



District of Summerland

# Parks & Recreation Master Plan



LEES  
ASSOCIATES

---

Final Master Plan

---

June 20, 2018

---

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This Master Plan was developed under the guidance of a project Steering Committee.

### **Steering Committee**

Chris Becker, Parks and Recreation Commission  
Brian Christopherson, Parks and Recreation Commission  
Donna Eaton, Parks and Recreation Commission  
Jerry Flaman, Parks and Recreation Commission  
Sandy Mah, Parks and Recreation Commission  
Mark Siemens, Parks and Recreation Commission  
Lori Mullin, District of Summerland  
Laura McCarron, District of Summerland

### **Consulting Team**

Erik Lees, LEES+Associates  
John Kirbyson, LEES+Associates  
Deborah Herbert, LEES+Associates

Public phone survey and online survey by the Mustel Group.

District of Summerland Council and staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission also made significant contributions to this Master Plan, as did Alison Peatt, SOSCP Environmental Planner, providing environmental planning support services to SOSCP local government partners.

Thank you also to members of the public and stakeholder groups who participated in the development of this Master Plan by taking part in the phone survey, responding to online questionnaires, providing background information, and attending meetings and public open houses.



# Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Overview and Purpose of Master Plan .....	2
1.2 Process .....	3
1.3 Summerland Community Profile .....	4
1.4 Summerland’s Community Values.....	6
1.5 Summerland’s Strategic Plan.....	7
1.6 Trends and a Recreation Framework .....	8
<b>2 Community Engagement</b> .....	<b>13</b>
2.1 Overview of Engagement Undertaken for Project .....	13
2.2 Initial Engagement Results .....	14
2.3 Community Feedback on the Draft Master Plan.....	16
<b>3 Summerland’s Parks and Recreation System</b> .....	<b>19</b>
3.1 Vision and Principles.....	19
3.2 Arts and Culture Connection .....	20
3.3 Environmental Values .....	23
3.4 Climate Change .....	23
<b>4 Parks</b> .....	<b>27</b>
4.1 Park System.....	27
4.2 Summerland’s Parks .....	45
4.3 Park Amenities.....	52
4.4 Maintenance.....	67
<b>5 Trails</b> .....	<b>69</b>
5.1 Trails Provision .....	70
5.2 Key Issues .....	72
5.3 Trail User Groups .....	76
5.4 Key Findings and Recommendations.....	77

<b>6</b>	<b>Recreation Facilities .....</b>	<b>79</b>
6.1	Description and Assessment of Indoor Recreation Facilities.....	79
6.2	Indoor Facility Supply .....	90
<b>7</b>	<b>Recreation Programming .....</b>	<b>99</b>
7.1	Existing Programming Summary.....	99
7.2	Analysis and Trends. ....	103
7.3	Environmental Education Programming.....	109
7.4	Tourism.....	109
7.5	Recommendations.....	112
<b>8</b>	<b>Service Delivery .....</b>	<b>115</b>
8.1	Financial Review .....	115
8.2	Review of Policies and Procedures.....	119
<b>9</b>	<b>Implementation Plan.....</b>	<b>123</b>
9.1	Funding Strategies .....	123
9.2	Monitoring and Evaluation.....	126
9.3	Implementation Plan Table .....	126
	<b>Appendix A – Engagement Activities.....</b>	<b>141</b>
	<b>Appendix B – Survey Summary .....</b>	<b>144</b>
	<b>Appendix C – Youth Engagement Summary.....</b>	<b>180</b>
	<b>Appendix D – Open House #1 Feedback.....</b>	<b>184</b>
	<b>Appendix E – Community Feedback on Draft Master Plan .....</b>	<b>189</b>
	<b>Appendix F – Environmental Values.....</b>	<b>199</b>
	<b>Appendix G – Summerland’s Community Climate Action Plan .....</b>	<b>210</b>
	<b>Appendix H – Summerland’s Parks.....</b>	<b>213</b>
	<b>Appendix I – Places for Dogs.....</b>	<b>221</b>
	<b>Appendix J – Summerland’s Most Prominent Trails .....</b>	<b>225</b>
	<b>Appendix K – References.....</b>	<b>227</b>

# Table of Contents

## Tables

Table 1: Summerland Population: 2016 and 2028.....	6
Table 2: Recreation Trends.....	9
Table 3: Survey Feedback on Draft Recommendations.....	17
Table 4: Summerland Park Classification.....	29
Table 5: Recommended and Previous Parks Classifications.....	30
Table 6: Parkland per 1000 Residents.....	31
Table 7: Summerland’s Parkland – Summary.....	32
Table 8: Summerland’s Developed Parkland Provision – Current and Future.....	33
Table 9: Parks Provision by Type of Park – Selected BC Municipalities.....	33
Table 10: Summerland’s Developed Parkland Provision.....	41
Table 11: Summerland’s Parks.....	46
Table 12: Sports Amenities.....	55
Table 13: Comparison of Provision of Public Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Courts.....	59
Table 14: Estimated Tennis Demand.....	59
Table 15: Dog Parks in Selected Okanagan Communities.....	63
Table 16: Trails Comparison.....	70
Table 17: Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre.....	83
Table 18: Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre – Strengths and Weaknesses.....	84
Table 19: Summerland Arena Complex and Curling Club.....	87
Table 20: Summerland Arena Complex and Curling Club – Strengths and Weaknesses.....	88
Table 21: Comparison of Indoor Recreation Facility Supply by Population.....	91
Table 22: Reasons for Using Private Indoor Facilities or Those in Located in Other Cities.....	116
Table 23: Indoor Recreation Facilities/Programs that are Lacking or In Need of Improvement....	116
Table 24: Expenditures on Parks and Recreation.....	116
Table 25: Comparison of Recreational Swim Admission Rates.....	117
Table 26: Comparison of Recreational Skating Admission Rates.....	117
Table 27: Comparison of Arena Rental Rates.....	118
Table 28: Implementation Table.....	126
Table F1: Species at Risk In or Near Summerland.....	203

## Figures

Figure 1: Process Used To Develop the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.....	3
Figure 2: Population in 2016: Summerland and British Columbia Overall .....	5
Figure 3: Summerland Population by Age Group, 2011 and 2016.....	5
Figure 4: Summerland Strategic Plan’s Balanced Scorecard.....	7
Figure 5: A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing .....	11
Figure 6: Dots Allocated Among Priorities By Open House Participants .....	17
Figure 7: Community Priorities.....	18
Figure 8: 400m and 800m Buffers Around Summerland’s Parks.....	36
Figure 9: Frequency of Using Summerland’s Parks, Trails and Open Spaces .....	37
Figure 10: Recreation or Cultural Activities Participated In on a Regular Basis .....	38
Figure 11: Assessment of Summerland’s Parks, Trails and Open Spaces.....	39
Figure 12: Summerland’s Parks.....	48
Figure 13: Summerland Playgrounds with 800 m Buffers .....	54
Figure 14: Summerland’s Trails (preliminary).....	71
Figure 15: Public Indoor Recreation or Culture Facilities Used .....	81
Figure 16: Frequency of Use of Indoor Facilities.....	81
Figure 17: Satisfaction with Public Indoor Recreation or Culture Facilities .....	82
Figure 18: Use of Private Indoor Facilities or Those in Located in Other Cities .....	92
Figure E1: Dots Allocated to Priorities by Open House Participants.....	196
Figure E2: Dots Allocated to Priorities by Open House Participants.....	196
Figure E3: Rankings of Parks, Trails and Outdoor Recreation Priorities by Survey Respondents..	197
Figure E4: Rankings of Indoor Recreation and Recreation Programming Priorities.....	198
Figure F1: Summerland Environmentally Sensitive Areas and District of Summerland Parks.....	203



# Executive Summary

---

Home to approximately 11,600 residents, the District of Summerland is located on the west shore of Okanagan Lake, nestled between Giant’s Head, Conkle and Cartwright Mountains. Summerland has numerous parks and trails, including in the surrounding mountains, as well as an aging but well-maintained arena and aquatic centre. While the population is older than average for British Columbia, many residents actively use Summerland’s parks, trails and recreation facilities, and healthy living and wellness are important parts of the community’s character.



This Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides strategic direction to the District of Summerland regarding park use, facilities and services over the next five to ten years. Developed collaboratively through ongoing consultation with District staff, Council, a Steering Committee, stakeholders and the public, the Master Plan sets clear directives to guide policy development and decision making.

## VISION AND PRINCIPLES

The following vision and principles set the stage for the Master Plan by establishing a framework for a set of high-level goals that will be the touchstone for evaluation of parks and recreation plans and priorities in the coming years.

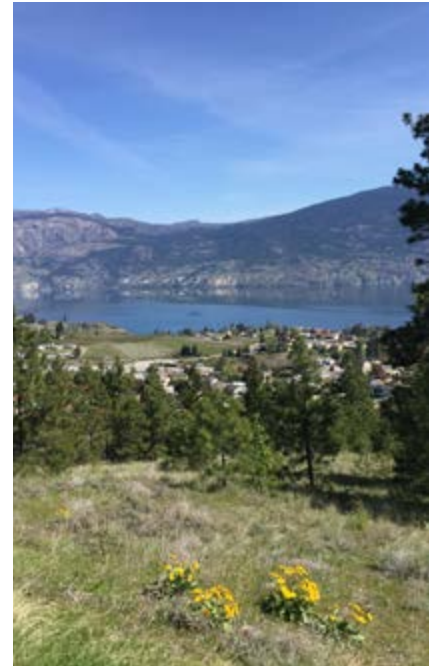
### VISION

Summerland’s parks and recreation system contributes to a high quality of life for residents and visitors by providing accessible, inclusive and engaging indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities that reflect Summerland’s distinctive natural setting, healthy and active lifestyles, flourishing artistic and cultural communities, and close-knit, small-town character.



## PRINCIPLES

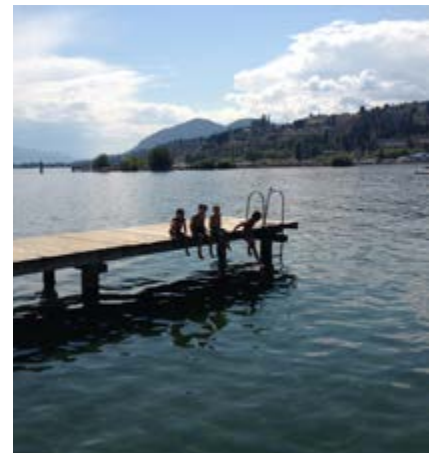
- Parks and recreation facilities are accessible, affordable and inclusive to people of all ages, abilities and income levels.
- Residents are inspired and actively engaged in a healthy lifestyle.
- Residents of all ages have pride in the community and a strong sense of belonging.
- Parks, recreation and community facilities are linked through a network of greenways, walkways and trails.
- Parks, trails, and recreation facilities and programs attract new residents, encourage tourism and stimulate the economy.
- Summerland’s history and culture are celebrated.
- Education, interpretation and health promotion are important.
- Partnerships are encouraged and supported to deliver a wide range of parks and recreation amenities, services and programs.
- The environment is respected, protected, enhanced and contributes to the quality of life in the community.
- Staff, volunteers, visitors and partners are valued.



## PARKS

### PARKLAND PROVISION

Summerland has considerably more total parkland than similar sized BC communities on average. Giant’s Head Mountain and Conkle Mountain, large natural areas, account for more than 70% of Summerland’s parkland, and Summerland’s provision of city, community and neighbourhood parks is below the provincial average and falls at the low end of the range compared to nearby municipalities.



Much of Summerland lies within a 10-minute walk of a park (800 meters) and is well-served. The exceptions are the western part of Trout Creek and Happy Valley, which are underserved in neighborhood park space. In addition, the Sinclair-Barclay neighbourhood just west of Downtown is an urban neighbourhood with many families and does not have a neighbourhood park within walking distance.



As a tourist destination, Summerland's parks are used by both residents and tourists in the summer months, particularly the public beaches, Memorial Park, Giant's Head Mountain and Conkle Mountain.

This Master Plan provides a parks classification scheme and recommended standards for parkland provision (see table at the end of this section).

## **SUMMERLAND'S PARKS**

Summerland has a variety of excellent parks, which include several lakeshore parks with beaches, the Dale Meadows Park and Living Memorial Park sports fields, the centrally-located Memorial Park, several neighbourhood parks, several natural areas with passive recreation opportunities, and special purpose parks like Peach Orchard Campground, Rodeo Grounds and Priest Camp.

This Master Plan provides an inventory of Summerland's parks and makes several recommendations for parks improvements, based on site analysis and community and staff engagement (see table at the end of this section).

## **PARK AMENITIES**

### **Playgrounds**

Summerland has ten playgrounds, which are well-maintained and inspected regularly. Some areas of Summerland are within a ten-minute walk (800 m) of a playground, but others are not, including the western and southern parts of Lower Town, the western part of Trout Creek and Happy Valley.

### **Outdoor Sports Amenities**

Summerland is well-served for outdoor sports amenities and the sports fields are well-used.



Summerland is well-served for the number of public tennis courts, but use of these courts is low because they are not well-maintained. Summerland is relatively under-served for pickleball courts; pickleball players would like additional outdoor courts as well as indoor courts.

Summerland has outdoor basketball courts at Dale Meadows Park and Summerland Middle School. A new skatepark is under construction at the southwest corner of Jubilee Road and Rosedale Avenue. Summerland has one waterpark at Peach Orchard Beach Park.

### Places for Dogs

Summerland has fewer off-leash dog parks than selected other communities in the Okanagan, including smaller communities like Peachland and Osoyoos. The community feels there is a need for additional off-leash dog park areas; provision of a new off-leash dog park in a park/field setting could help keep dogs off sports fields.

### Beaches and Water Access

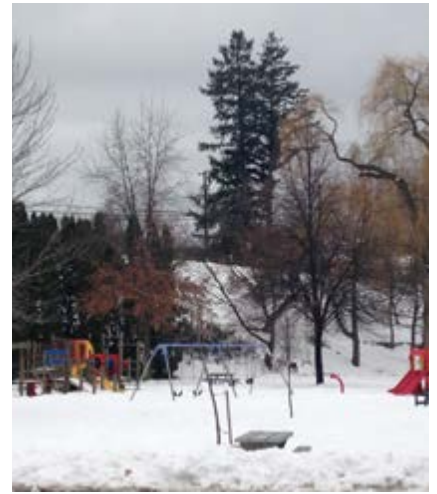
Summerland has public beaches, piers and walkways to provide public access to the waterfront. Lakeshore access is a priority for Summerland and Summerland's Official Community Plan notes the policy of acquiring land adjacent to Okanagan Lake to increase public access to the waterfront.

### Trees

Trees offer significant environmental and human health benefits. An Urban Forest Strategy would assist Summerland in identification of areas where trees could be planted, selection of tree species and care of existing trees. Funds available through environmental grant programs and from the District's Tree Fund Reserve account could be used to plant additional trees along streets and in parks. It is important to conduct hazard tree assessments in Summerland's parks and along trails.

## PARKS MAINTENANCE

Summerland's parks are well-maintained, and staff utilize current resources effectively. Challenges for parks maintenance include aging equipment and low enforcement of parks bylaws such as the prohibition of dogs on sports fields. An additional seasonal landscaping crew member would allow the crew to maintain high standards for landscaping.



Regular communication with sports field users and development of guidelines would support field maintenance. Service clubs and community organizations have historically donated a lot of Summerland's parks infrastructure, and standards are needed to ensure that donated infrastructure meets safety standards and can be maintained by District staff. The separation of parks responsibilities between the Works & Utilities and Recreation departments makes it important to have regular contact and collaboration between the two departments on work planning, budget development, and priority-setting for parks.

## TRAILS

Walking is the most popular recreation activity of Summerland residents, followed closely by cycling, and Summerland's many trails are widely used by residents and visitors. Residents would like to have a more walkable community with trail links throughout the community, especially for connections from Upper Town to Lower Town beaches. There is also a desire to see a commuter bike route to Penticton.



Summerland's network of mountain bike trails is growing in popularity, resulting in Summerland becoming a destination for the growing sport. Its appealing terrain can support further expansion of the sport. The District also hosts several cycle events including the Mountain Bike Test of Humanity Championship and Gran Fondo, which also provide significant tourism benefits.

Trail users identified a pressing need for improved wayfinding, promotion of trails, and clarity on permitted uses. Conflicts among different trail users is not a serious problem in Summerland, but clarity on permitted uses will help avoid potential conflicts.

Trail users can have negative impacts on natural areas, so recreation and trails in natural areas should be carefully planned to avoid and minimize impacts on ecologically sensitive or significant habitats, plants or animals. Trail users identified a need for management planning of natural areas, similar to the planning that is under way for Giant's Head Mountain.

The importance of connectivity was identified in engagement with staff and the community for this Master Plan and is discussed in Summerland's Official Community Plan, Strategic Plan, and Cultural Plan. Connectivity facilitates active transportation and can provide corridors for wildlife to move between natural areas.



The District of Summerland intends to undertake a Trails Master Plan, so this Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides a high-level review and recommendations for Summerland’s trails (see table at the end of this section), in anticipation of a more thorough Trails Master Plan in the future.

## INDOOR FACILITIES

A comparative analysis indicates that Summerland’s provision of indoor recreation facilities is on par with similar sized BC communities. The District of Summerland directly operates two core recreation amenities: the Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre and the Summerland Arena and Curling Club.

The District also works with community groups to operate more specialized recreation facilities. These specialized recreation facilities are spread across the community and without strong operational links, community recreation demands are not being fully met.

Indoor recreation facilities in nearby neighbouring cities help meet community demand.

There is very strong public support for improvements to indoor facilities. With the exception of the school facilities and the Baptist Church, all indoor recreation facilities are aging and currently operating near full capacity.

Lack of a District-operated gymnasium and multi-purpose rooms are noted as hampering delivery of recreation programs. The community survey highlights that a significant number of residents feel that there is a lack of indoor recreational facilities and programs which is resulting in residents using facilities in other communities.

This Master Plan makes several recommendations for Summerland’s indoor recreation facilities (see table at the end of this section).

### SUMMERLAND AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTRE

At 42 years old, the Aquatic and Fitness Centre facility is nearing the end of its serviceable life. The pool and fitness rooms are used to capacity during all prime time hours. Key programs such as aquafit, swim lessons and Recope are full with waiting lists for future programs. While overall community satisfaction is currently high, there is an expressed desire for improvements in the aquatic facilities and programs.





The pool is a traditional single tank design which is outdated and lacks many of the modern features and amenities such as family changerooms, family leisure space, shallow teaching pool, accessible entry and swim competition space. The weightroom has to be used for fitness classes, which is not conducive to either use.

The Aquatic and Fitness Centre lacks the support space typical of modern recreation complexes including multi-use recreation rooms, fitness rooms and gymnasium, which helps create the one-stop centre for everyone in the community. Due to limited space on school board property, there is no potential to expand or rebuild a suitably sized community centre at its current location

### **SUMMERLAND ARENA AND CURLING CLUB**



At 41 years old, the facility is nearing the end of its serviceable life. The arena ice facility is currently meeting most of the needs of the community. Prime time ice time is presently near capacity. Survey respondents did express some interest in expansion and updating the facility.

Eventually a second sheet of ice may be required to meet community demands.

### **RECREATION PROGRAMMING**



The community engagement process indicated a desire for more aquatic and recreation programs for various age groups, especially families and children, as well as expanded operating hours for fitness classes. This will be a challenge for staff based on current budget allocations, staffing levels, and limited indoor facilities. The demand for increased programming in limited facilities operating at capacity particularly in peak times highlights a need for a review of the allocation policies and fees and charges bylaw.

Recreation programming is being delivered by a combination of direct delivery and by non-profit associations and clubs. With limited staff capacity, growth in service will depend on partnerships and community engagement. This “Community Development Model”, in which the District does not directly provide all recreation services but rather supports the community to become a partner in meeting community needs, will require the District to adopt more of a facilitator role, working with associations to directly encourage and promote more programming.



The need to reach the demographics that are not users of the programs or facilities, as well as optimizing participation of existing patrons, could be addressed through a Marketing Plan and Strategy.

This Master Plan makes several recommendations for recreation programming in Summerland (see table at the end of this section).

## CHILDREN

Swimming, going to the beach, ice sports and walking/biking/hiking combined are the most common activities for families with children. There are limited recreation programs in Summerland for children and young families, and the community engagement process indicated a desire for both more programs and expanded indoor facilities, including the pool and arena.

The Recreation Department can play a stronger facilitating role for families by supporting community partners in offering a broad range of programs and services.



## YOUTH

Young teens use recreational facilities to a limited extent, while older teens rarely use the District's recreation facilities or programs. Youth recreation opportunities are minimal and youth expressed a desire for more options for things to do during the year, as well as more festivals, events, and concerts.

## ADULTS

Walking, going to the theatre, biking, going to the beach and watersports are the most common recreational activities for adults. Lack of time and physical limitations are the prime reasons for not participating in recreation, followed by lack of facilities. Residents are going outside the community for recreational activities, and there is a strong desire for improved indoor facilities and increased programs in Summerland.



## SENIORS

Seniors aquatic and rehab programs are very well attended. There is an opportunity for more partnership activities with the Summerland Drop In Recreation Centre.

## TOURISM

Tourism helps build amenities and supports events for the community. With improved or additional facilities there is an opportunity to expand sports tourism. The Chamber of Commerce and some residents feel that a lack of campgrounds, the quality of Peach Orchard Campground and the lack of moderately priced accommodations negatively affect tourism.



There is a history of strong support from service groups for festivals and events, but some residents and the Chamber express concern about a decrease in the number of festivals and events over time and some event organizers express concern about the decrease in volunteers.

With limited capacity, the role of the Recreation Department in tourism-related activities needs to be defined.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

In 2017, net expenditures on Parks and Recreation were 11% of total District operating expenditures and the net cost of Parks and Recreation was \$312.86 per household or \$132.93 per person. Summerland's recovery rate for spending on Parks and Recreation was 34% in 2017; this is comparable to other smaller municipalities.

Overall Summerland's admission fees and arena rental rates are lower than the regional average. The subsidy levels for various age categories are consistent with the comparable communities and current recreation trends.

Cost of programs and services is an important consideration for residents. There appears to be public support for a combination of an increase in user fees and taxes for increased services.

### REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

#### **Parks and Recreation Commission Bylaw 2000-057**

The designation of Commission is usually reserved for governing bodies with greater autonomy and authority than expressed in the current bylaw. Since the Commission has no direct budgeting authority, a review



of the title and terms of reference is warranted to bring it in alignment with other committees of Council.

Acknowledging the unique and special needs of seniors and youth would broaden the perspective.

Historically, meetings have not been held regularly. There is much work to be done by the Commission in order assist with the implementation of this Master Plan.

### **Parks Regulation Bylaw 95-013**

This bylaw regulates the use of all public parks, beaches and municipal property. The bylaw is generally satisfactory to protect municipal property and the public, with some exceptions, including:

- Inconsistent authority for administering the bylaw;
- Potential inconsistency with respect to Peach Orchard Campground and the Rodeo Grounds (the bylaw states parks are closed from 11:00 PM to 6:00 AM);
- Exclusion of bikes from parks;
- Exclusion of dogs from parks except the off-leash park and seasonally in Peach Orchard Park; and
- Permitting skateboarding in all parks and public places (frequently, municipal jurisdictions limit skateboarding to designated areas to ensure public safety).



### **Joint Use Agreement with School District 67**

A joint use agreement is a mutually beneficial agreement between a municipality and the local school district, to ensure the shared, equitable use of both municipal and school facilities. There is a history of a good working relationship between District of Summerland staff and School District 67. There is a 1983 joint use agreement for operation of the pool and a 1987 agreement (bylaw 2128) for the community theatre, both on School District property, but there is no valid, current and reciprocal joint use agreement with the School District.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<i>Climate Change</i>	
3-1	Explore opportunities for using the District’s green revolving fund to finance further investments in energy efficiency and GHG emission reductions in District recreation facilities and parks.
3-2	Ensure that remediated or new lakeshore parks and trail areas take into account projected future flooding under climate change and reflects best practices for construction in riparian areas as well as protection and enhancement of riparian ecosystems.
3-3	Ensure that parks and recreation infrastructure is incorporated into asset management, including recognition of its environmental and social benefits.
3-4	Continue to improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, including creation of additional multi-use trails that are connected to existing trail networks.
3-5	Consider placing combined recycling/waste bins in parks, at trailheads, and outside of the arena and aquatic centre.
3-6	Ensure any new District buildings are at least 25% more energy efficient than what would be required under the BC Building Code.
3-7	Consider planting more trees along streets and parking lots and in parks, in the context of an Urban Forest Strategy.
3-8	Explore the potential to claim Avoided Forest Conversion credits for forested land that was dedicated as new park land after September, 2007.
<i>Park System</i>	
4-1	Adopt the recommended parks classification scheme.
4-2	Adopt recommended park supply standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.5 ha/1,000 residents for neighbourhood parks, and</li> <li>• 2.2 ha/1,000 residents for community and city parks</li> </ul>
4-3	Ensure that new developments include adequate parks and open space to meet the needs of new residents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All residents within a 5-10 minute walk of a park, and</li> <li>• At least 2.7 hectares of developed parkland for every 1,000 new residents</li> </ul>
4-4	Develop a Parkland Acquisition and Improvement Program that targets the recommended park supply standards and identifies priorities and requirements for Parkland Acquisition and Improvements. Update the DCC Bylaw to reflect the Parkland Acquisition and Improvement Program.
4-5	Acquire and develop neighbourhood parks, particularly in western Trout Creek, Happy Valley and the Sinclair-Barclay neighbourhood west of Downtown.
4-6	Develop a parks natural features/areas management strategy.
4-7	Prepare a comprehensive inventory of District parkland including parcel sizes, designation in OCP, zoning, whether dedicated or not, history and intended uses. Ensure that both existing and new parks are properly dedicated and documented as they are added to the inventory.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<i>Summerland's Parks</i>	
4-8	Use flood remediation in lakeshore parks as opportunity to improve amenities and accessibility as well as resilience to future flood events.
4-9	Upgrade washrooms in Gordon Beggs Rotary Beach Park and Peach Orchard Campground.
4-10	Explore the cost & feasibility of upgrading and winterizing washrooms at Peach Orchard Beach Park and Memorial Park.
4-11	Undertake park master plan/visioning for Memorial Park.
4-12	Repair roof and enclose stage of bandshell in Memorial Park.
4-13	Add more play equipment such as a slide and sun shelter (pergola) to the picnic area along the walkway in Gordon Beggs Rotary Beach Park.
4-14	Investigate the feasibility of making Dog Beach accessible to people with mobility challenges.
4-15	Explore opportunities to expand the boat launch parking lot adjacent to Peach Orchard Beach Park.
4-16	Explore a long distance designated swim lane from Peach Orchard Park to Rotary Beach.
4-17	Undertake conceptual planning for Peach Orchard Beach Park.
4-18	Undertake improvements to Powell Beach Park.
4-19	Pave Dale Meadows Park parking lot using a permeable surface or other eco-friendly solution.
4-20	Consider building a change room/clubhouse facility at Dale Meadows in partnership with sports clubs.
4-21	To improve turf management on sports fields, purchase a reel mower once the parking lot at Dale Meadows Park has been resurfaced.
4-22	Resurface the perimeter track at Dale Meadows Park.
4-23	Improve communication and coordination with user groups, including hosting an annual meeting each spring with District staff and sports field user group representatives.
4-24	Explore whether Deer Ridge Park can or should be transformed into a neighbourhood park.
4-25	Explore whether Dunham Park can or should be transformed into a neighbourhood park.
4-26	Undertake master planning for Conkle Mountain Park.
4-27	Prohibit recreation access to Woodbridge Nature Preserve, except at the property perimeter.
4-28	Explore possibilities for community off-season use of Peach Orchard Campground.
4-29	Undertake a park master plan for the Rodeo Grounds, exploring community needs and possible uses for the site, servicing requirements and costs, and possible operating arrangements.
4-30	Implement the recommendations of the Downtown Strategic Plan to create a central gathering place in the Downtown core and enhance public open space.
4-31	Explore other opportunities for permanent or temporary public plazas/gathering spaces in the downtown area, in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce, School District, and churches.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b><i>Summerland's Parks, continued</i></b>	
4-32	Enhance the public gathering space in Memorial Park.
4-33	When building new buildings/washrooms/facilities or undertaking major renovations, consider opportunities to increase energy efficiency, install solar panels, and rainwater collection.
4-34	Assess the accessibility of all District of Summerland-owned outdoor public washrooms.
<b><i>Playgrounds</i></b>	
4-35	Replace the playgrounds in Memorial Park, Peach Orchard Beach Park and Peach Orchard Campground as planned.
4-36	Replace playgrounds in other parks as needed.
4-37	Create new playgrounds, including natural playgrounds, in areas that are not currently within 10-minutes of walk of a playground (western and southern parts of Lower Town, the western part of Trout Creek and Happy Valley).
<b><i>Outdoor Sports Amenities</i></b>	
4-38	Additional sports fields are not needed currently, but the District should monitor over time to determine whether community needs are continuing to be met with existing fields.
4-39	Assess the Powell Beach tennis courts and undertake any needed repairs.
4-40	Work with the School District to rehabilitate the tennis courts at Summerland Secondary School.
4-41	Convert the 2 dedicated pickleball courts at Peach Orchard Campground to 4 courts.
4-42	Once the tennis courts at the Summerland Secondary School have been rehabilitated, convert the shared tennis-pickleball court at Peach Orchard Campground to dedicated pickleball courts.
4-43	Explore possibilities for a long-term dedicated site for outdoor pickleball that would permit expansion over time as the number of pickleball players grows.
<b><i>Places for Dogs</i></b>	
4-44	Identify and explore options for one or more full-time, year-round off-leash dog parks.
4-45	Apply planning principles to identifying and planning spaces for dogs.
4-46	Explore options for allowing dogs off-leash in designated areas of parks during certain times of day or months of the year. Possibilities might include Peach Orchard Campground, the Rodeo Grounds and Powell Beach Park.
4-47	Explore the feasibility of making Dog Beach accessible to people with mobility challenges. If the required construction is permissible in the riparian zone and the cost is reasonable for the District to incur, the project should be included in the capital budget for the next 1-3 years.
4-48	Provide garbage cans, dog waste bags and signage in parks and at trailheads where dogs are permitted.
4-49	Revise the Dog Regulation And Impounding Bylaw (96-002) to permit dogs on leash in all parks except on sports fields, playgrounds, spray parks, skate parks, and beaches or at events unless specifically permitted by the event organizer.



<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b><i>Beaches and Water Access</i></b>	
4-50	Pursue opportunities to acquire land adjacent to Okanagan Lake to increase public access to the waterfront.
4-51	Continue to uphold the Lower Town Development Permit Area guidelines that provide for public access to the shoreline and for increased commercial or public opportunities for recreational activities along the shoreline.
<b><i>Trees</i></b>	
4-52	Develop an Urban Forest Strategy.
4-53	Plant trees along streets and in parks. Environmental grant programs and the District's Tree Fund Reserve account could be sources of funding.
4-54	Undertake hazard tree assessments in District parks and along trails. Hazard tree assessments should be done in the context of the Urban Forest Strategy, once it is available.
<b><i>Maintenance</i></b>	
4-55	Consider hiring additional landscaping staff.
4-56	Purchase a top-dresser as budgeted for 2018.
4-57	Ensure there is regular communication between parks maintenance staff and sports field users. Consider developing guidelines on the responsibilities of field users.
4-58	Develop a list of priorities for donated infrastructure/projects.
4-59	Develop standards for donated infrastructure/projects to ensure they meet safety standards and the requirements of the District.
4-60	Create an asset management plan for major park amenities and infrastructure.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<i>Trails</i>	
5-1	<p>Develop a Trails Master Plan to identify existing trails and missing links within Summerland and in surrounding areas, to plan a trail network that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connects neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces, and community amenities;</li> <li>• Provides active transportation and recreation opportunities; and</li> <li>• Avoids environmentally sensitive or hazard areas and does not facilitate access to these areas.</li> </ul>
5-2	<p>Involve trails user groups, environmental groups, and other stakeholders with an interest in trails in development of the Trails Master Plan.</p>
5-3	<p>The Trails Master Plan should identify mechanisms and processes for collaboration between the District and organizations and groups with an interest in trails.</p>
5-4	<p>The Trails Master Plan should establish design standards for various intended user groups, as well as maintenance standards.</p>
5-5	<p>Following development of the Trails Master Plan, implement signage to provide clarity on permitting uses on trails as well as wayfinding and promotion of trails (and parks). Signage should have a consistent look and feel, with Summerland branding.</p>
5-6	<p>Develop a Cycling Network Plan.</p>
5-7	<p>Collaborate with the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP), local naturalists and environmental groups such as the Summerland Environmental Science Group, and trail user groups and clubs to understand and inventory ecological values in Summerland’s parks and natural areas.</p>
<i>Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre</i>	
6-1	<p>Conduct a detailed facility audit of the entire Aquatic and Fitness Centre building, its structure and plant including compliance with municipal and provincial code requirements.</p>
6-2	<p>Develop an asset lifecycle plan and adjust budgets accordingly.</p>
6-3	<p>Develop a long term strategy for the eventual replacement of the Aquatic and Fitness Centre with multipurpose rooms, including plans, designs, confirm location, public support and cost estimates.</p>
6-4	<p>Replace or upgrade the pool per the long-term strategy.</p>
6-5	<p>Implement a facility replacement reserve to support the eventual replacement of the facility.</p>
6-6	<p>If the estimated life expectancy of the pool is greater than 10 years, add a UV system to reduce chlorination and maintenance costs.</p>
6-7	<p>Review the pool operating hours and explore opportunities to increase use of the pool and increase revenue.</p>

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b><i>Summerland Arena and Curling Club</i></b>	
6-8	Conduct a detailed facility audit of the entire building, its structure and plant including compliance with municipal and provincial code requirements.
6-9	Develop a facility maintenance management plan. Adjust budgets accordingly.
6-10	Implement upgrades to the washrooms and changerooms.
6-11	Explore with the Junior "B" club regarding improving their washroom/changeroom facility.
6-12	Continue to upgrade the concession and concession services.
6-13	Develop a long term strategy for the eventual replacement of the Arena Complex. Monitor community use levels of the curling rink over the long term.
6-14	Replace or upgrade the arena per the long-term strategy.
6-15	Implement a facility replacement reserve to support the eventual replacement of the facility.
6-16	Conduct a needs assessment and cost analysis for a potential second arena.
6-17	Explore options for increasing recreational opportunities such as roller derby in both the arena and curling club during the spring dry floor months.
<b><i>Indoor Facility Supply</i></b>	
6-18	Continue to work closely with and support the non-profit societies operating the indoor facilities to expand programming and help ensure facilities meet community needs
6-19	Continue to liaise cooperatively with the School District during any future facility expansion, especially regarding the opportunity to include expanded community use of the secondary school gym if redeveloped.
6-20	Continue to explore opportunities to utilize existing facilities for recreation programs such as the Odd fellows/Rebekah Hall, Summerland Drop-In Recreation Centre Association and the UNISUS International School.
6-21	Explore the possibility of converting the arena concourse into a multi-purpose recreation room.
6-22	During any future plans to redevelop the aquatic centre, consider adding a gymnasium in order to develop a comprehensive community recreation centre.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b><i>Recreation Programming - System Wide</i></b>	
7-1	Continue to undertake ongoing evaluations of the District’s program requirements, assess priorities and abilities to provide services and determine who in the community is best suited to provide that service.
7-2	Adopt a facilitator role in working with clubs/associations and other partners to help meet the recreational needs of the residents.
7-3	Explore opportunities for programming with new partners such as Okanagan College, the agriculture research station, Summerland Ornamental garden, Summerland Trout Hatchery.
7-4	Host an annual recreation-focused Community Fair in conjunction with all sports clubs, to help raise awareness of the programs available.
7-5	Encourage clubs and associations to offer introductory “How To” lessons to encourage new membership.
7-6	Experiment with “Try it for free” or “Bring a Friend” initiatives to increase participation levels for various demographics.
7-7	Launch a Marketing and Promotion campaign to raise awareness of the health and wellness benefits of leisure activities and awareness of the local clubs, facilities and organizations.
7-8	Annually survey a selection of residents to track interest in new programs.
7-9	Work with the community to establish outdoor adventure programs: hiking, paddleboard, kayaking, rock climbing, equestrian, and nature appreciation.
7-10	Review and update the Joint Use Agreement with the School District to improve opportunities for programming the gymnasiums.
7-11	Collaborate with the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, Penticton Indian Band, Interior Health and neighbouring communities to identify service gaps, overlaps and opportunities to expand recreation services on a joint regional scale.
<b><i>Recreation Programming - Children and Families</i></b>	
7-12	Increase family programming and provide more flexibility in programs, especially unstructured/ drop-in programs.
7-13	Identify opportunities for concurrent programs for parents and children of different ages.
7-14	Explore the potential for a child-minding facility near the aquatic centre.
7-15	Explore with residents where more free/low cost programs are most needed.
7-16	Review the ice allocation policy to expand family skating.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b><i>Recreation Programming - Youth</i></b>	
7-17	Undertake a youth visioning process including a broad range of youth and youth serving agencies (police, school, coaches, boys and girls clubs, health authority) to develop a Youth Engagement Strategy and clearly define the role of the District in the delivery of youth services.
7-18	Revise the Terms of Reference for the Parks and Recreation Commission to include one youth representative.
7-19	Encourage all clubs and associations to host more introductory programs for youth such as pickleball.
7-20	Assess the potential of social marketing to communicate with youth.
<b><i>Recreation Programming - Adults</i></b>	
7-21	Experiment with more flexible program times and drop-in programs to overcome lack of time as a barrier to participation.
<b><i>Recreation Programming - Seniors</i></b>	
7-22	Work with the Summerland Drop In Recreation Centre and related agencies to determine gaps in program services and the best means to deliver programs, particularly for fitness, wellness, health, independence.
7-23	Based on the above, expand programming for seniors.
<b><i>Environmental Programming</i></b>	
7-24	Work in conjunction with local natural history clubs to offer environmental awareness programs and host events that raise environmental awareness.
7-25	Promote environmental awareness through District programs and events.
7-26	Add interpretive signage in parks and trails.
<b><i>Tourism and Special Events</i></b>	
7-27	Given staff's limited capacity, the Recreation Department should continue to focus on core community programs, services and special family events within their mandate.
7-28	Continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce to identify opportunities for tourism/ special events as part of economic development initiatives.
7-29	Work with Destination BC to help market parks and recreation programs to the seasonal tourist.
7-30	Initiate an Events Policy to guide the coordination, planning, and administration of events including, fees, venues, approval process, contacts, volunteers and definition of acceptable events.
7-31	As part of the Events Policy, explore potential for corporate donations, sponsorships and naming rights of facilities, programs and events that support tourism.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b><i>Financial Review</i></b>	
8-1	Conduct a regional review of recreation fees and charges.
8-2	Explore with residents where more free/low cost programs are most needed.
8-3	Explore more opportunities to increase recreation revenues in all other areas to offset the cost of recreation services.
8-4	Develop policy around commercial use in parks as potential source of revenue
8-5	Conduct an organizational review of the Recreation department to analyze current staff levels and determine appropriate resources to meet required program and service delivery demands.
8-6	Develop a Departmental Operational Plan for the Recreation department to outline the roles and responsibilities, define the Mission statement, purpose, core programs and services, expected outcomes, and community benefits
<b><i>Parks and Recreation Commission</i></b>	
8-7	Change the name and terms of reference from Parks and Recreation Commission to Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.
8-8	Revise Section 5 of the bylaw by expanding membership to include a youth representative from Summerland Secondary School and a senior’s representative from the Summerland Drop In Recreation Centre.
8-9	Fully engage the Commission in a more proactive and regular manner to assist with implementation of the Master Plan, to monitor ongoing performance, to assist in annually setting priorities and reporting progress to Council.
8-10	Revise section 7(a) to read: “The Commission shall hold quarterly meetings with additional meetings as required.
<b><i>Parks Regulation Bylaw 95-013</i></b>	
8-11	Amend the Parks Regulation Bylaw authority to be the Chief Administrative Officer or designate.
8-12	Amend the Parks Regulation Bylaw to exclude the Peach Orchard Campground and the Rodeo Grounds.
8-13	Amend section (3l) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw by deleting reference to bicyclists therefore permitting cycling in all parks unless specifically identified as not permitted.
8-14	Amend section (3d) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw to permit horseback riding in Conkle Mountain Park.
8-15	Amend section (3d) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw for any change in the location of off-leash parks.
8-16	Amend section (3p) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw to permit skateboarding in designated areas only, or those areas where permission to skateboard has been granted.
<b><i>Joint Use Agreement with School District 67</i></b>	
8-17	Develop a joint use agreement with School District 67 for shared use of District and school facilities.



# 1

# Introduction

Home to approximately 11,600 residents, the District of Summerland is located on the west shore of Okanagan Lake, nestled between Giant's Head, Conkle and Cartwright Mountains. Summerland's spectacular scenery and mild climate make it a popular tourist destination and provide outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation including swimming, hiking, biking, and horse-back riding.

Summerland is located 20 minutes' drive from Penticton and serves as a bedroom community for many people who work in Penticton. However, Summerland's distinct downtown centre and long history make it a town in its own right, not just a suburb to a larger city. The community is close-knit and supportive, with flourishing arts, culture, tourism and agriculture. There are many active community organizations, sports clubs and service clubs that provide a wide range of services, amenities and activities for residents. Festivals, tournaments and events are held throughout the year and are widely attended by residents and visitors.

Summerland has numerous parks and trails, including in the surrounding mountains, as well as an aging but well-maintained arena and aquatic centre. While the population is older than average for British Columbia, many residents actively use Summerland's parks, trails and recreation facilities, and healthy living and wellness are important parts of the community's character.

Summerland's Official Community Plan (OCP) sets some effective goals for parks, recreation, trails and culture. Summerland has the foundation of a robust parks and recreation system. Updating and improving individual parks, expanding certain amenities, improving connectivity, and upgrading recreation facilities are key opportunities for the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Building on these and other items in the OCP, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies priorities from a long term sustainability perspective.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will provide strategic direction to the District of Summerland regarding park use, facilities and services over the next five to ten years. Developed collaboratively through ongoing consultation with District staff, Council, a Steering Committee, stakeholders and the public, the Master Plan sets clear directives to guide policy development and decision making.

This Master Plan takes Summerland's unique character into consideration, utilizing planning lenses that ensure the recommendations promote healthy and sustainable living for residents and visitors. This 10-year planning document includes:

- An inventory of Summerland's parks, trails and recreation facilities.
- An overview of trends and comparison to other BC communities.
- Identification of key issues, needs, opportunities, and constraints.
- Recommendations for improvements and additions to parks, trails and facilities.
- Recommendations for improvements to programming and service delivery.
- An implementation and phasing plan.

## **1.1 OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE OF MASTER PLAN**

This Master Plan is intended to assist Summerland District Council and staff in making informed decisions on the future direction of recreation facilities, parks and open space for the community. It looks at the long-term future of parks and recreation in the context of the needs and desires of Summerland's citizens, user groups, and visitors; comparisons to other municipalities, internal operations and financial realities. The Master Plan will serve as a guiding document providing the principles and direction for parks and recreation standards and service delivery over the next ten years.

The higher purpose of the Master Plan is to help Summerland become among the best smaller municipalities in the world by creating a truly vibrant and healthy community.

---

## 1.2 PROCESS

Development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan took place between May, 2017 and April, 2018. It was led by a Steering Committee, composed of members of the Parks and Recreation Commission and District Recreation Department staff.

Figure 1 shows the process used to develop the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Each phase is described briefly below.

### Research and Analysis

This phase involved research and analysis of pertinent information such as Summerland's Official Community Plan, 2015-2019 Strategic Plan, Cultural Plan, and relevant bylaws. It also involved analysis of national trends in demographics, parks and recreation and their relevance to Summerland; direct comparison of Summerland to similar BC communities; analysis of the spatial distribution of existing parks, trails, recreation and open spaces; and analysis of best practices relevant to Summerland's provision of parks, trails, recreation and open space facilities, programs and services. A parks, trails, and recreation facilities inventory was prepared based on geographic and inventory information provided by the District as well as site tours of Summerland's parks and recreation facilities.



Figure 1: Process used to develop the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

## **Consultation and Engagement**

This phase involved engagement with community members, stakeholders, Council, and staff to gather key information on the needs of the community and existing services and resources. A detailed description of engagement is provided in Section 2 below.

## **Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

The results of the research and analysis and consultation engagement phases were used to develop a draft Master Plan.

## **Review of the Draft Master Plan**

To ensure that the Master Plan effectively met the needs of the community, the draft Master Plan was reviewed by staff, the project Steering Committee and the Recreation Commission. Key findings and recommendations were presented to the community at a public open house and on the District's website. Feedback from community members was gathered at the open house and in an online questionnaire.

## **Final Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

The draft Master Plan was revised to address feedback received during the review phase. The Final Master Plan was presented to Council, the Steering Committee and staff and provided to the community online.

## **1.3 SUMMERLAND COMMUNITY PROFILE**

Summerland is a close-knit community, with many residents involved in indoor and outdoor recreation, community groups and arts and culture. Compared to British Columbia as a whole, Summerland's population tends to be older: almost half of Summerland's population is 55 years or older, compared to about a third for BC as whole (Figure 2). From 2011 to 2016 there was a decline in the number of young people and an increase in the number of older people in Summerland (Figure 3). This trend is likely to continue, given the attractiveness of the Okanagan to older adults and retirees and the general demographic trend of an aging population.

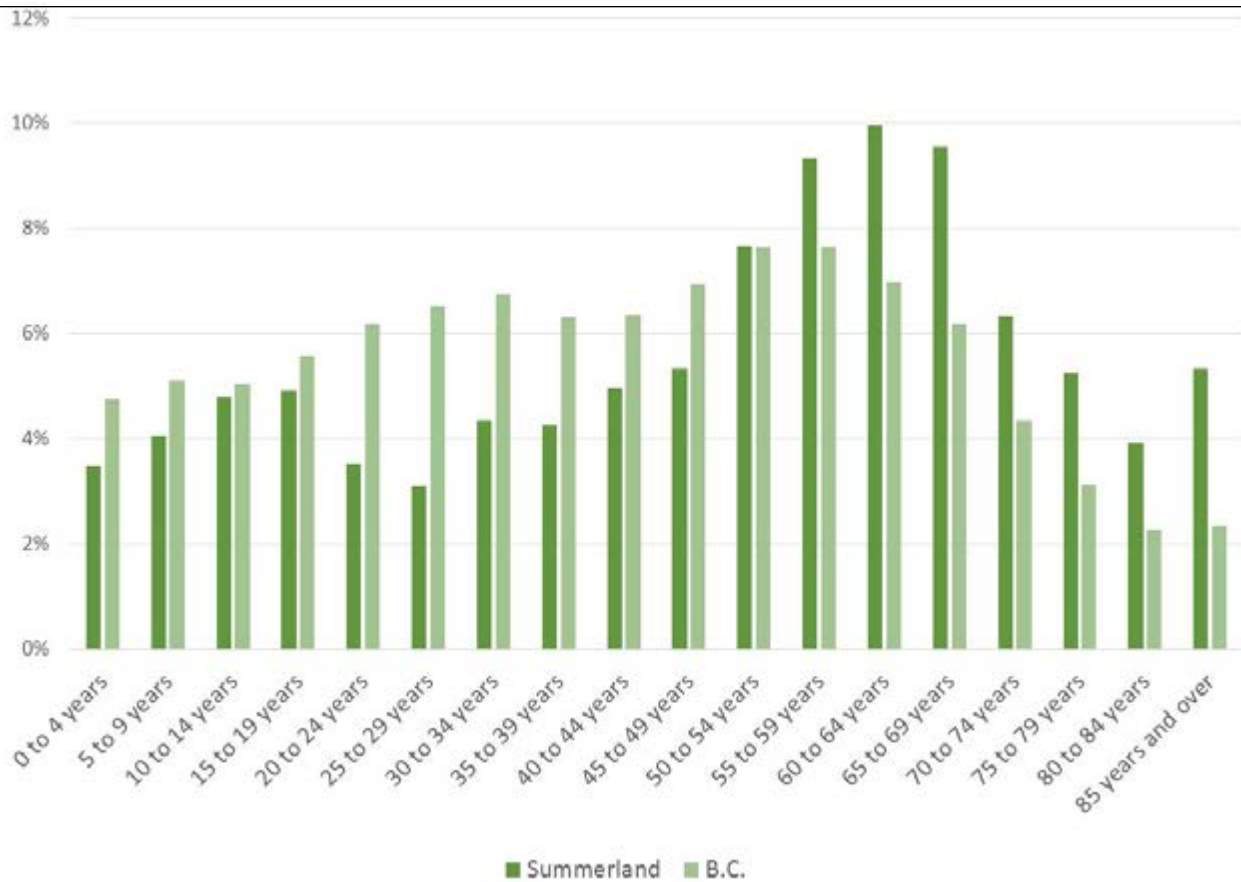


Figure 2: Population in 2016: Summerland and British Columbia overall

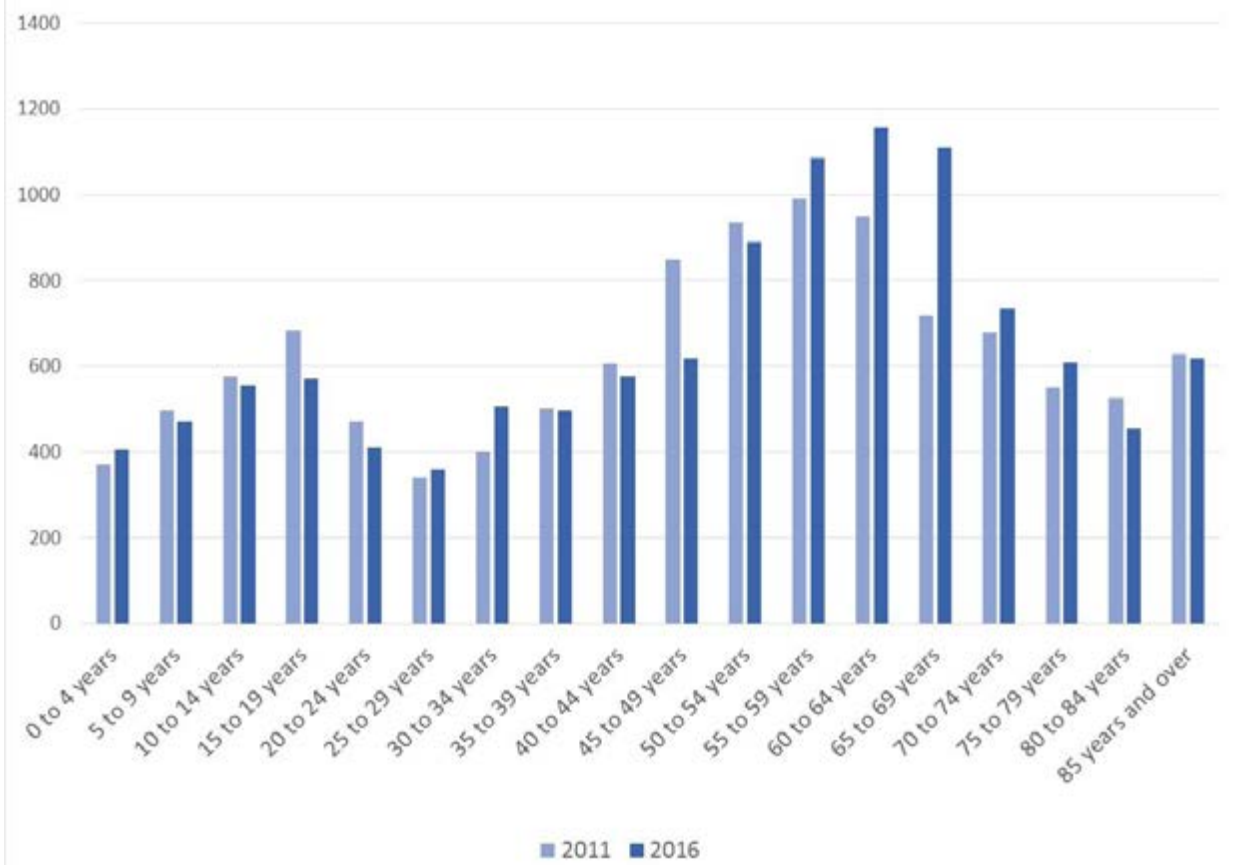


Figure 3: Summerland population by age group, 2011 and 2016

**TABLE 1: SUMMERLAND POPULATION: 2016 AND 2028**

Estimated growth rate	Population Estimate		Net Growth
	2016 <sup>3</sup>	2028	
Low (0.5%)	11,615	12,331	716
Moderate (1.0%)	11,615	13,088	1,473
High (2.0%)	11,615	14,731	3,116

Table 1 shows Summerland's current population and estimated future population in 10 years, using low, moderate and high growth rates from Summerland's OCP.

