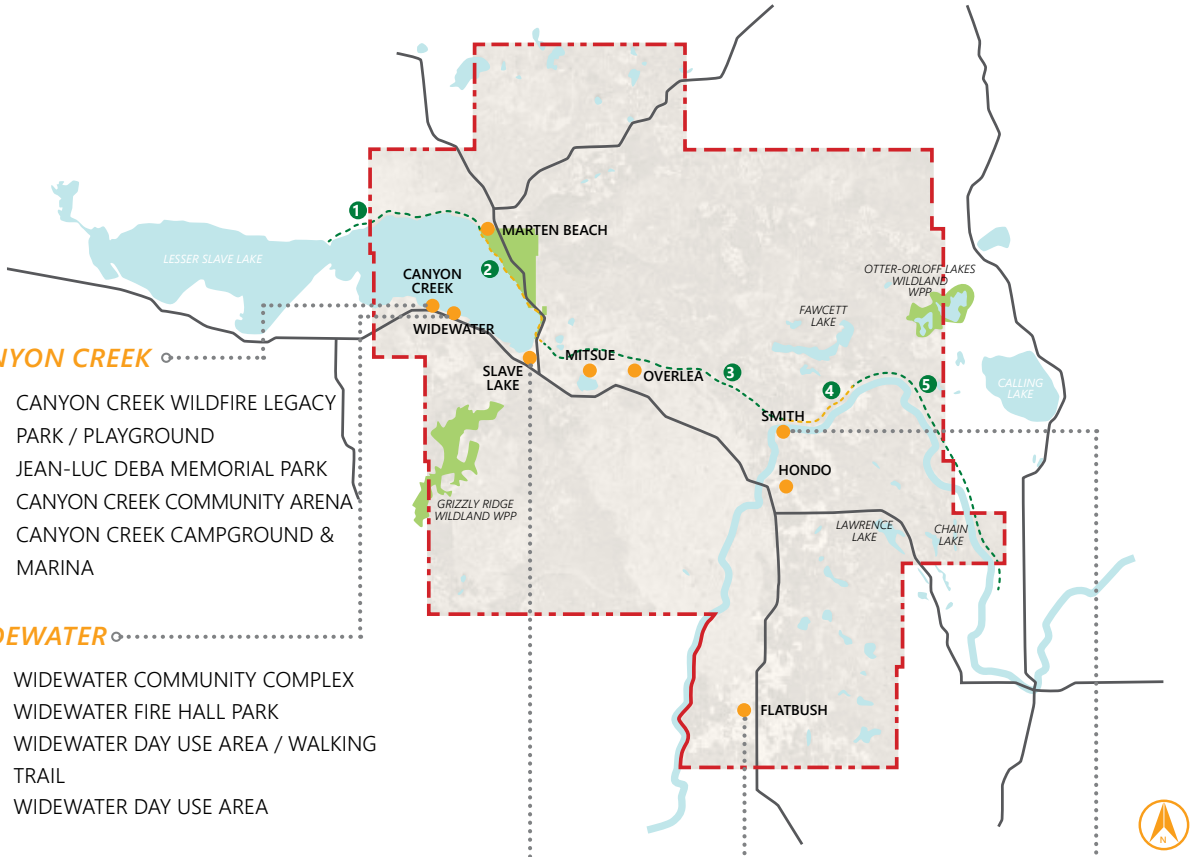
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of a Recreational Study by R.C. Strategies, TBD Architecture + Urban Planning conducted a Facilities Assessment of municipal facilities and outdoor recreation sites in the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River, Alberta. The assessment was conducted via on-site visual and photographic review of the facilities. Site visits were accompanied by a Town Representative to acquire relevant facility history and an understanding of the desired or anticipated operational needs. The purpose of the Facilities Assessment is to review and report on the condition of existing facilities and to outline immediate and ongoing maintenance needs.

This report investigates four sites within the Lesser Slave River Municipal District. Chapters 1.0 through 4.0 are each dedicated to an individual site, where information can be found on the buildings occupying the site as well as on the general open space site components. Chapter 5.0 provides a condensed list of notable findings from the Facilities Assessment, regarding future projects that should be prioritized.

The Municipal District Map on the following page provides a representation of sites throughout the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River, including significant sites along the Trans Canada Trail network. Only the facilities and open space components listed in the table of contents are summarized within this report.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MAP



CANYON CREEK

- CANYON CREEK WILDFIRE LEGACY PARK / PLAYGROUND
- JEAN-LUC DEBA MEMORIAL PARK
- CANYON CREEK COMMUNITY ARENA
- CANYON CREEK CAMPGROUND & MARINA

WIDEWATER

- WIDEWATER COMMUNITY COMPLEX
- WIDEWATER FIRE HALL PARK
- WIDEWATER DAY USE AREA / WALKING TRAIL
- WIDEWATER DAY USE AREA

SLAVE LAKE

- SLAVE LAKE MUNICIPAL BOAT LAUNCH

FLATBUSH

- FLATBUSH COMMUNITY COMPLEX
- FLATBUSH COMPLEX PLAYGROUND
- FLATBUSH GOLF COURSE

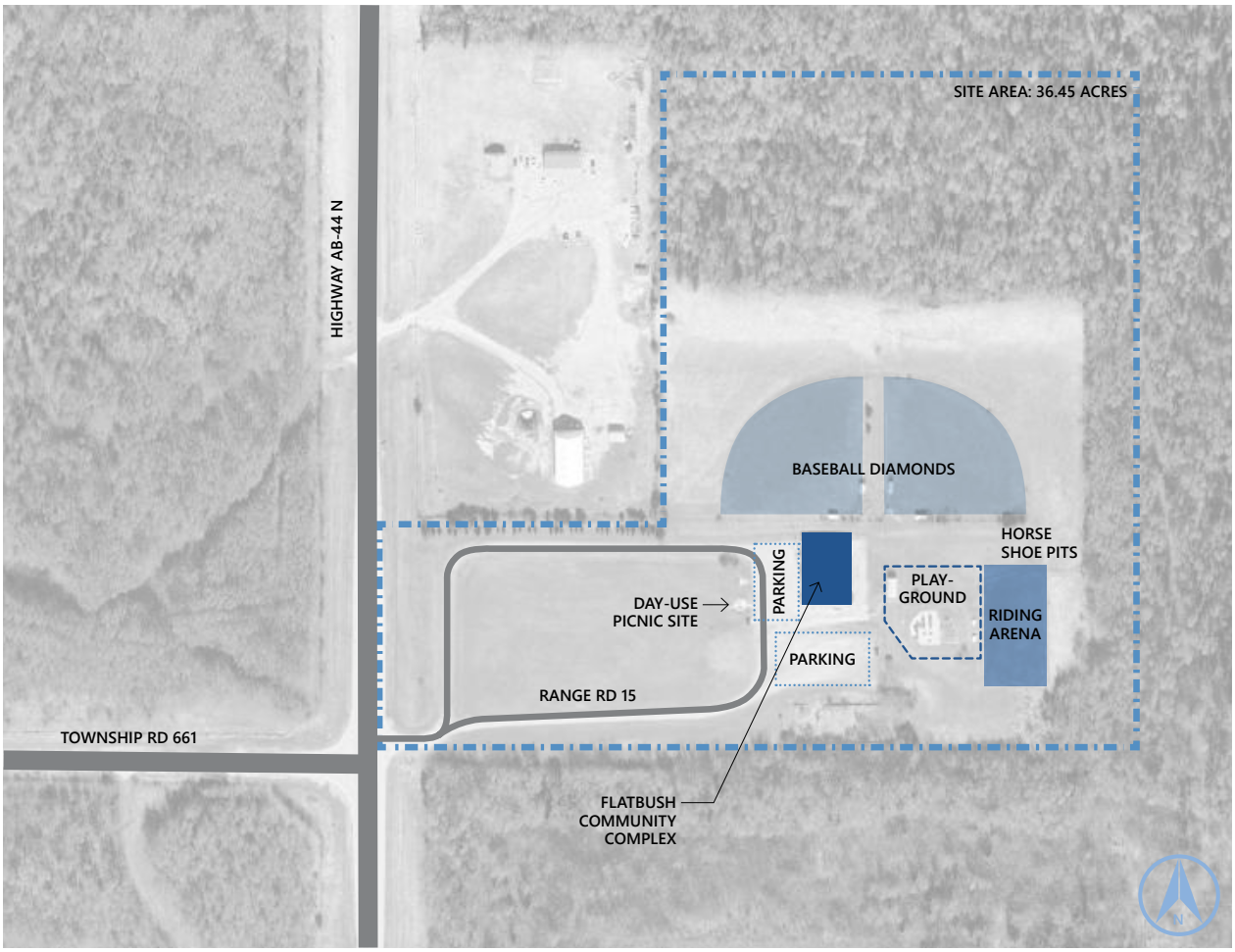
SMITH

- SMITH COMMUNITY COMPLEX
- SMITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PARK
- SMITH EQUINE ARENA
- SMITH OUTDOOR MULTI-USE SURFACE & GYMKHANA GROUNDS

TRANS CANADA TRAIL

1. NORTHSHORE TRAIL
2. FREIGHTER LAKESHORE TRAIL
3. LESSER SLAVE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL
4. MOOSE PORTAGE TO SMITH TRAIL
5. PEACE RIVER TRAIL

1.0
FLATBUSH FACILITIES



1.1 FLATBUSH COMMUNITY COMPLEX

1.1.0 FACILITY HISTORY

The Flatbush Community Complex is located to the east of highway 44, on Range Rd 15. The two-storey community complex serves as a vital gathering space for residents in the area. The original building has undergone some renovation work over the years.

The main floor of the complex includes a gymnasium and stage with an adjacent kitchen and bar, as well as a secondary, smaller meeting space. The gymnasium is equipped to be used for events as well as for sporting activities. The adjacent kitchen and bar hold a valid AHS food handling permit and are available for food preparation and service. The secondary meeting space is also accessible from the kitchen area and is equipped with tables and chairs for meetings and events.

The second floor of the community complex houses support facilities, including an office area, janitorial space and washrooms. Also located on the second floor is a library lease space and a daycare lease space.

1.1.1 SITE

The site is a combination of paved areas, un-paved compacted gravel areas, grass areas and natural vegetation. The building is situated near the centre of the site, with parking to the west and south of the facility. A communications antenna is located on the east side of the building, enclosed with a chain link fence. On the north side of the building, a lean-to covered area has been constructed, providing a large weather protected area directly off the facility's gymnasium. This structure also has proximity to the two baseball diamonds to the north of the building.

