

2023/24 – ACP – Town of Spirit River

Regional Recreational Services and Facilities Study

The partnership between the Town of Spirit River, the Municipal District of Spirit River, and the Village of Rycroft is a collaboration with a history of shared municipal service delivery in areas such as regional land use, emergency management, transportation, water management, waste management, and recreation. The partnership recognizes the importance of regional recreational opportunities, and the impact it has on the health and well-being of the region's residents, tourism opportunities, and economic stability.

Recreational service delivery is often dependent on volunteers, and its funding priority must compete with core municipal services like water, wastewater, waste management, and emergency services. While the delivery of core services is critical, it is understood that the viability and economic stability of the region also depends on quality of life that is enhanced through the availability of active recreational opportunities.

The purpose of the regional recreational services and facilities study is to proactively conduct a regional review of the current state of recreational assets, programs, and services available in the region. This will also assess and identify the regional and municipal capacity to deliver recreational services deemed critical to the region's sustainability.

The partnership will undertake the following activities:

1. Stakeholder engagement to facilitate input from councils, administration, residents, and local groups and organizations to identify current and evolving regional recreation priorities and needs.
2. Develop a regional recreational facility inventory, engineering analysis and condition assessment, energy efficiency assessment, integration of data to the regional GIS, and update recreation master plans.
3. Identification of resources needed to deliver recreational programs and services to ensure alignment with the community needs and priorities.
4. Regional recreational service and infrastructure recommendations and options to address service delivery and programming gaps, and risk and liability issues.

The purpose of the proposed regional recreational services and facilities assessment is to provide information and recommendations that will position the region to determine the state of recreational service delivery and future infrastructure requirements.

The expected project outputs are:

1. Regional recreational facility inventory and condition assessment.
2. Regional recreational service delivery options and recommendations which includes cost and funding models.

The partnership is proposing the following project workplan:

1. Consultant conducts a preliminary assessment, data collection, and analysis.
2. Stakeholder engagement.
3. Recreational facility infrastructure engineering analysis, energy efficiency analysis, hazard assessment, and development of cost models.
4. Development of regional recreational asset inventory and integration into the regional GIS.
5. Regional recreation service and program review.
6. Regional recreational programming gaps, and a risk and liability analysis.
7. Regional recreational service and infrastructure options and recommendations.

Notes:

- Program announcement is expected in September/October 2023. Tight deadline to apply (less than 8 weeks usually). Municipalities that have research, application prepared, and municipal information aligned are the ones most likely to be successful. Decision for funding is in April 2024.
- There are no costs to municipalities to have MPE to start preparing the applications. Costs can be refunded back to April of 2023. MPE suggests it's good to start pre-planning now to be ready for September/October 2023.
- Each Municipality can submit 1 project as a managing partner for up to \$200k. Projects can cover numerous topics all related to intermunicipal planning.
 - Paving of roads would fall under the Regional Transportation Masterplan (i.e., Rycroft to be the managing partner).
 - New roads to be built and any urban development would fall under the Regional Land Use Masterplan (i.e., MD to be the managing partner).
 - Look at the condition of utilities, water, wastewater would fall under the Regional Infrastructure Masterplan (i.e., Anyone to be the managing partner).
 - Airport, sidewalks, economic development, camp grounds, amalgamation...any project we can come up with could be studied but should not be deemed as necessary within the next couple of years as study would not be released until 2024 and implemented until 2025.