Summerland's population grew by 3% from 2011 to 2016<sup>1</sup>, compared to 2.8% for Okanagan-Similkameen (Regional District) and 5.6% for BC and 5% for Canada. This is between the low (0.5%) and moderate (1%) 1.0 % projected annual growth rates in Summerland's Official Community Plan (OCP).<sup>2</sup>

#### 1.4 SUMMERLAND'S COMMUNITY VALUES

Summerland's community values are reflected in its community Vision and Community Plan goals. This Master Plan reflects and honours those values, and aims to contribute to Summerland's aspiration to become among the best smaller municipalities in the world by creating a truly vibrant and healthy community.

Summerland's Community Vision:<sup>4</sup>

*Our historic lakeside community has a collective sense of belonging and preserves and enhances its quality of life, agricultural character and its distinctive natural setting in a manner that reflects our strong social values.*

*We respect our traditional small town character and proactively work to ensure balance among our shared values of protecting our natural environment, supporting a sustained local economy, showcasing cultural and historical legacies, and providing quality facilities and services for our diverse population both now and for future generations.*

<sup>1</sup>Statistics Canada, 2017. Census Profile for Summerland (District municipality). 2016 Census.

<sup>2</sup>Table 2, page 5-10.

<sup>3</sup>Statistics Canada, 2017. Census Profile for Summerland (District municipality). 2016 Census.

<sup>4</sup>Summerland Official Community Plan, p. 4-1.



## 1.5 SUMMERLAND'S STRATEGIC PLAN

The District of Summerland's 2015-2019 Strategic Plan uses a Balanced Scorecard approach to achieve citizen objectives for environmental integrity, social well-being, cultural vitality, and economic vibrancy while considering corporate financial, internal process, and learning and growth objectives.

Figure 4 shows the Balanced Scorecard.

Virtually all of the Strategic Plan objectives are relevant for parks and recreation, which plays an important part in achieving community objectives for environmental integrity, social well-being, cultural vitality, and economic vibrancy. Corporate financial, internal process and learning and growth objectives affect how parks and recreation services should be delivered.

Community Themes								
Environmental Integrity			Social Well-Being		Cultural Vitality		Economic Vibrancy	
Sustainable Environment			Health & Wellness	Safe Community	Creative Community	Active Citizenship	Vibrant, Connected Economy	Service Excellence
<b>Citizen Objectives</b>	C1 - Protect water supply	C2 - Protect and enhance air, water and land quality	C3 - Plan growth and preserve ALR	C4 - Link neighbourhoods	C5 - Enhance public safety	C6 - Strengthen the physical, cultural and democratic participation of citizens	C7 - Facilitate economic development	C8 - Foster Corporate excellence
<b>Financial Objectives</b>	F1 - Sustain community infrastructure		F2 - Maintain comparable taxes and fees		F3 - Build new partnerships for funding and services		F4 - Diversify revenue sources	
<b>Internal Process Objectives</b>	P1 - Implement sustainability principles		P2 - Engage the community		P3 - Provide best value for money		P4 - Monitor and report progress	
<b>Learning and Growth Objectives</b>	L1 - Develop and retain a skilled municipal workforce				L2 - Leverage technology, innovation and best practices			

Figure 4: Summerland Strategic Plan's Balanced Scorecard

Summerland's OCP and Strategic Plan both express strong goals and principles to guide parks and recreation planning including:

- Responsive to community needs;
- Equitable and inclusive;
- Respectful of the history, culture and environment;
- Engages the entire community, and
- Affordable, accountable and manageable.

## 1.6 TRENDS AND A RECREATION FRAMEWORK

In May, 2015, the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association approved A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing, a joint initiative of the Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association.

The Framework notes that recreation and society have changed substantially over the past 50 years. While recreation was historically viewed as a public good, focusing on outreach to vulnerable people within a community, there has been a shift towards an individual, facility focused, user pay model. This shift, combined with a need to reaffirm historical values while meeting needs arising from rapid technological changes, economic, environmental, demographic and social changes, has resulted in a new shared definition of recreation:

*Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.*

This encourages an approach which allows recreation to reaffirm historic values, while simultaneously adopting new ways of working that meet emerging needs. Emphasizing this revitalization is a community development approach that empowers people and communities to work together to enhance well-being. Building on past research and agency collaboration, the Framework highlights a number of interrelated challenges and current trends for consideration across Canadian communities, which are outlined in Table 2. Many of these challenges and trends are present in Summerland, and are addressed in this Master Plan.

---

**TABLE 2: RECREATION TRENDS**

***Demographic Changes***

Canadian communities are faced with an increase in older adults and decline in children. This, coupled with an increase in cultural diversity, decreased access to nature and decreased place making due to rapid urbanization all impact the face of recreation. Rural communities are facing increasing pressure due to limited funds and infrastructure, threats to the environment and traditional ways of life, limited numbers of volunteers to lead, and challenges in transportation and distance.

***Challenges to Health***

Increased sedentary living and risk factors for disease (obesity, chronic diseases) and increased mental health concerns are impacting communities.

***Economic Inequities***

Family after tax income inequality rose by 41% between 1995 and 2011, with economic gains going primarily to higher income families. Those with lower incomes have fewer opportunities for recreation.

***Social Challenges***

Changes associated with increasing inequities, unemployment, use of social media instead of face-to-face interaction and loss of traditional supports have compounded feelings of isolation for many, has impacted civic involvement, social connectedness, engagement and social cohesion.

***New and Emerging Technologies***

The parks and recreation field is challenged to keep up with changing technologies, which offer opportunities for innovation, communication, improved efficiency, and enhanced connections, especially in young people. This same technology is resulting in greater time spent in sedentary pursuits, instead of active and unstructured play.

***Infrastructure Deficit***

Most communities in Canada face infrastructure deficits. These include the need for additional walking and cycling routes, and green spaces, as well as the need to upgrade existing facilities to make them more functional and energy efficient. Maintenance is an ongoing concern. Strengthening this infrastructure is key to enhancing community health, vitality and the economies of local communities.

***Threats to the Natural Environment***

Growing threats, including extreme weather, decreasing biodiversity and new destructive species such as mountain pine beetle have made the role of environmental stewardship increasingly important to the recreation field.

The National Framework sets five priority goals, which also reflect Summerland's values, principles and expectations for parks and recreation services. The goals are shown in Figure 5. The 'made for Summerland' recommendations in this Master Plan respond to these high level goals and priorities.

The framework highlights that parks, recreation and open space provide significant key benefits to the community as a whole including:

- Enhanced mental and physical well-being;
- Enhanced social well-being;
- Stronger families and communities;
- Better connections to nature, and
- A stronger economy.

Summerland Council plays a pivotal role in the actualization of these benefits through its policies and programs. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a key vehicle to guide decision-making to maximize the direct and indirect benefits of parks and recreation services and ensure the fulfillment of community goals and aspirations.



Figure 5: A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing



---

# 2

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was identified by the District of Summerland as an important part of Master Plan development. An extensive community and stakeholder engagement process was used to gather input to, and feedback on, the Master Plan from Summerland residents and visitors; members of community organizations and sports groups and clubs; Summerland Middle School and Summerland Secondary School students; service clubs; the Chamber of Commerce; Summerland District Council; the Parks and Recreation Commission; and District of Summerland staff.

This chapter provides an overview of the engagement activities undertaken as well as a summary of the main results. More details are provided in Appendices A-E.

## **2.1 OVERVIEW OF ENGAGEMENT UNDERTAKEN FOR PROJECT**

A multi-faceted approach was used for engagement, to reach as many community members and stakeholders as possible. Engagement activities included two public open houses, workshops with Summerland District Council and the Master Plan Steering Committee, interviews with stakeholder groups and District staff, youth engagement, a booth at the Summerland Farmer's Market, a statistically-reliable telephone survey, online questionnaires, and stakeholder group questionnaires. Details on engagement activities are provided in Appendix A.



## 2.2 INITIAL ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

This section provides an overview of the key themes that emerged in the initial engagement process, conducted in phase 3 of the project. More detailed engagement results are provided in the appendices, including the results of the telephone survey, a summary of youth engagement, open house feedback and notes from stakeholder interviews. More generally, input and feedback from community members, stakeholders, the Master Plan Steering Committee, and District Council and staff inform the findings and recommendations throughout the Master Plan.

### 2.2.1 THEMES

#### ***Strong community spirit***

Summerland is a close-knit, vibrant community with many active civic, cultural and sports groups. Festivals and events are held throughout the year and are important to the community, including Action Fest, Light Up, Wednesdays in the Park, and the Farmer's Market.

#### ***Summerland has excellent parks and trails***

Community members, stakeholder groups and user groups all commented on the excellence and variety of Summerland's parks and trails. Many had specific requests and suggestions for improvements, but generally agreed that there is a wealth of outdoor recreation opportunities in Summerland.

#### ***Requests for maintenance/upgrades and amenities at various parks***

Community members and user groups identified several needed improvements and amenities in Summerland's parks and trails, including better maintenance, expanding the number of recreation areas/parks, expanding activities for children/youth, upgrading washrooms and improving access. These are discussed in detail in Section 4 below.

#### ***Need for better signage and promotion***

Community members and stakeholders agreed that while Summerland has a wealth of excellent parks and trails, there is a need for signage for wayfinding, promotion and clarity on accepted uses.

#### ***Strong support for upgrade/replacement of Aquatic Centre***

Summerland's aging Aquatic and Fitness Centre is a popular community amenity, but people agreed that it is outdated and lacks important

---

amenities. There appears to be a high level of community support for expanding and updating the existing facility or building a new pool, ideally as part of a new community centre.

### **General support for upgrade of Arena**

Like the Aquatic Centre, the Arena is a popular community amenity. The needs of residents and user groups are generally being met, but additional ice time and an additional ice surface was requested by many. People generally felt that the arena should be upgraded and had specific suggestions for upgrades.

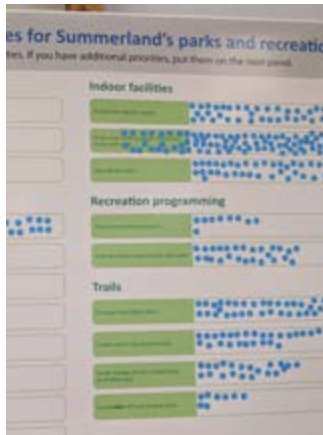
### **Need for improved recreation programming**

Residents are travelling outside the community to access newer facilities offering a greater selection of recreation programs. There is a desire for more local, accessible, and expanded programming especially for young families.

### **Key themes from youth workshops**

- Young people appreciate Summerland's small town character, feeling of safety and high walkability.
- Older teenagers feel that there is not enough for them to do in Summerland, and often go to Penticton to use the amenities there.
- Young people are interested in participating in recreation programs, and helping to plan them.
- Young people would like to see a variety of new amenities in Summerland including places to support informal socializing, outdoor sports amenities, play amenities such as slides and a Wibit water park at the beach, biking and walking trails, outdoor rinks, off-leash dog parks, community gardens, and indoor recreation facilities.
- Youth would like more festivals, concerts and movies in parks.





## 2.3 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT MASTER PLAN

In May, 2018, the draft master plan vision, principles and recommendations were provided to the Summerland community for their review and feedback. A public open house was held and community members could also view the draft recommendations on the District of Summerland website and provide feedback via an online survey.

Approximately 100 people attended the open house and 125 people completed the online survey, signaling a high degree of community interest in the master plan.



Overall, community feedback was positive, with 92% of survey respondents agreeing that the draft Vision and Principles capture the overall community priorities for parks and recreation. Support from survey respondents for the recommendations ranged between a low of 71% for playgrounds to a high of 93% for Summerland's non-lakeshore parks. Fewer than 10% of survey respondents said they disagreed with any of the recommendations. (See Table 3).

Summerland residents place a high value on their parks, pool, arena, and multi-use trails, and some clear priorities have emerged. The highest priority identified by participants at the open house is building a new community recreation centre with pool. This was also identified as a high priority by survey respondents. Other relatively high priorities include upgrading the arena, upgrading the Aquatic Centre, developing a Trails Master Plan, creating/protecting more natural areas, keeping recreation affordable, creating more multi-purpose trails, installing signage on trails, and maintaining and upgrading existing parks, and creating a multi-use trail network (see Figures 6 and 7).

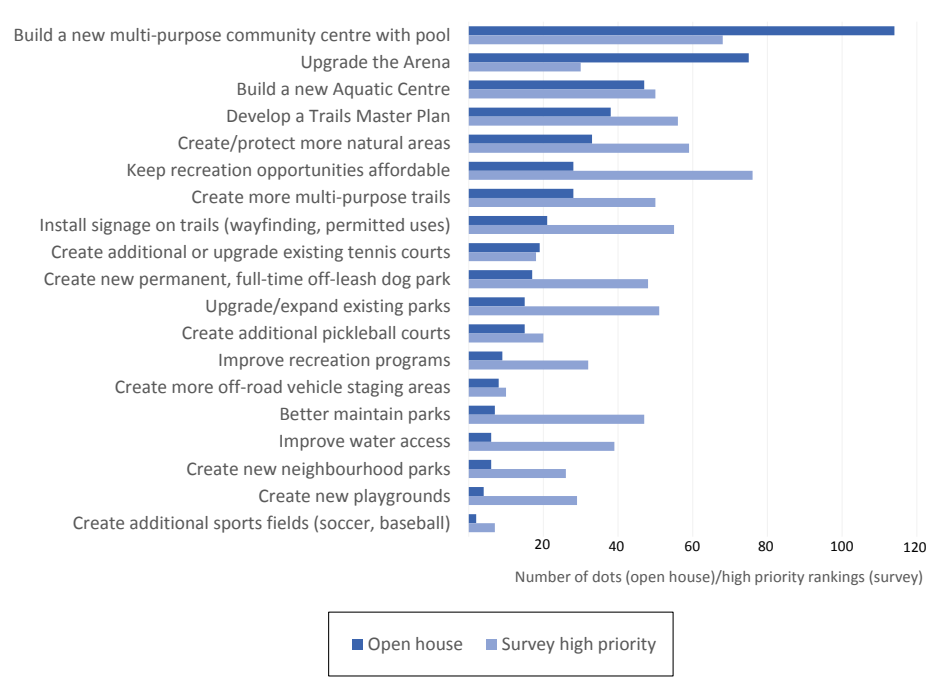


Appendix E provides details on community feedback on the draft Master Plan vision, principles and recommendations.

TABLE 3: SURVEY FEEDBACK ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS			
	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree
Park System	82%	11%	6%
Lakeshore Parks	88%	6%	3%
Other Parks	93%	5%	2%
Playgrounds	71%	18%	9%
Outdoor Sports Amenities	88%	14%	6%
Places for Dogs	77%	13%	9%
Trails	89%	7%	2%
Indoor Recreation Facilities	80%	14%	4%
Summerland Aquatic + Fitness Centre	89%	6%	2%
Summerland Arena + Curling Club	83%	13%	3%
Recreation Programming	86%	11%	1%
Recreation Service Delivery	85%	9%	2%



Figure 6: Dots Allocated Among Priorities by Open House Participants.



*Figure 7: Community Priorities - Actions are shown with the number of dots open house participants allocated to them (Open house) and how many times survey respondents identified them as a high priority (Survey high priority).*

---

# 3 SUMMERLAND'S PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM

This section provides an overview of Summerland's parks and recreation system, including vision and principles, connection to arts and culture, environmental values, and connection to climate change.

## 3.1 VISION AND PRINCIPLES

The following vision and principles set the stage for the Master Plan by establishing a framework to provide a clear set of high-level goals that will be the touchstone for evaluation of parks and recreation plans and priorities in the coming years.

### VISION

Summerland's parks and recreation system contributes to a high quality of life for residents and visitors by providing accessible, inclusive and engaging indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities that reflect Summerland's distinctive natural setting, healthy and active lifestyles, flourishing artistic and cultural communities, and close-knit, small-town character.

## PRINCIPLES

- Parks and recreation facilities are accessible, affordable and inclusive to people of all ages, abilities and income levels.
- Residents are inspired and actively engaged in a healthy lifestyle.
- Residents of all ages have pride in the community and a strong sense of belonging.
- Parks, recreation and community facilities are linked through a network of greenways, walkways and trails.
- Parks, trails, and recreation facilities and programs attract new residents, encourage tourism and stimulate the economy.
- Summerland's history and culture are celebrated.
- Education, interpretation and health promotion are important.
- Partnerships are encouraged and supported to deliver a wide range of parks and recreation amenities, services and programs.
- The environment is respected, protected, enhanced and contributes to the quality of life in the community.
- Staff, volunteers, visitors and partners are valued.

## 3.2 ARTS AND CULTURE CONNECTION

Summerland's Cultural Plan (September 2016) articulates five cultural values that together shape Summerland's cultural identity:

- The Arts
- Community Character
- Quality of Life
- History and Heritage
- Agriculture





These values echo community values revealed during engagement for this Master Plan, and inform many of its recommendations.

Summerland's Cultural Plan identifies five strategic directions to guide Summerland's cultural development into the future. There are specific actions within each of the five strategic directions that relate to parks and recreation, as outlined below. Recommendations in this Master Plan echo many of these actions.

### ***1. Reflect Summerland's cultural values in municipal decisions and projects***

- Incorporate cultural considerations in District of Summerland policies, including opportunities to include public art and cultural references in all municipal capital projects.

### ***2. Establish an administrative framework to support the arts, heritage and culture***

- Hire a community co-ordinator.
- Where feasible and appropriate, encourage the participation of youth on Council committees.

### ***3. Enhance public spaces and cultural places***

- Establish an Arts and Culture Centre. Ensure that cultural space is included in the plans for a future multi-purpose community centre.
- Consider Summerland's cultural values in the development of the Downtown Plan. The Plan should consider a more people-friendly downtown with a central gathering place like a town square, more benches, location for event information and tickets, public washrooms open year-round.
- Consider Summerland's cultural values in the development of a plan to the enhance the waterfront.
- Develop a public art policy.
- Include a downtown beautification line item in the municipal budget for annual maintenance and upgrading of the commercial core.



- Review cultural facilities (including Centre Stage Theatre, Rodeo Grounds, and municipal parks) for upgrading and multi-use as part of the Asset Management Plan and Recreation Master Plan reviews.

#### 4. Build on community strengths and assets

- Build capacity by creating opportunities to support, empower and recognize community volunteers and volunteer organizations through initiatives like volunteer fairs, grant writing workshops and educational seminars, annual community awards, and a central database of local volunteer opportunities.
- Encourage and facilitate the expansion of existing community events.



#### 5. Connect the community

- Develop clear, cohesive, creative signage and maps that:
  - improve flow into the downtown
  - improve flow to main attractions
  - identify fruit varieties being grown in orchards and vineyards
  - reflect Summerland's identity
  - are coordinated with artwork
  - highlight neighbourhoods, landmarks, attractions, food, trails, etc.
- Support the development of a comprehensive community calendar of events in both online and paper formats (e.g., 'mySummerland').
- Recognize Summerland's multicultural diversity in community events.
- Improve physical connections and flows around the community including trail systems, bus transport, accessibility, etc.





### **3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES**

The District of Summerland is rich in biodiversity, providing many areas that support Species at Risk. Summerland’s Official Community Plan (OCP) “recognizes the importance of its natural environment and its contribution to the health of the community through the preservation of sensitive ecosystems, their functioning, species therein and connectivity between natural areas.”

In engagement for this Master Plan, it was clear the Summerland residents and visitors highly value Summerland’s natural environment. In addition to Summerland’s extensive natural areas such as Giant’s Head Mountain and Conkle Mountain, Summerland’s other parks contain natural features and contribute to the ecological integrity of the region. In light of this, it is recommended that the District develop a parks natural features/areas management strategy, to ensure that natural features in parks are protected and enhanced over time.

Appendix F provides details on the natural features and species at risk in Summerland.

### **3.4 CLIMATE CHANGE**

#### **3.4.1 GHG EMISSION REDUCTION GOALS AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

Summerland is a signatory to the British Columbia Climate Action Charter, and the Summerland OCP specifies goals for reducing the community of Summerland’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 33 percent below 2007 levels by the year 2020; and 80 percent below 2007 levels by the year 2050.

Summerland has a Community Climate Action Plan (2011), which has seven goals, several of which are relevant to parks, trails and recreation (see Appendix G).

#### **3.4.2 RECENT INITIATIVES**

The District has implemented a number of energy efficiency/renewable energy projects at the Arena and Aquatic Centre, including installing a heat exchange loop between the arena and the RCMP building, installing a solar hot water system at the aquatic centre, and installing LED lighting

in the arena and aquatic centre.

In 2017, Summerland became first Canadian governmental body to join the “Billion Dollar Green Challenge”, which encourages governmental agencies, universities, and other institutions across North America to invest a combined total of one billion dollars in self-managed green revolving funds that finance energy and resource efficiency improvements. This new fund could provide funding for further investments in energy efficiency and GHG emission reductions in District recreation facilities and parks.

In December 2017, the District of Summerland joined the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Climate and Asset Management Network, a two-year initiative that combines peer-learning opportunities, training, and funding to help Canadian municipalities integrate climate change and sustainability goals systematically into decision-making about infrastructure assets, such as roads, buildings, and water and sanitation systems.

### 3.4.3 AVOIDED FOREST CONVERSION CREDITS

When BC local governments dedicate forested land as park land, they may be able to claim credit for the avoided GHG emissions that result from protecting the forested land, through the Avoided Forest Conversion (AFC) option.<sup>5</sup> The avoided emissions can be claimed against the local government’s own corporate GHG emissions, helping the government achieve carbon neutrality, which is a goal under the British Columbia Climate Action Charter. AFC credits can be claimed for forested parkland dedicated after the initial signing of the BC Climate Action Charter in September, 2007 .

There are eligibility criteria and reporting requirements, and eligible projects must have a Forest Management Plan signed off by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF). There is therefore a cost to creating these projects, estimated at \$5,000-20,000 for straightforward projects that estimate emissions using the GCC Carbon Calculator, which calculates a conservative estimate of avoided emissions. Project proponents could also hire a RPF to estimate emissions, but that would increase the project cost.



<sup>5</sup>Information about Avoided Forest Conversion credits is in Appendix 6 of *Becoming Carbon Neutral: A Guidebook for Local Governments in British Columbia* <https://www.toolkit.bc.ca/sites/default/files/BecomingCarbonNeutralGuideV3.pdf>

---

### **3.4.4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3-1 Explore opportunities for using the District's green revolving fund to finance further investments in energy efficiency and GHG emission reductions in District recreation facilities and parks.
- 3-2 Ensure that remediated or new lakeshore parks and trail areas take into account projected future flooding under climate change and reflect best practices for construction in riparian areas as well as protection and enhancement of riparian ecosystems.
- 3-3 Ensure that parks and recreation infrastructure is incorporated into asset management, including recognition of its environmental and social benefits.
- 3-4 Continue to improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, including creation of additional multi-use trails that are connected to existing trail networks.
- 3-5 Consider placing combined recycling/waste bins in parks, at trailheads, and outside of the arena and aquatic centre.
- 3-6 Consider planting more trees along streets and parking lots and in parks, in the context of an Urban Forest Strategy (see section 4.3.5).
- 3-7 Explore the potential to claim Avoided Forest Conversion credits for forested land that was dedicated as new park land after September, 2007.





# 4 Parks

This chapter discusses Summerland’s parks system. It begins with a proposed park classification system and assessment of the sufficiency of park provision, then provides an evaluation of Summerland’s existing parks and natural areas, with recommendations for changes and improvements. The chapter concludes with a brief discussion of parks maintenance.

## 4.1 PARK SYSTEM

### 4.1.1 PARK CLASSIFICATION

Table 4 shows Summerland parks, organized into a recommended classification scheme. The classification scheme reflects the different kinds of parks required to meet a range of recreation needs, and is typical for British Columbia communities. This classification is different from the classification used in the previous (2001) Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The two classification schemes are shown in Table 5, for comparison purposes.

There are several differences between the classification used in the 2001 master plan and the one recommended here:

- The 2001 master plan used only 3 categories for District of Summerland parks: community parks, neighbourhood parks and public beaches. The classification scheme recommended here uses 5 categories, and distinguishes between city and community parks, both of which would have been classified as community parks in the 2001 master plan. As mentioned above,



the classification scheme recommended here reflects the different kinds of parks needed to meet recreation needs and reflect what is typically seen in BC communities.

- The 2001 master plan classified the parks with beaches as “Public Beaches”. It is recommended that they be classified as Community or Neighbourhood Parks (as appropriate according to their size, function and features), because they provide the same services to the community as Community and Neighbourhood Parks.
- The 2001 master plan classified Adam’s Street Bird Sanctuary and Giant’s Head Park as Community Parks. It is recommended instead that they be classified as Natural Areas since that is their primary function and character. The 2001 master plan did not include Conkle Mountain, the Woodbridge Nature Preserve, the Old Hospital-MacDonald Place site, 16997 Lakeshore Drive “Horse Beach”, or Cartwright Mountain in its inventory; we recommend that they be classified as Natural Areas.
- The 2001 master plan classified Peach Orchard Campground as a Community Park. It is recommended that it be classified as a Special Purpose park because, although the campground has pickleball and tennis courts and a playground that are accessible to and used by Summerland residents, its primary purpose is to provide camping facilities.
- The 2001 master plan did not include the Rodeo Grounds or Priest Camp Historic Park in its inventory, but we recommend that they also be classified as Special Purpose Parks.



**TABLE 4: SUMMERLAND PARK CLASSIFICATIONS**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Typical Size</b>	<b>Typical Amenities<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>Summerland Parks</b>
City Parks	Provide a place of city-wide celebration and activity, assessable to all and features elements appealing to the broad spectrum of the community and its visitors.	Typically greater than 12 hectares.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special event sites for fairs, festivals</li> <li>• Gardens</li> <li>• Natural features /natural areas</li> <li>• Outdoor sports facilities</li> <li>• Trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dale Meadows Park</li> <li>• Living Memorial Baseball Park</li> <li>• Memorial Park</li> </ul>
Community Parks	Provide opportunities at the community or multi-neighbourhood level for play and recreation.	Typically greater than 2 hectares. In some cases, they may be smaller than 2 hectares but provide a destination amenity, e.g. skateboard park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open space area</li> <li>• Large picnic and shade shelters</li> <li>• Washrooms</li> <li>• Large scale play areas</li> <li>• Sports amenities e.g. tennis courts, skateboard park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordon Beggs Rotary Beach</li> <li>• Peach Orchard Beach Park</li> <li>• Powell Beach Park</li> <li>• Dog beach (in Peach Orchard Park)</li> </ul>
Neighbourhood Parks	Provide small play and gathering spaces, ideally within a maximum 10 minute walk from each residence.	Typically 0.5 – 4 hectares.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playground or informal open space</li> <li>• Seating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beaver St. Park</li> <li>• Bentley Park</li> <li>• Butler St. Park</li> <li>• Crescent Beach</li> <li>• Julia Street Park</li> <li>• Kinsmen Park &amp; Holler Riparian Area</li> <li>• Turner Street Park</li> <li>• Undeveloped parks:</li> <li>• Deer Ridge Park</li> <li>• Dunham Park</li> </ul>
Special Purpose Parks	Parks that provide unique functions not typically found in municipal parks.	N/A		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peach Orchard Campground</li> <li>• Rodeo Grounds</li> <li>• Priest Camp Historic Park</li> </ul>
Natural Areas	Un-programmed open spaces established to protect environmentally significant features and provide unprogrammed recreational and interpretive opportunities.	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native vegetation</li> <li>• Riparian areas</li> <li>• Trails</li> <li>• Wildlife</li> <li>• Interpretive signage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adams Street Bird Sanctuary</li> <li>• Giant's Head Mountain Park</li> <li>• Mount Conkle Park</li> <li>• Woodbridge Nature Preserve</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> It should be noted that these are typical amenities. The actual amenities in any park will depend on its purpose, location and natural features.

**TABLE 5: RECOMMENDED AND PREVIOUS PARKS CLASSIFICATIONS**

<i>Park</i>	<i>Recommended classification</i>	<i>2001 classification</i>
Adams Street Bird Sanctuary	Natural Area	Community Park
Beaver St. Park	Neighbourhood Park	
Bentley Park	Neighbourhood Park	
Butler St. Park	Neighbourhood Park	
Cartwright Mountain	Natural Area	
Crescent Beach	Neighbourhood Park	Public Beach
Dale Meadows Park	City Park	Community Park
Deer Ridge Park	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
Dog Beach	Community Park	
Dunham Park	Neighbourhood Park	
Giant's Head Mountain Park	Natural Area	Community Park
Gordon Beggs Rotary Beach	Community Park	Public Beach
16997 Lakeshore Drive "Horse Beach"	Natural Area	
Julia Street Park	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
Kinsmen Park & Holler Riparian Area	Neighbourhood Park	Public Beach
Living Memorial Baseball Park	City Park	Community Park
Memorial Park	City Park	Community Park
Mount Conkle Park	Natural Area	
Old Hospital-MacDonald Place	Natural Area	
Peach Orchard Beach Park	Community Park	Public Beach
Peach Orchard Campground	Special Purpose Park	Community Park
Powell Beach Park	Community Park	Public Beach
Priest Camp Historic Park	Special Purpose Park	
Rodeo Grounds	Special Purpose Park	
Turner Street Park	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
Woodbridge Nature Preserve	Natural Area	

## 4.1.2 PARKLAND SUPPLY

### PROVISION OF PARKS

While every community is unique, comparing Summerland’s parks with those of other communities can provide useful reference points against which the District can measure its amenities and identify gaps in its levels of service. Such comparisons can also help track changes over time and help with decision-making regarding developing future park amenities, justifying capital expenditures, and leveraging the acquisition of parkland in new developments.

Summerland’s Official Community Plan notes that “open lands and park will continue to be established throughout the community based on anticipated needs.” This includes acquiring land adjacent to Okanagan Lake as well as “strategically located lands to facilitate the integrated connection of trails and parks.”<sup>7</sup>

The Canadian standard has historically been 4.0 hectares of parkland per 1,000 residents, but many municipalities, including Summerland, do not have quantity standards because the amenities and quality of the parks play an equal, if not more important, role in meeting community needs. Table 6 shows the total amount of parkland per 1,000 residents in Summerland compared to the average and median values for 18 British Columbia municipalities with populations between 5,000 and 15,000 people.

TABLE 6: PARKLAND PER 1000 RESIDENTS			
	Summerland	18 BC municipalities with population 5,000-15,000	
		Average	Median
Parkland (hectares) <sup>8</sup>	279.6	139.6	96.0
Population <sup>9</sup>	11,615	7,494	9,117
Hectares of parkland per 1,000 residents <sup>10</sup>	24.1	16.5	9.0

<sup>7</sup>Summerland OCP p. 7-3

<sup>8</sup>Total parkland for Summerland is based on the inventory prepared for this Master Plan. Parkland for the 18 BC municipalities is from CivicInfo surveys: <https://civicinfo.bc.ca/surveys.asp>

<sup>9</sup>Population for Summerland is from the 2016 census, for the Summerland District Municipality. Population for the 18 BC municipalities is from CivicInfo surveys: <https://civicinfo.bc.ca/surveys.asp>.

<sup>10</sup>Note that the average and median values for parkland/1000 residents for the 18 BC municipalities were calculated by first calculating parkland/1000 residents for each of the 18 municipalities and then taking the average and median of these values.

As can be seen from Table 6, Summerland has considerably more parkland than the average and median for similar sized BC communities, and well over the historic Canadian standard. Summerland's total parkland includes Giant's Head Mountain and Conkle Mountain, large natural areas that together account for more than 70% of Summerland's parkland (197 hectares).

Summerland's parkland area by type is summarized in Table 7.

<b>TABLE 7: SUMMERLAND'S PARKLAND – SUMMARY</b>	
<i>Type of park</i>	<i>Total area (hectares)</i>
<b>Developed Parkland</b>	
City Parks	16.9
Community Parks	5.9
Neighbourhood Parks	0.7
<b>Total Developed Parkland</b>	<b>23.5</b>
Neighbourhood Parks (undeveloped)	0.7
Special Purpose Parks	54.5
Natural Areas	200.8
<b>Total Parkland</b>	<b>279.6</b>

Table 8 provides calculations of developed parkland per 1,000 residents, for the current population of 11,615 people and for estimated future populations in 10 years time, using the low, moderate and high population growth rates specified in the OCP. Summerland currently has just over 2 hectares of developed parkland per 1,000 residents, and without the addition of more developed parkland this will decline over time as the population grows.

It should be noted that this calculation excludes community recreation amenities provided by Special Purpose Parks such as the Rodeo Grounds and Peach Orchard Campground, and natural areas such as Giant's Head Mountain. Many residents use the Rodeo Grounds for walking their dogs, horseback riding and family events. The pickleball courts at Peach Orchard Campground are used extensively by residents, who also use the tennis court and playground. Giant's Head Mountain is a

**TABLE 8: SUMMERLAND'S DEVELOPED PARKLAND PROVISION – CURRENT AND FUTURE**

	2016	2028		
		Low (0.5%)	Mod. (1.0%)	High (2.0%)
Population	11,615	12,331	13,088	14,731
Developed parkland/1000 residents (hectares)	2.03	1.9	1.8	1.6
Developed parkland/1000 residents, including Peach Orchard Campground amenities + Rodeo Grounds (hectares)	4.7	4.4	4.2	3.7

**TABLE 9: PARKS PROVISION BY TYPE OF PARK – SELECTED BC MUNICIPALITIES (HECTARES/1,000 RESIDENTS)**

	Population	City/ Destination	Community	Neighbourhood	Total
Provincial average	-	1.55	0.98	1.4	3.24
<b>Summerland</b>	<b>11,615</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Peachland	5,428		2.11	0.15	3.8
Kelowna	127,380	1.2	0.4	0.6	2.2
W. Kelowna	32,655	1.8	1.9	1.1	4.8
Vernon	40,116	2	1	1	4
Fernie	5,249	10.1	3.34	0.73	14.25
Osoyoos	1.4	2.1	0.67	4.1	5,085
Golden		2.2	1.4	3.6	3,708
Merritt	2.2	1.5	0.83	4.53	7,139
Penticton	0.91	0.58	0.12	1.61	33,761

popular hiking and cycling spot and is used for several events such as the Giant's Head Grind race and Giant's Head Freeride longboard competition.

If the Rodeo Grounds and the pickleball and tennis courts and playground at Peach Orchard Campground<sup>11</sup> are included in the calculation of developed parkland<sup>12</sup>, Summerland currently has 4.7 hectares of developed parkland per 1,000 residents. This will decline as Summerland's population grows.

To give a sense of how Summerland's parkland provision compares to the rest of British Columbia, Table 9 shows hectares of developed parkland per 1,000 residents, divided into types of developed parks. Summerland's provision of city, community and neighbourhood parks is below the provincial average and falls at the low end of the range for the other municipalities listed in the table, except for Penticton: Summerland has more parkland per 1,000 residents than Penticton for all three kinds of developed parks.

It should be kept in mind, however, that this comparison does not include special purpose parks or natural areas which, as discussed above, provide important recreation amenities.

It is important to recognize that Summerland is a tourist destination, and that tourists visit Summerland's parks, particularly the public beaches, Memorial Park, Giant's Head Mountain and Conkle Mountain. During the summer months, residents must share these parks with tourists, making the real amount of parkland per 1,000 residents lower than in Table 6 for these parks. It is also important to note that the calculation of Summerland's parkland excludes school grounds, which provide community benefit. It also excludes Sun-Oka Beach Provincial Park, which is adjacent to Summerland and has a large public beach, picnic areas, playground, off-leash dog beach, concession and toilets.<sup>13</sup> In addition, Summerland is surrounded by extensive public lands and Okanagan Lake which collectively provide opportunities for outdoor recreation.

## **SPATIAL ANALYSIS**

One of the most commonly used metrics for assessing park distribution and possible barriers to park use is walkability in terms of resident proximity to park space. While there is no consensus on a standard for reasonable proximity to park space, 5-10 minutes' walk is commonly used (see textbox on the next page). For the purposes of this analysis a 5 minute walking

<sup>11</sup> Assumed to together comprise 1 hectare.

<sup>12</sup> It would not make sense to include Giant's Head Mountain in a calculation of developed parkland because it is largely undeveloped, except for the road, parking lot and trails.

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpags/sun\\_oka/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpags/sun_oka/)

<sup>14</sup> This reflects the commonly-used metrics of 0.25 miles (400 m) being a 5-minute walk (used by Walk Score, for example) and 0.5 miles (800 m) being a 10-minute walk (used by the US "10-Minute Walk" campaign, for example).



---

## PARK PROXIMITY STANDARDS AND INDICATORS

A recent **World Health Organization** report on urban green spaces and health proposes an indicator to assess accessibility to green space, which is being within 300 m of green space of at least 0.5 hectares in size. The distance of 300 m is chosen because it approximately corresponds to a 5-minute walk.

The **Trust for Public Land, National Recreation and Park Association and the Urban Land Institute** in the United States have launched a campaign to “ensure there’s a great park within a 10-minute walk of every person, in every neighborhood, in every city across America.” The campaign has been endorsed by more than 130 mayors from cities across the United States.

The **United States EPA’s EnviroAtlas’s** indicator for proximity to greenspace is 500m, which is “easy walking distance”.

**Natural England**, the government’s adviser for the natural environment in England, has developed the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGst):

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:

- of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

### Sources:

World Health Organization. Urban green spaces and health. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2016. [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/321971/Urban-green-spaces-and-health-review-evidence.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/321971/Urban-green-spaces-and-health-review-evidence.pdf?ua=1)

10-minute walk campaign: <https://www.10minutewalk.org/#Home>

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). “Percent of Residential Population Not within 500m of a Park Entrance” EnviroAtlas Fact Sheet. <https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/DataFactSheets/pdf/ESC/PercentofResidentialPopulationNotWithin500mofaParkEntrance.pdf>

Natural England. ‘Nature Nearby’: Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance. 2010. [http://www.ukmaburbanforum.co.uk/documents/other/nature\\_nearby.pdf](http://www.ukmaburbanforum.co.uk/documents/other/nature_nearby.pdf)

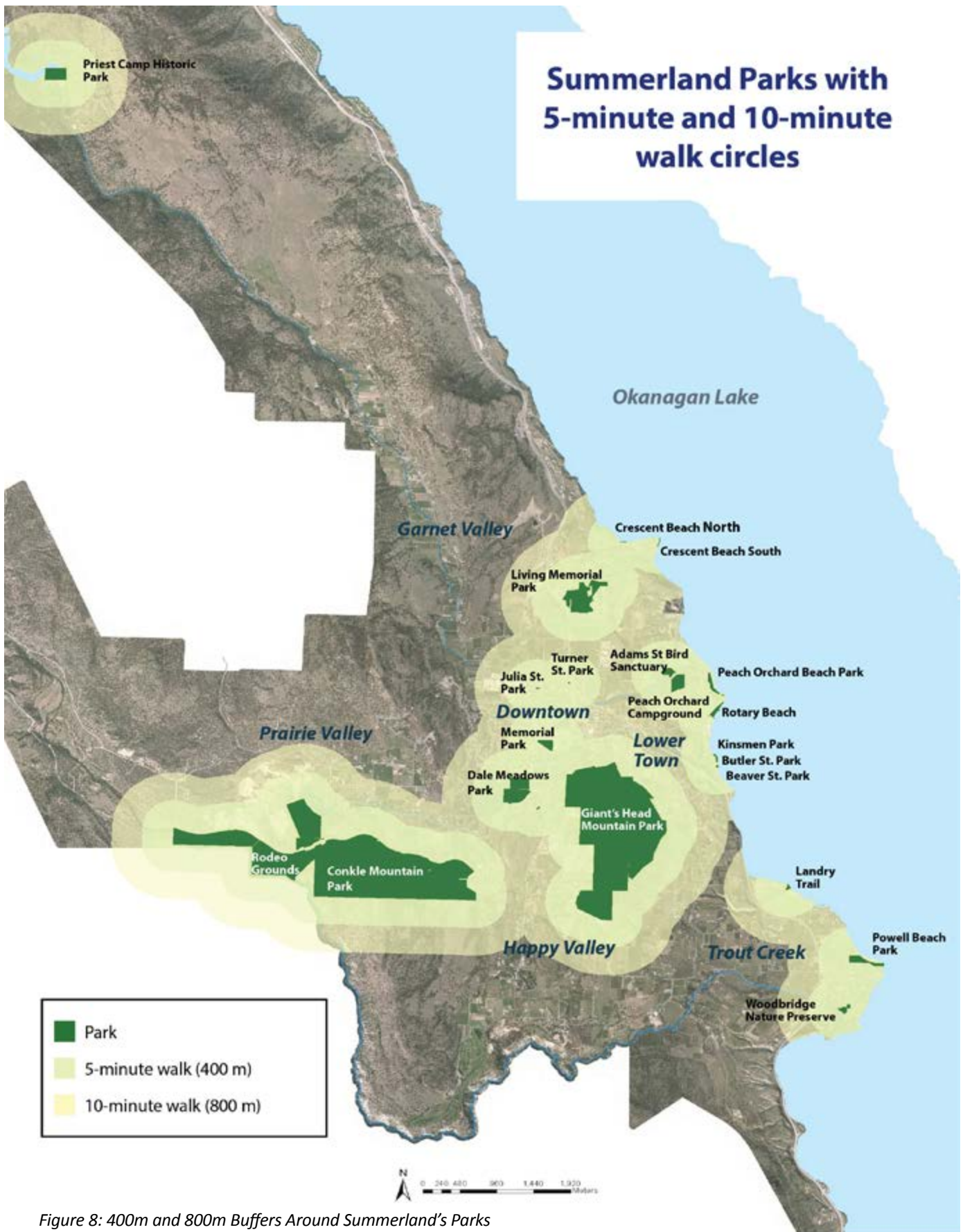


Figure 8: 400m and 800m Buffers Around Summerland's Parks

distance was set at 400 meters and a 10 minute walking distance was set 800 meters—as a radius from parkland or ‘as the crow flies.’<sup>14</sup> The type and quality of the park does not influence this assessment, nor does the presence of safe pedestrian or cycling routes. The park service areas are shown in Figure 8.

Much of Summerland lies within a 10-minute walk of a park (800 meters) and is well-served. The exceptions are the western part of Trout Creek and Happy Valley, which are underserved in neighborhood park space. In addition, the Sinclair-Barclay neighbourhood just west of Downtown (between Jubilee Road to the north and Prairie Valley Road to the south, Cartwright Avenue to the west and Victoria Road North to the east) is an urban neighbourhood with many families and does not have a neighbourhood park within walking distance.

**4.1.3 FEEDBACK FROM RESIDENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

Summerland’s residents are active and frequent users of parks, trails and open space. The telephone survey conducted for this Master Plan revealed that the vast majority (86%) of Summerland residents use parks, trails, and open spaces in Summerland at least once a month, with two-thirds using them at least once a week (Figure 9). Walking, biking, swimming, water sports and hiking are all very popular activities for Summerland residents (Figure 10).

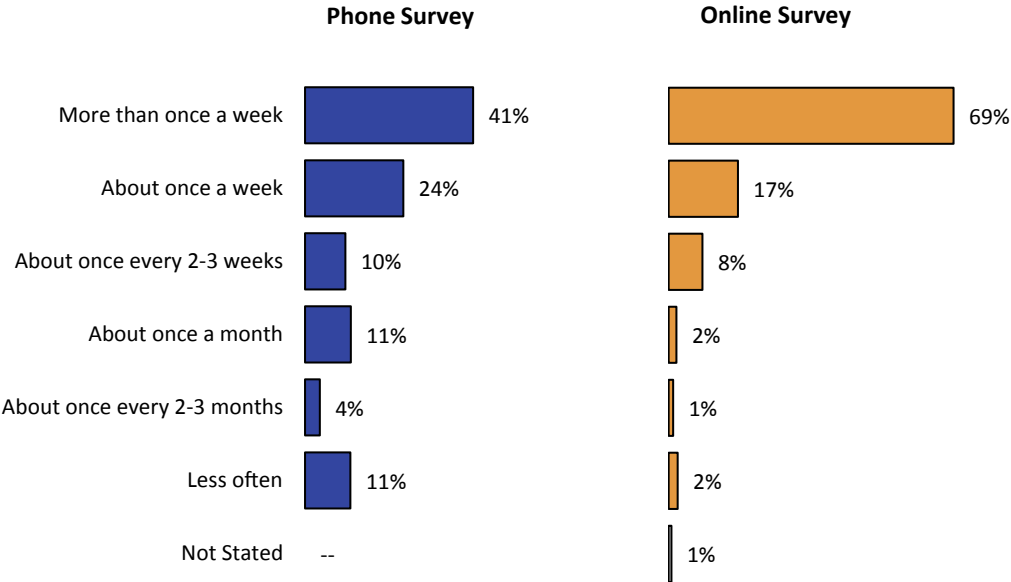


Figure 9: Frequency of Using Summerland’s Parks, Trails and Open Spaces

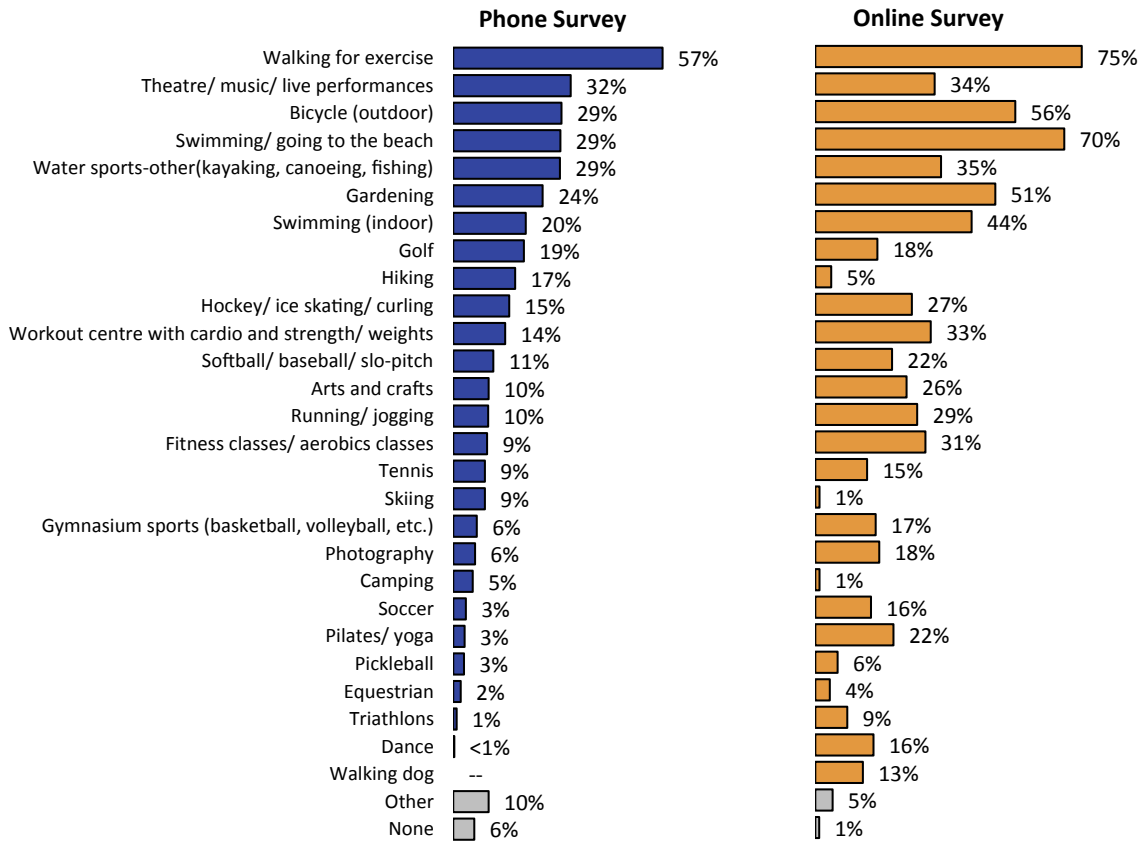


Figure 10: Recreation or Cultural Activities Participated In on a Regular Basis

Residents and stakeholder organizations generally did not identify a need for more parkland, with some exceptions, as discussed below. Respondents to the telephone survey were satisfied with both the number and the geographic distribution of Summerland’s parks, although some respondents suggested expanding the number of recreation areas/parks and expanding activities for children/youth. Respondents were also satisfied with the maintenance of parks, with the vast majority (85%) giving a good, very good or excellent rating for Summerland’s parks, trails and open spaces being sufficiently maintained (see Figure 11). There were however some respondents who indicated a desire for improvements in the maintenance of parks, public washrooms, accessibility of parks and an increase in amenities.

Some stakeholders and residents have identified the need for particular kinds of parks and amenities. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) users identified a need for more staging areas, and highlighted the opportunity created by changes to the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations for the District of Summerland to create one or more OHV corridors that would allow OHV users to access the amenities in Summerland’s downtown. Dog owners have identified a need for more off-leashed dog park areas. This is discussed in more detail in section 4.3.3 below. The community has identified a need for a new skatepark and a committee has been formed to undertake fundraising to create a new skatepark (see section 4.3.2 below). Finally, as discussed in section 4.2.2 below, some community members have identified the need for public gathering space downtown.

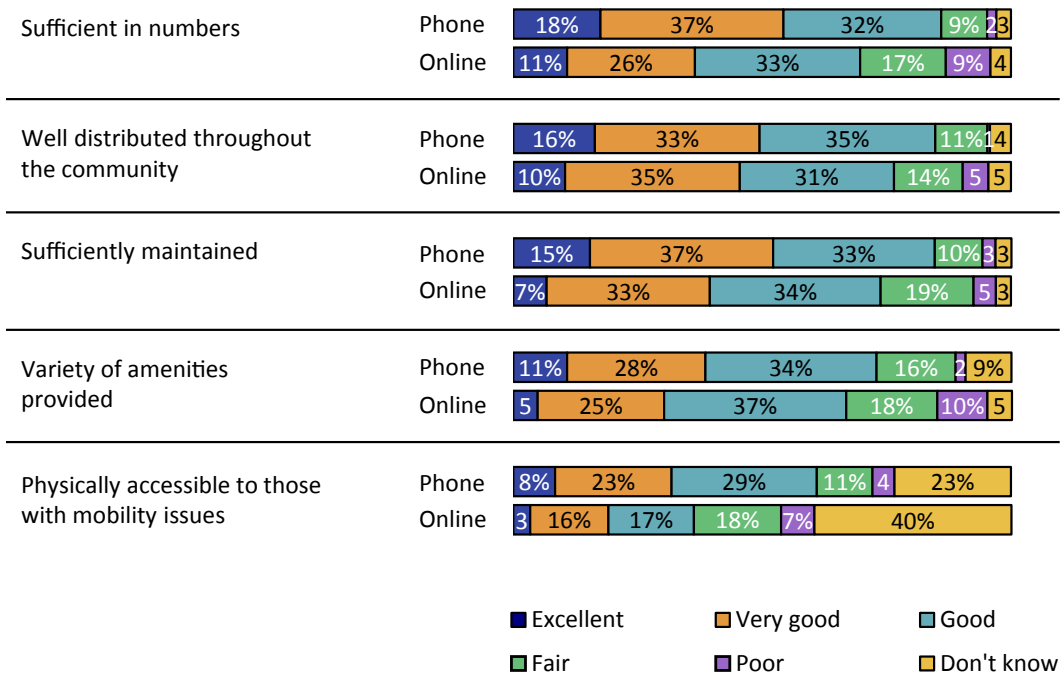


Figure 11: Assessment of Summerland’s Parks, Trails and Open Spaces

#### 4.1.4 PROVISION STANDARDS

To be comparable to similar BC municipalities and to meet the needs of Summerland's residents, it is recommended that Summerland adopt a park provision standard of 2.2 hectares per 1,000 residents for city and community parks combined. Summerland's current stock of city and community parks combined currently does not meet this standard; an additional 2.8 hectares of community and/or city park land would need to be acquired to meet the standard with Summerland's current population. As Summerland's population grows over the next 10 years, between 4.3 and 9.6 hectares of city and community parkland would be needed to maintain the standard with population growth.

