REGIONAL DISTRICT
NORTH OKANAGAN

White Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan

2023 - 2033

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this master plan is to inform future decisions regarding the provisions of parks and recreation opportunities for the residents of White Valley. The Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) is on the traditional territories of the Syilx and Secwépemc First Nations, and a portion of the region, which includes Electoral Areas “D” (Rural Lumby), “E” (Cherryville) and the Village of Lumby, makes up the White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture service area. In 2021, the population of the White Valley area was 6,064. The Village of Lumby saw the highest level of growth at 2.5% per annum, but all areas saw an influx of new residents.

The region is the largest in the RDNO covering 4,000 square kilometres (400,000 ha) and accounting for almost 60% of the total RDNO land area. White Valley has many natural areas, trails, and parks, as well as several recreation facilities that provide opportunities for locals and visitors to engage in both indoor and outdoor activities year-round.

The mandate for parks and recreation in the area is held by the Regional District of North Okanagan through a service establishment bylaw and associated licenses of occupation and is governed by the Board of Directors through the White Valley Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee (WVPRC Committee). The membership of the WVPRC Committee includes one Director from each of the three participant jurisdictions, being Electoral Area “D” and “E”, and the Village of Lumby.

Parks and recreation operations are primarily provided through contract. Parks and facility maintenance and operations are provided through contract with the Village of Lumby, with the exception of the White Valley Community Centre, which is maintained by the Village of Lumby but operated by the RDNO, and Hanson Park, Tolley Park, Mabel Lake Hall, and the Lumby Curling Club, which are operated by not-for-profit societies.

Though its service, the RDNO provides four community parks – Oval Park and Royals Park in Lumby, Hanson Park in Cherryville, and Tolley Park in Electoral Area ‘D.’ It also provides two neighbourhood parks and one natural area. These parks complement parks owned and operated by the Village of Lumby, Provincial Parks and Ecological Reserves, and provincial recreation sites in the region.

The area also has extensive trail systems, including the Salmon Trail in Lumby and the many trails that have been developed by community members. The newly formed Monashee Trails Society is working to improve the existing trails and add new ones. The White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture service does not currently contain any trail systems other than walking paths within its parks.

The Village of Lumby is working on a sustainable transportation network which will incorporate existing trails and potentially provide new ones.

The Recreation facilities are primarily located in Lumby, and include the White Valley Community Centre, the Pat Duke Arena, the Lumby Curling Rink, the outdoor pool, and several park facilities including a skate park, ball diamonds, a splash park, and a fitness circuit. Two community halls serve the rural areas,

providing space for programming and special events, including Mabel Lake Community Hall and Cherryville Community Hall. Recreation programming is largely provided by private programmers, but the new Recreation Leader position with the RDNO is facilitating more programming through co-ordination of training, service providers, and spaces.

While this plan contains goals for future improvements to parks and recreation services, these plans are not intended to extinguish any indigenous title or rights. Any future development related to the implementation of these plans will go through the appropriate referral process with the Splatsin of the Secwépemc Nation and the Okanagan Indian Band of the Syilx Okanagan Nation. The goals have been developed to provide direction on resource allocation and planning and have associated strategies and actions to support progress toward the goals.

GOAL 1: PARKS AND TRAILS

The White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Service provides a system of parks and trails that sustainably meet the recreational, ecological, and cultural needs of the community in cooperation with the Village of Lumby and the Province of BC.

Strategy 1.1: Acquire and protect new parkland.

Strategy 1.2: Improve / enhance existing parks.

Strategy 1.3: Protect existing trail networks.

Strategy 1.4: Support new trails.

GOAL 2: RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Recreation infrastructure meets needs of residents of and visitors to the White Valley area and is in good condition to ensure continued service and allow growth of programming and participation.

Strategy 2.1: Update and implement an asset management strategy.

Strategy 2.2: Enhance existing facilities to expand recreation and programming options.

Strategy 2.3: Formalize and improve process to provide community access to other community-owned spaces, including the community halls and schools, for recreation programming.

GOAL 3: RECREATION PROGRAMMING

The community has the recreation capacity through access to infrastructure and operational support to allow for growth in the community and interest in new and additional recreational programming.

Strategy 3.1: Build capacity of recreation service providers.

Strategy 3.2: Enhance training to improve access to qualified recreation programmers.

Strategy 3.3: Increase marketing and advertising of recreation programming opportunities.

Introduction

White Valley is a large geographic area consisting of Electoral Areas “D,” “E” and the Village of Lumby. White Valley Parks, Recreation & Culture is governed by the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) through the White Valley Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee (WVPRCAC), whose membership includes one representative from each of the three jurisdictions.

The Village of Lumby provides parks and facility management services under contract to Regional District of North Okanagan. These include the Pat Duke Arena, Lumby Curling Club, Oval Park, and Royals Park. The Village of Lumby also provides facility maintenance for the White Valley Community Centre and the Lumby Curling Club. Recreation programming with facilities and parks is encouraged and facilitated by the RDNO but provided by third-party contractors or organizations.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PLAN

This Parks and Recreation Plan provides an update to the White Valley Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan completed in January 2011, by Yates, Thorne & Associates. This Plan will serve as a guiding document as the White Valley region continues to grow and welcomes new residents and visitors to the region.

Focused on 2023-2033, this plan:

- provides a comprehensive review of the current state of parks and recreation facilities;
- defines the desired goals that the service is working to achieve;
- identifies how our parks and recreation network will be integrated with other parks and recreation systems in the White Valley area and broader region;
- identifies investment priorities;
- articulates strategies and actions to enhance our parks and recreation facilities into the future;
- clarifies organizational roles and links of community and volunteer service support; and,
- establishes quantitative and qualitative performance targets to measure our progress;

The scope of this plan includes:

- parks with the primary purpose of recreation;
- natural areas with the primary purpose of ecological or cultural conservation that may have secondary purpose of passive recreation;
- trails advocacy and planning support; and,
- recreation programming and facilities.

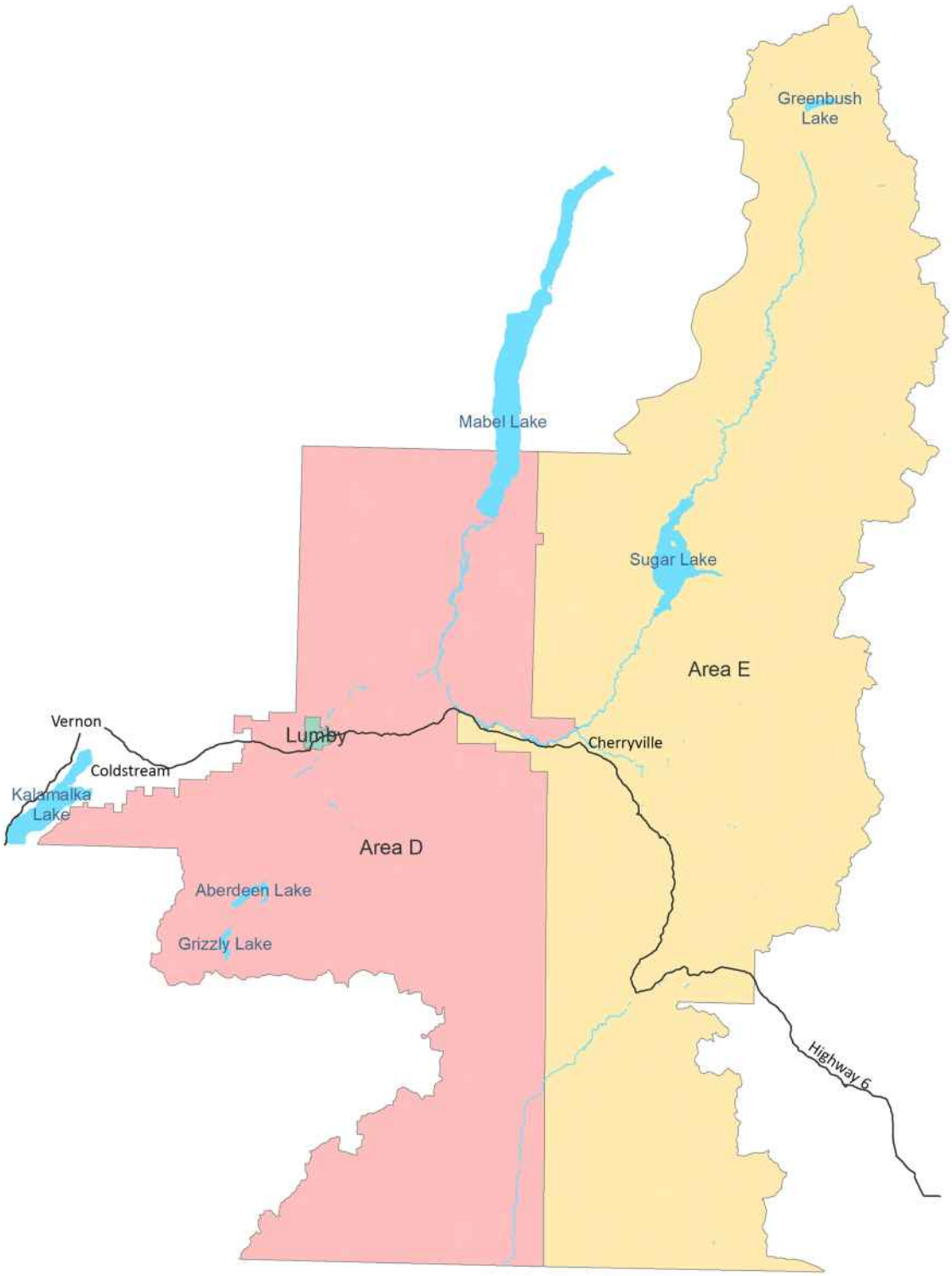


Figure 1 - White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Service Area

PLANNING AREA AND BACKGROUND

Decisions about the future of parks and recreation are influenced by various local, regional, provincial, and national policies and plans. Our planning and management decisions must align with the foundations and priorities set in these policies and plans. The policies and plans that were reviewed and informed the master plan are illustrated in Table 1 - Key Referenced Planning Documents.

