

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO DISTRICT 69 (OCEANSIDE)

RECREATION SERVICES MASTER PLAN

APRIL 2018 FINAL

DOCUMENT #2 OF 2 (THE STATE OF RECREATION IN DISTRICT 69 RESEARCH REPORT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED AS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT.)





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The development of the Recreation Services Master Plan would not have been possible without the contributions of a number of individuals.

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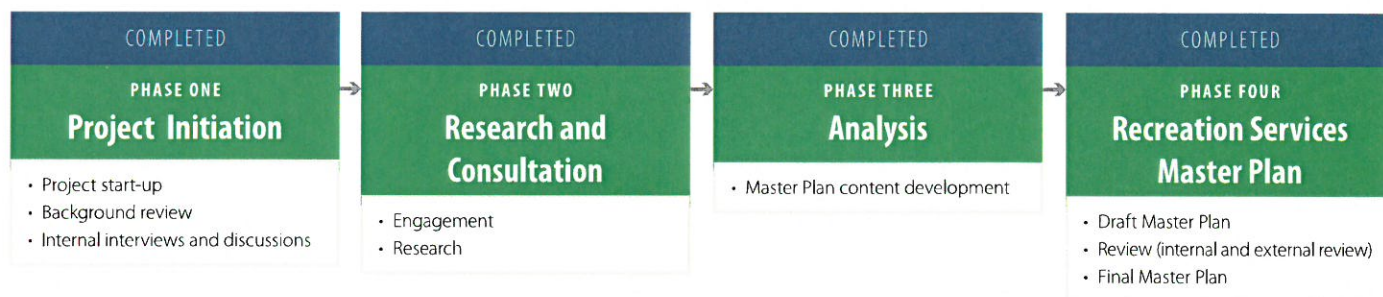
And most importantly all residents, community groups and stakeholders in District 69 that provided input during the project!

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

The Regional District of Nanaimo has developed a new Recreation Services Master Plan to guide the future provision of recreation and related services in District 69 for the next 10 years. District 69 encompasses the City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and Electoral Areas E, F, G, and H. The last Recreation Services Master Plan was completed in 2006.

The project included four phases as illustrated by the graphic below.



Public and stakeholder input was a critical aspect of the Master Plan. The following chart outlines the broad array of methods used to collect this input.

Consultation Mechanism	Responses/ Participants
Resident Survey	1,687
Community Group Questionnaire	60
Stakeholder Interviews/Discussions	29 (interviews/discussion sessions)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KEY ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH FINDINGS

The findings emerging from the engagement and other forms of research conducted (including trends and leading practices, analysis of utilization and financial data, population and demographics, and a review of current services) were used to develop the Master Plan. Identified below are key findings from the project engagement and research.

- There are generally high levels of satisfaction among residents with current recreation services and facilities (80% of households are satisfied with RDN provided recreation services and facilities; 28% are “very satisfied”).
- Recreational opportunities are highly valued and important to residents (97% of households indicated that recreation opportunities are important to their quality of life; 99% of households indicated that recreation opportunities are important to their community).
- Among **residents** in District 69 there is some demand for new or enhanced facilities to be developed (51% of households would like to see new or enhanced indoor facilities; 49% of households would like to see new or enhanced outdoor facilities and spaces).
 - » Top indoor priorities: indoor swimming pools; health and fitness centre; and a multi-purpose recreation centre.
 - » Top outdoor priorities: trails; natural parks and protected areas; picnic areas and passive parks.
- **User groups** identified some facility priorities, most often pertaining to their activity type. These priorities included enhanced outdoor sport fields (e.g. premium natural surface and artificial turf), track and field facilities and a new or enhanced aquatics facility.
- **Stakeholders** generally identified that the Ravensong Aquatics Centre is deficient and at capacity (which is supported by an analysis of available utilization data). However various perspectives exist on the best future course of action for indoor aquatics in District 69.
- Varying perspectives exist among stakeholders on whether future recreation amenities should be centralized or geographically balanced/dispersed.
- A number of community organizations expressed that a lack of youth “critical mass” is a barrier for some groups to growing programs.
- District 69 has an older population than provincial averages. However the region has diverse population and demographic characteristics.
- The impact and reach of RDN provided recreational programming continues to grow. In 2017, the RDN had over 7,000 program registrations and attendance exceeding 32,000. These figures have continued to increase over the past 4 – 5 years.
- An analysis of current recreation programming indicates that current offerings are well balanced (diverse offerings).
- While operational and day to day roles and responsibilities are well understood (among RDN and partners); less clarity exists around roles and responsibilities related to future facility planning and potential new development.
- Key trends in recreation: multi-use facilities, physical literacy, evolving nature of volunteerism, importance of partnerships, and social inclusion.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The Master Plan provides thirty-four recommendations which have been organized into two areas:

Service Delivery and Programming (Section 4): The overall structure for delivering recreation opportunities and potential areas of service enhancement.

Infrastructure (Section 5): Strategies and priorities for the places and spaces that facilitate recreation activities.

The recommendations address both specific issues that were identified in the project Terms of Reference as well as others that emerged through the project research and engagement. Summarized as follows is an overview of the Master Plan recommendations contained herein.

Service Delivery and Programming Recommendations

The following seventeen Service Delivery and Programming Recommendations (Section 4: Recommendations 1 – 17) have been developed to provide strategic guidance for how recreation services are delivered in District 69. In some instances these recommendations suggest new initiatives or a shift in how services are delivered, while others are intended to re-embed or refresh practices that work well.

- **Recommendation #1:** The RDN should undertake a governance review for recreation service provision in District 69. This review should focus on: opportunities to maximize overall efficiency; establishing a refreshed mandate for all entities and bodies; and clarifying decision making roles and responsibilities.
- **Recommendation #2:** The RDN should sustain the current organizational model and delivery model for recreation services in District 69.
- **Recommendation #3:** RDN Recreation Services should continue delivering recreation opportunities using a combination of direct and indirect delivery methods and maintain the current balance of the two delivery methods. An updated Recreation Program Rationale Checklist has been developed to help evaluate specific program opportunities and identify potential delivery methods.
- **Recommendations #4 and 5:** Continue to place a priority on cross-sectoral collaborations and invest additional resources in this area.
- **Recommendation #6:** Work with local municipalities and School District 69 to clarify roles and responsibilities pertaining to future recreation planning and capital development.
- **Recommendation #7:** Allocate additional resources to community group capacity building.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Recommendation #8:** Develop and implement a more specific engagement framework (to help guide future projects).
- **Recommendation #9:** Continue to strategically utilize project/initiative focused groups such as steering committees and “task forces” on an ad-hoc basis.
- **Recommendation #10:** Continue to prioritize diversity and balance in RDN provided recreation programming in District 69.
- **Recommendations #11, 12, and 13:** RDN provided recreation programming should continue to: prioritize diversity and balance of opportunities; focus on key areas including nature interaction and outdoor skill development for children and youth, activity camps for children/youth/teens, fitness and wellness programming for adults and seniors; continue to offer arts and culture as part of the program mix; and (where possible) leverage the expertise of local arts and cultural groups.
- **Recommendations #14 and 15:** Ensuring accessibility to recreation programming should continue to be a priority for the RDN. Suggested initiatives include: sustaining the Financial Assistance Program and Inclusion Support Program; increased focused on generating awareness of existing accessibility programs; and supporting the start-up of a KidSport chapter.
- **Recommendation #16:** Continue to place a priority on the marketing of recreation programs and opportunities in District 69. Suggested tactics include sustaining the dedicated staff position; development of a more consistent brand; and promoting both specific opportunities as well as the overall benefits of participation.
- **Recommendation #17:** Suggested strategic initiatives: Community Events Support Strategy; Older Adults/ Age Friendly; and Youth Recreation Strategic Plan.

Infrastructure Recommendations

The seventeen Infrastructure Recommendations (Section 5: Recommendations 18 – 34) are intended to both suggest approaches and priorities for future capital projects and identify opportunities to make the most optimal use of existing facilities and spaces. Provided as follows is a summary of the infrastructure recommendations.