As discussed above, Summerland residents use the amenities at the Rodeo Grounds and Peach Orchard Campground. Including these in the calculation of city and community parkland, as shown in the middle section of Table 8, increases Summerland's supply of city and community parkland well above the recommended standard, now and in the future.

It is recommended that Summerland adopt a park provision standard of 0.5 hectares per 1,000 residents for neighbourhood parks. Neighbourhood parks provide localized services that cannot be replaced by other kinds of parks. They are within walking distance of residents, making them readily accessible for children and families. They provide space for informal gathering of neighbours, helping to strengthen neighbourhood cohesion, and for children to play without needing their parents to drive them somewhere, helping to enhance their independence and self-reliance. Neighbourhood parks also provide greenspace within a built environment, which is beneficial to mental and physical health, and can provide ecological benefits.

Summerland's current stock of neighbourhood parks (0.7 hectares total and 0.06 hectares/1,000 residents) is well below the recommended standard of 0.5 hectares per 1,000 residents. An additional 5.1 hectares of neighbourhood parkland would need to be added to meet this standard with Summerland's current population, increasing to 5.5 – 6.7 hectares by 2028 with estimated population growth. Adding new neighbourhood parks in western Trout Creek, Happy Valley and the Sinclair-Barclay neighbourhood west of Downtown would help bridge this gap, but there would still need to be additional neighbourhood parkland created.

A nearby city or community park or natural area may take the place of a neighbourhood park, provided that it is within walking distance in urban areas or within 10 minutes' drive in more rural areas and provides

opportunities for people to gather informally and for children (and older people) to play.

Table 10 shows how Summerland’s current parkland provision compares to these recommended standards, now and in 2028 under low, moderate and high population growth assumptions. This table assumes that the inventory of developed parkland remains constant over time.

<b>TABLE 10: SUMMERLAND’S DEVELOPED PARKLAND PROVISION – COMPARISON TO RECOMMENDED STANDARDS</b>				
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2028</b>		
		<b>Low (0.5%)</b>	<b>Mod. (1.0%)</b>	<b>High (2.0%)</b>
Population	11,615	12,331	13,088	14,731
City + Community Parks (hectares)	22.8			
City + Community Parks (hectares per 1,000 residents)	1.97	1.85	1.75	1.55
Additional City + Community parkland (hectares) required to meet standard (2.2 hectares/1,000 residents)	2.8	4.3	6.0	9.6
City + Community Parks, including Rodeo Grounds and Peach Orchard Campground courts and playground (hectares)	53.7			
City + Community Parks, including Rodeo Grounds and Peach Orchard Campground courts and playground (hectares per 1,000 residents)	4.6	4.4	4.1	3.6
Neighbourhood Parks (developed) (hectares)	0.7			
Neighbourhood Parks (developed) (hectares per 1,000 residents)	0.060	0.057	0.053	0.048
Additional Neighbourhood parkland (hectares) required to meet standard (0.5 hectares/1,000 residents)	5.1	5.5	5.8	6.7



It is important to remember in a discussion of developed parkland that this parkland can contain ecologically important natural areas and features and that recreation is not the only reason to protect parkland. Similarly, natural areas, while having limited development, are an important part of Summerland’s parks inventory: they are highly valued by residents and visitors and provide excellent recreation opportunities and valuable environmental services such as clean air and water, habitat for plants and animals, and soil stabilization.

It is also recommended that new developments provide sufficient parkland so that all residents of the new developments live within 5-10 minutes’ walk of a park. This recommendation is limited to new developments in recognition of the urban and rural character of Summerland. It would not make sense to apply the standard in rural areas, where lot sizes are larger and there is more open space.

#### **4.1.5 DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES**

Summerland’s Development Cost Charges (DCC) Bylaw (2000-194) specifies the charges that will be levied against new developments to offset the capital costs associated with those development. The bylaw was last updated in 2006.<sup>15</sup>

Summerland’s DCC Bylaw includes development charges for Park Land Acquisition and for Park Improvement, which are described in Schedule E to the bylaw. Development cost charges for park land acquisition are to finance the “acquisition of two land parcels on the water front along Lakeshore Drive and 4.27 hectares of land for community and neighbourhood parks in accordance with the District Of Summerland Recreation Master Plan, December 2001.” Development cost charges for park improvements are for recreation buildings or outdoor recreation facilities in existing parks.<sup>16</sup>

Under Summerland’s DCC bylaw, parks-related development cost charges are levied only against residential developments. The bylaw specifies a single “Parks DCC” rate per dwelling unit, which differs according to whether the proposed development is Single Family Residential, Multi Family Residential – large dwelling unit, or Multi Family Residential – small dwelling unit. How funds are to be divided between Parks Acquisition and Parks Improvement is not specified in the bylaw.

The provincial government has developed a “Development cost charge best practices guide”, which specifies procedures for determining the different

<sup>15</sup> Except for an addition of bylaw 2000-454 in 2011, which specified that “For the purposes of this Bylaw, development in the RPN-Residential Pocket Neighbourhood Zone is considered Multi-Family development.”

<sup>16</sup> Section 566.2(b)(ii) of the Local Government Act specifies that development cost charges are to be used for “providing fencing, landscaping, drainage and irrigation, trails, restrooms, changing rooms and playground and playing field equipment on park land”.



kinds of development cost charges, including parks.<sup>17</sup> The guide notes that

*In practice, a parkland acquisition and improvement program is required, before parkland DCCs can be calculated. ... guidance for compiling a parkland acquisition and improvement program can come from the OCP, the Parks Master Plan, and/or other provisions found in the Local Government Act. The OCP often broadly specifies park, recreation, and open space objectives. Sometimes, even certain park sites might be described. Acceptable standards for active park and passive open space are usually defined in a Parks Master Plan.*

Summerland does not currently have a parkland acquisition program. The parkland improvement program is articulated through Summerland's capital plans. Development of a coherent parkland acquisition and improvement program would enable Summerland to ensure that DCC rates are sufficient and to optimally allocate funds raised through Park DCCs between acquisition and improvements.

#### **4.1.6 PARKLAND DEDICATION**

Municipalities in British Columbia may dedicate parkland by bylaw or through the development process. In the latter case, municipalities can require developers to provide up to 5% of the subdivided land, or cash-in-lieu. In addition, municipalities can collect Development Cost Charges for parkland acquisition and development.

Disposal of parkland that is dedicated through bylaw or the development process requires the approval of the electors. In addition, the proceeds of disposal of parkland dedicated through the development process must be placed in a fund for parkland acquisition.

In November 2016, the District of Summerland dedicated parkland on Conkle Mountain. Further research is required to determine which other parks in Summerland have been dedicated and which have not.

The BC government best practices guide for parkland acquisition provides guidance on parkland dedication.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>17</sup> BC Ministry of Community Services. *Development cost charge best practices guide. 3rd Edition. 2005.* [http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov\\_relations/library/DCC\\_Best\\_Practice\\_Guide\\_2005.pdf](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov_relations/library/DCC_Best_Practice_Guide_2005.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> BC Ministry of Community Services. *Parkland Acquisition Best Practices Guide. 2005.* [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/local-governments/finance/parkland\\_acquisition\\_best\\_practices\\_guide.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/local-governments/finance/parkland_acquisition_best_practices_guide.pdf)

## 4.1.7 KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### KEY FINDINGS

- Summerland is well-served in terms of total quantity of parkland and most of Summerland is within a 10-minute walk of a park.
- Summerland is well-served for city parks, less well-served for community parks, and poorly served for neighbourhood parks.
- Three neighbourhoods – the western part of Trout Creek, Happy Valley and the Sinclair-Barclay neighbourhood west of Downtown – are underserved with neighbourhood parks.
- Summerland’s OCP specifies that parks and open spaces will continue to be established, including lands adjacent to Lake Okanagan and lands to facilitate connectivity among parks and trails.
- Residents are active and frequent users of Summerland’s parks and trails and in general are satisfied with the quantity, distribution and maintenance of parks, trails and open space.
- Some stakeholders and residents have identified the need for particular kinds of parks and amenities, including staging areas for off-highway vehicles, off-leash dog parks, a new skatepark, and gathering space in the downtown core.
- Summerland’s Development Cost Charges (DCC) Bylaw specifies a Parks DCC which funds Park Land Acquisition and Park Improvements. The DCC Bylaw was last updated in 2006.
- Summerland does not currently have a parkland acquisition program. The parkland improvement program is articulated through Summerland’s capital plans.
- Development of a parkland acquisition and improvement program would enable Summerland to ensure that DCC rates are sufficient and to optimally allocate funds raised through Park DCCs between acquisition and improvements.

---

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4-1 Adopt the recommended parks classification scheme.
- 4-2 Adopt recommended park supply standards:
  - 0.5 ha/1,000 residents for neighbourhood parks, and
  - 2.2 ha/1,000 residents for community and city parks.
- 4-3 Ensure that new developments include adequate parks and open space to meet the needs of new residents:
  - All residents within a 5-10 minute walk of a park, and
  - At least 2.7 hectares of developed parkland for every 1,000 new residents.
- 4-4 Develop a Parkland Acquisition and Improvement Program that targets the recommended park supply standards and identifies priorities and requirements for Parkland Acquisition and Improvements. Update the DCC Bylaw to reflect the Parkland Acquisition and Improvement Program.
- 4-5 Acquire and develop neighbourhood parks, particularly in western Trout Creek, Happy Valley and the Sinclair-Barclay neighbourhood west of Downtown.
- 4-6 Develop a parks natural features/areas management strategy.
- 4-7 Prepare a comprehensive inventory of District parkland including parcel sizes, designation in OCP, zoning, whether dedicated or not, history and intended uses. Ensure that both existing and new parks are properly dedicated and documented as they are added to the inventory.

## 4.2 SUMMERLAND'S PARKS

Summerland's parks and their amenities and sizes are shown in Table 11 and Figure 12 shows the parks on a map. Summerland has a variety of parks, ranging from city parks such as Dale Meadows and Memorial Park to small, neighbourhood parks such as Julia Street Park. Summerland's

**TABLE 11: SUMMERLAND'S PARKS**

Name	Description	Size (acres)	Size (ha)
<b>City Parks</b>			
Dale Meadows Park	5 fenced softball fields, 3 soccer fields, 1.2 Km jogging track, a new enclosed playground, washrooms, picnic tables, benches and bleachers	24.25	9.8
Living Memorial Baseball Park	3 ball diamonds, bleachers, benches, and washroom facility	12.5	5.1
Memorial Park	Urban park within the downtown core. Large grassy areas, mature shade trees, picnic tables, washrooms, playground, benches and bandshell. Focal point for many festivals and events including Action Fest.	5.0	2.0
Subtotal: City Parks		41.75	16.9
<b>Community Parks</b>			
Gordon Beggs Rotary Beach	Sandy beach, swimming docks including the historic Kiwanis Pier, washroom facilities, shade trees, park benches, and picnic tables. Popular with residents and tourists	4.0	1.6
Peach Orchard Beach Park	Large grassy areas, sandy beach, volleyball court, playground, walkway, picnic tables and benches, washrooms, a boat launch and a floating dock. Also has Spirit Square, a large covered gazebo with stage area, and the Summerland Millennium Spray Park	3.5	1.4
Dog Beach	Enclosed area of beach where dogs are permitted off-leash. Located at the south end of Peach Orchard Park.	0.2	0.1
Powell Beach Park	Beach, softball field, tennis courts, playground, washroom facilities, shade trees, picnic tables and park benches.	7	2.8
Subtotal: Community Parks		14.7	5.9
<b>Neighbourhood Parks - Developed</b>			
Beaver St. Park	Lakeshore park with picnic table and bench	0.2	0.1
Bentley Park	Small park with Welcome to Summerland sign and picnic tables	0.2	0.1
Butler St. Park	Lakeshore park with picnic table and bench	0.2	0.1
Crescent Beach	Beach with picnic tables and benches (no washroom facility)	0.2	0.1
Julia Street Park	Playground, picnic tables, benches (no washroom facilities)	0.2	0.1
Kinsmen Park & Holler Riparian Area	Lakeshore park with playground equipment, picnic table, benches, creek riparian education signage and sister city bench and sign	0.4	0.2
Turner Street Park	Small park with picnic table and bench	0.3	0.1
Subtotal: Neighbourhood Parks - Developed		1.7	0.7

**TABLE 11: SUMMERLAND'S PARKS**

Name	Description	Size (acres)	Size (ha)
<b>Neighbourhood Parks - Undeveloped</b>			
Deer Ridge Park	Undeveloped open space	0.5	0.2
Dunham Park	Undeveloped open space	0.3	0.1
Old Hospital-MacDonald Place		1.0	0.4
Subtotal: Neighbourhood Parks - Undeveloped		1.8	0.7
<b>Special Purpose Parks</b>			
Peach Orchard Campground	123 campsites for RVs and tenting, washroom with showers, pickleball courts, shared pickleball-tennis court, playground	11.0	4.5
Rodeo Grounds	Outdoor grandstand and riding ring, several stalls or pens for animals, clubhouse (capacity 100 people), seasonal concession, washroom + shower facility	73.76	29.8
Priest Camp Historic Park	Picnic site with picnic table, rustic washroom facility and historical interpretation signs, located at Garnet Valley Dam	50.0	20.2
Subtotal: Special Purpose Parks		134.8	54.5
<b>Natural Areas</b>			
Adams Street Bird Sanctuary	Open space donated by the Adams Family for bird sanctuary, with a walkway and bridge donated by the Rotary Club	2.0	0.8
Cartwright Mountain		3.5	1.4
Giant's Head Mountain Park	Landmark feature of the community with extensive natural areas. Paved road leads to a picnic area and washroom. Multi-use trails to the summit. Summit is 2,771 feet (845 meters) above sea level and provides panoramic views.	220.0	89.0
16997 Lakeshore Drive "Horse Beach"		0.2	0.1
Mount Conkle Park	Natural park with multi-use trails including a portion of the Trans Canada Trail	268.0	108.5
Woodbridge Nature Preserve	Natural area with cottonwood trees providing habitat for Lewis's woodpecker and western screech owl.	1	0.4
Subtotal: Natural Areas		494.1	200.8
<b>Total Parkland</b>		<b>688.8</b>	<b>279.6</b>



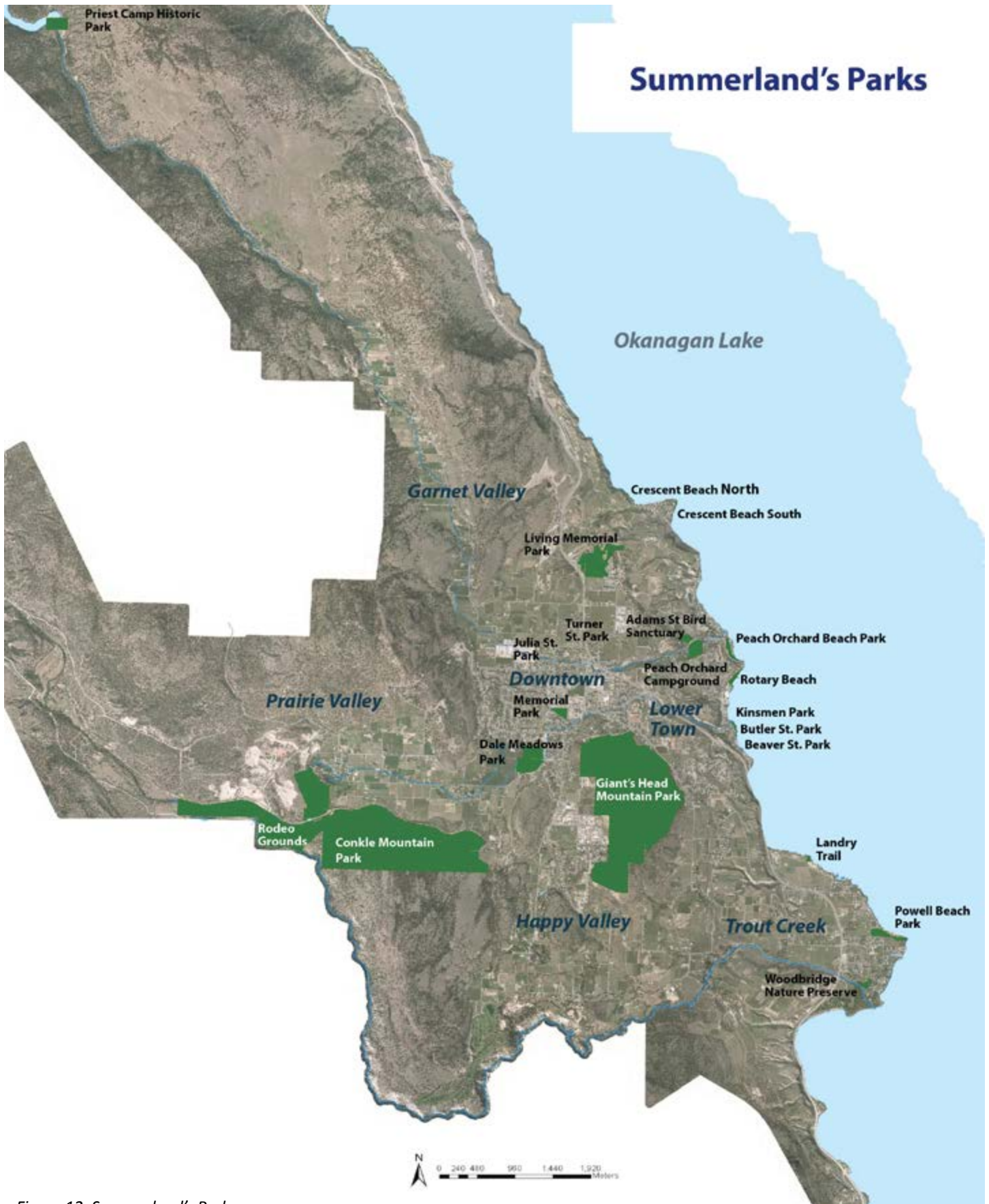


Figure 12: Summerland's Parks





location on the shores of Okanagan Lake provides an opportunity for several public beaches: the large and centrally-located Rotary Beach and Peach Orchard Park are popular choices for tourists and residents, while smaller or less centrally-located beaches such as Crescent Beach and Powell Beach Park are used more by residents.

Appendix H provides descriptions of Summerland's parks and the needs and wants that have been identified for these parks.

#### **4.2.1 KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Summerland has a variety of excellent parks, which includes several lakeshore parks with beaches, the Dale Meadows Park and Living Memorial Park sports fields, the centrally-located Memorial Park, several neighbourhood parks, several natural areas with passive recreation opportunities, and special purpose parks like Peach Orchard Campground, Rodeo Grounds and Priest Camp.
- Remediation in lakeshore parks presents an opportunity to improve ecological integrity, recreation amenities and accessibility as well as increase resilience to future flood events.
- Washrooms in several parks need upgrading.
- Winterizing washrooms in Peach Orchard Park and Memorial Park would permit year-round use.
- Memorial Park and the Rodeo Grounds were both identified by the community as needing revitalization.
- Dale Meadows Park is well used by sports groups for league play and tournaments, and fields are generally well-maintained but some needed improvements have been noted by field users. Improved turf management would be possible with purchase of top-dresser; parking lot and washrooms not sufficient when all fields are in use.
- Summerland has two undeveloped neighbourhood parks, Deer Ridge Park and Dunham Park.
- A Trails Redevelopment Plan is under way for Giant's Head Mountain.

- Natural areas Conkle Mountain Park and the Woodbridge Nature Preserve were dedicated as parkland in 2016. Community members would like to maintain current recreation uses in Conkle Mountain Park and Council passed a resolution to allow these uses to continue.
- There are few public gathering spaces in the downtown area. The Downtown Strategic Plan and the Cultural Plan call for establishing a gathering space, outdoor seating areas, public art and landscaping. Memorial Park may be a good location for a gathering place.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4-8 Use flood remediation in lakeshore parks as opportunity to improve amenities and accessibility as well as resilience to future flood events.
- 4-9 Upgrade washrooms in Gordon Beggs Rotary Beach Park and Peach Orchard Campground.
- 4-10 Explore the cost & feasibility of upgrading and winterizing the washrooms at Peach Orchard Beach Park and Memorial Park.
- 4-11 Undertake park master plan/visioning for Memorial Park.
- 4-12 Repair roof and enclose stage of bandshell in Memorial Park.
- 4-13 Add more play equipment such as a slide and sun shelter (pergola) to the picnic area along the walkway in Gordon Beggs Rotary Beach Park.
- 4-14 Investigate the feasibility of making Dog Beach accessible to people with mobility challenges.
- 4-15 Explore opportunities to expand boat launch parking lot adjacent to Peach Orchard Beach Park.
- 4-16 Explore a long distance designated swim lane from Peach Orchard Park to Rotary Beach.
- 4-17 Undertake conceptual planning for Peach Orchard Beach Park.
- 4-18 Undertake improvements to Powell Beach Park.



- 4-19 Pave Dale Meadows Park parking lot using a permeable surface or other eco-friendly solution.
- 4-20 Consider building a change room/clubhouse facility at Dale Meadows in partnership with sports clubs.
- 4-21 To improve turf management on sports fields, purchase a reel mower once the parking lot at Dale Meadows Park has been resurfaced.
- 4-22 Resurface perimeter track at Dale Meadows Park.
- 4-23 Improve communication and coordination with user groups, including hosting an annual meeting each spring with District staff and sports field user group representatives.
- 4-24 Explore whether Deer Ridge Park can or should be transformed into a neighbourhood park.
- 4-25 Explore whether Dunham Park can or should be transformed into a neighbourhood park.
- 4-26 Undertake master planning for Conkle Mountain Park.
- 4-27 Prohibit recreation access to Woodbridge Nature Preserve, except at the property perimeter.
- 4-28 Explore possibilities for community off-season use of Peach Orchard Campground.
- 4-29 Undertake a master plan for the Rodeo Grounds, exploring community needs and possible uses for the site, servicing requirements and costs, and possible operating arrangements.
- 4-30 Implement the recommendations of the Downtown Strategic Plan to create a central gathering place in the Downtown core and enhance public open space.
- 4-31 Explore other opportunities for permanent or temporary public plazas/gathering spaces in the downtown area, in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce, School District, and churches.
- 4-32 Enhance the public gathering space in Memorial Park.

- 4-33 When building new buildings/washrooms/facilities or undertaking major renovations, consider opportunities to increase energy efficiency, install solar panels, and rainwater collection.
- 4-34 Assess the accessibility of all District of Summerland-owned outdoor public washrooms.

## 4.3 PARK AMENITIES

One way to assess whether the number and kind of a community's park amenities is sufficient is by comparison with other communities. For this Master Plan, the number of various park amenities in Summerland was compared to other similarly sized BC communities. Although useful in terms of a rough comparison, it should be noted that each community has different needs for park amenities. This comparison, as well as feedback from community members, stakeholders, and staff and trends and best practices, informed the key findings and recommendations in this Master Plan.

### 4.3.1 PLAYGROUNDS

As a general metric, all residents should be within a ten minute walk (about 800m) of a public playground in urban areas, and a ten minute drive in rural areas. Summerland has ten playgrounds, located at Dale Meadows Park, Julia Street Park, Kinsmen Park, Memorial Park, Peach Orchard Beach Park, Peach Orchard Campground, Powell Beach Park, Giant's Head Elementary School, Trout Creek Elementary School and Summerland Middle School. There is also a spray park in Peach Orchard Park that operates from May to September.

These playgrounds are fairly well distributed within Summerland, so that most residents are within a ten minute walk of a playground. There are some gaps, though, as shown in Figure 13, a map showing Summerland's playgrounds with 800 m buffers.

Summerland's playgrounds are well-maintained and are regularly inspected by staff. Service clubs, particularly the Summerland Lions, Rotary and Kinsmen Clubs, have built many of Summerland's playgrounds. Replacement of playgrounds is driven by industry safety standards and replacement of the playgrounds in Memorial Park, Peach Orchard Park and Peach Orchard Campground is planned and budgeted





---

for 2018. There is a plan to install outdoor fitness equipment adjacent to the playground in Memorial Park. Playgrounds in the other parks should be replaced as needed to ensure they meet safety requirements and the needs of Summerland’s children.

Natural playgrounds have become increasingly popular because they offer unique opportunities for connection with nature, creativity, and risk-taking that have been shown to be beneficial for children’s development. Natural playgrounds feature elements found in nature such as tree trunks and branches, rocks, and mud and are intended for children to play in a natural setting. One definition, of “a nature play and learning place”:

*A designated, managed area in an existing or modified outdoor environment where children of all ages and abilities play and learn by engaging with and manipulating diverse natural elements, materials, organisms, and habitats, through sensory, fine motor and gross motor experiences.*<sup>19</sup>

Natural playgrounds can be a complement to the existing more traditional playgrounds.



## KEY FINDINGS

- Summerland has ten playgrounds, which are fairly well-distributed.
- Some areas of Summerland are within a ten-minute walk (800 m) of a playground, but others are not, including the western and southern parts of Lower Town, the western part of Trout Creek and Happy Valley.
- Summerland’s playgrounds are well-maintained and inspected regularly. Replacement of the playgrounds in Memorial Park, Peach Orchard Beach Park, and Peach Orchard Campground are planned and budgeted for 2018.
- Natural playgrounds have become increasingly popular and offer benefits for children’s development.

<sup>19</sup>Moore, R. (2014). *Nature Play & Learning Places. Creating and managing places where children engage with nature.* Raleigh, NC: Natural Learning Initiative and Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation Version 1.4.

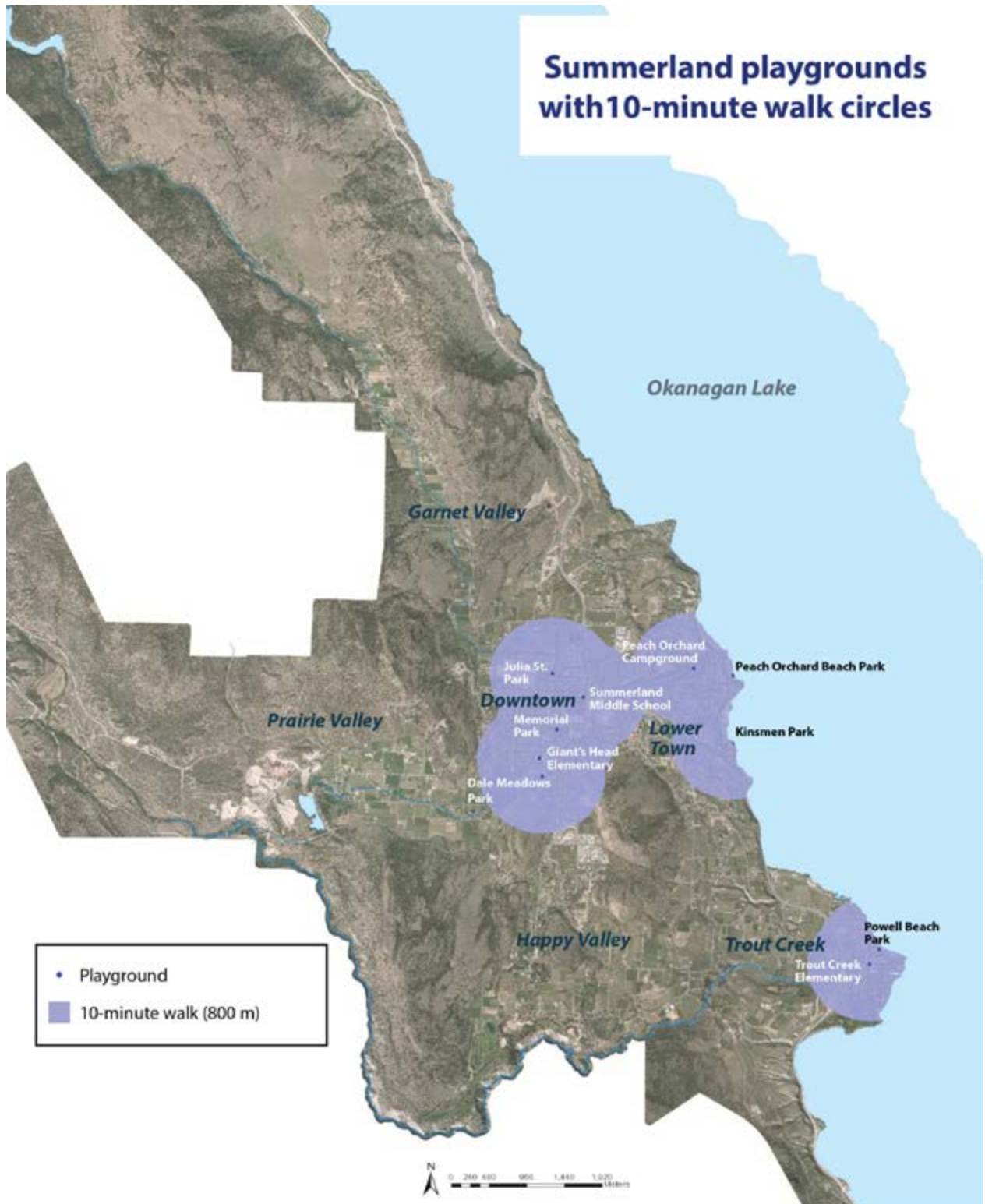


Figure 13: Summerland playgrounds with 800 m buffers

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4-35 Replace the playgrounds in Memorial Park, Peach Orchard Beach Park, and Peach Orchard Campground as planned.
- 4-36 Replace playgrounds in other parks as needed.
- 4-37 Create new playgrounds, including natural playgrounds, in areas that are not currently within 10-minutes of walk of a playground (western and southern parts of Lower Town, the western part of Trout Creek and Happy Valley).

### 4.3.2 OUTDOOR SPORTS AMENITIES

Table 12 shows the numbers of sports amenities in Summerland, compared to the average and median numbers for 19 BC municipalities with populations between 5,000 and 15,000 people.

<b>TABLE 12: SPORTS AMENITIES<sup>20</sup></b>			
<b>Number of Sports Amenities</b>	<b>District of Summerland</b>	<b>19 BC Municipalities with populations 5,000-15,000</b>	
		<b>Average</b>	<b>Median</b>
Baseball and Softball Fields	9.0	6.4	6.0
Basketball Courts Outdoor <sup>21</sup>	1.0	1.1	1.0
Skateboard Parks	1.0	1.0	1.0
Soccer Fields Outdoor	6.0	4.7	3.5
Tennis Courts Outdoor	2.0	3.9	4.0
Pickleball Courts Outdoor	2.0	n/a	n/a
Combined Pickleball-Tennis Courts Outdoor	1.0	n/a	n/a
Water and Spray Parks	1.0	0.8	1.0

<sup>20</sup>Summerland's sport amenities are based on an inventory prepared for this Master Plan. The number of sport amenities for 19 BC municipalities is from CivicInfo surveys: <https://civicinfo.bc.ca/surveys.asp>.

<sup>21</sup> Located at Summerland Middle School.



With the exceptions of tennis and pickleball courts, Summerland either meets or exceeds the average and median values for similar BC communities, suggesting that Summerland is relatively well-served for most outdoor sports amenities. This is confirmed by both stakeholders and staff, who did not identify a current need for additional sports amenities, with some exceptions as noted below.

### **SPORTS FIELDS AND BALL DIAMONDS**

Summerland has 6 soccer fields – 3 at Dale Meadows Park and 3 on school grounds. The soccer fields at Dale Meadows Park are used throughout the summer by youth and senior men’s soccer leagues. Summerland’s 9 baseball/softball fields are located at Dale Meadows Park (5 softball fields), Living Memorial Park (3 baseball fields), and Powell Beach Park (1 softball field). The fields at Dale Meadows are used throughout the summer for Slo-pitch, softball and girls fastball league play and several tournaments, including Action Fest. The fields at Living Memorial Park are used daily by Summerland Minor Baseball teams from April through June, and sometimes for peewee and bantam league play in July and August. They are also used by Action Fest and for tournaments that need more than the 5 fields at Dale Meadows Park. Summerland Minor Fastball uses the field at Powell Beach Park for league play from April to June.

During engagement for this Master Plan, stakeholder organizations did not indicate that more sports fields and ball diamonds are needed at this time, except that Summerland Minor Fastball has identified the need for a new indoor facility for coaching clinics and as discussed in section 4.2.1 above, user groups have identified quality and maintenance improvements needed on the fields at Dale Meadows Park, as well as additional supporting facilities.

Recreation department staff confirm that they are able to satisfy current needs on existing fields, although sometimes compromise and cooperation is needed to meet the needs of all organizations (for instance to resolve scheduling conflicts). Stakeholders report that staff work well with sport organizations to try to ensure that everyone’s needs are met.

### **TENNIS COURTS**

Summerland has 2 public outdoor tennis courts. located at Powell Beach Park, and there is a public shared tennis and pickleball court at Peach



---

Orchard Campground. In addition, there are 3 tennis courts at Summerland Secondary School and 3 tennis courts at the Lakeshore Racquets Club.

Because the courts at Summerland Secondary School are in disrepair, there are only 5 usable tennis courts (not including the shared pickleball-tennis court) in Summerland. Moreover, the Powell Beach tennis courts have multiple cracks and are subject to flooding, which reduces the utility of these courts for tennis play.

During engagement for this Master Plan, tennis players identified a need for more tennis courts. The Lakeshore Racquets Club has had to reduce the scope of their largest tournament, the Greenfield Cup, from four events to two due to a lack of public tennis courts; they note that

*Our three tournaments bring in visitors from Vernon to Osoyoos, the Lower Mainland, Kamloops and the Kootenays. It has become increasingly difficult to host tournaments on just 5 courts and if there is water issues at Powell Beach scheduling becomes even more difficult.<sup>22</sup>*

Compared to other communities in the region, Summerland is relatively under-served for the number of public tennis courts (see Table 13); the number of courts in Table 12 reported for Summerland excludes the 3 courts provided at the Lakeshore Racquet Club and the 3 courts at Summerland Secondary School.

Using benchmarking from BC Tennis, Summerland's population of approximately 10,970 people over the age of 6 suggests demand between 5,000-15,000 hours of tennis per year, from more than 2,600 tennis players (see Table 14). This is equivalent to using Summerland's 8 courts (2 public plus 3 at Summerland Secondary School plus 3 at Lakeshore Racquets) for 8 hours a day every day for between 78 and 234 days a year. Community demand could be met if all courts were well maintained in good condition.

It is recommended that the District assess and undertake needed repairs at the Powell Beach tennis courts and work with the School District to rehabilitate the tennis courts at Summerland Secondary School, ensuring they are accessible to community members at all times and days, except when in use by school classes. If rebuilding the courts at Summerland Secondary School is not possible, the District should explore opportunities to build 3 new courts in another location, perhaps at Dale Meadows, if land is available; Living Memorial if field use declines; or as part of the Rodeo Grounds master planning.

<sup>22</sup>Lakeshore Racquets Club, Review of Summerland's Tennis Courts On behalf of District of Summerland Recreation Department. April 10, 2018

## PICKLEBALL

Pickleball is a popular sport in the entire Okanagan valley including Summerland. The Summerland Pickleball Club (SPC) had 113 members in 2017 and is active year-round, playing in the summer at the 2 outdoor pickleball courts at Peach Orchard Campground and in the winter indoors in the Harold Simpson Youth Centre and the Badminton Club. Compared to other communities in the region, Summerland is underserved for pickleball courts (see Table 13).

The SPC notes that in the winter of 2017-18, the majority of SPC members played at least twice a week for 2 to 3 hours per session with some players playing 5 times per week; in January and February 2018, there were a total of 733 player visits. The SPC reports that between June 12 and October 11, 2017, on 98 days of play, there were 1,387 player visits to the outdoor pickleball courts at Peach Orchard Campground, which includes hours for dedicated SPC play as well as public play.

In 2017, the District of Summerland converted one of the two tennis courts at Peach Orchard Campground to two dedicated pickleball courts and painted pickleball lines on the other tennis court. The SPC had requested that both tennis courts be converted to 6 dedicated pickleball courts, but the District wanted to keep one tennis court as it is the only one in the core part of town. The SPC would still like the remaining shared tennis and pickleball court at Peach Orchard Campground converted to dedicated pickleball courts. The Lakeshore Racquets Club (LRC) notes that use of this court for tennis is drop-in use, primarily by users of the campground and that tennis players have to work around the pickleball schedule. The LRC does not anticipate use of this court, due to conflict with pickleball activities.

The District will need to balance the needs of tennis and pickleball players in provision of court space. Both groups currently feel that the current provision of courts is inadequate.

To provide additional outdoor pickleball courts, it is recommended that the District convert the two existing pickleball courts into four courts. Once the tennis courts at Summerland Secondary School have been rehabilitated, the shared tennis and pickleball court at Peach Orchard Campground could be converted to dedicated pickleball courts. It should be noted, however, that the SPC does not view the Peach Orchard Campground courts as an ideal location for the long-term. They would like a long-term dedicated site for outdoor pickleball that would permit expansion over time as the number of pickleball players grows.

<b>TABLE 13: COMPARISON OF PROVISION OF PUBLIC OUTDOOR TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS</b>				
<b>Community</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Tennis Courts</b>	<b>Pickleball Courts<sup>23</sup></b>	<b>Shared Tennis &amp; Pickleball Courts</b>
Summerland	11,615	2	2	1
Osoyoos	5,085	3	4	
Oliver	5,279	3		4
Peachland	5,428	2	2	
Merritt	7,139	6		6
West Kelowna	32,665	15	11	
Penticton	33,761	9	4	2
Vernon	40,116	16	10	9
Kamloops	90,280	21	8	6
Kelowna	127,380	23	20	7

<b>TABLE 14: ESTIMATED TENNIS DEMAND</b>					
<b>Frequency of playing</b>	<b>Tennis BC benchmark<sup>24</sup></b>	<b>Summerland</b>		<b>Calculated demand for court hours</b>	
		<b>population (6+ years)</b>	<b>tennis players</b>	<b>low</b>	<b>high</b>
1-3 times per year (occasional)	13.5%	10,970	1,481	740	2,221
4-20 times per year (regular)	8.4%	10,970	921	1,843	9,215
21+ times per year (frequent - avid)	2.1%	10,970	230	2,419	4,838
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2,633</b>	<b>5,002</b>	<b>16,274</b>

<sup>23</sup> Data provided by Vernon Pickleball Club and Lori Mullin, District of Summerland.

<sup>24</sup>As cited in *Finding the Sweet Spot: A Step by Step Guide to Community Tennis Facility Development*, Tennis Canada, 2008, Appendix p.18.

In engagement for this master plan, it was suggested that indoor facilities for tennis and/or pickleball would be beneficial and could be a regional draw. A new community centre with gymnasium could provide opportunities for indoor pickleball play.

### **BASKETBALL COURTS, SKATEPARK AND WATERPARK**

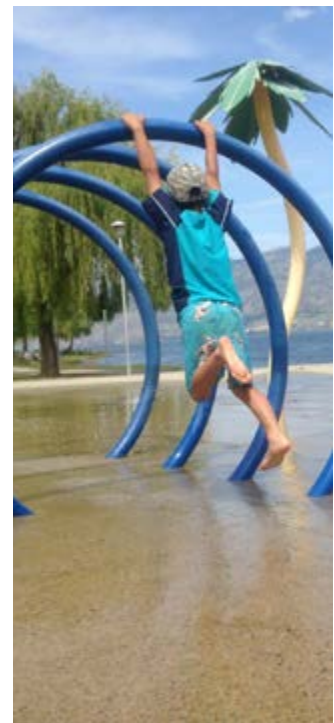
Summerland has 1 outdoor basketball court with 2 hoops, located at Summerland Middle School. There are also outdoor basketball hoops at Dale Meadows Park and Summerland Secondary School., but they are sometimes not available for play due to parking. In engagement for this Master Plan, youth did not identify a need for more outdoor basketball courts.

A new skatepark is under construction, to be located at the southwest corner of Jubilee Road and Rosedale Avenue.

A waterpark is located in Peach Orchard Park and is operational from May through September.

### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Summerland is well-served for outdoor sports amenities.
- Sports fields are well-used.
- Summerland is relatively under-served for public tennis courts. Additional tennis courts are available at the Lakeshore Racquets Club and Summerland Secondary School, but the latter are in disrepair.
- Summerland is relatively under-served for pickleball courts. Pickleball players would like additional outdoor courts as well as indoor courts.
- Summerland has 1 outdoor basketball court, at Summerland Middle School, and outdoor basketball hoops at Dale Meadows Park and Summerland Secondary School.
- A new skatepark is under construction, at the southwest corner of Jubilee Road and Rosedale Avenue.
- Summerland has one waterpark, located in Peach Orchard Beach Park.



---

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4-38 Additional sports fields are not needed currently, but District should monitor over time to determine whether community needs are continuing to be met with existing fields.
- 4-39 Assess the Powell Beach tennis courts and undertake any needed repairs.
- 4-40 Work with the School District to rehabilitate the tennis courts at Summerland Secondary School.
- 4-41 Convert the 2 dedicated pickleball courts at Peach Orchard Campground to 4 courts.
- 4-42 Once the tennis courts at the Summerland Secondary School have been rehabilitated, convert the shared tennis-pickleball court at Peach Orchard Campground to dedicated pickleball courts.
- 4-43 Explore possibilities for a long-term dedicated site for outdoor pickleball that would permit expansion over time as the number of pickleball players grows.



### 4.3.3 PLACES FOR DOGS

#### BENEFITS

Many people have dogs, and places for people to exercise their dogs are increasingly recognized as a priority in communities. Several communities in BC have developed dog strategies, and many have at least one dog off-leash area. The benefits of places for dogs include the obvious value to dogs and their owners, but they also provide benefits to the community (see box: Benefits of Dog Parks).

#### PROVISION

Summerland has one fenced off-leash dog area, which is Dog Beach at the southern end of Peach Orchard Beach Park. In addition, off-leash dogs are permitted in Peach Orchard Park from October 1 to April 30 and there is an off-leash dog beach at Sun-Oka Beach Provincial Park, located next to Summerland.

### **Benefits of Dog Parks**

*Allow dogs to exercise and socialize safely.* Puppies and adult dogs need room to run, and enclosed play areas permit them to do so while preventing them from endangering themselves and others (for example, by running into the path of an oncoming vehicle). In addition, dogs who are accustomed to playing with animals and people other than their owners are more likely to be well-socialized and react well toward strangers.

*Promote responsible dog ownership.* Dog parks prevent off-leash animals from infringing on the rights of other community residents and park users such as joggers, small children, and those who may be fearful of dogs. Parks also make it easier for a city to enforce its leash laws, as resident dog owners with park access have no reason to allow their canine companions off-leash when outside of the park.

*Provide an outlet for dog owners to socialize.* Dog parks are a great place for owners to meet other people with common interests. The love people share for their dogs reaches beyond economic and social barriers and helps foster a sense of community. Park users also benefit from the opportunity to ask questions of other owners and find solutions to problems they might be having with their pet.

*Make for a better community by promoting public health and safety.* Well-exercised dogs are better neighbours who are less likely to create a nuisance, bark excessively, and destroy property. Their presence in the park, along with their owners, may also help deter crime.

***Adapted from American Kennel Club, “Establishing a Dog Park in Your Community”.***

The Summerland Dog Owners’ Association (SDOA) has identified a need for more off-leash dog park areas in Summerland, and this was echoed by community members during engagement for this Master Plan. Table 15 lists off-leash dog parks in several Okanagan communities. All of these communities have multiple off-leash areas, which suggests that Summerland may be relatively underserved for off-leash dog parks.

The SDOA says that the current off-leash dog park, Dog Beach in Peach Orchard Beach Park, is too small and is only suitable for water-based play; they say that dog owners would like a field where they can throw balls for their dogs and dogs can run around. District landscaping staff indicate that there are off-leash dogs on sports fields, which reduces the quality of turf on the fields; dogs are prohibited from these fields by bylaw, but there is no



enforcement. An off-leash dog park with a field large enough to throw a ball would provide an alternative venue for people who currently exercise their dogs on sports fields.

The SDOA submitted a proposal to Summerland District Council in November, 2016, requesting an additional permanent, year-round dog off-leash area, an extension to the period when dogs are permitted off-leash in Peach Orchard Beach Park and similar off-season access in Powell Beach Park; accessibility improvements at Dog Beach; 2 garbage cans and a bag dispenser at Cartwright Trail; and to not change zoning on Conkle Mountain for commercial use. Accompanying the proposal was a letter of support with 300 signatures.

The SDOA proposal suggested two potential sites for a permanent, year-round dog off-leash area: the grassy area in Peach Orchard Park that is currently used for off-leash dogs in the off-season and one of the ball diamonds in Living Memorial Park. Preliminary investigation suggests that neither site is completely suitable.

Appendix I provides more details on the SDOA proposal, as well as suggested planning principles to guide the provision of amenities for dogs.

<b>TABLE 15: DOG PARKS IN SELECTED OKANAGAN COMMUNITIES<sup>25</sup></b>			
	<i>Population</i>	<i>Dog parks (number)</i>	<i>Dog parks per 1,000 residents</i>
<b>Summerland</b>	<b>11,615</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.09</b>
Kelowna	127,380	7	0.05
Lake Country	11,708	3	0.26
Osoyoos	5,085	5	0.98
Peachland	5,428	6	1.11
Penticton	33,761	6	0.18
Vernon	40,116	6	0.15

<sup>25</sup> Sources: Kelowna: <https://www.kelowna.ca/parks-recreation/parks-beaches/parks-beaches-listing>; Lake Country: <http://www.okanaganway.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Bylaw-829-2012-Schedule-F-Dog-on-and-off-leash-summary.pdf>; Osoyoos: <http://www.osoyoos.ca/content/dogs-parks#Off-Leash%20Park>; Peachland: <http://www.peachland.ca/dog-parks>; Penticton: <http://www.penticton.ca/EN/meta/city-news/news-archives/2012-archives/new-off-leash-dog-parks.html>; <http://www.penticton.ca/EN/main/community/parks-trails-beaches/dogs-in-parks.html>; Vernon: <https://dogcontrol.ca/information/dogparks/>

## KEY FINDINGS

- Dog parks provide benefits to dogs and their owners and to the broader community.
- Summerland has fewer off-leash dog parks than selected other communities in the Okanagan, including smaller communities like Peachland and Osoyoos.
- The community feels there is a need for additional off-leash dog park areas; provision of a new off-leash dog park in a park/field setting could help keep dogs off sports fields.
- The two sites proposed for a new full-time, year-round off-leash dog park by the SDOA may not be suitable for an off-leash dog park but there may be other suitable sites in Summerland.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4-44 Identify and explore options for one or more full-time, year-round off-leash dog parks.
- 4-45 Apply planning principles, like the ones suggested in Appendix I, to identifying and planning spaces for dogs.
- 4-46 Explore options for allowing dogs off-leash in designated areas of parks during certain times of day or months of the year. Possibilities might include Peach Orchard Campground, the Rodeo Grounds and Powell Beach Park.
- 4-47 Explore the feasibility of making Dog Beach accessible to people with mobility challenges. If the required construction is permissible in the riparian zone and the cost is reasonable for the District to incur, the project should be included in the capital budget for the next 1-3 years. (This recommendation also appears in section 4.2.)
- 4-48 Provide garbage cans, dog waste bags and signage in parks and at trailheads where dogs are permitted.
- 4-49 Revise the Dog Regulation and Impounding Bylaw (96-002) to permit dogs on leash in all parks except on sports fields, playgrounds, spray parks, skate parks, and beaches or at events unless specifically permitted by the event organizer.



#### **4.3.4 BEACHES AND WATER ACCESS**

Summerland has four public beaches, two boat launches, the historic Kiwanis Pier, the F+I docks at Rotary Beach, and walkways along the Okanagan Lake waterfront. There is also one private marina and one sailing club on District-owned land.

Water access is a priority for Summerland. The Official Community Plan notes the policy of acquiring land adjacent to Okanagan Lake to increase public access to the waterfront. Additionally, the Lower Town Development Permit Area guidelines specify that “developments shall provide continuous public access to the shoreline through the dedication of lands a right of way for a connected public walkway”. The guidelines also specify that “Lake activities should be animated introducing increased commercial or public opportunities for recreational activities along the shoreline”.

Because Summerland is a popular destination for tourists, residents must share lakeshore parks, beaches and water access with visitors. Currently, the lakeshore parks within Summerland combined with Sun-Oka Provincial Park adjacent to Summerland are sufficient to meet the needs of residents and visitors, but, in keeping with the OCP, the District should pursue opportunities to acquire land adjacent to Okanagan Lake.

As discussed above in section 4.2, remediation of lakeshore parks from the flooding of 2017 offers opportunity to improve ecological quality, amenities and accessibility and to increase resilience to future flooding to ensure access can be restored quickly after flood events.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Summerland has public beaches, piers and walkways to provide public access to the waterfront.
- Lakeshore access is a priority for Summerland. Summerland’s OCP notes the policy of acquiring land adjacent to Okanagan Lake to increase public access to the waterfront.
- Waterfront access is currently sufficient.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4-50 Pursue opportunities to acquire land adjacent to Okanagan Lake to increase public access to the waterfront.

- 4-51 Continue to uphold the Lower Town Development Permit Area guidelines that provide for public access to the shoreline and for increased commercial or public opportunities for recreational activities along the shoreline.

### 4.3.5 TREES

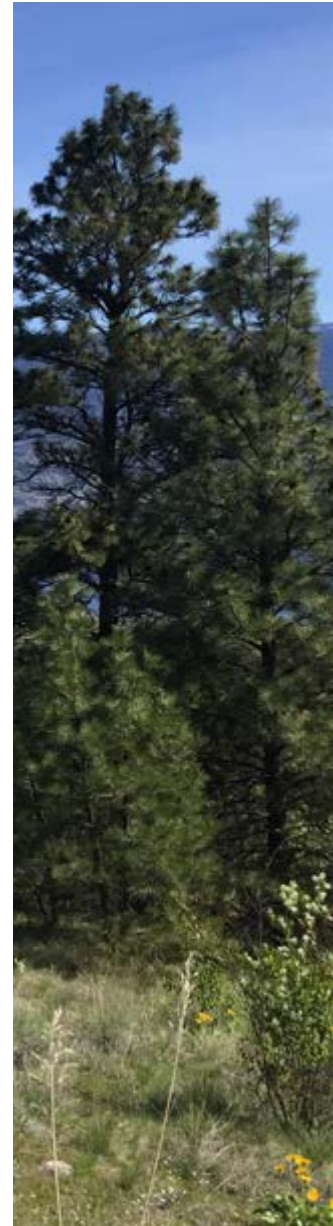
Trees offer significant environmental and human health benefits. They filter air pollutants, absorb carbon from the atmosphere (helping to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions), reduce heat, provide shade, provide mental health benefits, provide habitat, help to control erosion and provide aesthetic appeal.

Summerland should develop an Urban Forest Strategy. Better care in selection of tree species in the downtown area is needed and there is potential for street tree planning in new subdivisions/ major developments. Funds available through environmental grant programs and from the District's Tree Fund Reserve account could be used to plant additional trees along streets and in parks. The following parks would benefit from a tree management strategy to address native species management and planting planning: Powell Beach Park, Beaver Street Park, Butler Street Park, Crescent Beach, Kinsmen Park/Holler Riparian Area, and Peach Orchard Campground, as well as all natural areas parks.<sup>26</sup>

It is important to conduct hazard tree assessments in Summerland's parks and along trails. This should be done regularly, in conformity with best practices and, once it is available, in the context of the Urban Forest Strategy.<sup>27</sup>

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4-52 Develop an Urban Forest Strategy.
- 4-53 Plant trees along streets and in parks. Environmental grant programs and the District's Tree Fund Reserve account could be sources of funding.
- 4-54 Undertake hazard tree assessments in District parks and along trails. The hazard tree assessments should be done in the context of the Urban Forest Strategy, once it is available.



<sup>26</sup>Alison Peatt, SOSCP Environmental Planner, providing environmental planning support services to SOSCP local government partners. Personal communication, February 23, 2018.