01_Main Entrance

02_Covered Addition

1.1.2 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

The superstructure of the community complex is assumed to be of combustible construction, including the barrel vault trusses. No destructive testing was completed as a part of the facility assessment, and record drawings were not available during the time of review for reference. The foundation system was not known at the time of the facility review, but is assumed to be a deep foundation system. Likewise, wall and roof assemblies were not known at the time of the facility review. The exterior walls and roof are clad with a prefinished metal cladding. There is a combination of fixed and operable double paned windows in the facility's building envelope. The building is not sprinkler protected but there is a centrally monitored fire alarm system.

1.1.3 BUILDING ENVELOPE

Thermal performance of the wall and roof systems are not known, however based on discussions with the maintenance operator, the roof has little to no insulation between the dropped ceiling and the upper barrel roof sheeting structure, and there is no vapour barrier included in the wall assembly. The exclusion of a vapour barrier within the building envelope has led to instances where strong winds have imposed an uplift force on the acoustic ceiling tiles, causing them to become dislodged from their suspended track system. Without a vapour barrier, it is not possible to control the transmission of vapour through the wall assemblies or roof/ceiling assemblies which will result in significant deterioration of the properties of these systems. There are only a small number of exterior windows on the building, however they appear to be properly flashed. Exterior weatherstripping around doors appears to be in good shape but will require continued maintenance.

The barrel vault roof sheds water primarily in two directions, to the north and south sides of the building. There are no gutters or downspouts on the north side, where water is shed from the barrel vault on to the lean-to covered area and then to ground. Water from the south (front) side of the building has been re-routed to discharge on the north side. The south gutter has been connected to PVC piping that runs along the sides of the building, discharging at each corner of the lean-to structure on the north side. This manner of drainage is highly susceptible to freeze/thaw cycles which can result in blockages within the enclosed piping as well as subsequent leaks and cracking due to thermal expansion and contraction. In addition, very low positive sloping was observed away from the building.

Barrel roof construction is susceptible to snow and ice falling from the upper roof down to grade. Covered entryways have been added on both the north and south sides of the building since the original construction, providing visitors with protection from weather elements and from falling snow and ice.

1.1.4 INTERIOR FINISHES

The main floor washrooms and public corridors were recently renovated, including new fixtures in the washrooms. Finishes appear to be in good condition and have been well maintained. The washroom renovation included accessibility upgrades to meet current barrier-free requirements.

The secondary meeting space was included in the recent renovation. Finishes appear to be in good condition and have been well maintained. The kitchen was not included in the renovation. Finishes in the kitchen appear to be in good condition but are somewhat dated.

The gymnasium was not included in the recent renovation, however it appears to be in good condition, including the flooring. The flooring has sport line markings and davit posts located within the slab to permit the setup of netting for various sports. It is noted that there are no basketball hoops or score clocks mounted to the walls within the gymnasium. An echo effect is noticeable in the gymnasium. The roof is exposed steel and the walls have a small amount of acoustic material behind the wood slat finish. The gymnasium would benefit from additional acoustical treatments.

The kitchen and bar area finishes are somewhat dated but are in good condition and have been well maintained. The cook line has proper ventilation with an integrated fire suppression system. Both the kitchen and bar are directly connected to the gymnasium via a rolling counter doors with a 1 hour fire rating.

The second floor spaces appear to be generally in good condition. Some water leak staining is visible on the acoustic ceiling tile throughout the second floor spaces. Further investigation is required to identify the cause. The finishes in the office area and janitor room appear to be in good condition but are somewhat dated. Likewise, the library and daycare tenant improvement finishes are well maintained but somewhat dated. Public washrooms on the second floor appear to be in good condition but do not meet current barrier-free requirements.

1.1.5 BARRIER-FREE ACCOMMODATIONS

There are no push button operators at the primary entrance of the building to allow barrier-free entry in to the facility. As mentioned above, the main floor renovation included washroom upgrades that provide barrier-free accommodations. The second floor washrooms do not meet current barrier-free requirements.

A lift has been installed within the open stairwell to allow persons with limited mobility to gain access to the second floor lease spaces. A person with knowledge of the equipment is required to assist with the use of the lift. When in operation, the lift system impedes the use of the convenience stair by others.

1.1.6 MECHANICAL

A detailed engineering analysis of the existing mechanical infrastructure was not conducted however maintenance staff with knowledge of the facility provided input regarding the existing systems during time of facility tour.

All furnaces are approximately eight years old and duct work is likely original to the building. The kitchen remains the only space with air conditioning within the building. Individual portable AC units have been installed in the tenant spaces to provide increased occupant comfort.

The community complex relies on a well for potable water. It is understood that a new well needs to be drilled.

The cast iron pipes in the building are failing, which is causing sanitary backups and a smell of sewage within the main floor washroom and shower corridor.

1.1.7 ELECTRICAL

A detailed engineering analysis of the existing electrical infrastructure was not conducted however maintenance staff with knowledge of the facility provided input regarding the existing systems during time of facility tour.

Interior electrical equipment is understood to be original and many of the building house panels are almost full or full which will limit future renovation options.

1.1.8 BUILDING IMAGES

01_Lean to, North Side of Building

02_Gymnasium + Stage

03_Kitchen

04_Multi-Purpose Room

05_Daycare

06_Library

1.2 FLATBUSH SITE

1.2.0 SITE INFORMATION

Site Area: 36.45 Acres

The Flatbush Community Complex site includes:

- Facility Parking
- Day-Use Picnic Site
- Baseball Diamonds
- Open Park Space - Playground, Riding Arena, Horseshoe Pits, Gazebo

1.2.1 FACILITY PARKING

Parking at the community complex is a combination of compacted gravel and paved lots. The parking lot to the west of the facility is paved, and most likely accommodates the majority of day to day traffic at the site. The pavement extends around the building, providing maintenance access as well as loading/unloading directly in to the gymnasium underneath the covered addition. The asphalt paving appears to be old, with visible cracks and areas that have previously been repaired. Site grading appears to be minimal, providing only a small positive slope away from the building. A lack of positive drainage in combination with aging materials may contribute to water pooling during rain events. At the time of review, a portion of the pavement directly in front of the facility was being repaved. Additional overflow parking is provided to the south of the facility. This gravel lot is slightly elevated in comparison to the paved lot. No stall line painting or wheel stops are present in either parking area so an accurate parking count could not be determined, however it is likely that parking is sufficient for peak occupancy demands.

1.2.2 DAY-USE PICNIC SITE

A day-use picnic site is located to the west of the main building. Movable picnic tables and fire pits are clustered within a gravel surfaced area. Furnishings appear to be in good condition and well maintained. The site includes an information board promoting the Lesser Slave River district as well as a public pit toilet. The pit toilet is equipped with grab bars for increased accessibility and appears to be in good condition. The picnic site also serves as the muster point for the community complex.

1.2.3 BASEBALL DIAMONDS

Two baseball diamonds are located on the north end of the site. The infield is of natural grass and the perimeter of each field is enclosed with a chain link fence. Each diamond is equipped with a chain link backstop and safety fencing, and fully enclosed dugouts for each team. The enclosed dugouts are in very poor condition and should be either removed or replaced. Both diamonds have open air grandstand seating. The side and top guardrails of the grandstands do not meet current code regulations for fall protection from elevated spaces. The grandstands also lack 'stair aisles' to the upper rows of seating.

1.2.4 OPEN PARK SPACE

To the east of the main facility is a large park space. There is a considerable elevation change between the paved vehicular access areas and the adjacent park space. An asphalt surfaced ramp with a railing on one side has been constructed to assist users in navigating the slope up to this space. The asphalt appears to be old, with visible cracks at multiple locations. The ramp does not meet current barrier-free requirements. The park space includes a playground, a riding arena, horseshoe pits, and a gazebo.

The playground is a large grass area enclosed by a chain link fence. The main play structure is made of painted metal and sits on a wood chip base ground cover, with rubber matting at the base of all the slides. A smaller play structure is located on the grass within the same fenced enclosure. Benches are provided around the perimeter of the playground. Both the fencing and playground equipment appear to be in good condition and well maintained.

A small grass riding arena is located on the eastern edge of the site. The arena is fully enclosed and the fencing appears to be in good condition. Two wooden bleachers are provided for spectator seating and appear to be in acceptable condition.

Within the open park space are two sets of horseshoe pits. Both the open park space and the horseshoe pits appear to be well maintained.

A small wood gazebo to the north of the playground provides some seating and the only shade within the open park space. The gazebo appears to be in good condition and well maintained.

There are some miscellaneous out buildings located around the site. At the time of the field review, one exterior concession building was taped off and intended for removal from the site. A small wood storage shed that houses site maintenance equipment was observed to be in acceptable condition. The interior of the storage shed was not inspected at the time of review.

