

ENTWISTLE AND EVANSBURG RECREATION & PARKS FACILITIES STRATEGIC PLAN

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY & PARKLAND COUNTY

March 25 and April 2, 2013

3/28/2013

Plan Purpose

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- Comprehensive review of the parks and recreation facilities within the region
- Review current recreation and parks resources servicing the Hamlets of Evansburg and Entwistle
- Initiated through a collaborative effort between Yellowhead and Parkland County
- One community

The Strategic Plan

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- Is a planned approach to providing facilities to meet current and future needs.
- It is facilities driven.
- It summarizes research and provides recommendations that reflect the consultation process.
- It is a ten year vision.

Mandate

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- **Conduct Research**
 - ▣ Population, barriers, trends and market
- **Consult Hamlet and Area Households**
 - ▣ Community priorities and preferences
 - ▣ Delivery of facility services
 - ▣ Identify needed programs, facilities and gaps in services
- **Prepare a Strategic Plan**
 - ▣ Guiding principals
 - ▣ Development priorities and recommendations for implementation.

Research Hi-Lights

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- Projected growth rate of 2% means sustainable communities.
- Average age in the Hamlets is significantly older than provincial average (5.7 – 7.0 older).
- Changing participation patterns – from structured programs to more spontaneous activity.
- Steady decline in indoor team sports and outdoor field sports show drop in participation
- User fees, equipment costs and transportation are barriers to participation.

Research Hi-Lights

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- Volunteers are decreasing in numbers and increasing in age
- There is growing interest in preserving natural environments, protecting wildlife corridors and trail networks
- The Hamlets are well positioned to attract “smart growth” in a sustainable manner, revitalization of the downtown cores are a key component
- Heritage tourism and agricultural tourism opportunities should be combined with recreational activities to larger and more diverse audiences
- Community Revitalization should consider “child friendly and senior friendly” program and service elements within the design of new and renovated facilities

Household Survey Hi-Lights

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- 195 households in Hamlets and surrounding area – validity +/- 6.5% 19 times of 20
- 38% participate 10 times or more a year to 27% indicating they never participate
- Top 4 most important existing facilities #1 Nothing, #2 Arena, #3TLC, #4 Legion
- Top 4 most important facilities to develop #1 None, #2 Pool, #3 Walking trails and Pathways, #4 Youth Drop in
- 50% of households do not favor any tax increase
- 40% of households support annual operations through a combination of taxes and user fees

Community Organization Hi-Lights

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- 27 community organizations (85%) were engaged in the process
- Organizations indicated a desire for greater levels of engagement and are prepared to participate in planning future programs and facilities.
- 63% of organizations expect an increase in participation and membership.
- Existing community facility infrastructure is declining and insufficient demand.
- Most used facilities are the Arena and school gymnasiums

Community Organization Hi-Lights

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- The majority of community organizations indicated they are not currently planning to meet future facility needs.
- Current indoor facilities are being under utilized.
- Most indoor facilities are not wheelchair accessible.
- Are not in a position to contribute any capital to facility infrastructure improvement, challenged with maintaining and operating costs.
- Green Infrastructure is of major importance, preservation of natural areas and upgrade of active play areas

Building Condition Reviews

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- 10 indoor facilities, 9 outdoor facility reviews or assessments were undertaken
- Comprehensive review of Arena and outdoor pool and general condition reviews of remaining facilities
- Key areas related to architectural, structural, mechanical, and electrical components
- Facility managers or persons with knowledge were engaged
- Order of magnitude costs provided on a priority basis for infrastructure remediation costs
- No indoor facility met, or exceeded criteria utilized in the reviews / assessments

