

14.0 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

14.1 Introduction

Outdoor recreation sites such as parks and trails are fundamental to the health and wellness of residents within a community. Parks provide activities for recreation such as hiking and walking, as well as protection for wildlife habitat, sporting fields and play areas for children. The area offers a variety of outdoor recreational activities including boating, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, cycling, bird & wildlife viewing, ATV and snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and golfing.

Two Provincial parks offering recreational day uses are located within the South Cariboo Area OCP: Ruth Lake and Canim Beach. There are also three forest recreation sites - Lower Lake, Irish Lake, and Greenlee Lake. These recreation sites each include a boat launch, picnic area and campsites.

The 108 Mile Greenbelt includes 600 hectares (1,500 acres) surrounding the residential subdivisions of 108 Mile Ranch. These lands were set aside as recreation and greenbelt space and are managed by the Cariboo Regional District. A Greenbelt Commission oversees the day-to-day management of the greenbelt lands and a regulatory bylaw is in place to regulate the uses and activities permitted on those lands. Taxation is collected from the residents of the area to pay for maintenance. This greenbelt is utilized mostly by horseback riders, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers and hikers.

Other recreational facilities and services in the South Cariboo include:

- South Cariboo Recreation Centre, located at 175 Wrangler Way (CRD owned and managed by Canlan Ice Sports under an operating agreement with the CRD and 100 Mile House)
- 100 Mile & District Curling Rink at the Recreation Centre (CRD owned)
- Main Beach, West Beach and Stewart Beach at 108 Mile Greenbelt.
- 99 Mile Recreation Area

The Cariboo Regional District is also working to improve accessibility to recreational facilities. Within the regional district, sixteen wheelchair accessible trails have been completed, two of which are located in the South Cariboo Area, the 108 Greenbelt and 99 Mile Recreation Area.

14.2 Objectives

- 14.2.1 Provide opportunities at appropriate locations for the development of parks, or the preservation of land and water areas with high scenic potential, to fulfil the public need for recreational activities and wildlife viewing.
- 14.2.2 Protect, preserve and enhance the environment for the enrichment of the community and enjoyment of all.

- 14.2.3 Support the development of a healthy rural community by encouraging access to active lifestyles, protected parks & green spaces, and accessible community services.
- 14.2.4 Ensure adequate lakeshore access for upland property owners and visitors.

14.3 Policies

The Cariboo Regional District Board will:

- 14.3.1 Designate areas for parks, recreation, open space on Schedule 'D': Land Use Designations. This includes:
 - i Provincial Parks;
 - ii land that has been set aside for recreational purposes by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations through Recreation Sites and Trails B.C.;
 - iii Crown land which would be designated as an area for Use, Recreation and Enjoyment of the Public (UREP) by BC Lands;
 - iv lands which constitute the "108 Mile Greenbelt" and the 108 Mile Ranch Golf Course; and
 - v lands which are owned or managed by a community organization for recreational uses or are preserved as open space under private ownership.
- 14.3.2 Work with provincial agencies and private property owners to preserve and protect area residents' access to outdoor recreational space.
- 14.3.3 Encourage the Crown or local clubs to maintain a current map of trail and bike networks within the Plan Area.
- 14.3.4 Encourage local clubs to work with Provincial Crown agencies, property owners, and residents to enhance and maintain public access to recreational trails in the plan area.
- 14.3.5 Recognize the importance of existing trails in the South Cariboo area as designated on Schedule 'M': Trails Network.
- 14.3.6 Support and encourage the development of walking, cycling, equestrian, snowshoe and cross-country trails including accessible trails. Preference will be given to trails that:

- i Increase tourism and economic opportunities within the area;
 - ii provide enhanced recreational opportunities including the development of greenways;
 - iii create buffers between neighbouring land uses, where appropriate;
 - iv function as alternative transportation corridors linking communities, providing access to schools, commercial development, and community amenities;
 - v protect important natural and recreational areas; and
 - vi improve public safety.
- 14.3.7 Support regional trail connectivity including access to the 99 Mile Recreation Area in the District of 100 Mile House.
- 14.3.8 Encourage the development of directional and interpretive signage for trails to enhance their usage, contribute to a more enjoyable experience and recognize the natural history of the Cariboo.
- 14.3.9 Recognize the role of volunteers in maintaining and developing cultural and recreational amenities and events in the community.
- 14.3.10 Support and encourage the development of public-private partnerships to create new parks and trails and/or enhance existing ones (e.g. non-profit societies).
- 14.3.11 Recommend, when commenting on subdivisions, strategies for providing for the continuation of trail networks and/or green spaces. Strategies may include registering easements or rights-of-way.
- 14.3.12 Pursue innovative ways to preserve or acquire the use of land to meet linkage and open space needs. Avenues to achieve this may include, but are not limited to subdivision, dedication, gifting agreements, lease or lease-to-purchase, co-ownership, density bonusing, conservation covenants, community foundations or trusts, non-profit societies or crown land transfers.
- 14.3.13 Require the management of trail networks to be the responsibility of other lead agencies or community organizations as the CRD does not have a regional parks system.
- 14.3.14 Supports signage for lakeshore access to ensure dedicated access locations are known to the public.

14.3.15 Recognize the recreational and economic development opportunities afforded by mapped mountain bike trails.

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