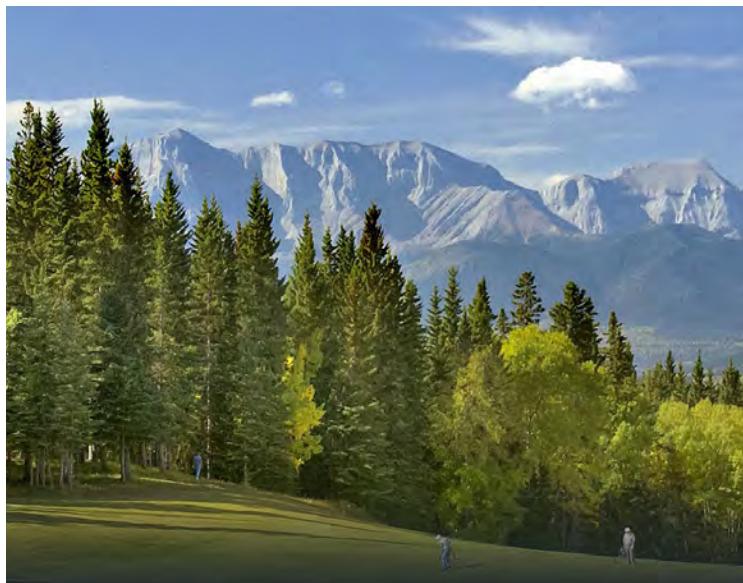




Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan

Hinton Planning and Development and Community Services Division

Final Report May 2019



2019 Hinton Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan

Town of Hinton

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Summary

The Town of Hinton believes in the value of parks, open space, and trails (POST). Hinton completed its first Parks Master Plan in 2003, with the addition of a Trails Master Plan in 2011. In addition to these initiatives, there have been a series of planning documents completed in recent years in support of the ongoing planning, design and development of POST in Hinton, such as the Site Development Evaluation and Opportunities Report in 2003, the Mary Reimer Regional Park Site Development Master Plan in 2004, the Signage Standards Manual in 2011, the Hinton Community Sustainability Plan 2011, the Hinton East and West Area Structure Plans in 2017, and the Hinton Municipal Development Plan in 2018.

Ongoing planning initiatives and proposals by the Town, consultants and developers in Hinton to improve public natural spaces echo the importance of developing and enhancing the network of outdoor amenities and spaces for the users of the Hinton POST network. This 2019 POST Master Plan (the Plan) is an overarching planning document intended to ensure that the POST network grows and evolves as Hinton does and is showcased as one of the premier services that makes Hinton a great and unique place to call home.

Included in this Plan is a foundation, or rationale, for investment in POST articulated in a vision and goals to guide all actions related to POST. It also includes a number of recommendations related to POST service delivery and infrastructure. Refinements to Hinton's open space classification system are outlined, as are parameters for how Hinton should continue to work with partners in providing POST, continue to allocate and charge for specific POST amenities, support and build capacity within the POST delivery system, and market and promote POST opportunities so users maximize POST more often. Finally there are a number of recommendations related to both specific parks and trails within Hinton and direction related to specific amenities (like playgrounds and sports fields). This foundation and the recommendations outlined to help achieve it give Hinton and other partner's strategic and tactical direction for the next 10 to 15 years.

The Plan is based on thorough research and community engagement. Included in the planning process was a complete inventory and assessment of all POST resources in Hinton. As well, a community needs assessment was completed based on input from public and stakeholder engagement initiatives, providing insight as to how the community views the supply, operations, development and management of POST resources in Hinton and what residents want to see in the future. In addition to community and stakeholder participation, provincial and national parks and recreation trends, and a comparison of POST resources in similar Alberta communities were used to provide a context for developing and evaluating POST needs for Hinton.

This Plan was developed for Hinton, by Hinton. It provides guidance to help the Town and partners achieve even more success from a somewhat sustainable existing POST service delivery system and network of parks, open spaces and trails. The Plan is meant to be a reference point for decision making that is ultimately focused on getting the most out of current and future POST assets in the town and region while adhering to the principles and objectives defined within the 2011 Community Sustainability Plan.



Acknowledgements

The general public and a number of community stakeholders and partners were involved throughout the development of this Plan. Hinton appreciates, respects, and values the efforts of everyone who participated in the process.

The consultants thank residents of Hinton for participating in surveys and attending public meetings.

Thanks are also extended to local community groups and organizations for providing input in person and through surveys.

Thanks to Town Council and Administration for providing necessary background information, and offering strategic guidance throughout the process.

Thanks to the project team, including all Town staff and administrators and the consulting team, for compiling, analyzing, and addressing issues and considerations related to recreation in the community, today and into the future.

A photograph of a bright yellow wooden bench in a forest. The bench is positioned in front of a large, textured tree trunk. In the background, a body of water and more forested hills are visible under a clear blue sky. The foreground is covered with fallen pine needles and small green plants.

1.0 Introduction and Methodology

Parks, open space and trails (POST) are an essential service for Hinton. POST enhance quality of life, promotes healthy active living, promotes community sustainability and provides places for residents and visitors to connect with each other and their community. Like other Alberta municipalities, Hinton is privileged to be situated within a rich natural context and can take advantage of these landscapes within their POST networks. Building on principles laid out within the Hinton Community Sustainability Plan, the POST Master Plan develops a strategy to ensure these values are defined in service delivery for the POST network for years to come.

POST is important to residents. Engagement activities throughout this Plan process have given insight into the needs and wants of the Hinton community. Information and engagement sessions identified that 100% of the residents who participated in the Plan sessions use POST in Hinton and value the provision of these services.

“At a personal and societal level the evidence is strong and growing that people tend to be happier, healthier, and more productive, creative, active and engaged in community and civic life when nature is a meaningful part of their lives. They are also more likely to care for it.” – Connecting with Nature to care for ourselves and the Earth: Recommendations for decision makers (2018).

POST has positive impacts on individual health and wellbeing, the family unit, and community cohesion. POST are a gateway for physical activity and socialization. The 2016 Citizen Satisfaction Survey indicated an 80% satisfactory level of service from Hinton and Outdoor Recreational Amenities as a top-rated service. It is evident Hintonites love and frequently use Hinton’s POST network.

Hinton is home to nearly 10,000 people and is located at the fringe of the Canadian Rockies and Jasper National Park on the Yellowhead Highway (Highway 16), approximately 80 kilometres east of Jasper, and 284 kilometers west of Alberta’s capital City Edmonton.

Overall, 203 people provided input throughout the planning process. Tactics included an open house and pop-up events, an online survey, survey forms at a local school, and youth engagement through a colouring contest.

Providing infrastructure and opportunity to experience and exercise within natural environments promotes mental and physical health improvement. Providing natural spaces encourages healthy active living in youth and residents and promotes lifestyle habits that are beneficial to the entire town; benefits from which residents cannot escape regardless of whether they actually use POST or not.

POST helps develop and bind family and community. Parks and open spaces are gathering spaces for families and communities. Properly planned parks and open space connections and trail networks in communities can promote safe, active transportation and increase physical activity. Hinton’s trail network is comprehensive and is enjoyed by residents and visitors. Improvements to the trails network will only enhance the benefits of trails in Hinton and ensure access for all residents. A

connected and accessible trails network contributes to health, exercise, passive recreation, and overall municipality connectedness.

POST are utilized by many residents and demands are expected to grow as the community evolves and tourism increases. Increasing demand for the quantity of POST in Hinton is compounded by the desire of local groups to be able to access high quality spaces. The future provision of POST must balance quality and quantity within the financial realities of the Town.



Hinton Mountain Bike Park



Hinton Disc Golf Course

This 2019 Town of Hinton Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan is intended to guide Hinton over the next 10 - 15 years in regards to the planning, operations, and animation of POST. It builds upon the 2003 Open Space Plan and the 2011 Trails Master Plan and will be a reference point for future decision making and action. All of the recommendations herein are meant to enhance the benefits of POST and build a guideline for progress. The Plan will help guide the future decision making of Council and Administration to ensure that these valued and essential services continue to be relevant and provide benefit for years to come. It includes both strategic and tactical direction on how to operate, maintain, and animate POST and articulates a foundation upon which investment in POST is both justified and optimized.



The Beaver Boardwalk at the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area

1.1 Plan Purpose

The plan provides a framework and overall vision to guide the Town in the planning, management, and investment in its open space amenities over the next 15 years. It will be used to help prioritize investments based on overall community needs, trends, and priorities. To achieve this, the scope of this plan includes:

- A complete inventory and assessment of Hinton's parks, trails and open spaces;
- Identification of key issues, opportunities and constraints;
- Identification of community needs, trends and priorities;
- Creation of a shared vision for the Town's parks and open spaces;
- Creation of a set of goals for improving parks and open spaces;
- Identification of priorities for investment; and
- Development of an implementation plan to achieve identified goals and priorities over the next decade.

It is important to note that past site-specific planning processes, such as the 2019 Maxwell Lake Recreation Area Master Plan, compliment this Plan and help guide future decision making. As Hinton evolves, these site-specific plans will need to be revisited as new information becomes available.

As illustrated within the Town of Hinton's Planning and Development Hierarchy (Figure 1.1), the Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Master Plan is an Infrastructure Master Plan developed within the spirit of Hinton's Municipal Development Plan and Community Sustainability Plan.

Future parks planning in undeveloped areas of Hinton that further defines new parks, open space and trails included in the Hinton POST network shall be developed with attention paid to Hinton's Land Development Guidelines and the appropriate Area Structure Plan, as was done with the 2019 Maxwell Lake Recreation Area Outline Plan.

Future parks planning in Hinton's Established Areas that refines existing parks, open space and trails included in the Hinton POST network shall be developed with attention paid to Hinton's Land Development Guidelines and Established Area Guidelines.

Please refer to Figure 1.1 the Hinton Planning and Development Hierarchy diagram to see the organization of adopted and ongoing planning documents.

Please refer to Map 1.1 for an overview of the Key Destinations around Hinton that are accessible through the POST network.

1.2 Plan Process

The Plan process was undertaken in five phases of work:

Phase 1: Background Review and Inventory: A comprehensive review of existing background documents was conducted and an inventory was taken as assessment of existing POST resources to determine the starting point and develop a dialogue on how POST currently functions and is provided.

Phase 2: Stakeholder Engagement: Comprehensive stakeholder consultation was undertaken at key intervals throughout the project using a wide variety of tools and methods based on International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) values and best practices.

Phase 3: Needs Assessment: Through consultation and feedback gained from background research and engagement initiatives, a needs assessment was conducted to compare Hinton to similar municipalities and define the current state of POST for user needs and satisfaction and current and expected future trends.

Phase 4: Draft Master Plan: A draft Plan was developed based on input gathered and research conducted, and included recommendations on POST standards, facility and amenity development, maintenance and operations, levels of service, animation of POST, POST priorities, and implementation strategies. The Plan was presented internally, and externally to gather further input from the community.

Phase 5: Final Master Plan and Report: This POST Master Plan was developed and presented to the community to guide the future of POST in Hinton.



Figure 1.2: Project Process Diagram



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Map 1.1

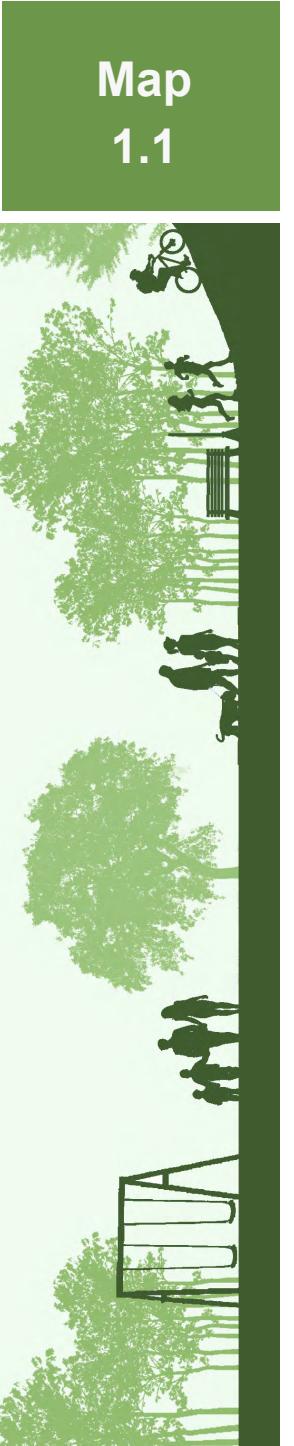


Hinton Key Destinations

- 1. School
- 2. Hinton Town hall
- 3. Hinton Fire Hall
- 4. Hinton RCMP
- 5. Hospital
- 6. Northern Rockies Museum of Culture
- 7. Alberta Forest Service Museum/ FRI Research
- 8. Cemetery
- 9. Mary Reimer Regional Park/ Rodeo Ground
- 10. Beaver Boardwalk
- 11. Athabasca Riverfront Park
- 12. Golf Course
- 13. Campground
- 14. National Resources Interpretive Park
- 15. Hinton Bike Park
- 16. Municipal Library and Archive Center
- 17. Dr. Duncan Murray Recreational Center/ Skateboard Park
- 18. Rotary Play and Spray Park
- 19. Maxwell Lake Recreation Area
- 20. Thompson Lake
- 21. Hinton Disc Golf Course
- 22. The West Fraser Guild
- 23. Gordon Moore Park
- 24. Hinton Curling Club
- 25. Hinton Friendship Centre Society

Legend

- Hinton Boundary
- ||||| Railway
- Trails
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Water Bodies





2.0

The Current State of POST in Hinton

Hinton has over 370 hectares (ha) of open space, of which 323 ha are considered park space including naturalized areas, sports fields and ball diamonds, parks, and neighbourhood playgrounds. The various parks and open spaces in Hinton are categorized into an open space classification system. The classification system helps the Town organize planning and maintenance of the parks system. Included in the overall parks and open space network are municipal reserves (MR), environmental reserves (ER) and remaining parks and open spaces. Please refer to Map 2.1 for an overview of the POST network in Hinton.

The Town's parks inventory in 2019 includes 11 ball diamonds, 9 rectangular fields, 7 tennis courts, 4 outdoor rinks and 19 playgrounds. Hinton also has a number of specialty parks including the Beaver Boardwalk, a disc golf course, a golf course, a skate park, the Hinton mountain bike park, a spray park and 1 off-leash dog area.



The Beaver Boardwalk at the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area

The Beaver Boardwalk is located within the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area in Hinton. It is a large attraction for both tourists and residents.

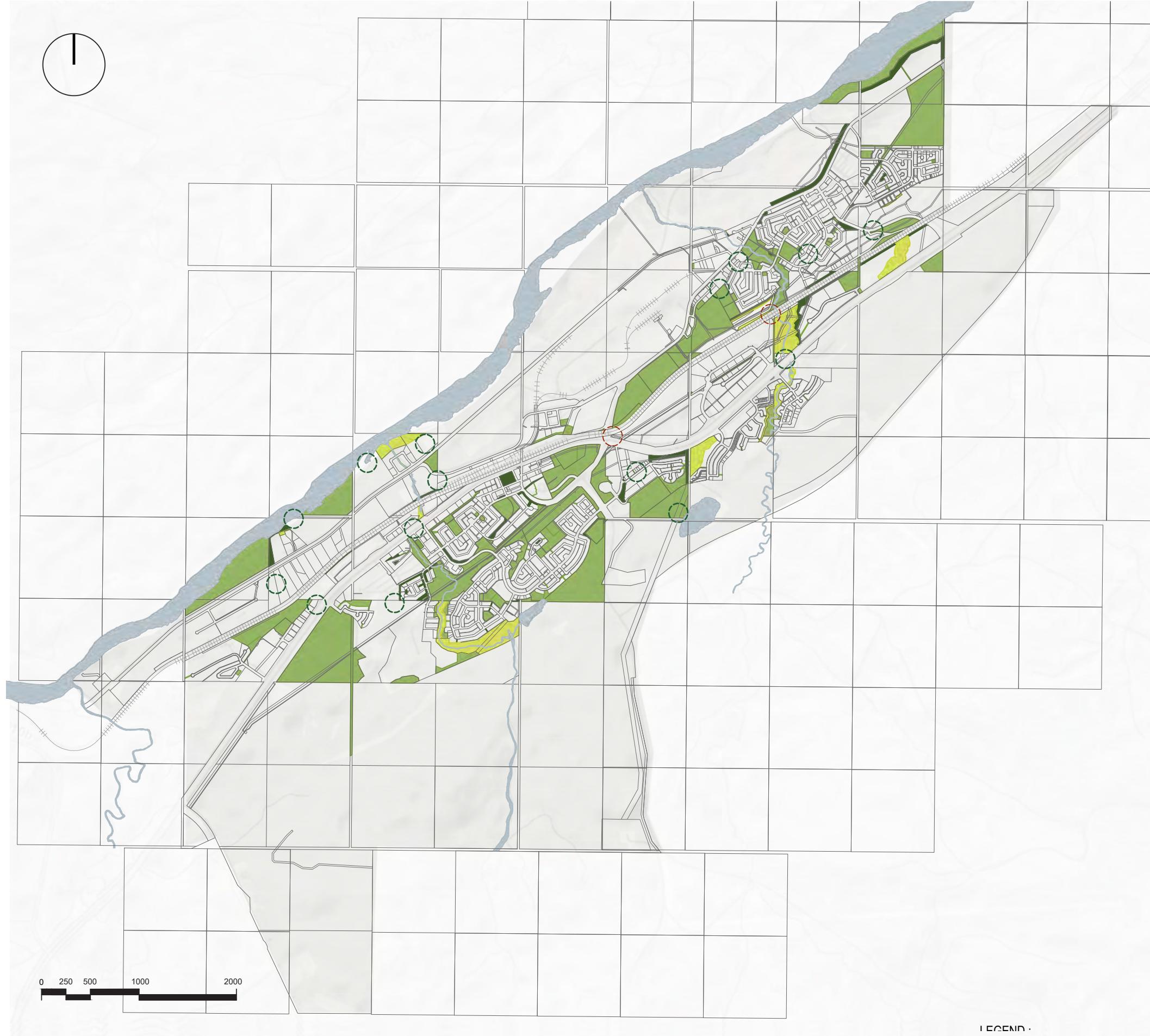
Ongoing planning of these facilities are currently underway in the form of the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area Master Plan and the Beaver Boardwalk Concept Design and Feasibility Report to create a safe, inclusive and enjoyable outdoor recreation facility that will thrive in Hinton for years to come.



Hinton Mountain Bike Park



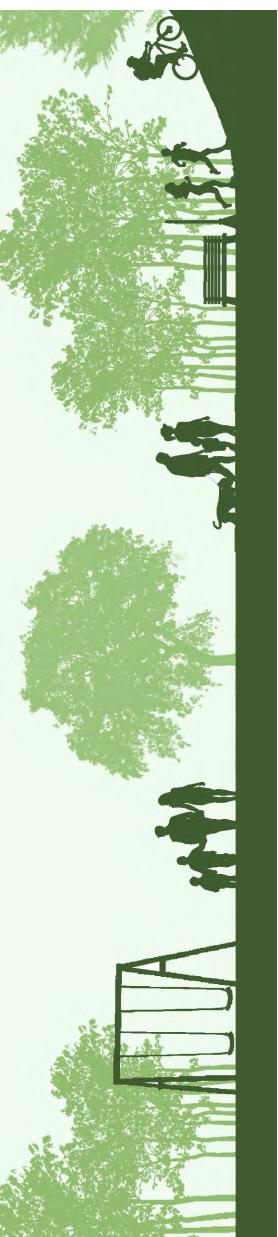
The Hinton Golf Club



Overall Parks and Open Space Network

Map 2.1

HINTON



In Hinton, POST are planned, operated, and maintained by a number of professional staff, non-profit groups and community volunteers. Most POST assets are owned by Hinton and maintained and animated by Hinton or local stakeholder groups.

The trail network in Hinton is enjoyed by many residents and is used for both recreation and active transportation purposes. The trail network in Hinton includes over 110 km of trails; there are 12 km of paved trails, 26 km of gravel trails, 55 km of natural trails, 3 km of boardwalk and 14 km of bike trails. The trail network provides access to natural spaces throughout Hinton and develops connections to community facilities and to neighbourhood and community parks. Through data gathered from community and stakeholder engagement and on-site research of available amenities, it is evident that residents consider the trail network as one of Hinton's most important and most utilized community amenities.

Hinton is fortunate to have access to a variety of natural features including the Athabasca River, the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area, Thompson Lake, and extensive natural forest and wetland areas. Hinton is also a short distance from William A. Switzer Provincial Park and Jasper National Park. Although it is near these significant park assets, trail connections to access them are limited.

Please refer to Map 2.2 and 2.3 for an overview of the Trail Network in Hinton

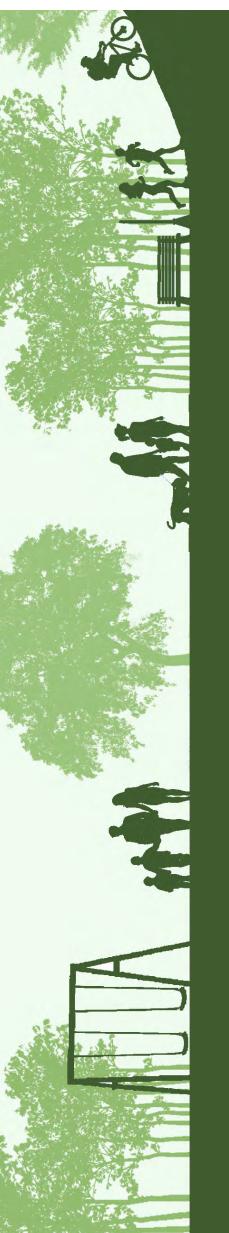


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Overall Trail Network

Map
2.2



Legend

- Hinton Boundary
- ||||| Railway
- Lost Connections
- Happy Creek Loop
- Bighorn Trail Loop
- Jack's Loop
- Town Trails
- Beaver Boardwalk



Parks, Open Spaces
& Trails Master Plan



Overall Trail Materials

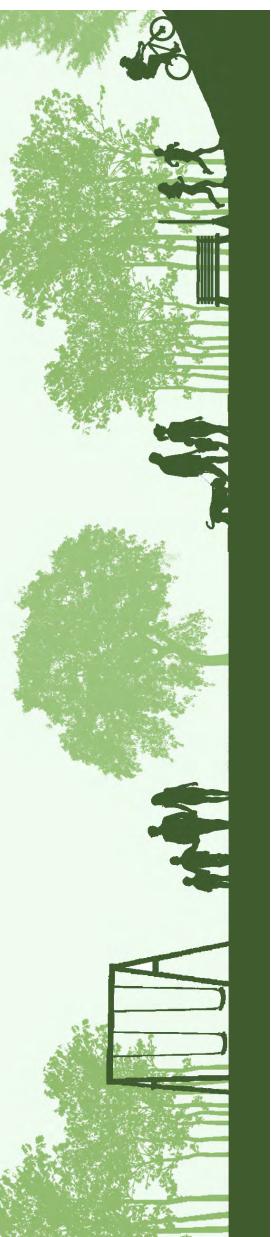
Map
2.3

Legend

- Hinton Boundary
- ||||| Railway
- Lost Connections
- Paved Trails
- Gravel Trails
- Natural Trails
- Boardwalk



Parks, Open Spaces
& Trails Master Plan



2.1 Town Population and Demographics Related to POST

Demographics of users have an effect on planning and development of POST. Statistical factors such as population, age, gender mix and expected growth impact POST infrastructure. The 2018 Municipal Development Plan goes into detail about Hinton growth statistics and projections including these key indicators:

- Hinton is growing, slowly. For the year 2046 the low growth projection shows a population of 10,116 (0.39%) while the high growth projection is 10,735 (1.39%).
- There are currently 5,155 males and 4,730 females with a noticeable decline in recent years in the 55-59 to 60-64 age brackets.
- There are currently 2,825 families (2 residents or more) in Hinton, of which 1,645 have children.

For more information on Hinton growth statistics and projections, please refer to the 2018 Municipal Development Plan located here: <https://www.hinton.ca/109/Municipal-Development-Plan>.

2.2 Community Input Related to POST

As part of the planning process, community engagement played a key role in understanding what the community's POST priorities are. The engagement process included a wide range of activities including: an open house and pop-up events, an online survey, survey forms at a local school, and youth engagement through a colouring contest. Overall, 203 people provided input.



Hinton from the Yellowhead Highway.

Our engagement during the process provides opportunities to hear feedback on POST directly from the community. Engagement allows Administration to hear a variety of views on current recreational challenges and successes within the local context. Listening also allows for the infusion of new local ideas and encouragement of local pride in POST and encourages citizens and stakeholders to take ownership of areas in which they were involved in planning. Finally, community engagement provides decision makers the ability to understand community needs and wants at a glance.

The following summarizes the feedback received through all public engagement events and methods:

- The facilities that residents would most like to see improved are: Beaver Boardwalk, Gerard Redmond Community Catholic School Park (playground equipment), walking and biking trails, and the Athabasca Riverfront Park.
- The top five amenities that people would like to see improved are: boardwalk trails, trails and pathways, playgrounds, off-leash dog areas, and picnic areas.
- More than half (58%) of residents would prefer to pay for improvements and development of new amenities and facilities through an increase in annual taxes.
- Walking trails are the most frequently used amenity by residents (on average 21 or more visits within the past 12 months). This is followed by the Beaver Boardwalk, playgrounds, mountain biking trails, Maxwell Lake, and Mary Reimer Park.
- The facilities with the highest level of satisfaction include: Beaver Boardwalk, walking trails, Lions Park, mountain biking trails, Green Square, Maxwell Lake, and Mountain Bike Park.

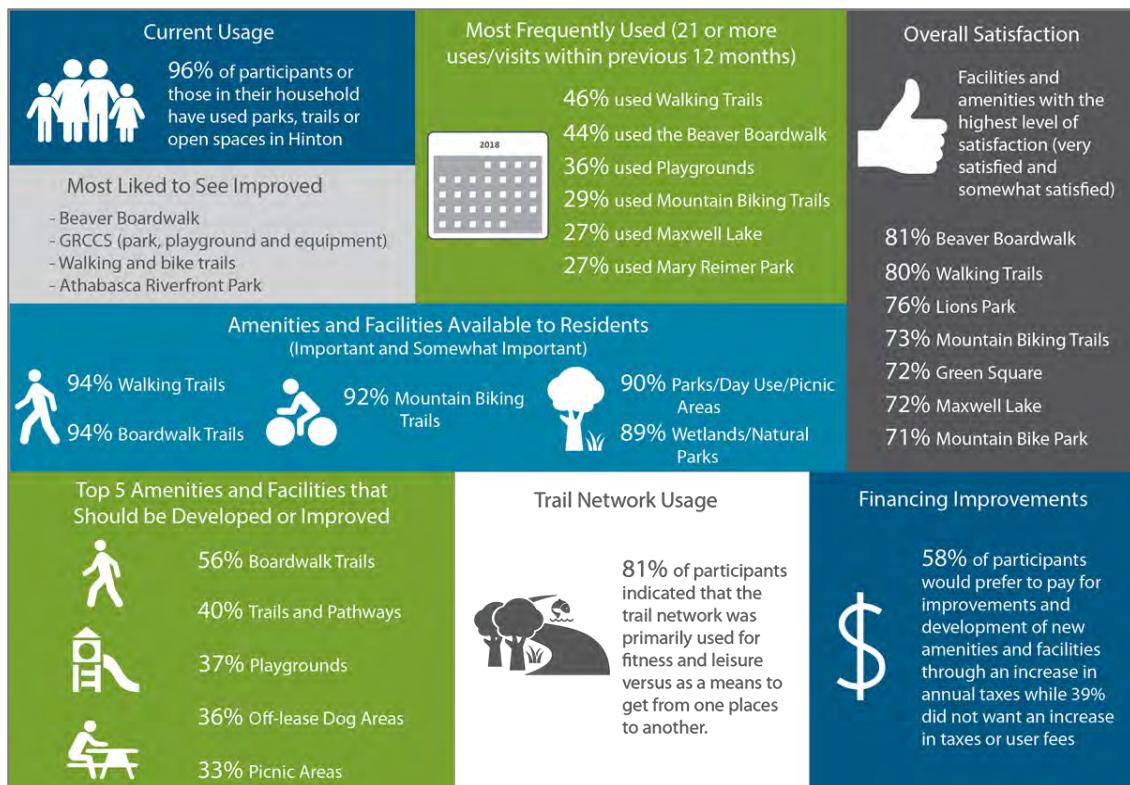


Figure 2.1: June Public Engagement Outcomes

2.2.1 Engagement Process

In June 2018, community engagement events were held and strategies were implemented to inform the Hinton POST Master Plan. Opportunities to engage included a stakeholder open house, pop-ups at community events, an online survey, feedback forms for Grade 5, 7 and 8 students, a display board with sticky notes at Town Hall and a youth colouring contest. Ninety-two students completed surveys and 45 competed in the colouring contest. The open house and pop-up events included 30 participants, and 36 people completed the online survey. In total, 203 people were engaged using these strategies.

Community members were asked questions about Hinton's existing POST, including frequency of use within the past 12 months, level of satisfaction, importance of each amenity and facility, desire for new or enhanced amenities and facilities, and how these resources should be funded. The following information provides a breakdown of the community responses based on the public engagement. The full Town of Hinton Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan Engagement Summary can be found in **Appendix A**.

In November 2018, building upon the June 2018 engagement feedback, the Town of Hinton and ISL provided several engagement opportunities to share information about existing amenities and gather feedback on what residents and stakeholders would like to see implemented in locations around Town. Engagement opportunities included:

- A community open house for residents and stakeholders on November 29, from 4 to 6:30 PM;
- A pop-up event at the Dr. Duncan Murray Recreation Centre on November 30, from 10 to 11am;
- An online survey available from November 14, 2018 to December 21, 2018; and
- Hard copy surveys were available from Town staff.



Figure 2.2: November Public Engagement Outcomes

2.2.2 Utilization and Satisfaction

Trails and boardwalks ranked highly in many categories including frequency of use, level of satisfaction, importance of amenities and desire for new or enhanced facilities. Community members were also generally satisfied with the trails and boardwalks (between 73-81% agreement). However, 40% suggested trails and pathways should be improved, whereas 56% sought improvements to boardwalks (boardwalks are only located within the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area in Hinton).

After boardwalks and trails, playgrounds were the third most frequently used category at 36%, and also ranked third in amenities that should be improved or developed (37%). This indicates that playgrounds are not only frequently used, but would benefit from upgrades.

Mary Reimer Regional Park and Maxwell Lake were the next most frequently used at 27% each. Seventy-two percent of respondents expressed satisfaction with Maxwell Lake and 69% with Mary

Reimer Regional Park. This level of satisfaction is in line with that of other community amenities such as Lions Park (72%) and Green Square (76%). However, as Lions Park and Green Square are less frequently used (14% and 18%, respectively), Hinton may wish to place more emphasis on upgrades to the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area and Mary Reimer Regional Park. The Athabasca Riverfront Park holds the most potential for development given its context but currently faces accessibility and infrastructure issues. Please see section 4.6 for district analysis and site recommendations.

Along with boardwalks and trails, community members identified Gerard Redmond Community Catholic School Park and the Athabasca Riverfront Park as amenities they would most like to see improved. Level of satisfaction, importance of and desire for amenities varies more widely for the remaining POST infrastructure.

2.3 How Hinton Compares to Others in the Provision of POST

In order to understand how Hinton compares to other similar Alberta communities with regards to POST provision, three communities were studied: Canmore, Cochrane, and Okotoks. Key findings were as follows:

Currently, 11% of Hinton's total land area is comprised of parks open space. Once approved Area Structure Plans (ASP) are completed, an additional 197.8 ha of open space will increase this percentage to 17%. This level of provision is greater than Canmore and Cochrane and is comparable to Okotoks. Cochrane currently has 9% of their total land area in open space, Canmore has 2% and Okotoks has the highest provision at 25%.

Currently, Hinton has 37.44 ha of open space per 1,000 residents. This is well above Canmore providing 11.65 ha, Cochrane at 10.44 ha and Okotoks at 17.15 ha. This represents an excellent provision of open space in comparison to the other communities. Main differentiating factors between the compared municipalities are in the municipal land size versus population.

Table 2.1: Municipal Land to Population Comparison

Municipality	Population	Total Municipal Land (ha)	Population per Municipal Land
Canmore	13,992	6890	2.03 Residents / ha
Cochrane	25,853	3003	8.6 Residents / ha
Okotoks	28,860	1924	15 Residents / ha
Hinton	9,882	3352	2.95 Residents / ha

As demonstrated in Table 2.1, Okotoks is the densest town in comparison. Canmore has the lowest population to land ratio with a very high provision of POST.

Typical ratios of facilities per 1,000 residents were also reviewed; Hinton's ratios generally exceed those of comparable municipalities. Hinton has a higher ratio of ball diamonds, rectangular fields, tennis courts and outdoor ice surfaces than Okotoks, Cochrane or Canmore. Its ratio of playgrounds is in line with these communities.

Table 2.2: Municipality Comparison

Municipality	Population	Parks and Open Space (ha)	Parks and Open Space per 1,000 Residents (ha)
Canmore	13,992	163	11.65
Cochrane	25,853	270	10.44
Okotoks	28,860	495	17.15
Hinton	9,882	370	37.44

2.3.1 Where Are We Going

By 2045, the population of Hinton is projected to increase by 853 people based on a high growth scenario outlined in the Hinton Municipal Development Plan (2018). The current POST provision within the municipality is 37.44 ha of parks and open space per 1,000 residents which is expected to increase to 52.89 ha per 1,000 residents by 2045 based on approved east and west ASPs. Hinton's parks and open space area far exceeds its population requirements, but is well in line for its municipal land area. Larger proportions of parks and open space in municipalities has shown connections to tourism. As statistics show, tourism is the privilege of urban areas. Many cities play the tourism card, investing a lot of money in new equipments and urban regeneration projects, in order to change the unappealing image of certain neighbourhoods and turn them into touristic targets.¹ In actuality, Hinton's natural context and provision of POST is far more valuable than associated capital infrastructure upgrades. This is a key attractant for Hintonites and visitors.

Table 2.3: Parks and Open Space Supply Analysis

Year	Population	Parks and Open Space (ha)	Parks and Open Space per 1,000 Residents (ha)	% of Municipal Land
2019	9,882	370	37.44	11
2045	10,735	568	52.89	17

2.4 Indicators for Current State Assessment

Indicators have been used to assess the current supply of POST amenities in Hinton. By analyzing total open space as a percentage of land area, open space area per 1,000 residents and facilities per 1,000 residents, one can gain a high-level understanding of how Hinton's POST amenities compare to similar communities. Communities selected for this comparison needed to be Albertan, have a similar population, similar area of POST and/or have a similar proximity to the Rocky Mountains.

While this method is helpful, it does have some limitations. Indicators do not assess the quality of the POST community. Also, municipalities often vary in what they include in their open space calculations. For our purposes, amenities such as golf courses and wetlands are included along with calculated parks, ER, MR and natural open space

2.4.1 Future Designated Lands

The East and West ASP boundaries will include existing POST resources such as Thompson Lake, Maxwell Lake and the Hinton Golf Course. The East ASP also includes 40.9 ha of wetland which should be left in a natural state to protect its ecological functions. This includes the wetland within the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area. Wetlands can occur within recreation areas and should not be disturbed. Infrastructure developed within recreation areas should adhere to the necessary approvals and setbacks associated to protected natural areas. As such, these ASPs will yield a net gain of 197.8 ha of parks and open space.

¹ Cianga N. – Popescu C.A./ European Journal of Geography 4 2 34-45 (2013)

Table 2.4: Future Designated Lands

Area Structure Plan	Recreation and Open Space (ha)	Wetlands (Likely Environmental Reserve)	Maxwell Lake (ha)	Hinton Golf Course (ha)	Thompson Lake (ha)	Additional Open Space (ha)
West ASP	100.3	0	(2.8)	(75.4)	0	100.3
East ASP	56.6	40.9	0	0	(8.4)	97.5
Total Additional Open Space, Planned						197.8

*Numbers extracted from Hinton 2018 East and West Area Structure Plans

2.4.2 Open Space as a Percentage of Total Land Area

Currently, 11% of Hinton's total land area is comprised of open space. As indicated in Table 2.4, the approved ASPs will yield an additional 197.8 ha of open space. As the town boundary is not set to increase, this will result in 6% of the total area devoted to open space. These numbers are enhanced with those in similar communities such as Canmore and Cochrane. Cochrane currently has 9% of their total land area in open space, whereas Canmore has 2%. As such, Hinton is better served than Canmore and Cochrane at present. The following table outlines these statistics.

Table 2.5: Open Space as a Percentage of Total Land Area

Open space as a Percentage of Total Land Area	Town Land Area (ha)	Total Open Spaces (ha)	% of Open Spaces
Designated Open Space, Existing*	3,314	370	11%
Additional Open Space, Future (Approved ASPs)	3,314	197.8	6%
Similar Communities			
Canmore	6,890	163	2%
Cochrane	3,003	270	9%
Okotoks	1,924	495	25%

2.4.3 Open Space per 1,000 Residents

At present, Hinton has 37.44 ha of open space per 1,000 residents. This is above average what is found in similar communities, with Canmore providing 12 and Cochrane 14. Okotoks has 55 ha per 1,000 residents due to a high population and a smaller overall area. However, with the future development in Hinton planned within the ASPs, this is set to increase to 52.89 ha per 1,000 residents. This represents an excellent provision of open space in comparison to the other communities.