Facility Reviews

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- Entwistle Outdoor Pool (\$138,000)
 - ▣ Funds to keep facility safe and in repair
 - ▣ No further investment is warranted
 - ▣ Replacement (\$2.3M)
- Entwistle Community Hall (\$49,800)
 - ▣ High energy consumption
 - ▣ Safety issues – structural review by Engineer required
 - ▣ Many code violations
- Entwistle Lions Hall (\$16,300)
 - ▣ Many code violations
 - ▣ Interior finishes require significant upgrade
- Entwistle Jubilee Seniors Centre (\$3,000)
 - ▣ Above standard interior finishes
 - ▣ Exterior components require upgrade
 - ▣ Not feasible for expansion

Facility Reviews

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- Evansburg “PARS” Arena (\$155,100)
 - ▣ Benefitted from significant upgrades and renovations
 - ▣ High standard of maintenance
 - ▣ No significant work required on building envelope
 - ▣ Upgrading of rink lighting and ventilation are priorities
- Evansburg Legion Hall (\$37,000)
 - ▣ Immediate review of building mechanical and electrical systems required
 - ▣ Building has been expanded to its limits
- Evansburg Heritage House (\$38,100)
 - ▣ Good condition overall and well maintained
 - ▣ Site drainage is primary concern

Parks and Playgrounds

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- Entwistle Skate Park
 - ▣ Well suited for its purpose, no improvements recommended
- Entwistle Lions Playground (\$1,200)
 - ▣ Well suited for its purpose, lighting upgrade
- Entwistle School Grounds (\$61,700)
 - ▣ Playground equipment replacement
- Entwistle Rodeo Grounds (\$105,000)
 - ▣ Site and structures appear to have limited use
 - ▣ Grandstand, bleacher and seating upgrading
 - ▣ Structural deficiencies to roof beam supports
- Entwistle Tubing Area (\$600,000)
 - ▣ Parking lot , road access and signage

Parks and Playgrounds

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- Evansburg Ball Diamonds (\$1,500)
 - ▣ Very good condition, replace seating
- Evansview School Grounds (\$14,500)
 - ▣ Repair/Replace chain link fence, drainage, basketball surface
- Grand Trunk School Grounds (\$2,500)
 - ▣ Very good condition, asphalt sealer
- Evansburg Lions Playground (\$20,000)
 - ▣ Playground equipment replacement
- Pembina Valley Golf Club (\$55,000)
 - ▣ Parking lot paving
- Evansburg Tipple Park (\$150,000)
 - ▣ Building foundation structure

Financial Implications

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- Building Infrastructure \$437,300
- Outdoor pool replacement \$2.3M
- Parks and playfields \$971,400
- Engineering Studies \$40,000

- Total \$3,748,700

Development Priorities

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- **Most Important Current Facilities**
 - ▣ Arena, Tri Leisure Centre

- **Most Important Facilities to Develop**
 - ▣ Attention to current facility infrastructure and facility upgrade
 - ▣ Outdoor pool replacement

- **Priorities for the Future**
 - ▣ Pathways and natural areas, link with regional tourism and economic development.

Recommendations

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□ **Planning and Delivery**

- Dedicate resources to community organization development.
- Higher level of community organization engagement on development initiatives.
- Create opportunities for greater collaboration.

□ **Natural Areas**

- Preserve natural environments, wetland areas and wildlife corridors
- Integrate natural areas, active park spaces
- Commuter pathway linkage with neighborhoods, facilities, the downtown core and schools.

Recommendations

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□ Existing Infrastructure

- Initiate building condition assessments
- Address infrastructure deficiencies

□ New Facility Development – Entwistle Outdoor Pool

- Has implications for regional tourism and economic development
- Integrate additional aquatic opportunities
- Provide activity options for all age groups, interests and abilities.

□ Initiate discussions with community organizations and stakeholders

- Consider “senior friendly” program and service elements
- Work with the private sector in planning and development

Future Directions

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- Success depends upon:
 - The willingness of the community to participate
 - The ability of community organizations to continue to finance operations
 - Local governments ability in capital planning
- There is consensus to:
 - Focus upon existing infrastructure development and facility and park upgrades.