

***Town of Sundre  
Open Space and Trails  
Plan***



***Adopted January 2004***

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## ***1.0 Introduction***

In 1993, the Town of Sundre prepared and adopted a Trails and Open Space Plan that has formed the basis for recreation and open space development within the Town. The intent of this plan is to update and confirm new priorities and direction for the continued development of recreational opportunities and activities within the Town of Sundre. It is also anticipated that this plan will form the basis for prioritizing recreation requirements as part of the Town's budgeting process.

When the Town undertook the preparation of a new Municipal Development Plan in 2001 it was clear that there is continued support for the development of open space and pathways throughout the Town and that the Town encourages the maintenance and development of new recreational opportunities and amenities.

This plan has focused on the review of existing recreational facilities and identification of new opportunities and strategies. It is the objective of this plan to address a wide range of recreational opportunities ranging in scale from neighbourhood parks to destination facilities for Town resident and tourist alike.

Throughout the process of preparing this plan a number of key themes became apparent:

- ❖ There is significant support for the continued development of open space and recreational opportunities with the Town;
- ❖ There is a desire to develop continuous trail linkages where possible;
- ❖ Development of a central community park should be investigated;
- ❖ There should be a high degree of community participation in the operation and the development of open space and recreation facilities;
- ❖ The ongoing maintenance of recreation facilities is an important aspect to any recreation and open space plan; and
- ❖ There should be continued efforts by the community and Town to "green up" the Town, specifically the commercial and industrial areas.

## ***2.0 Plan Process***

Preparation and development of this plan was undertaken through the guidance of an Open Space Committee appointed by Council. The Committee consisted of Town residents, Town Council members and Town staff. On site inspections and the development of a photographic inventory of existing open spaces and trails was undertaken for review by the Committee.

Involving the community in the preparation of this plan was an important component to the plan preparation process. Two open houses were held by the Committee, providing opportunities for the community to identify issues and provide input towards the development of this plan. The first open house was held early on in the project in order to identify concerns and issues that the plan should address. Following the first open house a questionnaire was also distributed to Town ratepayers through their utility bills in order to solicit further information and comments. Once a draft plan was prepared, a second open house was then held to present the plan to the community for comment. The Open Space Committee then referred a final draft of the Open Space and Trails Plan to Council for adoption. On January 12, 2004 Council adopted the Town of Sundre Open Space and Trails Plan.

### **3.0 Plan Objectives**

The objectives of this plan are to:

- ❖ Develop a comprehensive approach to open space planning;
- ❖ Identify future recreational needs within the Town;
- ❖ Identify existing and future recreational facilities;
- ❖ Plan open space requirements for new subdivision and development; and
- ❖ Identify open space and recreation priorities.

### **4.0 Open Space and Trails**

With the preparation of the previous Trails and Open Space Plan, open spaces throughout the Town were grouped and identified according to function or purpose. For the purposes of this update, the groupings remain as follows:

1. **Neighbourhood Space (N)** includes areas, such as small parks and playgrounds that are used mainly by people who live in close proximity (i.e. Royal Purple Park, Lions Park and other playground areas).
2. **Community Space (C)** includes areas used by residents from all over the Town and surrounding rural district as well as visitors from other areas (i.e. Greenwood Park, Snake Hill, and the rodeo grounds).
3. **Amenity Space (A)** includes land used mainly to buffer incompatible uses, as well as visually enhance the appearance of the community (i.e. Street Boulevards, buffer strips of land and other landscaped areas).

The open space areas discussed within this plan will be identified according to function and according to the above groupings.

## **5.0 General Principles**

In determining the priorities and recommendations contained within this plan it is important to note that a number of general principles were considered. These principles should form the basis for present and future open space and recreation matters.