Table 2.6: Open Space per 1,000 Residents Municipality Comparison

Open Space per 1,000 Residents	Population	Total Open Spaces (ha)	Open space per 1,000 Residents (ha)
Current Population	9,882	370	37.44
Projected Population	10,735	567.8	52.89
Similar Communities			
Canmore	13,992	163	11.65
Cochrane	25,853	270	10.44
Okotoks	28,860	495	17.15

Hinton provides an extremely high provision of POST given its current population of 9,882. With future development defined by the East and West ASP's, the number of accessible POST is expected to increase. While having such a vast POST network is great for users and residents, it can create complications in maintenance and operations for a municipality the size of Hinton. The tables highlighted in sections 2.3 and 2.4 are meant to build a narrative around facilities provided, future facilities that will need to be provided, and the implications of operating them. Creating sustainable, low maintenance infrastructure, developing standards and utilization of a strategic maintenance and operations plan is essential to the success of POST in Hinton.

2.4.4 Facilities per 1,000 Residents

Typical ratios of facilities per 1,000 residents were compared to Cochrane, Okotoks and Canmore to better understand Hinton's level of service. Hinton's ratios generally exceed standards based on comparative research. Hinton also has a higher ratio of ball diamonds, rectangular fields, tennis courts and outdoor ice surfaces than Okotoks, Cochrane or Canmore. Its ratio of playgrounds is in line with these comparable communities. Table 2.7 includes recommendations for total number of facilities based on the 2045 projected population.

Hinton's trail and pathway ratio exceeds Cochrane and Okotoks and is slightly below Canmore's. The only notable gaps in amenity, when compared with national standards and these other communities, were community gardens, outdoor fitness circuits and spray parks. Hinton currently has 1 community garden and 1 spray park.



Athabasca Riverfront Park

Table 2.7: Facilities per 1,000 Residents Municipality Comparison

FACILITIES		Hinton: 2018 Population 9832																		Hinton: 2045 Population 10735																	
Quantity		11	9	7	4	19	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	110							
Current ratio per 1,000 residents		1.10	0.90	0.70	0.40	1.90	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.40	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	11.0							
Future facilities ratio target		1.1	1	0.7	0.5	2	1/town	0.1	1/town	0.3	0.1	0.2	1	1/neigh.	0.5	1/town	15																				
# recommended by 2045		12	10	7	5	20	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	150							
FACILITIES IN SIMILAR COMMUNITIES																																					
Camrose: Population 13,992		5	6	3	6	31	2	2	6	1	3	1	1	1	8	1	2	0	159																		
Quantity																																					
Ratio per 1,000 residents		0.36	0.43	0.21	0.43	2.21	0.14	0.14	0.43	0.07	0.21	0.07	0.07	0.57	0.07	0.14	0.00	11.4																			
Cochrane: Population 25,853		11	19	6	2	32	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	4	2	2	1	60																		
Quantity																																					
Ratio per 1,000 residents		0.43	0.74	0.23	0.08	1.24	0.04	0.04	0.08	0.04	0.08	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	3.4																		
Okotoks: Population 28,860		15	18	5	8	49	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	4	1	85																		
Quantity																																					
Ratio per 1,000 residents		0.52	0.62	0.17	0.28	1.70	0.03	0.03	0.17	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	2.9																		

**Facilities do not include surrounding Provincially managed ammenity

2.5 Trends in the Provision of POST

Current and ongoing trends within provincial and national parks continue to surface with continuing development of POST networks in Canada, many of which directly relate to the initiatives in Hinton. Some trends and theories are currently depicted in existing POST facilities in Hinton while others can inspire enhancements and recommendations. Some of the important trends to consider include:

Everyone Belongs Outside: Albertans enjoy a high quality of life, and Alberta's network of parks is a major contributor. Parks provide opportunities for active, healthy living in nature². Hinton's surrounding natural elements and integrated POST infrastructure is an opportunity to ensure facilities and programs are designed so that everyone's needs are considered regardless of age, ability, economic standing or other factors.

Parks for All – Nature as a Second Language: Building on inclusion, Parks for All means working together to realize shared goals through a variety of perspectives, resulting in distinct practices and individual responsibilities. As humans, our world view shapes how we see, learn, speak and hear and how we interact with each other, other species and the land. The parks community is built on the essential acceptance of this truth³. Creating a truly connected POST network in Hinton is important to the quality of life of its users, maintaining connections to surrounding park networks, and reinforcing a mutual respect between users, residents and nature.

Parks Everywhere: With increasing urban density, development restrictions and planning policy guiding where, when and how we build parks, creative solutions and locations for park development are needed to ensure maximized green space is achieved in municipalities. Hinton is fortunate to have flexible land use designations which allow varying parks infrastructure to be developed at the discretion of the developer and the municipality. Park spaces in Canada are being developed in unique conditions like rooftops, stormwater management facilities, on and under old freeways, and even underground. Urban conditions sometime require urban strategies to create functional public space.

Economic Development Depends on Quality Parks: Local park recreation and program are "responsible for generating \$140 billion in economic impact and one billion jobs annually"⁴. Programs, facility rentals and community events not only support local initiatives but can also bring funding and volunteerism to the POST network.

Environmental Activism and Stewardship: The health and sustainability of the environment is high on the agenda of Hinton. POST developments can assist in the rehabilitation and ongoing quality of natural and constructed ecosystems. Park users have high expectations of the quality of POST facilities, as such high levels of stewardship and environmental sensitivity should be demonstrated in operations and planning of POST infrastructure. POST is a guiding document for future development and provision of services. Environmental activism and stewardship with POST and other planning documents is demonstrated in thought out design, maintenance and operations strategies, and site understanding. Natural spaces should be respected and preserved to enhance the experience of users in POST.

² Alberta Parks; Everyone Belongs Outside, 2014

³ Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA-ACPL); Parks for All, 2017.

⁴ NRPA, Top Trends in Parks and Recreation for 2018, 2018

Volunteerism: Volunteerism is integral to recreation services, especially as the POST network evolves. Volunteers make the community a richer and more vibrant place. Proposing new ways to incorporate volunteerism into POST programs will enrich the ways residents use POST resources and also benefit the amenities themselves through funding initiatives. Hinton should continue to deliver support for volunteer groups to apprentice and maintain volunteers wherever possible.

Most Families are “Time Poor”: With school, jobs and family obligations, it is hard to find time to play for the modern family. Providing accessible amenities and programs strategically throughout Hinton will create opportunities for families to engage the POST network without having to venture out of their way to do so. POST should be convenient, accessible and enjoyable. Parents who want to enjoy the outdoors will entice their children to enjoy the outdoors. In a time where children are spending less time than ever in the outdoors, municipalities can create opportunity for them to easily access outdoor amenities.

2.6 Summary of the Current State of POST

Understanding the current state of POST is essential for prudent planning and development of POST networks. The content delivered in the Plan itself has been derived from community consultation, engagement initiatives, site inventory and analysis, and an ongoing dialogue on how the provision of POST infrastructure and programs can be improved and facilitated, it has also involved consideration of the priorities they felt would address POST needs with future development. Along with this input, trends at the national and provincial level were considered to compare to existing POST infrastructure and to evaluate how the needs of POST can be met within the Plan.

As identified by stakeholders through engagement feedback, key themes that relate to the future provision of POST in Hinton are:

1. **Trails:** Trails in Hinton are the key connective fabric to the POST network and users rely on them for a number of functions. The trail network is primarily used for transportation and recreational purposes. Through engagement activities, residents and stakeholders have identified positive and negative aspects of the trail network, further reinforcing the passion users share for the POST network and recreation in Hinton. It was found that students frequently use the trail network for transportation purposes versus older user groups that primarily use it as a recreational resource. With varying use, maintenance and operations and new infrastructural requirements, will need to adapt to ongoing wear and tear. With an abundance of natural space surrounding Hinton, the trail network retains positive elements relating to quality of life, health and sense of place. Navigating the trail network can be challenging for visitors and novice users. Signage can be deficient at times throughout the trails network. Signage and wayfinding elements should be strategically placed along the trail network for intuitive navigation and integrated into the Signage Standards Manual (as amended).
2. **Connectivity:** POST in Hinton must be accessible and connected to ensure user experience is delivered at the highest level. All POST amenities should be easily accessible and navigable through signage and wayfinding elements. Amenities should also facilitate varying intended uses by patrons. Through engagement, it was evident that user groups need a POST network that is interconnected and intuitive. The POST network is one of the most widely used Hinton amenities and should adapt to user needs as it evolves. This will mean dedicated attention to development standards and placement upon new development. For instance in the Maxwell Lake Recreation

Area, creating greater access through a main, paved trail circuit that creates connections to internal and surrounding amenity as well as creating new program around increased access i.e. exercise circuits and water access points. Another example would be creating a more accessible Athabasca Riverfront Park. Current access to the park by use of non motorized modes is limited. Incorporating trail access and more significant signage and wayfinding to and from the park will create a higher user demand.

3. **Transportation:** POST is used for a number of transportation modes. Users' bike, walk, rollerblade, skateboard, run, skate, cross-country ski, snowshoe and hike in and around POST infrastructure. Ensuring that POST adheres to the needs of user groups who use varying transportation modes is essential to the success and four-season use of the POST network. Current four-season use is limited in Hinton, and increased transportation access will assist in creating a more functional four-season environment for POST users.
4. **Safety, Management and Maintenance:** With the population growing, POST facilities expanding/evolving, and increased access to natural spaces, there is a need to expand the maintenance and operations associated with POST. It is important to ensure facilities provided throughout Hinton are properly marked, restricted during closed hours, maintained to ensure highest quality experience for users, and managed to ensure a maximized lifespan of infrastructure. The capital costs associated with developing a POST network can be significant, but they can pale in comparison to the management and maintenance of these assets. As the POST network evolves, an increase in human resources and maintenance equipment will be required. It is important to recognize the management and safety implications of further development during the planning stages. Due to Hinton's extremely high provision of POST to population, there will inevitably be maintenance and operations conflicts in having such a vast network with a population of sub 10,000. Creating new, sustainable infrastructure will assist in the long term provision of POST amenities in Hinton. For example, using sustainable, long term materials for new development, naturalized planting strategies to reinforce slopes and treads, and strategized long term maintenance regiments.
5. **Development:** Hinton is growing, slowly. Hinton's growth patterns are unusual when compared to many other municipalities in Alberta that have either witnessed rapid growth or steep declines in population over the last few decades.⁵ It is imperative to ensure that the needs of users are being met with new development and that proposed infrastructure is not duplicated throughout the POST network. Planning and provision of POST should be carefully monitored and considered to ensure appropriate amenities are being proposed. Two ASPs were adopted in 2017 and a Municipal Development Plan (MDP) in 2018 to guide future development in Hinton over the next 30 years. These documents suggest development outlook is excellent and enhanced POST resources will be needed in Hinton. Ensuring that the development of POST resources in Hinton adheres to these documents and grows responsibly is important to future development in Hinton. This is closely related to safety, management and maintenance. Ensuring new development is sensitive to Hinton's extremely high provision of POST to population will ensure that POST is delivered to users at a high level of service moving forward. Having a high concentration of POST in Hinton is valuable and unique but this also concludes that in order to be sustainable, new development needs to be responsibly adopted.

⁵ Town of Hinton, Municipal Development Plan No. 1084, 2018

2.7 A Vision for POST in Hinton

Parks, open space, and trails are cherished amenities in Hinton and are essential contributors to the quality of life and wellbeing of Hinton residents. Hinton acknowledges the need to provide, maintain and operate POST in a manner that allows users to connect with nature and participate in recreational and educational activities. The following vision has been developed to further articulate the Town's intentions related to POST; it is based on feedback from the community, research, and in reference to other strategic documents and initiatives of the Town.

Welcome to YOUR Hinton! The Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Master Plan will guide future development of natural spaces and infrastructure in Hinton. Building upon the family-oriented spirit of Hinton, the POST network will be inclusive, accessible, engaging and immersive. The POST network will connect all of Hinton so you, your family and your neighbours can use the rich, natural context of our home. Parks, open space and trails in Hinton are abundant, well administered and improve the wellbeing of our citizens. So get out and explore YOUR Hinton!

The vision (and goals) are supported by the following principles for POST provision:

- Access and Connectivity:** POST is an inclusive network that has been developed to allow for access, usage and connectivity for all residents of and visitors to Hinton. Creating connections, trails and pathways to link everyone to this vibrant network is imperative to its success.
- Nature:** Hinton has rich natural space that is highly used and cherished. Facilitating access and interpretation of these natural areas (forested areas, wetlands, and rivers) will help residents and visitors connect with nature.
- Facilities:** Ensuring the development of high-quality facilities to ultimately meet the diverse, recreational needs of residents and visitors who use the POST network is important to garnering as much benefit as possible from public investment.
- Amenities:** Development and maintenance of amenities will ensure the needs of users are met and will encourage prolonged visits to POST locations.

This Plan is informed by existing Town planning, including but not limited to:

- Municipal Development Plan No. 1084 (2018)
- East and West Area Structure Plans (2017)
- Land Use Bylaw No. 1088
- Hinton Minimum Engineering Design Standard (latest edition)
- Community Development and Enhancement Plan
- Hinton Community Sustainability Plan

It is also important to note that there are other related ongoing planning processes including but not limited to:

- Maxwell Lake Recreation Area Outline Plan
- Beaver Boardwalk Concept Design and Feasibility Report
- South Area Structure Plan
- Landscape Minimum Design and Construction Standards (latest edition)



5. **Public Safety:** Enhancements to infrastructure and the creation of an exciting public realm through logical, thought-out design will develop safe environments for users to use POST facilities. Use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles throughout infrastructure development is one way to do this.
6. **Management:** Sustaining the high level of community involvement from individuals and community groups by implementing formalized management procedures and agreements.
7. **Programming:** Hinton, in partnership with community groups and organizations, facilitates and supports structured recreational activities, sports leagues, and outdoor programs to meet the needs of the community.
8. **Community:** Engaging the community and creating benefits for volunteers to enhance the POST experience and build a sense of ownership within Hinton.

The three most recent comprehensive municipal documents, the Hinton MDP and the Hinton East and West ASPs, focus on creating a sustainable and livable community in Hinton. These documents were built on the following five key sustainability principles as derived from the Hinton Community Sustainability Plan, all of which have reference to the importance of POST to the citizens of Hinton:

■ Environment

- Respecting the natural environment and resources by meeting the needs of the present without compromising the long-term viability for future generations
- Sustaining and celebrating the natural heritage and biodiversity of the region
- Minimizing our ecological footprint in all aspects of the environment
- Minimizing the impact of human development on the environment

■ Economy

- Actively pursuing opportunities for diversification
- Positioning as an attractive tourism destination
- Managing balanced growth to sustain a vibrant economy
- Promoting and encouraging regional business partnerships
- Strengthening our role as a regional hub
- Recognizing the value of our existing business community

■ Social

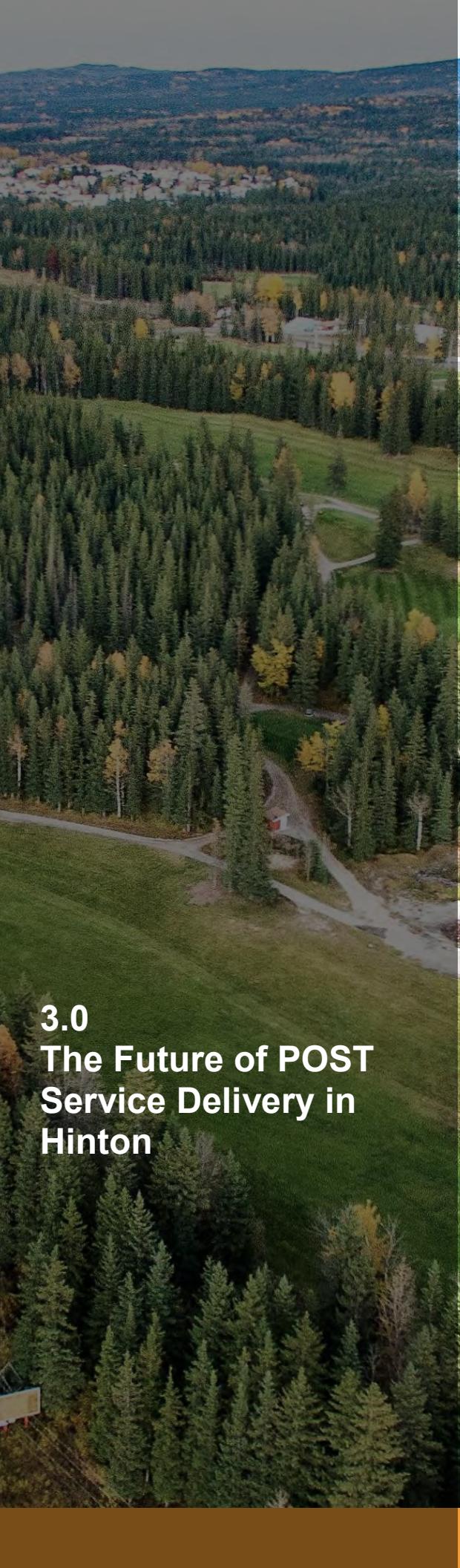
- Ensuring the needs of citizens are realized through effective programs and services
- Upholding and building a safe community for all citizens
- Fostering inclusion of all members of society
- Supporting opportunities and environments to encourage social interaction
- Encouraging healthy and active lifestyles

■ Culture

- Preserving and celebrating the historical heritage of the region
- Advancing and promoting Hinton as a regional leader for arts and culture through learning, performing and the promotion of local art and artists
- Attracting visiting visual and performing artists
- Celebrating the diversity of cultures in the region

■ Governance

- Providing proactive leadership that is transparent and collaborative
- Providing fiscally responsible and accountable leadership
- Ensuring that programs and services support the changing needs of the community through partnerships and collaboration
- Supporting and advancing civic engagement



3.0 The Future of POST Service Delivery in Hinton



The following recommendations have been developed with the vision for Hinton in mind and have been organized into future direction for service delivery (Section 3.0: How the Town plans, operates and maintains POST) and infrastructure (Section 4.0: Maintenance and development of open spaces).

The delivery of opportunities in POST in Hinton is the product of the efforts of Town staff and various non-profit and private stakeholder groups throughout the community. Although POST provides benefits that residents cannot escape even if they do not use POST directly, such as urban tree canopy, designed urban areas, and commuting corridors, community benefits are enhanced when participation is increased. That being said, the following list of recommendations have been developed to help increase use of POST and strengthen the delivery system that animates POST to optimize community benefit.

3.1 Marketing and Promotions

Marketing and promotion of POST opportunities and motivational messaging related to using POST to be healthier and more connected to the community will attract residents and visitors to participate and participate more often. This will enhance the benefits of public investment in POST. **It is recommended that the Town develop a marketing and promotions program related to getting people outside more, in all four seasons.** Marketing and promotional efforts should focus on traditional and new means of communications, including continued efforts with social media, print, and radio should focus on key messages such as:

1. The general benefits of POST in the community
2. Inspirational stories about residents related to use of Hinton POST
3. Explanation of the breadth of POST opportunities available to residents and visitors
4. Any other relevant messaging related to POST

Ongoing evaluation of marketing and promotional efforts should also be conducted as part of the marketing plan to understand effectiveness of each tactic and enable the Town to adjust if needed.

3.2 Partnerships

Partnerships in the development and ongoing operations of POST will be key in leveraging public investment, building community buy-in and pride, and enabling community development to occur. Whenever the Town decides to develop a new POST asset or program, partnerships with other stakeholders should be considered. Partnerships for POST assets currently exist with regional municipalities, local user groups and school authorities; these should be enhanced where possible. As well, partnerships should be considered with any other community organizations that share similar goals to Hinton.

To take full advantage of partnerships, **it is recommended that Hinton develop a partnership framework.** This framework should outline the following:

- The Town's overall intentions for POST (so that potential partners can demonstrate alignment);
- The Town's expectations for different types of partnerships (e.g., ownership, operations, programs or events); and
- A protocol for external groups to propose partnership opportunities with Hinton (in a similar fashion to the POST planning process outlined herein).

Hinton may also wish to develop a partnership policy and other materials to support the exploration and implementation of partnerships in providing POST.

It is recommended that the Town explore partnerships in providing POST whenever new or enhanced POST projects or programs are contemplated.

3.3 Volunteer Support and Capacity Building

It is clear that the animation and operation (in some cases) of POST in Hinton relies on the passion and engagement of volunteers and non-profit groups. Sport and recreation groups, comprised primarily of volunteers, organize programs and opportunities that are enjoyed by residents and visitors. If these groups did not provide the programs that they currently do, residents would have less opportunities to connect with each other and be healthy, the Town would not be able to achieve its strategic intent for POST to a high a degree, and there would be less benefit from POST in the town. For this reason, building capacity within non-profit groups should be a priority for the Town. Many municipalities throughout the province have begun to provide support to groups, beyond traditional financial assistance and subsidized access to facilities. Some examples of support that Hinton can improve on is as follows:

1. Assistance with finding and applying for grants;
2. Assistance with developing strategic business plans to help groups focus efforts and be more sustainable;
3. Quality assurance training for coaches and volunteers (such as High Five or coaching certifications);
4. Training related to sponsorship and fundraising efforts; and
5. Provision of shared office space and file storage in public facilities.

In Hinton, should Administration decide to provide support like this, a more in-depth discussion with local groups to better understand their needs should be undertaken before investment and effort is put into anything specific. That said, **it is recommended that Hinton provide support to local groups that use POST in order to build capacity in the delivery system.**

3.4 Funding and Sponsorship

In Hinton, as is the case in most communities throughout the province, POST is funded through general taxation. User fees are able to recover some of the operating costs, but they typically only account for a small proportion of actual costs to operate POST and do not recover any of the capital costs associated with new POST development. Realizing increasing financial pressure faced in Alberta, many municipalities have begun to generate funds to offset the costs of POST and other recreation amenities via sponsorships. Sponsorships enable municipalities to garner extra funds to offset the cost to provide POST and give opportunity for the corporate sector to affiliate their brand with healthy, community-based initiatives and spaces.

Hinton already accesses funding through sponsorships to some degree, but more could be done. In order to approach sponsorships in the most efficient and effective fashion, the following steps would need to take place:

1. Revision of Policy #104 to outline parameters for the Town to follow in garnering and maintaining sponsorship relationships (including criteria for what opportunities are appropriate, how long relationships should be maintained, and what the Town's expectations of partners are).
2. Inventory and valuate all sponsorship opportunities in the POST system (this may require third party assistance).
3. Develop tools and promotional strategies to help solicit sponsors in a transparent and equitable way, providing opportunities for all potential sponsors who meet the Town's criteria.
4. Invest in ongoing connection and value-added relationship building with sponsors so that they are engaged and want to renew agreements when they expire, e.g. event hosting, sponsor appreciation initiatives, POST dedication and acknowledgements.

In many instances, municipalities have even created staffing positions to support sponsorship and fundraising efforts. This might be warranted in Hinton once a policy and approach is developed and implemented. **It is recommended that the Town continue to develop and implement Policy 104 (sponsorship policy) and protocol to use sponsorships to offset the costs of POST where appropriate and where possible.**

3.5 POST Service Delivery Recommendation Summary

The following table summarizes recommendations related to POST service delivery. As well, timing and expected financial impacts are also indicated.

Table 3.1: POST Service Delivery Recommendation Summary

Recommendation	Timing (Short/Mid/ Long/Ongoing)	Financial Impact (Low/Medium/ High/na)
It is recommended that Hinton develop a marketing and promotions program related to getting people outside more, in all four seasons.	Mid	Medium
It is recommended that Hinton develop a partnership framework.	Short	Low
It is recommended that Hinton explore partnerships in providing POST whenever new or enhanced POST projects or programs are contemplated.	Ongoing	na
It is recommended that Hinton provide support to local groups that use POST in order to build capacity in the delivery system.	Ongoing	Low
It is recommended that the Town continue to develop and implement Policy 104 (sponsorship policy) and protocol to use sponsorships to offset the costs of POST where appropriate and where possible.	Mid	Medium
It is recommended that Hinton enhance or develop policies for both user fees and allocations of POST that are intended to garner maximum community benefit from POST spaces.	Mid	Low
It is recommended that Hinton conduct annual staff / service level reviews to determine staffing requirements as POST develops	Ongoing	Low



4.0 The Future of POST Infrastructure in Hinton



4.1 Planning Process

When investing public funds into any service, certain types of information is required to make a well-informed decision; this is especially the case when contemplating investment into services like POST.

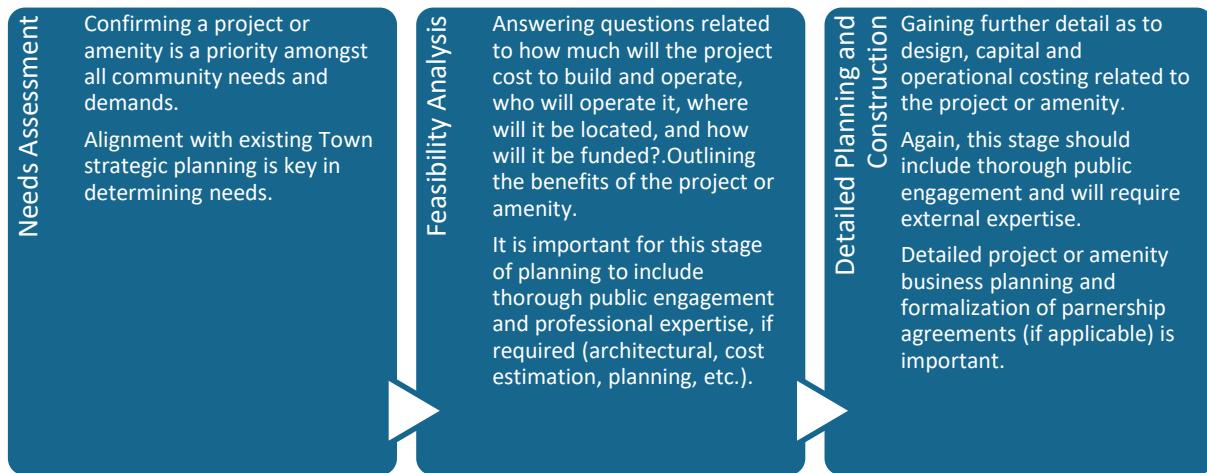


Figure 4.1: The POST Project and Amenity Planning Process

Beyond this overarching process and the need to undertake feasibility analysis for major public investment (typically over \$1M), it is also important to note that for major POST sites, site master planning should occur after an overarching POST Master Plan sets broad strategic direction and before feasibility analysis of a specific project or amenity. The following graphic explains.

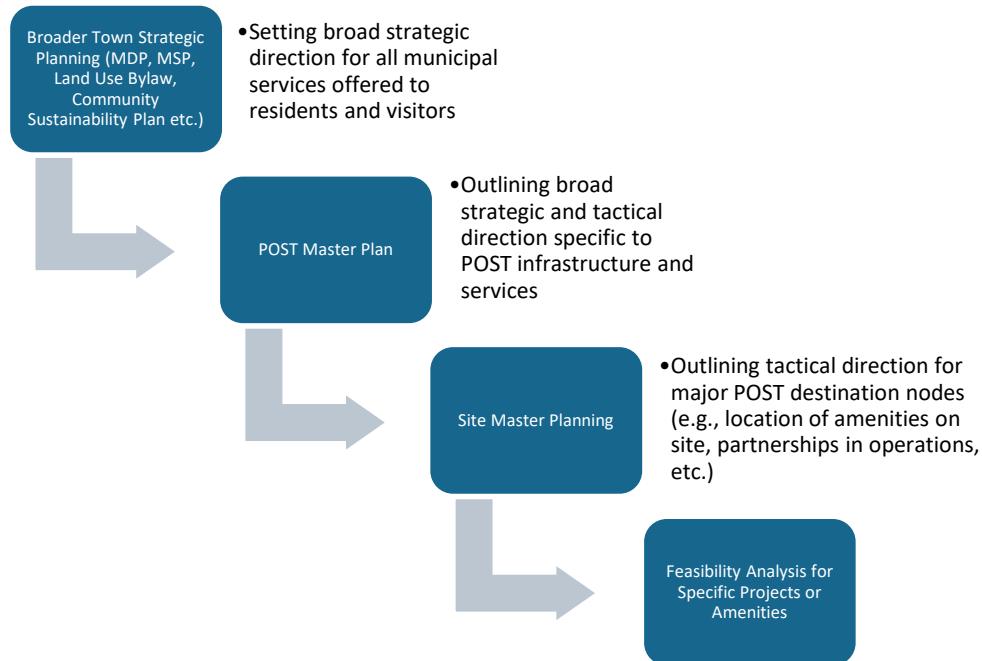


Figure 4.2: POST Planning Hierarchy

Site master planning has been completed in the past for the POST network and related sites and is currently underway for the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area. As site plans age, they may need to be revised based on current market conditions which is currently the case for the Mary Reimer Park Master Plan.

4.2 Life Cycle Reserve Budgeting

Life cycle reserve budgeting is a major component to municipal asset management and includes putting money away into reserve funds to be able to replace and renew assets as needed. If proper allocations can be secured, these types of reserves will perpetuate amenities and services without immediate tax implications or depletion of other municipal reserves even when significant reinvestment is required.

The Canadian Infrastructure Report Card was developed by the Canadian Construction Association, Canadian Public Works Association, Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The most recent iteration of the Report Card was compiled in 2016 in a document entitled "Informing the Future: the Canadian Infrastructure Report Card". The document can be found here:

http://www.canadainfrastructure.ca/downloads/Canadian_Infrastructure_Report_2016.pdf.

The study advances the following key messages:

- Municipalities own the core infrastructure assets that are critical to the quality of life of Canadians and the competitiveness of our country.
- One-third of municipal infrastructure in Canada is in fair, poor or very poor condition, increasing the risk of service disruption.
- Increasing reinvestment rates will stop the deterioration of municipal infrastructure and save money in the long-term.
- Building for today's communities and tomorrow's Canada requires long-term planning.
- All communities, particularly smaller municipalities, can benefit from increased asset management capacity.

Further to these key messages, the study identifies recommended reinvestment rates for most municipal assets to be between 1.7% and 2.5% of current replacement value. Using reserve budgeting now will enable future reinvestment in POST to occur without significant capital injection at certain points in the future. Any contributions that can be afforded will help to soften the blow of reinvestment when necessary.

Many of Hinton's POST assets are in need of sustainable mapping to reduce degradation and increase lifespan. Having such a high provision of POST land area means there will be more infrastructure in need of maintenance and replacement over time. When infrastructure degrades, it does not enhance quality of life for residents and users. Sustainable infrastructure life cycling and maintenance through infrastructure upgrades and life cycle reserve funding will make POST more manageable for Hinton.

It is recommended that the Town establish and fund life cycle reserves for POST assets.

4.3 Land Acquisition

Hinton's primary source for garnering new sites for POST is through reserve dedication during land development. The Municipal Government Act (MGA) defines four reserve types, all of which can facilitate POST facilities: Municipal Reserve (MR), Environmental Reserve (ER), Community Services Reserve (CSR) and Conservation Reserve (CR). Definitions of these reserve dedications can be found within the MGA⁶. Hinton acquires MR lands, which eventually are used for purposes such as POST and others, at the time of subdivision in accordance with the MGA.

As outlined in Hinton's 2018 MDP, a proposed subdivision is required to provide up to 10% of the parcel area towards its MR dedication. In some instances, additional reserve lands above the 10% dedication may be sought to meet the demand for recreational uses in the form of POST. To meet recreational needs beyond what can be provided through the 10% reserve obligation, it may be necessary for Hinton to procure additional lands in residential areas with funds obtained from the disposal of existing reserves, previous cash dedications in-lieu of reserve, or from other sources.

It is recommended that Hinton consider acquisition of land for POST via means other than reserve dedication during land development. Other means could include financial compensation from developers in order to develop POST in alternative locations as opposed to developers providing the bare minimum MR development in extra lot space.

⁶ 2018 Municipal Government Act, <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/m26.pdf>

4.4 POST Classification

When managing and maintaining a POST system, parks and open spaces can be classified differently in terms of their respective size, function, type of amenity, and strategic intent. POST in Hinton has been classified into typologies to organize resources strategically. These classifications have been developed with consideration of size, function and location. All municipal POST assets fall strategically within one of the following classifications. See section 4.5 for recommendations by classification.

4.4.1 Parks

Parks are public green spaces within the open space network that retain recreational qualities. They have dedicated amenities and vary in size and function. These spaces have been formalized and are main destinations within the POST network. Refer to Table 4.1 for further details on the park amenities.

Regional Park: Regional Parks can be school grounds, recreation grounds, community lease sites. Regional parks are those facilities intended to meet the recreational needs for residents of Hinton and surrounding areas generally served by the schools and businesses located within Hinton. All major tournaments, community-wide league play, and special events that may draw crowds of spectators would occur in the Regional Parks. Currently, there is only 1 Regional Park in Hinton; Mary Reimer Regional Park.

Community Park: Community Parks can be school grounds, large municipal park spaces, recreational amenities, and community lease sites that service town-wide POST needs. Lions Park is an example of a Community Park.

Neighbourhood Park – Neighbourhood Parks can be tot lots, decorative parks, and ornamental parks that service town POST needs at the neighborhood level. These parks are generally smaller in nature and can include a mix of passive and active program.

Linear Park: Linear Parks have a minimum width of 5 m and a maximum width of 20 m. They accommodate a regional pathway or perform a linear recreation function by providing local or regional pathway links to educational, recreational, and open space features (i.e., environmental reserve, public utility lot (PUL)) within and between communities.

Table 4.1: Park Classification Amenity

Amenity	Regional Parks	Community Parks	Neighbourhood Parks	Linear Parks
Playgrounds	✓	✓	✓	
Indoor/Outdoor Rinks	✓	✓	✓	
Day Use/Picnic Areas	✓	✓	✓	
Community Gardens	✓	✓	✓	
Site Furnishings	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rectangular Fields	✓	✓	✓	
Baseball Diamonds	✓	✓	✓	
Tennis Courts	✓	✓	✓	
Spray Parks	✓	✓		
Specialty Sport and Recreation Facilities (e.g. rodeo grounds, stadium, amphitheatre)	✓			
Skate Parks	✓	✓		
Bike Parks	✓	✓		
Small Green Open Spaces	✓	✓	✓	✓
Large Green Open Spaces	✓	✓	✓	
Natural Open Spaces	✓	✓		
Amphitheatres	✓	✓		
Educational Amenities	✓	✓	✓	
Shelters	✓	✓	✓	
Washrooms	✓	✓		
Trails	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dedicated Parking	✓	✓		

4.4.2 Open Spaces

Open Spaces are undeveloped public lands that are not formalized parks. They are accessible by the public and typically include stormwater management facilities (SWMF), protected lands, environmental reserve or non-programmed natural spaces.

Wet Pond: A stormwater pond is similar to a lake in that there is always a permanent body of water. During rainstorms, additional temporary storage is provided above the normal water level (NWL); afterward, the water level gradually recedes back to the original level. Wet Ponds are very similar to Wetlands, but have a greater number of deep water zones, and aquatic vegetation is concentrated along the perimeter of the pond.

Dry Pond: A stormwater pond used to temporarily store stormwater runoff to restrict downstream discharge to predetermined rates, and to reduce downstream flooding and erosion potential. Most dry ponds have no permanent pools of water.

Wetland: Land that has been saturated with water long enough to promote wetland or aquatic processes as indicated by poorly drained soils, water-loving vegetation, and various types of biological activity that are adapted to a wet environment.

Natural Open Space: Unclassified land that does not fall into another open space classification. Remaining open space can be reclassified at any time upon approved development. Natural open space can include but is not limited to environmental reserve, municipal reserve, vegetated areas or undeveloped town lands.

4.4.3 Trails

Trails consider the pedestrian-accessible circulation network in Hinton. They include all paved, gravel, natural, bike and boardwalk trails in Hinton with the exception of vehicular adjacent sidewalks. Four main trail typologies are available for use in Hinton. See Map 2.1 and Map 2.2 for information on the Existing POST resources.

Town Pathway: Town Paths are a part of the overall POST network. They are typically paved with asphalt and located off street. These trails are accessible by non-motorized users with the exception of powered wheelchairs.

Local Pathway: Local Pathways provide secondary routes within communities, linking residential areas to local attractions such as parks, schools, and community destinations. These trails are accessible by non-motorized users with the exception of powered wheelchairs.

Trails: Trails are unpaved paths typically made of gravel or compacted dirt. These trails are accessible by non-motorized users with the exception of powered wheelchairs. Boardwalks will also fall within the Trails classification.

Bike Trails: Bike Trails are specific to bicycle programs and are typically made of compacted dirt or built structures. These trails can typically be found within and adjacent to the Hinton Mountain Bike Park and adjacent to the south town boundary. These trails are accessible by bicycle only.

It is recommended that the Town use the classification system and associated typologies to plan and maintain POST inventories.

4.5 Specific POST Site Recommendations by Classification

Based on inventory and assessment and consideration of the state of POST in Hinton, it is recommended that the following table of Named Parks be classified within the proposed typologies. Publicly-accessed unnamed parks and amenities (i.e., neighbourhood playgrounds, PUL, MR) in Hinton will fall within either the Neighbourhood or Linear Park typology.

Table 4.2: POST Site Classification Recommendations

Park Name	Park Typology Classification (recommended)
Alder Park	Neighbourhood Park
Athabasca Riverfront Park	Community Park
Bradwell Park	Neighbourhood Park
Crescent Valley School Park	Neighbourhood Park
Eaton Park	Neighbourhood Park
Erith Park	Neighbourhood Park
Gerard Redmond Community Catholic School Park	Neighbourhood Park
Gordon Moore Park / Recreation Centre Park / Jessie Turgeon Park/ Harry Collinge High School / Hinton Skateboard Park / Rotary Spray and Play Park	Community Park
Green Square	Community Park
Hinton Centre Playground and Campground	Community Park
Hinton Mountain Bike Park	Community Park
Kinsmen Park	Community Park
Lions Park	Community Park
Mackay Park	Neighbourhood Park
Mary Reimer Park	Regional Park
Maxwell Lake Recreation Area	Community Park
Mountain View School Park	Neighbourhood Park
Natural Resources Interpretive Park	Community Park
Nickerson Avenue Park	Neighbourhood Park
Sornberger Park	Neighbourhood Park
St Gregory Elementary School Park	Neighbourhood Park

Further direction related to each park classification is provided as follows.

