

.....

Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants Ltd.

**District of
Summerland
Parks and Recreation
Master Plan**

•

•

•

•

Final Report

December 2001

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Purpose	1
1.2 Societal Trends Affecting Recreation Services	1
1.3 Benefits of Recreation Services	2
1.4 The 1993 Parks and Recreation Master Plan	3
1.5 Preparation of the Plan	5
2. STUDY METHODOLOGY	6
2.1 Issue Management	6
2.1.1 Parks and Open Space	6
2.1.2 Recreation Facilities	6
2.1.3 Recreation Programming	7
2.1.4 Administration / Policy	7
2.2 Public Participation	8
2.2.1 Public Survey	8
2.2.2 Interviews	8
2.2.3 Meetings with Summerland Officials	8
2.2.4 Community Meeting	9
2.3 Draft and Final Report	9
3. CURRENT STATUS OF LEISURE SERVICES	10
3.1 Public Survey	10
3.1.1 Response Rate	10
3.1.2 About the Sample	10
3.1.3 Facility Use	12
3.1.4 New / Improved Facilities	13
3.1.5 Spending of Leisure Services	14
3.1.6 Satisfaction with Parks and Facilities	15
3.1.7 Program Participation	15
3.2 Community Organizations / Summerland Officials	16
3.3 Spending on Parks and Recreation Services	18

TABLE OF CONTENTS - CONTINUED

4. PARKS AND FACILITIES	19
4.1 Short Term Priorities	22
4.1.1 Theatre	22
4.1.2 Continued Improvements to Existing Beaches	22
4.1.3 Improvements to Recently Acquired Waterfront	23
4.1.4 Wharf Street	24
4.1.5 Deer Ridge Park	24
4.1.6 Sunoka Beach	25
4.1.7 Trail Development	25
4.1.8 Old Hospital Site	26
4.1.9 New Hospital Site – Lawn Bowling Green	27
4.1.10 Giants Head / Little Giants Head Park	27
4.1.11 Adams Property	28
4.1.12 Memorial Baseball Park	28
4.1.13 Peach Orchard Campground	29
4.1.14 Library	30
4.1.15 Museum	31
4.1.16 Arts Centre	31
4.1.17 Tennis Courts	31
4.1.18 Track and Field Facility	32
4.2 Long Term Priorities	33
4.2.1 Dale Meadows Park	33
4.2.2 Aquatic Centre Improvements	34
4.2.3 New Arena / Second Ice Sheet	34
4.2.4 Cultural Centre	35
4.2.5 Rodeo Grounds / Exhibition Building	36
4.2.6 Future School Gymnasium	37
4.2.7 Sewage Treatment Plant	37
4.2.8 Arena Site	38
4.2.9 Future Park Acquisition	38
5. RECREATION PROGRAMMING	40
5.1 Approach to the Delivery of Recreation Services	40
5.2 Promotion	41

TABLE OF CONTENTS - CONTINUED

6. ADMINISTRATION / IMPLEMENTATION	43
6.1 Evaluation	43
6.2 2006 – Summerland Centennial	45
6.3 Implementation	45

LIST OF FIGURES

1. Project Phases and Activities	5
2. Comparison of Survey Respondents by Age	11
3. Use of Indoor Recreation Facilities	12
4. Use of Outdoor Recreation Facilities	13
5. Support for Annual Tax / Rent Increases	14
6. Level of Satisfaction with Parks and Facilities	15
7. Level of Satisfaction with Recreation Program Services	16
8. Five Year Budget Summary (1996 – 2000)	18
9. Public Indoor Facility Comparisons	20
10. Short Term Projects	50
11. Long Term Projects	51

APPENDICES

1. Public Survey	
2. Weed Management at Adams Bird Sanctuary (Okanagan – Similkameen Regional District)	

1. INTRODUCTION

In the spring of 2001, the District of Summerland retained the services of Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants Ltd. (PERC) to prepare a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of the planning process was primarily to review the results of a Plan that had been prepared in 1993, and to present recommendations for the continued delivery of leisure services between 2002 and 2011.

In achieving this objective, PERC has developed a Plan that will guide the development of parks and recreation resources over the next ten years, and assist in prioritizing future needs.

1.2 SOCIETAL TRENDS AFFECTING RECREATION SERVICES

Numerous forces have been at work in the past decade that have had a profound effect on the provision of parks and recreation services. These include:

- **Cost of Land**

The cost of acquiring land has placed a significant strain on local government to increase the number of parks and recreation facilities.

- **Operating Budgets**

Budget pressures have resulted in reduced money being available for programs, services, facilities and maintenance. At the same time, there has been an expectation that increases in labour and other costs will be absorbed and service levels will be maintained.

- **Demand**

There is an increasing awareness of the individual, family and community benefits for active lifestyles, and an increasing demand for recreation services at the same time that there have been limitations in fiscal resources.

- **Accountability**

The public has demanded greater accountability from elected officials and staff to justify expenditures and demonstrate fiscal responsibility.

INTRODUCTION

- **Preservation of Green Space**

There has been an increase in interest among residents related to the need for preserving existing green space. At the same time, many communities are also experiencing increased pressure to develop open space to allow for more recreation activity.

- **Tradition**

There has been increased interest in preserving the historical, cultural and natural heritage of most communities.

- **Partnerships**

There has been considerable interest and growth in the development of public / private partnerships to provide parks and recreation services and facilities.

- **Equity**

There are increasing demands from all segments of the community for equity in the provision of parks and recreation resources, facilities and planning.

- **Public Participation**

A shift to a different planning process has occurred which provides a wider range of opportunities for citizens to become active in their community and more involved in the decision-making process.

- **Quality Services**

Government has placed a greater emphasis on dealing with citizens' expressed needs for quality recreation, resources and facilities.

These forces have been considered throughout the planning process, and have been of assistance in developing recommendations contained in subsequent sections of the report.

1.3 BENEFITS OF RECREATION SERVICES

Traditionally, the benefits of providing recreation services in a community were given superficial consideration and were often characterized by phrases such as “recreation helps keep kids off the street” and “exercise is good for you”.

In recent years, research has focused on identifying meaningful benefits to the community as a result of providing parks and recreation services. When

determining future requirements, it is important that elected officials and the public consider the value of investing in these services.

This value is reflected in the statements outlined below that were developed by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association to best describe the benefits of parks and recreation to the community.

- Recreation and active living are essential to personal health.
- Recreation is a key to balanced human development – helping people reach their potential.
- Recreation and parks are essential to the quality of life.
- Recreation services are of value in helping to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Recreation and parks help build strong families and healthy communities.
- Recreation reduces health care, social service, and police / justice costs
- Parks, open spaces and natural areas are essential to ecological survival.
- Recreation and parks are significant economic generators in the community.

1.4 THE 1993 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The 1993 Master Plan outlined a number of goals and objectives for the delivery of parks and recreation services, and identified numerous issues and recommendations related to the ongoing improvement of parks and open space, recreation facilities and recreation programs. Action taken on these recommendations is summarized below.

- **Trail System**

A reserve account was established for future trail development. These funds have been used to develop the Peach Orchard Trail Loop, and to assist in the development of the Trans Canada Trail along Conkle Mountain.

- **Aquatic Centre**

The new Aquatic Fitness Centre is over 2,100 square feet in area, with 13 pieces of cardio equipment and 16 weight stations.

INTRODUCTION

- **Dale Meadows Park**

Dale Meadows Park was completed with the construction of a regulation soccer pitch, the building of a washroom / concession building, and the lighting of the soccer field and one softball diamond.

- **Boat Launch**

Originally located at Trout Creek, the boat launch was constructed at Peach Orchard Beach, due to its central location and deeper water. The boat launch includes a docking wharf, 2 launch areas and a fully landscaped parking lot.

- **Giants Head Park**

Reserve funds are in place to pave the road and shoulder as early as 2002.

- **Peach Orchard Beach**

The sand volleyball court and new water park were completed, in addition to the previously mentioned boat launch.

- **Rotary Beach**

Shade trees were planted shortly after the Master Plan was completed, and are now 14 to 16 feet in height. A floating dock was also installed.

- **Powell Beach**

Two floating docks were installed, along with lighting at the tennis courts. An official-sized softball diamond was also constructed.

- **Trout Creek Beach Access**

Basic improvements were undertaken at Stoner, Nixon and Thornber Streets, including cleaning up the beach area and the installation of proper signage and a picnic table or bench at each location.

