

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: B. Newell, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: March 2, 2023

RE: **10-Year Game Plan for Parks, Trails, and Recreation**

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT the 10-Year Game Plan for Parks, Trails and Recreation in the Regional District of Okanagan and Similkameen, dated January 2023, and prepared by RC Strategies be received as a guiding document.

Purpose:

Focused on the next 10 years, the purpose of this master plan, known as “Healthy Individuals, Healthy Communities, Healthy Environment”, is to provide a long-term framework to guide decision-making about the development, management, and investment in the Regional District’s regional and local parks, trails and recreation facilities and services. It will also serve as a framework to ensure regional alignment and priority setting for local parks, trails, and recreation services. Although this is a long-term guide for decision-making, it will be important to continue to monitor trends and changes to the sector, and make adjustments as required.

Business Plan Objective: *(Tie to current RDOS Business Plan)*

Goal 3.1 - To develop a healthy and socially sustainable region

Objective 3.2.3 - Complete the Regional Parks/Trails Master Plan

Background:

On January 7, 2021, the RDOS awarded RC Strategies a contract to develop a 10-year Regional Parks, Trails, and Recreation master plan.

The Plan is intended to:

- Provide an inventory and evaluation of the current state of our services that are operated or cost shared by the RDOS
- Articulate the interests and priorities of residents and stakeholders as identified during community and stakeholder engagement
- Define the desired outcomes that our programs and services are working to achieve, our mission, and the principles that will guide us into the future
- Outline a ‘Game Plan’ that will be implemented to ensure our services will deliver on the outcomes we have set out to achieve on behalf of our citizens.

On July 21, 2022, the first draft of the Plan was shared with the RDOS Board. The process then moved into Program 2, which involved receiving input on the draft Plan from through multiple engagement tactics. Feedback on the draft plan was received from targeted stakeholders and the general public.

The final Plan is intended to serve as a consistent framework and guiding document for future decisions of the Regional District. The Plan is deliberately strategic and long-term in nature and provides direction to more tactical and project-specific planning. While the Plan is focused on the services delivered or funded by the Regional District, it provides insights and direction that can benefit all our partners and collaborators, including other levels of government, local volunteer groups, developers, community stakeholders, and the private sector.

On February 16, 2023, the final draft Plan was presented to the Community Services Committee. As a follow-up to questions from Committee members to RC Strategies, minor adjustments were made to the final draft Plan.

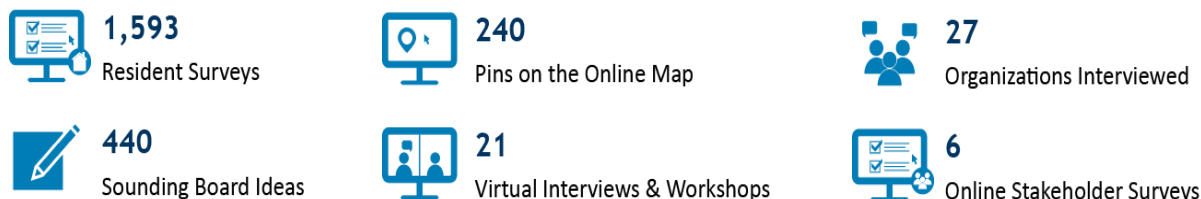
Analysis:

To ensure the Regional District remains focused on parks, trails, and recreation’s role as an essential service, a strategic framework has been developed that will guide decision-making into the future. The framework consists of clearly defined outcomes, a mission, and guiding principles. To achieve the outcomes, “Game Plans” have been developed for each core service area; Parks, Trails, and Recreation. Each Game Plan contains strategic directions and tangible actions that the Regional District may implement, or work with partners and Indigenous communities, to implement over the next decade.

As part of the project initiation in spring 2021, the Plan was developed through a five-phased process, which included 1) Data & Information Assembly, 2) Analysis, 3) Engagement, 4) Draft Master Plan and 5) Final Master Plan. Please see the attachment for more details.

Preparation of the Plan was a highly collaborative process involving over 1,000 residents and reaching out to stakeholders, elected officials, Indigenous communities, local, and provincial governments. The engagement process revealed that residents, stakeholders, and partners are deeply passionate about parks, trails and recreation services and that they want to be meaningfully involved in shaping the future.

