

**Town of Peace River
Parks and Trails Development Plan
May 2011**



Prepared By:

**Town of Peace River
and the
Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preamble

Peace River's geography is distinctive as the Town is situated within a beautiful river valley.

The Town offers a full range of adventure and recreational activities for its residents and visitors. This includes recreational fitness centres, indoor pools, arena, curling rink, ski hill, children's water spray park, and playgrounds. Also, many residential neighbourhoods are close to the walking/cross-country ski trails that run along the river.

Parks and playgrounds contribute to the quality of life. Green spaces provide many benefits including recreation and socializing. Proximity to parks benefits landowners as the neighborhood becomes more attractive and could contribute to increased property values. The development of the Parks and Trails 10-Year Action Plan for the Town will, consequently, be valuable to residents and surrounding municipalities.

The **study area** identified in this report is the Town of Peace River. The Town is located in northwestern Alberta along the banks of the Peace River, near the confluence of the Peace, Smoky and Heart rivers.

The Town of Peace River covers approximately 24.87 square Km and, is located 486 Km northwest of Edmonton and 195 Km northeast of Grande Prairie.¹

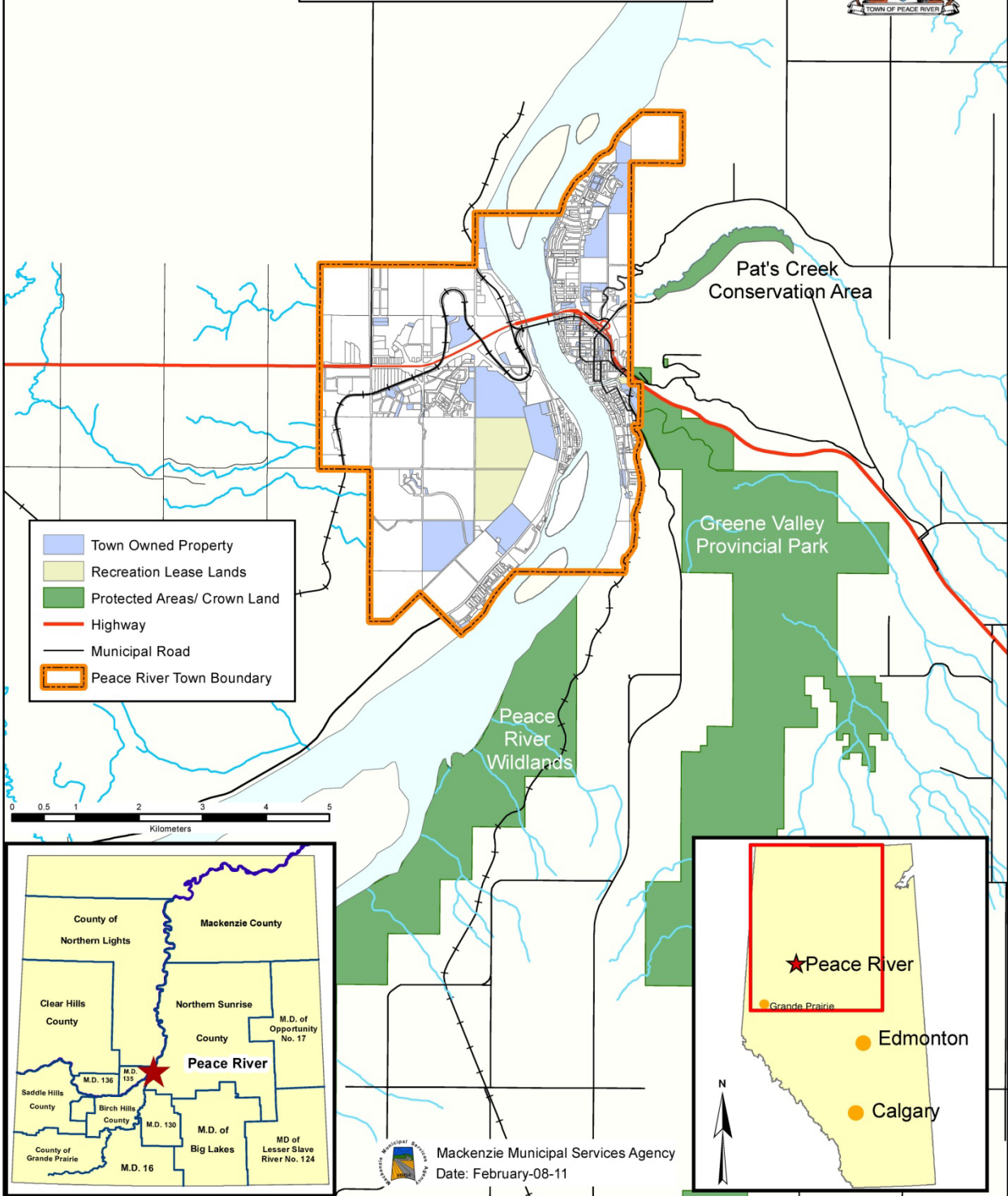
The surrounding municipalities are the MD of Peace No. 135, Northern Sunrise County, and the County of Northern Lights.

The **objective** of the study is to provide the Town with an action plan that will guide the upgrading and development of new and existing parks and trails systems within the Town. The intent of this study is to focus on playgrounds and trails only. Sports fields, baseball diamonds and other facilities will be reviewed at a later stage as part of the recreational plan.

¹ Information from Mighty Peace Country, 2010.

This Parks and Trails 10-Year Action Plan was initiated in May 2010 with the Town of Peace River Community Services with the assistance of the Town's Planning and Development Department, Public Works and the Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency (MMSA).

Peace River Regional Context Map



Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency
Date: February-08-11

1.2 Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives:

1. *The Health and Well Being of Residents*: A healthy happy population is integral to the sustainability of a strong community
2. *Minimizing Barriers to Open Spaces*: Residents being in close proximity to open spaces as well as enabling all residents to access this leisure opportunity
3. *Clean, Safe and Well Maintained Open Spaces*: In order to maintain a high quality park experience for users, these factors must be assured
4. *Diversity of Parks and Open Spaces Experiences*: Leisure environments will have variety, to maintain appeal to a larger portion of the population
5. *Connectivity of Open Space Systems*: To enhance active transportation as a means to achieve a reduced environmental impact and improve the health and well-being of residents
6. *Continued Commitment to Developing Open Spaces, Natural and Cultivated as the Community Grows*: Developing strong partnerships with developers and together ensure high quality open spaces, to the benefit of the community.

1.3 Timeline and Method

To achieve the objective outlined above, MMSA and the Town embarked on a 10-month process, beginning in May 2010 and concluding in March 2011.

From **May 2010 to August 2010**: MMSA and the Community Services Department gathered information and inventories on existing parks, trails and playgrounds, while the Planning and Development department supplied information pertaining to the Public Utilities Lots (PULs) and all town owned properties.

September 2010: A draft Action Plan was initiated out of brainstorming and information sharing between the Town and MMSA.

November 2010: Review of draft Action Plan and brainstorming session were held between the Town and MMSA.

December 2010: Draft Action Plan was presented and submitted to Council for review and comments.

February 2011: Public Consultation and Open House.

1.4 Demographics

The Town of Peace River has grown and changed since 2006, the population of the Town is expected to increase steadily in the next 15 years. According to the 2006 census, a large segment of the Town's population is within the cohort of people aged 20 to 24 years².

A simple cohort population projection has estimated that in 2026 the Town will reach a population of 9,889 people; this is an increase of 3,444 persons from 2006.

The projected population by age will be useful when linking playground equipment to the age of the projected population. In 2026, for children under age 14, the highest projected population is in the age group of 0-4 years old.

The Town is home to 6,315 residents with 33% of households containing a couple with children, 26% containing a couple without children, 24% as one-person households and 17% as other household types³. Household types and size can be a driver for reducing or increasing recreational activities in the neighborhood.

² Demographic information is as of 2006 only. Current detailed 2010 census information from Statistic Canada has not yet been released.

³ Other household types may include multiple-family households, lone-parent family households and non-family households other than one-person households.

The median income in 2005 for all census families is \$78,993 annually. This is slightly higher in comparison to the Province of Alberta (\$73,823) and the Town of Fairview (\$76,081). This again will have an impact on recreational activities such as the usage of parks and trails.

1.5 Related Documents and Plans

1.5.1 Community Services Master Plan

The Town of Peace River created a recreational plan in 2003 to guide the short and long term development of recreational services in the community. The methodology used include four phases: Development standards, analysis of existing areas and facilities, need index and recommendations including a priority schedule.

A similar methodology will be followed for this Action Plan. This Action Plan will analyze the goals and objectives of existing parks, playgrounds and trails in Town, set priority based on “needs” and conclude with a recommendation list with budget attached.

1.5.2 The Friendship Trail: Feasibility Study (1998)

A Feasibility study was prepared by the Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency in 1998 to determine the costs and benefits of developing the Friendship Trail.

The Friendship Trail is a result of the surplus gained from the 1996 Northwest Alberta Winter Games hosted by the towns of Peace River and Grimshaw. The proposed, and now existing, “Friendship trail” was developed between two towns and extends from the Town of Peace River into the Municipal District of Peace No.135.

The intention of this study is to discuss and provide recommendations on trail standards and design, land acquisition and liability issues, construction and maintenance and implementation strategy. This is essential to our Action Plan, especially for the budget analysis and trail development section.

1.5.3 Avi Friedman Downtown Renewal Report (2009)

Dr. Avi Friedman was contracted by the Town of Peace River in 2008 to conduct a Downtown Renewal and Tourism enhancement report. In this report, existing conditions and recommendations were outlined. The report was presented to community members and businesses in the hope of moving forward with the retooling of Downtown Peace River.

A portion of the report outlines recommendations for Peace River's waterfront, which the Community Economic Development Committee will assess and evaluate.

1.5.4 Municipal Sustainability Plan

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association in collaboration with the Town of Peace River and its residents have completed the Town's Municipal Sustainability Plan (MSP). This MSP will be the strategic planning document that guides the Town of Peace River in the pursuit of being a more sustainable community.

Subsequently, a public consultation ("Community Conversation") with the Town was held on December 9, 2008. Through the Community Conversation, the town's residents created the following vision of their community.

"Beautiful by Nature. Diverse by Culture. Vibrant by Choice".

Aside from the "Community Conversation", public surveys were conducted and used as part of the MSP. Input from the public will help verify residents' perspectives and perceptions on parks and trails in the Town. Overall, the comments suggest that residents would like the Town to continue to have community parks for children and promote more outdoor recreational activities.

1.5.5 Municipal Development Plan (2010)

The Town of Peace River has recently adopted their Municipal Development Plan (MDP). This plan was completed in collaboration with ISL Engineering and Land Services. The objective of the MDP is to provide a framework to guide all planning and development decisions.

One of the goals of this plan is to manage parks, public open spaces, recreation and community facilities and programs to enhance the quality of life of all Peace River residents.

Some of the policies and objectives identified in the MDP will be addressed in this Development Plan. As parks and trails become increasingly important to Town residents, additional funding will be needed for upgrading parks and trails, and developing new ones.

1.5.6 Area Structure Plans

Area Structure Plans provide policy direction for a specific neighbourhood. The objectives and policies guide the future growth of the neighbourhood for major uses such as residential, commercial, industrial, schools, parks, major roadways, utility servicing and, trail systems.

The following Area Structure Plans have been approved and adopted by the Town. Each Plan outlines the proposed open space and parks development. Connectivity to these proposed open spaces, trails and parks is important for the overall trails and parks system in the Town.

- Norglen Area Structure Plan (1982)
- Valleyview Area Structure Plan (1984)
- Shaftesbury Terrance Area Structure Plan (1987)
- Freeland Area Structure Plan (1988)
- Shaftesbury Estates Area Structure Plan (1988)
- River Front Estates Area Structure Plan (1988)
- Westview Area Structure Plan (1997)
- Citadel Park Area Structure Plan (2009)
- St. Germaine Creek (2009)

1.5.7 Land Use Framework

The Land Use Framework is a regional initiative of the Province of Alberta. The purpose of this Framework is to manage growth and to sustain our growing economy while balancing Albertans' social and environmental goals.

The Land Use Framework divides the Province into seven regions, with the Town of Peace River located in the Lower Peace region. One of the desired outcomes of the Land Use Framework is to have people-friendly communities with ample recreational and cultural opportunities. The Town of Peace River has extensive parks and playgrounds; however, upgrading and maintenance of existing parks may be required in some areas. When the Lower Peace regional framework is completed, policies related to parks and trails will be more tangible.

1.5.8 Off-Highway Vehicle Committee

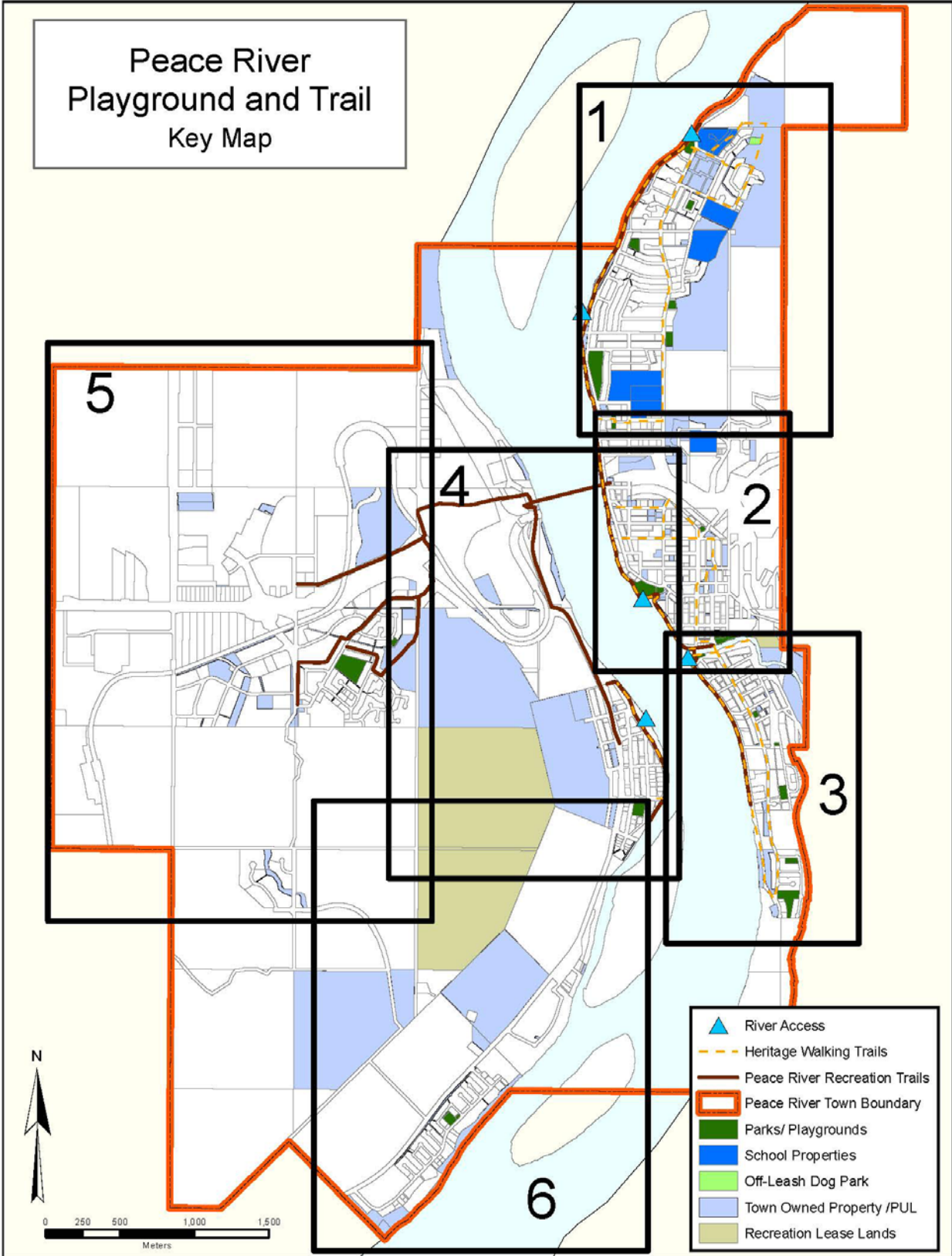
This plan will be supplied to the Off Highway Vehicle Committee for their input. The Town of Peace River will work with the Off Highway Vehicle Committee to pursue future trail options.