1.2.5 SITE IMAGES

01_Day Use Picnic Site

02_Information Board

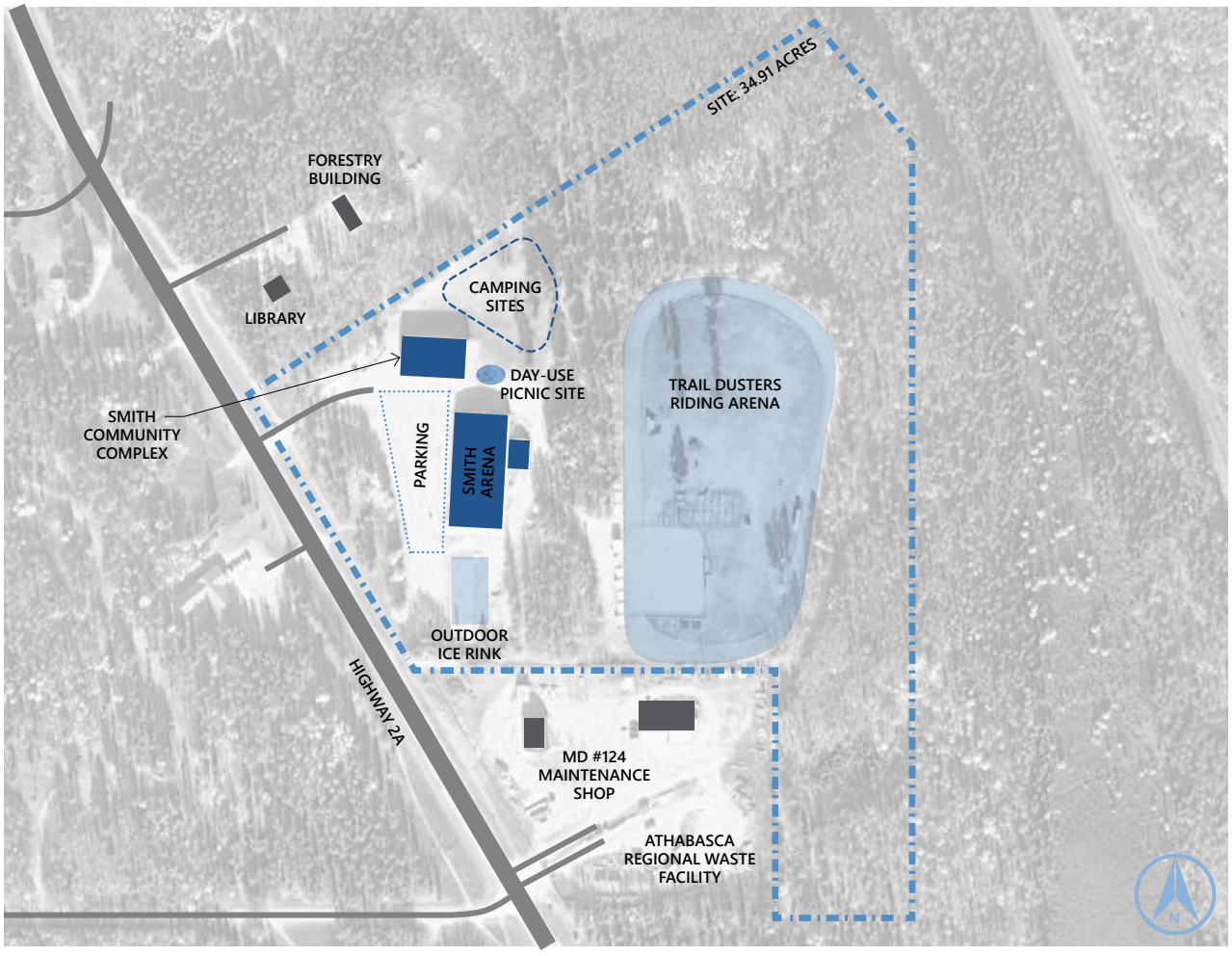
03_Baseball Diamond Grandstand Seating

04_Dugout

05_Playground + Gazebo

06_Storage Shed

2.0
SMITH FACILITIES



2.1 SMITH COMMUNITY COMPLEX

2.1.0 FACILITY HISTORY

The Smith Community Complex is located off of highway 2A, just south of the hamlet of Smith, Alberta. This assembly building, functions primarily as a banquet/dance hall. Camping is permitted on the site as a part of the banquet rental. The building is one storey, with a mechanical mezzanine. The primary entrance in to the facility is through a vestibule in to the lobby. A business area is located near the entrance, with three office spaces and a meeting room that are available for members of the community to lease. Accessories within the room are limited to furniture and in floor power connections for flexible seating arrangements. Public washrooms in the community complex are accessible from the lobby. Additional separate shower rooms are also available for use by patrons who book the facility.

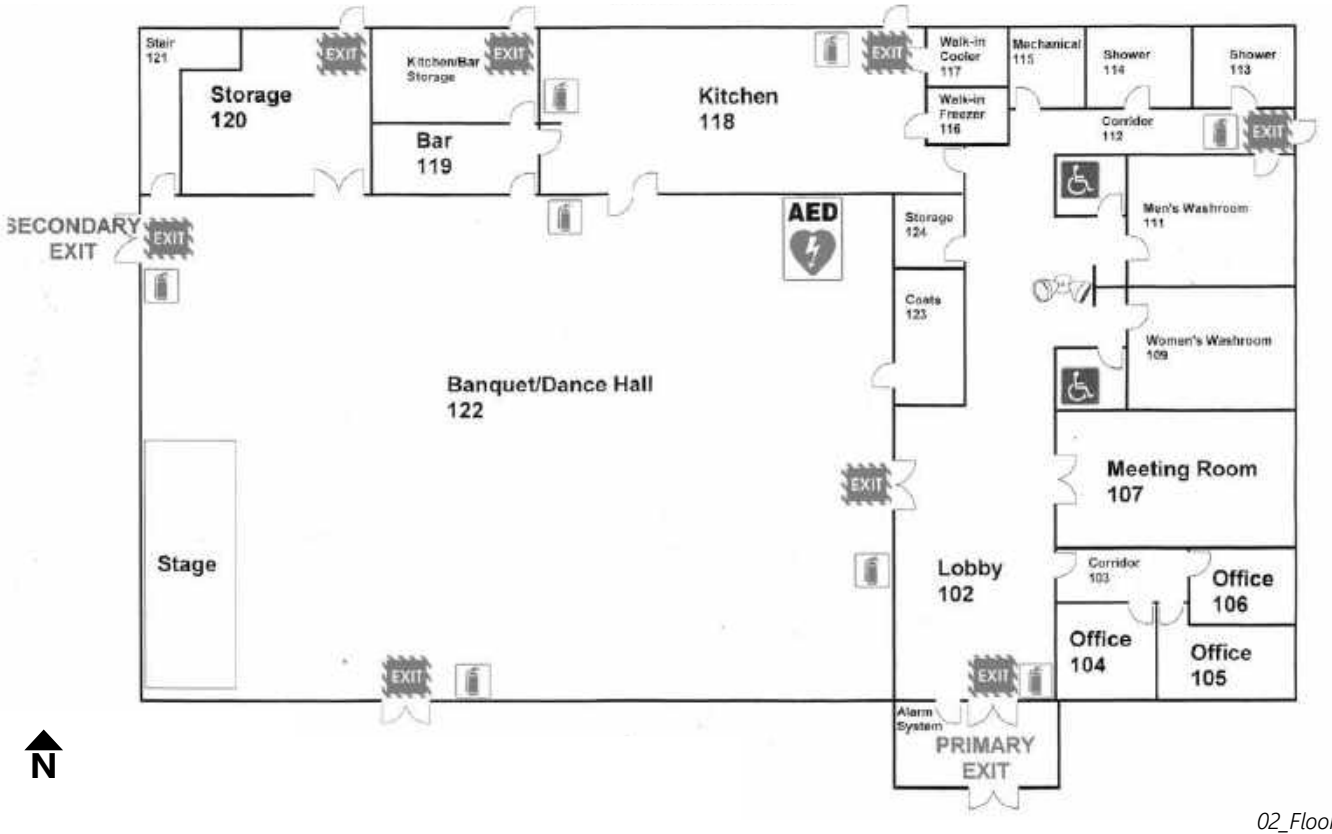
The banquet hall features an elevated stage and zoned lighting for increased user optimization within the venue. A general storage room is connected to the banquet hall for the storage of furnishings such as tables and chairs when not in use. The banquet hall is supported by a kitchen, bar, and coat storage area. The kitchen is a fully equipped commercial kitchen and holds a valid AHS Food Handling Permit. All kitchen fire suppression systems have been actively maintained and inspected and are fit for use. Both the kitchen and bar have counter windows with 1 hour rated rolling shutters.

There is a small second level mezzanine space that is constructed above the kitchen on the north half of the facility. The primary use of this space is to accommodate the mechanical air handling equipment. There is a portion of unused floor space in the mezzanine, however it is only accessible by stairwell.

2.1.1 SITE

The Smith Community Complex shares a site with the arena, an outdoor ice rink and the Trail Dusters Riding arena. A gravel parking lot is shared by all facilities on the site. To the east of the Community Complex is an open space that is available for overnight camping. The camping site is non-serviced and is available for use when booking the hall. Two sets of double doors provide direct access into the banquet hall of the Community Complex for loading/unloading. Site grading on the north side of the building and portions of the east side of the building make exterior servicing challenging as there is not flat grade to work from.

01_Main Entrance



02_Floor Plan

2.1.2 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

The superstructure of the community complex is a pre-engineered metal building, with a low sloped metal roof and prefinished exterior metal wall cladding. No destructive testing was completed as a part of the facility assessment, and record drawings were not available during the time of review for reference. The foundation system was not known at the time of the facility review, but is assumed to be a deep foundation system. Likewise, wall and roof assemblies were not known at the time of the facility review. The building is not sprinkler protected but there is a centrally monitored fire alarm system.

2.1.3 BUILDING ENVELOPE

Thermal performance of the wall and roof systems are not known, however given the newer construction of the building, it is assumed the facility would have been constructed with assemblies meeting the Alberta Building code at time of construction. The exterior walls of the building envelope are vertical metal siding clad walls. Exterior windows are a combination of fixed and operable double paned windows. Windows appear to be in good condition and there are no visible signs of any water penetration into the building envelope. Exterior weatherstripping around doors appears to be in good shape but will require continued maintenance.

The roof of the community complex is standing seam metal roofing. Roof drainage is controlled through downspouts and gutters and splashes to grade. A positive slope was observed diverting water away from the building around the entire perimeter. Canopies have been constructed at the main lobby entrance as well as at the primary egress doors from the banquet hall. The canopies provide additional protection from weather elements and from falling snow and ice.

2.1.4 INTERIOR FINISH

All spaces within the Community Complex have been well maintained, and no major deficiencies or excessive wear was observed.

2.1.5 BARRIER-FREE ACCOMMODATIONS

Push button operators are available at the primary entrance of the building to allow barrier-free entry in to the facility. The main floor of the facility meets current standards for barrier-free paths of travel.

Two barrier-free washrooms (one male, one female) are supplied as individual compartments adjacent to the primary washroom facilities. Washrooms are accessible off of the main path of travel through the building. The shower rooms do not meet barrier-free standards.

2.1.6 MECHANICAL

A detailed engineering analysis of the existing mechanical infrastructure was not conducted however maintenance staff with knowledge of the facility provided input regarding the existing systems during time of facility tour.

No mechanical deficiencies were identified during the tour of the facility. It was noted however that the HVAC system was not installed with variable speed drives. This reduction in energy efficiency is notable, especially in a newer facility, as it may result in an increase in energy usage.

2.1.7 ELECTRICAL

A detailed engineering analysis of the existing electrical infrastructure was not conducted however maintenance staff with knowledge of the facility provided input regarding the existing systems during time of facility tour.

No electrical deficiencies were identified during the tour of the facility.

2.1.8 BUILDING IMAGES

01_Lobby

02_Meeting Room

03_Kitchen

04_Kitchen

05_Banquet Hall + Stage

06_Mechanical Mezzanine

2.2 SMITH ARENA

2.2.0 FACILITY HISTORY

The Smith Arena is located off of highway 2A, just south of the hamlet of Smith, Alberta. This assembly building, was originally intended for use as an indoor ice arena. The building is currently used by an equestrian group as an indoor riding facility, with an accompanying support space. Dasher boards line the infield which is filled with a footing material for equestrian use. A storage room with an overhead door exists within the arena space. The storage room is storing maintenance equipment and doubles as a workshop space. A concrete surfaced apron slab connects the storage room to the primary dasher board gates. The remaining perimeter around the arena has a gravel surface, with a plywood walking path laid down to direct spectators to the seating area. The support space is located on the south end of the facility. Gendered washrooms and a concession window are accessed from the main lobby. A small kitchen is available for food preparation and holds a valid AHS Food Handling Permit. A small corridor leads off of the lobby space to meeting rooms and change spaces. Accessories within the meeting rooms are limited to movable furniture, including tables and chairs. The change spaces include an individual washroom stall and separate shower stalls that are available for use by patrons who book the facility. The area above the main floor support space was structurally designed to support a second floor assembly. To date, no floor has been constructed and no stair access has been provided.

