



The Town of Hinton Community Development & Enhancement Plan

5.0 Development & Enhancement Recommendations

5.1 Implementation Framework

This Section is the core of the Community Development & Enhancement Plan as it defines the implementation framework, the implementation strategy and the recommended action plan for all of the identified development and enhancement initiatives. As indicated in Section 1.0 of this *Integrated Report*, the underlying objective of the Parks Master Plan, Urban Form Plan and Visitor Attractions Plan is to provide a practical and effective framework for community development and enhancement within the Town of Hinton. Each of the Plans contributes to this overall framework by defining both general and specific evaluations, guidelines and standards for community development and enhancement initiatives. The other key part of the implementation framework is the existing statutory plans which define the basic planning, design and development requirements for all new development within the Town of Hinton. Both the existing statutory framework and the proposed Community Development & Enhancement framework are defined below.

5.1.1 Existing Statutory Framework

All development in the Town of Hinton must comply with the following statutory plans:

- ***Municipal Development Plan (1998)***: This document defines the official policies and guidelines for land use, development goals and objectives in the Town of Hinton.
- ***Minimum Design Standards (1993/1998)***: This document provides the design standards and development guidelines for the Town of Hinton as well as landscape construction specifications.
- ***Land Use Bylaw (2000)***: This document defines specific development and construction requirements for all types of land use within the Town.

5.1.2 Community Development & Enhancement Framework

The following independent documents have been prepared as part of this plan or have been identified as future plans that should be undertaken by the Town:

- ***Site Development Evaluation and Opportunities***: This document should be used by the Town to guide the development and enhancement of existing and proposed parks and visitor attractions.
- ***Architectural Theme Outline***: This document defines flexible and consistent guidelines for the planning and redevelopment of both public and private properties

within the two key commercial areas of Mountain View and Hardisty as well as for general improvements throughout the Town.

- **Parkland Standards:** The Parkland Standards will define (a) Development Standards for each category of parks, facility and open space, (b) Level of Service Standards (updated Operation & Maintenance standards) and (c) Future Development/Implementation recommendations (additional planning requirements; ongoing development etc.).
- **Hinton Signage Plan:** There is an identified need for a plan which defines consistent standards for information and directional signage for Town facilities, attractions and features. These standards would differ from the current regulatory standards for traffic signs and billboards and would focus on creating a consistent language of symbols, fonts, colours, materials, and accessory elements (poles, banners, lighting etc.). This is recommended as an immediate planning exercise since signage will be needed with all development.
- **Highway 16 Enhancement Plan:** There is an identified need for the preparation of an enhancement master plan for the Highway 16 corridor through Hinton. This Plan should define opportunities for landscape improvements, standards for landscaping as part of future development, and urban form guidelines for future development. The guidelines contained in the *Architectural Theme Outline* could be applied to the Highway Enhancement Plan. Traffic issues including tourist parking and access, as well as pedestrian movement should also be addressed.
- **Switzer Drive Community Centre Plan:** A plan is needed to address the comprehensive development, enhancement and integration of the various community facilities along Switzer Drive. This potential Community “Centre” would include the Campground, Community Centre (Hall), Weldwood Greenhouse site, former Town Hall site, Protective Services building, Recreation Centre and Gordon Moore Park (Sites C-6, C-7, C-8 and C-9). Numerous enhancements (circulation, parking, landscaping) and developments (community gathering, visitor attractions, private developments) could be incorporated.

5.2 Implementation Strategy

Responsibility for the implementation of this Community Development & Enhancement Plan lies with Council, administration, Municipal Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Board, Economic Development Committee, Arts Council, business owners, investors and the community. Decisions will be guided by the framework of existing regulatory documents as well as the evaluation, criteria and guidelines defined in this Plan. To further assist in the decision making and planning process a list of specific strategy “drivers” have been provided.