Table 1 - Key Referenced Planning Documents

Local	• Village of Lumby Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 761, 2014 • RDNO Electoral Areas "D" and "E" Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2485, 2011 • White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Fees Imposition Bylaw No. 2836, 2019 • Pat Duke Arena Ice Booking Priorities WVPRC-001 • White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Financial and Physical Disability Discount Policy No. WVPRC-002 • White Valley Community Recreation Grants Policy WVPRC-003
Regional	• RDNO Regional Growth Strategy (2019) • Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Okanagan Region (2014) • Thompson Okanagan Regional Tourism Strategy (2019) • Okanagan Climate Projections Report (2020)
Provincial	• Provincial Trails Strategy (2013) • B.C. on the Move: A 10-Year Transportation Plan (2015) • B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2019) • Silver Star Provincial Park: Draft Management Plan Public Feedback (2020)
National	• Parks for All (2017) • Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015) • One with Nature: A Renewed Approach to Land and Freshwater Conservation in Canada (2020) • National trails classification guidelines (Trans Canada Trail 2021)

PLAN PROCESS

The plan was developed over several years, with the initial public engagement taking place during the COVID-19 pandemic. In-person engagement was completed in an outdoor setting, and online survey information was collected to encourage broad participation. During the strategy testing phase, the draft plan was circulated to stakeholders and the broader community for feedback and an indication of "did we get it right?"



FIGURE 2 - PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE WHITE VALLEY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Context and Trends

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Our region is growing and changing. In 2021, the population of the White Valley area was 6,064. The Village of Lumby saw the highest level of growth at 2.5% per annum, but all areas saw an influx of new residents. Estimates from the Regional Growth Strategy[1] suggest growth will continue in the coming years, but assuming that the current rate of growth continues it is projected that the population of White Valley could exceed 7,300 in 10 years.

Table 2 - Population growth and projects for White Valley: 2016-2031

Jurisdiction	YEAR									
	2006	Average Annual Growth Rate	2011	Average Annual Growth Rate	2016	Actual Annual Growth Rate	% Projected Growth/ annum	2021 (Actual)	2021 (Projected) [2]	2031 (Projected)[3]
Electoral Area 'D'	2,837	.07%	2,848	-1.23%	2,672	1.8%	-1.16%	2,909	2,521	3,477
Electoral Area 'E'	934	.10%	939	1.5%	1,010	1.6%	0.8%	1,092	1,051	1,221
Lumby	1,634	1.2%	1,731	1.18%	1,833	2.5%	1.19%	2,063	1,945	2,641
TOTAL	**5,409**		**5,518**		**5,515**			**6,064**		**7,339**

The White Valley area has experienced population growth of 9.9% since 2016; this is higher than that of the population growth of BC during the same time, which was 7.6%.

The percentage of children aged 0 to 14 increased in both Electoral Areas 'D' and 'E, as well as in Lumby. In Area 'D,' that age group increased by 15.7%, and in Area 'E' the increase was 17.4 %. The increase in this age group in the Village of Lumby was 18.9%.

Ethno-Cultural Diversity

White Valley is not as culturally diverse as other communities in BC. While 33.7% of BC residents identified as a visible minority in 2020; this rate was less than 2% of White Valley residents, however the region had a higher proportion of people who identify as Indigenous compared to BC residents.

[1] RDNO, 2011. Regional District of North Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy – One Region, One Future
[2] Projections were made in 2018, based upon historic demographic trends over ten years (2006-2016).
[3] Projections based on 2021 actuals and assume a consistent rate of growth based on the actual annum growth rate between 2016 and 2021.

The White Valley area also has a higher-than-average population of people over the age of 65 compared to the provincial average, however due to cost of living and COVID-19 impacts, it is seeing an influx of young families move into the area from larger communities. Both of these groups have a high interest in having access to outdoor recreation opportunities to support their desired quality of life. A growing population will add increasing pressure to the existing network of parks and recreation facilities.

ORGANIZATIONAL ROLES AND LINKS

Regional District of North Okanagan

The RDNO owns or operates through license most parks and recreation infrastructure, including Oval Park and its amenities. The RDNO established the White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Service through which it provides services and requisitions for funding to support those services on behalf of the community. The RDNO does not deliver arts and culture programming, but provides grant funding and use of space to support arts and culture programming by not-for-profit program providers.

White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Committee (RDNO)

This Committee serves an advisory role to the RDNO Board of Directors, remaining familiar with local-level issues, and providing recommendations for service operations to the Board. The Committee oversees decisions related to funding, staffing levels, infrastructure, and community grants. It also provides a leadership role in overseeing the long-term planning for arts and culture on behalf of the community.

Village of Lumby

The Village of Lumby operates the parks and most recreation facilities provided by the White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture service under contract with the RDNO. The exception to this is the White Valley Community Centre, which is operated directly by the RDNO. The Village of Lumby also provides several local parks and trails, outside of the White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture service.

Parks and Recreation Community Organizations

The community's parks and recreation sector is supported by a dedicated network of volunteers (organizations and individuals) that advocate for parkland, trails, and recreation facilities, and actively provide recreation programming and events for the community. Some of these groups receive annual operating funding from the RDNO specifically to provide spaces for community recreation, such as community halls and outdoor ice rinks, or deliver recreation programming. Other are focused on planning and advocacy, such as the recently established Monashee Trails Society.

TRENDS

Being mindful of the latest trends and their effects on opportunities for our parks and recreation facilities is essential in developing a long-term plan. The following trends have helped to shape the master plan:

Active Transportation

With growing awareness of physical and mental health benefits, reduced carbon emissions and financial savings, the proportion of people choosing active transportation is growing as an alternative to driving and even public transport. This trend has been reinforced during the COVID-19 pandemic. A quality interconnected and efficient active transportation network is required to enable residents and the region to realize the benefits of active transportation. Lumby is currently completing an Active Transportation Plan, which was also reviewed for potential opportunities to link WVPRC assets.

A Growing Role for Regional Natural Spaces in Meeting International Conservation Targets

Once thought to be the role of the Federal and Provincial governments, regional and local natural spaces networks are being relied on to play a significant role in meeting national and international conservation targets. Regional and local governments have considerable ability to establish new natural spaces that make meaningful contributions to conservation and Canada's commitment to protect 30% of land and freshwater by 2030. The International Union of the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recommends a target of 17% of the world's land and inland waters be protected.

Anti-Social Behaviours and Social Challenges in Parks and Natural Spaces

Trails and natural spaces are experiencing increased incidents of self-destructive and anti-social behaviours (e.g., drug and alcohol use, violence, vandalism) and can become camp sites for those experiencing housing insecurity. Managers are finding themselves on the front lines of highly complex social issues that extend beyond their training, mandate, and capacity. Public pressure to address these complex health, safety and environmental concerns, and growing user conflicts can be intense.

Climate Change

Climate change is expected to bring a number of changes locally[4]:

- Warmer year-round temperatures;
- Considerably hotter and drier summers;
- Increased duration of growing season;
- Increased precipitation across all seasons except summer; and
- Shifting seasons (shorter winter, longer summers).

Climate will further stress and potentially alter the distribution of plant and wildlife species and the quality of habitats which will be particularly problematic for some species at risk. As ecosystems are lost or

[4] Climate Projections for the Okanagan Region. February, 2020. https://www.rdco.com/en/environment/resources/Documents/2020---OK_Climate_Projections_Report_Final.pdf

damaged, their capacity to capture and store carbon is diminished and further exacerbates climate change. Climate change effects (e.g., increased mid-day temperatures, wildfire smoke, etc.) are expected to influence the type, timing, and location of recreational activities. These changes further challenge the conventional planning and management of our trails and natural spaces.

Trails and natural spaces are recognized as a key part of the climate change solution. Investing in trails and natural spaces is widely accepted as a strategy to help slow climate change by creating places that can sequester and store carbon. Trails and natural spaces also serve as green infrastructure that can help the region more readily adapt to the effects of climate change (e.g., flood mitigation and control).

COVID-19 Resulted in an Unprecedented Outdoor Recreation Boom

COVID-19 has dramatically changed outdoor recreation participation. Visitation to trails and natural spaces has grown exponentially, including significant increases in those who are new to outdoor recreation. In addition to increasing volumes of use, the temporal patterns of visitation have also shifted. Greater visitation is occurring during previously less busy times (e.g., mid-week, early morning, later evening).

Development, Conversion & Fragmentation of Sensitive Ecosystems & Ecosystem Processes

Development pressure in the region continues to grow and much of this development is occurring on or near our most sensitive ecosystems. This pressure leads to the conversion and fragmentation of ecologically important areas and reduced opportunity to connect trails. Given the urbanization and development in the region, important ecosystem processes such as wildfire have been excluded or suppressed. Ecosystems in the region evolved with and rely upon fire, and its suppression has changed both our grassland and forested ecosystems, leading to much denser forests and forest encroachment into grasslands and altered habitat value.

Equity & Inclusion

Significant efforts are occurring throughout North America to ensure that trails and natural spaces are welcoming and inclusive environments for all peoples regardless of ethnicity, gender, income, age, ability, or identity. With a focus on improving inclusion and equity, deliberate attention is being placed on how and where investments in trails and natural spaces are made, where they are located and how they are designed and managed.

