REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

for the

Electoral Area ‘D’ Parks Masterplan

SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2022

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

AREA "D" MASTERPLAN

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1. INTRODUCTION 4
1.1. PURPOSE 4
1.2. BACKGROUND 4
1.3. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION 4
2. INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPONENTS 4
2.1. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS 4
2.2. INQUIRIES 5
3. GENERAL TERMS OF PROPOSAL PROCESS 6
3.1. DEFINITIONS 6
3.2. ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS 7
3.3. PROPOSAL PREPARATION COSTS 7
3.4. PROPOSAL EVALUATION 7
3.5. PROPOSAL PRESENTATION 8
3.6. NO CONTRACT 8
3.7. NO OBLIGATION TO PROCEED 8
3.8. NEGOTIATION WITH PREFERRED PROPONENT 8
3.9. ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL 8
3.10. LIABILITY FOR ERRORS 9
3.11. PROPOSAL CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION 9
3.12. CONFLICT OF INTEREST 9
3.13. NO COLLUSION 9
3.14. NOT AN EMPLOYEE 10
3.15. LITIGATION 10
4. GENERAL PROPOSAL CONTENT 11
4.1. CONSULTANT INFORMATION 11
4.2. SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUBCONSULTANTS 11
4.3. METHODOLOGY 11
4.4. SCHEDULING 12
4.5. FEES AND DISBURSEMENTS 12
4.6. PROPOSAL CONTENT & INNOVATION 12
4.7. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS 12
4.8. WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT 12
5. PROJECT WORK 13
5.1. SCOPE OF PROJECT WORK 13
5.2. SCHEDULING 15

5.3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT 15
5.4. COMMUNICATIONS 15
6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS 16
6.1. DOCUMENTS 16
6.2. DRAWINGS 16
6.3. SAFETY PROCEDURES 17
7. FEES AND DISBURSEMENTS 17

APPENDIX A – REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS EVALUATION FORMAT .....
APPENDIX B – REGIONAL PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION MASTERPLAN .....
APPENDIX C – SAMPLE CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT TERMS .....

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

AREA "D" PARKS MASTERPLAN

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PURPOSE

It is the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) mission to promote the health and well-being of the greater community, environment, and economy by facilitating recreational opportunities and coordinating the enhancement of our parks, facilities and natural resources now and into the future.

In line with that mission, the Regional District, is requesting the submission of Proposals from qualified proponents with proven experience developing and implementing a Parks Master Plan. The finished product will provide Electoral Area "D" with a framework that will guide the future development of parks and parkland assets within its boundaries.

1.2. BACKGROUND

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (Regional District) provides direct and indirect services to six municipalities and nine electoral areas in the south Okanagan & Similkameen Valleys. It has a geographic area of approximately 10,400 km2 and serves 82,000 residents.

Electoral Area 'D' is situated on the south shore of Skaha Lake in the Thompson Okanagan's Okanagan Valley. The valley is the northern extension of the Colorado River basin and forms the only temperate desert in Canada. Electoral Area 'D' is comprised of seven unincorporated communities starting on the east side of Skaha Lake and includes Upper Carmi, Heritage Hills, Lakeshore Highlands, Vintage Views, Skaha Estates, Okanagan Falls and NE Vaseux Lake.

1.3. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- A Regional Parks, Trails, and Recreation Masterplan is in the process of finalization and a 75% draft will be made available (See appendix B). This document shall act as an overarching guide for the Electoral Area 'D' Parks Masterplan.

2. INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPONENTS

2.1. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals may be submitted by email and/or hardcopy until the Closing Time specified. It is the Proponent's sole responsibility to ensure its Proposal is received at the address or email set out above by the Closing Time. If submitting by hardcopy please enclose three (2) hard copies and an electronic

copy on a memory stick.

The Proposals and their envelopes should be clearly marked with the name and address of the Proponent, the RFP program title, and be addressed to the following:

Community Services Department
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
101 Martin Street
Penticton, BC V2A 5J9

Proposals, including the name and address of the Proponent and the RFP program title emailed to the following:

Kyle Monster **kmonster@rdos.bc.ca**

Proposals must be received on or before the **Closing Time** of:

TIME: **2:00 PM local time**
DATE: **Wednesday, October 12th**

Proposals will not be opened publicly. The Proponent bears all risk associated with delivering its Proposal by electronic submission, including but not limited to delays in transmission between the Proponent's computer and the Regional District's email system.

Proponents wishing to make changes to their Proposals after submission but prior to the Closing Time may do so by submitting the revisions by fax, email or hard copy:

Fax: **250.492.0063 Attention: Kyle Monster**

E-mail: **Kyle Monster** **kmonster@rdos.bc.ca**

Hard copy: **Community Services Department**
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
101 Martin Street
Penticton, BC, V2A 5J9

It is also the Proponent's sole responsibility to ensure their revisions were received, at the e-mail or address set out above, prior to the Closing Time.

Proposals received after the Closing Time will not be considered or evaluated

2.2. INQUIRIES

All inquiries related to this RFP are to be directed, in writing or via email, to the following person. Information obtained from any other source is not official and should not be relied upon. Inquiries and responses will be recorded and may be distributed through an addendum at the Regional

District's option.

Any questions regarding this RFP must be submitted by end of day five (5) business days prior to the Closing Date. Any questions submitted after this date may not be answered.

Kyle Monster
250.490.4219
kmonster@rdos.bc.ca

Proponents shall carefully examine the RFP documents and shall fully inform themselves as to the intent, existing conditions and limitations, which may affect their Proposal submission. No consideration will be given after submission of a Proposal to any claim that there was any misunderstanding with respect to the conditions imposed.

Proponents finding discrepancies or omissions in the Contract or RFP, or having doubts as to the meaning or intent of any provision, should immediately notify the above listed project contact. If there are any changes, additions, or deletions to the Proposal scope, conditions, or closing date, Proponents will be advised by means of an Addendum issued by the Regional District. All Addenda is to become part of the Proposal Documents and receipt of Addenda should be acknowledged by the Proponent in the submission.

Verbal discussion between the Regional District directors, trustees or staff and a Proponent shall not become a part of the RFP or modify the RFP unless confirmed by written Addendum. The Regional District shall not be responsible for Proponents adjusting their Proposals based only on oral instructions by any representative of the Regional District.

3. GENERAL TERMS OF PROPOSAL PROCESS

3.1. DEFINITIONS

"**Addenda**" means all additional information regarding this RFP including amendments to the RFP;

"**Agreement**" or "**Contract**" means a contract that is issued to formalize the Work with the successful Proponent based on the proposal submitted and incorporate by reference the Request for Proposal, any addenda issued, the Proponent's response and acceptance by the Regional District.;

"**Consultant**" means the person(s), firm(s) or corporation(s) appointed by the Regional District to carry out all duties, obligations, work and services first contemplated in the Request for Proposal and all associated documentation, which may also include mutually agreed revisions subsequent to submission of a Proposal.;

"**must**" or "**mandatory**" or "**shall**" means a requirement that must be met in order for the proposal to receive consideration;

"**Proponent**" means the responder to this RFP with the legal capacity to contract;

"**Proposal**" means a written response to the RFP that is submitted by a Proponent;

"**Regional District**" means the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen;

"**Request for Proposals**" or "**RFP**" means the solicitation described in this document, including any attached or referenced appendices, schedules or exhibits and as may be modified in writing from time to time by the Regional District;

"**Services**" means and includes the provision by the successful Proponent of all services, duties and expectations as further described in this RFP.

"**should**" or "**may**" means a requirement having a significant degree of importance to the objectives of the RFP but is not a mandatory requirement

"**Work**" means and includes anything and everything required to accomplish the project in accordance with this RFP and Proposal.

3.2. ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Submitting a Proposal indicates acceptance of all the terms and conditions set out in the RFP, including those that follow and that are included in all appendices and any Addenda.

A person authorized to sign on behalf of the Proponent must sign the Proposal.

3.3. PROPOSAL PREPARATION COSTS

All expenses incurred by the Proponent in preparation and submission of this Proposal are to be borne by the Proponent, with the express understanding that no claims for reimbursements against the Regional District, or any of its member municipalities, will be accepted. The Regional District shall not be responsible for any costs involved in or associated with any meetings, discussion or negotiation following submission that could lead to acceptance of the Proposal and award of a contract.

3.4. PROPOSAL EVALUATION

The Regional District recognizes that "Best Value" is the essential part of purchasing a product and/ or service and therefore the Regional District may prefer a Proposal with a higher price, if it offers greater value and better serves the Regional District's interests, as determined by the Regional District, over a Proposal with a lower price.

Appendix A contains the information regarding how Proposals will be evaluated.

The Regional District, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to:

- reject any or all Proposals whether complete or not,
- reject any Proposal it considers not in its best interests,
- waive any minor irregularity or insufficiency in the Proposal submitted,
- not be liable for misunderstandings or errors in the Request for Proposals,
- issue addenda to the Request for Proposals,
- contact references provided by the Proponents,
- retain independent persons or contractors for assistance in evaluating Proposals,

- request points of clarification to assist the Regional District in evaluating Proposals,
- negotiate changes with the successful Proponent,
- award separate contracts for separate work components, and
- withdraw the Request for Proposals.

3.5. PROPOSAL PRESENTATION

The Regional District reserves the right to request one or more of the Proponents whose submissions are of particular interest to the Regional District, to make an oral presentation to the Regional District.

3.6. NO CONTRACT

This RFP is not a tender and does not commit the Regional District in any way to select a preferred Proponent. By submitting a Proposal and participating in the process as outlined in this RFP, Proponents expressly agree that no contractual, tort or other legal obligation of any kind is formed under or imposed on the Regional District by this RFP or submissions prior to the completed execution of a formal written Contract.

3.7. NO OBLIGATION TO PROCEED

The Regional District fully intends at this time to proceed with the proposed project, however the Regional District is under no obligation to proceed to award of the Contract. The receipt by the Regional District of any information (including any submissions, ideas, plans, drawings, models or other materials communicated or exhibited by any intended Proponent, or on its behalf) shall not impose any obligations on the Regional District.

There is no guarantee by the Regional District that the process initiated by the issuance of this RFP will continue, or that this RFP process or any RFP process will result in a Contract with the Regional District for the purchase of the equipment, service, or project.

3.8. NEGOTIATION WITH PREFERRED PROPONENT

The Proponent that submits the most advantageous Proposal may be awarded the Contract. The Regional District reserves the right to accept or reject all or parts of the Proposal, however, the Regional District is not precluded from negotiating with the preferred Proponent to modify its Proposal to best suit the needs of the Regional District.

The Regional District will enter into negotiations with a preferred Proponent to finalize any scope changes necessary to implement the project, as generally described in this RFP. If the Regional District considers that it is unlikely to settle such agreements with the preferred Proponent despite having negotiated with the preferred Proponent, the Regional District is entitled to cease negotiations with the preferred Proponent and to begin negotiations with another Proponent.

3.9. ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL

Following acceptance of the Proposal, the agreement that the successful Proponent will be expected to execute with the Regional District will contain terms similar to those provided in Appendix B.

The expected attachments to the agreement will include the Request for Qualifications and the Proponent’s submission, the Request for Proposal, the Proponent’s Proposal submission and any mutually agreed upon modifications, changes or negotiated adjustments.

3.10. LIABILITY FOR ERRORS

While the Regional District has expended considerable efforts to ensure an accurate representation of information in this Request for Proposal, the information contained in this Request for Proposal is supplied solely as a guideline for Proponents. The information is not guaranteed or warranted to be accurate by the Regional District, not is it comprehensive or exhaustive.

Nothing in this Request for Proposals is intended to relieve Proponents from forming their own opinions and conclusions with respect to the maters addressed in the Scope of Work

3.11. PROPOSAL CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

All submissions become the property of the Regional District and will not be returned to the Proponent. The Regional District will consider all Proposals submitted as confidential but reserves the right to make copies of all Proposals received for its internal review and for review by its financial, accounting, legal, and technical consultants.

Proponents should be aware that the Regional District is a “public body” as defined in and subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

If the Proponent believes any of the information requested in this RFP and provided by them is confidential, then they should identify it as such and provide a rationale as to why it should not be released under “Freedom of Information” legislation.

3.12. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A Proponent shall disclose in its Proposal any actual or potential conflicts of interest and existing business relationships it may have with the Regional District, its elected or appointed officials or employees, any property ownership direct or indirect in the project area. The Regional District may rely on such disclosure.

3.13. NO COLLUSION

Except as otherwise specified or as arising by reason of the provision of the contract documents, no person whether natural, or body corporate, other than the Proponent has or will have any interest or share in this Proposal or in the proposed contract which may be completed in respect thereof.

There is no collusion or arrangement between the Proponent and any other actual or prospective Proponents in connection with Proposals submitted for this project and the Proponent has no knowledge of the contents of other Proposals and has made no comparison of figures or agreement or arrangement, express or implied, with any other party in connection with the making of the

Proposal.

3.14. NOT AN EMPLOYEE

The successful Proponent will acknowledge and agree that neither the Proponent nor any person employed by or associated with the successful Proponent in the performance of the services or otherwise, is an employee of, or has an employment relationship of any kind with the Regional District or is in any way entitled to terms or conditions of employment or employment benefits of any kind whatsoever from the Regional District under any collective agreement or otherwise including but not limited to private programs or coverages and statutory programs and coverages, whether under the *Employment Standards Act* of British Columbia (as amended from time to time), the *Workers Compensation Act* of British Columbia (as amended from time to time), the *Employment Insurance Act* of Canada (as amended from time to time), health pay contributions or otherwise.

3.15. LITIGATION

Proponents who, either directly or indirectly through another corporation or entity, have been or are in litigation, or who have served notice with intent to proceed with court action against the Regional District in connection with any contract for works or services, may be considered ineligible Proponents. Receipt of Proposals from such Proponents may be disqualified from the evaluation process.

4. GENERAL PROPOSAL CONTENT

4.1. CONSULTANT INFORMATION

- COMPANY INFO: Full name, address and telephone number of the submitting office of the Proponent and where applicable, the name, address and telephone number of any branch office, affiliate or sub-consultant(s) that will be involved in the project.

- PROJECT MANAGER: The Proposal shall confirm the proposed project manager who will be the single point of contact, and responsible for direct interaction with the Regional District. Describe the work to be performed by the project manager and their qualifications and substantive experience directly related to the proposed Work.

- PROPOSED PROJECT TEAM: The Proposal shall list key individuals including the project manager and sub-consultant(s) who will have major responsibilities for the performance of the work. Describe the work to be performed by each listed individual and their qualifications, in terms of education and substantive experience directly related to the proposed Work. Capacity and ability of the Project Manager and Project Team to deliver the services within the defined timeframe must be discussed

  The Proposal shall include the following endorsement:
  "Identified Key Project Team members shall only be replaced with written approval of the Regional District."

- REFERENCES: The Proposal shall provide no less than two (2) references that are relevant to the proposed Work. The references should be from a third party who can provide information about the performance of the Proponent in delivering the works or services for the experience cited.

- EXPERIENCE: The Proposal should include details on only the most recent three (3) or four (4) projects of related work for the Consultant and project team. It is the Proponent's responsibility to demonstrate that they possess the required knowledge, understanding and capacity to carry out the Work as outlined in this RFP within the project schedule and budget.

4.2. SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUBCONSULTANTS

The Proposal shall include the company name of all subcontractors and subconsultants proposed to be used in the performance of the Work with a description of the work they would be performing.

The subcontractors and subconsultants listed in the Proposal may not be changed without the written consent of the Regional District. If the Regional District so requires, the Proponent shall be prepared to confirm to the Regional District the competence of subcontractors and subconsultants prior to acceptance of the Proposal.

4.3. METHODOLOGY

The Proposal shall contain an outline of strategies and skills that will be used to manage the project's expectations, resources, budget, and to ensure quality control. The methodology must discuss how the Work will be completed that is listed in Scope of Work. Include other items identified and what

services or interaction is required from/with the Regional District.

In their own words, the Proponent must show that they have an understanding of what the Work involves and what is required to complete the project, specifically an understanding of the project critical issues and fixed budget.

4.4. SCHEDULING

The Proposal shall contain a proposed work schedule showing the major activities or tasks, order and interdependence of the various milestones, sub-tasks and deliverables for each of the required tasks, including any proposed meetings.

4.5. FEES AND DISBURSEMENTS

The Proposal shall contain a cost breakdown of services, in detail, including hours dedicated to each area defined within the scope of services.

4.6. PROPOSAL CONTENT & INNOVATION

The Proponent shall address in the Proposal submission, all the information as requested in the RFP documentation. The Proponent is also encouraged to include innovative, alternative or unique solutions to the Proposal subject.

4.7. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

During completion of the work, the Consultant is required to meet or exceed at all times, any requirements as detailed at the place of Work, which includes but not limited to all OHS regulations or standards. Prior to any onsite work, the successful Consultant will provide their Health and Safety Manual to the Regional District and participate in a site orientation with the Regional District.

4.8. WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT

The Proponent, and any proposed subcontractors and subconsultants, should provide a Work Safe BC (Workers Compensation Board) Registration Number in the Proposal and shall at the time of signing a contract agreement, provide proof of payment of claims in good standing with Work Safe BC.

5. PROJECT WORK

While the Regional District has used considerable effort to ensure an accurate representation of information in this RFP, the information contained herein is given solely as a guideline for Proponents. The information is not guaranteed to be accurate, nor is it necessarily comprehensive or exhaustive.

The selected Consultant will meet with the Regional District to determine a finalized work plan and discuss any proposed optional items. This will include a review of responsibilities, expectations and establishment of timelines for the various stages of the project. The intent of the project is to provide the Regional District with a Parks Masterplan that will guide the development, acquisition, and management of parkland assets throughout Electoral Area 'D'.

5.1. SCOPE OF PROJECT WORK

Management Scope:

1. A professional staff that adheres the project work to the guiding principles inherent in the Regional Parks, Trails, and Recreation Masterplan provided

2. Background Information Collection
    a. A review and demonstration of understanding of how the Regional Parks, Trails, and Recreation Masterplan applies to Electoral Area 'D'
    b. A review and demonstration of understanding of the demographic information and projected community needs

3. Community and stakeholder engagement: Develop and conduct a public engagement strategy to gather public opinion regarding the adequacy of existing parks and future/proposed investments. To include a combination of in-person and virtual meetings, surveys, and open houses. Strategy should address disparities and engage a diversity of people including (but not limited to) geographic, generational, racial, socio-economic, and those with accessibility concerns.

4. Provide periodic updates to key internal and external stakeholder groups

5. Maintain documentation from all meetings, correspondences, site visits and workshops.

6. Conduct requisite research pertaining to plan components.

7. Submit Draft Plan for Regional District Project Team to review, feedback, and collaboration.

8. Develop, propose, and present plan amendments to achieve project purpose. Use illustrations and figures to convey design concepts for final product and required presentations.

9. Submission of Final Electoral Area 'D' Parks Masterplan
    a. All parent files of graphics, tables, maps and illustrations shall be provided to the

Regional District in digital format for future use.

b. Final Plan in PDF and editable formats.
c. All workshop related exhibits and documents compiled and delivered in editable format, to include format(s) that are sharable to the public and web-friendly.

10. Present final iteration of the Electoral Area 'D' Masterplan to the RDOS Board

Product Scope:

Components of the Electoral Area "D" Parks Masterplan must include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Asset Inventory and Quality Assessment
    A. Inventory and analysis of existing parks. Consultant will:
        a. Assess the quality, condition, and significance of each asset
        b. Assess the functionality of each asset compared to community needs and the direction indicated by the Regional Masterplan
        c. As an extension of the assessment process, outline and illustrate in concept detail the recommendations for each asset. The strategy implicit in the recommendations should be in balanced alignment with the Regional Parks, Trails, and Recreation Masterplan and efficiently address the deficiencies within the Area's inventory of parkland assets.

Existing Park Assets Include but aren't entirely limited to:

Community Center	Garnett Family Park
Zen Centre	Keogan Park
Kenyon Park (Kenyon House)	7 Beach Accesses
Christie Memorial Park	Boat Launch
Lions Park	Centennial Park (as of Jan 1 2022)

2. Prioritization of Park Development and Capital Investment
    A. Prioritize recommendations for future investment with the end goal of efficiently aligning all existing parks with the needs of the community and the guiding document that is the Regional Parks Masterplan.
        a. Prioritize existing parks for improvement and illustrate in concept detail those proposed improvements.
        b. Identify and prioritize new parks and expansion opportunities to existing parks and illustrate them in concept detail

Note: This is intended to be a 10-year document, in line with the Regional Parks, Trails, and Recreation Masterplan, and all recommendations and prioritizations should reflect that timeframe.

5.2. SCHEDULING

The Proposal shall contain a work schedule showing the major activities or tasks, order and interdependence of the various milestones, sub-tasks and deliverable for each of the required tasks, including any proposed meetings.

The Regional District has established the following preliminary baseline schedule for the project. Any advancement of the times indicated are desirable and would be welcomed by the Regional District.

Task	Completion Date
Award to Consultant	October 2022
Community Engagement	Late October 2022
First Draft	November 2022
Final Plan Completion Date	Late November/ Early December 2022

The Proponent should plan their work to conform to this or their improved schedule. The Regional District will provide information and responses to Consultant in a timely manner so as not to affect the schedule.

5.3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Provide project management services throughout all project phases in cooperation with the Regional District project manager. Items required during the performance of the work include the following, at a minimum:

- The Consultant shall manage the project schedule, resources and budget very closely through all phases of this Work. To facilitate Project Management, the Consultant shall identify specific milestones, generate action plans, set completion dates of the various milestones, track the progress of each task and indicate how budget control is to be exercised.

- Deliverable: The Consultant shall provide written reports to the Regional District summarizing the progress to date in comparison to the baseline schedule, project constraints, delivery dates, outstanding items, project budget, and any corrective actions that will be implemented to maintain the approved schedule.

5.4. COMMUNICATIONS

Project communications will be a key component in the success of the complete project and will carry through all project phases. At minimum, the Regional District expects the following:

- Meet with the Regional District project manager and other staff as required in a timely manner to review project objectives and to gather information at project milestones.

- Meet with Regional District staff to initiate the assignment and confirm scope, key dates and requirements for activities such as easement negotiations, open house arrangements, invoicing, protocols, and design review process.

- Meet with Regional District staff at key milestones in all stages of the project.

- Plan, promote and facilitate open houses to meet with the residents and discuss project updates and technical information.
  - Assume at minimum two open house events will be held during the project; one as part of the Pre Design and one in the Design stage with the purpose of finalizing the direction.
  - The Regional District will assist in the booking of venues and support on the day of.

- The Consultant facilitates discussions with all key stakeholder groups…

  - Deliverable: The Consultant shall provide written notes of all meetings and distribute to all in attendance within 48 hours of the meeting. These notes shall clearly show the actions that are assigned for all individuals.

  - All teleconference calls or virtual meetings, if required, shall be hosted by the Consultant.

Other communication activity details anticipated for a successful project outcome are to be included in the Proposal. Additionally, request for a communications plan if necessary for lots of consultation work with various stakeholders.

6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Before the conclusion of the project all documents, including but not limited to memos, reports, photographs, video, shop drawings, manuals, spreadsheets, project management information and tracking, assessments and other documents created for the purpose of this project, will be provided on a memory stick to the Regional District. Some specific reporting requirements are detailed in the following sections.

6.1. DOCUMENTS

The Regional District will require fully editable electronic copies of the draft and final packages in formats that are compatible with the software available at the Regional District (i.e. Microsoft Word and Excel, PDF files). The files will not be password protected.

All finalized reports must be submitted in two hard copies as well as provided electronically. Draft reports can be reviewed electronically and do not require hard copies.

Security settings on all final documents/drawings must not prevent copying text or graphics or extracting/adding pages. The files will not be password protected.

6.2. DRAWINGS

Data in a GIS format (file geodatabase or shapefile) with required attributes populated. A list of attributes will be determined for each feature type during design.

Drawings shall meet standards acceptable to the Regional District’s Geographical Information Systems (GIS) department and be prepared and presented in SI units and use Geodetic datum and UTM Nad 83 coordinates.

All drawings shall also be drawn, saved and provided in DWG and PDF format.

6.3. SAFETY PROCEDURES

Prior to the start of the project, the successful Proponent is required to supply the Regional District with their safety procedure manuals. At this time, the Proponent will be informed of the Regional District’s safety requirements. During the progress meetings, safety issues must be discussed, addressed, and included in the meeting minutes.

7. FEES AND DISBURSEMENTS

The Proposal shall specify a maximum or upset fee up to and including the completion of the Electoral Area “D” Parks Masterplan. The maximum costs or upset fees will include all taxes, labour, equipment, sub-consultant expenses, permits, approvals and disbursement costs.

Any costs incurred by the Consultant above the submitted maximum cost will be the sole responsibility of the Consultant unless pre-approved by the Regional District.

A schedule of hourly rates for all personnel, equipment and disbursement rates (includes transportation expenses) for the project shall be included in the Proposal. The rates provided in the Proposal shall remain at these set rates through the entire design and tendering phases.

Fees must include all applicable taxes, but show taxes as separate items. All prices quoted to be in Canadian dollars.

The obligations of the Regional District to the Builder’s Lien Act of British Columbia will be applied to the payment for the Work as required.

APPENDIX "A"

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS EVALUATION FORM

Proponent's Name: _____

Project Title: Electoral Area "D" Parks Masterplan

Evaluation Date: _____

Evaluator: _____

Step 1:		YES	NO
Mandatories	Proposal received prior to closing		
	Subconsultant list submitted		
	Project Manager identified		
	Proposed schedule included		
	Reference List		
	Hourly rates provided		
	Maximum or upset fee included		
	Complete proposal as requested		
Step 2:		Assigned Points	Points
Proponent (30 points)	Qualifications of firm and project team members	7.5	
	Experience of firm and project team members	7.5	
	Past Performance / References	7.5	
	Resources	7.5	
Proposal (35 points)	Scope	10	
	Methodology	10	
	Scheduling	5	
	Project Team - Level of Effort	5	
	Clarity of Proposal	5	
Price (35 points)	Points for Price = (lowest cost Proposal divided by Proposal being evaluated) x (35% weight)	35	
Total Score	Proponent + Proposal + Price Scores	100	

1. Requests for Proposals (RFP's) shall be reviewed by an Evaluation Team, which shall consist of at least two staff members.

2. Each Evaluation Team member shall complete the RFP Evaluation Form for each Proposal.

3. Evaluation Team Members will use the following list of questions to complete the RFP Evaluation Form:

Proponent Evaluation

(i) Qualifications of Firm and Project Team Members
Are the firm and project team members specialized and qualified in the nature of the project work?

(ii) Experience of Firm and Project Team Members
Has the firm completed similar projects during the last three years? Do the assigned project team members have experience with similar projects?

(iii) Past Performance
Is the firm's record of past performance sound? Do reference checks reveal weaknesses? Was abnormal level of monitoring required? Does the firm consistently complete assignments on time and within budget?

(iv) Resources
Does the firm have ample resources (e.g. staff, equipment, etc.) to apply to this project?

Proposal Evaluation

(i) Scope
Do the objectives, scope, work plan, and prediction of results comply with the terms of reference and project objectives?

(ii) Methodology
Is the methodology clear and in sufficient detail to cover all necessary aspects? Does the Proposal reflect the required understanding of the project? Is each task clearly outlined and in logical sequence?

(iii) Environmental Performance [see criteria below]
What is the environmental burden and unit cost of a product or service, from its design through to production and then final disposal?

(iv) Scheduling
Does the Proposal indicate that the achievement of objectives will be met according to an acceptable schedule? Are they within the timelines set by the terms of reference (if outlined in the terms of reference) Are problems or delays accounted for? Is timing realistic for the project?

(v) Project Team
Is the level of effort (total hours) adequate, low or high? Are the hours of professionals involved adequate, low or high? Is the proportion of professional vs. technical hours adequate or appropriate?

(vi) Clarity of Proposal
Is the Proposal clear, concise, and logical?

Price Evaluation

(i) Total Price

4. Upon completion of Step 2, the Evaluation Team shall determine, by consensus, the score for each Proposal and will forward these scores to the Board to select the successful Proponent.

APPENDIX “B”

Attached at the end of this document

APPENDIX "C"

SAMPLE CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT TERMS

SECTION 1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 For purposes of this Agreement, except as otherwise expressly provided:

(a) Section—all references in this Agreement to a designated "section" or other subdivision or to a Schedule is to the designated section or other subdivision of, or Schedule to, this Agreement;

(b) Whole Agreement—the words "herein", "hereof", "hereunder" and other words of similar import refer to this Agreement as a whole and not to any particular section or other subdivision or Schedule;

(c) Headings—any headings have been inserted for convenience only and do not form a part of this Agreement and are not intended to interpret, define or limit the scope, extent or intent of this Agreement or any provision hereof;

(d) Non-limiting—the singular of any term includes the plural, and vice versa; the use of any term referable to a particular gender is equally applicable to any gender and, where applicable, a body corporate; the word "or" is not exclusive and the word "including" is not limiting (whether or not non-limiting language, such as "without limitation" or "but not limited to" or words of similar import is used with reference thereto).

SECTION 2 CONSULTANT'S DUTIES

2.1 The Consultant shall provide, and has agreed to provide to the Regional District all Services set out in the Request for Proposal (attached hereto as Schedule "A") and the Consultant's Proposal (attached hereto as Schedule "B"), both of which form part of this agreement (hereinafter collectively called the "Services"). The Services shall be provided within the times specified in Schedules A and B.

2.2 In performing the Services under this Agreement, the Consultant shall, at all times, act in the best interests of the Regional District and exercise that degree of professional skill, care and diligence required according to generally accepted professional science and engineering standards applicable to the performance of such Services at the time and place the Services are performed.

2.3 It is agreed that in awarding the professional Services encompassed within this agreement to the Consultant, the Regional District has relied upon the Consultant's representations concerning the experience of certain identified personnel in the employ of the Consultant. It is agreed that, in performing the Services under this agreement, the Consultant shall designate those key staff and subconsultants specified in Schedule "B" to carry out and provide the Services to be provided by the Consultant as referred to herein

2.4 The Consultant shall request of the Regional District any information or data contained in Regional

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District files which the Consultant requires in order to perform the Services. The Regional District is only obligated to provide to the Consultant information and data that is pertinent to the terms of reference and work program set out in Schedules "A" and "B". The Consultant may rely on such information or data as may be provided by the Regional District without independent verification.

2.5 To ensure that the Project is processed in a timely manner, the Consultant and the Regional District will apply their best efforts to meeting the following deadlines:

a) Phone call inquiries from the Regional District will be returned within 24 hours;
b) Public inquiries to the Consultant on technical issues will be returned within 48 hours;
c) Meetings will be scheduled within 5 working days from date of request;
d) Review comments for material submitted by the Consultant will be processed by the Regional District within 14 days of receipt.

2.6 Costs which have not been identified by the Consultant in the cost estimate will not be paid by the Regional District without prior approval and confirmation in writing. No payment shall be made to the Consultant for cost overruns that have not been the subject of prior notice and approval by the Regional District.

Any change in the rates charged for fees and disbursements must be approved in advance, in writing, by the Regional District.

2.7 The Consultant shall submit to the Regional District regular progress reports, as requested from time to time, and such additional reports as may be reasonably required.

SECTION 3 FEES AND DISBURSEMENTS

3.1 The Consultant shall receive from the Regional District for the performance of the Services the compensation referred to in_____

3.2 Invoices may be rendered on a monthly basis prorated to the work completed or, at the conclusion of each phase by the Consultant to the Regional District, and shall be delivered to the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, 101 Martin Street, Penticton, British Columbia, V2A 5J9. Invoices shall be payable in full by the Regional District within thirty (30) days of receipt.

3.3 The Consultant shall provide all necessary and sufficient substantiation to the Regional District in order to verify any invoice upon request. If the Regional District is unable to verify any invoice within the said period, any payment by the Regional District either may be withheld or may be made and treated as an advance pending verification of the invoice.

3.4 Any necessary adjustments which have not been made prior to payment of an invoice may be made by the Regional District at the time of a later payment. If the Regional District is shown to have overpaid, the Regional District may deduct the amount from any other sums due to the Consultant from the Regional District or the Consultant shall pay the amount to the Regional District within thirty (30) days of the amount being agreed upon or otherwise established.

3.5 The Regional District may request the Consultant to submit prior to payment of the final invoice a statutory declaration or other proof that there are no outstanding costs, assessments, liens or claims in connection with the project.

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SECTION 4 CONFIDENTIALITY, OWNERSHIP AND USE OF DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS

4.1 The Consultant acknowledges that in the performance of the Consultant's responsibilities hereunder, the Consultant may have access to confidential information, records and customer lists of the Regional District (the "Confidential Information"). During and after the term of this Agreement, the Consultant shall not, directly or indirectly, disclose such Confidential Information to any person or use any such Confidential Information, except:

(a) as required in the course of performing such Services and then only to staff of the Regional District on a need-to-know basis; or

(b) with the prior written consent of the Regional District;

and all Confidential Information which the Consultant shall prepare or use or come in contact with shall be and remain the Regional District's sole property and shall not be removed from the Regional District's premises without its prior written consent, except as required in the normal course of performing the Services under this Agreement.

4.2 The Consultant agrees that all base materials, research results, computer programs, computer files, drawings, documents and notes and materials of any type whatsoever developed or prepared by the Consultant (hereinafter called the "Documents") in the performance of the Services shall vest and become the absolute property of the Regional District, including copyright of such Documents and upon completion of the Services or termination of this Agreement, all copies of Documents shall be delivered by the Consultant to the Regional District. The Consultant may retain one copy of it's materials for record purposes.

4.3 The Consultant agrees that all restrictions in this Section 4 are reasonable, fair and valid in all the circumstances and, to the fullest extent permitted by law, hereby waives all defences to the strict enforcement thereof by the Regional District.

4.4 The Regional District acknowledges and agrees that the Consultant's Services have been provided for a specific purpose. Any reuse, modification, or misuse of the Consultant's studies, reports, drawings, plans, designs, specifications, models, software, processes, documents, or other information by the Regional District or third parties shall be at the Regional District's sole risk and responsibility.

SECTION 5 SPECIAL TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

5.1 All necessary special tools, equipment and other things shall be acquired by the Consultant solely at the Consultant's cost and shall be the property of the Consultant unless the Regional District specifically authorizes the purchase of a specific item at the Regional District's expense.

5.2 The cost of special tools, equipment and other things that have not been specifically identified in detail by the Consultant or specifically authorized in writing by the Regional District during performance of the project shall be considered to be within the overhead of the Consultant.

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5.3 If the Regional District specifically authorizes, in writing, that the Consultant shall purchase any special tool, equipment, or other things at the expense of the Regional District then such items shall become the property of the Regional District. The Consultant shall bear the risk of loss or damage, normal wear and tear excepted, to all such items for the time when such items are out of the possession and control of the Regional District. Upon completion of the project, the Consultant shall deliver all such special tools, equipment and other things to the Regional District.

SECTION 6 SUB-CONSULTANTS AND SUB-CONTRACTORS

6.1 The Consultant may, with the prior written approval of the Regional District, engage the services of sub-consultants or sub-contractors to perform work which the Consultant is unable to perform.

6.2 The sub-Consultants and sub-contractors shall agree in writing prior to their participation in the Project to be bound by duties and obligations arising out of this Agreement between the Consultant and the Regional District.

6.3 The Consultant shall be responsible to the Regional District for all work carried out by sub-consultants and sub-contractors in connection with the project as if such work had been performed by the Consultant.

6.4 The Consultant shall be responsible to the Regional District for the acts and omissions of all sub-consultants and sub-contractors, their employees and agents, as if such sub-consultants and sub-contractors, their employees and agents, were persons directly employed by the Consultant.

SECTION 7 TERMINATION AND SUSPENSION

By the Regional District :

7.1 If the Consultant is in default in the performance of any of his material obligations set forth in this agreement, then the Regional District may, by written notice to the Consultant, require such default to be remedied. If, within seven (7) days after delivery of such notice, such default shall not have been corrected or reasonable steps to correct such default have not been taken, the Regional District may, without limiting any other right or remedy the Regional District may have, immediately terminate this agreement and discharge its obligations under this agreement by paying for the cost of the Services rendered and disbursements incurred by the Consultant and remaining unpaid as of the effective date of the termination.

7.2 The Regional District may terminate this Agreement upon seven (7) days' prior written notice in the event the Consultant:

(a) fails to complete the Services or any portion thereon within the time specified by this Agreement;

(b) becomes insolvent;

(c) commits an act of bankruptcy;

(d) assigns this Agreement without the required written consent of the Regional District;

(e) fails to adhere to or perform any of the provisions of this Agreement;

(f) has any conflict of interest which may, in the opinion of the Regional District, adversely affect any project for which the Services are being provided; or

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(g) there is a change in the personnel referred to in Schedule "B" herein without the prior written approval of the Regional District.

7.3 Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Regional District may, for whatever reason, terminate this Agreement on One (1) months' prior written notice to the Consultant, in which case the term of this Agreement shall expire upon the effective date set out in the aforesaid notice, and the Regional District shall have no further obligation to the Consultant for the balance of the term of this Agreement save and except as may exist on the termination date.

Upon receipt of such written notice, the Consultant shall perform no further Services other than those reasonably necessary to close out the project.

In such event, the Consultant shall be paid by the Regional District for all Services performed and all disbursements incurred pursuant to this agreement and remaining unpaid as of the effective date of such termination. On said payment the Regional District shall have no further liability of any nature whatsoever to the Consultant for any loss of profit or any other losses suffered, either directly or indirectly, by the Consultant as a result of the termination of this agreement.

7.4 The Consultant shall, upon termination, forthwith provide to the Regional District a reproducible copy of all materials used by the Consultant or prepared by the Consultant in regards to the Services.

7.5 The Consultant agrees that the termination or suspension of this agreement or any change thereto does not operate as to relieve or discharge the Consultant from any obligation under this agreement or imposed upon the Consultant by law in respect of the Services or any portion of the Services that the Consultant has completed to date or such termination or suspension. This indemnity shall survive the expiry or sooner termination of this agreement.

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By the Consultant :

7.6 If the Regional District is shown to be in default in performance of any of its material obligations set forth in this agreement, then the Consultant may, by written notice to the Regional District, require such default to be corrected.

If, within seven (7) days after receipt of such notice such default shall not have been corrected, or reasonable steps have not been taken to correct such default, the Consultant may, without limiting any other right or remedy he may have, immediately terminate this agreement. In such an event, the Consultant shall be paid by the Regional District for all Services performed and disbursements incurred pursuant to this agreement and remaining unpaid as of the effective date of such termination.

7.7 If the Consultant's Services are suspended by the Regional District at any time for more than thirty (30) days through no fault of the Consultant, then the Consultant shall have the right at any time until such suspension is lifted by the Regional District, to terminate this agreement upon giving written notice thereof to the Regional District.

In such event, the Consultant shall be paid by the Regional District for all Services performed and all disbursements incurred pursuant to this agreement and remaining unpaid as of the effective date of such suspension.

SECTION 8 INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY

8.1 The Consultant shall maintain in full force and effect with insurers licensed in the Province of British Columbia, all insurance as outlined on the attached **Certificate of Insurance – Standard Consultant's Certificate Form** as provided by the Regional District. This form must be completed by the Consultant's insurance broker and returned to the Regional District.:

8.2 The Consultant shall, at his expense, establish and maintain Errors and Omissions Insurance in respect to the Services and operations of the Consultant based on the following:

1. Preliminary Project where fees do not exceed $15,000: Insurance limit shall be a minimum of $250,000 per claim and $500,000 per policy period.
2. Studies with no designing required: Insurance limit shall be a minimum of $500,000 per claim and $1,000,000 per policy period.
3. Design assignments and/ or planning services covering projects not exceeding $1,000,000 in value: Insurance limit shall be a minimum of $1,000,000 per claim and $1,000,000 per policy period.
4. Design assignments and/ or planning services covering projects exceeding $1,000,000 in value: Insurance limit shall be a minimum of $2,000,000 per claim.

8.3 The Consultant's Professional Errors and Omissions Insurance shall be maintained continuously during the term of this Consulting Services Agreement and subsequently continue to be in force for twelve (12) months beyond the project completion date of Services (i.e., submission of Final Report, as approved in writing by the Regional District).

The Consultant will provide 30 days written notice in advance of cancelation of any policies.

8.4 General liability insurance must be obtained on an occurrence basis for the Consultant with limits of not less than $5,000,000 inclusive per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage. Detailed coverage is to be as specified on the provided Standard Contractor's Certificate Form.

8.5 The Consultant shall at all times indemnify, defend, release, hold harmless and forever discharge the Regional District, and the Regional District elected and appointed officials, officers, employees and agents from and against all liability, claims, damages, losses, costs, actions, causes of action, suits, proceedings and expenses at law and in equity, whether known or unknown, including all actual legal and other professional fees and disbursements on a full indemnity basis, whether arising directly or indirectly from death, personal or bodily injury, sickness, disease, property loss, property damage or other loss or damage which may result from or be connected with the performance of this Agreement, including any breach or default of this Agreement by the Consultant or its employee.

SECTION 9 ARBITRATION

9.1 All matters in dispute under this agreement may, with the concurrence of both the Regional District and the Consultant, be submitted to arbitration to a single arbitrator appointed jointly by them and the provisions of the *Arbitration Act* shall apply.

9.2 No one shall be nominated to act as arbitrator who is in any way financially interested in the project or in the affairs of either the Regional District or the Consultant.

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SECTION 10 INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

10.1 Nothing in this agreement or the Consultant's performance of his duties under this agreement shall constitute or create an employer-employee relationship. The Consultant shall act solely as an independent contractor and not as an employee or agent of the Regional District and is not authorized to create obligations on the part of the Regional District to third parties.

SECTION 11 WAIVER

11.1 Any failure of the Regional District at any time to enforce or require strict compliance with any of the terms of this agreement shall not constitute a waiver or relinquishment of any such terms and the same shall remain at all times in full force and effect.

SECTION 12 RECORDS AND AUDIT

12.1 The Consultant shall keep reasonable and proper records, accounts, statements and other relevant documents for a period of not less than twelve (12) months after completion of the Project or for such extended period as the Regional District may request in advance and in writing.

12.2 The Consultant shall permit the Regional District to inspect, audit and copy all records, accounts, statements and other relevant documents of the Consultant relating to the Project at all reasonable business hours in the offices of the Consultant unless otherwise agreed in writing by the parties.

SECTION 13 SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS

13.1 This agreement shall enure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective executors, heirs, administrators, successors and assigns, as the case may be.

13.2 Neither party may assign this agreement without the prior consent in writing of the other, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

SECTION 14 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

14.1 The Consultant shall comply with all applicable bylaws and regulations of the Regional District and all applicable laws of the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada. Without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the Consultant shall abide by all provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act of British Columbia and upon request by the Regional District shall supply proof that all assessments have been paid.

14.2 The laws of the Province of British Columbia shall govern this agreement and any arbitration or litigation in respect thereof.

SECTION 15 TERM

15.1 The parties hereto agree that the Term of this Consulting Services Agreement will be from___ to ____.

SECTION 16 ENTIRE AGREEMENT

16.1 This agreement constitutes and expresses the whole agreement of the parties with reference to the engagement of the Consultant by the Regional District.

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SECTION 17 NOTICE

17.1 Except in the case of emergency, when notice may be given by telephone with later confirmation in writing, any notice, request, approval, demand or other communication which may be or is hereby required or permitted to be given under this agreement shall be in writing and either delivered by hand or sent by facsimile transmission addressed as follows:

(a) if to the Regional District:
101 Martin Street, Penticton, BC, V2A 5J9
Fax No. 250-492-0063; and

(b) if to the Consultant:
(TO BE COMPLETED);

or at such other address or facsimile number, which notice has been given as provided in this section. Any notice which is delivered by hand will be deemed to have been given on the first day on which it is delivered. Any notice which is sent by facsimile transmission will be deemed to have been given on the first day after it is transmitted, provided that the sender obtains written confirmation of successful transmission. If a party will promptly give notice of its new address or facsimile number, or both, to such other parties provided in this section, whereupon such notice to such party will thereafter be sent to such new address or facsimile number.

SECTION 18 TIME OF THE ESSENCE

18.1 Time shall remain of the essence with respect to this Agreement.

SECTION 19 EXECUTION

19.1 This agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which so executed shall be deemed an original and the counterparts together from a valid and binding agreement which may be sufficient evidence by any one such original counterpart.

19.2 In the event this agreement is executed by two or more persons, the covenants and agreements herein shall be deemed to be joint and several covenants.