<sup>27</sup>The hazard tree assessments should not be postponed until an Urban Forest Strategy is in place.

---

## 4.4 MAINTENANCE

Summerland's parks are well-maintained, and staff do a good job with the resources that are available. Arena staff assist the landscaping crew in summer, which is their off-season; this works well. Landscaping crew say however that one additional seasonal (Mar-Oct) staff person with landscaping experience would allow them to maintain high standards for landscaping.

Staff indicate that aging maintenance equipment is a challenge. They are able to keep up with replacement of small equipment, but large equipment is more expensive and therefore difficult to replace. Turf management would be improved with purchasing a top-dresser and rotary mower for fields, but this equipment should only be used if the Dale Meadows parking lot is paved. Purchase of a top-dresser is budgeted for 2018. An ongoing need is the upgrade of the District's aging irrigation systems from hydraulic to electrical. This is addressed in the capital budget.

Another challenge for parks maintenance is the low level of enforcement of parks bylaws. For instance, dogs cause damage to sports fields. They are prohibited on sports fields, but there is no enforcement. Another example is camping in the Memorial Park bandshell, which could be ameliorated by enclosing the stage.

As discussed above, sports field users have identified some deficiencies at Dale Meadows Park. There should be regular communication between District staff and field users on their respective responsibilities and requirements for keeping fields well-maintained. The District should consider developing guidelines on the responsibilities of field users, including lead times for booking fields and cancelling bookings and the contributions of field users to maintenance (e.g., watering ball fields before dragging and between games).

Service clubs and volunteer organizations have provided a lot of Summerland's parks infrastructure. There is a need to ensure that infrastructure meets safety standards and that it can be maintained by District staff (materials and specifications are compatible with District equipment and staff capacity). The District should develop a list of priorities for donated infrastructure/projects as well as standards for future donations to ensure they meet standards and the requirements of the District.

Organizationally, the parks landscaping crew is within the Work & Utilities department, while the Recreation department is responsible for booking fields and is the primary point of contact for user groups and members of the public. Both units have information that is important for planning and resource allocation, so it is important to ensure there is regular contact and collaboration on work planning, budget development, and priority-setting

for parks. The District's new asset management plan should help with capital planning.

## **KEY FINDINGS**

- Summerland's parks are well-maintained, and staff utilize current resources effectively.
- An additional seasonal landscaping crew member would allow the crew to maintain high standards for landscaping.
- Challenges for parks maintenance include aging equipment and low enforcement of parks bylaws such as the prohibition of dogs on sports fields.
- Regular communication with sports field users and development of guidelines would support field maintenance.
- Service clubs and community organizations have historically donated a lot of Summerland's parks infrastructure. Standards are needed to ensure that donated infrastructure meets safety standards and can be maintained by District staff.
- The separation of parks responsibilities between the Works & Utilities and Recreation departments mean that it is important to ensure there is regular contact and collaboration between the two departments on work planning, budget development, and priority-setting for parks.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4-55 Consider hiring additional landscaping staff.
- 4-56 Purchase a top-dresser as budgeted for 2018.
- 4-57 Ensure there is regular communication between parks maintenance staff and sports field users. Consider developing guidelines on the responsibilities of field users.
- 4-58 Develop a list of priorities for donated infrastructure/projects.
- 4-59 Develop standards for donated infrastructure/projects to ensure they meet safety standards and the requirements of the District.
- 4-60 Create an asset management plan for major park amenities and infrastructure.

# 5 Trails

Walking is the most popular recreation activity of Summerland residents, followed closely by cycling, and Summerland's many trails are widely used by residents and visitors. Residents would like to have a more walkable community with trail links throughout the community, especially for connections from Upper Town to Lower Town beaches. There is also a desire to see a commuter bike route to Penticton.

Summerland's network of mountain bike trails is growing in popularity, resulting in Summerland becoming a destination for the growing sport. Its appealing terrain would support further expansion of the sport. As well, the District also hosts several cycle events including the Mountain Bike Test of Humanity Championship and Gran Fondo, which also provide significant tourism benefits.

The District of Summerland intends to undertake a Trails Master Plan, so this chapter will provide an overview of Summerland's provision of trails, descriptions of the most prominent trails, and a brief discussion of key issues related to trails including permitted uses, protection of environmental values, and connectivity. More detailed analysis, recommendations and mapping will be undertaken for the Trails Master Plan.

Appendix J provides information on Summerland's most prominent trails.



## 5.1 TRAILS PROVISION

Summerland has a large number of trails, for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and off-road vehicles. Figure 14 is a preliminary map of Summerland’s trails, using information currently available. More complete and authoritative mapping should be undertaken as part of a future Trails Master Plan.

Table 16 compares the extent of Summerland’s multi-use trails and paved bike paths with the average and median values for similarly-sized BC communities. Summerland has considerably more kilometres of multi-use trails than other BC communities, and has a below average but above median inventory of paved bike paths.

<b>TABLE 16: TRAILS COMPARISON</b>			
	<i>Summerland</i>	<i>17 BC municipalities with population 5,000-15,000</i>	
		<i>Average</i>	<i>Median</i>
Multi Use Trails <sup>28</sup> (km)	76.9	22.8	10.0
Paved Bicycle Paths (km)	5.0	6.2	4.0

<sup>28</sup> Note that this includes 61 km for the Summerland portion of the TransCanada Trail. The portion of the trail that is actually within the District of Summerland needs to be determined, and the trails total revised accordingly.

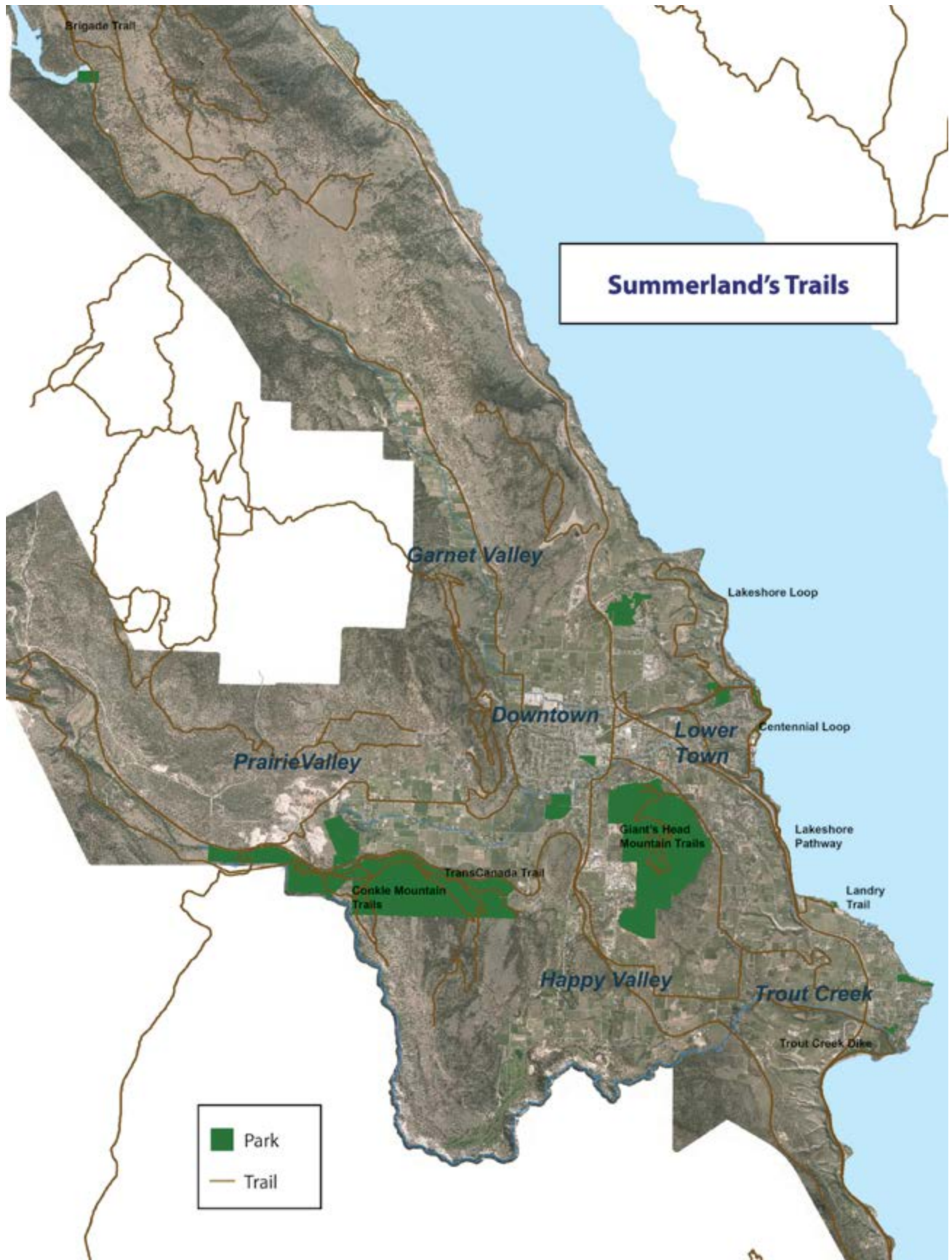


Figure 14: Summerland's trails (preliminary)

## 5.2 KEY ISSUES

This section provides an overview of the key issues for Summerland’s trails, with the expectation that these issues will be addressed in a more fulsome way in the Trails Master Plan. Key issues arise from the location of trails, often in environmentally significant or sensitive areas; the different and sometimes conflicting uses of trails; development and maintenance standards and trail safety; and the need to ensure connectivity to parks and other trails to facilitate active transportation and provide wildlife corridors.

### 5.2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRAILS AND TRAIL USE <sup>29</sup>

Many of Summerland’s trails are located in natural areas, and indeed an important attraction and benefit to the users of these trails is the ability to spend time in a natural setting. It is important to recognize that trails and even low impact activities like hiking can have a negative impact on natural areas. Impacts include:

- Habitat fragmentation, degradation (e.g. spread of invasive plants) and loss of native vegetation including at risk plants, shrubs and wildlife trees (to trail maintenance, perceived hazards and increased accessibility for firewood cutting); <sup>30</sup>
- Disturbance to dens from trail building; mortality and damage to snakes through persecution or crushing by tires; <sup>31</sup>
- Direct persecution of wildlife, bird nests, burrows and other places wildlife reside; disturbance of grasslands, open forests, wetlands and shoreline habitats by domestic animals; <sup>32</sup>

<sup>29</sup> [http://www.academia.edu/337961/Leung\\_Y.-F.\\_and\\_Marion\\_J.\\_L.\\_2000\\_.Recreation\\_impacts\\_and\\_management\\_in\\_wilderness\\_a\\_state-of-knowledge\\_review.\\_In\\_Cole\\_D.\\_N.\\_McCool\\_S.\\_F.\\_Borrie\\_W.\\_T.\\_and\\_O'Loughlin\\_J.\\_comps.\\_Wilderness\\_Science\\_in\\_a\\_Time\\_of\\_Change\\_Conference\\_-\\_Volume\\_5\\_Wilderness\\_Ecosystems\\_Threats\\_and\\_Management\\_May\\_23-27\\_1999\\_Missoula\\_MT\\_pp.\\_23-48\\_.Proc\\_RMRS-P-15-VOL-5.\\_Ogden\\_UT\\_USDA\\_Forest\\_Service\\_Rocky\\_Mountain\\_Research\\_Station](http://www.academia.edu/337961/Leung_Y.-F._and_Marion_J._L._2000_.Recreation_impacts_and_management_in_wilderness_a_state-of-knowledge_review._In_Cole_D._N._McCool_S._F._Borrie_W._T._and_O'Loughlin_J._comps._Wilderness_Science_in_a_Time_of_Change_Conference_-_Volume_5_Wilderness_Ecosystems_Threats_and_Management_May_23-27_1999_Missoula_MT_pp._23-48_.Proc_RMRS-P-15-VOL-5._Ogden_UT_USDA_Forest_Service_Rocky_Mountain_Research_Station)

<sup>30</sup> Various references document impacts to trees e.g. <https://www.cabi.org/leisuretourism/news/16160> and [http://www.pacificbio.org/publications/vegetation/state\\_parks/wa\\_east/Mt\\_Spokane\\_Trails\\_PBI\\_report.pdf](http://www.pacificbio.org/publications/vegetation/state_parks/wa_east/Mt_Spokane_Trails_PBI_report.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> Concerns about this and documented occurrences of impacts are provided in the recovery plan for the Western Rattlesnake, the Great Basin Gophersnake and the Desert Nightsnake in Canada <https://www.registrellep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=B6D9C7DE-1&offset=2&toc=show>

<sup>32</sup> Various references document impacts of dogs on wildlife. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/301800852\\_Impacts\\_of\\_dogs\\_on\\_wildlife\\_and\\_water\\_quality](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/301800852_Impacts_of_dogs_on_wildlife_and_water_quality)

Lenth, B., Knight, R.L., Brennan, M.E. 2008. The effects of dogs on wildlife communities. *Natural Areas Journal* 28(3):218-227

Miller, S.G., Knight, R.L., Miller, C.K. 2001. Responses to pedestrians and dogs. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 29(1):124-132

- 
- Increased fire risk;<sup>33</sup> and
  - Disturbance and increased human-wildlife conflict when people and their domestic animals enter natural areas and perceive threats from wildlife. When conflicts occur, these can result in damage or death of wildlife;<sup>34</sup> and
  - Increased noise disturbance of habitat associated with trails use.<sup>35</sup>

Popular activities on trails include hiking, biking and downhill mountain biking, horseback riding, and riding off-highway vehicles (OHV) like ATVs and dirt bikes. There are a number of sensitive species and habitats impacted by ATV use, including grasslands rare plant communities, sensitive wetlands and riparian areas occupied by ground nesting birds, animals in burrows and sensitive species like snakes or amphibians that are at risk. Managing recreation use generally in grasslands is challenging because the terrain is open and new trail creation is easy. Wetlands are also vulnerable to ATV use, though mudbogging. Because so much wetland has been lost to development and infill, there is no ability to absorb further impacts to wetlands and sensitive wetland species like spadefoot and tiger salamander.<sup>35</sup> To help avoid these impacts, ATV/dirtbike use in the Summerland should be limited to existing, designated trails.

Even more passive recreation activities like mountain biking and hiking can have negative impacts, and should be limited to areas where there is less potential for impact on ecologically sensitive or significant habitats or species.

To minimize the potential for negative environmental impacts, recreation in natural areas, and particularly near ecologically sensitive or significant areas, should be carefully planned. An important first step is to develop an understanding and inventory of ecological values in Summerland's parks and natural areas. The South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) is a valuable partner for this work, as are local naturalists and environmental groups such as the Summerland Environmental Science Group, and trail user groups and clubs.

Another critical task is the mapping of existing trails. Some preliminary mapping has been recently done as part of the District's asset management

---

<sup>33</sup>*This reference documents increased fire risk near roads and developments: <https://www.deepdyve.com/lp/elsevier/influences-of-forest-roads-on-the-spatial-patterns-of-human-and-1AmGBtB91J>*

<sup>34</sup>[https://www.nps.gov/goga/learn/management/upload/-1979-Reed-and-Merenlender\\_2008.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/goga/learn/management/upload/-1979-Reed-and-Merenlender_2008.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> Barber, J.R., Crooks, K.R., Fristrup, K.M. 2009. The costs of chronic noise exposure for terrestrial organisms. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 25(3):180-189

<sup>35</sup>*This paragraph is based on personal communication with Allison Peatt, SOSCP Environmental Planner, providing environmental planning support services to SOSCP local government partners. December 24, 2017.*

planning. This mapping should be completed as part of the development of the Trails Master Plan. Then, in collaboration with the SOSCP, the District should determine which trails or portions of trails impact ecologically sensitive or significant areas and decommission or reroute those trails. Involving trails user groups in the process will help ensure that trail users understand and respect the positioning of trails and the need to protect ecological values.

### **5.2.2 CONFLICTING USES**

During engagement for this Master Plan, trail users did not indicate that conflicts among different users is a serious problem, but did note that clarity on permitted uses on trails through sanctioning and signage would help avoid conflicts. Involving trail user groups, the SOSCP and environmental groups like the Summerland Environmental Science Group in designating permitted uses on Summerland's trails will help ensure that rules governing use make sense and are respected by trail users. To the extent possible, current and historical uses should be respected.

Once permitted uses on trails have been determined, the District should post signage that provides information about wayfinding and permitted uses. The District could also collaborate with the SOSCP, trails user groups, and environmental groups to develop and distribute education and information materials including maps of approved trails, trail etiquette and rules, and Summerland's natural areas and the ecosystems, plants and animals found in them.

### **5.2.3 TRAIL MAINTENANCE STANDARDS**

To ensure that trails are as safe and accessible as possible, best practices should be used in developing and maintaining trails. The District should consider developing standards for trail construction and maintenance, which can be used by District staff as well as by volunteers and donors of trails infrastructure such as service clubs. These standards should be developed in the context of the Trails Master Plan.

### **5.2.4 CONNECTIVITY**

The importance of connectivity was identified in engagement with staff and the community for this Master Plan and is discussed in Summerland's Official Community Plan, Strategic Plan, and Cultural Plan. Connectivity involves the linkages between parks and other areas, along trails, bike lanes and sidewalks, to facilitate active transportation (walking, cycling,



---

skateboarding, riding a scooter, etc.). Connectivity can also refer to corridors used by wildlife to travel between different habitat areas.

In developing the Trails Master Plan, the District should aim to create a network of trails, bike lanes/paths and sidewalks that connects neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces, and community amenities to provide active transportation and recreation opportunities. The network should avoid environmentally sensitive or hazard areas and should not facilitate access to these areas.

The District applied in 2018 to BikeBC for funding for a Cycling Network Plan. Given the importance of active transportation for the health of residents and the community, a Cycling Network Plan is a valuable tool for the District. If the District's application to BikeBC is not successful, the District should seek funding from other sources.

During engagement for this Master Plan, the Summerland ATV Club requested staging areas so that ATV users can access the amenities in town. During development of the Trails Master Plan, the District should consider potential staging areas and road corridors suitable for ATVs to enter town.



## 5.3 TRAIL USER GROUPS

There are several active trail clubs groups in the Summerland area including Trails of the Okanagans Society, the South Okanagan Trail Alliance, the Summerland ATV Club, the South Okanagan Dirt Bike Club, the South Okanagan Crony Club, TriPower Triathlon Club, and the Summerland Rodeo Grounds Equine Development Committee. Additionally, Summerland's service clubs like Rotary, Kinsmen and Lions have contributed to development of trails such as the Centennial Trail.

In engagement for this Master Plan, trails users identified a pressing need for clarity on permitted uses as well as signage to provide wayfinding and promotion of Summerland's many trails (discussed further in section 5.4.2 below). The South Okanagan Dirt Bike Club noted that, because many areas are off-limits to dirt bikes, there is pressure on the remaining areas, making management and proper signage important.

Trails users also point to the need for management planning of natural areas, similar to what is currently under way for Giant's Head Mountain Park.

Trail users would like opportunities for collaboration with each other, and with the District. Collaboration with these groups would allow the District to access their in-kind and financial support for creating and maintaining trails – these groups have access to grants and are able to secure in-kind contributions of labour and materials from their members. The Trails Master Plan should identify mechanisms and processes for collaboration between the District and organizations and groups with an interest in trails, including trail user groups and clubs, environmental and naturalist groups, nearby municipalities, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS), and the provincial government and other stakeholders in creating and maintaining the trail network; this might include creating standards for trail construction and maintenance and programs for volunteer work parties and trail stewards and ambassadors.



---

## 5.4 KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### KEY FINDINGS

- Summerland is well-served for trails, with more kilometers of trails than the average and median for similar-sized BC communities. Summerland is below average but above the median for paved bike paths.
- The District of Summerland intends to prepare a Trails Master Plan.
- The District of Summerland has applied for funding to create a Cycling Network Plan.
- Trail users are contributing to the regional tourism economy and there are opportunities to expand service as the sport continues to grow.
- There are several active trails user groups and clubs in the Summerland area, as well as service clubs that have contributed to development of trails
- Trail users identified a pressing need for clarity on permitted uses and signage for wayfinding and promotion of trails and information on permitted uses.
- Trail users identify a need for management planning of natural areas, similar to the planning that is under way for Giant's Head Mountain.
- Trail users can have negative impacts on natural areas, so recreation and trails in natural areas should be carefully planned to avoid and minimize impacts on ecologically sensitive or significant habitats, plants or animals.
- Conflicts among different trail users is not a serious problem in Summerland, but clarity on permitted uses will help avoid potential conflict.
- The importance of connectivity was identified in engagement with staff and the community for this Master Plan and is in discussed in Summerland's Official Community Plan, Strategic Plan, and Cultural Plan.

- Connectivity facilitates active transportation and can provide corridors for wildlife to move between natural areas.
- ATV users would like staging areas and access to amenities in town.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5-1 Develop a Trails Master Plan to identify existing trails and missing links within Summerland and in surrounding areas, to plan a trail network that:
- Connects neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces, and community amenities;
  - Provides active transportation and recreation opportunities, and
  - Avoids environmentally sensitive or hazard areas and does not facilitate access to these areas.
- 5-2 Involve trails user groups, environmental groups, and other stakeholders with an interest in trails in development of the Trails Master Plan.
- 5-3 The Trails Master Plan should identify mechanisms and processes for collaboration between the District and organizations and groups with an interest in trails.
- 5-4 The Trails Master Plan should establish design standards for various intended user groups as well as maintenance standards.
- 5-5 Following development of the Trails Master Plan, the District should implement signage to provide clarity on permitting uses on trails as well as wayfinding and promotion of trails (and parks). Signage should have a consistent look and feel, with Summerland branding.
- 5-6 Develop a Cycling Network Plan.
- 5-7 Collaborate with the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP), local naturalists and environmental groups such as the Summerland Environmental Science Group, and trail user groups and clubs to understand and inventory ecological values in Summerland's parks and natural areas.

# 6

# Recreation Facilities

## 6.1 DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT OF INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

The following section provides an inventory, evaluation and assessment of Summerland's primary indoor recreation facilities and their ability to meet current and future demand. A comparative analysis with towns and districts of similar population size, a review of the facility's condition, assessment of future capacity and the results of community input have all guided the recommendations in this report.

### 6.1.1 INVENTORY AND DESCRIPTION

The District of Summerland manages two key indoor recreational facilities: the Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre and the Summerland Arena Complex and Curling Club.

Seven additional indoor recreation facilities are available in the community and operated by others including:

- Centre Stage Theatre. Theatre located at Summerland Secondary School with 295 seats, state of the art sound and lighting equipment, grand piano, orchestra pit and dressing rooms. Theatre is used for concerts, live theatre, movies, speakers and regular school drama productions.

- Harold Simpson Memorial Youth Centre. The Summerland Youth Centre Association has a mandate to operate the Centre for the benefit of the District of Summerland, but youth in particular. The Centre makes space available for youth groups such as the Okanagan Boys and Girls Club, Cadets, Scouts and Guides, service clubs and community rentals. The land and building are owned by the District.
- Summerland Asset Development Initiative (SADI) Youth Club. SADI is a non-profit organization that provides opportunities, activities, and support for Summerland youth and families. The District owns the facility and provides operating grants.
- Summerland Drop In Recreation Centre. A drop in centre and programs. The District operates Nifty-Fifty fitness programs within the facility.
- Summerland Baptist Church. Provides a gymnasium for community use.
- Summerland School District 67. There are two elementary schools, one middle school and one secondary school in Summerland with gymnasiums that can be rented for public use or programmed by the Summerland Recreation Department.
- Lakeshore Racquets Club. The non-profit society operates an indoor facility with 2 squash courts and 3 outdoor tennis courts and also offers fitness classes and venue rentals.
- Summerland Badminton Club. The members hold drop-in casual to league games within a custom designed historic 1934 building with two regulation sized courts.

### 6.1.2 PUBLIC INPUT

Just over half of residents surveyed said they use the Summerland Aquatic Centre and Centre Stage Theatre, while 40% said they use the Arena, and smaller percentages using the youth centres and Baptist Church gym (see Figure 15).

The aquatic centre, arena, Baptist Church gym, and Youth Centre are used most frequently, with the large majority of users in each case using the facility at least once a month or more often. The Centre Stage Theatre and SADI Youth Club are used infrequently (see Figure 16).

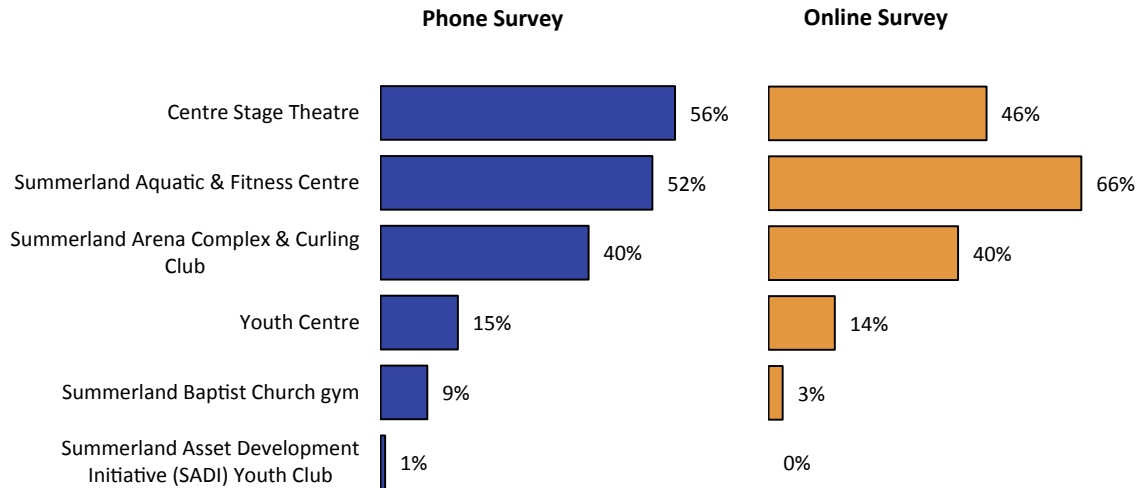


Figure 15: Public Indoor Recreation or Culture Facilities Used

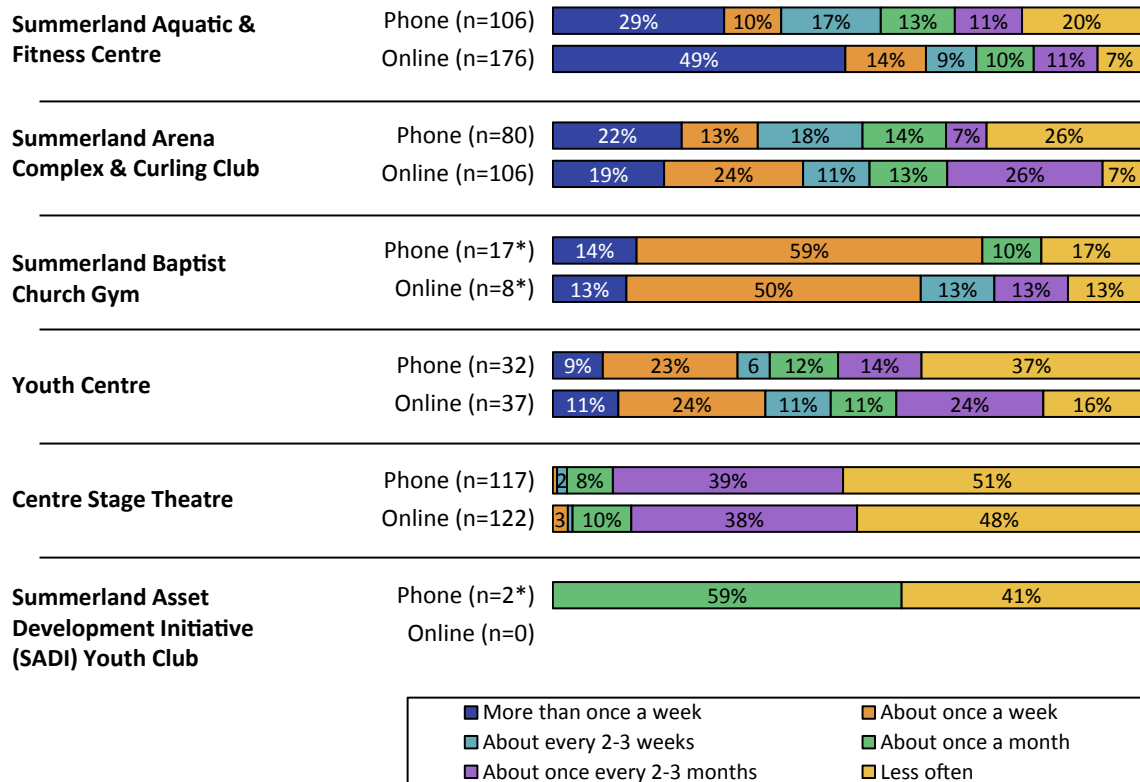


Figure 16: Frequency of Use of Indoor Facilities

Most people who currently use Summerland’s indoor recreation facilities are satisfied with them, although people who responded to the online survey tended to be less satisfied than people who responded to the telephone survey (see Figure 17).

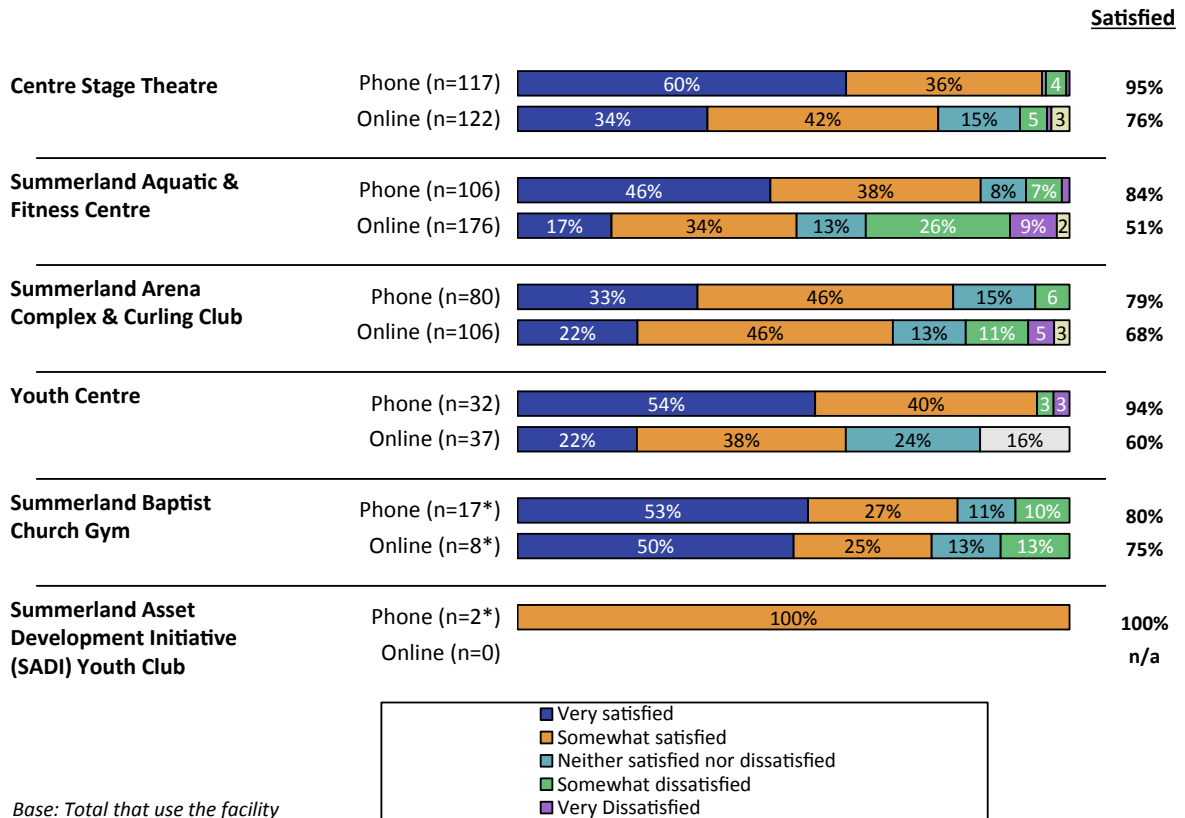


Figure 17: Satisfaction with Public Indoor Recreation or Culture Facilities

### 6.1.3 SUMMERLAND AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTRE

A description of the main features of the Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre and the typical programs offered at the facility is provided in Table 17.

<b>TABLE 17: SUMMERLAND AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTRE</b>	
<i>Description and Amenities</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built in 1975</li> <li>• Some upgrades to the boiler, lighting, filter system, solar panels</li> <li>• Lane 25 m pool. Shallow end only 3 ft. deep (limits competitions)</li> <li>• New 2200 sq. ft. weightroom added in 1996</li> <li>• 10 person hot tub</li> <li>• Changerooms, dry sauna</li> <li>• Recreation centre office and cashier</li> <li>• 1 office shared for first aid equipment storage</li> <li>• 1 small multi-use/meeting room</li> <li>• Located on school board property</li> </ul>	
<i>Typical programs</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swim lessons, competitive swim program, master’s swim program</li> <li>• Aquafit classes, rehab programs (Recope)</li> <li>• Fitness classes</li> <li>• Community events (Action Fest, Halloween, Christmas party)</li> <li>• Recreation classes (Pilates, kids programs)</li> </ul>	



#### CAPACITY

- Staff estimates indicate that the pool receives 50,000-80,000 total users per year. This is typical of small communities. Larger communities may experience upwards of 200,000 users per year.
- Fitness room/ classes receive approximately 2,000 visitors per month. The 2200 sq. ft. room with 35 stations has the capacity for approximately 6,000 visitors per month.
- Facility is open extensively to the public 105 hours per week; reduced during the two summer months and for annual shutdown.

Table 18 on the next page provides an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the aquatic centre.



**TABLE 18: SUMMERLAND AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTRE – STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES**

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centrally located in community and close to schools</li> <li>• Well maintained facility</li> <li>• Fitness room is spacious and well equipped for its originally intended use as a weight and cardio room only; not adequately sized as currently used for exercise programs</li> <li>• Very well used by the community with high levels of community satisfaction reported in the survey</li> <li>• Some energy upgrades with solar panels and LED lighting</li> <li>• Facility has capacity for increased use during non-primetime hours (mid-afternoons, late evenings and summer days)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited parking</li> <li>• Notable maintenance problems developing (air handling unit, hot water showers and floor cracks, building leaks)</li> <li>• Pool no longer provides the features and facilities found in modern pools such as universal/family changerooms, leisure and accessibility amenities or preschool teach pool</li> <li>• Very limited ability to host events. Poor spectator seating and deck space</li> <li>• Cashier/visitor control station is poorly located and inefficient</li> <li>• No separate washrooms for the pool or weightroom (limits entry control)</li> <li>• Recreation and support offices are undersized</li> <li>• Lack of multi-purpose recreation spaces and gymnasium for fitness classes</li> <li>• Some community dissatisfaction expressed with the facility. Residents are going outside the community to use other facilities or programs</li> <li>• The pool is used to capacity during prime time hours</li> </ul>





## KEY FINDINGS

- At 42 years old, the Aquatic and Fitness Centre facility is nearing the end of its serviceable life. According to the BCRPA (2009) the facility is at Stage 5. During this stage, facilities typically become more costly to operate and maintain. As well, large scale rehabilitation or replacement may be required in order to continue to serve the community.
- There is no detailed facility audit to guide long term facility management or a long term replacement strategy.
- The pool and fitness rooms are used to capacity during all prime time hours. Key programs such as aquafit, swim lessons and Recope are full with waiting lists for future programs.
- The pool is a traditional single tank design which is outdated and lacks many of the modern features and amenities such as family changerooms, family leisure space, shallow teach pool, accessible entry, family changerooms and swim competition space.
- The weightroom has to be used for fitness classes, which is not conducive to either use.
- While overall community satisfaction is currently high, there is an expressed desire for improvements in the aquatic facilities and programs.
- The centre lacks the support space typical of modern recreation complexes including multi-use recreation rooms, fitness rooms and gymnasium, which helps create the one- stop centre for everyone in the community. Use of the weightroom for fitness classes reduces program options.
- Due to limited space on schoolboard property, there is likely no potential to expand or rebuild a suitably sized community centre at its current location.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6-1 Conduct a detailed facility audit of the entire Aquatic and Fitness Centre building, its structure and plant including compliance with municipal and provincial code requirements.
- 6-2 Develop an asset lifecycle plan and adjust budgets accordingly.
- 6-3 Develop a long term strategy for the eventual replacement of the Aquatic and Fitness Centre with multipurpose rooms including plans, designs, confirm location, public support and cost estimates.
- 6-4 Replace or upgrade the pool per the long-term strategy.
- 6-5 Implement a facility replacement reserve to support the eventual replacement of the facility.
- 6-6 If the estimated life expectancy of the pool is greater than 10 years, add a UV system to reduce chlorination and maintenance costs.
- 6-7 Review the pool operating hours and explore opportunities to increase use of the pool and increase revenue.

### 6.1.4 SUMMERLAND ARENA COMPLEX AND CURLING CLUB

A description of the main features of the Summerland Arena Complex and Curling Club and the typical programs offered at the facility is provided in Table 19.



**TABLE 19: SUMMERLAND ARENA COMPLEX AND CURLING CLUB**

<i>Description and Amenities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built in 1976</li> <li>• Upgrades include; chiller, arena boards, condenser, heat reclaim system, DDC controls, LED Lighting, Dehumidification, seating, accessibility, and safety improvement in the plant room</li> <li>• NHL regulation size 200 x 85 foot ice sheet</li> <li>• Upper concourse within the arena</li> <li>• 5 dressing rooms plus junior team trailer</li> <li>• Seating for 875 spectators</li> <li>• Concession</li> <li>• Curling rink operates off the arena plant. Has 4 ice sheets, each one 146 ft. long and 14 ft. wide.</li> <li>• Curling rink is operated by the curling club through a lease agreement. City assists with capital costs</li> <li>• Second floor has a 3,520 sq. ft. Banquet Room and Kitchen with capacity to host 269 people; with commercial kitchen and bar facilities and a curling lounge</li> </ul>
<i>Typical programs</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ARENA ICE SHEET: Minor hockey, senior’s hockey, ladies hockey, figure skating, learn to skate programs, grad ceremony, Action Fest dance, lacrosse, ball hockey, Air Cadets</li> <li>• CURLING RINK: League games, lessons, bonspiels, summer dry floor options, Fall Fair</li> <li>• BANQUET ROOM: private bookings (weddings, Christmas parties), recreation programs (Tai Chi, Zumba, yoga, pre-school programs), meetings</li> </ul>

**CAPACITY**

- Banquet room is not used to full capacity but cannot bump bookings in favour of recreation programs.
- Ice arena used to full capacity during prime time hours. Community groups estimate they are collectively short 15 hours per week and use Penticton ice arenas instead. Expansion into non-prime time hours may be needed in the future.

Table 20 on the next page provides an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the arena.

**TABLE 20: SUMMERLAND ARENA COMPLEX AND CURLING CLUB -  
STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES**

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well maintained facility</li> <li>• Very well used by the community. The second highest attended recreation facility with high levels of community satisfaction reported in the survey</li> <li>• Functional design with arena, curling and banquet facility</li> <li>• On city owned land with future expansion capability</li> <li>• Plant may be able to support an adjoining second sheet of ice or an outdoor rink</li> <li>• Energy upgrades like LED lighting and heating loop to RCMP building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited parking</li> <li>• Arena used to full capacity during prime time</li> <li>• No city staff presence for recreation programs</li> <li>• Washrooms/changerooms, no sprinklers in the banquet room (or throughout the building)</li> <li>• User groups indicate a lack of community group storage space</li> <li>• Some community dissatisfaction expressed with the facility. Residents are going outside the community to use other facilities or programs</li> <li>• No capacity for an indoor walking track</li> </ul>

## KEY FINDINGS

- At 41 years old, the facility is nearing the end of its serviceable life. According to the BCRPA (2009) the facility is at Stage 5. During this stage, facilities typically become more costly to operate and maintain. As well, large scale rehabilitation or replacement may be required in order to continue to serve the community.
- No detailed facility audit to guide long term facility management or a long term replacement strategy.
- The arena ice facility is currently meeting most of the needs of the community. Prime time ice time is presently near capacity. Survey respondents expressed interest in expansion and updating the facility.
- Eventually a second sheet of ice may be required to meet community demands.

---

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6-8 Conduct a detailed facility audit of the entire building, its structure and plant including compliance with municipal and provincial code requirements.
- 6-9 Develop a facility maintenance management plan. Adjust budgets accordingly.
- 6-10 Implement upgrades to the washrooms and changerooms.
- 6-11 Explore with the Junior "B" club regarding improving their washroom/changeroom facility.
- 6-12 Continue to upgrade the concession and concession services.
- 6-13 Develop a long term strategy for the eventual replacement of the Arena Complex. Monitor community use levels of the curling rink over the long term.
- 6-14 Replace or upgrade the arena per the long-term strategy.
- 6-15 Implement a facility replacement reserve to support the eventual replacement of the facility.
- 6-16 Conduct a needs assessment and cost analysis for a potential second arena.
- 6-17 Explore options for increasing recreational opportunities such as roller derby in both the arena and the curling club during the spring dry floor months.



## 6.2 INDOOR FACILITY SUPPLY

There are no nationally adopted guidelines in Canada for the provision of indoor recreation facilities. Instead municipalities have adopted a more community-specific planning approach based upon demand, level of use, financial capability and availability of facilities within the region.

Table 21 provides a comparison of indoor recreation facilities available within seven other BC communities of similar population size.<sup>36</sup> Overall, the analysis highlights that Summerland provides comparable types of indoor facilities with the possible exception of a community centre. However, with so many variables in terms of the number and type of facilities, location of communities, demographic makeup, etc., any further interpretation needs to be done cautiously with further analysis.

Another measure of recreation facility supply is the gross square footage (GSF) of municipally provided recreation spaces per capita. Together, Summerland's Arena complex at 70,000 square feet and the Aquatic complex at 20,000 square feet provide a total of 90,000 GSF of public recreation space, producing a current supply of 7.74 GSF of public recreation space per capita. The consultant's previous studies have found a range from 6- 11 GSF per capita, indicating that Summerland is about midrange in its facility supply. Within the 10 year timeframe of this study, assuming a conservative growth rate of .5%, the population will increase by approximately 700 people, at which time the ratio will decline to be approximately 7.29 GSF per capita, if no new amenities are added. With a high growth rate of 2% the increase of 3,000 people will reduce the available community space to an average of 6.10GSF, which is at the bottom of the range of service in comparable communities.

### 6.2.1 ANALYSIS

The analysis highlights that Summerland has the typical type and amount of indoor recreational amenities comparable to other similar-sized cities in BC. However, each city has unique differences in response to all the factors that shape supply and demand.

Summerland has also followed a very traditional approach to providing indoor facilities. The District has developed two core facilities, the pool and the arena, and then has provided support or encouragement to community groups to develop other more specialized facilities such as the youth centre, Summerland Drop In Recreation Centre, and tennis



<sup>36</sup>Info collected from municipal websites and parks and recreation masterplan reports, consultant's data.



**TABLE 21: COMPARISON OF INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY SUPPLY BY POPULATION**

	Summerland (11,280)	Dawson Creek (11,583)	Terrace (11,486)	Powell River (13,165)	Quesnel (10,007)	Prince Rupert (12,508)	Nelson (10,320)	Williams Lake (10,832)
Arena	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Arts Centre	1		1	1	1		1	1
Community Centre		1		1	1	1	2	1
Curling Rink	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Indoor pool	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Museum	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Senior Centre	1	1	1		1		1	1
Theatre	1	1	1	1	1			1
Youth Centre	1	1		1			1	1

and badminton clubs. From a facility perspective, these adjunct buildings are key to meeting the recreational needs of the community.

This approach has also meant that not all desired indoor facilities are available or are not available in ways or means that meet community expectations. The findings from the telephone survey indicate that current recreational facilities are not fully meeting resident’s needs. A notable 21% of survey respondents do not use any recreation facility in Summerland. Further, lack of facilities and lack of programs and services were listed as reasons for not participating in recreational activities. A very high percentage (34%) of respondents indicate that they use private indoor facilities or facilities located in other cities (see Figure 18). The reasons commonly offered for using other facilities include; bigger or better facility or one that provides more amenities (50%), wider variety of programs or activities (39%) or prefer the atmosphere of other facilities (25%) (See Table 22).

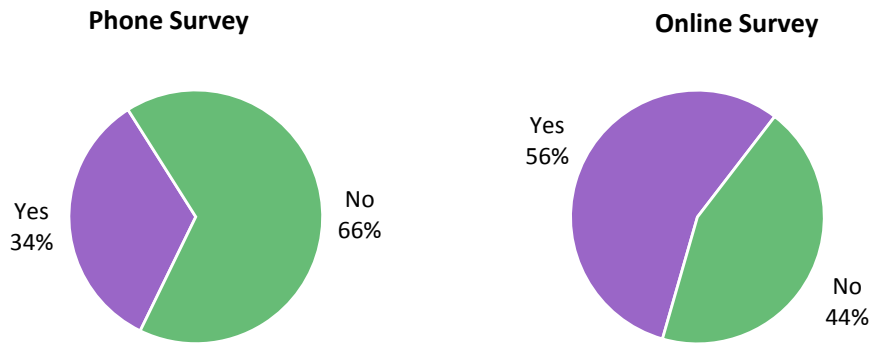


Figure18: Use of Private Indoor Facilities or Those in Located in Other Cities

TABLE 22: REASONS FOR USING PRIVATE FACILITIES AND THOSE IN OTHER CITIES		
	Phone (66) %	Online (149) %
Better facilities (i.e. more options, bigger)	50	60
Variety of programs/ actives available	39	20
Atmosphere (type of clientele, facility amenities, etc.)	25	6
Hours of operation/ schedules	21	16
No facilities available locally	17	8
Convenience to another location	18	5
More affordable	9	7
Quality of instructors/ staff	4	5
No reason	-	13

---

One facility lacking in the community is a gymnasium for indoor sports. The secondary school gym is booked to capacity. The elementary and middle school gyms and the Baptist Church are available only after school hours and at additional costs but cannot fully accommodate all programs.

The District also lacks multi-purpose recreation spaces to accommodate a variety of classes and programs. The Arena Banquet Room is not ideally designed or equipped for recreation programs. The aquatic centre with the fitness room is oriented towards fitness activities without programmable spaces to meet the varied, diverse recreational needs of the community.

Ideally a community centre should be at the core of the community with amenities for everyone and a focus on family-based recreation. The current design approach for community centers is a “one stop” stand-alone destination complex, complete with pool, arena ice, gymnasium and multi-purpose recreation rooms supported by a centralized administration centre for greater efficiency. Some cities even include libraries, museums, art and cultural centres.

The community survey highlighted notable support for improvements to indoor facilities (Table 23) including:

- Expand/ update Aquatic Centre (family changing rooms, stop using chlorine, hours of operation, etc. 18%);
- Expand/ update arena (new rink surface, another rink, concession services, etc. 10%);
- More age specific programs/ activities (9%);
- Gym/ work out facilities (7%), and
- Indoor courts (tennis, basketball, etc. 6%).

### **Summary Discussion on the future of the Community Centre**

The District of Summerland is approaching a critical decision point in the future of the aquatic and fitness centre. The facility has limited service life remaining. Further, the facility is currently not meeting the social and recreational needs of the present community and provisions must also be made for increased future population.

**TABLE 23: INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES/ PROGRAMS THAT ARE LACKING OR IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT**

	<b>Phone (200)</b> %	<b>Online (268)</b> %
Expand/ update Aquatic Centre (family changing rooms, stop using chlorine, hours of operation, etc.)	18	37
Expand/ update arena (new rink surface, another rink, concession services, etc.)	10	11
More age specific programs/ activities	9	14
Gym/ work out facilities	7	15
Courts (tennis, basketball, etc.)	6	10
Arts theatre	4	1
Fitness programs (yoga, gymnastics, etc.)	3	13
More programs/ activities in general	3	-
Indoor walking track	2	3
Bowling alley	1	-
Movie theatre	1	-
Miscellaneous	1	<1
None	58	35

Historically, the residents of Summerland have been very fortunate to have had a pool. Few communities in BC with populations less than 10,000 have indoor pools. The community has enjoyed the benefits of the indoor pool for over 40 years and it has now become engrained as part of the fabric of the community. Replacement in one form or another will need to be a major focus of the community in the very near future.

There was very high public support expressed during engagement for this Master Plan for construction of a new pool/community centre. The aquatic centre is the highest used recreation facility within the district with over 50-80,000 visits per year. It is the principle centre for community health and

---

wellness programs and an important social gathering space for residents. The pool is also the venue for the Recope program, a unique and specialized medical rehabilitative program found only in Summerland and providing over 700 client visits per month. The facility is central to supporting major community events in town such as Action Fest, and could play a stronger role in economic contributions through swim meets. In short, there are substantial health, social and economic benefits of replacing the aquatic centre.

The future facility needs to be developed in conjunction with community user groups. Possible preliminary design details for the new community centre could include:

- Likely up to 75,000 square foot facility
- Minimum 6 lane/ 25 meter main pool
- Family leisure pool features such as lazy river, play elements
- Hot tub, sauna
- Universal/family changerooms
- Spectator viewing
- 3 Multi-purpose recreation rooms
- 2- 3 community meeting rooms
- Child-minding room
- 2,500 square foot weight and cardio room
- 1,500 square foot Dance/ yoga studio

There are two options for meeting the long term indoor recreation facility needs:

1. Replace the pool with modern aquatic facilities and add additional multipurpose rooms, or
2. As above, and add a full sized gymnasium.

**Open House participant comments:**

*“The aquatic centre is dilapidated and in desperate need of replacement. We almost didn't move to Summerland because of the recreation facility being 'dungy'. I would strongly encourage this rec facility be a priority over the others mentioned above. This is a prime access point for residents at all times of the year.”*

*“The pool and attached fitness facility are an important aspect of the community for all ages/residents and should be considered as a first priority for resources.”*

*“Without immediate intervention, Summerland risks losing this well-used and loved, yet old and tired facility.”*

The ideal facility would be a complete community centre - a one stop destination complex that offers something for everyone in the community. Larger complexes have become the standard in communities and have proven to increase overall community activity especially for families that can access multiple programs and facilities in one visit to meet differing needs.

However, the difference between the two options is only partially one of cost – both capital and ongoing operating expenses. The community has a history of working together to provide supplemental recreational facilities, particularly small gyms and multi-use spaces, such as the tennis and badminton clubs, churches and school gyms. Continuing this trend of supporting and encouraging the community to be participants in delivering recreation services has significant benefits; it encourages volunteerism, promotes a diversity of programs and can encourage greater skill development in sports. A great opportunity may exist to partner with the School District on the potential development of a new gym at the secondary school, which could help meet the needs of the community and supplement community facilities.

**Community Centre Location**

A search must begin for a site for a new community centre/pool as it cannot be built on the existing site due to lack of space. Redevelopment within the downtown core would contribute to the areas vibrancy. The downtown area is centralized, close to the middle and secondary schools and related civic facilities such as the library and art centre and reflects the historic patterns of residents. An ideal location, space permitting, would be adjacent to the

---

ice arena. Several benefits of this location include:

- Centralized administration and greater civic presence at the arena;
- Potential for energy efficiency such as heat exchange systems;
- A one stop destination would increase patron use.

Process toward implementing a new community centre:

- Complete a detailed Needs Assessment and develop a program of recreational activities and facility requirements;
- Identify possible location options and identify land acquisition requirements;
- Develop a preliminary design plan with capital and operating cost estimates;
- Develop a financial strategy and prepare for grant opportunities;
- Undertake community information and consultation, and
- Prepare detailed plans and construction contracts.

Developing the appropriate designs, securing the land, ensuring adequate public consultation, establishing the financing and ultimately constructing the facility could easily take 3-5 years or longer.

## **KEY FINDINGS**

- A comparative analysis indicates that Summerland's provision of indoor recreation facilities is on par with similar sized BC communities.
- Summerland directly operates two core recreation amenities and works with community groups to operate more specialized recreation facilities. However, these specialized facilities are not under District control and are in disjunct locations; without strong operational links, community recreation demands are not being fully met.
- Indoor recreation facilities in nearby neighbouring cities help meet community demand.