Growing Population

The region's population continues to grow as does its popularity as a major tourism destination. Our residents and the visitors to the region are passionate outdoor enthusiasts and visitation to our trails and natural spaces is growing rapidly. Growth in visitation, including visitation by those who are new to outdoor recreation, is resulting in more impacts (e.g., litter, off-trail travel, unsanctioned trail building, wildlife harassment) and conflicts which are elevating pressures on our management and operational capacity, and increasing the need to ensure we are more actively managing visitation. Data and information are fundamental to good management but acquiring and maintaining data on visitation, visitors and the condition of trails and natural spaces can be challenging and expensive.

Increasing Land Values

Land values in the region continue to increase rapidly and significantly. Assessed values have increased 3-10% in the region between 2020 and 2021 alone, while the median price for a house in the region has grown from $339,000 in 2016 to approximately $665,000 in July of 2021. Land acquisition for conservation and trail connections is expensive and often exceeds available acquisition funds. Acquiring land will continue to become more challenging, just as some of the most ecologically important areas face land development pressures.

Recreation Activities are Rapidly Evolving

The rapid evolution of recreation is creating new demands on our parks and trails in the area. Many of these activities are being undertaken without deliberate decision making or proper infrastructure. Increases in unauthorized trail building, elevated conflicts between users, and growing recreational impacts are challenging our managers. Technology such as the electrification of bicycles, off-road motorcycles, off-road vehicles, scooters, and one-wheels are requiring natural space and trail managers to reconsider their traditional approaches to managing the impacts of recreation and conflicts between user groups, and to ensure that the right activities are occurring in the right places. Meanwhile, the popularity of activities such as mountain biking and long-distance endurance trail running have dramatically increased. Mobile crowdsource technologies such as TrailForks, Strava, and All Trails together with social media are making it much easier to find trails and natural spaces. Recreation will continue to evolve which will require managers to apply more deliberate adaptive management strategies in our trails and natural spaces.

Resourcing for the Demands of Today and Tomorrow

Our parks and recreation facilities and services are funded primarily through property taxes. Operating and capital budgets have been increasing, particularly over the last five years. With the increased use of our parks and recreation services, it will be important as our system grows, that an accompanying commitment to resourcing is made to ensure a sustainable and high-quality service.

Service Delivery through Partnerships

With increasing demands on limited resources, some local governments are cultivating partnerships with volunteer organizations to assist in the delivery of services. For example, at the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) resources for a volunteer coordinator position were allocated to support volunteer and “friends of” groups, and engage them in meaningful volunteer activities in support of park maintenance and park projects. This was also supported through the development of a volunteer program guide and a grant program.

Truth & Reconciliation

Trails and natural spaces are opportunities to support truth and reconciliation with Indigenous communities. They are also an opportunity to help non-Indigenous people develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the land Canadians reside on, Indigenous peoples and cultures, and to foster new relationships. This enhanced understanding will lead to healthier relationships, stronger communities, and potential partnerships with Indigenous communities.

BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Investing in our natural spaces and trails can provide a great return to our region, even if residents choose not to visit or experience them directly. Reflecting on the benefits of investing in natural spaces and trails through the lens of the four pillars of sustainability, as shown in Table 3, helps ground the rationale for investment.

Table 3 - The four pillars of sustainability as they relate to the benefits of parks and recreation.

Environmental	Social	Economic	Cultural
Build a culture of conservation and connection to nature	Increase social interaction, cohesion, and inclusion	Grow our outdoor recreation and visitor economy, diversify the regional economy	Support reconciliation with First Nations communities
Protect and restore biodiversity	Build community pride	Create new direct and indirect jobs	Support the continuation of traditional practices
Provide essential ecological services (e.g., water filtration, pollination, climate regulation)	Grow learning and appreciation of the region's history and culture	Attract new and retain existing skilled labour and businesses	Protect spiritual and culturally sensitive sites
Enhance resilience and adaption to climate change	Improve physical health of residents and reduce mortality	Stimulate capital and business investment in the region	Preserve viewscapes and a sense of place
Mitigate risk from extreme weather events	Reduce mental health problems	Increase land values and regional and local government revenues	Activate spaces through art and interpretation
	Build positive self-esteem and confidence	Serve as important assets to deliver core government services and programs.	Protect historical features
	Reduce anti-social and delinquent behaviours		
	Livability of the region		

Engagement Summary

Our residents, stakeholders, and partners are passionate about trails and natural spaces. We know that they care and want to be involved in helping to shape the future. Achieving the priorities, we have collaboratively developed will be a team effort with the Regional District. As such, we set out to design and deliver a meaningful engagement process that allowed anyone with interest in the future of our trails and natural space system to help shape their future.

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

To make the engagement process as accessible as possible, five tactics were utilized to gather input:

- In-park conversation kiosks
- Household online survey
- Community and stakeholder virtual interviews
- Online interactive crowdsource mapping platform
- In-person workshops

The engagement program was designed in compliance with all COVID-19 health orders from the provincial health officer. COVID-19 limited the ability to implement extensive in-person engagements.

Engagement by the Numbers

25 Community/ Stakeholder Interviews/Perspectives

1 In-Person Group Workshop

122 online survey responses

2 Conversation kiosk attendees

75 Online mapping responses

WHAT WE HEARD

Seven (7) themes emerged from each of the engagement tactics. *Please see the White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture - What We Heard Report* for full details on the engagement input.

Participants identified a need to:

- **protect** biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes through parkland, and the region's key trail systems on private and crown land;
- **enhance** the function, quality, and appeal of our existing parks, facilities, and recreation programming;
- **ensure** our parks and recreation facilities include all visitors, regardless of ability, ethnicity, or orientation;
- better **manage** our network and visitors;
- **animate** our parks to enrich the experience and deepen the understanding and appreciation of our region to visitors; and,
- **promote** our parks and recreation services to increase visitation.

Expand and Connect

- Participants were generally enthusiastic and made requests for the improvement and expansion of existing trail pathways as a means to strengthen the connectivity between communities, parks and recreation sites and expand the offering of recreation opportunities in the region.
- Several sites were identified for the development of new or expansion of existing multi-use trails and parks including trail development around Lumby, Cherryville, Silver Star and Mabel Lake Road; and park development in Old Cott.
- Participants noted the need for dedicated, purpose-built cross country skiing trails for year round recreation opportunities in White Valley.
- There is a desire for additional dog parks in the area, along with the expansion and fencing of existing dog parks.
- Within the engagement tactics, participants noted it would be beneficial for the community to have expanded access to school facilities, particularly the gymnasiums for recreational programming.
- Additional amenities and facilities – gym, fitness centre, indoor walking, community gathering spaces / halls, multi-use hard court in outdoor rink, washrooms / rest stops to support outdoor activities
- Programming – adult learn to swim, basketball league, fencing, sport exploration / try-it events, hunting, summer programming (full days).
- Training opportunities such as physical therapy.
- Grants for groups to put on activities.

Protect

- Participants expressed concern about flooding and its impact on the use and condition of facilities and amenities.
- Participants indicated the need to protect more of the region's trails, parklands and waterways to ensure the Regional District's natural habitats support landscape connectivity for larger protected areas.
- Local resident access to recreation sites.
- Space for "quiet" recreation
- Some programs – evening aquafit; home along program, babysitter, outdoor sport programs for children
- Forests and parks with fire smart and safety programs

Enhance

- Participants noted the needed enhancement of support amenities, including (but not limited to) garbage collection, washrooms and warming huts for year-round use of trails and parks.
- Participants indicated the need to enhance the quality and consistency of signage in parks and along the trails including wayfinding, interpretive, responsible use and regulatory signage and the need to create an appealing and aesthetic "gateway" for visitors arriving at trails and parks.
- Participants recognized the appeal of winter based recreation and indicated that enhancing access to winter recreation opportunities and experiences in parks and trails was needed.
- Additional recreation amenities such as: bike trails in town, indoor recreation facility, gym, pool, tennis courts, outdoor hard court, outdoor performance space.
- Play equipment in parks.
- Amenities to support the bike / pump track at Hanson Park – shade, viewing area, picnic area
- Infrastructure / facilities – outdoor cooking areas, off-leash dog park, resurfaced oval, soccer goal posts
- Programming – movie in the park, cooking classes, home school recreation options, karate, art and culture programs.
- Signage and maps for wayfinding.
- Trail maintenance – clear Salmon Trail in winter, maintain trails connecting neighbourhoods to downtown.

Include

- It was recognized that few of the parks and trails or associated amenities are universally accessible. Participants identified the need to improve universal accessibility of trails and amenities, particularly for those with mobility concerns or limitations.
- Additionally, concerns were raised that the current cost of programming would be a limiting factor impacting participation for some of the region's residents.

Manage

- Participants indicated the need for improved garbage maintenance on trails and in parks within the region.
- Improved maintenance and weed control on trails and within parks.
- Participants indicated the need for better engagement and promotion of regional volunteers and volunteer organizations.
- Amenities and facilities for local residents only – camping, recreation areas, swimming areas.
- Participants believe that hiring a trained, professional recreation coordinator would improve the service delivery of programming and experiences of youth in the region.
- Clear trails in winter.
- Improved access to school facilities.
- Programming – expand adult programming in the evening; recruit students to assist with program delivery.
- Improved promotion of programs to ensure programs that are offered actually happen.
- Improved space booking process.
- Consider partnerships for trails management.
- New location is needed for the tourist booth.

Animate

- The participants noted the opportunity for the Regional District to provide a broader variety of recreational programming, including volleyball, basketball, and tennis, as well as increased programming during the daytime and over the weekend.
- Parks and trails provide spaces for social gatherings and cultural events, this has been enhanced during COVID and more than likely will continue post COVID, participants would like to see spaces animated with amenities to support social safe gatherings such as seating and outdoor stage/performance areas.