4.5.1 Neighbourhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks in Hinton create accessible open space to residential areas. Current available maintenance and operations for these amenities is good and, if applied per the Minimum Landscape Design and Construction Standard (latest edition), they will meet the recreational needs of users. New Neighborhood Park amenities need to be evaluated in conjunction with parks of similar need and function to determine the appropriate provision of amenities without replicating the same elements as other parks.

Neighbourhood Park Enhancements

As a result of ongoing site research, site visits and inventory analysis, a series of opportunities were identified for future redevelopment and enhancements of various park sites within the neighbourhood network. These include new amenities, trail connections, landscape features, infrastructure upgrades, and new features such as community gardens. These potential upgrades are referred to as “strategic connections” and are identified in site plans throughout this Plan. Table 4.3 provides an overview of the potential redevelopment options.

It is recommended that Hinton evaluate each of these opportunities and develop and implement an annual upgrading/redevelopment capital program for enhancements to be administered to neighbourhood parks.

Table 4.3: Neighbourhood Park Development/Re-Development Opportunity

Park Name	Potential Development / Re-Development Opportunities
Alder Park	Playground upgrades/upkeep, community garden, signage/wayfinding, fitness program
Bradwell Park	Signage/wayfinding, community garden, fitness program
Crescent Valley School Park	Sport field upgrades, trail linkages, signage/wayfinding, outdoor rinks, playground upgrades, community garden
Eaton Park	signage/wayfinding, connections to natural space, fitness program
Erith Park	Sport facility upgrades/maintenance, planting strategies, furnishing upgrades/strategies, community garden, fencing upgrades, facility upgrades, signage/wayfinding, fitness program
Gerard Redmond Community Catholic School Park	Sport facilities maintenance/upgrades, community garden, playground upgrades/maintenance, planting strategies, furnishing upgrades/strategies, signage/wayfinding, fencing upgrades, trail connections to natural space
Mackay Park	Playground upgrades/maintenance, community garden, furnishing upgrades, planting strategies, signage/wayfinding, fitness program
Mountain View School Park	Sport facility upgrades, community garden, signage/wayfinding
Nickerson Avenue Park	Signage/wayfinding, playground upgrades/maintenance, fitness program
Sornberger Park	Signage/wayfinding, playground upgrades/maintenance, trail connections, planting strategies, furnishing upgrades, community garden, fitness program
St Gregory Elementary School Park	Community garden, sport facility upgrades, signage/wayfinding, trail connections to natural space

The integration of these park sites to the urban fabric and natural space is a key part of creating functional urban spaces. The development of an Urban Forest Plan will help guide development in Hinton and integrate urban and natural spaces into a cohesive system.

It is recommended that Hinton consider implementation an Urban Forest Plan and an annual Tree Planting Program to support urban growth and natural integration as a long term future item.

4.5.2 Community Parks and Facilities

Community Parks in Hinton are designed to deliver an inclusive outdoor facility with further enhancement than at the neighbourhood level. Community Parks and facilities should be planned and designed to provide infrastructure that satisfies a variety of recreational needs. At the time of development, a review of current Hinton requirements will determine appropriate enhancements to be performed. This process will help create a stable assortment of parks amenities and facilities across Hinton. Community Parks are required to meet the needs of Hinton as a whole, as a result they should be accessible by the trail network and main roadways to impact users beyond the neighbourhood level. Facilities in this category can include sports fields and active recreational features, and amenities within parks such as, playgrounds, picnic shelters, sports facilities and outdoor rinks. They can also include cultural, natural and educational facilities within parks and open spaces. The following section provides recommendations for the enhancement of existing Hinton parks and the development of future of these parks based on input from engagement and the POST inventory assessment.

Community Park Enhancements

As a result of ongoing analysis and the inventory and assessment process completed during the project, a number of potential improvements were identified for enhancement and upgrades within existing Community Parks to improve infrastructure, amenities, and trails.

It is recommended that Hinton evaluate each of these opportunities and develop and implement an annual upgrading/redevelopment capital program for Community Parks based on amenity requirements. A preliminary capital program has been provided in section 5.2.

New Community Parks

Community Parks in Hinton are used for a number of recreational purposes including active/passive recreation, athletics and social events. Recreational facilities that should be considered for use within Community Parks are specified within the Minimum Landscape Design and Construction Standards (as amended). Other varieties of park facilities can be considered for use within Community Parks further to what is existing currently on site including features like community gardens and outdoor exercise equipment. New facilities and improvements to Community Parks will expand the reach of these facilities to users of all ages and ability in Hinton.

Based on analysis and community feedback, **it is recommended that in developing future Community Parks, Hinton should include facilities from all four of the following park facility categories.** Delivery of new facilities in Community Parks should be based on current needs and evaluation of existing facilities within Hinton to confirm that duplication of infrastructure does not occur.

1. **Recreational Facilities:** Provision of recreational facilities such as playgrounds, outdoor rinks, outdoor fitness equipment, splash parks, multi-purpose fields, off-leash dog parks and community gardens is essential to support physical activity and healthy active lifestyle. Currently in Hinton Community Parks, there are nine existing playgrounds.
2. **Sports Facilities:** Provision of sports fields in Community Parks also assists to support physical activity and healthy active lifestyle. These facilities can range from multi-purpose rectangular fields to structured facilities like baseball diamonds, indoor/outdoor rinks and tennis courts.
3. **Social Gathering:** Provision of facilities to encourage social gathering in a passive or active way is integral to connecting site elements. Social gathering spaces should facilitate small, medium and large-scale groups. Facilities may include picnic areas, trash/recycling receptacles, picnic benches, fire pits, barbecues, landscaped areas, open space, lighting and notice boards, shelters and washroom facilities. Major social/civic gatherings, events and festivals should take place in Mary Reimer Regional Park, Athabasca Riverfront Park or Lions Park. Alternatively, tournaments and sport gatherings should take place in Mary Reimer Regional Park or Gordon Moore Memorial Park as these facilities have the necessary infrastructure to facilitate the needs of sport recreation. Four-season use should be designed into social gathering spaces and sites should be accessible by users of all ages and ability.
4. **Natural Features:** Hinton is placed within a rich natural context; blending POST amenities into that context will create an integrated network between parks and natural systems. Provision of natural features within POST development will provide users with a place where they can experience nature and engage in educational program. This can be achieved not only by protecting existing natural elements within Community Parks but also by strategically planting and implementing natural features throughout park sites. By deliberately creating an enhanced canopy and ecosystem throughout park sites, amenities will feel blended into natural surroundings and less manufactured. If sites lack natural features, development of reproduced natural features (e.g., forest, alpine meadow, prairie) can be introduced as a link to surrounding landscapes and natural features. Reproduced landscapes can also include interpretive features and increase the educative element of site program. Sites such as the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area and the Innovista Wetland Park have on natural facilities such as wetlands or stormwater management ponds that can be used with the provision of lookouts, boardwalks and dock structures.

4.5.3 Recreational Facility / Amenity Priorities

Throughout Hinton, there are facilities that are heavily used that support physical activity and healthy active lifestyle. The needs assessment and engagement initiatives completed as a part of this study have identified specific programs and amenities that support active life, target feature groups of users, and have extended value to POST. These facilities should:

- Be accessible for users of varying skill levels, ages and ability;
- provide a range of program, function and practices; and
- Be flexible to adapt for future needs and function.

It is recommended that Hinton plan to further develop and contribute to the following park facilities as individual project initiatives within the proposed Plan and within the overall POST system.

These projects and amenities would ultimately be placed within parks and would likely be included in site master planning as it occurs; some may also require more detailed feasibility planning if they require significant public investment.

Playgrounds: Playgrounds are an essential provided facility at the neighbourhood and community level. There are currently 19 playgrounds identified within Hinton community and neighbourhood parks. These facilities will age over time and should be maintained, updated and further developed to maintain safety and aesthetic standards on an as needed basis. Currently, Hinton has a good number of playgrounds for its population size but they are in need of maintenance and upgrades to maintain a high level of service.

Hinton Mountain Bike Park: Hinton Mountain Bike Park (the Bike Park) is one of Alberta's largest free access mountain bike parks which is located southeast of Hinton and south of Maxwell Lake within the South ASP boundary. Enhancement, expansion and connection of the current bike trails to the existing regional trail system is recommended. Assessment of ownership boundary conflicts is also recommended in future development of the Bike Park.

POST Programming and Amenities for Seniors: Hinton has a vibrant seniors population. Ensuring accessibility and programs to POST amenities is integral to seniors' wellbeing and continued use of the POST network. Development of POST facilities and programs (e.g., outdoor exercise circuits, interpretive educational elements, dedicated senior POST programs) is needed to ensure future use of POST amenities by seniors and four-season access to these amenities.

Amenities: Over time, amenity structures will deteriorate throughout the Hinton POST network. **It is recommended that Hinton reserve annual budget for the maintenance, replacement and installation of new POST amenity structures** to assure user experience and safety provisions are upheld as features withstand normal use. This can include trash receptacles, benches, picnic tables, bike racks, lighting and signage.

Winter Programs: Developing four-season programs throughout POST is imperative to engaging users. Hinton should oversee Outline Plan procedures to ensure appropriate facilities are being proposed to facilitate four-season programs such as outdoor rinks and warming huts.

Athabasca River Front: The Athabasca Riverfront Park is an amazing resource to the riverfront in Hinton and is currently underutilized and difficult to navigate. **It is recommended that the Athabasca Riverfront Park undergo an outline plan process and integrated into the Hinton POST network through further planning.**

4.5.4 Sports Fields

Hinton is well serviced from a sports facility perspective for a municipality of its size. Mary Reimer Regional Park currently hosts many of the available group sport facilities and venues in Hinton including baseball facilities, rodeo grounds and rectangular sports fields. Additionally there are various other sports facilities located throughout Hinton which include indoor areas, outdoor ice rinks, the Hinton Mountain Bike Park, baseball fields, rectangular fields, tennis courts and multi-sport areas. Municipal lands are also available for lease or rentals to accommodate staged events like the Hinton Mud Run. While facilities do adhere to population requirements, updates and enhancements may be needed and should be evaluated as the POST network evolves. **It is recommended that Hinton**

considers implementing user numbers monitoring of sports facilities and field provisions and user demand be evaluated as a long term future consideration in conjunction with policy #100 and #82 to determine if facility requirements have changed. Currently, Hinton has a good provision of sports fields for its population size.

4.5.5 Regional Parks

Regional parks are usually designed to provide for the recreational and leisure needs of all municipality and surrounding areas, plus attract users from larger geographic area or region. Most regional parks have a specific facility or feature which is the primary attraction; however, there are usually a wide variety of additional facilities, amenities, services and infrastructure. A key feature of a Regional Park is the natural or designed landscape and open spaces that facilitate large scale gatherings and recreation. Hinton has one Regional Park which is the product of the expansion of Mary Reimer Park into Yellowhead County. There is no immediate need to create more regional parks in Hinton, however long term planning and redevelopment for Mary Reimer Regional Park is recommended to ensure regional park facilities in Hinton offer an adequate level of service.

4.5.6 Open Spaces

Open Spaces include public land that is classified as Environmental Reserve Lots, Public Utility Lots, Stormwater Management Facilities, and Major Utility Corridors. Hinton's POST network hosts a substantial amount of Open Space which typically does not reserve a specific recreational purpose. The Minimum Landscape Design and Construction Standards (as amended) drives the standard for specific Open Space development, but these lands can be grown in many ways. The following sections explain some specific Open Space typologies and make recommendations for modifications to current principles.

Stormwater Management Facilities (SWMF)

SWMF can be wet ponds, dry ponds and constructed wetlands. They are typically built within new subdivisions and serve a necessary purpose for utility infrastructure as well as aesthetics in Hinton. There are currently eight SWMF in Hinton. While SWMF are not eligible for municipal reserve designation because they are considered Public Utility Lots (PUL) up to the high water line, surrounding park spaces, open space and trails above the high water line are eligible. An example of this is the Innovista Wetland Park in Hinton that has a constructed wetland acting as a SWMF and also hosts open space and trails along the perimeter. **It is recommended that Hinton establish a policy to maintain public access around SWMF to a minimum of 15% of the perimeter.**

Natural Open Space / Environmental Reserve

Retaining and protecting natural open space and environmental reserve is important to POST in Hinton. A prominent characteristic of Hinton POST facilities is the integration into natural areas and surrounding ecology. This is specifically demonstrated within the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area and Athabasca Riverfront Park. Hinton should continue to preserve natural open space and environmental reserves and enhance integration into POST amenities in all future development. The 2017 Hinton Land Use Bylaw provides a new land use district called Natural Open Space District (NOS) to accommodate environmental reserve or the voluntary dedication of environmentally sensitive areas. This provides a mechanism to protect environmentally sensitive areas that may not qualify as environmental reserve under the MGA. Site uses within NOS districts may include trails

and passive park infrastructure. Development of these districts is at the discretion of Hinton to conform to the general purpose and intent of the space.

In order to support protection and retention of natural open space and to support the new NOS district as defined in the Hinton Land Use Bylaw, **it is recommended that Hinton considers developing an Environmental Plan as a long term future consideration to support Council in setting priorities, decision making and environmental program management.** The creation of this document will help guide and strengthen the initiative to successfully manage natural areas in Hinton.

4.5.7 Trails

The Town of Hinton Community Development and Enhancement Plan states “Over the years, the Town has developed a trail network, utilizing environmental reserves, parks, utility right-of-ways and lots, designated roads and sidewalks. The intent is that over time, all centres of activities and open spaces are linked by the community trail system.”

The trail network in Hinton is the key connective fabric of the POST network. Ensuring accessibility and connectivity throughout Hinton is enhanced is the key to the success of POST implementation and development. The trail network is not only important for enhancing connectedness and accessibility but is also a key driver for recreation purposes. Growing the trail network to include exercise circuits, promoting senior and extracurricular program and further interconnect the neighbourhood and community park networks will ensure long-term sustainability and utilization from users. The trail network should evolve as Hinton does. See Map 2.2 and 2.3 to see the trail network in Hinton.

The trails analysis within the Plan is a holistic strategy to accommodate a comprehensive pedestrian trail system within the existing and future boundary of Hinton. Some key recommendations for the development of the trails network include:

- The importance of accessibility to all residents. These routes should be designed and constructed in such a way that assist modes of transportation, promote and encourage active transportation modes, improve overall mobility and alleviate general demand on vehicular transportation network.
- Promotion of recreational opportunities along the trail network, such as fitness stops in order to provide a unique recreational opportunity to applicable sites.
- Making program and design decisions with a focus on preservation and enhancement of the natural environment in order to create a sustainable balance between recreational activities and natural values of the trail system.
- Ensure to implement erosion and sediment control strategies in areas near stream, rivers, wetlands or other significant environmental features to protect the surface and minimize the potential hazards such as land slide and risk of sedimentation.
- Ensure that trail development and associated infrastructure are incorporated into the long-term capital plan of Hinton.

Trail network plans should be well established and communicated to potential residents before adjacent residential areas are developed. In new developments, have paths built, or at least identified prior to people coming in and buying lots so they can factor trail locations into their buying decisions and not be surprised after the fact. In established communities, involve the community in

the planning process. Potential concerns of future residents can be addressed during the trail planning and design phase (e.g., safety, vandalism, litter and privacy).

4.5.8 Proposed Trail Development

As a part of the asset evaluation and assessment portion of this Plan, key information and analysis took place on the existing condition and inventory of the trails network. This analysis identified several key actions:

- Consolidate the data associated with the current trail system;
- Evaluate the current condition of the trail network;
- Identify gaps in the current trail system; and
- Develop a growth strategy.

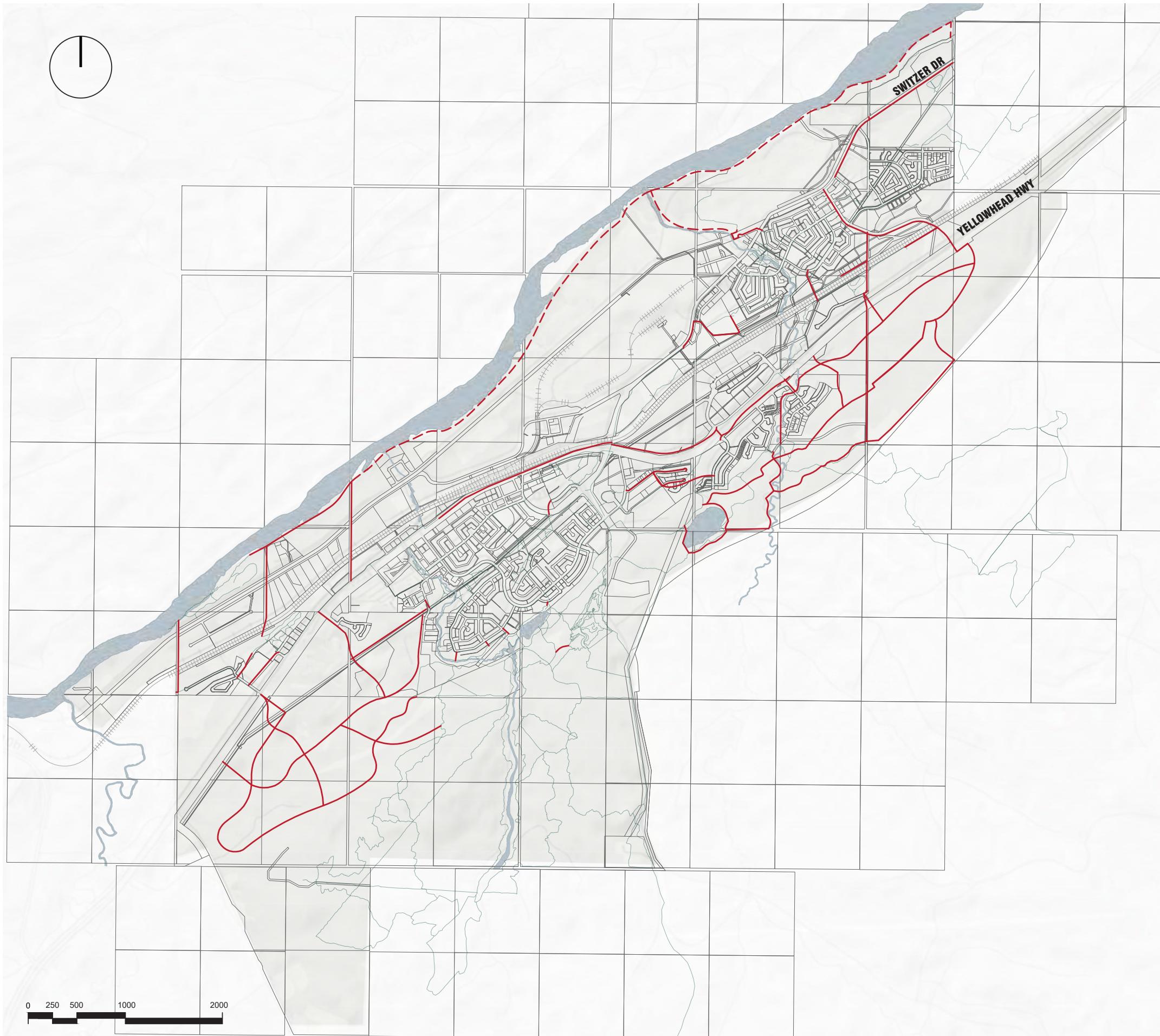
Through the study process, several trail segments were identified for enhancement, specifically the town trails that connect the POST network and the trail connections within, to and from the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area. There are also proposed trails and development recommendations identified for enhancement within existing approved planning documents (such as the 2018 ASP Documents) that should be considered and integrated into the existing trail network. Trail study and enhancement should be a key component of all future planning and master plan studies in order to continue creating and maintaining connections throughout the POST network. **It is recommended that Hinton continue with the current annual capital and operational program and continue to consider trail connections in current and future planning documents for the construction of Trails throughout the POST network.**

4.5.9 Enhanced Trail Experience

The trail network connects the POST network to surrounding natural areas and to town amenities. As part of this study, strategic connections have been identified where enhanced accessibility to surrounding trails can be improved to enhance the overall user experience. Other features that could be considered for addition or enhancement to the trail network are amenities like exercise circuits to engage a larger scale of user groups, including seniors. Enhancing the trail experience means creating accessible and engaging infrastructure to appeal to the larger group of users in Hinton. Other suggested trail enhancements may include, signage (trail maps, markers, interpretive signage), proper drainage, planting strategies or gardens, increased forested areas or naturalized planting, more amenities (benches, trash/recycling, washrooms, lighting), social gathering places, and viewpoints. Locations for enhancements will be site-specific and at the discretion of Hinton upon evaluation of the trail network during the consulting process. **It is recommended that Hinton evaluate individual opportunities and develop and implement an annual capital program for enhancing the trails experience.**

4.5.10 Trail Development in New Neighbourhoods

As new ASPs are adopted, Hinton should review and consider trail connections to, from and within new neighbourhoods. Proposed trails should connect to and increase accessibility to the trail network. Further to this, if SWMFs are proposed in new neighbourhoods, new trails may be developed above the high water line and considered to satisfy municipal reserve dedication. **It is recommended that Hinton review trails developed around SWMFs to ensure they have added value to the trail network and create enhanced connectivity and accessibility.**



Proposed Trail network

Map
4.1

Legend

- Hinton Boundary
- ||||| Railway
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- - - Proposed Riverfront Trails
*To be determined after land acquisition and approvals

Note* The proposed trails map is a guide for administration regarding the hypothetically ideal trail locations.



4.5.11 Trail Types

Hinton currently employs four standard trail types for improved trails: paved trails, gravel trails, boardwalk and natural trails. It is suggested that these trail types fall within the new classification system as identified herein. The proposed classification system focuses on trail usage and will help develop the trail network in Hinton by acknowledging the users who utilize these routes. Materiality of the existing trails will remain and be retrofitted as necessary to build strategic connections to the trail network. The focus with the trail network is on increased pedestrian access and safe use for non-motorized vehicles while maintaining access for maintenance units when needed. The following descriptions overview trail materiality in Hinton and how they relate to this plan.

Paved Trails

Paved Trails are formalized trails in Hinton. They can include asphalt, recycled rubber or concrete surfacing and range from sidewalks to pathways within parks and open spaces. Paved trails are to be used as multi use trails and classified as Local Pathway or Town Pathway. They are used as a pedestrian connector to various points of interest. Desired widths of paved trails are to be no less than 2 meters to accommodate two way traffic and safe usage of various modes of transportation including bicycles, wheelchairs, rollerblades and skateboards. To accommodate accessibility standards and safe usage for wheelchairs, linear slopes of 5% or less is recommended on all paved trails desiring wheelchair accessibility. Slopes between 5% and 8% will be permitted with landings and railings where necessary. Slopes larger than 8% are not recommended. Please refer to Minimum Landscape Design and Construction Standards for standards related to paved trails. Concrete and rubber surfaced trail details to be defined on a project specific basis. Please see Figure 4.3 for typical asphalt trail detail.

Gravel Trails

Gravel Trails are implemented in natural areas (parks, open space, reserve) and are utilized by non motorized vehicles. Users may include bicycles, pedestrians, wheelchairs, and cross country skiers, although the materiality may be undesirable for strollers, inline skates, and other non motorized wheeled transportation. Gravel trails fall within the Trails classification and offer major connections within parks and open space as well as unmapped trails. Gravel trails are also necessary as an erosion and sediment control measure. When trails are worn and earth is exposed, application of gravel surfacing will reduce erosion and decrease chances of washouts and further damage. Desired widths of gravel trails are to be within 1.5 and 2.5 meters depending on site conditions and user volume. To accommodate accessibility standards and safe usage for wheelchairs, linear slopes of 5% or less is recommended on all paved trails desiring wheelchair accessibility. Slopes between 5% and 8% will be permitted with landings and railings where necessary. Slopes larger than 8% are not recommended. Please refer to Minimum Landscape Design and Construction Standards for standards related to gravel trails. Please see Figure 4.4 for typical gravel trail detail.

Boardwalk

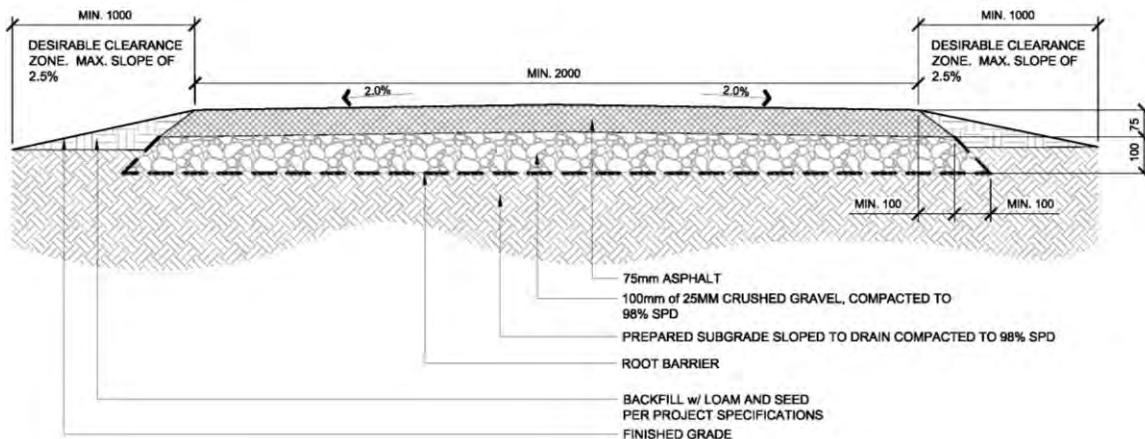
Boardwalk is currently only built within the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area and should only be built in environmentally sensitive areas that host wetlands or periods of standing water. Boardwalks are used to limit erosion from pedestrian traffic, to support and sustain sensitive environments, and to build interpretive experiences for site users. Boardwalks fall within the trails classification and accommodate pedestrian non motorized usage. Proposed boardwalks and modifications to existing boardwalks should be properly engineered, designed and follow the appropriate environmental

approvals/standards in order to protect the sensitive environmental conditions they reside in. The use of timber, concrete and steel are appropriate in the development of boardwalks as long as interaction with the ecosystem is monitored, limited, and follows environmental protocol. Please refer to Minimum Landscape Design and Construction Standards for standards related to boardwalks.

Natural Trails

Natural Trails are implemented in natural areas (parks, open space, reserve) and are utilized by non motorized vehicles. Users may include bicycles, pedestrians, wheelchairs, and cross country skiers, although the materiality may be undesirable for strollers, inline skates, and other non motorized wheeled transportation. Natural trails fall within the Trails and Bike Trails classifications. They can be typically found within the Hinton Mountain Bike Park and around other park spaces and natural areas (e.g, Innovista Wetland Park, Maxwell Lake Recreation Area, Athabasca Riverfront Park.) These trails are composed of compacted dirt and may have built structures along trail alignments (bike features, jumps). Desired width of natural trails can range from single track bike trails to 2 meter wide. Please refer to Minimum Landscape Design and Construction Standards for standards related to natural trails. Please see Figure 4.5 for typical natural trail detail.

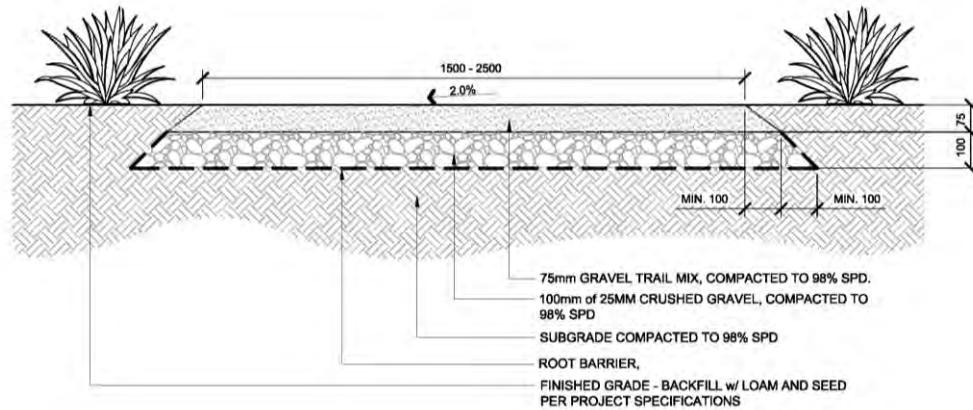
Figure 4.3: Typical Asphalt Trail Detail



NOTES:

1. REFER TO TOWN OF HINTON MINIMUM LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS (LATEST EDITION) FOR LATEST PAVING DETAILS.
2. HINTON MINIMUM LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS (LATEST EDITION) SUPERCEDES DETAILS WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT
3. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETERS
4. ASPHALT TRAILS CAN BE A MINIMUM OF 2000mm
5. WHERE ASPHALT PATHWAYS REPLACE MUNICIPAL SIDEWALK OR ARE INSTALLED WITHIN A ROAD RIGHT OF WAY, THE DESIRABLE CLEARANCE ZONES WILL NOT APPLY
6. ALL ASPENS OCCURRING WITHIN 3000mm OF PATHWAY TO BE REMOVED ANNUALLY
7. ALL EXCAVATION IS TO SMOOTHLY MEET EXISTING NATURAL GRADE
8. ALL DISTURBANCE ALONG TRAIL EDGE TO BE REHABILITATED PER HINTON MINIMUM LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS (LATEST EDITION) UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED IN PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

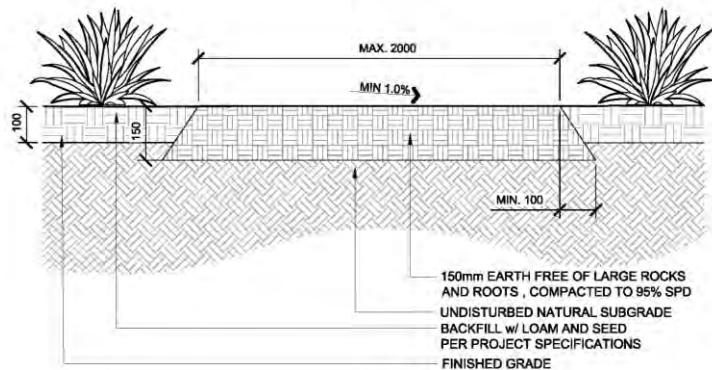
Figure 4.4: Typical Gravel Trail Detail



NOTES:

1. REFER TO TOWN OF HINTON MINIMUM LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS (LATEST EDITION) FOR LATEST PAVING DETAILS.
2. HINTON MINIMUM LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS (LATEST EDITION) SUPERCEDES DETAILS WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT
3. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETERS
4. GRAVEL TRAILS CAN BE 1500mm - 2500mm
5. ALL EXCAVATION IS TO SMOOTHLY MEET EXISTING NATURAL GRADE
6. ALL DISTURBANCE ALONG TRAIL EDGE TO BE REHABILITATED PER HINTON MINIMUM LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS (LATEST EDITION) UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED IN PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

Figure 4.5: Typical Natural Trail Detail



NOTES:

1. REFER TO TOWN OF HINTON MINIMUM LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS (LATEST EDITION) FOR LATEST PAVING DETAILS.
2. HINTON MINIMUM LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS (LATEST EDITION) SUPERCEDES DETAILS WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT
3. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETERS
4. NATURAL TRAILS CAN BE A MAXIMUM OF 2000mm
5. ALL EXCAVATION IS TO SMOOTHLY MEET EXISTING NATURAL GRADE
6. ALL DISTURBANCE ALONG TRAIL EDGE TO BE REHABILITATED PER HINTON MINIMUM LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS (LATEST EDITION) UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED IN PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS
7. COMPACTION REQUIREMENTS MAY BE MODIFIED ACCORDING TO SITE CONDITIONS
8. TRAIL TO BE GRADED ACCORDINGLY TO PROMOTE WATER FLOW OFF TRAIL

4.6 Proposed District Analysis

As part of this Plan for the purpose of organizing POST inventory, infrastructure and future planning and development initiatives, Hinton has been broken down into seven key districts. Each district is defined by boundaries selected based on established areas, planning documents and key natural features. The district breakdowns and analysis are identified herein.

4.6.1 Area 1 (East Valley District)

The East Valley District encompasses the established area within the Valley District and major parks facilities (Map 4.3). It is an area of significant current and future growth for Hinton as well as linked facilities to Yellowhead County. The East Valley District has been primarily focused on neighbourhood development, park development and heavy industrial development. There are four main POST features within the East Valley District: Mary Reimer Regional Park, Kinsmen Park, Crescent Valley School, and Athabasca River. The Athabasca River runs adjacent to Area 1 but does not have formalized public access due to I-HVY (Heavy Industrial District) land use designations and current industrial outposts situated along the river's edge. There will always be a relative imbalance of POST facilities in different development areas in Hinton as Hinton cannot replicate the recreational opportunities provided by Mary Reimer Regional Park and the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area.

