



Trail  
Parks and Recreation  
Master Plan

Final Report

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## Reference: Trail Parks and Recreation Master Plan –Final Report

### Pg. 4. Executive Summary, Key Learnings

“One of the few gaps is the lack of a skateboard park, which many communities the size of Trail enjoy”

### Pg. 5. Executive Summary, Key Learnings, Summary of Recommendations with Implementation Implications and Timeline

#### Summary of Recommendations with Implementation Implications and Timeline

No.	Recommendation	Timeline	Operating Implications	Capital Implications
1	Provide leadership in volunteer support	Short Term	Minimal	Minimal
2	Take a more proactive role in the development of an outdoor skate park	Short Term	Minimal	Moderate

### Page 22. Section 4.3 Outdoor Recreation Spaces

Referring to 451/962 (47% response rate!) respondents to a City of Trail Parks & Recreation Master Plan, mail-out survey conducted in the winter of 2013,...

“A large number of those responses (approximately 25%) mentioned the need for a skateboard park. This is a significant number for a “write in” response.”

### Page 26. Section 4.6 General Comments

“About one third of respondents took the time to add general comments to the questionnaire. A full transcript of those comments is recorded in **Appendix B**. However, a few of the themes that emerged from those comments include:

- Support for developing a skateboard park for the area’s youth; ”

### Page 39. Section 5.5 Implications of the User Data, Sport Fields

“One park facility that is notable by its absence is a skate park. This type of facility supports the growing trend for extreme sports. This facility is also”

### Page 40. Section 6. Stakeholder Input, Stakeholder Group Themes

Themes	Comments
Youth	There is consistent support for more youth social recreation opportunities; in particular a skateboard park.

**Page 54. Section 8.5 Service Delivery Process**

	<i>Sufficient Services are Provided to Meet the Objectives (1)</i>	<i>More Could be Done to Meet the Objectives (2)</i>	<i>Very Little is Being Done to Meet the Objectives (3)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Social Opportunities for Teens		X		Trail has facilities that support many organized activity opportunities for Teens. However, facilities that promote informal social interactions are also important. Dedicated facilities for this purpose are often included within community centre venues and should be considered for Trail. The proposed skate park will help address youth social needs.

**Page 59. Section 9. Future Direction, Issues that Need to be Addressed**

Issue	Comments
1. Volunteerism	After decades of leadership in terms of the number, breadth and level of commitment of its volunteers, Trail residents and community organizations are showing signs of significant volunteer fatigue. Something has to be done to reverse this trend.
2. A Skate Park	There is a gap in the delivery of services for youth not involved in organized sports or arts. A skate park will be a cost effective recreation amenity that will help address this service deficiency.

**Page 62. Section 9.2 Skate Park**

Skate parks became popular in the 1990's and early 2000's and like many park amenities they have evolved in scope, purpose and customized design. Many of the initial skate parks were placed in isolated park settings with concrete basins focusing on providing a drop-in activity for teens. As the skate park designs developed adding, rails, benches and curbs they attracted a broader audience. The X-Games television coverage highlighted skateboarding as a sport as well as different types of wheeled activities such as roller blades and BMX bikes using similar features. These changes have created skate parks that are integrated into mainstream park areas and while still attracting teens have also become popular for younger and older populations.

The City of Trail has acknowledged the benefits of a skate park, approved a location and 50% funding for a \$550,000 skate park, and have agreed to partner with the community to raise the balance. As of August 2013, the community has raised approximately \$40,000 of its goal of \$275,000. The development of a skate park is a high priority for a number of reasons:

- It fills a need for young people who are not involved in more mainstream activities by providing a wholesome activity for a wide variety of interests
- It meets a variety of socially worthwhile goals and objectives and diverts activity from socially unacceptable or much less acceptable behaviours;
- It is cost effective and sustainable, with relatively moderate capital cost and minimal operating costs.

**Indoor Skate Park**

Skate park amenities; ramps, rails, benches have been located indoors in some communities as a feature of a youth centre. An example is Nelson's Youth Centre where portable wood skate structures are part of the youth centre. The integration of skate park features in a youth centre promotes activity while in a social environment. The features can be designed to provide challenges for beginners to expert. An

indoor skate park experience, as part of a youth centre, provides a focus for youth activity. A benefit of this type of skate facility for communities in winter climates is it provides for year round use.