- **New Park Improvements**

The expansion of Dale Meadows Park was initiated with the purchase of 14.5 acres of property and the permission of the Land Commission to build additional playing fields.

A number of recommendations, including the proposed development of the old Hospital site, the construction of a lawn bowling green and the construction of a new gymnasium were also considered, however, no action was taken. These amenities have been addressed, along with other proposals, in this document.

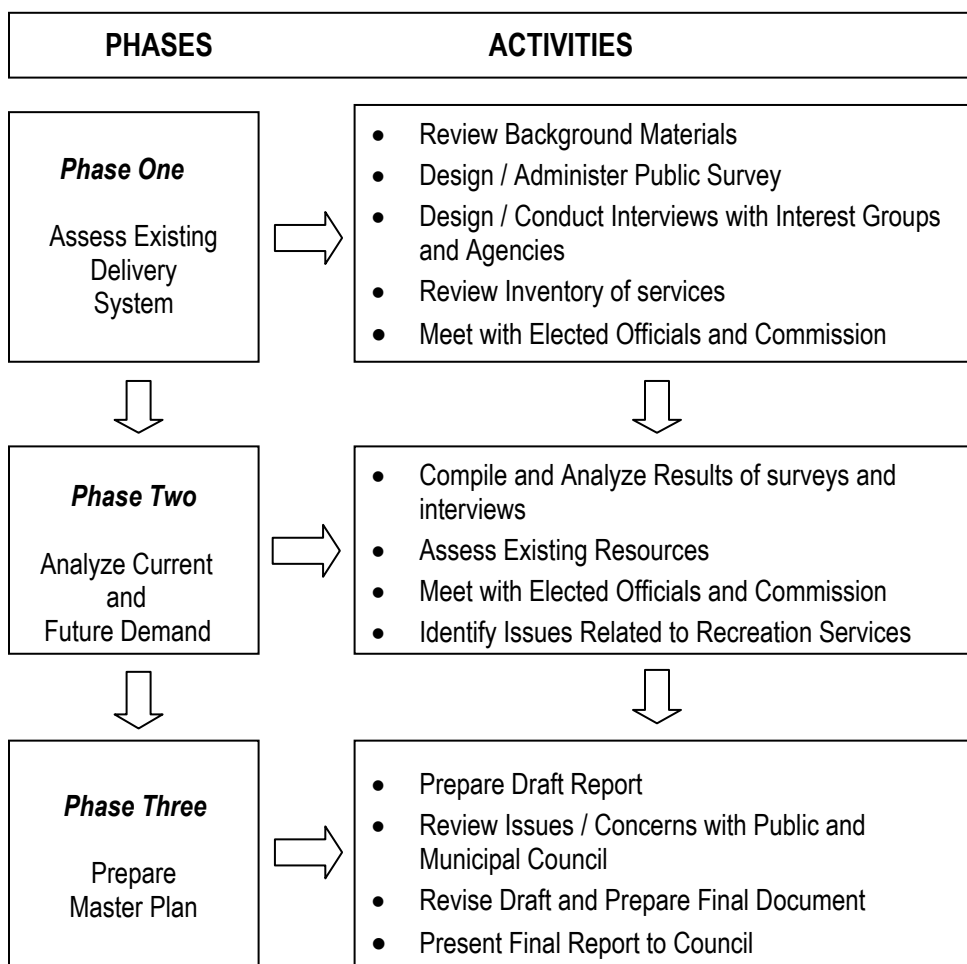
1.5 PREPARATION OF THE PLAN

The Master Plan is intended to achieve the following objectives:

- To assess existing services and the resources allocated to the delivery of recreation services.
- To analyze existing and future demand and need for services.
- To synthesize the results of the data collection into realistic and practical recommendations that reflect the needs and financial resources of the community.

These objectives are summarized into a number of Phases and Activities as outlined in Figure One.

**FIGURE ONE
PROJECT PHASES AND ACTIVITIES**



2. STUDY METHODOLOGY

The preparation of the Master Plan involved a considerable amount of data collection, including the administration of a public survey, interviews with special interest groups, discussions with Council, senior staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission, and an analysis of current services. The following specific steps were undertaken.

2.1 ISSUE MANAGEMENT

The following questions were used to guide the consultant in working through the methodology.

2.1.1 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- What steps, if any, need to be taken in order to ensure the appropriate provision of parks and open space in the future?
- Is there a need to upgrade, renovate or replace specific parks or facilities?
- Are there amenities and facilities required in some areas of the community or in specific parks or open spaces?
- Are residents pleased with the level of maintenance in the parks system?
- What are the long-term opportunities and needs for trails?

2.1.2 RECREATION FACILITIES

- Are present recreation facilities adequate for current and future demands?
- What new facilities, if any, should be added?
- Which existing facilities need to be upgraded or renovated?
- Are there facilities that should be expanded?
- Do residents and participants find that facilities are well maintained?
- Are there facilities or specific areas in which maintenance needs to be improved?
- Are participants and the public well served by staff?

- Do participants and the public find the hours of operation and activity schedules adequate and convenient?

2.1.3 RECREATION PROGRAMMING

- Are programs and activities well attended and supported by residents?
- Do residents have a broad choice of program opportunities?
- Are programs perceived as being high quality?
- Do participants and the public find program fees and charges to be acceptable?
- Do residents find that programs are readily available and scheduled conveniently?
- Is the program registration system convenient?
- Are there any existing programs that need to be improved or replaced?
- Are there any types of programs that are lacking?
- How and where do residents find information about recreation programming?
- Are there improvements or additions needed in the methods used for publicity?

2.1.4 ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

- Do services currently meet the needs of residents?
- What do residents like or dislike about present services?
- Does the public support corporate involvement or partnerships in the construction and operation of future facilities?
- Do residents support current services?
- What amount of tax increase, if any, would be supported to maintain or increase services?
- Do participants and the public support reductions in services in order to meet the District's financial objectives?

STUDY METHODOLOGY

2.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The participation of local residents was critical to the success of the planning process. The community was provided with the following opportunities for involvement.

2.2.1 PUBLIC SURVEY

A public survey was conducted in order to determine attitudes about parks and recreation services, as well as to gather information regarding the use of facilities and participation in recreation programs. The methodology involved the following steps:

- A comprehensive list of residents and addresses was provided by the District of Summerland
- A sample of 850 residents was randomly selected from the database
- Similar questions to those in the 1993 survey were included in order to ensure appropriate comparisons
- The survey was mailed to the sample, along with a personal letter and self-addressed return envelope
- A reminder notice was sent as a follow-up to those who had not responded to the initial mail-out

2.2.2 INTERVIEWS

Interviews were conducted with a number of community organizations, representatives of special interest groups and staff. Information gathered from these discussions included a description of the services offered, as well as problems which the group feel are preventing it from achieving its objectives.

2.2.3 MEETINGS WITH SUMMERLAND OFFICIALS

The consultant met on two occasions with members of Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission, initially to identify issues and concerns related to parks and recreation services, and later in the process, to review the results of the data collection and research. Similar meetings were held with District staff.

2.2.4 COMMUNITY MEETING

The consultant conducted a community meeting toward the end of the planning process. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure that the public and various community organizations were given an additional opportunity to offer comments regarding current and future services.

2.3 DRAFT AND FINAL REPORT

Following the review of issues that had been identified during the research phase of the study, PERC prepared a draft version of the report for discussion with staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission. A number of revisions were incorporated into the report prior to its presentation to District Council.

3. CURRENT STATUS OF LEISURE SERVICES

One of the first objectives of the study was to identify and evaluate the current status of recreation services in the Summerland area. This phase of the project focused on a detailed collection of data related to existing services, and provided information necessary to identify gaps or deficiencies within the current delivery system.

Four major tasks were undertaken, including the administration of the public survey, interviews with community organizations, discussions with Council, the Commission and senior staff, and a review of recent expenditures on parks and recreation.

The following information summarizes the results of this research.

3.1 PUBLIC SURVEY

As noted earlier, a survey of Summerland residents was conducted in order to gather information regarding needs and preferences related to recreation services.

3.1.1 RESPONSE RATE

A total of 512 respondents (of the 850 households in the original sample) completed and returned the survey. This response represents a 95% confidence level, +/- 4.7%, and means that if all the residents in the community were contacted, the results of that survey would be within 4.7 percentage points of the results of the current survey, 19 times out of 20.