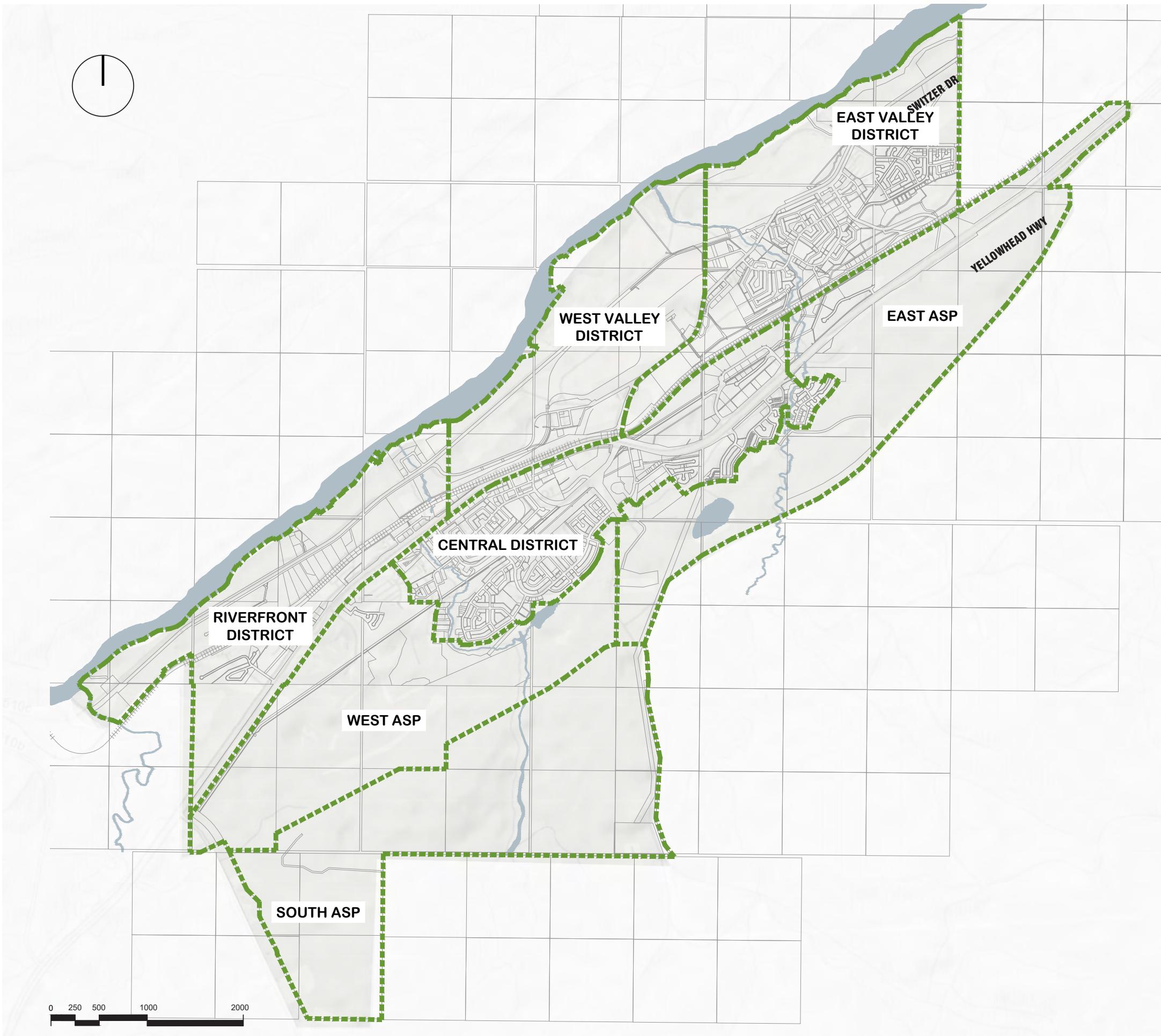
Existing Community and Neighbourhood Parks in the East Valley District include Kinsmen Park, Hinton Recreation Centre Park, Jessie Turgeon Park, Gordon Moore Park, Hinton Campground, Harry Collinge High School Park, Crescent Valley School Park, Alder Park, Mackay Park, and Nickerson Avenue Park. As mentioned in Section 4.5.1, Crescent Valley School Park has suitable space for the development of additional or enhanced park infrastructure features such as outdoor rinks, large scale playgrounds and community gardens. Alder Park, Mackay Park and Nickerson Avenue Park can benefit from improvements to playground infrastructure and features such as community gardens. As many of the neighbourhood parks are residential in nature and function more or less as "tot lots", inclusion of these parks into the Hinton trails network and signage and wayfinding network would benefit them greatly. Kinsmen Park is the sole Community Park in the East Valley District. Kinsmen Park Gordon Moore Park, Recreation Centre Park, Jessie Turgeon Park, and Harry Collinge High School would benefit from an evaluation of facilities and be assessed based on the five development categories as described in Section 4.5.2. While the provisions of POST and level of service are very good in these parks, **it is recommended that infrastructure improvements be considered for Kinsmen Park, Gordon Moore Park, Recreation Centre Park, Jessie Turgeon Park, and Harry Collinge High School.**

Mary Reimer Regional Park

Mary Reimer Regional Park is situated on the northeast corner of Hinton and shares land with Yellowhead County. Mary Reimer Regional Park serves the entire town and hosts a variety of sports, recreation, and regional events. The park has maintenance agreements in place to manage lands in conjunction with Hinton but in some cases the level of service has not been maintained. **It is recommended that further planning based on community consultation be conducted to fully determine the re-development / development potential for Mary Reimer Regional Park.**

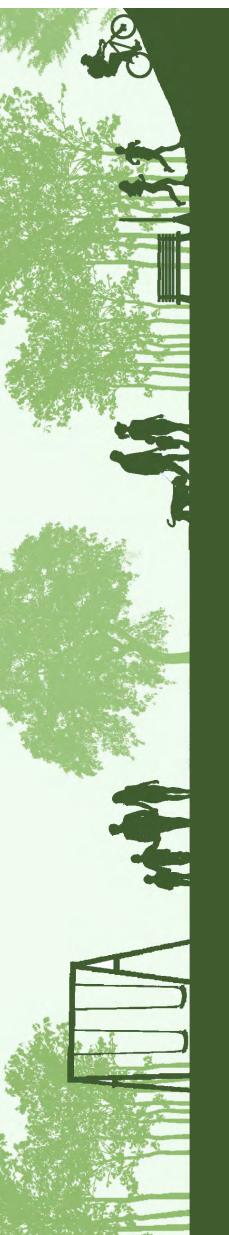
4.6.2 West Valley District

The West Valley District, west of Switzer Drive and north of the Yellowhead Highway, is an area of industrial and commercial lands with few POST resources (Map 4.4). The planned future



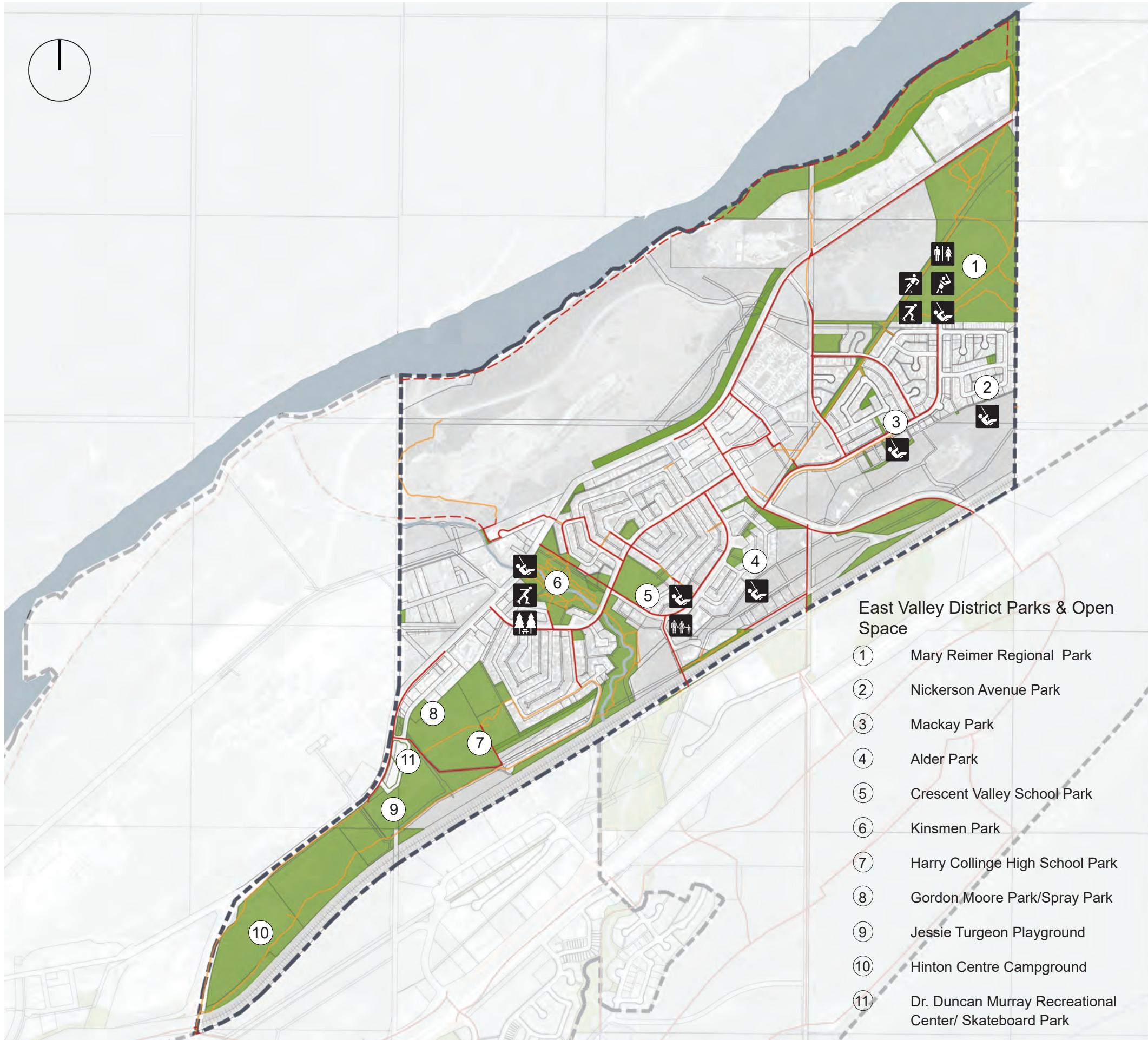
Master Plan District Map

Map 4.2



Parks, Open Spaces & Trails Master Plan

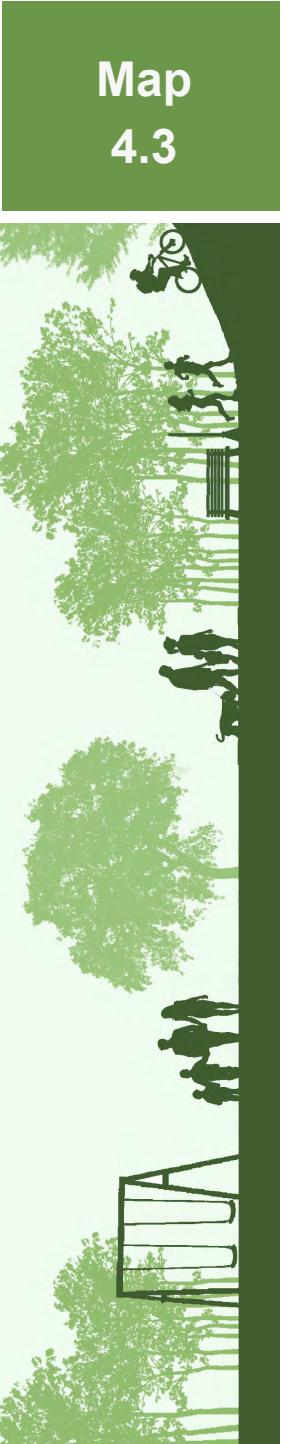




East Valley District

**Map
4.3**

Art Centre	Hospital	Recycle
Baseball	Interpretation-Centre	School
Birdwatching	Lookout	Shopping
Camping	Outdoor Skate	Skateboarding
Cemetery	Park	Soccer
Golf	Parking	Swimming
Hiking	Playground	Tennis
Hockey	RCMP	Tobogganing
Mountain Bike	Travel Info.	Track & Field
?		Football
		Curling



development of the West Valley District is limited to heavy industrial development and light industrial development. Proposed POST resources in this area are limited to potential trail connections. There are not any direct recommendations related to this Plan.

4.6.3 Riverfront District

The Riverfront District (Map 4.5) is within a unique area for development in Hinton. With access to the river, land use permitting acreage residential development and surrounding industry, the Riverfront District has potential for distinct natural spaces and residential dwelling. Two community parks reside within the Riverfront District: Athabasca Riverfront Park and Natural Resource Interpretive Park. There is also potential for linkages to the Hinton trail network to be strategically placed to connect these natural spaces to the rest of Hinton.

Athabasca Riverfront Park

Athabasca Riverfront Park is the main connection for the public to access the Athabasca River. With industry historically settling along the river, there is a detrimental disconnect from Hinton to the water's edge. River access is a key stimulant for the parks network as it creates a dynamic connection to the natural elements Hinton has to offer. The park currently offers a large open space, barbecues, a boat launch, trails, a shelter and a temporary washroom. Athabasca Riverfront Park currently suffers from disconnect to the rest of Hinton as well as aging, and at times dangerous, infrastructure. **It is recommended that further planning based on community consultation be conducted to fully determine the re-development / development potential for Athabasca Riverfront Park.** The significance of this park cannot go unnoticed. With industrial development surrounding the Athabasca River, the Athabasca riverfront serves as the missing connective link to Hinton's main water resource.

Connectivity to Athabasca Riverfront Park is the main deficiency identified. While there is a trail network within the park, access to it is restricted to vehicles by West River Road. The parks network needs to be strategically connected and accessible by pedestrians through non-motorized modes and logically navigated through strategic signage and wayfinding. **It is recommended that Hinton continue to focus on trail development and creating an inclusive, intuitive trail network that connects Hinton neighborhoods more directly to the park space.** Athabasca Riverfront Park should be accessible by foot and properly identified from Green Square and other POST facilities.

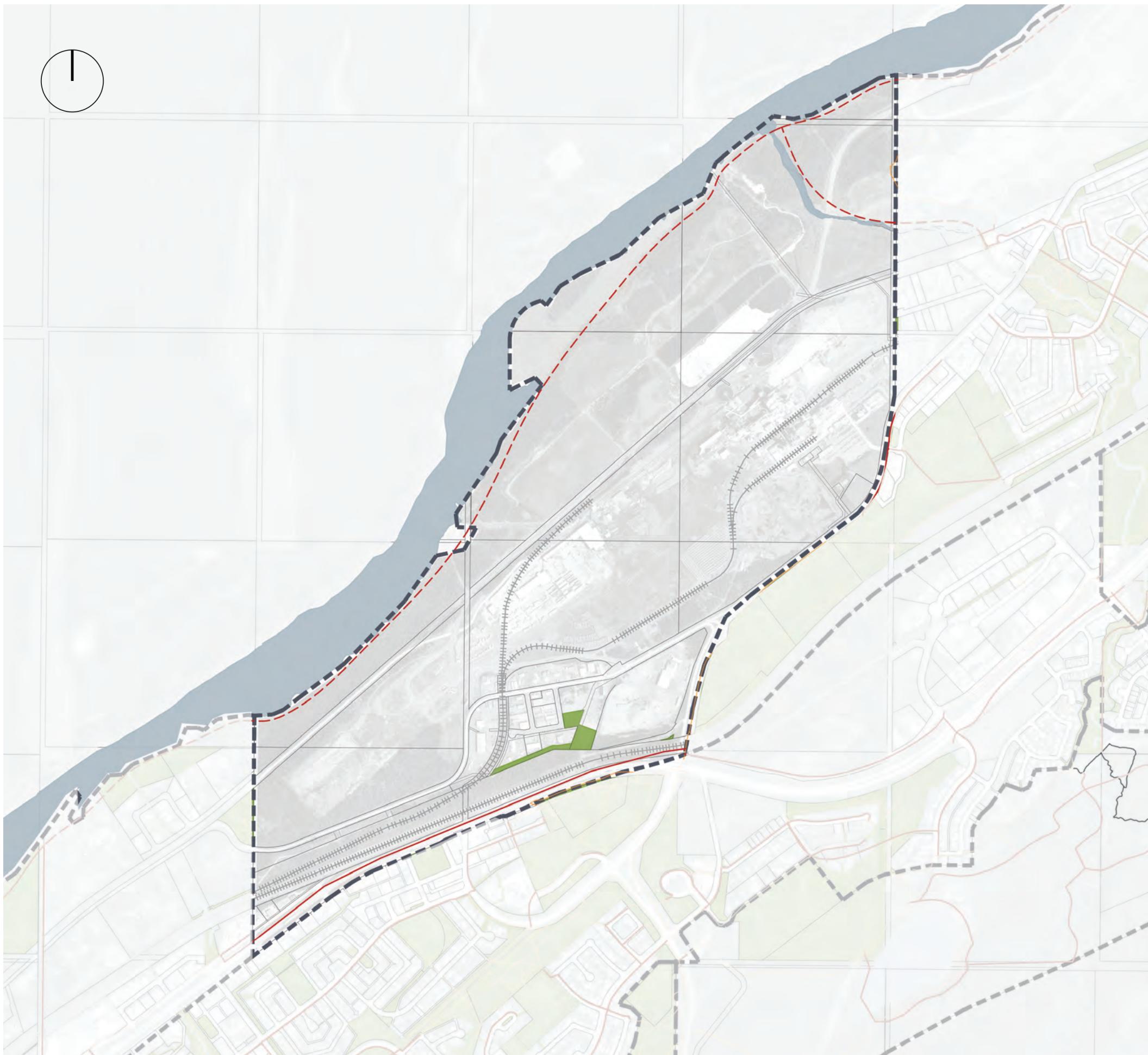
4.6.4 East ASP

The East Area Structure Plan (Map 4.6), prepared in 2017 devises a high level structure plan for the future development and planning of Area 4. Future trail connections have been proposed as well as strategic connections to the Thompson Lake Area. Other than the proposed information that is found in the East ASP, there are very few POST resources here and no further recommendations are being made.



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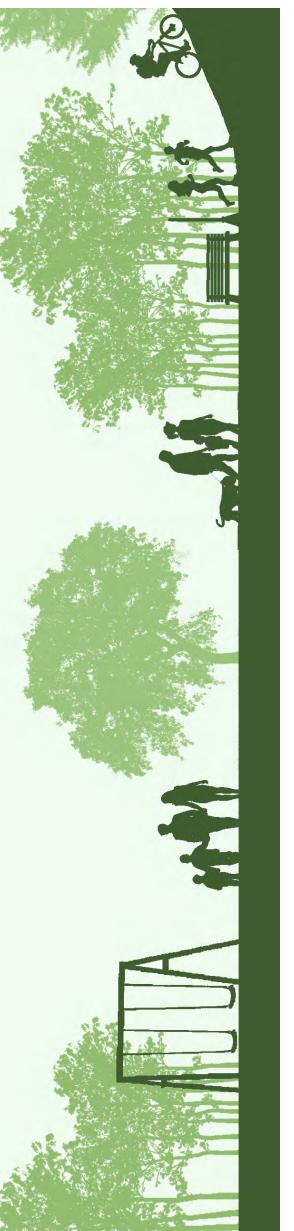
West Valley District



Art Centre	Hospital	Recycle
Baseball	Interpretation-Centre	School
Birdwatching	Lookout	Shopping
Camping	Outdoor Skate	Skateboarding
Cemetery	Park	Soccer
Golf	Parking	Swimming
Hiking	Playground	Tennis
Hockey	RCMP	Tobogganing
Mountain Bike	Track & Field	Football
?	Washroom	Curling

Legend

- Hinton District Boundaries
- Happy Creek Loop
- Bighorn Trail Loop
- Jack's Loop
- Town Trails
- Beaver Boardwalk
- Proposed Trails
- Proposed Riverfront Trails
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Water Bodies





Riverfront District

Map
4.5

Art Centre	Hospital	Recycle
Baseball	Interpretation-Centre	School
Birdwatching	Lookout	Shopping
Camping	Outdoor Skate	Skateboarding
Cemetery	Park	Soccer
Golf	Parking	Swimming
Hiking	Playground	Tennis
Hockey	RCMP	Tobogganing
Mountain Bike	Washroom	Track & Field
?	Football	Curling
Travel Info.		

Legend

- Hinton District Boundaries
- Happy Creek Loop
- Bighorn Trail Loop
- Jack's Loop
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- Proposed Riverfront Trails
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Water Bodies



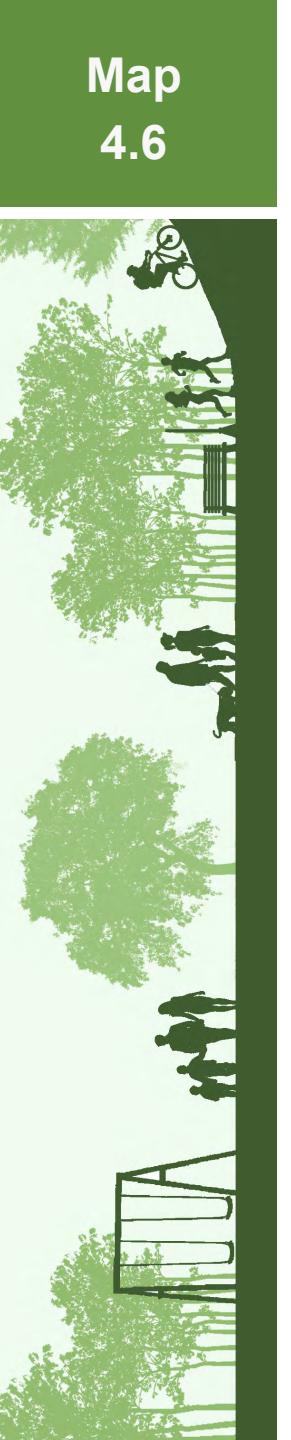
Parks, Open Spaces
& Trails Master Plan





East ASP

Art Centre	Hospital	Recycle
Baseball	Interpretation-Centre	School
Birdwatching	Lookout	Shopping
Camping	Outdoor Skate	Skateboarding
Cemetery	Park	Soccer
Golf	Parking	Swimming
Hiking	Playground	Tennis
Hockey	RCMP	Tobogganing
Mountain Bike	Track & Field	Football
?	Washroom	Curling



4.6.5 Central District

The Central District is the core of Established Area within Hinton (Map 4.7). It encompasses a wide variety of POST resources, town amenities, the downtown core, and school sites. There is a good provision of existing Community and Neighbourhood Parks including Bradwell Park, Sornberger Park, Eaton Park, Green Square, Mountain View School Park, Gerard Redmond Community Catholic School Park, St. Gregory Elementary School Park, Lions Park, and Erith Park. Area 5 has been primarily focused on neighbourhood development, park development and municipal amenities and serves as the core center of Hinton. It has access to many large park spaces through trail networks including the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area, Lions Park and Green Square. Further developing access and connection to the POST network in Hinton is paramount in the future development of this essential district.

POST Development in the Central District

As mentioned in Section 4.5.1, Bradwell Park, Sornberger Park and Eaton Park can benefit from improvements to playground infrastructure and features such as community gardens, senior program, signage, and wayfinding and trail connections. Sornberger Park in particular holds great potential as a gateway park to the Thompson Lake area and connected trails.

Erith Park, Mountain View School Park, Gerard Redmond Community Catholic School Park and St. Gregory Elementary School Park have suitable space for the development of additional or enhanced park infrastructure features such as outdoor rinks, large scale playgrounds, senior fitness programs, sport facility upgrades, trail linkages and community gardens.

Green Square

Green Square is the central downtown of Hinton. It has amenities available such as paved walkways, picnic tables, shelters, a tourist information center and wheelchair accessible infrastructure. With proposed future development and a slowly increasing population in Hinton, Green Square will take on an urban role within Hinton. It will act as the main tourism hub and be able to identify town and POST amenities. As Hinton grows, Green Square will need to develop and adapt to new needs and wants of the residents and tourism industry. **It is recommended that development of an Integrated Tourism Plan be considered as a long term future consideration to fully determine the re-development / development of tourism needs, marketing and facilities in Hinton and to further develop the “Enhance Tourism” initiative outlined in the Hinton Business Plan.**

Lions Park

Lions Park is a large green space located on the western boundary of Area 5. It hosts amenities such as basketball hoops, washroom facilities, parking, picnic tables, barbecues, playgrounds, trail access and wheelchair accessible amenities. While the provisions of POST and level of service are very good in Lions Park, it is suffering from degraded infrastructure and would benefit from upgrade funds allocated in the annual budget. Specifically, these upgrades would benefit the conditions of the barbecues, signage and wayfinding, playgrounds and sport facilities. **It is recommended that infrastructure improvements be considered to for Lions Park.**



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Central District

Map
4.7



Parks, Open Spaces
& Trails Master Plan



Trail Connections

Given the central location of Area 5, trail connections to the POST network are essential to successful access to Hinton amenities. Currently there are several town trails that break throughout the existing established area and involve navigation throughout residential networks. Signage and wayfinding strategies incorporated into the POST network would contribute to intuitive navigation of the trail system and increase access to POST amenities. Strategic connections have been identified to mend these breaks and show where linkages and/or signage and wayfinding strategies can improve the connections to POST amenities. **It is recommended that Hinton consider developing a strategy to update the 2011 Signage and Wayfinding manual as a long term future consideration in conjunction with the POST network.**

4.6.6 West ASP

The West ASP, prepared in 2017 (Map 4.8) devises a high level structure plan for the future development and planning of the West ASP district. Future trail connections have been proposed as well as strategic connections to the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area and the Beaver Boardwalk. The Hinton Golf Club, which is owned by Hinton but managed privately, resides within the West ASP boundary as does the southern portion of the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area, Beaver Boardwalk, Hinton Disc Golf Course and the Hinton Mountain Bike Park. The new proposed planning creates opportunity for future urban development to interact with natural elements and to build on the Hinton POST network. Hinton has acknowledged the significance of the natural areas within the West ASP and has begun to undertake master planning.

The Hinton Golf Club

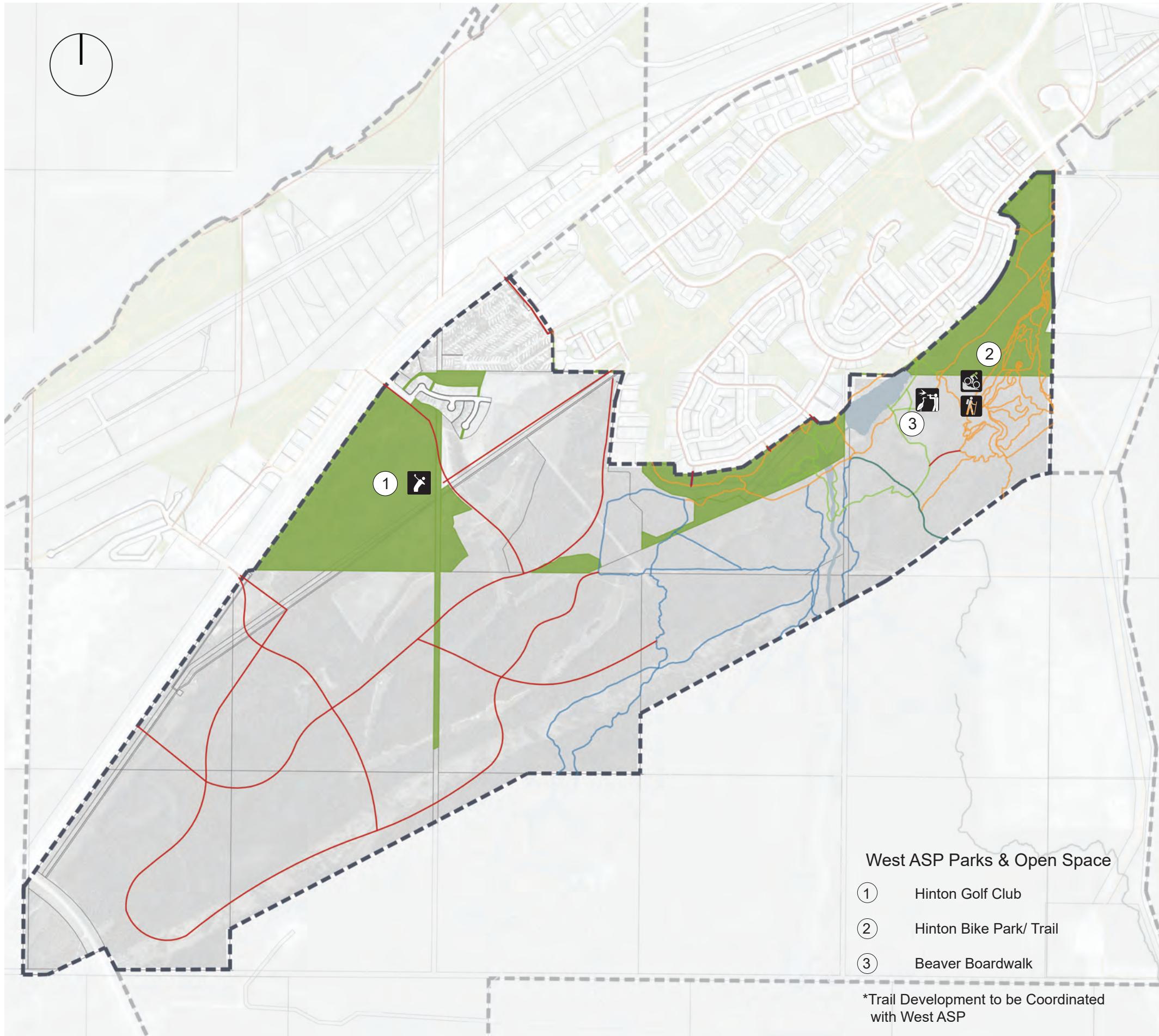
The Hinton Golf Club is located on Hinton owned land but is managed and maintained privately. The golf club is an important part of the POST network as it provides sport recreation that is otherwise not offered within Hinton. Hinton provides grants in support of the current agreement.

Maxwell Lake Recreation Area

The Maxwell Lake Recreation Area Master Plan, prepared in 2019 defines a new boundary and natural recreation area that encompasses Maxwell Lake, the Beaver Boardwalk, the Hinton Mountain Bike Park and surrounding trails system. The document aims to formalize a natural recreation and interpretive area for residents and visitors to enjoy and interact with. The Maxwell Lake Recreation Area will be a world-class facility and will create maintenance and operations efficiencies for the Hinton Parks Department. As an essential piece of the POST network, the facility will include interpretive elements, signage and wayfinding to create a sense of place, tie the recreation area into the POST network, and provide year round programs. **It is recommended that Hinton continue the evaluation of and planning for the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area.**



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Beaver Boardwalk

Beaver Boardwalk is the most notable POST feature in Hinton. It spans 3 km and is one of the largest inland boardwalks in North America. Given its initial development and aging infrastructure, there is a need to re-evaluate the condition of the boardwalk to ensure it remains an asset to the POST network. Hinton has commissioned the Beaver Boardwalk Concept Design and Feasibility Report (2018) to evaluate the condition of the boardwalk, financial implications of restoring/rebuilding it, potential design features, and evaluate long-term maintenance and operations implications associated with it. Through this assessment, a number of issues and constraints have been identified to be considered if it is decided that development should move forward. **It is recommended that Hinton continue the evaluation of the Beaver Boardwalk and restore / rebuild it so it continues to be a staple feature within the POST network.**

Hinton Mountain Bike Park

The Bike Park is a key feature of the POST network and is to be fully integrated into the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area. It is maintained and operated privately though agreements with Hinton and was developed by volunteer groups, much like the development of Beaver Boardwalk. Ownership conflicts exist with the Bike Park as parts of it are built on Crown-owned land. These conflicts exist with other Hinton POST infrastructure as well. It is not realistic to assume Hinton can purchase all the private land that has conflicts with municipal infrastructure. As such, **it is recommended that Hinton develop a Land Acquisition Strategy and Policy built around future land acquisition and existing ownership conflicts** in conjunction with other POST resources that struggle with ownership conflicts.

Hinton Disc Golf Course

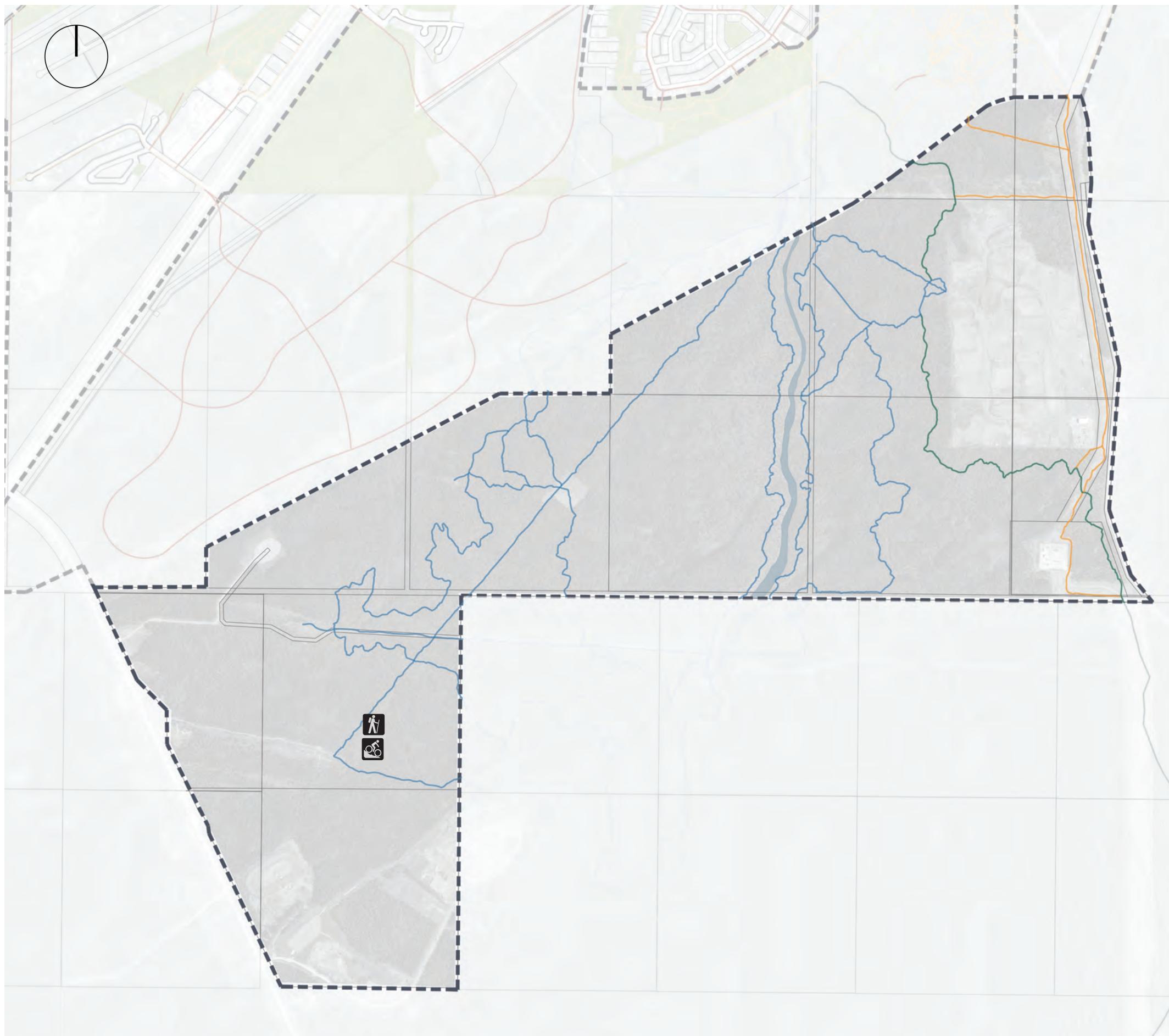
The Hinton Disc Golf Course represents a unique sports niche within the POST network. With disc golf popularity on the rise in North America and organizations like the Professional Disc Golf Association raising awareness and hosting international events, disc golf has become a popular pastime in Hinton. Much like the Bike Park, the Hinton Disc Golf Course was developed by volunteer groups and is situated on privately-owned land, which creates maintenance and operations intricacies for Hinton. As such, **it is recommended that Hinton develop a Land Acquisition Strategy and Policy built around future land acquisition and existing ownership conflicts** in conjunction with other POST resources that struggle with ownership conflicts.

4.6.7 South ASP

The South ASP, prepared in 2019 (Map 4.9) will aim to devise a high level structure plan for the future development and planning of the South ASP district. Currently the Happy Creek Loop, Bighorn Trail Loop and various town trails intersect with the South ASP. Other than the identified trails, there are very few POST resources in the South ASP.



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Legend

- Hinton District Boundaries
- Happy Creek Loop
- Bighorn Trail Loop
- Jack's Loop
- Town Trails
- Beaver Boardwalk
- Proposed Trails
- Proposed Riverfront Trails
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Water Bodies



4.7 POST Infrastructure Recommendation Summary

Table 4.4 summarizes the recommendations related to POST infrastructure. Timing and expected financial impacts are also indicated.

Table 4.4: POST Infrastructure Recommendation Summary

Recommendation	Timing (Short/Mid/ Long/Ongoing)	Financial Impact (Low/Medium/ High/na)
It is recommended that the Town follow the POST planning process outlined when contemplating and developing new or enhanced POST assets.	Ongoing	na
It is recommended that the Town establish and fund life cycle reserves for POST assets.	Ongoing	High
It is recommended that Hinton consider acquisition of land for POST via means other than reserve dedication during land development. A Land Acquisition Strategy and Policy built around future land acquisition and existing ownership conflicts could assist this consideration.	Mid	High
It is recommended that the Town use the classification system and associated typologies to plan and maintain POST inventories.	Short	Low
It is recommended that existing Named Parks be classified within the proposed typologies as outlined herein.	Short	Low
It is recommended that Hinton evaluate neighbourhood park development/re-development opportunities and develop and implement an annual upgrading/redevelopment capital program for enhancements to be administered to neighbourhood parks.	Mid	High
It is recommended that Hinton evaluate Community Parks on an as-needed basis to develop and implement an annual upgrading/redevelopment capital program based on amenity requirements and suggested park facility categories.	Mid	High
It is recommended that Hinton reserve annual budget for the maintenance, replacement and installation of new POST amenity structures to assist with consistent upkeep of POST amenities on an as-needed basis.	Ongoing	Medium
It is recommended that Hinton establish policy to maintain public access around SWMFs to a minimum of 15% of the perimeter.	Short	Low
It is recommended that Hinton review trails developed around SWMFs to ensure they have added value to the trail network and create enhanced connectivity and accessibility.	Short	na

Recommendation	Timing (Short/Mid/ Long/Ongoing)	Financial Impact (Low/Medium/ High/na)
It is recommended that Hinton continue with the current annual capital program and continue to consider trail connections in current and future planning documents for the construction of Trails throughout the POST network.	Ongoing	na
It is recommended that Hinton evaluate individual opportunities and develop and implement an annual capital program for enhancing the trails experience.	Short	Medium
It is recommended that Hinton continue to focus on trail development and creating an inclusive, intuitive trail network.	Ongoing	na
It is recommended that Hinton continue the evaluation of and planning for the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area redevelopment.	Mid	High
It is recommended that Hinton continue the evaluation of Beaver Boardwalk and restore/rebuild it so it continues to be a staple feature within the POST network.	Mid	High
It is recommended that further planning based on community consultation be conducted to fully determine the re-development/development potential for Mary Reimer Regional Park.	Long	High
It is recommended that further planning based on community consultation be conducted to fully determine the re-development / development potential for Athabasca Riverfront Park.	Long	High



5.0 Summary and Implementation

5.1 Summary and Implementation

Included in this Plan is a foundation, or rationale, for investment in POST articulated in a vision and goals to guide all actions related to POST. It also includes a number of recommendations related to POST service delivery and infrastructure. Refinements to the Town's open space classification system are outlined, as are parameters for how Hinton should work with partners in providing, allocating and charging for POST amenities, support and build capacity within the POST delivery system and market and promote POST opportunities so that more people use POST more often. Finally there are a number of recommendations related to both specific parks and trails within the town and direction related to specific amenities (like playgrounds and sports fields). This foundation and the recommendations outlined to help achieve it give the Town and other partner's strategic and tactical direction for the next 10 to 15 years.

Parks, open space, and trails in Hinton are accessible and inclusive and are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

- POST enables residents and visitors to be active and healthy
- POST provides opportunities for residents and visitors to connect with each other and their community
- POST have a positive impact on the natural environment in Hinton and the region

The implementation of the POST Master Plan has been developed to help Town Administration and Council enact recommendations in a logical and prioritized fashion based on information collected, research, feedback from engagement initiatives, and recommendations for development and service delivery. As well, the following criteria were considered in phasing specific POST projects.

- **Condition and Safety:** Projects which require immediate attention may be fast tracked for development. The protection and safety of users and residents who use POST infrastructure is of utmost importance.
- **Demand for Facilities:** Projects that are deemed to satisfy the needs and wants of users and stakeholders through input from engagement initiatives and the Community Needs Assessment.
- **Trends:** Projects that relate and correspond to ongoing trends identified nationally and provincially.
- **Connectivity:** Projects that share emphasis on connective and accessible elements of the POST network or need improvements to increase connectivity.
- **Community Sustainability Development:** Projects that address goals and objectives stated within the Community Sustainability Plan and that engage a range of users and residents (e.g., students, families, seniors)
- **Land Acquisition:** Addressing land ownership conflicts and lands that may need to be purchased by Hinton from private owners.
- **Planning and Design:** Projects that require outline plan preparation or comprehensive consultation processes.

Table 5.1 outlines actions related to the various recommendations outlined herein in the short (1-3 years), mid (3-5 years), and long term (5-10 years).