2.2.1 SITE

The Smith Arena shares a site with the Community Complex, an outdoor ice rink and the Trail Dusters Riding arena. A gravel parking lot is shared by all facilities on the site. An overhead door on the north side provides access for loading/unloading directly in to the arena.

01_Main Entrance

02_East Side

2.2.2 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

Destructive testing was not completed as a part of the facility assessment, and record drawings were not available during the time of review for reference. The foundation system was not known at the time of the facility review, but is assumed to be a deep foundation system. The superstructure of the arena is a pre-engineered metal building consisting of deep corrugated galvalume steel perimeter walls that support a barrel vault roof. The roof structure is clad on the interior side, so it is not known if the roof structure is metal or wood trusses, nor the condition of that roof system. The structural capacity of this extremely shallow barrel vault warrants further review to assess compliance with requirements for increased snow loading found in the current Alberta Building Code. The building is not sprinkler protected.

A storage room is located in the southwest corner of the arena, containing facility maintenance equipment. The storage room should be a rated enclosure, including the overhead door. Currently, the storage room lacks the required fire separation for its function.

2.2.3 BUILDING ENVELOPE

The conditioned extent of the facility is limited to the front support spaces on the main floor. Thermal performance of these wall systems is not known, but are presumed to have assemblies meeting the Alberta Building Code at the time of construction. The main arena facility is not insulated and the wall construction does not contain air/vapour barriers.

The roof of the arena is standing seam metal roofing. Roof drainage splashes to grade, controlled through downspouts and gutters. Settlement of grading was observed along the entire extent of the west elevation, which has resulted in noticeable ponding of roof runoff against the perimeter of the building foundation. Concrete splash pads have been installed in an effort to channel water further away from the building, however further re-grading should be prioritized.

2.2.4 INTERIOR FINISH

Finishes within the front support spaces have been well maintained, and no major deficiencies or excessive wear was observed. The kitchen has a fire suppression system that has been actively maintained and inspected. The kitchen counter window is fitted with a 1 hour fire rated rolling shutter door.

The interior of the arena has seen significant wear and tear, and any use deviating from it's existing programming would require significant improvements and alterations to be functional.

2.2.5 BARRIER-FREE ACCOMMODATIONS

There are no push button operators at the primary entrance of the building to allow barrier-free entry in to the facility. The support space supports current standards for barrier-free paths of travel through the space, however there are no barrier-free accommodations within the arena itself. The plywood walking surface that leads to the seating area presents an uneven surface for spectators to navigate.

Gendered barrier-free washrooms are available in the lobby of the facility. Washroom and shower facilities in the change rooms do not meet barrier-free standards.

2.2.6 MECHANICAL

A detailed engineering analysis of the existing mechanical infrastructure was not conducted however maintenance staff with knowledge of the facility provided input regarding the existing systems during time of facility tour.

The facility is not a fully conditioned space. Mechanical conditioning of the interior is limited to the spaces accessible off the main lobby. It was identified at the time of the tour that the furnace installed to heat the front of house spaces is required to run full time during cooling months to maintain the temperature within these spaces of the facility. The originally installed radiant flooring does not work, as there is not an adequate gas supply for the system. Radiant tube heaters are installed over portions of the spectator seating within the riding arena however it is not known if those systems are operational. Ventilation within the main arena is limited and it is not known if there are adequate sensors within the arena for Carbon Dioxide or Carbon Monoxide which would trigger facility alarms or additional ventilation exchanges if levels are exceeded.

2.2.7 ELECTRICAL

A detailed engineering analysis of the existing electrical infrastructure was not conducted however maintenance staff with knowledge of the facility provided input regarding the existing systems during time of facility tour.

No specific electrical deficiencies were identified during the tour of the facility.

2.2.8 ARENA IMAGES

01_Lobby

02_Lobby

03_Kitchen

04_Arena

05_Spectator Seating

06_Storage Room

2.3 SMITH SITE

2.3.0 SITE INFORMATION

Site Area: 34.91 Acres

Site features on the Smith Community Complex and Arena site include:

- Facility Parking
- Day-Use Picnic Site
- Non-Serviced Camping Sites
- Outdoor Ice Arena
- Trail Dusters Riding Facility

2.3.1 FACILITY PARKING

A large gravel parking field is shared by all facilities on the Smith site. The parking field is to the south of the Community Complex and to the west of the Arena. The arena has full perimeter access for maintenance vehicles as well as for loading/unloading, and access to the Trail Dusters Riding facility is accommodated through the site. Vehicle access to the Community Complex is restricted to the south side of the building. No wheel stops are present in the parking area so an accurate parking count could not be determined, however it is likely that parking is sufficient for peak occupancy demands.

Site grading in the parking field was observed to be minimal, providing only a small positive slope away from the arena building. A lack of positive drainage may contribute to water pooling during rain events.

2.3.2 DAY-USE PICNIC SITE

A small day-use picnic site is located directly beside the Community Complex. Movable picnic tables and fire pits are clustered within a gravel surfaced area. Furnishings appear to be in good condition and well maintained.

2.3.3 NON-SERVICED CAMPING SITES

A camping site is located to the north of the Community Complex. The camp site is intended for use by patrons who book the community hall for events. Individual camp sites are not serviced and campers are responsible for disposing of their own garbage, but the sites are suitable for both tents and trailers. Access to potable water and a sani-dump are provided on the west side of the Community Complex.

2.3.4 OUTDOOR ICE ARENA

A new outdoor ice arena is located to the south of the indoor arena. The outdoor arena provides a paved surface, suitable for summer sports in warmer months and flooded in colder months for winter sports. Wooden dasher boards are installed around the perimeter of the rink. At the time of review, there was no end board netting present and no dedicated exterior lighting for the outdoor rink, but it is understood that these items are intended to be installed.

2.3.5 TRAIL DUSTERS RIDING FACILITY

The Trail Dusters Riding Facility is located on the east side of the site. The facility includes a race track, stock pens and a warm up pen. Grandstands and pit toilets are available for spectators. The riding facility is managed by the tenant and is not commented on in this report.

2.3.6 SITE IMAGES

01_Day-Use Picnic Site

02_Camping Site

03_Outdoor Ice Arena

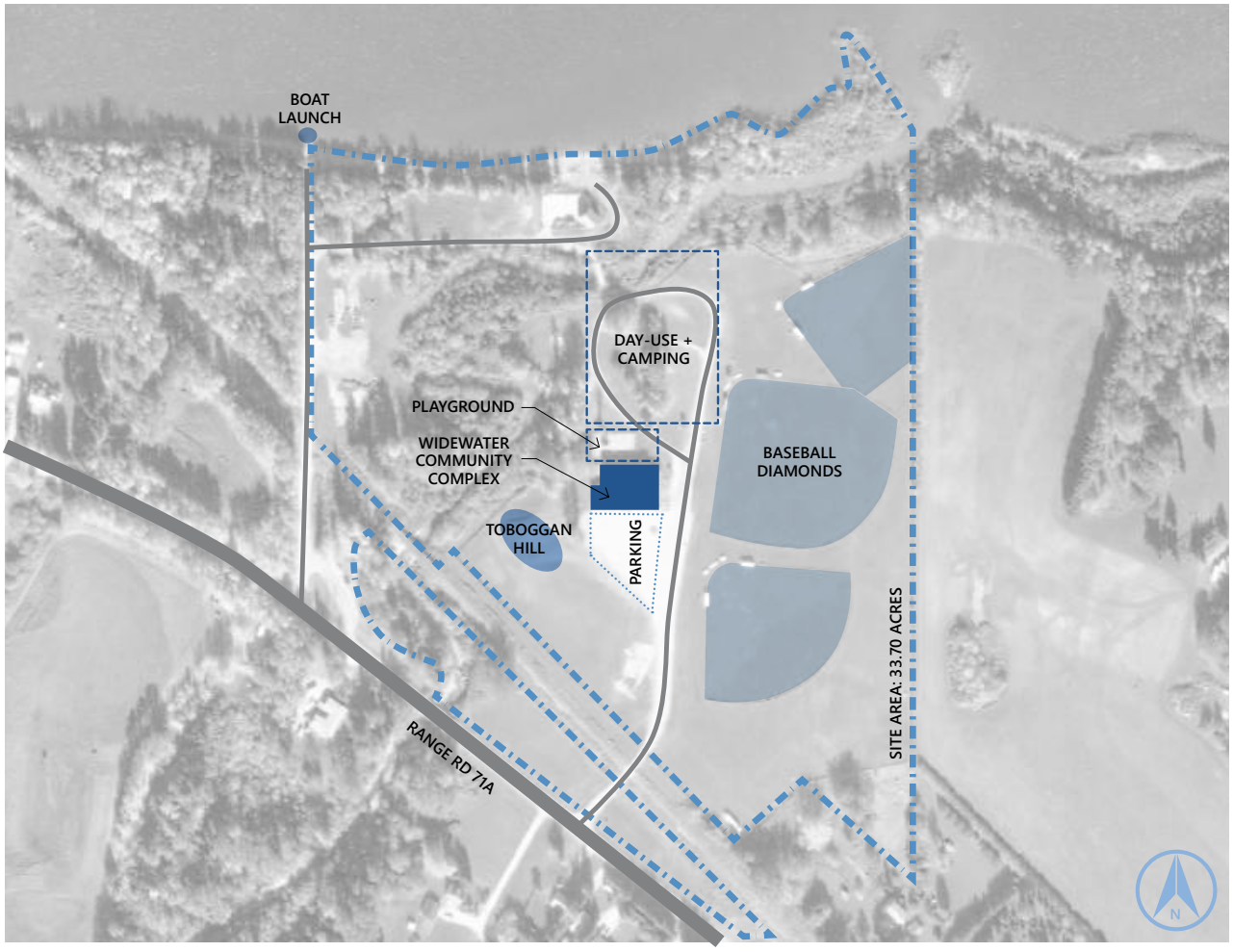
04_Outdoor Ice Arena

05_Trail Dusters Riding Facility

06_Trail Dusters Riding Facility

3.0

WIDEWATER FACILITIES



3.1 WIDEWATER COMMUNITY COMPLEX

3.1.0 FACILITY HISTORY

The Widewater Community Complex is located off of Range Road 71A, to the east of the hamlet of Widewater. This one storey assembly building provides valuable services for residents in the area, including a banquet hall/gymnasium, meeting spaces, a kitchen and a preschool. The banquet hall features an elevated stage, with storage for tables and chairs underneath. The banquet hall is supported by a kitchen, bar, and coat storage area.