SECTION 20 ELECTRONIC MAIL

20.1 This agreement may be executed by the parties and transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail and if so executed and transmitted, this agreement will be for all purposes as effective as if the parties hereto had delivered an executed original of this agreement.

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HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

June 2022

A 10 YEAR GAME PLAN FOR PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION IN THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

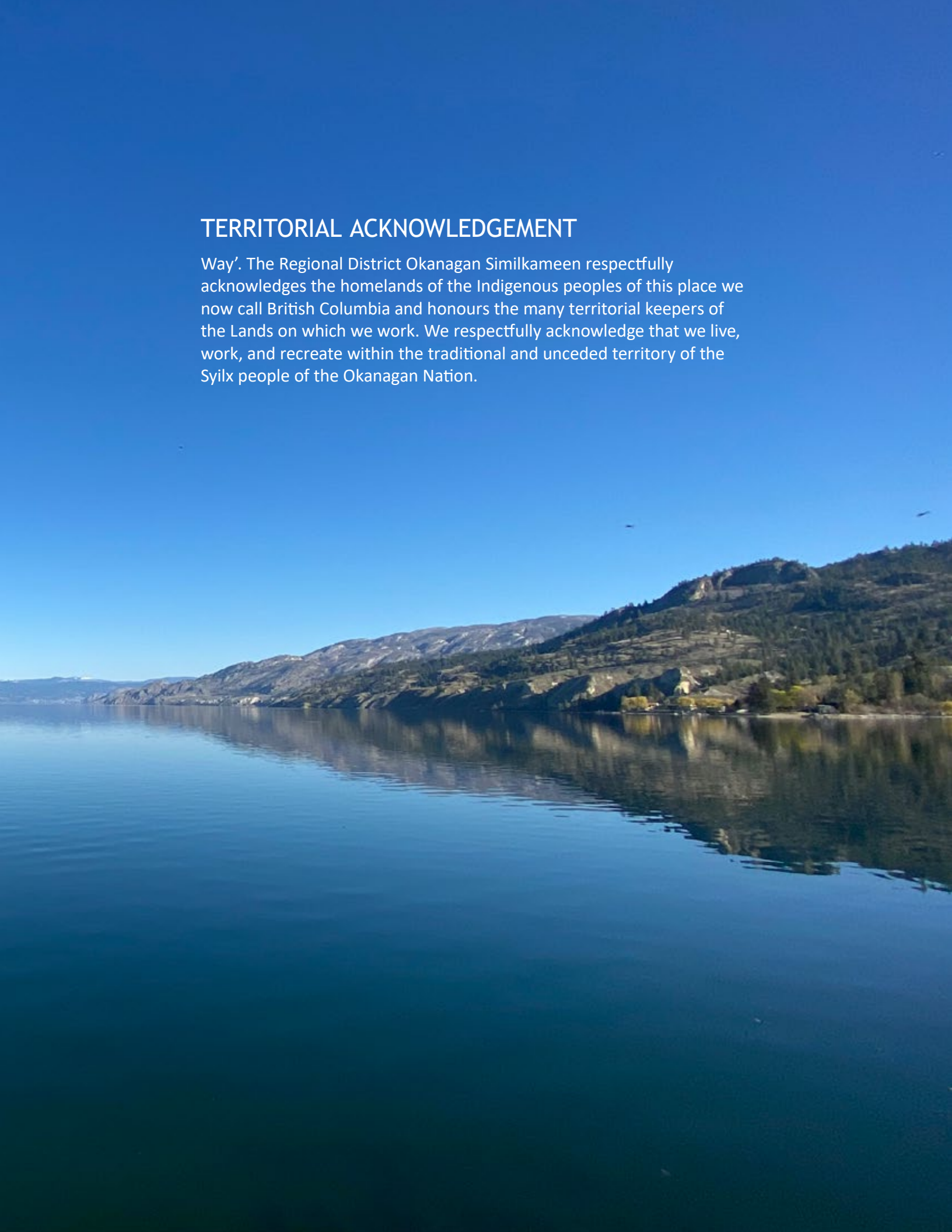
REGIONAL DISTRICT RDOS OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

rcs+

DRAFT – For Discussion Only

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Way'. The Regional District Okanagan Similkameen respectfully acknowledges the homelands of the Indigenous peoples of this place we now call British Columbia and honours the many territorial keepers of the Lands on which we work. We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, and recreate within the traditional and unceded territory of the Syilx people of the Okanagan Nation.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DRAFT – For Discussion Only

Parks, Trails & Recreation Are Essential to the Well-Being of the Residents, the Environment & the Region's Economy

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (Regional District) is one of the most desirable places to live, work, play and visit in British Columbia and Canada. The abundance of natural spaces, parks, and trails together with the wide range of recreation facilities, services and amenities are at the foundation of what makes the Regional District such a desirable place to live, work and visit. Regional District parks protect and connect residents and visitors to nature, help to sustain ecosystem services on which we depend, and support the region's ability to adapt to climate change. Regional District trails connect communities, provide opportunities for physical activity and enjoying nature and help reduce carbon emissions through active transportation, while Regional District recreation facilities and services help to build healthy and productive residents and strong families and communities. Parks, trails and recreation facilities and services provided by the Regional District and its partners are essential to the well-being of residents, the environment, and the overall regional economy.

A Long-Term Framework to Guide Decision-Making & Prioritization

Great parks, trails and recreation systems don't "just happen". They require strategic planning, appropriate investment, and proactive management. Focused on the next 10 years, the purpose of this plan, known as "Healthy Individuals, Healthy Communities, Healthy Environment", is to provide a long-term framework to guide decision making about the development, management and investment in regional and local parks, trails and recreation facilities and services throughout the Regional District.

Developing the Plan Was a Collaborative Undertaking

To gather input into and build support for the Plan, a diverse engagement process involving over 1,000 residents, stakeholders, parks and recreation commissions, and elected officials as well as staff from the Regional District, local, and provincial governments, was implemented. The focus and priorities established in the Plan are a direct reflection of the thousands of ideas shared during the engagement process.

ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

1,593
Resident Surveys

440
Sounding Board Ideas

240
Pins on the Online Map

21
Virtual Interviews & Workshops

27
Organizations

6
Online Stakeholder Surveys

Emerging Community Priorities

Outcomes Focused and Principle Based

- Mission
- Outcomes
- Principles

The Plan at A Glance

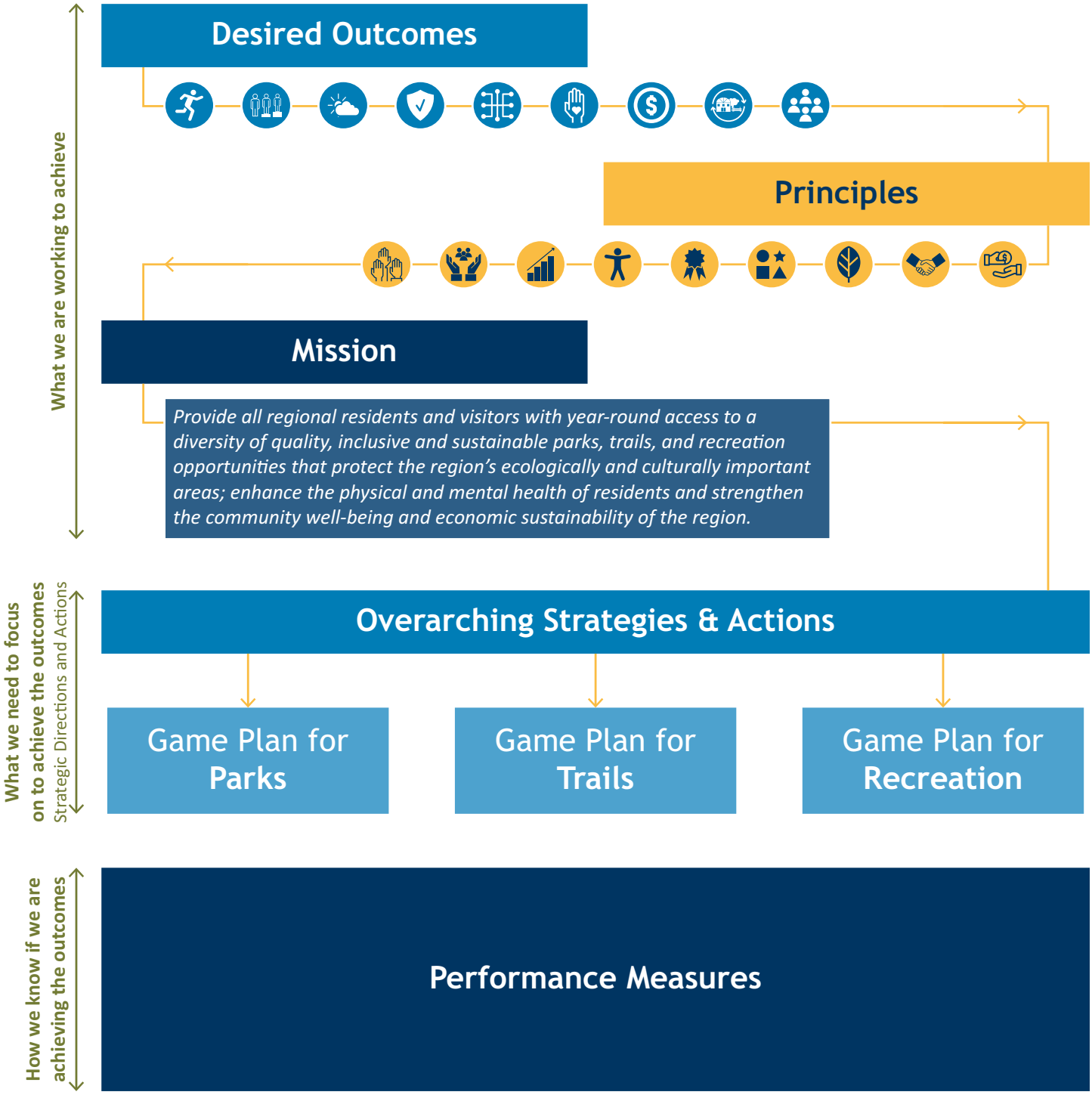


TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN 3

1.2 PLANNING AREA & SCOPE 4

1.3 PLANNING & ENGAGEMENT APPROACH 5

2 THE VALUE OF PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION 8

3 PLANNING FOUNDATIONS 11

3.1 POPULATION & POPULATION PROJECTIONS 12

3.2 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS. 15

3.3 PLANNING & POLICY FOUNDATIONS. 16

3.4 TRENDS 18

4 PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION IN THE REGIONAL DISTRICT TODAY 22

4.1 REGIONAL NETWORK OF PARKS & PROTECTED AREAS 24

4.2 THE REGIONAL DISTRICT'S PARKS NETWORK 27

4.3 TRAILS 47

4.4 THE REGIONAL RECREATION SYSTEM 55

5 WHAT WE HEARD 73

6 DESIRED OUTCOMES, MISSION & PRINCIPLES 79

6.1 DESIRED OUTCOMES 82

6.2 MISSION 84

6.3 PRINCIPLES 85

6.4 MAXIMIZING PUBLIC GOOD 87

7 THE GAME PLAN FOR PARKS 88

7.1 PARK CLASSIFICATION 89

7.2 STRATEGIES & ACTIONS. 93

8 THE GAME PLAN FOR TRAILS 112

8.1 TRAIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM 113

8.2 STRATEGIES & ACTIONS. 117

TABLE OF CONTENTS

9 THE GAME PLAN FOR RECREATION 129

9.1 SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGIES 131

9.2 INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIES 139

10 OVERARCHING STRATEGIES & ACTIONS 150

10.1 UPDATE AND MODERNIZE THE POLICY AND BYLAW FRAMEWORK 151

10.2 INCLUDE EVERYONE IN PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION. 152

10.3 SUPPORT TRUTH & RECONCILIATION THROUGH PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION 154

10.4 ASSET MANAGEMENT 156

10.5 ENHANCE THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR SEEKING CITIZEN AND STAKEHOLDER ADVICE ON REGIONAL AND LOCAL PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION SERVICES 157

10.6 ACTIVELY DEVELOP AND SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS AND VOLUNTEERISM 159

10.7 UTILIZE A CONSISTENT AND TRANSPARENT APPROACH WHEN CONTEMPLATING SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL INVESTMENT (OVER $1M) . . 161

11 IMPLEMENTATION 163

12 PERFORMANCE MEASURES 165

Appendices 169

A.1 PARK CLASSIFICATION DESCRIPTIONS & DESIGN & MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE. 170

A.2 TRAIL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE FORM 181

A.3 REGIONAL TRAIL LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES 183

A.4 PARKING, STAGING AREA & TRAILHEAD LEVEL OF SERVICE GUIDELINES 186

References. 189

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

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The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (Regional District) is one of the most desirable places to live, work, play and visit in British Columbia and Canada. The abundance of natural spaces, parks, and trails together with the wide range of recreation facilities, services and amenities are at the foundation of what makes the Regional District such a desirable place to live, work and visit. Regional District parks protect and connect residents and visitors to nature, help to sustain ecosystem services on which we depend, and support the region's ability to adapt to climate change. Regional District trails connect communities, provide opportunities for physical activity and enjoying nature and help reduce carbon emissions through active transportation, while Regional District recreation facilities and services help to build healthy and productive residents and strong families and communities. Parks, trails and recreation facilities and services provided by the Regional District and its partners are essential to the well-being of residents, the environment, and the overall regional economy. But great parks, trails and recreation systems don't "just happen". They require strategic planning, appropriate investment, and proactive management.

RECREATION...

"... is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative, and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community well-being."

– Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015)

Figure 1 Guide to the Master Plan

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

Focused on the next 10 years, the purpose of this Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan (the Plan) is to provide a long-term framework to guide decision making about the development, management and investment in parks, trails and recreation facilities and services (services) throughout the Regional District. More specifically, the Plan:

- Provides an inventory and evaluation of the current state of the parks, trails, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities that are operated or cost shared by the Regional District,
- Articulates the interests and priorities of residents and stakeholders as identified during community and stakeholder engagement,
- Defines the desired outcomes that the Regional District is working to achieve and the mission and principles that will guide decision making into the future, and
- Outlines the 'Game Plans' that will be implemented to ensure the Regional District will deliver the outcomes it has set out to achieve.

Focused on achieving shared regional outcomes and advancing shared priorities, the Plan is intended to be championed by the Regional District Board and serve as a consistent framework and guiding document for future decisions by the Board, staff and Parks and Recreation Commissions. While the plan is focused on the services delivered or funded by the Regional District, it provides insights and direction that can benefit all Regional District partners and collaborators including other levels of government, local volunteer groups, developers, community stakeholders and the private sector. The plan is deliberately strategic, long-term in nature, and provides direction to more tactical and project specific planning (Figure 2). The trails component of this plan builds on the foundational direction and work established in the 2012 RDOS Regional Trails Master Plan.

Figure 2 Planning Hierarchy

1.2 PLANNING AREA & SCOPE

The planning area for the master plan is the Regional District (Figure 3). The Regional District is responsible for the delivery of parks, trails, and recreation services to residents of the Electoral Areas (Figure 3). Additionally, the Regional District owns, operates and / or funds parks, trails and facilities that are within or cross through incorporated municipalities. The focus for this plan is on local and regional parks and trails as well recreation facilities and services that the Regional District directly owns, funds, supports and/or operates.

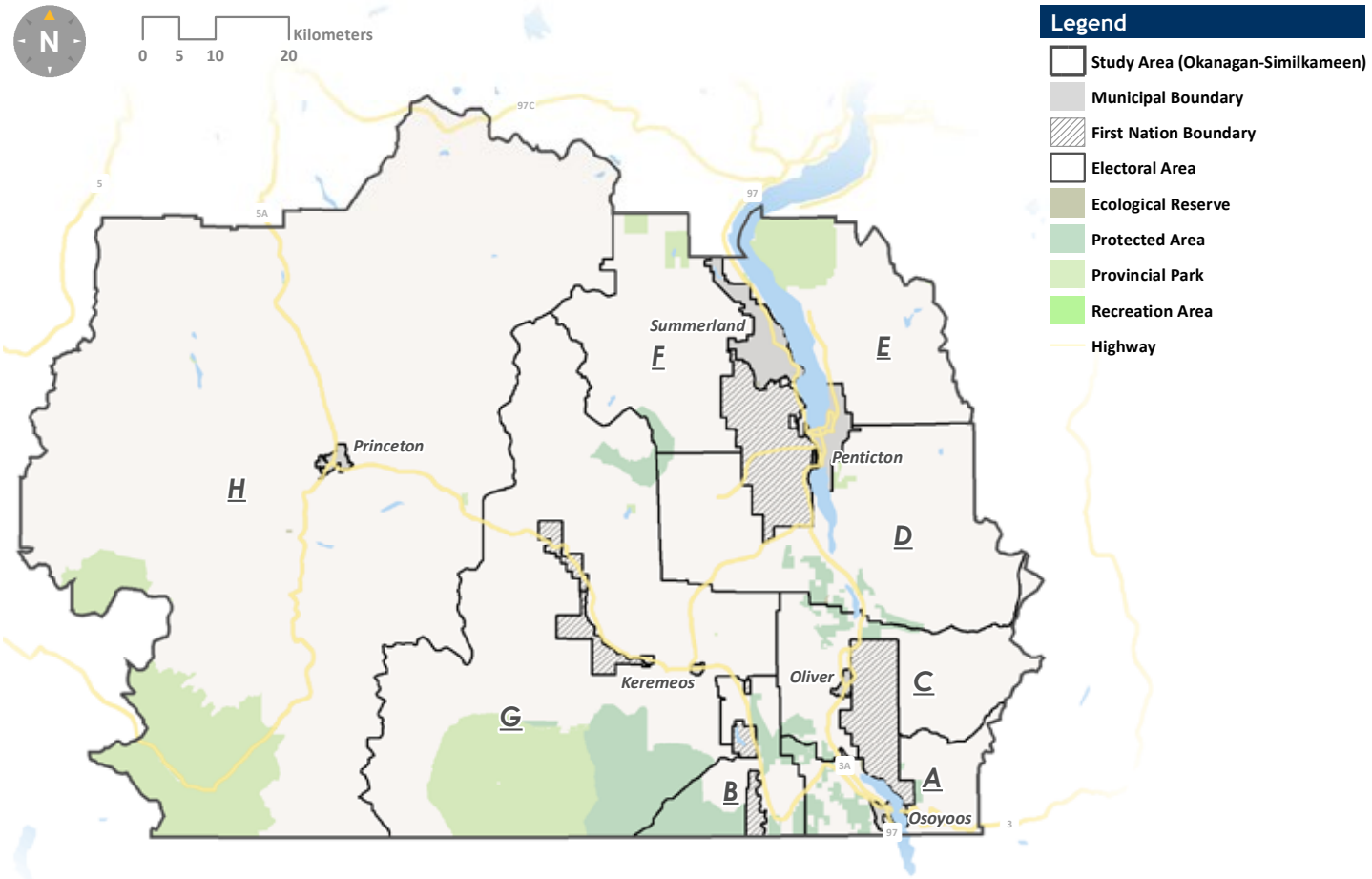


Figure 3 Study Area

1.3 PLANNING & ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Initiated in the spring of 2021, the Plan was developed through a four phased project process (Figure 4).

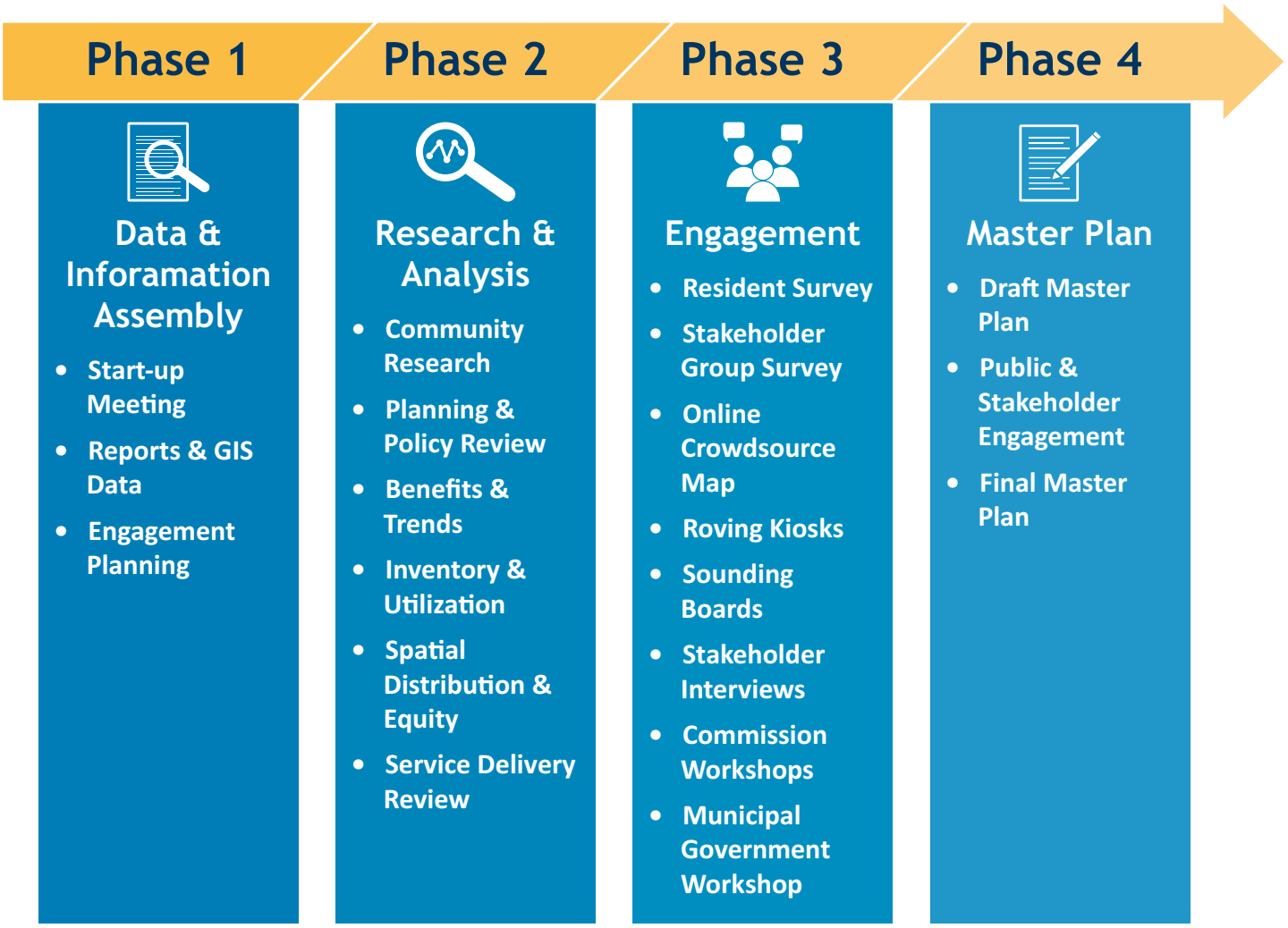


Figure 4 Planning Process

To gather input into and build support for the Plan, the Regional District led a diverse engagement process that involved over 1,000 residents, stakeholders, parks and recreation commissions, and elected officials as well as staff from the Regional District, local, and provincial governments. This Plan is a direct reflection of the thousands of ideas shared during the engagement process. At the time of developing this plan, Indigenous communities in the region did not have the capacity to participate in the planning process. The Regional District is committed to continuing to build and strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities in the Regional District and to exploring how Indigenous communities may want to be involved in the implementation of this plan.

Focused on enabling anyone with an interest in the future of parks, trails, and recreation in the Regional District to engage in the planning process, two engagement programs were undertaken:

- **Program 1** (April 2021– June 2021) was focused on gathering input and ideas about how the Regional District's services are used, the issues and challenges confronting parks, trails and recreation and the opportunities and priorities to enhance them.
- **Program 2** (Summer of 2022) presented and sought input on the draft master plan.

ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

1,593
Resident Surveys

440
Sounding Board Ideas

240
Pins on the Online Map

21
Virtual Interviews & Workshops

27
Organizations

6
Online Stakeholder Surveys

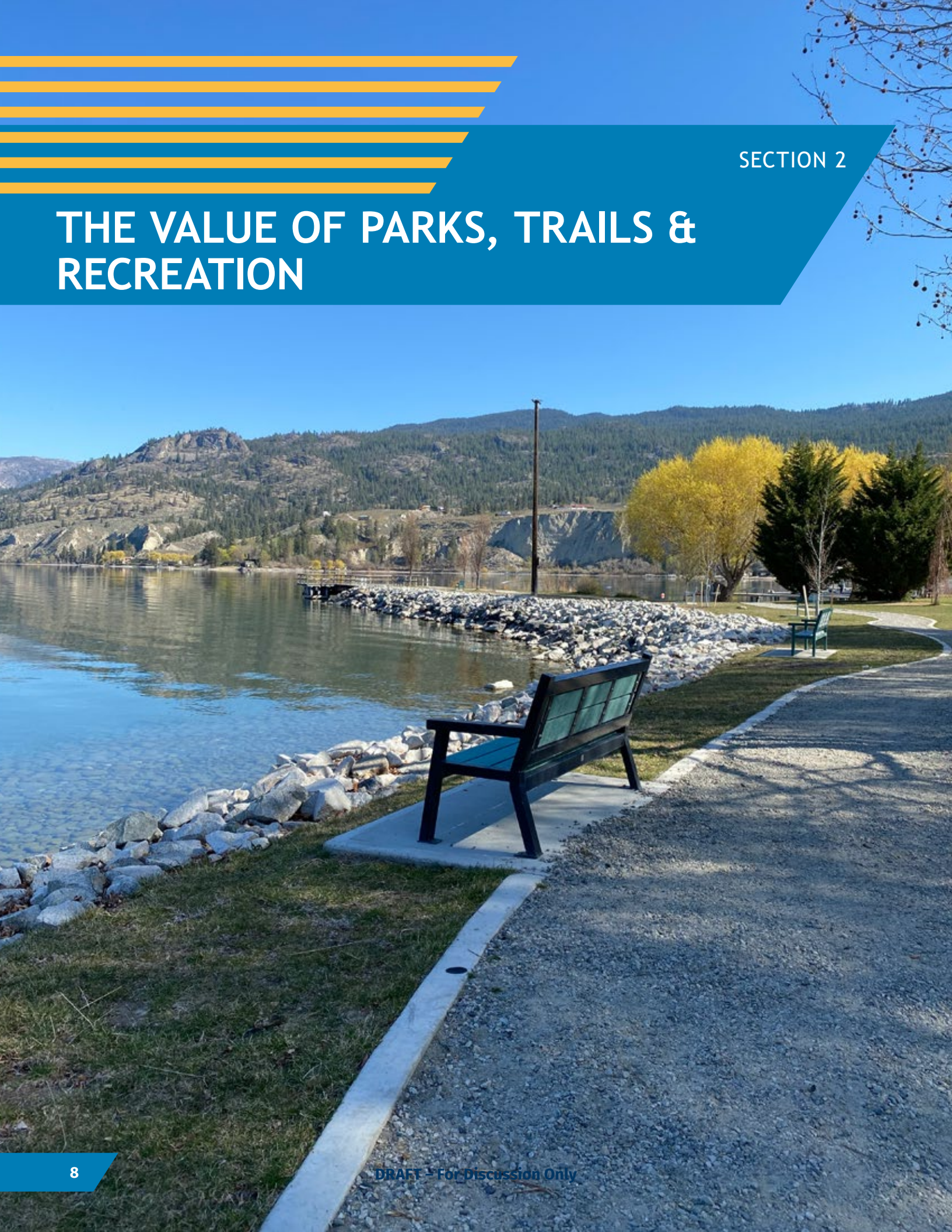
To make the engagement process as accessible as possible the following engagement tools were utilized:

- **Regional Connections project website.**
- **Online resident survey.**
- **Online stakeholder group survey.**
- **Sounding Boards – distributed throughout parks, trails, and recreation facilities.**
- **Parks and Recreation Commission workshops.**
- **Community and stakeholder virtual interviews and workshops.**
- **Online interactive crowdsource mapping platform.**

Engagements were undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic. Public and staff safety were paramount, and pandemic health and safety protocols limited the ability to host traditional in-person engagements such as open houses.

SECTION 2

THE VALUE OF PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION



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Parks, trails, and recreation bring immense benefits to communities, residents, the environment, and the regional economy. Investing in parks, trails and recreation is a deliberate strategy to help address and overcome many of the social, environmental, and economic challenges that we face today, such as:

- Increasing physical inactivity and chronic health problems, including mental health.
- Climate change resilience and adaptation.
- Loss of biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital.
- Conversion of viewscapes and loss of culturally important areas.
- Truth and reconciliation with First Nations.
- Racism, equity, and inclusion.
- Economic development and diversification.
- Sustainable transportation.

Research into the benefits of parks, trails and recreation is extensive. The National Benefits Hub provides an extensive listing of literature that substantiates the individual health, social, cultural, environmental, and economic benefits of parks, trails, and recreation.[i] Research assembled in the National Benefits Hub clearly demonstrates that, when well planned, executed, and appropriately resourced, parks, trails and recreation can deliver the following benefits:

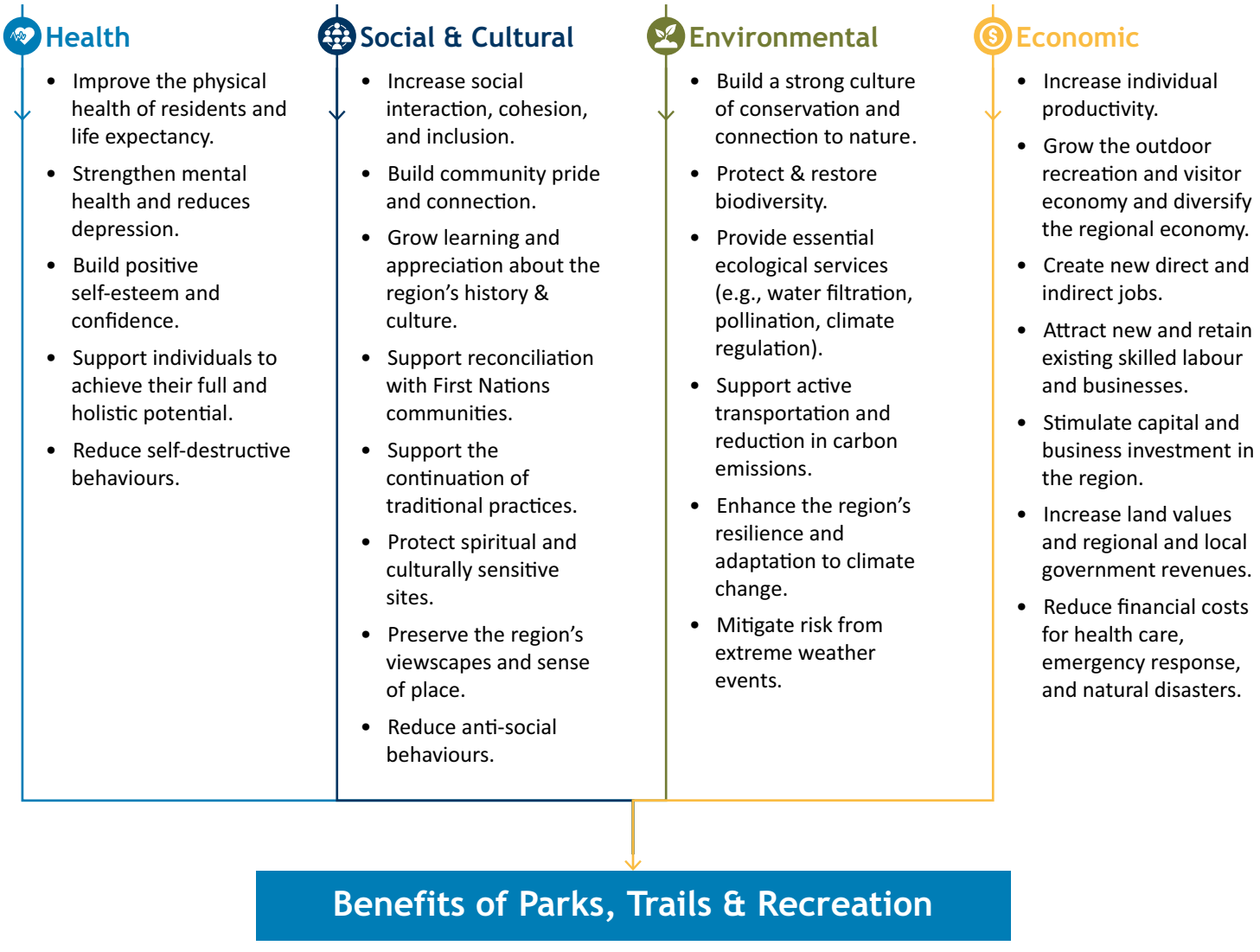

Figure 5 Benefits of Parks, Trails, & Recreation

Pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure make 46% more jobs than road-only projects

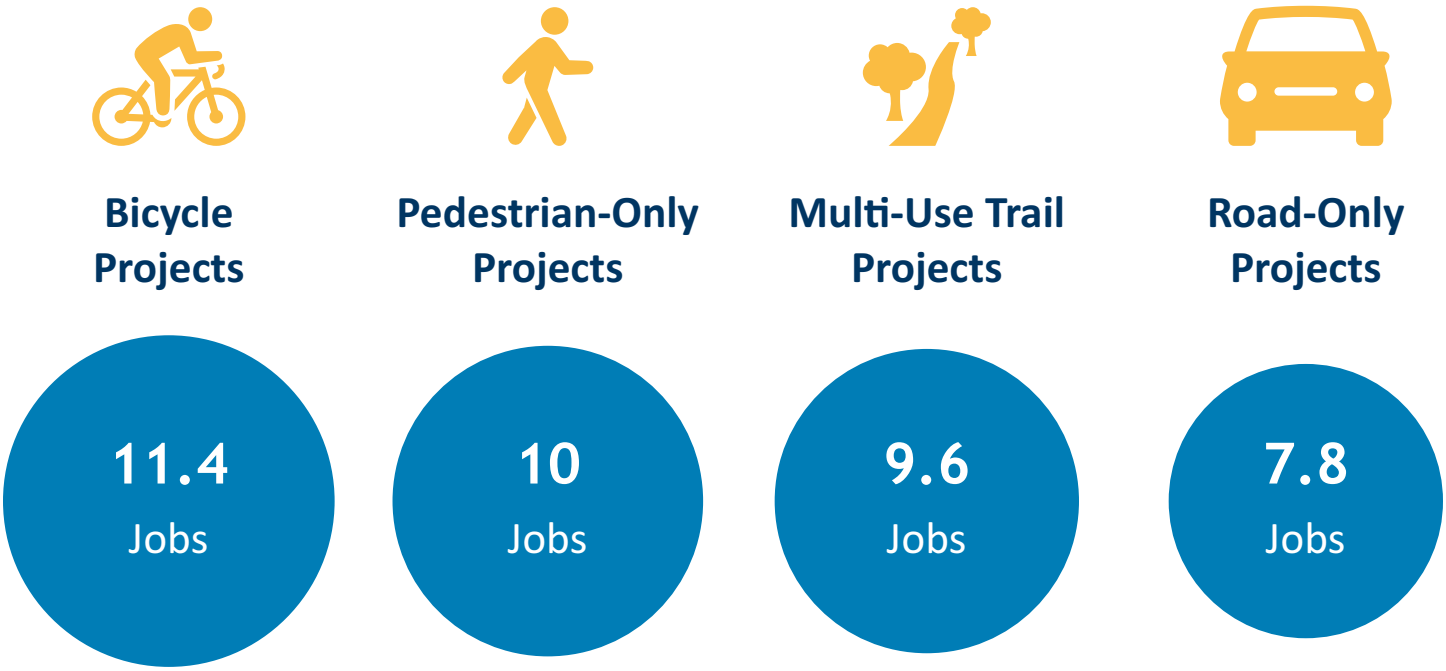

Figure 6 Economic Benefits of Pedestrian and Bicycling Infrastructure Project (Source: Canada's National Active Transportation Strategy)

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SECTION 3

PLANNING FOUNDATIONS

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Demand for parks, trails and recreation services is driven by the size, composition, and distribution of the Regional District's population. Making good decisions about the future of parks, trails and recreation services requires an understanding of the Regional District's current and future population and demographic characteristics which are presented in the following sections.

3.1 POPULATION & POPULATION PROJECTIONS[ii]

In 2020, the total estimated population of the Regional was 88,465. The population has trended slightly upwards since 2015 at a projected average annual rate of growth of 1.0% or 845 persons per year. Municipalities within the Regional District receive about 10 new arrivals each year for every 1 new arrival to an Electoral Area. The projected population of persons living on First Nation Reserves is approximately 3,323 in 2020 or 3.8% of the total regional population. Approximately 72% of total regional population lives in municipalities while the remaining 24% lives in Electoral Areas. Table 1 summarizes population figures by jurisdiction within the Regional District.

Table 1. Population by Jurisdiction

	2015 Total Population	2020 Total Population	Net Increase 2015-2020 (Count)	Average Annual Increase 2015-2020 (Count)
Electoral Areas				
Okanagan-Similkameen A	1890	2061	171	34.2
Okanagan-Similkameen B	1090	1066	-24	-4.8
Okanagan-Similkameen C	3605	3571	-34	-6.8
Okanagan-Similkameen D*	3574	3704	130	26.
Okanagan-Similkameen E	1933	2006	73	15
Okanagan-Similkameen F	2075	2149	74	15
Okanagan-Similkameen G	2288	2249	-39	-8
Okanagan-Similkameen H	1949	1995	46	9
Okanagan-Similkameen I*	2382	2469	86.8	17
Subtotal	**20786**	**21270**	**484**	**97**

	2015 Total Population	2020 Total Population	Net Increase 2015-2020 (Count)	Average Annual Increase 2015-2020 (Count)
Municipalities				
Penticton	34374	35978	1604	320.8
Princeton	2879	3030	151	30.2
Oliver	4991	5515	524	104.8
Summerland	11780	12205	425	85
Osoyoos	5082	5423	341	68.2
Keremeos	1481	1721	240	48
Subtotal	**60587**	**63872**	**3285**	**657**
First Nation Reserves				
Blind Creek 6	27	28	1	0.2
Osoyoos 1	750	878	128	25.6
Ashnola 10	84	93	9	1.8
Alexis 9	13	8	-5	-1
Lower Similkameen 2	58	66	8	1.6
Chopaka 7 & 8	81	89	8	1.6
Chuchuwayha 2	64	57	-7	-1.4
Penticton 1	1786	2104	318	63.6
Subtotal	**2863**	**3323**	**460**	**92**
Total	**84236**	**88465**	**4229**	**845.8**

**Calculation is based on an allocation of 40% of the total Census population of Electoral Area D. Area D in this table represents the remaining 60% of the combined total Census population of Electoral Area D.*

Table 2. Age Cohorts (2020)

	0 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	65+
Okanagan-Similkameen A	59	59	54	67	665
Okanagan-Similkameen B	53	39	45	60	268
Okanagan-Similkameen C	125	120	137	141	1,112
Okanagan-Similkameen D	165	196	243	269	1,838
Okanagan-Similkameen E	61	75	79	90	549
Okanagan-Similkameen F	69	89	117	136	482
Okanagan-Similkameen G	78	63	81	89	835
Okanagan-Similkameen H	51	48	50	58	685

Note – This data is not available for Electoral Area I due to boundary data changes between Census periods.

Approximately 21,270 people were projected to live in Electoral Areas in 2020. Figure 7 illustrates what proportion of Electoral Area residents live in each Electoral Area. At 17%, Areas C and D have the largest proportion of the regional population while Area B has the smallest proportion (5%).

Population projections prepared for the 2020-2021 Regional Growth Plan Update for the South Okanagan (Electoral Areas "A", "C", "D", "E", "F", and "I" as well as the municipalities of Osoyoos, Oliver, Penticton, and Summerland) project that the population of municipalities will increase by 5,000 people by 2030. However, the projections suggest that population growth in the Electoral Areas during the same period will remain largely unchanged. The study does not project population changes on First Nation Reserves.

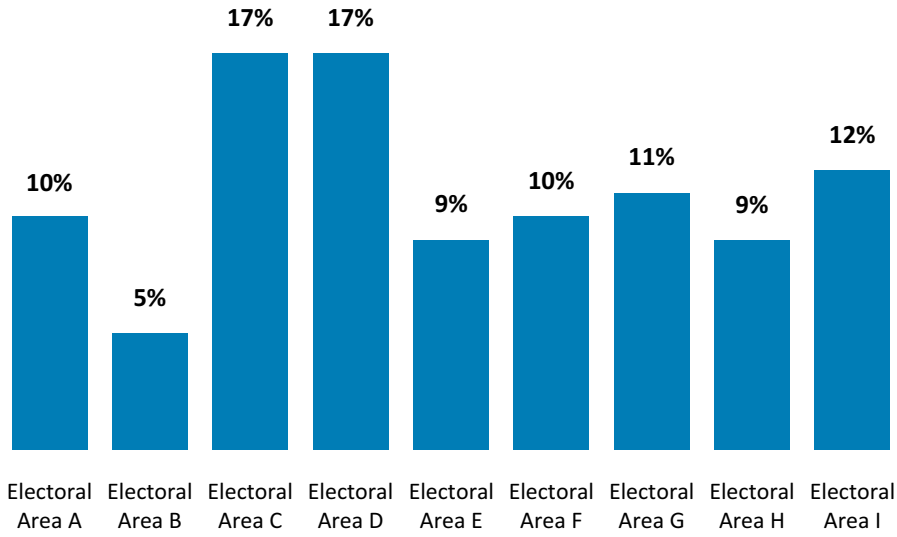


Figure 7 Distribution of Population by Electoral Area

3.2 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The demographic characteristics in the Regional District inform a range of important planning and service delivery considerations. The most relevant insights include:

- Electoral Areas and municipalities both share similar age structures. Ten percent of the total Electoral Area population is aged 0-14 years compared to 12% for municipalities and 15% for First Nation Reserves. Similarly, 32% of the total Electoral Area population is aged 65 and older compared to 32% in municipalities and 34% on First Nation Reserves.
- Median household income in most Electoral Areas is higher than in most municipalities of the Regional District.
- Post secondary education attainment (those with a certificate, diploma, or degree) by residents of Electoral Areas, municipalities and First Nation Reserves is similar.
- Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut Off (LICO) is an indicator of economic deprivation. Some 12,700 residents, or 14% of the Regional District's total population meet the LICO definition (after tax income). A 4-person household living in a rural area would be considered to meet the LICO definition if total after tax household income was $27,085 after tax or less (in 2019). The rate of LICO is highest in Electoral Area "H" and "B" and Keremeos at 26%, 25% and 19% respectively.
- The proportion of total visible minority persons for all Electoral Areas is 9% compared to all municipalities at 7%. The most visually diverse jurisdictions (as a proportion of their total populations) are Electoral Area "C" (20%), "A" and "B" (19%) and Oliver (%13).

What Does the Community Profile Mean for Parks, Trails, and Recreation?

- Population-based demand for parks, trails and recreation services in all Electoral Areas are likely to remain relatively stable and disbursed across the 10-year planning horizon. Population growth is expected to be most significant in Electoral Areas adjacent to municipalities across the Regional District.
- Incomes are slightly higher amongst Electoral Area residents compared to residents who live in municipalities. However, proximity to parks, trails and recreation facilities and affordability of services is critical for those 13,000 residents that fall into the Low-income cut-off (LICO) category who may likely require support to participate.
- Accelerated population aging will generate additional demand for parks, trails and recreation facilities and services that orient to older persons. An age-friendly lens should be a consideration in the development of recreation programs and services and in the design and provision of parks, trails, and recreation facilities.
- The Regional District is home to a relatively large Indigenous population living on and off reserve. Its services should be planned to be accessible to and culturally safe and inviting for members of Indigenous communities or those who identify as Indigenous and should help deepen the understanding and appreciation of Indigenous Peoples. Efforts should be made to protect places of cultural and spiritual importance and traditional use in support of reconciliation.

3.3 PLANNING & POLICY FOUNDATIONS

Parks, trails, and recreation in the Regional District are influenced by a variety of local, regional, provincial, and national policies and plans. These other policies, plans and strategies provide an important foundation for planning in the Regional District. And, by aligning with them, allow the Regional District's parks, trails, and recreation service to demonstrate that it is ensuring alignment across Regional District departments while adhering to provincial and national best practices. Alignment will also ensure the Regional District is well positioned to seek external funding from senior levels of government.