1.5.9 School Owned Facilities

The Town of Peace River has an existing joint use agreement with the local school districts. There are sports fields that are not owned by the Town but are used by the local community. These privately owned fields play an important role in providing open and recreational space for residents.

Although general grass cutting and maintenance of the school sports fields is done by the Town, expansion and upgrading of these facilities are predominantly the responsibility of local school authorities and would be addressed through the Joint Use Agreement.

Peace River Playground and Trail Key Map



2.0 PARKS

2.1 Classification

The Town of Peace River categorizes its parks and open spaces into the following groups, based on their characteristics and usage.

Neighborhood Park – This type of park is from municipal reserve property and it is primarily found in residential neighborhoods. The purpose of these parks is to accommodate local playgrounds and related activities.

Tot Lots – Ages 18 months to 5 years old

Playground – 5 Years old and above

Community Park – This type of park is centrally located municipal reserve used for elementary schools and often has large open spaces and playgrounds.

Sports Fields- This area has large open spaces and is sometimes use to accommodate sporting events. It is sometimes located adjacent to high schools.

Urban Park – This type of park has large open spaces and is untouched except for trail development.

Municipal Green Space – This type of open space is generally non-recreational open space including berms, boulevards, public utility corridors, road right-of-ways and ditches.

2.2 Signage

All playgrounds are to be marked with playground area signs. Signs are to be posted at a distance that allows for adequate perception and reaction time for motorists in regard to the start and end of playground zones. In addition a, reduce speed limit sign should be posted, with easily visible numbers indicating speed limit.

All signage in playgrounds should be of common design. Example being 4'X4' steel sign fastened to steel posts with landscaping at the base.

Information to appear on the sign to include, but not limited to

Name of playground and specific location

Recommended age user group

Equipment manufacturer

Year of installation

Recommendation of adult supervision

Contact number to report deficiencies

2.3 Existing Parks and Playground

An inventory of parks and playgrounds has been provided by the Community Services staff at the Town. Several site visits were conducted by MMSA for observation and a more thorough site inspection⁴ (formed part of the 2010 playground report) was performed by Town staff. Below is a list of parks and playgrounds in the Town.

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Detailed maps have been created in support of the parks and playgrounds inventory. The data from the maps were gathered with a GPS with a distance of 10 metres locational points.

⁴ Playgrounds were inspected in 2010 however, due to time limitation, not all playgrounds were inspected.



**Peace River
Playground and Trail**
Map # 1
North End

Normand Boucher
Arboretum

Baldwin
Court

Spruce Court

Good Shepherd School

Off-Leash
Dog Park

Ecole de Quatre Vents

Springfield School

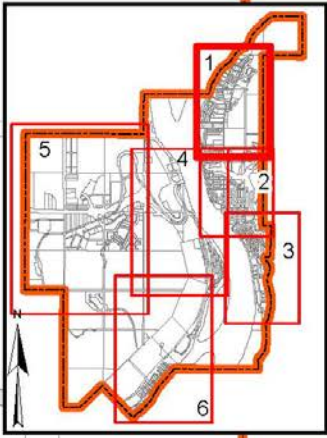
Toboggan Hill

Kinsmen Park/
Kinsmen Funland

T.A. Norris/ Glenmary School

- River Access
- Heritage Walking Trails
- Peace River Recreation Trails
- Connections to Existing Trails
- Peace River Town Boundary
- Parks and Playgrounds
- School Properties
- Off-Leash Dog Park
- Town Owned Property
- Recreation Lease Lands

0 82.5 125 250 375 500
Meters



2.4 North End

Spruce Court Playground

This park is located on 98th Street and 79th Avenue. The playground component structure is in good condition.

The park's main entrance is hard to find, as it is in a back alley behind the Spruce Court housing development.

There is a "Caution Children Playing" sign near the entrance of 98th street, but no indication of a park anywhere in the vicinity. There is an entrance off 79th Avenue but it is almost obscured by a bush which covers 2/3 of the opening to the park.

North End Off Leash Dog Park

The North End Off Leash Dog Park was established in 2010. It is located at the end of 99th Street across from the Peace River Cemetery.

Kinsmen Park

This park is well-maintained, with several barbeque stands and no picnic tables. There is some open space and five horseshoe pits on-site, with a baseball diamond and small equipment shed nearby.



Kinsmen Funland

This park is well-maintained, with a beach volleyball court, several pieces playground equipment, swings, picnic tables, two benches, several garbage cans and a portable toilet.

The wooden playground equipment should be replaced soon. This playground could be removed and the replacement delayed by a of couple years because of the adjacent new playground.

Baldwin Court Playground

This park is located on 98th Street and 73rd Avenue near Peace River Regional Pool. This park is well-maintained, with a few trees at the western corner and a small composting bin at the southeastern corner of the park. This park contains a picnic table, a tire swing and playground equipment. This playground is in very good condition.



Baldwin Court Playground

North End Slide Hill Park

This park is located on the east side of 98th Street, between 81st and 82nd Avenues. There is one garbage can at the front entrance with the main gate closed and padlocked. There is a sign proclaiming "Slide Hill – Use at Own Risk" on the fence along 98th Street.

BMX Park

This park is located east of 98th Street and south of 84th Avenue. The park is developed for BMX and mountain bicycles. It includes a trail course, several hills and paths with tires half-buried. It is used by kids from 4 to 15 years old.

Normand Boucher Arboretum

This park is well-maintained with lots of trees. The gazebo and arbor on-site encourages sitting in the natural area. There are two garbage receptacle at the arboretum site and one receptacle

facing the trail. Interpretive signs are found on trees; however, on some trees, the information stand is blank or discolored. The interpretive signs need to be repaired or updated.

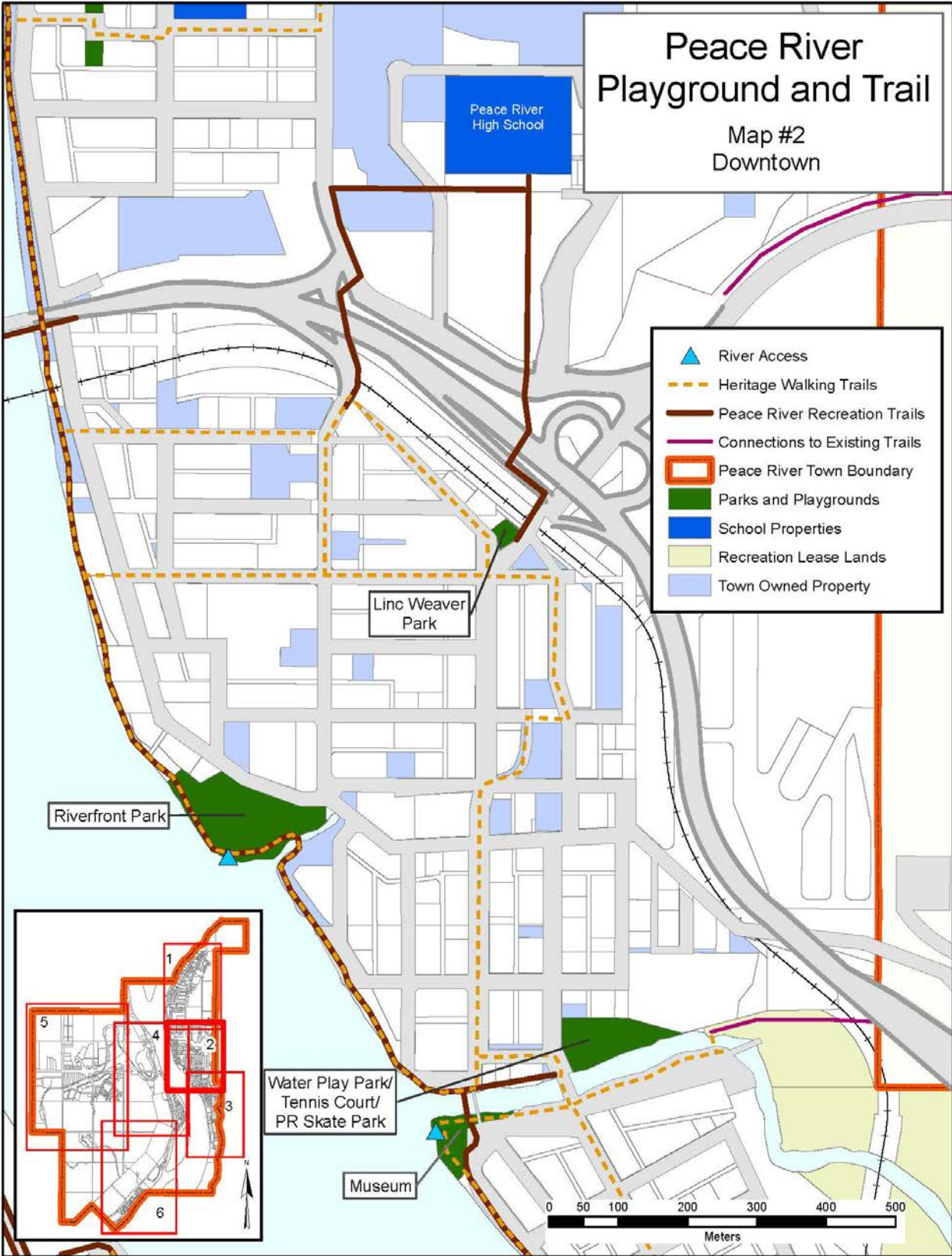
Norman Brownlee maintains the tree component of this arboretum. The Town is responsible for basic maintenance and the cutting of the grass at this location. The Arboretum society will work together with the Town to provide future enhancements to this location.

Toboggan Hill

The north end toboggan hill is located along the intersection of 98th street and 82nd avenue. This hill is fenced and is used during the winter season by residents in the community.



Normand Boucher Arboretum



Peace River Playground and Trail

Map #2
Downtown

- ▲ River Access
- Heritage Walking Trails
- Peace River Recreation Trails
- Connections to Existing Trails
- Peace River Town Boundary
- Parks and Playgrounds
- School Properties
- Recreation Lease Lands
- Town Owned Property

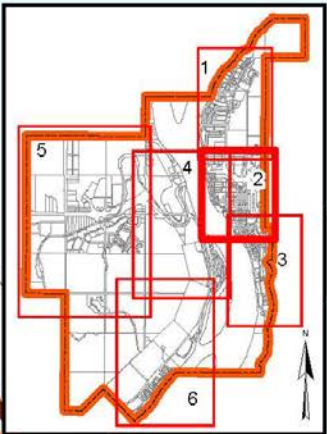
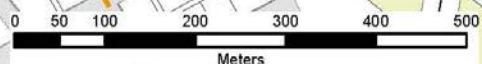
Riverfront Park

Linc Weaver Park

Peace River High School

Water Play Park/
Tennis Court/
PR Skate Park

Museum



2.5 Downtown

Riverfront Park

This well-maintained park is located on 97th Street and 100th Avenue on River Road. This park has a parking lot and two walking paths; one path through the park and the other is along the river edge.

There is a gazebo located in the centre of the park, this is often used for special events and performances. There is also a small playground for children, with slides and climbers. The well-known 12' Davis statue with interpretive sign is also located in this park. Dr. Avi Friedman has prepared a conceptual plan for this park. The conceptual plan is part of the Town's economic development/downtown revitalization efforts.

Linc Weaver Park

This park is well-maintained. There is evidence of small recently planted trees. There are two benches, two picnic tables and one garbage can on-site. This park is located near KFC and Sawridge Inn, which overlooks the traffic circle. The Town will investigate the feasibility of developing a fountain at this location.



Riverfront Park



Water Play Park

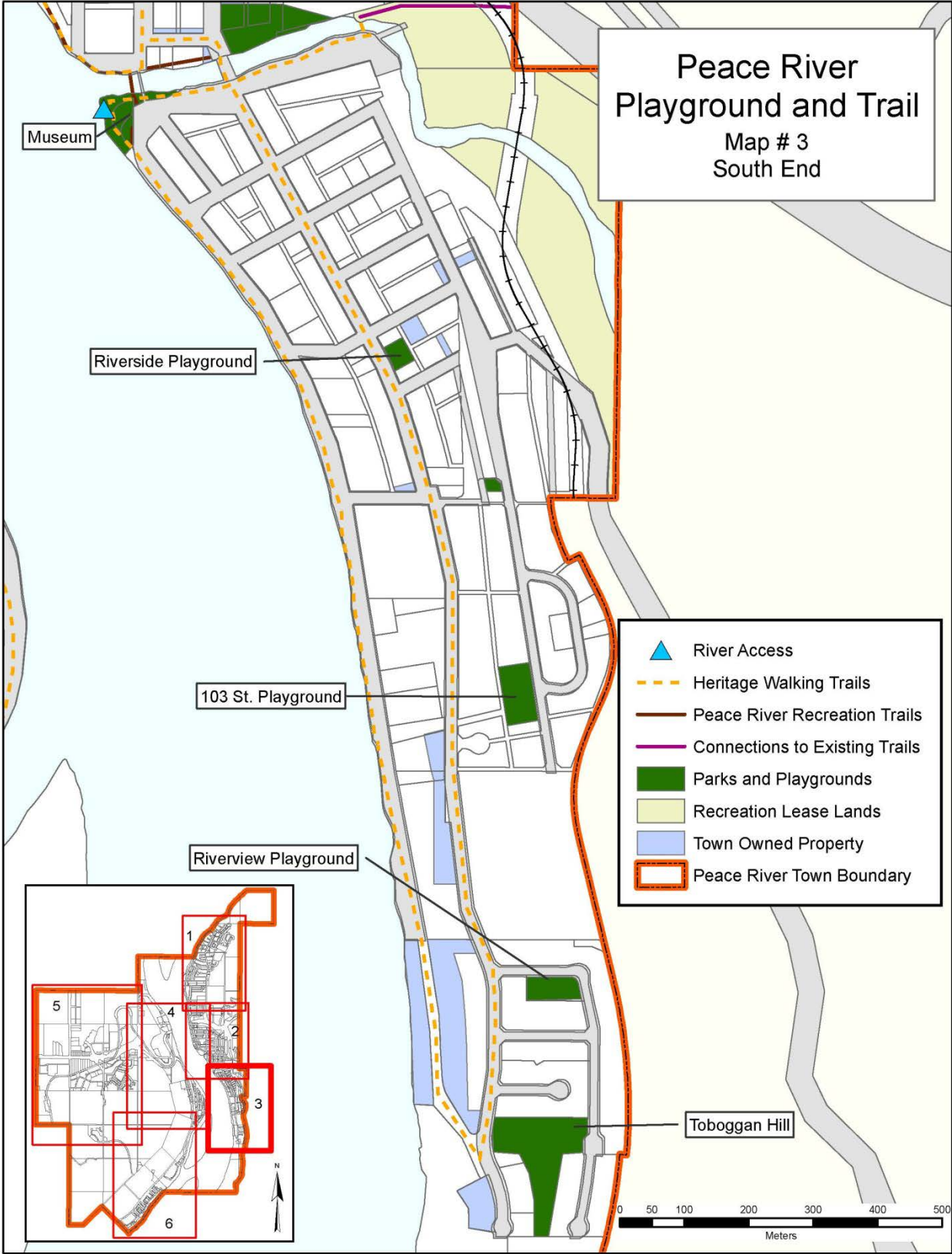
Tennis Court/Peace River Skate Park/Water Play Park

The equipment is in good condition. There are several activity areas – playground with grass and large trees, water pads with tree and artificial shade areas. Picnic tables, benches and several garbage bins are available. Both tennis court and skate park are enclosed by a fence.