#### Outdoor Skate Park

Outdoor skate parks are generally available during park hours of operation (dawn to dusk) and in some locations extended hours have been provided with artificial lighting. These facilities are particularly suited to youth as it provides for individual activities while the nature of the sport has a significant social opportunity. The consultants have observed an age range from preschoolers to adults using skate parks in other municipalities with the older users demonstrating techniques and assisting the younger participants. It is a sport/activity that is typically learned by doing and practicing rather than in an organized program.

#### Recommendation for a Skate Park

The City should make the Skate Park a priority and take a more proactive role in supporting efforts to raise funds and develop the project

There are a variety of forms that the proactive involvement can take, including:

- Initiating and supporting a fundraising campaign to build the outdoor skate park including display of the park plan on the web and facilitating partnerships with others to create funding opportunities;
- Incorporating innovative fundraising processes to build the outdoor skate park;
- Integrating indoor skate park amenities into the planning process for TMC redevelopment;

#### Justification for the Recommendation

The construction of a skate park will contribute to several of the service objectives agreed to by Council during a framework for planning workshop including:

2 Support for Local Groups

3 Spectator Sports

4 Social Interaction

8 Fitness and wellbeing

10 Basic leisure skills for children

11 Advanced skills for children

12 Social and Leadership Opportunities for Teens

A skate park will provide a sport/activity facility that caters to the individual nature of teens in addition to the traditional structured team sports resulting in more complimentary activity options for teens. A skate park takes the curbs, rails and ramps from the community and consolidates them into a singular facility similar to the experience of ski resorts where snowboard terrain parks have been created with rails, boxes and half pipes. Almost 80% of respondents indicated that there are not enough activities are for teens and approximately one third of the respondents added a comment that a skate park is needed.

#### Implications of Implementing the Recommendation

The consultants have identified the option to reinvent the Trail Memorial Centre by consolidating some uses into current spaces and redeveloping other spaces to new uses. This is fully discussed in the Trail Memorial Centre section. However, an indoor skate park concept could be a viable alternative to the development of an outdoor skate park. One of the benefits of an indoor skate park is the temporary nature of the apparatus. These ramps, rails and boxes can be built and placed in a vacant space in the TMC and then removed for other activities. This could lead to an immediate and short-term provision of a skate park while the more permanent outdoor solutions are being created. The development of an active youth centre with skate park amenities could be part of a redevelopment of TMC for a longer term vision. Both an indoor and outdoor skate facility could be built within this strategy.

The outdoor skate park has been approved by the City of Trail with half of the funding committed and a city park location. To pursue this option, funding will need to be raised by volunteers in the community as their share. Considering the decline in service club membership over the past five years and the fact that they have traditionally raised funds for projects like the skate park, additional leadership or funding from the municipality in partnership with the community may be required. While capital intensive, the outdoor skate park has very little impact on operating budgets. An indoor skate park would have broader benefits but more impact on operating budgets due to the staffing and utility needs.

**Page 75. Section 9.6 Changes to the Trail Memorial Centre, Re-designing curling space for other community recreation needs.**

Curling participation has declined in many communities and consequently curling programs often have been consolidated and surplus space re-developed for other needed community services. To illustrate, Greater Victoria with a current population of 330,000 has closed and/or redeveloped 24 sheets of ice. It currently has four curling venues with a total of 28 sheets for a ratio of one sheet for every 11,800 thousand population. Greater Trail currently has 16 sheets serving a population of approximately 20,000 or one sheet for every 1,250 people. Therefore, considering the curling trend at T.M.C relative to curling trends elsewhere, the consultants believed that the curling needs in the Greater Trail region can be met with the 8 sheets available in Rossland (4) and Beaver Valley (4) for the foreseeable future.

If curling services were consolidated in the region, the T.M.C curling space could then be reconfigured into multi-purpose space to address broader community leisure interests. Alternatively this space could also be re-designed for a more specific purpose, such as youth programs. The space could provide a variety of activity and social opportunities which might also include an indoor skate park. This skate park option would be a more usable (12 months) and also a less expensive alternative to a new outdoor facility. This type of “dry floor” re-development is also significantly more cost effective than providing ice. Consolidating curling in other regional facilities may also assist in justification for amending the TRP program.