The policies and plans that influenced the direction in this master plan are illustrated in Figure 8.

Figure 8 Planning and Policy Foundations

Vision for Parks in Canada

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

– Parks for All

Vision for Recreation in Canada

"We envision a Canada in which everyone is engaged in meaningful, accessible recreation experiences that foster individual wellbeing, community wellbeing and the wellbeing of our natural and built environments."

– CPRA

"Protect the health and biodiversity of ecosystems in the south Okanagan"

– Goal 2 Regional Growth Strategy

"Parks for All" encourages parks at all levels to strengthen relationships with Indigenous peoples, leading to actions built on the basic and effective principles of reciprocity, gratitude, respect, and generosity.

– Parks for All

Important themes and direction that emerge from the review of these policies and plans include:

- An interconnected network of trails should be established to provide quality recreation opportunities and safe active transportation options. Trails should connect urban and rural areas and residents to communities, major destinations, parks and recreation spaces. Trails should also create connections to neighbouring regional districts and communities.
- Parks, trails and recreation facilities and programs should be sited, designed, and managed to provide for equitable and inclusive access and enjoyment regardless of ability, race, gender, sexual orientation, age, or income.
- An interconnected network of conservation focused parks and protected spaces should be acquired and be managed to protect the region's biodiversity, sustain ecological services, retain important viewscapes and enable adaptation to climate change. To align with national and international priorities, the region should work toward conserving 30% of its lands and waters within a protected area or other effective area-based conservation measure.[iii] Important habitats and lakeshores should be restored where impacted.
- Deliberate actions should be taken to strengthen relationships with the region's Indigenous peoples. Parks, trails, and recreation should support truth and reconciliation and celebrate Indigenous peoples.
- Parks, trails, and recreation should deliberately foster a diversified and strengthened regional economy through appropriate, well managed and sustainable tourism and as part of a broader strategy to attract and retain a skilled workforce and businesses.

3.4 TRENDS

The parks, trails and recreation sector continues to evolve rapidly. In thinking about the future of parks, trails, and recreation, it is important to remain mindful of the latest sectoral trends and their implications on the Regional District's services. Though there are many different trends to be aware of, the following trends, which draw on insights from sector policy and research reports and organizations such as the National Recreation Framework, the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association and Park People, were deemed to be among the most important and have helped to shape the strategies and actions in this plan:

Equity & Inclusion: Parks, Trails, Recreation Spaces & Programs for Everyone[iv]

Significant efforts are occurring throughout Canada to ensure that parks, trails, and recreation are welcoming, accessible, equitable and inclusive environments for all peoples regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, income, age, ability, or identity. With a focus on improving accessibility, inclusion and equity, deliberate attention is being placed on policy that guides operations and how and where investments in parks, trails and recreation are made, where they are located and how they are designed and managed.

Parks, Trails & Recreation Can Support Truth and Reconciliation[v,vi]

Parks, trails, and recreation are opportunities to support truth and reconciliation with Indigenous communities. They are also seen as an opportunity to help non-Indigenous people develop a better understanding and appreciation of the land Canadians reside on, Indigenous peoples, their culture, and to foster new relationships. Parks, trails, and recreation providers are collaborating closely with Indigenous communities to identify how and where to support truth and reconciliation and to collaborate on the provision and management of parks, trails, and recreation facilities.

COVID-19 has Changed Recreation and Leisure Pursuits[vii]

COVID-19 has changed recreation participation and the important role that parks, trails and recreation play in strengthening mental health has become clear. Visitation to parks and trails has grown significantly including significant increases by those who are new to outdoor recreation. 94% of cities reported increased use of parks during COVID-19 while 66% of Canadians said they spent more time in parks compared to pre-pandemic.[viii] 82% of Canadians expect their post pandemic use of parks to continue or increase. In addition to increasing volumes of use, the temporal patterns of recreation visitation have also shifted. Greater visitation is occurring during previously less busy times (e.g., mid-week, early morning, later evening). Increased visitation and untraditional visitor patterns are expected to continue and could be compounded further with the return of visitors from long-haul and international destinations. More structured indoor recreation and sport has experienced declines in participation. Ongoing COVID-19 health and safety measures continue to create uncertainty for organized sport and recreation providers and uncertainty and greater costs for facility operators.

Climate Change

Climate change is already impacting the design, maintenance and use of parks, trails and recreation facilities. Parks and trails are now recognized as an important climate change resiliency and adaptation strategy. Investing in parks and trails is now seen as a strategy to establish areas that sequester and store carbon and help to reduce carbon emissions through active transportation. Parks and trails are now being viewed as green infrastructure that can help the region adapt to the effects of climate change (e.g., flood mitigation and control). At the same time, parks and trail users will experience more frequent weather interruptions but also enjoy extended peak activity seasons. Park operator's maintenance programs will need to shift because of changes in user activity patterns and there is growing expectation that efforts are being made to minimize emissions associated with providing and operating parks, trails and recreation facilities (e.g. fully electric mowers, trimmers, blowers, vehicles, alternative fuels). Shifting climate interests closer to the core of the Regional District's planning and operations for parks and trails will manage risk and increase readiness for green infrastructure project funding from the federal and provincial government.

Demands for Spontaneous Unstructured Recreation is Growing[ix,x]

There is growing demand for more flexibility in timing and activity for recreation pursuits. More people are seeking individualized and informal pursuits that can be done alone or in small groups, at flexible times, often near or at home, and year-round. This trend does not eliminate the need for structured recreation but suggests that planning for spaces and places that support spontaneous and unstructured recreation is as important as planning for more traditional structured recreation environments that focus on team-based activity.

Recreation Activities are Rapidly Evolving[xi]

Not only is recreation participation growing but it is rapidly evolving. Recreation activities are changing daily as new technologies emerge. Electric bicycles, electric scooters, one-wheels, more capable mountain bikes and even electric off-road motorcycles are just some of the examples of new technologies' integration with recreation. Recreation activities will continue to evolve faster than parks, trails and recreation managers can keep pace. This will drive the need for the more active management of recreation and different activities in order to minimize conflicts amongst visitors. Parks, trails and recreation spaces and the policy and regulatory frameworks that guide their management will need to be updated to address the continual introduction of new activities.

Demand for Active Transportation Options is Growing[xii]

The proportion of British Columbians seeking active transportation options to travel to work and to community activities continues to grow. In the Thompson Okanagan, 9.2% of people use active transportation to work and 6.6% use active transportation to community activities.[xiii] There has been an increase in awareness of the benefits of being active and the positive impacts it has on physical and mental health, reduction of carbon emissions and the financial savings. This trend has been reinforced during the COVID-19 pandemic. A quality interconnected and efficient active transportation network is required to enable residents to increasingly choose active transportation options and the region to realize the benefits of active transportation.

The Importance of Data and Evidence Based Decision Making is Growing

In keeping with the sector's commitment to fact-based decision making, the **Framework for Recreation in Canada** signaled the need to ensure better data and evidence is available to support evidence-based decision making. Data collection tools such as digital systems that process a customer program registration, track customer use of a fitness program or gym visitation, count users riding on trails, are being deployed more and more often to generate data that can be analyzed and used to optimize internal planning and resource allocation and enable better data driven management decisions.

Volunteerism is Shifting

Volunteers play an important role in the development and delivery of recreation opportunities and experiences. However, there has been a decline in the proportion of Canadians and the volunteer and a shift in the types of assignments volunteers are willing to take on.[xiv] In 2018, 41% of Canadians volunteered compared to 47% in 2010. Though a greater proportion of iGen and Millennial Canadians volunteer than Baby Boomers and Matures, the amount of time iGen Canadians spend volunteering is about 75% less than that of Baby Boomer Canadians. Millennials spend approximately 35% less time volunteering than Baby Boomers. These shifts will have implications for the Regional District and its reliance on volunteerism.

While the regional and local governments are increasing reliance on volunteerism, government agencies and the Municipal Insurance Association of BC, have also begun to recognize that volunteerism such as parks and trail stewardship can come with risk and liability exposure. Where volunteers are used, it is recognized that these volunteers need to be actively trained, equipped, and managed to the same standard as would be applied to government staff. This recognition has stimulated the need to establish formal volunteer programs and policy frameworks as a way to manage risk and liability and to ensure appropriate staff time and funding is allocated to support the attraction and management of volunteers and the volunteer program.

Parks, Trails & Recreation Spaces as Temporary Homes

Ninety percent of cities said that homelessness in parks, trails and recreation spaces is a challenge.[xv] Parks, green space along trails and recreation facilities can become temporary camping and overnight locations for residents who are experiencing housing insecurity and managers are experiencing increased demands to address incidents of self-destructive and anti-social behaviours (e.g., drug and alcohol use, violence, vandalism) in parks, along trails and in recreation spaces. Local governments are finding themselves on the front lines of highly complex social issues that extend beyond their mandate and capacity. Public pressure to address these complex health, safety, and environmental concerns is growing and user conflicts can be intense. These challenges will continue, and parks, trails, and recreation managers, in partnership with public health, social services and community advocates, will need to shift traditional approaches and increase capacity and training to address these challenges.

SECTION 4

PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION IN THE REGIONAL DISTRICT TODAY

Planning the future of parks, trails, and recreation for tomorrow begins with a sound understanding of what the Regional District provides today. The following sections provide an overview of the current supply of and parks, trails, and recreation facilities and services in the region.

4.1 REGIONAL NETWORK OF PARKS & PROTECTED AREAS

Providing quality park-based recreation opportunities and protecting the region's biodiversity and important ecosystems is a shared undertaking. The parks that the Regional District manages are just one component of a much larger network of parks and protected areas. Whether it's provincial parks, provincial recreation sites, municipal parks, the proposed National Park Reserve or private land trusts, each park provider plays a critical role in meeting the recreation and conservation needs in the region. And it is important to understand how the Regional District's parks contributes to this broader network.

Collectively, the region contains approximately 260 parks and protected areas and numerous other provincial recreation sites. Together, the network of parks and protected areas comprise over 138,000 ha of land and water which represents approximately 13% of the Regional District. Should the proposed National Park Reserve be established, it would increase the amount of park space in the region by over 27,000 ha adding an additional 2.6% of the Regional District to the current parks network. Though the parks that the Regional District and Municipalities are responsible for account for 226 (87%) of the 260 sites, Regional District parks are typically very small and account for just 1.15% of the total area that is included in the region wide network. In contrast, the 34 Provincial parks and protected areas account for over 98% of total area of park space.

By the Numbers

The region wide network of parks & protected areas includes:

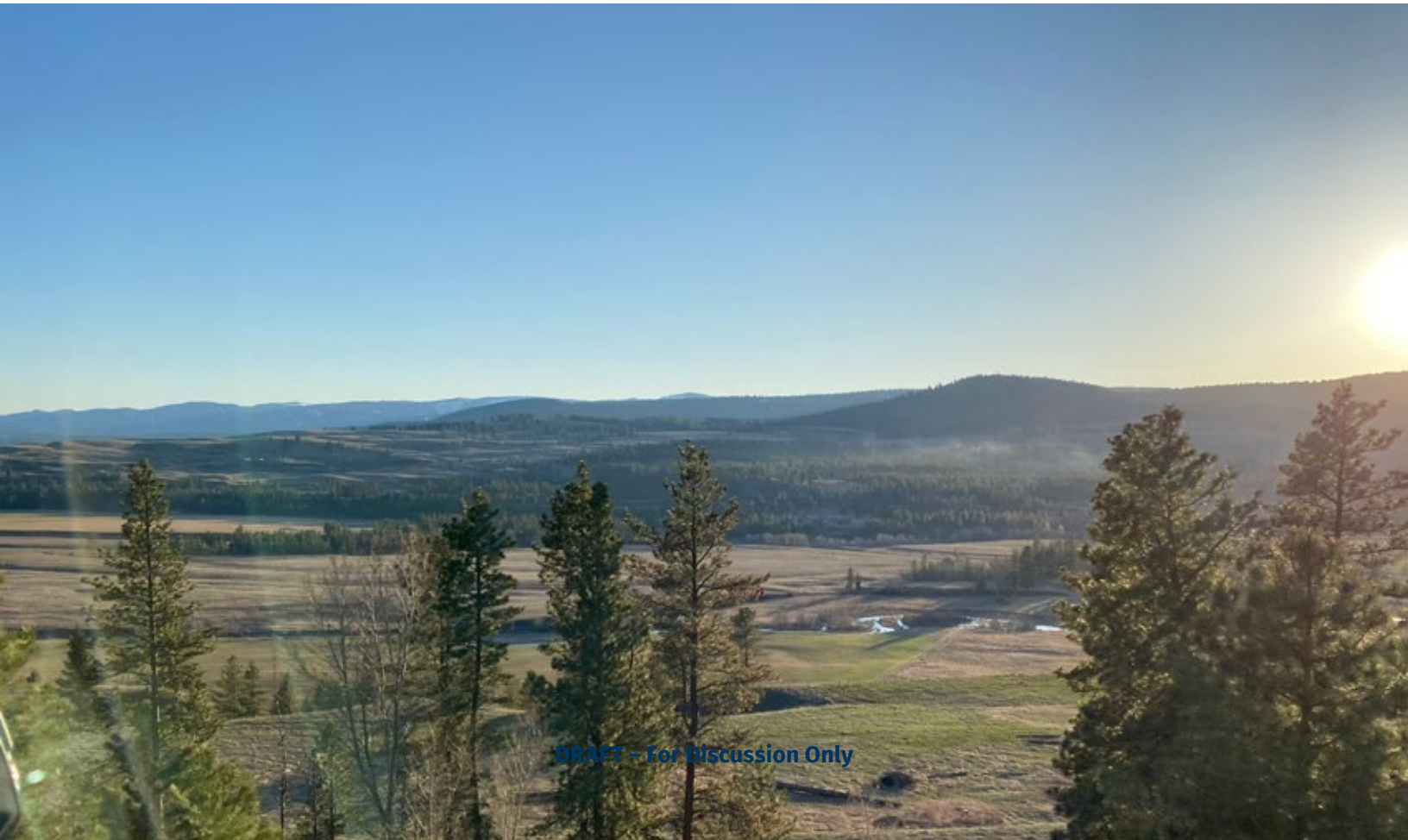
260 park or protected area sites

138,000 + ha of land & water designated as a park or protected area

13% of the region is park or protected area

87% of the region is not formally protected through park or protected area designation

Park Manager	Number of Park Sites	Total Area of Park Sites (ha)	Percent of Total Parkland in the RDOS
RDOS	30	194.6	0.15%
Oliver	13	59.5	0.04%
Keremeos	6	23.5	0.02%
Osoyoos	10	239.2	0.17%
Penticton	117	674.0	0.49%
Summerland	49	386.6	0.28%
Provincial Parks & Protected Areas	34	136,696.7	98.85%
Total	**260**	**138,285.2**	**100%**
Area of the RDOS		**1,059,855.0**	
Percent of RDOS in Parks or Protected Areas	***13%***		
Proposed National Park Reserve	1	27,340.5	
Total Parkland including Proposed National Park Reserve	261	165,625.7	
Percent of RDOS in Parks or Protected Areas	***15.6%***		



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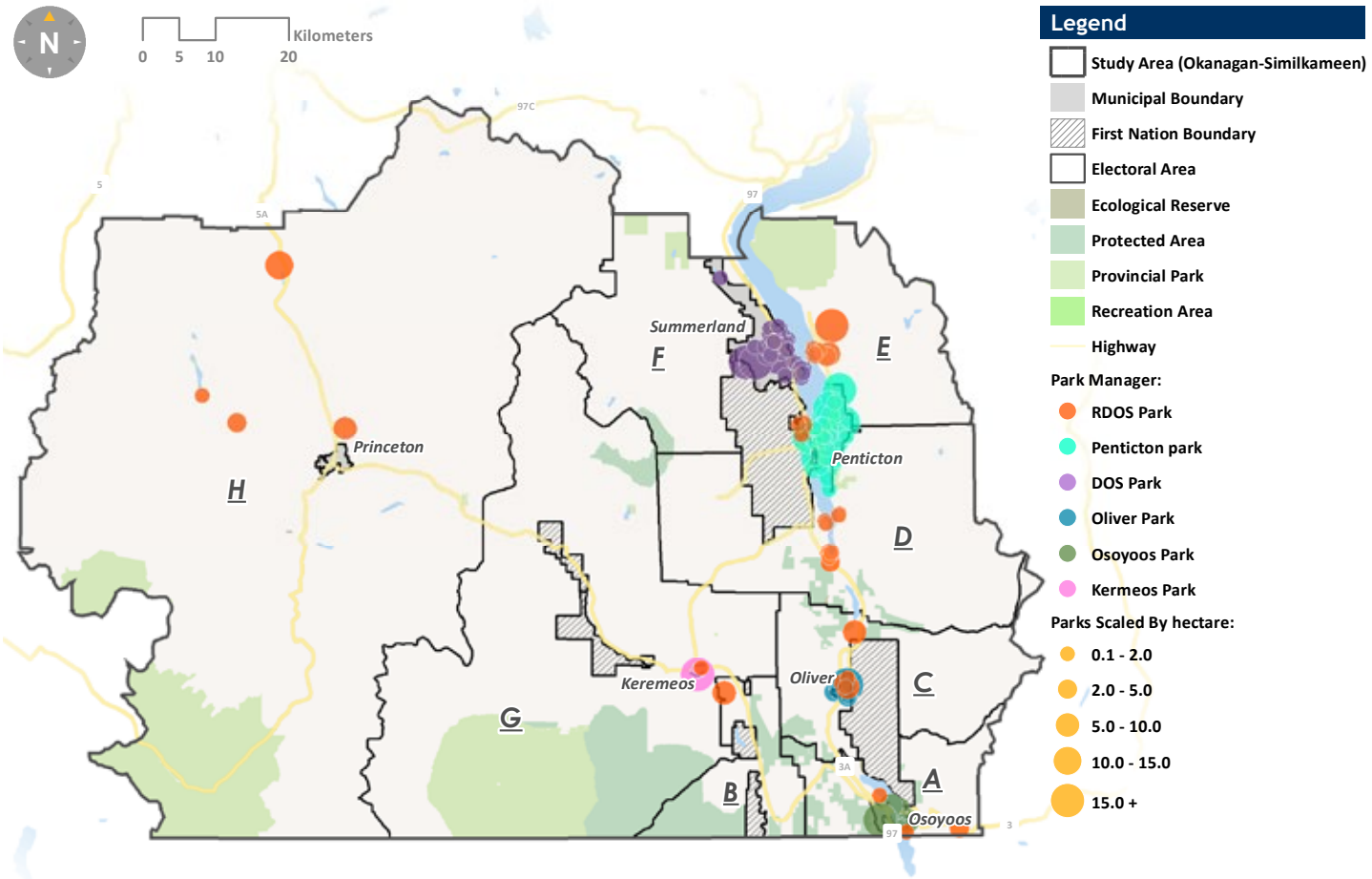

Figure 9 Partner Map

Proposed South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Reserve

On July 2, 2019, the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia, and the Syilx/Okanagan Nation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to continue formally working together to establish a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen. The national park reserve is intended to:

- Protect the diversity of vegetation and landscape features of representative ecosystems that define the Interior Dry Plateau natural region;
- Maintain the ecological integrity of wildlife habitat and plant species; and
- Provide opportunities for quality visitor experiences such as recreational activities and the presentation of natural and cultural heritage.

The proposed national park reserve is approximately 27,400 ha in size, including land coverage in Electoral Areas A, B, C, and G.

4.2 THE REGIONAL DISTRICT'S PARKS NETWORK

4.2.1 Park Space Supply & Provisioning

Of the 260 sites in the region's broader parks network, the Regional District is responsible for directly managing 30 park sites (Table 3). The Regional District also maintains a service agreement with the Oliver and District Parks and Recreation Society (OPRS), who administers four additional park sites on behalf of the Regional District. Totalling 194.6 ha, the park sites that are directly managed by the Regional District represent just 0.15% of the total area of the Regional District. In some Electoral Area neighbourhoods, school sites also provide local recreation amenities and serve as important park spaces for neighbourhoods. School sites are not included in this analysis; however, the Regional District does lease Zen Centre park site in OK Falls from School District 53. Analysis of the Regional District's current park supply, excluding the sites operated by OPRS, shows that:

- 9 of the Regional District's parks sites are classified as Regional Parks. These sites represent 72% of the total park space that the Regional District is responsible for. Of these:
  - » 7.5 ha are classified as Regional Conservation Park,
  - » 123.5 ha are classified as Regional Natural Space Parks, and
  - » 8.75 ha are classified as Regional Recreation Parks.
- 21 of the Regional District's parks sites are classified as Local Parks. These sites represent 28% of the total park space that the Regional District is responsible for. Of these:
  - » 18.6 ha are classified as Community Parks,
  - » 11.02 ha are classified as Neighbourhood Parks, and
  - » 24.23 ha are classified as Community Natural Spaces.

By the Numbers

Parks managed by the Regional District include:

30 RDOS park sites including…

9 Regional Parks

21 Community Parks

194.6 + ha of land & water designated as park space

0.15% proportion of region within an RDOS Park

2.6 ha average park size

95% of park space is managed for recreation

9.68 ha of RDOS park space per 1000 electoral area residents on average (2016 population)

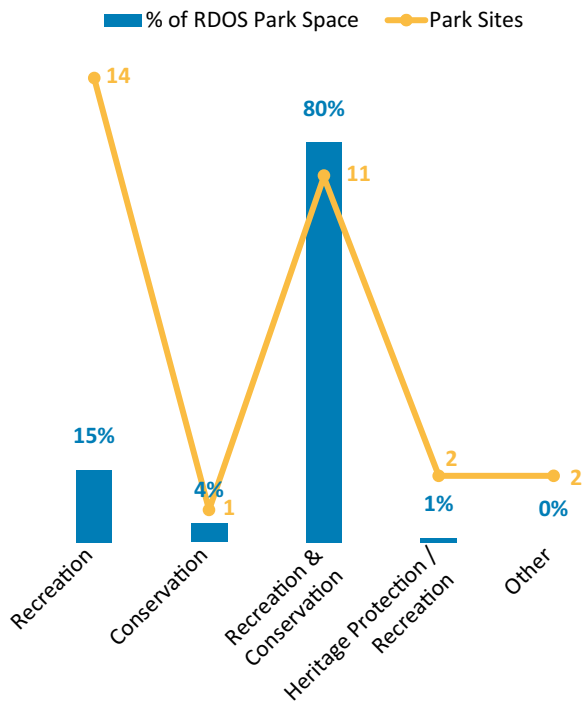

Figure 10 RDOS Park Space by Management Intent

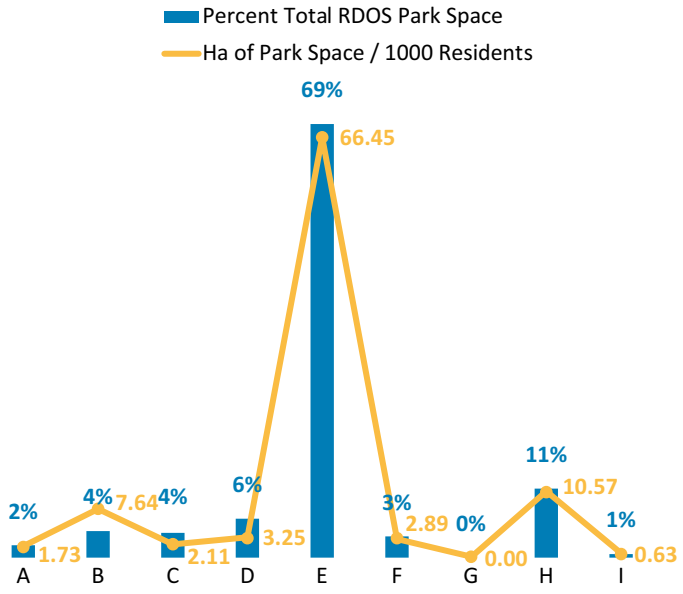

Figure 11 Distribution of Park Space by Electoral Area

- Though the Regional District provides 194.6 ha of park space, the majority (61%) of that park space is contained within a single park – Rock Ovens. At 118.19 ha, Rock Ovens Park is the largest park operated by the Regional District.
- Regional District parks are, on average, 2.6 ha in size but range from 0.19 ha (Reflection Point – Osoyoos) to 118.19 ha (Rock Ovens Park - Naramata).
- In general, parks managed by the Regional District can be managed for conservation, for recreation, or for a balance between recreation and conservation purposes. 15% of the Regional District's parks space is managed predominantly for recreation, while 80% of Regional District Park space is managed to provide both recreation and some level of conservation (Figure 10). However, it needs to be understood that Rock Ovens Park alone accounts for the vast majority of this park space.
- Just one park, McIntyre Canyon in Electoral Area C (4% of Regional District parks space), is managed exclusively for conservation.
- The amount of Regional District managed park space varies by Electoral Area. As shown in Figure 11, Electoral Areas E (66.5 ha / 1000 residents), H (10.6 ha / 1000 residents), and B (7.6 ha / 1000 residents) provide residents with significantly more park space than other electoral areas. The remaining Electoral Areas provide approximately 1.7 - 3 ha / 1000 residents though Area I contains just 0.63 ha / 1000 residents and Area G contains no Regional District parks space. Population projections prepared for the Regional Growth strategy update indicates that there is likely to be minimal population growth in Electoral Areas through until 2030. As such, the current provision ratios are likely to remain relatively constant into the future. Though targets vary across jurisdictions, 3 - 4 ha / 1000 residents (excluding regional parks) is a common minimum provision target. Electoral Areas B, E & H exceed this provision target while the remaining Electoral Areas are considerably below the provisioning target.

Table 3. Regional District's Park Space Inventory

Electoral Area	Park Name	Size (ha)	Classification	Type
A	Osoyoos Lake Park	0.88	Regional	Regional Recreation Park
	Jamie Soule Park	2.50	Local	Neighbourhood Park
	Reflection Point	0.19	Local	Neighbourhood Park
	Total	**3.57**		
B	Kobau Park	8.14	Local	Community Park
	Total	**8.14**		
C	McIntyre Canyon	7.53	Regional	Regional Conservation Park
	Total	**7.53**		
D	Lions Park	1.58	Regional	Regional Recreation Park
	Kenyon Park	1.23	Regional	Regional Recreation Park
	Keogan Park	4.24	Local	Community Park
	Garnett Family Park (2 parcels)	2.3	Local	Neighbourhood Park
	Christie Memorial Park	2.33	Local	Community Park
	Zen Centre Park	0.25	Local	Community Park
	605 Willow	0.12	Local	Community Park
	Total	**12.05**		
E	Rock Ovens Park	118.19	Regional	Regional Natural Space
	Creek Park	6.83	Local	Community Natural Space
	Wharf Park	1.02	Regional	Regional Recreation Park
	Manitou Park	4.04	Regional	Regional Recreation Park
	Spirit Park	0.60	Local	Community Park
	Centre Beach Park	0.48	Local	Community Park
	Arawana Creek Park	2.13	Local	Community Natural Space
	Total	**133.29**		

Electoral Area	Park Name	Size (ha)	Classification	Type
F	Mariposa Park	1.81	Local	Neighbourhood Park
	Selby Park	1.47	Local	Neighbourhood Park
	Wally Bonin Park	2.93	Local	Community Natural Space
	Total	**6.21**		
H	Stout Park	12.34	Local	Community Natural Space
	Cow Pad Park	5.33	Regional	Regional Natural Space
	Tulameen Arena Park	0.66	Community	Destination
	Coalmont Station Park	2.75	Community	Neighbourhood Park
	Total	**21.08**		
I	Kaleden Hotel Park	0.22	Regional	Regional Recreation Park
	Pioneer Park	1.34	Local	Community Park
	Total	**1.56**		
Keremeos	Similkameen Rec Center (Lands)	1.13	Local	Community Park
Total Supply of Regional District Operated Park Space		**194.56 ha**		

4.2.2 Park Conditions

The quality of parks is an important determinant of how often parks are used and the benefits that visitors derive from them. A rapid condition assessment of Regional District owned and operated parks was undertaken to identify which parks are below, meeting or exceeding basic expectations. The rapid assessment considered the location and access to the park, accessibility / inclusivity, naturalness / low impact design, supply and condition of comfort and convenience amenities, design and ambience, and capacity of the park

The assessment found that:

- 9 parks (30%) are exceeding expectations.
- 15 parks (50%) are meeting expectations.
- 6 parks (20%) are below expectations.

Though the parks are generally meeting expectations, several common areas for improvement were identified, including:

- Enhancing the overall visitor experience, appeal, and beautification.
- Ensuring adequate and appropriately designed parking areas.
- Ensuring infrastructure enables and support year-round visitation.
- Consistently providing quality and well sited convenience and comfort amenities (e.g. toilets, change rooms, benches, potable water) in all seasons.
- Updating or removal of aging and underused recreation infrastructure.
- Improving the equity and inclusivity of parks and park amenities (e.g. universally accessible and gender neutral toilets, universally accessible trails, barrier free playgrounds, universally accessible beach access, barrier free signage).
- Enhancing the quality and supply of in-park trails.
- Naturalizing the sites and incorporation of green infrastructure.
- Providing consistent, branded & quality signage.

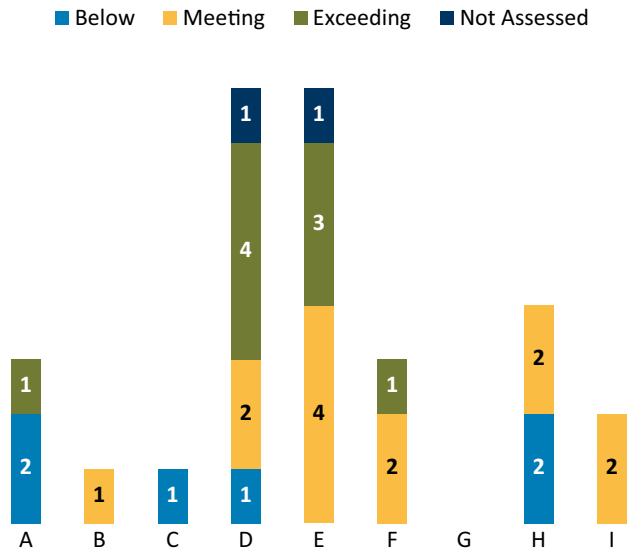

Figure 12 Distribution of Park Space by Condition Rating

4.2.3 Access to Parks

Proximity to parks greatly influences the frequency of visitation and duration of use. To understand how accessible Regional District parks are to residents, a Geographic Information System (GIS) was used to calculate what proportion of residential parcels in the region's Electoral Areas are within 400m and 800m of Regional District owned and operated park as well as inventoried playgrounds. These distances represent a typical 5 – 10 minute walk and are commonly applied throughout Canada. To evaluate the equitability of access, the proportion of parcels with access to parks in dissemination areas with higher proportions of households whose incomes are below the LICO were compared against dissemination areas with lower LICO rates (Figure 13). The analysis found that:

- The proportion of residential parcels within 400-800m of a park and playground is very low. Lower accessibility rates are expected given the rural nature of many areas in the region, but the results suggest that park accessibility should be a consideration going forward especially in more settled area of the Regional District.
- Only Electoral Areas A and E achieve greater than 50% of residential parcels within 800 meters of a park.

Proximity Matters

Research has clearly shown that the closer residents are to their parks, and the better their quality, the more likely they are to use the park. Ideally, all residential parks are within 400-800 m walk of a quality park space.

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Table 4. Proximity of Residential Parcels to Parks and Playgrounds

Electoral Area	Parks Service Catchment Population by Residential Parcel		Playground Service Catchment Population by residential Parcel	
	400m access population %	800 m access population %	400m access population %	800 m access population %
A	4%	13%	0%	0%
B	4%	8%	4%	8%
C	15%	16%	0%	0%
D & I	19%	35%	7%	25%
E	36%	69%	14%	44%
F	19%	44%	14%	40%
G	0%	0%	0%	0%
H	20%	30%	0%	0%
Oliver	25%	57%	17%	54%

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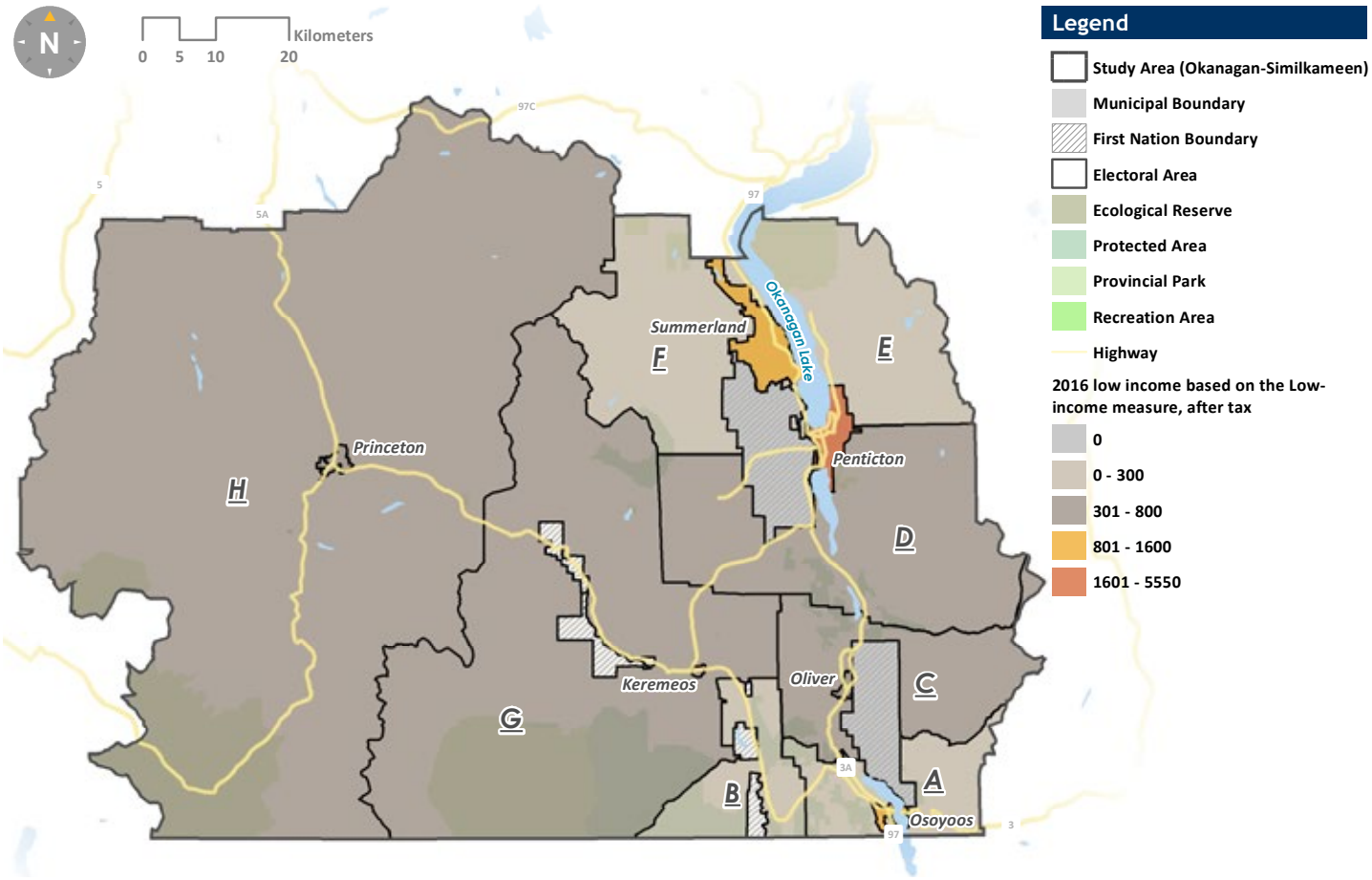


Figure 13 LICO

4.2.4 Water Access

Access to lakes in the Regional District is facilitated through a large network of water access sites which are operated by many different agencies and organizations including the Regional District, BC Parks, municipal governments, First Nations, and private providers. The Regional District is responsible for the operation of 26 different water access sites (Figure 15). Nineteen (19) of these sites are associated with unused Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) right of ways. These sites are concentrated along the east side of Okanagan Lake within Naramata, Skaha Lake in Kaleden and along the east shore, and Osoyoos Lake. In addition, seven formal water access point are provided within Regional District local parks. Nearly half (46%, n = 12) of the water access sites are in Electoral Area "E" (Figure 16) while Electoral Area "D" contains seven sites, "I "contains five sites and "A" contains two sites. The majority (92%) of the water access sites are intended to support non-motorized water access. However, informal powerboat launching and access appears to occur at some sites through no infrastructure has been provided to support this use. Two sites have been developed to support powerboat launching and access.

Over half (n = 10) of the right of way water access sites are below expectations and require enhancements or disposition while 48% are meeting (n=6) or exceeding (n=3) expectations. Water access sites within Local parks are generally meeting expectations.

Common quality, condition, and management issues to address in water access sites include:

- Enhancing the overall visitor experience, appeal, and beautification.
- Improving inclusivity and accessibility.
- Providing more consistent servicing and amenities.
- Continuing to clearly communicate that public access is permitted and encouraged.
- Declining turf and surfacing conditions.
- Adjacent landowner encroachment and equipment storage.
- Formalizing and providing for sustainable trail access.
- Managing parking conflict and concerns with adjacent property owners particularly in intensively used Kite Board sites along Skaha Lake.
- Informal powerboat launching.
- Clearly articulating and standardizing the rule of use (e.g. powerboats).
- Naturalizing the sites and incorporation of green infrastructure.

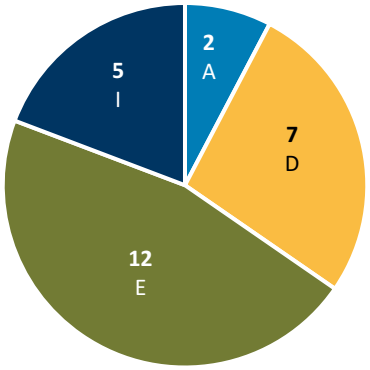


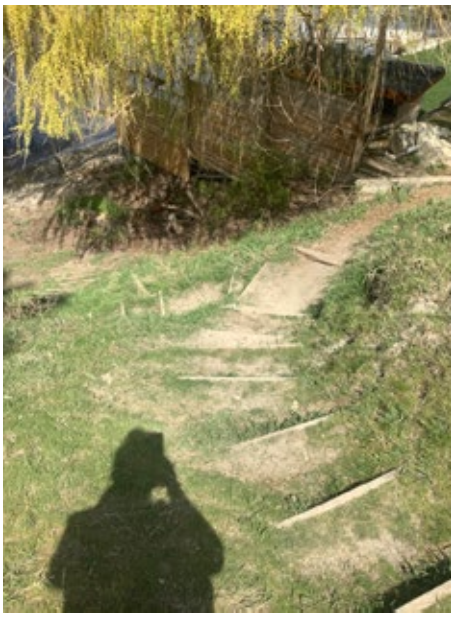
Figure 14 Distribution of RDOS Water Access Sites by Electoral Area

