



# Town of Smithers Parks & Recreation Master Plan

## Resident Survey

### About the Project

The Town of Smithers is developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that will guide service delivery and inform decision making over the next 10 years. Smithers has diverse indoor and outdoor recreation and leisure interests and this planning will help ensure that the Town makes the best use of available resources. The Master Plan will guide how the Town provides, prioritizes and invests in parks and recreation services (facilities, programs, and events).

### We Need Your Input!

Gathering input from residents is critical to the development of the Master Plan. Please have an adult in your household complete the questionnaire considering the thoughts and needs of all members of the household.

**Please complete the questionnaire by October 13, 2023. This survey will take you approximately 20 minutes to complete.**

If you have any questions regarding this survey or the Park and Recreation Master Plan, please contact Fiona Bell (project consulting team) at [bell@rcstrategies.ca](mailto:bell@rcstrategies.ca) or the Town of Smithers at [general@smithers.ca](mailto:general@smithers.ca). Please return this paper copy of the survey to one of the pick-up locations (front desks of the Library, Town Hall, or the Bulkley Valley Regional Pool).

Please consider all parks and recreation locations in Smithers when completing this survey, including playgrounds and sport fields located at schools in addition to those provided by the Town.



**ACCESS CODE**



# Your Household's Parks and Recreation Activities

1. What are the main reasons that motivate members of your household to participate in parks and recreation activities? *Please select all that apply.*

- Physical health and exercise
- Enjoy a challenge
- To be with family / friends
- Meet new people
- Relaxation
- Pleasure / entertainment
- To be creative
- Improve skills or knowledge
- Help the community
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Satisfy curiosity
- To enjoy nature
- Something different than work
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't participate in any parks and recreation activities

2. Please select those activities that members of your household participate in on a regular basis (approximately 2 or more times per month during their normal seasons of availability).

## Indoor Activities

- Axe Throwing
- Curling
- Dance
- Fitness classes (e.g., spin, yoga, boot camp)
- Fitness training at a gym (e.g., cardio, weight training)
- Gymnastics
- Gymnasium sports (e.g., basketball, volleyball, badminton)
- Hockey - organized (part of a team or league)
- Ice skating on a "drop-in" or casual basis (e.g., public skating or shinny)
- Lacrosse
- Library activities (taking out a collection item and/or participating in a program or service)
- Martial arts

- Performing arts (e.g., participation in a theatre or musical group or other type of performing arts program or activity)
- Pickleball
- Racquetball / squash
- Rock Climbing
- Roller Derby
- Shuffleboard (floor)
- Skating program (figure skating or learn to skate)
- Social events (e.g., events at a community centre or hall)
- Swimming pool drop-in (e.g., lane swimming, family drop-in swimming)
- Swimming pool programs (e.g., lessons, swim club, aqua-fitness classes)
- Tennis
- Visiting museums or other heritage attractions
- Visiting art galleries / spaces
- Visual arts and crafts (pottery, weaving / knitting, painting and sketching, print making, scrapbooking, photography, design, etc.)
- Walking / running (in a gymnasium or an indoor track)
- Other (please specify):\_\_\_\_\_

### Outdoor Activities

- Baseball - as part of a club or league (baseball, slo-pitch, softball)
- Baseball - casual play (e.g., playing catch, pick-up games, etc.)
- Basketball
- Beach volleyball
- BBQ / picnic / outdoor social gathering
- BMX
- Camping
- Cross country skiing
- Cycling / mountain biking
- Disc golf
- Gardening
- Geocaching
- Golf
- Hiking / walking / running (on a trail or pathway)
- Ice skating on a “drop-in” or casual basis (e.g., public skating or shinny) at an outdoor rink
- Lacrosse (box and/or field)
- Lawn bowling
- Outdoor paved surface activities (e.g., basketball, ball hockey)
- Outdoor swimming drop-in (casual and drop-in use)

- Outdoor swimming program (lessons or aqua-fitness program)
- Outdoor skating / shinny
- Paddling (kayaking, canoeing, stand up paddle boarding)
- Pickleball
- Playing at a playground
- Rollerblading / inline skating
- Skateboarding
- Snowshoeing
- Soccer – as part of a club or league
- Soccer – casual play (“pick-up” games)
- Other field sports soccer as part of a club or league (e.g., field hockey, football, rugby, ultimate, cricket)
- Other fields sports besides soccer on a casual / unstructured basis (e.g., field hockey, football, rugby, ultimate, cricket)
- Tennis
- Tobogganing
- Track and field
- Other (please specify):\_\_\_\_\_

3. Do the majority of your household's parks and recreation activities take place in Smithers?

- Yes
- No

4. Where else does your household's parks and recreation activities take place?

- Hazelton
- Telkwa
- Houston
- Kitwanga
- Burns Lake
- Vanderhoof
- Prince George
- Other (please specify):\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why do your household's parks and recreation activities take place outside of Smithers? Please select all that apply.