All spaces are accessible from the lobby of the Community Complex, including access to gendered washrooms. Additional shower rooms are also available to patrons booking the facility.

Two meeting rooms are located in the complex. The meeting rooms are multi-purpose with movable furniture, increasing the flexibility of event setups. The meeting rooms contain sinks and lower cabinet storage space, but there is no ancillary dedicated storage room for furniture such as tables and chairs. One meeting room is currently being used as office space for a preschool.

The preschool utilizes the main building entrance as its primary access point, but otherwise functions independently from other bookings within the hall. The preschool is accessed off of the main corridor and has a direct connection to the hall/gymnasium as well.

Also accessed off of the main corridor is an unprogrammed space that previously housed a museum. The vacant space could be repurposed as another meeting room since one of the two existing meeting rooms is currently occupied by daycare offices.

3.1.1 SITE

The Widewater Community Complex sits in the centre of the site. A gravel parking lot is located to the south of the building. Newer concrete sidewalk extensions have been constructed around the building perimeter with pea gravel utilized as ground cover between the walking surfaces and the gravel parking field. Adjacent to the building in the north is a fenced in playground. The playground is primarily used by the preschool. Further to the north are campground stalls and fire pits. The campground is non-serviced and is often used by patrons during bookings of the facility. Three baseball diamonds are located to the east of the building and are often used to host tournaments.

01_Main Entrance

02_Floor Plan

3.1.2 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

The superstructure of the community complex was unknown at the time of review. No destructive testing was completed as a part of the facility assessment, and record drawings were not available during the time of review for reference. The foundation system was not known at the time of the facility review, but is assumed to be a deep foundation system. Likewise, wall and roof assemblies were not known at the time of the facility review. The building is not sprinkler protected but there is a centrally monitored fire alarm system.

3.1.3 BUILDING ENVELOPE

Thermal performance of the wall and roof systems are not known, however given the newer construction of the building, it is assumed the facility would have been constructed with assemblies meeting the Alberta Building code at the time of construction. The exterior walls are clad with a wood siding material. There is a combination of fixed and operable windows in the facility's building envelope. Exterior windows appear to be in good condition and there are no visible signs of any water penetration into the building envelope. It was noted that the south windows of the facility have been susceptible to breakage due to rocks being 'kick up' from vehicles in the parking lot. This is not a regular occurrence and only happens when vehicles are maneuvering irresponsibly (intentionally doing donuts or spinning their tires). Exterior weatherstripping around doors appears to be in good shape but will require continued maintenance.

The hip roof is clad with asphalt shingles and the flat roof is a membrane roof assembly. Roof drainage is a combined system of splashing to grade around the perimeter hip roof and internal roof drains over the flat roof portions. A portion of the gutter near the entry is damaged and should be replaced. The kitchen rooftop units are located on the southwest side of the flat roof. The units are screened by the perimeter hip roof as well as by a mechanical screen. The configuration of the roof alignment and the mechanical screen has resulted in large amounts of snow drifting and settling within this 'well' and frequently requires maintenance to dig out the mechanical units to ensure they remain functional and to prevent the chance of roof leaks.

A positive slope was observed diverting water away from the building around the entire perimeter. Wide overhangs provide additional protection around the building from weather elements.

3.1.4 INTERIOR FINISH

All spaces in the community complex appear to have been well maintained and no major deficiencies or excessive wear was observed. Fabric curtains have been installed on the upper portion of the walls within the hall to improve acoustics in the space. The adjacent kitchen is a fully equipped

commercial kitchen and meets the requirements to maintain an AHS Food Handling Permit. All kitchen fire suppression systems have been actively maintained and inspected and are fit for use. Both the kitchen and bar are connected to the main hall and have counter windows with 1 hour rated rolling shutters.

A metal security screen is utilized within the facility interior to partially control access from the lobby down the corridor towards the washrooms and kitchen space. This accordion style retractable partition is not user friendly and can be hazardous to pinched fingers.

3.1.5 BARRIER-FREE ACCOMMODATIONS

A ramp is provided from the gravel parking lot to the concrete sidewalk. There are no push button operators at the primary entrance of the building to allow barrier-free entry in to the facility. Barrier-free paths of travel are available throughout the main floor of the facility, however accommodations beyond space for movement are limited. Each of the gendered washrooms contain one stall large enough to accommodate a wheel chair but would benefit from the addition of barrier-free accessories such as grab bars within the stall, lavatories with insulated water supply and drain pipes, and tilted mirrors. The shower rooms do not meet barrier-free standards.

3.1.6 MECHANICAL

A detailed engineering analysis of the existing mechanical infrastructure was not conducted however maintenance staff with knowledge of the facility provided input regarding the existing systems during time of facility tour.

No mechanical deficiencies were identified during the tour of the facility. It was noted the extent of roof where rooftop mechanical units are located requires to be shoveled out in the winter to ensure units can maintain their performance.

3.1.7 ELECTRICAL

A detailed engineering analysis of the existing electrical infrastructure was not conducted however maintenance staff with knowledge of the facility provided input regarding the existing systems during time of facility tour.

No electrical deficiencies were identified during the tour of the facility.

3.1.8 BUILDING IMAGES

01_Lobby

02_Banquet Hall

03_Meeting Room

04_Kitchen

05_Preschool

06_Former Museum Space

3.2 WIDEWATER SITE

3.2.0 SITE INFORMATION

Site Area: 33.70 Acres

Site features on the Widewater site include:

- Facility Parking
- Non-Serviced Day-Use and Camping Sites
- Baseball Diamonds
- Children's Playground / Park Space
- Toboggan Hill
- Boat Launch

3.2.1 FACILITY PARKING

A large gravel parking field is located to the south of the Community Complex. Access for maintenance vehicles as well as for loading/unloading is restricted to the east and south sides of the building. Site grading appears to be sufficient, providing a positive slope away from the building.

No wheel stops are present in the parking area so an accurate parking count could not be determined, however it is likely that parking is sufficient for peak occupancy demands. Additional parking when required can be accommodated on the grassed areas immediately off of the gravel road which extends through the overall site.

3.2.2 NON-SERVICED DAY-USE AND CAMPING SITES

To the north of the Community Complex is a grassed area with movable picnic benches and a communal fire pit. The area is available for general day-use as well as for overnight camping for patrons booking the community hall. The camping sites are ideally located for use during baseball tournaments as well. Individual camp sites are not serviced and campers are responsible for disposing of their own garbage, but the sites are suitable for both tents and trailers. A gravel circulation road provides drive through access for recreation vehicles at the camping sites. Two pit toilets are available for use, adjacent to the camping sites. Campsite furnishings appear to be in good condition and well maintained.

3.2.3 BASEBALL DIAMONDS

Three baseball diamonds are located to the east of the Community Complex. The centre diamond is the largest of the three, and the most northernly diamond has a slightly shorter outfield where the field abuts against the property line. Each diamond has a natural grass infield and a fully fenced perimeter. Each diamond is equipped with a chain link backstop and fully enclosed dugouts for each team. The dugouts are in very poor condition and should be removed or replaced. Open air grandstand seating is available at all three baseball diamonds. The centre diamond has two modest aluminum bleachers behind the backstop, adjacent to the elevated score keeping booth. The bleachers and the score keeping booth appear to be in good condition and well maintained.

3.2.4 PLAYGROUND

A large playground space is provided to the north of the Community Complex. The playground sits on a sand ground cover and is fully enclosed with a chain link fence. The main play structures are scaled for smaller children aged 5 and under, with the primary users of the playground being the preschool within the Community Complex. Both the fencing and playground equipment appear to be in good condition and well maintained.

3.2.5 TOBOGGAN HILL

A small toboggan hill is located to the southwest of the Community Complex. The run-out of the hill is directed towards the open grass field, parallel to the train tracks. A small day-use picnic site is positioned in between the toboggan hill and the parking lot. Movable picnic tables and a fire pit are clustered within a gravel surfaced area. Furnishings appear to be in good condition and well maintained.

3.2.6 BOAT LAUNCH

The Widewater site has an access road to the lake shore. There is no formal boat launch at the site, but vehicles are able to launch their watercraft directly into the water from the washrock shore. No formal parking of vehicles and trailers has been established at the site. The open space directly south of the boat launch was previously used by the RCMP, as a modular command post after the Slave Lake wildfire in 2011. Services that were brought to the site during the RCMP's tenancy remain, and would support opportunities for future development in the area.