This park could use another picnic table.

The fencing that separates the playground from the water play park has been torn out; the composition structure is in good condition.





2.6 South End

Riverside Playground

This park is located on 101st Street and 108th Avenue in a residential area. There is a hockey rink and playground equipment on-site. The playground equipment needs to be completely replaced.

This park has no benches or shade, and only one access. The sand is overgrown with grass. There is also no fall protection and no defined border in the park, as a result, it has a high potential for injury due to falls.



Riverside Playground

This playground needs a complete renovation. There are almost no elements to it that are in compliance with the current CSA standards.

Riverview Playground



Riverview Playground

This park is well-maintained with lots of activities such as rock climbing and a mini zip line. There is also a small basketball area with hockey boards surrounding it.

Picnic tables are available outside of the playground area for resting. The park location is very accessible and open. It creates an “eyes on the park” atmosphere from the close residential houses surrounding the park.

Signage indicating owner/manufacture is required. Overall, the playground is in good condition.

103 Street Playground

This playground is in very good condition; however, some pea gravel filling is required. Signage indicating owner/manufacturer is also required.

Peace River Museum, Archives and Mackenzie Center

This area is well-maintained. A few shade trees are onsite, and one picnic area. There is access to the Peace River from this location.

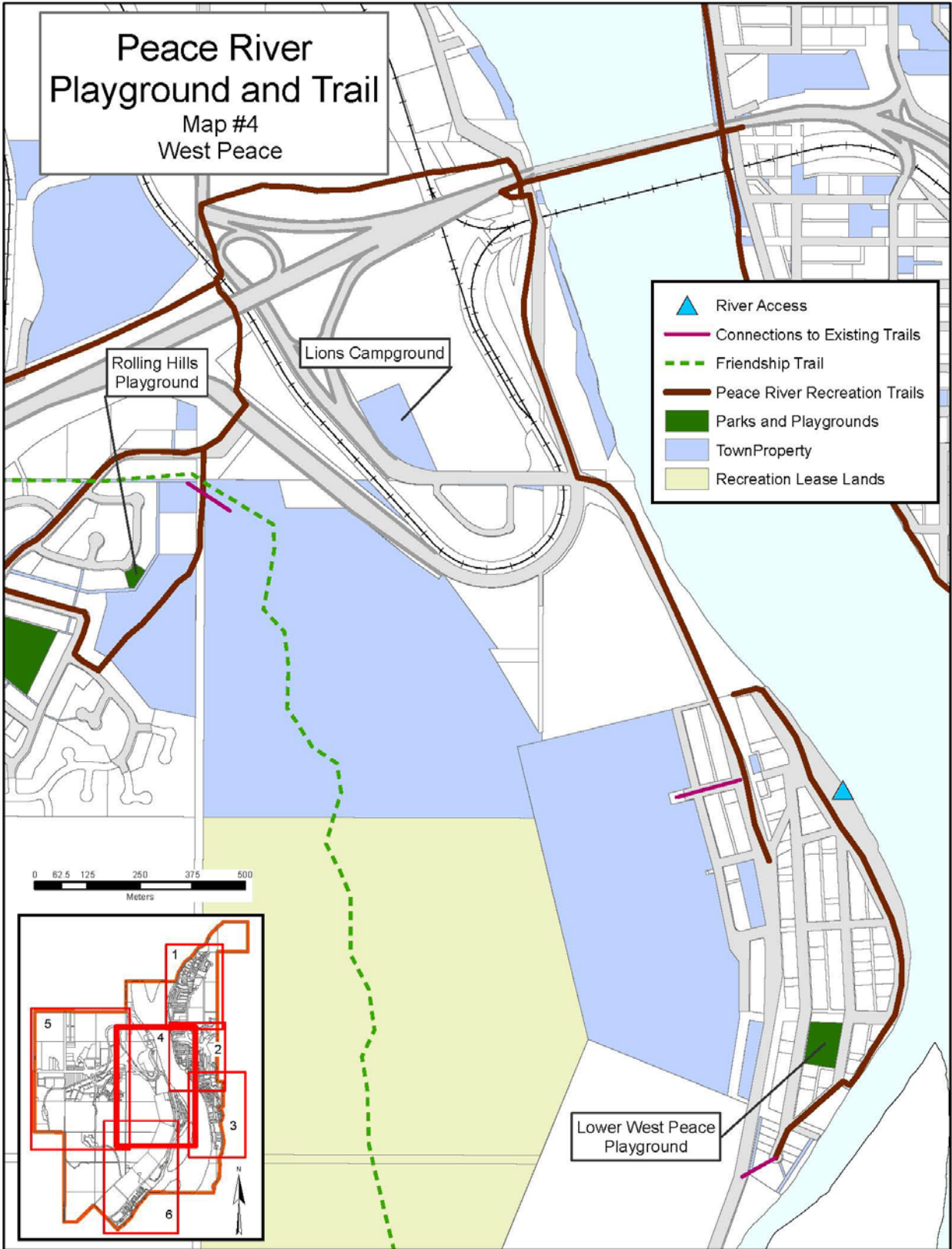
Toboggan Hill

The south end toboggan hill is located to the south of on 101st Street and 116th Avenue. This hill is used in the winter



Peace River Museum, Archives and Mackenzie Center

season by local residents. During the summer months, it is a green space with a beautiful view of the confluence of the Peace and Smoky Rivers.



2.7 Upper/Lower West Peace

Upper West Peace Ski Hill

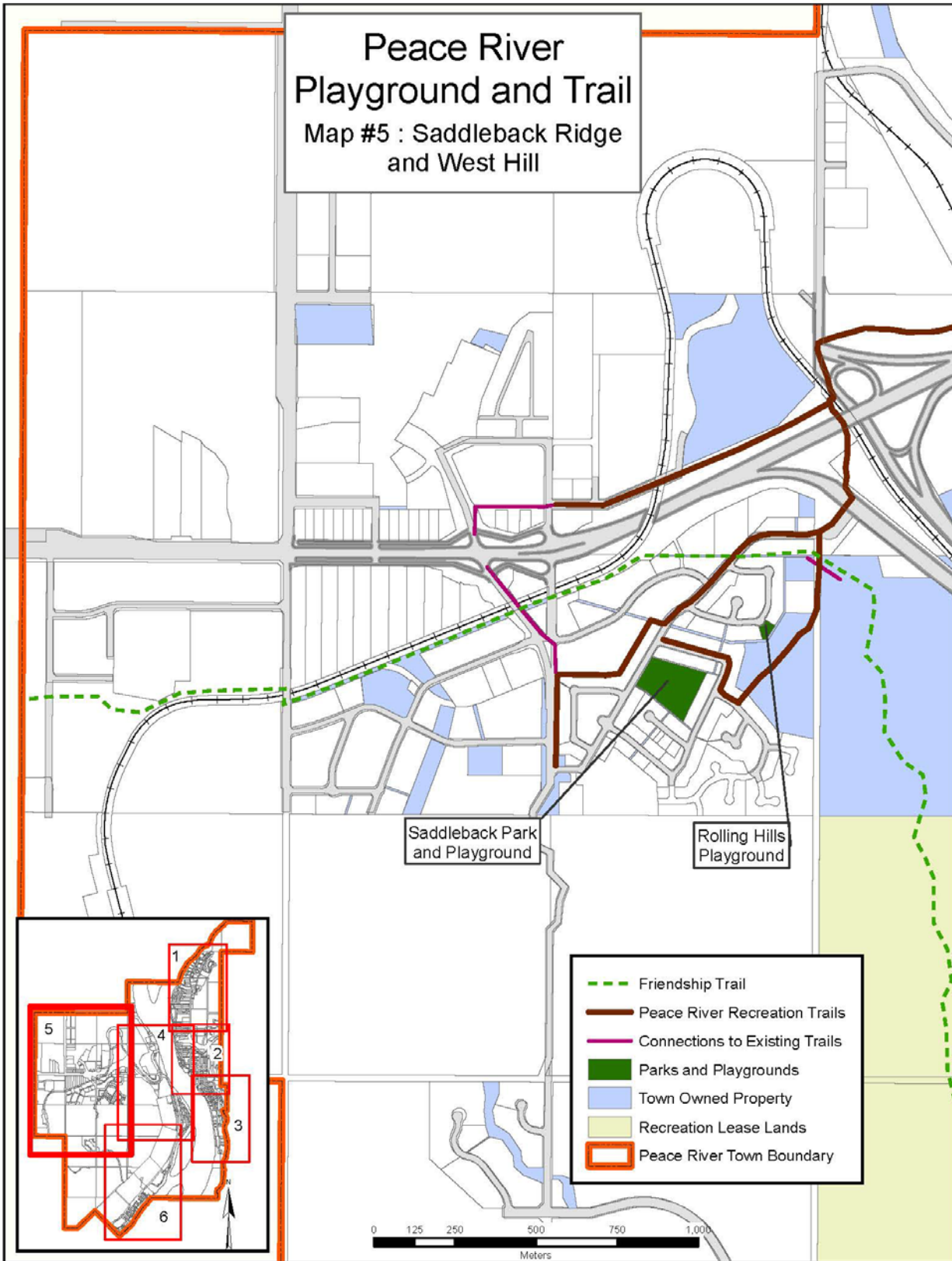
The Misery Mountain Ski Hill provides access to trails and walkways in Saddleback and the Upper West Peace Trail. The Lions Campground provides vacationers with the opportunity to stay in Peace River while staying in their recreation vehicles.

Lower West Peace Playground

This well-maintained park is located in a residential area with lots of activities and new equipment. There is a paved tennis court and basketball area with hockey boards beside the playground. On the north end of the park, there is a baseball diamond. Picnic tables are available beside the playground area and a portable toilet is available at the south corner of the park. Overall, this playground is in very good condition.

Peace River Playground and Trail

Map #5 : Saddleback Ridge
and West Hill



2.8 West Hill/Saddleback

Saddleback Playground



Saddleback Playground

This park is located on 82nd Street and 102nd Avenue in a residential area. Hockey rink, basketball court, soccer/football field and two playgrounds are onsite. This park is well-maintained.

There are three playgrounds in this park; upper, lower and centre playground. The upper playground was moved in 2009.

The stairs leading to the lower playground are in need of replacement. The sand on the site is

overgrown with weeds and trees are encroaching near the swings. Overall, the playground is in acceptable condition and it has good guardrails and barriers. The playground equipment in this park is sufficient; however, more seating, trees and walking paths would be welcomed.

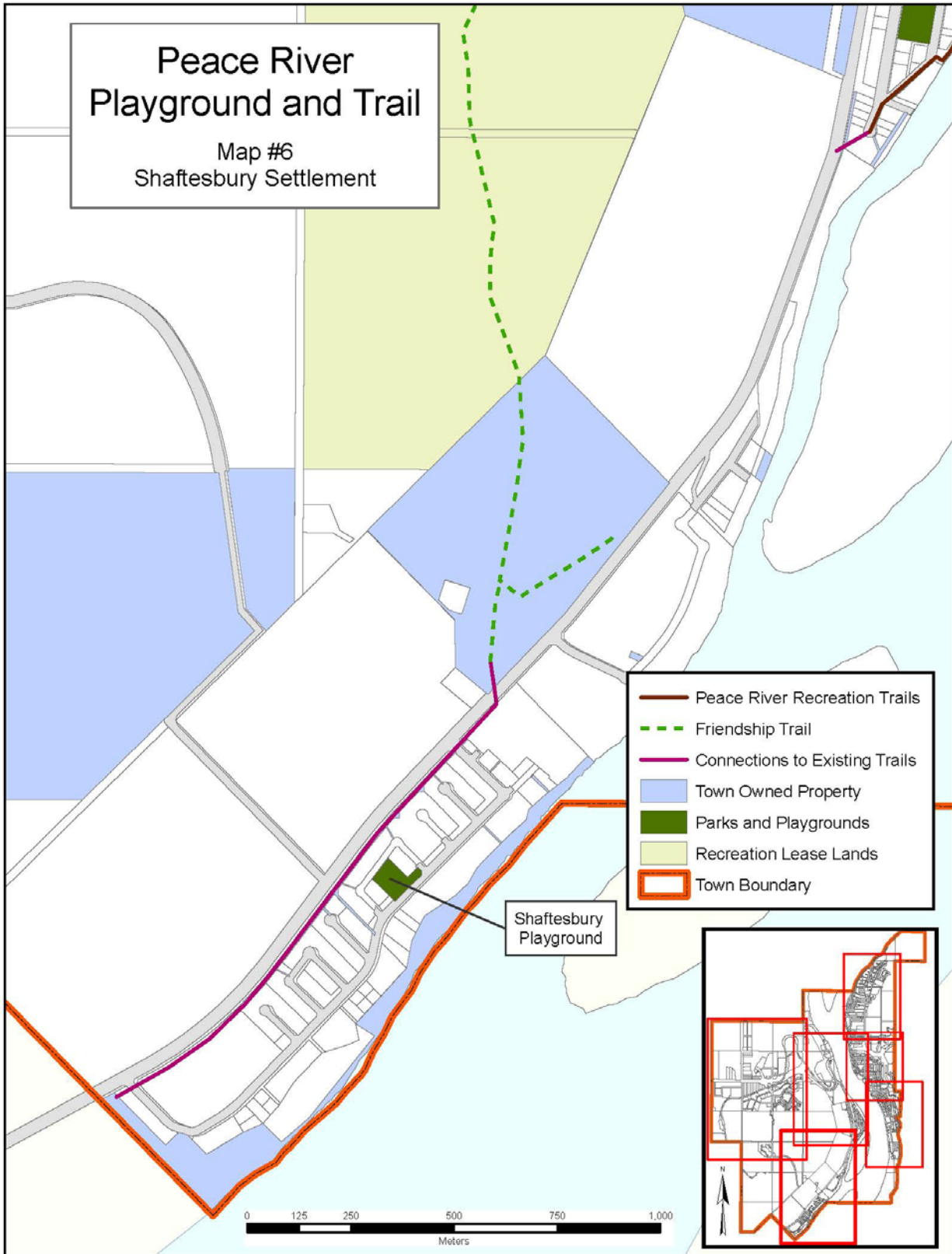
Rolling Hills Playground

This park is located on 85th Street and 101st Avenue in a residential area, behind a set of mailboxes. The nearby hills provide a scenic backdrop to this neighbourhood park, which is properly fenced for safety.

