



Town of Smithers Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Community Group 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).

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 or Mark Allen (Town of Smithers) at mallen@smithers.ca.

Please answer the following questions considering the perspective of your organization. **Only one response per group / organization is requested.** Please provide your response by **September 30th**.

We Need Your Group's Input!

Engagement with the community is an important part of developing the new Master Plan. As part of the project engagement, the project team is seeking input from the groups that provide parks and recreation services to residents of Smithers and the Bulkley-Nechako region.

Section 1: About your organization

1. What is the name of your organization? _____

2. Briefly explain the purpose of your organization (mission) and its main activities.

3. What types of programming or activities does your group provide? *Please select all that apply.*

- Sports
- Recreation
- Performing arts
- Visual arts
- Service club activities
- Social services
- Other, please specify: _____

4. From the age groups below, please indicate which ones best describe your primary participants / members.
Please select all that apply.

- Children (0-5 years)
- Youth (6-12 years)
- Teens (13-18 years)
- Adults (19-39 years)
- Adults (40-64 years)
- Seniors (65 years and older)

5. Please identify the number of participants / members that belong to your organization.

Average Annual # of Participants / Members Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic (e.g. 2017-2019 annual average)	
Current Number of Participants / Members	

6. What is your expectation for participant / member figures over the next few years?

- Decrease
- Remain similar
- Increase
- Unsure

7. How many volunteers regularly support your organization?

- Up to and including 10
- 11-20
- 21-50
- 51 and more

Section 2: Facility Utilization

8. Does your organization use any facilities or spaces in Smithers for your programming?

- Yes
- No (Go to Q 10)
- Unsure

9. Please use the space below to describe the facilities, amenities or spaces that your organization uses. If possible, please estimate the amount of hours your organization uses on a weekly, monthly, or annual basis.

10. To what degree do the current parks and recreation facilities and spaces in Smithers meet the needs of your organization?

- Completely meet the needs of our organization
- Somewhat meet the needs of our organization
- Do not adequately meet the needs of our organization
- My organization does not use parks and recreation facilities in Smithers

a. Please explain your answer to the last question.

Section 3: Future Priorities & Focus Areas

11. Do you think there are adequate parks and recreation facilities (indoor and outdoor) in Smithers?

- Yes (Please proceed to Q 14)
- No
- Unsure

12. Please select **up to five (5) INDOOR** parks and recreation facilities and amenities that should be more readily available or enhanced in Smithers. A couple of things to consider:

- There are costs to building and operating parks and recreation facilities and amenities (this may impact taxes and/or user fees).
- Your responses will be used to help determine facility priorities for planning purposes. They may not lead to changes in a facility or new facilities being built.

- Art creation spaces (e.g. dedicated studios, maker spaces)
- Art display spaces
- Archery lanes / range
- Classroom / training space
- Community group office / admin space
- Community hall / banquet facilities
- Community kitchen (e.g. a cooking space that is health authority approved that can be used for events, birthday parties etc.)
- Community meeting rooms
- Court sports (e.g. racquetball, squash)
- Curling rinks
- Dance / program / martial arts rooms
- Event hosting facilities
- Fitness / wellness facilities (e.g. exercise / weight room)
- Gymnasium type spaces (e.g. basketball, volleyball, badminton, pickleball)
- Ice arena facilities (e.g. hockey, figure skating, ball hockey, lacrosse)
- Indoor aquatic facilities (e.g., pool for lane swim, aquafit)
- Indoor child playgrounds
- Indoor climbing wall
- Indoor field facilities (e.g. soccer, tennis, pickleball, ball hockey, lacrosse)
- Libraries
- Leisure ice surfaces (non hockey)
- Leisure swimming pools (e.g. for fun including water play features)
- Multi-purpose program rooms

- Parkour room / gymnastics space
- Performing arts centre
- Seniors centre
- Social banquet facilities
- Storage space (for groups)
- Walking / running track
- Year round indoor flat surfaces (for activities such as lacrosse & roller derby)
- Youth centre
- Other, please specify: _____

a) In addition to the indoor spaces identified above, are there any other types of **indoor spaces** that you think should be more readily available? If so, please note them here.

13. Please select **up to five (5) OUTDOOR** parks and recreation facilities and amenities that should be more readily available or enhanced in Smithers. A couple of things to consider:

- There are costs to building and operating parks and recreation facilities and amenities.
- Your responses will be used to help determine facility priorities for planning purposes. They may not lead to changes in a facility or new facilities being built.

- Agricultural facilities (e.g. rodeo grounds, riding arenas)
- Amphitheatres /event spaces / band shelters
- Archery range
- Ball diamonds
- Beach volleyball courts
- Bike parks (e.g. pump track)
- Campgrounds
- Community gardens
- Cross country ski & snowshoe trails
- Disc golf course
- Fishing pond
- Gardening
- Golf courses
- Hardcourts (e.g. basketball, ball hockey)
- Mountain bike trails
- Nature trails
- Off leash dog park

- Open spaces (e.g. parks, greenfields)
- Outdoor boarded skating rinks
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Outdoor pool
- Paved pathways
- Pickleball courts
- Picnic areas
- Playgrounds
- Sledding / tobogganing hills
- Skateboard parks
- Sports fields - grass (e.g. soccer, football)
- Sports fields – turf (e.g. soccer, football)
- Spray parks
- Tennis courts
- Track and field spaces
- Other, please specify: _____

a) In addition to the **outdoor spaces** identified above, are there any other types of outdoor spaces that you think should be more readily available? If so, please note them here.

14. To what extent would your organization support an increase in user / rental fees to ensure community needs for parks and recreation are better met?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neither
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

Section 4: Challenges

15. What challenges, if any, is your organization facing? *Check all that apply.*

- Getting sufficient access to facilities / spaces for programming
- Inadequate facilities / spaces (e.g. amenity and support spaces are lacking or are poor quality)
- Aging buildings / infrastructure
- Attracting and retaining coaches / instructors
- Attracting and retaining volunteers
- Attracting and retaining members / participants
- Equipment storage
- Market saturation
- Funding (e.g. grants, sponsorships)
- Operating costs (e.g. facility costs, association costs, insurance)
- Organizational management and operations (e.g. board training, grant writing, accounting)
- Promotions and marketing
- Declining participation
- Other, please specify: _____

16. What assistance or support could the Town of Smithers provide that would help your organization best address its challenges? Select your top five types of support.

- Promoting the group and its activities
- Equipment / materials storage
- Office / meeting space
- Board / organizational development
- Volunteer recruitment / retention support
- Identifying grant funding or sponsorship opportunities
- Operating grant support
- Capital grant support
- Enhance existing facilities / amenities
- Develop additional facilities / amenities
- Improved access to facilities
- Other, please specify: _____

Section 5: Final Thoughts

17. Please use the space to provide any other comments you have about the provision of parks and recreation in Smithers.

**Thank you very much for taking the time to participate in the survey on
behalf of your organization!**

Your input is very important to the development of Parks and Recreation Master Plan!