The **implementation strategy “drivers”** are formulated criteria statements which reflect the context, vision, principles, and objectives that have been identified, reviewed and discussed during the Plan process. These “drivers” have been used as a rationale for prioritizing the proposed initiatives and recommendations of the Community Development & Enhancement Plan. A total of ten “drivers” have been identified:

- **Community Identity:** development projects should be chosen based on their ability to promote a sense of community identity and pride.
- **Quality of Life:** all development initiatives should promote an improved quality of life for all residents of Hinton.
- **Quality Physical Environment:** utilize and enforce development standards and guidelines to ensure excellence in design and consistent, high quality development.
- **Protect the Environment:** The Town values the surrounding natural environment and is committed to development and economic growth which is in harmony with the natural features and resources of the area.
- **Historic Preservation:** encourage and support efforts to preserve, enhance and use historic resources.
- **Services over Attractions:** in an effort to increase tourism in the short term, the development priority should be on improving existing tourist services and attractions rather than the development of new attractions.
- **Building on Strengths:** The recognized strengths within Hinton should be building blocks for enhanced community features and visitor attractions. These strengths include natural features, rich history, proximity to the mountains (*“Gateway to the Rockies”*), range of recreational opportunities, commercial and visitor services on the highway.
- **Integrated Open Space:** A full range of developed and natural open space exists in the Town and should be integrated for the maximum benefit of residents and visitors through consistent application of development and operation standards, balanced development, and pedestrian links.
- **Welcome to Hinton:** undertake development which creates a strong sense of entry to the Town, a sense of pride with residents, and a welcome feel for visitors.
- **Community Vision:** development plans and projects that reflect the values and key messages of the “Hinton Proud” vision should be given priority.

5.3 Recommended Action Plan

From the implementation framework and strategy, a recommended Action Plan has been proposed which identifies specific community development and enhancement initiatives to be undertaken. The recommended initiatives have been prioritized based on how they reflect the underlying spirit of the implementation strategy “drivers”. In addition, there are a number of other implementation and administrative factors which have influenced the Action Plan and should be considered both when reviewing and implementing the Recommended Action Plan:

- **Action Plan:** the strategy for implementing this Plan has been formatted as a recommended Action Plan defined by a series of project initiatives. The timing and details of these initiatives will require further consideration by administration and Council.
- **Development Sequence:** the Action Plan has been formulated as a planned sequence of projects and studies.
- **Projects:** Each of the projects will typically require capital program commitments with budget allocations for such components as planning, design, acquisition and construction.
- **Studies:** beyond capital projects, planning studies have been identified as part of the Action Plan (See 5.1.2). These studies may be required prior to, or in conjunction with a number of project initiatives.
- **Time Frame:** each of the projects has a time frame for implementation: immediate (1-2 years), short term (3-4 years) or long term (5 years or more).
- **Project Planning:** inherent in the identification of a project time frame must be the understanding of planning requirements to facilitate project implementation. As a general rule it is recommended that planning begin at least one year in advance of proposed development.
- **Opportunities:** there are a number of recognized opportunities which can alter the identified time frame for a project, including: budget changes, special grants, partnerships, benefactors, investors, trends, etc.
- **Budgetary Constraints:** Implementation will likely be fundamentally constrained by budgetary constraints.
- **Partnerships:** It is important to note that a number of the recommended initiatives will be driven by the private sector or will involve important partnerships with private sector or non-profit groups.

The Action Plan time frame has been broken down into three segments: Immediate (1-2 years), Short Term (3-4 years) and Long Term (5 years or more). The recommended Action Plan is defined in Table 5.1 on the following pages. In addition to specific capital projects, a number of studies (as identified in Section 5.1.2) have also been identified.

Table 5.1 Recommended Action Plan – Immediate Action

Time Frame: IMMEDIATE (1-2 Years)			
Zone #	Project	Scope	Comments
C-4	Government Centre		Project Completed
A-3	Natural Resources Interpretive Park		Project Completed
B-3	Green Square	Tourist Centre Façade improvements, Plaza, Walks, planting, gathering area	Project Completed
B-2	Mountain View Commercial (Commercial District #2)	Architectural & Streetscape Upgrades as per the Urban Form Plan	Encourage property owners to implement façade improvements. Streetscape part of long term infrastructure program
D-3	Hardisty Commercial (Commercial District #1)	Architectural & Streetscape Upgrades as per the Urban Form Plan	Encourage property owners to implement façade improvements. Streetscape part of long term infrastructure program
Study	Highway 16 Enhancement Plan	Landscape standards and locations throughout Highway corridor	Process should include stakeholder and community consultation program
Study	Hinton Signage Plan	Town Signage program, all levels of signage, sign circuits, "Gateway to the Rockies" theme	Process should include stakeholder and community consultation program
B-4	Happy Creek Trail Head	Community/Visitor trail head and day use area on Rowan Street	Land Acquisition may be required, long term Highway visibility needed, Husky as possible partner for use of services
A-1, E-1	Entry Gateway's	Highway pull-off with map, visitor info, telephone, trash, views to Town.	Development should be defined in <i>Highway 16 Enhancement Plan</i> and <i>Hinton Signage Plan</i>