The playground needs to be replaced, as it is one of the older systems in the area. The current age range for this playground is 5 to 12 years. The basketball net/court behind the playground also needs to be removed and replaced with benches/picnic tables.

Ken Horneland Playground/Off Leash Dog Park

This playground is located at the Ken Horneland Ball Diamond site. It overlooks Peace River and is in need of complete removal and replacement. This site is used by families during ball games and only requires a few items such as swings and a small climber. In 2010 the Town established this park as an Off Leash Dog Park and allows dogs to recreate leash free.



2.9 Shaftesbury

Shaftesbury Playground

The playground is over 20 years old and the wooden border around it is in a state of repair. The swing sets do not have an adequate protective surfacing zone. However, this can be remedied when the border is replaced. This playground can be satisfactory for several more years, provided the border is replaced soon.

3.0 TRAILS

Trails are divided into two categories: Commute and Leisure. Commute trails provide a near-direct route from residential areas into business and commercial areas that may be used for leisure or transportation. Leisure trails are not designed for transport into business and commercial areas.

3.1 Signage

Signage for trails will be located in several locations. Signage will be placed at the start and end of trails and will contain information about the trail network.

3.2 Trails

West Hill Pedestrian Trail

This trail is a commuter trail that connects the bridge to the West Hill area. It is parallel to Highway #2 and leads the user past Ken Horneland Softball Park and the Northern Lakes College campus. It is assumed the trail ends at 80th Street as there is no signage after 80th Street. A private pedestrian network leads the user through the commercial shopping district and to the Highway #2 and 78th Street intersection. A section of the trail heads south to the Saddleback area and the Shaftesbury Trail.

Dyke Trail

The Dyke Trail spans the entire river bank from the North end of Peace River to the south end. This leisure trail is paved.

Directional signs are required at the start and finish of this trail. A sign is also required at the junctions on the side trails to identify the route leading up to the Peace River Bridge. This trail is paved and well-maintained. It is usable for both pedestrians and cyclists.

Shaftesbury Trail

A section of the Friendship trail was originally developed along the highway right-of-way. Due to the location of this trail, it was quickly eroded by water and overgrown by weeds. Currently this trail is unrecognizable and an unsafe area for walking.

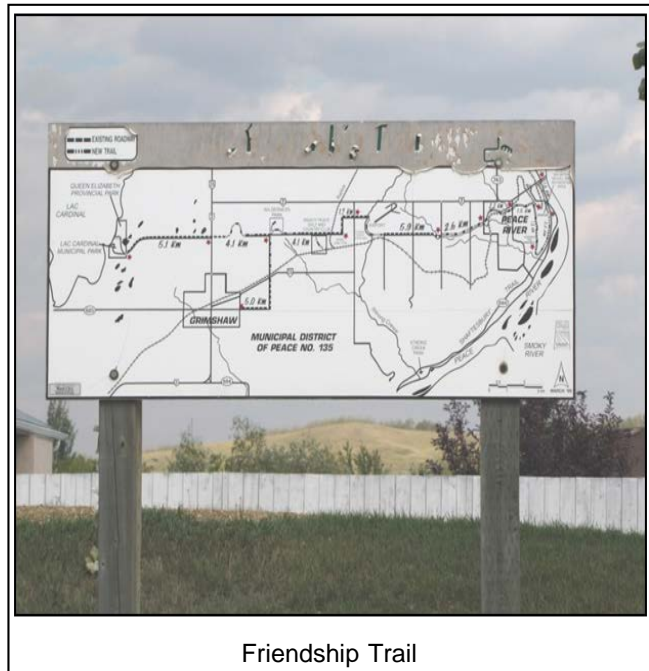
Upper West Peace Trail

This trail beside Shaftesbury needs some maintenance. The trail is narrow and half of it has been washed over the cliff. There are concrete road barricades on-site with chain-link fencing. This trail ends at the road into Lower West Peace. No sidewalks are available into the Lower West Peace area.

Lower West Peace Trail

This trail does not connect to any trails in Peace River, and due to the topography of this area it does not lead to other trails. There is a single-track path leading south from the southern terminus but it is not clear where the path leads and what it is for.

Friendship Trail



The Friendship Trail is approximately 20 kilometres long and it connects through the Town of Peace River, the Town of Grimshaw and, the Municipal District of Peace No.135. This trail is initiated from the surplus money of the 1996 Northwest Alberta Winter Games. The connection to the Misery Mountain Ski Hill and Recreation Area is of particular significance to this Trail. The trail up the Misery Mountain is designed to accommodate a variety of user groups including pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians, and cross-country skiers.

The Friendship Trail lacks directional signage. The entrance to the trail on the north side of “Old Highway 2” needs to be marked. The trail sign along 82nd Street at the end of 104th Avenue needs to be replaced. Once the Friendship Trail crosses 82nd Street, it is difficult to find. Also, a safer route for this trail is needed as it is built on a ditch near the Peace River Hospital.

Greene Valley Provincial Park

The Greene Valley Provincial Park is near the Town of Peace River boundary; however this is a park that is overseen by the Provincial Government. The Town is not responsible for, and does not maintain this park. Currently there is no access to this area from Town boundaries. This area is only accessible during the winter months due to the Heart River and the rugged terrain on the south side.

Access to the Peace River

There are currently several entrance points to provide residents access to the Peace River. On the east side of the river, there are three access points. There is an access located to the south of the Peace River Museum, Archives and Mackenzie Center, one at Riverfront Park, and one

at the North End boat launch. On the West side of the river, the only access to the river is located at the Lower West Peace boat launch.

This plan does not address the development of the River Front Park boat access; this will be addressed in a separate plan. However, the Parks and Trails plan will look into the addition of signage, maintenance and some viewpoints.

4.0 PARKS AND TRAIL STANDARDS AND EXPANSION

4.1 Parks Standards and Policies

The Town of Peace River uses the Can-CSA Z61407 Standard for selecting and installing playground equipment.

Currently there is one standard that potential developers are required to abide by when proposing the creation and development of new residential properties. It is in the Municipal Development Plan for the Town of Peace River.

Within the Reserve Policy Statement section of the MDP, the following is stated in regard to acquiring land for green space development:

1. As a condition of subdivision approval, the Town shall require that 10% of lands developed to be dedicated as municipal and/or school reserve;
2. The Town may take municipal and/or school reserve in one or a combination of the following methods:
 - a. Land, similar in quality to the land being proposed to be subdivided;
 - b. Cash-in-lieu;
 - c. Deferral to the balance of the subject property; or
 - d. A combination of the above methods.
3. Money collected in-lieu of municipal reserve shall be used for the provision of recreation and/or school facilities.

While providing a base standard for determining the amount of property in new development (10%) to be presented to the municipality for potential green space, more standards and parameters need to be instituted to guide development.

Additional standards for parks and open spaces should be instituted as policy for development of new properties.

Neighbourhood Park

Municipal reserve property that is primarily found in residential neighbourhoods and is intended to accommodate local playgrounds and related activities.

These open spaces are well utilized as sites for active and passive play and have a significant role in improving the aesthetic quality of the community. Neighbourhood Parks can be divided into different categories, such as the term “Tot Lot”, referring to a playground that may be smaller in size with equipment designed for children 18 months to 8 years of age. The other category of Neighbourhood Park would be designed for children 4 years to 12 years of age. It is suggested that such categorization be abolished and in its place design Neighbourhood Parks with elements that will appeal to and cater to all age ranges.

Policies:

- The Park will have a central location within the development.
- The park will have a minimum of 25% curbside access at the perimeter for safety, visibility and accessibility.
- 10% of the development will be designated as municipal reserve for the park and any proposal smaller than 0.3 hectares will not be accepted.
- Plan to achieve and maintain a ratio of 1.0 hectares of Neighbourhood Park space for every 1000 residents.
- Playground equipment will be established. Playground standards will be governed by CSA standards for *Children’s Play spaces and Equipment* CAN/CSA A-Z614. All upgrades to equipment and new equipment will be in compliance with the safety standards set therein.
- Playfield will be present.
- General landscaping with trees planted for shade if necessary will be present.
- Benches and/or tables and waste receptacles will be present.

Community Park/School

Centrally located municipal reserve utilized for elementary schools often having large open space and playgrounds. These open spaces often have the capability to provide leisure activities for children 8 years old into their teens. These parks have a greater percentage of large open playfields that are not necessarily sports fields and tend to service a larger

neighborhood. These sites may have a single school on the property or be jointly used by two schools or have no school. These Parks are primarily the responsibility of their respective School Divisions. Upon request the municipality may visit the Community Park for maintenance that falls beyond the range of the Joint Use Agreement.

Policies:

- The park will have a central location to a couple of neighborhoods.
- The park/school will have a minimum of 40% curbside access for student drop off and pick up.
- A minimum of 4.0 hectares will be reserved for single school properties where a non-competitive playfield will be developed.
- A minimum 5.0 hectares will be reserved for single school properties where a sports field will be developed.
- Playground standards will be governed by CSA standards for *Children's Play spaces and Equipment* CAN/CSA A-Z614. All upgrades to equipment and new equipment will be in compliance with the safety standards set therein.

Sports Fields

Large open spaces sometimes adjacent to high schools designed to accommodate sporting events.

Sports fields are open spaces that have been developed with the intention of hosting recreational and competitive sporting events. They are capable of meeting the active recreation needs of residents of the Town of Peace River and the surrounding area. They are developed to a higher standard and have a high intensity maintenance schedule. The activities at these open spaces may draw large numbers of participants and spectators, and both these factors need to be considered when purchasing or dedicating municipal reserve property.

Facilities that fall under the sports fields category include soccer pitches, football fields, ball diamonds, athletics facilities and tennis courts.

When purchasing new property or designating municipal reserve for the purposes of sports fields, measures should be taken to include two or more sports fields on one piece of property.

Policies:

- Soccer pitches – single soccer pitches need to be allotted 2 hectares of space for field, parking and spectator seating. Two pitches on the same piece of property need only be allotted 3.5 hectares.
- Baseball and Softball Diamonds - single diamonds need to be allotted 1.5 Hectares. Two facilities on one piece of property need only be allotted 2.5 Hectares.
- Open space should be centrally located for several neighborhoods. Due to a varied topography the Town of Peace River may not have the opportunity to be highly particular about purchasing the ideal piece of property. Flexibility must be built in to a responsible site plan.
- Benches and/or tables present with landscaping.
- A minimum of two waste receptacles and two recycling receptacles for every sports field.
- Bleachers should be budgeted for if the proposed park is intended to host regional events that would draw a large number of spectators on a regular basis.
- Ensure all future developments allocate green space/playgrounds into their plans.

Urban Park

Urban Parks are large open spaces used strictly for trail development. These open spaces are intended for leisure and recreational use and have a lower level of development standards and maintenance standards than other open spaces. Aside from trail development, they are intended to remain in a mostly natural state.

These properties are found toward the outer borders of Town. Access to these open spaces needs to be improved as well as increasing public knowledge of their recreation potential. Most of these open spaces lead out of Town limits into surrounding municipalities.

An agreement should be forged with the surrounding municipalities to enhance trails through these open spaces to encourage residents to explore the natural recreation surrounding the Town.

Municipal Green Space

Municipal Green Space is generally non-recreational open space including berms, boulevards, public utility corridors, road right of ways medians and ditches.

This category will include all open space that is the responsibility of the Town of Peace River yet does not fulfill a recreation or leisure purpose. This category includes aspects that are imperative to the function of the Town (utility easements, boulevards) that can also serve an aesthetic purpose.

Policies:

- Graded, topsoil and seeding with appropriate landscaping. Plants, trees signage and other items should be considered for aesthetic purposes.
- Provide trail linkages.
- Have appropriate benches, waste receptacles and other furniture.

4.2 Parks Maintenance Standards

The Town follows a standard maintenance and upkeep of parks and playground procedure. The procedure outlines the methodology the Town uses in determining their priority list. Below is a brief outline:

1. Canadian Playground Safety Institute (CPSI) Annual Inspection

This process includes a thorough inspection of all playground equipment that falls within the mandate of CPSI. This does not include such structures as benches, picnic tables or other decorative or functional park accessories. These inspections are done on an annual basis at the end of April, or beginning of May. Full reports are completed and filed in a binder for the year. The inspection will be done by the Recreation and Facilities Coordinator or in their absence, a qualified CPSI Inspector.

2. Action Plan

Out of these reports, the Recreation and Facilities Coordinator will provide specific remedial actions to be taken for each safety hazard or concern addressed. Public Works and/or Facility Maintenance staff will be consulted as to the most appropriate remedial action. These repairs will also be prioritized in terms of highest to lowest hazard.

3. Clean Up/ Basic Maintenance

While the inspections and reports are being completed, Facility Maintenance staff and Public Works staff will be responsible for doing basic park and playground clean up, including litter and graffiti. During this time the staff will also take immediate remedial action if a major hazard is spotted and keep the Recreation Coordinator informed. For example, remove nails that have been pounded upwards into play platforms.

4. Report on Updates

The Facility Maintenance Staff will be provided the reports with specific actions and will be responsible for ensuring the repairs are done in order of priority and to a standard acceptable to CPSI. Upon completion of the repair, photographs will be taken and filed alongside the original report. For large repairs, the Facility Maintenance staff will consult with Public Works for assistance.

5. Follow-Up

After any major repairs are completed, the Facility Maintenance Staff will conduct weekly inspections of the parks and playgrounds for the purposes of:

- a) Collecting litter
- b) Raking gravel
- c) Tilling sand
- d) Cleaning equipment
- e) Inspecting for and repairing minor flaws to equipment and park accessories

These weekly inspections will be documented and filed with the yearly parks and playground reports.

4.3 Trails Standards and Polices

When developing trails the Town of Peace River refers to the Town's General Municipal Servicing Standards which is available at the Town of Peace River Office.

Trails provide a means of transportation as well as a leisure opportunity. By providing quality trails that residents can utilize for transportation throughout Town, we can reduce the environmental impact of vehicles, as well as reduce the demand on infrastructure that results from this mode of transport.

By having as many quality recreation and leisure pursuits as possible we contribute to the overall improvement of health and well-being of all residents. To accommodate both aspects of the trails system they are classified into two categories, Commute and Natural, with Commute being further broken down into Primary and Secondary routes.