- Better facilities elsewhere
- Programs/activities don't exist in Smithers
- Don't have access to the facilities needed in Smithers
- Participation occurs as part of a daily commute to/from work or school (you or other household members commute to work in other municipalities)
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Please indicate how often members of your household typically visit the following parks and recreation spaces in Smithers.

Facility / Space	Daily or Almost Daily (5 or more visits per week)	Weekly (1 or 2 times per week)	Monthly (1 or 2 visits per month)	A few times per year	Never
<b>Indoor Amenities and Spaces in Smithers</b>					
Bulkley Valley Regional Pool & Recreation Centre – Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bulkley Valley Regional Pool & Recreation Centre – Fitness Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bulkley Valley Regional Pool & Recreation Centre – Climbing Wall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bulkley Valley Regional Pool & Recreation Centre – Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bulkley Valley Museum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saltos Gymnastic Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smithers Curling Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smithers Art Gallery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civic Centre Arena	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Arena	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Outdoor Amenities and Spaces in Smithers</b>					
Soccer/ Sports Fields (all locations in Smithers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ball diamonds (all locations in Smithers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Running track (located at Smithers Secondary School)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Riverside Municipal Campground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skatepark	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smithers Fairgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Facility / Space	Daily or Almost Daily (5 or more visits per week)	Weekly (1 or 2 times per week)	Monthly (1 or 2 visits per month)	A few times per year	Never
<b>Outdoor Amenities and Spaces in Smithers</b>					
Bike park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trails (all trails in Smithers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disc Golf Course (Ranger Park)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog Park (Heritage Park)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds (all locations in Smithers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor Rink (located at 1215 Court Street)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## The Value and Benefits of Parks and Recreation

1. How important are parks and recreation opportunities in Smithers to...

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Unsure / No Opinion
...your household's quality of life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...quality of life for all residents in the township.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...the appeal and attractiveness of Smithers for prospective and current residents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please use the space below to further explain your responses.

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# Barriers to Participation

8. What, if anything, prevents you or someone in your household from participating in parks and recreation opportunities in Smithers? Please select all that apply.

- Poor health
- Cost to participate (registration fees, equipment, etc.)
- Transportation limitations (cost / availability)
- Overcrowded facilities
- Poor / inadequate facilities
- Too busy to participate
- Inconvenient program times
- Don't have the ability (lack the skills and/or comfort level to participate)
- Can't find childcare
- Better or more appealing opportunities elsewhere
- The spaces you want to use aren't physically accessible
- Unaware of available parks and recreation opportunities
- Lack of interest
- Opportunities to participate are too far away from where you live
- Available programming isn't of a high enough quality
- Don't feel welcome in the environment where the parks and recreation opportunities are available
- Other (please specify):\_\_\_\_\_
- Nothing prevents your households' participation

# Satisfaction with Current Parks and Recreation Opportunities

9. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of parks and recreation services in Smithers? *\*Note: not all of these activity / service types are provided by the Town of Smithers.*

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Not Sure / No Opinion
The quality and appeal of community parks and playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatics programs and facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arena programs and facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of sport fields and ball diamonds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trails in the community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts and cultural programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The overall ability for all residents to live a healthy and active lifestyle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please use the space below to explain your responses to the previous question.

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# Future Priorities and Focus Areas

The Master Plan will need to provide direction on future priorities and focus areas for infrastructure (facilities and amenities) and programming. The following questions are intended to gauge your perspectives on where limited resources should be focused.

**As you're answering these questions, please consider the following factors:**

- **Undertaking the development of new facilities or major improvements to existing facilities may require an increase in taxes and/or higher user fees.**
- **There is a significant cost to sustaining what already exists (current facilities in the town will require repairs and building component replacements as they age).**

10. From the list below, please **select up to five (5)** types of **indoor amenities** that you think should be priorities for investment in Smithers. This investment could include new facilities or major improvements to existing facilities.

<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and crafts creative spaces (e.g., studios and collaborative workspaces)
<input type="checkbox"/> Ice arenas
<input type="checkbox"/> Art galleries and display spaces
<input type="checkbox"/> Indoor children's play spaces
<input type="checkbox"/> Indoor aquatics facilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Indoor walking / running tracks
<input type="checkbox"/> Climbing walls
<input type="checkbox"/> Libraries
<input type="checkbox"/> Curling facilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose program rooms
<input type="checkbox"/> Fitness facilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Performing arts facilities (e.g., dedicated theatre space)
<input type="checkbox"/> Gymnasium / flexi-hall / large multi-use spaces
<input type="checkbox"/> Social gathering facilities (e.g., hall type spaces)
<input type="checkbox"/> Interpretive venues (e.g., museums and heritage facilities, nature centres, interactive learning spaces)
<input type="checkbox"/> Seniors focused spaces
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth focused spaces
<input type="checkbox"/> Child care spaces
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____

11. From the list below, please **select up to five (5)** types of **outdoor amenities** that you think should be priorities for investment. This investment could be in new or enhanced facilities.