Undeveloped Water Access Site

Developed Water Access Site

Developed Powerboat Water Access Site

Trail Access



Stairs Leading to Water

Equipment Storage in ROW

Unsafe Parking

Informal Powerboat Launching

Declining Turf Conditions

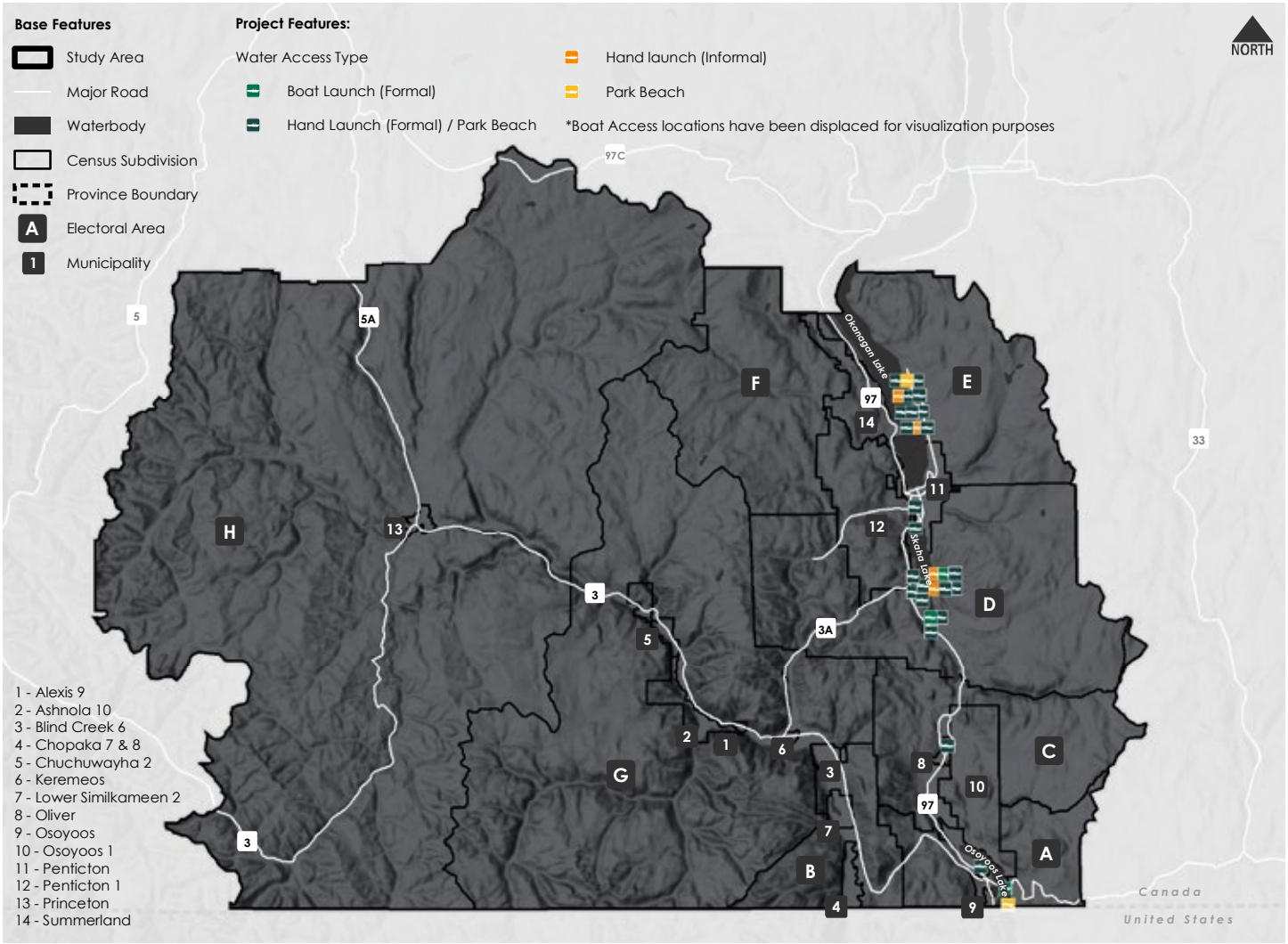


Figure 15 ROW water access by type

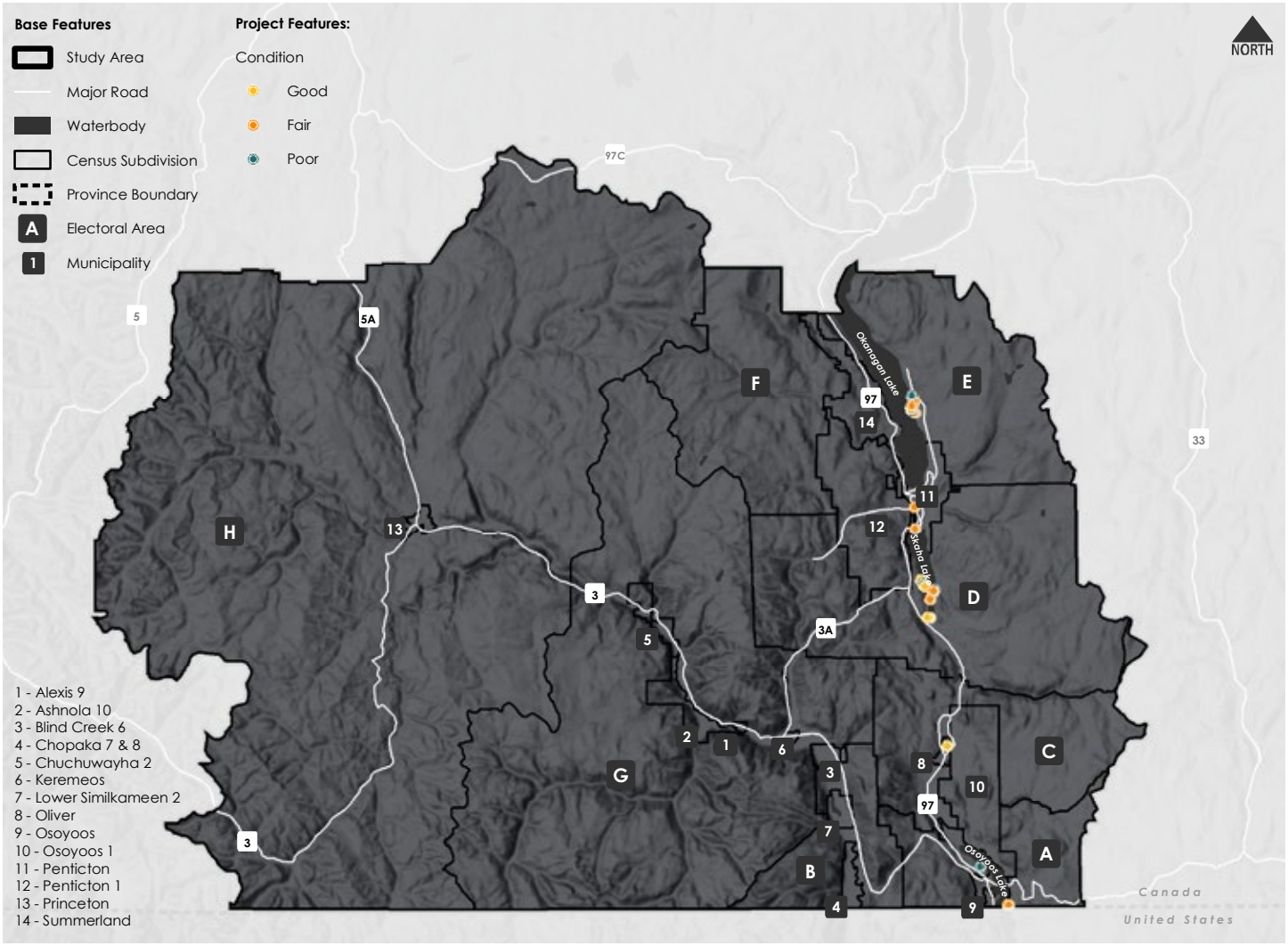


Figure 16 RDOS park water access condition

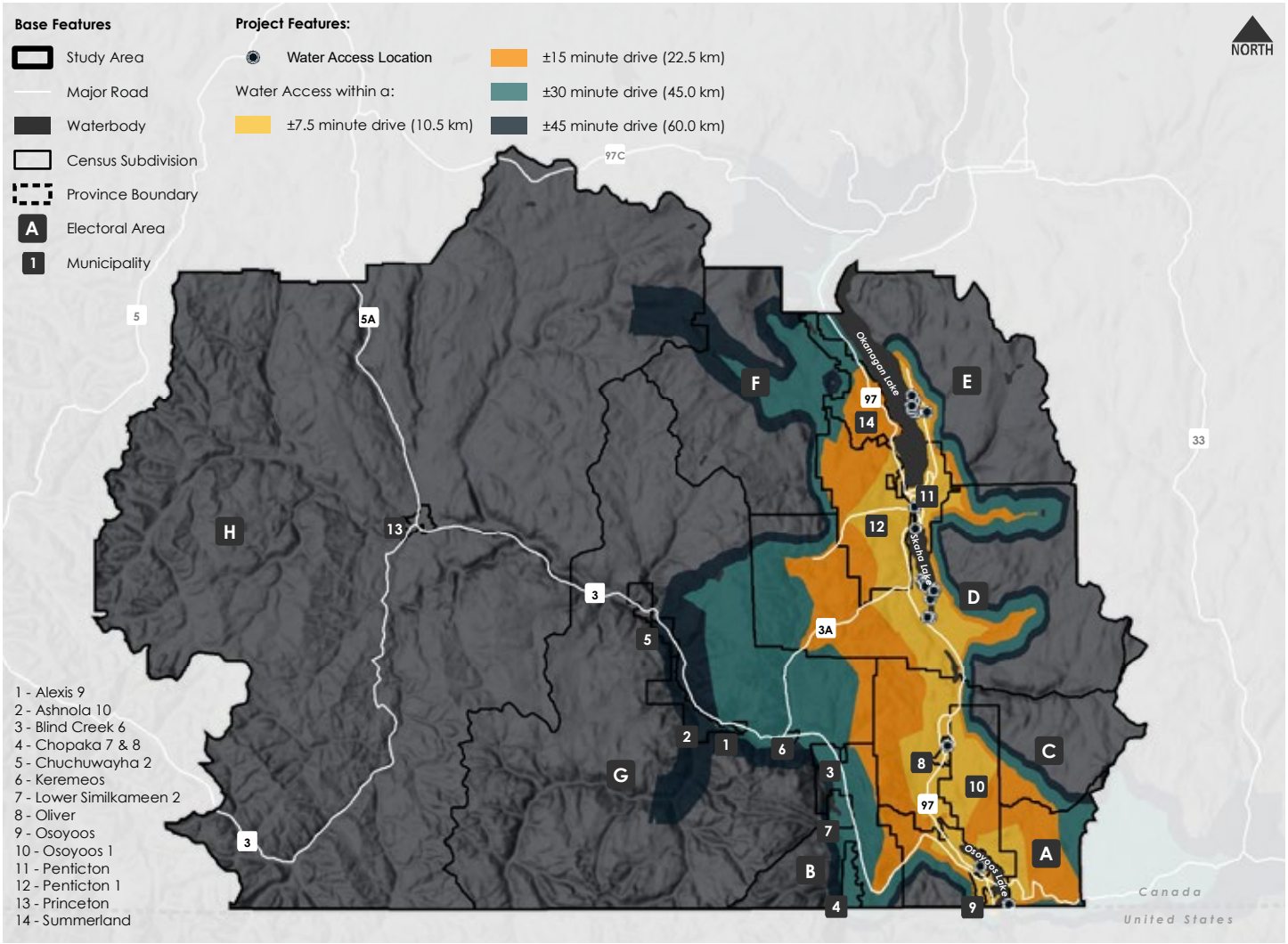


Figure 17 RDOS park water access catchments

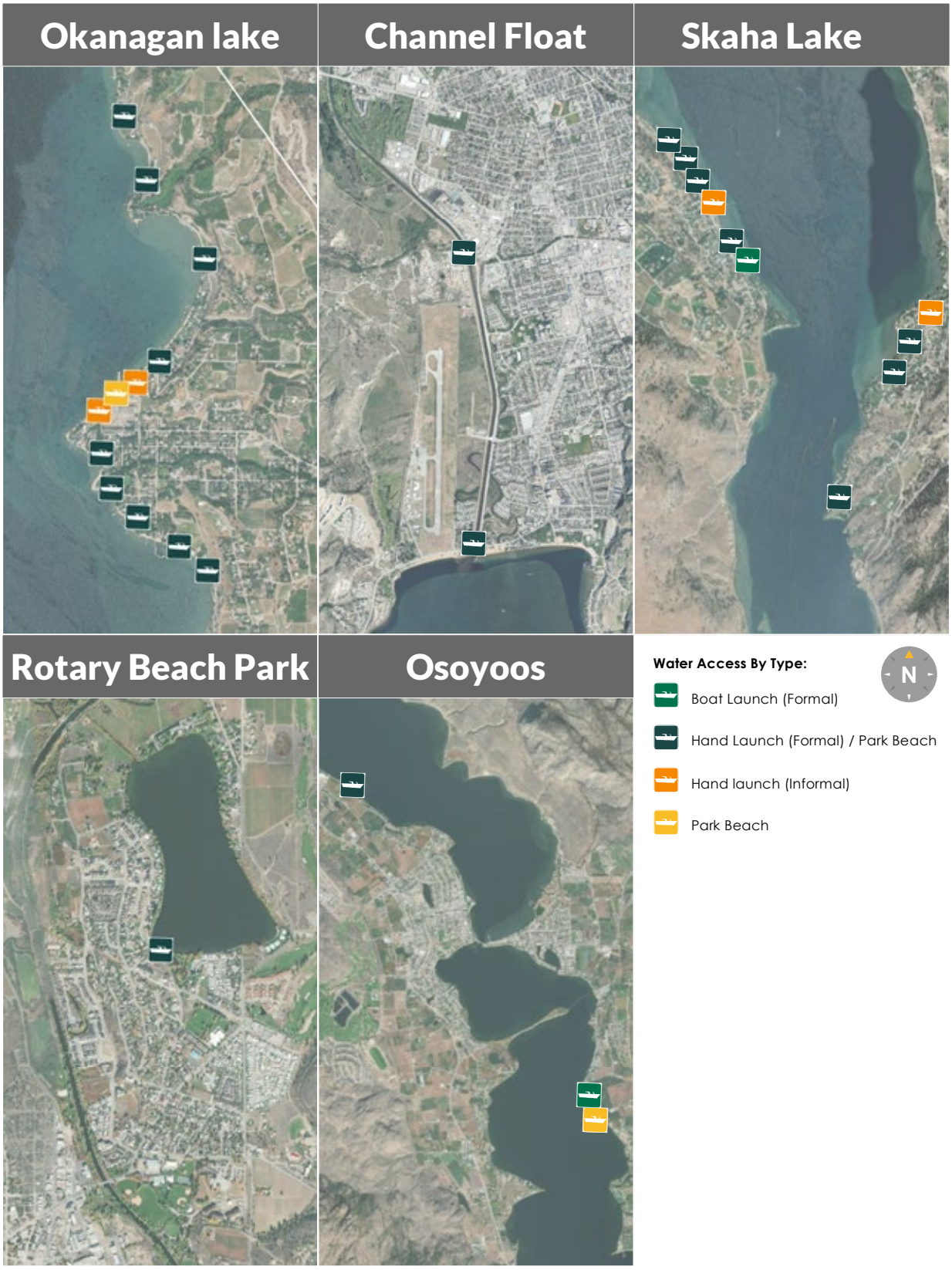


Figure 18 Boat Launches - Non-RDOS

4.2.5 The Region's Nature & Biodiversity

The Okanagan-Similkameen area is one of the most biologically unique regions in Canada. The Regional District contains iconic landscapes, diverse ecosystems, and incredible biodiversity – some of which are found nowhere else in the country. In fact, the region is home to the highest concentration of endangered and threatened species and sensitive ecosystems in Province and in Canada.[xvi] Some of the most important ecosystems are the region's grasslands, wetlands, riparian areas, valley bottoms, shrublands and mature forests. Residents highly value the region's nature, the sensitive ecosystems and the ecosystem services nature provides residents such as clean water and air, pollination, flood control, carbon storage, and outdoor recreation. Because of the unique concentrations of species and ecosystems, conservation of nature in the region is also of provincial and national importance.

While improvements to conserve the biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem processes have occurred, the region's biodiversity and ecosystems continue to be threatened by residential, commercial, and agricultural development and the past exclusion of ecological processes such as wildfire. Ecologically important areas continue to be fragmented and habitat is being lost.[xvii] As more ecologically important areas are converted, the region is losing areas that are important to enabling residents, and biodiversity, to adapt and remain resilient to climate change impacts.

To enable better conservation planning and support ecologically minded land use decision making, the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP) prepared a **Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Okanagan Region** (2014). The OCCP inventoried and mapped the relative conservation importance of lands in the region (Figure 19), the areas of the region containing the highest relative biodiversity (Figure 20), and areas that are most important to wildlife habitat connectivity (Figure 21).

Biodiversity

"The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems" (Convention on Biological Diversity).

CONSERVATION RANKING

Ecosystems that are of more importance to conserve.

RELATIVE BIODIVERSITY

Hot spots of greatest ecological and biodiversity significance.

HABITAT CONNECTIVITY

Describes the degree to which ecosystems and habitat for wildlife are linked together allowing opportunities for wildlife movement.

Analysis of these datasets shows that:

- 65.4% of the region is ranked as a very high (22.5%) or high (42.9%) conservation rank,
- 18.5% of the region is ranked as having very high (5.1%) or high (13.4%) biodiversity rating, and
- 17.9% of the region has high habitat connectivity rating.

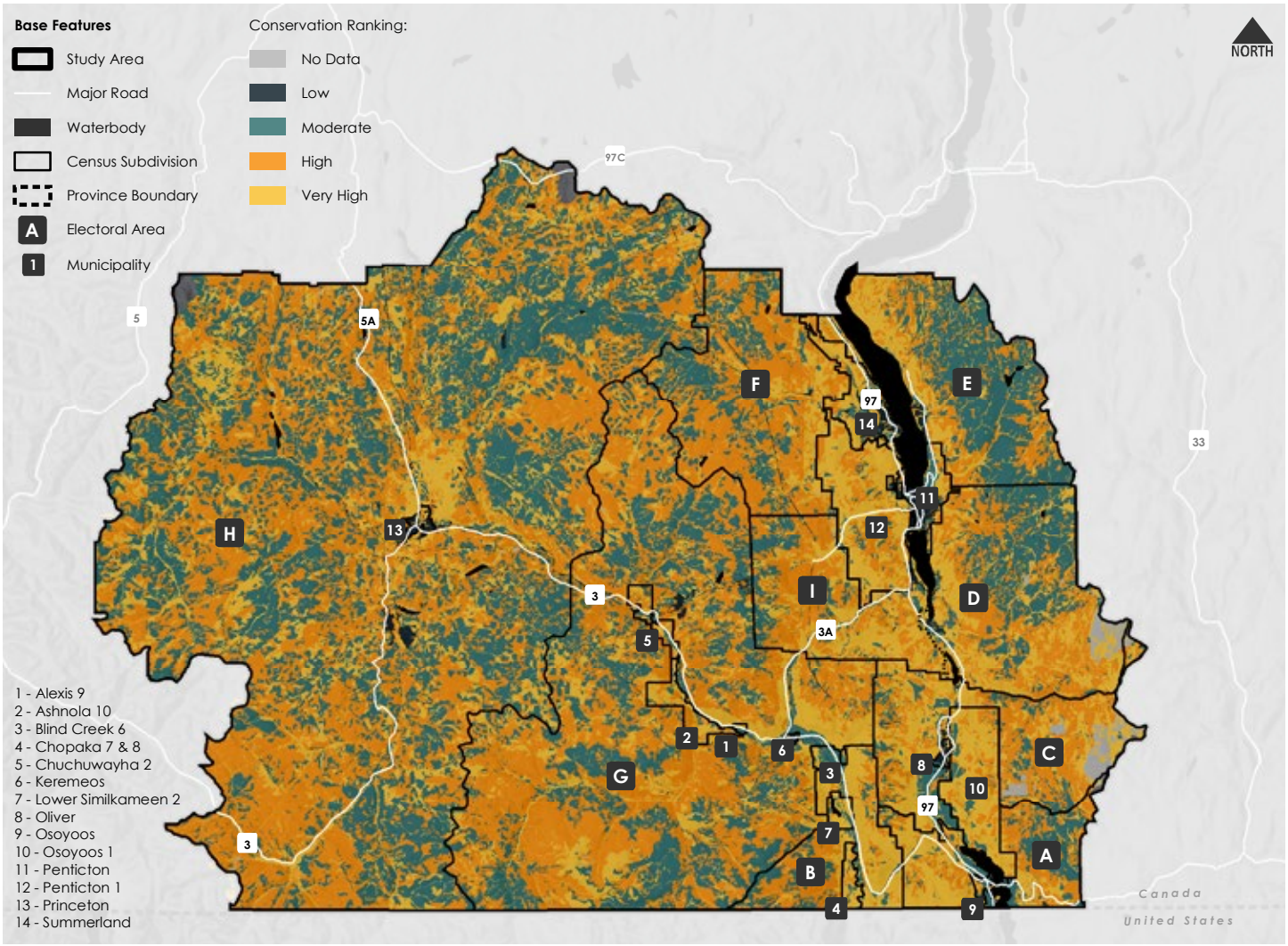


Figure 19 conservation ranking

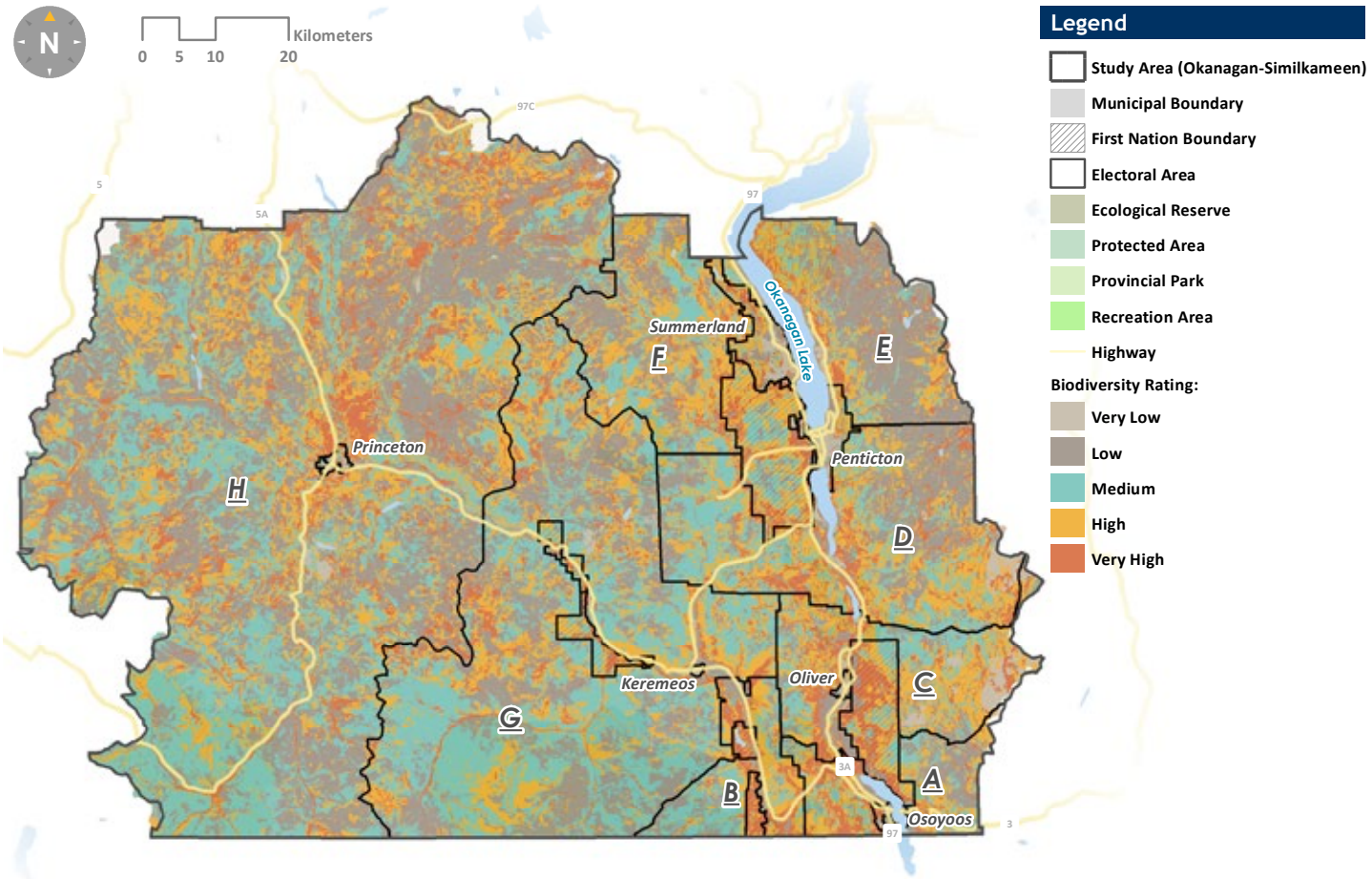


Figure 20 relative biodiversity

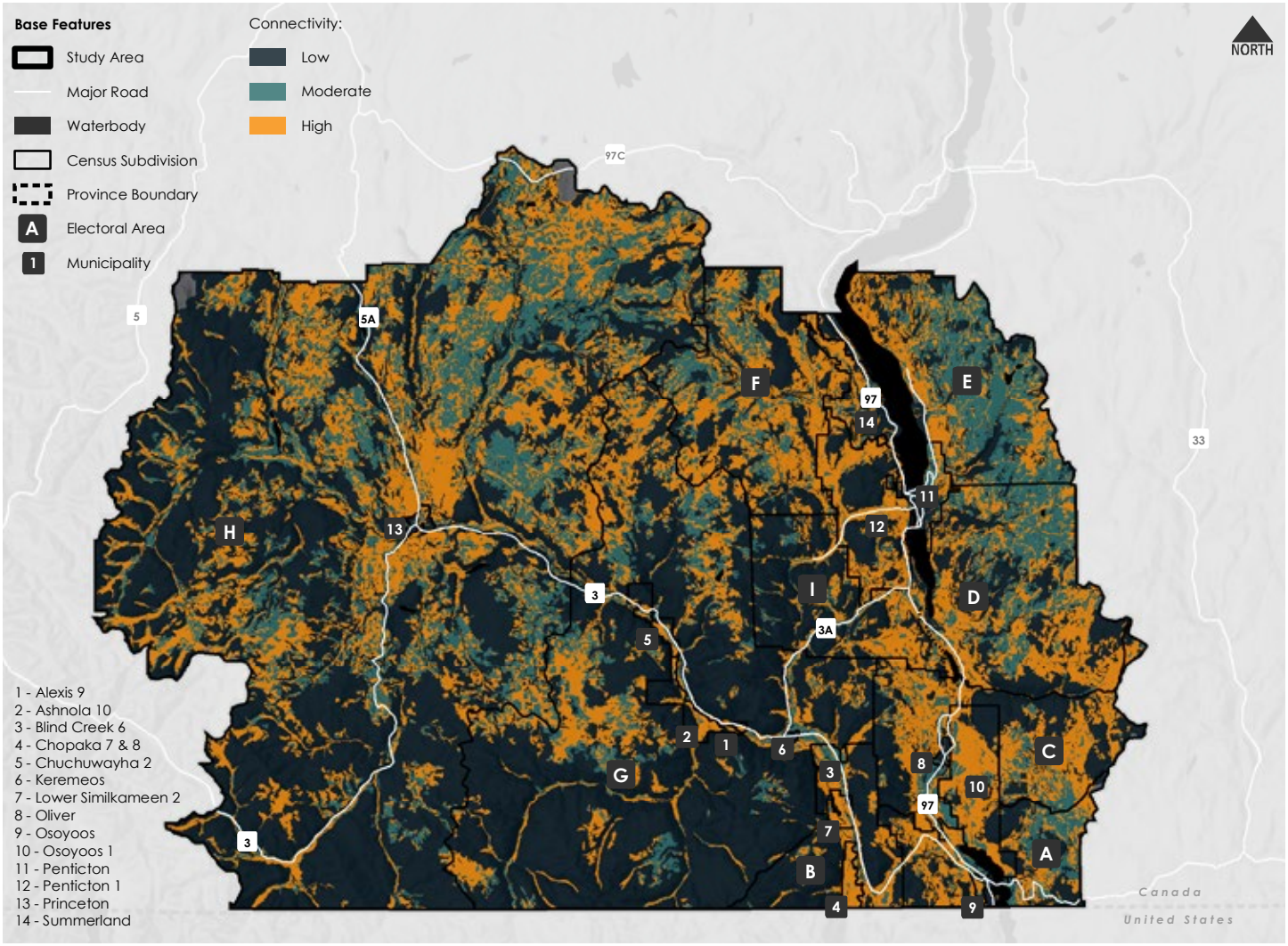


Figure 21 habitat connectivity

Collectively, the network of parks and protected areas in the region, including provincial parks and protected areas, Regional District parks and Municipal parks:

- Protect 17% of the area ranked as very high and high value conservation value.
- Protect 23% of the area ranked as very high and high relative biodiversity.
- Protect 17% of the area ranked as high connectivity value.

Important Learnings for the Master Plan

- The Regional District contains many ecologically important and high value conservation lands. Much of the Regional District's most ecologically important areas, including areas important to supporting climate change adaptation, remain unprotected and are threatened by development. Current levels of protection in the region are considerably below national and international targets of protecting 30% of terrestrial lands and waters by 2030.
- Access to parks varies by Electoral Area and most residential parcels in Electoral Areas are not within 400-800 m of a park. The supply of parks and proximity of access to parks within many of the Electoral Areas are below generally accepted targets.
- Though parks are generally in good condition, many parks and park amenities are not inclusive, and few opportunities exist for universally accessible or adaptive recreation.
- Public access to water through quality water access parks is high valued. However, many of the water access points remain informal and are not meeting expectations.
- The Regional District does not currently have clear policy direction to inform the classification and subsequent management priorities for parks nor the service levels in parks.

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4.3 TRAILS

Trails within the Regional District are one of the most popular and most desired recreational assets. Many of the region's trails also serve as essential active transportation corridors that connect residents to each other, their places of employment, community destinations and to neighbouring jurisdictions. Planning for the future of trails in the region requires a robust understanding of what types of trails exist today, where those trails are located, which of those trails the Regional District is responsible for managing, and the condition of those trails.

The region contains a vast and very diverse network of trails that are enjoyed by residents in all demographics. All trails in the region support daily recreation for residents while many also play an important role in the region's active transportation network. Trails in the region also attract visitors from across the province, Canada, and the world. Some of the region's trails have become so popular (e.g. Kettle Valley Rail Trail) that they have become primary trip motivation and the sole reason visitors choose to come to the region. These trails have become drivers of economic development and diversification as businesses have been developed to feature or support users of the trails, while major special events are increasingly organized on the trails.

What is a Trail?

A trail is a defined type of infrastructure that is purposefully designed and used for one or more recreation activities and / or active transportation. To be recognized as a trail, it must be approved by the landowner, mapped, and marked and actively managed and maintained.

The diversity of trails in the region supports a wide variety of non-motorized and motorized trail-based activities across all seasons. The most common activities occurring on trails in the region include:

- Non-motorized Activities
  - » Hiking, walking & trail running
  - » Leisure & competitive road cycling, gravel grind, fat biking (class 1 & 2 electric assist & unassisted)
  - » Mountain biking including cross-country, all-mountain, downhill, adaptive (class 1 & 2 electric assist & unassisted)
  - » Bike pack touring
  - » Equestrian
  - » Snowshoeing
  - » Cross-country skiing (skate & classic)
  - » Active Transportation
- Motorized Activities
  - » Off-Road Vehicle - Motorcycle
  - » Off-Road Vehicle – All Terrain Vehicles & Side by Sides
  - » Class 3 Electric Bicycles
  - » Snowmobiling & Snowbikes

To inform the Plan, the best available trails data from the Regional District, Government of British Columbia and open data sources (e.g., TrailForks) were assembled to provide reasonable insights into the region's trail network. The inventory did not include Forest Service Roads or other resource roads on which recreation occurs unless those roads were also identified as a trail in one of the assembled datasets.

By the Numbers

2,940 + km of trail in the region

220.5 km are managed by the Regional District as regional trails

11% of trails in the region are Regional District managed trails

89% of trails in the region are managed by other providers.

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The analysis suggests that the region contains approximately 2,940 km of trails. Based on the data assembled, approximately 1,170 km (40%) are mixed use trails that permit both motorized and non-motorized activities and 1,770 km (60%) are considered to be non-motorized trails which only permit non-motorized activities. While most of the trails are multi-use trails that permit multiple different trail activities; some trails have been purposefully designed to optimize the experience of a particular activity such as mountain biking or hiking and can considered to be "activity optimized" trails.

Though not all trails are rated, available data suggests that trails in the region span the entire spectrum of technical challenge from easier "green" rated trails to the most difficult, "double black" diamond trails.

While visitors don't really worry about who is responsible for the development and management of the trails, it is important to understand that these trails exist on provincial, Regional District, municipal, First Nation, and private lands and are provided and managed by a wide diversity of trail operators including the Regional District, local municipalities, BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, MoTI, private land trusts, private landowners and many dedicated trail stewardship organizations who volunteer thousands of hours each. In addition to off-road trails, the region contains approximately 440 km of on-road cycle touring routes. Evaluation and planning for on-road cycle touring routes were outside the scope of this plan and are addressed in local Electoral Area OCP's and transportation plans.

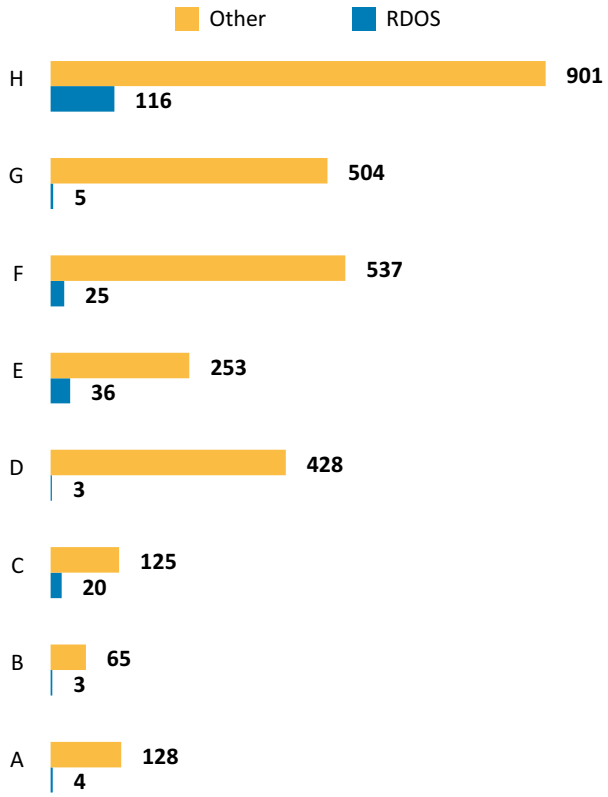

Figure 22 Trail Length by Provider and Electoral Area

4.3.1 Regional District Trails

Of the approximately 2,940 km of trails in the region, the Regional District, through its Regional Parks and Trails Service Area, is responsible for the operation and management of approximately 220.5 km of regional trails as well as trails within regional and local parks which have yet to be fully inventoried. Having made progress on the regional trail priorities identified in the 2012 Regional Trails Master Plan, the Regional District is currently responsible managing:

- 177 km of Kettle Valley Rail Trail Mainline with segments between Lebanon Lake to Brookmere
- 35.5 km of Kettle Valley Rail Trail South Spur between Penticton and Osoyoos
- 8 km of the Similkameen Trail – VV & E
- Trails within Community & Regional Parks (spatial inventory was not available)

Table 5 illustrates the distribution of the existing and total future potential length of Kettle Valley Rail Trail and Similkameen Trail by Electoral Area, municipality and by First Nation. As shown in Table 5, once the network is completed, the Regional District will be responsible for managing approximately 275 km of regional trail.

The Kettle Valley Rail Trail, including the mainline and south spur, and the Similkameen Trail are being planned and developed to create connections between communities, destinations, other trail systems and to neighbouring jurisdictions. In addition to being immensely popular local recreation assets, these trails are also being deliberately developed as active transportation corridors and major attractions that motivate tourism to the region and stimulate economic development.

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Table 5. Distribution of KVR & Similkameen Trails by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction		Actual Length of Regional Trail (km)	Potential Total Length of Regional Trail (km)	Road Route
RDOS	A	4	4	7
	B	3	10	0
	C	20	35	0
	D	2.5	10	2.5
	E	36	36	0
	F	25	39	0
	G	5	10	17
	H	116	116	0
	I	9	15	0
	Sub-Total	**220.5**	**275**	**27.5**
Municipalities	Penticton	9.5	9.5	1
	Summerland	4	4	8
	Princeton	4	4	0
	Keremeos	1.5	1.5	0
	Osoyoos	0	0	2
	Oliver	2.5	2.5	0
	Sub-Total	**21.5**	**21.5**	**11**
First Nation	PIB North	0	9.5	0
	PIB South	5.5	9.5	0
	OIB	0	1	0
	U/L SIB	0	33	0
	Sub-Total	**5.5**	**53**	**0**
	TOTAL	**247.5**	**347**	**38.5**

Trails, or trail segments, that the Regional District is directly responsible for support a wide range of non-motorized and motorized trail activities in all seasons of the year. Approximately 36% of the regional trails are currently non-motorized multi-use trails with the remaining 64% being mixed-used trails that support both non-motorized and motorized trail activities. Mixed-use segments of the trails include the KVR Trail from Little Tunnel north to the Regional District boundary and the KVR Trail from Faulder west to Brookmere and the western boundary of the Regional District which support Off Road Vehicles (e.g. ATV, side by side and motorcycles) and snowmobiling.

Though the region contains an extensive supply of trails, their location results in highly variable access and proximity to trails. All regions are connected to the regional trails but to varying extents. As shown in Figure 23, Electoral Area H contains greatest length of both Regional District and other trails followed by Electoral Areas D and E.

Achievements Since the 2012 Regional Trails Master Plan

- Established an operational budget for the maintenance ad management of regional trails.
- Prioritized and pursued acquisition of land to expand regional trail connectivity.
- Enhanced wayfinding and trail information signage on regional trails throughout the region.

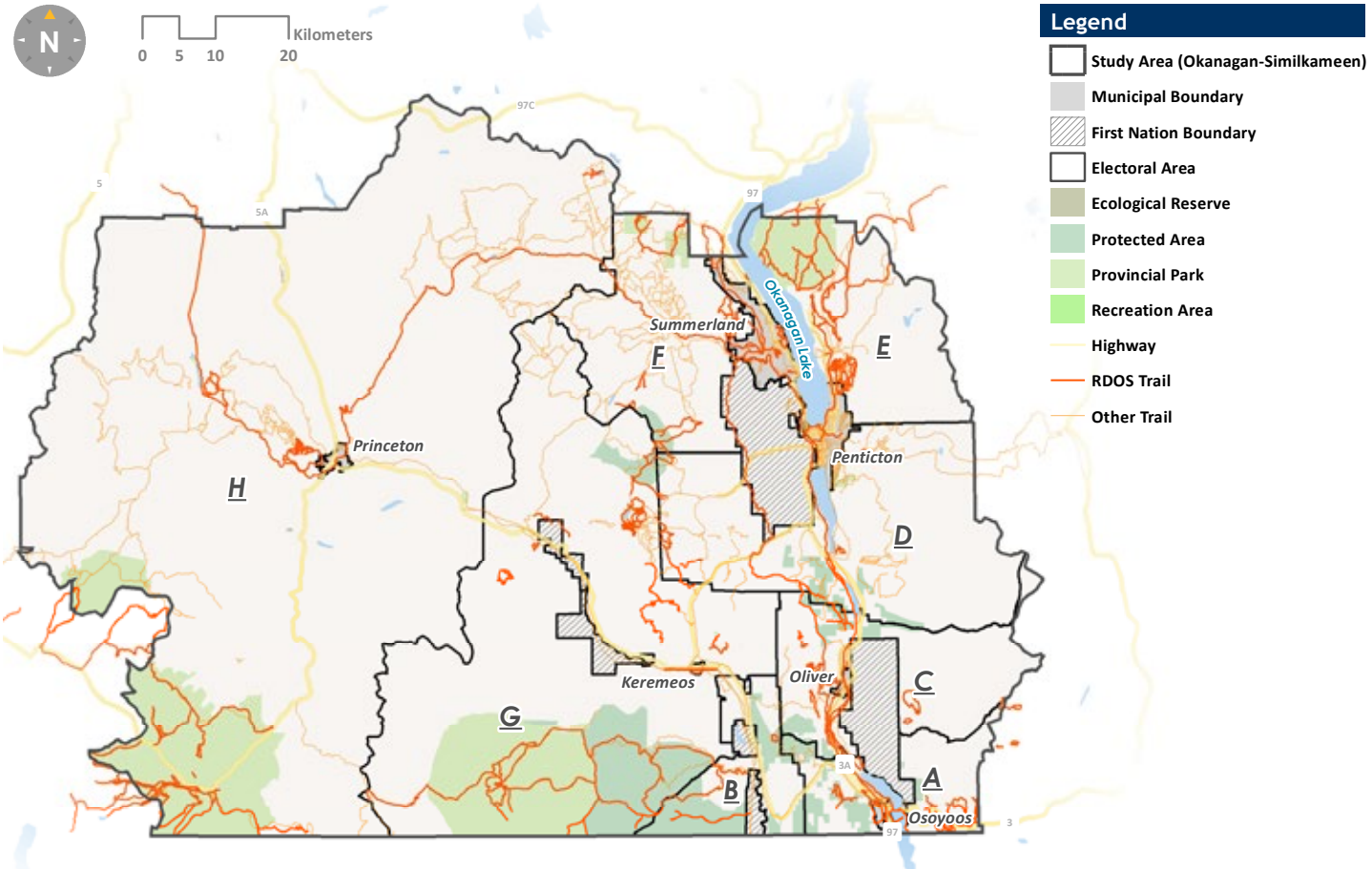

Figure 23 Trail Inventory

4.3.2 Trail Condition

A high quality and safe trail with well designed and appropriately sited staging areas, visitor comfort and convenience amenities and signage are the foundation of a positive visitor experience. Though a comprehensive condition assessment of the trails and trail infrastructure has not been undertaken, a rapid field review and input received during the engagement process indicates that there are opportunities to improve their quality and condition. The most common trail condition and quality issues that emerged through the planning process include:

- Inappropriate trail tread surfacing (e.g., sand, large cobble, loose gravel) for intended activities.
- Inconsistent trail tread widths and clearance zones.
- Trail cupping and erosion.
- Standing water and poor drainage.
- Inconsistent signage, wayfinding, and siting of signs.
- Lack of gateway experience and sense of arrival.
- Limited interpretation and elements to enhance the visitor experience while on trail.
- Lacking or inconsistent level of service including undersized staging areas.
- Limited and aging visitor comfort and convenience amenities.
- Aging or failing bridge and trestle infrastructure.
- Growing visitor conflicts.
- Lack of universally accessible trail experiences and comfort and convenience amenities.

It should be noted that major flooding events occurred in November 2021 which have created serious impacts to the western segments of the KVR Trail between Princeton and Brookmere. A detailed assessment of flooding impacts had not been undertaken at the time of preparing this plan.

Important Learnings for the Master Plan

- The Regional District does not maintain a consolidated and consistently classified inventory of Regional and Local trails, trail amenities and infrastructure.
- Though the regional trails are relatively well connected, opportunity exists to expand and enhance the connectivity to each other, to communities and adjacent regions and to other major destinations in the region.
- Trail design and tread conditions are highly variable across Regional District trails. Staging areas, trail amenities and signage where provided are at varying stages of their lifecycle and in varying condition. Visitor amenities and staging areas are inconsistently provided across regional trails. The Regional District does not currently have clear policy direction to inform the classification of trails or the service levels and improvements for trails.
- Some major bridge infrastructure is reaching or has surpassed its useful lifecycle and needs to be replaced. These major capital investments are essential to retaining the regional connectivity of Regional District trails.
- Routine maintenance of drainage infrastructure has been delayed which has resulted in drainage failures and poor trail tread conditions in some segments of trail.
- Few fully barrier free / universally accessible trail experiences are available on Regional District trails as the trail tread, signage, access controls, and / or comfort and convenience amenities pose barriers.
- Visitation to trails is increasing and so to are management challenges. This is placing greater demands on current staffing capacity and operational budgets. Enforcement bylaws are outdated and do not provide the modern enforcement tools required to manage modern trail use.
- The tourism potential of the trails has yet to be realized. Regional momentum, as well as active planning, is building to further enhance and realize the true tourism potential and benefits those trails can provide to the region.

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4.4 THE REGIONAL RECREATION SYSTEM

The Regional District provides regional recreation services and facilities. This section provides an overview of the regional recreation delivery system and an inventory of the indoor and outdoor recreation facilities that it operates or supports the provision of.

In general, municipal recreation services can be delivered through one or a combination of three common approaches:

1. As a direct provider.
2. As a service enabler.
3. As a funder/contract manager.

While many responsibilities are common to all approaches and may shift based on local demands and expectations, Figure 24 identifies the unique characteristics of each service delivery approach. Currently, the Regional District does not operate under a single service delivery approach. In fact, the Regional District applies all three approaches in the delivery of its parks, trails and recreation services and the operation/funding of facilities.

Municipalities commonly deliver services through a combination of approaches, including as a direct provider, service enabler, and funder/contract manager. The RDOS currently uses all three of these approaches.

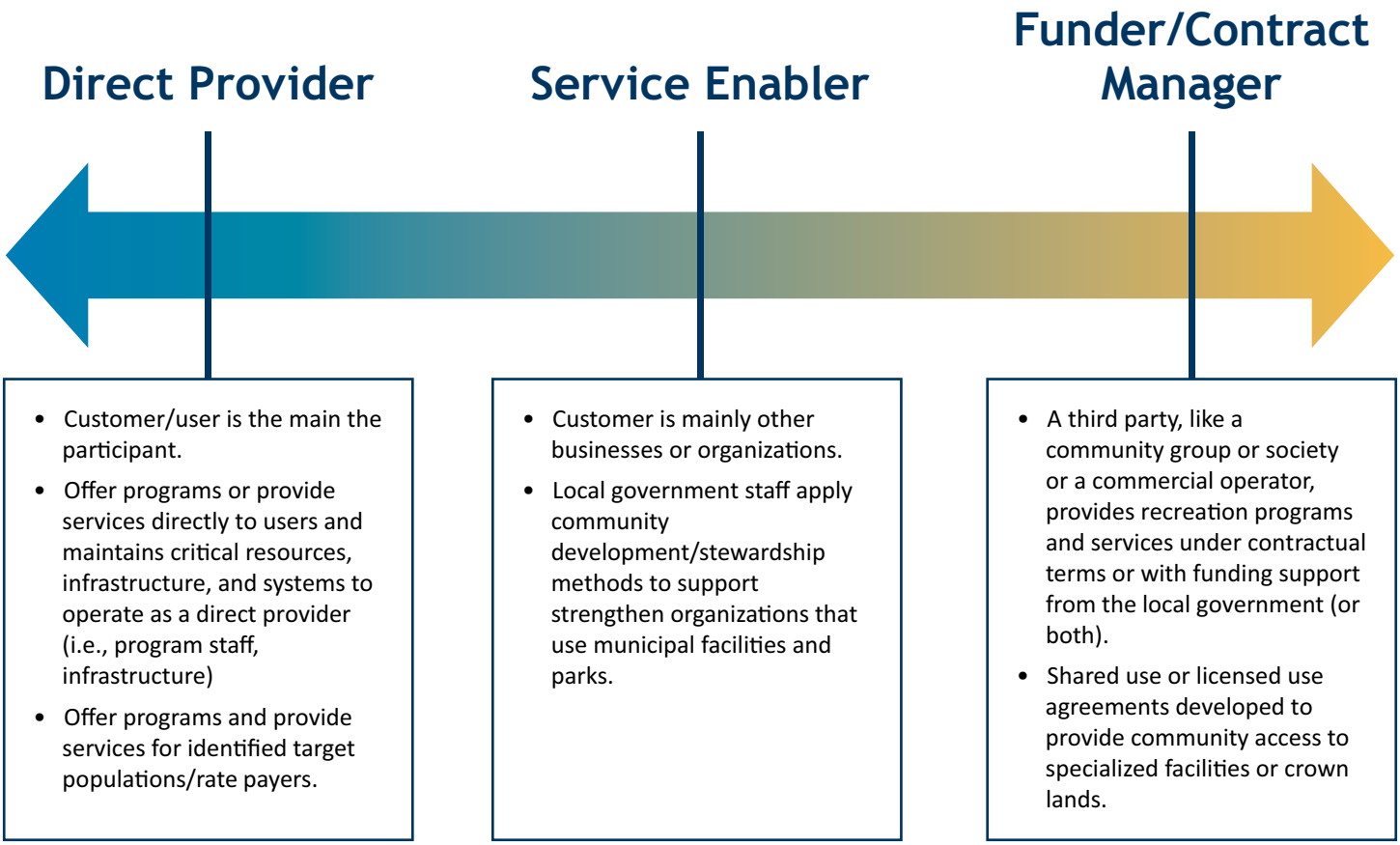

Figure 24 Service Delivery

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4.4.1 Delivery of Regional Recreation

The Regional District plans and administers recreation services at a region-wide scale, while the delivery of recreation programs, services and activities is tuned to the needs of Electoral Area. Five Electoral Areas currently support taxation for recreation and parks service levels. While level of service varies by Electoral Area as shown in Figure 25, the Regional District is funded to provide a total of twelve days of recreation services.