There are two types of trails, commute and leisure.

Commute - Those trails that provide a near-direct route from residential areas into business and commercial areas that may be utilized for leisure or transportation. Commuter trails would be constructed to a hard surface.

Leisure - Those trails that are not designed for transport into business and commercial areas. Leisure trails would be constructed of a gravel surface.

Future Development Policies:

The specifications for trail paths are as listed below.

Commuter Trail Policies

- Minimum 2.4 metres width
- 50 mm asphalt overlay
- 150 mm crushed gravel base course – 20 mm crush
- Geotextile
- 150 mm depth prepared sub grade to 98% SPD
- Minimum cross fall to be 2%

- Linear gradient of trail should be less than 10%
- Relationship to existing contours
- Avoid switchbacks
- Ensure all new developments provide paths and accesses to connect to parks and trails
- Ensure all current and future people paths have similar surfacing so that residents can use them during all seasons
- Ensure that all new and existing sidewalks are connected

Leisure/Hiking Trail Policies

- Trails will be developed using gravel/crushed concrete/recycled ground asphalt. The above requirements are in effect (minus 50 mm asphalt) to create a solid base should asphalt overlay be required in the future.

4.4 Trails Maintenance Standards

A standard maintenance directive outlines the methodology to be used to determine the priority list and upkeep of the trail system. The following is an overview of what the directive may include:

1. Inspection by walking and driving. Frequency to be three times per year; spring, summer, and fall. Inspection of surface, shoulder areas, trees, bridges, crossing areas and signage. Report to be completed and filed by Recreation Facilities Coordinator.
2. Action Plan – from the inspection reports the Recreation Facilities Coordinator will provide routine trail tasks. Public Works, and/or parks staff will be contacted in regard to the most appropriate remedial action and prioritization in terms of hazard.
3. Basic Maintenance – Public Works and/or Parks staff will be responsible for control of grass encroachment along trails. Snow and ice removal from width and length of trail(s) repeated as weather conditions dictate. Refer to the Snow Removal Policy for the Town of Peace River. Recommend trails be included in the previously mentioned policy for review and implementation. Specific equipment should be purchased to maintain the trail system year round.

4. Follow Up – After any major/minor repairs are completed, the Recreation Facilities Coordinator and Public Works will conduct an inspection to confirm that the directives have been obtained and the work is satisfactory.

4.5 Expansion Areas/Regional Cooperation

Regional Expansion/Cooperation

The Town will endeavor to pursue the expansion of regional trail networks. Trail networks could be expanded by working closely with our Municipal neighbours to formally connect to their trails. Specifically, the Pats Creek Trail and 12 Foot Davis area, within Northern Sunrise County and the continuation of the Friendship Trail into the Municipal District of Peace #135.

West Hill Highway Commercial

The Peace River Regional Hospital is located to the west of Highway #743. With the exception of the hospital, the area is currently undeveloped. This area is a prime area for future development because of relatively flat terrain and the proximity to the hospital. In regard to parks and trails, the Westview Area Structure Plan has provisions for parks, trails and pedestrian networks. As development occurs, lands will be provided by the developer and allocated accordingly.

The West Hill Pedestrian Trail is a major pedestrian link that connects the east side of Peace River to the west side. Pedestrians travel over the bridge and are brought towards the commercial shopping district on the West Hill. The bridge is the only river crossing for pedestrian and bicycle traffic in the Town of Peace River. As pedestrians travel to the West Hill shopping district, they have the ability to walk on a paved trail and sidewalk network which can take them across Highway #2.

Policies:

- Provide pedestrian access and connection from existing developed areas to all newly developed areas.
- Ensure that park and trail land is allocated according to Area Structure Plans.
- Ensure that pedestrian networks are connected as development occurs.

- Create safe pedestrian networks that connect commercial shopping districts to residential neighbourhoods.

Upper/Lower West Peace

Upper West Peace contains one of the most precious natural features of the Peace River; Misery Mountain. Many trails pass through the natural open space areas within Misery Mountain and are used by the public year round. During the winter season, the Peace River Ski Club operates the ski hill and chalet, making it an attractive destination for residents and tourists.

There are several important pedestrian connections that connect Upper West Peace to Lower West Peace, Saddleback, Shaftesbury and the bridge crossing. These pedestrian networks are important to the residents living in close proximity to the mountain.

Additionally, there is currently a relatively undeveloped parcel of land adjacent to the Ski Hill. The Citadel Park Area Structure Plan was adopted for this area and includes provisions for parks and trail networks. As this area develops, land will be allocated to the parks and trails indicated in the Area Structure Plan.

Policies:

- Identify pedestrian linkages within Misery Mountain, map and promote the “ridge trail” that is currently the most well used hiking trail.
- Maintain the Mountain Bike Trail that was developed for the 2010 Alberta Summer Games.
- Ensure that the proposed Peace River Ski Association Business Plan’s recreational activity enhances the natural features of this area.

Saddleback

The Saddleback neighborhood is one of the newest developing residential areas in the Town of Peace River. There are two existing parks and several pedestrian walkway systems that connect the entire neighborhood. The main concern for the Saddleback neighborhood is the connection to Misery Mountain and also the West Hill Commercial District.



Misery Mountain Ski Chalet

Policies:

- Develop safe trails and paths that connect to the West Hill Commercial District.
- Develop trails and paths that provide residents with a connection to Misery Mountain.

Shaftesbury Estates

Shaftesbury Estates is located in the southwest region of Peace River. It is a developing residential neighbourhood that contains a centralized park and several pedestrian trail networks. The issue with this neighborhood is providing pedestrian trail linkages to the rest of Peace River.

Policies:

- Ensure future developments contain pedestrian trails connecting residents within the neighborhood.
- Identify linkages leading pedestrians outside of Shaftesbury Estates.
- Create at least one viewpoint to the river, through one of the existing PUL's.

East Peace River

The east side of Peace River is the Town's most developed area. There are three distinct areas within this area: the North End, South End, and Downtown. The east side of Peace River contains the majority of the residential areas and also contains the majority of trails and parks

within the Town. The parks and trails are well developed within these neighborhoods. The only concern is the maintenance and upkeep of these facilities.

Policies:

- Establish new pedestrian trail linkages within residential areas.
- Maintain the existing inventory of parks and trails.
- Upgrade existing parks to maintain safety of user.

South End

Located in the south end of Peace River, this proposed trail expansion is located past 99th Street. Once past the end 99th Street it continues up hill and connects to 101st Street. This trail is located on land that cannot be developed because of a previous landslide, but may be suitable, after further investigation, for recreational purposes.

Policies:

- Research the possibility of using the old section of 99th Street as a loop connector to 101st Street.
- Finish off the south end paved trail by providing proper access to the road.

4.7 Problem Areas

There are a number of specific areas that the Town administration has identified as locations that will require the involvement of other parties to assist in the improvement and/or development of trails.

The following is a listing of the areas that have been identified:

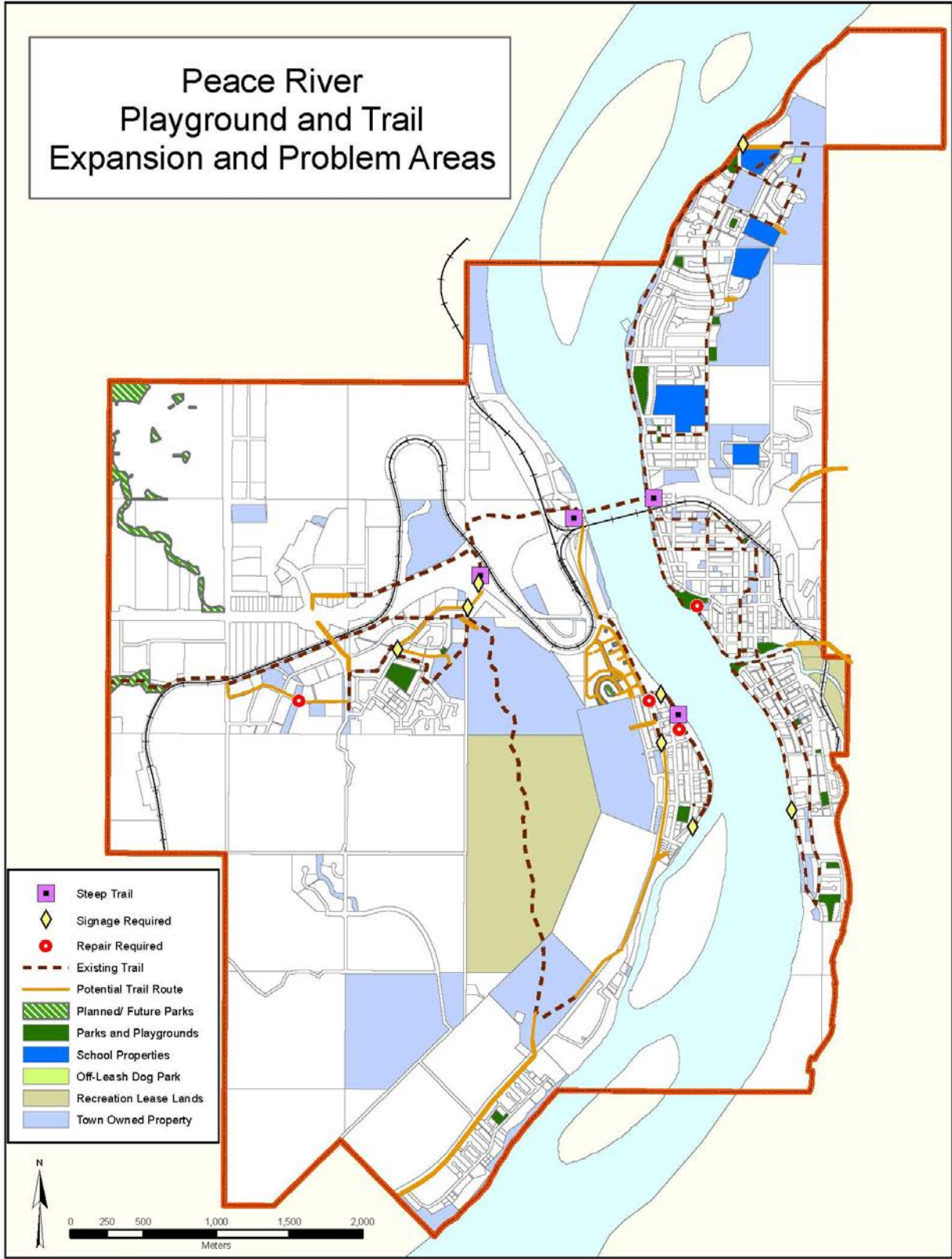
- Saddleback
 - Access to Misery Mountain via the newest development
- West Hill Commercial
 - Safe pedestrian access from the Saddleback residential area to the Highway 2 intersection
- Shaftesbury Trail

- Trail from upper West Peace to Shaftesbury Estates is within the highway right of way
 - This area requires a safe trail access along Highway 2
- Upper West Peace
 - The current paved trail has slumped and requires repair

Policies:

- Identify specific parties that would be required in developing solutions and alternatives to the issues sited.
- Develop solutions and plans for the identified areas.

Peace River Playground and Trail Expansion and Problem Areas



5.0 FINANCIAL

5.1 Revenue/Expenditure

Balancing revenue and expenditure is important to the Town and its residents. Annual budgets received must be used wisely by each department.

Community Services staff have provided a summary of their operating expenditures⁵ from 2005 to 2009 based on three categories: Dikes/ Trails, Ball Diamonds and Parks. The bulk of the expense lies with the Green Space Maintenance Program, which includes a contract for grass cutting, flower maintenance and sports field maintenance.

Based on the graph below, it is evident that Parks has the highest operating cost in comparison to Dikes/ Trails and Ball Diamonds. The Dikes/Trails budget was higher in 2005 and 2006 due to the development of the West Hill pedestrian trail. Ball Diamonds have stayed fairly consistent, with the highest expenditures in the replacement of gravel infields to shale.

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This plan does not specifically identify any recommendations for ball diamond upgrades. Ball Diamonds will be assessed annually by the Community Services Department and recommendations will be based on safety needs. The department will work with the current user groups to develop a plan of action.

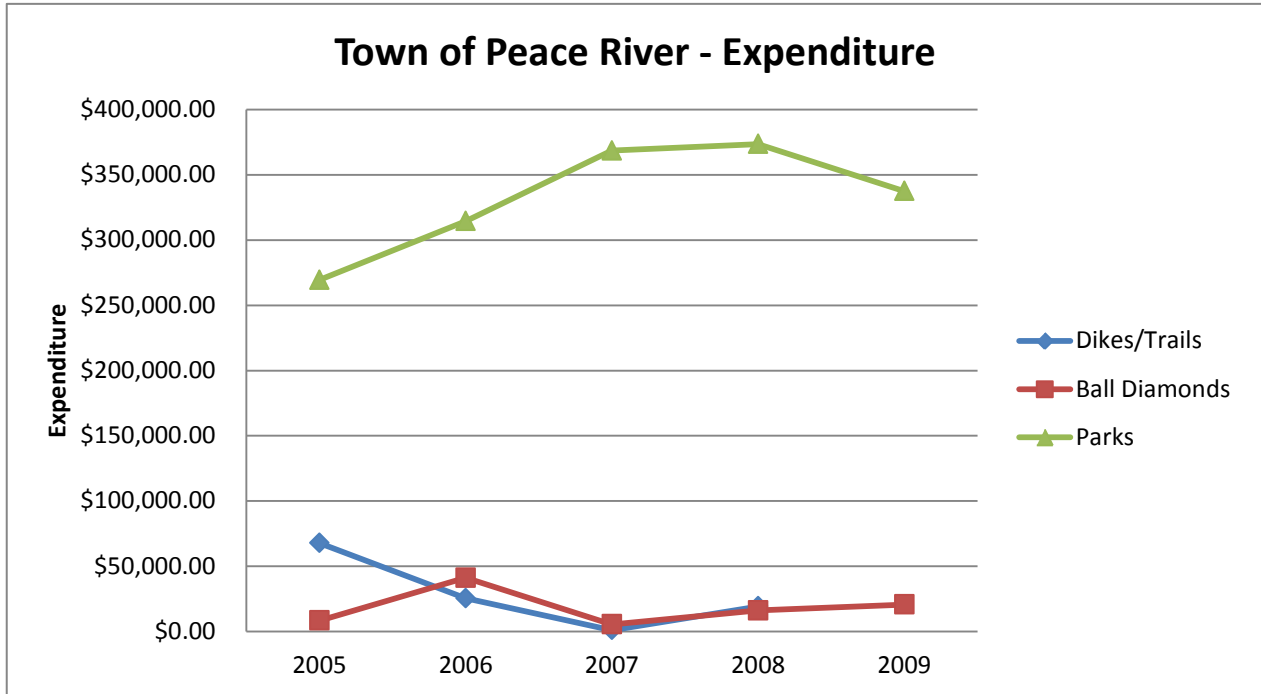
Park and Playground expenditures include maintenance of playground equipment, sports field maintenance, and lining of sports fields. This area is responsible for all annual flowers; hanging flower baskets and flower beds.

