

Topic: RFD 22-310: Wabamun Area Vision Report

Introduction:

This report completes Phase 1 of the Wabamun Area Vision project. The report is a strategic resource to guide development in the Wabamun area over the next 50 years. The study area includes the Hamlet of Wabamun, the Wabamun Lake watershed, TransAlta operations lands, and a corridor from the Keephills area south to the North Saskatchewan River. These lands were identified because of the proximity to the lake, potential impact on lake health, and the transitional nature of specific areas (ex. Reclamation of Highvale Mine). This study area excludes Paul Band First Nation and the summer villages as they are independent jurisdictions. This report considers a range of factors that will determine the development path of the area and establishes a high-level vision to guide decision making into the future. The vision for this area can be summarized as:

The Wabamun Area will leverage its unique natural and industrial assets to enable its transformation into a thriving regional anchor:

- premised on healthy and well-connected ecologies for all generations,
- widely known as a beautiful, unique, and accessible regional destination,
- strategically planned to create a well-connected rural region,
- sharing its community spirit to attract a wide range of families and lifestyles,
- energized by diverse, year-round economic drivers and employment,
- with an exciting collection of recreation sites and amenities.

Summary

In collaboration with Prairies Canada, Parkland County undertook the Wabamun Area Vision project in 2021. Phase 1 of this project is the report as explained above. Phase 2 will culminate in a Hamlet Area Redevelopment Plan for Wabamun, to be completed in 2023. This project is primarily funded through a \$658,000 contribution by the Government of Canada (administered by Prairies Canada), along with \$117,000 from the Government of Alberta. Phase 1 is completed on time and on budget.

The report provides detailed analysis of the various circumstances influencing development in the study area. Interested parties are encouraged to read the report itself to understand the analysis contained within. The report expounds on the project team's process of studying and analyzing natural systems, land use priorities, connectivity, areas of specific focus like the hamlet, north shore, and former mine lands towards establishing clear goals and strategic actions.

To help guide the study and development of goals and strategic actions, the project team also undertook comprehensive internal and external engagement. The report provides full detail on engagement, what was heard, and how the inputs from engagement were incorporated into the analytical process. In addition to engaging directly with Parkland County staff, regional stakeholders, and business partners, the report includes input from three public engagement sessions held virtually and in person at the Jubilee Hall in Wabamun. Over the course of three

engagement touchpoints, the project team received 2340 unique website visits, 694 survey responses, and had conversations with 105 residents at in-person events in Wabamun. The final report has been considered by all departments through an internal referral and is now ready to be submitted for information to Parkland County Council.

Alternatives:

1. Council may choose to not receive the report for information.

Conclusion/Summary:

If Council chooses to receive the report for information, it would be utilized to inform future statutory and regulatory amendments, such as the Hamlet Area Redevelopment Plan currently underway.

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Wabamun Area Vision Project

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