

Town of Rimbey Parks, Trails & Recreation Master Plan

Draft Plan Review Open House

June 12, 2013



Agenda

- 1) Process update**
 - 2) The State of Parks, Trails and Recreation in Rimbey key findings**
 - 3) A Draft Master Plan for Rimbey**
 - 4) Next steps**
 - 5) Questions**
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- The background features a stylized landscape with rolling hills in shades of light green and yellow. Several trees of varying shapes and sizes are scattered across the scene, some appearing as dark silhouettes and others as lighter, more detailed forms. A winding path or stream is visible on the left side, curving through the hills.

Process Update

Phase 1: Data collection, inventory, and mapping ***complete**

- Includes community description, population and demographics analysis, facility assessments, program and service delivery assessments, best practices and trends analysis, etc.

Phase 2: Public engagement and stakeholder input ***complete**

- Includes resident survey, public engagement events, student survey, and group survey.

Phase 3: Needs Assessment ***complete**

- “State of Parks, Trails and Recreation in Rimbey” summary report
- Visioning workshop

Process Update

Phase 4: Analysis & Evaluation ***complete**

- Strategic recommendations on indoor and outdoor facility priorities, financial impacts and funding strategies, next steps and action plan

Phase 5: Final Report ***ongoing**

- Draft Master Plan ***complete**
- Public engagement / review (e.g. web and / or open house)
- Master Plan finalized

The State of Parks, Trails and Recreation in Rimbey: Key Findings

Summary of research activities:

- 185 household surveys were returned (+/- 7%, 19/20)
- 17 groups completed surveys
- 8 stakeholder interviews were conducted
- 151 student surveys were completed
- 4 comparable communities were analyzed
- 4 preliminary indoor facility assessments were completed
- General assessment of parks, sports fields and trails was conducted
- Other research included industry publications and Town planning documentation

The State of Parks, Trails and Recreation in Rimbey: Key Findings

Household survey:

- Recreation and leisure are important to residents (as indicated by 94% of household survey respondents)
- The **indoor** facilities / amenities with the highest utilization in the community are the auditorium (77% used at least once in the previous year) and the arena (73% used at least once in the previous year)
- The **outdoor** facilities / amenities with the highest utilization in the community are the Pas-Ka-Poo Park (83% used at least once in the previous year) and trails (59% used at least once in the previous year)
- 59% of household survey respondents are satisfied with the current availability of recreation opportunities in Rimbey (33% were unsatisfied)

The State of Parks, Trails and Recreation in Rimbey: Key Findings

- 53% of household survey respondents believe new or upgraded facilities are needed
- The facilities identified by respondents as being most needed in Rimbey were outdoor trails (58%) and indoor walking / running tracks (49%)

Other findings:

- The majority of community groups expect to remain stable or grow in participant and client numbers
- Of the 24 recreation and leisure facilities / amenities in the Town, 11 are provided by the Town while 11 are provided by community partners (e.g. school, not for profit groups)
- The total replacement value of facilities operated by the Town is estimated at \$23.74 M (replacement value of community partner operated facilities is estimated at \$9.18 M)

The State of Parks, Trails and Recreation in Rimbey: Key Findings

- As compared to similar sized communities, Rimbey offers the majority of facilities / amenities / spaces at a **similar or better provision** (*track and field facilities, outdoor fitness equipment, outdoor amphitheatres / event spaces / band shelters, walking trail systems were offered at a lesser position*)
- Rimbey **spends less per capita than comparable communities** on parks, trails and recreation (Rimbey- \$202 per resident annually, average of comparable communities- \$343 per resident annually)
- Rimbey offers a strong complement of registered recreation and sport programming, **but offers minimal spontaneous-use opportunities**

The State of Parks, Trails and Recreation in Rimbey: Key Findings

- Facility assessments were completed on indoor and outdoor facilities:
 - The Community Centre (including the Arena, Curling Rink, Gymnasium), Aquatics Centre, Nesting Place RV Park and sports fields were assessed and improvements have been suggested and will require investment.
 - The provision of walking trails is limited throughout the community
 - Connectivity of the trail system (and sidewalks) could be enhanced
 - A number of playground spaces may require upgrades to ensure continued safety and functionality
- Major community facilities in Rimbey (Arena, Pool, Community Centre) are not utilized to capacity