Promote

- There is a need to expand the promotion of the health and social benefits of the recreation experiences in the region's parks and trails – especially those relating to personal health and social well-being of residents, particularly during and post COVID.
- Several participants noted the potential for increased promotion of local festivals, such as Lumby Days and Buttertart Festival, to ensure the continued hosting of these local events.

Current Inventory + Analysis

PARKS

Inventory

The White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture service includes seven parks (Figure 3 - Parkland in White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Service Area, and the RDNO also holds co-trusteeship on two conservation covenants in the service area with the North Okanagan Nature Conservancy.

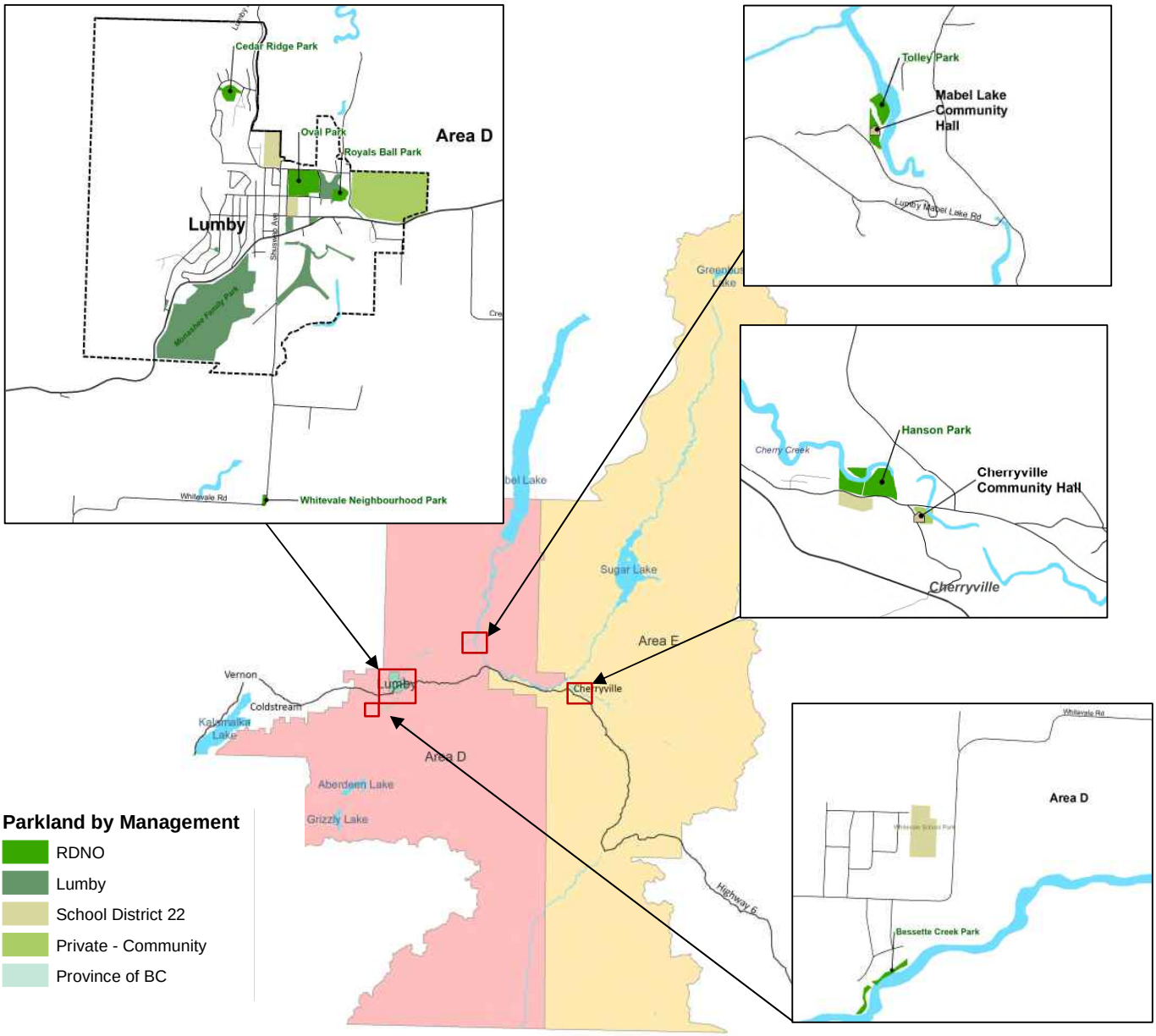


Figure 3 - Parkland in White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Service Area

In addition to RDNO parks, parkland in the White Valley area is provided by the Village of Lumby, the Province of BC, School District 22, and local community organizations.

Supply Analysis of White Valley Parks

There are a variety of ways to measure parkland supply. Historically, a quantitative approach was considered standard practice, where acquisition targets were established by area acquired per 1,000 residents. More recently a broader approach has been taken that includes quantitative, gap-assessment, and a human-based needs approach that considers the carrying capacity of a park (environmental impact of park use level).

Totaling approximately 18.69 ha, the current area of parkland managed through the RDNO White Valley Parks, Recreation and Culture Service accounts for a very small fraction of the 400,000 ha of land within the White Valley service area; however much of the service area is sparsely occupied. If all formally protected parkland areas are counted, including Lumby parks, privately held community parks, provincial parkland, protected areas, and ecological reserves, a total of 20.96% of the White Valley area is currently protected as parks or natural space (approximately 83,839 Ha).

Table 4 - Summary of Parkland in the White Valley Area by Primary Objective

	PRIMARY OBJECTIVE	
	Recreation (ha)	**Conservation (ha)**
Province of BC	80,113.82	3,624.55
White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Service	18.69	0.38
Village of Lumby	63.99	0.00
School District	8.50	0.00
Privately-owned Community Park	9.02	0.00
Land Trust Covenants	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	**80,214.02**	**3,624.93**

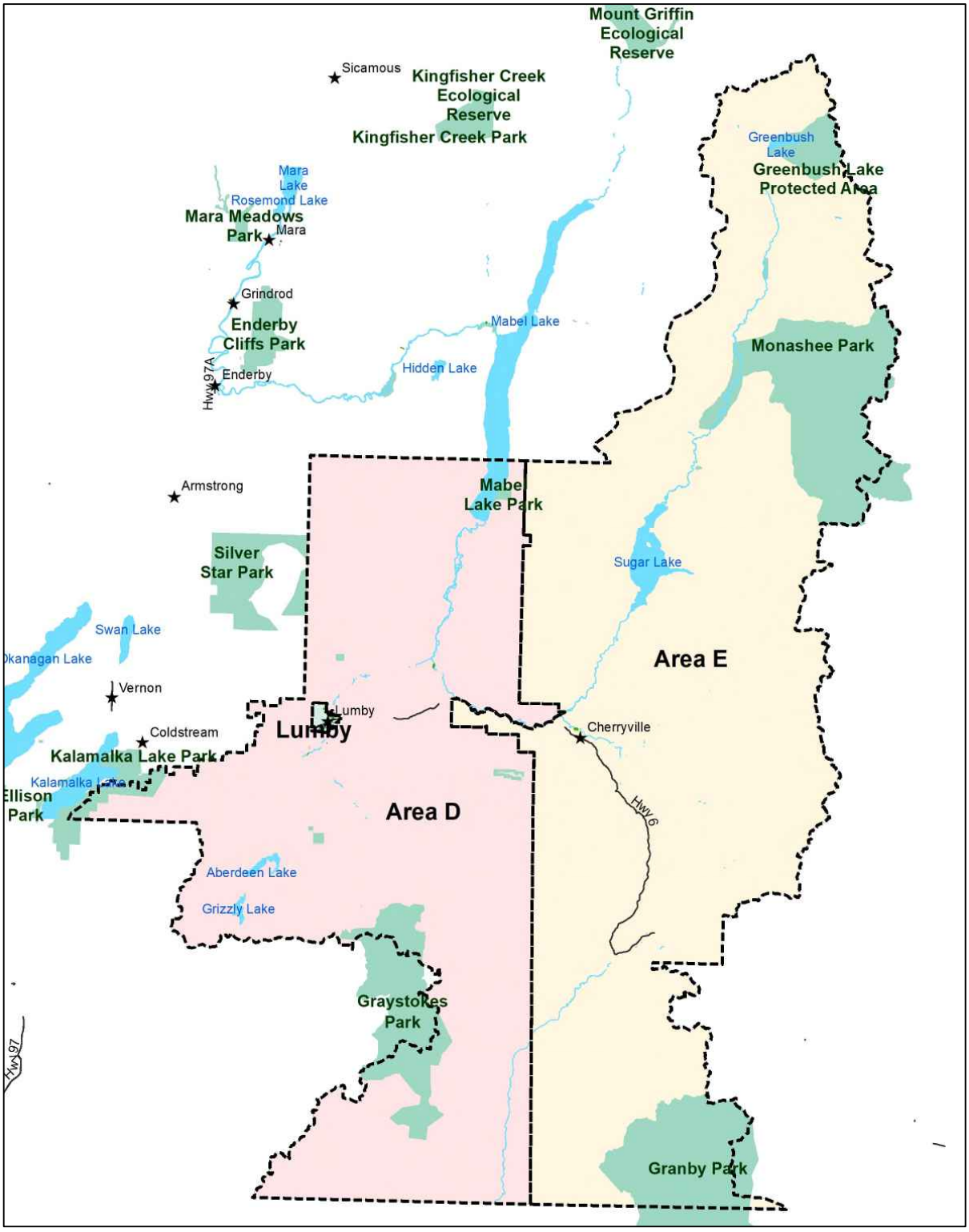


Figure 4 - Parkland Distribution in White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Service Area

Baseline Supply Analysis - Hectares (ha)/1000 Residents

If we use the standard benchmark of Parkland (ha)/1,000 residents to assess our parkland supply, and consider all area designated as parkland or protected natural area, including provincial parks and protected areas, local government owned parks, and private parkland held for use by the community White Valley, with its population of 6,064 (2021), has 13,818 ha of parkland per 1,000 residents.