- Lack of a District-operated gymnasium and multi-purpose rooms are noted as hampering delivery of recreation programs.
- The community survey highlights that a significant number of residents feel that there is a lack of indoor recreational facilities and programs which is resulting in residents using facilities in other communities.
- There is notable public support for improvements to indoor facilities.
- With the exception of the school facilities and the Baptist Church, all indoor recreation facilities are aging and currently operating near full capacity.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6-18 Continue to work closely with and support the non-profit societies operating the indoor facilities to expand programming and help ensure facilities meet community needs.
- 6-19 Continue to liaise cooperatively with the school district during any future facility expansion, especially regarding the opportunity to include expanded community use of the secondary school gym if redeveloped.
- 6-20 Continue to explore opportunities to utilize existing facilities for recreation programs such as the Odd fellows/Rebekah Hall, Summerland Drop-In Recreation Centre Association and the UNISUS International School.
- 6-21 Explore the possibility of converting the arena concourse into a multi-purpose recreation room.
- 6-22 During any future plans to redevelop the aquatic centre, consider adding a gymnasium in order to develop a comprehensive community recreation centre.

# 7 Recreation Programming

This section provides a summary of the recreation programs, festivals and special events available to the residents of Summerland, firstly in a broad overview, followed by a more in-depth assessment by age group and type of programming. Analysis is based upon community input and the District's capacity. Current trends in recreation programming are provided to guide the recommendations and long term planning. Future direction for events and sport tourism is discussed.

## 7.1 EXISTING PROGRAMMING SUMMARY

Recreation programs serving Summerland residents and visitors are currently a blend of municipal and partner delivered options. The District provides approximately 30 different programs annually, primarily focused on sport and fitness programs for children and seniors. The great majority of programs occur within the Aquatic and Fitness Centre and the Arena Complex. A few District-run programs are offered at the Summerland Drop In Recreation Centre and the District will be offering programs in future at Odd Fellows/Rebekah Hall and Summerland Dance Studio.

A substantial number of recreation programs are offered through a mix of private operators and many community organizations such as the Summerland Boys and Girls Club, United and Baptist churches, swim club, curling club, figure skating club, tennis club and badminton club, to name a few. Seniors programs are offered by the Summerland Drop In Recreation Centre.

Large community events such as Action Fest, Christmas Light Up, farmer's markets, rodeo, car shows, dog show, bluegrass festivals and Wednesday music events are hosted by community partners. Smaller family events, such as Halloween Haunt, Santa Skate, Earth Day and school Pro-D days are hosted by

the Recreation Department.

Summerland’s 2016 Cultural Plan provides five strategic directions for the growth and development of highly valued arts and culture programs in the community. Arts and cultural programs are offered by the Summerland Arts Centre, the Summerland Museum and Heritage Society, the library, and community arts and culture organizations. The Centre Stage Theatre, co-operated with the School District, is an important venue for concerts, live theatre, movies and drama classes.

### 7.1.1 AQUATICS

The Aquatic Centre is in many ways the centre of the community. It supports a full range of swim lessons, leisure swimming opportunities, medical rehab program, fitness classes, a very successful advanced swim program plus special community events. Swim lessons complement the lifestyle and ensure the safety of residents living near a lake. The community survey shows high satisfaction with the pool but, at the same time, there is also a strong community desire to see the pool facility upgraded to a modern recreation complex complete with multi-purpose rooms and gymnasium.



### 7.1.2 ARENA AND CURLING CLUB

The arena complex supports a full range of ice-related programs and community events. The public survey shows high levels of satisfaction with the arena, but also a desire for a second sheet of ice and an outdoor skating surface. There may be opportunities to expand dry floor activities in the arena and curling rink. The adjoining banquet room serves as an adjunct multi-purpose recreation room for preschool and fitness programs.

### 7.1.3 OUTDOOR SPORTS AND GENERAL RECREATION PROGRAMMING

While the District provides limited outdoor sport and general recreation programming directly, through partnerships, residents are provided with a broad range of sport activities. However, residents go to other communities for specialized courses (e.g., photography, dance), hobbies, advanced skill development and personal growth/ lifestyle programs. Residents express an interest in expanded recreation programs and an indoor gym for winter programs for tennis, pickleball, volleyball, basketball and indoor walking.

---

#### **7.1.4 CAPACITY FOR PROGRAMMING**

While there is a strong community desire to increase recreation programming, there are a number of barriers to overcome:

- The District has only two main indoor recreation facilities and these are used to near capacity.
- District-owned multipurpose rooms are limited and undersized for many recreation programs.
- There are other venues and clubs (e.g., Lakeshore Racquets Club, Badminton Club, Youth Centre) but these are largely run by volunteers with limited capacity.
- Program development and community engagement are time-intensive processes and staff capacity to drive new initiatives may be limited.
- In a small community, achieving a critical volume of participants to fill programs and finding skilled leaders/instructors is a challenge.

#### **7.1.5 KEY FINDINGS**

- The community engagement process indicates a desire for more aquatic and recreation programs for various age groups, especially families and children, as well as expanded operating hours for fitness classes. This will be a challenge for staff based on current budget allocations, staffing levels, and limited indoor facilities.
- Recreation programming is being delivered by a combination of direct delivery and by non-profit associations and clubs. With limited staff capacity, growth in service will depend on partnerships and community engagement.
- This “Community Development Model”, in which the District does not directly provide all recreation services but rather supports the community to become a partner in meeting community needs, will require the District to adopt more of a facilitator role, working with associations to directly encourage and promote more programming.
- The demand for increased programming in limited facilities operating at capacity particularly in peak times highlights a need for a review of the allocation policies and fees and charges bylaw.

- The need to reach the demographics that are not users of the programs or facilities, as well as optimizing participation of existing patrons, could be addressed through a Marketing Plan and Strategy.

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TELEPHONE SURVEY**

#### *The top five recreational activities for adults are:*

- Walking for exercise 57%
- Theatre/ music/ live performances 32%
- Bicycle (outdoor) 29%
- Swimming/ going to the beach 29%
- Water sports-other (kayaking, canoeing, fishing) 29%

#### *The top five recreational activities for children are:*

- Swimming (indoor) 63%
- Swimming/ going to the beach 56%
- Hockey/ ice skating/ curling 48%
- Water sports – other (kayaking, canoeing, fishing, etc.) 39%
- Walking for exercise 26%

#### *The main barriers to participation are:*

- Lack of Time 46%
- Physical limitations 26%
- Cost 15%
- Lack of facilities/ amenities 12%
- Lack of programs/services 11%

#### *Reasons for using other facilities outside Summerland:*

- Better facilities (i.e. more options, bigger) 50%
- Variety of programs/ activities available 39%
- Atmosphere (type of clientele, facility amenities) 25%
- Hours of operation/ schedules 21%
- No facilities/ services available locally 17%

#### *Suggestions for improved programming include:*

- Age-specific programming 9%
- Fitness programs 9%
- General recreation programs 9%



## 7.2 ANALYSIS AND TRENDS

### 7.2.1 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Summerland Recreation Department directly offers approximately six different programs annually for preschoolers and children, primarily in play and aquatic programs. This is in addition to annual special events. Other organizations such as the Youth Centre and the Baptist Church also provide programs. As a small community with relatively few children, Summerland is challenged to secure sufficient numbers of children in appropriate age groupings.

Children and families are best served by a variety of recreation programs including physical literacy skills, arts expression, science and learning, and play and exploration. Physical literacy is important for children and youth. Opportunities to experience team sport, individual sport and active lifestyle provides confidence to continue activity throughout life increasing health, social connections and quality of life.

*The Society for Children and Youth of BC (SCY) is a unique provincial organization dedicated to improving the well-being of children and youth. Since 1974, the Society has focused on providing a strong voice representing children and youth in British Columbia. They provide support to improve the well-being of children and youth in British Columbia.*  
<http://www.childfriendlycommunities.ca/>

#### Trends include:

- Parent/caregiver and child (or grandparent and child) programs build healthy family bonds.
- Programs combining several activities with active and passive experiences.
- Less structured and unstructured play time are positive for child development.
- Concurrent child and adult programs.
- Summer camps during school holidays.
- Low cost family programs and financial subsidy provide equal access.

## KEY FINDINGS

- Swimming, going to the beach, ice sports and walking /biking/ hiking combined are the most common activities for families with children.
- There are very limited recreation programs in Summerland for children and young families.
- The community engagement process indicated a desire for both more programs and expanded indoor facilities, including the pool and arena.
- The Recreation Department can play a stronger facilitating role for families by supporting community partners in offering a broad range of programs and services.
- Public input reflects a desire for a safe, family-friendly community.



### 7.2.2 YOUTH

Summerland Recreation Department directly offers only very limited programs for teens, particularly swimming, skating and some special events. Summerland Asset Development Initiative Youth Club (SADI) and the Harold Simpson Youth Centre do provide space for youth programming including Boys and Girls Club, Cadets, Scouts and Guides, as well as summer programs. The community reported high levels of satisfaction with these two facilities.

Although pre-teen and early teen programs are attended, particularly aquatic programs, youth attending the middle school workshop indicated a desire for more programs and activities for their age group. Suggestions include:

- Enhance/ upgrade the existing indoor facilities by making them more colorful, bright and fun and add more amenities like a wave pool, lazy river;
- Indoor gymnasium for gymnastics, volleyball and basketball;
- Outdoor skating rink;



- 
- Entertainment facilities like a theme park, movie theatre and arcade;
  - Safe, comfortable outdoor gathering spaces, and
  - Youth highlighted that they do not use the existing skatepark and desire that the plans for the new facility proceed.

Older teens, 14-18 year-olds, have limited traditional recreation options and do not attend the community programs or the youth centre. Providing community services for youth, particularly those over 14 years old, who are not strongly engaged in sport, music, youth groups or employment, is a challenge for all communities. This age group has moved past the pool and arena and now wants less structure and more opportunities to meet and socialize on their own. Common youth meeting places like restaurants, coffee shops, theatres, shopping centres and outdoor social spaces are lacking in Summerland for this group so they look for opportunities to travel outside the community. Many in the youth workshop reported a desire for more youth-related entertainment opportunities such as movie theatre, festivals, carnivals, concerts and movies in the park. Secondary students in this workshop reported a sense of disconnect from the community.

*UNICEF promotes the concept of a child and youth friendly city as means of supporting children's rights as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Cities across the globe have responded by developing child and youth friendly city policies, plans and strategies. For a good example see: [http://www.surrey.ca/files/Child\\_and\\_Youth\\_Friendly\\_City\\_Strategy\\_City\\_of\\_Surrey.pdf](http://www.surrey.ca/files/Child_and_Youth_Friendly_City_Strategy_City_of_Surrey.pdf)*

**Trends include:**

- Youth are not attracted to traditional programs prepackaged for them unless they serve a purpose such as certification or job acquisition, or are skill based around their passion (e.g., competitive sport).
- Youth value a strong social environment offering a variety of opportunities where they can express themselves.
- Youth like to be involved in decisions that affect them and to have a voice in the process.

- Youth are interested in local and global issues and are capable of making a remarkable difference when given the opportunity and supported.
- A Youth Friendly Community provides supportive places for youth to express themselves, to be active in community life, be involved in determining their opportunities and to celebrate youth accomplishments.

## **KEY FINDINGS**

- Young teens use recreational facilities to a limited extent.
- Older teens rarely use the District's recreation facilities or programs.
- Youth recreation opportunities are minimal and youth expressed a desire for more options of things to do during the year.
- They all desire expanded activities and opportunities for socializing.
- Both age categories together seek more festivals, events, and concerts.

### **7.2.3 ADULTS**

The Recreation Department directly offers a very limited range of adult programs, largely geared toward health and fitness programs, as well as weight room service. More specialized recreational activities are met through participation in community associations such as pickleball, tennis, badminton, golf, ice sports and field sports. The community survey reflected a desire for more facilities and programs. A notable number of adults are travelling outside the community for recreational opportunities. In addition, Summerland residents reported high participation rates in Arts and Culture programs.

#### **Trends include:**

- Adults with busy schedules, work and family commitments are a difficult market to serve.
- Successful activities are flexible, often a shorter term commitment or a short-term trial program followed by a longer session for those who are committed.

- 
- Flexibility is essential yet a strong commitment is often made to team activities, indicating the strength and importance of social connection.
  - Drop-in activities and broad facility hours support shift workers and busy, changing schedules.
  - Good leadership that is expert in the activity yet understands the importance of social belonging as well as skill acquisitions is essential.
  - High quality facilities (including trails) are expected.
  - There is an appetite for more sport opportunities.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Walking, going to the theatre, biking, going to the beach and watersports are the most common recreational activities for adults.
- Lack of time and physical limitations are the prime reasons for not participating in recreation, followed by lack of facilities.
- Residents are going outside the community for recreational activities.
- There is a strong desire for improved indoor facilities and increased programs.

#### **7.2.4 SENIORS**

With 31% of the population over age 65 and forecasted to increase, this is an important segment of Summerland's population. The Summerland Drop In Recreation Centre provides most of the programming for its members. The District provides fitness classes at the centre, as well as aquatic classes in the pool.

#### **Trends include:**

- More active and more physically able than past generations.
- Interested in outdoor activity and protecting natural areas.
- Seeking learning experiences, often in interests they may have put off while raising their families.

- Interested in programs serving social consciousness, professionally led learning programs, shorter programs and workshops, and exploring home based businesses.
- They are often self-directed, wanting “high quality” experiences and wanting to contribute, influence and be heard. They are skilled and able and not looking for segregated programs.
- Health and wellness is very important and allows them to participate in a dynamic and full life.
- Programs supporting this demographic will include social programs, outreach, rehabilitation and keeping well, trips and outings, dining together, special services.
- Seniors are interested in health and maintaining independence.

## KEY FINDINGS

- Seniors aquatic and rehab programs are very well attended.
- There is an opportunity for more partnership activities with the Summerland Drop In Recreation Centre.

*There are many resources to assist in planning for seniors:*

*The Age-friendly Communities grant program is intended to assist local governments in BC to best support aging populations, develop and implement policies and plans, and/or develop projects that enable seniors to age in place and facilitate the creation of age-friendly communities. <http://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps.html>*

*COSCO-Council of Senior Citizens Organizations <http://www.coscobic.org/>*

*World Health Organization (WHO) checklist of essential features of age friendly cities.[http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Age\\_friendly\\_cities\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Age_friendly_cities_checklist.pdf)*

---

## **7.3 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMING**

The pocket desert ecosystem around Summerland is unique in Canada and offers an amazing learning ground for public awareness about ecological issues, the results of human impact and what citizens can do to positively influence the environment. The diversity of unique species is astounding as is the number of Species at Risk in this fragile environment (see Appendix F). Preserving this biodiversity is of regional importance that begins with awareness and education. Parks and trails, the lake and watershed and the surrounding desert are important environmental features and amenities to residents and visitors.

Current municipal-wide environmental events focus on composting, recycling, sustainable water and energy conservation and an Earth Day event. Although the District of Summerland does not offer ecotourism or nature interpretation and appreciation programs, many local and regionally located agencies do. There are notable naturalist-oriented clubs and educators and outdoor learning landscapes in close proximity.

Growing research suggests that recreation in and contact with nature is important for mental wellness and contentment, improved sleep, increased engagement and revitalization.

## **7.4 TOURISM**

Tourism is an important economic activity in Summerland and offers great potential to contribute further to the community. Tourism can contribute significantly to the local economy and support development of facilities, programs and events. In turn, these can attract corporate sponsorship, donations and volunteer efforts. Summerland's idyllic setting with its climate, the lake, great natural areas, and agricultural, historic and cultural features makes it an ideal location for summer family vacations. While these visitors do not make extensive use of Summerland's recreational amenities, according to the Chamber of Commerce, such amenities factor significantly in a family's decision to relocate to the community.

The area is certainly growing in its appeal for sport tourism and already supports marquee sport tourism events such as:

- GranFondo
- Ultraman Canada Competition
- Giant's Head Grind
- Ride the Grind Longboard competition
- Test of Humanity bike race
- Orca Club Sprint Triathlon
- Action Festival with Giant's Head run and Man of Steel Triathlon
- Festivals such as Light Up, Action Fest and arts and cultural events also draw visitors to the community.

**Trends include:**

- Combining family holidays and sports camps is a growing trend- the arena, lake, sport fields
- Mountain biking and hiking are growing in demand.
- Activity/sport festivals such as paddle fest, bike fest and Wanderlust yoga festivals have been very successful elsewhere and have potential in Summerland to serve the residents and visitors.
- Sports tournaments particularly pickleball, soccer, curling, hockey, slo-pitch and softball are still in demand.
- Education, tours and awareness about the unique and sensitive environment and the impact of leisure and lifestyle choices are appealing to visitors.

---

### **Trending recreation events that could stimulate tourism**

- Advanced sport development
- Yoga /Wellness Retreats
- Wellness and Leadership Retreats ( i.e. “Hollyhock, South Okanagan Style”)
- Sport events with activity, humour and discovery (example: Medoc Marathon in France)
- Geocaching
- Paddlefest
- Kids fishing derby
- Cultural Celebrations (i.e. Bollywood or Bhangra Festival)
- Series of Culture Days celebrating the diversity in the Summerland area
- Adventure race focusing on “Desert Survival” (i.e. Tough Mudder of the Desert)
- “Mothership Holidays” including live on board boat with multiple activities (i.e. like water sport, photography, cultural experience, nature field trip)
- Lego Festival



### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Tourism helps build amenities and supports events for the community.
- There is a history of strong support from service groups for festivals and events.
- With improved or additional facilities there is an opportunity to expand sports tourism.
- Some residents and the Chamber express concern about a decrease in the number of festivals and events over time.
- Some event organizers express concern about the decrease in volunteers.



- With limited capacity, the role of the Recreation Department in tourism-related activities needs to be defined.
- The Chamber of Commerce and some residents feel that a lack of campgrounds and the quality of Peach Orchard Campground and the lack of moderately priced accommodations negatively affect tourism.

## 7.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

### SYSTEM WIDE

- 7-1 Continue to undertake ongoing evaluations of the District's program requirements, assess priorities and abilities to provide services and determine who in the community is best suited to provide that service.
- 7-2 Adopt a facilitator role in working with clubs/associations and other partners to help meet the recreational needs of the residents.
- 7-3 Explore opportunities for programming with new partners such as Okanagan College, the agriculture research station, Summerland Ornamental Gardens, Summerland Trout Hatchery.
- 7-4 Host an annual recreation-focused Community Fair in conjunction with all sports clubs, to help raise awareness of the programs available.
- 7-5 Encourage clubs and associations to offer introductory "How To" lessons to encourage new membership.
- 7-6 Experiment with "Try it for free" or "Bring a Friend" initiatives to increase participation levels for various demographics.
- 7-7 Launch a Marketing and Promotion campaign to raise awareness of the health and wellness benefits of leisure activities and awareness of the local clubs, facilities and organizations.
- 7-8 Annually survey a selection of residents to track interest in new programs.
- 7-9 Work with the community to establish outdoor adventure programs: hiking, paddleboard, kayaking, rock climbing, equestrian, and nature appreciation.

---

7-10 Review and update the Joint Use Agreement with the School District to improve opportunities for programming the gymnasiums.

7-11 Collaborate with the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, Penticton Indian Band, Interior Health and neighbouring communities to identify service gaps, overlaps and opportunities to expand recreation services on a regional scale.

### **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

7-12 Increase family programming and provide more flexibility in programs, especially unstructured/ drop-in programs.

7-13 Identify opportunities for concurrent programs for parents and children of different ages.

7-14 Explore the potential for a child-minding facility near the aquatic centre.

7-15 Explore with residents where more free/low cost programs are most needed.

7-16 Review the ice allocation policy to expand family skating.

### **YOUTH**

7-17 Undertake a youth visioning process including a broad range of youth and youth serving agencies (police, school, coaches, boys and girls clubs, health authority) to develop a Youth Engagement Strategy and clearly define the role of the District in the delivery of youth services.

7-18 Revise the Terms of Reference for the Parks and Recreation Commission to include one youth representative.

7-19 Encourage all clubs and associations to host more introductory programs for youth such as pickleball.

7-20 Assess the potential of social marketing to communicate with youth.

### **ADULTS**

7-21 Experiment with more flexible program times and drop-in programs to overcome lack of time as a barrier to participation.

## SENIORS

- 7-22 Work with the Summerland Drop In Recreation Centre and related agencies to determine gaps in program services and the best means to deliver programs, particularly for fitness, wellness, health, independence.
- 7-23 Based on the above, expand programming for seniors.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMING

- 7-24 Work in conjunction with local natural history clubs to offer environmental awareness programs and host events that raise environmental awareness.
- 7-25 Promote environmental awareness through District programs and events.
- 7-26 Add interpretive signage in parks and trails.

## TOURISM AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- 7-27 Given staff's limited capacity, the Recreation Department should continue to focus on core community programs, services and special family events within their mandate.
- 7-28 Continue to work with the Chamber to identify opportunities for tourism/ special events as part of Economic Development Initiatives.
- 7-29 Work with Destination BC to help market parks and recreation programs to the seasonal tourist.
- 7-30 Initiate an Events Policy to guide the coordination, planning, and administration of events including, fees, venues, approval process, contacts, volunteers, acceptable and unacceptable events.
- 7-31 As part of the Events Policy, explore potential for corporate donations, sponsorships and naming rights of facilities, programs and events that support tourism.



# 8 Service Delivery

## 8.1 FINANCIAL REVIEW

### 8.1.1 ANNUAL BUDGET

The District of Summerland spent \$ 2,352,790 on parks and recreation in 2017, which is 17% of total District operating expenditures in that year. After deducting Recreation Department revenues from programs, fees, rentals, and other sources including the Peach Orchard Campground, the net cost for parks and recreation was \$1.54 million, or 11% of total District operating expenditures, in 2017. This equates to \$312.86 per household or \$132.93 per person in 2017.

Table 24 shows District of Summerland actual Parks and Recreation expenditures and revenues in 2016 and 2017 and budgeted expenditure and revenues for 2018.

### 8.1.2 RECOVERY RATE

The recovery rate is both a broad measure of the philosophy of an organization in relation to its fee policy, and a measure of the efficiency of its operations. Recovery rate is calculated by dividing a Department's total revenue generated by its the total annual operating cost.

Table 24 shows the recovery rate for Summerland's expenditure on parks and recreation, which was 38% in 2016 and 34% in 2017. This is in the middle to high end of the range of rates seen by the consultant team, which average between 23 – 40% for smaller communities. For Summerland, this indicates a comparable level of public subsidy for parks and recreation services to other municipalities.

**TABLE 24: EXPENDITURES ON PARKS AND RECREATION**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017 (actual)</b>	<b>2018 (budget)</b>
Parks and Recreation Expenditures	\$2,150,128	\$2,352,790	\$2,371,838
Recreation Department Revenues	\$812,110	\$808,845	\$804,300
Net cost	\$1,338,018	\$1,543,945	\$1,567,538
Cost per person	\$115.20	\$132.93	\$134.96
Cost per household	\$271.13	\$312.86	\$317.64
Recovery rate	38%	34%	34%

### 8.1.3 FEES AND CHARGES BYLAW 98-001

Municipalities set fees and charges for the services they provide to the community. Rates are partially determined by actual operating costs, including overhead, administration, facility operation and depreciation. However, the fees and charges are also an expression of the community's philosophy towards the value of recreation services, recognizing that some users, such as children, should receive a higher subsidy in order to ensure that cost is not a limitation to participation in important programs and facilities.

Periodically municipalities review their fees and charges. It is a very complex exercise to determine the operating costs, set levels of subsidy and balance between taxes and user fees. A benchmarking exercise to determine comparable fees and charges in other communities is a common method used by municipalities to guide the process. A regional market comparison of three admission and rental rates was conducted to aid a basic analysis (see Tables 25, 26 and 27).

The community's willingness to pay and the method of payment, either through direct taxation or user-pay are also important considerations. The community survey indicated that cost was the third highest barrier (15% of respondents) to participation in recreation, after lack of time and physical limitations. Survey respondents also indicated a preference to pay for new or expanded services through a combination of increase in taxes and user fees as opposed to a single increase in either taxes or fees.

**TABLE 25: COMPARISON OF RECREATIONAL SWIM ADMISSION RATES (\$/PERSON)**

CATEGORY	SUMMERLAND	MERRITT	PENTICTON	VERNON	W. KELOWNA	KELOWNA	AVERAGE
pre-school	1.00	n/a	1.25	1.95	n/a	1.60	1.60
child	2.50	2.40	4.25	3.90	2.75	2.90	3.25
teen	3.25	3.00	5.25	4.50	3.65	4.50	4.18
adult	4.50	4.00	6.25	6.00	4.65	5.25	5.23
senior	3.75	3.00	5.25	4.15	3.70	3.75	3.97
family	9.50	n/a	16	12.35	10.30	11.40	12.51

**TABLE 26: COMPARISON OF RECREATIONAL SKATING ADMISSION RATES (\$/PERSON)**

CATEGORY	pre-school	child	teen	adult	senior	family
Summerland	-	2.50	3.25	4.50	3.75	9.50
Merritt	0.00	2.40	3.00	4.00	3.00	n/a
Penticton	1.50	2.50	3.50	4.50	3.50	11.00
Vernon	n/a	1.65	4.30	5.70	4.05	13.65
W. Kelowna	n/a	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	10.00
Kelowna	2.75	3.75	4.50	4.50	3.75	11.00
Oliver	0.00	2.35	2.35	3.10	2.60	10.30
Osoyoos	3.10	3.10	3.10	4.10	3.10	8.20
Average	1.84	2.75	3.46	4.20	3.36	10.69

<b>TABLE 27: COMPARISON OF ARENA RENTAL RATES (\$/HOUR)</b>			
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>YOUTH</b>	<b>ADULT</b>	<b>COMMERCIAL</b>
Summerland	74	148	148
Merritt	75	105	n/a
Penticton	82.31	155.5	188.25
Vernon	120.54	185.45	n/a
W. Kelowna	83.87	167.75	193.54
Kelowna	85.97	171.95	171.95
Oliver	48.08	95.35	114.28
Osoyoos	51	95.5	77.5
Average	78.11	139.5	149.104

#### **8.1.4 KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Net expenditures on Parks and Recreation was 11% of total District operating expenditures in 2017.
- In 2017, the net cost of Parks and Recreation was \$312.86 per household or \$132.93 per person.
- Summerland’s recovery rate for spending on Parks, Recreation and Community Services was 34% in 2017. This is comparable to other smaller municipalities.
- Recreation programs and services are limited and not meeting community expectations, particularly teens, seniors and young families, due to existing staffing levels.
- Overall Summerland’s admission fees and arena rental rates are lower than the regional average:
  - Pool admission rates are 25-35 percent lower;
  - Arena admission rates are on par, and
  - Arena rental rates are nearly 20-30 percent lower than comparable communities.



- 
- The subsidy levels for various age categories are consistent with the comparable communities and current recreation trends.
  - Cost of programs and services is an important consideration for residents.
  - There appears to be public support for a combination of an increase in user fees and taxes for increased services.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8-1 Conduct a regional review of recreation fees and charges.
- 8-2 Explore with residents where more free/low cost programs are most needed.
- 8-3 Explore more opportunities to increase revenues to offset the cost of recreation programs and services.
- 8-4 Develop policy around commercial use in parks as potential source of revenue.
- 8-5 Conduct an organizational review of the Recreation department to analyze current staff levels and determine appropriate resources to meet required program and service delivery demands.
- 8-6 Develop a Departmental Operational Plan for the Recreation department to outline the roles and responsibilities, define the Mission statement, purpose, core programs and services, expected outcomes, and community benefits.

## **8.2 REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **8.2.1 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BYLAW 2000-057**

A Parks and Recreation Commission is a vital link between the District and its community. The Commission plays a key role in representing the voice of the community which is vital in successfully achieving the District's goals and objectives for parks and recreation services.

The Parks and Recreation Commission bylaw clearly outlines the make-up, duties, responsibilities and procedures of the Commission. The bylaw also provides a valuable definition of the Philosophy, Purpose and Goals of the

Commission, which would be meaningful for the Recreation Department itself to adopt.

## **KEY FINDINGS**

- The designation of Commission is usually reserved for governing bodies with greater autonomy and authority than expressed in the current bylaw. Since the Commission has no direct budgeting authority, a review of the title and terms of reference is warranted to bring it in alignment with other committees of Council.
- Section 5 defines the make-up of the Commission. It is to consist of 6 members at large representing interests in sports, culture and matters of social interest. Acknowledging the unique and special needs of seniors and youth would broaden the perspective.
- Section 8 defines the Philosophy, Purpose and Goals of the Commission. Those responsibilities have not been fully exercised in the past. The mandate includes the need to be continuously engaged in an ongoing role to assist with implementation of the plan, to monitor ongoing performance, to assist in setting annual priorities and formally reporting progress to Council.
- Section 7(a) states that the Commission should hold regular meetings at least two times per year. Meetings have not historically been held regularly. There is much work to be done by the Commission in order assist with the implementation of this Master Plan.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8-7 Change the name and terms of reference from Parks and Recreation Commission to Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.
- 8-8 Revise Section 5 of the bylaw by expanding membership to include a youth representative from Summerland Secondary School and a senior's representative from the Summerland Drop In Recreation Centre.
- 8-9 Fully engage the Commission in a more proactive and regular manner to assist with implementation of the Master Plan, to monitor ongoing performance, to assist in annually setting priorities and reporting progress to Council.
- 8-10 Revise section 7(a) to read: "The Commission shall hold regular quarterly meetings with additional meetings as required."

---

## **8.2.2 PARKS REGULATION BYLAW 95-013**

This bylaw regulates the use of all public parks, beaches and municipal property.

### **KEY FINDINGS**

The bylaw is generally satisfactory to protect municipal property and the public, except in the following areas:

- The authority for administering the bylaw is inconsistent as it varies from Public Works Superintendent (3k), Public Works Department (3m) and Director of Parks and Recreation (3p).
- The bylaw would apply to the Peach Orchard Campground and the Rodeo Grounds as these are not specially excluded. This creates a potential inconsistency as the bylaw states parks are closed from 11:00 PM to 6:00 AM.
- Bikes are not permitted to be ridden in any park (3l).
- Dogs are not permitted in any park, even if on leash, except the off-leash park and seasonally in Peach Orchard Park. Regulations for off-leash sites are covered under Bylaw 2017-024, Part 7.
- Skateboarding is permitted in all parks and public places, with the exception of skateboarding in Giants Head Park by permission (3p). Frequently, municipal jurisdictions limit skateboarding to designated areas to ensure public safety.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8-11 Amend the Parks Regulation Bylaw authority to be the Chief Administrative Officer or designate.
- 8-12 Amend the Parks Regulation Bylaw to exclude the Peach Orchard Campground and the Rodeo Grounds.
- 8-13 Amend section (3l) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw by deleting reference to bicyclists therefore permitting cycling in all parks unless specifically identified as not permitted.
- 8-14 Amend section (3d) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw to permit horseback riding in Conkle Mountain Park.

- 8-15 Amend section (3d) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw for any change in the location of off-leash parks.
- 8-16 Amend section (3p) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw to permit skateboarding in designated areas only, or those areas where permission to skateboard has been granted.

### **8.2.3 JOINT USE AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT 67**

A joint use agreement is a mutually beneficial agreement between a municipality and the local school district, to ensure the shared, equitable use of both municipal and school facilities. Such agreements help to maximize facility usage, maximize public benefits and help ensure continued collaboration between jurisdictions. Agreements focus on topics such as: scheduling use of facilities, cost sharing, fee schedule, maintenance standards and booking responsibility. The Parks and Recreation Commission is well-established to assist in the administration of the agreement.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- There is a history of a good working relationship between the District staff and School District 67.
- There is a 1983 joint use agreement for operation of the pool and a 1987 agreement (bylaw 2128) for the community theatre, both on School District property.
- There is no valid, current and reciprocal joint use agreement with the School District.
- Survey respondents expressed a desire to gain better access to School District facilities.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 8-17 Develop a joint use agreement with School District 67 for shared use of District and school facilities.

# 9 Implementation Plan

This section provides a suggested implementation plan consisting of the recommendations made throughout the Master Plan, with suggested timelines for implementation and estimated capital and ongoing operational and maintenance funding requirements where significant. Recommendations that are relatively high priorities are noted; the assessment of priority is based on parks and recreation requirements as well as feedback from the community, staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission and District Council.

This Master Plan is intended to provide guidance for District Council and staff over the next 10 years. Actual implementation of the master plan's recommendations will be determined by District Council and staff as appropriate and will take into account resource availability and requirements, as well as other District priorities.

This implementation plan does not represent a commitment to spend. Spending decisions are ultimately made through the annual budget process and approved by District of Summerland Council. While this implementation plan provides a guide, the District should remain flexible to meet changing community needs as well as the opportunities and financial capabilities of the District over time.

## 9.1 FUNDING STRATEGIES

The capital and operating investment recommended in this Master Plan presents a challenge for municipal financing, and will require a range of different strategies. The District of Summerland, like other municipalities in BC, will have to use a combination of conventional and non-conventional

methods to address its parks and recreation renewal challenges and to meet the needs of its population.

Many strategies will be dependent on partnerships and coordination between different levels of government, as well as with community organizations. Staff require dedicated time to build partnerships, develop resources, establish volunteer committees, and to build new required skills. Many of the funding avenues described here will require ongoing attention to establishing and maintain productive partnerships.

### **9.1.1 ONGOING INVESTMENT GOALS**

Most municipalities fail to adequately provide for asset renewal, and the result of this shortfall is a progressive infrastructure deficit. Ideally, a municipality should invest enough annually in its facility and infrastructure assets to sustain them over the long term.

As a rough rule of thumb, for example, this would mean committing about 2% of replacement value of buildings each year, given that the expected life cycle of buildings is approximately 50 years. Actual spending might be incremental, in the form of ongoing upgrades and major maintenance projects, or it might be all at once, in the form of end-of-life-cycle replacement.

Asset life cycles vary in length. Assets such as rinks and pools, where moisture and chemicals inherent in their operation accelerate structural and mechanical wear and tear, may have only a 35 year functional lifespan. The calculation of required life cycle investment can be fine-tuned on this basis. New facility development should always include consideration of ongoing operating costs with those of the initial capital outlay. When designing the facility, adding energy efficiencies, multifunctional features, and considering future expansion or retrofit options can achieve efficiencies that repay the original cost several times over the life of the facility. Pools and rinks in particular have high potential to deliver energy exchanges to heat/cool other components in a facility.

In relationship to parkland and park amenities achieved through local development the District should always be careful to only accept land which is desirable for park purposes and amenities built to a high standard to avoid an ongoing burden of maintenance responsibility with little benefit to the community.

---

### **9.1.2 CORE FUNDING**

Conventionally, the funds to create, sustain and renew park and recreation assets are drawn from the local property tax base, either within annual budgets or, for large ticket items, through capital plans. This core funding may be supplemented by user fees. While user fees are rarely enough to offset capital costs, they can cover a proportion of operating expenses; Summerland's cost recovery rate is about 34%, which is in the middle of the range for BC municipalities. The budget for parks and recreation in Summerland in 2018 is \$2.37 million, which is 6.6% of total District budgeted expenditures in 2018. These expenditures are offset by revenue of \$804,000, resulting in net expenditures of \$1.57 million.

Some external funding can be realized through such sources as senior government infrastructure renewal and economic stimulus programs. Plans should be developed in advance so that they are on hand when such funding opportunities arise.

Summerland's Development Cost Charges (DCC) Bylaw (2000-194) includes development charges for Park Land Acquisition and for Park Improvement. Summerland has a Parks Dedication Reserve with \$824,833 in 2017 as well as a Recreation, Parks and Trails Enhancement Reserve Account, with \$167,021 in 2017. In the 2018 budget, 118,178 from the Recreation, Parks and Trails Enhancement Reserve Account is allocated for Parks capital projects and another \$41,300 for operating, resulting in a balance of \$7,543 in this account in 2018.

### **9.1.3 GRANTS**

The District should continue to monitor for grant opportunities to assist with the development of parks, trails and recreation facilities and amenities. Additionally, maintaining contact with local MLAs and MPs helps raise awareness and communicate the needs in the community. Health authorities are becoming increasingly instrumental in acquiring new grants for parks and recreation as stronger correlations are being made between active and healthy living.

District staff should have sufficient time and resources to monitor grant opportunities and develop applications. One valuable source of grants information is the CivicInfo BC website (<https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/grants>). In addition to seeking grant funding on its own, the District should consider partnership grant applications with another government agency or a non-profit group as well as supporting and encouraging community members/groups, which may be eligible for grants not available to municipal governments.



## 9.2 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

It is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission, in collaboration with the Recreation Manager, annually review progress in implementing the recommendations of this Master Plan.

The annual progress review should also include review of the recommendations that have not yet been implemented, to evaluate whether they continue to capture the needs and aspirations of the community and, where they do not, revise them accordingly.

## 9.3 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TABLE

The table on the following pages contains all of the recommendations in this Master Plan, with recommended timelines for their implementation and estimated associated cost. Cost estimates are class D cost estimates done without the benefit of detailed designs and are provided for long range budget purposes. Actual costs will vary depending on the design/scope of work and what is contracted out vs. done in house. Additionally, costs may increase over time, so that costs several years in the future may be significantly higher.

Some of the recommendations in the table have been identified as high priorities. This determination was made based on input and feedback from the community and District staff as well as the consultants' assessment. Recommendations are determined to be high priorities if:

- They have been identified as high priorities by the community and/or District staff;
- There are significant implications for the quality or longevity of District assets, including parks, trails and built infrastructure = essential to protect civic infrastructure;
- They reduce maintenance costs;
- They protect public health or safety;
- They leverage potential grants or partnerships; and/or
- There is a potential to increase revenues.

**TABLE 28: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	HIGH PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST
<b><i>Climate Change</i></b>				
3-1	Explore opportunities for using the District’s green revolving fund to finance further investments in energy efficiency and GHG emission reductions in District recreation facilities and parks.		Life of PRMP	Staff time
3-2	Ensure that remediated or new lakeshore parks and trail areas take into account projected future flooding under climate change and reflect best practices for construction in riparian areas as well as protection and enhancement of riparian ecosystems.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
3-3	Ensure that parks and recreation infrastructure is incorporated into asset management, including recognition of its environmental and social benefits.		1-3 years	Staff time
3-4	Continue to improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, including creation of additional multi-use trails that are connected to existing trail networks.		Life of PRMP	Allocate a portion of the annual budget
3-5	Consider placing combined recycling/waste bins in parks, at trailheads, and outside of the arena and aquatic centre.		1-3 years	\$1,500 per waste bin + cost of collection services
3-6	Ensure any new District buildings are at least 25% more energy efficient than what would be required under the BC Building Code.		Life of PRMP	Design/ building dependent
3-7	Consider planting more trees along streets and parking lots and in parks, in the context of an Urban Forest Strategy.		Life of PRMP	Allocate a portion of the annual budget
3-8	Explore the potential to claim Avoided Forest Conversion credits for forested land that was dedicated as new park land after September, 2007.		3-7 years	Staff time

**TABLE 28: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	HIGH PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST
<b>Park System</b>				
4-1	Adopt the recommended parks classification scheme.			Staff time
4-2	Adopt recommended park supply standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.5 ha/1,000 residents for neighbourhood parks, and</li> <li>• 2.2 ha/1,000 residents for community and city parks</li> </ul>		1-3 years	Staff time
4-3	Ensure that new developments include adequate parks and open space to meet the needs of new residents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All residents within a 5-10 minute walk of a park, and</li> <li>• At least 2.7 hectares of developed parkland for every 1,000 new residents</li> </ul>		1-3 years	Staff time
4-4	Develop a Parkland Acquisition and Improvement Program that targets the recommended park supply standards and identifies priorities and requirements for Parkland Acquisition and Improvements. Update the DCC Bylaw to reflect the Parkland Acquisition and Improvement Program.		3-7 years	Staff time
4-5	Acquire and develop neighbourhood parks, particularly in norther Trout Creek, Happy Valley and the Sinclair- Barclay neighbourhood west of Downtown.		7+ years	Dependent on land value
4-6	Develop a parks natural features/areas management strategy.	x	1-3 years	Staff time or \$40,000 for external consultant
4-7	Prepare a comprehensive inventory of District parkland including parcel sizes, designation in OCP, zoning, whether dedicated or not, history and intended uses. Ensure that both existing and new parks are properly dedicated and documented as they are added to the inventory.		1-3 years	Staff time

**TABLE 28: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	HIGH PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST
<b>Summerland's Parks</b>				
4-8	Use flood remediation in lakeshore parks as opportunity to improve amenities and accessibility as well as resilience to future flood events.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
4-9	Upgrade washrooms in Gordon Beggs Rotary Beach Park and Peach Orchard Campground.	x	1-3 years	Design dependent New: \$50-250,000
4-10	Explore the cost & feasibility of upgrading and winterizing washrooms at Peach Orchard Beach Park and Memorial Park.	x	1-3 years	Design dependent New: \$50-250,000
4-11	Undertake park master plan/visioning for Memorial Park.		1-3 years	\$50,000
4-12	Repair roof and enclose stage of bandshell in Memorial Park.	x	1-3 years	\$250,000
4-13	Add more play equipment such as a slide and sun shelter (pergola) to the picnic area along the walkway in Gordon Beggs Rotary Beach Park.		3-7 years	\$50,000
4-14	Investigate the feasibility of making Dog Beach accessible to people with mobility challenges.	x	1-3 years	Feasibility and design dependent
4-15	Explore opportunities to expand boat launch parking lot adjacent to Peach Orchard Beach Park.		3-7 years	Staff time
4-16	Explore a long distance designated swim lane from Peach Orchard Park to Rotary Beach.		1-3 years	\$5,000 for buoys & signage + annual maintenance
4-17	Undertake conceptual planning for Peach Orchard Beach Park.		3-7 years	\$50,000
4-18	Undertake improvements to Powell Beach Park.		1-3 years	\$100,000
4-19	Pave Dale Meadows Park parking lot using a permeable surface or other eco-friendly solution.		3-7 years	\$250,000
4-20	Consider building a change room/clubhouse facility at Dale Meadows in partnership with sports clubs.		7+ years	\$300,000
4-21	To improve turf management on sports fields, purchase a reel mower once the parking lot at Dale Meadows Park has been resurfaced.		3-7 years	\$20-40,000
4-22	Resurface perimeter track at Dale Meadows Park.		1-3 years	\$50,000

<b>TABLE 28: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE</b>				
No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	HIGH PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST
<b><i>Summerland's Parks</i></b>				
4-23	Improve communication and coordination with user groups, including hosting an annual meeting each spring with District staff and sports field user group representatives.		Life of PRMP	Staff time
4-24	Explore whether Deer Ridge Park can or should be transformed into a neighbourhood park.		TBD	Staff time
4-25	Explore whether Dunham Park can or should be transformed into a neighbourhood park.		TBD	Staff time
4-26	Undertake master planning for Conkle Mountain Park.		3-7 years	\$50,000
4-27	Prohibit recreation access to Woodbridge Nature Preserve, except at the property perimeter.		1-3 years	Staff time
4-28	Explore possibilities for community off-season use of Peach Orchard Campground.		3-7 years	Staff time
4-29	Undertake a park master plan for the Rodeo Grounds, exploring community needs and possible uses for the site, servicing requirements and costs, and possible operating arrangements.		3-7 years	\$50,000
4-30	Implement the recommendations of the Downtown Strategic Plan to create a central gathering place in the Downtown core and enhance public open space.	x	3-7 years	\$50,000 planning plus capital costs
4-31	Explore other opportunities for permanent or temporary public plazas/gathering spaces in the downtown area, in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce, School District, and churches.		3-7 years	Staff time
4-32	Enhance the public gathering space in Memorial Park.		3-7 years	Design dependent
4-33	When building new buildings/washrooms/facilities or undertaking major renovations, consider opportunities to increase energy efficiency, install solar panels, and rainwater collection.		Life of PRMP	Staff time / opportunity dependent
4-34	Assess the accessibility of all District of Summerland-owned outdoor public washrooms.		1-3 years	\$30,000

**TABLE 28: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	HIGH PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST
<b>Playgrounds</b>				
4-35	Replace the playgrounds in Memorial Park, Peach Orchard Beach Park and Peach Orchard Campground as planned.	x	1-3 years	\$60,000 each for Memorial and Peach Orchard Beach; \$30,000 for Peach Orchard Campground
4-36	Replace playgrounds in other parks as needed.		Life of PRMP	\$50-100,000 each
4-37	Create new playgrounds, including natural playgrounds, in areas that are not currently within 10-minutes of walk of a playground (western and southern parts of Lower Town, the western part of Trout Creek and Happy Valley).		7+ years	Staff time (planning) and \$50,000-100,000 each
<b>Outdoor Sports Amenities</b>				
4-38	Additional sports fields are not needed currently, but the District should monitor over time to determine whether community needs are continuing to be met with existing fields.		Life of PRMP	Staff time
4-39	Assess the Powell Beach tennis courts and undertake any needed repairs.	x	1-3 years	Staff time; Renovation cost \$50-80,000
4-40	Work with the School District to rehabilitate the tennis courts at Summerland Secondary School.		3-7 years	Staff time; total court rehabilitation costs \$50-80,000 per
4-41	Convert the 2 dedicated pickleball courts at Peach Orchard Campground to 4 courts.	x	1-3 years	\$15,000
4-42	Once the tennis courts at the Summerland Secondary School have been rehabilitated, convert the shared tennis-pickleball court at Peach Orchard Campground to dedicated pickleball courts.		3-7 years	\$20,000
4-43	Explore possibilities for a long-term dedicated site for outdoor pickleball that would permit expansion over time as the number of pickleball players grows..		3-7 years	Staff time

<b>TABLE 28: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE</b>				
No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	HIGH PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST
<b><i>Places for Dogs</i></b>				
4-44	Identify and explore options for one or more full-time, year-round off-leash dog parks.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
4-45	Apply planning principles to identifying and planning spaces for dogs.		Life of PRMP	Staff time
4-46	Explore options for allowing dogs off-leash in designated areas of parks during certain times of day or months of the year. Possibilities might include Peach Orchard Campground, the Rodeo Grounds and Powell Beach Park.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
4-47	Explore the feasibility of making Dog Beach accessible to people with mobility challenges. If the required construction is permissible in the riparian zone and the cost is reasonable for the District to incur, the project should be included in the capital budget for the next 1-3 years.	x	1-3 years	Staff time; \$30,000 (design dependent)
4-48	Provide garbage cans, dog waste bags and signage in parks and at trailheads where dogs are permitted.		3-7 years	\$2,000 per waste receptacle
4-49	Revise the Dog Regulation And Impounding Bylaw (96-002) to permit dogs on leash in all parks except on sports fields, playgrounds, spray parks, skate parks, and beaches or at events unless specifically permitted by the event organizer.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
<b><i>Beaches and Water Access</i></b>				
4-50	Pursue opportunities to acquire land adjacent to Okanagan Lake to increase public access to the waterfront.		Life of PRMP	Staff time; land value dependent
4-51	Continue to uphold the Lower Town Development Permit Area guidelines that provide for public access to the shoreline and for increased commercial or public opportunities for recreational activities along the shoreline.	x	Life of PRMP	Staff time

**TABLE 28: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	HIGH PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST
<b>Trees</b>				
4-52	Develop an urban forest strategy.		3-7 years	\$50-75,000
4-53	Plant trees along streets and in parks. Environmental grant programs and the District’s Tree Fund Reserve account could be sources of funding.		Life of PRMP	Staff time; additional operating costs for tree maintenance
4-54	Undertake hazard tree assessments in District parks and along trails. Hazard tree assessments should be done in the context of the Urban Forest Strategy, once it is available.	x	Life of PRMP	Staff time or external consultant on a site-by-site basis
<b>Maintenance</b>				
4-55	Consider hiring additional landscaping staff.		Life of PRMP	Dependent on position/contract
4-56	Purchase a top-dresser as budgeted for 2018.		1-3 years	\$20-40,000
4-57	Ensure there is regular communication between parks maintenance staff and sports field users. Consider developing guidelines on the responsibilities of field users.	x	Life of PRMP	Staff time
4-58	Develop a list of priorities for donated infrastructure/projects.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
4-59	Develop standards for donated infrastructure/projects to ensure they meet safety standards and the requirements of the District.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
4-60	Create an asset management plan for major park amenities and infrastructure.		3-7 years	Staff time or external consultant \$100,000



**TABLE 28: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	HIGH PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST
<b>Trails</b>				
5-1	Develop a Trails Master Plan to identify existing trails and missing links within Summerland and in surrounding areas, to plan a trail network that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connects neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces, and community amenities;</li> <li>Provides active transportation and recreation opportunities; and</li> <li>Avoids environmentally sensitive or hazard areas and does not facilitate access to these areas.</li> </ul>	x	1-3 years	\$75,000
5-2	Involve trails user groups, environmental groups, and other stakeholders with an interest in trails in development of the Trails Master Plan.	x	1-3 years	
5-3	The Trails Master Plan should identify mechanisms and processes for collaboration between the District and organizations and groups with an interest in trails.	x	1-3 years	
5-4	The Trails Master Plan should establish design standards for various intended user groups as well as maintenance standards.	x	1-3 years	
5-5	Following development of the Trails Master Plan, implement signage to provide clarity on permitting uses on trails as well as wayfinding and promotion of trails (and parks). Signage should have a consistent look and feel, with Summerland branding.	x	3-7 years	Signage Plan: \$30,000
5-6	Develop a Cycling Network Plan.	x	1-3 years	\$35,000
5-7	Collaborate with the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP), local naturalists and environmental groups such as the Summerland Environmental Science Group, and trail user groups and clubs to understand and inventory ecological values in Summerland's parks and natural areas.		1-3 years	Staff time

**TABLE 28: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	HIGH PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST
<b><i>Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre</i></b>				
6-1	Conduct a detailed facility audit of the entire Aquatic and Fitness Centre building, its structure and plant including compliance with municipal and provincial code requirements.	x	1-3 years	\$30,000 - \$40,000
6-2	Develop an asset lifecycle plan and adjust budgets accordingly.	x	1-3 years	\$15,000
6-3	Develop a long term strategy for the eventual replacement of the Aquatic and Fitness Centre with multipurpose rooms, including plans, designs, confirm location, public support and cost estimates.	x	1-3 years	\$60,000 - \$80,000
6-4	Replace or upgrade the pool per the long-term strategy.		3-10 years	\$ 25- 35 Million; Annual operating increase of \$200,000-\$300,000
6-5	Implement a facility replacement reserve to support the eventual replacement of the facility.	x	1-3 years	TBD after design and estimates completed
6-6	If the estimated life expectancy of the pool is greater than 10 years, add a UV system to reduce chlorination and maintenance costs.		7+ years	\$20,000
6-7	Review the pool operating hours and explore opportunities to increase use of the pool and increase revenue.		3-7 years	Staff time
<b><i>Summerland Arena and Curling Club</i></b>				
6-8	Conduct a detailed facility audit of the entire building, its structure and plant including compliance with municipal and provincial code requirements.	x	1-3 years	\$20,000
6-9	Develop a facility maintenance management plan. Adjust budgets accordingly.	x	1-3 years	\$15,000 for the study
6-10	Implement upgrades to the washrooms and changerooms and partner with the Junior "B" club to improve their washroom/changeroom facility.		3-7 years	\$40,000
6-11	Explore with the Junior "B" club regarding improving their washroom/changeroom facility.		3-7 years	Staff time