Table 5.1: Implementation

Action	Timing
1. Establish the annual capital program for POST	Short Term
2. Update the annual capital cost program to include specific allocation and requirements for POST typologies throughout Hinton.	Short Term
3. Neighbourhood Parks – implement an annual capital program for the planning and implementation of enhancements in existing Neighbourhood Parks focusing on the ongoing replacement/upgrading of aging facilities and amenities.	Short Term
4. Community Parks – implement an annual capital program for the planning and implementation of enhancements in existing Community Parks focusing on the ongoing replacement/upgrading of aging facilities and amenities and the addition and enhancement of parks with recreational, sport, social gathering and natural features.	Short Term
5. Update Minimum Landscape Design and Construction Standards and the Minimum Engineering Design Standards.	Short Term
6. Beaver Boardwalk – remediate the Beaver Boardwalk to enhance the lifespan, safety and accessibility of the structure amenity. Include community consultation in the remediation process to ensure an adequate and appropriate solution is utilized.	Short Term
7. Expand the capital program to include the implementation of features and amenities for enhancing the POST experience.	Mid Term
8. Establish a land acquisition strategy for POST and development resources.	Mid Term
9. Maxwell Lake Recreation Area – implement Phase 1 of the Maxwell Lake Recreation Area Outline Plan and engage in land acquisition to facilitate program and amenities as recommended.	Mid Term
10. Conduct further planning for a River Access Parks Network in which the riverfront is more accessible, integrated and used within the POST network.	Mid Term
11. Conduct further planning for Athabasca Riverfront Park programming and improvements based on recommendations cited within the suggested River Access Parks Network.	Mid Term
12. Athabasca Riverfront Park – design and construct park improvements based on recommendations identified in the Athabasca Riverfront Park planning process.	Long Term
13. Review constructed improvements and additions to the POST network to verify usage and service deliverables.	Long Term

Action	Timing
14. Revisit POST Master Plan to ensure accuracy and relevance are maintained within Hinton development.	Long Term / Ongoing
15. Review of capital budget to verify utilized allocation of funds for POST development per the recommendations in the POST Master Plan.	Long Term / Ongoing

5.2 Recommended Capital Program

Typical parks budgets are approximately 2% of municipal operating budget (based on analysis from Ontario and Canadian Municipalities). Alternatively, 4% of Municipal tax is equivalent to the approximate parks budget. The following breakdown shows Hinton's allocated budgets from 2018

2018 operating budget - \$29,508,096

1.5% = \$442,621

2.0% = \$590,161

2018 Municipal Tax Income: \$12,102,455

4% = \$484,098

2018 Capital Budget: \$7,794,552

2018 Parks Operations Budget: \$326,386

2018 Trail Operations Budget: \$10,204

2018 One Time Operations Budget from reserves: 113,000 (60k Beaver Boardwalk repairs and maintenance and 53k pine beetle control)

2018 One Time Operational Projects: \$1,956,076

The proposed capital budget attempts to adhere to these principles to create attainable and practical outcomes over the next 10 years. Fund allocation is based on the current state of POST amenities and priorities identified by the Town throughout the master plan process. If priorities of the Town and Council deem funding to be reallocated, this can be done on an as needed basis per annum. The Town should continue to implement its current operational budget to operate and maintain parks and open spaces with consideration that this funding could be increased on an as needed basis.

Since many of the recommendations within this Master Plan pertain to updates to past planning initiatives and with consideration to the vastness of proposed upgrades, a suggested capital plan is being provided as a guide for fund allocation for the next 10 years. As illustrated in table 5.2, these capital items cover the extent of recommended POST development for the next 10 years. Please note that Land Acquisition is not included in the forecasted costs.

Table 5.2: Suggested Capital Program

Neighbourhood Park Suggested 10 Year Capital Program

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Alder Park Improvements		\$ 70,000.00								
Bradwell Park Improvements				\$ 50,000.00						
Crescent Valley School Park Improvements						\$ 50,000.00			\$ 50,000.00	
Eaton Park Improvements					\$ 50,000.00					
Erith Park Improvements			\$ 150,000.00							
Gerard Redmond Community Catholic School Park Improvements	\$ 250,000.00					\$ 250,000.00				
Mackay Park Improvements				\$ 80,000.00				\$ 60,000.00		
Mountain View School Park Improvements							\$ 50,000.00			\$ 50,000.00
Nickerson Ave Park Improvements		\$ 50,000.00								
Sorberger Park Improvements								\$ 150,000.00		
St Gregory Elementary School Park Improvements					\$ 60,000.00					
Subtotal:	\$250,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$130,000.00	\$110,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$100,000.00
10 Year Subtotal	\$1,420,000.00									

Suggested Overall 10 Year Capital Program (Planning, Policy, Community Parks, Regional Parks)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Land Acquisition Strategy			\$ 30,000.00							
Minimum Landscape Design and Construction Standards	\$ 75,000.00									
Beaver Boardwalk Redevelopment		\$ 350,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00				
Maxwell Lake Recreation Area				\$ 400,000.00		\$ 400,000.00				
Athabasca Riverfront Park Outline Plan			\$ 80,000.00							
Kinsmen Park Improvements					\$ 50,000.00				\$ 50,000.00	
Lions Park Improvements					\$ 100,000.00					
Gordon Moore Park / Recreation Park / Jessie Turgeon Park / Harry Colling Park Improvements					\$ 100,000.00		\$ 50,000.00			
Mary Reimer Regional Park Outline Plan			\$ 80,000.00							
Natural Resources Interpretive Park Improvements	\$ 50,000.00						\$ 30,000.00			
Trail Connectivity		\$ 200,000.00		\$ 200,000.00		\$ 200,000.00		\$ 200,000.00		\$ 200,000.00
Subtotal:	\$125,000.00	\$550,000.00	\$690,000.00	\$1,100,000.00	\$1,250,000.00	\$1,600,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$200,000.00
10 Year Subtotal	\$5,845,000.00									
Total Capitol Program	\$375,000.00	\$670,000.00	\$840,000.00	\$1,230,000.00	\$1,360,000.00	\$1,850,000.00	\$180,000.00	\$260,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$300,000.00
10 Year Total	\$7,265,000.00									

Notes

1. Capital allocation is based on infrastructure condition, need for assessment and priority as discussed with Town staff over the course of the POST Master Plan process.
2. Future site specific amenity should be relevant to site priorities and location. Funds have been allocated for overall site and amenity improvements. Please refer to section 4.5 of this document for appropriate site amenities.
3. Parks amenity maintenance originally allocated \$100,000 per year in additional operational budget to account for maintenance and operations deficiencies. This number has been scaled back to adhere to the existing operational budget. The town may want to consider additional fund allocation in the future.
4. The town should continue with its operational budget allocation identified within the current Capital Budget
5. Funding for additional One-Time Capital Projects may be required with consideration for the Town's priorities in conjunction with Outline Plan initiatives.
6. Allocate budget as shown for Beaver Boardwalk demonstrates full redevelopment of amenity. Capital may be increased in future years for full redevelopment at the discretion of Council as shown within table 5.2. No decisions have been made at this time to the future of the Beaver Boardwalk.



Wearing swing set with overgrown surfacing at Alder Park off Alder Drive in the East Valley District



Rusting and damaged baseball backstop fencing at Erith Park off Macleod Avenue in the Central District

5.3 Long Term Items for Future Consideration

The following list of items have been identified by the project team as long term capital items that can benefit the overall POST initiative. These items will benefit POST and assist the Town in developing policy and planning processes. Within the immediate requirements, these items have been deemed as long term items for consideration based on the priorities of Town staff and Council.

1. **POST User Statistics and Monitoring Program** – This program will allow Hinton to prioritize park enhancements and delineate a hierarchy amongst amenity. Small amounts of funding can be allocated every other year to install systems like monitoring cameras or sign in programs. However, this is not an immediate priority given the size of the Hinton and a general understanding of POST user ship.
2. **Urban Forestry / Tree Planting Program** – This program can benefit the health of public space and overall planting strategies to maximize efficiency through development, maintenance and operations. This program is not immediately necessary given the size of Hinton and low overall operations and maintenance for urban places.
3. **Environmental Plan** – Hinton has a number of natural environments that are integrated into POST, as well as protected environments. This plan could help with the preservation of these amenities and guide future development initiatives as well as setting priorities, decision making and environmental program management. Alternatively, environmental considerations can be highlighted in one time capital projects as they arise (development, planning documents)
4. **Tourism Plan** – As Hinton grows, there could be a need to further develop the tourism development and operational guidelines. POST amenities in Hinton are currently utilized in small numbers by travelling user groups, educational programs, and residual visiting from Jasper during summer months. Implementation of a tourism plan could help the utilization of these seasonal users and provide direction for growing tourism in Hinton. This plan is not an immediate priority of the Town.
5. **Signage and Wayfinding Manual** – The current manual was developed in 2011. It is still relevant and implemented. This plan could be reviewed for updates after the 10-15 year mark as it is beginning to age. Hinton should continue to implement this plan to create more consistencies



in signage and wayfinding throughout town and the POST network. As the document ages, there may be a need for an aesthetic and functional update to be incorporated into the plan.

5.4 Conclusion

The POST Master Plan lays out long-term recommendations for the provision and development of POST resources in Hinton. Although the vision for POST will remain constant, as the town evolves and market conditions change, the relevance of the recommendations contained in this Plan may also change. For this reason, after a period of five years the recommendations in the Plan should be re-evaluated to ensure accuracy is maintained with new and ongoing capital budgets and development initiatives.

It is also important that the Town include POST Master Plan recommendations into the Hinton Long-Term Capital Plan and other financial processes. As new amenities and parks are introduced in the community, the Town must assess maintenance and operations needs as it relates to resource and budget allocation; the more POST assets in the community and increased utilization of existing ones the more operating resources need to be allocated to operate and maintain infrastructure.

This Plan was developed for Hinton, by Hinton. It provides guidance to help Hinton and its partners achieve even more success from an already successful POST service delivery system and network of spaces and trails. The Plan is meant to be a reference point for decision making that is ultimately focused on getting the most out of current and future parks, open space, and trails assets in Hinton and region.



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Appendix A

Parks, Open Space and Trails Engagement Summary



Town of Hinton

Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan Phase 1 – Engagement Summary

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Project Background

In 2018, the Town of Hinton initiated the Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Master Plan to explore the existing conditions and gather feedback on needs and wants for the parks, open space and trails network in Hinton in order to develop recommendations for future improvements, amenities and facilities.

Engagement Process

In June 2018, the Town of Hinton provided several engagement opportunities to provide information about existing conditions and to collect feedback from community members on their needs and wants for the parks, open space and trails network in Hinton. Engagement opportunities included:

- A stakeholder open house with key community and recreation group representatives on June 15, 2018;
- Pop-up events at the Mud Run, Green Square and at the Rotary Spray and Play Park on June 16, 2018;
- An online survey available from June 1 to July 4, 2018;
- Feedback forms were provided to grade 5, 7 and grade 8 students;
- Display boards with sticky notes to gather feedback at Town Hall between June 18 to 30; and
- A youth colouring contest to gather feedback from youth in Hinton.

Approximately 30 people attended the stakeholder open house and spoke to team representatives at the pop-up events, 36 people completed the online survey, 92 students completed surveys, and 45 submissions from the colouring contest.

What We Asked – In-person and Online

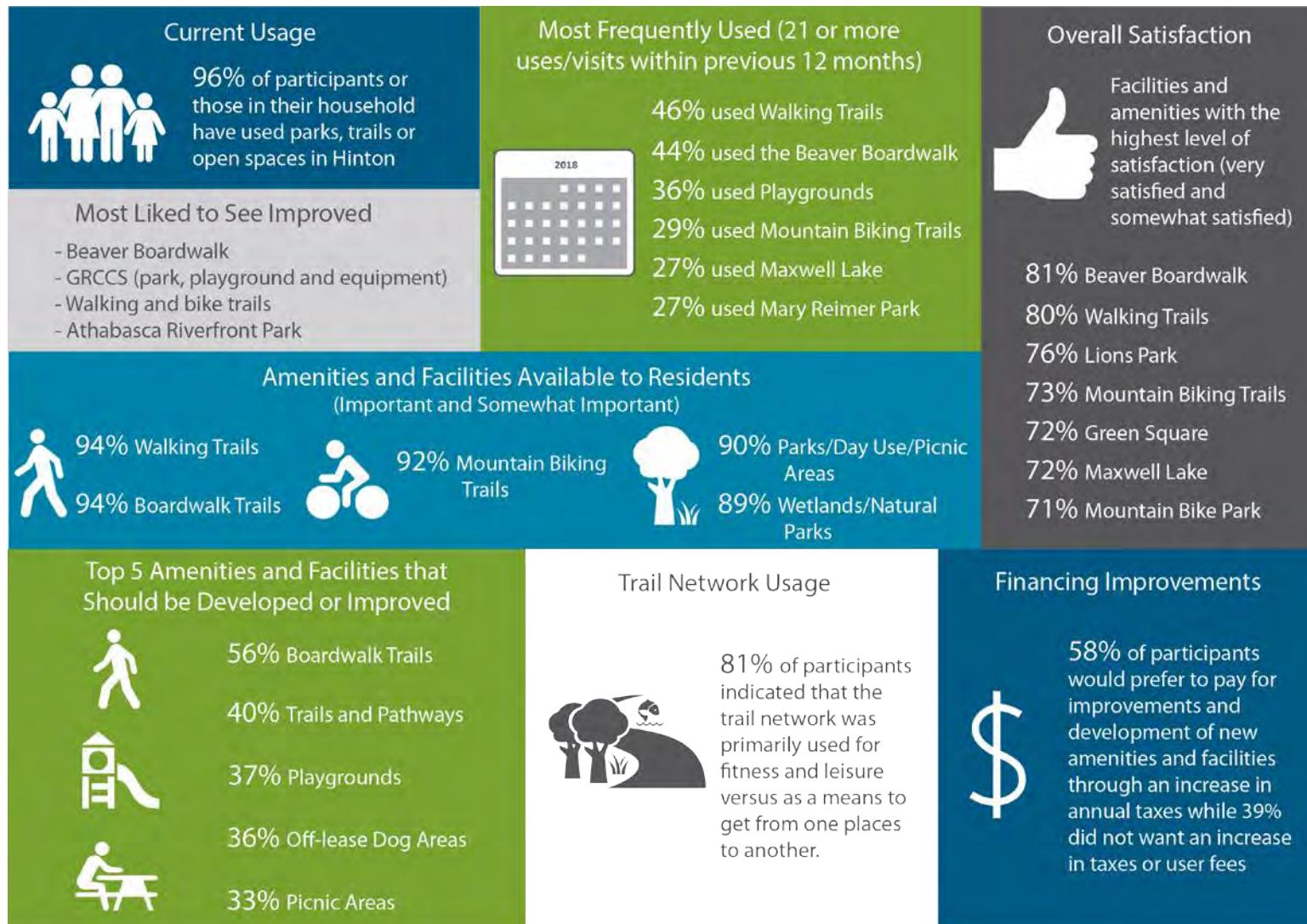
We asked community members the following questions:

- Frequency of use within the past 12 months of existing facilities, parks, open space and trails in Hinton;
- What parks and open spaces they use, where there might be some gaps or opportunities for new or enhanced parks and open spaces;
- What trails they use, where there might be some gaps or opportunities for new or enhanced trails;
- Level of satisfaction regarding existing facilities, park, open spaces and trails in Hinton;
- How they use trails – for transportation purposes to recreation purposes;
- Improvements needed at existing parks, open spaces and trails in Hinton;
- How important key amenities, facilities, parks, open spaces and trails in Hinton are;
- Top five amenities and facilities that should be developed (new) or enhanced (existing) in Hinton; and
- How improvements to existing amenities and facilities should be paid for by households.

Next Steps

Feedback received from community members in the first phase of engagement and through an inventory of facilities and amenities, a needs assessment will be completed and the findings will be shared in September 2018.

High Level Summary (Adults and Student Responses Combined)

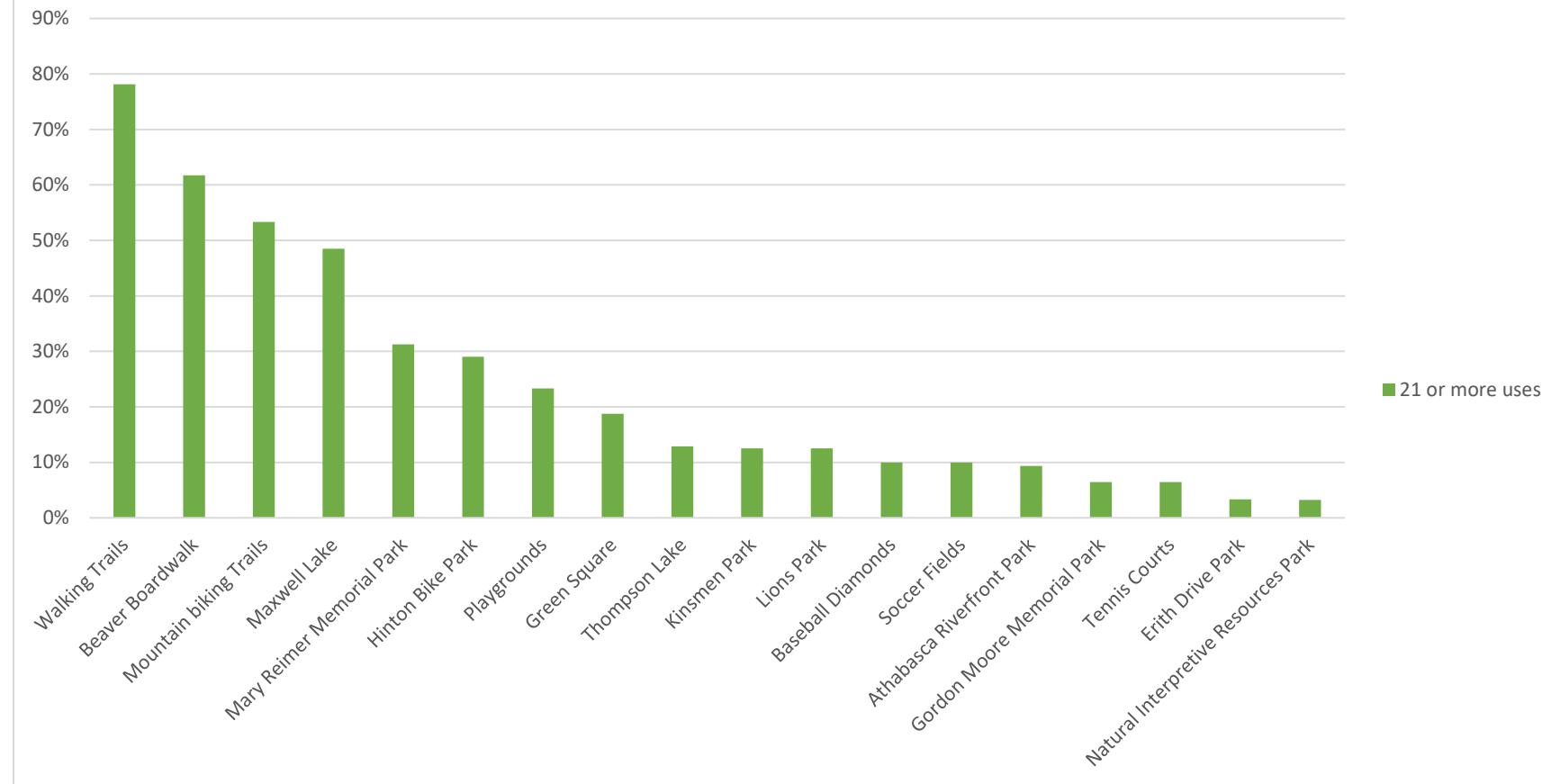


Summary of What We Heard

Current Usage

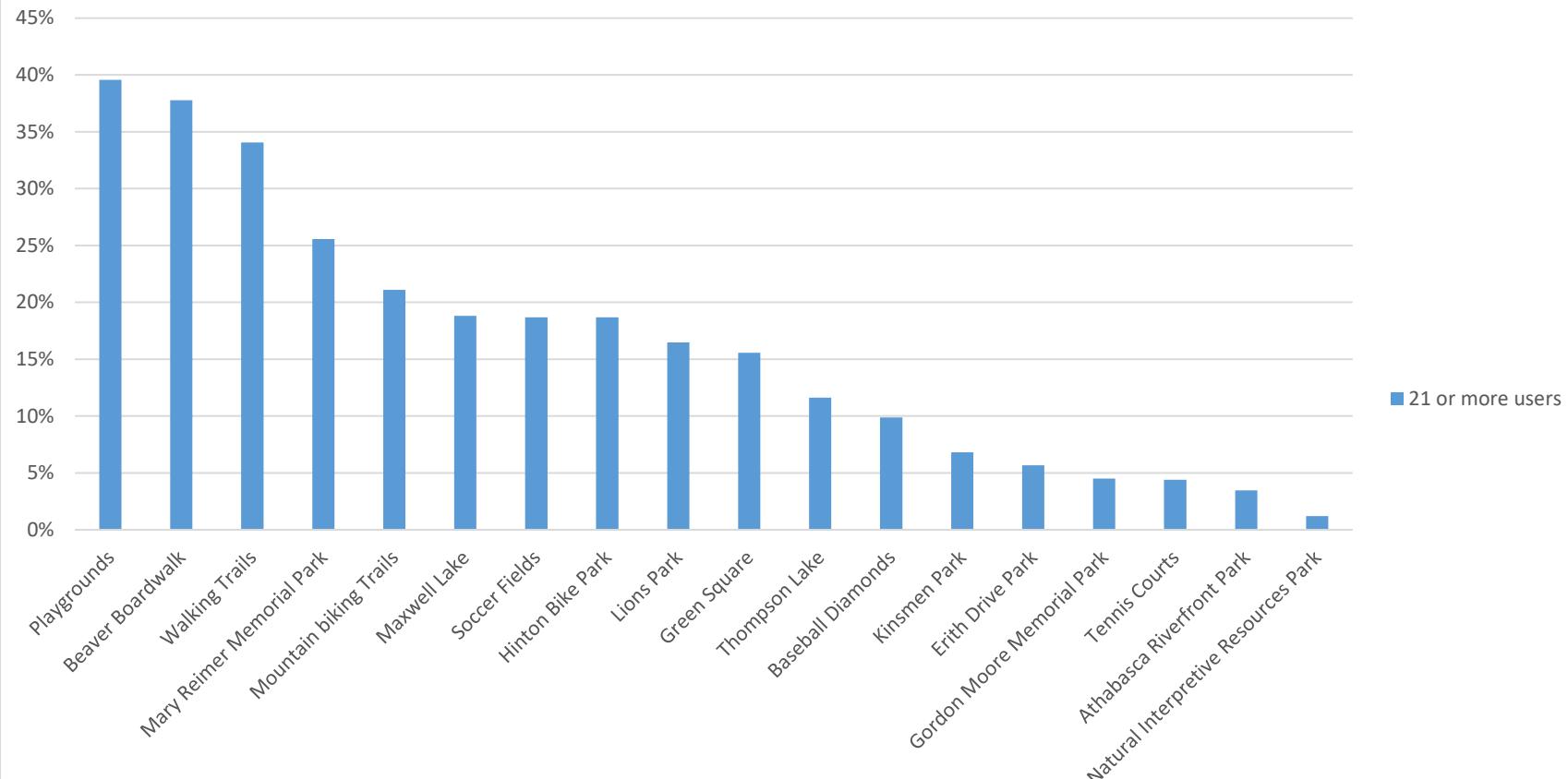
Adult Responses

Using the list below, please indicate how frequently members of your household used each within the previous 12 months.



Student Responses

Using the list below, please indicate how frequently members of your household used each within the previous 12 months.



Adult Responses	1-5 Uses	6-10 Uses	11-20 Uses	21 or More Uses	Did Not Use	Unsure	Total						
Athabasca Riverfront Park	50.00%	16	3.13%	1	6.25%	2	9.38%	3	31.25%	10	0.00%	0	32
Gordon Moore Memorial Park	25.81%	8	19.35%	6	3.23%	1	6.45%	2	35.48%	11	9.68%	3	31
Kinsmen Park	31.25%	10	6.25%	2	6.25%	2	12.50%	4	43.75%	14	0.00%	0	32
Lions Park	31.25%	10	15.63%	5	12.50%	4	12.50%	4	28.13%	9	0.00%	0	32
Mary Reimer Park	31.25%	10	9.38%	3	3.13%	1	31.25%	10	25.00%	8	0.00%	0	32
Erith Drive Park	33.33%	10	3.33%	1	0.00%	0	3.33%	1	60.00%	18	0.00%	0	30
Green Square	37.50%	12	21.88%	7	3.13%	1	18.75%	6	18.75%	6	0.00%	0	32
Natural Interpretive Resources Park	35.48%	11	6.45%	2	6.45%	2	3.23%	1	41.94%	13	6.45%	2	31
Thompson Lake	25.81%	8	3.23%	1	6.45%	2	12.90%	4	48.39%	15	3.23%	1	31
Maxwell Lake	15.15%	5	15.15%	5	12.12%	4	48.48%	16	9.09%	3	0.00%	0	33
Beaver Boardwalk	8.82%	3	17.65%	6	11.76%	4	61.76%	21	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	34
Baseball Diamonds	16.67%	5	0.00%	0	3.33%	1	10.00%	3	66.67%	20	3.33%	1	30
Soccer Fields	23.33%	7	0.00%	0	6.67%	2	10.00%	3	56.67%	17	3.33%	1	30
Tennis Courts	25.81%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.45%	2	64.52%	20	3.23%	1	31
Walking Trails	6.25%	2	9.38%	3	3.13%	1	78.13%	25	0.00%	0	3.13%	1	32
Mountain biking Trails	13.33%	4	10.00%	3	6.67%	2	53.33%	16	13.33%	4	3.33%	1	30
Hinton Bike Park	32.26%	10	19.35%	6	0.00%	0	29.03%	9	19.35%	6	0.00%	0	31
Playgrounds	10.00%	3	13.33%	4	10.00%	3	23.33%	7	40.00%	12	3.33%	1	30

Student Responses	1-5 Uses	6-10 Uses	11-20 Uses	21 or More Uses	Did Not Use	Unsure	Total						
Athabasca Riverfront Park	13.79%	12	5.75%	5	3.45%	3	3.45%	3	41.38%	36	32.18%	28	87
Gordon Moore Memorial Park	12.36%	11	10.11%	9	7.87%	7	4.49%	4	39.33%	35	25.84%	23	89
Kinsmen Park	32.95%	29	9.09%	8	12.50%	11	6.82%	6	19.32%	17	19.32%	17	88
Lions Park	31.87%	29	23.08%	21	18.68%	17	16.48%	15	6.59%	6	3.30%	3	91
Mary Reimer Park	28.89%	26	11.11%	10	11.11%	10	25.56%	23	15.56%	14	7.78%	7	90
Erith Drive Park	31.82%	28	11.36%	10	19.32%	17	5.68%	5	18.18%	16	13.64%	12	88
Green Square	21.11%	19	20.00%	18	20.00%	18	15.56%	14	13.33%	12	10.00%	9	90
Natural Interpretive Resources Park	14.29%	12	4.76%	4	3.57%	3	1.19%	1	35.71%	30	40.48%	34	84
Thompson Lake	26.74%	23	15.12%	13	8.14%	7	11.63%	10	25.58%	22	12.79%	11	86
Maxwell Lake	32.94%	28	16.47%	14	12.94%	11	18.82%	16	11.76%	10	7.06%	6	85
Beaver Boardwalk	23.33%	21	24.44%	22	13.33%	12	37.78%	34	1.11%	1	0.00%	0	90
Baseball Diamonds	26.37%	24	12.09%	11	8.79%	8	9.89%	9	32.97%	30	9.89%	9	91
Soccer Fields	29.67%	27	13.19%	12	14.29%	13	18.68%	17	18.68%	17	5.49%	5	91
Tennis Courts	40.66%	37	15.38%	14	8.79%	8	4.40%	4	21.98%	20	8.79%	8	91
Walking Trails	30.77%	28	17.58%	16	13.19%	12	34.07%	31	2.20%	2	2.20%	2	91
Mountain biking Trails	22.22%	20	13.33%	12	17.78%	16	21.11%	19	15.56%	14	10.00%	9	90
Hinton Bike Park	24.18%	22	14.29%	13	14.29%	13	18.68%	17	21.98%	20	6.59%	6	91
Playgrounds	19.78%	18	15.38%	14	18.68%	17	39.56%	36	3.30%	3	3.30%	3	91

Other:

Adult Responses:

- Disc golf - 6 to 10 uses
- Frequently use the park along Reimer Drive where it meets Maxwell Lake although it is not well maintained with ruts from tire tracks, a mud pit at the bottom and a sand pit by the picnic tables. Also use the slope-side trails between Maligne Drive and Switzer Drive as well as the stairs behind fuller. These trails should be formalized and increased maintenance on the stairs which are treacherous in Winter.
- Maxwell Lake skating Oval - 400m speed skating track 40+ uses. Disc Golf Course (new - East of Robb Road) 20+ uses. Golf Course 6-10 uses
- We both walk every day on town trails.
- I would love to use the Athabasca River front park if it was developed more. More parking is a definite need.

Student Responses:

- Dirt bike track - 21 or more uses
- Soccer Park - 21 or more uses
- Rec Center - 11-20 uses
- Football - 21 or more uses
- Basketball court by Mountain view
- GRCCS - 21 or more uses

Gaps or Opportunities for Parks and Open Spaces

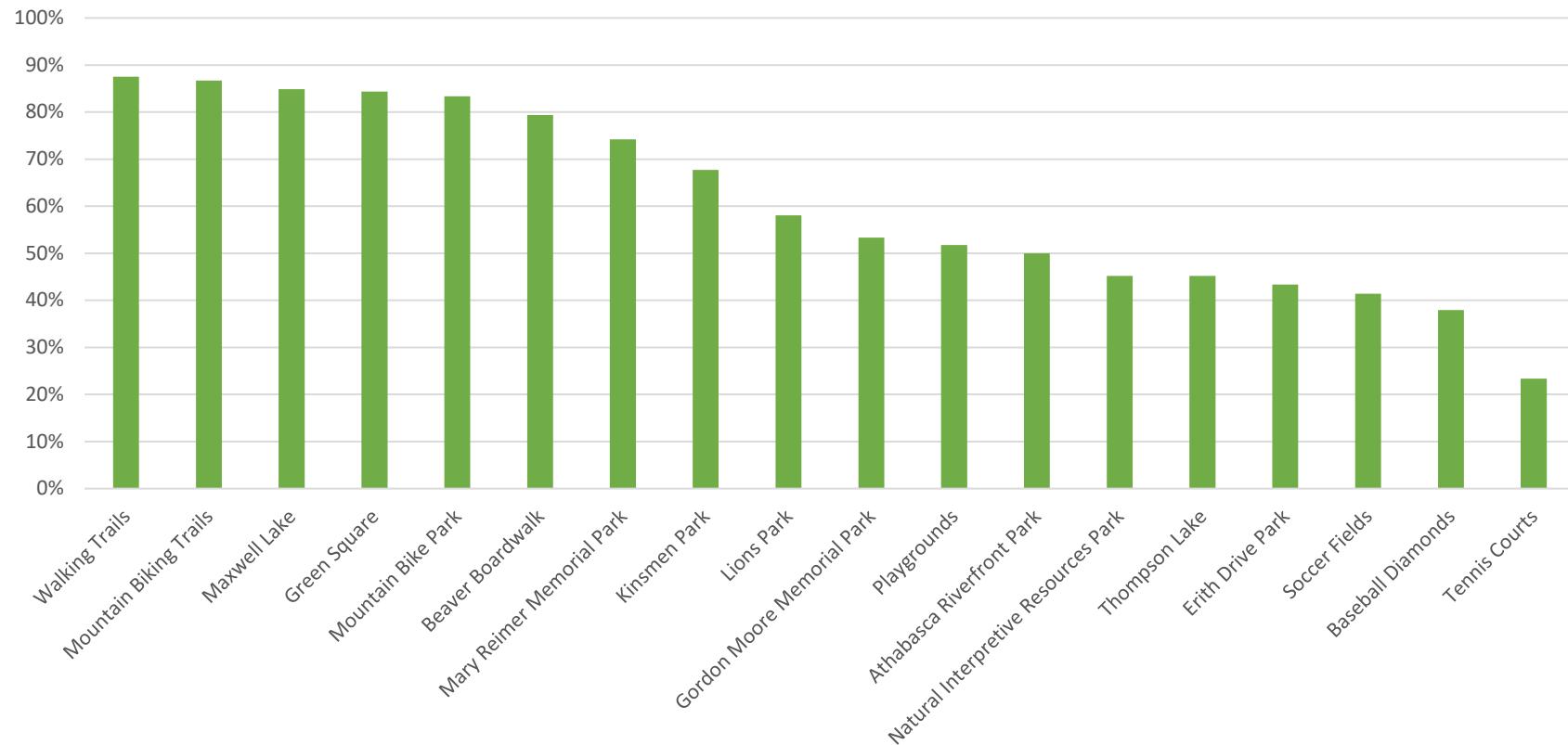
Share your comments on what parks and open spaces you use, where there might be some gaps or opportunities for new or enhanced parks and open spaces. *Not answered by students.*

- Adult parks – outdoor fitness equipment
- Skate park plaza style at Earth Park
- Parking lot at bike park and disk golf
- Parking lot expansion for HMBA and Hinton disk golf
- Recreation tourism is the last saviour for Hinton
- Rec centre public engagement stakeholders results.
- Community sized skate parks
- Hub Park? At the Municipal landfill site
- Bridges / bridge access in Hardisty (Hallam Drive) / Kinsmen Park. Railing safety
- Amphitheatre outdoor near Beaver Boardwalk or at Erith Park.
- The previous trail plan had great ideas for big connecting trails along the river etc. Let's do it in phases!
- More bike racks especially in green square.
- More walkable/bikable community.

Level of Satisfaction

Adult Responses

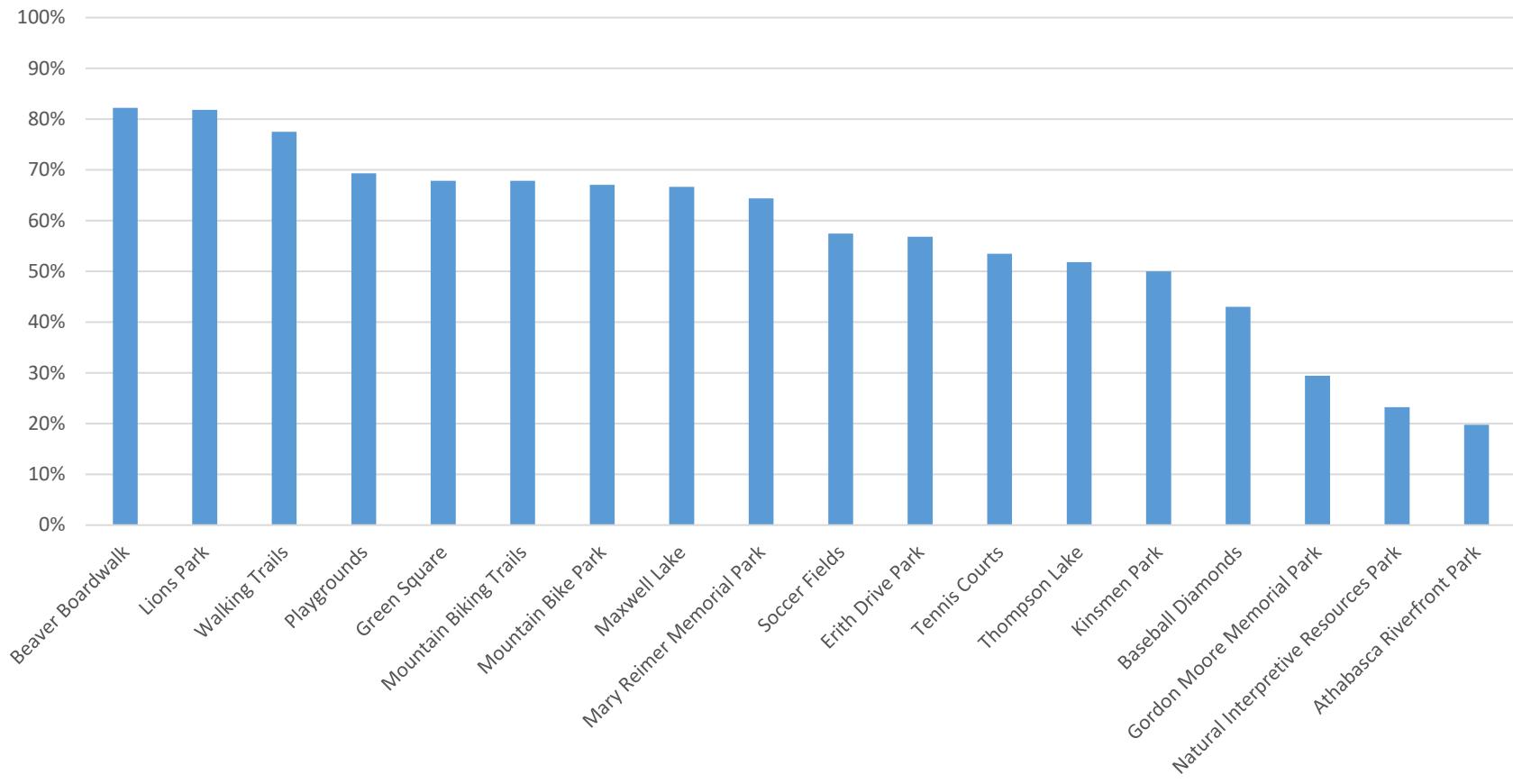
Please rate your level of satisfaction with existing facilities and open spaces provided in Hinton.
(Very and Somewhat Satisfied Responses Combined)



Student Responses

Please rate your level of satisfaction with existing facilities and open spaces provided in Hinton.