If we calculate the parkland supply excluding the provincial parkland, the White Valley area has 8.7 ha of per 1,000 residents. Finally, if we calculate using only those parks included within the White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture service, we find that the service is currently providing a parkland supply of 2.82 ha/1000 residents.

Parkland targets can vary, but a national standard of *active* parkland (not including natural areas) is between 2.0 to 3.0 ha per 1,000 residents[5]. Since the RDNO is not the only provider of active parkland in the area, the White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Service has set a target of 2.5 ha per 1,000 residents. While the service is providing an adequate level of parkland based on its current population, it is anticipated that there will be a 2.1 ha shortfall of parkland within ten years based on the target.

Table 5 - Current Parkland Inventory and Parkland Targets

	2021	**2023**	**2033**	**2043**
Population	6,064	6,309*	7,691*	9,375*
Parkland Supply (ha)	17.1	17.1	17.1	17.1
Provision Target (%)	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Parkland Target (ha)	15.2	15.8	19.2	23.4
New Parkland Required	**0 ha**	**0.6 ha**	**2.1 ha**	**6.3 ha**

**assumes an average annual growth rate of 2.0%*

[5] Evergreen, Green Space Acquisition and Stewardship In Canada's Urban Municipalities, www.evergreen.ca/downloads/pdfs/Green-Space-Canada-Survey.pdf

Parks within the White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Service fall in one of three categories: Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, and Natural Areas (Table 5). The service area is well served for natural areas by the Province of BC.

Table 6 - White Valley Parks - Type and Size

Park Name	Jurisdiction	Type	Area (ha)
Oval Park	Village of Lumby	Community	3.78
Royals Ball Park	Village of Lumby	Community	1.11
Hanson Park	Electoral Area 'E'	Community	6.98
Tolley Park	Electoral Area 'D'	Community	3.48
Cedar Ridge Park	Village of Lumby	Neighbourhood	1.47
Whitevale Park	Electoral Area 'D'	Neighbourhood	0.30
Bessette Creek Park	Electoral Area 'D'	Natural Area	0.38

PARK TYPES

Community Parks (> 3 ha)

Community Parks support a variety of recreational and athletic interests with amenities, such as sports fields and courts, large skateboard parks, outdoor skating facilities, field houses, picnic shelters, off-leash dog areas and water play facilities, or accommodate specialized events and amenities may attract users from across the City or District. Community Park spaces are often co-located with recreation facilities.

Neighbourhood Parks (< 3 ha)

Neighbourhood Parks support a balance of active and passive uses, which can include playgrounds, courts, unlit sports fields, and social gathering spaces. Neighbourhood Parks serve a local community located within a 15-minute walk.

Areas of Interest for Parkland and Trail Protection / Acquisition

Reviewing the supply against the target of 2.5 ha of parkland per 1,000 residents, it is anticipated that the service will have a parkland shortfall of 2.1 ha by 2033. The acquisition of parkland to continue to maintain the target parkland provision should focus on developing neighbourhood parks with a focus on the underserved growing areas and additional areas to provide water access.

There are also several well-used sites and trails that are located on crown land through approval from Recreation Sites and Trails within the White Valley area that have not been included in these parkland calculations. Provincial Recreation Sites and Trails are located on crown land are not parks, nor are they protected long term as they may be working forests or subject to other tenure. The recreation use of sites that are established under Section 57 Forest Range and Practices Act include Sugar Lake, Cherryville, Cottonwood Beach, and a portion of the Rim Rocks Trail loop. There are many well-used trails on crownland that do not have authorization through Recreation Sites and Trails, such as Bluenose Mountain.

Gap-Assessment Analysis

The White Valley area has a relatively high area of protected areas and parkland, however most of it is located in remote areas of the region. Local greenspace accessibility and functionality should be the focus of gap-assessment analysis for this service. An inventory of current park infrastructure supply and future targets are summarized in Table 6 below. The targets were informed by a review of infrastructure-per-capita benchmarks from communities throughout Canada[6], and confirmed through the Plan's community engagement data and known current infrastructure capacity.

Table 7 - White Valley Parks Infrastructure Supply Analysis: Current Supply and Per Capita (1,000 residents) Targets

	2023 SUPPLY			TARGET BY POPULATION		
	WVPRC	**Community**	**Total**	**2023** *6,309 pop*	**2033** *7,691 pop*	**2043** *9,375 pop*
Sports Fields (1:2,800)	1	3	4	2.3	2.8	3.4
Ball Diamonds (1:4,000)	2	0	2	1.6	2.0	2.3
Playgrounds (1:1,400)	4	3	7	4.5	5.5	6.7
Tennis Courts (1:3,000)	1	0	1	2.1	2.6	3.1
Pickleball Courts (1:3,000)	1	0	1	2.1	2.6	3.1
Basketball Courts (1:5,400)	1	?	1	1.2	1.4	1.7
Outdoor Volleyball Courts (1:10,000)	2	0	2	<1	<1	<1
Skateboard Parks (1:10,000)	1	0	1	<1	<1	<1
Bike Parks (1:10,000)	1	1	2	<1	<1	<1
Dog Off-Leash Parks (1:30,000)	0	1	1	<1	<1	<1

The two areas of parks infrastructure that are expected to see a shortage within ten years are playgrounds and pickleball courts. While the community's current supply of sports fields is adequate when including the school district owned properties, the RDNO does not control these fields and the adequacy of the supply is dependent on the continued Joint-Use-Agreement for community access to the sports fields. One of the sports fields is located at the Whitevale Elementary School site, which is no longer in use by the school district. A discussion between the RDNO and the school district should take place regarding the long-term plan for this site.

Parkland acquisition within the next ten years should consider appropriate land to add one additional playground, two purpose-built pickleball courts (converting the existing courts at Oval Park to primarily tennis), and one additional basketball court.

[6] City of Ottawa, 2021 - Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Condition Assessment of White Valley Parks

The White Valley area encompasses several parks, all located in populated areas.

Oval Park

Size: 3.8 Ha



This is the main park in the Village of Lumby, with numerous amenities.

It is centrally located and is the home to a number of outdoor facilities. These include:

- Skate Park (1)
- Splash Park (1)
- Playground (1)
- Soccer/Rugby Field (1)
- Fitness Equipment Circuit
- Running track (1X50m)
- Ball Diamond (1)
- Basketball Court (1)
- Sand Volleyball Court (2)
- Multi-use fields (2)
- Tennis/pickleball courts (2)

The "Oval Park Intergenerational Recreation Facility Enhancements" completed in 2013, was a good start in the upgrading of the park components. The walkways, the ball diamond, and the running track have not been recently upgraded. Planning for their renewal or replacement should be underway as soon as possible.

Recommendations:

1. Upgrade the ball diamond in Oval Park, including a new backstop, players benches and more protective screening.
2. Improve infrastructure to support large outdoor events. This could include a improved access to power in parks, WiFi, and water. Either a permanent stage or a designated area for a temporary stage is recommended.
3. Improve the outdoor fitness area with accessible equipment and low-impact surfacing.
4. Upgrade the pathway through the park to enhance accessibility.

Figure 5. Skateboard Park in Oval Park

Royals Ball Park

Size: 1.1 Ha

This Ball Park is located in downtown Lumby near the Lions campground. The single ball diamond has lights, recently upgraded players benches, washroom building, and picnic shelter, and protective screening along the sides. Royals Ball Park is located in the riparian area of the creek and can be subject to flooding.



Cedar Ridge Park

Size: 1.5 Ha

This park currently includes a play structure installed in 2019, and there is a development plan for future amenities that include a perimeter trail, seating, and additional parking.

The park when fully developed could include an outdoor exercise area, large open green spaces, a dryland grass and wildflower area, and the retention of the existing forested area.

Recommendations:

1. Implement the improvements recommended within the Cedar Ridge Park Development Plan.
2. Undertake regular fuel mitigation program in the forested area of the park.



Whitevale (South Lumby) Park

Size: 0.3 Ha

This neighbourhood park has a very large turf area and a small playground. The park is underutilized and should be considered for future development of needed park amenities. There is on-street parking availability, and the park is less than a five-minute drive from downtown Lumby.

Walking and cycling access to this park could be improved through a roadside pathway along Whitevale Road, and should be done if recreation infrastructure is added, such as pickleball courts.



Recommendations:

1. Undertake a planning process that includes local community consultation, and consultation with potential users for the development of new pickleball courts in Whitevale Park.
2. Work with the appropriate authorities to encourage a pedestrian path along Whitevale Road that would increase safe pedestrian access from Lumby to Whitevale Park.

Tolley Park

Size: 3.5 Ha – Partially within Agricultural Land Reserve

This is a natural area park on the edge of the Shuswap River in Electoral Area 'D". The Mabel Lake Community Club and Recreation Commission operates the RDNO owned Mabel Lake Community Hall on this site. It is a passive park with picnic areas, and the land is appropriate to consider a small natural trail network and some interpretive signage. The north portion of the park located across Shuswap River from the Hall is leased for use by the Government of Canada as a fish hatchery. The remainder of the park property is located within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

Recommendations:

1. Undertake a planning process that includes local community consultation, and consultation with potential users for additional amenities, such as playgrounds, or the development of a small natural trail system with interpretive signage within the forested area of Tolley Park.
2. Ensure that the forested area is regularly treated for fuel management.