**TABLE 28: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	HIGH PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST
<b><i>Summerland Arena and Curling Club, continued</i></b>				
6-12	Continue to upgrade the concession and concession services.		7+ years	\$20,000
6-13	Develop a long term strategy for the eventual replacement of the Arena Complex. Monitor community use levels of the curling rink over the long term.		3-7 years	\$60,000 - \$80,000
6-14	Replace or upgrade the arena per the long-term strategy.		7+ years	\$15-20 million
6-15	Implement a facility replacement reserve to support the eventual replacement of the facility.		3-7 years	TBD
6-16	Conduct a needs assessment and cost analysis for a potential second arena.		3-7 years	Staff time
6-17	Explore options for increasing recreational opportunities such as roller derby in both the arena and curling club during the spring dry floor months.		3-7 years	Staff time
<b><i>Indoor Facility Supply</i></b>				
6-18	Continue to work closely with and support the non-profit societies operating the indoor facilities to expand programming and help ensure facilities meet community needs		1-3 years	Staff time
6-19	Continue to liaise cooperatively with the school district during any future facility expansion, especially regarding the opportunity to include expanded community use of the secondary school gym if redeveloped.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
6-20	Continue to explore opportunities to utilize existing facilities for recreation programs such as the Odd fellows/Rebekah Hall, Summerland Drop-In Recreation Centre Association and the UNISUS International School.		3-7 years	Staff time
6-21	Explore the possibility of converting the arena concourse into a multi-purpose recreation room.		3-7 years	\$20,000 design study
6-22	During any future plans to redevelop the aquatic centre, consider adding a gymnasium in order to develop a comprehensive community recreation centre.	x	1-3 years	\$3.5- 5 million capital; \$20-30,000 annual operating budget increase

**TABLE 28: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	HIGH PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST
<b>Recreation Programming - System Wide</b>				
7-1	Continue to undertake ongoing evaluations of the District’s program requirements, assess priorities and abilities to provide services and determine who in the community is best suited to provide that service.		Ongoing	Staff time for annual evaluation
7-2	Adopt a facilitator role in working with clubs/associations and other partners to help meet the recreational needs of the residents.		Ongoing	Staff time
7-3	Explore opportunities for programming with new partners such as Okanagan College, the agriculture research station, Summerland Ornamental garden, Summerland Trout Hatchery.		Ongoing	Staff time
7-4	Host an annual recreation-focused Community Fair in conjunction with all sports clubs, to help raise awareness of the programs available.		Ongoing	\$5,000
7-5	Encourage clubs and associations to offer introductory “How To” lessons to encourage new membership.		Ongoing	Staff time
7-6	Experiment with “Try it for free” or “Bring a Friend” initiatives to increase participation levels for various demographics.		Ongoing	Staff time
7-7	Launch a Marketing and Promotion campaign to raise awareness of the health and wellness benefits of leisure activities and awareness of the local clubs, facilities and organizations.		Ongoing	Staff time
7-8	Annually survey a selection of residents to track interest in new programs.		Ongoing	\$10,000
7-9	Work with the community to establish outdoor adventure programs: hiking, paddleboard, kayaking, rock climbing, equestrian, and nature appreciation.		Ongoing	Staff time
7-10	Review and update the Joint Use Agreement with the School District to improve opportunities for programming the gymnasiums.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
7-11	Collaborate with the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, Penticton Indian Band, Interior Health and neighbouring communities to identify service gaps, overlaps and opportunities to expand recreation services on a joint regional scale.		Ongoing	Staff time

**TABLE 28: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	HIGH PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST
<b><i>Recreation Programming - Children and Families</i></b>				
7-12	Increase family programming and provide more flexibility in programs, especially unstructured/ drop-in programs.		Ongoing	Staff time
7-13	Identify opportunities for concurrent programs for parents and children of different ages.		Ongoing	Staff time
7-14	Explore the potential for a child-minding facility near the aquatic centre.		1-3 years	Staff time
7-15	Explore with residents where more free/low cost programs are most needed.		Ongoing	Staff time
7-16	Review the ice allocation policy to expand family skating.		3-7 years	Staff time
<b><i>Recreation Programming - Youth</i></b>				
7-17	Undertake a youth visioning process including a broad range of youth and youth serving agencies (police, school, coaches, boys and girls clubs, health authority) to develop a Youth Engagement Strategy and clearly define the role of the District in the delivery of youth services.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
7-18	Revise the Terms of Reference for the Parks and Recreation Commission to include one youth representative.		1-3 years	Staff time
7-19	Encourage all clubs and associations to host more introductory programs for youth such as pickleball.		3-7 years	Staff time
7-20	Assess the potential of social marketing to communicate with youth.		1-3 years	Staff time
<b><i>Recreation Programming - Adults</i></b>				
7-21	Experiment with more flexible program times and drop-in programs to overcome lack of time as a barrier to participation.		1-3 years	Staff time
<b><i>Recreation Programming - Seniors</i></b>				
7-22	Work with the Summerland Drop In Recreation Centre and related agencies to determine gaps in program services and the best means to deliver programs, particularly for fitness, wellness, health, independence.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
7-23	Based on the above, expand programming for seniors.	x	1-3 years	Staff time

**TABLE 28: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	HIGH PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST
<b><i>Environmental Programming</i></b>				
7-24	Work in conjunction with local natural history clubs to offer environmental awareness programs and host events that raise environmental awareness.		3-7 years	Staff time
7-25	Promote environmental awareness through District programs and events.		3-7 years	Staff time
7-26	Add interpretive signage in parks and trails.		3-7 years	\$2,000 per sign
<b><i>Tourism and Special Events</i></b>				
7-27	Given staff's limited capacity, the Recreation Department should continue to focus on core community programs, services and special family events within their mandate.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
7-28	Continue to work with the Chamber to identify opportunities for tourism/ special events as part of Economic Development Initiatives.		1-3 years	Staff time
7-29	Work with Destination BC to help market parks and recreation programs to the seasonal tourist.		3-7 years	Staff time
7-30	Initiate an Events Policy to guide the coordination, planning, and administration of events including, fees, venues, approval process, contacts, and volunteers, acceptable and unacceptable events.	x	3-7 years	Staff time
7-31	As part of the Events Policy, explore potential for corporate donations, sponsorships and naming rights of facilities, programs and events that support tourism.		3-7 years	Staff time
<b><i>Financial Review</i></b>				
8-1	Conduct a regional review of recreation fees and charges		1-3 years	Staff time
8-2	Explore with residents where more free/low cost programs are most needed.		3-7 years	Staff time
8-3	Explore more opportunities to increase recreation revenues in all other areas to offset the cost of recreation services.		1-3 years	Staff time
8-4	Develop policy around commercial use in parks as potential source of revenue		3-7 years	Staff time
8-5	Conduct an organizational review of the Recreation department to analyze current staff levels and determine appropriate resources to meet required program and service delivery demands.	x	1-3 years	Staff time

<b>TABLE 28: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE</b>				
No.	RECOMMENDATIONS	HIGH PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST
8-6	Develop a Departmental Operational Plan for the Recreation department to outline the roles and responsibilities, define the Mission statement, purpose, core programs and services, expected outcomes, and community benefits.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
<b><i>Parks and Recreation Commission</i></b>				
8-7	Change the name and terms of reference from Parks and Recreation Commission to Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
8-8	Revise Section 5 of the bylaw by expanding membership to include a youth representative from Summerland Secondary School and a senior's representative from the Summerland Seniors Drop-in Centre.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
8-9	Fully engage the Commission in a more proactive and regular manner to assist with implementation of the Master Plan, to monitor ongoing performance, to assist in annually setting priorities and reporting progress to Council.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
8-10	Revise section 7(a) to read: "The Commission shall hold quarterly meetings with additional meetings as required.	x	1-3 years	Staff time
<b><i>Parks Regulation Bylaw 95-013</i></b>				
8-11	Amend the Parks Regulation Bylaw authority to be the Chief Administrative Officer or designate.		7+ years	Staff time
8-12	Amend the Parks Regulation Bylaw to exclude the Peach Orchard Campground and the Rodeo Grounds.		7+ years	Staff time
8-13	Amend section (3l) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw by deleting reference to bicyclists therefore permitting cycling in all parks unless specifically identified as not permitted.		7+ years	Staff time
8-14	Amend section (3d) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw to permit horseback riding in Conkle Mountain Park.		7+ years	Staff time
8-15	Amend section (3d) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw for any change in the location of off-leash parks.		7+ years	Staff time
8-16	Amend section (3p) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw to permit skateboarding in designated areas only, or those areas where permission to skateboard has been granted.		7+ years	Staff time
<b><i>Joint Use Agreement with School District 67</i></b>				
8-17	Develop a joint use agreement with School District 67 for shared use of District and school facilities.	x	1-3 years	Staff time

# Appendix A

## Engagement Activities

This Appendix provides details on the engagement activities conducted during development of this Master Plan. A multi-faceted approach was used for engagement, to reach as many community members and stakeholders as possible.

### **Community members**

- Open house to gather input to Master Plan: June 19, 2017 – approx. 60 participants
- Telephone survey – 200 responses
- Online/hardcopy questionnaire – 268 responses
- Display at Aquatic Centre
- Booth at Farmer’s Market, July 23, 2017
- Youth engagement
  - Interactive display at Summerland Middle School, Oct. 5, 2017 – approx. 30 participants
  - Workshop with Leadership class at Summerland Secondary School, Oct. 6, 2017 – approx. 25 participants
- Open house to gather feedback on draft master plan: May 9, 2018 – approx. 100 participants
- Online questionnaire for feedback on draft master plan – 125 responses
- Page on District website



## **Stakeholders**

- Group interviews
  - Park users
  - Trails groups
  - Outdoor field users
  - Indoor
  - Chamber of Commerce and Service Clubs
- Questionnaires

## **Steering Committee**

- Visioning workshop
- Meetings at key milestones
- Review of draft master plan

## **Council**

- Visioning workshop
- Participation at open houses
- Presentation of Final Master Plan

## **Staff**

- Meetings with staff to gather input to plan
- Staff review of draft master plan

---

The following stakeholder groups provided input to the Master Plan:

Action Festival  
Active Sports for Active Seniors  
Golden Jets  
Ladies Broomball (questionnaire only)  
Lakeshore Racquets Club  
Old Timers Hockey  
Orca Swim Club  
Orca Swim Club Masters  
Over-55 Masters Soccer Team  
Peach Orchard Campground operator  
Pickleball Club  
South Okanagan Dirt Bike Club  
South Okanagan Fencing Assn.  
South Okanagan Recope Society  
South Okanagan Trail Alliance  
Summerland ATV  
Summerland Chamber of Commerce  
Summerland Dog Owners' Association  
Summerland Environmental Science Group  
Summerland Figure Skating  
Summerland Kinsmen Club  
Summerland Kiwanis Club  
Summerland Ladies Hockey  
Summerland Minor Fastball  
Summerland Minor Hockey  
Summerland Rodeo Grounds Equine Development Committee  
Summerland Rotary Club  
Summerland Skatepark Committee  
Summerland Steam  
Trails of the Okanagans Society  
TriPower Triathlon Club

# Appendix B

## Survey Summary



August 2017

# Summerland Parks and Recreation Master Plan Research



MUSTEL GROUP  
MARKET RESEARCH



## ➤ Foreword

### Introduction

The following report summarizes the findings from a District of Summerland survey regarding current usage habits and opinions of local parks, trails and recreational services and facilities. The survey was administered by telephone among a random selection of residents, and was available on-line to residents, visitors and stakeholders interested in expressing their opinions.

### Telephone Survey Methodology

- A total of 200 interviews were conducted by telephone with a random selection of residents, 18 years of age or over.
- The margin of error on the sample is +/-6.9% at the 95% confidence level.
- Specific steps were taken to insure the sample is representative of the community at large including:
  - sample drawn at random from an up-to-date database of published residential listings and cell phone listings;
  - next birthday method employed to randomize respondent selection within the household;
  - up to 6 calls made to each household/individual to reduce potential bias due to non-response;
  - final sample weighted by gender within age to match Statistics Canada Census data.

### Telephone Survey Methodology, cont.

- Interviewing was conducted by Mustel Group interviewers weekday evenings and during the day on weekends from June 19<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- The questionnaire used is appended.
- Detailed computer tabulations are provided under separate cover.

### Open-Access On-line Survey Methodology

- A total of 268 residents participated in the open access survey that was made available at the time of the telephone survey, and remained open up until July 31.
- The analysis of findings in this report focuses on the random survey results but the findings from the online survey are displayed in the charts. The online results should however be interpreted with caution as the findings may not be reflective of the broader community.



## ➤ Executive Overview

### Recreation and Cultural Activities Habits and Barriers

- **Types of Activities:** Walking for exercise is the most popular recreation and cultural activity among Summerland residents. This is followed by theatre and live performances, biking, swimming (outdoor and indoor), going to the beach, and water sports such as kayaking, canoeing and fishing.
- The most popular activities participated in by children are swimming, hockey, skating or curling, and water sports such as kayaking, canoeing or fishing.
- **Barriers:** Lack of time, followed by physical limitations are the main reasons for not participating more often in recreational or cultural activities.
- **Indoor Facilities:** Centre Stage theatre and the Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre are the most commonly used public indoor recreational or cultural facilities, though the Summerland Arena Complex and Curling Club is also popular.
- **Frequency:** Health and fitness facilities (Aquatic Centre and Arena) are used most frequently, with the large majority of users in each case using the facility at least once a month or more often.
- Cultural facilities such as the Centre Stage Theatre and Youth Centre are somewhat more likely to be used about once every two to three months or less often.
- **Satisfaction:** The large majority, eight-in-ten or more of those residents that currently use the recreational and cultural facilities are either very or somewhat satisfied with each of them.

### Use of Private Indoor Facilities or Those Outside Summerland

- **Use:** One-third of residents say they use privately operated indoor facilities or those that are located in other cities (34%).
- **Reasons for Use:** The most common reason for using a private facility or visiting another city is simply for a bigger or better facility or one that provides more options (50%), while more than one-third of those using private facilities or another city do so for their wider variety of programs or activities (39%).
- **Frequency:** Among those that use a private facility or visit another city, two-thirds do so at least once-a-week or more, with a further 19% doing so at least once a month.
- **Facilities or Programs Lacking:** When asked what indoor facilities or programs might be lacking in Summerland, the most common suggestion is to expand and update the aquatic centre including adding family changing rooms, switching to a salt water pool and expanding opening hours (18%).



## ➤ Executive Overview (cont.)

### Parks, Trails and Open Spaces

- **Frequency:** About two-thirds of all residents use parks, trails, and open spaces in Summerland at least once-a-week or more (65%), with a further 21% doing so at least once a month.
- **Used Most Often:** Summerland residents make use of a wide variety of parks and trails in the area with the most popular being Giants Head Park, Peach Orchard Park and Rotary Beach.
- **Satisfaction:** The large majority of residents are satisfied with the parks, trails, and open spaces provided by the District of Summerland with 87% satisfied, including about half that say they are 'very' satisfied.
- Outdoor recreation areas receive the highest assessment for being sufficient in numbers (54% provide a rating of very good or excellent), sufficiently maintained (52% provide a rating of very good or excellent), and well distributed (50% provide a rating of very good or excellent).
- **Lacking or in Need of Improvement:** the few suggestions offered generally include better maintenance, expanding number of recreation areas/parks, expanding activities for children/youth, upgrading washroom and improving access.

### Preferences to Pay for Improvements

- Residents appear open to a combination of tax increases and increasing user fees (40%) to pay for improvements.



**MUSTEL GROUP**  
MARKET RESEARCH

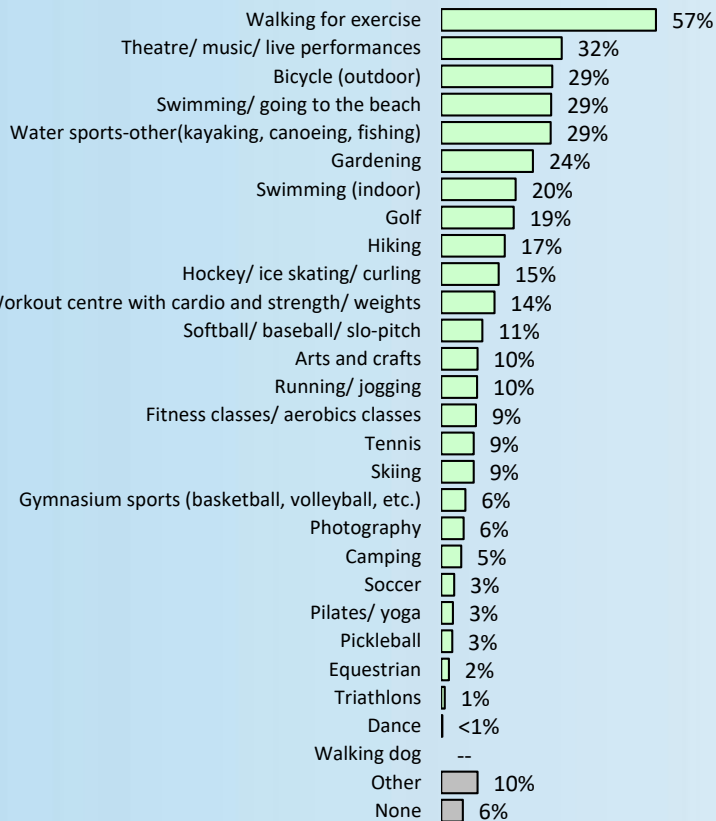
# Detailed Findings



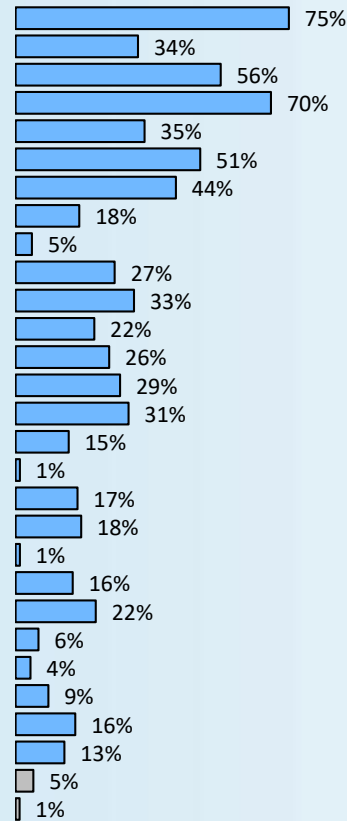


## ➤ Recreation or Cultural Activities Participated in on Regular Basis

Random Survey



Online



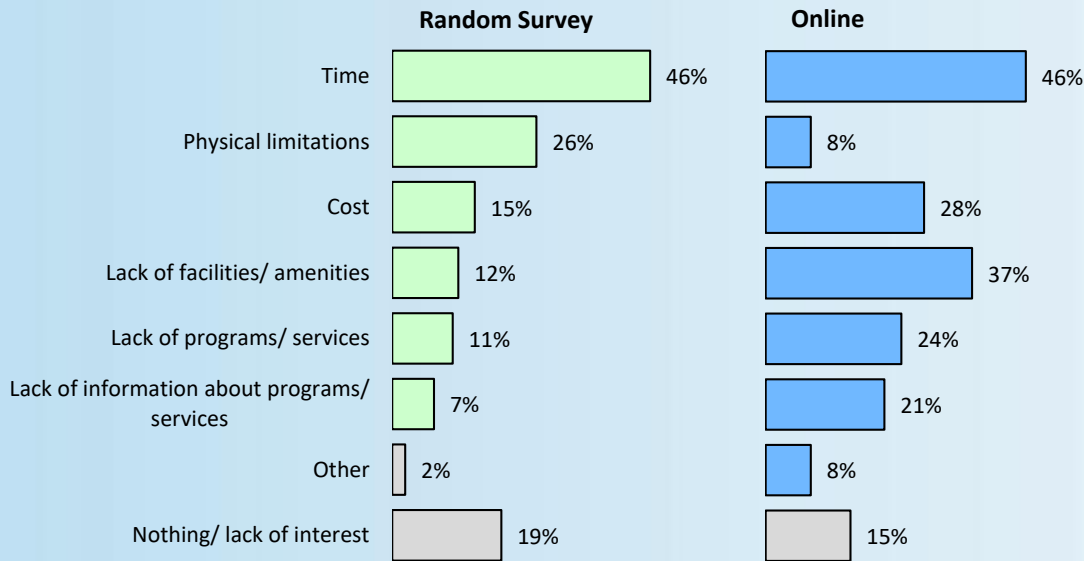
- Walking for exercise is the most common outdoor recreational activity, with more than half reporting to do so on a regular basis (57%).
- Residents participate in a wide range of other activities. Just some of these, participated in by 20% to 32% of residents include: theatre and live performances, biking, swimming (outdoor and indoor), going to the beach, gardening, and water sports such as kayaking, canoeing and fishing.
- Apart from walking, theatre and gardening, younger residents are somewhat more likely to do all the above activities.
- As the list of activities was provided for residents completing the on-line survey (for respondent ease), higher levels report doing many of the above activities, as well as such activities as fitness and aerobics classes, arts and crafts, photography, and dog walking, activities that were not readily thought in the context of the question in the telephone survey.

Base: Total Random (n=200)  
Total online (n=268)

Q.1) What recreational or cultural activities do you participate in on a regular basis? Please think of both summer and winter months.



## Reason For Not Participating More Often



- Lack of time, followed by physical limitations are the main reasons for not participating more often in recreational or cultural activities.
- Those completing the online survey are also more likely to report 'cost', 'lack of facilities' and 'lack of information about programs/ services' as barriers. But again note that the list was provided on the online survey, whereas the question was open-ended on the telephone survey.

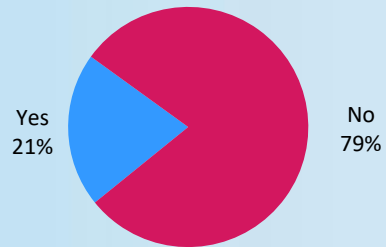
Base: Total Random (n=200)  
Total online (n=268)

Q.2) What, if anything, prevents you from participating in recreation or cultural activities more often?

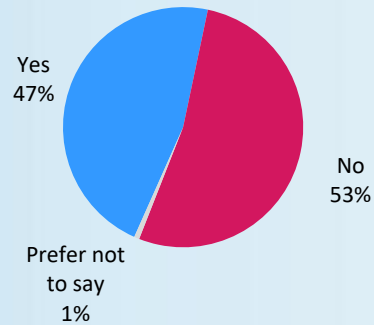


## Children Under 18 Years of Age Living at Home

Random Survey



Online



- Approximately one-in-five residents have children under the age of 18 years, compared with about one-third of those completing online.

Base: Total Random (n=200)  
Total online (n=268)

Q.3) Do you have children under the age of 18 years of age living at home?



## ➤ Types of Recreation/Cultural Activities Children Enjoy

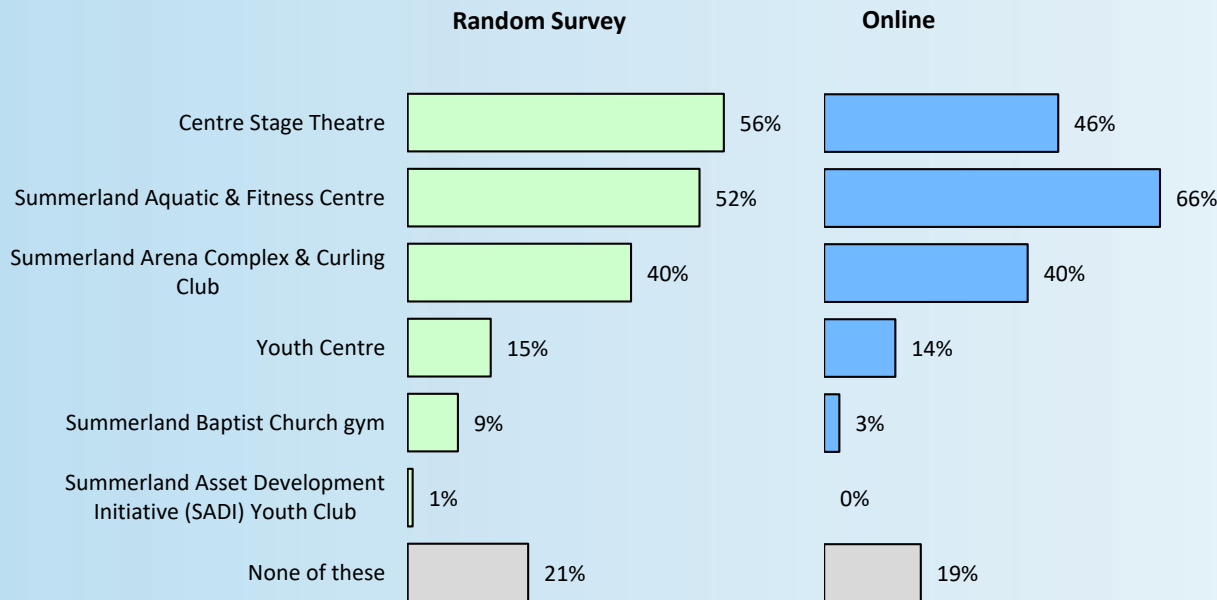
Base: Those with children under 18 living at home	Random (38) %	Online (125) %
Swimming (indoor)	63	81
Swimming/ going to the beach	56	83
Hockey/ ice skating/ curling	48	51
Water sports – other (kayaking, canoeing, fishing, etc.)	39	38
Walking for exercise	26	30
Bicycle (outdoors)	25	74
Soccer	25	50
Softball/ baseball/ slo-pitch	24	31
Dance	24	37
Theatre/ music/ live performances	23	31
Hiking	16	3
Running/ jogging	15	34
Skiing	15	1
Gymnasium sports (basketball, volleyball, etc.)	13	51
Golf	13	14
Fitness classes/ aerobics classes	7	14
Martial arts	7	2
Equestrian	7	-
Arts and crafts	6	58
Tennis	6	20
Skateboarding	6	2
Camping	4	-
Lacrosse	4	2
Triathlons	2	18
Workout centre with cardio and strength equipment, weights	2	14
Photography	2	9
Gardening	2	14
Pilates/yoga	-	6
Walking the dog	-	2
Pickleball	-	1
None	3	1

Q.4) What type of recreational or cultural activities does your child or children enjoy?

- The most popular activities participated in by children are swimming, hockey, skating or curling, and water sports such as kayaking, canoeing or fishing.
- Also popular are walking, biking, soccer, softball and dance.
- As the list of activities was provided for online respondents, higher levels were reported for many of the activities.



## Public Indoor Recreation or Culture Facilities Used

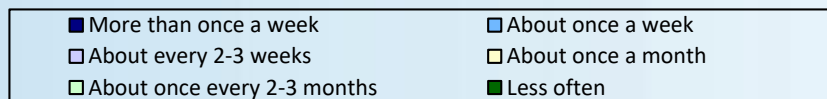
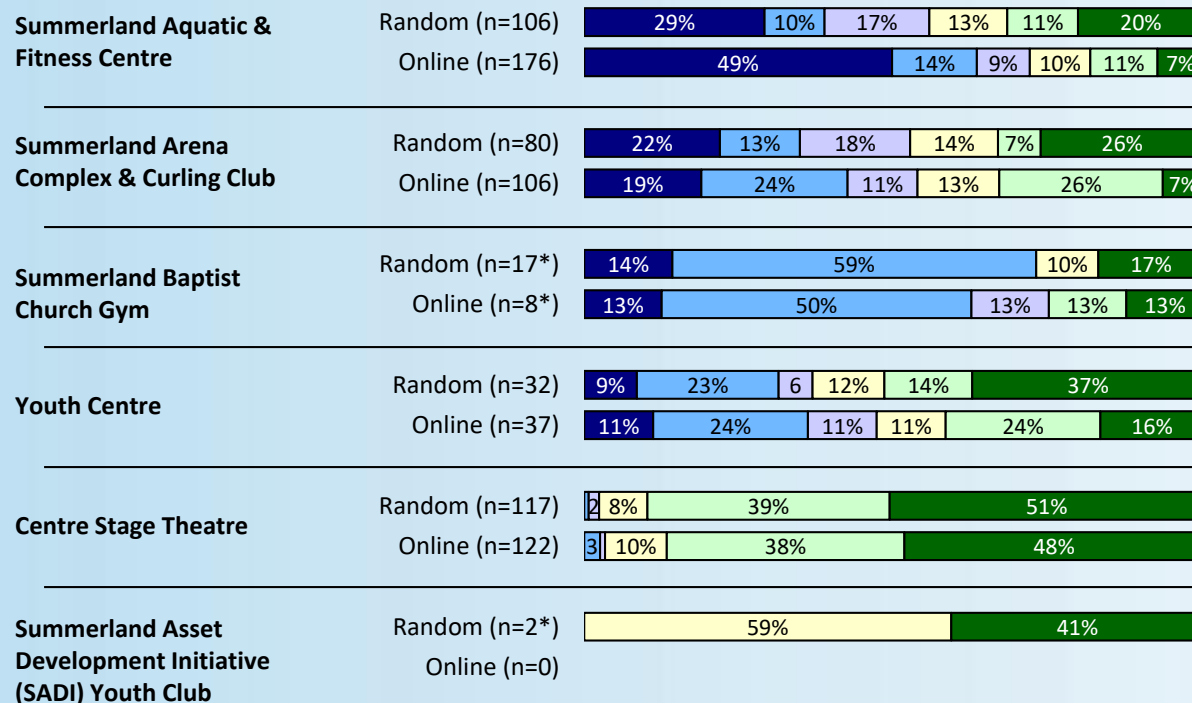


- Centre Stage theatre and the Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre are the most commonly used public indoor recreational or cultural facilities.
- The Summerland Arena Complex and Curling Club is also popular.
- Approximately one-in-five residents do not use any of the listed public indoor recreational or cultural facilities.
- Online respondent use of these facilities does not differ significantly from that of the telephone respondents.

Base: Total Random (n=200)  
Total online (n=268)

Q.5) Which of the following indoor public recreation or cultural facilities do you use?

## ➤ Frequency of Using Public Indoor Recreation or Culture Facilities

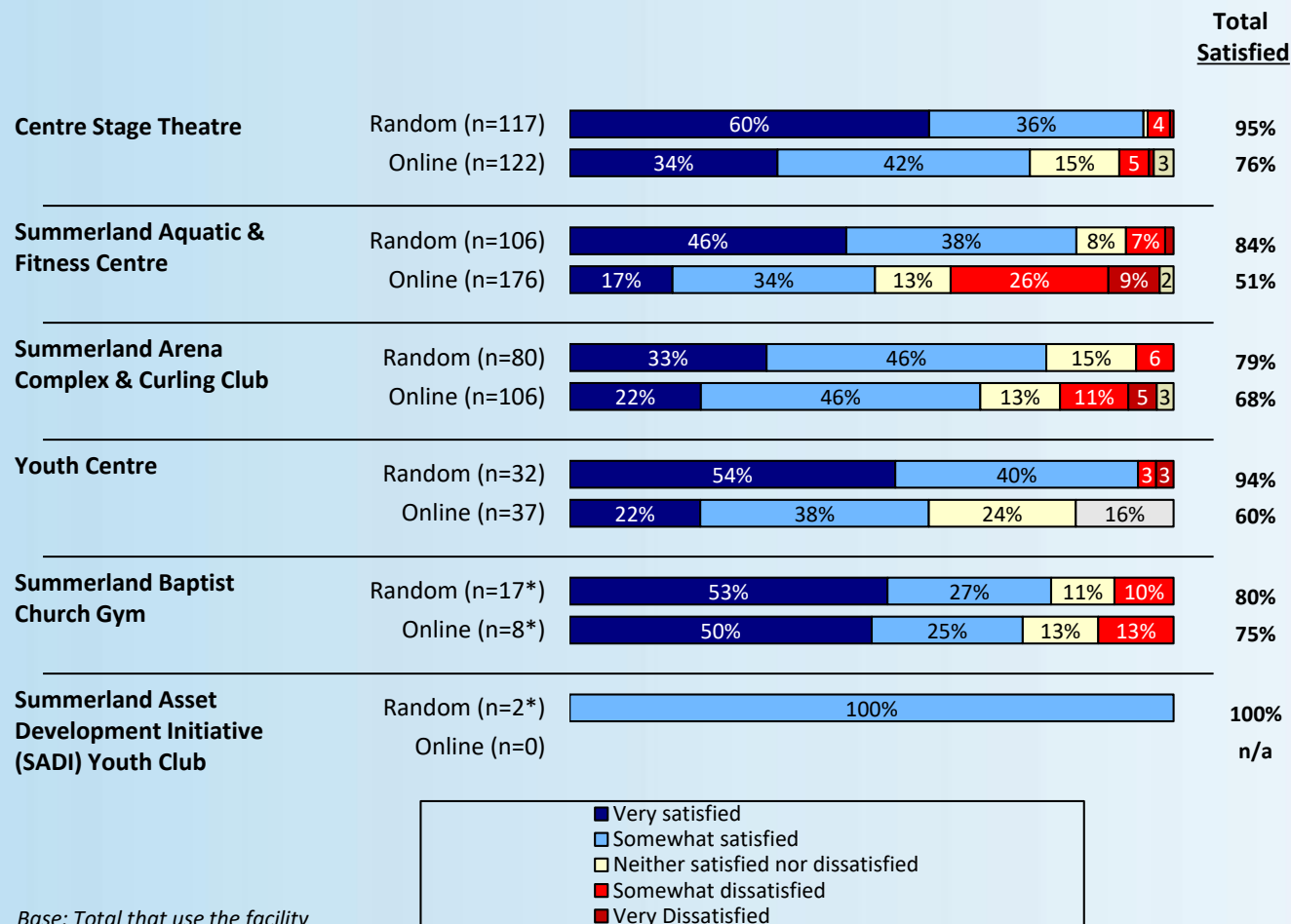


- This chart details the frequency of use among users of each facility.
- Health and fitness facilities are used most frequently, with the large majority of users in each case using the facility at least once a month or more often.
- Cultural facilities such as the Centre Stage Theatre and Youth Centre are somewhat more likely to be used about once every two to three months or less often.
- In most cases, findings do not vary significantly by gender or age, or among online respondents.

Base: Total that use the facility  
\*CAUTION: Small Base Sizes

Q.6) How often do you use...

## ➤ Satisfaction with Public Indoor Recreation or Culture Facilities



- This chart details the satisfaction levels among users of each facility.
- The large majority of those residents that currently use the recreational and cultural facilities are either very or somewhat satisfied with them.
- Satisfaction does not vary significantly by gender or age, or among online respondents, with the exception of the Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre, with which online respondents are somewhat more likely to express some level of dissatisfaction compared with the telephone respondents.

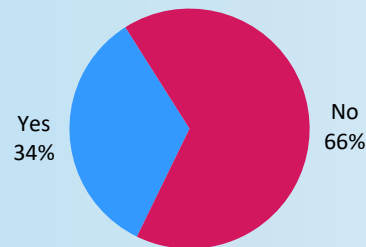
Base: Total that use the facility  
\*CAUTION: Small Base Sizes

Q.7) How satisfied are you with...

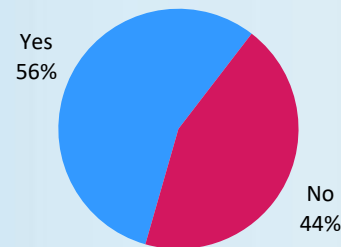


## ➤ Use of Private Indoor Facilities or Those in Located in Other Cities

Random Survey



Online



- One-third of residents say they use privately operated indoor facilities or those that are located in other cities (34%).
- A similar proportion of those responding online report to do the same (41%, not significantly different at these sample sizes).

Base: Total Random (n=200)  
Total online (n=268)

Q.8a) Do you use privately operated indoor facilities (e.g., Pilates/ yoga centre) or go to other cities to use facilities (like Penticton pool)?





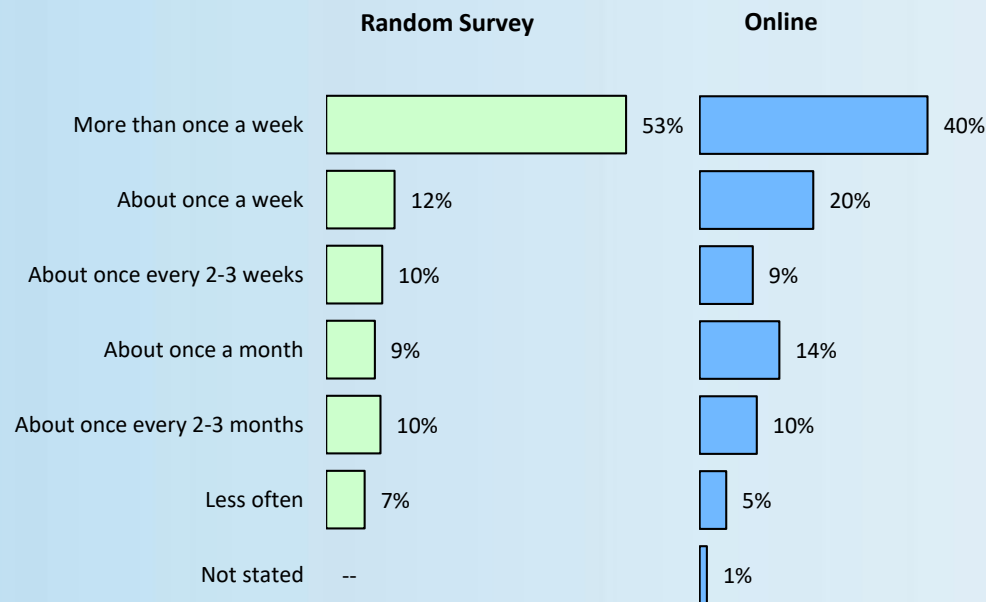
## ➤ Reasons For Using Private Facilities and Those in Other Cities

Base: Total use either privately operated indoor facilities or go to other cities to use facilities	<u>Random</u> (66) %	<u>Online</u> (149) %
Better facilities (i.e. more options, bigger)	50	60
Variety of programs/ actives available	39	20
Atmosphere (type of clientele, facility amenities, etc.)	25	6
Hours of operation/ schedules	21	16
No facilities available locally	17	8
Convenience to another location	18	5
More affordable	9	7
Quality of instructors/ staff	4	5
No reason	-	13
<i>Q8b) Why do you use these facilities?</i>		

- The most common reason for using a private facility or visiting another city is simply for a bigger or better facility or one that provides more options (50%).
- More than one-third of residents also choose other facilities for their wider variety of programs or activities (39%), with one-quarter that prefer the atmosphere of other facilities.
- Online respondents report similar reasons.



# Frequency of Using Private Indoor Facilities or Those Outside Summerland



- Among those that use a private facility or visit another city, two-thirds do so at least once-a-week or more, with a further 19% doing so at least once a month.
- Frequency amongst online respondents does not differ significantly at these sample sizes.

Base: Total use either privately operated indoor facilities or go to other cities to use facilities  
 Random (n=66)  
 Online (n=149)

Q.8c) And how often do you use these facilities?



## ➤ Indoor Recreation Facilities/ Programs that are Lacking or In Need of Improvement

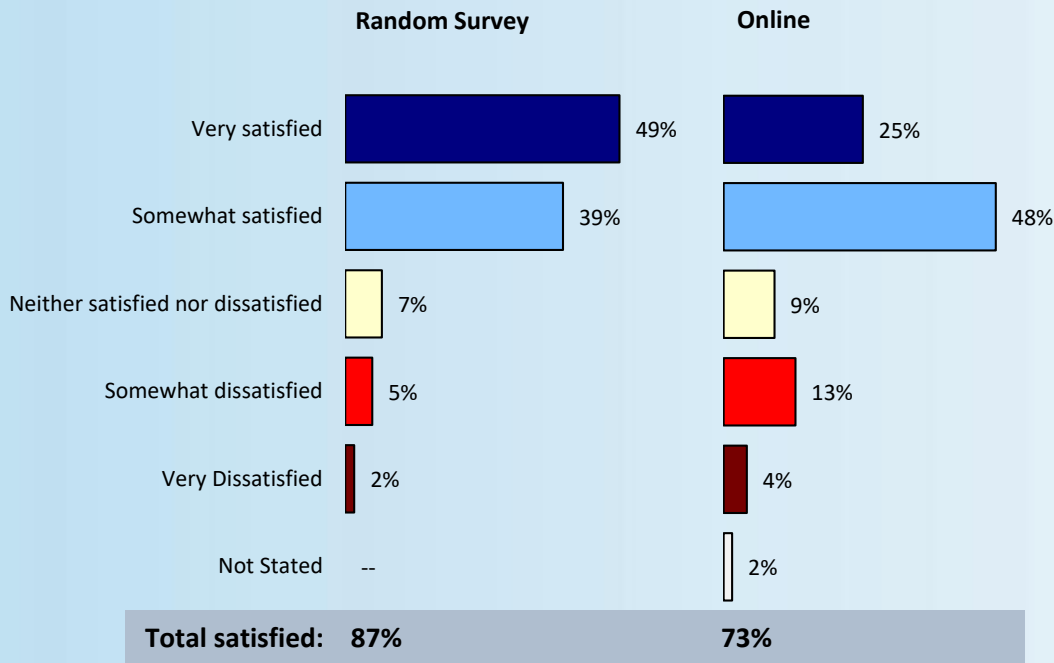
	<u>Random</u> (200) %	<u>Online</u> (268) %
Expand/ update Aquatic Centre (family changing rooms, stop using chlorine, hours of operation, etc.)	18	37
Expand/ update arena (new rink surface, another rink, concession services, etc.)	10	11
More age specific programs/ activities	9	14
Gym/ work out facilities	7	15
Courts (tennis, basketball, etc.)	6	10
Arts theatre	4	1
Fitness programs (yoga, gymnastics, etc.)	3	13
More programs/ activities in general	3	-
Indoor walking track	2	3
Bowling alley	1	-
Movie theatre	1	-
Miscellaneous	1	<1
None	58	35

*Q.9) What indoor recreation facilities or programs are lacking or needing improvement in Summerland?*

- Less than half of all residents could think of a facility or program lacking or in need of improvement (42%).
- The most common suggestion is to expand and update the Aquatic Centre including adding family changing rooms, switching to a salt water pool and expanding opening hours (18%).
- Some other suggestions, each made by one-in-ten or fewer include expanding and updating the arena, providing more age specific programs and activities, providing a gym and workout facility, and more tennis and basketball courts.
- Online suggestions echo many of those from the telephone survey except with a higher proportion calling for expansion/updating the aquatic centre, a gym and workout facility and more fitness programs such as yoga and gymnastics.



## ➤ Satisfaction with Outdoor Recreation Spaces Provided by the District of Summerland



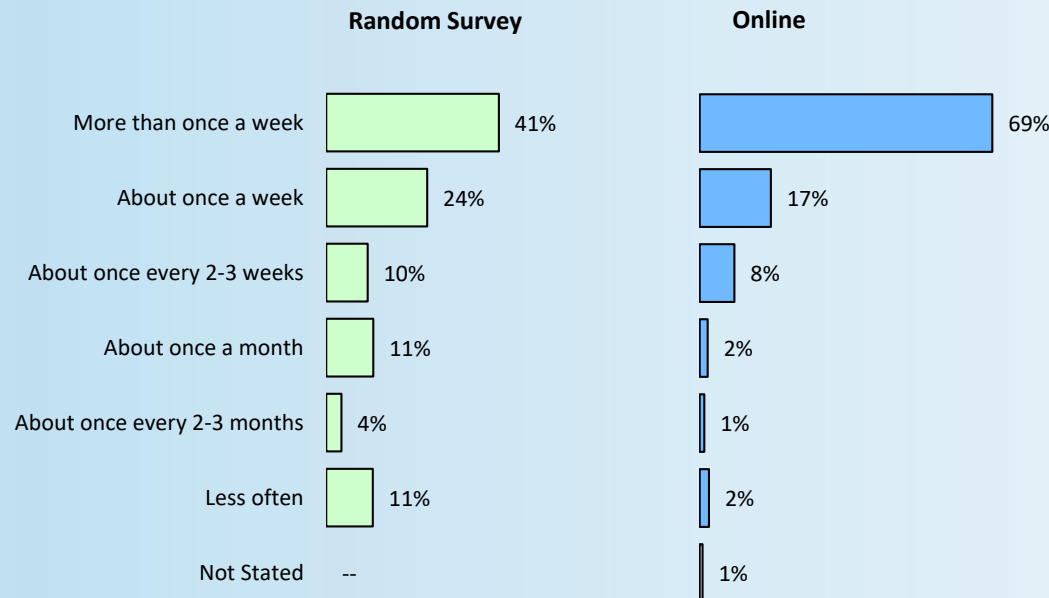
- Satisfaction levels are quite high with the parks, trails, and open spaces provided by the District of Summerland with 87% of residents reporting to be satisfied, including about half that say they are 'very' satisfied.
- Online respondents are somewhat more critical with almost three-quarters satisfied (73%), and 17% dissatisfied.

Base: Total Random (n=200)  
Total online (n=268)

Q.10) Now thinking of outdoor recreation, overall, how satisfied are you with the parks, trails, and open spaces provided by the District of Summerland?



## ➤ Frequency of Using Parks, Trails and Open Spaces in Summerland



- About two-thirds of all residents use parks, trails, and open spaces in Summerland at least once a week or more (65%), with a further 21% doing so at least once a month.
- Those completing online tend to be more frequent users of Summerland’s parks, trails, and open spaces, with three-quarters reporting that they use them more than once a week.

Base: Total Random (n=200)  
Total online (n=268)

Q.11) How often do you use parks, trails, and open spaces in Summerland?



## ➤ Parks or Trails Used Most Often

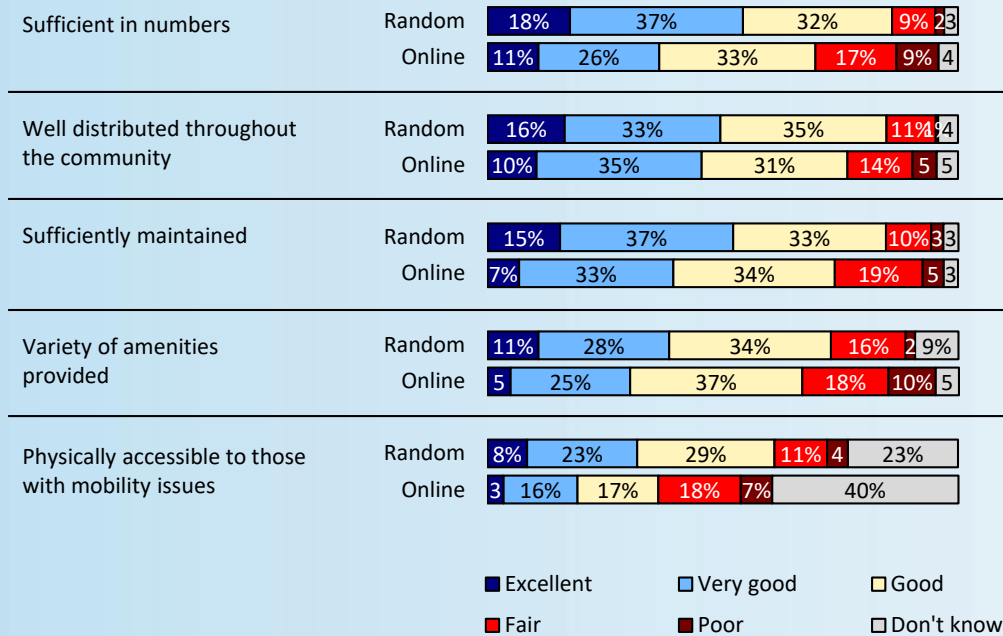
	<u>Random</u> (200) %	<u>Online</u> (268) %
Giants Head Park	42	64
Peach Orchard Park	37	61
Rotary Beach	35	60
Memorial Park	28	44
Dale Meadows Park	25	47
Trans Canada Trail	23	50
Powell Beach Park	21	44
Dog Beach	17	41
Summerland Lakeshore Loop	17	35
Crescent Beach	13	12
Conkle Mountain Park	11	33
Rodeo Grounds	9	19
Summerland Centennial Trail	8	25
Living Memorial Park	8	9
Kinsmen Park	8	12
Spray Park	7	24
Brigade Trail Linear Park	7	3
Peach Orchard Campground	5	11
Julia Park	3	12
Butler St. Park	2	5
Priest Camp Historic Park	2	3
Turner Park	2	<1
Landry Trail Park	1	5
Beaver Park	1	1
None of these	8	3

*Q.12) And which parks or trails do you use most often?*

- Summerland residents make use of a wide variety of parks and trails in the area with the most popular being Giants Head Park, Peach Orchard Park and Rotary Beach.
- Other popular parks and trails include Memorial Park, Dale Meadows Park the Trans Canada Trail and Powell Beach Park.
- Again note that the list was provided for on-line respondents, hence the higher response rate for most parks.



## ➤ Assessment of Summerland's Parks, Trails and Open Spaces



- The majority of residents rate each attribute of Summerland parks, trails and open spaces at least 'good'.
- They receive the highest assessment for being sufficient in numbers (54% provide a rating of very good or excellent), sufficiently maintained (52% provide a rating of very good or excellent), and well distributed (50% provide a rating of very good or excellent).
- Online respondents tend to be far more critical, particularly on the number of parks, trails and open spaces, their accessibility, and the variety of amenities.

Base: Total Random (n=200)  
Total online (n=268)

Q.13) How would you rate Summerland parks, trails, and open spaces for being:



## ➤ Park Facilities/Amenities Lacking/Needing Improvement

	Random (200) %	Online (268) %
<b>Specific Location:</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>38</b>
Peach Orchard Park/ Beach (maintenance, playground, improve access/ pedestrian safety, expand/ upgrade washrooms)	6	6
Memorial Park (expand/ upgrade washrooms, playground, splash pool/ pad)	4	9
Summerland Lakeshore Loop (expand toward Penticton, maintenance, improve pedestrian safety)	3	1
Rotary Beach (maintenance, playground, expand/ upgrade washrooms)	3	3
Giants Head Trail/ (mountain bike trails, maintenance, erosion repair)	3	5
Trans Canada Trail/ (KVR) Kettle Valley Railway Trail (expansion, maintenance)	3	2
Giants Head Park (maintenance, playground, washrooms)	1	6
Julia Park (expand/ upgrade washrooms, playground)	1	5
Summerland Centennial Trail/ Bristow Trail (maintenance, erosion repair, trail markers/ signage)	1	1
Dale Meadows Park (Expand / upgrade washrooms)	1	4
Conkie Mountain Park (more biking/ walking trails)	1	3
Cartwright Trail	1	3
Sun Oka Beach Provincial Park	1	<1
Gartrall Trail (maintenance, erosion repair)	1	-
Turner Park (needs amenities/ facilities)	<1	-
Rodeo Grounds (update facility, new jumps)	-	3
Powell Beach (maintenance, playground)	-	2
Priest Camp	-	<1
Brigade Trail and Linear Park	-	<1

Q.14) . What parks, trails and open spaces facilities or amenities are lacking or needing improvement in Summerland?

- Suggestions for specific park improvements generally include better maintenance, expanding number of recreation areas/parks, expanding activities for children/youth, upgrading washroom and improving access.





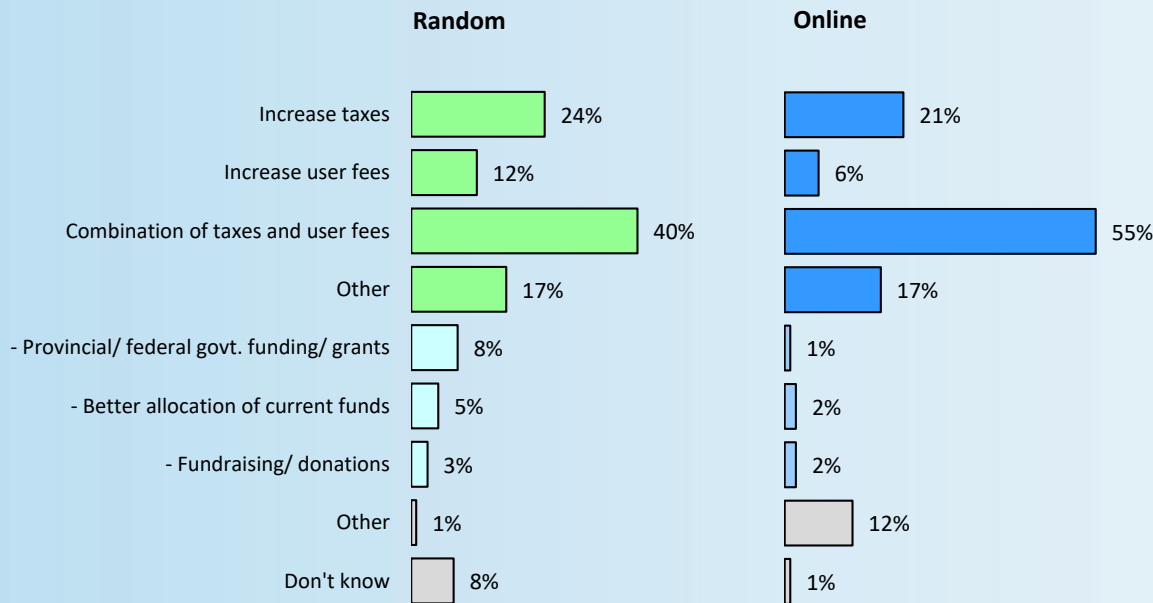
## Park Facilities/Amenities Lacking/Needing Improvement (cont'd)

	<u>Random</u> (200) %	<u>Online</u> (84) %
Improve maintenance for all facilities/ trails/ beaches (widen trails, signage/ marked trails, mobility issues, benches)	18	27
Bike lanes/ trails (improve safety, more trails, add bike lanes on roads, maintenance)	9	9
Improve/ expand public washroom facilities	9	2
Outdoor recreation facilities (exercise equipment, playgrounds, skate parks)	8	9
Sports fields/ courts (need more, improve maintenance)	6	5
Connection between trails and downtown	3	6
More dog (fenced) parks/ areas	2	25
Improve waterfront access (wharf, maintenance)	2	3
More public boat moorage/ launches	1	<1
More parking	1	-
Miscellaneous	1	4
No response	54	24
<i>Q.14) What parks, trails and open spaces facilities or amenities are lacking or needing improvement in Summerland?</i>		

- Besides general maintenance, some other suggestions include improvements to bike trails, sports fields and outdoor courts.
- Suggestions from online respondents are similar to those from the telephone survey, with the exception of a larger number calling for an increase in dog parks.



