



# Recreation Master Plan

Topline Report

## Service Provider Engagement and Consultation

August 2019





## Engaging Service Providers

The M.D. of Taber is conducting a Recreation Master Plan that will assist long term community planning and development. Recreation Service Providers were engaged and consulted about a variety of issues related to the delivery of services within the M.D. of Taber.

- Members of the Enchant Recreation Association, Hays and District Recreation Board, and Grassy Lake Recreation Board were consulted at regular meetings that were held in May and June 2019.
- Representatives of the Village of Barnwell, Town of Taber, and Town of Vauxhall were consulted in May 2019.
- A survey was conducted with Service Providers that operate within the M.D. of Taber (and some that operate in Barnwell, Taber, and Vauxhall that receive recreation grants from the M.D. of Taber) in May, June, and July 2019. Among the Service Providers operating in the M.D., twenty-two were sent questionnaires to gather information that will inform the Recreation Master Plan. Twelve of the Service Providers responded to the survey (see appendix).
- Additional information obtained through the M.D. of Taber Recreation Grant process was used to supplement the findings of the Service Provider survey.

This briefing presents a summary of the engagement and consultation process conducted with recreation Service Providers.

### *The M.D. of Taber has Adopted a Community Development Approach to Recreation Service Delivery*

The Municipality provides supports that enhance and build capacity for involvement and engagement of citizens and community-based organizations to initiate, develop, and administer programs, services, and facilities to the community.

### M.D. of Taber and Communities



*"The MD of Taber has provided the financial support to the facilities in the MD so that the facilities can be used at a reasonable cost and can be well-maintained. Because of this financial support, our community is able to offer a wide variety of recreation and cultural opportunities to the members of our community. It is important to continue to support the small communities."*

Service Provider Comment



## Consulting with Recreation Boards

Members of Recreation Boards were given the opportunity to discuss issues about recreation with the communities they serve. The following items were raised by Board members:

### **Enchant**

- Need for trails/pathways in the community.
- Need for succession planning for Board members.

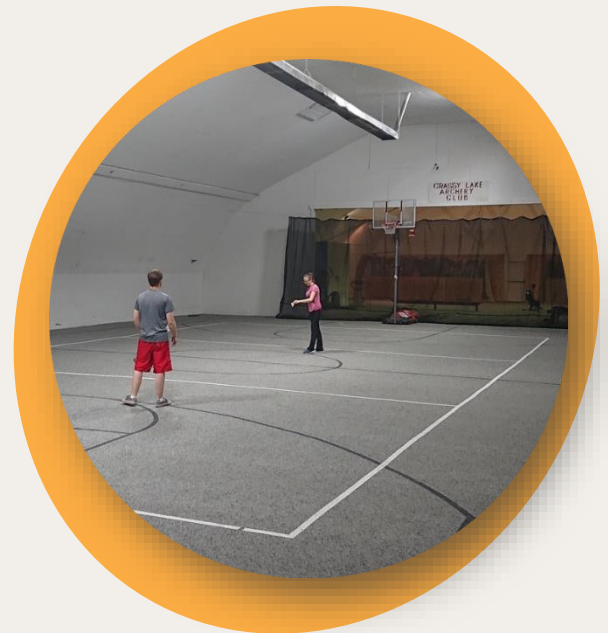
### **Grassy Lake**

- Need for:
  - Trails/pathways in the community for walking/biking
  - Trail system at Grand Forks Park
  - Improved access to the public library (in school and only operated during day)
  - More investment in fitness gym (recent investment and promotion has resulted in around 50 memberships)
  - Host community events (Canada Day)
  - Indoor rink
  - BMX park
  - Better basketball hoops in the dryland gym
  - Things for kids to do in the community (especially teenagers)
  - Boat dock at Sherburne Lake
  - Golf course
  - Indoor fieldhouse.
- Concern about the age of the existing facility, ongoing maintenance needs (some being significant such as roof replacement), and its ability to deter vandalism.

### **Hays**

- Need for trails/pathways in the community
- Concern about no increases of funding in many years and upcoming carbon tax
- Need for succession planning for Board members.

Board members of both Enchant and Grassy Lake talked about groups from the Mexican Mennonite communities being major renters of ball diamonds for tournaments (e.g. 3 to 6 weekends). Enchant members indicated that the Mexican Mennonite groups are also frequent renters of the community centre.





## Consulting with Partner Communities

CAO's of the Village of Barnwell and Towns of Taber and Vauxhall were interviewed. The following items were raised by these representatives:

- Municipal contributions to recreation:
  - Taber ~\$4 million - \$1 million from fees/grants and \$3 million from municipality
  - Vauxhall - ~ \$585,000 - \$225,000 from fees/grants and \$360,000 from municipality – less in 2018).
- Facility prices have not increased for recreation facilities in recent years.
- Facilities are operated by communities and community-based organizations; however, it is acknowledged that the M.D. funds other organizations to operate facilities rather than operating themselves.
- Facilities are aging and need investment – there have been recent investments (e.g. pathways in Taber and pool in Vauxhall).
- Possible upcoming investments – a new upgraded Multiplex in Taber and, possibly, indoor baseball training facility in Vauxhall.
- It was suggested that there is a need to define what is fair for recreation funding – funding from M.D. has not increased substantially for 10 years.
- Taber has considered how other communities have funded recreation and, in particular, recreation facilities in Athabasca, Brooks, Cochrane, Morinville, and Strathmore
- It is perceived that there are wealthy agriculturalists in the M.D. (individuals and companies) that will provide funding for new recreation complex – an example of a playground funded by one of the companies operating in the M.D.
- Communication between partner communities and M.D. are perceived to be limited – relationships exists, but there has not been much communication
- Community-based organizations sometimes go to M.D. for funding.
- Members of M.D. sit on recreation boards of Taber and Vauxhall, which is perceived as beneficial.
- Community populations are growing; influenced by immigration:
  - Mexican Mennonites
  - Filipinos in Taber
- It was noted that groups of Mexican Mennonites rent ball diamonds and picnic shelters in Barnwell.