The revenues for this department area are rather limited due to the nature of the activities provided. The only revenues received for this area are for the following:

- Ball Diamond rentals: league and weekend tournament rentals
- Sports Field rentals (since 2008)
- School Divisions: recovery of costs from green space maintenance

⁵ Operating expenditures include maintenance of parks, playgrounds, ball diamonds, sport fields and trails.

The Plan will act as a budgeting tool for the Community Services Department and the Town of Peace River. The Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to be included within the budgeting process.



5.2 Alternative Revenue Source

Corporate/Community Sponsorship Program

Let's put the "play" back into "playground"! The Town of Peace River Corporate/Community Sponsorship Program is one of the tools being looked at to provide further funding to our parks and playgrounds. The Town of Peace River Corporate/Community Sponsorship Program will enable businesses and community members to develop and maintain our many parks within the town.

These partnerships will help the town optimize its funding sources through the reduction of budgeted expenses. The net effect will be a reduction in pressure on operation costs and resources. Partnerships may also yield enhanced programs and services for the community.

Depending upon the nature of the partnership, the corporate partner may benefit in many different ways. This includes enhanced marketing of their products/services and development and promotion of their business relationship with the Town.

Ultimately, the goal of the sponsorship program is to help the Town to continue to achieve its overall goals that include enhancing the quality of life and the environment, supporting a vital economy, safeguarding the Town's assets and providing services to meet community needs.

Adopt a bench program

The Town of Peace River has set out a request to find alternative funding tools as a source of revenue. One of the tools being looked at further pertains to bench adoptions. This particular revenue sources enables the public to adopt a bench for a designated fee.

If the Town chooses to pursue this option it is paramount that a reasonable price is chosen in order to generate added revenue. For example, a basic wood bench could cost up to 686 dollars whereas a recycled plastic bench ranges around 200 dollars.⁶ Therefore, it is important to ensure the option chosen allows revenue to be accumulated.

The descriptions of the program are fairly simple. Once citizens choose to adopt a bench, they are given the options to engrave up to 70 characters on a metal plaque, which will be installed on the bench. In larger jurisdictions such as New York City, options are given to the public if they want the plaque larger with more characters. In conclusion, the Adopt-A-Bench program is a great way to generate revenue for the Town of Peace River. An initiative of this is scale would be fairly easy to implement and would be cost effective. It is recommended that the town moves forward with this program.

Adopt a tree program / Tree planting program

Adopt a Tree Program pertains to the notion that one person or a group of individuals adopt a tree for a designated fee. The participating recipients will have the option of mounting an

⁶ Highland Products Group, 2010.

engraved plaque on the tree they adopted. The VanDusen Botanical Garden Association in Vancouver practices this form of fundraising and uses the money generated to support ongoing projects and programs. The minimum donation in the VanDusen case study is 1,500 dollars per tree, but it is not known how the organization arrived at these quotes⁷. If the Town of Peace River decides to move forward with option, further research will need to be conducted to determine the appropriate amount for each tree donation. It is recommended to purchase a tree of a minimum of 45 mm caliper. Community Service would then charge a onetime fee, (actual price to be determined) Only trees suitable for this climate zone will be purchased and planted.

The Town will develop a tree planting program that will be active every spring and fall. The Town realizes the need for additional trees in all neighbourhoods and will prioritize tree planting efforts in identified neighbourhoods.

Adopt a solar light program

The *adopt a solar light program* is aimed at providing additional lighting in low lit areas. Areas may include existing and future parks, trails and recreation facilities. This program will provide the Town with renewable lighting sources and also introduce solar lighting into the community. The Town will develop lighting standards and identify locations that require additional lighting in the identified area.

“Buy a foot/meter/km” Program

The “Buy a foot/meter/km” Program comes in various forms depending on the jurisdiction or organization it is implemented under. It works by allowing residents to purchase a designate portion of trail for (x) amount of dollars. Some towns give their residents the option of purchasing a foot of trail for (x) amount of dollars, with the money raised allocated towards offsetting the construction and maintenance costs of the section purchased. In Canada, the Trans Canada Trail offers the option of sponsoring a meter of trail for 50 dollars⁸. The participant is then given a Trail certificate and an inscription in one of the pavilions in the province or territory they choose. Local municipalities are also catching on to this program. In the Town of Markham, Ontario, initiatives are currently underway to use the tool as a way to

⁷ VanDusen, unknown

⁸ Trans Canada Trail, 2010

maintain and expand existing parks and trails systems. The Town has also identified a list of other strategies that can be used to help fund trails and parks, they are as follows:

- Create catalyst to organize fundraising events
- Organize and enlist volunteers
- Hold events and festivals which are meant to celebrate and increase interest in the Trails and Parks Network
- Promote parks and trails as viable modes of transportation⁹.

Sales Tax

According to Metrogreen, a city based initiative in Kansas City dedicated sales taxes can generate considerable sums of money for conservation/trails. For example, Platte County in the US passed a 1/2 cent sales tax in August 2000 that will generate \$5 million annually for 10 years toward the development and management of park and recreation facilities. In the City of Olathe, voters approved a 1/8 cent sales tax in November 1999 and approved extending the park sales tax for another 10 years in 2004. Portions of the revenues are being used to fund trails and greenways and to leverage federal SAFETEA-LU funds¹⁰. Though this is a U.S. example the same tools can be used in Peace River, Alberta, however it would require public acceptance.

Neighbourhood Society Grant Funding

Individuals within a community have the ability to form a neighbourhood society. With a society formed, the society can apply for grant funding for improvement projects. This process could help to accelerate a neighbourhood upgrade.

The Community Services Department will assist neighbourhoods to form societies, by developing a “how to” kit and assisting with the paperwork required for this process.

⁹ Town of Markham, 2007

¹⁰ Mid-America Regional Council, 2010

6.0 PARKS AND TRAILS PRIORITY LIST

6.1 Parks/ Playgrounds

Playground priorities have been developed through the use of the Canadian Playground Safety Institute Annual inspection process.

This process includes a thorough inspection of all playground equipment that falls within the mandate of CPSI. This does not include such structures as benches, picnic tables, or other decorative or functional park accessories.

Playground age categories will be considered when redeveloping any locations. The Community Services Department will ensure there are a broad number of various age categories of playgrounds across the community. The following is a priority listing of Playgrounds to be upgraded.

1. Riverside Playground
2. Rolling Hills Playground
3. Ken Horneland Playground
4. Riverfront Park Playground
5. Shaftesbury Playground
6. Saddleback Lower Level Playground
7. Water Spray Park Playground
8. Kinsmen Funland Playground – old section

6.2 Trails

The original priority list proposed to upgrade and repair existing trails within the first five years of the plan. Then the next five years will focus on the development of new trails and connecting to existing leisure trails. However, after incorporating the public feedback, it is suggested that the Town balance new trail development with upgrading existing trails. This is reflected in the Trail Action List.

The following is an itemized listing of proposed trails for upgrading and development. Prioritization is based on a balance of upgrading existing trails, including adding signage, and developing proper access; and developing new trails and connecting trails.

1. North End dyke trail connection to the cemetery
2. South End dyke trail connection to 101st Street
3. Misery Mountain – mapping of the existing trails specifically the Ridge and Mountain Bike trail
4. Shaftesbury Estates – connection to upper West Peace
5. Saddleback Area – connection to West Hill commercial area
6. Friendship Trail - upgrade
7. Peace River Provincial Recreation Area and 12' Davis Site –Town boundary trail access
8. Greene Valley Provincial Park – Access during winter months only

7.0 PUBLIC INPUT

The public input process included the following elements:

- 2 public sessions
- An online survey
- Email responses
- Dissemination of the plan to agencies and organizations

The Town of Peace River held two very successful open houses. One was held at the Peace River Arena on February 10th at 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM and at the River Drive Mall on February 12th at 10:00 AM to 2:00PM. Over 60 citizens attended the public sessions, as although only 27 individuals filled in the sign-in sheets.

Online questionnaires were also available to the public, for those who could not attend the public sessions. A total of 80 questionnaires were completed, between both the online version and the on-site sessions.

Of the 80 respondents, 27 have lived in Peace River for less than 5 years, the remaining 53 have been residents for 6 to 20 years. 60 respondents indicated having children 0 to 12 years in their household, signifying that the majority of the survey respondents were families or extended families.

80% of respondents noted using the parks and playgrounds more than once a week, with River Front Park, Kinsmen Funland and Lower West Peace Playgrounds being the most popular locations.

Trails were used by over 83% of respondents more than once a week. Of particular note, there was a fairly equal split between respondents on whether the Town should place higher priority on upgrading existing trails versus new trail developments; 80% - upgrade vs 82% new developments. This feedback has directly influenced the direction of the priority planning for trails.

Community feedback was incorporated into the plan throughout the document. There were a number of recurring themes that were evident through the surveys, comments and during discussions with citizens at the public sessions:

Trail Themes:

- Higher level of maintenance of trails, especially through the winter months
- Loop of existing trails
- Provide safe trails to specific problem areas
- Maintain and increase access for hiking, walking and foot pedal power to the Misery Mountain area
- Maps and signage of trails

Park Themes:

- Trees – more shade options at parks
- Additional amenities – Benches, garbage cans
- Upgrade playgrounds with unique equipment

Other Comments of Note:

- Community isolation
 - It was noted that the Shaftesbury Estates area was rather isolated from the Town proper, which lead to a level of isolation and feeling of not being “a part of the Town”.
 - This is a very real issue that the Community Services Department would like to explore programming options for, such as having the Summer Fun program host a week at this playground or other events. Signage could be another effective tool to assist this neighbourhood to develop a feeling of connectedness to the greater Town and possibly into a “Community within the Community”.
- Where the Sidewalk ends!
 - This phrase from the classic children’s book “Where the Sidewalk Ends” by Shel Silverstein; was used as an illustration of the current state of our trails. It is an accurate assessment of the trail system and a comment that was heard repeatedly from citizens urging the Town to develop actual loops of trails and a proper trail network.

- South end Toboggan Hill
 - There was a suggestion of upgrading this area by creating plantings, benches for viewing and a possible community garden.

- Lions Campground – Area
 - After the removal of the Mountain Pine Beetle infected and affected pine trees, it is very apparent that a longer term plan will have to be developed for this area.
 - The Lions Club is very interested in participating in developing a partnership with the landowners of this area, and to replant some trees at this site.

- West Hill beautification
 - There was a creative and innovative suggestion for the development of a Community Garden along the de-commissioned service road adjacent to Highway 2 and the Tim Horton's/TD bank area.
 - The suggestion also included a stage/gathering area to host events.

River Front Park – Stage

- River Front Park is a significant location for hosting community events throughout the summer. This location does have some deficiencies for the purposes of concerts, such as the very small Gazebo and the fact that the adjacent shale area is un-inviting to spectators.
- A suggestion of removing the shale and replacing it with grass to allow for a more comfortable and inviting area to watch entertainment was provided. Also, the idea of purchasing a mobile stage, such as what the Town of Hinton provides, was suggested to replace the gazebo.

8.0 ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Parks

- It is recommended to further develop the policies suggested in section 4.1 Parks Standards and Policies, and 4.2 Parks Maintenance Standards.
- For Community Services to develop long term plans on amenity locations for each park and playground.
- The Town should explore developing the River Front Park as a main event site and explore partnerships for facility upgrades.

Trails

- It is recommended to further develop the policies suggested in 4.3 Trails Standards and Policies, 4.4 Trail Maintenance Standards and 4.5 – Expansion Areas.
- Community Services will develop a detailed plan on recommended locations for solar lighting and other amenities along existing and future trails.
- Community Services will develop maintenance directives for both parks and trails.
- Pursue trail expansions based on the priority listing, including connections to regional municipality trail networks.

Alternative financial options

It is recommended that the Community Services Department develop the following programs:

- Corporate/Community Sponsorship Program
- Adopt a Tree Program/Tree Planting Program
- Adopt/Memorial Bench Program
- Adopt a Trail Program
- Adopt a Light Program

Marketing plan

- The Town of Peace River should develop a Marketing strategy around its parks and trails. Further developing professional grade parks and trails maps for both residential use and tourism use.

Park/ Playground Action plan

The following listing provides a general overview of activities that may take place. This list will be reviewed and updated annually by the Community Services Board and will be used for budgeting and planning purposes. The activities will be confirmed on an annual basis and will be determined by available resources. Activities will also be subject to the annual inspection process, which will affect priorities due to safety issues and/or maintenance issues.

YEAR	ACTIVITY
2011	Riverside Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete removal and phase 1 replacement of equipment Rolling Hills Tot Lot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete removal and phase 1 replacement of equipment Signage of playgrounds – including age category
2012	Riverside Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -Phase 2 – addition of equipment Rolling Hills Tot Lot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 2 – addition of equipment Water Play Park – upgrade 1 apparatus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of free standing slide Signage of playgrounds– including age category Saddleback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border replacement

2013	<p>Ken Horneland Playground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete replacement <p>Signage of playground – including age category</p> <p>Lower West - Tennis Court/outdoor rink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate the tennis courts to operational status
2014	<p>Riverfront Park – Playground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete replacement – to an accessible playground with “pour in place surface” <p>Signage of playground – including age category</p>
2015	<p>Saddleback Playground – Equipment Upgrade</p> <p>Signage of playground – including age category</p>
2016	<p>Kinsmen Funland – Old equipment upgrade</p> <p>Signage of playground – including age category</p>
2017	<p>Shaftesbury Estate – addition of equipment</p>

TRAIL PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

The following listing provides a general overview of activities that may take place. This list will be reviewed and updated annually by the Community Services Board and will be used for budgeting and planning purposes. The activities will be confirmed on an annual basis and will be determined by available resources. Activities will also be subject to the annual inspection process, which will affect priorities due to safety issues and/or maintenance issues.