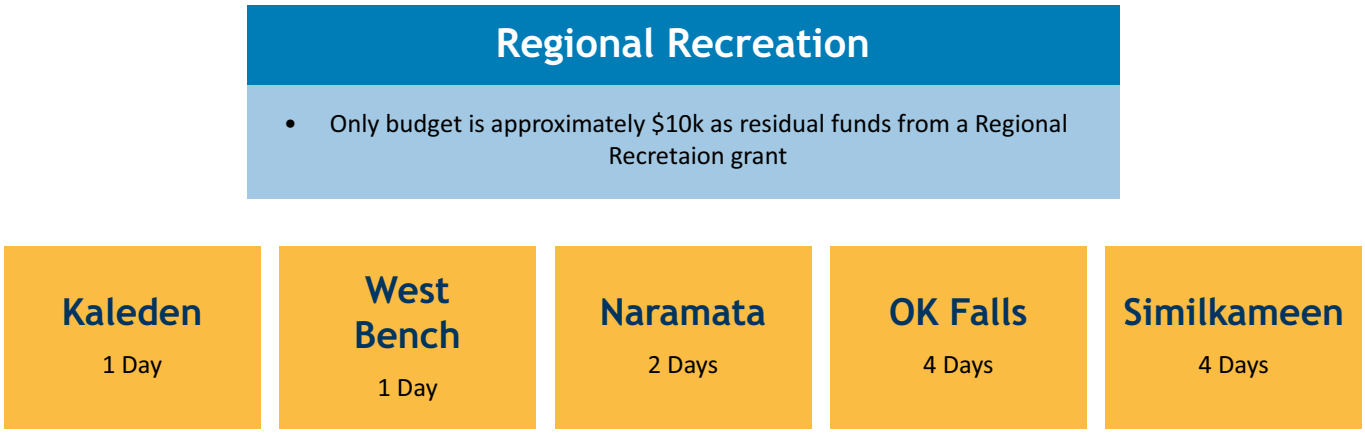

Figure 25 Delivery of Recreation

The Regional District's core recreation services noted in Figure 25 reflect the diversity of regional and electoral area needs. Of the five Electoral Areas currently supporting regional recreation, all support the provision of regional core recreation services that are pre-requisites for the delivery of recreation services at the Electoral Area level. The mix of core services at the Electoral Area different between Electoral Areas – a reflection of the unique interests, opportunities and priorities of residents and partner organizations in each community.

Table 6. Core Recreation Services Provided by the Regional District

Core Recreation Service	Regional	Electoral Area	Approach to Service Delivery
Governance	• Reports to the Board of the Regional District • Prepare and administer the Department's budget • Lead recreation staff	• Coordination with the local Parks and Recreation Commission and the Electoral Area Director	Direct
Recreation Programs	• Administration of registration software • Marketing and communications • Staff and instructor training	• Delivery of recreation programs • Volunteer management	Direct and Indirect
Partnerships	• coordination and development of opportunities with School Districts and government agencies, and local committees, groups, and societies		Indirect and Contract Manager
Special Events	• Bookings and permits • Coordination with regional event partners	• Planning and delivery of special events and activities • Volunteer management	Direct and Indirect
Project Development & Management	• Coordination of Region-wide initiatives (i.e., Age Friendly, Regional Child Care) • Regional Strategy development and preparation	• Program or site-specific projects (capital or a new program)	Direct
Facilities	• Long-Term Asset Management planning • Developing funding strategies • Administering agreements	• General maintenance and repairs • Security • Program setup and takedown	Direct and Contract Manager

4.4.2 Governance and Administration

Responsibility for planning, administration and delivery of parks, trails and recreation facilities, programs and services in Electoral Areas is assigned to qualified parks and recreation professionals who are employed by the Regional District. In addition to those staff, a wide range of community-based associations, societies and agencies of government support the delivery of recreation and parks.

Established under Bylaw 2732, 2016, six Parks and Recreation Commissions currently provide advice to their respective Electoral Area Director, who are also part of the local Commission. The Bylaw outlines the roles and responsibilities of a Parks and Recreation Commission.

4.4.3 Supply of Recreation Facilities and Spaces

Figure 26 provides a high-level summary of the recreation facilities and spaces that we are responsible for or play a role in providing. These facilities are provided by various entities through a variety of funding and operational partnerships. The purpose of this chart is to reflect those spaces available to residents, excluding agreements related to community-use of various school gymnasiums and outdoor spaces that the RDOS uses for recreation program delivery (the RDOS does not ow or directly maintain or operate these facilities). It is important to note that, in addition to these facilities supported or provided by the Regional District, residents also have access to many recreation facilities in larger urban centres in the region (e.g., Penticton, Summerland, Oliver, Osoyoos and Princeton). In some instances, these facilities are indirectly funded by the RDOS through contributions to an electoral area (e.g. contributions to Area H that help support the Princeton Arena).

Recreation Complexes (multi-amenity sites)

 # 3

Names and Locations

- Similkameen Recreation Centre
- Oliver Recreation Complex

Indoor Ice Areas

 # 3 (sheets)

Names and Locations

- Sunbowl Arena (Osoyoos)
- Oliver Arena

Outdoor Pools

 # 2

Names and Locations

- Oliver Outdoor Pool
- Similkameen Community Pool

Community Centres (smaller community facilities)

 # 5

Names and Locations

- Naramata Recreation (Naramata School)
- Okanagan Falls Community Centre
- Kaleden and District Community Hall and Library
- Okanagan Falls Zen Centre
- Kenyon House
- Naramata OAP

Outdoor Ice Rinks

 # 3

Names and Locations

- Tulameen Community Club Ice Rink (covered)
- Similkameen Recreation Centre (refrigerated)

Figure 26 Facilities

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4.4.4 Key Characteristics

Additional detail and characteristics related to location, amenities and spaces, ownership and operations, funding and known condition on the specific recreation facilities and amenities in the Regional District is provided in the following chart (Table 7).

Table 7.

Facility Name	Location	Ownership	Operator	Condition	Funding	Amenities Provided / Notes
Sunbowl Arena	Osoyoos	RDOS (building) Town of Osoyoos (land)	Osoyoos (under Service Agreement)	Near end of normal life cycle based on age of primary structure	RDOS provides capital funding for repairs and replacements	Single pad arena with spectator seating. $2M in capital improvements have been identified in a 2019 Facility Condition Assessment Study to maintain the integrity of the building over the next 15 years.
Similkameen Recreation Centre	Keremeos	RDOS	RDOS	Near end of normal life cycle based on age of primary structure	RDOS directly operates and covers capital repairs and replacements	Bowling alley, 2 racquet courts, fitness rooms
Similkameen Community Pool	Keremeos	RDOS	RDOS	Near end of normal life cycle based on age of primary structure	RDOS directly operates and covers capital repairs and replacements	

Facility Name	Location	Ownership	Operator	Condition	Funding	Amenities Provided / Notes
Oliver Recreation Complex	Oliver	RDOS (building) Town of Oliver (land)	Transitioning to the Town of Oliver	Near end of normal life cycle based on age of primary structure	RDOS provides capital funding for replace and replacement for the Arena and recreation complex.	Single pad area, hall, fitness room and 2 meeting rooms (4 curling sheets onsite are owned by Town of Oliver and managed by the local club). Over $2.3M in capital improvements have been identified over 10 years in a 2017 Facility Lifecycle Assessment Study.
Kaleden Hotel (Structure)	EA – I	RDOS	RDOS	n/a	n/a	Structure of abandoned hotel that is protected for heritage rationale
Naramata Recreation (Naramata School)	EA – E	School Board	School Board		n/a	School gymnasium used by community.

Facility Name	Location	Ownership	Operator	Condition	Funding	Amenities Provided / Notes
Okanagan Falls Community Centre	EA – D	School Board	RDOS (Joint Use Agreement with School Board)	n/a	n/a	Community access to the school gymnasium; community centre portion includes office space, a program room and commercial kitchen
Kaleden and District Community Hall and Library	EA – I	Society	RDOS (Agreement with Hall Association)	Near end of normal life cycle based on age of primary structure	n/a	Hall and library co-located; gymnasium space with stage (225 capacity).
Tulameen Ice Rink	EA – H	RDOS	Community Organization (Agreement with RDOS)	-	RDOS directly operates and covers capital repairs and replacements	Covered, natural ice rink
Okanagan Falls Zen Centre	EA – D	RDOS	RDOS	Structure is relatively new	RDOS directly operates and covers capital repairs and replacements	Variety of fitness equipment and fitness/wellness program space
Kenyon House	EA – D	RDOS	RDOS	-	RDOS directly operates and covers capital repairs and replacements	Meeting room/ space for approx. 40 persons

4.4.5 Supply of Outdoor Facilities

We also provide or support the provision of a broad range of outdoor recreation facilities across the Electoral Areas as well as within the Town of Oliver and the Town of Princeton through service agreements. The current supply of outdoor recreation facilities that are managed or funded by the regional district are illustrated in Figure 27. Table 8, provides a detailed inventory of outdoor recreation facilities. Almost all these facilities and assets are in established settlement areas.

In addition to these facilities, residents also have access to many other outdoor recreation facilities within the larger urban centres in the region. Outdoor recreation facilities provided in Princeton, Penticton and Summerland were not considered in this inventory as the Regional District does not own, operate, or have service agreements with these municipalities.

The RDOS has established service agreements with the Oliver Parks and Recreation Society and the Town of Princeton which establish joint funding arrangements for capital maintenance of major recreation facilities and parks in the Town of Oliver and for major indoor facilities in the Town of Princeton (excluding parks). As such, outdoor recreation facilities in Oliver have been included in this inventory. School Board facilities for which the Regional District does agreement to operate are also not reflected in the inventory because they are not always publicly available and are funded and maintained through separate Ministry funding sources.

The provision of different types of outdoor facilities varies by Electoral Area. Consistency of the provision level between Electoral Areas or to “best practice” standards are not appropriate in this context given the significant differences in geography and the different histories and legacies of decision-making associated with each park where outdoor recreation facilities are provided. More recent investments in facilities such as pickleball courts and skate/BMX facilities reflect localized demand and support.

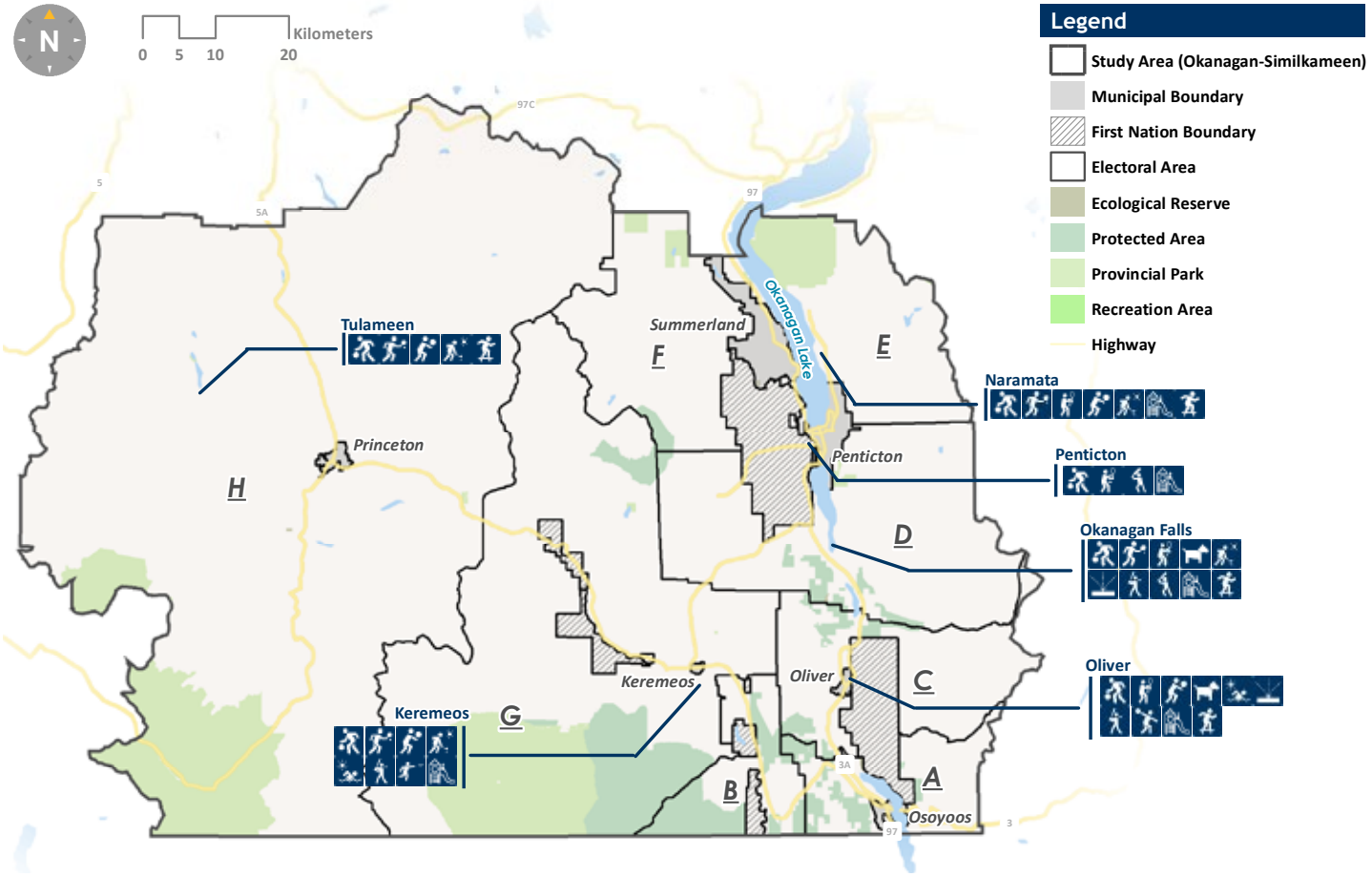

Figure 27 Outdoor Facilities

Table 8. Inventory of Outdoor Recreation Facilities by Supply by Electoral Area and Provision Level

Facility Type	Total Supply	2020 Pop.	Provision Per Pop.
Ball Diamonds	**10**		
B	2	1066	533
Oliver	6	5515	919
Cricket Pitch	**2**		
D	1	3704	3704
Disc Golf Course	**1**		
B	1	1066	1066
Dog Off Leash	**3**		
D	1	3704	3704
Oliver	2	5515	2758
Horseshoe Pit	**1**		
E	1	2006	2006
Lawn Bowling Green	**1**		
Oliver	1	5515	5515
Multi Sport Outdoor Court	**8**		
Keremeos	2	1712	856
B	1	1066	1066
D	1	3704	3704
E	1	2006	2006
F	1	2149	2149
H	1	1995	1995
Okanagan-Similkameen I	1	2469	2469

Facility Type	Total Supply	2020 Pop.	Provision Per Pop.
Outdoor Arena/Rink	**4**		
Keremeos	1	1721	1721
E	1	2006	2006
H	1	1995	1995
I	1	2569	2569
Spray/Splash Pad	**2**		
D	1	3704	3704
Oliver	1	5515	5515
Outdoor Court (Tennis/ Pickleball)	**8**		
D	1	3704	3704
E	2	2006	1003
F	1	2149	2149
H	3	1995	665
I	2	2469	1235
Oliver	1	5515	5515
Outdoor Fitness Station/Loop	**1**		
Oliver	1	5515	5515
Outdoor Pool	**2**		
Keremeos	1	1721	1721
Oliver	1	5515	5515

Facility Type	Total Supply	2020 Pop.	Provision Per Pop.
Playground	**16**		
B	1	1066	1066
D	2	3704	1852
E	5	2006	401
F	2	2149	1075
I	1	2469	2469
Oliver	5	5515	1103
Sand Volleyball Court	**5**		
Keremeos	1	1721	1721
D	2	3704	3704
E	1	2006	2006
H	1	1995	1995
Oliver	1	5515	5515
Skate / Bike Park	**4**		
D	1	3704	3704
E	1	2006	2006
H	1	1995	1995
Oliver	1	5515	5515
Soccer Field	**1**		
B	1	1066	1066

4.4.6 Recreation Facility Utilization

Planning for indoor and outdoor recreation facilities needs to begin with understanding how current facilities are utilized. Available data was reviewed to get a sense of current facility and amenity utilization. This high-level analysis provides insights into the amount of capacity within the system of spaces and those spaces that may be over or under utilized. The Table 9 provides the general parameters and description on how each of the spaces was assessed. It is important to note that collecting and analyzing utilization data was a challenge given the lack of consistent and comprehensive data; that regular programming and utilization patterns were disrupted during the pandemic; and multi-year historical utilization data was not available. Assessing levels of utilization also requires a different lens for each type of space based on the nature of use (e.g., level of spontaneous use, flex time that needs to be built into bookings, staff availability to support space use, etc.).

Calculating utilization data is a challenge for most public sector providers of recreation. Growing demand for spontaneous use and new / emerging activities suggests a need to improve data management and analysis practices within the sector.

Table 9. Utilization Assessment Parameters

Assessed Level of Utilization	Description / Parameters
Overused	The facility / amenity type is being used beyond its reasonable capacity. As of a result of this, no incremental programming of spontaneous use can be accommodated and for some types of facility / amenities this level of use can stress the condition and functionality of the infrastructure.
Well Used	The majority of capacity at the facility / amenity type is being utilized. This situation likely results in capacity challenges during peak times and seasons, but some limited time remains available (mostly during non peak times and seasons).
Moderately Used	The facility / amenity is sufficiently used but no capacity challenges exist to accommodate new or emerging activities.
Underutilized	The facility / amenity receives minimal utilization and there is an abundance of available supply. Facility / amenities in this situation may be candidates for repurposing or other initiatives that can make higher value use of the space.

Table 10. Arenas (Indoor and Outdoor)

Facility / Amenity	Utilization Indicators	Assessed Level of Use
Similkameen Recreation Centre Outdoor Rink	• 324 hours of available time used (61%)	well Used
Tulameen Outdoor Rink	• No data available	N/A
Osoyoos Sunbows Arena	• No data available	N/A
Oliver Arena	• 1,120 hours of use (69% booked utilization of prime time hours)	Moderately Used

Table 11. Other Indoor Facilities

Facility / Amenity	Utilization Indicators	Assessed Level of Use
Fitness Room and Courts Similkameen Recreation Centre	• Estimate of 40% utilization of available capacity (based on 16 hours of availability per day)	Well Used considering amount of time open
Multi Purpose and squash Rooms Similkameen Recreation Centre	• Estimate of 5% utilization of available capacity	Underutilized
5-Pin Bowling Similkameen Recreation Centre	• Estimate of 15% utilization of available capacity in winter	Underutilized
Similkameen Outdoor Pool	• Estimate 75% utilization (would be more if not for staffing shortages)	Well Utilized
Naramata School Gymnasium (2019)	• Estimate of 15% utilization of available capacity (based on service level)	Underutilized
Okanagan Falls Community Centre / School Gymnasium	• Estimate of 50% utilization of available capacity • Programming for children, including multi-week art classes, active play programs, after school programs and themed day summer camps	Moderately

Facility / Amenity	Utilization Indicators	Assessed Level of Use
Multi-Purpose Room Okanagan Falls Community Centre	• Estimate of 20% utilization of available capacity • Uses included programming for children, including multi-week art classes, active play programs, after school programs and themed day summer camps. Community meetings use.	Underutilized
Zen Room Okanagan Falls CC	• Estimate of 20% utilization of available capacity • 540 memberships (annual average) • Estimate 4,000 individual visits per year to the Zen and Fitness centre • Wide range of adult fitness registered programs	Underutilized
Kaleden and District Community Hall	• Estimate of 35% utilization of available capacity • 419 bookings in 2019 and 434 bookings in 2018 • Used for fitness and yoga classes	Underutilized
Meeting Room at Kenyon House	• Estimate of 25% summer use and close to 100% during the fall, spring and winter seasons due to school booking of sight.	Moderately used

Table 12. Outdoor Courts

Facility / Amenity	Utilization Indicators	Assessed Level of Use
Okanagan Falls Courts (tennis only - at the time of estimation?)	• Estimate of 30% utilization of capacity • tennis and pickle ball (pickle ball nets are not permanently installed)	Underutilized
Kaleden Courts (Tennis courts)	• Estimated at 20% utilization of capacity unknown • The Tennis club has dissolved.	Underutilized
Naramata Pickleball Courts	• Estimate of 40 - 50% utilization of available capacity (use not tracked in 2019) • Pickleball club has approximately 30-40 members. • Courts are booked 25-30hrs/ week during spring / summer months. • Public hours are often busy.	Moderately Used
Naramata Tennis Courts	• Estimate of 30%	N/A
Similkameen Dry Slab (Pickle ball, Lacrosse & Futsal)	• Estimate under 5% utilization – Brand new so building interest in 2022	Under utilized

Important Learnings for the Master Plan

- The provision of recreation facilities and services is highly variable by Electoral Area – the result of legacy decisions, agreements with local municipalities, and level of service adjustments based on different taxation bylaws over time
- The current age and condition of the RDOS's two indoor arenas in Oliver and Osoyoos will likely require significant reinvestment over the term of the Master Plan. Alternative replacement scenarios should be considered
- Joint Use agreements between the RDOS and various School Districts provide community use access to gymnasiums in Okanagan Falls and Naramata that appear to satisfy local need for indoor multi-use recreation space
- Roles and responsibilities of the Recreation and Parks Commissions and Regional District staff would benefit from some tuning to minimize confusion of roles and responsibilities

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SECTION 5

WHAT WE HEARD

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Thousands of ideas and input were received during the engagement process from residents, stakeholders, and Regional District partners. The key themes that emerged from this extensive engagement is summarized below. However, this is just a summary of the big ideas. For more details on what the community had to say, please review the What We Heard Report which is a compendium to the plan.

In general, it was clear that residents and stakeholders are largely satisfied with the existing provision of parks, trails and recreation facilities and services as well as the general administrative and management practices the Regional District is using to maintain and operate its parks, trails, recreation facilities, services, and programs. Though relatively satisfied, participants clearly indicated that there is opportunity for improvement. The driving ideas and suggestions offered by those who took part in the engagement process are as follows:

Expand and Connect the Network of Parks and Trails

- Trails, particularly the Kettle Valley Rail Trail (KVRT), is the most used recreational asset in the region as indicated by participants in the engagement process. Users attach a great deal of importance to future trail development programs and enhancement of trails and trail maintenance. There is an understanding amongst stakeholders and residents that the trestle bridges are reaching or at the end of their lifecycle and require significant reinvestment in the near term and that every effort must be taken to ensure the connectivity of trails remain intact and operational.
- There is a desire to see more non-motorized multi-use pathways, hiking trails, purpose-built mountain bike trails and, to a lesser extent, off-road vehicle trails.
- To facilitate the improved connectivity of trails and the expanded access to natural spaces, participants identified the need to improve coordination and integrate planning initiatives across all levels of governments.

Protect the Region's Environmentally Important Areas

- Participants identified the need to increase the network of conservation focused parks, particularly as the development pressures continue to increase.
- Participants were generally supportive of paying increased taxes to support the acquisition of additional park spaces for conservation and recreation.
- Various views, mostly supportive, were shared regarding the formation of the South Okanagan National Park Reserve.

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Enhance the Region's Current Parks, Trails and Recreation Facilities and Services

- Beyond wanting to see additional pickleball courts, there little evidence of demand from survey respondents, stakeholders or Commissions for additional major recreation amenities or facilities.
- Residents and community organizations want to see recreation facilities and amenities that are functional and continually modernized to meet emerging activity needs. Spaces that are multi-purpose can help ensure maximum flexibility and adaptability.
- Most of the Regional District's parks serve a local catchment and offer unstructured play amenities and gathering/activity spaces. There has been some reinvestment in amenity renewal, such as sport courts (for pickleball) and public washrooms.
- Participants recognize the appeal of winter-based recreation and indicate that enhancing access to winter recreation opportunities and experiences in parks and on trails is needed.
- Participants identified the benefits and opportunity associated with animating the parks, trails, and recreation spaces in the region to attract greater visitation and use in all seasons.
- Participants identified the need to enhance parks and trails by improving, expanding, or developing new parking areas and improving the quality of and consistently providing comfort and convenience amenities.
- Participants were clear about the need to enhance the quality and consistency of signage in parks and on trails including wayfinding, interpretive, responsible use and regulatory signage and the need to create an appealing and aesthetic "gateway" for visitors arriving at parks and trails.
- Though not dominant, some participants expressed concerns about safety and crime in parks and on trails and recommended that amenities, such as lighting and cameras, could be used to improve safety particularly in spaces nearer the urban area.

Include Everyone

- There is recognition amongst residents and stakeholders that all children and youth should have opportunity to play and grow through participation in community-based recreation activities and sports. Ensuring affordability and providing supports to more financially vulnerable households to better enable participation was a routinely mentioned.
- It was recognized that few of the region's recreation facilities, parks and trails provide universally accessible access. Participants identified the need to improve universally accessible spaces, amenities, and programs.
- Participants acknowledged that not all recreation facility types are viable in every community and, to maximize inclusion and access for all residents, a balance is needed between providing "hub" facilities that serve a larger catchment area and localized facilities that primarily serve a specific community (recognizing that transportation can be a significant barrier for some).

Manage and Maintain Existing Facilities

- Parents are willing to travel up to 30-40 minutes by car to municipal centres if their children participate in competitive sport programs or to participate themselves. There is minimal interest in the renewal of aging and underutilized sport fields and ball diamonds in many Regional District parks because many local minor sport clubs have ended program delivery in the Electoral Areas. These spaces are nonetheless important for local community events and spontaneous play and should be maintained where they are used by residents.
- Visitor managements issues in parks and trails are on the rise including the improper disposal of garbage and animal waste and improper or prohibited uses of parks and trails. Generally, residents are supportive of increased education but also recognize the need for enforcement tactics.
- Stakeholders and commissions recognized the limitation in data on participation in and bookings and use of recreation facilities, parks, trails, and programs. Better data is needed to better understand current utilization and to enable better decision making.
- Residents and groups recognize that many existing recreation amenities and assets (specifically arenas and outdoor pools) are aging and require renewal. Decisions will need to be made on the best approach to maintain the provision of these facilities if deemed necessary.
- There is a high level of support amongst engagement participants to increase tax requisition by $25-$35 per year to fund land acquisition for parks and trails and to improve recreation facilities.

Enhance Volunteerism and Stewardship

- Volunteerism and stewardship were identified as important. Participants indicated that the volunteering in parks, trails and recreation should be formalized, more stewardship opportunities should be made available, and the recognition of volunteers and community partners should be improved.
- Parks and Recreation Commissions are keen to use community engagement tools to gather insights from residents in the development of multi-year, local recreation and parks plans to guide planning and decision making around small capital projects that benefit Electoral Areas.
- Trail stewardship groups that took part in the engagement process identified the need for the RDOS to develop or improve partnerships, communication and coordination between the Regional District and trail organizations that currently support, or are interested in supporting, trail development and stewardship / maintenance.
- Participants identified the opportunity to grow parks, trails and recreation-based tourism in the region and the opportunity to ensure greater and accurate marketing and promotion of parks, trails and recreation offered by the Regional District.

Strengthen Partnerships

- The delivery of many community recreation programs in the region relies on a diversity of local and regional partners such as community associations, school districts, municipalities and not-for-profit organizations which provide facilities and / or specialized resources. Partnerships with these and other organizations should be strengthened and expanded to allow the Regional District to continue to offer programs for children, youth, and adults at a reasonable cost.
- While recognizing the strong volunteer legacy in parks and recreation service delivery in the Regional District, participants were clear that it is increasingly difficult to attract and retain volunteers to organize events and run programs or to stand for nomination to a Parks and Recreation Commission. It is equally difficult for commercial and not-for-profit service providers to successfully delivery recreation programs directly because there is often insufficient population-based interest/demand to do so in Electoral Areas and because of the challenge of finding qualified staff.

43%
of respondents identified fitness as the most common indoor recreation activity their household participates in (weightlifting, aerobics, yoga)

68%
of respondents feel that the RDOS should place a great deal of emphasis on ensuring recreation programs and services are affordable to all residents

95%
of respondents use parks, trails, and recreation facilities in the RDOS to have fun.

85%
say they use these amenities for exercise and physical health as well.

99%
of respondents feel that being outside and enjoying the outdoors is important

821
completed responses received from RDOS ratepayers

71%
of respondents have visited beach accesses in the RDOS

Beach accesses are the most popular outdoor recreation amenities in the RDOS, with

71%
of respondents reporting having gone to the beach

96%
of respondents feel that the RDOS should emphasize program and service affordability for all residents

90%
of respondents report visiting a park or trail in the RDOS in the last 24 months

2/3rds
of respondents (61%) have visited indoor recreation facilities in the City of Penticton

88%
of respondents agree that the RDOS should establish more trails and

72%
feel that parks and trails funding should be increased to support better services

89%
of respondents feel that littering is an important management issue to be addressed

33%
of respondents indicate being willing to travel more than 45 minutes one-way to access trails

72%
of respondents learn about parks, trails, and recreation opportunities through friends, family, and/or word-of-mouth

81%
of respondents support a tax increase of up to $25 per year to fund land acquisitions for the RDOS parks and trail system.

35%
support a tax increase of more than $50 per year

89%
of respondents think that enhancing existing trails is an important area for the RDOS to invest in

74%
of respondents report owning a recreational property in the RDOS

31%
of respondents report having a household member over the age of 65 years

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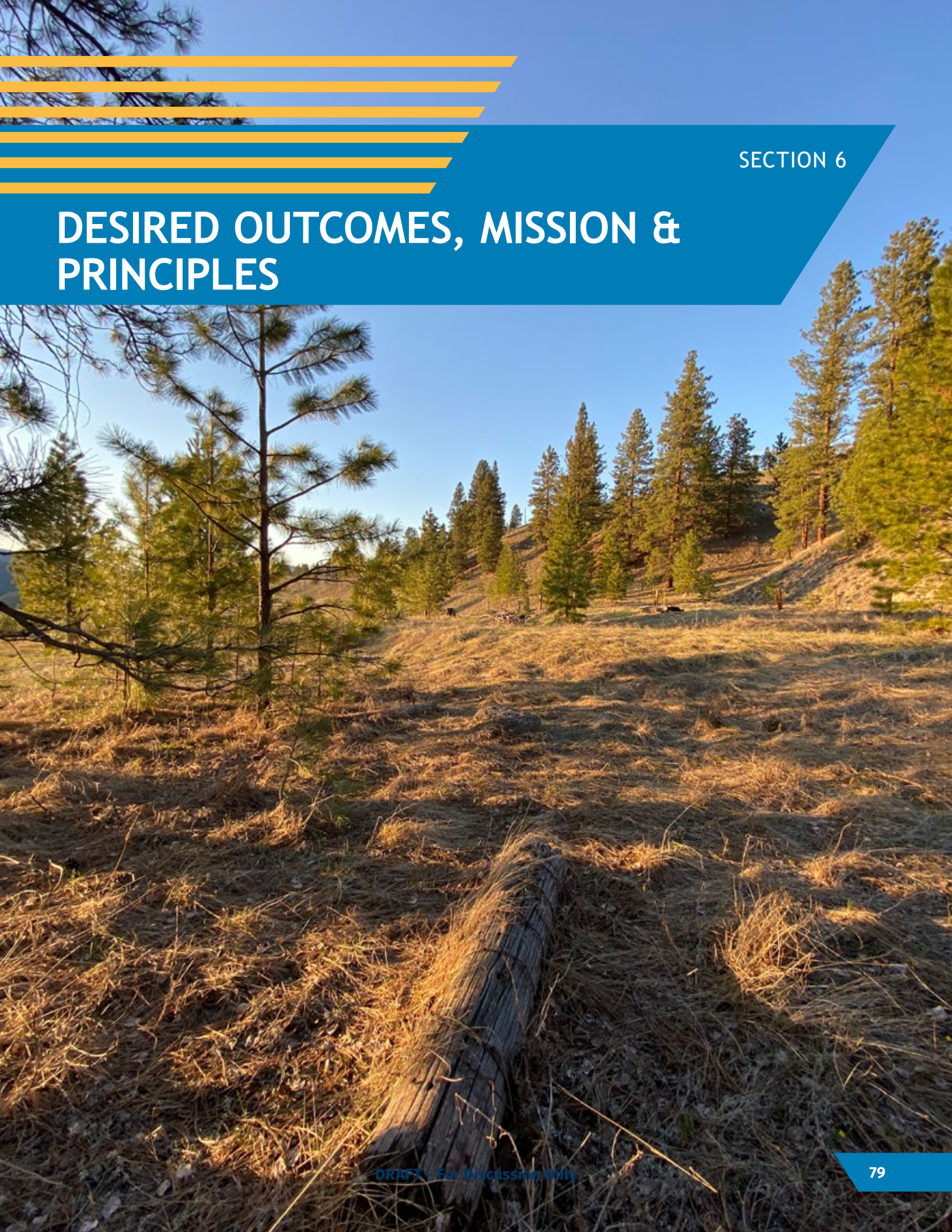
SECTION 6

DESIRED OUTCOMES, MISSION & PRINCIPLES



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Parks, trails and recreation are deliberate strategies to improve the health and well being of residents, communities, and the environment. Through this plan, the Regional District is acknowledging what many residents and visitors already believe - parks, trails and recreation are essential public services and critical to the quality of life in the region. The COVID-19 pandemic, severe wildfires and mass evacuations, and major climate change induced floods and weather events have all highlighted the essential role that these services play, and will continue to play, in the lives of residents. During the early days of the pandemic, parks and trails became essential outlets for physical activity, physically distanced socializing, places to relieve stress and improve mental health, and active transportation corridors that enabled physically distanced commuting and reduced green house gas emissions. During the wildfires, recreation facilities and centers became essential evacuation reception centers and places for sharing information and finding community support and strength. And the 2021 floods re-iterated how important the network of parks and natural spaces are and will continue to be in future flood mitigation. For these, and many other reasons, parks, trails and recreation services are seen as critical to achieving broader public health and well-being, community functioning, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation and economic sustainability goals for the region.

To ensure the Regional District remains focused on parks, trails and recreation's role as an essential service, a strategic framework has been developed that will guide decision making into the future (Figure 28). The framework consists of clearly defined outcomes, a mission, and guiding principles. To achieve the outcomes, "game plans" have been developed for each core service area – parks, trails, and recreation. Each "game plan" contains strategic directions and tangible actions that the Regional District will implement, or work with partners and Indigenous communities, to implement over the next decade.

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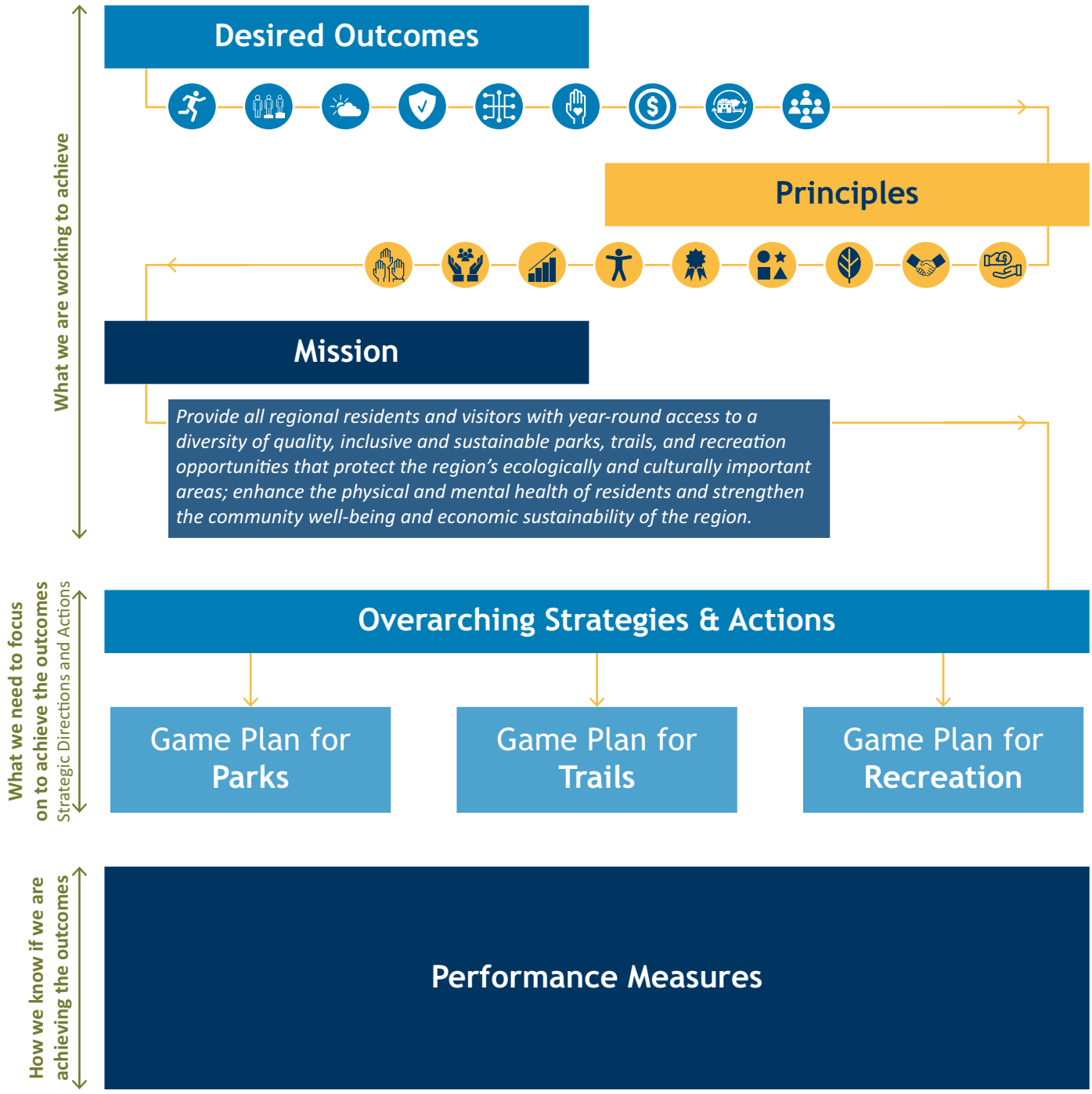

Figure 28 Plan Framework

6.1 DESIRED OUTCOMES

By articulating the desired outcomes, the Regional District is clearly defining what it is trying to achieve for residents, communities, and the environment through the delivery of parks, trails, and recreation services. The outcomes draw inspiration from the goals established in the Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015), the themes that emerged from the engagement process, and direction from other policy documents and best practices.

Over the next 10 years, the Regional District will work collaboratively to achieve the following:

Active, Healthy Living & Connected Communities

- All citizens (children, youth, teens, adults, seniors) are meeting daily physical activity guidelines and have a basic level of fitness.
- All residents have the leisure literacy needed to take part in a diversity of recreation pursuits.
- Residents' pride in and connections with their families, friends, communities, and nature are strengthened.

Inclusive & Equitable Access

- All residents have equitable access to, and feel included and welcomed in, the Regional District's parks, trails and recreation facilities and programs.

Together, the Outcomes and Principles we have set for ourselves provide a reference point for all stakeholders to collaborate and work together towards a common end and will be embedded in the policies, plans, designs, construction processes and operating protocols.

Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience

- Parks, trails, and recreation facilities protect and/or incorporate green infrastructure that enhances the region's climate change resilience and adaptation.
- More residents are using the region's trails as active transportation corridors, reducing transportation related green house gas emissions.

Protect Ecologically & Culturally Important Areas

- Ecologically and culturally important areas and the ecological services they provide are protected, healthy, functioning and, where needed, restored.

Connect

- The region's communities and major destinations are connected through an interconnected network of trails and active transportation corridors.

Truth & Reconciliation

- The region's relationship and collaboration with Indigenous peoples is grown through parks, trails and recreation and these services support the implementation of the actions identified through the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**.

Economic Growth, Diversification & Resilience

- The Regional District's parks, trails and recreation facilities are motivating tourism to the region and skilled labour and businesses to choose, or remain in, the region.

Supportive Environments

- The physical and social environments are in place to enable and support enjoyment of parks and trails and participation in recreation.

Capacity and Awareness

- A strong and active base of volunteers are helping to build and actively contribute to parks, trails, and recreation services.
- Parks, trails, and recreation services are valued, well managed and appropriately resourced.

6.2 MISSION

A mission statement clearly articulates why the Regional District's parks, trails and recreation service exists. The mission is to:

Provide all regional residents and visitors with year-round access to a diversity of quality, inclusive and sustainable parks, trails, and recreation opportunities that protect the region's ecologically and culturally important areas; enhance the physical and mental health of residents and strengthen the community well-being and economic sustainability of the region.

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6.3 PRINCIPLES

Principles are the basic beliefs that guide decision making. Aligned with the *Framework for Recreation in Canada* (2015), the programs, policies, management, and investment decisions the Regional District makes over the next 10 years will be guided by the following principles:

Essential Public Services

- Parks, trails, and recreation are essential to the physical and mental health of all residents and visitors, the well-being of communities, the health of the environment and the strength of the economy.

Public Good

- Programs, policies, and investments that maximize the public good will be favoured and prioritized. Public Good is the extent to which every resident in the region benefits, directly or indirectly, from the program, policy, or investment.

Figure 29 Public Good Recreation Investment Model

Outcome Driven & Evidence-Based

- Parks, trails, and recreation services are entirely focused on making a positive, meaningful, and measurable difference in the lives of residents and, to the extent practical, all decisions will be informed by accurate and timely data, science, traditional knowledge, and other evidence.

Inclusion & Equity

- The region's network of parks, trails, and recreation services will be planned, designed, operated, and managed to be accessible, equitable and inclusive to all residents regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, income, or religious beliefs. Barriers to accessing parks, trails, and recreation will be avoided or supports put in place to help residents overcome barriers to participation.

Quality

- Parks, trails, and recreation facilities will be safe, of the highest possible quality, and places that residents take pride in.
- Everyone who engages in the Regional District's parks, trails and recreation services will have a positive and memorable customer experience.

Diversity & Seasonality

- A diverse spectrum of indoor and outdoor, spontaneous, and structured, non-motorized and motorized public recreation opportunities will be available year-round to residents of all ages and abilities.

Environmental Sustainability & Climate Adaptation & Resiliency

- The planning, design, operation and management of parks, trails, and recreation services will avoid or mitigate impacts to ecologically important areas, minimize green house gas emissions and support climate change adaptation and resilience.

Collaboration & Partnerships

- Parks, trails, and recreation services are strengthened through appropriate community-based leadership, partnerships, collaboration and integration across the entire parks, trails, and recreation delivery system and sector.

Fiscal Responsibility

- Parks, trails, and recreation services are delivered in a financially responsible way and in accordance with sound asset management practices. The ongoing maintenance and renewal of existing assets is balanced with the demands for new assets.

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6.4 MAXIMIZING PUBLIC GOOD

The Regional District faces many demands to provide different facilities, activities, programs, and services. But it cannot be all things, to all people, all the time. The Regional District must prioritize and must deliberately pick what role it will play in the region's broader parks, trails, and recreation service delivery system (Figure 30). As public recreation providers, the Regional District has an obligation to maximize the public good that is achieved by investing tax revenue in parks, trails, and recreation services. One way to do that is to be clear on the general types of services that the Regional District will focus its investments on.

Given the commitment to maximizing public good, the Regional District's priority will be on investing in the planning, development and delivery of parks, trails, and recreation facilities, programs and services that are focused on:

- Introducing participants to recreation and recreation activities.
- Allowing and helping participants to learn and become competent in the recreation activity.
- Keeping participants active for life through recreation.

Figure 30 Parks, Trails, and Recreation Service Delivery System and Providers

SECTION 7

THE GAME PLAN FOR PARKS

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7.1 PARK CLASSIFICATION

Park classification is an important foundation of all park systems. Park classification provides direction and supports decisions about requisition, land acquisition and park siting, management intent(s), appropriate uses, designs, facilities and amenities, organization of the spaces, programming, and maintenance. To guide these and other decisions going forward, the following parks classification system will be implemented.

There are two components to the classification system:

- Park Class
- Park Management Intent

Park Class

Parks can be classed as either a:

- Regional Park
- Local Park

'Game Plans'

outline the strategies and actions that will be taken to achieve the desired outcomes.

Strategies

What we will do!

Actions

How we will do it!

It is important to understand the distinction between these two park types. Though both are designated as parks, Regional and Local Parks intentionally differ in terms of their visitor experience, uniqueness / significance, role in conservation, the catchment they attract visitation from and who benefits most from the park, size, and how acquisition, development and operations of the park are paid for. Regional parks also work to provide quality recreation opportunities and / or conserve regionally important ecological and cultural areas that are not being provided or conserved by other agencies (e.g. municipal, provincial, federal governments). Figure 31, illustrates the fundamental differences between regional and local parks.