Hanson Park

Size: 7.0 Ha

This park is located on Cherry Creek in Electoral Area E, in Cherryville. The park has the following amenities:

- Outdoor covered stage
- Picnic shelters (2)
- Concession Building
- Outdoor ice rink (skate park in summer)
- Bike Trail
- Equestrian area
- River viewing
- Forested areas











A number of upgrades have been completed in Hanson Park since the photos were taken in late summer. A significant portion of the park is located in the riparian area of Cherry Creek, providing limited development potential. The stage has recently been repaired, and investment to the shelters and concession building are scheduled to be complete in 2023.

The park is well used but is lacking sufficient ongoing maintenance.

Recommendations:

1. Establish a park maintenance/repair/improvement schedule for Hanson Park and allocate annual funding for this work.
2. Budget for recreation equipment to utilize the outdoor rink slab in the non-ice seasons, with opportunities including pickleball and basketball.
3. Ensure that the forested area is regularly assessed and treated for fuel management, if appropriate.
4. Work with an appropriate group to improve features in the bike park area and maintain appropriate signage.

Bessette Creek Park

Size: 0.38 Ha – Within Agricultural Land Reserve

This is a natural area park on the edge of the Shuswap River. It is not well used and would require improvements to encourage better public access.

Recommendations:

1. Explore the use of the transportation right-of-way for access and parking to provide passive water access and picnicking area. This may require Agriculture Land Commission approval if improvements are made to the property in the ALR.

TRAILS

Inventory

The RDNO does not currently provide trails as part of its White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture service, outside of small trail systems within some of its parks.

Trails are a significant component of the infrastructure supporting outdoor recreational activity, and there are a number of trails in the White Valley area offering opportunities for leisurely walks on relatively flat terrain and natural trails with significant elevation changes, and everything in between.

The Trails Strategy for British Columbia states that “trails enable meaningful connection between people and nature”. The Strategy was developed as a collaboration of provincial agencies, recreation organizations, local governments, land users, First Nations, and others across the province. The growing demand for recreation trails close to urban and residential areas is helping to invigorate individual and community health. This trend is especially seen in the 55+ age group. It’s also growing strong among young families who value a healthy lifestyle.

Most well-used trails in the area are located on crown land (Appendix A), however there are some trails located on privately-owned property that have been identified as being under threat from a change to public access (Rim Rocks Trail) that have been identified by community members as being desired for

protection. The Salmon Trail provided by the Village of Lumby is also a well-used trail that connects to the discontinued section of rail line owned by the Village of Lumby.

Monashee Trails Society

The Monashee Trails Society is a key organization in the White Valley region. Their statement of purpose is:

Our purpose is to create, maintain and promote a system of well designed, accessible, non-motorized trails throughout the region to foster appreciation, education, protection and enthusiasm for the natural world around us in collaboration with Indigenous, local and government organizations.

The Monashee Trail Society (MTS) is a newly formed non-profit organization, founded in 2021 with support from the RDNO, with its first Annual General Meeting held in November 2022. The organization has received funding through the RDNO and the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs to support core community activities. The MTS are a member-based volunteer organization. Their current board consists of ten individuals, all of whom are dedicated to improving and enhancing their community. The current membership sits at seventy (70) people.

The main goals when the Society was formed were as follows:

1. Improve the Forestry Rd. to Camel's Hump Trail head, as well as improved parking and signage.
2. Improve access to non-motorized trails in the area. Lumby has many trails that are only known to select groups of people and are mostly used by motorized recreational vehicles.
3. Build a non- motorized trail which could be accessed from Lumby that goes up into the Monashee Community Forest and other Crown Land that surrounds Lumby.
4. Connect to the backside of Silver Star from Lumby (or as close to Lumby as possible).
5. Multi-use active transportation trail from Lumby to Vernon.

The club is making progress, including working with Tolko, Lumber division to improve the road to Camels Hump Trail head, as well as improve parking conditions. The Club also added additional signage in the area.

The Club is working on obtaining permission to maintain, add signage, and connect trails in the Cooper's Launch area. They are hoping to work with Silver Star Mountain to connect that trail to Silver Star.

The biggest fundraiser to date is the annual Lumby Outhouse Races. The 2023 race was a big success, with 10 teams competing with hundreds of people cheering them on. The event was covered by multiple local news outlets including Global News. Although they do not raise a lot of money ($500) with this event, they raise considerable awareness and interest in the Society.

The Monashee Trails Society could accomplish a great deal more with regular operating funding. It is extremely difficult for a fully volunteer organization to handle all the necessary administrative and fund-raising tasks. Funding to pay for consulting or time from an individual with the required knowledge and experience could help with explore funding sources and prepare grant applications. This this would speed up processes, as well as help us meet goals that, due to time constraints, would otherwise be completely missed.

It may be possible to obtain some operational funding from other levels of government (through a grant) as well as some support from the private sector to supplement funding from RDNO and Lumby.

Supply Analysis

While the RDNO does not current provide trails outside walking paths in our parks, the RDNO plays an advocacy role in supporting the protection of trails through crownland. The following are areas that have been identified as highly used trails that may require continued or additional formal protection, or new trails that may require RDNO support to acquire.

Areas of Interest for Trail Protection / Acquisition

Location	Type	Method
Bluenose Mountain	Trail	Designation through Rec Sites and Trails
Camel's Hump	Trail	Designation through Rec Sites and Trails
Rail Trail	Trail	Acquisition of discontinued rail line

Recommendations

1. That the Regional District of North Okanagan support the Monashee Trails Society, Naturalists Club, or other appropriate community partners in securing well-used trails on crownland, such as the Bluenose Trail, through appropriate means such as Section 57 applications through BC Recreation Site and Trails.
2. That the Regional District of North Okanagan support the Monashee Trail Society in the preparation and submission of a grant application to the appropriate provincial Ministry for an annual operating grant to build administrative capacity.
3. That the Monashee Trails Society pursue other sources of funding through the private sector and/or local government to "match" the funding request to the provincial government.
4. That the RDNO work with the Village of Lumby and, as appropriate, other RDNO jurisdictions to acquire the deactivated rail corridors, as available, to develop a trail corridor.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Inventory

White Valley Community Centre

This White Valley Community Centre was built in 1991. It has a hall that can be broken out into three flexible spaces that are available for a variety of programs and activities. It also has a meeting room that can accommodate approximately 15 people, and a full commercial kitchen. The Community Centre also houses the local branch of the regional library and a early childhood programming space, currently used for preschool programming. The library plans to relocate in 2024/2025, which will leave approximately 1,500 square feet of space available for use for other purposes. The building has been well maintained and appears to be in good condition.

There are several regular user groups who have designated storage space within the facility. There is a limited amount of storage space, and it is regularly identified as a necessary facility improvement.

Recommendation:

1. Coordinate additional storage for the community centre as part of future facility improvements.
2. Enhance the space to attract private rentals to generate additional revenue to offset operating costs.
3. Develop a plan for the space currently occupied by the library



Figure 6 - White Valley Community Centre

Pat Duke Memorial Arena

The Pat Duke Memorial Arena was built in 1967 as a Centennial project and is a single standard size ice sheet with two original change rooms. The arena is the home of minor hockey, figure skating, men's and women's hockey, and public skating.

The arena refrigeration plant equipment was replaced in 2014, and the building underwent renovations and expansion of the Pat Duke Memorial Arena in 2020 that were made possible through a 2016 Kraft Hockeyville grant, a TELUS community grant, and a $2.59 million contribution from the federal Gas Tax Fund. The $3 M project added four new change rooms and renovated the existing change rooms, but also reinforced the arched glulam beams, which has extended the life of the building structure by at least 20 years.



Figure 7 - Parking Area for Pat Duke Memorial Arena and White Valley Community Centre



Figure 8 - Pat Duke Memorial Arena

Recommendations:

1. Replace roof and slab within the next three years.
2. Explore feasibility of additional parking areas in or around the arena.

Lumby Outdoor Pool

The five-lane outdoor pool is open seasonally from the long weekend in May to the end of August. The outdoor pool building is outdated and in need of upgrades. The pool liner was replaced in 2016 with tile and there has been regular investment in the water treatment system equipment. The change rooms and staff space are outdated.

The pool is not fully accessible for persons with disabilities; however, an accessible, universal change room has been created for use by any visitor.

Hiring lifeguards has been a challenge recently. In 2023, RDNO and Lumby increased wages and provided additional training incentives for sustainability of the service.

Recommendation:

1. Continue to maintain and upgrade the pool and building as necessary to keep it in operation for the benefit of the community.



Figure 9 - Lumby Outdoor Pool

Curling Club

The Curling Club facility was built in 1980. The facility is leased from the RDNO by the Curling Club Society. It is well used and appears to be in good condition for its age. The Club received funding from RDNO in 2023 to replace flooring and paint some interior spaces. Although the Curling facility is more than 40 years old, it has been well maintained.

The facility is used for markets and special event rentals during the off-season, but the slab area is underutilized and could serve as a space for appropriate dry floor recreation programming.



The facility includes:

- Four sheet ice surfaces
- Dressing rooms/washrooms
- Equipment lockers and storage
- Fully licensed lounge with seating for 125 people

- Kitchen facilities

Figure 10 - Lumby Curling Club

Recommendation:

1. Continue to support the Club with an operating grant and encourage more youth programming.
2. Explore dry floor recreation programming opportunities that may be suitable for use of the slab in the off-season.

Mabel Lake Hall

This Hall is in Tolley Park on the banks of the Shuswap River. It is owned by the RDNO and is operated by the Mable Lake Community Club and Recreation Commission.



Figure 11 - Mabel Lake Community Hall

The Hall is used for community activities, meetings, and events, as well as being a popular location for private rentals for weddings or family reunions. The Club annually holds a Spring clean-up of the park, and over the years there have been a variety of programs including yoga and moms and tots drop in.

In other community halls in the region, indoor pickleball has become a popular and regular user.