(Very and Somewhat Satisfied Responses Combined)



Adult Responses	Very Satisfied		Somewhat Satisfied		Somewhat Unsatisfied		Very Unsatisfied		Unsure	Total
Athabasca Riverfront Park	12.50%	4	37.50%	12	15.63%	5	9.38%	3	25.00%	8 32
Gordon Moore Memorial Park	23.33%	7	30.00%	9	0.00%	0	3.33%	1	43.33%	13 30
Kinsmen Park	22.58%	7	45.16%	14	3.23%	1	0.00%	0	29.03%	9 31
Lions Park	22.58%	7	35.48%	11	16.13%	5	3.23%	1	22.58%	7 31
Mary Reimer Park	32.26%	10	41.94%	13	3.23%	1	0.00%	0	22.58%	7 31
Erith Drive Park	10.00%	3	33.33%	10	6.67%	2	0.00%	0	50.00%	15 30
Green Square	43.75%	14	40.63%	13	6.25%	2	0.00%	0	9.38%	3 32
Natural Interpretive Resources Park	9.68%	3	35.48%	11	16.13%	5	3.23%	1	35.48%	11 31
Thompson Lake	9.68%	3	35.48%	11	12.90%	4	0.00%	0	41.94%	13 31
Maxwell Lake	30.30%	10	54.55%	18	0.00%	0	9.09%	3	6.06%	2 33
Beaver Boardwalk	35.29%	12	44.12%	15	14.71%	5	5.88%	2	0.00%	0 34
Baseball Diamonds	6.90%	2	31.03%	9	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	62.07%	18 29
Soccer Fields	13.79%	4	27.59%	8	3.45%	1	0.00%	0	55.17%	16 29
Tennis Courts	6.67%	2	16.67%	5	6.67%	2	6.67%	2	63.33%	19 30
Walking Trails	40.63%	13	46.88%	15	9.38%	3	0.00%	0	3.13%	1 32
Mountain Biking Trails	46.67%	14	40.00%	12	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	13.33%	4 30
Mountain Bike Park	56.67%	17	26.67%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	16.67%	5 30
Playgrounds	10.34%	3	41.38%	12	6.90%	2	0.00%	0	41.38%	12 29
Other (please specify and indicate level of satisfaction)										11

Student Responses	Very Satisfied		Somewhat Satisfied		Somewhat Unsatisfied		Very Unsatisfied		Unsure	Total	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count			
Athabasca Riverfront Park	9.30%	8	10.47%	9	2.33%	2	3.49%	3	74.42%	64	86
Gordon Moore Memorial Park	14.12%	12	15.29%	13	2.35%	2	3.53%	3	64.71%	55	85
Kinsmen Park	15.48%	13	34.52%	29	10.71%	9	1.19%	1	38.10%	32	84
Lions Park	37.50%	33	44.32%	39	7.95%	7	2.27%	2	7.95%	7	88
Mary Reimer Park	32.18%	28	32.18%	28	5.75%	5	3.45%	3	26.44%	23	87
Erith Drive Park	19.32%	17	37.50%	33	11.36%	10	3.41%	3	28.41%	25	88
Green Square	39.08%	34	28.74%	25	8.05%	7	6.90%	6	17.24%	15	87
Natural Interpretive Resources Park	3.49%	3	19.77%	17	4.65%	4	1.16%	1	70.93%	61	86
Thompson Lake	24.10%	20	27.71%	23	7.23%	6	4.82%	4	36.14%	30	83
Maxwell Lake	34.52%	29	32.14%	27	9.52%	8	4.76%	4	19.05%	16	84
Beaver Boardwalk	54.44%	49	27.78%	25	13.33%	12	3.33%	3	1.11%	1	90
Baseball Diamonds	16.28%	14	26.74%	23	12.79%	11	5.81%	5	38.37%	33	86
Soccer Fields	25.29%	22	32.18%	28	12.64%	11	4.60%	4	25.29%	22	87
Tennis Courts	23.26%	20	30.23%	26	18.60%	16	4.65%	4	23.26%	20	86
Walking Trails	34.83%	31	42.70%	38	11.24%	10	2.25%	2	8.99%	8	89
Mountain Biking Trails	39.08%	34	28.74%	25	5.75%	5	3.45%	3	22.99%	20	87
Mountain Bike Park	44.32%	39	22.73%	20	7.95%	7	1.14%	1	23.86%	21	88
Playgrounds	27.27%	24	42.05%	37	18.18%	16	3.41%	3	9.09%	8	88
Other (please specify and indicate level of satisfaction)										6	

Other:

Adult Responses:

- Walking trails are varied and interesting, but some require rerouting and erosion control. When they were originally built, they were not designed by an experienced trail builder, hence too steep inclines and lack of erosion control measures. This is evident in the Thompson Lake trail near the old dump. Some trails are really used and should be abandoned - e.g. the one behind the Ramada Inn and along the tracks. This was poorly thought out, as was the one leading to the cliff above the Athabasca River running from Mary Reimer Park. Do not spend any time on these trails. Some town trails are not littered along their route with pine beetle tree debris, creating a fire hazard and creating a visually unsightly distraction - i.e. from the bike park west to Maxwell Lake. This is even more accentuated on the main trail leading out of the mountain bike park and along Jodoin's Journey trail and the new Sprockids Trail. It is a mess - one which the small number of HMBA volunteers cannot clear out. This major tourist attraction needs town maintenance workers and machinery, plus whatever volunteers can be gathered, to clear this area out. As a HMBA member, I am willing to do my share, but the town Parks Dept. needs to get at this and take the lead - soon.
- Athabasca Riverfront Park has been destroyed as a future urban forest. The old nature interpretive trail was scrubbed out by the Firesmart operation which was done badly and even disturbed soil. Please stop ruining our green spaces with the Firesmart program. It will not stop a crown fire. The money should be spent in more proactive and productive ways. The Athabasca Riverfront Park has lost its character and become just another generic urban park. It is a place where people go do things. It is disgraceful.

Student Responses:

- Wood and stone steps - somewhat unsatisfied
- Mountain bike park wood needs change
- Dirt bike track - Very Satisfied
- Football
- GRCCS - Very unsatisfied
- GRCCS - Somewhat Unsatisfied

- Very pleased with the work being done to the boardwalk this summer
- Oval Ice rink in Winter very satisfied. Groomed bike trails in Winter very satisfied
- Repairs are badly needed on sections of the Beaver boardwalk. Lions Park is one of our favorite places. The soccer fields are well maintained throughout Hinton.
- Beaver board walk is greatly in need of repairs and has for a number of years. It seems that the town just put up closed signs (look out tower behind Reimer Dr) and then does nothing to follow up with and repair. Numerous areas on board walk are dangerously sloped. This area is used on a daily basis not just by residence of Hinton but by visitors from all over the world. It is listed as a must see in Hinton but maintenance is greatly lacking.
- Maxwell Lake skating oval: Very Satisfied (x 2 :) . Disc Golf course: Very Satisfied. Golf course: Very Satisfied
- Town trails can be way too dangerous in the winter, too icy and slippery. Can't you put down gravel in the winter?
- Athabasca park needs more work
- Access to shore fishing along the Athabasca River would be AWESOME and draw more people
- Trails by the Eco Industrial Park - need to be completed and connected to rest of trails. Big hill behind Lakeview Inn needs to be curved with a switchback so riders can make it up and down. Need a place to go under railway tracks behind Lakeview to Hallam Drive. Complete a path from McCracken Inn to Switzer overpass to keep cyclists and walkers safe from traffic.

Improvements Needed

**Using the space below, please identify any improvements you think are needed at the existing parks, open spaces and trails in Hinton.
(Please indicate the location or specific area you're referring to if possible).**

Adult Responses:

- The walking trails experienced some washout where they border the west end of Collinge Rd. I believe this was due to the creek overflowing in the spring of 2017. Although foot traffic and erosion have leveled the trail somewhat, they could use some new gravel and possibly a bit of fill.
- Athabasca River front is not being locked at night like the sign says. The area is not monitored, nor has proper lighting for the dark. It is left open and who knows who is overnighting. The town has allowed an increase in traffic on the west river road however the road conditions for being in town are not favourable. Also does not have fire hydrants. Safety is a concern.
- See above for recommendations along the town trail and mountain bike trail, plus the Thompson Lake rerouting of the steep section leading up (then down) from the old dump road. The picnic table on this same trail has collapsed and needs to be rebuilt or taken away as it is unsightly and leaves a bad impression.
- I feel the some of the playgrounds are old and need replacement. Some of the walking trails need to be repaved or re-graveled. I think the parks are deteriorating and need some time and money spent on them to make them reach the potential that they can. The bridge replacement at the west end of Maxwell Lake need not be a load bearing structure. I hope it is done tastefully and doesn't become an eyesore. The Beaver Boardwalk and trails around Maxwell Lake should be a place to appreciate and learn about nature. Piling too many other agendas on this place will ruin it. The trail on the north side of Maxwell Lake needs repairs to save the large conifer trees which add beauty, wildlife habitat and prevent erosion. A small retaining wall filled with soil would protect the

Student Responses:

- Wood and stone steps I find are too long
- Mary Reimers soccer fields are not taken care of Walking and biking trails are washed out
- The Beaver Boardwalk has places that it is drooping or it is slanted
- New equipment New locations More for a school
- Repairing the Beaver boardwalk
- Get trampoline park
- I think it needs to have a nice basketball court
- Better Playgrounds
- Boardwalk needs to be renovated. We should expand the bike park.
- Fix the Beaver Boardwalk
- Tennis court could have dents repaired (GRCCS). Soccer nets need fixing (GRCCS)
- Put some bleachers at the football field; build in bleachers.
- Baseball diamonds need cleaning
- I believe that the Beaver boardwalk should be extended and made longer.
- Many trails get overgrown and Beaver Boardwalk is breaking.
- GRCCS needs new playground and equipment updates.
- Can GRCCS have higher monkey bars?
- My school GRCCS could use a better tube slide and bigger playground equipment.
- Please a bigger tube slide at GRCCS
- Bigger tube slide
- GRCCS needs better park equipment

exposed roots. This is activity is proactive and would not cost a lot. Let the Athabasca Riverfront Park heal and leave it alone. Hinton is not ready for a true riverfront park. Indeed I think Hinton does not know what that is. Spend money on other parks that need it. Better yet spend money on establishing doggy poop plastic bag dispensers and garbage bins at existing parks. I'm tired of seeing dog poop on my walks.

- Riverfront Park might be better used as a new Municipal campground spot...and the current municipal campground could be upgraded to Inc. Power and water hookups. Green Square could do with a public drinking fountain for locals and visitors. More picnic tables with shade too.
- Day use fire pits/picnic areas at the river front Park.
- I would like to see a trailhead sign similar to the other log ones at the trailhead along Hardisty Avenue across the street from Kinsman Park. It is still the old one from the 1980s. I also think a pedestrian flashing light or other safety device would be very beneficial at this crosswalk where there is a blind corner on a busy street near a school. I would like to see a ""loop"" trail at the Riverfront Park if that park remains open.
- Improvements of the Beaver boardwalk are under way. Lookout platform which is closed I understand it will be dismantled. Why not just lower it down to a safe level and firm base support
- Update to Lion's Park regarding sand would like to see base like Splash Park. New additions to equipment in all parks.
- Lions Park tends to be dirty - more garbage cans and more cleanup would help it a lot.
- The Hinton bike trails are utilized far more than people think including winter use when the trails are groomed /snow packed. There have been complaints from walkers about bikes on trails though these trails were created for mountain biking. Also walkers and hikers are responsible for much of the trail damage when the trails are muddy in spring and heavy rain periods. Also dirt bikes and ATVs continue to access the bike trails with zero enforcement,
- GRCCS's playground equipment needs to be updated (the monkey bars are too low) and the slides aren't big enough for the kids.
- GRCCS saucer swing. GRCCS needs swimming pool. GRCCS needs a go cart track.
- Please improve the GRCCS parks
- Hinton needs car and track. Grcos needs a bigger tube slide.
- Grcos saucer swing. Grcos zipline.

education or notice from the Town of Hinton. The Bighorn Trail continues to be an ATV and dirt bike access point and continues to suffer from drainage issues as a result of poor design, erosion run-off from the K-Lynn industrial yard and from interrupted stream run-off in spring. The FRMA are neglecting their responsibility for maintaining the Bighorn trail as well as the Happy Creek trail yet they continue to receive huge funding from surrounding governments. The Town of Hinton's new contribution amount to HMBA is still not reflective of the true cost for overall maintenance and many of the trails are aging and may become unsafe.

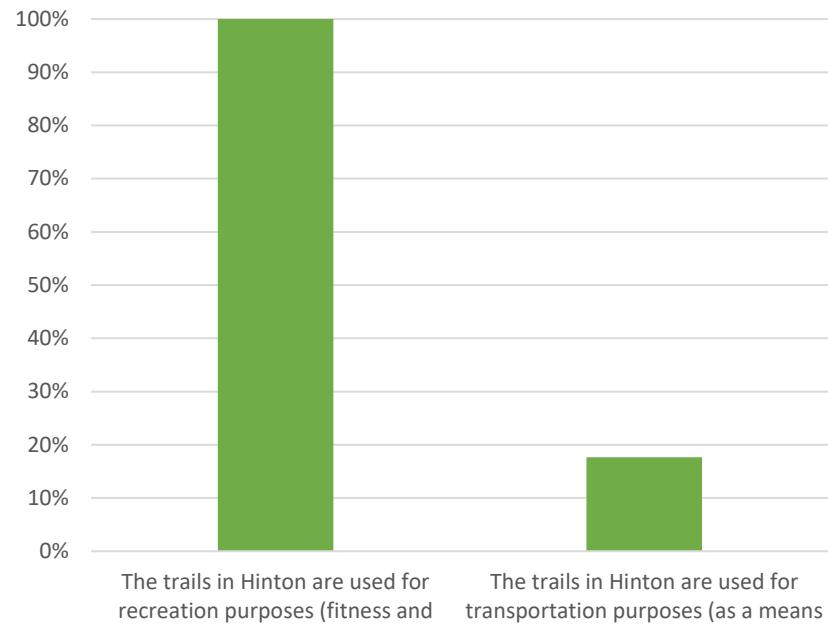
- Poor maintenance of tennis courts has shortened the life of the surfaces. Could use the occasional tree trim. Very grateful that the town maintains nets.
- I think when the town has time to get around to each area they do an excellent job of maintaining and caring for the areas they just need to be available to do so. Maybe hiring more people for the parks department?
- Beaver Boardwalk: Section of the boardwalk need repair. Mary Reimer Park: Playground equipment is old.
- At the beaver boardwalk and Maxwell Lake, there is so little parking. Most parking is by residential property. It is very dangerous since many motorhomes/RV try to find parking and are unable to exit safely or without assistance. Also, there are no sidewalks heading down to the beginning of the boardwalk, so people are often unsafely walking in the middle of the road, and blocking traffic coming into the Maxwell Lake apartments and other residential driveways. I believe there should be a parking lot and a sidewalk to make this area safer, since it is one of Hinton's biggest tourist attractions.
- Beaver Board walk and surrounding walk trails
- I understand that our parks department is under staffed do to their low budget and most of my issues are just minor maintenance items that I'm sure they would be able to better get around to with a few more workers.

- Gerard Redmond Playground - surface water flow. Interpretive Park - general maintenance (e.g. signs).
- We need a ring trail that would go through the entire town like a ring road. You can incorporate existing right of way, from IGA (hill) down to West river road.
- Anything to deal with safety concerns. No signage at beaver boardwalk when cutting down beetlekill. Fences fixed at baseball diamonds. Playgrounds with dilapidated equipment.
- Riverfront Park needs better access to river. Lions park needs upgrading and more stuff"
- Lions park...additional seating and more play equipment. This park gets quite busy but there is not enough seating/benches/ picnic tables. Spray park...more seating/picnic tables.
- Some trails need maintenance - roots sticking through. Beaver boardwalk needs to be maintained
- See above remarks. Also complete trail (lay gravel) from Trail west end Thompson Lake area to bridge behind Muldoon area. Love our town and will love it more when all the trails are connected. We spend many hours hiking/biking town trails.
- Repair the dock at Maxwell lake,
- Would be nice to have a few more trees at Kinsmen Park for shelter from hot sun (as long as I'm thinking of the Riggt Park - Splash Park?). Lions Park is very spread out & a bit unsafe at times.
- I would like to see an interpretive centre, even a small gazebo style one, up at the boardwalk so that schools and summer camp programming could be held there.

Usage of Trails

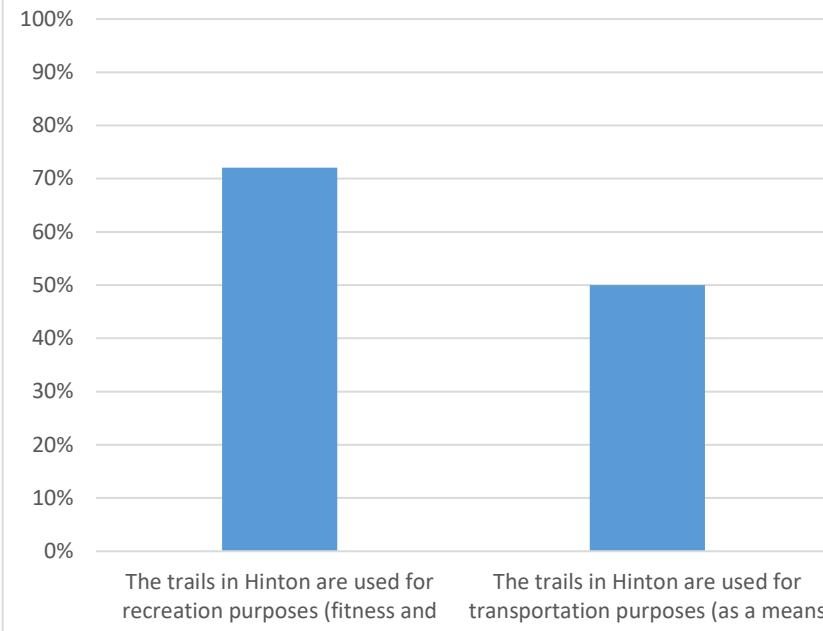
Adult Responses

Considering the use of Hinton's trail network by people in your household, please indicate which statement(s) applies to your household.



Student Responses

Considering the use of Hinton's trail network by people in your household, please indicate which statement(s) applies to your household.



Gaps or Opportunities for Trails

Share your comments on what trails you use, where there might be gaps or opportunities for new or enhanced trails. *Not answered by students.*

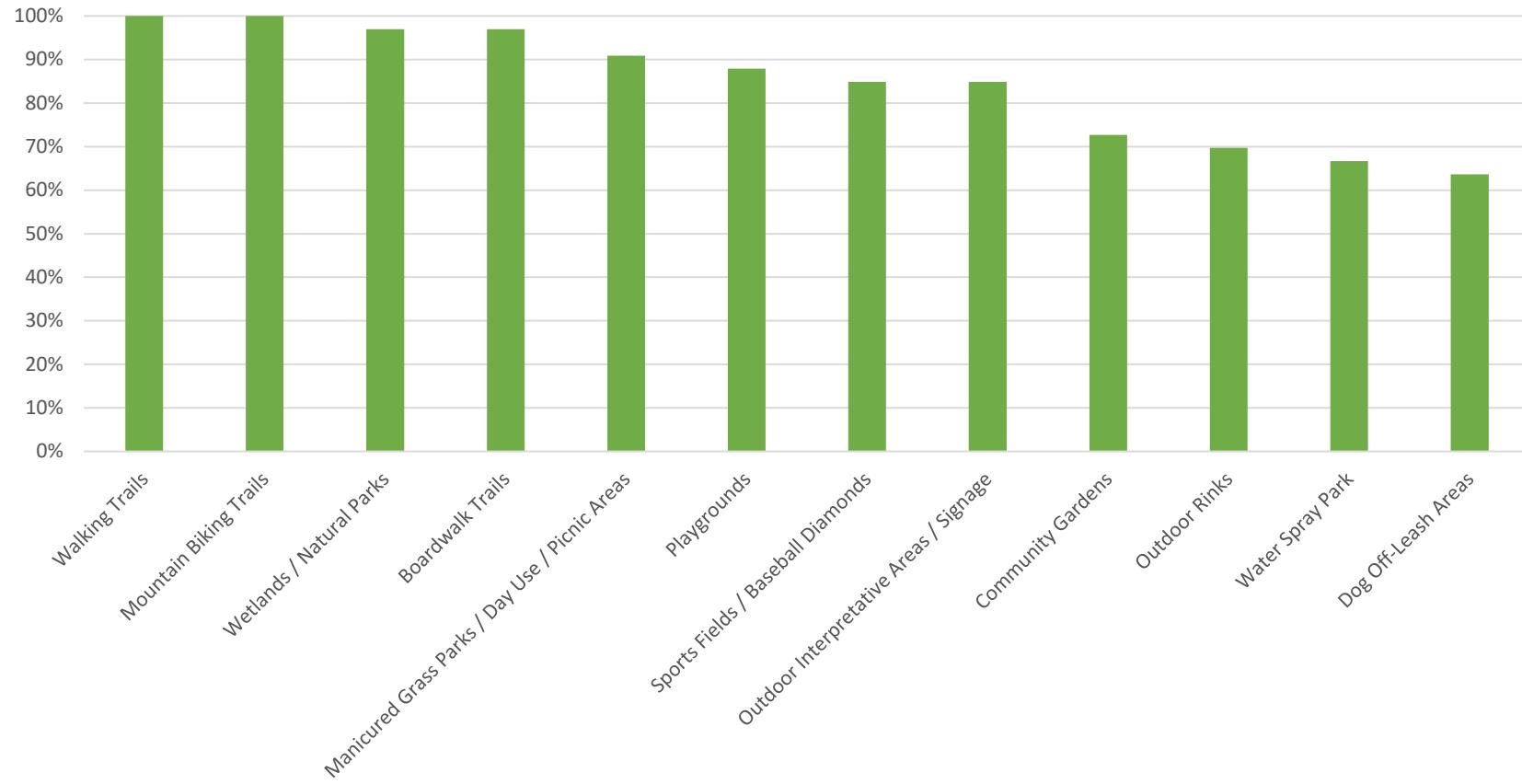
- Beaver boardwalk is tremendously important! Save it and keep it going
- Boardwalk parking more parking
- Should be regular maintenance schedule for trails
- Should all be on-leash (multi-purpose trails)
- Connectivity to Terrace Heights and Downtown
- Trails should have continuity and not dead end
- Bikehinton.com for recent trail map
- Trail to Jasper Gate through Folding Mountain Brewing
- Don't spend money on doing studies – spend money on fixing the Beaver Boardwalk
- Would love to see more access and trails near Athabasca River and connected!
- Trail (s) to the mall safety
- HMBA trails not most recent (trails missing) Bike Park =??
- Scouts hall on Chevoit to a proper community hall for functions and walking trails
- Keep trails off leash as much as possible
- Pave all multipurpose trails
- Trail inventory not complete (missing some)
- Trail up to Switzer Park
- Trails systems should be a priority for development and maintenance
- Esso area pedestrian access to valley
- Apps for maps at trail system
- Missing river park trail
- Connecting trail from Pine Valley behind Jeles Grocery and Gas / along Boutin
- Hinton has no sidewalks, especially on highway... dangerous
- Forest interpretive trails are missing
- Connectivity
- Idea: Add the disc golf course fairways and connecting trails as a 'Trail'
- Snowshoeing in winter
- Lift / bump at curb – accessibility
- Support HMBA more

- Timber Lane crossing improvements
- Can we not repair the bridges with floating bridges?
- Need to double the boardwalk from Maxwell Lake East to where the boardwalk ends at the gravel trail, so it is not awkward for bicycles and pedestrians to pass.
- Highway adjacent trail to access shopping nodes.
- Ring town trail that connects existing trails to riverfront park, and natural resources park.
- More enjoyable, safe, sensible pedestrian and bike routes connecting all areas of town.
- More trail signage with distances and at junctions, include mapping.

Importance of Amenities and Facilities

Adult Responses

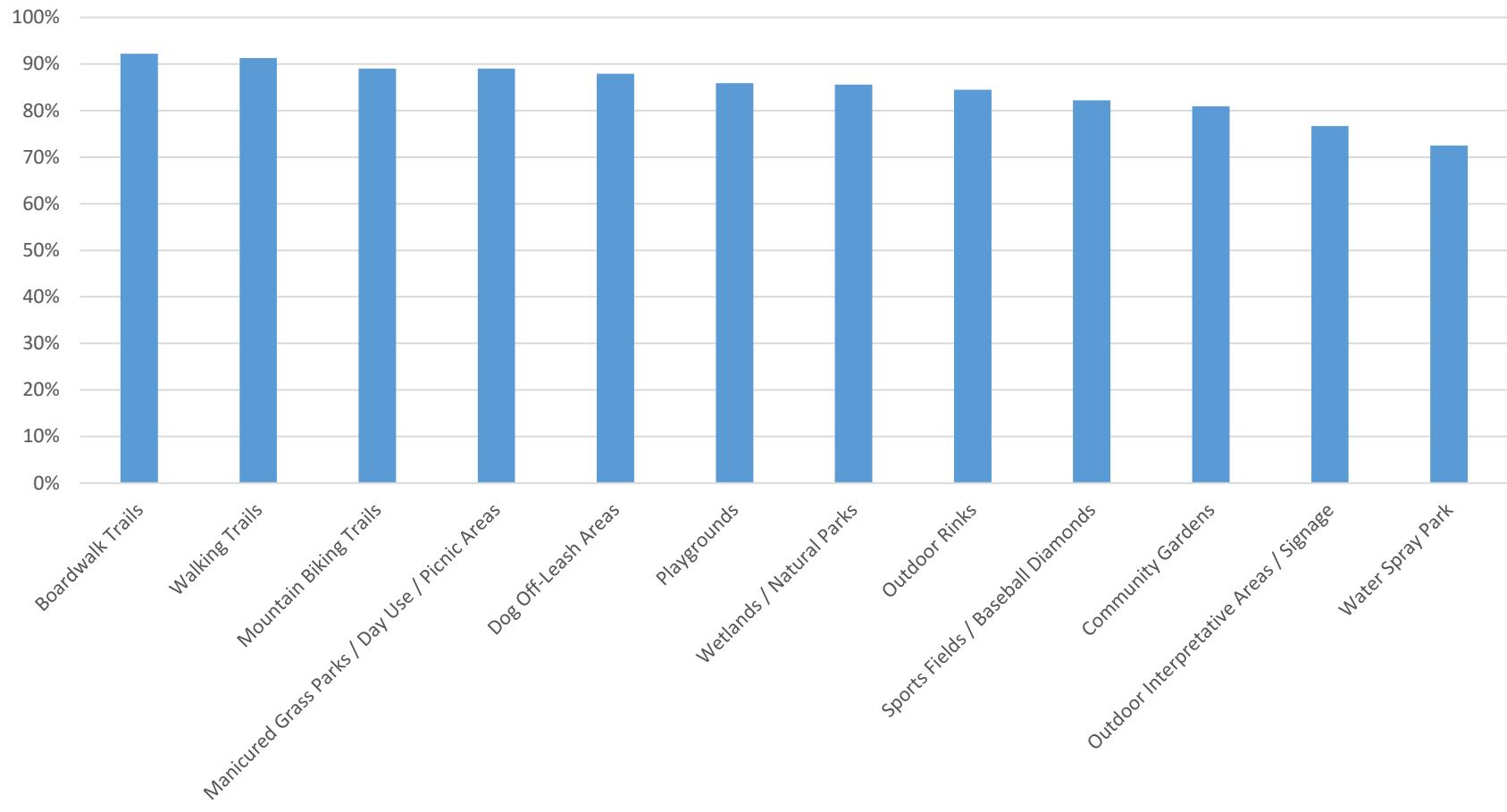
How important is it that each of the following amenities and facilities is available in Hinton?
(Very and Somewhat Important Responses Combined)



Student Responses

How important is it that each of the following amenities and facilities is available in Hinton?

(Very and Somewhat Important Responses Combined)



Other:

Adult Responses:

- My children are grown, so my level of importance is skewed to my choice of activities, but I know that to keep a vibrant community for all, we need many spaces for families and children, as well as well maintained sporting area.
- The Beaver Boardwalk is important because it provides a link to the urban environment and the natural environment. Many people would be uncomfortable just walking on trails in the woods.
- Considerations for outdoor winter use are very important such as groomed bike trails, snow shoe and ski trails. Many people ski at the golf course.
- Separate ATV trails and staging areas on outskirts of Town - Very important, Remote controlled toys -usage spaces/tracks/water body - Very important
- Hinton does not get hot enough in the summer for long enough periods of time, water park was a waste. Toboggan hill on Collinge, waste of money, very fun when we get a dump, but how many days of the year are "Conditions Unsafe"?
- Access to Athabasca River
- Better access to shore fishing at the Athabasca River

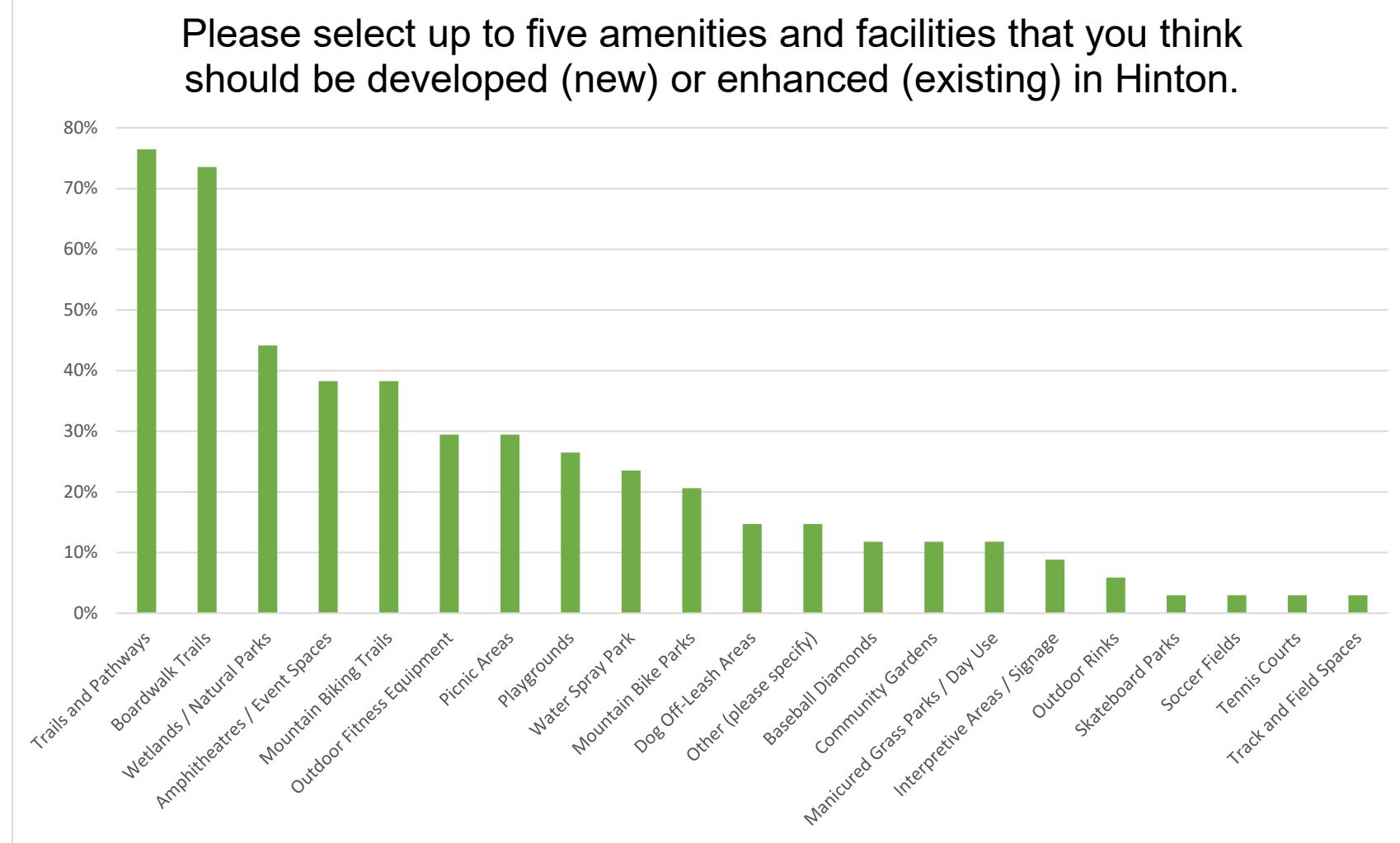
Student Responses:

- Dirt bike track - Very Important
- Football - Very important
- Basketball courts
- New GRCCS playground - Very Important
- Tennis courts - Very Important
- Skate park - Very important

New or Enhanced Amenities and Facilities

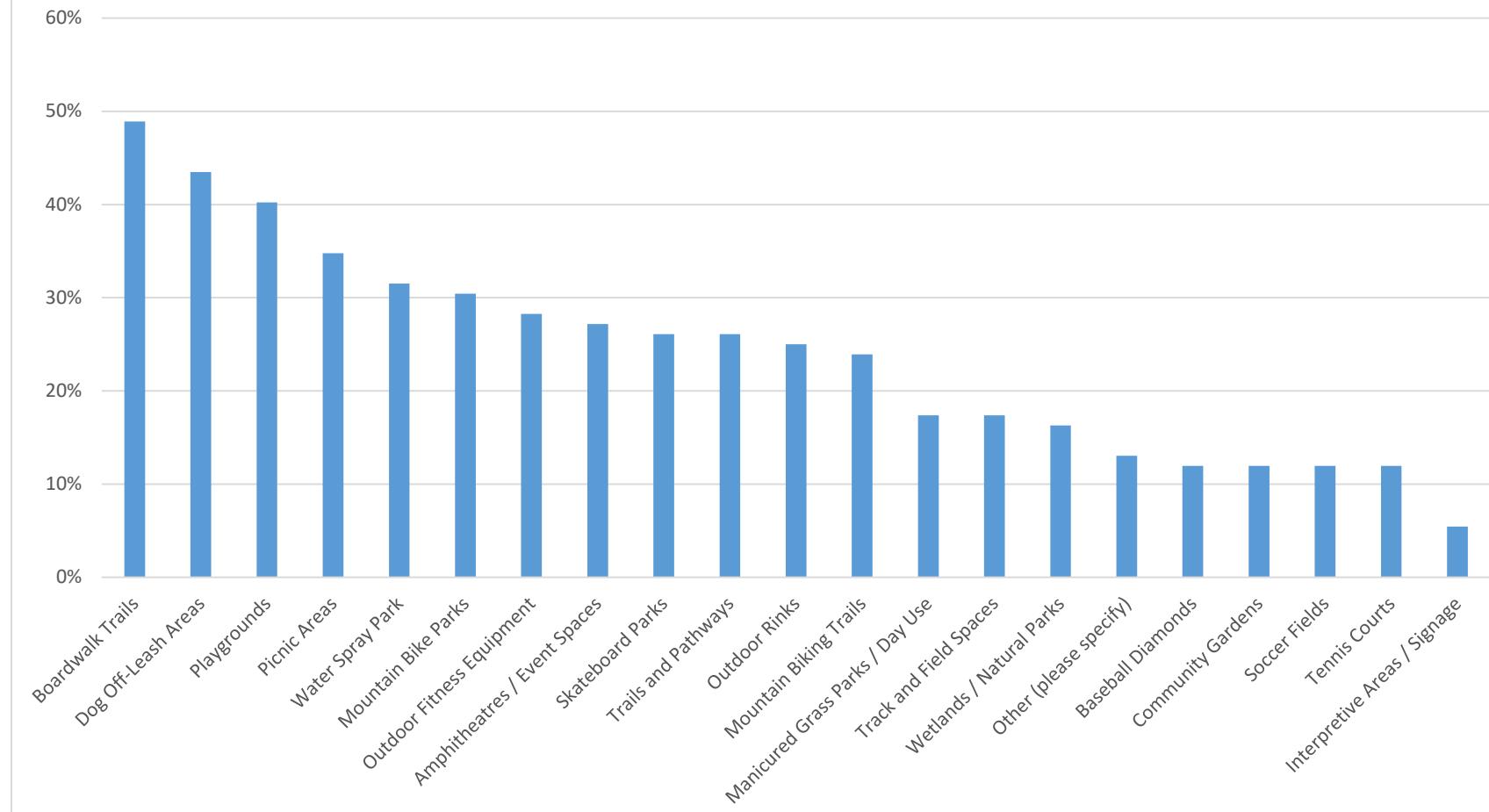
Adult Responses

Please select up to five amenities and facilities that you think should be developed (new) or enhanced (existing) in Hinton.



Student Responses

Please select up to five amenities and facilities that you think should be developed (new) or enhanced (existing) in Hinton.