**Page 83. Section 10 Implementing the Plan, Summary of Implementation Priorities and Timeline**

No.	Recommendation	Timeline	Operating Implications	Capital Implications
1	Provide leadership in volunteer support	Short Term	Minimal	Minimal
2	Take a more proactive role in the development of an outdoor skate park	Short Term	Minimal	Moderate

Page 146. Appendix B. Qualitative Results

1. Get the bike/skateboard park going. Increase repairs on stairs in east and west Trail
2. Park area for skateboarders to get kids off the streets
3. Skate park - in a park area not on Rossland Ave
4. Skate park for kids and outdoor gym for seniors - like Castlegar has
5. Skate park, at or near the trail boat launch, with added washrooms, which would serve 2 users
6. Skate/Bike park, Bike lanes on roads
7. Skateboard park (12)
8. Skateboard park - like Fruitvale's!
9. Skateboard park and bicycle park
10. Skateboard park and water park
11. Skateboard park area
12. Skateboard park facility (2)
13. Skateboard park for the kids

14. Skateboard park for those youth and young adults whose passion is skateboarding
15. Skateboard park located at Gyro park - not Rossland Ave as it is across from bars and heavy traffic
16. Skateboard/bike park
17. Skate Park: needs to be in a family-oriented area like Gyro Park, not in a main highway area like Rossland Ave - needs to be in a park.
18. At this point in time, I do not think a skateboard park is necessary.
19. I marked down that there isn't enough for teens to do but I do not know if this is a correct response. There is a lot for them to do but in an ever changing society, I think we have to add venues that teens are currently interested in. I think trail needs to build a skateboard park for the teens. This has been extremely successful in major cities and even smaller ones. Kaslo has a skateboard park but Trail doesn't.
20. It's absolutely absurd that Trail does NOT have a skateboard park. Montrose and Castlegar have a fantastic facility with free instruction during the summer and my grandkids love it! So we go out there every day we can. What a stupid idea to suggest Rossland Ave when plenty of area at Gyro Park along with the concession and kids park for younger kids. How about getting your act together instead of being in the 19th century!!!!
21. Make that skateboard park happen!
22. Need skate board park
23. The Eagles bldg could have housed an indoor skate park; easy lockup + weather tight.

**Page 166 Appendix D1, Summary of Stakeholder Interviews.**

A total of 65 groups and agencies were identified as having a significant interest in a parks and recreation master plan. Each was invited to a stakeholder interview with the consultants retained to prepare the Plan. A total of 46 actually attended the interviews. While the notes from the meetings are too extensive to reproduce, this is a summary of each of their most important issues, needs, concerns or ideas.

Group or Agency, or Perspective Represented by Several Groups or Agencies	Most Important Need, Concern, Comment or Idea
1. Interior Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the people we serve, and there are lots of them, don't have much money and can't afford to use the local recreation facilities. We should have a special pass for those with reduced ability to pay like most communities have</li> <li>• The TRP is cumbersome and difficult for patrons. Some of our clients don't have a mailing address.</li> <li>• We need a skate board park in Trail.</li> </ul>
2. Interior Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We focus on helping to get people physically active, eat well and have good social connection to their families, schools and community. Recreation services are an important part of that program.</li> <li>• We need a skateboard park in this City. It has been too long in coming.</li> </ul>

<p>6. Glenmerry Bementary School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City does a great job of maintaining a public green space adjacent to our school. It would be great if their expertise and equipment could be used to also maintain our school grounds which are used extensively by the public.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need a skateboard park in Trail, as it will appeal to many kids that need to be active and engaged and aren't interested in team sports.</li> </ul>
<p>9. St. Michael's School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As we expand, we will need more access to the local recreation facilities which we currently use extensively</li> <li>We would like to negotiate an even more discounted use of facilities.</li> <li>The community also needs a Skateboard Park</li> </ul>
<p>18. Trail Fair Society, Community Education and Outreach and YCDC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YCDC is a non-profit organization which provides drop-in youth services. In addition to the drop-in facility they use parks and recreation facilities and programs when funds permit. While the parks are free they are not</li> </ul>
	<p>"youth friendly. A skate park is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Trail Fair Society access recreation facility passes for their clients. This is done on an adhoc basis. More subsidized recreation passes and reduced program fees would enhance the health of low income individuals.</li> <li>Leisure Access programs in other municipalities could be used as a model for effective administration providing access to financially marginalized individuals.</li> <li>Concern expressed for the limited and declining use (in particular curling) of the Memorial Centre and the need to consider options for renewal was reinforced.</li> </ul>
<p>23. Friends of Trail Skatepark and the Rotary Club of Trail</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A skate park location and 50% (\$275,000) of the capital cost \$550,000 has been allocated by the City of Trail with the balance to be raised by the community. All agree that a skatepark is a valuable asset and should be built.</li> <li>Rotary membership declined 50% in the past 5 years currently with 27 members.</li> <li>Current projects include wheelchair lift, community bus, after school programs, safety village and Trail Ambassador program.</li> <li>There is potential for Rotary to participate in special events for a skate park.</li> </ul>