The State of Parks, Trails and Recreation in Rimbeey: Indoor Facility Priorities

Top 10 Indoor Priorities

- Indoor field facilities
- Walking / running track
- Indoor climbing wall
- Indoor child playground
- Leisure ice surfaces
- Library
- Gymnasium type spaces
- Fitness / wellness facilities
- Performing arts / show spaces
- Community halls

	Household Survey	Community Group / Stakeholder Consultation	Student Survey	Facility Utilization / Population Growth	Comparable Communities	Industry trends
INDOOR FACILITY PRIORITY						
Indoor field facilities	✓✓	✓	✓			✓
Walking / running track	✓✓	✓	✓			✓
Indoor climbing wall	✓✓	✓	✓			✓
Indoor child playground	✓✓	✓	✓			✓
Leisure ice surfaces	✓✓	✓				✓
Library	✓✓	✓		✓		
Gymnasium type spaces	✓✓		✓	✓		
Fitness / wellness facilities	✓✓		✓			✓
Performing arts / show spaces	✓✓	✓	✓			
Community halls	✓✓	✓		✓		
Ice Arenas			✓	✓		✓
Community gathering spaces		✓		✓		
Museum / interpretive spaces			✓			✓
Community meeting rooms				✓		
Program rooms (dance / martial arts)			✓			
Art display spaces						✓
Curling rinks						
Court sports (squash / racquetball)						

The State of Parks, Trails and Recreation in Rimbey: Indoor Facility Priorities

Top 10 Outdoor Facility Priorities

- Walking Trails
- Amphitheatre / event spaces / band shelter
- Child playgrounds
- Water spray parks
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Rodeo / agricultural facilities
- Dog off leash areas
- Outdoor swimming pools
- Open spaces
- Picnic areas

	Household Survey	Community Group / Stakeholder Consultation	Student Survey	Facility Utilization / Population Growth	Comparable Communities	Industry trends
OUTDOOR FACILITY PRIORITY						
Walking trails	✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amphitheatre / event spaces / band shelter	✓ ✓	✓			✓	✓
Child playgrounds	✓ ✓	✓		✓		✓
Water spray parks	✓ ✓		✓	✓		✓
Outdoor fitness equipment	✓ ✓				✓	✓
Rodeo / Agricultural Facilities	✓ ✓	✓		✓		
Dog off leash areas	✓ ✓		✓			✓
Outdoor swimming pools	✓ ✓		✓	✓		
Open spaces	✓ ✓					✓
Picnic areas	✓ ✓	✓				
Community gardens	✓ ✓					✓
Track and field spaces		✓	✓		✓	
Mountain bike park			✓			✓
BMX Bicycle Parks			✓			✓
Campgrounds			✓			✓
Basketball courts			✓			
Beach volleyball courts			✓			
Sports fields						
Baseball diamonds						
Outdoor highboard skating rinks						
Tennis courts						
Skateboard Parks						

The State of Parks, Trails and Recreation in Rimbey: Key themes

1) Rimbey has a relatively strong compliment of recreation and leisure infrastructure.

- How can the Town ensure that these assets are protected and best utilized in the future?
- What does the Town need to consider when contemplating the development or enhancement of new or upgraded facilities?

2) Volunteer organizations and community partners play an important role in helping provide recreation programs and facilities.

- What mechanisms and strategies can the Town put in place to ensure that these groups remain strong and vibrant?
- What role should the Town play in supporting the efforts of these community organizations?

The State of Parks, Trails and Recreation in Rimbey: Key themes

3) The enhancement of parks, trails and outdoor spaces has been identified as a key priority in the community.

- How can the Town best prioritize these projects?
- What planning and development policies, standards, and frameworks need to be put in place to ensure that the future enhancement or development of these spaces can best meet the needs of the community?

4) While Rimbey offers a variety of recreation and leisure programs to residents, some programming gaps do exist.

- Are there any 'easy win' solutions that can address current programming gaps?
- What additional investment in recreation and parks services is required to address more significant gaps that may exist?