1. Promote the development of all open spaces, trails and recreational opportunities in a comprehensive manner, ensuring that the proposed or existing space is linked to other open spaces or trails.
2. Within new subdivision areas, full municipal / environmental reserve dedication should be taken in order to extend and compliment existing trails and open space development. The developer should pay for all, or contribute towards, the development of trails, playgrounds and landscaping within a new subdivision.
3. A range of open space opportunities should be provided to the community and visitors.
4. When designing and developing open space areas and trails, public safety will be a priority.
5. Barrier free design should be adopted as part of any open space or trail design. Where existing facilities are not barrier free any replacement or upgrade should include the conversion to barrier free design.

## **6.0 Plan Recommendations**

The following provides a comprehensive representation of recommendations for future open space and recreation development within the Town of Sundre.

1. A central community park should be developed providing a focal point for the Town. With its central location adjacent to the Red Deer River, Veteran's Park is the recommended location. A central community park would include a water feature (i.e. fountain), bandstand, day use area (i.e. picnic area), playground, parking and rest area (no truck parking), etc.
2. The Town should undertake the development of a skateboard park /outdoor rink southwest of the arena located on the north side of Bearberry Creek.
3. The curling rink, arena, and swimming pool are located in close proximity adjacent to Bearberry Creek. Plans for the enhancement of the open spaces in this area are planned. That the Town continue to support the current community initiatives for landscaping and improvement of the open space and trails in and adjacent to this area.

4. It is recommended that a group campground facility be developed adjacent to the existing ball diamond located east of Highway 760 in the southwest corner of the Town. The facility should be utilized for groups such as ball tournaments, family reunions etc., on a reservation basis or that the area be used for overflow from Greenwood Park when required.
5. Community involvement will be the cornerstone for a successful open space and trails plan within the Town of Sundre. Volunteer opportunities, adopt-a-park programs and sponsorship programs will be an important part of any success.
6. The Town should endeavour to promote and facilitate partnerships / sponsorship of parks and open spaces by the community, including the business community, service organizations, community groups, and families and individuals. The Town should also pursue funds available through grants and lottery funds.
7. A comprehensive trails system, providing looped trails where possible should be developed within the Town.
8. A variety of trail types should be provided from natural grassed trails to hard surfacing enabling a broad range of users.
9. There are a number of walkways within the Town that have not been developed and are being used by adjacent property owners. The Town should reclaim these walkways and develop them to provide linkages to adjacent open spaces and trails.
10. Development of linear trails on pipeline right-of-ways is recommended subject to successful negotiations between the Town and the pipeline company. It is specifically recommended that the development of a trail on the TransCanada PipeLine right-of-way in the western portion of Town be pursued.
11. A tree planting program should be initiated by the Town for the landscaping of open space areas within the Town. Buffer strips that provide a separation between land uses and roadways should be priority areas for landscaping.
12. Landscaping should be a requirement for all subdivision and development activity. It is recommended that landscaping requirements extend to all lots within the Town and that on site landscaping be part of any subdivision and / or development.
13. Uniform development standards for signage, fences, garbage cans and other construction material used by the Town should be adopted. “Branding”, consistency of materials.
14. When developing a landscaping program, it is recommended that native/hardy tree species and grasses be utilized.