3.2.7 SITE IMAGES

01_Day-Use Area

02_Camping Sites

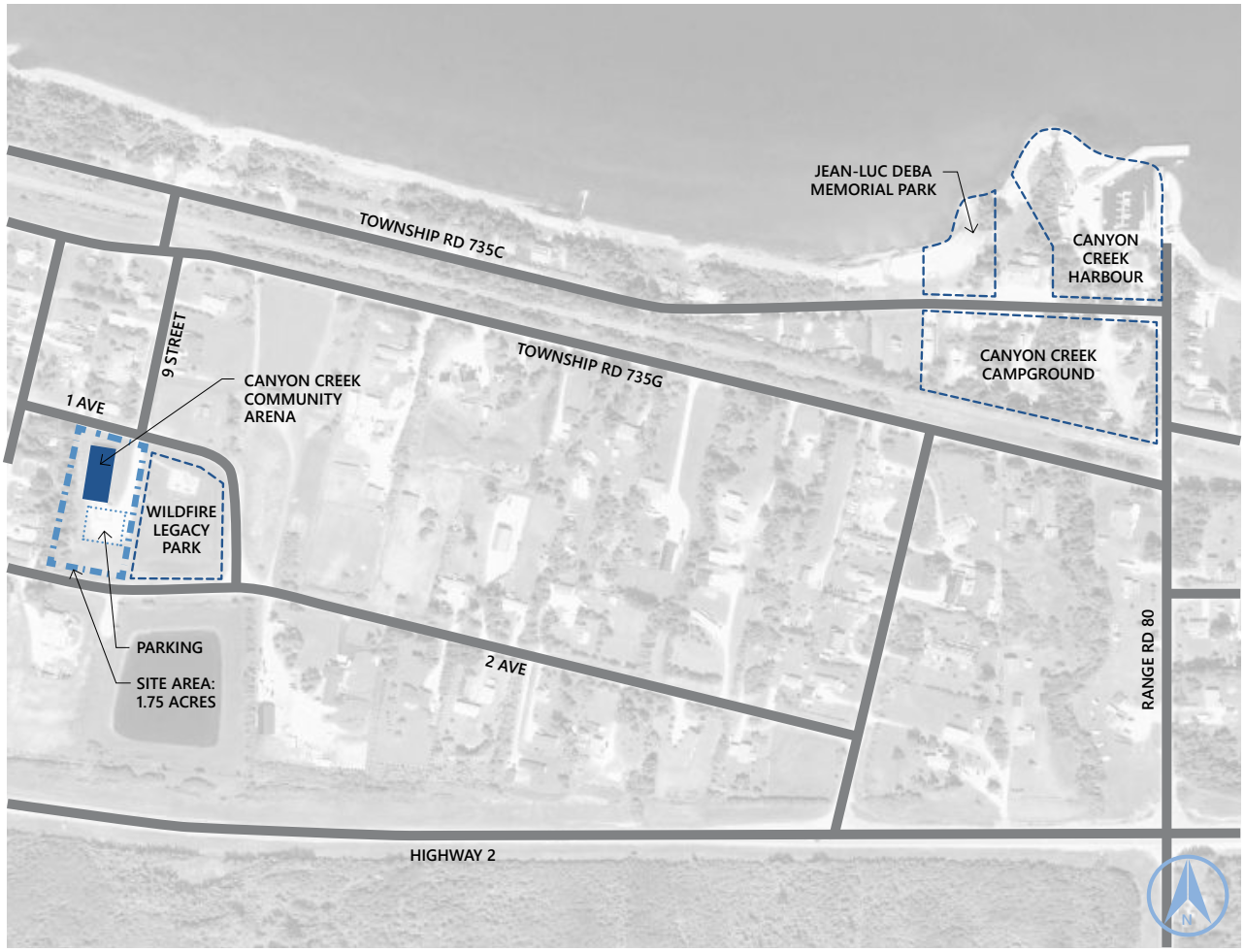
03_Baseball Diamonds

04_Playground

05_Toboggan Hill

06_Boat Launch

4.0
CANYON CREEK FACILITIES



4.1 CANYON CREEK COMMUNITY ARENA

4.1.0 FACILITY HISTORY

The Canyon Creek Community Arena is located in the hamlet of Canyon Creek, Alberta, at the intersection of 1st Avenue and 9th Street. This assembly building consists of a single sheet of ice and a support building. The perimeter around the arena has a concrete surface, with movable seating for spectators.

The support building is located on the south end of the facility. A lobby space includes movable furniture, such as tables and chairs and a small open kitchen for food preparation. A corridor leads off of the lobby space to washrooms and dressing rooms.

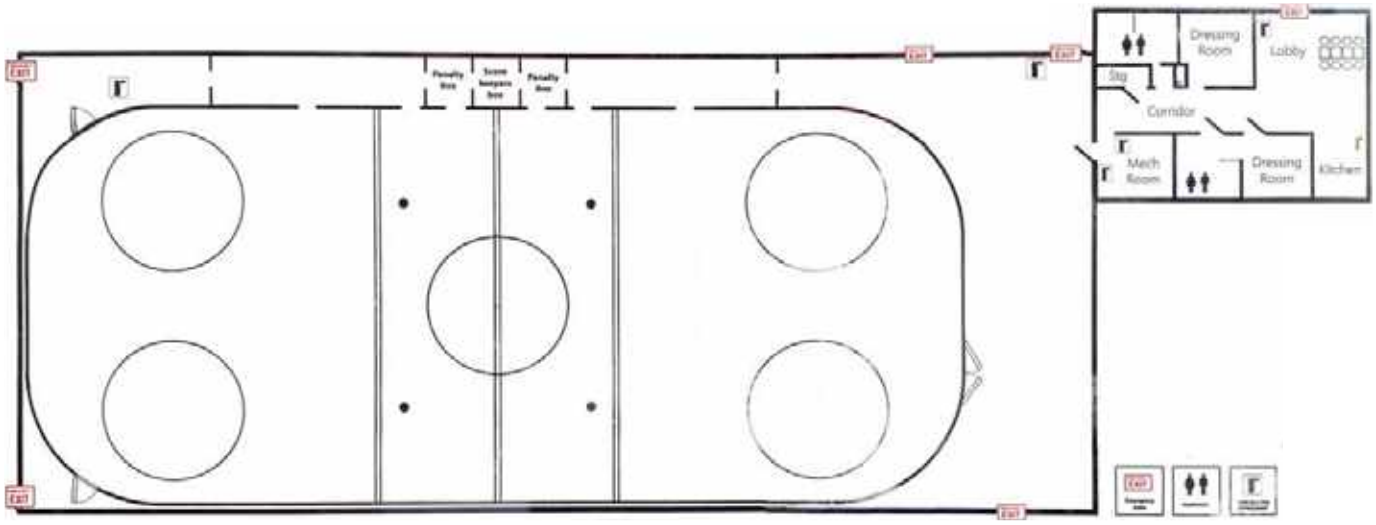
4.1.1 SITE

The Canyon Creek Community Arena site is conveniently located in the centre of the hamlet. The small site includes a gravel parking lot located to the south of the building. Wildfire Legacy Park is located directly to the east of the site.

4.1.2 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

Destructive testing was not completed as a part of the facility assessment, and record drawings were not available during the time of review for reference. The foundation system was not known at the time of the facility review, but is assumed to be a deep foundation system. The superstructure of the arena is a pre-engineered metal building consisting of deep corrugated galvalume steel perimeter walls that support a barrel vault roof. The metal building is a non-conditioned space. The roof structure is clad on the interior side, so it remains unknown if the roof structure is metal or wood trusses, as well as the condition of that roof system. The structural capacity of this extremely shallow barrel vault warrants further review to assess compliance with requirements for increased snow loading found in the current Alberta Building Code.

01_Main Entrance



02_Floor Plan

The support building is a simple wood framed structure with a pitched truss roof clad with asphalt shingles. The foundation system was not known at the time of the facility review, but is assumed to be a deep foundation system. Likewise, wall and roof assemblies were not known at the time of the facility review. The support building is insulated and conditioned. The community arena is not sprinkler protected but there is a centrally monitored fire alarm system.

4.1.3 BUILDING ENVELOPE

The main arena facility is not insulated and the wall construction does not contain air/vapour barriers. The conditioned extent of the facility is limited to the front support spaces. Thermal performance of these wall systems is not known, but are presumed to have assemblies meeting the Alberta Building Code at the time of construction. There is no controlled roof drainage off the main barrel vault roof of the arena, but a positive slope was observed diverting water away from the building around the entire perimeter. Roof drainage from the asphalt roof of the support building splashes to grade, controlled through downspouts and gutters that direct water away from the building.

4.1.4 INTERIOR FINISH

Finishes within the front support spaces are worn but appear to be well maintained. Skate tile has been loose laid on top of the existing flooring in higher traffic areas within the support building such as in the corridors, change rooms, and along the path to the players benches. The interior of the arena is an unfinished space. Minimal amounts of protective netting have been installed in the corners of the dasher boards at locations where spectator seating is concentrated.

4.1.5 BARRIER-FREE ACCOMMODATIONS

There are no push button operators at the primary entrance of the building to allow barrier-free entry in to the facility. Additionally, the paths of travel through the facility are not easily navigable by persons with limited mobility. Efforts have been made to accommodate various floor slab transitions with ramps, however these do not meet current code. Washroom facilities in the support building do not meet barrier-free standards.

4.1.6 MECHANICAL

A detailed engineering analysis of the existing mechanical infrastructure was not conducted however maintenance staff with knowledge of the facility provided input regarding the existing systems during time of facility tour.

The facility is not a fully conditioned space. Mechanical conditioning of the interior is limited to the spaces accessible off the main lobby. Ventilation within the conditioned support spaces were noted as lacking.

Ventilation within the main arena is limited, and it is not known if there are adequate sensors within the arena for Carbon Dioxide or Carbon Monoxide which would trigger facility alarms or additional ventilation exchanges if levels are exceeded.

4.1.7 ELECTRICAL

A detailed engineering analysis of the existing electrical infrastructure was not conducted however maintenance staff with knowledge of the facility provided input regarding the existing systems during time of facility tour.

No distinct electrical deficiencies were identified during the tour of the facility.

4.1.8 BUILDING IMAGES

01_Lobby

02_Dressing Room

03_Kitchen

04_Arena

05_Players Bench

06_Arena - Summer Sports

4.2 CANYON CREEK SITE

4.2.0 SITE INFORMATION

Site Area: 1.75 Acres

Site features on the Canyon Creek Arena site include:

- Facility Parking
- Wildfire Legacy Park (Area: 3.39 Acres)

Site features within the Canyon Creek Community include: (Area: 6.20 Acres)

- Jean Luc Deba Memorial Park
- Canyon Creek Campground & Harbour

4.2.1 FACILITY PARKING

A large gravel parking field is located to the south of the Arena. Access for maintenance vehicles as well as for loading/unloading is restricted to the south side of the building. Site grading appears to be sufficient, providing a positive slope away from the building.

No wheel stops are present in the parking area so an accurate parking count could not be determined. Additional parking when required can be accommodated on the grassed areas immediately off of the gravel road that connects the parking lot to 1st Avenue.

4.2.2 WILDFIRE LEGACY PARK

A generous playground and open green space is located to the east of the arena facility. The entire site slopes from south to north towards the lake. The playground sits on a wood chip base ground cover and is fully enclosed with a chain link fence. The play structures are scaled for children of all ages. There are numerous fixed benches and picnic tables distributed throughout the park, with limited shade or protection from inclement weather. A small covered gazebo with movable picnic benches and a concrete apron is located further up the hill within the green space. Waste receptacles are provided in numerous locations within the park. Gendered pit toilets are also provided within the fenced limits of the park. The park equipment and facilities appear to be in good condition and well maintained.

4.2.3 JEAN LUC DEBA MEMORIAL PARK

A commemorative bench, a memorial plinth and a collection of flags constitute the landmark known as Jean-Luc Deba Memorial Park. The memorial honouring Jean-Luc Deba is a grass covered park space that sits in the shade of natural tree cover, looking out over the sand and washrock shoreline of Lesser Slave Lake. Fixed picnic tables are located in the shade of the tree cover as well. A small gravel parking lot for the memorial is immediately adjacent to Township Road 735C, the main path of travel running parallel to the waterfront. Park features appear to be in good condition and well maintained.

4.2.4 CANYON CREEK CAMPGROUND & HARBOUR

The Canyon Creek Campground and Harbour are located at the intersection of Township Road 735C and Range Road 80. The area accommodates overnight camping with both powered and non-powered sites, each with a fire pit and grill. The campground sites and furnishings appear to be well maintained. Potable water stations are available on site as well as modular toilet and shower facilities. A ramp has been installed to provide access to one of the modular units, however the washroom and shower stalls do not meet current barrier-free standards. A sani-dump is provided on the main road, approaching the campground.