3.1.2 ABOUT THE SAMPLE

From the original 1,000 adults in the sample population, the following results were recorded:

Original Sample	850
Non-Deliverable	8
Revised Sample	842
Completed Returns	512
Response Rate	61%

Analysis of the data indicated that:

- Fifty-seven percent of the respondents were male and 43% were female. (The actual proportion of males in the community is closer to 47%)
- As indicated in Figure Two, the sample is very similar to those responding to the 1993 survey, and under-represents those between the ages of 25 and 34, and over-represents older adults.

**FIGURE TWO
COMPARISON OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY AGE**

AGE CATEGORY	2001 SAMPLE	1991 SAMPLE
19 – 24	1%	5%
25 – 34	7	14
35 – 44	17	18
45 – 54	20	13
55 – 64	17	16
65 and over	39	33

- Fifty-three percent of the respondents reside in the Central Core and surrounding neighbourhoods, 23% in the rural areas, 9% in Trout Creek, 7% in Lower Town, 5% in Front Beach and 2% in Deer Ridge / Summergate.
- Fourteen percent of the respondents have lived in Summerland for 3 years or less, 45% for 4 to 10 years, and 60% for more than 10 years.
- Most of the respondents (45%) represent couples with no dependent children; 26% are couples with dependent children; 24% represent one or more adults sharing a residence, and 4% are single parents with dependent children.

CURRENT STATUS OF LEISURE SERVICES

3.1.3 FACILITY USE

Respondents were requested to provide information regarding their use of existing parks and recreation facilities in the community.

The use of **indoor** facilities during the past twelve months is summarized in Figure Three.

**FIGURE THREE
USE OF INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES**

FACILITY	2001 SAMPLE	1991 SAMPLE
Library	61%	57%
Swimming Pool	48	49
Theatre	40	47
Ice Arena	33	31
Art Gallery	24	29
School Gymnasiums	22	24
Curling Rink	15	18
Youth Centre	16	--
Museum	15	--

Please note: In the 1991 survey, the Art Gallery and the Museum were listed together; the Youth Centre was under construction at the time the study was being conducted.

Sixteen percent of the respondents (the same percentage as in 1991) indicated that they had not used any indoor recreation facilities in the previous twelve months.

A small number of respondents advised that they had made use of private facilities in the community including the youth centre, Proformance Fitness Centre, the Racquet and Tennis Club, the Yacht Club, Sailing Association and the Badminton Hall.

Forty-three percent of the respondents indicated that they had used recreation facilities outside of Summerland. Most of these were in Penticton, and included the beaches, parks and sportsfields and the Penticton Community Centre.

The use of **outdoor** facilities is summarized in Figure Four.

**FIGURE FOUR
USE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES**

FACILITY	2001 SAMPLE	1991 SAMPLE
Beaches	75%	77%
Parks / Playgrounds	63	61
Trails	32	38
Sportsfields	27	24
Boat Access / Launching	20	25
Tennis Courts	14	20
Rodeo Grounds	11	--
Campground	10	15

Please note: In the 1991 survey, the rodeo grounds were not listed.

Sixteen percent of the respondents (compared to 11% in 1991) indicated that they had not used any parks or outdoor facilities in the past twelve months.

3.1.4 NEW / IMPROVED FACILITIES

Thirty-eight percent of the survey respondents suggested that **improvements** are required to public parks and recreation facilities in Summerland. (In 1991, 42% suggested that improvements were needed). An analysis of written comments revealed that Summerland residents are particularly interested in continued improvements to local beaches, walking and cycling trails, restroom facilities in parks, and further improvements at the aquatic centre. Mention was also made of the need for further development at Dale Meadows Park.

Slightly fewer (33%) of the respondents feel that **new** indoor and outdoor recreation facilities are needed at the present time. There was some mention of a second ice sheet, additional park development, a new or expanded library and additional sportsfields, but overall, there does not appear to be a major demand for new facilities at the present time.

CURRENT STATUS OF LEISURE SERVICES

3.1.5 SPENDING ON LEISURE SERVICES

Respondents were also asked to indicate their preferences should Council consider additional spending on parks and recreation services. Responses are summarized below.

- 27% prefer no additional spending on parks and recreation services (1991 – 30%)
- 35% favour the renovation / improvement of existing facilities (1991 – 26%)
- 29% favour the development of beach property (1991 – 28%)
- 24% favour the development of parkland and playing fields (1991 – 25%)
- 24% favour purchasing beach property (1991 – 25%)
- 23% favour purchasing parkland and playing fields (1991 – 22%)
- 19% favour the development of new recreational facilities (1991 – 15%)
- 17% favour the development of arts and cultural facilities (this option was not included in the 1991 survey)

Respondents also expressed their preferences in terms of additional taxes or rent, in order to construct and operate parks and recreation facilities. This information is summarized in Figure Five.

**FIGURE FIVE
SUPPORT FOR ANNUAL TAX / RENT INCREASES**

TAX INCREASE	2001	1991
None – No Additional Taxes	31%	33%
\$15 or less	25	18
\$16 to \$30	21	22
\$31 to \$45	11	11
\$46 to \$60	7	10
More than \$60	5	6

As indicated in Figure Five above, it is apparent that there is not a great amount of support for tax increases at the present time. At best, this information suggests

that 69% of the households in Summerland would support an increase of \$15 to \$30.

3.1.6 SATISFACTION WITH PARKS AND FACILITIES

Figure Six provides a summary of the level of satisfaction with a number of items related to the delivery of parks and recreation services. As indicated, respondents were much more satisfied than in the 1991 survey.

**FIGURE SIX
LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH PARKS AND FACILITIES**

SERVICE	SATISFIED 2001	SATISFIED 1991
Facility Maintenance	75%	67%
Amount of Open Space	69	50
Park / Playground Maintenance	80	71
School Ground Maintenance	77	64
Protection of Trails / Habitat	57	36
Beach Maintenance	68	60
Park / Playground Development	67	60

This information suggests that Summerland has one area, in particular – protection of the natural habitat -- that should be addressed during the ten year timeframe of the Plan.

3.1.7 PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Respondents were also asked to react to a number of questions regarding recreation program services:

- **Limits to Participation**

62% of the respondents (compared to 60% in the 1991 survey) indicated that nothing limits their household's participation in public recreation activities.

Other factors affecting participation included cost (13%), inconvenient scheduling (12%) and limited program choice (10%).

CURRENT STATUS OF LEISURE SERVICES

- **Promotion**

Most residents find out about recreation programs and services through seasonal recreation brochures (77%), compared to 67% in 1991, the local newspaper (57%) and word of mouth (49%).

- **Program Ratings**

As indicated in Figure Seven, among those who take part in programs sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, there are high levels of satisfaction with each of the items listed, and in particular, with the quality of instructors and staff helpfulness.

**FIGURE SEVEN
LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH RECREATION PROGRAM SERVICES**

SERVICE	GOOD / EXCELLENT 2001	GOOD / EXCELLENT 1991
Instructors	93%	95%
Program Times	83	80
Program Variety	71	72
Publicity	78	70
Registration	82	65
Staff Helpfulness	92	94
Program Costs	89	89

3.2 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS / SUMMERLAND OFFICIALS

The project also involved a review of the current inventory of parks and recreation facilities, discussions with Summerland Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and interviews with a number of special interest groups.

The latter were requested to provide information regarding their mandate, and services currently offered to the community, as well as facilities used and current needs.

Listed below are the major areas in which improvements and / or new facilities and services may be necessary.

- **Improve Existing Facilities**

It was suggested that consideration should be given to (1) a small addition to the aquatic centre that would allow for the installation of additional “leisure” features (it should be noted that any renovations to the facility will likely be reasonably expensive), and (2) minor improvements to the arena, curling rink, and arts centre.

- **Develop Beach Property**

There appears to be general agreement that Summerland should endeavour to continue improvements to existing beaches and to develop the beach area between Highway 97 and Rotary Beach.

Additional suggestions included the development of the Wharf Street beach access in Trout Creek and improved access to Sunoka Beach.

- **Develop Parkland / Sportsfields**

The continued development of Summerland’s walking and cycling system is one of the highest priorities identified during the research phase of the project.

There is also considerable interest in the construction of expanded facilities at Dale Meadows Park. As noted later in the report, the community has only one soccer field and a substantial interest in both soccer and slo-pitch.

Other park development projects include an interest in the cooperative development of the new Hospital site (perhaps to accommodate a lawn bowling green), improvements to the old Hospital site, Giants Head and Little Giants Head Parks, the Adams Property, the Sewage Treatment Plant property, the Rodeo Grounds, as well as to Memorial Baseball Park and the campground site.