Figure 12 - Cherryville Community Hall

Cherryville Community Hall

The Cherryville Community Hall is owned by the Cherryville Community Club but regularly used by residents of the Cherryville area for recreation programming and special events. The hall has been well maintained and is in good condition.

The Cherryville Community Club receives an annual grant from the RDNO for the operational costs associated with the hall, and the RDNO rents the basement of the Hall to deliver preschool programming to the Cherryville Community.

Recommendations:

1. That the RDNO continue to support the local Community Associations in the operation of the Mabel Lake and Cherryville Halls, by providing funds for any major capital repairs, and operating support if needed.

Supply Analysis

The recreation infrastructure supply for the community is provided through a combination of RDNO managed infrastructure and community-owned and managed infrastructure.

	2023 SUPPLY			TARGET BY POPULATION		
	WVPRC	Community	TOTAL	2023 *6,309 pop*	2033 *7,691 pop*	2043 *9,375 pop*
Gymnasiums (1:30,000)	0	4	4	<=1	<=1	<=1
Community Centre/Hall (1:22,000)	2	1	3	<=1	<=1	<=1
Outdoor Pool (1:100,000)	1	0	1	<=1	<=1	<=1
Indoor Pool (1:50,000)	0	0	0	<=1	<=1	<=1
Splash Pad (1:7,500)	1	0	1	<=1	1.0	1.25
Arena (1:20,000)	1	0	1	<=1	<1	<1
Outdoor Rink (1:5,000)	1	0	1	1.26	1.54	1.88
Curling Rink (1:50,000)	1	0	1	<=1	<=1	<=1

Gymnasiums and studios

The allocation of time at municipal gymnasiums and fitness studios can generally be divided into three categories: drop-in use (such as drop-in badminton, pick-up basketball), regular programs (such as a weekly fitness class) and private rentals. In general, greater than 50% of gymnasium time is reserved for drop-in use and regular programs. There has been increasing interest in drop-in opportunities for adult volleyball, and private rental of gym space by sports organizations and leagues. The RDNO does not have a purpose-built gymnasium, and while the community centre halls provide adequate fitness studio space they are not suitable for gym sports. While the population requirement for a purpose-built gymnasium is not anticipated within the ten years of this plan, there is currently 20% of a full-time gymnasium required to meet the community needs, which increases to 25% by 2033.

Recommendations:

1. That the Joint-Use Agreement between RDNO and School District 22 be supported by a community access scheduling process to be coordinated by the RDNO to allow recreation and league sport access.
2. That additional storage be added to the White Valley Community Centre to accommodate recreation programming equipment to allow better use of existing space.

Outdoor Rink

The Village of Lumby is currently considering the addition of an outdoor rink at Monashee Family Park. Should this go ahead, this will meet the community need for an additional outdoor rink in the area. If this does not proceed, an assessment of existing parkland should be completed and a site identified to

incorporate an outdoor rink and multi-purpose slab that could be used for roller sports or courts in the non-winter season.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Inventory

The programs and activities in White Valley are delivered by a mix of local clubs and non-profit organizations, sport organizations, the RDNO, Village of Lumby, the Library, School District 22, the Monashee Arts Council, the Seniors Club, the Museum, and the private sector.

Programs that are regularly offered are:

- Fitness (adult) Cardio, Circuit training, Low Impact and Boot Camp
- Ice programming including hockey and figure skating
- Swim lessons and aquatics fitness
- General programs – Babysitting training and "Home Alone" course
- Sports – Karate and Soccer

Supply Analysis

There is an opportunity for the RDNO to offer a greater number of recreation programs. A new Recreation Leader position has been created, which will be able to work with community organizations and the private sector to develop and offer new programs and activities. Where appropriate, the RDNO can contract instructors to fill gaps in recreation program providers.

Recommendations

1. That the White Valley Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee support the addition of additional programs for all age groups, but with a focus on children and youth, through the 2024 budget or sooner if possible (Fall programs).
2. That the White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture service budget include a larger marketing budget to increase program participation.
3. That the pool operations budget be increased to provide financial support for the recruitment and training of aquatic staff.
4. Review and update (if required) the White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Financial and Physical Disability Discount Policy No. WVPRC-002 and increase awareness of the program through promotion.
5. Identify barriers to participation by community members not taking part in recreation programs and create plans to eliminate barriers, including but not limited to:
    a. encouraging cultural safety training be taken by all recreation program providers;
    b. equipping program providers with knowledge of opportunities for low or no cost programming and program subsidy process;

c. supporting recreation programming throughout the White Valley area and not only in the Village of Lumby boundaries.

Service Delivery and Financial Analysis

SERVICE DELIVERY APPROACH

As a public service provider, the role of the RDNO in providing parks and recreation typically aligns with one of three categories:

Role	Description
Direct Provider	RDNO identifies/perceives community needs and plans, develops, constructs, and operates facilities, programs, and services through public funding.
Indirect Provision / Partnerships	RDNO initiates and enters into mutually beneficial and collaborative partnerships and contracts to provide the services and may provide various supports such as capacity building, leadership, facilitation, and finances to community groups, organizations, and agencies who then plan and deliver the services.
Cost Share	RDNO provides financial support through cost sharing agreements to an existing agency or entity such as an adjacent municipal government who already offers the services desired.

Service delivery is a key dimension to providing high quality parks and recreation amenities, services, and opportunities in the White Valley service area. Currently the RDNO employs a variety of service delivery approaches, however most services are delivered indirectly through contract. The Village of Lumby operates and maintains the Pat Duke Arena and all community and neighbourhood parks but Hanson Park and maintains the RDNO recreation infrastructure within the Village of Lumby boundaries. The RDNO has entered a contract for operations and maintenance of the Mabel Lake Community Hall and the Lumby Curling Rink with incorporated societies.

RDNO is the regulator of the service through the establishment and management of policies and bylaws and is the funding authority for the service. The service management includes long-range service planning, establishment of the annual mil rate and requisitioning, grant funding applications, capacity building, and facilitation of recreation programming. Recently the RDNO has taken over the management of the White Valley Community Centre, although the Village of Lumby continues to provide building maintenance service through their contract.

Given that the location of most active parkland and recreation infrastructure is located within the Village of Lumby boundaries, it is appropriate that the Village of Lumby is a contracted partner in the provision of services.

SERVICE FUNDING

The 2023 White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture operating budget was $1.64 million, of which $261,000 was budgeted as a contribution to the reserve. The operating expense of the service is funded through a combination of fees and general revenue (taxation), with the historical composition being one

eighth from fees and the remainder from taxation. It is recommended that the fee rates be reviewed, and cost recovery targets be established to ensure that fees are contributing to the cost recovery of the service at the target rates.

ASSET RENEWAL AND RESERVES

Based on an asset management plan completed in 2018, the White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture service infrastructure has a replacement cost of approximately $37.4 million. Of that, 69% was determined to be in infrastructure deficit, meaning that it has outlasted its theoretical life expectancy. While the 2018 plan is thought to be out-of-date, and has likely underestimated the value of assets, it has been used as the baseline to develop targets within this plan. It is recommended that the asset management plan be updated with current replacement values and new targets be developed and incorporated into the asset renewal goals.

Average Annual Life Cycle Investment

The Average Annual Life Cycle Investment (AALCI) is defined as the summation of each asset's annual depreciation. It represents the annual investment needed to sustain existing infrastructure over its service life (over the next 20 years and beyond).

The 2018 asset management plan recommended that the service make annual asset renewal investments (including major maintenance capital projects plus contributions to reserves) that should total $785,000 per year. The average investment over the past ten years has been $745,000, which includes the roughly $3 million expansion and structural upgrade to the Pat Duke Arena in 2020.

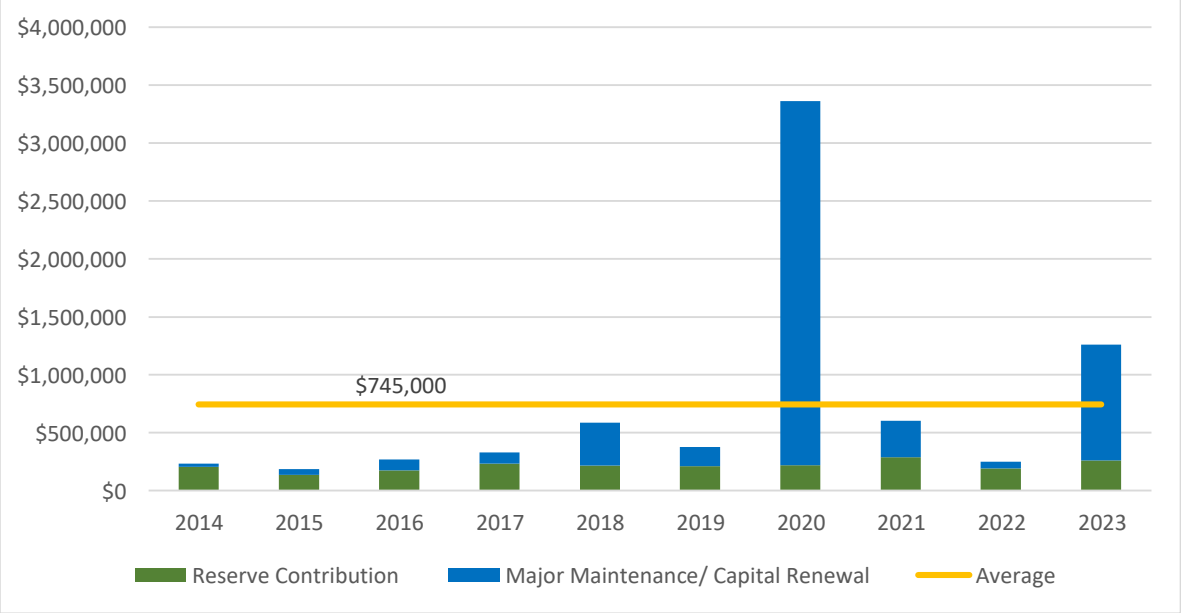


Figure 13 - Annual Asset Investment (Life Cycle) in White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Service

The contribution being made annually to reserves, combined with funding of major renewal projects, needs to grow to meet the target Average Annual Life Cycle Investment.