Potential Capital Projects

The following chart summarizes the potential capital facility projects that may be pursued in future years. While potential development timing and prioritization has been identified, it is important to note that additional planning and refinement of these potential projects will be required before development process.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Potential Capital Projects (Continued)

The prioritization and timing for the potential projects should also be considered approximate and will be subject to partner/stakeholder discussions, resourcing factors and opportunities, market dynamics (e.g. trends) and broader strategic priorities of the RDN and partner organizations.

Please Note: Immediate and short term planning steps (i.e. land acquisition, partner /stakeholder discussion, feasibility analysis, etc.) have been identified for all of the projects, including those which are considered medium to longer term. Please see Section 6 for further detail on the pre-requisite planning and action steps that are required for each project before development can occur.

Project	Priority	Potential Development Timing & Costs (2018, \$M)			
		Immediate (1 – 2 Years)	Short Term (2 – 5 Years)	Medium to Long Term (5 – 10 Year)	Undetermined
Future curling facility options. (Recommendations #20, 21)	1		\$1M ^A		\$4M – \$9M
Upgrades to the track at Ballenas Secondary School. (Recommendation #24)	2	\$0.5M – \$1M			
Ravensong Aquatic Centre expansion. (Recommendation #18—Option 1)	T3 ^B	\$8.6M ^C			
Ravensong Aquatic Centre expansion with 2 lanes added to main existing tank. (Recommendation #18—Option 2)	T3 ^B	\$10.9M ^C			
Consider a retrofit to an existing natural surface field to artificial turf. (Recommendation #24)	T3 ^B		\$1.5M – \$3M		
Leisure ice repurposing at Oceanside Place (only if deemed necessary). (Recommendation #30) ^D	T3 ^B				\$0.100M – \$1M
New indoor recreation and fitness space. (Recommendations #26, 29)	T4 ^B				\$10M – \$20M
Outdoor multi-use sport complex. (Recommendation #23)	T4 ^B				\$5M – \$10M

A Estimated cost to demolish the existing facility if required.

B The letter “T” in the priority column indicates a tied priority.

C Timing to be clarified through further planning and resourcing discussions.

D Only required if utilization can’t be increased in the existing configuration/use.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Additional Infrastructure Recommendations

Summarized as follows are the infrastructure recommendations that are intended to optimize current facilities and spaces, further explore/clarify the previously identified capital projects, or undertake other initiatives that do not have a direct or known capital cost.

- Work collaboratively with the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum to determine the best long term course of action for curling infrastructure in District 69. (Recommendation #21)
- Work with partners in District 69 (City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach, School District 69, and community sport organizations) to make better use of underutilized field spaces. (Recommendation #22)
- Identify opportunities to retrofit or upgrade existing outdoor facilities. (Recommendation #24)
 - * Upgrades to the track at Ballenas Secondary School and the potential repurposing of a natural surface field to artificial turf are identified in the previous capital project chart.
- Identify opportunities to integrate a dedicated medium scale (3,000 ft² to 5,000 ft²) fitness and wellness space into an existing facility. (Recommendation #25)
 - * Potentially to occur as part of a Ravensong Aquatic Centre expansion or retrofit of another facility space.
- Continue to place a priority on maximizing the use of current community facilities and spaces and ensuring that recreational opportunities are geographically well balanced. (Recommendation #27)
- Should expansion or the re-purposing of spaces occur at the Ravensong Aquatic Centre and/or Oceanside Place, opportunities to increase the programming capability and capacity of these facilities should be pursued. (Recommendation #28)
- Place a priority on maximizing the use of the leisure ice surface space based on highest and best use considerations. (Recommendation #30)
 - * As per the previous capital project chart, re-purposing may be considered if utilization cannot be increased.
- RDN Recreation Services should continue to be involved as a key stakeholder in future parks, trails, and open space planning. (Recommendation #31)
- Develop a sponsorship and naming policy and strategy. (Recommendation #32)
- Conduct a Recreation Facility Needs Assessment every 5 years and use the information collected to update the Recreation Services Master Plan and other pertinent strategic documentation. (Recommendation #33)
- Develop and implement a Facility Project Development Framework to outline a transparent and standardized process for evaluating major facility projects and initiatives. (Recommendation #34)

Suggested implementation timing and resource requirements are also identified in Section 6 for the above noted recommendations.