Table 5.1 Recommended Action Plan – Short Term Action

Time Frame: SHORT TERM (3-4 Years)			
Zone #	Project	Scope	Comments
D-2	Hardisty District Gateway	Pull-off at intersection of Switzer Dr/River Road. Map, visitor info, telephone, trash, Gateway.	Land Acquisition required, Weldwood as possible partner. Theme as defined in <i>Hinton Signage Plan</i>
C-1	Town Centre Gateway (Switzer Dr./Highway 16 Interface)	Use signage, landscaping, lighting and architectural features to define as a Town gateway.	Development should be defined in <i>Highway 16 Enhancement Plan</i> and <i>Hinton Signage Plan</i>
Study	Switzer Drive Community Centre Plan	Development Plan for a Community centre for recreation and events by integrating site C-6, C-7, C-8, C-9	Process should include stakeholder and community consultation program, Weldwood as possible partner
A-5, B-1, C 1, E-2	Highway 16 Landscape	Consistent Landscape Development & Signage	Key Locations as directed by <i>Highway 16 Enhancement Plan</i>
B-7	Lions Park	Playground and parking upgrades. Trail links to B-4 and B-8.	Community partnering important. Approach Lions Club. Possible corporate support of trails
B-8	Maxwell Lake	Develop formal trail head with parking to provide improved access	Location for trail head may require land acquisition
	Hinton Trail Network	Improvements to existing trails, construction of key trail links	Trail standards and future trail development as per <i>Parkland Standards</i>

Table 5.1 Recommended Action Plan – Long Term Action

Time Frame: LONG TERM (5 Years or more)			
Zone #	Project	Scope	Comments
	Hinton Trail Network	Construction of new trails within Town and to Regional facilities	Trail standards and future trail development as per <i>Parkland Standards</i>
A-5, B-1, C-1, E-2	Highway 16 Landscape	Consistent Landscape Development & Signage	Development should be defined in <i>Highway 16 Enhancement Plan</i>
C-3	Switzer Drive Landscape	Landscaping along both sides of road, Kelley Road to Hardisty commercial area	Node landscaping, rural ditches, maintenance level key, Weldwood as possible partner
C-6, C-7, C-8, C-9	Community Centre & Campground Weldwood Greenhouse Recreation Centre Gordon Moore Park	No specific recommendation	Development as defined in the <i>Switzer Drive Community Centre Plan</i>
D-5	Kinsmen Park	Needs pedestrian access (trails) and parking improvements, add Park entry on Switzer Drive	Partner with neighborhood, Scouts and Senior centre.
D-4	Mary Reimer Park	parking upgrades, landscaping, seating areas and permanent washrooms	Provide planning support to Mary Reimer Park Association
E-4	Commercial Districts #4 & #5	Landscaping, streetscape and architectural improvements	New development should reflect <i>Urban Form Plan</i> and <i>Highway 16 Enhancement Plan</i>
A-4	Hinton Golf Club	Landscape/parking improvements. Expansion of course and inclusion of residential development	Land Acquisition required, Partner with CN in short term, consider in <i>Highway 16 Enhancement Plan</i>
A-6	Woodley Drive Site	Suitable for private ventures, e.g. – health spa, restaurant, youth hostel.	Encourage private development of this site.
B-5	CN Lands	Highway pull-out, parking, landscape buffer	Partner with owners, market assessment needed, consider in <i>Highway 16 Enhancement Plan</i>
B-12	Special Planning Area “C”	Future Community Park as described in MDP.	Develop as warranted by population growth. Development as per <i>Parkland Standards</i>
E-5	Special Planning Area “B”	Suggested visitor attraction developments include Convention/Arts Centre, Resort	Highway access, land disposition, community needs, tourist market assessment are all issues