- Program 1 engagement numbers for this process are outlined below:



Area of Primary Residence	Number of Responses (% out of 821)
Electoral Area A - Rural Osoyoos	12 (1.5%)
Electoral Area B - Cawston and Lower Similkameen	6 (1%)
Electoral Area C - Rural Oliver	15 (2%)
Electoral Area D - OK Falls and Skaha East	92 (12%)
Electoral Area E - Naramata	57 (7%)
Electoral Area F - Greater West Bench, Rural Summerland	52 (7%)
Electoral Area G - Rural Keremeos, Hedley, Ollala	5 (1%)
Electoral Area H - Rural Princeton, Tulameen, Coalmont, Eastgate	217 (27%)
Electoral Area I - Kaleden, Apex, Skaha West	68 (9%)
Village of Keremeos	10 (1%)
City of Penticton	136 (17%)
Town of Princeton	40 (5%)
Town of Oliver	14 (2%)
Town of Osoyoos	4 (1%)
District Municipality of Summerland	38 (5%)
Penticton Indian Band Reserves	1 (0%)
Osoyoos Indian Band Reserves	1 (0%)
Lower Similkameen Indian Band Reserves	1 (0%)
Outside of the RDOS (but have rec. property)	33 (4%)

- Program 2 (Sept. – Oct. 2022): Present learnings from Program 1 and receive input on the draft Plan. Program 2 engagement numbers are outlined below:



154

Online Surveys



5

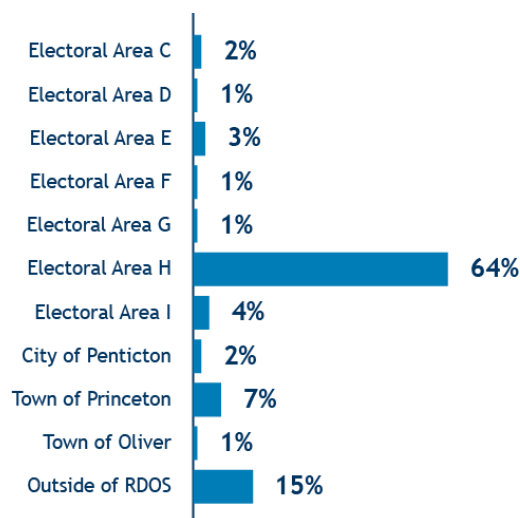
Online Stakeholder Surveys



7

Written Submissions

Residency of Survey Respondents



For Program 2, review and feedback opportunities were promoted via:

- RDOS Regional Connections website and RDOS website
- Posters/ notices throughout the region
- RDOS advertisements and social media
- Email notices to local First Nations, RDOS Parks and Recreation Commissions, and organized groups in the RDOS.

The results within Program 1 and 2 for the survey respondents do outline some dissonance of participation levels from the various areas but it is worth noting that the surveys only represented one aspect of data collection. Information and data were also collected through the many interviews with a variety of organizations, sounding boards, online mapping tools, workshops, and written submissions.

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

Over the next 10 years, the Regional District will be guided by the Plan to work collaboratively to achieve the following:

1. Active, healthy living and connected communities
2. Inclusive and equitable access
3. Climate change adaptation and resilience
4. Protect ecologically and culturally important areas
5. Connect

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6. Truth and Reconciliation
 7. Economic growth, diversification, and resilience
 8. Supportive environments
 9. Capacity and awareness

This will be accomplished with the following mission statement in mind:

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

As a follow-up to the presentation of this report, the RDOS Parks and Facility Manager and Recreation Manager will each provide a presentation to the RDOS Board through the Community Services Committee with an overview of the current RDOS Parks, Trails, and Recreation services.

Communication Strategy:

A copy of the final 10-year Game Plan for Parks, Trails, and Recreation is available on the RDOS Regional Connections website for the public and will be used as a future reference document.

Respectfully submitted:

"Augusto Romero"

A. Romero, Recreation Manager

Endorsed by:

"Mark Woods"

M. Woods, Senior Manager of Community Services