## ➤ Preferred Methods of Paying to Improve Parks, Trails and Open Spaces



- The most commonly suggested method of paying for improvements is a combination of taxes and user fees (40%).
- Opinion amongst online respondents largely reflects that of the random sample.

Base: Total Random (n=200)  
Total online (n=268)

Q.15) How would you prefer that Summerland pays for any new or improved parks, recreation, services and facilities?



**MUSTEL GROUP**  
MARKET RESEARCH

# Demographics



## Demographic Profile

	<u>Random</u> (200) %	<u>Online</u> (268) %
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	47	30
Female	53	69
Prefer not to say	-	2
<b>Age</b>		
18 to 24	7	3
25 to 34	9	12
35 to 44	11	25
45 to 54	15	22
55 to 64	23	24
65 to 74 years	19	12
75 years and over	17	2
Prefer not to say	-	1
<b>Family Status</b>		
Person living alone	18	5
Person living with parents	10	1
Person living with friends	2	<1
Spouse or partner, no children at home	44	38
Spouse or partner with children at home	25	49
Single parent with children at home	1	4
Prefer not to say	-	3
<b>Primary/ Seasonal Residence</b>		
Primary residence	97	99
Seasonal residence	3	<1

- The random sample was weighted to match census statistics on the basis of age within gender. The on-line survey sample is unweighted.

Continued...



## ➤ Demographic Profile

	<u>Random</u> (200) %	<u>Online</u> (268) %
<b>Employment</b>		
Employed	51	65
Retired	44	29
Homemaker and not employed outside the home	3	6
Unemployed and looking for work	1	1
Student	5	1
Prefer not to say	1	1
<b>Home Tenure</b>		
Own	84	87
Rent	10	11
Prefer not to say	6	2
<b>Years Lived in Summerland</b>		
Less than 10 years	15	34
10 to 19	32	29
20 to 29	24	22
30 to 39	14	9
40 to 49	9	3
50 to 59	2	2
60+	3	2
Prefer not to say	1	<1



**MUSTEL GROUP**  
MARKET RESEARCH

# Questionnaire



## District of Summerland Parks and Recreation Master Plan Questionnaire

---

Welcome to our survey on parks and recreation services in the District of Summerland about parks and recreation facilities and services to help develop long term plans for the community.

1. What recreational or cultural activities do you participate in on a regular basis? Please think of both summer and winter months.

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Arts and crafts                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>14</sup> Softball/baseball/slo-pitch                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> Bicycle (outdoors)                              | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>15</sup> Swimming (indoor)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> Dance   | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>16</sup> Swimming/ going to the beach                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup> Fitness classes/aerobics classes                | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>17</sup> Tennis   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>5</sup> Gardening                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>18</sup> Theatre/music/live performances                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>6</sup> Golf  | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>19</sup> Walking for exercise                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>7</sup> Gymnasium sports (basketball, volleyball, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>20</sup> Water sports-other (kayaking, canoeing, fishing, etc.)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup> Hockey/ice skating/curling                      | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>21</sup> Workout center with cardio and strength equipment, weights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>9</sup> Pickleball                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>22</sup> Triathlons   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>10</sup> Pilates/yoga                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>96</sup> Other: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>11</sup> Photography                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>97</sup> None   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>12</sup> Running/jogging                                |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>13</sup> Soccer   |   |

2. What, if anything, prevents you from participating in recreation or cultural activities more often?

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Cost  | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>5</sup> Lack of facilities/ amenities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> Time  | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>6</sup> Physical limitations          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> Lack of information about programs/services | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>96</sup> Other: _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup> Lack of programs/services                   | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>97</sup> Nothing                      |

3. Do you have children under the age of 18 years of age living at home?

<sup>1</sup> Yes

<sup>2</sup> No

4. What type of recreational or cultural activities does your child or children enjoy?

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY**

<sup>1</sup> Arts and crafts

<sup>2</sup> Bicycle (outdoors)

<sup>3</sup> Dance

<sup>4</sup> Fitness classes/aerobics classes

<sup>5</sup> Gardening

<sup>6</sup> Golf

<sup>7</sup> Gymnasium sports (basketball, volleyball, etc.)

<sup>8</sup> Hockey/ice skating/curling

<sup>9</sup> Pickleball

<sup>10</sup> Pilates/yoga

<sup>11</sup> Photography

<sup>12</sup> Running/jogging

<sup>13</sup> Soccer

<sup>14</sup> Softball/baseball/slo-pitch

<sup>15</sup> Swimming (indoor)

<sup>16</sup> Swimming/ going to the beach

<sup>17</sup> Tennis

<sup>18</sup> Theatre/music/live performances

<sup>19</sup> Walking for exercise

<sup>20</sup> Water sports-other (kayaking, canoeing, fishing, etc.)

<sup>21</sup> Workout center with cardio and strength equipment, weights

<sup>22</sup> Triathlons

<sup>96</sup> Other: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>97</sup> None

5. Which of the following indoor public recreation or cultural facilities do you use?

<sup>1</sup> Summerland Aquatic & Fitness Centre

<sup>2</sup> Summerland Arena Complex & Curling Club

<sup>3</sup> Centre Stage Theatre

<sup>4</sup> Youth Centre

<sup>8</sup> Summerland Asset Development Initiative (SADI) Youth Club

<sup>9</sup> Summerland Baptist Church gym

<sup>97</sup> None of these





6. How often do you use...

	More than once a week	About once a week	About once every 2-3 weeks	About once a month	About once every 2-3 months	Less often
Summerland Aquatic & Fitness Centre	<input type="radio"/> 6	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 1
Summerland Arena Complex & Curling Club	<input type="radio"/> 6	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 1
Centre Stage Theatre	<input type="radio"/> 6	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 1
Youth Centre	<input type="radio"/> 6	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 1
Summerland Asset Development Initiative (SADI) Youth Club	<input type="radio"/> 6	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 1
Summerland Baptist Church gym	<input type="radio"/> 6	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 1

7. How satisfied are you with each of the following facilities?

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Summerland Aquatic & Fitness Centre	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 1
Summerland Arena Complex & Curling Club	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 1
Centre Stage Theatre	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 1
Youth Centre	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 1
Summerland Asset Development Initiative (SADI) Youth Club	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 1
Summerland Baptist Church gym	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 1



8a. Do you use privately operated indoor facilities (e.g., Pilates/ yoga centre) or go to other cities to use indoor facilities (like Penticton pool)?

<sup>1</sup> Yes

<sup>2</sup> No

**IF YES TO 8A: 8b.** Why do you use these facilities?

**IF YES TO 8A: 8c.** And how often do you use these facilities?

<sup>6</sup> More than once a week

<sup>5</sup> About once a week

<sup>4</sup> About once every 2-3 weeks

<sup>3</sup> About once a month

<sup>2</sup> About once every 2-3 months

<sup>1</sup> Less often

9. What **indoor** recreation facilities or programs are lacking or needing improvement in Summerland?



10. Now thinking of outdoor recreation, overall, how satisfied are you with the parks, trails, and open spaces provided by the District of Summerland?

- <sup>5</sup> Very satisfied
- <sup>4</sup> Somewhat satisfied
- <sup>3</sup> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- <sup>2</sup> Somewhat dissatisfied
- <sup>1</sup> Very dissatisfied

11. How often do you use parks, trails, and open spaces in Summerland?

- <sup>6</sup> More than once a week
- <sup>5</sup> About once a week
- <sup>4</sup> About once every 2-3 weeks
- <sup>3</sup> About once a month
- <sup>2</sup> About once every 2-3 months
- <sup>1</sup> Less often

12. And which parks or trails do you use most often?

**Check all that apply**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Beaver Park               | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>10</sup> Kinsmen Park              | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>18</sup> Rodeo Grounds               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> Brigade Trail Linear Park | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>11</sup> Landry Trail Park         | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>19</sup> Rotary Beach                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> Butler St Park            | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>12</sup> Living Memorial Park      | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>20</sup> Spray Park                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup> Conkle Mountain Park      | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>13</sup> Memorial Park             | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>21</sup> Summerland Centennial Trail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>5</sup> Crescent Beach            | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>14</sup> Peach Orchard Campground  | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>22</sup> Summerland Lakeshore Loop   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>6</sup> Dale Meadows Park         | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>15</sup> Peach Orchard Park        | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>23</sup> Trans Canada Trail          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>7</sup> Dog Beach                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>16</sup> Powell Beach Park         | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>24</sup> Turner Park                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup> Giants Head Park          | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>17</sup> Priest Camp Historic Park | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>97</sup> None of these               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>9</sup> Julia Park                |  |  |



13. How would you rate Summerland parks, trails, and open spaces for being:

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	DON'T KNOW
Sufficiently maintained?	<input type="radio"/> <sup>5</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>98</sup>
Physically accessible to those with mobility issues?	<input type="radio"/> <sup>5</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>98</sup>
Sufficient in numbers?	<input type="radio"/> <sup>5</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>98</sup>
Variety of amenities provided?	<input type="radio"/> <sup>5</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>98</sup>
Well distributed throughout the community?	<input type="radio"/> <sup>5</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>98</sup>

14. What parks, trails and open spaces facilities or amenities are lacking or needing improvement in Summerland?

15. How would you prefer that Summerland pays for any new or improved parks, recreation, services and facilities?

- <sup>1</sup> Increase taxes
- <sup>2</sup> Increase user fees
- <sup>3</sup> Combination of taxes and user fees
- <sup>96</sup> Other: please describe \_\_\_\_\_



We have just a few more questions to ensure we are speaking to a representative group of people in the community.

A. Are you:

- <sup>1</sup> Male
- <sup>2</sup> Female
- <sup>99</sup> Prefer not to say

B. Into which of the following age categories may I place you?

- <sup>0</sup> Under 18
- <sup>1</sup> 18 to 24
- <sup>2</sup> 25 to 34
- <sup>3</sup> 35 to 44
- <sup>4</sup> 45 to 54
- <sup>5</sup> 55 to 64
- <sup>6</sup> 65 to 74 years
- <sup>7</sup> 75 years or better
- <sup>99</sup> Prefer not to say

C. Which of these situations best fits your personal family situation at present?

- <sup>1</sup> Person living alone
- <sup>2</sup> Person living with parents
- <sup>3</sup> Person living with friends
- <sup>4</sup> Spouse or partner, no children at home
- <sup>5</sup> Spouse or partner with children at home
- <sup>6</sup> Single parent with children at home
- <sup>99</sup> Prefer not to say



D. Are you:

**Check all that apply**

- <sup>1</sup> Employed
- <sup>2</sup> Unemployed and looking for work
- <sup>3</sup> Homemaker and not employed outside the home
- <sup>4</sup> Retired
- <sup>5</sup> Student
- <sup>99</sup> Prefer not to say

E. Do you own or rent your home?

- <sup>1</sup> Own
- <sup>2</sup> Rent

F. How many years have you lived in Summerland?

G. Is this your primary residence or do you live in Summerland seasonally?

- <sup>1</sup> Primary residence
- <sup>2</sup> Seasonal resident



# Appendix C

## Youth Engagement Summary

### **PROCESS**

Engagement with Summerland youth took place via interactive display boards during lunchtime at Summerland Middle School on Oct. 5, 2017 and a workshop with Leadership Class students at Summerland Secondary School on Oct. 6, 2017.

### **YOUTH RESPONSES**

Students were asked several questions as input to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Their responses are summarized below.

#### **What makes Summerland good for youth?**

Youth said that the close-knit, safe, walkable nature of Summerland makes it good for youth, as do the beaches, trails, parks, schools, SADI and library. Secondary school students also noted volunteer opportunities for special events. One Middle School student noted that having a high school in Summerland made it good for youth, because otherwise more kids would be in Penticton.

#### **Where do youth like to hang out and is there enough public space for youth in Summerland?**

This question was asked only of the Secondary students. They said they like to hang out at coffee shops, the aquatic centre and arena, the gym at the Baptist Church, friends' houses and outdoor places like the Trestle, Giant's Head, the beaches and Dale Meadows Park.

Students did not feel there is enough public space for youth to hang out in Summerland, that there aren't enough activities for youth and that everything is geared to the older population. They noted that there isn't much to do in Memorial Park, that the restaurants close early and there is no movie

theatre. They would like to see more food places/places to eat outside downtown, a new community centre, a new youth hangout centre, and places to play or watch games indoors. It should be noted though that the older secondary students are somewhat past the need for places to play and hang out, as they are busy with school and work and are starting drive, making it easier for them to travel outside of town.

### **What activities do youth like to do and what recreation programs or activities would they like to see in Summerland?**

Youth like to do a wide range of activities, including sports, arts and crafts, and socializing with their friends. Several students mentioned that they like to go bowling, to Loco Landing in Penticton, to arcades (younger students only), to movies/drive-ins, and to cafes like Starbucks, and that they wished these amenities were available in Summerland.

Sports mentioned by younger students include lacrosse, football and “more hockey!”. Older students mentioned basketball, volleyball, soccer and track, and said that they would be interested in participating in classes like Zumba. They suggested a Youth Try It day for fitness classes.

Athletic amenities that students said they would like to see in Summerland include an indoor gym for games such as volleyball and basketball, a running track, indoor soccer facility, an outdoor skating rink, a gymnastics studio, more mountain biking and bike trails, more walking trails, new FI docks, an archery club, and a drifting school. Arts and crafts amenities students would like to see in Summerland include a crafter’s club, meme school, Minecraft club, train-making, and ornamental garden.

Students noted that there is more to do in Penticton – the beach is bigger and has more amenities like the Wibit, there is an amusement park, more shopping and restaurants, indoor soccer and track at the Adidas Sportsplex, and movie theatres. Students would like to see better transit connections with Penticton.

### **Improvements in Summerland parks**

Secondary students were asked what could be improved in Summerland’s parks. They would like to see community gardens, more places to sit or eat such as the new BC Parks picnic tables, floating socks and slides at the beaches, a Wibit water park, an outdoor volleyball court since the current one just has poles and no nets. One student mentioned the Japanese garden in Penticton as a really nice place to spend time.

They would like to see more and better trails: better bike trails, paved trails, more trails around Giant’s Head, and parks and trails signage. They would like more special places to hang out like piers and viewpoints, and more off-leash dog parks. They would like to see more festivals, concerts and movies in parks.

They noted that Memorial Park has a huge area of grass without a lot of features, and that the washrooms are scary. They also noted that people hang out at the bandshell to smoke and vape, and that when the pickers are in the park they don’t go there.



---

### **What do youth like about the aquatic centre and what would they like to see changed or added?**

Youth like to swim, but many noted that the Aquatic Centre is dark, old, and missing amenities. One student noted that she feels like she's in the 1980's when she's in the Aquatic Centre.

Students would like to see a new/expanded/updated pool, with better lighting, and amenities like a leisure pool, wave pool, lazy river, bigger sauna, bigger whirlpool, updated and expanded lobby, bigger fitness centre, more change rooms and cubbies on the swim deck, and amenities for competitive swimmers like a bigger pool, better diving blocks with starters, built in mirrors for viewing strokes, and timing system for meets. Students noted that there are no evening programs for youth.

Some Secondary students said that a community centre with a pool, sports centre, work-out classes, yoga studio and gym would be great, that having everything together in one place would be convenient.

### **What do youth like about the arena and what would they like to see changed or added?**

Many youth use the arena, to play or watch hockey and to skate, and it is a special place for high school students as the site of their graduation celebration. They noted that it is a good place to hang out and that staff are nice, but that it would be good if there were more public skates.

Students felt that the arena is in need of an upgrade or replacement, noting the need to repair the heaters in the seating area, update the dressing rooms, repair the roof and ceiling, update the lobby and provide cubbies for people to store their stuff while their skating. Students would also like to see another rink (outdoor rink).

### **What do youth like about the skate park and what would they like to see changed or added?**

Students said they don't like the current skate park, that it is too small and poorly located and lacks amenities. Younger students would like a new skate park, in a different location, with amenities such as mini ramp and drift track down the middle of the skate park, a tech deck, vending machines, loopy-loop, and RBG lights. Older students similarly noted that the skate park needs to be improved for the younger kids. They also noted that nobody uses the skatepark and most people go to Penticton.

### **Youth involvement in summerland**

One group of Secondary school students was asked if they felt that youth were well-represented in Summerland. They did not feel youth are well-represented, that it is a town for older people. They did note that it was more fun for them when they were younger, and because they are now leaving town soon for university, etc., the focus should be on younger teens to encourage them to use facilities and be involved. They noted that there needs to be follow-through on discussion with youth.

Another group of Secondary students said that they would like to see more activities for youth, but that they were not sure who to contact in the Recreation Department if they wanted to organize something. They suggested that the Leadership class could help with organizing activities for teens. They said the best ways for the Recreation Department to make contact with Secondary students was through the school announcements and assemblies and connecting with the Leadership class and that Instagram is the best social media tool for reaching students.

# Appendix D

## Open House #1 Feedback



# Parks and Recreation Master Plan



## What is a Parks and Recreation Master Plan?

A shared vision for Summerland's parks and recreation which:

- Identifies key issues, opportunities, and constraints.
- Identifies community values, interests and needs.
- Provides strategic direction to the District of Summerland over the next 10 years.

## Why is the plan needed?

- To ensure high quality, parks and recreation facilities.
- To address changing demands.
- To create a shared vision for parks and recreation.
- To focus efforts on those aspects that reflect community values and priorities.







## Summerland's Parks and Recreation in the Future

Place a **BLUE dot** next to the words/phrases that best describe Summerland's parks and recreation in the future.

accessible <input type="checkbox"/>	family friendly <input type="checkbox"/>
active <input type="checkbox"/>	fun <input type="checkbox"/>
intergenerational/age friendly <input type="checkbox"/>	healthy <input type="checkbox"/>
artistic <input type="checkbox"/>	historical <input type="checkbox"/>
bird and wildlife friendly <input type="checkbox"/>	lively <input type="checkbox"/>
casual <input type="checkbox"/>	peaceful <input type="checkbox"/>
colourful <input type="checkbox"/>	pollinator friendly <input type="checkbox"/>
cultural <input type="checkbox"/>	safe <input type="checkbox"/>
diverse <input type="checkbox"/>	social <input type="checkbox"/>
ecological <input type="checkbox"/>	team/sports accessible <input type="checkbox"/>
edible <input type="checkbox"/>	

What other words describe your vision for the future of Summerland's parks and recreation?

Write them on a post-it note here!

- Fully fenced dog park (1 dot)

## Parks and Recreation Priorities

Place a **GREEN dot** next to your top 5 priorities for Summerland's parks and recreation.

Provide space for children to play <input type="checkbox"/>	Protect natural areas/wildlife <input type="checkbox"/>
Provide space for picnics and socializing <input type="checkbox"/>	Provide trails for walking/hiking <input type="checkbox"/>
Provide trails for biking <input type="checkbox"/>	Provide space for team sports <input type="checkbox"/>
Provide opportunities for large group celebrations/special events <input type="checkbox"/>	Highlight Summerland's history and culture <input type="checkbox"/>
Provide beach access to Lake Okanagan <input type="checkbox"/>	Provide access to Lake Okanagan for small watercraft (kayaks, canoes, small sailboats, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/>
Provide access to Lake Okanagan for large and/or motorized watercraft (motor boats, large sailboats, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/>	New/renovated pool and Fitness Aquatic Centre <input type="checkbox"/>
New/renovated arena <input type="checkbox"/>	More multi-purpose areas for classes like yoga and zumba <input type="checkbox"/>
New theatre <input type="checkbox"/>	New Community Centre/Gym <input type="checkbox"/>

Any other priorities for Summerland's parks and recreation?

Write them on a post-it note here!

- Combine culture + heritage (museum) delivery
- Mountain bike trails on Conkle
- Keep Cartwrite & Conkle Mt open for people to run their dogs off leash
- Indoor multi-purpose field (e.g., soccer, tennis, track)
- Off leash dog park properly fenced
- We need an outdoor dog fenced dog park in Summerland (2 dots)
- Indoor pickleball courts
- drop-in gym time at schools after dinner
- Off leash dog parks (4 dots)
- Need to keep all trails on Conkle mountain as multi-use non motorized to enjoy hiking, biking, and horse riding in a natural & peaceful setting
- Dire need of proper fenced dog park (1 dot)
- New skateboard park
- Outdoor rink winter
- Public access to Crown lands behind private properties
- Fully fenced dog parks! (1 dot)

# Appendix E

## Community Feedback on Draft Master Plan

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

An Open House was held at the Summerland Arena Banquet Room on May 9, 2018 from 5:00-8:00pm. Fourteen display boards were set up, providing detailed information on the project overview, key findings, and recommendations. Attendees were asked to provide feedback on sticky notes, and there was one board where attendees could show their support for some of the key recommendations with dots (each person was given 6 dots). Attendees were informed about the availability of the online survey (open through May 21) and were also given an option to complete a hard copy of the survey at the open house. Approximately 100 people attended the open house.

An online survey was available between April 25, 2018 and May 21, 2018 via a link from the District of Summerland website. The survey provided the draft master plan recommendations, organized by topic, and asked whether respondents strongly agreed, agreed, neither agreed nor disagreed, disagreed or strongly disagreed with the draft recommendations. Space was also provided for comments. In addition, respondents were asked to rank various parks and recreation priorities from low to high, with space provided for comments and additional priorities. There were 125 responses to the online survey (including 6 hard copy surveys).



---

## **SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK**

There is a high level of community interest in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, with about 100 people attending the open house and 125 people responding to the online survey. Overall there is considerable community support for the draft vision, principles and recommendations.

Summerland residents place a high value on their parks, pool and arena, and multi-use trails, and some clear priorities have emerged. The highest priority identified by participants at the open house is building a new community recreation centre with pool. Other relatively high priorities include upgrading the arena, upgrading the Aquatic Centre, developing a Trails Master Plan, creating/protecting more natural areas, keeping recreation affordable, creating more multi-purpose trails, installing signage on trails, and maintaining and upgrading existing parks, and creating a multi-use trail network.

The sections below provide a summary of community feedback on draft recommendations in the different sections of the master plan. Detailed feedback for each section is provided in the Appendix.

### **VISION AND PRINCIPLES**

Feedback on the draft vision and principles was favourable, with 92% of survey respondents agreeing that the draft Vision and Principles capture the overall community priorities for parks and recreation. A few open house participants and several survey respondents provided comments on the vision and principles. Comments included observations on the character of the Summerland community, requests for specific parks and recreation amenities, and disagreement or agreement with one or more of the principles. One survey respondent felt that the vision statement is too long.

### **SUMMERLAND'S PARK SYSTEM**

Overall, community feedback was positive on the draft recommendations pertaining to Summerland's park system, with 82% of survey respondents agreeing with the recommendations, 6% disagreeing and 11% neutral. The few comments made at the open house were mostly supportive of the recommendations. Several respondents provided comments on the online survey. Some were supportive of the recommendations, while others thought that having for parks within 5-10 minutes' walk of all residents was not practical for more rural areas. A couple of respondents noted that using an "as the crow flies" measure is misleading since people travel to parks using streets. Additional comments noted the need to maintain existing parks, more pickleball courts, signage and an off-leash dog park

### **SUMMERLAND'S PARKS**

There was a high degree of agreement with the draft recommendations related to Summerland's existing parks. In the online survey, 88% of respondents agreed with the recommendations for Summerland's lakefront parks and 93% agreed with the recommendations for Summerland's other parks.

Many people provided comments at the open house and indicated their top 3 projects.

There were multiple responses in favour of:

- Upgrades to the Rodeo Grounds
- Upgrades to /master planning for Memorial Park
- Creating gathering places downtown and/or in Memorial Park
- A long distance swim lane
- Upgrades to washrooms

In addition, there were 2-3 responses in favour of:

- Upgrades to Powell Beach Park
- A new clubhouse at Dale Meadows Park
- A new pool/multi-use centre
- New equine facilities (Horse Beach, public xc equine course)

Several online survey respondents provided comments. Similar to the open house, there were comments recognizing the potential and importance of the Rodeo Grounds and Memorial Park, and the need for upgrading and planning for these parks. A few people mentioned a gathering place downtown: two were in favour, one person didn't think it was needed and another was unsure whether it's needed. Two people suggested that a spray park would be a good addition to Memorial Park and two people identified the need to upgrade washrooms. Several people mentioned the value of Conkle Mountain and the need for planning there. A few people identified the need to resurface the running track at Dale Meadows Park, one person highlighted the need for permeable surfacing of the track and parking lot, and others liked the idea of a new clubhouse. Additionally, there were comments in favour of an off-leash dog park, off-season use of Peach Orchard Campground and making it more level to accommodate tents, and placing a bubble over the tennis/pickleball courts in winter. One person suggested that the District explore the possibility of purchasing the Banks Crescent property to create a park there, protecting Shaughnessy Springs and the Summerland Trout Hatchery.

## **PLAYGROUNDS**

Community feedback on recommendations related to Summerland's playground was positive, with 71% of survey respondents agreeing with the draft recommendations and comments at the open house supportive. Almost 20% of survey respondents were neutral about the recommendations and

---

9% disagreed with them. Several survey respondents provided comments. Several people liked the idea of natural playgrounds and a few people identified areas of Summerland that they felt needed parks or playgrounds. Several people agreed with upgrading/replacing existing playgrounds, but others thought there were more pressing priorities.

## **OUTDOOR SPORTS AMENITIES**

Community feedback on draft recommendations concerning outdoor sports amenities was positive, with almost 80% of survey respondents in agreement. Only 4% of respondents disagreed, and 14% were neutral.

Several survey respondents provided comments, which mostly concerned the new skatepark, tennis and pickleball. Many people commented in favour of the new skatepark, while several others were not in favour, were concerned about the location or hoped that it would be designed to accommodate a variety of users. There were several comments in favour of expanding/upgrading tennis and pickleball courts, but almost an equal number against. Other comments included a recommendation to buy land now for future expansion of fields, upgrading the beach volleyball court, creating an outdoor rink/sport court, and the need for a dog park.

Comments at the open house highlighted the need for maintaining/repairing tennis courts and more pickleball courts. One person questioned the need for a new skatepark considering that there is one in Penticton and another asked about badminton courts.

## **PLACES FOR DOGS**

Almost 80% of survey respondents agreed with the draft recommendations concerning places for dogs, while 9% disagreed and 13% were neutral. Many survey respondents provided comments, with most in favour of expanding places for dogs in Summerland, including creation of a full-time off-leash dog park and allowing off-season use, although some people were not in favour. Several people identified the need for fencing of dog parks, for the safety of dogs and people. Several people observed that more bylaw enforcement is needed, that some dog owners disregard rules concerning dogs in parks and fail to clean up after them. Some people were in favour of more garbage cans and dog waste bags. One person suggested requiring or encouraging a Canine Good Citizen Certificate or Tag for dogs in off-leash dog parks, to reduce the number of aggressive or poorly-behaved dogs in these parks.

Comments at the open house were supportive of places for dogs, with suggestions for locations of off-leash dog parks including Powell Beach and Living Memorial Park.

## **TRAILS**

There was strong community support for the draft recommendations concerning trails, with almost 90% of survey respondents in agreement and only 2% disagreeing (7% were neutral). Comments at the open house were generally favourable, with people in favour of multi-use trails, a cycling network

plan, improving conditions and safety for on-road cycling, and increasing connectivity. A few people commented that motorized and non-motorized trail uses are not compatible. Two people commented on the need to be able to access Crown land.

Many survey respondents provided comments. Similar to the open house, there were comments in favour of multi-use trails, a cycling network plan and improving on-road biking. Several people noted the need for signage and education.

### **INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES**

Community feedback on the draft recommendations concerning indoor facilities was positive, with 80% of survey respondents in agreement, 14% neutral and 4% disagreeing. Comments at the open house were favourable, with many people commenting on the need for a new or upgraded aquatic centre or a new multi-purpose community centre with pool. Several people noted the need to consider all of the facilities available in Summerland, such as the Baptist Church, schools, Badminton Club, and Lakeshore Racquets Club. One person suggested that the District explore partnering with the YMCA. Two people identified the need for a second ice sheet.

Comments from the online survey were similar to the open house, with the vast majority of comments in favour of a new/upgraded pool or a new multi-purpose community centre with pool.

### **SUMMERLAND AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTRE**

Community response to the draft recommendations on the Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre was very positive, with almost 90% of survey respondents in agreement, and over half strongly agreeing. Only 2% of respondents disagreed and 6% were neutral.

The vast majority of comments at the open house and on the online survey were in favour of a new pool or multi-purpose facility with pool, and several people identified this as an immediate need. Several people also highlighted the value of the fitness area and the need for upgrading/expanding it.

### **SUMMERLAND ARENA AND CURLING CLUB**

Community feedback on the draft recommendations concerning the Summerland Arena and Curling Club was positive, with more than 80% of survey respondents in agreement, only 3% disagreeing and 13% neutral.

Several people identified the need to upgrade the arena, including providing for multi-use such as lacrosse, Fall Fair, or conferences. Some people identified the need for more ice time or a second ice sheet.

---

## RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Community feedback on the draft recommendations on recreation programming was very positive, with 86% of survey respondents in agreement, only 1% disagreeing and 11% neutral.

Many comments on the survey were in favour of expanding recreation opportunities for youth in Summerland and creating a Youth Engagement Strategy. Other comments identified the need for more family-friendly ice time and hockey ice time, keeping prices low, and providing drop-in and after-work fitness opportunities and a walking track for older adults. One respondent observed that it would be nice to have lacrosse in Summerland.

Comments at the open house were in favour of a Youth Engagement Strategy and identified the need for more certified instructors/coaches, more classes, a bigger work-out area, and a better booking system for parks. One person suggested a summer horse camp at the Rodeo Grounds and another suggested a 10-year replacement plan for dual rink opportunity for Okanagan lacrosse.

## RECREATION SERVICE DELIVERY

Community feedback on the draft recommendations on recreation programming was very positive, with 85% of survey respondents in agreement, only 2% disagreeing and 9% neutral.

Comments at the open house focused on the need for affordability, with suggestions to keep fees low or provide subsidies. Similarly, comments on the online survey identified the need for affordability. Some comments on the online survey questioned the need for additional staff or a District facilitative role, while others were in favour of marketing and coordination.

## PRIORITIES

One display panel at the open house listed several potential priorities for parks and recreation in Summerland. Participants were given 6 dot stickers each and asked to provide dots next to their top priorities.

The result is shown in Figures E1 and E2.

The highest priority identified at the open house was to build a new multi-purpose community centre with pool. The next highest priorities were to upgrade the arena, build a new aquatic centre, develop a Trails Master Plan, create/protect more natural areas, keep recreation affordable, create more multi-purpose trails, and install signage on trails.

The lowest priorities (with less than 10 dots each) were providing additional off-leash areas in off-season or at certain times of day, improving recreation programming, creating off-road staging areas, better maintaining parks, creating new neighbourhood parks, improving water access, creating new playgrounds, and creating additional sports fields.



Figure E1: Dots allocated to priorities by open house participants

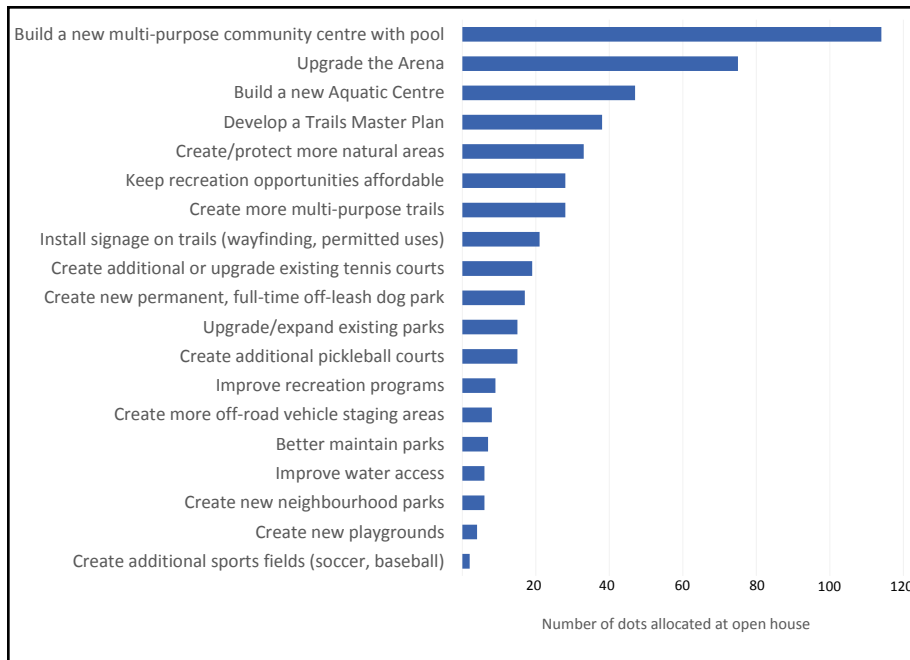


Figure E2: Dots allocated to priorities by open house participants

There was a second display panel where participants could note additional priorities or provide comments. Many of the comments identified the need to upgrade the Rodeo Grounds, with suggestions for upgrades and potential uses. There were several comments in favour of multi-use trails and protecting natural areas. A couple of comments noted the need for washroom upgrades and a couple others noting the need for dog parks.

The online survey had two questions on priorities: one with priorities for parks, trails and outdoor recreation and a second with priorities for indoor recreation and recreation programming. Respondents were asked to rank each as low, medium or high priority.

The rankings of parks, trails and outdoor recreation priorities are shown in Figure E3.

Survey respondents placed the highest priority on creating/protecting more natural areas, developing a Trails Master Plan, placing signage on trails, upgrading/expanding existing parks, creating more multi-purpose trails, better maintaining parks, and increasing water access. Feedback was mixed on creating a new permanent, full-time off-leash dog park, with some survey respondents seeing it as a high priority and an equal number seeing it as a low priority. Creating new playgrounds and new neighbourhood parks and creating new or upgrading existing tennis courts were medium to low priorities for survey

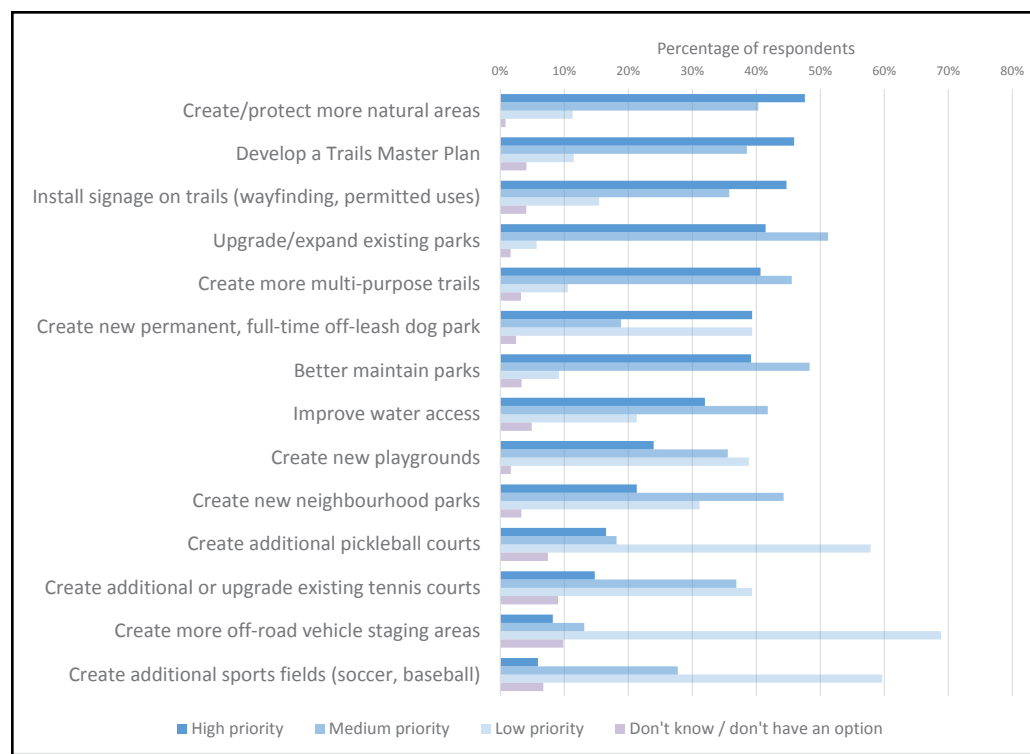


Figure E3: Rankings of parks, trails and outdoor recreation priorities by survey respondents

respondents. Creating additional pickleball courts, more off-road staging areas, and additional sports fields were lower priorities for survey respondents.

Survey respondents had the opportunity to provide additional priorities or comments. Most echoed draft recommendations, such as washroom upgrades, upgrading Memorial Park, a new skatepark, and a downtown gathering place. Several noted the need for an off-leash dog park. A few respondents commented on the need for a trail network, and others noted that off-road vehicles are not compatible with other parks and trails uses.

The rankings of indoor recreation and recreation programming priorities are shown in Figure E4.

Survey respondents placed the highest priority on keep recreation opportunities affordable and building a new multi-purpose community centre with pool. Responses were more mixed for building a new aquatic centre, building a new area and improving recreation programming, although more than half of respondents identified them as a medium or high priority.

Several respondents commented on the need and benefit of a new multi-purpose community centre. A couple of respondents noted the need to consider the affordability of the recommendations, to prioritize or work in partnership with other organizations. Other comments provided a variety of suggestions/needs, such as keeping programs affordable, providing recreation opportunities for teens, providing more pickleball courts, and continuing to have non-motorized multi-use trails on Conkle Mountain. One respondent identified a gym/fitness facility and skatepark as high priorities.

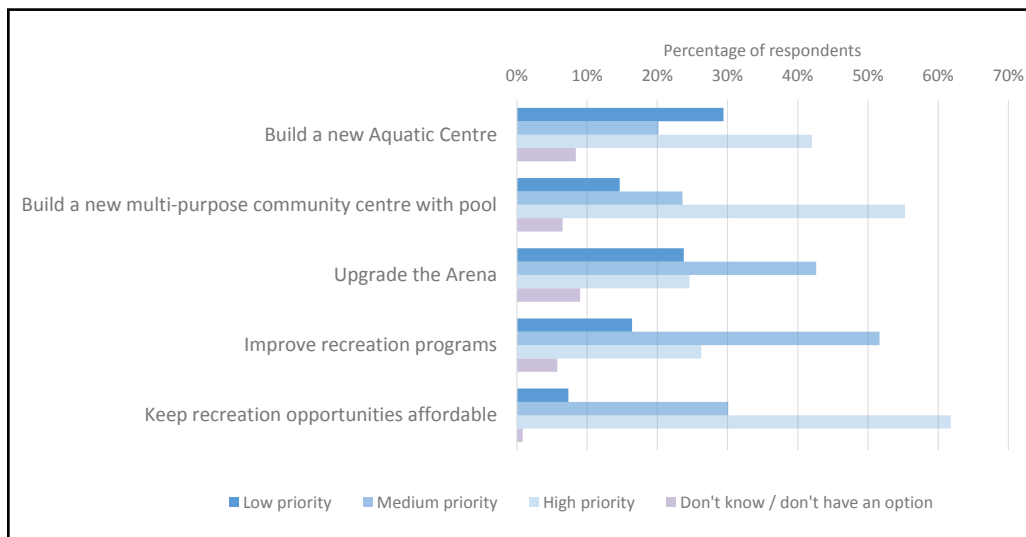


Figure E4: Rankings of indoor recreation and recreation programming priorities by survey respondents



---

Survey respondents placed the highest priority on keeping recreation opportunities affordable and building a new multi-purpose community centre with pool. Responses were more mixed for building a new aquatic centre, building a new area and improving recreation programming, although more than half of respondents identified them as a medium or high priority.

Several respondents commented on the need and benefit of a new multi-purpose community centre. A couple of respondents noted the need to consider the affordability of the recommendations, to prioritize or work in partnership with other organizations. Other comments provided a variety of suggestions/needs, such as keeping programs affordable, providing recreation opportunities for teens, providing more pickleball courts, and continuing to have non-motorized multi-use trails on Conkle Mountain. One respondent identified a gym/fitness facility and skatepark as high priorities.

# Appendix F

## Environmental Values

Summerland's natural environment is part of the pocket desert ecosystem of the southern Interior and has many sensitive ecosystems, including grasslands, shrub-steppe, wetlands, riparian areas, old growth and mature forest and rugged terrain. The District of Summerland is rich in biodiversity, providing many areas that support species at risk.

Critical Habitat for Species at Risk Act (SARA) Endangered and Threatened Species is found in Summerland (e.g. Lewis's Woodpecker, Great Basin Spadefoot, Tiger Salamander, Great Basin Gophersnake, and Western Rattlesnake) and many other species at risk are known to occur in the area. For example, much of the natural ponderosa pine and fir open forest is high quality Mule Deer Winter Range.<sup>1</sup> A list of known, likely species at risk is provided in Table F1, with more information provided at the end of this Appendix.

Summerland generally supports a high diversity of species and a variety of wildlife viewing opportunities for more common species including black bear, coyote, great-horned owls, bald eagles, and osprey. Also, the Mountain Goat population north of town is highly unique and Mountain Goats are known to be unusually sensitive to human disturbance.<sup>2</sup>

Summerland's Official Community Plan (OCP) "recognizes the importance of its natural environment and its contribution to the health of the community through the preservation of sensitive ecosystems, their functioning, species therein and connectivity between natural areas." The OCP specifies that "Ecologically sensitive ecosystems such as wetlands, grasslands, riparian areas, mature and old growth forests and rugged terrain shall continue to be preserved. It is important to maintain ecosystem functions as well as support connections between them."

<sup>1</sup> Detailed mapping of both Critical Habitat and Mule Deer Winter Range is available through BC's IMAP site <http://maps.gov.bc.ca/ess/sv/imapbc/>

<sup>2</sup> Management Plan for Mountain Goat in British Columbia [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/recovery/management\\_plans/MtGoat\\_MP\\_Final\\_28May2010.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/recovery/management_plans/MtGoat_MP_Final_28May2010.pdf)

---

There are two designations in the OCP concerning environmental protection: riparian areas and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs). Riparian areas are protected under the provincial Riparian Areas Regulations. Summerland’s OCP designates Watercourse Development Permit Areas, applicable to all known rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands. The primary objective of this designation is to “protect riparian areas and ensure that no harmful, alteration, disruption, or destruction of the natural features, functions and conditions that support life processes in the riparian assessment area will occur as a result of development.”

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) represent sensitive ecosystems such as grasslands, shrub-steppe, wetlands, riparian areas, old growth and mature forest and rugged terrain. The corresponding Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Areas contain development guidelines intended to protect “the natural environment, its ecosystems and biodiversity.” Figure F1 shows Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Summerland’s parks. As can be seen from this figure, many of Summerland’s parks lie within ESAs, and development or land alteration in these areas would be subject to the Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Area guidelines, with some exceptions.<sup>3</sup>

**Summerland’s Official Community Plan – Goals related to the natural environment:**

- Identify, preserve, enhance, expand and protect Summerland’s ecological biodiversity.
- Ensure new development is respectful of ecological values.
- Promote conservation stewardship of sensitive ecosystems, their functioning and associated species.
- Protect and manage ecologically sensitive lands within, and adjacent to the Urban Growth Area including wildlife movement corridors.
- Protect important view corridors.

<sup>3</sup> “Actions or activities performed by Provincial or District staff or contractors to prevent, control, or reduce flooding, erosion or other immediate threats to life or property” and “Maintenance of existing infrastructure by Provincial or District staff or their contractors.”

**Summerland's Official Community Plan – Objectives related to the natural environment:**

8.2.1.1 Identify, protect, expand and restore sensitive ecosystem areas, their living resources and connections including but not limited to wetlands, riparian vegetation, mature trees, watercourses and native vegetation.

8.2.1.2 Secure and protect public lands along the foreshore of Okanagan Lake.

8.2.1.3 Follow and adopt recognized ecological standards and practices, and District approved terms of reference for conducting environmentally assessments for development within Environmentally Sensitive Areas (see Section 23.0).

8.2.1.4 Recognize the importance of protecting the environmental integrity of the District's water reservoirs and watersheds.

8.2.1.5 Promote environmental stewardship through municipal leadership and ongoing education within the community; effectively communicating opportunities to reduce, reuse, and recycle while lessening lifestyle and development impacts on the natural environment.

8.2.1.6 Future building and development shall move towards sustainable development best practices.

8.2.1.7 Preserve sensitive ecosystem areas, their living resources, and connections between them in a natural condition and maintain these areas free of development and human activity to the maximum extent possible.

Key areas for connectivity planning in Summerland include riparian areas (e.g. Prairie, Eneas and Trout Creek), shorelines (e.g. Okanagan Lake) and terrestrial areas (e.g. connectivity between the lake and west toward the edge of the district; north and south). This prevents isolation of wildlife populations within BC and between the US and Canada to help avoid extinction of species. Connectivity planning could help support restoration of these areas and support higher water quality and flood prevention. Summerland's parks can act as stepping stones facilitating connectivity between habitats, but land development and use are progressively impacting connectivity and without an overarching plan, any connectivity planned within a development will not necessarily link to surrounding areas.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Alison Peatt, SOSCP Environmental Planner, providing environmental planning support services to SOSCP local government partners. Personal communication, December 24, 2017 and February 23, 2018.

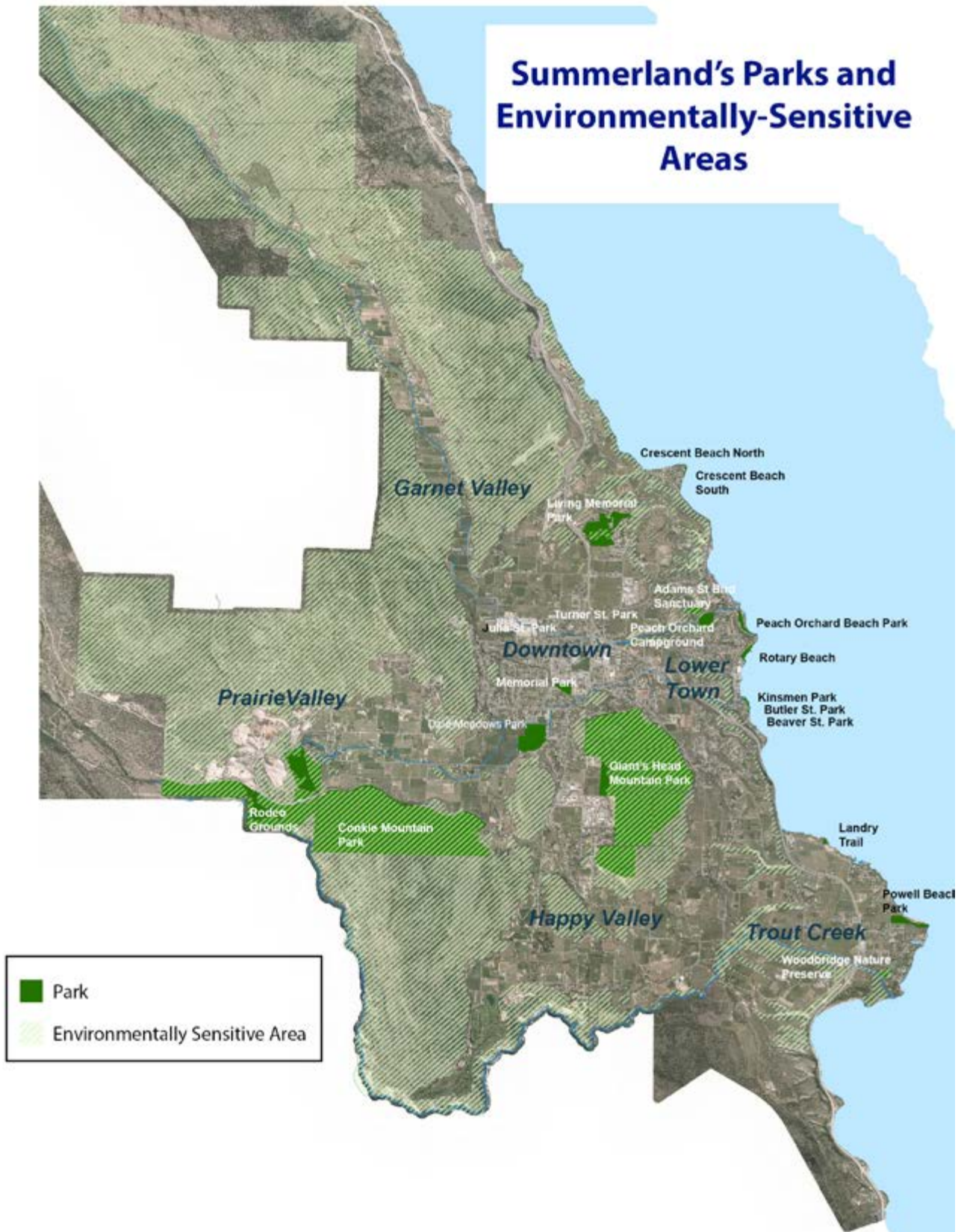


Figure F1: Summerland Environmentally Sensitive Areas and District of Summerland Parks

**TABLE F1: SPECIES AT RISK IN OR NEAR SUMMERLAND**

SPECIES	CONSERVATION STATUS <sup>5</sup>
<b>Mammals</b>	
American Badger ( <i>Taxidea taxus</i> )	SARA (Endangered)
Little Brown Myotis ( <i>Myotis lucifugus</i> )	SARA (Endangered)
Nuttall's Cottontail ( <i>Sylvilagus nuttallii</i> )	SARA (Special Concern)
Spotted Bat ( <i>Euderma maculatum</i> )-	SARA (Special Concern)
Western Harvest Mouse ( <i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i> )	SARA (Special Concern)
<b>Birds</b>	
Brewer's Sparrow ( <i>Spizella breweri breweri</i> )	Provincial Red List and Conservation Framework Priority 2
Canyon Wren ( <i>Catherpes mexicanus</i> )	Provincial Blue List
Common Nighthawk ( <i>Chordeiles minor</i> )	SARA (Threatened)
Flammulated Owl ( <i>Psiloscoops flammeolus</i> )	SARA (Special Concern)
Lewis's Woodpecker ( <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> )	SARA (Threatened)
Peregrine Falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> )	SARA (Special Concern)
Western Screech Owl ( <i>Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei</i> )	SARA (Threatened)
White-headed Woodpecker ( <i>Leuconotopicus albolavatus</i> )	SARA (Endangered)
Williamson's Sapsucker ( <i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus thyroideus</i> )	SARA (Endangered)
Yellow-breasted Chat ( <i>Icteria virens</i> )	SARA (Endangered)
White-throated Swift ( <i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i> )	Provincial Blue list

<sup>5</sup> SARA=Species at Risk Act (federal) which protects the most at risk species in Canada. COSEWIC = Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, an independent advisory panel to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada that meets twice a year to assess the status of wildlife species at risk of extinction. Wildlife species that have been designated by COSEWIC may qualify for legal protection and recovery under the Species at Risk Act. Provincial Red List = Any species or ecosystem that is at risk of being lost (extirpated, endangered or threatened); Provincial Blue List = Any species or ecosystem that is of special concern. A glossary of terms related to species and ecosystems at risk can be found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/glossary-for-species-ecosystems-at-risk>. Species of Management Concern were are not considered at risk, but were highlighted as more common species that may be relevant to consider or may have management implications for recreation/park/trails management in Summerland.