A marina is located in the harbour to the north of the campground. The marina includes a protected boat launch with both daily and seasonal berths. A gravel parking lot is located to the west of the marina, and a fish cleaning station is available for use. In between the campground and harbour is a small convenience store and outdoor seating area that overlooks the lake. The condition of the convenience store was not reviewed as a part of the assessment.

4.2.5 SITE IMAGES

01_Wildfire Legacy Park

02_Wildfire Legacy Park

03_Jean-Luc Deba Memorial

04_Boat Launch

05_Convenience Store

06_Campground

5.0
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

5.1.0 FLATBUSH FACILITIES

5.1.1 FLATBUSH COMMUNITY COMPLEX

The following items should be considered for further review, repair, or replacement prior to any renovations or improvements planned for the facility:

General Construction

- The shallow barrel vault of the pre-engineered structure requires further review to assess compliance with requirements for increased snow loading in the current Alberta Building Code.

Building Envelope

- Thermal performance of the exterior wall assembly and the roof assembly is compromised by the exclusion of a vapour barrier. Significant reconstruction would be required to incorporate a vapour barrier.
- Regrading should be prioritized to achieve positive drainage away from the building.

Barrier-free Accommodations

- While provisions have been made to provide access to the second floor for persons with limited mobility, the facility does not meet current barrier-free accessibility requirements. Spatial constraints will make it difficult to incorporate some accessibility accommodations.

Mechanical & Electrical

- A new well needs to be drilled.
- The original cast iron piping is starting to fail and the sanitary system requires further evaluation for replacement.
- The primary electrical breaker panel is at capacity.

5.2.0 SMITH FACILITIES

5.2.1 SMITH COMMUNITY COMPLEX

Few deficiencies were noted. Continued investment in ongoing regular maintenance is encouraged to reduce the likelihood of replacement of assemblies or systems prior to the end of their expected lifespan. Replacement or modification of the following could be considered;

Mechanical & Electrical

- The installation of variable speed drives for the HVAC system could increase energy efficiency.

5.2.2 SMITH ARENA

The following items should be considered for further review, repair, or replacement prior to any renovation or improvement planned for the facility:

General Construction

- The shallow barrel vault of the pre-engineered structure requires further review to assess compliance with requirements for increased snow loading in the current Alberta Building Code.
- Any room in which a vehicle is stored is required to be separated from the remainder of the facility by a rated separation.

Building Envelope

- Noticeable ponding is occurring adjacent to the building, where existing downspouts splash to grade. Regrading should be prioritized to achieve positive drainage away from the building.

Barrier-free Accommodations

- The facility does not meet current barrier-free accessibility requirements and has spatial constraints making this difficult to accommodate.

Mechanical & Electrical

- The existing furnace is undersized for the space that it serves and does not adequately heat the insulated portion of the arena building.
- Radiant in-floor heating does not work as there is not a sufficient gas supply.
- Ventilation within main arena space is undersized.

5.3.0 WIDEWATER FACILITIES

5.3.1 WIDEWATER COMMUNITY COMPLEX

Few deficiencies were noted. Continued investment in ongoing regular maintenance is encouraged to reduce the likelihood of replacement of assemblies or systems prior to the end of their expected lifespan. Replacement or modification of the following could be considered;

Mechanical & Electrical

- The accumulation of snow at the rooftop mechanical units should be addressed to mitigate infiltration by snow.

5.4.0 CANYON CREEK FACILITIES

5.4.1 CANYON CREEK COMMUNITY ARENA

The following items should be considered for further review, repair, or replacement prior to any renovation or improvement planned for the facility:

General Construction

- The shallow barrel vault of the pre-engineered structure requires further review to assess compliance with requirements for increased snow loading in the current Alberta Building Code.

Building Envelope

- It is recommended that eavestroughs and downspouts be added to the arena's barrel roof to control water and divert it away from the building structure.

Barrier-free Accommodations

- The facility does not meet current barrier-free accessibility requirements and has spatial constraints making this difficult to accommodate.

APPENDIX D

REVIEW OF MDLSR RECREATION PROGRAM AND SERVICES

Recreation Programs supported by the MDLSR

The MDLSR provides grants to support community organizations in offering recreation/community programs. There are two main avenues through which the MDLSR provides funding for programming in the region, these are the Community Assistance Board (CAB) and Family & Community Support Services (FCSS).

Community Assistance Board (CAB)

Community Assistance Board (CAB) was established in 2020 to assist the MDLSR to allocate budgeted funding assistance for community-focused opportunities, initiatives, and programming. Community groups seeking financial support to offer services and programs are encouraged to apply for CAB funding. Priority is given to applications that focus on Recreation, Social, Cultural, Education and Athletics.

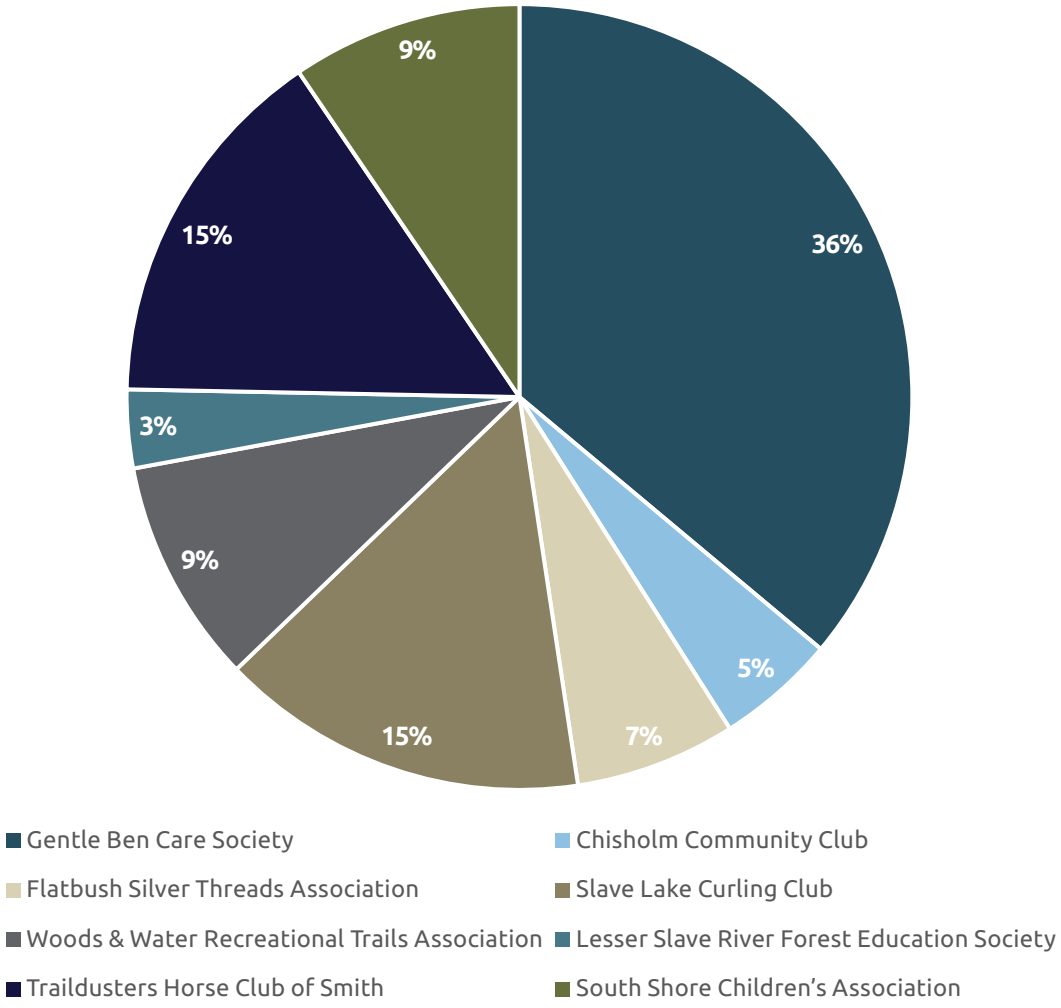
- Recipients of the CAB fund who offer recreation programs and services:
- South Shore Children's Association.
- Gentle Ben Care Society.
- Chisholm Community Club.
- Slave Lake Regional Tourism Society.
- Flatbush Silver Threads Association.
- Slave Lake Curling Association.
- Woods & Water Recreational Trails Association.
- Slave Lake Minor Soccer Association.
- Lesser Slave River Forest Education Society.
- Traildusters Horse Club of Smith.
- Canyon Creek Recreation Association.
- Smith Hondo Association of Recreational and Agricultural Society (SHARA).

In 2022 and 2023, the same nine community organizations received CAB funding. These are:

- Gentle Ben Care Society.
- Chisholm Community Club.
- Flatbush Silver Threads Association.
- Slave Lake Curling Club.
- Woods & Water Recreational Trails Association.
- Lesser Slave River Forest Education Society.
- Traildusters Horse Club of Smith.
- South Shore Children's Association.
- Slave Lake Regional Tourism Society.

In 2022, eleven (11) organizations received CAB funding. Eight (8) out of the eleven (11) grant recipients offer recreation programs. The eight (8) organizations who offer recreation programs received a combined 82% of the total CAB funding that was distributed in 2022.

2022 CAB Grant Recipients Who Offer Recreation Programs

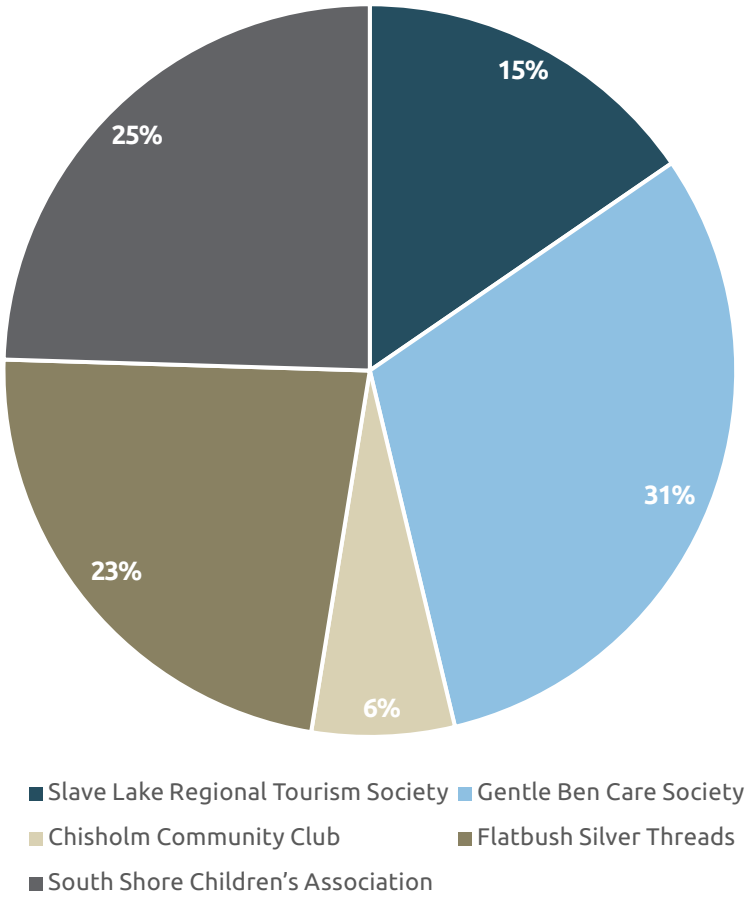


Of the community organizations who offer recreation programs who received CAB funding in 2022, the Gentle Ben Care Society received 36% ($9,500) of the total funding allocated to these groups. The Slave Lake Curling Club and Traildusters Horse Club of Smith both received 15% ($4,000 each) of the CAB funding, and South Shore Children's Association and Woods & Water Recreational Trails Association both received 9% (approximately $2,500 each) of the funding given to community organizations who offer recreation programming in 2022.