- **Acquire Beach Property**

Residents and community organizations continue to feel that there is a need for the acquisition of additional properties along the lakefront in Lower Town.

- **Acquire Parkland**

A need for additional park property was identified in those areas of the community that may be developed over the next few years, as well as in the downtown core and adjacent to the Summerland Arena.

CURRENT STATUS OF LEISURE SERVICES

- **Develop New Recreation Facilities**

A new exhibition building / agriplex was suggested for the Rodeo Grounds, along with a second ice sheet at the arena, and a full-sized gymnasium at a future elementary school.

- **Develop New Arts and Cultural Facilities**

There has been a considerable amount of discussion in the community regarding the possibility of a new cultural facility in Summerland, including an expanded museum and library and amenities to accommodate the visual arts.

3.3 SPENDING ON PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

The consultants reviewed financial information provided by the Summerland Finance Department, in order to determine the amount of money spent per capita on Parks and Recreation services. This information is summarized in Figure Eight.

**FIGURE EIGHT
FIVE YEAR BUDGET SUMMARY (1996 – 2000)**

YEAR	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996
REVENUE	535,326	515,022	515,128	508,276	497,159
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Recreation	921,107	873,583	846,964	839,887	823,874
Parks	254,511	241,797	251,483	222,712	193,103
Total Operating Expenses	1,175,619	1,115,381	1,098,448	1,062,600	1,016,977
CAPITAL EXPENSES					
Recreation	73,527	29,594	45,999	20,613	260,670
Parks	223,500	235,438	230,415	128,086	164,519
Total Capital Expenses	297,028	265,033	276,415	148,700	425,189
NEW BUDGET IMPACT	937,321	865,392	859,734	703,023	945,007

4. PARKS AND FACILITIES

Summerland is well served by a number of existing recreation facilities. Most of these are in public ownership, however, there are several that are operated non-profit organizations.

The District's inventory of major recreation facilities include:

- **Aquatic Centre**

The aquatic centre includes a 6 lane, 25 meter pool and a fitness centre, and accommodates the Parks and Recreation Department's administrative staff. (Operated by the District of Summerland)

- **Arena**

The arena has a standard NHL ice sheet with seating for 800 spectators, and a banquet room that can accommodate up to 250 people. (Operated by the District of Summerland)

- **Museum**

(Operated by the Summerland Museum Society)

- **Arts Centre and Gallery**

The Arts Centre and Gallery located in the old Municipal Hall, and has been renovated to accommodate the arts. (Operated by the Summerland and District Arts Council)

- **Library**

(Operated by the Okanagan Regional Library Board)

- **Theatre**

Includes seating for close to 300 spectators. (Operated by the School District and the District of Summerland)

- **Youth Centre**

(Operated by the Youth Centre Association)

- **Boys and Girls Club**

(Operated by the Summerland Boys and Girls Club)

- **Lakeshore Racquets Club**

(Operated by the Racquet Club)

- **Summerland Yacht Club**

(Operated by the Summerland Yacht Association)

PARK AND FACILITIES

- **Sailing Club**

(Operated by the South Okanagan Sailing Association)

- **Badminton Club**

(Operated by the Summerland Recreation Association)

- **School Facilities**

Facilities at local schools, including 1 secondary school, 1 middle school and 2 elementary schools are available for public use.

(Operated by the Penticton / Skaha School District)

The availability of public recreation facilities owned and operated by communities of a similar size is summarized in Figure Nine.

**FIGURE NINE
PUBLIC INDOOR FACILITY COMPARISONS**

FACILITY	REVELSTOKE	FORT ST. JOHN	LAKE COUNTRY	SALMON ARM	SUMMERLAND	OSOYOOS
Indoor Pool	0	1	0	1	1	0
Ice Arena	1	2	1	2	2	1
Performing Arts Centre	0	1	1	2	1	1
Community Centre	1	1	0	1	0	1
Seniors Centre	1	1	1	2	1	1
Curling Rink	1	1	1	1	1	1
Youth Centre	0	0	1	0	1	0

Summerland is also well served in terms of parks and open space. The District's current inventory includes:

- **Neighbourhood Parks and Open Space**

Julia Street Park	0.2 acres
Turner Street Park	0.3
Deer Ridge Park	0.5

- **Community Parks and Open Space**

Memorial Park	9.4
Memorial Baseball Park	13.6
Dale Meadows Park (including recent acquisition)	24.0
Summerland Campground	5.0
Giants Head Park	200.0
Little Giants Head	--
Adams Bird Sanctuary	2.0

- **Public Beaches**

Peach Orchard Beach	7.8
Powell Beach	8.3
Rotary Beach	2.1
Kinsmen Park	0.4
Crescent Beach	0.2

- **Provincial / Federal Open Space**

Sunoka Beach	10.0
Summerland Research Station	3.0

- **Public Schools**

Giants Head Elementary School	8.0
Trout Creek Elementary School	2.0
Summerland Middle / Secondary School	14.0

Total open space, excluding the existing trail system and the Rodeo Grounds amounts to approximately 300 acres.

PARK AND FACILITIES

4.1 SHORT TERM PRIORITIES

4.1.1 THEATRE

- There are very few concerns regarding the Theatre
- The facility continues to meet the needs of Summerland residents and the School District in terms of performances and educational programs
- Short term needs include a new air handling system in the green room, a new lighting board, seats and modernization of the drape and lighting system
- Mid and long term considerations are related to the need for a storage room near the stage (for community organizations and the Summerland Secondary School Drama program) and maintenance of the facility as a result of its age and the high use that it has received over the years

RECOMMENDATION #1

Allocate funds in the short term for a new air handling system, a new lighting board, seats, drape and lighting system for the Theatre

Allocate funds in the mid to long term for storage and ongoing maintenance requirements at the Theatre

4.1.2 CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING BEACHES

- Since the completion of the last Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Summerland has completed a significant amount of work in terms of the development of the community's beaches
- Work has included improvements to Rotary Beach, Peach Orchard Beach and Powell Beach
- Results of the public survey suggest that there is general satisfaction with these improvements, but that consideration should be given to a number of additional features, including additional tree planting, in order to ensure a greater amount of shade, additional picnic facilities, and other amenities for young children and families

RECOMMENDATION #2

Continue improvements to existing beach sites, including the planting of additional shade trees, the installation of picnic facilities and benches, and other family-oriented amenities

4.1.3 IMPROVEMENTS TO RECENTLY ACQUIRED WATERFRONT

- In the past few years, Summerland has acquired a number of additional waterfront properties between Kin Park and Highway 97
- Summerland residents have indicated a preference for beach improvements in addition to continued acquisition
- At the present time, plans have not been prepared for improvements in this area, and that, along with input from the public, should be given a high priority
- Suggested improvements include a pathway / boardwalk system between Rotary Beach and Kin Park, and development of the area between Kin Park and the beach access at Beaver Street, including a combination of grass, pathways, park benches, small beach areas and where necessary, retaining walls
- With the exception of the property between Kin Beach and Beaver Street, the continued purchase of lakefront property does not seem realistic due to the high cost of acquisition
- While additional acquisition may be appropriate in the long term, improvements to newly acquired properties should be initiated in the immediate future
- If the remaining properties between Kin Beach and Beaver Street are to be acquired, the area could be improved in two phases

RECOMMENDATION #3

Prepare plans for improvements to the beach area between Kin Park and the beach access at Beaver Street

Initiate improvements to the area between Kin Beach and Beaver Street

Continue acquisition of remaining waterfront properties along Lakeshore Drive, between Kin Park and Beaver Street

PARK AND FACILITIES

4.1.4 WHARF STREET

- The 1993 Master Plan recommended that the beach access at Wharf Street be improved, that a public boat launching ramp should be installed and that the site include paved parking and a picnic area
- The District determined that Peach Orchard Beach would be a more suitable location for a launching ramp, and construction of facilities was completed in 1998
- Discussions regarding an additional launching ramp in the Trout Creek area have continued over the years, and there is a feeling that a facility that would accommodate small crafts (i.e. canoes, kayaks, etc.), with a limited number of paved parking stalls would be appropriate

RECOMMENDATION #4

Clean up the existing boat launch area at Wharf Street, create a proper parking area, and install signage that indicates that the site is for small boats only due to shallow lake levels