A Draft Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan

Plan Vision

“To ensure future provision of high quality parks, trails and recreation opportunities that can be enjoyed and accessed by all residents, resulting in a vibrant and healthy community with a high quality of life”



A Draft Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan

Plan Outcomes

1. **Current infrastructure in the community is sustained and new infrastructure is proposed where necessary** to ensure that it can continue servicing community recreation and leisure needs.
2. **Community groups and partner organizations are sustainable, energized and supported** to ensure that they can continue providing a variety of important and valuable recreation and leisure programs to residents.
3. **Municipal investment in recreation and parks services is efficient and focused** on key areas that will improve the overall quality of life for residents of the community.
4. **Future recreation programming reflects community needs and engages citizens.**

A Draft Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan

There are three recommendation streams to the Master Plan:

1. Service Delivery

2. Infrastructure

3. Programming

A Draft Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan

Service Delivery

Partnership framework:

- In order to continue providing recreation and leisure opportunities in an efficient manner, and to expand offerings where feasible, the Town will need to **maximize its partnerships and collaborations with community groups and organizations.**
- It is recommended that the Town develop **formal partnership protocols (agreements) that outline the responsibilities and expectations** of both the community group receiving support and the Town.
- In addition to financial support, the Town can enhance the capacity of community groups by assisting them with strategic planning, volunteer recruitment and retention, and administrative tasks (e.g. grant writing, record keeping, financial reporting)

A Draft Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan

Service Delivery

Volunteer support:

- The nature of volunteerism is changing.
- Volunteers are key to the delivery of recreation and leisure opportunities in Rimbey.
- It is recommended that the Town work with other agencies in Rimbey (e.g. FCSS Volunteer Centre) to **coordinate volunteer recruitment and placement activities** by maintaining a roster of residents seeking volunteer opportunities and volunteer positions that exist with community groups / organizations.
- A volunteer conference or symposium would further provide the opportunity to **connect volunteers to organizations, and foster the sharing of best practices and key messages** related to recreation and leisure.

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Service Delivery

Usage tracking:

- The Town currently tracks usage data for rental spaces (e.g. Arena, Community Centre program rooms, auditorium) and the pool.
- It is recommended that **the Town enhance its tracking of parks, trails and recreation usage data**, to include drop-in and spontaneous use activities.
- Enhancing the tracking of usage data will help staff determine future program needs and builds a case for the importance of recreation and leisure facilities and amenities (e.g. 154% increase in youth admissions at the pool in 2012 as compared to 2009).
- Methods used to increase the tracking of usage data could include head counts by Town staff, intercept surveys and requiring partner organizations to provide participant number on a regular basis.

A Draft Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan

Service Delivery

Promotions and marketing:

- It is important that the marketing and promotions of recreation and leisure services in Rimbey be **focused and efficient**.
- A successful marketing and promotions strategy can:
 - Increase participation in recreation and leisure activities (resulting in increased revenues, improved health of residents, etc...)
 - Result in a more positive opinion of recreation and leisure opportunities in the Town
 - Increase sponsorship potential of facilities and spaces
- It is recommended that a promotions and marketing strategy for parks, trails and recreation in Rimbey focus on **increasing awareness of existing opportunities, with the goal of increasing usage and participation**.

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Infrastructure

Sustaining current infrastructure:

- The Town should **invest in, and protect, existing facilities** to preserve service levels
- If new facilities / amenities are required in the future to meet community needs, it is suggested that the **Town should first consider encompassing these spaces within or adjacent to existing facilities.**
- The Town is encouraged to implement the practice of **life cycle budgeting** by allocating a percentage current capital replacement value of major parks, trail networks and recreation facilities to its annual operating budgets. **This approach will require investment of both staff time and funds.**