Other:

Adult Responses:

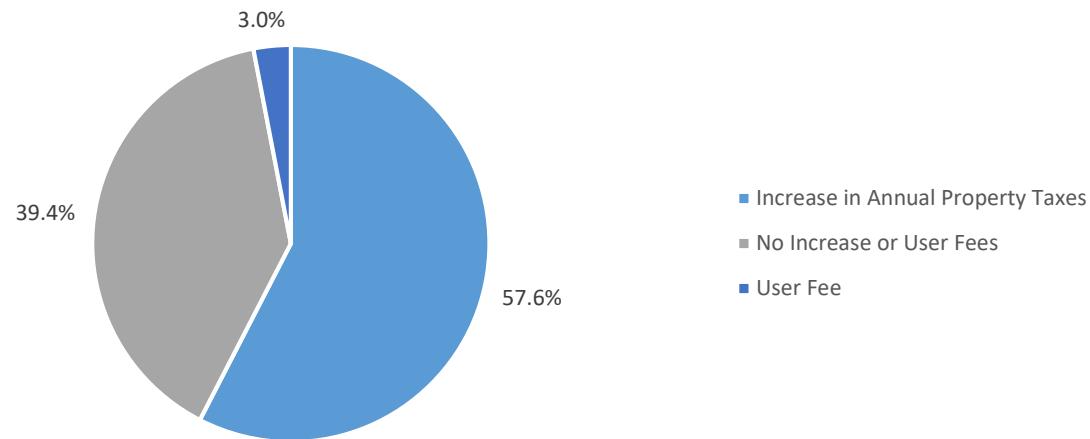
- We need to develop the Sutherland Park, which is now nothing more than a flat grassy field that needs mowing. It is in a prime residential area and has lots of potential to become a picnic, amphitheater, outdoor volleyball court, small playground and gathering place. With creativity and local volunteers, this could be made beautiful - flower gardens, interpretive signs, groups of trees with picnic sites. This is an area where public input from neighbours, gardeners, donated machinery for mounding small hills etc. would make a new and welcoming park for the hill - a place to meet and play.
- Beaver Boardwalk should have more parking
- Remote controlled toys - usage area/track/pond
- Athabasca River
- Access to the Athabasca River

Student Responses:

- Track
- Dirt bike track
- Trampoline Park x3
- Football
- Basketball courts x3
- Rec Center; Rodeo grounds
- Arcade
- GRCCS

Preference for Paying

To provide improvements to existing amenities and facilities or to develop new amenities and facilities, how would your household prefer to pay?*



*Not answered by students

Please explain:

- I am willing to pay, via property taxes, for improved amenities. Walking and mountain bike trails are very important to my recreation and fitness.
- We pay high taxes already and in the area we live we do not have the services our money goes to
- A whole lot is being spent hiring ISL, I am sure, so it is important to make use of this expenditure. I sat on a local board a few years ago and viewed a Trails Master Plan - created at considerable cost by an outside consultant. The result - the poorly planned and designed

trails mentioned earlier ... and little else. A waste of money. I highly question outsiders making decisions for the town regarding the trails and parks, so I hope this input you are requesting is used for intelligent design and at a cost commensurate with the cost of the consultants. Regular trail uses, such as myself, have contacted the Parks department over the past years regarding trail maintenance and design, with very little impact. I am too cynical about past experiences to believe the requested input this time will create a better trail and park system, sadly.

- Lower income households cannot afford to use the facilities regularly with high user fees
- We are already highly taxed. Taxes should cover maintenance and savings for any new facilities. Specific fund-raising efforts could be made for new facilities rather than user fees.
- There are other communities that have these facilities that have been developed without the burden of increased property taxes and are free to use. For example: Whitecourt's Rotary Park.
- Taxes now take up more income than the necessities of life. Fundraising, sponsorships should be explored first.
- I believe there are many, many places that town council can cut expenses and put that funding to better use. I am a senior and if I had to rely strictly on my government pensions, I just would not be able to afford another tax grab if you would like me to explain more, call me
- I would pay more taxes if the improvements are community wide like outdoor spaces, trails etc. If the improvements are more specific like arenas, baseball diamonds, tennis courts etc. then I would support a user fee or a mix of both. Although a user fee for outdoor amenities would likely be hard to collect.
- My main usage is the Beaver boardwalk. This is a major attraction for Hinton. On any given day you can see vehicles with plates from every Canadian province and states as far away as Florida. This attraction provides revenue for the town from these visitors and we must maintain it at our expense.
- Things cost money to create and maintain, and I'm ok with my taxes being used for that kind of community asset.
- Use photo radar money, quit giving to organizations that should be self-sufficient by now (Challenge In The Rockies) Find efficiencies as lots of money wasted every year.
- The amount of tax money spent on traditional parks and ball fields and the rec centre is too much and should be re appropriated to other areas. The amount of tax money spent in general in other areas (such as bailing-out the golf course) is too much and should be invested in non-business related amenities.
- Outdoor recreation facilities in the form of trails, parks, and boardwalk are the most economical access to recreation in Hinton and should be supported through town management.
- The amenities I chose are all already free for use to the public and that shouldn't change because it needs a "facelift"
- Most residents use outdoor spaces in this Town, everyone should pay a little to improve existing spaces and develop new ones.
- the places that I'm thinking need work at or additional for are areas ie board walk, that should not have a user fee
- I think user fees on outdoor areas would be absolutely ridiculous and at that point I would just drive out to the Bush and not use them. I recognize a larger budget is needed so I would be okay with a small tax increase
- I'm not totally sure what is the most appropriate amount, but something is necessary to fund the outdoor spaces in Hinton.

- As a person in this community, who pays both personal and business property taxes, and am a small business owner, I feel there must be a way to shift some money to put towards improvements.
- General Public use means we all share the cost as a community, personal use or not.
- 5%
- I am not asking for new just maintained
- I realize these improvements cost money, for those of us with minimal income its tough to agree to a large increase in property tax. Not to mention there would likely be a lot of unhappy ppl in town. User fees would be hard to maintain. More or better cared for green space makes the community more attractive, may encourage ppl to better use it & may encourage more ppl to stay/live here.
- I don't mind paying taxes for amenities.

Additional Comments

Do you have any additional comments you would like to share?

Adult Responses:

- No. x2
- I suggest every councillor and parks worker get out and walk or bike all the trails in town - contact HMBA for guides if needed. Know every park first hand in order to understand what Hinton has. Check out the washrooms at the bike park, where the town has refused to install hand sanitizers (fire hazard, supposedly, in a brick building!) ride down the eroded trail by Thompson Lake, stroll the boardwalk and visit the bike park skills area on a warm evening or afternoon to see the many visitors, view the sign in box at the mountain bike parking lot (and get the sign in sheets from past years from HMBA)to read the comments from the thousands of visitors from far away that visit us here, stop by the off leash area to see dogs at play (and the very rough finish job left after the volunteers ran out of gas), walk the disc golf park and appreciate the huge number of volunteer hours put into it, and the hours still needed. Know your community - something ISL can't possibly know about - before you make up another Master Plan.
- My family uses the parks and trails almost daily. I hope that the town can make improvements to these areas
- Hinton seems to develop plans in isolation from the county and West Fraser Mills.
- I think riverfront park turned into non serviced campground could fetch \$25 per site.....if power, water was introduced to current municipal campground...up to \$40 per site could be gained in 2019, Whistler campground in JNP will be closed and the town and FRMA could really upgrade and facilitate a fee increase (and amenities) for local campgrounds...esp.

Student Responses:

- Make more dirt bike tracks and football fields
- The boardwalk is falling apart and needs fixing
- Please make a trampoline park
- Expand bike park
- I believe more businesses and restaurants dedicated to healthy eating and environmental health are important. Alternative resources (renewable) should be considered. Mechanisms to help with the pollution coming out of the [illegible] be [illegible] in place. The toxins that are released in the air are damaging to the surrounding environment and those living here.
- Slap a trampoline park onto somewhere. Build in bleachers or make a football stadium to prevent vandalism.
- We need better basketball courts
- Hinton is a good place but we should try attracting more people by: building a new school or repairing an old one and tearing down some hotels and motels to build entertainment.
- GRCCS needs a new playground. GRCCS needs new nets at the basketball courts
- Can we get new soccer nets at GRCCS
- New basketball nets
- I would like you to upgrade the equipment on the Beroude Raymond playground
- Better play grounds for Grccs
- I think we should get a diving board in the swimming pool. I think the diving board should bounce too.
- Bigger tube slide

Wildhorse and Kinky Lakes too...there will be some money that can easily be earned by being proactive and getting a "jump" ahead on the JNP campground closure (nearly 800 sites not available at whistler in 2019)

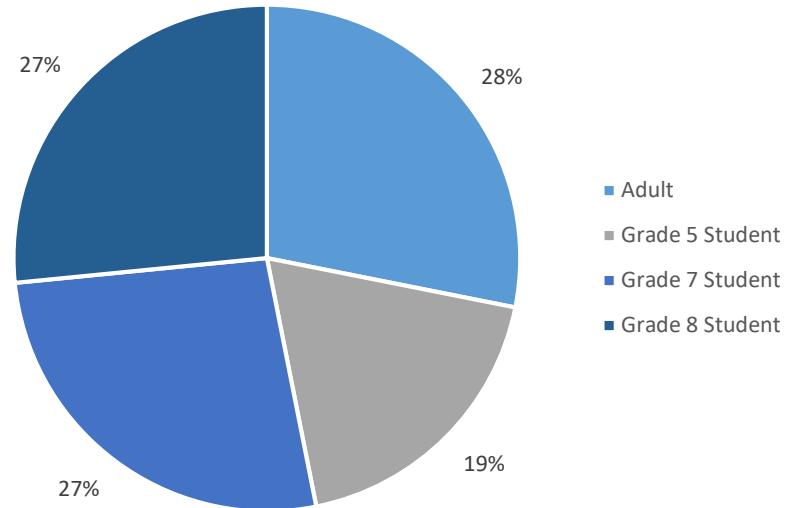
- I would also like to see a trail connection to the Riverfront Park if possible and if the park remains open. Not sure how to go back in the survey to the improvements question.
- Providing opportunities to explore the outdoors in a way that doesn't involve organized sports (e.g. soccer fields) is very important to us. I also think we need to make sure we have excellent outdoor opportunities for visitors.
- Our trail system needs to be better connected and a few improvements to make it family friendly to walk/push strollers/bike. Need under highway and railroad tracks out in Thompson Lake area. Safe trail along highway 16.
- Hinton is a unique area with a wealth of outdoor recreation opportunities yet we continue to focus spending on traditional sports that are trending poorly. If you sample any other pattern in trail master plans/outdoor spaces plans, you'll see that trails are often #1 as the first priority for creation and enhancement. Local clubs such as HMBA are struggling and are basically treading water, losing key volunteers who built trails for free while the Town sits idly by. Though the increase in maintenance budget was welcome, it is nowhere near the true cost of maintenance. Embrace Hinton for the opportunities it provides by its sheer location in the foothills. Attract families, visitors and improve quality of life. Do the research on non-motorized outdoor recreation on overall health and wellness. Do not allow e-bikes on trails.
- Improved walkability would benefit Hinton. Please consider adding/fixing sidewalks along Switzer Drive from the Rec Centre to the Valley shopping centre, and along the highway from the east access of Switzer Drive all the way to Parks

West Mall. Being able to walk everywhere in Hinton would be amazing!

- Since the Beaver Boardwalk/Maxwell Lake is one of Hinton's main tourist hotspots, it should be more developed by adding a parking lot and sidewalks to make the area safer.
- if the town is interested in green spaces then regular maintenance and weeding must be done, which is not far too often not the case right now
- As someone who live in the Thompson Lake subdivision, but works in the valley district, I'd like to see a quicker walking/biking access to the valley. Currently it's a 6 km walk or ride, but if a person cuts across behind the Lakeview Inn, it's only 2 km, but there is the train to consider and a steep incline to deal with. Is there anything in the works to make this a little more accessible?
- After Planning comes Action & Done. If no Action, what is the Plan to get it done anyways?
- Please select a date, for the public forum, well in advance.
- Please develop more around the Athabasca River and upgrade/maintain the Beaver Boardwalk

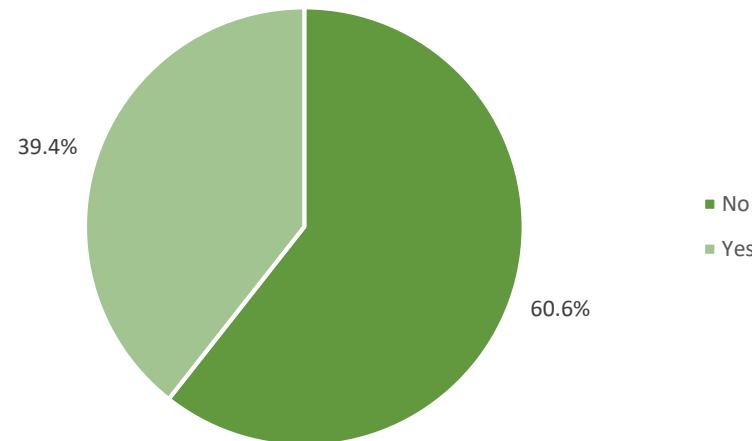
Participant Demographics

Which group do you represent?

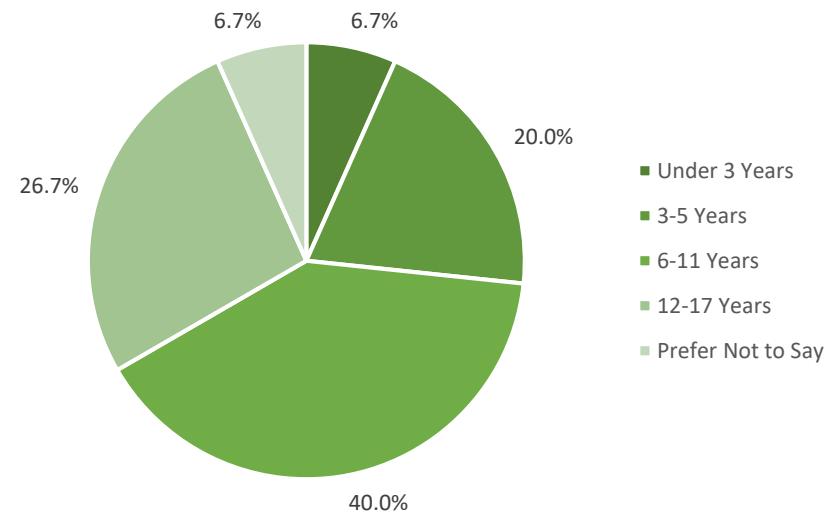


Adult Responses

Are there any children under the age of 18 living in your household?

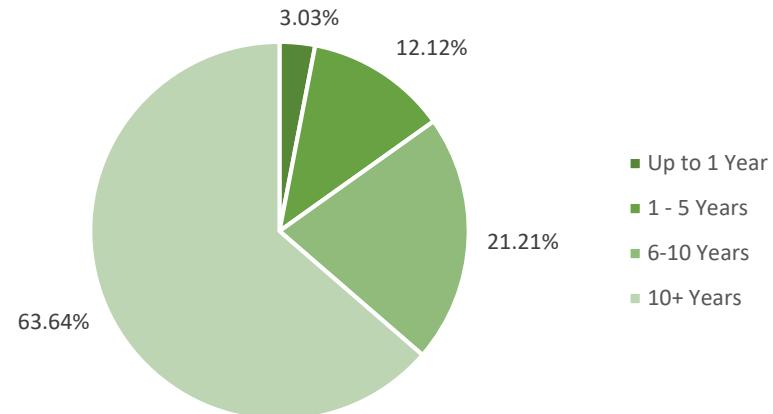


If yes, please indicate the ages of the children living in your household.



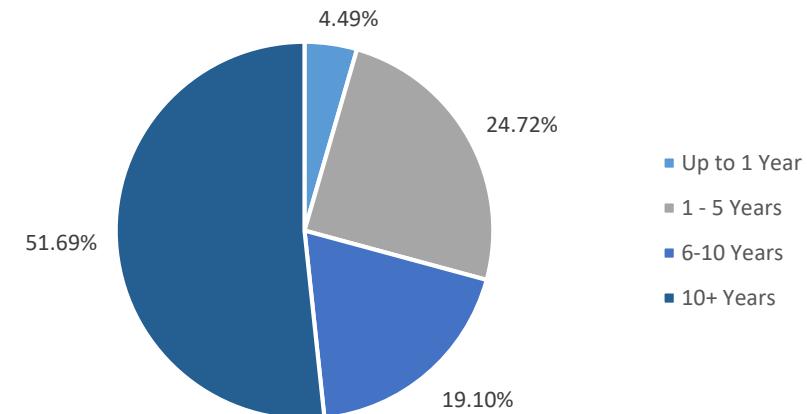
Adult Responses

How long have you lived in Hinton?



Student Responses

How long have you lived in Hinton?



Submitted Feedback

We are writing in particular about the Park space (grassy area) that is located on the west end of Cheviot Dr at the top of the hill. We feel that this area should be made more "Park Like"-with the following in mind:

- 1) With an official trail that joins the pipeline trail that goes from Switzer Drive west of the hospital to Mountain Street prior to going down the hill. Many people from all walks of life use this area to walk in every day walking to school, jobs, recreation, school classes, and daycare children, etc. (from the upper hill area to the lower hill area). We feel that a paved pathway would help especially in winter (especially if it is maintained very well by the town). Currently, without this official trail and because of the sometimes deep snow people walk on the alley which can be dangerous due to traffic and/or because the alley is on an incline and is often icy.
- 2) A bench or 2 along this pathway (people often stop along their way up the hill because it is steep and rest and we see them turn back and look toward the mountains and foothills to enjoy the view, often sitting to rest).
- 3) At least 1 garbage can along that area (2 would be better).
- 4) Lights at night along that path to light the way as it can be quite dark between Cheviot Dr and Mountain St.
- 5) A cable fence similar to the one on the north side of Cheviot Dr should be placed along the south side of Cheviot Dr. on the edge of the grassy area. This would ensure that people do not drive across that open space (which happens frequently, we see it especially in winter but is does happen in summer too). This is unsafe for those walking in the "park area".
- 6) We feel the people of Hinton should get together and try to determine what would be best for the building (Scout Hall). We have learned from Hazel Hart's "History of Hinton" book that this is a Historical Building. It was originally the 1st school house on the Hill (apparently it was originally in the Erith Dr area and moved to its current location when the Scouts bought it for \$100 and was moved to its current location in Summer of 1959). This last information was confirmed with Hazel Hart –"it was moved to the foot of Cheviot Dr, kitty corner across from what is now our home. It was used by the Jehovah Witnesses and Metis as well" –confirmed by Joyce Beauchamp and Lena Ouellette.



Town of Hinton

Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan Phase 2 – Engagement Summary

January 2019

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Project Background

In 2018, the Town of Hinton initiated the Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Master Plan to explore the existing conditions and gather feedback on needs and wants for the parks, open space and trails network in Hinton in order to develop recommendations for future improvements, amenities and facilities. In June 2018, the Town of Hinton along with ISL Engineering initiated the first phase of the project by providing several engagement opportunities through in-person events and an online survey. The purpose of this initial phase was to gather feedback on existing conditions and collect information on the needs and wants of the community. In November of 2018, further engagement opportunities were presented to stakeholders and the public to share information, and to gather feedback on the concepts developed based on the June 2018 engagement feedback.

Engagement Process

In November 2018, building upon the June 2018 engagement feedback, the Town of Hinton and ISL provided several engagement opportunities to share information about existing amenities and gather feedback on what residents and stakeholders would like to see implemented in locations around Town. Engagement opportunities included:

- A community open house for residents and stakeholders on November 29, from 4 to 6:30 PM;
- A pop-up event at the Dr. Duncan Murray Recreation Centre on November 30, from 10 to 11 am;
- An online survey available from November 14, 2018 to December 21, 2018; and
- Hard copy surveys were available from Town staff.



~20
participants
at the open
house



~20
participants
at the pop-
up event



~60
surveys
submitted

What We Asked – In-person and Online

We asked community members the following questions:

In the Part I of the online survey, the following questions on the POST Districts were asked:

- How important is enhanced access and connections to/within the district?
- What parks, open space and trails infrastructure would you use in the district?

In Part II of the Online Survey, the following questions on additional strategic plans and programs were asked:

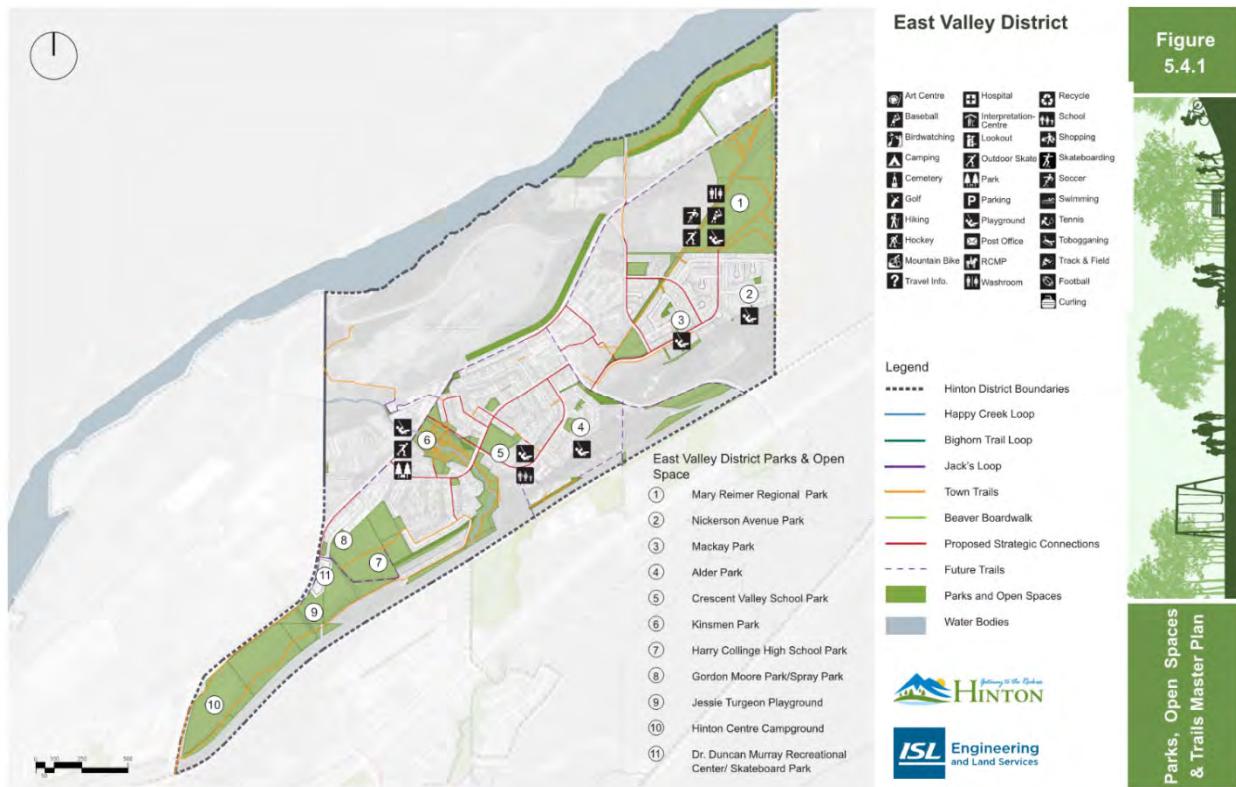
- How important is sight furnishing aesthetic, placement and maintenance to you?
- How important is a Signage and Wayfinding Strategic Plan to you?
- How important is the health of Hinton's urban forests to you?
- How important is POST programming to you?
- How important are the major parks to you?

Next Steps

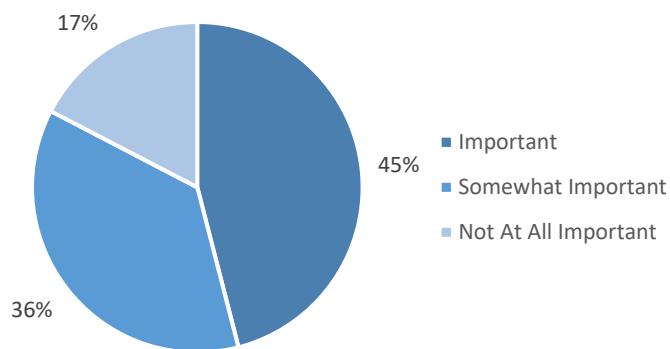
Feedback received from community members in the second phase of engagement will be used to update the POST Master Plan, where possible. The final POST Master Plan will be shared in spring 2019.

High Level Summary (Key Themes)

East Valley District



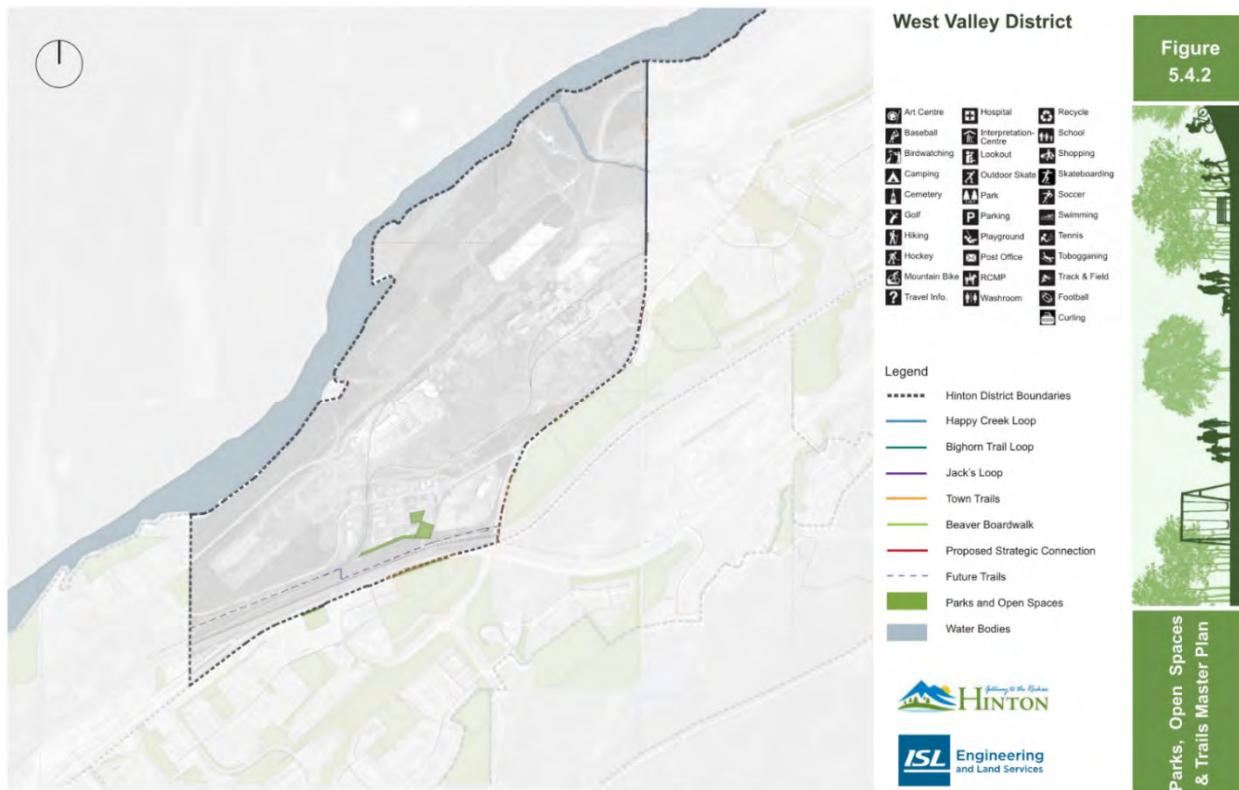
How important is enhanced access and connections to/within this area?



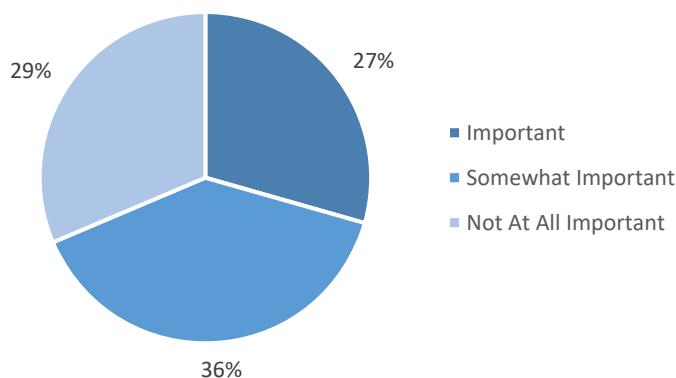
What parks, open space and trails infrastructure would you use in this area?

- Mary Reimer Park
- Rec Centre
- Desire for increase trails and trail connections

West Valley District



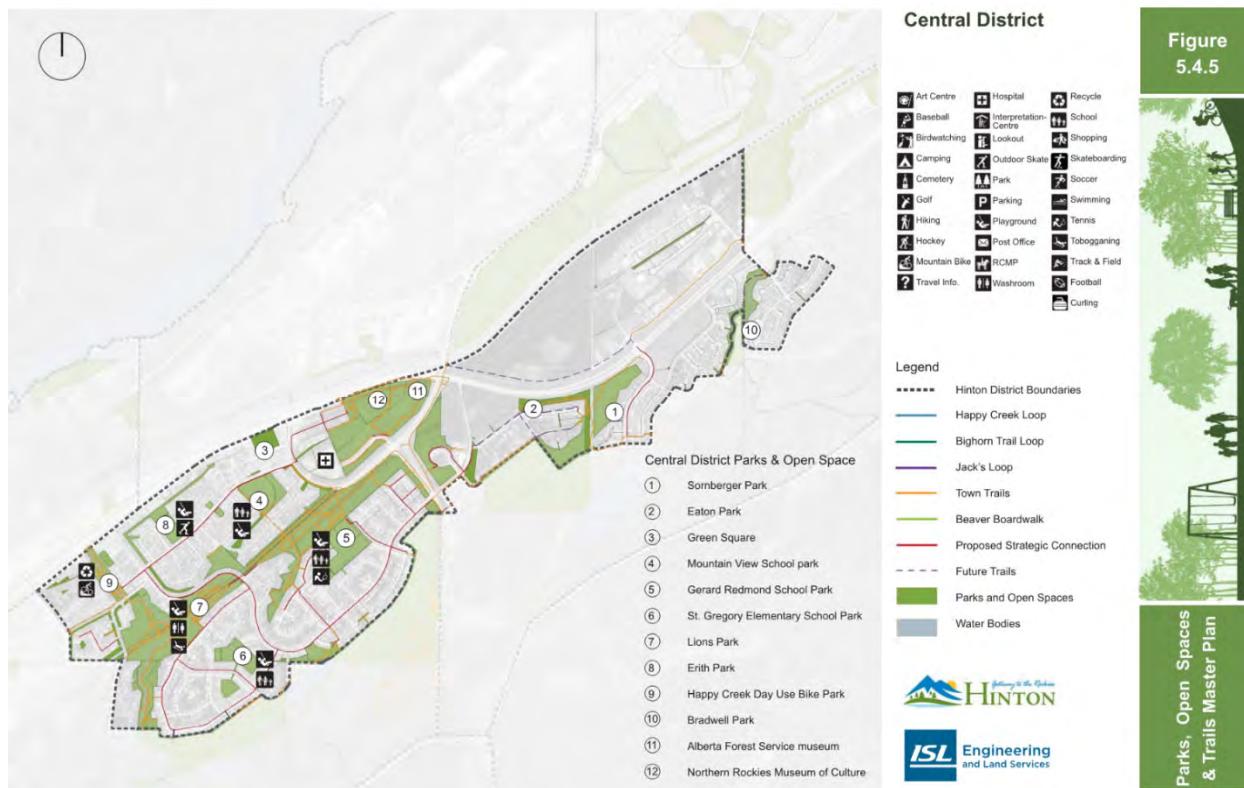
How important is enhanced access and connections to/within this area?



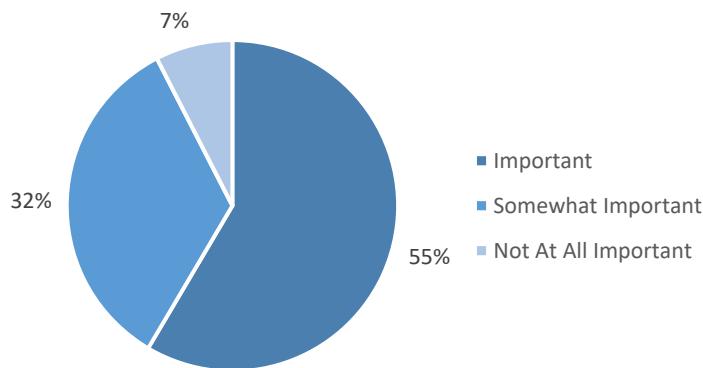
What parks, open space and trails infrastructure would you use in this area?

- Trails and increased connections to adjacent areas for both pedestrians and cyclists
- Improved access to river
- None needed due to current predominately industrial use

Central District



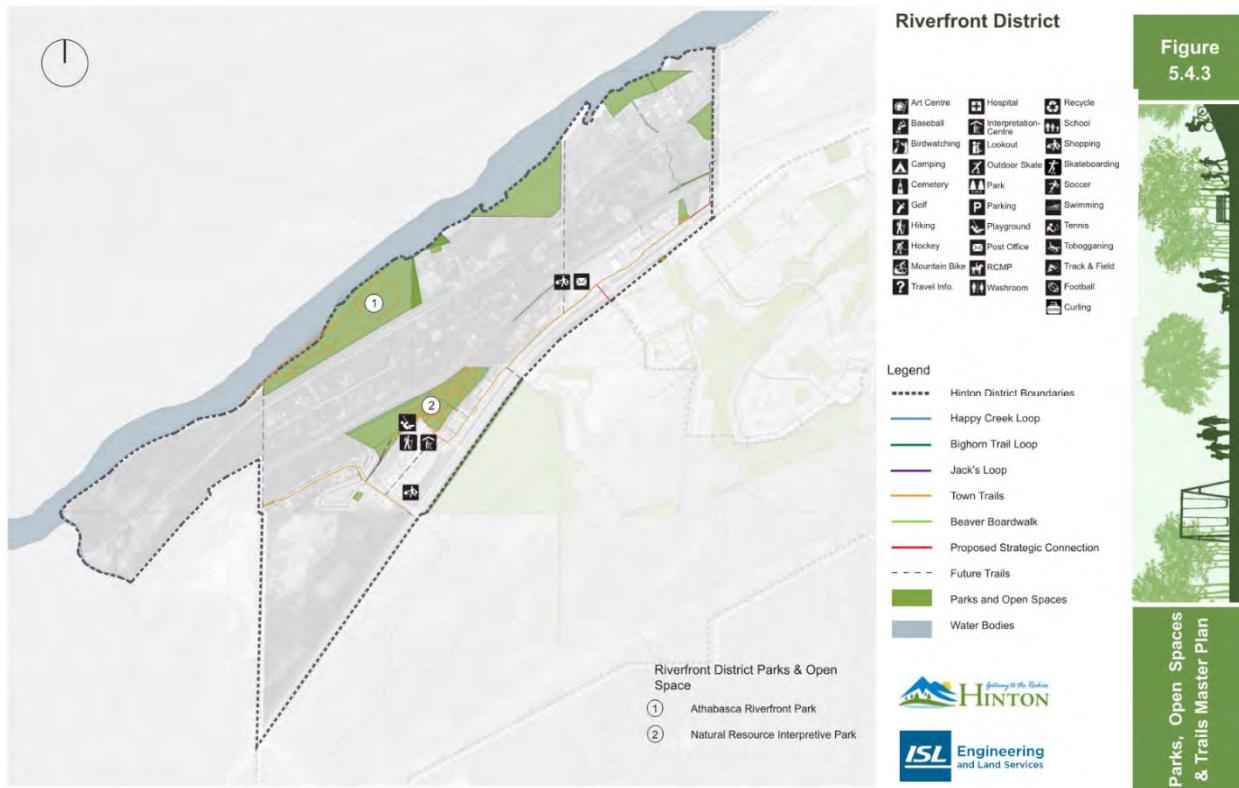
How important is enhanced access and connections to/within this area?



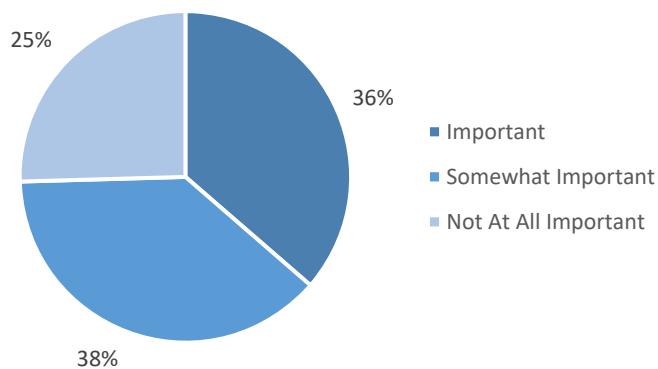
What parks, open space and trails infrastructure would you use in this area?

- Green Square, Lions Park, Happy Creek Trail
- Biking trails
- Desire for increased trails/trail connections to the hill and valley areas

Riverfront District



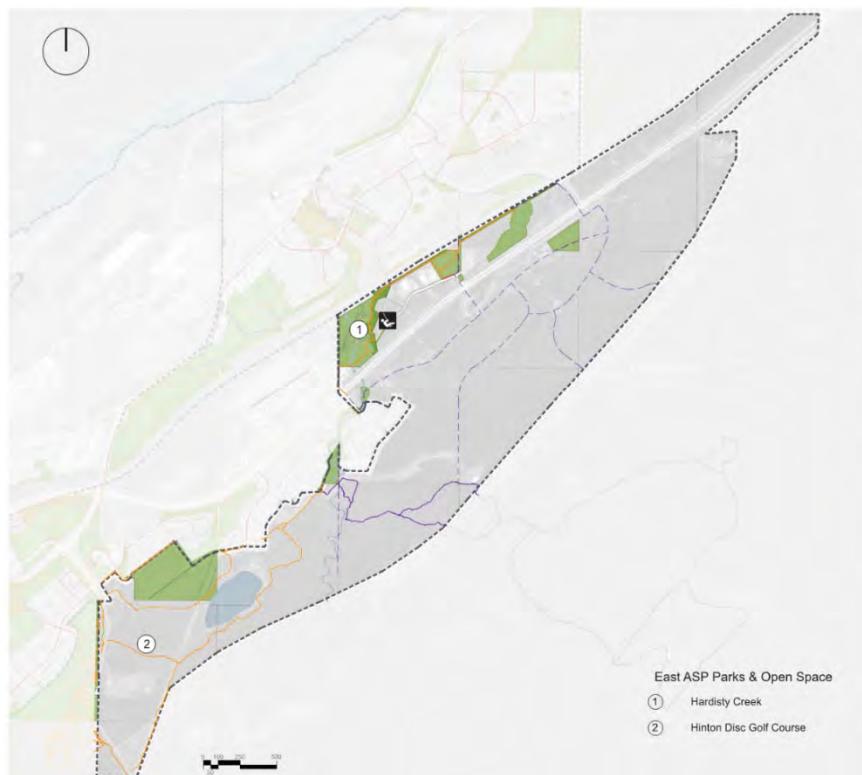
How important is enhanced access and connections to/within this area?