4.1.5 DEER RIDGE PARK

- The 1991 Master Plan identified the need for a neighbourhood park in the Deer Ridge area
- A one-half acre site was acquired in the early 1990's
- While growth in this part of the municipality has been relatively slow, it is the consultants' opinion that this property should be developed to meet the needs and interests of local residents
- Due to its irregular topography, the site should be developed for quiet activities and include a picnic area and small playground

RECOMMENDATION #5

Develop a neighbourhood park in the Deer Ridge subdivision

4.1.6 SUNOKA BEACH

- The consultant's research revealed considerable interest in improved access from Trout Creek to Sunoka Beach
- At one time, there was a bridge across the creek in this immediate area
- The property is in private ownership on the north side of the creek, and in Federal / Provincial ownership on the south side
- There is a walking trail along the dike on the north side of the creek, a portion of which is in private ownership
- Other than access by foot to and from Sunoka, no other improvements would be necessary – it is suggested that the balance of the properties remain in a natural condition
- Access to and the development of a walking trail to the beach is seen as a desirable improvement

RECOMMENDATION #6

Prepare a plan, indicating the most appropriate location for access across the creek to Sunoka Beach (This should be coordinated with creek improvements being contemplated to re-introduce fish habitat to the mouth and channel of Trout Creek)

4.1.7 TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

- There is considerable interest in the continued development of Summerland's trail network
- The interest includes walkers, hikers and cyclists, and areas that are particularly desirable include the waterfront, improved access to the Trans Canada Trail, and linkages between residential areas and the downtown core
- Over the years, there have been several volunteer groups that have focused their attention on identifying additional areas and priorities for trail development
- There doesn't appear to be a comprehensive plan in place for trail development
- The development of the Trans Canada Trail has been exceptional, and community volunteers who have worked on this project certainly deserve congratulations for their efforts

PARK AND FACILITIES

- Specific consideration should be given to improved access to the Trans Canada Trail at Fenwick Road, as well as to directional signs
- Consideration should also be given to the development of additional trails on Conkle Mountain, using the Trans Canada Trail as primary access points
- The Summerland Trans Canada Trails Committee and the Parks and Recreation Department should work together to identify areas for future trail development, and to identify priorities in terms of development

RECOMMENDATION #7

Determine specific trail requirements and priorities

Identify potential funding sources for trail development

Improve the access to the Trans Canada Trail at Fenwick Road and develop additional trails on Conkle Mountain

4.1.8 OLD HOSPITAL SITE

- The 1993 Master Plan included a recommendation to develop an historical viewing area / lookout at the Old Hospital site on Solly Road
- A number of meetings were held regarding this possibility, however, resources did not permit the development to occur, and concerns were raised regarding its location in the "red zone" and problems related to irrigation
- It is the consultant's opinion that Summerland has a number of "neighbourhood" sites such as this, that could be improved in cooperation with local residents
- This particular location has some historical significance in the community and it is suggested that the recommendation be re-visited

RECOMMENDATION #8

Incorporate the development of the Old Hospital Site into the District's capital plan

4.1.9 NEW HOSPITAL SITE – LAWN BOWLING GREEN

- Recently, the Summerland Hospital acquired an 8 acre site for future expansion
- Planning has been initiated for the construction of an extended care facility
- There is interest in the community in the construction of a lawn bowling green
- The preferred location for the facility would be in the downtown core, close to the majority of people who are interested in this activity
- The size of a lawn bowling green is in excess of a quarter of an acre, and there are areas in the core area where it could be located – Memorial Park, for instance, and the area behind the arena would be too small to accommodate the facility

RECOMMENDATION #9

Contact the new Health Board to determine whether or not a lawn bowling green can be accommodated on the new hospital site

4.1.10 GIANTS HEAD / LITTLE GIANTS HEAD PARK

- As in the 1993 Plan, there is a great deal of interest in improvements to Giants Head Park, and to a lesser extent, to Little Giants Head
- In both instances, suggested improvements are primarily related to trails and rest areas, and in the case of Giants Head, basic improvements to the existing road and parking area – the public generally feels that any developments beyond these would be inappropriate
- The consultant is in agreement with these suggestions, however, would place a higher priority on improvements to the basic facilities on Giants Head within the timeframe of the Master Plan, and delay consideration of improvements to Little Giants Head for a number of years

RECOMMENDATION #10

Incorporate previous reserve funds for Giants Head Park into a plan to re-construct the existing road with proper trail heads, signage and pullouts

PARK AND FACILITIES

4.1.11 ADAMS PROPERTY

- The Adams Bird Sanctuary is a unique piece of property that was donated to Summerland several years ago, with a proviso that it be left in its natural condition
- Since that time, the District, in cooperation with the Summerland Rotary Club, has made a number of improvements to the site, primarily to establish a rudimentary trail and to provide signage to identify various plant species
- The site has potential for educational purposes, as well as for walking, bird watching and the like
- At the present time, the property is an “eyesore”, and it is likely that very few residents of the community would identify it as part of Summerland’s park and open space system
- The site is also over-grown with weeds, and the Weed Program Coordinator from the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District has offered a number of suggestions for weed control, as well as for minimal development that would protect the native species (A copy of the report, along with treatment recommendations, is included in Appendix Two)

RECOMMENDATION #11

Include funds in the Parks and Recreation Department budget for the maintenance of the Adams Property

Initiate basic improvements to the Adams Property, in cooperation with the Rotary Club, and implement a program to ensure weed control

4.1.12 MEMORIAL BASEBALL PARK

- At one time, Memorial Baseball Park was a hub of activity in Summerland, hosting men’s baseball as well as numerous minor sports activities and little league baseball
- Although the location is not ideal, it provides Summerland Minor Baseball with 3 fields in one location, including washrooms and bleachers
- The addition of red shale infields would make the diamonds basically maintenance free (The diamond at Powell Beach also requires this treatment)

- As a long term objective, it would seem to be worthwhile to conduct a planning exercise with current user groups as well as the general public to determine the highest and best use of the park

RECOMMENDATION #12

Improve the infields at Memorial Baseball Park and Powell Beach with the installation of red shale

Work with Summerland Minor Baseball to spruce up the perimeter of the park

Initiate a planning process related to the long term development of Memorial Baseball Park

4.1.13 PEACH ORCHARD CAMPGROUND

- There has been some discussion in recent years regarding the long term use of the Summerland Campground
- This facility has been in place in the community for years, and also serves as one of the community's parks, but the majority of use is as a campground, during the spring, summer and early fall
- In addition to its accommodation facilities, the site includes some playground apparatus and two outdoor tennis courts
- It is the consultant's opinion that it should continue to play this dual role, but that a number of site improvements should be initiated within the timeframe of the Plan
- These improvements should include the provision of a number of "permanent" pads for trailers and small recreation vehicles; discussions with other campsites suggest that there are varying opinions as to the type of pads that should be available, but most suggest that campers prefer a concrete pad over other types of material
- There is no need to provide permanent pads throughout the site; it is suggested that 20 +/- would suffice, on the northeast side of the park, including full services (sewer, power and water)
- While the majority of the site should remain in a natural state, proper electrical outlets should be provided in the northwest section, along with clusters of electrical in areas across the creek

PARK AND FACILITIES

in the southern sections to accommodate special events in a central location at each site

- Site leveling should also be initiated in several parts of the park, but with the exception of the northeast area, should be done with grass
- Other improvements should include more up-to-date playground apparatus, and consideration, at least, of removing the practice wall on the north end of the tennis courts, and at some point, re-surfacing the tennis courts
- Since there is a new playground at Peach Orchard Beach (only one block away), there may be no need for a play facility at the campground – if the existing structure remains, its safety should be a primary concern

RECOMMENDATION #13

Initiate a program of improvements at the Campground, including the installation of a number of permanent pads for trailers and recreational vehicles, the installation of a number of full service permanent sites and leveling of a number of areas throughout the park, as well as the replacement of existing playground apparatus and improvements to the existing tennis courts

4.1.14 LIBRARY

- The current library does not meet standards established by the Provincial Government in terms of the number of square feet per resident – approximately twice the size is necessary
- The needs of the library could be accommodated in space leased from the commercial sector, or through expansion at the present location
- There is a strong indication that the library should be on a single floor – primarily for supervision and for public access

RECOMMENDATION #14

Work with the Okanagan Regional Library to look for additional sites in the community that could accommodate a library facility, and explore options that would expand the existing facility