In 2023, twelve (12) organizations received CAB funding. Four (4) out of the twelve (12) grant recipients offer recreation programs. The four (4) organizations who offer recreation programs received a combined 34% of the total CAB funding that was distributed in 2022.

Of the community organizations who offer recreation programs who received CAB funding in 2022, the Gentle Ben Care Society received 41% ($8,000) of the total funding allocated to these groups. South Shore Children's Association received 25% ($6,360) of the total funding and Flatbush Silver Threads received 23% ($5,945) of the CAB funding allocated to these groups in 2023.

2023 CAB Grant Recipients Who Offer Recreation Program



Community Organizations And The Programs They Offer

Recreation programs are delivered by various organizations throughout the Lesser Slave Region. This section provides an overview of these organizations/associations and the types of recreation programs they offer.

Table X below shows a summary of the recreation programs offered by community organizations and associations who have received CAB funding and FCSS funding and where these organizations are located.

Table X: Recreation Programs 2023 Summary

Organization	Location	Programs offered/funded
South Shore Children's Association[10]	Hamlet of Widewater	• Youth Programs. • Gymnasium for daily active play, natural outdoor play space including playground, baseball fields, natural greased areas and a toboggan hill.
Gentle Ben Care Society	Hamlet of Smith	• Seniors assistance to and from medical appointments • Walking program in the Smith Complex in the Winter months
Slave Lake Regional Tourism Society	Town of Slave Lake	• Beach Fest - Sport and recreation offerings as part of the event (yoga, running, beach volleyball).[11]
Flatbush Silver Threads Association	Hamlet of Flatbush The MD of Lesser Slave River has ownership of community facilities in Flatbush	Senior exercise programs including:[12] • Yoga. • Qigong. • Pickleball. • Carpet Bowling. • Table Tennis. • Dancing. • Zumba. • Walking groups.
Slave Lake Curling Association[13]	Town of Slave Lake	• Men's, Women's and Junior Bonspiels. • 'Learn to Curl' events.
Woods & Water Recreational Trails Association[14]	Town of Slave Lake	• A trail group in the Lesser Slave Lake that for builds, develop and maintain trails in and around Lesser Slave Lake.
Slave Lake Minor Soccer Association[15]	Town of Slave Lake	• Slave Lake Minor Soccer Association are the minor soccer association for the Town of Slave Lake. They provide competitive soccer opportunities for youth in the slave Lake Region. There are currently six teams. Practice and games take place at St. Mary's School Gym.[16]
Lesser Slave River Forest Education Society	Town of Slave Lake	• Environmental education programs for schools and community groups.[17] • Curriculum related programs through hands-on field-trips and classroom presentations.[18]

[10] https://www.facebook.com/Ssca1982/
[11] https://slavelakeregion.ca/event/beach-fest/
[12] https://silverthreads.ca/our-programs/
[13] https://www.facebook.com/groups/273205479367361/events
[14] https://www.facebook.com/wwrta
[15] https://www.facebook.com/groups/9331239394/
[16] https://www.slsoccerclub.com/general-5
[17] https://lsfes.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/forest-education-programs.pdf
[18] https://lsfes.org/programs-and-special-events/curriculum-based-2/

Organization	Location	Programs offered/funded
Traildusters Horse Club of Smith	Hamlet of Smith	Events held at the Outdoor Equine Arena at Smith Community Complex:[19] • Horse club. • Gymkhanas.
Canyon Creek Recreation Association[20]	Hamlet of Canyon Creek The MD of Lesser Slave River supports the operation of the arena in Canyon Creek	Provides recreational opportunities and programming for residents and tourists in the Canyon Creek area such as: • Public skate. • Community events. • Seniors Crib Tournament. Oversees operations at the campground and harbour.
Smith Hondo Association of Recreational and Agricultural Society (SHARA)	Hamlet of Smith	• SHARA is responsible for the programs and operations at the Smith-Hondo Agri-plex. • Rodeo – bareback, bull riding, roping, calf riding, barrel racing. • Free skating and hockey lessons for children. • Community events/celebrations. • Smith Hondo Fall Fair & Rode[21] – Junior Gymkhana, mutton busting, calf scrambles, bareback, tie-down roping, saddle bronc, cow/bull riding, barrel racing. • SHARA is currently in partnership with the MD of Lesser Slave River to develop the Smith multi-use ice surface located adjacent to the Smith Equestrian Arena.

The Town of Slave Lake offers a significant proportion of the recreation programs throughout the MDLSR. A summary of the programs offered at key recreation facilities in the town is summarized below in Table X.

Table X: Recreation Programs Offered in the Town of Slave Lake

Northern Lights Aquatic Centre[22]
• Adult swimming lessons. • Private swimming lessons. • Preschool swimming lessons. • Parent and tot swimming lessons. • Swimmer level swimming lessons. • Public Swim

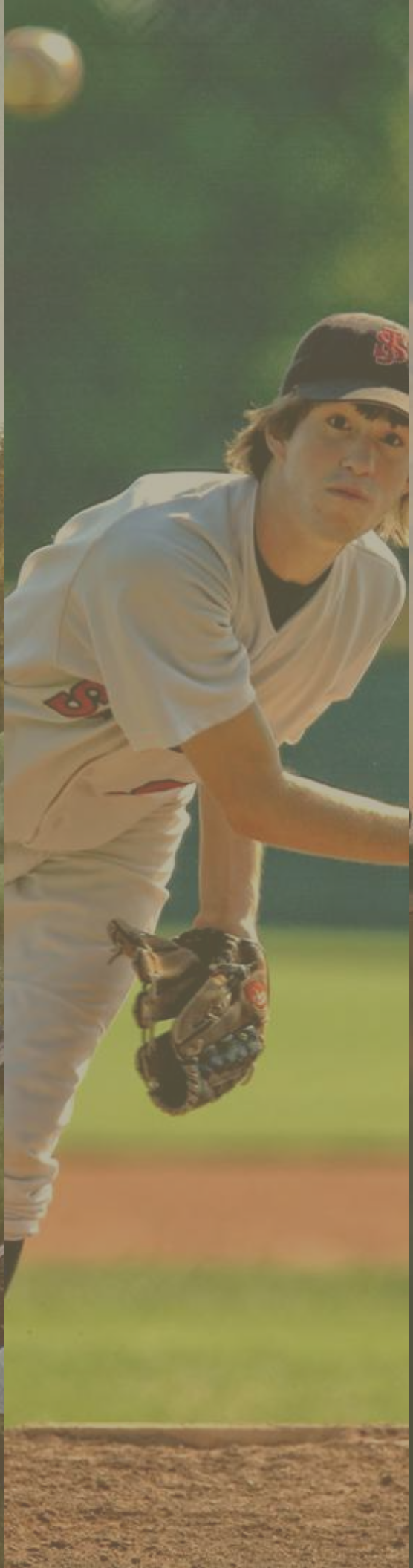
[19] https://slavelake.citylive.com/events/traildusters-gymkhana-smith-2022-08-28/ 20
[20] https://www.facebook.com/CanyonCreekRecreationAssociation/
[21] http://www.smithalberta.ca/smith-hondo-fall-fair.html
[22] https://www.slavelake.ca/DocumentCenter/View/7205/Winter-Program-Guide?bidId=

Multi-purpose Recreation Centre[23]
• Public skate and shinny for all ages. • Learn to Curl. • Drop-in sports (Badminton, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Pickleball). • Parent and Tot movement and social programs. • Youth programs. • Adult programs. • Fitness programs. • Family carnival events – inflatable obstacle courses, carnival games.
Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation – located at Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park
The Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation is a hub for programs offered to schools and day camps from Slave Lake and surrounding communities. Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (LSLBO) and park staff manage and coordinate these programs. • Outdoor activities.[24] • Skiing. • Skating. • Ice fishing. • Snowshoeing. • Campfire. • Indoor crafts and games. • Survival skill workshops. • Nature education programs.
Slave Lake Curling Club
• Learn to Curl classes for different age groups (adult, family). • Mens League, Ladies League, Mixed League.[25] • Hit-Draw-Tap competition.
Dancin' Kids Slave Lake Dance Studio[26]
• Various dance classes (hip hop, ballet, jazz, contemporary, tap). • Classes for different levels – youth, adults, preschool. • Zumba and Dance-Fit classes.
The Slave Lake Pioneers Drop-in Centre[27]
Floor curling tournaments

[23] https://www.slavelake.ca/DocumentCenter/View/7205/Winter-Program-Guide?bidId=
[24] https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064874104658&sk=events
[25] https://www.slavelakecurling.com/general-7
[26] https://dancestudio-pro.com/online/classes.php?account_id=8660&session=DE00CCC6-3D7A-CEE3-3FD6-50EA0487694D
[27] https://www.slavelake.ca/DocumentCenter/View/7205/Winter-Program-Guide?bidId=

Central Slave Lake Agricultural Society
• Yoga classes • Curling • Public skate and shinny
Outdoor Amenities
Charity Park (Highway No. 88) North. • Home of the Junior AAA Heat. • Men's Ball Facility. Sinclair Park (Caribou Trail and Highway No. 88) North. • Minor Ball Facility.[28] • Ladies' Ball Facility. Hilda Eben Park[29] • Outdoor Rink. • Playground. • Skateboard Park. • Sliding Hill. • Tennis Court.

[28] https://www.facebook.com/groups/14985785559/
[29] https://www.slavelake.ca/facilities/facility/details/hildaebenpark-6



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