15. Open space and trail development standards for public properties should be applied to all development whether undertaken by the Town, developer, community group or individuals.
16. Signage should be used to identify all parks, playgrounds, trails and other facilities. It is recommended that uniform signage be used throughout the Town to enhance recognition of recreation opportunities and to enhance the visual appearance on a Town wide basis.
17. It is suggested that the Town initiate a program for the naming of parks and playgrounds and that they be signed in a consistent manner.
18. Traffic safety in proximity to open space areas, particularly playground areas, is a concern. The Town should consider a traffic safety and awareness program for motorists and open space users. When considering subdivision applications, parks and /or playgrounds should not be developed as “islands” within a roadway. Where possible parks and playgrounds should be accessible via a public road.
19. Within new subdivision areas, full municipal / environmental reserve dedication should be dedicated at the time of subdivision in order to extend and compliment existing trails and open space development. The developer should pay for all, or contribute towards, the development of trails, playgrounds and landscaping within the new subdivision.
20. Where subdivision applications are approved within existing subdivided / developed areas consideration should be given to the dedication of municipal and / or environmental reserve land at the time of subdivision. Specifically, properties located adjacent to Prairie Creek should be reviewed regarding the dedication of environmental reserve adjacent to the creek. Public access adjacent to the creek may then form part of the comprehensive trail system within the Town.
21. The regular maintenance and inspection program for the Town’s open spaces and trails should be continued.
22. There are a number of recreation facilities, such as the arena and the rodeo grounds that are located within the Town and where their usage is seasonal. Utilizing these facilities for other uses in the off-season should be pursued.
23. The Town should give consideration to and support the preparation of an animal control by-law that contains provisions for animal owners to clean up after their animals, specifically dogs. The Town should also continue its efforts through the use of doggie toilets or any other means that proves successful. A public education campaign by the Town could also be considered to raise public awareness regarding the matter.
24. It is recommended that the Town investigate the extension and development of trails from the Town of Sundre into Mountain View County east adjacent to Highway 27 to the Sundre Golf Course and west adjacent to Highway 584 to Sunpine Forrest Products.

25. It is recommended that the Town proceed with the closure of those portions of municipal reserve lands upon which developed laneways are located. These laneways provide access to adjacent residential properties.
26. The Committee supports a strong and safe community through increased police presence. The Committee strongly recommends that Council initiate discussions with the RCMP regarding policing of open space areas, with specific reference to vandalism. Programs such as Citizens on Patrol are supported.

## **7.0 Open Space and Trails Plan Priorities**

The Town has identified the following open space priorities:

- 1. Greenwood Park:**  
Facilities for day use such as picnicking should be enhanced at Greenwood Park. Access through the park to areas south should be closed so that a day use and picnic area with parking can be developed. Alternate road access to areas south of Greenwood Park would be provided from the west.
- 2. Trails:**  
Maintenance and development of existing and future trails is a priority. In cooperation with TransCanada Pipelines, development of a trail on the pipeline right of way is supported.
- 3. Signage:**  
Develop standardized signage that has a uniform design format to provide a consistent corporate image.
- 4. Skateboard Park / Skating Rink:**  
Development of an all season facility for outdoor skating, providing recreational opportunities for youth and young adults. Development of the facility is recommended southwest of the arena located on the north side of the Bearberry Creek.
- 5. Central Community Park:**  
Development of a multi-use park facility provides a community focus. It is recommended that the park be developed in conjunction with Veteran's Park.
- 6. Aquatic Centre Landscaping:**  
Enhancing the usual appearance of the area surrounding the aquatic centre and surrounding public properties.
- 7. Policing:**  
Priority should be placed on safe recreation experiences. Coordination of all policing authorities and the community is strongly supported.

**8. Private / Public Partnerships:**

Community involvement should be pursued through private and public partnerships. This would include individuals, families, groups, organizations, business and industry and the Town of Sundre.

**9. Playgrounds:**

Maintenance and development of new and existing playgrounds is ongoing. New equipment and features such as benches, garbage cans, trees and shrubs should be added, as funds are available.

**10. Park Naming:**

Parks, playgrounds and trails should be named. The Town should initiate a program for the naming of parks, playgrounds and trails for ease of reference and providing a consistent corporate image.

**11. Tree Planting:**

Greening up the Town's open spaces, parks and playgrounds with native trees and bushes is encouraged.

**12. Open Space / Playground Design:**

Open spaces should be developed with safe access. For example in new subdivision areas, playgrounds should not be developed as "islands" in the middle of the road.

## **8.0 Town Open Space Areas by Quadrant**

In order to provide a systematic method for reviewing the open spaces with the Town of Sundre, the Town was segmented divided into four quadrants. These quadrants were developed in the original open space plan and are carried forward within this plan for ease of reference. The following tables provide a review of each open space and recreation area within the Town. The table also provides a recommended action for the subject area and ranks the recommended action as being of high, medium or low priority for implementation.

*Please refer to Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4.*