Table 13. Park Characteristics

Characteristics	Regional Park	Local Park
Visitor Experience	• Nature-based outdoor recreation – mostly unstructured and spontaneous • Connection to and appreciation of nature • Interpretation	• Spontaneous, structured & active outdoor recreation • Structured sport • Community gathering • Water play • Interpretation
Regional Uniqueness / Significance	• Regionally unique recreation opportunity and / or conservation value. • Regionally unique / important area for Indigenous peoples	• Locally important recreation opportunity.
Conservation Importance	• Protects regionally significant ecological, Indigenous and / or cultural areas and / or features.	• Limited regional conservation value. Local conservation value or education on wildlife, ecosystems, or ecosystem processes. • May protect locally significant cultural area or feature.
Typical Visitation	• Electoral Area residents, regional residents, and visitors from abroad.	• Electoral Area residents. • Limited or no visitation from beyond the Electoral Area
Beneficiaries	• For the benefit of the region as-a-whole (residents of electoral areas and municipalities).	• For the benefit of electoral area residents.
Typical Size	• Variable, but typically much larger than local parks.	• Variable, but typically much smaller than regional parks.
Requisition	• Funded through region-wide requisition (electoral area and municipal).	• Funded through Electoral Area requisition.

Park Management Intent

Parks are also classified based on their management intent. As illustrated in Figure 31, regional and local parks can be classified as:

Regional Parks

- Conservation Park
- Natural Space Park
- Recreation Park

Local Parks

- Community Park
- Neighbourhood Park
- Water Access Park

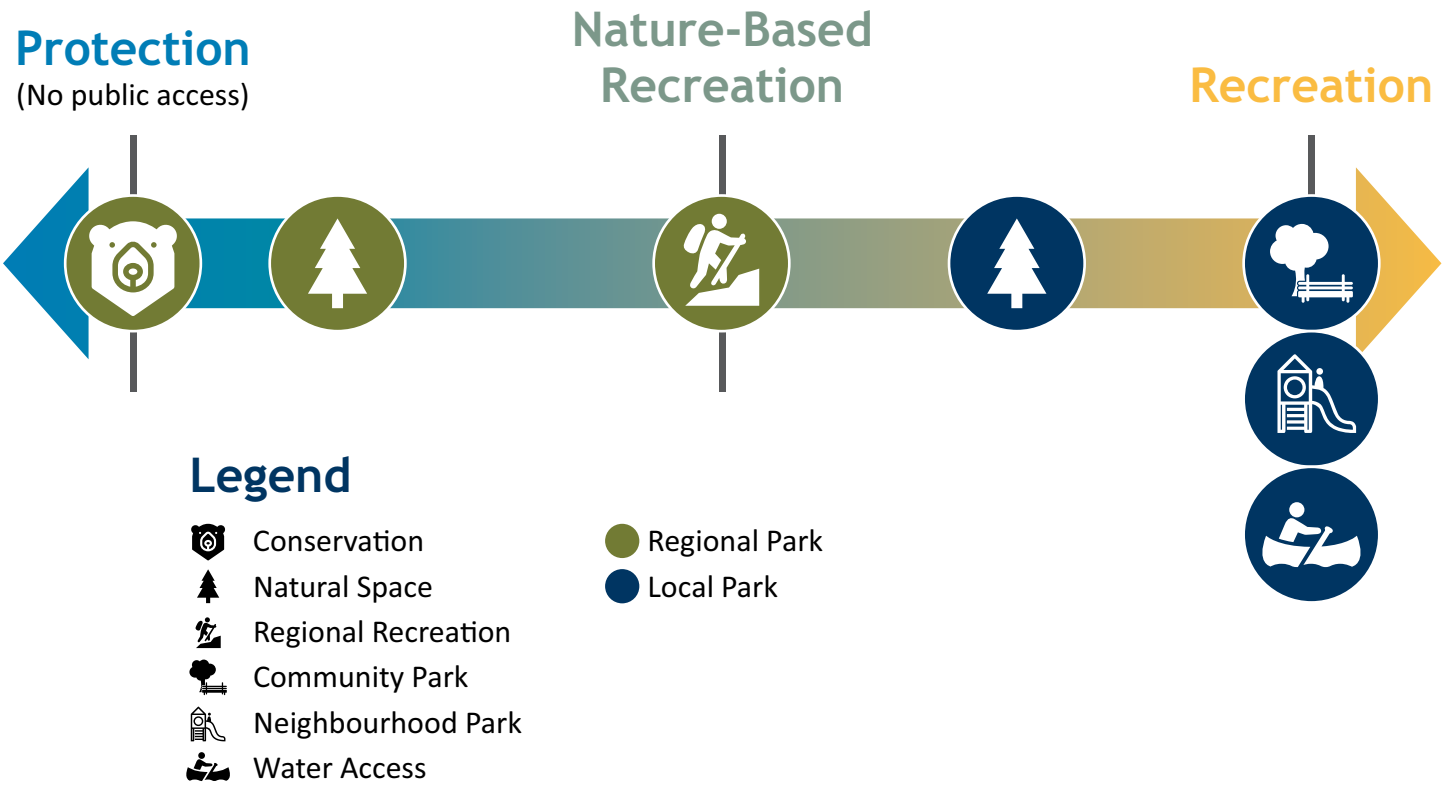

Figure 31 Park Classification & Management Intent Continuum

The management intent of each park class differs in terms of its conservation objectives, compatible / permitted and prohibited activities, the types and level of infrastructure development and other characteristics. The management intent and general guidance for each park class is outlined in more detail in Appendix A.1. The management intent of "Conservation Parks" and "Natural Space Parks" have been deliberately aligned with internationally accepted definitions (e.g. International Union for the Conservation of Nature) to ensure that these sites are established and managed in ways that will allow them to be accounted toward national and international conservation targets.

Though the Regional District has established a clear classification system for Local Parks, these classifications are not intended to limit the flexibility and creativity of park designs nor the need for park facilities, amenities, and management to evolve over time. Park classifications are organic and can be updated overtime as needed (e.g. new recreation activities or infrastructure emerge).

Actions:

1. Classify each existing, and all future, regional and local parks in accordance with the *Regional and Local Parks Classification System* (Appendix A.1).
2. Integrate the Regional and Local Parks Classification System into relevant Regional District statutory and non-statutory plans and policies (e.g. OCP, Zoning Bylaws, Service Establishment Bylaws, Park Land Dedication Policy etc.).
3. To help spatially interpret the primary and secondary management intent of a particular park class at the park level, the Regional District may develop a park management zoning system (Figure 32). Where park values are diverse and management is complex, zoning may be applied within the boundaries of a specific park to identify where protection and conservation, recreation and access / services are the priority management objectives within the park and what activities and amenities / infrastructure are compatible, permitted or prohibited.

Figure 32 Example Park Zoning System

7.2 STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

7.2.1 Activate and Increase Investment in the Regional Parks Service

What We Heard

- Engaged participants and stakeholders support the further activation of and investment in the Regional Parks service.
- Regional and Local parks face funding and capacity challenges while demand and use of parks have never been higher.
- 72% of participants indicated that funding for parks and trails should be increased to support more and better parks and trails.
- 46% of participants would support a $25 (22%) to $50 (24%) tax increase for parks and trails land acquisition.

What We Found

- The Regional District's Regional Parks Service was established in 2004 via bylaw No. 2297, 2004 Regional Parks and Trails Service Establishment Bylaw.
- Few of the Regional District's parks meet the definition and management intent of regional parks.
- Requisition and reserves available to support acquisition of land and expansion of the regional parks system for conservation and regional unique recreation is limited.
- Though visitors are generally satisfied with the quality of parks, infrastructure is aging and requires capital investment.
- Much of the requisition acquired under the Regional Parks and Trails Service has been allocated to Regional Trails.

Actions:

1. Activate the regional parks system by increasing focus on and investment in the advancement of the regional parks service to achieve the outcomes and address the strategies and actions established in this plan.
2. Explore the feasibility of establishing a new Regional Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Fund to increase the capital reserve an ensure the Regional District is better positioned to acquire lands for regional parks and trails purposes in a timely and opportunistic way.

7.2.2 Expand the Regional & Local Park Systems

What We Heard

- 82% of participants strongly or somewhat support investing in the development of new regional and local parks.
- 89% of participants indicated that acquisition of conservation focused parks was an important priority for the Regional District's parks system. The top 5 priorities were:
  - » 69% said motorized focused parks were most important (30%) or important (39%) (data was strongly skewed to Area H)
  - » 68% Child play focused parks were most important (30%) or important (38%)
  - » 68% said outdoor sport focused parks were most important (28%) or important (40%)
  - » 65% said conservation focused parks were most important (24%) or important (41%)
  - » 63% said outdoor recreation focused parks were most important (27%) or important (36%)
  - » 61% said cultural heritage focused parks were most important (31%) or important (30%)
- In terms of landscapes, participants prefer parks in mountainous (64%) landscapes followed by riverfront (45%) and lakefront (40%) landscape.
- Activities that participants wanted to see more or opportunity to take park in include off-road vehicles (32%), general trails (27%), mountain biking (11%), park programming (4%), natural areas education (4%). (*note, strong participation from ORV participants in Area H occurred in the survey*)

What We Found

- The region contains many high value conservation lands that are important to biodiversity, ecological processes and climate resilience and adaptation.
- At 13%, the proportion of the region that is formally protected through a protected area is well below national conservation target of 30%. This will increase to approximately 15.6% if the proposed National Park is approved.
- Many of the region's most important ecological areas and areas important to climate change adaptation remain unprotected and are threatened by development and conversion. 23% of the region's lands that are ranked as having high (15%) and very high (44%) biodiversity rating are currently protected. And 17% of the region's lands that are rated as having high (18%) or very high (16%) conservation ranking are currently protected.
- Some popular recreation areas (e.g., Mountain Biking on Campbell Mountain, ORV trails in the Crump area) are regionally significant and hold considerable potential to advance outdoor recreation, the outdoor recreation economy and tourism.
- Not all residents have equitable access to quality and diverse parks within an easy walk.

What We Heard (continued)

- Residents want to have equitable access to quality local parks that provide a diversity of recreation opportunities within and easy walk from home.
- Opportunities to acquire regionally significant conservation and outdoor recreation park spaces will continue to diminish or be lost entirely as population and development grows. Residents are looking to the Regional District to provide regionally unique nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities beyond just local parks. Residents who do not face transportation barriers are willing to travel for regionally unique recreation opportunities.

TARGET

30% of the region's terrestrial area is protected through a national, provincial, regional, private land trust or other similar protected area.

Actions:

Regional Parks

1. Collaborate with partners to acquire land to establish an interconnected network of "regional conservation parks and natural space parks" that conserve the region's biodiversity, regionally significant and sensitive ecosystems, Indigenous and cultural values and support the region's climate change resilience and adaptation. Building on the existing network of provincial parks and protected areas, priority will be placed on establishing regional parks in areas of high or very high conservation ranking, relative biodiversity and / or habitat connectivity values, and areas that will improve climate resilience and adaptation.
2. Work with the Osoyoos Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band, the Upper Similkameen Indian Band, and the Lower Similkameen Indian Band to explore opportunities to identify and collaboratively pursue the acquisition and management of conservation and natural space parks to protect sites of cultural and spiritual significance.
3. Work with partners to explore the potential of establishing "Regional Recreation Parks" to provide regionally unique nature-based non-motorized and motorized outdoor recreation opportunities that contribute to the region's outdoor recreation and tourism economy. Based on community demand, current use and the potential to generate tourism, the first priorities should be placed on:
   - » Campbell Mountain Regional Recreation Area
   - » Crump Off-Road Vehicle Regional Park and Trails Area

4. Develop a criterion based *Regional Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Evaluation Tool* to support and ensure evidence-based regional park and trail land acquisition investment decisions meet outlined objectives. Ensure the tool considers and differentiates between conservation and recreation focused acquisitions while utilizing the best available information and data (e.g. OCCP conservation datasets).
5. Prepare a *Regional Parks Land Acquisition Strategy* to identify lands of greatest acquisition interest for regional park purposes. Integrate identified areas in statutory and non-statutory plans and policies as appropriate.
6. Continue to support and collaborate with other agencies and partners (e.g. provincial and federal governments, land trusts) in their efforts to establish new conservation and / or recreation focused parks and protected areas in the region.
7. Actively support regional and partner led efforts to inventory and map conservation values.

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Local Parks

8. Continue to assemble land and dedicate new local community, neighbourhood, and natural space parks. Priority will be placed on acquiring park lands (e.g., dedication, development cost charges, purchase, donation / gift etc.) that will address:
   - » Equity gaps in access to parks,
   - » Proximity gaps in park access, and / or
   - » Gaps in the diversity of recreation opportunities.

TARGETS

99% of all residential parcels within settled portions of Electoral Areas are within 400m of a park space that meets of exceeds quality expectations.

99% of residential parcels within settled portions of Electoral Area have access to multiple park-based recreation facilities.

4 ha of park space per 1000 residents (excluding regional parks)

9. The Regional District will prioritize assembly of land, rather than cash-in-lieu, where there is a need to address equity, proximity, or recreation diversity gaps in the current system and / or when the land will be of regionally significant conservation value. When considering land dedications, the Regional District will prefer dedicated land to meet one or more of the following conditions:
   - » The land will address a gap (e.g., equity, proximity, recreation diversity) in the current local parks system and / or increase the size and potential of an existing park,
   - » The land will be functional and capable of providing for the recreation priorities and needs of the Electoral Area or specific neighbourhood. The land will also need to have the necessary site servicing and utilities (e.g., power, water, sewer) to support those uses,
   - » The land will be accessible to residents via the active transportation network and / or appropriate road network and is sited to discourage undesirable behaviour in and around the park,
   - » A future park and the recreation opportunities it will provide will be compatible with adjacent land uses and where the risk for land use conflict is low,
   - » The land will allow the Regional District to address a connectivity gap in the regional/local trail or active transportation system,
   - » The land contains proven regionally important ecological values (e.g. conservation ranking, habitat connectivity, relative biodiversity), ecosystem processes and / or will support climate change resilience and / or adaptation,
   - » The land will not expose the Regional District to unreasonable and unmitigable geotechnical hazards.

10. Continue to actively pursue and establish mutually beneficial joint use agreements with the region's School Districts to expand and enhance the use of school yards as local park spaces and outdoor recreation amenities.
11. Encourage and support initiatives to implement temporary "pop up parks" in settled portions of Electoral Areas.

Pop-Up Parks

Are temporary park places that are tactically used to convert underutilized street and urban spaces into vibrant community spaces. Pop-up parks breathe new life into a community which bring people together in fun, creative and invigorating ways.

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7.2.3 Enhance and Diversify Regional and Local Parks

What We Heard

- For the most part, participants are satisfied with their park experience and the condition of park-based recreation facilities and amenities. But they identified many opportunities for continued improvement.
- Improving the consistency of supply and condition of visitor infrastructure and comfort and convenience amenities is a priority. Waste receptacles, beaches / swimming areas, toilets, wayfinding / signage, washrooms / change rooms, parking / staging areas and non-motorized water access points were highest priority.
- Residents are seeking a diverse range of unstructured, structured, non-motorized, motorized (especially Area H), and year-round park opportunities.
- Parks are important venues for hosting community and special events. However, infrastructure limitations within existing parks can make event hosting challenging.

What We Found

- 42% of parks are meeting condition expectations while 39% are exceeding condition expectations.
- 18% of parks are rated as being below expectations.
- Significant efforts have been taken to improve park entrance signage and comfort and convenience amenities. Opportunities exist to continue efforts to address missing or aging infrastructure and enhance the consistency of signage and amenity / infrastructure supply.

Actions:

1. Prepare community supported “park development and management plans” for individual regional and local parks to determine the design, renewal, and management of each park. Priority should be given to preparing development and management plans for parks that meet one or more of the following criteria:
   - » New regional parks and local community parks,
   - » Parks that are reaching the end of their lifecycle (as determined by condition assessments) and are highly used by the community and / or for community events,
   - » Parks that are rated as being “below expectations”, and/or
   - » Parks that require detailed management direction to address environmental values, potential user conflicts and / or potential conflicts with adjacent property owners.

2. Diversify the spontaneous recreation opportunities available in local parks with priority on trails, BMX / skate / small-wheeled skills parks, mountain biking skills parks, spray parks, destination water play features.
3. Provide a diversity of quality and sustainable non-motorized, mixed use, activity optimized (e.g. mountain biking) as well as universally accessible trails within regional and local parks.
4. Enhance the availability of winter-based outdoor recreation opportunities and servicing (e.g. washrooms, pathway clearing, programming) in "priority" local parks to ensure residents can be active outdoors year-round. Proactively identify and communicate to residents which parks will be prioritized for winter servicing.
5. Continue to provide a diversity of well-designed, fun, engaging, accessible and age-appropriate play spaces / playgrounds / play features in local community and neighbourhood parks where current and projected demographic data indicates that there are / will be a density of children and youth. Evolve future investments beyond the traditional focus on play equipment to focus more on the full spectrum of children and youth developmental needs (cognitive, physical, social, emotional, sensory). Where current playgrounds reach the end of their useful life or new play features are required, strongly consider the development of new innovative play spaces, "natural playgrounds" and "pathways for play" and ensure these integrate the **Seven C's of Early Child Outdoor Play Spaces** and other leading play space design practices.
6. Identify and pursue the development of major water destination play features at a beach-based regional recreation and local parks (e.g., Osoyoos Park).
7. Provide universally accessible beach opportunities through inclusion of adaptive recreation infrastructure such as beach mats.

Figure 33 Example Destination Water Play Feature

Play is a powerful means of promoting healthier, happier, and more inclusive communities.

But play is being restricted by:

- Limited availability of play spaces
- Lack of independent mobility of children through communities
- Free time indoors to use screen-based technology

8. Provide dog off-leash areas and dog-swim areas where conflict can be avoided or confidently managed especially as it relates to other park users, adjacent property owners and wildlife and environmental impacts. Ensure dog off-leash and swim areas apply best practice designs to provide a safe and enjoyable visitor experience and mitigate potential environmental impacts (e.g., water quality).
9. In keeping with the park classification system, ensure local community parks provide necessary infrastructure to enable and support community / special event hosting. Actively pursue grant opportunities to enhance hosting infrastructure in local community parks.
10. In keeping with the park classification system, develop detailed *Parks Design, Amenities and Level of Service Guidelines*. Apply the amenity standards and service guidelines to ensure infrastructure and comfort & convenience amenities are maintained to a quality level, consistently supplied, and adequately inspected and maintained.
11. Continue to enhance the quality and consistency of park signage. Develop a *Regional and Local Parks and Trails Signage Typology and Standard*. Apply this standard to ensure quality and appropriately branded signage is installed throughout all parks.
12. Identify pilot projects with partners to explore integration of smart technologies that can enhance and diversify the visitor experience and / or support improved management and data collection in regional and local parks.
13. Undertake Privacy Impact Assessments within parks and facilities to address potential video surveillance usage for compliance assurance and research.

TARGET

Each Electoral Area will contain at least one destination play space. All neighbourhoods with a density of children and youth will have walking access to a quality play space.

7.2.4 Formalize & Enhance Water Access

What We Heard

- Ensuring public access to water is important to residents. Water accesses are used for scenic viewing, launching of non-motorized watercraft (e.g. SUP, canoe, kayak), campfires and walking.
- Formalizing, making them easier to find and improving the quality and services provided at water access points is important.
- Some water accesses receive significant visitation and are creating, or have the potential to create, conflicts with adjacent property owners due to parking, crowding, noise and other behaviours.

What We Found

- Most water access points are associated with undeveloped road right of ways.
- Many water access sites are undeveloped, though regularly visited, and just 48% were rated as meeting or exceeding expectations.
- Some water access points are formally identified (e.g. signage) while others are not and its unclear if they are available for public use.
- Access into and through the spaces can be difficult, steep, eroded, and informal.
- Some water access sites provide visitor infrastructure (e.g. access trail, picnic table, stairs) though most do not. None of the water access points are universally accessible.

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Actions:

1. Work collaboratively with the local community to classify all public water access parks in accordance with the following typology outlined in Table 14:

Table 14. Typology of Water Access Parks

	Developed	Minimally Developed	Undeveloped
Purpose	Provide opportunity for residents and visitors to connect with and experience the water and shoreline. These sites may also provide formal opportunity to launch non-motorized watercraft (e.g. SUP, canoe, kayak). Sites will be formally identified as a Public Water Access Park through signage and information available on Regional District / local mapping websites, and through other visitor information channels.	Provide opportunity for residents and visitors to connect with and experience the water and shoreline. These sites may also provide informal opportunity to launch non-motorized watercraft (e.g. SUP, canoe, kayak). Sites will be formally identified as a Public Water Access Park through signage and information available on Regional District / local mapping websites, and through other visitor information channels.	To retain the sites in a natural state. These sites will remain unsigned, unpromoted and undeveloped.
Access into Site	• Hardened trail / pathway	• Natural surfaced trail	• No formal access provided.
Watercraft Launch	• Non-motorized • Motorized	• Non-motorized	• None
Parking	• On-site • On-street	• On-street	• None
Typical Comfort & Convenience Amenities	• Benches • Picnic table with concrete pad • Waste receptacles • Firepits • Bicycle parking • Public art	• None	• None

	Developed	Minimally Developed	Undeveloped
Signage	• Gateway • Regulatory • Education / Etiquette • Interpretive	• Gateway • Regulatory • Education / Etiquette	• None
Universally Accessible	• Desirable pending site conditions	• No	• No
Site Naturalization & Beautification	• Desirable and should be considered	• Site naturalization to restore ecological values, no site beautification	• Site naturalization to restore ecological values, no site beautification

Figure 34 Developed Water Access Park Example

7.2.5 Green Parks & Park Operations

What We Heard

- Parks should be sustainably designed (e.g. green infrastructure) and operated. They should contribute to habitat and ecosystem values and support the region's resilience and ability to adapt to climate change.

What We Found

- There is both an opportunity and a need to integrate green infrastructure into community and neighbourhood parks. Green infrastructure can help to mitigate environmental impacts (e.g., stormwater runoff) and enhance habitat value (e.g. pollinators) and manage ecosystem processes (e.g. flood control).
- There is also opportunity to mitigate environmental impacts (e.g. carbon emissions) from park operations and maintenance practices.

Actions:

1. Incorporate green infrastructure in parks to improve habitat (e.g., pollination), promote climate adaptation & resilience and mitigate storm water and other undesirable impacts.
2. Ensure development of parks apply the latest Low Impact Development principles and, where appropriate, retain natural features or establish naturalized features and utilize native plants and materials.
3. Working with partners, undertake a review of all regional and local parks to identify, define and prioritize habitat restoration and invasive species control initiatives.
4. Undertake a review of park operations, including maintenance practices and equipment, materials procurement and develop a *Park Operations, Maintenance and Procurement Policy* to minimize climate and other environmental impacts associated with parks operations and procurement.

7.2.6 Activate Regional and Local Parks

What We Heard

- Parks are generally meeting visitor expectations. However, greater investment is needed in strategies that activate the parks and attract visitation.
- Public art is an important opportunity to further activate parks, but a more deliberate approach is needed to proactively enable and attract public art installations.

What We Found

- Parks in the region largely provide passive visitor experiences. There is opportunity to activate parks and enrich the visitor experience through programming, interpretation, events, and private sector service providers.

Actions:

1. Work with partners to develop in park "learn to" outdoor recreation literacy programs that bring people, especially youth, to the parks and build their outdoor recreation literacy.
2. Collaborate with partners to provide interpretive programming and active learning opportunities in parks (e.g., nature, Indigenous, history / heritage) and enrich / deepen the visitor experience and connection with nature. Enhance interpretive signage throughout parks to provide for self-guided learning and appreciation.
3. Enable business and service providers to provide visitor services in parks where doing so will enhance the visitor experience or deliver visitors services (e.g. food & beverage) that the Regional District is unable to provide.
4. Work with partners to ensure a year-round calendar of engaging events are offered in local, and where appropriate, regional recreation parks.
5. Develop a Local Parks Public Art program to celebrate local Indigenous and non-Indigenous visual and performing artists. The program will proactively identify locations within local parks that are appropriate for public art and develop a policy and process to actively solicit, select, and commission public art installations and events that are focused on enriching the visitor's experience and appreciation of and understanding of the park's values, Indigenous peoples, local history and heritage or the local environment.

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7.2.7 Proactively Manage Visitation in Parks

What We Heard

- The top management issues include littering, environmental damage, theft, dog waste and visitor safety / unsafe behaviours.
- Better data and insights are needed to enable transparent decision making about park investments and management.

What We Found

- Management issues and concerns are increasing in regional and local parks. A more proactive approach to park and visitor management is required into the future.
- The lifecycle stage of park infrastructure varies. There is a need to formalize the Regional District's approach to asset management and planning.
- Data on and insights about park visitors, visitation patterns, facility utilization and the condition of parks is limited. There is a need to improve the collection of data to better inform and enable evidence-based decision making.

Actions:

1. In parks that receive extensive visitation and / or growing management concerns, adopt and utilize the **Interagency Visitor Use Management Council's Visitor Management Framework** to prepare visitor use management plans to identify how visitor use will be actively managed.
2. Adopt Leave No Trace as the Regional District's visitor education skills and ethics program and messaging. Using Leave No Trace principles, develop a comprehensive "visitor education program" to educate visitors about responsible recreation practices and address undesirable visitor behaviours and impacts.
3. Work with bylaw officers to identify issues and locations of recurring non-compliance (e.g., off-leash dog walking, partying, vandalism) and undertake targeted compliance patrols during known problem periods.
4. Continue to work with community partners to identify and compassionately address park encampments by individuals who are experiencing homelessness.
5. Implement data collection methods (e.g., intercept surveys) and technologies (e.g., big data) to better understand visitors (e.g. origins, activities, motivations, satisfaction, net promoter score), visitation patterns (e.g. location, temporal distribution, duration) and facility utilization. Integrate this data and knowledge into capital decision making and to optimize routine maintenance service levels and operations.
6. Consider joining **Yardstick** to enable easier level of service comparisons and benchmarking and better inform decision making.

7.2.8 Make it Easier for Residents and Visitors to Learn About, Locate, Access and Enjoy Parks

What We Heard

- Friends, family and word-of-mouth is the most common source (72%) of information about parks opportunities in the region (72%). Social media (58%) and the Regional District's website (46%) were the next most important sources reported by engagement participants.
- Access to information about parks in the region emerged as an important theme in the engagement. Participants are seeking better, more timely and easier to access information about parks and park opportunities in the Regional District.
- Many residents and visitors do not understand or distinguish between Regional District provided parks and other park providers.

What We Found

- Residents and visitors require timely, accurate and easy to access information about parks, park locations, rules, programming etc.
- There is opportunity to improve website, social media and communication channels to help residents and visitors find and enjoy parks and programs, and to provide information that helps them enjoy parks responsibly. The current website can be re-oriented to be more visitor and visitor planning focused.
- Marketing through social media and online platforms together with on-site marketing such as banners, posters and signs can greatly increase visitation to parks and increase physical activity levels in parks.[xviii]
- There is opportunity to continue to strengthen the brand and brand recognition of Regional District parks.

Actions:

1. Working with partners, develop and utilize modern communication channels, tools, and promotion strategies to:
   - » Raise the awareness of Regional District parks and their value to the region,
   - » Encourage/assist residents and visitors with accessing and enjoying parks,
   - » Support/ drive residents and visitors' awareness of recreation, learning and appreciation opportunities available within parks, and
   - » Promote responsible recreation.

62% More Users

On-site banners, posters and signs brought a 62% increase in users and a 63% increase in moderate-to-vigorous physical activity in neighbourhood parks.

– City Parks Alliance – Active Parks, Healthy Cities

2. Update the Regional District Parks website to be more client and experience focused. The website should serve more as an invitation to residents to visit Regional District parks. And it should contain tools to help visitors search for and find parks that provide their desired activity, amenity, event / program and/ or search for parks in general geographic area of the region they wish to recreate in. The website should also help residents and visitors learn about the Regional District's parks system, its value to the region, Indigenous peoples and promote responsible recreation.
3. Actively and regularly work with other platforms that are relevant and widely used by specific demographics or visitor types to ensure data and information provided on those platforms are accurate (e.g., TrailForks, AccessNow etc.).
4. Establish relationships with recognized community influencers (groups and individuals) to cross promote Regional District parks and programs.
5. Work with the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA) and local Destination Marketing Organizations to integrate appropriate Regional District parks, park experiences and programs that are market and export ready into regional and local tourism marketing campaigns.

7.2.9 Adequately Resource Parks

What We Heard

- Residents and visitors expect quality, safe and well-maintained parks, and park infrastructure. The community is seeking increased service levels for regional and local parks and trails including the acquisition and development of new and enhancement of existing parks and trails.
- There is a general recognition that funding levels for recreation services and parks should be increased to meet anticipated demands.
- Engagement participants were generally supportive of paying more for parks and trails service. There is a high level of support amongst engagement participants to increase tax requisition by $25-$35 per year to fund land acquisition for parks and trails and to improve recreation facilities.

What We Found

- Demand for and visitation to parks and trails in general has never been higher. The Regional District's current staffing and capacity is challenged to keep up with demands of the expanding parks and trails system, increasing visitation as well as public expectations to elevate service levels. This in turn has elevated demands for greater planning, policy, operations, and administration services. The current capacity and resourcing is unlikely to be sufficient to meet the current and future needs and expectations.
- Land valuation and acquisition costs continue to increase making it much more difficult to acquire lands for park purposes with the Regional District's current reserves. Expanding the network of conservation focused parks will require adequate reserves to enable land acquisition.
- The management challenges facing park managers (e.g. user conflicts, crowding, unauthorized trail building, homelessness, climate change etc.) are becoming increasingly complex. Park managers require ongoing professional development and training to adequately prepare them to face these challenges.

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Actions:

1. The Regional District will establish and maintain level of service based operating budget ratios to ensure both regional and local parks and trails operating budgets, including the funding contributed by the respective Electoral Areas, are adjusted proportionately each year in accordance with acquisitions, capital additions / enhancements and service level increases.
2. Ensure the Regional District's resourcing and capacity (e.g. staffing) levels continue to increase to meet the contemporary demands associated with a growing parks and trails system, increased visitation, and expectations for elevated service levels.
3. Prepare a Parks and Trails Revenue Generation Strategy to identify the most feasible non-tax requisition-based revenue generating and cost recovery mechanisms for regional and local parks and trails while being conscious of the need to limit further barriers and inequities. As necessary, pursue amendments to relevant bylaws to enable implementation of feasible cost recovery mechanisms.
4. Pursue enhanced professional development and training to strengthen staff capacity to address contemporary challenges and opportunities in the regional and local parks and trails system. Continue to monitor best practices in parks and trails design, development, maintenance, and management. Immediate priority should be placed on training in:
    - » Indigenous rights, title and truth and reconciliation.
    - » Planning, policy, and design to support diversity, equity, and inclusion.
    - » Conservation network planning and design and green infrastructure.
    - » Climate change resilience and adaptation.
    - » Visitor management planning and data collection.
    - » Asset management and asset management planning.

SECTION 8

THE GAME PLAN FOR TRAILS

DRAFT – For Discussion Only

8.1 TRAIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Trail classification is a fundamental foundation for all trail systems. Trail classification is a comprehensive approach to describing and documenting the intended characteristics of a trail. Trail classification provides direction to and supports decisions about trail siting and design, permitted trail activities, amenities, management, maintenance, land acquisition among others. Classifying trails also allows the Regional District to help residents and visitors find the trails that are right for them and provide them with accurate and consistent information about the trail's characteristics. Through this plan, the Regional District is establishing a renewed approach to trail classification.

There are two components to the trail classification system:

- Trail Type
- Trail Class

Trail Type

Trails can be categorized as one of two types:

- Regional Trail
- Local Trail

It is important to understand the distinction between these two trail types. Though both are designated as trails, regional and local trails intentionally differ in terms of the visitor experience, connectivity, uniqueness / significance, role in active transportation, the catchment they attract visitation from, contiguous length and who benefits most from the trail. Regional and local trails also differ in how acquisition, development and operations of the trail are paid for. Table 15, illustrates the fundamental differences between regional and local trails.

'Game Plans'

outline the strategies and actions that will be taken to achieve the desired outcomes.

Strategies

What we will do!

Actions

How we will do it!

Table 15. Characteristics of Regional and Local Trails

Characteristics	Regional Trail	Local Trail
Purpose	While the design characteristics and permitted uses vary, the purpose of a regional trail is to provide one or more of the following: • Exceptional and regionally significant trail-based recreation opportunities. • Safe off-road active transportation options, connections to multi-modal transportation linkages and connections between communities throughout the region and adjacent jurisdictions. • Connection to and appreciation of nature and education and celebration of regionally significant culture and heritage. • Grow the trail tourism sector throughout the region.	While the design characteristics and permitted uses vary, the purpose of a local trail is to provide one or more of the following: • Local trail-based recreation opportunities for individual neighbourhoods or communities. • Safe off-road active transportation options between neighbourhoods. • Connection to and appreciation of nature and education and celebration of locally important culture and heritage.
Connectivity	• Communities within region. • Neighbouring regions. • Major destinations.	• Neighbourhoods within Electoral Area.
Regional Uniqueness / Significance	• Provides a regionally unique trail-based recreation opportunity.	• Provides for local trail-based recreation.
Role in Active Transportation	• Inter & intra-regional active transportation.	• Local or no active transportation role.

Characteristics	Regional Trail	Local Trail
Typical Visitation	• Majority of visitors are from across the region or abroad. • Strong trail tourism potential.	• Vast majority of visitors are local. • Low trail tourism potential.
Length	• Longer – may provide the opportunity for a full day or even multi-day trail experience.	• Shorter – typically, but not exclusively, provides opportunity for a part day trail experience.
Beneficiaries	• For the benefit of the region as-a-whole (residents of electoral areas and municipalities).	• For the benefit of electoral area residents.
Requisition	• Funded through region-wide tax requisition	• Funded through Electoral Area tax requisition. **Trails located within local parks are considered local trails and are funded through the capital and operational budgets associated with the park service they are located within.*

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Trail Classification

Trail stakeholders we clear that the Regional District needed to update its approach to classifying and documenting its trails and providing information about the characteristics of trails to visitors. Though a trail classification system was outlined in the 2011 Regional Trail Master Plan, this system does not provide the Regional District or visitors with clear direction on or understanding of the:

- Season of use.
- Activities permitted on the trail.
- Whether the trail is / will be optimized for any specific activity.
- Level of development.
- Level of preparation visitors require to travel the trail safely.

In addition, the part trail classification system does not use an approach that ensures the physical design of the trail is deliberately driven by the needs of permitted activities and the intended level of challenge.

Moving forward, and recognizing that the province may establish a provincial trail classification system, the Regional District may utilize the **National Guidelines for Classifying Multi-Use Trails in Canada** and associated design parameters (Figure 35) as its classification system. This innovative classification system allows the Regional District to comprehensively classify regional and local trails, determine the design parameters for these trails, and document these decisions for each trail in a Trail Management Objective form (Appendix A.2). The selected classification and design parameters for each trail will provide a basis on which the Regional District will monitor the condition and characteristics of each of its regional and local trails and prioritize maintenance initiatives to ensure the trails remain in line with the intended classification and design parameters.

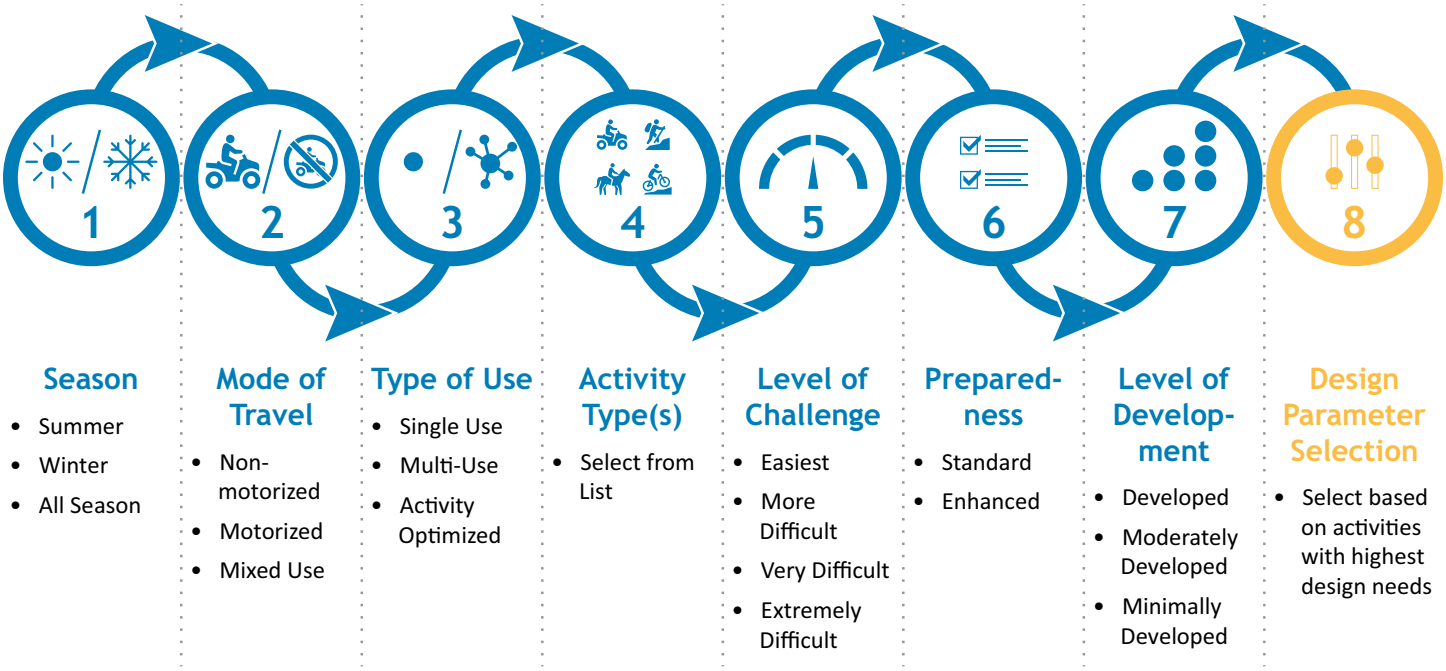

Figure 35 Trail Classification System

8.2 STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

8.2.1 Expand & Connect Trails

What We Heard

- 99% of participants indicated that being outside and enjoying the outdoors was important.
- 97% of participants indicated that enjoying trails was very important (88%) or somewhat important (9%).
- Participants support expanding and connecting the regional and local trail systems. 85% of participants strongly agreed (65%) or somewhat agreed (25%) that the Regional District should pursue the establishment of more trails in the region.
- Participants are supportive of establishing more natural surfaced hiking / walking trails, cycling trails, mountain bike optimized trails and ORV trails.

What We Found

- Gaps in the regional trail system exists. Not all communities and major destinations are connected to the regional trail system. Collaborative and strategic plans for each of the regional trails (trail segments) are needed to resolve these gaps and to identify trail specific improvements.
- Regional trails have not been clearly classified leading to visitor confusion, conflicts and uncertainty for trail mangers and visitors.
- There is opportunity to consider the creation of regional water trails on the region's major lakes.
- A prioritized and strategic approach to acquiring lands to address critical gaps in the regional and local trail systems is needed.

Actions:

1. Formally adopt and champion the implementation of the Kettle Valley Rail Trail (KVRT) Master Plan: Midway to Glenfir prepared collaboratively by Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA) with involvement of the Regional District and trail stakeholders. Actively advocate the Government of BC to immediately adopt and support the implementation of the KVRT Master Plan.

2. Adopt and work with Recreation Sites & Trails BC (RSTBC) to apply the following classifications for each regional trail or trail segment. Work with the province to amend the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Province and the Regional District to reflect the following trail classifications:

Trail	Segment	Season	Mode of Travel	Type of Use	Level of Challenge	Preparedness	Level of Development
Kettle Valley Rail Trail - East	Penticton to Little Tunnel	All	Non-motorized	Multi-use	Easiest (Green)	Standard	Developed
	Little Tunnel to Glenfir	All	Mixed Use	Multi-Use	Easiest (Green)	Standard	Developed
	Glenfir to RDOS Boundary	All	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use	More Difficult (Blue)	Enhanced	Moderately Developed
Kettle Valley Rail Trail – West	Penticton to Faulder	All	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use	Easiest (Green)	Standard	Developed
	Faulder to Brookmere	All	Mixed Use	Multi-Use Optimized for ORV	More Difficult	Enhanced	Minimally Developed
Kettle Valley Rail Trail – South Spur	Penticton to Osoyoos	All	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use	Easiest (Green)	Standard	Developed
Similkameen Trail (VV&E)	LSIB Reserve to Cawston	All	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use	Easiest (Green)	Standard	Developed

3. Prepare a long-term "Trail Development and Management Plan" for the South Spur (SS) of the KVRT between Penticton and Osoyoos to establish the corridor as a fully connected world class non-motorized trail, active transportation corridor, and signature trail tourism attraction. The development and management plan should address connectivity gaps, ongoing jurisdictional challenges, and ensure impacts of the trail's development/use will avoid or minimize potential impacts to species at risk particularly in the Vaseux Lake segment and Indigenous values. Work collaboratively with the Penticton Indian Band (PIB), Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB), Government of BC, and Government of Canada to establish an appropriate and respectful governance structure to lead the preparation of the master planning process.
4. Working in partnership with the Government of British Columbia, First Nations, local stakeholders, and the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA), prepare a "Trail Development and Management Plan" to establish the KVRT from Faulder to Brookmere as a year-round mixed-use trail that is optimized for off-road vehicle and snowmobile-based recreation and focused on becoming a major regional tourism attraction. Among other topics, the development and management plan should:
    - » Undertake a detailed condition assessment of the trail, amenities, and infrastructure (e.g., trestles).
    - » Identify strategies to address identified trail tread issues, aging infrastructure, and amenities.
    - » Identify suitable locations for the development of future major staging areas that will minimize conflicts with other trail users and nearby property owners.
    - » Identify a suitable location for the development of an Off-Road Vehicle adventure play park and campground that is connected to the trail.
    - » Address connectivity gaps through the Town of Princeton.
    - » Identify connections from the KVRT to adjacent trails and attractions.

A well designed, connected, signed, maintained, and activated trail network brings significant social, environmental, and economic value to the region.

5. Partner with RSTBC to explore a shared regional funding formula model for the upgrade, or replacement, of the trestles on the Faulder to Tulameen section of the KVRT to ensure the trail will remain a quality recreational asset and become an important tourism motivator for the region.
6. Undertake a trail connectivity feasibility study to explore the potential of establishing an off-road non-motorized multi-use trail connection of the KVR Trail from Penticton to Summerland using the KVR corridor. Work collaboratively with the Penticton Indian Band (PIB), Government of BC and others to establish an appropriate and respectful governance structure to lead the preparation of the study.
7. Work with the District of Summerland to formalize and sign the on-road KVRT connection between the Trout Creek Trestle and the Flume Trail.

8. Working in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation, Lower Similkameen Indian Band, and local governments, prepare a "Trail Development and Management Plan" to improve the connectivity and quality of the Similkameen Rail Trail (VVE) between the Lower Similkameen Indian Band's reserve lands in the west and Cawston in the east with consideration for establishing long-term connectivity to the proposed National Park Reserve and communities of the Similkameen Valley. The trail is to be developed as a safe non-motorized multi-use active transportation and recreation corridor
9. Encourage and support efforts to establish the Okanagan River Channel Trail as a major animated urban trail experience and visitor attraction in the region.
10. Work with stakeholders to identify a mixed-use trail connection from the Glenfir Staging Area to Midway. This mixed-use connection would provide Off-Road Vehicles with an alternate route that avoids the KVRT and would serve as an offset to the KVRT's non-motorized designation between Glenfir and Midway.
11. Work with stakeholders and Recreation Sites & Trails BC to establish a designated non-motorized mountain bike optimized trail connection between Campbell Mountain and Three Blind Mice Mountain Bike areas.
12. Explore the potential of creating paddling water trails on the region's major lakes with priority to Okanagan Lake, Skaha Lake and Osoyoos Lake.
13. Continue to acquire lands to connect and expand the trail system through the 5% dedication / cash in lieu and Development Cost Charges provisions in the Local Government Act.
14. Continue to support the development, promotion, and management of an interconnected network of safe on-Road Cycling Routes that connects all communities and major destinations in the region.
15. Continue to support the development, promotion, and operation of safe pedestrian corridors within higher density population centers of Electoral Areas.
16. Ensure Electoral Area and local government Official Community Plans are updated to reflect the future vision for each regional trail as established through the respective "Trail Development and Management Plans".