## Engaging Service Providers

The following summaries present findings of the Service Providers Survey with organizations that operate within the M.D. of Taber:

### Service Providers' participants

- The number of participants served ranged from 20 to 8,500; however, the average was approximately 2,550. Participation appears to have grown among Service Providers over the past five years (from approximately 1,125).
- Participants typically come from the M.D. of Taber and communities in which it envelopes. However, among the Service Providers that were able to provide estimates, a significant majority were M.D. of Taber residents.

Source of Participants	
	% (n=6)
M.D. of Taber	85
From other areas	7
Taber	4
Vauxhall	3
Barnwell	1
Total	100

- Almost all Service Providers indicated that their organizations operate between May to October; however, over half operate during November to April as well.

*"The M.D. of Taber Council have always been very good to work with in helping us provide this facility in our Community; our communities are as good as we make them; the Council has a big responsibility and we feel it is very fair in most of their decisions; we do not agree that more of our tax dollars should go to the bigger centers i.e.: Taber and Vauxhall; our rural communities are very important; the bigger centers should use more volunteers and not expect our rural M.D. of Taber Council to act as a Bank to fund their activities/facilities; Please keep our rural tax dollars to improve our Rural Centers - we spend enough of our individual funds supporting businesses in the big centers."*

Service Provider Comments

### Facilities operated

- All but one of the Service Providers operated facilities. These facilities (and those used) are perceived by most Service Providers to be in good condition and all to be safe for participants.

	Perceptions of Facility	
	% (n=10)	
	Physical Condition of Facility	Facility Safe for Participants
Very good	40	50
Good	50	50
Poor	10	0
Very poor	2	0
Total	100	100



### Facilities needs

- When asked about facility needs, most Service Providers operating in the M.D. of Taber emphasized typical general maintenance issues. Organizations operating in Grassy Lake highlighted issues about the community centre building continuing to meet the needs of the community.



### **Human resources**

- Service Providers operating within the M.D. of Taber rely on volunteers to provide services. A range of 5 to 25 volunteers were reported with an average of 10. Service Providers also employed an average of 2 part-time staff. None of the Service Providers reported having full-time staff.
- A range of 200 to over 1,500 hours were estimated for volunteer contributions to operate Service Provider organizations. Based on these findings, the extrapolated volunteer hours estimated for Service Providers operating in the M.D. of Taber is approximately 11,400 for the year prior to the survey. It is worth noting that this estimate is similar to the findings of the Community Survey for volunteer hours among households for recreation purposes (approximately 10,100) within the M.D. of Taber.
- Applying average wage rates for recreation positions in Alberta, the above estimated volunteer hours would be valued at approximately \$360,000 (see appendix).
- It is also estimated that total wages for part-time staff employed by the Service Providers operating in the M.D. of Taber is approximately \$150,000 for the past year.

### **Fundraising**

- Many Service Providers operating within the M.D. of Taber fundraise to support their operations. It is estimated that at least \$130,000 was raised over the past year.



### **Service Providers in Urban Centres**

- Some of the Service Providers that receive funding from the M.D. of Taber and operate in the urban centres of Barnwell, Taber, and Vauxhall also provided input to the survey. It is worth noting that almost all of these operators employed full and part-time staff.



*"We appreciate the assistance that we already receive from the MD."*

*"The MD of Taber provides great support to recreation and is much appreciated."*

Service Providers' (from Urban Centres) Comments



## APPENDIX

### Service Provider Respondents:

Barnwell Plus 55 Club  
 Enchant Community Association  
 Enchant Golf Course  
 Enchant Minor Ball  
 Grassy Lake Recreation Association  
 Grassy Lake Senior Citizens  
 Handibus Association  
 Hays and District Senior Citizens  
 Hays Ball Diamonds  
 Hays Campground  
 Hays Community Complex  
 Hays MultiPurpose Building  
 Hays Pitch n Put  
 Jetts Stadium Society  
 Taber Exhibition Association (Taber Agri-Plex)  
 Taber Shooting Foundation  
 Vauxhall Golf Course

### Additional Information Obtained for:

Barnwell 55 Club  
 Enchant Golf Club Association  
 Enchant Recreation Association  
 Grassy Lake Recreation Board  
 Hays and District Recreation Board  
 Jets Stadium Society  
 Retlaw Historical  
 Taber District 4-H Committee  
 Taber & District Handi Bus Association  
 Taber Gymnastics Fitness Club  
 Taber Rodeo Association  
 Vauxhall Academy of Baseballs  
 Vauxhall Agricultural Society  
 Vauxhall Golf and Country Club

### Estimate of Wages from Volunteers

	Estimated Hours		
	11,407		
Operators and attendants in amusement, recreation and sports*	\$ 25.15		38% of hours
Program leaders and instructors in recreation, sport, and fitness*	\$ 23.46		38% of hours
Recreation, sports, and fitness program and service directors*	\$ 42.35		25% of hours
	\$ 328,713		
Wages and Benefits	\$ 361,584		

\*Source: Alberta Salary and Wages Survey 2017 (Public Administration)