What parks, open space and trails infrastructure would you use in this area?

- Improvements and better access to Athabasca Riverfront Park needed
- Desire for increased access and trail connections to Town, in particular from Athabasca Natural Resources Park to Riverfront Park

East ASP District



East ASP

Figure 5.4.4

Art Centre	Hospital	Recycle
Baseball	Interpretation Centre	School
Birdwatching	Lookout	Shopping
Camping	Outdoor Skate Park	Skateboarding
Cemetery	Park	Soccer
Golf	Parking	Swimming
Hiking	Playground	Tennis
Hockey	Post Office	Tobogganing
Mountain Bike	RCMP	Track & Field
Travel Info	Washroom	Football
		Curling

Legend

- Hinton District Boundaries
- Happy Creek Loop
- Bighorn Trail Loop
- Jack's Loop
- Town Trails
- Beaver Boardwalk
- Proposed Strategic Connection
- - - Future Trails
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Water Bodies

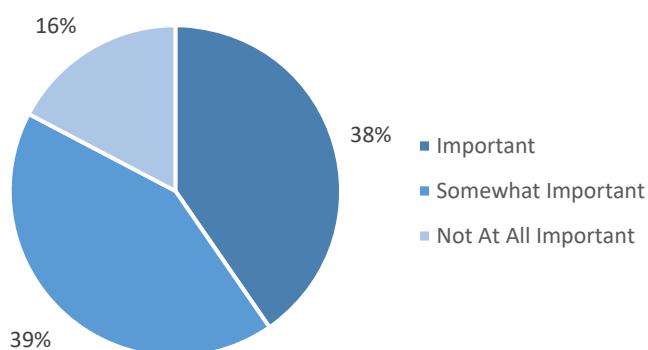


ISL Engineering and Land Services



Parks, Open Spaces & Trails Master Plan

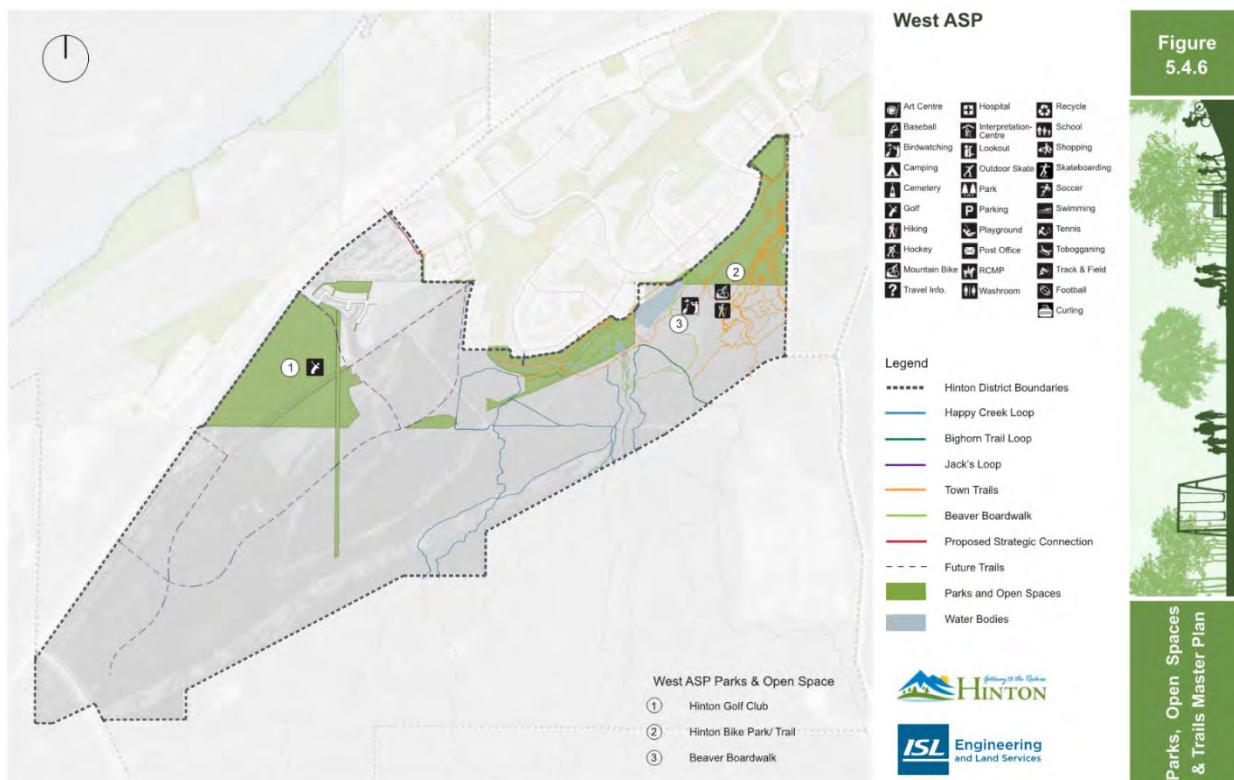
How important is enhanced access and connections to/within this area?



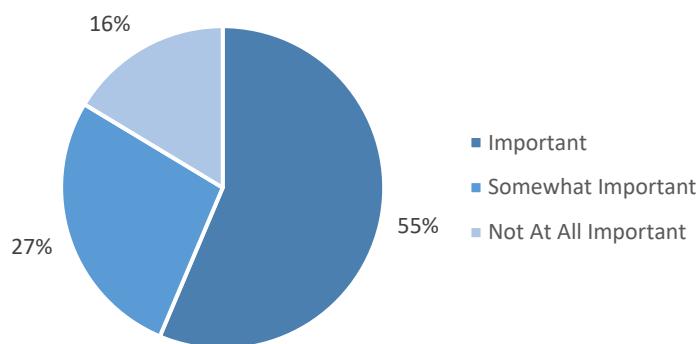
What parks, open space and trails infrastructure would you use in this area?

- Disc Golf course
- Improved connections to the bike park from other town trails
- Town trails are well utilized

West ASP District



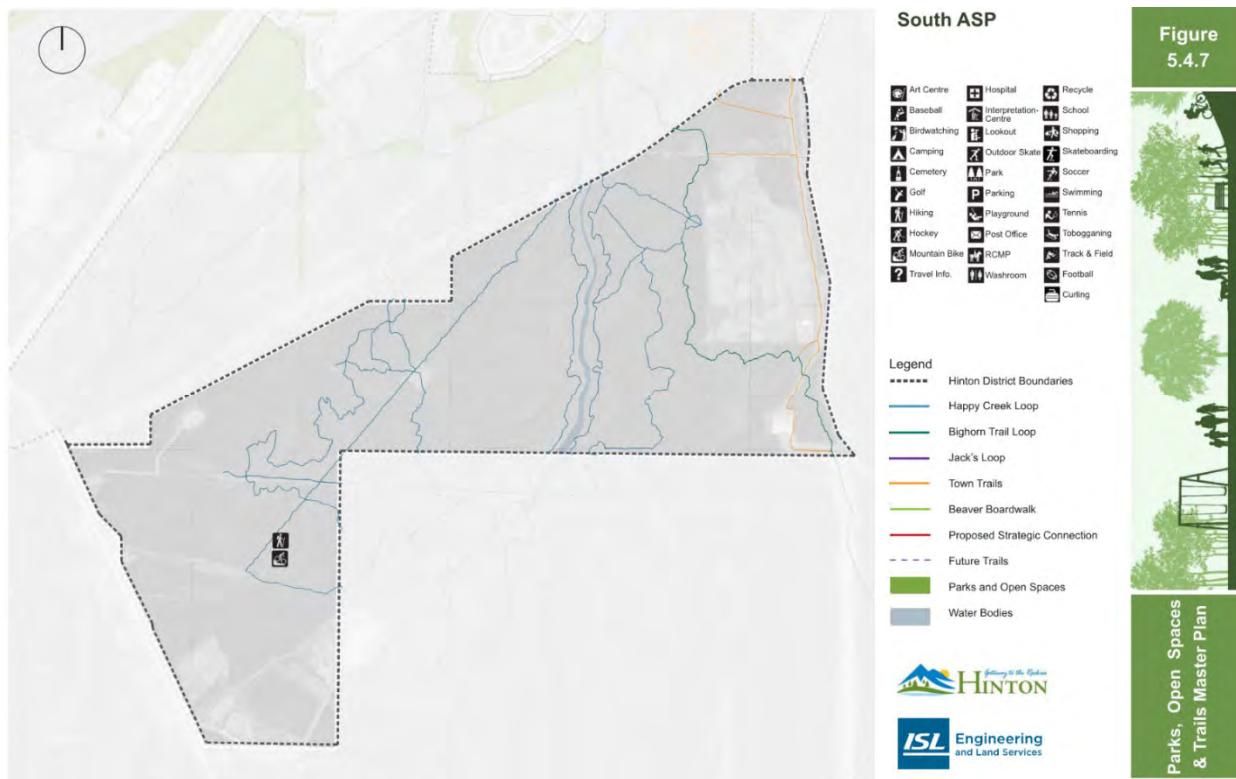
How important is enhanced access and connections to/within this area?



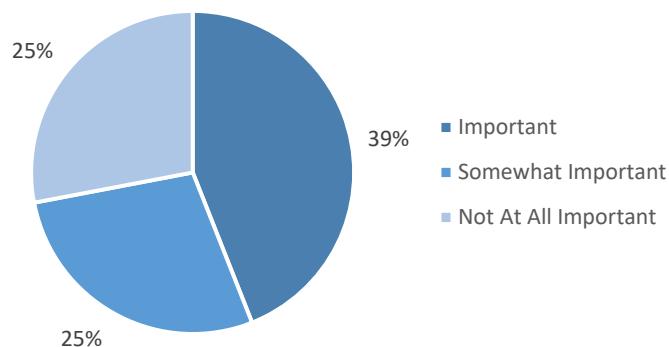
What parks, open space and trails infrastructure would you use in this area?

- Happy Creek Trail system, Beaver Boardwalk, bike park
- Trail connections into the golf course area
- Potential opportunities to connect into the County

South ASP District



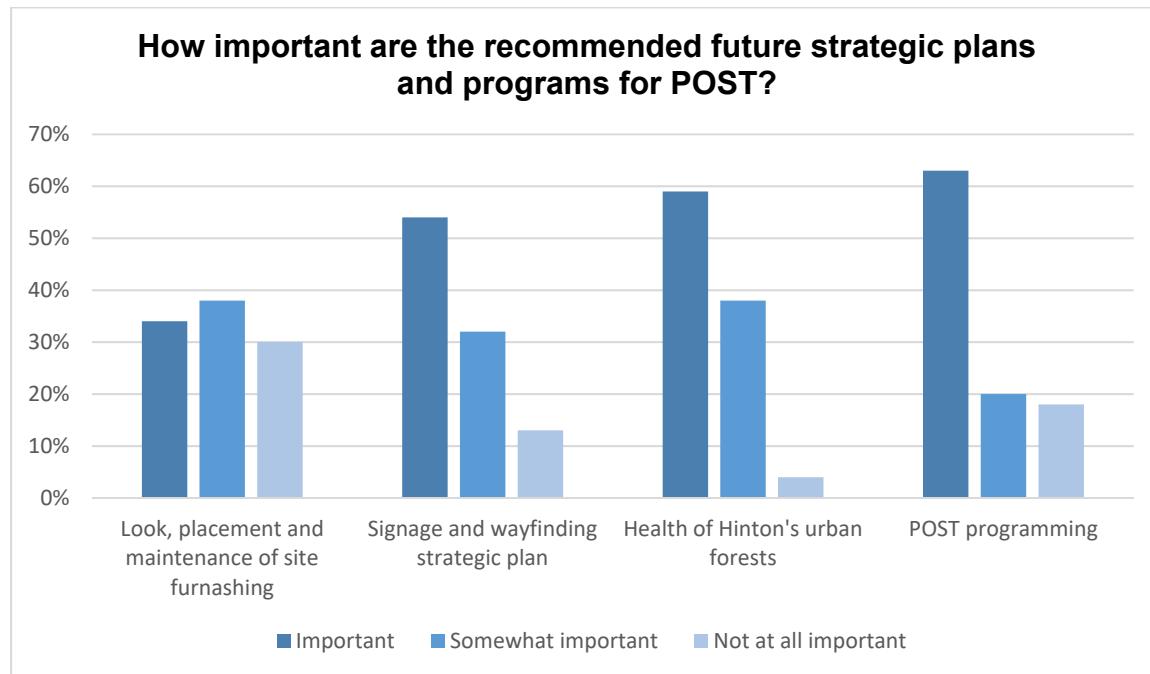
How important is enhanced access and connections to/within this area?



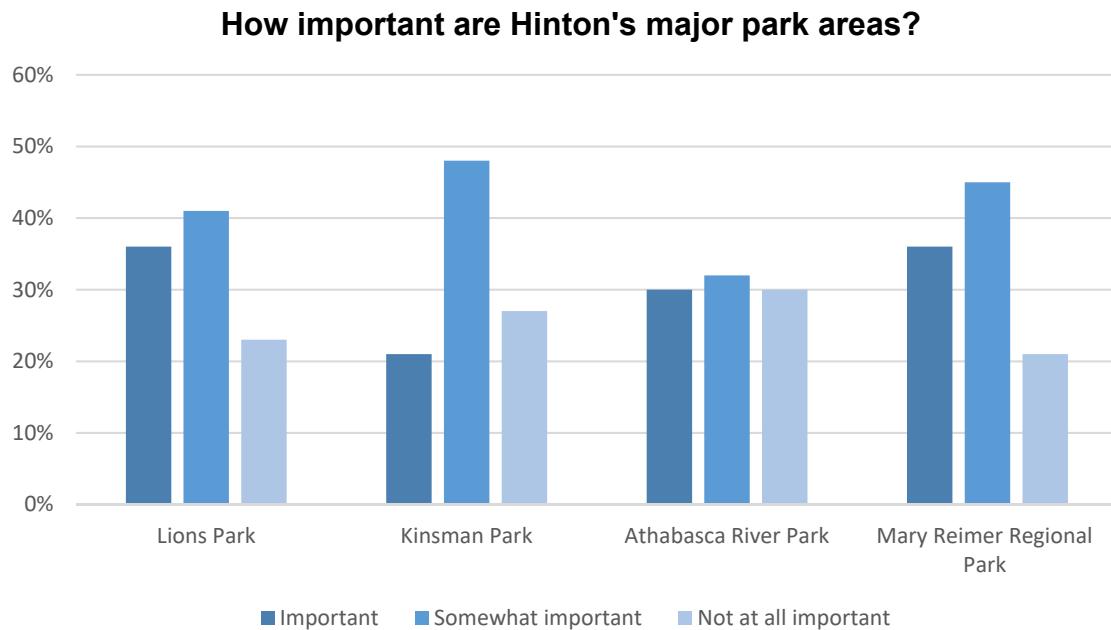
What parks, open space and trails infrastructure would you use in this area?

- Maintain, improve and expand the biking and walking trails.
- Happy Creek Trail system is well utilized

Additional Recommended Strategies



Importance of Hinton Parks



Summary of What We Heard (Verbatim Feedback)

All written submissions are presented as shared; they have not be corrected for spelling, grammar, or fact checking.

East Valley District

What parks, open spaces and trails infrastructure would you use and what would you like to see added or upgraded in East Valley District?

- Connect whole town by trails please
- Trail from proposed connector and town trail on Boutin Ave to trail on Hardisty Creek. Trails through open area – not just streets
- Jack's Loop has been dropped by HMBA so will not be maintained
- Trail connectors between recreation sites
- Rec centre
- mary reimer park
- none
- all
- n/a
- 1,7
- More connections between trail systems
- Trail maintenance
- Connecting off leash, mountain bike friendly trails.
- none
- Mary Reimer Park
- The valley doesn't have any mountain biking trails and the walking trails are disconnected. I also don't feel safe walking in the valley.
- Biking
- All
- Spray park, rec centre.
- all of the trails. They need better connectivity. Except for the trail along the tracks which makes no sense to me.
- Trials, Mary Reimer Regional Park
- Walking trails in Mary Reimer Park
- Connectivity to the rest of the town, specifically for commuting either to work or errands via bike or walking
- Another way for pedestrians/cyclists to safely get across hwy 16 from Thompson Lake
- Town Trails
- All: walking and biking
- Merry Reimer, Rec center
- Mary reimer park, spray park, all playgrounds
- Mary Reimer
- Strategic trail connections.
- town trails
- All
- All of it. This is near to where I live.
- Mary Reimer, Kinsman, and rec center splash park
- hiking, cycling trains throughout the town.
- All of them ,especially the trail system
- Mary reimer
- Trail that runs behind the Friendship centre
- 5,6,7,8,9,10
- none
- Gordon Moore Park
- Use all of these areas especially beaver boardwalk and trails to Robb road, happy creek.need to maintain beaver board walk just the way the trails are now
- Mary Reimer Park
- kinsman, spray park, playground, mary reimer
- Let's get a trail down to the river N of Mary Reimer Park, and then along the river W to Willow Creek road.
- I believe that Hinton should have a comprehensive trail system for use by all citizens. The reason I marked N/A as I feel that this whole exercise is more directed to building parking lots, & not really looking at building new trals and creating new trails. There should be some explaination on what is meant by enhanced.
- [illegible] Park and Kingsman Park
- Skateparks

West Valley District

What parks, open spaces and trails infrastructure would you use and what would you like to see added or upgraded in West Valley District?

- Pedestrian access (paved walkway separate from road) beside major roadways
- Ensure the future trail is developed and access to and from River Front Park from both hill and valley
- None, this is industrial area
- boardwalk
- Not much but good to connect hill to valley
- none
- don't know
- none
- Connecting off leash, mountain bike friendly trails.
- none
- Trail behind rec centre
- Would love to have a river access trail from town connecting to this area.
- There's nothing there and it's all behind the mill. Should be used more often but not accessible
- Biking
- All
- Trails used to pass through the area - going from east valley to lower hill.
- all trails.
- None
- "Happy Creek Trails, Beaver Boardwalk , Bighorn Trails,
- Town Trails"
- sidewalks / separate paved walkways
- Frisbee?
- All-mainly biking. This area is an island to itself re highway and railway and has no connector to Thompson Lake area, East Valley...
- none it's all industrial
- Board walk
- Any and all. My family utilizes all parks and trails.
- Near rec centre
- town trails
- All
- None, it is essentially the mill or other industrial land.
- I don't think there are any there
- hiking and cycling trains connection to adjacent areas
- "trail system
- River front and some means of getting there
- 3,4,7,8,9,11,12
- none
- Beaver Boardwalk / Bike trails
- None
- A connected well lit running walking path between the hill and valley
- walk along south boundary
- "none
- Long term, it would be great to still have a trail along the Athabasca River from the Willow Road all the way to West River Road area or Waterfront Park
- Beaver Boardwalk
- None

Central District

What parks, open spaces and trails infrastructure would you use and what would you like to see added or upgraded in Central District?

- No trail
- Trash can at trail system that ends at the museum (trail from east along the highway)
- Connections leading from town to the bike / running trails
- green square, museum
- It would be nice to be able to bike to the grocery store
- "happy creek, big horn, town trails, beaver boardwalk
- trails used for mountain biking and walking"
- all
- happy creek
- 2,3,4,5,6,7,9,11,12
- trail
- better access with the valley systems
- Connecting off leash, mountain bike friendly trails. Upgraded skate park and an asphalt pumptrack. This town is missing the boat on promoting and supporting the Mountain bike culture and keeping the community active.
- none

- I still don't understand how come Thompson lake area is not connected to Eaton drive and the rest of the town... It's crazy that their only access to their neighborhood is the highway!
- Would like to see the trails in this area connected better to the hill and valley areas for a continuous circuit/loop.
- We use all the parks in this area. They are visible. Good connection to the trails behind collinge
- 0
- All
- Travel from East Thompson lake (Bradwell St) to Sorenberger Park, Eaton Dr, Bike Park, EMVS.
- all trails. most parks.
- Green Square, Erith Park, Happy Creek
- Green Space
- all
- bike lanes / separate paved pedestrians trails like the one up switzer hill
- Town Trails, Happy Creek day use, Lion's Park, HTC trails, museum, Green Square, school parks, open parks
- All: walking & biking
- all of them
- None
- All. Bike park especially.
- Alberta forest service musuem
- town trails
- All
- Green Square, parks, trails
- Green Square and Lions Park
- walking trails, bike trails that connect from this area
- This is important especially for visitors such as where the dump truck is located
- 1 & 2
- Erith Park
- Use trail systems around Collinge road, pipeline trail, schools playgrounds
- Better lighting in town trails behind collinge and lions park
- Green Square, Museum, Hinton Training Centre, walk along the pipeline, Robb Road to Maxwell Lake Trail system
- green square, lions park
- This area is quite well served and connected currently.
- Schuld park and parks
- not lot

Riverfront District

What parks, open spaces and trails infrastructure would you use and what would you like to see added or upgraded in Riverfront District?

- Missing trail connection from Natural Resources Park to Athabasca Riverfront
 - Important connection
- Include Athabasca River Trail and access points in plan
- Connect 1 & 2
- Connection from 1 to 2, YES!
- Connection from the hill to riverfront. Pedestrian bridge over railway?
- Permanent washroom at Athabasca Riverfront Park please
- Make Athabasca Riverfront Park permanent! Already
- Athabasca Park – needs better signage including on highway; needs washroom
- Permanent washroom at Athabasca Park like Maxwell Lake
- Work with county to build connecting trail from Natural Resources Park – under Maskuta Creek Trestle Bridge and back to River Front Park.
- Restore ruined nature trail on Athabasca Riverfront Park
- This area has been horribly mismanaged. We have a world heritage river and you'd never know it. You must travel through heavy industrial zone to get there and the industrial properties that line the river are an eye sore. Save what is savable and focus on the town.
- riverfront park, boardwalk
- Riverfront park is great spot for dogs and also to fly kites
- none
- more riverfront
- 1,2
- a defined trail to the park, instead of the just the road, it would be a nice final

destination walk or bike ride from my home.

- boardwalk maintenance
- There are other areas in this community that lack recreational options and access to even simple playgrounds. Fix the current state of our playgrounds and parks and build in areas have nothing before starting something else.
- none
- Riverfront park and this entire area should be connected with the town passing over or under the CN train track one way or the other. The Athabasca river is a huge asset. Thankfully we now have a park down there, but a direct pedestrian access would be a most
- Would love to have access to this area from town to bike or jog.
- The access to the water front takes a long time. Would be nice to have access from the west end of town rather than driving all the way around west river road. Unless you have a vehicle, this area is very remote and doesn't allow access for people walking. Should be used more often but it's such an inconvenience to get there and once there the only thing is the waterfront.
- 1
- Most
- We don't use this area.
- none unless there is or I can understand existing connectivity to these areas.
- Natural Resource Interpretive Park
- Riverfront Park Walking trails, picnic area
- all
- Reasonable access to the river and logical access to the existing river front park. Would need increased enforcement efforts in this area to make it a comfortable place to go
- Riverfront park, Town Trails, bike trails (need some along the river!!) Need connections
- "All: biking, walking and paddling.
- Awesome if a designated bike trail ran from Maskuta Creek to the Hinton Centre utilizing the old rail bed and ???. This would then be a comfortable; but rewarding bike ride from all other town parks. Picnic areas in the Riverside Park?

- none too remote and no access
- All
- All. Love this area.
- Arhabasca waterfront. Interpretative trails
- "town trails
- waterfront park"
- All
- Riverfront Park
- Athabasca Riverfront
- I would use it more if there was some sinage and bike access to the river.
- Yes a I said this is a great area with possibilities
- 1
- None as it increases liability issues if ever a child disappears in the river. How much money does hinton really wish to spend ensuring public safely on a fast flowing river.
- Athabasca Riverfront trails
- Don't go down this area much but might use river park
- Took my kids here a few times, stressful with the high drop off and no playground, won't go here again
- Athabasca Riverfront Park trails
- athabasca riverfront
- Let's get from Riverside Park to the west to the Creek. The trail can be built on riparian area, and the Government owns land with a horse lease that can be reduced so we can enjoy the river along there. Furthermore, leaving the Town boundary to the east, there is already a great old road trail with hoodoos etc all the way to Highway 40 with a parking area just off that highway. This should be developed in Time, together with an all season bridge over the Maskuta Creek at town boundary for bikes and hikers.
- We need new trails joining the town to the Athabasca riverside Park. Also a group ??? Off a trail 4 - 5 years ago that would hook up to Maskuba creek. The park needs permanent houses just like the facilities at maxwell lake. This is a gem of an area that is being overlooked.
- Beaver board walk
- Lions Park

East ASP District

What parks, open spaces and trails infrastructure would you use and what would you like to see added or upgraded in East ASP District?

- Green space missing
- How come disc golf recreation lease is not coloured as Park/Open Space?
- What park or open space is this?
- Re-establish trails and trail connections to the Jack's bike trails, enhanced enjoyment of Thompson lake and connection to the Bike Park
- boardwalk
- disc golf
- all
- 1
- boardwalk maintenance
- Build bike trails and promote the town as a destination. Help your recreational non profits because they bring the tourism.
- none
- Hinton Disc golf
- All trails in town need to be connected to form an easy flow from one area to another.
- We use the biking trails and walking trails in this area. Love them. Need a connection between bike park and walking trail. Otherwise you have to go all the way to the bike park to for a loop. Need a smaller loop from new pembina trail down to walking trail.
- 1
- Most
- Many trails from Thompson Lake subdivision have been destroyed by logging. Travel to the bike park is not very nice anymore.
- None.
- Hinton Disc Golf Course
- Hardisty Creek walking trails
- We really like the disc golf course
- Disc golf course, Town Trails, Bike Trails,
- All: biking & walking
- some
- Disc golf
- Would use more if I knew what was in this area, haven't explored it too much yet.
- Disc golf
- town trails
- All
- The Disc Golf Course potentially and/or future trails or parks
- Disc golf
- a connected, maintained trail system would be useful and used.
- Huge potential for tourism and showcase our community and safeguard wildlife
- 2 & 3
- Disc Golf area
- Walk on trails bu disc park, Thompson lake area
- Hardisty
- disc golf
- beaver boardwalk

West ASP District

What parks, open spaces and trails infrastructure would you use and what would you like to see added or upgraded in West ASP District?

- Need access to Terris Heights and from Terris Heights
- Trails is needed to join up with the golf course
- Trails connection Seabolt & then to park! And Brewery!
- Trails connections into County – Seabolt Estates
- Trail connections from the golf course to the bike trails
- boardwalk
- bike park, beaver board walk
- all
- 2,3
- All of them. The access and connectivity is fine the way it is.
- trail maintenance
- Connecting off leash, mountain bike friendly trails. Ok
- all

- All the bike trails, Hinton bike park, Hinton disc golf
- Trails and washrooms. We walk/bike to this area.
- Love the biking trails there. Develop more behind the golf course! Maybe connect the golf club to trails for a pit stop!
- 2,3
- Most
- We don't use these trails.
- Only around the beaver boardwalk
- All
- Golf course (walking trails in winter), Hinton Bike Park Trails and Beaver Boardwalk
- all
- "Currently use many of the open space and trails.
- We love the Beaver Boardwalk
- Bike park!!, beaver boardwalk, Town Trails, Bike Trails, Maxwell Lake, golf course, future trails (yes!!!!)
- All: biking, walking and skating. Need to remove all blocked off structures and partially torn down structures from Maxwell Lake area. It is a high use area and impact needs to be minimized. Maybe reserved handicap parking spots; one at Maxwell Lake beaver feeding area and one on Reimer Drive.
- all of them this is main trail networks
- Board walk
- We use the boardwalk and trail system daily. My favourite part of Hinton.
- All of them.

South ASP District

What parks, open spaces and trails infrastructure would you use and what would you like to see added or upgraded in South ASP District?

- Stay undeveloped
- Extremely important to improve and maintain these bike trails
- boardwalk
- more mountain bike trails needed
- i really cant say
- it would be nice to have the town help maintain and expand the mountain bike/ walking trails and have them as multi use
- trail maintenance
- Connecting off leash, mountain bike friendly trails.
- all

- town trails
- Beaver Boardwalk, Mountain Bike Trails, Golf Course, other walking trails, parks
- Beaver Boardwalk and bikepark
- this area is the heart of the town trial systems. It must be maintained better than it is now. More signage would be helpful to occasional users as well.
- trail system,beaver boardwalk and golf course
- Beaver boardwalk
- For wildlife and to access other areas
- Happy Creek
- Happy Creek Trail System, Beaver Boardwalk
- Terrible question and who wrote this really needs to understand questionnaires. It all depends on the area that needs to be visited. They do not need to be connected. Old school thinking. Consider only four months of visitation to any area in the Hinton domain and 6 months of no use. The cost to maintain will be thrown out within two council change overs.
- Bike park
- Use bike park, and trails in that area
- The trails could use maintenance and enhancement in the bike park and beyond
- Beaver Boardwalk
- beaver boardwalk, bike park
- There are many informal trails S of the golf course, which will have to be changed if and when development occurs.
- beaver boardwalk

- All the bike trails, summer and winter... all year long I should say!
- Would use trails and washrooms.
- Love there trails and use them all the time!! Keep adding more!
- biking
- Some
- More bike trails would be nice. Jack's system has been basically destroyed.
- Minimal use of trails.
- All
- all

- It is most important to me this area does not become over engineered
- We use all the mountain bike trails. More support for HMBA?
- non-motorized trails, lookouts
- All: walking & biking
- all this is the main single track network
- Not sure. Would use when available.
- I walk those trails daily
- "town trails
- beaver boardwalk
- hmبا trails"
- Walking trails and future parks, trails etc.
- Are there any?
- the mountain bike club maintains this. Town of Hinton should support and offer grants to the club to maintain the facility.

- Beaver board walk, bike trails and trails in general
- Lots of the bike trails here and come tors
- Happy creek
- Bike park, Town Trails
- Happy creek loop
- Bike in these areas sometime
- Where is this??
- Happy Creek trails
- none
- This is wonderful bush walking now, including the Happy Creek trail on both sides of happy creek. Do not change anything or develop any further at this time
- beaver boardwalk

Additional Comments

Do you have anything else you would like to share about Hinton's POST network or potential opportunities for future development?

- The museum name correction: "and Heritage"
- Jack's has been deactivated. Will not be kept up
- Better connections for trails
- Need to connect more in town
- Connection from south side of the highway to River Front Park
- Need a trail on north side of river! Work with Yellowhead County!
- Trail system behind Alder Drive that connects to trails along Hardisty Creek and Innovista Park trails
- Need Jack's Trail maintained
- Jack's Trail maintenance plan? HMBA!?
- Trail connecting museum to trail system. Part of "lost connections"!
- HMBA = Love! Thanks
- Connect trail – look at loop
- Missed connection stairs/steps
- Work with users who are in the know!!
- Trail from Natural Resources Park to West River Road and Riverfront Park
- Would love to see adult friendly workout stations in parks - common in a lot of major cities and tourist destinations. Let's encourage adults to stay fit and stay healthy along with their kids!
- to address wheelchair access in the area of the Continuing Care centre and Pine Valley

- Lodge
- When younger I used many of these, now not so much
- na
- ISL plan is overpriced and low in details. Please use local companies to complete the work.
- Fix what needs to be fixed (costly Boardwalk rebuild) and promote what we currently have (bike park and trails). And support the non profits that are moving things forward (bike club, disc golf). Quit adding more costs (river front park) to an already overstressed budget.
- I have concerns about putting in too much infrastructure in these areas. The town already can't maintain what it has. There was a broken slide at a playground, instead of replacing it, the town just removed it. Connect the existing trails, add a couple more washrooms and garbage containers, a few benches and call it good. We don't need more than that. We love our trails for the rustic outdoors that it is. Leave it that way.
- Park upgrades. More outdoor basketball hoops.
- We need a fire pit - rest area for winter x-skiers! Close to the open lake/s might be nice.
- I think Hinton has a great opportunity to

have a huge artery of parks and trails which will benefit our local community and tourism community. It would be great to see projects as such being the focus of our town instead of how many liquor and weed shops Hinton has. Being a family that has been here since 1956, we still smile every time we drive by the very clean well taken care of skate board park and seeing kids of all ages using it.

- It's too bad Jack's bike trails are gone. Continue developing the existing bike park with more long trails. The bike park short trails are excellent but I feel we have enough of them.
- Stop spending money on consultants and plans. We're not a big city. Surely council and town can find things that make sense? I like them, but they're just paths trees and parks.
- This survey appears to be designed to determine use of certain recreation areas. I think you will find that visiting these areas and engaging with the public in person will provide more valuable information for planning. The results of a survey such as this could be interpreted in different ways and I fear they will be used to promote the agenda of biased individuals.
- I think we already have green spaces and good trails systems in place. We should put money into those..possible upgrades and a connector to tie all walking /biking trails. Not in favor of creating more.
- Highly opposed to any future dog park located adjacent to a childrens park.
- I support the effort to connect the town and make our trail systems more useful to people instead of just little chunks of trails scattered around. However I feel that the plan appears to be very high-level and vague, making me hesitant to jump on board until I know exactly what the plans are for each area.
- There seems to be missing plans for the disabled demographic. Someone in a wheelchair has difficulty just navigating sidewalks and has no opportunity to visit town trails or beaver boardwalk. Also, your trail network data is not update. Please contact [removed] to get the latest trail network (shapefile). The one you have is outdated.
- Nondestructable picnic tables and benches possibly would do well in playgrounds and

Riverside Park. Not recommended for Beaver Boardwalk as it would destroy the peacefulness it now has.

- thanks
- Beaver boardwalk and surrounding area are particularly important to me and my family. We use it daily and love our quick access to beautiful nature.
- I had difficulty following the maps, so I do apologize if there was a mention of this area. The Innovista Park - this area baffles me. It seems as if there was intention for a connection from the park to Drinnan Way that is interrupted by a ravine and is incomplete. Additionally, the rubberized walk way that extends from the parking area (ish) to the bridge also seems abrupt. I would have to assume the intention was to provide a rubberized pathway around the pond? Instead, it stops rather suddenly and a fairly sparse gravel pathway begins. The first time I visited this area I had to do a real [removed] I couldn't figure out where the rest of the pathway went. I don't know if this area is public or private lands, so again I am sorry if this is not within the towns control.
- we should try to develop a ring trail that connects existing town trails and parks, include resource park by canadian tire, riverfront park
- I think it is a great plan. We need this.
- Just wondering why there is a park called Sornberger Park that isn't really near to Sornberger Place.
- This is a fairly general survey and I find it hard to provide meaningful feedback without more information.
- I'd love to see the Beaver Boardwalk get some much needed upgrades. The lions park is always busy and needs upgrades as well. I think that the Athabasca Riverfront Park could be more accessible.
- regular maintenance is required. Grandiose plans are not. Lets keep the current flavour, and do regular maintenance to keep it nice, used and affordable.
- considering the aging population access to the parks via wheelchair or walker would be tremendous asset
- Riverfront proposed trail connection, uses county, and CN road which runs along the track east. Who is responsible for maintenance of track and safe crossing of the train track. The already existing road

runs parallel to the track east and behind residents homes. What will be the plan to ensure pedestrians are not utilizing the wrong trail/road and not entering private property? The residents are on acreage backing onto the train track. This area is not highly maintained or monitored. The rules set forth on the signage for "open" hours are not followed anymore. The gate remains open in the summer at all hours of the day which is against the posted signage. My trust in promises is low in believing the maintenance of trail or posted rules will not be followed and in an already low monitored part of town, this access will cause high potential for theft in the area and injury with crossing a very active train track. Consider an alternate trail that ends up closer to the entrance of the park, not the back of the park.

- Maintenance is huge priority
- If we have the ability to make the trails more direct and better lit for people walking between the hill and the valley I think we should look at this in future plans.
- More support for future mountain bike development. Attracts many tourists and benefits local citizens as well.
- Really a fancy over priced master plan. The tourist dollars will not stop in Hinton especially when one drives into the city limits. The cock-ups on the Highway, destruction of forests (and you ask how important urban forests are) shows Hinton as a red-necked town designed for industry, a place for a gas stop and get out of dodge.
- Need to maintain what we have in place before adding new projects
- Trail maintenance
- Washrooms with year round access for small children
- Better connection around town so kids could bike to get groceries, ice cream, Parks.. if we want to do that we have to drive or bike on unsafe highway crossings "
- The Firesmart Program has destroyed much

of Hinton's Urban forest. The old nature trail in the Athabasca Riverfront Park has been completely scrubbed out. I have no idea what the Town is trying to accomplish with this POST plan. As long as there are nice walking trails in each neighbourhood that should meet most goals. Quit mutilating our Town forests. FireSmart just introduces a lot of fine fuels and ground fires will burn hotter.

- Let's focus on connectivity of existing spaces, we should be able to bike or walk 15 km in all directions within Hinton with proper major street and rail crossings, vs. mountain goat paths as are currently in place.
- Outdoor exercise equipment use has very low participation anywhere it is installed, call other municipalities and ask around, nobody uses it and its very expensive. Minimize formalizing the natural trails and bike trails, few ever use benches in those areas.
- I feel that the open house was a total farce. There were no representatives from the Engineering consultation company present to answer questions. The weakness of design was shown with the idea of a dark area, canoe launce on the south side of the lake and avian interpretive centre in the west area. Well away from the lake where easily the best bird watching is possible. It is very obvious that the "planners" have no [illegible]. More community members should be a part of this process. The boardwalk area is well used with countless hours put in by citizens that have much more of an idea than "the consultants," that are trying to ram through a 3.5 million dollar enhancement without any other than a Cadillac overkill plan. This whole process has to be looked at differently with town representatives and interested community members involved. The mountain Pine Beatle Initiative is a good example of a far more realistic and sensible approach.
- Any public parks are important to me. I like walking around.