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8.2.2 Enhance Trails

What We Heard

- Participants reported being generally satisfied with their trail experience on the KVR between Naramata and Penticton (93% very or somewhat satisfied. Satisfaction with the remainder of the KVR trail and the Similkameen Trail were reported to be much lower.
- 89% of participants strongly agreed (54%) or somewhat agreed (35%) that investments should be made to enhance existing trails.
- Improving the consistency and condition of on-trail comfort and convenience amenities is a priority. Waste receptacles, toilets, wayfinding / signage, washrooms, parking / staging areas and benches / picnic tables were highest priority.
- Elevating the visitor experience and sense of arrival at staging areas is a priority.

What We Found

- Clear expectations about the trail design parameters and trail characteristics have not been formally set. As such, it is unclear if current trail conditions are in line with desired conditions.
- The condition of trails and trail amenities varies by trail segment. In general, declining maintenance, aging signage, and a diminishing condition of amenities and infrastructure are evident on some segments of trail.
- The provision of signage, and visitor comfort and convenience amenities vary significantly across trails. Deliberate decisions should be made about the intended service levels for these trails.
- Greater maintenance attention and capital replacement planning is required to ensure trail treads, signage and amenities are appropriate for visitors.

Actions:

1. In accordance with the assigned trail classification, develop and maintain Trail Management Objectives (TMO) for all Regional and Local trails using the TMO form in Appendix A.2.
2. Undertake detailed trail condition assessments of all Regional and Local trails. Compare current trail conditions with the established Trail Management Objective and design parameters and, where current conditions deviate from intended conditions, prioritize upgrades and maintenance to bring the trail condition into compliance with the Trail Management Objective.
3. In keeping with established trail management objectives, continue efforts to improve the quality and consistency of trail treads on Regional and Local trails to be suitable for the intended activities.
4. In alignment with the *Kettle Valley Rail Trail Master Plan: Midway to Glenfir* segment, work with partners to identify an appropriate site to develop a major “gateway” experience to the KVRT in the Penticton / Naramata area.

5. Continue to support the development and approval of the *Kettle Valley Rail Trail: Glenfir to Midway Signage Strategy*. Adopt and implement the signage strategy guidelines that are currently under development on all segments of the KVR and adapt and apply them on the Similkameen Trail.
6. In accordance with the trail classification and TMO, ensure visitor amenities and services provided on regional trails align with the level of service guidance established in the Regional Trail Level of Service Matrix (Appendix A.2).
7. Utilize the Parking, Staging Area & Trailhead Level of Service Guidelines (Appendix A.3) to classify all parking / staging / trailhead areas that provide access into Regional and Local trails and work to ensure the services and amenities provided align with the level of service guidelines.
8. Continue efforts to beautify and enhance access points, viewpoints, and destinations along Regional and Local trails.
9. Identify and pursue opportunities to support and provide winter trail-based recreation opportunities on Regional and Local trails.

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8.2.3 Proactively Manage Visitation on Trails

What We Heard

- Participants are concerned about growing volumes of use, littering, environmental damage and wildlife conflicts, theft, dog waste, visitor conflicts and crowding as well as invasive species control and wildfire management.

What We Found

- Visitation and the complexity of management challenges on Regional and Local trails continues to increase. A more proactive approach to visitor management planning and visitor management (e.g. education, enforcement) is needed.

Actions:

1. Undertake a spatial inventory and classification of all formal and informal trails within Local and Regional parks.
2. Accurately communicate the trail accessibility characteristics about each Regional and Local trail to visitors, including tread surfacing and widths, frequency & height of obstacles, grades and cross slopes, technical difficulty rating, level of preparedness rating, and whether amenities on the trail are universally accessible.
3. Work with partners and qualified environmental professionals to develop a green infrastructure and restoration strategy for each of the Regional District's regional trails to identify the location of and defines priority green infrastructure development projects, invasive species / weed control locations, habitat restoration projects and vegetation and fire management priorities.

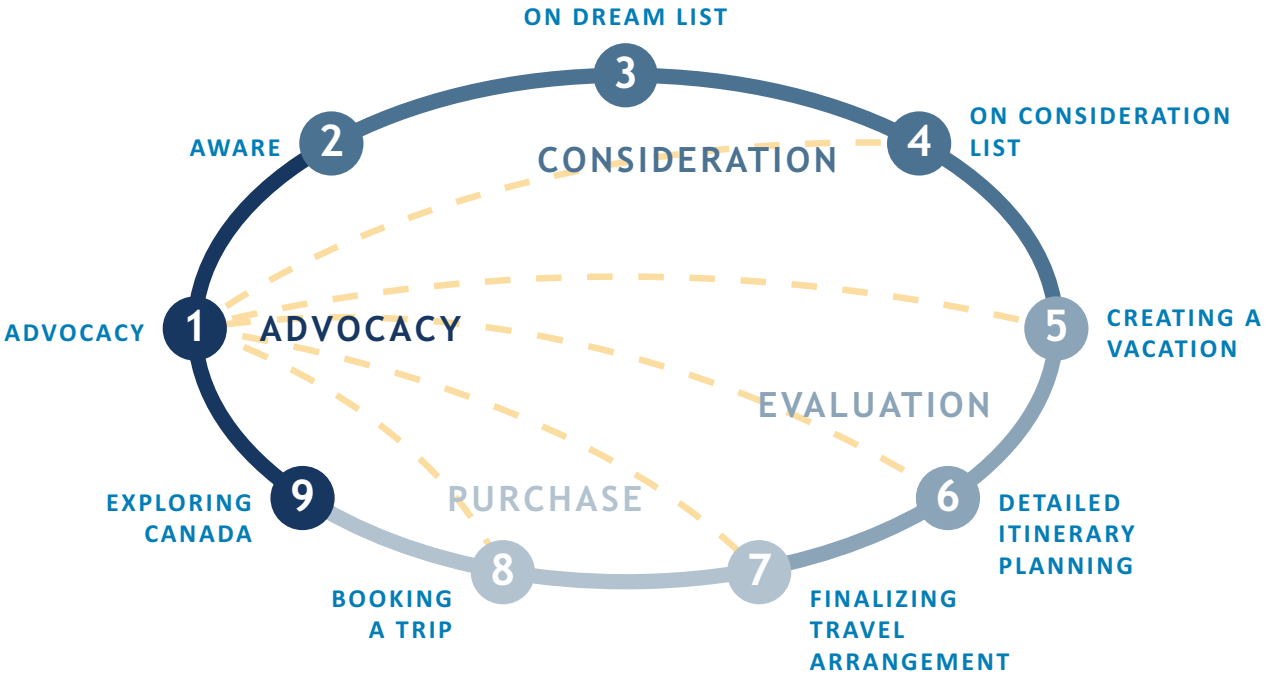

Figure 36 Visitor Trip Process & Pathway Adapted from Destination Canada

4. On trails with increasing volumes of visitation, increasing visitor impacts and growing visitor conflicts, utilize the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council's Visitor Management Framework (**https://visitorusemanagement.nps.gov/**) and prepare visitor management plans to resolve management concerns.
5. Adopt "Leave No Trace" (**www.leavenotrace.ca**) as the Regional District's visitor education program. Integrate Leave No Trace principles into signage, web-materials, and trip planning information as part of a comprehensive visitor education program. Work to reach visitors with Leave No Trace messaging at all steps of the visitor trip process and pathway (Figure 36).
6. Work with bylaw and enforcement officers to identify issues and locations of recurring non-compliance and undertake targeted compliance patrols during known problem periods.
7. Improve data collection to better understand visitors and visitation on Regional and Local trails. Design and implement a visitor counting program to estimate visitation to and understand visitation patterns within parks. Consider Big Data. Undertake a visitor intercept study every 3 years to understand visitor motivations, origins, composition, and satisfaction.
8. Develop a "Good Neighbours Education Program" to help strengthen relationships with adjacent landowners and educate adjacent landowners on the value regional trails and ways to mitigate the impacts of adjacent land use on regional trails. Continue to consider how management actions taken on trails might impact adjacent landowners and take appropriate action to minimize these impacts.

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8.2.4 Activate Trails

What We Heard

- Enriching visitor experiences available on Regional and Local trails is a priority. This activation will inspire more people to experience trails, enhance the benefits trails provide to visitors while also elevating the economic benefits of trails.

What We Found

- Visitor experiences are passively provided on Regional and Local trails. Interpretation and education and public art is limited. Active programming and special events that bring the trail to life and enrich the visitor experience are also limited and largely occur during the warm season.

Actions:

1. Create, or support the creation, of attractions and visitor experiences along regional trails to celebrate the region's nature, Indigenous peoples, and heritage.
2. Work with partners to provide creative and interactive interpretation and story telling experiences along Regional and Local trails to deepen visitor's understanding and appreciation of the lands through which the trail passes.
3. Develop and provide visitor programming on Regional and Local trails with a focus on building outdoor recreation literacy and / or education about nature, Indigenous peoples, and heritage. Build the programming in collaboration with partners where and as appropriate (e.g. Indigenous programming).
4. Develop a Regional and Local Trails Public Art Program to celebrate Indigenous and non-indigenous visual and performing artists. Identify suitable locations on Regional and Local trails for public art installations and events and a process to solicit, select and commission public art installations.
5. Work with partners to establish a year-round calendar of special events (e.g. races, celebrations etc.) focused on, or integrating, regional trails.

8.2.5 Make it Easier to Find and Enjoy Trails

What We Heard

- Friends, family, and word-of-mouth is the most common source of information about trails in the region (72%). Social media (58%) and the Regional District website (46%) were the next most important sources reported by engagement participants.
- Access to information about trails in the region emerged as an important theme in the engagement. Participants are seeking better, more timely and easier to access information about trails in the Regional District.
- Many residents and visitors do not understand or distinguish between Regional District provided trails and those provided by others (e.g. municipalities, BC Parks, stewardship groups).

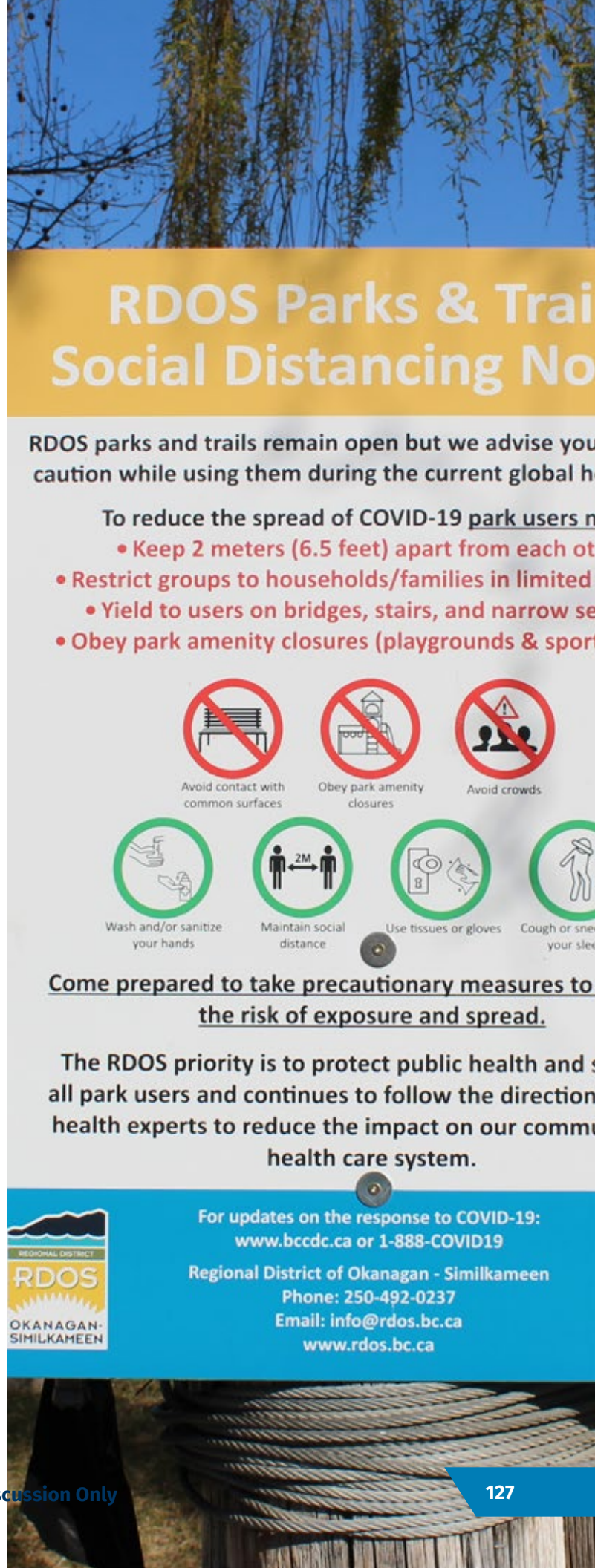
What We Found

- Residents and visitors require timely, accurate and easy to access information about trails, trail characteristics, rules, amenities etc.
- There is opportunity to improve the Regional District website, social media and communication channels to help residents and visitors find and enjoy trails and to provide information that helps them enjoy trails responsibly.
- Marketing through social media and online platforms together with on-site marketing such as banners, posters and signs can greatly increase visitation to parks and increase physical activity levels in parks.[xix]

Actions:

1. Update and re-orient the Regional District's trails webpage be more client and user experience focused. The website should serve more as an invitation to residents to visit the Regional District's trails and a tool to help visitors search for and find trails that provide for their desired activity, amenity, event / program and/ or by general geographic area of the region they wish to recreate in. The website should also help residents and visitors learn about the Regional District trail system, its value to the region, Indigenous peoples, and promote responsible recreation.
2. Work with other crowdsourced trail platforms that are relevant and widely used by specific trail enthusiasts to ensure data and information on the Regional District's trails is accurate (e.g. TrailForks, AccessNow etc.). Do not attempt to compete with these services through the Regional District's website.
3. Review the need for the "click, hike, bike" web page given the emergence and quality of other open-source trail trip planning tools such as TrailForks, AllTrails, Gaia, Fat Maps etc. If the website is to be retained, the functionality should be expanded to incorporate all trail experiences that occur on Regional District trails (e.g. ORV).

4. Working with partners, develop and utilize modern communication channels, tools, and promotion strategies to:
   - » Raise the awareness of Regional District's trails and their value to the region,
   - » Encourage and assist visitors with accessing and enjoying trails,
   - » Make residents and visitors aware of the recreation, learning and appreciation opportunities available on trails, and
   - » Promote responsible use of trails.
5. Establish relationships with recognized community influencers (groups and individuals) to cross promote visitation to and responsible use of the Regional District's trails.
6. Work with Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA) and local Destination Marketing Organizations to integrate Regional District Regional trails that are market and export ready (see criteria here) into regional and local tourism marketing campaigns.



8.2.6 Enhance Collaboration & Coordination

What We Heard

- Trails in the region are provided by multiple levels of government across multiple jurisdictions. The trail systems are highly integrated and strong collaboration, coordination and communication across the entire trail system is needed between all governments and other partners.
- There are many different trail stewardship groups in region who are working to advance trail development.

What We Found

- Regional coordination and collaboration for trail planning and development is occurring but usually on a project-by-project basis. Strategic coordination and collaboration can be strengthened through a more formal approach and governance structure for both governments and trail user / stewardship groups as well as trail-based tourism operations.

Actions:

1. Work collaboratively with trail stewardship groups and Recreation Sites and Trails BC to Lead and / or support trail planning initiatives on Crown Lands where such initiatives will provide regionally unique trails and trail-based recreation opportunities and / or active transportation for residents and / or result in growing the region's trail tourism economy.
2. Establish a "Trails Enhancement Grant" to provide funding support to trail stewardship organizations for the building, maintenance, management, and operations of trails that provide regionally unique trails and trail opportunities but are not funded as a "Regional Trail".
3. Continue to enhance relationships and coordination with BC Parks, Recreation Sites & Trails BC, Parks Canada, Municipal Parks and Trail providers and neighbouring jurisdictions to coordinate acquisition priorities, connection priorities and capital improvements where appropriate.

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SECTION 9

THE GAME PLAN FOR RECREATION

The Strategies and their associated Actions for recreation contained in this section have been organized into two overarching categories:

- **Service Delivery Strategies:** How the Regional District will invest in and provide services. In some cases, these Strategies suggest a different course of action while others are simply intended to re-embed practices that work well.
- **Infrastructure Strategies:** Future course of action specific to facilities and amenities. These Strategies generally suggest one or a combination of the following approaches: develop, renew, explore / study, or decommission.

'Game Plans'

outline the strategies and actions that will be taken to achieve the desired outcomes.

Strategies

What we will do!

Actions

How we will do it!

DRAFT – For Discussion Only

9.1 SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGIES

9.1.1 Establish a Baseline Level of Service Across the Regional District that Aligns the Level of Investment with the Service Provided

What We Heard

- 56% of public survey participants support increasing recreation funding to enhance service levels. However, most support only a minimal tax support increase (61% less than $100 per year)
- Public survey participants and stakeholders expressed the importance of ensuring clarity around the relationship between investment and service offerings.

What We Found

- Like many regional districts, there are an assortment of historically based funding approaches and service levels across the Regional District.
- Recreation activity trends and needs are continually evolving; best practices suggest creating service delivery models that are flexible yet provide alignment between investment and service levels.
- Population and demographics characteristics across the Regional District are diverse in terms of age and income, requiring a service delivery model that can adjust and meet an array of needs.

Actions:

1. **Establish a Service Level Expectation Framework that provides a general continuum from which to guide the alignment of core recreation services provided with the resourcing allocated at both a region-wide and electoral area scale.** This Framework needs to be flexible, acknowledging the different service delivery contexts that exist across the Regional District and the reality that scaling up service delivery (if additional resource allocation occurs) is a gradual process. An example Framework is outlined by Figure 37. As per the example Framework, the Regional District should only be a primary direct delivery agent of recreation when resourcing is adequate (e.g., the "Enhanced" level along the Framework continuum) but should support and foster programming to some degree for all residents.

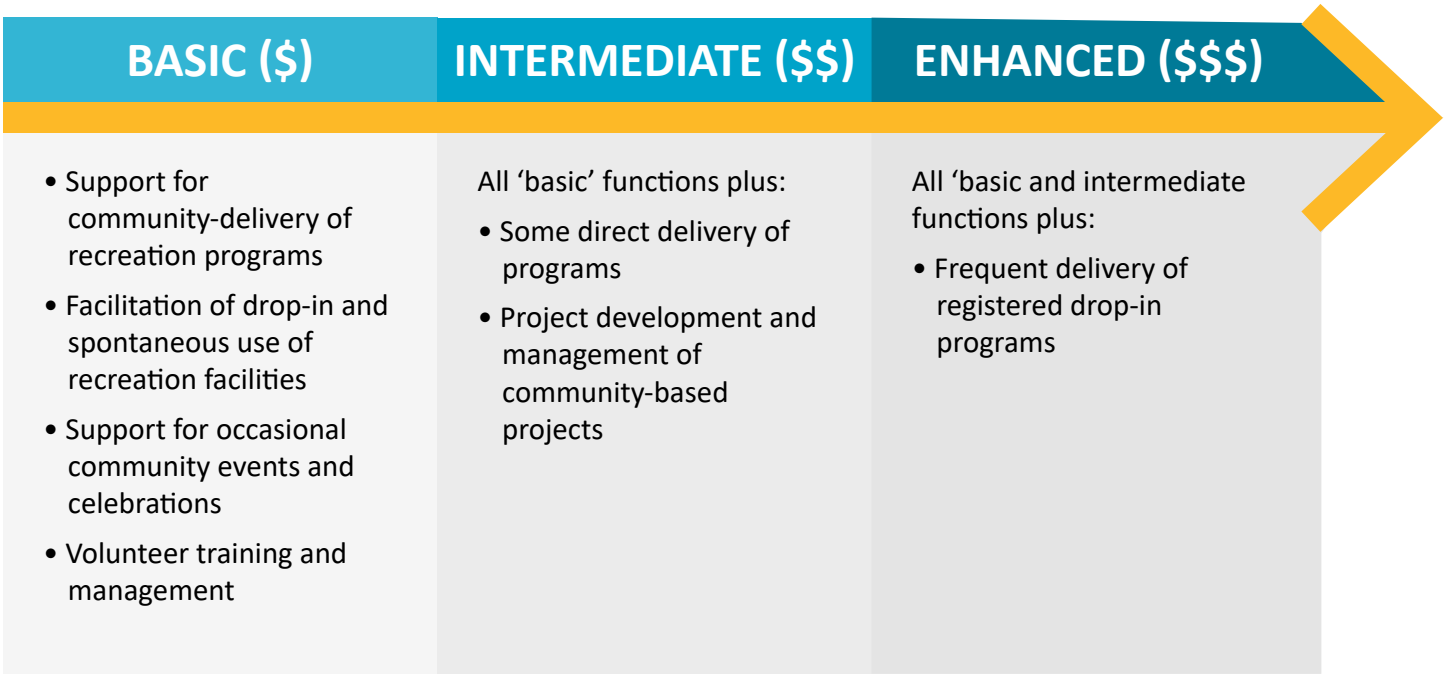

Figure 37 Example Service Level Expectation Framework

It is also important to note that the delivery of regional recreation services has associated administrative resource requirements that need to be included as part of the resourcing procured through Electoral Area taxation (regardless of the service level along the continuum). These costs should be assumed to account for approximately 25% of the overall service delivery costs while the actual delivery of programs and activities should be assumed to account for 75%.

Figure 38 reflects additional considerations for how the entirety of costs (administrative and delivery) should be identified.

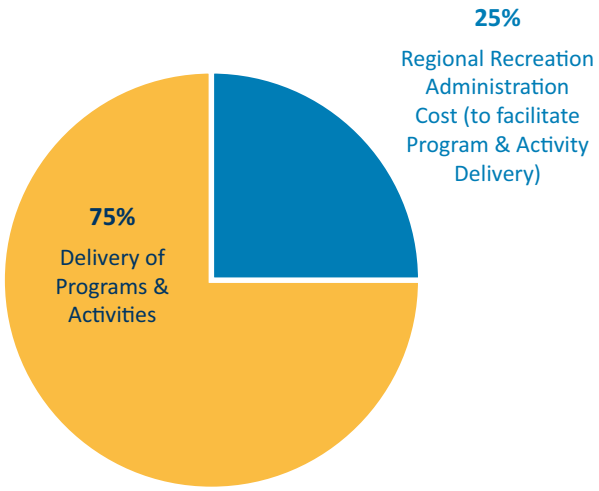

Figure 38 Administration and Delivery Costs

Table 16. Costs Associated with Providing Recreational Opportunities

Regional Recreation Administration Costs (Generally these are fixed administrative costs to provide services)	How should overall costs (administrative and service delivery be determined?)
• General administration of the recreation department (budgeting, human resources) • Provision of system service requires such as marketing and promotions, bookings and registration, and customer service • Development and implementation of one-time projects that pertain to the entire Regional District • Ongoing management of formal agreements with service delivery partners • Support for Regional District events and seasonal activities • Support for delivery of Regional District programs such as childcare and community health programs	• The number of registered program and drop-in classes offered per season by user segment. • The number of active membership and average weekly member visits • The number of facility permits/bookings issued/ managed • The number of community meetings attended in support of volunteer-based program delivery • The number of monthly hours of operations and maintenance of indoor recreation facilities • The number of monthly hours of operations and maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities • The number of hours committed to developing and facilitating partnerships with community groups and agencies • The number of hours to manage and implement projects • The number of hours committed to community

2. **Continue to prepare quarterly reports on the performance of all service areas.** These reports should utilize the performance measurement indicators and metrics wherever applicable.

9.1.2 Focus on Recreation Programming that Advances Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

What We Heard

- A theme expressed by public survey participants was a desire to see more programming for targeted (and potentially underserved cohorts) like youth, working age adults and seniors.
- The importance of providing opportunities for all residents was expressed during a number of the stakeholder discussions.
- 95% of public survey participants identified "ensuring program and service affordability" for residents as being an important priority for improvement (tied for the top overall priority amongst the available options).

What We Found

- The recreation sector is increasingly focused on issues of equity, inclusion and access; recognizing historical program and activity barriers and inequities.
- While some organizations exist to support individuals facing financial barriers to participation, the Regional District does not currently have a comprehensive or uniform fee assistance program.
- Many communities in the Regional District have a relatively limited supply of open and available gymnasium time to support casual and spontaneous indoor activity.

Actions:

1. Promote existing fee assistance programs available through local sport and recreation groups and not for profit organizations (e.g., KidSport, JumpStart, etc.).
2. Explore establishing a Regional District fee assistance program to ensure recreation and arts/culture programming is accessible to folks facing financial barriers to participation. While the aforementioned organizations identified in Action 1 may help provide access to sport and other specific categories of programming, a formalized program can help ensure accessibility to drop-in and casual forms of recreation.
3. Foster partnerships with local not for profit groups and service providers that have subject matter expertise on issues related to physical, social, cultural, and other forms of inclusion and equity. These collaborations should continuously identify opportunities to mitigate barriers and maximize inclusion across all recreation programs and facilities.
4. Ensure Regional District staff and other individuals involved in the provision of recreation (e.g., volunteers, community organization personnel, etc.) have access to inclusion and accessibility training.

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9.1.3 Undertake Initiatives to Better Understand Arts and Cultural Activity Needs

What We Heard

- While not within the core scope of the engagement, the importance of arts and culture was referenced throughout the engagement.

What We Found

- Many facilities in the Regional District support both traditional recreation and cultural purposes.
- The Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing provides broad based definition for recreation which clearly connects traditional recreation with arts, culture and related pursuits.
- The South Okanagan Similkameen Arts Council (SOS Arts) has undertaken an environmental scan that provides a good initial basis of data on opportunities in the Regional District.

Actions:

1. Undertake a comprehensive, regional Arts and Culture Strategy to provide a long-term roadmap for development of the arts and culture sectors in the RDOS.
2. Based on the results of the suggested arts and culture asset mapping and Needs Assessment exercise, evaluate the benefits of developing an Arts and Culture Master Plan for the Regional District.
3. Work with arts and cultural groups and community leaders to identify easy win facility upgrades and opportunities for cross-use (recreation and culture) that can maximize the use of multi-purpose rooms, gymnasiums, and halls for their program, activity and event purposes.

9.1.4 Enhance Communications Geared Towards Getting More Residents, More Active in Recreation Programming and Spontaneous Activity

What We Heard

- Only 24% of survey participants reported visiting an Regional District indoor recreation facility in the previous 24 months (compared to 42% that identified outdoor recreation facility use) and only 13% indicated participation in a Regional District provided program, class or event during the same timeframe. This finding suggests that opportunities exist to connect more residents to indoor based programming and activities.
- Lack of awareness was a clear theme provided by survey participants when asked why they don't participate in programming and activities.
- Findings from the engagement validated that the majority of recreation activity occurs semi or completely in spontaneous and unstructured ways.

What We Found

- Provincial and national recreation trends reflect a shift towards spontaneous and casual recreation participation. Aligning promotions and communications efforts with encouraging participation in these activities is a best practice.
- Opportunities to exist to continually modernize and advance promotions and communications tactics and platforms.

Actions:

1. Refresh the recreation content on the Regional District website to make it more user focused and inviting.
2. Identify opportunities to modernize and maximize the effectiveness of the online recreation guide (e.g. hyperlinks to the registration platform).
3. Continue to evolve and strengthen social media platforms presence to promote interest in both specific opportunities and general participation (e.g. the broad-based benefits of recreation).
4. Engage expertise to conduct accessibility reviews of recreation focused communication methods and tactics on a regular basis (e.g. every 3-5 years). These reviews should consider the communication needs of residents with physical impairments, ESL considerations, and other barriers that may prevent some residents from learning about recreation programming and activities.

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9.1.5 Collect and Utilize Data to Inform Future Recreation Programming and Infrastructure Decision Making

What We Heard

- Some stakeholders and community organizations expressed that they would benefit from access to better data that can inform their resourcing and decision making.

What We Found

- The collection of utilization data across the Regional District is inconsistent and not standardized.
- A trend and best practices within the recreation sector is a shift towards making programming and facility investment decisions based on data driven rationale (which requires accurate and easily workable data to inform these processes).

Actions:

1. Continue to advance the collection of program data. The Regional District should ensure its software platform collects and provides easy access to data on programming delivered as well as other aspects or recreation/ community development work directly by the Regional District and/or third-party delivery organizations.
2. Elevate the analysis and reporting of transactional data gathered in its software platform to promptly bring data-driven insights to the program planning and investment planning activities.
3. Identify tactics to better collect spontaneous use recreation activity data at non-bookable spaces such as outdoor rinks and court spaces. Spot counts by staff and use of other analytics tools could support this Action.

Having readily accessible data can help the RDOS determine program trends, emerging needs, and inform broader planning decisions.

9.1.6 Continuously Monitor Recreation Needs and Trends

What We Heard

- Public survey participants expressed a desire for different and new recreational opportunities (>90% expressed that providing programming for children, teens and older adults should be a priority focus area). Barriers like program times and lack of appealing programming were also identified.

What We Found

- The Regional District contains diverse communities (especially with regards to age and income) who have diverse recreation needs and desires.
- The Okanagan is a hot spot for many new activities like pickleball.
- Trends within recreation are continuously evolving.

Actions:

1. Conduct annual Electoral Area participant and community 'pulse' surveys to gauge satisfaction with current delivery of recreation services.
2. Conduct a Needs Assessment (or similar engagement and research exercise) every 5-7 years that generates fresh data which can be used to update the Master Plan and provide insights into activity trends and demands.
3. Regional District staff should continue to outreach and work with local programmers and community organizations to identify trends and viable solutions to meeting emerging needs.

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9.2 INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIES

Infrastructure investment by the Regional District will need to balance sustaining existing infrastructure with meeting needs for new or expanded types of facilities and amenities. This is a common challenge for most local and regional governments and requires decision making to be based on sound rationale while focusing on achieving maximum public benefit. Provided in this sub-section of the Master Plan are a series of Strategies and associated Actions for key types of recreation infrastructure.

9.2.1 Aquatics Facility: Balance providing this in-demand amenity type with the cost of providing aquatics infrastructure.

Current Supply

- 2 outdoor pools (one operated by the Regional District, with the other owned but not operated by Regional District)

What We Heard

- Given the proximity to natural water bodies, aquatics opportunities and programming that teach water skills are important to residents.
- 59% of public survey participants are satisfied with current outdoor pools in the Regional District.
- When asked about future recreation facility priorities, 75% of public survey participants identified pools as an important amenity requiring addition or improvement.

What We Found

- The outdoor pools in Oliver and Keremeos are nearing the end of their functional lifespan.
- During the Master Plan process, the Town of Osoyoos, Town of Oliver and the Osoyoos Indian Band initiated a feasibility study to assess need and identify locations for an indoor aquatics facility to serve respective taxpayers.
- Aquatics facilities have a significant capital and operational cost associated with their provision (often heavily dependant on weather and often don't achieve cost recovery)
- Trends in recreation facility development support developing multi-purpose facilities that can leverage operational efficiencies, leverage multiple funding sources, provide optimal user experiences and make the most efficient use of available land resources.

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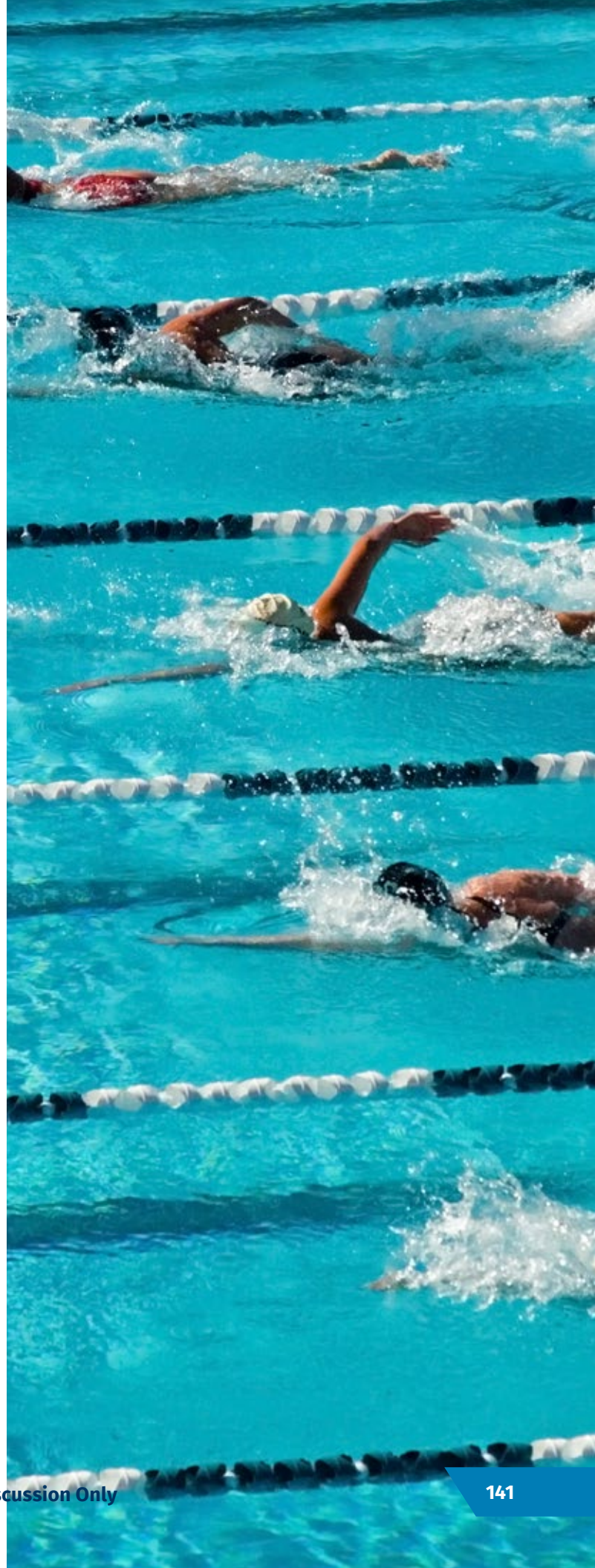
Actions:

1. As per Service Delivery Strategy 10.1.5, enhance data collection and analysis capabilities in order to better understand aquatics demand and capacity.
2. Conduct and monitor structural assessments of both outdoor pools to clarify remaining lifespan and guide asset management practices.
3. Utilize the Major Project Evaluation Framework provided in Section 10 to inform major aquatics decisions (e.g., renewal of the outdoor pools or support for a new indoor facility). The Regional District should additionally communicate these steps as a pre-requisite to potential regional partners before a request is made for support or partnership.
4. Consider the following key considerations when contemplating and analyzing support for a new indoor aquatics facility in the region:
    - » Accessibility of the proposed site (e.g., can it be sufficiently accessed by residents without a personal vehicle?)
    - » Co-location synergies and opportunities of other recreation amenities
    - » Financial risk profile to the Regional District (e.g., of not meeting anticipated levels of use and revenues)
    - » Anticipated regional use beyond the Regional District's boundaries
    - » Operational implications for existing outdoor pools operated by the RDOS



9.2.2 Ice Arenas: Determine the best course of action to sustain existing ice arena provision.

Current Supply

- 2 indoor ice arenas (Oliver Arena and Osoyoos Sunbowl Arena)
- 2 outdoor ice arenas (one refrigerated (Similkameen Rec), one covered (Tulameen)

What We Heard

- Stakeholders are concerned about aging infrastructure, including ice arenas. The need for clear and strategic renewal plans was identified as a key priority.
- Satisfaction levels for outdoor rinks in the Regional District is high (89% are somewhat or very satisfied).
- Outdoor rinks are among the highest use outdoor recreation amenities in the Regional District (35% of public survey participants identified use).
- 77% of public survey participants identified outdoor rinks as an important amenity requiring addition or improvement.
- 60% of public survey participants identified outdoor rinks as an important amenity requiring addition or improvement.

What We Found

- Based on recent assessment data (2017 for the Oliver Arena and 2019 for the Osoyoos Sunbowl Arena) there is an estimated combined capital works of $4.0 M required for both arenas.
- 69% of prime-time ice at the Oliver Arena is consumed (moderate level of utilization).
- Participation levels in organized ice sports are stagnant (or in some cases decreasing).
- The refrigerated ice surface at the Similkameen Recreation Centre has a relatively short operating season due to environmental factors (sun sheen).

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Actions:

1. For the short to medium term, maintain the current provision of indoor ice arenas in the Regional District.
2. Maintain the current provision of outdoor ice in the Regional District and consider covering the refrigerated rink at the Similkameen Recreation Centre to maintain ice conditions and extend use.
3. Recognizing that significant re-investment is required to sustain the indoor ice arenas in Oliver and Osoyoos, further exploration is needed to better understand potential future options and associated financial impacts. It is recommended that the Regional District undertake an Ice Arena Strategy that explores the following key topics:
   - » The cost benefit of re-investing in the existing indoor arenas vs developing a new multi-sheet facility
   - » Overall long-term needs for indoor ice arena supply on a broader, regional basis

9.2.3 Gymnasium / Large Span Dry Floor Spaces: Ensure large span dry floor spaces are available to support demands for spontaneous recreation and meet a diversity of community needs.

Current Supply

- 2 school gymnasiums available through the Joint Use Agreement
- Kaleden Community Hall
- Zen Room and School Multipurpose Room – OK Falls
- Similkameen Rec Multipurpose Rooms

What We Heard

- The public engagement supports that there is a demand for fitness, wellness, and recreational (introductory) level sport that requires large span dry-floor space like gymnasiums.
- While COVID-19 has clearly impacted participation patterns, social activities remain important to residents and large span dry-floor space like gymnasiums and halls are important to residents.

What We Found

- A Joint Use Agreement provides access to 2 school gymnasiums. In general, collaborations between the Regional District and school system have been strong.
- As previously noted in this section, spontaneous use / casual access to gymnasiums is limited.

Actions:

1. Maximize use of existing gymnasium for community programming and special events.
2. Work with community organizations the School Districts to ensure maximum community use of available gymnasiums for both programmed and drop-in / unstructured recreational use.

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9.2.4 Sports Fields: Better understand utilization levels and identify the highest value use for sports fields within the Regional District.

Current Supply

- 8 ball diamonds
- 1 sports field (excluding school fields and flat open space)

What We Heard

- Public and stakeholder engagement did not reveal that ball diamonds and sports fields area significant priority relative to other amenities.
- Some demand for basic upgrades and enhancements were identified through the engagement (including backstops, dugouts, field surfacing, etc.)

What We Found

- Utilization data for sports fields in the Regional District is minimal, however there are no indicators of supply issues.
- The sports field and ball diamond inventory across the Regional District is of varying quality and condition.
- The need for critical mass for sports field activities drives most participants to larger centres in the region.
- The Oliver Recreation Complex is the most significant tournament site within the Regional District.
- Provincial and nationally, soccer remains a trending activity however participation is typically concentrated in major urban centres (drawing participants from surrounding smaller communities).

Actions:

1. As recommended as part of Service Delivery Strategy 9.1.5, improved collection of utilization data for both structured and spontaneous use of sport fields is needed to better understand utilization and demand.
2. Consider providing new sport fields to accommodate new sports (such as cricket) and wide-game sports (such as disc golf) in response to demonstrated demand for organized community groups.
3. Considering removing fencing and backstops at underutilized ball diamonds to enable those spaces to better function as multi-use open space or accommodate emerging outdoor activity needs.
4. Continue to monitor ball and rectangular field trends.

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9.2.5 Outdoor Court Sports: Balance emerging needs for activities like pickleball while ensuring quality infrastructure for a variety of outdoor activities that utilize sport court surfaces (tennis, basketball, ball hockey, etc.).

Current Supply

- Okanagan Falls Courts
- Kaleden Courts
- Naramata Pickleball Courts
- Naramata Tennis Courts
- Similkameen Recreation Centre – Pickleball, futsal and lacrosse
- West Bench / Mariposa Park Tennis Courts
- Oliver Courts

What We Heard

- Stakeholders are aware of pickleball as a trending activity.
- Youth and older adult activities were identified as a priority for enhancement by public survey participants. Sports courts are recognized as important amenities to support spontaneous play for these age cohorts.

What We Found

- Pickleball is an emerging activity with a strong presence and perceived level of demand within the Okanagan region. However, actual levels of participation and sport court utilization remain somewhat unclear due to a lack of data.
- Local governments in the region and across Western Canada have taken numerous approaches to balancing tennis and pickleball needs (some focusing on providing dedicated spaces while others have focused on creating multi-use spaces).
- There exists a variety of paved basketball, outdoor ice, and similar surfaces across the Regional District. These surfaces are of varying condition and use appears to be sporadic.

Actions:

1. Continue to work with the pickleball community to create or strengthen governance and player development practices (or multiple entities based on geography). Undertaking this Action will help the Regional District more effectively and cohesively work with the pickleball community to understand and track actual participation levels, future court space needs, tournament, and event hosting potential.
2. Conduct assessments of the sport court inventory and develop a prioritized renewal plan.
3. Develop approaches and tactics to better understanding actual sport court utilization (e.g., ensure formalized use occurs through a bookings process, undertake periodic spot counts, etc.).
4. Consider initiating a regional Sport Court Strategy in collaboration with municipalities in and adjacent to the Regional District. This study should:
   - » Explore regional needs and the best approaches for supporting the emergence of pickleball and associated infrastructure needs (including the right mix of community and hub courts, multi-use vs dedicated courts, etc.).
   - » Identify opportunities to re-purpose or renew underutilized court sports
   - » Engage regional and provincial partners in a process to create clear triggers and standards for sport court development

9.2.6 Additional System Wide Recreation Infrastructure Strategies and Actions

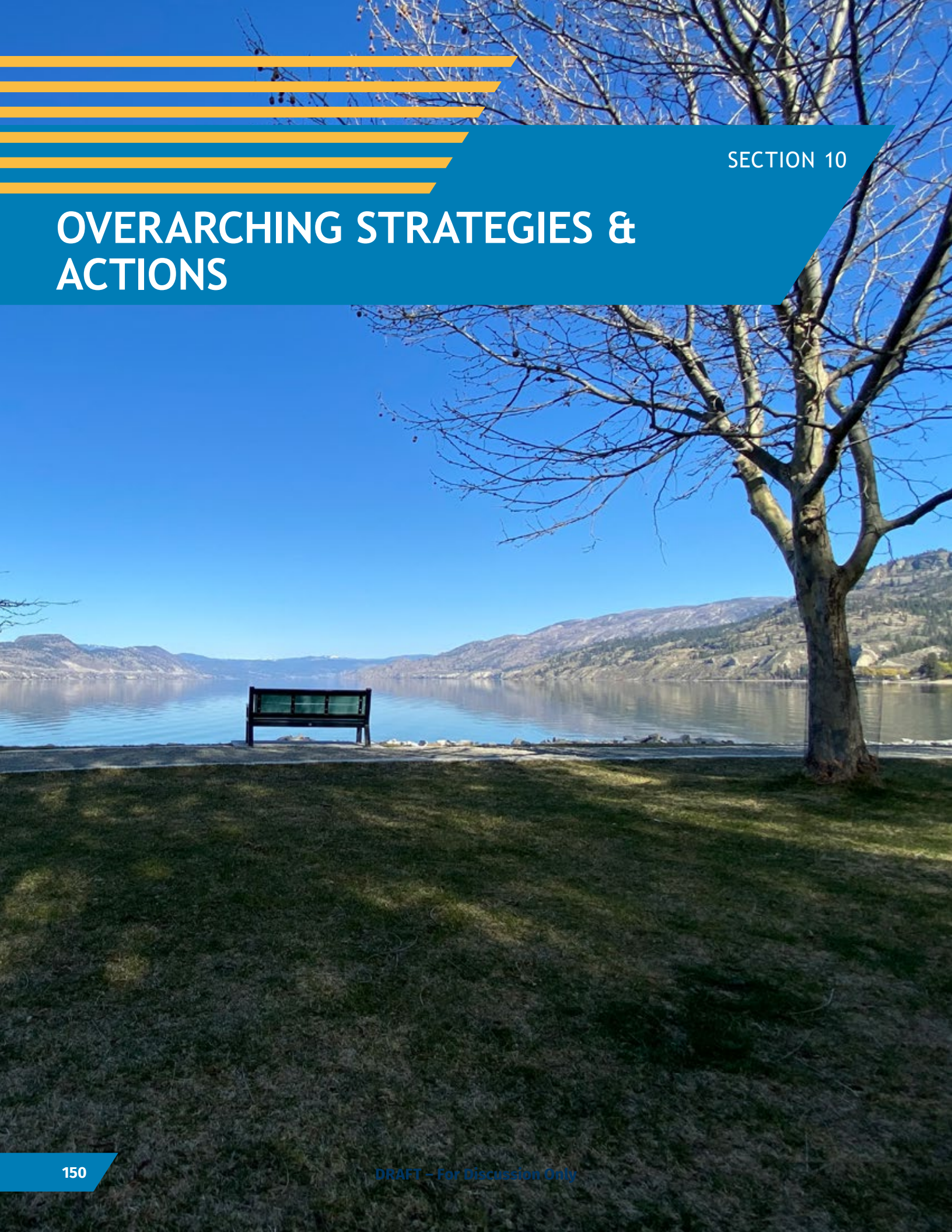
Several additional system wide Strategies and Actions have emerged that we will also proceed with in order to optimize our investment in recreation infrastructure and ensure those investments align with leading practices.