4.1.15 MUSEUM

- The current museum is limited in its ability to adequately display and preserve the community's heritage
- The needs of the museum could be accommodated with a relatively modest expansion
- The District of Summerland has not played a major role in the museum or in the provision of heritage services – the role should be addressed

RECOMMENDATION #15

Consider the requirements of the Museum Society in terms of space to accommodate displays and storage

4.1.16 ARTS CENTRE

- Municipal Council has made a long term commitment to the Summerland Arts Council through the lease of the old Municipal Hall
- The "new" arts centre has recently been renovated and comfortably accommodates a number of the activities proposed by those interested in new facilities
- The arts centre performs a gallery function, but would not be suitable for juried art shows
- Most members of the Community Arts Council, who have been involved with the renovations to the existing arts centre are quite pleased with the facility and are continuing to upgrade the centre

RECOMMENDATION #16

Clarify support for the Community Arts Council and its use of the old Municipal Hall

4.1.17 TENNIS COURTS

- At the present time, there are 10 tennis courts in Summerland, including 3 lighted courts at the Racquets Club, 2 lighted courts at Powell Beach, 2 at the campground and 3 at the high school

PARK AND FACILITIES

- It is PERC's opinion that no additional courts are needed at the present time – the results of the public survey appear to be consistent with this opinion
- Courts should continue to be maintained in the best condition possible – particularly from the perspective of safety

RECOMMENDATION #17

Monitor the use of existing tennis courts and continue to evaluate whether additional courts are needed in the community

4.1.18 TRACK AND FIELD FACILITY

- Some interest was expressed in the development of a track and field facility in the community
- Depending on the width and surface, tracks are relatively costly to install – as much as \$1 million for a synthetic surface similar to Penticton
- The location of a track is a major consideration – an ideal location is adjacent to a secondary school, where it would be used by students and the community
- There may be room to construct a track immediately to the north of Summerland Secondary School
- It is unlikely, in the present economic climate, that the School Board would be in a position to participate financially in the construction of a track
- Since demand is relatively low, and costs are high, the construction of a track should be a low priority

RECOMMENDATION #18

Defer construction of a running track during the timeframe of the current Plan

4.2 LONG TERM PRIORITIES

4.2.1 DALE MEADOWS PARK

- Since the completion of the last Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the District has completed the first phase of development of Dale Meadows Park
- The site now includes 3 ball diamonds, a lighted soccer field, a concession / restroom facility and lighting on one of the diamonds
- The facility is ideally located in the community, and accommodates local interests, as well as an increasing number of tournaments throughout the spring, summer and fall
- Within the past year, an additional 14 acres of land has been acquired immediately adjacent to the park, with the intention that additional sportsfield and support facilities be constructed
- The Agricultural Land Commission has given approval to the expansion of the park
- Summerland, like many other communities, has experienced considerable growth in youth and adult soccer in recent years, yet the community has only one regulation soccer field
- Expansion of the park is needed to accommodate increased growth and interest in soccer and slo-pitch and to take advantage of the economic benefits of sports / tourism
- The site could also include a perimeter walking trail, and an area for a future clubhouse for major user groups (built at no expense to the community)
- It is estimated that the cost to complete Dale Meadows Park will be approximately \$900,000

RECOMMENDATION #19

Prepare plans for the development of Phase Two of Dale Meadows Park

Initiate construction of the park according to the priorities established in the proposed capital plan

PARK AND FACILITIES

4.2.2 AQUATIC CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

- Improvements outlined in the previous Master Plan, including the expansion of the fitness / exercise room and creating a more pleasant and inviting atmosphere have been completed
- There is continued interest in improvements to the aquatic centre, including additional leisure features
- The public prefers to use the Summerland Aquatic Centre, but some are drawn to Penticton because of its features. The city is considering expansion of its indoor pool, and has prepared preliminary plans including a number of leisure facilities
- Experience in other communities suggests that there is considerable revenue that can be generated as a result of the addition of leisure facilities and a teaching pool
- It is estimated that the cost of further expansion could be between \$500,000 and \$750,000
- There is limited space for expansion, but the School District would be willing to review any proposals with Summerland representatives for the use of space between the secondary school and the pool, or alternatively, the possible use of the parking area

RECOMMENDATION #20

Prepare plans to determine if the expanded area of the pool will fit into the school property

4.2.3 NEW ARENA / SECOND ICE SHEET

- There have been requests, over the years, for an additional arena
- Several communities in BC, with populations similar to Summerland, have two ice sheets
- No two communities are alike – Summerland’s population, like many Okanagan communities – is adult oriented, and in recent years, there has been limited growth in the number of school-aged children in the community
- The need for additional ice time, is at best, limited to a very small number of hours per week

- The cost of an additional ice sheet would likely be in the area of \$3 million dollars or more, and the revenue generated from the facility is likely to be quite limited
- Unless population growth changes significantly, consideration of a second sheet of ice should be deferred, for at least 10 years

RECOMMENDATION #21

Delay planning of a second ice sheet for at least 10 years

4.2.4 CULTURAL CENTRE

- There is an active group of Summerland residents who have been hard at work over the past year, developing proposals for the construction of a new cultural facility
- From the perspective of the group, the facility would include an expanded library and museum, and an art facility including a gallery
- The facility would be located at the corner of Wharton and Prairie Valley, on property currently owned by the District
- The proposed site is one of a small number of “green” spaces in the core area of Summerland, and has the potential to be a “showcase” for the community – ideally this should be protected and enhanced
- The proposed building would have a large “footprint” – if a major facility is proposed at this site, it would likely be necessary – at considerable expense – to construct underground parking
- Before any major construction is undertaken at this location, the status of the Badminton Hall must be addressed (It may be possible for example, to move the Hall to the south end of the parking lot, or to another location)
- The public survey suggested very little support for new facilities, and even less support for a new cultural facility
- The cost to renovate and expand the existing facilities could be as high as \$2.5 million
- Council has agreed to finance the preparation of preliminary plans for a new cultural centre, without the completion of a public consultation process – it is the consultants’ opinion that community input regarding the initiative should be the first priority

PARK AND FACILITIES

RECOMMENDATION #22

Determine long term plans related to the Badminton Club, and make decisions regarding the Badminton Hall

Engage in a public process regarding the need for and cost of constructing a new cultural centre that would accommodate the needs of the museum, the library and an arts centre / gallery

4.2.5 RODEO GROUNDS / EXHIBITION BUILDING

- The Summerland Rodeo Grounds has great potential for a wide variety of functions including a “trail head” for the Trans Canada Trail, as well as the presentation of agricultural events, the sponsorship of rodeos and other activities, and the development of an indoor facility such as an agriplex or exhibition building similar to facilities in many BC communities (This type of building usually includes a large open space and concrete floor to accommodate a wide variety of functions)
- At the present time, the Rodeo Grounds are not extensively used, nor are they well developed
- A number of events that are currently conducted at the Summerland arena could move to the Rodeo Grounds, if there were an indoor facility at this location
- A number of organizations would likely be concerned about conducting their activities at a location removed from the Town Centre
- Development on an ad hoc basis should be avoided, and a new plan should be prepared for the Rodeo Grounds
- Previous ideas regarding the site have suggested a variety of amenities – these should be reviewed and updated
- Depending on the amenities required, the cost of improving the site could be as high as \$1.5 million

RECOMMENDATION #23

Review existing proposals for the development of the Rodeo Grounds

Prepare plans / sketches for the long term development of the site

4.2.6 FUTURE SCHOOL – GYMNASIUM

- There is interest in the community in additional gymnasium space, particularly to meet the needs of adult organizations
- Existing elementary gyms are typically too small to accommodate activities such as adult basketball and volleyball
- The existing secondary school gym is large enough to accommodate these activities, but is rarely available because of high school games and practices
- The School District has long term plans for the construction of a new school – depending on population growth and Provincial Government approvals for school construction
- The School Board may be willing to enter into a cooperative agreement with Summerland for the development of a large gymnasium at the new school
- The specific location and timing of construction would depend on population growth in the community
- Assuming construction costs would be shared equally, it is estimated that the District's share of the construction would be approximately \$1 million

RECOMMENDATION #24

Initiate discussions with the School District regarding construction of a gymnasium that would be used by the school and the community

Establish a reserve fund for the future construction of a gymnasium

4.2.7 SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

- The Sewage Treatment Plant, located adjacent to Highway 97 immediately north of Trout Creek, has an area that is roughly 5 acres in size that is currently undeveloped
- While it isn't necessarily appropriate to develop every parcel of undeveloped land, this particular site may be of interest to the District in terms of a future park site because of its location