Currently, asset renewal of the White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture service largely relies on the use of federally funded grants through the Community Works Fund program. The service participants (Lumby and Electoral Area D and E) have mutually agreed to contribute to the cost of parks and recreation projects that are required, allowing the service to maintain its assets while also building the service reserve fund. It is recommended that the RDNO advocate for the continued funding of the Community Works Fund program, and that the eligibility of use of the funding continues to include parks and recreation projects. The discontinuance of this program without a similar replacement program would have a significant impact on this service's ability to maintain its current infrastructure. In order to become more resilient to the elimination of this funding from the service revenue, it is recommended that the contribution to reserves funded from general revenue be increased over time and that infrastructure grant funding be sought regularly for projects when available.

Vision and Goals

VISION

Residents of the White Valley area are actively engaged in a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational activities, supported by diverse recreation program offerings and a well-maintained system of parks and recreation facilities.

GOALS

1. The White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Service provides a system of parks that sustainably meet the recreational, ecological, and cultural needs of the community in cooperation with community organizations, the Village of Lumby, and the Province of BC.
2. Recreation infrastructure meets needs of residents of and visitors to the White Valley area and is in good condition to ensure continued service and allow growth of programming and participation.
3. The community has the recreation capacity through operational support to allow for growth in the community and interest in new and additional recreational programming.

Strategies and Actions

GOAL 1: PARKS AND TRAILS

The White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Service provides a system of parks that sustainably meet the recreational, ecological, and cultural needs of the community in cooperation with the Village of Lumby and the Province of BC.

	TIMEFRAME	FINANCIAL IMPACT
Strategy 1.1: Acquire and protect new parkland		
a. Support the Nature Conservancy of the North Okanagan and other appropriate partners in efforts in establishing conservation covenants or other protection mechanisms on land with high ecological or cultural values through advocacy, funding, or partnerships.	On-going	Based on opportunity
b. Update White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Development Cost Charge Bylaw.	0-2 years	$10K
c. Acquire an additional 2.1 ha of parkland for the provision of neighbourhood parks by 2033.	6-10 years	$150K
Strategy 1.2: Improve / enhance existing parks		
a. Undertake regular fuel assessment and management in park forested areas, including but not limited to Cedar Ridge Park and Hanson Park.	On-going	TBC
b. Undertake park development plans on any new parkland acquired.	On-going	TBC
c. Upgrade the parks infrastructure in Oval Park.	0-2 years	TBC
d. Establish a park maintenance/ repair/ improvement schedule for Hanson Park and allocate new annual funding for this work.	0-2 years	TBC
e. Budget for recreation equipment to utilize the outdoor rink slab at Hanson Park in the non-ice seasons. Opportunities include but are not limited to pickleball or basketball.	0-2 years	TBC
f. Work with an appropriate group to improve features and signage at the bike park area of Hanson Park.	1-3 years	$30K
g. Improve special event infrastructure in Oval Park, including additional power, WiFi, and water.	2-4 years	$30K
h. Undertake a consultation and planning for the development of new pickleball courts in Whitevale Park.	2-4 years	$20K

i. Work with the appropriate landowners / authorities to encourage a pedestrian path along Whitevale Road to improve pedestrian safety from Lumby to Whitevale Park.	2-4 years	-
j. Undertake public consultation to improve the outdoor fitness equipment area in Oval Park.	4-6 years	-
k. Undertake a planning process that includes local community consultation and consultation with potential users for additional amenities, such as natural play features, or a natural trail system with interpretive signage within the forested area of Tolley Park.	4-6 years	$15K
l. Explore improvements to Bessett Creek Park.	6-8 years	-
Strategy 1.3: Protect existing trail networks		
a. Initiate a bi-annual White Valley parks and trails stakeholder meetings at which collaborative opportunities for new or protection of trails are discussed.	On-going	-
b. Support the Monashee Trails Society in securing well-used trails on crownland, such as the Bluenose Trail, through appropriate means such as Section 57 applications through BC Recreation Site and Trails.	On-going	-
c. Support the Monashee Trail Society in the preparation and submission of a grant application to the appropriate provincial Ministry and other funders for an annual operating grant to build administrative capacity to formalize approval of use of existing trails.	0-2 years	-
Strategy 1.4: Support new trails		
a. Work with the Village of Lumby and, as appropriate, other RDNO jurisdictions to acquire inactive rail corridors for the purposes of constructing rail trail to connect to surrounding communities.	On-going	Based on opportunity
b. Support the Monashee Trails Society in securing new trails on crownland through appropriate means such as Section 57 applications through BC Recreation Site and Trails.	On-going	Based on opportunity

Measurement Metrics:

- New parkland acquired and/or protected (ha).
- Park infrastructure improved and expanded and included within sustainable asset management plan.
- Additional trails are developed and/or formally protected (linear m/km).

GOAL 2: RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Recreation infrastructure meets needs of residents of and visitors to the White Valley area and is in good condition to ensure continued service and allow growth of programming and participation.

	TIMEFRAME	FINANCIAL IMPACT
Strategy 2.1: Update and implement asset management strategy		
a. Continue to work toward the 20-year Average Annual Investment (AAI) targets, prioritizing the replacement of the arena roof and slab, and major renovation or replacement of the outdoor pool building.	On-going	$500K/year average
b. Update the asset management plan for the RDNO White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture service, including a review and clean-up of the various agreements and license of occupations within the White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture service.	2-4 years	$40K
c. Advocate for the continuation of the Community Works Fund program (or a similar program) that continues to permit eligibility of parks and recreation infrastructure.	On-going	-
Strategy 2.2: Enhance existing facilities to expand recreation and programming options		
a. Explore dry floor recreation programming opportunities that may be suitable for use of the arena and curling club slabs in the off-season.	0-2 years	-
b. Add additional storage to the White Valley Community Centre to accommodate recreation programming equipment to allow better use of existing space as required.	1-3 years	$200K
Strategy 2.3: Formalize and improve the process to provide community access to other community-owned spaces, including the community halls and schools, for recreation programming		
a. Develop a regular community access scheduling process that is coordinated by the RDNO to allow recreation and league sport access in school facilities and greenspace.	0-2 years	TBC

Measurement Metrics:

- AAI target investments are increasing annually through a combination of asset renewal works and/or contribution to reserves.
- Revenue is increased through a combination of fees and facility rentals.
- New programming is enabled through the access of non-RDNO owned facilities.

GOAL 3: RECREATION PROGRAMMING

The community has the recreation capacity through access to infrastructure and operational support to allow for growth in the community and interest in new and additional recreational programming.

	TIMEFRAME	FINANCIAL IMPACT
Strategy 3.1: Build capacity of recreation service providers		
a. Support recreation programmers with seed funding for equipment purchase, training, and capacity building, and continue to offer the 80/20 facility rental options for recreation programming.	On-going	Operating funds
b. Seek recreation program providers for dry-floor activities within existing facilities that may be suitable for use of the slab in the off-season.	On-going	Operating funds
c. Encourage cultural safety training be taken by all program providers.	On-going	Operating funds
d. Develop cost recovery targets to support the sustainable development of new recreation programming and fees and charges bylaw updates.	0-1 years	-
e. Meet with Mabel Lake Hall Community to explore interest and ability of local community to provide recreation programming.	1-3 years	-
Strategy 3.2: Enhance training to access qualified recreation programmers		
a. Enhance the pool operations budget to provide financial support for the recruitment and training of aquatic staff.	On-going	Operating budget
b. Seek partnership with providers to offer additional recreational programming for all age groups, but with a focus on children and youth.	On-going	Operating budget
Strategy 3.3: Increase marketing and advertising of programming opportunities		
a. Increase the recreation program and facility rental marketing budget and efforts to increase program awareness and participation and encourage broader use of the facilities.	Phased over 0-3 years	Operating budget
b. Review and update the *White Valley Parks, Recreation, and Culture Financial and Physical Disability Discount Policy No. WVPRC-002* and increase the community awareness of the program through promotion.	0-2 years	-

Measurement Metrics:

- Number and diversity of programming available within White Valley owned or rented facilities is increased.
- Fees and facility rentals revenue has increased its contribution to the total revenue.

Appendices

LOCAL TRAILS

Camel's Hump Trail

This 3.4-mile out-and-back trail is near Lumby. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 2 h 22 min to complete. This trail is great for birding and hiking. This a great up and down hike through the trees to reveal amazing vistas at both camel "humps".

Cooper's Trail

The trail is a well-worn, 4 km out-and-back with a 'choose your own adventure' style at the top.

The Monashee Trail Society members have been hiking and mapping a new route to the Coopers Launch area that doesn't include crossing any private property. They see this area as an excellent start to put in more trails (single and double track) for hiking, running and mountain biking, and eventually connecting to the land above Lumby's mountain view area.

Salmon Trail

The Salmon Trail Network is a popular hiking trail that is owned and operated by the Village of Lumby and is well used by the community and visitors to the area. The West section of the trail is on the edge of Lumby. The other sections are throughout downtown Lumby. The Lumby Visitor Centre offers Salmon Trail tours from June to August, and the Village of Lumby has bought a track setter to provide a cross country ski area during the winter months.

The West Salmon Trail is located on the west side of Lumby, just off the highway.





A small bike park has also been constructed at the entrances to the trail on Monashee Family Park, which may expand in the future as shown on the signage.