Table 17.

Strategies	Actions
Consider climate leadership and sustainability when planning for recreation infrastructure.	• Explore and consider the additional of green building systems and technologies as upgrades and renovations are being explored at Regional District operated facilities. • Encourage operators of Regional District supported, partner operated facilities to consider sustainability and green building technologies as upgrades, renovations and new facilities are being explored and designed.
Identify opportunities to 'place make' at recreation facilities across the Regional District.	• Integrate more public art and installation art into Regional District operated recreation facilities, parks and along trail systems.
Ensure sufficient and consistent community engagement is undertaken when exploring small capital projects and major capital development (renovations, expansions, retrofits, and new development).	• Follow engagement best practices such as the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation when designing engagement processes. • Among stakeholders and partners involved in a capital project, engage Parks and Recreation Commissions for input during the development or implementation of initiatives.

SECTION 10

OVERARCHING STRATEGIES & ACTIONS



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Some strategies and actions apply equally to the Regional and Local parks, trails, and recreation services. These "overarching" strategies and actions will be implemented and integrated into the respective service area.

10.1 UPDATE AND MODERNIZE THE POLICY AND BYLAW FRAMEWORK

What We Heard

- A consistent regional policy framework is required to ensure the consistent and effective delivery and management of parks, trails, and recreation services throughout the Regional District.

What We Found

- Policy gaps exist in several important topics.
- Existing policies should be reviewed, and where necessary, updated to ensure alignment with and support for implementation of the priorities in the master plan.

Actions:

1. Undertake updates to modernize and align the following bylaws with this plan:
   - » Regional Parks & Trails Service Establishment Bylaw
   - » Parks & Recreation Commission Bylaw
   - » Electoral Area Local Recreation / Parks/ Programming Service Establishment Bylaws
   - » Regional & Community Parks & Trails Regulation Bylaw
   - » Parkland Dedication Bylaw
2. In alignment with this plan, develop the following regional policies to address policy gaps and enhance policy direction:
   - » Fee Assistance Policy
   - » Commercial Use of Parks, Trails, and Recreation Facilities Policy
   - » Parks, Trails, & Recreation Volunteer Policy
   - » Special Events in Regional and Local Parks and Trails Policy
   - » Electric Bicycles on Regional Trail and in Regional Parks Policy
   - » Public Art in Parks, Trails, and Recreation Facilities Policy
   - » Alcohol and Controlled Substance Consumption in Parks and Trails Policy
   - » Partnership Policy

10.2 INCLUDE EVERYONE IN PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION

What We Heard

- Participants expect that parks, trails and recreation facilities and programs will be inclusive and equitably accessible.
- Few universally accessible parks, trails and recreation spaces, facilities and programs are currently provided in the region.

What We Found

- In order for residents to benefit from the recreation opportunities available to them, they need have the leisure literacy to be able to participate. Not all residents in the region hold this literacy and, therefore, not all residents are able to participate in RDOS parks, trails and recreation services.
- Leisure education programs are limited making it challenging for residents who face barriers to participation to overcome those barriers.
- Very few parks and trails provide universally accessible opportunities.
- Efforts are being made to enhance the universal accessibility of recreation facilities, but further work is required.
- Few adaptive recreation programs are available.

Actions:

1. Work with partners in education, health, justice, social services and other to develop and implement a comprehensive leisure education[xx] strategy to help residents who face barriers to experiencing parks, trails and recreation build the leisure literacy needed to participate in parks, trails and recreation.
2. Enhance and or provide more universally accessible in-park trails, playgrounds, outdoor recreation facilities and universally accessible and gender-neutral comfort and convenience amenities.

Leisure Literacy is...

The knowledge, skills, and confidence to engagement in personally meaningful, health-enhancing leisure.

Leisure Education is...

Leisure education is the process of building leisure literacy by enhancing citizen's leisure related knowledge, skills, confidence and awareness of leisure.

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3. Collaborate with adaptive recreation partners to provide or support the provision of adaptive recreation programs in Regional and Local parks, trails and recreation facilities.
4. Continue to provide and expand the “community recreation gear shed” to provide residents with access to free or low rental cost recreation equipment.

10.3 SUPPORT TRUTH & RECONCILIATION THROUGH PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION

What We Heard

- Parks, trails and recreation facilities and programs can venues for supporting truth and reconciliation.
- Participants are supportive of advancing Truth and Reconciliation through parks, trails, and recreation.
- Indigenous interpretation, story telling, art and Indigenous tourism are desirable and sought-after visitor experiences.

What We Found

- Though limited right now, parks, trails and recreation facilities hold significant opportunity to support truth and reconciliation and deepen visitors' appreciation, understanding and respect for First Nations.
- Relationships and partnerships between the Regional District Parks, Trails and Recreation program staff and First Nations need to be established to allow First Nations and the Regional District to explore opportunities to support truth and reconciliation.
- There is opportunity to engage First Nations, especially First Nation youth, in the operations of parks, trails and recreation facilities.

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Actions:

1. Work with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB), Penticton Indian Band (PIB) Lower Similkameen Indian Band (LSIB), Upper Similkameen Indian Band (USIB) and the South Okanagan Metis Association (SOMA) to identify meaningful ways to support truth and reconciliation in parks, trails and recreation facilities and improve resident and visitor understanding and appreciation of Indigenous peoples.
2. Work with OIB, PIB, LSIB, USIB and SOMA to identify ways to encourage and support Indigenous peoples with accessing Regional District parks, trails and recreation facilities and programs.
3. Collaboratively identify an appropriate governance structure to ensure OIB, PIB, LSIB, USIB and SOMA advice on the management of regional parks and regional trails.
4. Offer to work with OIB, PIB, LSIB, USIB and SOMA to identify spiritually and culturally significant lands to be considered in future regional and local park land acquisition priorities.
5. Offer support to Indigenous communities with inventorying parks and trails to identify spiritually and culturally significant sites and determining management practices to mitigate impacts of park / trail operations and visitation on identified values.
6. Work with OIB, PIB, LSIB, USIB and SOMA to identify ways to encourage and support Indigenous peoples with accessing Regional District parks to enjoy and practice their cultures, customs, languages in regional and community parks.
7. Work collaboratively with OIB, PIB, LSIB, USIB and SOMA to explore Indigenous youth employment and skill development opportunities and program in regional and community parks and trails.

10.4 ASSET MANAGEMENT

What We Heard

- There is opportunity to further enhance the current approach to asset management and capital renewal planning.

What We Found

- The Regional District does not yet have a comprehensive and spatial inventory of the parks, trails, and recreation assets that it is responsible for. Similarly, the Regional District does not yet have a complete picture of the lifecycle stage of its parks, trails and recreation assets or their remaining useful life.
- Understanding which assets the Regional District has responsibility for and their lifecycle stage is critical to forecasting and informing future capital and operational budgeting and decision making.

Actions:

1. Prepare a parks, trails, and recreation asset management plan to:
   - » Assemble a detailed inventory of all engineered assets and natural capital.
   - » Provide a condition assessment and estimate of the remaining useful life of each asset.
   - » Determine if there are other factors that should be considered in an asset management assessment such as customer experience.
   - » Estimate the unit value and replacement value of existing assets.
   - » Forecast the annual renewal need and capital reserve requirements to meet those needs as well as funding opportunities.

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10.5 ENHANCE THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR SEEKING CITIZEN AND STAKEHOLDER ADVICE ON REGIONAL AND LOCAL PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION SERVICES

What We Heard

- Commission members are keen to continue in their role and see value in having a local conduit to the community that provides advice to the Area Director.
- Commissions want to advise on future plans for parks, trails and recreation in their Electoral Area.
- It's difficult to recruit new Commission Members.

What We Found

- Inconsistencies (no standardization) in the roles and responsibilities of the various Commissions within the Regional District.
- Commissions are important conduits to their respective communities and can be a representative voice of the local perspective and potential community needs.

Actions:

1. Undertake a governance review to ensure role clarity, effectiveness, and consistency of the Parks and Recreation Commissions and their respective connection to the Director and Regional District staff.
2. Develop a process/flowchart to be used by Parks and Recreation Commissions for identifying, evaluating, budgeting, and securing approvals for minor projects. See Figure 39for an example of a suggested process.
3. Identify and facilitate increased opportunities for inter-Commission dialogue, knowledge sharing and strategic alignment.
4. Evaluate and identify an appropriate governance structure to improve communications, enhance coordination and obtain advice from citizens and stakeholders on Regional Parks and Trail regarding the implementation of this plan and regional parks and trails development, policy, management, and stewardship.
5. Identify a governance structure or format to improve cross government (provincial, municipal, regional, Indigenous) communication, coordination, collaboration and integration for Regional Park and Regional Trail planning, development, and management.

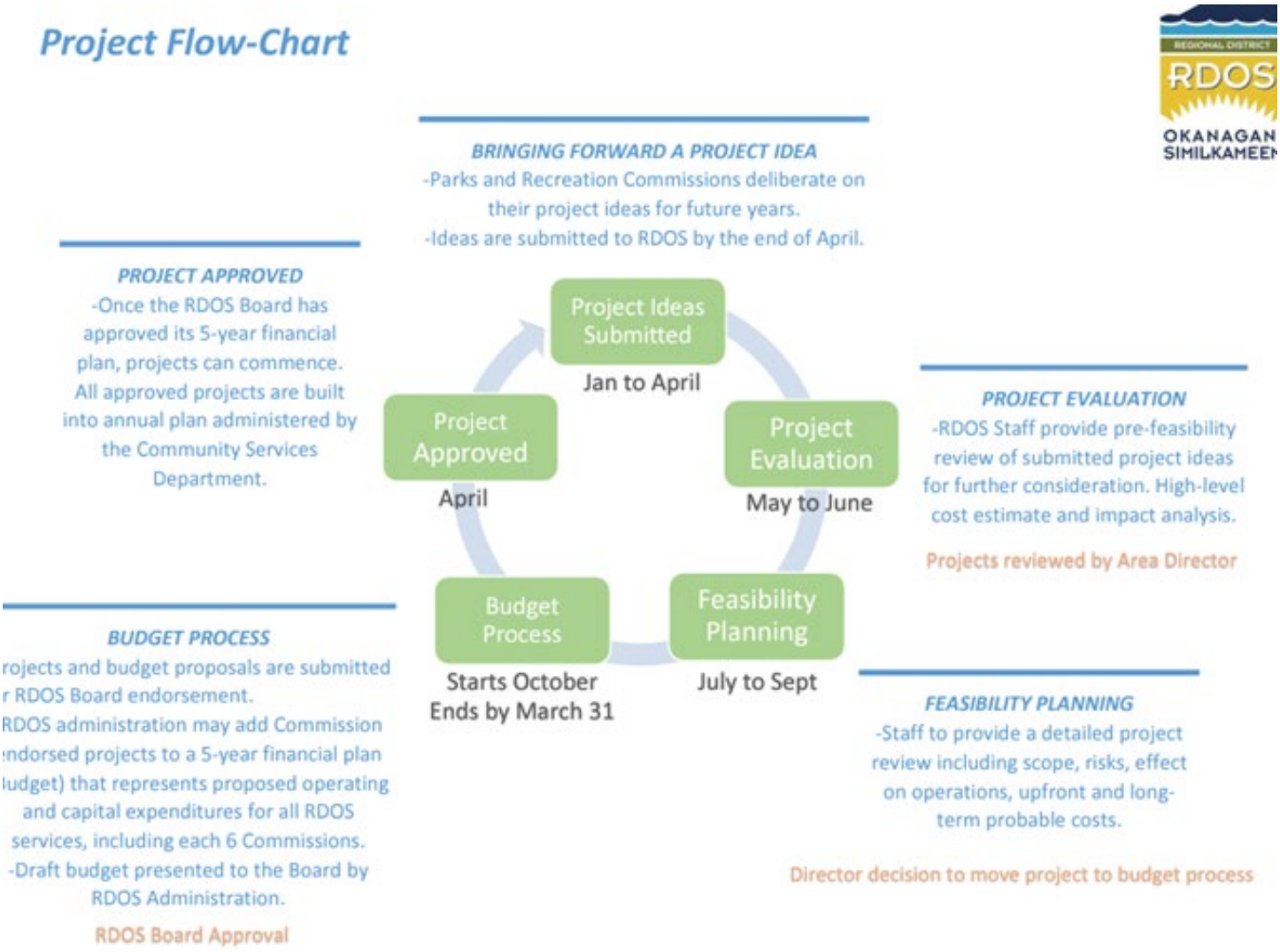

Figure 39 Project Development and Approval Process

10.6 ACTIVELY DEVELOP AND SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS AND VOLUNTEERISM

What We Heard

- Many individuals, recreation organizations and clubs are keen to provide volunteer support for the delivery of parks, trails and recreation services and programs in the region.
- Individuals and organizations are unsure how they can become involved as volunteers and what volunteer roles exist.
- Improving the volunteer experience including volunteer recognition was identified as important to encouraging and retaining volunteers.

What We Found

- The region contains many volunteers who are passionate about parks, trails, and recreation. Some want to be advocates for parks, trails, and recreation while others want to be much more involved in supporting operations.
- The Regional District has begun to develop a formal volunteer program but, according to staff, the program is underfunded and resourced, and staff are challenged to sustain or strengthen the program and associated policies and procedures with current funding and resourcing.
- Volunteers are critical to the delivery of parks, trails, and recreation services in many of the smaller communities. As much as volunteers are an asset, the engagement and retention of volunteers requires appropriate staff oversight, support, and facilitation. Successful and sustainable volunteer programs dedicated staffing and funding.
- Trends suggest that volunteerism is evolving with a desire for more defined roles and shorter duration commitments. The recruitment, training and retention of volunteers needs to adjust accordingly.

Actions:

1. Undertake an audit of the Regional District's current parks, trails, and recreation volunteer program using the **Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement – Code Audit tool**.
2. Adopt and use the **Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement** together with the results of the audit to identify opportunities to further develop and strengthen the Regional District's parks, trails, and recreation volunteer program and supporting policy framework. The program and framework should, at minimum, acknowledge and recognize the value volunteers and volunteerism brings to parks, trails, and recreation; define the legal employer / employee relationship between volunteers and the Regional District; outline the human resource management approach to volunteerism; define the administrative, risk management and healthy and safety procedures for volunteering; outline the volunteer job descriptions and roles; and the approach to volunteer recognition. Optimally, the program would identify and formalize an approach for volunteer recruitment, training and retention that is consistent across all departments in the Regional District.
3. Upon defining opportunities to enhance and strengthen the volunteer program, secure appropriate staffing, and funding to implement the program.
4. Continue to partner with organizations such as the South Okanagan Volunteer Centre to provide support to and build the capacity of parks, trails, and recreation related volunteer organizations in keeping with Regional District's volunteer program and the Canada Code for Volunteer Involvement.

10.7 UTILIZE A CONSISTENT AND TRANSPARENT APPROACH WHEN CONTEMPLATING SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL INVESTMENT (OVER $1M)

What We Heard

- The engagement (public survey and stakeholder discussions) suggests that there is a demand for incremental infrastructure development.
- Stakeholders generally appreciate the support provided by the Regional District towards recreation projects and initiatives, but in some cases would like to better understand decision making rationale.

What We Found

- The Regional District will continue to be asked to support local and regional recreation, parks and trails infrastructure projects (following a consistent process can help ensure rationale-based decision making).

Actions:

1. Develop or adopt a clear, standardized process for significant capital projects to be assessed and analyzed. Figure 40 provides a process tool that could be used to support this assessment. Utilizing a tool of this nature can help support transparent and rationale-based decision making.

Figure 40 Potential Major Project Evaluation Framework

SECTION 11

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the Plan requires the Regional District to take stock of its current business processes and identify where and how the renewed direction in this plan can be integrated into its current "ways of doing business". The Regional District will take steps to integrate the plan both internally within the organization as well as externally with the Regional District's broad network of partners, collaborators, and stakeholders. The following represents some of the first steps that will be taken to advance the integration and implementation of the Plan:

Internal Implementation

- Review and align annual business and operational plans, as well as corporate planning initiatives, with the outcomes, principles, and strategic directions in the master plan.
- Deliver staff workshops and meetings to explain the Master Plan and how to incorporate them into day-to-day business.
- Review existing policies, procedures, and agreements procedures to ensure they align with the Master Plan.
- Review existing grant programs, plans and procedures to align with the Master Plan.

External Implementation

- Share the Master Plan and engage with local governments, community groups, indigenous communities, and other partners to identify opportunities for alignment, integration, and collaboration in support of the Master Plan.
- Require groups to demonstrate linkages to the Master Plan when applying for community grants and partnership agreements.
- Showcase the benefits of parks, trails and recreation opportunities and share motivational stories and statistics to educate and motivate residents to increase their level of physical activity.

SECTION 12

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Regional District is committed to advancing and monitoring its progress toward achieving the outcomes which have been set in this plan. The Regional District understands that performance monitoring and reporting is critical to ensuring accountability, to understanding what is and is not work and to ensuring informed and evidence-based decision making. To evaluate progress and enable transparent reporting, the Regional District will monitor the following indicators and work towards achieving the outlined targets:

Outcome	Program Area	Indicators	Targets
Active & Healthy Living	All	• Percent of residents reporting that they exceed established minimum daily physical activity guidelines. • Percent of visitors who report that parks, trails, and recreation improve their perceived physical and mental health.	• 100% of residents exceed the minimum daily physical activity guidelines. • 100% of residents report that parks, trails, and recreation improve their perceived physical and mental health.
	Parks & Trails	• Total annual visitation to Regional District parks. • Total annual visitation to Regional District trails. • Visitor satisfaction with their experience in Regional District parks. • Visitor satisfaction with their experience on Regional District trails.	• Increase total annual visitation to the Regional District's Park network. • Increase the total annual visitation to the Regional District's trail network. • 95% of visitors are satisfied or very satisfied with their recreational experience in Regional District parks. • 95% of visitors are satisfied or very satisfied with their Regional District trail experience.
	Recreation	• Total annual visits to Regional District recreation facilities. • Percent of Regional District residents that report visiting a regional district recreation facility. • Prime time and non-prime time utilization rates of Regional District facilities.	• Increase annual visits to Regional District recreation facilities. • Increase the proportion of Regional District residents that report visiting a regional district recreation facility. • Increase prime time and non-prime time utilization rates of Regional District facilities.

Outcome	Program Area	Indicators	Targets
Inclusive & Equitable Access	Parks & Trails	• % of residential parcels within a 10 minute walk to a quality park. • % of residential parcels within a 10-minute walk to a quality trail. • % of residents within areas of higher social justice factors that have access to parks and trails within a 10-minute walk. • Walking access to play spaces.	• Minimum of 99% of all residential parcels within urban areas are within 400m of a park space that meets of exceeds quality expectations provided by the Regional District or others. • A minimum of 99% of residential parcels within urban areas will be within a 10-minute walk to a quality trail provided by the Regional District or others. • Provide 4 ha of park space per 1000 residents (excluding regional parks) • Access to parks is equal across all equity considerations. • Each Electoral Area will contain at least one destination play space. All neighbourhoods with a density of children and youth will have walking access to a quality play space.
		• Percent of residential parcels within a 30-45 minute drive of major recreation facilities.	• All residents are within a 30–45-minute drive of a major recreation facility.
Protect Ecologically & Culturally Important Areas	Parks & Trails	• Amount of land and water in the region conserved through parks that meet the management intent of a protected area. • Amount of land that is added to the natural space system annually.	• 30% of the region's lands and waters will be protected through a formally designated natural space or protected area. • Increase, year over year, the amount of land that is added to the natural space system annually.

Outcome	Program Area	Indicators	Targets
Connect	Trails	• Length of the Regional District trail network by classification. • Length of new trail developed annually. • Destinations, communities, and adjacent regions that are connected by the Regional District's trail system. • Proportion of residents that walk, bike or roll for transportation on the Regional District's trail system.	• Increase the length and diversity of the Regional District's trail network. • 1,000 - 2,000 m of new Regional District trail developed annually. • All major destinations, communities and adjacent regions are connected via the Regional District's trail system. • Increase the proportion of residents who walk, bike, or roll for transportation.
Truth & Reconciliation	Parks & Trails	• Number of Regional District parks and trails featuring Indigenous place naming, interpretation and / or programming. • Area within the Regional District parks network that was acquired to support the protection of sites of cultural importance to Indigenous peoples.	• Increase the number of natural spaces and trails featuring Indigenous place naming, interpretation and / or programming. • Increase the area within the natural space network that is protecting sites of cultural importance to Indigenous peoples.
Capacity & Awareness	All	• Total annual public spending on parks per resident. • Total annual public spending on trails per resident. • Total annual public spending on recreation per resident. • Number of volunteer hours dedicated to parks, trails, and recreation service delivery. • Reported satisfaction levels of volunteers involved in parks, trails, and recreation services.	• Annually increase the public spending per resident on providing and managing parks, trails and recreation. • Maintain or increase the volunteer hours. • Increase the number of volunteers / 1000 residents • 95% of volunteers report being satisfied with their volunteer experience.

APPENDICES

DRAFT – For Discussion Only

A.1 PARK CLASSIFICATION DESCRIPTIONS & DESIGN & MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

Compatible	Uses, amenities, or infrastructure that are consistent with the management intent of a park class under typical designs and management practices.
Permitted	Uses, amenities, or infrastructure that may be compatible with the management intent under certain circumstances and with specialized designs and / or management practices.
Not Compatible	Uses, amenities, or infrastructure that are not compatible with the management intent of the park class.

CONSERVATION PARK			
Primary Purpose	Conservation Parks are legally designated areas of land and / or water that are dedicated for and effectively managed over the long-term to conserve biodiversity, sensitive ecosystems, ecosystem processes and, where relevant, Indigenous, and cultural values. Conservation Areas also support climate change resilience and adaptation. Public access, recreation and new access or infrastructure development is not compatible.		
Secondary Purpose	N/A		
Primary Management Goals	• Conservation of biodiversity / ecosystems • Climate resilience & risk mitigation • Conservation of Indigenous & cultural / heritage values • Sense of place & scenic value		
Activities	**Compatible**	**Permitted**	**Not Compatible**
	• Not Applicable	• Not Applicable	• All public access.
Amenities & Infrastructure	**Compatible**	**Permitted**	**Not Compatible**
	• Not Applicable	• Not Applicable	• All amenities & infrastructure (unless grandfathered)
Catchment	Not Applicable		
Percent Developed	Not Applicable		
Size	Variable, but large enough to conserve ecological and / or cultural values and ecological processes.		
Siting	Variable		
Lot Frontage	Not Applicable		
Access & Connectivity	Not Applicable		
Universal Design	Not Applicable		

NATURAL SPACE PARK

Primary Purpose	Natural spaces are legally designated areas of land and / or water that are dedicated for and effectively managed over the long-term to conserve biodiversity, sensitive ecosystems, ecosystem processes and Indigenous and cultural values. In some natural spaces, or portions of natural spaces, public access, certain recreational activities and / or the provision of visitor infrastructure may be restricted or prohibited where they create conflicts with, or unacceptable impacts to, the primary conservation values of the natural space. Other surface land uses (e.g., residential, community civil infrastructure, commercial, industrial, resource development) will be prohibited unless required to actively manage for, or support, ecological values, systems, and/or processes (e.g., grazing).		
Secondary Purpose	Provide non-motorized outdoor recreation, education and interpretation opportunities that enable visitors to connect with, enjoy and learn about the region's nature, natural processes and Indigenous and cultural values where doing so will not pose unacceptable impacts to achieving the primary intent.		
Primary Management Goals	• Conservation of biodiversity / ecosystems • Climate resilience & risk mitigation • Conservation of Indigenous & cultural / heritage values • Sense of place & scenic value • Outdoor recreation • Physical activity • Learning & appreciation • Tourism		
Activities	**Compatible**	**Permitted**	**Not Compatible**
	• Not Applicable	• Walking / Hiking / Running • On-leash dog walking • Mountain biking (xctry, all mountain, adaptive) • Class 1 E-bikes • Equestrian • Paddling – non motorized • Special Events / Races / Competitions • Camping (backcountry) • Interpretive programs • Concessions	• Camping (unserviced, serviced) • Off-leash Dog Walking • Class 2 or 3 e-bikes • Off-road vehicle • Off-road motorcycle • 4x4 on-highway vehicle

NATURAL SPACE PARK

Amenities & Infrastructure	Compatible	Permitted	Not Compatible
	• Natural surface trails • Single trail • Parking area • Regulatory / wayfinding signage • Benches / seating	• Aggregate trails • Interpretive signage • Toilet – pit / outhouse • Toilet - vault • Toilet – flush • Waste receptacles • Day use area / picnic tables / shelter / shade structure • Natural playground / features • Bike wash station • Bicycle parking • Non-motorized boat launch • Interpretive center • Public art • Maintenance / operations facilities • Equipment storage	• Paved trail • Dense trail network • Mountain bike skills park • ORV skills park • Powerboat launch • Exercise equipment • Athletic / Sports Field / Diamond / Court / Outdoor Rink • Spray park • Manicured beach • Manicured turf • Community gardens • Event hosting infrastructure • Lighting
Catchment	Not Applicable		
Percent Developed	0-25%		
Size	Variable, but large enough to conserve ecological and / or cultural values and ecological processes.		
Siting	Variable		
Lot Frontage	Not Applicable		
Access & Connectivity	Not Appliable		
Universal Design	Desirable		

RECREATION PARK			
Primary Purpose	Provide regionally unique nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences including both motorized and non-motorized activities, special events, celebrations and competitions. Not all Regional Recreation Parks will support all recreational activities. Where necessary, recreation activities with incompatible visitor goals will be separated. Regional Recreation Areas will accommodate intensive nature-based outdoor recreation visitation and appropriate facilities will be developed to enable and manage this level of use. These parks may or may not be all season use.		
Secondary Purpose	Conserve biodiversity, sensitive ecosystems, ecosystem processes and Indigenous and cultural values and support the region's resilience and adaptation to climate change.		
Primary Management Goals	• Nature-based outdoor recreation • Physical activity • Learning & appreciation • Tourism • Sense of place & scenic value • Conservation of biodiversity / ecosystems		
Activities	**Compatible**	**Permitted**	**Not Compatible**
	• Walking / Hiking / Running • Interpretive programs • On-leash dog walking • Mountain biking (xctry, all mountain, adaptive) • Class 1 E-bikes • Equestrian • Paddling • Angling	• Camping (serviced & Unserviced) • Off-leash Dog Walking • Skateboarding / small wheel • Class 2 &3 E-bikes • Off-road vehicle • Off-road motorcycle • 4x4 on-highway vehicle • Powerboating • Special Events / Races / Competitions • Concessions • Guided tours / commercial recreation	• Not applicable

RECREATION PARK			
Amenities & Infrastructure	**Compatible**	**Permitted**	**Not Compatible**
	• Natural surface trails • Aggregate trails • Single trail • Dispersed & dense trail networks • Parking area • Regulatory / wayfinding signage • Interpretive signage • Day use area / picnic tables / shelter / shade structure • Toilet – pit • Toilet - vault • Waste receptacles • Benches / seating • Natural & traditional playground / features • Bicycle parking • Equestrian infrastructure (hitching rails, corrals) • Boardwalks • Non-motorized boat launch • Docks • Maintenance / operations facilities	• Paved trail • Manicured turf • Manicured beach • Bike wash station • Mountain bike skills park • Skate / small wheel skills park • ORV skills park • Spray park • Toilet – flush • Public art • Interpretive center • Powerboat launch • Equipment storage • Event hosting infrastructure	• Athletic / Sports Field / Diamond / Court / Outdoor Rink • Exercise equipment • Community gardens
Catchment	Regional / Sub-regional		
Percent Developed	Variable		
Size	Variable, but large enough to enable and support the recreation activity(ies) that the site is established to provide and the visitor infrastructure required to facilitate and manage the use.		

RECREATION PARK	
Siting	Variable, but typically on the edge of communities and / or where regionally unique recreation resources exist.
Lot Frontage	Not Applicable
Access & Connectivity	Not Appliable
Universal Design	Desirable

COMMUNITY PARK			
Primary Purpose	To provide a major multi-purpose destination for intensive structured and unstructured recreation, social gathering, and community events. This Park class provides a diversity of recreation and visitor comfort and convenience amenities and infrastructure as well as event hosting infrastructure that attracts residents from across the Electoral Area and, in some cases, across the region. These parks contain amenities that enable recreation in all seasons.		
Secondary Purpose	Conserve and celebrate ecological values, Indigenous and cultural values and support the continuance of ecosystems processes and the region's resilience and adaptation to climate change.		
Primary Management Goals	• Outdoor recreation – structured & spontaneous • Physical activity • Water play • Inclusion • Community gathering • Tourism		
Activities	**Compatible**	**Permitted**	**Not Compatible**
	• Variable	• Variable	• Off-road vehicle • Off-road motorcycle • 4x4 on-highway vehicle

COMMUNITY PARK

Amenities & Infrastructure	Compatible	Permitted	Not Compatible
	• Civic gathering spaces • Natural surface trails • Aggregate trails • Paved trail • Dispersed trail network • Dense trail network • Athletic / Sports Field / Diamond / Court / Outdoor Rink • Parking area • Regulatory / wayfinding signage • Interpretive signage • Day use area / picnic tables / shelter / shade structure • Toilet – vault / outhouse • Waste receptacles • Benches / seating • Flexible open spaces • Natural & traditional playground / features • Bicycle parking	• Toilet – flush • Changeroom / shower building • Natural & traditional playground / features • Off-leash area • Manicured turf • Manicured beach • Bike wash station • Public art • Non-motorized boat launch • Skate / small wheel skills park • Mountain bike skills park • Spray park • Exercise equipment • Community gardens • Interpretive center • Powerboat launch • Equipment storage • Event hosting infrastructure • Power • Potable water • Maintenance / operations facilities	• ORV skills park • Equestrian Infrastructure (hitching rails, corrals)
Catchment	1 per Electoral Area		
Percent Developed	Up to 100%		
Size	1.5 ha +		
Siting	Located in mixed use areas along arterial and collector roads with safe and practical road crossing and on the active transportation network.		

COMMUNITY PARK	
Lot Frontage	30% minimum
Access & Connectivity	Parking lot design must accommodate and account for visitation from across the EA and for peak period special events. Minimum of two trail / pathway / sidewalk access / egress points
Universal Design	Required

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK			
Primary Purpose	To provide unstructured active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities that are appealing to a variety of ages and are tailored to the interests of neighbourhood residents. This park class attracts visitation from the local neighbourhood and is a focal point for socializing with neighbours. These parks contain amenities that enable recreation in all seasons.		
Secondary Purpose	To support the continuance of ecosystems processes and the region's resilience and adaptation to climate change.		
Primary Management Goals	• Outdoor recreation • Physical activity • Inclusion		
Activities	**Compatible**	**Permitted**	**Not Compatible**
	• Variable	• Variable	• Camping (serviced & Unserviced) • Equestrian • Off-road vehicle • Off-road motorcycle • 4x4 on-highway vehicle

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK			
Amenities & Infrastructure	**Compatible**	**Permitted**	**Not Compatible**
	• Natural surface trails • Aggregate trails • Paved trail • Dispersed trail network • Regulatory / wayfinding signage • Waste receptacles • Benches / seating • Flexible open spaces • Natural & traditional playground / features • Bicycle parking	• Dense trail network • Parking area • Day use area / picnic tables / shelter / shade structure • Toilet – vault / outhouse • Toilet – flush • Interpretive signage • Athletic / Sports Field / Diamond / Court / Outdoor Rink • Off-leash area • Changeroom / shower building • Natural & traditional playground / features • Manicured turf • Manicured beach • Public art • Non-motorized boat launch • Skate / small wheel skills park • Mountain bike skills park • Spray park • Exercise equipment • Community gardens • Equipment storage • Event hosting infrastructure • Power • Potable water • Maintenance / operations facilities	• ORV skills park • Powerboat launch • Equestrian Infrastructure (hitching rails, corrals)

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	
Catchment	400 m walk based on the formal active transportation network.
Percent Developed	Up to 80%
Size	0.5-1.5 ha
Siting	Located centrally within a residential neighbourhood and along a local road and local active transportation network.
Lot Frontage	15-30% minimum
Access & Connectivity	Minimum two accesses to a public roadway. Minimum of one trail / pathway/ sidewalk access / egress point. Parking lot is optional. On-street park required.
Universal Design	Desired

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS PARK			
Primary Purpose	To provide managed public access to river / lake frontage for passive uses, scenic viewing and, in some cases, launching watercraft.		
Secondary Purpose	To support the continuance of ecosystems processes and the region's resilience and adaptation to climate change.		
Primary Management Goals	• Outdoor recreation		
Activities	**Compatible**	**Permitted**	**Not Compatible**
	• Dependant on the typology assigned.	• Dependant on the typology assigned.	• Dependant on the typology assigned.
Amenities & Infrastructure	**Compatible**	**Permitted**	**Not Compatible**
	• Dependant on the typology assigned.	• Dependant on the typology assigned.	• Dependant on the typology assigned.
Catchment	Variable		
Percent Developed	Up to 80%		
Size	Small		

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS PARK	
Siting	End of undeveloped road rights of way. Sited along local road and local active transportation network. Sited where encroachment and conflict with adjacent occupied properties can be managed and where there is adequate buffer to adjacent occupied properties.
Lot Frontage	Variable
Access & Connectivity	Variable
Universal Design	Desired

A.2 TRAIL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE FORM

Region: **Trail Operator:** **Land Manager:**

Trail Name: **Trail Number:**

Trail Beginning: **Beg. Milepost:**

Trail Ending: **End. Milepost:**

Trail Inventory Length: km **Trail Mileage Source:** Wheel GPS Map Unknown

TMO Trail Section

Section Beginning: **Beg. Milepost:**

Sec. # **Section End:** **End. Milepost:**

Trail Classification

(Check any that apply)

Season:

- Summer (snow-free)
- Winter (snow-covered)
- All

Level of Development:

- Developed
- Moderately Developed
- Minimally Developed

(Check one in each category)

Mode of Travel:

- Non-Motorized
- Motorized
- Mixed Use

Use Type:

- Single Use
- Multi-Use
- Activity-Optimized

Level of Challenge:

- Easiest
- Moderate
- Difficult
- Very Difficult

Preparedness:

- Standard
- Enhanced

Optimized Activity Types

(Check all that apply)

- Pedestrian
- Equestrian
- X-Country Ski
- Snowshoe
- Mountain Bike
- Two-Wheel Motorized
- Motorized (<1.83 m wide)
- Motorized (1.5-1.83 m wide)
- Motorized (>1.83 m wide)
- Snow Vehicle (<1.83 m wide)

Design Parametres

(Fill in all that apply)

- Travelled Surface Width (m)
- Target Grade (%)
- Max Grade (%)
- Proportion Grade (%)
- Target Cross Slope (%)
- Max Cross Slope (%)
- Proportion Cross Slope (%)
- / Clearing Width/Height (m)
- Turning Radius (m)
- / Obstacle Frequency/Height

Tread Surfacing:

- Asphalt/Concrete/Paver
- Agg - Firm
- Agg - Loose
- Nat - Firm
- Nat - Loose

Target Frequency

Per Year *(Fill in all that apply)*

- Tread Repair
- Drainage Cleanout
- Tread Grading
- Brushing
- Condition Survey
- Enforcement Patrols

Trail Name: **Trail Number:**

Travel Management Strategies

Permitted Uses *(Check all that apply)*	**From Date** *(mm/dd)*	**To Date** *(mm/dd)*
Pedestrian		
On-Road Cycling		
Leisure Cycling		
Mountain Biking		
Adaptive Cycle/MTB		
Equestrian		
Equestrian Drawn Vehicle		
X-Ctry Ski - Classic		
X-Ctry Ski - Skate		
Snowshoe		
Off-Road Motorcycle		
OHV <1.5m		
OHV 1.5m - 1.83m		
OHV >1.83m		
Snowmobile <1.5m		
Snowmobile >1.5m		
Class 1 E-Bike		
Class 2 E-Bike		
Class 3 E-Bike		
Electric Mobility Assistive Devices		
Electric Skateboards/One-Wheels		

Prohibited Uses *(Check if applicable)*	**From Date** *(mm/dd)*	**To Date** *(mm/dd)*
All Motorized Use		

(Fill in all that apply)

Other Uses *(Optional: type any that apply)*	**Accept**	**Discourage**

Universally Accessible: **Yes** **No**

Trail User Objectives

Escape	Nature	Socializing
Solitude	Risk	Efficiency
Challenge	Exercise	Connectivity
Play		

Remarks/Reference Information

Trail Designer or Manager

Name: **Signature:**

Title: **Date:**

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A.3 REGIONAL TRAIL LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

AMENITIES		Level of Development		
		Developed	Moderately Developed	Minimally Developed
RECREATION SETTING	Developed	Appropriate	Appropriate	May be appropriate
	Frontcountry	Appropriate	Appropriate	May be appropriate
	Midcountry	May be Appropriate	Appropriate	May be appropriate
	Backcountry	Inappropriate	May be Appropriate	Appropriate
TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE		Structures are frequent and typically constructed of imported materials. May include bridges, boardwalks, curbs, handrails etc.	Structures of limited size, scale, and quantity; typically constructed of native materials. Structures adequate to protect trail infrastructure and resources. Bridges as needed for environmental protection and appropriate access.	Structures are minimal to non-existent. Drainage typically accomplished without structures. Bridges as needed for environmental protection and appropriate access.

AMENITIES		Level of Development		
		Developed	Moderately Developed	Minimally Developed
PRIMARY ACCESS TYPE	Major Parking / Staging Area	Appropriate	May be Appropriate – pending degree of use / trail significance.	Inappropriate
	Minor Parking / Staging Area	May be Appropriate – pending degree of use / trail significance.	Appropriate	May be Appropriate – pending degree of use / trail significance.
	Trailhead	Inappropriate	Inappropriate	May be Appropriate – pending degree of use / trail significance.
SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING	Major Trailhead Kiosk Signs with Maps	Appropriate	Appropriate	May be Appropriate
	Minor Trailhead Signs with Maps	Inappropriate	Appropriate	May be Appropriate
	Trail Markers/ Directional Signs	Appropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate – but bare minimum required to navigate
	Regulatory/ Caution/ Advisory Signs	Appropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate – but minimal
	Interpretive Signs	Appropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate – but minimal

AMENITIES		Level of Development		
		Developed	Moderately Developed	Minimally Developed
COMFORT & CONVENIENCE AMENITIES	Flush Toilet or Composting Toilet	May be Appropriate	Inappropriate	Inappropriate
	Vault Toilet	Appropriate	Appropriate	May be Appropriate
	Pit Toilet	May be Appropriate	May be Appropriate	Appropriate
	Potable Water / Fountains	Appropriate	May be Appropriate	Inappropriate
	Lighting	May be Appropriate	May be Appropriate	Inappropriate
	Waste Receptacles	Appropriate	May be Appropriate	Inappropriate
	Recycling Receptacles	Appropriate	May be Appropriate	Inappropriate
	Benches	Appropriate	May be Appropriate	Inappropriate
	Picnic Tables	Appropriate	May be Appropriate	Inappropriate
	Shade Structures	Appropriate	May be Appropriate	Inappropriate
	Day Use Areas	Appropriate	May be Appropriate	Inappropriate
	Bicycle Parking	Appropriate	Appropriate	May be Appropriate
	Equestrian Hitching Rails / Corrals	May be Appropriate – if equestrian use supported	May be Appropriate – if equestrian use supported	May be Appropriate – if equestrian use supported

A.4 PARKING, STAGING AREA & TRAILHEAD LEVEL OF SERVICE GUIDELINES

	Major Parking / Staging Area	Minor Parking / Staging Areas	Trailhead
DESCRIPTION	Intended to be a memorable visitor focused entry point and end point to the trail experience. Out of region visitors will be encouraged to use major parking / staging areas. These access points are also intended to serve as primary accesses for nearby residents.	Intended to support access to the trail by residents who elect to drive to the trail and residents who leave near the trail and may walk or cycle to it.	Intended to support access to the trail for residents and neighbourhoods who live in the immediate vicinity of the trailhead and who do not require motor vehicle parking to access the trail.
PARKING SURFACING & PARKING ORIENTATION	• Surfaced (paved preferred) and delineated parking lots of significant size to accommodate passenger vehicles, truck & trailer and recreational vehicles - ensure appropriate circulation	• Surfaced (gravel or paved) and delineated parking lots for passenger vehicles and truck & trailers.	• No vehicle parking provided.

	Major Parking / Staging Area	Minor Parking / Staging Areas	Trailhead
TYPICAL COMFORT & CONVENIENCE AMENITIES	• Toilets (vault pump-out or fully serviced) • Bicycle parking • Waste & recycling receptacles • Potable water (optional) • Picnic & day use area with fire pits / BBQ's, picnic tables • Shade structure / Pavilion • Public power / charging stations (optional) • Lighting (optional) • Native Plantings & beautification • Equestrian hitching rails or corrals (optional)	• Toilets (vault pump-out or pit) • Bicycle parking (optional) • Waste & recycling receptacles • Picnic & day use area with fire pits / BBQ's, picnic tables (optional) • Shade structure / Pavilion (optional) • Native Plantings & beautification • Equestrian hitching rails or corrals (optional)	• No vehicle parking. • Waste / Recycling receptacles (optional) • Bicycle Parking (optional) • Native Plantings & beautification (optional)
TYPCIAL SIGNAGE	• On-Road Direction Signage • Themed / memorable gateway / entry feature. • Kiosk including: » Wayfinding / Map » Responsible use / educational (Leave No Trace) » Regulatory » Warning (safety, preparedness, risks) » Trail Accessibility Information • Interpretive signage / displays	• On-Road Direction Signage • Kiosk including: » Wayfinding / Map » Responsible use / educational (Leave No Trace) » Regulatory » Warning (safety, preparedness, risks) » Trail Accessibility Information • Interpretive signage / displays (optional)	• Wayfinding / Map • Responsible use / educational (Leave No Trace) • Regulatory • Warning (safety, preparedness, risks)

	Major Parking / Staging Area	Minor Parking / Staging Areas	Trailhead
DEGISN PRINCIPLES	• Site and all amenities should be universally accessible • Incorporate low-impact development and stormwater management • Incorporate energy and water efficient amenities • Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles • Incorporate low-impact development and stormwater management • Incorporate native drought tolerant plantings • Design to support special event hosting, where appropriate.		

References

i *http://benefitshub.ca/recreation-benefits-statements/*

ii *Population statistics for this Master Plan are derived from ESRI Business Analyst and draw from Statistics Canada Census data and custom Environics Analytics data and census projections. Current 2020 projection data is used for service level analysis and master planning purposes and instead of the last available Census data from 2016 and therefore may not align with other recent RDOS studies or plans that have used 2016 Census data.*

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iv *Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council, Canadian Parks and Recreation Association. 2015. A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing*

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vii *Park People. (2021). The Canadian City Parks Report: Centring Equity & Resilience.*

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ix *Canadian Fitness & Lifestyle Research Institutes 2011 – 2012 Sport Monitor: http://www.cflri.ca/node/78*

x *BC Recreation and Parks Association. (2009). The Way Forward Strategic Plan.*

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xii *Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (2020). Move. Commute. Connect. Active Transportation Report Card 2019/2020.*

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xiv *Volunteer Canada (2021). Volunteering Counts: Formal and informal contributions of Canadians in 2018.*

xv *Park People. (2021). The Canadian City Parks Report: Centring Equity & Resilience.*

xvi *Regional District Okanagan Similkameen (2017). Regional Growth Strategy*

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xx *Robertson, B. & Hutchinson, S. (2012). Leisure Education: A New Goal for An Old Idea Whose Time Has Come.*

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