**TABLE F1: SPECIES AT RISK IN OR NEAR SUMMERLAND**

SPECIES	CONSERVATION STATUS <sup>5</sup>
<b>Reptiles</b>	
Great Basin Gophersnake ( <i>Pituophis catenifer deserticola</i> )	SARA (Threatened)
North American Racer ( <i>Coluber constrictor</i> )	SARA (Special Concern); COSEWIC (Endangered)
Northern Rubber Boa ( <i>Charina bottae</i> )	SARA (Special Concern)
Painted Turtle ( <i>Chrysemys picta</i> - Intermountain Rocky Mountain Population)	SARA (Special Concern)
Western Rattlesnake ( <i>Crotalus oreganus</i> )	SARA (Threatened)
<b>Amphibians</b>	
Great Basin Spadefoot ( <i>Spea intermontana</i> )	SARA (Threatened)
Tiger Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i> )	SARA (Endangered)
Western Toad ( <i>Anaxyrus boreas</i> )	SARA (Special Concern)
<b>Invertebrates</b>	
Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel ( <i>Gonidea angulata</i> )	SARA (Special Concern); COSEWIC (Endangered)
<b>Not at risk, but species of management concern</b>	
Bald Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	
Black Bear ( <i>Ursus americanus</i> )	
Kokanee ( <i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i> )	
Mountain Goat ( <i>Oreamnos americanus</i> )	
Mule Deer ( <i>Odocoileus hemionus</i> )	
Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> )	

## SPECIES AT RISK FOUND IN OR NEAR SUMMERLAND

*Information provided by Allison Peatt, Environmental Planner, providing environmental planning support services to SOSCP local government partners.*

**American Badger** – SARA (Endangered): known to occur in Summerland District but sightings across the southern interior are rare due to low populations. Would occur in association with areas that have ground squirrels, or sometimes Yellow-bellied Marmots or Pocket Gophers. Most likely in natural area parks. Burrows likely to be visible to land managers. Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated they were present. Would require site specific protection for the time the habitat is occupied and possibly maintenance of habitat in future. Draft Critical Habitat is mapped but not available. This mapping may cover areas of Summerland District, when it is released

**Brewer's Sparrow** (*Spizella breweri breweri*) – Provincial Red List and Conservation Framework Priority 2. Province does not record nesting occurrences in Summerland, although it is found further south. Nesting in Summerland is possible but unlikely. Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated this species was nesting in a park, on a city property or immediately adjacent.

**Canyon Wren** (*Catherpes mexicanus*) – Provincial Blue List; Cliffs, habitat is steep-sided canyons, rocky outcrops and boulder piles; nests on canyon walls and may also be associated with or nest around buildings; local populations can fluctuate widely and decline severely in response to severe winters; Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated this species was present. Potential impacts associated with rock climbing, and land use on steep slopes

**Common Nighthawk** (*Chordeiles minor*) – SARA (Threatened): This bird nests on the ground and thus is particularly vulnerable to disturbance by unleashed pets, off trail trampling by people and development activities that result in clearing or ground disturbance. It is also highly vulnerable to vehicle collisions, particularly at dusk. Another once common bird species that has shown rapid declines, this species is also an important consumer of insects and of interest to wildlife viewers both because of the noises it makes in flight, the maneuverability of its flying (catching insects on the wing) and its tendency to be active and highly visible at dawn and dusk. Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated this species was present.

**Flammulated Owl** (*Psilosops flammeolus*) – SARA (Special Concern): Associated with Ponderosa Pine forests; Known to occur in Summerland District; Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated this species was present. Management would require protection of nest sites, a supply of suitable nest trees and associated forest understory. This species would only be found in natural area parks.



---

**Great Basin Gophersnake** (*Pituophis catenifer deserticola*)<sup>6</sup> - SARA (Threatened): Proposed Critical Habitat located in Summerland District

**Great Basin Spadefoot** (*Spea intermontana*)- SARA (Threatened): Proposed Critical Habitat located in Summerland District. Habitat is wetlands and adjacent uplands where these toads dig burrows. Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated they were present.

**Lewis's Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes lewis*) –SARA<sup>7</sup> (Threatened): Proposed Critical Habitat located in Summerland District and many known locations including historical wintering habitat and nesting sites (e.g. Woodbridge Nature Preserve)

**Little Brown Myotis** (*Myotis lucifugus*) – SARA (Endangered): These remain common and are known to occur in Summerland District. They are associated with buildings and wildlife trees and forage near wetlands, streams and lake shorelines. They are very important as an “ecosystem service” helping with insect management by consuming large number of mosquitos, midges, hoppers and other insects. White nose Syndrome (a fungal disease introduced from Europe by cavers) is decimating bats across Canada causing massive reductions (i.e. more than 99% mortality in areas where it has spread). This has severe potential for disruptions of ecosystems and impacts to people. Although white nose has not yet reaching BC, it has been found in Washington State. An inventory to determine which parks are used by this species (or even bats in general) would be straight forward to complete, using auditory bat detectors. Management advice for occupied parks could be provided by a bat expert (QEP) and policy direction for management of bats in park or other district buildings is highly desirable, as the loss of this species has the potential for impacts to human health and costs of mosquito control.

**North American Racer** (*Coluber constrictor*)- SARA (Special Concern); COSEWIC (Endangered): known to occur in Summerland; habitat is dry grassland; species not well studied; similar concerns to rattlesnakes re dens and impacts associated with roads and trails (being run over by vehicles and bikes; persecuted by people)

**Northern Rubber Boa** (*Charina bottae*) – SARA (Special Concern): known to occur in Summerland; strong habitat association with Coarse woody debris (down and dead wood); secretive and nocturnal, they are difficult to find but may be present in natural area parks. Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated they were present.

**Nuttall's Cottontail** (*Sylvilagus nuttallii*) – SARA (Special Concern): known to occur in Summerland; habitat is grassland, shrub-steppe, rocky, streamside habitats; Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated they were present.

<sup>6</sup> Recovery plan for this species defines Critical Habitat for three species together (i.e. Western Rattlesnake, Great Basin Gophersnake and Desert Nightsnake (*Hypsiglena chlorophaea*). The Desert Nightsnake is not known to occur north of Penticton but Critical Habitat is declared in the Summerland area to protect all three species.

<sup>7</sup>SARA=Species at Risk Act (federal) which protects the most at risk species in Canada

**Painted Turtle** (*Chrysemys picta*- Intermountain Rocky Mountain Population) – SARA (Special Concerns): known to occur in Summerland; associated with wetlands only; Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated they were present.

**Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus anatum*): SARA (Special Concern): Known to occur in the area around Summerland. Nests are protected under provincial and federal legislation but rare. Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated they were present.

**Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel** (*Gonidea angulata*) – SARA (Special Concern) and COSEWIC (Endangered): This species is known to occur at shallow depths in Okanagan Lake, adjacent to Summerland district. These sites would affect beach/riparian management and appropriate recreation uses. Locations are mapped in the same map as Kokanee. See <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/okanagan/esd/ollp/ollp.html> for more information.

**Spotted Bat** (*Euderma maculatum*)- SARA (Special Concern): known to occur in Summerland District (spring and summer, migrating to warmer areas when temperatures are cooler); solitary, nocturnal bat with a diet that mainly consists of moths; interesting from a wildlife viewing perspective as their ecolocation calls can be heard. This bat is larger than some of the more common species and may be drawn to lights for hunting its prey. Its biology is not well known, but likely it roosts in crevices in rocks (but may also roost in buildings or caves). Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated they were present. Concerns for this species would include white-nose syndrome, rock climbing in occupied habitat, noise and light pollution.

**Tiger Salamander** (*Ambystoma tigrinum*) – SARA (Endangered): Proposed Critical Habitat located in Summerland District; habitat is wetlands and surrounding upland areas, including corridors that connect wetlands. Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated they were present.

**Western Harvest Mouse** (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*) – SARA (Special Concern); there are records in Summerland District. Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated they were present. Likely to be associated with Grassland-Shrub-Steppe habitats (natural areas), but may also use old fields, and edge habitat. Unlikely in highly modified/developed areas.

**Western Rattlesnake** (*Crotalus oreganus*)<sup>8</sup> - SARA (Threatened): Proposed Critical Habitat located in Summerland District; habitat is grassland, shrub-steppe, open forest and riparian/wetland areas in

<sup>8</sup> Recovery plan for this species defines Critical Habitat for three species together (i.e. Western Rattlesnake, Great Basin Gophersnake and Desert Nightsnake (*Hypsiglena chlorophaea*). The Desert Nightsnake is not known to occur north of Penticton but Critical Habitat is declared in the Summerland area to protect all three species.

---

the bunchgrass, ponderosa pine and interior douglas fir biogeoclimatic zones (i.e. lower elevations). The most important habitat element to protect would be dens where snakes overwinter. Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated snakes were present, particularly if dens were present. Dens are more likely in natural areas. Known den locations are protected as “sensitive information” because of the risk of persecution. Qualified professionals can access this known information to assist with Park Planning.

**Western Screech Owl** (*Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei*)-SARA (Threatened): Known to nest in Summerland. Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) the species was present. Main management concern would be management for a supply of wildlife trees of sufficient size to be suitable for nesting (Aspen and Black Cottonwood) and protection of occupied nest trees.

**White-headed Woodpecker** (*Leuconotopicus albolarvatus*)- SARA (Endangered); there is a historical occurrence, but these are not known to occur in the area recently.

**Williamson’s Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus thyroideus*) – SARA (Endangered): Critical Habitat is mapped for Okanagan but does not occur within Summerland District. They have been seen in the district, but this species is unlikely to be of concern to Parks Management, unless a nest is found in the area (unlikely).

**Yellow-breasted Chat** (*Icteria virens*) – SARA (Endangered): Critical Habitat is mapped for Okanagan but does not occur within Summerland District. They have been seen in the district, but this species is unlikely to be of concern to Parks Management, unless a nest is found in the area (unlikely).

**White-throated Swift** (*Aeronautes saxatalis*) – Provincial Blue list: Nests in rock crevices in cliffs and canyons, this species is known to occur in Summerland District (spring and summer, migrating to warmer areas when temperatures are cooler). Sometimes nests in buildings, and on cliffs; there are concerns about this species declining and being vulnerable to development and recreation impacts on steep ground habitat. Would have implications for development/management if development was proposed and environmental assessment (inventory for species at risk) indicated they were present.

**Western Toad** (*Anaxyrus boreas*)- SARA (Special Concern); this species is relatively abundant but vulnerable because of migrations of young toadlets that occurs in some places in large numbers. They are particularly vulnerable to roads constructed or used near wetlands that they occupy and are highly likely to be found in Summerland District wetlands. This species could be of interest for education and wildlife viewing and generic direction provided by a QEP or environmental planner, for parks containing habitat for Western Toad would likely provide sufficient direction to manage this species.

## NOT AT RISK, BUT SPECIES OF MANAGEMENT CONCERN

**Black Bear** (*Ursus americanus*)-one of the largest concentrations of black bear in the Okanagan due to fruit production in the area; management significance due to potential for human and bear safety risks. RDOS has a Bear Conflict Management Plan which provides direction for managing bear-human conflict.<sup>9</sup>

**Mule Deer** (*Odocoileus hemionus*) – Mule Deer were once highly abundant in BC and appear to be declining, despite urban deer issues which are caused by White-tail and Mule Deer. There are areas of high capability winter range which are critical to survival of Mule Deer and various of the Summerland natural areas parks like Giants Head and areas currently owned by Summerland (e.g. Prairie Valley lands; areas adjacent to Old College Property) provide high quality winter range. Management to maintain areas of snow interception cover are important considerations when designing park management plans or fire risk/interface “firesmart” plans.

**Mountain Goat** (*Oreamnos americanus*) – A prominent population of Mountain Goats are easily viewed from the highway and are a sensitive species to recreation and other disturbance by people. Although various people have speculated that this population is uniquely unsusceptible to disturbance, this is speculation not based on research, whereas research documents in detail on many populations that Mountain Goats are highly sensitive to disturbance, although some population have adapted to highway road noise. The district may wish to address this unique resource in parks and recreation planning, as without active planning, the population is likely to be lost.

**Kokanee** (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) – Areas have been designated on Okanagan Lake to identify and protect shore spawning areas for Kokanee. Some of these are located in Summerland. These would affect beach/riparian management and appropriate recreation uses on the sites shown on the map. See <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/okanagan/esd/ollp/ollp.html> for more information.

**Bald Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) – Nest trees are protected under multiple provincial and federal laws. Management of these trees will require QEP advice and compliance with this legislation. These also can provide valuable wildlife viewing opportunities for locals and visitors. Interpretation around fishing behaviour would also be possible, as the miles of lake shoreline and open vistas in the Okanagan provide much enjoyment and opportunities to learn about large “raptor” species.

**Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Same comments as for Bald Eagle (see above).

<sup>9</sup> This plan was authored by Alison Peatt.

# Appendix G

## Summerland's Community Climate Action Plan

Summerland has a Climate Action Plan (2011), which has seven goals, several of which are relevant to parks, trails and recreation. The relevant goals and actions relevant include:

Goal 2: Improve transportation efficiency.

- Improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. This includes more multi-use trails that are connected to a trail network. All collector road reconstruction should consider the inclusion of bicycle lanes and sidewalks.
- Provide information on transportation alternatives (electric assist bicycles) and communicate the lifestyle and financial benefits of public transit and active transportation.
- Investigate the construction of a multi-use trail between Lower Town and Trout Creek.

Goal 4: Identify and support effective greenhouse gas reduction initiatives.

- Consider disseminating recycling/waste bins throughout the community. These bins separate garbage and recycling and are placed in public areas like downtown, parks, arenas, etc.

Goal 5: Promote energy conservation and dissemination of renewable energy technologies.

- Consider new technologies and/or partnerships that reduce peak energy demand, generate renewable energy, or reduce energy consumption.

Goal 6: Maintain and enhance the urban ecosystem.

- Support Municipally owned vacant lots to be used for community gardens.
- Review policy and regulations to ensure parking lots are landscaped to provide shade and permeability.
- Consider adding street trees as a requirement in the Subdivision and Development Bylaw.
- Consider preparing a Tree Preservation Bylaw.

Goal 7: Demonstrate Municipal leadership.

- Consider mapping Summerland's urban forest and identify tree planting locations in the municipality.
- All newly constructed, municipally owned and operated buildings, shall be at least 25 percent more energy efficient than those built to Provincial building codes.
- Promote the ideas of "Carbon-neutral Vacations" or "Eco-Tourism" in Summerland through the Chamber of Commerce.
- Support initiatives that improve air quality such as increasing our urban forest, lowering transportation emissions and improving and reducing all wood burning practices.



## HOW WILL WE TAKE CLIMATE ACTION?

### Goal 1: Minimize urban sprawl and promote compact, energy-efficient development with access to amenities within walking and cycling distance.

- \* Support the trading of ALR land within 800 metres or about a 10 minute walk of downtown with land in the periphery if additional development land is required.
- \* Review Official Community Plan and Land Use Map to limit urban sprawl and promote smart growth. This may include guiding growth in nodes and along corridors and in areas where there is municipal sewer. Refine the UGA (urban growth area).
- \* Increase densities in the 1999 Zoning Bylaw.
- \* Prepare a sustainable development checklist to be used during the development application process.
- \* Consider reviewing the Development Cost Charge Bylaw, Fees and Charges Bylaw, and the Procedures Bylaw to ensure that the regulations are promoting energy-efficient, compact development and not urban sprawl.
- \* Consider Investigating changes to the Fees & Charges Bylaw regarding the electric heating installation charge.
- \* Review the suitability of creating a development permit area (DPA) for sustainable development.
- \* Consider preparing a Downtown Plan that includes opportunities for sustainability.
- \* Consider preparing a Transit Plan with maps of proposed routes and coordinated with growth nodes and corridors.
- \* Consider rewriting the Official Community Plan to integrate land use, transportation, and energy planning into one document.
- \* Development Services staff will provide current sustainability information and promote incentive programs to people who make inquiries and/or take a Building Permit Application.
- \* Consider exploring an incentive based permit fee where fees decrease as sustainability features increase.
- \* Request a Home Energy Audit with applications for new buildings or major renovations. This home energy rating will be put into the Municipal system (GIS database) attached to the property.
- \* Support the continuation of the Green Cents program, or equivalent, and its evolution to provide "green certification" for businesses to show their sustainability initiatives while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- \* Encourage individual metering of utilities in multi-unit residences.



### Goal 2: Improve transportation efficiency.

- \* Support private transit options.
- \* Lobby BC Transit for better transit service and consider regional partnerships to improve transit service.
- \* Improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. This includes more multi-use trails that are connected to a trail network. All collector road re-construction should consider the inclusion of bicycle lanes and sidewalks.
- \* Provide information on transportation alternatives (electric assist bicycles) and communicate the lifestyle and financial benefits of public transit and active transportation.
- \* Encourage strata buildings to provide co-op vehicles to allow for parking reductions.
- \* Investigate the construction of a multi-use trail between Lower Town and Trout Creek.
- \* Consider providing adequate and accessible bicycle parking at all Municipal facilities.
- \* Support a bicycle co-op; organizations where volunteers teach people how to ride, fix, and build bicycles for free or cost recovery.
- \* Promote amenities for electric vehicles and micro vehicles.
- \* Consider developing a strategy for electric vehicle charging stations (pay per kWh) in core areas of Summerland.
- \* Support a regional carpool initiative.
- \* Support and participate in Bike to Work Week and Car-Free Day programs.
- \* Consider providing anti-idling signage for the downtown core.
- \* Consider a pilot project that follows the transportation habits of a few families in Summerland over one month. Then provide them with tools like carpool.ca and motor assist bicycles for one month and see if they were able to reduce their vehicle use.
- \* Provide "Smart-Driver" tips to residents to help them reduce their fuel consumption and GHG emissions.

### Goal 3: Support public participation, education and awareness initiatives.

- \* Consider posting sustainability information on the District of Summerland website.
- \* Consider preparing a Communications Plan to address education and outreach for Summerland's Climate Action Plan.
- \* Form a Climate Action Working Group to work with staff to increase community awareness and aide in Plan implementation.
- \* Consider collaborating with the RDOS to develop a Sustainable South Okanagan Website with information, blog, and possibly a re-use trading site.
- \* Support the offering of a xeriscaping course.
- \* Support the offering of water conservation and/or drip irrigation courses.

### Goal 4: Identify and support effective greenhouse gas reduction initiatives.

- \* Promote the Canada Post Red Dot Campaign to reduce junk mail.
- \* Encourage anaerobic digestion opportunities for orchards, wineries & breweries.
- \* Consider hosting a District-wide garage sale to encourage reuse and recycling.
- \* Work with the private sector to increase the diversion of construction and demolition materials from the landfill.
- \* Work with the business community to reduce the use of plastic bags and increase the use of cloth bags for purchases.
- \* Investigate alternative ways to charge for garbage. This may include implementing a one-bag limit on garbage or going from a flat-rate system to a pay-per-use system.
- \* Consider disseminating recycling/waste bins throughout the community. These bins separate garbage and recycling and are placed in public areas like downtown, parks, arenas, etc.
- \* Research the feasibility of a Municipal RE-USE IT location where people can bring building materials that have reuse value.
- \* Consider providing glass pick-up or recycling if it is viable. Even if it is just a bin somewhere or pick-up once a month.
- \* Investigate a commercial recycling program for Summerland businesses.

### Goal 5: Promote energy conservation and dissemination of renewable energy technologies.

- \* Consider implementing a time of use energy consumption education program and make home energy monitors available to customers, for a limited time to educate them on usage.
- \* Consider new technologies and/or partnerships that reduce peak energy demand, generate renewable energy, or reduce energy consumption.
- \* Consider regulations for wind turbines in the Zoning Bylaw.
- \* Consider a program that makes Smart Meters available to customers who are either interested in producing on-site renewable energy or interested in time-of-use data. Also make available a guide outlining the standards and procedures.
- \* Investigate opportunities for alternative renewable energy generation (geothermal, wind farms, micro-hydro on creeks).
- \* Investigate opportunities for district energy and/or lake cooling.
- \* Consider preparing a Plan to move towards a Smart Grid.



### Goal 6: Maintain and enhance the urban ecosystem.

- \* Support the creation of a local food map like a tourist map that locates local food suppliers such as local fruit, wine, eggs, chickens, etc.
- \* Support Municipally owned vacant lots to be used for community gardens.
- \* Review policy and regulations to ensure parking lots are landscaped to provide shade and permeability.
- \* Consider adding street trees as a requirement in the Subdivision and Development Bylaw.
- \* Consider preparing a Tree Preservation Bylaw.

### Goal 7: Demonstrate Municipal leadership.

- \* Consider updating the community travel survey at regular intervals. This information will provide more accurate travel data for Summerland.
- \* Consider mapping Summerland's urban forest and identify tree planting locations in the municipality.
- \* Based on the District of Summerland's yearly operational carbon footprint and the dollar amount equal to the prevailing market value of a tonne of carbon will be set aside in the annual budgeting process to buy carbon offsets or for inclusion in the Climate Action Fund.
- \* All newly constructed, municipally owned and operated buildings, shall be at least 25 percent more energy efficient than those built to Provincial building codes.
- \* Promote the ideas of "Carbon-neutral Vacations" or "Eco-Tourism" in Summerland through the Chamber of Commerce.
- \* Support incentives to bring new green businesses to the community.
- \* Encourage industrial businesses to cooperate in sharing resources to reduce waste and pollution.
- \* Consider implementing a rain barrel program to be rolled out with the first metered water bill.
- \* Encourage greywater recycling and rainwater harvesting in new developments.
- \* Provide educational material on Xeriscaping and eco-lawn (or lawn alternatives).
- \* Support initiatives that improve air quality such as increasing our urban forest, lowering transportation emissions and improving and reducing all wood burning practices.
- \* Review and enforce outdoor burning regulations.



# Appendix H

## Summerland's Parks

### CITY PARKS

#### **Dale Meadows Park**

Dale Meadows Park is a sports-oriented park located near the centre of town, beside Giant's Head Elementary School. It is used extensively for team sports as well as special events like dog shows. Dale Meadows Park has 5 ball diamonds, 3 soccer fields, a washroom facility, a concession stand, 1.2 km perimeter walking path, playground, picnic tables, benches and bleachers as well as material and equipment storage for parks operations.

The baseball fields are used by Slo-pitch, softball and girls fastball league play and several tournaments, including Action Fest. The soccer fields used by youth and senior men's soccer leagues. There does not appear to be a need for additional fields at this time: sports field users did not identify the need for additional fields and Summerland is above the median and average of similar BC communities for sports field provision (see section 4.3.2). However, the parking lots and washrooms are not sufficient when all fields are in use. Sports field users would like a new clubhouse or changing rooms and an upgrade to the existing washrooms. Additional requests include, safety netting for baseball diamonds 4 and 5 and resurfacing of the perimeter track.

Sports field users identified a number of maintenance issues with the fields. Soccer field users noted that the grass is too long, that sprinkler heads are too high and there are divots in the field. Staff noted that there is a ditch in middle of fields 2 and 3. Staff advise that the turf could be better maintained with a top-dresser. Only one field has lights, but this meets current requirements for evening play.

Baseball field users noted that the diamonds are very hard and rough and that fields are dipped and flood easily when it rains. They would like more protection between fields 2 and 3 above the bleachers, more shaded areas, better enclosure of dugouts to prevent wild balls from entering and drop-ins at 60 feet. Summerland Minor Fastball would like an indoor facility to use for clinics and indoor training; currently they use Giant's Head Elementary or the Harold Simpson Youth Centre.



---

Field maintenance and preparation for games and tournaments requires staff time, and advance notice is needed to ensure staff have sufficient time to prepare the fields. Similarly, advance notice of cancellation of games or tournaments will ensure that staff time is not used to prepare fields that are no longer needed. The District should determine how much advance notice is needed for booking fields and for cancelling bookings and make this information available to sports field users and on the District website and relevant publications.

A meeting between District staff and sports field users in the spring of each year would be helpful for reminding sports field users of required advance notice in bookings as well as how they can contribute to field maintenance, such as watering ball diamonds.

### **Living Memorial Baseball Park**

Living Memorial Baseball Park has 3 ball diamonds, bleachers, benches, and a washroom facility. It is used by minor baseball, who use all 3 diamonds every day in April, May, and June. There is sometimes peewee and bantam league play from July to mid-September as well. The diamonds are also used during Action Fest and for other tournaments that need more than the 5 fields at Dale Meadows Park.

### **Memorial Park**

Memorial Park is located within the downtown core. It is a popular park and venue for community events including Action Fest and Canada Day celebrations. The Tuesday Farmer's Market is located adjacent to Memorial Park on Kelly Avenue. The park features a cenotaph, bandshell, and playground, with large grassy areas, mature shade trees, picnic tables and benches, and washrooms. A horseshoe pitch and clubhouse is located at the edge of the park. The playground is in need of replacement, which is planned and budgeted for 2018. In addition, the District Recreation department proposes installing outdoor fitness equipment adjacent to the playground.

A common comment during engagement for this master plan is that Memorial Park needs an upgrade – it is a beautiful park, but it could be made better. The bandshell roof needs to be replaced and it would be good to limit access to the stage to deter camping. The washrooms need upgrading and should be winterized so that they can be used year-round.

## **COMMUNITY PARKS**

### **Gordon Beggs Rotary Beach Park**

Gordon Beggs Rotary Beach Park is popular with residents and visitors, but as it is a fairly small park with limited parking, it can be crowded in the summer months. The park features a fine sandy beach, an enclosed swimming area, the "F+I" docks, floating docks, washroom facilities, shade trees, picnic tables and park benches. The historic Kiwanis Pier is located in this park and is a popular location for fishing, yoga and tai chi. It has community significance: graduating high school students often take photos with their family and friends on the Kiwanis Pier, which is also a popular location for wedding

photos, and there is a tradition for Summerland children to take their first jump off Kiwanis Pier into Lake Okanagan. The pier is in need of remediation, and funds have been allocated for this purpose in the District's capital budget.

Like Summerland's other beachfront parks, Rotary Beach was flooded in the summer of 2017 and requires remediation of the resulting flood damage. There is damage to the foreshore path and the F+I docks need to be replaced. When undertaking the remediation, the District should explore and pursue opportunities to enhance the ecological integrity of the riparian zone, improve accessibility and increase resilience to possible future flooding.

The washrooms in Rotary Beach Park need upgrading. Stakeholders and community members would like to see more play equipment like slides or a Wibit and sun shelter (such as pergolas) where picnic tables are along walkway. Other potential improvements include improved bike lane access and a long distance sanctioned swim lane from Peach Orchard Beach Park to Rotary Beach Park.

### **Peach Orchard Beach Park**

Peach Orchard Beach Park is located just north of Rotary Beach along Okanagan Lake. It is a popular park and venue for many community festivals and special events. It features a beach, large grassy areas, a volleyball court, a playground, walkway, picnic tables and benches, washrooms, a boat launch and a floating dock. Spirit Square is located in this park, which is a large covered gazebo with stage area. There are also 6 interpretive historic signs, 8 picnic tables, and operating sundial sculpture.

Peach Orchard Beach Park also has the Summerland Millennium Spray Park, which was built in 2000 and contains 15 pieces of apparatus including water cannons and 25 ground sprays. The Spray Park is open daily from May until September and contains both timer and motion sensors for water efficient operation.

A boat launch and parking lot is located at the north end of the park. The parking lot is too small for vehicles with trailers and there are not enough parking spots. There may be potential to expand the parking lot into the grassy area at the northern end of Peach Orchard Beach Park, and the District should explore the costs, benefits and feasibility of doing so.

Peach Orchard Beach was also flooded during summer 2017 and remediation is required to the foreshore path. When undertaking the remediation, the District should explore and pursue opportunities to enhance the ecological integrity of the riparian zone, improve accessibility and increase resilience to possible future flooding.

The washrooms at Peach Orchard Beach Park should be upgraded, including to meet accessibility standards, and should be winterized for year-round use. The playground also needs to be replaced, which is planned and budgeted for in 2018. The open lawn area has poor drainage and is seasonally wet, which limits its use. There is also a significant Canada Goose droppings problem in the park.

---

The District should undertake concept planning for Peach Orchard Beach Park to address the issues that need attention and ensure that optimal use is made of this key community park.

### **Dog Beach**

Dog beach is located at the north end of Peach Orchard Beach Park. It is the only permanent off-leash dog park in Summerland. The Summerland Dog Owners' Association has requested that Dog Beach be made accessible for people with mobility challenges. The District should consider including this in the capital budget for the next 1-3 years, provided that required construction is permissible in the riparian zone and the cost is reasonable and feasible for the District to incur.

### **Powell Beach Park**

Powell Beach Park is located in the Trout Creek area of Summerland. It has a sandy beach as well as a softball field, tennis courts, washroom facilities, shade trees, picnic tables and park benches. Flooding in summer 2017 damaged the foreshore path, which will need remediation/replacement. The District is undertaking management planning for this park, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS**

Summerland has several small neighbourhood parks, including Beaver Street Park, Butler Street, Crescent Beach and Kinsmen Park, located along the lakeshore, and Julia Street Park and Turner Street Park located in the residential neighbourhood north of downtown. These parks all have landscaping (grass and trees) and benches and the Kinsmen and Julia Street parks have playgrounds. In addition, Summerland has three undeveloped neighbourhood parks: Deer Ridge Park, Dunham Park and Old Hospital-MacDonald Place.

## **NATURAL AREAS**

Summerland has several natural areas, including Giant's Head, Conkle Mountain, the Adams Street Bird Sanctuary; and the newly designated Woodbridge Nature Reserve. Conservation of their ecological values is the primary purpose of these natural areas, but they also have hiking, cycling, and equestrian trails. An ongoing goal for the District will be to ensure that recreation uses are compatible with ecological conservation, particularly for sensitive or significant ecosystems and habitat for species at risk.

In addition to Summerland's extensive natural areas such as Giant's Head Mountain and Conkle Mountain, Summerland's other parks contain natural features and contribute to ecological integrity of the region. In light of this, it is recommended that the District develop a parks natural features/areas management strategy, to ensure that natural features in parks are protected and enhanced over time.

## **Giant's Head Mountain Park**

Giant's Head Mountain is one of Summerland's most familiar landmarks and can be seen from every location within the community. A road leads up the mountain, ending at a parking lot, picnic area and washroom facilities. From there, walking trails lead to the summit, which is 845m above sea level and provides 360° views. A Trails Redevelopment Plan is currently under way for Giant's Head Mountain.

## **Conkle Mountain Park**

Conkle Mountain Park borders the Rodeo Grounds and is backed by crown land behind the mountain itself. A portion of the Trans Canada Trail winds its way through Conkle Mountain Park and there are other multi-use trails that are popular with hikers, equestrians, cyclists, and off-leash dog walkers. Conkle Mountain Park was designated and zoned as parkland and dedicated as a park by District Council in 2016.

The community values Conkle Mountain Park and the outdoor recreation opportunities it provides. During engagement for this master plan, community members expressed their desire that the trails on Conkle Mountain continue to be multi-use.

District Council passed a resolution at the regular Council meeting on November 14, 2016

THAT staff be directed to not enforce sections 3(d) and 3(l) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw 95-013 in Conkle Mountain Park in relation to horseback riding, dog walking, and bicycle riding, as these activities are an historically accepted use of the property;

AND THAT staff be directed, in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Trails Master Plan, to prepare an update of the Parks Regulation Bylaw 95-013 for Council's consideration.

In order to ensure that the environmental values of Conkle Mountain Park are preserved and to provide for a variety of passive recreation uses and minimize conflict among recreation users, the District should undertake master planning for Conkle Mountain Park. Where possible, current recreation uses should be permitted to continue.

This may be eligible as an Avoided Forest Conversion project (see section 3.4.3).

## **Adams Street Bird Sanctuary**

The Adams Street Bird Sanctuary, located across from Peach Orchard Campground, is a natural area with a walkway. It was created with major support from Summerland Rotary. Trees were planted as a part of Earth Day celebrations in 2017 and 2018. Needs were not identified for this park during master plan development.

---

## **Woodbridge Nature Preserve**

In 2016, the 1.0 hectare Woodbridge Nature Preserve was created through subdivision dedication. The primary purpose of this park is to preserve environmental values on the property, particularly Lewis's Woodpecker habitat. To preserve this habitat, and because Woodbridge is intended for management to maintain Cottonwoods which may create a falling limb, branch and tree bole hazard, recreation activity in this park should be limited to bird and wildlife viewing from the park edge.

This may be eligible as an Avoided Forest Conversion project (see section 3.4.3).

## **Other Natural Areas**

Other natural areas in Summerland include Cartwright Mountain and the "Horse Beach" at 16997 Lakeshore Drive.

## **SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS**

### **Peach Orchard Campground**

Peach Orchard Campground is a municipal campground located near Peach Orchard Beach Park. It has 123 campsites for RV's and tenting; the RV sites have power and water services. The campground is open from May 15- September 15 and is operated by a contractor. There are also two public pickleball and one public combined pickleball/tennis court, washrooms/showers, and a small playground. The playground needs to be replaced, which is planned for 2018.

The campground operator (contractor) has identified that upgrades to the washrooms/showers are needed, including for accessibility, and that the building needs a new roof. She also identified a need for more powered sites and . would like to see more and better promotion of the campground.

According to the Chamber of Commerce, there is a dire need for more campsites. It is not recommended that the District change the use of this park from a campground. However, the District should continue to explore possibilities to expand community use during the off-season, for instance as an off-leash dog park.

### **Rodeo Grounds**

The Rodeo Grounds is a rustic park located outside of town. It has an outdoor grandstand and riding ring, several stalls or pens for animals, clubhouse, washrooms with showers, and a building that includes a seasonal concession. The TransCanada trailhead is located in this park, and it is used as a staging area for the Kettle Valley Railway.

The Rodeo Grounds is a popular venue for events, including an annual bluegrass festival, camping for longboard competitors, and family events. People camp informally – there are no designated campsites or water or power hookups. Water is limited, with 1 shallow domestic well and 2 emergency wells, and there was a potable water quality concern in 2017.

Currently, when people book the Rodeo Grounds, they have the option to reserve the entire site. Equestrian users would like be able to access to riding ring when Rodeo Grounds is booked by someone else, and suggest that changes to usage guidelines and creating campsites at the back of the property would make this feasible. Other trail stakeholders agreed that new campsites might be beneficial, and the District should explore the costs, benefits and feasibility of this.

Equestrian users identify a covered multipurpose arena as long term priority for the Rodeo Grounds. They also identify several maintenance needs and upgrades including the footing in the arena, the concession stand, clubhouse, washrooms and landscaping around the clubhouse area. They suggest that the announcer’s stand should be dismantled. They would like additional stabling facilities, an equine camping area with campsite and paddock as one unit, and a covered entertainment.

During engagement for this master plan, the Rodeo Grounds was frequently identified as a park that needs attention. In 2008, a study was done to explore potential development and use of the Rodeo Grounds. It discussed possible new amenities that community members identified for the Rodeo Grounds, including indoor riding arena, tennis/racquet facility as a new location for the Lakeshore Racquets Club, and a community centre. The consultant’s opinion was that “construction and operation of a permanent riding facility would require a feasibility study” and that an indoor riding, tennis facility or community centre would be problematic because the Rodeo Grounds is too far from town and they would be too expensive to build and operate. The consultant noted that “depending on the amount of use that the site will likely experience in future years, it will be necessary to take an in-depth look at existing and future service requirements, and their costs.”

The Rodeo Grounds is a valuable asset for Summerland. Currently and in the short term, it is providing important functions and is meeting the needs of the community without undue expenses. In concurrence with the 2008 study, it is recommended that in the long term the District should undertake a master planning process for the Rodeo Grounds to ensure that optimal use is made of this park. At that time, the District may consider seeking expressions of interests from the business community for the long term development and operation of outdoor/ indoor sports and special events facilities. Possible long term uses could include a campground, expanded outdoor events centre, and indoor recreation facilities.

### **Priest Camp Historic Park**

Priest Camp Historic Park, located at Garnet Valley Dam, is a picnic site and the trailhead for the Brigade Trail. There are picnic tables and a rustic washroom facility at the site. Needs were not identified for this park during master plan development.

---

## **DOWNTOWN GATHERING PLACE**

Stakeholders including the Chamber of Commerce and youth noted that there are few public gathering spaces in the downtown area. This is also recognized in the Downtown Strategic Plan in Summerland's Official Community Plan as well as in the Cultural Plan. The Downtown Strategic Plan calls for establishing "an active and safe focal point and central meeting place for Downtown Summerland" and "providing increased outdoor seating opportunities within the Downtown core". There is an action item to "Identify (and if necessary acquire) lands within the Downtown (along Main Street or with the Wharton Street Redevelopment/adjacent to Memorial Park) for a community focal point/gathering place (this may include relocation of the cenotaph, seating, water feature, public art)."

The Downtown Strategic Plan also recommends to "consider enhancing the open areas between existing parking lots and Main Street as to be more attractive and functional to the street through public seating areas, landscaping, shade trees and/or public art" and working with community facilities and churches to explore opportunities "to enhance their open spaces for safe, informal community use."

# Appendix I

## Places for Dogs

### PRINCIPLES

Provision of amenities for dogs, including off-leash dog parks, should be guided by planning principles.

Suggested principles for Summerland:

- Walking and exercising dogs is recognized as a beneficial recreation activity that warrants provision of recreation infrastructure by the District of Summerland.
- Designation of areas within parks where dogs are permitted, on- or off-leash, will be guided by:
- The need to preserve important ecological values: Dogs should not be permitted in areas where their presence might harm valuable ecosystems, plants or animals.
- The need to preserve historic and cultural features: Dogs should not be permitted in areas where they could harm historical or cultural features.
- The need to provide places for all people to recreate: There must be opportunities for people to recreate without interacting with dogs.
- The District should endeavour to provide spaces for dogs within walking distance of all residents.
- The District should endeavour to provide sufficient fenced and dedicated space for residents and visitors to exercise their dogs. Where feasible, there should be different kinds of spaces, to accommodate different kinds of play (e.g., walking, running and chasing balls, socializing with other dogs, swimming).



- 
- Spaces for dogs will be designed according to best practices, ensuring the health and safety of dogs, people, and wildlife.
  - Options for spaces for dogs include:
    - Permanent, enclosed off-leash areas that are designated exclusively as dog parks.
    - Spaces that are designated for use by off-leash dogs during certain times of the year, on certain days of the week and/or at certain times of day. These may or may not be enclosed.
    - Spaces that are designated for use by on-leash dogs.
  - Spaces for dogs should not be located in or near playgrounds, sports fields, swimming beaches, or other areas where there is active recreation, especially involving children.
  - Off-leash spaces for dogs should be of sufficient size to permit dogs to run freely. Smaller enclosed additional spaces may be provided for small dogs.
  - Garbage cans and dog waste bags should be available in all spaces for dogs. Where possible, water fountains for people and dogs, shade, benches and parking should be also be provided.
  - The District will provide clear and easily accessible information about the location of spaces for dogs, the rules that govern use of those spaces, and the rules applying to dogs in Summerland more generally. This could include the District’s website, the Recreation program guide, tourist publications, and signs at dog parks.

### **SUMMERLAND DOG OWNERS’ ASSOCIATION PROPOSAL**

In November, 2016, the Summerland Dog Owners’ Association submitted a proposal to Council requesting an additional permanent, year-round dog off-leash area; an extension to the period when dogs are permitted off-leash in Peach Orchard Beach Park and similar off-season access in Powell Beach Park; accessibility improvements at Dog Beach; 2 garbage cans and a bag dispenser at Cartwright Trail; and to not change zoning on Conkle Mountain for commercial use. Accompanying the proposal was a letter of support with 300 signatures. District staff prepared a response to the SDOA proposal, and Council passed a resolution at the December 12, 2016 Council meeting:

THAT consideration of amenities for various activities in District of Summerland parks, including those specified in the Summerland Dog Owners Association proposal dated November 14, 2016, be included as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Trails Master Plan public process.

## **New permanent fenced off-leash dog park**

The SDOA proposal included two suggested possible sites for a fenced fulltime off-leash dog park in Summerland: the grassy area in Peach Orchard Park that is currently used for off-leash dogs in the off-season and one of the ball diamonds in Living Memorial Park. Preliminary investigation suggests that neither site is completely suitable, for the reasons discussed below.

### **Peach Orchard Beach Park**

During the summer months, the grassy area is used for Wednesdays on the Water, informal socializing (e.g., playing frisbee, picnics) and children's races during the Triathlon. Drainage this area is poor and tree roots are pervasive, which may have implications for turf maintenance. Additionally, the fencing required for the off-leash dog park would reduce the aesthetic appeal of park and the uninterrupted view of Lake Okanagan.

### **Living Memorial Park ball diamond**

All of the diamonds are used by Summerland Minor Baseball from April through June, and sometimes in July and August as well. Conversion to an off-leash dog area would mean a net reduction in sport amenities and amenities for youth.

Living Memorial Park was dedicated in 1948 by the Memorial Parks Committee and is included in Summerland's "Heritage Buildings Inventory 2014". The park is "deemed 'red flagged'. This means that when a building permit is issued for these structures (demolition, renovation) the District and the Heritage Advisory Commission can attempt to request that the owners preserve the heritage elements of the structure."

There may be other locations in Summerland that are suitable for a permanent, fenced off-leash dog park, such as behind the backfield in Living Memorial Park, behind the backfield in Dale Meadows Park near Giant's Head Elementary School, easements beside Dale Meadows Park in adjacent properties to the east, and the large gravel pit area (District snow dumping ground) on Peach Orchard (north side of road close to highway). The District should explore whether these, or other locations, would be suitable for dog off-leash areas.

## **Extended off-leash access during off-season**

The SDOA proposal also requests an extension to the period during which Peach Orchard Beach Park is accessible for off-leash dogs, from September 1 to June 1 of each year (only requested if a fenced dog park is not in place). Staff indicate that this would not be compatible with use of the park for school trips in May and use of the waterpark, which is turned on in May.

Similarly the SDOA proposal requests that Powell Beach Park be accessible for off-leash dogs from September 1 to June 1 of each year. Currently, off-leash dogs are not permitted in Powell Beach Park.

---

Staff indicate that off-leash dog use would not be compatible with use of the park by softball players, which begins in April. District staff should monitor use of Powell Beach Park over the winter of 2018-2019 to determine whether there is an area of the park that is suitable for off-leash dog use, where there would be no obvious conflicts between off-leash dogs and other users; if such an area can be identified, the District should implement a 2-year trial permitting off-leash dog use in a designated portion of Powell Beach Park, from October 1 to April 30.

Other parks that could potentially be used for seasonal dog off-leash areas include Peach Orchard Campground and the Rodeo Grounds.

### **Dog Beach accessibility**

The SDOA proposal requests that Dog Beach be made accessible for wheelchair users. The staff report to Council notes that this “would potentially increase use of an existing amenity in a positive way for many users, but it is not yet known if it is feasible or what the costs might be.” The report notes that there may be provincial restrictions on further construction within a riparian area and there could be significant construction costs. Staff recommend that the SDOA’s request be investigated following completion of the Parks and Recreation Masterplan and, if this request is feasible, that a report be provided to Council.

### **Garbage cans and bags at Cartwright**

The SDOA proposal requests that the District place two garbage cans and a poop bag dispenser at Cartwright Trail. The staff report to Council notes that this “is potentially problematic due to the fact that some parts of the trail network used by the public run through private property. Until the entire system of trail networks in the District are assessed as part of the Parks and Recreation Masterplan and Trails Master Plan, making any changes that encourage use of one trails over another for specific types of uses would be premature and potentially conflict with the long-term plans that are developed.”

### **Conkle Mountain zoning**

Conkle Mountain is zoned Parks and Recreation Zone PR1 and Council adopted a resolution at the November 14, 2016 Regular Meeting “THAT staff be directed to not enforce sections 3(d) and 3(l) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw 95-013 in Conkle Mountain Park in relation to horseback riding, dog walking, and bicycle riding, as these activities are an historically accepted use of the property.”

# Appendix J

## Summerland's Most Prominent Trails

Summerland's most prominent trails include the Brigade Trail, Summerland Centennial Trail, Summerland Rotary Trail Lakeshore Loop, TransCanada Trail, Landry Trail, which are discussed below. Other important trails include the Trout Creek dike, Test of humanity bike trails, and trails on Giants Head and Conkle Mountains.

### **The Brigade Trail Linear Park**

The Brigade Trail Linear Park is a section of the original Okanagan brigade Trail linking to one of the frequently mentioned encampment sites, Priest Camp. The Brigade Trail served as a part of the Cariboo Gold Rush Trail and later as the original automobile route to Peachland before the lakeshore road and Highway 97 were built. The Brigade Trail is 4.1 km long and open from May through October. The trailhead is at the Garnett Valley Dam (Priest Camp Historic Park), where there is also a picnic area and washroom.

### **Summerland Centennial Trail**

The Centennial Trail explores the area that was the first townsite of Summerland. The 4.5 km trail travels along roads, through a forested area along Aeneas Creek, along dry grassy hillsides, clay bluffs and a series of park pathways past Rotary Beach Park and Peach Orchard Beach Park. A viewpoint has interpretative signage about the history of the area and provides panoramic views of Okanagan Lake and the original lakeside location of Summerland. Many sections are along local roadways.

### **Summerland Rotary Trail Lakeshore Loop**

The 6 km Summerland Rotary Trail Lakeshore Loop starts at Peach Orchard Beach Park then heads north along Lakeshore Road to Crescent Beach before turning west through orchards and vineyards, then back toward the lakeshore past Peach Orchard Campground and the Adams Street Bird Sanctuary. Many sections are along local roadways.

---

## **Trans Canada Trail**

The Summerland portion of the Trans Canada Trail features two bridges and spans 61 kilometers between Summerland and Osprey Lake. Spanning the Trout Creek Canyon is the 73m/240ft high Trout Creek Bridge which was the highest bridge span constructed on the Kettle Valley Railway. At the north end of the bridge there is a rest area and good vantage points for taking photos. At the south end of the bridge is the Summerland Ornamental Gardens. The trail follows the old flume line along Conkle Mountain to the Summerland Rodeo Grounds then continues on beside the railway tracks past the railway station to the community of Faulder, then west to Osprey Lake. Portions of the trail are wheelchair and stroller friendly.

## **Landry Trail**

Landry Trail is a paved 1.3 km lakeshore walking and cycling path. It provides a link between Lower Town and Trout Creek, running parallel to Highway 97 between Landry Crescent and Lakeshore Road. It was created in 2015 in a partnership between the provincial government and the District of Summerland.

# Appendix K

## References

Barber, J.R., Crooks, K.R., Fristrup, K.M. 2009. "The costs of chronic noise exposure for terrestrial organisms". *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 25(3):180-189

BC Ministry of Community Services, 2005. *Development cost charge best practices guide*. 3rd Edition. [http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov\\_relations/library/DCC\\_Best\\_Practice\\_Guide\\_2005.pdf](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov_relations/library/DCC_Best_Practice_Guide_2005.pdf)

BC Ministry of Community Services, 2006. *Parkland Acquisition Best Practices Guide*. [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/local-governments/finance/parkland\\_acquisition\\_best\\_practices\\_guide.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/local-governments/finance/parkland_acquisition_best_practices_guide.pdf)

BC Ministry of Environment, 2010. *Management Plan for the Mountain Goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) in British Columbia*. [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/recovery/management\\_plans/MtGoat\\_MP\\_Final\\_28May2010.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/recovery/management_plans/MtGoat_MP_Final_28May2010.pdf)

BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy. *Glossary for Species & Ecosystems At Risk*. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/glossary-for-species-ecosystems-at-risk>

Canadian Parks and Recreation Association/Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council, 2015. *A Framework for Recreation in Canada - 2015 - Pathways to Wellbeing*. Ottawa: Canadian Recreation and Parks Association. 40 pages. [www.lin.ca](http://www.lin.ca)

District of Summerland. *2015-2019 Strategic Plan*. <http://www.summerland.ca/docs/default-source/administration/council/district-of-summerland-2015-2019-strategic-plan.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

District of Summerland, 2011. *Summerland's Community Climate Action Plan*. [https://www.summerland.ca/docs/default-source/works-and-utilities/climate-action/march-23-2011---final---summerland-ccap.pdf?sfvrsn=9274f9fb\\_2](https://www.summerland.ca/docs/default-source/works-and-utilities/climate-action/march-23-2011---final---summerland-ccap.pdf?sfvrsn=9274f9fb_2)

---

District of Summerland, 2016. *Cultural Plan*. <http://www.summerland.ca/docs/default-source/default-document-library/district-of-summerland-cultural-plan---adopted-september-2016.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

District of Summerland, 2017. *Official Community Plan*. [https://www.summerland.ca/docs/default-source/development-services/bylaws/2014-ocp---schedule-a-consolidated-to-2017-11-27.pdf?sfvrsn=9864f4fb\\_2](https://www.summerland.ca/docs/default-source/development-services/bylaws/2014-ocp---schedule-a-consolidated-to-2017-11-27.pdf?sfvrsn=9864f4fb_2)

Government of Canada, 2017. *Recovery Strategy for the Western Rattlesnake (Crotalus oreganus), the Great Basin Gophersnake (Pituophis catenifer deserticola) and the Desert Nightsnake (Hypsiglena chlorophaea) in Canada 2017*. <https://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=B6D9C7DE-1&offset=2&toc=show>

Green Communities Committee, 2014. *Becoming Carbon Neutral: A Guidebook for Local Governments in British Columbia*. <https://www.toolkit.bc.ca/sites/default/files/BecomingCarbonNeutralGuideV3.pdf>

Lakeshore Racquets Club, 2018. "Review of Summerland's Tennis Courts On behalf of District of Summerland Recreation Department". April 10.

Lenth, B., Knight, R.L., Brennan, M.E. 2008. "The effects of dogs on wildlife communities". *Natural Areas Journal* 28(3):218-227

Leung Y-F. and Marion J. L., 2000 "Recreation impacts and management in wilderness a state-of-knowledge review". In Cole D. N. McCool S. F. Borrie W. T. and O'Loughlin J. comps. *Wilderness Science in a Time of Change Conference - Volume 5 Wilderness Ecosystems Threats and Management* May 23-27 1999 Missoula MT pp. 23-48 . Proc. RMRS-P-15-VOL-5. Ogden UT USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station.

Miller, S.G., Knight, R.L., Miller, C.K. 2001. "Responses to pedestrians and dogs". *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 29(1):124-132

Moore, R. (2014). *Nature Play & Learning Places. Creating and managing places where children engage with nature*. Raleigh, NC: Natural Learning Initiative and Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation Version 1.4.

Narayananaraj, Ganapathy and Wimberly, Michael C., 2012. "Influences of forest roads on the spatial patterns of human- and lightning-caused wildfire ignitions". *Applied Geography*, Volume 32 (2) – Mar 1, 2012.

Peatt, Allison, SOSCP Environmental Planner, providing environmental planning support services to SOSCP local government partners. Personal communication, December 24, 2017 and February 23, 2018.

Reed, Sarah E. and Merenlender, Adina M., 2008. "Quiet, Nonconsumptive Recreation Reduces Protected Area Effectiveness". *Conservation Letters* xx (2008) 1–9.

Simpson, David, 2006. "Database focus: impact of hiking on trails and environment". <https://www.cabi.org/leisuretourism/news/16160>

Snetsinger, Susan and White, Katy, 2009. *Recreation and Trail Impacts on Wildlife Species of Interest in Mount Spokane State Park*. Pacific Biodiversity Institute. [http://www.pacificbio.org/publications/vegetation/state\\_parks/wa\\_east/Mt\\_Spokane\\_Trails\\_PBI\\_report.pdf](http://www.pacificbio.org/publications/vegetation/state_parks/wa_east/Mt_Spokane_Trails_PBI_report.pdf)

Statistics Canada, 2017. Census Profile for Summerland (District municipality). 2016 Census.

Tennis Canada, 2008. *Finding the Sweet Spot: A Step by Step Guide to Community Tennis Facility Development*.