RECOMMENDATION #25

Retain the property at the Sewage Treatment Plant in its current state, and consider the site for future park development

PARK AND FACILITIES

4.2.8 ARENA SITE

- As mentioned earlier, there is little green space in Summerland's downtown core – the only space in the immediate area is Memorial Park
- The report has already discussed the possibility of a park feature at the Museum / Library site, but there is another opportunity as well
- At some point, it is likely that the community will require a second ice sheet
- While the need is not immediate, the ideal location, in terms of operating costs, would be adjacent to the existing arena
- In addition to the existing arena and curling rink, this site also includes the Summerland Youth Centre and skatepark, as well as the Re-cycling station; the skatepark should include a water fountain, signage regarding washrooms, and trees to provide shade and to act as a sound barrier
- Adjacent properties include several private residences and the Methodist church
- As a long term objective, it seems appropriate that the District acquire these residential properties, and prepare a long range plan for the overall development of the site
- Development could include the additional ice sheet and green space that could serve as an attraction to the users of the facility as well as to residents in the immediate area

RECOMMENDATION #26

Prepare a plan for the long term development of the "arena site"

4.2.9 FUTURE PARK ACQUISITION

- At the present time, the amount of parkland and open space in Summerland is generally sufficient to meet the needs of current residents
- As the population increases, however, it will be necessary to ensure the addition of small neighbourhood parks in developing areas such as the Jersey Lands and the Singh property.

- Ideally, neighbourhood parks should be approximately 5 acres in size, and include features such as playgrounds, passive areas and field for informal play
- As mentioned earlier, the School District may be interested in working with municipality in the long term to acquire and develop a site which would accommodate a park / school complex – this, along with various bylaw requirements would certainly be appropriate means of acquiring necessary open space

RECOMMENDATION #27

Continue to require parkland dedication as part of the subdivision approval process, as per provisions in the Local Government Act

5. RECREATION PROGRAMMING

THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, in cooperation with a number of partners, offers a wide variety of recreation programs through the efforts of staff and volunteers. These opportunities are available on a year-round basis, and include courses, workshops, drop-in programs and special event.

The following information provides a general overview of the programs offered:

- **Aquatic Programs**

Recreational swimming, public swimming lessons, aquatic fitness and rehabilitation programs and special events are offered at the aquatic centre.

- **Fitness Programs**

Aerobic fitness and rehabilitation programs are available at the pool and at other locations throughout the community.

- **Seniors Programs**

Seniors programs are offered primarily at the Summerland Seniors Centre and are sponsored by volunteers at the centre

- **Youth Services**

The Department works with schools and other agencies to ensure the provision of youth programs, summer camps, leadership programs, special events and other recreation activities. With the formation of the new Boys and Girls Club, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Club should work closely together in order to optimize services in this important area of program delivery.

- **General Recreation Programs**

Many program opportunities are offered at a variety of locations and in cooperation with a number of organizations.

5.1 APPROACH TO THE DELIVERY OF RECREATION SERVICES

Several years ago, Summerland adopted an approach to the delivery of recreation services that was closely aligned with local organizations. Basically, the approach involves a working relationship with a number of "partners", in which the Parks and Recreation Department provides consultative services, in order to enhance the provision of recreation opportunities.

This "model" supports the premise that the Department has a responsibility for ensuring that leisure opportunities are available for local residents, but does not suggest that local government organize and sponsor all such services. It does, however, imply that guidelines need to be established which suggest that programs:

- Ensure access to all segments of the community without discrimination in terms of gender, age and disability
- Provide positive leisure opportunities that meet significant community needs
- Provide a varied range of activities, as well as diversity and balance in leisure opportunities
- Involve community residents and organization members in setting policies and in conducting activities
- Serve groups and individuals with special needs
- Be flexibly scheduled to meet the time commitments of potential participants
- Make the fullest possible use of available community facilities
- Are supervised and administered by qualified personnel
- Are regularly evaluated to determine whether they are meeting appropriate goals and satisfying community needs
- Are promoted to the public through the media and other channels

RECOMMENDATION #28

Continue to work with community organizations to ensure the availability of a broad range of recreation opportunities, and to minimize duplication in the delivery of programs

5.2 PROMOTION

Residents generally learn about recreation activities through a variety of sources, including the Department's seasonal brochure, the local newspaper and word-of-mouth.

It should be noted that an increasing number of Parks and Recreation Departments are making extensive use of web pages and the Internet to advise the public about various services. There are numerous departments as well, that make use of "city pages" in local newspapers to provide information regarding

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

current projects, upcoming events and the like. The Department should explore these tools and others in order to ensure that news about program opportunities is readily available, in the most convenient manner, to the public.

RECOMMENDATION #29

Continue to make use of existing systems for the promotion of local recreation services

Enhance the seasonal brochure with information regarding parks and facility projects and events

Enhance the existing web page on the Internet to assist in the promotion of Summerland parks, recreation and culture services

6. ADMINISTRATION / IMPLEMENTATION

THE ADMINISTRATION OF PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENTS

varies, to some extent, from one community to another. Generally speaking, however, the function of the Department will include the following tasks:

- The management and maintenance of a variety of facilities
- The planning, development and maintenance of parks and open space
- The coordination and delivery of recreation and cultural programs and services

Each of these functions involves the management of full and part-time staff, the preparation and management of budgets, long and short-term planning, and the marketing of various services to the general public.

In the most successful departments, managers and supervisory personnel recognize and acknowledge the value of each employee, and understand that they are the key to the organization's success. In these instances, the philosophy of "giving people the opportunity to do the job" filters down to front line staff, who provide services directly to the public. These staff members, in turn, are given the opportunity for input, are encouraged to make decisions, listen to facility users and program participants and understand customer needs. As a result, employees perform at a high level, make decisions on their own, take initiative and perform quality work.

This type of system allows staff to act quickly in response to suggestions, requests and concerns, and to respond to trends taking place in the field.

In the end, this approach results in a delivery system in which all employees work together toward a quality, customer focused operation.

6.1 EVALUATION

The Master Plan should be used as the basis for determining direction and projects to be undertaken annually by the Parks and Recreation Department. Recommendations should be referred to on a regular basis, and will provide guidance on a wide range of issues related to the effective delivery of leisure services in the community.

Some recommendations will have little or no impact on staff and financial resources, while others will require extensive planning and the commitment of additional resources.

ADMINISTRATION / IMPLEMENTATION

Each year, the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff should review the Plan, and prepare strategies for the implementation of specific recommendations. In each case, discussions with Council will be necessary, particularly when additional financial resources are necessary.

As part of the annual budget process, staff should prepare a "report card" addressing the status of specific recommendations that have been addressed in the previous twelve months.

This process should address each specific recommendation, steps that have been taken in its implementation, and analyze the Department's success in addressing issues related to the recommendation.

In addition, the Department should implement a system of communication with residents and patrons whereby information is regularly gathered regarding parks, recreation and cultural services. For example, staff should:

- Contact facility users on a random basis to inquire about levels of satisfaction with facilities and programs
- Conduct short surveys with facility patrons and program participants
- Facilitate focus group workshops with a cross section of Summerland residents and specific interest groups to determine programming requirements and satisfaction with facilities
- Conduct a random survey every five years in order to measure overall levels of satisfaction with various Department services. A survey of this type should be similar to the one administered during the completion of the current Master Plan, and can be used to compare opinions of residents on an ongoing basis

Recommendation #30

Prepare an annual report card related to Master Plan recommendations and use the Plan on an annual basis in the preparation of budget documents

Initiate a system to gather information from the public regarding facilities and Department services

Conduct a survey of the general public every five years to determine opinions and attitudes regarding Parks, Recreation and Culture services

6.2 2006 -- SUMMERLAND'S CENTENNIAL

During the past few years, there has been a noticeable improvement in parks and green space in the community. At the same time, it is evident that local residents and the business sector have considerable pride in Summerland's natural beauty and are active participants in a variety of local events, and in ensuring that the District continues to be an attractive location in the Okanagan Valley.

In 2006, the community will celebrate its 100th anniversary. A committee has already been established, and is currently considering a number of activities and projects that could potentially be included as part of this very special event.