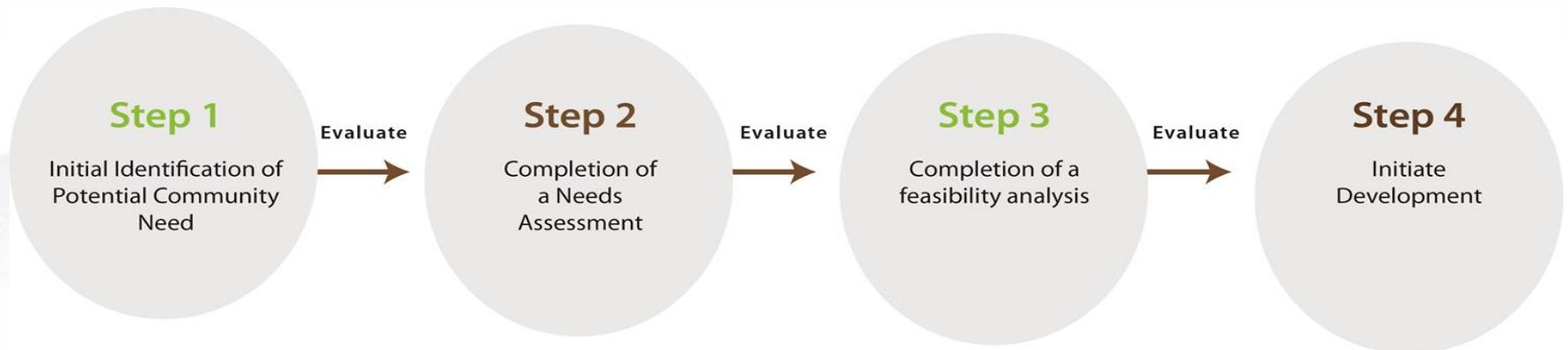
Example- 0.5% of the estimated capital replacement value of an Arena would be \$X annually

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Infrastructure

Infrastructure planning and development:

- When considering (or approached) with a major infrastructure project, it is recommended that the Town follow the standard planning process outlined in the diagram below.



A number of planning triggers and criteria are also suggested to be in place before a new project moves forward through the standard planning process (e.g. population and market conditions, current facility usage, partnerships, current provision).

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Infrastructure

Current indoor facilities and spaces:

- Indoor facilities operated by the Town can be sustained into the future if suggested improvements are completed.
- The Town should continue to monitor usage and community needs for these spaces to ensure they remain fresh and appropriately purposed.
- Refreshment of the fitness equipment, addition of amenities to the gymnasium / auditorium, and potential secondary uses of the arena may warrant future consideration.

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Infrastructure

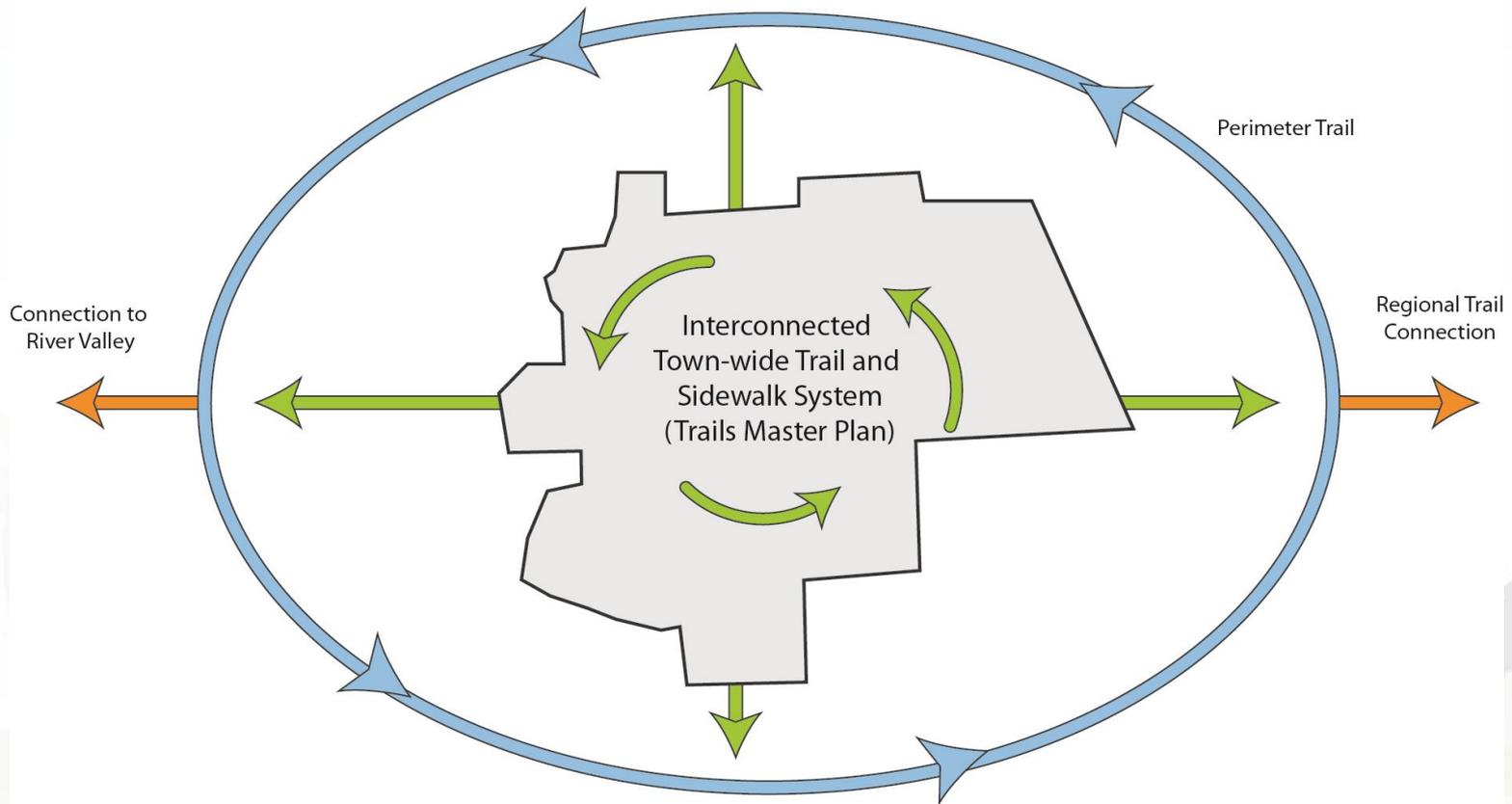
Trails:

- Trails and sidewalks are a highly used and in-demand amenity in Rimbey.
- The current provision of trails and associated connectivity throughout the community is limited.
- The Master Plan provides a number of recommended trail development and maintenance standards for consideration.
- To help guide future development and enhancement, a Trails Concept Plan and a Trails Master Plan have also been developed.

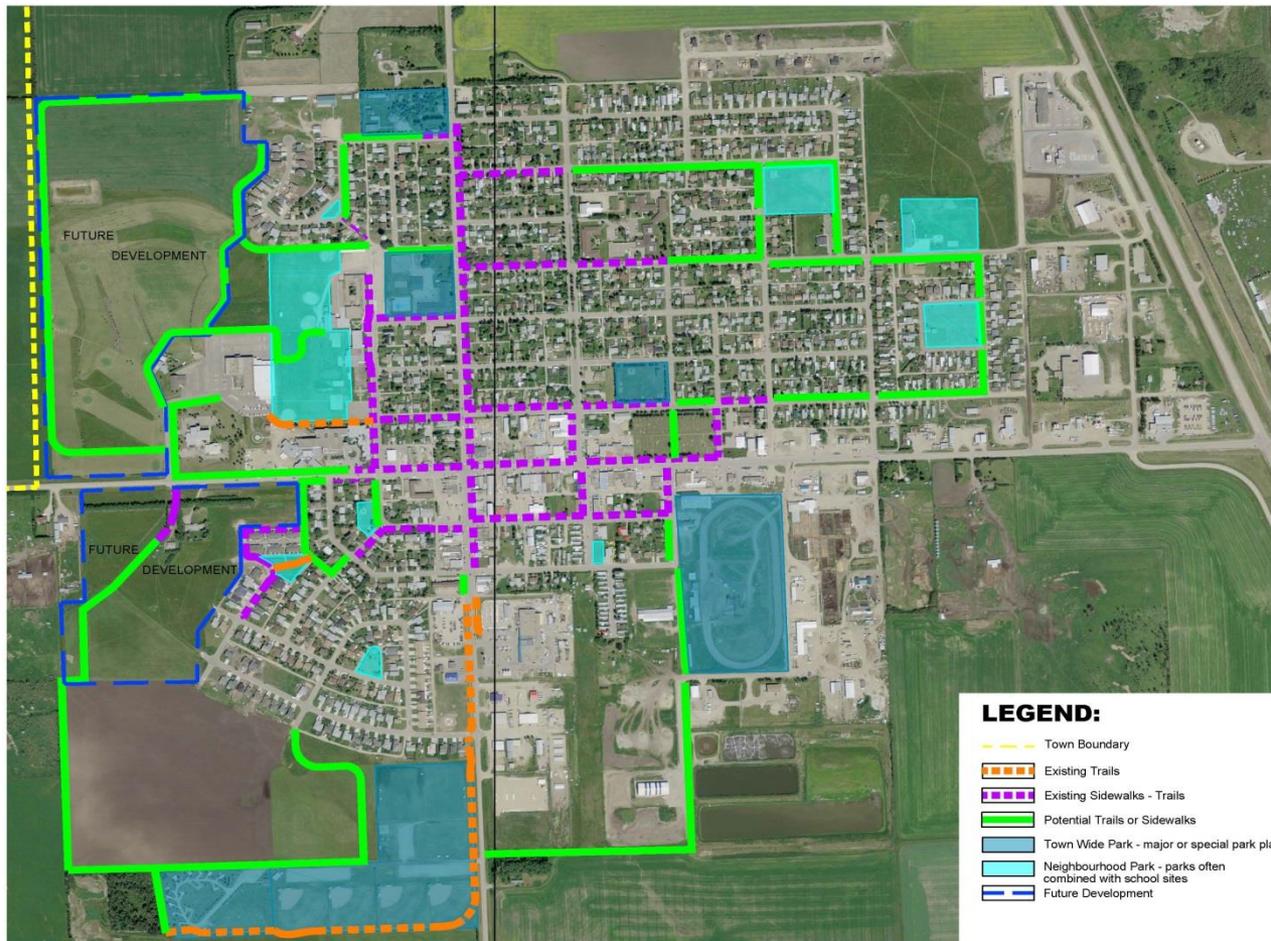
A Draft Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan

Infrastructure

TRAILS CONCEPT PLAN



A Draft Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan Infrastructure



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Infrastructure

Outdoor facilities and spaces:

- The majority of major outdoor facilities in Rimbey are in good condition (Pas-Ka-Poo Park, Aquatics Centre, Nesting Place RV Park, Soccer Fields, Ball Diamonds)
- Consideration should be given to investing in the replacement and refreshment of outdated and unsafe playground equipment pieces and park amenities.
- The basketball and tennis courts require repairs to ensure continued safe usage.
- The skateboard park requires enhancement or relocation.
- If any new major outdoor projects are contemplated (e.g. baseball specific diamond), the suggested planning process should be used to assess need and feasibility.

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Infrastructure

- Historically there is inconsistency with the taking of **municipal reserve** through the development process for parks, trails and recreation purposes.
- The Master Plan outlines general guidelines for accepting and allocating future municipal reserve dedications.



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Infrastructure

Future infrastructure projects:

- 13 potential infrastructure projects were identified through public consultation, research and feedback from the project steering committee (Recreation Board).
- The projects were then scored by the steering committee and consulting team based on the following criteria:
 - Community demand (priorities outlined in the research)
 - Conformance with Council priorities / plans / policies
 - Current provision in the community
 - Life span of existing facilities
 - Project location
 - Public accessibility
 - Economic impact of the project
 - Cost savings available through partnerships or grants
 - Overall capital and operating cost of the project

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Infrastructure

Example: Current provision in the community

3- project would add completely new activity

2- project would improve provision of existing activity

1- N/A

0- activity is already adequately provided

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Infrastructure

Example: Overall operating cost of the project

3- estimated operating cost of the project are break even or better on an annual basis

2- estimated operating cost of the project are between \$0 and \$50,000 on an annual basis

1- estimated operating cost of the project are between \$50,000 and \$100,000 on an annual basis

0- estimated operating cost of the project exceed \$100,000 on an annual basis

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Infrastructure

1. Enhancements to the trail and pathway system

2. Enhancements to playgrounds

T3. Outdoor amphitheatre / event spaces / band shelter

T3. Dog off-leash area

4. Indoor child playground

5. Outdoor tennis courts (rehabilitation)

T6. Enhancements / relocation of skateboard park

T6. Outdoor basketball court (rehabilitation)