- Playgrounds
- Ball diamonds
- Rectangular sports fields (e.g., fields for soccer, football, rugby, etc.)
- Outdoor aquatic facilities
- Track and field venues
- Spray parks
- Sand volleyball courts
- Campgrounds
- Outdoor lacrosse boxes
- Outdoor festival and community performance spaces (e.g., amphitheater and urban event plazas)
- Outdoor stadium (outdoor venue with seating capacity and amenities that can support spectator games, events, concerts, etc.)
- BBQ and picnic areas / park shelters
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Outdoor paved court spaces (e.g., for basketball, ball hockey, etc.)
- Outdoor skating rinks
- Cross country skiing tracks
- Tennis courts
- Pickleball courts
- Dog parks
- Skate parks
- Disc golf courses
- Community gardens
- Pump tracks / bike skills parks
- Trails
- Cricket field
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

12. Identified in the following matrix are several different programming types. Please select any that you think should be **enhanced or provided in greater supply** in Smithers for the each of the age groups identified.

Program Type	Children & Youth (12 and under)	Teens (ages 13-18 Years)	Adults (ages 19-64 years)	Older Adults (ages 65+)	Current programming is sufficient	Not aware of what is currently available or needed
Nature / outdoor education programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dry-floor fitness and wellness programming (e.g., exercise classes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatics fitness and wellness programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Casual recreation programming ("drop-in" and unstructured types of programs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organized sports teams, leagues, and clubs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visual arts and culture programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performing arts and culture programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programs for individuals facing social, physical, or cognitive barriers to participation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programs that encourage socialization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water education and safety programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Priority Setting

13. The Town has limited resources and must set priorities for major facility projects (renewals, expansions / enhancements, and new builds) based on achieving the highest level of public benefit. Listed below are several criteria that could be used to help determine these future project priorities. From the list, please select the top 3 criteria that you think should be most important when prioritizing and ranking potential projects.

***A parks and recreation facility project should be a higher priority if....***

- ...the facility type is not currently available in the Town or surrounding communities (addresses a potential service gap)
- ...the facility project responds to community need/demand
- ...the facility projects have the potential to generate economic benefit by bringing more events, tourists and non-local spending
- ...the facility type can be provided through a regional partnership that leverages resources from multiple entities
- ... the Town can afford to construct the facility without any major impact on taxes or user fees
- ...the cost to operate the facility is affordable and is unlikely to have a major impact on taxes or user fees
- ...the project being considered would replace an existing facility that is nearing the end of its useable lifespan (therefore sustaining the existing type of facility or amenity in the town)
- ...the facility would provide active living opportunities across most ages, interests and ability level (would benefit a large cross-section of residents)

# Communications

14. In general, how informed do you feel about parks and recreation opportunities in Smithers?

- Very informed
- Adequately informed
- Inadequately informed
- Not Sure / No Opinion

15. How do you prefer to learn about parks and recreation opportunities in Smithers? **Please select your top three (3) preferences.**

- Town website
- Program guides
- Information provided directly by Town staff at facilities
- Posters and displays in facilities
- Social media feeds
- Local newspapers / newsletters (e.g., Smithers Interior News or other community newsletters)
- Communication through schools
- Post/Mail
- Email
- Signage around the community
- Word of mouth
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

# General Comments

16. Please use the following space to provide any other comments you may have about parks and recreation in Smithers.

# Household Profile

Please provide the following information about your household. We are asking for this information solely to assist with analysis of the survey data and the responses you provide will not be attributed to your specific household or shared with any other third parties.

### 17. Do you live in the Town of Smithers?

- Yes (Go to Q18)
- No

a) Where do you live?

- Telkwa
- Hazelton
- New Hazelton
- Kitwanga
- Houston
- Granisle
- Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

18. How long have you lived in the Smithers? (Skip Q if you don't live in Smithers)

- 1 - 5 years
- 6 – 10 years
- More than 10 years

19. Please describe your household by recording the number of members in each of the following age groups.

Don't forget to include yourself!

**Please indicate the number  
of household members in  
each category**

Age 0 – 4 Years

Age 5 – 9 Years

Age 10 – 19 Years

Age 20 – 29 Years

Age 30 - 39 Years

Age 40 – 49 Years

Age 50 – 59 Years

Age 60 – 69 Years

Age 70 – 79 Years

Age 80+ Years

20. Which best describes your household composition?

- Couple with children
- Couple without children
- Lone parent family
- One-person household
- Multigenerational household (at least 3 generations)
- Two or more adults not a couple (e.g., roommates, siblings living together)
- Prefer not to answer

**Thank you very much for taking the time to participate in the survey!**