It is PERC's opinion that the District should target 2006 as the year that Summerland enters the Communities in Bloom contest. Communities in Bloom is a national / international program that recognizes cities and towns for their efforts in beautification and preservation of the natural environment. In the Okanagan, Osoyoos, Penticton and Kelowna have participated in the program and received recognition for their efforts in this regard. It would be a significant achievement for Summerland, its citizens and volunteers, to take part in this event.

6.3 IMPLEMENTATION

The Plan should be used over the next 10 years to provide guidance to Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff on a wide range of issues related to the delivery of parks and recreation services.

Some of the recommendations will have little or no budget impact, while others could potentially have a significant impact on local taxpayers. **It is PERC's opinion that the short and long term recommendations are reasonable and practical in terms of financial commitments**, and that the public should be involved in decisions related to the future provision of facilities.

The following information summarizes each of the recommendations in the Plan.

Parks and Facilities

1. *Allocate funds in the short term, for a new air handling system, a new lighting board, seats, drape and lighting system for the Theatre*

Allocate funds in the mid to long term for storage and ongoing maintenance requirements at the Theatre

2. *Continue improvements to existing beach sites, including the planting of additional shade trees, the installation of picnic facilities and benches, and other family-oriented amenities*

Parks and Facilities (continued)

3. *Prepare plans for improvements to the beach area between Kin Park and the beach access at Beaver Street*

Initiate improvements to the area between Kin Beach and Beaver Street

Continue acquisition of remaining waterfront properties along Lakeshore Drive, between Kin Park and Beaver Street

4. *Clean up the existing boat launch area at Wharf Street, create a proper parking area, and install signage that indicates that the site is for small boats only due to shallow lake levels*
5. *Develop a neighbourhood park in the Deer Ridge subdivision*
6. *Prepare a plan, indicating the most appropriate location for access across the creek to Sunoka Beach (This should be coordinated with creek improvements being contemplated to re-introduce fish habitat to the mouth and channel of Trout Creek)*

7. *Determine specific trail requirements and priorities*

Identify potential funding sources for trail development

Improve the access to the Trans Canada Trail at Fenwick Road and develop additional trails on Conkle Mountain

8. *Incorporate the development of the Old Hospital Site into the District's capital plan*

9. *Contact the new Health Board to determine whether or not a lawn bowling green can be accommodated on the new hospital site*

10. *Incorporate previous reserve funds for Giants Head Park into a plan to re-construct the existing road with proper trail heads, signage and pullouts*

11. *Include funds in the Parks and Recreation Department budget for the maintenance of the Adams Property*

Initiate basic improvements to the Adams Property, in cooperation with the Rotary Club, and implement a program to ensure weed control

Parks and Facilities (continued)

12. *Improve the infields at Memorial Baseball Park and Powell Beach with the installation of red shale*

Work with Summerland Minor Baseball to spruce up the perimeter of the park

Initiate a planning process related to the long term development of Memorial Baseball Park

13. *Initiate a program of improvements at the Campground, including the installation of a number of permanent pads for trailers and recreational vehicles, the installation of a number of full service permanent sites and leveling of a number of areas throughout the park, as well as the replacement of existing playground apparatus and improvements to the existing tennis courts*
14. *Work with the Okanagan Regional Library to look for additional sites in the community that could accommodate a library facility, and explore options that would expand the existing facility*
15. *Consider the requirements of the Museum Society in terms of space to accommodate displays and storage*
16. *Clarify support for the Community Arts Council and its use of the old Municipal Hall*
17. *Monitor the use of existing tennis courts and continue to evaluate whether additional courts are needed in the community*
18. *Defer construction of a running track during the timeframe of the current Plan*
19. *Prepare plans for the development of Phase Two of Dale Meadows Park*
- Initiate construction of the park according to the priorities established in the proposed capital plan*
20. *Prepare plans to determine if the expanded area of the pool will fit into the school property*
21. *Delay planning of a second ice sheet for at least 10 years*

Parks and Facilities (continued)

22. *Determine long term plans related to the Badminton Club, and make decisions regarding the Badminton Hall*

Engage in a public process regarding the need for and cost of constructing a new cultural centre that would accommodate the needs of the museum, the library and an arts centre / gallery

23. *Review existing proposals for the development of the Rodeo Grounds*

Prepare plans / sketches for the long term development of the site

24. *Initiate discussions with the School District regarding construction of a gymnasium that would be used by the school and the community*

Establish a reserve fund for the future construction of a gymnasium

25. *Retain the property at the Sewage Treatment Plant in its current state, and consider the site for future park development*

26. *Prepare a plan for the long term development of the “arena site”*

27. *Continue to require parkland dedication as part of the subdivision approval process, as per provisions in the Local Government Act*

Recreation Programming

28. *Continue to work with community organizations to ensure the availability of a broad range of recreation opportunities, and to minimize duplication in the delivery of programs*

29. *Continue to make use of existing systems for the promotion of local recreation services*

Enhance the seasonal brochure with information regarding parks and facility projects and events

Enhance the existing web page on the Internet to assist in the promotion of Summerland parks, recreation and culture services

Administration / Implementation

30. *Prepare an annual report card related to Master Plan recommendations and use the Plan on an annual basis in the preparation of budget documents*

Initiate a system to gather information from the public regarding facilities and Department services

Conduct a survey of the general public every five years to determine opinions and attitudes regarding Parks, Recreation and Culture services

A summary of costs for each of the proposed capital projects is included in Figure Ten and Figure Eleven.

Several of the long term initiatives will require significant funding, and a referendum may be necessary to ensure adequate funding. PERC is uncertain of the support, at the present time, for tax increases to support new capital programs, and in particular, ongoing operational costs. Certainly, the availability of grants from senior levels of government, appears to be unlikely (at least in the immediate future), and the likelihood of significant corporate donations is slim.

It is suggested, therefore, that the District proceed with planning for these amenities, and focus initially on the completion of short term capital projects outlined on page 50, and then on the long term projects summarized on page 51.

**FIGURE ELEVEN
LONG TERM CAPITAL PROJECTS**

PRIORITY	PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST
1	Dale Meadows Park	\$ 900,000
2	Waterfront Development	100,000 – 400,000
3	Library Expansion / Re-location	250,000 – 1.5 million
4	Gymnasium / Future School	750,000
5	Aquatic Centre	750,000
6	Cultural Centre	2,500,000
7	Rodeo Grounds / Exhibition Building	1,500,000
8	Arena Site	800,000
9	Second Ice Sheet	3,000,000
10	Sewage Treatment Plant	200,000

In addressing the long term projects outlined in Figure Eleven, it will be important to note the following:

- Funds for the development of **Dale Meadows Park** have been included with the short term projects listed in Figure Ten. It is anticipated that the park will be improved in stages over a period of years.
- While \$100,000 has been allocated for **beach front development** in the short term capital program, it is likely that additional funds will be necessary in future years.
- Funds for **library** improvement / expansion have been included in the short term capital program. Depending on renovations or the construction of a new library, the capital cost will potentially range from \$250,000 to \$1.5 million.
- It has been suggested that funds be set aside, beginning in the next five years, for a new **gymnasium**. If a gym is to be built in cooperation with the School District, Summerland's share is likely to be \$750,000.
- At some point, additional improvements will be needed at the **aquatic centre**, particularly in the provision of additional leisure facilities. Plans should be initiated in the near future, however, construction is not immediately necessarily.

ADMINISTRATION / IMPLEMENTATION

- The proposed **cultural centre** (including the library and the museum) could cost as much as \$2.5 million. As noted earlier, it is PERC's opinion that a thorough public process is needed, as well as an objective feasibility study, which will determine specific requirements, in addition to capital and operating costs. If the cultural centre proceeds, it is suggested that the cost of the library (mentioned earlier in this section) could be incorporated into the \$2.5 million price of the new facility.
- In the future, there will be an increased need for, and interest in, the development of the **Rodeo Grounds**. This is viewed as a long term, phased development.
- In order to construct a new **arena** at the existing site, it will be necessary to acquire additional properties in the immediate area. Some of the acquisition costs may be available through development cost charges.
- Improvements to the **sewage treatment plant** site are estimated to cost approximately \$200,000. This is not a high priority at the present time, however, the development of a passive park at this location could serve local residents and tourists very well.

It should also be noted that the need for additional parkland (at locations such as the Jersey Farms) will be an ongoing area of interest for Summerland officials. This specific need for parks will be related directly to new residential development, and will use funds available through development cost charges.

**APPENDIX TWO
WEED MANAGEMENT AT
ADAMS BIRD SANCTUARY**