T6. Enhancement / expansion to the fitness room

7. Indoor walking / running track

8. Enhancement of amenities available in gymnasium / auditorium

9. Baseball specific diamond

10. Indoor field facility

A Draft Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan

Programming

- **Registered programming** relies heavily on community volunteer groups for both planning and delivery- the Town should continue to support the efforts of these groups, and find resource conscious ways to enhance support.
- The Town provides a number of **drop-in recreation and leisure programs**- the Town should continue to operate drop-in programs and explore other facilities (both Town operated and community partner operated) that can provide additional drop-in opportunities to residents.
- **Spontaneous use recreation and leisure opportunities** in Rimbey are limited- the potential exists to expand spontaneous use offerings but may require an additional investment in staffing and infrastructure.

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Programming

- **Physical accessibility** should be strongly considered in both infrastructure and programming
- Given the high proportion of seniors in Rimbey, it is suggested that the Town focus on developing programs that can provide **physical activity and social opportunities for seniors and other residents facing physical barriers to participation** in recreation and leisure.
- **Financial accessibility** to recreation and leisure opportunities should also continue to be a consideration when developing programs and activities.

A Draft Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan **Plan Implementation**

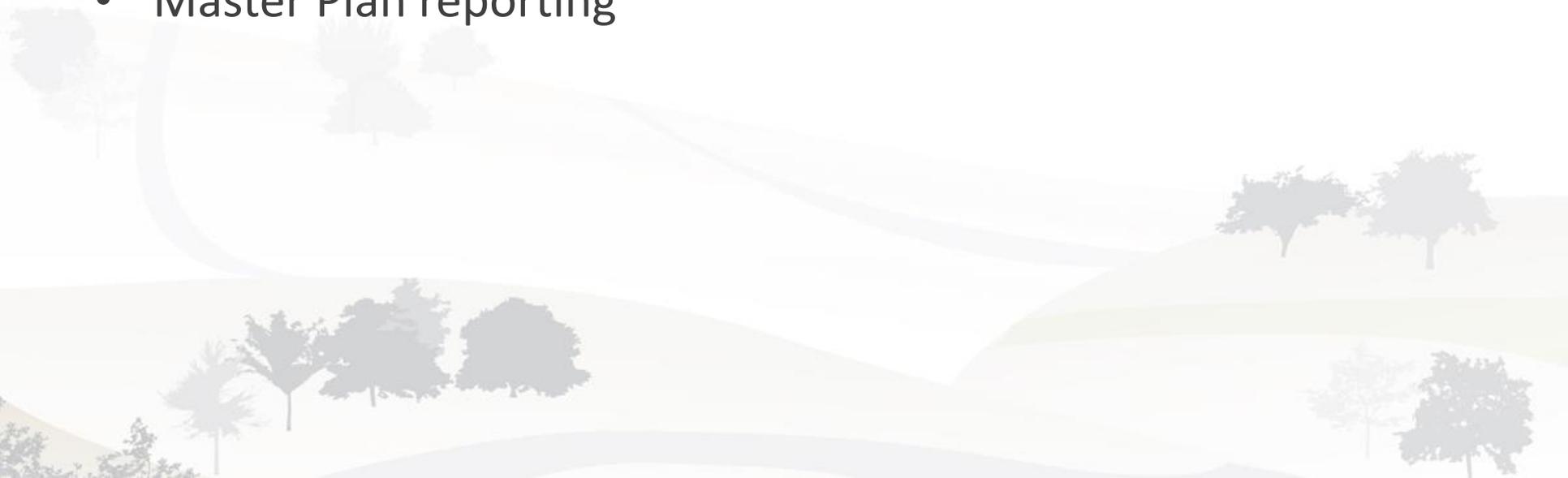
Funding strategy

- Infrastructure and programs that provide **general benefit** and opportunity warrant higher proportions of public investment.
- The Town should consider **sponsorships, user fees** and **funding partnerships** to support sustained and new investment.

A Draft Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan

Next Steps

- Gather feedback and comments
- finalization Plan and present to Town Council
- Master Plan reporting



A Draft Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan
Questions?

THANK YOU!