YEAR	ACTIVITY
2011	Trail signage - Dyke Trail
	Saddleback Playground – clarify PUL access
	Develop plan for North end dyke trail connection to the cemetery
	Develop and assess feasibility of South end dyke trail connection to 101 st Street
	Misery Mountain – mapping of the existing trails specifically the Ridge and Mountain Bike trail.
	Initiate discussions with parties on identified problem areas
2012	Trail Signage - Dyke Trail
	Friendship Trail – upgrade
	Implement -North end dyke trail connection to the cemetery
	Develop implementation plans for each specific problem area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saddleback connection to West Hill commercial • Shaftesbury connection to Upper West Peace
2013	Trail Signage - Westhill paved trail
	Friendship Trail – upgrade
	Develop formal access to the 12' Davis site network of trails from Town boundaries
	Explore and develop additional access points from Rolling Hills playground to Misery Mountain trails

2014	Trail Signage - Upper West Peace/Shaftesbury Trail
	Trail Signage - Shaftesbury Estates
	Friendship Trail – upgrade
2015	Southend - paved trail – overlay
2016	Northend - paved Trail – overlay
	Trail Signage - Greene Valley Provincial Park - Create signage to the existing informal trails in this area – for winter access only
2017	Saddleback - Rolling Hills park - trail access
	Signage for new trails/access points
2018	Shaftesbury - extend/develop trail loop
2019	Shaftesbury Trail access to Misery Mountain

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APPENDIX

Survey

PARKS AND TRAILS PUBLIC FEEDBACK FORM

1. How many years have you lived in Peace River?

- less than 2 2-5years 6-10 years
 11-20 years 20 + years

2. My Household includes the following – please check all that apply:

- Children under 5 years old Children 6 to 12 years
 Youth 13 to 18years Adults 19 to 25
 Adults 26 to 50 Adults over 50

3. How often would you say you and or family members use the trails in Peace River:

- Never once a week 2 to 3 times a week
 more than 4 times a week

4. How often would you say you and your family members use the parks and playgrounds in Peace River:

- Never once a week 2 to 3 times a week
 more than 4 times a week

5. Which Playground (S) do you attend the most often:

<u>Spruce Court Playground</u>	<u>Riverfront Park</u>
<u>North End Off Leash Dog Park</u>	<u>Linc Weaver Park</u>
<u>Kinsmen Funland</u>	<u>Saddleback Playground</u>
<u>Baldwin Court Playground</u>	<u>Rolling Hills Playground</u>
<u>BMX Park</u>	<u>Ken Horneland Playground/Off Leash Dog Park</u>
<u>Normand Boucher Arboretum</u>	<u>Lower West Peace Playground</u>
<u>Riverside Playground</u>	<u>Shaftesbury Playground</u>
<u>Riverview Playground</u>	
<u>103 Street Playground</u>	

6. Do you agree that the Town of Peace River should invest in improvements that provide opportunities for trail use? (select one response)

- Agree Disagree Undecided

7. Please indicate your priorities for Trails in the Town of Peace River: please rank from 1 to 5 – 1 being the most important and 5 the least.

- ___ Upgrades to existing trails
- ___ New trail development
- ___ Trail signage
- ___ Trail amenities –such as benches, garbage cans,
- ___ Trail exercise equipment – equipment that placed along the trail system
- ___ Trail connectivity
- ___ Other please indicate:

8. Do you agree that trail surfaces should be constructed of “hard surfaces”, such as asphalt?

- Agree Disagree Undecided

9. Do you agree that the Town of Peace River should invest in improvements to the Parks and Playgrounds? (select one response)

- Agree Disagree Undecided

10. Please indicate your priorities for Parks and playgrounds in the Town of Peace River: please rank from 1 to 5 – 1 being the most important and 5 the least.

- ___ Playground equipment upgrade (replacement of old equipment)
- ___ Playground signage – indicating age category of equipment and other pertinent information)
- ___ Playground amenities – such as benches, garbage cans
- ___ Other – please indicate

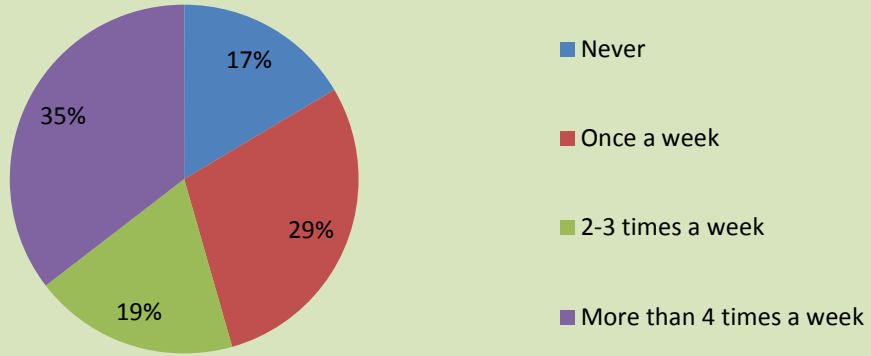
11. Please provide us with your feedback on the type and style of equipment that you like to see in playgrounds in Peace River. Please feel free to provide photos or other clips of information.

12. Please feel free to provide any other feedback in relation to this plan.

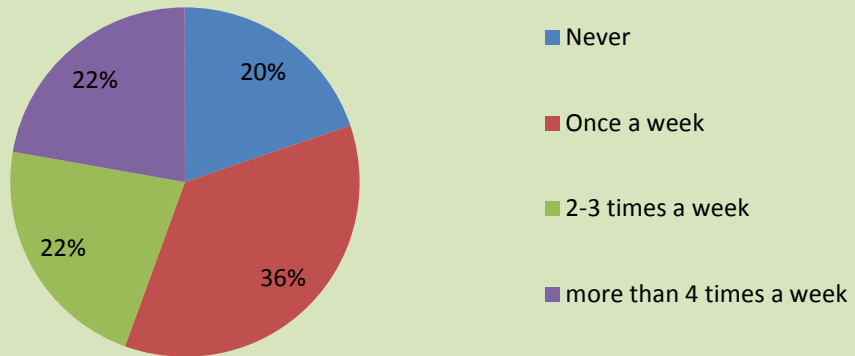
Thank you for your input!

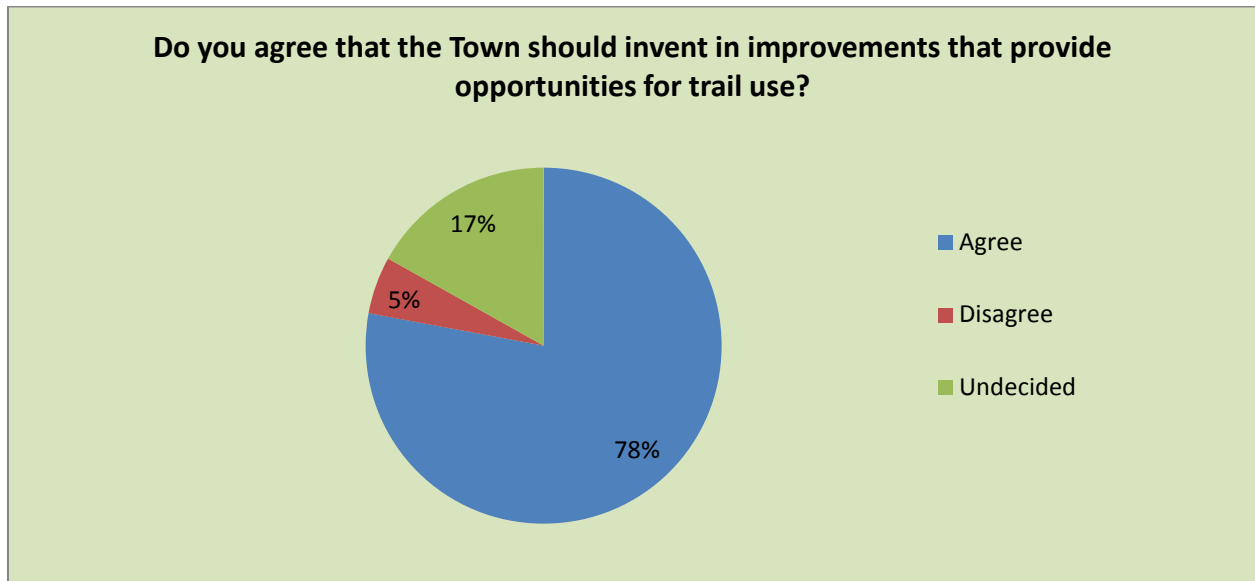
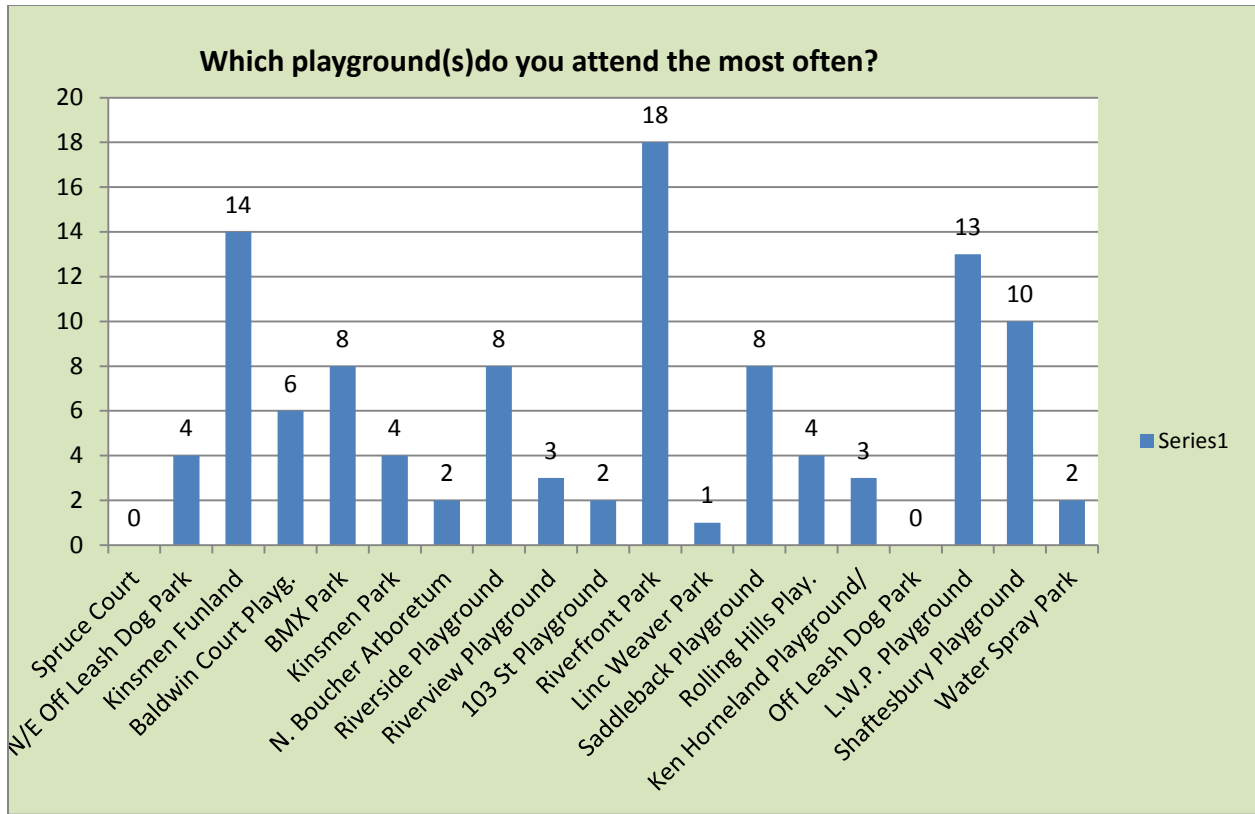
Survey Results

How often do you and/or your family members use the trails in Peace River?

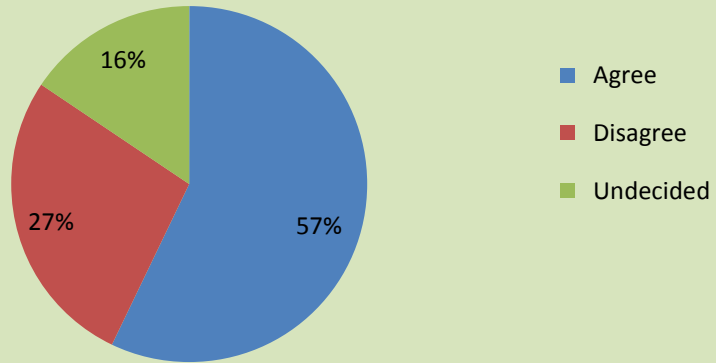


How often do you and/or your family members use the parks and playgrounds in Peace River?

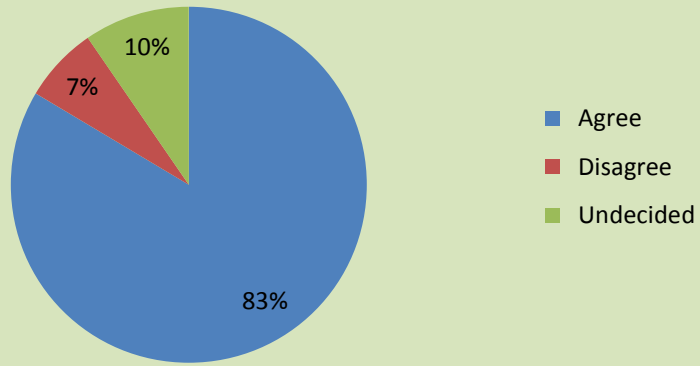




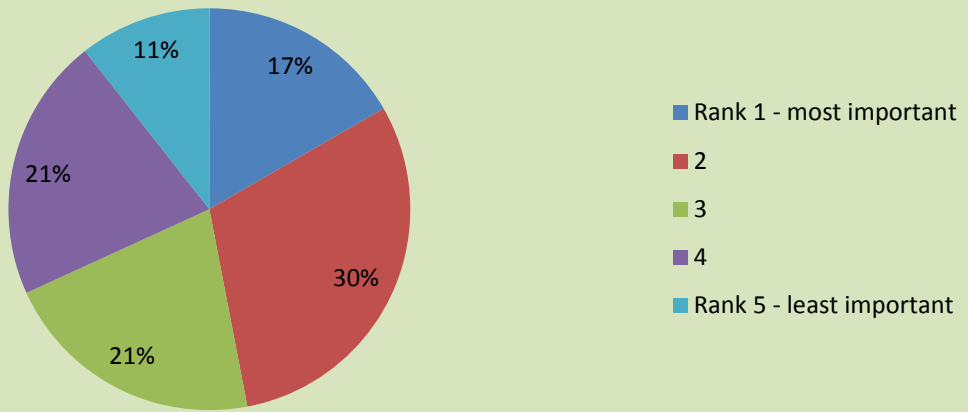
Do you agree that trails surfaces should be constructed of "hard surfaces" such as asphalt?



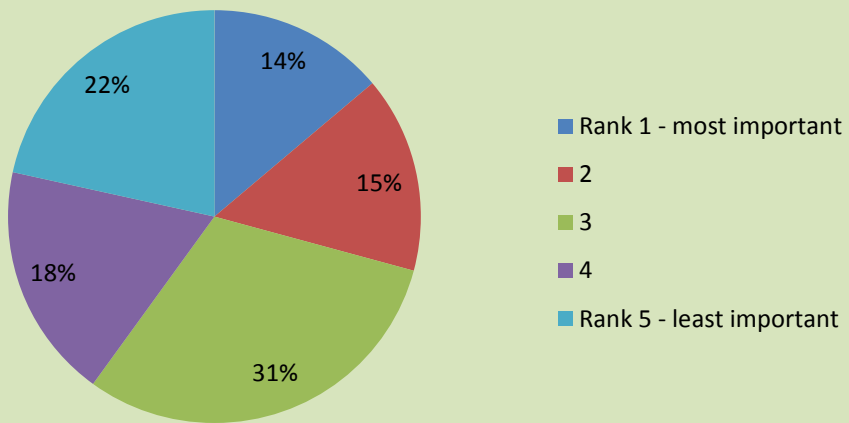
Do you agree that the Town should invest in improvements to the parks and playgrounds?



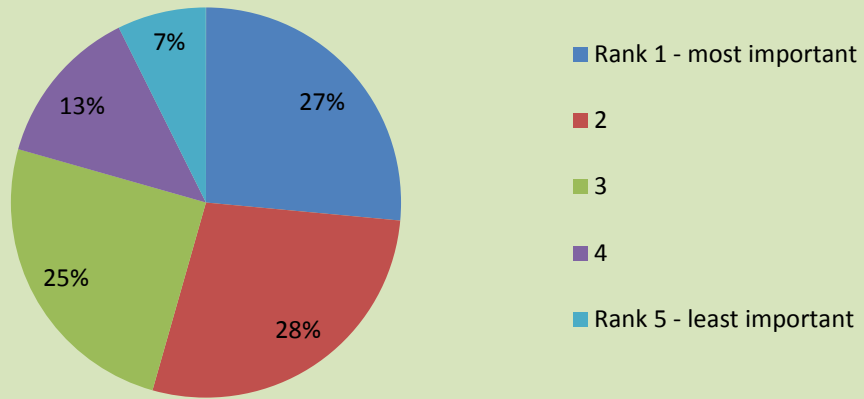
Indicate your priorities for trail amenities in the Town



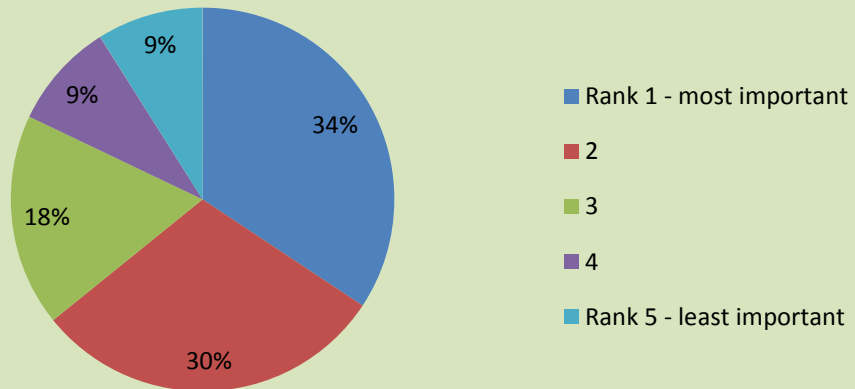
Indicate your priorities for Trail signage in Town

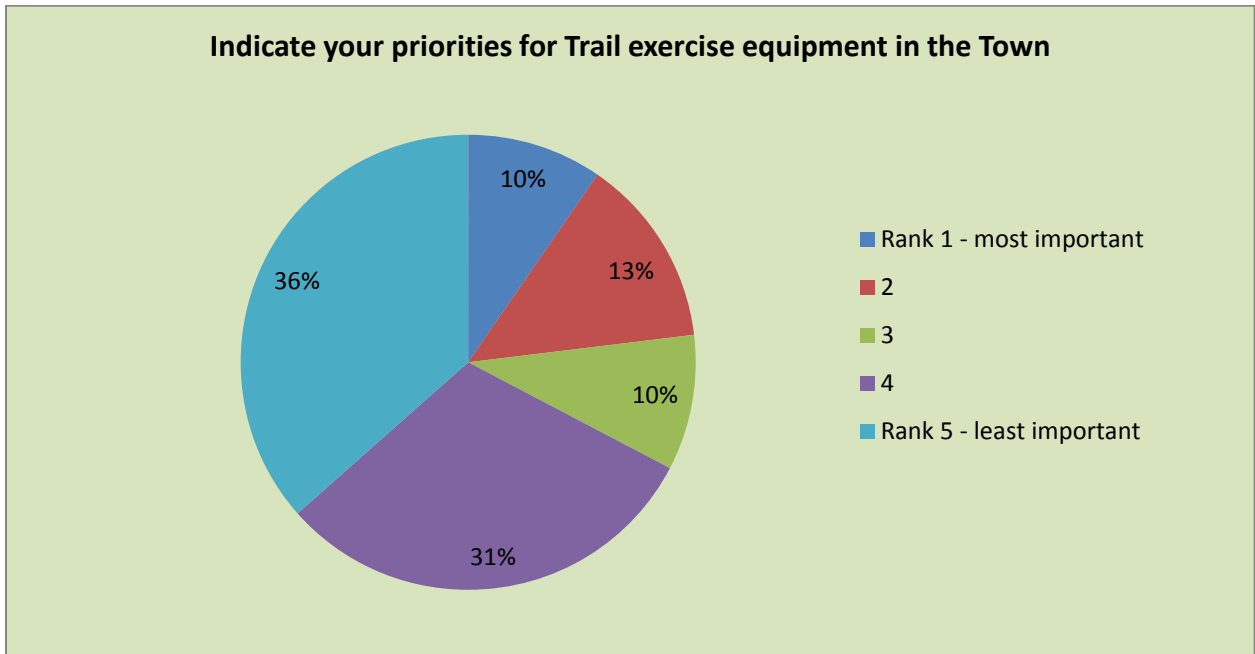
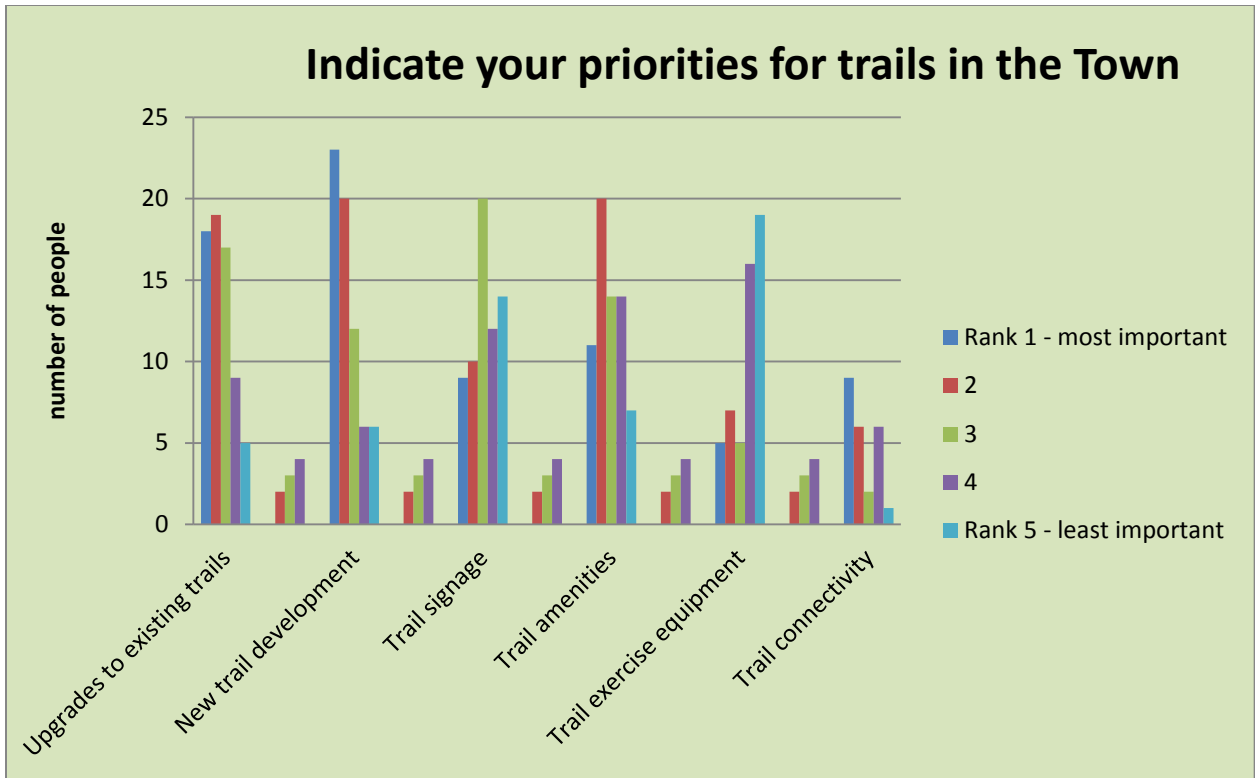


Indicate your priorities for upgrades to existing trails in the Town

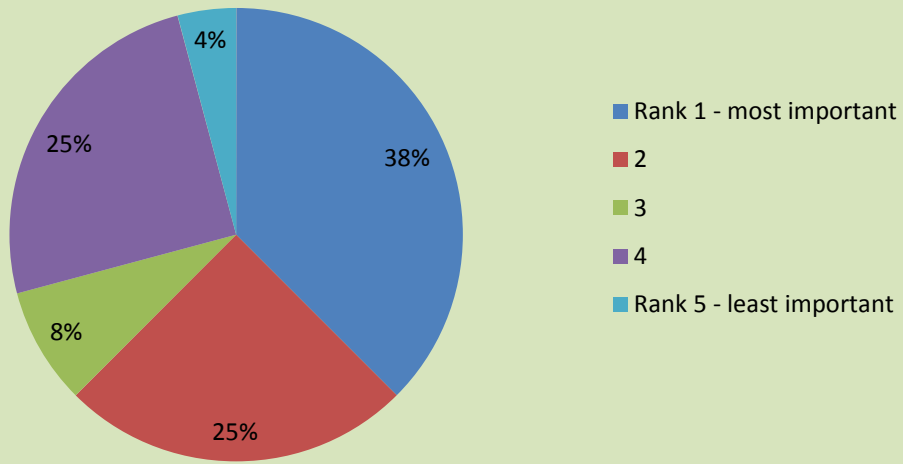


Indicate your priorities for new trail development in the Town

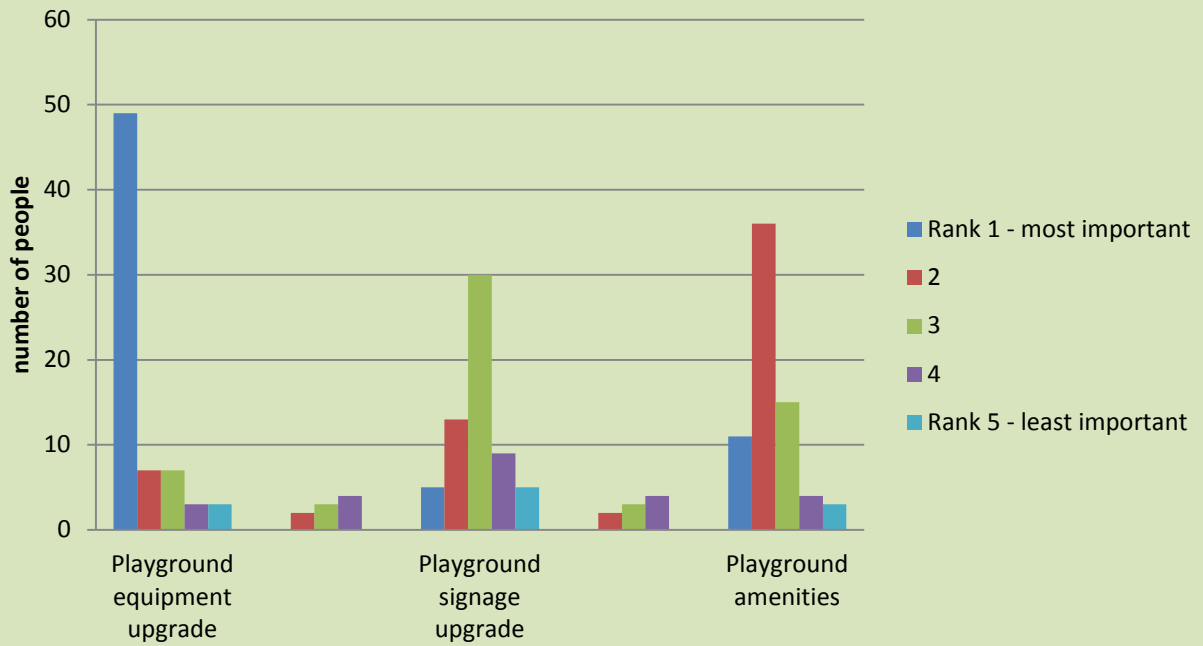




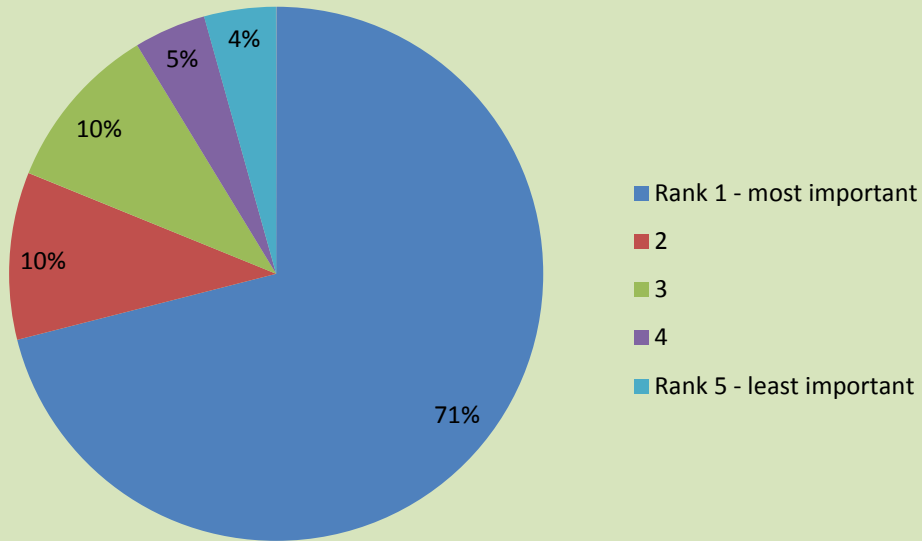
Indicate your priorities for trail connectivity in the Town



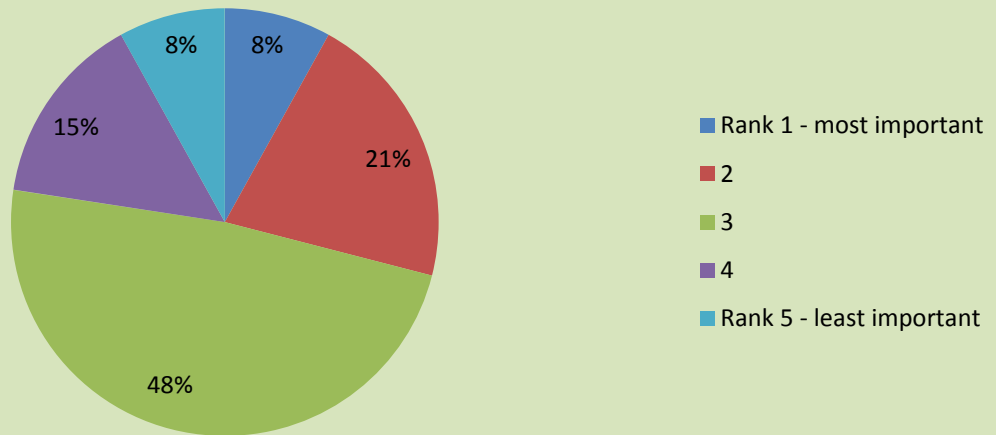
Indicate your priorities for parks and playgrounds in the Town



Indicate your priorities for Playground equipment upgrade in the Town



Indicate your priorities for Playground signage upgrade in the Town



Indicate your priorities for Playground amenities in the Town

